

HOLIDAY NOTICE

Our office and press shall remain closed today on the occasion of Diwali. So, our October 22 issue will not be published. Our next issue will be published on October 23.

-EDITOR

Ex-Maha minister Mahadeorao Shivankar passes away at 85



Gondia 20 October: Former minister and veteran BJP leader Mahadeorao Sukhaji Shivankar died after a prolonged illness in Maharashtra's Gondia district on Monday, family sources said. Shivankar (85) breathed his last at his residence in Amgaon in the early hours of the day, his son Vijay Shivankar said. He was a five-time MLA from the Amgaon constituency and had represented the Chimur constituency in the Lok Sabha.

Ladki Bahin scheme won't be scrapped under Ajit Pawar, says Zirwal



Mumbai, Oct 20 (UNI) Maharashtra Minister Narhari Zirwal has assured that the state government's 'Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme will not be discontinued under any circumstances as long as NCP chief Ajit Pawar remains the Dy CM and Finance Minister. Speaking at the NCP meeting in Palghar, he lauded Pawar's commitment to governance, citing decision to extend scholarships to students from backward communities.

INS Vikrant gave Pak sleepless nights, says PM while celebrating Diwali with Navy

Mumbai 20 October: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said INS Vikrant struck fear in Pakistan and it "gave them sleepless nights." Speaking during his Diwali address to naval personnel aboard the indigenous aircraft carrier, PM



Modi said, "INS Vikrant's very name took away Pakistan's sleep. If just its name could shake the enemy's courage, that is INS

Vikrant for you." Addressing the Navy personnel on board INS Vikrant, the Prime Minister praised the Indian Navy's legacy of strength and vigilance, describing the warship as a powerful symbol of India's maritime might and national pride.

One dead, three injured in slum fire

Mumbai, Oct 20 (UNI) One person died and three others sustained burns after a fire swept through a slum area at Machhmar Nagar, Cuffe Parade of south Mumbai early today. The fire was doused in an hour and the injured were admitted to government-run St George Hospital. The incident occurred around 4 am in a slum and chawl located on Captain Prakash Pethe Marg.

Govt releases Rs 325 crore for education

New Delhi, Oct 20 (UNI) The Delhi govt has released Rs 325 crore so far in the fiscal 2025-2026 for the overall development of students and strengthening education infrastructure.

यवतमाळ व पुसद जिल्ह्यातील सर्व जनतेस

दिपावली

निमित्त मनःपूर्वक हार्दिक शुभेच्छा !

आ. किसनराव मा. वानखेडे
आमदार, उमरखेड-महागाव विधानसभा

नितीन सुरेशचंद्र भुतडा
भाजपा, यवतमाळ-पुसद जिल्हा समन्वयक
मतदार नोंदणी सहप्रमुख, अमरावती विभागीय शिक्षक मतदार संघ

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यवतमाळ जि.प.कर्मचारी सहकारी पतसंस्था मर्या.यवतमाळ र.नं.१०९

मुख्यालय - स्वस्तिक चौक, नोपणी रोड, यवतमाळ

आपल्या कष्टाची रक्कम आपण आमचेकडे ठेवा... आणि बिनधास्त रहा...

संस्थेची सांख्यिकी स्थिती	अधिक व्याजदरपेक्षा सुरक्षितता महत्वाची
कर्ज	२५२.६६ कोटी
गुंतवणुक	१६६.७९ कोटी
स्थावर व जंगम मालमत्ता	६.९९ कोटी
सभासद भाग भांडवल	३६.९३ कोटी
ठेवी	३३७.९९ कोटी
राखीव निधी	४४.२० कोटी

संस्थेच्या वित्तीय स्थिती

वर्ष	कर्ज	गुंतवणुक	स्थावर व जंगम मालमत्ता	सभासद भाग भांडवल	ठेवी	राखीव निधी
२०२०	२५२.६६	१६६.७९	६.९९	३६.९३	३३७.९९	४४.२०
२०२१	२५२.६६	१६६.७९	६.९९	३६.९३	३३७.९९	४४.२०
२०२२	२५२.६६	१६६.७९	६.९९	३६.९३	३३७.९९	४४.२०
२०२३	२५२.६६	१६६.७९	६.९९	३६.९३	३३७.९९	४४.२०
२०२४	२५२.६६	१६६.७९	६.९९	३६.९३	३३७.९९	४४.२०
२०२५	२५२.६६	१६६.७९	६.९९	३६.९३	३३७.९९	४४.२०

संस्थेमध्ये वैयक्तिक लॉकर सुविधा, त्वरा करा भोजकेच लॉकर शिल्लक...

लॉकर सभासद, ठेविदार व इतर सर्व लोकांना घेण्याची सुभा

विश्वास + सुरक्षितता = जि. प. पतसंस्था

दिवाळी

निमित्त सर्वांना हार्दिक शुभेच्छा

विलासभाऊ भगवान जुमनाके सरपंच
गट ग्रामपंचायत पदा (गणेशपूर/पिंपळापूर)

मास्टर्स क्रीडा व बहु उद्देशीय संस्था दारुहा दीपावली पाडवा व बलिप्रतिपदा

शुभेच्छा

श्री राजेन्द्र चितकुंडलावार (अध्यक्ष)
श्री डॉ मनोज सरोड (उपाध्यक्ष)
श्री सुरेश निमकर (उपाध्यक्ष)
श्री मैत्रय भेंडे (उपाध्यक्ष)
श्री अविनाश काळे (सचिव)
श्री विजय काळे (सह सचिव)
श्री सूरसेल निमकर (स्वजिबदार)

श्री अशाफाक अली (सदस्य)
श्री गौतमकुमार सोनोने (सदस्य)
श्री नरेंद्र भंडारी (सदस्य)
श्री चंद्रलाल कनोजिया (सदस्य)
श्री जीवन सूर्यवंशी (सदस्य)
श्री लक्ष्मण नवरंगे (सदस्य)
श्री गफुर शेख (सदस्य)
श्री शिरो वानखेडे (सदस्य)

लक्ष्मीपूजन

विजय काळे दारुहा सचिव संकल्प क्रीडा मंडळ सहसचिव मास्टर्स क्रीडा व बहु उद्देशीय संस्था संचालक चैतन्य स्टडी सर्कल

SWARGIYA DADASAHEB KALMEGH SMRUTI DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL HINGNA, DIST NAGPUR

ध्यास - गुणवत्ता व ध्येयपूर्तीचा !

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MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, NASHIK

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● NAAC accredited with Grade A+ and a CGPA of 3.31.
● Awarded as Best Institute in Vidarbha by Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik.
● Lokmat Maharashtra Ratna Award Conferred in Lokmat Global Economic Convention, London 2025
● Lokmat Excellence in Healthcare Award by Lokmat Media 2023.
● Green Campus Award by Vanrai Foundation
● 36 MUHS State Merits and Gold Medals both UG and PG with 545 honours in Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik since inception of College in 2006.
● 16 Patents registered

● The only institute to sponsor Research awards worth 1,11,111/- each in five categories viz. Padmabhushan Dr. R. Ahmed Award for Teacher/ Alumni (Institutional level), Padmavibhushan Hon'ble Prof. M.M. Sharma Award for UG student (Institutional level), Padmavibhushan Prof. Dr. R. A. Mashelkar Award for Best Patent in Oral Healthcare (National level), Dr. G. B. Shankwalkar Award for PG student (Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala & Pondicherry level), Pierre Fauchard-Padmashri Prof. Dr. G. D. Yadav Award for Best Corporate Connect Research in Oral Healthcare (National level) every year.

Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali

नगर परिषद वाशिम जि. वाशिम

जाहीर सुचना

वाशिम शहरातील सर्व नागरिकांना जाहीर सूचना देण्यात येते की, नागरिकांनी आरोग्याच्या दृष्टीने खालील प्रकारची काळजी घेणे आवश्यक आहे.

आपले घर व घराचा परिसर नेहमी स्वच्छ ठेवावा.	करसा स्तरावर / नालीत फेकू नये	ओला व सुका करसा दररोज घंटागाडीतच टाकावा	नियमित पाणी उकळून व थंड करून प्यावे	शिष्टे अन्न, उद्योगावरचे पदार्थ खाऊ नये.	शहरातील हॉटेल्स व्यवस्थापिकांनी खात पदार्थ जाळीने इकठ्ठे ठेवावे.	जेवणपूर्वी आपले हात निविनातपणे साबणाने स्वच्छ करून घ्यावे.	आपल्या घरासमोर डब्यात पाणी साचू देऊ नये.
आपल्या घरातील नळस तोंटी कसबाची व पाण्याचा अजवळ टाकावा.	विना परवानगी बांधकाम करण्यात येऊ नये, बांधकाम साईटिंग रेटो, विट्टी, थिटा इ. स्तरावर टाकू नये	नगर पालिका मालमत्ता व पाणी कर नियमितरित्या मरणा करावा.	नॉद नसलेल्या दिव्यांना व्यवहारी आपली नोंद नगरपालिकेत समाज कल्याण विभागत करावी.	नियमित कर मरा; शहराचा विकास साधा	दिव्याळत फटाके फोडताना घ्या अखेरवारी	वेळेवर पाणी पट्टी मरा	प्लास्टिक पिशव्या वापर टाळा

● स्वच्छ दिवाळी स्वाक्षरी मोहिम ● स्वच्छ दिवाळी किडीओ रिल/ छायाचित्र #SwachhDiwali वर शेअर करणे
● पर्यावरण पुरक स्थानिक उत्पादनाचा वापर ● टाकावू पासून टिकावू वस्तु तयार करणे ● तसेच 3R (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) तत्वाचा प्रसार ● प्रदुषण कमी होण्यासाठी उपाययोजना करणे ● My Gov पोर्टलवर (<https://pledge.mygov.in/>) नागरिकांनी स्वच्छ दिवाळी शपथ घेऊन वैयक्तिक प्रमाणपत्र प्राप्त करून घेणे ● R.R.R. केंद्राची प्रसिद्धी.

निलेश गायकवाड
मुख्याधिकारी
नगर परिषद वाशिम जि. वाशिम

War Of Words Erupts Between OBC stalwarts Bhujbal & Wadettiwar Over Maratha Quota

Nagpur 20 October: A political slugfest erupted between Maharashtra's two OBC stalwarts, minister Chhagan Bhujbal and Congress legislative party leader Vijay Wadettiwar, over the contentious Maratha-OBC reservation issue. The exchange came days after a massive OBC rally in Nagpur, with Wadettiwar on Saturday alleging BJP "deplayed" Bhujbal to target him for his role in the successful protest. During his Beed rally on Friday, Bhujbal displayed a video of Wadettiwar sitting with Maratha reservation spearhead Manoj Jarange and demanding Kunbi certificates for eligible Maratha citizens.

He accused Wadettiwar of changing his stand multiple times. "If you continue to act like this, it will affect the OBC community's prospects," he said in the meeting. Speaking to the media in Chandrapur's Brahmapuri town on Saturday, Wadettiwar said, "Bhujbal is a senior leader, and I have never spoken



against him. But he has targeted me in the Beed rally. Earlier, it was Jarange, now it's Bhujbal. If this helps resolve community issues, I'll be happy." He accused BJP of using Bhujbal to deflect criticism from the govt's handling of the reservation controversy. Wadettiwar reiterated the September 2 govt resolution (GR), which allows broader issuance of Kunbi caste certificates based on the Hyderabad Gazette, was "dangerous" for OBC interests. "Earlier, only selected records were valid, but now certificates are being issued indiscriminately after removing the word 'eligible' from the order. This GR must be

revoked immediately by the ministers, including Bhujbal, Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Pankaja Munde, and Atul Save," he said. Congress legislature party leader also condemned the use of violent rhetoric at a previous rally in Ambad in Marathwada. "When people talk of sickles and swords, it's not democracy. Violence can never solve social issues. This govt is pitting one community against another — Marathas versus OBCs, Dhangers versus Adivasis — to deflect farm distress, unemployment, and law and order situation," Wadettiwar remarked. Countering Bhujbal's remarks at the Beed rally, Wadettiwar said his position was consistent. "I only said the OBC quota must be increased before including Marathas. Otherwise, both communities will be left empty-handed." The verbal sparring has intensified tensions within the state's political corridors, with both leaders claiming to defend OBC interests even as they trade personal barbs.

MP's 'Bhavantar' scheme to bring down soyabean rates, hit Vidarbha farmers hard

Nagpur 20 October: As Madhya Pradesh (MP) govt reintroduces the 'Bhavantar Bhugtan' scheme for soyabean after a gap of eight years, there are fears that it may leave farmers in Maharashtra at a loss. The concerns come at a time when farmers in Vidarbha reported a low harvest of the crop, and Marathwada was hit by floods. The rush in Madhya Pradesh to sell soyabean at whatever rates being offered during the three-month window and later claim the price difference is expected to create an overflow of supply in the market. With soyabean solvent extractors assured of enough soyabean supply due to the MP's 'Bhavantar' scheme, the overall rates of the crop are likely to come down, ultimately affecting farmers in other states like Maharashtra, said trade sources. Soyabean is the second major crop in



Vidarbha after cotton and also a key produce in the Marathwada region. Under the 'Bhavantar' scheme, the MP govt will be paying the difference between the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs5,328 a quintal of soyabean and the rates offered to the farmer by private traders in the open market. The scheme starts on October 25 and will remain open for three months. The 'Bhavantar' scheme was introduced in 2017 but discontinued due to issues. Initially started for

eight crops in 2025, it has been made applicable only for soyabean this time. Amit Jain, senior vice-president (protein procurement) for a firm, said the open market rates for the standard grade of soyabean are at Rs4,200. The MSP is at Rs5,328 a quintal. Jain said the 'Bhavantar' scheme can have an impact on the soyabean rates in the rest of the markets due to a sudden supply surge. Roshan Kothari, a director of an agriculture produce marketing committee (APMC) at Wani, said MP is a

major hub of soyabean. Concentrated supply during the three-month period of the 'Bhavantar' scheme will lead to assured supply for the solvent extraction plants. Soyabean is ultimately purchased by solvent extractors from the traders. "The supplies in Vidarbha are low, and yet the rates for inferior grades are as low as Rs2,000 a quintal. Even the best quality is fetching over Rs1,200 below the MSP," Kothari said. "The unfavourable weather conditions in the Vidarbha region have brought down the soyabean yield this year. The 'Bhavantar' scheme will make it worse for the farmers in Vidarbha. Maharashtra govt should also come up with a similar scheme," said Vallabh Deshmukh, a director of Mahabeej, Maharashtra govt's seed production corporation.

Scholarship exam shifted to class 4 & 7; To Be Held Twice This Year

Nagpur 20 October: The state govt has revised the pattern of its long-standing scholarship examinations for school students, shifting the eligibility to Class 4 and Class 7 instead of Class 5 and Class 8. The change, which will be implemented from the current academic year (2025-26) itself, is aimed at encouraging higher participation and improving the learning outcomes among students in govt and aided schools.

As a result of the transition, the scholarship examinations will be conducted twice this year. The existing system will continue for one last time, with the exams for Class 5 and Class 8 scheduled on the second or third Sunday of February 2026. The newly introduced pattern — for Class 4 and Class 7 students — will be held separately, likely in April or May 2026. From the next academic session (2026-27) onwards, only the new format will remain in force. Under the revised scheme, students



will receive a scholarship of Rs5,000 per year at the primary level (Class 4) and Rs7,500 per year at the upper primary level (Class 7). The Pre-Upper Primary Scholarship Examination and Pre-Secondary Examination will now be renamed as the Primary Scholarship Examination and Upper Primary Scholarship Examination, respectively. The scholarship examination has been a part of Maharashtra's education system since 1954-55. Until 2016-17, it was conducted for Class 4 and Class 7, after which the eligibility was shifted to Class 5 and Class 8.

However, officials observed a drop in student participation following this change. The Education Department believes that reverting to the earlier

model will help boost the involvement of local body schools and enhance the academic competitiveness of both students and teachers. Students from govt, aided, and local body schools will be eligible to appear for the examination. Those from CBSE, ICSE, and other boards can participate based on specific eligibility norms. The age limit for Class 4 candidates is 10 years (14 years for students with disabilities) as of June 1, while for Class 7 candidates, it is 13 years (17 years for students with disabilities). The admission and examination fees have been set at Rs200 (Rs50 admission + Rs150 exam) for open-category students, and Rs125 (Rs50 admission + Rs75 exam) for students from reserved categories and those with disabilities. Each participating school must also pay a registration fee of Rs200 per year to the State Examination Council. Both scholarship benefits will be applicable for a period of three years each.

KBC contestant Spruha shares her journey

Nagpur 20 October: For 12-year-old Spruha Tushar Shinkhede from Nagpur, the road to the hot seat on Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) was anything but ordinary. The Class 8 student from Somalwar High School, Ramdaspet, not only answered questions with calm precision but also impressed host Amitabh Bachchan with her knowledge of Sanskrit and the Bhagavad Gita.

Recalling the tense moments before making it to the hot seat, she said, "The crucial step is the Fastest Finger First round. The first time I lost. Then came the next question. I answered instantly and prayed God. Within seconds, my name was called — and the game that started there went up to Rs25 lakh before I even realized it." Spruha, who lives



in Gittikhadan, attributes her spiritual inclination to her family's atmosphere at home. "I don't have Sanskrit as a subject in school, but my interest in spirituality began early. I started reading Gita during a Chinmaya Mission competition," she said. On Bachchan's request during the show, Spruha confidently recited three Sanskrit shlokas, leaving the audience awestruck.

Her father, Tushar, who works in a private firm, and her mother, Sapna, a

homemaker, said they always believed in their daughter's potential. "We were confident Spruha would reach the top ten," said Tushar. "We're proud that she won despite competing with participants who play chess with Viswanathan Anand and do coding," added Sapana. Her grandfather, noted litterateur Sunil Shinkhede, was also present during her interaction.

Spruha said her nervousness about meeting megastar Amitabh Bachchan vanished the moment he walked on set. "My hands were trembling with fear, but his humility and warmth made us all feel at ease. It felt like we

were talking to one of our own," she said. She credited her teachers — especially Shweta Pavanikar from Somalwar High School — for supporting her. "I'm proud to be from Nagpur — now I don't even feel like going anywhere else," she told reporters. Contestants who answer 10 questions correctly in 90 seconds get to dine at Amitabh Bachchan's home. "I got it right — just one shot! That one question cost me dinner with Big B," she said with a laugh.

The young prodigy has also won multiple medals in academics and competitions, including a gold medal at the national-level Dr Homi Bhabha Children's Science Competition. She even showcased her acting talent in a Reserve Bank of India museum documentary in Kolkata.

Gold ornaments worth Rs 2.41 lakh stolen

Nagpur 20 October: A woman travelling to her hometown for Diwali was robbed of gold ornaments worth Rs 2.41 lakh at the Ganeshpeth Bus Stand on Saturday morning. According to police, the complainant Neha Sajal Vishwakarma (40), a resident of Sankalp Nagar, Bhandara, had arrived at the Nagpur bus stand around 8.45 am to board an ST bus to Bhandara.

While she was getting into the bus, an unknown person opened the chain of her handbag and stole a small box containing gold ornaments. Based on her complaint, Ganeshpeth Police registered an offence under Section 379(2) of the BNS against the unidentified accused. The investigation is underway.

Diwali Delight: Cops Return Rs 1.6 Cr Stolen Goods in five days

Nagpur 20 October: For Yogita Yavalkar, a senior govt employee, Diwali came early. "My wedding ring coming back before Diwali is almost like a bonus to me," she said, her voice turning emotional as police returned her stolen engagement ring at a ceremony organised by six police stations under Zone One, West Nagpur, on Saturday.

In a city-wide initiative led by Commissioner of Police Ravinder Singal, Nagpur police returned stolen goods of Rs1.59 crore to over 100 citizens within just five days. The effort, coordinated across all six zones under CP Singal and Joint CP Navinchandra Reddy, culminated in a 'Return of Assets Ceremony' on Dhanteras. Among those reunited with their valuables was industrial contractor Pravin Shendre, son of a retired police officer. His home at Hingna T-point had been looted by burglars posing as workers, who later fled to Bijore in Uttar Pradesh. "The burglars mocked us while fleeing, but the police ensured justice," said Shendre, who received his stolen gold back after MIDC police cracked the case. Yavalkar's ordeal began a month ago when a thief smashed her car window, stealing valuables worth around Rs3 lakh — including her ring, pension documents, and identity papers.

The Ranaprata Nagar police, under Senior Inspector Pankaj Bondse and Zonal DCP Hrushikesh Reddy, traced and recovered the stolen items. For ex-banker Sharma, the return of his stolen moped meant more than just property recovered. "At my age, this scooter means independence," he said, after Ranaprata Nagar police returned it post-court clearance. "It's the best birthday gift I could ask for." Over five days, Singal's teams worked zone-wise to restore recovered goods. Zone One, under DCP Reddy, handed back property worth Rs88 lakh — including Rs30 lakh from Wadi and Rs38.4 lakh from MIDC police stations. CP Singal also distributed cheques totalling nearly Rs20 lakh to victims in cases detected by Sub-Inspector Amit Bandgar under Senior PI Rajesh Tatkare of Wadi police station.

Zone Two, led by DCP Nityanand Jha, returned goods worth Rs 48.3 lakh; Zone Four, under DCP Rashmitha Rao, restored Rs 45 lakh; and Zone Five, guided by DCP Niketan Karan, handed back Rs 24 lakh in valuables. CP Singal urged citizens to install CCTV cameras, saying they "deter crime and aid conviction." Joint CP Reddy highlighted the importance of the "golden hour" after a crime, stressing that prompt reporting greatly improves detection rates.

State forms committee to ensure enough gunnybags supply before MSP procurement

Nagpur 20 October: Taking lessons from last year's experience, the state government plans to keep its stock of gunny bags full ahead of the upcoming procurement season. A shortage of sacks had hampered soyabean procurement at MSP last year. The government has now formed a committee headed by marketing minister Jayakumar Rawal to monitor the purchase and availability of gunny bags.

A government resolution (GR) detailing the supply mechanism was issued on Friday. The secretary of Cooperation and Marketing and the managing director of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federation are among the eight members of the committee.

The GR notes that in 2024, soyabean

procurement had slowed down due to a shortage of sacks, ultimately affecting farmers' earnings. To prevent a repeat, the committee has been constituted to ensure an adequate and timely supply of gunny bags, it states. The committee will oversee the tender process for gunny bag procurement and ensure smooth supply. The expenditure will be borne by the state marketing federation, which will later be reimbursed by the national federation.

Meanwhile, farmers say the initial open market rates for soyabean are below the MSP of Rs.5,328 per quintal. Sources said growers in the region are currently fetching Rs. 3,200–4,000 per quintal for the crop. Soyabean is the second major farm produce of Vidarbha after cotton.

Convicted of swindling Rs 3.30 cr, man gets 7-yr jail term

Nagpur 20 October: The Special MPID Court in Nagpur sentenced Aniruddha Hoshing to seven years in prison for swindling Rs3.29 crores from investors. Posing as a general director in the Union Ministry of Tourism, Hoshing executed the scam at a private hotel in Nagpur, between October 2021 and October 2022. He fabricated documents using the names of senior govt officials and Bollywood celebrities to deceive investors through a fake scheme. Meera Phadnis, aware of Hoshing's fraudulent claims, misled investors and was also convicted. The Economic Offences Wing

(EOW), Nagpur, under investigating officers Rizwan Sheikh and Satish Godse, arrested the accused and seized assets, including a vehicle, from Lucknow.

The case, registered on August 10, 2022, under IPC sections and the MPID Act, led to a charge sheet in May 2024. District and sessions judge delivered the verdict based on strong witness testimonies.

Assistant government prosecutors Abhay Jikar and Manisha Kulkarni, assisted by PSI Ramesh Chikhale, effectively presented the case, ensuring justice for the victims.

Rs.3,258cr relief for rain-hit Maha farmers, Vidarbha gets Rs.804cr

Nagpur 20 October: The Maharashtra govt has approved a Rs.3,258.56cr relief package to compensate farmers whose crops were damaged by excessive rainfall and floods in Sept 2025. Of this, nearly Rs.804cr has been allocated to Vidarbha — covering both Nagpur and Amravati divisions — which reported extensive crop losses in the state. A revenue and forest department government resolution (GR) issued on Oct 18, the funds will be distributed under the state disaster response fund (SDRF) norms through direct benefit transfer (DBT) to farmers' bank accounts. The assistance will be limited to a maximum of two hectares per farmer to ensure that small and marginal cultivators receive priority.

In Vidarbha, the Nagpur division was sanctioned Rs.340.90cr to assist 3.76 lakh farmers covering 3.44 lakh hectares, while the Amravati division received Rs. 463.08cr for 4.78 lakh farmers cultivating 5.26 lakh hectares. The two divisions cumulatively account for nearly a quarter of the total aid announced for the state. Within Nagpur division, Wardha district recorded the highest loss, with Rs.142.40cr sanctioned for 1.49 lakh affected farmers. Chandrapur follows with Rs.69.46cr, Nagpur district Rs.112.37cr, while Bhandara, Gondia, and Gadchiroli together



account for around Rs.14cr. In the Amravati division, Yavatmal was earmarked the highest compensation at Rs.262.08cr, followed by Akola with Rs.162.95cr and Amravati district with Rs.38.04cr. Across Maharashtra, the GR

states that 33.65 lakh farmers have been identified as beneficiaries, covering 27.59 lakh hectares of farmland.

The Nashik division received the largest allocation at Rs.1,474.84cr, followed by Pune division with Rs.951.63cr, Amravati with Rs.463.08cr, Nagpur with Rs.340.90cr, and Konkan division with Rs.28.10cr. The govt has directed all district administrations to ensure that beneficiary data is digitally verified and uploaded to official portals before disbursement. Officials have also been instructed to prevent duplication and confirm that no farmer receives multiple compensations for the same crop loss within the season.

The GR follows reports submitted by the divisional commissioners of Nagpur and Amravati on October 17, detailing widespread damage to crops. The aid is expected to provide crucial financial support to affected farmers ahead of the rabi season.

Police light up Diwali for kin of commandos who died fighting Maoists

Nagpur 20 October: Amid a wave of Maoist surrenders across the country — headlined by the surrender of senior politburo member Mallojula Venugopal Rao, known as Bhupathi or Sonu, along with 60 cadres at Gadchiroli — the Maharashtra police's tradition of celebrating Diwali with the families of commandos who laid down their lives fighting the rebels carried a deeper meaning. Officers met family of every commando who died in anti-Maoist operations, shared Diwali greetings and listened to their struggles, a gesture which evoked gratitude and sense of closure for the closed ones.

In Gadchiroli, which had been scarred by Maoist

violence in the past, additional director general of police (operations) Chherring Dorje, along with senior officers including DIG Ankit Goyal, SP Gadchiroli Neelotpal, Addl SPs M Ramesh and Gokul Raj, distributed Diwali sweets to the families of 213 fallen heroes on October 16. The initiative is in line with the focus put by director general of police, Rashmi Shukla, on welfare of such families. Addl DG Dorje spoke of the courage of the jawans whose sacrifices have weakened the Maoist grip, paving the way for a safer Gadchiroli. "These families are our own," he said, promising unwavering support from Maharashtra police. "Years of fierce battles, where brave security force personnel paid the

ultimate price, have led to this moment of hope, while internal rifts among Maoists triggered their collapse," said IG Sandip Patil, who helms the State Anti-Naxal Operation (ANO).

On October 15, when Bhupathi and 60 Maoists surrendered in presence of chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, it was being expected that about 200 more guerrillas would be giving up arms soon.

This soon turned into reality in Chhattisgarh within 48 hours. Experts see this as the end of Maoism in areas like Ajujmar and North Bastar, now declared Maoist-free. "We have a handful left in Company 10 formation of the Maoists," Fadnavis had said during the ceremony.

says Parheez. "Our community may be small, but events like this keep us united," says Navroze Daver, secretary of Nagpur Parsi Panchayat. Daver shares that friendships, family bonds, and even marriages happen here. "My daughter met her husband through the Jiji Irani Cup. It's a reunion every year — a week full of laughter, music, and food that we all live for," Daver says. Minoo Siganporia, from Hyderabad, has been part of the tournament since 1986 as a player, coach, and convener. "I still remember our first match — no uniforms, no sponsors, just excitement and love for the game. Today, seeing the next generation carry it forward makes me proud. The spirit hasn't faded; it has only grown stronger." Noomi Mehta, 73, from Kolkata, says they were determined to meet even during the Covid pandemic. "The game isn't the only attraction — it's seeing friends, reconnecting with old faces, and enjoying the food. Parsis love food! The first thing we check isn't the pitch, it's the menu," he laughs.

Daizy Shahrukh Patel from Surat waits for this week all year. "It's not just cricket; it's a celebration. We meet friends, enjoy food and music, and even couples have met here many times! Children, youngsters, and grown-ups all look forward to this fun meetup. It's a time to be youthful, socialise, and keep our culture alive." Tauby Bhagwagar, president of the Nagpur Parsi Gymkhana, emphasises the importance of community, nurturing youngsters and continuing the tradition. "Parsis are small but closely knit. The Gymkhana has hosted the Jiji Irani Cup for 37 years. Our first president was truly remarkable — he used to personally pick all kids from home if needed."

He guided the young, ensuring they learned not just cricket, but the spirit of togetherness. This year, with Nagpur and Jamshedpur teaming up, that spirit is stronger than ever."

A Perfect Match: Parsis Celebrate Cricket, Culture & Bonding

Nagpur 20 October: This innings was built over 37 years, and many partnerships were stitched not only on the pitch, but also off it. Here, smiles matter more than the scoreboard and partnerships flourish not just between batsmen, but between cities, families — and sometimes, even hearts. What began as a simple idea has now grown into one of the most awaited events in the Parsi calendar — the Jiji Irani Cup — which brings together over a hundred Parsis for cricket, food, laughter, and camaraderie. Organised by Nagpur Parsi Gymkhana, the tournament entered its 37th edition this weekend. "Interestingly, this cricket tournament started just for fun," says Parheez Gimi, assistant secretary of Nagpur Parsi Panchayat, watching players take positions at the Veterinary College Ground on Saturday morning. "A few friends came together decades ago to play cricket. Then one city joined, and another, and soon it became a tradition. Over the years, many couples even met here — it's funny, but it really happens!"

This is a fun meetup for everyone," says Parheez. The venue shifts to each participating city every year and Nagpur is the host city this year. Teams from Hyderabad, Kolkata, Surat, Jamshedpur, and Nagpur are battling it out on the field, with Nagpur and Jamshedpur joining forces this year. Matches are being held at Veterinary College Ground and the WCL Ground, Seminary Hills. Parheez, whose father Shiraz was one of those who helped start the tournament in 1985, reflected on its evolution. "Back then, my father and a few others in Jamshedpur and Nagpur decided cricket could be the reason for everyone to meet. Slowly, more cities joined. It wasn't about winning; it was about connecting. Even today, that spirit remains."

Seeing youngsters, families, and even couples here — it's heart-warming and, honestly, a lot of fun!"

Bhumipoojan performed of various development works



DARWA / NAGPUR POST: Development works in DarwAha city are gaining momentum, and various important works were dedicated and bhoompujan of various new works were performed. Road and drain works constructed in Balaji Nagar and Vardhman Nagar areas of Darwha, as well as from Yavatmal Road to Gajanan Maharaj Temple and Tiwari's house were inaugurated, this work was completed with a fund of Rs 70 lakh. In addition, a provision of Rs 1 crore has been made for the construction of a road and drain from Subhash Rathi's house to Mukesh Ingole's house in Swami Samarth Nagar in Ward No. 2 of the Municipal Council limits, as well as up to Municipal Council Urdu School No. 2. A fund of Rs 60 lakh has been approved for the construction of a road and drain from Subhash Rathi's house to Navrangi's house in the same ward. Also, a fund of Rs 70 lakh has been approved for the construction of a hall in an open space in Ward No. 2. All these development works will provide better facilities to the citizens of Darwha city, improve the roads and drainage system, and enhance the beauty and quality of life of the city. Shiv Sena District Liaison Chief Shridharkaka Mohod, senior leader Jeevandada Patil, District Chief Yashwant Pawar, Municipal Council Chief officer Vitthal Kedare, Taluka Kulkarni Manoj Singi, City Chief Raju Dhadhe, Deputy City Chief Eknath Mahurkar, Anand Jhol, as well as division heads, branch heads, Shivsena office bearers and local citizens were present.

Murder case solved in Ramgaon within 12 hours



Amravati 20 October (NAGPUR POST/DC): The Amravati Local Crime Branch has made an impression of its investigative skills by solving the murder incident that took place on Saturday in Ramgaon Shetshiwar under Nandgaonpeth Police Station's jurisdiction in just 12 hours. In this case, Farooq Khan Shamsheer Khan alias Shahrukh Black (aged 32 years, resident of Akbar Nagar, Amravati) has been arrested from his in-laws' house on Bhosa Road in Yavatmal. On Friday night, Syed Shahrukh Syed Farooq (aged 34 years, resident of Akbar Nagar) was brutally murdered. It was a flood of arguments in the area after the incident. However, the Local Crime Branch team successfully traced the accused based on secret information and technical investigation. The investigation revealed that both the deceased and the accused were friends of each other, and due to a petty dispute while drunk, the accused stabbed his friend to death in anger. The accused had absconded after the incident. He was involved in various crimes including motorcycle theft and was frequently changing his residence, posing a big challenge to the police personnel. However, a team led by Senior Police Inspector Sandeep Chavan of the Crime Branch conducted a search operation up to Yavatmal and arrested the accused. After that, the accused was handed over to the Nandgaonpeth police for further investigation. This operation was carried out under the guidance of Police Commissioner Arvind Chavaria, Deputy Commissioner Ganesh Shinde, Deputy Commissioner Shyam Ghuge, Deputy Commissioner (Headquarters and Crime) Ramesh Dhumal, and Assistant Police Commissioner Shivaji Bachate. Sub-Inspector Manish Wakode, Sub-Inspector Aniket Kasar (Cyber), Sub-Inspector Priyanka Kotawar (Cyber), as well as Police Officers Sunil Lasurkar, Deepak Sunderkar, Zaheer Sheikh, Sangram Bhojne, Vikara Guddhe, Syed Nazim, Rajik Rayliwale, Ranjit Gawande, Sagar Thakre, Suraj Chavan, Prabhat Pokale, Nikhil Mahure (Cyber) and Sushma Athawale (Cyber) who played an important role in the operation.

AMC exhibition: Photographs end up falling, poor planning comes to the fore!

Amravati 20 October (NAGPUR POST/DC): The Amravati Photography Competition 2025 jointly organised by Amravati Municipal Corporation and Vidhimantra Sanstha started with great enthusiasm for professional, amateur and student photographers in the city, but due to the unorganised arrangements, an atmosphere of anger has been created among the artists. As many photographs displayed in the exhibition fell on the ground, it was seen that the planning of this exhibition also collapsed. Due to this, the participants of the exhibition as well as other artists have expressed their displeasure with the municipal corporation administration. The topics of this competition were Amravati during Ganeshotsav, city and cultural beauty, as well as nature and wildlife surroundings. The photography competition was judged on October 15, while the exhibition was held at the art gallery of the Cultural Bhavan from October 16 to October 21. Photographs were displayed for the art gallery using bamboo and white cloth, but due to improper management, many photographs fell down, in which some frames were broken. The fact that the photographs were left lying there for four days has created a feeling of insult to the artists' hard work and art. After this incident went viral on social media. The city's photography community and social organisations were upset as a result. Many photographers protested against the municipal corporation authorities, they also protested that the participation of the Vidhimantra organisation was also without proper experience. The photographers also say that the difficulties in the competition increased due to the lack of guidance from experienced social organisations in photography and videography. Although months of struggle are spent for wildlife photography, there was anger as the artists' hard work was not given due respect. Also, the results of the competition were not announced until October 18, while the final exhibition is scheduled to end on October 21. The first prize is Rs. 3000, the second is Rs. 2000 and a total of five awards have been given, but due to the lack of competitors, management confusion and delay, the expected response from the fans was not received. Photographers' associations in the city explained that if the Amravati Municipal Corporation had taken proper planning and guidance, the respect of the artists could have been maintained. Photographers are expressing displeasure and their protests have been seen loudly on social media. Photographers and social organisations in the city are keeping an eye on the further action of the municipal corporation. I was happy to get the opportunity to participate in the photography competition and exhibition organized jointly by the AMC and the Ministry of Law. However, I was very saddened by the fact that my photographs sent in the competition were not properly arranged. Many photographs were not properly displayed, while some photographs fell and were not redisplayed. Even after the inauguration of the competition on October 16, the results of the photography competition have not been announced yet. Apart from this, the hard work and art of the participating artists have been insulted due to not taking proper care of the photographs. Since this is the first experience of this competition next year, mistakes in the management are expected, but such problems could have been avoided if the advice of social organizations working for the benefit of photography and videography in the city was taken, said Meenakshi Rajput, wildlife photographer, Amravati.

Two more arrested in fake currency case, currency notes worth Rs 57 thousand seized

Amravati 20 October (NAGPUR POST/DC): In the case of fake currency notes exposed in Rahatgaon area, Nandgaon Peth police have arrested two more suspects on Sunday and seized fake currency notes worth Rs 57 thousand. So far, 5 people have been arrested in this case, and the mastermind of this racket is still absconding. The police personnel are investigating rapidly to track down the culprits. The arrested accused are Aditya Ramekar (resident of Samarthwadi, Rahatgaon) and

Yash - Satish Barve (resident of Dattawadi, Rahatgaon), fake currency notes worth Rs 48 thousand have been seized from Aditya Ramekar, and Rs 9 thousand from Yash Barve. The police have taken both of them into custody and started further investigation. Earlier, the police personnel had arrested five accused and seized some fake currency notes. Due to these consecutive actions, the police personnel have put a big stop to the illegal transactions of fake currency notes in Rahatgaon area. Preliminary investigation



has revealed that the accused had tried to use the fake notes in the local market and in

retail transactions. The fake note makers have been caught and there is a strong possibility of a big racket being exposed. The operation was carried out by a team led by Police Commissioner Arvind Chavaria, Deputy Commissioner of Police Ganesh Shinde, and SP Kailash Pundkar (Fraserpura Division) under the guidance of API Dinesh Dahatonde and comprising Police Head Constable Raja Raut, police constable Rajik Khan, police constable Nilesh Savkar, Raja

Syed, Vaibhav Tikhile and Amit Dhole. The search for the main mastermind in this case is on and a thorough investigation is underway to find out where and how the fake notes are made from. Preliminary investigation has indicated that an organised gang is working behind this scheme. The mastermind of this racket will be arrested soon. Police are taking serious action in this case and the entire racket will be busted soon, said Dinesh Dahatonde, Senior Police Inspector, Police Station Nandgaon Peth.

सर्व जनतेला शुभ दीपावलीच्या हार्दिक शुभेच्छा...

शुभेच्छुक
श्री गुरुदेव सेवा मंडळ, तालुका शाखा पुसद

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शुभेच्छुक
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शुभेच्छुक
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राजेशभाऊ श्रीमनवार शाहू काळ्या (म.न.स.)

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शुभेच्छुक
समस्त ग्रामपंचायत वासी, पिंपरी (रोड)

शुभ दीपावली
आपणास व आपल्या परिवारास दिवाळीच्या हार्दिक शुभेच्छा...

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स्थापना :- १९९९

प्रमुख अधिकारी : ल. व. श्रीरामजी मोरे पटेल

वैशिष्ट्ये :- १) शेतकऱ्यांकरीता सोयाबीन, तूर, चना या शेतमालावर तारण करणे योजनेद्वारे यशस्वी पावलीवर बाजार समितीकडून ६% प्रमाणे अल्प दरामध्ये मार्ग देण्यात येतो २) शेतमाला लाकण्याकरीता मध्य शेत, ओटयादी व्यवस्था आहे ३) संपूर्ण बाजार समिती वार्ड वॉलेटरीकरण केलेले आहे. जसेच सौरऊर्जा विद्युत व्यवस्था केलेली आहे. ४) बाजार समितीमध्ये शेतकरी निवास, शिकोरी गृह, स्वचालू व वाटर फिल्टरचे पाणी, रस्ती व पुर्तगांकरीता स्वतंत्र तुलम स्वचालता गृह, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वजनकाट्याद्वारे अगुप्त मोजमाप केल्या जाते ५) व्यापारी, आढले, शेतकरी यांच्याकरीता ५० टनी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वजन काट्याची सुविधा आहे ६) बाजार समितीमधील शेतमालाचे दररोजचे बाजारभाव मोटोरेषेच्या माध्यमातून निरीक्षकाद्वारे पाळविण्यात येतात व बाजारच्या डिस्प्लेबोर्डद्वारे प्रत्येक ओटयावर दर्शविण्यात येतात ७) शेतमालाला रचणीमुळे जास्तीत जास्त बाजार भाव मिळतो ८) शेतकऱ्यांना तातडीचा खरीत निपटारा करण्यात येतो व शेतमालाला सुरक्षेकरीता संपूर्ण वार्डमध्ये सि. सि. टी. वी. कॅमेरे बसविण्यात आलेले आहे तसेच २४ तास सिक्कुरिटी गार्डची जबाबदारी केलेली आहे. ९) ई-नाम खेळने अंतर्गत शेतकरी व्यापारी आपला शेतमाल ऑनलाईन खरेदी - विक्री करू शकतात १०) वाशिम बाजार समितीमध्ये चिया, सोयाबीन, तूर, उडीद, मूंग, चना, गहू, ज्वारी, इन्कड इत्यादी शेतमाल बाजार समितीमध्ये विक्री करीता येत असतो ११) वाशिम बाजार समितीचे २ उपबाजार जनारिंग व राजगांव आहेत १२) जनारिंग येथे कापूस सोयाबीन, तूर, उडीद, मूंग, चना, गहू, ज्वारी, इन्कड इ. शेतमाल विक्रीस येतो उपबाजार येथे आमरणक त्या सुविधा केलेल्या आहेत.

श्री. महादेव पुंडलीक काकडे सभापती | श्री. गोवर्धन अभिमान वडगाण उपसभापती | श्री. वामन आनंदराव सोळंके सचिव

कृषी उत्पन्न बाजार समिती, वाशिम जि. वाशिम सर्व संचालक मंडळ

१) श्री. निहल कर्क राखुभाऊ बांदुरंग चौधरी	२) श्री. दामोदर यशवंता गोटे
३) श्री. दत्ता विठोबा गोटे	४) श्री. नवजुनी नामदेवराव कापसे
५) श्री. सुभाषराज काशीराज चौधरी	६) सी. प्रमिला रामचंद्र कुळके
७) सी. सविता गजानन काटेकर	८) सी. रेखा सुरेश माधारी
९) श्री. सुभाष कनिराम साठे	१०) श्री. नरण राजीव गोटे
११) सी. आशा संजय माधारी	१२) श्री. विनोद उताम पट्टेबादुर
१३) श्री. नंदकिशोर शंकर शीगर	१४) श्री. सुरेश भगवान भोकर
१५) सी. खारीबा नितिन करवा	१६) श्री. हिरा रघु जांजिवाले

BUSINESS

Deposit rate cut by 70-80bps to ease margin pressure in coming quarters: PNB MD

New Delhi, 20 October: Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported strong second quarter numbers with a 14% jump in net profit, robust business growth and sharp improvement in asset quality. The bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ashok Chandra, spoke with reporters and provided detailed insights into the key growth drivers, and addressed key concern areas like flat Net Interest Income (NII) and margin pressure. Excerpts:

Congratulations on a good quarter. Your net profit grew by 14%, but net interest income remained flat while asset quality improved significantly. What were the main drivers this quarter?

Retail, Agriculture, and MSME have played a very important role. We have activated our 10,200 branches, the second-largest network in the country — and business should come from there, which has now started. Retail grew by 18.1%, Agriculture by 13%, and MSME by 18.6%. This gives us confidence that credit growth is on track. Our corporate loan book also showed a year-on-year growth of 7.9% and a quarter-on-quarter growth of 3%. Our sanctioned corporate loan book has increased to Rs 1.78 lakh crore. All this put together, I see good loan growth happening for the bank. So, you are seeing good corporate credit growth.

We have good proposals. Last financial year (2024-25), our total corporate sanctioned book was Rs 1.7 lakh crore. This year, we have achieved the same in just six months. This means the bank has done very well in garnering good proposals across various segments—infrastructure, renewable energy, iron and steel, food processing, smart metering, warehousing, and roads.

But your Net Interest Income (NII) remained flat compared to last year. What is the reason?

One important factor is the rate cut. A 100+ basis point cut impacted this quarter fully, whereas in Q1, it was only for part of the quarter. The repricing of deposits is happening now. We had special deposit schemes at 7.25% and 7.75% that are now maturing and being repriced at 6.4% and 6.5%. We have reduced fixed deposit rates by around 70-80 basis points. The full impact of this will be seen in Q3 and Q4. We expect a 5-7 basis point improvement in NIM (Net interest margin) in Q3 and a 10-15 basis point improvement in Q4.

How much of your deposits have been repriced so far? Will you be able to pass on the full 100 basis point rate cut to depositors?

Around 40% to 50% of deposits have been repriced. The remainder will take some time in this quarter and Q4.

Passing on the full 100 basis point cut will be a challenge. We have to be mindful of depositor preferences and market competition. We can't offer 7.25% for 400 days and then drop it to 6.25% immediately; that will take time. However, with the repricing to 6.4% and 6.5%, a 70-80 basis point reduction is happening. We have also reduced the Savings Bank (SB) interest rate, which is a significant component for us. All these impacts will be visible in the coming quarters.

'Progress made, no major differences': Commerce Ministry sources on US-India trade talks

New Delhi, 20 October: India is not rushing for the trade deal with the US and both are exploring a win-win situation, however there are no major differences between the two countries and progresses are happening during the discussions, say sources from India's Commerce Ministry.

A team of Indian delegates from the Ministry of Commerce headed by the Commerce Secretary, Rajesh Agarwal visited Washington last week regarding the trade negotiations discussions. "There are no major differences between India and the US in terms of trade negotiations. During every discussion there is some progress made," said the source. In February this year, leaders of India and the US directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). They have fixed a deadline to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall (October-November) of 2025. So far, five rounds of negotiations have been completed. Last month, Goyal led an official delegation to New York for trade talks. The proposed trade agreement between India and the US aims to more than double the bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. The US has remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25. According to the commerce ministry data, goods exports to the US fell by more than 20 percent to \$5.43 billion in September from \$6.87 billion in August, with tariffs impacting the shipments of items like carpets, textiles, shrimp, and gems and jewellery. However, the total export to the US between April and September 2025 went up by more than 13 percent as compared to the same period in previous year. In the first six months, the total value of exports to the US stood at \$45.82 billion this year, while it was \$40.42 billion in 2024. While the discussions with the US is on, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will also be visiting Berlin and Munich after Diwali for Berlin dialogue and proceed with the next round of talks with the European Union regarding Free trade agreements.

Gold, silver prices see massive fall after touching record high

Mumbai 20 October: After a bumper rally over the past few weeks, the precious metals market witnessed a sharp correction on Friday, as both Gold and Silver prices tumbled on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). The decline came amid a profit-taking wave triggered by specific external market factors that temporarily eased geopolitical and economic anxieties. Gold prices of 24 kt on MCX, which had recently touched a record high of Rs 1,32,294 per 10 grams, fell by around 3 per cent to Rs 1,25,957 per 10 grams. Silver saw an even steeper fall, declining by more than 8 per cent, slipping from Rs 1,70,415 per kg to Rs 1,53,929 per kg. Market experts described the correction as a healthy and expected development following an extraordinary rally in recent months. Ajay Bagga, Banking and Market Expert, told reporters that Friday's price fall was a "necessary tactical retreat" driven by short-term sentiment shifts and natural profit-taking after a historic rally. He pointed out that one of the key factors behind the sudden pullback was the more conciliatory tone from the US. President Donald Trump regarding the threatened high tariffs on China, which helped ease global tensions. "The strategic case for Gold and Silver remains highly compelling, supported by structural factors including global de-dollarization, persistent deficits in Silver, central bank accumulation, and an environment of low real interest rates and high geopolitical risk," Bagga added. According to Bagga, Silver's outlook remains even stronger than Gold's due to its dual nature as both a precious metal and a critical industrial metal. "Given the recent speculative frenzy and physical market dislocation, traders must be cautious. However, the long-term trend remains firmly upward, supported by industrial growth," he said. MCX, which stands for Multi Commodity Exchange of India, is India's first listed electronic commodity derivatives exchange where online trading of commodity futures and options takes place.

EDITORIAL

Deepavali



Diwali also called Deepavali or Deepawali is the Hindu festival of lights, with variations celebrated in other Indian religions such as Jainism and Sikhism. It symbolises the spiritual victory of Dharma over Adharma, light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar months of Ashvin (according to the amanta tradition) and Kartika — between around mid-September and mid-November. The celebrations generally last five or six days. Diwali is connected to various religious events, deities and personalities, such as being the day Rama returned to his kingdom in Ayodhya with his wife Sita and his brother Lakshmana after defeating the demon king Ravana. It is also widely associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity, and Ganesha, the god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles. Other regional traditions connect the holiday to Vishnu, Krishna, Durga, Shiva, Kali, Hanuman, Kubera, Yama,

Yami, Dhanvantari, or Vishvakarman. Primarily a Hindu festival, variations of Diwali are also celebrated by adherents of other faiths. The Jains observe their own Diwali which marks the final liberation of Mahavira. The Sikhs celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas to mark the release of Guru Hargobind from a Mughal prison. Newar Buddhists, unlike other Buddhists, celebrate Diwali by worshipping Lakshmi,

while the Hindus of Eastern India and Bangladesh generally, celebrate Diwali by worshipping the goddess Kali. During the festival, the celebrants illuminate their homes, temples and workspaces with diyas (oil lamps), candles and lanterns. Hindus, in particular, have a ritual oil bath at dawn on each day of the festival. Diwali is also marked with fireworks as well as the decoration of floors with rangoli designs and other

parts of the house with jhalars. Food is a major focus with families partaking in feasts and sharing mithai. The festival is an annual homecoming and bonding period not only for families, but also for communities and associations, particularly those in urban areas, which will organise activities, events, and gatherings. Many towns organise community parades and fairs with parades or music and dance performances in parks. Some Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs will send Diwali greeting cards to family near and far during the festive season, occasionally with boxes of Indian confectionery. Another aspect of the festival is remembering the ancestors. Diwali is also a major cultural event for the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain diaspora. The main day of the festival of Diwali (the day of Lakshmi Puja) is an official holiday in Fiji, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and in some US states.

Right time to walk away

The likes of Rohit and Kohli are rare talents, game-changers whose contribution to Indian cricket can't be scoffed at. ANI In the withering printouts of time, memory frays and fades. Nothing is permanent. We all submerge in a sea of immeasurable eternity that has no beginning, no end. These thoughts surface from time to time, especially in the context of sporting icons whose great past is well behind them, or those who are on the verge of realising the limits of immortality. One of the most traumatic images that haunts me even today, though nearly two decades have passed since I was a witness to it, is that of watching two of my idols dragging

themselves off the ground with a painful limp. The 2007 World Cup in West Indies is remembered for India's disastrous exit in the first round. I remember it more for watching two of the greatest athletes cricket has known struggling to hold their knees firm and walk with stuttering steps. It induced sadness, even fear in me then; it does even now. Anyone who is alive to cricketing feats of the 1950s-60s can't help but be a Garry Sobers fan. Rarely has potential, promise, all-round skill merged with supreme athletic abilities to produce a sportsman like him. Even today, his name evokes awe and a gasp in infinite admiration for the seemingly impossible feats achieved with ease and



elegance. And anyone having followed cricket in the 1970s will never forget the sight of Andy Roberts, pounding the ground with his powerful, strong legs, sprinting towards the batsmen and unleashing the ball, combining impeccable length with furious speed and pace. You could feel fear all around. You could see it in the eyes of the batsman. You could sense it among the spectators.

ENTERTAINMENT

Indian actor shaved her head for Star Trek role, almost became Bond girl, made history as first Indian to present at Oscars

Chennai, 20 October: Before actors like Irrfan Khan and Priyanka Chopra made a name for themselves in Hollywood, Persis Khambatta — a middle-class girl from Mumbai — had already achieved what many could only dream of. She became one of the earliest and most well-known Indian success stories in Hollywood, breaking stereotypes and paving the way for future generations of actors. Persis is still remembered for her iconic portrayal of Lieutenant Ilia in Star Trek: The Motion Picture. But to truly understand her impact, one must begin with her childhood.

Persis' father left her at the age of two

Persis Khambatta was born into a middle-class Parsi family in Mumbai. Her early life was marked by struggle, as her father left the family when she was just two years old. She attended St. Joseph's Convent High School and later enrolled at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. However, she dropped out during her first year to pursue modelling full-time. This turning point came in 1968, when, at just 13, she was discovered by a



photographer while dining with her family at a restaurant. He took her test shots, which ended up being used in an advertising campaign for Rexona soap. The success of that campaign marked the beginning of her modelling career.

Beginning of her modeling career

Persis Khambatta went on to win the Miss India title in 1965, impressing everyone despite wearing off-the-rack clothes she had bought herself. She became the second winner of the Femina Miss India pageant and the third Indian woman ever to participate in Miss Universe. After her win, her modelling career flourished, and she worked with major brands such as Air India, Revlon, and Garden of Eatin'. It wasn't long before Bollywood came

calling. Khambatta made her acting debut with Pinjre Ke Panchhi, starring alongside Meena Kumari and Mehmoond. She went on to appear in films like Bambai Raat Ki Bahon Mein and Kamasutra – Völlendung der Liebe. However, her ambitions soon outgrew the confines of the Hindi film industry.

Persis Khambatta had bigger dreams and famously called herself "a big fish in a small pond." Speaking to the Hollywood Foreign Press, she said, "I was so very fortunate. I had done so much modelling in India, but I was like a big fish in a small pond and I wanted to try somewhere else, to be known internationally, to feel inside me that I was good and I would make it abroad, so I decided to go to London." Her first role in an international film came with Ralph Nelson's British adventure thriller The Wilby Conspiracy (1975), starring Michael Caine, Sidney Poitier, and Nicol Williamson, in which she played a small role as a dentist. She followed this with another small role in Conduct Unbecoming (1975), alongside Michael York and Richard Attenborough.

Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha welcome their first child: 'He's finally here, our baby boy'

Chennai, 20 October: Actor Parineeti Chopra and politician Raghav Chadha have become parents for the first time. The couple welcomed a baby boy on Sunday. They announced the happy news on social media with an adorable post. In a joint Instagram post, the couple shared the good news with their fans and well-wishers, expressing gratitude and excitement as they embraced parenthood. The post read, "He's finally here our baby boy. And we literally can't remember life before. Arms full, our hearts fuller. First we had each other, then now we have everything... with gratitude Parineeti and Raghav." Celebrities have wished the couple. Huma Qureshi and Ananya Panday commented with heart emoji. Kriti Sanon wrote, "Congratulations."

Earlier in August, Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha had announced their pregnancy through an Instagram post. The first photo showed a round

cake with the text "1 + 1 = 3" along with two tiny golden footprints around it. They also shared a sweet video of themselves strolling hand-in-hand through a garden. The caption read, "Our little universe... on its way. Blessed beyond measure."

In an old interview with Filmfare in 2013, Parineeti had opened up about motherhood, expressing her wish to have a big family and adopt children. "I'd love to adopt a child. I want to have lots of children."

I might not be able to conceive all of them, so I'll adopt," she had said. Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha tied the knot in September 2023 at The



Leela Palace in Udaipur, Rajasthan, after dating for some time. Their wedding was a grand affair attended by close friends, family members, and several high-profile guests from Bollywood and politics.

Time for diplomacy to end Ukraine war, ease oil plan



After claiming success in brokering a ceasefire in Gaza, US President Donald Trump is now turning his attention to the Ukraine war. Following what both sides described as a "very productive" phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday, the two leaders agreed to meet in Budapest, Hungary, possibly within a fortnight. The conversation came a day before Trump's meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, where a deal for long-range American Tomahawk

missiles was under discussion.

Such weapons may not end the war, but their ability to strike deep inside Russia could complicate an already tense equation.

Yet Trump's fresh diplomatic effort deserves attention—not least because the prolonged conflict has disrupted global supply chains and kept energy prices volatile. For India, which imports over 85 per cent of its crude needs, stability in oil markets is crucial to containing inflation and sustaining growth.

Protect elephants for a healthier ecosystem

India's elephant population has fallen by 17.8 percent since 2017, according to the latest report from the Wildlife Institute of India. The total count now stands at 22,446—a sobering reminder that the country's most iconic species is under mounting pressure. The Western Ghats, India's largest elephant habitat, recorded 11,934 elephants, down slightly from 11,960 in 2017. But the drop in the Northeast Hills and Brahmaputra plains—from 10,139 to 6,559—is alarming. The Shivalik Hills saw a marginal decline, while Central India and the Eastern Ghats recorded a sharp fall from 3,128 to 1,891. The latest census, which began in 2021, used DNA-based mark-



recapture, a more scientific and precise method that identifies individual elephants through their biological samples. While this could partly explain the statistical drop, it does not alter the grim reality: elephant habitats are shrinking, and threats are multiplying. Deforestation, encroachment, expanding infrastructure, and human-elephant conflicts are steadily eroding the species' space to live and roam. Rail and road networks now crisscross traditional corridors, leading to frequent and often fatal collisions.

Salman Khan says he is blamed for things he never did, recalls what Salim Khan told him: 'If our respect and dignity is in your hands, then it's gone'



Mumbai, 20 October: Bigg Boss 19 Weekend Ka Vaar: Over the past few weekends, viewers have seen host Salman Khan addressing several allegations made against him. The latest Weekend Ka Vaar episode followed a similar pattern, as Salman opened up about being judged by the public, along with Sanjay Dutt.

While reprimanding contestant Amaal Mallik, Salman recalled being blamed for something he hadn't even done. The conversation began when Salman shared his thoughts on Amaal's behavior inside the house.

Last week, during the captaincy task, contestants were given the choice to

destroy a letter from another housemate's family in exchange for becoming captain. While many chose to forgo the opportunity and respect their fellow contestants' emotions, Farrhana Bhatt opted for captaincy and tore Neelam Giri's letter, leaving Neelam emotional and others furious. Upset by Farrhana's actions, Amaal Mallik snatched her plate while she was eating and hurled several derogatory remarks at her. During the Weekend Ka Vaar episode, Salman addressed the issue and reprimanded Amaal for his behavior.

He questioned Amaal, "Even if Farrhana was wrong, who has given you the right to play God and decide who can

eat food when and when not, Amaal?" Amaal responded, "I got very upset and charged up. I tried a lot to give her a clean slate, but she has a lot of darkness in her. She has no soul."

I am not God, but I was hurt. There was no shame in her eyes for what she did," Salman further said, "Obviously, you're not God, you are not even being a human, you are failing at that too. Who gave you the right to snatch her plate? Food was falling."

God has given food to everyone, and then you disrespect it. Amaal, when you call someone's mother a B-grade, are you justified? Just because someone did something wrong, according to you. What is this problem?"

Kamal Amrohi's wife had tearful first meeting with Meena Kumari

New Delhi, 20 October: Kamal Amrohi was married with children when he secretly had an affair with actor Meena Kumari. While his wife lived in their home town of Amroha, he worked in Mumbai, climbing up the ladder of fame and success in the Hindi film industry. It was Ashok Kumar who introduced him to Meena Kumari, whom he fell in love with and married when she was just 18, and he was 34. His first wife found out about it via the press, but didn't speak about it with their daughter Rukhsar, who addressed the difficult situation in a 2019 interview with News18 Urdu. Rukhsar said that she was around 10 when she felt that children at school were looking at her differently. She learned later that it was because her father had secretly married Meena Kumari in Mumbai, and that the news had been carried in magazines. She returned home, and saw her mother reading the same news, and hurled it away when she noticed Rukhsar. They didn't speak of it, although some time later, Rukhsar asked her mother why she was so upset. "He has forgotten us, why don't you forget him as well?" she asked her mother, who scolded her. "Never speak about your father that way again."



Metro Phase-3 Should Be Extended ToKhaparkheda, Urges Saoner MLA

Nagpur 20 October: Saoner MLA Ashish Deshmukh proposed extending the upcoming Nagpur Metro Phase-III line from Koradi to Khaparkheda, citing the area's increasing population and growing commuter needs. On Friday, Deshmukh met MahaMetro managing director Shrawan Hardikar to present the proposal and formally discuss its feasibility.

As per the existing plan, the Metro line is set to terminate at Koradi. However, Deshmukh stressed that extending the route further to Khaparkheda would greatly benefit residents and workers in the region, particularly those employed at the thermal power plant and surrounding industrial areas. The extension, he said, would decongest key routes, improve safety, and serve as a long-term mobility solution for thousands who travel daily between Nagpur, Koradi, and Khaparkheda. Speaking to reporters, Deshmukh said that the proposal came up earlier during a meeting between Union minister Nitin Gadkari, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, and guardian



minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, who strongly supported the idea of connecting Koradi and Khaparkheda through Metro. "Heavy traffic congestion and frequent accidents, especially on the Mankapur flyover, are proof of the urgent need for an alternative transit system," he said. "Additionally, the metro is a popular means of transport in Nagpur, and if brought to these areas, then it will be of great use to the locals," he said. Deshmukh added that areas such as Koradi, Mahadula, Parseoni, and nearby localities are witnessing rapid growth in both population and housing projects. "Extending the Metro line to

Khaparkheda is not only viable but also essential for the future. It will save travel time, reduce fuel expenses, and provide an affordable and safe travel option for local commuters," he said. Deshmukh further pointed to the Kamptee-Kanhan Metro corridor plan. "A similar extension to Khaparkheda can bring balanced growth to the northern belt," he said. MahaMetro MD Shrawan Hardikar said, "Khaparkheda is an important stretch, and we plan to prioritise its development given the promising ridership potential. The corridor is part of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), and we are currently exploring the possibility of

extending it up to Khaparkheda. A detailed feasibility analysis, including parameters such as PHPDT (Peak Hour Peak Direction Traffic) and implementation aspects, is underway." As a part of CMP, Nagpur Metro proposed Phase-III in July end this year, which will extend the city's network with a new Sitabuldi-Koradi corridor spanning around 11.5km. The corridor will branch out from Kasturchand Park station, with an initial underground stretch of nearly 3km due to the dense city core and multiple flyovers, while the rest is expected to be elevated.

The line will feature about 10 stations, designed to improve connectivity between central Nagpur and the rapidly developing Koradi region.

Officials estimate a daily ridership of 1.47 lakh passengers by 2054 on this route alone. The projected cost for the corridor is around Rs3,500 crore, though final figures will depend on the Detailed Project Report (DPR), which is yet to be completed.

Avoid sharing Diwali travel posts on social media to prevent thefts: CP

Nagpur 20 October: In a timely advisory amid the Diwali celebrations, commissioner of police, Ravinder Singal, has urged citizens to exercise caution when sharing holiday information like holiday pictures, live locations, or travel updates on social media. This alert comes as a preventive measure to ensure personal safety and safeguarding property from tech-savvy criminals who tend to exploit such data to target individuals or homes. "Diwali is not just a festival but also a time for vacations, and oversharing on social media can invite danger," Singal emphasized during a recent ceremony for returning stolen assets.

He elaborated that posting selfies from holiday destinations, updating statuses about being away from home, or tagging locations can inadvertently send a signal to adversaries or criminals that a house is unoccupied. Senior police officials have noted a concerning increase in burglaries, where criminals adept at using technology



monitor platforms like Instagram and Facebook for signs of vacant residences. "Today's criminals are not just street-smart; they're internet-savvy."

A simple post indicating you're away for Diwali could lead to break-ins, risking your valuables and even your safety upon return," Singal warned. Recent cases in the city, including high-value thefts, have shown how perpetrators used online information to time their crimes when homes were unguarded. Zonal DCP Rashmitha Rao has disseminated detailed dos and

donts through WhatsApp groups and social media channels. Rao's guidelines emphasise securing assets. "Avoid leaving cash, jewellery, electronics, or important documents at home. Store them in bank lockers or vaults instead," Rao advised in her guidelines. Rao also urged residents to refrain from flaunting wealth in public or online, especially amid the bustling Diwali shopping crowds, which could attract pickpockets or scammers.

A key aspect of the advisory is enhancing home security measures. Singal strongly recommended

installing CCTV cameras, especially in urban apartments where community ties may be weaker. "In flats, people often live in isolation without knowing their neighbours. CCTVs act as a powerful deterrent — criminals fear being recorded," he noted. These systems not only prevent crimes but also provide vital digital evidence for police investigations, aiding in swift identifications and convictions. For those planning to travel this Diwali, Singal suggested informing trustworthy neighbours or local police about their absence, facilitating a community watch. Additional anti-theft measures include activating motion-sensor lights, double-locking vehicles, and ensuring no valuables are visible in cars. The guidelines from DCP Rao also cover firecracker safety, advocating for eco-friendly alternatives to prevent accidents, and provide emergency contact numbers, including the national helpline 112 and Nagpur Control Room numbers (0712-2562222, 2566336).

NMC begins division of voters for 38 prabhags ahead of civic polls

Nagpur 20 October: With several assembly constituencies overlapping multiple civic zones, the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) has begun the complex exercise of dividing voters' lists for all 38 prabhags ahead of the upcoming civic polls. Sources said that despite the extensive verification work, the voters' lists and ward boundaries will largely remain the same as those used in the 2017 municipal elections. Municipal commissioner Abhijeet Chaudhari on Saturday held a training session for officials from all 10 zones and set November 2 as the deadline for submission of prabhag-wise voters' lists. Zone-wise teams have already been formed which will begin field verification from Monday, cross-checking the State Election Commission's (SEC) data to ensure that all voters fall correctly within the final prabhag boundaries. Each team, consisting of five members, comprises an engineer, a tax inspector — who is familiar with property addresses — and a health inspector.

The team will verify house-to-house voter mapping irrespective of assembly constituency boundaries. The objective is to align every voter within the civic limits to the correct prabhag, based on the recently finalised demarcations approved by the SEC. The task is especially challenging as several assembly constituencies encompass areas from multiple NMC zones.

The South Assembly constituency covers major portions of Hanuman Nagar, Dhantoli, and Nehru Nagar zones, while the South-West assembly constituency draws nearly 70% of its voters from Laxmi Nagar Zone and smaller parts from Ashi Nagar, Satranjipura, and Lakadganj zones. Likewise, Central Nagpur includes extensive areas of Gandhibagh Zone and portions of Satranjipura, Dhantoli, and Hanuman Nagar zones. Similarly, the East Assembly constituency comprises around 80% of Lakadganj Zone and a few pockets of Satranjipura, Nehru Nagar, and Gandhibagh zones, while the West Assembly constituency has most of its areas in Dharampeth and Mangalwari zones. The North Assembly constituency predominantly covers Ashi Nagar Zone along with smaller sections of Mangalwari and Satranjipura.

Additionally, the Hudkeshwar and Narsala localities of the Kamptee Assembly constituency fall under Hanuman Nagar Zone. Officials admitted that reconciling assembly-wise lists with prabhag boundaries across zones is proving to be one of the most complex pre-poll tasks. "We have to ensure that every voter listed under the SEC rolls is placed in the correct prabhag

as per the NMC jurisdiction. Even minor discrepancies can affect the final electoral rolls," said a senior civic official privy to the development. Another challenge is the addition of over one lakh voters since the 2017 civic elections. Apart from new additions, the teams have been directed to ensure that names of deceased, deleted, or relocated voters are not retained in the final rolls. For the upcoming elections, prabhag numbers 1 to 37 will each elect four corporators, while prabhag number 38 will have three corporators. After the zone-wise verification and compilation, the finalised prabhag-wise voters' lists will be published on November 6, setting the stage for the much-awaited civic polls in Nagpur.

PRABHAG NUMBERS MAPPED TO NMC ZONES

Zones	Prabhag
Laxmi Nagar	15; 36; 37
Hanuman Nagar	29; 31; 32 & 34
Dhantoli	17; 33 & 35
Nehru Nagar	26; 28; 28 & 30
Gandhibagh	8; 18; 19 & 22
Satranjipura	5; 20 & 21
Lakadganj	4; 23; 24 & 25
Ashi Nagar	2; 3; 6 & 7
Mangalwari	1; 9; 10 & 11
Dharampeth	12; 13; 14 & 15

OVERLAPPING CONSTITUENCIES AND THEIR ZONAL SPREAD

Assembly constituencies — NMC Zones

■ **South-West** — Laxmi Nagar; Dhantoli; Dharampeth & Hanuman Nagar

■ **South** — Hanuman Nagar; Dhantoli & Nehru Nagar

■ **East** — Lakadganj; Satranjipura; Nehru Nagar & Gandhibagh

■ **Central** — Gandhibagh; Satranjipura; Hanuman Nagar & Dhantoli

■ **West** — Dharampeth, Mangalwari & Gandhibagh North — Ashi Nagar; Mangalwari and Satranjipura

REGISTERED VOTERS CROSS 24.84 LAKH Nagpur's Growing Electorate

■ 2025 civic polls: 24.84 lakh voters (as of July 1)

■ 2017 civic polls: 23.83 lakh voters

■ 2012 municipal vs 2024 assembly polls: 19.09 lakh - 23.65 lakh ("24% rise")

IMPACT: The sharp increase in voters is testing NMC's logistical preparedness and is expected to reshape political dynamics. Over 4.5 lakh new voters in a decade have forced parties to redraw strategies and engage with a larger, more diverse electorate.

Pre-Diwali Dusting Triggers Cough & Breathing Troubles

Nagpur 20 October : As the festive season begins, city doctors are reporting a steady rise in H3N2 influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections across Nagpur. Pulmonologists have cautioned that many patients visiting OPDs these days are suffering from these two viral infections, and the dust generated during pre-Diwali cleaning and painting is further aggravating breathing problems. "This time of the year, we are seeing a sharp increase in patients complaining of respiratory, throat irritation, fever, and breathing difficulty."

The majority are testing positive for H3N2 or RSV. Both these viruses affect the respiratory tract, and the dust and chemical fumes during Diwali preparations make the symptoms worse," said Dr Akash Balki, senior pulmonologist. H3N2 and RSV are both respiratory viruses that spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The H3N2 influenza is a type of seasonal flu virus that affects the nose, throat, and sometimes lungs. It causes fever, body ache, sore throat, and fatigue,



but in some people — especially those with asthma, COPD, or low immunity — it can lead to serious lung infections. "RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) is another common virus that causes cold-like symptoms but can be severe in young children, the elderly, and people with weak lungs."

It can lead to pneumonia or wheezing, making breathing difficult. October to December is the time when seasonal viruses thrive, aided by fluctuating temperatures and air pollution. During this period, Diwali preparations also contribute to the problem," said Dr Balki.

The dust from cleaning old furniture, curtains, and shelves, and the chemical fumes from wall paints, varnish, and rangoli colours act as triggers for viral infections and allergic reactions. "Even those who are otherwise healthy may experience an allergic cough or sinus congestion during Diwali cleaning. But for people with asthma, bronchitis, or those recovering from viral infections like H3N2 and RSV, this can lead to severe breathlessness," added Dr Balki.

Traffic Crawls Through Old City As Diwali Rush Chokes Roads



Nagpur 20 October: The festive rush ahead of Diwali brought traffic to a near standstill in several parts of the old city on Sunday, as thousands of vehicles poured into traditional market zones like Itwari, Mahal, and Central Avenue. With Monday being Chhoti Diwali, roads across these commercial pockets remained choked for hours despite police deployment and multiple diversion plans. Central Avenue, the main arterial stretch connecting eastern and central Nagpur, going between Mahal and Itwari, witnessed heavy snarls throughout the day, with vehicles inching forward near Aghasara Square, Gandhi Patha Square, and Darodkar Square.

Internal roads leading to Mahal and Itwari were no different — narrow lanes packed with shoppers, hawkers, and parked two-wheelers left little room for traffic to move. Senior officials from Kotwali police station said that around 80 officers, including homeguards, were deployed just in the Mahal and Itwari areas. The situation was particularly severe along the Kelibagh Road stretch from Kotwali police station to Badkas Chowk till Gandhi Patha Square, where hawkers occupied nearly 60% of the road space. "Even a two-wheeler can barely pass through now. The hawkers have extended right onto the road," said a local shopkeeper. Police officials acknowledged the congestion but said the volume of vehicles was unusually high this weekend. "This is the last shopping weekend before Diwali and the rush was expected. We've stationed additional staff across Mahal, Itwari, and Central Avenue to regulate traffic and prevent gridlocks," said a senior officer from the Traffic Department. Cotton Market zone Traffic PI Suhas Raut told reporter that they are executing multiple anti-encroachment drives with the NMC, and while it provides temporary relief, the hawkers come back. "Primarily, we are trying to clear out a way for traffic and let vehicles pass. That remains our top priority," he said. The no-entry zones for heavy vehicles in these markets, though aimed at easing crowd movement, added to the chaos on connecting roads like CA Road and parts of Gandhibagh.

With limited parking options, many shoppers left vehicles on roadside stretches, causing further obstruction. To manage the situation, patrolling jeeps were deployed at strategic junctions to clear bottlenecks. Traffic police were also seen directing vehicles manually, especially near key intersections where signals failed to manage the volume. Despite the congestion, the atmosphere remained festive, with the sound of car horns mixing with the buzz of Diwali shoppers.

"Diwali Pahat" programme to be held tomorrow

GHATANJI / NAGPUR POST:

Like every year, this year too, on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, it has been organised at Rasikashray Pratishthan Ghatanji on Wednesday, October 22 at 5.30 am.

Devotional songs, emotional songs and folk songs are presented in this melodious programme. A large number of people are seen heading towards the programme in the morning. Day by day, the citizens of the city are waiting for the Diwali Pahat programme.

This is the fourth year of organising the programme and while social activist Mahesh Pawar is doing an excellent job as the organiser of the programme, everyone who comes to the programme



is welcomed in a great way. Maharashtra Sangeet Ratna winner Akanksha Nagarkar will be accompanied by Bhajan Samrat fame Atul Taywade and Ashwin Khaparde as well as music arranger Rahul Deshmukh. Organiser Mahesh Pawar has appealed to the citizens to attend.

Committed to the progress of Pusad Urban Bank: Sharad Maind

PUSAD / NAGPUR POST:

Pusad Urban Cooperative Bank, which is renowned in the cooperative sector of Maharashtra, is committed to the progress of the bank and the deposits of the depositors are safe and the depositors and employees will not be left in the lurch, asserted Sharad Maind, Chairman of Pusad Urban Bank, at a press conference organised at the bank's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Auditorium today October 21.

Bank directors KI Mirza, Lalit Seta, Vinayak Dubewar, Praveer Vyavhare, Nilkanth Patil, Parmeshwar Jaiswal, Nandu Deshmukh, Bank Chief Executive Officer Vinayak Sevakar were present on the occasion.

Sharad Maind further said that Pusad Urban Bank, which has a working area of all over Maharashtra, has 36 thousand members. There



are deposits of Rs. 1 thousand crore in the bank and loans of Rs. 431 crore have been disbursed.

As per the Reserve Bank of India rules, the reserve fund is Rs 130 crore and deposits up to Rs 5 lakh are covered. However, due to the accident that happened last month, many depositors had started withdrawing their deposits. However, it is believed that this situation will stabilize soon and the bank will once again take off. Depositors should not panic and trust the bank as before. Sharad Maind concluded by saying that Pusad Urban

Bank will continue to work to protect the interests of members, depositors and employees as before and is committed to the progress of the bank.

Appeal nominees to cooperate

Shriram Asegaonkar, Babuseth Hirani, former minister Manoharrao Naik have made valuable contributions to the establishment of Pusad Urban Cooperative Bank and due to their efforts, the bank is progressing today. Sharad Maind appealed to their nominees to trust the depositors and cooperate.

Anger of farmers will be visible from ballot box: Dilip Yedatkar

PUSAD/NAGPUR POST:

The situation of farmers in rural areas is very bad. The people are suffering due to inflation. There has been an occasion to celebrate Black Diwali on farmers in areas affected by farmer suicides. In such a situation, local body elections are being held. The anger of the rural areas will definitely be visible from the ballot box, asserted Dilip Yedatkar, General Secretary of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Party and Observer of Local Body Elections in Pusad Assembly Constituency.

A meeting of Congress party regarding the elections of local bodies was held in Pusad on the 19th October. After the meeting, he was speaking at a press conference held at the office of Congress Party General Secretary Dr. Mohammad Nadeem.

Yedatkar said that discussions were held with the activists regarding the upcoming elections in this meeting. He said that the current situation in Pusad Assembly Constituency is strange. Those who enjoyed power here till yesterday on the trust of the Congress party. His heirs have donned the uniform of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The establishment is desperate for power. In Pusad, the husband is a minister and the wife is conducting darbar, he criticized. The citizens of the city are suffering. In such a situation, politics in the Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and the



municipality will be disturbed, said Yedatkar.

In the local self-government elections, where the Mahavikas Aghadi has 'some alliance, some fear', in such a situation, efforts will be made on their own and by coordinating. An alliance has not actually been formed for these elections. The leadership will take decisions after seeing the situation. However, there will be no tension in the alliance. He finally expressed his belief that the Mahavikas Aghadi will come to power.

The Congress party will contest on all seats in Pusad Municipality, including the mayor. Allied parties will be taken along, said Dr. Mohammad Nadeem, General Secretary of the Congress Party and Congress leader in Pusad. Candidates are being invited on behalf of the Congress Party for the post of Civic chief. He indicated that he is interested in running for the post of Civic chief, saying that he has only one application so far. The press conference was attended by Congress party workers including Municipal Election Party Inspector Sanjay Moghe, Jiya, Anil Shinde, Syed Istiyaak.

383 stray dogs sterilised in three weeks at Besa Pipla

Nagpur 20 October :

The Besa-Pipla Nagar Panchayat has taken a significant step toward controlling the stray dog population through a large-scale sterilisation and vaccination drive under its Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme. Within just three weeks of the campaign's launch, 383 stray dogs were sterilised and vaccinated, marking one of the most extensive animal welfare initiatives in the newly-formed nagar panchayat.

The campaign had begun on September 23. Nagat Panchayat CEO Bharat Nandanwar said that the operation involves catching,



sterilising, vaccinating, and releasing stray dogs after proper recovery. "The task is carried out daily by a dedicated veterinary team comprising two veterinarians, two para-veterinary assistants, and one dog-catching vehicle operating across various localities of Besa

and Pipla.

Each surgery is followed by a 20 to 30-minute recovery period, after which the animals are monitored for health and stability before being safely released back to their original locations," he said. As of October 14, all 383 captured dogs had been sterilised and vaccinated, and 256 released after recovery.

Nandanwar emphasised that the primary goal of the drive is not only population control but also the prevention of rabies and other diseases, ensuring a safer and healthier coexistence between residents and stray animals.

In order to create a cultured future generation, it is necessary to propagate the ideology of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj: Ex legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda

Khamgaon 20 October (NAGPUR POST/TC): Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj propagated the message of morality, self-reliance and devotion to the society through Gram Gita. He created public awareness in the society through the rhythm of the khanjari, the philosophy and thoughts that Tukadoji Maharaj gave to the society through Gram Gita are truly needed by the society today. In order to create a cultured and excellent future generation, it is the need of the hour to hold such bhajan competitions and propagate the thoughts of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj through them, said former legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda. On October 17, 2025, a khanjari bhajan competition was organised by Akhil Bharatiya Gurudev Mandal Mozhari at Nimkohala in the taluka on behalf of Jai Valekhan Mauli Bhajan Mandal Nimkohala on the occasion of the death anniversary of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj. Speaking on the occasion, he made the above appeal. The inaugural ceremony of the competition was attended by Gurudev

Seva Ashram Nandura's Acharya Guruvarya Haribhau Werulkar, while the chief guests were Gurudev Kranti Sena President Panjabraodada Deshmukh, Comrade Leader Dadasaheb Kavishwar, Retired Deputy Commissioner of Akola Municipal Corporation Samadhan Solanke, Retired Village Development Officer of Shegaon Panchayat Samiti Babusingji Chavan, PI of Pimpalgaon Raja Police Station Mukesh Gujar, PI of Raipur Police Station Nilesh Solanke, Sarpanch of Nimkohala Gram Panchayat Vimalbai Rathod, Kisan Wakode Guruji, District President of Gurudev Seva Mitra Mandal Akola-Buldhana Ramdas Mahale, Nationalist Congress Leader Manoj Wankhade, Mahendrasingh Rathod and others. Speaking further, former legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda said that Acharya Haribhau Werulkar of Gurudev Seva Mandal, by adopting the philosophy of simple living and high thinking, is continuously providing selfless service to create a better future



generation in every village and to increase love and harmony in the society by taking up initiatives like eradication of superstition, farmer enlightenment, and child culture camps. Sananda assured that he would provide all possible support by bringing funds from the government to build a hall for Gurudev Mandal in every village in the Khamgaon constituency through the Nationalist Congress Party of Deputy Chief Minister Ajitdada Pawar and to provide materials for Bhajan Kirtan. Also, for organising this Khanjari Bhajani competition to carry forward the sacred tradition of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj, former legislator Rana Dilip Kumar Sananda sincerely praised the organizers and said that he

would give a first prize of Rs. 51 thousand to organise the Bhajan competition on a larger scale next year. Sananda wished the attendees a happy Diwali. On this occasion, Acharya Haribhau Werulkar said in his speech that Gurudev Seva Mandal is continuously working in the society to promote humanity and religion. He appealed to the youth to carry out social work and social awareness in their respective villages and spread the message of Gram Gita far and wide through Gurudev Seva Mandal. On the occasion, many dignitaries including Gurudev Kranti Sena President Punjabraodada Deshmukh, Comrade Leader Dadasaheb Kavishwar and others shed light on the life and biography

of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj. They said that it is necessary to imbibe the thoughts of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj to maintain the image of a progressive Maharashtra. A total of 25 Bhajan Mandals participated in this Bhajani Khanjari Bhajan competition organised on the occasion of the death anniversary of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj. Initially, the competition started with a bhajan by Sai Gajanan Gurudev Seva Bhajan Mandal Dabki Road Akola. Various Bhajani Mandals presented the message of social awareness, patriotism, service, spirituality and interfaith harmony very effectively through bhajans based on village songs from 8 pm to 5 am. In the competition, Krantiyoti Mahila Bhajani

Mandal Asalgaon was awarded the first prize of Rs. 5 thousand, Shri Gurudev Seva Mandal Kavathal Gavi, Sangrampur the second prize was Rs. 4 thousand, and Shri Gurudev Seva Bhajan Mandal Adarsh Gram Rudhana Wakana was awarded the third prize of Rs. 3500 and a memento. All the Bhajan Mandals participating in this Bhajan competition were honoured with certificates. Mahendra Singh Rathod, Santosh Ingle, Gajanan Chimankar, Santosh Waghmare, Mahadev Kakad, Dnyaneshwar Wafadane, Jai Valekhan Mauli Bhajani Mandal Nimkohala, Maharana Bal Bhajan Mandal Nimkohala, Gurudeva Mandal Nimkohala and all the villagers worked hard to make the programme successful.

Beautiful blend of traditional faith & modernity comes to light during Mahalakshmi Puja



Pathrot 20 October (NAGPUR POST/TC): With the increasing use of digital payments, online bookkeeping and mobile apps, transactions are becoming completely 'paperless'. However, the demand for writing books remains the same even today against the backdrop of Mahalakshmi Puja. For the business class, these are not just accounting books but are considered a symbol of tradition and a witness to the hard work of the year. As Diwali approaches, the markets of the city are lit up, and traders are seen crowding the market in large numbers to buy new workbooks. The golden-lettered books decorated with Shubh-Labh, Om Shree Ganeshaya Namah and pictures of Mahalakshmi have become a special attraction for customers. Such books are purchased only on specific auspicious occasions for Mahalakshmi Puja, a practice that is followed with devotion even today. These books are available in two types 'April to March' and 'Diwali to Diwali', and their price ranges from letter size to full size between Rs 150 and 400. While Khatavani variety of books is available from about Rs 60 onwards especially Khatavani Quire being among the favourites. These books are seen as a document of the income, hard work and financial journey of the traders. The ritual of keeping the book in front of God on the day of Bhavana Lakshmi Puja and writing 'Shubh-Labh' is considered an auspicious beginning of the new financial year. Therefore, even in the modern digital age, the lamp of faith on traditional Khatavani and related varieties of books are still lit with the same brightness. Some people write figures in the book for certainly even after doing transactions through digital media. Digital accounts are temporary, but handwritten figures are emotional and worth preserving, say local businessmen.

Shri Sant Chakrapani Maharaj was a great saint who showed the path of virtue, service & devotion: Ex legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda



Khamgaon 20 October (NAGPUR POST/TC): Shri Chakrapani Maharaj Avatar Din Festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Sunday at Shri Datta Mandir in Mandka, Taluka. Various religious programmes were held during the festivities organised by the organiser Mahant Shri Ramsaonkar Baba Upakhya Balkrishnadada Mehkarkar Director, Shri Kshetra Ghatali Chinchala Sansthan. Gita Parayan ritual was held from 6 am to 8 am, welcome songs and songs from 9 am to 10 am and from 10 am to 12 pm, a sermon was held about Shri Chakrapani Maharaj through the Amrit Wani of Kate Babaji, Gomraj Karanjekar. Then Kirandada Ambekar gave a sermon based on the Dharma Sabha. Mangal Snan and other rituals were held from 12 noon to 1 pm and Mahaprasad was distributed to thousands of devotees from 12 noon to 4 pm. The event was graced by NCP leader and former legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda as the chief guest, while param poojya Kiran Ambekar Jalicha Dev, param poojya Pramod Muni Shastri, Yogiraj Dada Shastri, Santosh Muni Maharaj, Tapaswini Malu Ambekar, Tapaswini Jaswanta Mehkarkar, NCP leaders Panjabrao Deshmukh, Manoj

Wankhade, Shri Dutt Mandir Mandaka President Jagannath Khandare, Treasurer Keshav Khandare, Jagdish Khandare, Ravi Jaiswal, Vasanta Bochari, Vijay Bochari, Madhav Khandare, Sarpanch of Mandaka Gram Panchayat Rupesh Khandare and others were present as chief guests. On the occasion, on behalf of the organisers, preachers Katebabaji, Gomraj Karanjekar and organiser Balkrishnadada Mehkarkar felicitated former MLA Rana Dilipkumar Sananda with a shawl, Shrifal



Speaking on the occasion, former legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda said that a beautiful confluence of knowledge, karma and devotion can be seen in the Mahanubhav Panth. Saint Shri Chakrapani Maharaj of Mahanubhav emphasised on education, cleanliness, addiction and rural development along with religious upliftment. Due to his work, a movement of devotion and social service was established in many villages. Saying that good conduct is the true form of religion,

Chakrapani Maharaj further propagated the message of unity of the Mahanubhav Panth in the society. Saying that Saint Chakrapani Maharaj was a great saint of the Mahanubhav sect, who showed the path of morality, service and devotion, he extended his best wishes to the attendees on the occasion of Shri Chakrapani Maharaj Avatar Day Festival and Diwali festival. Thousands of devotees, including former legislator Rana Dilip Kumar Sananda, benefited from the

Mahaprasad organised on the occasion of Shri Chakrapani Maharaj's Incarnation Day. Sarangdhar Khandare, Kisan Khandare, trustees, activists of Shri Datta Temple in Mandaka, and villagers of Mandaka worked hard to make the programme successful.

Unseasonal rains hit Dharni taluka

Dharani 20 October (NAGPUR POST/TC): Just as the festival of Diwali was approaching, nature once again hit the farmers with rain. The heavy rains that have been going on in the Melghat area for the last two days washed away all the hard work and dreams of the farmers. Just when the crops like soybean, tur, moong, gram, which were on the verge of harvesting, were kept in the open to dry, the rain fell in torrents and all the crops got soaked. The farmers were already suffering losses due to the lack of rain, and this rain even ruined the remaining crops. Some farmers

rushed to save their crops. The farmers tried their best to dry the crops and covered them under cheap plastic worth Rs 150, but even those covers proved to be useless in the face of nature's wrath. The plastic was blown away by the gust of wind, while in some places the entire grain was washed away in the water. This same crop was kept for Diwali expenses and children's education. Now everything is gone. Farmers were seen speaking with tears in their eyes. In many places, farmers were standing near their crops all night trying to save their grain from the rain.

Two DJ vehicles fined Rs 55,500

Amravati 20 October (NAGPUR POST/DC): Shirgaon Kasba police have taken strict action against those violating noise pollution and traffic rules. The police have imposed a fine of Rs 55,500 on those who installed DJ systems and drove their vehicles without permission. Shirgaon Kasba police took action against two DJ vehicles for violating noise pollution and traffic rules. A total fine of Rs 55,500 has been imposed on both these vehicles. According to information, vehicles bearing registration numbers MP 13/GB 2985 and MH 27/BX 7276 were found parked in an open field in Karajgaon village.

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Senior citizen seriously injured in Hudkeshwar road accident



Nagpur 20 October: A 63-year-old woman sustained serious injuries after a speeding motorcycle rammed into a scooter on Amar Nagar Road under the Hudkeshwar Police limits on Friday evening. According to police, the victim Smt. Sushma Narendra Tiwari (63), who was riding pillion on a Jupiter scooter (MH-49-AB-1274) driven by her nephew Pranay Tiwari (35), when a KTM motorcycle (MH-49-BM-8003) came at high speed and hit their

vehicle. Both riders fell on the road, leaving the elderly woman critically injured. She was rushed to Neuro One Hospital, where she is undergoing treatment. Based on a complaint by Dr. Rashmi Vinod Shripasad Tiwari (26), Hudkeshwar Police registered a case under Sections 279 and 338 of the BNS along with Sections 134 and 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act against the errant motorcyclist. Further investigation is underway.

Elderly man found dead in well near Jagruteshwar Temple



Nagpur 20 October: An unidentified elderly man, believed to be around 80 years old, was found dead in a well near Jagruteshwar Temple under the Tehsil Police jurisdiction on Saturday morning. Locals spotted the body floating in the well around 7.30 am and informed the police. The

man was pulled out and rushed to Mayo Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Tehsil Police have registered a case of accidental death under Section 174 of the CrPC, and further investigation is being conducted by PSI Khan to ascertain the identity and cause of death.

High Court questions irregular fund disbursement under MNREGA

Nagpur 20 October: The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has questioned the State Government over the alleged disbursement of funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) at the behest of local political representatives, instead of following the prescribed legal procedure. The court was hearing a petition filed by the Akhil Bhartiya Gram Panchayat Association, which raised serious concerns over irregularities in the release of MNREGA funds. The petition alleged that certain gram panchayats with political connections were receiving preferential treatment, bypassing the seniority list and obtaining out-of-turn fund releases by influencing government officials. Acting on the petition, the High Court had earlier issued notices to the State of Maharashtra, Commissioner, MNREGA, and the Deputy CEO, Zilla Parishad, Gondia. Advocate Surabhi Godbole Naidu, appearing for the petitioners, informed the court that after every project is completed by a gram panchayat, a Fund Transfer Order (FTO) is generated and verified at various administrative levels — from

the Panchayat Samiti to the Zilla Parishad — before being forwarded to the MNREGA Commissioner for final approval and fund release. However, Naidu pointed out that FTOs amounting to approximately Rs 150 crore (Rs 1500 lakh), approved between 2022 and 2024, were still pending disbursement. As a result, gram panchayats were unable to pay vendors who had supplied materials for community development works — causing severe financial hardship despite no fault of their own. The petitioner alleged that certain gram panchayats with “influential nexus” to MLAs and political leaders managed to jump the queue by securing recommendation letters, resulting in the release of funds for works completed much later (January–March 2024), while older FTOs remained pending. Interestingly, the Zilla Parishad, Gondia, in its reply, confirmed several of the petitioner’s allegations. During the hearing, the State sought additional time to respond, prompting the High Court to pass a sharp observation. The bench directed the Additional Government Pleader to explain whether MNREGA funds could legally be released based

on the recommendations of political representatives—individuals who hold no authority under the MNREGA Act, 2005, or its guidelines to influence such disbursements. The Court noted that the affidavit filed by the Panchayat Samiti, Gondia, was silent on this critical issue and granted the State a final opportunity to file a detailed reply. Despite the High Court’s scrutiny, recent developments suggest that the practice of politically influenced disbursements may have continued. The State Government recently released Rs 1,200 crore in MNREGA funds across Maharashtra, of which Rs 40 crore was allocated to Gondia district. The petitioner claims that once again, politically connected gram panchayats secured preferential releases, sidestepping seniority norms even while the case remains sub judice. Following this, the petitioners have issued a contempt notice to the Commissioner, MNREGA, and are moving to circulate the matter before the High Court for urgent hearing. Advocates Surabhi Godbole Naidu, Prakash Naidu, Joseph Bastian, and Dhruv Sharma appeared on behalf of the petitioners.

Stolen valuables worth Rs 45 lakh returned to citizens at ‘Property Return Ceremony’ organised by Zone 4 police

Nagpur 20 October: In a heartwarming Diwali gesture, Zone 4 of Nagpur City Police organised a ‘Property Return Ceremony’ (Muddamal Paratava Sohla) on the occasion of Dhanteras at Nandanvan Police Station on Saturday, October 18. Under the initiative and guidance of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 4) Rashmita Rao, the event was aimed at returning recovered or missing property to its rightful owners — giving citizens a special Diwali gift from the police department. During the ceremony, gold and silver ornaments, cash, mobile phones, and two-wheelers worth a total of Rs 45 lakh (105 items) were handed back to their owners by DCP Rashmita Rao. Citizens expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the police for



helping them recover their lost belongings ahead of the festive season. Speaking on the occasion, DCP Rao said that returning recovered property to its rightful owners

is not just a responsibility but also a matter of pride for the police force. “Such initiatives strengthen public trust in the police and bring joy during festive occasions like

Diwali,” she added, while commending the efforts of police officers and staff for their dedicated work. The event was organized under the guidance of DCP

Rashmita Rao N., with the active participation of ACP Pradeep Shiraskar (Sakkardara Division), ACP Narendra Hivre (Ajni Division), and Police Inspectors Vinayak Koli (Nandanvan), Pramod Pore (Sakkardara), Jaywant Patil (Imamwada), Mukund Kawade (Beltarodi), Nitinchandra Rajkumar (Ajni), and Hridaynath Yadav (Hudkeshwar). The ceremony was anchored by PSI Shinde and API Rupali Sakpal. The program began with an introductory address by ACP Pradeep Shiraskar, followed by remarks from ACP Narendra Hivre, and a vote of thanks delivered by PI Vinayak Koli. Citizens attending the event described it as a memorable Diwali gift that reflected the commitment and compassion of the Nagpur Police in serving the public.

Festive ‘Seva’ drives light up early election push in Nagpur

Nagpur 20 October: With Diwali offering the perfect backdrop, many hopefuls have launched a series of “seva” initiatives aimed at reconnecting with voters. Across neighbourhoods, greeting posters, social media messages, and large hoardings featuring smiling candidates have sprung up overnight, setting the tone for an early campaign season. One of the most striking trends this year is the launch of “Tirth Darshan” (pilgrimage) bustours—free temple visits for senior citizens, organised and sponsored by prospective candidates seeking blessings and visibility. These trips, described as “social service” activities, have quickly gained popularity as they allow direct interaction with voters in a relaxed, devotional



setting. “No one wants to miss this opportunity to talk to people before the Model Code of Conduct is announced,” admitted a local politico. Public engagement has taken a festive turn with “Diwali Pahat” musical mornings, Diwali Milan gatherings, rangoli competitions, and lantern decoration contests being organised across various wards. However, the scramble to stay visible is proving costly. Even first-time aspirants are reportedly feeling the financial strain of these elaborate outreach drives, well before nominations have even begun. At the same time, frustration among citizens

continues over the four-member ward system introduced in the NMC. Residents complain that councillors often “pass responsibility to each other,” leaving many basic civic issues unresolved. “Who is responsible for my area?” has become a common refrain in several neighbourhoods. Behind the festive smiles and gestures of devotion, however, voters appear cautious. “Why so many sudden pilgrimages, wishes, and service camps — and all just before elections?” is the question doing the rounds in local circles. For now, Nagpur’s political landscape is gleaming in festive hues — with temple tours, glowing lanterns, and “service” drives turning into campaign tools as candidates blend faith, festivals, and politics in the run-up to the polls.

Rising prices, same spark: Nagpur readies for a sparkling Diwali

Nagpur 20 October: Rising prices haven’t dulled Nagpur’s festive glow. Even with cracker rates shooting up by 20–30%, the city’s enthusiasm for fireworks is burning brighter than ever. As Diwali approaches, Central Avenue and Mahal have transformed into glittering stretches of cracker stalls stacked with sutli bombs, rockets, chakris, anars, and new eco-friendly “green” varieties. Over the weekend, the lanes buzzed with shoppers—families weighing their options while children pointed excitedly at their favourites. Traders admit prices have gone up due to costlier raw materials and transportation, but the demand hasn’t slowed.



“The real joy of Diwali is in the sparkle and sound of crackers,” said a local buyer, summing up the mood that continues to drive brisk sales. According to Ujjwal Chandak, a well-known trader on Central Avenue, each year brings fresh additions to the shelves. “Youngsters go for high-sound crackers like

sutli bombs and rockets, while children love chakris, phulhadis, and cartoon-themed fireworks,” he said. He added that this year, green crackers have found many takers among parents who want “safer options” for their kids. The festive markets gleam with fairy lights, colourful packaging, and themed gift

boxes. Shoppers, though mindful of the prices, are unwilling to let go of the tradition. “Price increase every year, but the festival just isn’t the same without fireworks,” said another customer while finalising his purchases. Meanwhile, authorities have appealed to citizens to celebrate responsibly. Parents have been advised to keep an eye on children while bursting crackers and to avoid dry or crowded areas. Traders, too, have urged buyers to pick only licensed products and handle them safely. As darkness descends, Nagpur lights up in bursts of colour and sound—proof that even inflation can’t dim the city’s festive spirit.

Musical ‘Diwali Pahat’ by ‘Ashadeep Divya Gunjan’ Group

Nagpur 20 October: Musical Diwali Pahat program by Ashadeep Divya Gunjan group of Apanga, Mahila-Bal Vikas Sanstha, was presented at the premises of the Ganesh Temple in Naik Nelco Society, with the cooperation of the Naik Nelco Society Citizens’ Committee. The event began with a Ganesh Vandana, followed by performances of “Bhoopali Diwali songs, Gondhal, Bhajans, Qawwali, and other musical genres. Adding to the beauty of the morning, the singers also presented a bouquet of melodious old and new Hindi-Marathi songs expressing various human emotions. A special feature of the program was that all the singers and instrumentalists were differently abled artists. The singers—Saurabh Borekar, Mohammad Ziauddin, Shilpa (Nagrare) Komalkar, Surekha Bawiskar, Manisha Yerame, and Ajay Lingalwar — were accompanied by visually impaired musicians: Yugal Sonawane (Keyboard), Shashi Parmar (Octopad), Kishor Yerame



(Tabla), and Shivprasad (Dholak). Veena Mohadikar conducted the event gracefully, introducing each artist with warmth and clarity. Dr. Pratima Shastri extended her gratitude to the organizers and the audience for their encouragement, and requested their continued guidance and support for the artists’ future journey. The program concluded with Ashadeep’s inspiring theme song Aamhi Pudhe

Janar, symbolizing the determination and spirit of the differently abled performers. On behalf of the Nelco Society Citizens’ Committee, Mr. Vijay Naik welcomed the artists. Mr. Narsapurkar distributed Diwali Faral (traditional festive snacks) packets to all participants, and with warm wishes for the continued progress of the Ashadeep team, the event came to a close.

NMC tender quoted 41.62% below estimate, quality concerns raised

Nagpur 20 October: A tender floated by the Nagpur Municipal Corporation’s Public Works Department has sparked intense debate after a contractor quoted 41.62 percent below the estimated project cost, raising serious concerns over the quality and feasibility of the work. The tender, worth ₹28.99 lakh, was issued on August 21 for installing I-block pavers between Kamal Square and SCS Girls School, Pachpaoli. A total of 28 contractors submitted bids, most offering between 25 to 40 percent less than the estimated cost. However, one contractor’s bid — nearly 42 percent lower — has become the talk of the contracting circles. Senior contractors described it as a “dangerous competition,” warning that such deep underquoting could either



mean inflated official estimates or desperate price-cutting to secure contracts. In both cases, they say, the ultimate risk falls on the quality of public works and the effective use of taxpayer money. Officials claim lower bids help the government save money, but experienced

contractors argue that this trend often leads to poor materials, delayed execution, and cost overruns during later stages. Since the COVID-19 period, tenders quoted 35–45 percent below estimates have become increasingly common. Experts warn that such practices not only hurt contractors but can also cause losses to the civic body itself. Senior members of the contractors’ association said they plan to take up the issue with municipal engineers and urge stricter monitoring to prevent “price dumping” that threatens the quality of public infrastructure.

LAD college crowned inter-collegiate Basketball Champions after defeating RCOEM

Nagpur 20 October: The senior basketball team of LAD College clinched the Inter-Collegiate Senior Basketball Championship, defeating last year’s titleholders, Shri Ramdeobaba College of Engineering and Management, in a commanding performance. LAD secured a 32–22 win, with quarter-wise scores of 11–10, 13–08, 12–00, and 02–00. Key contributions came from Swati Wankhede (13 points), Mitali Kohle (11), Priya Dhapodkar (8), Ruchika Shende (7), and Sharvari Nene (8), whose teamwork and strong defence ensured a convincing victory. Other team members included Prachi Kolhe, Vijaya Hiwse, and Siya Ahuja. The team was coached by Arvind Garud, with constant motivation from Principal Dr. Pooja Pathak. The squad



also received support from Nilima Waghmare, Head of the Sports Department, along with Kajal Tekade and Pragati Ukey. The win stands as a testament to the

players’ discipline, and teamwork, backed by the unwavering encouragement of the college administration.

HC denies bail to key accused in child trafficking syndicate

Nagpur 20 October: In a stern message against organised crime, the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has denied bail to Sachin Ramesh Patil, a key aide in a notorious child trafficking syndicate, observing that his release could pave the way for similar offences to continue. Justice Vrushali V. Joshi, while rejecting the bail plea, noted that the material on record clearly established Patil’s active involvement in the organised network led by accused Ayesha Maqbool Khan, which allegedly trafficked infants for illegal adoption. “The evidence prima facie shows that the accused actively assisted the organised crime syndicate and is part of the conspiracy. There is no reasonable ground to believe that he is not guilty or that he is unlikely to commit further offences,” Justice Joshi observed in the order. Patil was arrested by Koradi Police under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Juvenile Justice Act, and the MCOCA. According to the prosecution, Patil worked closely with the prime accused, Ayesha Maqbool Khan, who headed the child trafficking racket. His role was to identify and connect vulnerable women, to the syndicate, facilitating the illegal transfer of infants for money. Investigators said Patil’s methods mirrored the modus operandi of the gang leader, and at least seven similar cases were already registered against him. Despite the defence’s argument that the trial had been delayed and that the SC had laid down principles favouring bail in prolonged cases, the Court refused to extend relief, citing the strict provisions of Section 21(4) of MCOCA. Justice Joshi observed that before granting bail under MCOCA, the Court must be satisfied that the accused is not guilty and is unlikely to reoffend, conditions that were clearly not met in Patil’s case. The Court further remarked that his release could “hinder the ongoing investigation and embolden the organised network engaged in trafficking.”

Bajrang Dal members storm meat shop

Akola 20 October: Tension broke out in Baizpur area of Maharashtra's Akola city on Friday after members of the Bajrang Dal raided a local meat shop, claiming that beef was being sold there. The situation escalated when local Muslim residents confronted the group, accusing them of taking the law into their own hands. According to eyewitnesses, the Bajrang Dal members "stormed" into the shop without any police authority and began accusing the shopkeeper of selling beef. "They started shouting slogans and abusing the shop owner," said Mohammed Salim, a local resident. "When we tried to stop them, they began provoking people. It looked planned." Soon, both groups started shouting slogans, and some reports suggested that stones were thrown. However, police denied that any major violence took place. "There was no physical clash," said Police Inspector Rajesh Patil of Akola City Police Station. "A small crowd gathered, and some slogans were shouted. The situation was quickly brought under control."

दिवाळी
निमित्त सर्वांना
हार्दिक शुभेच्छा

मरापे पॅन्ट शॉप व
समस्त मरापे परिवार पांढरकवडा

दिवाळी
निमित्त सर्वांना
मंगलमय शुभेच्छा

आनंद वैद्य

देऊनी दिवाळा प्रकाश सोनेरी,
माळोनी गंध मधुर उठण्याचा...
करा संकल्प सुंदर जगण्याचा,
गाढूनी मुहूर्त दिवाळी सणाचा...

समस्त नागरिकांना
दीपावली
व
भाऊबीज
निमित्त
हार्दिक शुभेच्छा..!

प्रा.राजु तोडसाम
आमदार-८० केदापूर-आर्णी
विधानसभा, महाराष्ट्र राज्य

दि अमरावती जिल्हा मध्यवर्ती सहकारी बँक मर्या. अमरावती
मुख्य कार्यालय : कॅम्प रोड, अमरावती

समस्त नागरिकांना दीपावलीच्या हार्दिक शुभेच्छा

संपर्क : (पी.बी.एस.)
0721-2663378/2663379
E-mail: amtdccbho@rediffmail.com

तेवीवरील आकर्षक व्याजदर

७ ते १४ दिवसांकरिता	३.७५%
१५ ते ४५ दिवसांकरिता	४.२५%
४६ ते १८० दिवसांकरिता	४.७५%
१८१ ते २७० दिवसांकरिता	५.७५%
२७१ ते १५ महिन्यांपर्यंत	७.००%
१५ महिने १ दिवस ते २४ महिन्यांपर्यंत	७.२०%
२४ महिने १ दिवस ते ३६ महिन्यांपर्यंत	७.००%
३६ महिने १ दिवस ते वरील कालावधीपर्यंत	६.७५%
चघत ठेव	३.७५%

अधिक माहितीसाठी बँकेच्या
नजीकच्या शाखेत अथवा सेवा सहकारी
संस्थेशी संपर्क साधावा.

संस्थेशी ठळक वैशिष्ट्ये :-

३१ मार्चच्या आत चालू पीक कर्जाची परतफेड केल्यास रु. ३,००,०००/- पर्यंत बिनव्याजी पीक कर्ज, रु. ३,००,०००/- पर्यंत डॉ. पंजाबराव देशमुख योजनेअंतर्गत ३% व्याज सवलत. जिल्ह्यातील शेतकरी तसेच गैरशेतकरी यांच्या आपतकालीन वित्तीय उपलब्धतेसाठी सदैव तत्पर बँक, रु.१०.०० लाखपर्यंत बँकेचे सोनेतारण कर्ज ९% दराने योजना, शेतकऱ्यांसाठी ७/१२ जोडून व्याजामध्ये १% विशेष सूट. शासकीय/अशासकीय अनुदानित शालेय कर्मचाऱ्यांकरिता सुलभ ओव्हर ड्रॉफ्ट योजना तसेच वैयक्तिक कर्ज योजना. गरजू तथा आर्थिक विषम प्रेतीधारकांना बोअरवेल/ट्रयुवेल/स्किंकर/दुधाळ जनावरे। गोडाऊन इत्यादी कर्ज योजना, जिल्ह्यातील शेतकरी/पगारदार/व्यावसायिक यांना गृहकर्ज, फोन-व्हीलर / टू-व्हीलरकरिता कर्ज, टॅक्सपेयी व्यावसायिकांना मध्यम मुदती/क्रेडिट कर्ज योजना

आ.मा.श्री.बच्चू उर्फ ओमप्रकाश बाबाराव कडू अध्यक्ष
मा.श्री.अभिजित प्रवीणराव ढेगे उपाध्यक्ष
मा.श्री.राजेंद्र सकल मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी

जय गुरुदेव

दीपावलीच्या
हार्दिक शुभेच्छा

शुभेच्छुकः
विनोद देशमुख,
पांढरकवडा

शुभ
दीपावली
निमित्त सर्वांना
मंगलमय शुभेच्छा ..!

खेतानी फाउंडेशन, पांढरकवडा

सर्व नागरिकांना
दीपावली
च्या
हार्दिक शुभेच्छा

श्री. सुनील मदनराव गावंडे (सभापती)
श्री. श्रीकृष्ण भानुदास कराळे (उपसभापती)
श्री. सु. स. कोकाटे (सचिव)
कर्मचारी, कृषी उत्पन्न बाजार समिती, दर्यापूर

Nagpur to get crescent-shaped new Vidhan Bhavan complex

Nagpur 20 October: Following the architectural inspiration of the new Parliament House in Delhi, Maharashtra's winter capital Nagpur is set to get a new crescent-shaped Vidhan Bhavan complex. The ambitious project will transform the State's legislative infrastructure while preserving the existing heritage buildings, sources said. According to sources, the design of the new Vidhan Bhavan will be crescent-shaped and constructed within the existing legislative premises. As part of the project, the temporary camp offices and barracks of various political parties, including the Congress and BJP, will be demolished to make space for the new structure. However, the old Assembly and Legislative Council buildings, both classified as heritage structures, will remain untouched. The proposed building will house three major components.

समस्त पांढरकवडा
वासियांना
दीपावली
व
भाऊबीज
निमित्त हार्दिक
शुभेच्छा..

शुभेच्छुक :- आतीश उर्फ (सोनू भेंय्या)बोरेले
व मित्रपरिवार, पांढरकवडा

दि. अमरावती जिल्हा परिषद शिक्षक सहकारी बँक लि.
कॉप्रेस नगर रोड, रेल्वे पुलाजवळ, अमरावती. फोन नं. : (०७२९) २६७४६८४, फॅक्स नं. : ०७२९-२६७९०४३
E-mail : amtzpteacherbank@gmail.com • Website - www.zpshikshakbankamt.com

बँकेची आर्थिक स्थिती
(३१ मार्च २०२५ अखेर) (अंदाजे लाखों)

भागपांडवल	५३९९.५७
एकुण व्यवसाय	९६४९७.८९
एकुण ठेवी	५७८९०.९६
सी.आर.ए.आर.	२९.२९
निव्वळ नफा	८४८.८९
नेट एन.पी.ए.	०.९२%
एकुण कर्ज	३८६०७.६६
ऑडीट वॉ	अ

• सर्व शाखा संगणकीकृत • सी.बी.एस. व्दारा सेवा उपलब्ध
• मोबाईल बँकिंग, फोन पे, गुगल पे, ए.टी.एम., आर.टी.जी.एस./एन.ई.एफ.टी. आय.एम.पी.एस., एन.ए.सी.एच, बी.बी.पी.एस, सी.टी.सी. क्लिअरिंगची सेवा उपलब्ध • बँकेचे कामकाज रविवार पूर्ण वेळ • विनम्र व तत्पर सेवा (आठवडी सुट्टी बुधवार तसेच दुसरा व चौथा शनिवार बँक बंद राहील)
• KYC Norms पूर्ण करून कोणालाही खाते उघडण्याची सोय.
• तेवीवर सर्वाधिक व्याज सातत्याने ऑडिट वर्ग अ
• सेफ डिपॉझिट लॉकर्स सेवा, ५ लाखापर्यंत तेवीला विमा संरक्षण.
• सर्वांकरिता आकर्षक व्याज दरात आवर्ती ठेव योजना (आर.डी)
• मुदत तेवीवर जेष्ठ नागरिकांना ०.५०% जादा व्याजाची सवलत.

मा. श्री नोकसुखान्त श्री. राऊत अध्यक्ष
मा. श्री मो. नाजीम अ. गफ्फार उपाध्यक्ष
मा. श्री राजेश प्र. वैश्वामुख सचिव

श्री तुळशीदास मु. गाडे, श्री प्रफुल्ल वि. भेंडे, श्री सुरेंद्र वि. भेंडे, श्री केलास मा. कडू, श्री उमेश उर्फ उमेश रा. दुभाकीकर, श्री अजयानंद स. पवार, श्री रामदासजी शे. कडू, श्री राजेंद्र ना. गावंडे, श्री मनिष र. वाळे, विजय प्र. कोठाळे, श्री संभाजी श्री. वेळूळे, श्री राजेश वि. गाडे, सी. सरिता दि. काठाळे, सी. संजिता शा. तडक, अंज. श्री राजपाल काशिराम वानखे (राज संभाजीकर), डॉ. मो. शकील अहमद मो. पठात (राज संभाजीकर)