

# Central Chronicle

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### Cong slams Modi govt over fall of Indian rupee against US dollar



### UN confirms US will leave WHO in 2026

## MUSTREAD Mild tremors felt in Northeast India

**Shillong:** India's northeastern states and Bangladesh shook in the wee hours of Friday after a 4.8 magnitude earthquake hit Myanmar, an official said. However, there were no reports of any casualties or damage. The tremor was felt at 00.53 a.m. with its epicentre in the Myanmar region, said an official of the Regional Seismological Centre in Shillong. The earthquake was felt in some parts of Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, and adjoining areas of the northeastern region, besides parts of Bangladesh.

## ED raids Ex MLA Baljeet Singh's premises among nine places

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at the premises of former MLA Baljeet Singh Yadav among nine locations across Rajasthan in continuation of its investigation into the alleged embezzlement of MLA funds under the guise of supplying sports equipment to schools. The searches were underway since early Friday in Rajasthan's Jaipur, Dausa, and Rewari. As per ED officials, the raids are part of an investigation into the alleged embezzlement of MLA funds under the guise of supplying sports equipment to schools.



## Veteran leader Sat Sharma elected J&K BJP President

**Jammu:** Former Minister and veteran leader Sat Pal Sharma on Friday was elected unopposed as President of the Bharatiya Janata Party of Jammu and Kashmir unit. Returning officer (RO) Sanjay Bhatia here at a function organized at the party headquarters announced that Sat Pal Sharma has been elected unopposed in the elections. He, however, congratulated him on his victory. This would be his second term as the J&K BJP head. The new president later thanked the cadre, called upon workers to support him in strengthening the party in the Union Territory.

## Bihar: Police arrest one after Mokama firing incident

**Patna:** Bihar's Panchmahla Police arrested one accused involved in the firing incident that took place between two gangs in Mokama area here. The arrested has been identified as Sonu Singh of the Sonu-Monu gang. On January 23, former MLA Anant Singh had alleged that one of his people had got injured in the neck after the two people opened fire at his group. The former MLA identified the alleged accused involved in the firing incident as Sonu and Monu and called them "kidnappers and thieves."

## Ekta Kumari makes history

**Jammu:** Ekta Kumari has etched her name in history as the first Parade Commander of the All India NCC Girls Contingent from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) at the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path this year. Hailing from Srinagar, she serves as the Leading Cadet of 1 J&K Naval Unit NCC and is currently pursuing a BSc at Government College for Women in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Inspired by her father, a retired soldier from 12 JAK LI, Ekta's dream of joining the Defence forces has been a lifelong ambition. From her schooling at Army Public School, Akhnoor, to her college years where she joined the NCC, Ekta's unwavering determination has propelled her towards this monumental achievement.

**Sensex**  
BSE..... 76,190.46 (-329.92)  
NSE..... 23,092.20 (-113.15)

**Bullion**  
Gold..... 82,420 (24 carat 10gm)  
Silver..... 97,500 (1kg)  
USD(\$)/INR(Rs)..... 86.25

**Weather**  
Sunrise | Sunset | Day | Night  
7:03 | 6:02 | 22.6 | 13.2



# Full liquor prohibition in 17 religious cities

### Bhopal to get a new Rs 180-crore bridge ■ Key decisions announced at Maheshwar cabinet meeting

**Maheshwar (Khargone)**  
In a historic cabinet meeting held in Maheshwar, the city of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, the Madhya Pradesh government made several significant announcements on Friday. This meeting was dedicated to commemorating the 300th birth anniversary of Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar. The meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, began with the singing of the national song Vande Mataram. The CM emphasized that holding the cabinet meeting in Maheshwar was aimed at promoting the state's religious, cultural, and tourism potential.

Inspired by Devi Ahilyabai's vision for women empowerment, good governance, and welfare of farmers, the state is committed to holistic development while embedding her principles into policymaking. **Major Announcements**  
**Prohibition in 17 Religious Cities:** A major step towards prohibition was announced, with a complete ban on liquor in cities like Ujjain, Datia, Panna, Mandla, Multai, Mandsaur, Maihar, Omkareshwar, Mandleshwar, and Chitrakoot. Additionally, villages like Salkanpur, Barman Kala, Kundalpur, and Bandhakpur will also see complete prohibition. There will also be a five-kilometer liquor-free zone along the banks of the Narmada River.

**Rs 180-Crore Bridge in Bhopal**  
A new bridge will be constructed in Bawadiya Kalan to ease traffic congestion in the state capital. **Development Initiatives**  
Rs 25 crore allocated to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University for establishing an Excellence Center. Air taxi services will expand to three new districts. Streamlined legal and medical procedures for inmates, allowing them to participate in court hearings and record statements from jail or hospitals via video conferencing. **Honoring Narmada and Devi Ahilyabai**  
The CM and his cabinet performed a grand Narmada Puja at the Maheshwar ghats. Accompanied by 20 local priests chanting the Narmadashtak, the ministers offered a ceremonial chunari and performed a milk ritual to pray for the state's prosperity.

**Visit to the Royal Seat**  
After the meeting, the CM and his team visited the Ahilya Fort's royal throne and posed for a photo session at the Rajwada. This was the second time a cabinet meeting was held in Maheshwar, the last being in 2004 under former CM Uma Bharti. This landmark meeting marked the state's commitment to blending tradition with progressive governance.

## Ten Oppn MPs suspended after ruckus at JPC meeting on Waqf Amendment Bill 2024

**New Delhi (UNI)**  
Ten Opposition MPs were suspended for a day on Friday after ruckus broke out during a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) meeting on the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 here. The suspended MPs are Kalyan Banerjee (TMC), Md. Jawed (Congress), A Raja (DMK), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM), Nasir Hussain (Congress), Mohibullah (Samajwadi Party), M. Abdullah (DMK), Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena (UBT)), Nadeem ul Haq (TMC) and Imran Masood (Congress).



The Opposition members accused the Committee Chairman Jagdambika Pal for allegedly disregarding opposition voices and claimed an undeclared "emergency" is going on in the meeting. Talking to reporters after the meeting, TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee said, "We repeatedly requested the meeting to be held on January 30 and 31, but our requests were ignored. When we landed in Delhi last night, the subject of the meeting was changed. Initially, we were informed that the meeting would proceed clause by clause. What is happening inside feels like an undeclared emergency."

On his suspension, Congress MP and JPC member Imran Masood said, they are doing everything in a lot of hurry and from the very first day it looked like they want to grab the Waqf properties...We agreed to a meeting on 25th and 26th January, now they have postponed it to 27th January.

## 8 dead, 6 seriously injured in blast at Ordnance factory in Bhandara

**Bhandara (UNI)**  
Eight workers died and six others seriously injured after a blast in the Ordnance Factory here in Bhandara district of Maharashtra on Friday. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari have confirmed the death of 8 workers at a press conference. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday expressed sadness over the Ordnance factory blast at Bhandara in Maharashtra that claimed one life. The Minister also paid condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. The explosion took place in the factory at around 10:30 AM this morning. Bhandara district Collector Sanjay Kolte said that the roof of the factory was totally collapsed due to the blast and added rescue operations is still going on. He said the explosion was so loud that it was heard up to 5 km away. After the explosion, pieces of iron and stones were seen scattered far and wide, the Collector said. Kolte said that the blast took place in the LTP (Long Term Planning) section of the factory located in Jawahar Nagar area. The exact cause of the explosion is yet to be ascertained, but authorities are conducting further investigations.



## ISRO set for historic 100th launch



**Chennai (UNI)**  
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will herald yet another significant milestone when it will launch GSLV-F15/NVS-02 Mission, marking its 100th mission from the spaceport of SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on January 29. The 50.9 m tall three stage vehicle, with the indigenous cryogenic stage, and with a lift of mass of 420.7 tonnes, carrying NVS-02 Navigation Satellite, will lift off from the Second Launch Pad at 06:23 hrs on January 29 morning. When contacted by UNI, ISRO sources on Friday evening confirmed that the launch will take place at 06:23 hrs on January 29 morning. NVS-02 will provide Advanced India's Regional Navigation Capabilities as part of NavIC series. NVS-02 is the second in the series of Navic satellites. Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) is India's independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide accurate Position, Velocity and Timing (PVT) service to users in India as well as to region extending about 1500 km beyond Indian land mass.

## Hope UK govt will take action: India on disruption of Emergency screening by Khalistanis

**New Delhi (UNI)**  
India today said that freedom of speech and expression cannot be applied selectively, amid incidents of Khalistani elements disrupting the screening of Kangana Ranaut's new film 'Emergency' in several halls in the UK. The film is based on the Emergency imposed by former PM Indira Gandhi in 1975. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, at a briefing, expressed hope that the UK government will take appropriate action in the matter. "The film Emergency screened in several halls was being obstructed. We have consistently raised with the UK government incidents of violent protests and intimidation by anti-India elements. Freedom of speech and expression cannot be applied selectively, and those obstructing it must be held accountable. "We hope the UK side will take appropriate action against those responsible. Our High Commission in London remains in touch with our community members for their safety and welfare. So we expect the UK side to take strong appropriate action in this matter," he reiterated. The issue was raised by Bob Blackman, Conservative MP for Harrow East, in the House of Commons. He said in a post on X: "I raised the horrific intimidation of my constituents and many others, as Pro-Khalistan thugs disrupted screenings of the new 'Emergency' film in cinemas. "Some cinemas have even pulled the film in fear of more disruption. "We must stand up to anyone trying to silence free speech."

## Rajnath flags-off Sanjay Battlefield Surveillance System

**New Delhi (UNI)**  
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday, flagged-off 'Sanjay - The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)' from South Block here. Sanjay is an automated system which integrates the inputs from all ground and aerial battlefield sensors, processing them to confirm their veracity, preventing duplication and fusing them to produce a common surveillance picture of the battlefield over secured Army data network and satellite communication network, a Defence Ministry statement said. It will enhance battlefield transparency and transform the future battlefield through a centralised web application which will provide inputs to Command and Army Headquarters, and the Indian Army Decision Support System. The BSS is equipped with state-of-the-art sensors and cutting-edge analytics. It will monitor the vast land borders, prevent intrusions, assess situations with unparalleled accuracy and prove to be a force multiplier in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. This would enable commanders to operate in both conventional and sub-conventional operations in a network centric environment. Its induction will be an extraordinary leap towards data and network centricity in the Indian Army. Sanjay has been indigenously and jointly developed by the Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) creating a conducive ecosystem towards achieving 'Atmanirbharta' as a follow up to the Indian Army's 'Year of Technology Absorption'. These systems will be inducted to all operational Brigades, Divisions and Corps of the Indian Army in three phases from March to October of 2025, which has been declared as 'Year of Reforms' in the Ministry of Defence.



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## CBI moves Cal HC seeking death penalty for convict Sanjay Roy in medic rape-murder case

**Kolkata:** The CBI on Friday filed an appeal in the Calcutta High Court praying for death penalty for convict and Civic Volunteer Sanjay Roy, who had been awarded life sentence by a sessions court here on Monday in the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Trainee doctor rape and murder case, court sources said. The Central Bureau of Investigation's latest move happened after it objected to the West Bengal government's Tuesday's petition, which also sought capital punishment for Roy after the sessions court of Sealdah found the Civic Volunteer guilty of murder and handed him life imprisonment. The matter was presented before the double bench headed by Justice Debangshu Basak, by CBI advocate Rajdeep Majumdar.

## CDSKO releases list of NSQ and spurious drugs for Nov 2024

**New Delhi:** Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSKO) on Friday released the list of Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) and Spurious drugs for the month of November 2024 on its portal, according to an official release by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Central Drugs Laboratories have identified 51 drug samples to be Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) and State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 84 drug samples as NSQ, the release stated. Identification of drug samples as Not of Standard Quality is done based on the failure of the drug sample in one or the other specified quality parameters. The failure is specific to the drug products of the batch tested by the Government Laboratory and it does not warrant any concerns on the other drug products available in the market.

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