

# Daughters of Bhopal will give a band performance in presence of PM Modi

## St. Joseph's Girls to Showcase MP's Talent on National Unity Day



**Bhopal:** The daughters of Bhopal are set to bring honour to Madhya Pradesh by performing for Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Statue of Unity complex in Gujarat's Ekta Nagar on October 31, 2025, marking National Unity Day.

The talented girls' team from St. Joseph's Convent School, Eidgah Hills, earned this prestigious invitation after securing second place nationally in a band competition organized by the School Education Department. The Union Home Ministry has selected

them, along with the national-level first-place boys' team from Rajasthan, to perform jointly at the grand event.

### Honouring Sardar Patel's Legacy

The program is being held on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Bhopal team, consisting of 30 girls, will share the stage with bands from the State Police Force, BSF, other security forces, and the NCC.

Accompanied by their instructor, Rasik Nagar Pandey, the team will leave for Gujarat on October 23. Pandey revealed they will play a diverse repertoire, including Hindi, Gujarati, English, Spanish, and German tunes. School Principal Sister Lily expressed immense pride, stating that performing at this high-profile event is a matter of great honour for the school, Bhopal, and the entire state of Madhya Pradesh.

# Rs 15 lakh medical bill scam uncovered at PHQ

## 3 accused police officials currently absconding



**Bhopal:** Officials from the medical branch at the Madhya Pradesh Police Headquarters (PHQ) embezzled Rs 15 lakh by generating fake medical bills. The accused include ASI Harsh Wankhede (in-charge), Subedar Neeraj Kumar, and Head Constable Rajpal Thakur. All three fled after an FIR was filed against them. The scam was executed using the names of 25 employees from the Police Training and Research Institute (PTRI). Between 2023 and July 2025, fake medical bills worth Rs 15 lakh were processed and government funds were transferred to personal accounts.

### How the scam worked

Investigations revealed that the accused would first deposit money into PTRI employees' accounts under the guise of medical reimbursements. Neeraj Kumar would then contact these employees, falsely claiming the funds had been transferred by mistake. He would request the employees to return the money, which was then redirected to the accused's accounts. This method was used multiple times until some employees grew suspicious and reported the matter in February 2025. TI CB Rathore confirmed that PTRI employees had submitted a complaint earlier this year. Following the investigation, DSP OP Mishra submitted a report recommending action. Jahangirabad Police registered a case of fraud and forgery on Wednesday. All three officials had already been suspended in February and are currently absconding.

### Previous embezzlement

This is not the first offense by the trio. In February, an earlier FIR was filed after a confidential PHQ investigation found that the same officials had forged documents and embezzled Rs 76 lakh by creating fake medical bills in the names of their family members. They were arrested and jailed following that incident.

# Congress launches national talent hunt to groom young spokespersons

**By Ashish Kurl**  
**Bhopal:** The Indian National Congress launched its National Talent Hunt Programme on 17 July 2025, with the objective of identifying and training young spokespersons and panelists capable of effectively representing the party's ideology and values.

The initiative, spearheaded by Pawan Khera, Chairman of the Congress Media and Publicity Department, seeks to empower the next generation of media representatives within the party.

Hundreds of Congress workers submitted their applications along with required documents and short video clips as part of the selection process.

Initially, the results of the talent hunt were scheduled to be announced on 1 October, but the

timeline has been postponed owing to the busy schedule of senior Congress leaders engaged in the Bihar Assembly elections.

The programme's primary aim is to train young, articulate individuals who can clearly communicate the Congress party's vision and policies. The opportunity was open to all individuals passionate about contributing to the nation's growth and development, with the application window closing on 4 August 2025.

A screening committee has already reviewed the applications, and shortlisted candidates will soon undergo training and evaluation. The selected participants will receive professional instruction in media handling, debating, and communication skills, with emails already sent to those shortlisted.

Originally, the national-level training session was planned for 20 August, but it too has been deferred due to the Bihar elections. Fresh dates will be announced after the polls. During the sessions, participants will receive guidance from senior Congress leaders and media experts.

Following the training, candidates will be categorised as national, state, or regional spokespersons and panelists based on their performance. They will later be appointed to various organisational levels — national, state, district, and block. Through this initiative, the Congress aims to strengthen its media presence and provide a platform for young leaders to express their views and contribute to the nation's democratic discourse and development.

# Kidnapped girl rescued after overnight search

## 5-year-old found injured at ISBT, police continue hunt for accused



**Bhopal:** Late Wednesday night, a five-year-old girl was kidnapped from outside the 1100 Quarter Temple in Habibganj area. The incident occurred around 9:30 pm, prompting immediate action from the police after her family reported her missing. A citywide alert was issued, and search operations were launched at bus stands, railway stations, and other key locations. The child was found at ISBT Govindpura around 4:30

am on Thursday. According to police, the accused panicked upon seeing increased police activity and abandoned the girl before fleeing. The child was then taken into custody and rushed for medical care.

A medical examination was conducted at JP Hospital under heavy police presence. Doctors reported visible signs of assault, including injuries on her face and head, and possible suffocation marks. She is currently being treated for pneumonia and remains under observation.

### No evidence of sexual assault

Though physical injuries were confirmed, no evidence of sexual assault has been found yet. Counseling sessions are underway to support the child and determine the full extent of the trauma she experienced. She remains frightened and mostly silent, making it difficult for authorities to gather information immediately. Habibganj police have registered a case against an unknown suspect and are reviewing CCTV footage from multiple locations to identify the accused. Station in-charge Sanjeev Chouksey confirmed that the girl is now safe, and efforts to locate the kidnapper are ongoing.

# Govt enforces ESMA for power sector employees during Diwali

**Bhopal:** In a move to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during the Diwali festival and the upcoming Rabi season, the Madhya Pradesh government has imposed the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) on all employees of its six state power companies. This order, effective for three months, prevents employees from refusing assigned duties, and restricts leave approvals to only special circumstances. Following the government's directive, the Home Department issued a notification declaring the services of all officers and employees—regular, contractual, and outsourced—as essential. The companies affected include MP Power Management Company (Jabalpur), MP East Zone Power Distribution

Company (Jabalpur), MP West Zone Power Distribution Company (Indore), MP Central Zone Power Distribution Company (Bhopal), MP Power Transmission Company (Jabalpur), and MP Power Generation Company (Jabalpur).

The decision was taken as a preventive measure to ensure smooth power supply during Diwali and in anticipation of increased electricity demand during the Rabi crop season, which could exceed 20,000 megawatts. Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar has directed the Power Management Company to maintain uninterrupted electricity supply and ensure that any transformer failures are addressed immediately by arranging for replacements.

# 4.90 lakh students studying in govt schools receive free bicycles



**Bhopal:** With the aim of improving student enrollment rates and quality of education in government schools, the School Education Department has distributed bicycles to 4 lakh 90 thousand students under the Free

Bicycle Distribution Scheme during the current academic session. This year, the department has allocated a budget of Rs 215 crore for the scheme.

Through this initiative, free bicycles are being provided to students who have passed Class 5 and Class 8. The scheme benefits only those students whose hamlets or localities are situated at least two kilometers away from their schools. Additionally, girl students residing in hostels for their studies are also included in the scheme. The bicycles have been provided to facilitate students' commute to and from school. Last year, the department distributed free bicycles to 4 lakh 80 thousand students. The Directorate of Public Instruction completed the bicycle procurement process through the GEM portal with the assistance of the Small Scale Industries Corporation. The Directorate also issued detailed guidelines for bicycle distribution. Students of Class 6 have been provided with 18-inch bicycles, while those in Class 9 have received 20-inch bicycles.

# Smiling Face, Hidden Plot!

**By Special Correspondent**

**Bhopal:** Congress Media Department Chairman Dr Mukesh Nayak on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, accusing him of hypocrisy and double standards. "When we went to meet him, Shivraj Singh Chouhan spoke with great gentleness and kindness, wearing the calm expression of a rabbit. But as soon as we left, a case was filed against us," Dr Nayak told reporters.

He said the incident reflects the prevailing culture of political deception, where leaders present a façade of humility and service before the public while secretly plotting to suppress dissent. Dr Nayak added that such behaviour exposes the dual nature of governance in Madhya Pradesh — one side showing compassion, and the other attacking democratic principles. Critics argue that this duplicity has become symbolic of the state's current political climate, where civility in words often hides acts of repression.

# Illegal construction demolished in Sarvadhama area

**Bhopal:** On Thursday, the building permission branch of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation carried out an anti-encroachment drive in the Sarvadhama area. The action was taken against a two-storey house that had been constructed over an area exceeding the approved limits.

Encroachment Officer Madhusudan Tiwari stated that the house, located in B Sector of Sarvadhama, was not built in accordance with the sanctioned building plan.

As a result, the illegal portion of the structure was demolished during the operation. The owner was strictly warned against any future encroachments, with officials emphasizing that stricter action would follow in case of repeat violations. During the operation, reports of an illegal construction at a religious site also surfaced.

# Karni Sena to launch 'Jan Kranti Nyay Andolan' in Harda

## Meeting in Bhopal sets the stage for peaceful protest on Dec 21

**Bhopal:** The state executive meeting of the Karni Sena family was held in Bhopal on Thursday, with officials and workers from across Madhya Pradesh in attendance. The primary agenda of the meeting was to mobilize support for the upcoming "Jan Kranti Nyay Andolan", a peaceful protest scheduled for December 21 in Harda. The Karni Sena emphasized that this movement is not about any single individual but is aimed at upholding justice, equality, and constitutional dignity. The organization resolved to pursue the protest through peaceful and democratic means, with active support from the entire society.

**Outrage over Harda lathi charge:** The Sena expressed strong displeasure over the lack of action in a case filed by complainant Ashish

Rajput related to alleged diamond fraud in Harda on July 12. Despite the passage of over a year, no concrete steps have been taken by the authorities.

Karni Sena leaders claim that their peaceful attempt to engage in dialogue was met with police lathi charge and arrests, injuring several workers, including National President Jeevan Singh Sherpur.

The incident, which saw police entering hostels and allegedly using force against innocent youth, has triggered deep resentment within the community. To raise awareness, the organization plans to launch a "Nyay Yatra" across the state. The yatra will inform the public about the Harda incident and urge the community to unite in the pursuit of justice.

# Guest scholars demand justice or euthanasia after mass dismissals

## 535 guest scholars removed before Diwali

**Bhopal:** In a deeply emotional appeal, the Guest Scholars' Association of Madhya Pradesh has urged Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav to either end the exploitation of guest scholars or grant them euthanasia, following the dismissal of 535 scholars just days before Diwali.

The decision, made by the Higher Education Department through redeployment, has sparked outrage across the state. Guest scholars have written to the President and Prime Minister, condemning what they call institutional repression and injustice. Surjeet Singh Bhadauria, State President of the Guest Scholars Regularization Struggle Front, stated that the government has shown continuous discrimination against guest scholars. Many have served in government colleges

for 20 to 25 years, are aged between 45 and 55, and hold advanced qualifications such as PhDs, NET, and SLET. Despite their long service, they are being arbitrarily removed under the label of "fallen-out, while regular appointments are being made for new candidates through the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Bhadauria also criticized the redeployment policy, noting that regular professors were shifted and subsequently given permanent positions at their new postings, displacing guest scholars. He pointed out that every election season brings false promises of regularization, which are forgotten once elections conclude. With 67 guest scholars already fallen out after the latest PSC list for history was released, Bhadauria warned that the struggle will intensify if justice is not delivered. "We are not demanding sympathy—we are demanding dignity and livelihood," he asserted.

# RPF Seizes Rs 1 Lakh in Firecrackers, Gas Cylinders at Bhopal Station



**Bhopal:** The Railway Protection Force (RPF) at Bhopal Division has confiscated highly flammable materials, including firecrackers worth over Rs 1 lakh and two domestic gas cylinders, during an intensive four-day

safety drive. The action comes as part of a directive from senior railway officials to prevent fire accidents, which pose a severe risk to life and property during the Diwali season.

### Heavy Fines and Jail Time Warning:

Railway authorities strongly warned passengers against carrying prohibited flammable goods such as firecrackers, petroleum products, gas cylinders, kerosene, and matchboxes. A single spark from these items can lead to a massive disaster.

Violating these rules is a punishable offense under Sections 67, 164, and 165 of the Indian Railways Act, 1989. Penalties include a fine of up to ₹1,000, up to three years in jail, or both. The seizures—made between October 8 and 11 on trains like the Bhopal-Gwalior Intercity and Amarkantak Express, as well as on platforms—highlight the ongoing safety threat. Senior DCM Saurabh Kataria appealed to all passengers to strictly adhere to regulations for the safety of themselves and co-passengers, ensuring a safe and pleasant journey for everyone.

# Festival Rush: Special Trains Announced for Diwali



**Bhopal/New Delhi:** To manage the heavy passenger traffic during the Diwali season, Indian Railways has announced a special "Puja Special" train service between Rani

Kamalapati (RKMP) and Hazrat Nizamuddin (NZM). This move aims to provide much-needed relief and extra capacity for travelers. **Two-Day Service Scheduled:** The

special train will run for two trips in each direction on October 17 and October 18, 2025. Train No. 01661 will depart from Rani Kamalapati at 7:30 AM, making stops at Vidisha, Bina, VGL Jhansi, Gwalior, Agra Cantt, and Mathura before arriving at Hazrat Nizamuddin at 8:15 PM the same night.

For the return journey, Train No. 01662 will depart NZM at 9:25 PM, following the same route in reverse and reaching Rani Kamalapati at 10:50 AM the following morning. The train will comprise a total of 22 coaches across various classes.

Passengers are advised to secure reservations quickly through any computerized reservation center or the IRCTC website. Detailed schedule and halt information can be accessed via railway inquiry services like NTES or Rail Madad 139.