

Central Chronicle

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

EDITORIAL

Historic achievement

25 June 2025 has been inscribed in golden letters in Indian space history. After a long gap, after 41 years, India has once again registered its presence in space. This occasion becomes even more proud when we see that this time this achievement has been possible not under any state-sponsored campaign, but through global commercial cooperation. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force is included as the pilot in the Axiom-4 mission launched by the US commercial space company Axiom Space. This is not just a space journey, but a reaffirmation of India's scientific aspirations. This is the second occasion after Rakesh Sharma when an Indian has touched the frontiers of space, but this time this effort has been fully realized through the coordination of private, global cooperation and innovation.

The Axiom-4 mission is not just a technological flight, it is the declaration of a new era in which space is no longer just a subject of competition between nations, but has become a shared platform for global participation and scientific contribution. This mission, involving SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket and Dragon capsule, shows how the US private sector, NASA, and space agencies of various countries are working together to build humanity's shared future. Axiom's proposed private space station by 2030 is a sign that in the coming decade, commercial space missions and scientific research will move beyond the confines of state control and will be driven by the flexible and rapid work culture of the private sector. India must become a vigilant partner in this emerging system at all three levels - policy, talent and investment.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is the pride of the Indian Air Force, who has not only gained thousands of hours of combat flying experience, but is now also a prime candidate for India's Gaganyaan human mission. The Axiom-4 mission is not just a rehearsal for him, but also a

Gender equality & human rights are indivisible, foundational & unconditional

SHOBHA SHUKLA – CNS

"When human rights are treated like an 'à la carte menu' by governments, and not what they truly are - indivisible, foundational and unconditional... we move fast into dystopia," said Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Right To Health.

"We saw during COVID-19 lockdown time that people who were from the most marginalised groups, were furthest pushed behind. These included: peoples from gender diverse communities, women in all diversities, women in sex work, women who use drugs, or young girls, for whom there was hardly any access to care, support and services. Gender-based violence was being more reported during the pandemic. We have learnt the harder way that how we want to ensure marginalised people are included in strengthening the health systems and making them resilient in gender-transformative manner," said Dr Harjyot Khosa, Regional External Relations Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and member of Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC 2030.

"We need to engage marginalised communities in all their diversities to adapt and redesign health systems to better protect them within the frame-

work of universal health coverage," Dr Khosa added. She was speaking at a special Side Event alongside 78th World Health Assembly organised by Global Centre for Health Diplomacy and Inclusion (CeHDI), International Planned Parenthood Federation, Fos Feminista, CNS, and partners.

Are health systems designed for gender diverse peoples?

Dr Harjyot Khosa reminded that health systems are defined and

al assault. When they go the police, they are turned away because they are 'not citizens of the country.' Or a woman is denied mental healthcare because of language barriers. These are the realities I face daily in Dominican Republic," said Dr Eliezer Lappots-Abreu, Executive Director, Health Horizons International, Dominican Republic.

"Although we live in Dominican Republic where health access and

documentation. Patient wondered if her options was to get palliative care or just die in the house," he added.

UHC is not about coverage alone but Universal Health Care

"It is not accidental that 'C' in 'UHC' (Universal Health Coverage) stands for 'coverage' in the official language but it should be about Care – Universal Health Care. No wonder due to governments focussing on UHC, or coverage, we see increasing space for 'health insurance.'

Universal Health Care (and not Universal Health Coverage) better links us with the spirit of Alma Mata Declaration of 1978 (which heralded WHO led call to deliver on Health For All)," said Baba Aye, Health and Social Services Officer, Public Services International (PSI), who earlier worked for two

annot talk of universal health care without health workers for all," said Baba Aye of PSI. He said that when 13% of maternal mortality are from unsafe abortions, and two-thirds of healthcare workers are women themselves, imagine the struggle in countries where abortion is criminalised.

Connect the dots: Leprosy, gender justice, human rights, and SDGs, Leprosy (also known as Hansen's disease), once feared as an incurable disease, is now treatable with modern medicine.

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designed for heterosexual married people, like 'good couples' as per the harmful social norms rooted in patriarchy. “So, perception and level of stigma and misogyny within healthcare systems is what we all grapple with every day. Sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice has to be the first push to deliver on UHC at all levels,” she said.

"Just because of the colour of your skin, people become a victim of sexu-

universal health coverage is part of the norm, but it is not accessible for everybody because it excludes women of colour and immigrants. One of my patients, a Haitian woman, was diagnosed with cervical cancer but when we connected her to services to treat her cancer, she was turned away because of the language barrier. When we arranged a translator for her, we were told that they can understand her but unable to serve her without

A Global Problem : International Cooperation Against Drug Trafficking

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

26th June is observed as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking), often referred to as the International Day against Drug Abuse. It is to strengthen global action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. Observance of this day aims to raise awareness to fight against the substance abuse as well as the unlawful trade of drugs. Drugs are initially taken out of choice, but it becomes hard to resist them sooner than you realize. It is difficult to recover from this problem and even those who are at high risk of developing it again.

It is a fact that drug racket operates internationally, but some countries are transshipment points for drug circulation. India possibly because of its strategic location is more prone to drug activities including drug trafficking and local consumption. The influence of westernization, changing family structure and peer pressure are some of the reasons behind drug abuse.

Our society should change its attitude. He should be provided with all the support and care. He

should be properly rehabilitated. Moral education should be made a part of our curriculum. Society should be made aware from the early stage. n order to tame and trample the monster of drug abuse, we must go back to the root of the problem and make the user of drugs more human, tolerant, understanding, appreciative, sym-

which drugs achieve this - they copy the natural chemical messengers of the human brain and they overstimulate the brain's reward circuit. Drugs such as heroin and marijuana are structured in the same way as chemical messengers known as neurotransmitters. The Drug addiction can develop at any age but those who begin taking

According to National Survey, hardly a third of drug dependents reported having taken treatment. In the findings of other agency it was found as low as two per cent. It is largely because people do not see drug abuse as a medical problem.

pathetic and helpful. Social workers, teachers, and above all parents, especially mothers can play a vital role in this direction. Many counselling and de-addiction centres have contributed greatly to create a national awakening. More such efforts are required from all walks of society.

Drugs are primarily chemicals that affect the communication system of the human brain. They disturb the ways in which nerve cells send, process and receive information. There are a couple of ways in

rid their communities of drugs.

According to National Survey, hardly a third of drug dependents reported having taken treatment. In the findings of other agency it was found as low as two per cent. It is largely because people do not see drug abuse as a medical problem. Besides, lack of rehabilitation and access to treatment facilities are various other causes for not seeking treatment. The disintegration of the old joint family system, absence of parental love and care in modern families where both parents are working, decline of old religious and moral values etc lead to a rise in the number of drug addicts who take drugs to escape hard realities of life.

Drug trafficking is one of the major crime. Killing someone or helping someone to kill himself is equal to a crime. This is what common sense and human sense says. The ones who are trafficking and helping such drugs reach each and every corner of the country are committing a big crime. Drugs and drug dealing is a scourge that can bring down a mature and intelligent society to intolerable levels of depravity. It is better to nip this crime in bud so that our country doesn't follow the horrible western malady.

Satire

Hackers are modern technical robbers



The friend told us, 'We are very scared of hawkers and hackers. We have put up a board at the gate of our society that hawkers are not allowed to enter but still hawkers come on the pretext of selling something or the other and waste our time. Similarly, hackers are also becoming a cause of trouble in the world. You should know that hackers loot more than 10,00,000 dollars from the world economy every minute. 2,000 people become their victims every minute.

Hackers steal people's personal and confidential information by breaking into the systems of companies and inserting spying components. Even people whom we do not know get access to our information such as date of birth, address, insurance information, bank account details.'

We said, 'Be it hawkers or hackers, they also have their own rights. In today's time, accept both. You are not understanding the seriousness of the problem.

I said: Hackers are modern technology robbers who are experts in cyber crime. Hackers have spread all over the world. These are very intelligent and cunning robbers. Hackers send virus

software to the computer and fraudulently extract debit and credit card information and empty your bank account in no time. A guard with a gun is of no use. Hackers rob banks with the skill of cyber crime and no one can do anything. Now it has become necessary for police officers to study cyber crime and the law related to it. The friend told us, Lawyers also study cyber law. All government and private institutions are feeling the threat of hackers. Defense institutions are also alert about it.' We said, 'Not all hackers are thugs or robbers. Some are also principled. Those who are ethical hackers, they do good work with ethics. They detect conspiracies and resolve crises.'

I said: Hackers breach defenses to gain unauthorized access into computers, phones, tablets, IoT devices, networks, or entire computing systems. Hackers also take advantage of weaknesses in network security to gain access. The weaknesses can be technical or social in nature. Hackers can exploit software vulnerabilities or weak security practices to gain unauthorized access or inject malware.

Science Fact

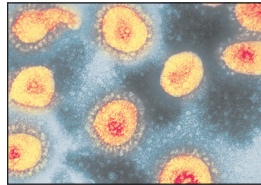
COVID’S cold cousins

Over a few weeks in November 1889, a respiratory disease attacked half the residents of St. Petersburg, Russia, and it soon began to race through Europe and the rest of the world. Two years later, in a spectacularly detailed book, a British medical officer, H. Franklin Parsons, described what was dubbed the "Russian influenza" epidemic, which raged until 1894. People seemed to spread the disease before developing symptoms, the young did not suffer as much as the old, a dry cough was common among the ill, some had a "perversion of taste and smell," and deaths rose. Suspicions ran high that a pathogen had jumped from an animal into humans.

Sound like COVID-19?

In 2005, scientists in Belgium proposed that the earlier pandemic's cause was not an influenza virus, but rather a coronavirus. Three years before their theory was published, a coronavirus had passed from an animal to humans, touching off a highly lethal outbreak of what was called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The disease spread from China and brought new attention to these once-obscure viruses. The Belgian team wondered whether something similar happened in Russia more than a century ago.

Based on molecular clues, they suggested that the once-deadly virus is still circulating today, as a coronavirus known as OC43 that in most people causes nothing worse than a cold. So far there's no direct evidence to back the group's theory, but two other teams soon hope to look at tissue samples from the late 19th century to see whether they can spot when the virus first became a human pathogen.



Spiritual

Why we’re all our brothers’ keepers

Recently, a Karnataka judge ruled that the bystanders in a village who witnessed a woman being assaulted and paraded naked, and did nothing to protect her, were as guilty as her attackers by being complicit in the crime, and were held collectively responsible for it.

The concept of collective responsibility is based on the precept that for evil to triumph it is enough that good men do nothing to prevent it, a quote often attributed to Edmund Burke, but according to different sources, originally articulated by John Stuart Mill: "Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing."

During the British Raj, the charge of collective responsibility earned notoriety for being used to penalise entire communities for any acts of defiance against the colonial regime. More recently, the rubric of collective responsibility has been invoked to deem all the residents of a neighbourhood culpable for damage caused to public and private property during a riot, with compensatory fines imposed on all.

The most sweeping example of collective responsibility was imposed after the end of WWII by the victorious allies against the entire German nation for crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis, including the genocidal Holocaust.

The burden of aggregate guilt was carried even by those who hadn't been born at the time these crimes took place, an anomaly all the more marked in that the winners of the war felt no need for public displays of remorse for the atomic horror unleashed on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Going beyond the courts of temporal law to the higher tribunal of moral philosophy, the dictum of collective responsibility can be traced to Emmanuel Kant's explication of what he termed the Categorical Imperative.



Letters to the Editor

Mumbai, Delhi Must Adopt Paris-Style 0-Carbon Neighborhoods

Sir, As climate change accelerates, major Indian cities like Mumbai and Delhi must take bold, sustainable steps to ensure a livable future. A shining example lies in Paris's Clichy-Batignolles eco-district—a former industrial wasteland transformed into a zero-carbon, socially inclusive neighborhood. This 54-hectare area now thrives with green parks, solar-powered buildings, geothermal heating, smart waste systems, and affordable housing. For cities like Mumbai and Delhi, which face frequent heatwaves, rising pollution, energy demands, and growing socio-economic divides, adopting such a model is both urgent and feasible. These cities are densely populated and already suffer from extreme urban heat, flooding, and poor air quality. A green redesign can combat these issues holistically. Rainwater harvesting, rooftop solar panels, sewage-based heating systems, and pedestrian-friendly layouts can help reduce emissions while improving quality of life. Crucially, the Paris model integrates social equity: half of Clichy-Batignolles' homes are designated as affordable housing. Mumbai and Delhi, where housing remains unaffordable for a large section of the population, can benefit greatly from this approach. Making eco-friendly living accessible to lower-income residents must be central to India's urban development. Equally important is public engagement. Paris's success relied on citizen input and participation. Encouraging community-driven planning, incentivizing green retrofits, and ensuring robust public transport options such as Delhi's metro and Mumbai's upcoming underground lines can enhance inclusivity and adoption. As part of India's commitment to the Paris Climate Accord, our urban centers must now move from intent to implementation. By adapting and scaling such models, Mumbai and Delhi can become not only greener but more just and resilient. Embracing a Paris-style, zero-carbon neighborhood approach offers a roadmap for building inclusive, future-ready cities that benefit both people and the planet.

Dr. Vijay Kumar H K

Tech

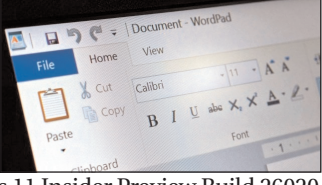
After 30 years, Microsoft is finally removing WordPad from Windows

After over 30 years as a staple Windows application, Microsoft has announced that WordPad will be removed from future builds of Windows 11. The text editing program, which first debuted in Windows 95, will not be automatically installed on Windows 11 and eventually phased out completely.

This news came as part of the recent Windows 11 Insider Preview Build 26020 for the Canary Channel. Microsoft stated that WordPad will not be available for reinstallation after it is removed. So this is very likely the end of the road for the classic app.

WordPad has long been positioned by Microsoft as a middle ground between full-featured Word and barebones Notepad. It offered basic formatting options like fonts, colors and paragraph alignment that made it popular for small documents and notes. But over the years, it seems WordPad became squeezed as Microsoft promoted Word for more robust documents and Notepad for plain text.

The company hinted at this in its documentation, recommending Word for rich text formats and Notepad for plain text. With capable alternatives available, Microsoft likely saw little value in continuing to develop WordPad. The writing may have already been on the wall, as Microsoft never updated WordPad with a dark mode for Windows 11. Meanwhile, Notepad received a dark mode and is slated to get new autosave capabilities.



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