

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI



Editorial

Sitaram Prakash High School wins Mumbai Indian Junior Under 16 finals



A proud moment for a Wadala school, Sitaram Prakash High school has won the Mumbai Indians Junior Cricket under -16 (MI Junior) Mumbai inter school Cricket Tournament beating the toughest of the Mumbai school teams. More than 200 schools participate in the tournament. A really proud moment for school itself and Wadala West. Kudos to the team.

MMJ

Deep cleaning of roads in Wadala

For the first time in Mumbai a Deep Cleaning Drive was successfully carried out at David Barreto Road, Wadala with the support of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and active participation of local citizens. This was a joint effort lead by the newly elected Coporator, Amey Gole and the Wadala West Citizen Forum and the BMC team.

During the drive, thorough cleaning of roads, footpaths



locality. It included cleaning below parked cars by removing them and putting back thereafter.

The Corporator thanked the BMC staff and all the local citizens who participated and extended their cooperation in



The Team

and surrounding areas was undertaken to maintain cleanliness and hygiene in the

making this initiative successful. He plans to undertake others roads in Wadala.

MMJ

Property tax relief cap to rise to 700

Shefali Parab-Pandit



After granting property tax to properties measuring to 500 sq ft, the BMC's general body has passed a resolution to extend the exemption limit to 700 sq ft. A similar proposal by the BJP in 2018 remained undecided. However, this time, with no objections from the ruling BJP-Mahayuti alliance, Mayor Ritu Tawde approved the motion.

The proposal will now be sent to the civic body for final approval and could cost the civic body Rs 700 crore in revenue if implemented.

As per the state government directions, residential flats up to 500 sq ft have been exempted from property tax since 2022. After the formation of the elected body, the proposal resurfaced, this time moved by Shiv Sena (UBT). Senior corporator Yashodhar Phanse said rising financial pressures are forcing

many families to sell their homes and move out of Mumbai. He proposed increasing the exemption limit from 500 sq ft to 700 sq ft to provide greater relief to residents. The proposal was also included in the Shiv Sena (UBT) manifesto for the 2026 civic elections.

The civic body has seen a decline in collections due to the exemption for residential properties up to 500 sq ft and the absence of any tax hike over the past five years, resulting in an estimated annual loss of Rs 400 crore. If the exemption limit is extended to 700 sq ft, an additional Rs.300 crore will be forfeited, taking the total annual revenue loss to about Rs 700 crore.

MMJ

24x7 Speed Post

Moneylife Digital Team



The department of posts (DoP) is launching 24 Speed Post. The service is being launched by Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Union minister of communications and Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Union minister of state for communications, in the presence of senior officers of the department in New Delhi.

The 24 Speed Post offers next-day guaranteed delivery for urgent, time-sensitive consignments. In the first phase, the service will be available across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Alongside this, 24 and 48 Speed Post services will

provide assured next-day guaranteed delivery (D+1) and D+2 delivery timelines, enabled through dedicated processing windows and priority air transmission.

The services will also feature one-time passcode (OTP)-based secure delivery, end-to-end tracking with SMS alerts, a book now, pay later (BNPL) facility for business customers, free pickup for bulk bookings, API integration, and a money-back guarantee in case of delay, further strengthening India Post's premium express delivery capabilities.

MMJ

Mumbai's first political animal welfare chief outlines vision to

'Corporatise' stray care Dhairya Gajara

In a city where the management of stray animals has long been a

overburdened NGOs, its integration into a mainstream political structure provides a



flashpoint for conflict and administrative neglect, Sanket Bhatt is proposing a paradigm shift. As the Maharashtra State Head of the Yuva Sena's Animal Welfare Force – the first dedicated animal wing of any major political party in India – Bhatt is leveraging both political machinery and private-sector efficiency to overhaul the city's approach to animal rights.

From Event Management to Animal Advocacy

In a recent conversation with The Free Press Journal, Bhatt detailed his mission to professionalise animal welfare through his new NGO, JeevOne, and his role within the Shiv Sena's youth wing to ensure that the voiceless have a permanent seat at the legislative table. Through his long experience in the event management industry and managing some of the widely popular Indian artists, Bhatt now plans to corporatise the animal welfare movement by also leveraging political support to bring the industry into mainstream and ensure proper care of the strays.

The establishment of the Yuva Sena Animal Welfare Force marks a significant shift in regional politics. While animal welfare has traditionally been the domain of independent activists and

level of legal and administrative muscle previously unseen.

Bhatt said, "Whenever a problem related to feeding or rescue of animals has arisen, people are dependent on either NGOs or independent animal activists. I thought why not have a proper political stance on this entire issue. The idea behind having a dedicated political wing for animal welfare is also to unite animal lovers and activists."

According to Bhatt, the political machinery will become the supporting arm of his long-term plan to standardise the field of animal welfare through JeevOne. Through a mobile application, which was recently launched, JeevOne will unite community animal feeders, rescuers and pet owners by bridging the gap between compassion and technology. The platform will allow feeders to maintain day-to-day records of the animals they care for, log feeding costs and medical expenses, online veterinary consultancy, conflict resolution support and creating crowd-sourced census of street animals in India.

Moving Beyond Charity to a Profit-Driven Model

"The problem of the animal welfare community is that people have been working in this field for 25-30 years and still nothing [Contd on Page 4](#)

Women show interest in 'Aai' policy

 [Manoj Ramakrishnan](#)

The 'Aai' Tourism Policy, launched to empower women across Maharashtra and boost tourism, has received a strong response, the state Tourism Department said.

By the Numbers

The scheme, aimed at providing women opportunities to develop business and leadership skills in the tourism sector, has received 4,200 applications, of which 3,292 Letters of Intent have been generated. Around 900 loans have been sanctioned, amounting to Rs 72.49 crore. In addition, Rs 1.67 crore has been sanctioned for interest reimbursement, indicating the government's financial support for women entrepreneurs.

Under the policy, women entrepreneurs can start various tourism-related businesses, including agro-tourism ventures, eateries, restaurants, cafes, homestays, tourism villas, adventure tourism projects and houseboats.

The policy also aims to ensure the safety of women tourists, providing customised services and concessions for women travellers, and promoting tourism overall.

Interest-Free Loans and

Seven-Year Support

The policy aims to establish up to 10 tourism-related enterprises owned and run by women in every taluka of the state. It offers interest-free loans of up to Rs 15 lakh, along with an interest reimbursement facility for seven years.

The interest amount will be transferred directly by the government to the Aadhaar-linked bank account of the entrepreneur, at a maximum rate of 12%, up to a limit of Rs 4.5 lakh or until the loan is repaid, whichever is earlier.

To qualify, the tourism business must be registered with the Directorate of Tourism and owned and operated by a woman. In the case of women-owned tour and travel agencies, at least 50% of employees must be women.

Insurance and Premiums for Female Staff

Female employees such as tour guides, drivers and tour operators working in registered tourism businesses will also be covered under government insurance schemes, with the government paying premiums for the first five years.

Women tourists will receive a 20% discount on tourism circuits and packages arranged [Contd on Page 4](#)

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 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

Dharavi Redevelopment Project: Massive Urban Renewal Drive Quietly Reshapes Mumbai's Infrastructure, Transport And Growth

 [S Balakrishnan](#)

Mumbai is likely to see several quiet yet lasting benefits from the Dharavi Redevelopment Project. Without this large-scale renewal effort, many of these changes would probably not have taken shape through the city's usual planning process.

Several urban features that had remained stalled or simply absent from Mumbai's development roadmap are now being unlocked because of the sheer scale of the slum redevelopment initiative.

Rehabilitating nearly 10 lakh people within Dharavi and across multiple land parcels within MMR requires solutions that go well beyond housing. In the process, the city itself begins to develop and change.

At its core, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) is one of India's most ambitious urban renewal efforts, aimed at providing dignified, home-for-home rehabilitation to residents who have lived for decades in overcrowded and unsafe conditions.

But as work gathers momentum, the project is increasingly being viewed as something larger. It is becoming a city-shaping intervention with ripple effects across Mumbai.

City-wide planning impact

Dharavi's central location makes this impact unavoidable. Decisions taken here influence transport, land use, infrastructure and environmental planning well beyond its boundaries. As a result, development activity is being triggered in areas that had long remained underutilised or stuck in planning limbo.



One visible outcome is the activation of land parcels in Kurla, Kanjurmarg, Bhandup, Mulund and Malad. These sites, previously constrained by planning and logistical challenges, are now entering the development framework as part of the state's broader rehabilitation strategy, helping ease pressure on Mumbai's limited land resources.

Mobility and environment

Mobility is another major gain. Dharavi is being reimagined as a multi-modal transport hub, integrating rail, Metro corridors and arterial roads. This not only shortens daily commutes but also strengthens Mumbai's long-term public transport network by placing a major transit node at the city's heart.

Environmental recovery forms another critical layer. The long-polluted Mithi River is set to undergo rejuvenation, with plans for flood mitigation, cleaner channels and accessible public spaces along its banks, like in other cities globally — an intervention that has eluded the city for decades.

The project is also accelerating solutions for the Deonar dumping ground, which is Mumbai's and, arguably, India's largest landfill. Scientific waste processing and biomining are expected to reduce legacy waste, reclaim land and lower health risks for surrounding neighbourhoods. Who would have thought that the landfill would be

CM Fadnavis declares war on BMC corruption as BJP Corporators unveil 20 point, 100-Day action plan for Mumbai

 [Kalpesh Mhamunkar](#)

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday called for a strong fight against corruption in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), urging newly elected BJP corporators to work towards transparent governance and fulfil the expectations of Mumbaikars.

Training Camp for Corporators

Addressing a two-day training camp for BJP corporators at Vasant Smruti in Dadar, Fadnavis emphasised the need to ensure a corruption-free administration in the civic body.

Later, Mumbai BJP president and MLA Ameet Satam announced that the party had prepared a 20-point action plan to be implemented within the first 100 days in the BMC. Mayor Ritu Tawde, Standing



Committee chairman Prabhakar Shinde, education committee chairperson Rajshree Shirwadkar and leader of the house Ganesh Khankar were also present at the press conference.

Ending the 'Understanding' in the Standing Committee

Satam said that work had already begun to ensure transparency in civic administration. "The chief minister has taken a firm stand against corruption in the BMC, and steps are being taken to end the alleged 'understanding' in the standing committee," he said.

According to Satam, six of the 20 initiatives have already been

Contd on Page 4

Dharavi Redevelopment Project

reimagined after several decades as a hygienic and habitable space?

Social and economic framework

On the social front, the redevelopment introduces one of the lowest cost-of-ownership models seen in urban renewal history. Zero maintenance for 10 years and a 10% commercial space reserved in each redevelopment building ensures a lifetime revenue stream for residents.

A broader eligibility framework includes even upper-floor residents who are normally excluded in other slum rehabilitation

schemes.

Crucially, the plan recognises Dharavi as an economic engine. Proposed business and livelihood hubs aim to formalise and strengthen industries with a declared tax holiday for five years after redevelopment. This will ensure that redevelopment protects livelihoods rather than erasing them.

Taken together, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project is no longer just about rebuilding homes. It is quietly resetting how Mumbai plans, connects and grows.

MMJ

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

Mumbai's first political animal welfare chief outlines vision

Contd from Page 2 has changed or systemised. All that has been done by many of these organisations is collecting donations. I understand money is important to keep up the welfare work but how long will we carry out this work as a social enterprise? We need to corporatise it so that everything can be systemised, organised and perfected," Bhatt said, adding that JeevOne will be purely profit-driven to ensure accountability in animal welfare.

Bhatt plans to identify community feeders through digital feeder cards and regularly educate the feeders through special workshops to ensure that animals are taken good care of and feeding is carried out in a way that prevents conflicts between locals. In a later phase, JeevOne also aims to operate motorcycle ambulances for small animals as a better option for feeders and pet owners in comparison to the existing ambulance services which are costly and rare to find. The legacy program will allow donors to invest in one motorcycle ambulance, which

will double its fleet over time with the increase in demand while also generating revenue for its own operations.

Professionalising the Feeder Community

Bhatt's idea behind corporatising animal welfare is to provide employment opportunities to animal lovers, feeders and activists, who usually do the unpaid job voluntarily. JeevOne will design skill development courses to certify them for animal care work and connect them with people who require skilled professionals to look after their animals. Later this year, JeevOne will start organising animal centric events like pet festivals and Mahapaur puja for pets to bring together animal lovers and also generate revenue for their work. "Instead of relying on the government and telling them to bring the change, I would say, let me do it. With whatever limited amount of resources we have, we can bring the best

CM Fadnavis declares war on BMC corruption

Contd from Page 3 implemented within the first month. Among them is the decision to procure all 27 items required for municipal school students through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal to ensure transparency in purchases.

Cleanliness, Infrastructure, and Health on the Agenda

Other initiatives include organising community-level

Political animal welfare models and pilot models in the field of animal welfare. We are already talking to one of the big tech giants of the country and plan to utilise their infrastructures for the work," he added.

By blending the grassroots reach of the Shiv Sena with the professional efficiency of JeevOne, Bhatt aims to set a blueprint for other Indian metros. For Mumbai, this could mean a future where animal care is not just a gesture of compassion, but a functional, well-oiled part of the city's urban infrastructure. **MMJ**

cleanliness competitions to improve sanitation across the city and starting work on developing better entry points to Mumbai.

Satam also said that the BMC has begun vaccination against cervical cancer for girls aged 9-14 under a Central government scheme. In addition, a study group from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has been appointed to examine long-term solutions to Mumbai's flooding problem.

Lions for Rani Baug? Talks Underway

He added that discussions are underway with the Government of Gujarat and the Junagadh administration regarding a proposal to bring lions to Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo (Rani Baug).

Satam expressed confidence that the remaining initiatives in the 100-day agenda would be implemented within the stipulated timeframe.

During the training camp, Fadnavis also released a book dedicated to 56 Mumbai BJP workers who lost their lives while serving people during the COVID-19 pandemic. **MMJ**

Women show interest in 'Aai' policy

Contd from Page 2 through Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation operators. Additionally, 50% discounts on online bookings at MTDC resorts will be offered to women on 23 specified dates annually, including March 1-8 for International Women's Day.

Tourism Minister Shambhuraj Desai said the policy promotes women's self-reliance while strengthening the tourism sector across both rural and urban areas. **MMJ**

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

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