

Central Chronicle

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

EDITORIAL

Free vaccination

India's war with Corona continues and despite repeated infections returning, our determination to fight this most frightening epidemic of the century is strong. We have controlled the deaths from Corona to a large extent, it is evident from this that we are the second largest populous nation in the world but we are ranked 20th in terms of daily deaths. Talk about MP, if you leave the big cities like Indore and Bhopal and the areas around them, then the corona is under control in the rest of the state and the pace of infection has decreased. After hard work of scientists and hundreds of tests, the health and frontline workers in the country started getting vaccinated from 16 January this year and now from next month, 10 million elderly people above 60 years and people above 45 years who are suffering from diseases are going to get vaccinated. Most of the population of our country is poor and middle class, which is already struggling with livelihood. This population is not in a position to spend much on its health needs. It is a relief and comforting news for this population that vaccination of corona in government hospitals will be completely free. India has become one of the few countries in the world where after the health and frontline workers, the campaign for the common man is going to start. It is good that the government is updating the Covin app before starting the vaccination of common people. Actually, a citizen of any state of the country can get vaccinated in any state with the Covin app. Information related to vaccination, certificate will also be downloaded from this app. Now the government should start the Covin app as soon as possible so that people can register

themselves on the app, although a link to Covin is available on the Arogya Setu app as well. Since the government has also allowed private hospitals to do corona vaccination and private hospitals will charge the people for this, the government will have to check the arbitrariness of these private hospitals. This fee should be concessional so that the pocket of the people is able to bear this expense. By the way, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that the corona vaccination fee charged by private hospitals will be cleared in two-three days. Apart from government claims, seeing the deterioration of government hospitals in India, it makes more sense to go to a private hospital rather than a government for regular and quick treatment. Therefore, the government must ensure that the arrangements of government hospitals are quickly fixed so that the first choice of people for vaccination becomes government hospitals. Regular monitoring of fees and other arrangements should be done in private hospitals which are responsible for corona vaccination. Corona is not yet gone. Hence, the same caution and precaution are needed as we were exercising during the peak time and corridor of Corona. Masks, social distancing and sanitization still have to be a regular part of the routine. For those who have not yet been vaccinated, this is the security cover. The third phase of vaccination against Covid-19 pandemic will begin from March 1. It will cover people above 60 and those above 45 years of age with comorbidities. While people will be vaccinated free of cost at government hospitals, those taking the shots at private hospitals will have to pay.

Today's economy, best defined as 'Rebel Economy'

People seek decentralization and democratization of power. There is a tsunami against traditional authority, which changed the world like never before. Let's take a closer look at recent trends:



By Abhishek Rungta

Bitcoin is an unparalleled, highly valuable decentralized currency. It is in response to people's distrust in our currency system controlled by central banks. If they can print money, why can't we? This is not all. You see peer to peer lending, peer to peer insurance growing by leaps and bounds. The fundamental purpose of financial institutions to act as a trustworthy intermediary is being challenged. If you look beyond financial services, you can see major turmoil in how people want to work. Work-from-home has been driven mainstream by COVID and in several industries, people are benefited out of it. Many companies have declared their intent to implement Work-from-home forever already! The gig economy has been taking shape for over two decades now and is getting bigger tributes based on one's own calendar, pace, aspiration and choice. Nowadays there are several professionals who never want to return to the traditional way of working. In fact, corporations are complex structure which was created to achieve scale, efficiency and collaboration. Now, with the advent and maturity of digital technologies, the same benefits can be achieved in a distributed environment. We are seeing the advent of "Enterprise of 1," or an enterprise of one single individual.

Hence, it has forced us to rethink the status quo that has evolved in the last few hundred years. A major democratization drive seems to have transformed the entire entertainment industry - something that started with Napster has come a full circle with OTT and social media platforms. In the realm of traditional education, which was led by established institutions, they are being outright challenged. We see home schooling, MOOCs, Income Sharing Agreements led start-ups taking root, whereas many engineers and MBAs are left

demanding more 'self-governance'. What can be the reason for such a dramatic change? Some thoughts: 1. Access to information and knowledge has flattened the leverage few people had due to their position. This coupled with literacy rate and general evolution has played a critical role in people's ability to understand how they are being governed, their rights, choices and the constraints. 2. With an ever-growing population of knowledge-empowered or hyper-influenced individuals, a faster-growing group of people is cre-

environment? Few ideas: 1. Try to create a decentralized organization giving people choices in terms of self-governance, tools, sub-culture and so on. Give an explained and open to debate, broad culture guide and value system to keep the tribes together. Have a lot of focus on the mission and hire people, driven by the mission. 2. Hire smart people with an attitude of unlearning, learning, experimentation, critical thinking and problem-solving. As we move towards the "Enterprise of 1", one will be benefited from having self-governed and managed smart mini-enterprises. 3. Embrace flexibility focussing on the outcome and ethics but not on the process and control structure. 4. Respect each "Enterprise of 1", as your net value is a summary of these enterprises and the additional collaborative value it creates. 5. Have business conversations with every individual and mentor them as an entrepreneur. They need to know what it means to be an individual responsible for themselves. Provide them a support system and a backup to fall back upon. Such coaching programs will help you to stand out as a super-partner and create better mini-enterprises. 6. Do not try to fight the trend, but embrace it. Nothing lasts forever. It's a cycle. A cycle of centralization to decentralization and back to centralization. It may be unprecedented in our lifetime, but it has happened several times in history. As entrepreneurs and individuals, we shall adapt to survive. It is all about our beliefs and how we want to achieve our goals.

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unemployed. Crowdfunding, fractional-ownership, fractional-shares are all becoming mainstream. Moving beyond financial markets, we can clearly see a change emerging in the political landscape globally. Countries that allow a choice of governance through the democratic process and a federal structure are comparatively peaceful and progressing well economically and socially. Even in those countries, there is dissent against the control structure, as people expect more involvement, transparency and better governance. It is clear that people generally in the 21st century are progressively

ating sub-cultures based on their beliefs. Each of these sub-cultures is very distinct in nature and contradictory to each other. 3. Lack of quality governance across the spectrum. The purpose of governance was "service". It has gradually become "power" with notable exceptions. With power comes responsibility, but when the people don't exhibit responsibility, it creates an environment of mistrust. These ideas cannot be generalized, hence the "rebel economy" is also not omnipresent in every facet of life, country, industry or business. What can be the points of action as a business, an individual in such an

Regulate pricing of printer-cartridges and standardise for drastic cut in prices

By Madhu Agrawal
Largest-selling foreign company Hewlett-Packard (HP) marketing computer-printers in Indian market has Maximum-Retail-Price printed on ink-cartridges exorbitantly high even though its original cartridges available in wholesale markets of Nehru place and Nai Sarak in Delhi at much-much less than printed MRP. Even wholesale price for its ink-cartridges remains much higher around rupees 3000 making some Indian manufacturers marketing re-filled cartridges at around rupees 700 or so. Even re-fill can be done at just rupees 200 or so. But using re-filled ink-cartridges result in termination of warranty. Condition should be imposed to allow manufacture of ink-car-

tridges in India by desiring Indian companies. Indian companies should also be authorised refill ink-cartridges without affecting warranty of printers. Maximum trade margin

between ex-factory or import price and printed MRP should be fixed also to check bribing due to abnormality high printed MRP. Any foreign company selling its products manufactured in country other

than that of the company, should be asked to set up its manufacturing unit in India like was done by Samsung to set up biggest unit for mobile-phones in the world in Noida (UP-India). Bureau of Indian Standards BIS should call meeting of printer-manufacturers including representatives of foreign companies to minimise types of ink-cartridges. Presently HP has too many types of ink-cartridges of similar shape and size for their vast range of inkjet and laser printers. It is not difficult to standardise so many ink-cartridges in a limited number to be used uniformly in different models of inkjet and laser printers. Such standardisation will heavily bring down cost of ink-cartridges.

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Satire



Mamata's kin on CBI's target

Neighbour said to me: Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee dared the Bharatiya Janata Party to take his name while hurling 'baseless charges'. But after a CBI summons to his wife Rujira Narula this weekend, it is clear that Abhishek is fast becoming the Achilles heel of his aunt and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have already made Didi's 'bhatija' and corruption a poll issue in the state. Is he turning out to be the 'Robert Vadra' of the Trinamool Congress? I said: BJP leaders — from Union minister Babul Supriyo to Kailash Vijayvargiya — have trained their guns at Abhishek Banerjee. It's also a clever strategy by Modi-Shah's party to ensure that the TMC is left defending their own leaders at a time when many have jumped ship. And it is succeeding, to an extent. Neighbour said to me:

Senior Bengal minister and Mamata's close associate Firhad Hakim accused the BJP of cowardice and taking the help of the CBI and Enforcement Directorate to attack family members of TMC leaders. Mamata Banerjee said that the BJP had been targeting her nephew because they were finding it difficult to attack her. Addressing a rally in South 24 Parganas, Mamata said, "Day and night they are talking of 'Didi-Bhatija'. I challenge Amit Shah, contest against Abhishek Banerjee first, then me, Mamata said. I said: But ever since the CBI news broke, Mamata has not spoken about her niece. Instead, more than two hours after the CBI went to Abhishek's Kolkata residence, Mamata attended a scheduled public function on Language Day in the city. While addressing the gathering, Mamata did not utter a single word on her nephew.

Science Fact

CRISPR could turn genes on and off with help of nanobodies

Researchers from Stanford during an experimental combo designed to extend the efficacy of two promising molecular tools, attached biological nanobodies to the CRISPR DNA editing tool. The genetic tool, CRISPR has been likened to molecular scissors for its ability to snip out and replace genetic code within DNA. The study was published in the Journal of Nature Communications. CRISPR has the capability that could make it useful beyond genetic repairs. "CRISPR can precisely locate specific genes," said Lacramioara Bintu, an assistant professor of bioengineering at Stanford. "What we did was attach CRISPR to nanobodies to help it perform specific actions when it reached the right spot on DNA." Her lab recently used this combo technique to transform CRISPR from gene-editing scissors into a nanoscale control agent that can toggle specific genes on and off, like a light switch, to start or stop the flow of some health-related protein inside a cell. "There are a lot of things you can't fix with scissors," Bintu said. The novel technique her team describes in the journal Nature Communications could enable researchers to explore new therapeutic applications in the field of epigenetics — which is the study of how genes behave inside cells.



Spiritual

Can I get spiritual power through meditation?

Some people mistakenly believe that the point of practicing spiritual meditation is to achieve "superpowers" such as telepathy, the ability to heal oneself and others, knowledge of past lives, visions of the future, levitation, and so on. There's bound to be a snake-oil guru out there who will promise them almost anything they can imagine, as long as they sign on the dotted line. The allure of fantastical spiritual powers can overshadow the simple beauty of spiritual meditation practice. Spiritual awareness starts with being honest and kind, and with our commitment to becoming the best human being we can be. A strong desire for magic and miracles makes it very difficult to recognize and appreciate the marvel of being alive and everything that goes into making this possible. What could be more miraculous and magical than the air we breathe, the sunshine we enjoy, simple acts of kindness and compassion, interconnectedness, and everyday blessings of all kinds? Gentle appreciation of the present moment and an attitude of benevolence towards all living beings are the real fruits of spiritual awakening.



Speak

The government welcomes criticism and the right to dissent, "but it is very important for the users of social media to have a forum to raise their grievance against the misuse of social media".
Ravi Shakar Prasad

Only Motera stadium renamed after PM Modi, complex still has Sardar Patel's name.
Vijay Rupani

BJP should give an answer to the people regarding when will smart cities be built and rivers cleaned.
Akhilesh Yadav

Tech

YouTube's new feature will allow parents to choose what children can watch

Online video-sharing platform YouTube is launching a new feature that would let parents control what their children can watch. As per The Verge, YouTube's upcoming feature called 'supervised experiences', will come with a new set of restrictions that allows parents to better control what content their children can access on the video platform. According to a blog post, YouTube hopes that the filter will help parents slowly introduce their older children to age-appropriate content and features outside of the YouTube Kids app. The mode will launch first with an early beta, with a wider beta rolling out "in the coming months." Parents have three levels of strictness to choose from, which determines the content a child is allowed to view on their account. There is the 'Explore' level, which YouTube said is "generally suitable" for kids nine and up. 'Explore More', which is meant for kids 13 and up, and 'Most of YouTube', which is pretty much everything except age-restricted content. In the US, and most other countries, people over the age of 13 can make their own unsupervised YouTube accounts.

