

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

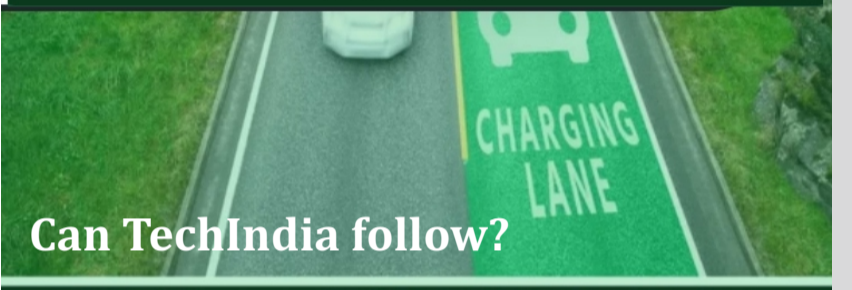
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AGNI



Editorial



SWEDEN IS THE WORLD'S FIRST COUNTRY TO INSTALL PERMANENT ELECTRIFIED ROADS THAT CAN CHARGE ELECTRIC VEHICLES WHILE DRIVING.
SOCIAL FACTS



Can TechIndia follow?

Sweden has made history as the first country in the world to install permanent electrified roads that can charge electric vehicles while they are driving. This ground breaking technology involves embedding electric rails into the road surface, allowing EVs equipped with a special connector to recharge their batteries seamlessly on the move. Known as "e-roads," this innovation is part of Sweden's ambitious goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 and revolutionize sustainable transportation.

The electrified road system not only reduces the need for frequent charging stops but also minimizes dependency on large on board batteries, making EVs more efficient and accessible. Sweden's initiative sets a powerful example for other nations, demonstrating how smart infrastructure can drive the shift toward a greener, more sustainable future. **MMJ**

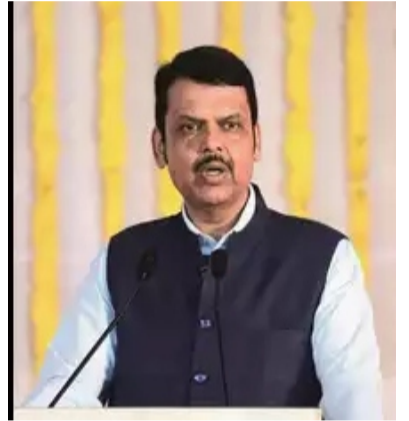
Right to Service Act implemented in Maharashtra

The 'Right to Service Act' has been implemented in Maharashtra. This means that now you won't have to visit government offices repeatedly to obtain documents like birth certificates, marriage certificates, licenses, etc.

A total of 43 government services will now be available to you at the click of a button, right from your home. To avail of these services, you will need to apply on the government website, and you will receive the required service within the stipulated time.

The Maharashtra government's website: www.aaplesarkar.maharashtra.gov.in

You will need to apply online on this portal. Government officials will be required to provide these services to citizens within the specified timeframe. This information was shared by Maharashtra's Housing Minister, Ravindra Waikar.



Departments included in this initiative:

Revenue Department; Registration and Stamps Department; Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department; Labour Department; Water Resources Department; Government Printing and Publication Directorate; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department; Forest Department

Services available online:

Age, Nationality, and Residence Certificate; Income Certificate; Temporary Residence **Contd. on Page 4**

500 Maharashtra govt. services will soon be available on WhatsApp

An agreement was reached between the state's information technology department and social media giant Meta for developing a WhatsApp chatbox under 'Aaple Sarkar' initiative of the government.

The collaboration announced during the Mumbai Tech Week 2025, aims to provide all citizen services via WhasApp on a single number. This will

empower 125 million citizens to access government services from anywhere, at any time.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between MMRDA and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the entity responsible for operating the UPI and RuPay networks. As part of the **Contd. on Page 4**

Boost for self-redevelopment projects as CM Fadnavis waives off interest on premium

Bhalchandra Chorghade

The government's move to announce a waiver on interest of 8.5% charged for paying the premium over three years for self-redevelopment projects in Mumbai and other parts of the state is being seen as a progressive step towards urban renewal, providing housing societies with greater autonomy in redevelopment while

reducing financial strain.

Industry experts believe that the new policy will particularly benefit societies occupying plots smaller than 800 square meters with high FSI consumption, which constitute a large portion of Mumbai's redevelopment landscape.

Taking to social media, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis recently stated, "Excited to announce **Contd. on Page 3**

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

BMC Begins Work On Multi-Level Robotic Parking Tower At Hutatma Chowk, Aims To Ease Congestion

 [Shefali Parab-Pandit](#)

The BMC has kicked off the construction of a state-of-the-art Multi-Level Robotic Parking Tower (MRPT) at Hutatma Chowk. The ceremonial ground-breaking for this automated parking system took place on 5th March with former BJP Corporator Makarand Narwekar presiding over the event.



Once completed, the facility will provide much-needed relief to the area by offering a parking capacity for 194 cars, easing the parking woes in one of Mumbai's busiest areas, claims the civic official.

As part of its ambitious plan to address the city's growing parking challenges, the BMC is moving forward with the construction of multiple parking facilities across key locations. These include the BMC's Engineering Hub in Worli, near Mumbadevi Temple in Kalbadevi, opposite Matunga Central Railway Station, and at Hutatma Chowk near the Bombay High Court.

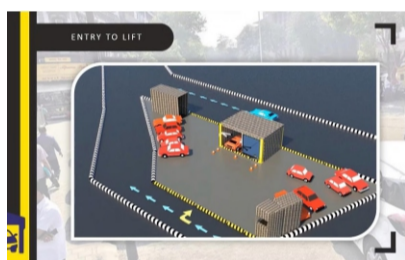
The total cost of these projects is estimated at Rs 504.19 crore. After facing strong opposition from local citizens, the proposal for a 23-floor MRPT in front of Matunga East Railway Station has recently been scrapped. However, the BMC has officially commenced work on the first underground MRPT in South Mumbai.

As per the current plan, the MRPT at Hutatma Chowk will feature four underground levels, with construction costs amounting to Rs 70 crore. The site boasts a 12-meter access road on the western side and a



7-meter access road on the eastern side. Vehicles will enter from the eastern side and exit from the western side, ensuring smooth traffic flow.

The area above ground will serve as a holding area, where vehicles will be temporarily stationed before entering the parking facility. Utilising advanced lift technology, cars will be automatically transported to their designated parking spots. The



system is designed for efficiency, with a retrieval time of approximately three minutes.

Narwekar has called for more MRPT in key areas like Fort and near Regal Cinema, which are vital infrastructure hubs. "The Hutatma Chowk parking facility is a great step towards easing congestion near the Bombay High Court, but we continue to push for similar underground parking solutions at Kala Ghoda and Regal Cinema, which see heavy footfall. With ongoing area improvements, now is the time to act."

He also stressed the need for EV charging points at these facilities and insisted that maintenance be managed by the contractor with a 60-year defect liability period. Currently, the BMC provides parking for 40,000 vehicles in Mumbai—28,500 in public parking lots and 11,500 in on-street spaces.

MMJ

Activist Alleges Financial Irregularities In BMC's ₹504 Crore Multi-Level Robotic Parking Tower At Hutatma Chowk, Demands FIR Against Officials, Firms

 [Dhairya Gajara](#)

Activist Alleges Financial Irregularities In BMC's ₹504 Crore Multi-Level Robotic Parking Tower At Hutatma Chowk, Demands FIR Against Officials, Firms

Just a day after the BMC started work for a multi-level robotic parking tower (MRPT) at Hutatma Chowk, civic activist Kamlakar Shenoy has raised objections against the project citing various irregularities. The activist has also alleged that the project will endanger people's lives and demanded legal action against the officials and private firms involved in constructing the parking tower.

The BMC kicked off the construction of a 23-storey MRPT at Hutatma Chowk on 5th March. The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 504.19 crore, is said to provide much-needed relief to the area by offering a parking capacity for 194 cars, according to the civic officials. The BMC spokesperson said all necessary NOCs have been received for the project. He said the same will be shown to Shenoy on 7th March.

However, civic activist Kamlakar Shenoy has raised objections against the MRPT and demanded to immediately halt the project as well as legal action against allegedly corrupt BMC officials. On 6th March, Shenoy wrote to the BMC Commissioner and alleged financial irregularities in the project, illegalities in the approval process, manipulation in the tender process and lack of public consultation.

Shenoy alleged that no genuine parking demand or feasibility study has been conducted or made publicly available and the project approvals appear to be based on fabricated or undisclosed data. He added that no independent, peer-reviewed traffic impact study has been published to justify this

project's efficiency to ease congestion. Heritage restrictions, legal requirements, and environmental impacts have been intentionally ignored to push this project forward, according to Shenoy.

Shenoy made a shocking allegation stating that the project has been undertaken without securing essential approvals including Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee for development in the Grade I heritage zone, Urban Development Department for land-use change under DCPR 2034, Collector's Office for land allocation, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for Environmental Impact Assessment, Mumbai Traffic Police for detailed traffic impact study and BMC's Tree Authority for tree cutting or relocation.

The activist alleged that the eligibility criteria in tender processing were structured to favor preselected bidders, while the project details, estimated costs, and tendering process have not been publicly disclosed. He also alleged that the project cost is artificially inflated, indicating financial mismanagement and possible corruption, demanding an immediate criminal investigation.

The BMC has also been accused of failing to conduct a public consultation or awareness programs before starting work for the project. Shenoy alleged that it is a violation of the citizen participation process mandated under urban development laws. He also demanded names of responsible officers and private firms involved in approving and facilitating

Contd. on Page 4

Boost for self-redevelopment projects

Contd. from Page 1 that the housing societies undertaking self-redevelopment will be exempt from paying interest on the premium for the first three years – an initiative that will bring financial relief to many. This exemption will apply to all projects in the first phase, until March 2026. Additionally, we have special committee to spearhead its implementation.”

Bamasish Paul, co-founder, managing partner and CEO of Etonhurst Capital Partners, said the self-development model empowers societies by ensuring complete ownership, cost-sharing revenue retention. However, he noted that challenges such as financial constraints, project management complexity, and the need for consensus-building among members could hinder execution.

Approval costs and the purchase of Floor Space Index form a major component of redevelopment expenses in Mumbai. Developers typically opt for societies, restricted from taking loans under their charter, must pay this amount upfront. This often makes self-redevelopment less attractive,” Paul said.

Nitin Singhal, founder of Absolute Group, emphasized that waiving the interest removes a key financial hurdle that previously made self-redevelopment less viable compared to developer-led projects.

“This is a well-calibrated step toward democratizing redevelopment, allowing smaller societies to take charge of their own renewal without relying on large developers. However, the real challenge lies in mobilising seed capital and ensuring that societies or professional development management firms have the expertise to execute project efficiently,” Singhal said.

He further highlighted that

many housing societies still lack the financial and technical expertise to navigate approvals, manage construction, and coordinate with key stakeholders, including financial institutions and local authorities.

“Addressing these gaps through structured financing solutions, regulatory support, and professional DM services will be crucial in unlocking the full potential of this policy. Nevertheless, this move marks an important milestone in Mumbai's redevelopment ecosystem, particularly for smaller societies, making self-redevelopment a more viable and accessible option,” Singhal added. MMJ

Wadala road cleared for commuters after 10 years, 600 vehicles removed

 Linah Baliga

The BMC, in collaboration with the Antop Hill traffic police, removed more than 600 vehicles, many of which were abandoned or illegally parked near Dosti Acres in Wadala for more than 10 years, freeing up the road for commuters. During the drive, 150 two-wheelers were also fined and encroachments on footpath cleared.

The stretch from Shaikh Misri Shah Dargah (SMD) Chowk to Acharya Atre Nagar Monorail Station had become a major bottleneck for local residents, due to illegal car and two-wheeler parking, unauthorised construction of shops, and encroachment by hawkers.

Vaysingh Patil, senior inspector, Antop Hill traffic division, told HT that a nine-hour drive from 9:30am to 2:30pm was undertaken using a



100-strong team comprising police, traffic and civic officials. The team removed illegal hawkers, unauthorised extensions of shops, and encroachments on footpaths with the help of JCB machines.

“Out of 600 vehicles, 80 paid the fine and took their vehicles. The rest were towed. Announcements had been made for the last 15 days not to park on that road. Despite this, trucks and buses were also parked there illegally. It was a major inconvenience for commuters and pedestrians. Only those who were parking for free on this road are distressed now,” said Patil.

Problems on the Contd. on Page 4



Every year, March 7th is celebrated as 'Jan Aushadhi Diwas' to raise awareness about the scheme and promote the use of generic medicines. Week-long events are organized across the country from March 1st to 7th to support this initiative.

This year, the celebration was flagged off on March 1 to disseminate information about PMBJP in the National Capital Region (NCR). The "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)" was launched in November 2008 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, in collaboration with Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings. The initiative aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the public through dedicated outlets called Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJK).

Key Activities of PMBJP

With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) aims to make quality generic

medicines available at affordable prices. Some of the activities under this initiative include:

Raising Awareness: One of the primary goals is to educate the public about the benefits of generic medicines, emphasizing that affordability does not compromise quality. The initiative aims to dispel the misconception that higher prices indicate better quality.

Encouraging Prescriptions of Generic Drugs: PMBJP aims to inspire healthcare professionals, particularly those in government hospitals, to prescribe generic alternatives, thereby promoting cost-effective treatment options.

Enhancing Accessibility: The initiative seeks to provide a wide range of commonly used generic medicines across various therapeutic categories, ensuring that essential healthcare products are available to everyone, especially the marginalized.

Despite the country being one of the leading exporters of generic medicines to the world, the majority of Indians lack sufficient access to affordable medicines. Branded medicines are sold at significantly higher prices than their unbranded generic equivalents, though they are

identical in their therapeutic value.

Features of PMBJP

A unique feature of the scheme is that it is operated by government agencies as well as by private entrepreneurs.

- Prices of the Jan Aushadhi medicines are 50%-80% less than that of branded medicine's prices available in the open market.

- Medicines are procured only from World Health Organization – Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified manufacturers for ensuring the quality of the products.

- Each batch of drug is tested at laboratories accredited by 'National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories' (NABL) for ensuring best quality.

- The incentive up to Rs. 20,000/- per month is given @ 20% of monthly purchases made and subject to the stocking mandate.

- A one-time incentive of Rs. 2.00 lakh is provided to PMBJP Kendras opened in North-Eastern States, Himalayan areas, Island territories and backward areas mentioned as aspirational district by NITI Aayog or opened by women entrepreneur, Ex-serviceman Divyang, SC & ST. MMJ

Right to Service Act implemented in Maharashtra

Contd. from Page 1 Certificate; Senior Citizen Certificate; Loan Certificate; Cultural Event Permission; Application for Certified Copy; Affidavit for Smallholder Farmers; Landless Certificate; Certificate of Being a Farmer; General Affidavit; Certificate of Residence in Hill/Remote Areas; Birth Registration Certificate; Death Registration Certificate; Marriage Registration Certificate; Residential Certificate; Below Poverty Line Certificate; Certificate of Being Alive; Gram Panchayat Dues Certificate; Certificate of Being Destitute; Toilet Certificate; Widow Certificate; Registration of Shops and Establishments; Renewal of Shops and Establishments; Principal Employer Registration for Contract Workers; License Registration for Contract Workers; License Renewal for Contract Workers; Registration for Job Seekers; Employer Registration; Providing Search Availability; Assessment Report for Stamp Duty Payment; Refund of Registration Fee Paid via E-Payment for Unregistered Documents.

Officials to face fines for delays:

The 'Right to Service Act' also includes provisions to penalize officers for negligence. If services are not provided within the stipulated time, the responsible officer will be fined between ₹500 and ₹5,000.

Currently, the Act covers 43 services, but this number is expected to increase to 135 by March next year. **MMJ**

Multi-Level Robotic Parking Tower At Hutatma Chowk

Contd. from Page 1 this illegal project,

Apart from immediately halting the project until all approvals are legally secured, Shenoy also demanded all project-related documents, NOCs, and approvals to be publicly disclosed as well as an independent audit into the tendering process and inflated costs. He also urged the civic body chief to register an FIR for financial fraud, misrepresentation, and corruption and initiate disciplinary action against BMC officials involved in this illegal approval process.

500 Maharashtra govt. services will soon be available on WhatsApp

Contd. from Page 1 agreement, MMRDA has allocated a plot of land in the BKC to NPCI for the development of their global headquarters.

Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the Maharashtra government is making special efforts to promote fintech and Artificial Intelligence start-ups as it seeks to make the state a trillion-dollar economy.

“My government is making special efforts to accelerate fintech and AI start-ups for a trillion-dollar economy. Technology will serve as the foundation of growth,” he said.

The chatbot, 'Aaple Sarkar', will be available in three languages – Marathi, English and Hindi. It will also offer services via both text and voice.

The chatbot will bring various services like addressing grievances, downloading critical documents and certificate, convenience services like booking tickets via MSRTC or BEST under one platform. The chatbot will also provide timely information to farmers and citizens across state.

In partnership with Meta, we are taking a significant step in not only making government services digitally accessible through WhatsApp but also more efficient, bridging the gap between governance and the people.' SAID Fadnavis.

The government will use Meta's open-source large language model, Llama, to enhance efficiency and productivity in the administration.

“We are excited to collaborate with the Government of Maharashtra to enhance process efficiencies using Llama and to launch the digital services chatbot, which brings the power of technology to the fingertips of the people of,” Maharashtra said Sandhya Devavathan, Vice-President, Meta in India. **MMJ**

Wadala road cleared

Contd. from Page 3 half-km road, made one-way due to the work on Monorail Phase-II, worsened since the monorail service started, with more than 500 two-wheelers, taxis, cars and lorries parked illegally on one side of the road. “Now traffic flows smoothly on both sides of the road which had to be shut down for traffic earlier,” said Patil.

Nitin Shukla, assistant commissioner, F north ward, said, “SMD road was full of encroachments, illegal structures, illegal parking, and abandoned vehicles. The road, which was two-way, was getting wasted. Now, that it has been cleared, the road can be used two ways for traffic and Wadala residents can go past SMD road without taking a circuitous route to reach Dosti Acres.” **MMJ**

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<p>AGNI Chadha Bldg. 1st Flr, Plot No. 95, Wadala (W), Mumbai - 400031 agni.mumbai99@gmail.com Ph: 2416 5956 www.agnimumbai.in</p>	

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K/East	Vile Parle(E), Andheri (E), Jogeshwari (E)	James John	9324086140	k-jamesjohn@hotmail.com
K/West	Vile Parle (W), Andheri (W), Jogeshwari (W)	Sandra Alex	9820602521	sandraalex2357@gmail.com
L	Kurla, Nehru Nagar, Chandivli	Nutan Bhalla	9819171015	nutsie59@gmail.com
N	Ghatkopar, Vikhroli	Kishor K. Chudasama	9821051346	kishorkc_shantuu@gmail.com
P/South	Goregaon (West)	Anthony Dias	9821291660	diasapvoice@gmail.com
R/South	Kandivli (East & West), Charkop	S. K. Nangia	9322258038	sknangia2004@yahoo.com
R/North	Borivli, Dahisar (East West, IC Colony)	Willie Shirsat Shrikant Soman Glenda Almeida	9820213392 9324228946 9820291563	shirsatwillie382@hotmail.com shrikant_soman@gmail.com glenda301@gmail.com
M/West	Chembur	Krantikumar Sherkhane	703900255	krantikumar@gmail.com
S	Bhandup, Kanjurmarg, Powai	Pamela Cheema	9820150748	pamelachema@gmail.com
T	Mulund	Laxmidas Thakkar	8080011966	lthakkar@yahoo.co.in

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