

Mayor Sushil Ambekar visited the BMC's SK Patil Garden to monitor the restoration works there.

City

THE ASIAN AGE

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MUMBAI MARATHON

# City to turn into fortress

■ 5K policemen to guard route; special teams of SRPF, QRT, BDDS to be present

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, JAN. 16

The city will see heavy police security on Sunday for the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon with 5,000 policemen guarding the entire route and the venue. Special teams have also been formed to tackle contingencies, keeping in mind the possibility of terror attacks. Besides, plainclothes policemen will be conducting clandestine checks at sensitive locations.

According to Mumbai police spokesperson DCP Dhananjay Kulkarni, the event and the route will fall into the jurisdiction of five zones, namely zone 1, zone 2, zone 3 and zone 5 which comprises areas from south Mumbai to areas bordering western suburbs such as Mahim, Sion and Dharavi. "Thus there would be five zonal DCPs commanding 3,000 policemen and officers from the police stations in these areas. We will have 2,050 policemen from the local armed branch assist with the security," he said. The total of 5,020 men will be made up of 841 officers from the rank of PSI to senior PI. At least 10 platoons from the State



Marathon runners practise at Marine Drive. The grand event will be held on January 18  
—DEBASISH DEY

Reserve Police Force (SRPF), two Quick Reaction Teams (QRT) and a team from the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) will also be pressed into service.

While the QRT will respond in case of a terror-like situation, the BDDS will undertake heavy checking of the entire venue with sniffer dogs and bomb scanners. "We will also have watch towers to keep a bird's eye view of the event and detect suspicious movements," added Mr.

Kulkarni.

The police has, however, decided against the use of the Netra Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for surveillance purposes over legal implications of its usage after the Central government banned them from being flown for security reasons. The Netra was used during MNS chief Raj Thackeray's massive rally at Azad Maidan in 2013 where the police was impressed by its utility in helping in crowd management and law and order problems.

## 32 EPILEPSY PATIENTS TO RUN MARATHON

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, JAN. 16

In keeping with the spirit of the Mumbai marathon, about 32 epilepsy patients will participate in Sunday's grand event. The epilepsy patients falling in between the age group of 10 and 40 will be part of the event.

The NGO Epilepsy Foundation has been training the participants since a month.

"We have hired special trainers for the marathon and the participants have indeed put in 100 per cent of their effort. We hope they will put up a great show," said Dr Nirmal Surya, director of the foundation.

The participants are also excited for the event, according to doctors from the organisation. Over 10 participants are below 15 while 18 others are adults. A total of eight doctors will also be present at the marathon.

The eight doctors will be stationed around the length of the marathon. Ambulances have also

been arranged on the spot for the participants.

An awareness campaign will also be organised near Marine Lines with a stall and more than 100 patients will be present to cheer the runners

"Epilepsy Foundation India, established in 2009, is a non-profitable charitable organisation working for the cause of people suffering from epilepsy," said Dr Surya said.

"Epilepsy Foundation is dedicated solely to the welfare of millions of people with epilepsy in India. By participating in the marathon, we are both creating awareness about the organisation and boosting the confidence of the epilepsy patients about the possibilities lying ahead," he further said.

The organisation works to ensure that people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences and to improve perception of how people with epilepsy are viewed, accepted and valued in society and to promote research for a cure.

### COPS TO PARTICIPATE

Eleven teams of policemen, with four men in each team will also participate in one of the events — a relay race with corporate staffers. Policemen had also participated in the same event last year. A total of 82 policemen and 31 officers will participate in the relay race.