MPSC secretary's face blackened as SIT fails to quell statewide stir

Express News Service
Mumbai, September 11

THE MAHARASHTRA government's announcement of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe alleged malpractices in Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) recruitment exams has failed to quell student and opposition protests, with the agitation escalating on Friday as workers of Maratha outfit Sambhaji Brigade blackened the face of MPSC secretary Mahendra Harpalkar.

The action drew a warning from Minister of State for Home Yogesh Kadam, who said the government would not allow the law-and-order situation in the state to deteriorate. Sambhaji Brigade Maharashtra spokesperson Santosh Shinde, however, said the action reflected public anger against the government.

Meanwhile, NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar joined a student protest in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, demanding the removal of MPSC chairman Vivek Bhimanwar and Harpalkar. Pawar said he did not support the act of throwing ink at an individual, but questioned the government over repeated allegations of paper leaks, postponement of examinations and tender-related irregularities.

HDFC BANK

HDFC BANK LIMITED

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE (Sale through E-bidding Only)

Branch: Mayfair Tower – Wakdewadi
Tel: 020-25505000 **CIN :** L65920MH1994PLC080618 **Website:** www.hdfcbank.com

HDFC Bank Limited (hereinafter referred to as **"HDFC"**) is a Bank within the meaning of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). By and under an Order dated 17th March 2023 passed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai, HDFC Limited has been amalgamated into HDFC Bank Limited, as a going concern and consequently all assets and liabilities of HDFC Limited automatically stand vested in **'HDFC Bank Limited'**. Accordingly, all contracts, deeds, bonds, agreements, arrangements and other instruments of whatsoever nature to which HDFC Limited is a party or a beneficiary, shall continue to be in full force and effect as if HDFC Bank Limited were a party. Accordingly, HDFC Bank Limited shall be legally entitled to take steps towards the Loan Agreement, including enforcement, if applicable.
E- Auction Sale Notice for Sale for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso 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) indicated in **Column (A)** that the below described immovable property(ties) described in **Column (C)** mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken as described in **Column (D)** by the Authorised Officer of HDFC Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** as per the details mentioned below :
Notice is hereby given to Borrower / Mortgagor(s) / legal heirs, legal representatives (whether known or unknown), executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s) and assign(s) of the respective Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s)(since deceased), as the case may be, indicated in **Column (A)** under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in HDFC Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.HDFCBANK.Com

Sr. No.	Name/s of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Legal Heirs and Legal Representatives (whether known or unknown) Executor(s), Administrator(s), Successor(s) & Assign(s) of the respective Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) (since deceased), as the case may be.	Outstanding Dues to be recovered (Secured Debt) (Rs.)	Description of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset (1 sq. mtr. is equivalent to 10.76 sq. ft.)	i. Reserve Price (Rs.) ii. Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) iii. Type of Possession	i) Combined Reserve Price (Rs.) ii) Bid Incrmental Rate	Date(s) and Time of Inspection	Last Date of Submission of Bids	Date(s) and Time(s) of Auction
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
1.	**Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Veeraswamy Shanthamoorthy and Ms. Ghate Sucheta Mallapa	**Rs 35,03,158/- as on 31st Dec 2024***	Flat No. F-505, 5th Floor, "Clover Casablanca", Wing F in Phase 2, Gat No.91/1, 91/2, Village Sate, Taluka Maval, District Pune- 410507 Carpet area Admeasuring 72.24 Sq. mtr i.e (777.59 Sq ft), Area of Attached balcony Admeasuring 9.76 Sq. mtr i.e (105 Sq. Ft) or thereabouts"	**i. Rs. 27,30,000/- ii. Rs. 2,73,000/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (11:00 am)**
2.	**Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Pawar Shekhar Kashinath and Ms. Pawar Rajashri Shekhar	**Rs. 15,32,202/- as on 30th Sept 2022***	Flat No. 106, 1st Floor, "Playtor Paud B", Building No. B3, Gat No.218, 219, 220, 221, village Paud, Taluka Mulshi, District Pune. admeasuring carpet area 26.12 Sq. Mtr. (i.e.281.15 Sq. Ft.) or thereabouts and terrace area admeasuring 2.93 Sq. Mtr. (i.e. 31.53 Sq. Ft.) or thereabouts."	**i. Rs. 10,05,000/- ii. Rs. 1,00,500/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (11:30 am)**
3.	**a) Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Sinha Pratya Rajkumar and Ms. Sinha Sangita Rajkumar	**Rs. 14,26,034/- as on 31st Aug 2023**	Flat No.7, 2nd Floor, "Darpan Residency", Wing C, Gat No.143, Pune Pawana Dam Road, Near Sneha Mangal Karyalaya, village Naygoan, Tal. Maval, Dist. Pune admeasuring carpet area 55.76 sq Mtr (i.e 600sq.ft) or thereabouts."	**i. Rs. 10,55,000/- ii. Rs. 1,05,500/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (12:00 Noon)**
4.	**a)Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Adagle Alisha Simon and Ms. Chavan Rupali	**Rs. 31,20,306/- as on 31st October 2023***	Flat No. 109, 1st Floor, "38- Park Maejstique", Building G, S.No.38/1, (Old S.No.37), Wadachiwadi Road, Undri Chowk, Undri, Pune, Carpet area admeasuring 36.61 sq.mtr(i.e. 394 sq.ft) or thereabouts together withTerrace area admeasuring 5.40 sq.mt (i.e. 58.12 sq.ft) or thereabouts and its Total area admeasuring 42.01 sq.mtr (i.e. 452.19 sq.ft) or thereabouts	**i. Rs. 20,20,000/- ii. Rs. 2,00,200/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**16th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (12:30 pm)**
5.	**a)Borrower(s) /Mortgagors(s)** Mr. Chavan Madan Vilas and Mr. Chavan Vilas Nivrutti	**Rs. 24,04,730/- as on 30-Nov-2023***	Flat No.406, 4th Floor, "Mangalam Srushti", Gat No.649/2, (Old S.No.88/2) Village Wagholi , Pune Admeasuring Builtup area of 538 sq ft or thereabouts	**i. Rs. 16,20,500/- ii. Rs. 1,62,050/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**16th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (1:00 pm)**
6.	**a)Borrower(s) /Mortgagors(s)** Ms. Wagh Kavita	**Rs.13,35,375/- as on 31st October 2022***	Flat No.302, 3rd Floor, "Amrutkalash", Building "B", Gat No.1259, Near Eco Gram Project village Shikrapur, Tal Shirur, Dist Pune Admeasuring Carpet area of 383 sq ft (35.59Sq mtr) or thereabouts	**i. Rs. 10,62,000/- ii. Rs. 106,200/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**16th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (1:30 pm)**
7.	**a)Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Surwanshi Ram Ankush and Ms. Suryawanshi Asharani Ram	**Rs 12,87,398/- as on 30th June 2023***	Flat No.608, 6th Floor, "Shri Siddhivinayak Park", Wing I, Gat No.31/2 & 49, Pune Saswad Road village Vadaki, Tal. Haveli, Dist. Pune admeasuring carpet area of (23.51 sq mtr) i.e 252.9 sq ft and Enclosed balcony (3.19 sq mtr) i.e 34.32 sq ft dry balcony (2.44 sq mtr) i.e 26.2 sq ft	**i. Rs. 7,85,000/- ii. Rs. 78,500/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**16th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (2:00 pm)**
8.	**a)Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Salunkhe Kiran Dattatray and Ms. Salunkhe Rupali Kiran	**Rs. 18,88,232/- as on 31-March-2023***	Flat No. 104, 1st Floor, "Hill view Residency", Indrapuri Colony, New S.No.406+408, CTS No.7579, 7578, Plot No. 84, Talegaon Dabhade, Pune admeasuring built up area of 520 sq ft(48.32 sq mtr)	**i. Rs. 13,46,800/- ii. Rs. 1,34,680/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (2:30 pm)**
9.	**a)Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Shinde Suresh Maruti and Mrs. Shinde Vaishali Suresh	**Rs.24,81,942/- as on 31st December 2018***	Plot No. 18, S. No. 864/2, Alipur Road, Barshi, Solapur admeasuring 92.20 sq. mtr. (i.e. 992.43sq. ft) along with construction there on admeasuring 42.08 sq mtr (i.e 452.94 sq ft) or thereabouts on ground floor and 42.08 (i.e 452.94 sq ft) or thereabouts on first floor.	**i. Rs. 16,60,000/- ii. Rs. 1,66,000/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (3:00 pm)**
10.	**a)Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Koli Santosh Shivaji and Ms. Koli Vandana Santosh	**Rs. 32,01,090/- as on 30th June 2024***	Flat No.301, 3rd Floor, "Ayush Park-2", Building No.A, S.No.32/2/3/4/5, Hissa No.3, village Varale, Taluka Maval, District Pune" Total area admeasuring 52.11 Sq mtr (i.e 560.90 Sq Ft) or thereabouts, admeasuring carpet area 41.81 sq. mtr (i.e 450.03 sq. ft.) or thereabout, Admeasuring Enclosed balcony area of 8.10 Sq mtr (i.e 87.18 Sq Ft) or thereabouts , dry balcony admeasuring area 2.20 Sq. Mtrs (i.e 23.68 Sq. Ft.) or thereabouts and open eye level Terrace carpet area admeasuring 4.65 Sq. Mtrs.(i.e 50.05 Sq. Ft.). or thereabouts	**i. Rs. 20,99,000/- ii. Rs. 2,09,900/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (3:30 pm)**
11.	**a)Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Known and unknown Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Brown Russel Dasmond [Since Deceased]	**Rs. 21,26,986/- as on 31st Jan 2023***	Flat No. 602, 6th Floor, "Xrbia Abode", Building B-1, Gat No. 240, Village Jambhul, District Pune. The flat has a carpet area admeasuring 26.11 sq. meters (281 sq. ft) and an additional attached area o admeasuring 5.37 sq. meters (57.80 sq. ft), or thereabouts.	**i. Rs. 12,80,000/- ii. Rs. 1,28,000/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**26th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**29th Sept 2026 (4:00 pm)**
12.	**a)Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Deshetti Mallinath Siddhappa, Mr. Deshetti Siddhappa Shankarapppa, and Ms. Deshetti Sangita Mallinath	**Rs. 23,14,247/- as on 31st Aug 2022***	Flat-204,floor-2nd rushi heights plot 4,s no 106/1,soregaon vijapur road om garjana chowk solapur admeasuring"Carpet area 50.92 sqmtr (i.e 548.09sq ft) built area of the same 58.56 sq mtr (i.e 630.33sq ft)thereabouts	**i. Rs. 15,00,000/- ii. Rs. 1,50,000/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**28th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**30th Sept 2026 (11:30 am)**
13.	**a)Borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s):** Mr. Tak Dhruv and Tak Babita Dhruv	**Rs. 14,15,752/- as on 31st Dec 2023***	Flat No.403, 4th Floor, "Aura City", Phase No.3, Cluster D, Building No.7 (D7), Gat No.1300/1, 1301/3, 1301/4, 1301/2, village Shikrapur, Taluka Shirur, District Pune" admeasuring carpet area 34.65 sq. mtr. (i.e. 373.00 sq. Ft) and Admeasuring Terrace Area 3.81 Sq Mtr. (i.e 41 Sq Ft) or Thereabouts	**i. Rs. 10,20,000/- ii. Rs. 1,02,000/- iii. Physical**	**10,000/-**	**15th Sept 2026 (11.00 am to 5.00 pm)**	**28th Sept 2026 (upto 5pm)**	**30th Sept 2026 (12:00 noon)**

*together with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred up to the date of payment and / or realisation thereof. Final e-auction sale consideration amount will be divided in ration of Reserve price mentioned in Column D between both the immovable properties / Secured Assets mentioned above.
To The Best of Knowledge, Information and Document Provided to the Authorized Officer Of Hdfc, 1) Sa No. 345/2024 Between Ashoka Engineering Company Versus Hdfc Bank Ltd., Authorised Officer Of Hdfc Bank Ltd. And Pankaj Bhagchand Challani , Pallavi P Challani , Amit Vastu Ventures Llp Wrt. Above Immovable Properties / Secured Assets Being Flat No. 1001 Mentioned At Sr. No. 1 Is Pending Before Hon'ble Drt Pune. 2) Sa No. 168/2025 Between Ashoka Engineering Company Versus Hdfc Bank Ltd., Authorised Officer Of Hdfc Bank Ltd And Pankaj Bhagchand Challani, Pallavi P Challani, Amit Vastu Ventures Llp Wrt. Above Immovable Properties / Secured Assets Being Flat No. 1002 Mentioned At Sr. No. 2, Is Pending Before Hon'ble DRT Pune.
TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE: 1. The particulars in respect of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset specified hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the Authorised Officer / HDFC **2.** However, the Authorised Officer / HDFC shall not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The Bidders are therefore requested in their own interest, to satisfy themselves with regard to the above and all other relevant details / material information pertaining to the abovementioned Immovable Property / Secured Asset, before submitting the bids. **3.** Statutory dues like property taxes / cess and transfer charges, arrears of electricity dues, arrears of water charges and other charges known and unknown in respect to the secured assests being sold, shall be ascertained by the Bidder beforehand and the payment of the same shall be the responsibility of the buyer of Secured Assets. **4.** Wherever applicable, it is the responsibility of buyer of Secured Assets to deduct tax at source (TDS) @ of 1% of the total sell consideration on behalf of the resident owner (seller) on the transfer of immovable property having consideration equal to Rs.50 Lacs and above and deposit the same with appropriate authority u/s 194 I/A (now Section 393) of Income Tax Act. **5.** Sale is strictly subject to the Terms, Conditions and Disclaimers stipulated in the prescribed E-Auction Bid Document, Offer Acceptance Letter, Public Notice, terms and conditions mentioned hereinbelow and any other related documents. **6.** Secured Asset is available for inspection on as mentioned in column "F" of the table. **7.** E-Auction Bid Document can be on-line from the website https://assets.matexauctions.com or can be obtained at HDFC Bank – Wakdewadi, Pune Branch. **8.** For any assistance related to inspection of the property, or for obtaining the E-Auction Bid Document and for any other queries, please get in touch with **Matex Technologies Pvt Ltd (Mr. Santosh Ogale) - Telephone / Mobile Number – 8925813586/7028070100** or Email- puneproperties@matextech.com. And or from **Mr. Ankit Maheshwari of Bracketbricks Asset Services Pvt Ltd (9762484797)** And or from **Mr. Santosh Maral of Principlus Services Pvt Ltd (9527547902). 9.** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be deposited by the bidders through Demand Draft / Pay Order in Favour of "HDFC Bank Limited" payable at par in sealed envelope and shall be submitted at **HDFC Bank - Wakdewadi Pune Branch. 10.** Minimum bid increment amount is as mentioned in column "E" of the table. **11.** The offer amount (to be mentioned in e-auction Bid document) shall be above Reserve Price and bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Bid incremental amount indicated above. **12.** E-Auction Bid Document duly filled in alongwith the details of payment of EMD shall be submitted at **HDFC Bank Office No 601 to 608, Godrej Eternia Building C, Wing B, Wakdewadi, Pune 411005. And Hdfc Bank Ltd, Patwardhan Complex, 1st Floor, 157/2c Railway Lines, Employment Chowk, Near Hotel Dhruv, Solapur 413001. 13.** The last date of submission of bids in prescribed e-auction Bid Documents with all necessary documents and EMD in stipulated manner in **column "G"** of the table. **14.** Incomplete E-Auction Bid Document or bids with inadequate EMD amount or bids received after the date indicated at Sr. No 9 hereinabove shall be treated as invalid. **15.** Conditional offers shall be treated as invalid. **16. Mr.Dhanush (Mob No. 9500173312) and Ms.Induja (Mob No. 9150757333) Email ID-(solutions@matextech.com / bankauctions@matextech.com)** would be assisting the Authorized Officer in conducting the auction through an e-bidding process. **17.** Upon receipt of Bid with the necessary documents as mentioned therein and in the sale notice within the stipulated date and time mentioned above, a password/ user ID will be provided by –**Matex Technologies Pvt Ltd. (https://assets.matexauctions.com)** to eligible bidders / prospective purchasers to participate in the online auction at **https://assets.matexauctions.com. 18.** Necessary trainings will be provided by **Matex Technologies Pvt Ltd Mr.Dhnush (Mob No. 9500173312) and Ms. Induja (Mob No. 9150757333)** for the purpose. **19.** The auction by way of e-bidding will be conducted on the date and time indicated in **Column (H)**. **20.** The Immovable Property / Secured Asset shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned in Column (E). **21.** On sale of the property the purchaser shall not have any claim of whatsoever nature against HDFC or its Authorised Officer. **22.** The e-bidding would commence and end at the time indicated in Column (G) above. However, if a bid is received 5 minutes prior to the closing time indicated therein, it would get extended by five minutes every time a bid is offered. The auction would end if there is no bid for a period exceeding five minutes. **23.** It shall be at the discretion of the Authorised officer to cancel the auction proceeding for any reason and return the EMD submitted and HDFC will not entertain any claim or representation in that regard from the bidders. **24.** The Authorized officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the highest and / or all Bid(s) or postpone or cancel the sale, as the case may be without assigning any reasons thereof and also to modify any of the terms and condition of this sale without prior notice. **25.** The sale shall be conferred on the highest bidder subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor i.e. HDFC **26.** EMD of successful bidder shall be adjusted and for all other unsuccessful bidders, the same shall be refunded within 10 days from the date of Auction. The Earnest Money Deposit will not carry any interest. **27.** Along with Bid Documents the Bidder(s) should also attach his/her photo identity proof such as copy of the passport, election commission card, ration card, driving license, copy of the PAN card issued by the Income Tax department etc. and the proof of residence countersigned by the bidder herself/himself. **28.** The successful bidder shall be required to pay 25% of the offer amount (including the amount of EMD) immediately i.e. on the same day or not later than next working day, as the case may be (as per the amended provisions of Rule 9(3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) on confirmation of offer acceptance by HDFC, failing which the EMD amount remitted will stand forfeited. The balance 75% of offer amount shall be paid within 15 days of confirmation of sale by the Authorised officer. If the balance amount is not remitted within stipulated time the amount of 25% will stand forfeited as per the amended provisions of Rule 9(4) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Note:
Bidding in the last minute and second should be avoided in bidders' own interest. Neither HDFC nor the service provider shall be responsible for any lapses / failure (Internet failure, Power failure etc.) on the part of the vendor. In order to ward-off such contingent situation bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply or whatever required so that they are able to participate in the auction successfully.

CAUTION NOTE:
Bidders at large are hereby informed that HDFC and its Authorized Officer does not deal in cash transaction with respect to Immovable Property mentioned in the Auction sale notice. The name and contact details of the agency / broker, if any, authorized by HDFC to deal with sale of Immovable property can be obtained only from the office of HDFC at the address mentioned above.

NOTE: This notice is published on 12 September 2026 in The Indian Express Pune edition and Loksatta Pune edition.

Date: 12 September, 2026
Place: Pune, Solapur

Pune Wakdewadi Office : HDFC Bank Ltd., Office No. 601 to 608, Sixth Floor, Godrej Eternia C, Wing B, Wakdewadi, Shivaji Nagar, Pune 411005.
Solapur Office : Hdfc Bank Ltd, Patwardhan Complex, 1st Floor, 157/2c Railway Lines, Employment Chowk, Near Hotel Dhruv, Solapur 413001.
• **Regd. Office:** HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

For HDFC Bank Limited
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

State govt draws line on issuing of blanket Kunbi certificates

Shubhangi Khapre
Mumbai, September 11

THE MAHARASHTRA government has drawn the line at the blanket issuance of Kunbi certificates to Marathas and their blood relatives, saying it cannot override the legal and constitutional framework to meet Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil's demand.

The Satara and Kolhapur Gazettes have emerged as the key sticking point in the talks. Jarange is seeking immediate issuance of Kunbi certificates across Maharashtra on the basis of the three Gazettes, while the government has maintained that the documents can only be examined and implemented within the existing legal framework.

"They want immediate issuance of Kunbi certificates to Marathas and their blood relatives. The government has accepted the Hyderabad Gazette and assured that the other Gazettes will be examined within the legal framework. That process needs time," a BJP leader associated with the Maratha reservation issue said.

The Hyderabad Gazette, an order issued in 1918 by the then Nizam of Hyderabad, contains records on the population of the region. Based on these records, Marathas in Marathwada can establish their Kunbi status and avail themselves of Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation. The Satara Gazette also contains historical records that Jarange-Patil wants the government to use as a basis for issuing Kunbi certificates.

The government has so far given its consent to 58 lakh Kunbi certificates for Marathas in the state. It is reluctant to extend the process to western Maharashtra through an ad-hoc decision, sources said.

OBC leaders across political parties have repeatedly urged the government not to issue Kunbi certificates to all Marathas, saying such a move would cause injustice to the OBCs.

The standoff comes ahead of the Ganesh festival, which begins Monday. Jarange-Patil has been on an indefinite fast at Antarwali Sarathi in Jalna for the past 12 days and has threatened to take his agitation to Mumbai.

The government has kept channels open to persuade him against moving the agitation to the city. Chief Minister Deendra Fadnavis on Friday appealed for restraint, saying, "The followers of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will not do anything to disturb the Ganesh festivals."

State sub-committee chairman and minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, who has been involved in the negotiations, said the government had done everything within its powers. "Beyond this, it is not in my capacity," he said.

Sources said Jarange-Patil's recent attacks on Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule and Vikhe Patil had also hardened the government's position. His remarks against Shinde and Vikhe Patil, both Marathas, have reportedly caused unease among sections of the community.

A coordinator of the Maratha Kranti Morcha political movement said Jarange-Patil had "undermined his own power" by targeting leaders from within the community.

Jarange-Patil has accused Vikhe Patil of serving Fadnavis at the cost of Maratha interests and warned Shinde that Marathas had the power to "finish" him if their demands were ignored.

Drug tests for drivers being mulled by govt

Ishika Gupta
Mumbai, September 11

TO PREVENT drunken driving and improve road safety, the Maharashtra government is planning to launch a statewide alcohol and drug-testing campaign for drivers of public and private transport services - a campaign which runs until 2029. Under the proposed system, standard operating procedures will be framed for pre-duty alcohol testing, scheduled and surprise drug testing, and inspections following specific incidents or where there is reasonable suspicion. Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik announced the campaign.