

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

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Action for good
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India



AGNI

Editorial

AI should be used only as a tool for research by humans

The consensus among researchers and ethical guidelines is that AI should be utilized as a tool to enhance, rather than replace, human intelligence in research. This "human-in-the-loop" approach ensures that while AI handles complex data processing and speed, humans retain responsibility for critical thinking, ethical oversight, and final validation.

Here is a breakdown of why this approach is considered best practice:

1. AI as a Tool: Benefits in Research

AI acts as an accelerator for routine and time-consuming tasks:

Efficiency: AI can analyze vast datasets, identify patterns, and summarize research literature far faster than human researchers.

Workflow Optimization: It assists with data acquisition, creating comparative analysis, and drafting documents.

Specialized Analysis: In healthcare, AI assists with medical diagnosis and image recognition, enhancing accuracy.

2. The Necessity of Human Oversight (Why AI Cannot Replace Researchers)

Fully autonomous AI can pose risks in high-stakes research. Human oversight is essential to mitigate the following:

Hallucinations & Inaccuracies: AI can generate false information, fabricate citations, or make errors that seem plausible.

Bias & Fabrication: AI models can perpetuate or amplify biases present in their training data.

Contextual Understanding: AI often lacks the capability to understand the nuanced context, ethical implications, or real-world applicability of its findings.

Accountability: If an autonomous AI makes a mistake that causes harm, it is difficult to assign accountability. Human-in-the-loop ensures a researcher is responsible for the final output.

3. Ethical and Practical Frameworks

For AI to be used safely, experts recommend the following:

Transparency: Researchers must disclose the use of AI in their publications.

Verification: All AI-generated output must be checked by humans to ensure accuracy and scientific rigor.

Human-in-the-Loop (HITL): A collaborative model where AI supports and is guided by human expertise.

Conclusion

As of 2026, AI is transforming research, but its most effective and ethical application is as a "co-pilot" to augment human capabilities rather than as a replacement for human judgment.- FPJ



Maharashtra electoral roll revision from June 30: door-to-door verification of 9.86 crore voters begins

 [Kalpesh Mhamunkar](#)

Chief election officer of Maharashtra S. Chockalingam announced the complete schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Maha-rashtra, under which Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will undertake door-to-door verification of nearly 9.86 crore voters across the state from June 30. The final electoral roll will be published on October 7 following an extensive verification exercise aimed at removing names of absent, shifted, deceased and duplicate voters from the electoral database.

Over 1 lakh BLOs deployed

Addressing the media, Chockalingam said the Election Commission of India (ECI) has deployed 1,00,253 BLOs for the exercise, while political parties have so far appointed 1,13,558 Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to participate in the revision process. He urged recognised political parties to maximise BLA appointments before the launch of the campaign next month.

The draft electoral rolls will

be published on August 5, after which claims and objections can be filed till September 4. Disposal of claims and objections will continue till October 3 before the publication of the final rolls.

Transparency assurance to parties

Responding to opposition parties' concerns regarding transparency, Chockalingam assured that the draft list of proposed deletions would be shared with recognised political parties at the Assembly constituency level. BLAs, he said, have the legal right to scrutinise the lists and raise objections against wrongful deletions before the final publication.

He said the ECI has prepared a separate schedule for Maharashtra due to ongoing census-related work involving local administrative machinery.

Duplicate entries due to migration

The Chief Electoral Officer noted that rapid urbanisation and migration over the last two decades have significantly increased the possibility of duplicate

[Contd on Page 4](#)

Mumbai's First Waste-To-Energy Plant In Bandra

 [Prathamesh Kharade](#)

Mumbai's first waste-to-energy (WTE) plant, located at Pali Hill in Bandra and once celebrated as a pioneering citizen-led sustainability initiative, is set to be revived by the Brihan-

mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) after remaining defunct for nearly a year.

The plant, which became operational on May 3, 2018, was established through a collaborative [Contd. on Page 3](#)

Maharashtra Plans To Convert Gateway Of India Diesel Boats To Electric

 [Kalpesh Mhamunkar](#)

In a major push towards green transport and fuel conservation, the Maharashtra government has initiated plans to gradually convert diesel-powered boats operating

near the Gateway of India into electric boats. The initiative is aimed at promoting eco-friendly marine tourism, reducing fuel costs for boat operators and supporting Prime Minister [Contd. on Pg 3](#)

BMC gets CM nod to launch AI-powered 'CIVIT TWIN' Building Approval System

 [Sweety Bhagwat](#)

In a major technological reform aimed at transforming Mumbai's real estate approval process, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to launch an artificial intelligence-

powered building approval system named "CIVIT TWIN".

The rollout of the system received the green signal following a review by the Chief Minister, marking a significant shift towards automation and digital governance in Mumbai's construction and real estate sector.



powered building approval system named "CIVIT TWIN".

According to information shared about the platform by Keval Valambhia, Chief Operating Officer, CREDAI MCHI, a real estate developers' association, the new system will integrate artificial

intelligence into the building permissions and approval process.

The AI-based platform is expected to process more than 10,000 compliance checkpoints during the scrutiny

of proposals. Officials associated with the initiative stated that the system would automatically fetch required documents, eliminating the need for applicants to repeatedly submit records or coordinate with multiple departments.

The platform will also use machine vision and AI-based analysis to read architectural drawings, site plans and technical submissions, reducing the

Contd. on Page 4

BMC plans green bonds for sustainable infra projects, to introduce new trench policy

 [Shefali Parab-Pandit](#)

The BMC is set to tap the capital market through Green Bonds to fund key sustainable infrastructure projects, including wastewater treatment and desalination plants, as part of its long-term environmental and urban resilience strategy.

As credit rating assessment is mandatory for issuing Green Bonds, the civic body has appointed India Ratings and Research Pvt Ltd to undertake the process. Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide said the groundwork is progressing at a fast pace, with the Green Bonds expected to be floated by December.

BMC explores Green Bonds for major projects

The BMC, the richest civic corporation in the country, has traditionally funded all its big-ticket projects, such as the Mumbai Coastal Road constructed at a cost of Rs 14,000 crore and the Goregaon-Mulund Link Road at Rs 16,000 crore.

However, in the 2026-27 budget, then Municipal Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani highlighted that the Finance Minister had announced a Rs 100 crore incentive for a single Rs 1,000 crore municipal bond issuance in Budget 2026, alongside AMRUT 2.0 incentives.

The BMC is considering floating Green Bonds to fund projects such as sewage treatment plant projects, which are expected to cost the civic body over Rs 30,000 crore.

Desalination and Gargai projects highlighted

While speaking to the media, Bhide said, "The civic body is implementing several major environment-friendly infrastructure projects, including a 200 million litre

desalination plant and the Gargai Dam project. As Green Bonds enable funding for sustainable and environmentally focused infrastructure, the BMC is planning to raise funds through such bonds for these large-scale projects in the coming years."

Meanwhile, projects proposed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model have come under criticism from elected representatives.

Addressing the concerns, Bhide clarified that adopting the PPP route does not mean handing over civic assets to private entities.

"The PPP model is widely used even by the Government of India for infrastructure development. However, this is a sensitive issue and there can be differing opinions. It would be appropriate for all stakeholders to come together, hold discussions and arrive at a balanced solution," she said.

BMC plans new trench policy

To make Mumbai pothole-free, the BMC has undertaken large-scale road concretisation works across the city. However, repeated trenching by various authorities and utility companies for infrastructure works has led to the deterioration of several newly concretised roads.

In a bid to protect these roads and prevent damage to projects executed at huge public expense, the civic administration is set to introduce a new "Trench Policy" soon.

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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

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BMC's localised solution for better solid waste handling

 SHEFALI PARAB-PANDIT

In several civic wards, dense populations and slum clusters are leading to higher waste generation.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has adopted a multi-pronged, localised approach to address Mumbai's growing solid waste management challenges, focusing on decentralised processing, stricter waste management bylaws, and community involvement. After an early morning surprise inspection across the solid waste management (SWM) outposts, BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide directed the officials to conduct micro-level assessments and develop a system, based on the geographic information system (GIS) to map waste patterns.

Key local solutions introduced by the BMC include:

Decentralised Waste Processing (Vision 2030): The BMC is setting up waste processing units at the ward level, including a major Bio-CNG plant at the Deonar dumping ground to process 1,000 tonnes of wet waste daily.

Mandatory On-Site Processing: Bulk waste generators (housing societies or commercial establishments over 20,000 sqm or generating >100 kg daily) must process waste on-site, with a 5% property tax rebate offered for compliance.

Innovative Nullah Cleaning: To stop debris in waterways, the BMC is installing 10-foot-high steel nets in

nullahs (drains) and using CCTVs to catch illegal dumpers in areas like Bandra West.

Targeted Waste Collection: Specialized vehicles have been deployed for separate collection of wet, dry, and domestic hazardous waste (such as diapers and sanitary pads) from households.

Technological Monitoring (GreenTags): A pilot project in Malabar Hill and Bhuleshwar uses QR codes (GreenTags) on bags to track segregation quality at the source.

"Debris on Call" Service: An upgraded, on-demand service allows for the collection of construction waste, reducing illegal dumping on public streets.

New Bylaws & Fee Structure: Proposed bylaws (2025) include a monthly user fee for waste collection and higher penalties for littering, burning garbage, or dumping in drains.

Odour Control Technology: Specialized enzymes are being sprayed at collection points to minimize odour and decomposition before waste reaches landfills.

These efforts aim to achieve 100% segregated, decentralized waste management, reducing dependence on the overcrowded Kanjurmarg and Deonar dumping grounds.

"Bulk Waste Generators – Bigger responsibility for cleanliness

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Convert Gateway Of India Diesel Boats To Electric

Contd. from Page 1 Narendra Modi's call for fuel conservation and environmental sustainability.

97 Wooden Boats, Most Run on Diesel

Officials said that nearly 97 licensed wooden boats are currently operating in the Gateway of India area and most of them run on diesel. Boat owners reportedly spend up to Rs 1 lakh per month on fuel alone, making operations increasingly expensive. The government believes that shifting to electric boats will significantly reduce operational costs while also helping curb pollution in the coastal region.

A high-level meeting chaired by Fisheries and Ports Minister Nitesh Rane was recently held where Mumbai Bank Chairman Pravin Darekar was also present to

discuss financial assistance and special loan schemes through banks for the proposed transition to electric boats. Speaking at the meeting, Minister Rane said the state government intends to introduce a dedicated scheme for converting passenger and fishing boats into electric vessels to encourage sustainable tourism and modernise traditional marine transport systems in Mumbai.

Dedicated Scheme for Passenger, Fishing Boats

As the estimated cost of an electric boat ranges from Rs 2.5 crore to Rs 6 crore, the minister directed Mumbai Bank to formulate a separate low-interest loan policy for fisheries societies, private boat owners, associations and individual beneficiaries. He also suggested facilitating cooperative memberships or

Mumbai's First Waste-To-Energy Plant In Bandra

Contd. from Page 1 effort led by the Pali Hill Residents Association (PHRA) and was among Mumbai's earliest decentralised waste-processing projects. At a time when the city's ambitious Deonar waste-to-energy project was still under discussion, the Pali Hill facility emerged as a model for local waste management and renewable energy generation.

Details On The Waste-To-Energy (WTE) Plant

With a daily processing capacity of one tonne of organic waste, the plant catered to around 79 residential buildings and 23 bungalows in the upscale Bandra area, including homes linked to prominent personalities such as lyricist Gulzar, filmmaker Rakesh Om Prakash Mehra, late actor Rishi Kapoor and veteran actor Dilip Kumar.

According to PHRA secretary Madhu Poplai, the facility processed around 680 to 720 kilograms of organic waste daily and converted it into electricity and manure. The electricity generated by the plant was used to power nearly 69 street lights in the locality as well as support the functioning of the plant itself, as reported by *The Indian Express*.

Despite being located next to the Bandra water reservoir and surrounded by residential towers, residents reportedly did not face odour-related issues due to the plant's advanced equipment and maintenance during its early years.

However, problems began formation of independent societies to help beneficiaries access various government subsidies and financial assistance schemes more easily.

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after the original operator's contract ended in 2021. A new agency appointed later allegedly failed to properly maintain the facility, leading to operational issues and eventual shutdown.

"The new operator did not carry out adequate maintenance, and in July 2025 they handed over the keys stating they could no longer operate the facility. Since then, the plant has remained defunct," Poplai said, as quoted by *The Indian Express*.

BJP Councillor Steps In To Support Plant's Revival

The revival plan gained momentum after a recent meeting between civic officials and local residents facilitated by BJP councillor Swapna Mhatre. Mhatre has urged the BMC not only to restart the plant but also modernise it with updated technology and potentially expand its processing capacity. "The technology has evolved significantly over the years. We have requested the administration to explore whether the plant's capacity can also be increased," Mhatre said.

BMC officials said the civic body is now exploring the possibility of reviving the facility through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding and appointing a new operator under Solid Waste Management rules.

"We are exploring ways to restart the plant through CSR support. An agency may be appointed to run the facility while adhering to prescribed SWM guidelines," said Deputy Municipal Commissioner Kiran Dighavkar, according to the report. The proposed revival comes as Mumbai continues to face mounting waste-management challenges and increasing focus on decentralised, sustainable garbage processing solutions.

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BMC gets CM nod to launch AI-Powered 'CIVIT TWIN' building approval

Contd. from Page 2 required for assessment and scrutiny, which has historically faced criticism for delays, repetitive documentation requirements and manual scrutiny.

One of the key features of the system is its ability to detect errors and by-law deviations before formal scrutiny, enabling applicants to rectify issues in advance and potentially reducing rejection rates.

The process is also expected to streamline the approval pipeline from document submission to final permissions.

The system will reportedly include 12 AI agents designed to assist applicants through various stages of the application process. These AI tools will help identify missing documents, incorrect entries, drawing-related errors and deviations from development control regulations and by-laws.

In addition, the system is expected to provide WhatsApp-based support services for applicants.

Expected benefits for developers and homebuyers

Mumbai's building approval mechanism has long been viewed as one of the most time-consuming aspects of the city's real estate ecosystem,

often involving prolonged approval timelines and multiple rounds of manual corrections.

Industry stakeholders believe the new AI-driven framework could significantly improve project execution timelines and reduce procedural uncertainties.

According to details shared about the initiative, developers and investors are expected to benefit through faster approvals, lower land-holding costs, reduced dependency on intermediaries and more predictable timelines for project execution.

For homebuyers, the system is expected to improve transparency and increase the availability of compliant and verified housing inventory while potentially accelerating possession timelines.

The introduction of CIVIT TWIN is being viewed as one of the most significant technology-driven governance reforms in Mumbai's urban planning and construction sector in recent decades.

Part of wider governance reforms

The move also follows reforms outlined earlier in April by BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide shortly after taking charge. Speaking at a National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) event in Mumbai in April, Bhide had said the civic body planned to streamline building approvals and improve ease of doing business through technology-driven reforms.

At the event, Bhide had stated that upgrading the existing AutoDCR system using artificial intelligence would help reduce human interface, speed up approvals and improve transparency. She had also indicated that the civic body planned to rationalise procedures by removing redundant requirements and leveraging digitisation to address bottlenecks faced by developers.

Highlighting the broader urban planning vision, Bhide

had then stressed the need for infrastructure-led growth alongside real estate development. "A city is not just about buildings but about the quality of life it offers," she had said.

Officials and industry observers believe the initiative could also influence how other Indian cities modernise civic approval systems through artificial intelligence and digital governance tools.

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Electoral roll revision

Contd from Page 1 entries, especially where voters shifted residence without deleting names from previous constituencies.

Explaining the verification process, Chockalingam said voters would receive pre-filled enumeration forms containing current voter details along with historical data mapped from the last SIR conducted between 2002 and 2004. BLOs will make at least three visits in cases where houses are found locked.

Online submission option

Voters will also have the option to submit updated and signed enumeration forms online. Citizens can verify old family electoral records through the ECI portal using basic details such as name, district and Assembly constituency.

Following publication of the draft rolls, strict notices will be issued to voters whose records fail to match historical data or where discrepancies are detected. Such lists will be displayed at local self-government offices, Tehsildar offices and official websites.

Chockalingam clarified that while Aadhaar cards are accepted as identity proof under ECI guidelines, they will not be treated as proof of citizenship, in line with provisions of the Aadhaar Act and Article 326 of the Constitution, which mandates that only Indian citizens aged 18 years and above are eligible to vote.

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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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