

Cabinet approves Rs 371 crore electronics manufacturing cluster for Bhopal



Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has greenlit a major project to establish an Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) near Bhopal, in the village of Bandikhedhi in Berasia. The cluster will be developed on a 210.21-acre plot with a total investment of Rs 371.95 crore. The project, a part of the central government's EMC 2.0 scheme, is set to boost the state's role in the "Digital India" and "Make in India" initiatives. The new cluster is expected to create a robust infrastructure for the electronics industry, attracting new investment and generating significant employment opportunities.

Advancing healthcare, education, and social initiatives

In a series of other key decisions, the cabinet also approved the establishment of an Endocrinology Department at Gandhi Medical College in Bhopal, which will create 20 new posts to enhance specialized treatment for hormone-related diseases. To expand healthcare services and promote Ayurveda, the cabinet also sanctioned 1,570 new posts for five new government Ayurveda medical colleges

and wellness centers in Narmadapuram, Morena, Balaghat, Shahdol, and Sagar.

Furthermore, the cabinet approved a proposal to provide a 12-month stipend for students in tribal affairs department hostels, a move that will provide continuous support. Another key decision will see the establishment of "Gita Bhavans" in urban areas to serve as hubs for literary and cultural activities. The cabinet also updated the state's civil service leave rules to include paternity leave for adoptive fathers and maternity leave for commissioning mothers via surrogacy.

Fertiliser shortage dominates informal cabinet meeting

Bhopal: The issue of a severe fertiliser shortage in Madhya Pradesh was a central topic at an informal cabinet meeting on Tuesday. Ministers voiced concerns about farmers' distress, citing feedback from their home districts. They argued that the lack of timely fertiliser supply is creating a volatile situation, which could be exploited by individuals to incite unrest.

In response, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav addressed the issue, explaining that the demand for urea has increased due to a 5 lakh-hectare expansion in maize cultivation. He assured his colleagues that the state expects to receive 5.60 lakh metric tons of urea in the next one and a half months. The CM also shared data, stating that out of a total stock of 15.60 lakh metric tons, 13.92 lakh has already been distributed, with 1.68 lakh metric tons remaining.

Economic progress and upcoming PM visits

During the meeting, Dr. Yadav highlighted Madhya Pradesh's strong economic performance. The state has secured a place among the top three states with the highest capital expenditure growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. According to CAG data, MP's capital expenditure grew by an impressive 41%, making it a leader alongside Gujarat (65%) and Uttar Pradesh (42%).

The Chief Minister also revealed that he had met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to invite him to two significant events in the state: the inauguration of the Bhopal Metro and a large Kisan Sammelan (Farmers' Convention). The Prime Minister is expected to attend both.

Dr. Yadav also announced that Madhya Pradesh's exports have reached a new high of Rs 66,218 crore in the 2024-25 financial year, marking a 6% increase. This

surge, driven by the pharmaceutical, engineering, and soy sectors, has improved the state's national export ranking from 15th to 11th.

New initiatives and cultural innovations

In other updates, Dr. Yadav announced that under the PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, the government will provide a Rs 15,000 incentive to young people who secure jobs in the private sector. The cabinet also praised the innovative approach to this year's state-level Independence Day celebrations, which were live-streamed to all districts. The CM proposed publishing books detailing the development and progress of each district.

Finally, Dr. Yadav spoke about the innovative themes introduced for the Shri Mahakal processions this year. Each procession was based on a different theme—from Vedic chants to tourism and local culture—and featured spirited participation from artists from tribal regions.

Missing Civil Judge aspirant Archana Tiwari recovered by GRP

Gwalior: The 13-day mystery of missing civil judge aspirant Archana Tiwari has been solved. Archana, who vanished from a moving train, has been recovered by the Government Railway Police (GRP). While the exact location of her recovery has not yet been disclosed, a Gwalior police official confirmed the news, stating that GRP officials will soon reveal the full story.

Police constable's role under scrutiny

Earlier developments in the case revealed a crucial lead: a police constable named Ram Tomar, posted at Gwalior's Bhanwarpura police station, had booked a train ticket for Archana from Indore to Gwalior. Following this revelation, the GRP took Constable Tomar into custody for questioning.



During his interrogation, Tomar admitted to booking the ticket but claimed that Archana never used it. He also confirmed that he and Archana had been in contact by phone before her journey.

Archana Tiwari was last seen boarding the Narmada Express on August 7 from the Satkar Girls' Hostel in Indore, traveling in coach B3, berth number 3. Her last known location was between Bhopal and Narmadapuram, and her bag was later found at Umaria Railway Station. The GRP's successful recovery marks a significant breakthrough in the case, bringing it one step closer to a resolution.

Alleged religious conversion meeting busted

● Mastermind arrested in Sehore

Sehore: A prayer meeting held in a house in Sehore's Housing Board Colony has sparked a major controversy after police arrested a man for allegedly masterminding a religious conversion racket. The Sehore Police have filed a case against Jabbar Khan and his wife, Tahira Khan, under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2021. While Jabbar Khan was arrested at the scene, his wife remains at large.

Shocking revelations and police suspension

Police officials were alerted to the gathering by members of the Bajrang Dal, who accused the organizers of luring vulnerable individuals into religious conversion. During the investigation, it was shock-



ingly discovered that a police constable, Virendra Ahiwar, was also present at the meeting. In a viral video, the constable is heard making a statement about his faith. Following this revelation, police au-

thorities immediately suspended the officer and initiated a departmental inquiry, promising strict action.

The incident has ignited public outrage, with Hindu organizations

demanding the seizure and demolition of the accused's property. The administration has appealed for calm as a thorough investigation is underway to determine the full extent of the alleged illegal activities.

Political turmoil hits Khirkiya Municipal Council

● 8 Councilors withdraw support

Khirkiya: Political tensions are soaring in Khirkiya after eight councilors, including a member from the Congress party, submitted a letter to the Chief Municipal Officer withdrawing their support for council president Inderjeet Kaur Khanuja. While the letter bears the signatures of 12 councilors, only eight were present, raising questions and sparking intense debate across the town.

Internal BJP rift or Congress strategy?

The councilors' letter cited dissatisfaction with Khanuja's "work behavior" as the reason for their decision. However, the move has ignited speculation. The inclusion of Congress councilor Kiran Athner's name on a BJP-affiliated letterhead has fueled suspicion, leading many to wonder whether this is an internal power struggle within the BJP or a strategic move by the Congress party. Neither party's dis-



trict heads were aware of the development, and the fact that the same BJP councilors who once accused the president of being too close to the opposition are now working with them has left many bewildered.

Analysts note that Khanuja faces no allegations of corruption, with the discontent seemingly stemming from a lack of development funds. This has brought the BJP's own internal discipline and reputation into question, as it begs the

question of why their own party members would work to oust a president from their own party. The final decision now rests with the Collector, but the incident has already exposed deep-seated rifts within the BJP's local unit.

Monsoon to continue lashing Madhya Pradesh until August 23

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh is set to experience continued rainfall until at least August 23, with the weather department forecasting heavy, thundery downpours across most of the state on Wednesday. Districts including Betul, Chhindwara, Pandhurna, Khargone, Barwani, Sehore, Narmadapuram, Dhar, Jabua, Alirajpur, Indore, and Ujjain are on alert for strong winds and thunderstorms.

Torrential rain already hit Bhopal and several other parts of the state on Tuesday, leading to waterlogging in multiple areas. The forecast for the next 24 hours warns of even heavier rainfall.

According to meteorologists, the monsoon trough remains active over the region. It currently extends from Diu and Surat to the Bay of Bengal. An upper air cyclonic circulation is also active over the Arabian Sea and Gujarat, with another wind zone over the Indian subcontinent, all contributing to the persistent wet weather.



MP aims for 5.2 million kg of milk collection

Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has announced ambitious plans to expand Madhya Pradesh's dairy network to 26,000 villages by 2030, aiming for a total milk collection of 5.2 million kilograms. Speaking at a review meeting with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and state dairy federations, the CM stressed the importance of leveraging NDDB's expertise to enhance dairy production, improve branding, and ensure better livestock care.

Modernizing the dairy sector

Dr. Yadav called for the development of modern milk processing infrastructure to handle the increased collection volume. He also emphasized the need for national-level branding for state-produced dairy products. The Chief Minister suggested that with the help of the Veterinary Council of India, veterinary courses should be introduced in all state universities. He also recommended seeking NDDB's support to upgrade and manage large municipal cow shelters.

To ensure consistency, Dr. Yadav urged all dairy federations to adopt a standard operating procedure for product manufacturing.

He also mandated regular monitoring of milk price payments to ensure dairy farmers are paid promptly and consistently. In areas with limited federation access, the government plans to empower private milk traders by providing them with training on modern techniques.

New initiatives and digitalization

The meeting also highlighted several innovative initiatives. A statewide project has begun to digitize the entire dairy supply chain. The Indore Milk Federation has already launched a mobile app that gives milk producers immediate access to information on the quantity, quality, and price of their milk.

In a first-of-its-kind move, the Bhopal Milk Federation has introduced the "Sanchi Bhaat Yojana", where it will provide Rs 11,000 and clothing to the daughters of cooperative society members for their marriage, as a form of traditional 'bhaat' or wedding gift. The Bhopal federation also launched the "Doodh ka Doodh-Paani ka Paani" campaign to allow urban consumers to check the quality of milk.

Deadly collision on Indore-Betul Highway claims two lives



Dewas/Kannaud: A horrific head-on collision between a speeding dumper truck and a car on the Indore-Betul National Highway late Sunday night has left a mother and son dead and the father critically injured. The accident occurred near the Kannaud crematorium, where the force of the impact completely wrecked the car.

Family tragedy and investigation underway

According to reports, Chetan, along with his wife and son from Chirapatla in the Betul district, were traveling towards Indore when their car was struck by a dumper truck coming from the opposite direction. The collision was so severe that all three family members were critically injured.

With the help of passersby, they were rushed to Kannaud Civil Hospital. Tragically, Lakshmi Bai Chetan and her son succumbed to their injuries during treatment. Chetan, the father, sustained severe injuries and was transferred to a hospital in Indore for specialized care. Following the incident, police seized the dumper truck and have registered a case. The investigation is currently underway to determine the exact cause of the crash.

Sarang blasts Congress for baseless allegations on Voter Fraud

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Cooperative Minister Vishwas Sarang has launched a scathing attack on the Congress party, accusing its leaders of misleading the public with "baseless allegations" regarding voter list irregularities. Addressing a press conference, Sarang questioned why the Congress had waited 20 months after the state assembly elections to raise these concerns.



Challenge to use constitutional avenues

Sarang pointed out that under the law, any complaint or challenge to election results must be filed within 45 days of the announcement. He questioned why Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Umang Singh, failed to use this and other constitutional avenues, like filing an election petition, to voice their concerns. Instead, he said, they are resorting to a press conference to spread what he called "lies."

Sarang dismissed the opposition's claims, noting that even if the 27 seats they are alleging were manipulated are removed from the total, the BJP would still have a clear majority with 136 seats. He challenged the Congress to submit an affidavit with evidence to the Election Commission, rather than attempting to "defame democratic institutions" to hide their political failures.