

Central Chronicle

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

EDITORIAL

EVM: Remove doubts

The first phase of voting in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections has been completed. Therefore, it is not possible for there to be any major change in the election process, but opposition parties are continuously raising questions regarding the electronic voting machine EVM.

matched in every Lok Sabha constituency. Indian Statistical Institute had said that if 479 EVMs randomly selected without any basis are matched with VVPAT, then 99 percent accurate results can be obtained.

However, the country's largest opposition party, Congress, may be skeptical about electronic voting machines, but EVMs were introduced during the Congress-led UPA government. From that period of 2004 till today, about 340 crore voters have exercised their constitutional franchise through EVMs and 4 Lok Sabha elections have been conducted through EVMs.

Before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, this issue was once again raised. Then, through a petition in the Supreme Court, a demand was made that 50 percent VVPAT slips should be

Bitter gourd to "skill development"!

by Kajal Chatterjee

So as to portray Congress in a negative light, the party has been compared to bitter gourd!

Surely the accuser is not enlightened of the numerous benefits of the vegetable, else he would not have unintentionally praised the Congress by invoking the bitter gourd!

Not only does the vegetable act as a rich source of key nutrients like Vitamin C and A, it plays a great role in reducing blood sugar! It has certain components with cancer fighting properties and also decreases the cholesterol level!

This powerhouse of antioxidants purify blood and boosts immunity to fight several infections. Even respiratory health and skin health gets a boost on regular consumption of bitter gourd!

In contrast the food article which has been praised in contrast to bitter gourd - Sugar - is nothing but deadly for the overall health parameters!

However if the sane qualities of democracy secularism compassion empathy for the downtrodden turn into "antique" pieces of sorts and get mocked and belittled in today's social environment, it is most nat-

ural that the positive attributes of bitter gourd would also be ridiculed with disdain! And when poison of communalism and hatred get applauded and handsomely rewarded, the deadly sugar would also be lapped up with much pleasure and relish!

with shrill loud bankrupt rhetoric, but with facts figures and proof just like we know of Akbar's mortal existence on the earth (1542 - 1605)!

Today situation has come to such a ridiculous pass that protesting against the barbaric

ment in Manipur since May 2023 are getting portrayed as "restoration of peace" due to "timely intervention by the Centre"! Flocking to war-scarred Israel by the labourers from the "double-engine" governed states by risking their precious lives, so as to escape acute poverty in their backyard of "New India", is getting projected as "development of skills" in zealousy claimed "Visvaguru"!

In this hilarious context, we will certainly have to believe that the "communal antics" of TMC/Mamata Banerjee are the sole reason behind the inevitable violence in West Bengal revolving around the sword-brandishing Hindutva muscle-flexing Ram Navami processions in the state each year right from Anasol/Raniganj to Howrah/Rishra or Murshidabad!

Also it is indeed overwhelming to notice the concern and zealotness of the BJP so as to "protect Bengali Hindus"! Why don't the party concentrate its energy in "double-engine" governed Assam where innumerable Bengali Hindus are in dire straits or rotting in detention centres just for their "sin" of speaking in Bangla!

6 Congress has been criticised for questioning the existence of Lord Ram! It will be indeed kind enough if the countrymen are enlightened of the exact date or period within which Lord Ram had graced this country - not with shrill, loud, bankrupt rhetoric, but with facts, figures and proof just like we know of Akbar's mortal existence on the earth (1542 -1605)!

It seems all things are getting topsy-turvy in today's environment.

Congress has been criticised for questioning the existence of Lord Ram! It will be indeed kind enough if the countrymen are enlightened of the exact date or period within which Lord Ram had graced this country - - - not

demolition of the Babri Masjid(engineered through sheer muscle-flexing and by making a mockery of all norms of law with the riot-igniting Ram Rath Yatra preceding it and the communal arson right across the country succeeding it) is getting dubbed as "churning of poison"! The continuing violence and mass displace-

Both BJP, Cong candidates not active in Shahdol

Mahakaushal's Notes
Avinash Dixit

Except for Rajendragram in the Shahdol seat, the flag of the Congress, devoid of resources, was not visible even in the parliamentary areas of Umaria, Anuppur, Shahdol, and Katni. However, with the absence of the flag of the resourceful BJP, there are many discussions in political circles. The election atmosphere also remained somewhat dull. Remember that both candidates are residents of Rajendragram. It is said that the Congress candidate, who did not want to contest the elections and was content with his legislator, was made a candidate by the party. Despite reluctantly obeying the party's orders and engaging in election activities, they could not reach a large part of the parliamentary constituency.

On the other hand, BJP candidate Himadri Singh, after receiving the ticket, became so relaxed that she spent most of her time at home. It's noteworthy that strategies were being devised in the closed room, and party offi-

cials who came to meet her waited for hours outside. There is talk that a significant portion of BJP supporters in the parliamentary constituency are unhappy with the current candidate, but the stick of discipline has silenced them.

Some party officials consider the inactivity of the candidate a significant weakness, given the condition of not printing the name. On the other hand, Congress candidate, three-time MLA Fundelal Marko, was turning this inactivity of the BJP candidate into a political weapon and was garnering good support among the voters. Due to limited resources, it will be decided in the first week of June how much political ammunition they can afford.

Trying to win hearts of voters

As soon as elections approach, the behavior and demeanor of candidates change drastically in the political arena. While efforts were made to maintain distance from relatives and friends until yesterday, now they are being met as if they

have been separated for ages. Such scenes were witnessed in many places during the Lok Sabha elections. Candidates and their team members kept making lists with the mobile numbers of their relatives and contacting them to inquire about their well-being. They continued to send familiar faces from neighborhoods, colonies, and villages. Booth and block heads of these areas kept meeting directly with the people, and their unique style of meeting was also observed. In order to make a place in the hearts of the voters, they were seen touching the feet of elders, embracing younger ones, and warmly shaking hands with equals. Whether there was a woman or a man at home, they were seen asking for cold water or tea with such familiarity as if they were the closest to that family. It's noteworthy that people didn't hesitate to say that such familiarity was not seen in the past 5 years.

Absence of film stars in campaign

In the first phase of Lok Sabha elections, campaigning

has stopped in Jabalpur including Chhindwara, Balaghat, Mandla of Mahakaushal and Shahdol parliamentary constituency of Vindhya. Voting is taking place on these seats today. While BJP is completely confident of election victory under the shadow of Modi magic and construction of Ram temple, Congress candidates have also put in all their strength due to limited resources and lack of workers. In whose favor the results will be, it will be known only on June 4.

This was probably the first time in the history of parliamentary elections that there were no massive rallies by star campaigners, no film star came to Mahakaushal to campaign. Although BJP's star campaigner Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National President JP Nadda, CM Mohan Yadav, Amit Shah and some other leaders campaigned, only State President Jitu Patwari came from the Congress side. Apart from the meetings of political star campaigners, there was no glamor in the Lok Sabha elections due to the absence of participation of film stars.

Satire

Weather changes, floods in Dubai



Friend told us, "All the people of the country will be happy that the sky of Dubai has turned green. The desert area, where rainfall was rare, experienced the heaviest storm in 75 years. At some places, the water was knee deep. The mall and metro station were in bad condition. Flights at the airport were also affected. 300 flights were cancelled."

We said, "Any Englishman would call Dubai as Dobai. When the name itself is like this then it is bound to sink sooner or later. Due to change in the cycle of weather, where there was no rain, it rained in abundance. Rain wreaked havoc in UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman. Roads became lakes and luxury cars drowned. Greenery has also grown at some places. Seeing this scene, people got scared and started saying that this is a sign of doomsday."

Friend said, "When you talked about drowning, there is a famous saying in Hindi 'The drowning is supported by a straw'. When the ship Titanic sank, a film was made on it."

We said, "People who do English journalism are initially taught to give headlines. For boat capsized they write boat capsized! For truck overturning we write - Truck turned turtle! Talking about the news, the stock market fell 9 times in 4 days. Rs 30 lakh crores were lost. According to one's choice, someone drowns in love and someone in sorrow. There are some foolish friends about whom it has been said - We will drown ourselves, we will also drown you!"

Friend said: "The great people who dig wells and ponds never think that some crazy person will jump there and drown to commit suicide. Elections are taking place at this time. The hopes of the candidates are sinking. The candidate who wins the election will say - The dark light is gone, the morning star is shining bright! On the contrary, the loser will say - My fortune has sunk, the star of luck has sunk! The one whose boat has a hole should keep pouring water, otherwise it will not take long for the boat to sink in the current."

Science Fact

India bats for designing regional ocean observations to better understand deep ecosystems

Amid challenges posed by climate change, India has made a strong pitch for designing region-specific ocean observations for forecasting and roping in NGOs to harness traditional knowledge for better understanding of deep-sea ecosystems. At the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona earlier this month, India also called for people-centred multi-hazard early warning systems and designing adaptation planning strategies to increase coastal resilience.



The Indian delegation to the Conference was led by Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran and comprised experts in the area of ocean studies, including T Srinivasa Kumar, Director of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

Ravichandran also urged integration of ocean observation systems across platforms in accessible and usable formats, bringing focus on use of science for policy and decision making by coastal cities and a greater emphasis on region specific ocean observations.

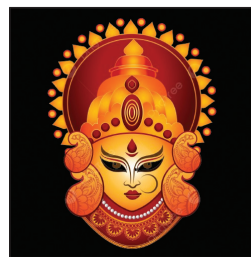
India had convened the Indian Ocean Regional Decade Conference in Hyderabad in February to deliberate on ocean decade challenges and steps to address the same.

At the Barcelona conference, India also stressed on increasing bio-geochemical and coastal observations and the need to reinvigorate ocean data management programs such as the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), the digital twins and capacity development hub initiatives.

Spiritual

Navratras: From Imbalance to a New Balance

Navratras come twice a year and mark transition in seasons, winter-summer and summer-winter. According to Ayurveda, during this time, one should consume nourishing foods and in minimal quantities to rid the body of the toxins collected during the rains. The nine nights and ten days of navratras hold within them the energy of ten forms of shakti - shailaputri, brahmcharini, chandrakanta, kushmanda, skandmata, katyayani, kaalratri, mahagauri, siddhidatri and aparajitha. Thus, each navratra has a specific purpose. In the navratras weather changes, ie, various energies of this creation move from imbalance towards a new normalcy, including our body. In these nine days the prana shakti inside our body undergoes a process of re-alignment, ie from imbalance to new balance for new season. For this re-aligning the body has to be kept light. Therefore our ancients prescribed fasting or upvaas in these nine days. Upavaas has a much greater connotation than what it is generally misunderstood as - mere holding back from eating certain foods. At Dhyan Ashram, sadhaks observe Upavaas in its authentic sense, that is, giving up pleasure to observe austerities during sadhna. This is done by celibating, eating food for energy, not sensual pleasure, following a niyam of the sadhna your Guru has given you - a mantra, dhyan or a tantric practice where senses are kept under strict control and the focus is your ishta deva and all your thoughts and actions during those days are devoted to the ishta-deva. Charity and service are an intrinsic part of such sadhnas. During navratras these fasts are observed for purification as well, both etheric as well as physical. Apart from fasting, there are certain mantras also which are chanted on these days for a complete body detox. For the beginner, these nine days may be divided into 3 parts of 3 days each for the three parts of body- the region below the navel, between navel and shoulders and the upper head region, corresponding to the energies of goddess sarawati, goddess lakshmi and goddess durga respectively.



Letter to the Editor

"There is no INDI alliance in Bengal"

Sir, While addressing an election rally in Malda, the West Bengal chief minister (CM) Mamata Banerjee said: "There is no INDI alliance in West Bengal. I played a key role in the formation of the opposition alliance INDIA. Even the name of the alliance was given by me. But here in West Bengal, the CPI (M) and Congress are working for the BJP." But who can forget that earlier in January, Didi had announced that her Trinamool Congress (TMC) would contest the Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal alone, rebuffing efforts by the Congress leadership to negotiate a seat-sharing agreement.

But in the same election rally, she further roared "...if the alliance wins will revive it after polls, we will form it gain, but not in Bengal. TMC is fighting alone." It's stunning that if Congress and others bring in the MPs number towards majority, then Didi will join to claim the Prime Minister's (PM) seat. But in reality, it is not Congress or CPI(M) but TMC as a true B team of BJP, meant to silently escape ED. It is very much their mentality to grab power, even when they don't contribute or have the requisite numbers. Actually, its ill luck for the INDIA bloc that it has a leaderless party but like Didi, many of them see the daydream to beat current Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to capture the seat of the PM. I'm sure the INDIA bloc will collapse due to its unnatural alliance, where they are fighting against each other at the state level and advising constituents to join hands to form a government, if they get a majority in the election.

Yours truly, Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Tech

Redmi Pad Pro may be coming to India soon, but what about the Poco tablet?

Earlier this month, Xiaomi launched the Redmi Pad Pro - third-ever tablet under the Redmi brand - in China. Xiaomi is yet to confirm the same, but there are reports that suggest that the Redmi Pad Pro will soon be launched in India. And unlike the Chinese variant, the Redmi Pad Pro in India will come with a cellular + Wi-Fi variant. In China, the Redmi Pad Pro only comes with Wi-Fi support. Meanwhile, in India, Xiaomi is preparing to host the Smarter Living 2024 event, where it has teased the launch of a new Redmi Pad SE. Could this be a rebranded Redmi Pad Pro?



So far, Xiaomi has launched only two Redmi tablets in India, which include the Redmi Pad and Redmi Pad SE. At the Smarter Living 2024, Xiaomi will be unveiling the second iteration of the Redmi Pad SE in India.

However, since Xiaomi hasn't brought the Pro Redmi tablets in India so far, it is possible the Chinese variant of the Redmi Pad Pro is being rebranded as the Redmi Pad SE in India.

Having said that, some speculations also suggest that an Indian variant of the Redmi tablet with the 'Redmi Pad Pro' moniker has been leaked. Which basically means that the tablet will likely be called the Redmi Pad Pro in India as well.

The Redmi Pad Pro's Indian edition surfaced on the Google Play console database. Unlike the Chinese release, the Indian version will support both cellular and Wi-Fi connectivity. This suggests there will be distinct tablet versions offering varying connectivity options, as is common practice among manufacturers, typically including a basic Wi-Fi model and another featuring both cellular and Wi-Fi support.

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