



Free self-defence workshop from June 1

INDORE: Rotary Club will organise a five-day free self-defence workshop at police training centre from June 1. Children of eight years of age can also join this workshop. The workshop will be open for all starting in two batches from 7 am and 6 pm.

FREE PRESS CONFERENCE ON MADHYA PRADESH'S GLORIOUS AGRI-REVOLUTION

'Every consumer is a buyer & every house a marketplace'

OUR STAFF REPORTER
Indore

Like most sectors, the agriculture sector has been increasingly embracing technology. But in case of agriculture, technology is utilised largely in stages relating to pre-production and production. But when it comes to post production, there is not much awareness among farmers.

This was discussed at the recently held conference on 'Madhya Pradesh's glorious agri-revolution' which was jointly organised by Free Press Journal and Moneycontrol.com, in association with the state government of Madhya Pradesh.

"Every consumer is a buyer and every house can be a marketplace," said Rainikant Rai, CEO, ITC-Agri Business. This can only be possible if farmers embrace technology to reach the consumer or buyer. This means the farmers will have to become responsible marketers too. "The government should be an enabler and help buyers reach farmers." The ENAM



(electronic national agriculture market) concept that the government introduced recently is meant to connect

farmers with their future buyers. That can be a game-changer. Apart from post-production, the

farmer will also have to explore various options to increase productivity. Narendra Dhandre, DGM, Netafim

stressed, "Farmers need to improve productivity and reduce rainfall dependence." Agreeing with this, DN Pathak, executive director of the The Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) stated, "In case of soya at the national level, the productivity of the state is not low." He reiterated that irrigation facility has not reached many regions in the state.

About 44 per cent of MP's area is irrigated out of that only 7-8 per cent comes under micro-irrigation. "There is a need to embrace non-traditional irrigation techniques. The potential of micro-irrigation is high in MP. If the government were to focus on this technique the farmers' income will double," added Dhandre. He advocated adoption of intelligent cropping patterns like one where soya was grown first, potato next, and onion thereafter. This way the farmer can diversify his crop mix and also get income from three crops rather than only one.

Rai, whose company works with 10 lakh MP farmers, revealed that canal lift and tube irrigation has helped

wheat production increase five times. "Compared to other states, price realisation in MP is very high." Now, the farmers have to move towards buying quality seeds along with technologies like drip irrigation.

Dr Rama Chari, Associate Director, Material Science group, RRCAT said, "Seed varieties have to be improved by mutation. Mutation is a natural process but when it happens naturally it can be good and bad. What we do through radiation is to accelerate the rate of mutation, and help in making crops hardy." Chari added that before RRCAT introduces seeds that is mutated it ensures that the seeds go through a process of at least three-four years. The institution first runs the trial themselves and then passes it to agricultural universities for further trials for at least three years, and after that it is made available commercially.

Talking further about technology, she said that all technologies are good but it takes few years before it bears fruits.

More value must flow to the primary producer, say experts

OUR STAFF REPORTER
Indore

At a panel discussion that took place on 'Madhya Pradesh's glorious agri-revolution', experts agreed that the state would need to create opportunities that allowed the flow of value to primary producers.

Suhas Joshi, Head-Sustainability, Bayer group, South Asia, was clear that this was the only sustainable solution. According to him, "Contract farming system was a good solution, because the basic logic - sustainable income for cultivators and supply visibility for processors - could not be doubted. However it is necessary to tweak the concept with the clear objective that farmers get money rather than middlemen."

Amit Vatsyayan, Partner at E&Y laid out four core areas of attention. First was to stop value loss of 20-30 per cent which goes away from the farmer's income and does not do anything for the buyer. Next was to create more value, mainly through warehousing and processing. Then was the need to encourage farmers to switch from



just selling their output en masse, to participating in sorting, grading and use of infrastructure like pack-houses. Lastly, value-added services (insurance, credit etc) also need to evolve and keep pace with the times. Bharat Char, Head R&D at Mahyco, emphasised the need to focus on soil health for sustainable output. He also spoke of how harnessing digital technology assets like drones could impact agri-

culture in a big way. Amitabh Mohan, DGM, NABARD emphasised how farmers' collectives would improve bargaining power. NABARD has participated in the process of creation of 360 farmer producer organisations in Madhya Pradesh, which in turn focus on collective action, with backward and forward linkages. He also focussed on how agri processors must be linked to producers. All over the

states, food parks are being planned and processing units aiming to set up facilities in such parks can directly access finance from NABARD at around 8 per cent interest. Likewise, an all-India dedicated Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund has been set up by NABARD with a corpus of Rs 5,000 crore.

Joshi emphasised that productivity and farmer empowerment go hand in

hand, as was evident in the Operation Flood, for prosperity to flow to the farmer. He also said that for farmers and consumers to connect, there were logistics, time and management issues and therefore efforts were needed from both sides. Vatsyayan emphasised that even a successful sector like milk also needed value-addition where cheese and ice-cream were good options.

Garlic@Rs800 per quintal, says CM

Chouhan announces wheat procurement price at Rs 2000

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Indore

In yet another announcement that invited a huge applause from farmers, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that procurement of wheat is underway at minimum support price of Rs 1735 per quintal. The state government is offering bonus of Rs 265. Thus the purchasing price in the mandi would be Rs 2000 per quintal.

However, going beyond, the government will also offer Rs 265 to those farmers who

sell their wheat crop outside the mandi, he added. Owing to excessive production of garlic it will be procured at Rs 800 per quintal.

Similarly, the procurement of chana is going on at rate of Rs 4400 per quintal till June 9 and if required it would be extended further.

Talking about the initial days when he took over the reins of MP government, Chouhan talked about the time when he had met the then Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar to release more quote of

wheat for BPL people. Pawar had said, "Why don't you increase the production of wheat?" Chouhan said, "We took up this challenge and in just three years we had a bumper wheat crop following which I approached him to get gunny bags to pack the excess wheat."

Earlier, Free Press Group chairman Jai Kumar Karnani welcomed Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Indore Mayor Malini Gaud. NABARD CGM S K Bansal also graced the dais at the conference.



Rotary Club organises speaker meet



OUR STAFF REPORTER
Indore

A speaker meeting of Rotary Club of Indore Meghdoot of Rotary District 3040 was organised for the benefits of society and rotary members at a city hotel on Sunday.

Guest speaker and renowned cancer surgeon Dr Dignpal Dharkar said that cancer is curable if it is detected at earlier stage. Awareness about cancer is important for society and Indore Cancer Foundation is working to increase the awareness and provide cancer treatment at a reasonable cost, he added.

Dr Dharkar said that a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise can prevent 33% cases of cancer. The suspected patients and people with a family history should undergo blood check up and sonography screening for early detection of cancer, Dharkar added.

Club president Sarita Agarwal and secretary Ghanshyam Singh welcomed the Dr Dharkar for his informative speech about cancer and prevention of cancer for the benefit of society and members of Rotary. Dr Dharkar also handed over a clay pot (Sikora) to the members for providing water to birds in summer.

Body found hanging from tree

OUR STAFF REPORTER
Indore

Body of a man was found hanging from a tree in Hukumchand Mill premises in Pardeshipura area on Sunday. It is believed that the man committed suicide by hanging self.

However, the police are waiting for autopsy report to know the exact reason for his death.

According to Pardeshipura police, some local residents spotted the man hanging from a tree and they informed the police around 4.30 pm. Police reached and investigated the spot where they found a bike parked near the spot. Prima facie, it seemed to be a suicide, police said. The body has been sent for autopsy and started investigation into the case. The efforts to identify the deceased are also on.

MPhil entrance exam postponed, new date to be announced soon

OUR STAFF REPORTER
Indore

Nearly a week ahead of the entrance examination for Master of Philosophy (MPhil), the Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV) postponed the test "in the interest of students".

The test was scheduled for June 3 but it would now tentatively be held either on June 17 or June 25.

"New date of the exam will be declared after consultation with vice chancellor Dr Narendra Dhakad," said VB Gupta, chairman of PhD-MPhil cell at DAVV.

He said that the university postponed the date of entrance test in the interest of students.

Many students had applied for both PhD and MPhil entrance exams. PhD

entrance test was held on May 13 and its results are to be announced on May 30 or 31.

"Those who could not clear PhD entrance exam (also known as doctoral entrance test-DET) will have an opportunity to appear in MPhil entrance test. We want student to give ample time for preparation of MPhil, so extended the exam date," said Gupta.

MPhil candidates are exempted from DET. So the candidates who complete MPhil degree can later apply for admission in PhD course directly. They will not have to take entrance test and undergo six-month course work.

"It is because DET and MPhil both are national level exams and are considered of equivalent," Gupta said.

MPhil subjects

Commerce, Economics, Education, Energy and Environment, English, Geography, Hindi, History, Home Science, Journalism and Mass Communication, Law, Life Science, Management, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sanskrit, Social Work, Sociology, Urdu.

DET results to be out by May 31

DET results would be declared by May 31. "We are currently accepting objections over the model answer keys on DET. Objections would be accepted till 5.30 pm on Monday. After addressing the answer books, we will prepare the final answer keys and based on it evaluate answer books," said Gupta. He said that the results would be declared on May 30 or May 31. "Evaluation of answer books would be done by computer so it won't take much time," he added. DET was held for 44 subjects on May 13.

He also stated that the MPhil degree holders will not have to undergo six-month course work as the subjects taught in the coursework are already part

of their MPhil degree course.

The MPhil entrance test would be held for admission on 420 vacant seats in 22 subjects.

Elderly man killed in road accident on bypass

OUR STAFF REPORTER
Indore

An elderly person was found dead on bypass on Saturday evening. It is said that he was killed when an unidentified vehicle hit his vehicle while going to attend a function at his relative's place. However, police are waiting for autopsy report to know the exact reason for his death.

According to Kanadiya police, the deceased has been identified as Kailash Pathrod, 65, a resident of Kanpel under Khudel police station jurisdiction. Passers-by found him dead around 7.40 pm on the bypass after which they informed the police. His two-wheeler was also found near the body. People later

informed his family members using his mobile phone. Police said that the injury marks were also found on his body and it seemed that he was hit by a speeding vehicle and he died due to critical injuries.

Kailash was on his way to attend a function at his relative's place in Kanadiya area when he met with the accident. Police have sent the body for autopsy and are investigating the case.

In another incident, a person named Dasherath (25) of Pipliyahana was killed while he was trying to escape from a speeding vehicle on Sanwer Road. Police said that the body was sent for autopsy and the investigation is on into the case.

HUMAN DYNAMO

TINA KHATRI
Indore

While most students are anxiously waiting for Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) that will be declared on May 31, one such aspirant shares his story of taking chances and achieving success with Free Press.

Born in Bhopal and brought up in Indore, 19-year-old law aspirant Anup Joseph was always surrounded by friends. "I never faced any problems throughout my school life, as I was average in academics and a football player," he said.

He had hoped that life would continue to flow in similar rhythm with loving friends and easy success.

'We must give ourself a chance to win'



Anup Joseph with his family and mentor

He explained that science students can further specialise in commerce or art, but switching for commerce or art to scientific field is not possible. "While studying science in class XI and XII, I realised that I did not want to become an engineer like everyone else," Anup said.

Growing up in a disciplined environment at

home and in his school (St Paul HS School), he understood the importance of rules. "My parents are like my friends now, but they are always insistent on following certain rules and regulations in life," Anup said.

Though his parents never

"My parents supported me and I eventually found the perfect CLAT mentor (Ashustosh Kaushik) who could understand my ambition and prepare me for law entrance," Anup said.

He prepared for law entrance exams along with class XII board examination. "My basics were clear, but pressure of board examination was too much and I could not clear any of the entrance," Anup said.

It was the first failure in his life. "I was devastated and might have been depressed if my mentor and parents had not stood by me," Anup said.

His parents counselled him and Kaushik motivated him to give it another chance. "I decided to take a year's break and study for

entrances again," Anup said.

During that year, his neighbours and relatives taunted and questioned him for the failure. "I had to move to Bhopal as my dad was transferred, so I bought test series from my mentor," Anup said.

Regularly checking his score based on test series, he was able to prepare himself for the test. "This year, I attempted National Law University, Delhi and got 45 all India rank (AIR), got AIR 4 in Maharashtra CET and hoping to clear CLAT as well this year," Anup said.

He advises students never give up after a failure. "We have to give ourselves a chance so that we can win," Anup said.