

Central Chronicle

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

EDITORIAL

Water crisis

Every year, with the onset of summer, discussions about the water crisis intensify in the country, but this time, the situation is feared to be even more severe. The Meteorological Department predicts that this year will be hotter than normal in most parts of the country.

ditional water management systems. Ponds, wells, step-wells, and small rivers were once a year-round source of water in every village. These water structures stored rainwater and supported life throughout the year.

Nature has not made India water-stingy. An average annual rainfall of approximately 110 centimeters provides the country with approximately 4,000 cubic kilometers of water, which is more than many countries in the world.

To address the water crisis, water conservation must first be made a national priority. Concrete steps must be taken to make rainwater harvesting mandatory, revive traditional water sources, and protect the natural flow of rivers.

India's total geographical area is 3.28 million square kilometers, and almost all of it falls within the catchment area of one river or another. Every year, approximately 1,645 cubic kilometers of water flow through Indian rivers, representing approximately 4.4 percent of the world's total river flow.

Society must also change its water usage habits. In times when water was drawn from wells using ropes, people used only as much water as was needed. Today, tube wells and bore wells have made water readily available, but their indiscriminate exploitation has led to dangerous depletion of groundwater levels.

This is why approximately 20 million hectares of agricultural land in 135 districts across 13 states of the country face severe water scarcity four times every ten years. If rainfall falls even slightly below average, the situation becomes even more severe.

It is clear that if concrete and collective efforts are not made in time, the water crisis could become even more severe in the coming years. Therefore, the government, administration, and society must all work together to prepare on a war footing to address the drinking water crisis.

BENGALIS ALSO FEEL "EXTREMELY DISTRESSED"!

KAJAL CHATTERJEE
The audacity of the Odisha Chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi is to be seen to be believed! By which Constitutional right can he direct a Chief minister of another state to say "Sorry" to whom or not revolving around the alleged "mistreatment" of the Indian President and "hurting the sentiments" of "millions of Adivasis, backward classes and Dalits across the country"!

by the Majhi Government as the crime perpetrated upon the Odia victim was unpardonable indeed.

But very very humbly Majhi and his administration must also be asked whether Bengalis lives come "very very cheap"!

Perhaps this is exactly the very reason why despite cold-blooded torture being heaped upon Bengalis in Odisha since at least May 2025 --- by the Hindutva Anti-Bengali Racist

such Racist mayhem unleashed by the Barbarian Anti-Bengali saffron Bhakts!

And with each passing day, torture upon the Bengalis is multiplying with cancerous proportion with a Bengali vendor even soaked in petrol while coaxing him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' in Ganjam district! Though Rahul Islam had succeeded in saving his life by uttering that rabid vulgar communal 'War cry',

protect the lives, livelihood and dignity of Odias living outside the state; but its first duty remains to be accountable towards the people living in its own territory and maintenance of law and order in Odisha!

The Odisha government holds every right to look after the welfare of Odias living outside the state; but its first duty remains to be accountable towards the people living in its own territory and maintenance of law and order in Odisha!

The hypocrisy, Double standard and blatant Racism of the Biased Prejudiced Odisha administration must be seen to be believed!

And it is highly amusing that an "avoidable shadow" has also got cast on the "image of West Bengal" just for an

alleged "violation of Presidential protocol" only; but the zealously promoted "Jagannath culture" continues to bask in full glory despite blatant Racist attack upon Bengalis in Odisha! And yes just like Majhi feels "extremely distressed" as a member of the Santhal community, all true proud Bengalis also feel the same on witnessing the unending series of Bengali-bashing in Odisha.

Would the Majhi Government answer what steps it has adopted to protect the lives, livelihood and dignity of Bengalis and what action have it taken to punish the culprits! Would Majhi clarify why this cold-blooded torture upon innocent vulnerable Bengalis must not hurt the sentiments of Bengalis across the country!

Communal goons with the "Double Engine" administration preferring to look the other way --- complete with thrashing and driving them out, often without allowing them to pick their wages and belongings also, months/week long detention thereby robbing them of their livelihood; Odisha Government remain absolutely silent about the issue, thereby offering tacit support to

21-year-old Juyel Sheikh was not so "lucky" and had to surrender his life in Sambalpur for committing "unpardonable crime" of venturing to Odisha to seek temporary livelihood just like innumerable times more Odias make Permanent Settlement in West Bengal to do the same!

Would the Majhi Government answer what steps it has adopted to

District Planning Committee vs. District Development Committee

The concept of a district government was introduced years ago as part of the state's push for decentralization, with the aim of strengthening grassroots democracy and ensuring that development plans reflected local needs. Under this system, district plans were prepared through a committee involving local representatives, enabling participation from Panchayati Raj institutions and urban bodies.

of electing them has ended a long-standing tradition of democratic selection. Observers believe that this move may allow the ruling party to place its preferred leaders in influential positions within these committees.

ing. When the Stage Collapsed

During a Holi gathering in Singrauli, the stage suddenly collapsed, sending the District President and other workers falling to the ground. Although

ning and resumed his address.

Increasing Conflict Between Mayor and Commissioner

All is not well in the Singrauli Municipal Corporation. The conflict between the Mayor and Commissioner shows no signs of abating. Mayor Rani Agarwal has expressed displeasure over the failure to submit the budget for the financial year 2026-27 on time, calling it administrative negligence.

During a special meeting last month, the dispute escalated with accusations and counter-accusations between the Mayor and Commissioner.

It is believed that the Mayor has again targeted the Commissioner regarding the budget to capitalize on this dissatisfaction. While neither party may be suffering any losses due to this dispute, the city is certainly suffering.

Development activities are being affected. The Mayor's constant targeting of the Commissioner is exacerbating this conflict rather than reducing it. The current situation is not good, and the Mayor is unable to maintain good coordination with the councilors. Opposition councilors have already been raising questions about the work.

Vindhya's Notes
Dr. Ravi Tiwari

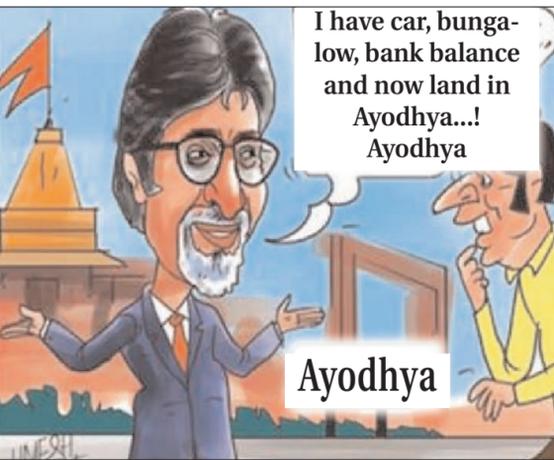
During a special meeting last month, the dispute escalated with accusations and counter-accusations between the Mayor and Commissioner. It is believed that the Mayor has again targeted the Commissioner regarding the budget to capitalize on this dissatisfaction.

Such developments have raised questions about whether public representatives from Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies will continue to play an effective role in shaping district-level development. Some analysts feel that the changes are designed to accommodate political leaders who could not be given positions within the party or government, rather than strengthening grassroots governance.

no one was seriously injured, chaos ensued. BJP workers had organized a Holi gathering, attended by the MLA and District President Sundarlal Shah. As the District President began his address, the stage suddenly collapsed. This was followed by loud laughter. Fortunately, everyone, including the District President, remained safe, with minor injuries. Someone filmed the collapse and posted it on social media. Interestingly, immediately after the stage collapsed, the District President stood up faster than the speed of light-

Satire

Big B buys land in Ayodhya



I have car, bungalow, bank balance and now land in Ayodhya...! Ayodhya

Ayodhya

Friend told us, "Amitabh Bachchan, known as the megastar of the century, purchased 2.67 acres of land in Ayodhya from the House of Abhinandan Lodha for Rs 35 crore. He lives in Mumbai and buys land in Uttar Pradesh. Why is this so?"

truthful people like Harishchandra, Dilip, who served the cow Kamadhenu Nandini, brave warriors like Raghu, and King Dasharatha, who fought on the side of the gods in the Devasur war.

We said, "This is called investment! Wealthy people have the wisdom to invest in the right place at the right time. Buy land or other property on time, because prices will rise further in the future."

We said, "Amitabh Bachchan is from Allahabad, where he contested the Lok Sabha elections and defeated political giant Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna. Big B's father, Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan, was an English professor at Allahabad University. The holy city of Prayagraj is the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the invisible Saraswati. Amitabh wanted to buy land there. How did this boy from the banks of the Ganges suddenly become a resident of the Sarayu River?"

Friend said, "We believe Big B bought land in Lord Ram's Ayodhya out of religious sentiment. It has been said that Kashi is bigger than Godavari, Prayag is bigger than pilgrimage, and Ayodhya is the biggest where Ram took incarnation."

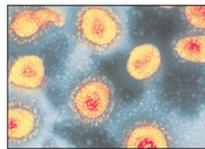
Friend said, "Big B knows that with the construction of the grand Ram Lalla temple, Ayodhya has become a destination on the world map. Tourism will increase along with pilgrimages. Five-star hotels and resorts will spring up. Land will sell for gold. With this vision in mind, Amitabh Bachchan has purchased a plot of land in Ayodhya."

This is the same Ayodhya where King Dasharatha's chariots used to travel in all ten directions. Of these, eight directions are the earth's surface, and two are the sky and the underworld.

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

Shivam Dube's journey by train

Dear Sir, The amazing and surprising news of Star Cricketer Shivam Dube travelling from Ahmedabad to Mumbai by train, on a 3rd AC ticket, just after Team India won the T20 World Cup 2026 title has won appreciation and applause from every one. As getting a flight ticket back to Mumbai just after the WC final was difficult, Dube with his wife and friend decided to travel by train. Though there were risks of him getting recognised and mobbed by fans, he took necessary measures to avoid such situations. It was only after reaching Mumbai did everyone know that a member of the world cup champions had travelled by train just like any other traveller! Since then the social media has been set abuzz with everyone praising the cricketers humility, his down to earth attitude and the priority he has given for his family.

M Pradyu

Safeguard Electoral institutions

Dear sir, Recent discussions about a possible no-confidence motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar highlight growing tensions between the opposition and constitutional institutions. While scrutiny of electoral authorities is a legitimate democratic practice, such actions must be guided by strong evidence and institutional respect. The Election Commission plays a crucial role in safeguarding the integrity of India's democratic process, and repeated political confrontations risk eroding public trust. At the same time, concerns raised by opposition parties regarding voter roll revisions deserve transparent explanation and open debate. Democracy thrives when accountability and institutional independence coexist. Rather than escalating confrontations, Parliament should prioritize constructive dialogue, clarity in electoral procedures, and reforms that strengthen confidence in voting system for all citizens.

Dr.Vijaykumar 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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