

Congress slams BJP Govt over various issues

By Special Correspondent Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Congress on Friday held a joint press conference at the party's state headquarters, marking two years of the BJP government with sharp criticism of what it termed widespread failures, economic mismanagement and anti-people policies. The briefing was addressed by MPCC president Jeetu Patwari and Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar, in the presence of CWC member Kamleshwar Patel, Deputy LoP Hemant Katore and Media Department chairman Mukesh Nayak.



Patwari alleged that the state's financial situation had deteriorated to an "alarming" level, with Madhya Pradesh burdened by a debt of Rs 4.75 lakh crore. He questioned the government's develop-

ment claims, citing shrinking student numbers despite massive increases in the education budget, persistent teacher shortages and alleged corruption in welfare schemes.

He further criticised the government over poor investment out-

comes, rising unemployment and the expensive overseas investor meets that, he said, yielded "no real jobs". Patwari also highlighted farmers' distress, shortages of fertiliser, delays in payments and the alleged protection of liquor and drug cartels.

Singhar said the BJP's 22-year rule had failed to lift Madhya Pradesh from its "BIMARU" status, pointing to severe doctor shortages, high maternal mortality, widespread malnutrition and stalled infrastructure projects. He accused the government of bypassing democratic debate, calling the Vision Document a mere publicity exercise.

The Congress leaders asserted that the party would continue to hold the government accountable on all public issues.

10 Indore flights cancelled for third consecutive day

IndiGo Crisis Continues

Indore: Air travel woes persist for Indore passengers as IndiGo Airlines cancelled ten flights for the third straight day, impacting routes to major hubs including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.



Despite recent government intervention and relaxation of certain routes, the disruption continues. Airport sources confirm that the ten flights—identical to those cancelled over the past two days—were grounded from morning until night.

IndiGo has begun the process of refunding ticket costs and adjusting passengers onto alternative flights. However, frustrated travellers report facing significant inconvenience and bearing extra costs for hotel stays and transportation due to the sudden cancellations.

Airport officials have appealed to passengers for cooperation and assured that refund and adjustment options are being provided. The airline management anticipates that the situation will normalize starting Monday, though minor cancellations may continue until then.

Medanta Gurugram extends Advanced Kidney Care to Jabalpur

Jabalpur: Medanta-The Medicity, Gurugram, consistently ranked among India's best private hospitals, is bringing its expertise in Nephrology and Kidney Transplants to Jabalpur. This initiative offers much-needed relief to patients suffering from complex kidney diseases who previously had to travel to larger metropolitan cities for treatment.

Monthly OPD for complex kidney diseases

Medanta will conduct a monthly Outpatient Department (OPD) in Jabalpur, led by Dr. Debabrata Mukherjee, Senior Director and Head of

Nephrology at Medanta Gurugram. The OPD will provide specialized consultation for intricate kidney disorders, including expertise in ABO-incompatible, multi-organ, and sensitive patient transplants.

Dr. Mukherjee stated, "The goal is to move advanced kidney care closer to those who need it, rather than restricting it to major cities." The service aims to provide timely, expert advice and modern treatment near the patients' homes.

Jabalpur residents can consult Dr. Mukherjee every second Thursday of the month, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, at Disha Multi Speciality Healthcare (A unit of Bhandari Hospital), Napier Town, Jabalpur.

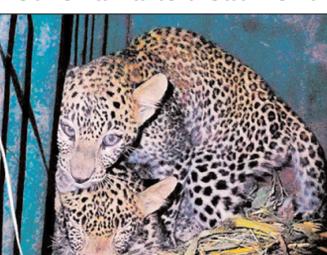
Rescued Leopard cub dies, mother awaits treatment

Tragedy in Indore Zoo

Indore: Conservation efforts have suffered a setback after one of two leopard cubs rescued from the Mhow forest died at the Kamla Nehru Zoological Museum. Compounding the tragedy, the adult female leopard is also ill, and arrangements for her specialized treatment are incomplete.

The mother leopard and her two cubs were rescued last month from the forests near Harsola village in Mhow and transferred to the city zoo. The death of one cub occurred days ago, but the information was withheld from the media.

DFO Pradeep Mishra confirmed the cub's death and acknowledged that the mother is sick. Zoo staff urgently recommended hospital treatment for the adult leopard. Mishra stated that while arrangements are being made to transfer the sick female to Bhopal for care,



the necessary facilities there are not yet ready.

The incident raises serious concerns about the preparedness of the Forest Department and wildlife conservation protocols, as the delay in securing appropriate treatment and safe transport for the sick leopard indicates incomplete arrangements following the cub's death.

MP Assembly to debate 'Developed MP 2047' roadmap at Special Session

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh government is set to convene a one-day special session of the State Legislative Assembly on December 17 to unveil and debate the comprehensive roadmap for "Developed Madhya Pradesh 2047."

Ambitious economic growth targets

During the session, the government will table the detailed plan aimed at making Madhya Pradesh a developed, self-reliant, and prosperous state in line with the national vision for 2047. The ambitious target is to inflate the state's economy (GSDP) to Rs 250 lakh crore by this deadline, up from the current Rs 13.6 lakh crore.

To achieve this, Madhya Pradesh must sustain an economic growth rate of at least 9% annually. Successful implementation would allow the state to contribute significantly to the central government's goal of making India a nearly \$30 trillion economy.

Focus on per capita income

The roadmap also sets a target of increasing the state's per capita income to Rs 22 lakh per annum, a substantial jump from the current Rs 1.6 lakh per annum. The day-long discussion will see legislators debate the strategy, with Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav slated to provide the final response. This special session underscores the state's commitment to strategic planning and alignment with national development goals.

MP State Services Shake-up: 79 Officers Promoted, 25 Cases Sealed

Bhopal: The state administration today cleared the path for a major personnel overhaul, with the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) approving the promotion of 79 officers from the State Administrative Service (RAS). However, the fate of 25 officers remains uncertain, as their promotion cases have been placed in sealed covers.

DPC clears promotions in key ranks

The DPC meeting, chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (Fi-

nance) Manish Rastogi, was held at the Secretariat and lasted two hours. It considered promotions across various pay scales for officers from the 2012 to 2016 batches.

Key promotion figures include:

- * Joint to Additional Collector: 48 officers were approved out of 95 candidates.
- * Deputy to Joint Collector: 17 officers were approved out of 82 candidates.
- * Senior Scale: 12 officers were

approved out of 19 candidates.

Super time scale withheld

While one name was considered for the prestigious Super Time Scale, no promotions were approved at that level this time. The 25 cases where promotions were withheld are pending final decision. The promotion orders for the 79 successful officers are expected to be issued in January, paving the way for a fresh administrative reshuffle.

Murder, betrayal and greed: BJP leader's father masterminds his killing

Pipliyamandi/Mandsaur: Six months after the murder of BJP Mandal Vice President Shyamal Dhakad, Nahargarh police have cracked the case, arresting five individuals, including the victim's own father, who allegedly masterminded the crime.

Under the direction of SP Vinod Kumar Meena, the investigation revealed that the victim's father, Daulatram, orchestrated the killing, fearing public disgrace and the loss of property. He conspired with an associate, Gopal, to hire contract killers. On the night of July 17, Daulatram



Deceased Shyamal Dhakad

paid a Rs 5 lakh contract fee to Ranglal, Sumit, and Atlu Bachhda. The three assailants entered the up-

per floor of the house via stairs and fatally attacked Shyamal with an axe and knife as he slept. His body was found the following morning.

Police used crucial technical evidence, including mobile call details and cyber cell analysis, to expose the conspiracy, despite the father initially trying to mislead the investigation. The five arrested suspects have been remanded to police custody for three days to recover the murder weapons and gather more evidence. The number of accused involved may increase as the investigation progresses.

MUSTREAD

Over 30 Civilians killed in raid by Somali Special Forces

Mogadishu: More than 30 civilians were killed and over 100 others were injured in an operation by Somali special forces near the town of Afgoye, 40 kilometers (24.8 miles) from the country's capital of Mogadishu, Somali media reported. Special forces conducted an operation targeting terrorists on Tuesday evening, but local residents said there were no militants in the area, the Garowe newspaper reported on Thursday. Some buildings were destroyed, and hundreds of people were forced to flee their homes, the report added.

Philippine President Marcos to visit Russia in 2026

Manila: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. may visit Russia in 2026 for the anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership, Philippine Ambassador to Moscow Igor Bailen told Sputnik. "Next year marks the 35th anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership. We are working with our colleagues at the Russian Foreign Ministry to determine dates that Russia could propose.

Polish military purchases 260 attack drones for over USD 27 million

Moscow: The Polish army has purchased 36 sets of 10 Warmate attack drones for 100 million zlotys (USD 27.8 million), Polish media reported. The drones are expected to enter service by the end of this year, the PAP news agency reported on Thursday. The previously signed framework agreement provides for the delivery of up to 1,000 sets, or 10,000 drones, the report added. Warmate drones are designed to destroy lightly armored targets or enemy infantry, depending on the warhead used.

Trump fed up with Russia-Ukraine talks, wants 'action, not meeting: White House

Washington (UNI) The White House said President Donald Trump is "extremely frustrated" with Russia and Ukraine over the slow progress toward ending the four-year-old war, accusing both sides of holding meetings "for the sake of meeting."

"The President is extremely frustrated with both sides of this war," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters. "He doesn't want any more talk. He wants action. He wants this war to come to an end."

"He's sick of meetings just for the sake of meeting," she added. Leavitt said the Trump administration was proactively working to broker a truce between the two nations and that the US President had held a telephonic conversation with leaders of the European union on the matter.

"The United States and the Trump administration continue to be very



much engaged in trying to bring the Russia-Ukraine war to an end. The President had a call with Europeans yesterday. His special envoy Witkoff and his team continue to talk with both sides literally as we speak. If there is a real chance of signing a peace agreement, if we feel those

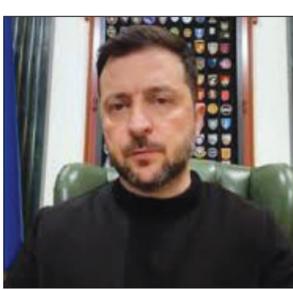
meetings are worthy of someone in the United States' time this weekend, then we will send a representative. It's still up in the air whether we believe real peace can be accomplished and we can truly move the ball forward," she said. Ukraine's European allies said

Zelensky rejects US-backed Donbas withdrawal, demands fair deal

Arti Kyiv, (UNI) President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday that a compromise peace plan backed by the United States still requires Ukraine to withdraw from the eastern Donbas region, a concession Kyiv is not willing to consider.

Speaking to reporters in Kyiv, Zelensky stressed that territorial issues remain one of the biggest sticking points in the negotiations. His remarks came a day after Ukrainian and European leaders submitted a counterproposal to Washington outlining their own vision for ending the war.

"The 20 points for ending the war form a fundamental document. We are actively working on the key steps - they must be doable. From this fundamental document, we are developing at least two additional ones. The first is on security - regarding security guarantees with the United States. The second is on the economy, covering reconstruction and joint investment," Zelensky said. Zelensky also posted on social



media that Ukrainian and American officials held an "in-depth conversation" on Thursday focused on security guarantees. Earlier in the week, he confirmed that Washington had raised the possibility of legally binding guarantees that would require approval from the US Congress. Ukraine has insisted that without credible, long-term security guarantees from the United States and Europe, it cannot agree to any deal. Today, we focused specifically on the economic document. The princi-

ples of the economic document are absolutely clear, and we are fully aligned with the American side on this.

An economic action plan will follow. Europe will also be involved in reconstruction. In the near future, we plan to move forward on the other two documents as well. Rustem Umerov will continue the discussions," Zelensky added.

He said security guarantees to prevent Russia from launching another invasion after any pause in fighting are also central to the discussions and far from agreed upon.

According to Zelensky, the American plan envisions turning the parts of the Donbas still controlled by Ukraine into what the Trump administration is calling a "free economic zone" with no Ukrainian or Russian troops present. At the same time, Russia would be permitted to leave its forces in areas of the Donbas it currently occupies.

Zelensky said the US proposal does not clearly explain who would govern this "free economic zone" once Ukrainian troops withdraw.

Tsunami advisory issued for northern Japan coast

Tokyo: Japan's weather agency issued a tsunami advisory for northern Japan's Pacific coast after a magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck off Aomori Prefecture on Friday.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the temblor occurred at 11:44 am local time off Aomori's Pacific coast at a depth of 20 km, measuring 4 on Japan's seismic scale of 7 in the hardest-hit areas. The JMA, which revised the magnitude of the quake up from 6.5, issued the tsunami advisory for the coastal areas of Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, and Miyagi prefectures along the Pacific coast, with waves up to 1 meter expected.

The quake's epicentre was at a latitude of 40.9 degrees north and a longitude of 143.0 degrees east.

Late Monday night, a 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck the same region, measuring upper 6 on Japan's seismic scale of 7 in parts of Aomori, prompting the JMA to issue tsunami warnings for Iwate Prefecture and parts of Hokkaido and Aomori prefectures.

US and Japan call China radar lock incident destabilising

Tokyo (UNI) Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth held telephone talks on Friday, sharing serious concerns over a recent radar lock incident involving Chinese military aircraft.

On December 6, at least one Chinese fighter jet intermittently targeted its radar at Japanese Air Self-Defense Force aircraft over international waters off Okinawa Prefecture in southwestern Japan.

The two defense chiefs discussed the Dec. 6 radar incident and the "increasingly severe security situation" in the region, according to a statement from Japan's Defense Ministry.

The two defense chiefs spoke for about 40 minutes to discuss the incident and other matters, agreeing that Japan and the US will maintain close communication to calm the situation.

Koizumi said, "Japan will continue to diligently conduct patrols and surveillance around the country and respond calmly and resolutely to any contingencies."

Both leaders expressed the view



that China's actions are not conducive to regional peace and stability. They reaffirmed that Japan and the US will closely coordinate and communicate with each other.

Koizumi and Hegseth also emphasized their commitment to enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-US alliance with a sense of urgency.

The US Department of War released a statement on the talks, stating that the two leaders discussed Japan's efforts to increase defense spending and strengthen its capabilities. China's military activities, and the importance of realistic training and exercises across Japan, including in the Southwest Islands.

