

MP among top 3 in development: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Speaking of the developmental in-roads made by the State in recent years, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said Madhya Pradesh now holds the number three slot in terms of development in comparison to other States.

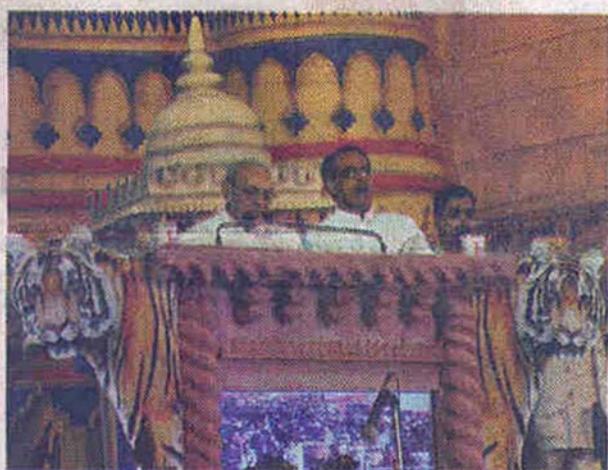
"This is a matter of pride, but we still have a long way to go," cautioned Chouhan, adding that apart from the development, the number of poor has increased in the State.

Interacting with media-persons, Chouhan said Madhya Pradesh has secured third position in terms of development, as a lot of work was done in the field of health, education and agriculture.

Chouhan further said that real development of the State is possible only if everybody from Chief Minister to village panch, is driven by a feeling of his own State.

Every businessman, farmer, labourer and people from other professions should have a feeling of his own State, only then Madhya Pradesh would stride towards development, he added.

Claiming that Chhattisgarh is like a younger brother to Madhya Pradesh, Chouhan accepted that after separation of the State, Madhya Pradesh lost a significant portion of its natural resources, particularly in power production and mining sectors.



Governor Rameshwar Thakur administering oath during the 55th Foundation Day celebration of Madhya Pradesh at Motilal Nehru Stadium in Bhopal on Monday. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was also present. Pioneer photo

He informed that over the next three years, there would be around five lakh new employment opportunities for the youth in the fields of education, health, police and electricity.

Regarding land rights to forest dwellers, Chouhan said that the State Government has decided to even reconsider the claims of dwellers, which were earlier rejected.

Chouhan said that he would review the law and order situation in the State, every Monday. To arrest the increasing crime rate in Madhya Pradesh, the State Government has decided to come out with a separate cadre of intelligence wing, he added.

Regarding Kashmir, the Chief Minister said that the sovereignty of the border state

should be maintained at any cost.

"Nobody should get so much freedom that they speak out anything in the name of freedom to speech. Those speaking this way, (Arundhati Roy and Gilani) should be behind bars," he said, adding if Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also said so, he had no right to be in office.

The Public Services Guarantee Act implemented in Madhya Pradesh has been lauded by Chief Ministers of several States including Omar Abdullah, Ashok Gehlot, Narendra Modi, Prem Kumar Dhumal, Raman Singh and Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, he said.

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