



Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Approves Key Projects | Madhya Pradesh | 25 Oct 2025

Why in News?

The **Madhya Pradesh Cabinet**, chaired by **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav**, has approved several major policy decisions, including the **continuation of the zero-interest crop loan scheme**, **expansion of district hospitals**, **launch of new expressways**, and the **implementation of a [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#) Assessment Plan** for 2025-30.



MEGA INFRA LEAP COMING

Madhya Pradesh is being linked with a web of new expressways. The state would get 3368 km of expressways at a cumulative cost of ₹36483 cr over the next four years. The new road projects would connect urban centres to the remotest corners of the state;

WHAT ARE THE NEW E-WAYS?

The new expressways include Narmada Pragati path, Vindhya expressway, Malwa-Nimar Vikas Path, Atal Pragati Path, Bundelkhand Vikas Path, Madhya Bharat Vikas Path

PROGRESS OF WORK SO FAR

Barring the Atal Pragati path, work is in progress on the remaining five expressways. The road projects would be ready for vehicular movement between December 2027 and December 2028. The projects are being commissioned and developed by state PWD

WHAT IS AN E-WAY?

An expressway is a high-speed, controlled-access highway designed for efficient, uninterrupted travel. These roads typically have multiple divided lanes, no intersections, and regulated entry/exit points, allowing for high speeds and reducing accidents

> Of the **415-km-long** greenfield e-way, 299 km lies within Madhya Pradesh

> Project proposed to come up on the state's northern border, near the banks of the Chambal River

> The e-way would begin at the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and end at the **Bundelkhand Expressway in the east**

> It will be built in 8 phases after finalising the tenders

> The completion deadline is **Dec 2029**

> Project currently caught up in political wrangling over finalisation of the route

Atal Pragati Path

Malwa-Nimar Vikas Path

> The total length of the project is **450 kms**

> The project would link Burhanpur, Khandwa, Indore, Ujjain and Garoth

The project cost is estimated to be **₹7972 crore**

> The deadline is **Dec 2027**

> Project spans a total of **746 kms**

> It will also link top tourist destinations such as Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhimbetka, Bhojpur, Sanchi, Udayagiri, Chanderi, Orchha, and Datia

> Deadline for the project is **Dec 2028**

Madhya Bharat Vikas Path

> It will connect the northern border of the region (Morena) to the southern border (Betul)

Project cost pegged at **₹3819 crore**

> Project spans **330 kms**, including 180 km from Bhopal to Sagar and 190 kms from Sagar to Chhatarpur

> Project will connect Bhopal to Chhatarpur

> Deadline for completing project is **Dec 2027**

Project cost pegged at **₹3357 crore**

Bundelkhand Vikas Path

Vindhya Expressway

> This project spans **676 kms**, covering 10 districts of MP

> The e-way would connect Bhopal with the Singrauli district

> The districts to be covered by the project include Bhopal, Sagar, Damoh, Katni, Rewa, Sidhi and Singrauli

> The deadline is **June 2029**

The project is pegged at **₹3809 crore**

Narmada Pragati Path

> The total length of the project is **867 kms**

> The work is to be carried out in phases

> All phases are likely to be completed by **Dec 2028**

The project cost is pegged at **₹5299 crore**

It would extend till NH-45E (Bilaspur and Raipur in Chhattisgarh) in the east and NH-59 (the Gujarat side of Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor) in the west

Nagpur

> **Atal Pragati Path** would run across three dists: Sheopur, Bhind and Morena

> **Vindhya Expressway** links Bhopal with Singrauli

> **Madhya Bharat Vikas Path** to link top tourist hotspots of MP

> **Narmada Pragati Path** runs from Jhabua to Amarkantak

> **Bundelkhand Vikas Path** to connect Bhopal to Chhatarpur through Sagar

> **Malwa-Nimar Vikas Path 4** connects Burhanpur to Garoth

(Compiled by Ankur Sirothia)

Key Points

- **Zero-Interest Crop Loan Scheme:**
 - The Cabinet has approved the continuation of the **short-term crop loan scheme at 0% interest** through [Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies \(PACS\)](#) for **FY 2025-26**.
 - The scheme, operational since **2012-13**, aims to support farmers by reducing debt burden and enhancing agricultural productivity.
 - Farmers availing **loans up to ₹3 lakh** and repaying by the due date will not be charged any interest.
- **Road Infrastructure:**
 - In a significant infrastructure push, Madhya Pradesh is set to develop **3,368 km of expressways** worth **₹36,483 crore** over the next **four years (2024-28)**.
 - The expressways aim to **link urban centres with remote regions**, boost **trade, logistics, and industrial development**, and provide **seamless connectivity** across the state.
 - The projects, commissioned by the **Public Works Department (PWD)**, are expected to be completed between **December 2027 and December 2028**.
 - **Proposed expressways:**
 - Narmada Pragati Path
 - Vindhya Expressway
 - Malwa-Nimar Vikas Path
 - Atal Pragati Path
 - Bundelkhand Vikas Path
 - Madhya Bharat Vikas Path
- **SDG Assessment Plan 2025-30:**
 - The Cabinet approved the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Assessment Plan** to implement, monitor, and evaluate the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** at the **state, district, and block levels**.
 - To facilitate implementation, **543 regular, 4 contractual, and 263 additional posts** have been approved with an **annual expenditure of ₹39.50 crore**.
 - A **dashboard-based ranking system** will assess the performance of all districts on SDG indicators.
 - **Incentives:**
 - **1st Rank District:** ₹1 crore annual grant
 - **2nd Rank District:** ₹75 lakh annual grant
- **Expansion of District Hospitals:**
 - The Cabinet approved the **upgradation of 800 beds** and creation of **810 new posts** across five district hospitals — **Tikamgarh, Neemuch, Singrauli, Sheopur, and Dindori**.
 - The decision aims to strengthen healthcare delivery and enhance access to quality medical services in semi-urban and rural areas.
- **Strengthening of Judiciary:**
 - The Cabinet approved the creation of **seven new posts** for **Tehsil Malthone (Sagar district)**, including **one civil judge** and **six supporting staff** under the High Court Registrar.
 - The **move** aims to enhance judicial efficiency and reduce case pendency at the grassroots level.

Why in News?

India celebrated **International Snow Leopard Day** on **23rd October 2025** with a unique nationwide campaign titled '**#23for23**', which encouraged people to dedicate **23 minutes to physical activity** in order to raise awareness about the conservation of **snow leopards** and their **fragile high-altitude habitats**.

Key Points

- **About the Initiative:** The campaign '**#23for23**' was launched to symbolize **23 minutes of active participation** for the year 2023, promoting awareness and public engagement in wildlife conservation.
 - It was organized under the aegis of the **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP)** in collaboration with the **Snow Leopard Trust Worldwide**.
- **India's Conservation Achievements:**
 - The **first-ever Snow Leopard Census** conducted across the Indian Himalayas recorded **718 individual snow leopards**, out of which **477 are in Ladakh**.
 - India has identified snow leopard as a **flagship species** for the high-altitude Himalayas.
- **International Snow Leopard Day:** It came into being in **2013**, following the adoption of the **Bishkek Declaration** in Kyrgyzstan where **12 countries** that host snow leopard populations agreed to **collaborate** in their **conservation efforts**.
- **Countries Hosting Snow Leopards:** Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, **India**, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Facts About Snow Leopards (*Panthera uncia*)

- **About:** Medium-sized cats known for their **elusive nature** and ability to thrive in **harsh, high-altitude environments**.
- **Habitat:** Native to mountains of **Central and South Asia**, typically found at elevations between **9,800 and 17,000 feet**.
 - Population estimates range between **3,500 and 7,000 individuals** in the wild.
- **Feature:** Possess **thick, greyish-white fur** that provides **camouflage** against snow and rocks.
- **Ecological Importance:** Serve as **top predators** and **Indicator species**, as their presence **reflects the health** of their **high-altitude ecosystems**.
 - Their kills provide **food for scavengers** like **vultures** and wolves, supporting other species.

Snow Leopard

Panthera Uncia

Often referred to as the "ghost of the mountains"

HABITAT

- Mountainous regions of **Central and Southern Asia**
- 12** Range Countries
- In India:
 - Western Himalayas:** Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh
 - Eastern Himalayas:** Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh

MAJOR SITES

- Hemis National Park, Ladakh
 - Snow leopard capital of the world**
- Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh
- Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand
- Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim

PROTECTION STATUS

- Vulnerable:** IUCN Red List
- Appendix I:** CITES
- Schedule I:** Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme
- Himal Sanrakshak- Community Volunteer Programme
- Project Snow Leopard
- Snow Leopard Conservation Breeding Programme- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, West Bengal

