

MP LoP alleges ‘Vote-Theft,’ calls for election transparency

Singhar claims 16 lakh new voters registered in 60 days

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh's Leader of the Opposition, Umang Singhar, held a press conference on Tuesday to raise alarming concerns over what he calls "vote-theft" and a lack of transparency by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Singhar presented data-based graphics and tables showing significant voter list irregularities, which he alleges gave the BJP an unfair advantage in the recent assembly elections.

Data reveals unprecedented voter surge

Singhar highlighted a suspicious spike in voter registration. Between January 5 and August 2, a seven-month period, voter numbers increased by approximately 4.64 lakh. However, in just the two months that followed, from August 2 to October 4, an astounding 16.05 lakh new voters were added—an average of 26,000 per day.

He also presented data on 27 constituencies where Congress candidates lost by a narrow margin. In these same areas, the number of new voters far exceeded the margin of defeat, suggesting the surge was orchestrated to benefit the ruling party.



Blatant disregard for rules

Singhar further accused the ECI of a deliberate cover-up. He shared a June 9, 2023, directive from the ECI ordering state Chief Electoral Officers to withhold voter data from January to June 2023, a move he says obstructed a transparent audit. He also pointed to a December 2022 order from the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission to remove over 8.5 lakh duplicate entries, noting that no public report was ever released on whether this was completed.

The Congress leader questioned the ECI's double standards on privacy, arguing that while the commission uses privacy as an excuse to not include photos in voter lists, the government has no issue publicizing photos of beneficiaries for its schemes. He also criticized the ECI for being uncooperative and for what he described as a "political" defense of their actions, stating that their response to concerns felt more like a political briefing than a neutral explanation.

Key demands for election integrity

To restore public trust, Singhar put forth a list of demands, including:

- **Freezing the Final Roll:** The final voter list should be signed by all political parties and locked to prevent any changes until the election is over.
- **Releasing Machine-Readable Data:** Voter data should be released in a CSV or Excel format instead of as image-based PDFs, enabling independent verification.
- **Publishing Photos with Entries:** Each voter entry should include a photo to easily identify and remove duplicate or fraudulent entries.
- **Making a Full Log Public:** A complete log of all voter list modifications, including all relevant forms, should be published online.

Congress launches anti-drug campaign after Rs 92 cr factory busts in Bhopal



Bhopal: The Bhopal District Congress Committee has launched a city-wide campaign against narcotics following the discovery of a clandestine ₹92 crore mephedrone factory in the city's Jagdishpur area. Led by District President Praveen Saxena, party workers staged a protest at Roshanpura Square, accusing the state's Mohan government of "total failure" in curbing the illegal drug trade. The protest, held in the pouring rain, was a powerful display of the party's commitment to securing the future of Bhopal's youth and making society

drug-free. Youth Congress District President Abhishek Sharma and several other prominent leaders joined the demonstration, raising slogans against the drug menace.

The Bhopal District Congress Committee stated that this is a continuous struggle and that the party will always take the lead in protecting the future of the city's youth. The demonstration saw a large turnout of senior party members and young activists, who gathered to voice their strong opposition to the narcotics problem plaguing the city.

BHEL CMD addresses shareholders at 61st AGM



New Delhi: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) held its 61st Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, with Chairman and Managing Director K. Sadashiv Murthy addressing shareholders via video conferencing.

The virtual meeting, held from New Delhi, was attended by the company's Board of Directors.

9,550 students to get benefit of increased stipend

Bhopal: Tribal Welfare Minister Kunwar Dr. Vijay Shah has said that the Tribal Welfare Department will now provide stipends for the operation of mess facilities in college hostels for 12 months instead of earlier 10 months. He emphasized that the Cabinet's decision would have far-reaching impact in the larger interest of the students. He also expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav.

Minister Kunwar Dr. Vijay Shah said that operating the college hostels for 12 months will incur an additional annual expenditure of Rs 3 crore 19 lakh 65 thousand. This will benefit 9,550 students, including 5,050 boys and 4,500 girls. Boys will

receive a monthly stipend of Rs 1,650, while girls will receive Rs 1,700 per month.

The minister urged students to actively take advantage of the government's schemes and decisions. He also instructed departmental officials to ensure that all students and academic staff are aware of the state government's decision.

He reiterated that the state government will ensure that all efforts are made for educational advancement of the tribal communities. Support will be extended at all levels, from primary to higher education, including assistance for competitive exam preparation and pursuing advanced studies abroad.

Lokayukta traps Assistant Grade 1 taking bribe

Bhopal: An Assistant Grade 1 officer, Babu Jeevan Lal Barar, posted at the Scheduled Caste Development Office in Bhopal, was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 1 lakh. This operation was conducted by the Jabalpur Lokayukta Police.

The accused, Jeevan Lal Barar, had initially demanded Rs 5 lakh to suppress an investigation into the caste certificate of Usha Dabhikar, an Assistant Grade 2 officer in Chhindwara. After receiving the first installment of the bribe, he called Usha to his residence located at G-1 in front of the Administrative Academy in Panchsheel Nagar, Bhopal.

The investigation into Usha Dabhikar's caste certificate was being carried out by the Office of the



Commissioner of the Scheduled Caste Development Department at Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Bhopal.

Usha, who has two years remaining in her job, was under scrutiny due to issues related to her caste

Rising star Harshit Jain wins National E-Sports Tennis Title

Bhopal: Harshit Jain, a rising star from LNCT University, has clinched the prestigious All India Inter-University E-Sports Championship in Tennis. His exceptional performance at the event, organized by Noscope Gaming India, saw him defeat Jayadeep from GITAM University in a thrilling final to secure the title. The four-day championship, held at Techno India University in Kolkata from August 3 to 6, featured top e-sports athletes from over 25 universities nationwide. Jain's impressive run continued in the World Tennis E-Sports India Qualifier, where he secured a remarkable second-place finish, narrowly losing to world number three Vimalraj Jayachandran of Chennai in a closely contested final. According to Deepesh Solanki of



future endeavors. His victory not only brings honor to the university but also highlights the growing prominence of e-sports in India's collegiate landscape.

Noscope Gaming, Jain's victory earns him a coveted spot to compete in the World Tennis E-Sports tournament in Las Vegas, USA. Other members of the LNCT University team, including Krishnakant Patel, Siddhant Kushwaha, Abdul Hadi, and Aman Kahar, also delivered strong performances at the competition. LNCT University's Chancellor, Shri Jai Narain Chouksey, along with other senior management, extended their heartfelt congratulations to Harshit Jain on his outstanding achievement, wishing him continued success in his

AKAR Film Festival to showcase Madhya Pradesh filmmakers



Bhopal: The annual AKAR Film Festival will return on August 23 and 24, continuing its tradition of celebrating cinema from Madhya Pradesh. The festival, which has been held every year since 2009, is sponsored by Rabindranath Tagore University. A two-day celebration of film and art: Organized by filmmaker Shashikant, this year's festival will take place at the Rajiv

Gandhi Auditorium at NITTTR in Bhopal. The opening ceremony on August 23 will be graced by chief guest and senior journalist Padma Shri Vijaydutt Shridhar. The festival's jury has selected a feature film and a collection of short films, which will be screened over the two-day event. In addition to the film screenings, the festival will honor two distinguished figures for their lifelong contributions. On the evening of August 24, senior writer Santosh Choubey, Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University, will receive the "Sudirgh Seva Samman" (Long Service Honor) for his immense contributions to literature and education. Actor Rajiv Verma will also be honored with the same award for his distinguished work in acting, theater, and direction. The film festival will conclude with a felicitation ceremony on August 24, where renowned Dhrupad singer Padma Shri Umakant Gundecha will be the chief guest. During this ceremony, artists involved in the featured films will be recognized and awarded by the chief guest, celebrating their talent and hard work.

Rashi, Rumesha and Vartika to represent Bhopal district in Kho-Kho



Bhopal: In the inter-district school kho-kho competition to be held in

Mandideep Rumesha

district Ahmed,

Raisen, Rashi

Khubchandani and Vartika Khandelwal, girls of St. Joseph Convent School Idgah Hills, will represent Bhopal district in the Under 14 years age group. The school's sports teacher Vishnu Kant Sahay has been appointed as the coach of the team. Mr. Sahay said that this is the result of the hard work done by these students with dedication for the last 3 years.

On this occasion, the School's Principal Sister Lily, Vice Principal Sister Stania, sports department officer Ravdeep Singh Malhari, Jitendra Shukla, Bhumika Singh, Amandeep Kaur, Kirti Goswami, Shraddha Patil along with all the teachers and teachers of the school family expressed happiness and gave best wishes.

Bhopal Photojournalists celebrate World Photography Day with enthusiasm



Bhopal: The Bhopal Photojournalists' Association celebrated World Photography Day with great enthusiasm on Tuesday, August 19.

Every year, this day is observed to honor the art and science of photography and the photojournalists who capture the world's moments.

Members of the association gathered at Roshanpura to mark the occasion. The celebration included a festive cake-cutting ceremony, where photographers extended greetings and well wishes to one another.

The event saw a notable turnout of senior and renowned photojournalists from various newspapers in the city, including Rajiv Gupta, Shameem Khan, Mahesh Vishwakarma, Rajiv Sarathe, and Ashraf Ali. Their presence underscored the camaraderie and shared passion within the community. The day served as a reminder of the vital role photojournalists play in documenting history, telling compelling stories, and providing a visual record of life's significant events.