

Madhya Pradesh/ Today's scenario is different from the time when Forest Protection Act was legislated in 1980: CM Kamal Nath

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Bhopal: The Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that the biggest asset of Madhya Pradesh is its forest wealth and the state is proud of it. The responsibility of protecting and preserving the forests lies with the people living on forests and every member of the forest department.

Addressing the forestry conference at **RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration** here in Bhopal, the Chief Minister urged officers and employees associated with forest protection to realize the objectives of the **Forest Protection Act**.

'It was easier to designate national parks in 1980s': Nath said that today's scenario is completely different from the time when the Forest Protection Act was legislated in 1980. The present circumstances are starkly different. People's expectations and aspirations were not so high. It was easier to designate **national parks**.

'Making degraded land green is biggest challenge': Kamal Nath said that the biggest challenge is to make the degraded forests green. He said that the forest is deeply associated with Indian culture. The future is dependent on the forest. He stressed the need to protect, conserve and judiciously utilize the forests.

Giving examples of **bamboo** and **millets** gaining importance as cash crops, the CM said that the priorities are changing now. He said that the forest department will have to play the role of an enabler. All possible measures must be adopted to improve the degraded forest areas. He said that forest protection must continue avoiding tension and conflicts in the interest of the people and the state.



‘World today prefers chemical-free drugs’: MP’s The Chief Minister said that the biodiversity of Madhya Pradesh is extremely rich. Many researchers are working on this. Now the world is rapidly moving from **chemical-based pharmaceutical drugs** to **chemical-free pharmaceutical drug** manufacturing.

Nath said that minor forest produces are important assets of the future. The Forest Department will have to march forward with fresh approach and understanding. He said that the Forest Department will have to work out a multi-pronged strategy for the same deviating from conventional approach.

The Minister for Forests Shri Umang Singhar discussed the role of **Joint Forest Management Committees** and informed how their members are functioning for the conservation of forest.

The Chief Minister released three publications-‘Vananchal Sandesh’, ‘Camping Destinations’ and ‘Wildlife Destination’.

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