

CM Yadav to honor Mata Shabari at Sitamadhi Dham today

Projects worth Rs 767 crore to be unveiled

Shahdol: In a profound tribute to the spiritual and cultural heritage of Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will unveil the statue of Mata Shabari today at the historic Sitamadhi Dham in Gandhiya village. Located on the sacred Shri Ramchandra Pathagam Marg, Gandhiya is revered as one of the 248 stops where Lord Shri Ram, Mata Sita, and Lakshman rested during their exile. The site, home to "Mata Sita's Rasoi," stands as a vibrant link between Ayodhya and the Dandakaranya forest.



142 projects totaling Rs 767 crore. This includes the dedication of 82 completed works worth Rs 633 crore across departments like Water Resources, Public Health, and Tribal Affairs. Notably, the Chief Minister will open a mini-Olympic standard Water Park in Dhanpuri, built at a cost of Rs 20 crore to enhance local recreation.

Empowering the community further, Dr. Yadav will distribute appointment letters to SECL land trustees, and provide financial aid to self-help groups. By blending the sanctity of the Ramayana circuit with modern development, the administration is steering Shahdol toward a future of holistic growth and cultural pride.

The visit also marks a massive infrastructure boost for the region. Dr. Yadav will lead a "Development Fest," inaugurating and laying foundation stones for

CM Yadav demonstrates compassion, ensures swift relief to poor family

Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav set an example of sensitivity and compassion by ensuring the prompt resolution of the problems faced by a poor family in Indore. Taking cognisance of the circumstances of Dinesh Prajapat and his mother, Smt. Rampyari Bai, the Chief Minister, addressed issues related to pension and medical treatment. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav directed the concerned officials to immediately complete the KYC and initiate the pension process. He also ensured proper treatment for Smt. Rampyari Bai at Aurobindo Hospital. The Chief Minister further instructed that financial assistance be provided to the family.

'Words born of patriotic fervor': Minister Vijay Shah

Issues fresh apology statement on Col. Sofia Qureshi

Indore: Seeking to quell the rising storm over his recent controversial remarks, Madhya Pradesh Tribal Affairs Minister Vijay Shah has issued a formal apology, emphasizing that "de-crum of speech is essential in public life."

Reflection and regret

Addressing a press conference, the Minister expressed deep regret over his statements made on May 11 in Mhow. Shah clarified that his words were a byproduct of "patriotic zeal and emotional impulse" rather than any intent to offend.

"My words did not align with my actual sentiments. I never intended to disrespect any woman officer, the Indian Army, or any section of society," Shah stated.

He urged the public to look at the intent behind the error rather than the slip of tongue it-



self, adding that the controversy has been

"deeply painful" for him personally.

Lessons in public conduct

The Minister admitted that the incident has prompted a period of introspection. Acknowledging the weight of his office, he vowed to maintain stricter control over his speech in the future. "I have learned a lesson and take full responsibility. I have always held the Indian Army in the highest regard, and that will never change," he affirmed.

Evading the spotlight

The apology comes amidst intensifying pressure from the opposition and a pending petition in the Supreme Court. Despite his formal statement, the atmosphere remained tense at the BJP headquarters in Bhopal on Friday. Following a party meeting, the Minister was seen avoiding media queries regarding the legal challenges, quickly departing the venue as reporters approached.

Veteran ASI crushed by bus months before retirement

Bhopal: A cloud of grief has descended upon the police fraternity following the tragic death of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Shankar Singh Thakur, who was fatally struck by a passenger bus on the Bhopal-Indore Highway. The 61-year-old veteran, currently posted at the Sehore Police Line, was commuting to duty on Friday afternoon when a speeding bus intercepted his motorcycle at the Tumda intersection.



breaking as the officer was slated to retire this July; his family shared that he had been excitedly planning to start a business post-retirement to spend more time with his children.

While the Khajuri police have seized the offending vehicle, the driver managed to flee the scene and remains at large. A case has been registered, and a manhunt is underway to apprehend the culprit. Following a post-mortem, the mortal remains of the dedicated officer were handed over to his grieving family, leaving behind a legacy of service cut short by a moment of reckless driving.

Balaghat youth returns after 7 years in Pakistan Jail

A miracle homecoming

Balaghat: In an emotional saga of survival and administrative grit, Prasannajit Rangari of Khairlanji has finally returned home after a harrowing seven-year ordeal in a Pakistani prison. Once a promising B-Pharmacy student, Prasannajit's life took a tragic turn after his mental health declined, leading him to wander across the border in 2017. Having lost all hope, his family had presumed him dead until a life-changing phone call in 2021 revealed he was being held in Pakistan under the name "Sunil Ade." Released on January 31 at the Attari-Wagah border alongside six other Indians, Prasannajit's journey home was made possible by the Balaghat District Administration.

Congress reviews organisational strengthening drive

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Congress on Saturday undertook a comprehensive review of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the party organisation from the State to the panchayat level. The meeting was held at the Connect Centre in Indira Bhavan, the State Congress headquarters, and was chaired by Pradesh Congress president Jeetu Patwari and MP Congress in-charge Harish Chaudhary.



sational meeting at Indira Bhavan reinforced the party structure across the State. The discussions

included finalising the framework for the formation of village panchayat and ward committees and implementing the forthcoming organisational action plan within a fixed timeline.

Those present included AICC secretary and State co-in-charge Chandan Yadav, former minister and SIR in-charge Sajjan Singh Verma, State organisation general secretary Sanjay Kamle, Connect Centre in-charge Rajiv Singh, State vice-president J.P. Dhanopia and other office-bearers.

Patwari directed leaders to strengthen the organisation at booth, panchayat and ward levels and to connect workers directly with the public while implementing all organisational programmes with full commitment.

Panna witnesses its first helicopter wedding

Sky-high romance

Panna: In a historic first for the district, a wedding in Panna took "grandeur" to new heights as a groom flew in a helicopter to claim his bride. Nitin Pandey, son of Congress leader Bharat Milan Pandey, fulfilled a life-long dream by bypassing the traditional road route, traveling from Pista village to Panna via the skies. The roar of the rotors drew massive crowds to the helipad as the high-profile wedding at Shaanvi Land Hotel became the talk of the town. Following the royal ceremony, the couple departed for the groom's village on Saturday in the same spectacular fashion. For the residents of Panna, this airborne "Bidaai" marked a legendary milestone in the district's social history.



High Court grants bail to relative of main accused Pooja Pandey

Case of SDOP Seoni Hawala loot of Rs 2.97 crores

Jabalpur: In a significant development in the high-profile Rs 2.97 crore Seoni hawala heist, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has granted regular bail to Virendra Dixit, the brother-in-law of prime accused and former SDOP Pooja Pandey. The single bench of Justice D.N. Mishra passed the order after considering the arguments presented by a battery of senior advocates, including Manish Datt and Sushil Kumar Tiwari.



call records and WhatsApp messages, which the prosecution claimed proved he incited Pandey to commit the crime.

However, the defense argued that Dixit's frequent contact with the former SDOP was entirely natural due to their close familial ties, especially as Pandey's ailing son and mother-in-law were staying at his residence during the incident. Noting that no incriminating chats were physically recovered from the device and that the charge sheet has already been filed, the court granted relief. The court observed that the trial is expected to take considerable time and Dixit was not present at the scene of the crime.

Congress blames for targeted deletion of voters' names

Bhopal: The voter verification survey being conducted in Bhopal on the directions of the Election Commission has entered its final phase, with around 2.25 lakh Form-7 applications submitted for deletion of names from the electoral rolls. The Congress has alleged that a large number of these applications have been filed by rival political parties against genuine local voters.

In the Narela Assembly constituency alone, nearly 5,000 applications have reportedly been submitted seeking deletion of names of families residing in the area for several years. As scrutiny begins and notices are issued, affected families have expressed fear over the possible loss of their voting rights and local identity. Under the leadership of Congress leader Manoj Shukla, aggrieved residents staged a protest outside Nishatpura police station and submitted written complaints to ACP Akshay Chaudhary and station in-charge Manoj Patwa, demanding registration of a case.

Shukla alleged that BJP workers had filed false and fabricated complaints with the intent of targeted deletion, calling it a serious offence under the Representation of the



People Act, 1950, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police have assured a high-level inquiry and a report to the Election Commission.

Contaminated drinking water plagues Gayatri Nagar residents

Residents present videos to officials

Bhopal: Residents of Gayatri Nagar colony in Ward 65 are facing serious hardship due to the supply of contaminated drinking water. Despite repeated complaints to civic authorities, the problem has persisted, forcing residents to record videos of the dirty water and present them to officials.



utes each day, indicating mixing of sewage with drinking water.

Sewage water is leaking into the water chamber: Resident: A resident of Gayatri Nagar, said sewage water is leaking into the water chamber, contaminating the supply. He added that people are being forced to use this water, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.

Residents also complained of a poor sanitation system in the area. Drains are reportedly not cleaned regularly, leading to foul smell and a rise in mosquitoes. Meanwhile, Mayor Malti Rai and MIC Member Ravindra Yeti held a review meeting with concerned departments to discuss water quality, sewage management and related issues. Residents have demanded immediate repair of pipelines and chambers to resolve the problem.

Two tigers died mysteriously in Shahdol

Seven arrested, two officials suspended as Forest Dept cracks down

Shahdol: The mysterious deaths of two tigers in the Bancharchar beat of Jaisinghnagar have triggered a massive administrative crackdown, leading to the arrest of seven suspects and the immediate suspension of local forest officials. Following the recovery of the carcasses near Karpa village, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Taruna Verma registered two separate forest crime cases on February 1 and 2, 2026. The investigation has already uncovered significant lapses in monitoring. Consequently, Beat Guard Rajendra Puri and Range Assistant Brihaspati Patel have been placed under suspension, while a formal charge sheet is be-

ing proposed against Range Officer Dinesh Kumar Patel. The seven arrested individuals are currently in remand, with interrogations focused on potential poaching links or retaliatory killing.

To prevent further tragedies, the Forest Department has flooded the sensitive zone with patrol teams, intensifying surveillance across all forest compartments. DFO Verma emphasized that the death of a protected species like the tiger is a matter of utmost gravity, vowing that no negligence will be tolerated and the maximum legal penalty will be sought against those responsible for thinning the ranks of India's national animal.