

# MUMBAI MERI JAAN

## THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI

Action for good  
Governance &  
Networking in  
India

**AGNI**

### Editorial

## Juhu Citizens' protest leads to action by BEST - Route 627

**B**EST has provided a solution to the Juhu residents who complained of congestion, traffic jam and difficulty in movement of emergency vehicles on Gandhi Gram and other narrow lanes as reported in MMJ November 2022 issue.

The undertaking replaced its existing bigger bus with a Mini bus which will occupy less road space and also cause no more jams or bottlenecks.

The bus route 627 will have conductors on board so that passengers need not wait for ground booking conductors.

The traffic police have also been directed to take action on illegal parking on both sides of the road.

There were two groups, – one which opposed the entry of buses on narrow lanes and the second group, mainly commuters, who wanted operations to continue uninterrupted. The above action by BEST will be a win-win situation for both parties.

MMJ

## BMC Budget: 'Pedestrian first'

Pratip Acharya

Encroachment Free  
Footpath - Page 4

Municipal Commissioner and state-appointed administrator, Iqbal Singh Chahal, during his budget speech, said this year, the BMC will carry out a survey of all the roads that have a minimum width of nine metres, following which footpaths will be constructed.

**T**he Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), in its annual civic budget for financial year 2023-24, has announced a 'Pedestrian First' policy. In a bid to declutter urban spaces and provide a better walking experience to Mumbai residents, the BMC has stated that any road in the city that has a minimum width of nine metres will have pedestrian-friendly footpaths.

Municipal Commissioner and state-appointed administrator, Iqbal Singh Chahal, during his budget speech, said this year, the BMC will carry out a survey of all the roads that have a minimum width of nine metres, following which footpaths will be constructed. Chahal said

that the newly-constructed footpaths will be made using cement and concrete and these will have a smooth and even surface to match the international standards. For this proposal, the BMC has earmarked a fund of Rs 200 crore.

"This is the first time the BMC has come up with such a policy where footpaths will be a compulsory part of the roads. The idea is to provide Mumbaikars with better civic amenities," he said.

Ahead of tabling the budget this year, Chahal had invited suggestions from citizens for creating the overall outlay of the budget. Chahal said that total 965 responses were received by **contd. on Page 4**

## Activists pen postcard campaign to oppose RTI Act dilution

Ashutosh M Shukla

Campaigners are sending postcards to the Prime Minister asking him to ensure that the DPDPB doesn't override the RTI Act.

Activists have initiated a postcard campaign to oppose the dilution of the Right to Information (RTI) Act through Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDPB), 2022.

Campaigners are sending postcards to the Prime Minister asking him to ensure that the DPDPB doesn't override the RTI Act. They are also looking at petitions, social media outreach and resolutions passed at the gram sabha levels.

The proposed DPDPB has four provisions that have shaken the activists and civil society members. Among them are deletion of section 8 (1) (j) of the RTI Act that allows personal data to be given for transparency. Also contentious is the sweeping definition of 'person' in the proposed bill that encompasses everything



from a person, to Hindu undivided family, company, firm, artificial juristic person, body of individuals (incorporated or not) and institutions.

MMJ

## Manholes in the city goes smart

**B**MCM Engineers have developed a device that can send alerts when somebody tries to open a manhole.

The BMC is planning to install this system to digitally monitor manholes on the sewer lines.

A device in the manhole will

## Clear pavements of illegal settlers: Mumbai police chief

V. Narayan

**T**he Mumbai police chief has instructed the 93 police stations in the city to start clearing areas in their jurisdiction of pavement dwellers.

Following the police chief's instruction, Jogeshwari police along with the BMC officials evicted about 80 to 100



families from the Vagri community living on the roadside and below the bridge near the JVLR junction.

Deputy commissioner of police (Zone X) Maheshwar Reddy said there were many complaints about these dwellers. They had created unhygienic conditions in their daily chores of washing, cleaning and attending nature's call in the open. **MMJ**

**contd. on Page 4**



## Good Governance Series

 **Shrikant Soman, MMJ Editorial Board Member & Ward Coordinator, R/North**

### Stories of Good Governance - Village Patoda

This is a story of good governance at village Patoda near Aurangabad under the leadership of its Sarpanch Bhaskarrao Pere Patil. This gentleman is just Standard 7 pass. Even that was possible because they don't fail a student in school (his own words). He has been able to transform his Patoda village from a barren poor water starved wasteland to a model green and clean village with magnificent facilities. This needed vision as well as team



events are organised at community level. Birthday of every villager is celebrated. Two trees are planted at each function. There is a toilet in each house. They have solar lamps on the streets. Biogas is generated. There is a nice garden at the crematorium with benches for senior citizens to sit. There are a lot more developments in the village. They have won numerous awards.

The important point is: If a semi-literate person can transform the whole village of just 3,500 residents with visionary leadership and team work in an odd place on the map, why can't we replicate this model in other villages? One thing is established. It can be done, even without any formal education or modern facilities. It is a challenge for us educated city folks to find out as to why there are not many other shining examples around? It is NOT the question of resources. What we need is a home grown visionary leadership with honesty and passion which is rooted to the land. Elaborate laws and complicated systems with IAS Babus won't necessarily ensure this.

MMJ

### Wadala West Citizens' Forum



work and an imaginative solution oriented approach.

Today Patoda has first rank amongst the 27,000 villages in Maharashtra. They have separate water supply for hot water (4 hours in the morning), 24 hours regular use water and filtered drinking water. They have their own water filtration plant. Community solar water heater is installed. They have a water ATM. Water coolers are installed at various locations in the village. The flour mill (आटा चक्की) gives grinding service free throughout the year to all tax paying villagers. Waste is recycled and composted. Wash basins are installed at various locations and the wastewater is collected and recycled. The whole village is under CCTV surveillance. The devotees visiting the temple in the village give donations to the village Gram Panchayat instead of to the temple. The monthly accounts are published on the notice board. Staff is having biometric attendance. There is a community kitchen to celebrate events. Marriage

## Maharashtra 1st State to pass Lokayukta Bill

Maharashtra assembly in the winter session passed the Lokayukta Bill 2022, which brings the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption ombudsman.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the bill a historic legislation, adding Maharashtra is the first state to have such a law.

As per the bill, prior approval of the Assembly has to be obtained and the motion has to be placed before the immediate session of the House before initiating any inquiry against the chief minister.

Such motion shall be passed by not less than two-thirds of the total members of the assembly, states the bill, which was tabled in the House.

The draft bill also held that the Lokayukta shall not inquire into any matter involving any allegation of corruption against the chief minister if it relates to internal security or public order in the state. "...any such inquiry shall be held in-camera and if the Lokayukta comes to the conclusion that the complaint deserves to be dismissed, the records of the inquiry shall not be published or made available

to anyone," it states.

On the appointment of the ombudsman, the draft law states the Lokayukta shall consist of a chairperson who is or has been the Chief Justice of the High Court, a judge of the Supreme Court, or a judge of the Bombay High Court. "...such number of members, not exceeding four out of whom, two shall be judicial members," it said.

The selection committee for the appointment of members and the chairperson will comprise the chief minister, deputy chief minister, speaker of the Legislative Assembly, chairperson of the Legislative Council, the Leaders of Opposition in the Assembly and Council and the chief justice of the Bombay High Court or a judge nominated by the CJ.

"No appointment of the chairperson or a member shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy in the selection committee," the draft bill said.

This draft Bill was shown to the social activist, Anna Hazare who in 2018 sat on hunger strike at the Ramleela ground in New Delhi, for the Lokayukta Bill and was satisfied that it incorporated all that he had fought.

MMJ

## Blue Grotto Society celebrated 74th REPUBLIC DAY

 **Willie Shirsat, AGNI's R/North Ward Coordinator**

For the last several years this Safai Agent Ranjana Chavan is working for our Society satisfactory, regular and punctual. Her public relations has also been extremely cordial. More creditable is her collection of segregated wet and dry Garbage separately for years. Her smile is her great asset.

Managing Committee nominated her to unfurl the flag. She received, warm and tumultuous applause, as she unfurled the flag.



Society appreciated that this UNSUNG HERO Ranjana Chavan deserved this honour for loyal and dedication work for period of years.

MMJ



## Technology in Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) – Digital Health ID

 **Bimal Buta, Social Activist from Vile Parle**

The Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) is a digital health ID card introduced by Government of India. The flagship Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) envisages a comprehensive digital health ecosystem for the country. More than four crore digital health records have been linked to ABHA accounts of individuals. Additionally, more than 29 crore citizens have generated their unique Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA).

### Benefits of ABHA

- All medical information, including tests, diagnosis, medication prescriptions, and more are made available on a single online secure digital platform.
- Medical records can be easily shared with hospitals, clinics, doctors, etc.
- Access to the healthcare professional registry (HPR), which is a directory of all physicians
- Access to the health facility registry (HFR), a directory of all Indian public and private medical facilities
- In addition to allopathy, AYUSH treatment institutions also accept this card. Ayurveda, Yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddh and homeopathy are among the treatments available.

### Registering/applying for ABHA health ID card on line

There are primarily two ways to register for ABHA health ID card.

#### Through Aadhar

If your Aadhar is linked to your cell phone number, you can use it to sign up for an ABHA health ID.

For OTP authentication, this is necessary. If your mobile number and Aadhar are not linked, you can get help from an ABD participating institution.

#### Through driving licence

If you have your driving licence, the ABDM portal will provide you with an

enrolment number.

Then you have your identity validated, you must take your driving licence to a nearby ABDM partner facility. Your ABHA health ID will be generated after that is done.

**ABHA health id card can be availed on line through <https://healthid.ndhm.govt.in> (official portal)**

ABHA mobile application  
Other third-party applications


### Generating ABHA number

- Open the ABHA mobile app or go to the official NDHM website
- Select the 'go to create my ABHA number tab'
- Enter your PAN, Aadhar or driving licence number
- An OTP that must be entered will be issued to the relevant registered mobile number
- Subsequently, you will be prompted to input your mobile number and will get an OTP to confirm it on your phone
- After the National Health Authority verifies your mobile number, a form page will load, you will have to fill out your name, age, gender, email address and other personal information
- You can download your ABHA id after submitting your replies. You can log in and use all the services provided by ABHA using those credentials.

## An appeal for donations

AGNI is a movement managed and run by volunteers. Being a voluntary movement, AGNI needs the support and contribution of every citizen to continue its work. Citizens are invited to contribute their indispensable ideas, time, effort and financial support. Send Cheque / DD in favour of "AGNI" to any of our Ward Coordinators as listed on Page 4 or to AGNI Office: Chadha

## PTA Meeting of Community School for Underprivileged Children run by ICWWA - AGNI JAAG R North

 **Shrikant Soman, MMJ Editorial Board Member & Ward Coordinator, R/North with inputs from Ms. Helen Pinto**

A Parent Teacher Meeting was organised for the children of the Community Center. It was attended by majority of the mothers.

The session was interactive and the President Ms. Yvonne brought about awareness on the importance of empowering women in all walks of life. She also stressed on the significance of cultivating a positive mindset and reminding ourselves that we are equals, as women we must not shy away from anything.

Mr Shrikant Soman Coordinator AGNI R North in his address emphasized the need of mothers of these students to become 'atmanirbhar' 'self reliant' and learn life sustaining skills with the assistance of ICWWA.

We were very happy to have amongst us the members of Chahat Foundation. On hearing about us, they extended their support to our cause and very kindly distributed hampers for the girls. The hampers contained toiletries and items for personal hygiene serving as a reminder on the importance of maintaining personal grooming. The leader of the Chahat Foundation expressed her happiness on meeting us and our children and gave a talk on motivating the children to



remain focused on their goals and strive their best at all times.

The children were glad to be a part of the evening and spoke of their on goals for their future.

MMJ

## R/North Senior Citizens meet Police Officers

Senior Citizens of IC Colony and Kandarpada Borivali



Dahisar area had a meeting



with the senior police officers of MHB Police Station. Mr Sudhir Kudalkar, Sr Police



Inspector along with his team participated. The issues related to the senior citizens were



discussed at this meeting. Ms Yvonne D'Souza, President of ICWWA - AGNI JAAG R North presided over this meeting.

MMJ

Bldg, 1st Floor, Plot No. 95, Wadala (West), Mumbai 400 031  
Bank Details for donations transferred electronically:

**Account Name: AGNI,**  
**SB A/c No.: 000710210000005**  
**Bank of India, Breach Candy Branch, Mumbai 400 026.**  
**NEFT/IFSC: BKID0000007**

AGNI is a Charitable Trust. Donations are eligible for exemption under 80G of the Income Tax Act.

MMJ



# BMC Budget: 'Pedestrian first'

**contd. from Page 1** his office, out of which a significant number of people demanded footpaths with even surfaces in Mumbai.

Currently, there is no concrete policy available to prevent hawkers and vendors from encroaching on footpaths. Chahal said the BMC is working towards setting up a Vendor Committee, and after the committee is formed, a concrete policy for hawkers will also be drafted by end of this year. "After the hawker's policy comes into action, we will allot hawking pitches and designated zones to hawkers to prevent them from encroaching," he said. **MMJ**

# Manholes in the city goes smart

**contd. from Page 1** the spreading of sewage water on the roads.

This is in response to a High Court judge who said BMC will be responsible for any untoward incident for pedestrian safety. He suggested that the civic body use technology and come up with a permanent solution to the chronic problem. **MMJ**

Board of Trustees

Convenor  
Dinesh Ahir  
Trustees  
Capt. Joe Lobo  
Rajkumar Sharma  
Sharad Kumar  
Zahida Banatwala

Editorial Board

Sharad Kumar [Editor]  
Pamela Cheema [Asstt. Editor]  
Mario Fishery  
Shrikant Soman

Email: mmj.agni@gmail.com  
https://sites.google.com/site/agnimumbaimerijaan/

Published by  
AGNI

Chadha Bldg. 1st Flr, Plot No. 95,  
Wadala (W), Mumbai - 400031  
agni.mumbai99@gmail.com  
Ph: 2416 5956  
www.agnimumbai.in

Printed at  
Audumber Press, Wadala

# Technology to improve justice delivery

Technology has become a powerful tool in the legal system, improving efficiency,



accessibility, and accuracy in administration of justice, Says Chief Justice of India, Dr. D. Y. Chandrachud, while inaugurating On-line e-Inspection Software of High Court of Delhi.

CJI said, the success of any initiative and innovation, whether in law or technology, depends on the ability to collaborate with stakeholders and incorporate critical feedback from those who will be using it. The Supreme Court had recently organised a pilot hackathon to explore practical propositions for bringing in efficiency in the existing processes in the judicial system. **MMJ**

# Find solution for encroachment-free footpaths, says Bombay High Court

In November 2017, the High Court had passed a detailed order in a hawkers' union matter which called for demarcating hawking and non-hawking zones, It prohibited hawking within 100 m from any place of worship, holy shrine, educational institutions, and hospitals or within 150 m from any municipal or other markets or from any railway station.

The Bombay High Court has asked the BMC to "systematically" find solutions to the identified problems to provide footpaths that are encroachment-free and have ample space for the movement of pedestrians and the disabled. The court had taken suo moto cognisance of the hawker menace in the city while hearing a petition by mobile shop owners in Borivali who claimed access to their shop was blocked by illegal hawkers in Nov 2022.

During the hearing, BMC counsel SU Kamdar informed the court they are implementing earlier HC orders on hawkers, including the demarcation of hawking zones. He added, however, that there were "some issues".

## Hawkers demand representation

The corporation had constituted a vendor's committee which was to demarcate



hawking zones. But then the hawker demanded representation in the committee which is in progress. Apart from marking hawking zones, this committee will also mark spaces between buildings to ensure easy access. "Shops (owners) pay tax but they don't have access. They will take that into account," said Kamdar.

The counsel further said there was one more issue in marking the hawkers' zones as it would reduce the space on footpaths. "We have a footpaths policy which says footpaths are meant for people. But it is a hawker's zone problem we are facing," he said.

To this, justice Gautam Patel said that the corporation can't have a standardised policy for all. "Some footpaths are widened and have space for both (hawkers and pedestrians)," he said. The court even asked the corporation to keep an eye on those shops that have illegal extensions on footpaths.

While discussing access to footpaths, Kamdar said they will have ramps to make it disabled-friendly. However, the division bench of justices Patel and Neela Gokhale quickly pointed out that this would create a problem of vehicles driving and parking on footpaths.

The court has asked the BMC to file a detailed affidavit on the problems identified and on what is the priority of the authority by March 1 **MMJ**

To volunteer in AGNI or to form Advanced Locality Management (ALM) contact your respective Ward Coordinators below:-

AGNI WARD COORDINATORS				
WARD NAME	AREAS	AGNI COORDINATOR	PHONE	EMAIL
A	Churchgate, Colaba, Cuffe Parade, Fort, SCT	Jennifer Shetty	9867752771	jennifernagni@gmail.com
D	Malabar Hill, Mahalaxmi, Opera House, Girgaum	Theo D'Souza	9820303940	theomdsouza@gmail.com
F/North	Sion, Wadala, Matunga(E), Dadar(E), Antop Hill	Nikhil Desai	9819930405	n.c.desai2022@gmail.com
G/North	Mahim, Dadar(W), Matunga(W), Dharavi	Bulu Saldanha	9920323831	Bulu_saldanha@yahoo.com
H/East	Bandra(E), Khar(E), Santa Cruz(E), Kalina	Reuben Dias	9930569225	Reuben6947@gmail.com
H/West	Bandra(W), Khar(W), Santa Cruz(W)	Lillian Pais	9920663748	Lillianpais66@gmail.com
K/East	Vile Parle(E), Andheri(E), Jogeshwari(E)	James John	9324086140	K_james_john@hotmail.com
K/West	Vile Parle(W), Andheri(W), Versova, Jogeshwari(W)	Sandra Alex	9820602521	sandraalex2357@gmail.com
L	Kurla, Nehru Nagar, Chandivli	Nutan Bhalla	9819171015	Nutsie59@gmail.com
N	Ghatkopar, Vikhroli	Kishor K. Chudasama	9821051346	Kishorkc_shantu@rediffmail.com
P/South	Goregaon(W)	Anthony Dias	9821291660	diasapvoice@gmail.com
R/South	Kandivli (East & West), Charkop	S. K. Nangia	9322258038	Sknangia2004@yahoo.com
R/North	Borivli, Dahisar (East & West), IC Colony	Willie Sirsat, Shrikant Soman, Glenda Almeida	9820213392 9324228946 9820291563	Shirshatwillie382@hotmail.com Shrikant.soman@gmail.com glenda301@gmail.com
M/East	Deonar, Mankhurd, Govandi	Ashish Kumar Thakur	9820346359	Asisthakur1941@gmail.com
M/West	Chembur	Krantikumar Sherkhane	7039030255	Krantikumars@gmail.com
S	Bhandul, Kanjurmarg, Powai	Pamela Cheema	9820150748	pamelacheema@gmail.com
T	Mulund	Laxmidas Thakkar	8080011966	l.thakkar@yahoo.co.in