

# Upper Narmada project set to begin construction

- Decision taken in the meet- ing of the Narmada Valley Development Authority
- Ensure maximum utilization of Maa Narmada's water: CM

**Bhopal:** Construction work is set to commence soon on the ISP Reser- voir and within the command area of the Upper Narmada Project, under the Morand Ganjal Dam and Pressurized Irrigation Project. This significant decision was made dur- ing the 267th meeting of the Nar- mada Valley Development Author- ity (NVDA), chaired by Chief Minis- ter Dr. Mohan Yadav, at Samatva Bhavan in the Chief Minister's resi- dence on Wednesday.

## Harnessing mother Narmada's lifeline for prosperity

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav emphasized the Narmada River's vital role as the "lifeline of the state." He highligh- ted how activities undertaken by the NVDA have substantially expanded irrigated land and increased power generation, directly improving the quality of life for the people of Madhya Pradesh.

The Chief Minister urged for greater promotion of solar energy



utilization within the irrigation sys- tems developed under the project. He noted that increased use of solar power for water lifting would re- duce electricity expenses, and en- couraged farmers to adopt solar energy for irrigation. Dr. Yadav stressed the importance of ensur- ing the maximum possible utiliza- tion of Mother Narmada's waters for the benefit of the state.

## Key decisions and project discussions

During the meeting, several cru-

cial decisions were made regard- ing the revised administrative ap- provals for various micro-lift irriga- tion projects, including:

- Shaheed Eilap Singh Micro Lift Irrigation Project (Harda dis- trict)
- Sendhwa Micro Lift Irrigation Project (Barwani district)
- Niwali Lift Irrigation Project (Barwani district)
- Dhar Lift Micro Irrigation Project
- Ma Rewa Lift Irrigation Project (Dewas district)

Discussions also encompassed technical aspects of the ongoing Slimnabad Tunnel construction. Furthermore, proposals for time extensions were considered for the Dobi Irrigation Project, Bhikan- gaon Binjalwada Micro Irrigation Project, I.S.P.-Parwati Link Project, and Khalwa Lift Micro Irrigation Project (Khandwa district).

The administrative approvals for other significant projects were de- liberated, including:

- ★ Vijayraghavgarh Lift Micro Irrigation Project
- ★ Gunour Micro Irrigation Project
- ★ Jhirnya Extension Micro Lift Irrigation Project
- ★ Badeodeo Chargawan Micro Lift Irrigation Project
- ★ Kheri Bujurg Lift Micro Irrigation Project (Dhar district)

## Preserving heritage: Ghat construction along narmada

In a move to enhance the spiri- tual, social, and tourism aspects of the Narmada River, directives were issued to formulate an action plan for the construction of ghats at var- ious religious, social, and tourist sites along its banks. This initiative aims to further enrich the cultural and recreational experience associ- ated with the sacred river.



# Accused denies knowing Sonam Raghuvanshi

**Gwalior:** "I don't know Sonam Raghuvanshi; I've never even seen her," stated Lokendra Tomar dur- ing his court appearance. Tomar, who was apprehended in Gwalior and placed on a three-day transit remand, maintained his inno- cence. This comes despite claims from Meghalaya Police that Sonam Raghuvanshi and Raj Kushwah had been staying in Tomar's build- ing in Indore.

According to Meghalaya Police, Tomar allegedly feared his prop- erty would be seized after the duo's involvement in a case came to light. This, they claim, prompted him to open the flat and attempt to destroy evidence before fleeing In- dore. He was subsequently arrest-

ed in Gwalior and has now been handed over to Shillong Police on a three-day transit remand.

Speaking to the media, Lok- endra Tomar reiterated his stance: "I wasn't aware that Sonam was staying in my flat in Indore." He further explained, "I had rented it out to someone else.

I have never seen Sonam, and all the accusations against me are false," Tomar also asserted that he provided no assistance to Sonam or Raj Kushwah and has no in- volvement in the matter. "I only learned through the media that Sonam was staying in my flat," he stated, adding that he plans to hold a press conference soon re- garding the issue.

# 12,000 Crore Amrut Projects underway to transform Madhya Pradesh Cities

## Information shared by Commissioner of Urban Development

**Bhopal:** Urban areas across Mad- hya Pradesh are set to witness sig- nificant development with ongoing projects worth Rs 12,000 crore under the Amrut Yojana. This key up- date was shared by Sanket Bhondwe, Commissioner of Urban Administration and Development, during a crucial meeting with chair- persons of various urban local bod- ies at Bhopal's Palika Bhavan.

Commissioner Bhondwe en- gaged in comprehensive discus- sions with the elected representa- tives on a range of urban develop- ment issues. Pratap Karosiya, Chairman of the Safai Kamgar Ayog (Sanitation Workers Commission), was also present.

## Greening cities and boosting revenue

Bhondwe underscored the criti- cal need to expand green spaces within urban areas to maintain environmental balance, emphasizing the importance of regular park maintenance. He urged urban bod- ies to prioritize consistent tax col- lection, advocating for the maxi- mum use of information technolo-



gy to streamline the process and enhance efficiency.

## New appointments and digital transparency for urban bodies

In a move to ensure better man- agement and accountability, the Commissioner announced the im- plementation of a Face Recognition Attendance System (FRAS) for ur- ban body officials and employees, stressing the importance of com- plete transparency in its applica- tion. He also highlighted the state government's recent promotion or- ders, which will facilitate promo-

tions and new appointments for es- sential positions like "Safai Mitras" (sanitation workers) and gardeners within the urban local bodies.

Furthermore, Bhondwe encour- aged urban representatives to pro- mote the use of e-vehicles in their respective areas, aligning with broader environmental sustainabil- ity goals.

## Incentives for top-performing urban bodies

To foster excellence in financial management, Bhondwe shared de- tails of the department's Tax Collec- tion Incentive Award Scheme. Under this scheme, Rs 100 crore in in- centive funds will be distributed among urban bodies that demon- strate outstanding performance in tax collection.

During the meeting, representa- tives also proposed that residents who have lived on urban land for many years should be extended the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, aiming to provide housing assistance to long-term ur- ban dwellers.

# Heavy rains expected in Balaghat, Alirajpur as monsoon intensifies

**Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh contin- ues to experience a robust mon- soon, with the Meteorological De- partment issuing an Orange Alert for Balaghat, Alirajpur, Jhabua, Seoni, and Mandla districts for Thursday, anticipating very heavy rainfall.

## Widespread showers across the state

Beyond these five districts, oth- er areas including Panna, Maihar, Indore, Dewas, Mauganj, Satna, Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Bhopal, and Vidisha are also likely to see significant rainfall. Gusty winds, with speeds ranging from 30 to 40 kmph, are expected to accompany the downpours across the state, prompting a general rain alert for all regions.

## Active weather systems fueling monsoon surge

According to meteorologists, several active weather systems are contributing to the intensified monsoon activity:

- An upper-air cyclonic circula- tion is present over central parts



of southern Uttar Pradesh, ex- tending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level.

- A trough stretches from this cy- clonic circulation to the north- west Bay of Bengal, passing through northeast Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and north- ern Odisha at an altitude of 1.5 km above mean sea level.

- Another active upper-air cy-

clonic circulation is located off the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha coasts, over the west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal, between 5.8 km and 7.6 km above mean sea level.

These combined systems are driving the current spell of wide- spread and intense monsoon rains across Madhya Pradesh.

# Officers and employees worked wearing caps

## Ministry officials protest new promotion rules with slogans

**Bhopal:** A visible wave of discontent swept through the Madhya Pradesh Secretariat today, as unreserved category officers and employees donned protest caps emblazoned with slogans while performing their duties. This marks a burgeoning opposition to the state governments newly enacted promotion rules, which, after a nine-year hiatus, aim to pave the way for govern- ment employee promotions.

## Reservation in promotions fuels unrest

The core of the protest stems from the retention of reservation in promo- tions within the new rules. The updat- ed policy maintains a 20% reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 16% for Scheduled Castes (SC). This provision has ignited strong opposition from government employees belonging to the unreserved category, who argue that it infringes upon their promotion- al prospects.

Protesting officials wore caps ex- plicitly stating their objection to the



state's recent decision. In response to this new policy, unreserved category employees and officers are scheduled to convene again on Thursday to strategize further protests and actions. Adding momentum to the move-

ment, SAPAKS, a prominent organiza- tion advocating for general category employees, has also entered the fray. SAPAKS has called a meeting for June 29, inviting all employee organizations to collectively plan their future course

of action.

## Unreserved employees claim disadvantage

Engineer Sudhir Nayak, President of the Secretariat Officers-Employees Association, articulated the concerns of the unreserved category. He ex- plained that while the new and old promotion rules stipulate that 36% of vacant promotion posts will be filled by reserved category government em- ployees, the remaining 64% of posts will also be open to reserved category employees based on seniority. Nayak asserts that this effectively usurps the rights of unreserved category govern- ment employees, leading to significant professional setbacks and a loss of their rightful promotions.

He further highlighted the current scenario within the Secretariat: all three Additional Secretary positions in the Secretariat cadre are held by re- served category officers. Similarly, all 14 Deputy Secretary positions and 58 out of 65 Under Secretary positions are also occupied by reserved category of- ficers, underscoring the perceived im- balance that the new rules are expect- ed to exacerbate.

# Abhishek Bachchan, Daivik Bhagela illuminate Bhopal for ZEE5's Kaalidhar Laapata



Photo by Ashraf Ali

**Bhopal:** Bhopal, the City of Lakes, was abuzz with excitement as ac- claimed actor Abhishek Bachchan, director Madhumita, and local ris- ing star Daivik Bhagela returned to promote their highly anticipated ZEE5 original film, Kaalidhar Laap- ata, set to premiere on July 4.

The homecoming held special significance for Bhopal's own Daivik Bhagela, making his film de- but opposite Bachchan. Having honed his craft on the city's theatre stages, his return for promotions

was deeply emotional.

In a heartfelt tribute to the city, the trio gathered at the iconic Up- per Lake for a stunning sunset pho- to-op. As twilight descended, they released floating diya that formed the film's title, a symbolic act re- flecting the movie's theme of unful- filled wishes and enduring hope. Dr. Ilayaraja T (IAS), Secretary to the Chief Minister and Managing Director of MP Tourism, was also present.

Produced by Zee Studios and Emmay Entertainment, Kaalidhar Laapata tells the story of a middle- aged man grappling with memory loss and abandonment. When he overhears a cruel plot to abandon him, he decides to disappear on his own terms. Fate intervenes in the form of Ballu (Daivik Bhagela), a street-smart 8-year-old. This un- likely duo embarks on a journey to fulfill Kaalidhar's forgotten dreams, forging a bond that transcends age and logic. The film is a poignant celebration of second chances and finding joy in unexpected places.

# Tunnel collapse in Mhow kills two laborers

## Rain suspected cause

**Indore:** In a tragic and alarming incident, a section of an under-construction tunnel on the Indore-Ichhapur National Highway near Mhow collapsed on Wednesday morning, claiming the lives of two laborers. Heavy rainfall is being cited as the probable cause.

The catastrophic event occurred around 4 AM in Tunnel Number 3, located in the Choral area, where workers had been toiling through the night. Suddenly, an approxi- mately 18-meter-high and 16-meter-wide portion of the tunnel's roof gave way, bury- ing two men.

Vikas Rai (29) from Jharkhand was pro- nounced dead at the scene. Lalji Kaul (26) from Sin- grauli, who sustained critical injuries, was rushed to Jeevan Jyoti Hospital in Tejaji Nagar, Indore, and sub- sequently referred to MY Hospital, where he tragically succumbed during treatment.

Following the collapse, all work on the tunnel was immediately halted, and a rescue operation using two



er labourers were safely evacuated.

This devastating accident has raised serious ques- tions about the quality of construction and the over- sight mechanisms in place. The administration has re- quested a detailed report on the tunnel construction work and is investigating whether all safety standards were adhered to.

Poclain machines and dumpers is un- derway to clear the debris. Authorities, including Mhow SDM Rakesh Par- mar, Simrol Police Station In-charge Amit Kumar, and NHAI officials, promptly arrived at the site. SDM Par- mar indicated that heavy rainfall likely weakened the tun- nel's soil, leading to the collapse. All oth-

# CM Yadav Inaugurates 'Sneh Dham'

## A haven for seniors, underscoring cultural values

**Indore:** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav today inau- gurated "Sneh Dham," a state-of-the-art facility for senior citizens built by the Indore Development Authority (IDA) at a cost of Rs 18 crore. Speaking at the inauguration, the Chief Minister emphasized that the six-story building, lo- cated in Scheme 134, will provide not just social se- curity but also secure housing for the elderly, reflecting a deep respect and responsibility towards senior citizens.

"Our culture embraces the service, respect, and se- curity of our elders," stated CM Yadav, highlighting that "Sneh Dham" offers comprehensive amenities in- cluding dining, medical care, recreation, self-study,



public welfare. In addition to the "Sneh Dham" inau- gurated, Dr. Yadav also laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over Rs 565 crore under various IDA schemes. These include the inauguration of projects valued at Rs 90 crore and the groundbreaking for new works exceeding Rs 476 crore.

meditation, and counseling— all within one secure complex. He noted that as social struc- tures evolve, with many elderly couples living alone or their children residing abroad or in distant cities for work, initia- tives like "Sneh Dham" are vital for providing safe, dignified, and well-equipped housing.

The Chief Minister lauded Indore for its continued leader- ship not only in cleanliness but also in social innovation and