

Two-wheeler riders without helmet denied fuel at petrol stations

► Many seen borrowing helmet from others

Bhopal: Starting August 1, Bhopal has implemented a new regulation requiring two-wheeler drivers to wear helmets in order to purchase petrol.

On the first day of enforcement, many petrol stations initially allowed drivers to fill their tanks without helmets. However, as officials began monitoring compliance, petrol pump operators became stricter.

Reports indicate that numerous students were denied petrol at the Ratnagiri petrol pump due to their lack of helmets. Manju Gurjar, a pump worker, said that she turned away over 100 people, informing them that helmets were mandatory for refueling.

Similar scenes unfolded at other petrol stations, including two pumps in New Market and one at



2-wheeler riders without helmet were denied fuel at petrol stations in the city on Friday. Photo by Ashraf Ali.

the Number Five Bus Stop in MP Nagar. The strict enforcement led

some drivers to borrow helmets from others to comply with the

new rule. With 192 petrol pumps in Bhopal and a daily consumption of 21 lakh liters of petrol and diesel, the regulation aims to significantly impact safety on the roads.

The order reinforces existing laws, specifically Section 129 of the MP Motor Vehicle Act 1988, which mandates that all two-wheeler riders wear ISI-mark helmets. The Collector emphasized that wearing a helmet can substantially reduce the risk of severe injuries in accidents.

Concerns have been raised regarding the enforcement of this mandate, particularly regarding accountability for those who do not comply.

Ajay Singh, president of the Petrol Pump Dealers Association, said there is a need for stricter action against motorcyclists who ride without helmets. He said the district administration should address this issue comprehensively.

Bhopal Police Commissioner mandates helmets and seat belts for all cops



Bhopal: In a stern directive aimed at promoting road safety, Bhopal Police Commissioner Hari Narayan Chari has ordered all police personnel in the city to strictly adhere to traffic safety rules. Effective immediately, officers on two-

wheelers must wear a helmet, and those in four-wheelers must buckle up.

The move comes as both Indore and Bhopal began enforcing a “no helmet, no petrol” rule on August 1. Commissioner Chari, known for his no-nonsense approach and a track record of success as the former Indore Police Commissioner, has made it clear that these rules are not optional.

He issued a strong warning to his force: any officer found violating the new order will face “strict departmental action.”

By holding his own force accountable for road safety, Commissioner Chari is setting a powerful example for the public. The mandate reinforces the message that traffic laws apply to everyone, regardless of their position, and aims to improve safety across the city's streets.

Unidentified body found near Bhadbhada Bridge

► Police seek public's help



Bhopal: Panic gripped the Ratibad area today after the body of an unidentified man was discovered near the Bhadbhada bridge. Commuters who spotted the body immediately alerted the police, prompting a swift and commendable

response from the Ratibad police station. The deceased, believed to be around 40 years old, was found under mysterious circumstances, triggering a prompt investigation. Assistant Sub-Inspector Nandkishore Dubey and Constable Vineet Yadav wasted no time in securing the scene, completing the preliminary inquest, and dispatching the body for a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death.

As a full-scale investigation gets underway, police are making an earnest appeal to the public for assistance. The Station House Officer has urged anyone with information regarding the deceased's identity to come forward and contact the Ratibad police station immediately. The prompt and decisive action of the police team in handling the situation has been widely praised by the community.

Transform rural India's fifth annual colloquy unveils new vision for rural

► “Fifth Edition of the India Rural Colloquy 2025” Organized

Bhopal: Rural India's future isn't just about economic growth—it's about creating safe, inclusive, and sustainable communities, with women at the center. That was the powerful message from the Fifth Edition of the India Rural Colloquy, organized by Transform Rural India (TRI) at the Indian Institute of Forest Management in Bhopal. The colloquy brought together a diverse group of voices, including the Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, Padma Shri Janak Palta, and numerous grassroots leaders. The minister emphasized the need to move beyond purely technological solutions, urging a return to human values and ecological accountability. He



highlighted how the Narmada River, a vital source in Madhya Pradesh, is a symbol of traditional wisdom that is being neglected by the educated populace. Meanwhile, Palta, founder of the

Barli Development Institute for Rural Women, shared her inspirational journey of building a self-sufficient, green campus that empowers girls through education and sustainable technol-

gies. Women leaders from rural communities shared their candid experiences, painting a vivid picture of the challenges they face.

Anjali and Rama Kevat from Khategaon highlighted how poor street lighting and safety concerns lead to girls dropping out of school after Class 8 and hinder women from participating in community life. Another woman Sarpanch recounted how fear and ridicule create barriers to women's leadership. These powerful dialogues culminated in a call to action: to design rural spaces that are not only safe and inclusive but also climate-resilient. The colloquy reinforced that true change must be led by rural voices and must prioritize the dignity of women, blending traditional wisdom with modern innovation.

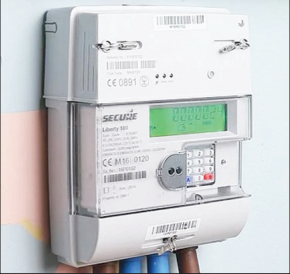
Reports of Court Rulings on Smart Meters baseless: Power Company

► Don't fear Smart Meters: They offer benefits to consumers

Bhopal: In response to a wave of misinformation on social media and in some news outlets, the Madhya Pradesh Central Zone Electricity Distribution Company (MPWZ) has clarified that no court, including the Supreme Court or the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has issued a stay on the installation of smart meters. These reports are entirely false and baseless. The company stated that the installation of smart meters is a nationwide initiative and consumers cannot refuse them. It also refuted claims that the new meters are inaccurate. Various testing labs have proven that smart meters are

not running fast and provide technically sound and accurate readings of electricity consumption.

Positive feedback from consumers: With over 3.5 lakh smart meters already installed, the company is seeing positive results. Consumers in the Guna circle, where meters were installed three months ago, have reported significant benefits. Vishnu Dhakad, a Guna resident, initially feared higher bills but was surprised to see his bill at just ₹80.



Another consumer, Devidayal, also noted a lower bill this month, stating there have been no issues with the new technology. The real-time data from a dedicated mobile app allows consumers to monitor and control their electricity usage, leading to reduced bills.

Incentives and benefits of Smart Meters: The MPWZ is also offering incentives to encourage smart meter adoption. Consumers with an approved load of up to 10 kilowatts

are eligible for a 20% discount on energy charges for electricity consumed during solar hours (9 AM to 5 PM).

This benefit has already been seen by consumers like Vijay Shankar of Bhopal, who received a ₹29 discount on his July bill, and Mahesh Chandra, who saved ₹99.

In addition to these financial benefits, smart meters provide a host of advantages, including accurate billing, real-time consumption data, and the ability to track energy quality, empowering consumers to manage their usage and reduce their environmental footprint. The company emphasized that smart meters are a key step toward a more efficient and transparent energy system.

‘Vande Mataram’ resonates at Mantralaya



Bhopal: In a proud tradition to mark the beginning of the month, government officials and employees gathered at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Park in front of the Mantralaya for a collective singing of the national song, ‘Vande Mataram’, and the national anthem, ‘Jana Gana Mana’. The event, held on the first working day of August, served as a powerful display of national unity and pride. The atmosphere was further uplifted by the

melodious tunes of the police band, which performed patriotic songs, adding a ceremonial touch to the gathering. The collective rendition was attended by a host of dignitaries, including State Minister Krishna Gaur, Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, and Additional Chief Secretaries Manu Srivastava and Sanjay Kumar Shukla. They were joined by a large number of officers and staff from the Satpura and Vindhyachal buildings.

NORKA ID Camps bring welfare services to Malayalees in Bhopal



Bhopal: In a major outreach effort, the United Malayalee Association (UMA) recently hosted a series of camps to distribute NORKA ID cards and inform the community about welfare schemes available to them. The initiative, designed to benefit non-resident Keralites, saw strong participation across multiple locations in the city. The camps, held at

venues including St. Alphonsa Church, Gokul Automobiles, S.N. Mission Hall, Mount Carmel School, and BNHRC Karond, were a crucial step in connecting the Malayalee diaspora with vital government services.

NORKA (Non-Resident Keralite Affairs), a key undertaking of the Kerala government, provides a wide range of welfare programs for Malayalees living outside the state. During the events, S. Rafeek, an NRK Development Officer from Mumbai, gave a detailed presentation on these schemes, explaining how they can benefit families and individuals.

Many members of the community took advantage of the opportunity to register for their NORKA ID cards. UMA's leadership expressed gratitude to all volunteers, particularly Bharat NS, for their active support in ensuring the smooth and successful execution of the camps. This initiative underscores UMA's commitment to the well-being of the Malayalee community in Bhopal, providing a crucial link to their home state's social security network.

Carmel Convent shines in Under-19 Kho-Kho Championship



Bhopal: Carmel Convent Sr. Sec. School, BHEL, Bhopal, has made the city of Bhopal proud by clinching the Under-19 Kho-Kho Championship at the CBSE Cluster Level Competitions. With this remarkable

achievement, the team has now qualified for the prestigious CBSE Nationals, bringing immense pride and recognition to the school and the city.

The victory stands as a testament to the relentless hard work, discipline, and dedication of the students, who showcased exceptional team spirit and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Their outstanding performance reflects months of rigorous training and perseverance.

The achievement would not have been possible without the visionary leadership of the school Principal, the unwavering support of the teaching and coaching staff, and the collective encouragement provided by the Carmel family.

The school Principal Rev. Sr. Ann Joicy extended her heartfelt congratulations to the young champions and wished them continued success as they prepare for the nationals.

Moksha Kalyanak of Lord Shri Parasnath Swami celebrated



Bhopal: Today, the Jain community across the country is joyously celebrating the “Moksha Kalyanak” of Lord Shri Parasnath Swami. In a significant display of devotion, lakhs of devotees are offering Nirvana Laddu at the “Swarna Bhadrakut” in Tirtharaj Shri Sammedshikhar. Reflecting this spirit, devotees from Bhopal and various

cities have gathered at the Vidya Praman Gurukulam in Awadhपुरi.

Here, Muni Shri Praman Sagar Maharaj, known as the Baba of “Bhavna Yoga,” is conducting the Chaturmas and leading the offering of “Nirvana Laddu,” envisioning the “Swarna Bhadrakut” through Bhavna Yoga in the presence of his followers.

Justice Sapre inspects accident-prone areas

Bhopal: On Friday, Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre, Chairman of the Supreme Court Road Safety Committee and former judge, conducted an inspection of the accident-prone areas, commonly referred to as “black spots,” in Bhopal. His visit aimed to assess locations with a high incidence of traffic accidents and identify potential risks for future incidents.

Justice Sapre began his inspection at Atal Path, near Platinum Plaza, at 11 am. He was accompanied by key officials, including Commissioner Harendra Narayan, Smart City CEO Anju Kumar, Zilla Panchayat CEO Ila Tiwari, and several other law enforcement and administrative personnel.

During his visit to the Platinum Plaza intersection, Justice Sapre



gathered information regarding past accidents. Police officials told that vehicles traveling from Nehru Nagar to Mata Mandir via Atal Path often speed, contributing to the high accident rate in the area. His inspection lasted about 20 minutes, focusing on the need for im-

proved traffic management.

Limited space for left turns at Tarun Pushkar intersection: At the Tarun Pushkar intersection, Justice Sapre noted the limited space for left turns. In response, Additional DCP BS Kaul mentioned that adjustments would be made follow-

ing the relocation of smart poles to enhance traffic flow.

The inspection continued to the Red Cross Hospital intersection, where plans to upgrade the rotary were discussed, including the potential relocation of a statue of Maharana Pratap to improve visibility and safety. Justice Sapre also addressed concerns regarding the left turn at the district court intersection and reviewed the previously closed black spot near Paryavas Bhawan. The team then proceeded to inspect the BHEL intersection and the Ratnagiri intersection on Raisen Road. Throughout the visit, Justice Sapre emphasized the importance of removing encroachments and swiftly addressing the identified black spots to reduce traffic accidents and improve road safety in Bhopal.