

Editorial

COMPLETE INDIAN TAKEOVER

With Neal Mohan becoming the CEO of YouTube, these are the 25 big firms led by Indian Americans with a total market value of 5 trillion dollars, more than the current Indian GDP. A very proud moment



MMJ

Mumbai Mayor Elected Amid Chants Of 'Jai Shree Ram' & 'Modi, Modi' Vs 'Thackeray Thackeray'


Desashri Bhujbal

BJP corporator Ritu Tawde was officially announced as the mayor of Mumbai - the first citizen of the city, in full fervour. The unopposed election process took place amid loud chants of "Jai Shree Ram" outside the BMC headquarters in Fort, to "Modi, Modi" inside the hall by BJP corporators, to chants of "Thackeray, Thackeray" by Shiv Sena (UBT) corporators in response.

Administrative Rule Ends

With appointment of the mayor, the four years of administrative rule officially ended, and the BMC headquarters was filled with vigour, color and high-spirited



newly elected corporators.

Mahayuti Shows Strength

The 227 seater BMC house is now filled with 89 BJP corporators and 29 of Shiv Sena (Shinde). The Mahayuti corporators left no stone unturned to display their strength inside the BMC headquarters where election took place, it's premises and Mahapalika Marg outside.

BJP Fulfills 30-Year Dream

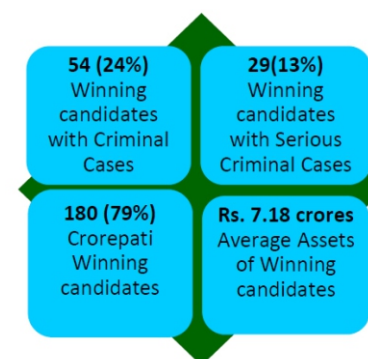
The election of Mumbai Mayor was attended by Chief Minister

BMC results: 25% winners face criminal charges, 79% crorepatis — Who's the richest, who's the poorest?

 **Gulam Jeelani**

Nearly one in four winning candidates in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) 2026 polls have declared criminal cases against themselves, while close to four-fifths are crorepatis, according to an analysis by Election Watchdog, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR, which studied affidavits of all 227 winning candidates, said 54 winners, or 24%, have declared criminal cases, while 29 candidates, or 13%, face



serious criminal charges. The data was compiled by Maharashtra Election Watch, based on candidates' self-sworn affidavits filed during the civic polls.

Party-wise analysis showed that 33% of **Contd. on Page 2**

Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti's 'Jan Samvaad' draws statewide response as citizens seek swift justice

 CITIZENS
Poonam Apraj

Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti's weekly Jan Samvaad initiative is witnessing an increasing response not only from Mumbai-kars but also from citizens across Maharashtra, who gather every Tuesday at the Mumbai Police Headquarters to directly present their grievances.

Strengthening police–public communication

Since assuming office on May 1, 2025, Commissioner Bharti has personally focused on strengthening communication between the public and the police through this weekly forum.

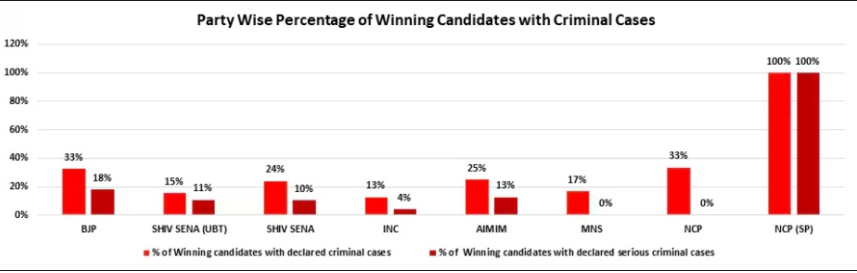


The first session was held on August 5, 2025, where several complaints received immediate attention and redressal. The open-door format allows citizens to walk in freely and speak directly to the city's top cop, breaking bureaucratic barriers.

Wide range of grievances raised

At the Janata Samvaad held on February 3, more than 60 citizens attended with various unresolved issues, including cheating cases, family disputes, and **Contd on Page 3**

BMC results: 25% winners face criminal charges, 79% crorepatis

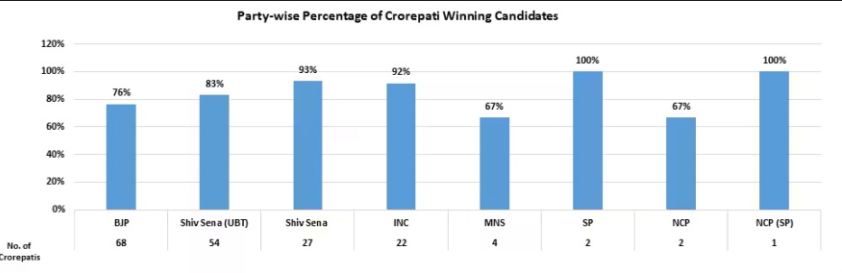


Contd. from Page 1 the winners from the BJP have declared criminal cases, followed by 24% from Shiv Sena and 15% from Shiv Sena (UBT), the report said.

The financial profile of candidates also indicated a

(UBT) winners, 93% of Shiv Sena winners, and 92% of Indian National Congress winners were crorepatis, it added.

The report further noted that 60% of the elected corporators are women, while about 70%



strong presence of wealthy contestants. Of the 227 winners, about 79% (180) declared assets worth more than ₹1 crore, with the average assets of winning candidates pegged at ₹7.18 crore, ADR said.

The financial profile of candidates also indicated a strong presence of wealthy contestants. Of the 227 winners, about 79% (180) declared assets worth more than ₹1 crore, with the average assets of winning candidates pegged at ₹7.18 crore, ADR said.

Among parties, 76% of BJP winners, 83% of Shiv Sena

fall in the 41-70 age group. Around half of the winners have graduate-level or higher educational qualifications.

The top three winning candidates with high assets are as follows: Naravekar Suresh of the BJP, who won from ward 226, is the richest winner with a declared wealth of ₹124 crore. Suresh is closely followed by Sharma Chandran Chiitranjan from the BJP with over 84 crores declared wealth.

Kanade Nirmithi Bibhishan, the Shiv Sena candidate from ward number 133, is the winner with the lowest assets declared, ₹54 thousand in the affidavit.

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Residents seek clarity on trees to be cut for EEH elevated road project

Vijay Singh

Concerned about plans to cut a large number of trees, including the iconic “pink blossoms” tabebuia trees, along the Eastern Express Highway (EEH) for an elevated road project, a Powai based residents’ group demanded clarity on the exact number of trees to be removed from EEH in Mumbai.

AGNI Coordinator from Powai and Chairperson of ALM Powai, Pamela Cheema, said: “This will be a



massacre of trees, especially in the current situation of high AQIs. If the trees are cut from EEH for the Ghatkopar-Thane elevated road project, the worst sufferers will be the residents of Wards N, S, T besides Thane region

Contd on Pag 3

Maharashtra declares 2026 “Save two-wheeler riders & pedestrians year” amid 15,549 road deaths in 2025

Kamal Mishra

In a major road safety initiative, the Maharashtra state transport department has declared 2026 as the “Save Two-Wheeler Riders and Pedestrians Year,” launching a statewide campaign to curb rising road fatalities.

36,450 accidents, 15,549 deaths

The decision was announced through an official circular issued by the Maharashtra Transport Commissioner on February 11, 2026, directing all Regional and Deputy Regional Transport Offices to implement urgent and coordinated safety measures.

The move comes in the wake of alarming accident figures recorded in 2025. According to official data, Maharashtra witnessed more than 36,450 road accidents last year, resulting in approximately 15,549 deaths and over 32,147 injuries. Two-wheeler riders accounted for 57 percent of the fatalities, while pedestrians made up 21 percent—underscoring the vulnerability of these groups on state roads.

Transport authorities said the campaign is aligned with the World Health Organization’s global goal of reducing road accident deaths by 50 percent by 2030. To achieve this, Maharashtra will adopt the internationally accepted “Safe System Approach,” which emphasizes improved road engineering, strict enforcement of traffic laws, and extensive public awareness programs.

Action plan finalized in January meet

The action plan was finalized during a state-level road safety review meeting held on January 28–29, 2026. Officials resolved to implement coordinated measures involving transport departments, municipal corporations, public works agencies, and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to address accident-prone stretches and improve overall road safety infrastructure.

According to the circular, strict enforcement of helmet rules will be a central component of the campaign. Authorities have been instructed to conduct rigorous helmet checks on the three most accident-prone highways in every district, with plans to gradually expand enforcement to other high-risk routes. These drives will be supported by awareness programs aimed at encouraging voluntary compliance among riders.

Pedestrian safety has also been identified as a top priority. Transport officials will conduct detailed surveys to identify infrastructure gaps such as damaged dividers, missing footpaths, unsafe junctions, and poorly designed crossings. Immediate corrective measures—including installation of zebra crossings, barricades, foot overbridges, underpasses, and upgraded traffic signals—will be undertaken in crowded urban areas.

Scientific analysis of FIRs from Jan 2025



Another key directive mandates a scientific analysis of road accidents. From January 1, 2025 onward, accident-related FIRs will be collected from police stations and examined by designated Motor Vehicle Inspectors to determine root causes and recommend preventive measures.

District authorities have been asked to map accident-prone locations using Google Maps and categorize them through a color-coded system—green for 2023, orange for 2024, and red for 2025. The data-driven strategy is expected to help officials identify high-risk zones and prioritize remedial action.

To strengthen enforcement on highways, radar-equipped interceptor vehicles will be deployed to monitor speeding and other traffic violations. The Transport Commissioner has issued strict handling protocols to protect the sensitive radar equipment. In addition, enforcement vehicles will have their maximum speed limited to 60 km per hour through ECU calibration, and officers have been instructed not to exceed operational speeds of 50 km per hour.

Wheel jammers via DPDC funds

The circular also introduces administrative reforms to enhance traffic regulation. Wheel jammers will be procured using District Planning and Development Committee (DPDC) funds, while toll plazas across the state will be required to display prominent “No Helmet, No Entry” boards. Interceptor vehicles will be stationed at toll points to ensure compliance.

Driving license testing procedures will also come under closer scrutiny. With current failure rates hovering around 30 percent at automated test centers, Transport Commissioner Vivek Bhimanwar has directed senior officials to review video recordings of driving tests to ensure transparency and adherence to prescribed standards.

“All concerned departments must implement these measures without delay and submit monthly progress reports to headquarters,” Bhimanwar stated in the circular.

Through this comprehensive, multi-agency approach, the Maharashtra government aims to significantly reduce road accident deaths and injuries, making the state’s roads safer for two-wheeler riders and pedestrians in the years ahead.

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Mumbai Coastal Road Gets India's First 'Melody Road' Playing 'Jai Ho' For Commuters

 [SHEFALI PARAB-PANDIT](#)

Mumbai's Coastal Road will now offer commuters a unique and musical driving experience. The BMC has installed special "melody road" strips that play the hit song "Jai Ho" from *Slumdog Millionaire* as vehicles pass over them.

This is the fifth such project worldwide and the first in the country. The initiative, conceptualised by former MP Rahul Shewale, will be inaugurated on Wednesday in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

How it works

The innovative, one-of-a-kind "melody road" experience has been implemented on the Coastal Road's northbound carriageway from Nariman Point towards Worli. Positioned 500 metres beyond the tunnel, specially designed grooves play the iconic tune "Jai Ho" at speeds of 70–80 km/h, using wheel friction to generate the melody inside the vehicle.

To alert drivers in advance, the BMC has placed signage at 500 metres, 100 metres and 60 metres to ensure drivers are prepared for the musical journey.

"This concept goes beyond

entertainment, combining modern engineering with cultural expression. Precisely spaced grooves on the road are engineered so that vehicles passing at a specific speed produce musical notes through wheel friction—creating what is known as a 'musical' or 'melody' road," said a senior official.

Global inspiration

The concept originated in Japan in 2007, when engineer Shizuo Shinoda discovered the musical effect while working on roads with a bulldozer. The experiment later evolved into the "melody road" concept. Since then, similar projects have been implemented in Hungary, Japan, South Korea and the UAE.

About the Coastal Road project

The 10.58-km, eight-lane Coastal Road connecting Worli to Marine Drive has been opened in phases since March 2024. The full stretch, along with 5.25 km of the 7.5-km seafront promenade, was inaugurated on August 15.

Started in October 2018 at a cost of Rs 13,983 crore, the project has cut travel time by 70 per cent and fuel consumption by 34 per cent, according

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Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti's 'Jan Samvaad'

Contd from Page 1 frauds involving fake housing and investment schemes that led to losses of lakhs of rupees.

Widow from Latur seeks pending aid

Among them was Asha Sakhare, who had travelled all the way from Latur. Her husband, Janardan Sakhare, a police officer who served as a Personal Security Officer (PSO) to former Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate, died of a heart attack in April last year. However, the financial assistance due to the family from the government had not been released even after a year.

Speaking to FPJ, Asha said Commissioner Bharti immediately heard her complaint and contacted senior officials at Naigaon, directing her to visit the office.

"After meeting the officers and completing the required formalities and signatures, I am hopeful that my issue will soon be resolved," she said.

Investors seek help in fraud cases

Similarly, Arif Mulla from Mulund, along with his brother, attended the hearing seeking help in recovering money lost in the Hira Gold investment scheme.

"I had invested ₹3.5 lakh and my brother invested ₹5 lakh in 2017. Though a complaint was filed at Mulund Police Station, we had no update about the case. We met the Commissioner hoping to recover our money. He immediately contacted Mulund Police and asked them to call us for recording our statements," Mulla said.

Alleged corporate fraud victim approaches Commissioner

In another case, Sanjay Bhangre from Ahilyanagar approached the Commissioner seeking justice over an alleged corporate fraud. Bhangre, owner of Bhangre Organic Chemical Pvt Ltd, alleged that between 2019 and 2020, companies from Mulund and Ghatkopar cheated him under the pretext of supplying raw materials, illegally took over his company's plant, and initiated arbitration and criminal proceedings against him.

"They cheated me of ₹2.51 crore. Ironically, the Economic Offences Wing arrested me and my wife instead. I spent 20 months in jail and my wife spent three months. Our business and family life were completely destroyed. I have come to Commissioner Bharti hoping for justice," Bhangre said.

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Residents seek clarity

Contd from Pg 2 However, we still do not know how many trees are to be removed despite doing RTIs."

Cheema added: we recently filed RTI applications with the BMC gardens department, BMC (eastern suburbs) and also the MMRDA, in order to find out how many trees will be cut and how many transplanted. However, while the gardens department did not reply, the official merely said that MMRDA is the authority for this information. However, the RTI reply of MMRDA suggested that the civic gardens department be approached for the data. Hence, there is passing the buck taking place, and no proper information on the trees." Sources in the civic body on EEH were to be cut for a 12.95 km-long

elevated road from Chheda Nagar in Ghatkopar to Thane. However, since the exact tree count was still unknown, activists demanded that a proper tree census be done for this elevated road project so that a maximum of trees could be saved.

"We are not against development, but since citizens are actually falling ill due to air pollution and high AQI, it is time to cancel such mega road projects and save our green lungs, the trees." Said the head of Natconnect Foundation, B. N. Kumar.

The Powai based residents and activists said that without proper tree statistics it was likely that many more trees would be destroyed than estimated, which would be tragic for the city already struggling with consequences.

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DIRTY DEEDS? PAY PENALTY FROM TODAY

Offence	Fine (in ₹)
Garbage thrown in public	500
Urinating/ defecating	500
Feeding animals/birds	500
Defecation by pets	1,000
Spitting	250
Bathing in open and public places	300
Washing utensils/clothes	300
Dry waste not given separately	200
Garden waste dumped wrongly	200
House-front drains dirty	500
Unsegregated waste (1st offence)	200
Vendors without bins	750
Vendors not segregating	750
Washing vehicles	500
Premises not kept clean	500 / 1,500
Fish/meat waste not segregated	750
Burning waste	10,000
Illegal C&D dumping	20,000
C&D transport without permit	25,000
Event site not cleaned	Deposit forfeited

Each one forward this to all Mumbaikars on your email and whatsapp list

Mumbai Mayor Elected Amid Chants Of 'Jai Shree Ram'

Contd. from Page 1

Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, Mumbai gaurdian minister MP Lodha, Mumbai BJP President Ameet Satam, Shiv Sena leader Rahul Shewale and other BJP leaders like Pravin Darekar, Chitra Wagh, Manoj Kotak and others. The leaders were sitting in the viewing gallery of the BMC House, where the election was taking place, located in the old building.

The BJP has fulfilled it's 30-year old dream to install its mayor in Mumbai, ending the dominance of Shiv Sena-led by UBT. Tawde scripted history by becoming second mayor of Mumbai from BJP, and the first woman mayor from the party. The contest was one sided as opposition has not fielded any candidate. The first Mayor of BJP was 44 years ago, Dr Prabhakar Pai.

Speaking with the media, Tawde said, "Devabhau has kept his promise that Mumbai will have a Marathi Mayor. His 'ladki bahin' is becoming the mayor."

Tributes at Hutatma Chowk

Prior to entering the BMC headquarters, the BJP and Shinde Sena corporators visited Hutatma Chowk to blessings for the leaders who sacrificed their lives for the city. Ganesh Khankar, the BJP's group leader who got emotional while visiting the Hutatma Chowk said, "Here were are enjoying success of coming at the power in Mumbai, installing our mayor, but

the real winners are the ones who laid their lives this city." Khankar added that the celebration is half-hearted as they miss their Mahayuti partner leader late Ajit Pawar.

While Amey Ghole, Shinde Sena's group leader said, "The BJP and Shiv Sena are a natural alliance, and we are glad that Mahayuti's mayor and deputy mayor has installed the mayor and deputy mayor. The next five years will be golden years for Mumbai."

Deputy Mayor Announced

After Tawde was announced as the mayor, Shinde Sena's Sanjay Ghadi was announced as the deputy mayor. For the first time, the Municipal Commissioner was the President Authority for the mayoral election in the BMC. Thus, appointment of the mayor and deputy mayor was officially announced by BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani. The Shiv Sena UBT protested about this, however, the decision was made after amendment in MMC Rules, notified by a GR by state government last month.

CM, DCM Reactions

After appointment of mayor and deputy mayor, CM Fadnavis and DCM Eknath Shinde congratulated them in person. Speaking with the media, Fadnavis said, "Ritu Tawde

is an experienced and genuine Marathi face. She has already taken an aggressive stand for the issues of Mumbaikars. From now on, the development program of Mumbai started by the Mahayuti government will be implemented through her very well by the BMC. The Municipal Corporation will also benefit from the experience of Deputy Mayor Sanjay Ghadi. All Mahayuti corporators will work to fulfill the dreams of common Mumbaikars. We will work to give them full strength, and boost Mumbai's development."

Fadnavis said it was his first time to witness the vibrant election process of the Mumbai Mayor in the historical and heritage BMC House.

DCM Eknath Shinde said, "On the occasion of the birth centenary of Hindu Hruday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray, the government will work to fulfill Balasaheb's dream. We have started the work of making Mumbai slum-free. Our role is to make Mumbai pothole-free, pollution-free, and a fintech capital."

Sena UBT in Opposition

After three decades, the Shiv Sena UBT corporators will be sitting in the opposition. The

party won 65 seats. Former mayor, Kishori Pednekar has been appointed has the group leader of Shiv Sena UBT and is expected to be officially announced as the leader of the opposition in the BMC in the next general meeting all 227 corporators.

Next Administrative Steps

By the end of this month, the remaining administrative procedures like appointments of the statutory committee's chairpersons and members, ward committees and appointment of nominated corporators will take place.

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BMC rolls out hiked fines for civic nuisance

Nearly a year after they were published, BMC's Cleanliness and Sanitation By-laws, 2025, will finally come into force from February 3, 2026,



ushering in steep penalties for civic violations.

Acts such as burning waste can draw a fine of Rs.10,000, littering and urinating in public spaces will now attract a fine of Rs.250, upto Rs 200 under the 2006 by-laws, while pet owners will have to pay Rs.1,000 if their animals defecate or litter in public areas, from Rs 500 earlier. These by-laws include regulations related to

New BMC by-laws for Civil Violations See chart on Page 3

waste generators, various establishments, waste relayed service providers. Violations of these rules will invite penal action said officials. Dr. Ashwini Joshi, additional municipal commissioners, in charge of solid waste management department said that, the rules under these by-laws will apply to all waste generators and all public and private premises.

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

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F/North	Sion, Wadala, Matunga, Dadar(E), Antop Hill	Nikhil Desai	9819930405	n.c.desai2012@gmail.com
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Published by
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