

Our govt removed 'stain' from Bhopal's forehead: CM Yadav

► CM visits Union Carbide: A historic first in 41 years



Bhopal: In a historic visit on Saturday, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav inspected the Union Carbide factory premises, declaring that the state government stands firmly with every gas tragedy victim. Marking a symbolic victory for public health, the CM conducted the inspection without a safety mask, signaling that the air within the once-toxic campus is now fully clean.

Erasing a 40-year-old stain: The Chief Minister highlighted the successful disposal of hazardous chemical waste that had languished on-site for four decades. Under the guidance of the High Court, the administration completed the cleanup using advanced scientific methods without any environmental or human harm. "Our government has removed the

'stain' from Bhopal's forehead," Dr. Yadav stated, criticizing previous administrations for negligence and for allowing key culprits to escape justice.

A vision for memorial and development: The campus is now slated for a total transformation. Key highlights include:

Gas Tragedy Memorial: A grand memorial will be built to honor those who lost their lives in the 1984 disaster.

Stakeholder Consultation: Development plans will be finalized by taking gas victims and all affected parties into confidence.

Metropolitan Growth: The site's redevelopment is integrated into the larger vision of transforming Bhopal into a Metropolitan City, encompassing six surrounding districts.

Dr. Yadav reiterated that the successful waste disposal serves as a global example of industrial remediation. He concluded by assuring that the welfare of the affected families remains a top priority for the "double-engine" government.

CM halts convoy to grant wishes and aid in Arif Nagar

Bhopal: In a heartwarming display of accessibility, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav halted his official convoy in Arif Nagar on Saturday to engage with local residents. While returning from an inspection of the Union Carbide factory site, the CM was stopped by a devotee, Manju Bai, who requested him to offer prayers. Respecting her faith, Dr. Yadav stepped out of his vehicle to offer incense sticks to Lord Shiva, seeking blessings alongside the community.

The unscheduled stop turned into a public grievance session as the Chief Minister interacted with local women, enquiring about the "Ladli Behna" scheme. The residents confirmed receiving the monthly Rs 1,500 stipend regularly. Moving beyond dialogue, Dr. Yadav demonstrated swift governance when Manju Bai and Prabh Bai Kushwaha sought help for medical expenses. He sanctioned Rs 50,000 each from the CM Discretionary Fund on the spot. Instructing Bhopal Municipal Commissioner Sanskriti Jain to expedite the process, it was ensured that Rs 10,000 would be handed over immediately, with the remainder transferred to their accounts. Before departing, the Chief Minister delighted school-bound children by clicking selfies with them, leaving the neighborhood in high spirits.



CM Dr. Mohan Yadav celebrates Happy Pongal in Bhopal

A symphony of cultures

Bhopal: Embodying the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav joined the Tamil community on Friday evening for a vibrant Pongal Mega Food Festival at Hotel Palash Residency. Dressed in traditional South Indian ceremonial attire, the Chief Minister was accorded a warm, rhythmic welcome as he immersed himself in the festivities marking the harvest season.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Yadav highlighted that while North India celebrates Makar Sankranti, Pongal serves as a beautiful counterpart in the South, symbolizing

gratitude toward nature and livestock. "India is a festival-loving culture where traditions seamlessly blend. Today, the flavors of Tamil Nadu are as much a part of our national identity as any other region," he remarked.

The evening was brought to life by soulful cultural performances, which the CM watched with keen appreciation. Accompanied by MLA Vishnu Khatri and MP Tourism MD Shri Ilaya Raja T, Dr. Yadav toured various stalls showcasing traditional delicacies made of jaggery, milk, and rice. He lauded the organizers for creating a "mini South India" in the heart of Bhopal, reinforcing the message that India's diversity is its greatest strength.

National trekking event to put Pataalkot on global map



Chhindwara: Chhindwara's hidden gem, Pataalkot, is set to host a premier national-level trekking event from January 24 to 27. Organized by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board in collaboration with the District Administration and Indiahikes, the program aims to showcase the region's breathtaking landscape to the world. Exploring the "Hidden World": Renowned trekkers from cities like Ben-

galuru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Jaipur will descend upon the valley. The four-day expedition will cover iconic spots, including the source of the Dudhi River, mysterious caves, Chintipur, and Rajakhoh. Participants are eager to navigate the steep cliffs and lush valleys that define this unique geographical wonder.

Empowering local tribes: A core objective of this initiative is to boost the local economy. Under the guidance of Collector Harendra Narayan and CEO Zila Panchayat Agrim Kumar, the event integrates local tribal youth as guides.

Home Stays: Accommodations are being managed through local homestays in Tamia and Pataalkot.

Resource Sourcing: Supplies and logistics are being procured locally to ensure the community benefits directly from tourism. By blending adventure with sustainable tourism, the district administration hopes to establish Pataalkot as India's top trekking destination while preserving its indigenous culture.

Echoes from the Secretariat: Power plays and diplomatic ties

By Kanhaiya Lodhi
Bhopal: The corridors of power are buzzing with whispers of successful damage control, religious diplomacy, and the friction between party discipline and public conduct.

Strategic damage control: A major crisis involving a key government cadre was recently averted in the capital. Tensions that had been simmering for a month were settled through the intervention of an affiliated organization acting as a modern-day "Narad Muni." By facilitating positive communication between both sides, they orchestrated a grand gathering that restored harmony. With the "damage" controlled, the administrative machinery has now returned to the field to execute government campaigns with renewed vigor.

The door-to-door outreach: A powerful former minister is currently making rounds to the residences of top political stalwarts. However, this isn't a play for political positioning; it is an invite for a spiritual cause. He is organizing a unique religious event, claimed to be the first of its kind in the country. While his intent is

purely devotional, political observers are keenly watching to see what "dividends" this grand divine event might yield for his career in the future.

Advice vs. aggression: Despite the BJP leadership's constant reminders to maintain public decorum, the message seems to be fading on the ground. Recently, a sitting MLA and former minister sparked controversy by hurling verbal abuses at officials from a public stage. Even a former Union Minister present on the dais was left embarrassed by the outburst. The incident raises a pertinent question: why is high-level advice failing to curb the bitter tempers of local leaders?

Hard truths for job seekers: In a candid moment at the Secretariat, a group of highly educated youth met an Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to demand recruitment in their specialized field. The ACS offered a blunt reality check: while their degrees are prestigious, their specific skills have lost market demand. The lesson was clear—without demand, there is no supply—leaving the graduates to reflect on the changing tides of the job market.

Young minds light up winter fest at SVL

Bhopal: Swami Vivekananda Library's annual winter vacation program for children began on a vibrant note on Saturday, January 17, 2026, drawing enthusiastic participation from nearly 100 children. The two-day fest, conducted by Tulika Shri and Anirban Chakraborty, reflects the library's long-standing commitment to nurturing curiosity and creativity among young readers. Both coordinators have been associated with the library since childhood and have earlier managed the popular "Wake Up Kid" initiative. This year's theme, Book Hunt and Story Weaving, focuses on cultivating a love for books while encouraging children to express their thoughts through stories and illustrations.



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