

Rs 1,782 cr relief package sanctioned for MP dam-affected families

Bhopal: In a wide-ranging set of decisions, the Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, approved crucial measures spanning infrastructure, industry, and employee welfare. The meeting, which began with the traditional singing of Vande Mataram at the Secretariat, focused heavily on providing enhanced relief and ensuring long-term project viability across the state.

Major boost for displaced families

The Cabinet approved a massive Rs 1,782 crore special package for families affected by the submergence caused by the Upper Narmada, Raghavpur, and Basania Multipurpose Projects in Anuppur, Mandla, and Dindori districts. This amount is in addition to the Rs 1,656 crore already provisioned. The total project cost is Rs 5,512 crore and will irrigate 71,967 hectares and generate 125 MW of electricity. The package ensures a compensation of Rs 12.50 lakh per family for the nearly 13,873 affected families, with an additional sum earmarked for about 50,000 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families.

Metro and rural road funding

The operational continuity of major urban infrastructure was secured with the



approval of Rs 90 crore 67 lakh for the operation and maintenance of the Bhopal and Indore Metro Rail Projects for the financial year 2025–26. Separately, rural connectivity received a boost, with permission granted for 3,810 works costing approximately Rs 693 crore 76 lakh under the Chief Minister's Village Road and Infra-

structure Scheme.

Entrepreneurship and employment overhaul

The Cabinet backed youth entrepreneurship by approving the continuation of the Chief Minister's Udyam Kranti Yojana until the year 2030–31, with an expenditure of Rs 905 crore 25 lakh. The scheme provides bank loans from Rs 50,000 to Rs 50 lakh for youth aged 18 to 45, along with a 3% annual interest subsidy.

In a key administrative reform, the distinction between sanctioned permanent and temporary posts in state government departments was approved for elimination. This measure seeks to convert existing sanctioned temporary posts into permanent ones, promoting job security and reducing disparities across the workforce.

Investment in forestry research

Finally, the Cabinet sanctioned Rs 48 crore for the establishment of six Forest Science Centers across the state from 2025–26 to 2029–30. These centers aim to boost forestry expansion outside forest areas, increase land productivity, and promote agroforestry, allowing even non-government organizations to participate with permission.

Rat menace spurs new hospital construction

► Deputy CM Shukla touts 2-year achievements in press meet

Bhopal: Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, who holds the Public Health and Medical Education portfolio, addressed reporters today, outlining his department's two-year achievements while simultaneously tackling tough questions on ongoing hospital crises, including repeated rat infestations and a major blood contamination scandal.

New buildings to combat old woes: Addressing concerns about rat infestations, particularly at Jabalpur's government hospital and the previous high-profile case at Indore's M.Y. Hospital ICU, the Deputy CM stated that replacing aging infrastructure is the solution. He confirmed that the 70-year-old M.Y. Hospital is being demolished and rebuilt at a cost of Rs 773 crore precisely to eliminate such longstanding issues. He also assured reporters that a committee is investigating the tragic case of four Thalassemia-affected children receiving HIV-positive blood in Satna, noting that parental history is being checked for one child, while the blood source for the other three is under intense scrutiny.

Unprecedented medical education growth: Shukla highlighted an "unprecedented expansion" in medical education. The number of government medical colleges has increased from 14 to 19, and the total MBBS seats in the state have swelled to 5,550 (up from 2,275 in



the government sector). PG seats have also risen to 2,862. The next academic session will see new medical colleges starting in Damoh, Budhni, and Chhatarpur. Furthermore, construction under the PPP model has begun in four out of nine planned districts, including Katni and Dhar.

Staffing and super speciality Push:

Acknowledging staffing shortages, the Deputy CM promised to increase positions in district hospitals and enhance salaries and incentives for medical and paramedical staff. He noted that the availability of 93 Super Speciality seats has opened new dimensions for advanced medical education. Infrastructure strengthening includes the Rs 773 crore for M.Y. Hospital, Rs 321.94 crore for Rewa's Shyamshah Medical College, and Rs 383.22 crore for the Satna Medical College's new hospital.

Future vision: Digital and accessible healthcare: Sharing the three-year roadmap, Shukla outlined the goal to operationalize all under-construction medical colleges by 2028, significantly increase MBBS and PG seats, and recruit specialist doctors. Crucially, the government plans to extend advanced facilities like Dialysis, MRI, and Cath Lab services to Civil Hospitals and develop Trauma Centers along major highways, emphasizing a new standard of modern, digital, and citizen-centric healthcare.

CM Yadav transfers Rs 160 Cr. Sambal Aid to MP Workers

Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav emphatically declared that the state's workers are the "true builders of Madhya Pradesh," whose relentless hard work forms the foundation of its progress. Reaffirming his government's commitment to social security, the Chief Minister today transferred Rs 160 crore in ex-gratia assistance directly into the bank accounts of 7,227 beneficiaries under the flagship Chief Minister Jan Kalyan (Sambal 2.0) Scheme.

Sambal scheme: A shield in hardship: Addressing the distribution programme, Dr. Yadav highlighted the Sambal Scheme as more than just financial aid—it is a "relationship of mutual trust" between the government and the working class. Since its inception in 2018, the scheme has provided Rs 7,383 crore in assistance across 7.76 lakh cases. The Chief Minister announced that this social security umbrella has now been extended to include gig and platform work-

ers as unorganised labourers, linking them and other Sambal beneficiaries to the Ayushman Bharat Scheme for free medical treatment up to Rs 5 lakh.

The government's support also focuses on maternal health, providing ₹16,000 to expectant mothers to ensure nutritional needs are met.

Ensuring support and swift delivery: Labour Minister Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, joining virtually, noted the scheme's expansion, with over 1.83 crore workers now registered. He proudly stated that the Labour Department has achieved a major milestone by ensuring that Sambal case payments are now cleared within 60 days, addressing the backlog left by previous administrations. The Chief Minister stressed that the government stands firmly with every poor and working-class family in every difficult phase, ensuring no worker should ever feel helpless.

CM Yadav's cabinet brief: Heritage Push and Health Overhaul

Bhopal: In a pre-Cabinet address, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav highlighted significant achievements and ambitious infrastructure plans for Madhya Pradesh, reinforcing the state's focus on energy conservation, cultural heritage, and healthcare modernization. He commended the national recognition received by MP and announced major capital investments.

State pride in national spotlight: The Chief Minister expressed great pride as Myana Railway Station in Guna district was honored by President Smt. Droupadi Murmu with the National Energy Conservation Award

for saving a remarkable 9,687 units of electrical energy. Further bolstering state prestige, Betul artisan Baldev Waghmare received the National Handicrafts Award for the exquisite, GI-tagged Bharewa metal craft—a skill integral to the Gond community's cultural legacy.

Heritage-led development and major overhaul: Dr. Yadav announced that the dilapidated M.Y. Hospital in Indore is set for a massive reconstruction and upgradation at a cost of Rs 773 crore. This project will deliver a new, state-of-the-art 1,450-bed facility along with a nursing hostel and auditori-

um, addressing long-standing difficulties.

Simultaneously, the state is realizing its resolve for heritage-led development by constructing majestic gateway structures dedicated to great personalities on Bhopal's major thoroughfares, such as the recently laid foundation stone for the Vikramaditya Gate on the Bhopal-Indore road.

The Chief Minister also recognized the state's sporting heroes, announcing a reward of Rs 25 lakh each for the three visually challenged women cricketers from MP who secured victory in the T-20 World Cup (Blind) 2025 final.

MP gripped by intense cold wave

22 districts under fog and chill alert

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh is currently reeling under a fierce cold wave coupled with dense fog, significantly impacting daily life. The Meteorological Department has issued a weather alert for 22 districts across the state, with an Orange Alert declared for 12 of them. Visibility in these areas is expected to drop as low as 50 meters, making travel hazardous. Minimum temperatures across several cities have plummeted to around 6°C, intensifying the winter chill.

Temperatures fall, new disturbances loom: Over the past 24 hours, the districts of Bhopal, Raisen, Indore, and Shajapur felt the distinct impact of the cold wave. The highest drop in maximum temperature was recorded in the Ujjain division, falling by 2.4°C. The Bhopal division recorded minimum temperatures up to 4.8°C below normal, signaling severe cold conditions. Weather scientists attribute the current conditions to a cyclonic circulation over the Jammu region and a strong subtropical westerly jet stream.

Dr. Govind Singh demands CM Yadav halt illegal mining in Bhind

Bhind: The brazen attempt by the sand mafia to ram the official vehicle of Lahar SDM Vijay Singh Yadav has drawn sharp condemnation from former Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Govind Singh, who has written to Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav demanding immediate and strict action.

The incident, which occurred on the Mihona Bypass on December 15, involved an overloaded, royalty-free tractor trolley attempting to run over the SDM after he tried to stop it. Although the SDM escaped injury, his government vehicle was damaged. In his letter, Dr. Singh al-



leged that hundreds of vehicles are illegally transporting sand daily in Bhind, causing massive revenue loss to the state. He directly accused the police and mining department of colluding with the sand mafia, allowing them to

operate openly in the Mihona region despite repeated complaints. To curb the menace, the former MLA suggested digging trenches at mining sites and installing CCTV cameras on major routes for surveillance. Dr. Singh warned the Chief Minister that failing to immediately stop the illegal operations could lead to a major public safety tragedy.

Blood transfusions give children HIV in Satna Govt Hospital

Satna/Bhopal: A medical nightmare has gripped Madhya Pradesh as four Thalassemia-stricken children, aged 12 to 15, have devastatingly tested HIV positive after receiving blood transfusions at the government-run Satna District Hospital. The very blood bank meant to sustain their lives has allegedly delivered a lethal blow due to compromised safety standards. This chilling revelation, surfacing four months after the initial infection was detected, points to a catastrophic lapse, with officials suspecting either contaminated blood or infected needles as the source.

Trust betrayed by the system: These young patients, some of whom have undergone nearly a hundred transfusions to manage their chronic blood disorder, relied completely on the hospital's blood

► Lifeline turned lethal



bank. Devendra Patel, in-charge of the blood bank, confirmed the infections, stating, "Blood transfusion seems to be the most likely cause." The agonizing reality is borne by the families; one relative shared that the anti-HIV medication is causing the child to vomit and feel weak, adding insult to profound injury. The hospital system,



where their family members' tests came back negative, stands solely accountable. **Opposition demands resignation:** The Opposition Congress has seized upon the tragedy, launching a scathing attack on the administration. MLA Sachin Yadav demanded the immediate resignation of Health Minister Rajendra Shukla, claiming

the incident warrants a murder case against the responsible parties. He cited a string of prior health failures—from toxic cough syrup to rat infestations—accusing the government of spreading HIV instead of preventing it. **Minister Shukla orders probe, awaits report:** Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Rajendra Shukla acknowledged the gravity of the situation. He told reporters in Bhopal that the matter is serious and that a four-member investigation team has been formed to probe the incident. "It will be possible to comment further only after the report is received," Minister Shukla said. "It is also being investigated whether the blood transfusion took place in other hospitals also or only in the government hospital."

Fog grounds flights: 22 Indore-bound services cancelled amid Delhi smog



Indore: Air travel woes continue for passengers as relief from overhauled Indigo flight disruptions is immediately overshadowed by dense fog in Delhi. The severe weather has crippled air traffic, directly impacting operations at Indore Airport.

According to airport sources, a total of 16 flights connecting Indore to Delhi and onward to

other cities were cancelled yesterday due to low visibility. The situation worsened this morning, with six more flights (between 6:30 AM and 9:00 AM) scrapped, bringing the two-day total of cancelled services to 22.

The cancellations, which included five Delhi flights and one Jaipur flight this morning, stranded thousands of passengers and caused chaos at the airport. An Air India flight, scheduled for Delhi, was among those cancelled, leading to an uproar. BJP leader Gopi Nema and other passengers, who had already reached the airport, protested, claiming the airline failed to provide timely cancellation alerts via message.

Airport officials confirmed that the schedule remained disturbed throughout the day, forcing the cancellation of flights to Goa, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Gondia as well, compounding the travel misery for passengers.

Indore Police honors top performers and citizen traffic wardens

Indore: The Indore Police Commissionerate held its weekly awards ceremony, recognizing 20 officers and personnel for their exceptional contributions across various domains. Police Commissioner Santosh Kumar Singh presented certificates and cash rewards to the winners at the Police Office in Palasia.

The Commissioner lauded the awardees, emphasizing their crucial role in delivering superior police services to the public. Those honored were recognized for commendable work, including:

- ★ Successful recovery of kidnapped children under 'Operation



Muskaan'.

- ★ Arrests in cases involving theft and counterfeit currency.
- ★ Seizure of illegal weapons.
- ★ Exemplary traffic management and organized

record-keeping. In addition to police personnel, four citizen Traffic Wardens were also honored for their voluntary efforts in managing the city's traffic flow. The event highlighted the increasing role of the

2,110 active citizen wardens who assist police daily at major intersections. Additional Commissioner R.K. Singh and DCP Anand Kaladgi also praised the dedicated efforts of all recipients.

Woman and Man arrested with 400 detonators at Dabhaura Station

Rewa: A significant consignment of explosive material was intercepted in Rewa's Dabhaura, leading to the arrest of one man and one woman. Police, acting on a tip-off, seized 400 detonators and accompanying cables from the duo shortly after they arrived by train.

The suspects, identified as Vinod Majhi of Sohagi and Pooja Majhi of Chhadeni village, Jawal, had traveled on the Janta Express from Manikpur, Uttar Pradesh, and disembarked at Dabhaura Railway Station.

► Explosive haul by Rewa police



Police immediately set up a cordon in the market area based on the received descrip-



tions. A search of their bags led to the discovery of the large cache of detonators and other

explosive components.

Station In-charge Rishabh Singh Baghel, who led the operation under the direction of SP Shailendra Singh Chauhan, confirmed that the arrested individuals are relatives. Preliminary investigation suggests the pair intended to illegally sell the explosive material within the region.

The seized explosives have been confiscated, and a case has been registered against the accused under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) as further investigation into their supply chain begins.

MP launches Phase-2 of 'Milk Prosperity Contact Campaign'

► Boosting dairy farmers' income

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh's Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department is set to launch the second phase of the 'Milk Prosperity Contact Campaign' on December 17, 2025. The initiative aims to directly engage with farmers and livestock owners to boost milk production and increase their income.

Department officials and trained personnel will visit the homes of an estimated 7.87 lakh livestock owners who keep between five and nine cattle or buffaloes.

The core focus of this phase is providing on-the-spot information and awareness on three critical areas: **Animal Nutrition:** Educating farmers on proper feed management. **Breed Improvement:** Highlighting methods for genetic enhancement of livestock.

Animal Health: Disseminating crucial information on disease prevention and care.

This extensive outreach follows the successful first

phase (October 3-9), where departmental teams reached 3.76 lakh livestock owners.

The current phase involves comprehensive training for master trainers at the State Animal Husbandry Training Institute, who in turn trained block-level staff.

The campaign will feature the participation of ministers and local representatives, and its implementation will be strictly monitored by District Control Rooms, ensuring a sustained push toward making MP a dairy powerhouse.