

Central Chronicle

Founder: Late Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari
Inspiration: Late Shri Prafulla Kumar Maheshwari

EDITORIAL

Markets are looking vibrant

Due to good monsoon and record production, there is good enthusiasm in festivals this time. Especially the markets are looking vibrant. The business community is excited that due to the economy being on track, the purchasing power of the people has increased. Increase in purchasing power means there will be flow of cash in the market this time. Actually, Indian economy is on track compared to developed countries of the world. GDP figures for the fourth quarter have been better than expected. According to the National Statistical Office, GDP growth in 2022-23 is 7.2 percent. In the financial year 2023, the economy grew by 13.1 percent in the first quarter, 6.2 percent in the second quarter and 4.5 percent in the third quarter. Experts had predicted GDP growth to be 4.9 to 5.5 percent in the January-March 2023 quarter. But it was much better than the estimates. It was expected that the strength in the agricultural sector and increase in domestic demand could support the Indian economy. Amid fears of recession in western countries, India has emerged as a bright star in the context of the global economy. Germany, the country with the largest economy in Europe, is stuck in recession. Whereas America is facing the threat of bankruptcy for the first time. Institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund say that the chances of a recession in India are negligible. The GDP figures prove this. The data is released by the National Statistics Office. According to NSO data, the economic growth rate is expected to be 4.5 percent in the October-December quarter. The GDP growth rate was four percent in the January-March quarter of 2021-22. According to the data, the economic growth rate in the entire financial year 2022-23 The growth rate will be 7.2 percent. In the last financial year 2021-22, it was 9.1 percent. According to the provisional estimates of Gross Value Added, the growth of the con-

struction industry in the financial year 2023 was 1.3 percent. The growth of this sector was 11.1 percent in 2022. The National Statistics Office had predicted the country's growth rate to be seven percent in the second advance estimate. Gross domestic product measures the total value of goods and services produced within the country's borders. China's economic growth rate was 4.5 percent in the first quarter of 2023. In fact, the Reserve Bank of India had estimated the GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 to be 5.1 percent. The Reserve Bank of India had recently said that it would not be surprised if India's GDP growth rate remains more than seven percent. Will happen. GDP figures are important for any country because they reveal the health of the country's economy. These show how the economy is performing and how the economic activities are. Policies are made on the basis of these data. However, it is a matter of satisfaction that the country is moving in a positive direction on the economic front, but still the general public is not getting relief from inflation and unemployment. Economic experts may be happy with the figures that have come out, but the general public will get real relief only when they will have to pay lower prices for essential commodities and will get peace on the employment front. The central and state governments need to do a lot on both these fronts. Still, India's economic health is good, it is satisfactory. Amid fears of recession in western countries, India has emerged as a bright star in the context of the global economy. Germany, the country with the largest economy in Europe, is stuck in recession. Whereas America is facing the threat of bankruptcy for the first time. Institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund say that the chances of a recession in India are negligible.

Will governments firewall public health from Big Tobacco at the upcoming FCTC Treaty meet?

by Shobha Shukla- CNS

Tobacco industry interference in its myriad sinister forms is one of the biggest obstacles to implement the legally-binding global tobacco treaty. Unless the devious designs of Big Tobacco are thwarted and the industry is held to account legally and financially for causing irreparable damage to human life and our planet, #endTobacco will continue to remain elusive. The upcoming inter-governmental meeting of the global tobacco treaty offers a historic chance to put people before profit and advance stronger measures for tobacco control.

"Together, promoting healthier lives" is the theme of the upcoming 10th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the global tobacco treaty (formally called the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control - WHO FCTC). This meet will be held later this month in Panama.

A media briefing recently hosted by The Network for Accountability of Tobacco Transnationals (NATT) provided a background on the pivotal role of the global tobacco treaty in saving lives, and how the tobacco industry's tactics are trying to undermine it. Key issues and high stakes of COP10 were also in focus.

The WHO FCTC is the first international public health and corporate accountability treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO. It was adopted by the World Health

Assembly on 21 May 2003 and entered into force on 27 February 2005. It has since been embraced by 183 countries, covering 90% of the world's population. Its main objective is to protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and

treaty meeting in five years- the last in-person meeting (COP8) was held in 2018 in Geneva.

She listed various tactics used by the tobacco industry to thwart global efforts of tobacco control, through legal threats and actions; intimidation; lobbying and influencing policy; claiming a public health role; contro-

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Opening the discussion, Sabina Timco Lacazzi, Legal Officer, WHO FCTC, explained that this intergovernmental meeting of the global tobacco treaty is held once every two years, to review the implementation of the treaty and take decisions to promote its effective implementation. Discussions and decisions taken at these meetings influence tobacco control policies at a national level. COP10 will be the first in-person

versial marketing; corporate social responsibility; involvement in illicit tobacco; influencing science and/or undermining national as well as international laws.

Referring to Article 5.3 of the global tobacco treaty that addresses conflicts of interest and industry interference, Keltie Vance, Deputy Campaigns Director, Corporate Accountability shared that at COP8, a decision was passed on "maximising transparency," which asks governments, media and civil society delegates to submit declarations of conflicts of interest. COP10 is the first in-person meeting that this decision will be in effect.

She also said that implementation of Article 19 of the treaty that addresses liability can (i) recover health care and environmental costs incurred by governments for tobacco-related harms to people; (ii) create the public climate and political will to pass and enforce the lifesaving measures enshrined in the FCTC; and (iii) expose and halt misconduct, deter future misconduct, and punish wrongdoing. To date countries like Brazil, South Korea, Canada and USA have initiated liability against the tobacco industry.

Samuel Ochieng, Executive Director, Consumer Information Network (Kenya), shared examples of tobacco industry interference in Africa. It is pushing 'harm reduction products' despite there being no supporting scientific evidence that these are safer, he said. It also tries to infiltrate COP by buying tickets, giving other incentives to certain delegations, and has its own media platforms to oppose discussions and policies.

Labram Musah, Executive Director, Vision for Alternative Development (Ghana) referred to the African Tobacco Industry Interference Index Report 2023 that was created to address the urgent need for monitoring and evaluation of tobacco industry tactics, ensuring transparency in decision-making processes, and for raising awareness, empowering policymakers, and mobilising public health advocates.

PM Modi's bid to win over voters of Malwa Nimar

Malwa- Nimar Notes

Sanjay Vyas

In the last 2018 assembly elections, Congress had given a huge blow to BJP in Nimar region. In a way, BJP was wiped out here. BJP has been preparing to fill this hole since the defeat. This time, it does not want to take any risk. Big leaders of the state, including Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, are standing firm on the front. Now in this context, the National General Secretary of BJP also came into the fray. While BJP is trying its best on all the seats in Nimar region under Mission 2023, its and RSS's affiliated organizations are also active up to the booth level. The atmosphere created by Rahul Gandhi towards Congress during Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra was balanced by BJP's public awareness development yatras. Recently, the meeting organized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Chaigaonmakhan in Khandwa district has taken steps towards making the area BJP friendly. In the tribal dominated area, Prime Minister Modi also tried to win the hearts of the people of Nimar by talking about the develop-

ment of faith centers. Apart from the Samadhi of Jyotirling Omkareshwar, Mamlleshwar Mahadev, Siddhavarikoot, Singaji, Dadaji, he also mentioned about Hanuwantiya and Sailani Tapu and also said that in the coming time, the Central Government will spend Rs 15,000 crore for the upliftment and schemes of tribals. In a way, Modi has won 19 seats of Nimar from this assembly. It is being speculated that there is a possibility of big benefit for BJP in Nimar from this general meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Three-cornered contest

Amidst the rebellious mood in Burhanpur, a situation of four-cornered contest has been created in the assembly elections. The main contest will be between Congress and BJP but the presence of independents and AIMIM will affect their equation.

Congress candidate Surendra Singh Shera has his own strong network here. He has good credibility among the public, Shera may have to face difficulties due to Nafees Mansha Khan contesting elections from AIMIM who has rebelled against Congress. There is every possibility of polarization of minority votes between Congress and AIMIM. If this happens then Surendra Singh Shera will have to bear the brunt of it. Similarly, in the last elections the Congress candidate had to face defeat due to Shera contesting as an independent. Because of this, some Congressmen are also angry with him. Shera has to deal with them and Nafees Khan and also compete with BJP. In this way Shera is surrounded on three sides.

Chitnis faces big problems

BJP candidate from Burhanpur, Archana Chitnis, had lost to Surendra Singh Shera in a

triangular fight in the last elections. This time again his competition is with Shera. In the last elections, Chitnis had cited internal factionalism in the party as the reason for his defeat, but the problems facing him are no less in the 2023 elections. Earlier, her opponents had raised the question of local candidate to deny her ticket, but when the ticket of Archana Chitnis became final, her opponents came forward openly. Other contenders from here were Harshvardhan Singh Chauhan, son of late MP Nandkumar Singh Chauhan, Manoj Tarwala, son of former MP Amrit Tarwala, District President Manoj Ladhava. Harshvardhan Singh who was deprived of the ticket, is now coming in the way of Chitnis. He is in the independent field. Manoj Tarwala is supporting him. Amidst all this, a good opportunity came for Archana when the area's veteran leader Kailash Vijayvargiya reached Burhanpur to hold a rally for her. In this big rally of Archana, Vijayvargiya spread enthusiasm among the workers along with Archana.



Satire

Moitra angry at Ethics Committee

Friend said: Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra on Sunday claimed that the BJP was planning to file criminal cases against her. "Shaking in my skin to know BJP is planning criminal cases against me," she claimed in a tweet.



I said: "Welcome them- only know that CBI and ED need to file FIR against Adani for Rs 13,000 crore coal scam before they question how many pairs of shoes I have," the TMC MP, who is facing an ethics panel inquiry, wrote on X.

rather the contents of the affidavit.

Friend said: Mahua Moitra, who has admitted sharing her login details on the Parliament's website with businessman Darshan Hiranandani, on Saturday left the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee hearing in rage, alleging that she was subjected to demeaning questions.

Friend said: Sarangi further claimed that Moitra kept speaking about her personal life even when no one was interested in it. "Mahua Moitra spoke for more than 1 hour and she talked about her personal life in which I don't think anybody was interested," the BJP MP told news agency ANI.

I said: She also said in another post that she has the exact transcript of the questioning by the Ethics Committee. Moitra alleged that the chairman of the ethics panel asked her 'cheap and irrelevant' questions. BJP MP Vinod Sonkar is the chairman of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee.

I said: And then suddenly thereafter there were certain questions pertaining to the contents of the affidavit posed by the Chairman where she actually lost her cool and all kinds of filthy language against the Chairman and other members of the Committee," she added.

Friend said: She said the Opposition leaders walked out in protest against the chairman's behaviour and unethical questioning. "Also BJP - before you push out women MPs with fake narratives remember I have EXACT transcript of record in Ethics Committee verbatim. Chairman's cheap sordid irrelevant questions, Opposition's protests, my protests-- all there in black and white. Besharam and Behuda," she said.

Friend said: Accusing the TMC MP of trying to create a false narrative and playing the victim card, Sarangi stated that Moitra was "very arrogant" and rude in her demeanour. "She was very arrogant in her demeanour. She was very rude... She has been trying to create a fake narrative and misleading the people of the country by playing a victim card," Sarangi concluded.

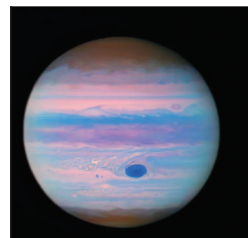
I said: Replying to Moitra's allegations, BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi told news agency ANI that the TMC parliamentarian "went beyond all limits of decency" and that there was no question of going beyond limits or

I said: Moitra was being questioned by the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee in the raging 'cash-for-query' row after BJP MP Nishikant Dubey accused her of "taking bribe for asking questions" in the Parliament on behalf of businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

Science Fact

NASA's Hubble Shares Mesmerising Image Of Jupiter In Ultraviolet View

NASA often shares stunning images of our universe, leaving space lovers mesmerised. On Monday, NASA shared an image captured by its Hubble telescope, showing the giant planet Jupiter in ultraviolet view. The image was released to honour Jupiter's opposition- when the planet and the Sun are on opposite sides of the sky, offering a unique perspective of the gas giant including its most recognisable feature, the "Great Red Spot," NASA said in its news release.



NASA said that the storm to the naked eye appears deeper in the UV image as high-altitude haze particles absorb light at these wavelengths.

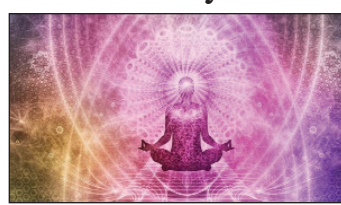
NASA shared the image on Instagram and wrote, "All eyes are on Jupiter after reaching opposition, which occurs when the planet and the Sun are on opposite sides of the sky. Captured here in ultraviolet wavelengths, @NASAHubble views the gas giant in hues of blue, pink, and purple, invisible to the human eye. Scientists use ultraviolet wavelengths to further study Jupiter's storm systems, mapping deep water clouds that define Jupiter's atmosphere."

"Clouds on stormy Jupiter are far taller than scientists predicted, with some dipping 60 miles (100 km) below the cloud tops - the iconic Great Red Spot (here in ultraviolet blue) extends over 200 miles (350 km) below its highest peaks," it further said.

Spiritual

Consciousness can help shape one's destiny, suggests holistic health guru Dr Mickey Mehta

How do you explain Shiva, the God of Destruction, from the prism of spiritual consciousness? Dr Mickey Mehta, a leading holistic health guru and corporate life coach, recently shared a Maha Shivratri special video titled 'Saga of Shiva', wherein he talked about combining the endless saga of Shiva with the sanctity of spirituality.



"When human beings, in their state of awareness, function spontaneously, it is flow. And it is a flow, because rhythm is there - the dance of creativity, the dance of Shiva-Shakti. Now, Shiva's dance of tandava is not only for destruction, it also gives rise to creation, because after destruction comes creation," he said, adding, "As is the atom, so is the universe."

Dr Mehta went on to explain that in the flow and surrender, man becomes the universe, just like "how Shiva became Shiva". He said that it is important to be aware of the here and now, of every breath that is drawn, and every breath that is let out.

"And with it is born a new self within you, and dies the old self within you, simultaneously. Which is why there is continuity and perpetuation of life. When the cellular regeneration is happening, your life continues as the dance of the molecules. And if you are aware of this, you will be aware of every moment that is passing by. And with that, your dance will be spontaneous, and you will be the choreographer of your dance... And you will shape your life," he explained.

He also said by being conscious, one can shape their destiny, just like how a potter does with clay - allows it to take shape on its own.

Quotes



BJP is misusing government agencies like the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Mallikarjun Kharge



As soon as elections come, abusing each other, telling lies, talking without shame, and making false promises - all these happen in our country. We need to achieve more democratic maturity in our country.

Chandrashekhar Rao



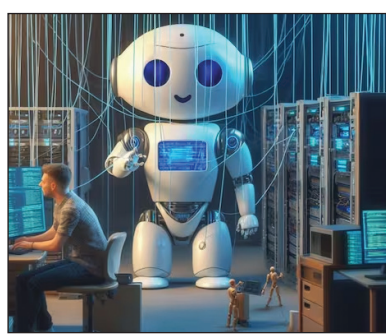
Today, it (AAP) is the third biggest party in the country in just 11 years, after BJP and Congress. Modi ji is afraid of this. He is afraid that the speed at which the AAP is going ahead, it will move every party out of the picture just like they did in Delhi and Punjab.

Arvind Kejriwal

Tech

Godfather of AI feels tech giants controlling AI is a problem, says rules should not be written by companies

In a recent interview, Godfather of AI Yoshua Bengio talked about how AI is being controlled by a selected few tech giants and that is not a good thing. He said that we are building powerful systems as time passes and it poses a central question - who controls these systems.



AI (artificial intelligence) was recently chosen as the word of the year by Collins dictionary. And rightly so. This year, the word might have been used by all tech enthusiasts more than ever. With the introduction of AI chatbots like ChatGPT, Bard and Bing, interest in AI has been piqued on a whole new level and companies are constantly innovating to stay a step ahead of competitors. Even Elon Musk, who has warned about AI's rapid advancement in the past, unveiled a new AI chatbot called Grok on Sunday.

Be it ChatGPT, Bard, Bing, or the upcoming AI bot Grok, one thing common among all these bots (apart from using AI to answer queries, ofcourse) is that they are all products of huge tech companies. Google, Microsoft, OpenAI and X (earlier called Twitter) are huge companies that are investing in AI. And that might not be a good thing, as per Yoshua Bengio, one of the godfathers of AI.

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