

# GIS to propel Madhya Pradesh's startup ecosystem: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that Madhya Pradesh is rapidly emerging as a strong StartUps hub, working in alignment with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for industrial development and job creation. The state government is prioritizing innovation, entrepreneurship, and employment generation by adopting effective strategies to foster a StartUps culture that aligns with the aspirations of young entrepreneurs.

Yadav emphasized, "Our goal is to transform Madhya Pradesh into a 'Center for StartUps and Innovation,' providing young entrepreneurs with a supportive environment and comprehensive assistance to turn their ideas into successful businesses".

Dr. Yadav highlighted the significance of the upcoming Global Investors Summit to be held in Bhopal on February 24 and 25, calling it a landmark event. Entrepreneurs and investors from various countries will participate, providing young entrepreneurs exposure to international technologies and innovations, thereby giving Madhya Pradesh's StartUps new momentum.

The Chief Minister further mentioned that StartUps will not only contribute to the state's economic growth but also create new employment opportunities for the youth. "We are providing financial support, a robust policy framework, and modern infrastructure to foster the growth of start-ups in the state, and our government is taking concrete steps in this direction. This will promote innovation and help young

entrepreneurs realize their dreams." Key Initiatives Under the MP StartUp Policy:- Yadav explained that the 'MP StartUp Policy and Implementation Scheme' is in place, offering financial assistance, infrastructure support, and policy backing to start-ups. According to the new policy, StartUps are eligible for financial assistance of up to 18% of the total investment (maximum 18 lakh rupees). This support is provided in different stages of start-up development, with up to four stages eligible for assistance. The policy also includes financial incentives, infrastructure support, and capacity-building programs.

Additionally, StartUps are exempted from experience and turnover requirements in government tenders and are not required to submit earnest

money deposits. The government is also waiving mandatory license and permit fees and giving StartUps priority in government procurement for two years.

Yadav emphasized that Madhya Pradesh's abundant power, water, and natural resources make it an ideal destination for investors. The state's connectivity with major industrial corridors ensures smooth and cost-effective transportation of goods, offering a strategic advantage to companies looking to expand their businesses.

Madhya Pradesh, recognized as the 'Heart of India,' houses over 300 industrial parks and boasts a population of over 80 million, making it a hub of talent. The state is home to 1,287 industrial training institutes, 1,373 government and private colleges, and prestigious institutions like IIT and IIM, pro-

ducing thousands of graduates annually. Special programs are being conducted to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among school and college students, ensuring they receive the right guidance and resources at an early stage to successfully establish their StartUps.

Achievements and Future Goals: Dr. Yadav proudly shared that the state's commitment to promoting start-ups has resulted in over 4,900 recognized StartUps operating in Madhya Pradesh. Special industrial parks have been developed for sectors like IT, semiconductors, textiles, automobiles, and solar energy, creating a favourable environment for StartUps.

The Chief Minister outlined the goal to increase the number of StartUps registered under 'StartUp India' by 100% and to promote StartUps in the agriculture and food sector by 200%.



BMC employees demolished houses and shops to clear the venue following the order of the district administration for the expansion of railway track at Motinagar, old Subhash Nagar locality in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo



A scene from the play 'Dhruvaswamini' staged at Shaheed Bhawan in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

## Accreditation deadline for pvt schools extended

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In significant relief to private school operators, the Rajya Shiksha Kendra (RSK) has extended the deadline for accreditation applications. Schools can now apply without an additional charge until February 10, while the deadline for applications with a late fee has been set for February 14.

Currently, around 61% of schools have applied for accreditation. Ajit Singh, President of the Private School Association, stated that of the state's 34,000 schools, more than 17,000 have submitted applications. However, many schools are yet to apply. Singh urged all school operators to apply promptly to avoid complications.

Singh also warned that over 18,000 schools in the state are at risk of closing. These schools,

which have operated for years under the state's accreditation, now face difficulties due to the stringent renewal process, particularly for classes one to eight. Singh criticised the state's approach, calling it oppressive for school operators and staff.

Singh further pointed out that while the Right to Education Act 2009 ensures free education, the state's requirement of a fixed deposit of 30,000-40,000 rupees and registered lease agreements reflects a growing trend of treating education as a business. Many schools are unable to meet these demands, putting their accreditation in jeopardy.

Singh's claims aside, officials at the district education department in Bhopal said the reluctance of school operators to share the details of their operations stems from the profits they make in the name of education.

## Shops razed at Motinagar as police stand guard

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Debris remains strewn in the streets of the Motinagar area of the state capital, where a massive anti-encroachment drive was carried out by the district administration on Sunday morning.

Barricades remained in place as a joint operation team, drawn from various arms of the district administration, oversaw demolition proceedings which lasted over eight hours.

Sources said over a hundred shops had been demolished as part of the operation, which remained out of bounds for the media, with police personnel restricting movement within a one-kilometre radius of the demolition site.

The demolition is part of the proposed widening of the Subhash Nagar Bridge and the construction of a third railway arm, which requires clearing 384 homes and 110 shops in the area. While the shops have been demolished, the homes will be demolished over the next few days.

The proposed infrastructure project has come under stringent criticism from Congress leader Manoj Shukla, who accuses the government of political bias. Shukla had earlier submitted a memorandum to the district administration, arguing that the demolition is causing great distress to residents in the area.

He had also questioned the timing of the operation, which he said coincided

with weddings and school exams. Hundreds of police officers and district administration officials were deployed to supervise the operation, which employed 10 JCBs, two large excavators, 25 dumpers, and 50 loading vehicles to transport debris. Police officials stood guard at both ends of the Subhash Nagar Bridge.

Originally scheduled for 4 February, the demolition had been delayed for two days due to a shortage of police forces, during which residents began removing their belongings voluntarily. With the first step of the demolition complete, residents say they can only pray for divine intervention to prevent their houses from being pulled down by the administration.

## Global Textile Industry has tremendous growth potential in Madhya Pradesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that Madhya Pradesh has emerged as a state with immense potential in the textile and apparel industry. The state's rich agricultural background, the exquisite craftsmanship of traditional weaving communities, a modern industrial base, and investor-friendly policies are propelling it to the forefront of this sector. Through well-planned government efforts, Madhya Pradesh is rapidly emerging as one of India's leading textile and garment hubs. The Global Investors Summit 2025 will further accelerate this industrial journey by showcasing the opportunities available in the state to investors worldwide.

Dr. Yadav emphasized that Madhya Pradesh's textile industry is not limited to production alone but is creating a comprehensive value chain—from raw material production to garment manufacturing and global exports. He noted that Madhya Pradesh contributes 43% to India's and 24% to the world's organic cotton production. This not only highlights the state's capacity but also positions it as an ideal location for environmentally sustainable and high-quality textile production.

The Chief Minister highlighted that Madhya Pradesh leads in cotton production while its silk industry is steadily expanding. The state produces over 200 tons of silk annually, promoting both traditional handlooms and modern silk products. Additionally, Madhya Pradesh is advancing

rapidly in modern synthetic fibre production, which is boosting technical textiles and speciality fibre manufacturing.

Yadav also mentioned that the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park (PM MITRA), being developed in the Dhar district, will provide a new dimension to the state's textile industry. Spanning 2,100 acres, this park will offer world-class infrastructure for textile and garment industries. It will not only attract significant investments but also enhance the state's competitiveness on a global scale.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the identity of the state's textile industry is not limited to large-scale production units; its traditional crafts are also a significant strength. Exquisite handloom products like Chanderi, Maheshwari, Bagh print, Batik print, and Zari-Zardozi reflect Madhya Pradesh's rich heritage. Efforts are underway to bring these crafts global recognition. Maheshwari sarees, Bagh prints, and Chanderi cotton have already received GI tags, strengthening their branding and market position.

The state boasts over 60 large textile mills, more than 4,000 looms, and 25 lakh spindles. Cities like Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, Dhar, Dewas, Gwalior, Chhindwara, and Jabalpur are emerging as key textile hubs. Indore's ready-made garment cluster has become a major unit with over 1,200 enterprises. The Apparel Design Centre and Special Economic Zone in Indore are providing a competitive edge to industries.

## BMC plans manmade spring to greet Investors

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

With the Global Investors Summit fast approaching, Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Singh on Saturday reviewed preparations at the District Panchayat Auditorium to ensure all aspects of the event are meticulously organised.

The meeting was attended by a host of top officials in the district, including Collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh, Municipal Commissioner Harendra Narayan, ADM Siddharth Jain, CEO of Smart City Anju Arun Kumar, and CEO of District Panchayat Ila Tiwari.

During the meeting, Singh stressed the importance of effective traffic management and clear arrangements for entry

passes. He highlighted the need for all visitors to be provided with precise details about their entry times and locations to ensure a smooth experience for everyone. The Commissioner also reviewed the preparations related to entry check points, the main venue, and overall traffic control.

Singh said that the endeavour must focus on smooth and coordinated functioning of guest services during the length of the event.

In addition, Singh called for special lighting arrangements to be made at government offices in Bhopal, enhancing the city's ambience and ensuring it is both attractive and well-organised during the summit.

To ensure the seamless movement of guests, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need

for special training sessions for drivers. This training will help them become familiar with the routes to key locations such as the event venue, hotels, and parking areas. Furthermore, buses used for transporting guests will prominently display names of destinations they were headed for.

Lastly, Singh instructed that experienced facilitation officers be appointed to assist with coordination during the event, ensuring smooth communication and efficient management of all aspects.

With the countdown to the Global Investors Summit underway, the preparations in Bhopal are shaping up to welcome thousands of guests who will attend the key event scheduled to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 24.



A speeding car rammed a road divider in the wee hours on Hoshangabad road in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

## CM pays tribute to late Ramdayal Prajapati at Hindi Bhawan

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that Late Ramdayal Prajapati made his identity as a great public representative. He is known for his noble deeds and exemplary conduct. The views expressed by various public representatives and citizens towards him after his demise also prove that he was a hard-working personality.

Chief Minister Yadav was addressing the meeting organised to pay tribute to Late Ramdayal Prajapati at Hindi Bhawan on Sunday evening. CM Dr. Yadav said that he has been associated with Prajapati since the year 1994-1995. He impressed everyone with his

work and conduct as the Chairman of Bhopal Municipal Corporation and Chairman of Mati Kala Board. He believed in taking everyone along. This was a unique quality of his personality. CM Dr. Yadav paid floral tribute to the picture of late Prajapati.

Senior MP VD Sharma told during the Shradhanjali Sabha (tribute meeting) that Late Ram Dayal Prajapati always fulfilled the responsibilities assigned to him with the feeling of a worker. Organisation General Secretary Hitanand Sharma said that late Prajapati, despite being a senior leader, was known for his simple behaviour. He also

used information technology mediums suitable for the modern era efficiently. MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani and other speakers also addressed the tribute meeting.

On this occasion, senior leaders Suresh Pachauri, Shaileendra Pradhan, Umashankar Gupta and PC Sharma, corporators, officials of various social organisations of Bhopal, family members and friends of late Prajapati were present in large numbers. The tribute meeting was conducted by former OMP Alok Sanjar. Two minute silence was also observed in the tribute meeting for the peace of the soul of Late Ram Dayal Prajapati.

**Government of Madhya Pradesh  
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief  
Water Resources Department,  
Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsi Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)**  
Email ID: [ceproc.encwrdbpl@nic.in](mailto:ceproc.encwrdbpl@nic.in)  
Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406

**N.I.T. No.1128/2024-25/E-in-C/e-tendering** Bhopal, Dated 05.02.2025

Bids for following works are invited on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 04-03-2025 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.

S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1.	2025_WRD_399525	Providing Installation and Erection of 5 MVA PTR including VCB at Exhausting 33/11 KV Substation of Pathari for Dedicated feeder of Rehabilitation Site at Village Gondkhehi affected by Hanota Irrigation Project Complete work with material and labour.	Sagar	153.24
2.	2025_WRD_399526	Canal Lining work at Besla Tank (Special Repair work)	Neemuch	35.36
3.	2025_WRD_399527	Interconnection of Existing HT 11KV feeder to 33 KV feeder at village Pipalbej Pump House at RBC of Mohanpura Project.	Rajgarh	92.81
4.	2025_WRD_399528	Environment clearance of Kateela-Pawa Major Irrigation Project from Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.	Shivpuri	245.24
5.	2025_WRD_399530	Special Repair work of Hasalpur Tank.	Indore	103.31

G-22790/24 Chief Engineer (Procurement)

**ICICI Home Finance** | ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India  
Branch Office: 3rd Floor, Plot No 95-C, Sector 3, Vaishali Nagar Colony, Opposite ICICI Bank Gopur Square, Gopur Square, Indore 452002.

**Notice for sale of immovable assets through Private Treaty**  
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets through Private Treaty under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(B) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

ICICI Home Finance Company Limited (ICICI HFC) conducted several e-Auctions for the sale of the mortgaged property mentioned below, however, all such e-Auctions failed. Now, an interested buyer has approached ICICI HFC with an offer to purchase the said property for an amount of Rs. 46,00,000/- . Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below-described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", by way of Private Treaty as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured Asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	Sarfaesi Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Rajendra Kumar Garg (Borrower) Sandhya Garg (Co-Borrower) Kushal Garg (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LHM00001278049 & NHIND00001320780	Part of Survey No. 98/9, Village Guljhara, Tehsil Dhaampur, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh-454552	Rs. 2,09,07,602/- January 21, 2025	Rs. 46,00,000/-	February 18, 2025 11:00 AM	February 25, 2025 02:00 PM	February 24, 2025 04:00 PM	Physical Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://assets.matexauctions.com>) of our auction agency Matex Net Pvt Ltd. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before February 24, 2025 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit a signed copy of the Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before February 24, 2025 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article. The general public is requested to submit their bids higher than the amount being offered by the interested buyer mentioned above. It is hereby informed that in case no bids higher than the amount being offered by the aforementioned interested buyer is received by ICICI HFC, the mortgaged property shall be sold to the said interested buyer as per Rule 8(B) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the sale or submission of bids, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifcf.com/>

Date : February 10, 2025  
Place : Dhar  
Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited"  
CIN Number U65922MH1999PLC120106

# Aftab Jahan: The untold story of the Junior Begum of Bhopal

AKBAR KHAN ■ BHOPAL

Aware of the disdain in which she was held by members of the ruling clan, Princess Aftab Jahan—the Junior Begum of Bhopal—moved to England in 1961, barely months after the death of her husband, Nawab Hamidullah Khan. The Nawab had married Aftab Jahan, six years younger than his eldest daughter, Abida Sultan, despite opposition from his daughters and first wife, Begum Maimoona Sultan.

The elder Begum, a member of a noble clan from Peshawar, was estranged from the Nawab and had moved out of Ahmedabad Palace to live at an adjacent Kotli.

Princess Abida Sultan, the heir apparent and Commander-in-Chief of the state forces, was especially critical of the alliance. Sources close to the family say the Nawab's courtship and wedding were the prime reasons behind her estrangement from her father.

The family believed that the Nawab's actions were unbecoming of both his stature and age. Matters only worsened when the newlyweds adopted a young girl from a noble family. The adopted child, named Farzana Begum, remained, perhaps, the one constant in Aftab's otherwise chequered life, which comprised of triumphs and tragedies in equal measure.

Born into a noble clan from Bhopal in the summer of 1919, Aftab Jahan was enrolled at Sikandaria Girls' School, where Princess Abida Sultan was several years her senior.

While most girls were married when they were still in their teens, the one thing that set Aftab Jahan apart from the women of her generation was that she had remained unmarried until a rather late age.

She was almost 28 at the time of her Nikah with Nawab Hamidullah Khan in January 1947, a turbulent time for the princely state.

The timing of the wedding was

among the reasons that upset the Nawab's heirs, as they believed that His Highness should have been more focused on the fast-paced political changes that were taking place in the country. Isolated in his own clan, Nawab Hamidullah Khan had weighed his options and diversified his risks in the years leading up to 1947 by making substantial investments in the United Kingdom.

Sources close to the family in England say that the Nawab had prepared for all eventualities by making arrangements for a comfortable retirement in London, investing in houses and a sizeable shareholding in the Rootes Group, a car manufacturer based in the West End of London.

Aftab Jahan was privy to this information.

The family troubles came to a boil in 1950, prompting Princess Abida Sultan's migration to Pakistan, a few months after Nawab Hamidullah Khan ceded control of the state to the Dominion of India.

Old-timers say Abida Sultan's move to Pakistan came hours before she was scheduled to present a ceremonial salute to His Highness, who would be accompanied by his young wife. The princess, however, viewed the salute as an insult and preferred to leave the country and her domineering father's shadow.

With so much happening in quick succession after her wedding, the Nawab's family regarded Aftab Jahan as the bearer of unhappy tidings for the clan. They never pronounced her name and only referred to her as 'that woman.'

Following the death of Nawab Hamidullah Khan, Aftab Jahan chose to keep the former ruler's estate in the United Kingdom as her share of his properties. She, ostensibly, became a British subject in 1961.

Family sources in England, however, say that she spent most of her time in Pakistan, where she stayed with her adopted daughter Farzana Begum, who was

married in that country. While little is known of the Nawab's houses in England, the sources say the shareholding in the Rootes Group provided princely annual returns that Aftab Jahan spent on herself and those close to her, both in England and in Pakistan.

Family grapevine suggests that Aftab Jahan's visits to England grew infrequent after an insulting showdown with her nephew (sister's son), who had, purportedly, received a large sum when Aftab Jahan dissolved the holdings in the Rootes Group.

On subsequent visits to England, Her Highness, as she insisted on being addressed, was forced to put up with a distant relative from Bhopal, who was married into the Royal House of Tonk.

Having lived out a destiny that saw her rubbing shoulders with royalty across continents, Her Highness was laid to rest in a lonely grave in Karachi in 2002. Fewer than a dozen mourners were present.