

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 Therefore our 17 February issue will not be published.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 Chakravarthy, 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 Umkhard 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 Umkhard 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.

TATRA Jungle Safari timings altered

Chandrapur 15 February: During summer, Chandrapur district's temperature is higher than that of other districts in the region. Keeping this aspect in mind, the timings for the Jungle Safari at Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve have been changed to allow tigers to roam around freely. The new timings have been implemented in TATR since February 13. According to the new timings, from February 13 to March 31, the afternoon safari will be from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. From April 1 to June 30, the afternoon safari will be from 3:00 pm to 6:15 pm. The morning safari will be from 6:30 am to 10:30 am, and the afternoon safari will be from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The timings of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve's jungle safari are changed every year starting May 1. However, signs of higher temperatures in the upcoming summer have begun to emerge since February. Therefore, given the drop in temperatures during the winter and the potential for a cold wave to intensify, the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve management has already changed the timings of the tiger safari. During summers, tigers and other animals come to drink water at natural and artificial water sources, increasing the chances of tiger sightings. However, the timings have been changed in order to avoid inconvenience to tourists during the summer season. Jungle safaris are conducted in the core area and buffer zone. Tadoba has over 200 tigers, so tourists from India and abroad are drawn to the Tadoba Andhari



Tiger Reserve in the hope of tiger sightings. Tadoba's core area has 6 gates: Moharli, Tadoba, Kolara, Navegaon, Khutwanda, and Jhari/Pangdi. Similarly, the major gates in the buffer zone include Agarjari, Dewada, Junona Ramdeg, Navegaon, Madanpur, Alijanjha, Sirkada, Pangdi,

Mahavitaran staff will take oath on first day of week

ASHOK BANORE / YAVATMAL / NAGPUR POST: Giving top priority to electrical safety, Mahavitaran has instructed to start work in the subdivisions and branch offices of the state with the electrical safety oath every Monday or the first day of the week for the goal of 'zero electrical accidents'. This decision has been taken to instill the importance of electrical safety in the mindset of the employees. Mahavitaran has instructed to implement the zero electrical accident goal effectively and consistently. Accordingly, Director (Human Resources) Rajendra Pawar has given impetus to measures and public participation initiatives regarding electrical safety. For engineers and employees, electrical safety is not just a rule but a part of daily work. Since every life is



precious, electrical safety should always be strictly followed, he has appealed. In order to remain aware and vigilant about electrical safety, every Monday has been declared a safety day in 664 subdivisions and 3291 branch offices of Mahavitaran. Every Monday or the first day of the week, engineers and technical staff of both

these offices will start work in the morning with the safety oath. After that, the personal safety equipment and technical tools of all the technical staff will be checked. Only after ensuring that they are in good condition, the work will start. All meetings with the technical staff will begin with the electrical safety oath. For the effective implementation of all these activities, the Executive Engineer (Administration) at the divisional level and the Additional Executive Engineer at the departmental level have been given the responsibility of safety officer.

Vidarbha women go down to Bengal



Nagpur 15 February: Bengal lost three early wickets in the chase but a fine half-century by Sujata Dey (51) stemmed the rot. Skipper Mita Paul (50*) and P Bala (46*) then took over and saw their team home with an unfinished 88-run partnership for the fifth wicket. **BRIEF SCORES** Vidarbha 182/6 in 50 overs (Arya Pongde 30, Mona Meshram 72 not out, Kanchan Nagwani 63, Saika Ishaque 4/39) Bengal 183/4 in 48.1 overs (Sujata Dey 51, Mita Paul 50 n.o., P. Bala 46 n.o.) **Result:** Bengal won by 6 wickets.

Grand exhibition ceremony organised with great enthusiasm at Star International School, Gondia



Gondia 15 February (NAGPUR POST/AMAR SINGH): Star International School, Gondia, organized its highly anticipated school exhibition on February 14, 2026, within the school premises. The exhibition

Inauguration and Dignitaries To grace the occasion, Divisional Education Officer Mrs. Purnima Vishwakarma was present as a special guest. Renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. Avinash Yele, serving as the chief guest, added value to the ceremony with his inspiring thoughts. The event was further distinguished by the presence of psychiatrist Mrs. Avinash Yele, whose views on mental health and balanced education were highly appreciated. Additionally, the presence of Nikhil Jain, Director of Gondia Education Society, and Secretary Rajendra Jain (former MLA), reaffirmed their continuous encouragement for the school. **Highlights of the Event** *** Ceremonial Start:** The program began with the arrival of the special guests, followed by the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the light of knowledge and wisdom. *** Warm Welcome:** Guests were welcomed with sapling plantations and the presentation of mementos. **Guest Speeches:** *** Dr. Avinash Yele** praised the scientific temperament and creative thinking reflected in the students' projects, motivating them to achieve excellence through dedication and discipline. *** Mrs. Avinash Yele** emphasized the importance of emotional balance and mental health in educational development.

*** Mrs. Purnima Vishwakarma** commended the organization of the exhibition and praised the teachers' efforts in guiding students toward experiential learning. *** Nikhil Jain** and **Rajendra Jain** lauded the hard work, commitment, and immense enthusiasm shown by both teachers and students. **Conclusion** The exhibition concluded with a grand prize distribution ceremony and the National Anthem, which inspired the gathered audience and instilled a sense of pride in the institution's unwavering commitment to holistic education. Since this event took place on Valentine's Day (Feb 14).

Classes 1 to 8 students will get free school bags

TEJASWINI KALE / RALEGAON / NAGPUR POST: To boost primary education and reduce the financial burden on parents, the School Education and Sports Department of Maharashtra has issued a Government Resolution (GR) to provide free school bags to students studying in local self-government schools across the state. The scheme covers students from Class 1 to Class 8 enrolled in schools run by local self-government bodies. The state government has granted administrative approval for a total expenditure of Rs 165.00 Crores for the procurement and distribution of these bags. Approximately 41.43



lakh students are expected to benefit from this initiative, ensuring they have the necessary resources for a quality education. To avoid the duplication of benefits, students in Municipal Corporations (like BMC or PMC) that already provide free bags through their own municipal funds have been excluded from this specific state-funded scheme. The Director of Education (Primary), Maharashtra

State, Pune, has been authorized to initiate the procurement process. The GR mandates a transparent e-tender process in strict accordance with the rules set by the Industries, Energy, and Labour Department. The initiative is part of a broader effort to align with the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aiming to create an "Anandayi" (joyful) and encouraging educational environment. The Government Resolution was officially released under the digital signature of Aniruddha Avinash Kulkarni, Under Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra.

Rangoli Sarees' Bajaj Nagar showroom opens

Nagpur 15 February: Social worker Kanchan Gadkari, mayor Nitai Thakre inaugurated the showroom in the presence of Ramesh Chawla, Girish Chawla, Gaurav Chawla, Jagdish Chawla and their families, along with a large number of customers. For the past 45 years, Rangoli Sarees located at Badkas Chowk Mahal Nagpur is famous for its exquisite range of Bridal Silk Sarees, Handloom Silk Sarees, Pochampally Silk Sarees, Ruffle Silk Sarees, Uppada Silk Sarees, Lehengas, Salwar Suits, Evening Gowns. To serve their customers residing in West Nagpur, they have now opened a new showroom in Bajaj Nagar. The showroom offers a wide range of high-quality designer sarees such as bridal lehenga cholis, designer salwar suits and kurtis, evening gowns, crop tops, along with traditional silk sarees, Paithani, Dharmavaram, Sambalpuri, Maheshwari, Banarasi, brocade, chiffon, cotton, georgette and Chanderi silk.

Illegal betting set to surge as India favoured in high-stakes clash against Pakistan



Nagpur 15 February: As arch-rivals India and Pakistan prepare for their high-stakes cricket encounter in Colombo on Sunday, February 15, illegal betting networks across Vidarbha are gearing up for what bookies predict will be a record-breaking day. Underground operators estimate that betting volumes from the Nagpur-Vidarbha region alone could touch Rs 700 crore, underscoring the enormous wagering appetite surrounding one of cricket's fiercest rivalries. Just 24 hours before the match, betting markets signalled strong confidence in an Indian victory, quoting India at just 30 paise while offering a record Rs 3 on Pakistan. Significant wagers are also expected on key players. Explosive opener Abhishek Sharma, along with Shubman Gill and

NHAI warns of fake FASTag annual pass websites targeting highway commuters

Nagpur 15 February: A fake FASTag Annual Pass scam is creating panic among vehicle owners planning to travel on India's extensive national highway network. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has issued a strong public warning about a surge in fraudulent websites and links falsely claiming to sell the FASTag Annual Pass, a service introduced last year for private vehicle owners. **FASTag users targeted by phishing scam** Fraudsters are exploiting the Rs 3,000 FASTag Annual Pass scheme, which permits up to 200 trips or one year of travel on national highways for eligible private, non-commercial vehicles. Scammers are creating convincing look-alike websites that mimic official platforms. Many of these fake sites appear at the top of search engine results through paid

advertisements and manipulated SEO tactics. Unsuspecting users are tricked into entering payment details or scanning malicious QR codes, resulting in: *** Direct financial losses of around Rs 3,000 per transaction** *** Funds being diverted to mule bank accounts** *** Theft of sensitive personal and vehicle information** *** Multiple complaints have already been reported and are being monitored by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.** **How to avoid the FASTag scam** NHAI has clarified that the FASTag Annual Pass is available exclusively through the official Rajmarg Yatra mobile app. No other website, social media



platform, WhatsApp or Telegram link, third-party seller, or external portal is authorised to sell or process the pass. In advisories posted across platforms including X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram, NHAI warned against

engaging with unauthorised websites or links offering the pass. **To stay safe, NHAI advises:** *** Purchase or activate the FASTag Annual Pass only via the Rajmarg Yatra app** *** Avoid clicking on suspicious links or advertisements claiming to offer the pass** *** Do not share FASTag, vehicle, or payment details on unverified websites.** *** Report suspicious websites or fraud attempts immediately to cybercrime authorities** Authorities urge commuters to remain vigilant to prevent financial loss and fraud.

Mahajan College conducts National Service Scheme Camp



YAVATMAL/NAGPUR POST: The NSS camp of Mahajan College of Technology here was organised at Jamb village. Various activities were conducted in this seven-day camp. In it, free dentistry, orthopedics and gynecology check-ups were conducted for the villagers. Dr. Yelke, Dr. Padwale, Dr. Bhandari contributed to this. Similarly, veterinary doctors provided treatment and medicines to the animals in the village. An excellent workshop was also conducted for the volunteers on legal knowledge and personality development. On this occasion, Adv. Sayre and Prof. Nilesh Autkar guided. Haridas Hore, Purushottam Tichukale, former Sarpanch Jamb interacted with the students on the topic of agriculture and the young generation. In the concluding

Crime Branch Unit 6 nabs murder and MCOCA accused wanted in Bhandara, admits role in multiple offences

Nagpur 15 February: In a significant breakthrough, Crime Branch Unit 6 of Nagpur City Police apprehended a 36-year-old man wanted in a murder case registered in Bhandara district and booked under stringent provisions of MCOCA. The accused, identified as Vishal Ramchandra Manekar (36), a resident of Jaripatka, was reportedly staying on rent at Davlamenti in the Wadi police limits to evade arrest. Acting on credible intelligence inputs, the Crime Branch team laid a trap in the Wadi area and detained the suspect. During questioning, Manekar allegedly confessed to his involvement in a murder case registered at Gobarwahi Police Station. Police sources said the crime involved unlawful assembly and the use of firearms and sharp weapons. The case has



been registered under the provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). Further interrogation revealed that the accused was also involved in housebreaking

offences under the jurisdictions of Jaripatka and Gittikhadan police stations in Nagpur. Following his detention, the accused was handed over to Gobarwahi Police for further legal

proceedings. Investigation into the case is ongoing. The operation was conducted under the supervision of senior police officials, including CP Ravinder Kumar Singal and other top officers of the Crime Branch.

Winner Foundation Center to hold free handwriting workshops



Nagpur 15 February: Winner Foundation Center of Nagpur has taken an initiative to enlighten children of Gujarati Pakwasa School of Nagpur regarding good handwriting and its role in career growth and how much positive effort is needed for maintaining good handwriting. It also conducted a free week long workshop for children of Std 5, 6 and 7. About 150 students including boys and girls participated in the event. Winner's Foundation Centre has invited schools willing to hold handwriting workshop free of cost for all age groups. For bookings, interested schools can call (Mobile No: 9850925421).

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.

Baba Tajuddin Rahmatullah Alaih's Chhabbisvi Sharif celebrated with enthusiasm

Nagpur 15 February: The Chhabbisvi Sharif of Hazrat Baba Tajuddin Rahmatullah Alaih was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Tajbagh Sharif on Sunday. The Hazrat Baba Tajuddin Trust organised various religious programmes at Tajbagh to mark the occasion. Thousands of pilgrims, carrying chadar and flowers, recited Fataha at the shrine of Hazrat Baba Tajuddin Rahmatullah Alaih at Tajbagh Sharif and paid their obeisance with immense devotion. All necessary arrangements were made at the Tajbagh complex for sake of convenience of the devotees. A Shama Mehfil and Dastarbandi ceremony were held at the Hazrat Baba Tajuddin Trust office at 8:30 am on Sunday morning. Following this, Maulana Khurshid Alam Khan Taji, Imam of the Shahi Mosque of Tajbagh, recited the Quran at the shrine complex of Baba Tajuddin Rahmatullah Alaih. After this, the Parcham Kushai ritual was performed. Thousands of devotees participated in Parcham Kushai ritual. After this, a Chadar was presented on behalf of the Trust at Baba's tomb and prayers for peace and happiness were offered. After this, Salat-o-Salaam were recited. In the evening, programmes of Qawwali and Shama Mehfil were organised in the Dargah premises. Langar was distributed among the devotees. On the occasion, Hazrat Baba Tajuddin Trust's President Pyare Zia Khan, Secretary Taj Ahmed Raja, Vice President Dr. Surendra Jichkar, Trustee Mustafa Topiwala, Haji Farooque Bawla, Gajendrapal Singh Lohiya and Haji Imran Khan Taji were prominently present.



Government committed to the welfare of common citizens: Guardian Minister Dr. Pankaj Bhoyar

Janata Darbar inaugurated at Charmandal

Wardha 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): The state government is functioning with a firm commitment to provide justice to the common man, farmers, and laborers by effectively implementing welfare schemes and resolving public grievances on the spot. This statement was made by Guardian Minister Dr. Pankaj Bhoyar during the inauguration of a 'Janata Darbar' (Public Grievance Redressal Meet) held at the Vitthal Rukmini Temple in Charmandal, Seloo tehsil. The event saw the presence of Sub-Divisional Officer Deepak Karande, Tehsildar Shakuntala Paraje, and several

local representatives including Sarpanch Nita Shelke and Ashok Mude.

Major announcements and highlights:

■ **Crop Loan Waiver by June:**

Addressing the farmers, Dr. Bhoyar announced that the government has declared a crop loan waiver to be completed by June. He urged farmers to submit the necessary documents to the Talathi or Tehsil office immediately to ensure they receive the benefits without delay.

Development projects worth lakhs dedicated to the public



some beneficiaries missed out on installments due to errors in e-KYC or incorrect information. He instructed such beneficiaries to update their details on the official portal immediately, assuring that the pending installments would be credited to their accounts soon.

■ **Ladki Bahin Yojana:**

The Minister clarified that

■ **Pilgrimage status for Charmandal**

The Vitthal Rukmini Temple has recently been granted 'C' Class Pilgrimage Status. Dr. Bhoyar

assured that there would be no shortage of funds for the temple's development and encouraged using the temple premises for community development activities alongside religious events.

■ **Infrastructure and Welfare Distribution:**

During the visit, the Guardian Minister performed the Bhoomi Pujan and dedication of several local projects:

■ **Water Supply:** A new water tank constructed under the Jal Jeevan Mission at a cost of Rs 77.67 lakh was inaugurated.

■ **Connectivity:** Dedication of new Pandhan (farm) roads and cement road projects.

■ **Education:** Distribution of 13 bicycles to schoolgirls to ease their commute to educational institutions.

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Multistate Co-operative Bank, Taluka Village Committee set up

Arjuni Morgaon 15 February: At Panchsheel Ward Boudhav Vihar Arjuni Morgaon on Friday, as part of an initiative to fulfill Dr Babasaheb's dream which was to have a bank of his own to increase the



financial strength of his society's Buddhist brethren and to strengthen the financial condition of his society, Rajratna Ashok Ambedkar has taken the initiative. A meeting was organised to purchase shares of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Multistate Cooperative Bank and distribute Buddhist certificates, as well as to establish a joint village committee of both Arjuni and Morgaon villages. The meeting was chaired by R K Jambhulkar, Chief Guest Taluka President Aayog, Aniruddha Shahre, Ramesh Lade, Vijay Gondane, Subhash Lade, Khemchand Bhaisare besides other dignitaries who were prominently present. The meeting discussed the issue of making Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Multistate Credit Co-operative Bank a share holder and distributing Buddhist certificates. The programme's introductory speech was given by Taluka Secretary Rajesh Sakhre and Abhay Prakash Sangode. The executive committee formed is as follows: Village Branch Taluka Arjuni Morgaon Executive Committee: President - Ramesh Lade, Vice President - Ramesh Jambhulkar, Women's wing Vice President - Vaishali Khobragade, Secretary - Jagdish Meshram, Joint Secretary - Shashikumhar Tagde, Treasurer - . . . Prakash Sangode, Sandesh Shende, Organiser - Poonaram Jagjape, Sudhir Raut, Co-Organiser - Nagendra Khobragade, Sanskar Coordinator - Subhash Lade, Vihar Coordinator - Manisha Dilip Lade, Co-Organizer - Vijay Gondane, Media Coordinator - Yogendra Krishna Ramteke Aayog, Trisharan Shahare, Advisor - Satpurush Shahare, Members: Rajesh Sakhre, Vishal Lade, Bhushan Sangole, Bhimrao Dongre, Badal Lade, Sudhir Raut, Dilip Shahare.

Late Yashwantrao Chavan State Literary Award 2024 to be conferred upon young litterateur Mayur Bagul

Pune 15 February: The Marathi Language Department of the Maharashtra State Government has announced the Late Yashwantrao Chavan State Literary Award for the year 2024, and the prestigious honour has been announced for young writer Mayur Bagul. For his book Sarjak, he will be awarded the 'Vasantrao Naik Award' of Rs 1 lakh for his excellent writing on agriculture and allied businesses. Mayur Bagul, a young writer from Kesanand in Pune district, has effectively depicted rural life, innovations in agriculture and the struggling reality of farmers in his book Sarjak. He has presented a scholarly and inspiring presentation on the new opportunities of allied businesses in the agricultural sector. The



book Sarjak has been published by Chaprak Prakashan, and he received guidance from Amar Habib, the pioneer of the Kisanputra Andolan, and Upendra Dhonde, the pioneer of the Sahaj Jalboddh Abhiyan and senior groundwater scientist. The support of publisher Ghanashyam Patil and members of the Chaprak

family was also invaluable. Winning this award speaks volumes of the sense of pride prevailing in the literary and social circles of Maharashtra. Various social, educational and literary organisations in the state are showering congratulatory wishes on Mayur Bagul. Mayur Bagul's name has now come into the limelight across the state as a new generation writer who writes scholarly and lucid articles on issues of rural areas, and his success will inspire local youth in making rapid strides in the field of writing and research.

3 Thousand litres of milk distributed at Sapneshwar Siddh Shiv Temple

Wadi 15 February (NAGPUR POST/TC): On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri, the Wadi area resonated with chants of "Har Har Mahadev" as devotees gathered in large numbers at various Shiva temples. At Shri Sapneshwar Siddh Shiv Temple, located at the MIDC T-Point Chowk, nearly 3,000 litres of masala milk, along with sabudana khichdi and prasad, were distributed to thousands of devotees. The programme began in the morning with the sacred Mahaurdrabhishek ritual. The event was organized with the dedicated efforts of the Shri Sapneshwar Siddh Shiv Temple Committee. Key contributors included Suresh Kumkumwar (Chief Promoter), Mohan Pathak, Chandrashekhar Dhakariya, Raghyoji Nagalwade, Deepak Hiranwar, Subhash Anjekar, Vinod Buradkar, Baban Hirudkar, Suresh Sirsawar, Anil Barai, Girish Pandey, Narayan Kumkumwar, Kamlesh Hiranwar, Suryakant Girmakar, Sunil Bankoti, Ramesh Bhandarkar, Prashant Sharma, Shobha Dahat, Ramesh Thakre, Vikas Naidu, Bunt Dixit, and temple priest Kailash Matlane. Among those present were MLA Sameer Meghe, Municipal Council President Naresh Charde, Dr. Sanjay Tekade, and corporators Anandbabu Kadam, Harshal Kakde, Ashwin Bais,



Kailash Manthapurwar, Santosh Keche, Rohit Tiwari, Vijay Mishra, Kapil Bhalme, Akhil Pohanekar, Krantishinh, Dinesh Koche, Prakash Kokate, Shailesh Thorane, Rajesh Thorane, and Sandeep Umredkar. The initiative created a deeply devotional atmosphere in the area and reflected the spirit of unity and service associated with Maha Shivaratri.

MLA Vinod Agrawal's relentless efforts bring relief to Sindhi community

Gondia 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): The Sindhi community, displaced from India after Partition in 1947, has been demanding land ownership rights for the past 75 years. Vote bank ideology-driven politicians have promised them ownership rights but failed to secure them. However, Gondia MLA Vinod Agrawal has taken cognisance of the Sindhi community's plight and has been working tirelessly for the past few years to secure their rights. As a result, thousands of Sindhi families are now set to receive free land ownership rights. Regarding this issue, MLA Vinod Agrawal had requested Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule to grant the community land ownership rights. As per the instructions of Chief Minister Fadnavis, positive initiatives were taken to grant land leases to the Sindhi community, and appropriate guidance was



imparted to the officials of the concerned department. Recently, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, responding to the Sindhi community's concerns raised by MLA Vinod Agrawal, directed the Gondia District Collector to resolve the land allotment issue and take immediate action to grant ownership rights. MLA Vinod Agrawal

stated that thousands of Sindhi families were struggling for land lease rights. Among these, 500 shops and houses, including 110 in the Techpark area, will now receive ownership rights free of charge, regardless of whether they are encroachers on Nazul or other government land. MLA Vinod Agrawal also stated that land allotment and ownership rights are being granted to encroachers (excluding forest land) living in Gondia city and rural areas for years. The survey being conducted is in its final stages and they will soon receive these rights.

SJANT20 Inter-Press cricket tournament from tomorrow, kits distributed

Nagpur 15 February: The kits for 26th T20 Inter-Press Cricket Tournament organised by SJAN were distributed on Sunday at Vasant Nagar ground. The tournament will begin at the same venue on Tuesday with an inaugural match between defending champion Lokmat and Deshonnati at 8:30 am. Event manager of Rokde Jewellers Shubhangini Khedkar, assistant event manager Shripad Darbhe, principal of Jyotiba College of Physical Education Dr Vijay Datarkar and social worker Sanjay Chinchole distributed the kits to the teams. The annual cricket tournament for print media employees is being supported by Sports Karma, Rokde Jewellers, Sarangi Foundation Trust, and Sports Link. While Rokde Jewellers are the official clothing partners, Sports Link will be providing the Wisden white cricket balls for the smooth conduct of the tournament. Man of the match prizes are being sponsored in the memory of Gangadharrao Chinchole.

Change Of Name

MY OLD NAME WAS SAMSIN PARVEEN SHAIKH JAMIL. NOW MY NEW NAME IS SAMRIN BI NASIMODDIN SIDDIQUI. ADD : AT POST SHEMBALPIMRI TQ PUSAD DIST. YAVATMAL 445209.

MY OLD NAME WAS JAGDISHKUMAR DEWANI. NOW MY NEW NAME IS JAGDISH DEWANI. ADD : NEAR DR. KARDA HOUSE SINDHI COLONY GONDIA 441601.

MY OLD NAME WAS KAN-HAIYALAL MANUJA. NOW MY NEW NAME IS KANHAIYA THARUMAL MANUJA. ADD : AT POST KURKHEDA DIST GADCHIROLI 441209.

MY OLD NAME WAS VANITA MANUJA. NOW MY NEW NAME IS VINITA MANUJA. ADD : AT POST KURKHEDA DIST GADCHIROLI 441209.

MY OLD NAME WAS ASHOK KUMAR PYARELAL ALWANI. NOW MY NEW NAME IS ASHOK PYARELAL ALWANI. ADD : PLOT NO 92, SHUBLAXMI APARTMENT RAM NAGAR NAGPUR 440033.

MY OLD NAME WAS BISU BAI SHEIKH ALAM. NOW MY NEW NAME IS BISMILLA RAHEMATULLA SHEIKH. ADD : WARD NO.3 BUDHWARI PETH UMRED, NAGPUR 441203

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

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

Killing a new initiative

Bharmanthi LIVE Story



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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)

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.

Sikandar Shah Yavatmal

In the potential US-India trade agreement, the US has reduced its import duty from 50 percent to 18 percent. It is understood that in the trade agreement, India will eliminate or reduce duties on a wide range of industrial goods, food and agricultural products imported from the US. This includes red sorghum for animal feed, dried fruits, fresh and processed fruits, soybean oil, wine and other products. The US will reduce taxes on textiles, ready-made garments, plastics, rubber, organic chemicals, home decoration items, handicraft products, and certain machinery manufactured by India. The US and India have agreed to provide market access in their respective areas of interest. The US-India trade agreement includes some selected pulses. There is also a demand for a reduction in the oil that India buys from Russia. Last time, India imported three percent of the soybean oil deficit. Now it is likely to increase. Feed for poultry will be imported. This import will not be done by the Indian government but by business entrepreneurs. Due to this mutual import, the government will not have control over imports. Indians fear that it will be exorbitant. 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.

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.



VIJAY KALE DARWHA

'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 Chandrashekhar 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 Gadde, Vicky Ingle, Sachin Zade, Nikhil Kove, Sharad Nehare, Sagar Pawde, and Prem Junghare worked hard to organise 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.

Civic body developed Garbage Transfer Station on Zudpi jungle land violating SC's orders: Thakre

Nagpur 15 February: Alleging serious violations of Hon'ble Supreme Court directives and environmental laws, West Nagpur MLA and President of Nagpur City (District) Congress Committee, Vikas Thakre, has lodged a formal complaint with Revenue Minister and Nagpur Guardian Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule regarding the construction of a Garbage Transfer Station by Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) on Zudpi Jungle land at Pandhribodi, opposite Ambazari Garden. Before meeting held on Friday at Divisional Commissioner's office on Zudpi Jungle issues, Thakre submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting that the Garbage Transfer Station developed in Dharampeth



Zone is situated on land reserved as Zudpi Jungle, thereby allegedly violating the landmark judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12 December 1996, which classified Zudpi Jungle lands as forest land governed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. He further pointed out that the Supreme Court, through its subsequent order dated 22 May 2025, directed revenue authorities

to transfer all eligible Zudpi Jungle lands that remained vacant prior to 12 December 1996 to Forest Department within a stipulated period. According to Thakre, the land bearing Khasra No. 49, Mouza Ambazari, was vacant until recently, and therefore its use for constructing a garbage transfer facility amounts to a direct violation of court orders and environmental laws. Thakre also questioned why the NMC constructed the facility using public funds when private operators — AG Enviro and BVG India — were responsible for developing Garbage Transfer Stations across the city's ten zones under existing arrangements. He demanded strict action against responsible officials and immediate relocation of

the transfer station to an alternative site, along with handing over the said land to the Forest Department for ecological restoration and development of Zudpi Jungle. Raising another concern, Thakre alleged irregularities in the sanctioning of a parking-cum-commercial plaza in front of Futala Lake on Zudpi Jungle land and called for a detailed inquiry into the matter. Highlighting the plight of residents living in slums on Zudpi Jungle lands, Thakre demanded that the Revenue Department immediately issue malki haq patte to residents of 73 slums in West Nagpur. He emphasized that all slums were established prior to 1996 and therefore deserve regularization and ownership rights free of cost.

Jajoo College organises 6-day employability enhancement & youth livelihood camp for girls

Wardha 15 February (NAGPUR POST/DC): Under the Mahindra Pride Classroom Project of the Naandi Foundation, a Six-Day Employability Enhancement & Youth Livelihood Workshop for Girls was conducted from February 2 to February 7, 2026 at Shiksha Mandal's Shrikrishnadas Jajoo Grameen Seva Mahavidyalaya, Pipri, Wardha. Ms. Maithili Datey served as the trainer for the workshop. The programme was organized jointly by the Skill Development Cell and the IQAC Cell of the college. The workshop was inaugurated at the hands of the Principal of the college, Dr. Rajesh Deshpande. In his inaugural address, he emphasized the growing importance of skill-based initiatives that enable job



seekers to remain sustainable in today's highly competitive world. He encouraged the students to make the most of this valuable opportunity to acquire employability skills essential for career advancement. He further appreciated the efforts of the Coordinators of the Skill Development Cell and the IQAC Cell; Dr. Vaishali Ugale and Dr. Ratan

Chaudhari for organizing such quality-oriented programmes for the students. During the 36-hour workshop conducted over six days, the trainer extensively covered a wide range of topics including Body Language & Professional Grooming, English Language for Career, Art of Speaking, Goal Setting & Time Management, Seeking Job Opportunities, Professional Communication, Developing Critical Thinking, Interview Money

Management, Project Presentation Skills, Group Presentation, Acting a Group Discussion, Conflict Management, and Problem Solving. The sessions were designed to equip students with essential employability and life skills. Ms. Maithili Datey efficiently conducted the sessions through a variety of engaging and interactive activities. The students enthusiastically participated and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, which significantly contributed to their learning and overall grooming. The remarkable success of the workshop was attributed to the sincere and meticulous efforts of Dr. Vaishali Ugale, Coordinator of the Skill Development Cell and Dr. Ratan Chaudhari, Coordinator of the IQAC Cell.

Various programmes organised at Tarodi (Khu.) on Shri Gajanan Maharaj Pragat Din

Nagpur 15 February: On the occasion of Shri Gajanan Maharaj Pragat Din, on behalf of Shri Gajanan Maharaj Seva Samiti, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Tarodi (Khu.), Khasra 63, Nagpur grand religious and social programmes were organised. The entire area was filled with devotion. On the occasion of this festival, Shri's idol worship and Kalash installation rituals, Rangoli competition, grand health check up camps, devotional music programmes, Shri Gajanan Maharaj palanquin procession and religious lectures were organised. These programmes received an enthusiastic



response from the devotees. This programme was attended by civic chief Viru Jamgade of Nagar Panchayat Bidgaon-Tarodi, MLA Krishna Khopde, Corporator and Chairman Pritam Bokde, Santosh Tijare, Bharti Deogade, Corporator Nihal Chikte, Ajay Bisen, Municipal

Corporation ruling party leader and corporator Balya Borkar, Corporator Ajay Bodhare, Pradeep Pohane, Dr. Preeti Manmode (Women's wing District President), Sachin Ghodmare (President, Kamptee Taluka), Jitu Meharkude (BJYM General Secretary), Saili Deshmukh

(Youth leader, Nationalist Congress Party), Jagdish Damani, Shailesh Deshmukh, Sanjay Belsare, Ravindra Tayade, Harshal Borkar, Prashant Borkar, Nav Manna, Kanchan Satphale, Paras Pagade, Akshay Ingle, Kailas Paraye, Sanjay Singh, Vikas Domde, Nitin Band, Suhans Patrikar, Rajesh Parate, Shubham Shukla, Akshay Belsare, Amit Phulbandhe, Sanjay Raut, Amit Marghade, Santosh Shirke, Litesh Jiwani, Rajat Parate, Sanjay Digraje, Prakash Ghule, Talesh Nimje, Satish Kamane, Vivek Satphale along with Kalpana Chauhan, Rekha Belsare, Jaishree Bokde, Shilpa Borkar, Ranjana

Satfale, Snehal Kalaskar, Priyanka Pote, Jyoti Marghade, Aarti Datir, Ankita Belsare, Pranita Sonawane, Sonal Jiwani, Jyoti Chaware, Vijaya Deshmukh, Kalyani Band, Archana Charde, Urvi Jiwani, Nidhi Singh, Bhavana Deshmukh, Sakshi Charde, Babli Shukla, Purva Shirke, Varsha Damani, Alka Kurade, Hemlata Barapatre, Kavita Tayde, Ratnamala Barange, Vanita Paraye, Mukta Deshpande worked tirelessly in order to ensure the successful organisation of the programmes. Mohan Patrikar conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Today's emerging generation is the pride of our country: Chandrakant Udgikar

Borgaon (Meghe) 15 February: While education and knowledge are different things, they complement each other. It's crucial for children to be exposed to extracurricular arts and literature alongside their schooling. Today's students have immense mental capacity, but we can't forget our responsibility to shape and direct them properly. Today's generation is our nation's wealth and pride. It's in everyone's best interest to nurture them properly, said Chandrakant Udgikar, former Deputy Commissioner of Police. He



was speaking while interacting with students of St. Thomas English School in Borgaon Meghe on February 12th. Present on the occasion were Imran Rahi, National Vice President of the All India Shastri Social Forum, Preeti Satyam, Principal of the school, Vijay Satyam, Adarsh Teacher Mohan Mohite, Sihan Ulhas Wagh,

Varsha Deshpande, Vedant Satyam, Ruchi Tiwari, Rizwana Shaikh, and others. On this occasion, Preeti Satyam gave her guidance. Imran Rahi expressed his views because in today's time, it is very important to inculcate a sense of pride towards the country, social and family harmony among the students.

Curtain raiser Exercise Vayu Shakti 2026 on February 27

New Delhi 15 February: The Indian Air Force (IAF) will demonstrate its prowess through Exercise Vayushakti-26 at Pokhran Air to Ground Range, Jaisalmer on 27 February 2026. As the first, fastest & fiercest responder, the Indian Air Force will highlight its ability to rapidly punish the enemy, dominate operational environment from the outset and decisively influence the course of operations by transforming tactical actions into strategic outcomes. The exercise will also showcase glimpses of how IAF plays a crucial role in humanitarian assistance & disaster management by providing rapid airlift and rescue & evacuation from conflict



zones within the country as well as abroad. Full spectrum operations by fighter, transport and helicopter platforms including Tejas, Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage-2000,

Sukhoi-30MKI, MiG-29, Hawk, C-130J, C-295, C-17, Chetak, ALH MK-IV, Mi-17 IV, LCH, Apache, Chinook and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) will be executed. The exercise

will also feature advanced weapon systems such as Short Range Loitering Munitions (SRLM), Akash, SpyDer and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS), carrying out day, dusk and night missions. Vayushakti-26 will also highlight the success of Operation Sindoor, reaffirming IAF's primacy in airspace dominance, long-range precision targeting, multi-domain operations and its ability to deliver decisive effects with indigenous platforms guided by the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. Guided by the core values 'Achook, Abhedya aur Sateek', the exercise aims to reassure the nation by reaffirming the IAF's role as a key component of India's national security architecture.

Dabur Chyawanprash launches awareness campaign to boost immunity

Nagpur 15 February: People are afflicted with cold, cough and respiratory diseases with increasing frequency during the winter season. The main reason behind this is an immune system greatly reduced in strength. Against this backdrop, a special awareness campaign to boost immunity was launched on behalf of Dabur Chyawanprash at St. Vincent School, Nagpur. More than 250 students of the school participated enthusiastically in the special session organised under this campaign. The programme was attended by Dabur India Ltd. Corporate Head Byas Anand, School Secretary Vijayrao Watkar, Principal Amey Watkar, Shradha Watkar, Nikhil Kukde, Shripad Satfale, Anita Kalamkar, Shradha



Umbarkar and Vande Madam. Speaking on the occasion, Dabur India Ltd. Corporate Head Byas Anand said that Dabur Chyawanprash has been working to strengthen the immune system of Indians for over 100 years. While

imparting guidance to the students, Dr. Pankaj Jogi gave valuable advice on diet and lifestyle. "Avoiding wrong diet during cold, cough or fever can help maintain the immune system sustain its robustness," he said. Speaking as the

chairperson of the programme, Principal Amey Watkar said, initiatives like the awareness drive being conducted by Dabur Chyawanprash will definitely be beneficial from the point of view of the health of the students.

Croma unveils Summer Sale delivers up to 71% off on ACs and Premium TVs

Nagpur 15 February: Croma, India's leading omni-channel electronics retailer from the Tata Group, has announced the Croma Summer Sale 2026, offering customers value-packed deals on cooling solutions and everyday tech essentials as temperatures begin to rise. Running until February 28, 2026 across Croma stores nationwide, the sale features special prices, category offers, and limited-period benefits on select products, along with cashback and easy EMI options on eligible items subject to partner bank or finance terms. Prices and offers may vary by brand, model, store, day, city, and availability, and customers using the HDFC Tata Neu credit card can also enjoy up to 10% discount on select products. As cooling

solutions become a seasonal essential, the Croma Summer Sale features strong offers on air conditioners, helping customers beat the summer heat with attractive value across new-season models. ■ Lloyd Inverter AC 1.25T available at a starting price of Rs 26,990, a discount of 47% on MRP of Rs 50,490 (including exchange value of up to Rs 3,000 and an additional Rs 2,000 exchange bonus). ■ LG Inverter AC 1.0T available at a starting price of Rs 30,490, a discount of 53% on MRP of Rs 64,890 (including exchange value of up to Rs 3,000 and an additional Rs 2,000 exchange bonus plus a flat Rs 1,500 bank cashback). ■ Croma Inverter Split AC 1.5T available at a starting price of Rs 29,990, a

discount of 35% on MRP of Rs 46,000 (including exchange value of up to Rs 3,000). ■ Samsung 2026 Inverter AC 1.0T at a starting price of Rs 28,990, a discount of 57% on MRP of Rs 67,990 (including exchange value of up to Rs 3,000 and an additional Rs 2,000 exchange bonus). ■ Bluestar Inverter AC 1.5T at a starting price of Rs 40,990, at a discount of 48% on MRP of Rs 78,500 (including exchange value of up to Rs 4,000 and an additional Rs 2,000 exchange bonus). ■ Voltas Inverter Split AC 1T available at a starting price of Rs 24,990, at a discount of 52% on MRP of Rs 52,390. Customers can also explore attractive offers the

air-coolers category from Symphony and Croma. With summer also bringing families together for entertainment and sports viewing, especially during the ongoing T20 World Cup season, Croma is offering special deals on large televisions, including QLED and premium big-screen models designed to elevate home viewing experiences. ■ Buy Samsung super large 100-inch Neo QLED TV at a starting price up to Rs 3,84,990, a discount of 71% on the MRP of Rs 13,36,600. (including bank cashback of 7.5% up to Rs 7,500). ■ Buy TCL 85-inch QLED at a starting price up to Rs 1,23,990 (inclusive of Rs 6,000 bank cashback), a discount of 69% on the MRP of Rs 3,95,990. ■ Buy LG 86-inch Nano TV at a starting price up to Rs

1,68,490, a discount of 54% on the MRP of Rs 3,68,790. ■ Buy Samsung 55-inch LED Frame TV at a starting price up to Rs 64,990, a discount of 40% on the MRP of Rs 1,09,600. "The months leading into summer see customers going in for cooling solutions and home upgrades to prepare for the warm days ahead. With customers increasingly looking for genuine value, convenient financing and trusted expert guidance, the Croma Summer Sale brings together standout offers on air conditioners and big-screen televisions, along with a wider set of deals across categories, to help customers upgrade confidently and make the most of the season," said a spokesperson from Infiniti Retail Ltd.

108 Couples perform Maha Arti at 300-year-old Maha Shivalinga site

Chandrapur 15 February: On the occasion of Maha Shivratri festival, Maha Aarti was performed by 108 couples at the 300-year-old Maha Shivalinga site at Lalpeth, Bhiwapur ward, which is the largest in Maharashtra, on Sunday (February 15) morning. MLA Kishor Jorgewar, National OBC Commission Chairman Hansraj Ahir, Manish Maharaj, and BJP leader Ashok Jivatode and other dignitaries were present on this occasion. On the occasion, MLA Kishor Jorgewar said, Maha Shivratri is a very sacred and religious festival in our culture. It is a



matter of immense joy to have the fortune of performing Rudrabhishek ritual at this Maha Shivalinga site, which has had a tradition of 300 years of worship. This place has immense spiritual significance and every devotee who comes here

gets a divine and satisfying experience. Amrita Fadnavis had attended the programme organised during the month of Shraavan and performed the worshiping rituals, which is a testimony to the growing religious significance of this place.

Flyover reaches residents' windows, second such incident sparks planning concerns

Nagpur 15 February: A major controversy has erupted in Nagpur after a 7.5-km flyover under construction on the Indora-Dighori route reportedly came dangerously close to residential buildings, with sections nearly touching house windows and balconies. Residents have raised serious questions about urban planning norms, safety clearances, and privacy concerns. This marks the second such case in the city. A similar issue had surfaced at Ashok Chowk, where a flyover had extended up to a balcony; authorities had removed the structure in question during that time.



68 Year old pedestrian killed in hit & run case at Khaparkheda, bike rider booked

Nagpur 15 February: A 68-year-old man lost his life in a hit-and-run incident in the Khaparkheda police station limits on the evening of February 13. The deceased, identified as Shrikrishna Balaji Dhoke, a resident of Madhavani Layout, Bhanegaon, was

returning home on foot after attending a nearby function. While crossing the road in front of his house around 6.30 pm, he was allegedly struck from behind by a speeding motorcycle (MH-31-DG-6271). Police said the rider was driving rashly and negligently and fled the

scene after the collision. The impact reportedly threw Dhoke against a parked truck, causing grievous injuries. Family members rushed him to Max Hospital, where doctors declared him dead after examination. Based on a complaint lodged by Yashasvi

Shrikrishna Dhoke (23), Khaparkheda Police have registered a case against the unidentified motorcycle rider under Sections 106(1) and 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita along with Section 184 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Further investigation is in progress.

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. Termining 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.

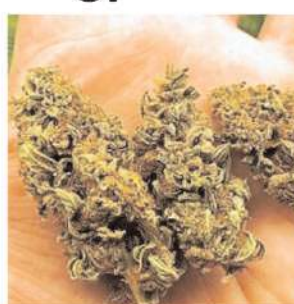
BigBasket Outlet Faces Prohibition

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.

Nagpur, 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.



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

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.

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. With 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 Talegaon



RALEGAON / NAGPUR POST:

A strong protest movement was held on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party Talegaon 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

Sapkal and protested and warned of launching more intense agitations against those who make such statements in the future. On this occasion, Dr. Krunal Bhoyar, Sudhakar Gedam, Sachin Chauhan, Sandeep Telange, Ganesh Deshmukh, Ushatai Bhoyar, Kavitaai Gedam, Anilji Verma, Ashok Verma, Dr. Ashok Thodge, Dr. Kokare, Nilay Ghinmine, Saurabh Pawar, Pradeep Bhoyar, Nitin Zade, Arun Shivankar, Prakash Khudsane, Prateek Kale, Arun Lokhande, Pravin Shelote, Arun Dehare, Chaudhary, Sanket Zade, Kinnake, Shubham Tote, Gaurav Kewte, along with all the office bearers and activists were present in large numbers.

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 Banjar 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, Rajebhau Deulkar Digras Assembly Chief, Ashish Khode City President, Nimesh Pangarkar Taluka President of Vyapaari Aghadi, Raju Dinkar Taluka General Secretary Ner, Minesh Kanthale Taluka Vice President, Anant Ugalmugle Kisan Morcha, Ajabrao Chincholkar City General Secretary Ner, Chandu Kurbekar 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 Samarth Seva Marg.