

# MP Government promotes over 90 IAS and IPS Officers

## ▶ New Year boon



**Bhopal:** The Madhya Pradesh government has rung in the New Year with a major administrative reshuffle, granting promotions to over 90 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers. Official orders released this Wednesday confirm that the new designations and pay scales will take effect from January 1, 2026.

### High-profile IAS elevations

Leading the list is M. Selvendran (2002 batch), who has been elevated

from Secretary to Principal Secretary. He will now take charge of the General Administration Department (GAD). Additionally, 16 officers from the 2010 batch have moved into the Super Time Scale, while 24 officers from the 2013 batch—including Dhar Collector Priyank Mishra—have been promoted to the Selection Grade. Younger cohorts also saw growth, with 15 officers from the 2017 batch and 9 from the 2022 batch receiving timely grade upgrades.

### Strategic shifts in the Police Force

The state's police hierarchy also witnessed significant movement. Ashutosh Roy (1994 batch) has been promoted to Special Director General of Police (AJAK) at the Police Headquarters. Meanwhile, Jabalpur IG Pramod Verma has been elevated to the rank of Additional Director General (ADG). Three officers from the 2008 batch have climbed from Deputy IG to Inspector General (IG) status.

### Proforma and mid-career progression

For those serving on central deputation, the government approved proforma promotions for seven senior IPS officers. Furthermore, 13 officers from the 2011 and 2012 batches have been promoted to Deputy Inspector General (DIG). A notable condition was set for six IPS officers of the 2017 batch, whose Junior Administrative Grade is subject to the successful completion of their mandatory Mid-Career Training Phase.

In a minor shuffle alongside these promotions, Sanjay Kumar (2011 batch) has been moved from the Revenue Department to the Labour Department as Additional Secretary.

## Digvijaya Singh's RSS remarks trigger Congress debate

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My praise is for their organisational strength, not for their ideology." However, the remarks triggered sharp reactions within the Congress. Party spokesperson Pawan Khera questioned what a Gandhian organisation like the Congress could possibly learn from an organisation associated with Nathuram Godse. Several other leaders also distanced themselves from Singh's comments, underlining the deep ideological divide between the Congress and the RSS.

Political analysts believe that Singh's statement reflects underlying concerns within the Congress regarding organisational weakness and internal dissatisfaction. A two-time Chief Minister and a party veteran with over five decades of experience, Singh is seen as being worried about the Congress's declining grassroots connect. Analysts suggest that his remarks should be viewed less as ideological endorsement and more as a call for organisational introspection and reform.

According to this interpretation, Singh is advocating that the Congress draw practical lessons in organisational efficiency and decentralised leadership, without compromising its core ideology. Singh's message, observers say, is unambiguous: despite strong ideological opposition, there should be no hesitation in learning from the organisational strengths of political rivals. Such an approach, he believes, could strengthen Congress workers at the grassroots and help prepare a new generation capable of mounting a more effective challenge in the political arena.

# CM Yadav sets 100 lakh hectare irrigation target

## ▶ Every farm of the state to get water

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has announced an ambitious vision to transform Madhya Pradesh's agricultural landscape, setting a target to expand the state's irrigation coverage to 100 lakh hectares by 2028-29. Highlighting the government's "Per Drop More Crop" philosophy, the CM emphasized that three massive national projects will serve as the backbone of this transformation.



aims to create new irrigation potential for 6.16 lakh hectares and modernize existing canal systems in districts like Bhind, Morena, and Indore.

**Mega Tap Recharge Project:** Touted as the world's largest groundwater recharge initiative, this Rs 19,244 crore joint venture with Maharashtra will stabilize water tables in Burhanpur and Khandwa. It focuses on underground replenishment rather than just surface storage.

### Triple engine of water revolution:

The state is currently implementing three monumental river-linking and recharge projects that promise to redefine water security in Central India:

**Ken-Betwa Link Project:** Rs 44,605 crore initiative set to irrigate over 8.11 lakh hectares across 10 districts in Bundelkhand. Beyond farming, it will provide drinking water to 44 lakh people and generate 130 MW of combined hydro and solar power.

**Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) Link:** This Rs 72,000 crore project (with MP's share at Rs 35,000 crore) will rejuvenate the Malwa and Chambal regions. It

stabilize water tables in Burhanpur and Khandwa. It focuses on underground replenishment rather than just surface storage.

**National leadership in water management:** Madhya Pradesh has already emerged as a national leader in micro-irrigation and water conservation, recently earning the National Water Award. The state's focus is not just on mega-dams but also on decentralized solutions like the Atal Bhujal Yojana, which has seen active community participation in 670 gram panchayats across Bundelkhand.

"Farmers' prosperity is our highest priority," CM Yadav stated, noting that the roadmap for the next three years is already in motion to ensure every field in the state has a reliable water source.

# MP shatters all-time electricity demand record

**Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh has signed off the year 2025 with a monumental achievement in the energy sector, successfully meeting its highest-ever electricity demand. On December 31, at 10:44 AM, the state's power grid seamlessly supplied a record-breaking 19,849 MW of electricity, marking a new chapter in the state's journey toward energy self-reliance.

### Seamless supply amidst peak pressure

Energy Minister Pradhman Singh Tomar lauded the feat, attributing it to the technical prowess and tireless dedication of the state's electricity personnel. Despite the unprecedented load, the transmission network remained robust with zero load-shedding. Minister Tomar highlighted that this "Power Record" was achieved through flawless coordination between production centers, sub-stations, and

## ▶ Historic leap in power



### Division-wise demand breakdown

The West Zone (Indore and Ujjain) emerged with the highest ap-

petite for power. According to Chief Engineer Rajesh Gupta (MP Transco), the demand was distributed as follows:

- West Zone (Indore/Ujjain):** 7,911 MW
- Central Zone (Bhopal/Gwalior):** 6,171 MW
- East Zone (Jabalpur/ Sagar/ Rewa):** 5,351 MW
- Railways & SEZ:** 416 MW

### Diverse energy sources fueling the grid

The state utilized a strategic mix of traditional and green energy to satisfy the peak:

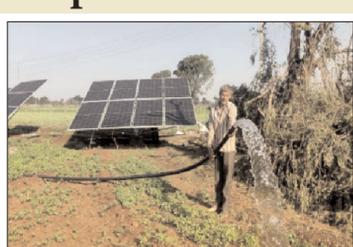
- Thermal Power:** 3,638 MW
- Hydropower:** 1,568 MW
- Renewable Energy:** 1,456 MW
- NTPC & Other Sources:** 13,187 MW

This milestone not only reflects the state's strengthening infrastructure but also sets a solid foundation for meeting the growing industrial and agricultural needs of 2026.

# From 'Annadata' to 'Urjadata'

## ▶ MP farmers to power fields with solar energy

**Bhopal:** In a landmark shift for rural Madhya Pradesh, the state government under Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav is transforming 52,000 farmers from traditional food providers (Annadata) into energy providers (Urjadata). Through the innovative Pradhan Mantri Krishak Mitra Surya Yojana, solar energy is being harnessed to slash irrigation costs and create a new stream of income for the farming community.



supply.

### Unmatched 90% subsidy support

The financial structure of the scheme is designed to empower even the most marginal farmers. The government provides a 90% subsidy, broken down as follows:

- Government of India:** 30% of the benchmark cost.
- MP State Government:** 60% (as a loan with interest borne by the state)
- Farmer's Contribution:** Only a minimal 10% of the actual cost.

### Massive rollout of solar pumps

The state is moving at lightning speed to implement this green revolution. So far, Letters of Award have been issued for 34,600 units, with work orders already released for 33,000 installations. Farmers in 10 districts, including Bhopal, Sehore, and Jabalpur, are already seeing the first phase of installation. These off-grid pumps, ranging from 1 HP to 7.5 HP, free farmers from the burden of high electricity bills and erratic night-time power

### Earning from surplus energy

Beyond free irrigation, the scheme features a dual-benefit model. By using Universal Solar Pump Controllers (USPC), farmers can sell surplus energy generated by their panels back to the grid. This ensures energy security during the day and financial security throughout the year. For more information, farmers can visit the official portal at cmsolarpump.mp.gov.in.

# MP Tourism: 2025 marks a golden era of sky-high innovation



**Bhopal:** Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, 2025 has emerged as a landmark year for Madhya Pradesh Tourism. By blending cultural resurgence with cutting-edge connectivity, the state recorded a staggering 14 crore tourist arrivals—a 25% growth—solidifying its position as India's premier travel destination.

### Revolutionary connectivity: PM SHRI Services

The year's highlight was the launch of the PM

SHRI Tourism Air and Helicopter Services. These PPP-model initiatives have bridged the gap between major hubs like Indore and Bhopal and spiritual gems like Omkareshwar and Chitrakoot. With seamless booking via flyola.in, exploring the "Heart of Incredible India" has never been faster or more accessible.

### Investment surge and infrastructure

Tourism has become a powerhouse for the state economy, receiving investment proposals worth Rs 64,635 crore during the Global In-

vestors Summit 2025. Key projects include: **Advait Lok (Omkareshwar):** Phase II approved with over Rs 2,424 crore. **Expansion:** Plans for 500 new hotels and 20,000 rooms to meet rising demand. **Heritage:** 15 new sites added to UNESCO's Tentative List.

### Empowering communities and women

MP is leading the way in Responsible Tourism. Over 400 rural homestays are operational, with a target of 1,000 to empower local livelihoods. Furthermore, the state has prioritized safety and inclusivity by training 50,000 women in hospitality and self-defense, with several sites now fully women-operated.

### A cinematic hub

With the Film Tourism Policy 2025, MP has hosted over 400 projects, including hits like *Stree* and *Panchayat*. The state's natural beauty and eased permissions have generated Rs 700 crore in revenue and 1.5 lakh jobs, proving that MP is not just a destination, but a global stage.

# HC upholds life sentence for POCSO convict

## ▶ "Article 142 powers reserved for Supreme Court"

**Jabalpur:** In a significant legal ruling, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has dismissed an appeal by a POCSO convict who sought leniency on the grounds of his subsequent marriage to the victim. The division bench, comprising Justice Vivek Agarwal and Justice Ram Kumar Choubhe, clarified that while the Supreme Court holds extraordinary powers to grant relief under Article 142, High Courts do not possess such constitutional discretion.

The appellant, Sajjan Bhatt of Itarsi, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the sexual assault of a 17-year-old girl. Bhatt argued for a reduced sentence, stating that after being released on bail, he married the victim and they now have a child together. He con-

tended that his incarceration would leave his wife and child without any support or family.

However, the Court noted that since the victim was a minor at the time of the incident, her consent was legally irrelevant under the POCSO Act. The bench emphasized that the trial court committed no error in its judgment.

Addressing the plea for mercy based on previous Supreme Court precedents, the High Court stated that such "complete justice" interventions are exclusive to the Apex Court. Consequently, the life sentence remains upheld, reinforcing that marriage cannot be used as a legal shield against statutory crimes involving minors.

# Navabharat & Central Chronicle present WPL Season 4

## ▶ A grand kick-off at Viaana Sports Arena

**Jabalpur:** The city is buzzing with excitement as Navabharat and Central Chronicle join forces as official media sponsors for the much-anticipated Women's Premier League (WPL) Season 4. Hosted at the state-of-the-art Viaana Sports Arena from January 4 to 9, 2026, this tournament is set to redefine box-cricket for women in the region.



"Shimmer & Glitter" themed New Year party on January 2, where the official fixtures will be revealed amidst a gala of fashion shows and music.

A landmark event for women's sports: Supported by a powerhouse of sponsors including IDA and Burn Bug, the league aims to provide a professional platform for married and unmarried women alike. Following the women's finale, the Men's Premier League (MPL) will keep the momentum alive from January 13. Organizers and media partners invite the citizens of Jabalpur to witness this celebration of grit and sportsmanship.

# Winners announced for state-level High School Math and Science Olympiad

**Bhopal:** The School Education Department has officially declared the results of the prestigious Math and Science Olympiad for the 2025-26 academic session. Aimed at fostering scientific temperament among Class 9 and 10 students, the competition witnessed a massive turnout of nearly 70,000 aspirants across Madhya Pradesh.

The rigorous selection process began on December 7 at the block level, with toppers advancing to the divisional stage held on December 28. A total of 373 mathematical wizards and 395 science enthusiasts competed in the divisional rounds. From this elite pool, the state-level winners were selected based on their exceptional problem-solving skills and academic depth. To celebrate these young minds, the department has announced substantial cash rewards. The first-prize winners will receive Rs 51,000, followed by Rs 31,000 for second place and Rs 21,000 for third.

# 'Green Impressions' calendar unveiled by ACS Shukla

## ▶ Art teachers use creativity to promote environmental awareness

**Bhopal:** Artistic expression can play a vital role in building environmental awareness and sensitizing society towards ecological concerns. These views were expressed by Sanjay Kumar Shukla, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, chief guest at the programme, during the launch of the art teachers' calendar titled "Green Impressions." He described the initiative as a meaningful confluence of art and social consciousness and stressed the need to continue such creative efforts for long-term impact. The annual Green Impressions calendar, published by the ArtDesign Teachers' Forum presents strong artistic expressions highlighting environmental and civic issues.



The guests of honour during launch ceremony included Dr Vidya Rakesh, Director of National Institute of Design (NID), MP, and Akhil Sahai, Director of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bhopal. The programme was chaired by Manish Rajoria, Chairman of Career Group of Insti-

tutions, who also welcomed the guests.

**Art, education and environmental responsibility:** At the outset, Devil Patidar of ArtDesign Teachers' Forum spoke on new directions in art for art teachers and the role of the Forum. This was followed by Sunil Shukla, who explained that the calendar is based on Raza-inspired artworks created during a three-day residential workshop at

Azim Premji University, Bhopal. Thirty-two art teachers from across the state participated, using plastic waste and discarded materials to creatively depict environmental crises. The calendar was unveiled and certificates were presented to selected teachers. The initiative was supported by the Raza Foundation, New Delhi, and Career Design School.