

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI

Action for good
Governance &
Networking in
India

AGNI

Editorial

Draft electoral rolls out, special drive on November 18 and 19 and December 2 and 3

The Election Commission on 27th October 2023 published the Draft Electoral Rolls - 2024 for Maharashtra and set December 9 as deadline to file objections and make corrections in voter identity cards. The final rolls will be published on January 5, 2024. The summary revision of electoral rolls with respect to the qualifying date of January 1, 2024, is on.



Shri Shrikant Deshpande
Additional Chief Secretary
&
Chief Electoral Officer,
Maharashtra

Sl. No.	Activities	Period
1	Publication of integrated Draft Electoral Rolls	27-10-2023 (Friday)
2	Period of Claims and Objections	27-10-2023 (Friday) to 09-12-2023 (Saturday)
3	Dates of Special Drives (Saturday) (Sunday)	18-11-2023 (Saturday) 19-11-2023 (Sunday) 02-12-2023 (Saturday) 03-12-2023 (Sunday)
4	Disposal of Claims and Objections	26-12-2023 (Monday)
5	Publication of Final Electoral Rolls	05-01-2024 (Friday)

Special drives on November 18, 19 and December 2, 3

Special drives will be held on November 18 and 19, and December 2 and 3, and disposal of claims and objections on December 26.



Special Summary Revision 2024

- Form 6: Application Form for New Voters
- Form 6A: Application for inclusion of name in Electoral Roll by an overseas Indian elector.
- Form 6B: Letter of Information of Aadhaar number for the purpose of electoral roll authentication
- Form 7: Application Form for Objection for Proposed Inclusion/ Deletion of Name in Existing Electoral Roll
- Form 8: Application Form for shifting of Residence/Correction of Entries in Existing Electoral Roll/Replacement of EPIC/Marking of PwD.

The above applications can be submitted in online mode using the Voters Service Portal (<https://voters.eci.gov.in/>) or the Voter Helpline Mobile app.

Applications can be submitted online. For details, log on to <https://voterportal.eci.gov.in/>. According to the draft notification, claims and objections can be filed from October 27 to December 9.

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Unfilled vacancies defeat purpose of RTI Act

Supreme Court Urges States and Union to Address Vacancies in Information Commissions to Preserve RTI Act

The Supreme Court, expressed its dissatisfaction with the failure of both States and the Union to fill the vacant positions within Information Commissions nationwide.

In response, the Court has instructed the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to compile a chart detailing the number of vacancies and the number of appeals/complaints pending in all the commissions. Furthermore, the Court has directed both the Central government and the States to promptly take the necessary steps to fill these vacancies.

The bench, consisting of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra, heard a petition concerning the numerous vacancies in the Information Commissions established under the [Right to Information \(RTI\) Act](#).

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the petitioners, pointed out that despite the 2019 judgment of the Supreme Court in Anjali Bhardwaj and Ors v/s Union of India, the vacancies in the Central Information Commission (CIC) and various State Information Commissions (SICs) remained unfilled. This has resulted in a substantial backlog of cases and lengthy delays in the resolution of appeals and complaints.

Expressing the Court's disappointment, the Chief Justice stated in the order, "The failure of the State governments to fill posts of Information Commissioners defeats the purpose of the RTI Act and affects the right of



information which becomes a 'dead letter' if vacancies are not filled up."

Consequently, the Supreme Court has instructed the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to compile a chart detailing the number of vacancies and the number of appeals/complaints in all the commissions. It has also directed all state governments to immediately issue notifications to initiate the process of filling these vacancies.

During the hearing, the petitioners provided details about the current status of vacancies in various commissions:

The Central Information Commission (CIC) is functioning without a Chief and has seven vacancies, with only four commissioners working. All four commissioners are set to retire by November 6, 2023, after which the CIC will become non-operational.

The Maharashtra State Information Commission (SIC) is without a Chief and is functioning with only four commissioners, despite having over 115,000 pending appeals/complaints.

The Karnataka SIC is operating with five commissioners, while six positions remain vacant, with over 40,000 appeals / complaints awaiting resolution.

The **contd. on Page 4**

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

Road re-surfacing

 Zahida Banatwala, AGNI Trustee

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra announced sometime last year that all roads will be concretised in future. There were mixed reactions to the announcement. Citizens are fed up with pothole ridden roads. After 14 years of patiently waiting our road, is to be resurfaced, A.B. NAIR road has come up for resurfacing. Residents of the area are apprehensive about the quality of work, time schedule and scope of work included. Hence a meeting was held on site. ALM secretary invited the MLA, who in turn asked the concerned BMC officials and various department heads to be present.

Various questions were raised, footpath height and surface, whether both sides of the road would have footpath

s? Would storm water drains be built? Would the level of the road be raised? Many were concerned about their compounds getting flooded etc. The MLA and officials explained as per new norms there would be a utility corridor on the Eastern side of the road and openings at regular intervals, should there be a need to upgrade any utility. They have also included water supply pipes of a larger diameter to meet the needs of the future supply should buildings in the area go in for redevelopment. All utility providers have been notified about the ongoing work and all have been instructed to upgrade their cables, junction boxes etc. as no one will be allowed to dig any trenches later. Residents of the area felt the street lights were not adequate and hence better



lighting would help. It was observed that many commercial establishments had violated the road line, and these were given a strict warning to give back the encroached portion so as to enable BMC to carry on the work smoothly. Residents requested that there be no railings on the foot path as that restricted the movement of pedestrians. The contractor explained that storm water drains would be on the western side of the road. Footpath surface would be of stamp concrete. Tree guards would be built wherever required. The MLA assured the residents that the road surfacing work would be completed in a time bound period which would be approximately 6 months. With regret it was noted that road facing societies and commercial establishments will have to bear with the noise, dust and resulting pollution. I guess one cannot gain without enduring some pain. The next site visit has been scheduled for the 1st of December 2023 to observe the quality and quantum of work done. It was a very informative meeting.

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MP/MLA cases on fast track

To ensure faster disposal of criminal cases against lawmakers, the Supreme Court, directed high courts to set up special bench to monitor cases for their speedy disposal. The apex court, also asked special courts not to adjourn proceedings in such matters except "for rare and compelling reasons."

"The learned Chief Justice of the High

Stories of Good Governance

Hospital Healthcare Delivery - Patient Discharge Day - Billing

 Shrikant Soman, AGNI Trustee

Discharge Day is a special day for the patient and his relatives. It is a D Day. There is excitement of going back to the home sweet home, once the nominal process of bill payment is complete. But in reality this day becomes a nightmare for many. Patient expects to walk out of the hospital in the morning by 10 am. He gets fresh and ready. His relative rushes to the billing department/front desk to collect the final bill. And here his ordeal for the day starts. He is told that the bill is not yet ready.

If it is a cashless mediclaim policy, then he is told that the final approval from the insurance company has not yet arrived. No further clarity is given. He in desperation contacts the mediclaim company and gets the response that some documents are pending to be received from the hospital. Or that his claim is under process. Or that part of his claim is not approved for xyz reasons. He then shuttles back and forth between the mediclaim staff of the hospital and the insurance company. This goes on for several hours. The frustration starts mounting on him. Sometimes voices are raised. Arguments follow. The hospital staff nonchalantly responds to the patient's relatives, barrage of questions

in a routine manner from their stock of standard excuses.

Then there is the problem of some last minute charge from some department pending to be included in the bill. And the most common reason is the pending receipt of the Consultant's charges. When in one of the hospitals I managed, a senior consultant was pressed for timely giving his bill. And the reply I received shocked me. He said he is taking time to assess how deep are the pockets of the patient. And it takes some smart chats with the patients and his relatives to get some fair idea of his capacity to pay. Friends, next time you chat with the Doctor, remember not to flaunt your status and your job and your home and your car and your foreign trips. It is not at all the right time and place and the person to do so.

There are many more hassles in the discharge process. It is really maddening and frustrating. I will explain shortly. The most annoying part is the extra half day charge levied due to delayed discharge, even though it is solely on account of the inefficiency on the part of the hospital. This extra half day charge is a cheat smoney. Even reputed hospitals do it blatantly.

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The Supreme Court bench also directed high courts to create an independent tab on the website to provide district-wise information about the details of year of the filing, number of subject cases pending and the stage of proceedings.

"While monitoring the subject cases, the special bench may pass such orders or directions as are necessary for expeditious disposal, clarified the court," the bench said.

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Harbour line stations make over

 [Kamal Mishra](#)

Vadala Road Station's Transformation Boosted by ₹23 Cr Budget Allocation

Currently, the station is witnessing the progress of ceiling work and beautification of its pillars, which is part of the station's makeover.

In a significant development for Mumbai's Central Railway Division, Vadala Road Station is undergoing a transformation under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The Indian Railway has allocated a budget of Rs 23.02 crore for this revitalisation effort.

Currently, the station is witnessing the progress of ceiling work and beautification of its pillars, which is part of the station's makeover. Notably, digital advertisements will soon adorn these pillars, aiming to bolster non-fare revenue.

An official statement from Central Railway underscores

their commitment to enhancing passenger facilities.



The ongoing renovation work is expected to complete within a year.

Vadala Road Station, situated on the Harbour Line, holds a prominent position in the Mumbai railway network. The ongoing rejuvenation efforts are poised to offer commuters a refreshed and improved travel experience in the near future.

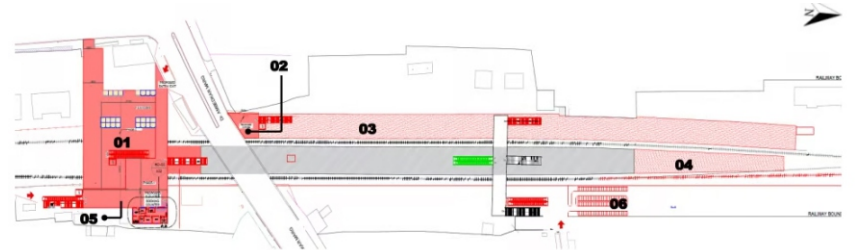
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Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation plans to revamp 4 harbour line stations

The stations that will be revamped are GTB Nagar, Chembur, Govandi, and Mankhurd. The project's estimated cost is Rs 130 crores.

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has been working on an ambitious plan to revamp four stations on the Harbour Line, including GTB Nagar, Chembur, Govandi, and Mankhurd, with an estimated cost of Rs 130

the south end, featuring an Elevated Booking Office that will connect to the Road Over Bridge (ROB) and a proposed platform. "A new Home Platform measuring 275 metres in length and 10 metres in width will also be



crores. The tendering process of the project is being finalised.

According to chief public relations officer of MRVC Sunil Udasi, the station improvements will include the provision of additional Foot Over Bridges (FOBs), elevated decks, interconnections between decks/FOBs, skywalks, and the relocation of service buildings, stalls, and kiosks. Additionally, entry/exit areas will be enhanced, and green spaces will be integrated into the stations' surroundings.

Specifically, at GTB Nagar station, plans include constructing a deck connecting the east and west entrances on

built on the west side. The existing platform will be extended by 75 metres to the north, and a parking area will be established as part of the improvements. Some railway offices will be relocated to accommodate these changes," said Udasi.

These stations are crucial transportation hubs, with an average daily footfall of around 45,000 to 55,000 commuters, handling over 425 to 430 trains daily. The upcoming renovations aim to enhance the commuter experience and improve the overall infrastructure of these vital stations on the Central Railways' Harbour Line.

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WADALA SPORT'S IPL – 5th Edition Box Cricket Tournament

Wadala (West) Citizens' Forum has organised its 5th Edition of Box Cricket Tournament on 10th December 2023 at St. Joseph's School Turf ground for Wadala Residents.




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Maharashtra Govt's New Decision

Police Order Maharashtra Police has launched Free Ride Scheme
Where there is no vehicle available for women to go home
alone between 10 pm to 6 am,

Women Can Call Police
helpline number **(1091 or 7837018555)** and ask for a vehicle.

This number will be operational 24x7.

Control room vehicle or nearby PCR vehicle/SHO vehicle will come and drop her safely at her home.

This will be done free of charge.

Send this message to everyone you know.

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

Unfilled vacancies defeat purpose of RTI Act

contd. from Page 1 Supreme Court will revisit the matter in three weeks. The petitioners, Anjali Bhardwaj, Commodore Lokesh Batra (Retd), and Amrita Johri, were represented by Advocates Prashant Bhushan and Rahul Gupta.

It is a very important judgement and also unfortunate that the court has to direct them to appoint commissioners. Without a commissioner, how will applicants even challenge the violation of their right to information – Anjali Bharadwaj, petitioner. In the last five years the Centre has not made any appointment of information commissioner, added Bharadwaj.

Mumbai city based activist and former central information commissioner, Sailesh Gandhi said, “Enough stress should also be laid on proper criteria and proper selection process. Transparent appointments are hardly there in our country, including the appointment of judges.

Bhasker Prabhu another activist said Information Commissioners should act as Ambassadors of RTI and not shield officials.

10th National Conference of Resident Welfare Associations 2023 Bengaluru

CoRWA (Confederation of Resident Welfare Associations – A pan India RWA Apex Body founded in 2012 at Hyderabad has organised the 10th National Conference in Bengaluru on 25th (Saturday) and 26th November (Sunday). The main mission of the 10th

NCRWA is to gather many dynamic RWAs all over the country to share the experiences of RWAs of other states and to form a common platform for all RWAs in Karnataka. CoRWA made its impact felt in almost all major cities of the country bringing together like-minded people on to a common platform to discuss and deliberate on several



issues of civic life, so much so, CoRWA has transformed RWAs into a potent force emerging a

Empowering electrical consumers....

Tucked away in an obscure corner of a newspaper, this notice is very useful. Every Electric consumer to know...

PUBLIC NOTICE
Empowering Electricity Consumers
Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020
promulgated by Govt. of India

All the electricity consumers are hereby informed that Ministry of Power, Government of India, have promulgated the Electricity (Rights of Consumer) Rules, 2020 on 31.12.2020 under section 176 of Electricity Act, 2003. Under the said Rules, Govt. of India provides that there shall be no gratuitous/willful load shedding by Electricity Distribution Companies.

Under these Rules, 24x7* power supply is a right of the consumers and if a Distribution Company resort to willful load shedding then consumers have the right to claim compensation from the Distribution Company. Central Government has also laid down criteria for maximum time taken by a Distribution Company for various services which include Connection, Disconnection, Reconnection, Shifting, Change in Consumer Category & Load, Serving of Bill, Resolving Voltage and Bill related complaints.

Any delay in providing these services will lead to providing compensation to consumers by Distribution Company. Copy of the Rules can be downloaded from: <https://powermin.gov.in/>

For more information, consumers may contact the concerned DISCOM.

*Except for categories of consumers specified by Commission

10th National Conference of Resident Welfare Associations (NCRWA)
25th & 26th Nov 2023
Gnana Jyothi Auditorium, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru

Focal Theme
Save Energy & Protect Environment

In association with

key contributor to policy-making and guiding the discourse on major issues like solid-waste management, the RERA Act implementation, RTI, Housing Society problems, Pollution, and other urban issues.

The conference also seeks to mobilize, coordinate and express Civil Society consensus on major common issues and concerns in one voice.

Some of the key aspects of the Conference are:

- Encroachment Free Footpath

- Urban Housing and related issues
- To make RWAs a part in the decision making in local governance
- Discussion on RERA Act 2016 and its implementation
- Improvement in functioning of Municipal Bodies

Who can participate?

The Conference mainly aims to assemble representatives from RWAs, Apartment Welfare Association, Housing Societies, Civil Society members and RWA federations from across the cities of India. Thus delegates from all over the country will be attending the Conference.

Time is running out

So Mumbaikars block the dates so that you can take part in the above conference and get benefit of experiences of other RWAs from across the country. Register NOW!

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