



Dazzling start to Shriji Garba Festival

Bhopal: The Shriji Garba Festival kicked off with a dazzling display of light and rhythm Tuesday evening at the Ashoka Garden Dussehra Ground. Over 100 participants holding earthen lamps performed the opening aarti, creating a mesmerizing scene that marked a spiritually vibrant start to the celebrations.

As the night progressed, hundreds of dancers, including women and men in traditional Chhaniya Cholis, took to the floor. The sound of clattering dandiya and joyous Gujarati music, featuring popular songs like "Dholida Dhol Dheemo" and "Kesariyo Rang Tane Lagyo," filled the air. The vibrant energy and rhythmic footwork of over 200 participants captivated a large audience, turning the venue

into a hub of excitement. A festival of themes: Organizers have curated a unique six-day event with a different theme each night. The inaugural evening was dedicated to Gujarati culture, but upcoming nights will feature Rajasthani, Punjabi, and other regional themes, ensuring a fresh experience for all attendees.

This year marks the first time the festival is being held at the Dussehra Ground, drawing a massive crowd from all corners of the city. The event is a grand collaboration, with Navbharat serving as the official media partner, bringing the festivities to a wider audience. The overwhelming enthusiasm on the first night promises a spectacular week ahead filled with music, dance, and community spirit.

Sakshi Prajapati, choreographer at Denex Dance Academy, said that 100 people from her academy have come to the festival to play Garba. Preparations for this event have been ongoing for about a month. All participants, along with her colleague Vijay Prajapati, practiced Dandiya and Garba.

I love playing Garba. I've been playing Garba for about 15 years. And this time, I'm getting the chance to play at Shriji for the first time. I've been preparing for it for the past month, so I'm very excited.

Every time I see a Garba event, I've always wanted to play. But this is my first time here, and the day's theme is different, which I enjoyed. I'm very happy to be able to dance Dandiya and play Garba here.

After a month of preparation, I got the chance to play Garba. Only Garba songs are being played here, so I'm really enjoying it. The absence of Bollywood and film songs makes the entire atmosphere feel like a traditional Garba.

-Laxmi Somkuwar, Bharti Niketan, Bhopal

-Akanksha Sahu, Sundar Nagar

-Sandhya Khandekar, Indrapuri

Inspector General Intelligence robbed in the capital city

- Two Suspects Arrested
- High profile heist in VIP zone raises state security concerns

Bhopal: An audacious robbery in Bhopal's high-security Char Imli area has sent shockwaves through the state's security establishment. In the early hours of Wednesday morning, three men on a motorcycle snatched two mobile phones from Dr. Ashish, the Inspector General of Madhya Pradesh Intelligence. The incident has raised serious questions about security in what is considered one of the city's safest neighborhoods. According to Habibganj ACP Umesh Tiwari, Dr. Ashish was on a late-night walk after dinner when three men on a bike approached him from behind and swiftly grabbed both phones from his hands before fleeing towards a secluded park.



State security at risk
The theft immediately triggered a massive police response due to the highly sensitive nature of the devices. As the head of state intelligence, Dr. Ashish's phones contained a wealth of confidential information, including inputs

on crime, operational plans, and data related to anti-naxal and counter-terrorism activities. The potential for this information to fall into the wrong hands was deemed a major threat to state security.

Swift Police action
As it was a matter of Police's one of the top officials, Bhopal police, in a swift and aggressive crackdown, deployed over half a dozen teams for an all-night manhunt. Their efforts paid off, leading to the arrest of two suspects. One of the stolen phones was recovered from the Durga Nagar area under the Chunabhatti police station. A third suspect and the second mobile phone remain at large, with police continuing to conduct raids and interrogations. This brazen act of robbery in a VIP zone has not only become a significant challenge for law enforcement but has also highlighted the need for a re-evaluation of security protocols in the state capital.

Teela Jamalpur Police arrested four for robbery with a merchant



Bhopal: Teela Jamalpur Police have arrested four individuals, including one minor, in connection with the robbery of a betel-nut merchant. The accused, who planned the crime to pay off debts and buy a new vehicle, have been linked to multiple prior offenses. The incident occurred on the night of July 18 when merchant Sachin Jain was returning home with cash from his shop. As he was crossing a secluded area, two men on a racing motorcycle intention-

ally crashed into his scooter. The robbers then made off with Jain's scooter, which contained approximately Rs 1.5 lakh in cash. Acting on directives from Police Commissioner Harinarayanachari Mishra, a special team was formed to investigate the crime. Using CCTV footage and technical evidence, the police identified and apprehended the suspects. A total of Rs 55,000 in stolen cash and the racing motorcycle used in the crime were recovered. The robbers confessed to throwing the stolen scooter into Halali Dam to hide evidence. One of the conspirators, Abhiraj Ahirwar, was found to be already in jail for a separate offense. The four arrested are Keshav Yadav (20), Deepak Lodhi (23), and two other individuals, including a minor. They face multiple charges under the new criminal codes.

Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple replica dazzles

Bhopal: New Market is buzzing with festive fervor this Navratri, thanks to a stunning new display. The New Market Traders Protection Committee and the New Market Durga Utsav Committee have unveiled a magnificent tableau at the Jay Stambh, a replica of the famous Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple in Mathura. According to Ajay Devnani, secretary of the committee, the Durga idol has been a fixture at Roshanpura for the last 60 years, but this year's tableau is the main attraction. Built by skilled artisans from Kolkata, the replica is a massive structure, standing 60 feet tall and sprawling across 1,200



square feet. The artists have paid meticulous attention to the temple's intricate architectural details, creating a truly immersive experience for visitors. The tableau's centerpiece is a majestic idol of Maa Ambe, measuring 28 feet wide and 12 feet high, radiating a divine presence.

BHEL Bhopal bids farewell to retiring employees

Bhopal: In a simple function organized at the Administrative Building of BHEL, Bhopal, Shri Pradeep Kumar Upadhyay, General Manager & Head, BHEL, Bhopal bid a heartfelt farewell to Shri Vinodanand Jha, General Manager (Publicity & Public Relations), 08 supervisors and 01 workman on their retirement. Shri Upadhyay urged all the employees to make the second innings of their life meaningful and enjoy it to the maximum while staying healthy. Shri T U Singh, General Manager (Human Resources) and



all the General Managers were present on this occasion.

Farmer dies after snake bite in Eintkhedi

Bhopal: A tragic incident occurred in Eintkhedi area where a 53-year-old farmer died after being bitten by a snake. The victim, Om Prakash Choukse, a resident of Chandpur, had gone to work in his fields on Tuesday morning when the snake bit his leg. According to Itkhedi police, the snake was hidden in a drain in the field. After being bitten, Om Prakash began bleeding heavily and immediately called his son for help. He told him over the phone, "I've been bitten by a snake and I'm bleeding profusely. I'll die immediately." His son rushed him to the hospital. Despite efforts to save him, Om Prakash died on Wednesday morning during treatment at Hamidia Hospital. The police conducted a post-mortem and handed over the body to the family later that morning.

Sarang highlights role of company secretaries in business growth

Bhopal: The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), Bhopal Chapter, in collaboration with the WIRC of ICSI, successfully organized the MP State Conference at Quality Motel Shiraz, Bhopal. The one-day event was held on the theme "Staying Compliant in a Changing World: Mastering the V3 Portal and Companies Act." The conference focused on the evolving compliance environment and the effective use of the V3 Portal. The program commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting by Minister of Sports Vishwas Kailash Sarang, along with ICSI leaders including company secretaries Aman Jain, Ankur Chouksey, Manish Patidar, Pradeep Mutreja, Parvash Dhawan, Rishikesh Wagh, Yogesh Chaudhary, and Central Council Member Ashish Karodia. Sarang graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while CS Aman Jain chaired the conference. Sarang highlighted the crucial role of company secretaries in ensuring compliance and supporting business growth. Aman Jain emphasized the need for professionals to stay updated amidst digital and legal transformations.



The technical sessions featured expert speakers. Dilip Kumar Chaudhary elaborated on revised annual forms and MCA portal changes, CS Sheryl Dubey spoke on the role of CSs in PSUs, Suyog Puntambekar shared insights on FEMA, and Rahul Sharma explained the IPO process.

PWD begins road repairs post-rainy season

Bhopal: Following the recent heavy rains, the Public Works Department (PWD) in Bhopal has initiated repairs on the city's roads, with a focus on Link Road No. 3, which was addressed on Wednesday. PWD Chief Engineer Sanjay Maske noted that repairs commenced even during the rainfall, utilizing the white-topping technique to ensure durability. The repair efforts were overseen by key officials, including PWD Principal Secretary Sukhveer Singh and ENC KPS Rana, who monitored the progress for about an hour. Chief Engineer Maske reported that a total of 180 kilometers of roads have been repaired,

alleviating the issue of potholes that plagued the city. As the rains have ceased, the focus has shifted to restoring roads that had deteriorated. In addition, the PWD is preparing to address areas susceptible to waterlogging, with Rs 6 crore allocated for improvements on 92.05 kilometers of roads, particularly those measuring 7.70 kilometers that are most affected. However, challenges remain, especially on internal roads in residential colonies, where potholes continue to cause significant inconvenience for residents. Areas such as Aishbagh, Ashoka Garden, and Shivnagar are among those in need of urgent attention.

Drama is a collaborative art form: Prayag Shukla

Convocation of Tagore National School of Drama Concludes

Bhopal: The convocation ceremony of the Tagore National School of Drama for the 2025-2027 session concluded at Rabindranath Tagore University's Sharda Auditorium. Renowned art critic, poet, and painter Prayag Shukla addressed the students as the chief guest. He emphasized the importance of deeply observing life, traveling, and experiencing the world to gain fresh perspectives in art. "Drama is a collaborative art form and cannot be practiced in isolation," he stated, while also sharing insights from his editorial and theatre experiences. The event was presided over by Santosh Chaubey, Chancellor of RNTU, who urged students to

blend discipline with dedication and continuous learning. Other dignitaries included Sanjay Srivastava, Director of the MP School of Drama; Vice-Chancellor Dr RP Dubey; and Registrar Dr. Sangeeta Johri, who also addressed the gathering. Avijit Solanki, Director of the School of Drama, welcomed the guests and presented an overview of the school's activities. The ceremony featured a screening of a film on theatre and RNTU, along with folk song performances by students. Dr. Chaitanya Aathle delivered the vote of thanks. About 25 students from across eight states were selected for the MA Dramatics program.

Pvt school operators protest over long-pending RTE dues

Forum submits memo with three key demands

Bhopal: The Private School Welfare Operators Forum organized a protest on Wednesday at the State Education Center in Bhopal to press for long-overdue demands. The protestors submitted a memorandum outlining three primary concerns, including the non-payment of Right to Education (RTE) reimbursements for the 2023-24 academic session. Forum leaders voiced strong dissatisfaction over the delay in payments and the government's apparent neglect of private school children. Shailesh Tiwari, the state president of the forum, stated, "The government is discriminating against private school students. Their families also vote—why are they being excluded from welfare schemes?" RTE funds are our right: Forum president: Tiwari emphasized that the pending RTE funds are not just



a financial right but also a matter of dignity. "For the last three years, no RTE funds have been released. We have been told repeatedly that the Chief Minister will release the funds with a single click. But that click never comes. Will it even happen before Diwali?" he questioned. As per official rules, RTE reim-

bursements are to be disbursed by March every year. However, no payments have been made since 2023, putting financial pressure on many private school operators. State Treasurer Monu Tomar confirmed that the protest would continue daily until a written order is received. "We protested until 5 p.m. today and will resume tomorrow morning. This movement will not stop now," he said. Protesters included school operators from across the state. Pratiksha Srivastava, a participant from Jabalpur, stated, "We haven't received RTE funds in years. The government is also making accreditation rules unnecessarily strict. We are here to fight for our rights." The forum has declared that the protest will end only when a written order addressing their demands is issued. Key Demands Immediate release of RTE payments for the 2023-24 academic session. Permission for unrecognized schools to operate after paying a penalty. Written payment orders for students enrolled from 2016 to 2022 under the RTE scheme.

