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Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

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Heritage Train Patalpani-Kalakund Line in MP

Why in News?

Indian Railways has resumed the operation of the historic (155 year old) **Patalpani-Kalakund heritage train** in **Madhya Pradesh** after a temporary suspension due to a drop in tourist footfall.

Key Points

- 💡 **Origin of the Line:** The line (Indore to Khandwa) was originally proposed by **Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II** (reign 1844-1886) of **Indore** in the 19th century, completed in **1878** under **Holkar State Railways**, and later merged with the **Rajputana-Malwa Railway**.
 - ✦ The need for a railway line in the area was recognised in the 19th century, with the establishment of the princely state of Indore, under the house of the Holkars, as a British protectorate in 1818.
 - ✦ The railway station at Patalpani was the first to be constructed on the line, between 1874 and 1878.
- 💡 **Location:** The **Patalpani-Kalakund line**, located in the **Dr Ambedkar Nagar-Khandwa section**, has been operational as a heritage train since **2018**.
 - ✦ Despite the challenge of **not being converted to broad gauge** due to the difficult terrain, **this 9.5 km meter-gauge line** has been preserved for its historical and scenic value.
- 💡 **Uniqueness:** The route covers deep **gorges**, high **embankments**, **tunnels**, and **natural springs**, including the famous **Patalpani waterfall** (on the **Choral River**, a tributary of the **Narmada**).

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways

- 💡 **Indian Railways (IR)** boasts over 160 years of history, safeguarding both tangible and intangible heritage.
- 💡 **Indian Railways** preserves four **UNESCO accorded World Heritage Sites** namely **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway** (1999), **Nilgiri Mountain Railway** (2005), **Kalka Shimla Railway** (2008) and **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai** (2004).

- ✦ There are two more in waiting or in the tentative list namely **Matheran Light Railway** and **Kangra Valley Railway**.

Well-Drilling Initiative for CO₂ Mineralisation

Why in News?

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal (IISER Bhopal), in collaboration with Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Geophysical Research Institute (**CSIR-NGRI**), has initiated a **well-drilling project** as part of the **DeCarbFaroe Programme**.

Key Points

- 💡 **DeCarbFaroe Programme:** This programme focuses on exploring **CO₂ mineralisation in basalt** for carbon storage purposes, a crucial aspect of **carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology** aimed at addressing **climate change**.
 - ✦ The project spans across nine countries in **Europe and Asia**, promoting scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange for advancing sustainable energy transitions. India plays a central role in this international effort.
- 💡 **Collaboration and International Insights:** The project extends from **PERBAS**, an international programme assessing the safety of carbon storage in flood basalts.
 - ✦ **PERBAS** incorporates valuable lessons from successful CO₂ mineralisation trials conducted in **Iceland** and the **United States**, where CO₂ was mineralised in basalt formations within two years.
- 💡 **Financial Support:** The **Department of Science and Technology, Government of India**, provides financial backing for both the **PERBAS** and **DeCarbFaroe** initiatives.
- 💡 **CO₂ Capture and Storage in Basalt Formations:** CCS technology works by capturing CO₂ from industrial emissions and injecting it deep underground for long-term storage.

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✦ The captured CO₂ is mixed with water and injected into **geological formations**, such as **saline aquifers** or **Deccan Trap basalt rocks**.

📌 **Basalt formations (Deccan Traps)** facilitate **rapid CO₂ mineralization**, a process in which CO₂ reacts with basalt to form **stable carbonate minerals** within a few years.

- This mineralisation ensures long-term carbon storage with minimal risk of CO₂ leakage, making it a safer option for long-term sequestration.

💡 **Significance:** As **India** emerges as the third-largest carbon emitter globally, with significant reliance on coal, **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)** technology becomes essential. CCS allows for the continued use of coal while mitigating its environmental impact.

✦ Projections by the **Energy Information Administration (2009)** suggest that developing nations will contribute 59% of global energy growth and 94% of the increase in coal usage by 2030, exacerbating greenhouse gas emissions.

Anjana Singh Raises Anti-Drug Banner at Mount Elbrus

Why in News?

Anjana Singh, a 26-year-old from Amarpatan in Maihar, Madhya Pradesh, raised a banner with the message “**Nashe Se Duri Hai Zaroori**” (Say No to Drugs) atop **Mount Elbrus**, Europe’s highest peak, at 18,510 feet.

💡 This initiative is part of a broader campaign by the Madhya Pradesh Police to raise **awareness about drugs** and support recovery for addicts.

💡 The Maihar Police is also running the ‘**Prabodhini**’ **program** to educate adolescent girls on safety, social risks, and to inspire them to focus on education and career goals.

Key Points

💡 **About Anjana Singh:** She reached the summit of Mount Elbrus in about 72 hours and proudly **promoted Hindi** as the primary language for the banner’s message.

✦ Upon returning from Mount Elbrus, she was honored by senior police officials for her contributions to the **anti-drug campaign**.

✦ In addition to her mountaineering accomplishments, Singh serves as the **brand ambassador** for the ‘**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**’ campaign in her district.

📌 This initiative focuses on **empowering women** and promoting their education and safety.

Mt. Elbrus

💡 Mt. Elbrus, the summit of the **Caucasus Mountains**, is located in southern Russia just north of the Georgian border, and is distinguished as **Europe’s highest peak (5642 m)**.

✦ The Caucasus Mountains form a long (more than 1200 kilometers) and steep spine connecting the **Black Sea to the Caspian Sea**.

💡 Elbrus is also an **ancient volcano (dormant volcano)**, although it has not erupted for nearly 2000 years.

✦ Elbrus’s profile comprises **two volcanic peaks (East and West)**.

💡 They are popular trekking and mountain climbing destinations; the saddle between them provides access to the region.

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Prabodhini Campaign for Adolescent Girls

- 💡 The **Prabodhini campaign** was launched in **October 2024** and has since involved extensive outreach to schools and villages.
- 💡 It was launched to educate adolescent girls in the district and focuses on **safety, social risks**, and encourages girls to pursue **educational** and **career goals**.
- 💡 **Police teams visit schools and villages**, aiming to raise awareness and reduce the vulnerabilities of young girls.
- 💡 As part of the ongoing expansion of the campaign, a **WhatsApp group** will be created for schoolgirls to create a strong network of **informed** and **empowered young girls** who can **identify** and **report abuse**, inspiring others to take similar action.

Discovery of Gold Ore in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Gold ore deposits were discovered in the **Mahgawan and Keolari** areas of Sihora tehsil, **Jabalpur** district, Madhya Pradesh, during an intensive survey conducted by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Survey and Findings:** Although **iron ore** is **abundant** in the region, **gold ore has been reported for the first time**, with geologists finding small quantities alongside iron ore.
 - ✦ The gold deposits in Jabalpur are spread across an estimated 100 hectares, with experts speculating that the **quantity could reach lakhs of tonnes**.
 - ✦ Preliminary soil sampling has also revealed the **presence of copper** and other valuable metals in the region.
- 💡 **Proximity to Other Gold Projects:** The discovery of gold in Jabalpur is notable because of its **close proximity to the Imliya gold and base metal block project** in **Dhimarkheda, Katni district**, which borders Jabalpur. This geographical continuity makes the finding of gold ore in Jabalpur's border areas unsurprising.
 - ✦ The **Imliya gold mine, leased for 50 years**, suggests that nearby areas such as Mahgawan and Keolari may have similar mineral profiles.
- 💡 **Significance:** The discovery of gold could lead to increased mineral exploration in Madhya Pradesh, adding gold to the already known reserves of **iron ore and manganese in the region**.
 - ✦ This discovery has the potential to **significantly boost the local economy** and establish Jabalpur as a key mineral-rich zone in India.

Mineral Resources in Madhya Pradesh

- 💡 Madhya Pradesh is the only state in India with **active diamond mining**, with the renowned **Panna mines**.
- 💡 It is also the **leading producer of copper concentrate, diaspore, pyrophyllite, manganese ore, limestone, and clay (others)**.
- 💡 The State hosts the country's **90% diamond, 74% diaspore, 55% laterite, 48% pyrophyllite, 41% molybdenum, 27% dolomite, 19% copper ore, 18% fireclay, 12% manganese, and 8% rock phosphate ore resources**.

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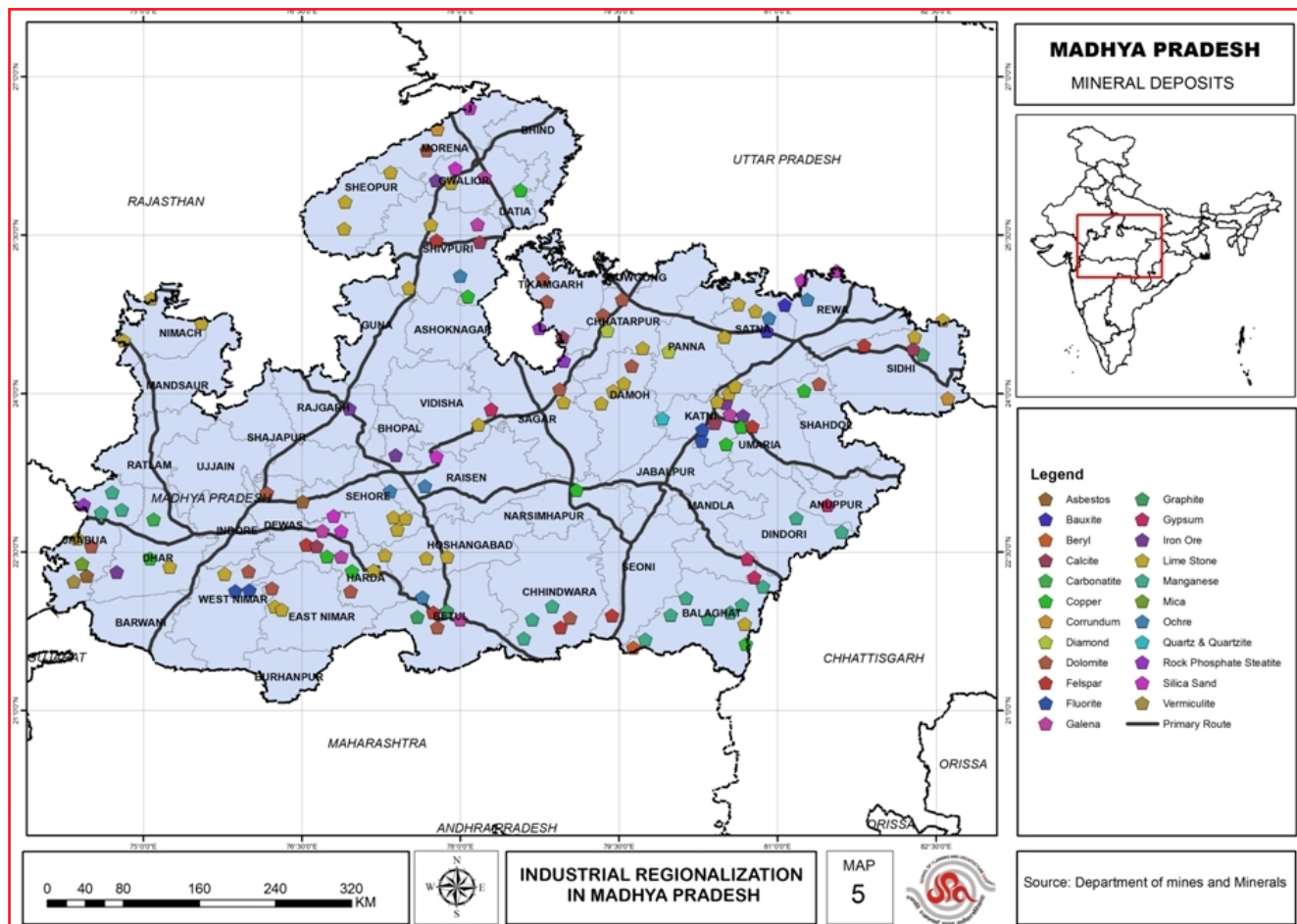


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Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Ghar Swachhata Campaign

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh CM Dr. Mohan Yadav has called on citizens to actively participate in the “Har Ghar Tiranga” campaign in honor of Independence Day 2025.

- Along with **raising the national flag**, CM Yadav emphasized the importance of associating cleanliness with national pride, urging people to embrace both aspects during the ongoing campaign.

Key Points

- The “Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Ghar Swachhata” campaign, which celebrates freedom and cleanliness, is set to run in three phases (2nd-15th August 2025).
- Phase 1 (2nd-8th August):** Focus on **creating a sense of patriotism** and awareness with flag-centric events, discussions, exhibitions, and interactive activities like tricolor rangoli and flag quizzes.
- Phase 2 (August 9th-12th):** The focus shifts to **mass engagement**, with events such as Tricolor Concerts, Flag Sales, and Tricolor Rallies aimed at widespread participation.
- Phase 3 (August 13th-15th):** Encourages the **final display of the tricolor on homes, offices, and vehicles**, along with uploading selfies with the flag.

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Har Ghar Tiranga (HGT) Campaign

- ⚡ The HGT campaign is part of the **Independence Day** celebrations.
- ⚡ It aims **to instill a spirit of patriotism** and national pride among citizens by encouraging every Indian to hoist the national flag.
- ⚡ It was **launched under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 2022** and has grown into a people's movement.
- ⚡ Other outreach activities being organized are Tiranga Concerts, Street Plays (Nukkad Natak), Exhibitions on the **Evolution of Tiranga**, etc.

National e-Governance Gold Award 2025

Why in News?

Sampada 2.0 (Stamps and Management of Property and Documents Application), developed by the **Commercial Tax Department of Madhya Pradesh**, was awarded the **National e-Governance Gold Award for 2025** for its transformative use of technology in public service.

- ⚡ **Madhya Pradesh** is the **first state to implement fully paperless e-registration** for documents.



Key Points

- ⚡ **About:** Launched in 2024 in Madhya Pradesh, **SAMPADA 2.0** aims to provide a user-friendly, **transparent system for E-registration and E-stamping**, ensuring improved governance, evidence-based processing, and simplified registration processes through **Government Process Re-engineering (GPR)** and policy recommendations.
- ✦ The application seeks to deliver **efficient, transparent document registration** services, utilizing modern technology, well-defined procedures, and timely execution to benefit users.
- ⚡ **Key Features:**
 - ✦ **GIS Technology:** Sampada 2.0 is equipped with **Geographical Information System (GIS)** technology, enabling better property mapping and management.
 - ✦ **Access Anywhere:** The platform allows users to obtain an e-stamp anytime, anywhere via the **Sampada 2.0 portal**.
 - ✦ **Mobile App:** The mobile app provides **instant access** to guideline rates for any location within the state.
 - ✦ **Faceless Registration:** Under the **Indian Stamp Act, 1899**, **video KYC** enables faceless registration for **75 out of 140 types of documents**, ensuring convenience and reducing the need for physical office visits.
- 📎 The new system also helps **reduce impersonation and land-related disputes**.

National Awards on e-Governance

- ⚡ **About:** The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (**DAR&PG**), Government of India, **presents National Awards** every year during the **National Conference on e-Governance** to recognize and promote excellence in the implementation of e-Governance initiatives.
- ✦ The **National e-Governance Gold Award 2025** was presented in the category **"Government Process Re-engineering by Use of Technology for Digital Transformation"**.

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🔦 Purpose of Award:

- ✦ Recognize achievements in the area of e-Governance
- ✦ Disseminate knowledge on effective methods of designing and implementing **sustainable e-Governance initiatives**
- ✦ Encourage incremental innovations in successful e-Governance solutions
- ✦ Promote and exchange experiences in solving problems, mitigating risks, resolving issues, and planning for success.

National Lata Mangeshkar and Kishore Kumar Awards

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government has announced the recipients for the prestigious **National Lata Mangeshkar Award** and **National Kishore Kumar Award** for the years 2024 and 2025.

- 🔦 The ceremony for the Lata Mangeshkar Award will be held at the legendary singer's birthplace, **Indore**, on 28th September 2025, while the Kishore Kumar Award will be presented in his birthplace, **Khandwa**, on 13th October 2025.

Key Points

- 🔦 **About:** The **National Lata Mangeshkar Award** and the **National Kishore Kumar Award**, instituted by the **Madhya Pradesh government**, serve as a **tribute to the legacies** of two of India's most iconic performers, Lata Mangeshkar and Kishore Kumar.
- 🔦 **National Lata Mangeshkar Award:** The award recognizes **outstanding contributions to Indian music**, particularly in music direction and singing.
 - ✦ **Recipients:**
 - 📎 **2024:** Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy (Music Composer Trio)
 - 📎 **2025:** Sonu Nigam (Playback Singer)
- 🔦 **National Kishore Kumar Award:** The award honours achievements in Indian cinema, including lyric writing and filmmaking.

✦ Recipients:

- 📎 **2024:** Prasoon Joshi (Lyricist)
- 📎 **2025:** Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Filmmaker)

🔦 About the Recipients:

- ✦ **Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy:** **Shankar Mahadevan**, Ehsaan Noorani, and Loy Mendonsa, an iconic Indian music trio, are known for their **diverse compositions across multiple languages**, with notable works like Dil Chahta Hai and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara.
- ✦ **Sonu Nigam:** A versatile **playback singer** celebrated across Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil cinema, famous for songs like Kal Ho Naa Ho and Suraj Hua Maddham.
- ✦ **Prasoon Joshi:** A distinguished **lyricist and poet**, known for his impactful work in films like Taare Zameen Par and Chakde! India.
- ✦ **Sanjay Leela Bhansali:** A **legendary filmmaker** and music composer, renowned for epic films such as Devdas and Padmaavat.

- 🔦 **Lata Mangeshkar:** Lata Mangeshkar (28th September 1929 – 6th February 2022), known as the **"Nightingale of India,"** was a **legendary playback singer** whose career spanned over seven decades.
- 🔦 **Kishore Kumar:** Kishore Kumar (4th August 1929 – 13th October 1987) was a **legendary Indian playback singer**, actor, composer, lyricist, director, and producer who remains one of the most influential and beloved icons in the history of Indian cinema and music.

MP's CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana

Why in News?

Chief Minister Dr. **Mohan Yadav** is set to transfer the second installment of Rs. 17,500 crore under the **CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana** for the year 2025-26 to the accounts of farmers in Madhya Pradesh on 14th August 2025.

- 🔦 By **March 2025**, over **83 lakh beneficiaries** had received a cumulative **Rs. 17,500 crore under this initiative**, supporting the agricultural community in the state.

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Key Facts About CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana

- 💡 **Scheme:** The scheme, launched in September 2020, aims to provide direct financial support to farmers.
- ✦ The CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana is designed to empower small and marginal farmers by providing an extra Rs. 6,000 annually, in addition to the Rs. 6,000 provided under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme.
- ✦ The benefit is provided in three installments of Rs. 2,000 each.
- 💡 **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - ✦ Farmers must be registered under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme (mandatory e-KYC).
 - ✦ The applicant should be a permanent resident of Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✦ The farmer must have arable land where they carry out farming activities.
 - ✦ Ineligible farmers include income tax payees, elected representatives, and government employees.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- 💡 **Launched:** December 2018
- 💡 **Type:** Central Sector Scheme (100% funded by the Government of India)
- 💡 **Objective:** Provide financial assistance to land-holding farmer families across India
- 💡 **Income Support:** Rs 6,000 annually (3 equal installments of Rs 2,000 each)
 - ✦ 100% Direct Benefit Transfer via Aadhaar-based verification and real-time payment tracking.
- 💡 **Eligibility:** All landholding farmer families (with certain exclusions)
- 💡 **Beneficiary Identification:** Done by State Governments and Union Territories as per guidelines
- 💡 **Implementing Agency:** Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)

Bhojpur Temple Hosts Cleanliness Drive

Why in News?

On 10th August 2025, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board organized a successful cleanliness drive at the tentative UNESCO World Heritage site Bhojpur Temple (Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple), spreading the message of national pride and environmental responsibility.

- 💡 The event was conducted under the theme “Azadi Ka Utsav Swachhta Ke Sang,” encouraging people to celebrate freedom with cleanliness.

Key Points

- 💡 **Environmental Awareness:** Participants focused on eco-friendly waste disposal, especially flowers and offerings, promoting cleanliness and preserving heritage.
- 💡 **Spiritual Awareness:** Karma Yoga teachings from the Bhagavad Gita were shared, blending social, environmental, and spiritual consciousness.

Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple



- 💡 **Location:** Bhojpur, Raisen District, Madhya Pradesh
- 💡 **Historical Significance:** Built in the 11th century by Raja Bhoj of the Paramara dynasty, dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- ✦ Added to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2024.

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Architecture:

- ✦ **Style:** Bhumija, with **Dravida** influences on shikhara.

✎ The temple's **Bhumija-style architecture** influenced later temples like Udayeshwara and Bijamandal.

- ✦ **Notable Features:**

✎ **Lingam:** Colossal (2.3m tall and 5.4m in circumference).

✎ **Shikhara:** Towering, with intricate carvings and projections.

✎ **Incomplete Structure:** Includes unfinished mandapa and ceiling.

- ✦ **Unique Elements:**

✎ Line drawings carved on nearby rocks depicting the intended temple design.

✎ Carved masonry blocks and earthen ramps around the site.

Uniqueness of Temple:

- ✦ **Architectural Grandeur:** Massive size, intricate carvings, and the colossal lingam showcase Paramara dynasty's architectural brilliance.

✎ Reflects the **religious, cultural patronage and architectural vision** of Raja Bhoj and the Paramara dynasty.

- ✦ The **Bhojeshwar Temple** is similar to the Chola's **Brihadisvara Temple** (Thanjavur) in terms of scale and grandeur.

✎ If completed, Bhojeshwar's shikhara would be taller than Brihadisvara's, measuring 100m compared to 59.82m.

- ✦ **Purpose:** World Organ Donation Day aims to **raise awareness about organ donation**, highlight the critical shortage of organs for transplantation, encourage pledging as organ donors, and pay tribute to donors and their families for enabling life-saving transplants.

- ✦ **Theme for 2025:** This year, the theme is "**Answering The Call**," as set by the **Organ Donation and Transplant Alliance**.

✦ It recognizes the significant work of healthcare professionals in the field while encouraging greater public involvement in organ donation.

- ✦ **Current Statistics:** Over 103,993 people are waiting for organ transplants worldwide, according to the **United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)**.

- ✦ **History of Organ Donation:** The world's first successful organ transplant took place in 1954 when **Ronald Lee Herrick** donated a kidney to his twin brother.

✦ The pioneering surgeon, **Dr. Joseph Murray**, received the **Nobel Prize** in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for his groundbreaking work in organ transplantation.

- ✦ **National Organ Day in India:** Initially observed on 27th November since 2010, **National Organ Day in India** was moved to 3rd August in 2023 to commemorate the first successful **deceased-donor heart transplant in India**, which occurred in 1994.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)

- ✦ The **NOTTO**, under the Ministry of Health, was set up as per the **Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011**.

✦ Its National Network division serves as the **apex centre for coordination**, procurement, distribution, and maintenance of the registry of organ and tissue donation and transplantation in India.

✦ **5 Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOS)** and 14 State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs) were established to strengthen the network at the regional and state levels.

World Organ Donation Day

Why in News?

World Organ Donation Day is observed annually on **13th August** to raise awareness about the life-saving impact of **organ donation**.

Key Points

- ✦ **About:** World Organ Donation Day honors the selfless **contributions of organ donors** and their families, highlighting the urgent need for more public participation.

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Asian Canoe Slalom Championship

Why in News?

At the prestigious **Asian Canoe Slalom Championship** in Guizhou, China, the women athletes from the **Madhya Pradesh Water Sports Academy** earned the **silver medal** in the women's canoe slalom team event, with **China** securing the gold.

Key Points

- 🔦 **About:** Canoe slalom involves competitors navigating a **whitewater course**, typically up to 300 meters long, while passing through a **maximum of 25 upstream and downstream gates** to achieve the fastest time.
- 🔦 **Championship Details:** The **Asian Canoe Confederation** organized the championship from 14th- 17th August 2025, which featured around 100 athletes and coaches from 10 countries and regions, including India, China, Japan, and South Korea.
- 🔦 **Indian Team:** The Indian team included three talented athletes from Madhya Pradesh: **Shikha Chauhan, Pallavi Jagtap, and Reena Sen**.
- 🔦 **Significance:** The silver medal is a significant achievement, showcasing **one of the best performances** by an Indian women's team in recent years and reflecting the **growth of water sports in India**, driven by enhanced athlete training and international exposure.



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International Canoe Federation (ICF)

- 💡 The **International Canoe Federation (ICF)** serves as the global authority for **canoe and kayak paddling sports**, overseeing 10 disciplines worldwide, recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- ✦ The **five continents (Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania)** are represented on the **ICF Executive Committee** and Board of Directors, with each electing Continental Representatives and a President during their respective Continental Congress.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** Central Zone Bench in Bhopal has reprimanded state authorities for granting permission for the **annual Darshan Yatra (to Bandhavgarh Fort)** in the **core area** of **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve**, a critical tiger habitat under **Project Tiger**.

- 💡 The core area is the **most critical part of a protected area** where human activity is typically restricted to protect biodiversity and wildlife.

Key Points

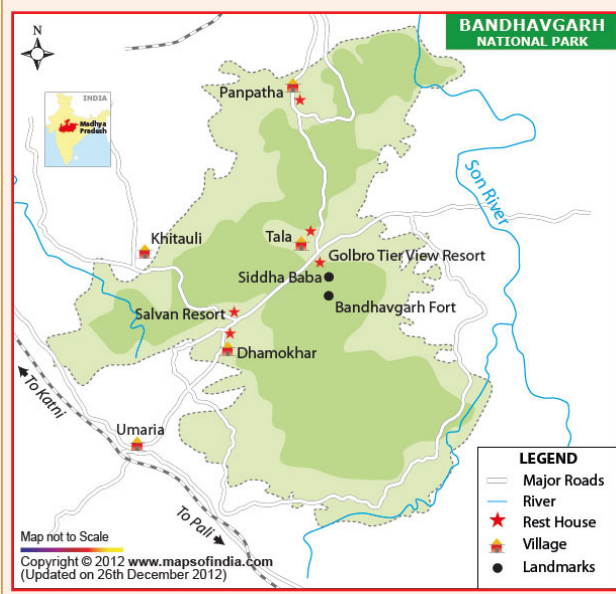
- 💡 **About:** A green activist filed a plea highlighting the negative impact of **large-scale pilgrimages** on Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve's biodiversity, citing issues like bamboo cutting, unsanitary camping, river pollution, and wildlife disturbance, all violating the **Wildlife Protection Act (1972)**, **Forest Conservation Act (1980)**, and **Environment Protection Act (1986)**.
- 💡 **Recommendations:** The Madhya Pradesh government has been directed to finalize a **Standard Operating Procedure (SoP)** for regulating yatras within three months, while ensuring **minimal disruption to wildlife** and adherence to the 2012 Project Tiger guidelines in the interim.
- ✦ Citing a **carrying capacity** study by the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, Dehradun, the NGT

recorded that while the terrain could theoretically handle **7,000-8,000 pilgrims**, the presence of tigers, elephants and other large animals **restricted safe capacity to only 4,000-5,000 visitors**.

- ✦ The WII recommended entry through vehicles only, online registration a month in advance, and better crowd regulation.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

- 💡 **Distinct Areas:** It is located between the **Vindhyan** and **Satpura ranges** of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ The park includes Bandhavgarh National Park, Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary (Core Area), and the adjoining Buffer Area, spread across the districts of **Umaria, Shahdol, and Katni**.
- 💡 **Majestic Wildlife:** It is famous for housing the Royal Bengal Tiger along with other wildlife like Leopards, Wild Dogs, and Gaur.
- 💡 **Diverse Habitat:** The reserve features **dense forests, bamboo vegetation**, vast grasslands, and perennial streams, offering a rich environment for various species, especially the solitary tiger.



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NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.

About

- ④ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ④ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ④ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ④ **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

Structure

- ④ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ④ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ④ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI's consultation)
 - ☛ 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.

Powers & Jurisdiction

- ④ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ④ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ④ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ④ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
 - ☛ Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ④ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ④ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ④ **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
 - ☛ If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- ④ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ④ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ④ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ④ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ④ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ④ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ④ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



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World Photography Day

Why in News?

On the occasion of **World Photography Day** (19th August), Indore's significant contributions to the art of photography are being celebrated. The city's rich photography heritage traces back to the late 19th century with pioneers like **Lala Deendayal**.

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Indore's Contribution in Photography

19th Century Roots in India:

- ✦ **William Armstrong (1847):** First British photographer to capture images of **Ajanta-Ellora caves**.

💡 **Indore's Photography Journey:** Lala Deendayal opened Indore's first photo studio (1888). Deendayal's work gained recognition from local royals, earning him land and the title 'Raja Deendayal' from the Nizam.

- ✦ After Deendayal's departure, several photographers carried on his work.

Notable Photographers:

- ✦ **Bhalu Mondhe (Padma Shri Awardee):** Introduced color photography in Indore in 1975 and established the first color lab, revolutionizing the field in the city.

Key Facts About World Photography Day

- 💡 **About:** World Photography Day (19th August) is celebrated to honor the invention of the daguerreotype process ('Daguerreotype Camera').
- ✦ On this day in 1839, the French government officially announced the daguerreotype, developed by Louis Daguerre in 1837.
- ✦ The daguerreotype process was an early photographic process that produced a highly detailed, one-of-a-kind **positive image on a silver-coated copper plate** and laid the foundation for modern photography.



💡 Theme 2025: "MY FAVORITE PHOTO".

History of World Photography Day:

- ✦ Proposed by Indian photographer and teacher **O.P. Sharma** in 1988.
- ✦ Became a global online phenomenon in 2005.
- ✦ Promoted online as "World Photo Day" starting in 2010 by Australian entrepreneur **Korske Ara**.
- ✦ North American producer **John Morzen** played a key role in shaping and expanding the global recognition of World Photography Day.

Railways's Longest Grade Separator Bridge

Why in News?

Indian **Railways** has achieved a significant milestone with the completion of the country's **longest elevated grade separator bridge** at **Katni Junction, Madhya Pradesh**, as part of a landmark project in the **Jabalpur division of the West Central Railway**.

Key Points

- 💡 The project, which **began in 2020** and is slated for completion by 2025, will **feature Rail Over Rail (ROR) bridges** with spans of up to 91.40 metres, allowing trains to bypass the entire city, easing traffic, and enhancing operational efficiency.
- 💡 The new elevated 15.85 km bridge is a major part of the ongoing infrastructure modernization under the **Prime Minister's Gati Shakti initiative**.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

- 💡 **About:** A digital platform (launched in October 2021) integrating efforts of 16 ministries for seamless infrastructure planning and execution.
- 💡 **Objective:** A transformative Rs. 100 lakh crore initiative aimed at revolutionizing India's infrastructure over the **next five years**.
 - ✦ Developed by **BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics)**.

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- ✦ Seeks to accelerate project completion, reduce timelines, and enhance India's global competitiveness by breaking down inter-ministerial obstacles.

6 Pillars of PM GatiShakti:

- ✦ **Comprehensiveness:** Integrates initiatives across ministries through a centralised portal.
- ✦ **Prioritisation:** Ministries prioritize projects effectively based on national needs.
- ✦ **Optimisation:** Identifies gaps, selects efficient routes, reduces costs, and minimises delays.
- ✦ **Synchronisation:** Coordination across ministries to avoid delays.
- ✦ **Analytical Capabilities:** GIS-based platform with 200+ data layers for better decision-making.
- ✦ **Dynamic Monitoring:** Real-time project monitoring using satellite imagery to track progress.

MP's Civil Services Leave Rules 2025

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government, led by **Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav**, has approved the **Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Leave) Rules 2025**, which introduce several modern provisions.

Key Points About Civil Services Leave Rules 2025

- 💡 The new **leave rules** align with central government standards, replacing the **1977 rules**. Notable changes include:
 - ✦ **Maternity leave** for surrogate mothers,
 - ✦ **Paternity leave** of 15 days for **adoptive fathers**,
 - ✦ **Child care leave** extended to single male employees,
 - ✦ The process for leave applications has been simplified for **seriously ill** and **specially-abled employees**.

Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017

Making It Easy For Mothers

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 amends the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 to provide the following

26 weeks maternity leave for the first two children

12 weeks maternity leave for children beyond the first two

12 weeks leave for mothers adopting a child below the age of three months

The Act makes it mandatory for employers in establishment with 30 women or 50 employees, whichever is less, to provide creche facilities either in office or in any place within 500-meters.

Working mothers will be permitted to make four visits

during working hours to the creche

The employer may permit a woman to work from home if it is possible to do so

Every establishment will have to make these benefits available from the time of appointment



Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Clears Major Projects

Why in News?

The state cabinet, headed by CM Mohan Yadav, approved various key projects, including the establishment of an **Electronic Manufacturing Cluster** at Bandikhedi village, Berasia tehsil in Bhopal district.

Key Points

💡 Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC):

- ✦ **Project Details:** A new Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) will be established at **Bandikhedi village, Berasia Tehsil in Bhopal** district under the Government of India's **EMC 2.0 project**.
- 📎 The EMC 2.0 scheme aims to develop a **robust electronics ecosystem**, provide infrastructure, and offer financial assistance for projects and common facilities.
- ✦ **Purpose:** The cluster will focus on promoting the **Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector**, featuring world-class infrastructure and **Common Facility Centres (CFCs)**.

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- ✦ **Impact:** The initiative supports programs such as **Digital India** and **Make in India**, aiming to enhance investment, create employment, increase government revenue, **foster entrepreneurship**, drive innovation, and stimulate economic growth.

💡 **New Ayurvedic Medical Colleges and Wellness Centres:**

- ✦ **Locations:** They are planned at locations including **Narmadapuram, Morena, Balaghat, Shahdol, and Sagar**, with 1,570 posts sanctioned for these centers after approvals.
 - 📌 Each college will have a 100-bed hospital, hostels, residential quarters, and a pharmacy building.
- ✦ **Funding:** Under the **National AYUSH Mission**, Rs 350 crore allocated (Rs 70 crore per college, with a 60:40 funding ratio between Centre and State).
- ✦ **Objective:** Strengthen **Ayurveda-based healthcare** and the wellness industry across divisions in the state.

💡 **Department of Endocrinology:**

- ✦ In response to the rising cases of diabetes and non-communicable diseases, the government has approved the creation of the **first dedicated endocrinology department at Gandhi Medical College (GMC), Bhopal**, to enhance care and explore the introduction of DM seats in endocrinology.

💡 **'Geeta Bhavan' Scheme:**

- ✦ **Objective:** Promote reading, **cultural, and literary activities** by establishing well-equipped study centers in urban local bodies.
- ✦ **Target & Funding:** Aim to set up one **'Geeta Bhavan'** in each district by 2030, with financial support from the state government for construction, expansion, and maintenance.

💡 **Scholarship Increase for Tribal Hostels:**

- ✦ The scholarship for mess facilities in **tribal hostels** has been increased to 12 months (from 10 months), with an amount of Rs 1,650 per month for boys and Rs 1,700 per month for girls, based on attendance.

'Ek Bagiya Maa Ke Naam' Project

Why in News?

In an ambitious move to empower women and promote sustainable agriculture, **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the **'Ek Bagiya Maa Ke Naam'** project, aiming to develop **orchards on the private lands of Self-Help Group (SHG)** women.

Key Points

- 💡 **Project Overview:** The project is part of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** and is set to benefit more than **31,000 women** across the state.
 - ✦ Over **34,000 women** have already registered through the dedicated **'Ek Bagiya Maa Ke Naam'** app.
 - ✦ The government is providing essential resources like **saplings, manure, irrigation tanks, and barbed-wire fencing** for protection.
- 💡 **App-Driven Selection Process:** The selection of beneficiaries is being done exclusively through the **'Ek Bagiya Maa Ke Naam'** app, developed by **M.P. State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (MPSEDC)** under the guidance of the **MGNREGA Council**.
 - ✦ Only women with **0.5 to 1 acre of land** are eligible to participate in the project.
 - ✦ In cases where the **beneficiary woman does not own land**, plantations may be carried out on land owned by her husband, father, father-in-law or son, subject to their consent.
- 💡 **Beneficiary Details and Training:** At least **100 eligible women** are being selected in each block for the project.
 - ✦ These women will receive **bi-annual training** on **orchard management**, including **fertilizer use, irrigation, pest control, and intercrop cultivation** to ensure proper care and growth of their orchards.
- 💡 **Support Through Krishi Sakhis:** For every **25 acres**, one **Krishi Sakhi (Agriculture Companion)** will be appointed to **support beneficiaries**, providing

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hands-on **guidance and advice** on sustainable farming practices, including the preparation of **organic fertilizers and pesticides**.

💡 **Monitoring and Transparency:** **Plantation activities** will be closely monitored through **drone and satellite imagery**, ensuring **transparency**.

✦ A **separate dashboard** has also been created for supervision. Based on performance, the top 3 districts, 10 Janpad Panchayats and 25 Gram Panchayats will be awarded.

💡 **Leading Districts for Beneficiary Selection:** The districts leading in **beneficiary selection** include **Singrauli, Dewas, Khandwa, Niwari, and Tikamgarh**, which have shown active participation in the project.

💡 **Potential:** More than **31,000 SHG women** will benefit from this project, which will plant over **3 million fruit-bearing trees** on their private land, laying the foundation for **women's economic empowerment**.

Sampoornata Abhiyan

Why in News?

Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** has lauded the '**Sampoornata Abhiyan**' for its transformative impact on **aspirational districts** in Madhya Pradesh.

💡 The **Abhiyan** has **driven development in backward districts**, improving maternal health, child

immunization, **soil health card** distribution, electricity in schools, and **textbook availability**, while **enhancing governance**, administrative efficiency, and fostering healthy competition among districts.

Sampoornata Abhiyan

💡 **About:** '**Sampoornata Abhiyan**' was launched by **NITI Aayog** as a nationwide campaign aimed at achieving **100% saturation** of **12 key social sector indicators** in **500 Aspirational Blocks** and **112 Aspirational Districts** across India.

✦ The campaign, which ran from **4th July to 30th September 2024**, focused on **health, nutrition, agriculture, social development, and education**.

💡 **Key Focus Areas:** The campaign's main objective is to ensure complete saturation of critical social sector indicators, including:

✦ **Maternal Health:** Timely registration of pregnant women for **Antenatal Care (ANC)**.

✦ **Child Immunization:** Ensuring full immunization for children aged **9-11 months**.

✦ **Soil Health:** Distribution of **Soil Health Cards** and promoting sustainable agriculture practices.

✦ **Infrastructure:** Providing **electricity** to secondary schools and ensuring the timely distribution of **textbooks**.

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

Programme	Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)	Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)
Launched	2018	2023
Aim	To quickly and effectively transform 112 districts across the country .	For saturation of essential government services in 500 blocks (329 districts) across the country.
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 💡 Health & Nutrition 💡 Education 💡 Agriculture & Water Resources 💡 Financial Inclusion & Skill Development 💡 Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 💡 Health & Nutrition 💡 Education 💡 Agriculture and Allied Services 💡 Basic Infrastructure 💡 Social Development
Number of Indicators	81	40

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Highest Infant Mortality Rate in MP

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has been reported to have the highest **infant mortality rate (IMR)** in India, with **40 out of every 1,000 newborns dying** in the state, according to statistics revealed by Deputy CM and Health Minister Rajendra Shukla in the state assembly.

Key Points

- 💡 According to the latest **Sample Registration System (SRS) 2022** data from the Registrar General of India, **Madhya Pradesh's IMR (40)** is not only **above the national average (26)**, but also the **highest among all states**.
- ✦ In an **effort to combat this issue**, the government has allocated Rs 110 crore for various health schemes and initiatives, including programs such as **Anaemia Mukh Bharat**, nutritional rehabilitation centres, and **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram**, among others.
- 💡 **Causes of Infant Deaths:** The primary causes of infant deaths in Madhya Pradesh include **premature birth, pneumonia, sepsis, low birth weight, birth asphyxia, and diarrhea**.
- ✦ The government has listed these factors as key areas of focus in its efforts to reduce IMR.

Zero Maternal and Infant Deaths in MP's Gram Panchayats

- 💡 On **Independence Day**, the **Madhya Pradesh National Health Mission (MP-NHM)** recognized the outstanding efforts of **grassroots healthcare workers and community leaders** who achieved remarkable results in **maternal and child healthcare**.
- ✦ **Achieving Zero Deaths in Dhakoni:** Dhakoni Gram Panchayat, with a population of **8,107**, successfully reported **zero maternal and infant deaths** for two consecutive years.
- ✦ **Efforts in Garauli Gram Panchayat (Chhatarpur):** Similarly, Garauli Gram Panchayat in Naugaon block, Chhatarpur district, with a population of **6,598**, also reported **zero maternal and infant deaths** over two years.

- ✦ **Institutional Deliveries in Ratlam:** In Ratlam district, Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Rawti, Bajna block emerged as a leader in institutional deliveries for **2024-25**.

Human Rights Violations in MP

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh reported **10,373 human rights violation cases** in the financial year **2024-25**, translating to **29 cases per day**.

- 💡 This marks a continuous rise in such incidents over the last five years, with the **number of pending complaints** also increasing.

Key Points

- 💡 **Pending Complaints:** The **Chief Minister** informed the assembly that **4,669 human rights complaints** are currently pending in the **Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (MP-SHRC)**.
- ✦ This is up from **2,798 complaints pending in 2020-21**.
- 💡 **Decline Over the Years:** Despite the rise in complaints over the past few years, **long-term data from the MPHRC** shows a **decline in the overall number of cases** when compared to earlier decades.
- ✦ In **2002-03**, more than **15,000 complaints** were reported, but by **2021-22**, this number had decreased to under **9,000**, primarily due to faster disposal of cases.

Human Rights

- 💡 **Human Rights** are rights **inherent to all human beings**, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status.
- ✦ These include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more.
- 💡 The **National Human Right Commission (NHRC)** of India defines **Human Rights** as rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

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NATIONAL HUMAN Rights COMMISSION (NHRC)

According to NHRC, Human Rights are the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India

- Watchdog of Human Rights in India
- **Estd:** 1993 (in conformity with Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- **Act:** Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993

State Human Rights Commissions

- Also constituted under the PHR Act, 1993
- **Appointment of Members:** by Governor
- **Removal of Members:** by President

Human Rights Day: 10 December

Functions

- ④ Investigates Complaints of human rights violations
- ④ *Suo Moto* cognizance of cases
- ④ Reviews and recommends human rights implementation
- ④ Spreading human rights awareness
- ④ Conduct studies, publish reports on human rights issues

Powers

- ④ Summon individuals, examine witnesses, and receive evidences
- ④ Inspect prisons and other institutions to ensure conditions are humane
- ④ Intervene in court proceedings relating to human rights

Members of NHRC

Composition

- ④ 5 full-time members and 7 deemed members
- ④ **Chairperson:** Retired CJI/Judges of the SC
- ④ **Administrative Head:** Secretary-General

Appointment

- ④ All members appointed by **President** on recommendations of a **6-member** committee (PM, Speaker of LS, Deputy Chairman of RS, Union Home Minister and Leaders of Opposition of both Houses of Parliament)

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Status

- NHRC has been accredited '**A**' Status since 1999
- Retained '**A**' Status: 2006, 2011 and 2017
- Suspension of '**A**' Status: 2023 and 2024

Tenure

- ④ 3 years / till age 70 (whichever is earlier)

Removal

- ④ President can remove the chairman or any member
- ④ **Ground:** Charges of proved misbehaviour or incapacity



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Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) Technique

Why in News?

The **Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD)** is improving the road using **Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) technique** to address persistent pothole issues and ensure a smoother journey for visitors to the **Bhojpur temple** in Bhopal.

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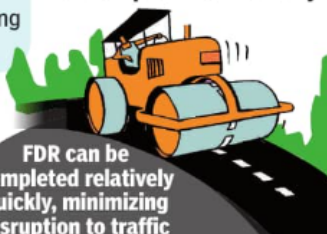
FULL DEPTH RECLAMATION BENEFITS

FDR is often more economical than traditional reconstruction methods because it reuses existing materials

By recycling in-place materials, FDR reduces the need for new materials & minimizes waste

The process can significantly enhance the structural capacity and lifespan of the roadway

FDR can be completed relatively quickly, minimizing disruption to traffic



Full Depth Reclamation (FDR)

- 💡 **About:** FDR is a process similar to “recycling” roads. Rather than discarding old asphalt, the technique grinds up the existing road material and mixes it with underlying soil.
 - ✦ This mixture forms the foundation for the new road, creating a **fresh, durable surface**.
- 💡 **Reinforcement:** To further strengthen the base, a binder such as **cement, lime, or asphalt emulsion** is added.
 - ✦ This binder acts like glue, holding the materials together and ensuring a solid foundation that can withstand heavy traffic and weather conditions.
- 💡 **Benefits of Full Depth Reclamation:**
 - ✦ **Cost-Effectiveness:** The technique is **economical** as it reuses existing materials, reducing the need for new resources.
 - ✦ **Durability:** The stabilised base layer can **endure wear and tear** for a long period, providing a sustainable solution to the road’s upkeep.

Bhojpur Temple

- 💡 It is situated in Bhojpur, Raigarh District, Madhya Pradesh.
- 💡 It was built in the **11th century** by Raja Bhoj of the **Paramara dynasty**.
- 💡 It is dedicated to Lord Shiva, and included in the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** tentative list in 2024.

Food Adulteration Cases in MP

Why in News?

State Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Pratap Rao Jadhav, replied in the Rajya Sabha that, on average, **seven food adulteration cases are reported daily in Madhya Pradesh**, placing the state **third in India**, after **Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan**, for food safety violations.

Key Points

- 💡 **Penalties Under FSS Act:** In the financial year 2024-25, **2,597 cases** were penalized under the **Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006**, out of a total of **13,920 food samples tested**.
 - ✦ This reflects an increase of **659 cases compared to 2023-24**, when 1,938 penalties were imposed on 13,842 samples.
- 💡 **Trend Analysis:** Over the past five years, Madhya Pradesh has seen the **highest number of penalties imposed for food adulteration** among all states, following Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Food Adulteration

- 💡 **About:** As per **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, food adulteration refers to the intentional **addition**, substitution, or removal of **substances that negatively impact the nature, quality, or safety of food**.
 - ✦ It also includes unintentional contamination that may occur during cultivation, harvesting, storage, processing, transportation, or distribution.
- 💡 **Causes of Food Adulteration in India:**
 - ✦ Weak enforcement and fragmented food supply chains (80% in informal markets).
 - ✦ Lack of unified national policy and divergence from global safety standards.
 - ✦ Resource constraints in processing industries, reuse of frying oil, poor hygiene.
 - ✦ Pesticide residues and substandard fortification practices; misleading labeling.
- 💡 **Legal & Policy Framework:**
 - ✦ **FSSA, 2006 & FSSAI** – regulates production, import, sale, and standards.

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- ✦ **Packaging & Labelling Regulations, 2011** – ingredient, allergen, expiry disclosure.
- ✦ **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** – right to compensation for adulterated food.

Recommended Measures:

- ✦ Formalize the food processing sector (e.g., PM FME Scheme).
- ✦ Align regulations with global standards; amend FSSA.
- ✦ Increase skilled workforce; promote industry–academia collaboration.
- ✦ Strengthen surveillance, penalties, mobile labs, and supply chain management.
- ✦ Adopt **One Health Approach** for upstream/downstream contamination control.

Key Infrastructure Projects Announced in MP

Why in News?

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, announced major infrastructure projects in Madhya Pradesh, including a **four-lane corridor** connecting **key tiger reserves** to boost tourism and a **greenfield highway** between Bhopal and Jabalpur, with construction set to begin next year.

Key Points

- 💡 **Tiger Corridor:** The ₹5,500-crore 'tiger corridor' will link **Kanha, Pench, Bandhavgarh, and Panna tiger reserves**, aiming to boost tourism, create jobs, and enhance the state's economy.
- 💡 **Highways:** A new 255-km greenfield highway between Bhopal and Jabalpur will be built at a cost of ₹15,000 crore, with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) due by December 2025.
 - ✦ A 220-km high-speed corridor connecting Lakhnadon in Seoni district to Raipur, Chhattisgarh, was also announced.
- 💡 **Longest Flyover:** A new 6.85 km flyover in Jabalpur, **the longest in the state**, was also inaugurated and

will reduce travel time between Madan Mahal and Damoh Naka from 45 minutes to just 7 minutes.

- ✦ It also includes a 192-meter cable-stayed bridge and **three bow-string bridges**.
- ✦ The flyover, costing ₹1,200 crore, was funded by the **Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)** and was originally initiated in 2019.

Central Road and Infrastructure Fund

- 💡 The Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), originally known as the Central Road Fund, was established in 2000 under the **Central Road Fund Act, 2000**.
 - ✦ The fund is financed through a cess levied alongside the excise duty on petrol and diesel.
- 💡 The **Ministry of Finance** now administers the CRIF, whereas it was previously managed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- 💡 The **Central Road Fund Act (Amendment) of 2018** renamed the fund and expanded its scope, allowing proceeds to **finance other infrastructure projects** such as waterways, railway infrastructure, and social infrastructure like educational and medical institutions.

RAN SAMWAD-2025

Why in News?

RAN SAMWAD-2025, a **unique two-day event**, will take place at the Army War College in Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Madhya Pradesh, starting on 26th August 2025.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The seminar is an **innovative initiative** aimed at fostering a **tri-service dialogue between the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force**, focusing on contemporary issues of warfighting and the **future of warfare**.
- 💡 **Organiser:** The **Indian Army will host this inaugural event**, with subsequent editions to be led by the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force. This rotational

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structure will ensure continuous, evolving discourse on modern warfare and defense strategy.

- ✦ The event is curated by the Headquarters **Integrated Defence Staff** and the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, in collaboration with the Army Training Command. The initiative is conducted under the guidance of the **Chief of Defence Staff**.

💡 **Key Addresses:** General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), will address the seminar on the opening day, setting the strategic framework for discussions on warfighting and operational readiness.

- ✦ **Shri Rajnath Singh**, the Minister of Defence, will deliver the plenary address on the final day, offering insights into India's defense strategy and priorities.

💡 **Release of Joint Doctrines:** During the event, critical documents, such as the **Joint Doctrines and Technology Perspective & Capability Roadmap**, will be released, emphasizing India's vision for military modernization and inter-service integration.

💡 **Firsthand Operational Insights:** Each thematic session will be led by **serving officers**, who will provide firsthand accounts and operational insights from modern battlefields.

- ✦ This approach **moves beyond academic discourse**, offering practical perspectives grounded in real-world combat experiences.

Veer Singh Dev National Award

Why in News?

Noted Hindi novelist and journalist **Dayanand Pandey** has been honored with the **Veer Singh Dev National Award** by the **Madhya Pradesh Sahitya Akademi** for his remarkable literary work, **Vipashyana Mein Prem**.

- 💡 The award ceremony took place in Bhopal, where he was presented with a citation, a shawl, and a cash prize of **Rs 1 lakh**.



Key Points

💡 **About:** Dayanand Pandey, a 67-year-old novelist and journalist from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, is a highly prolific author with **over 75 published works** across a wide range of genres, including novels, short stories, poetry, ghazals, memoirs, and cinema essays.

- ✦ He began his journalism career in **1978**, contributing to leading Hindi dailies such as **Navbharat Times**. His journalistic expertise is reflected in his fiction, which combines **social critique, emotional depth, and piercing observation**.

💡 **Notable Works:**

- ✦ Vipashyana Mein Prem (Award-winning novel)
- ✦ Lok Kavi Ab Gaate Nahin
- ✦ Barf Mein Phansi Machhli
- ✦ Sumi Ka Space
- ✦ Manna Jaldi Aana

💡 **Translations:** His works have been translated into **Bhojpuri, Punjabi, English, Urdu, and Marathi**.

💡 **Awards and Honors:** Pandey's contributions to literature and journalism have been recognized with several prestigious awards:

- ✦ Lohia Sahitya Samman
- ✦ Sahitya Bhushan
- ✦ Premchand Samman
- ✦ Yashpal Samman
- ✦ Amritlal Nagar Samman
- ✦ Sahitya Gaurav Samman

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Madhya Pradesh Sahitya Akademi

- 💡 **Foundation and Purpose:** The Sahitya Akademi, **established in 1954**, aims to introduce the works and personalities of prominent writers from Madhya Pradesh and across the nation. Initially headquartered in Nagpur, it later moved to Bhopal after the formation of Madhya Pradesh.
- 💡 **Celebrating Literary Figures:** The Akademi commemorates the birth anniversaries of renowned national poets like **Maithili Sharan Gupta, Makhanlal Chaturvedi**, and others, while also organizing various programs to promote literature.
- 💡 **Awards and Publications:** The Akademi has a well-defined awards scheme, including prizes for literature in **six regional dialects of Madhya Pradesh** and other **genres of Hindi literature**.
- 💡 **Youth Engagement and Outreach:** The Akademi encourages youth involvement in literature by organizing workshops, poetry events, and publishing the works of young writers. Its magazine, **Sakshatkar**, features essays, interviews, and literary works across various genres.



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Summary

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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