

Devotees Flock Shiva Temples for First Somwar of Holy Month of Sawan

► Take part in religious rituals and seek blessings

Bhopal: The city of Bhopal witnessed an overwhelming turnout of devotees on the first Somwar (Monday) of the holy month of Sawan, a period revered in the Hindu calendar. Thousands of worshippers lined up at Shiva temples across the city, eager to participate in the traditional Abhishek, a ritualistic bathing ceremony of Lord Shiva.

With the resonant chant of 'Om Namah Shivaya' filling the air in temples, the auspicious month of Sawan (Shravan) began on Monday, marking a significant period for devotees. The first Monday of Shravan, known as 'Shravan Somvar,' holds special reverence for Lord Shiva, and thousands of devotees were witnessed standing in long queues to offer 'bel patri' (wood apple leaves) and milk to the deity. The city's temples witnessed a remarkable influx of devotees who congregated to participate in the religious rituals and seek blessings.

From the early hours of the morning, a palpable sense of devotion and reverence enveloped the city. The streets leading to prominent Shiva temples Khatla Pura



Devotees take part in rituals on first Somwar of Sawan in the city. Photo by Ashraf Ali.

Mandir, and the Pashupatinath Temple, along with the Bhojpur

Shiva Temple in the outskirts were thronged with devotees. Dressed in traditional attire, many carried offerings such as milk, honey, fruits, and flowers to present to the deity.

Rudrabhishek performed with milk

As in previous years, this year too, the Shri Shri 1008 Shri Dadaji Gurudev Charitable Trust performed Rudrabhishek with milk to alleviate Chandradosha on the first Monday of Sawan. Devotees continued to arrive until late at night to have darshan of Lord Shiva.

Temple priest said Rudrabhishek will be performed daily by devotees throughout the month of Sawan at the Dadaji Dham temple. All devotees are encouraged to participate and receive divine blessings.

Sound of bells and fragrance of incense filled the air

The Abhishek ritual, central to the day's celebrations, began at dawn. Devotees poured a mixture of milk, water, honey, and other sacred substances over the Shiva Lingam, chanting mantras and hymns dedicated to Lord Shiva. The sound of bells and the fragrance of incense filled the air, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere.



MP eyes direct Dubai flights, regional cargo hub

Bhopal: Dr. Yadav held a pivotal meeting with Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Emirates Airlines and Dubai Civil Aviation Authority.

A primary outcome of the meeting was the agreement to explore launching direct flight services from Indore and Bhopal to Dubai. This move is expected to significantly enhance passenger and cargo movement between Madhya Pradesh and the UAE. Critically, a proposal to establish a regional cargo hub in Central India also received consensus, promising to

transform the region's logistics capabilities.

Beyond connectivity, discussions encompassed potential joint investments in aviation training and MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul) infrastructure, alongside the establishment of specialized training institutions within the state. The leaders also engaged in serious deliberations on boosting inbound tourism to Madhya Pradesh and the intriguing possibility of establishing an Emirates Aviation Academy campus in the state.

MP Congress gears up for district president appointments

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This streamlined list will then be sent to the organization for final approval. The appointments for district presidents in Madhya Pradesh are expected to be finalized by the last week of July. Sources suggest that more than a dozen current district presidents are likely to be re-appointed.

Furthermore, the Congress plans to formally caution leaders against whom AICC and State Observers have made negative remarks during the 'Sangathan Srijan' program.

Should these individuals fail to improve, disciplinary action will be initiated against them.

Horror on highway: Two children dead after Mahakal Darshan

Container slams pilgrim trolley in Shajapur

Shajapur: A devastating road accident on Sunday night in Madhya Pradesh's Shajapur district claimed the lives of two children and left over eight pilgrims injured. The tragic incident occurred as devotees, returning from a spiritual visit to Ujjain's revered Mahakal Temple, were struck by an unidentified container truck while traveling in a tractor-trolley.

Collision near Nainawad Bridge: The horrific collision took place near the Lakhundar River bridge, close to Nainawad village, approximately 12 kilometers from the Shajapur district headquarters. The pilgrims are identified as residents of Banjarji village, located in Tarana tehsil of Ujjain district.

Instant tragedy, driver hunt underway: Eyewitnesses described the impact as catastrophic, stating that the force of the collision was so immense that two children

died instantly at the accident site. The majority of the injured are women and elderly individuals. All casualties were rushed to the Shajapur District Hospital, where they are currently receiving medical treatment.

The group was en route home after offering prayers at the famous Mahakal Temple in Ujjain, having also stopped at the local Mahakal Temple in Nainawad before the fatal mishap.

ASI D.S. Chauhan of Tarana Police Station confirmed the incident, stating, "A container truck collided with the pilgrims' tractor-trolley, resulting in the on-the-spot death of two children. The injured have been admitted to the district hospital for treatment. Efforts are underway to identify the vehicle and apprehend the driver." The accident has plunged the victims' families into profound grief, with mourning sweeping through Banjarji village.

MP set to deepen economic partnership with UAE

► CM held meeting with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh is poised to significantly expand its economic and industrial ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In a pivotal meeting in Dubai, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav engaged in extensive discussions with Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, focusing on broadening cooperation under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav highlighted that the existing robust economic framework between India and the UAE provides a strong foundation. He affirmed that Madhya Pradesh is ready to fully leverage this partnership, opening new avenues for investment, trade, and technological collaboration.

Dr. Yadav showcased Madhya Pradesh as an emerging investment destination, citing its strategic geographical location, advanced infrastructure, and supportive industrial policies, particularly in logistics,



manufacturing, and food processing. He specifically welcomed UAE investments in key sectors such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, defense manufacturing, and smart manufacturing.

As India's leading producer of soybeans, pulses, and organic products, Madhya Pradesh expressed keen interest in collaborating with the UAE on food processing and agri-tech initiatives. This partnership aims to strengthen the agricultural supply chain between India and the Gulf nations. The Chief Minister also invited the UAE's expertise in areas like solar energy, smart automation, embedded electronics, and Industry 4.0. Furthermore, Dr. Yadav positioned Madhya Pradesh as an ideal location for pilot projects in clean technology, food corridors, and industrial innovation under the strategic partnership of India, Israel, the UAE, and the USA.

Omkareshwar drowns in devotion

► Shravan's first Monday sees massive pilgrim influx

Khandwa: The sacred Omkareshwar Dham in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district witnessed an extraordinary display of faith on the first Monday of Shravan Maas. Thousands of Shiva devotees thronged the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga Temple, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, from early morning. The temple reverberated with thunderous chants of 'Jai Omkar,' 'Bol Bam,' and 'Har Har Mahadev.'

The temple doors opened at 4 AM, with devotees, who had waited since late night, witnessing a grand Aarti at 5 AM. Prior to this, pilgrims bathed in the holy Narmada River and offered prayers. Temple authorities made extensive arrangements to ensure smooth darshan and puja facilities for the massive crowd.

Religious beliefs state that worshipping Lord Shiva and performing Jalabhishek during



Shravan Maas brings special blessings. It is believed Shiva bestows particular grace during this month, drawing devotees from far and wide.

This year, Shravan-Bhadrapad will have six Mondays, each featuring a royal procession of Omkareshwar Maharaj through the town. The first procession, commencing at 4 PM, will include a boat ride on the Narmada, accompanied by Gulas Utsav, joyous devotees, and devotional music.

The administration implemented special security and crowd management measures. Despite the heat and humidity, pilgrims showed immense enthusiasm. The ceremonial 'Shayan Aarti' (night-sleep ritual) at Omkareshwar holds special significance, as Lord Shiva is believed to rest on Omkar mountain at night after traversing the universe.

Narmadapuram poised for 3.0 GW solar cell project, promises 700+ jobs

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh is eyeing a significant leap in renewable energy production with the potential establishment of a 3.0 Gigawatt (GW) capacity Solar Cell Project in the Narmadapuram district. This major development comes after CM Dr. Mohan Yadav met with Vinay Thadani, CEO and Director of Griyu Energy Pvt. Ltd., and his delegation on the second day of his Dubai visit.

The high-level meeting focused extensively on the favorable industrial support the state government is prepared to offer for this ambitious project. If realized, this initiative will not only powerfully boost Madhya Pradesh's contribution to the renewable energy sector but is also projected to create over 700 new employment opportunities, a substantial uplift for the local economy. CM Dr. Yadav reaffirmed his government's strong commitment to providing essential incentives for green energy projects across the state. He emphasized the administration's dedication to fostering a conducive environment for industries, particularly those championing sustainable and clean energy solutions.

This potential investment by Griyu Energy Pvt. Ltd. aligns with MP's vision for sustainable development and energy independence. The scale of the proposed 3.0 GW solar cell project underscores its transformative potential, positioning Narmadapuram and the wider state as a key player in India's burgeoning renewable energy landscape. The govt's proactive engagement reflects its strategy to attract high-impact investments that bring both environmental benefits and significant job creation.

MP CM invites Arab Parliament Speaker to Madhya Pradesh

Eyes deeper UAE ties

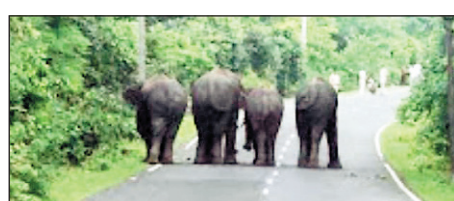
Bhopal: During his Dubai visit, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav met with Mohammed Al Yamahi, Speaker of the Arab Parliament, extending a personal invitation for him to visit Madhya Pradesh. Their productive discussion centered on enhancing trade, investment, and cultural cooperation.

The Chief Minister highlighted Madhya Pradesh's industry-friendly policies, streamlined procedures, and attractive investment climate, also inviting Al Yamahi to the upcoming Energy Summit. Dr. Yadav lauded India's growing strategic ties with the UAE, expressing Madhya Pradesh's eagerness to play an active role in sectors like energy, minerals, logistics, food processing, and green investment. He emphasized the state's ambition to be a key partner in these bilateral partnerships.

Congratulating Al Yamahi on leading the democratic institution of 22 Arab Gulf nations, Dr. Yadav expressed confidence in its future growth under his guidance.

Al Yamahi reciprocated the desire to strengthen trade and industrial partnerships with Madhya Pradesh, assuring cooperation for investments in the state. He recognized Madhya Pradesh's capabilities and resources, suggesting their potential for sharing with Arab nations. He also praised the significant contributions of expatriate Indians in the UAE and other Gulf countries to India's development.

Chief Minister Yadav concluded by highlighting Madhya Pradesh's rich forest areas, wildlife conservation efforts, and its status as a 'Tiger State' and a hub for cheetah reintroduction. The meeting concluded on a positive note, signaling promising new avenues for bilateral cooperation.



Elephant movement disrupts traffic on Shahdol-Padariya road for an hour

Shahdol: Traffic on the busy Shahdol-Padariya Road, which connects to Raipur (Chhattisgarh), was halted for over an hour on Monday after four wild elephants were spotted walking along the highway near Singhpur.

The elephants, part of a herd that has been roaming the area for the past two days, had earlier taken shelter near Vicharpur village. They were previously driven away by villagers from Malchuha and Shahpur after coming dangerously close to residential zones. On Sunday night, the elephants moved toward Chuniya, but locals used firecrackers to redirect them back toward the forest.

At around 10:30 AM on Monday, the elephants appeared on the main road, walking nearly a kilometer along the stretch. The Forest Department, with support from the police, quickly closed the road to prevent any accidents or conflict between the animals and commuters.

MP BJP Chief Hemant Khandelwal vows "team built on senior consultations"

Bhopal: A significant statement has emerged regarding the organizational structure of the Madhya Pradesh BJP. Newly appointed state president, Hemant Khandelwal, declared that the party's new team will be formed only after extensive consultation and deliberation with senior leaders. He assured that decisions would be announced swiftly.

Khandelwal's first major organizational meeting since becoming state president took place on Monday at the BJP office in Bhopal. This crucial gathering saw the attendance of state office bearers, district in-charges, district presidents, and presidents of various frontal organizations. **"A regular working meeting" – Khandelwal:** Speaking to the media upon his arrival, Khandelwal clarified, "This is a regular working meeting, just as previous state presidents used to conduct. We will now deliberate on future plans and the organiza-

tional structure." He emphasized that senior leaders would be consulted to strengthen and coordinate the state BJP unit, with decisions based on collective input.

Response to Harda incident and Congress critique: Addressing a question about the Karni Sena's protest and administrative action in Harda, Khandelwal affirmed, "The administration is working with full diligence. The Bharatiya Janata Party respects all communities, and we stand with everyone."

Taking a swipe at the Congress, he asserted, "The history of Congress has been to create divisions within society. They practice divisive politics, whereas in the BJP, all communities are given representation and respect." He further highlighted that numerous office bearers from the Rajput community hold positions within the BJP, underscoring the party's inclusive ideology.

No dynastic politics in Madhya Pradesh BJP

► New president Hemant Khandelwal vows meritocracy

Bhopal: In a clear signal to aspiring leaders, newly appointed Madhya Pradesh BJP President Hemant Khandelwal has firmly declared an end to dynastic politics and nepotism within the state unit. Addressing his first working committee meeting, Khandelwal asserted that only merit and hard work will pave the way for advancement in both government and party organization.

"I am the only person from my family in politics. The BJP family is my family, and together, we will strengthen the organization," Khandelwal stated, positioning himself as a common worker entrusted with the responsibility of president.

The meeting, held at the BJP state office on Monday, saw the attendance of state office bearers, district in-charges, district presidents, frontal organization chiefs, and cell conveners. Khandelwal's remarks aimed to quash speculation about the rise of dynastic politics, particularly given his own background as the son of a former



MP who entered politics after his father's demise and won a Lok Sabha by-election.

Emphasizing the party's core ideology, Khandelwal stated, "We all work for a common idea. For us, the organization is paramount. Our sole objective is to serve the public with the spirit of 'Nation First.'" He urged cadres to connect people with the double-engine government's welfare schemes under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, stressing the importance of dialogue, coordination, and contact

to elevate the party.

Khandelwal also pushed for the swift completion of pending tasks at district and block levels, and advocated for the establishment of well-equipped district party offices where none exist. He mandated monthly meetings for various party committees, including District Core Committees, District Office Bearers, Mandal Presidents, Mandal In-charges, Booth Presidents, and Shakti Kendra Conveners.

BJP State In-charge Dr. Mahendra Singh and State Organization General Secretary Hitanand also addressed the gathering. They lauded the state's performance in the 'Mann Ki Baat' program, stressing efforts to connect more people at every booth with central and state government schemes. They urged participation in environmental initiatives like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' and the upcoming 'Ek Bagiya Maa Ke Naam' fruit tree plantation drive from August 15. The leaders also emphasized the need to raise awareness about 'One Nation, One Election' as a national necessity.