

Central Chronicle

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

EDITORIAL

Freebie culture

The prevalence of a culture centered around freebies is on the rise in today's political landscape. From an economic standpoint, this trend poses a significant financial burden on our nation. Economists and sociologists have long expressed concerns about this phenomenon, echoed even by the Supreme Court, which has criticized the freebie culture. However, political parties seem reluctant to acknowledge their collective responsibility in perpetuating it. Regrettably, amidst all this, the voice of the common man, who desires not handouts but rather a better quality of life, often goes unheard.

The common man seeks relief from inflation and increased employment opportunities, particularly for the youth. Their aspirations revolve around securing a job commensurate with their education and qualifications, eradication of corruption, and ensuring that no one suffers from hunger. Despite recent pledges to enhance schemes like MNREGA, which aims to provide employment to the unemployed, questions linger about its efficacy and the absence of specific targets.

In the latest announcements, every electoral party's agenda contains promises of giving Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 per month to women. There is free ration, free electricity and even free medical treatment, but economists say that such extravagant announcements take the state beyond the limits of its total revenue. To fulfill their promises or guarantees they have to repay loans. On every loan, interest has to be paid and the principal also has to be returned. The free electricity scheme takes a heavy toll on the electricity generation and distribution system. States are burdened with excessive debt. The 13th Finance Commission had warned three states about getting trapped in the debt trap. They were instructed to carry

out financial reforms to come out of this trap.

These states were Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal. The condition of Punjab is such that it has to knock on the doors of the Supreme Court to get Rs. 6 thousand crores of its Rural Development Fund from the Centre. Punjab has a debt of Rs 3,23,135 crore. Instead of decreasing in the next year, it will become Rs 3,53,600 crore. In fact, the schemes of free electricity, free bus travel and other concessions are having a heavy toll on the economy of the states. However, the main revenue of state governments is spent on paying salaries, pensions and interest.

More and more loans are raised to fulfill populist announcements for the public. This policy has to be changed. First, every state should understand that the loan it is taking from the Center or the Reserve Bank, it has to repay ultimately. Not only the principal amount but also the interest. There will be no concession in this. The web of debt is a mess for every country and every state. Measures to deal with it should also be on the level of production and investment.

The Center and the top judiciary have given free electricity and States that provide other free facilities have been warned of falling into the trap of debt. In fact, populist announcements do not result in additional production or investment, nor do they result in additional growth in the country's GDP or employment. Yes, that much. Of course, the debt burden on the states increases, which ultimately ties their hands because they have to repay the loans. Overall, this Revdi culture is going to prove costly for the country. Therefore, political parties should also show sources of revenue increase in their manifesto, but such alternative economic programs are not visible in the political manifesto of any party.

Why is Priyanka So 'Apologetic'?

Kajal Chatterjee
As far as existence and promotion of political dynasties are concerned, BJP simply has no peers! Right from Himachal Pradesh to Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh to Arunachal Pradesh -- innumerable MPs, MLAs, Chief Ministers, Cabinet ministers or poll contestants of BJP are/were directly associated with various political families of saffron vintage, sharing blood or matrimonial relationships!

BJP is also expert in roping in leaders from "dynastic" families of various Opposition hues, right from Punjab to Kerala, Madhya Pradesh to Bengal!

Throughout its political history, BJP has hobnobbed with "dynastic" parties right from Jammu & Kashmir to Tamil Nadu, Punjab to Karnataka, Maharashtra to Odisha at various points of time! So Congress should either expose the blatant hypocrisy of the "anti-dynast" BJP by clearly mentioning the names of the dynasts within saffron camp and in friendly terms with the saffronites or simply ignore the "dynast" jibe!

But very sadly Priyanka Gandhi is being seen to accord dignity to such cheap stunts of the Who's Who of the BJP by defending through the counter question

which member of Gandhi family was in power in the last 30 years!

Are the Gandhis not citizens of India! Is it wrong to assume power if other members of the family had seated in any prominent post previously! Had Jawaharlal Nehru, Indra Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi acted as the Prime minister of India by force or treachery! Rather they

emphasis towards the downtrodden. Who's daughter son grandson daughter-in-law of whom form the last thought in the minds of the supporters and voters of Congress as the party represents the very Idea of India! Not to forget that far from displaying any lust for power unlike the saffronites, Sonia Gandhi had sacri-

skeletons in the cupboard of the BJP, the "mighty" leaders of the saffron dispensation are much perturbed leading the consistent diatribe against "dynasty"!

Rest of the Opposition parties are already dancing to the saffron tunes. It required one and only bold dynamic Lalu Prasad Yadav to stop the communal riot-invoking Rath Yatra of L.K.Advani (demanding Ram Temple in Ayodhya) and detain the latter behind bars. Three decades later his very own daughter assures the people that she would surely visit the Ram temple (built at that very site where Babri Masjid had stood for centuries prior to its barbaric demolition), but at her own convenience! Even Sitaram Yechury of "atheist" CPM is invoking the myth of Lord Ram to emphasise his point! What will be the political fate of India will be known only after the announcement of poll result in June! But it remains the fact the tone has been set by the BJP and Opposition is playing according to the agenda and terms of the Central dispensation. Now the least Priyanka must do is stop issuing "apology" of sorts by claiming the Gandhis are not in power for more than three decades and instead start injecting the BJP dozes of its own "dynastic" medicine!

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were voted to power through absolute free and fair democratic poll! Why is Priyanka so apologetic about Gandhi family! When Atal Behari Vajpayee/ Narendra Modi becomes Prime minister, it is "victory of democracy" ; but when Nehru Gandhis reach the top, it is "victory of dynasty"!

Moreover people vote/voted for the Congress not only for the qualities of Nehru, Indira, Rajiv, Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi; but also for the party's philosophy of democracy, secularism, diversity and welfare mindset with special

ficed the post of the Prime minister which was offered to her on a platter after leading Congress /UPA to win the 2004 general election! Which leader of the BJP can come within billion miles of Sonia as far as impeccable sense of morality and selflessness are concerned!

Since the Gandhis represent all things sanity in today's political environment with the honest upright gentle humble principled Rahul leading from the front with his words calling spade a spade and exposing the innumerable

For the triangular contest, Congress rebels become BSP's choice

Gwalior Chambal Notes
Harish Dubey

BSP is relying on Congress rebels this time to regain its lost voter base in Chambal. Instead of relying on its own party cadre, Mayawati has given tickets to those disgruntled Congress leaders in Gwalior and Morena who felt it appropriate to ride the elephant when their aspirations for tickets in Congress were not fulfilled. It is hoped that BSP candidates in both Gwalior and Morena constituencies will benefit from caste equations. It is believed in Gwalior's political circles that the Gujjar community might be displeased with Congress due to Ramsevak Babuji not getting a ticket. To pacify this dissatisfaction, BSP has arranged for Congress Gujjar leader Kalyan Kansana to ride the elephant and enter the electoral fray. Initially, it was thought that BSP could stake a claim on Ramsevak Babuji, but despite not getting the ticket, Babuji was not ready to leave Congress. In Morena too, BSP has fielded businessman Rameshchandra Garg, who has

left Congress, hoping to garner traditional Dalit votes besides the Vaishya vote bank. Ramesh Garg had also sought a ticket from Scindia in 2019, but at that time, Ramnivas Rawat was fielded in the electoral arena. He had accepted the party's decision then, but this time, he could not endure his electoral ambitions and joined the elephant ride. BSP is strategizing to make the contest triangular on these two seats.

A fair took place, forms filled in silence

Congress candidates in Morena and Gwalior filled forms on the same day, but the atmospheres were different at both places. In Morena, there was enthusiasm in Congress's election campaign with big leaders like Jitu Patwari, Umang Singhar, and Hemant Katara participating, while in Gwalior, Praveen Pathak filled out forms with some local leaders after visiting the collectorate. On the same day in Morena, Congress also held a crowded meeting of big leaders, while in Gwalior, Praveen Pathak, after taking blessings from his parents and visiting the temple, filled out forms. However, on the same day,

Praveen also discussed the strategy for winning Gwalior with Patwari and Singhar in a hotel in Gwalior. He is also trying to persuade the dissatisfied ones. Both dissatisfied leaders, Ramsevak Babuji and Devendra Sharma, who are unhappy with ticket distribution, have been approached at their homes. While Babuji offered them sweets, indicating lingering dissatisfaction, city president Devendra Sharma, present at the time of nomination, assured Praveen that he would abide by the party's decision.

Focus on Scindia's seat

The leadership of power and organization in the state is taking Maharaj's candidacy from Shivpuri-Guna seat very seriously. This was evident when Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, ex-CM Shivraj Singh, VD Sharma, and other senior leaders reached the Shivpuri Collectorate during filling of forms by Scindia. Last time, as a Congress candidate, Maharaj lost this seat by more than one lakh votes. It was the first electoral defeat for the Scindia family in the last forty years. That's why the entire BJP has put its full force

into Shivpuri-Guna this time. Along with Maharaj, Maharani and Yuvaraj are also holding rallies. The responsibility of garnering Brahmin votes has been given to Suresh Pachauri and Narottam Mishra.

New equations in Bindu due to Devashish's entry

Is there going to be a triangular contest on the Bindu-Datia parliamentary seat? It is reported that Devashish Jariya, who lost by two lakh votes as a BJP candidate last time, has become disgruntled with Congress after being denied a ticket this time and is now exploring his new political position with BSP. After suddenly bidding goodbye to Congress today, he has been reported to be in touch with BSP and has prepared to ride the elephant into the electoral arena. If this happens, it is certain that there will be a triangular contest on this unique reserved seat in the region. Devashish has previously been associated with Rahul Gandhi's team and was a member of the Kanhaiya Kumar brigade in Delhi's JNU. He has often been seen debating on national channels on behalf of Congress.

Satire

Don't depend too much on Google

Friend said to us, "These days people don't use their brains; they rely on Google for everything. They don't consider it necessary to remember any references or context. They believe that with Google, everything is possible. They don't realize that Google can sometimes create chaos instead of clarity. Blindly trusting it is not advisable."

We replied, "Instead of doubting like this, look at the benefits of Google. In the past, people had to flip through encyclopedias or books of knowledge to find information, or sift through the shelves of libraries. Lawyers had to keep piles of law books, and finding a precedent in a case required a lot of effort. Similarly, doctors had to read many books to understand complex diseases. Today, everything is at our fingertips because of Google. Whether you search for a reference or anything else, information is available instantly. Google can be compared to Aladdin's magical lamp. Questions related to history, geography, social sciences, medical sciences, mathematics, engineering, literature, movies, Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads, epics, or space science, Google has instant answers. Students finish their homework quickly with Google's help. Patients search for information about their medications on their own. Even in preparing for Public



Service Commission exams, Google proves to be helpful. Google is an ocean of knowledge."

Friend added, "People have become overly dependent on mobile phones and Google; they have stopped using their brains. Sometimes Google also messes up. If not checked, it can lead to serious mistakes. Indian Railways, relying on Google Translation, named a train 'Murder Express.' When this translation went viral on social media, people got outraged, and the railway realized its mistake. Google misunderstood the name of Hatia Railway Station as 'Murder Station' in English. From Google Translation, it became 'murder' in English. The railway translated Hatia into Malayalam as 'Kolapathakam,' which means 'murder' in Hindi!"

We said, "In English, it's said for negligence 'out of sight, out of mind.' Its equivalent in terms of Google Translation would be 'blind lunatic,' meaning blindly insane!"

Science Fact

Researchers need 'open' bibliographic databases, new declaration says

When universities are deciding whom to hire and promote, or grant organizations are selecting projects to fund, there's a good chance they're referencing more than just the application materials. Many organizations rely on databases that compile publication information including authors, affiliations, citations, and funding sources to create metrics meant to quantify a researcher's productivity and the quality of their work.

Some of the best known databases, such as the Web of Science and Scopus, are proprietary and offer pay-to-access data and services supporting these and other metrics, including university rankings and journal impact factors. But in a declaration posted today, more than 30 research and funding organizations call for the community to commit to platforms that instead are free for all, more transparent about their methods, and without restrictions about how the data can be used. "At a time when decision making in science is increasingly guided by indicators and analytics, addressing the problems of closed research information must be a top priority," states the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information. Signatories so far include funders such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the French National Research Agency, as well as more than a dozen academic institutions.



Spiritual

Seize this Opportunity!

The Enlightened Ones say that true devotion manifests when you become aware of the pain and suffering in life. Life after life, you have suffered being in the state of ignorance with the hope that you will get happiness from the world. 'Let me suffer now because I am certain to get happiness from it later.' Living in this hope does not allow you to awaken to the suffering. And so, devotion does not manifest. The hope that 'I shall find happiness tomorrow' makes you wander. You accumulate wealth thinking you will enjoy it tomorrow, and in the process you waste life away. The one desirous of fame works hard to earn fame, and loses a lifetime. Alexander too tried but failed. Your chase will not end, and you will have to embrace death. You will never earn enough to eliminate your poverty because poverty is a perspective. Only right outlook, not wealth, can bring an end to it. Hope for more will always keep you poor. Once you get a million, you will want a billion, and so on. You will never win over this hope by any attainment, but will lose this moment which is available to you now.

Introspect, Examine in detail - your desires, the failure to fulfil those desires, and the times when your desires were fulfilled. If you become aware of these three, you will realise the worthlessness of desires. Learn from your experiences. If you understand the pain you have experienced you will realise that you have moulded your life incorrectly, your beliefs are wrong. All this has happened because of the forgetfulness of the divine, the pure Self. Introspection will make you want to stop and will help end your wanderings. In your life, in your heart, you have given a place to your spouse, children, wealth, house etc. but not to God. Misery has thus manifested in that place. Suffering shows the absence of God. It occupies the place that should have been taken by God.



Letter to the Editor

Maoists should try to effect change through ballot box

Sir,
in the dense forests of Chhattisgarh, at least 29 Naxals were neutralized, including the top leaders, Shankar Rao and Lalita, divisional committee members of the CPI (Maoist)'s North Bastar Division. This clash, occurring just days before the Lok Sabha polls in Bastar, signifies the ongoing battle against insurgency in the region. More than 60,000 security personnel have been deployed in the district to oversee the electoral process. This is the highest casualty suffered by the Maoists in a single incident since 2018, when 37 of them were killed in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district.

The Maoist rebels may have had reasons to hold a grudge against the government, but their romantic notion of revolution is totally misplaced, because they'll never succeed in displacing the government, or creating their own Communist paradise in Bastar, or any other region of the country.

So yes, they'll probably try to continue their usual attacks, but with the continued, concerted push by the security forces into their strongholds, those attacks will become fewer and far between.

Moreover, such type of operation has continued for the last 30 years where both sides are losing. Bastar area is most vulnerable for such activities. We have lakhs of military and other security personnel but still Maoist activity is not controlled. Adivasis have their own livelihood in the jungle.

The government cannot replace them in the name of development. I think the Maoists' best bet would be to put down their arms, and try to effect change through the ballot box.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Tech

From Google to Nokia: 5 phones that offer stock Android experience

Most Android smartphone manufacturers sell smartphones with their very own user interface, which offers additional customisation and other useful features. However, if you like the clean and smooth stock Android, your choices might be pretty limited. From Google to Motorola, here are the best smartphones across different price segments that offer stock or near-stock Android experience.

Nokia G42 The Nokia G42 has a self-repairable design, meaning you can fix it at home if you have the parts and tools to do so. (Express Photo)

Nokia G42, The Nokia G42 (review) is a budget smartphone that runs near-stock Android 13. Featuring the Snapdragon 480+ 5G chipset, it also has a 6.56-inch LCD screen that offers an HD+ resolution with a refresh rate of 90Hz. The rear panel, which is made from plastic, houses a triple camera setup on paper that consists of a 50MP primary shooter alongside a 2MP macro lens and a 2MP depth sensor. For selfies and video calls, you get an 8MP front camera. It comes with 128GB of internal storage and up to 6GB RAM and packs a 5,000mAh battery that supports 20W wired charging.

The phone has what Nokia terms as a 'QuickFix design' that lets users fix the device at home if they have the parts and tools. The base variant of the phone that comes with 4GB RAM is priced at Rs 12,499, but you can find it at a lower price on popular e-commerce platforms. Lava Agni 2 The Lava Agni 2 looks and feels premium thanks to the glass back.



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