

MP Assembly passes labor law amendment bill

► Congress party raises objection



Bhopal: In a significant move with far-reaching implications for the state's workforce, the Madhya Pradesh Assembly has passed the Labor Law Amendment Bill, a legislative change poised to reshape working conditions and compensation for millions. The bill, which promises enhanced overtime pay for workers, was met with strong resistance from the opposition Congress party, which labeled it "anti-labor" and a boon for industrialists.

The new legislation, championed by Labor Minister Prahlad Patel, is a landmark change for workers. Previously, laborers were capped at a maximum of 125 hours of overtime. This has now been increased to 144 hours. A key provi-

sion ensures that this extended overtime is strictly conditional on the worker's consent. In a major victory for workers, the bill mandates that employees who work overtime will now receive double their regular wage for those extra hours, a substantial increase from the previous rate.

Opposition alleges "Pro-Industrialist" agenda

The passage of the bill was far from smooth, as the Congress party launched a scathing critique. Congress MLA Sohan Valmiki led the charge, arguing that the bill is a thinly veiled attempt to favor industrialists at the expense of workers. He contended that the new laws would make it nearly impossible for laborers to form

unions and stage protests, alleging that a requirement to give six weeks' notice for any such action would effectively stifle dissent. Valmiki also pointed out that overtime would now be calculated on a weekly basis, a change he claimed was detrimental to workers' interests.

Metropolitan City Bill also under scrutiny

The legislative session also saw intense debate over the Metropolitan City Bill, which the Congress party has also targeted with sharp criticism. MLA Jaivardhan Singh demanded that representatives from the areas designated as metropolitan cities be included in the oversight committee. He argued that the current committee, with only four members, is not representative enough and should be expanded.

Singh also took a jab at the ruling government, quipping, "A government that hasn't delivered a master plan in 20 years is now talking about creating metropolitan cities."

Leader of the Opposition, Umang Singhar, also weighed in on the metropolitan bill, raising serious concerns about land acquisition. He highlighted a discrepancy between the market value and the collector's rate for land, questioning whether common citizens and farmers would be compensated at the higher market value. Singhar affirmed that the opposition would continue to vociferously challenge any legislation they deem unjust, ensuring that the voice of the people is heard within the assembly.

CM pays tribute to former CM Dwarka Prasad Mishra



Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, along with Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar, paid floral tributes to former Chief Minister Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra on his birth

anniversary today. The ceremony, held in the Central Hall of the Vidhan Sabha, honored Mishra's enduring legacy and his pivotal role in the state's development. Speaking to the

media, Dr. Yadav praised Mishra as a "doyen of politics" who successfully implemented welfare schemes even during challenging times. He commended Speaker Tomar for initiating the tradition of honoring former leaders, stating it would keep the memory of those who prioritized public service alive.

Leader of the Opposition Umang Singh Singhar and several cabinet ministers were also in attendance, highlighting the bipartisan respect for Mishra's contributions. This new tradition aims to celebrate the work of great leaders and inspire future generations of public servants.

29 people died due to floods in Shivpuri and Guna

► 850 people were safely rescued: Scindia



Gwalior: Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday addressed the media at Gwalior Airport, providing an update on the severe flood crisis gripping the Gwalior-Chambal region following relentless heavy rains.

Scindia confirmed the tragic loss of 29 lives, with 22 deaths reported in Shivpuri and seven in Guna. "This is a deeply saddening development," he stated. However,

he also highlighted the heroic efforts of rescue teams, noting that 850 people were saved from the floods. "I am proud that our soldiers from the Army, NDRF, and SDRF risked their own lives to enter villages and rescue people," he said.

He detailed specific rescue operations, including one in Kolaras where the overflowing Sindh River submerged a two-kilometer area.

Here, rescuers used boats to safely evacuate villagers. Scindia also shared a poignant story of a young man and his family trapped on a rooftop who were rescued just in time.

The floods have caused extensive damage to crops like groundnuts and maize, and Scindia announced that the Chief Minister has ordered an immediate survey of the damage to expedite the compensation process.

Scindia lauded the dedication of the administration and BJP workers for their service during the crisis. He revealed that the Chief Minister was in constant contact, taking hourly updates and working late into the night to manage the situation.

Concluding his address, Scindia urged the public to remain vigilant, as the region has already received above-average rainfall in July with two more months of the monsoon season remaining. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taught us that public service is the highest duty in times of crisis," he said, emphasizing that this responsibility must be shared by all.

Heavy rain and thunderstorms forecast for Madhya Pradesh

► Yellow alert issued



Bhopal: The Indian Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for several districts in Madhya Pradesh, forecasting a continuation of the intense rainy spell with thunderstorms and strong winds. The heavy downpour is expected to hit various regions across the state starting Wednesday.

Districts like Bhind, Morena, and Sheopur Kalan are on high alert for torrential rain. A wider range of districts, including Gwalior, Datia, Agar, Mandasaur, Betul, Harda, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Ujjain, Dewas, and Shajapur, are also likely to experience thunderstorms and rain. Winds are expected to gust up to 40 km/h during this period.

The yellow alert, indicating the possibility of moderate to heavy rain, has been issued for districts such as Singrauli, Sidhi, Rewa, Balaghat, Panna, Khargone, Sehore, Umaria, Dindori, Katni, Anuppur, Shahdol, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mauganj, and Satna.

According to weather scientists,

the current conditions are influenced by the active monsoon trough, which is extending from Amritsar to the Bay of Bengal. Additionally, multiple cyclonic circulations over northern Gujarat, northeast Uttar Pradesh, and Pun-

jab are contributing to the widespread rainfall. This complex weather system is expected to keep the state under its influence for the foreseeable future, ensuring the monsoon season remains highly active.

Machhli gang's Nigeria-Thailand connection exposed

► Bhopal MD Drugs Case: Thai woman was running the network

Bhopal: The international connection of the Machhli gang supplying MD drugs in the capital Bhopal, Rajasthan and Gujarat has come to light. During the interrogation of Yasin Ahmed Machhli, who was in contact with big politicians of the state, the police have found many important clues. Police have arrested a Nigerian drug smuggler from Delhi in this case. After interrogating him, the police have also arrested a Thai woman living in Bhopal, who was involved in this drug supply. Apart from drugs, this gang also worked to trap people.

Police sources said that the phone numbers of many people from Bhopal have been found in the Thai woman's phone. The Crime Branch is now investigating all these numbers and the entire network. According to sources, the police got information about this woman only after in-



terrogating Yasin Ahmed's associates.

Many objectionable videos have also been found in this phone. The police are identifying the people seen in these videos. The police

claim that the Thai woman used to visit pubs and malls in Bhopal. There are many serious allegations against him and the police are gathering information about those facts.

Nigerian citizen told the name of a Thai woman during interrogation

According to police sources, the Nigerian citizen arrested in Delhi had told the name of a Thai woman during interrogation. After this, the police raided Bhopal and arrested her. This woman was active in Bhopal for a long time and was connected to the local drug network. She used to deal in drugs through social media and apps. She had direct contact with Yasin Ahmed's gang and used to work as a middleman for the foreign network.

CM pushes for accelerated solar pump installation in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal: In a major push for renewable energy, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has directed the Department of New and Renewable Energy to fully support farmers in installing solar pumps under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Yojana. During a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for a coordinated effort between all relevant departments and agencies to achieve ambitious installation targets. The meeting at Samatva Bhavan, the Chief Minister's residence, focused on the progress of the state's ongoing solar pump installation drive. Dr. Yadav instructed officials to ensure farmers receive the full benefits of the scheme, which is designed to reduce their reliance on conventional electricity and save them from high energy costs.



WCD Supervisor arrested for taking bribe to secure Anganwadi Job

Gwalior: A supervisor from the Women and Child Development (WCD) department was caught red-handed by the Lokayukta police on Tuesday, accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 to secure a job. The accused, identified as Anita Srivastava, was arrested in Narwar, a town in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district.

The arrest came after a complaint from Shishupal Jatav, whose sister had applied for a vacant Anganwadi assistant position in their village. According to Jatav, Srivastava contacted his sister, informing her that she was second on the selection list and could be guaranteed the job for a fee.

Lokayukta Superintendent of Police Niranjan Lal Sharma stated

that Srivastava initially demanded a bribe of ₹1.80 lakh. After negotiations, the amount was settled at ₹1.5 lakh. Jatav recorded the conversation and reported the incident to the Gwalior Lokayukta office.

Acting on the tip-off, a team was dispatched. As per the plan, when Jatav handed over the first installment of ₹20,000 to Srivastava, the Lokayukta team intervened and caught her in the act. The bribe money was seized from her possession. A case has been registered against Srivastava under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The police are now questioning her to determine if she was acting alone or if other officials were involved in the scheme.

Tragedy on Madhya Pradesh Highways

► Five lives lost in separate crashes

Bhopal: A series of devastating road accidents has resulted in the deaths of five individuals in the districts of Narsinghpur and Dewas, raising serious concerns about road safety and the effectiveness of emergency services in the state.

Two killed in Narsinghpur collision

In Narsinghpur, a high-speed collision on a national highway on Tuesday tragically claimed the lives of two men. A black Scorpio, traveling at what is believed to be a dangerous speed, collided with a motorcycle near the road leading to Rani Pipariya. The victims, both residents of Narsinghpur, died instantly at the scene due to the severity of the impact. Local police have launched an investigation into the crash to determine the full circumstances.

Dewas crash kills three, draws scrutiny to ambulance delays

The Narsinghpur incident followed a horrific accident in the Dewas district on Monday evening, where a high-speed Alto car collided head-on with a motorcycle, killing all three young men riding the bike. Two of the victims, Kamal and Devkaran, died instantly, while the third, Gajraj, succumbed to his critical in-



juries in the hospital.

The Dewas tragedy has sparked public outrage over the slow response of emergency services. Eyewitnesses reported a significant delay in the arrival of an ambulance, which forced police to transport the injured to the hospital in their own vehicle. The incident has intensified questions about the preparedness and reliability of medical response teams.

Government officials to ride bicycles instead of cars one day a week

Rewa: In an unusual sight on Tuesday, top govt officials in the Rewa division, from the Divisional Commissioner to the Collector, were seen arriving at their offices on bicycles or on foot. This marks the beginning of a new initiative led by Divisional Commissioner B.S. Jamod, who has mandated that all government employees and officers must use cycles, walk, or take public transport to work one day a week.

A push for health and environment: The directive, aimed at promoting fuel conservation, reducing pollution, and improving health, was put into practice for the first time. Jamod encouraged those who cannot cycle to use public transport and advised offi-



cials to carpool during field visits to streamline inspections and inter-departmental collaboration.

Speaking to the media, Jamod acknowledged that making this a routine practice would be challenging but expressed a positive outlook. "This initiative is for the sake of environmental protection and health," he said, describing his own experience of cycling to work as "very pleasant." His sentiment was echoed by Rewa District Panchayat CEO Mehtab Singh Gurjar, who walked to his office and suggested the practice should be implemented twice a week. The new policy was followed across the division, with officials in Satna, Sidhi, Maihar, Singrauli, and Mauganj also arriving at their offices without their official government vehicles.