

Central Chronicle

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

EDITORIAL

Bilateral relations

The recent visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister to India is being considered an important step towards melting the ice in bilateral relations. From the hills of Ladakh to the waters of the Brahmaputra and from global forums to trade corridors, both the countries discussed and reached agreements on many issues. But the question is whether these agreements will be able to turn into lasting trust and practical improvements? The most important aspect among these is the border dispute. Indeed, the agreement to find a “fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable” solution is in itself a positive sign. The establishment of the Expert Group and Working Group under the WMCC shows that both sides want to gradually move towards a structural dialogue. But experience shows that real progress will be made only when peace and stability is ensured at the ground level.

Conflicts between patrol teams or incomplete agreements can shake the foundation of this process at any time. However, the steps taken towards trade and economic cooperation are more noteworthy. The resumption of border trade through Lipulekh, Shipki La and Nathu La is important not only for the local economy but also for restoring trust. There is still a huge imbalance in India-China trade relations. In this context, it is necessary to revive investment flows and dialogue mechanisms, so that economic partnership is not limited to figures but is based on equality and transparency. Agreement on increasing people-to-people contact, direct flights, ease in visa process, and expansion of Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra will strengthen cultural and religious ties.

This is a region where the harshness of politics is tempered by the warmth of society and culture. The issue of sharing of river water data also deserves special attention. China's mega dams on the Brahmaputra have been a matter of concern for India. The Chinese assurance of sharing

water data on humanitarian grounds in emergencies is welcome, but it has to be institutionalized in the form of a legal framework and regular exchange.

India made its concern clear on the threat of terrorism and the China-Pakistan equation. The message is clear that India will take any partnership seriously only if China adopts a transparent stand on issues of national security and sovereignty.

Undoubtedly, the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chinese Foreign Minister and the assurance of participation in the SCO conference indicate that both countries do not want to run away from dialogue.

But the real test of this dialogue will be on the touchstone of the icy border posts, the waters of the Brahmaputra and the trade balance. Overall, this visit is an opportunity to open a new chapter in India-China relations. Agreements are welcome, but history has taught that ground level trust and long-term transparency are more important than paper promises. India will have to take this process forward while being cautious, not so neither with over-optimism nor in the grip of disbelief.

PM Modi and China's foreign minister have hailed “steady” progress in their countries' fractious relationship, agreeing to resume trade and other ties, as well as work towards resolving the long-running Himalayan border dispute, amid a global geopolitical shake-up instigated by Donald Trump's tariff regime.

According to statements from China's foreign ministry, the two sides agreed to resume direct flights – reiterating a pledge made in January – as well as issuing visas to journalists and facilitating business and cultural exchanges. India's foreign ministry on Wednesday said Wang and the Indian national security adviser Ajit Doval discussed “de-escalation, delimitation and boundary affairs”.

Will world leaders at UNGA act on urgent interconnected threats posed by NCDs & AMR?

SHOBHA SHUKLA – CNS
World leaders will meet at the upcoming 80th United Nations General Assembly and UN High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) next month. But would they take stronger action to prevent NCDs and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is yet to be seen. The draft text that would be up for their discussion next month is sadly weak and disappointing given the threat NCDs (and AMR) poses to global health and SDGs.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are critical global public health challenges confronting the world today. Globally, AMR is associated with almost 5 million deaths every year (and directly responsible for 1.14 million deaths annually), and NCDs (like cardiovascular diseases such as heart diseases and stroke, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases) kill more than 40 million people every year.

AMR and NCDs are deeply interconnected- biologically, socially, and systematically, and they amplify the impact of each other. Both disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries, exacerbating health inequities and straining already fragile health systems.

Multiple intersections between NCDs and AMR

People with NCDs are more vulnerable to infections due to their weakened immune system, and frequent visits to healthcare settings. They often require repeated or prolonged antimicrobial treatments for the infections,

thus increasing their likelihood of acquiring drug-resistant infections. AMR complicates the management of NCDs.

While speaking at the Global Dialogue for bridging the divide between AMR and NCDs, organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) and WHO Task Force of AMR Survivors, Téa Collins, Lead of NCD Department at the WHO said, "AMR

also some helplessness in those physicians, who are not specialists, as they do not know how to treat a serious infection or a drug-resistant infection for their patient. This boils down to the resources, whereby high-income countries have specialists, or specialists are mostly concentrated in urban areas." According to Mattar, “We absolutely need the infection, prevention side of things, alongside access to

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and NCDs also share common risk factors like tobacco and alcohol use, poor diets, physical inactivity, and air pollution. These are the factors that exacerbate all the conditions that affect human body and weaken their immune system. So, they become more prone to having all the complications of AMR as well as poor NCDs outcomes. Add to this social, economic, environmental determinants, such as poverty, low health literacy, limited access to healthcare services and poor housing conditions and other socioeconomic determinants."

Caline Mattar, policy expert for the World Medical Association, pointed out that, “A clinician caring for a patient recognises that an infection is right around the corner. But there is

timely diagnostics and treatment. There should also be capacity building, education and resourcing of the health workforce within the NCD space to address AMR and drug-resistant infections and their prevention. And also pay attention to social determinants of health, because health inequities shape AMR and NCDs."

Double trouble: AMR and cancer
John Kirkness, Head of the Department for analysis and politics at the Norwegian Cancer Society highlighted that AMR and cancer care intersect as cancer patients are particularly prone to infections. He pointed out that nearly one in five patients undergoing cancer treatment ends up with hospitalisation due to infections. But there is very limited data on how

Both Cong, BJP trying to woo the South through VP candidate

In the Vice Presidential election, the NDA and India group have not only selected the candidate keeping South Indian politics at the center, but also tried to reduce the growing distance between the South and the North. It is being discussed that while on one hand the NDA has made a strategy to force Tamil Nadu's ruling party DMK to vote in the election by putting Tamil identity at the forefront, on the other hand, the India group has also forced parties like TDP to not directly oppose the candidate belonging to a particular region to save their regional existence by wooing the politics of united Andhra Pradesh i.e. the present Andhra and Telangana. However, despite all this, it is clear from what is visible that the fight is in favor of the NDA candidate since the beginning.

Election Commission and Rahul Gandhi face to face

While on one hand Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is trying to put the current government in the dock by directly attacking the Election Commission on the basis of the vote

theft allegation, on the other hand the Election Commission has created a stir by possibly for the first time aggressively responding to the allegations point by point and by putting a condition of affidavit or apology before Rahul Gandhi.

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Amidst the arguments of the ruling and the opposition parties, there is a lot of discussion in the political corridors of Delhi about the allegations made on the constitutional institution. While on one hand some NGOs are considering Rahul Gandhi's political experiment appropriate, on the other hand most politicians and thinkers are considering it unreasonable. Some Congress leaders also do not con-

sider this strategy of attacking the Election Commission as good. They argue that the attack on constitutional institutions will create an atmosphere of distrust and the political parties will have to bear the brunt of it before anyone else.

Politics over praise of RSS
Politics started after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the service spirit of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh for the past hundred years from the ramparts of Red Fort on the occasion of Independence Day. Congress party has called this step a desperate attempt to please the Sangh. Congress leaders called this step of Modi an insult to the spirit of free-

many cancer patients get and die from infections.

"People in general and decision makers are not aware of the link between AMR and cancer. So we need to do more communication and awareness work," he said.

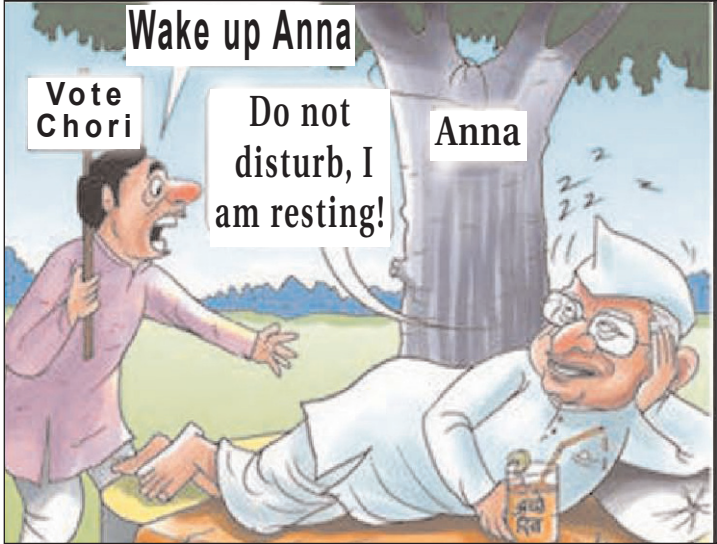
Include AMR in cancer control plans

According to Kirkness the Union of International Cancer Control (UICC) is currently working on pushing for inclusion of AMR in all National Cancer Control Plan. He urged for more collaboration in one health perspective, with actors also from outside the Cancer and AMR family. Laurer Protoris, CEO and Founder of Campaigning for Cancer, voices similar thoughts: "Many cancer patients are immunocompromised, and face prolonged exposures to healthcare settings which heightens their risks of infections. When an infection becomes resistant, it has devastating consequences on the patient, not only just medically, but also financially and emotionally. Cancer patients are falling through the cracks where we have a two siloed responses- one focused on infection and the other on some chronic disease. We need to integrate the approaches and we need to see the patient as a whole."

"We must push for policy change and advocate for cancer care models that do not just treat infections as a side issue, but as a core component of the treatment planning for a cancer patient. We have to frame AMR as a survival issue for cancer patients, not just as a microbial one," she added.

Satire

Efforts being made to awaken social activist Anna Hazare



Friend said to us, ‘Asleeping person can be woken up but how can one wake up someone who is pretending to be asleep?’

We said, ‘Whose sleeping and waking up are you talking about? There is a saying that when one wakes up, then the morning dawns! It is also said that the one who sleeps loses, the one who wakes up gains. People sleep in deep sleep without any awareness and theft takes place at night. That is why the watchman, while guarding at night, repeatedly bangs his stick and shouts- stay awake! You must have heard the song- Wake up Mohan dear!’ Friend said, ‘At this time, an attempt is being made to wake up social worker Anna Hazare, not Mohan. In Pune, a banner has been put up saying- Anna, wake up now! Kumbhkarán also stood up for Lanka, you should stand up for your country. Votes are being stolen in the country. Corruption is increasing. Democracy is in danger. How can social workers like you remain silent? Anna, Delhi's Jantar Mantar is eager to see your magic again.’

We said, ‘Anna Hazare has

understood that smart people have been using him to serve their own interests. Before 2014, his anti-corruption Jan Lokpal movement helped BJP come to power. Arvind Kejriwal, who was a part of his movement, formed the Aam Aadmi Party and became the CM of Delhi. Kiran Bedi was made the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. Anna felt that his disciple Kejriwal has lost his way. There was a huge crowd in Delhi during Anna Hazare's hunger strike. He considered it to be his popularity but when he fasted in Mumbai, the crowd was missing. Later it was found out that the crowd in Delhi was gathered by Sangh workers while no one came to Mumbai. Anna has understood that he is made a pawn to hold a movement. Later the situation is such that the hen works hard and the fakir eats eggs! Therefore, keeping in mind the past experience, this time he will not get caught in anyone's trap. Anna replied to the people who put up the banners that it is wrong that I work in my 90th year of age and you people keep sleeping.’

Science Fact

Uranus 'rings' in the New Year in stunning James Webb telescope image

This photo of Uranus, captured by the James Webb Space Telescope, reveals the ice giant planet in exquisite detail. The wide-field image shows Uranus' rings, a polar ice cap, 14 of the planet's 27 moons, background stars and galaxies.

The close-up image, snapped by JWST's Near Infrared Camera and released by NASA this week, is a follow-up to a set of photos taken in February. The new image features an extra wavelength of light, revealing a hidden ring. Although Uranus is known to have 13 distinct inner and outer rings, NIRCam revealed the planet's elusive "Zeta ring," a faint, diffuse ring nestled close to the planet.

Of Uranus' 27 moons, 14 are featured in this image: Oberon, Titania, Umbriel, Juliet, Perdita, Rosalind, Puck, Belinda, Desdemona, Cressida, Ariel, Miranda, Bianca and Portia.

It's a much more detailed view of Uranus than humankind's first close-up of the seventh planet, taken by NASA's Voyager 2 probe in 1986. That featureless image showed a solid bluish orb with no detail. JWST, by contrast, has captured atmospheric features such as a north polar cloud cap. That growing and receding cap is fascinating to planetary scientists because it's visible evidence that Uranus spins on an axis tilted by 98 degrees, producing seasonal and meteorological effects that create storms.

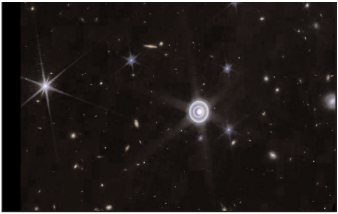
Spiritual

Failures are Stepping Stones To Success

Thomas Edison was the inventor of the lightbulb. We can well imagine what our lives would be like if it were not for this marvelous invention. The lightbulb makes it possible for us to utilize the night for those activities that through the ages were mostly possible only in the day. Candlelight and fires have a limited lighting capacity.

While we may take this invention for granted, it was invented through relentless labor. It is said that one day, a critic tried to belittle Edison by saying that Edison had failed 25,000 times while experimenting with a storage battery. The great Edison replied, “No, I did not fail. I discovered 24,999 ways that the storage battery does not work.”

Edison's persistence produced wonderful inventions. His attitude toward failure was what made him successful. He looked upon failure as a learning experience leading him closer to success. Had he given up on the first, the tenth, the hundredth, or the 24,999th try, he never would have succeeded. We can apply Edison's attitude toward failure to our own spiritual life, including our practice of prayer and meditation. Many sit for meditation and prayer day after day, and sometimes feel discouraged if they have not reached their spiritual goal by the tenth time they meditate. Instead of pursuing our goals and persisting in our meditation, many people give up. They feel that if they did not attain their goal right away, they have failed. This attitude causes them to give up too early. If Edison put in the time to keep designing a lightbulb 25,000 times until he succeeded, couldn't we sit for meditation 25,000 times to turn on the inner lightbulb? Failure should not discourage us. If we sit for meditation and receive some flashes of light, or some colors of lights, we should not be disappointed.



Letter to the Editor

Man who attacked Delhi CM Rekha Gupta belonged to Rajkot, his mother says he was a dog lover

Dear Sir,
Delhi Chief Minister (CM) Rekha Gupta was attacked, leading to the arrest of a 41-year-old man named Rajesh Bhai Khimji Bhai Sakariya, auto driver from Rajkot. The attacker's mother Bhanuben Sakaria has stated that her son is mentally unstable (its common statement under such cases) and travelled to Delhi after being upset by a Supreme Court (SC) order concerning stray dogs and seeing videos of their treatment. But unable to understand why an animal lover instead of SC ordered stray dog menace to come straight to CM Gupta's 'Jan Sunwai' to slap her? Though the auto driver revealed he had come with a petition to seek the release of a relative who is currently in jail, a matter that is sub judice. He had reportedly been seen near the CM's residence for two days prior to the attack. Interestingly, Rajesh Bhai's mother also claimed he has been violent in the past, even towards her. At Delhi in CM's 'Jan Sunwai' programme, Rajesh bhai first handed some papers to CM Gupta before beginning to shout and allegedly pulled her hair and slapped her, as a result she suffered injuries to her head, hand, and shoulder. As per media it was a matter of less than 2 minutes, when Delhi Police took him away. The incident has sparked condemnation from not only from the people but political leaders also, with concerns raised about security and the safety of citizens. Actually, Delhi's security under Amit Shah's the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) hand, and no doubt it's a failure of his department indicated his failure, and this incident also exposes women's safety in Delhi. If the CM of Delhi is not safe, how can a common man or common woman be safe?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Tech

I ditched my high-end smartphone for the Lava Storm 5G for a week

While there is no shortage of good smartphones in the budget segment, it's still a tedious task to find a device that gets the basics right and offers a holistic user experience. I recently tried the Lava Storm 5G, and it felt like the right budget smartphone. Here is my review.

Design- The subtle-looking Lava Storm 5G reminds me more of the latest Samsung smartphones with its unique-looking camera array, which includes a dual-camera setup and an LED flash designed to resemble a camera. This is clearly one of the simplest and cleanest-looking smartphones in this segment, looking nothing like any of the previously launched smartphones from the company. Unlike the recently released Blaze 2 (review) with its ring light, the Storm has nothing unique to offer in terms of design, and the device seems to cater to those who value substance over style. The phone features a glass sandwich design, making it a bit heavier than its contemporaries, weighing 214 grams. The phone has a microSD card slot, a 3.5mm headphone jack, and dual nano SIM card slots with support for a 5G network on both slots.

Display- The Lava Storm 5G features a 6.78-inch FHD+ resolution IPS display with a 120Hz refresh rate, which becomes adequately bright under daylight conditions. By default, the display mode is set to vivid, making everything look a bit saturated. Thanks to the higher refresh rate, the phone feels snappy while scrolling through the UI. However, the bezels on this phone aren't even, and the slightly thick bottom bezel makes the phone look a bit dated. If you love binge-watching movies or videos, then the Lava Storm 5G is a great device to consider.



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