

Central Chronicle

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

EDITORIAL

Bhagirathpura Incident

Indore is called the cleanest city in the country, but the incident of contaminated water in Bhagirathpura has opened everyone's eyes. Sewage mixed with drinking water due to dilapidated pipelines, leading to several deaths. An audit conducted by the municipal corporation after the incident revealed that 650 kilometers of pipelines in Indore alone are in a state of disrepair. This problem is not limited to Indore; the situation is similar in older cities like Bhopal, Gwalior, and Jabalpur. Aging infrastructure and lack of maintenance have put the entire state of Madhya Pradesh at risk. The Madhya Pradesh High Court has clearly stated in several judgments that access to clean drinking water is a fundamental right of every citizen under Article 21 of the Constitution. When quenching thirst becomes life-threatening, it is a moral and legal failure of the local administration. Clean water is not a luxury, but a basic necessity of life.

The tragedy of Bhagirathpura shows that while cities are being beautified, basic amenities are being neglected. Crores of rupees are spent on Smart City projects, but looking at the condition of the pipelines, the claims of development seem incomplete. After Bhagirathpura, a water audit should be made mandatory in all 413 urban local bodies of the state. In most cities, the pipelines in older areas are 30-50 years old. A water audit will help identify and replace corroded pipes immediately.

The proximity of drinking water and drainage lines creates cross-connections, which are like ticking time bombs. Clearly, an audit can identify these points and facilitate improvements. Reports indicate that 40 to 60 percent of treated water is wasted due to leaks. An audit will help reduce water scarcity by preventing leaks. In addition, chemical and biological testing will help prevent epidemics like cholera, typhoid, and

and E. coli. These steps will not only save lives but also ensure the optimal use of resources. However,

there are also challenges in implementing a water audit. Many municipal corporations lack the necessary technology and expertise. Due to budget constraints, maintenance is often delayed. However, this can be made possible by leveraging the central government's Jal Jeevan Mission scheme. The government should form audit teams in every district, comprising engineers, scientists, and local representatives. After the audit, a 'pipeline health card' should be issued, clearly outlining the condition, repair plan, and timeline. Public awareness campaigns should also be conducted. In addition, water meters should be installed in cities, and a complaint portal should be kept active.

Overall, the tragedy in Bhagirathpura serves as a warning. The government should not stop at Indore but create a 'safe drinking water protocol' for the entire state. Public funds should not be spent on beautification projects first, but rather on the pipelines that carry water to kitchens and children's glasses. If the water is not safe, then claims of development are hollow. It's time that water audits become mandatory, not optional.

This will not only safeguard lives but also make Madhya Pradesh a truly clean and healthy state. Clearly, conducting water audits across the entire state is essential. The Bhagirathpura tragedy has exposed the fragile state of urban water infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh. Dilapidated pipelines, sewage contamination, and poor maintenance threaten lives, despite claims of development. With courts affirming clean water as a fundamental right, mandatory water audits across all urban bodies are essential. Development without safe drinking water is hollow, making immediate reforms unavoidable.

Hindi - A Language of Unity and Cultural Pride

Dr. Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

10th January is celebrated as World Hindi Day every year to spread awareness about Hindi as an international language across the world. Hindi speakers around the world observe World Hindi Day on 10th January. Hindi is considered to be the mother language of India. It is the simplest source of expression of our nation. It is our heritage and the most widely spoken language in the country. Hindi is a historical language; it is also one of the most spoken languages in the world. It also aims to raise awareness about Hindi as a historical and global language. Today, the number of people who speak and know Hindi is increasing all over the world, and Hindi is ranked third in the most spoken language in the world. Even today, about 500 million people speak Hindi all over the world and most people believe that the importance of the Hindi language is more, so the Hindi language has the status of the national language.

In the year 1975, the first-ever World Hindi Conference took place in Maharashtra's Nagpur on January 10. The conference was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and saw participation from a total of 30 countries. The Hindi language acquired its name from the Persian term 'Hind' which means 'the land of

Indus'. The language is spoken in India, Trinidad, Nepal, Guyana, Mauritius, and various other countries. Hindi has fought for freedom, and Hindi has connected North to South. It is the only contact language of India.

Bhartendu Harishchandra born on 9 September is the one who discov-

ers. No doubt, English is indeed a global language as it gives us a way to reach out to the diverse domains and spheres, but one should not forget the importance and the identity of Indians that is very much inherently rooted in the language. Hindi. It is also been said that to ensure strong foundation skills in numeracy and literacy, the curriculum should be imparted in a language that a child understands.

In 1919, Gandhiji had asked to make Hindi the national language in Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. After independence, there was a lot of discussion on the question of which language should be made the national language in 1949. Finally, it was decided by the Indian Constituent Assembly that the national language of the Union would be Hindi. Many writers, including Mahatma Gandhi, Kaka Kalekar, Maithili Sharan Gupt, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Seth Govind Das, etc. worked tirelessly to make Hindi the official language.

It is to be appreciated that due to the rising demand for Hindi speakers, several governments and agencies worldwide have begun to provide scholarships and other opportunities to those who want to study the language. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi 'a nation is dumb without national language'.

After 1822, when the first Devanagari edition was published, the script was revised and the Hindi language became available in a standardized form. The Hindi alphabet has 26 letters in contrast to the 26 letters of the Devanagari script and all 26 letters of the alphabet have the same form as in English.

ered the Hindi language. But years later, in modern India Harishchandra came into the picture and was considered the father of the Hindi language. Hindi became an official language of India in 1950 and since then it has been on a continuous march to become the "most popular language of the nation". The modern form of the Hindi script, called Devanagari, is derived from the Brahmic script. It is similar to the Gujarati script and Sanskrit script. Devanagari is called "bhāṣaparochin" or the "new script" in Hindi.

world. In addition to being the oldest language in the world, Hindi is also the simplest and most prosperous language. Hindi was originally written with the script of the Sanskrit language. After 1822, when the first Devanagari edition was published, the script was revised and the Hindi language became available in a standardized form. The Hindi alphabet has 26 letters in contrast to the 26 letters of the Devanagari script and all 26 letters of the alphabet have the same form as in English. Hindi is the language that keeps us connected to our

Fear Grips BJP as 2 Lakh Voters' Names Deleted

The Bharatiya Janata Party's top leadership expressed deep displeasure with all senior BJP leaders, MPs, and MLAs in Jabalpur, causing a stir in the local BJP camp. The reason: the deletion of over 200,000 voters' names from the electoral roll during a special intensive revision campaign in Jabalpur district.

Considering the political crisis arising from this deletion and its impact on future election equations, the BJP's top leadership went into alert mode and handed over the complete command of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process to Public Works Minister Rakesh Singh to manage the situation.

Discussions from Jabalpur to Bhopal suggest that the top leadership itself believes that the MLAs and MP from Jabalpur district did not show sufficient interest in the revision work, leading to the deletion of voters' names.

Rakesh Singh will now review the SIR work from the booth level to the district

level in Jabalpur. He will personally interact with the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and district in-charges to ensure that the errors in the voter list are rectified by January 10th.

There are also reports that the local BJP organization fears that the deletion of these more than two lakh voters'

names from the electoral roll might disrupt the equations for the upcoming Lok Sabha and local elections. Considering this, the BLAs have been instructed to conduct a physical verification of the lists of absent, transferred, and deceased voters at their level. If the name of any active voter has been removed due to technical reasons or negligence, it should be immediately added back.

The instructions given by the BJP's top leadership clearly indicate that while accountability for the lapses and mistakes will be deter-

mined later, the priority is currently on correcting the voter list.

The party has devised a strategy to add at least 50 new voters' names at each booth in Jabalpur for damage control. The Bharatiya Janata

Yuvam Morchha (BJYM) has been placed at the forefront of this effort.

Intense lobbying underway in Delhi for JDA Chairman's post...

The battle for the chairmanship of the Jabalpur Development Authority (JDA) has already begun within the BJP, with infighting among its own members becoming evident. The year 2025 was entirely consumed by BJP meetings, and now all eyes are on January. It is speculated that the fortunes of BJP leaders vying for positions in state corporations, boards, and authorities will be decided then.

Only time will tell whose luck prevails, but the news emerging from political circles clearly indicates that a group of former ministers from the district has become very active in the race for the JDA chairmanship. Even after being out of power, they are now trying to use the JDA as a stepping stone for their political comeback. This group is actively lobbying from Bhopal to Delhi. On the other hand, the party's old and loyal leaders also seem determined to fight this battle to the finish. According to sources, the BJP high command in Delhi has imposed a strict filter based on performance and age for appointments to corporations and boards this time, which is expected to eliminate several veteran leaders.

There is also talk in political circles that this time the list of appointments will not be finalized solely in Bhopal. Interestingly, many contenders have now started resorting to religious rituals as well.

Science Fact

Bird flu has infected a person after spreading to cows. Here's what to know

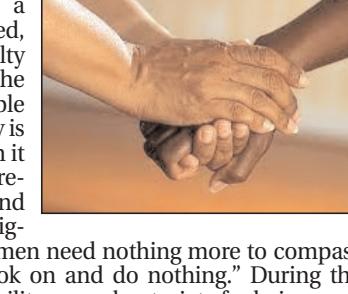
A strain of avian influenza that has likely sickened and killed millions of birds around the globe has popped up in an unexpected species: Cows. On April 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed that cattle on a farm in New Mexico had tested positive for a strain of bird flu called H5N1. The news followed a March 25 announcement that officials had detected the virus on two dairy farms in Kansas and two Texas farms. The virus was also detected in a Michigan herd that had recently received cows from Texas, the USDA reported on March 29. Five additional herds in Texas have tested positive, and an outbreak in Idaho is presumed to have been caused by H5N1. A person exposed to cattle on one of those Texas farms has tested positive too, becoming only the second person in the United States ever documented to be infected with H5N1. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported April 1. The individual is being treated with an antiviral drug for a single symptom, eye redness. It's unclear how the cows were infected, although consuming wild bird excrement is a possibility. The person was probably infected while in close contact with the cows. Most people fall ill with H5N1 only after close contact with infected animals, typically poultry, and these infections can be mild to deadly. Right now, the CDC considers H5N1's risk to people to be low. But milk from infected cows should be thrown out before reaching our food supply, the USDA says. Pasteurization would also kill the virus, so it should not spread through the country's milk, the agency said.



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. Kant opposed the proposition that the 'good' is the foundation of morality and replaced it by the 'right'. What is good for one might not be so for another, but what is right is so for all.



Letter to the Editor

End the Tokenism: NMMS Scholarship Amounts are a Farce

Dear Sir,

It is a disgrace that the Central and State governments continue to mock underprivileged brilliance with a measly Rs1,000 monthly pitance under the NMMS scheme. In an era of skyrocketing inflation, what exactly is a student expected to buy with Rs33 a day? It barely covers a single commute, let alone textbooks, uniforms, or digital essentials. By refusing to hike this amount to at least Rs2,000, the Ministry is effectively presiding over an increase in dropout rates among our most meritorious poor. Stop the empty rhetoric about "educational equity" while leaving students to starve for resources. This stagnant funding is not supported; it is an insult. The government must double the scholarship immediately or admit their commitment to education is a sham.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K

Education for All

Dear Sir,

The decision to revoke the MBBS approval of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College in Katra, J&K has triggered deep concern, particularly regarding the transfer of students and cancellation of seats for the 2025-26 session. While regulatory compliance is essential, it is imperative that the process does not disproportionately harm students who have rightfully secured admission through merit. Every student, irrespective of religion, deserves protection of their academic future. Any attempt to exclude students in a basis of religion is a violation of their fundamental rights. India's educational institutions must remain spaces of inclusive opportunity and democratic fairness.

Kyamudin Ansari

Tech

Motorola Edge 50 Ultra Leaked Teasers Suggests Design, Key Specifications

Motorola Edge 50 Ultra is expected to be unveiled soon. It is likely to launch alongside two other models. While the Motorola Edge 50 Pro is set to launch in India on April 3, a third Motorola Edge 50 Fusion model could also be unveiled soon. The Motorola Edge 50 Ultra design had recently leaked via renders suggesting multiple colour options and hinting at some key features of the handset. Now a tipster has shared short video teasers of the handset that once again suggest the design and key specifications. Tipster Evan Blass (@evleaks) shared a series of small clips on X (formerly Twitter) that show the Motorola Edge 50 Ultra from different angles. The videos also suggest some of the features of the handset. It is seen in a beige colour option in the first clip, where we also get a close-up of the expected triple rear camera unit, the curved display edges, and the textured back panel. In successive clips, we see the Motorola Edge 50 Ultra with speakers placed on both the top and bottom edges, a centred hole-punch cutout for a selfie camera, and a USB Type-C port at the bottom. One of the teasers also hints at a scratch-resistant screen, while another teases a feature that is said to help with accurate portrayal of skin tones, something the Edge 50 Pro is confirmed to offer. The last clip shows the handset being dunked in water, which suggests an IP rating, possibly something as high as an IP68. Samsung reportedly working on a Super App for Financial Services. An earlier leak suggested that the Motorola Edge 50 Ultra is expected to launch in at least three colour options - Beige, Black, and Peach Fuzz. It is also tipped to launch in China with the moniker Moto X50 Ultra.



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Satire

World prays for Trump



Friend told us, "US President Trump said that it's important to keep him happy. If India doesn't keep me happy, I will impose more tariffs. Modi is a good man. He knows that I am unhappy, so it's necessary to keep me happy."

We said: He is doing all these disruptive things to get the Nobel Peace Prize. If Modi recommends him for the Nobel Prize, Trump will be happy."

Friend said, "That's not possible. If Trump is so eager to be happy, he should hire a jester, a clown, or a court jester who can tell him jokes. Old kings and emperors used to keep jesters in their courts. The jokes of Akbar and Birbal are famous."

We said, "To make Trump happy, he can be shown comedy films. He can listen to mimicry by Johnny Lever or Sudesh Bhoosle. If he wants, he can grace Kapil Sharma's comedy show with his presence." He might tell one of his assistants, "Tickle me so I can start laughing."

Friend said, "Selfish, ambitious people are always unhappy inside. There's no cure for Trump either. The world will have to put up with him until the 2028 presidential election."