THE INSIDES SPEAK

*Vol - 08 *Issue -03 * Mumbai, Mumbai, September – November 2026 *Page - 8 *Rs. 10/- *PRGI REGD. NO : MAHENG/2018/76479 | Editor : SRINIVASAN GOPAL CHARI

Mumbai: FDA Seizes ₹12.23 Lakh Worth Of Dairy Products In Mahape

Substandard Milk Suspected...

Mumbai : Suspected substandard milk and dairy products were found during inspections at three establishments in Mahape in Navi Mumbai, prompting the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to seize 1,309 kg/litres of milk and dairy products worth Rs 12.23 lakh. The action was part of a special drive against violations of food safety norms.

Inspections In Mahape

The inspections were conducted on August 19 at Bhaskar Dairy, P.K. Dairy and Vijay Dairy in the Mahape MIDC area. The FDA suspected violations of provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and seized the products for further examination. At Bhaskar Dairy, officials seized 473 kg of skimmed milk powder (Chandrakamal) worth Rs 1.60 lakh and 75 kg of medium-fat paneer (Bhaskar) worth Rs 22,500. The total seizure was 548 kg of dairy products valued at Rs 1.83 lakh. At P.K. Dairy, the FDA seized 393 litres of loose buffalo milk worth



Rs 1.24 lakh and 368 litres of loose cow milk worth Rs 1.16 lakh. In all, 761 litres of milk worth Rs 2.40 lakh was seized.

Milk Suspected To Be Substandard

At Vijay Dairy, officials seized 138 litres of loose buffalo milk worth approximately Rs 1.10 lakh and three litres of loose cow milk worth Rs 180. The total seizure was 141 litres worth Rs 1.10 lakh. The FDA said the milk seized from Vijay Dairy was suspected to be substandard, and further action is being taken based on the findings of the inspection and analysis. The action was initiated under Sections 26 and 27 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The FDA has intensified inspections of milk and dairy establishments to check the quality and safety of products being sold to consumers.



Rs 125 Crore, 110 Bank Accounts: Mumbai Cops Bust Mule Bank Account Racket...



Mumbai : An interstate racket that supplied mule bank accounts for cyber fraud carried out under the guise of online gaming, cricket betting, and online casinos has been busted by the Mumbai Police. More than Rs 125 crore was routed through just 17 bank accounts provided by the accused within a span of one to two months, the investigation has revealed. The police have so far identified 110 such bank accounts, of which 17 have allegedly been linked to 38 cybercrime complaints or offences registered across several states. The investigation has established links between 17 of the 110 identified bank accounts and 38 cybercrime complaints or offences registered in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal, police said.

Three accused, identified as Nikhil Kamalkumar Jaiswani (26), Rahul Shyamlal Paraswani (32), and Jay Bihari Lal Tiryani (26), from Madhya Pradesh, have been arrested in this major operation by the Dongri Police's cyber cell. Five other suspects have been identified and efforts are underway to trace them, an official said. During the probe, police found that the accused targeted financially vulnerable people and offered them small amounts of money in exchange for bank accounts opened in their names.

8 Injured As Crane Falls On Houses During Eviction Operation In Mumbai...





Mumbai : Eight persons were injured after a crane toppled onto houses in Mumbai's Kurla East area early Friday morning during preparations for an "eviction operation", a civic official said. The incident, which also affected goods train movement in the area, occurred around 3 am at Buntara Bhavan, a MHADA building located behind Galaxy Apartment in Indira Nagar. According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's L-ward staff present at the site, the housing body MHADA was preparing to launch an "eviction and demolition operation" there. A crane was being mounted for the operation when it toppled onto nearby houses, leaving eight persons injured, the official said. Six of the injured persons were admitted to the civic-run Sion hospital, while two others were taken to the Bhabha Hospital, another corporation-run medical facility, in Kurla. According to hospital authorities, all the injured persons are in stable condition, the official said. Personnel from the Mumbai fire brigade, police, 108 ambulance service and local ward staff were mobilised for the rescue operation following the incident, he said.

The accident affected goods movement on the single-line Kurla-Trombay route of the Central Railway after part of the crane fell on the overhead wires, officials said.

Mumbai: Dadar Markets Generate 25 MT Waste Daily; BMC Plans Localised Processing To Reduce Dumping Ground Dependence

Mumbai : With nearly 25 metric tonnes (MT) of waste generated daily, Dadar's flower and vegetable markets may soon get localised waste-processing facilities, reducing dependence on dumping grounds. The move will cut waste transportation, ease pressure on existing dumping sites and convert waste into a valuable resource, a civic official said.

Flower Market Waste Processing

Additional Municipal Commissioner Prajakta Verma Lavangare, accompanied by civic officials, inspected both markets on Saturday and directed G-North Ward officials to explore localised solutions for processing waste and converting it into useful products.

Around 10 MT of floral waste is generated daily at Dadar's Meenatai Thackeray Flower Market. Lavangare called for a decentralised processing project to convert the waste into organic manure,



incense sticks and other value-added products, instead of transporting it to dumping grounds. "The initiative will promote waste segregation, reduce transportation costs, generate local employment and address waste at source," she said.

Lavangare also directed officials to ease traffic congestion around the market, prevent goods vehicles from parking on surrounding roads and ensure that they use only designated parking spaces. Traders' associations were urged to cooperate with the civic administration to maintain orderly parking and smooth traffic movement.

Vegetable Waste Management

At the Krantisinh Nana Patil Municipal Vegetable Market near Dadar (West) station, around 15 MT of vegetable waste is generated daily. Lavangare directed officials to explore decentralised processing to convert the waste into compost, biogas and other organic products, reducing the need for transportation to distant dumping grounds.



EDITORIAL

'US TERRITORY'

Trump had first shared the same image on August 18, after previously declaring that he could soon claim the Strait of Hormuz as US territory. Speaking at a police academy on Long Island on August 14, Trump had said, "Pretty soon I'll be declaring the Strait of Hormuz a territory of the United States." Iran's Supreme National Security Council secretary Mohsen Rezaei has earlier hit back at US President Donald Trump's claims over the Strait of Hormuz, saying, "The gap between America's inability to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and its claim to own it is greater than the 7,000-mile distance between Washington and the Strait itself." He added, "Welcome to the post-American order in the Persian Gulf."

Trump's latest post comes as Washington prepares to impose fresh sanctions on Iran, adding another layer to the growing economic confrontation between the two countries. Iran has condemned the planned sanctions, warning that they could further strain its economy and affect major trading partners, particularly China, which remains a key buyer of Iranian oil. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is expected to announce what he has described as "the toughest sanctions in history" against Iran. He has also urged China to cooperate with Washington over Tehran's oil exports.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei has criticised the planned sanctions as an attempt to impose US authority beyond its borders. "Such secondary sanctions find no foundation in international law," Baghaei said in a post on X. Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, also warned neighbouring countries against supporting Washington's economic campaign.

"We are telling all nearby countries not to join the US economic war, otherwise we will consider them as enemies," Rezaei said. The Strait of Hormuz has become the main flashpoint in the wider confrontation, with Iran maintaining that the waterway is closed and threatening action against unauthorised oil tankers. The disruption has severely affected global energy shipments. Only a handful of commodity vessels have crossed the strait, with major crude carriers and LNG tankers largely absent. Iran has, however, permitted some Iraqi oil tankers to pass through following requests from Baghdad.

Iran has, however, permitted some Iraqi oil tankers to pass through following requests from Baghdad.

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said the US military had helped move an average of 8 million barrels of oil a day through the strait over a seven-day period. That is significantly below the more than 20 million barrels a day that moved through the waterway before the war, underscoring the impact of the crisis on global energy supplies. Iran's ability to disrupt tanker traffic remains a major concern, with Tehran retaining significant missile and drone capabilities despite heavy damage to its military infrastructure.

Contractor Fined Rs 25 Lakh, Asked To Help Victims Of Mumbai Crane Collapse



Mumbai : The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on the contractor responsible for demolition work at an unsafe building in Kurla, after a hydraulic crane being used at the site collapsed on Friday morning, injuring at least 10 people and damaging nearby hutments, vehicles and railway overhead equipment.

The incident occurred during demolition work on an incomplete residential building in the Kurla area. The crane fell towards the adjoining area and came into contact with the railway overhead equipment on the Kurla-Trombay section. The accident also damaged several hutments, the compound wall of an MHADA building and three to four parked vehicles. One of those injured was a three-month-old infant.

MMRDA, in a statement issued after the accident, said the building had originally been constructed in 2005 by HDIL (Housing Development & Infrastructure Ltd.) under a Slum Rehabilitation Scheme through the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA).

The structure comprised ground plus 16 upper floors and six wings, with approximately 500 residential tenements. However, the project remained incomplete and the building was never brought into regular habitation or occupancy, the authority said.

Following financial distress and bankruptcy of the developer, the incomplete structure was handed over by the SRA to MMRDA on an "as-is-where-is" basis.

That MMRDA the administrative and technical process for demolition of the unsafe structure following an audit. A demolition contract was awarded to Total Construction Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, which was to carry it out manually.

The crane accident has raised questions over safety arrangements during the demolition of a structure located close to occupied settlements and railway infrastructure. The exact sequence of events and the reasons for the crane collapse are expected to be examined as part of the investigation. The MMRDA said immediate steps had been taken to assist those affected. Medical treatment of the injured has been accorded the highest priority, while the contractor has been directed to bear the necessary expenses towards medical treatment and injuries. The contractor has also been directed to meet the cost of repairing or compensating for the hutments and vehicles damaged in the incident.

MMRDA said it has initiated action against the contractor under the applicable contractual provisions and safety requirements. A penalty of Rs 25 lakh has been imposed, with further action to follow, if required, after the findings of the investigation by the concerned authorities. The incident comes amid increased scrutiny of construction and infrastructure safety in Mumbai.

"Don't Know If She's Dead": Mumbai Boy Stabs Woman, Confesses On Camera



Mumbai : In a shocking incident, a minor in Mumbai stabbed a woman after allegedly being provoked by her threats, and later recorded a video confessing to his crime. The incident happened in the Dahisar area of Mumbai. The teenager had allegdly exposed a marijuana cultivation operation running inside a house. According to officials, the woman, identified as Suman Thakur, played a role in the illegal business. At around 9 pm on Thursday, the minor stabbed the woman repeatedly with a knife, causing life-threatening injuries.

The incident at Lane No. 4 of Ganpat Patil Nagar, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Borivali MHB Police Station, comes days after an illegal marijuana cultivation unit was exposed. The boy who stabbed the woman had a link in exposing the unit. According to him, the victim Suman Thakur was repeatedly threatening him and his family members after that incident.

A video of the aftermath of the incident, accessed by NDTV, shows the injured woman covered in blood.

What was more shocking is the fact that the accused minor did not run away from the scene after committing the crime. Instead, he pulled out his camera and recorded a video of himself confessing to the crime.

In the video, the boy said that he and his family members had filed a complaint against the people growing marijuana near a creek near their house but no action was being taken against them. After the exposure, Suman Thakur allegedly came to the boy's house and began threatening him and his family.

8,000 Pothole Complaints In Two Months Despite Mumbai's Rs 17,000-Crore Road Makeover



Mumbai : Mumbai's pothole problem has resurfaced with the monsoon, with residents filing more than 8,000 complaints about damaged roads in just over two months even as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) pushes ahead with its Rs 17,000-crore road concretisation project.

Between June 10 and August 20 afternoon, the civic body received 8,032 pothole-related complaints across the city's 26 wards and reported resolving 7,829 of them. Last year, by contrast, the BMC had recorded over 8,600 pothole complaints by mid-August (August 15). The eastern suburbs accounted for the largest share of complaints, with S ward in Bhandup recording 471, followed by M/East ward covering Govandi, Deonar and Mankhurd with 461.

M/West ward, covering Chembur and Tilak Nagar, recorded 374 complaints, while L ward, covering Kurla and Saki Naka, reported 357. At the other end of the spectrum, A ward, covering Churchgate and Fort, recorded 61 complaints, followed by D ward, covering Malabar Hill, with 62 and C ward with 69.

The complaints were received through several civic platforms, with more than 5,000 registered on the My BMC Marg forum, over 1,500 through WhatsApp and more than 800 on X. The complaints have come despite the BMC's ongoing road concretisation programme, launched in 2022 with the aim of concretising more than 700 km of the city's 2,050 km road network that had remained non-concretised.

Mumbai Police Crack Chembur Mobile Shop Burglary Within An Hour, Recover All Seven Phones

Mumbai : Mumbai Police arrested two people within an hour after they allegedly broke into a mobile shop in Chembur and stole seven mobile phones. The police have recovered all seven mobile phones, worth Rs 67,000, stolen from the premises.

According to the police, the 28-year-old complainant, Imran Haji Mohammed Khan, who runs IK Mobiles, reported the burglary on Wednesday. His shop, located at D Centre Building on Shell Colony Road in Chembur, had allegedly been targeted after the accused forced open the shop shutter and entered the premises. Following the complaint, Chembur Police registered a case under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and launched an investigation. A crime detection team began searching for the unidentified accused in and around the area.

While patrolling at the service road near the Eastern Express Highway in Siddharth Colony, Chembur, the police team spotted two men behaving suspiciously. The duo was stopped





and questioned.

The suspects were identified as Ekram Azam Sheikh alias Ghoda, 27, a resident of Qureshi Nagar, Kurla East, and Tauhid Ijhar Sheikh, 22, a resident of Rajiv Gandhi Nagar slum in Nehru Nagar, Kurla East.

According to the police, the duo gave evasive replies when questioned about the case. As suspicion grew, police searched the two men. During the search, the police allegedly found the seven mobile phones that had been reported stolen from the Chembur shop. The recovery of the entire stolen property helped police crack the case within an hour of the complaint being registered, according to a press note. The investigation is now underway to establish the exact role of the two accused and determine whether they were involved in any other similar offences.

The operation was conducted under the guidance of Additional Commissioner of Police (Eastern Regional Division) Dhananjay Kulkarni, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 1) Sameer Sheikh, Assistant Commissioner of Police Kaleem Sheikh, and Senior Police Inspector Rajesh Kevle.

Chembur Police Inspector Kiran Unde, Police Sub-Inspector Arun Kendre of the crime detection team, and police personnel Ajit Kawale, Vinayak Chavan, and Ganesh Suryawanshi were part of the team. Sub-Inspector Pradeep Patil is conducting further investigation.

Ex-Bank Manager Held For Stealing Rs. 81.80 Lakh Gold From NRI's Locker

I

Mumbai : The Kandivali Police in Mumbai have arrested a 35-year-old former bank deputy branch manager for allegedly stealing 610 grams of gold jewellery worth Rs 81.80 lakh from an Non-Resident Indian (NRI) senior citizen's bank locker. The police solved the case within four days of receiving the complaint and recovered the entire stolen property.

The incident came to light on August 12, when 74-year-old Pradeep Motiram Bhatia, a retired Dubai resident, lodged a complaint at Kandivali Police Station.

According to the complaint, Bhatia, who has been living in Dubai with his family for 52 years, had deposited his gold jewellery in a safe deposit locker at IndusInd Bank's MG Road branch in Kandivali West on March 22, 2024, for safekeeping. When Bhatia returned to Mumbai nearly two years later to retrieve his valuables, he found the locker completely empty.



Following the complaint, the Kandivali Police registered a case under Section 316(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Under the guidance of senior police officials, including Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 11) Sandeep Ghuge and Senior Police Inspector Karan Sonkawde, the investigation was handed over to Assistant Police Inspector Deepak Kadbane of the Kandivali Police Cyber Cell.

As the alleged offence had occurred nearly two years earlier, traditional technical leads and CCTV footage yielded limited clues. Investigators then scrutinised former bank staff and the locker allocation process.

Bank audit exposes Rs 9-crore transactions, leads police to ex-manager

Suspicion fell on Kuldeep Ramchandra Sahani (35), a resident of Santosh Nagar in Goregaon East, who was the deputy branch manager when Bhatia was assigned the locker. An audit of Sahani's bank accounts revealed financial transactions totalling approximately Rs 9 crore over the past two years, including extensive dealings with gold-loan firms.

Man Arrested for Allegedly Raping 15-Years-Old Girl In Bhiwandi

Mumbai : A man allegedly raped a 15-year-old girl and then threatened her with dire consequences in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Thursday. According to PTI, the incident occurred in the Bhiwandi area on Monday, August 17. The officials, while briefing about the incident, said that the victim and the accused's brother knew each other.

An official from the Kongaon police station further highlighted that the 27-year-old accused took the girl to his brother's residence, where he allegedly raped her and threatened to kill her if she informed anyone about the incident. He further added, "Following the victim's complaint, the police arrested the accused on August 18 and registered a case against him on charges of rape and criminal intimidation under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act," as per PTI. In a separate incident on August 11, a 19-year-old woman was allegedly abducted and gang-raped in the Talasari area of Maharashtra's Palghar district late on Sunday night.

Police said that one suspect has been formally arrested and three others detained as search operations continue for remaining accomplices.

Mumbai: Maharashtra Sets Clear Service Standards For Government Hospitals To Improve Patient Care

Mumbai: Patients visiting Maharashtra government hospitals will now know what services they can expect at each level of the public health system. The state government has set clear standards for doctors, diagnostic tests, medicines, nursing staff, radiology and other facilities at rural, sub-district, district, general and women's hospitals, based on their bed capacity.

Health Commissioner Assigned Responsibility To Implement New Norms

The new government resolution brings together various existing norms and directs hospital authorities to make every effort to provide the prescribed services. The Commissioner of Health Services will be responsible for implementing the standards.

According to the framework, 30-bed rural hospitals, 50- to 100-bed sub-district hospitals, 200-bed general hospitals, district hospitals and women's hospitals will have specialist



medical officers as per the prescribed staffing pattern. Separate specialist service norms have also been set for four psychiatric hospitals, four TB hospitals and referral service hospitals.

Separate Standards Set For Psychiatric And TB Hospitals

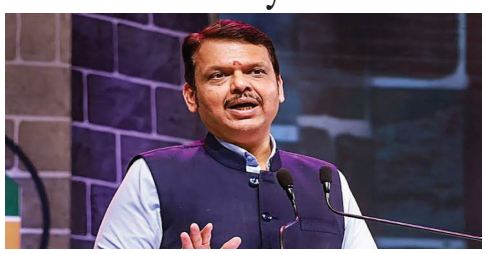
Hospitals will also have to ensure trained nursing staff and other professionals, including laboratory technicians, pharmacists, dietitians, optometrists, physiotherapists and radiology technicians. Additional manpower required for facilities such as Newborn Stabilisation Units (NBSUs), Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs), CT scans and dialysis under the National Health Mission will also have to be provided.

As per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) 2022, 30-bed rural hospitals are expected to provide 74 types of diagnostic services, sub-district hospitals 111 and district, general and women's hospitals 134.

Additional Staff Required For Advanced Healthcare Facilities

The government said rural hospitals currently offer 76 types of tests, while 100-bed sub-district hospitals provide 110 and district hospitals 122. Together, these three categories currently provide 308 types of diagnostic services.

CM Devendra Fadnavis Accuses Congress Of Staging Pune Event Ruckus For Political Publicity...



Navi Mumbai: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday alleged that the ruckus at a Congress programme in Pune was pre-planned and accused the party of using students and influencers to generate political publicity. He also described Rahul Gandhi's programmes as "event management", alleging that controversies were deliberately created even before events began to attract media attention. Fadnavis was speaking in Navi Mumbai during the launch of the 'Campus Connect–Drug-Free Awareness Campaign', an initiative of the Navi Mumbai Police to spread awareness among students about drug abuse. "Rahul Gandhi's programmes have become more about event management. A controversy is created before the programme begins and publicity is then generated around it," Fadnavis said.

Referring to the Pune incident, the Chief Minister alleged that students from colleges associated with Congress leaders, were brought into the programme for political purposes. He also claimed that influencers had been invited and instructed to create favourable publicity for the Congress. Fadnavis said the allegations made by Navnath Ban were supported by evidence and that the entire Pune incident would be investigated. He added that action would be taken against those found responsible.

Mankhurd Police Arrest Two Men With Fake CBI ID Card And Lighter Pistol



Mumbai: The Mankhurd police have arrested two men after allegedly catching them consuming narcotic substances at Lallubhai Compound in Mankhurd on Friday night. Police also seized a lighter pistol and a fake CBI identity card from one of the accused.

Accused Identified As Panvel Residents During Police Probe

The arrested accused have been identified as Devendra Singh Raghuvir Singh Chundawat, 20, a resident of Dhakta Khanda village in Panvel, and Gokul Piram Kshatriya, 24, a resident of Karanjade, Panvel. According to the FIR, police constable Dhiraj Yashwant Patil, 45, attached to Mankhurd police station, was on patrol at around 9.30 pm on August 21 when he received information from a confidential informant that two persons were allegedly consuming narcotic substances near Paanch Nall, Lallubhai Compound.

Acting on the information, a police team laid a trap at the spot and apprehended the two suspects. During a search conducted under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, police allegedly found a lighter pistol concealed inside Chundawat's trousers around his waist. A fake CBI Inspector identity card was also allegedly recovered from his trouser pocket. The two accused were taken to Mankhurd police station for further action. Police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the NDPS Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and further investigation is underway. In a similar incident last month, the Bhoiwada police arrested a man allegedly posing as a CBI officer. The accused, Shehzad Sharaqat Khan, was intercepted by traffic police on July 24 at around 11.40 am while allegedly riding a Hero Honda Hunk motorcycle (MH-03-AP-8835) at high speed and cutting across other vehicles on Dr B. A. Road.

Russell cruises to sprint race win at F1's Dutch Grand Prix



George Russell started the second half of the Formula 1 season in style as he eased to a sprint race victory on Saturday ahead of the Dutch Grand Prix.

Russell started from pole position, quickly built a gap to Lando Norris in second and didn't look back from there, taking his first win since the Austrian Grand Prix in June.

Charles Leclerc snatched second off Norris with a daring pass into the inside of the first corner with six laps to go.

Norris held off a late charge from Russell's Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli to stay third. Fourth-place Antonelli, starting fifth after car damage in qualifying, still managed to extend his standings lead because his closest challenger Lewis Hamilton could only manage seventh for Ferrari. Qualifying takes place later Saturday for Sunday's Dutch Grand Prix.

Former world champion boxer Zolani Tete killed



Former world champion boxer Zolani Tete has been shot and killed at his home in South Africa, Government officials said Friday. Gayton McKenzie, South Africa's sports, arts and culture minister, said the 38-year-old Tete was killed in his car and that a 27-year-old woman who was in the vehicle with him was shot multiple times and is in hospital.

Tete held world title belts in the WBF flyweight category from 2007-2008 and the WBO bantamweight title in 2017 and 2019. Police said the shooting took place at Mdantsane, Eastern Cape and that Tete was arriving at his residence and waiting for the gate to open when he was ambushed by two armed suspects wearing balaclavas.

Rats, Roaches, Grease And Open Drains: Mumbai Restaurant's Licence Suspended

Mumbai : The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Maharashtra has ordered the immediate suspension of the food business licence of a hotel in Mumbai, after an investigation found its kitchen was infested with rats and cockroaches.



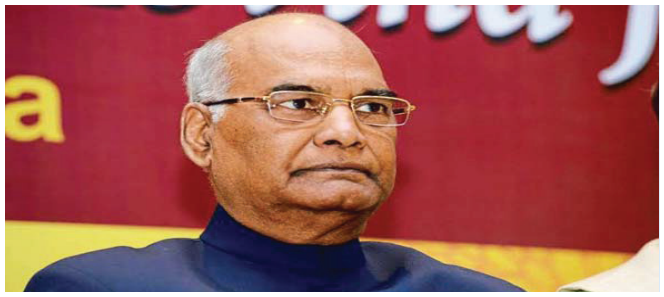
The licence of Hotel Radha, located in Malad (West), was suspended with immediate effect following a raid on August 18. The inspection uncovered an active rodent infestation, including live rats near the ceiling and emerging directly from open kitchen drainage lines. Kitchen drains were left wide open and unmaintained, creating direct entry pathways for municipal sewage pests. Inspectors detected live cockroaches crawling directly over food preparation equipment, including the dough-mixing machine. Severe environmental unhygiene was documented throughout the kitchen, featuring foul odours caused by water stagnation, grease buildup, and drain seepage.

Maharashtra Invites The World: State Gears Up To Become Global Hub For MICE Tourism

Mumbai: Maharashtra government has invited organisers, delegates and industry stakeholders from across the globe to host world-class events in the state as it pushes to become a global hub for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, The global invitation has been issued exactly one year after launching the targeted fiscal and administrative frameworks under the Maharashtra Tourism Policy 2024 to establish Maharashtra as India's leading destination for MICE tourism. At the centre of this effort is the Maharashtra Convention Bureau – the first institutional body of its kind established by any Indian state government – which was officially announced at IMEX Frankfurt in May 2025. The bureau has now transitioned into a fully functional, centralised facilitator.Headquartered in Mumbai, the Bureau functions directly under



the leadership of additional chief secretary of tourism. It provides a unified platform connecting government regulatory authorities with private hospitality and logistics sectors to streamline approvals and licensing. The initial focus of the bureau is to promote MICE tourism in Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Nashik, Nagpur and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. According to Maharashtra Tourism, MICE delegates generate significantly higher average daily spend than leisure travellers across hospitality, aviation, local transport and dining, beyond immediate venue bookings. Furthermore, business delegates frequently extend their trips into leisure stays, driving broader regional tourism revenue. The bureau has also rolled out dedicated workforce certification programs to upskill event personnel, alongside offering targeted fiscal incentives under the 2024 policy framework. Industry stakeholders and international organisers can now access single-window clearances directly through the Department of Tourism. Maharashtra Tourism's additional chief secretary, Sanjay Khandare, said, "Through the Maharashtra Convention Bureau, we are providing organisers with a single point of facilitation and a collaborative platform that makes planning and hosting events easier.



HISTORIC RULERS SHOULD BE VIEWED BEYOND CREED: KOVIND

Former President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday paid floral tributes to ancient emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II and said historic rulers should be viewed beyond caste, creed and religion.

Also known as Suvaran Maran, Mutharaiyar II was an eighth-century monarch of the Mutharaiyar lineage who ruled parts of the Kaveri delta region, with strongholds around Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai.

He was a powerful feudatory ally of Pallava king Nandivarman II and is regarded as a cultural icon by the Mutharaiyar community, which has a significant presence across central Tamil Nadu and the delta districts.

Speaking to reporters after performing a puja, Kovind said he felt privileged and honoured to pay respects to the monarch who had ruled the region centuries ago. "Every emperor is above community, caste, creed and religion. No one should associate any king with any religion, caste, community, region or language," Kovind said, underscoring the unifying legacy of historic leaders.



RESERVATION CANNOT BE REMOVED: RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Saturday said reservation is a "constitutional right" and described demands for its abolition as "unconstitutional".

Addressing a press conference here, the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment said some people demanded an end to reservation, while others launched social media campaigns advocating its abolition. "Some people agitating at Jantar Mantar demanded the abolition of reservation, while others ran social media campaigns suggesting the same. However, reservation cannot be removed because it is our constitutional right," he said.

Only 6 Air Sports Operators Are Authorised In The Country To Provide Skydiving, Hot Air Balloon Paragliding Services, Confirms Civil Aviation Ministry

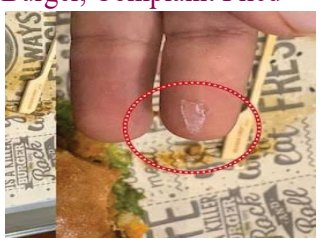
Mumbai: India's Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has confirmed that only six air sports operators are officially authorised to conduct non-scheduled passenger and aerial work operations, including hot air balloon rides, motor gliding and skydiving. The revelation highlights tight regulatory oversight by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) at a time when unlicensed recreational aviation activities continue to proliferate across popular tourism hubs.



The statement came during a recent Lok Sabha session in response to a parliamentary question raised by MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy regarding the implementation of national air sports regulations. Responding to queries on behalf of the ministry, Minister of Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu tabled details clarifying that air sports operations are currently governed by the National Air Sport Guidelines, 2023 The framework, which superseded the National Air Sports Policy, 2022, operates under the Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) to establish safety, security, flight permission, and licensing standards across the country.

According to the ministry, three operators have been authorised under the non-scheduled operator's permit, which includes E-Factor Adventure Tourism with nine hot air balloons, Rajas Aerosports and Adventure with two hot air balloons and Aryan Aviation with two motor gliders. Similarly, three operators have been permitted for aerial work authorisation, including Global Konnect Aviation Services with two P68C aircraft, Go Forth Adventures with one Cessna 182P aircraft and Macsen Aviation with one GA-8 aircraft, all used for skydiving. According to the official statement, the DGCA maintains strict airworthiness oversight over regulated equipment including gliders, microlights, light sports aircraft, gyroplanes and balloons in accordance with the Aircraft Rules, 1937. In 2025-26, the regulator issued 12 special airworthiness certificates, conducted three safety audits and a dedicated surveillance drive. With only six approved entities managing a combined fleet of 17 aircraft and balloons, industry observers note that dozens of unapproved regional outfits providing tandem paragliding, joyrides and parasailing are operating outside DGCA certification.

Glass Piece Found In Burger At Mumbai's Jimis Burger, Complaint Filed



Mumbai : A customer has alleged that she found a piece of glass inside a burger at Jimis Burger in Andheri, Mumbai, prompting complaints to the police and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The incident allegedly took place on August 16, when Tanisha Gogri visited the restaurant with a friend. She ordered a Korean Veg Burger.

According to the complaint, Tanisha found a piece of glass in the burger while eating it. She informed the restaurant management about the incident. Tanisha has alleged that the restaurant management threw the piece of glass into a dustbin instead of preserving it for examination. Speaking about the incident, Tanisha said, "I found a piece of glass in my Korean Veg Burger while I was eating it. I immediately informed the restaurant management, but they threw the glass piece into the dustbin." Following the incident, Tanisha's father filed an official complaint at the Amboli police station and also approached the FDA.

MLA Prashant Thakur Demands Halt To Panvel-Uran Land Acquisition For Virar-Alibag Corridor

Navi Mumbai: MLA Prashant Thakur has demanded an immediate suspension of the compulsory acquisition of farmers' land in Panvel and Uran talukas for the Virar-Alibag Multimodal Corridor (State Highway Special No. 4) until the government takes a final decision on compensation.

Letter Sent To Deputy Collector Over Ongoing Acquisition Process

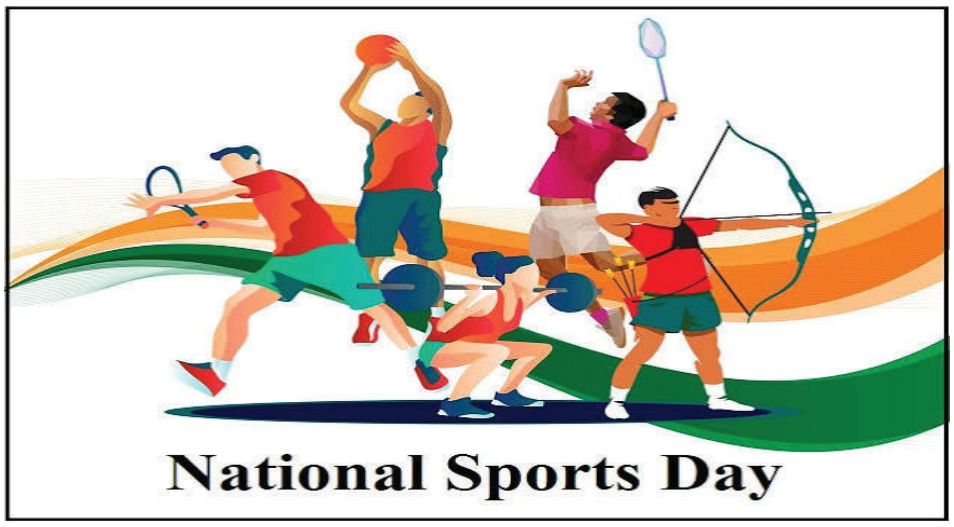
In a letter to Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition) Janardan Kasar,



Thakur urged the administration not to undertake any further land acquisition proceedings until a final decision is reached at the government level on compensation for affected farmers. He also warned of an intense agitation if the process is not stopped.

Land belonging to farmers in Panvel and Uran talukas is being acquired for the Virar-Alibag Multimodal Corridor. Thakur had earlier written to Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule seeking an increase in compensation rates. Following his demand, a meeting of elected representatives and officials was held on July 8, 2026, during the monsoon session to discuss the issue.

National Sports Day Activities for Students: Games, Recipes & Quiz



Game on, everyone! This National Sports Day, we're turning the pages of our school newspaper into a little playground of our own. Inspired by the energy, teamwork, and sporting spirit of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, this edition is packed with things to make, munch, play, and solve.

Ready for a challenge? Build your very own mini hockey goal and see if you can launch a fish cracker into it without sending it flying across the room! Then refuel with a delicious, wholesome quinoa spinach quiche before putting your brain into game mode with our jumbled-letters quiz.

Can you unscramble the clues, ace the trivia, and score a perfect 5/5? Whether you're a sports superstar, a future Olympian, or someone whose main sport is racing to the lunch line, there's a little something here for you. So grab a friend, get creative, have a laugh, and most importantly—play along! Because National Sports Day isn't just about winning; it's about moving, trying, cheering, and having fun together.

ART CORNER

The art of belief

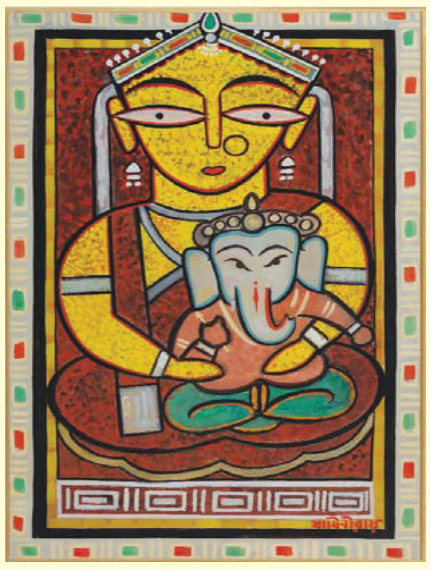
At Kalakaar Art Salon, twenty-two artists redefine sacred traditions, transforming memory and labor into a profound visual exploration of ritual, says SAKSHI PRIYA





Ritual lives far outside the confines of sacred shrines. It breathes through the quiet repetition of a brushstroke, the heavy weight of cultural memory, and the enduring labor of creation. At Kalakaar Art Salon, the group exhibition *Performing Belief*, curated by Rahul Kumar, captures this profound evolution. The showcase observes how identity and belonging shift across changing social landscapes, uniting twenty-two creators across distinct generations.

Carefully curated for this space, the artworks spark a compelling conversation between local histories and bold modernism. SH Raza's *Naga Bindu-98*, a commanding acrylic on canvas, anchors the room in tantric philosophy and geometric devotion. The raw energy of folk tradition surfaces in Jivya Soma Mashe's 2000 creation, rendered intimately with natural pigment on cloth. These historical touchstones seamlessly converse with contemporary visions. Madhvi Parekh's acrylic canvas, *The river in my village*, pulls childhood landscapes into vivid form, stretching the concept of ritual into the everyday human experience.



PERFORMING BELIEF UNITES GENERATIONS OF ARTISTS, BLENDING RAZA'S MODERNISM WITH FOLK ROOTS, PROVING RITUAL SURVIVES THROUGH EVERYDAY CREATIVE REPETITION

For younger contemporaries, the physical act of making turns into a rhythmic devotion. In *The Land of Lost Content*, Youdhisthir Maharjan meticulously weaves strips of reclaimed book pages, transforming the strict discipline of craft into a quiet archival gesture. Himmat Gyari's *Visarjan* captures the cyclical nature of cultural transformation through intricate watercolor and pencil work.

Through these intentional pairings, the salon creates an intimate space for observation. Ritual survives through continuous performance and renewal, holding the heavy threads of India's artistic past and its vibrant present in perfect tension.

Simple guest bedroom styling ideas for your home

Pragya Sharma

If you are someone who loves inviting people over, then planning a guest bedroom is essential for your home. The guest bedroom is a medium to depict hospitality and comfort by creating a memorable stay for friends and family. The best guest bedrooms are clutter-free, minimalistic, and homelike. However, styling the guest bedroom has its unique set of challenges since they are usually smaller in size and lack storage. Hence, finding the equilibrium between design and function is essential to creating the perfect guest bedroom aesthetic. Here are some of the most versatile styling ideas to create the comfiest guest bedroom.

Make it cozy with a rug

A rug is a classic way to make a room appear comforting and well organized. It helps in creating a compact furniture layout that makes the room look cohesive. You can style a vibrant patterned rug with a neutral wall color scheme to bring versatility in design. Place the rug below the bed and extend it at least 1 foot beyond the ends of the bed.

Amp up the wall decor

Enhance the wall decor with accessories such as mirrors, wall art, and tapestries. You can frame quotes and hang them on the wall as symbols of positivity and cheerfulness. The accent walls act as a focal point and make the guest bedroom look artsy. Add an accent light to the wall in the form of neon lights with quotes to give the guest bedroom decor a sassy look.

Add moveable furniture

Adorn your guest bedroom with lightweight mobile furniture such as bean bags, poufs, and chairs. This makes the design flexible which comes in handy to personalize the space as per the guest's requirements. You can design the room spaciously and style it with statement pieces.

Invite freshness with plants

Plants add the much-needed natural element to a built environment. Home plants are a great stress-buster and have air-purifying qualities. You can place potted plants on the side table, dressing table, and window cill to make your guest bedroom appear fresh. Plants such as money plants, succulents, snake plants, and peace lilies are excellent for home interiors.



Make room for storage

Storage is of key importance in every household. Especially speaking of guests, they usually tend to travel with more luggage. Hence, it is important to design the room for ample storage with wardrobes and storage shelves. You can also deck up the room with multi-functional furniture that can double as a storage unit and make your guest bedroom look versatile.

Forever 'Murder' Girl Mallika Sherawat: From Sex Symbol To Traitor Queen



It's not rare in cinema that, now and then, two breakout stars become the talk of the town. Good or bad, it's still chatter. Something similar happened with the sensation that Mallika Sherawat became after the release of her 2004 erotic thriller, Murder. She starred alongside Emraan Hashmi, who also earned the "serial kisser" tag, and the film was helmed by Anurag Basu. Produced by Mukesh Bhatt and Mahesh Bhatt, Murder was a film way ahead of its time. Be it in the representation of bold scenes on the big screen or the psychological gamble behind the film's plot, it had audiences flocking to theatres in an age before social media. The film went on to earn over Rs 20 crore back then, which is indeed commendable. That would make one think this was a dream beginning for any actor, as it should have been for Mallika Sherawat too; her popularity peaked. But what emerged instead was a moral assassination of her character off camera, linked to her Murder persona. Nevertheless, she was being talked about. Inspired by the 2002 American movie Unfaithful, which was in turn inspired by the 1969 French film The Unfaithful Wife, Murder had a thrilling plot centred on a lonely wife, Simran (Mallika), suffering in a loveless marriage with Sudhir (Ashmit Patel). When her path crosses with ex-lover Sunny (Emraan Hashmi), she finds herself losing control in the intense passion and intimacy that Sunny brings into her life, as guilt and trepidation pile up. When her

Salman and Nayanthara's action film titled *Monster*

Salman Khan and Nayanthara's upcoming action film with Telugu producer Dil Raju has reportedly been titled *Monster*. The Vamshi Paidipally directorial marks Salman's first collaboration with Dil Raju and is being planned as a large-scale pan-India release.

According to a report, the makers have finalised *Monster* as the title, with an official announcement on social media expected soon. The film is being developed in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil and is eyeing an *Eid* 2027 theatrical release. Presented by Dil Raju under Sri Venkateswara Creations, the project is co-produced by Shirish, Kuldeep Rathore and Rafi Kazi. Nayanthara has been cast opposite Salman Khan in the film.

The production has reportedly faced an unexpected setback after Salman's body double suffered a heart attack. With the stunt performer temporarily unable to participate, Salman is said to have taken on a larger portion of the action sequences himself.

The actor has often been associated with performing his own stunts, and sources close to the production reportedly claim that he is keen to keep the shoot moving despite the disruption.

"Salman is completely hands-on right now. He doesn't want the schedule to lose momentum," a source close to the sets informed the news portal. The actor is reportedly balancing the demanding schedule of the upcoming with preparations for his other upcoming projects, making this a particularly busy period in his career.

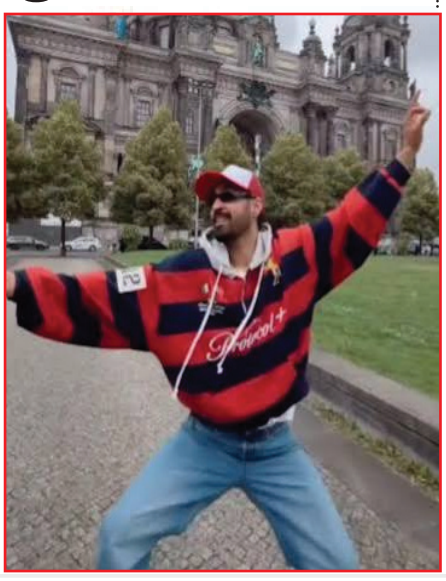


Diljit takes *bhangra* to Berlin

Punjabi singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh was seen bringing his trademark energy to Berlin as he gears up to kick off the European leg of his World Tour. Ahead of his concert, Diljit gave fans a glimpse into his Berlin diaries on social media.

He shared a series of pictures and videos from the German capital. In one of the videos, the singer was seen breaking into *bhangra* on the streets of Berlin with a friend.

Diljit also visited the iconic Berlin Victory Column, which is crowned by a gilded statue of Victoria, the Roman goddess of victory. The statue is popularly known in Berlin as "Goldelse", or "Golden Elsie". In his social media updates, Diljit also took on the climb to the top of the Victory Column and was seen making his way up the narrow staircase.

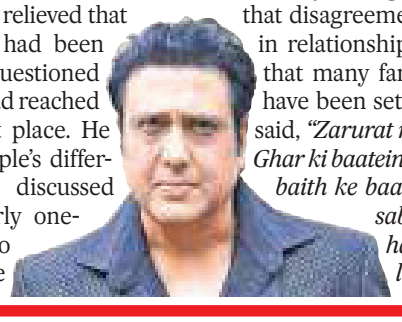




Govinda's team calls Sunita's bluff

Govinda's manager Shashi Sinha has reacted to Sunita Ahuja's decision to withdraw her divorce plea against the actor, saying he was relieved that the proceedings had ended.

However, he also questioned why the case was filed in the first place. His comments came after Sunita was recently spotted at a family court in Bandra, Mumbai, with her son, Yashvardhan Ahuja, and their advocate. However, she did not reveal the reason behind her visit. Sinha said he was relieved that the proceedings had been withdrawn but questioned why the matter had reached court in the first place. He said that the couple's differences had been discussed publicly for nearly one-and-a-half to two years, which he felt had caused unnecessary harm to the family's image. Sinha stressed that disagreements are common in relationships and suggested that many family issues could have been settled privately. He said, *"Zarurat nahin thi jaane ki. Ghar ki baatein ghar mein reh ke, baith ke baatein karke, bahut sab cheezein hoti hain. Aaj wapas lena tha, to kiya kyun tha? Ye baat ka mujhe dukh ho gaya. Kahe ko phir tamaasha hum log ban gaye* (There was no need for people to know about it. Matters concerning the family could have been discussed and resolved privately, within the home. If the intention was to withdraw the case today, then why was it filed in the first place? That is what saddens me. Why did we have to become a spectacle for everyone?)."



Marathi Now Mandatory For Drivers; Census Shows Most Hindi, Urdu Speakers Don't Know It

Mumbai : As Maharashtra steps up its Marathi language push, Census data reveals a state far more linguistically mixed than the language debate suggests. A majority of primary Hindi and Urdu speakers did not report Marathi as an additional language, while nearly 44 per cent of primary Marathi speakers reported Hindi as one.

The numbers offer a useful perspective as the state begins enforcing its requirement that auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers have a working knowledge of Marathi. They show Marathi has been adopted by a sizeable section of people whose primary language is something else, but the extent varies sharply across communities.

The Census records a person's primary language and up to two other languages they know, classified as "subsidiary languages". A person whose primary language is Hindi but who also knows Marathi would have Marathi recorded as a subsidiary language, and a third language, if known, as a second. The data measures how many people are bilingual or trilingual; it does not measure fluency. Among Maharashtra's 14.48 million primary Hindi speakers, 6.10 million reported Marathi as an



additional language and 8.38 million did not, 42.15 per cent against 57.85 per cent.

The gap is wider among Urdu speakers. Of the state's 7.54 million primary Urdu speakers, 2.19 million reported Marathi as an additional language and 5.35 million did not, 29.11 per cent against 70.89 per cent.

The pattern varies across other communities too. Among primary Gujarati speakers, 30.79 per cent reported Marathi as an additional language. The figure was 53.62 per cent among Telugu speakers and 57.2 per cent among Kannada speakers, but only 17.78 per cent among Tamil speakers.

Marathi speakers themselves are highly multilingual, with Hindi the most widely reported additional language. Maharashtra has 77.46 million primary Marathi speakers, of whom 33.73 million reported Hindi as a subsidiary language, more than twice the 14.48 million people whose primary language is Hindi.

Of these, 32.66 million reported Hindi as their first subsidiary language and another 1.07 million as their second, together 43.55 per cent of primary Marathi speakers. The language data is from the 2011 Census of India, the latest for which detailed, comparable language and bilingualism data is available. No similarly detailed, updated Census data has been released since. One thing to watch on the fourth paragraph: folding "42.15 per cent against 57.85 per cent" straight after the two absolute numbers reads slightly denser than the original's separate sentence. If a sub-editor wants it split back out for readability, that costs you about 8 words back, still well under 400.

Navi Mumbai Potholes: NMMC To Repair Major Roads Ahead Of Ganeshotsav 2026, Recover Costs From Agencies

Navi Mumbai : The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) will now repair potholes on all major roads in the city,



including those under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department (PWD), Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and APMC.

The civic body has decided to stop the practice of passing responsibility between different agencies over pothole repairs. However, the cost of repairs will be recovered from the respective road-owning agencies.

Repairs Ahead Of Ganeshotsav

The decision comes ahead of Ganeshotsav and follows a series of complaints by the public highlighting the poor condition of roads and potholes across Navi Mumbai. Following directions from Deputy Chief Minister and Thane district guardian minister Eknath Shinde, NMMC Commissioner Dr Kailas Shinde instructed the engineering department to undertake immediate repairs. "We will ensure that potholes are repaired without getting into the issue of which agency owns the road. The repair cost will subsequently be recovered from the concerned agency," the civic administration said. The NMMC will also undertake road patrolling across the city to identify potholes. Each pothole will be geo-tagged and its details recorded to facilitate monitoring and ensure timely repairs. According to the civic administration, ordinary potholes will be repaired using mastic geopolymer technology, while larger potholes will be filled using M-60 concrete and hardener technology. The commissioner has directed officials to give priority to roads leading to Ganesh immersion ghats and complete repairs before the festival. City Engineer Shirish Aradwad and Additional Commissioner Dr Rahul Gethe have been directed to inspect the roads and review the repair work.

Nagpur Horror: 5-Year-Old Girl Killed After Being Knocked Down By Speeding Car; Probe Underway

Mumbai : A tragic incident has been reported from Nagpur, where a five-year-old girl was allegedly knocked down by a speeding car outside her home in the Manewada area, resulting in her death. According to a Nagpur Today report, the incident occurred at around 9:30 pm on Thursday near Badrinath Society in Mahakali Nagar, under the jurisdiction of the Hudkeshwar Police Station. The deceased has been identified as Kisha Gurnule. According to reports, Kisha had stepped out of her house for a walk with a neighbour after having dinner. While the two were walking near the society, a speeding car allegedly knocked the girl down.



Following the accident, Kisha was rushed to a nearby hospital. However, doctors declared her dead upon arrival. While, the reports state that the car was reportedly being driven by Gaurav Malviya, a resident of Manewada. Following the incident, Kisha's father lodged a complaint at the Hudkeshwar Police Station.

Police subsequently registered a case against the car driver under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Motor Vehicles Act. The incident has left the girl's family devastated, with relatives demanding stringent action against the accused.

Police are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident and examining CCTV footage and other available evidence as part of the probe. Further details are awaited. In a separate incident earlier this month, two Class 11 students were killed and another was seriously injured after the car they were travelling in crashed into a parked truck in Nagpur's Kalmana area.

BMC Death Data Throws Up Major Mismatch In Malaria, Dengue Figures

Mumbai : A sharp discrepancy has emerged in the BMC's recording of malaria and dengue deaths, with civic death records showing substantially higher numbers than those reported through its disease surveillance system, according to data obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The RTI response, obtained by activist Chetan Kothari, shows that 93 malaria deaths and 201 dengue deaths were recorded in 2024 in a BMC table based on International Classification of Diseases (ICD) coding. However, the civic body's disease-wise figures for the same year show only seven malaria and five dengue deaths.

The gap is visible in earlier years as well. Malaria deaths in the disease-wise data stood at one each in 2021 and 2022 and two in 2023, against corresponding death-record figures that were substantially higher. Dengue deaths were five, seven and



14, respectively, in the disease-wise data for these three years.

The discrepancy continues in provisional 2025 data. The BMC's table, based on coding of available death forms, records 196 malaria and 169 dengue deaths. The civic body has cautioned that the 2025 figures are provisional.

"We are still analysing the data for communicable diseases. The discrepancy is being examined as part of a revision of the data, with cross-checking underway to identify errors. The figures therefore need to be viewed with this caveat," said BMC Executive Health Officer Dr Daksha Shah. The data also highlights the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. Cancer accounted for 10,004 deaths in the provisional 2025 figures, followed by heart attack at 9,453. In 2024, heart attack was the leading cause among the listed categories, with 16,805 deaths, while cancer accounted for 9,978. Tuberculosis deaths rose from 3,031 in 2024 to 3,472 in 2025, an increase of 14.5 per cent. Brain stroke deaths increased from 1,726 to 2,173, a rise of nearly 26 per cent. Shah said the BMC was strengthening cancer care and screening for diabetes and hypertension. It has also introduced yoga centres and dietitian services for lifestyle management.

THE INSIDES SPEAK English QUARTERLY Printed, Published & Owned by SRINIVASAN GOPAL CHARI. Printed at JAGRUTI PRINTERS BYCULLA SERVICE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE 1ST FLOOR B 101, D.K. CROSS MARG NEAR RANIBUAG, MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA - 400027. Maharashtra & Published at 12, NAVAL LODGE, OPP. GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, 4 BUNGALOWS, AND-HE RI WEST,MUMBAI SUBURBAN, MAHARASHTRA - 400053 .Maharashtra, Editor:SRINIVASAN GOPAL CHARI PRGI REGD. NO : MAHENG/2018/76479