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PHOTOS: SWAPNIL JAWALE

From Left: ACP Sangeeta Alphonso; Monisha Sharma, Co-founder, Lexicon Group; Manoj Panjabi, Director, Rama Group; Actor Neil Nitin Mukesh; Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror; Ajay Kalaskar, VP (Sales and Marketing), Rama Group; Behram Khodaiji, CEO, Ruby Hall Clinic and Urvaksh Bhote, COO, Ruby Hall Clinic

Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror, and Multifit celebrate Wellness Heroes 2025



Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror, addressing the gathering at the event

Madhupriya Dhanwate

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The Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror & Multifit Wellness Heroes 2025 was successfully held in the city on Tuesday. The event, a vibrant celebration of health, inspiration, and innovation in Pune's wellness ecosystem, was attended by eminent doctors, healthcare pioneers, and organizations dedicated to promoting community well-being. The evening highlighted not only individual achievements but also collective efforts toward a healthier society.

The Wellness Heroes 2025 was powered by Rama Group, represented by Manoj Panjabi (Director) and Ajay Kalsekar (VP Sales & Marketing), and co-powered by Ruby Hall Clinic, represented by Behram Khodaiji (CEO) and Urvaksh Bhote (COO).

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HEALTH: TRUE WEALTH

Purpose, compassion, and commitment
toward healthier society highlighted

“Heartiest congratulations to all the awardees! Receiving an award is truly a double-edged experience — it brings immense joy but also doubles the responsibility to perform even better.”

— Dr Pankaj Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror

“It is important to remember that true wealth lies in good health. Embracing this belief helps us stay mindful and responsible for our well-being.”

— Neeraj Sharma, Vice Chairman, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror

MIRROR REFLECTS

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SUPREME NOD, BUT...

... Green clearance a must for Balbharati-Paud Phata road project, rules SC

Amol Avchite

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The long-delayed Balbharati-Paud Phata road project has finally received the green signal from the Supreme Court on Wednesday, on the condition that the Pune Municipal Corporation obtain environmental clearances for the stretch passing through Vetel Tekdi before work can begin.

The proposed road is intended to ease traffic congestion near the Law college and Karve Road. The PMC's road department has been planning the route for several years, but environmental groups had opposed it and filed petitions in the Bombay High Court as well as in the Supreme Court.

Three months ago, the high court dismissed a petition filed by Nagarik Chetana Manch and lifted the stay on the project, offering partial relief to the PMC. The petition, which was pending in the Supreme Court, was heard by a bench comprising Chief Justice Bhushan Gavai and Justice Vinod Chandran.

The 2 to 2.25-km stretch between Balbharati and Paud Phata along the Bhandarkar institute and will cut through Vetel Tekdi, triggering objections from social organisations.

The road is seen as a vital alternative route to decongest Shivajinagar and Kothrud, but sustained opposition from environmental activists has caused significant delays. PMC's

legal team, led by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, informed the court that the project cost has escalated sharply due to the prolonged litigation.

The PMC's legal officer, Nisha Chavan, confirmed the directive and said further details would be available once the court order is received.

The civic body's legal representation included Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, and advocates Abhijit Kulkarni, Rahul Garg, Dhaval Malhotra and Nisha Chavan. The petitioners included Dr Sushma Date and ILS Law College.

Key objections and legal disputes

■ **Environmental concerns:** Activists have pointed out that the proposed alignment passes through the green belt of Vetel Tekdi, threatening large-scale tree cutting and habitat disturbance

■ **The petitioners:** Citizens' group Nagarik Chetana Manch, environmentalist Sushma Date, and others have filed petitions against the project in both the high court and Supreme Court

■ **Committee's observation:** The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has categorically stated that the area falls under a deemed forest and has recommended halting the construction

■ **PMC's stand:** The PMC maintains that the road will be built using flyover-based

technology designed to minimise environmental impact and avoid harm to the hill

■ **Threat to biodiversity:** Environmentalists warn that the project could affect local flora, fauna, and groundwater levels within Vetel Tekdi

■ **Ecological imbalance:** Cutting through the hill to construct the road could disturb the ecological balance, they argue

■ **Alternative solutions:** Activists also contend that proper traffic planning and improvement of existing routes could eliminate the need for this new road

Proposed advantages

■ Expected to ease traffic congestion on F.C. Road and Ganeshkhind Road

■ Likely to save 20-25 minutes of travel time between Kothrud and Shivajinagar

■ Will provide an alternate route connecting Dehuroad-Shivajinagar and Chandani Chowk-Pune Central, reducing vehicle load on city roads

Project overview

■ **Name:** Balbharati-Paud Phata Road

■ **Length:** Approximately 2.1km-2.3 km

■ **Width:** Around 30 metres

■ **Implementing authority:** Pune Municipal Corporation

■ **Objective:** To reduce traffic congestion between Kothrud and Shivajinagar

■ **Estimated cost:** Around Rs 160 crore (subject to revision)



Middaymeals: Funds on the menu

Govt to dish out ₹43 cr for schools in Pune, other Maha districts

Pratiksha Parkhi

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After months of delay, the Maharashtra State Education Department has finally sanctioned R under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana (PM Poshan) for providing midday meals in schools.

The department has approved 43.09 crore for meal expenses and 38.41 crore for cooks' honorarium

to be distributed among all districts in the state, including Pune.

For the past few months, schools across Maharashtra, including several in Pune, had been struggling to provide midday meals due to shortage of funds. Some schools managed to continue serving meals using their own resources, while at other institutions, teachers personally contributed to ensure students did not go hungry.

The Midday Meal Scheme covers students from Classes 1 to 8 in government, aided and local body schools. Under the scheme, students from Classes 1 to 5 are to receive meals providing 450 calories and 12 grams of protein, while

those from Classes 6 to 8 should get 700 calories and 20 grams of protein daily.

However, due to the delay in funds allocation, many Pune schools had not received any money for the past four months. This has made it difficult to purchase essential supplies like vegetables, fuel and other cooking material, bringing the meal service to the brink of suspension.

Announcing the long-awaited relief, director of primary education, Sharad Gosavi, issued a circular confirming the release of funds. According to him, cooks and helpers will receive Rs 2,500 per month as honorarium for ten months with the central government contribut-

ing Rs 9.22 crore and the state government Rs 29.19 crore.

Since schools have been uploading daily meal data online, payments have been processed directly through a computerised system based on district-level requirements. Accordingly, Rs 43.09 crore has been released to various districts.

The decision has brought major relief to schools in Pune, ensuring the smooth resumption of nutritious meals for thousands of students. School management committees, teachers, and parents have welcomed the move, while expressing hope that funds will now be disbursed regularly and without delay in the future.

Bitter pill...er, syrup!

The recent spate of incidents in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have once again exposed the fundamental shortcomings of the Indian pharmaceutical industry. They have now come to the fore in a deadly form. In just a few days, at least 22 children lost their lives to poison hidden in a bottle of cough syrup. Investigations found that the syrup contained industrial chemicals like diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol in lethal quantities. Both these compounds have no use in medicine; they are industrial chemicals and when ingested, they cause kidney failure and death. No one would dare to say that the pharmaceutical companies, whose sole aim is to make money, did not know that these chemicals are poison for children. But still, looking at the history of such cases so far, the chances of serious action being taken against such devils seem a little low.

Similar Indian medicines caused child deaths in Jammu in 2019, Gambia in 2022, and also in Uzbekistan. The question is why did this happen again? More importantly, why has responsibility not been fixed so far despite such serious errors clearly coming to light? Will it be fixed now or not? India introduces itself to the world as the 'Pharmacy of the World'. One in five generic medicines used worldwide are manufactured in India. We supply vaccines and medicines to more than 150 countries. If such a country cannot guarantee safe medicines for its own children, then this is not just a failure of the system, but a very serious crime against human life.

Suspicion is being cast on companies like Srisan Pharmaceuticals, Rednex Pharmaceuticals and Shape Pharmaceuticals after the deaths. The amount of DEP in Srisan Pharmaceuticals' Coldriff Syrup was found to be 480 times higher than the limit. The question is, how was such a dangerous syrup produced even after the government introduced a strict export inspection policy in 2023? Were the reports fake? Was there collusion in the laboratory tests? Or did regulators turn a blind eye? These questions need to be answered.

The pharma industry needs strict enforcement more than laws. We have a global drug code that is being brought into line with global standards for drug manufacturing, but what is the use of the code if the same rules are not followed? Weak monitoring mechanisms, inadequate laboratories, and political interference by state governments have all strangled the public health system. At the root of this chain is a lack of accountability. Drug companies, laboratories, regulatory authorities, and doctors all shirk their responsibilities in this chain. As a result, innocent children are losing their lives.

What India needs today is strict action and transparency. Merely fining the guilty companies will not suffice. Their licences of the companies found guilty must be cancelled permanently and criminal cases registered against the responsible officials. The way forward is to increase the number of drug inspectors, digitise their work, and implement a tracking system for each drug batch. If this is not done, we should be prepared to lose our children in the same way.

— BY AMOL MACHALE

JUSTICE DELAYED, AND DENIED

Senior citizen leaps to death from Shivajinagar court building after 27-year legal fight over family land

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Justice delayed is justice denied. But for 61-year-old Namdev Jadhav, a resident of Wadkinaka, Hadapsar, the delay proved fatal. This senior citizen, who was fighting a property case for the past 27 years, allegedly took his own life by jumping from the fourth floor of the Shivajinagar District and Sessions Court building on Wednesday morning.

The tragic episode occurred around 11:45 am at the new building court premises, a bustling building that sees thousands of litigants and advocates every day. The incident has reignited public debate about the human cost of India's judicial delays and the crushing backlog that continues to paralyse the justice system.

According to Senior Inspector of Police Mahesh Bolkotgi of Shivajinagar police station, "Jadhav reached the court premises early in the morning. Despite not having any hearing scheduled that day, he managed to enter the new court building and reached the fourth floor, where staff members were occupied with cleaning and administrative work. It is suspected that he climbed through an open section of the terrace and jumped from the top."

He added, "There was a safety

tin sheet barrier, but Jadhav reportedly broke through it due to the impact, falling directly to the ground floor. The sound of the fall alerted nearby court staff and lawyers, who immediately rushed to the scene."

Another police officer said Jadhav was found lying unconscious in the court compound and was immediately shifted to Sassoon General Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The police later took custody of the body for a post-mortem examination.

Suicide note points to frustration over 27-year-old case

The Shivajinagar police, led by Senior Police Inspector Mahesh Bolkotgi, are investigating the incident. A two-page suicide note, dated October 15, 2025, was recovered from the spot.

The police confirmed that the note contained the case number of Jadhav's long-pending civil dispute, which reportedly dates back to 1998. "He wrote that he was tired of waiting for justice and that all his attempts to get his rightful share had gone in vain. He felt helpless because the matter had dragged on for decades without resolution," said an officer.

The note also bore Jadhav's signature and details of his ancestral land dispute, suggesting deep emo-

tional and financial strain.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 1) Krushikesh Rawale, the deceased had been entangled in a bitter property dispute involving his siblings, which is mentioned in his suicide note, but the police said they are probing the facts. "As per the suicide letter, there was litigation between Jadhav and his brother over ancestral land in Hadapsar. Their father had sold part of the property without Jadhav's consent, and the remaining portion was occupied by his brothers, who later constructed houses there. Jadhav felt wronged and had approached the court seeking his share. However, the case continued for nearly three decades without any conclusion," Rawale explained.

The officer added that Jadhav was reportedly living alone and suffered from depression. "He did not have any court date on Wednesday. People who knew him described him as a disturbed person. We are verifying all facts mentioned in his note and cross-checking with court officials about the status of his litigation," Rawale said.

Probe into security and court access

The police have begun preparing a preliminary report in coordination with the court administration to understand how Jadhav gained access to the terrace area. The Regional Forensic Science team rushed to the spot to probe the case and collect the evidence. The court's security staff is being questioned, and CCTV footage is being scanned to reconstruct his movements inside the building.

Sources from the court complex said that the fourth-floor terrace area was generally restricted, but certain maintenance doors had been left open that morning for cleaning work. A staff member, on condition of anonymity, said "We heard a loud sound and rushed outside. It was horrifying. No one expected something like this to happen inside the court premises."

Debate over system

The suicide has sparked outrage among lawyers, activists, and litigants who say the incident reflects a larger systemic crisis — where delayed justice has become a norm rather than an exception.

Pune Times Mirror's investigative report, "Justice Denied?" (September 28 edition), had highlighted the growing pendency of cases in Pune courts. As per the latest data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) updated on October 15, 2025, Pune courts currently have 7,74,117 pending cases — comprising 1,86,492 civil and 5,87,625 criminal matters.

Of these, nearly 6% (43,914 cases) are filed by senior citizens, who often struggle to attend hearings and bear legal expenses. For



PHOTOS: ASHOK GANGURDE

The Shivajinagar District Court building where the tragic incident took place on Wednesday

many, justice remains out of reach within their lifetime.

On Wednesday, among the senior citizens who approached the court, 85-year-old Savitrabai Agane said, "I lost my husband five years ago and my brother had promised to give me ancestral land. They procured my thumb impression on some legal documents and later did not give me any money. I sold fish and then came to court for my hearing but the court gave another date. It's just date on date."

Sukhdev Waghmare (72) has a litigation concerning a housing society. He said, "Since 2009 I am struggling with justice as I am a member of the society committee. I am paying the expenses from my own pocket. I am coming regularly for the court case. And just getting date after date."

Senior Adv CV Joshi said, "While the pandemic years worsened pendency, the real issue lies in chronic vacancies of judges, inadequate infrastructure, and proce-

dural inefficiencies."

Senior advocates practising at the Shivajinagar court described the tragedy as a "wake-up call" for the judiciary. Adv Vivek Bhargude said, "A 27-year-old case is practically a lifetime. For litigants like Jadhav, every adjournment adds emotional trauma. If the system cannot deliver timely justice, it is effectively denying justice."

Another advocate added that courts urgently need psychological counselling cells and helplines for distressed litigants. Adv Lalit Jhunjhunwala said, "Legal stress is real. People spend years chasing hearings, paying lawyers, and waiting endlessly. The government must understand that judicial pendency is not just a number — it is human suffering."

Authorities to review safety protocols

Following the incident, the District Court administration has begun preparing an internal report on safety protocols and access control inside the court premises. Officials have also indicated that the Bombay High Court's administrative wing may take cognisance of the incident and seek a detailed inquiry into the circumstances.

The police have informed Jadhav's family and are verifying the authenticity of the suicide note. The investigation is ongoing.

Meanwhile, among the corridors of the Shivajinagar court, a haunting question lingers — how many more lives must be lost before the wheels of justice finally move faster?



Members of the Forensic Science team examining the scene of the tragedy at Shivajinagar District Court

FLASHBACK



Pune Mirror highlighted the issue in its edition dated Sept 28, 2025

TRAPPED, MOLESTED & IGNORED

Woman screamed for help at a busy junction in Wagholi, but Pune looked away

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The city that boasts the titles of Maharashtra's cultural capital and educational hub failed a woman in distress. She was being molested inside an autorickshaw in the busy Wagholi area during peak evening hours, crying for help as commuters hurried past, choosing to ignore her screams. However, one man stepped

forward to help her, but what followed exposed the deep systemic flaws in how such crimes are handled.

While many such incidents of molestation go unreported, those that do surface often fail to get justice. The incident occurred on Tuesday, around 9 pm near Wagholi Chowk, a busy, noisy intersection clogged with honking vehicles, flashing lights and restless commuters eager to get home. Amid the chaos came a sound that should have stopped traffic, the desperate cries of a woman in distress.

But no one stopped.

Inside one autorickshaw — registration number MH14JP6619 — a young woman was allegedly being molested. Surrounded by hundreds, she screamed for help. And yet, Pune stood frozen in indifference.

Only one man chose to act

Rahul Khandelwal, Chief Operating Officer of Weikfield Foods Pvt Ltd, was on his way home when he heard the cries. "At first I thought it was a quarrel," he later recounted. "But the screams grew louder, terrified and desperate. I knew something was very wrong."

He and his driver, Kailash, scanned the traffic and saw the source of the desperate screams. A rickshaw with its blinds drawn. As they got closer, the headlights of nearby vehicles revealed what was happening inside.

Rahul, stopped his car in the middle of traffic, ran across the road, and pulled aside the rickshaw's blinds to confront the two men. Inside, the girl was trembling, her clothes torn, as she tried to compose herself. "She said she didn't know them. She was weeping uncontrollably and pleading for help," Rahul told Pune Times Mirror. "The girl was struggling. The man beside her was touching her, restraining her, molesting her. He had grabbed her by the shoulders, blocking her exit and refusing to let her go, while the autorickshaw driver sat unmoved," he said.

While others watched or worse ignored, Rahul held onto the auto's side bar, threatening to take the men to the police. His driver, Kailash, rushed to assist. Amid the chaos and confrontations, they finally helped the girl break free and run across the road to safety. Within minutes, the men fled the scene. No one else moved. No one else helped.

Only money matters

When Rahul had confronted the autorickshaw driver, demanding to

know how he could sit still while a girl was being assaulted in his autorickshaw, the driver's response was as chilling as the crime itself. With complete indifference, he shrugged and said, "Mujhe kya, mera bhada chal raha hai." Those words: Why should I care? I'm getting my fare, lay bare a deeper sickness in our society. The casual detachment, the moral numbness that allows violence to unfold in full public view while everyone, including those close enough to stop it, simply look the other way. "Those cries were loud enough for anyone to hear," Rahul said. "If I could hear them from a car several feet away, what about those closer? People just see... and move on."

Systemic failure

When Rahul called the women's helpline (112), he was met with bureaucracy.

"They kept asking for my name, my number, where I live while the accused were escaping," he said. Even when the incident was reported to the Wagholi police, the response was procedural, requiring the victim herself to lodge a complaint. A rule that, in effect, allows many perpetrators to simply melt away into the night. What happened in Wagholi was not just a crime, but a mirror held up to Pune.

Once a city known for its social consciousness, activism and youth-driven energy, Pune's reaction last night was chilling in its silence. People recorded videos, scrolled through their phones, rolled up their windows but did not step out.

Where was the outrage that should have erupted? Where was the instinct to protect? Every city has its heroes, but a society that needs heroes for basic humanity has already failed. This is not the Pune that once stood up for causes, that prided itself on education and awareness. This is a city that watched a woman being assaulted in plain sight and decided it wasn't its problem.

The police procedure, too, raises questions. Why must the victim, traumatised and terrified, be the one to initiate the complaint? Why can't immediate action be taken based on a credible eyewitness report?

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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INVITING ONLINE APPLICATION FOR SCHEME FOR RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH CLASSES IN TARGETED AREAS SHRESHTA (NETS) -2026

National Testing Agency is going to conduct SHRESHTA (NETS)-2026 on behalf of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for admission to Class 9 and 11 for Scheduled Caste (SC) students for the Academic Year 2026-27. The Shreshta is a Scheme which provides for high quality education for meritorious Scheduled Castes (SCs) students only.

Submission of online Application Form	10.10.2025 to 30.10.2025	
Date of exam	In the month of December, 2025	
Mode of exam	Pen & Paper mode (OMR)	
Paper pattern	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)	

Information Bulletin with all other necessary details with regard to the registration for examination are available on the Official Website(s) of the National Testing Agency on www.nta.ac.in & <https://exams.nta.nic.in/shreshta/>

Interested candidates are advised to apply on or before the last date and regularly visit above Official websites for latest updates.

In case any candidate faces difficulty in applying for SHRESHTA-2026, she/he may contact on 01140759000/011-69227700 or e-mail at shreshta@nta.ac.in

Sd/-
(Director)

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National Testing Agency is going to conduct AISSEE-2026 on behalf of Sainik Schools Society (Under Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India) for admission to Class 6 and Class 9 in Sainik School/ New Sainik Schools across the country, for the Academic Year 2026-27.

Submission of online Application Form	10.10.2025 to 30.10.2025	
Date of exam	In the month of December, 2025	
Mode of exam	Pen & Paper mode (OMR)	
Paper pattern	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)	

Information Bulletin with all other necessary details with regard to the registration for examination are available on the Official Website(s) of the National Testing Agency on www.nta.ac.in & <https://exams.nta.nic.in/sainik-school-society/>

Interested candidates are advised to apply on or before the last date and regularly visit above Official websites for latest updates.

In case any candidate faces difficulty in applying for AISSEE 2026, she/he may contact on 01140759000/011-69227700 or e-mail at aissee@nta.ac.in

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पुणे महानगरपालिका, पुणे

निविदा प्रक्रिया कक्ष - पथ विभाग

निविदा जाहिरात - निविन कामे

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निविदा क्रमांक	खात्याचे नाव	कामाचे नाव	निविदा संच किंमत रु.	अंदाजित पूर्व गणित रक्कम रु.	बयाणा रक्कम रु.	कामाची मुदत (महिने)	निविदा विषयक जबाबदार व्यक्तीचे नाव व दूरध्वनी क्रमांक
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अ) सदर कामाबाबत निविदा अटी/शर्ती इ. बाबतचा सर्व तपशिल निविदा संचामध्ये नमूद केला असून सदर कामांचे निविदा संच <https://mahatenders.gov.in> या वेबसाईटवर पाहण्यासाठी उपलब्ध आहे. निविदा संचाची विक्री व स्वीकृती सदर वेबसाईटवरून फक्त ऑनलाइन पद्धतीने करण्यात येत असून सर्व निविदा दोन पाकीट पद्धतीने मागविण्यात येत आहेत.

ब) निविदा प्रक्रियाच्या शेवटच्या दिवशी निविदा संच प्राप्त न झाल्यास स्वीकृतीच्या शेवटच्या दिवशी ऑनलाइन सादरीकरण न झाल्यास सर्वस्वी जबाबदारी टेंडरदाराची राहिल.

क) ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रक्रिया बाबतची संपूर्ण माहिती टेंडर सेल विभाग पुणे म.न.पा. येथे मिळेल.

ड) कार्यालयीन आदेश क्र. अतिमआ (वि)/३२, दि. २२/०४/२०१६ नुसार बयाणा रक्कम ECS/RTGS/NEFT सुविधेमार्फतच स्वीकारण्यात येणार आहे.

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For rabies-free city

RFID chips to help PMC monitor three lakh stray dogs

Pratiksha Parkhi
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In a new approach to stray dog management, the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has launched a pilot project to implant RFID microchips in stray dogs for ensuring tracking and curbing rabies. The initiative was inspired by successful models in Delhi and Jaipur and marks a major technological shift in the city's approach.

The civic body's veterinary department has begun tagging 600 stray dogs with RFID microchips embedded under the skin. These chips will store key data, including health status, vaccination and sterilisation records, and location history, enabling instant access and monitoring.

According to the PMC estimates, Pune and its suburbs are home to roughly 2.5 to 3 lakh stray dogs. This includes 32 newly added villages under PMC limits.

In the past few months, the city has recorded 7,850 dog attack incidents, 45 per cent of which involved children. Rabies cases have also

risen by 12 per cent.

Tech-driven tracking

Under the pilot project, RFID microchips are inserted during vaccination or sterilisation procedures. Each chip stores age, colour, and gender of the dog; dates of vaccination and sterilisation; location; and details of the attending veterinary staff.

The chip allows instant retrieval of data, helping authorities monitor health, migration and population trends with greater accuracy.

The PMC has installed scanner machines and computer systems to support the initiative.

Similar projects

Similar projects in Delhi and Jaipur have yielded positive results, including: accurate stray dog population counts; significant progress in rabies control; improved sterilisation and vaccination coverage; and easier tracking of migrating dogs.

Shelters inadequate

Court guidelines mandate that stray dogs be housed in shelters for feeding, vaccina-

tion and sterilisation. However, the number of shelters is inadequate. Fights and injuries among sheltered dogs pose additional challenges.

As a result, the more practical and effective approach is to capture, vaccinate, and sterilise dogs, then release them back to their original locations. Microchip technology enables precise tracking and record-keeping for such dogs.

Annual target

The Government of India has set a target of 'Rabies-Free India' by 2030. The PMC has set an annual target of sterilising and vaccinating at least 70,000 stray dogs. Currently, the city has only three permanent veterinary centres, and more are needed to meet this goal.

Veterinary officer Dr Sarika Funde said, "Monitoring dog health is vital to realise the goal of a rabies-free Pune. Microchip technology offers a long-term and effective solution." She added that the pilot could serve as a model for other major cities across India, promoting the use of advanced technology in managing stray dogs.



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Actor Neil Nitin Mukesh



Actor Gauri Pradhan



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Monisha Sharma, Co-Founder and Director, Lexicon Group and Shreya Sharma, Co-Founder, Lexicon Group, Director, MultiFit



Deepti Sharma, Co-Founder, Lexicon Group, Director, MultiFit



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Mayara Sharma, Director, MultiFit and Director, Lexicon Group



Akash Rajpurohit, CEO, Pune Times Mirror and Civic Mirror



Tanay Sharma, Director, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror and Director, Lexicon Group

HEALTH: TRUE WEALTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Adding to the strength of the initiative, SVMHC Inlaks & Budhrani Hospital joined as an Associate Sponsor, with Dr. Rhea Ahuja (Medical Superintendent) and Vijay Agarwal (Deputy General Manager – Operations) at the helm. Other associate partners included Umari Healthcare, directed by Dr. Mukta Umarji, Virgo Clinic, led by Dr. Shekhar Takale, Goel Ganga Development, represented by Anurag Goel (Director), and Pro Munim, headed by Vikramraj Acharya and Bhagyashri Babar.

The event's celebration partners were Beer Beans, owned by Vivek Agrawal, and also Diageo, which added a vibrant touch to the evening.

From insightful discussions on mental, emotional, and maternity care to soulful sound healing performances, the event reaffirmed the message that true wealth lies in health, energy, and resilience. By honouring those who inspire and lead by example, Wellness Heroes 2025 set a benchmark for celebrating wellness with purpose, compassion, and commitment.

On this occasion, discussions were held on innovative initiatives in the healthcare sector, and the message that

"the health of the society is the true wealth" was also conveyed.

Speaking at the event, Dr Pankaj Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror, and Managing Trustee, Lexicon Group, said, "Heartiest congratulations to all the awardees! Receiving an award is truly a double-edged experience — it brings immense joy but also doubles the responsibility to perform even better. Pune Times Mirror consistently thinks out of the box and contributes meaningfully to the growth of society. Thank you for recognizing and felicitating the wellness heroes — this is truly commendable work, and we hope to continue carrying this spirit forward."

Neeraj Sharma, Vice Chairman, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror, Vice Chairman, Lexicon Group, and President, MultiFit, said, "We must always strive to lead a healthy and balanced life. In today's world, many people struggle with depression and tend to neglect their health, but it is important to remember that true wealth lies in good health. Embracing this belief helps us stay mindful and responsible for our well-being."

"At our school, we nurture these values in our students, instilling in them the

understanding that we all have a duty to give back to society. This principle — to live a healthy, purposeful, and compassionate life — is deeply rooted in their minds. Congratulations to Pune Times Mirror for your commendable efforts, and let us all continue to contribute positively to society."

Deepti N. Sharma, Co-Founder, Lexicon Group, and Director, MultiFit, added, "It gives me immense pleasure to speak about something very close to my heart — wellness. At MultiFit, our vision has always been to go beyond the traditional definition of fitness. We believe that true wellness is not merely the absence of illness, but the presence of energy and strength that empowers one to live life to its fullest potential."

Sheetal Biyani, Director, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror, said, "The Wellness Heroes Award celebrates individuals who go beyond personal achievements to inspire others in their journey toward health and well-being."

Wellness Heroes 2025 had a health conclave where Mayara N. Sharma, Director, MultiFit, and Director, Lexicon Group, hosted Dr Rohan Jahagirdar, Psychiatrist & Sexpert, Anurag Goel, Director, Goel Ganga Developments, Dr.

Mukta Umarji, Obstetrician & Gynecologist, Dr Suprima Takale, Virgo Clinic, Professor, Dr. Bidyanand Jha, Institute Director, Lexicon MILES. In this conclave, issues regarding maternity care, mental health, emotional and spiritual wellness were discussed.

In a message to Pune Times Mirror, Anurag Goel, Director, Goel Ganga Developments, said, "Honoured to be recognised at the Wellness Heroes Awards for creating spaces that nurture mind, body, and soul. Yes, I couldn't attend the awards this year due to unavoidable circumstances, but my heartfelt congratulations to all the inspiring Wellness Heroes who make our city healthier, happier, and more mindful every day."

Almas Lokhandwala, Sound Healer, Soul Panacea, Pune, performed a soothing sound healing performance, using gentle yet powerful vibrations of Himalayan Singing Bowls to harmonize the human system.

Another big draw of the evening were the fireside chats where special guests — actors Neil Nitin Mukesh and Gauri Pradhan-Tejwani — were in tête-à-tête with Akanksha Yadav, Correspondent, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror and Corina B Manuel, Editor-in-Chief, Pune

Times Mirror & Civic Mirror respectively. Actor-producer-storyteller Neil Nitin Mukesh revealed, "I am very serious about my health. Just as punctuality is important to me, so is exercise. I wake up at 5 a.m., run 5 kilometres, and then spend one to one and a half hours working out in the gym. I follow a nutritious and wholesome daily diet. Being an actor, it is essential for me to keep my body strong and healthy. I avoid processed foods and sugar. The gentle morning sun is excellent for the body."

While actor-entrepreneur-yoga enthusiast Gauri Pradhan-Tejwani added, "I don't follow a specific wellness mantra; for me, it's about finding the right balance between body and mind. Stay true to yourself and cultivate awareness, because balance begins with being mindful."

Ajay Kalaskar (VP Sales & Marketing), Rama Group, said, "Truly a pleasure to be a part of this event. We often associate wellness with fitness and diet, but it is as much mental as physical."

Behram Khodaiji, CEO, Ruby Hall Clinic Pune, added, "Healthcare and healing have many facets. In cases of extreme emergencies, mainstream medicine is here to support you. A heartfelt thank you to Pune Times Mirror for this initiative."

DECODING WELLNESS

Wellness Heroes Awards and Health Conclave, organised by Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror and MultiFit, celebrate those who heal, inspire and empower through wellness



Actor Gauri Pradhan with Corina B. Manuel, Editor-in-Chief, Pune Times Mirror and Civic Mirror

Corina B. Manuel & Aakanksha Yadav
feedback@punemirror.com
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The Wellness Heroes Awards and Health Conclave, hosted by Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror, and MultiFit, celebrated holistic well-being, bringing together celebrities and experts to discuss balance, mindfulness, and the 360-degree approach to true wellness.

Neil Nitin Mukesh: A believer in balance and well-being

The event witnessed the special presence of acclaimed actor Neil Nitin Mukesh, who is a firm believer in balance and holistic well-being. Speaking candidly with Pune Times Mirror, Neil emphasised that "wellness of the body and mind is the true key to a successful life."

In an industry where stress and irregular schedules are part of life, Neil shared how he maintains his mental equilibrium and physical fitness. He highlighted the importance of balance, mindfulness, and self-care, urging people to carve out time for themselves. Talking about the pressures of social media and perfection, he emphasised the value of staying authentic and being kind to oneself.

When asked about his personal wellness habits, Neil added, "True health lies in consistency, in adopting simple habits that suit you. Whether it's mindful breathing, spending time with family, or disconnecting from technology for a digital detox, these small steps make a big difference. If I could advise my younger self, I'd say: focus on inner peace as much as outward success." In a world obsessed with trends and detox fads, Neil said he recharges through music, reflection, and mindfulness, reminding the audience that real wellness is the harmony of mind, body, and soul.

A philosophy of balance: Gauri Pradhan

On the occasion, actor, mother, entre-



Aakanksha Yadav (R) in conversation with actor Neil Nitin Mukesh

preneur and yoga practitioner Gauri Pradhan also engaged in an insightful conversation with Pune Times Mirror on the theme 'Wellness as a philosophy of balance.'

For Gauri, wellness is not just a routine but a way of life. Her day begins with calm and gratitude, followed by breathing exercises and meditation to centre the mind before the day unfolds. "The body listens to the mind. I align my thoughts before I move my body," she said. Her wellness mantra is simple yet profound: "balance is the highest form of wellness."

As someone who dons many hats — an actor, a devoted mother, and a yoga enthusiast — Gauri believes that harmony isn't found, it's created. "Yoga teaches you to flow — not fight."

Wellness Heroes Health Conclave

The 'Wellness Heroes Health Conclave', organised by Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror, and MultiFit, brought together leading experts from diverse health fields to discuss the true meaning of wellness. The session was moderated by Myra Sharma, Director of the Lexicon Group and MultiFit. The evening wasn't about medical jargon or quick fixes, but about simple, real, and compassionate insights from those who dedicate their lives to healing others.

Mental wellness: Beyond breaking myths

Renowned psychiatrist Dr. Rohan Jahagirdar opened the discussion by addressing misconceptions around mental health. "People often think mental health means something is wrong, but it's actually about maintaining emotional hygiene," he said.

"Therapy isn't just a crisis solution — it's an active path to self-awareness and balance. Even 10 minutes of mindful breathing, journaling, or setting boundaries daily can strengthen your mental resilience," Dr. Jahagirdar emphasised.



Dr. Suprima Takale, Director, Virgo Clinic; Bhagyashri Babar, Director, Pro Munim; Dr Mukta Umarji, Director, Umarji Healthcare; Monisha Sharma, Co Founder & Director, Lexicon Group; Vijay Agarwal, Deputy General Manager, Operations & Dr Rhea Ahuja, Medical Superintendent, SVMHC Inlaks & Budhrani Hospital; Dr Shekhar Takale, Director, Virgo Clinic



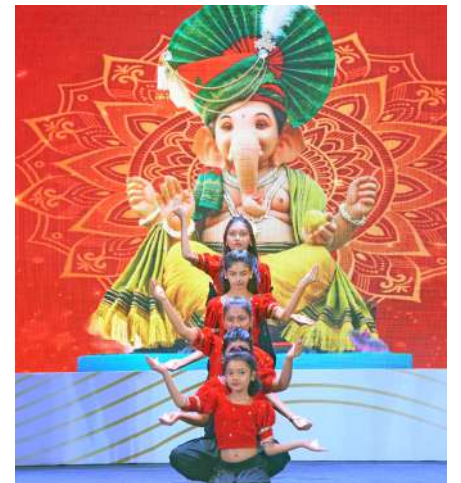
Urvaksh Bhote, COO, Ruby Hall Clinic; Deepti Sharma, Co-Founder, Lexicon Group and Director, MultiFit Wellness; Dr. Mukta Umarji, Obstetrics and Gynaecologist; Corina B. Manuel, Editor-in-Chief, Pune Times Mirror & Civic Mirror; and Dr. Rajesh Deshpande, Healthcare Professional



Dr. Suprima Takale, Virgo Clinic; Dr. Mukta Umarji, Obstetrics & Gynecologist; Dr. Rohan Jahagirdar, Psychiatrist & Sexpert; and Professor Dr. Bidyanand Jha, Institute Director, Lexicon MILES



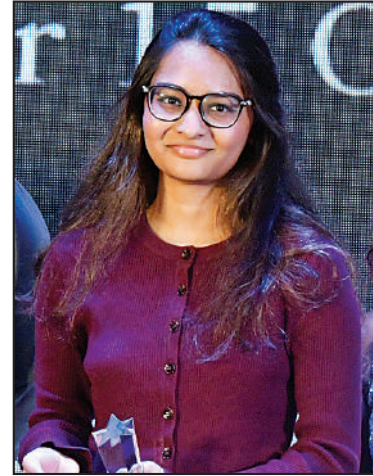
Sound Healer Almas Lokhandwala, Soul Pancea, during her soulful performance



Students of Pratiksha Institute of Performing Arts



Aarohi Panchmukhe, Wellness Crusader (Under-10)



Amelia Rodriguez, Excellence as a Mental Health Advocate (Under-15)



Ankit Khanna, Best Corporate Wellness Leader (Mobile Clinic)



Dishaa Khanase, Best Sound Healing Therapist



Dr. Naresh Munot, Excellence in International Cardiologist Fellowship in Advanced Heart Failure, USA



Dr. Madhusudhan Asawa, Excellence in Cardiology



Khushi Chhajed, Best Mental Health Advocate



Dr. Anurag Awasthi, Best Urologist, Department of Urology



Dr. Devashish Desai (L), Excellence in Consultant Infectious Diseases



Dr. Kaustubh Shendkar, Best Diabetologist



Anil Pagar (CMD) & team, BWP Biotics Lifesciences, Best Clean Food Brand



Dr. Dimple Ajwani, Best Dentist



Vinod Nair, Best Ayurveda Centre



Dimple Somji, Best Social Wellness Crusader



Dr. Rohan Jahagirdar, Best Consultant Psychiatrist



Dr. Rashmi Soni Lohiya, Best Dermatologist



Dr. Maruti R. Takale, Best Senior Laparoscopic Surgeon



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Dr. Shilpa Rao, Best Dental Studio Healer



Girija Yervadekar, Best Holistic Healer



Dr. Seema Satav and Dr. Vitthal Satav, Best Ophthalmologist



Dr. Priyadarshini Sanyal and Dr. Madhur Motwani, Best Wellness Entrepreneurs



Dr. Debanshu Bhaduri, Best Oncosurgeon, Department of Oncology



Rupal Sancheti, Best Rehabilitation and Recovery Expert



Satish Pathare, Inspirational Athlete Award (Ironman)



Dr. Gajanan Jadhao, Best Hair Transplant Surgeon



Dr. Tejas Gundewar, Excellence in Male and Female Fertility Consultation, Laparoscopic Surgery



Dr. Meenakshi Pawar, Best Consultant Obstetrician



Lakhvinder Chehel, Best Corporate Wellness Leader



Nirmala Shahani, Best Healer, Hasta Mudra Therapy



Parag Sancheti, Best Orthopaedic Specialist



Sonal Purohit, Best Lifestyle Coach



Dr. Jaikumar Mulchandani, Best General Physician, Department of Medicine



Dr. Chakor Vora, Excellence in Consultant Medical Oncologist



Dr. Ishwar Zanwar, Best Interventional Cardiologist



Dr. Devendra N. Vartak, Excellence in Orthopaedic and Joint Replacement



Devika Bhide, Best Yoga Therapist

Third phase of school campaign begins

I Pratiksha Parkhi
feedback@punemirror.com | @ThePuneMirror

The third phase of the state-wide ‘Mukhyamantri Majhi Shala, Sundar Shala’ (Chief Minister

My School, Beautiful School), campaign is set to launch for the academic year 2025–26, with new initiatives and revised evaluation criteria. The competitive programme, aimed at holistic school development, has

received an overwhelming response in its previous two phases and the School Education Department has now begun preparations for the next stage, which will include participation from schools across the state, including Pune.

An allocation of Rs 86.73 crore has been made for this phase. According to the School Education Department, the third phase will introduce fresh concepts and updated benchmarks. A formal proposal was submitted to the

state government by the Commissioner of Education on August 29, 2025. For 2025–26, the third phase will include new evaluation methods and activity modules. Schools will be assessed based on quality, taking into account their geographic and social context.

महाराष्ट्र शासन

कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा.बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर

ई निविदा सूचना क्र. ३१, सन २०२५-२६

खालील कामाचे “ब-१” नमुन्यातील ऑनलाईन निविदा कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा.बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर हे ई निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे पात्र निविदाकारांकडून ऑनलाईन निविदा मागवित आहेत. निविदा धारकांना सूचित करण्यात येते की, ऑनलाईनमध्ये प्रसिध्द केलेल्या व कॉन्टॅक्ट डाटामधील अटी तांत्रिक स्पेसिफिकेशन व शेड्युल-बी मधील परिमाण हे बीड डाटा निविदा संचामध्ये समाविष्ट करणेत आलेले आहेत. निविदा कागदपत्र शासनाच्या संकेतस्थळावर <http://mahatenders.gov.in> येथून डाऊनलोड करण्यात यावी. निविदा स्विकारण्याचा अथवा नाकारण्याचा अधिकार कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा.बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर यांनी राखून ठेवला आहे. कोणतीही अट असलेली निविदा स्विकारली जाणार नाही.

अ. क्र.	कामाचे नाव	निविदेचा प्रकार	कामाची अंदाजित किंमत रु. लक्ष	इसारा रक्कम रुपये	निविदा फी जीएसटी सह रु.	काम पूर्ण करण्याचा कालावधी	ठेकेदारांचा वर्ग (सा.बा. खातेकडील)
१	आकुर्डे, महालवाडी, म्हसवे, धारवाड, निळपण, कोनवडे, कुर, व्हनगूती, वाघापूर, मुरगुड ला जोडणारा रस्ता प्रजिमा ४८ कि मी ०/०० ते १६/०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. भुदरगड.	ब-१	२८.६९	२९,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५-अ व त्यावरील
२	कोल्हापूर परिते, गारगोटी, गडहिंग्लज, नेसरी, नागनवाडी, चंदगड, मोटनवाडी, कळसगादे, कोदाळी भेडशी ते राज्य हद्द रा.मा.क्र. १८९ कि.मी. ४२/०० ते ६३/०० ची देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. भुदरगड जि कोल्हापूर.	ब-१	२४.२४	२५,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५-अ व त्यावरील
३	धुन्याचीवाडी पाटगाव प्रजिमा-५२ आडेवाडी तळेवाडी भट्टाडी चिवकेवाडी ते कोल्हापूर जिल्हा हद्द प्रजिमा-१२२ कि.मी.०/०० ते १६/२०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. भुदरगड.	ब-१	२४.१५	२५,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५-अ व त्यावरील
४	गारगोटी, पुष्पनगर, वेंगरुळ, वेसर्डे, मानी पाटगाव प्रजिमा ५२ कि मी ०/०० ते ४१/०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. भुदरगड	ब-१	१६.१७	१७,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५-(अ) व त्यावरील
५	मडिलगे बु. गंगापूर, पळशिवणे, तळेमाऊली, देसाईवाडी पाल ते राज्यमार्ग-१८९ प्रजिमा-९९ कि.मी.०/०० ते १४/०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. भुदरगड	ब-१	१८.५५	१९,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५-(अ) व त्यावरील
६	सोळांकूर ऐनी आटेगाव रक्षादेवी एरंडपे नितवडे कडगाव ममदापूर रस्ता प्रजिमा क्र.४५ कि.मी २८/८०० ते ३७/५०० वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. भुदरगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	५.३१	६,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	सु. बे. अ. साठी
७	पाल बारवे दिडेवाडी चिमणे झुलपेवाडी रस्ता प्रजिमा क्र. ६९ कि.मी. ८/४०० ते ९/४०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे, ता. भुदरगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	२.२१	३,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	सु. बे. अ. साठी
८	घोटगेवाडी- मिरवेल- पारगड-नामखोल-तेरवण-वाघोजे ते रा.मा.क्र. १८९ ला मिळणारा रस्ता रा.मा.क्र. १८७ कि.मी. १४/४०० ते ३८/४०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	३९.९९	४०,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५ व त्यावरील
९	प्रजिमा. ६५ ते नागरदळे- करेकुंडी-सुंडी -महीपाळगड- शिनोळी-ढेकोळी- तुडीये रस्ता प्रजिमा ६८ कि.मी. ०/००० ते २९/१००. ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	३२.४४	३३,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५ व त्यावरील
१०	वेंगुर्ला आंबोली जिल्हा हद्दीपासून शिरगाव नागनवाडी ते बेळगाव राज्य हद्द रस्ता रा. मा. क्र. १८० कि.मी. ६७/२०० ते ७७/४०० ची देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि . कोल्हापूर	ब-१	२३.५९	२४,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५- अ व त्यावरील
११	गुडवळे-खामदळे हेरे सावर्डे काळीद्री-शिप्पूर- नांदवडे करंजगांव- हलकर्णी ते रा.मा.क्र. १८० ला मिळणारा रस्ता प्रजिमा.क्र. ७१ कि.मी. ०/०० ते १९/१०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	२१.८१	२२,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	व त्यावरील वर्ग-५-अ
१२	वेंगुर्ला आंबोली जिल्हा हद्दीपासून शिरगाव नागनवाडी ते बेळगाव राज्य हद्द रस्ता रा. मा. क्र. १८० कि.मी. ७७/४०० ते ८८/८०० ची देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि .कोल्हापूर	ब-१	२०.९८	२१,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५- अ व त्यावरील
१३	राष्ट्रीय महामार्ग क्र. 4 ते कवळीकट्टी दह्री राज्यहद्द ते राजगोळी कुनूर कालकुंद्री कागणी प्रजिमा 61 ते किणी नागरदळे कडलगे ढोलगरवाडी मांडेदुर्ग कावें ते रा.मा. 180 ला मिळणारा रस्ता प्रजिमा क्र. 65 किमी 7/00 ते ३३/१००ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे. ता. चंदगड जिल्हा- कोल्हापूर.	ब-१	१५.८९	१६,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५- अ व त्यावरील
१४	रा.मा. क्र. १८० ते कानुर कुरणी गवसे इब्राहिमपूर अडकूर ते रा. मा. क्र. १८९ ला मिळणारा रस्ता प्रजिमा क्र.६६ कि.मी. ०/०० ते १८/१०० ची देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	१५.३०	१६,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-५- अ व त्यावरील
१५	कोल्हापूर परिते गारगोटी गडहिंग्लज नेसरी नागनवाडी चंदगड मोटनवाडी कळसगादे कोदाळी भेडशी ते राज्य हद्द रा.मा.क्र. १८९ कि.मी. १५६/००० ते १६३/०० ची देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	१३.३६	१४,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-६ व त्यावरील
१६	रा.मा. 201 ते यमेकांड शीरसंगी किणे नेसरी हडलगे कोवाड होसूर ते राज्यहद्दी पर्यंतचा रस्ता प्रजिमा क्र. 61 किमी 20/00 ते 33/180 ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे. ता. चंदगड जिल्हा- कोल्हापूर.	ब-१	१२.८९	१३,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग - ६ व त्यावरील
१७	रामा क्र. 180 ते पाटणे फाटा माणगाव शिवनगे निट्टर कोवाड रस्ता जोडणारा प्रजिमा ६१ रस्ता प्रजिमा क्र. 67 किमी 0/00 ते 14/600 ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे. ता. चंदगड जिल्हा- कोल्हापूर.	ब-१	१२.२१	१३,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	वर्ग-६ व त्यावरील
१८	रामा. १८० ते पाटणे फाटा आंबेवाडी पाटणे-मोटनवाडी फाटा ते रा. मा. १८९ ला जोडणारा रस्ता प्रजिमा ७६ कि.मी. ०/०० ते १४/८०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	८.९४	९,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	सु. बे. अ. साठी
१९	रा.मा. १८० ते तडसिनहाळ- तुर्केवाडी-जंगमहटटी ते प्रजिमा.क्र. ७६ ला मिळणारा रस्ता प्रजिमा.क्र. ७९ कि.मी. ०/००० ते ८/६०० ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे ता. चंदगड जि. कोल्हापूर	ब-१	७.३१	८,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	सु. बे. अ. साठी.
२०	प्रजिमा 61 ते अर्जुनवाडी चावरेवाडी सांबरे मलतवाडी ते प्रजिमा क्र. 67 ला मिळणारा रस्ता प्रजिमा क्र. 64 किमी 18/500 ते 22/00 ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे. ता. चंदगड जिल्हा- कोल्हापूर. (१७/७०० ते २०/४००)	ब-१	३.९३	४,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	सु. बे. अ. साठी
२१	रामा. १८७ ते रामघाट-इसापूर- चौकुळ जिल्हा हद्द रस्ता प्रजिमा.क्र. ७५ कि.मी. १/२०० ते ४/४००. ची वार्षिक देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे. ता. चंदगड	ब-१	३.८७	४,०००/-	६००/-	१२ महिने	सु. बे. अ. साठी

ई-निविदेचे वेळापत्रक

१	निविदा डाऊनलोड करण्याचा कालावधी	::	दिनांक १६/१०/२०२५ वेळ सकाळी १०.०० वा पासून ते दिनांक २३/१०/२०२५ वेळ सायंकाळी १७.५५ वाजेपर्यंत.
२	निविदा पूर्व चर्चा बैठक स्थळ, दिनांक व वेळ (ऑनलाईन)	::	-- निरंक --
३	निविदा इसारा रक्कम निविदा शुल्क व प्रतिज्ञापत्र इत्यादीचे मुळ दस्तावेज सादर करावयाचा दिनांक २४/१०/२०२५ वेळ सकाळी १०.०० वाजता.	::	१. कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा.बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर २. कार्यकारी अभियंता विशेष प्रकल्प (सा.बां) विभाग कोल्हापूर ३. मा. अधीक्षक अभियंता, सा. बां. मंडळ, कोल्हापूर वरील तिन्ही कार्यालयाचा पत्ता ताराबाई पार्क, मुख्य पोस्ट कार्यालय जवळ कोल्हापूर.
४	तांत्रिक व आर्थिक निविदा उघडण्याचे ठिकाण, दिनांक व वेळ (शक्य झाल्यास)	::	कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा. बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर यांचे कार्यालयात दिनांक २४/१०/२०२५ रोजी सकाळी १०.०५ पासून ऑनलाईन उघडणेत येतील (शक्य झाल्यास)

टिप :-

- सर्व पात्र / इच्छुक निविदाकारांनी निविदा पत्रक डाऊनलोड करण्यासाठी व निविदा प्रक्रियेत भाग घेण्यासाठी ई निविदा प्रणालीच्या Main Portal "<https://mahatender.gov.in> " वर enrolled करणे आवश्यक आहे.
- निविदाकारांना वर नमूद केलेल्या संकेत स्थळावर ऑन लाईन देकार भरणे संदर्भात व डिजीटल प्रमाणपत्र वितरित करण्यासंदर्भात काही शंका / अडचणी असल्यास त्यांनी ईमेल support-eproc@nic.in व दूरध्वनी क्रमांक ०१२०-४२००४६२, ०१२०-४००१००२ वर संपर्क साधावा.
- निविदाकारानी निविदा संदर्भात सर्व दस्तऐवज ऑनलाईन सादर करणे अनिवार्य राहील. तसेच इसारा रक्कमेची ऑन लाईन पावती, ऑन लाईन कोरा निविदा संच, डाऊन लोड केलेली पावती स्वतःच्या नावाची गोपनियता पाळून ई निविदा वेळापत्रकामध्ये नमूद केलेल्या दिनांक व वेळेपर्यंत सादर करणे आवश्यक आहे. अन्यथा ऑन लाईन निविदा उघडण्यात येणार नाही याची नोंद घ्यावी.
- निविदेचे वेळापत्रक, इतर अटी व शर्ती तसेच अनुषंगीक बदल ई निविदा पोर्टलवर "<https://mahatender.gov.in> " पहावयास मिळतील. सदर कामांची एक अथवा सर्व ई निविदा कोणतेही कारण न देता रद्द करणेचे आधिकार सक्षम आधिकारी यांनी राखून ठेवलेले आहेत.
- वरील कामांची ई निविदा सूचना सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभागाच्या www.mahapwd.com या इंटरनेट वरील वेबसाईटवर उपलब्ध आहे.
- वरील निविदे सूचनेमधील एका कंत्राटदारास सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभागातील एका आर्थिक वर्षात दोनच (२) कामे देणेत येतील.
- वार्षिक देखभाल व दुरुस्तीच्या रु.१०.०० लाखाच्या आतील कामांना एक रोड रोलर व बिटूमन बॉयलर स्वामालकीची अथवा भाडेची असणे आवश्यक राहील. तसेच रु. १०.०० लाखाचे वरील कामांना सदर यंत्रसामुग्री व इतर आवश्यक यंत्रसामुग्री स्वः मालकीची असणे अनिवार्य आहे.

क्रमांक : आरओसी-2025-26/क्र-5/C3194

सही/-

(बी. एल. हजारे)

कार्यकारी अभियंता,

सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर



Pune Metropolitan

पुणे महानगर प्रदेश विकास प्राधिकरण, पुणे

नवीन प्रशासकीय इमारत, आकुर्डी रेल्वे स्टेशन जवळ, आकुर्डी, पुणे-४११०४४

फोन नं. ०२०-२७६५२९३४

जमीन व मालमत्ता विभाग

(E mail ID: Inepmrda@gmail.com)

नियोजनबद्ध विकास

जाहीर सूचना

या जाहीर सूचनेद्वारे कळविण्यात येते की, पुणे महानगर प्रदेश विकास प्राधिकरणाच्या कार्यक्षेत्रातील (तत्कालीन पिंपरी चिंचवड नवनगर विकास प्राधिकरण यांच्या हद्दीतील) परिशिष्ट 'अ' मधील ३ शैक्षणिक वापराचे भूखंड, परिशिष्ट 'ब' मधील ११ वाणिज्य व सार्वजनिक सुविधेचे भूखंड, परिशिष्ट 'क' मधील १ वैद्यकीय वापराचे भूखंड, परिशिष्ट 'ड' १ मधील सार्वजनिक सुविधा (लायब्ररी / संगीत शाळा) भूखंड, परिशिष्ट 'इ' मधील १ (Facility Center) भूखंड आणि परिशिष्ट 'ई' मधील २९ सुविधा भूखंड (Amenity Space) असे एकूण ४६ भूखंड यांचे ८० वर्षाच्या कालावधीकरिता भाडेपट्ट्याने वाटप ई-लिलावाद्वारे होणार आहे. त्याचा तपशील खालीलप्रमाणे

परिशिष्ट 'अ' (शैक्षणिक वापराचे भूखंड)

Sr. No.	Village	Sector No.	Plot No.	Plot Area (Sq.mtr)	Purpose	Bid Start Price/Base Price for Lease Premium Rs. (BSP)	EMD 5% (Rs.)
1	Bhosari	1	High School No. 1	9,200.00	Educational Purpose	46,73,60,000/-	2,33,68,000/-
2	Bhosari	12	High School No. 1	22,000.00	Educational Purpose	1,09,78,00,000/-	5,48,90,000/-
3	Bhosari	12	Primary School No. 1	4,500.00	Educational Purpose	23,89,50,000/-	1,19,47,500/-

परिशिष्ट 'ब' (वाणिज्य व सार्वजनिक सुविधेचे भूखंड)

Sr. No.	Village	Sector No.	Plot No.	Plot Area (Sq.mtr)	Purpose	Bid Start Price/Base Price for Lease Premium Rs.	EMD 5% (Rs.)
1	Bhosari	10	Local Commerial Plot No. 2	2,700.00	Commercial	37,69,20,000/-	1,88,46,000/-
2	Chikhali	20	Convenient Shopping No. 1	300.00	Commercial	2,36,40,000/-	11,82,000/-
3	Rahatani	38	Shops	900.00	Commercial	12,08,70,000/-	60,43,500/-
4	Ravet	29	Commercial No. 4	4,000.00	Commercial	55,84,00,000/-	2,79,20,000/-
5	Ravet	29	SDC No. 5	8,000.00	Commercial	1,12,40,00,000/-	5,62,00,000/-
6	Borhadewa di (Moshi)	11	Public Amenity No. 1	4,400.00	Public Amenity	19,22,80,000/-	96,14,000/-
7	Bhosari	Public Amenity No. 1	1,800.00	Public Amenity	9,54,00,000/-	47,70,000/-	
8	Borhadewa di (Moshi)	4	Public Amenity No. 3	4,200.00	Public Amenity	20,95,80,000/-	1,04,79,000/-
9	Chikhali	20	Public Amenity No. 1	2,600.00	Public Amenity	10,08,80,000/-	50,44,000/-
10	Ravet	29	Public Amenity	800.00	Public Amenity	6,39,20,000/-	31,96,000/-
11	Chikhali	Chikhali District Center	Public Amenity No. 1	2,500.00	Public Amenity	10,37,50,000/-	51,87,500/-

परिशिष्ट 'क' (वैद्यकीय वापराचे भूखंड)

Sr. No.	Village	Sector No.	Plot No.	Plot Area (Sq.mtr)	Purpose	Bid Start Price/Base Price for Lease Premium Rs. (BSP)	EMD 5% (Rs.)
1	Bhosari	12	Hospital No. 1	2,900.00	Medical Purpose	15,39,90,000/-	76,99,500/-

परिशिष्ट 'ड' (सार्वजनिक सुविधा (लायब्ररी / संगीत शाळा) भूखंड)

Sr. No.	Village	Sector No.	Plot No.	Plot Area (Sq.mtr)	Purpose	Bid Start Price/Base Price for Lease Premium Rs. (BSP)	EMD 5% (Rs.)
1	Bhosari	2	Public Amenity Plot No. IB (Library/Music School)	1,000.00	Public Amenity	4,88,00,000/-	24,40,000/-

परिशिष्ट 'इ' (Facility Center भूखंड)

Sr. No.	Village	Sector No.	Plot No.	Plot Area (Sq.mtr)	Purpose	Bid Start Price/Base Price for Lease Premium Rs. (BSP)	EMD 5% (Rs.)
1	Bhosari	7	Facility Center	11,087.00	Facility Center, 18.00 m road	53,10,67,300/-	2,65,53,365/-

परिशिष्ट 'ई' (सुविधा भूखंड/Amenity Space)

Sr.	Taluka No.	Village	Survey/Gat No.	Plot area (in Sq. mtr.)	Bid Start Price/Base Price for Lease Premium Rs. (BSP)	EMD 5% (Rs.)
1	Haveli	Lonikand	271/272/275/277/278/2	1039.32	1,96,87,000/-	9,84,350/-
2	Haveli	Lonikand	26/2/2/Amenity Space	1315.77	2,57,46,000/-	12,87,300/-
3	Haveli	Lonikalbhor	1705/Plot No. 2	495.00	91,64,000/-	4,58,200/-
4	Haveli	Lonikalbhor	1720	885.00	1,67,80,000/-	8,39,000/-
5	Haveli	Koregaon Mul	161/2/Amenity Space	1757.29	2,19,23,000/-	10,96,150/-
6	Khed	Nanekarwadi	416	516.03	87,82,000/-	4,39,100/-
7	Maval	Varale	51/2/2/3	1961.86	2,94,31,700/-	14,71,585/-
8	Maval	Varale	51/2/2/4	918.13	1,35,06,300/-	6,75,315/-
9	Maval	Varale	72/1/B/1/72/1/B/2/Amenity Space 3	1882.5	2,79,67,000/-	13,98,350/-
10	Maval	Kanhe	187/1/2/Plot no./59/Amenity Space	2159.75	3,95,00,000/-	19,75,000/-
11	Maval	Kanhe	590/3/62/Amenity Space	3180.00	4,13,40,000/-	20,67,000/-
12	Maval	Chandkhed	634/B/Plot/Number/8	596.95	38,00,000/-	1,90,000/-
13	Mulashi	Nande	6/4	637.5	77,35,000/-	3,86,750/-
14	Mulashi	Nande	67/2A/2B/4	496.91	65,59,000/-	3,27,950/-
15	Mulashi	Bhukum	63/A/2/Amenity Space	1038.00	2,42,64,000/-	12,13,200/-
16	Mulashi	Bhukum	99/A/1/ Amenity/Space	1800.00	3,88,74,000/-	19,43,700/-
17	Mulashi	Bhugaon	15/2/B/3/Amenity Space	600.6	2,17,34,000/-	10,86,700/-
18	Mulashi	Bhugaon	257/1/1A/2	1192.5	4,11,91,000/-	20,59,550/-
19	Mulashi	Bhugaon	14/15/A/4/Amenity Space	1372.5	4,91,02,000/-	24,55,100/-
20	Mulashi	Bhugaon	262/1/1C/1D/A2/Amenity Space	225.00	83,27,000/-	4,16,350/-
21	Mulashi	Marunji	2/2/8/1C/Amenity Space	505.04	1,61,85,000/-	8,09,250/-
22	Mulashi	Marunji	78/5/3	1224.22	3,75,26,000/-	18,76,300/-
23	Mulashi	Marunji	1/3/4/A/5	124.05	39,75,000/-	1,98,750/-
24	Mulashi	Marunji	64/1	930.49	2,94,95,000/-	14,74,750/-
25	Mulashi	Hinjwadi	43/44/A/3	2205.00	8,54,05,000/-	42,70,250/-
26	Mulashi	Pirangut	283/Amenities	1128.62	2,11,50,000/-	10.57.500/-
27	Mulashi	Pirangut	532/Amenities	2295.06	4,14,89,452/-	20,74,500/-
28	Mulashi	Pirangut	323/1/A/3/Amenity Space	382.5	78,42,000/-	3,92,100/-
29	Mulashi	Kasar Amboli	108/B/3/Amenity Space	1186.5	2,03,36,000/-	10,16,800/-

बरील भूखंडांच्या ई-लिलावाकरिता नोंदणी व निविदा दस्तावेज डाऊनलोड हे दि. १६/१०/२०२५ रोजी सायं. ५.०० वा. पासून ते दि. ३०/१०/२०२५ रोजी सायं. ५.०० वा. पर्यंत <https://eauction.gov.in> या संकेतस्थळावर करावयाचे आहेत. तांत्रिकदृष्ट्या पात्र बोलीदारांची घोषणा दि. ०६/११/२०२५ रोजी करण्यात येणार असून दि. ०७/११/२०२५ रोजी सकाळी ११.०० वाजता सदर संकेतस्थळावर ई-लिलाव प्रक्रीया सुरू होणार आहे. सदर ई-लिलाव प्रक्रीयेसंबंधी सूचना सविस्तर अटी व शर्तीचे माहितीपुस्तक <https://eauction.gov.in> व <https://pmrda.gov.in> या संकेतस्थळावर पाहण्यास उपलब्ध आहे.

सही/-
(हिम्मत खराडे)
(प्र.) सह आयुक्त,
जमिन व मालमत्ता विभाग
पुणे महानगर प्रदेश विकास प्राधिकरण, पुणे

जाहिरात क्र. आरओसी-2025-26/क्र-5/C3209

BID TO REDUCE DEATHS

Govt hospitals to submit info of patient fatalities; state aims to analyse data, take steps

Santosh More
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In order to reduce the patient mortality in public hospitals, the state government has decided to analyse the deaths at these hospitals. Towards this end, public hospitals will be required to submit detailed medical analyses to the government, specifying the exact cause of each patient's death. This will enable the state government to carry out in-depth analysis of factors such as the number of deaths in public hospitals, patient age groups, medical history, and more data.

Senior administrative officials from the Department of Public Health, Medical Education, and Research have confirmed this development. Although hospitals have so far maintained records of deceased patients at an institutional level, the government is now taking a more serious approach — analysing this data collectively to identify actionable insights aimed at lowering mortality rates.

Following the tragic deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan due to consumption of contaminated cough syrup, both public and private healthcare sys-



tems have come under scrutiny. In response, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in collaboration with the state government, is re-examining the availability and quality of medicines. Strict directives have been issued to all health agencies to prevent such incidents in Maharashtra. Experts have also highlighted that this extensive data will help determine which medicines are effective for specific illnesses and which are not.

Although individual hospital deaths are analysed, a state-level understanding of these patterns is essential. As a result, each public hospital in the state is now required to

fill out a Google Form with comprehensive information on patient deaths. A committee will collectively study the data gathered through this initiative.

Learning from experience

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the mortality analysis committee's studies helped hospitals enhance the quality of care. They discovered patterns such as higher death rates during specific time frames and among particular age groups. One key finding was that most deaths among critically ill patients occurred at midnight, prompting changes in shift

schedules for better service delivery. The availability of data on which medications were most effective for symptom-based treatments also proved useful. It is expected that the new, more in-depth analytical approach will further support such improvements.

Incomplete implementation of HMIS

The Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) was introduced for public hospitals three years ago, but it is yet to become fully operational. At present, it functions only at the Outpatient Department (OPD) level, serving limited purposes like retrieving and recording case papers. There is no detailed documentation of inpatients' medical history within the hospitals.

To fully implement HMIS in major public hospitals — including those in Mumbai — between 700 and 1,000 computers are required. While around 100 computers have been supplied to some hospitals, many remain unused due to lack of connectivity. Some hospitals are also facing network issues. As a result, due to the incomplete rollout of HMIS, there is currently no comprehensive recording of a patient's journey from admission to discharge.

CET Cell to verify documents

Infiltration of out-of-state students in Maha MBBS admissions

Pune Mirror Bureau
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Serious questions have been raised over the integrity of Maharashtra's medical admission process after it emerged that several students from outside the state have allegedly secured seats in the ongoing MBBS admission rounds. The third-round registration list has revealed names of candidates from Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, some of whom are reportedly already admitted to prestigious institutions such as AIIMS — yet still appear in Maharashtra's merit list. Following these revelations, the State CET Cell has initiated verification of the documents of such students and has sought their original certificates for scrutiny.

The incident has sparked outrage among Maharashtra's medical aspirants, who allege that their rightful seats are being unfairly taken by outsiders through fraudulent means. Student organisations have condemned the episode as 'direct attack' on local students' rights, citing poor transparency, lax verification, and technical irregularities in the admission process. According to preliminary reports, nearly 60 students from other states are suspected to have submitted fake domicile certificates claiming to be residents of Maharashtra to gain admission under the 85% state quota, which is reserved for local candidates. The remaining 15% seats are allotted to students under the All-India and NRI quotas.

Shockingly, several of these students are already enrolled in medical colleges through the All-India quota or in their home states but have simultaneously registered for admission in Maharashtra. This has raised suspicions of an organised admission racket involving middlemen or agents. Many of these candidates do not meet Maharashtra's domicile criteria, leading to widespread anger among parents and legitimate candidates. Student unions have demanded an immediate inquiry, cancellation of fraudulent admissions, and the filing of criminal charges against those found guilty. They have also urged the Chief Minister and Union Health Ministry to intervene without delay.

Student groups have gone a step further, demanding that such students be barred from pursuing medical education for at least five to six years, warning that those entering the profession through deceit may become 'unethical or criminal-minded doctors' in the future.

When contacted, Dilip Sardesai, Commissioner, State CET Cell, said, "We have instructed these students to email their original registration documents for verification. Time has been given for this process, as their names are already in the system. However, admission will proceed only after thorough verification of the original documents."

Ordinance for agri markets

Eight APMCs from Mumbai, Pune in the first phase

Pune Mirror Bureau
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Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat has issued an ordinance amending the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1963 to establish 'National Importance Markets' in the state. The ordinance, promulgated on October 13, lays the groundwork for a new structure of agricultural market regulation, under which government-appointed members will now be selected from the Konkan Revenue Division for the designated market committees.

Until now, 12 directors were elected to each Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) from various revenue divisions. However, under the new ordinance, government nominees will be drawn exclusively from the Konkan division. In the first phase, eight out of the 51 APMCs across Maharashtra are expected to be included in this new framework. These are likely to include markets from Mumbai, Pune, Solapur, Nagpur, Latur, Sangli, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, and Kolhapur.

According to officials from the state's marketing department, while the legal changes apply to 51 of the 306 APMCs in Maharashtra, only eight committees will be prioritised for inclusion in the first stage of



FILE PHOTO

implementation.

The ordinance specifies that markets with an annual turnover of not less than 80,000 metric tonnes — or an equivalent value as periodically notified by the government — and those sourcing agricultural produce from at least two states, may be designated as "markets of national importance." This effectively allows any existing APMC meeting these criteria to be upgraded to a national-level market.

Significantly, once a notification declaring a market as one of "national importance" is issued under Section 5-1(A) of the amended Act, the existing market committee will cease to function, and all current members will immediately vacate their positions.

The Maharashtra Gazette dated October 13, 2025, further notes that the Act empowers market committees to regulate and promote the purchase and sale of agricultural and allied produce in market areas, including private markets and farmer-consumer markets established across the state.

United they stand...

Uddhav Thackeray to inaugurate MNS's Diwali fest

Pune Mirror Bureau
feedback@punemirror.com
@ThePuneMirror

It appears that Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) Chief Raj Thackeray's political stance is shifting for the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections. In recent weeks, several developments have indicated a growing alignment between Raj Thackeray and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray. Adding to this perception, the Thackeray brothers are now set to share the stage at Shivaji Park for the MNS-organised Deepotsav (festival of lights). This marks the seventh meeting between the brothers in recent months, bringing a sense of optimism and excitement among the cadres of both parties.

In a symbolic gesture ahead of Diwali, Uddhav will inaugurate the MNS's annual Deepotsav celebration at Shivaji Park on October 17. The event, known for its grand lighting and festive atmosphere, has traditionally been a major attraction in Mumbai's cultural calendar. This year, however, its political undertones are unmistakable.

The renewed camaraderie between Uddhav and Raj Thackeray has sparked speculation in political circles about a possible alliance between Shiv Sena (UBT) and the MNS. Although Raj Thackeray has not made any for-



Raj and Uddhav Thackeray

mal statement regarding such a tie-up, Uddhav Thackeray has hinted on several occasions at the possibility of uniting the two factions. Their recent family interactions have further fueled speculation that the Thackerays could be moving toward political reconciliation ahead of crucial civic polls.

In a notable shift, this year's Deepotsav will see Uddhav Thackeray replacing Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who inaugurated the event in previous years. An invitation card circulating on social media confirms his presence as the chief guest, identifying him as the 'Shiv Sena Party President'.

The event is expected to draw prominent artists and political figures alike, but all eyes will be on the Thackeray brothers—whose reunion could reshape political equations in Maharashtra's most influential civic body election.

Crackers in Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI
 @ThePuneMirror

The Supreme Court on Wednesday permitted the sale and bursting of green crackers in Delhi-NCR for Diwali.

Allowing the joint request of the Centre and Delhi government, a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran relaxed the ban on green firecrackers.

It asked the Central Pollution Control Boards and state pollution control boards of NCR to monitor the pollution level during Diwali and file reports before it. "As a temporary measure, we allow bursting of crackers from October 18 to 21," the bench said. "Crackers are smuggled into Delhi-NCR and they cause more damage," the CJ said. **PTI**

Lanka PM in India today

NEW DELHI
 @ThePuneMirror

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Aamarasuriya will undertake a three-day visit to India beginning Thursday, in what will be her first trip to India after assuming charge of the top office.

Aamarasuriya will meet Indian political leaders to discuss bilateral issues of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. Her visit to India comes over six months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to the island nation.

The Sri Lankan prime minister's visit continues the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Sri Lanka, advancing the deep and multi-faceted bilateral ties, the MEA said in a statement. **PTI**

Joint India, EU training

NEW DELHI
 @ThePuneMirror

The European Union (EU) and India jointly carried out a first-of-its-kind counter-terror training to protect critical infrastructure and soft targets against emerging threats from hostile drones.

The three-day exercise that concluded in Gurugram on Wednesday brought together senior officers, instructors and technical experts from India's National Security Guard (NSG) and the EU's High Risk Security Network (HRSN).

The rapid proliferation of Unmanned Aerial Systems and their misuse by state and non-state actors pose serious security threats, an EU readout said. **PTI**

'NDA IS ON ITS WAY OUT'

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor predicts national coalition's defeat in Bihar

PATNA
 @ThePuneMirror

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Wednesday donned the political strategist's hat to predict a certain defeat for the ruling NDA in Bihar, citing the inability of the BJP-led coalition to finalise seats and candidates.

In an exclusive interview with PTI, Kishor, who recently said the JD(U) would struggle to win even "25 seats" in the 243-strong assembly, claimed that the picture has only grown bleaker for the party headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

"The NDA is definitely on its way out and Nitish Kumar will not



Prashant Kishor. FILE PHOTO

return as chief minister", asserted Kishor, who has worked closely with the JD(U) supremo, both as a poll analyst and later, for a brief period, as a party colleague.

"You do not need to be a psephologist to fathom what is in store for the

Prashant Kishor has announced that he will not contest the Bihar polls, a decision, he claimed, was taken by the party for its greater good

JD(U). In the last assembly polls, Chirag Paswan staged a revolt just a few days ahead of the announcement of elections and fielded candidates, many of whom were inconsequential, against nominees of Kumar's party, causing its tally to crash to 43", recalled Kishor.

He also claimed that there was

"complete chaos" in NDA, and it was still unclear which seats the BJP would contest and where the JD(U) wants to field its candidates.

"The situation is no better in the INDIA bloc either. There is a never-ending tiff between RJD and the Congress. And nobody knows if former state minister Mukesh Sahani's Vikassheel Insaan Party is still by their side", claimed Kishor.

Meanwhile, in a significant development, Prashant Kishor has announced that he will not contest the Bihar assembly polls, a decision, he claimed, was taken by the party for its greater good. He also said a "tally of less than 150 seats" for Jan Suraj will be considered a defeat. **PTI**

Decisive blow to Naxals

Bhupathi's surrender weakens ideology, says Chhattisgarh Chief Minister

RAIPUR
 @ThePuneMirror

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Wednesday said the surrender of senior Naxalite Bhupathi and 60 other cadres in neighbouring Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district marks a decisive blow to the outlawed Naxal movement.

Naxalism, which challenged the country's internal security, is now on the verge of collapse and in its last leg of elimination, the CM said.

Senior Naxalite Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Bhupathi alias Sonu and 60 other cadres surrendered in Gadchiroli on Tuesday.

In a post on 'X', Sai said, "Naxalism, which challenged the country's internal security, is now collapsing on every front and is going through its final stage. The surrender of 60 Naxalites, including the notorious Maoist politburo member Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Sonu, in Gadchiroli is a decisive blow to the Naxalite ideology."



Senior Naxal leader Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Bhupathi holds a copy of the Constitution of India, in Gadchiroli, Wednesday. **PTI**

"Our valiant security forces are fighting this battle day and night with indomitable courage and are achieving success," he noted.

Sai said he has full faith that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the resolve to achieve a Naxal-free India by March 31, 2026, will surely be fulfilled.

"Chhattisgarh, especially Bastar, is now moving towards a new dawn of

development and peace that has been awaited for years. Jai Hind!", he added.

Venugopal Rao, also known by aliases Bhupathi, Sonu and Abhay, and 60 other cadres, surrendered in Gadchiroli along with their 54 weapons, which include seven AK-47s and nine INSAS rifles.

So far this year, 253 Naxalites have been killed in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh, the most notable being the killing of Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju (70), the general secretary and top-most operative of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), and five central committee members.

According to the Chhattisgarh police, after the elimination of the Maoists' general secretary and eight central committee members this year and the surrender of Sujatha (also a CC member) and Bhupathi, now nine politburo and CC members (top Maoist operatives) are left in the banned outfit, including the dreaded Maoist commander Madvi Hidma from the state. **PTI**

Govt disfavours lethal injection

NEW DELHI
 @ThePuneMirror

The problem is that the government is not ready to evolve, the Supreme Court observed on Wednesday after the Centre said it may not be "very feasible" to give the option to death row convicts to choose lethal injection as a mode of execution.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing a plea seeking removal of the present mode of execution of death row convicts by hanging from the statute.

Advocate Rishi Malhotra, who filed the petition, said at least an option should be given to a condemned prisoner as to whether he wanted hanging or lethal injection.

"I will demonstrate that the best way is lethal injection because 49 out of 50 states in the USA have adopted lethal injection," Malhotra said. **PTI**

Crewed Moon mission by 2040: ISRO chief

Maiden human spaceflight to launch in 2027, reveals V Narayanan

RANCHI
 @ThePuneMirror

ISRO chairman V Narayanan on Wednesday said the space agency has set a target of landing Indians on the Moon by 2040, while its maiden human spaceflight mission 'Gaganyaan' is on track for launch in 2027.

Narayanan said a slew of ambitious space projects and sector reforms were currently underway, including a national space station by 2035, and three uncrewed 'Gaganyaan' missions by 2026, with the first one that includes a half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra', targeted for December 2025.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a guideline for an indigenous crewed lunar mission by 2040, under which we have to land our own citizens on the moon and bring them back safely. A Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) has also been approved to study the planet," Narayanan said in an exclusive interview with PTI.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief said the Bharatiya Antriksh Station (BAS) is expected to come up by 2035, and initial modules in space are expected as early as 2027.

He was here to attend the 35th convocation ceremony of Ranchi-based Birla Institute of Technology (BIT) Mesra as the chief guest.

"There are a lot of developments in 'Gaganyaan'. We are planning some more experiments. Before the crewed mission, we are planning three uncrewed missions. 'Vyommitra' is going to fly on that in December this year. Two more uncrewed missions will take place next year. Crewed 'Gaganyaan' mission would be possible by 2027 first quarter," Narayanan added. With Modi defining a clear roadmap and rolling out reforms for the space sector, ISRO is moving with confidence and clarity towards realising the dream of a self-reliant and vibrant space ecosystem, he said.

He said India's upcoming projects include Chandrayaan-4 and

Chandrayaan-5, a new Mars mission, and AXOM, a high-priority astronomical observatory mission.

"The Aditya-L1 mission has already yielded over 15 terabits of solar data, with valuable insights into coronal mass ejections and space weather," Narayanan added.

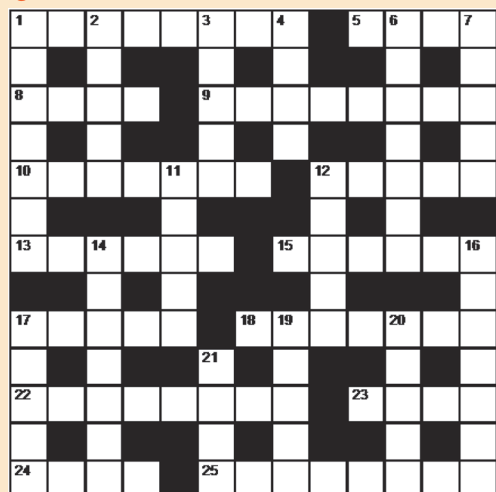
"We are open to international collaborations," he said, emphasising that while India is committed to self-reliance, climate science and space research, "how and where we collaborate will be debated and decided based on scientific and strategic priorities."

Narayanan said the space sector has been transformed through the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), which integrates start-ups and private players into the national ecosystem. **PTI**



Quick

6366



ACROSS

- 1 Scare (8)
- 5 Flows back (4)
- 8 Destruction (4)
- 9 Having three feet (8)
- 10 Naval officer (7)
- 12 Burst forth (5)
- 13 Ethics (6)
- 15 _____ Chatri : located in Wanowrie, this monument houses a Samadhi (6)
- 17 Attach (5)
- 18 Confers upon (7)
- 22 Hawaiian capital (8)
- 23 Refuse to grant (4)
- 24 Impertinent (4)
- 25 Having a job (8)

DOWN

- 1 Elbow to wrist (7)
- 2 Turn of phrase (5)
- 3 Four as a prefix (5)
- 4 Fixing pin (4)

- 6 Nomadic desert Arab (7)
- 7 Sever (5)
- 11 Rest (5)
- 12 Community spirit (5)
- 14 Purified (7)
- 16 Attempted (7)
- 17 Detest (5)
- 19 Fit out (5)
- 20 _____ one : singly? (3,2)
- 21 High-ranking British peer (4)

FOR ANSWER SCAN ↓



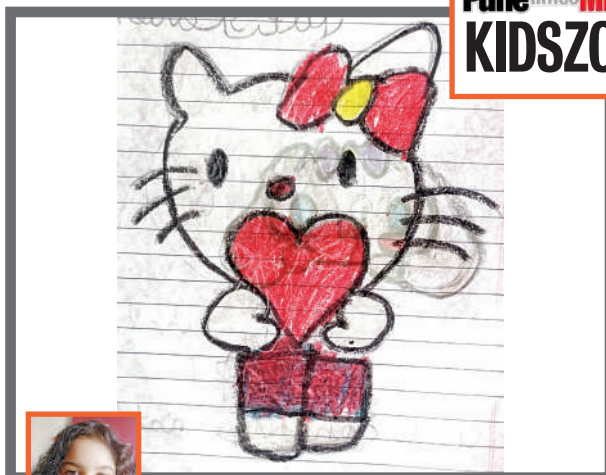
Please send copies of your children's artworks along with a photo of the artist in A4 size. Do mention their age and the name of the school they attend. You can also mail us unpublished poems by children.



Garv Arora, 8 Years,
Amanora School



Radhya Saraf, 5 years,
CNS School



Aahi Bhatt, 7 Years,
Educon International, Baner



Advik Amarnath Chaurasiya, 5 Years,
Priyadarshani School, Moshi

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KIDSZONE

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY



Aries

March 21 - April 20

The sky offers you the opportunity to make beautiful encounters, to enjoy special moments in the company of your children, and, if you desire, to renew passionate exchanges with your partner.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

A sky with squalls that will significantly refresh the atmosphere. As a family, you struggle to lift the heavy weight. It is necessary to conceive and propose solutions that will shake things up a bit but will have the merit of opening constructive pathways for the future.



Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Today, you will be well inspired to bring more balance to your lifestyle. Your vision is more objective. A slight fatigue is felt, a quiet evening would be ideal for you to recharge. So, rest in your cocoon.



Cancer

June 22 - July 23

The efforts of those around you deserve your approval. Admit it. Be a magnanimous person. There is too much movement around you, it exhausts you nervously. Give yourself time to be alone with yourself to recharge your batteries.



Leo

July 24 - August 23

You are proving to be very effective and especially very persuasive on this day when your common sense and your dynamism will rally support and will successfully defend your cause! Pleasant exchanges are on the agenda, enjoy it!



Virgo

August 24 - September 23

You will instinctively direct your dialogues smoothly where you want, gently. It is the time to express your projects, to talk about your desires, to make yourself understood beyond your contradictions.



Libra

September 24 - October 22

The climate is calmer, you are at peace. You realize that you have made good choices. An intensive workout would do you a world of good despite your fears, admit it... You would regain your energy.



Scorpio

October 23 - November 22

You will have clear ideas to deepen connections that ultimately deserve it, and you feel it. This day is ideal for starting a diet. Reframe your diet according to your activity.



Sagittarius

November 23 - December 22

The outside advice will help you improve your future plans. Be receptive to older people. Everything is going well in terms of your physical and moral balance. Avoid stretching yourself too thin in several directions at once.



Capricorn

December 23 - January 20

You will feel that everything is happening too quickly, your exchanges will help maintain the pace. You are in deep agreement with yourself, your balance is strengthening, doing some sport would be welcome nonetheless.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 19

Your self-confidence will make others envious! This may lead you into curious misunderstandings. You will spontaneously lean more towards harmony concerning your lifestyle... Add more leisure activities.



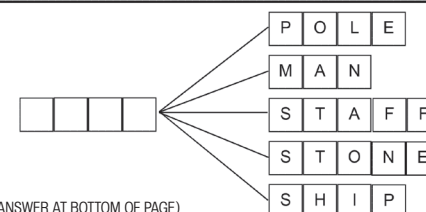
Pisces

February 20 - March 20

Your emotionality, denser than usual, is positive if you take the opportunity to truly pick up on the signals from your body. Take care of yourself. Your kindness and availability will be appreciated. Take the time to bury the hatchet.

DOUBLE - BARRELLED

What word can be placed in front of the five words shown to form in each case another word?



(ANSWER AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)

HOCUSFOCUS



Differences: 1. Button is smaller. 2. Pad is longer. 3. Chair is missing. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Blinds are different. 6. Window is added to building.

ANSWER FOR DOUBLE-BARRELLED : Flag



ASK THE SEXPERT

DR ROHAN JAHAGIRDAR

Psychiatrist & Sexpert

1 I am a 20-year-old man. I would like to know if I need to warm up before sex?

Dear Sir, I hope you understand that you're not going in for a boxing match! Although it is a physical activity, the good preparation for it would be a nice foreplay, but I don't think calling it a warm up would be appreciated by your partner!

2 I'm a 60-year-old man. I would like to know if a man stays away from sex, he will never get prostate cancer?

Dear Sir, considering your age, if you're asking the question for your own self I'm sorry to disappoint you but sex is not considered as a risk factor for prostate cancer. If you don't ever have sex you are still at equal risk of getting it. So I suggest you stop overthinking and enjoy your life!

3 I'm a 30-year-old female. Do I need to be in love with my partner to have great passionate sex?

Dear Ma'am, since sex is an extension of emotions, being in love will certainly make it more passionate and romantic. Without emotions it will be more like a procedure and you may end up faking a few things.

4 I'm a 55-year-old man. Is Viagra safe to take along with my blood thinner medication?

Sir, it is generally considered to be safe as there is no known interaction between Viagra and blood thinners. However, I suggest you go ahead only after consulting with your treating doctor.



SEND YOUR QUERIES RELATED TO SEXUAL PROBLEMS TO
sexpert@punemirror.com



FLAVOURS OF FESTIVITY

This Diwali, light your home with joy — and your table with recipes that glow with the spirit of tradition, creativity, and family

As diyas flicker, homes glow, and laughter fills the air, the aroma of festive delicacies completes the magic of Diwali. Beyond lights and décor, it's the feast that truly captures the spirit of the festival — where generations gather to cook, share, and indulge. From melt-in-your-mouth sweets to savoury delights, Diwali food is all about celebrating abundance, warmth, and togetherness. Here's a round-up of must-try Diwali recipes — traditional favourites and modern interpretations that bring both nostalgia and novelty to your table.

Traditional sweet treats that define Diwali

- **Besan Ladoo:** Soft, aromatic, and melt-in-the-mouth — besan ladoos are a quintessential Diwali favourite. Made from roasted gram flour, ghee, and sugar, their nutty fragrance fills the home with nostalgia. Add a handful of chopped almonds or pistachios for extra crunch and richness.
- **Kaju Katli:** This diamond-shaped delicacy made from cashew nuts and sugar syrup symbolizes luxury and celebration. Its silky texture and delicate sweetness make it an all-time crowd-pleaser — perfect for gifting or serving after a festive meal.
- **Gulab Jamun:** Golden-brown dumplings soaked in rose-scented sugar syrup — the classic gulab jamun never goes out of style. Try a twist this Diwali by stuffing them with dry fruits or flavoring the syrup with saffron and cardamom.
- **Rava Barfi or Coconut Barfi:** Quick to prepare and impossible to resist, these barfis are light yet indulgent. Grated coconut, condensed milk, and ghee come together to create a tropical sweetness that melts in your mouth.
- **Motichoor Ladoo:** Tiny golden pearls bound together in ghee — motichoor ladoos are the crown jewels of Indian festivities. Add silver vark and edible flowers for an elegant presentation this season.

gant presentation this season.

Savoury snacks for endless conversations

- **Namak Pare and Shakar Pare:** Crunchy, flaky, and lightly seasoned, these bite-sized snacks are perfect with chai or during card parties. Prepare a big batch and store them in airtight containers — they last for weeks and keep the festive snacking spirit alive.
- **Mathri:** A Rajasthani classic, mathri is a deep-fried flaky biscuit flavored with ajwain (carom seeds). Pair it with tangy achaar or chutney for a savory indulgence that perfectly balances the sweetness of festive desserts.
- **Chivda Mix:** This roasted or fried mixture of flattened rice, peanuts, curry leaves, and spices is light yet addictive. Every household has its own version — sweet, spicy, or tangy — making it a personalized Diwali signature snack.
- **Dhokla Bites or Khaman Cubes:** For a lighter touch, try mini dhoklas or khaman squares topped with tempered sesame seeds and curry leaves. They add a soft, tangy contrast to the crispier fried treats on your platter.

Modern twists on traditional favourites

- **Chocolate Barfi:** Give the traditional barfi a modern spin by adding layers of dark or milk chocolate. It's a perfect fusion of East and West — ideal for younger guests or those with a global palate.
- **Baked Gujiya:** Skip the deep fryer and bake your gujias for a healthier, equally delicious version. Stuff them with khoya, nuts, and desiccated coconut — the result is golden, crisp, and guilt-free.
- **Rose and Pistachio Shrikhand Cups:** This creamy dessert served in mini bowls or glasses looks as elegant as it tastes. Infused with rose water and topped with chopped pistachios, it adds a delicate floral note to your Diwali menu.
- **Paneer Tikka Skewers with Mint**

Yogurt Dip: Add a savoury showstopper to your Diwali dinner. Marinated paneer cubes grilled to perfection, served with a refreshing mint dip — the ideal balance of spice and smokiness.

■ **Saffron Phirni in Clay Pots:** Creamy rice pudding infused with saffron and cardamom, set in traditional earthen pots — phirni combines nostalgia with artistry. Garnish with crushed nuts and rose petals for a royal finish.

■ **A celebration of taste and togetherness:** At its heart, Diwali isn't just about what's on the plate — it's about the memories created around it. Whether you're stirring ghee in a kadhai, sharing sweets with neighbors, or plating up a fusion dish for friends, every flavor tells a story of warmth, love, and celebration.



Pro tips for a flavourful festive spread

- **Plan ahead:** Prepare sweets like ladoos and barfis a few days in advance to save time.
- **Mix textures:** Combine soft desserts with crunchy snacks for a balanced spread.
- **Garnish with gold:** Edible silver leaf, rose petals, and nuts elevate presentation instantly.
- **Healthier alternatives:** Swap sugar syrup for jaggery or bake instead of frying where possible.
- **Serve in style:** Use brass thalis, banana leaves, or glass jars for a traditional yet elegant touch.