

BJP faces setback in Harda District Planning Committee Elections

● Cross-voting by BJP Councillors helps Congress secure a surprise win



Harda: In a surprising political twist, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) faced an unexpected setback in the Harda District Planning Committee elections despite holding a clear majority in the municipal council. Congress candidate Ahad Khan managed to clinch victory

over BJP's Manoj Mahlwar by a single vote, thanks to cross-voting by BJP's own councillors. Of the 35 councillors eligible to vote—24 from BJP, 10 from Congress, and one independent—each was allowed to cast two votes. The BJP fielded

two candidates: Reena Prajapati and Manoj Mahlwar, while Congress nominated Ahad Khan.

When the votes were counted, Reena secured 20 votes, Ahad received 18, and Mahlwar trailed with 17. Notably, eight BJP councillors engaged in cross-voting, with four of them reportedly not voting for either BJP candidate.

This result has stirred disappointment within BJP ranks, while Congress councillors were seen celebrating the unexpected win.

BJP leadership promises action

BJP's city unit president, Nitesh Bader, issued a stern warning following the outcome. He stated that action would be taken against those involved in cross-voting. "Councillors who defied the party line will be identified and expelled," he asserted, adding that the party organization will take a strict stance on this breach of discipline.

Pre-poll strategy falls flat

In a last-minute effort to ensure party loyalty, Municipal Council President Bharti Khamediya had convened a meeting with all BJP councillors, urging them to support the party's candidates. However, the internal strategy failed to hold, resulting in a fractured vote and an embarrassing loss for the BJP.



Deputy CM Shukla urges swift recruitment of Medical Officers and Specialists

► Calls for fast-tracking MPPSC selection process to strengthen state healthcare system

Bhopal: Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla has emphasized the urgent need to accelerate the recruitment of medical officers and specialist doctors to ensure accessible and quality healthcare across Madhya Pradesh. During a visit to the Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) office in Indore, Mr. Shukla reviewed the ongoing recruitment process and directed the Commission to expedite selections.

He stated that enhancing the availability of qualified doctors in government hospitals is essential for timely and effective patient care. A faster recruitment process, he stressed, would significantly boost healthcare delivery, especially in underserved areas, and help reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in the state.

Mr. Shukla added that the timely appointment of specialist doctors would not only fortify the public health system but also elevate the standard of medical services

offered at state-run facilities.

The meeting was attended by Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat, MPPSC Chairman Rajesh Lal Mehra, Commission Member Prof. Krishnakant Sharma, Secretary Prabal Sipaha, Special Duty Officer R. Panchwai, Dean and CEO of MGM Indore Dr. Arvind Ghanghoria, and senior officials from the Department of Medical Education and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, Indore.

Tomato farmers in state hit hard as prices crash

● Seek urgent government support: Jitu Patwari

Bhopal: Tomato farmers across Madhya Pradesh are facing a deepening crisis as market prices have plummeted to just Rs 3-4 per kg — far below the cost of production. Unable to recover even basic expenses, many farmers are abandoning irrigation, letting ripe crops rot in the fields, or feeding tomatoes to livestock in sheer despair.



State Congress President Jitu Patwari has blamed the government's indifference and policy failures for the dire situation. Citing the plight of farmers in Chhatarpur, he said their hard work is going to waste while authorities remain silent. Patwari called on the government to urgently intervene, stressing that the issue extends beyond tomatoes and reflects a wider agricultural distress in districts like Tikamgarh, Panna, Niwari, Damoh, Ratlam, Mandsaur, and Dhar.

He highlighted the lack of processing units and cold storage facilities, forcing

farmers to either sell their produce at throwaway prices or destroy it. Patwari criticized the absence of a pricing policy or support mechanism, saying this recurring crisis demands structural reform.

He laid out five key demands:

- * Declare a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for tomatoes and other vegetables.
- * Set up government procurement centers in every district.
- * Provide immediate relief packages and compensate per quintal loss.
- * Establish processing units, cold storage, and food parks to ensure fair pricing.
- * Implement a long-term agricultural policy tailored for vegetable growers.

Patwari also drew attention to similar hardships faced by wheat, paddy, and soybean farmers due to procurement delays, low prices, and alleged corruption. He urged the government to announce revised MSPs — Rs 2,700 for wheat, Rs 3,100 for paddy, and Rs 6,000 for soybean.

Promising reform, he said Congress would introduce a "Kisan Nyay Niti" (Farmer Justice Policy) if elected, ensuring legal MSPs, crop-based insurance, bonuses, and better access to markets.

CM interacted virtually with industrialists before Tech Growth Conclave

- State government ready to give a wider form to IT industry at global level
- Told industrialists about the need for expansion of IT Park



Bhopal: In a proactive move to galvanize Madhya Pradesh's burgeoning IT sector, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav held a virtual interaction with industrialists across the state, setting the stage for the highly anticipated Tech Growth Conclave in Indore. This dialogue, held from Samatva Bhavan, underscored the government's commitment to propelling the state's IT industry on to the national and global stage.

Dr. Yadav emphasized the foundational role of IT in shaping present and future technologies, stressing the imperative of expanding investment and activities in this sector to keep pace with global advancements. He highlighted the upcoming Tech Growth Conclave on April 27th as a pivotal, sector-specific event following the Global Investors

Summit, aimed at yielding concrete results in this direction. Acknowledging the existing IT infrastructure in major state cities, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's eagerness to provide comprehensive support for the industry's wider expansion.

During the virtual interaction, industrialists voiced the need for IT Park expansion and engaged in discussions encompassing crucial aspects such as fostering synergy between education and industry for skilled talent acquisition, cultivating an entrepreneurial ecosystem for start-ups, advocating for natural gas tax re-

duction, and enhancing collaboration within the state's start-up community. The dialogue also explored the development of IT Parks with walk-to-work facilities, the implementation of a Digital Economy Mission, and strategies to increase the adoption of AI-based activities across diverse industries.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav directly engaged with prominent industrialists from Jabalpur, Gwalior, Bhopal, and Indore, including representatives from Prem Sons Enterprises, Intenics Private Limited, Smart Control India Limited, IIITM, SRF Limit-

ed, and Yash Technology, among others. These interactions provided a platform for industrialists to outline their companies' contributions in terms of work, investment, and employment, while also offering valuable suggestions to position Madhya Pradesh as a leader in IT and allied fields.

Additional Chief Secretary Sanjay Dubey provided details about the Tech Growth Conclave's agenda, which includes round table meetings on GCC, Drone, AVGC, and Semicon policies, discussions with the Department of Information and Technology's Advisory Board, and a main program featuring a film presentation showcasing Madhya Pradesh as a Tech Destination. The event will also witness Bhoomi Pujan ceremonies for new units, the inauguration of Centers of Excellence and Incubation Centers, the signing of MoUs, and the distribution of allotment letters. Furthermore, the guidelines for the state's GCC, drone, semiconductor, and AVGC policies will be issued, and one-on-one meetings with leading IT industrialists and investors, chaired by the Chief Minister, will be organized.

Develop Vikram Udyogpuri as a mega investment zone



► CM gives instructions in the meeting of the Board of Directors of MPSIDC

Administrative Correspondent
Bhopal, 25 April. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the possibilities of developing Vikram Udyogpuri as a mega investment zone should be considered. The work of the second phase of IT Park in Ujjain should be started immediately on PPP mode by set-

ting a time limit. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav gave instructions in the meeting of the Board of Directors of Madhya Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited MPSIDC.

In the meeting held at Samatva Bhavan, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav obtained information about the

financial assistance given to industrial companies in the form of long term, short term loans, capital subsidy etc. and got information about the status of recovery of loans. In the meeting, managerial and accounting related issues of the corporation were discussed.

Heat Wave Alert Issued Across MP

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh is currently enduring a searing heat wave, with temperatures soaring past the 44-degree mark in numerous cities. The intense solar radiation has visibly emptied afternoon streets, casting a sweltering stillness across the state. The Meteorological Department has issued a heat wave alert for over 15 districts today, urging residents to take necessary precautions.

While the majority of the state bakes under the relentless sun, a slight respite may be on the horizon for some eastern regions. The Meteorological Department has forecast potential cloud cover, thunderstorms, and light rain or drizzle for Chhindwara, Mandla, Balaghat, and Seoni districts on April 26th and 27th.

Hottest cities of the state	Temperature (°C)
Khajuraho	44.4
Navgaon	43.7
Ratlam	43.2
Shivpuri	43.0
Sagar	42.4

Senior meteorologist Dr. Divya E. Surendran indicated a complex weather pattern for the coming days. She predicted continued intense heat in several parts of the state for the next four days, interspersed with the possibility of light rain and thunderstorms in localized areas. Following this

Scorching grip tightens



transitional period, the entire state is expected to once again be under the influence of significant heat. This fluctuating weather is attributed to the impact of a Western Disturbance and a Trough.

The current heat wave underscores the escalating summer temperatures, demanding vigilance and proactive measures from residents across Madhya Pradesh to safeguard their health and well-being.

IPS Transfer

Administrative Correspondent
Bhopal: The state government has posted Indian Police Service officer Rahul Deshmukh SDOP Ujjain as CSP Kotwali Ujjain. The Home Department has issued orders in this regard.

Skyfall shocks Shivpuri

- Mysterious metal object plummets, damaging Home
- Then Airforce expresses regret

Shivpuri: Panic gripped Thakur Baba Colony in Shivpuri district on Friday when a heavy, unidentified metallic object crashed from the sky, leaving a trail of destruction. The object struck the residence of Manoj Sagar in Pichhore tehsil, severely damaging two rooms and impacting a parked motorcycle and car.

Recounting the terrifying

event, Sagar described a deafening noise that followed the passage of an overhead aircraft. "We were having meals when it felt like something serious had happened," he said. "Everyone panicked. The house was destroyed, and our vehicles were damaged." Miraculously, all four family members escaped injury.

The bizarre incident drew a



large crowd, prompting swift action from local authorities. The Tehsildar, SDM, and SDOP arrived with a police team to assess the scene and launch an immediate investigation into

the object's origin. A palpable mix of fear and curiosity has enveloped the local community, further fueled by eyewitness accounts of the aircraft reportedly hovering in the vicinity af-

ter the object fell.

A police official confirmed the incident occurred around 11 a.m., stating that the metallic object, suspected to have detached from an Air Force aircraft, caused significant damage. The Gwalior Airbase, home to an Indian Air Force training facility where trainee pilots frequently conduct exercises over Shivpuri, has been promptly notified. Sources suggest a potential link between the falling object and these training exercises, corroborated by locals reporting a loud aerial noise at the time of impact.

The Indian Air Force has

since acknowledged the incident with regret. In a statement on social media platform X, the Air Force expressed remorse for the property damage caused by the accidental fall of non-explosive material from one of its aircraft near Shivpuri. While confirming no loss of life, they noted the creation of a ten-foot-deep pit at the impact site. The Air Force attributed the incident to the sudden detachment of a heavy object from an aircraft engaged in routine training and exercise and has formed an inquiry committee to thoroughly investigate the matter.