

Central Chronicle

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

EDITORIAL

Show sensitivity

Elections are going on, it does not mean that politics should be done on every issue. Political parties need to show sensitivity at least in the matter of women harassment. There should be no politics on these issues. In Karnataka, serious allegations of rape have been made against Prajwal Revanna, leader of Janata Dal Secular and grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda. Prajwal is the National Democratic Alliance candidate from Hassan seat in Karnataka. Elections have been completed in Hassan. As soon as the elections were over, Prajwal went to Germany. On Saturday, Prajwal's father HD Revanna was arrested on kidnapping charges. There is a lot of politics going on in this whole matter. Before this, the case of Sandesh Khali of West Bengal had also come to light. There was a lot of uproar across the country regarding the harassment of women in Manipur. Looking at all these cases, it seems that the government and administration did not take action against the accused with the promptness and strictness with which they should have done. In the case of Prajwal Revanna of Karnataka, there is an allegation that the Karnataka government deliberately took late action so that the Vokkalinga voters of the state are not adversely affected. The family of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda comes from this community. In this case, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D Shiv Kumar, who also belongs to the Vokkalinga community, is being accused. Even in Manipur, the BJP government there is being accused of bias and negligence. In the case of Sandesh Khali, the whole country saw how West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee used all the tricks to save the main accused Shahjahan Sheikh. Obviously political parties are not at all sensitive towards women harassment. As far as the case of Karnataka is concerned, it is the misfortune of India that such leaders have emerged from many satrap families in politics who, in their

pursuit of power, have kept aside all the morals and decorum. Recently, the serious allegations made against Prajwal Revanna, MP of Janata Dal (Secular) from Hassan seat in Karnataka, of misconduct with hundreds of women, have shown the height of degradation in politics. About three thousand videos showing sexual harassment and misconduct of Prajwal, grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and son of former minister HD Revanna, became public. During the election campaign, the videos kept being distributed through pen drives. A year ago, a letter was written to the BJP leadership and warned. That the pen drive of Prajwal's misdeeds has reached the Congress, which will be used as a weapon in the Lok Sabha elections. The question is also on the BJP leadership as to why despite being aware of the reality, Prajwal Revanna was given ticket from the alliance partner quota. Went? Similarly, when there is a Congress government in the state, why was no action taken against Prajwal Revanna despite having information a year ago? In fact, due to the hold of the HD Deve Gowda family on the Vokkalinga community, BJP and Congress have been avoiding strict action. The misdeeds committed by the family members and MPs of the former Prime Minister in Karnataka have put Indian democracy to shame. The incidents of Manipur, Sandesh Khali and Karnataka show how the police and administration work under pressure from the ruling party leaders. Such incidents are not happening only in Manipur, West Bengal or Karnataka, but women harassment is a problem of the entire country. However, many states have made strict laws to stop harassment of women. But when the matter is related to the leaders of the ruling party, the police and administration prove to be a complete failure. Obviously, such cases are not handled with the promptness and strictness that should be required.

Online gambling, a death trap

Sujit De
A Class XII student was found hanging in an abandoned building near his home in Kolkata in March this year. Police said that the 17-year-old boy was in "debt" and into "online gambling", a habit of his that his family and teachers were unaware of. Online gambling has become a deathtrap, especially for those who are the victims of poverty. The lives of many young persons who do not have a comfortable cushion of wealth to absorb the shock of addiction-driven expenses are being destroyed. Parthiban was the sole breadwinner of his family. The 28-year-old autorickshaw driver had two young daughters. He died by suicide in Tamil Nadu in November 2022, allegedly because he lost money in online gambling. In the same month, a woman migrant worker from Odisha, Pandhana Maji ended her life in Tamil Nadu after she allegedly suffered losses in online gambling. B. Sivanraj, a cab driver, died by suicide after losing over 15 lakh to online gambling in January 2023. Gunaseelan, a restaurant employee, died by suicide after telling his

coworkers that he lost almost Rs 2 lakh in gambling. Advertisements for gambling are given in such a clever way that they make audiences believe that online gambling will rescue them from poverty. Thanks to those lucrative advertisements, some of which are presented by celebrities, online gambling has been highlighted as a safe entertainment and a sure road to success. Moreover, the statutory warnings against online gambling are given in a hurried manner, which is extremely difficult to comprehend. Every day, 154 farmers and daily-wage workers die by suicide. The 2022 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report recorded a 4 percent increase in suicide rate. The highest group among

1,22,724 male suicides was the daily-wage workers. The report says as many as 41,433 male daily-wage workers were suicide victims in one year. Extreme poverty can drive a person to suicide. But if he does not want to end his life then two death-traps are waiting for him. The first trap is gambling which he or his children may step in out of despair to save their souls. When they lose money in gambling, the second trap is waiting for them in the form of unauthorised digital lending platforms and mobile apps that give quick loans. Several reports highlight that these platforms not only charge excessive interest rates but also demand hidden fees. They do not

hesitate to use aggressive recovery methods and to breach borrower's online privacy. Lottery and gambling have become a lucrative business. The biggest purchaser of the electoral bonds turned out to be not a big business group but a lottery company that had spent Rs 1,368 crore in 21 separate bouts of purchases between October 2020 and January 2024. The Central Consumer Protection Authority under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution issued a press release on March 6, 2024 reminding, "Betting and gambling are strictly prohibited under the Public Gambling Act 1867, and are considered illegal in the majority of regions across the country." But at the same time, it admitted, "Despite this, online betting platforms and apps persist in advertising betting and gambling directly, as well as under the guise of 'gaming.'" Here is a question. How can such platforms and apps dare to persist when the authority in the same press release also acknowledged, "Endorsements of such activities presents considerable financial and socio-economic implications, especially to the youth?"

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China and Pak's design: Conspiracy to remove Modi

By Prof. Vivekananda Tiwari
The atmosphere for Lok Sabha elections in the country is completely ready and two phases of voting have also been completed. All the parties are currently engaged in campaigning, now on the ground, if political parties are seen active in the elections, because of technology, Artificial Intelligence is also going to play its role. Technology company Microsoft has made a claim which has increased everyone's concern about the elections to be held in India. The aim of not only China and Pakistan but also America and western countries has always been to weaken a democracy like India and create discord within its society. They want that India should not stand against them as a powerful nation. They do not want a strong and stable government to be formed in India. We see evidence of this from time to time. China always uses technology for political influence. In a democracy, there is a possibility of interference from outside forces. China knows that it has technological power and how it can influence the

elections of other countries through AI and cyber. Trickster China is not desisting from its antics. Now, through Artificial Intelligence (AI), it is trying to disrupt the elections to be held in 60 countries around the world including India and America this year. Technology giant Microsoft has warned that China is bent on adopting such tactics and is taking the help of hackers to influence public opinion to serve its geopolitical interests. Keeping its interests in mind, China will use AI to create and disseminate such content in these elections that will benefit it. Along with changing the inclination of voters towards a particular party, he will make every possible effort to mislead them. It will disseminate such content on the internet media that may sway public opinion towards Chinese interests during elections. The China-backed hackers group Storm 1376 (Spamouflage) was also particularly active during Taiwan's election in January, Microsoft said. The group used AI to create deepfake videos and memes and circulate them on internet media

with the aim of discrediting certain candidates and influencing voter perceptions. According to experts, misinformation spread through AI-generated deepfakes and fake content is the biggest threat to the upcoming elections. In a conversation with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also expressed concern about deepfakes in a democratic country like ours. We have to take seriously the warning given by Microsoft. We must not allow the Chinese influence operation to succeed under any circumstances. We have to be cautious of China and respond to bricks with stones. We should not be surprised by this action of China. It has been his policy to do so. We have to take necessary steps to deal with this. Meanwhile, in view of the danger, the central government has asked all digital companies to fix such platforms. The problem with Pakistan is that its leaders do not have any issue at this time. The way Pakistan is surrounded on every front inside and outside the house, its condi-

tion was never so bad before today. Even after the elections, political stability has not been restored there. Pakistan is feeling defeated. In a video, Narendra Modi is saying, "Brothers and sisters, we have removed all the arrogance of Pakistan. We have forced it to travel around the world carrying the bowl. Sharing the video, Pakistani journalist Irshad Bhati wrote, "When the enemy makes fun of and does not respect, it would be better to die than to live." Pakistan had already entered the Indian elections. On Thursday the talk turned to strong government and weak government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the BJP rally in Anand, Gujarat, reacted to Fawad Chaudhary's statement in which he had praised Rahul Gandhi. Modi said, "This partnership between Pakistan and Congress has now been completely exposed. The enemies of the country do not want a strong government in India today. They want a weak government... such a weak government which was there at the time of the terrorist attack in Mumbai."

Satire

Fans getting impatient for Modi's picture



The friend told us, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo has been removed from the Covid-19 vaccine certificate. This made us feel very bad. The philanthropist PM got the countrymen vaccinated for free and then also provided them with boosters. We used to look at that certificate on our mobile with great reverence. That certificate looks empty without the PM's photo. We said, "Modi's image is imprinted on the heart of every BJP leader and worker. You must have heard the couplet - When I bowed my head a little - I saw the picture - my friend! You can see in the depths of your mind the seductive image of Modi who speaks his mind. Don't you know that the devout poet Surdas had seen Kanha with his mind's eyes and had composed beautiful verses. The friend said, "What is the reason why the PM's photo was removed? "Did the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare remove this photo after AstraZeneca admitted to the side effects of the vaccine in a UK

court?" We said, "The ministry said that due to the implementation of the model code of conduct during the Lok Sabha elections, Modi's photo has been removed from the certificate. You will not see Modi darshan on the certificate until the elections are over. Till then you keep having Gandhi Darshan on rupee notes. The friend said, "Try to understand the significance of the picture." You must have heard the song in the velvety voice of Talat Mahmood - "Talik Banati Hoon, Tasveer Nahi Banati, Hi Tasveer Nahi Banati". We said, "If you want to talk about love, then go to Rahul Gandhi who has been running the shop of love in the market of hatred for a long time. This is something as unique as opening a barber shop in a Sardar's neighborhood." The friend said, "You may give any argument but there is no ban on Modi's picture being published in newspapers every day. We will see the PM's image there with guarantee."

Science Fact

Want to see butterflies in your backyard? Try doing less yardwork

Making the world safer for butterflies can be as easy as doing a bit of nothing. Letting some part of a yard go un-mown can boost the number of butterflies and moths sighted there, says ecologist Richard Fox. That long-grass patch may be as elaborate as an all-native meadow dotted with flowers or as simple as some didn't-mow corner by the back fence. Nectar-rich blooms that attract the fliers may pop up, but the biggest win comes when caterpillars don't "get chopped in half every week by the lawn mower," he says. "It's not about having special grasses. It's about resisting the urge to tidy everything." Enthusiasts have been no-mowing for years. There's even a no-mow May trend aimed at giving pollinators safe havens. Yet Fox, of the nonprofit Butterfly Conservation based in East Lulworth, England, didn't know of any scientific studies of how much butterflies might be using the refuges. So he and ecological statistician Lisbeth Horley analyzed six years of citizen science data from their organization's Great Butterfly Survey. They found records with enough data from about 600 yards scattered around England, Scotland and Wales. Neighborhood matters, their study concludes. In a yard surrounded with other houses, long grass could boost butterfly abundance as much as 18 percent, the statistical model built with the real butterfly data suggests.



Spiritual

Whose dream is this anyway?

A farmer was standing completely still amidst the wind-blown wheat field, lost in thought. His wife rushed to him, crying that their only son had just been killed by a cobra. When her husband did not reply, she blurted out, "You are heartless!" "Forgive me, but you don't understand," the farmer replied. "Last night I dreamt that I was a king with seven sons, who all were bitten by cobras and died. Now I am wondering whether I should grieve for my seven dead sons in that dream, or for my one son who has died in this dream we are in now." Our life's experiences, with all their joys and sorrows, mesmerise us with a sense of undeniable reality. Yet, the truth is that everything is only a thought in the mind of the Divine. Paramhansa Yogananda, who related the story above, explains: "This world seems real to you only because God dreamed you into existence along with His cosmic dream. You are a part of His dream. If, at night, you dream that you bump your head against a wall, you may experience an imaginary pain. The moment you wake up, you realise that there is no pain. The pain you experienced was only in your mind; it was not physical. The same is true of this dream you are dreaming now. Wake up to the one Reality and you will see that this earth life is just a show; it is nothing but shadows and light." In a small way, this reflects Yogananda's teaching that all of life's experiences are for our "education and entertainment". The Supreme dreams a particular dream for each of us and arranges the events in life for our benefit. Though it's often hard to see amid suffering, it is meant for our welfare and growth.



Quotes



These are all stunts and not terrorist attacks. These are nothing but BJP's pre-poll stunts. There is no truth in it. BJP is playing with people's lives and bodies. Charanjit Singh Channi (on Jammu & Kashmir's Poonch district terror attack)



I am warning BJP not to dishonour the women of Bengal. Mamata Banerjee (accusing BJP of orchestrating the incidents of Sandeshkhali)



We are actually not just not xenophobic, we are the most open, most pluralistic and in many ways, the most understanding society in the world. Jaishankar (reacting to US president Joe Biden's 'xenophobic' remark)

Tech

Software, not hardware, is what the iPad needs an upgrade in more than ever

When Apple CEO Tim Cook and top honchos take the virtual stage on May 7 to introduce new iPads, they are going to spend a lot of time establishing one thing: the new iPads will be the best tablets on the market, especially the Pro models. One can already predict the script Cook and his team will be handed to make the pitch around newer iPads, including OLED screens and slimmer bodies, with the new Airs getting a bigger screen size, and updates to the Apple Pencil and Magic Keyboard. The iPad is without a doubt a great product. Neither the iPhone nor the Mac has destroyed the iPad, so the tablet's continuing existence after over a decade of its launch is proof that people want a device that excels in bridging the gap between the iPhone and Mac. Some may argue that the iPhone does everything the iPad is capable of doing, and to some extent, they're right. However, the sheer portability the device offers—especially the iPad Mini—and the Pencil support make it a delightful product. The iPad Pro, meanwhile, is a more complex device, and there are arguments against the device which are valid though it's hard to question the existence of the Pro model all together. The iPad's problem has never been the hardware. Apple has updated the iPads to have the best possible hardware and drool-worthy specs, especially the high-end iPad Pro. But where the iPad falters is the iPadOS software, which continues to be severely limited in making the tablet more adaptable for work tasks, for which users opt for a Windows PC or a Mac.



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