

Bhopal will be awash with colors on Rangpanchami today

Grand processions featuring floats, drums, cards, and gugal machines throughout the old and new cities

Bhopal: Celebrated five days after Holi, Rangpanchami will be celebrated on March 8th this year. It is believed that Holi concludes with Rangpanchami. On this occasion, celebrations will be held with colors and gugal, similar to Dhulendi, and traditional processions will also be held throughout the city.



According to the Hindu calendar, the Panchami Tithi of Krishna Paksha of Chaitra month will begin on March 7 at 7:17 pm. This Tithi will end on March 8 at 9:10 pm. Based on the Udaya Tithi, the festival of Rangpanchami will be celebrated on Sunday, March 8.

Various social and religious committees will organize events in Bhopal on the occasion of Rangpanchami. The Hindu Utsav Samiti is preparing to organize a traditional and grand procession in the old city. The Naya Bhopal Utsav Samiti will also organize an attractive procession in the new city.

According to committee president Chandrashekhar Tiwari and Rangpanchami coordinator Prakash Malviya, this year's procession will be more attractive and grand than ever before. With saffron flags, camels, horses, drums, DJs, and band tunes, the city will be immersed in a festival of colors.

The procession will also include several religious tableaux. Among these, the tableau depicting the divine form of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati playing Holi will be a special attraction.

The event will also feature a unique tableau depicting the Holi of the Dead, featuring ghosts and spirits, reflecting a traditional and spiritual spirit. A special tableau celebrating the Indian cricket team's victory in the T20 World Cup will also be presented, raising the spirits of youth and cricket lovers.

In this grand Rangpanchami celebration, the sky will be filled with colors from colorful gugal machines. The entire procession route will be showered with colors from squirt guns, further enhancing the joy of the festival.

Diversions in old city for Rang Panchami

Bhopal Traffic Alert

Bhopal: To ensure a vibrant and snag-free celebration of Rang Panchami on March 8, 2026, the Bhopal Traffic Police have announced a comprehensive diversion plan for the Old City. Under the motto "Better Traffic, Better Bhopal," the restrictions will take effect from 8:00 AM and remain in place until the traditional procession concludes.

The procession route

The festive "Chal Samaroh" will commence from Janakpuri Subhash Chowk (Sarafa) and navigate through Loha Bazar, Jumerati, Sindhi Market, and Somwara. It will then proceed via Lakherapura, Itwara Jain Mandir, and Ghoda Nakkas, eventually culminating at the Hanuman Temple on Hanumanganj Road.

Key traffic diversions

Public transport and four-wheeled vehicles will be restricted on several major arteries. Movement will be diverted at the following points:

✓ **Moti Masjid & Talaiya:** No entry toward Budhwara.

✓ **Bharat Talkies:** Restrictions toward Itwara.

✓ **Nadra Bus Stand:** No entry toward Ghoda Nakkas or Sindhi Colony via Bhopal Talkies.

✓ **Chowki Imambada:** Diversions toward Jumerati.

Recommended alternative routes

Commuters are advised to use the parallel route from Alpana Tiraha via Sapna Lodge and Agarwal Dharmshala toward Shahjahanabad. Alternatively, travelers can navigate via Lily Talkies, Peer Gate, and Kamla Park to reach the New City areas.

Need Help? Contact Traffic Helpline: 0755-2677340 or WhatsApp: 7587602055.

Bhopal Police mandate prior notice for public rallies under BNSS Section 163

Police Commissioner issues order

Bhopal: In a proactive move to safeguard public order and ensure the seamless flow of urban life, the Bhopal Police Commissionerate has issued a formal order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. The directive mandates that all political parties, social organizations, representative bodies, and committees must provide prior official notification to the police department before organizing any public event. This includes a wide array of activities such as demonstrations, protest rallies, religious processions, hunger strikes, effigy burnings, and marches toward government buildings or official residences.



management to prevent disruption

The administration emphasized that such gatherings often occupy key public spaces, necessitating comprehensive security and traffic management to prevent disruption to the daily lives of ordinary citizens. By requiring advance notice, the police aim to deploy adequate personnel to thwart potential violent activities and protect public property from vandalism. This regulatory framework is designed not to stifle democratic expression, but to facilitate the organized execution of social and political events while maintaining the city's safety standards. Organizers are urged to coordinate closely with the police to ensure that festivals and protests alike are conducted without compromising the city's peace or logistical stability. Failure to comply with these notification protocols may lead to legal complications or the denial of permission for the scheduled gathering.

West Central Railway achieves record 39% surge in freight loading

Bhopal: West Central Railway (WCR) has marked a significant milestone in its operational efficiency, recording a massive 39.32% jump in originating freight loading for February 2026. According to official data, the zone loaded 5.26 million tonnes of cargo this February, vastly outperforming the 3.78 million tonnes achieved during the same period last year. This momentum has pushed the cumulative loading for the current financial year (April-February) to 52.25 million tonnes, reflecting a robust 10.76% growth compared to the previous fiscal.



This logistical success is the result of aggressive infrastructure and operational overhauls implemented by senior officials across all three divisions, including Bhopal. Key drivers of this growth include the rapid completion of new lines, doubling, and tripling projects, which significantly boosted sectional capacity. Furthermore, the average speed of freight trains was increased through refined operational strategies and reduced detention times at goods terminals. To maximize utility, WCR introduced round-the-clock loading and unloading services at warehouses and upgraded existing terminals. The zone is also expanding its "Gati

Shakti" cargo terminals and private sidings while actively engaging with traders through attractive incentive schemes. By fostering better coordination with business partners and maintaining a relentless focus on infrastructure, West Central Railway continues to set new benchmarks in the nation's freight transport landscape.

Bhopal Municipal Corporation under Fire

Department's unlicensed driver crushes employee at Bhadbhada Plant



Bhopal: A case of severe negligence has rocked the



Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) after a Zone-21

Health Department vehicle brutally struck an employee inside the Bhadbhada Plant premises. The victim, identified as Arun from Zone-8, sustained agonizing leg injuries and was rushed to a fracture hospital in a pool of blood. The incident has triggered an uproar within the plant, casting a shadow over the civic body's safety protocols.

Adding to the controversy, reports indicate that the driver, Pawan, was operating the government vehicle with only a private license. This revelation has sparked a firestorm of questions regarding the accountability of

senior officials: under whose authority was a person without a commercial or government-grade permit handed the keys to a public service vehicle? While Arun battles serious injuries, the incident has exposed a dangerous lapse in oversight and a blatant disregard for departmental regulations. As the BMC faces mounting pressure from employees and the public, the "work culture" of responsible officers is under intense scrutiny. This tragic accident serves as a grim reminder of how administrative apathy can jeopardize the lives of frontline workers.

Free eye check-up for women on Women's Day at Sewa Sadan

Hospital a vivid example of women empowerment; 55 pc of staff is female

Bhopal: On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital will organize a special free eye check-up camp exclusively for women. Female patients can avail of this facility at the hospital between 10 am and 3 pm. The hospital management has appealed to women across the city to take advantage of this opportunity and get their eyes examined to ensure better eye health.



Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital is also considered a strong example of women's empowerment. Out of the hospital's total 276 employees, 152 are women, accounting for about 55 percent of the workforce. Notably, all 14 eye surgeons serving at the

hospital are women, who provide treatment with dedication, efficiency, and a strong spirit of service.

According to the hospital management, women staff often serve patients with exceptional compassion and care, which has helped the institution

Sewa Bharti holds seminar on eve of Women's Day

Crucial contribution of women in shaping society highlighted

Bhopal: A seminar was organized by Sewa Bharti Nanak Mandal on the eve of International Women's Day, focusing on the role of women in society, their empowerment, and the importance of respect. The programme brought together social workers and community members to discuss ways to strengthen women's participation in family, social, and national development.



Keynote speaker Abha Pandey and women's coordinator Sunita Suryavanshi highlighted the crucial contribution of women in shaping society and emphasized that real progress is impossible without ensuring dignity, security, and equal opportunities for them.

Nanak Mandal Secretary Manoj Sharma spoke about the significance of Kanya Pujan, describing it as a lifelong tradition of honouring women rather than a ritual observed only on special occasions. According to media in-charge Bhagwan Das Dhalia, Sewa Bharti remains committed to promoting respect for women and spreading positive social values. Participants also took a pledge to work towards creating a safe and supportive environment for women's dignity and empowerment.

The programme, conducted by Tripti Agarwal and Rachna Khandelwal, concluded with devotional bhajans and greetings for Holi and Rang Panchami.

8-year-old girl raped by middle-aged neighbor in Eintkhedi

Bhopal: A harrowing incident has sent shockwaves through the Eintkhedi locality of after a 41-year-old man was detained for the alleged rape of an eight-year-old girl on Friday afternoon. The suspect, identified by authorities as Dharmendra, a resident of the same neighborhood, reportedly exploited the child's innocence by luring her into his residence with the promise of a toffee while she was playing outside her home.

The girl's screams alerted nearby residents, who rushed to the scene and discovered the assault in progress. The situation escalated quickly as a crowd of bystanders intervened, apprehending the suspect and reportedly subjecting him to a severe physical assault before police could arrive.

Teen boy kidnapped and brutally beaten due to a rivalry in the Kolar area

Bhopal: A 16-year-old boy's Holi celebrations turned into a nightmare in the Kolar area after he was kidnapped and mercilessly thrashed by a gang of seven. The victim, Dinesh Ahirwar, a resident of Ganesh Nagar who works as a painter, is currently battling severe injuries, including a fractured leg, following a calculated ambush near the Banskhedhi culvert.

Colonies. What followed was a barbaric assault; the group reportedly used sticks, belts, and batons to pummel the boy until he lost consciousness.

The horror unfolded around 2:00 PM on Wednesday when Dinesh was intercepted by a group identified as Nikki Shukla, Akash Prajapati, Tilak Chauhan, Divyanshu, Nannu, Ajay, and Aman. Fueled by a grudge involving the victim's friend, the gang dragged the teenager onto a motorcycle and whisked him away to a secluded spot near Soumya Green City

In a chilling attempt to cover their tracks, the suspects dropped the unresponsive teen at a local hospital and fled. They later placed a deceptive call to his family, claiming he had been a victim of a "road accident." It was only after Dinesh regained consciousness that the grim reality of the abduction came to light. The Kolar Police have now registered a formal case against all seven accused. While the suspects remain at large, authorities have launched a massive manhunt, promising swift arrests in this disturbing case of street violence.

Man dies by suicide; leaves note blaming girlfriend

Bhopal: Tragedy struck Sethi Nagar, Ashoka Garden, on Saturday morning when 24-year-old Deepak Gurjar was found dead, having reportedly taken his own life using his mother's Sari. The discovery was made by his mother, who found him hanging from a railing and alerted neighbors. Local police recovered a detailed suicide note at the scene, in which Gurjar blamed his girlfriend of seven years for his extreme decision. In the note, the deceased alleged that despite a long-term relationship and promises of marriage, his partner, who is a Muslim, had begun seeing someone else and refused to marry him. He further claimed she had recently destroyed his phone and threatened to implicate him in a false rape case. Ashoka Garden police have seized the note for handwriting analysis and are currently investigating the allegations of instigation and betrayal.

Lecture at RMNH highlights women's role in biodiversity conservation

Bhopal: The Regional Museum of Natural History organised a lecture on "Role of Women in Biodiversity Conservation" at Shaaskiya Baal Griha Baalika, Bhopal on March 7, 2026. A total of 21 students participated in the awareness programme.



Senior Educational Assistant Asmita Chaudhary explained how women have traditionally played a vital role in conserving biodiversity through indigenous knowledge and cultural practices. She highlighted that many conservation methods followed today

have roots in traditions passed down by ancestors. Chaudhary encouraged students to combine traditional wisdom with a scientific approach to protect nature and pass on a healthier environment and richer biodiversity to future generations.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the institution's Superintendent, who appreciated the museum's initiative and stressed the need for such awareness lectures to be held regularly for students.

Dead earthworm in water supply line sparks protest

Bhopal: The discovery of a dead earthworm in a drinking water supply pipeline in the Model Ground area of Ward No. 9 has triggered concern and protests among local residents. Leaders of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) raised the issue, alleging that unsafe water supply and poor sanitation conditions are posing a serious health risk to people in the area. Party leader Mohsin Khan said that during the holy month of Ramadan, residents are already facing difficulties due to unhygienic surroundings, open drains, and sewage in parts of Old Bhopal. He claimed that leaks and holes in drinking water pipelines have increased the risk of contamination. According to residents, when the pipeline was inspected, a dead earthworm was found inside. They alleged that the pipeline had remained open for a long time, allowing dirt and contaminants to enter, while the nearby drinking water tank had not been cleaned for months. A delegation led by AIMIM state president Mohsin Ali Khan met Bhopal Municipal Corporation Commissioner Sanskriti Jain and submitted a complaint regarding the issue. The Commissioner assured that the matter would be investigated and that necessary steps would be taken to clean the pipelines and water tanks.