

A grand spectacle of culture and celebration of Holi

The Sky was ablaze: Praveen Kakkar

Bhopal drenched in hues



Bhopal: The capital city transformed into a vibrant canvas of joy on March 4th as Madhya Pradesh celebrated Holi with unparalleled fervor. From high-ranking officials to foreign dignitaries, the "Festival of Colors" bridged all gaps, blending traditional rituals with modern-day exuberance. The heart of the celebration at Peer Gate: The historic Peer Gate emerged as the epicenter of the festivities. A magnificent procession, featuring majestic horses and camels, paraded

through the streets to the rhythmic thunder of dhol-nagadas. The highlight for many was the deployment of massive water tankers that showered the dancing crowds with tinted water, creating a synchronized "rain dance" across the square. **Leaders in the spirit of 'Phag':** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav kicked off the celebrations by playing Holi with fragrant flower petals and organic gulal. Meanwhile, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan captivated the au-



dience by singing traditional Phag (folk songs). Reflecting on the global climate, Chouhan remarked, "The world needs the rain of colors, not the rain of gunpowder." In a display of deep-rooted tradition, Health Minister Rajendra Shukla joined the melody, playing the timki and dholak. **Dancing divas and global Guests:** The celebration saw a rare, relaxed side of the state's leadership. In nearby districts, Mayors and MLAs were seen grooving to Bollywood songs, while in Bhopal, the spirit of cama-

radierie was palpable among all ranks. The festivities also took a global turn as tourists from Italy and other nations joined the locals in Niwari and Khajuraho. Drenched in pink and yellow, these international guests embraced the cultural harmony, proving that the language of Holi is truly universal. From the Braj-style celebrations at Jabalpur's ISKCON temple to the satirical "Fools' Convention" in Gwalior, the day stood as a testament to MP's rich, diverse heritage.

Kamal Nath's former OSD returns from war-torn Dubai

Bhopal: Praveen Kakkar, former OSD to former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, has safely returned to Indore after being caught in the crossfire of escalating Middle East tensions. Describing the harrowing experience of recent drone strikes in Dubai, Kakkar offered rare praise for the Indian government and the UAE administration for their swift rescue efforts. Kakkar was staying in a hotel just three buildings away from a direct drone strike. "The situation was terrifying; the high-tech security systems were intercepting drones mid-air, but the explosions felt incredibly close," he shared. Despite the constant sound of



sirens and alerts warning residents to stay away from windows, Kakkar noted that the city's resilience was remarkable, with malls and markets remaining open even under the shadow of war. Upon his arrival, Kakkar expressed deep gratitude to the Indian Embassy and the Ministry of External Affairs. "In times of crisis, you realize the true value of the tricolor's protection," he remarked, noting that leaders across the political spectrum had reached out to check on his safety. His return marks the end of an anxious week for his family, who feared the regional airspace closures would leave him stranded indefinitely.

Bhopal Police Celebrate Grand Holi at Commissioner Office

Khaki drenched in colors



Bhopal: Shifting gears from their rigorous duty, the Bhopal Police Commissionerate transformed the Nehru Nagar Police Lines into a vibrant sea of colors for their annual "Holi Milan" ceremony. The grand event saw nearly 1,000 police personnel and 500 family members celebrating the festival of joy with unprecedented fervor.

High-ranking officials join the revelry: The celebrations were graced by senior leadership, including Additional Commissioners Awadhesh Goswami and Monica Shukla, alongside several Deputy and Assistant Commissioners. The atmosphere turned festive as officers exchanged traditional gulal, while specialized cylinders sprayed clouds of color and flower petals over the gathering. In a rare moment of relaxation, the city's guardians were seen embracing the spirit of brotherhood, away from the pressures of law enforcement. **Music, dance, and water cannons:** The highlight of the event was the sheer energy on the dance floor. Officers and staff danced to the latest Bollywood hits and folk songs played by DJs. Adding a unique "police touch" to the festivities, water cannons were used to drench the dancing crowd, turning the parade ground into a massive rain dance arena. A dedicated celebration was also organized at the Police Public School for women and children of the police families, ensuring a safe and joyful environment for over 500 participants to enjoy the rhythmic beats of the festival.

MP Board exams will end on March 7, 2026



Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) board exams will conclude on March 7. The final exam for Class 10 will be held on Friday, while the Class 12 exam will conclude with the Hindi subject on March 7. The second phase of answer sheet evaluation is underway. This time, in order to declare the results quickly, the Board has begun the evaluation of answer sheets alongside the examinations, starting February 22. This

year, approximately 20,000 teachers from across the state have been deployed to evaluate 90 lakh answer sheets of approximately 16 lakh students. This year, teachers have been instructed to evaluate 45 to 60 answer sheets per day. Officials say that the evaluation process will be completed by the end of March. Data processing will then begin. It is likely that the results will be declared by the first week of May. Copies are being checked under CCTV surveillance at the coordinating centers. Answer sheets are only distributed after teachers' attendance is recorded through a mobile app. Teachers' entries are recorded on the attendance app upon arrival at school. Teachers are then allowed in for evaluation work after submitting their mobile phones. Inspection teams are also monitoring evaluation centers using the board's app-based data. Officials say the board aims to complete the evaluation process by the last week of March so that results can be declared as soon as possible. It is likely that the board will release the results by the first week of May. Last year, in 2025, the board declared results for both classes on May 6th.

Young Professor dies after alleged Bhang consumption on Holi

Bhopal: The festive spirit of Holi turned into a nightmare in Bhopal's Aishbagh area as a 25-year-old professor died under suspicious circumstances following a celebratory gathering. The deceased, identified as Krishna Nayak, was an engineering graduate who served as a faculty member at a private college and a local coaching institute. According to police reports, the tragedy unfolded after Krishna spent the day playing Holi and dancing with his friends. During the festivities, he reportedly consumed a potent mixture of bhang.



Family members revealed that the victim had ingested a concoction made from six bhang tablets dissolved in milk. Shortly after, he complained of intense restlessness and collapsed in a friend's room. Despite being rushed to a nearby hospital, doctors were unable to revive him. While preliminary suspicions point toward a sudden cardiac arrest triggered by physical exertion or substance reaction, the Aishbagh police have registered a case and are awaiting the official post-mortem report to determine the exact cause of death. Statements from his companions have been recorded as authorities investigate whether the quantity of the substance proved fatal for the young academic.

55th National Safety Day fortnight begins at BHEL

By BHEL Correspondent
Bhopal: The 55th National Safety Day fortnight commenced at the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bhopal unit on Tuesday with the theme "Engage, Educate and Empower People to Enhance Safety." The programme will be observed from March 4 to March 17. Pradeep Kumar Upadhyay, Executive Director of BHEL Bhopal, inaugurated the event and administered the Safety Pledge to employees and officers, urging them to prioritise safe working practices. All general managers and senior officials were present. Safety messages issued by the Director (Human Resources) of BHEL and the Executive Director of the Bhopal unit were also released on the occasion. As part of



the initiative, departmental heads in all manufacturing blocks administered the Safety Pledge to employees and officers on shop floors. Addressing the gathering, Upadhyay stressed the need for awareness about emergency situations and keeping main gangways clear for emergency vehicles. He emphasised mandatory safety preparation talks before work and

strict vigilance in high-risk activities such as working at height and material handling. During the fortnight, activities including safety talks, inspections, training sessions, safety walks, firefighting training and mock drills will be conducted across the factory under the Health, Safety and Environment Engineering Department.

Youth stabbed to death during Holi festivities in Nishatpura area

Manhunt underway
Bhopal: Tragedy struck the Nishatpura area of Bhopal late Wednesday night when 19-year-old Arvind Meena was brutally murdered by unidentified assailants amidst Holi celebrations. Arvind, a resident of Pratap Nagar who worked as a clothing store salesman, was out celebrating the festival of colors with his friends when the joyous occasion turned fatal. According to police reports, the attackers struck him multiple times with knives, inflicting four to five deep wounds across his body. Despite being rushed to a nearby hospital by his panicked family, doctors declared him dead on arrival. The Nishatpura police have registered a case of murder and handed over the body to the family following a post-mortem on Thursday.

MP Board to scrap 'Best of Five' system

More subjects for 10th and 12th from 2026
Bhopal: In a significant move to bolster academic rigor, the Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education is set to dismantle the nine-year-old 'Best of Five' system. Under the new proposal, the workload for students will increase starting the 2026-27 academic session: Class 10 students must appear for seven subjects instead of six, while Class 12 students will tackle six papers instead of five. The Board's decision stems from a critical observation that the current system encouraged students to neglect mandatory subjects to inflate their overall percentages. This shortcut often resulted in a lack of fundamental knowledge, leaving students ill-prepared for competitive exams and government jobs.

Speeding Auto overturns after red-light jump



Bhopal: A high-speed collision at Bhopal's Roshanpura Square left several people injured after an auto-rickshaw and a motorcycle collided violently during a red light. The impact was so severe that the auto-rickshaw overturned, leaving both the driver and passengers with serious injuries. Eyewitnesses noted that the crash occurred when one of the vehicles ignored the traffic signal at high speed. Local authorities rushed the victims to a nearby hospital for emergency care. Police have initiated an investigation into the mishap, emphasizing the grave dangers of signal jumping and over speeding at busy city intersections.

High-speed collision injures two at Station Bridge crash

Bhopal: Commuters at Bhopal Railway Station witnessed a dramatic accident on Thursday afternoon when two vehicles collided head-on on the Platform No. 1 access bridge. The high-impact crash, which occurred during peak traffic hours, left both drivers with significant injuries. Passersby rushed to assist the victims before emergency services arrived to transport them for medical treatment. The collision caused a temporary gridlock on the busy artery, forcing police to step in to clear the wreckage. Authorities are now investigating whether overspeeding or a mechanical failure led to the mid-day mishap on the elevated stretch.



Hospital death triggers violent uproar in Laxmi Hospital

Bhopal: A massive uproar erupted on Wednesday afternoon after the death of a young man at Laxmi Hospital in Patel Nagar, Bhopal. Angry people vandalized the hospital premises and pelted stones at the police. Three policemen were injured in the incident, and police vehicles were also damaged. Police have detained about half a dozen people in connection with this incident and registered a case under vari-



ous sections, including rioting and obstruction of government work. According to information, the deceased, Laxman Bansakar, was a resident of Adampur Cantonment and a laborer. On February 2nd, he suddenly fainted after feeling dizzy at home. His family then took him to Laxmi Hospital for treatment.

Bhopal Rail Division records massive revenue boost via strict ticket checking

5.7 lakh penalized in 11 months; Rs 3.10 crore fined in February alone



Bhopal: In a major crackdown on unauthorized travel, the Bhopal Railway Division has penalized a staggering 5.7 lakh passengers over the past eleven months of the current fiscal year. Under the strategic guidance of DRM Pankaj Tyagi and Senior DCM Saurabh Kataria, the commercial department's intensive ticket-check-

ing campaigns have generated a robust revenue of Rs 36.30 crore from April 2025 to February 2026. This comprehensive figure includes nearly 2.8 lakh cases of ticketless travel and an equal number of irregular ticket holders, alongside over 2,600 instances of unbooked luggage. The momentum peaked in February alone, where vigilant squads detected over 49,000 violations, contributing Rs 3.10 crore to the exchequer in a single month. Commending the relentless efforts of the ground staff, Senior DCM Saurabh Kataria emphasized that these drives are essential for maintaining discipline and ensuring a seamless experience for law-abiding commuters. He further appealed to the public to always travel with valid credentials to avoid penalties and legal complications. This surge in revenue underscores the railway's commitment to curbing financial leakage while enhancing the overall integrity of the transit system.

Flipkart did not deliver goods on time

Bhopal Consumer Commission imposed fine of Rs 25 thousand

Bhopal: The inability to deliver goods on time when ordered from e-commerce companies often creates a very uncomfortable situation. This causes problems for consumers. If the company does not address the complaint, the consumer's mental distress also increases. The Bhopal District Consumer Commission has ordered e-commerce company Flipkart to pay double the amount in such a case. Ruchi Singh Sisodia, a resident of Spring Valley, Katara Hills, Bhopal, booked a pair of bangles worth Rs 12,000 online on August 10, 2023. She made an advance payment. The company stated a delivery date of August 22, 2023. When the item did not arrive 15 days after the scheduled delivery date, the consumer contacted the logistics courier company. Her complaint was not heard. The company did not even return the money they had paid. In 2024, they filed a lawsuit against Flipkart Internet Pvt. Ltd. and Innovate Lifestyle Pvt. Ltd. During the hearing, Flipkart stated that it is merely an online platform that connects buyers with sellers. Product delivery is handled through the respective compa-



ny, so the respective seller is responsible for any delays in delivery. After hearing arguments from both sides, the Consumer Commission clarified that online shopping platforms cannot shirk responsibility to consumers. Admitting the service was deficient, the Consumer Commission reprimanded the company and ordered it to pay the consumer 25,000 rupees within two months.