



■ Kids and family members celebrate Golden Jubilee of SPE Act at Jamshedpur

Golden Jubilee of SPE Act

January 25th is a high in the pages of history. Accordingly, the life of Sales Promotion Employees. This day in the year 1976 the legislation which gave the Sales Promotion Employees of this country the very demand to be recognised as a worker came to light. The Modi regime because of its capitalist friendly nature is trampling the rights of workers and Sales Promotion Employees are no exception. 21st November 2025 the central government has repealed the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) act 1976 and subsumed it in the newly notified OSH code. Very deceitfully in the name of subsuming the SPE act in OSH code the government has changed certain provisions of the main act in such a way which will allow the employers unfettered exploitation of the workers. The mighty struggles fought by our predecessors against exploitation and bringing to life the legislation and afterwards by our leaders and members for so many long years cannot be just snatched by showing brute majority. FMRAI gave a call to all its units to commemorate the 50 yrs of SPE act in a grand manner to recall and pay homage to our former leaders and members who braved through all odds but never compromised on their principle in face of atrocities unleashed by the capitalist forces. The vigorous struggles undertaken by our leaders and members has brought FMRAI to this position and now the sacred responsibility lies with us in upholding the flag of FMRAI

all sub units across the country campaigned and formulated to organise various programmes which involved members and their families, who are the silent fighter with us and standing shoulder to shoulder in front of the sinister design of the employers to exploit more for profit but not sharing the surplus generated with its own workers. Various programmes were designed starting from sit and draw involving various age groups, cricket tournament, football tournament, cultural programmes, play and act, recitation, cake cutting, popular lecture, picnic etc. Badminton tournament organised under KSM&SRA banner which was highly appreciated by the members. CRU held a multi-dimensional programmes across the state with popular lecture and other cultural activities. All the subunits of WBMSRU conducted sit and draw, cultural activities with family members. Cake cutting programmes were organised in UPMSRA. Picnic and popular lectures were organised in BSSRU, CGSPEU. Reports received from nooks and corners of the country were very encouraging and strengthened our belief that the deluge of anger of members for the betrayal meted out to the working class of the country will certainly get a befitting reply in days to come. FMRAI will continue to champion the causes of Sales Promotion Employees of the country till the government takes back the labour codes.

Minimum Wage revision in Kerala

The Kerala Government has recently notified regarding the upgradation of the rate of minimum wage for Sales Promotion Employees. Kerala notify minimum wage for SPEs on 23rd July 2016. After continuous persuasion for upgradation by KMSRA, on 19th December 2024, the state government issued the revision, and in March 2025, it was officially displayed on the Government website. It was stated to be implemented from 2026. The minimum wage was declared as 23,810 Rs at the entry point with a minimum rate of Rs. 300. The rate of increment changes by Rs.50 every 5 years. In addition to that, employees are also eligible for Dearness Allowance, with a Rs.60 increase at every point above 165 points in the new series.

Demonstration in Pfizer

The hideous motive of this U.S. drug major is getting exposed every day through their misdeeds. They had initiated downsizing under the guise of "redundancy" in the year 2022 where they terminated the jobs of 200 fieldworkers, of which 31 SPEs belong to bargainable category. Once again, the foreign drug major, owing to a strategic partnership with Cipla, terminated all 270 fieldworkers of "Essentia" division under the pretext of "redundancy" and

"go to market model". The move is aligned with their strategy of withdrawing from mass therapy and focusing on niche therapy areas. The illegal termination was orchestrated by the management at the time when a case of unfair labour practice is under adjudication, and subsequent violation of court orders.

Reacting with promptness, FMRAI sent a letter to the H.R. Director, demanding forthwith reinstatement of all terminated workers. All India

Council sub-committee staged countrywide demonstration in front of company's establishment between 12th and 15th January'26. West Bengal, Bihar-Jharkhand and Kerala witnessed thunderous demonstration in front of the company premises. Going ahead, we need to mobilize unorganised fieldworkers of different divisions in Pfizer and prepare them for more aggressive and intensified struggle in days to come.



■ Demonstration against Pfizer at Patna

Crucial development in Khandelwal

In accordance with the recent trend in Indian pharmaceutical industry, bigger companies are swallowing their smaller counterparts. Most of the times the merger/acquisitions do not follow the law of the land when it comes to transfer of services of Sales Promotion Employees. In line with such practices, Khandelwal Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. sold their non-oncology prescription brands to Auro Pharma

Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of M/S Aurobindo Pharma Ltd. Management, through their communication dated 1st January 2026, issued a letter to 351 fieldworkers, intimating the transfer of employment to the new entity w.e.f. 1st January 2026, indicating their cessation of employment from Khandelwal Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. Till the time management maintained tight-lipped about the fate of remaining more

than 115 fieldworkers which includes apex council leaderships and leading functionaries of union. FMRAI sent letters to both Khandelwal and Auro Pharma management, demanding smooth transfer of job without curtailment of existing benefits including working and service conditions. Within no time management of Khandelwal Lab., responding to the remaining fieldworkers, assured employment

in new venture called K Lab Nutra. Although the new offer came with a rider to dislodge existing hard earned benefits of the SPEs, but the fieldworkers accepted the terms without prejudiced to their rights and contentions as guided under the legal framework to protect the interest of the SPEs. FMRAI is exploring opportunities to reorganize the fieldworkers who have joined Auro Pharma.

EDITORIAL

New labour codes: Concerns for women workers

The labour codes have raised serious issues on vulnerabilities of the vast workforce in India, especially the women. An analysis of the codes clearly reveals that the protection the workers enjoyed under the 29 labour laws have been diluted and have conferred more power in the hands of the employers. It is a historical truth that whenever any umbrella of legal or social protection is altered or diluted in a country, the worst hit are the most vulnerable sections of the society. In India the backward sections and the women are yet to exert their full potential and realise their deserving rights as assured by the constitution 79 years ago.

The latest 'India's Best Workplaces for Women & in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) 2025' report by Great Place to Work India, a global consultancy that partners with organisations to improve workplace culture by measuring employee experience, has revealed that women account for only 26 percent of the workforce, a number that has not changed in three years. According to the government initiated Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2022-23, 75% of Indian men are part of the workforce, compared with just 37% of women. While this marks a rise from 23% in 2017-18, the gender gap remains stark.

Industry-wise disparities are striking. Women are concentrated in non-profit (47 percent) and education (41 percent), but severely underrepresented in transportation (12 percent) and biotechnology - pharmaceuticals (13 percent). IT leads with more than 33 per cent HEG (Highly Excluded Group) representation, while manufacturing, production, and construction continue to lag, underscoring the need to expand diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) efforts beyond the tech sector. Women in rural India participate more in the workforce (41%) than their urban counterparts. This is largely due to their engagement in agriculture and informal home-based labour. In contrast, urban India—home to most formal sector jobs—presents greater barriers to both entry and retention for women. This gap highlights that the problem is not merely one of employability, but of systemic inaccessibility, gendered expectations, and social constraints that erode women's economic advancement. Attrition in women remains high in post maternity situations, complicated by an inflexible 9-6 work schedule and unsupportive policies for young mothers. 22% women opines that they do not understand work life balance.

One of the most pervasive and under-recognised barriers to women's sustained participation in the economy is the burden of unpaid care work she devotes in her home and generally in her society. The 2019 Time Use in India Survey and the Economic Survey 2023-24 confirm that women often exit paid employment not due to lack of skill or opportunity, but because of the combined weight of paid and unpaid responsibilities becomes impossible to bear. Without supportive steps taken by their employers enforced by

the government (affordable childcare, flexible work arrangements, and supportive public infrastructure), this dual burden force women out of the formal workforce.

The figure sharply points to the fact that the employment areas leading to social production are still discriminatory towards the women. Not only as a percentage of employed individuals, but there are serious discriminations in terms of wages, job securities and workplace safety even in sectors that employ relatively larger number of women in India. The provisions of the new labour codes are likely to make things worse as the codes have now officially unfurled the era of legally valid temporary contract based employment under the devious title of Fixed Term Employment. Our experiences say that women remain more vulnerable to job insecurity because of the societal pressures of attending the unpaid household responsibilities. The FTE where the employee will be forced to do whatever said or asked by the employer will be desperate to obey and please to somehow renew her contract. That will blur her rights to employment in all ways, be it work-schedules, safety, security and parity in emoluments. That in the long run will surely have a telling impact on the traditional responsibilities she has to carry always which mostly include her role as a mother or a wife, eventually leading to separation from employment and making it easier for the employer to hire fresh employees from the ever-burgeoning job-seeker market of India.

We also need to study the impact of the new labour codes on women in the background of the Shram Niti of the present government. The general approach of the Sanatani Hindutwa mentality is reflected in the Shram Niti. It has hailed the deplorable caste-based division of labour practiced by the Manusmriti. Interestingly, the attitude of the Manusmriti school on women is also well known. It is based on a regressive and archaic form of repression of women in Indian society. As of now, the patriarchal Indian mentality is also well entrenched in the corporate sector- the above figures of women work force participation in formal sector is testimony to that. The formalization of the contract-based work through FTE will only weaken the pressure on the employers to present a work environment conducive for the women to participate in the organised sector. In the Sales Promotion Industry still gender biases remain high and the employers refuse to offer any concession to recognize the physical, social and familial needs of the women. The new codes have failed to offer anything for the workers except the supreme power in the hands of the corporates to hire and fire at will- the government hails this as a key to generating employment in the country. Therefore, for the sake of all, especially the vulnerable sections of the society, these codes have to be opposed and the strike of 12th February will start a new wave of resistance against this. Let this be recognized as a crucial issue before the International Working Women's Day on the 8th of March.

SPE Act provided legal status to Sales Promotion Employees



Arun Ghoshal

During the fifties of last century, when one after another Pharmaceutical companies started establishing production units and head offices in Mumbai - Thane region, factory and office workers quickly got unionised and started settling their charter of demands and resolving grievances through their respective union. But another wing viz. Medical Representatives because of their distant placements remained unorganised. Few unions in Glaxo, May & Baker and others took initiative to unionise this section and demand to their employers for settling the grievances of medical representatives. But management of these companies refused to accept medical representatives to be represented through the union. Plea of the management was that this section of employees are not 'workmen' under section 2(s) of I.D. Act, 1947. Moreover, another hindrance towards the attempts of unions was a supreme court judgement in 1961 declaring one of the terminated medical representative of May & Baker as not workman. Simultaneously, Glaxo Employees' Union attempted to settle a charter for all workers including Medical Representatives refusing to settle for them separately. The issue was referred to a tribunal, known as Meher tribunal which gave favourable verdict for the Representatives. But because of their unorganised position it became easier for management to deny trade union rights to them by floating field staff association. In view of this, Maharashtra Pharmaceutical Employees' Federation felt the necessity of uniting Medical Representatives of

various companies forming an all India organisation for them. Side by side, state level unions of field workers in those days were also finding it difficult to pursue victimisations in the labour departments, tribunals, Courts etc. facing same plea of absence of categorical declaration of Medical Representatives as 'workman' under I.D. Act, 1947.

Thereafter, with joint efforts of both state level unions and Maharashtra Pharmaceutical Employees' Federation FMRAI was formed in 1963, with a prime demand of getting categorical declaration of medical representative as 'workman' under section 2(s) of I. D. Act 1947. Based on this conclusion, FMRAI started pursuing the issue with the central government.

In November 1971, field workers from all over the country staged demonstration before the Parliament demanding 'workman' status. Again in November, 1973, field workers staged weeklong dharna in front of Labour Minister's residence in Newdelhi. AICAPEF also observed 9 September as demands day in pursuance of their Common charter of demands including 'workman' status of field workers.

Being pressurised by the agitation, Rajya Sabha committee petitions took up the issue for serious consideration. The committee moved to different parts of the country collecting data and evidence. On the basis of widely collected reports, the said committee came to the conclusion that it will not be sufficient just to amend I.D. Act to include this section and felt the necessity to enact a specific law for Sales Promotion Employees giving coverage of all labour laws. On the basis of above Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Services) Act was enacted in March, 1976.

SPE Act, 1976 is a unique law because it is a category wise law only for Sales Promotion Employees, second in the

country after Working Journalists Act, 1954. It is a rare achievement, because of FMRAI's movement. Through SPE Act, Sales Promotion Employees got coverage of six other labour Laws viz. 1) Workman's Compensation Act, 1923; 2) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; 3) Minimum wages Act, 1948; 4) Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, 5) Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; 6) Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

SPE Act and the rules have provision of issuing appointment letters in prescribed format, maintenance of service book and register also in prescribed format, specific number of holidays and quantified leaves including Casual Leave, Earned Leave, Sick Leave, Quarantine Leave and Study Leave. But there was snag at the time of enactment of law. The Act had a wage ceiling of Rs 750/- per month. Thus making the law virtually not applicable to all MRs. Moreover the Act was applicable for Pharmaceutical industry only at that time.

Again FMRAI had to go for agitation including strike on April, 1984, and March 1985. There was a first national Tripartite Committee meeting with the Government in May, 1981. All these resulted in the removal of the wage ceiling from May, 1987.

After this, through persuasion of FMRAI, Central Government through its notification SPE Act was extended to 10 other industries other than pharmaceuticals. However, demand for framing statutory working rules under SPE Act to curb private manuals and working rules of individual employers were vigorously pursued by FMRAI.

But the present Government at the centre introduced 4 Labour Codes replacing all existing labour laws including SPE Act. Against which workers of the country are agitating and going for a nationwide strike on 12 February, 2026. Hence, Sales promotion employees should remain in the forefront of this struggle

Condolence

SANKET SAPATE



A member of MSMRA Dhargaoon Bhandara and working in Emcure passed away due to road

accident on 20th January 2026. He left behind his parents. FMRAI sent heartfelt condolences to bereaved family.

JEET GHOSH

He was a member of WBMSRU (North 24

Parganas) unit and a Sales Promotion Employee of Emcure and died suffering from liver cirrhosis at age 38.



Developments in RPG Life Sciences

The management of RPG Life sciences have been trying relentlessly for quite some time to convince their fieldworkers to accept the call to call reporting system through mobile application. This notorious management didn't bother to discuss even once with the All India Council leadership before implementation of the same. In spite of being opposed by the large section of Sales Promotion Employees working in the company the management unilaterally imposed the newer mobile app based reporting system violating the law of the land and even stopped the existing web portal reporting system from 1st December, 2025. Imposition of such device based call to call reporting system also leads to interference in personal life and intrusion to privacy of every individual as it encroaches the fundamental rights as enshrined in Article 19 & 21 of the Indian Constitution. The fieldworkers working in RPG Life Sciences started sending their work reports through email defying the dictum of the management. The management couldn't accept this failure on their part and out of revenge they withheld the expenses and salaries in the month of December 2025. FMRAI immediately opposed such heinous attack of the RPG management and appropriately retaliated by organising "Insaaf Sabhas" in front of the field managers during joint fieldwork. The management felt the heat of the program initiated by the union which ultimately forced them to clarify certain points to their own fieldworkers related to the app based

reporting system. Furthermore, on receiving some assurances in regard to the safety and security of the newer reporting system implemented by the management the "Insaaf Sabha" program was kept in abeyance and the Sales Promotion Employees working in RPG Life Sciences started reporting in the mobile reporting app.

The strong demonstrations initiated by the UPMSRA in solidarity towards the victimisation issue of the All India Convener Neeraj Srivastava shall continue. The management has adopted unfair means to issue charge sheet and subsequently conducting purported enquiry simply for his trade union activities on the basis of a third party complaint. This management has also continuously forced field workers into unfair trade practices through threats of conducting PIP/PEP wherever low sales being reported. Harassment and humiliation of fieldworkers have become rampant in PIP/PEP meetings being conducted in case of poor sales achievement. Newer attacks are being unleashed on the fieldworkers by the RPG management and the leadership section is being targeted with one point of agenda to further weaken the strength of the union and inner council. Fieldworkers of RPG need to be contacted individually within a specific time frame and convince them to be involved in day to day programs at sub unit level and thereafter prepare them for larger struggles in the days to come. FMRAI, as a union keeping a close watch on the developments taking place in this company.

CRU (NER) state women convention

CRU organized State Women Convention on 4th January, 2026 at Silchar where more than thirty women field workers participated. A note was placed by Rahul Purkayastha. Importance of women subcommittee functioning was highlighted through his deliberation. Convention was addressed by Dr Monika Deb who appreciated CRU's

efforts to organise the convention and took note on the difficulties faced by the women field workers during their work. During his deliberation Kaushik Roy Chowdhury highlighted that although number of women members are increasing but there is a gap in adequate leadership. The convention was concluded with future tasks to strengthen women subcommittee. intensity

Defy & Resist the Four Testaments of Enslavement: Call of 18th CITU Conference

The 18th Conference of CITU was held at Visakhapatnam, from 31st December 2025 to 4th January 2026. Conference venue, the Auditorium of Andhra University was named after Anathalavattom Anandan, veteran trade union leader from Kerala. The stage was named after Basudeb Acharya and M M Lawrence. On 31st December, 2025, the Conference commenced with flag hoisting by Dr. K. Hemalata, President-CITU and followed by floral tributes to the Martyrs' column by the delegates. Three Martyrs' Torches-Amar Jyotis taken out by the workers from Alluri, Srikakulam and Nellore districts, symbolizing the saga of class struggle and sacrifice. 18th Conference was attended by 1307 elected delegates from 25 States/UTs and Centre out of which women delegation were 24%. 27 delegates in this conference had attended who were present or former members of FMRAI representing different state units and centre. Interestingly oldest and youngest delegates in the conference were J.S Majumder and Vijay Sharma respectively, both associated with FMRAI. WFTU General Secretary Pambis Kyritsis addressed the



■ General Secretary FMRAI addressing CITU Conference

conference expressing international class solidarity, supported the 12th February General Strike. After Presidential address by Dr. K. Hemalata followed by Condolence report placed by M Saibabu, General Secretary Tapan Sen placed the Report in two parts i) "Political and Movemental" and ii) "Organisation"; where 59 and 57 delegates had participated on discussions respectively. 28 delegates had participated in discussion on another subject- Document on Alternatives. 12 delegates associated with FMRAI had participated in discussions on General Secretary's report in two parts. Two very important Resolutions were placed on the very session out of 11 in total. I) Repeal of the four labour codes and support for the 12th February 2026 General Strike II) Opposition to privatisation of

RINL (Vijag steel) and defence of PSUs. Other resolutions were i) against communalism ii) work place safety iii) pension iv) working women v) MGNREGA vi) electricity privatisation vii) labour laws, viii) VB-GRAMG Act 2025 ix) defence of LDF government in Kerala and x) opposition to Shanti Act. The conference elected 39 Office-Bearers with Sudip Dutta as President, Elamaram Kareem as General Secretary and M Saibabu as Treasurer, along with 3 Permanent Invitees. 125-member strong Working Committee and 425 members General Council were unanimously elected in the Conference. The Conference gave a clarion call "Converting the Crisis to Heightened Consciousness for Social Change" and culminated with a mammoth rally where thousands of workers had joined mostly women.

Developments in Wallace

The management of Wallace is well known in the pharmaceutical industry for their anti-worker policies for quite some time from which they are unable to wash their hands. In that tradition, the management attempted to once again unilaterally introduce GPS based reporting system violating the law of the land from 1st December, 2025. The management facing opposition from vast section of Wallace fieldworkers across the country unleashed fresh attack by stopping payment of wages of more than hundreds of fieldworkers. Under such circumstances there was no option left behind for the union but to launch fresh agitational programs including

non-cooperation with the field executives during joint fieldwork against this unjust act of the management. Day long "Insaaf Sabhas" were organised in front of the company executives in various sub units to protest the withholding of salaries to the fieldworkers. Furthermore, this notorious management deliberately curtailed the number of calendar holidays from ten to nine for the calendar year 2026 as in earlier year in violation of the existing leave rules. FMRAI categorically demanded for immediate resolution of both the issues. The management have been discussing with the All India Council Committee in recent times on some long pending issues like terminations, transfers

as well as pending Charter Of Demands but, however backtracked from the spirit of bilateral discussion by precipitating newer issues. Facing the increasing momentum of agitation and obstructions in the field the management contacted the All India Council leadership assuring some positive response from their end. The union also reciprocated accordingly by keeping the program in abeyance for some time in anticipation of similar reciprocation from the management. But, the management failed to keep their assurance. The union had to intensify the agitational programs considering the present anti-worker stand adopted by the Wallace management.

Special GB meetings with leaderships

In the presence of FMRAI General Secretary Partha Rakshit, and former General Secretary J.S. Majumder a special GB meeting was held at Sundariya Bhaban in Visakhapatnam by APMSRU, on 4th January. The meeting was presided by state President C. H. Kumar, Treasurer Dumpala Prasad and Joint General Secretary U. S. Rabikumar was also present in the meeting. Members from Vizag, Vizianagaram, Rajamundry, Kakinada, Eluru, and Ongole attended. Importance of SPE Act and what rights are being snatched through the new Labour Codes was explained by FMRAI GS, along with the direction of the 12th February All India strike. J.S Majumder elaborated



the historical struggle for getting the act. The General Secretary and Treasurer of GSMRA went to Navsari and Valsad to connect with members on 11th January where 97 attended. In Bhavnagar, 65 members were addressed by Treasurer Satyapal Vaghela. In both meetings, members discussed the current industrial situation and its impact on field workers. The role of the united struggle of FMRAI to protest against it was expressed by the leaders. FMRAI Secretariat and All India Council Subcommittee Convener, Shailendra Sharma, addressed the GB meeting of Mapusa subunit of GOA Medical Representatives' Association on 19th January. The meeting was attended by 45 members and was presided over by President Kamlesh. General Secretary, GOAMRA and Treasurer also attended the meeting. Members raised some serious work-related issues, which were addressed by the leaders. Importance of council consolidation, organization practice at work place, bringing more and more field workers under the purview of the organization to protect the workers' rights were discussed during the meeting.



General Council Meeting of CRU(NER)

The 24th General Council Meeting (GCM) of CRU(NER) was held in Silchar, Assam; from 4th to 6th January, 2026. The inaugural Session was held on 4th January, 2026, after flag hoisting and laying floral tributes to the martyr's column. Welcome speech was delivered by Dr Monika Deb, Secretary of IMA, Silchar and Chairperson of the Reception Committee. Kaushik Roy Chowdhury, Treasurer, FMRAI inaugurated the General Council Meeting. After conclusion of the first day proceedings, a seminar on medicine related demands was organised. Eminent doctors participated in the convention and endorsed the justifiability of the demands of CRU. A special note on Commission paper "Strengthening the Sub-unit" was placed by Debojit Borthakur, Secretary, CRU. Aniruddha Sinha Roy, Working Committee Member of FMRAI placed the organizational perspective and objective of the commission paper. On 5th January, 2026, 35 delegates participated in the plenary session, out of which 6 were women. Commission discussions were held in four groups and one member from each group placed their suggestions. Resolution on programmatic

approach for successful implementation of 12th February, all India Strike was also placed and adopted. A cultural programme was organized on 5th January, 2026, by members of Silchar district and their family members reflecting the cultural and ethnic diversity of northeast. On the final day, report of the General Secretary and Treasurer were adopted unanimously. Kaushik Roy Chowdhury in his deliberation, called for mass mobilization and increased awareness among the members against digitalization and GPRS system. He called upon Guwahati district for fulfilling the objective of 1000 membership in Guwahati. The GCM was attended by 164 delegates, out of which 24 were women and 6 were from Other Industries. A colourful rally was also organised on 6th January, 2026 after the conclusion of the GCM which culminated in open session and mass meeting. The mass meeting was addressed by General Secretary, CRU, Supriyo Bhattacharjee, CITU, Assam State Committee Member and District President of Silchar. District leaderships of ASHA, Anganwadi also deliberated on the occasion.

Block council meeting

Bihar State Sales Representatives' Union (BSSRU) organised block council meetings in Patna on 11th and 18th January 2026. 438 members attended the meeting from 19 councils. From All India Council Core Committee Ranadeep Chowdhury, AIC from DRL, Jt. AIC from Albert David addressed the meetings. FMRAI Secretary K. D. Pratap presided over the meeting. FMRAI Vice President Manoj Chowdhury explained the demands of All India strike on 12th February 2026. State

council subcommittee convenor B. Manish briefed the agenda of the meeting. Ranadeep Chowdhury focused on the mobilisation of council members in implementation of state council subcommittee programmes, strengthening individual council movements and the roles-responsibilities of council leaders. General Secretary of BSSRU, Sashi Prakash concluded the joint session. After the conclusion of which each council separately sat among themselves to discuss their issues.

Building inauguration in KSM&SRA

With the vision of strengthening the organisation in KSM&SRA, a new sub unit office building was inaugurated at Davangere on 11th January 2026 by FMRAI General Secretary Partha Rakshit. During inauguration, he mentioned the importance of unit office, for build up and strengthening the third tire of the organisation, he also explained the demands of 12th February all India strike.

On this occasion, KSM&SRA President Anandaraju hoisted the flag of FMRAI. FMRAI Vice President B. Chandrakumar, General Secretary of KSM&SRA Gururaj Desai, Treasurer Sathyapurna, Secretary Venkatesh, State Office Bearers, State Working Committee members, Unit President Afroz Ahmed, Secretary Sridhar T, Praveen A.P were presented in the inaugural ceremony. 250 members and retired dignitaries of FMRAI attended the inauguration ceremony.



42nd Conference of MPMSRU



The 42nd State Conference of the Madhya Pradesh Medical & Sales Representatives' Union (MPMSRU) was successfully held on 10th and 11th January 2026 at Ashwini Sharma Nagar, Betul. The conference started with the hoisting of the union's flag by S. S. Tomar followed by floral tributes to the martyr's column.

The conference was inaugurated by Pramod Pradhan, National Secretary, CITU, who called upon delegates to build broader unity to defeat the corporate-communal nexus and intensify the struggle for the rollback of the four anti-worker labour codes. Leaders from CITU, FMRAI, and fraternal trade unions extended solidarity

and assured continued support to MPMSRU. Anurag Saxena and Veeresh Pandey placed the General Secretary and Treasurer's report respectively.

Detailed discussions were held on the General Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, with delegates from across the state actively participating and enriching the deliberations. A special session on the four labour codes and the attacks by the employers on the fieldworkers was taken up by Kaushik Roy Chowdhury, treasurer, FMRAI, which exposed their devastating impact on sales promotion employees and reaffirmed the urgency of collective resistance. The conference unanimously adopted key resolutions

opposing the labour codes and to make the All India general strike on 12th February a grand success. Future plans for formation of three tier organization across the state in 13 companies, strengthening organisational structures, and resisting attacks on SPEs was elaborately discussed. Shailendra Sharma, secretary, FMRAI, addressed in the conference. In his deliberation he elaborately discussed on the organisational aspects and the movements of FMRAI. After reply on the queries of the delegates, the report of general secretary and treasurer was unanimously adopted. The conference elected a new state committee including 14-member secretariat and S S Tomar, Anurag Saxena and Veeresh Pandey as President, General Secretary and Treasurer. 127 delegates and observers from 19 units attended this conference. The conference was concluded with a call to strengthen class struggle and carry forward the movement of MPMSRU.

Conventions demand to make medicines affordable

Medicine is an essential item, not a consumer luxury. FMRAI maintains that the medicine market requires government regulation to ensure affordable prices without compromising quality. Recent partial GST relief is welcome but insufficient; FMRAI continues to demand zero GST on medicines and broader policy measures to prevent price escalation and protect public health. To spread this demand amongst public and people within the ambit of health system, a convention was organised at CRU on 4th January where FMRAI's demand was elaborated by FMRAI Treasurer Kaushik Roy Chowdhury. Eminent doctors were also present who supported our demand. Similar convention was organised under the banner of TMSRU at Hyderabad on 8th January. The convention was attended



by huge number of members, the meeting adopted the resolution against the unabated price rise of medicines and the systematic effort by the government to weaken the PSUs, state president of IMA was also invited who supported our just demands. The last major convention of this month was held at KOTA

Rajasthan by RMSRU where former general secretary Jnan Shankar Majumder was the main speaker. J S Majumder highlighted that present regime has gone back from the earlier cost-based pricing system to market based pricing system which is fuelling the price rise of medicines. On top of that government

is earning huge taxes as ad valorem by such substantial increase in prices making medicines out of reach for the poor. The meeting resolved that FMRAI will continue with its demand of quality medicines at affordable prices. More such conventions are lined up in different places of the country in coming days.