

Bhopal gears up for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations

► City buzzes with excitement as local markets overflow with idols and festivities

Bhopal: As Ganesh Chaturthi approaches, Bhopal is set to transform into a vibrant hub of celebration, with shops selling intricately crafted Ganesh idols popping up across the city. Residents and local businesses are bustling with excitement, making final preparations for the ten-day festival dedicated to Lord Ganesha.

The streets of Bhopal are adorned with beautifully decorated pandals, showcasing a stunning array of Ganesha idols in various artistic styles. From traditional clay figures to modern interpretations, the displays promise to be a visual feast, reflecting the creativity and devotion of the community. Local artisans have been hard at work, ensuring that every idol tells a unique story, capturing the spirit of the festival.

Variety of idols available is particularly impressive

In the bustling markets and along prominent roads, vendors are busy setting up stalls filled with Ganesha idols of all shapes and sizes. Shoppers can find everything from small, portable idols for home



Bhopal gears up for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. Photos by Ashraf Ali.

worship to larger, elaborate statues for community celebrations. This year, the variety available is partic-

ularly impressive; catering to diverse tastes and budgets, ensuring that every family can participate in

the festivities.

As the city prepares for this joyous occasion, residents eagerly an-

icipate a series of cultural events and rituals that will highlight the rich traditions associated with

Focus on eco-friendly idol

Bhopal is increasingly focused on environmental protection, especially during the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. In a bid to promote sustainability, workshops on eco-friendly idol making are being organized throughout the city. These initiatives encourage residents to create idols using natural materials, reducing pollution and waste. By embracing these eco-conscious practices, the community aims to celebrate the festival while safeguarding the environment.

Ganesh Chaturthi. The festival is cherished by both young and old, with communities coming together to plan cultural programs and religious events.

A local college student expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "Ganesh Chaturthi is an opportunity to break from the shackles of monotony and sedentary lifestyle. It brings along with it the essence of togetherness."

With the spirit of community and celebration in the air, Bhopal is ready to embrace the festivities and honor Lord Ganesha in style.

History is made by working together: CM

► Dr Yadav virtually addressed Mahasammelan of Keer Samaj

New Investment Avenues in Gwalior's Tourism Sector: CM

► Gwalior Regional Tourism Conclave: Hospitality and Tourism Stakeholders to Participate

Bhopal: CM Mohan Yadav will directly engage with investors at the Regional Tourism Conclave in Gwalior on August 29-30, 2025, introducing them to investment opportunities in the state's tourism sector and facilitating direct dialogue. The conclave aims to promote tourism in Madhya Pradesh, boost tourist arrivals, and encourage investment in the Gwalior-Chambal and Sagar divisions.

The event, scheduled at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University in Gwalior, will feature the special presence of Union Minister for Communications and North East Development Jyotiraditya Scindia and Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar.

Minister of State (Independent

Charge) for Tourism, Culture, and Religious Endowments, Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, stated that the conclave aims to foster collaboration among tourism entrepreneurs, tour operators, and the hotel industry, thereby opening new avenues for investment in Gwalior's tourism sector. Centered around the theme 'Timeless Gwalior: Echoes of Culture, Spirit of Legacy', the conclave represents a key initiative to promote tourism investment, cultural heritage, experiential tourism and regional development.

Tourism exhibition will be organised

A special tourism exhibition will be organised, featuring dedicated stalls showcasing Madhya Pradesh's diverse tourist

destinations, hospitality brands, homestays, resorts, handloom & handicraft products, adventure activities and cultural heritage.

Principal Secretary Sheo Shekhar Shukla said that the conclave will host two key sessions. The first, titled 'Tourism as a Cultural Bridge – Branding Gwalior and the Heartland of MP', will discuss strategies to position Gwalior's cultural heritage, classical music and architecture on the global tourism map. The second session, 'Gwalior and Chambal Rising – Inbound Appeal Through Heritage, Luxury and Experience', will focus on heritage tourism, luxury stays, destination weddings and experiential tourism, exploring new avenues for growth.

Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the society which works together makes history. The Keer Samaj received the dust of Lord Shri Ram's feet and the community brothers helped Lord Shri Ram cross the Bhavasagar. That society did not ask anything from Lord Shri Ram in return. Just asked for blessings to cross the Vaitarni of life. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that a state level panchayat of Keer Samaj will be organized in the capital soon.

CM was virtually address-

ing the Mahasammelan of Keer Samaj held in Ujjain from Samatva Bhavan, Chief Minister's residence on Sunday. CM said that the Keer Samaj had recognized Lord Shri Ram as God instead of a human being. Today the society is on the path of progress. The society is associated with constructive works like spread of education and de-addiction. CM said that he gives credit for this opportunity of service received as Chief Minister in his life to the blessings of all such community brothers

including Keer Samaj.

CM said that the government is working for infrastructure development and promotion of education. While scooters and laptops are being made available to meritorious students, education acquisition has been made easy by getting scholarship textbooks and uniforms.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also interacted with many sisters present in the Maha Sammelan and discussed about other schemes including Ladli Behna Yojana.

Children are nation's heritage: CM Dr. Mohan Yadav

► Says nurturing their talents is our duty



with 7,500 posts announced this year and plans to establish a separate Police Recruitment Board to ensure the filling of all vacancies in the department over the next three years.

CM honored meritorious students: During the ceremony, CM

honored meritorious students from the Phool Mali community, presenting them with certificates of appreciation and honoraria for their academic achievements. He reiterated the government's commitment to promoting horticulture and flower decoration,

linking these efforts to the traditional vocation of the Phool Mali Samaj. The Chief Minister also mentioned the attractive awards announced for floral decoration in Krishna temples during Janmashtami.

Dr. Yadav encouraged the youth to dream big and pursue their aspirations with dedication, awarding them the Madhya Pradesh government's unwavering support. He reaffirmed the state's commitment to prioritizing education, self-employment, and the promotion of floral art under the guiding principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas.'

The ceremony concluded with representatives of the Phool Mali Samaj welcoming the Chief Minister with a traditional turban. In response to community requests, Dr. Yadav pledged financial assistance for constructing a community Dharma Shala in Ujjain and expressed support for honoring national icons of the Samaj with the Bharat Ratna.

Nadda to inaugurate Govt medical colleges in Sheopur & Singrauli today

Medical Colleges to be set up in Dhar, Betul, Panna and Katni

Bhopal: Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda will launch a series of historic decisions and public welfare initiatives aimed at strengthening health services in Madhya Pradesh on August 25 at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cultural Information Centre, Jabalpur. The program will be chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav.

During the event, the newly established Government Medical Colleges at Sheopur and Singrauli will be inaugurated. In addition, agreements will be signed to establish medical colleges in Dhar, Betul, Panna and Katni under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Other key initiatives include the distribution of 'Vaya Vandana' Cards for senior citizens, the launch of schemes to strengthen maternal & child healthcare and the introduction of digital innova-

tions such as a SmartChatbot. These initiatives will significantly enhance medical infrastructure, public health security, and technology-driven services in the state.

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla and Minister of State for Public Health and Medical Education Narendra Shivaji Patel will also be present.

At the event, 8 lakh 'Vaya Vandana' Cards will be distributed to senior citizens. Adding a new chapter of technological empowerment in the state, Smart Chatbots (Ayushman and Sakhi) will be launched to provide citizens with easy access to health-related information and consultations.

In addition, interactions with ASHA workers will be held to further strengthen grassroots health services. To ensure quality maternal and child healthcare, 'Matru-Shishu Suraksha' Cards will also be distributed.

Heavy monsoon rains cause flooding in MP

► Continuous downpour affects many dists and prompts flood warnings



Bhopal: Heavy rainfall continues to affect Madhya Pradesh due to the influence of the monsoon trough line and cyclonic circulation. Reports indicate that 30 districts are experiencing varying intensities of rain, with Umaria recording the highest rainfall of 45 inches. Light rains were also noted in several districts, including Bhopal, Betul, Datia, Guna, Gwalior, Sehore, Shajapur, Rajgarh, Vidisha, Dewas, Indore, Narandupur, Ratlam, Shivpuri, Ujj

jain, Chhindwara, Damoh, Jabalpur, Chhatarpur, Rewa, Sagar, Harda, Mandla, Morena, Sheopur, Satna, Sidhi, Tikamgarh, and Balaghat.

Narmada River swelled in Dindori

On Sunday, the Narmada River swelled in Dindori, submerging the ghats along its banks and leading to the closure of the Dindori-Amarpur road due to flooding in

the Kharmer River. The rising water levels also affected Mandla, where the small Rapti bridge at Mahishmati Ghat was submerged. In Satna, heavy rainfall of 3.7 inches resulted in flood-like conditions, inundating lower settlements and filling homes with water. The Gupt Godavari cave in Chitrakoot was closed due to strong currents.

Kuno River flooded

In Sheopur, floods in the Kuno River led to the closure of the main road in Dimarchha village, prompting a rescue operation by the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) for a pregnant woman needing medical assistance.

Meteorologist Arun Sharma reported that the state has received an average of 34.2 inches of rain so far, with just 2.8 inches needed to meet the seasonal quota. Guna has experienced an average rainfall of 52 inches, while Mandla and Ashoknagar have exceeded 50 inches. Bhopal experienced intermittent heavy rain and drizzle, and waterlogging has been reported in various areas, particularly in Satna, where roads were submerged. The water level of the Narmada River continues to rise, impacting local infrastructure and agriculture.

Bhopal: City's Malayali community came together to celebrate Onam through a series of organized events and cultural displays, showcasing the rich heritage of Kerala. The festivities were marked by the creation of a large Pookkalam (flower rangoli) by residents of Mahabali Nagar, a tradition they have cherished for the past 19 years. This colorful floral arrangement welcomed King Mahabali, symbolizing prosperity and harmony.

The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) partnered with the United Malayalee Association (UMA) to host a variety of events, including the ritualistic worship of the snake boat and Sarpa Kavu, which are integral to Onam celebrations. These activities not only highlighted the cultural significance of the festival but also fostered a sense of community among participants.

UMA organized cultural evenings

Cultural evenings organized by UMA featured traditional performances, including dance showcases and musical presentations, creating an atmosphere of joy and festivity. The ceremonial welcome of King Mahabali was marked by the rhythmic beats of Chenda Melam

Bhopal celebrates Onam with vibrant cultural festivities

► Malayali community unites for traditional events in honor of King Mahabali



(drum beats) and the illumination of Thalappoli (lamps), adding to the grandeur of the occasion.

In addition to community celebrations, academic institutions such as NIFT Bhopal and IISER Bhopal joined in the festivities by organizing their own Onam events. These gatherings included traditional dances, songs, and

much-anticipated Onam Sadya (feast), allowing students and faculty to immerse themselves in the cultural richness of the festival.

Overall, the Onam celebrations in Bhopal not only celebrated the arrival of King Mahabali but also strengthened community bonds, showcasing the unity and vibrancy of the Malayali culture in the city.