

CHALLENGE TO MARATHA QUOTA

Newly constituted HC bench to hear pleas afresh from Oct 9

Hearing after Justice Ghuge's elevation as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court

Omkar Gokhale
Mumbai, September 18

THE LEGAL challenge to Maharashtra's 10% Maratha reservation law will be heard afresh by a newly constituted three-judge bench of the Bombay High Court from October 9, after the elevation of Justice Ravindra V Ghuge as Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court disrupted the proceedings.

This is the second time in two years that the proceedings have been affected by a change

in the bench.

The earlier bench led by Justice Ghuge had conducted more than 20 hearings over nearly a year.

The challenge comes more than two-and-a-half years after the Maharashtra legislature enacted the law in February 2024.

The law provides 10% reservation in education and government jobs to the Maratha community under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) category.

The new bench, comprising Justices Makarand S Karnik, N J Jamadar and Sandeep V Marne, said it would first hear the petitioners, followed by Advocate General Milind Sathe for the state government and lawyers representing the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission.

Intervenor will be heard thereafter, if required. Justices Jamadar and Marne were also part of the earlier bench.

Responding to a request from lawyers, the bench said it would not be able to hear the matter on a daily basis.

The proceedings had earlier faced a similar setback after the first round of hearings before a bench headed by then Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya remained incomplete following his transfer as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, which was cleared in January 2025.

In an interim order in 2024, that bench had directed that admissions and government appointments made under the 2024 law would remain subject to further orders.

During the previous hearings, petitioners argued that

the law was “unconstitutional” as it breached the 50% ceiling on reservations and that such an exception required a constitutional amendment.

They also contended that the 2024 legislation did not substantially differ from the Maratha quota law struck down in 2018, except for the state's reliance on a larger survey conducted by the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission under retired Justice S B Shukre.

The state has defended the legislation, arguing that it addressed deficiencies in the earlier law and was enacted in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines.

It has maintained that the quota could be revisited and a fresh law enacted on the basis of a detailed, large-scale survey.

MHADA opposes plea in HC against football ground conversion

Omkar Gokhale
Mumbai, September 18

THE MAHARASHTRA Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) on Friday opposed a plea filed by the Mumbai Football Association (MFA) against the proposed conversion of the Neville D'Souza Football Ground at Bandra Reclamation into an exhibition/convention centre, calling the petition “misconceived” and “premature” and based on “apprehensions and assumptions” without any “final adverse civil consequence”.

Meanwhile, a Bombay High Court bench led by Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi said it would hear the MFA's plea next on October 8. The HC had earlier passed an interim order halting further steps towards the proposed conversion until further orders.

In an affidavit, MHADA said the MFA had challenged internal correspondence and preliminary considerations before any modification to the Development Plan had been sanctioned by the state government under the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (MRTP) Act.

MHADA also denied that the MFA had been using and maintaining the plot “for organised football as of right”.

“The use, if any, was only by virtue of temporary permissions/NOCs, which were limited in tenure and subject to express terms and conditions,” the affidavit filed by Sujata Gawande, architect and planner with MHADA, stated.

The authority said the MFA could not claim a right to continue using the plot merely because it had previously been granted temporary permissions.

It pointed out that the association's earlier permission had expired on September 21, 2024, and said the MFA had “no right of any nature in respect of subject plot”.

MHADA also denied the allegation that it had acted with a commercial motive or for “extraneous gain”, stating that reservations for a “convention complex” appeared in earlier planning records.

On August 20, two days after the BMC general body cleared the conversion proposal, another HC bench directed the civic body, state government and MHADA not to initiate any further steps “until further hearing and orders in this matter”.

During the hearing, the bench questioned where people would play football if the ground was converted, observing that open spaces needed to be protected or the next generation would forget “Maidani Khel (field sports)”.

The MFA has challenged the BMC Improvements Committee's May recommendation to change the reservation of the plot from a playground under Section 37(1) of the MRTP Act, following MHADA's request in November.

The BMC, however, said its general body had only decided to publish a notice inviting suggestions and objections, and that any change in reservation would take effect only after a decision by the state government.

The HC had earlier observed that it was “unfortunate” that an oral assurance given by the BMC lawyer on August 10, that no further action would be taken on the recommendation, was not communicated to BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide by the civic body's law officers.

DISHA SALIAN CASE

Raut cites conspiracy, Rane says could lead to Aaditya's questioning

Express News Service
Mumbai, September 18

THE POLITICAL war over the CBI probe into Disha Saliان's death intensified on Thursday, with Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut alleging a campaign to defame the Thackeray family, while state minister Nitesh Rane said repeated statements by Sena (UBT) leaders could lead to MLA Aaditya Thackeray being questioned by the agency.

Raut said the Thackerays had nothing to do with Saliان's death and alleged a conspiracy behind the campaign.

“This drama must stop. Some drunkards and chest-thumpers have come together and are conspiring against us. There is a Nepal connection behind this. Money is being supplied to defame the Thackeray family,” Raut said.

He alleged that financial support was being provided for the campaign but did not provide evidence. “The conspiracy to defame us will not succeed,” he said.

Raut also objected to the proposed serving of a defamation notice on Aaditya at the Thackerays' residence, Matoshree. He said the CBI had been asked to investigate the case and that there was “no accused” at this stage.

Rane, meanwhile, said statements by Raut, Sena (UBT) leader Sushma Andhare and

party chief Uddhav Thackeray could increase scrutiny of Aaditya.

“The more Sanjay Raut, Sushma Andhare and Uddhav Thackeray speak about this case and try to put pressure, the more their difficulties will increase. If they want Aaditya Thackeray to be arrested, they should keep speaking,” Rane said in an interaction with a Marathi news channel.

Rane claimed that continued public statements could leave the CBI with no option but to arrest Aaditya and question him.

The CBI registered an FIR on September 14 following the Bombay High Court's September 2 order directing an investigation into Saliان's death. The FIR names several people, including Aaditya Thackeray, actors Sooraj Pancholi, Rhea Chakraborty and Dino Morea, among others, whose roles are to be investigated.

While ordering the probe, the High Court had specifically said that no person should be treated as an accused unless sufficient material was gathered against them during the investigation.

Saliان, who had worked as Sushant Singh Rajput's celebrity manager, died in Mumbai in June 2020, days before the actor's death. Allegations linking the two cases have since featured repeatedly in political and media debates.



Devotees carry Ganpati idols for immersion at Dadar Chowpatty in Mumbai on Friday. AKASH PATIL

Donations pour in for Lalbaugcha Raja: Rs 3.18 cr in cash, gold, silver

Pratip Acharya
Mumbai, September 18

IN THE first three days of Ganeshotsav, Mumbai's iconic Lalbaugcha Raja Ganesh Mandal has received donations worth Rs 3.18 crore in cash, including US dollars, gold, and silver jewellery.

Lalbaugcha Raja is one of Mumbai's famous Sarvajanik Ganesh Mandals, attracting lakhs of devotees every year during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. Not just common people, Lalbaugcha Rajas also regularly frequented by Bollywood biggies, politicians, and business tycoons during the 10-day festival.

Earlier this week, on the first day of the festival, Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the puja mandal with his family.

The Ambanis, Shah Rukh Khan, his son AbRam, and actor Ranveer Singh were also spotted taking blessings at the Lalbaugcha.

With the footfall comes donations — in crores.

What Lalbaugcha received in donations

The donation boxes are opened every day after the puja rituals.

According to the Lalbaugcha managing committee, the mandal received Rs 1.9 crore in cash in the first three days of the festival.

It also received 647.47 grams of gold worth Rs 98.9 lakh, and around 12,389 grams of silver worth Rs 30.35 lakh. The total valuation of the donation stands at Rs 3.18 crore.

The gold and silver donated to the Lalbaugcha include gold bangles, chains, silver pens, silver-carved cricket bats and more.

The foreign exchange currencies are yet to be valued as per the day's ongoing exchange rates.

On the first day, the temple had received Rs 48.5 lakh in cash, 66.77 grams of gold and

2806 grams of silver. The next day, on September 16, the donation box contained Rs 88.9 lakh in cash, 226.12 grams of gold and 5,516 grams of silver.

On September 17, the mandal retrieved Rs 53 lakh in cash, 354.58 grams of gold and 4,067 grams of silver.

“The donation boxes are being opened and scrutinized by a team comprising officials of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), members of Bank of Maharashtra and the managing committee member of the Lalbaugcha Raja trust,” a member of the trust told the *Indian Express*.

The money received will be sent to the bank and will be used for various charitable works that are carried out by the organisation throughout the year,” the trust member added.

The Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations started on September 14, and the 10-day-long festival will continue until Friday, September 25.

Aadhaar OTP after biometric failures allowed in NCMC

Ishika Gupta
Mumbai, September 18

THE MAHARASHTRA State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) has introduced changes to the registration and distribution process for National Common Mobility Cards

(NCMC) for passengers eligible for fare concessions, including ‘Amrut Senior Citizens’, senior citizens and women.

From September 21, ‘Amrut Senior Citizen’ beneficiaries whose fingerprints do not match during biometric verification will be able to complete NCMC

registration using a one-time password (OTP) sent to the mobile number linked to their Aadhaar card.

The corporation will also introduce a facility from September 21 to block lost or stolen NCMC cards and register for replacement cards on payment of

a fee of Rs 199. NCMC cards will be distributed from September 25 to beneficiaries who complete registration by September 19.

Concession-eligible passengers registering for an NCMC card from September 16 will receive a registration receipt containing a QR code.

Farmers' union warns of protest against early cane crushing order

Express News Service
Mumbai, September 18

THE SWABHIMANI Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) farmers' union has threatened a state-wide agitation and said it would force sugar mills to shut operations if the Maharashtra government does not withdraw its directive to begin the 2026-27 sugarcane crushing season from October 15.

SSS president Raju Shetti said the early start would force farmers to harvest immature cane, resulting in lower weight and sugar recovery and causing financial losses. The organisation has convened a sugarcane council meeting on October 10 to decide its course of action.

“The government's directives to sugar mills to start cane crushing from October 15 goes against farmers who grow sugar cane. The government is concerned about increasing sugar stock without taking into account farmers' interest. We will not allow this to happen. If sugar mills start cane crushing, we will force them shut,” Shetti said.

He said allowing sugarcane to mature until November

could improve sugar recovery by 1-1.5 percentage points. According to him, farmers could lose up to Rs 500 per quintal because of lower weight and sugar recovery.

The government announced October 15 as the start of the crushing season after a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, citing rising sugar prices and the need to ensure supplies during the festive season.

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Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post
(i)	Legal Expert	1

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Chief General Manager (Traffic)

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Interested, reputed, and financially sound H&T contractors with proven capabilities may obtain the requisite documents from the State Manager (Mktg.), Maharashtra or download them from our website: <https://kribhco.net/pages/other/lender.php>. The completed documents should be submitted in the prescribed format by registering on the website on or before 10.10.2026, up to 05:00 PM.

For any clarification, the SUMM, KRIBHCO may be contacted on any working day between 09:30 AM and 06:00 PM. KRIBHCO reserves the right to reject any or all applications, or to postpone/extend the deadline for receipt, acceptance, and/or opening of applications at its sole discretion. KRIBHCO's decision in this regard shall be final and binding.

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APPLICATION INVITED FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY & CURATOR

Advertisement No. 01/2026

Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, invites applications from the eligible candidates to fill up the post of Secretary & Curator in the Pay Matrix of Level -13 (**Rs.1,23,100-2,15,900/-**) by Direct Recruitment failing which by Deputation or transfer. The tenure to the post shall be for a maximum period of 05 (five) years or till attaining the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier, vide DoPT **Office Memorandum No.AB-14017/12/2022-Estt.(RR) dated 24.06.2022.** The post carries usual allowances as admissible to Central Government employees. For details, please visit to our website www.victoriameorial-cal.org Applications along with the required documents and credentials in the prescribed format should reach the **Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor, Lok Bhavan, Kolkata – 700062 latest by 26.10.2026 at 5:00 pm.**

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बनाएँ स्वच्छता का चक्र
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SALE NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E- Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable assets under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/s and guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the bank of Maharashtra, the **Physical/Symbolic possession** of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 06/10/2026 between 01.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m. for recovery of balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the borrower(s) and Guarantor(s), as mentioned in the table. Details of the borrower/s and guarantor/s, amount due, short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under: -

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Amount Due	Short description of the immovable property with known encumbrances	Reserve Price Earnest Money (EMD) Bid Increase Amount (for all three Borrower Loan accounts)
1	M/s. A. K. Traders Through Prop. Mr. Raees Ahmad Mohammed Aarif Guarantor: Mr. Mohammed Shahzad Mohammed Arif (Branch: Malegaon (Nashik))	Rs. 3,07,85,732/- plus unapplied interest, legal and other expenses/ charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 06.01.2026	Name of Property Holder: Mr. Mohammed Shahzad Mohammed Aarif S/o Sh. Mohammed Aarif Wali Mohammed. Registered Mortgage of all the piece & parcel of land & building at village Dyane, Gat. No. 184/1, Plot No. 63, Tal. Malegaon, Dist. Nashik, plot adm area 300.00 sq.mts. Boundaries: East : Gat.No. 65, Open Space, West - 25 Feet Road, North : Plot No. 62, South - Open Space, Assets ID : 200102860584 Physical possession	Rs. 58,32,000/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Only) Rs. 5,83,200/- (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Two Hundred Only) Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
2	Mr. Mothabahu Pandit Ahire Mrs. Savita Mothabahu Ahire (Branch: Deola)	Rs.24,43,666/- plus unapplied interest, legal and other expenses/charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 07.04.2026	Registered Mortgage property of all piece and parcel of Gat No. 959/3, Plot No. 10 Three Row Houses Constructed thereupon out of that row house unit no. 3 southern side Plot Adm. Area 60.00 Sq. Mtrs, Parking 5.25 Sq. Mtrs., Total Adm. Area 65.25 Sq. Mtrs Ground Floor + First Floor, Total Built up area 92.75 sq.mtr. Situated At Lohaner, Tal. Deola, Dist. Nashik. Owned By Mr. Mothabahu Pandit Ahire & Mrs. Savita Mothabahu Ahire. BOUNDARIES: EAST: Plot No. 9 & Gat No. 959, WEST: 9 Meter Colony Road, NORTH: Row, House Unit No. 2 Out of Plot No. 959/3/10, SOUTH: Amenity Plot No. 6. CERSA ID: 200078455535 Physical possession	Rs. 19,71,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Seventy One Thousand Only) Rs. 1,97,100/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand One Hundred Only) Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)
3	Mr. Sandip Mohan Saner (Branch: Tembhe)	Rs. 15,52,234/- plus unapplied interest, legal and other expenses/charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 10.06.2025	Registered Mortgage of Plot No. 5, S. No 217/4, Bhayagaon, Taluka Malegaon, District – Nashik, Maharashtra, 423203 Having Area 82.56 Sq Mtr. Owned By Mr. Sandip Mohan Saner. Boundaries: East: P.N.6, West: P.N.5 Part, North: Attached G.N.217/3, South: 6 Mts Road. CERSA ID: 200075417876 Symbolic possession	Rs. 19,61,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Sixty One Thousand Only) Rs. 1,96,100/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Six Thousand One Hundred Only) Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)
4	Mr. Nikhil Sunil Mistari Mrs. Divya Sunil Mistari (Branch: Malegaon (Nasik))	Rs. 30,03,157/- plus unapplied interest, legal and other expenses/charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 15.04.2025	Registered Mortgage of Plot No is. No/ CTS No/ Gat No Milkat No 27, S No 217/4 Flat/ House No. Building/wing Floor- O, Bhayagaon Malegaon 423203. Adm. 162.43 Sq. Mtr. (Total Plot area) and 76.40 Sq. Mtr. (Builtup area) Boundaries: East: Road, West: Adj. G.No. 207, North: Plot No 27 Part, South: Plot No 28. CERSA ID: 200084234909 Physical possession	Rs. 25,45,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Forty Five Thousand Only) Rs. 2,54,500/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Five Hundred Only) Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)
5	Mr. Ramesh Pandharinath Hire Mrs. Megha Pandharinath Hire (Branch: Satana)	Rs. 18,64,233/- plus unapplied interest, legal and other expenses/ charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 24.06.2025	Survey No 782/1 Western Side Row House No 03, Part Of Plot No 09, Total Plot Area 69.9 Sq Mt Built Up Area 51.01 Sq Mt In Satana Withn Satana Municipal Council Jurisdiction Owned By Mr. Ramesh Pandharinath Hire And Mrs. Megha Pandharinath Hire. Boundaries (East, West, South and North) : East : Row House No 2, West: Plot No 8, North: 6 Mt Colony Road, South : Adjutant Property. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 20,06,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Six Thousand Only) Rs. 2,00,600/- (Rupees Two Lakh Six Hundred Only) Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)
6	Mauli Trading Co. prop Sanjay Dattatray Yeole Branch : Malegaon (Nasik)	Rs. 1,75,03,264/- plus unapplied interest, legal and other expenses/ charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 15.04.2026	'Datta Vatsalya' Land and Building in S. No. 15/2, Plot No 53 At Soygaon, Malegaon, Tal Malegaon 423203. Adm. 183.75 Sq. Mtr. (total Area) 198.84 Sq. Mtr. (Builtup Area) Boundaries: East: 9 Mt Road, West: S.No 15/1, South: Plot No 54, North: Plot No 52. CERSA IASSET ID: 200090799158 Symbolic Possession	Rs. 78,87,000/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Only) Rs. 7,88,700/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Only) Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

E-AUCTION DATE 06/10/2026 BETWEEN 01.00 P.M. TO 05.00 P.M.
Date & Time of Inspection of Property on: 21/09/2026 to 05/10/2026 between 11.00 am. to 5.00 pm.
Last Date & Time for Deposit of EMD and Proof: 05/10/2026 upto 5.00 pm.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link <https://bankofmaharashtra.bank.in> provided in the Bank's website and also on <https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/x-login> or Contact. Mr. Anas Ali (Mobile 9718617198), Mr. Chetan Kapadnis (Mobile 8956495433) and Mr.Dnyaneshwar Dhadade, Chief Manager (Mob.No.8459141304).

Place : Malegaon
Date : 18/09/2026

Authorized Officer
Bank of Maharashtra, Malegaon Zone