

HOLIDAY NOTICE

Our office and press shall remain closed today on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Therefore our 17 February issue will not be published. Our next issue will be published on February 18.

- Editor

EDITORIAL

BULLS EYE

Shivraya, Tipu poles apart

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress President Harshvardhan Sapkal always speaks on issues of the people. There is no trace of investigation behind him, he has not taken any bank loan to set up any institution. This activist traverses on pure Gandhian path. A few years ago, before becoming an MLA, he took out a padyatra in Buldhana district under the leadership of Thakurdas Bang, the father of Dr. Abhay Bang, a senior Gandhian leader of the Search organisation in Gadchiroli district. Behind that initiative was his great desire for improvement of rural areas. We have seen for ourselves that he takes the initiative in many constructive works. When talking to this spotless Congress President, what language do we use, who do we talk about and what will be the consequences, one need not elaborate on these aspects. Therefore, it is necessary to be careful whether or not our opponents will be of the same nature or not. The day before yesterday, while speaking at a programme in Buldhana, he gave the example that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj propagated the idea of bravery and Swarajya, just like Tipu Sultan a personality equal in terms of accomplishments to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was the founder of Swarajya, he established his Swarajya by challenging the Mughal Sultanate and Deccan Sultanates. He was so strong that Aurangzeb had to leave Delhi and then Agra and come to Maharashtra to defeat the Marathas. Finally, Allah took Aurangzeb's life in Maharashtra and within just 15 years, the Mughal Empire collapsed and never rose to its former glory ever again. History also records that his descendants were under the rule of the Marathas. No one will agree to compare such a world-renowned ruler in the history of India who established Swarajya with Tipu Sultan, who sat on the throne established by his father and forefathers. Tipu Sultan fought against the British alright, but his regime did not have the spirit of respecting all religions like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj restored many temples and helped in restoring mosques for Muslims and building them. History is also well-known that if a Quran was found in his hands during wartime, he would respectfully give it to a Muslim officer or soldier in his army. The big question is how Harshvardhan remembered the audacity to compare Tipu Sultan, who could not even match Shivaji Maharaj's hair, to Shivaji Maharaj. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed this on his statement and said that he should be ashamed. Such a comparison between Tipu Sultan and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has sparked an unnecessary controversy. He says that the Bharatiya Janata Party does not want Muslim votes, does the Congress Party only want Muslim votes in turn? The Congress Party believes in equality among all religions, but this statement by Sapkal is an example of how a statement can backfire on itself. Harshvardhan Sapkal needs to speak on many issues facing us. The issues of farmers are such that they are making us commit suicide. Inflation is rising like a mountain day by day, unemployment is swelling like bread from a bakery. So when these issues of today are standing before our eyes, they can make fierce attacks on them like Rahul Gandhi and that is the job of the opposition party, why should they leave that and involve themselves in unnecessary disputes. When the Bharatiya Janata Party was in opposition, they protested on the very same issue and today they are in power. Their grip on power is so strong today that it is not easy to gain power by opposing them. Despite having a visible majority, the moon has not risen in Chandrapur, on the contrary, it has set. The big question before them is to resolve the long-standing disputes within the Congress party rank and file. Making Tipu Sultan great instead of resolving the divisions within the warring factions is an undesirable act. After understanding its essence, he should speak in a civilised manner according to his nature. This is all that the entire people of Maharashtra, including Buldhana, the motherland district of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, want.

Hail Jijau! Hail Shivaji!!

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MMRDA engineer suspended after metro pillar accident

Mumbai, Feb 15 (UNI) Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday announced the immediate suspension of an engineer of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) in the Mulund metro pillar accident in which one person was killed and three others injured. Speaking to media in Mumbai on Sunday, the Deputy CM identified the suspended engineer as Satyajit Salve and said MMRDA has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on the contractor involved in the project. Shinde stated that the Chief Minister had already declared financial assistance for the family of the deceased. He added that the entire medical expenses of the injured persons will be borne by MMRDA. Expressing grief over the tragedy, Shinde said Ramdhani Yadav from Uttar Pradesh lost his life in the accident. Yadav, a resident of a village in Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh, had come to Mumbai with a friend for a visit.

BJP and Congress workers clash in Pune over statement on Tipu Sultan

Pune, Feb 15 (UNI) Tensions flared up in Pune on Sunday over a statement reportedly made by Maharashtra Congress President Harshvardhan Sapkal that Tipu Sultan should be regarded on par with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The remark triggered strong reactions from BJP workers who organized a protest march to the city's Congress Bhavan. Anticipating the protest, Congress workers had already gathered in large numbers outside their party office. Sloganeering from both sides soon intensified, and the situation quickly escalated into physical clashes.

India in drivers seat against arch rivals Pak

Colombo 15 February: Pakistan have lost three wickets in the first two overs to slump to 13/3 with Hardik Pandya sending back Sahibzada Farhan for a duck in the 1st over, and then Jasprit Bumrah claiming the wickets of Saim Ayub (six runs) and Salman Ali Agha (four) while chasing 176 in Colombo. Earlier, Saim Ayub was Pakistan's top wicket-taker with three scalps, including the wickets of Tilak Varma (25) and Hardik Pandya (0) on successive deliveries, to halt the momentum India were given by Ishan Kishan, who slammed a 40-ball 77 against Pakistan in Colombo. Captain Suryakumar Yadav managed a mature 32 while the much-talked-about

Usman Tariq ended the game with just a single wicket at last. Pakistan skipper Salman Ali Agha had won the toss and opted to bowl first against Suryakumar Yadav's India in Colombo on Sunday. Both sides are unbeaten in the tournament so far. India has beaten the USA and Namibia before this clash, while Pakistan had a close shave against the Netherlands before brushing aside the USA. While the advantage Pakistan holds is that they have been in Sri Lanka for a while, on the other hand, India has been playing in India on conditions quite different from what they might find in Colombo. As per the combinations, Indian batting has looked a bit



vulnerable compared to their fluent best in the bilateral series against New Zealand ahead of the

tournament. While Pakistan, in their opening game against the Netherlands, did look like where going to

crumble under the pressure of ICC events as they did before, they have managed to pull off a nail-biting thriller.

And in the second game, they have looked well-rounded and have played at their best to thrash the USA.

Teams:
India (Playing XI): Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan(w), Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav(c), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravathy, Jasprit Bumrah
Pakistan (Playing XI): Saim Ayub, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Agha(c), Babar Azam, Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Faheem Ashraf, Usman Khan(w), Shaheen Afridi, Ahrar Ahmed, Usman Tariq

ATS conducts massive raids at 21 locations in state over terror links

Mumbai, Feb 15 (UNI) The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has carried out raids at 21 locations across Maharashtra since Saturday night following intelligence reports that some youths were in contact with terrorist organisations. The raids were conducted at 14 places in Pusa and Umardh in Yavatmal district and seven locations in Ahilyanagar after inputs suggested attempts were being made to radicalise and recruit the youths. According to the

sources, the ATS has been conducting searches since early morning and has taken several individuals into custody for questioning. In Ahilyanagar, the ATS conducted a midnight raid in the Mukundnagar area. Residents were questioned discreetly as part of the investigation. Mukundnagar is known as a Muslim-majority locality. Over the past two to three years, Ahilyanagar has drawn attention over incidents such as alleged glorification of Aurangzeb

and pro-Pakistan sloganeering. Earlier reports had also indicated attempts to radicalise minority youth in the area. In Yavatmal district, as many as 20 ATS teams have been deployed. Intensive interrogation of suspects is underway in Umardh and Pusa. Senior IPS officers are also participating in the operation. The ATS conducted the overnight operation across Vidarbha, Western Maharashtra, and Central Maharashtra in a highly confidential manner.

Shrikant Shinde dares Ganesh Naik to contest against him in Lok Sabha polls

Ambernath Feb 15 (UNI) Political tensions in the Kalyan-Thane region escalated on Sunday after Kalyan Member of Parliament Shrikant Shinde publicly challenged senior BJP leader and Maharashtra Forest Minister Ganesh Naik to contest the next Lok Sabha election directly against him. The remarks made by the Shiv Sena leader, son of Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, have further strained political rivalry in the belt.

Jayant Patil says merger talks between two NCP factions have ended

Mumbai, Feb 15 (UNI) The possibility of a merger between the two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party in Maharashtra has been virtually ruled out, with senior leader Jayant Patil stating that the matter now stands closed. Speaking to reporters here on Sunday, the former state NCP president said that discussions about uniting the two groups are no longer relevant in the aftermath of deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's demise. Patil explained that talks about a possible merger had begun when Ajit Pawar was alive. At



that time, several leaders from the NCP (SP) had spoken in favour of bringing both factions together. He added that even some leaders from the Ajit Pawar-led faction were keen on reunification. However, certain leaders from that camp were not in support of the move. "I do not wish to comment further on the merger issue," he said.

India's Road Safety Crisis Ignored for Two Decades: Gopalakrishna Pillai

Pune, Feb 15 (UNI) Former union Home Secretary Gopalakrishna Pillai on Sunday lamented what he described as the government's "inexcusable neglect of road safety, despite India ranking first globally in the number of fatalities caused by road accidents. Speaking at the Dr. Madhav Godbole Memorial Lecture organised by 'Sarhad' at Tilak Smarak Mandir here, Pillai said road safety has failed to receive serious attention over the past two to three decades.

Mahashivratri celebrated across state

Nashik/Mumbai Feb 15 (UNI) The festival of Mahashivratri is being celebrated on a large scale in the country on Sunday. Thousands of devotees have gathered in a large crowd since midnight for darshan on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Mahapuja, Mahaaarti and various religious programs have also been organised at various places. Against this backdrop, devotees have lined up since night to have darshan of the Jyotirlinga of Trimbakeshwar, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas. On the occasion of Mahashivratri, the Trimbakeshwar temple was decorated with attractive electric lighting and flowers. Devotees come not only from Maharashtra but also from all over the country to have darshan in Trimbakeshwar. Devotees are worshipping at the feet of the Trimbak Rajya by chanting Har Har Mahadev.



Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde paying obeisance

Macron to meet Modi on Feb 17

Mumbai, Feb 15 (UNI) French President Emmanuel Macron will arrive in Mumbai, Maharashtra, on February 16 during his upcoming visit, where he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 17, the External Affairs Ministry said. Following their meeting, Modi and the French President will travel to New Delhi to attend the AI Impact Summit 2026. According to the MEA, in Mumbai, the two leaders will exchange MOUs followed by a press statement. The Hotel Taj Mahal Palace will host an India-France Innovation Forum, followed by the India-France Year of Innovation and Cultural Commemoration at the Gateway of India.



UBT MP alleges betting network linked to India-Pakistan T20 World Cup clash

Mumbai, Feb 15 (UNI) Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday launched a sharp attack over the India-Pakistan group-stage fixture in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, alleging that the high-voltage encounter fuels large-scale betting and gambling operations. He further claimed that funds generated through such activities ultimately reach Pakistan and that certain local brokers, including



some politicians associated with the BJP, gain from it. Addressing a press conference, Raut objected to India participating in matches against Pakistan in international tournaments. He said

people of the country do not support such contests. According to him, the match should not be viewed as a contest between two cricket teams. "This is not an India-Pakistan match. This is a Jay Shah versus Pakistan match. The people of India do not want it. The Indian public does not consent to India playing against Pakistan," Raut said. He criticised Jay Shah, Chairman of the

International Cricket Council (ICC), and maintained that the fixture is effectively between him and Pakistan rather than the two national sides. Raut further alleged that matches between the two nations generate the highest volume of betting and gambling in cricket. He claimed that in the previous India-Pakistan encounter, an amount of Rs 25,000 crore went to Pakistan.

Asha workers' struggle gets an enormous facelift

Beed 15 February: An emotional and inspiring felicitation ceremony, which gave a facelift to the struggle of Asha workers, who are the backbone of the rural healthcare system, and strengthened their confidence, was held at Dindrud in Majalgaon taluka. In this grand 'Asha Samman Sohala' felicitation ceremony organised on behalf of Devdoot Pratishthan, Asha workers were honoured with authentic paithani and a badge of honour. In this programme, well-known film actress Varsha Usgaonkar, while sincerely appreciating the struggle and service of Asha workers, asserted that Dr. Omprakash Shete is sincerely carrying out the work of strengthening their confidence. Even in difficult times like Covid-19 pandemic, Asha workers risked their lives to go around door to door to do examinations, create awareness and provide patient care. However, despite this, expressing regret that they are being neglected at the government and social levels, Varsha Usgaonkar said that Asha workers are a living link between society and the health department. The concept of recognising their remarkable work and honouring them is indeed a humane one. Despite holding a

high position, Dr. Shete's work, which strives for the marginalised without any involvement, shows his greatness of mind, she also said. The programme was presided over by Dr. Omprakash Shete, President - Ayushman Bharat Mission Maharashtra Committee. The chief guests were former Governor of Mumbai Rotary Rajendra Agrawal, Chief Trustee of Child Help Foundation Rajendra Pathak, President of Sindafana Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Shivajibhau Ranjavan and Taluka Medical Officer Dr. Madhukar Ghubade, Entrepreneur Shilpa Shete and other dignitaries. Thousands of women attended the programme in large numbers and participated enthusiastically. A special show of the film 'Asha' based on the life work of



programme was organised jointly by Devdoot Pratishthan and Kholewar Parivar, Dindrud. The programme was valiantly coordinated by Prof. Dr. Ramesh Gatkai, while the introductory speech was presented by Dr. Omprakash Shete. The vote of thanks was given by Bandu Khandekar, President of Devdoot Pratishthan. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Omprakash Shete expressed concern about the growing social gap in Beed district and said that there is an attempt to bridge this gap through such initiatives. Stating that he is

trying to provide justice to the last section of the society as per the teachings of sensitive Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, he clarified that he will sincerely insist on the Chief Minister to include Asha workers in permanent service. Many dignitaries expressed their views in the programme.

Following the footsteps of CM Devendra Fadnavis

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has shown the direction of working in the state by balancing administration, development and sensitivity. Following in his footsteps, Dr. Omprakash Shete is sincerely working to implement initiatives that reach the grassroots while maintaining social commitment. This method of disciplined planning, decision-making and taking the issues of the common man seriously is proving to be very beneficial for the state. Such people welfare-oriented work not only strengthens the administration, but also lays the foundation for trust, stability and positive changes in the society. As a man who develops beed, many at the event felt that they were looking at Dr. Omprakash Shete as the only one who sees Beed district from the point of view of advancement.

Equivalence recognition for engineering graduates; many employment opportunities

ASHOK BANORE / YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST: The Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education has taken a decision on February 9 to give official equivalence to the engineering and pharmacy diploma courses in autonomous technical institutes in the state. It has been decided to give equivalence certificates by comparing the courses of autonomous institutions recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education with the regular diploma courses of the Technical Education Board, and obstacles to admission, employment and further education of students will be removed. A comprehensive examination of the



respective autonomous institutions will be conducted by an independent committee to provide equivalence. In this process, the administration system, curriculum structure, teaching methods, examination system, student performance and infrastructure will be examined.

Fees will be charged
If more than 75 percent marks are obtained, equivalence will be given for three years, for 61 to 74 percent marks, one year, while marks below 60 percent will be rejected. A minimum fee of Rs 40,000 or one lakh will be charged for this.

500-mark evaluation method decided
A 500-mark evaluation method has been decided for this process. The factors to be scored will be administration, educational policies, examination system, teaching quality, student performance and infrastructure.

Qualifications will get official and widespread recognition

This evaluation process will make it easier for students of autonomous institutions to get opportunities in other technical institutes, universities and the employment sector. Equivalent certificates will help in getting official and widespread recognition of their qualifications.

Student projects and research will also be considered

Outcome-based learning, exam security, digital credit system, industry training, laboratory facilities, placements as well as student projects and research will also be considered. Diploma certificates of autonomous institutions will help in getting official recognition.

MSEDCL raid; School meter seized, fined Rs 2.65 lakh

MAREGAON / NAGPUR POST: A team of Mahavitaran has claimed to have uncovered alleged irregularities in electricity usage by conducting a surprise raid on 'Shri Shivaji International School and Junior College' in the city on February 10. After the inspection, the relevant electricity meter was seized and the institution's electricity supply was immediately disconnected.

Official sources informed that a fine of Rs 2 lakh 65 thousand has been imposed in this case. During the inspection, Mahavitaran officials said that a suspicious pattern was found that the meter supply could be switched off and on through a button installed in a room. It is said that it was observed that the meter stops when the button is turned off and starts again



when it is turned on. Due to this, it has been suspected that there is a discrepancy between the actual electricity usage and the meter reading. According to the initial estimates of the officials, the institution was expecting an electricity bill of Rs 10 to 15 thousand per month, but the actual bill was only Rs 700 to 1000. In the backdrop of this discrepancy, punitive action

Nature lover fulfills pledge of 411 nests, water points for birds

Risod 15 February: Rapid urbanisation, large-scale tree felling for roads and building construction, and changing climatic conditions have hit the tiny sparrows worst. Once commonly seen nesting in tiled roofs and trees in courtyards, sparrows are now becoming increasingly rare. At a time when their natural habitats are disappearing, nature enthusiast Vinod Bangar from Risod took the initiative to install 411 bird nests and water points. Successfully fulfilling his pledge, he has set an inspiring example in environmental conservation. The initiative is not limited to Risod alone but has also been implemented across the district and beyond. With scorching summers and a declining number of trees, birds are struggling to find safe places to build nests. The growing scarcity of drinking water further leaves many birds distressed and thirsty. Recognising this silent suffering, Vinod Bangar chose action over mere concern. He personally visited various locations to install safe and durable nests for sparrows. To help birds cope with the harsh summer heat, he also placed water bowls at multiple spots, creating dedicated water points for them.

Gurudev Seva Mandal felicitates Bhausaheb Thute



PUSAD / NAGPUR POST: Gurudev Seva Mandal, Taluka Branch, felicitated famous social reformer and Saptakhandjiri player Engineer Bhausaheb Thute with a Gram Geeta book. On the occasion, Engineer Bhausaheb Thute visited Gurudev Seva

Two killed in separate accidents in district, trio injured

Amravati 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): Two people were killed and three people were injured in three different accidents in the rural areas of the district. These accidents took place under the jurisdictions of Loni, Mangrul Dastgir and Shirajgaon Kasba police stations. The concerned police stations have registered cases in the aftermath of each incident and started investigation into the case. Bhagwan Datta Salve of Chandrapur district was coming towards Amravati in truck number MH 34/BZ 4104 under the limits of Loni police station with a passengers. On the night of February 12, while he was tying a rope on the Badnerankbelora road, he was hit by an unidentified vehicle. He died on the spot in this accident. A case has been registered in the aftermath of the incident on the basis of a complaint lodged by his son-in-law Sachin Subhash Kawade.



The second incident took place on Bahiram Paratwada road under the jurisdiction of Shirajgaon Kasba police station on February 1. Jeevan Pandurang Belsare (aged 33 years, resident of Januna, Akot) died on the spot in a collision between two two wheelers. He was riding a two wheeler with his wife and son when a vehicle coming from the opposite direction hit his two wheeler. His wife and son were injured in the accident. A case has been registered against the driver on the basis of a complaint

lodged by his father Pandurang Belsare. The third incident is related to Suraj Rambhau Satravane (30) of Raipur Kasaked in Dhamangaon Railway Taluka. He was going to his village from Pulgaon when he was hit by a bike bearing number MH 27/X 3344 from the front on the Aurangabad-Nagpur highway. Suraj Satravane was seriously injured in the accident and both his legs were amputated. Mangrul Dastgir police are investigating the incident on the basis of a complaint lodged by Manoj Satravane. The issue of road safety has come to the fore again due to the continuous occurrence of accidents in rural areas. The local police administration has appealed to citizens to be more vigilant while driving.

Woman molested



Amravati 15 February: A 21-year-old woman from the city was molested by her acquaintance. Accused Rahul Tarambe (30) called the girl and called her to Kathora Road. When the woman reached there, he demanded that she marry him and forcibly held her hand and molested her.

Tur crop stock set afire

Amravati 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): An incident of an unidentified person setting fire to a heap of tur crop in a farm area along Kakda Kushtha road stretch under Pathroth police station's jurisdiction has come to light on February 13. It is reported that a loss of about Rs 1.50 lakh was caused in this blaze.

Ajay Waghmare re-elected president of Akola Bar Association



Akola 15 February: The Akola Bar Association has elected Ajay Waghmare as its president for the 2026-27 term. Waghmare secured 682 votes, edging past rival Hemsingh Mohta, who polled 633 votes, to win by a narrow margin of 49 votes. A total of six votes were declared invalid in the presidential race. The election was held on the court premises in Akola on Friday. With this victory, Waghmare returns to the post he had held earlier as well, triggering celebrations among his supporters within the court campus. Nomination of Sanjay Deshmukh was withdrawn ahead of polling as per the directions of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa. Since his name had appeared on the voters' list, he received 11 votes, which were subsequently excluded from the final count. In the women's vice-president election, Sheetal Gawai emerged victorious with 552 votes. She was followed by Sharda Malhotra (378), Manju Sawarkar (163), Nirmala Nagdeve (152) and Sangeeta Gavande (76). This section recorded 11 invalid votes. Vijay Bhambare won the election for the men's vice-president post, with 675 votes. Rahul Wankhade polled 375 votes, while Sumedh Dongarive received 264 votes. Pramod Korde was elected joint secretary with 700 votes, winning by a margin of 203 votes. Akash Bhagat secured 497 votes and Pavanesh Agrawal 121 votes. This segment recorded 14 invalid votes. Newly-elected office-bearers are expected to focus on strengthening professional discipline, addressing members' grievances and ensuring smoother coordination of court-related work. A total of 1,332 members exercised their franchise in the election, which was conducted peacefully throughout the day. After the completion of counting in the evening, election returning officer Uday Naik formally declared the results.

Vehicle involved in cattle smuggling crushes teacher to death



Amravati 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): A shocking incident took place at Navsari T-point in the city at around 6 am on Saturday when a speeding vehicle carrying cattle smuggling crushed a two-wheeler riding teacher. The teacher died on the spot in this gruesome accident, and a wave of anger has erupted in the city in the aftermath of the incident. The name of the deceased teacher is Abdul Sajid Abdul Majid (aged 46 years, a resident of Chaprashipura, Amravati). Abdul Sajid was working as a teacher at Zilla Parishad School in Habib Nagar 2, Anjangaon Surji. As usual, he was going to school on a two-wheeler on Saturday morning. Meanwhile, a Bolero vehicle coming at a high speed at Navsari T-point hit his two-wheeler hard. The impact was so severe that the vehicle crushed the head of the teacher Abdul Sajid and he died on the spot. Traffic in the



area was disrupted for some time after the accident. According to information available, the Bolero vehicle in question was smuggling cattle. After hitting the two wheeler, the vehicle directly hit a tree on the side of the road. Due to which the front part of the vehicle was completely crushed. This incident had created a tense atmosphere in the area. As soon as information about the incident was received, a team of officials and personnel from Gadgenagar police immediately reached the spot. The corpse was sent to the District General Hospital for autopsy after which the traffic was normalised. Police have registered a case against the Bolero driver and started further investigation into the incident. However, there is wave of anger among the citizens after an innocent teacher died due to a recklessly driven vehicle involved in cattle smuggling.

Married woman harassed, case registered

Amravati 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): A 27-year-old married woman was mentally and physically harassed by her in-laws in Shivrapan Colony under Gadgenagar police

station's jurisdiction. The victim had had a love marriage. The victim has alleged in her complaint filed on February 13 that after the marriage, her in-laws repeatedly harassed her by

Complaints of 32 citizens directly put forth before CP

Amravati 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): The grievance redressal camp organised at the Amravati City Police Commissionerate with the aim of directly listening to the problems of the common citizens and resolving them immediately received an enthusiastic response. On Saturday (February 14), from 3 pm to 5 pm, Police Commissioner Rakesh Ola himself was present and listened to the problems of the citizens. This initiative as part of Maharashtra Police has been started from February 7, 2026, and the main objective of this initiative is to provide an opportunity for citizens to directly raise complaints before the Police Commissioner. Citizens put forth complaints on various issues such as law and order, crime, traffic, fraud and other issues in the city. A total of 32 complaints of citizens were heard in this grievance redressal camp.



Intricacies related to each case was recorded in the presence of the concerned officials and necessary instructions were given for immediate action. It was informed that instructions have been issued to initiate action immediately in some cases. This initiative has created a sense of satisfaction among the citizens and it is evident that trust in the police department and administration is getting

stronger. Citizens have expressed satisfaction as they have the facility to reach out to senior officials directly without having to repeatedly knock on the door of officials for registering complaints. It has been informed that such grievance redressal camps will be organised regularly in the future as well through the Public Relations Department. Citizens have been appealed to highlight their problems openly and avail benefit of this initiative.

Racket of minors snatching mobile phones on roadside busted

Amravati 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): The incidents of mobile snatching that have increased in the city over the past few days have finally been curbed. Gadge Nagar Police Station cops have arrested a gang of minors who used to snatch mobile phones from citizens walking on the road in an instant and flee thereafter. 9 Expensive mobile phones have been seized in this action, and the investigators are expressing the possibility of uncovering many more crimes. The case started with the incident of snatching the mobile phone of a young woman in the Ashok Colony area in the evening. As soon as the police personnel registered a complaint, they swung into action and tracked down the suspects with the help of



CCTV footage in the area, technical information and tip off from local network of informers. As soon as the direction of the investigation became clear, the DB team members laid a trap and arrested the members of the gang. During the investigation process, it came to light that all the suspects were minors. It is suspected that they had stolen mobile phones in different parts of the city in a similar manner. The

6 Kg of Cannabis seized in Pusad

PUSAD/NAGPUR POST: A total of 6.272 kg of cannabis was seized for sale on the Sai (Ijara) to Kali (Daulat) road within the jurisdiction of Pusad Rural Police Station. In the aftermath of this incident, a person was arrested and goods worth Rs 1 lakh 65 thousand 440 were seized from his possession. This action was taken by the Local Crime Branch team on Friday night around 8:30 pm. Sunil Dadarao Agose (32), a resident of Hivalni, Mahagaon, currently residing in Bhilwadi, Digra is the name of the suspect. According to the information received, while patrolling in Umardhed and Pusad subdivisions, the Local Crime Branch personnel Pusad, received a tip off at around 5 pm on Friday that a person was coming on a motorcycle from Sai (Ijara) to Kali (Dau) road under the jurisdiction of Pusad rural Police Station. The team members immediately informed the seniors about this incident and laid a trap near the drain in the forest area of Sai (Ijara) village at around 8:30 pm. A person was seen coming from Sai (Ijara) side carrying a plastic bag in front of the



motorcycle. Using investigative skills, the then motorcycle was stopped on the side of the road and the person was taken into custody. When a plastic bag was inspected, 6 kg 272 grams of cannabis (narcotic substance) worth Rs 1 lakh 25 thousand 440 and a motorcycle worth Rs 49 thousand were seized, totaling Rs 1 lakh 65 thousand 440. A case was registered against the accused Sunil Dadarao Agose under Sections 8(a), 20(b), (b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Act, 1895 at Police Station Pusad Rural. This action was successfully carried out by API Dhiraj Bande, Sub-Inspector Sharad Lohkare, Faujdar Munna Aade, Havaladar Santosh Bhorge, Tejab Rankhamb, Subhash Jadhav, Kunal Mundokar, Ramesh Rathod, Sunil Pandagale, Ravindra Shirame, Rajesh Jadhav etc. under the guidance of SP Kumar Chinta, Additional SP Ashok Thorat, Assistant SP and SDPO Harshvardhan BJ, Police Inspector Satish Chavare.

BUSINESS

NALCO signs MoU with NLCIL to boost thermal and renewable power projects

Bhubaneswar, Feb 15 (UNI) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL) to strengthen collaboration in its 1080 MW thermal captive power project and renewable energy development initiatives. The MoU was signed on Saturday in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, in the presence of Jagdish Arora, Director (Projects & Technical) of NALCO, Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, CMD of NLCIL, and other directors of NLCIL. The agreement aims to support NALCO's captive and long-term power requirements while promoting sustainable energy solutions. It also provides a structured framework to explore long-term power tie-ups and coal supply arrangements. The partnership envisions joint project development in the future to further strengthen collaboration between the two companies.

Adani completes Indamer Technics acquisition to expand MRO Footprint

Mumbai, Feb 15 (UNI) The Adani Group has officially announced that it has completed the acquisition of Indamer Technics Pvt Ltd (ITPL) to expand its footprint in the aircraft services and MRO industry. The Adani Group-owned Horizon Aero Solutions Ltd, which is a step-down subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, has acquired 100 percent shareholding in ITPL through a share purchase agreement, according to a stock exchange filing made late Friday. The enterprise value of Indamer Technics is Rs 330 crore and the deal was first announced in August 2025, the statement mentioned. "ITPL is one of India's leading private sector MRO companies. It operates a state-of-the-art 30-acre facility in the MIHAN SEZ in Nagpur and offers a comprehensive suite of MRO services to leading Indian and global customers," according to the statement. Horizon Aero, which is a private-sector Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) provider, is a 50-50 partnership between Adani, Defence & Prime Aero, a company owned by Prajapati Patel, the director of Indamer Technics. Prajapati Patel happens to be the son of Ajit Pawar-led NCP leader and former civil aviation minister Praful Pawar. Indamer's Nagpur facility has the capacity to accommodate 15 aircraft bays across 10 hangars. It has received approvals from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Federal Aviation Administration (USA) and other global civil aviation regulators. The Adani Group, which runs eight domestic airports, entered the MRO space in December 2025 after it acquired Air Works for Rs 400 crore (USD 44 million). Air Works has a strong presence in India, particularly in the line and base maintenance categories. The acquisition of Airworks was followed by the purchase of Indamer Technics through Adani Defense Systems and Technologies Ltd (ADSTL), which strengthened the Adani Group's capabilities in commercial and defence aircraft maintenance. ADSTL, in partnership with Prime Aero Services LLP, acquired a 100 per cent stake in Indamer Technics, creating the foundation for a consolidated MRO platform. As part of its MRO business expansion plans, the Adani Group has indicated that it will go beyond airframe maintenance and enter landing gear overhaul, aircraft painting, passenger-to-freighter (P2F) conversions and eventually engine maintenance as well. There are also plans to expand its physical footprint, with new local MRO bases planned in Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati, in addition to existing MRO facilities. The Adani Group has announced plans to invest USD 11 billion in its airport business over the next five years, underlining its long-term commitment to India's aviation sector. Significantly, the Adani Group has made these investments at a time when Indian airlines are preparing to invest around 1,700 aircraft over the coming years, driving demand for maintenance, training and support services. The Adani Group has also entered the pilot training segment by acquiring a 72.8 per cent stake in Flight Simulation Technique Centre (FSTC) for around USD 90 million in order to support the growing aviation ecosystem.

Standard Engineering to invest Rs 240 crore in new Jinnaram plant

Hyderabad, Feb 15 (UNI): Standard Engineering Technology Limited (formerly Standard Glass Lining Technology) will set up a new manufacturing facility at Jinnaram, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, with a total investment of Rs 240 crore. Speaking on the sidelines of the launch of the company's new corporate identity here on Friday, Promoter and Managing Director Kandula Nageswara Rao said the company will invest Rs 120 crore in the first phase, with the facility expected to commence operations by mid-2027. The new plant will manufacture heavy engineering equipment, strengthening the company's advanced manufacturing capabilities, he said. The announcement marks a key milestone in the company's brand evolution following its recent name change. Currently, the company operates seven facilities in Hyderabad and one manufacturing unit in Chennai, in addition to service centres across the country, he informed. Against a planned investment of Rs 60 crore in existing facilities, about Rs 20 crore has already been deployed, he said. Highlighting strong business momentum, Rao said the company expects revenues of Rs 760-800 crore in the current financial year, representing over 27 per cent growth compared to last year. He added that the company is presently debt-free and is also planning to foray into IT buildings and data centre infrastructure. Standard Engineering currently manufactures around 95 products, offering end-to-end solutions to pharmaceutical companies. The company is transitioning into a high-precision, integrated engineering platform spanning process, mechanical, civil, electrical and automation engineering, while retaining its core strength in glass-lined technology, he added.

NTT DATA Business Solutions to ramp up Vizag Centre in AP Headcount to 250 in 6-9 Months

Hyderabad, Feb 15 (UNI): NTT DATA Business Solutions is set to significantly scale up operations at its newly launched delivery centre in Visakhapatnam, increasing its workforce from over 100 employees at present to 250 professionals within the next six to nine months. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the company's flagship event Transformation NOW! 2026 India held in Hyderabad recently, NTT DATA Business Solutions (India) Managing Director Krupal Patel said the Vizag expansion reflects the company's continued focus on Andhra Pradesh as an emerging technology destination. The company has rapidly expanded its India footprint, with a total headcount exceeding 4,300 employees across eight delivery centres nationwide, reinforcing India's strategic role in its global growth plans, he said. Hyderabad remains the company's largest delivery hub with over 2,500 employees, followed by Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune, while Mumbai and Delhi primarily serve as sales offices.

EDITORIAL

Killing a new initiative

Shete's

I had left for Yavatmal after completing my tour of Nagpur. In Yavatmal, my old best friend Prakash Gaikwad was battling death. Prakash was my colleague and friend when I was in 'Lokmat' in Nanded. During that time at Lokmat, we had often wandered around the streets at night in search of news. From chats at tea stalls to serious discussions in the editorial office, Prakash was my constant companion at all times thick and thin. But now he was standing on the slim line differentiating life and death. As soon as he entered that hospital room, my mind went numb. Despite the heavy medication, the doctors' efforts, the strength in his body was still leaving bit by bit with every passing day. But the sparkle in his eyes had not dimmed as yet. As soon as he saw me, he put a light smile on his lips and said, 'Oh, you have come! Now I have nothing to worry about.' At that moment, my words stumbled on my lips. Tears welled up in my eyes. A thought came to my mind. We write about people's problems all our lives, give them a voice. But when a close friend is battling for life, how helpless we are, this aspect comes to the fore. I sat quietly, holding his hand. Many memories filled my mind. The battle for deadlines that lasted until dawn after waking up at night, the news of the rush from village to village, the journey on a bicycle and Prakash's hearty laughter. The idea that this warrior of journalism is standing on the border of life and death today shattered my mind. Prakash had been afflicted with cancer. He was undergoing treatment to get out of the last stage. Prakash's mother was talking to me. She said that he had spent 9 months in Mumbai. Now he is feeling a little better. He has been undergoing treatment here in this hospital for around 2 years now. I could see the immense suffering in her heart amid the tears flowing from a mother's eyes. She told me all the troubles of the past. She said that Prakash always had a craving for eating outside, that's why the doctor told him that he got cancer, in the first meeting. I also knew Prakash's habits. I looked at Prakash and turned to my mother and asked, 'Mom, how did you manage to spend so much?' My aunt told me the whole story. I was shocked to hear it. She said, 'I was told that it would cost Rs 30 lakh rupees. But thanks to Dr. Omprakash Shete, it all happened for just Rs 30 rupees. One name kept coming up in her speech, Dr. Omprakash Shete. My aunt's voice was trembling in turn. A friend of Prakash introduced me to Dr. Shete. From that day onwards, he never left us. Such a great man came running like a deity and stayed with us like a shadow until we left Mumbai. We changed 4 hospitals, but we didn't spend a single penny. On the contrary, he even gave us the money we needed for the expenses. Seeing Prakash's little children, tears came to Shete's eyes on the very first visit. My mother's words made me shiver. Dr. angel like face began to appear before my eyes. With their grace, with their cooperation, light had returned to the homes of many patients like Prakash. There were many patients in the hospital where Prakash was being treated. Many of them were undergoing treatment for serious illnesses with the grace of Dr. Omprakash Shete. I was walking around the wards of the hospital. Everyone I met had the same expression in their eyes, interest and gratitude. On the face of each patient, I could see an unforgettable immense faith in Dr. Shete. I was not new to Dr. Shete; but until that moment, I had no idea how vast, how all encompassing his work was. Each patient looked at him as if he were a deity personified. That's when a thought crossed my mind, 'Where is God in the world?' I found the answer at that moment. God is none other than Dr. Omprakash Shete. His hands have given a new lease of life to millions of people, whose eyes shed tears at the suffering of others, whose steps bring hope to the doors of the poor. When Dr. Shete's name is mentioned, only one word comes to mind, 'In the name of the angel, good!' I left Yavatmal for Mumbai. While on the way, I called Dr. Omprakash Shete. I told him about Prakash's happiness and asked for an appointment to meet him. I could feel the love and simplicity in his voice. He immediately called me for a meeting. Before going to meet him, I found out about Dr. Shete's work as a journalist and what I learned from that research journey was literally heart-breaking. He was a man, piercing the intricate machinations of the government system. Despite the selfish interests of many people and the displeasure of those in power, this man is striving for the lives and betterment of millions of people. Dr. Shete's work is not just medical service, but a fountain of life that gives new hope to the breath of a person standing on the verge of death. He made many in the society his enemies, but still he sacrificed his life to wipe the tears from the eyes of the poor brethren. One truth stood before my eyes, God is not in idols, but in the form of such people, and that is why people call him 'Devdoot'. Entire Maharashtra has experienced the work carried out by Dr. Omprakash Shete when he was in the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell in the Mantralaya from 2015 to 2019. At that time, the seal of his social work had left a mark of credibility on the government system. The people looked up to Dr. Shete as the messiah who opened the doors of as many as 3500 hospitals in the state for the poor. He provided assistance of Rs 598 crore to thousands of patients who were in the last difficult stage of their lives, which was truly his historic achievement. It was after glorifying this work that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis appointed him as the head of the entire healthcare system of the state from April 1. Today, he directs both the important schemes of Jeevandayi and Mahatma Phule. The state's healthcare system is now functioning under his leadership. He now holds the post of 'Chairman, Ayushman Bharat Mission Committee, Maharashtra Government'. That experience has also come in handy since he worked at the centre. Due to the healthcare related policies he implemented in coordination with the centre and the state, the health department of Maharashtra, which had been suffering for a long time, has been revitalised. The burden imposed on it has been removed and the healthcare department has started breathing freely because of Dr. Shete. I was reading about Dr. Shete during this journey. There is a big office of the health department in Worli called 'Jeevandayi'. I reached there. There was a huge crowd in the entire area. Dr. Shete had not yet arrived. I was talking to the people sitting outside. There was a different sort of hope in the eyes of each of them. Some wanted assistance for an operation, some had come with a bill to reduce the hospital bill, while some were just looking for a support to get out of a big healthcare crisis. Many had a rose in their hands, to express their gratitude. The flower was a symbol of gratitude in their hearts. They all sat quietly waiting for Dr. Shete. I could clearly see the longing, inner struggle, and ray of hope on their faces. Everyone I spoke to had a different story to narrate. Some were going through a major health crisis, while others had just come out of it. But one thing was the same—in all of their stories, the name of Dr. Omprakash Shete was the symbol of 'jeevandayi'. I met Tapasya Terti, a 4-year-old girl, and her parents. She wanted to thank Dr. Omprakash Shete. I spoke to Tapasya's father and was amazed by what he told me. Tapasya's father was a rickshaw puller residing in a small village, supporting his family. When his daughter fell seriously ill, a pall of gloom descended on the entire family. Tapasya needed a liver transplant. But the cost was more than Rs 25 lakh! The father's poverty, the girl's tender age and immense helplessness, all of these things deeply affected him. Tapasya's father went around knocking on many doors, but to no avail. Finally, with the help of a friend, he contacted Dr. Shete and there he saw a ray of hope. With Dr. Shete's efforts, Tapasya underwent a successful liver transplant at a renowned hospital in Delhi. The cost of the operation was covered by a government scheme and Shete also provided her with financial and mental support, feeling that 'Tapasya is now a part of my family.' Tapasya's father was telling me the truth and her mother, who was standing by, was repeatedly wiping her eyes. It was as if all the pain she had endured was unfolding in her words. After finishing speaking, I looked at Tapasya quietly. She was a little fairy, with a rose in her hand and her eyes fixed on the road. Her innocent eyes were saying, 'I am waiting for my life-giver'. Everyone sitting there had a story similar to narrate Tapasya. Some were suffering from cancer, some were suffering from heart ailments, some were struggling to save their lives from accidents, but there was a common thread in everyone's story—the comfort given by Dr. Omprakash Shete. Not only this, today a team of more than 5 thousand people is working on a war footing to provide help to everyone who is stranded in every corner of the state—in the alleys, in the villages, in the villages. I was thinking to myself, wasn't work being done in the healthcare sector before Dr. Shete came? It was being carried out, but its 'ratio' was not very effective. Today, however, that ratio has reached a tremendous height. A man named Shete, without worrying much about his family, has taken up this immense task, and after that, it seems that a new dawn has dawned for thousands of sick, distressed people across the state. Along with Dr. Omprakash Shete, his brother Dr. Shivrathna Shete is also a personality who cherishes the spirit of the community. Shiva is a lecturer, and his thought-provoking speeches, love for forts and Ayurveda have inspired countless youth. Dr. Shete's wife Shilpa is a big businesswoman. Because of Shilpa, Dr. Shete did not have to worry about putting the financial burden of the world. Dindrud is his native village in Beed district. The work carried out by Dr. Omprakash Shete for that village and the area is as effective as that of a cabinet minister. Be it the daily problems of the people, education issues or social activities, Shete has carved out a special place in the hearts of the villagers with his achievements. Therefore, the name 'Shete' has become a symbol of support and confidence for the people of Dindrud. All these things were being said by the people present there. From the information found on Google, from the experiences of the people, Dr. Shete's work was being acknowledged. While we were enjoying the chat, Dr. Omprakash Shete arrived. He also sat where the people gathered outside were sitting. They all started asking quietly what their problems were, what work they had. Immediately someone called, someone wrote. The work of everyone who came in front of me was being carried out in an instant. The faces that were sad, sad, and full of worry when they came in, the same faces seemed to be shining with happiness when they came out. After around 2 hours, Sheteji saw my face and we interacted in turn. The humility in their chat was extraordinary. His in-depth knowledge of everything related to health in the state amazed me. His first sentence alone gave me an idea of his nature, 'I am sorry I came late.' I asked, 'Was there any health camp outside?' He said with a smile, 'No, Sarthak Kolhe, was my patient from Shirur Kasar. He escaped death in 2017. He had undergone a liver transplant. Today he has set up a big business. At insistence, I inaugurated it in the morning and then came here.' He continued, 'Today, health check up camps are being conducted at 170 places across the state. The campaign to issue Ayushman cards is going on vigorously in all districts.' There were not one, but many such tasks every day, about which Dr. Shete was telling me. He had a great hold on every hospital associated with charitable institutions in the state. Today, 2 crore people have received assistance due to the schemes of the centre and the state government, and now his dream is to take this work to 12.5 crore people. Some people who came to meet Dr. Shete were emotional and shedding tears. At that moment, Shete too could not control himself. At that moment, one thought came to my mind, had a health minister achieved what Dr. Shete had achieved. Maharashtra would have come out of the health crisis forever. I felt like sitting with Omprakash Shete for hours, listening to new stories from his lips. But time was limited. Finally, I held both of Dr. Shete's hands tightly, placed them on my head and said goodbye to him with great emotion. When I came out, one thought was going through my mind, if God really manifests himself in humans, then he has definitely incarnated in the form of Omprakash Shete. I had heard before that many people were good in the name of God, but I saw it first and in this case. Many examples were before my eyes, and when his work was presented in the form of statistics, it amounted to more than 2.4 million people. If the healthcare department had decided to do this work all these years ago, how different would Maharashtra's healthcare system have looked like! Dr. Shete showed the courage to break the monopoly in hospitals, the black market run by political patronage, the looting of patients, the problems faced by doctors in a sense. He has immense willpower. Had been political will behind him, Dr. Omprakash Shete would definitely have become the Health Minister of Maharashtra today. But unfortunately, the mentality of not giving the same job to the one who is best suited is deeply rooted in our political culture. Even though Dr. Shete is not a minister, this man who single-handedly carries out the work of 4 ministers is still struggling, and therein lies his true greatness. (The author is the Chief Group Editor of Mahasagar Media Group)

Bharmanthi LIVE Story



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Artificial Intelligence and Natural Wisdom

The most talked-about word in the world today is artificial intelligence (AI). Computers now write poetry, draw pictures, diagnose diseases, predict stock market movements. Machines that mimic human intelligence have become a part of our daily lives. But in this era of rapidly increasing intelligence, one question is disturbing, artificial intelligence is increasing, but is natural wisdom being used? No. We give 'AI' information, it analyzes it and gives conclusions. It has no emotions, no ego, no prejudice, at least in principle, but humans make wrong decisions even when they have information. We believe rumors to be true, react emotionally and forward them without checking. In other words, human stands in the way of the accuracy of 'AI'. Today, when a photo goes viral on social media, instead of checking its authenticity, we react immediately. We believe a deepfake video created by 'AI' technology to be true and form an opinion. Is the fault of technology here? Or is it the laziness of our thinking? The more advanced artificial intelligence becomes, the more responsibility humans have. Because 'AI' is a tool, it can help us, but the decision ultimately belongs to humans. For example, 'AI' can help doctors in diagnosis; but the final decision depends on the doctor's conscience. If a person starts blindly trusting 'AI' without thinking, it will not be natural wisdom. Humans have a special gift, conscience. The ability to judge right and wrong. But if we stop thinking, this gift will become blunt. 'AI' will find answers for us, write articles, solve math; but if we give up the habit of asking questions, intelligence will increase in the machine and stupidity in the human. This does not mean that 'AI' is bad. On the contrary, if used properly, it can revolutionize the fields of education, health, agriculture, and administration. But the more powerful the technology, the more important the moral awareness of its use is. Today, the real battle is not 'man versus machine'; it is laziness against human conscience. Artificial intelligence is easy to develop; but natural intelligence is difficult to maintain. The question is not how smart will AI become. The question is how AI conscious will be? If we learn to think, verify, and act responsibly, AI will become our companion. But if we blindly rely on it, technology will advance and humans will fall behind. That is why there is a real need to preserve natural wisdom along with artificial intelligence.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Ketan Mehta join forces for 'Jai Somnath'

Mumbai, Feb 15 (UNI) Bollywood filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali has teamed up with veteran director Ketan Mehta to bring to life 'Jai Somnath', an ambitious historical drama centred on a pivotal moment in Indian history. The story of 'Jai Somnath' will take audiences back to 1025-1026 AD, when Mahmud of Ghazni attacked and plundered the Somnath Temple in Gujarat, a chapter in Indian history that showcases the power to rise again after destruction. This year marks 1000 years since the attack and destruction of the temple and this film will symbolise India's unwavering courage and the pride of its civilization. Despite its profound historical resonance and emotional weight, this chapter has remained largely unexplored in mainstream Indian cinema. What makes 'Jai Somnath' truly special is the collaboration between Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Ketan Mehta. While Bhansali is renowned for his grandeur and the magical world he creates on the big screen, Ketan Mehta is known for his bold stories and historical vision. The opening of the Indian agricultural market for American goods has created a stir in the Indian agricultural sector. Through this, America has gained the Indian market for their goods. Due to this, farmers are afraid that the prices of Indian agricultural products will fall. In America, the prices of soybeans are Rs 4,000 per quintal, cotton is Rs 7,500 per quintal, and corn is Rs 2,000 per quintal. It is said that if such imports occur, the Indian agricultural market will collapse. The socialist and left parties say that the per capita income of American citizens is \$90,000. While that of Indians is \$3,000. Also, America gives subsidies to its farmers. India gets minus subsidies. In such a situation, how can there be fair competition between American and Indian farmers? They are fearing this. Indian goods should also be exported at a zero percent rate. This is a domestic demand. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said that "GM grains will not come to India". Although it is true that American goods will come to India, it depends on the difference between the domestic price of agricultural products produced in India and the price of imported goods from America. Looking at the experience of farmers over the past several years, the Indian government has been lowering the prices of agricultural products, keeping the consumers and elections in mind. But not allowing them to get a price that covers the cost of production and by implementing many schemes to distribute agricultural products, Indian farmers have suffered losses of several lakh crores of rupees. This should be kept in mind. If the government does not want to face the anger of farmers from now on, it should stop various efforts to lower the prices of agricultural products. Traders and industrialists should be allowed to export raw and ready-made agricultural products outside the country.

'Har Har Mahadev' chants echo at Shivtekdi

Wadi 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): Mahashivratri, one of the most sacred festivals in Hinduism, is dedicated to the special worship of Lord Mahadev. The festival is observed with deep devotion, as it is believed that worshipping Lord Shiva on this auspicious day helps devotees overcome sorrow, difficulties, sins, and financial troubles in life. Lord Shiva, also known as Bholenath, is revered as the deity of destruction and transformation. On the occasion of Mahashivratri, the Public Shiv Mandir Trust of Mangal Dham Society organized various religious programs on Sunday, 15 February, at the public Shiv Temple located on Shivtekdi. The atmosphere turned devotional in the morning with the resounding chants of "Om Namah Shivaya" and "Har Har Mahadev." The rituals of



Havan and Abhishek were performed in the presence of MLA Sameer Meghe,

Municipal Council President Naresh Charde, Public Shiv Mandir Trust President and

Corporator Kamal Kanoje, Secretary Seema Kanoje, Diwanji Rahangdale,

Corporator Leelabai Rahangdale, Dnyaneshwar Chopde, Meenakshi Chopde, Jitendra Rahangdale, Gayatri Rahangdale, Vikram Tijare, Vijaya Tijare, Dharmendra Kanoje, Sher Singh Patle, Anil Ghagare, and Manda Ghagare. Other prominent attendees included Chandrashekar Deshbhratar, Rajendra Bisen, Bapusaheb Limkar, Deva Khatik, Subodh Sharma, Gajendra Devghare, Sukhlal Patle, Satish Nandankar, Rakesh Shivankar, Sher Singh Patle, Rakesh Chaudhary, Sunil Kubde, Vinod Sharma, Milind Kachore, Jitu Tandekar, Nitin Savarkar, Vasanttrao Ghadinkar, Saurabh Ghadinkar, Sushma Gaur, Suchita Ghode, Dayawati Maturkar, Madhuri Thakre, and Jaya Pahrurkar, who graced the occasion with their presence.

Book distribution programme held in Wadi



Wadi 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): On the occasion of Book Distribution Day, books were distributed to students of the local Zilla Parishad school under the initiative of Wadi Nagar Parishad's Education, Culture, and Sports Committee Chairperson, Jyoti Bhimrao Bhorkar. The program was organized with the objective of fostering reading habits among students, encouraging the pursuit of knowledge, and promoting academic progress, as stated by Jyoti Bhorkar. At the beginning of the program, dignitaries distributed educational and motivational books on various subjects to the students. Corporator Kiran Lanjewar, Corporator Divya Tirpude, along with principals, teachers, and staff members of the respective schools, were

present on the occasion. While addressing the gathering, Chairperson Jyoti Bhorkar said, "In today's digital age, students are increasingly drifting away from books due to mobile phones and other media. However, books remain the true source of knowledge, and reading plays a vital role in the overall personality development of students. Therefore, every student should dedicate some time daily to reading." The students expressed their gratitude for the initiative. Teachers welcomed the program and expressed hope that such educational initiatives would continue in the future. The book distribution drive created an atmosphere of enthusiasm among students and was appreciated as a noble effort to promote a culture of reading.

Noble gesture of Ravindra Mahajan Mitra Mandal and Mahakal Group



RALEGAON / NAGPUR POST: A model initiative to celebrate birthdays while maintaining social commitment was implemented by Ravindra Mahajan Mitra Mandal and Mahakal Group. Fruits were distributed to patients at the

Rural Hospital, Ralegaon on the occasion of Ravindra Mahajan's birthday. Also, considering the intensity of summer, a cooler was gifted to the hospital so that the patients would not suffer from heat. On the occasion of the birthday, food was

donated to the senior citizens of Mauli Vriddhashram. Spending time with the grandparents of the old age home, they were fed with love. This initiative brought smiles of satisfaction to the faces of the elderly. The message of gratitude and sensitivity towards the disadvantaged sections of the society was given through this medium. Ravindra alias Bhola Dada Mahajan and the youth of Mahakal Group participated in this initiative in large numbers. Mitra Mandal President Mangesh Uike, Saurabh Gedam, Shankar Shirsagar, Suraj Junghare, Rahul Gadge, Vicky Ingle, Sachin Zade, Nikhil Kove, Sharad Nehare, Sagar Pawde, and Prem Junghare worked hard to organize the programme successfully.

Health Minister Prakash Abitkar visits 'SEARCH' at Gadchiroli

Holds in-depth discussion with Dr. Abhay Bang and Dr. Rani Bang on healthcare reforms in state



Gadchiroli 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): The State's Public Health Minister, Prakash Abitkar, visited the Society for Education, Action, and Research in Community Health (SEARCH) in Gadchiroli and had a courtesy meeting

with social workers Dr. Abhay Bang and Dr. Rani Bang. During the visit, they held a detailed discussion on health system reforms in the state. The conversation focused on solutions to health challenges in rural and tribal areas, the effective implementation of

government health schemes, and the potential for scaling the Gadchiroli model across the state. Dr. Abhay Bang shared innovative approaches that have been implemented in Gadchiroli district to reduce malaria. He explained that effective surveys, immediate diagnosis and treatment, community involvement, and the support of local health workers have significantly reduced the prevalence of malaria in the remote tribal areas. He discussed the potential for implementing the "Task Force model" across the state to eliminate malaria entirely. The discussion also emphasized the

implementation of home-based newborn care (HNBC) to reduce infant mortality, especially in tribal areas. Dr. Bang shared that home visits for newborns, increased awareness among mothers, and immediate medical help have resulted in a significant reduction in infant mortality rates. Minister Abitkar gave a positive response and supported the expansion of this model. Minister Abitkar assured that the government is committed to making health services more effective, people-centric, and inclusive, considering the suggestions offered by Dr. Abhay Bang and Dr. Rani Bang. During the visit, the

Health Minister also toured various health facilities, training methods, and community participation initiatives at SEARCH. He praised the work done by Dr. Abhay Bang and Dr. Rani Bang. Inauguration of Resting Room for Women Earlier, in Pavni, a village in the Dharnora taluka, the Health Minister inaugurated a dedicated resting room for women. Afterward, he visited the sub-district hospital in Aramori and conducted a thorough inspection. Minister Abitkar also visited the Dharnora hospital, where he met with Devaji Toffa and inquired about his health. Relevant officials were present during these visits.

MOU for NEEV project in Gadchiroli under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

Objective to empower 15 thousand rural and tribal families in 5 years



Gadchiroli 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): In alignment with the vision for the development of Vidarbha and under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, an MOU was signed on February 13, 2026, between the district administration and the Pradhan organization for the implementation of the NEEV (Nurturing Equitable

Empowerment & Livelihoods in Vidarbha) project in Gadchiroli district. The agreement was signed by District Collector Avishyan Panda and Saroj Mahapatra, Executive Director of the Pradhan organization. This initiative, with the participation of the Tata Trusts, will be implemented over the next five years (2025-2030), aiming to directly benefit

around 15,000 rural and tribal families in the district. The project will focus on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, water resource development and conservation, strengthening forest-based livelihoods, promoting livestock and fisheries, and empowering women-led institutions. Given the context of climate change, the project aims to

strengthen the rural economy through sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. It also aims to strengthen the role of local self-governance institutions by improving planning systems at the gram panchayat level. Through the MOU, a formal framework for coordinated implementation, effective monitoring of livelihood initiatives, and capacity building has been established between the Pradhan organization and the Gadchiroli district administration. The MOU signing ceremony was attended by District Collector Avishyan Panda, Saroj Mahapatra (Executive Director of Pradhan), Dr. Harsha Vashishtha (COE Lead), Kuntal Mukherjee, and Digambar Chaudhary.

Health department review meet held in Gadchiroli



Gadchiroli 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): A crucial review meeting of the Health Department was held today in Gadchiroli, chaired by the State's Public Health and Family Welfare Minister, Prakash Abitkar. The meeting was attended by Dr. Milind Narote, MLA of Gadchiroli constituency, all medical officers in the district, and

officers from various departments related to the medical field. During the meeting, in-depth discussions were held on important aspects of health services. Special focus was given to how government schemes and financial assistance can be effectively extended to common patients receiving treatment from private doctors. The various

challenges faced by the health system in the district and the issues faced by medical officers were brought to the attention of Minister Abitkar. He responded positively, assuring that necessary steps will be taken to resolve these issues and ensure that the people of Gadchiroli receive better and higher-quality health services.

Shree Shivam celebrates anniversary with grand offers

Nagpur 15 February: With the theme "Double the Celebration, Double the Benefits," the mega anniversary sale brings attractive gifts and special benefits for shoppers. Customers will receive a branded duffel bag on purchases worth Rs 10,000, and a branded trolley bag on purchases of Rs 23,000. Additionally, a 10% cashback/buy-back voucher is being offered on every purchase.

A Golden Journey of 23 Years

From weddings to festivals, from party wear to daily fashion, Shri Shivam has established itself as a true "Family Fashion Destination," offering trendy ethnic and western collections for men, women, and children. With its modern showroom, spacious layout, and customer-friendly service, it has become a preferred choice for families. The store management stated that through this anniversary sale, they aim to strengthen their bond with customers by offering better fashion, better prices, and additional gifts. The special sale will be held from February 13 to 23 at all major stores. Customers are invited to visit their nearest Shri Shivam store to be part of this grand celebration and take advantage of the exciting offers.

Londe Jewellers celebrates 'Month of Love'

Nagpur 15 February: This February, the brand invites customers to express love and create lasting memories with its exclusive range of elegant diamond jewellery, thoughtfully curated for gifting and special occasions. As part of the Diamond Festival, customers purchasing diamond jewellery can enjoy assured free gifts on every purchase. The exciting range of gifts includes premium options such as Apple Watch, iPad, and AirPods, subject to applicable terms, conditions, and purchase value.

Traffic on Mul-Chamorshi road increases on Mahashivratri festival

Mul 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): Like every year, thousands of devotees from Vidarbha and the state attend the fair of Lord Shiva Shankar at Markanda in Chamorshi taluka with great devotion this year too. A large fair is being held on Mahashivratri in the ancient and historically important Shiva temple at Markanda and this religious festival has special significance. In the backdrop of the fair, the condition of the main road from Mul-Chamorshi to Markanda has become very miserable. There are big potholes on the road and the road has been uprooted in many places. As a result, drivers and devotees have to travel with their lives in their hands. Especially at night, the risk of accidents has increased due to darkness and the possibility of any accident cannot be ruled out. Since thousands of devotees and vehicles will be coming and



going in large numbers for the fair at Markanda, there is a possibility of traffic problems due to this bad road. The administration, officials of the concerned department and public representatives are demanding that the road be repaired immediately by the devotees, citizens and various social organizations and associations. Immediate measures are needed for the safety of the devotees and the administration needs to pay serious attention to this. It is the responsibility of the administration to provide safe and smooth travel facilities to the devotees

coming for a holy festival like Mahashivratri and the citizens have demanded immediate repair of the road.

"Markanda is an ancient and famous Shiva temple located on the banks of the Wainganga river in Chamorshi taluka of Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. The Markanda temple was built between the 10th and 12th centuries and is dedicated to Rishi Markandeya. The Markanda site is famous for Shiva devotion. It is famous as a major religious and historical tourist destination in Vidarbha and this temple is located on the slow-flowing north bank of the Wainganga river, in a scenic environment," said Baban Wadetiwar, a Shiva devotee.

Health Minister Prakash Abitkar visits Hemalkasa Lokbiradari Project

Gadchiroli 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): The States Public Health and Family Welfare Minister, Prakash Abitkar, today visited the Lokbiradari Project in Hemalkasa, located in the remote tribal region of the Bhamaragad taluka. During the visit, he paid a courtesy call to Padma Shri Dr. Prakash Amte. Minister Abitkar thoroughly reviewed the various health and social initiatives being carried out at the Lokbiradari Project. During the visit, Minister Abitkar took stock of the ongoing hospital, residential school, and various schemes being implemented for the tribal community in the project. He emphasized that the contributions made by the Lokbiradari Project in delivering health services to this remote region are highly inspiring. Minister Abitkar also asked Dr. Amte about the motivation behind



serving in such a remote tribal area after completing higher education and becoming a doctor. In response, Dr. Amte shared that for the past 52 years, the Lokbiradari Project has been providing health, education, and humanitarian services to the underprivileged tribal community. Dr. Amte further explained that for the first 22 years of the project, there was no electricity in the region, yet they continued

their services uninterrupted despite the challenging circumstances. Minister Abitkar inquired about the effective implementation of various government health schemes within the project, as well as what additional support is expected from the government. Dr. Amte highlighted the frequent incidents of snake bites in the Bhamaragad region and requested special discounts and facilities for treatment of snake

bites. During the visit, Minister Abitkar also interacted with Dr. Amte's wife, Mandakini Amte, and the members of the Lokbiradari Project, discussing the challenges faced in providing local health services. Issues such as ambulance services in remote areas, medicine stock, and the availability of specialist doctors were discussed in detail. Minister Abitkar gathered information on the health-related problems faced by the local citizens and assured them that appropriate action would be taken. Following this, he visited the Bhamaragad Rural Hospital and Aheri Sub-District Hospital, where he reviewed the health services, patient care, human resources, and medicine stock. He clarified that the government is committed to strengthening healthcare services in tribal and remote areas.

Amravati, Monday 16 February 2026

Dwajaroohan of Tirupati Balaji Katha held Battle for power in Nagar Panchayat; Rebellion against the whip

YAVATMAL /
NAGPUR POST: A 5-day Shri Tirupati Balaji Katha organised by Shri Tirupati Balaji Bhakta Mandal Yavatmal from 17 to 21 February at Shri Balaji Dham Yavatmal in the melodious voice of Gaudiya Vaishnavism preacher Yugalsharanji Maharaj. The Dwajaroohan ceremony of this katha parva was performed by civic chief Adv Priyadarshini Uike, Adv Pramod Mundhada and Mrs Karuna Moondara on 15 February at 10.30 am at Balaji Dham, Shri Balaji Lawn, Lakadganj, Yavatmal. The Katha ceremony will start with a procession on 17 February at 9 am. The procession will start from Giridhar Haveli Mandir, Civil Line, and will go through State Bank Chowk, Dhamangaon Road, Navjeevan Mangal Karyalaya to Balaji Dham. The timing of the Katha will be from Tuesday 17 to 20 February from 2 pm to 6 pm. On Saturday, 21 February, the Katha will be from 9 am to 12 pm. Mahaprasad will be



distributed after the Katha. On the occasion of Dwajaroohan ceremony, Ajay Mundada, Prakash Jaju, Vijay Lahoti, Arun Atal, Pawan Maheshwari, Omprakash Rathi, Mahesh Karwa, Brijmohan Bhartiya, Deepak Bagdi, Anil Mukkawar, Murari Jhunjhunwala, Kishan

Singhania, Girish Jaipuria, Sanjay Agarwal, Rajesh Nimkar, Manish Gulwade, Gajanan Take, Santosh Chandak, Krishna Bagdi, Sangeeta Chandak, Alka Bagdi, Karuna Mundada, Abhishek Bagdi, Amrit Bagdi were present. Poonam Jaju, Veenatai Belokar, Aarti

MAHAGAON /
NAGPUR POST: A special meeting will be held on Monday, February 16 at 11 am on the no-confidence motion against the civic chief of Mahagaon Nagar Panchayat, Sunanda Dilip Suroshe Koparkar, and the final vote on the power of Mahagaon will be taken. The entire taluka is paying attention to this meeting, which will be chaired by Sub-Divisional Officer Sakharum Mule, and the reputation of the ruling party is at stake. The opposition has taken an aggressive stance, claiming that the necessary calculations have been completed for the transfer of power. In this meeting, called on the orders of the District Magistrate, a direct vote will be taken after the resolution is discussed. If the no-confidence motion is passed, the post of mayor will immediately become vacant and the process of new power sharing will begin. Therefore, this meeting will not be just a formality but will be a decisive battle for power. Political activities have gained momentum in the Nagar Panchayat at present. Although the ruling factions are making great efforts to lure and persuade the



corporators, it is evident that this effort is proving fruitless. Due to this, a tense atmosphere has been created even before the voting. Congress group leader and former deputy civic chief, current councillor Shailesh Koparkar has issued a party order and instructed all the members to vote against the no-confidence motion through a whip. However, due to internal discord in the Congress, local factionalism and discontent of some members, this whip will not be effective. Congress councillors are preparing to defy the whip and take an independent stand. Due to this, a change of power is considered inevitable. Due to this, the ruling faction is worried. Meanwhile, although information is coming out that the ruling faction has knocked on

the door of the court against this process, the final result will be decided by the counting of votes in the House. Mahagaon's power is standing in the shadow of judicial moves, whip and possible rebellion. Therefore, now the real majority of the BJP is increasing and this will be clear from tomorrow's voting. This has created a situation of "milk for milk, water for water". According to political analysts, the big split in the Congress has increased the chances of a no-confidence motion being passed. For the post of new president, the name of Ranjana Aade is coming forward from the BJP and Jayashree Narwade is being seen as an alternative from the Congress. However, the future leadership will be decided only on who gets the majority. Tomorrow's voting will be a turning point in Mahagaon's politics and the true nature of party loyalty, factionalism and local equations will be tested. The result of who will win the battle for power will be decided in this meeting and the future political direction of Mahagaon will also be decided from it.

Let's work together to preserve the culture of the Banjara community: Sananda



Khamgaon 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Sant Sevalal Maharaj, the beloved deity of the Banjara community, under the guidance of Mahant Raisingh Maharaj, the religious leader of Shri Sant Jairam Maharaj Sansthan Rajgad, the birth anniversary of Shri Sant Sevalal Maharaj is being celebrated with great enthusiasm by organising various religious and cultural programmes at the Shri Sant Jairam Maharaj Cultural Mandal (Wada) in Shirala Nemane in the taluka. On the occasion of the birth anniversary, a blood donation camp was organised on 11 February 2026 in which 15 youth donated blood. On Thursday, 12 February at 7 pm, a community awareness kirtan programme was implemented by Sapta Khanjiri player Satyapal Maharaj and Sandeepal Maharaj's disciple Dr. Rampal Dhakar Maharaj. The prominently present dignitaries during this Kirtan programme was the leader of the Nationalist Congress Party of Khamgaon legislative assembly constituency, former legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda, Taluka President of NCP Manoj Wankhade, Shrikrishna Dhote, Shivajirao Pandhare from Lakhanwad, Suresh Suryavanshi, Vilas Pandhare, Vijay Khandare, Vijay Raigaonkar, PI of Hiwarkhed Police Station Sandeep Patil, Police Patil Bhagwan Nemane, Naik Karbhari and others. On the occasion, Dr. Rampal Maharaj imparted valuable guidance to the attendees through his Kirtan regarding non-violence, love for animals, respect for women, environmental protection, and elimination of superstition. He gave the idea through his Kirtan to continuously maintain the feeling that we are all one family without any caste discrimination. He also guided the young generation of today on what strategy is to be followed to stay away from addiction. He appealed to people to put into practice the basic mantra propagated by Rashtrasant Gadge Maharaj to move from cleanliness to prosperity and keep it alive in their homes by imbibing the thoughts of Shri Sant Sevalal Maharaj. Expressing his views on this occasion, NCP leader and former legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda said in his speech that on the occasion of Shri Sant Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti, the youth of Shirala Nema village organised a very good programme of kirtan by the great social reformer Sapta Khanjiri player Dr. Rampal Maharaj. He said that this programme should not be perceived as just entertainment, but that the village in which we live should be well taken care of, that the feeling of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam should be enhanced further in the society, and that everyone should work together to preserve the culture of the Banjara community. Sananda assured that the youth of the Banjara community should strive to achieve their goals by acquiring good education and having a strong willpower, and that as a citizen of the constituency, I will definitely have a lion's share in this journey with all my might and also thanked the organisers for organising a religious and cultural programme on the occasion of Shri Sant Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti. On the occasion, PI of Hiwarkhed Police Station Sandeep Patil also appealed to the young generation to stay away from addiction in his speech. First of all, the Kirtan programme was started by worshipping the portraits of Sant Sevalal Maharaj, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and the late Vasant Naik. On the occasion, all the dignitaries including former legislator Rana Dilipkumar Sananda were felicitated by the organisers with shawls and garlands. A large number of citizens and villagers of Shirala Nemane, including men, womenfolk and youth from the Banjara community, attended this Kirtan programme. On the occasion of the birth anniversary celebration of Sant Sevalal Maharaj, a Banjara Bhajan was held on February 13. A Mahaprasad programme was held on February 14. On Sunday, February 15, a grand divine procession was taken out from the village in the evening on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Sant Sevalal Maharaj.

Palas trees attracting attention

TEJASWINI KALE /
RALEGAON /
NAGPUR POST: The palas trees are currently blooming in the Malran and field edges of the area, creating a beautiful scene. The dark orange-red flowers that bloom in the spring around Holi festival create a feeling of a flame burning in the area. Palas is an Ayurvedic medicinal tree that grows in India. Its wide and thick leaves, as wide as the palm of your hand, were



previously used for Patravali (meal plates). The tradition of using Patravali on Akshaya Tritiya is still followed in some areas. Dhuli vandan was celebrated by preparing natural colors from palas flowers; however, this custom has fallen behind due to the increasing use of

artificial colors. The bitter-tasting seeds are called palaspapadi and are used medicinally. On the day of Bailpola, the stems of palas are used to grind the shoulders of bulls. However, this multipurpose tree is currently on the verge of extinction. Meanwhile, there are palas trees in the nearby Panchal Shivara and these trees are in bloom. These flowers are attracting the attention of passers-by on the street.

Renovation of Anjangaon Bari-Kondeshwar road work stalled

Anjangaon Bari 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): The Anjangaon Bari-Kondeshwar road stretch, which has been awaiting renovation for the past few years, is currently in a completely dilapidated state. Despite the clear mention of renovation and asphaltting of this road in the Rs 25 crore fund made available by the government for the development of the Kondeshwar pilgrimage site, citizens and devotees are expressing displeasure as the work is being delayed. In the summit held on August



21, 2018, in the presence of the then Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Guardian Minister Praveen Pote, Rs 25 crore was approved from the Pilgrimage Development Fund. Although various

development works have started after the funds were made available, the renovation of the Anjangaon Bari-Kondeshwar road stretch has not yet been completed as yet. Considering the delay in the work, MLA Ravi Rana approved a fund of Rs. 1 crore from the ZP Construction Department. From this fund, a foundation stone was also laid recently (February 5) for the concretisation of the road stretch. However, this has created new confusion among the citizens.

Chana procurement drive launched at Dhamangaon APMC

Dhamangaon Railway 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): The new gram procurement drive was inaugurated on Thursday at the Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Market premises of the Dhamangaon Railway Agricultural Produce Market Committee, which provides various services and facilities to the farmers of Vidarbha. The procurement drive was started by the Chairperson of the Market Committee, Kavita Shrikant Gawande. On the very first day of the gram procurement, the highest price of Rs 5511 per quintal was obtained in the market, creating an atmosphere of



satisfaction among the farmers. Swapnil Vinchurkar, a farmer from Juna Dhamangaon in the adad of Om Prakash Lahoti, fetched the price of Rs 5511 per quintal. Similarly, the agricultural produce of Ashish Patil, a farmer from

Bhilli in the adad of Ashish Kapse, fetched the price of Rs 5501 per quintal. The agricultural produce was purchased by Manish Kela from Manish Traders. In the inaugural programme, the farmers who came to sell gram were honoured by the

committee directors Deoraoji Bamnote, Sandeep Dawade, Radheshyam Chandak, Dinubhau Jagtap, Dr. Pramad Roghe, Girish Bhutada and Mukund Mahore with shawls and Shrifal. Chairperson Kavita Gawande also honoured the employees by performing Kata Pujan. The programme was attended by a large number of farmers, traders and office bearers. The farmers are evoking a good response to the procurement of gram and it is being expressed that the arrival of gram in the market committee will increase in the future.

Armed robbery of 45 tolas of gold, incident comes to light on Balaji Nagar-Kathora road

Amravati 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): A shocking incident took place on Friday night in the Balaji Nagar to Kathora Road area where robbers snatched gold 45 tolas (459 grams) of gold ornaments and Rs 1.70 lakh in cash from a bullion merchant at knifepoint. This incident has created an atmosphere of fear among the business community in the city. According to information, Sushant Manohar Sherekar (aged 43 years, resident of Balaji Nagar, Amravati) runs a jewellery shop named 'Sumitra Jewellery Art' near the hospital on Kathora road. On February 13, at

around 9.13 pm, he closed the shop and kept 459 grams of gold ornaments (estimated value being Rs. 36.72 lakh) and Rs. 1 lakh 70 thousand in cash in a yellow cloth bag. He then left for home on a moped (serial number MH 27/BD 0692). Meanwhile, a black car coming from behind near the Balaji Nagar signboard overtook him and stopped him on the side of the road stretch. Three unidentified men who got out of the car pushed Sherekar and knocked him down. Then, threatening him with a knife, they opened the trunk of the moped and looted the ornaments and cash in the



bag. After the robbery, the accused fled towards Gurudev Nagar. After the robbery, the suspects fled in the car. Since the faces of all three were completely covered, it is being perceived that Sherekar

could only see their eyes amid the shining streetlights. A case has been registered in the aftermath of the incident at Gadgenagar police station and the investigation has been handed over to Police Sub-



to alcohol. On Thursday (February 12) night, while he was crossing the 30-foot high bridge over the Bhuleshwari river near Chincholi Fata on

Anjangaon Road, he lost his balance and fell into the riverbed. It is estimated that he died on the spot. After this incident came to light on Friday morning, there was a stir in the area. On receiving information about the incident, a police team including PI Ravindra Barad from Khallar Police Station immediately reached the spot. The police personnel conducted a post-mortem and sent the body for further processing.

Sant Gajanan Maharaj's Pragat Din celebrated at Savanga Bu

Chandur Railway 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): Sant Gajanan Maharaj's Pragat Din was celebrated with great faith and devotion at Savanga Bu (Punarvasan) in the taluka. On the occasion, the idol of Sant Gajanan Maharaj was ceremonially installed. Various religious programmes including Harikirtan, Hom-Havan were organised on the occasion of the Pragat Din. In the morning, the palanquin of Shri Gajanan Maharaj was taken out from the village. Warkari women and men participated

enthusiastically in the dindi. Rangoli was drawn and worshipping rituals were performed on the palanquin procession's route, and a welcome programme and refreshments were organised by the devotees. The palanquin procession created a devotional atmosphere in the village. The premises were filled with the chants of 'Gan Gan Ganat Bote'. The programme was attended by MLA Pratap Adsad and dignitaries. The ceremony concluded with Mahaprasad.

Inspector Gajanan Lokde. After the incident, Police Inspector Sandeep Chavan of the Crime Branch and PI Atul War of Gadgenagar police station visited the spot. Police Commissioner Rakesh Ola, Deputy Commissioner of Police and Assistant Commissioner of Police also inspected the spot and issued directives for speeding up the investigation process. CCTV footage from the area and major squares in the city has been seized and the investigation process is underway. Major road stretches in the city have been blocked and special teams have been formed to

search for the suspicious black car. Law enforcement authorities from surrounding districts have also been alerted about the development. A similar incident had taken place in 2024 within the jurisdiction of Gadgenagar police station. Unidentified thieves had looted 25 kg of silver after beating up bullion trader Arvind Jaware and his father Uttam Jaware (both residents of Jawahar Nagar, Rekha Colony). The police personnel had arrested the suspect in that case. The current incident has once again presented the police with the challenge of finding the criminals.

FDA seals Blinkit Outlet in Nagpur, cracks down on BigBasket over licensing and Ajit Bakery's 'Brown Bread' violation

Nagpur 15 February: In a stringent enforcement drive against violations in the online grocery sector, the Food and Drug Administration has sealed a Blinkit store in Dharampeth and initiated action against a BigBasket outlet in Sarojnagar for operating without mandatory food business licenses and allegedly misleading consumers. The action was undertaken on February 13 as part of a focused campaign targeting food operators functioning through quick-commerce and online delivery platforms.

Blinkit Store Shut for Lack of License

During a surprise inspection of Blinkit

Month-long public art festival underway

Nagpur 15 February: The 3rd edition of the month-long Public Art Festival, organised by Nagpur Kala Sangh with support from the Yuj Foundation, commenced at the Atrium of V R Mall, Medical Square. The festival, themed "The Future Is Now," was inaugurated by Prof. Him Chatterjee, VC of Sir JJ School of Arts, Architecture and Design, Mumbai. The inauguration ceremony featured the traditional lamp lighting and the unveiling of the "Kala Car". The opening evening also showcased vibrant folk dance performances by students of Shiver Lok Kala Sanskriti Sansthan. Guests enjoyed an exclusive viewing of the art installations displayed across VR Nagpur, including exhibits at the fine art gallery.

Commerce Pvt. Ltd.'s store in Dharampeth. FDA officials found that the outlet did not possess the compulsory state license required under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to sell food products. Terming the lapse serious, the department ordered the immediate suspension of operations and sealed the premises until compliance requirements are fulfilled. Authorities stated that conducting food business activities without a valid license constitutes a punishable offence.

'Brown Bread' Under Scanner

The inspection also exposed alleged irregularities in brown bread supplied by Ajit Bakery.

Nagpur. As per food safety standards, brown bread must contain a minimum of 50% whole wheat flour. However, preliminary findings indicated that the seized bread contained only 10% whole wheat flour, while nearly 90% comprised refined flour (maida). FDA officials described the practice as deceptive labelling and a breach of consumer trust. Samples of the product have been dispatched for laboratory analysis, and the available stock has been confiscated pending further action.

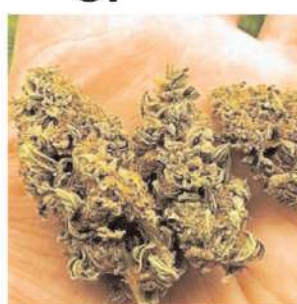
BigBasket Outlet Faces Prohibition

In a parallel action, a store operated by BigBasket in Sarojnagar

was also found to be non-compliant with food business norms. The outlet has been directed to halt food-related operations until it meets regulatory standards. The drive was conducted under the supervision of Joint Commissioner (Vigilance, Mumbai) Dr Rahul Khade and Assistant Commissioner Yaduraj Dahatonde, along with a team of Food Safety Officers. Reiterating its zero-tolerance approach, the FDA urged consumers to scrutinize product labels carefully and assured that strict action will continue against any entity violating food safety laws or operating without proper authorization.

Crime Branch Unit 4 arrests youth with over 4 Kg Cannabis in Nagpur under 'Operation Thunder'

Nagpur 15 February: In a major crackdown on narcotics under the "Operation Thunder—Let Us Unite, Build a Drug-Free Society" initiative, the Crime Branch Unit 4 of Nagpur City Police arrested a 21-year-old man for possessing more than four kilograms of ganja in the Sakardara area. The drive is being conducted under the guidance of Police Commissioner Ravinder Kumar Singal to curb drug trafficking and substance abuse in the city. According to police sources, between 11.55 pm on February 13 and 2.30 am on February 14, Crime Branch officials were on patrol when they received specific intelligence inputs



about a suspect transporting narcotics. Acting swiftly, the team laid a trap near NIT Ground at Bidi Peth under the jurisdiction of Sakardara Police Station. Police intercepted a TVS Jupiter (MH-49-BX-1539) and detained the rider. Upon questioning in the presence of panch



witnesses, the accused identified himself as Aditya Ravindra Nanotkar (21), a resident of New Bidi Peth, Nagpur. A search of the accused and the vehicle led to the seizure of 4.190 kg of green-coloured ganja packed in two plastic bags. Police also confiscated a mobile phone, weighing

Rs 1.94 crore job and tender scam unearthed in Nagpur, four booked for cheating

Nagpur 15 February: In a major fraud case reported under the jurisdiction of Beltarodi Police Station, four persons have been booked for allegedly duping a 64-year-old resident of nearly Rs 1.94 crore on the pretext of securing Central Government jobs and business allotments. The complainant, Namdeo Vishwanath Kadu (64), a resident of Shubham Apartment, Ujjwal Society, Narendra Nagar, was introduced to accused Ramchandra Mehpat Patil (36), a resident of Multai in Madhya Pradesh, through a neighbour. Patil allegedly claimed to be an assistant to



a Personal Assistant in a Central Ministry. Another accused, Devendra Bhargava (55) of Gwalior, was projected as a Personal Assistant in a Central Ministry. The accused allegedly assured the complainant that they could secure jobs in departments such as Railways, Income Tax, Archaeological

Department, NITI Aayog, and FCI. They also promised to arrange gas agencies, petrol pumps, warehouses and government tenders. Police said the accused, along with their associates Shivam Santosh Kumar Sen (35) of Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, and Yogesh Mishra (61) of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, conspired to cheat the complainant and his relatives. They allegedly collected Rs 75 lakh from Kadu through online transfers and cash payments, and extracted

additional amounts from his relatives on similar promises. In total, the accused allegedly obtained Rs 1,94,74,600 from the complainant and his family members. Fake appointment letters and forged allotment documents bearing fabricated signatures and seals were allegedly issued to gain their trust. Following a detailed inquiry, Sub-Inspector Amol Shinde registered offences against the accused under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita related to cheating, forgery, criminal breach of trust and conspiracy. Further investigation is in progress.

Youth killed, four friends injured after speeding tipper rams car on Babulkheda Hanuman Mandir road

Nagpur 15 February: A fatal road accident under the jurisdiction of Gittikhadan Police Station claimed the life of a 21-year-old youth, while five others sustained injuries after a speeding tipper truck allegedly crashed into their car on February 14. Complainant Abhijit Vilas Khadke (21), a resident of Aarti Town, Godhani Road, had gathered with his friends — Aryan Gurudev Daf (21), Gaurav Kamble (20), Rohan Tandekar (20), Abhishek Durai (21) and Aman Pardhi (22) — near Aryan's residence at Mahajan Complex, Zingabai Takli, around 8.30 am. The group decided to

visit the Hanuman Temple at Babulkheda for prayers and left in Aryan's car (MH-31-FE-2111), which was being driven by Aman Pardhi. While travelling via Pitesur, the group decided to return as one of them had an examination and another had not completed his morning routine. During a U-turn near Swaraj Farm House on Pitesur Road, a tipper truck (MH-34-AB-3047) allegedly being driven at high speed, negligently and on the wrong side, rammed into their vehicle. The impact caused the car to spin repeatedly before crashing into the compound wall of Swaraj Farm. The tipper driver abandoned the

vehicle and fled the scene. All occupants of the car were injured, with Aryan Daf sustaining critical injuries. The victims were rushed to a private hospital on Mankapur Ring Road, where doctors declared Aryan dead after examination. The remaining injured youths are undergoing treatment. Based on the complaint, Sub-Inspector Gopal Raut registered an offence against the unidentified tipper driver under Sections 106(1), 125(a), 125(b), and 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. Further investigation is underway.

Four held for alleged T20 World Cup betting at Imperial Grand Bungalow in Hingna

Nagpur 15 February: The Crime Branch Unit No. 2 unearthed an alleged cricket betting racket operating from a private property in the Hingna police station limits and booked four individuals for placing wagers on the ongoing T20 World Cup 2026 fixture between UAE and Canada. Based on specific intelligence, a police team conducted a late-evening raid at The Imperial Grand Bungalow — I2 in Kothewada, Gurgaon, at around 6.20 pm on February 13. During the operation, the suspects were allegedly caught accepting bets from punters through mobile phones. The accused have been identified as Rahul Ramchandra Wadhvani (36) of Tilak Nagar, Bilaspur; Badal Madhukar Kurhadkar (35), a resident of Golibar Chowk, Timki; Lomesh Rajesh Arora (26) of Chitaroli, Kotwali; and Amjadkhan Nawabkhan Pathan (48) from Bhalardpura.



Ganeshpeth. Police confiscated two laptops, 14 mobile phones of various brands, and other electronic devices collectively valued at approximately Rs 3,73,500. A case has been registered at Hingna Police Station under Sections 4 and 5 of the Maharashtra Gambling Act. The operation was executed under the supervision of Police Commissioner Ravinder Kumar Singal and senior officials of the city crime branch. Further investigation is in progress.

Travels bus breaks down, passengers stranded overnight

Nagpur 15 February: A Sanjay Travels bus heading to Mumbai failed in a densely wooded area near Sambhaji Nagar around 2.30 AM last night. Passengers were left stranded and without assistance for several hours. According to reports, an air pipe on the bus burst around 3 AM. The company's team quickly contacted the Leyland service center and was told the issue would be fixed within an hour. However, after a lengthy wait of nearly four hours, they learned that the necessary parts were unavailable. Sanjay Travels had standby buses stationed in Nashik, Pune, Mumbai, and Nagpur. Considering



Nashik was closest, a replacement bus was dispatched at 8 AM. But it faced delays due to a truck accident on its route, pushing arrival time back by another hour. The company also tried sourcing alternative transport via local travel operators in Aurangabad but found no vehicles available on such short notice. As of now, the

replacement bus has finally entered Mumbai. To ease passenger frustration during the delay, complimentary snacks were provided as soon as they could continue their journey. Despite this unexpected technical fault causing significant inconvenience, Sanjay Travels has promised full refunds to all affected passengers.

Fourth edition of Katol Marathon to be held on Feb 22

Nagpur 15 February: With the aim of promoting health and fitness, the fourth edition of the Katol Marathon will be held on February 22 in Katol. Addressing the media, Pravin Lohe said the marathon will feature three categories: a 10 km Power Run, a 5 km Orange City Run, and a 3 km Family Run. All races will be flagged off from 6 am onwards. The event carries total cash prizes worth Rs 51,000, and around 800 runners are expected to participate. Participants can collect their bibs and T-shirts on Saturday at Orange Plaza, Katol, between 10.30 am and 5 pm. All finishers will receive a medal, certificate,



and refreshments. International ultra runner Dr. Amit Samarth, Ironman Nitin Fuke, and visually impaired swimmer Ishwari Pande will flag off the races. Katol MLA Charansingh Thakur will attend the prize distribution ceremony. Rajesh Wankhede, Niles Choudhari, Harshada Choudhari, Vrinda Lohe, and Rupal Wankhede were also present at the press conference.

Batsmen put Vidarbha on top



Nagpur 15 February: Trailing by 215 runs in the first innings, Assam were 57/1 in their second essay at close of play.

Briefs scores

Assam 1st innings: 157 all out in 63 overs (Hrishikesh Borah 37, Sahil Sheikh 4/29, Pratham Maheshwari 2/15).
Vidarbha 1st innings: 372 All out in 88.4 overs (Prabal Choukhande 38, Abhishek Agrawal 74, Mohd Faiz 65, Danish Malewar 85, Pratha Maheshwari 60, Hrishikesh Borah 5/76, Sumit Kashyap 4/63).

8-Lane Wardha road project: 110 Shops to be demolished



Nagpur 15 February: The Maharashtra Government plans to demolish around 110 structures, including shops and roadside eateries, between Chinchbhuvan and Khapri on the Nagpur-Wardha Road for widening National Highway 44 into an eight-lane stretch. Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar

Bawankule announced this while speaking to media persons after a review meeting of the MIHAN project held on Friday. He said that under the MIHAN rehabilitation scheme, compensation has already been distributed to all affected shop and dhaba owners. In addition, the government plans to build a commercial complex along

the same road stretch to rehabilitate them. During the meeting, Bawankule also stated that the State Government has so far distributed Rs 781.59 crore and handed over land allotment documents to project-affected families from Khapri (Railway), Telhara, Dahegaon and Kalkuhi villages under the rehabilitation scheme.

Mayor Neeta Thakre proposes night-time cleanliness drive for Itwari market

Nagpur 15 February: To maintain cleanliness across the city, Mayor Neeta Thakre has suggested launching a night-time sanitation drive in the busy Itwari Market area. At a meeting with traders' associations, the Mayor, along with Deputy Mayor Leela Hathibed and Ruling Party Leader Narendra (Balya) Borkar, discussed measures to strengthen sanitation facilities in the market. Representatives of the Kirana Association, Sarafa Bazaar, Cloth Market and Metal Merchant Association assured their full support for the initiative. Responding to traders' requests for services similar to those provided in

Sitabuldi, officials announced that cleaning operations and waste-collection vehicles will function from midnight to 4 am. The one-month pilot project will cover important locations such as Marwadi Chowki, Ek Rupya Chowk, Bharat Mata Chowk, Gandhi Putla, Agrasen Chowk, Maskasath and the



Grain Market, with special emphasis on late-night cleaning in food market zones. Traders have also been requested not to dump

waste on roads and instead hand it over to designated collection vehicles to ensure the success of the initiative.

Decrease in cadaveric donors in Nagpur

Nagpur 15 February: In 2024, the Nagpur Zonal Transplant Coordination Centre (ZTCC) registered 40 cadaveric donors who gave new lease of life to several in death. At the end of 2025, the number has gone down to 15—25 less than that of last year. Equal number of fall of deceased donors registered in Maharashtra too. Last year Maharashtra witnessed 175 cadaveric donations but this year the number has gone down to 153. In 2017, the number of donations was 18, in 2018 also Nagpur

registered 18 cases while in 2019, it rose to 20. The number dwindled in 2020 and 2021 during pandemic. The year 2022 began with cadaveric organ donation in the first week of January itself. Later, various hospitals in Nagpur reported to Zonal Transplant Coordination Committee (ZTCC), about brain-dead cases. But, despite counselling, the relatives said 'no' to donations. In 2022 the number too gone down. In 2023, the number went up to 35 and in 2024, it rose to

40. Dr Sanjay Kolte, President of ZTCC while talking to reporters admitted that the registration of deceased donors gone down this year. "We face one major issue of counseling. Convincing people at that time is very difficult. The time is very different so nobody can force. Unless relatives agree, we can't do anything. More awareness campaign is needed to increase cadaveric organ donations. At some places the organ donation after cardiac death (DCD) too is taking place despite the brain-dead

ones. If people agree to it more patients can be given new lease of life" Usually ZTCC witnesses waiting list of patients for kidney between 250 and 300, for liver around 50 to 75. But this year the waiting list increased to over 1,000 for kidney, about 500 for liver. Diliip Deshmukh, the 69-year old liver recipient from Gujarat had been to Nagpur had said that people have myths. They feel the bodies of their kins get disfigured. Surprisingly, Mumbai, Pune are not facing the issue of less cadaveric donations. In

some hospitals in Nagpur witnessed change in management, some registered doctors shifted to some other hospitals, a few hospitals are not able to conduct procedures as the process of registration is taking long time. In fact Maharashtra Government is promoting organ donation. It has declared fund for the last rites of the donor to be given to his or her relatives. People still have not come out of the thought of attachment where they feel bad for the removal of the organ of their kins.

Minor girl rescued from Mauda, AHTU tracks location after abduction case in Pardi

Nagpur 15 February: The Crime Branch's Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) traced and rescued a minor girl who had allegedly been lured away from her residence in the Pardi police jurisdiction last month. According to police, the 35-year-old complainant had reported on January 7 that his underage daughter had left home without informing anyone and did not return. Suspecting that she had been enticed and taken



away by an unidentified individual, Pardi Police registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. During parallel investigation, AHTU officials received specific information on February 13 that the girl was residing in

Dighori (Kale), Mahalgaoon area under Mauda police limits. Acting swiftly, the team located and took the minor into custody. Police conducted a detailed questioning and arranged counselling for the girl before handing her over to Pardi Police for further legal proceedings. The operation was executed under the supervision of senior city police officials. Further probe into the role of the unidentified accused is ongoing.

Amravati, Monday 16 February 2026

CM calls for cancer care innovations to reach all corners of the world

Nagpur 15 February: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday emphasized that cancer poses one of the greatest challenges to India's healthcare system and called for innovations in cancer treatment to reach every corner of the world, noting that "humanity knows no borders." Speaking at the inauguration of the international conference "Oncology Beyond Borders" at the National Cancer Institute, Nagpur, Fadnavis highlighted the urgent need for early detection and timely treatment of cancer.

He warned that cancer cases have been increasing at an unprecedented rate over the past decade. "India, which has made remarkable progress in eradicating certain diseases, now faces the immense challenge of cancer," Fadnavis said. "It is not just an Indian problem—it is a global concern," he said. Citing United Nations



data, he said global cancer incidence could rise by 75% in the next 20 years. Maharashtra alone has seen an alarming 11% increase in cancer cases over the last five years.

"The situation is indeed worrying. The time has come not only to treat cancer but also to prevent it," he added. Fadnavis underlined the importance of equipping healthcare systems to screen suspected cases effectively, calling for the development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to identify and manage early-stage cancer. He also

spoke about the Maharashtra Cancer Care, Research and Education (MAHCARE) Foundation, a state initiative aimed at expanding access to cancer treatment across Maharashtra.

He also praised the National Cancer Institute, Nagpur, for its pioneering research and treatment facilities, which serve patients from across India. "Cancer care must be made more affordable through innovative treatment protocols," he said, noting that the Central Government, under Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, is lowering taxes on imported cancer drugs, radiation machines and related equipment to reduce costs for patients. The Chief Minister highlighted the transformative role of medtech, biotech, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare, which are helping make treatments more predictable, efficient and accessible. "In cancer care, there is a pressing need for innovation and research to develop tools for early detection so that treatment can start at the earliest stage," he said. Fadnavis stressed that breakthroughs in cancer treatment should not remain limited to individual institutions but must benefit people worldwide. "The fight against cancer should transcend borders, because being human means ensuring that no one suffers, regardless of nationality," he added.

Pending Farm Access Roads to get fast-track approval in Deoli constituency

Deoli 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): The long-pending issue of farm access roads in Deoli Assembly Constituency is finally set to be resolved. Under the Chief Minister's Baliraja Farm/Access Road Scheme, the District Collector's office has ordered the formation of a constituency-level committee, with MLA Rajesh Bakane appointed as its chairperson. This committee will pave the way for durable farm roads across Deoli, Wardha, and Hinganghat talukas, ensuring year-round connectivity for farmers to their fields.



officials, tehsildars, block development officers, agriculture officers, forest officers, engineers from the PWD and Zilla Parishad, along with progressive farmers such as Ramesh Walke (Vaigaon), Kishor Chaudhary (Bhankheda), Tryambak Talwar (Kanagaon), Sachin Kurhade (Andori), and Jayant Oak (Nachangaon).

Areas of emphasis

- On-site inspections to set priorities
- Transparent use of funds
- Timely completion with quality standards
- Special attention to remote and underserved areas

Impact

The initiative is expected to save farmers time and costs from sowing to harvesting, while improving transport of agricultural inputs and produce. With coordination between administration and elected representatives, stalled projects will gain momentum. Local farmers believe this committee will provide a permanent solution to the long-standing problem of farm access roads in the constituency.

Relief during monsoon

For years, farmers struggled during the rainy season due to muddy tracks, which made it difficult to transport produce, deliver seeds and fertilizers, and commute laborers. Crop losses during harvest were common. The new committee aims to eliminate these hardships by prioritizing construction of quality roads.

Committee composition

The panel includes administrative officers, police

MP Amar Kale pushes for 6 new nationalised bank branches in rural Wardha amid growing population and closures

Wardha 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): In a bid to ease banking woes in rural Wardha district, MP Amar Sh. Kale has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Mumbai Managing Director of nationalised banks to open six new branches in underserved



villages. Wardha's population has nearly doubled from 1.3 million in the 2011 census to around 2.8 million today, yet rural residents face major hurdles due to limited access.

The district currently has 115 nationalised bank branches and six rural bank branches, but 48 branches of the Wardha Central Cooperative Bank have been shuttered for the past 15 years—mostly in rural areas—forcing locals to travel far for transactions. Nationalised banks often hesitate to expand into villages, but persistent demands from residents prompted MP Kale to propose branches at Talegaon (Talegaon, Wardha taluka), Dahagaon (Gosavi, Selu taluka), Rasulabad (Arvi taluka), Nara (Karanja taluka), Vela (Hinganghat taluka), and Sevagram (Wardha taluka). Though 2011 census figures show populations under 5,000, Kale emphasized that current numbers exceed this threshold in 2026. Highlighting local economic drivers like Sindh's dry fruit market, Sevagram's industrial zone, and government schemes disbursed via banks, Kale met officials and sent formal letters to fast-track approvals. "With all transactions now bank-dependent, these branches are essential for rural empowerment," he stated.

CM flays Congress leader over Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj-Tipu Sultan comparison

Nagpur 15 February: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday strongly criticized state Congress chief Harshwardhan



Sapkal for comparing the legendary Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan. Tying the comparison as highly reprehensible, Fadnavis said Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj established Swarajya, freed common people from the clutches of the Mughals and truly created a state for the citizens. "Tipu Sultan killed thousands of Hindus. I have never seen such flattery for the erstwhile Mysore ruler," Fadnavis said, adding "we will not tolerate this". Demanding an apology from the Congress leader, Fadnavis said if Sapkal spoke in this manner again, then his

party should take cognizance of it. "Congress allies must also clarify their stance on this," said Fadnavis.

BJP activists stage strong protest movement at Ralegaon



RALEGAON / NAGPUR POST: A strong protest movement was held on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party Ralegaon taluka, on February 15, at 12 noon at Kranti Chowk. This movement was organised to protest the statement made by Congress State President Harshwardhan Sapkal comparing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with Tipu Sultan. This protest meeting was conducted by General Secretary Abhijit Kadam. Taluka President Chhaya Pimpri, former Nagar Panchayat President Babanrao Bhongare, Yuva Morcha Taluka President Prasad Thakare, Vyapatri Aghadi District President Raju Gundecha, Adv. Pritesh Verma, City President Shubham Muke, Sandeep Pendor and other office bearers delivered their views. During the meeting, the speakers present glorified Shivaji Maharaj's work in nation building and strongly condemned such statements. Many also expressed their opinion that such statements are hurting the sentiments of the people. During the meeting, the activists raised strong slogans against Harshwardhan

Insult will not be tolerated

"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is the idol of Maharashtra and his work cannot be compared to anyone else. If there is an attempt to hurt the sentiments of Maharashtra by making such statements, the Bharatiya Janata Party will never sit still. Insulting the Maharaj will not be tolerated."

—Chhaya Pimpri, BJP Taluka President

Anti-Terrorism Squad raids at 20 places including Umarkhed

UMARKHED / NAGPUR POST: In the backdrop of the possibility of inciting extremist and communal sentiments across the state, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) conducted a major operation at midnight yesterday and raided about 20 places in the state including Umarkhed and Pusad. It is understood that the operation was carried out under the leadership of ATS chief Chandrashekar Medha. The investigation was going on at various places throughout the night under tight security by the local police. However, official information was not available as the operation was carried out in a highly confidential manner.

According to sources, it is said that this operation was carried out in the backdrop of some suspicious activities and activities to incite new youth to participate in anti-national activities. It seems that the security system has become more alert as records of movements of extremist organizations have been found in the Umarkhed area in the past.

Meanwhile, Sub-Divisional Officer Hanumant Gaikwad reacted and said, "This entire action was being taken from the senior level. We were only present for protection. We do not have official details available with us."

This action has created a stir in the area and has sparked various discussions among the citizens. It is being expressed that an official clarification regarding this matter is likely in the next few days.

'Maze Gaon, Arogya Sampanna Gaon' campaign to make rural healthcare more efficient



UJWALA ADE / UMARKHED / NAGPUR POST: The ambitious 'My Village, Healthy Village' campaign will be implemented as a statewide health movement based on public participation to make rural healthcare more efficient, disease-free and self-sufficient.

This campaign will be implemented across the state from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027. This campaign will be effective in improving the health status of citizens, providing preventive and promotional health services, promoting health, changing social behavior and instilling a healthy lifestyle. The main objective is to make a healthy village in coordination with various elements in the rural area, including public sanitation, water supply, social awareness. The administration has started preparations to implement this campaign in the district. The administration has launched a campaign to create awareness in this regard in the villages.

Villages will get awards worth crores, certificates

A state-level committee will be formed under the

chairmanship of the Health Minister for the effective implementation of the campaign. Additional Chief Secretary and Commissioner will be members. The chairman of the state action committee will be the Principal Secretary of the Public Health Department. Villages will be evaluated and villages scoring more than 70 percent will be declared healthy villages and given mementos, certificates and cash awards. State-level awards will range from Rs 5 crore to Rs 2 crore. A fund of Rs 80.75 crore has been approved for the campaign.

Rural health will get a new direction

The rural areas of the district will benefit especially from this scheme, in which the Zilla Parishad, Taluka and Gram Panchayats will have the active participation. This scheme will become a people's movement with the participation of all sections of the society and will give a new direction to rural health. **Emphasis on preventive measures rather than treatment**

This campaign will focus on preventing diseases rather than treating them, and includes reducing the incidence of infectious and non-communicable diseases, improving maternal and child health, nutrition, sanitation, safe water, sewage management, lifestyle disease control and mental health. The government intends to provide quality healthcare to citizens.

HEALTH MANTRA

Panchakarma and Mental Health

- 1: Panchakarma not only cleanses the body but also the mind
- 2: Balanced doshas keep the mind stable and calm
- 3: Nasya reduce stress, anxiety and depression
- 4: Hasya and Basti treatments are beneficial for the brain and nervous system
- 5: Helps in getting good sleep
- 6: Improves concentration and memory power
- 7: Reduces anger, irritability and instability.
- 8: Panchakarma is more effective with meditation and pranayama
- 9: If mental health is good, the body also remains healthy.
- 10: A balanced mind and a strong body are true parameters indicating robust health from Ayurvedic point of view.

—Samaka Ayurveda Yoga and Wellness Centre, Godhani, Yavatmal

Sant Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti



NER / NAGPUR POST:

The birth anniversary of Sant Sevalal Maharaj, the deity of the Banjara community, was celebrated on 15 February 2026 at the Bharatiya Janata Party Ner office.

On this occasion, Niles Rathod Taluka President BJP Ner, Purushottam Lahoti Former Taluka President, Rajeshbhai Deulkar Digras Assembly Chief, Ashish Khode City President, Nimesh Pangarkar Taluka President of Vyapatri Aghadi, Raju Dinkar Taluka General Secretary Ner, Minesh Kanthale Taluka Vice President, Anant Ugalmugle Kisan Morcha, Ajabrao Chincholkar City General Secretary Ner, Chandu Kurjekar Zilla Parishad Circle Chief Mangaladevi, Sonali Gulhane City President Ner, Rekha Jaiswal District Member Pusad, Santosh Deshmukh Office Minister, office bearers, activists were present.

Fadnavis used word 'equivalent' to ignite religious controversy in state: Atul Londhe

Nagpur 15 February: Congress state chief spokesperson Atul Londhe today responded to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' criticism of Congress state president



Harshwardhan Sapkal alleging that Fadnavis has tried to take the historical context of the word "equivalent" in a different sense to try to spark religious controversy. When Congress state president Harshwardhan Sapkal compared Tipu Sultan and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as "equivalent", Devendra Fadnavis criticized it, saying that comparing Tipu Sultan, who killed thousands of Hindus, with Shivaji Maharaj was not appropriate. Responding to CM Fadnavis' criticism while talking to a section of media here, the Congress spokesperson alleged that Fadnavis has tried to take the historical context of the word "equivalent" in a different sense to try to spark religious controversy.

This is a silly attempt and the Congress strongly condemns it, he said. Taking selective words from an opposition party leader's statement to create religious tension and using religion in politics to criticize opponents is an old strategy of the BJP, he countered and charged that the government was ignoring the state's major problems. "The government is ignoring the key problems of the state. On serious issues like unemployment, inflation, farmers' suicides and rising electricity prices, the ruling party is silent. To improve people's lives, the BJP has not taken any concrete steps. Instead, it is trying to mislead the public with unstable political issues," Londhe said. The word "equivalent" was used only in a historical context, but Fadnavis has interpreted it differently and tried to create religious tension in society.

Londhe said that using religion in politics to criticize opponents is an old BJP strategy. The economic situation in the state is also worrisome. Due to inflation, ordinary citizens have become strained and unemployment has made the youth insecure.

Farmers' suicides and poorly remunerative crop prices have increased stress in rural areas, he added.

Devotees gather in large numbers at Ancient Shri Shiv Temple, Belishop



Nagpur 15 February: Mahashivratri was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at the ancient Shri Shiv Temple located in the South East Central Railway Colony, Kamptee Road, Nagpur. On this occasion, Rudrabhishek of Lord Shiva was performed by the temple members during the Brahma Muhurat, followed by havan, aarti, and the completion of the ritual worship. From as early as 6:00 a.m., a large number of devotees lined up for the darshan of Lord Shiva.

At this more than 300-year-old ancient temple, the Divisional Railway Manager of South East Central Railway, Deepak Kumar Gupta, along with his wife, offered prayers and performed puja.

He was felicitated by the temple committee. In the afternoon, the recitation of the Sundarkand was held in the temple premises. In the evening, during the final prahar, Rudrabhishek of Lord Shiva was once again performed.

Mahaprasad Today

On the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, Mahaprasad will be organized on Monday at 1:00 p.m.

Raghuji Bhonsle's sword will come to Nagpur soon: Fadnavis



Nagpur 15 February: Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday assured that the historic sword of Raghuji Maharaj Bhonsle will soon be brought to Nagpur, stating that the date of its arrival would be finalised in consultation with the royal family. He made the announcement while addressing the Raj Ratna Award distribution ceremony at Senior Bhonsle Palace, drawing loud applause from the audience. Confirming this to reporters after the event, Fadnavis said, "I had already made this promise."

The sword is currently in Mumbai, and we will bring it to Nagpur very soon. "Earlier, a light-hearted moment unfolded at the palace during Fadnavis's speech, when Mudhoji Bhonsle walked up, seemingly to remind the CM about the long-awaited sword. Without turning back, Fadnavis paused and said, "I know why Mudhoji has come here. He has come to remind me when the sword of Raghuji Maharaj Bhonsle will come to Nagpur. You decide the date—the sword will come to Nagpur on that date. I promise you." The assurance assumes significance as the sword returned to India in August last year after being purchased at an auction in London in April. Members of the Nagpurkar Bhonsle family, along with citizens of Nagpur, have since been awaiting its arrival in the city. Sources at the Bhonsle Palace said the royal family is keen to finalise the earliest

possible date, likely in March, following the CM's public assurance. However, they added that the final decision will be taken only after confirming the schedule with Fadnavis. In his address, Fadnavis recalled how Raghuji Maharaj expanded Hindavi Swarajya eastwards into present-day Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Bengal.

He said the Nagpurkar Bhonsles played a significant role in reviving and sustaining traditions at the historic Jagannath Temple in Puri after periods of disruption. He also noted that artefacts and memories linked to the Bhonsle family are preserved in museums in Odisha, underscoring the enduring historical ties between Nagpur and the eastern region. Describing the Raj Ratna Award as an honour rooted in royal legacy, Fadnavis said recognitions conferred by the Nagpurkar Bhonsle family carry deep historical significance. He congratulated awardees from fields including sports, literature, arts, and social service. The event was attended by Sampatiya Ukey, Madhya Pradesh's Public Health Engineering Minister, Shrimant Raje Raghuji Bhonsle (Pancham), and Shrimant Raje Mudhoji Bhonsle, among others. The ceremony was presided over by Gurumauli Annasaheb More, a renowned spiritual leader and head of the Dindori Praneet Shree Swami Samartha Seva Marg.