Chronicle Bhopal, Wednesday, April 16, 2025

# City 2

# From Bureaucracy to **Booker Buzz**

Former MP CS Anthony de Sa's "Tamarind" Captures Global Acclaim

Bhopal: The quiet corners of rural Madhya Pradesh have found a powerful voice in Anthony de Sa, former Chief Secretary, whose short story "Tamarind" has landed him on the prestigious shortlist for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2025. This remarkable feat, achieved under the pen name Tino de Sa, places him among the literary elite, selected from over 8,000 entries across 54 countries.

The announcement, straight from London, reveals "Tamarind" as one of the top 25 stories, a testament to De Sa's exceptional narrative skill. This recognition, akin to a literary coronation, positions him within reach of "the Booker Prize of short stories," a global ac-colade that celebrates the art of the short form. "Tamarind" isn't just a story; it's a vibrant tapestry woven from the threads of rural Indian life. De Sa's keen observation of the region's cultural nuances, coupled with his ability to craft compelling narratives with unexpected twists,



has resonated with the international judging panel. De Sa's transition from a distinguished career in public service, culminating in the highest bureaucratic position in Madhya Pradesh, to a celebrated author is a testament to the ened author is a testament to the en-during power of storytelling. His published works, including "The Disrobing of Draupadi," "One For Sorrow, Two For Joy," and the CB-SE-approved "The Curious Case of the Nandikote Nawab," showcase his versatility and profound understanding of the human condition

His literary prowess extends beyond book releases. De Sa's double victory in the Times of India National Short Story Competition, with stories set in the mystical landscapes of Pachmarhi and ancient Ujjain, underscores his mas-tery of the form. His poetry, recent-ly featured in a London literary publication, further demonstrates his diverse literary talent.

Currently, De Ša is immersed in crafting a new collection of short stories, continuing to explore the complexities of Indian life through his unique literary lens. His journey - from a dedicated civil servant to a globally recognized author - is an inspiring narrative of intellectual exploration and the boundless potential of the human spirit. The literary world now awaits the June announcement, with "Tamarind" poised to potentially etch its name in the annals of literary history.

# **BSSS Bids an Emotional Farewell** to Final Year Students

Through 'Glamorous Rawaangi'



Bhopal: The Bhopal School of Social Sciences (BSSS) hosted a heartfelt farewell titled "Glam-orous Rawaangi" on April 15 in the college auditorium. The event brought together faculty, staff, and students to bid an emotional goodbye to the outgoing final-year batch.

The auditorium was beautifully decorated to match the event's glamorous theme "Red Carpet". Students arrived in style, dressed in their finest, ready to celebrate

the end of a remarkable chapter in their lives. The ceremony began with the welcoming address of Principal Dr. Fr. John P.J. He congratulated everyone and com-mended the graduating batch for their achievements, urging them to carry forward the values of BSSS. The students also received blessings and words of appreciation from Vice Principal, Sr. Sonia Kurian, Fr. Jomi Panithas, Dean Academics and Heads of various departments.

The event featured an engaging lineup of cultural performances emotional reflections, and funfilled activities. A special highlight was the Title Ceremony, where outgoing students from various departments received awards.

= Stylish ramp walk added flair to the event

A stylish ramp walk by the seniors added flair to the event, symbolizing their growth and individuality. The judges for the event to judge Mr. & Ms. Farewell were Arundhatii Saxena - Winner, Miss Central India, 2024 at the age of 19; Saud Hasan Khan - One of India's most celebrated male models and Gunjan Dang - Mrs Madhya Pradesh RU 2024.

The event was meticulously coordinated by the Department of Management, guided by Prof. Smitha Pillai, HoD. The student team ensured seamless execution, managing everything from performances to hospitality.

The winners and runners up students included: Harsh Yadav; Jaza Ali; Manu Prajapati; Shoeb Kujur; Rashmi Sahare and Mohsin Khan.

#### Father in critical condition after electrocution in Narikhelra

**Bhopal:** A tragic incident in Narikhelra has reignited public outrage over a 132,000-volt high-tension wire that looms dangerously over hundreds of homes. Guddu, local laborer, is fighting for his life a Hamidia Hospital after being elec trocuted while hammering a nail in his home. His son, who tried to save him, also suffered an electric shock Guddu has sustained burns over 80% of his body and remains in critical condition. This is not the first time tragedy has struck. The same high-tension line has been linked to multiple deaths and injuries over the past 25 years. Yet despite repeat ed promises by politicians to relocate or underground the wires-as was successfully done in nearby Devki Nagar—no action has been tak-en in Narikhelra.

### Youth dies due to Electricity Department's negligence

#### Local outrage follows

Bhopal: A tragic incident in Shahjahanabad's Sanjay Nagar has sparked outrage after a young man, identified as Satish, was electrocuted due to negligence by the elec-tricity department. Satish, a local halwai, was reportedly electrocuted when he brushed against an exposed Distribution Point (DP) on an electric pole near his home on Tuesday afternoon. It is believed that the electric current spread from the open DP, which had been left uncovered, leading to Satish's untimely death. The incident caused panic among locals, and the resulting power surge damaged electrical appliances in 8 to 10

nearby homes. Refrigerators, fans, coolers, and TVs were among the items destroyed, leaving residents with significant losses.Residents of Sanjay Nagar are furious, blaming the electricity department for its negligence that led to the death of an innocent man and the damage to their property. They are de-manding accountability and immediate action.

The police arrived at the scene shortly after the incident, sending Satish's body for a post-mortem. A case (inquest) has been registered, and an investigation is ongoing. Authorities are working to determine if the department's negligence contributed to this tragedy and what steps will be taken against those responsible.

## **AIIMS Bhopal ED Honored at International Conference COMET**

Bhopal: Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AI-IMS Bhopal, was honored for his outstanding contributions in the field of medicine at the international conference COMET-2025 (Conclave of Medical Emergencies and Trauma) held in Lucknow. The international conference was organized by the Society of Acute Care Trauma and Emergency Medicine (SACTEM) and witnessed participation from emergency medicine and trauma experts from across the globe, including countries like India, the United Kingdom, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, and Nepal. During the conference, Prof. Singh also chaired an important ses-sion titled "Big Crowds, Bigger Responsibility: The Science of Event Medicine.

On this occasion, Prof. Singh said, "This is not just proud moment for me, but for the entire AIÍMS Bhopal family. COMET-2025 has provided a global platform to share the latest advancements and strategies in the field of emergency medicine and trauma care. Such exchange of knowledge will further



strengthen the country's emergency healthcare services and aid in providing timely, efficient, and lifesaving treatment to the common citizen.

### Devotees participate enthusiastically RGPV struggles to fill PhD seats as student turnout falls short in Vedi Pratishtha Mahotsav



were conducted under the guidance of Vidyanacharya Anil Bhaiya. Spokesperson Anshul Jain said that today on Wednesday, the Lord will be seated on the new altar and the golden urn will be mounted. Muni imal Sagar Maharaj said that the mind awakens only when the senses come to a complete halt. The inner consciousness and self-restraint is the biggest asset of Indian

Bhopal: Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya (RG-PV) is facing a significant challenge in filling its 645 PhD seats across 17 branches, as fewer than 500 candidates appeared for the recently conducted entrance exam. This shortfall means that even before eligibility screening, the university is already short of students to match the number of available seats. Over the span of two days, the PhD entrance test witnessed a disappointing turnout, raising concerns within the university administration. Even if all candidates are deemed eligible, over 145 seats are likely to remain vacant, forcing the university to consider holding another round of examinations. The university is now in the final stages of preparing the exam results, which are expected to be released in the coming week. Once the results are out, the process for admission will commence. However, the gap in seat occupancy indicates that a second entrance exam may need to be conducted within the next six months to meet the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines.



Bhopal: In the grand Vedi Pratishtha Mahotsav organized at Shri Adinath Jinalaya Piplani, Lord Adinath was worshipped with devotion and faith. In the four-day ritual in the presence of Muni Vimal Sagar Maharaj, everyone was wished a happy life. The rituals

culture. Raju Goyal, Pradeep Harsola of the temple committee worshipped the Lord through devotional dance. On this occasion, members of the Pathshala family performed a dance drama depicting Jain philosophy.

Biannual Entrance Exam Mandatory: As per UGC regu lations, all universities are required to conduct PhD en trance exams twice a year. While many institutions consider GATE scores for admissions, RGPV does not cur rently accept GATE, relying solely on its own examination process. This makes the university responsible for orga nizing and managing both annual admission rounds.

### Teen's cricket game turns tragic Bhopal blooms with Tamil New Year festivities

Bhopal: A simple game of cricket ended in devastating tragedy on Monday, as 16-year-old Neeraj Gurjar of Ajabpura lost his life after being electrocuted. The incident, which occurred in a village field, has sparked outrage and calls for accountability. Neeraj, like many evenings, was playing cricket with friends when the ball strayed near the field's boundary. As he went to retrieve it, his foot made contact with a dangerously exposed electrical wire lying on the ground. The resulting shock sent Tamil community will showcase him collapsing, unconscious. Villag rushed the severely injured teenage the Berasia Government Hospi where doctors battled to save his Despite their efforts, Neeraj succum to his injuries around 9:30 PM. The rasia police, upon receiving notificat of the tragic death, have registere case and initiated a thorough invest tion. The boy's body has been sent postmortem examination.

#### MP Transport Department recruitment after 13 Year

Bhopal: After a long gap of 13 ye the Madhya Pradesh Transport partment is set to launch a mu awaited recruitment drive for male transport constables. The p posal has already been sent to state government and the recruitm will be conducted through the M hya Pradesh Staff Selection Bo (MPESB). Currently, the departm employs 222 transport constables which nearly 30% are women. Of the recruitment is completed, the tal number of constables will incre to 322, strengthening the depa ment's capacity to crack down on i gal and overloaded vehicles more fectively. The sanctioned strength constables in the department is 3 but several posts remain vacant of to promotions and retirements.

**Bhopal:** Hotel Western, Kolar Road, will transform into a vibrant hub of Tamil culture on April 20th, as the Bhopal Tamil Sangam hosts its grand Tamil New Year Celebration 2025. "Puthandu," a symbol of renewal and prosperity, will be celebrated with a spectacular display of heritage, drawing families and dignitaries from across Madhya Pradesh. Far from Tamil Nadu's coastal roots, Bhopal's

its resilience and cultural pride. Expect a rich tapestry of tradition-al performances, including Bharat Natyam, Karakaattam, and Carnatic music, alongside immersive cultural exhibits and authentic Tamil cuisine. "This is more than a festival; it's our identity," says Mr. P. Raju, President of the Sangam. Mr. A. Swami Durai, General Sec-retary, adds, "We aim to unite communities and preserve our vibrant culture.

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आमला, दिनांक 15/4/2025

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