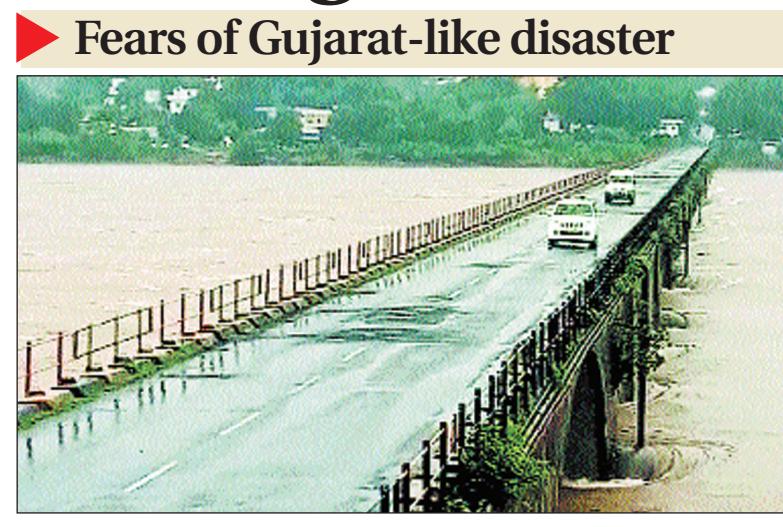


Concerns mount over dilapidated Mortakka Bridge in Indore

Indore: Fears of a bridge collapse akin to the recent tragedy in Gujarat are growing in Madhya Pradesh, as the 75-year-old Mortakka Bridge over the Narmada River, located just 60 kilometers from Indore, is in a state of severe disrepair. Despite its dilapidated condition and a stated capacity of only 20 tons, vehicles weighing up to 80 tons are reportedly using the bridge daily.

The Mortakka Bridge is a vital link, heavily used by commercial vehicles traveling to and from Maharashtra. Five years ago, in 2020, the bridge experienced significant cracks and a section subsided, leading to its closure for over a month. The bridge was repaired by a team from Indore's GSITS College, and while a government report on its condition was commissioned, its findings have never



been made public.

The recent collapse of the Mahisagar Bridge in Vadodara, Gu-

Fears of Gujarat-like disaster



jarat, which killed 14 and injured over 30, has heightened concerns. The Mortakka Bridge, a two-lane

structure in Khandwa district's Barwah tehsil, carries an estimated 5,000 vehicles daily. Millions of people from five districts – Burhanpur, Khandwa, Barwani, Khargone, and Indore – depend on this bridge. Additionally, it serves as a crucial access point for thousands of devotees and tourists visiting the famous Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga, located just 13 kilometers away. Meanwhile, construction is underway on a new 6-lane bridge over the Narmada as part of the Indore-Ichhapur four-lane road project. This new 1275-meter long bridge, more than double the height of the current structure, is expected to be completed by December, according to Prateek Yadav, Regional Director of NHAI. Until then, the safety of the aging Mortakka Bridge remains a pressing concern.

Sonam under 24x7 watch in Shillong Jail

- Family demands Narco test
- Raja Raghuvanshi Murder Case

Indore/Shillong: In the Raja Raghuvanshi murder case, key accused Sonam Raghuvanshi has been placed under, 24x7 CCTV surveillance in Shillong District Jail, where she is the 20th female inmate among 496 prisoners. Sonam, currently in the women's barrack, is allowed one phone call per week and has made three calls so far. Jail authorities have logged each call but have not disclosed whom she contacted.

According to police sources, Sonam admitted during interrogation that she and co-accused Raj Kushwaha lured Raja into a forest on the pretext of trekking and carried out a planned murder. Both remain in judicial custody, with their remand extended by 14 days on July 4.

Raja's family, suspecting a broader conspiracy, has filed a petition in Shillong High Court seeking narco-analysis tests for Sonam, Raj, and Sonam's parents and brother. "This isn't just a personal feud—it's a pre-planned conspiracy," said Raja's brother, Vipin Raghuvanshi, who is preparing to take the case to the Supreme Court with a team of senior lawyers.

A Special Investigation Team is probing all angles of the case. The next court hearing and decision on the narco test are now highly anticipated.

As speculation grows—was it a personal vendetta or part of a deeper plot?—authorities remain tight-lipped, and the full truth is yet to emerge.



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Reel controversy at Pashupatinath Temple

Mandsaur: A controversy erupted in Mandsaur after a girl, identified as Sheetal Sharma from Neemuch, created a reel inside the sanctum sanctorum of the Pashupatinath temple and uploaded it to Instagram. The video, shared on Wednesday, drew sharp criticism from devotees and public representatives. MLA Vipin Jain termed the act as disrespectful and demanded strict action. BJP spokesperson Yashpal Singh Sisodia also condemned the incident, stating that religious places are centers of faith, and such actions hurt devotees' sentiments.

Following public outrage, Sheetal released another video on Thursday, apologizing to all Shiva devotees. She also submitted a written apology to the temple committee, stating she was unaware of the prohibition and had deleted the video from social media.

Temple Secretary and SDM Ravinder Parmar confirmed that they have received the apology letter and will decide on further action. Priest Rakesh Bhatt also appealed to devotees to refrain from making reels in the temple, emphasizing that it is a place for worship, not for social media content.

Devotees, however, blamed the temple committee for lax oversight and demanded strict enforcement. Notably, this is the second such incident at the temple; earlier, a youth had similarly made a reel and later apologized. The administration is expected to take a call on further steps soon.

Hemlata revives Maheshwari Saris with skill and spirit

Khargone: Hemlata Kharade from Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district has become a symbol of determination and self-reliance. Once earning just Rs 800 per month as a laborer, Hemlata transformed her life through training, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit. With the support of the Ajeevika Mission and the Handloom Development Corporation, she undertook a six-month loom training program in 2008. Mastering the craft, she began working in handloom units and eventually launched her own group in 2012. Her work gained such recognition that in 2016, the government allotted her a building for expansion. Today, Hemlata leads a team of 15 women, promoting employment and preserving the legacy of Maheshwari saris. Her saris feature intricate designs like Jharokha Booti, Jaali Booti, Asarfi Booti, and even the flowing waves of the Narmada river on their borders.

Tragic accident caught on camera

Tractor overturns in field, driver killed instantly



Mandla: A harrowing incident has emerged from Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh, where a tractor overturned during tilling in a field, tragically killing

the driver. The incident, which occurred recently in Mukas village, Niwas police station area, has been widely circulated due to a graphic video of the accident going viral on social media.

The driver was engaged in agricultural work when his tractor reportedly became stuck in wet soil. In an attempt to free the vehicle, the driver lost control, causing the tractor to flip over. Despite immediate efforts by bystanders to rescue him, he succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

The entire horrifying sequence was captured on video by a youth nearby, and the footage is now rapidly spreading across social media platforms, sparking widespread shock and sorrow.

Niwas police have registered a case, conducted a post-mortem examination, and handed over the body to the deceased's family. Authorities are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the fatal accident.

Crocodile drags woman to death in Vyarma River, panic in Damoh village



body. After about an hour of search, her body was found trapped in bushes on the opposite side of the river. Collector Sudhir Kochar, SP Shrikirti Somvanshi, and DFO Ishwar Jarande reached the site and reviewed the situation.

Forest officials revealed that warning signs and public announcements

had been made previously due to the rising crocodile population in the Vyarma. Sadly, this is not the first such incident. A year ago, a 10-year-old boy was similarly killed in Hatri village of the same panchayat. Crocodile sightings have been reported in multiple nearby villages, and rescue operations have been ongoing.

Forest guard booked for brutal assault on tribal youth in Chhindwara

Chhindwara: A shocking incident of brutality has emerged from the Singardeep forest in the Kumbhapani range, where a forest guard allegedly severely beat a tribal youth on suspicion of teak wood theft. The victim, Shivalp Uike, suffered a swollen eye and severe blue contusions across his body, with two lathis reportedly breaking during the assault.

Shivalp, from Singardeep, claims he was collecting dry wood for domestic use on July 7 when Forest Guard Sanjay Namdev stopped him and began beating him without provocation. "I was treated like an animal," said Uike, who pleaded with his attacker to stop.

Following Uike's complaint, Chaurai MLA and members of the tribal community protested at Bichhua Police Station. An FIR has been registered against Namdev under the SC/ST Act and relevant sections of the BNS. The Forest Department has removed the accused from his beat and formed a two-member inquiry committee.

Namdev, however, denies the allegations, claiming he apprehended Uike with three teak logs and that Uike was medically examined and released after paying a fine. He denies any assault, suggesting others might have beaten Uike. The investigation is ongoing.

Joyful news from Kanha Tiger Reserve

Elephant 'Nirmala' gives birth to female calf



Mandla: A wave of joy has swept through the Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR) as wildlife lovers celebrate the birth of a female elephant calf. The newborn, delivered by elephant 'Nirmala', is healthy and thriving—

marking a significant moment for the reserve and bringing the total number of elephants in the park to 17.

According to the Forest Department, both the calf and mother are doing well. The newborn is under the close care of Nirmala and another female elephant who has taken on a nurturing 'aunt-like' role. Together, the two elephants are ensuring the calf's safety, nourishment, and early development.

Forest officials emphasized the broader significance of this birth. Beyond being a heartwarming moment, it also underscores the success of ongoing conservation and breeding efforts within the reserve. The birth is seen as an encouraging indicator of biodiversity health and the effectiveness of environmental balance initiatives aimed at elephant conservation.

The reserve is reportedly abuzz with excitement, as the calf's playful energy and cheerful calls have brought a festive atmosphere to the forest. Wildlife experts are calling it a positive milestone in India's ongoing efforts to protect and preserve its majestic wildlife.

Tragic escalator accident at Jabalpur Rly Station

4-year-old trapped, railway's response under scrutiny



Jabalpur: A harrowing incident unfolded at Jabalpur Railway Station, leaving a four-year-old boy with a severely trapped foot and raising serious questions about the responsiveness of railway authorities. Young Waris Bansal, just four years old, endured an agonizing 45 minutes of pain after his leg became stuck in an escalator on Platform Number 6. Waris was traveling with his mother, Mala Bansal, from Amarpani village in Maihar to Shahdol when the horrifying accident occurred. Onlookers, including fellow passengers and

vendors, rushed to assist the distressed child as he cried out in pain.

Delayed response and allegations of insensitivity: Despite the immediate efforts of the public, it took approximately 45 minutes for Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel to arrive at the scene. The child was eventually freed and transported to a private hospital for treatment. However, the incident has been marred by accusations of insensitivity and negligence against both the railway administration and the RPF. Instead of prioritizing the child's well-being and treatment, reports indicate that railway officials were more concerned with deleting videos recorded by bystanders. **Mother expresses outrage:** Waris Bansal is currently receiving medical care at a private hospital. His mother, Mala Bansal, has expressed profound grief over the accident and strong anger at the railway administration's perceived negligence.

"My child was in agony for 45 minutes," she recounted. "The railway administration and RPF did not provide timely assistance."