

IndiGo Airlines crisis deepens

► Six more flights axed as travel chaos intensifies



Indore: The operational crisis at IndiGo Airlines shows no signs of waning as the carrier cancelled six more flights to and from Indore on Wednesday. Following the cancellation of nine flights on Tuesday, this latest disruption has left thousands of passengers stranded, turning Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport into a scene of utter confusion and frustration.

Direct connectivity severed, Chennai passengers hardest hit: The impact has been particularly severe

for those on the Chennai route. As the only direct link between Indore and Chennai, its cancellation for the third consecutive day has forced travelers into expensive and time-consuming detours through other cities. Major cancellations also included early morning and late-night services to Delhi and Ahmedabad, leaving business travelers and families in the lurch.

Operational glitches and planning gaps: While IndiGo has officially cited "operational reasons" and persistent winter fog in northern India, the crisis is largely attributed

to a nationwide shortage of pilots following the implementation of stricter Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms.

Although the airline is offering re-booking and refunds, the recurring nature of these cancellations has sparked outrage. Passengers are demanding better foresight and communication from India's largest carrier to prevent these daily "travel nightmares."

Mid-air meltdown at Indore Airport

A routine IndiGo flight to Indore spiraled into chaos on December 29 when passenger Sunil Kumar Singh, enraged by delays, launched a violent rampage. After verbally abusing the crew and issuing death threats, Singh shockingly attempted to bolt open the emergency exit, sparking mid-air panic.

Quick-thinking security staff and crew members heroically restrained Singh before a catastrophic breach occurred.

Ratlam police bust inter-state cyber fraud syndicate, 11 held

► Cyber fraud of Rs 1.34 crore



Ratlam: In a major breakthrough against organized cybercrime, the Ratlam police in Madhya Pradesh have dismantled an interstate gang that held a retired professor under "digital arrest" for nearly a month. The fraudsters managed to extort a staggering Rs 1.34 crore from the victim before being apprehended. Following a meticulous investigation, the police arrested 11 individ-

uals across several states, uncovering a network with deep roots in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, and Assam.

The ordeal began on November 15, 2024, when the victim received a call from a suspect posing as a Mumbai Crime Branch officer. The scammers utilized high-pressure tactics, claiming that a SIM card linked to the professor's Aadhaar

was involved in a massive Rs 247 crore money laundering scheme at Canara Bank. To validate their lies, they presented forged documents and threatened the professor with an immediate arrest warrant, effectively trapping him in a state of psychological terror.

= Stolen money was rapidly laundered

The gang forced the victim to install the Signal app, where they staged an elaborate "digital court" via video call—complete with actors playing a judge and lawyers. Between November 15 and December 12, they maintained constant surveillance, extorting funds in multiple installments.

The investigation, led by SP Amit Kumar and a special 18-member SIT, revealed that the stolen money was rapidly laundered. Some accused in Gujarat converted the funds into cryptocurrency, while others, including an NGO operator in Uttar Pradesh, utilized shell accounts to move the cash. To date, police have recovered Rs 14 lakh and are working with national agencies to trace the remaining assets across Bihar and Gujarat.

Indore contaminated water crisis

Indore: The Madhya Pradesh High Court has taken a stern view of the tragic deaths in Bhagirathpura caused by the supply of contaminated water. Responding to public interest litigations (PILs), a winter division bench labeled the incident a "grave matter" and directed the state government to submit a comprehensive status report by January 2. The legal action follows the deaths of eight residents and the widespread hospitalization of others after consuming polluted tap water. Petitioners, including Advocate Ritesh Inani and former councilors, have demanded criminal proceedings against officials for

"gross negligence." They argued that the administration failed in its fundamental duty to provide safe drinking water, leading to a preventable loss of life. Beyond seeking accountability, the High Court issued an immediate mandate for the state to ensure free medical treatment for all victims currently battling infections. As the January 2 deadline approaches, the government must clarify its stance on responsibility and outline a roadmap to prevent such systemic failures. The case has sent shockwaves through the municipal administration, highlighting the urgent need for infrastructure reform.

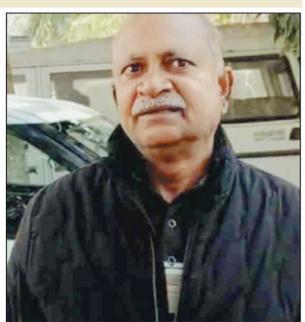
Retired official loses Rs 5 lakh to a simple 'Hi'

► Cyber shadow over Gwalior

Gwalior: In a chilling testament to the evolving sophistication of digital fraud, a retired supervisor from Murar has been swindled of Rs 5 lakh through a deceptive WhatsApp interaction. Ramesh Singh Bhadauria, who recently retired from Coal India (NCL Singrauli), fell victim to a scam that required neither an OTP nor a suspicious link to drain his life savings.

The nightmare began on December 22, when Bhadauria received a brief call from an unknown number.

The caller simply stated, "I have sent something on your WhatsApp," and abruptly hung up. Upon opening the app, Bhadauria



found a message containing nothing but the word "HI". Moments

later, his phone buzzed with alerts from his bank—not for an OTP, but for the unauthorized withdrawal of Rs 5 lakh.

Bhadauria rushed to his bank to freeze the account, narrowly preventing the theft of an additional Rs 2 lakh that the hackers were already attempting to transfer.

Preliminary investigations suggest the use of advanced malware or Remote Access Trojans (RATs) that can hijack a device once a message or hidden attachment is accessed.

Gwalior Police have registered a case and are tracing the funds, which were diverted to multiple external accounts, while warning citizens against interacting with unsolicited messages from unknown sources.

3 held for sandalwood theft at Amla Air Force Station

Betul: In a swift and coordinated operation, the Amla police have arrested three members of a gang responsible for breaching the security of the Amla Air Force Station in Betul. The incident occurred on the night of November 16, when miscreants cut through the boundary wall grill to steal four valuable sandalwood trees, valued at approximately Rs. 60,000 to 70,000. Under the guidance of SP Virendra Jain, a special team utilized CCTV footage and technical surveillance to track the suspects. The operation led to the arrest of Sandeep Shende (42), Pintu Nagle (24), and Sanjay Kavreti (32) during raids in Pawal and Varud. On December 30, police successfully recovered five hidden sandalwood logs near Kanhadgaon village. While three suspects are in custody, the police are still actively searching for the mastermind.

Man held for murdering long-time partner in Shivpuri guesthouse

Shivpuri: In a tragic incident in the Narwar development block of Shivpuri district, a 40-year-old man was arrested for the brutal murder of his partner on the evening of December 30. The accused, identified as Gokul Koli, allegedly slit the throat of Rinki Koli (49) using a sharp weapon inside a private guesthouse.

Police reports indicate that the duo had been in a relationship for over a decade. Rinki was married in Gwalior and had two children. But she had recently returned to her maternal family in Imaliya village following a dispute with her husband.

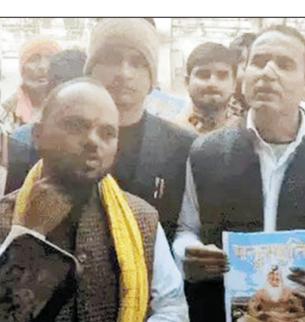
Her return allowed her to continue meeting Gokul. This had led to violent confrontations between Gokul and Rinki's family.

On the day of the crime, the pair traveled from Imaliya to Narwar under a pretext and checked into a guesthouse.

The evening took a fatal turn when Gokul attacked Rinki. Following the discovery of the body, Shivpuri police acted swiftly, apprehending the accused within hours. Investigations are ongoing to determine the exact motive behind the sudden escalation of violence.

Upper-caste organizations court arrest with Manusmriti

Bhind: The ongoing friction between Dalit and Upper-Caste organizations escalated in Bhind as leaders of the Parshuram Sena and allied groups besieged the Kotwali Police Station to court arrest. The protest was a direct response to a recent incident in Shivpuri's Khaniadhana, where members of the Bhim Army allegedly burnt the Manusmriti, triggering widespread resentment. The situation turned volatile after the Parshuram Sena retaliated by announcing a plan to burn the autobiography of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Prompt police intervention at Parade crossroads thwarted attempts by district vice-president Vineet Sharma, alias Bunty



to maintain communal harmony and prevent further ideological clashes from disrupting public peace.

Purohit, to burn Ambedkar's posters. Following a complaint by the Bhim Army, an FIR was registered against Purohit.

In a show of defiance, hundreds of activists from the Parshuram Sena, Shriram Sena, and Savarna Army marched to the police station carrying copies of the Manusmriti. Chanting slogans, they voluntarily surrendered to the authorities. Vineet Sharma was formally arrested and later released on bail after legal formalities. The district administration remains on high alert, deploying additional forces to maintain communal harmony and prevent further ideological clashes from disrupting public peace.

Students lock themselves in hostel alleging teacher harassment

Morena: Panic erupted at the Jawahar Navodaya Higher Secondary School in Jaura, Morena, on Wednesday morning when 80 students from classes 9 to 12 barricaded themselves in their hostel. The mass "lock-in" was a desperate protest against alleged physical and mental harassment by PT teacher Ashutosh Tiwari. The standoff lasted three hours, requiring the intervention of the police, an ambulance, and the fire brigade. Students described a "dictatorial" environment where minor mistakes resulted in severe beatings.

The protest ended only after SDM Shubham Sharma and the SDOP arrived to mediate. To restore order, officials have sent the accused teacher on leave and promised a formal investigation committee.

The administration has assured students that a fair probe into the teacher's conduct and the school's living conditions will be conducted.

Student killed in tragic truck accident in Morena

Morena: A 15-year-old student lost his life this morning in Banmore, Morena district, after being struck by a truck while heading to his coaching classes. The victim, identified as Prashant Jatav, was a resident of Gangaram Ka Pura and a student of the twelfth grade. The incident occurred as Prashant was attempting to cross the road.

According to police sources, the impact was so severe that he died on the spot. Following the collision, the truck driver immediately abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene. Local police arrived shortly after the accident, seizing the truck and initiating a formal investigation. A search operation is currently underway to apprehend the absconding driver.

This tragic event has cast a pall of gloom over the Banmore community as they mourn the loss of the young student on the final day of the year.

Injured commuter rescued and hospitalized in Damoh

► Police turn life savers



Damoh: In a heart-winning display of humanity and swift action, the Kumhari Police team went beyond

the call of duty to save a life near Patpara. Returning from an event assignment, the personnel spotted an injured man lying helpless on the roadside and ensured he received immediate medical intervention.

The victim, Prahlad Singh, a resident of Katni, was traveling via motorcycle to Jamunia when his vehicle skidded, leaving him severely injured and stranded. While several commuters passed by, the alert police team—comprising Constable Nitendra Rajput, Soldier Pritam Singh, and Pilot Akash Tiwari—halted their vehicle instantly.

Realizing the urgency, they personally transported the victim to the Kumhari Primary Health Centre instead of waiting for an ambulance.

Thanks to their timely intervention, Singh is now reported to be in stable condition. This act of compassion has garnered widespread praise across the district, reaffirming the role of the police as not just enforcers of the law, but as vital "first responders" in times of crisis. Their quick thinking transformed a potential tragedy into a story of hope and service.

"No Garlands Until the Train Arrives"

► Sidhi MP takes solemn vow for railway progress

Sidhi: In a powerful display of political accountability and dedication, Sidhi Member of Parliament Dr. Rajesh Mishra has taken a public oath to refuse all ceremonial garlands until a train successfully reaches the Sidhi district headquarters. The announcement came during a seminar at the PM Shri Excellence College, marking a significant moment in the decades-long wait for the Lalitpur-Singrauli rail project.

Dr. Mishra explicitly requested BJP District President Dev Kumar Singh Chauhan to inform party workers of his decision, ensuring no garlands are offered at any public functions. This symbolic gesture

underscores his urgency to fulfill the region's developmental dreams.

Currently, track-laying work is intensifying between Rampur Naikin and Churhat, with a trial run expected to reach Churhat station by late January. Following this, the final stretch to Sidhi will commence.

Dr. Mishra, who frequently inspects the construction sites, expressed his ambition to see the first rail trial at the district headquarters by the upcoming summer. For the people of Sidhi, this vow has reignited hope that 2026 will finally be the year they hear the locomotive's whistle.

Pregnant woman suffers miscarriage after husband kicks her for Dowry

► Jabalpur horror

Jabalpur: In a harrowing instance of domestic brutality, a woman from Majhagawan has accused her husband and in-laws of orchestrating a violent campaign for dowry that resulted in the loss of her unborn child. Krishna Kachi, married to Rajkumar Kachi for four years, approached the police on Tuesday seeking justice for years of systemic torture.

Despite her father providing Rs 10 lakh in cash and household essentials at the time of marriage, Krishna alleges her in-laws remained insatiable, constantly demanding a luxury car. The harassment escalated into physical vio-

lence involving her husband, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law.

The victim recounted a chilling incident from eight months ago when she was three months pregnant; her husband allegedly kicked her in the abdomen during a dispute over the car demand, leading to a traumatic miscarriage.

This tragic case has once again highlighted the dark underbelly of dowry-related crimes in the region. Local authorities have registered the complaint and are currently investigating the allegations of criminal assault and dowry harassment. Community activists have called for stringent action against the perpetrators to ensure such barbaric acts do not go unpunished.

Crack down on illegal colonizers

FIRs will be registered against seven

Jabalpur: The district administration in Jabalpur has adopted a strict stance against illegal colony construction. FIRs will be registered against seven illegal colonizers in the city. The District Collector has issued these instructions. Action will be taken against colonizers who have constructed illegal colonies in the rural areas of Jabalpur. District Collector Raghavendra Singh has issued these directives. According to these instructions, cases will be registered against the illegal colonizers Gaurav Sharma, Ashish Patel, Mohd. Zia Ul Haq, Santosh Gupta, Rajkumar Sahu, Phool Singh, and Kunwar Lal Patel.

98 illegal colonies have been identified in the rural areas of the district. The seven illegal colonizers have sold more than 327 plots. In three of these cases, orders for filing FIRs had already been issued.

Now, instructions have been given to register cases against seven more colonizers. These illegal colonizers had defrauded people by selling plots in rural areas without any permission.

Tiger mauls farmer to death near Pench reserve buffer zone

► Tragic human-wildlife conflict



Chhindwara: A sense of terror has gripped Kishanpur Khamra village in Chhindwara district after a tiger attacked and killed a local farmer early this morning. The victim, identified as Balram Dehria, was reportedly heading to his fields around 6 AM to oper-

ate a motor pump when the tiger, lurking nearby, launched a fatal attack. Dehria died on the spot. As news of the tragedy spread, a large crowd of anxious villagers gathered at the scene. The village is situated within the sensitive buffer zone of the Pench

Tiger Reserve, an area increasingly prone to human-wildlife encounters. **Teams from police and the Forest Dept arrive:** Following the incident, teams from the police and the Forest Department arrived to secure the area. The immediate vicinity of the attack has been cordoned off to prevent further casualties. Forest personnel are tracking the tiger's movements using technical surveillance. The process to provide financial relief to the bereaved family has been fast-tracked.

While the department urges residents to remain vigilant and avoid entering isolated areas alone, villagers are demanding consistent patrolling and more robust measures to manage tiger movements near human settlements.