

# “Jal Mahotsav-2026”

## Under Leadership of CM Yadav, Public Participation Promoted in Water Management

**Bhopal:** Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Madhya Pradesh is transforming water management from a government project into a massive public movement. The state is currently celebrating “Jal Mahotsav-2026,” an ambitious initiative running from March 8 to March 22, aimed at making rural water systems sustainable, accountable, and self-reliant.

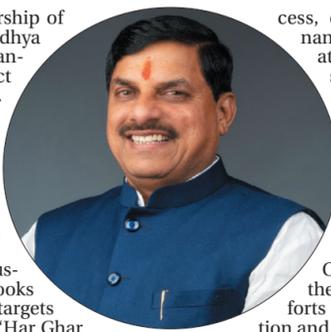
**Empowering the roots: A mission beyond taps**

While the Jal Jeevan Mission focuses on infrastructure, Jal Mahotsav looks toward the future. The campaign targets villages that have already achieved ‘Har Ghar Jal’ status, shifting the focus from installation to long-term ownership.

By involving Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees, the state is ensuring that the community—not just the department—guards every drop.

**Celebrating success: From Rajgarh to the State’s edge**

The seeds of this movement were sown during the nation’s first “Jal Arpan Diwas” in Rajgarh last December. Building on that momentum, Jal Mahotsav-2026 is being celebrated in two model villages from every district. These selected sites serve as blueprints for suc-



cess, demonstrating how local maintenance and source conservation can create a permanent shield against water scarcity.

**Recognition and honour: Saluting water warriors**

The festival isn’t just about policies; it’s about people. In a move to boost morale, the state is identifying and honoring “Water Warriors”—including valvemen, Self-Help Group (SHG) members, and committee volunteers. District Collectors will officially recognize these contributors for their tireless efforts in ensuring smooth water distribution and infrastructure upkeep. Each participating village has been allocated up to Rs 25,000 to organize these celebratory and educational events.

**A statewide festive wave:** The festival is sweeping across diverse landscapes, from the tribal belts of Chhindwara and Shahdol to the urban fringes of Indore, Bhopal, and Gwalior. Major districts like Rewa, Sidhi, Chhatrapur, and Ujjain are actively hosting events to showcase their ‘Har Ghar Jal’ milestones.

Through Jal Mahotsav, Madhya Pradesh is not just distributing water; it is distributing responsibility and pride, ensuring that the state’s rural water supply remains functional for generations to come.

# World-class fire station completed at Raja Bhoj Airport

## DGCA permission sought for opening

**Bhopal:** A new fire station, conforming to international standards, has been completed at Raja Bhoj Airport. The airport authority has sought DGCA permission to open it. The old fire station is proposed to be closed once permission is granted. The new building is located near the runway, making it easier for firefighters to reach the scene in case of an emergency.

The airport’s fire fleet recently received the addition of the state-of-the-art fire tender Rosenburk. This station vehicle is capable of extinguishing fires at long distances. It can store a mixture of water and foam. Equipped with modern firefighting equipment, it is capable of extinguishing fires quickly.

New facilities in the new station: The airport authority has installed modern firefighting equipment, including four fire tenders, in the new fire station.

A medical center has also been constructed. In case of an emergency, the fire brigade can immediately transport the injured here,



thus eliminating the possibility of loss of life. First aid will be provided immediately. The construction of the new integrated terminal has increased the distance to the old fire station.

During the mock drill, it was revealed that the response time for fire engines in an emergency could be longer due to the distance. Therefore, the authority began work on a new fire station last year.

It has been constructed near the new ATC and technical block. Its

proximity to the runway is convenient. Version - International standards have been taken into account. The new fire station has been built according to international standards. With upgrades, it will meet future needs.

Being close to the runway will reduce fire engine response times. This will be operational as soon as DGCA approval is received.

*Ramji Awasthi, Airport Director*

# Roof portions of municipal shops collapse at Jawahar Chowk

## Panicked trader blame neglect and nearby metro work



**Bhopal:** Balconies and roof portions of five roadside municipal shops suddenly collapsed at Jawahar Chowk on Thursday afternoon, triggering panic among shopkeepers and passers-by. The incident occurred around 3:30 pm. Fortunately, no one was injured as shopkeepers quickly rushed out of their shops

after hearing cracking sounds from the structure.

**Traders had raised concerns earlier:** According to shopkeepers, the shops were built nearly 40 years ago and had been deteriorating for some time. One affected shop owner said he had repeatedly informed municipal officials about the weak condition of the building. A small portion of the structure had already collapsed a few days earlier, but a shed had prevented any major accident. On Thursday afternoon, nearly 25 percent of the front balconies and roof portions of the shops fell to the ground. A shop owner said he and his father were inside the shop at the time but managed to escape moments before the collapse. Traders also pointed out that metro construction is underway on the main road nearby, which they suspect may have contributed to the damage.

Local MLA Bhagwan Das Sabnani and councillor Jagdish Yadav inspected the site and directed officials to ensure safety and prevent inconvenience to traders.

# Employees union announces protest over pending demands

By Special Correspondent

**Bhopal:** The Mantralaya Sewa Adhikari Karamchhari Sangh has announced an agitation over several long-pending demands of officials and staff working in the Madhya Pradesh Secretariat. In a press release, association president Sudhir Nayak said many legitimate demands and problems of employees have remained unresolved for years despite repeated representations and meetings with authorities.

He said that while employees across the state have already been granted the fourth time-scale pay grade, Secretariat officials and staff are still deprived of it. The General



Administration Department had issued instructions on March 9,

2020, directing departments to resolve the matter by granting time-scale pay along with higher designations, similar to the State Administrative Service. However, the department itself has not implemented the order even after five years.

Nayak also highlighted other issues, including non-implementation of the cashless health insurance scheme, pending seventh pay scale for permanent workers and unresolved matters concerning outsourced and contingency staff. The association plans to launch a protest over its 19-point charter of demands, with dates to be announced soon.

# MP faces massive vacancy crisis with 1.5 lakh empty posts

## Infrastructure booms, workforce shrinks

**Bhopal:** While Madhya Pradesh’s skyline is being reshaped with grand administrative buildings and cutting-edge machinery, a hollow core remains—a staggering human resource crisis. Currently, over 150,000 government positions across All India Services to Class IV remain vacant, leaving public services on the brink of collapse.

**Health and Safety in Peril:** The most alarming gaps are in the Health and Home departments. Despite a population surge of 1.5 crore since 2011, the state has not created new medical officer posts

in over a decade. Shockingly, 72% of specialist positions are vacant (3,948 out of 5,443).

This shortage directly impacts survival rates, Madhya Pradesh currently holds the nation’s worst infant mortality rate, with 37 deaths per 1,000 births. Similarly, the police force is stretched thin, with 26,000 constable posts empty. While Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has mandated recruiting 7,500 personnel annually, high retirement rates and “no-shows” mean the actual force grows by only a fraction of what is advertised.

**Conservation and red tape:** The “Tiger State” status is also under threat. In the forest service, vacancies exceed 25%, leaving vital wildlife corridors under-policed. Consequently, 147 tigers have died in five years, many due to poaching. The crisis is further complicated by legal bottlenecks.

Recruitment for 10,000 posts is currently stalled due to OBC reservation disputes, while promotion deadlocks force junior officers to “act” in senior roles. Without immediate, large-scale recruitment, the state’s shiny new infrastructure risks becoming a set of empty monuments without the personnel to serve its citizens.

# Bhopal Railway Division conducts massive Mock Drill at Sukhi Sewania

**Bhopal:** In a rigorous display of inter-agency coordination, the Bhopal Railway Division, in collaboration with the 11th Battalion RPSF/RPF and the NDRF, conducted a massive “Joint Full-Scale Accident Exercise” at Sukhisewania Station this Thursday. Under the guidance of DRM Pankaj Tyagi, the drill simulated a high-intensity train derailment involving three coaches—two sleeper and one general—to test the speed and efficiency of emergency response protocols.

The operation commenced at 11:34 AM when a mock alert was sounded by a loco pilot. Within minutes, the Accident Relief Medical Van was dispatched from Bhopal, while fire brigades, 108 ambulances, and NDRF specialized units swarmed the site. Volunteers from the Railway Cultural Academy played the roles of “injured” passengers, providing rescuers with a realistic environment to practice technical extrication, first-aid administration, and swift stretcher evacuation to People’s Hospital. The drill also utilized drone surveillance for real-time site monitoring and videography.



Concluding at 1:28 PM, the exercise successfully validated the seamless integration between railway doctors, engineers, and civil administration, ensuring that the Bhopal Division remains battle-ready for any real-world emergency during the 2025-26 period.

## LLB student dies of suicide

**Bhopal:** A first-year LLB student living in Ayodhya Nagar, died of suicide by hanging herself. The reason for the suicide has not been revealed. Police did not find any suicide note at the scene. A case has been registered in the matter. The incident is said to have occurred late Wednesday night. ASI Manoj Singh stated that Ankita Thapa (17), daughter of Shiva Thapa, lived near the Ayodhya Nagar police station. She was a first-year LLB student but had not been attending college for the past month. She often complained to her family about her lack of interest in studies.

She did not mention any other problems to her family. She hanged herself in her room on Wednesday night. The family discovered her body late at night and informed the police. The deceased has a twin sister and a younger brother. Police say that the reason for the suicide has not been revealed due to the lack of a suicide note.

# AIIMS spreads awareness on children’s kidney health

## World Kidney Day

**Bhopal:** On the occasion of World Kidney Day (March 12), the Department of Pediatrics at AIIMS Bhopal organized a special awareness program highlighting the importance of kidney health among children and their families.

Delivering the welcome address, Prof. Dr. Shikha Malik, Head of the Pediatrics Department, encouraged parents of children suffering from kidney diseases to stay positive and actively participate in their children’s treatment.

Prof. Dr. Girish Chandra Bhatt shared that AIIMS Bhopal has established state’s first Pediatric Dialysis Unit, offering hemodialysis facilities for children. He also emphasized home-based treatments like peri-



toneal dialysis, which are convenient and support the concept of green dialysis.

Over the past year, the specialty clinic recorded more than 4,200 OPD consultations, conducted 1,000+ hemodialysis sessions, and performed over 120 plasma exchange procedures. During the event, Executive

# Special lecture on RTI Act at NITTTR today

**Bhopal:** The National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research Bhopal will organize a special lecture session on the Right to Information Act, 2005 on March 13, 2026. The program will take place at 11:00 AM in the Rajiv Gandhi Auditorium of the institute.

The keynote address will be delivered by Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Information Commissioner at the Central Information Commission, New Delhi. The session aims to highlight the basic principles of the RTI Act, challenges faced during its implementation, and best practices for ensuring transparency and accountability in institutions. NITTTR Bhopal has invited institutions to nominate their CPIOs, FAAs, APIOs, RTI Nodal Officers, and



other officials dealing with RTI matters to attend the session. The lecture is expected to help participants better understand effective compliance with the transparency law.

# BNI empowers women entrepreneurs with referral strategies



**Bhopal:** Celebrating International Women’s Day, BNI Bhopal hosted a dynamic weekly meeting at Effotel

by Sayaji to bolster women-led businesses. Around 50 prominent women entrepreneurs gathered to

explore referral-based networking and strategic business development.

BNI Executive Director Pradeep Karambelkar highlighted a critical gap, noting that 95% of women entrepreneurs operate without a formal sales team. He emphasized that BNI’s trusted community acts as a powerful marketing arm, converting mutual referrals into global growth opportunities.

Guided by experts like Arun Bagdare and Aarti Sinha, participants learned to scale their business models and build professional partnerships. The session provided a vital platform for local leaders to expand their reach, proving that strong networking is the ultimate catalyst for female entrepreneurship.

# IISER develops low-cost Microfabrication Tech

**Bhopal:** A significant milestone has been achieved towards making India self-reliant in semiconductor manufacturing. Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal, have developed an indigenous microfabrication technology that is low-cost and low-carbon. This technology has the potential to simplify and reduce the complex and expensive process of semiconductor chip manufacturing. Experts believe that this innovation could provide a new impetus to semiconductor research and production in India. It will also make chip manufacturing research accessible to large industries, as well as academic institutions and startups.

Dr. Shantanu Talukdar and his team from the Department of Elec-



trical Engineering and Computer Science at IISER Bhopal developed this indigenous technology after several years of research. His team also included Dr. Swapnendu Ghosh and Debjit Dey Sarkar.

The scientists developed a new method for manufacturing photomasks and hard masks used in the microfabrication process. This research has also been published in the international journal “Micro and Nano Engineering,” earning global recognition.

## Police recovered Rs 2.30 lakh from the ‘crime queen’s’ pocket

**Bhopal:** While Bhopal’s history is adorned with the grace of its legendary Begums, the present-day underworld sees a darker shadow cast by the notorious “Razia Chorni.” The 38-year-old habitual offender, a name synonymous with precision burglary in police records, is back in the headlines after a high-stakes midnight heist was thwarted by the swift action of the Tila Jalmalpur police. The incident unfolded during the silent hours of March 10, 2026. Local businessman Ashfaq Ali had secured Rs 2.30 lakh in cash within a waist bag, locked safely inside a Godrej cupboard. As the household slept, Razia allegedly struck between 3:00 AM and 4:00 AM, demonstrating a chilling “criminal engineering” skill by bypassing the cupboard’s locks without waking a soul. The cash vanished into thin air, leaving the family in shock. However, the law was far from slumbering.