

Golden Dilemma: Demand Persists Despite Soaring Prices



New Trends in Purchase and Investment

Investment experts confirm a major shift towards financial instruments, with Gold and Silver ETFs gaining traction. These funds allow investors to benefit from price increases without the need to hold physical metal, offering a transparent and secure option. Nationally, Gold ETFs saw Rs 8,363 crore in investment in September, and Silver ETFs saw 5,342 crore, a trend clearly reflected in cities like Bhopal. Furthermore, many individuals are leveraging the high asset value by opting for Gold Loans at attractive interest rates to meet festive or business expenses, considering it a safer alternative to selling their assets. Jewellers predict that demand for gold and silver biscuits, coins, and utensils will dominate sales during Dhanteras and Diwali. Experts suggest that prices will likely continue to rise in the coming months due to international supply-demand dynamics.

● The festival of Karva Chauth is over, if we look at the quantity, the sales have decreased. Now Dhanteras and Diwali are ahead. Due to rising prices, people are buying less gold, but still, sales have increased.

— Shobhit Agrawal, Agrawal Jewellers, TT Nagar, Bhopal

● The demand for gold and silver biscuits is high during Dhanteras and Diwali. Customers prefer to buy biscuits, utensils, and coins more than jewellery.

— Abhilash Jain, M Jewellers, TT Nagar, Bhopal

Bhopal: Despite the continuous escalation in the prices of both gold and silver, consumer demand for precious metals in Bhopal remains surprisingly robust. However, buyers are adjusting their strategies significantly.

Jewellers in the capital note that while outright purchases have slightly decreased—with customers buying 8 grams instead of 10—pre-bookings for the upcoming festive season are higher than ever. Buyers are increasingly opting for lighter-weight, designer jewellery and gold coins. For investment, many families are bypassing physical gold for modern alternatives like Silver Biscuits and ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds).

Special traffic arrangements in city for Diwali rush

Traffic diversions and parking restrictions in effect across key markets



Bhopal: In anticipation of heavy traffic during the Diwali shopping rush, the Bhopal Traffic Police have announced special traffic arrangements from October 14 to 21. These measures will impact both the old and new parts of the city, including New Market, Number 10 Market, MP Nagar, and Bairagarh.

Vehicle restrictions in crowded areas: To manage congestion, the entry of four-wheelers, three-wheelers, and loading vehicles will be restricted in several busy areas. In Old Bhopal, locations such as Janakpuri, Jumerati, Chhote Bhaiya Square, Ghoda Nakkas, Hanumanganj, and Azad Market will see a complete ban on these vehicles during peak hours.

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Vehicles coming from Karond, DIG Bungalow, Sindhi Colony, and Shahjahanabad will need to stop at Bhopal Talkies Square and park at Bal Vihar Ground. Two-wheelers from Bharat Talkies must park at the Central Library Ground.

Temporary and multi-level parking arrangements: Temporary parking will be available in the Sabzi Mandi complex for visitors to Sangam Talkies. For those arriving from Lakhera Pura, Itwara, Marwari Road, and Ibrahim pura, parking will be provided at the multi-level facility at Saraswati School or Sadar Manzil.

In the event of high traffic volumes, two-wheelers will also be redirected to these designated parking areas.

One-way route in Number 10 Market: From October 14 to 21, the route to Number 10 Market will be designated as one-way. Entry will be permitted from Vande Mataram Square to National Hospital via Number 10 Tiraha, with restrictions on vehicles coming from the opposite direction.

Multi-level parking near TT Nagar Police Station will accommodate visitors to New Market. In MP Nagar Zone-1, shoppers are encouraged to utilize only designated parking spots. Bairagarh's Chanchal Square will also feature a multi-level parking facility for public use.

Loading/Unloading Time: The police have requested that shopkeepers load and unload goods between midnight and 7 a.m. to minimize daytime traffic congestion.

Woman succumbs to burn injuries

Family alleges husband's involvement

Bhopal: A woman from the Chhola Mandir police station area died under suspicious circumstances after sustaining severe burn injuries. Her family has accused her husband of setting her on fire. The incident occurred around 6:30 a.m. on October 11, and the woman succumbed to her injuries during treatment early Monday morning.

According to police, the deceased, Reena Kushwaha (30), was a homemaker living with her husband Gajraj Kushwaha and their two children — a 12-year-old son and an 8-year-old daughter. At the time of the incident, the son was attending an RSS event, while the daughter, who was at home, woke up to her mother's screams.

Gajraj reportedly extinguished the fire and rushed Reena to the hospital. However, her condition remained critical, and she died during treatment.

Due to the severity of her injuries, her dying declaration could not be recorded, leaving the exact cause of the fire unclear.

Reena's family has alleged husband's involvement. Her brother, Ravindra Kushwaha, claimed that Gajraj is responsible. "He told us she was burned while making tea, but I suspect he set her on fire. He often fought with her under the influence of alcohol," he said.

The police have registered a case and begun a detailed investigation.

Scam Exposed: Private Nursing Colleges Falsify Faculty with Govt. Staff

Bhopal: A major scandal involving private nursing colleges using ghost faculty—specifically government employees—has been uncovered in Madhya Pradesh. The NSUI (National Students' Union of India) has lodged a formal complaint with the National Health Mission Director, demanding urgent action.

Misuse of NHM Staff

The NSUI alleges that numerous private nursing colleges are falsely listing government workers, including Community Health Officers (CHOs) and other NHM employees, as their permanent faculty members on paper. In reality, these individuals remain on their original government posts.

NSUI State Vice-President Ravi Parmar stated that this practice is a severe violation of Nursing Council standards and constitutes a major



offense under government conduct rules. This allows college operators to secure accreditation based on fraudulent credentials, severely compromising the quality and

transparency of nursing education in the state.

Call for Strict Penalties: The organization is calling for the immediate suspension and investigation of all

employees holding dual appointments. They also demand the recovery of all salaries and honorariums earned through this deception.

NSUI insists that Chief Medical Health Officers (CMHOs) must cross-check their NHM employee rosters against the faculty lists of local nursing colleges.

District President Akshay Tomar branded the fraud as a "syndicated racket" involving collusion between college owners and government personnel, resulting in the misuse of public funds.

He warned that if the government fails to act swiftly, the NSUI will present all documents before the courts and investigative agencies, highlighting the threat this dual-appointment trend poses to both educational standards and administrative integrity.

Govt launches food safety drive ahead of Diwali

Dists directed to conduct inspections

Bhopal: In view of the upcoming Diwali festival, the Madhya Pradesh government has instructed all districts to launch special inspection drives to ensure the availability of safe and quality food for consumers.

Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Dinesh Srivastava, has sent a directive to all collectors, urging strict enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and Rules, 2011. The order mandates regular inspections of food establishments to prevent adulteration, especially during the festive season when the consumption of sweets and snacks is high. Officials have been told to take immediate samples from any shop or unit suspected of using adulterated or sus-



picious ingredients and take action as per legal provisions. Establishments producing food illegally are to be targeted through special campaigns.

Crackdown in Bhopal: With the festive season approaching, the Bhopal district food safety administration has also launched a massive crackdown to ensure food purity ahead of Diwali. Acting on the directives of Collector Shivam Verma, teams of food safety officers are conducting surprise inspections, focusing on sweet shops, food depots, and transport hubs. Food Safety Officer Manish Swami said mobile testing vans have been deployed to accelerate checks during the festive period. Priority is being given to inspecting high-demand items like milk, mawa, sweets, oils, spices, dry fruits, chocolates, biscuits, namkeen, and branded gift hampers. Tools such as Food Safety on Wheels, Mobile Food Testing Labs, Magic Boxes, and special district teams will be deployed for field inspections.

BHEL hosts seminar on GST awareness and compliance



By BHEL Correspondent
Bhopal: Under the aegis of the Finance Division, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bhopal, organised a seminar on GST Awareness and Compliance at its premises recently. The event was graced by Pradeep Kumar Upadhyay, General Manager and Unit Head (BHEL Bhopal), as

the Chief Guest. The distinguished guest speakers, Chartered Accountants Sandeep Mukherjee and Sanjeev Mangal, participated as GST experts. Also present on the occasion were Gautam Majumdar, General Manager (CMG, PMG, CC & DTG), and Pawan Kumar Srivastava, General Manager (Finance). The programme was presided over by CA Janmejyay Sharma, General Manager (Finance).

The session aimed to enhance employees' awareness and understanding of key GST provisions and the latest regulatory developments. Discussions covered crucial topics such as E-Way Bills, E-Invoicing, Credit and Debit Notes, Export under LUT, and the recent changes introduced as per the 56th GST Council recommendations.

The seminar served as an interactive platform for knowledge exchange among participants from Finance, Materials Management, Commercial, and Logistics departments. The insights shared are expected to strengthen GST compliance practices and improve operational efficiency within BHEL.

By fostering a better grasp of GST regulations, the seminar has empowered employees to apply the provisions more effectively in their daily operations, ensuring accuracy, compliance, and transparency in financial processes.

Row over appeal on Diwali shopping

By Special Correspondent
Bhopal: Congress spokesperson Vikrant Choudhary said that the festive season has brought vibrancy to markets, but this year Diwali is not just about lights and sweets — it has also sparked a controversy. The Hindu Utsav Samiti has appealed to people to shop only from traders who perform Lakshmi Puja and celebrate Diwali themselves. The appeal has stirred debates across spheres of faith, commerce, and politics. The Congress has criticised the move, calling it divisive and contrary to the spirit of harmony associated with the festival.

Honouring Vigilance and Dedication in Bhopal Rly division



Bhopal: The Bhopal Railway Division celebrated outstanding dedication across two critical areas: safety operations and essential services, highlighting the commitment of its personnel. **DRM Awards Staff for Averting Mishaps:** Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Pankaj Tyagi honored six railway employees with cash awards and certificates for demonstrating exceptional alertness and quick thinking to avert potential rail inci-



dents. The awardees included Senior Goods Train Managers Dewashish Deves and Suraj Singh, Pointsmen Akhilesh Kumar and Ranjan Kumar, and Electric Signal Maintainer Nitin Raj. Their timely actions secured both passenger safety and railway property.

DRM Tyagi commended their "vigilance and dedication," while Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Saurabh Kataria reaffirmed that passenger safety remains the highest priority.

Railway Hospital Honours 'Swachhata Mitras': In a separate event, the Railway Hospital's Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS), Dr. Ajay Dogra, recognized the essential contribution of the hospital's 'Swachhata Mitras' (Sanitation Workers). Held as part of the ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada (Cleanliness Fortnight), the ceremony honored approximately 35 sanitation workers from the hospital and railway colony for their continuous, commendable service.

Congress Leaders Cleared of Charges in 2012 Baba Ramdev Convoy Protest

Bhopal: Special Judge MPM-IA Tathagat Yagnik has acquitted several Congress Leaders who were accused of obstructing and attacking Baba Ramdev's convoy in 2012, bringing an end to a long-running case. Those acquitted of all charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including rioting and assault on a public servant, are Vibha Patel, Sunil Sood, Govind Goyal, Jodhran Gurjar, Manak Agrawal, Kailash Mishra, Raj Singh, Anil Ahirwar, Ashok Singh, Yogesh Puri, and Manish Yadav. The incident occurred on July 19, 2012, near the SIT College on Ayodhya Bypass. At the time, a group of demonstrators allegedly stood on the road to stop the convoy and began pelting stones. During the trial, two key accused, Sunil Pathak and Ishwar Singh Chauhan, passed away, and another, Jagdish Kumar, absconded.

Trump addresses Knesset

(Contd from Page 1)
He also expressed his hope that "the region will live in peace for all eternity," and remarked that this was not just the end of war, but "it is also the end of an age of terror and death and the beginning of the age of faith and hope and of God."
It's the start of an "age of concord" for Israel and the countries of the region, he vowed, and remarked "It's the historic dawn of the new Middle East."
Trump also lauded Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a man of "great courage and patriotism," and said "his partnership did so much to make this day possible."

100-meter stretch caves in near Bilkhiriya

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Sukhi Sewania Police Station in-charge, Rambabu Chaudhary, confirmed that traffic has been diverted and police personnel deployed.
NHAI has clarified that the road is not under their jurisdiction and falls under the MPRDC.
MPRDC has constituted a technical investigation team comprising Chief Engineer BS Meena, General Manager Manoj Gupta, and General Manager RS Chandel. The team will assess the cause of the road collapse and submit a detailed report to the government. Based on the findings, necessary actions

will follow. **Strict disciplinary measures will be taken:** MPRDC MD

MPRDC Managing Director Bharat Yadav emphasized that strict disciplinary measures will be taken if negligence or irregularities are uncovered. Meanwhile, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) clarified that the road does not fall under its jurisdiction, distancing itself from the incident.

Constructed in 2013 by M/s Transtroy Pvt Ltd under the BOT model, the contractor's agreement was terminated in 2020 due to contractual violations, according to MPRDC officials.

I-T raids on Dilip Buildcon uncover financial irregularities

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Some documents seized
In the raids so far, the teams have seized important financial documents and digital data. However, the department has not officially confirmed any seizures or arrests. It is reported that the raids were conducted as part of an investigation into allegations of tax evasion, suspicious transactions, and black money.
This is not the first time Dilip Buildcon has come under the scanner. Around a decade ago, the company was found to be involved in large-scale tax evasion, with discrepancies amounting to crores of rupees.
Local officials left in the dark
Interestingly, the Amritsar-based team conducted the operation without the knowledge or participation of Bhopal's local tax officials. The raids, which began early Monday morning, only came to the attention of local authorities after media reports surfaced.
Founded in 1987 by Dilip Suryavanshi, Dilip Buildcon has grown into one of India's largest infrastructure companies. It undertakes major highway, railway, mining, and urban development projects, including the ongoing Bhopal Metro Rail.

AIIMS Bhopal marks World Trauma Day with National CME, CNE, and Workshop "Golden Hour, Platinum Decision" theme highlights urgency in trauma care

Bhopal: AIIMS Bhopal observed World Trauma Day 2025 by organizing a landmark National CME, CNE, and Workshop in collaboration with the Indian Society for Trauma & Acute Care (ISTAC) and the Indian College of Emergency Medicine. Held under the theme "Golden Hour, Platinum Decision," the event brought together trauma and emergency experts, medical students, and nursing professionals for a full day of hands-on training and academic exchange.
The hybrid event was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Madhabananda Kar, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Bhopal, who emphasized the need for timely trauma response and the critical role of institutions like AIIMS in national emergency care preparedness.