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MADHYA PRADESH



MAY
2025



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Jaipur,
Rajasthan



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



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

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MP High Court Upholds Withdrawal of Financial Powers of Sarpanch

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh High Court recently **upheld the decision of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), District Panchayat, to withdraw the financial powers of Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat** on charges of corruption.

- 💡 The withdrawal followed the registration of a Lokayukta case against the sarpanch for demanding a bribe.

Key Points

- 💡 **Arguments Regarding the Case:**
 - ✦ The **sarpanch challenged the order**, contending that the CEO acted beyond jurisdiction since no specific provision allows withdrawal of financial powers merely upon registration of a criminal case.
- 💡 **High Court Verdict:**
 - ✦ HC referred to the **Madhya Pradesh Panchayat (Powers & Works of CEO) Rules, 1985**.
 - ✦ It observed that the **CEO has supervisory and controlling powers over Panchayats**, including ensuring proper use of allocated funds.
 - ✦ **Withdrawing financial powers** of the Panchayat representative on **corruption** charges falls within the CEO's jurisdiction.
 - ✦ Consequently, the **HC dismissed the petition** filed by the sarpanch.
- 💡 **Legal and Governance Implications:**
 - ✦ **Role of CEO in Panchayat Administration:** The ruling clarifies the extent of powers of the CEO, District Panchayat, highlighting the supervisory role over Panchayat activities and safeguarding public funds.
 - ✦ **Checks Against Corruption:** The decision reinforces administrative **checks against corruption** at the grassroots level by allowing timely intervention even before final adjudication in criminal cases.

- ✦ **Balancing Due Process and Administrative Action:** While the criminal case is pending, administrative authorities are **empowered to take preventive measures** to avoid misuse of funds, reflecting a balance between legal due process and governance accountability.

Governance of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

- 💡 **State Subject:** Local governance falls under the jurisdiction of state governments, with PRIs operating as per respective State Panchayati Raj Acts.
- 💡 **Constitutional Framework:**
 - ✦ **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992)** established a three-tiered Panchayat system and mandated 1/3rd reservation for women, later increased to 50% in 21 states and 2 UTs.
 - ✦ **Article 243D** provides for reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes in PRIs.
 - ✦ **Article 40** of the Constitution, a **Directive Principle of State Policy**, mandates the State to **establish village panchayats and grant them the necessary powers** and authority to function as self-governing units.
- 💡 The **Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996**, grants Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas special powers to manage natural resources and protect tribal culture and livelihoods.

MP Launches Key Development Projects

Why in News?

To commemorate the **300th birth anniversary of Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar**, Madhya Pradesh announced key initiatives to boost infrastructure, empower women, and create youth jobs.

Key Points

- 💡 **Key Cabinet Decisions:**
 - ✦ **Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Training Program Scheme:**

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- ✎ Aims to link **youth with employment through skill development**.
- ✎ Provides interest subsidies up to Rs 10,000 per individual on skill-based loans.
- ✎ Annual government allocation will be Rs 100 crore.
- ✦ **Madhya Pradesh Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Act, 2025:**
 - ✎ Enables creation of **Metropolitan Planning Committees and Development Authorities** for cities with population over 10 lakh.
 - ✎ Focus areas will be **urban planning, education, healthcare, and economic growth** in cities like Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, and Dewas.
- ✦ **Acharya Shankar Museum under Ekatma Dham Project:**
 - ✎ Revised budget of Rs 2,195 crore sanctioned.
 - ✎ The museum, located at **Omkareshwar**, will focus on **Advaita Vedanta** and aims to promote education and tourism.
- ✦ **Working Women's Hostels in Industrial Areas:**
 - ✎ Approval for **constructing 26 hostels across 4 industrial zones** with the Budget of Rs 249 crore.
 - ✎ Facilities to include food courts, entertainment zones, and childcare areas, creating a safe and enabling space for women workers.
- ✦ **Upgradation of MYR Hospital and Shyam Shah Medical College:**
 - ✎ Approval of Rs 1,095 crore to **upgrade Maharaja Yashwant Rao Hospital (Indore) and Shyam Shah Medical College (Rewa)**.
 - ✎ Includes construction of new hospital blocks, nursing hostels, and improved medical infrastructure.
- ✦ **Rahveer Yojana:**
 - ✎ Incentivises bystanders who **transport accident victims** within the **"golden hour"**.
 - ✎ Reward increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 25,000 per lifesaving act.

✦ **Extension of Mukhyamantri Urban Sanitation Mission:**

- ✎ The scheme extended till 2028–29 with a budget of Rs 227 crore.
- ✎ Focus on enhancing urban sanitation through purchase of sludge removal vehicles, sewer cleaning tools, and protective gear for **sanitation workers**.

Ahilyabai Holkar



- 💡 **Birth & Background:** Ahilyabai was born on **31st May 1725 in Chondi**, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra), her father, **Mankoji Rao Shinde**, was the village head.
- 💡 **Marriage & Early Life:** She was married to **Khanderao Holkar in 1733**, the son of **Malhar Rao Holkar**, the ruler of Malwa and the founder of the **Holkar dynasty**.
 - ✦ Ahilyabai was widowed in **1745** after Khanderao died in the **siege of Kumher Fort**.
 - ✦ Malhar Rao Holkar prevented Ahilyabai from committing **sati** and **trained her in military and administrative matters**.
- 💡 **Ascension to Power:** After the death of Malhar Rao Holkar in 1766 and her son Male Rao Holkar in 1767, Ahilyabai Holkar took charge of Malwa and became the ruler of Indore in 1767.
 - ✦ She appointed **Tukoji Rao Holkar** as army commander and made **Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh** the Holkar dynasty's capital.
- 💡 **Social and Economic Contributions:** Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt the **Somnath and Kashi Vishwanath temples**, restoring key **Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva**. She patronised scholars like **Khushali Ram, Marathi poet Moropant, and Shahir Anantaphandi**.

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- ✦ She promoted **women's education, widow remarriage**, and opposed practices like sati, while uplifting Bhil, Gond tribes, and lower castes.
- ✦ She made Maheshwar and Indore major trade hubs, promoting the Maheshwari weaving industry and **making Maheshwari sarees renowned across India**, now registered with a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

Tuberculosis Elimination Camp and Healthy Liver Mission

Why in News?

The **Governor of Madhya Pradesh** honoured stakeholders of the **100-day Ni-Kshay Shivir Abhiyan** and launched the **state-wide Healthy Liver Mission** in Bhopal.

Key Points

100-Day Ni-Kshay Shivir Abhiyan

- 💡 Under the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Program**, the state conducted **special health camps to identify TB cases**, ensure timely treatment, and raise public awareness about the disease.
- ✦ The campaign enabled citizens to receive testing and consultations through the joint efforts of the health department, **NGOs**, public representatives, and civil society.
- 💡 Under this campaign, over **5,000 Gram Panchayats** have been declared TB-free.
- ✦ **Seoni and Betul districts** have secured the highest number of TB-free Gram Panchayats for three consecutive years.
- ✦ **Kanhar (Mandla), Patwa (Balaghat), and Sawarwani (Chhindwara)** have achieved TB-free status.

- 💡 The state government is striving for **100% coverage under the initiative**, aiming to **eliminate TB from the state by 2028**.

Healthy Liver Mission

- 💡 This initiative is **aimed at combating liver-related diseases**.

- ✦ India leads the world in fatty liver disease prevention, with **Madhya Pradesh** emerging as the **top-performing state** in the country.

- 💡 The mission will focus on awareness, early detection, treatment, and prevention of conditions such as **hepatitis B and C, fatty liver, and cirrhosis**.
- 💡 Under this, the health department will conduct screening camps, provide medical training, offer consultations, and **distribute free medicines** statewide.

National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)

- 💡 In 2020, the **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP)** was renamed the NTEP with the goal to eliminate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the **global target of 2030**.
- 💡 The program is guided by the **National Strategic Plan (2017-2025)** under the strategic pillars: **Detect – Treat – Prevent – Build (DTPB)**.
- 💡 The NTEP focuses on early diagnosis, quality-assured treatment, engaging private providers, contact tracing in high-risk areas, and addressing social determinants through a multi-sectoral approach.
- 💡 The programme recorded its **highest-ever case notifications, reporting 25.5 lakh TB cases in 2023 and 26.07 lakh cases in 2024**.
- 💡 Under NTEP, India introduced **improved drug-resistant TB treatments, including a safer, shorter all-oral Bedaquiline regimen**, increasing success rates from 68% in 2020 to 75% in 2022.
 - ✦ The mBPAL regimen (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid) offers 80% success for MDR-TB, reducing treatment duration to six months.

Fatty Liver Disease

- 💡 Fatty liver disease (**hepatic steatosis**) is the buildup of **excess fat in liver cells**.
 - ✦ It becomes unhealthy when **fat exceeds 5% of liver cells (hepatocytes)**, affecting liver function and metabolism.
- 💡 It is of 2 types- **NAFLD (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease) & Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (AFLD)**

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Tuberculosis

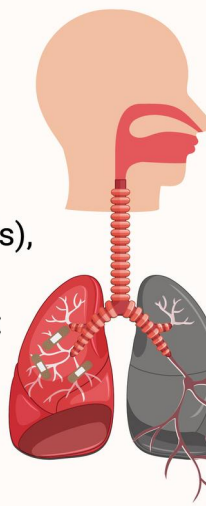


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Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that affects the lungs. Tuberculosis is preventable and curable.

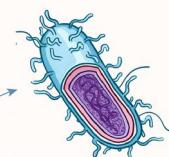
Prevention

- 📞 Seek medical intervention if symptoms persist
- 📞 If at a higher risk (HIV patients), get tested for TB.
- 📞 Practice good cough hygiene: Wear a mask and avoid contact



Causes:

- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- Coughing droplets
- Prolonged exposure from a patient



Symptoms of TB:

Chest pain
Weakness
Weight loss
Fever
Night sweats
Prolonged cough

Facts

- 1.6 million deaths in 2021 Worldwide
- 13th leading cause of death
- India aims to achieve the UN's TB-related SDGs by 2025, five years ahead of the global target to end the TB epidemic by 2030.

#Tuberculosis

Ni-kshay Programme

- Nikshay Mitra are individuals or groups who adopt one TB patient for their treatment for a period of 6 months
- Provision of free drugs and diagnostics
- Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana for nutritional support to TB patients

Development of Green Cities in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government has launched a scheme to develop major **historical, religious and tourist** cities of the state as “Green Cities”.

Key Points

💡 About the Scheme:

- ✦ This scheme has been brought under the guidelines of [Renewable Energy Policy 2025](#).

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✦ The Department of Renewable Energy, State Government and the concerned municipal bodies will be responsible for its implementation.

✦ The aim of the scheme is to develop 10 major cities of Madhya Pradesh as model green cities for environmental protection and clean energy in the next two years.

✦ Historical and religious cities like Maheshwar, Chanderi, Mandu, Orchha, Amarkantak, Bhimbetka, Omkareshwar and Chitrakoot will be included in the scheme.

✦ The government has started this initiative as a pilot project from Sanchi and Khajuraho.

💡 Use of Green Energy:

✦ 75% of the electricity in these cities will be supplied from solar and other renewable energy sources.

✦ Green energy will be used in religious places, schools, Anganwadis, health centres and government institutions.

💡 Key Features:

✦ All street lights will be solar powered.

✦ Solar lanterns will be provided to hawkers and vendors.

✦ Incentives and assistance for large consumers (above 6 kW) to adopt solar energy.

✦ Solar rooftop will be mandatory in multi-storey buildings.

✦ Electric vehicles will be promoted and 50% of the energy in their charging stations will be derived from renewable sources.

✦ Promotion of biogas plants and community solar farming.

💡 Importance:

✦ This scheme will reduce pollution and carbon emissions will decrease due to the use of green energy.

✦ Increasing use of renewable energy will strengthen the energy security of the state.

✦ These places will become clean and energy efficient, which will increase the attraction of tourists.

✦ This scheme will strengthen the sustainable development and clean energy goals of Madhya Pradesh.

Renewable Energy

💡 This is the energy that depends on natural sources. It includes various types of solar energy, geothermal energy, wind, tides, water and biomass.

💡 It is noteworthy that it can never end and is constantly renewed.

💡 Renewable energy resources are spread over a much wider area than conventional sources of energy (which are present in a very limited area of the world) and can be easily available to all countries.

💡 These are not only environmental friendly but also have many economic benefits associated with them.

Electric Vehicles (EVs)

💡 Introduction: Electric vehicles are vehicles that use one or more electric motors for propulsion instead of a conventional internal combustion engine (ICE) powered by petrol or diesel.

✦ Although the concept of electric vehicles has existed for a long time, there has been widespread interest in them in the last decade due to the increasing carbon emissions and other environmental impacts of fuel-based vehicles.

💡 Type:

✦ Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs): These rely entirely on battery power for propulsion and produce zero tailpipe emissions.

✦ Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV): These have a gasoline engine along with an electric motor. They can be charged externally and run on battery power for a limited distance, while the gasoline engine can be used for longer trips.

✦ Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs): These use both an electric motor and a gasoline engine, but the battery cannot be directly plugged in and charged.

🔗 The battery is charged through the gasoline engine or regenerative braking.

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Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly implement the **Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project**.

Key Points

About the project:

- ✦ This is the world's largest **groundwater recharge scheme**, which aims to ensure optimal utilization of river water resources for irrigation in both (Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) states.
- ✦ Under this, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra will jointly develop three tributaries of the Tapti River originating from Multai, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ This is the **third major inter-state river project** involving Madhya Pradesh after **Ken-Betwa Link Project** (Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) and **Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project** (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan).

Key Features:

- ✦ **Water Allocation:** Under this project, water will be transferred from the Tapti River to provide drinking water supply to **north-eastern Maharashtra** and for irrigation support in **southern and south-eastern Madhya Pradesh**.
 - ✍ The total water available for use is **31.13 thousand million cubic feet (TMC)**, out of which **11.76 TMC** is allocated to Madhya Pradesh and **19.36 TMC** to Maharashtra.
 - ✍ The project involves construction of a **diversion weir on the Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra border** and development of **right and left bank canals in both the states**.
 - ✍ Under this project, **3,362 hectares** of land of Madhya Pradesh will be used, for which no displacement or rehabilitation will be required.

- ✦ **Beneficiary Districts:** The project covers Burhanpur and Khandwa districts of Madhya Pradesh and Akola, Amravati and Buldhana districts of Maharashtra, which have traditionally suffered from **groundwater stress and erratic rainfall**.

Tapi/Tapti River:

- 💡 Another important west-flowing river originates from the **Satpura mountain range in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh**.
- 💡 It flows in a fault valley parallel to the Narmada but its length is much shorter.
- 💡 Its basin covers parts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- 💡 **The three major tributaries** of the Tapti River — **the Purna, Girna, and Panjara** — flow from the south in the state of Maharashtra.
- 💡 **Ukai Dam:** A major **hydroelectric project** located on the Tapi River, which provides water and power to the surrounding areas.

Asia Pacific Sprint Cup 2025

Why in News?

Prince Goswami from Madhya Pradesh delivered an outstanding performance and won the gold medal at the **Asia Pacific Sprint Cup 2025**.

Key Points

About the Players:

- ✦ Prince Goswami is a player associated with **Madhya Pradesh State Kayaking-Canoeing Academy**.
- ✦ He won first place in the **1000 metres men's event in the C-1 category**.
- ✦ **Medal Winners:**
 - ✍ **Silver Medal:** Kotaro Sawata (Japan)
 - ✍ **Bronze Medal:** Fumiya Ando (Japan)

Venue of the Competition :

- ✦ The competition was held from **9 to 11 May, 2025** at **Lake Kiba in Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan**.
- ✦ It is a prestigious international competition in the **kayaking-canoeing category of water sports**.

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Jageshwarnath Dham Corridor

Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh laid the foundation stone of the corridor project of **Devshree Jageshwarnath temple** located in Damoh district.



Key Points

About Corridor Construction:

- ✦ The planned corridor aims to elevate **Devshree Jageshwarnath Temple** into a national-level religious and tourist destination.
- ✦ The total proposed cost of construction of the corridor is **Rs 100 crore**.
 - 📎 In the first phase, construction work commenced at a cost of **Rs 10 crore**.
- ✦ The proposed corridor will include a **Sanskrit school** and **replicas of the 12 Jyotirlingas**, turning the temple into a spiritual and cultural complex.
- ✦ This development will **boost religious tourism**, reinforcing the cultural identity of Damoh district and the Bundelkhand region.
- ✦ The corridor project is expected to **generate local employment**, especially in the commerce and service sectors.

Jageshwarnath Temple:

- ✦ Jageshwarnath Dham is located in **Bandakpur village** of **Damoh district (MP)**.

- ✦ The temple was built by **Diwan Balaji Rao Chandorkar** in **1711**.
- ✦ The **Shivalinga** situated in this temple is considered **to be self-manifested and has been present here since time immemorial**.
- ✦ This Shivalinga is **miraculous** and a centre of special faith for the devotees.

India's First Beggar-Free City

Why in News?

Indore has become the **country's first beggar-free city** after authorities rehabilitated beggars by providing them with employment opportunities and enrolled children involved in begging into schools.

Key Points

Multi-Phase Campaign Strategy:

- ✦ In February 2024, the city launched an **anti-begging campaign** under the **Women and Child Development Department**.
 - 📎 At the time, officials identified around 5,000 beggars, including 500 children, living on the streets of Indore.
- ✦ The campaign was conducted in two major phases:
 - 📎 **Phase 1:** Awareness drives to inform the public and engage stakeholders.
 - 📎 **Phase 2:** Rehabilitation of beggars through employment assistance and school enrolment for children.
- ✦ Many beggars were found to have migrated from Rajasthan, highlighting **inter-state dimensions of urban begging**.

National and International Recognition:

- ✦ The initiative has been **recognised as a model project** by the **Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
 - 📎 Indore is among 10 cities selected for a pilot project to eliminate begging in urban areas.
- ✦ A **World Bank** team has also acknowledged the campaign's impact.

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Legal Framework Regarding Begging

- 💡 **Colonial Law:** The **Criminal Tribes Act of 1871** criminalised **nomadic tribes**, associating them with **vagrancy and begging**.
- 💡 **Current Legal Framework:** The **Constitution of India** allows both the **Union and state governments** to enact laws on **vagrancy (includes beggary)**, **nomadic**, and **migratory tribes** under the **Concurrent List** (List III, Entry 15).
 - ✦ There is **no central Act on beggary**. Instead, many states and Union Territories have based their laws on the **Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959**.
 - 🏠 The Act defines a beggar as anyone **soliciting alms, performing or offering articles for sale, or appearing destitute** without visible means of subsistence.
- 💡 **Jurisprudence:** The **Delhi High Court**, in 2018, ruled that the **Bombay Act (criminalising begging)** was arbitrary and violated the right to live with dignity, underscoring the importance of addressing poverty without criminalizing it.
 - ✦ The **Supreme Court of India** in 2021 rejected a **Public Interest Litigation** seeking to remove beggars from public spaces, emphasizing that begging is a **socio-economic problem** rather than a **criminal issue**.
- 💡 **SMILE:** Launched in 2022, **Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)** by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, aims to **rehabilitate beggars** by providing medical care, education, and skills training, working toward a **"beggar-free" India by 2026**.
 - ✦ As of 2024, 970 individuals have rehabilitated under SMILE, including 352 children.

Project, and other pending schemes in Rewa, urging timely completion of construction work.

Key Points

- 💡 **About Sitapur-Hanumana Lift Irrigation Project:**
 - ✦ This project is helpful in **strengthening** the irrigation system of **Mauganj, Sidhi and Singrauli districts**.
 - ✦ Through this project, **1 lakh 20 thousand hectares** of agricultural land in a total of **653 villages** will be connected with irrigation facilities.
 - ✦ **Administrative approval** of **Rs 4,167 crore** has been given by the state government for this project.
 - ✦ **Challenges:**
 - 📎 The dam proposed in this project is to be built on the **Son River** in **Amiliya area** of **Sidhi district**.
 - 📎 The area falls under the **Son Gharial Sanctuary**, making **environmental and wildlife clearance mandatory**.
 - 📎 Emphasizing environmental protection, officials were instructed to ensure that no harm is caused to **gharial conservation** efforts.
- 💡 **Bansagar Dam:**
 - ✦ **Bansagar Dam** is located on the **Son River** in **Rewa district** of Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✦ It is a **multi-purpose project**, aimed at ensuring irrigation, hydropower generation and water supply.
 - ✦ Authorities have been directed to accelerate the construction of the **18 km Bela Minor Canal**, tunnel lining in Chuhiya Valley, aqueduct development, and canal lining.
 - 📎 **Bela Minor Canal** is a tributary canal of the Bansagar Project.
 - 📎 The total length of this canal is **51 km**, out of which **only 21 km of work** has been completed so far.
 - ✦ **Benefits:**
 - 📎 On completion of the dam and canal project, irrigation facilities will be ensured in lakhs of hectares of area in **Rewa, Mauganj, Sidhi and Singrauli districts**.

Irrigation Projects in MP

Why in News?

The Deputy Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh reviewed the **Sitapur-Hanumana Lift Irrigation, Bansagar**

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- ✎ This project will provide **sustainable irrigation facilities to millions of farmers, leading to crop diversification, increased productivity, and improved income.**

Son Gharial Sanctuary

- 💡 It is an **important sanctuary located in the Son River** area of Madhya Pradesh, which was **established in 1981** with the aim of conserving gharials and increasing their numbers.
- 💡 Under this sanctuary, a total area of 210 km has been protected including 161 km of **Son River**, 23 km of **Banas River** and 26 km of **Gopad River**.
- 💡 This sanctuary comes under **Project Crocodile**, the main attraction of the sanctuary is the sandy habitats, which mainly include gharial, **Indian soft shell turtle (Chitra Indica)** and **Indian skimmer (Rynchops albicollis)**.
 - ✎ These areas provide protection to various endangered species.

'AI Bharat @ MP' Workshop

Why in News?

A two-day workshop titled "AI Bharat @ MP" was organized in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Workshop:**
 - ✎ It aimed to make governance more **efficient, transparent** and **citizen-oriented** through **artificial intelligence, Aadhaar** and digital innovations.
 - ✎ The workshop was organised by **Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation (MPSEDC)** and **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
 - ✎ In the technical sessions of the workshop, topics like **Data Protection, Cyber Security, Digital Health (e-Sanjeevani), DIKSHA Platform** and **Digital Education** were discussed.
 - ✎ This workshop presented Madhya Pradesh as a model state of **digital governance**.

Achievements of MP in Digital Infrastructure:

- ✎ **Madhya Pradesh** has become the **first state in the country** where **SD-WAN enabled State Wide Area Network (SWAN)** is operating at 2 Gbps speed.
- ✎ The state has **its own data centre with 1 petabyte capacity**, which ensures secure and quick operation of digital services.
- ✎ The State has become a leader in **digital governance** through digital innovations like **'Sampada 2.0'** and **end-to-end service automation**.

Policy and Innovation:

- ✎ The state government has issued **policies and guidelines** for sectors like **AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics), Drone Technology, Global Captive Centre (GCC)** and **Semiconductor Manufacturing**.
- ✎ These efforts are likely to create new opportunities for **industry, investment and employment in the state**.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- 💡 AI is defined as the ability of machines and systems to **acquire knowledge, apply it, and behave intelligently**.
- 💡 The term "**artificial intelligence**" was first used by American computer scientist and cognitive scientist **John McCarthy**. He is considered the **father of AI**.
 - ✎ It includes techniques like **machine learning, deep learning, big data, neural networks, computer vision, large language models**, etc.
- 💡 The ideal characteristic of artificial intelligence is the **ability to perform and rationalize actions** that have the best probability of achieving a specific goal.

e-Sanjeevani

- 💡 e-Sanjeevani is a **telemedicine service between doctors in the country**, providing an alternative to traditional face-to-face consultation through a digital platform.

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💡 e-Sanjeevani is an important part of **Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission** and more than **45,000 Aabha numbers have been issued** through e-Sanjeevani application.

💡 The **ten leading states** using it are: Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana and Gujarat.

Malwa Festival

Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh participated in the **Malwa Utsav** organized at Lalbagh Complex, Indore from 6 to 12 May 2025.

Key Points

💡 About Malwa Utsav:

- ✦ It is a **five-day cultural festival** organised by **Lok Sanskriti Manch**.
- ✦ This festival has been organised regularly for the last **25 years**.
- ✦ **Objective:**
 - 📌 Preservation and propagation of **folk culture** and traditions.
 - 📌 To provide a **platform and market** to local artists and craftsmen.
 - 📌 To promote **national integration** and cultural exchange.
- ✦ **Exhibition of Folk Arts and Handicrafts:**
 - 📌 In this festival, **folk artists** from different states of the country and different areas of **Madhya Pradesh** presented **folk dance and music**.
 - 📌 **Weavers** and **handicraft artists** displayed weaving, **clay and metal artefacts**.
 - 📌 **Murals, Reza work, Batik prints, copper and brass statues**, and **tribal paintings** were the main attractions of the festival.

Folk Dances of Madhya Pradesh

💡 **Kathi** : This is a dance performed by the **Balai community**, in which clothes decorated with peacock feathers and a bamboo 'kathi' are used. This dance is performed on the 'Dhak' instrument.

💡 **Gangaur** : In the month of Chaitra, **women worship Goddess Parvati** by dancing on clapping and thali. Its two forms – Thalaria and Thola are famous.

💡 **Phaphriya** : It is a group dance performed by men and women together to the sound of pungi.

💡 **Madalya** : In this, women dance at a fast pace with hand and foot movements to the beat of the drum.

💡 **Ada-Khada** : This dance is performed by women to the beat of drums on occasions like marriage, birth and death.

💡 **Danda Dance** : It is performed by men with a stick to the beats of drums and plates during the nights of Chaitra-Vaishakh.

💡 **Matki** : Women balance several matkis on their heads and dance in a circular motion to the beat of drums. Aada-Khada is one form of this.

💡 **Rai** : This dance performed by the Bedia tribe is in a conversational form based on makeup and social topics. Ram Sahay Pandey is its main artist.

💡 **Saira** : This dance is performed as a prayer to Lord Indra for rain by young men holding sticks accompanied by dholak and flute.

💡 **Jawara** : Women perform this dance while balancing a crop basket on their head, which shows the importance of crops.

Custom Hiring Scheme of SMAM

Why in News?

The **Custom Hiring Scheme** under **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** is supplying **modern farm machinery** to rural Madhya Pradesh farmers, boosting their productivity and income.

Key Points

💡 About Custom Hiring Scheme:

- ✦ This scheme has been launched with the aim of **economically empowering small and marginal farmers** through modern **agricultural equipment** and providing them **self-employment opportunities**.

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- ✦ This is an important initiative running under the **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

- ✦ Under this, **Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs)** are established.

✎ These are centres from where farmers can rent agricultural equipment like tractors, harrows, rotavators, seed drills, reapers, threshers, dryers, sprayers etc.

✎ CHCs can be run by farmers, **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, cooperatives, gram panchayats or private entrepreneurs.

- ✦ Under the scheme, the government provides a **subsidy of maximum 40%** and **interest subsidy of up to 3%**.

💡 Beneficiary Eligibility:

- ✦ Under the scheme, **12th pass unemployed farmers** between the ages of **18 and 40** can apply.
- ✦ The selection is done through a **lottery system**, and the **selected beneficiaries** are given **training** and then allowed to purchase the device.

💡 Importance:

- ✦ This scheme decentralises the reach of mechanisation.
- ✦ This **ensures timely harvesting**, **solves the problem of labour shortage** and improves the **efficiency of agricultural operations**.
- ✦ Youth get an opportunity to participate in agricultural service business, which also increases employment opportunities in villages.

Sub-Mission on Mechanisation (SMAM) Scheme

💡 About:

- ✦ It was **launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in 2014**.
- ✎ Under this, **subsidy is provided for purchase of various types of agricultural equipment and machinery to the extent of 40-50% for states other than NER (North Eastern Region) states and for NER states it is 100% limited up to Rs. 1.25 lakh per beneficiary**.

- ✦ The Ministry of Agriculture has also developed a **multilingual mobile app, 'CHC (Custom Hiring Centre) – Farm Machinery'** which connects farmers with the Custom Hiring Service Centres located in their area.

💡 Goal:

- ✦ Increasing access to agricultural mechanisation to small and marginal farmers and in remote areas where availability of electricity for agriculture is low.

Farmer Producer Organisation

💡 Introduction:

- ✦ FPO is a type of **Producer Organization (PO)** whose members are farmers and is promoted and supported by the **Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC)**.

✎ It **came into existence in 2008**, inspired by a recommendation (2002) of amendment to the **Companies Act, 1956** by economist Y.K. Alagh.

✎ It can be registered as a public trust under the **Companies Act, 2013**, **Societies Registration Act, 1860**, or the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

- ✦ Producer organisation is a group formed by producers such as **farmers, non-agricultural class or artisans**, which may take legal forms such as producer companies or co-operative societies with profit sharing among the members.

- 💡 **Objective and Need:** India's agriculture sector is dominated by **small and marginal farmers (87% have less than 2 hectares of land)**, who face seasonal and market risks, and struggle to get fair prices.

- ✦ FPOs help small farmers by **facilitating bulk input procurement, better bargaining power**, and ensuring better price realization at lower costs.
- ✦ These also improve **market access of farmers, helping in achieving the goal of doubling income** and entering global markets.

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Biofuel Implementation Committee

Why in News?

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh government has constituted a **high-powered committee** to ensure **effective implementation of biofuel projects**.

Key Points

About the Committee:

- ✦ This committee will be headed by the **Chief Secretary**.
- ✦ Members will include secretaries of the departments of Forest, Farmer Welfare and Agricultural Development, Urban Development and Housing, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Technical Education, Skill Development and Employment.
- ✦ The Secretary of the **Department of New and Renewable Energy** has been appointed as **Member Secretary**.

Scope of work of the Committee :

- ✦ To consider cases for **relaxation in land standards**.
- ✦ To arrange for collection of **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)** and ensure its easy availability to biofuel producers.
- ✦ To ensure availability of agricultural produce market waste and **cow dung** to biofuel producers.
- ✦ To encourage city gas distribution companies to use **bio-CNG**.
- ✦ To promote the use of Fermented **Organic Manure** among farmers.
- ✦ To arrange **skills training in the biofuel sector**.

Biofuels

- 💡 Any **hydrocarbon fuel** that is **produced from organic matter** (living or once-living material) in a **short period of time** (days, weeks or months) is called a **biofuel**.
- ✦ They can be **used to fuel vehicles, heat homes, and generate electricity**.

- ✦ Biofuels are **considered renewable** because they are made from plants that can be grown again and again.

- 💡 Biofuels can be solid, liquid or gaseous.

- ✦ **Solid biofuels** include wood, dry plant material, and manure.

- ✦ **Liquid biofuels** include bioethanol and biodiesel.

- ✦ **Gaseous biofuels** include biogas.

- 💡 Biofuels can **replace or be used with fossil fuels for a variety of applications**, such as generating heat and electricity.

- 💡 The transition to biofuels is driven by factors such as rising oil prices, greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, and farmers' interest in obtaining fuel from their agricultural crops for profit

Fire at Ujjain Mahakaleshwar Temple

Why in News?

On 5 May 2025, a fire engulfed the **Mahakal Lok Corridor** in the **Mahakaleshwar Temple** campus in **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**.



Key Points

Mahakaleshwar Temple:

✦ Religious Significance:

- 📎 Mahakaleshwar Temple is **dedicated to Lord Shiva** and holds immense religious importance in Hinduism.
- 📎 It is **one of the twelve Jyotirlingas**—the most sacred abodes of Shiva.

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- ✍ The idol of Mahakaleshwar is unique as it is **Dakshina Mukhi (facing south)**, unlike other Jyotirlingas.

✧ Location:

- ✍ The temple is **situated in Ujjain**, an ancient city in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✍ It lies beside the **Rudra Sagar lake**, enhancing its spiritual ambience.
- ✍ The temple complex spans five levels and draws huge crowds, especially during Maha Shivaratri.

✧ Architectural Features:

- ✍ The temple features a spacious courtyard adorned with intricate sculptures.
- ✍ Its design reflects **Chalukya, Maratha, and Bhumija architectural styles**.
- ✍ The foundation and platform are made of stone, while the upper structures rest on strong pillars and plasters.
- ✍ It houses lingam sculptures of Mahakaleshwar and images of **Ganesh (west), Parvati (north), and Karttikeya (east) within the sanctum**.
- ✍ A **sarvatobhadra-style tank** is also part of the temple complex.

Shri Mahakal Lok Corridor

- 💡 **Mahakal Maharaj Mandir Parisar Vistar Yojna** is a plan for the **expansion, beautification, and decongestion** of the Mahakaleshwar temple and its adjoining area in Ujjain district.
- 💡 Under the plan, the Mahakaleshwar temple premises of around **2.82 hectares is being increased to 47 hectares**, which will be **developed in two phases by the Ujjain district administration**.
 - ✧ This will include the **17 hectares of Rudrasagar lake**.
- 💡 The project is expected to increase annual footfall in the city from the current 1.50 crore to nearly three crores.

India's First Stratospheric Airship

Why in News?

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the maiden test flight of the **Stratospheric Airship Platform** from its testing facility in **Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh**.

Key Points

💡 About Airship:

- ✧ Developed by the Agra-based **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE)**, this **airship platform** can be deployed in the stratosphere at an altitude of about **17 km**.
- ✧ It can remain stable at one place for a long time and has the ability to send **real time data**.
 - ✍ The **stratosphere** is a layer of the Earth's atmosphere that lies above the **troposphere** and below the **mesosphere**, ranging in altitude from about 10 to 50 km.
 - ✍ It provides a **stable atmosphere** different from weather changes on Earth, making the region a **suitable for satellites and other high-altitude equipment**.
- ✧ **Structure:**
 - ✍ This airship is equipped with lightweight and highly sensitive technologies, giving it the capability to operate at high-altitudes.
 - ✍ It is equipped with state-of-the-art payloads and sensor systems for **ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Recon) missions**.
 - ✍ The system can be safely recovered after the mission, allowing for longer periods of operation.
- 💡 **Strategic Use:**
 - ✧ This airship **strengthens the surveillance capability** of the security forces by remaining **beyond the range of radar**.

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- ✦ This platform can prove to be extremely useful for military operations in inaccessible and sensitive areas such as **Kashmir** and **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- ✦ This technology is much more **efficient and sustainable** than traditional monitoring systems.
- ✦ It can give accurate information about enemy activities covering a wide area.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

About:

- ✦ DRDO is the **research and development arm of the Ministry of Defence** aimed at **empowering India in cutting-edge defence technologies**.
- ✦ Efforts towards **self-reliance and successful indigenous development** and production of strategic systems and platforms like **Agni and Prithvi missile series**, light combat aircraft **Tejas**, multi-barrel rocket launcher **Pinaka**, air defence system **Akash**, a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems etc. have enhanced India's military capabilities.

Formation:

- ✦ It was formed in 1958 by the integration of the **Technical Development Establishments (TDEs)** and **Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP)** of the Indian Army and the **Defence Science Organisation (DSO)**.
- ✦ DRDO is a network of more than **50 laboratories** intensively engaged in **development of defence technologies** covering various disciplines such as **aeronautics, armament, electronics, combat vehicles, engineering systems** etc.

Birth Anniversary of Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar

Why in News?

On 4 May 2025, **Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar's birth anniversary** was celebrated by remembering his contributions in a **lecture series organised in Ujjain**.

Key Points

About Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar:

- ✦ He was a great archaeologist, painter, historian and cultural researcher of India.
- ✦ He was born on **4 May 1919** in **Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh**.

Contribution:

- ✎ In 1957, Dr. Wakankar **discovered the ancient rock paintings of Bhimbetka caves** located near **Bhopal**, which are evidence of the ancient human civilization.
- ✎ By exploring the direction of flow of the extinct **Saraswati river** in Gujarat region, he proved that it **flowed in India only**, thus providing new evidence to the **Indus Saraswati civilization**.
- ✎ His research challenged the **Aryan-Dravidian invasion theory** and showed that the **continuity of Indian civilization developed on Indian soil itself**.
- ✎ He discovered thousands of rock shelters in different parts of India and **photographed, analysed and exhibited them** at home and abroad.
- ✎ He excavated in the areas of **Maheshwar, Nawada Toli, Manoti, Awara, Indragarh, Kayitha, Mandsaur, Azadnagar, Dangwara** etc.
- ✎ He proved the historicity of **Vikram Samvat** by obtaining the seal from the **reign of Emperor Vikramaditya**.
- ✎ He also **founded the Wakankar Indological Cultural Research Trust** in Ujjain.
- ✦ **Honors:**
 - ✎ Recognizing his contribution, the Government of India honored him with **Padma Shri** in 1975.
 - ✎ The Madhya Pradesh government has named its eighth **tiger reserve (Ratapani Tiger Reserve)** as **Dr. Wakankar Tiger Reserve** in his honour.
 - ✎ **Dr. Wakankar Research Institute** located in **Ujjain** is active in the preservation and propagation of his work.

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Bhimbetka

- 💡 **Location:** It is situated **south of Bhopal** in the **Vindhya mountain range** of Madhya Pradesh, where there are rock shelters with more than 500 rock paintings.
 - ✦ Bhimbetka caves were discovered by **V.S. Wakankar** in the year **1957-58**.
 - ✦ It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in the year **2003**.
- 💡 **Time period:** The **oldest paintings** are estimated to be **30,000 years old** and are still preserved due to their location inside caves.
 - ✦ The paintings of Bhimbetka date back to the **Upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Chalcolithic, Early Historic and Medieval periods**.
 - ✦ However most of the paintings are from the **Mesolithic era**.
- 💡 **Painting Technique:** It uses various colours obtained from natural resources like red ochre, purple, brown, white, yellow and green etc.
- 💡 **Themes of the paintings:** Everyday life of prehistoric men often depicted in stick-like human figures.
 - ✦ Various animals such as elephants, bison, deer, peacocks and snakes are depicted.
 - ✦ Hunting scenes and battle scenes with men at arms.
 - ✦ Simple geometric designs and symbols.

Merger of Banks in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

The Central Government will implement the **One State-One RRB policy** from **1 May 2025**, to **improve the quality of rural banking services**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About One State-One RRB Policy :**
 - ✦ Under this policy, the number of **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** will be **reduced from 43 to 28**, with **one RRB serving all rural areas in each state**.

- ✦ Each new RRB will have an **authorised capital of Rs 2,000 crore** and operate with improved efficiency, management, and customer service.

Objective:

- ✦ To improve the **effectiveness** and **organization** of rural banking services .
- ✦ **Providing integrated services** and **improved access** to customers .
- ✦ **Reduce** operating costs and **grow business** .
- ✦ Accelerating **financial inclusion** .

Historical background of Unification:

- ✦ In the first phase (2006-2010), the **number of RRBs** was reduced from 196 to 82.
- ✦ In the second phase (2013-2015), it was reduced **from 82 to 56** and in the third phase, it was **reduced from 56 to 43**.
- ✦ **Now there will be a total of 28 RRBs** left in the fourth phase .

Merger of banks in Madhya Pradesh:

- ✦ From 1 May 2025, **Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank** and **Madhyanchal Gramin Bank** have merged into a single rural bank, sponsored by **Bank of India** with its headquarters in Indore.
- ✦ The move aims to strengthen rural banking and streamline operations.

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- 💡 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were **established in the year 1975** under the provisions of the **Ordinance promulgated on September 26, 1975** and the **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976**.
- 💡 RRBs are **financial institutions** which ensure adequate **credit for agriculture and other rural sectors**.
- 💡 RRBs enhance the co-operative features and the capacity of a commercial bank to mobilise business and financial resources while being familiar with rural problems.
- 💡 Regional Rural Banks are operated in collaboration with the Government of India, State Governments and sponsor banks.

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- 💡 The shareholding of the Government of India, sponsor banks and the respective states in these banks is **50%, 35% and 15% respectively**.
- 💡 Regional Rural Banks are regulated by the 'National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development' (NABARD).

Forest Alert System

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to implement an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** based real-time forest alert system as a pilot project.

Key Points

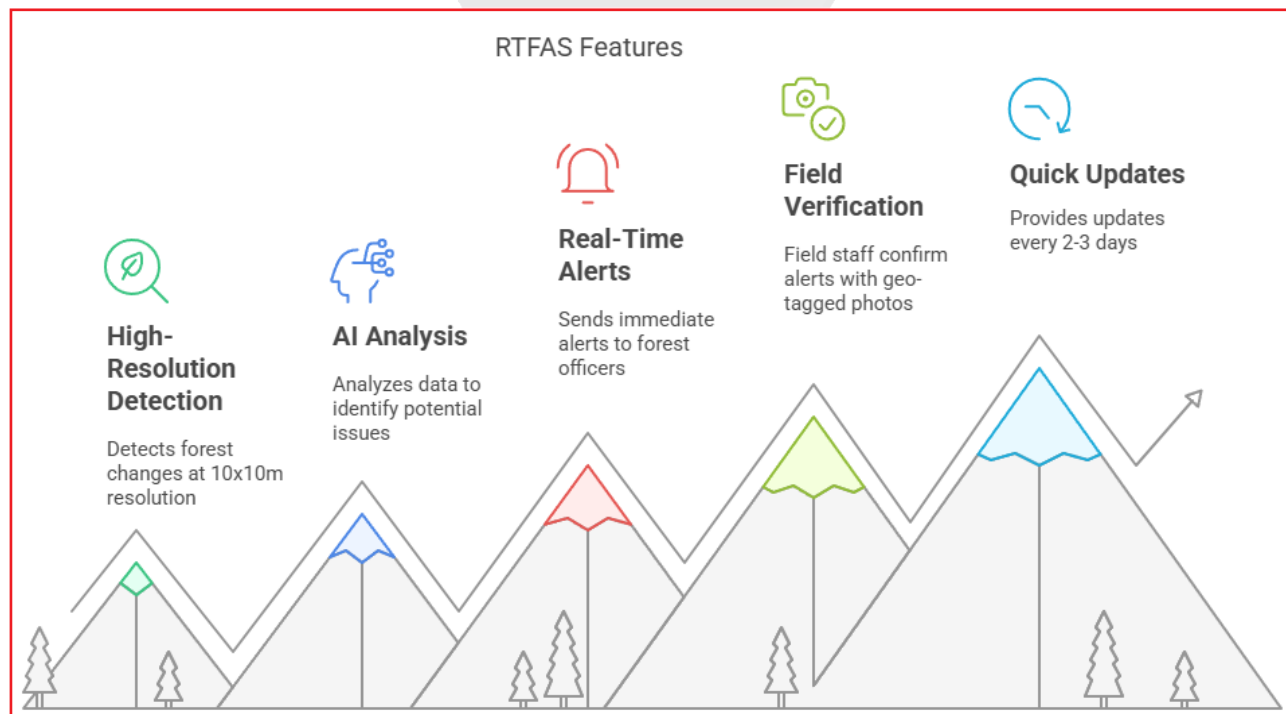
💡 About Forest Alert System:

- ✦ It is a system based on **Google Earth Engine, AI models** and **multi-temporal satellite data**.
- ✦ Madhya Pradesh has implemented this technology on a pilot basis in **sensitive forest divisions** such as **Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Burhanpur and Khandwa districts**. There are plans to expand it **at the state level in the future**.

- ✦ This system will enable **proactive forest management** by timely detection of **forest encroachment, land use change and forest degradation**.

💡 Features:

- ✦ **Satellite images** from three different dates obtained from Google Earth Engine will be analyzed.
- ✦ **Indexes** like **Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)**, **Soil Adjusted Vegetation Index (SAVI)**, **Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI)**, **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** will be used to identify the changes.
- ✦ Significant changes to the land (e.g., cropping, construction, harvesting) will be flagged by the **AI model** and recorded as **polygon alerts**.
- ✦ The app will have features like **GPS tagged photos, voice notes, comments, geofencing, distance measurement**.
- ✦ **Filters** such as **date, density and area** will also be available on the dashboard, making it possible to get specific information.
- ✦ Field workers can upload **photos, GPS locations, and voice recordings** through the app.



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Initiatives Taken by India for Sustainable Forest Management

Government-Led Programs:

- ✦ **Green India Mission (GIM):** Increased forest cover by **0.56%** between **2017 and 2021**.
- ✦ **National Agroforestry Policy (2014):** Encourages tree **planting on private farmland** to reduce pressure on natural forests.
- ✦ **Trees Outside Forests in India Program:** Encourages **tree planting on non-forest lands** by involving private stakeholders to boost green cover.
- ✦ **Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA):** Funds reforestation where forests are **diverted for industrial use**.

Corporate & Community Efforts:

- ✦ **CSR-Driven Plantations:** Companies in **automobile, cement, and energy sectors** undertake afforestation to **offset emissions**.
- ✦ **Agroforestry for Livelihoods:** Farmers integrate **timber, fruit, and medicinal plants with crops** for additional income.

- ✦ **Carbon Credit Strategies:** Industries invest in afforestation to earn **carbon credits**.

28th National Federation Senior Athletics Championship

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh won **three gold medals** in the **28th National Federation Senior Athletics Championship**.

Key Points

National Federation Senior Athletics Championships:

- ✦ It is one of the major domestic athletics competitions in India, organised annually by the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**.

- ✦ The competition provides a **common platform for the country's top athletes** in track and field events and also forms the **basis for selection for international competitions**.
- ✦ Its 28th edition was held **from 21 to 24 April 2025** in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- ✦ **38 medal events** were held in this event.

Importance:

- ✦ This will prove helpful in **establishing Madhya Pradesh on the national athletics map**.
- ✦ This achievement of the players will become **an inspiration for the younger generation**.

Event	Athlete	Achievement
Shot Put	Samarjit Singh	Gold Medal
Pole Vault	Dev Meena	Gold Medal
3000m Steeplechase (Women)	Manju Yadav	Gold Medal

Athletics Federation of India (AFI)

- ✦ **About:** AFI was established in 1946 as a **non-governmental, non-profit, autonomous** apex body for athletics in India.

- ✦ It is affiliated with **World Athletics**, the **Asian Athletics Association (AAA)**, and the **Indian Olympic Association**.

- ✦ **Objective:** To popularize athletics, improve athlete performance, and make the sport commercially viable.

- ✦ **Structure:** AFI consists of 32 affiliated state and institutional units.

- ✦ **Functions:** It organizes **National Championships**, selects teams for **international events**, and promotes athletics through competitions. It also focuses on **grassroots development, coaching programs**, and **special camps** to nurture talent.



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Summary

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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