

Congress MLA tables bold 'Private Member's Bill' for universal coverage

Healthcare for all

By special correspondent Bhopal: In a move that could redefine Madhya Pradesh's social contract, senior Congress MLA and former Deputy Speaker Dr. Rajendra Kumar Singh has introduced a Private Member's Bill in the Legislative Assembly. Invoking Article 196 of the Constitution, the Bill demands universal free healthcare, arguing that life-saving medical treatment should be a fundamental right, not a privilege reserved for the elite or the ultra-poor.

Rs 15 lakh shield: Breaking the Ayushman Ceiling

Dr. Singh's proposal seeks to dramatically outpace the current Ayushman Bharat scheme. While the existing framework covers only 52% of the population with Rs 5 lakh cap, this Bill proposes Rs 15 lakh annual coverage for every resident, regardless of caste, class, or income. For critical cases like cancer or organ transplants, the cover scales up to Rs 25 lakh. "If IAS and IPS officers enjoy comprehensive



free medical care for life, why should the ordinary citizen be left behind?" Dr. Singh questioned during a PCC press briefing. **The Budget for Survival:** Addressing the financial feasibility, Dr. Singh estimated an annual requirement of Rs 8,000-Rs 9,000 crore. He pointed out that if the State can allocate Rs 23,000 crore for the Ladli Behna Yojana, a similar commitment to health is both necessary and possible. The Bill sug-

gests integrating with national insurance companies or even raising public interest loans to fund the mission. By removing the restrictive "BPL-only" criteria, the Bill aims to protect the 48% of "missing middle" families currently excluded from government aid. Dr. Singh has challenged the ruling government to adopt the proposal, stating, "The government can take all the credit—but they must save the people's lives."

Bhopal Collector crackdown on private school 'Commissions'

No more school monopolies

Bhopal: In a decisive move to protect parents from predatory practices, the Bhopal District Administration has issued a stern warning to private schools against forcing families to purchase uniforms and textbooks from specific vendors. As the current academic session concludes, Collector Kaushendra Vikram Singh has placed the city on high alert to prevent the "commission-culture" that often plagues the start of a new school year.



8 SDM-led strike teams formed: To ensure strict compliance, the Collector has constituted eight specialized oversight teams, each headed by an SDM and comprising five members, including Tehsildars and government school principals. These squads are tasked with conducting surprise inspections across the city. Their primary objective is to dismantle the nexus be-

tween school managements and favored shopkeepers who often sell educational materials at inflated prices. **Zero tolerance for coercion:** The administration has clarified that any school found pressuring parents to visit "designated shops" will face immediate disciplinary action. This preemptive strike follows recurring complaints of secret tie-ups between private institutions and retailers. By mandating a free market for educational supplies, the administration aims to ensure that parents can choose quality materials at competitive rates. "The new session must begin with transparency, not exploitation," stated an official, urging parents to report any instances of coercion to the newly formed task forces.

Car bounced like a toy after hitting the divider in old city



Bhopal: A horrific road accident on Bhopal's capital city was captured on CCTV. A speeding car collided with a di-

vider without reflectors or signage, sending the vehicle flying through the air like a toy. A video of the accident surfaced, causing panic in

the area. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured in this violent collision. However, the incident has raised questions about the negligence of the municipal corporation and traffic police. Locals say that the divider has neither any warning signs nor night-visible reflectors. The local councillor shared CCTV video of the accident on social media. Along with the video, he demanded immediate action from the administration. The councillor says that this divider is not visible at night, making accidents more likely.

Bhopal Police enforce oath of reform at Irani Dera

Final ultimatum

Bhopal: In a historic shift from high-stakes raids to strategic reform, the Bhopal Police, led by DCP Mayur Khandelwal, descended upon the notorious Irani Dera on Friday night. In a first-of-its-kind outreach, senior officials engaged directly with the community, administering a formal oath to residents to abandon the world of crime and cooperate with law enforcement. **Cracking the mastermind's network:** The move comes on the heels of the landmark arrest of Raju Irani, the gang's mastermind and "Sardar." For two decades, Raju operated a sophisticated pan-India syndicate across 14 states, specializing in robbery and fraud by posing as monks, police officers, or traders. With the leader in custody, the police are now focused on dismantling the remaining infrastructure of the "Irani Gang" through a mix of strict surveillance and community accountability.



Surveillance, surveys, and the five-member pact: To ensure lasting peace, the police announced a comprehensive house-to-house survey to identify active offenders. A unique five-member internal committee consisting of community elders has been formed; this body is tasked with identifying criminals and surrendering

them to the authorities. DCP Khandelwal warned that while law-abiding citizens will not be harassed, any attempt to shield fugitives or obstruct police work will be met with "Bulldozer action." This strategic dialogue marks a decisive "reform or face ruin" ultimatum for one of the region's most challenging crime pockets.

Tarun Nayak becomes Madhya Pradesh's new DIG (Law and Order)



Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh government has made a major change in the role of veteran Indian Police

Service officer Tarun Nayak (IPS 2009). He will now hold the additional charge of Deputy Inspector General of Police (Law and Order/Security), Police Headquarters, Bhopal. He will also hold the additional charge of DIG (ANO). This order, issued by the administration with immediate effect, is being considered an important step towards further strengthening the security system. Tarun Nayak, a resident of Satna, is the son of the district's renowned ENT specialist, Dr. Arun Nayak.

Bulldozers raze elite encroachments in high-stakes drive

Bada Talab cleanup at Halalpur area

Bhopal: Bhopal's iconic Bada Talab (Upper Lake) witnessed a massive administrative crackdown on Saturday as bulldozers rolled into Halalpur to dismantle permanent illegal structures within the sensitive catchment area. The drive, which began at high noon, marks a decisive shift in the city's battle to protect its primary water source from high-profile encroachment. **The red line: Ministers, MLAs, and elites under scrutiny:** Following a rigorous demarcation process that started Wednesday, the Revenue Department has identified over 25 illegal constructions within the 50-meter Full Tank Level (FTL) boundary. The "Red Marks" of eviction have spared no one—spanning from the educational institute of Congress MLA Arif Masood to the government bungalow allotted to Minister of State Narendra Shivaji Patel. Even the resi-



dences of IAS officers, luxury lawns like Gulbagh, and the property of Congress leader Aruneshwar Singhdev have been flagged for violating environmental norms. **Dismantling a "Farmhouse Empire":** The most shocking discovery occurred near the Army's

Water Sports Center, where officials found a massive two-acre illegal estate under construction. Attributed to an individual named Adil, the site featured sprawling boundary walls, factories, and a farmhouse-like structure. Naib Tehsildar KK Pandole termed this the "largest encroachment ever found" in the zone. From slum clusters to religious sites and private signboards on public land, the administration is now systematically clearing the swampy Khanugaon belt. This campaign sends a clear message: the ecological health of Bhopal's lifeline is non-negotiable, regardless of political or social stature. = The demarcation process at Bada Talab Khanugaon has been completed. Constructions within 50 meters of the catchment area have been identified, and a list has been prepared. Further action will be determined after discussion within the task force committee. - Ravi Shankar Rai, SDM, Bairagarh Circle (Sant Hirdaram Nagar)

Government to provide free registration for PM Housing Schemes in MP

Significant provision of Rs 6,000 cr Bhopal. Applicants who are ineligible for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana due to a lack of land registration in the state will now be registered at the state government's own expense. Suburbs that were previously in rural areas have now become urban areas, but registration has not been conducted at the Panchayat level. Such people are unable to get the registration done. The Government of India has made land registration mandatory under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Due to this, extremely poor people are being deprived of the scheme due to lack of registration. In view of this, the government has decided to get the registration done. A provision of Rs. 6,000 crore has been made for this. The state government is taking special steps to remove the legal hurdles related to land ownership (lease/registry) of eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to provide them with permanent houses. The government is in the process of providing land registration or lease at its own expense to those poor people who do not have land documents for building houses.

Police Commissioner Sanjay Singh calls for unity and vigilance ahead of Holi

Bhopal: In a proactive bid to ensure communal harmony and public safety, Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar convened a high-level coordination meeting at the Commissionerate office to review preparations for the upcoming festive marathon, including Holika Dahan, Dhulendi, Rang Panchami, Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, and Chaitra Navratri. Engaging with members of the Shanti Samiti, Hindu Utsav Samiti, and religious leaders alongside senior officials from the Municipal Corporation, MPB, and PWD, the Commissioner emphasized a "zero-tolerance" approach toward rumor-mongering and disruptive elements. Detailed discussions focused on securing procession routes, ensuring uninterrupted power supply, and managing crowd logistics. Following the public



interface, Commissioner Kumar held a strategic session with the police force, issuing strict directives for intensified social media monitoring and late-night patrolling. Officers have been instructed to remain on high alert with riot-control gear at the ready to preempt any law-and-order challenges. Addressing the citizens, the Commissioner appealed for celebrations rooted in brotherhood and urged the public to report suspicious activities immediately to the police. By integrating administrative precision with community participation, the department aims to provide a secure environment where every festival is celebrated with traditional fervor and mutual respect, reinforcing the city's fabric of social solidarity.

RailOne SuperApp hits 20 million downloads in under eight months

Bhopal: Redefining India's digital travel landscape, the Indian Railways' integrated superapp, RailOne, has shattered records by crossing the 20-million-download milestone in less than eight months since its debut. Launched on July 1, 2025, by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, the platform has rapidly ascended to become the preferred gateway for millions, now facilitating a staggering six lakh ticket bookings daily. This surge underscores a profound shift in passenger trust and the app's robust operational reliability. Developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), RailOne harmonizes a once-fragmented ecosystem into a single, intuitive interface. Pas-

sengers can now seamlessly manage reserved and unreserved bookings, secure platform tickets, and access real-time PNR and train inquiries without switching platforms. Beyond mere convenience, the app is evolving with AI-driven capabilities to personalize the commuter experience, aligning with the broader vision of a technology-enabled railway infrastructure. By bridging the gap between complex logistics and user-centric design, RailOne stands as a testament to the digital transformation of Indian Railways, proving that a modernized, scalable, and transparent booking system is the new gold standard for the nation's 24 million daily travelers.

BHEL Bhopal Launches "Pravahini"

New E-Magazine to showcase innovation and creativity



Bhopal: The first issue of the Switchgear Engineering and Services Department's e-magazine, "Pravahini," was released today at BHEL, Bhopal, by Sh. Hemram Patel, General Manager (SCR). Present on the occasion were Sh. Mohammad Azam Khan, Additional General Manager & HOD (SWE/SXX), Sh. Dilip Kumar, Additional General Manager & HOD (SWM), Sh. S.K. Biswas, Additional General Manager & HOD (CEE,

OFFE & CXX), Mrs. Neetu Dharnija, Shrimati Poonam Sahu (Manager) from the Official Language Department, and members of the magazine's editorial board. In his address, Sh. Patel stated that an organization's or department's magazine reflects its thoughts, work, and direction. It not only compiles departmental activities but also showcases the creativity, experience, and innovation of its employees.

Bus associations to go on indefinite strike from March 2

Bhopal: Buses will stop running in Madhya Pradesh on Holi. The Bus Association is on an indefinite strike starting March 2nd. The strike is being held in protest of the new transport policy. Buses will not run across the state during the festival season. Stopping buses before the festival will cause significant inconvenience. People are forced to return to their homes early. There is a plan to nationalize buses and shut them down. The new policy is alleged to entrust the permitting work to a single company. With the entry of multinational companies into the transport sector, small bus owners will be driven out. An attempt is being made to bring in larger companies and turn us into tenants. The new policy will cancel the permits of private buses and allow them to operate on contract. The organization says the government is bent on exploiting bus operators.

BMHRC launches science club to target malaria elimination

National Science Day marked



Bhopal: Marking National Science Day with a strategic leap in medical research, the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) officially inaugurated its Science Club under ICMR-AcSIR guidelines. The launch featured a high-impact lecture by Dr. Kailash Chand Pandey, Scientist 'G' at the ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, who unveiled

groundbreaking advancements in malaria vaccines and rapid diagnostics. Addressing the critical challenge of "diagnosis-resistant" malaria parasites—which currently evade detection in up to 10% of Indian cases—Dr. Pandey highlighted the development of new protein-based antibodies. These markers are designed to bind with specific antigens, ensuring high-precision Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs). Furthermore, he detailed a dual-stage vaccine strategy targeting both the mosquito and human liver stages, boasting a 95% efficacy in inhibiting parasite growth. This technology has already been transferred to a private partner for upcoming clinical trials. BMHRC Acting Director Dr. Manisha Shrivastava emphasized that robust vaccines and enhanced diagnostic tools are the only path to breaking the chain of infection. The event, coordinated by Dr. Sarika Katiyar and Dr. Ravindra M. Samarth, underscores BMHRC's commitment to fostering a vibrant scientific culture aimed at eradicating one of the world's most persistent public health threats.