

Sanjiv Bajaj appointed Trustee on Shiksha Mandal

Our Correspondents
NAGPUR, Oct 7

SANJIV Bajaj, Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd has been appointed as a Trustee of Shiksha Mandal, Wardha, in a meeting of its Trustees held recently. Bajaj was adjudged as the Business Leader of the Year by *The Economic Times*.

He is the younger son of Rahul Bajaj, President of Shiksha Mandal and Chairman of Bajaj Auto Ltd. He is an alumni of College of Engineering, Pune and Harvard Business School and is credited with the development of the Finance businesses of the group at a blistering pace to result in a market capitalisation of the Finance companies exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore and vaulting the Bajaj Group to the third position amongst Indian family owned business groups, behind only the Tatas and Reliance.

Nagpur youth feared drowned in Warora tehsil

WARORA, Oct 7

A YOUTH from Nagpur feared drowned in the pond located at Ramdegi, a tourist place, about 35 km from here, on Sunday. As per reports, four youths from Nagpur came to Ramdegi, a scenic place located on Warora-Chimur road, on Sunday afternoon. The youth visited various spots there and performed puja at Shiv temple here. Adequate rainfall in the area this year has resulted into good water level the river in the forest and the pond where they went to take selfie. One of them identified as Shailesh Khedkar, aged 27, a resident of Nagpur lost balance and fell down into deep water.

24-year-old girl commits suicide

AMRAVATI, Oct 7

A 24-YEAR-OLD girl committed suicide by jumping into a well. She was missing from Friday morning while her body was found in the well at Bazar Lane, Teosa on Saturday evening. According to information, Meenakshi Babhulkar (24) on Friday morning left her home on the pretext of bringing flowers. But she failed to return home. Later, her family members lodged a complaint of her missing at Teosa Police Station. Meanwhile, her body was found in the well at Bazar Lane at Teosa on Saturday evening. Teosa Police immediately reached the spot after getting information and performed panchanama of the spot. However, the reason behind her suicide could not be confirmed. Teosa Police registered the case and started investigation.

Co-op Council's workshop today

BULDANA, Oct 7

MAHARASHTRA State Co-operative Council, Pune, has organised workshop for citizen, salaried-people, women, directors and employees of Gramin Patsanstha and Co-operative Banks at Hotel Rama Grand, Sangam Chowk, near bus stand, Buldana from 2 pm on October 8. Sudarshan Bhalerao, (Contd on page 2)

Rs 2,400 cr per year needed to complete Gosikhurd by 2021

Special Correspondent
NAGPUR, Oct 7

WATER Resources Department (WRD) will require Rs 2,400 crore every year to complete the ambitious Gosikhurd national irrigation project by the year 2021. Presently, the cost of the project is Rs 18,494 crore. So far, WRD has spent Rs 10,479 crore on the project of which irrigation potential is 2,50,800 hectares.

The information about WRD's requirement was placed before Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Water Resources and River Development, who chaired a meeting at Chitnavis Centre on Saturday. The meeting was called to take stock of the progress of Gosikhurd project. Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Guardian Minister of Nagpur and Bhandara districts; Dr Sunil Deshmukh, Vice-Chairman of Vidarbha Irrigation Development



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari addressing a meeting of officers at Chitnavis Centre. Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Guardian Minister; Dr Sunil Deshmukh, Vice-Chairman of VIDC; I S Chahal, Principal Secretary, and Sudhir Dive also are seen.

Corporation (VIDC) also were present on the occasion.

Government has directed WRD to complete the irrigation project by 2021. To achieve the goal, it will require ample funds from

the State and Central Governments for the project. The department will require Rs 1,421.70 crore in 2018-19 and Rs 2,685.11 crore for the year 2019-20. It will require Rs 2,701.13 crore

in 2020-21, and Rs 1,207.60 crore in 2021-22. The department will need Rs 1,083 crore for dam, land acquisition and rehabilitation; Rs 1,785 crore for right bank canal and Ghodazari canal; Rs 1,416

crore for Asolamendha renovation, and Rs 184 crore for left bank canal and other works.

Till now, only 74,450 hectare land is under irrigation while remaining 1,76,350 hectare will be irrigated after completion of all the pending works. The department has prepared a plan to create 37,813 hectares of irrigation potential by June 2019; 63,105 hectares by June 2020; 54,000 hectares by June 2021, and remaining 21,404 hectares of irrigation potential by December 2022. After reviewing the project's progress, Gadkari directed WRD to complete land acquisition within three months. Collectors of Nagpur, Bhandara, and Chandrapur districts should clear all the proposals of land acquisition in this regard, he said. Collectors should take quarterly review of the project and submit report to WRD Secretary. He also directed Ashwin Mudgal, offici-

ating Divisional Commissioner, to tour each of these three districts and resolve the problems of farmers and WRD. Gosikhurd project will improve the quality of life and financial health of farmers, he added.

Gadkari said that land should be acquired by following acquisition process and also through direct purchase. The farmers are demanding higher compensation for acquisition of their land, he added. Meanwhile, the Government has also sanctioned water pipeline project of Rs 560 crore for creating distribution network, he told officials.

Nana Shamkule, Vijay Wadettiwar, Ramchandra Aware, all of them MLAs; I S Chahal, Principal Secretary of WRD; Avinash Surve, Secretary; Shantanu Goyal, Bhandara Collector; Pravin Mahajan, Chief of Contractors' and Builders' (Contd on page 2)

Sharp-shooter Nawab called back, joins search operation for T1 tigress

Padma Shri Dr Prakash Amte against killing the tigress

By Ramesh Marulkar
NAGPUR, Oct 7

LEFT with no other option, Forest Department called back national-level sharp shooter Nawab Shafath Ali Khan from Hyderabad to lead the ongoing operation to tranquillise the menacing T1 tigress in Pandharkawda Forest Division in Yavatmal district.

When contacted, a forest officer, on the condition of anonymity, informed "The Hitavada" that Nawab joined the operation on Sunday and surveyed the field in an attempt to locate the animal.

The beast killed 13 persons from Pandharkawda and Ralegaon tehsils in last two years. The department had launched the tranquillising operation after January 29, 2018 and then full-fledged search from September 12 after the verdict by the Supreme Court.

However, despite deploying around 200 persons in the operation and 5 elephants, the teams could not get even a glimpse of the problem tigress so far.

Meanwhile, the operation took a twist when 'Gajraj' an elephant brought from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, broke the iron chain tied with at the base camp on Wednesday and went berserk. The jumbo killed a woman, griev-

ously injured an elderly person, damaged huts, toilets, boards, crops and ran amok on Nagpur-Hyderabad Highway.

Nawab was called previously after launching of the full-fledged operation on September 12. He headed the teams for a couple of days and then went on leave on September 20 on account of *muhurram*.

In view of widespread criticism by wildlife lovers and media against Nawab being a sharp-shooter, was kept out of the tranquillising operation till now. Two veterinarians from Madhya Pradesh Dr Akhilesh Mishra and Dr Sandeep Agrawal left the operation due to reported high (Contd on page 2)

Raj Thackeray on 9-day tour of Amravati Division from Oct 17

Amravati Bureau
AMRAVATI, Sept 7

RAJ Thackeray, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) Chief, will be on nine-days tour of Amravati Division from October 17 to 25. Thackeray will conduct meeting with party office-bearers and activists in all five districts in the Division and review party's present status regarding the ensuing Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

As per tour schedule, Thackeray will leave Mumbai by train from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Mumbai, at 7 pm on October 16 and will reach Amravati at 8 am on October 17.



Balasaheb Shendge, State Vice-President of MNS, and others present at the press conference.

He will conduct meeting with the office-bearers of the party at 10.30 am at Circuit House and will attend Amba Mahotsav being organised at Science Core ground

at 6 pm and then will stay at Circuit House. On October 18, he will leave for Chikhaldara by a private vehicle and then rest at (Contd on page 2)

Tiger kills wild boar

Our Correspondent
HINGANGHAT, Oct 7

THE presence of tiger at Shekapur (Bai) in Hinganghat tehsil and Wadner circle has been giving sleepless nights to local people from last 8 days. The troublesome tiger killed a wild boar in the late hours of Saturday and the carcass of the animal was found in the farm belonging to Ganpat Karmore at Kachangaon. Earlier, the wild cat killed a bull and cow in Wadner circle.

Considering the seriousness of the situation, Kaushal Mishra, Senior Officer with Forest Department, Dr Kadu, Badekar, Sagar Bansod, District Forest Officer, Giri, Kapkar, Raut, Bhaskar Ingle and more than 30 forest department personnel are presently camping at

Kanchangaon. Meanwhile, villagers at Shirasgaon informed the forest officers that they sighted the big cat, 5 km away from their place on Sunday.

The forest team rushed to the spot, but could not trace the tiger there. Meanwhile, the launching process of the wild beast is going on in Kanchangaon area with the help of 6 trap cameras installed in and around the village.

As the tiger threat continues in the area, the farm works are being stalled in three circles. The farm labourers have no works from last week.

As per the forest resources, the tiger would reach the spot where it attacked its prey. Hence, the forest department has made elaborate measures to trap the tiger at Kachangaon.

Youth stages 'Veerugiri' to demand arrest of his father's killers

Amravati Bureau
AMRAVATI, Oct 7

SENSATION prevailed in the weekly market area of Walgaon on Sunday after a 25-year-old youth staged Veerugiri by climbing on a water tank to flay apathy of cops in nabbing the accused in father's murder case even after two-and-half years.

According to information, Kammu Karim, Sarpanch of Walgaon and activist of Congress Party, was murdered by unidentified killers at the village about two-and-half years ago. However, police failed to arrest the accused and get clue of the accused persons. Irked over the cops' inaction, Abdul Shahruckh on Sunday



Abdul Shahruckh staging Veerugiri at Walgaon.

climbed on the water tank at weekly market and demanded immediate arrest of the accused. According to Abdul Shahruckh, police are deliberately neglecting the incident and regular transfer of officer at Walgaon Police Station is hampering the investigation.

Abdul has demanded Guardian Minister Pravin Pote to look into the matter.

The incident has caused sensation in the village as large number of people gathered at the spot. Police also reached the spot to avoid any untoward incident. Police were trying to convince the youth, who was reluctant to step down till filling of this report.

Dengue claims 5th victim in Pulgaon

Our Correspondent
PULGAON, Oct 7

A 14-YEAR-OLD girl Mahak Chaudhari from Gandhi Chowk of the town died of dengue fever. She breathed her last while undergoing treatment at Sevagram hospital on Friday night. She was the 5th victim of dengue at Pulgaon.



Mahak Chaudhari

As per reports, Mahek Chaudhari, a ninth class student of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pulgaon, and a resident of Gandhi Chowk, (Contd on page 2)

'Social Fencing' important for protection of flora and fauna, says Uttam Sawant

By Apoorva Methi
GONDIA, Oct 7

"The Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) reserve is habitat for several species of flora and fauna. It is a fine abode for the wildlife in the region. The Forest Department is taking all precautions and steps to prevent illicit feeling, poaching and degradation of the forest, but 'social fencing', protection of forest and wild species by people, is more important aspect if we want to conserve and prevent the forest cover," said Uttam Sawant, Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife). He was talking with "The Hitavada" during visit to NNTR on Saturday.

Explaining the term of 'social fencing', Sawant informed that the role of local people in curbing poaching of wild animals, tree felling and other activities is very important. They should act as a



Forest officials at an artificial water tank in NNTR.

'strong wall' to help Forest Department in conserving forest, considering it as their social responsibility.

Importantly, increasing urbanisation and industrialisation has

resulted in shrinking forest cover, which also resulted in wild animals coming out of their habitat, thereby causing man-animal conflict incidents. Sawant said that tiger is considered as umbrel-

la specie and if we save the tiger then it is going to help in saving ecological system automatically. The forest department has started restoration work of water bodies under the park. With the relocation and rehabilitation of Malkanpur, Jhankargondi and other villages, the park is now regaining the natural habitat. With very less disturbance and human interference, the reserve has as many as 5 tigers, 3 tigress and 7 cubs in the periphery, which is a good news.

"Tourism is not all about seeing the tiger. Forest Department's priority is nature education with responsible tourism. Out of total 50 tiger reserves in country, five are in Vidarbha. We are looking at lessening the dependency of the village people on forest and at the same time through eco development committees (Contd on page 2)

Elect leaders who raise voice for farmers: Kadu



MLA Bachhu Kadu addressing the farmers' meeting at Wani.

Our Correspondent
WANI, Oct 7

"FARMERS are facing death threat from even insects to wild animals. To understand the condition of farmers, people should elect the leaders who raise voice for the farmers," said MLA Bachhu Kadu. He was addressing the first ever Vidarbha-level Shetkari Parishad to discuss the farmers'

plight due to wild animals and policies of Government was organised at Vasant Ginning Hall, Wani on Sunday.

Nana Patole, former Member of Parliament, inaugurated the farmers' council in the presence of Chandrakant Wankhede, farmers' leader, Bacchu Kadu, MLA, Wamanrao Chatap, former Legislator, Sharadrao Nimbalkar, (Contd on page 2)