

Roads in Madhya Pradesh better than those in the USA

Here's something for your daily dose of bizarre statements: recently, our hon'ble chief minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan was reported saying "When I got down at the Washington airport and travelled on roads, I felt roads in MP are better than the US." When I first heard this, I thought it was a sarcastic comment out of a comedian's show and not something that my state's CM would say while addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership forum. Well, I'm glad Mr Chouhan finally realised this truth and expressed it in front of the public. The 29 pothole-related accidents that



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take place in MP everyday is obviously a good sign of development; and the fact that there have been 11,832 traffic-related deaths in the state only in the past year (NCRB report) is surely a testament to the claim that MP has safe,

high-quality roads. Honestly, the irony is so off the charts here, that somewhere in an alternative universe, Chandler Bing is exploding with jokes right now. While the District of Columbia boasts of world-class highways, cows make up for a major chunk of the traffic in MP. I'm confused about whether to feel amused or concerned about the fact that the leader of our state's government doesn't even realise the gravity of problems that exist in our transport system. As it is, our daily set of news is slowly turning into an edition of 'Ripley's Believe it or Not', so let's stay tuned in — for all we know, the next headline could read, "India has a better railway system than Japan."

Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan claims that roads in Madhya Pradesh are better than those in the US. The CM of MP said this while on a trip to Washington DC for several meetings seeking investment. He travelled by Air India and tweeted saying, "When I got down at the Washington airport and travelled on the road, I felt the roads in MP are better than those in US." Unfortunately, his facts were not updated and the Union minister of state for road transport in India replied that the maximum number of road accidents

due to potholes in 2015 were in MP. Taking the issue a step further, the Congress party has declared a reward of ₹5100 to those who will show a single road



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across MP, built on US standards. The CM's statements generated a buzz on the internet and people began to post potholed roads of the state with sarcastic comments hashtagged as #MProads and comparing the roads of MP and US. The CM might also have got a break from his usual habit of sending greetings to

people as he himself started receiving some, as in an ironical turn of events for the CM, a photo showing him being lifted by security personnel to cross a swollen *nullah* in the state Panna district of MP to meet the flood-hit people there, went viral. The worth of his words has surely been washed away like the roads of the Panna district at least for the time being. Hopefully that value recovers speedily as he might schedule a 'peace fast' for himself. It was also tittle-tattle a few days ago that Donald Trump has been sending photos of his hands to a magazine editor for 26 years, after he called him a 'short-fingered vulgarian'. We are expecting an art gallery of roads this time for Mr Shivraj Chouhan.