

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI



Editorial

BLOCK THE DATES November 14 & 15

13th National Conference of Residents Welfare Association (NCRWA)

1 3rd is normally taken as "UNLUCKY". However, this, 13th N C R W A (National Conference of Welfare Association) is a special one. It is hosted by the Confederation of RWAs of Kerala, which is one of the most active RWAs in India. They are working very hard to ensure that theirs's will be a memorable one of all the earlier 12 NCRWAs held till now.

This Conference is organised by CoRWA (Confederation of Resident Welfare Associations) a PAN India National Apex body. The earlier 12 Conferences were held in other cities like Hyderabad, Vishakapatnam, Delhi, Trivandrum, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai etc.

By organising the National Conferences in different cities since last 12 years consistently and meticulously, CoRWA has established a link and equation with almost all significant leaders of Federations of RWAs from all over the country. It has helped in creating RWAs where there was none.

The Conference is being held in the coastal district of Ernakulum, a busy waterfront promenade known as Marine Drive where boats offer backwater cruises.

The Conference would cover citizens' issues apart from the local issue of Kerala. So block the dates for a visit to Ernakulum and attend the conference.



MMJ

Can't register your property in Maharashtra now sans Aadhaar

Kalpesh Mhamunkar

The Maharashtra Revenue Department has made Aadhaar-based identification mandatory for registration of property documents, with the new rule coming into effect from October 1.

Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said documents will not be registered without Aadhaar



verification, in a move aimed at preventing fraud in property transactions and making the registration process more transparent.

The decision has been taken on the instructions of Chief Minister

Contd on Page 4

'Pedestrian First' campaign: 246 km of footpaths made obstruction-free, says BMC

BMC's 'Pedestrian First' campaign has made around 246 km of Mumbai footpaths obstruction-free, with action taken at 1,711 locations. Experts and civic officials discussed safer footpaths, pedestrian infrastructure and measures to improve walking in the city. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has made around 246 km of footpaths obstruction-free as part of its 'Pedestrian First' campaign, with action taken at 1,711 locations across the city, the civic body stated.

The campaign, being implemented across all 26 administrative wards, aims to remove unauthorised hawkers and encroachments from footpaths and improve pedestrian infrastructure in Mumbai.

The BMC held a workshop with experts, urban planners, and civic officials at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Botanical Udyan and Zoo to discuss measures to strengthen the campaign and improve pedestrian facilities across the city.

The civic body said the initiative is being implemented under the guidance

of Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide and in accordance with Supreme Court directions.

Speaking at the workshop, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Eastern Suburbs) Dr Avinash Dhakane said civic officials face several challenges while implementing the campaign, including legal and enforcement-related issues. He stressed the need to provide citizens with accessible and well-maintained footpaths.

Former Maharashtra chief secretary Nitin Kareer said it was important for all BMC officers and engineers to understand the "Pedestrian First campaign and ensure that information about its implementation reaches ward offices. He said an information booklet on the campaign would be prepared soon.

Experts call for safer, better-designed footpaths in Mumbai

Urban Works Institute founder Shreya Gadepalli, who made a presentation on footpath infrastructure and policies in Mumbai and other cities, said footpaths were meant for pedestrians and that cities

Contd on Page 4

The BMC held a workshop with experts, urban planners, and civic officials at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Botanical Udyan and Zoo to discuss measures to strengthen the campaign



'Pedestrian First' campaign

Chandivali residents audit footpaths to debunk BMC's 'Pedestrian First' claims [Osama Rawal](#)

Two months after the [BMC](#) relaunched its 'Pedestrian First' campaign, claiming to have cleared hundreds of footpaths of encroachments and made walking spaces safer, residents of Chandivali have conducted their own audit, documenting narrow and obstructed footpaths, illegal parking, dumping and other impediments they say belie the civic body's claims.

The Chandivali Citizens Welfare Association (CCWA) on Tuesday audited four prominent pedestrian stretches connecting Chandivali Nahar, Lake Homes, Raheja Vihar and other high-rise townships. The roads serve nearly 200 buildings across the neighbourhood, where a rapidly growing population has placed increasing pressure on already congested roads and inadequate pedestrian infrastructure.

"We have been suffering because of the condition of these roads and footpaths. After the new BMC commissioner announced the Pedestrian First campaign, we kept reading about hundreds of footpaths being cleared of encroachments. We wanted to see how this drive was actually taking shape in our neighbourhood," said Mandeep Singh Makkar, founder of CCWA.

Residents' findings

The audit found footpaths narrowing to as little as 1.4 metres at some locations. Residents said all four stretches had one or more obstructions, including illegal parking, hawkers, stalls, staircases from slum structures, encroachments, dumping and large hoardings



that further reduced the space available for pedestrians.

Residents also flagged what they described as poor road design. On some stretches, kerbs were substantially higher than the prescribed standard. One section was measured at around a foot, compared with the 150-mm (15-cm) standard cited under Indian Roads Congress guidelines, the group said.

One of the key stretches audited was IRB Road towards Hiranandani Gardens in Powai which has four schools and a hospital and is heavily used by pedestrians travelling from Chandivali. Residents found that a roughly 200-metre stretch, including an area near a bus stop, had effectively turned into an open dumping ground, making it difficult for pedestrians to use.

Makkar said inadequate pedestrian infrastructure was also contributing to traffic congestion by forcing residents to depend on private vehicles.

"There is no pedestrian infrastructure, so people take out their cars. When they do that, it leads to more traffic. Making footpaths better and walkable will not just help pedestrians but also traffic," he said. [wini Bhid](#)

The group also audited DP Road No. 9, where footpaths exist on both sides. On one side, residents measured a kerb at about a foot, while dumping had made portions of the footpath uneven and difficult to negotiate. On the other side, a slum settlement had several

[Contd on Page 3](#)

BMC removes 6 unauthorised shops, 43 hawkers from Lalbaug footpaths

The action was carried out by the BMC's F-South Ward in various parts of Lalbaug, including areas around prominent Ganpati idols and along the footpaths adjoining Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Road, the civic body said.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) removed six unauthorised shops and 43 unauthorised hawkers obstructing footpaths in the Lalbaug area as part of its 'Pedestrian First' campaign, aimed at making footpaths obstruction-free and accessible for pedestrians.

The action was carried out by the BMC's F-South Ward in various parts of Lalbaug, including areas around prominent Ganpati idols and along the footpaths adjoining Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Road.

The civic body said the campaign is being implemented in accordance with the directions of the Bombay High Court, under the guidance of BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide and the leadership of Additional Municipal Commissioner (City) Prajakta Verma Lavangare.

The campaign aims to immediately remove unauthorised hawkers and encroachments from



footpaths and ensure that pedestrians can use them without obstruction.

The action in Lalbaug was carried out under the guidance of Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Zone II) Prashant Sapkale and led by F-South ward Assistant Municipal Commissioner Vrushali Ingule.

During the drive, civic officials removed six unauthorised shops, 24 temporary tarpaulin sheds and three unauthorised platforms, along with taking action against 43 hawkers who were obstructing footpaths in and around the Lalbaug area.

The civic body also carried out clean-up work in the area following the removal drive. Police personnel from Kalachowki Police Station were deployed during the action to maintain law and order.

The BMC administration has urged citizens and businesses to ensure that footpaths remain accessible and safe for pedestrians. It warned that strict action will be taken against unauthorised structures or the placement of materials that obstruct pedestrian movement on footpaths.

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Bank accounts of an account holder who is no more [FPI](#)

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

Pedestrian First' campaign

'Pedestrian First' campaign: BMC clears 15 unauthorised stalls

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has removed 15 unauthorised stalls from footpaths in the Byculla area as part of its 'Pedestrian First' campaign aimed at providing obstruction-free and continuous walking space to pedestrians.

Of the 15 stalls removed, 13 were located on the footpath along the road from Mumbai Central railway station (on the eastern side) towards Nair Hospital, while two were on Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Road.

The civic body also found that 27 stallholders along the Mumbai Central-Nair Hospital route had occupied more space than the area allotted to them. Notices have been issued to all 27 stallholders.

As part of the drive, the BMC also repaired tree basins around 21 trees located along the footpath near the Mumbai Central-Nair Hospital route. Branches of some trees were also pruned.

The campaign is being carried out across Mumbai under the guidance of BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide, in accordance with directions of the Supreme Court, to remove unauthorised hawkers and encroachments from footpaths and make them obstruction-free.

The action in Byculla was carried out under the leadership of Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Zone 1) Chanda Jadhav and



Assistant Commissioner Anand Kankal.

BMC improves 260m of footpaths near Nair Hospital, clears 13 unauthorised stalls

Under the campaign, the BMC improved and repaired footpaths covering around 260 metres along Dr Anand Rao Nair Road near Nair Hospital. The footpaths have an average width of 3.75 metres, of which an average width of 2.15 metres has been made available for free and continuous pedestrian movement. Thirteen unauthorised stalls were removed from this stretch.

The footpath is extensively used by patients, their relatives, hospital staff and other citizens due to its proximity to Nair Hospital.

The removal of unauthorised stalls and other obstructions has made more continuous space available for pedestrians and is expected to facilitate movement along the route.

The BMC also improved and repaired footpaths measuring around 435 metres along Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Road, connecting Byculla East railway station with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Central Railway Hospital and Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Botanical Udyan and Zoo.

The footpath has an average width of 3.25 metres, of which an average 1.50 metres has been made available as a walkable stretch. Two unauthorised stalls were removed from this location. **MMJ**

Dadar railway station breathes easy

The G-North ward has launched action against illegal constructions, stalls, shops and other encroachments on footpaths in Dadar West, particularly around Dadar railway station and MC Jawale Marg, under its 'Pedestrians First' campaign.

The drive is being carried out under the guidance of Zone 2 Deputy Commissioner Prashant Sapakale and the leadership of

G-North Ward Assistant Commissioner Yogesh Desai. The action aims to clear footpaths as

heavy encroachments had forced people to walk on roads instead, Officials said action against encroachments would also be taken in Matunga, Sion and Dharavi. **MMJ**



Chandivali residents audit

Contd from Page 2 staircases opening directly onto the footpath, while shops had extended their merchandise onto the road, the group said.

Khairani Road presented another set of problems. Residents said hawkers and stalls, including fish sellers, had occupied portions of the road, while a large hoarding was also obstructing pedestrian movement.

The residents also pointed to the stretch in connection with a previous fatal incident in which a pedestrian, forced to walk on the road because of inadequate pedestrian infrastructure, fell into an open manhole and died.

"Despite this stretch getting so much publicity, no attention was paid to the most basic need of this road — pedestrian infrastructure," the group said.

The audit also covered Chandivali Farm Road, where residents found stalls and other obstructions. A stretch outside a commercial hub was also found to have inadequate space for pedestrians, they said.

Residents stressed that the problem could not be reduced to hawkers or small establishments alone. They said illegal parking, dumping, hoardings and poorly

designed or inadequate footpaths collectively made pedestrian infrastructure unusable.

The CCWA also called for greater coordination between the BMC and Mumbai Police, particularly to deal with illegal parking and other obstructions. The residents said the effectiveness of the 'Pedestrian First' campaign would depend on enforcement by multiple agencies. "These are the lifelines of high-rise townships and this is their condition," residents said.

The CCWA said it would submit photographs and observations from all four stretches to the municipal commissioner and the L Ward officer, along with recommendations for improving the implementation of the 'Pedestrian First' campaign. "We expect the BMC to pay heed to the audit and make things right," Makkar said.

When HT reached out to BMC, Assistant Commissioner, L ward Annil Jadhav said, "We are continuously removing encroachments and working to make footpaths more walkable. If the CCWA audit has identified any remaining encroachments, we will take note of them and remove them." **MMJ**

Can't register your property in Maha now sans Aadhaar

Contd from 1 Devendra Fadnavis, Bawankule said. A notification to this effect has already been published in the Maharashtra Gazette.

Aadhaar Required For 63 Document Types

Aadhaar identification will be required for 63 types of document registrations, including property sale and purchase, mortgage deeds and partition-related transactions.

Bawankule said the Registration and Stamps Department handles the registration of documents related to immovable properties and the new system would help curb fraudulent practices involving fake parties and witnesses.

"The move will reduce human intervention in the registration process, prevent fraudulent transactions and make the overall system more efficient and transparent," he said.

Rules For Those Without Aadhaar

Under the new rules, those who do not have an Aadhaar number will have to submit proof of having applied for Aadhaar along with other

government-issued identity documents and documents establishing their relationship with the person concerned in the transaction. The transaction will be finalised only after the documents and identity details are verified.

The notification also contains provisions for children and certain special categories. In the case of children below 18 years of age, the Aadhaar enrolment application will have to be made with the consent of their parents or legal guardians.

The government has also clarified that no child or eligible beneficiary will be denied the benefit of document registration solely because an Aadhaar number is not available.

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'Pedestrian First' campaign: 246 km of footpaths made obstruction-free, says BMC

Contd from Page 1 needed to provide safe spaces for people to walk.

According to data presented during the workshop, around 50 per cent of Mumbai's citizens travel on foot every day, while 30 per cent use public transport and 20 per cent use private vehicles. Gadepalli said private vehicles occupy around 82 per cent of the road space available for transportation, while only 19 per cent of citizens travel by private vehicles.

Rishi Agrawal, founder and convenor of The Walking Project, shared information on footpath design and pedestrian infrastructure in Mumbai. His presentation covered traffic islands, tree pits, ramps outside housing societies and other aspects of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

Urban planner Pankaj Joshi discussed pedestrian facilities and signal systems in

cities such as New York and Hong Kong, besides explaining footpath construction and design practices followed in parts of South Mumbai.

Ramanan Rachaprolu, director of Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd, also shared details of pedestrian-related measures adopted during metro construction.

BMC plans action on 200 footpaths

As part of the first phase of the 'Pedestrian First' campaign, the BMC plans to remove encroachments from 200 footpaths. Work has already begun on 136 of these footpaths, the civic body said.

During the workshop, experts and civic officials also discussed the role of ward-level officers in implementing the campaign. Officials were advised to conduct monthly review meetings, ensure that removed encroachments do not return and personally inspect footpaths in their respective jurisdictions.

The civic body was also advised to coordinate with other authorities and the police during enforcement drives and seek legal advice on complicated cases.

Experts suggested that the BMC should adopt a phased approach to improving footpaths and consider planting shorter native tree species along footpaths instead of large trees that could obstruct pedestrian movement.

Officials were also urged to inform citizens about footpaths that have been cleared under the campaign and encourage them to use the improved pedestrian spaces.

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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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