

## EDITORIAL

### BULLS EYE

#### Congress's Chandrapur standoff

The moment of forming the government in Chandrapur Municipality in Maharashtra was very close for the Congress party. However, currently the Congress party is mostly on Saturn's lap because if they want to learn how to kick the success they have achieved, they should study the current Sundopashundi in the Congress party. The Congress lost the power in Madhya Pradesh that they had earlier won because of this. Before that, the same thing happened in Goa, and there was a drama in Karnataka too. Overall, instead of putting the grass in their hands, they put the grass in their noses full of honey, so not only did the grass get spoiled, but the honey also got spoiled. 66 corporators were to be elected in Chandrapur Municipal Corporation. Due to the BJP's infighting in Chandrapur, the Congress lost its way, so 27 corporators were elected from the Congress. Five corporators belong to the Vanchit and three corporators belong to Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sena. Adding these up, Congress leader Vijay Vadettiwar was overjoyed. Vadettiwar's confidence was evident to the public in this display of joy. Just as there are two opposing groups in the BJP in Chandrapur politics, the same is the case with the Congress. One group is made up of MPs and the other group is made up of MLAs. Due to such a situation, a fight broke out between the two groups of the Congress within two to four days of the results being announced. Congress Party Maharashtra State President Harshvardhan Sapkal mediated and one group was given the mayor's post and the other group was given a standing committee. Now, the mind was built that they would come to power with the help of the Mitra Party. Meanwhile, Ubatha, who had three members, started to get the mayor's post for two and a half years, after which the matter got really heated. How serious should the fight between the two groups of the Congress go? Yesterday, corporators of one group who were going to Chandrapur from Nagpur received threats from the other group, and an attempt was made to kidnap them. A video clip of some of them tying a dupatta on their faces has been shown everywhere. The matter has also been reported to the police, meaning that these two groups are seen banging their heads on a stone from both sides and breaking it, thinking that their heads are not usable. The spectacle that the Congressmen of Chandrapur put on by remaining in the same party and not listening to anyone even after being given orders by the party's state president is completely unstoppable. The leaders of both these groups were once office bearers of Shiv Sena, which means that the leaders of both these groups are not originally Congressmen. The power in the hands of the Congress can easily go to the hands of the Bharatiya Janata Party due to this mutual rivalry. These Congressmen do not understand even such simple mathematics. From this, one wants to say that they are not Congressmen but Congress is like grass. Because the seeds of Milod that came from America were contaminating the land and the standing crops. Therefore, when those Milod seeds sprouted, people named it Congress grass. Since the Congress was in power at that time, it was named Carrot grass. Just as they used to plot for the poisonous carrot grass crop, it would not be wrong to say that the same thing will be true for the Congressmen in the fertile land of Chandrapur. This is the Chandrapur dispute of how to defeat each other while remaining in the same party.

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## Merger of both NCP factions finalised, official announcement after rural polls: Sources

**Mumbai, Jan 30 (UNI)** A decision has been taken to merge both factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), but the official announcement on the issue will be made after the completion of the Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections, according to senior sources from both sides. Discussions on the merger between the NCP led by Sharadchandra Pawar and the other faction, which was headed by the late Ajit Pawar, had been underway for the past six months. The initiative for the reunification was taken by the late Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar himself. During this period, Ajit Pawar held several rounds of discussions with MP Supriya Sule and Jayant Patil, the state president of the Sharadchandra Pawar-led NCP. Ajit Pawar and Sule were cousins. Senior NCP leaders and former ministers Rajesh Tope and Eknath Khadse have also confirmed the development, endorsing that both factions will merge and the NCP will once again function as a united party.

# Sunetra Pawar to be Maha Dy CM

**Oath ceremony likely to take place today**

**Mumbai 30 January:** Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar is likely to take oath as the new Maharashtra deputy chief minister today, three days after the post was left vacant following the 66-year-old's death in a crash in his hometown Baramati on Wednesday, sources said. The party will hold a legislature party meeting tomorrow in the Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai at 2 pm tomorrow to finalise her name. This will be followed by Sunetra Pawar's oath ceremony in the evening, the sources said. She will be the first woman Deputy Chief



Minister of the state. The development comes hours after Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal indicated that Pawar will assume her husband's vacant post. "Many people believe that Sunetra Pawar should be given this responsibility, and I don't think that demand is unreasonable," Bhujbal said. "The currently

vacant Deputy Chief Minister's post can be filled by Sunetra ji, and our focus is on this. Things will happen as the people wish. Tomorrow's meeting is primarily to elect the legislature party leader," he added. Sunetra Pawar is currently a Rajya Sabha MP and not a member of either house of the Maharashtra

legislature. However, the Baramati assembly seat in Pune district has fallen vacant after Ajit Pawar's death in a plane crash on Wednesday. Earlier, NCP working president Praful Patel said there was no opposition to Sunetra Pawar becoming the new leader of the NCP legislature wing. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has said the ruling government will stand by "whatever decision will be taken" on the deputy chief minister matter. "The decision will be taken by the NCP party, and we will stand by their decision. I cannot comment on their party's decision. Be it the NCP or the Pawar family, we as the government and the BJP

stand strongly with them," he said. "We will stand by their decision and give full support," he added. Ajit Pawar died on Wednesday morning after the aircraft carrying him crashed while attempting to land at Baramati airport in Pune district. The plane crash-landed near the runway threshold, killing all five people on board the chartered plane. Among those dead were his personal security officer, a flight attendant and two pilots. Pawar, fondly called Dada, was cremated a day later with full state honours at the Vidya Pratishthan College ground, located around 100 kms from Pune city, in the presence of prominent politicians and thousands of people.

## Ajit Pawar plane crash probe handed over to CID

**Mumbai, Jan 30 (UNI)**

The inquiry into the tragic death of Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra in a plane crash on January 28, in Baramati district, Maharashtra has been handed over to the State CID. The case was initially handled by the Pune rural police. According to officials, the government has asked the Pune rural police to hand over the case and its details gathered so far to the state CID. Pune rural police had registered a case of accidental death under section 194 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) on the accident. The state CID, which has already begun its investigation, will examine security lapses and infrastructure issues at Baramati airfield, officials added.

## NCP leaders meet Maharashtra CM to discuss party's future after Ajit Pawar's death



**Mumbai Jan 30 (UNI)** A high-level delegation of Senior NCP (Ajit Pawar group) leaders on Friday met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis to discuss the party's future after deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's death in a plane crash. The meeting, held at Fadnis' official residence, lasted more than an hour and was attended by senior NCP leader Praful Patel, state party president Sunil Tatkare MP and cabinet minister Chhagan Bhujbal. NCP leaders staked claim to the portfolios held by party chief Ajit Pawar. However, no official statement was

released. According to Party sources, Ajit Pawar's wife, Sunetra Pawar, is being considered for the Deputy Chief Minister's role, with some party leaders pushing for her to lead the party. Party sources also said that Sunetra Pawar, a Rajya Sabha MP, is a potential candidate to succeed him. Sharad Pawar, the NCP founder, is likely to play a key role in deciding the party's future, possibly reunifying the two NCP factions. The NCP faces a leadership crisis, with no clear second-in-command, and the upcoming Baramati by-election adds urgency to the situation.

## Shiv Sena (Shinde)—BJP seal power-sharing deal for Thane

**Thane, Jan 30 (UNI)**

The Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have finalised a power-sharing arrangement for the Thane Municipal Corporation, with the names for Mayor and Deputy Mayor being decided. Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) corporator Sharmila Pimpolkar will be the candidate for the post of Mayor, while the BJP has nominated Krishna Patil for the post of Deputy Mayor. In the recently-concluded Thane civic elections, the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) emerged as the dominant force with 75 corporators, while the BJP secured 28 seats. Initially, the BJP had pressed for the Mayor's post for a two-year term. However, citing its numerical strength, the Shiv Sena



(Shinde faction) made it clear that it would not concede the Mayor's post even for a year. Following this, the BJP adopted a conciliatory stance and agreed to accept the Deputy Mayor's position. With the Mayor's post ruled out, the BJP also sought key positions including the Standing Committee chairpersonship, control of the transport department, and representation in various subject and ward committees.

## Merger of both NCP factions finalised, official announcement after polls

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## Congress confident of success in ZP, Panchayat Samiti polls: State Prez Sapkal

**Ch. Sambhaji Nagar, Jan 30 (UNI)**

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Harshvardhan Sapkal on Friday expressed confidence that the Congress would achieve good results in the upcoming Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections, citing the party's recent performance in municipal and municipal corporation polls and the "growing trust" shown by voters across the state. Speaking to reporters during his visit to Dharashiv for campaigning ahead of the Zilla Parishad elections, Sapkal said that alliance politics had been in place at both the state and national levels since 1999, and that coalition politics often requires compromise and flexibility. He said the Congress had taken a decision to contest local self-government elections independently in order to expand the party's organisational base, while also empowering local units



to decide on alliances wherever feasible. Referring to recent civic polls, he said the Congress had achieved encouraging success in municipal councils and municipal corporations, and expressed confidence that this momentum would continue in the district and block-level elections as well. Sapkal alleged that during local body elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party and AIMM had attempted to spread religious polarisation, while the Election Commission, money power and administrative machinery were misused on a large scale.

## BJP secures Mayor and Deputy Mayor posts in Akola civic body

**Akola, Jan 30 (UNI)**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged victorious in the Akola Municipal Corporation elections on Friday, with Sharda Khedkar and Amol Goge elected as mayor and deputy mayor, respectively. Akola Municipal Commissioner Sunil Lahane told reporters that corporators belonging to the Akola Shehar Sudhar Aghadi, an alliance comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena, and both factions of the NCP, backed Khedkar for the mayoral post and Goge for deputy mayor. Khedkar secured 45 votes, defeating her nearest rival, Surekha Kale of the Shiv Sena (UBT), who polled 32 votes. Lahane said Khedkar received support from 38 BJP corporators, three from NCP (SP), one each from the NCP and Shiv Sena, along with two independent corporators.

## 'Vahini' too has a hand in exemplary success of 'Baramati Pattern'!

## Phenomenal statesmanship by the state's cultured sister-in-law

**Sandip Kale**

**Mumbai 30 January:** The late Ajitdada Pawar was the cynosure of all eyes of every person in the state. The reason for this is the immaculate management of the all important home front by Sunetra Pawar. Sunetra Pawar not only managed Dada's family, but also managed all relatives, constituencies, social works, festivals and activities with great skill and planning. Sunetra Pawar was responsible for every project taking place in Baramati. While managing the head of the Pawar family, the 'sister-in-law' never came into the limelight. She quietly continued her eternal relentless social work. Many in the state are still unaware of this powerful achievement of the state's cultured sister-in-law. MP Sunetravahini Pawar, who has made an independent mark on the social and political scene of Maharashtra with her work for the last two decades, has proven herself as an 'accomplished female leader'. As a Rajya Sabha MP,



besides raising the voice of Maharashtra in Delhi, she has left a new resolution for rural development. Not only being the daughter-in-law of a prestigious family, she has established an ideal 'Baramati Pattern' of social work, environment and empowerment. As a Rajya Sabha MP, Sunetra Pawar has effectively raised the issues of Maharashtra's rural economy in the Parliament. Her efforts have accelerated the work of the Baramati-Lonand and Baramati-Phaltan railway lines, and paved the way for the redevelopment of Neera railway station under the 'Amrut

Bharat Station' scheme. In Parliament, she has taken a strong stance on the shortage of fertilisers, support prices and subsidies for farmers. She is also continuously pursuing the establishment of a new 'AIIMS' hospital in Pune and a 'Skill Development Centre' for rural youth. Through her 'Environmental Forum of India', the 'Plastic-Free Maharashtra' campaign is now taking a big shape. She has created a new platform to bring 'sustainable agriculture' and organic products to the global market in rural areas. She plans to set up a 'Women Startup Hub' as the next step in women empowerment. She has realised 'eco-tourism' by developing the Kanheri Forest Park in Baramati and implementing 'green education' through 'Vidya Pratishthan'. Sunetra Pawar has achieved a phenomenal balance between parliamentary work in Delhi and social work in the state. From making Katewadi an 'eco-village' to providing employment to thousands of women through a high-tech textile

park, her journey is becoming the backbone of the development of modern Maharashtra. Sunetra Pawar has done the work of implementing the initiatives undertaken by Dada in Baramati. Savita Jadhav, a health worker in Baramati, used to say, Dada was our god and Vahini is our mother. In Baramati, because Vahini followed up, 13 initiatives of our health department have become part of history. The healthcare sector has taken a further giant leap in the state. Vikas Gajbhare said, we were going to protest across the state in connection with the library related issues, but Sunetra Pawar took the initiative and resolved those issues. Many are worried whether MP Sunetra Pawar will be able to handle the responsibility if given it. This is because experts are discussing today that the work she has done without letting the veil fall on her head has not all been lost.

(The author is the Chief Group Editor of Mahasagar Media Group)

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## Historic resolution to remove petrol pump unanimously approved in Municipal Council

**UMARKHED/NAGPUR POST:** A resolution to remove the Bharat Petroleum company's petrol pump located in the prominent area near the equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, adjacent to the Municipal Council building in the city, was unanimously passed in a special meeting of the Umarkhed Municipal Council. This important decision was taken in the meeting held on January 29, considering public safety, city beautification, and legal aspects. It was noted in the meeting that the said petrol pump is obstructing the beautification work of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue. It was also clarified that the pump is located in an extremely dangerous location from the perspective of public safety. The Nagpur-Tuljapur National Highway and the Umarkhed-Bitergaon State Highway pass right next to the petrol pump, and the area also houses the electricity distribution company's transformer, a shopping complex, market area, the Municipal Council office, and the Municipal Council's



marriage hall. Since wedding ceremonies and firework displays regularly take place at the marriage hall, there is a large crowd of citizens, women, and children. In such a situation, the constant traffic of vehicles for refueling could lead to a major accident in the future, a warning was given in the meeting. Notably, the lease for the said petrol pump expired on July 31, 2025, and it has come to light that the pump is still operating without any renewal. Also, according to the approved development plan, this land in front of the Municipal Council

office is reserved for a road, and operating a petrol pump there is against the rules. The minimum area of 510.87 sq.m. required as per the Maharashtra Government's Development Control Regulations is not available; in reality, only 303 sq.m. area is available, as is clear from the records. Previously, resolutions to remove the petrol pump were also passed in the general meetings of the Municipal Council held on November 14, 1975, and March 14, 2002. However, the pump owner had filed an appeal with the District Collector of Yavatmal

under Section 308. At that time, even though the deadline given for relocating the pump had expired, no action had yet been taken. For many years, Shiv Sena supporters from Umarkhed city, the taluka, and surrounding areas had consistently demanded the removal of the petrol pump through protests, hunger strikes, and petitions. Finally, with the resolution being unanimously approved in a special meeting, citizens and Shiv Sena supporters are expressing satisfaction.

According to this resolution, a firm demand has been made to the government that no lease extension should be granted to the Bharat Petroleum Company's petrol pump, and that the said pump should be removed immediately. This proposal was presented by the Municipal Council President Tejashree Santosh Jain. Shaiikh Rasul Shaikh Wahed acted as the proposer, and Surendra Suryakant Kodgirwar as the seconder. The resolution was unanimously approved with necessary amendments.

## Tribute paid to DCM Ajit Pawar at BJP office in Ralegaon

**RALEGAON / NAGPUR POST:** A tribute was paid to Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar at the BJP office in Ralegaon by the Bharatiya Janata Party. BJP District President Adv. Prafulsingh Chauhan was the chief guest at the event. The programme began with observing a moment of silence and offering floral tributes. During the event, the dignitaries present respectfully acknowledged Ajit Pawar's contributions to public life, his administrative experience, and his work for the development of the state. The program was compered by BJP District Vice President Anil Rajurkar. While addressing BJP President Adv. Prafulsingh Chauhan said, Ajit Pawar has made invaluable contributions to



the development of Maharashtra during his long political career. Honoring his work, transcending party differences, is the true strength of democracy. It is necessary to remember his work and come together to work for the benefit of society and the nation. Many

office bearers and workers, including BJP Taluka President Chhaya Pimpri, City President Shubham Muke, former Nagar Panchayat President Baban Bhongare, senior leaders Shriram Kale, Kakade, Sandeep Pendor, Dilip Kale, Sachinsingh Chauhan, Balasaheb Dighade, Usha Bhoyar, Dr. Savita Potdukhe, Prashant Tayade, Abhijit Kadam, Ashish Ingole, Ashok Verma, Najju Sheikh, Rupesh Borkute, Abhijit Kale, Arun Shivankar, Karuna Wankhede, Sheetal Raut, Vidya Meshram, and Om Tayade were present.

## Mitali, Samiksha and Ansh selected for State Kho-Kho team



**YAVATMAL/NAGPUR POST:** Three players from Navjyhind Krida Mandal have been selected for the state Kho-Kho team. Navjyhind Krida Mandal had achieved success in the Vidarbha-level Sub-Junior State Championship held recently in Paratwada. From this competition, Mitali Vinod Waghmare, a student of Mahila Vidyalaya, Samiksha Rajesh Khetri

from Abhyankar Kanya Shala, and Ansh Vijendra Uphade from Loknayak Bapuji Aney Vidyalaya were selected for the Vidarbha Kho-Kho team. These players are currently participating in a training camp in Katol and will be participating in the National Kho-Kho competition to be held in Rohtak, Haryana from January 29th to February 4th. These players attribute their

success to their parents, headmasters, as well as Pradeep Wankhede, Balasaheb Daulatkar, Amol Bodade, Kailas Shinde, Arvind Ghavade, Secretary Vikas Tone, and coaches Avinash Joshi and Pankaj Rohankar. Amol Dhone, Jammu Laluwale, Ashish Pyarewar, Shailesh Munde, Jeet Pandey, and Rahul Dhone of Navjyhind Krida Mandal have congratulated them on their achievement.

## BJP Mahila Morcha's 'Sanman Tichya Swabhimancha' held with enthusiasm



**YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST:** Under the guidance of District President Adv. Pratul Chauhan and Municipal Council President Priyadarshini Uike, the Bharatiya Janata Party Mahila Morcha organised a special programme, "Sanman Tichya Swabhimancha" (Honoring Her Self-Respect) on the occasion of former MLA Madan Yerawar's birthday. The

programme included the distribution of haldi kumkum, saree, tilgul to 100 poor, needy, yet accomplished and self-respecting women. Since Madan Yerawar is a leader who respects women and upholds social responsibility, his birthday is celebrated with charitable programs. Therefore, to honor the power of womanhood and her self-respect, this Sanman Tichya

Swabhimancha ceremony was organised on the auspicious occasion of Republic Day, January 26. During the event, single and widowed women shared their experiences, recounting how the Bharatiya Janata Party and its leader Madanbhai, as well as the party itself, have upheld their social responsibility towards them as if they were their own sisters. A sense of enthusiasm was evident

on the faces of all the women present. The programme, Sanman Tichya Swabhimancha was described as one that instilled new energy and inspired a new vision for the future. District President Adv. Pratul Chauhan, District General Secretary Rekha Kothekar, State Secretary Maya Shere, Vice President Kirti Raut, City President Laxmi Satpute, City President Tai Sapre,

Priyanka Bhavre, Rita Dhavtode, and Sonali Tidke were present. The programme also received special cooperation from all the Mahila Morcha office bearers and workers, including District General Secretary Nirmala Winkare, Vice President Anjali Uttarwar, Vice President Seema Yadav, Vice President Sangeeta Chandak, Vice President Arya Garud, Sheetal Tijare, and Palekar.

## Cultural Festival of Patriotism Blossoms at Vasant Vidyalaya



**RALEGAON / NAGPUR POST:** A Republic Day celebration, alumni meet and cultural programme were held at Vasant Madhyamik vidyalaya in Ralegaon taluka. The programme began with flag hoisting and the national anthem. Students effectively presented the importance of Republic Day through patriotic songs, dances, skits, and speeches. At the alumni meet, former

students Gayatri Marsakolhe, Prachi Mohite, Mamata Ingole, Samridhi Pongade, Pratik Bhole, and Pradyumna Gade reminisced about old memories and pledged to contribute to the school's progress. The programme was presided over by the former Education Minister of Maharashtra, Prof. Vasantrao Purke. He emphasized the importance of education to the students and urged

them to become goal-oriented. The flag hoisted by Neetatai Domkawale. Yogeshkumar Dande (Station House Officer, Ralegaon), Prashant Tayade (Former Chairman), Rajubhau Telange (Sarpanch, Raveri), Subhash Zhalke (Pimpalakhuti), Dinesh Kove (Former Sarpanch), Govindrao Dhote (Social Worker), Dattabhau Marsakolhe (Pimpalakhuti), poet Kiran

Kumar Madavi, school principal Nilima Kudmethe, and school president Dhanraj Purke were present. The programme was conducted by Prashik Kamble and Kiran Kumar Madavi. Dhumal proposed a vote of thanks. The school's teaching staff, employees, Datta Borkar, Mangesh Shastrakar, Gaurav Kudmethe, Shriram Basawar, Sidam, students, and alumni worked hard to success the programme.

## Republic day celebrated at Deorao Patil Vidyalaya



**YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST:** The 77th Republic Day was celebrated at Deorao Patil Vidyalaya, Wadgaon Yavatmal. The flag hoisting was performed by Ganpatrao Kale, Secretary of the Navnirman

Trust. Institution's Vice President Omkar Thakare, Directors Subhash Kale, Suhas Wankhade, Rajendra Babhulkar and Headmistress Asha Giri were present. Students presented a musical drill under the guidance of

physical education teacher Chandrashekhar Dhamande. Students who excelled in general knowledge competitive exams, various games and sports competitions, flower arrangement competition, and dish decoration

competition were honored with prizes. The competitions were organised by Yunus Malnas, Vidya Chaudhary, Archana Gawande and Kirti Koshtwar. The programme was conducted by Sujata Gedam.

## Annual concert held at Sai International School with gusto

**Ramtek 23 January (NAGPUR POST/TC):** Sai International School, Ramtek recently Celebrated Annual Concert at Takkamore Lawn. Mr. Bikendra Mahajan, Newly Appointed President of Ramtek Nagar Parishad was the Chief Guest of the Annual Concert. Dr. VB Nagpure, Director of the school felicitated Hon'ble Shri Bikendra Mahajan, President of Nagarparishad Ramtek by momento. Principal Rajendra Mishra welcomed all the dignitaries and highlighted the achievements of the school during session 2025-2026. Budding stars of Sai International School showcased their hidden talents by their best performances. All the Meritorious Students were felicitated by the hands of Hon'able Guest Shri Bikendra Mahajan. While addressing the huge gathering, Bikendra Mahajan appreciated the efforts of School for the grand success of the program. He also appreciated the team work of the school. Dr. VB Nagpure, Shri Vilas Patil, Retd HM



Shri Khante ji, Mrs. Shobha Zade, Principal Khushal Rode, Mrs. Sushma Nagpure, and many more well reputed People of Ramtek were also present in the Annual Concert. Mr. Aman Dixit and Mr. Ayaz Khan anchored the program nicely, whereas Mrs. Vansha Mahajan directed the Event. Mr. Sagar Chauhan, noted Choreographer guided the students. Parents appreciated the Program and greeted the entire team of Sai International School.

## Traffic cops take action on 2077 vehicle riders flouting norms



**Nagpur 30 January:** Traffic cops took action against a total of 2077 riders under various sections of the Motor Vehicles Act and collected a total fine of Rs 2.50 lakh from the erring riders. Under the Bombay Liquor Prohibition Act, 2 suspects have been arrested in 2 cases and material worth Rs 1.5 thousand was seized from their possession. The Traffic Department has called upon the citizens to keep all the documents related to the vehicle with them while driving. Citizens and commuters have also been advised to abide by traffic rules, failing which fines and other penal action can be imposed upon them.

## COMPROMISE WITH HYGIENE...



Several roadside eateries operate in the vicinity of Nagpur railway station and its nearby premises. While these indeed serve as a source of livelihood for locals but problems like encroaching upon public spaces and compromise from the perspective of hygiene and clean food are also pressing issues closely associated with such roadside stalls.



## Lecture on 'Sahaja Yoga and Modern Lifestyle' held NSS Camp

YAVATMAL / NAGPUR

**POST:** A special residential camp of the National Service Scheme (NSS) of Loknaya Bapuji Aney Mahila Mahavidyalaya has been organised from January 28 to February 4, 2026 at Sant Shiromani Goroba Secondary School Lasina. On January 29, 2026, a tribute was paid to Deputy Chief Minister Ajitdada Pawar. Principal Dr. Durgesh Kunte mentioned the work of Ajitdada Pawar and expressed the sentiment that Maharashtra has lost a great leader.

Under the intellectual sessions, a lecture was organised on the topic 'Sahaja Yoga and Modern Lifestyle'.

Yamini Wandile, Prof. Pravin Chaudhary, Jaya Ambatkar and Mohini Kudmethe were present as



guides. Prof. Pravin Chaudhary explained in detail how Sahaja Yoga is essential for a stress-free, balanced, and healthy life in modern lifestyle, and how all-round personality development can be achieved through Sahaja Yoga. The students learned the lessons of Sahaja Yoga through practical demonstrations.

The programme was attended by NSS Programme Officer Dr. Mamta Dayne, Prof. Dnyaneshwar Gatkar,

Co-Program Officer Dr. Chandrashekar Kudmethe, Prof. Monali Salame, Dr. Sarita Deshmukh, Prof. Narayana Wagmare, Prof. Sapna Bobde, Dr. Vaishali Watkar, Nitin Walde, as well as the NSS volunteers and villagers.

School students also benefited from the Sahaja Yoga demonstration.

The programme was conducted by Monali Mungle, and the vote of thanks was given by Gauri Shinde.

## Hira Deshmukh selects for International Youth Summit; to be represented in Vietnam

YAVATMAL / NAGPUR

**POST:** Hira Rakhi Deshmukh, a student of Yavatmal Public School, has been selected for the 7th International Youth Summit to be held in Vietnam. She will represent India at this global forum and is scheduled to depart for Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam tomorrow, Saturday, January 31st. Many young people from across the country had applied for this

summit. Hira has been selected based on a rigorous interview process, her leadership abilities, and her skills in inspiring young people. Notably, all expenses for the summit will be covered by the organisers. Hira Deshmukh is currently studying in the 11th (Science stream) at YPS school. She is

a multi-talented individual, and at the young age of 16, she already has numerous awards to her name. She has won seven gold medals in running and two in essay competitions. She has also received several awards for poetry, debate competitions,

and excellent anchoring. She was honored with the 'Best Verbal Mention' award at MUNB in Nagpur. She has anchored many professional events. Hira is proficient in archery and has a great passion for reading since childhood.

This passion also leads her to work as a coordinator among students. She is the daughter of Dr. Rakhi Deshmukh, the in-charge

principal of Rajiv Gandhi College in Zari-Jamani. Hira is also involved in social work through her mother's Rajrajeshwari Bahaudeshiya Sanstha. Hira's achievement has added another feather to the cap of Yavatmal's educational prestige. Through her accomplishments, Hira has proven that girls from rural areas can lead at the global level.

## Guidance imparted on Cervical Cancer under Women's health awareness programme



YAVATMAL / NAGPUR

**POST:** A "Sanwad" programme based on women's health was organised at Jodmoha. In this programme, women received guidance from experts on the serious disease of cervical cancer. January is observed as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Keeping this in mind, a Haldi-Kumkum program was organised jointly by the Gram Panchayat office, Jodmoha, and the Jagruti and Udan Gram Sanghatna.

The objective of this program was to create health awareness among women. In the programme, renowned gynecologist Dr. Sangeeta Ashish Tawde, on behalf of IMA and the Women's

Doctors Wing, guided the women on cervical cancer. She clarified that cervical cancer is a cancer of the cervix and can be completely prevented if detected early through timely check-ups. Dr. Tawde provided information on the main causes, symptoms, and preventive measures of this disease. She stated that prolonged infections, HPV virus, lack of hygiene, early marriage, and not undergoing regular check-ups are the main causes of this cancer.

She appealed to women to consult a doctor immediately if they experience symptoms such as abdominal pain, irregular bleeding, back pain, or bleeding after intercourse.

She also mentioned that undergoing a Pap smear test every three to five years, HPV vaccination, maintaining personal hygiene, and adopting a healthy lifestyle can help prevent cervical cancer.

The programme was held at Ram Mandir Jodmoha. The chief guests were Sunandatal Murkute (Sarpanch, Pratibha Bawankar, Meenaltai Jagtap (Centre Administrator, Sakhi One-Stop Centre, District Women and Child Welfare Department, Yavatmal), Manisha Kate (Bhosale) (Social worker and Deputy Sarpanch, Group Gram Panchayat, Maivalani), and Shubhangi Chandore (Social worker) were present.

## Artificial Urea shortage hits Yavatmal farmers

Yavatmal 30 January:

Farmers in Yavatmal district are facing economic distress due to an alleged artificial shortage of urea, crucial for Rabi crops such as wheat, gram, and sugarcane.

Sources say agricultural input dealers are reportedly creating a false scarcity, forcing farmers to purchase additional fertilizers and products under a "linking" scheme, increasing cultivation costs amid already mounting losses. Excessive rainfall during the Kharif season caused heavy damage to cotton and soybean crops, which were cultivated over nearly 5 lakh hectares and 3 lakh hectares

respectively.

To recover, farmers turned to Rabi crops, which are now at a stage requiring urea.

Farmers allege that while adequate stocks exist in major distributors' warehouses, stock registers are manipulated to show zero balance.

Sikandar Shah, a farmer, said, "Continuous crop failures over the last five years have already put farmers in deep trouble.

Now, by creating an artificial shortage of urea, unnecessary fertilizers are being forced upon farmers through linking.

The Agriculture Department must take strict action against such dealers."

## Womenfolk stage agitation against illegal liquor sale

Badnera 30 January (NAGPUR

**POST/TC:** Taking an aggressive stance against the serious socio-economic problems created by the ongoing illegal sale of liquor in Katamla village, women villagers staged a massive morcha to the Badnera Police Station. The womenfolk alleged that illegal liquor is being openly sold in the village under the guise of grocery stores, which is spoiling the social atmosphere of the village. The womenfolk are facing unnecessary harassment due to the illegal liquor shops, and it is also having an adverse effect on school-going students. The safety of women, girls, and citizens is at risk due to these shops being set up by encroaching on the village's main road stretch in the first place. Serious allegations were also levelled that if anyone

opposes this, the concerned vendors resort to verbal abuse, intimidation, and issue threats. Protesting against this injustice, hundreds of women gathered and reached Badnera Police Station and submitted a memorandum to Senior Police Inspector Sunil Chavan. A demand was put forth to immediately stop the illegal sale of liquor, remove encroachments, and take strict legal action against the culprits. The womenfolk warned the police and administrative officials that if immediate action is not taken, a massive protest demonstration will be launched in front of the police station. The womenfolk showed their unity by chanting slogans like 'Liquor-free village, safe village.' The police department has assured the agitators appropriate action will be taken in this concern.

## Helmets distributed in Pusad under Road Safety Campaign

Initiative taken by Traffic Branch



PUSAD / NAGPUR

**POST:** Under the guidance of District Superintendent of Police Kumar Chintia and in the presence of Assistant Superintendent of Police Harshvardhan BJ, the traffic branch of Pusad distributed helmets free of charge to citizens from various sectors of society who provide different services, as part of the road safety campaign.

Following the annual inspection of Pusad city Police Station and in conjunction with the road safety campaign, a special initiative of helmet distribution was undertaken in Pusad to promote traffic safety.

Kumar Chintia emphasised that prioritising citizens' safety and using

helmets is essential in order to prevent road accidents. On the occasion, in the presence of city police Station In-charge Sevanand Wankhede, Vasantnagar

Police Station In-charge Satish Jadhav, Rural Police Station In-charge Surendra Raut, Khandala Police Station In-charge Vineet Ghage, Traffic Branch Assistant Police Inspector Ashish Chaudhary, Assistant Police Inspector Premkumar Kedar and Sugat Pundge, along with all police officers and staff, police paid to citizens, a tribute was paid to Deputy Chief Minister Ajitdada Pawar.

An appeal was made to all citizens to regularly use helmets while riding two-wheelers, and the message propagated through this initiative was that a safe and accident-free Pusad can be achieved by following traffic rules.

## Malegaon Rural Hospital achieves major milestone

Earns 'NQAS' national accreditation, healthcare services in region acclaimed



Washim 30 January

**(NAGPUR POST/DC):** The rural hospital in Malegaon has made its mark in the healthcare sector by receiving the 'National Quality Assurance Standard' (NQAS) national-level quality certificate from the central government. The hospital secured this accreditation by achieving an impressive 93.99% score, adding a feather in the cap of Washim district's public healthcare system.

**In-depth evaluation by experts**

The panel appointed by

the 'NHSRC' under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, included expert evaluators Dr. Sagar Thandagonda and Kiran Mantha. This team meticulously inspected various departments of the hospital during January 12 and 13, 2026. The hospital's Medical Superintendent, Dr. Suhas Wahule, along with all officers and staff, were present during this process.

**Success across departments**

The evaluation assessed 9 different departments of the

hospital. The following departments performed exceptionally well:

**General Administration: 96.8%**  
**\* IPD (Inpatient Department): 95.12%**  
**\* Radiology: 94.2%**  
**\* Accident & Emergency Department: 93.89%**  
**\* Operation Theatre: 93.36%**

**Emphasis laid on patient satisfaction**

The hospital has excelled not only in infrastructure but also in the treatment of patients. The 'Patient Satisfaction Score' (PSS), based on patient feedback under the 'Mera Aspatal' initiative, was recorded at 83.5%, which is significantly higher than the required standard.

This achievement will now entitle Malegaon Rural Hospital to receive incentive grants from the central government for a specific period, which will be utilised to further strengthen healthcare services in the region. The district health department and the residents of Malegaon are commending the doctors, nurses, and all the staff of the hospital for this achievement.

## Social Audit: Schools, teachers and facilities will be inspected

TEJASWINI KALE / NAGPUR

**POST:** Under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, the central government provides the state government with crores of rupees in funds for uniforms, books, and various types of materials to improve the educational standards of students. However, despite this, the educational quality of students in government schools does not show the expected improvement. Therefore, the central government has now decided to conduct a social audit of schools and students. The state government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Maharashtra Rajya Samajik Anekshan v Pardarshakta Society for this purpose. Under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, the benefits provided to 65,000 schools in the state will be audited.

In the first phase, this work will be carried out in 13,000 schools. Schools in certain talukas of each district have also been selected for this. The audit work is to be completed by April. The



central government provides substantial funds for school repairs, uniforms, books, and other related activities. However, some states do not release the funds to the district level on time. Even if the state releases the funds on time, the education department fails to disburse them to the lower levels.

As a result, students do not receive uniforms and books on the first day of school. In some states, students were given only one book and one uniform each. While records showed that all students received them, the reality was different. Funds are also provided for school repairs and new constructions. Despite this, the condition of the schools remains poor. The central government has observed that providing modern educational materials is not

leading to an improvement in students' performance. The central government believes that this amounts to a waste of funds. Therefore, they have decided to conduct a social audit of the schools. Through this audit, information will be gathered about the difficulties and problems encountered during the actual implementation of the programmes.

A report will also be submitted to the central government regarding whether any further improvements are needed.

**Imports to be examined during the audit**

It is reported that the audit will examine issues such as whether students received uniforms and books on the very first day of school, whether they received all the books or if some were missing, the quality of the uniforms, the teaching methods of the teachers, and the availability of modern teaching aids.

After the completion of the social audit, a public hearing will be organised at the taluka level.

## Ham Nahi Sudhenge!

Unsanitary conditions persist at Sangludkar College, authorities playing with health of students

Daryapur 30 January

**(NAGPUR POST/TC):** A serious issue of unsanitary conditions has come to the fore at JD Patil Sangludkar College. Due to a large amount of accumulated garbage, the classrooms have started to resemble dumping grounds. The deplorable condition in a college, considered a sacred temple of education, has led to massive resentment among parents, students, and citizens.

Despite the issue of cleanliness in the college repeatedly coming to the fore, the college administration is unwilling to make any improvements. In some classrooms of the college, huge piles of paper, plastic bags, dust, dirt, and other forms of filth are visible. Amid this situation, it has become difficult for students to sit and study.

The foul smell and the increasing infestation of flies and mosquitoes have increased the risk of



infectious diseases, endangering the health of the students. It is being alleged that the college administration, especially the principal, is deliberately neglecting this serious matter.

It has also come to light that many students are hesitant to complain openly due to the atmosphere of fear. Students feel that no concrete action is being taken regarding regular cleaning, waste segregation, and daily cleaning of classrooms and toilets. Notably, Dainik Mahasagar had published a news report about this unsanitary condition on January 16. However, even after 8 days time has

elapsed, there has been no improvement in the prevailing situation.

The situation where students are still studying amidst garbage remains unchanged as of now.

This raises serious questions about the indifferent and arbitrary functioning of the principal.

There is a strong demand that senior officials and the higher education department should take cognisance of the matter. Students and parents have expressed optimism that the administration should intervene immediately and take strict and swift measures to create a clean, safe, and healthy educational environment.

## A National sports milestone set to be achieved in Amravati

Grand organisation of the All India Inter-University Softball Championship

Amravati 30 January

**(NAGPUR POST/DC):** Under the joint auspices of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati and Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati, the All India Inter-University Softball Championship (Men & Women) 2025-26 is being organized by Shri Shivaji Science College, Amravati, and this championship is set to become a historic and milestone national sports event for Amravati University and the city of Amravati. This national-level championship will commence with a planned grand ceremony from 1st February to 10th February 2026 at Shri Shivaji Science College, Amravati. This grand championship has received an unprecedented response from universities across the country. 107 men's teams and 98 women's teams from renowned universities nationwide are participating in this championship. Hosting a softball championship with participation on such a large scale is happening in Amravati for the first time, which is a distinctive feature of

this event. As both the men's and women's championship tournaments are being held under a single host institution, more than 3500 players will be arriving in the city of Amravati. Teams that have secured championship titles in university-level competitions from all corners of the country are participating in this national championship. On this occasion, renowned players, university team mentors, match umpires, and officials in various roles are visiting Amravati for the first time for this championship, thereby providing a golden opportunity for young players who nurture dreams of building a bright career in the sport of softball.

**Grand Opening and Championship Batton Procession**

The commencement of this national championship will take place through the Grand Opening Ceremony and Championship Batton Procession, considered grand, festive, and culturally enriching.

On 1st February 2026 at



2:00 PM, all champion teams from across the country will assemble at Shri Shivaji College of Physical Education, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Square, Panchavati, Amravati.

From there, the Championship Batton Procession will begin, paying homage at the memorial of Krusharitra Shri Shikshan Maharshi Dr. Panjabrao Bhausaheb Deshmukh, the first Agriculture Minister of independent India and a key contributor to the drafting of the Constitution, before reaching the venue of the grand inaugural ceremony at the sports ground of Shri Shivaji Science College.

All teams will participate in this ceremony in their official uniforms and with their university flags, and the event will stand as a symbol of

national unity, sports culture, and youthful energy. In this unique Championship Batton Ceremony, one captain from each state will be selected through a draw of lots to carry the batton.

The selected captains will pass the batton forward, symbolically representing national sporting unity.

The procession will conclude at the sports ground with a Batton Lighting Ceremony.

The inauguration of the men's category of the All India Inter-University Softball Championship will take place on 1st February 2026 at 4:00 PM at the well-equipped sports ground of Shri Shivaji Science College, Amravati. Similarly, the Grand Opening Ceremony and Championship Batton Procession for the women's

championship will be held on 6th February 2026 at 4:00 PM.

**Management and Significance of the Championship**

The entire championship will be organized in accordance with international softball rules, as well as the guidelines of the Softball Association of India and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Matches in both the men's and women's categories will be played daily from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. This championship is not merely a sports competition, but a national sports festival that will strengthen the national sports identity of the city of Amravati, promote collegiate and university-level sports development, spread sports culture, and encourage the academic and sporting development of youth.



## BUSINESS

### Three Adani Companies Secure Landmark Ratings from Japanese Credit Rating Agency, JCR

**Ahmedabad 30 January:** Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR), Japan's leading rating agency has initiated ratings of three Adani Portfolio companies—Adani Ports & SEZ (APSEZ), Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL) and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd. (AESL), assigning long-term foreign currency credit ratings with a Stable outlook to all three group companies. This is a significant milestone in the Group's global credit journey and reinforces its underlying credit strength. JCR has assigned Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ) a A- (Stable) rating, representing a rare breach of the sovereign threshold by an Indian corporate by an international rating agency. Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL) and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd. (AESL) have each been rated BBB+ (Stable). These ratings are at par with India's sovereign rating of BBB+. APSEZ's strong rating underlines its strong credit profile, diversified asset base, and resilient cash-flow generation, and places it among a select group of Indian infrastructure companies to achieve an above-sovereign rating from a leading international rating agency. The ratings also mark one of the first instances of Indian infrastructure platforms being assessed by JCR at these levels, highlighting the Adani Group's growing engagement with global rating agencies and its increasing alignment with international credit benchmarks. Jugeshinder Singh, Group CFO, Adani Group, said, "These landmark ratings reflect the Adani Group's commitment to disciplined financial management, strengthening balance sheet fundamentals, and world class execution across our diversified infrastructure platform. They reaffirm the depth and resilience of our business model and reflect the confidence global lenders, institutional investors, and capital markets place in our long-term strategy. This endorsement further strengthens our position as a leading partner in India's infrastructure buildout and reinforces our commitment to delivering sustainable, high quality growth."

### SBI Life launches 'Jolly & Polly'

**Mumbai 30 January:** SBI Life Insurance, one of India's most trusted private life insurers, onboarded Cricketering superstars, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja as its brand ambassadors, introducing them as 'Jolly' & 'Polly', two ambassad characters guiding individuals to pursue their dreams, while simultaneously ensuring that familial responsibilities are secured. At a time when life insurance awareness is rising, SBI Life is focused on making the category more meaningful in people's everyday lives. Anchored in the brand philosophy of 'Apne Liye, Apno Ke Liye', 'Jolly & Polly' represent a simple but often profound truth: personal aspirations and family responsibilities are not competing choices. By financially securing the needs and aspirations of loved ones, individuals are liberated to wholeheartedly pursue their own dreams. 'Jolly', brought to life by Rishabh Pant, embodies instinct, optimism, and the courage to live fully. He is seen encouraging people to see life differently, showing that planning is not giving up freedom, but protecting and pursuing it. 'Polly', personified by Ravindra Jadeja, represents composure, assurance, and long-term thinking. He is seen guiding the conversation with calm and clarity, emphasizing that preparedness is an act of responsibility that strengthens both personal ambition and family security. Together, 'Jolly & Polly' mirror the inner conversations common in Indian households, balancing the desire to move forward with the responsibility of caring for loved ones. Their role is not to dramatize insurance but to normalize it, demonstrating that protection through life insurance has an empowering impact on individuals, enabling optimism and progress. SBI Life unveiled two TVCs set in everyday Indian settings—where aspirations meet responsibility and meaningful conversations build confidence. The first TVC follows a young woman's decision to pursue wrestling which sparks concern within her family, where Jolly and Polly help her family see that the assurance on family's financial protection with SBI Life allows her to chase her dreams. The second TVC shows a man transitioning into practicing women's rights law raising concerns of family's future finances, with Jolly & Polly reinforcing that when a family's future is financially secure, individuals are liberated to pursue purpose-driven paths with impact. Across both films, 'Jolly & Polly' guide the story quietly, reinforcing the message: when promises to loved ones are protected, individual's inner resolve become stronger. The films conclude with the characters' call to action: "Karo Poore Apne Iraade, Apno Se Kiye Sabhi Vaade"

### Revising CPI base year could raise inflation marginally: SBI research

**New Delhi, Jan 30 (UNI)** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has placed in the public domain the recommendations of an expert group on revising India's Consumer Price Index (CPI), proposing a new base year of 2023-24 to better reflect evolving consumption patterns and global best practices. An analysis by SBI Research suggests that applying the new weights to existing indices could raise headline CPI inflation marginally by 20-30 basis points, while periods of high food inflation may see the revised CPI lower by a similar margin. "By considering the new weights on unchanged index we have calculated New CPI with old indices and found that overall CPI will increase marginally by 20-30 bps. While, in the months when food inflation is higher, the new CPI will be lower by 20-30 bps," the report said. The weight of food and beverages in the CPI basket has been reduced to 36.75% from 45.86%, while transport, information and communication has increased significantly to 12.41%. The first CPI 2024 data release is scheduled for February 12, 2026, providing index data from January 2025 onwards and inflation figures for January 2026. MoSPI will also release a back series at the all-India level for rural, urban, and combined indices from January 2013 onwards. According to the report, price data will be collected from 1,465 rural markets and 1,395 urban markets across 434 towns. The basket will see an expansion in goods to 314 items and services to 50 items. As many as 12 online markets in cities with populations exceeding 2.5 million will be added to capture prices from e-commerce platforms on a weekly basis. The revised CPI series, referred to as CPI 2024, will adopt the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) 2018 framework to enhance international comparability. The new index will comprise 358 weighted items, up from the earlier series, mapped across 12 divisions, 43 groups, 62 classes, and 192 sub-classes.

## EDITORIAL

### Major Somnath Sharma, PVC



Military career

**Major Somnath Sharma, PVC** (31 January 1923 – 3 November 1947), was an Indian military officer and the first recipient of India's highest military decoration, the Param Vir Chakra (PVC), which he was awarded posthumously. Sharma was commissioned into the 4th Battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment, in 1942.

He served in Burma during the Arakan Campaign in World War II, for which he was mentioned in dispatches.

In the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947–1948, he was killed in action on 3 November 1947 while repelling Pakistani infiltrators near Srinagar Airport. For his gallantry and sacrifice during the Battle of Badgam, he was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

Early life and education Sharma was born in a Dogra Brahmin family on 31 January 1923 at Dadh, Kangra, Punjab (present-day Himachal Pradesh). His father, Amar Nath Sharma, was a military officer. Several of his siblings serve in the military.

His younger brother, Vishwa Nath Sharma, would later become the 14th Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army. Somnath Sharma completed his schooling at Sherwood College, Nainital, before enrolling at the Prince of Wales Royal Military College in Dehradun. He later studied at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

During his childhood, Somnath was influenced by the teachings of Krishna and Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita, taught to him by his grandfather.

On 22 February 1942, upon his graduation from the Royal Military College, Sharma was commissioned into the 9th Battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment, of the British Indian Army (later to become the Indian Army's 4th Battalion, Kumaon Regiment).

During World War II, he saw action against the Japanese in Burma during the Arakan Campaign. At that time he served under the command of Colonel K. S. Thimmayya, who would later rise to the rank of general and become Chief of the Army Staff from 1957 to 1961. Sharma was mentioned in despatches for his actions during the fighting of the Arakan Campaign. The award was gazetted in January 1946.

Throughout his military career, Sharma was influenced by his uncle Captain K. D. Vasudeva's gallantry in action. Vasudeva also served with the 8th Battalion, participating in the Malayan Campaign during which he died aiding hundreds of soldiers under his command to survive from the Japanese offensive.

Role in the Battle of Badgam On 27 October 1947, a contingent of troops of the Indian Army was air-lifted into Srinagar in response to the invasion by Pakistan on 22 October into the Kashmir Valley (sonmarg). On 31 October, D Company of 4th Battalion of Kumaon Regiment, under the command of Sharma, was flown in to Srinagar. During this time, his left hand was in a plaster cast as a result of injuries sustained previously on the hockey field, but he insisted on being with his company in combat and was subsequently given permission to go.

On 3 November, a batch of three companies was deployed to the Badgam area on patrol duties. Their objective was to check the infiltrators moving toward Srinagar city area from the north.

As there was no enemy movement, two of the three deployed companies returned to Srinagar at 2:00 pm. However, Sharma's D Company, was ordered to stay in position until 3:00 pm. At 2:35 pm, Sharma's company was fired upon from the local resident houses in Badgam but counter-fire was not ordered to avoid injuring or killing innocent civilians.

Suddenly, a tribal lashkar (English: militiamen) of 700 infiltrators approached the Badgam from the direction of Gulmarg. D Company was soon surrounded from three sides and sustained heavy casualties from mortar fire. Sharma realized the importance of holding onto his position as both the city of Srinagar and the airport would be vulnerable if lost. Under heavy fire, and outnumbered by a ratio of seven to one, he urged his company to fight bravely,

often exposing himself to the enemy fire as he ran from one post to the other. When heavy casualties adversely affected the company's firing power, Sharma took upon himself the task of distributing ammunition to his men, operating light machine guns.

While busy fighting the infiltrators, a mortar shell exploded on a pile of ammunition near him. Before he succumbed to his injuries, he transmitted a message to his brigade's headquarters which read: "The enemies are only 50 yards from us. We are heavily outnumbered. We are under devastating fire. I shall not withdraw an inch but will fight to our last man and our last round."

**Battle of Badgam** By the time a relief company, from the 1st Battalion of the Kumaon Regiment, reached Badgam, the position held by Sharma's company had been overrun.

However, the 200 casualties suffered by the tribal infiltrators caused them to lose the impetus to advance. This bought time for Indian forces to fly into Srinagar airfield and block all routes of ingress to Srinagar itself.

During the battle, along with Sharma, one junior commissioned officer and 20 other ranks of D company were killed in action. Sharma's body was recovered three days later. Though it was disfigured beyond recognition, his body was identified by means of the leather holster of his pistol and a few pages of Bhagavad Gita in his chest pocket.

## Budget 2026 Income Tax Expectations

(New Vs Old Tax Regime slabs, standard deduction, relief for salaried taxpayers in focus)

### Budget 2026 Income Tax Change Expectations

Like every Union Budget, this year too taxpayers are carrying a long wishlist for Budget 2026-27, and tax relief is right at the top. As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman prepares to present Union Budget 2026–27 on February 1, expectations are high among salaried employees, middle-class households, senior citizens and investors. This will be Sitharaman's ninth straight Budget and the third full Budget of the Modi 3.0 government.

**One of the biggest talking points ahead of Budget 2026 is the new tax regime**

After nil tax on income up to Rs 12.75 lakh and two rounds of slab revamps in recent years, salaried taxpayers are asking what more relief is possible. Many experts believe the government may now push harder to make the old tax regime irrelevant, though millions of taxpayers still rely on deductions such as Section 80C, Section 80D and home loan benefits.

**New vs old tax regime, slabs and rebates under spotlight**

The Section 87A rebate is another major expectation from Rs 5 lakh earlier, the rebate now effectively offers zero tax up to Rs 12 lakh under the new regime. The middle class is hoping Budget 2026 could extend this relief further, possibly up to Rs 15 lakh, to counter inflation and rising living costs. Alongside this, there is demand for parity in standard deduction benefits between the new and old tax regimes after the recent hike to Rs 75,000.

**Capital gains taxation is also on the radar**

After frequent changes to

equity, debt mutual funds and property tax rules, investors want Budget 2026 to simplify holding periods, rates and indexation-related provisions. Similar clarity is being sought on home loan tax benefits, especially after slab overhauls that have reduced the relevance of traditional deductions.

**Budget 2026 tax wishlist:**

Capital gains, home loans and retirement savings in focus- Retirement taxation remains another focus area. With higher employer contributions allowed under NPS, savers are now looking for further tax clarity on EPF, NPS withdrawals, annuities and even mutual fund-linked retirement schemes. Senior citizens and pensioners are expecting more relief on pension income, healthcare deductions and compliance requirements.

**Tax administration issues are also part of taxpayers' expectations from Budget 2026.**

Delays in income tax refunds, AIS mismatches, scrutiny notices, TDS and TCS complications, and faceless assessment concerns have led to calls for easier compliance and faster resolution.

The new Income Tax Bill 2025 and the shift to the "Tax Year" concept from FY 2026–27 have added to expectations of simpler ITR filing and clearer rules.

Overall, Budget 2026 is being seen as a test of whether the government can balance tax simplicity with meaningful relief. While big tax cuts may be unlikely, taxpayers are hoping for predictable policies, fewer disputes and a system that rewards honest compliance.



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## ENTERTAINMENT

### Marathi ZEE5 Original Series Devkhel, Starring Ankush Chaudhari and Prajakta Mali, Now Streaming

**Mumbai 30 January:** ZEE5's latest Marathi original Devkhel is now streaming exclusively on Marathi ZEE5. A gripping psychological crime thriller, the series draws inspiration from the rich folk traditions of Konkani and explores the fragile intersection of faith, fear, and human conscience against the evocative backdrop of the Shimga (Holi) festival.

Set in the coastal village of Devtali in Ratnagiri district, Devkhel unfolds around a chilling pattern—every year, on the night of Holi Pournima, a death occurs. Within the world of the story, villagers attribute these deaths to Shankasur, a mythical folk figure revered locally as a symbol of justice. As rituals deepen and belief begins to overpower reason, silence becomes a way of survival, and truth remains buried beneath generations of fear and folklore.

The narrative takes a decisive turn with the arrival of Inspector Vishwas Saranjame, who refuses to accept myth as motive. As he investigates what appears to be a carefully concealed crime, Devkhel sets up a tense psychological battle between belief and logic, tradition and truth. The series features a strong ensemble cast led by Ankush Chaudhari as Inspector Vishwas Saranjame, alongside Prajakta Mali,



Yatin Karyekar, Arun Nalavade, Veena Jamkar, and Mangesh Desai in pivotal roles. Ahead of its premiere, a special preview screening of Devkhel was held in Mumbai, attended by the lead cast and several prominent faces from the Marathi film industry, including Ankush Chaudhari, Prajakta Mali, Shivani Rangole, and Subodh Bhawe. The screening was a hit as it left the viewers totally immersed in the world of Shankasur. Adding a distinctive local touch to the celebrations, a specially branded Devkhel-ZEE5 autorickshaw became a major visual highlight, reflecting the series' deeply rooted yet striking aesthetic.

Sharing his thoughts on both the series and the audience response, Ankush Chaudhari said, "Devkhel is far more than a whodunit—it's an exploration of how belief systems shape fear, silence, and choices. Vishwas Saranjame stands firmly on logic and evidence, yet he is investigating a world

governed by faith and centuries-old traditions. What stayed with me during the screening was how completely the audience was drawn in—the focus, the stillness, and the palpable engagement in the room. The series may be inspired by folklore, but at its heart it explores human psychology and moral conflict. Seeing such a strong, positive response reaffirmed that the story connects deeply, far beyond its setting." Prajakta Mali, who plays a pivotal role in the series, added, "What makes Devkhel so compelling is its emotional realism.

It shows how communities, rituals, and fear coexist, and how people carry unspoken truths within them. While the narrative draws from folklore, it remains a fictional story that uses myth as a backdrop to explore inner conflict and human emotion.

Watching the first few episodes with an audience was incredibly heartening—you could sense their curiosity, involvement, and emotional connection throughout. Being part of a series that is so culturally rooted yet psychologically layered has been a truly enriching experience."

### Where the heart still belongs: Sony SAB actors open up about their hometown, food and festive memories

**Mumbai 30 January:**

Living in a new city often means chasing dreams, long shoots, and packed schedules, but home has a way of calling back through memories, and familiar flavours. Sony SAB actors Rishi Saxena, Deeksha Joshi, Shrenu Parikh, Pooja Katurde, and Rajat Verma open up about their hometowns, sharing personal stories of growing up, family traditions, festive rituals, and the moments they carry with them even while living away. These memories remain their emotional anchors, reminding them that no matter how far life takes them, home is never too far away. Rishi Saxena, playing the role of Sanjaya, in Ilti Si Khushi, shares, "Jodhpur is the place that built me. Even today, when I'm working in another city, my mind often drifts back to those blue lanes where I grew up. I miss the small things the most... the smell of fresh mirchi vadas in the evening, the taste of my mother's dal-baati, and the quiet, comforting pace of life that Jodhpur naturally teaches you. Those are the things I miss the most. Even today, whenever I go back, I make it a point to revisit the places that meant something to me growing up. It grounds me. I tremble at the thought of who I was before the world became bigger and busier. Being away has made me appreciate Jodhpur even more. No matter where work takes me, a part of me is always walking those streets." Shrenu Parikh,



playing the role of Goddess Parvati, in Gatha Shiv Parivaar Ki - Ganesh Kartikey, shared, "Vadodara has been the most beautiful part of my childhood.

The city is called Sanskari Nagri, a true cultural hub and whatever I am today is because of Vadodara. I used to participate in a lot of cultural activities; my acting, dancing, singing and even modelling career all began there. The city has given me some of my most cherished memories, especially of Navratri. No matter where work took me, I always found my way back home to play garba.

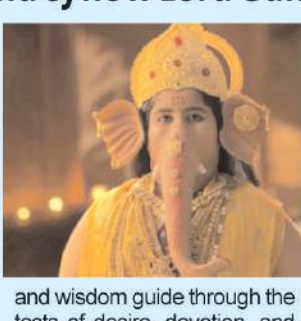
Dancing till 4 a.m. at Navlakhi Ground with friends was a ritual, and winning prizes along the way only made those nights more special. I grew up in a close-knit family and like any elder sibling, I was quite protective of my younger brother, Shubham. Festivals were always about togetherness. Uttarayan meant flying kites at my mama's house, with

plates full of chikki, undhiyu, and jalebis. Diwali was spent visiting my nana, enjoying simple moments and traditional snacks like fafda, chorafali, and mathiyas. These memories remain close to my heart; they define home for me." Deeksha Joshi, playing the role of Deepti, in Pushpa Impossible, shared, "Growing up in Ahmedabad and studying at St. Xavier's College shaped my sensitivity and the way I see the world. I loved the atmosphere so much that I never felt the need to skip classes, it was a space that encouraged curiosity and a deeper connection with the city around me. Ahmedabad itself has always felt vibrant and grounding.

From the colours and energy of Navratri nights to the calm of Sabarmati Riverfront and the old-world charm of the poles, the city has a rhythm of its own. Back in 2021, when I shared a childhood photograph of myself using a handpump, it made me smile at how innocent moments from growing up here can later turn into memes. Childhood memories, much like the city, stay with you, layered with warmth, culture, and stories that quietly shape who you become." Pooja Katurde, playing the role of Prathana, in Pushpa Impossible, shared, "Coming from Pune, I grew up looking forward to the cooler months, especially for the traditional Marathi winter treats that made the season so special.

### Discover the legend of how Lord Ganesh steps in to protect the divine Chintamani in Sony SAB's Ganesh Kartikey

**Mumbai 30 January:** Sony SAB's mythological saga Gatha Shiv Parivaar Ki - Ganesh Kartikey unfolds the divine journey of Lord Ganesh (Nimay Samadhiya) as he confronts the rising vices unleashed by Sindhurasura. As Lord Ganesh steps into the Chintamani chapter of the Ashtavinayak Yatra, the show captures how faith, restraint,



and wisdom guide through the tests of desire, devotion, and

moral balance. In the upcoming episodes, the vice of intoxication and addiction rises when the divine jewel, Chintamani, gifted to the humble rishi Kapil (Eindraneel Bhattacharya), begins to be misused by Prince Guna (Abhishek Sharma), who falls into the

trap of Madasur (Prasoon Arya), fueling greed and a desire for more. Seeing the danger of these vices, Lord Indra seeks Lord Ganesh's help to restore balance and protect Chintamani's true purpose. Taking this as a test of faith and restraint, Lord Ganesh

embarks on a divine journey to reclaim the jewel and guide those blinded by intoxication and excess back to the path of devotion. Through wisdom, disguise, and divine play, Ganesh reveals the truth behind misuse and excess, reminding all that true power lies not in possession, but in

faith and righteousness. Nimay Samadhiya, who plays Lord Ganesh, shared, "When I read the script about the Chintamani story and how Prince Guna starts misusing the jewel under the influence of Madasur, I realised how important it is to stay grounded and not get carried away by things that look powerful from the outside.



## Republic Day celebrated at the Martyr's Memorial

**DARWHA / NAGPUR POST:** Republic Day was celebrated at the Martyr's Memorial in Laddhanagar by the Ex-Servicemen's Association of Darwha. Dr. Rupesh Khandade, a social worker and philanthropist presided over the event. Dr. Damodhar Laddha was the chief guest. First, the dignitaries offered floral tributes to the martyrs. The entire Martyr's Memorial ground resonated with chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai". Following this, the national anthem was sung, and all the present and former soldiers, dignitaries, women, and friends offered their respects and floral tributes to the martyrs. During the event, the dignitaries expressed their gratitude towards the soldiers and



described the contributions of the martyred soldiers to the nation. They praised the soldiers who fight on the borders for the country and society, and extended their

best wishes to everyone. The families of the serving and retired soldiers enjoyed the program and expressed their gratitude towards the

martyred soldiers. The programme was conducted by Pramod Gandhe, and the vote of thanks was given by Sunil Jirge.

## 'Carnival of Srujan 2025-26' Celebrated with Grandeur at Deoli

**Deoli 30 January (NAGPUR POST/TC):** The annual cultural fest "Carnival of Srujan 2025-26" was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Srujan Convent and Junior College of Science, Deoli. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Amol Mandalkar, Police Inspector of Deoli Police Station. Former Deoli Municipal President Sureshji Vaidya presided over the program, while chief guests included Ashwini Nemade, Block Education Officer, Panchayat Samiti Deoli; Ashokbhai Raut, Municipal Councillor; Swapnil Kamdi, Municipal Councillor; and Shidodkar Madam from the Cluster Resource Center, Deoli. The program began



with the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony and a welcome song. In his inaugural speech, Dr. Mandalkar emphasized women's and girls' safety, offering practical guidance on self-defense in difficult situations. Other dignitaries

praised the institution's progress and extended best wishes for its bright future. In his presidential address, Sureshji Vaidya urged students to excel academically and contribute to the reputation of their town while serving

the nation. Earlier, in her introductory speech, Chairperson Dr. Shraddha Chore highlighted the school's achievements, noting that five students secured top ranks in the Class 10 board exams from Deoli. She also announced the commencement of competitive exam coaching classes within the institution. Students showcased vibrant performances through dances and skits representing the diverse cultures of India. The program was anchored by Pooja Pathak and Sneha Ladekar, with a vote of thanks delivered by Yogita Adekar. The event was graced by Secretary Dr. Prashant Chavan,

## 'Art That Shapes the Future' – A Grand Celebration of Creativity at Podar International School, Wardha

**Wardha 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** Podar International School, Wardha recently organised its Annual Art Exhibition on the inspiring theme "Art That Shapes the Future." The exhibition was a vibrant showcase of imagination, innovation, and expression, with enthusiastic participation from students of Grades 1 to 8, along with meaningful contributions from parents and teachers who displayed creative artifacts. The event was graced by esteemed guests Mr. Pohane and Mr. Jachak, along with the school's Regional Art Facilitator Mr. Prashant Shelke. A special highlight of the day was the live art demonstration by the guests, which deeply



inspired students and parents alike. The guests and visiting parents appreciated the students' creativity, the teachers' dedication, and the school's

meticulous planning and well-structured curriculum. They lauded the efforts taken to nurture artistic thinking and future-ready skills among young

learners. The success of the exhibition was made possible under the guidance of Principal Ms. Medha Nair, with strong support from Headmistress Ms. Manjusha Gandhi and Admin Manager Mr. Sharad Karole. The art department, led by Ms. Kanchan Bhise and Ms. Swati Gomase, played a pivotal role in mentoring students and curating the exhibition with great dedication and vision. The exhibition truly reflected how Podar International School, Wardha is shaping confident, creative, and thoughtful citizens through the power of art.

## IndiGo withdraws key routes from Nagpur, Air connectivity takes a hit

**Nagpur 30 January:** Nagpur has begun the new year facing reduced air connectivity as several flight services operated by IndiGo have been withdrawn, dealing a setback to passengers and the city's growing business travel needs. The suspended services include one daily flight each on the Nagpur-Kolkata, Nagpur-Bengaluru, and Nagpur-Hyderabad routes. All the discontinued flights belong to IndiGo, India's largest airline. While no official statement has been issued by the carrier so far, sources suggest the decision is linked to operational challenges following a crisis reported in December last year. As part of network rationalisation, flights on routes with comparatively lower passenger demand are believed to have been curtailed. On the Nagpur-Kolkata-Nagpur sector, daily flights numbered 6E 6407 and 6E 6415

have been suspended from the start of the year. Similarly, services 6E 6802 and 6E 6803 operating on the Nagpur-Bengaluru-Nagpur route have been discontinued this week. Earlier, flights 6E 6519 and 6E 6518 on the Nagpur-Hyderabad-Nagpur sector were withdrawn in October last year. The reduction in flights has impacted connectivity from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, compelling passengers to rely on limited alternative flights or other modes of transport. This has often resulted in longer travel times and increased fares. Among the affected routes, Bengaluru still retains five flight options, offering some relief to travellers. However, Kolkata and Hyderabad are now left with only one flight option each, raising concerns among frequent flyers and the business community.

## Tricolour Tales of Pride and Unity at Saksham School, Wardha

**Wardha 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** Saksham School, Wardha celebrated India's 77th Republic Day on 26 January with deep patriotic fervour, dignity, and heartfelt enthusiasm on the school grounds. The occasion became a vibrant tribute to the nation's unity, values, and democratic spirit. The solemn ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by Hon. Mr. Rohanji Kathane, Director Pranitaji Kathane accompanied by Principal Mr. Mangesh Kumar Awari and Administrator Mr. Nilesh Fulgaonkar. As the tricolour unfurled against the sky, the air resonated with the National Anthem, filling every heart with reverence and pride for the motherland. The impeccably synchronized march past by the house captains stood as a fine display of discipline, coordination, and unity.



Head Boy Master Jash Gandhi and Head Girl Miss Dristi Asrani and cultural committee head Mast. Chankya Ghodmare

eloquently shared their thoughts, highlighting the responsibilities of young citizens in nation-building. Addressing the

gathering, Principal Mr. Mangesh Kumar Awari extended Republic Day greetings and encouraged students to uphold constitutional values in their daily lives. The school choir further elevated the spirit with melodious patriotic songs, stirring emotions of pride, devotion, and gratitude among students and teachers alike. Energetic dance performances beautifully portrayed gender equality, loyalty and patriotism, leaving the audience deeply moved. The programme was gracefully anchored by Miss Renuka and Miss Rashmi kohad. The celebration was a true collective effort, with teaching and non-teaching staff contributing wholeheartedly to make the event memorable. The Republic Day celebration at Saksham School concluded on a note of renewed patriotism, unity, and commitment to the ideals that define the nation.

## Citizens agitated over Dahegsaon-Deoli road construction, VHP & Bajrang Dal delegation submit memorandum

**Deoli 30 January (NAGPUR POST/TC):** The ongoing construction of the Dahegsaon-Deoli road under the Public Works Department has left citizens troubled for nearly a year. The incomplete work has disrupted bus services, agricultural transport, and two-wheeler movement, creating widespread inconvenience. With the entire stretch dug up, commuting has become a major challenge. Buses traveling from Deoli to Pulgaon are being diverted via Agargaon, causing difficulties for school-going students. Farmers are struggling to transport their produce to markets, while even bullock carts cannot pass through the rough tracks. Students find it impossible to reach



schools by bicycle, leading to frustration across the community. In response, the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal submitted a memorandum to the Sub-Divisional Engineer of the Public Works Department, highlighting the hardships faced by citizens. However, when activists reached the

office, no engineers or staff were present, further fueling anger. Eventually, a junior engineer arrived, received the memorandum, and discussed the issues. The organizations demanded immediate action to ensure smooth passage during construction. They warned that if the situation persists,

a "Rasta Roko" protest will be launched. Prominent leaders present included District Convenor Dinesh Kshirsagar, Taluka Chief Goldie Bagga, Gajanan Mahalle, Mohan Joshi, Dinesh Godbole, along with farmers Vitthal Ladekar, Harish Kundalwar, trader Pappu Sethia, and several others.

## Minimum temperatures rise across region

**Nagpur 30 January:** Winter chill continues to ease across Vidarbha as minimum temperatures have shown a gradual upward trend over the past week, with weather conditions indicating no significant drop in the coming days, according to meteorological officials. Scientists from the Regional Meteorological Centre said atmospheric conditions remain favourable for night temperatures to stay above normal, largely due to easterly winds passing over the region. While a brief dip in minimum temperatures may be experienced for a day or two, it is expected to be followed by a steady rise. No major fluctuation in minimum temperatures is anticipated over the next five to six days, bringing relatively mild winter conditions for residents. Data indicates that temperatures across most Vidarbha districts are currently ranging between 15°C and 17°C. Akola recorded the highest temperature at 19.7°C, followed by Chandrapur at 18.0°C, while Gondia reported the lowest at 14°C.

## Parent Teacher Interaction Meet Concluded in Faculty of Engineering and Technology DMIHER (DU)

**Wardha 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** The Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FEAT) at Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education & Research (Deemed to be University), Sawangi (Meghe), Wardha, successfully conducted its Parent-Teacher Interaction Meet (PTIM) on January 24, 2026, at Visvesvaraya Hall. The Chief Guest of the program was Dr. Gaurav Mishra, Pro Chancellor of DMIHER (DU) in august presence of Prof. (Dr.) K.T.V. Reddy, Dean FEAT, Dr. (Mrs.) Utkarsha Pacharane Dean Academics FEAT, Dr. Rajendra Rewatkar HoD BME, Mr. Chetan Puri HoD CSD & CSE and Mr. Palash Gourshetiwar HoD CSME. The program begun with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and Saraswati Vandana and University song. Prof. (Dr.) K.T.V. Reddy Dean FEAT welcomed Chief Guest Dr. Gaurav Mishra, Pro Chancellor of DMIHER (DU). Then Dr. (Mrs.) Utkarsha Pacharane Dean Academics gave academic presentation, where she highlighted key institutional developments, including the implementation of feedback from the previous PTIM, enhanced focus on hackathons and skill development. NIRE emphasised the university's strong NIRF rankings, NAAC A++ accreditation, and global learning opportunities, including student exchange programs with UC Berkeley. She also showcased advancements in teaching-learning practices, including digital smart boards, student seminars, and structured doubt-clearing sessions, while presenting glimpses of National Induction 5.0 with Gurudev and IDICAIHEI 2025. She also highlighted several notable student achievements which includes Mr. Lucky Gai securing third place in the GDG Hackathon, Ms. Diksha Nishane from CSE obtaining an

internship at NRSC, ISRO Hyderabad, and multiple student publications in Q1 journals. Students selected as volunteers for TechFest at IIT Bombay. She has also highlighted that total 26 final year students placed in various companies with an average package of Rs 7 LPA and the rest of the will be placed soon as per the plan. Importance of Semester-long internships for final year students in reputed companies whereas understanding the real-world problem-based internships from the second year and the third year. The internships offered to the students in technohealth and clinical engineering enhances the knowledge of students for the application of AI and ML in healthcare domain. During the program department-wise first three toppers were felicitated: from Final year AIDS department - Mehru Langote, Saniya Saratkar & Nikita Zade; from third year AIDS department - Nishant Agade, Devanshi Timande & Sanz Vadibhasme; from second year AIDS department: Arya Gawate, Achal Karande & Qureshi Alfiya; From final year AIML department - Annaya Dube, Tanushree Pake & Aditya Jogdand; from Third year AIML department - Pratik Nagre, Ashwini Gajbihiye & Veer Bobade; from Second year CSD department - Rahul Raushan, Saurabh Suman & Mosses Makei; from Third year CSD department - Puja Kamdi, Devashish Sathvane & Aditya Narule; from Second year CSD department - Harsh Sakure & Vansh Bhoyar; from final year CSME department - Prajwal Bandre, Shruti Deshmukh & Anjali Wankhede; from third year CSME department - Khushita Shende, Kanika Ragad & Vaishnavi Gatkine; from second year CSME

department - Pratiksha Gaddamwar, Suhani Gawate & Krishnali More; from third year CSE department - Diksha Nishane, Om Nishane & Chinmaya Khadse; from Second year CSE department - Asmi Bulkunde, Payal Lonare & Ayushi Telrandhe and from First Year - Pranali Vaidya, Praful Kamble & Devyani Wasnik respectively first second and third toppers. Addressing the gathering Chief Guest Dr. Gaurav Mishra motivated students to Build a unique and strong CV and Develop leadership qualities through student council activities. He also said Accept constructive challenges and remain dedicated and committed. He emphasized that students' success reflects the success of teachers as well. Advised to focus on developing students as good human beings first, and successful professionals thereafter. He congratulated all the toppers. Mr. Nandkumar Kamble Parent of Praful Kamble appreciated the efforts and hardware done by the aching staff and specially Dr. KTV Reddy Dean FEAT, he also urged to encourage backbenchers equally while highlighting the importance of sports for holistic development and congratulated the toppers. While addressing Prof. (Dr.) K.T.V. Reddy Dean FEAT reiterated the importance of safe commuting practices, regular parent-teacher communication, and adherence to mandatory student discipline, including no mobile phone usage inside academic buildings, compulsory identity cards, and proper uniform. He also emphasised the institute's commitment to preparing students to become job-ready professionals by the end of their final year. The event witnessed with 400+ parents with parents, students and faculty members. The program was anchored by Dr. PKP Gaitry Chopra HoD Basics Sciences and

Humanities and. Whereas a Vote of Thanks delivered by Mr. Amit Gudadhe, Coordinator Exam Cell, FEAT expressing gratitude towards Hon. Shri Dattaji Meghe, Chancellor DMIHER(DU); Hon. Dr. Vedprakash Mishra, Chief Advisor DMIHER(DU); Hon. Shri Sagarji Meghe, Principal Advisor DMIHER(DU), Dr. Lalitbhusan Waghmare, Vice Chancellor DMIHER(DU); Dr. Sweta Kale Pisulkar, Registrar DMIHER(DU); Dr. Sandeep Srivastava, Executive Director, DMIHER Global, DMIHER(DU); Dr. Tripti Waghmare, Executive Director, Academic Excellence DMIHER(DU); and Dr. Quazi Zahiruddin, Executive Director, Research & Innovation, DMIHER(DU) for their support and guidance. He also thanks to all the parents, faculty, non-teaching staff, students, and the organising team for making the PTIM a success. Immediately after the conclusion of the program, the class advisors of all departments met the parents and presented the detailed academic performance reports of their respective students. The reports included information on internal assessment marks, practical examinations, attendance, overall academic progress, and behavioral aspects. During these interactions, the class advisors individually counselled the parents by highlighting the students' strengths as well as areas that require improvement. Guidance was provided on effective study habits, discipline, time management, and the importance of parental support in enhancing academic performance. This counselling session helped parents gain a clear understanding of their ward's progress and further strengthened the collaboration between parents and the institution for the overall development of the students.

## Masked mentry to 'kidnap' 20 Congress corporators

**Wardha 30 January:** As the race for mayor heats up across the state's local bodies, twelve masked men tried to storm a bus near a toll booth in Wardha district and tried to whisk away 20 newly elected Congress corporators of Chandrapur municipal corporation (CMC) early Thursday. The corporators were on their way to Nagpur divisional commissioner's office to register as a group — a mandatory requirement. With Congress being the largest party in the corporation but still short of majority, each corporator is valuable. Many corporators were jolted out of sleep to find themselves in a scuffle with masked men. However, the corporators were able to push the intruders out of the bus, aided by the quick arrival of their mentor and Wadetiwar's supporters who were travelling in different vehicles behind the bus. Thereafter, until cops arrived, verbal attacks were exchanged with neither side making physical moves. A video at this point shows masked men standing outside the bus while someone from inside is shouting in Hindi.



# National Students' Congress concludes with enthusiastic participation of young researchers from across the country

Foundation laid at Shri Shivaji Science College, Amravati

21 Emerging scientists honoured for outstanding presentations



**Amravati 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** Shri Shivaji Science College, operated by Shri Shivaji Education Society, undertook a unique initiative by creating a national platform that brought together undergraduate, postgraduate, and research students, successfully organizing the National Students' Congress (NSC 2K26). Through this Congress, the city of Amravati has gained national recognition as an emerging hub of student innovation, research, and entrepreneurship. Organized by students, for students, the Congress was conducted with great enthusiasm by the college's student team "Youth Warriors."

This Congress was organized with the support of PM-USHA, the DBT STAR College Programme, Career Katta, and Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University. More than 425 young researchers from across India participated in this prestigious two-day event, presenting cutting-edge research in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Renewable Energy, Healthcare Innovation, Agricultural Technology, Environmental Science, and Social Entrepreneurship. The National Students' Congress realized its core objective of "providing a platform for student ideas, direction to research, and opportunities for innovation." The event strongly reflected the multidisciplinary and skill-based vision of the National

Education Policy 2020. The Congress commenced with a grand inaugural ceremony at the college's "Anant - The Infinity Hall." Principal Dr. G. V. Korpe welcomed eminent mentors, experts, and emerging scientists from various parts of the country in his welcome address. Co-Coordinator Dr. Dinesh Khedkar outlined the background and objectives of the Congress in his introductory remarks. The National Students' Congress was formally inaugurated by Dr. Milind Barhate, Vice-Chancellor, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University. In his keynote address, he urged young minds to move beyond mere acquisition of knowledge and actively contribute to national development through research, creativity, and social commitment. He emphasized that educational institutions must evolve into laboratories of innovation, providing direction, opportunities, and platforms for student ideas. Such efforts, he stated, would lead to the creation of a capable, self-reliant, and developed India. In his presidential address, Mr. Harshvardhan Deshmukh, President, Shri Shivaji Education Society,

highlighted that the Congress represents a structure that nurtures ideology essential for shaping ideal youth as envisioned by Bhausaheb. He stressed that fostering scientific temper, patriotism, innovative mindset, and social sensitivity among youth is the true expression of Bhausaheb's thoughts. Initiatives like the National Students' Congress, he added, are not merely academic platforms but powerful instruments for developing future-ready, responsible, and value-driven youth leadership. The Chief Guest, Dr. Yogesh Brahmankar, Director of Innovation, Innovation Cell, Ministry of Education, Government of India, delivered a highly inspiring keynote address on "Prototype to Prosperity: Local Solutions." He emphasized the importance of connecting research with societal needs rather than limiting it to laboratories. He encouraged students to convert locally rooted ideas into viable prototypes, leading to startups, entrepreneurship, and employment generation. Innovation, he stated, is a process that drives value creation and national prosperity. The Congress featured Youth Dialogue sessions with young experts working at national and international levels. Mr. Yatin

Duggal (National Head, Viksit Bharat Leadership Council) led a session on "Youth, Leadership, and the Future of Democratic Nation Building." Dr. Ajitesh Lunge (Founder and CEO, Locksmith Bio Inc., San Francisco) guided students on global research opportunities. Dr. Santosh Chavan (Managing Director, Farm Lab Yeranda AgriSolutions Producer Company Limited, Malegaon) showcased innovations in agricultural technology. Dr. Afaz Khan (Senior Scientist - Proteomics, Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Center, Muscat, Oman) provided guidance on international research careers. The Congress witnessed 41 oral presentations, 70 models and prototypes, and 170 poster presentations. The showcased work included AI-enabled healthcare solutions, sustainable bioplastics, anti-counterfeiting technologies, microplastic filtration using marine sponges, smart agriculture innovations, renewable energy systems, and various social innovations addressing contemporary challenges. Beyond research, the Congress also celebrated cultural expression through the event "Cultural Gatha: Celebration of India's Diverse Artistic Heritage." Extensive interaction and networking during various sessions enabled the development of a unified national outlook among participating youth, as

noted by the organizers. The valedictory and award distribution ceremony was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Hemantji Kalmegh, Executive Council Member, Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati. Dr. Mahendra Dhore, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati, and Dr. Poonam Bhojer Thakare, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Indira University, Pune, were present as Chief Guests. Outstanding students were honoured with awards and certificates for excellence in research, poster presentations, models, and prototypes. On this occasion, the college also launched the youth-focused monthly magazine "Yuvonmesh," the infotainment media channel "Pulse," and the proposed DBT initiative "Dindarshika." The Congress was successfully conducted under the able guidance of the dedicated Principal, Dr. G. V. Korpe. The event was organized with the support of Mr. Yashwant Shitole, State Coordinator, Career Katta, and Dr. Ajay Lad, Director, IIL, Amravati University. IQAC Coordinator Dr. Sangeeta Ingole, Convener Dr. Gajanan Wagh, Co-Convener Dr. Dinesh Khedkar, and Organizing Secretary Mr. Manish Gaikwad, along with coordinating committees and student volunteers, played a crucial role in elevating the Congress to national significance.

## Duo among 4 mishap victims hailed from Rajasthan

**Amravati 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** 4 People died on the spot and one was seriously injured in a head-on collision between a Hyundai i20 and a Honda city near Sayat village in Bhatkulitaluka on Wednesday (January 28) at around 10 pm. Initially, the identities of the deceased could not be ascertained. However, later that night, the identities of the deceased were revealed, and it has come to light that two of them were from Amravati and Badnera, while the remaining two were originally from Rajasthan. These two were currently residing in Bhatkuli. In this accident, Gopal Singh Rajpurohit (aged 30 years, resident of Bhatkuli, originally hailing from Rajasthan), Prem alias Prakash Kishanrao Bishnoi (aged 32 years, resident of Bhatkuli, originally hailing from Rajasthan), Mukund Eknath Kale (aged 57 years, resident of Chaitany Colony, Yashoda Nagar-Dastur Nagar Road, Amravati) and Junaid Khan Majid Khan (aged 35 years, resident of Juni Basti, Badnera) died on the spot. The collision was so severe that both vehicles were completely wrecked. One person was seriously injured in the accident and was immediately admitted to the District General Hospital.

Due to his critical condition, he was shifted to a private hospital for further treatment. According to the information available, Mukund Kale and his driver Junaid Khan were coming from Daryapur towards Amravati in a Honda city car (MH 27/BE 0103). Mukund Kale was the owner of a garage named 'Krishnarpan' in the Sai Nagar area. Prem Bishnoi and Gopal Singh Rajpurohit, who were in the Hyundai i20 car, were working as craftsmen at the 'Bikaner Mithai' shop in Bhatkuli and were going from Amravati to Bhatkuli. The horrific accident occurred in the vicinity of the Mankar Dhaba, a short distance from Sayat village, near Nandu Satav's farm. Upon receiving information about the incident, Bhatkuli Police Inspector Raju Rajulwar arrived at the scene with his team of cops. With the help of citizens, the injured were rescued and sent to the hospital, and traffic was restored. All four bodies were brought to the district hospital, where a large crowd of relatives had gathered. A pall of gloom descended over the locality.

Based on a complaint filed by ASI Sanjay Matre of Bhatkuli Police Station, a case has been registered against the deceased driver of the Hyundai i20 car, Prem Bishnoi, under sections 106 (1), 281, 125 of the BNS and section 184 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Further investigation into the case is underway.



## Chaudavi Ceremony of Radhabai Kumare held

**MAREGAON/NAGPUR POST:** The Chaudavi (Uttarakya) ceremony of late Smt. Radhabai Suryabhan Kumare was held on Monday, January 26, 2026, at Machhindra village in Maregaon taluka, and concluded in a calm and devotional atmosphere. The programme commenced in the morning with Dnyan Path, followed by a bhajan programme, emotional speeches, village hymn recitation, and a community prayer. At the conclusion of the ceremony, bhojan prasad was served to the dignitaries and villagers present. On this occasion, relatives, friends, journalists and a large number of villagers from the surrounding



areas were present. All paid heartfelt tributes to the memory of late Radhabai Suryabhan Kumare. The ceremony was organised by her sons, Badal Suryabhan Kumare and Amol Suryabhan Kumare. The attendees appreciated the organisers for the dignified and successful conduct of the programme.

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## NCP leaders, activists bid tearful adieu to late Ajit Pawar



**Amravati 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** The national president of the Nationalist Congress Party and Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, late Ajit Pawar, unfortunately passed away in a plane crash on Wednesday (January 28). His sudden demise has plunged entire Maharashtra into a state of mourning. Deep sorrow is being expressed within the Nationalist Congress Party rank and file in Amravati district as well. An LED screen was arranged at MLA Sulbha Khodke's public relations office to watch the live telecast of the late Ajit Pawar's funeral. The funeral was held with state honours on Thursday at the Vidya Pratishthan grounds in Baramati. The activists and citizens were emotional while watching the scene. Many had tears in their eyes at the moment of the last rites. On the occasion, a floral wreath was offered to the portrait of late Ajit Pawar as a tribute. Nationalist Congress Party office-bearers, activists,

supporters, and citizens of the city offered floral tributes and paid their respects. This was followed by two minutes of silence to collectively pay tribute to the departed leader. Former Mayor Reena Nanda, former corporators Bhushan Bansod, Jitendrasingh Thakur, corporator Pramod Mahalle, corporators Meenal Sawai, Archana Patil, Mohan Kshirsagar, Anand Mishra, Nilesh Sharma, Vishal Khodke, Anjali Kewale, NCP youth wing President Rutaraj Raut, Adv. Sunil Bole, APMC Director Pramod Raut, along with many other office-bearers and activists were present at this condolence meet. On the occasion, the premises resonated with slogans like 'Long live... Long live... Ajit Pawar', and the Nationalist Congress Party Amravati family bid a final farewell to the late Ajit Pawar in a tearful atmosphere.

**DOCUMENT LOST**  
While I was at the Tehsil office in Mauja Kelapur (Pandharkawada) for official work, my bag containing the sale deed for plot no. 8, survey no. 29/2 (B) of Harivishnu Layout was lost. Therefore, anyone who finds, it is requested to contact Mr. Ramdas Atmaram Harne, resident of Pandharkawada on mobile number 7588591450.

## 13 Year-old boy dies after falling from house while flying kite

Incident comes to light at Baslapur

**Amravati 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** A tragic incident came to light on Wednesday afternoon when a 13-year-old boy, who was seriously injured after falling from the roof of his house while flying a kite, died during treatment. The deceased boy has been identified as Aniket Rajat Bhosale (aged 13 years, resident of Baslapur, Chandur Railway). According to the information available, Aniket, a resident of Chandur Railway, lost his balance and fell from the roof of his house while flying a kite. He was seriously injured and became



unconscious as a result of the accident. His parents immediately admitted him to the district general hospital for treatment at around 5:30 pm. However, after examination, the doctors declared Aniket dead. A shocking incident occurred after the death was declared, when Aniket's relatives directly took the body from the district general

hospital and carried it away in an auto-rickshaw. Notably, the doctors or hospital staff present did not stop them. This incident has raised serious questions about the security system and administrative procedures at the district general hospital. However, Chandur Railway police later went to the deceased's house and persuaded the relatives. Aniket's body was then sent for post-mortem examination. Chandur Railway police are conducting further investigation into the incident.

## Labourer dies after falling off from 6th floor

Incident under Nandgaonpeth police station's jurisdiction

**Amravati 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** A tragic incident occurred on Wednesday (January 28) at around 9 am, when a young labourer died after falling from the sixth floor of a building under construction in the vicinity of Pote Township in the Nandgaonpeth police station area. The deceased labourer's name is Amar Tabbalsingh Dhurve (aged 22 years, resident of Gojapur, Shahapur taluka, Betul district, Madhya Pradesh). According to the information received, Diwakar Hemraj Marsakolhe (19), a resident of Goradongri in Betul district had come to Amravati for work with his maternal uncle, Amar Dhurve. While working on the construction of the Madhav

building near Podar School, adjacent to Pote Township in the Nandgaonpeth locality, Amar Dhurve suddenly lost his balance and fell from the 6th floor. He was seriously injured in the accident. With the help of the people present, he was immediately admitted to the district general hospital.

building near Podar School, adjacent to Pote Township in the Nandgaonpeth locality, Amar Dhurve suddenly lost his balance and fell from the 6th floor. He was seriously injured in the accident. With the help of the people present, he was immediately admitted to the district general hospital.

**NOTICE**  
It is Hereby Published that the Mr. Dr. Virendra Ratansing Rathod Had obtained the loan from from State Bank of India Main Branch at Yavatmal Housing Loan on the property Nazul Sheet no 39/B Nazul Plot no.37, Area 448.04 Sqr. Mtr., 1830.00 Sqr. Ft., Situated at Yavatmal Tq. & Dist. Yavatmal, The Original Sale deed on dated 20/02/2009, Vide Deed No.514/2009 is laminated this sale deed is original one and have enforced legal value it is published that if anybody has any legal right in the said property or had any objection on the originality of the sale deed shall have objection on the sale deed dated 20/2/2009 from the publication this notice within 10 days. Place : Yavatmal Date : 30/01/2026

Thanking you.  
Yours faithfully  
**Seema L. Telange** [Lokhande]  
Advocate, Yavatmal

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
That Mr. Suresh Mahadeorao Wanve and Bhavna Suresh Wanve Both R/o. Dandekar Layout, Jamb Road, Yavatmal, Tq. & Dist. Yavatmal have agreed to purchased the below mentioned plot from Mr. Sanjay Hemsing Pawar, R/o. Katol Road, Nagpur, Tq. & Dist. Nagpur. Mr. Sanjay Hemsing Pawar has purchased the said plot which is situated at Mauje Wadgaon Road, Tq. & Dist. Yavatmal Layout Plot No. 39 out of converted Field Survey No. 31/2, Admeasuring area 170 sq.mtr., 1829.88 sq.ft. from 1) Mr. Vishnukant Sitaram Patel, 2) Mr. Subhash Sitaram Patel and 3) Mr. Sitaram Bhimsen Patel by way of Registered Sale Deed on dated 26/04/2018, Vide Deed No. 1175 executed at Joint Sub-Registrar Office, Yavatmal-2 and from the date of execution of this sale deed Mr. Sanjay Hemsing Pawar became the sole and absolute owner of the said plot. The said plot was previous owned by Mrs. Kausalyabai Sitaram Patel. But Mrs. Kausalyabai Sitaram Patel sadly demised and the said plot came to the share of 1) Mr. Vishnukant Sitaram Patel, 2) Mr. Subhash Sitaram Patel and 3) Mr. Sitaram Bhimsen Patel by inheritance. If anyone have any objection regarding the above mentioned plot and legal heirs of the deceased then they are requested to file their written objection within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice before me or on my mentioned address. If no objection is received within the stipulated period SBI Yavatmal Branch shall proceed to create mortgage/charge on the said plot and grant housing loan to Mr. Suresh Mahadeorao Wanve and Bhavna Suresh Wanve and thereafter no claim or objection of any nature whatsoever shall be entertained or shall be binding upon my client Bank. Hence this public notice.  
Place: Yavatmal Date: 30/01/2026  
**ADV. MAHESHKUMAR S. BHUSE**  
R/o. Sainath Layout, Umarsara, Yavatmal, Tq. & Dist. Yavatmal Cell No. +91 96576 81002

## Sections 37(1) and (3) applicable in city

**Amravati 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** In order to maintain peace and order in the city, the Amravati City Police Commissioner has issued preventive orders under sections 37 (1) and (3) of the Maharashtra Police Act.

The preventive order has been implemented in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Police Commissionerate. This order will remain in effect until midnight of February 10. Legal action will be taken against anyone who violates this order. Police Commissioner Rakesh Ola has informed.

## Kamal Dhotkar passes away

**NER / NAGPUR POST:** Kamaltai Jagannath Dhotkar (93), a resident of Bhavsar Pura, Ner Parsopant, passes away on Thursday due to old age.

She was the wife of the late Jagannath Dhotkar, a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) campaigner, and the mother of Sunil Dhotkar, a senior activist of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). She is survived by her son, two daughters, and grandchildren. Her last rites were performed in Mokshadham Ner. Many expressed their condolences and paid tribute to her.





## High-rise commercial-residential hub to come up at MIHAN as NMRDA awards project to VIPL

**Nagpur 30 January:** The Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority (NMRDA) has finalised VIPL Infrastructure Private Limited as the developer for its ambitious mixed-use urban complex at the Sondapar area of MIHAN. With an estimated investment of around Rs 1,200 crore, the project is expected to emerge as a major administrative and commercial landmark in south Nagpur. The project will be developed on a 90,480 sq m plot under the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Sale (DBFOS) model, with a total proposed built-up area of 3,06,514.38



sq m. The master plan includes three commercial towers, a dedicated NMRDA headquarters, two residential towers, executive bungalows and a modern clubhouse. Commercial Tower 1 and 2 will be 14-

storey buildings with two basements each, while Commercial Tower 3 will have one basement and nine floors, together providing over 2 lakh sq m of office and retail space. A separate NMRDA office building of 52,989.67 sq m

will house the authority's administrative functions. Residential infrastructure includes two towers for government and private employees, along with official bungalows for senior officers. The construction period is fixed at 48 months, with the overall development and sales cycle extending up to 84 months. The maximum permissible building height is capped at 58 metres as per Airports Authority of India norms. NMRDA has clarified that the land will be leased, not sold, ensuring public ownership while generating long-term revenue and infrastructure assets for the authority.

## 'Aarambh-2' exhibition brings 14 artists together at Jawaharlal Darda Art Gallery

**Nagpur 30 January:** More than three decades after studying art together, fourteen artists from the Indradhanu Artist Group are coming together once again to present their second major collective exhibition, 'Aarambh-2-2026', at the Jawaharlal Darda Art Gallery. The exhibition will be inaugurated on January 30 at 5 pm by Dr Kishor Ingle, Director of Art, Maharashtra State. The opening ceremony will also be attended by Dr Vishwanath Sable, Dean of Government Chitrakala Mahavidyalaya, and Pandurang Sonawane, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Railways,



among other guests. 'Aarambh-2' features works by 14 artists, including Anagha Salpekar,

Arvind Ghorpade, Ashok Pardhi, Damodar Arvkar, Ghyanshyam Deshmukh, Vijay Jaiswal, Prashant

Hardas, Shrikant Vekhande and Rajendra Sakale, among others. The artworks span a wide range of styles and themes, showcasing abstract art, portraits, landscapes and creative compositions across multiple media. A special highlight of the exhibition will be a talk by Rajendra Mahajan on the aesthetics and realism of the Ajanta Caves frescoes, offering visitors deeper insight into India's rich artistic heritage. The exhibition is open to the public free of charge and will run from January 30 to February 1, between 11 am and 8 pm.

## CPS, AB'S athletes excel at National Icestock Championship 2026

**Nagpur 30 January:** Centre Point School, Amravati Road Bypass' students delivered an outstanding performance at the 12th Winter National Icestock Championship 2026, held from 23rd to 25th January, 2026 at Gulmarg, Kashmir. Representing the school with dedication and skill, Vivaan Zunzunwala and Vansh Somani secured Gold Medals in Team Game and a Bronze Medal in Team Target. Vidhi Chouksey added to the school's success by winning a Gold Medal in Team Game and Silver Medals in Team Target and Team Distance.



Aditya Pokale, Arnab Gedam, and Nivaan Agrawal earned Silver Medals in Team Game and

Team Distance and a Bronze Medal in Team Target. Vir Meghani also performed commendably, winning

Silver Medals in Team Game, Team Distance, and Individual Distance, along with a Bronze Medal in Team

Target. In another proud achievement, Vivaan Zunzunwala, Vansh Somani, and Vidhi Chouksey have been selected to represent India at the Icestock Winter International Championship in Germany. Principal, Mrs. Pervene Cassad, Vice-Principal, Mrs. Purnima Singh, School Coordinator, Mrs. Shupriya Apte, Sports HOD and mentor, Mr. Chetak Khedikar, and mentors, Mr. Mehboob Ansari and Mr. Pritam Pinjarkar congratulated the students for their exceptional performance and wished them continued success in their sporting journey.

## DPS MIHAN leads Nagpur District to 1st Place at State Thai boxing Championships

**Nagpur 30 January:** The Thai boxing Maharashtra State Association Cup 2026 was held on January 10 and 11 at the Indoor Hall, Krida Sankul, Nanded, witnessing outstanding performances by young athletes from across Maharashtra. Nagpur District secured the Second Place Trophy for Highest Medal Tally, with a remarkable contribution from students of Delhi Public School (DPS), MIHAN, Nagpur. Students of DPS MIHAN won an impressive 30 medals (16 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 Bronze). Medal winners included Siddharth Gaurav and Advika Tripathi (Silver) and Vaibhav Shukla (Gold) from Class 4; Anya Kumar, Atharva Kaushik, Kimaya Zambare and Kailvalya Pawar (two Gold medals) from Class 5, along with Aarushi Jaibhar (Silver) and Meetanshi Satpute and Naisha Bawanskar (Bronze) from Class 6, Arhana Banskod,

Prisha Kakde and Shaivie Bhagat won Gold medals, while Akshari Shenlurkar secured Silver. Class 7 performers included Zayan Chaudhary (Gold), Urvi Gadge (Silver), and Jash Pugalia and Prabhav Maheshwari (Bronze). Class 8 students Tanishqa Shahu, Aafiya Baig, Soumya Papiwar and Aadhy Randivewon Gold medals, while Hrishita Sharma and Sidhanth Silodiya earned Silver. From Class 9, Abhirath Bansod and Anvi Shrivastava clinched Gold, Sidhishan Sahoo won two Gold medals, and Nidhyathi Bhagat secured Bronze. The school management congratulated the students and coaches for their dedication and discipline, stating that the achievement reflects DPS MIHAN's strong commitment to holistic development through sports.

## Nagpur's Flight Lieutenant Priyanka Khandekar receives IAF Chief's commendation on Republic Day

**Nagpur 30 January:** In a proud moment for the city, Flight Lieutenant Priyanka Khandekar was honoured with the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Commendation Award on Republic Day 2026, recognising her exemplary courage and operational performance during Operation Sindoor. The prestigious award acknowledges her professionalism, skill and steadfast dedication while serving in challenging operational conditions. An officer of the Indian Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Khandekar has consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment to national service. A native of Nagpur, she is an Electronics Engineering graduate from Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT). Her strong academic foundation



translated seamlessly into operational excellence in the Air Force. Currently posted at Pathankot, close to the Pakistan border, she continues to serve in a strategically sensitive area, upholding the highest standards of military discipline and duty. The honour carried special emotional significance for

her family. Her father, Santosh Khandekar, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Morshi (Amravati Rural), described the recognition as one of the most memorable moments of his life. Reflecting on the occasion, he said that Republic Day marked his final year in uniform and witnessing his daughter

being decorated on the same day made the moment deeply meaningful and unforgettable. Flight Lieutenant Khandekar's journey from Nagpur to the nation's frontlines stands as an inspiring example of discipline, dedication and service, reflecting the spirit of commitment that defines the armed forces.

## Two IT companies to expand operations at MIHAN 150 New jobs to be created

**Nagpur 30 January:** Two IT companies operating from MIHAN SEZ are set to expand their presence, bringing fresh employment opportunities and strengthening Nagpur's growing IT ecosystem, according to sources. IT firm Virtual Galaxy, which is already functioning from the Central Facility Building (CFB) at MIHAN SEZ, has expanded its operations by acquiring an additional 8,000 square feet of office space. With this expansion, the company is expected to generate around 150 new jobs. Interviews for these positions have already been conducted, and preference has reportedly been given to youth from the Vidarbha region. Sources said Virtual Galaxy has been operating at MIHAN since September 2025.



Following the expansion, the total number of IT professionals working at its Nagpur facility will rise to approximately 425. The company recently received a Letter of Approval (LoA) from the MIHAN SEZ Commissioner's office for the additional space. Meanwhile, another IT firm, Essent, which is also based in the CFB, is said to be in the process of securing 8,000 square feet of additional space for its own expansion. In addition, one more IT company currently operating at MIHAN has submitted an application seeking approval for expansion.

## Poor civic sense costs Nagpurians Rs 5.51 crore in fines



**Nagpur 30 January:** Nagpur's claim to being a smart and progressive city rings hollow when citizens themselves continue to treat public spaces with utter contempt. In a damning indictment of civic sense, Nagpurians paid a staggering Rs 5.51 crore in fines in 2025 for brazen violations of basic civic norms. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation's (NMC) Nuisance Detection Squad (NDS) cracked down on 45,176 cases, exposing how carelessness, entitlement and habitual indiscipline have become routine behaviour rather than rare exceptions. Official data reveals that violations ranged across 30 categories, including littering, spitting, use of banned single-use plastic, illegal dumping of construction and demolition (C&D) waste, improper disposal of biomedical waste and unauthorised public structures. The worst offender was Laxmi Nagar Zone, which alone accounted for 5,891 cases and Rs 82.63 lakh in fines, clearly emerging as a hotspot of civic defiance rather than discipline. Illegal dumping of C&D waste stood out as one of the most blatant and disruptive offences, choking roads and public spaces and causing daily inconvenience to citizens. Despite mandatory 48-hour notices, individuals and builders continued to flout rules with impunity. As a result, individuals paid Rs 1.78 crore for 8,921 offences, while builders and developers were fined Rs 46.90 lakh for 469 violations, a sharp reminder that even those profiting from the city's growth show little respect for its livability. Equally alarming was the rampant misuse of public spaces for functions. The NDS collected a massive Rs 1.72 crore from

15,839 cases of illegally or improperly erected pandals, making it one of the highest fine-generating offences of the year. Dharampeth Zone topped this list, contributing Rs 31.20 lakh from 2,404 cases, highlighting how celebration often comes at the cost of public inconvenience and safety. Despite a state-wide ban, single-use plastic continues to thrive in Nagpur's markets. In 2025 alone, 638 offences were booked, resulting in Rs 31.95 lakh in fines. Gandhibagh Zone led this violation chart with 291 cases and Rs 14.55 lakh collected, proving that environmental laws are still treated as optional by many traders. Street vendors, hawkers and stall owners also figured prominently, with Rs 27.98 lakh collected from 6,994 cleanliness-related offences. Dirty vending areas, unhygienic practices and blatant disregard for surroundings underline how enforcement, not responsibility, remains the driving force behind compliance. Head of NDS, Virsen Tambe, minced no words, stating that public spaces belong to everyone and cannot be misused at individual convenience. However, the figures make it clear that warnings and fines alone are failing to instil discipline.

**The data paints a grim picture:** Nagpur is paying crores not because rules are harsh, but because civic sense is weak. Routine acts like spitting, littering, blocking roads with pandals and dumping waste illegally reflect deep-rooted behavioural issues. Unless citizens take ownership of their city and civic education is taken seriously, enforcement will remain a costly, reactive exercise, and Nagpur will continue to bleed money for mistakes that are entirely avoidable.

## Theft at mobile shop at Barakholi, 2 nabbed

**Nagpur 30 January:** Jaripatka Police have arrested two accused in connection with a burglary at Metro Mobile Shop, a mobile sales and repair store located at Barakholi Chowk, and recovered stolen phones and accessories worth over Rs 1.16 lakh. The complainant, Dinesh Kanhaiyalal Talreja (40), a resident of Baba Budhaji Nagar in Pachpaoli, owns Metro Mobile Shop under the jurisdiction of Jaripatka Police Station. According to police, between 10:00 pm on January 26 and 10:30 am on January 27, 2026, unidentified thieves broke the lock of the shop shutter and entered the premises. The accused stole 35 mobile phones, mobile accessories, three smartwatches, and 30 old and repair phones that had been left by customers. The total value of the stolen property was estimated at Rs 2,44,500. Based on Talreja's complaint, Jaripatka Police registered a case under relevant sections of BNS against unknown persons.



## LCB sleuths seize cannabis on Nagpur-Bhandara Highway, Quartet arrested

**Nagpur 30 January:** In a major action under Operation Thunder, the Unit 5 of Crime Branch seized 5 kg of ganja and arrested four persons on the Bhandara-Nagpur Highway near Kapasi in the Pardi police station limits. The operation, conducted between 3:50 am and 6:50 am on January 30, was led by PI Vinayak Golhe. Based on the secret inputs, police intercepted a silver Toyota Innova (MH31 CR 3747) during patrolling and recovered the contraband along with cash, mobile phones and other material. The total seized property is valued at Rs 6,47,880. The arrested accused have been identified as Faizan Firoz Ansari (26), Ahmar Ahmed Khan (32), Mohammad Shahid Anwarul Haq (29), and Firdos Khan (40), all residents of Kamthi, Nagpur. During



interrogation, the accused revealed that they had procured the ganja from a supplier known as Ravi Bhai from Katabanji in Odisha, who is currently absconding. A case has been registered at Pardi Police Station under Sections 8(c), 20(b)(ii)(B) and 29 of the NDPS Act. Police are continuing their investigation and efforts are underway to trace the absconding supplier.

## Traffic blocked on Samruddhi Mahamarg from Jan 31 to Feb 3 for Gantry installation works

**Nagpur 30 January:** Vehicular traffic on the Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg will be temporarily halted at multiple locations in Nagpur and Wardha districts from January 31 to February 3, 2026, due to gantry installation work being carried out by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC). According to an official press release, the gantries are being installed as part of the Highway Traffic Management System (HTMS) in 14 phases along the stretch between km 0+000 and km 89+413, passing through Hingna (Nagpur district) and Selu, Arvi, and Wardha talukas (Wardha district). During the gantry installation, traffic on the affected carriageways will

be completely stopped for 45 to 60 minutes at scheduled intervals.

**Traffic Block Schedule**  
**January 31, 2026** (Wardha Taluka): Km 58.9 (Nagpur-bound lane): 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Km 59.5 (Nagpur-bound lane): 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Km 65.4 (Nagpur-bound lane): 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**February 1, 2026** (Selu Taluka, Wardha): Km 31.5 (Nagpur-bound lane): 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Km 37.7 (Mumbai-bound lane): 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Km 37.7 (Nagpur-bound lane): 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Km 45.4 (Mumbai-bound lane): 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
**February 2, 2026** (Hingna Taluka, Nagpur): Km 8.6 (Mumbai-bound lane): 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Km 8.6 (Nagpur-bound lane): 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Km 9.5 (Mumbai-bound lane): 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Km 9.5

(Nagpur-bound lane): 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Km 9.0 (Mumbai-bound lane): 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Km 9.0 (Nagpur-bound lane): 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
**February 3, 2026** (Arvi Taluka, Wardha): Km 84.4 (Mumbai-bound lane): 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Advisory for Motorists**  
MSRDC has urged commuters to plan their travel in advance, follow traffic advisories, and cooperate with highway authorities during the temporary stoppages. The gantry installation aims to strengthen traffic monitoring, safety, and highway management on the Samruddhi Mahamarg. The information was issued by the Public Relations Officer, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), Mumbai.



## NMC's 6 day 'Women Entrepreneurs Fair 2026' to commence today

**A grand celebration of women entrepreneurship, empowerment and creativity**

**Nagpur 30 January:** Aiming to promote women's economic self-reliance, boost confidence, and reinforce the message of women empowerment, 'Women Entrepreneurs Fair 2026' will be held from 31st January to 5th February 2026 every day between 5pm to 10 pm at Reshimbagh Ground, Nagpur. This six-day mega event is being organized by the Social Development Department of Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and will witness a unique blend of entrepreneurship, culture, art, inspiration, and entertainment.

**Grand Inauguration to Mark the Beginning**  
The fair will be inaugurated on Saturday, 31st January, at the hands of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnis, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, Hon. Nitinji Gadkar, Hon. The Inauguration ceremony will be graced by the presence of Shri. Chandrashekhar Bawankule, State Revenue Minister and Guardian Minister, Adv. Ashish Jaiswal,

Minister of State, MLA Adv. Abhijeet Wanjari, Shri Sudhakar Adbale, Dr. Parinay Fuke, Shri Krupal Tumane, Shri Sandeep Joshi, Dr. Nitin Raut, Shri Krishna Khopde, Shri Pravin Datke, Shri Mohan Mate, and Shri Vikas Thakre. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Bidari, Divisional Commissioner, Dr. Ravindrakumar Singh, Police Commissioner. Shri Sanjay Meena Chairman, NIT, Dr. Vipin Itankar District Collector.

Padmashree Mrs. Sheetal Mahajan and popular television actress Ms. Sanchita Kulkarni. The evening will conclude with a vibrant musical performance by the Shivani Joshi Musical Group, setting an energetic and celebratory tone for the event.

The event will be organized under the leadership of Municipal Commissioner and Administrator Dr. Abhijeet Chaudhari and Additional Commissioner Smt. Vaishnavi B. deputy commissioner of Social Development Department Dr. Ranjana Lade working hard for the success of the event.

### A Vibrant Mix of Culture, Art and Entertainment

On Sunday, 1st February, a lively live musical performance by Jallosh Band will entertain the audience, featuring patriotic and popular songs that foster unity and joy.

On Monday, 2nd February, the audience will witness a group dance performance followed by the theatrical one-act play 'Ukali', presenting meaningful social themes through stage art.

Tuesday, 3rd February will be dedicated to Marathi theatre, with the staging of the renowned Marathi play 'Laghi Pali', performed by experienced theatre artists.

On Wednesday, 4th February, a grand Fashion Show and Ramp Walk will highlight women's confidence, empowerment, and social awareness. A special performance by Ms. Sanchita Kulkarni, fame of "Rani Mi Honar", will be a key attraction.

Additionally, a graceful dance performance by Rasikarpan Dance Troupe will enhance the evening.

### Inspiring Conclusion with Motivation and Wellness

The fair will conclude on Thursday, 5th February, with a focus on inspiration and mental well-being. A motivational lecture by Mrs. Bimla Negi Deoskar, National Award winner, will encourage women to pursue success with determination. This will be followed by a mental health workshop titled 'Badhao Se Pare', conducted by Ms. Riddhi Tahalamani. The event will culminate on a high-energy note with a special DJ performance titled 'DJ Girl Play in Saree', symbolizing the harmonious blend of modernity and Indian tradition, and celebrating women's confidence and empowerment.

Organized under the initiative of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation, 'Women Entrepreneurs Fair 2026' is not merely an event, but a powerful platform that offers opportunities, inspiration and recognition to women.

Citizens of all age groups, especially women, are invited to participate in large numbers and be a part of this inspiring celebration.

## Sanjay Lambe felicitated

**Kin of late Baburao Lambe (Guruji), an emergency era hero feted**



**Bramhapuri 30 January:** Professor Sanjay Lambe, a resident of Bramhapuri and originally from Bhadravati, was felicitated at the Lokmanya High School and Junior College in Bhadravati, run by the Lokseva Mandal, during the school's Amrit Mahotsav (Platinum Jubilee) celebrations.

His late father, Baburao Lambe, the first headmaster of the school, secretary and lifetime member of the Mandal, was imprisoned in Nashik for 19 months as a NISA detainee during the Emergency.

In his memory, Professor Sanjay Lambe, as the head of the family, was felicitated by the President of Lokseva

Mandal, Chandrakant Gundawar, member Gopal Thengne, and former secretary of the Mandal, Namdeo Rao Kolhe, with a shawl, coconut, and a memento.

Lokseva Mandal's Joint Secretary Amit Gundawar, Secretary Ulhas Bhaskarrao, member Umakant Gundawar, College Principal Rupchand Dharne, city representative of Dainik Adhikarnama Nandkishor Gundawar, Sharad Lambe, former corporator Atul Patil Gaurshetiwar, Amrit Mahotsav coordinator Professor Sachin Sarpatwar, and teacher Pratik Narale and others were prominently present on the occasion.

## HEALTH MANTRA

**Introduction & importance of Panchakarma**

- 1: Panchakarma is the main purification method in Ayurveda
- 2: Panchakarma is performed in order to balance the doshas (Vata, Pitta, Kapha) in the body
- 3: The purpose of Panchakarma is to treat the root cause of the disease
- 4: Panchakarma removes toxins (am) from the body
- 5: Panchakarma is useful in increasing immunity
- 6: Mental stress, fatigue and weakness are reduced
- 7: Panchakarma is effective in lifestyle-related diseases
- 8: Preparation before Panchakarma (pre-action) is very important
- 9: Panchakarma should be performed only under the guidance of an expert physician
- 10: Panchakarma is the boon of Ayurveda for a healthy, balanced, and happy life

**-Samaka Ayurveda Yoga and Wellness Centre  
Godhani, Yavatmal**

## Guardian Minister inaugurates Lohara Jungle Safari Gate



**Chandrapur 30 January:** The Lohara Jungle Safari Gate, located in Lohara village under the Chandrapur forest division and within the Chandrapur range, was inaugurated by Tribal Development Minister and Guardian Minister of Chandrapur district, Dr. Ashok Uike.

MLA Sudhir Mungantiwar, Chief Conservator of Forests RM Ramanujam, District Collector Vinay Gowda GC, ZP Chief Executive Officer Pulkit Singh, Superintendent of Police Mummaka Sudarshan, Municipal Commissioner Akunuri Naresh, Tadoba Project Field Director Dr. Prabhunath Shukla, Deputy Director (Core) Anand Reddy, Deputy Conservator of Forests Yogesh Waghaye, Divisional Forest Officer Rajan Talmale, Lohara Sarpanch Kiran Siddharth, and others were present on the occasion.

The objective of the Lohara Jungle Safari tourism gate is to manage forests and wildlife, establish coexistence between humans and wildlife, reduce people's dependence on forests through sustainable forest conservation, and provide employment to villagers through the forest. A 35 km area has been made available for tourism using old and existing roads. This area includes animals such as tigers, leopards, gaurs, bears, wild cats, deer, chital, sambar, nilgai, four-horned antelope, porcupines, wild dogs, mongooses, civets, and wild boars, as well as various types of trees, birds, and colorful butterflies. It also includes 15 artificial waterholes and the natural Lohara lake.

## Cancer Awareness and Guidance Programme organised on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary



**Warora 30 January:** On the occasion of the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, an awareness and guidance programme on cancer was organised at Anand Niketan College, Anandvan, Warora. All the dignitaries present at the programme venue provided in-depth guidance on cancer prevention, symptoms, and treatment. The programme was presided over by Prof. Dr. Sanjay Sable, with Vice-Principal Prof. Radha Sawane as the chief guest. In his presidential speech, Prof. Dr. Sanjay Sable mentioned the health-related thoughts of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and stated that health related

awareness is the need of the hour.

Vice-Principal Radha Sawane provided in-depth guidance on the work of Mahatma Gandhi and also stated that cancer is a serious disease in today's times, but it can be cured with timely detection and proper treatment. Unhealthy lifestyle, tobacco addiction, pollution, and stress are the main causes of cancer. She said that regular health check-ups, a balanced diet, exercise, and a drug-free lifestyle can prevent cancer. The main speaker, Suraj Salunkhe from Tata Trust, provided information on the early symptoms of cancer, the importance of timely testing, and lifestyle changes.

## Joint participation of NSS and Rotary Club is an effective and sustainable solution for rural development: Dr. Rajashri Markandewar

**Chandrapur 30 January:** A free health check-up and medicine distribution camp was successfully conducted at Kawathi (Saoli taluka) under the National Service Scheme (NSS) special camp of Mahatma Gandhi Arts, Commerce and Science College, Saoli. Rotary Club of Chandrapur provided invaluable support for this initiative. Dr. Rajashri Markandewar expressed optimism that the joint participation of NSS and Rotary Club is an effective and sustainable solution for rural development.

In her presidential address, Dr. Rajashri Markandewar highlighted the health problems in rural areas, sanitation, preventive healthcare, and the social responsibility of the youth. She stated that movements like the NSS instill a spirit of service in students, while the cooperation of organisations like Rotary Club gives the initiatives a broader scope. A strong and healthy rural society can be built only through such joint efforts.

The chief guest of the



programme, Sandeep Ramteke, President of the Rotary Club of Chandrapur, mentioned the social commitment of the Rotary Club in his speech and said that providing healthcare services to the citizens of rural areas is the need of the hour. The enthusiasm, discipline, and spirit of service of the NSS volunteers are inspiring, and the Rotary Club will always cooperate in such initiatives in the future.

On the occasion, Rajesh Gannarpawar (Secretary, Rotary Club Chandrapur), Jyoti Ramteke, Ganesh Rane and Sumit Bodhe also

expressed their views and praised the initiative.

In this camp, general health check-ups were conducted for the villagers and necessary free medicines were distributed. More than 200 citizens directly benefited from this initiative.

The Sarpanch of Kawathi Gram Panchayat, Kanta Borkute, made a special contribution to the successful organisation of the programme.

She encouraged the villagers to attend in large numbers and provided the necessary support for the

programme.

The NSS Program Officer was also present at the programme venue. The programme was guided by Devilal Watakhare.

NSS volunteer Tanuja Shende conducted the proceedings of the programme. NSS volunteer Sahil Gundawar gave the introductory speech.

NSS volunteer Soni Raut proposed the vote of thanks. The dignitaries present expressed optimism that this initiative has increased health awareness in rural areas and further strengthened the sense of social responsibility.

## Mahatma Gandhi: A Global Necessity Today

**Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar's Assertion – Kamalnayan Bajaj Memorial National Elocution Competition**

**Wardha 30 January (NAGPUR POST/DC):** "Values and principles in life are permanent, whereas technology keeps changing continuously. When a person forgets values, everything slips out of their hands. In the present scenario, it appears that we have forgotten culture, principles, and values. Today's society seems to live in 'fearful affectation', whereas Babu created 'affectionate fear'. To speak the truth, 'fearlessness' is essential, which is rarely seen today. Therefore, in the face of all these problems, Mahatma Gandhi is not only a permanent solution, but also a global necessity," asserted Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar, Ex Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat University. He further emphasized that in order to maintain continuity in such programmes for 50 years, values and traditions are essential, and he also appreciated the efforts of Shiksha Mandal in this regard.

He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the 50th Kamalnayan Bajaj Memorial Inter-University National

Elocution Competition, organized by Shiksha Mandal on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Late Kamalnayan Bajaj at Bajaj Institute of Technology, Pipri-Wardha. Present on the dais were Shri Shekhar Bajaj, President, Shiksha Mandal; Shri Sanjay Bhargava, Chairman; Smt. Vasudha Vanmali, Joint Secretary; Dean Anand Kale; Dr. Praveen Mustoor, Principal, G.S. College of Commerce, Nagpur; Dr. Arundhati Ninawe, Principal, G.S. College of Commerce, Wardha; Dr. Narendra Kanhe, Principal, Bajaj Institute of Technology, Pipri; and Dr. Snehal Khadge, Coordinator of the event.

In his introductory address, Shri Sanjay Bhargava said, "Instead of focusing on how our country is running, we should think about how it ought to be run. Preserving our traditions, values, and culture is everyone's responsibility. Through this institution, education in values and sanskar (moral ethos) is imparted. Even today, India enjoys global respect because of its culture." He



also remarked that Wardha is a land from where the history of India's freedom can be understood, and appreciated everyone for gathering on a single platform on this historic soil.

Thereafter, Shri Shekhar Bajaj, President of Shiksha Mandal, spoke about the influence of Gandhiji's ideology on the Bajaj family. He also called upon the audience to prepare a skilled generation, as Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the modern era is likely to create employment challenges. He further stated that the students participating in this competition are no longer just competitors, but have now become part of this extended family.

The competition on the

theme "Why Gandhiji Lives On" witnessed participation from 41 students representing universities from across India, including Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Varanasi, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, and Banaras. In the final round, 21 participants presented their views.

The competition was evaluated by Advocate Shri Deoul Pathak from the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court; Shri Vijay Tambe, Secretary, Sevagram Ashram Pratishthan; and Shri Chandrakant Wankhede, writer and social activist.

While offering valuable guidance, the evaluators

stated, "Gandhiji was a creative personality. He rediscovered this culture and infused life into it. This culture existed in the past, exists today, and will continue to exist in the future; therefore, Gandhi remains relevant even today. Gandhian philosophy is not something to be merely read, but to be lived. His ideas are timeless truths and must be internalized."

The entire programme was conducted and concluded with a vote of thanks by the program coordinator, Dr. Snehal Khadge. The success of the programme was made possible through the collective efforts of all office bearers of Shiksha Mandal, principals of all colleges,

faculty members, non-teaching staff, and committee members.

### Winners of the National Elocution Competition

In the English category, the First Prize was awarded to Tamanna Dalal, University of Delhi, Delhi; the Second Prize to Vriddhi Hariya, St. Paul Institute of Professional Studies, Indore; and the Third Prize to Jibin Biju, Dr. NTR University, Vijayawada.

In the Hindi category, the First Prize was won by Himanshu Jindal, Lovely Professional University, Punjab; the Second Prize by Bhumika Chaube, Bajaj College of Science, Wardha; and the Third Prize by Raunak Kumar Mishra, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh.

The Encouragement Prize was awarded to Shravani Rote, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. All the winners were felicitated with cash prizes, certificates, and books by the dignitaries.

All participants were welcomed with a traditional kumkum tilak and garlanded with Sut-Mala.

## Pledge to empower girls through Atmaraksha training



**VIJAY KALE / DARWHA NAGPUR POST:** Under the Rani Laxmibai Self-Defense Training

Programme, girls have begun receiving self-defense training for their empowerment and safety. This initiative, implemented under the leadership of School Education Minister Dada Bhuse, is being conducted during the 2025-2026 academic year. According to the orders of the Maharashtra Primary Education Council Board and State Project Director Sanjay Yadav, girls in 21,279 schools across the state will receive systematic self-defense training.

This large-scale initiative will be one of the largest training campaigns not only in the country but also in the world. This self-defense program will create awareness about self-protection among school girls in rural and urban areas. The main objective of this program is to develop the ability in girls to protect themselves in dangerous situations that arise in daily life. This self-defense training programme, implemented across the state, is not just an educational initiative, but an effort to create a safe environment for young women. It will also be crucial in preventing violence against women in the future, building a confident society, and making girls fearless.

### Self-Defense Training for Girls in Schools

Schools have been included in this ambitious program, and thousands of girls will benefit from the practical training. The training, conducted by specially trained experts, will focus on physical fitness, basic self-defense techniques, skills to react in emergency situations, and mental empowerment.