

Central Chronicle

Founder: Late Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari

Inspiration: Late Shri Prafulla Kumar Maheshwari

EDITORIAL

Agriculture Cabinet

The state's first historic "Agriculture Cabinet," held on Monday in Nagalwadi, Barwani district, under the chairmanship of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, was not merely a formal meeting but rather signalled a symbolic and practical shift in the state's policy direction. By declaring 2026 as the "Farmer Welfare Year," the government has made it clear that farmers and the rural economy are at the center of its priorities.

The announcement of a comprehensive financial package of Rs 27,500 crore is a testament to this commitment. Whether it's schemes worth Rs 25,678 crore for agriculture and allied sectors or administrative approval of Rs 2,068 crore for two major irrigation projects in Barwani district, these decisions are significant steps towards strengthening the state's agricultural infrastructure. The target of irrigating 15,500 hectares of land will not only increase production but also provide a foundation for income stability in tribal areas.

A key feature of the Agriculture Cabinet is its multi-faceted approach. The Integrated Fisheries Policy 2026, which aims to invest Rs 3,000 crore and create 20,000 jobs over the next three years, is a bold initiative towards diversifying the rural economy. This clearly demonstrates that the government is moving beyond traditional farming and giving equal importance to allied activities. The provision of ₹610 crore for animal health and ₹1,739 crore for horticulture demonstrates an effort to strengthen the entire "seed to market" chain.

Bringing 17 departments together and working under a coordinated strategy is also a major administrative exercise. Often, schemes lose momentum due to departmental boundaries. If this coordination is effectively implemented on a practical level, Madhya Pradesh can present the "garden to market" concept as a successful model. Hosting a cabinet meeting in a tribal area like Nagalwadi and granting

the Bhagoria festival state status indicates that development is not only linked to economic development but also to cultural respect. The presence of the Chief Minister and ministers in traditional tribal attire was a symbolic message: the government is not only formulating plans but also striving to address social concerns. However, these ambitious announcements also face a major challenge: effective implementation. Financial approvals and policy announcements will only be meaningful if transparency, timeliness, and accountability are ensured at the grassroots level. Timely completion of irrigation projects, attracting genuine investment in fisheries and horticulture schemes, and expanding access to animal health services in rural areas will be a testament to administrative efficiency.

Dr. Mohan Yadav's vision clearly views agriculture not just as a means of production, but as the foundation of overall rural prosperity. If this vision is pursued with continuous monitoring and a strong implementation mechanism, Madhya Pradesh can truly transform the 'Farmer Welfare Year' into a year of lasting change. This initiative can give the state a new identity in the direction of agricultural innovation and inclusive development. Madhya Pradesh's first "Agriculture Cabinet," chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav in Nagalwadi, Barwani, marked a major policy shift by declaring 2026 as "Farmer Welfare Year." The government announced a 27,500 crore package, including 25,678 crore for agriculture and allied sectors and 2,068 crore for irrigation projects to benefit 15,500 hectares, especially in tribal areas. Initiatives such as the Integrated Fisheries Policy 2026, animal health funding, and horticulture support aim to diversify and strengthen the rural economy. While the vision emphasizes inclusive growth and cultural respect, its success will depend on transparent and effective implementation at the grassroots level.

Khamenei's Legacy - A Turning Point for Iran and the Region

Dr. Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit
Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's death would likely trigger a complex succession process, given his role as Supreme Leader since 1989. Khamenei has been Iran's supreme leader since 1989, succeeding the founder of the post-shah Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who steered Iran's 1979 revolution. Iran's political landscape might become unstable as various factions vie for power. Domestically, this could lead to shifts in policy direction and potential unrest. Internationally, it might affect Iran's relationships, especially with countries like the US, Israel, and Saudi Arabia. The impact on nuclear negotiations and regional conflicts like Syria and Yemen could be significant. Economically, uncertainty might exacerbate existing challenges, including sanctions. The Constitution stipulates a transitional process led by the Assembly of Experts, but the outcome is uncertain. Overall, Khamenei's death would have far-reaching implications for Iran and beyond, having evoked a range of emotions among Iranians, reflecting the country's deep-seated divisions. In cities like Tehran and Mashhad, thousands have gathered to mourn, chanting religious slogans and holding photos of Khamenei, with many weeping and expressing grief. These mourners are likely to be supporters of the regime and the Shia

clergy, who view Khamenei as a symbol of Iran's sovereignty and Islamic identity. In contrast, some Iranians are celebrating, with reports of people dancing, cheering, and honking car horns in streets, particularly in cities like Karaj and Rasht. These celebrations are likely driven by hopes

implications for India, particularly in terms of economic and strategic interests. India's investment in Iran's Chabahar port, a crucial gateway to Central Asia, is now uncertain, with the stability of the 10-year operational contract signed in 2024 hanging in the balance. The International

implications for India's economic and strategic interests, particularly regarding the Chabahar Port project. The port is crucial for India's trade with Central Asia and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. However, the US has imposed sanctions on Iran, affecting India's operations at Chabahar.

The major key concerns are disruptions at Chabahar could affect India's trade and energy security, with potential price surges and inflation. The port is vital for India's connectivity plans and countering China's influence in the region. India's operations at Chabahar face uncertainty due to US sanctions, with a waiver valid until April 2026. India has already paid \$120 million for Chabahar's development and is negotiating with the US to continue operations. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's death marks a pivotal moment in Iran's history, triggering uncertainty and potential instability. The succession process, regional dynamics, and global relations hang in the balance. For India, it poses economic and strategic risks, particularly regarding Chabahar Port and energy security. As Iran navigates this transition, careful diplomacy is crucial for India to protect its interests. Ultimately, Khamenei's death exposes Iran's deep divisions, setting the stage for a potentially volatile period with far-reaching implications.

India's trade with Iran, including exports of rice, tea, and pharmaceuticals, and imports of dry fruits and chemicals, could be disrupted. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route, poses a risk to India's crude oil imports, which may lead to price surges and inflation.

for change and a more liberal future, as well as opposition to Khamenei's strict policies and human rights record. Meanwhile, many Iranians are anxious about the future, fearing retaliation and potential escalation of conflict with the US and Israel, as well as power struggles within Iran's government. The country's interim leadership has promised continuity, but the situation remains uncertain, leaving many on edge. Overall, Khamenei's death has exposed the deep fault lines within Iranian society, setting the stage for a potentially volatile period in the country's history. Khamenei's death has significant

North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) project, aimed at reducing transportation time and costs, may also face delays. India's trade with Iran, including exports of rice, tea, and pharmaceuticals, and imports of dry fruits and chemicals, could be disrupted. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route, poses a risk to India's crude oil imports, which may lead to price surges and inflation. India's strategic autonomy and relations with the US may also be impacted, as the country navigates the complex web of sanctions and diplomatic pressures.

Khamenei's death has significant

Why couldn't Sattan stop his journalist daughter?

Recently, former MLA and senior BJP leader Satyanarayan Sattan has been in the news for his daughter. Recently, his journalist daughter, Kanupriya, entered politics. It wasn't a sensation; it made headlines that her political career began with joining the Congress, not the BJP. Sattan is portraying this as democratic freedom, but it's not. Kanupriya has witnessed her father's neglect and marginalization within the BJP today. Sattan could have gotten his daughter into the BJP, but he saw no hope for Kanupriya's career.

He has been a victim of factionalism in Indore's BJP for over a decade and a half, and his inquiries have become a mere election-time ritual. When his condition is this bad, what could he do for his daughter? Secondly, the opposition to dynasty politics, which became vocal after Narendra Modi's arrival in the BJP, could

also have become a hurdle. Sattan was entrusted with the responsibility of the 2008 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP candidate was Sumitra Mahajan. Sattan worked tirelessly to develop the election strategy, but a faction was determined to sabotage it. In Sattan's own words, he managed to help Mahajan win by only a few thousand votes. Distressed by this factionalism, Sattan never set foot in the BJP office after that election. Now, when his daughter decided to join the Congress, Sattan failed to persuade her. He could have stopped her if he wanted, but he did not.

Kanupriya's Political Mathematics

The Satyanarayan Sattan family hails from Indore Assembly Constituency No. 1. Ramlal Yadav, a

Congress worker leader, was a strong leader and even became an MLA. After his death, Sanjay Shukla continued to challenge the BJP and became an MLA in 2018. Following the 2023 defeat, Kanupriya sees potential in the vacuum created within the Congress by the departure of Sanjay Shukla and other prominent leaders, Kamlesh Khandelwal, to the BJP. The BJP's ticket prospects were negligible. This appears to be her reason for joining the Congress. The absence of a strong competitor could benefit her, easing her path to a Congress Assembly ticket. Her remaining hopes rest on the connections she has made through her father's work.

Hope for Two Red Lights

The BJP has begun preparations to strengthen its organization.



With the appointment of former Nepanagar MLA, Mrs. Sumitra Devi Kasdekar, as the state vice-president of the BJP Scheduled Tribes Front, the residents of Burhanpur are now hoping for two red lights again after Holi, with a possible cabinet expansion and appointments to municipal boards. Some names are in the news, including state BJP spokesperson Archana Chitnis.

Malwa-Nimar Notes
Sanjay Vyas

Higher Education

Admission to 7 IISERs on the basis of IAT scores



Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) are calling for applications for the IISER Aptitude Test (IAT) 2026, the exclusive and mandatory gateway for admission to undergraduate programmes across all IISER campuses for the academic year 2026-27.

The online application window opens on 5th March 2026 (Thursday) with the aptitude test scheduled to be held on 7th June 2026 (Sunday).

Aspiring science students can now register for this key aptitude test, which opens doors to world-class research training at any of the seven IISER campuses. IISERs are premier autonomous institutions established by the Government of India to promote high-quality basic science education and research.

Candidates seeking admission to the IISERs, including IISER Berhampur, IISER Bhopal, IISER Kolkata, IISER Mohali, IISER Pune, IISER Thiruvananthapuram and IISER Tirupati, are encouraged to register for the IAT 2026 by visiting the official website—<https://www.iiser-admission.in/>, which will also provide details on examination centres.

A helpdesk has been established (Tel: +91 7205457461 (between 2 PM to 5 PM on working days); Email: askcad2026@iiserbpr.ac.in) to assist candidates during the entire IAT 2026 admissions process.

IISER Bhopal's dynamic research ecosystem
Speaking academic opportunities

at IISER, Prof. Gobardhan Das, Director, IISER Bhopal, said, "The IISER Aptitude Test is more than just an assessment; it's a gateway to IISER Bhopal's dynamic research ecosystem, where students are inspired to explore, investigate, and create new knowledge. What sets IISER Bhopal apart is its distinctive integration of science, engineering, economics, and humanities, fostering an interdisciplinary academic environment. Beyond academics, the Institute actively promotes sports and cultural activities as integral components of campus life, supported by state-of-the-art sports infrastructure and facilities that enable students to excel both intellectually and physically."

IISERs boast strong placement records, with graduates securing roles at top global firms, research institutions, and PhD programmes worldwide. Opportunities abound through internships, industry collaborations, and international exchange programmes, setting students up for strong careers in academia, industry, and beyond.

The IISER Aptitude Test (IAT) stands out for offering a dedicated science-first pathway, enabling students to explore multiple disciplines before choosing their specialisation. Successful applicants will join a vibrant community focused on cutting-edge research in biological, chemical, mathematical, physical, and earth sciences.

Science Fact

50 years ago, computers helped speed up drug discovery

Chemists often need to sort a large number of compounds according to whether or not they possess a given property.... [Researchers] have been working on a technique of getting computers to teach themselves how to solve such problems.

The most recent experiments indicate that the technique [based on pattern recognition] may be useful in finding cancer drugs.

Modern computers can do more than sift through known compounds. With advanced artificial intelligence, computers are helping scientists design novel molecules and predict how those compounds will react with proteins in the body, possibly leading to new cancer treatments.

The technology is promising but still in its early days. Ultimately, most drug candidates will still falter in people, some scientists caution. In 2021, the international biotech company Exscientia launched the first trial of an AI-developed cancer drug.

But the company shelved the drug in 2023 after it proved to be ineffective. Other AI cancer drugs are in various stages of testing.



Spiritual

Move from plastic smiles to authentic healing

Hurt operates like a fishing rod, with the hook at one end for fishing and blaming others, and a fool at the other end. Its reward is unnecessary suffering. It is harder to heal the hurt of a fool than the hurt of an intelligent person. What should we do to remove our inner hurt? We are a result of our psychological programming. Our unhappy mind operates at three levels: There is pseudo-positivism; there are our past hurts; and the past hurts spin a world of hope in the future.

We are unhappy and hurt, and instead of facing it authentically, we create artificial and plastic smiles and thus cover our inner wounds. This type of positivism has social decency but has false value. The danger of this type of positivism is that we are not healing and transforming but covering our hurt. Then this hurt is pushed into a deeper level of our minds. This suppressed hurt triggers our past hurts in the subconscious and they both start nourishing each other. Thus, the hurt becomes stronger with references to the past.

Then the past hurt coupled with the present hurt projects a world of hope in the domain of the future. And one starts living in hope as a matter of survival. To free oneself from such a cycle is the context of yogic linguistic programming. Firstly, when you are hurt, be honest that you are hurt, don't play the mental games of plastic smiles. Secondly, catch how your past hurts and support your present hurt. Don't allow them to join hands. Thirdly, when the mind hopes for the future, understand that it is as a part of the mind's technique of surviving from the pain. As a matter of survival, you imagine a world of joy in the future and when your pain is intense, you intensify hope for the future and thus create multiple personalities. We faint and that is one of the methods the body uses to avoid intense pain. Similarly, when our past hurt coupled with the present hurt becomes too intense, then as a matter of survival, the mind projects a world of hope, a world of joy in the future.



Letter to the Editor

Rubio suggests US strikes on Iran were influenced by Israeli plans

Dear sir, World knows it before the US secretary of state, Marco Rubio said, US strikes on Iran triggered by Israel's plan to launch an attack. Actually, Israeli prime minister (PM), Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran had been building new underground sites "that would make their ballistic missile programs and their atomic bomb programs immune within months....If no action was taken now, no action could be taken in the future". Immediately, without judging whether there is any 'threat' from Iranian side or not, US President Donald Trump (has outlined various goals in the war, including destroying Iran's ballistic missile capabilities and their navy, preventing the country from developing a nuclear weapon and cutting off Tehran's support of proxy forces elsewhere in the Middle East) has entered a war of choice on behalf of Israel. Shockingly, US Vice-President JD Vance also echoed the Trump-Netanyahu voice and said that the US aim was to make sure "Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon". Peace loving people of the world wonders that is not the duet of the Israel-United States sudden aggressive against Iran defies logic? Moreover, like many other previous instances this time also the helplessness of the United Nations surprised all. Also surprised barring the Russian President Vladimir Putin, all other world leaders' silence will only embolden the Trump-Netanyahu duo. Regarding India whether Trump's 'beast friend' or Netanyahu's 'brother' PM Narendra Modi supports the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as a way to define the world order is a matter of debate. Relying solely on a tightrope walk is no longer sustainable when the very pillars of regional stability are collapsing. Moreover, when nearly a crore Indians face uncertainty, at that time Modi's silence is not neutrality; it is a wasted opportunity. India has built its credibility and should use it constructively before the situation deteriorates further.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Tech

Elon Musk to take on Gmail, says alternative Xmail is coming

After creating his own version of ChatGPT, Grok, now Elon Musk seems to be set to take on popular email provider Gmail, owned by Google. The X chief seems to be on his way to creating his own version of Gmail named Xmail, something that goes with the name of his microblogging site X (formerly Twitter).

According to a report in the DailyMail, in an exchange on X platform, Musk revealed that a product named Xmail is coming. There are no more details on this and it is unclear when it will be available. However, it is expected that the mail will be integrated into the X app. The development came to fore after Nate, an engineer at X, made a post, asking, "When we making Xmail?" To this, Musk replied in his characteristic nonchalance, "It's coming". While Musk is known for making tall claims, he has also made some sweeping changes to X after he acquired it. Even if Xmail makes it, taking on Gmail would be a mammoth task. Reportedly, Gmail has over 1.8 billion users as of 2024. After the exchange was noticed, Xmail began trending on X with over 15K posts. Several users reacted to the development by sharing memes, and expressing strong opinions on Musk's new endeavour. Here are some reactions from the platform..



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