

Mahakal Temple introduces pre-booking for evening and night Artis

Ujjain: In a significant move to streamline the ever-increasing footfall at Ujjain's Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple, the management committee has implemented a mandatory online pre-booking system for the Sandhya (evening) and Shayan (night) Artis. Effective this Thursday, devotees must reserve their spots via the temple's official website, mirroring the existing protocol for the world-famous Bhasma Arti. The committee has fixed a fee of Rs 250 per person for these sessions.

Booking windows and entry protocols
The new system operates on a "first-come, first-served" basis, effectively ending all offline VIP recommendations. Devotees planning to attend the 6:00 PM Sand-

New digital reservation system



hya Arti can book their slots starting at 12:00 PM daily. For the 10:00 PM Shayan Arti, the portal opens

at 4:00 PM. Access for confirmed ticket holders will be restricted to Gate Number 1, with strict entry

deadlines aligning with the commencement of the rituals.

Provisions for non-ticket holders
Temple Administrator Pratham Kaushik emphasized that the transition aims to provide a secure and reliable experience for the millions who visit annually. For those unable to secure a booking or pay the fee, the temple has ensured inclusivity through a "mobile darshan" (viewing while moving) system. Such devotees can still witness the spiritual grandeur of the Artis from the Kar-tikeya Mandapam without a prior reservation. This digital intervention is expected to significantly reduce congestion and enhance the sanctity of the temple's daily ceremonies.

Adult leopard found dead

Tiger attack suspected in territorial clash



Mandla: The discovery of an adult male leopard's carcass near the Jariyaware trail in Mandla's Kisli forest range has sparked an investigation into a deadly territorial conflict. Found on Thursday in the Langhadadar beat, the leopard's body was immediately secured by forest officials

who deployed a dog squad to scour the area for clues. While the site showed clear evidence of a tiger's presence, a forensic post-mortem confirmed the fatal nature of the encounter. Veterinary experts identified deep puncture wounds from tiger teeth on the leopard's body, suggesting a violent struggle for dominance. Remarkably, all of the leopard's claws and organs remained intact, ruling out poaching. Under the supervision of Kanha Tiger Reserve officials and NTCA representatives, the carcass was cremated following standard protocol. Authorities noted that such inter-species skirmishes are a natural, albeit grim, reality of the wild where apex predators compete for space. A detailed report has been submitted to senior officials, while patrolling has been intensified in the sector to monitor the movement of the resident tiger involved in the skirmish.

Retired Air Force officer duped of Rs 9.87 lakh in online fraud

Fraudster posed as SBI official, tricked victim into sharing YONO pin

Gwalior: A 79-year-old retired Air Force warrant officer in Gwalior has fallen victim to an online banking fraud, losing Rs 9.87 lakh to a scammer posing as an official from the State Bank of India's head branch. The victim, Ghanshyam Dutt Shukla, received a call on December 30, 2025, shortly after watching a Facebook reel. The caller claimed he had been assigned to help prepare Shukla's life certificate. Gaining his trust, the fraudster persuaded him to download the YONO app and assured him the process was a routine banking service. Despite initial doubts, Shukla shared his PIN during the conversation. Soon

after, Rs 9,87,000 was withdrawn from his account in four installments. The fraud came to light when Shukla later visited the bank. Compounding his distress, his mobile phone was reportedly stolen on January 1, 2026, shortly after the fraudulent transaction. Following the bank's advice, Shukla lodged a complaint on the cybercrime helpline 1930. Based on the e-zero FIR registered through the helpline, Gola Ka Mandir police station has initiated an investigation. Police officials confirmed that the matter is under probe and efforts are underway to trace the accused.

Actor Ashutosh Rana seeks blessings at Pitambara Peeth

Datia: Renowned Bollywood actor Ashutosh Rana recently visited the historic town of Datia to offer prayers at the prestigious Maa Pitambara Peeth. A devoted follower of the goddess, Rana performed a traditional puja and Jalabhishek of Goddess Baglamukhi, seeking divine blessings during his spiritual retreat.



As news of his arrival spread, a large crowd of enthusiastic fans gathered at the temple premises to catch a glimpse of the veteran performer. Despite the bustle, the actor remained deeply immersed in his rituals, once again highlighting his strong connection to the region's rich cultural and religious heritage.

Renowned cardiologist caught with female friend by wife

- High-voltage drama on busy road
- The public confrontation

Rewa: In what is being described as a "Black Wednesday" for one of Rewa's most prominent medical professionals, a high-profile scandal erupted on a busy city thoroughfare. The director of a leading nursing home and a renowned cardiologist found himself at the center of a public spectacle when his wife intercepted his luxury vehicle. Suspecting infidelity for some time, she reportedly shadowed the doctor before blocking his car mid-traffic to confront him while he was accompanied by a female acquaintance. **Fists fly in broad daylight:** The situation rapidly escalated from a heated verbal spat into physical violence. According to eyewitnesses, the outraged wife dragged the female companion out of the car, resulting in a flurry of blows and kicks. For nearly an hour, the bustling street turned into a theater of domestic discord. Despite the doctor's frantic attempts to intervene and pacify his wife, the high-voltage drama continued unabated as a



massive crowd of onlookers gathered, filming the incident on their smartphones. **A reputation under fire:** The altercation has sent shockwaves through the Vindhya region's elite circles. As videos of the elite family's private turmoil go viral on social media, the doctor's professional standing faces significant scrutiny. While local police arrived at the scene to disperse the crowd, no formal complaints have been lodged yet. However, the incident remains the talk of the town, serving as a stark reminder of how personal indiscretions can lead to a public fallout.

779 pilgrims depart Vidisha for Ayodhya under Teerth Darshan Yojana

Public representatives flag off special train amid festive farewell



Vidisha: As many as 779 pilgrims from Vidisha district departed for Ayodhya under the Chief Minister's Teerth Darshan Yojana on Wednesday night. The pilgrims were given a warm and ceremonial farewell at Vidisha Railway Station before boarding a special train to the holy city of Lord Ram. The

send-off ceremony was marked by enthusiasm and devotion. Vidisha MLA Mukesh Tandon inaugurated the boarding process by cutting a ribbon and performing a traditional coconut-breaking ritual. District Panchayat President Geeta Kailash Raghuvanshi and Municipal Council President Preeti Rakesh Sharma joined him in flagging off the train. Public representatives extended their greetings, noting that the scheme enables senior citizens to undertake free pilgrimages and fulfill their long-cherished spiritual aspirations. Family members, officials, and local leaders welcomed the pilgrims with garlands, creating an atmosphere of celebration at the station. The administration has made comprehensive arrangements to ensure a safe and comfortable journey, including food, medical assistance, and other essential facilities. The pilgrims are scheduled to return to Vidisha on February 23 after completing their visit to Ayodhya.

Timber Mafia brutally attacks forest ranger, staff in Shahdol

Rising threats to forest security in Madhya Pradesh

Shahdol: In a shocking incident in Shahdol district, forest department personnel were brutally attacked while attempting to curb illegal logging and timber smuggling in the Mahadeva area under the Sidhi Circle of the Amjhor Forest Range. Ranger Tarunendra Singh and Deputy Ranger Durga Prasad Ahirwar, along with several beat guards, sustained serious injuries during the assault. Some staff members suffered severe head injuries and multiple fractures. **= Forest team was taken to an interior forest area:** According to officials, the forest team had received information about illegal tree felling and transportation of timber. Acting swiftly, they apprehended Mahendra Yadav and Surendra Yadav at the spot. However, the accused allegedly pressured the officials to drop the



action and, under the pretext of leading them to another location, took the team into an interior forest area. There, with the help of accomplices already present, they launched a violent attack using sticks, rods, and stones. The injured officials immediately contacted emergency services by dialing 112. Police rushed to the scene, rescued the personnel who were reportedly held hostage, and shifted them to a hospital for treatment. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway. Notably, this is not the first such incident. Recently, a forest patrol team near Shahdol headquarters was attacked by coal mafia elements, raising serious concerns about forest staff safety and enforcement challenges in the region.

Dowry demand derails wedding in Narmadapuram, groom, father booked

- Demanded Rs 3 lakh cash and bike, bride reaches police station with henna still on her hands

Narmadapuram: A wedding in Narmadapuram was abruptly called off after the groom allegedly demanded Rs 3 lakh in cash and a motorcycle as dowry. The marriage of the girl with Manish Dodiya of Gautam Nagar, Bhopal, was expected to be solemnized on February 12. According to the bride's family, they had stated they would arrange the ceremony within their limited means. Despite financial constraints, the family borrowed money to meet wedding expenses after alleged pressure from

the groom's father, Devnarayan Dodiya. The engagement ceremony was completed, and the groom was presented with a gold ring and Rs 5,100 in cash. A gold chain was also gifted during the wedding procession. However, after the varmala ceremony, the groom and his father allegedly demanded Rs 3 lakh and a bike, refusing to proceed without it. When the demand was not met, they returned the gifts and left with the wedding procession without the bride. A week later, the bride approached Kotwali police station with henna still on her hands and recorded her statement. SDOP Jitendra Pathak confirmed that an FIR has been registered against the accused and that investigations are underway.

66th Green Corridor created in Indore

- Organs of brain-dead man save multiple lives
- Heart airlifted to Ahmedabad, liver and kidneys transplanted locally after family's consent

Indore: The city created its 66th green corridor late Wednesday night to facilitate the swift transport of vital organs from a brain-dead donor, offering new hope to several critically ill patients. Vijay Jaiswal, 66, a resident of Shinde Colony in Khargone, was admitted to Jupiter Hospital after sustaining severe injuries in a road accident on February 15. A team of doctors declared him brain-dead on Wednesday. Following the consent of his wife Aradhana Jaiswal, brothers Vinod and Vishal Jaiswal, and son Prathamesh, the organ donation process was initiated. Two green corridors were established overnight. The first was created from Vishesh Jupiter Hospital to Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport. The heart left the hospital at 10:37 pm and reached the airport within 15 minutes, from where it was airlifted to Ahmedabad for transplantation.



The second corridor was formed between Vishesh Jupiter Hospital and Choithram Hospital, completed in just six minutes. One kidney will be transplanted at Choithram Hospital, while the other kidney and liver will be transplanted at Vishesh Jupiter Hospital. The process was coordinated with the assistance of Muskan Group counselors Sandipan Arya, Jeetu Bagani, and Lucky Khatri.

Indore and MP teams shine in AI Civil Services Cricket Tournament

Strong wins over Dehradun and Haryana mark impressive start

Jabalpur: The All India Civil Services Cricket Tournament witnessed dominant performances from teams representing Indore and Madhya Pradesh, as both registered convincing victories in their opening matches in Delhi. In a rain-curtailed six-over encounter, RSB Indore outplayed RSB Dehradun (Uttarakhand) by 28 runs. Batting first after overs were reduced, Indore posted a formidable 71 runs in six overs. Shalabh Srivastava and Samito Bhattacharya led the charge with aggressive stroke play, putting Dehradun's bowlers under pressure. In reply, Dehradun faltered against disciplined bowling and managed only 43 runs for the loss of five wickets, falling well short of the 72-run target. The team's success was guided by coach Lawrence Bablu of Jabalpur, with strong support from coordinator Gurvinder Singh and manager Koli Manohar Vasant. In another key match, the Madhya Pradesh team



defeated defending champions Haryana by 33 runs. Batting first in the 15-over contest, MP scored 136 runs, powered by captain Piyush Neware's 60 and Abuzar Khan's 49. Haryana were bowled out for 103 runs in reply. Nilesh Rahangdale starred with four wickets and was named Man of the Match, sealing an emphatic start for the MP side.