

Historic Heritage: Over 134 million tourists visit MP in 2024

Ujjain: Madhya Pradesh has shattered tourism records, welcoming an astounding 134.1 million tourists in 2024. This monumental achievement marks a remarkable 19.6% increase compared to 2023, a nearly 50.6% surge from 2019, and an incredible 526% jump over 2020 figures, solidifying the state's position as a vibrant and diverse tourist hotspot.

At the heart of this success story is Ujjain, the holy city of Mahakal, which has emerged as the unequivocal favorite for both devotees and tourists. Millions flock here from India and abroad to seek blessings at the Mahakal Temple, bathe in the sacred Shipra River, and visit numerous other ancient temples and shrines.

Ujjain, the "Religious Capital," alone welcomed a staggering 73.2 million devotees last year. With preparations for the grand Simhastha Mela 2028 well underway, this number is expected to climb even higher. To accommodate the ever-increasing influx of



visitors, extensive development projects are being implemented, transforming the city.

Madhya Pradesh, often called the "Heart of India," boasts an unparalleled allure with its rich cultural heritage, historical treasures, pristine natural beauty, and abun-

dant wildlife. This makes it a top choice for travelers seeking diverse experiences. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav's hometown of Ujjain is particularly benefiting from this surge, experiencing unprecedented development.

Ujjain is set to receive a host of

major upgrades, including a Metro train, an airport, a ropeway, six-lane roads, a Medicity, and a Wellness City, among other significant projects. Shiv Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture and Managing Director of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, released these impressive figures for Ujjain and other locations across the state.

Ujjain: A magnet for devotion and tourism

The sheer volume of pilgrims visiting Ujjain is astounding. Millions are flocking to witness the grandeur of Mahakal Lok, participate in the sacred Sawan-Bhado and Kartik-Aghan months, and seek blessings at Nagchandreshwar. Even on regular Sundays and Saturdays, the city witnesses a massive turnout of devotees, a number that continues to climb. This remarkable growth underscores Ujjain's profound spiritual significance and its burgeoning appeal as a premier pilgrimage and tourist destination.

Grandmother's heartbreak: "Raj is innocent", says in her dying words



Indore: The tragic news of Raj Kushwaha's arrest in the high-profile Raja Raghuvanshi murder case has led to a devastating loss for his family. His grandmother, who firmly believed in his innocence, succumbed to a heart attack, her heart shattered by the shock.

According to family members, the elderly woman stopped eating and drinking the moment she learned of her grandson's alleged

framing. The immense grief and shock ultimately led to her demise from a heart attack. Until her last breath, she repeatedly uttered, "My grandson Raj is innocent; he has been framed."

Raj Kushwaha's ancestral home is in Rampur village, Ghazipur police station area, Fatehpur district Uttar Pradesh, located 32 kilometers from the district headquarters. Raj had been living in Indore for the past 15 years. He is survived by his father Ram Nazar Kushwaha and three sisters, Kajal, Sohni, and Priya. The family is currently engulfed in profound sorrow.

His grandfather, Darbari Singh, shared that Raj's uncle, Bhupendra Singh, works in a factory in Noida, while his younger son, Narendra, is involved in farming in the village. The family stated that they had only recently become aware of Raj's romantic involvement with Sonam Raghuvanshi, a relationship now tragically linked to the murder investigation.

Lottery fraud turns into fake kidnapping drama in Jabalpur

Jabalpur: A 36-year-old ASHA worker from Jabalpur's Bargi area fell victim to a lottery scam, losing Rs 4 lakh, and later faked her own kidnapping out of stress and fear. The incident began when the woman left her home on April 26. When she didn't return, her family lodged a missing person report at the Bargi police station on May 4.

During the investigation, police discovered that the woman had received a call around Holi, claiming she had won a lottery worth crores, including gold and silver. Trusting the caller, she began daily communication and eventually transferred Rs 4 lakh into various accounts after being told the sender was caught with the gold and that she too could be arrested.

As her finances dried up, the

woman became anxious and created a dramatic video of herself crying, pretending to be kidnapped. She sent the video to the fraudster, who forwarded it to her family along with threats to kill her if they didn't pay Rs 2 lakh. The threats came via a foreign WhatsApp number. Alarmed, her family approached the police. On June 4, the fraudster demanded another Rs 50,000. Police traced the call to Delhi and rescued the woman on June 17. She was safely brought back to Jabalpur and reunited with her family.

Upon counselling, the woman revealed she still believed the fraudster might deliver the promised lottery winnings. Considering her mental condition, the police have initiated psychological counselling for her.

Shocking twist in Raja Raghuvanshi murder case

► Accused Raj posed as 'Sanjay Verma' to deceive victim

Indore: The Raja Raghuvanshi murder case continues to unfold with daily, startling revelations. Police, determined to crack the case, have uncovered a significant lead: the mobile number Sonam consistently communicated with, registered under the name 'Sanjay Verma,' was in fact used by her lover, Raj Kushwaha. Over a span of 25 days, Sonam called this number an astonishing 112 times.

Mystery of 'Sanjay Verma'

The name 'Sanjay Verma' first emerged from Sonam Raghuvanshi's mobile phone records. She spent hours talking to this individual, making 112 calls to the number saved under 'Sanjay Verma'



within just three weeks. This immediately raised questions about the identity of this mysterious person.

Sonam Confirms: 'Sanjay Verma' Was Raj According to sources, Son-

am Raghuvanshi herself confirmed during police interrogation that the number saved as 'Sanjay Verma' in her phone belonged to Raj Kushwaha.

She admitted to using this alterna-

tive number to conceal their conversations.

Late-night calls and a deeper conspiracy?

Between March 1st and April 8th, Sonam frequently called the number saved as 'Sanjay Verma,' with many of these conversations lasting for hours. Some calls even began after midnight and extended until 2 AM. The phone number went dark immediately after Raja Raghuvanshi's murder, deepening police suspicions. Investigators now believe that the planning for Raja's murder may have taken place during these extensive phone conversations between Sonam and Raj Kushwaha. It's also suspected that the accused purchased a separate SIM card specifically for Raja's murder, which was discarded after the crime.

Sex Racket Busted at Jabalpur Hotel Jailed Patwari transferred

► 5 arrested including call girls and hotel owner

Jabalpur: In a significant crackdown, police have dismantled a sophisticated sex racket operating out of Hotel Velvet Inn in the city's Vijay Nagar area. The raid, conducted by Garha police after receiving numerous complaints, led to the arrest of five individuals, including the hotel owner, a client, and three women. Acting on intelligence about illicit activities, Garha police stormed the hotel last night. Upon their entry, hotel staff attempted to flee and obstruct the officers. However, police swiftly gained control and began inspecting the rooms. Inside one room, two women were found, while in another, a man and a woman were discovered in a compromising situation. The arrested



individuals have been identified as hotel owner Pradeep Mishra, Jeevan Pandey (a client), and three women aged between 22 and 30. All five are now in police custody as investigations proceed.

Modus operandi: Photos, fixed rates and

out-of-state girls: Initial interrogations have shed light on the operation's chilling details. Customers arriving at the hotel were allegedly shown photographs of available women. Once a rate was agreed upon, the women would be sent to the clients' rooms.

Further questioning revealed that some of the women involved were brought in from outside Jabalpur, including from other states. To evade detection, the hotel owner reportedly ensured that no single woman stayed for an extended period. A clandestine arrangement was also maintained within the hotel to house the women, designed to avoid raising any suspicion. This bust marks a crucial step in curbing illegal activities in the city, and police are expected to continue their investigations to uncover the full extent of the network.

- **Former Union Minister Arun Yadav slams government**
- **Says "transfer industry running in overdrive"**

Sheopur: In a surprising turn of events amid the ongoing transfer drive following the implementation of Madhya Pradesh's new transfer policy, the name of a jailed revenue officer has appeared on an official transfer list. Hemant Mittal, a patwari (revenue officer) currently behind bars for his alleged involvement in a major flood relief fund scam, has been transferred from Vijaypur tehsil to Baroda tehsil. The transfer was formally announced in a list released by the district administration. The development has drawn sharp criticism from opposition leaders, partic-

ularly from senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Arun Yadav. Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Yadav launched a scathing attack on the state government: "The transfer industry in Madhya Pradesh is operating at full throttle. Despite being in jail for his role in the Sheopur flood relief scam, patwari Hemant Mittal has been transferred from Vijaypur to Baroda tehsil. Bravo, 'double-engine' government! Even the transfer business is running at double speed." Mittal was recently arrested and jailed on serious charges of fraud. Yet, his inclusion in the transfer list has raised eyebrows and highlighted glaring lapses in administrative oversight. This incident not only calls into question the transparency of the state's transfer procedures but also sparks a deeper debate over the government's accountability and the integrity of its governance mechanisms.

Bhupendra turns to organic farming for healthier lives

Vidisha: In village Gamakar, Vidisha, a positive transformation is taking place. The Gram Vikas Prasphutan Samiti was established in 2009-10 by the Madhya Pradesh Jan Abhiyan Parishad, with Ajay Singh Raghuvanshi as its chairman. Deeply committed to helping cancer patients, Ajay personally ensures patients get treated in Mumbai, often accompanying them throughout the process. Inspired by this humanitarian effort, committee member Bhupendra Singh Raghuvanshi felt moved to contribute in his own way. Realizing that harmful chemicals in food contribute to serious diseases, he chose to promote health through organic farming. His exposure to discussions on organic agriculture during committee meetings influenced this decision.

Grandfather shoots teen over relationship with maternal uncle

► Morena honor killing in Morena

Morena: In a shocking case of honour killing in Badarpura village of Morena district, 19-year-old Malishka Kadhera was brutally shot dead by her grandfather, Sirnam Singh Kadhera, reportedly due to her relationship with her maternal uncle, Suraj. According to police, Malishka had been in a relationship with Suraj for the past three years. While her parents, Lakhan Singh and Sua Bai, had accepted the relationship, her grandfather vehemently opposed it, fearing social disgrace. Initially, Sirnam tried to mislead police by accusing a neighbour, Naresh Tyagi, and his son Saurabh of the murder. He falsely claimed that Naresh killed



Malishka due to her alleged affair with Saurabh. However, investigation and mobile phone location data proved that Naresh's sons were out of the state at the time of

the incident. Police later declared them innocent.

Further investigation revealed that Lakhan Singh also attempted to mislead the police by naming four innocent youths to shield his father. Eventually, he confessed that Sirnam was the real killer.

On the night of the murder, Sirnam called the family back home from Balera village. Around 9:30 PM, as they reached Badarpura square, Sirnam ambushed them. He pushed Sua Bai off the motorcycle and fired three shots at Malishka—one grazed her, one missed, and the final bullet fatally struck her head. Her parents were helpless witnesses to the horrifying act. Sirnam was arrested and confessed to the crime, citing fear of social shame as the motive.

Gwalior Gym trainer dies mysteriously in Dubai

► Family appeals for repatriation

Gwalior: The family of Suraj Sharma, a 32-year-old gym trainer from Gola Ka Mandir, Gwalior, is reeling from the shocking news of his suspicious death in Dubai. Suraj, who had traveled to Dubai from Delhi on May 23rd in search of employment, maintained contact with his wife via mobile phone until May 26th. After that, his phone went silent, and his family received no further news. Tragically, on June 17th, Gwalior police informed Suraj's family that he had passed away in Dubai. Upon receiving the devastating news, Suraj's father and wife immediately departed for Delhi to seek assistance from the embassy. A Family's Heartbreak and a



Mother's Plea Back home, Suraj's mother, Janakshree, is inconsolable. She has made an emotional appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pleading for her son's body to be brought back to India. Suraj, the only son of Krishna Sharma, resided in Sainik Colony. A gym trainer by profession, he had been unemployed for a long time and had managed to arrange his travel to Dubai with great difficulty, hoping for better prospects. In Gwalior, Suraj leaves behind his wife and a four-year-old child, who were eagerly awaiting his return. The family now faces the arduous task of understanding the circumstances of his death and bringing him home.

Shanti Pachalia becomes first Bharia Tribe Student in Chhindwara to Crack NEET

Chhindwara: In an inspiring milestone for the Bharia tribe and the entire Chhindwara district, 17-year-old Shanti Pachalia has become the first student from her community to crack the NEET examination.

Hailing from the remote village of Balusar in Harrai block, Shanti's journey is a powerful testament to determination, resilience, and the life-changing power of education.

The daughter of a farmer and a homemaker, Shanti studied in government schools and currently resides at the Adivasi Utkrisha Hostel in Harrai.

Despite limited resources and financial challenges, she studied diligently for 4-5 hours daily and

► A beacon of hope



cleared NEET 2025 — with a dream not just for herself, but for her en-

tire village.

"I want to become a doctor to uplift my community and serve those who have no access to proper healthcare," Shanti shared.

Among 1,400 NEET aspirants from Chhindwara, over 80 succeeded this year, many from tribal areas. District Collector Singh congratulated the achievers, stating: "Government school students have limitless potential. Shanti's success brings the Chief Minister's vision closer to reality."

Shanti's accomplishment is more than a personal triumph — it's a symbol of hope and inspiration for tribal youth across Madhya Pradesh, proving that no dream is beyond reach.



Raisen: The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, has launched the SAATHI (Survey for Aadhaar and Access to Tracking & Holistic Inclusion) National Campaign to provide legal identity to desti-

tute children and ensure their inclusion in social welfare schemes by facilitating Aadhaar registration. In Raisen district, a District SAATHI Unit has been constituted under the guidance of Principal District Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Anil Kumar Sohane. Judicial Magistrate Harshini Yadav, Secretary of DLSA Raisen, has been appointed President of the unit.

Members of the unit include officials from the Child Protection, Education, and Health departments, juvenile justice officers, tehsildars, panel advocates, and paralegal volunteers. Awareness camps were held in villages Kataria, Makhani, Amravat Vajyapta, and Barla on June 18, along with visits to Anganwadi centers and primary schools to seek local support. Harshini Yadav emphasized that the campaign aims to fulfill the constitutional goal of equal justice. The mission targets children without family support—those living on streets, in slums, shelters, or institutions—ensuring they gain access to legal aid, education, and health services through Aadhaar registration.