

Inter-state Marijuana smuggling network busted

Crime Branch arrests seven suspects, including five women, and recovers over 36 kilograms of contraband disguised as household goods

Staff Reporter

THE Crime Branch has dismantled an inter-state smuggling syndicate, arresting 7 suspects, including 5 women, who transported a large cannabis shipment by train. Investigators seized approximately 36 kilograms of ganja, valued at nearly Rs 4 lakh, along with several mobile phones, intercepting the contraband before it could be distributed to local dealers across the State capital. Additional Deputy Commissioner Shailendra Singh Chauhan stated the suspects arrived aboard the Punjab Mail and planned to reach Chhola via the Kararia forest route to bypass standard checkpoints. However, acting on a confidential tip-off, a specialised Crime Branch team trapped and detained the suspects near the Coach Factory in Bajaria based on informant descriptions.

During physical searches, officers discovered the marijuana meticulously wrapped in brown adhesive tape and hidden inside travel bags, plastic sacks, and ordinary domestic utensils. The gang utilised everyday items like baskets, tubs, and buckets to camouflage the illicit substance and evade profiling by railway security and police patrols during transit. The arrested individuals, Rahul Sauda, 38, Ravi Meskar, 26, Rachna Sauda, 37, Seema Sauda, 35, Nidhi Sauda, 25, Kajal Meskar, 18, and Aarti Untbar, 25m reside in Bhopal and Sagar. Inquiries indicate the syndicate has actively supplied marijuana from neighbouring states to local peddlers, and one suspect has a documented criminal history.

Cabinet clears Rs 30,055 crore welfare booster

■ New Transfer Policy approved ■ Major gains for farmers and pensioners

Staff Reporter

CABINET meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav at the Mantralaya on Wednesday, okayed a massive corpus of Rs 30,055 crore. The extensive approvals span key sectors including social security pensions, crop insurance security nets, village water grids, labour healthcare, and transit protection for children. Alongside these fiscal injections, the state



Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav chairing the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

CABINET MEETING

announced a major administrative overhaul by formally ratifying the Transfer Policy-2026. **Transfer Policy-2026: 15-day window announced for Government employees** Bringing an end to the ongoing freeze on employee movements, the Cabinet approved the 'Transfer Policy-2026 for officers and employees at State and district levels'. Under this new policy, the ban on transfers will be temporarily relaxed for a strict 15-day window, running from June 1, 2026, to June 15, 2026.

The policy introduces structured caps based on cadre strength but offers compassionate exemptions. Transfer requests involving spouses posted at the same location, as well as employees battling serious medical conditions, will be treated outside the standard departmental quotas. For local execution, the transfers of Class III and Class IV employees within a district will require the direct approval of the respective Minister-in-Charge. Meanwhile, transfers of departmental heads and first-class Chief Executive Officers heading

state government undertakings will be handled directly by the Chief Minister in co-ordination with the respective departments. **Big win for farmers: Rs 1,000 minimum payout guaranteed under PMFBY** To insulate the State's agrarian economy from weather volatility, the Council of Ministers cleared an allocation of Rs 11,608.47 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). This multi-billion rupee funding ensures the smooth continuation of the crop insurance scheme for the next five years,

stretching from FY 2026-27 to 2030-31. In a highly localised, pro-farmer intervention, the Cabinet ruled that if a farmer's calculated insurance claim for crop damage falls below Rs 1,000 in any season, the state government will step in to pay the difference. This decision guarantees that every eligible farmer receives a minimum payout of Rs 1,000 per season, eliminating the fractional, double-digit insurance disbursements that have historically caused frustration on the ground.

Other Cabinet decisions

Massive Social Security Net: Over Rs 15,184 crore earmarked for pensions The single largest financial chunk of the Cabinet meet, amounting to Rs 15,184.42 crore, was approved under the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to secure vulnerable communities for the next five years. **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme:** Allotted Rs 2,123.42 crore to provide a sustained monthly pension of Rs 600 to eligible Kalyani (widowed) women over 40 years of age living below the poverty line. **Samagra Social Security Pension Scheme:** Sanctioned Rs 13,061 crore under the state's integrated system. This guarantees a regular monthly assistance of Rs 600 to destitute senior citizens above 60, widowed women above 18, unmarried

women aged 50 or older, and Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) over six years of age with 40% or higher disability. **Child Help Desks at Major Railway Stations and Bus Stands** The Cabinet sanctioned Rs 156 crore for targeted women and child safety frameworks running up to 2031. A dominant share of this allocation, Rs 113.50 crore, is dedicated to the expansion of Child Helpline-1098 under the fully centrally sponsored Mission Vatsalya. The emergency response system will now establish district-level operations in the state's four newly carved districts: Niwari, Maihar, Pandhurna, and Mauganj. Furthermore, dedicated child help desks will be deployed at highly active transit points, including the railway **Contd on page 2**

Bhopal court rejects plea seeking second autopsy of Twisha

■ 'Chief Minister assures us to write to CBI'
■ Reward for absconding Samarth Singh hiked from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000

By Bhavana 'Aparajita' Shukla

AGGRIEVED family members of deceased Twisha Sharma on Wednesday finally could meet Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav. On the other side, Bhopal court has rejected their plea for a second post-mortem examination. For the said meeting with the Chief Minister, Sharma family was struggling since couple of

days. They have got assurance from the Chief Minister to fulfill their demands for justice. Talking to 'The Hitavada', Twisha's father Navnidhi Sharma said "the meeting was positive. Chief Minister expressed regret as he could not meet earlier. But he assured us that the State Government will provide support to get justice in the case." Replying to their demand to hand over the case to CBI as the family has been demanding investigation from a agency outside the State, Chief Minister said that they will write to the CBI in this regard. Despite all this, in a major blow to family's plea for second autopsy at AIIMS Delhi, the Bhopal District Court has dismissed the plea and raised concerns over the preservation of her body due to the lack of ultra-low temperature storage facilities in Bhopal. More than eight days since death, **Contd on page 2**

TWISHA SHARMA CASE

Chemists & Druggists' Strike: 4,000 shops closed
Patients wander due to medicine shortage



Medical stores inside hospital.



Shops closed in front of Hamidia Hospital.

By Abhishek Dehariya

A MASSIVE healthcare crisis gripped the capital city on Wednesday as around 4,000 medicine shops pulled down their shutters following a strike call by the Madhya Pradesh Chemists and Druggists Association, completely paralysing the local medical supply chain. This sweeping shutdown dealt a crippling blow to the citizens of Bhopal, triggering widespread panic and leaving vulnerable patients entirely stranded. Desperate families were forced to wander frantical-

ly across the city from one locked counter to another in an exhausting search for life-saving drugs. The impact was exceptionally severe on emergency cases and critical patients, who had to endure immense hardship just to procure basic, everyday formulations for common ailments like high fever, severe aches, and sudden health complications. With the retail market locked down, even the most fundamental medical needs of the public went painfully unmet. Although government-run medicine stores and hospital pharmacies remained functional,

they offered cold comfort to the general public; these state-run counters strictly adhered to rigid internal protocols, dispensing medicines exclusively upon showing specific prescriptions issued by doctors from their own respective hospital departments, effectively shutting out external patients in their hour of need. Keeping the convenience of the general public in mind, an essential notice had already been issued by the administration and the Divisional Public Relations Office. Under this, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras, pharmacies operating

in private hospitals, and pharmacies of government hospitals and health centers were exempted from the strike to ensure the availability of medicines. When the situation was reviewed by 'The Hitavada' team during the strike, patients had to face several difficulties in getting medicines. Pharmacies operating in government hospitals were primarily distributing only those medicines prescribed by doctors from their own departments. In such a situation, people arriving with prescriptions from external doctors or private **Contd on page 2**

Garbage Mountains surround Chhola Dussehra Ground



Staff Reporter

THE Central Swachh Survekshan inspection team arrived in Bhopal, the municipal corporation workforce rushed onto the streets with paintbrushes, acting as if all the city's deficiencies could be hidden behind beautifully decorated walls. While dazzling murals are being painted across public areas, municipal officials seem blind to the reality of the historic Chhola Dussehra Ground. Just a short distance from the freshly painted walls bearing slogans like 'Clean Bhopal,

Beautiful Bhopal' meant to appease the survey team, this ground tells a grotesque tale of garbage and neglect. The historic Chhola Dussehra Ground, where the Hindu Utsav Samiti celebrates the victory of good over evil with immense grandeur every year, has itself fallen victim to the gross negligence of the municipal administration. Massive mountains of garbage surround the entire venue. It seems the municipal authorities have decided to showcase these colossal trash heaps alongside the traditional festivities to the visiting

inspectors, perhaps ironically hoping to claim bonus points under the national 'Waste to Art' category. When 'The Hitavada' team visited the site to verify the administration's claims, the ground resembled an unauthorised landfill rather than a public arena. Decaying organic waste, plastic bags, and household refuse emitted a foul stench across the entire area. Local residents expressed deep frustration, stating they have been suffering from this health hazard for years while municipal authorities have turned a deaf ear to their repeated complaints.

Central team for Swachh Survekshan arrives in Bhopal

Staff Reporter

A CENTRAL team representing the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 arrived in the State capital from Delhi on Wednesday evening to conduct on the spot assessments of Bhopal's sanitation infrastructure. The surprise inspections are scheduled to begin on Thursday morning. Despite their arrival, Bhopal Municipal Corporation officials confirmed that the team had not logged into the official digital portal of the survey by late Wednesday night, successfully maintaining absolute confidentiality regarding their initial inspection site. Municipal officials indicated that the central inspection team may commence its assessment from Berasia under the Clean City Pair initia-

- Inspection to begin from Berasia
- Surprise visits to maintain absolute confidentiality as digital portal log-in delayed
- MP secures second spot nationally in citizens' feedback

tive of the Swachh Bharat Mission. Under this protocol, the team will evaluate the waste management and sanitation standards of the Berasia Municipality before entering the official limits of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation via the Misrod area. This entry route will mark the official beginning of the main urban assessment. The evaluation team is tasked with conducting a thorough ground-level audit of the city's solid waste management systems, door-to-door garbage collection efficiency, and overall waste processing mechanisms. The investigators will

inspect residential wards, public toilets, commercial zones, and waste transfer stations to verify the city's adherence to the stringent guidelines issued under the national sanitation framework. Nationally, Madhya Pradesh maintains the second position in citizen feedback under the Swachh Survekshan framework, trailing behind Uttar Pradesh. Out of over 87 lakh feedbacks recorded across the country, Uttar Pradesh leads with 38 lakh responses, while Madhya Pradesh has secured

22.69 lakh submissions. However, this success is largely driven by a few major urban centers. Out of the 192 municipal bodies in the state, only Indore, Jabalpur, Bhopal, and Ujjain have crossed the milestone of 1 lakh feedbacks. In sharp contrast to the major cities, smaller towns and municipal councils across the state exhibit severe apathy toward the cleanliness feedback process. Over 76 urban bodies have failed to cross 100 responses, while 66 others remained under the double-digit mark of 99 submissions. Most notably, 46 municipal divisions, including **Contd on page 2**

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Bhopal court rejects plea seeking...

Twisha Sharma's body is still in a morgue. On Tuesday, the court had summoned the police diary related to the case. Accused husband Samarth Singh is still remains absconding. What the Bhopal Police Chief has to say on this-

Bhopal Commissioner of Police Sanjay Kumar said that they had no objection to a second post-mortem of Twisha Sharma. The application seeking a second autopsy has been attached to the case diary, but decision on the permission rests with the court. All efforts are being in place to arrest Twisha's husband advocate Samarth Singh. On May 12, 33-year-old Twisha, a Noida woman who was allegedly harassed for dowry, was found dead at her in-laws' home in Bhopal. Twisha Sharma had been pleading with her mother that she wanted to leave her husband's home in Bhopal and a chat with her friend also high-

lights she was experiencing trauma at her in laws house.

More than eight days passed, but her family has refused to cremate her as they are demanding fair and independent investigation from an agency outside the state. They said since her in-law is influential people and things can be tempered here.

The Bhopal Police have speeded up efforts to apprehend the accused, Samarth Singh, who remains at large in connection with the high-profile dowry death case under the Katara Hills police station jurisdiction. In an effort to intensify the search, the police administration has significantly increased the bounty placed on his capture.

According to a new directive issued by Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar, the reward for providing information leading to the arrest of Samarth Singh has been tripled.

Other Cabinet decisions

stations of Bina, Katni, Meghnagar (Jhabua), and Singrauli, alongside key bus terminals in cities like Gwalior, Satna, Seoni, Neemuch, Chhatarpur, and Balaghat. Additionally, the Cabinet reserved Rs 27.50 crore for POCOSO victim care and Rs 15 crore for the community-led Anganwadi Shaurya Dals.

Water Pipelines Expanded; Labour Welfare and Good Governance Funded

Addressing critical rural infrastructure, the Cabinet provided a revised upward administrative approval of Rs 593.24 crore for two major water grids. The Bandal Group Water Supply Scheme in Seoni saw its budget scaled up to Rs 266.17 crore to accommodate 4 additional villages and 30 habitations.

Similarly, the Nemawar Group Water Supply Scheme in Dewas was revised to Rs 327.07 crore to integrate 21 left-out villages and 11 habitations. Both projects will deploy advanced water distribution pipelines and household tap

connections in line with Jal Jeevan Mission norms.

The Cabinet also approved several other major institutional expenditures: Labour Support: Approved Rs 1,779.07 crore for labour welfare, with a dominant Rs 1,583.91 crore chunk funding the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme to insure workers and their families over the next five years.

Public Services: Cleared Rs 360 crore to manage the Public Service Guarantee Act up to 2031, sustaining the state's 444 PPP-model Public Service Centres, the CM Helpline, and the CM Dashboard. Currently, out of 733 notified public services, 637 are functioning entirely online.

Policy Analytics: Allocated Rs 373.38 crore to support the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA) for its state think-tank operations, which remarkably includes a specialised Rs 25 crore fund to research and develop a regional bio-based economy.

Chemists & Druggists' Strike...

clinics were not being provided with medicines. Additionally, due to the limited stock of some essential medicines even at the discount medicine shops operating within these premises, patients coming from far-off places had to wander in search of medicines.

Common people reaching the medicine markets in this strike had to face severe mental and physical distress. Sumit, who came to buy medicine for his father, shared that his father suffers from a lung-related disease and taking his tablets was mandatory, but he kept facing trouble as shops were closed all around.

According to Sumit, the shop from where they regularly purchase medicines was closed today, and they had no prior information about this strike; even when they visited alternative medicine shops at hospitals, the medicine could not be found there either.

A similar helplessness was shared by Sanjana, who came from Sehore.

Her mother suffers from paralysis and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bhopal. Sanjana wandered from place to place in the city today looking for medicine, but when she could not get the essential medicine for her mother despite extensive

efforts, she was forced to return to Sehore deeply disappointed.

Meanwhile, Ramlal, who was also facing the shortage of medicines, stated that he had to travel a long distance in the city to get his required medicine, but despite such hard struggles, the medicine he needed could not be found anywhere in the market.

When 'The Hitavada' team contacted Jitendra Dhakad of the Bhopal Chemists Association regarding this entire matter, he informed that the association met District Collector Priyank Mishra on Wednesday.

The association has submitted a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister through the Collector regarding their demands. During the meeting, Collector Priyank Mishra assured that he would forward these demands of the association to the government. Meanwhile, Jitendra Dhakad explicitly stated that if their demands are not met, then they might go on an indefinite strike in the coming days.

Along with this, he also informed that if any patient faces extreme trouble during an emergency, permission was given to shops to provide medicines as per requirement, so that people could get relief during the time of crisis.

Central team for Swachh Survekshan..

Itarsi, Amarkantak, Rehli, Seoni, and Sidhi, recorded just a single feedback each.

Among the top-tier contributors, Indore leads with 7.46 lakh responses, followed by Jabalpur at 3.43 lakh, Bhopal at 2.55 lakh, and Ujjain at 1.28 lakh.

Municipal Commissioner Sanskriti Jain stated that the local administration has successfully achieved its manda-

tory target of securing 10 percent citizen feedback ahead of schedule. Jain explained that any additional feedback registered from this point onward will serve as bonus points to bolster the capital's national ranking. She added that intensive cleanliness drives are currently being conducted across all sectors to ensure Bhopal secures a top position in the national survey.

AI Centre of Excellence to be established in Indore

■ Google Cloud India to train 10,000 developers for tech-driven good governance

■ Staff Reporter

A STATE-OF-THE-ART Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence is set to be established in Indore.

The announcement followed a high-level roundtable meeting at the Mantralaya on Wednesday, where a delegation from Google Cloud India met with Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav to solidify a strategic roadmap for AI-driven good governance and digital transformation.

Under this collaboration, an official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed shortly to establish the Indore Centre, which will act as a primary hub for AI research, innovation, and specialised skill development. Additional Chief Secretary Neeraj Mandloi revealed that the Centre will train and engage more than 10,000 AI developers. These developers will



A high-level roundtable meeting being held at the Mantralaya on Wednesday, where a delegation from Google Cloud India met with Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav.

provide real-time technical support tailored explicitly to the administrative needs of Madhya Pradesh, the nation, and the Global South.

AI solution centres to revolutionise agriculture, education, healthcare

Building on the momentum of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Google Cloud India presented a comprehensive framework aimed at embedding AI into the State's core public sectors. These dedicated AI Solution Centres will focus on high-pri-

ority departments to deliver direct, citizen-centric outcomes:

Agriculture: A Gemini-powered open AI network will be deployed to provide farmers with highly localised agricultural advisory services, real-time market price updates, and seamless access to financial services.

Education: Customised, multilingual AI platforms will introduce virtual tutors and personalised learning systems. This initiative is designed to support more than 5 lakh students and provide digital teaching assistance tools to 1 lakh teachers.

Special cleanliness drive across major railway stations, including Itarsi, Bina



Cleanliness and public awareness drive at the railway station.

■ Staff Reporter

AS PART of the ongoing World Environment Day campaign, the Bhopal Railway Division of West Central Railway organised a cleanliness and public awareness drive across various major stations on May 20.

The initiative aimed to educate passengers, railway employees, and sanitation workers about environmental conservation, the

importance of maintaining hygiene, and the long-term benefits of developing green, sustainable railway premises.

At the Bhopal main station, dedicated awareness activities were conducted to encourage passengers and staff to keep the station ecosystem secure and pollutant-free.

Alongside the awareness sessions, railway teams identified specific high-footfall zones

across the station complex to execute an intensive deep-cleaning operation, ensuring pristine conditions throughout the premises.

A similar intensive drive was rolled out at Itarsi station, where sanitation workers were briefed on the critical role they play in environmental preservation.

Outsourced mechanical cleaning staff undertook a thorough washdown of critical utility zones, including the station's circulating area, railway tracks, foot overbridges, public restrooms, and drinking water booths.

Meanwhile, at Bina station, a collaborative joint inspection and interactive session was organised by the commercial, medical, and mechanical departments.

Officials engaged directly with the frontline cleaning staff, motivating them to maintain high standards of sanitation and briefing them on efficient methods to foster a healthier, eco-friendly transit environment for the passengers.

Healthcare: Operating under the 'Ojas AI' framework, new solutions will launch remote clinical decision support systems, real-time health dashboards, and advanced predictive screening for the early identification of high-risk pregnancies.

Public Safety & Policing: The state's law enforcement infrastructure will be reinforced with predictive policing models, behavioral analytics, and advanced digital forensics to accelerate investigation turn-arounds.

Strengthening good governance, preparing for Simhastha-2028

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav emphasised that the ultimate goal of this partnership is to make State governance deeply effective, transparent, and responsive.

The implementation strategy includes deploying automated grievance redressal systems, conversational citizen service portals, intelligent document processing, and integrated citizen data systems.

Additionally, computer-vision

models will be utilised in forestry departments for real-time alert systems to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and enhance wildlife conservation.

A significant portion of the roundtable was also dedicated to the technological blueprint for the upcoming Simhastha-2028 in Ujjain. To manage the massive influx of millions of devotees, Google presented an AI framework featuring real-time crowd management, predictive traffic analytics, digital twin models of event zones, and emergency response systems.

A standout feature of this plan is a multilingual, voice-enabled AI application named 'Sahayak'. The app will serve as a digital companion for pilgrims, providing instant, local-language updates on crowd density, route guidance, traffic diversions, and emergency medical services, ensuring a safe and digitally enabled spiritual congregation.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, Principal Secretary (S&T) M Selvendran, and Google Cloud India Director (Public Sector) Ashish Vattal.

Bhopal Rly Divn launches 15-day safety drive to ensure secure rail travel

■ Staff Reporter

THE Bhopal Railway Division has launched a dedicated 15-day special safety campaign. Running from May 20, 2026, to June 04, 2026, this intensive drive focuses on rigorous safety inspections across all passenger trains originating from or passing through the Bhopal division.

Strict vigilance, fire safety protocols

A primary focus of this special campaign is ensuring absolute fire safety on board. Teams are conducting detailed maintenance checks on coaches, with a strict emphasis on inspecting pantry cars, gas cylinders, and electrical safety equipment to eliminate any hazards. Additionally,

authorities are monitoring and penalising smoking in coaches and restrooms to maintain a safe environment.

Cracking down on unauthorised passengers, hazardous goods

To enhance overall security, the railway administration is carrying out thorough checks against unauthorised passengers. A strict vigil is also being maintained to prevent the transport of prohibited, inflammable, or explosive materials. This security net extends to parcel vans, where loaded luggage is being screened for inflammable items, as well as generator cars and engine rooms, which are being closely monitored to prevent any oil or fuel leaks.

E-Admission: Over 1.32L students allotted colleges in first round

■ Staff Reporter

THE Department of Higher Education has released the first round of college allotments (seat allotment) for Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) courses under the online e-admission process conducted for the academic session 2026-27. In the first phase, a total of 1,32,198 students have been allotted seats for admission in various Government and non-government colleges across the State. This includes 1,07,075 students at the undergraduate level and 25,123 students at the postgraduate level.

Along with the seat allotment, the online fee payment process for the selected students has

commenced from Wednesday. To secure their admission in the allotted colleges, students must deposit their fees through online mode by the upcoming deadline of May 26, 2026. For the convenience of the students, the department has also provided a mobile-friendly portal facility this time, enabling students to complete their admission process by paying the fees from their homes via mobile.

According to the Department of Higher Education, students who missed out on a seat in this round or wish to participate in the upcoming rounds of counselling can regularly visit the e-admission portal to get information regarding the next scheduled rounds.

Unorganised Labour, Employees Congress to host State-level convention tomorrow

■ Staff Reporter

THE Madhya Pradesh Unorganised Labour and Employees Congress is set to host a State-level convention on May 22. The mega assembly will commence at 11 am at the State Congress Headquarters (PCC office) in Bhopal to deliberate on the future roadmap for labour rights and organisational expansion. Ranjeet Singh Shaktawat, the State President of the MP Unorganised Labour and Employee Congress, announced that the convention will focus heavily on drafting an aggressive, step-by-step action plan to address the challenges faced by unorganised

sector workers and ensure the robust execution of labour welfare strategies across the State. MP Congress Committee (MPCC) President Jitu Patwari, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Umang Singhar, and veteran leader and former LoP Ajay Singh 'Rahul Bhaiya' will attend the event as key guests.

They will be joined by former State Ministers Sukhdev Panse and Priyavrat Singh Khichi, alongside several senior leaders and grassroots workers from the Bhopal Congress unit.

The State-level meet will be the address by Dr Udit Raj, the National Chairman of the Unorganised Workers and

Employee Congress and national spokesperson for the All India Congress Committee (AICC). As the principal speaker, the veteran national leader is expected to outline the national policy framework for labour rights and guide the regional cadres on strengthening the organisational footprint. The convention will serve as a major brainstorming hub, bringing together all State office-bearers, district presidents from every corner of Madhya Pradesh, and dedicated ground workers.

The leaders will engage in detailed discussions on the upcoming field strategies and institutional steps required to enforce labour-centric policies.

AIIMS student presents research paper in China on 'Emotional bonding between unborn baby and mother'

■ Staff Reporter

AN M.Sc. Nursing (2023 batch) student of AIIMS Bhopal presented her research paper at the prestigious international conference 'ASPIRE 2026' held in Beijing, China. More than 3,000 experts and researchers from over 60 countries participated in this 15th conference, organized at the China National Convention Centre, where topics related to maternal and reproductive healthcare services were discussed.

Priya Kumari, a student of the institute, presented her research paper on positive activities that strengthen the emotional bonding between pregnant women and their unborn babies. Her research was based on the top-



ic 'Effect of Fetus Targeted Maternal Activities on Feto-Maternal Attachment among Pregnant Women'. The study highlighted that positive activities performed by the mother during pregnancy help in strengthening the relationship with the unborn child.

This research work was completed under the guidance of Dr Lily Podder, Kumarasamy A P, and Dr K Pushpalata. On this achievement, AIIMS Executive Director Professor (Dr) Madhabananda Kar, and College of Nursing Principal In-charge Dr. Mamta Verma, along with faculty members, congratulated the student.

AIIMS Bhopal student Priya Kumari at the 'ASPIRE 2026' International Conference.

BRIEFS

Contractor booked for raping woman over financial dispute

■ A contractor has been booked for allegedly abducting and raping a 32-year-old woman over an ongoing financial dispute

■ Staff Reporter

A CONTRACTOR has been booked by the Khajuri Sadak police for allegedly abducting and raping a 32-year-old woman over an ongoing financial dispute. The assault took place on April 15, and a formal case was registered after the victim returned from her maternal home to lodge a complaint. According to police, the victim, who works as a tailor, lives within the limits of the Khajuri Sadak police station. She had first met the accused, Harinarayan, 50, in 2018 when he was hired as the contractor to construct her house. Since then, the two had been embroiled in a legal battle over a bounced check, which is currently pending trial in court.

The incident occurred at around 8:30 pm on April 15 when the victim was walking to a local market to buy vegetables. Kushwaha intercepted her midway and aggressively demanded a payment of Rs 4.60 lakh. When the woman refused to comply, the accused forcefully took her to an empty plot located in Bairagarh Kalan, where he threatened her with dire consequences and sexually assaulted her.

Senior Advocate duped of Rs 1 lakh in ATM swap fraud

JAHANGIRABAD police have registered a case of fraud against an unidentified person after Rajendra Kumar Mishra, a 75-year-old senior advocate, reported the theft of Rs 1,00,000 from his bank account through an ATM swap. The incident was reported on Tuesday, following a complaint submitted by the victim, who practices law at the Bhopal District Court and maintains an office near the three-story Police Lines in Jahangirabad.

The incident occurred on May 14 when Rajendra Kumar Mishra visited a Central Bank ATM located near Acharya Police Store in Jahangirabad to withdraw cash. According to the complaint, the victim attempted to use his Indian Bank ATM card twice but was unsuccessful. While he was struggling with the machine, a woman with her face covered approached him and offered to assist, claiming he was inserting the card incorrectly. Under her instructions, he attempted to enter his PIN and insert the card multiple times, but the transaction still failed. The woman then left the premises. After the woman departed, the victim successfully used a different card from the State Bank of India to withdraw Rs 9,000 and left the kiosk. Shortly after exiting, he began receiving transaction alerts on his mobile phone. He later discovered that Rs 60,000 had been withdrawn from his Indian Bank account in six separate transactions on May 14, followed by another Rs 40,000 withdrawn across four transactions on May 15. Realising his account had been drained of a total of Rs 1,00,000, the victim contacted his bank and learned that his original ATM card had been swapped for a different one during the encounter at the kiosk. The victim thus, approached the police and registered a complaint against unidentified accused.

Unfinished construction works disrupts everyday life in City



Dust, traffic jams, and unfinished construction: The prolonged bridge construction work on Chopra Road, situated along Bhopal's Vidisha Bypass, has significantly compounded the difficulties faced by the general public and motorists alike. Due to the sluggish pace of construction and inadequate logistical arrangements, the route is plagued daily by traffic jams, dust, and general chaos. Local residents report that while the bridge construction project has been underway for several months, it remains far from completion. Motorists driving smaller vehicles face severe hardships due to the presence of large potholes and unfinished excavation work on the road. Two-wheeler riders and school children are compelled to commute amidst clouds of dust and dirt. The dust constantly swirling across the road throughout the day is also causing distress to nearby shopkeepers and residents. Locals allege that the construction agency is failing to sprinkle water regularly—a lapse that is further exacerbating the already dire situation. Given that this is a busy arterial route, long traffic snarls are a common occurrence during the morning and evening rush hours. Frequently, even ambulances and vehicles providing essential services get stuck in the gridlocked traffic. Motorists have alleged that insufficient arrangements have been made to manage traffic flow effectively while the construction work is in progress.

(Pics by Bhupendra Singh)

Man killed in tiger attack in Balaghat

■ Staff Reporter

A VILLAGER collecting tendu leaves in the Chamarwahi Beat of the Lamta Project under the Forest Development Corporation in Balaghat was killed in a tiger attack, on Wednesday. The incident triggered protests by angry villagers who later blocked the Lalbarra main road with the victim's body. According to reports, Indrakumar (45), a resident of Seoni, went into the forest with four women to collect tendu leaves when the tiger, hiding in bushes, suddenly attacked him. The animal grabbed him by the neck and dragged him into the forest. The women accompanying him raised an alarm and even pelted stones



Villagers, accompanied by forest personnel, collecting the mutilated body parts of deceased.

in an attempt to drive the tiger away, but the animal continued dragging the victim for nearly one kilometre toward a forest stream. After receiving information about the incident, teams from the Forest Department and police launched a search operation. Indrakumar's mutilated body was later found near a *nala* deep inside the forest, around one

kilometre from the attack site.

As news of the incident spread, large number of villagers gathered at the spot. Following post-mortem examination, the body was handed over to the family members. Angered by the incident, villagers staged a protest by placing the body on the Lalbarra road and demanded adequate compensation for the victim's family. Forest officials informed the protesters that the State Government has approved compensation of Rs 8 lakh in cases of death caused by wild animal attacks. An immediate relief amount of Rs 20,000 was handed over to the family on the spot, while the remaining Rs 7.80 lakh will be transferred to the victim's bank account after completion of official formalities.

5 poachers nabbed for hunting wild boars in Dindori

The accused were also possessing and transporting raw meat of these hunted wild boars. The accused were also possessing and transporting raw meat of these hunted wild boars

■ Our Correspondent
DINDORI, May 20

IN A major operation conducted under the Wildlife Protection Act, the Forest Department in the district has arrested five accused for hunting wild boars, as well as for the possession and transportation of the meat. Raw wild boar meat, which was being transported on a motorcycle, has been recovered from the possession of the accused.

The Forest Department team has registered a case under various sections in connection with this matter and has initiated an investigation. Acting under the directives of Divisional Forest Officer Ashok Solanki and Deputy Divisional Forest Officer Surendra Singh Jatav, Range Officer (East Karanjia) Kaushambi Jha was on a routine patrol with her team.

During this patrol, around 7.30 am, suspicious individuals were intercepted and searched near Harra Munara on the Kabir-Chauradadar road. During the search, raw wild boar meat, which was being transported on a motorcycle, was recovered from the accused.



Forest Department team with the arrested poachers.

At the scene, the Forest Department team completed the necessary 'panchnama' and seizure formalities, subsequently taking all five accused individuals into custody.

A case has been registered against the accused under Sections 2, 9, 39, 44, 48(A), 51, and 52 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The Forest Department is currently arranging for the forensic examination of the recovered meat, and other proceedings are being carried out in accordance with the rules.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Tulsu Sarvan Marko (43), a resident of village Chauradadar; Bensingh Sukhran Singh (41), a resident

of Chauradadar; Phulsingh Jebu Singh (66), a resident of Chauradadar; Awadhesh Amarsingh Yadav (45), a resident of Chauradadar; and Lal Parsadi Singh (53), a resident of Chauradadar.

The team involved in this operation included Forest Range Officer Kaushambi Jha, Deputy Ranger Shiv Kumar Maravi, and Forest Guards Manoj Bhartiya, Dhruv Singh Dhurve, and Satish Paraste. Forest Department has appealed to the general public to immediately report any information regarding activities such as the hunting, trafficking, or illegal trade of wildlife, so that wildlife conservation efforts can be made more effective.

Senior Cong leader Mukesh Nayak's mother passes away

■ Staff Reporter

KANTIDEVI Nayak, the revered mother of senior Congress leader Mukesh Nayak, breathed her last yesterday.

The final rites and cremation ceremonies were performed on Wednesday, May 20, at 5 pm in Damoh.



Kantidevi Nayak.

Ujjain will host 27th Inter-Regional Council meeting: CM Dr Yadav

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah to inspect Simhastha 2028
- Chief Minister Dr Yadav declared that Madhya Pradesh has become completely free of Naxalism

strong public message regarding the end of Naxalism in the country by deliberately holding the 26th Inter-Regional Council meeting in Bastar.

The Chief Minister extended his warmest congratulations and best wishes to the police officers who demonstrated exceptional courage and valor in clearing the state of Naxalism.

He specifically highlighted that Police Director General Kailash Makwana, Special Police Director General Pankaj Srivastava, and other active contributing officers were formally honoured by the Union Home Minister for their roles in the Naxal eradication campaign.

The Chief Minister also welcomed the recent decision of the Madhya Pradesh High Court Indore Bench regarding the Bhojshala complex in Dhar district. He emphasised that Madhya Pradesh is an island of peace where maintaining law and order is a top priority and no laxity will be tolerated. Dr Mohan Yadav stated that the High Court has delivered a positive and peaceful resolution to a nearly 750-year-old matter tied to religious and worship sentiments.

He assured that the Government will ensure strict compliance with the court's decision while respecting the sentiments of all parties concerned.

■ Staff Reporter

CHIEF Minister Dr Mohan Yadav announced that the next (27th) meeting of the Inter-Regional Council will be held in Ujjain in 2027. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah gave his consent for this venue during the 26th meeting of the Council held in Bastar on May 19.

After chairing the upcoming council meeting, Union Home Minister Shah will also personally inspect the extensive civic arrangements, human management, and disaster management preparations being made for Simhastha-2028 in Ujjain. Chief Minister Dr Yadav highlighted these developments while addressing ministers before the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday at the Mantralaya. During his address, Chief Minister Dr Yadav declared that Madhya Pradesh has become completely free of Naxalism.

He noted that Union Home Minister Shah delivered a

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Anoop gupta (Aadhaar No. 3651-9726-1330) Resident C/o chandra prakash Gupta, E-10 sahil Apartment ke pass, harishankarpuram lashkar gird gwalior, M.P. 474001 My son's name has been registered in the passport as Swastik kankane. The correct name of my son is Avik kankane which is also registered in the Aadhaar card and birth certificate (3650-7794-6543). Now i want to registered his new name in passport also.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Chavan Varsha Arun, is legally wedded spouse of Army No. 15710052H, Rank-Nk, Name : Chavan Arun Uttam, resident at : N-51, SE 4/21/13, Uttam Nagar, Near Atul Dairy, Cidco, Nashik, State Maharashtra, PIN-422009. I have changed my name Chavan Varsha Arun to Varsha Arun Chavan vide affidavit No. CA-056488 dated 20th May, 2026 before Bhopal (M.P.) Court.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Thankamany is mother of Army No. 14831589N, Rank- Hav, Name : Sunil.S resident at : Sunil Bhavanam, Vayanakam, Njakkanal, P.O. Ochira, State-Kerala, PIN 690533 I have changed my name Thankamany to Thankamani vide affidavit No. CA 056484 dated 20th May, 2026 before Bhopal (M.P.) Court.

BRIEFS

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat arrives in Shahdol for training camp

SHAHDOL, May 20 (PTI)

RASHTRIYA Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Dr Mohan Bhagwat arrived in Shahdol district on Wednesday morning to attend a training programme of the organisation, a Sangh functionary said. He is scheduled to interact with RSS volunteers and address intellectual sessions during the 'Karyakarta Vikas Varg Pratham', which began on May 19. Bhagwat reached the venue at Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Pandavnagar area by road from Katni, the functionary said. As many as 383 volunteers from Madhya Pradesh, Malwa, Madhya Bharat, Mahakaushal and Chhattisgarh regions are participating in the training camp, according to the organisers. Bhagwat is likely to stay in Shahdol till May 22, they said. Heavy security arrangements have been made for the RSS chief's visit, and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel have been deployed around the venue. Only authorised pass holders are being allowed entry to the programme venue, officials said. Shahdol Collector Kedar Singh has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, banning the operation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and drones in the Pandavnagar area from May 20 to 22, they added.

Man arrested for sexually exploiting divorcee under false marriage promise

■ Staff Reporter

A SENSATIONAL case of continuous sexual exploitation under the pretext of marriage spanning two years has emerged within the Awadhपुरi police station limits. Acting swiftly on the victim's formal complaint, the police arrested the accused, Aditya Singh Thakur. He was produced before a local court, which subsequently remanded him to jail under judicial custody. The victim is a 27-year-old divorced woman who is currently employed in the private sector. According to official reports, the victim met Aditya Singh Thakur, a resident of Itkheti, at a pub in the MP Nagar locality approximately 2 years ago. Following their initial meeting, they stayed in contact, and their friendship soon transitioned into a romantic relationship. The accused allegedly trapped the woman in his influence and sexually assaulted her for the first time after giving a solemn promise of marriage, continuing the exploitation systematically thereafter. Whenever the victim pressured Aditya to fulfill his promise of marriage, he deferred the matter. Recently, distances began to grow between the couple. Two days ago, Aditya summoned the victim to a hotel under the pretext of a meeting, where a heated argument broke out over their marriage plans.

Two from Seoni arrested for financial fraud

■ Our Correspondent
SEONI, May 20

KOTWALI police have arrested two youths who promised to double the amount in one year in the name of investment in global marketing and stock market trading. Police arrested both from Bhopal.

Swachh Survekshan drive spurs early drain cleaning

■ **Municipal corporation moves to prevent water-logging; desilting work begins across 789 major drains to ensure clear monsoon flow**

■ Staff Reporter

BHOPAL typically witnesses the arrival of the monsoon by June 15, but the municipal corporation historically initiated the desilting of the city's 789 major drains only during the final week of May. This delay often resulted in heavy rainfall arriving before the completion of desilting, causing severe blockages. This year, the national cleanliness survey (Swachh Survekshan) requirements have forced a shift in policy. Eager to improve national rankings, the administration has launched deep-cleaning operations weeks ahead of schedule, ensuring that workers completely extract the accumulated silt from the canal beds rather than just clearing surface garbage.

Silt disposal protocols enforced: Under strict municipal regulations, Assistant Health Officers across all zones are mandated to transport the dredged silt directly to the waste processing facility at Adampur Cantt. At the plant, plastic and polythene items are separated from the silt, allowing the remaining clean soil and rubble to be utilised for road repairs and filling highway potholes. To facilitate this intensive dredging, the municipal headquarters has deployed heavy Poclain excavators to all zones and allocated two specialised



Heavy excavators deployed by BMC carrying out large-scale drain desilting.

dump trucks per sector specifically for silt transportation.

To save vehicle fuel and bypass manual labour, zonal teams routinely dumped the heavy silt directly onto the canal banks instead of transporting it to the designated dump site.

Officials would then document progress by photographing the cleared centre of the drains, ignoring the mounds of wet silt left on the edges. Upon the first heavy monsoon shower, this silt washed back into the channels, triggering severe water-logging in residential areas and endangering residents.

Health officers oversee desilting: The responsibility of executing the field desilting plan rests entirely on the shoulders of the Assistant Health Officers of the respective zones. Anxious to avoid negative marking from the visiting national survey inspectors, these officers are requesting additional mechanical support from the headquarters. Heavy excavators are being utilised to dredge the channels to their base levels, while a fleet of dumpers operates daily to clear the dredged silt from urban areas, ensuring zero obstruction to the

natural flow of rainwater.

Vulnerable areas receive relief: The impact of the early desilting drive is already visible across several highly sensitive urban pockets. In Nariyal Kheda, a week-long clearing operation has removed tons of plastic waste, while the main canal flowing near Ravindra Bhavan into the Lower Lake has been thoroughly cleaned of bottom silt.

Furthermore, clay, stones, and silt have been dredged from the Saket Nagar canal. The most significant progress has been recorded at the busy Alpna Tiraha intersection, where the critical underground drainage network was cleared \$25\$ days ago, dramatically reducing the risk of water-logging at this commercial hub.

Varun Awasthi, Additional Commissioner of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation, stated that the cleaning of all municipal drains was initiated alongside the Swachh Survekshan preparations.

He assured that the entire drainage infrastructure across all wards will be completely cleared and secured before the official onset of the monsoon.

Police VERIFICATION MANDATORY for tenants, domestic helps, delivery boys; Police Commissioner issues orders

■ Staff Reporter

WITH an objective of further strengthening the security system in the Bhopal city, Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar has issued new restrictive orders in the city. According to these orders, issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, police verification has now been made mandatory for tenants, domestic helps, guests staying in hotels, and delivery boys in the city. This order issued by the police will remain effective for the next two months, and strict punitive action will be taken under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 against those who violate it. According to the new rules, landlords will now have to provide the complete details of the tenant or paying guest to the

police within one week of renting out their house or any part of it. For this, the information can be registered at the respective police station or online on the 'Madhya Pradesh Police Citizen Portal'. Along with this, the details of tenants or domestic helps who are already working or residing in houses must also be mandatorily submitted to the police within 15 days from the date of issuance of this order.

Rules have been tightened for commercial establishments as well. Managers of all hotels, lodges, dharamshalas, and resorts in the city will have to record the complete personal details of every person staying at their establishment in the register and inform the respective police station. Similarly, hostel operators will have to provide the details of the students residing in their hostels

to the police. Spa centers, massage centers, beauty parlours, and private security agencies will also have to mandatorily submit the information of their employees and guards, along with their ID proofs, to the police station.

Additionally, it is necessary for institutions operating online shopping, food delivery, or courier companies to provide the identity cards and details of delivery personnel who go door-to-door to supply goods to the police. In the order, building construction contractors have been directed to submit the details of their labourers and artisans to the police station. Meanwhile, travel agencies renting out vehicles have been advised to thoroughly verify the identity of any person before giving them a vehicle and to mandatorily keep their ID proof safe with themselves.

India has over 2 lakh start-ups, expansion reaching smaller cities: Minister Khadse

INDORE, May 20 (PTI)

UNION Minister Raksha Nikhil Khadse said on Wednesday that the number of start-ups in the country has crossed the two lakh mark and these ventures are now expanding beyond metros into smaller cities as well. The Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports was addressing the inaugural session of the BRICS Youth Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting in Indore under India's BRICS chairship.

Speaking to reporters later, she said several initiatives have been taken over the last 10 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership to promote startups and innovation-driven enterprises in the country.

"At present, more than two lakh startups are active in India, and their reach has expanded not only to major cities but also to smaller towns," she said. Khadse said that a key issue discussed in the previous BRICS meeting was sharing India's

experiences and work in the fields of startups and innovation with member nations so that they could learn from best practices. BRICS is a major intergovernmental organisation and geopolitical bloc comprising eleven prominent emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. She said that representatives from almost all BRICS countries are participating in the meeting.

HEAT IS ON: Nowgong touches 47°C



Forecasts suggest no relief anytime soon. Two men braving the heat on JJ Road on Wednesday.

■ Staff Reporter

WITH the mercury soaring past the 46°C mark in multiple districts, the State witnessed completely dry weather. Meanwhile, maximum temperatures remained significantly above normal by 2.1°C to 3.0°C across major divisions, including Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Rewa, Jabalpur, Shahdol, and Sagar. Nowgong emerged as the hottest spot in the state, recording a blistering maximum temperature of 47.0°C, closely followed by Khajuraho at 46.4°C

and Vidisha at 46.1°C, Berasia in Bhopal touched 45.9°C, and Datia recorded 45.8°C.

In Bhopal, main station recorded a maximum temperature of 44.2°C, which is 2.7°C above the seasonal average, alongside an uncomfortably warm night minimum of 29.6°C.

In contrast, the hill station of Pachmarhi offered the only relative respite, registering the state's lowest maximum at 36.6°C and the lowest minimum at 19.2°C. Strong gusty winds reaching up to 37 km/h were also recorded in Ashoknagar, Sehore,

Gwalior, and Rewa, adding a blustery edge to the intense summer heat. A severe heatwave alert is currently in place for isolated parts of Datia, Bhind, Panna, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, and Satna districts. Meanwhile, standard heatwave alerts cover a massive footprint, including Bhopal, Vidisha, Raisen, Rajgarh, Alirajpur, Jabhua, Ratlam, Agar, Mandasaur, Neemuch, Guna, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Morena, Sheopur, Rewa, Damoh, and Sagar.

The alert also extends to Indore, Ujjain, Sehore, Harda, Khandwa, Khargone, Jabalpur, and several eastern districts, while Mandla is on alert for a combination of daytime heatwaves and stiflingly warm nights.

On the seasonal front, the IMD noted that the Northern Limit of Monsoon continues to advance through the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Conditions remain highly favorable for its further progression into the southwest and southeast Bay of Bengal over the next three to four days. The Southwest Monsoon is officially projected to set in over Kerala by May 26, subject to a model error margin of four days.

Closer to Central India, a Western Disturbance exists as a cyclonic circulation over northern Pakistan and the adjoining Jammu division, paired with a

lower-level atmospheric trough running from north Uttar Pradesh down to north Telangana across East Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha. However, these systems are unlikely to bring immediate cooling, as the IMD predicts no large change in maximum temperatures across Madhya Pradesh during the upcoming five days. Bhopal's local forecast indicates a partly cloudy sky with temperatures hovering around 44°C maximum and 29°C minimum.

Special directives have been issued for the agricultural sector to safeguard standing crops and livestock from severe thermal stress.

Farmers are advised to provide light and frequent irrigation to fields specifically during the cooler morning or evening hours to minimise water evaporation. The use of mulching is highly recommended to conserve essential soil moisture, while the application of fertilisers and chemical pesticides should be completely avoided during the hot afternoon hours. Furthermore, livestock should be kept inside well-ventilated, shaded shelters with access to clean drinking water three to four times a day, and open grazing must be restricted between 12 noon and 4 pm to protect animals from heat exhaustion.

Mental health helpline numbers to be displayed in educational institutions

■ Staff Reporter

MENTAL health helpline numbers will be mandatorily displayed in all schools and colleges of the state for the mental health and well-being of students. These directions were given by Anupam Rajan, Additional Chief Secretary of the Higher Education Department, during a meeting of the 'Monitoring and Implementation Framework Committee' held at the Mantralaya. He directed to widely publicize 'Tele MANAS-14416', 'Umang Helpline-14425', and Emergency Dial-112 in educational institutions and to make students aware of their usage.

The Additional Chief Secretary directed that the meetings of the district-level monitoring committees, constituted under the guidelines of the Supreme Court, must be organized regularly every month and its report should be sent to the state level. Along with this, topics related to mental health will be mandatorily included in the Time-Limit (TL) meetings held in districts under the chairmanship of Collectors, ensuring regular review of these arrangements. In the meeting, the Additional Chief Secretary directed all educational institutions to make necessary

arrangements to ensure a safe academic environment. Under this, a counselor will be appointed in each institution and a mental health referral system will be developed.

Along with making the Guardian Tutor Scheme and mentorship system effective, a complete ban will be imposed on the public humiliation, excessive academic pressure, ragging, and bullying of students. Teachers and staff members will be provided regular mental health training. Apart from this, special emphasis was laid on developing a sensitive and inclusive environment for SC, ST, OBC, EWS, LGBTQ, and disabled students, and establishing an effective grievance redressal mechanism. The department has also issued directives to organize awareness and mental health literacy programs for parents, encourage sports, arts, and co-curricular activities, and prepare an annual report on mental health activities. Regular career counseling and alternative career guidance will be arranged for the students. Along with this, instructions have been given to keep hostels drug-free and safe, and to ensure special mental health security and monitoring arrangements in coaching hubs.

Filing complaint would have strained relations: Family of Gwalior woman chose 'peace' over police

GWALIOR, May 20 (ANI)

IN A heartbreaking reminder of the deadly cost of social pressure, a young woman in Gwalior lost her life to relentless dowry harassment, leaving behind a devastated family that chose silence over a police complaint in a desperate bid to save the marriage. The victim's parents, Mohar Singh and Seema, are now demanding the strictest possible punishment for the in-laws, including the father-in-law, who is a Government employee.

The victim's mother, Seema, is now crying out for justice, haunted by the final, chilling phone call she received from her daughter on the night of her death.

Speaking to ANI, Seema said that the groom's family made no formal demands at the time of

the wedding. Wanting the best for their daughter, her family voluntarily showered the in-laws with substantial gifts: a car valued at Rs 2 lakh, furniture worth Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2.5 lakh in cash, alongside 10 tolas of gold and half a kilogram of silver. The victim frequently confided in her parents about the escalating physical abuse and psychological torment. However, fearing social stigma and the breakdown of the marriage, the family hesitated to involve the law. "Filing a police complaint would have strained our relations, and that is why we did not take any action against them," Seema said in anguish.

"They even physically assaulted her, and despite our repeated interventions, they did not change their behaviour. They should have simply sent her back

to us instead." The victim's father, Mohar Singh, recalled his desperate attempts to mediate. "I would speak to them repeatedly, but after a few days, they would revert to their old ways--physically abusing her and subjecting her to taunts," he said. The abuse reached a horrifying climax on the night of May 12. In her final moments, the terrified 21-year-old managed to make a frantic phone call to her mother, dropping a harrowing hint about the fate that awaited her.

"They are hanging a fan for me; they are fighting with me..." were the last words of the victim. Shortly after the call, the line went dead, and the family's worst fears were realised. Following the incident on May 12, police teams were immediately dispatched to the scene.

POWER OUTAGES TODAY

RESIDENTS in several parts of Bhopal will experience a six-hour power outage on Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 08:00 to 14:00 hours due to ongoing National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) line shifting work. According to an official press note, the scheduled shutdown will simultaneously affect three major clusters of colonies, disrupting power supply throughout the morning and early afternoon. The first group of affected areas



includes Brij Colony, Maya Enclave, Karond Square, CIAE Nabibagh, and the Nishatpura Thana area. The outage will also heavily impact vital healthcare and residential zones, including the Gas Rahat colony, areas surrounding the Maulana Azad Hospital, and properties along the Main Road. Additionally, peripheral residential sectors, including Palasi

Village, Elexer Green, Nice Space Colony, Rajnagar Palasi, and Prince Paradise, among other adjoining localities, will face the exact same six-hour maintenance shutdown. Local residents in these specified areas are advised to plan accordingly for the restoration of power after 14:00 hours once the NHAI infrastructure shifting concludes.