

OPINION 6
CONGRESS GEARS UP
FOR ELECTIONS

WORLD 8
CHINA FLIES 103 MILITARY
PLANES TOWARDS TAIWAN

MONEY 10
NET DIRECT TAX COLLECTION
RISES BY 23.5 PER CENT

CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹2



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NEW INDIA'S TRYST WITH DESTINY

Old paves way for the new Parliament House

RAHUL DATTA/ DEEPAK KUMAR
JHA/DEEPAK K UPRETI/
J GOPIKRISHNAN ■ NEW DELHI

Reminiscing the “extraordinary journey” of the country’s democracy in “Sansad”, which would into a relic of the past in another 24 hours, the members in the both Houses of Parliament — the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha — led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke on the milestones in the last 75 years, including many highs and lows which shaped and set the destiny of the nation.

For several members of Parliament, it was a nostalgic trip down memory lanes in the Parliament house by invoking the architects of modern India from first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to Indira Gandhi to Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The five-day special session that commenced in the old Parliament was the last in the historic iconic building that will

be now turned into a museum as the MPs of both the Houses would do the rituals of “Grih Pravesh” in the adjacent new Parliament house on Tuesday and then resume the sittings in the afternoon.

“We are saying farewell to the historic building,” the Prime Minister said, adding that though the building was constructed by the British “We cannot forget that the building was built by the labour and sweat of our citizens”.

The Rajya Sabha on its part paid tributes to architects of the Constitution, saying it has stood the test of time with Leader of the House Piyush Goyal, who initiated the debate, stating Parliament upholds democracy. Goyal said while the elected MPs have made big contributions to strengthen democracy, the nominated Rajya Sabha members have also given their best.

Late Dr Chandan Mitra, the then Editor of *The Pioneer*,



Old and new Parliament Houses in New Delhi on Monday

served two terms in the Rajya Sabha with the first as nominated by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government. Mitra served as Chairman of Select Committee of the Insurance laws (Amendment) Bill in 2014 and then Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on Commerce in 2016.

Various political parties, including the BJP, the Congress, also called for passing the Women’s Reservation Bill while discussing the “Parliamentary Journey of 75 Years Starting from Samvidhan

Sabha — Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings” on the first day of the five-day special session.

The Parliament house, universally known as “Sansad Bhavan,” was conceived in the circular design by the eminent architects Lutyens and Baker in

1912 and 1913. Its construction spanned from 1921 to 1927, culminating in its inauguration as the seat of the Central Legislative Assembly, the Council of State, and the Chamber of Princes, which also accommodated the Indian Supreme Court until 1958.

Inaugurating the discussion in the Lok Sabha, Modi commended the foresight of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and subsequent leaders such as Lal Bahadur Shastri, PV Narasimha Rao, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

However, he also brought to light the “cash-for-vote” scandal during the Manmohan Singh Government, urging for reflection on all facets of the parliamentary legacy.

“Who can deny Nehru’s significant contributions?” remarked the Prime Minister, emphasising how politics often intervenes in recognising such achievements. Modi also commended PV Narsimha Rao, another Prime Minister from the Congress, for his pioneering economic policies, which are now yielding positive results for the country.

Reflecting on the establishment of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh by Vajpayee, Modi lamented that

the creation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh during the Congress-led UPA regime led to bitterness and bloodshed in both States.

“In this very Parliament, Pandit Nehru spoke of the ‘stroke of midnight hour,’ and his words continue to inspire us all,” Modi stated, while Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi observed.

Modi highlighted that the most significant achievement of these 75 years is the increasing trust of the common person in Parliament. He expressed hope that the shift to the new building on Tuesday would usher in a new era of hope and confidence. He took a moment to honour those who have guided this House, from Pandit Nehru to Vajpayee. Additionally, he paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Chandrashekhar, and Lal Krishna Advani for their enriching contributions.

Historic decision likely today

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With speculation rife about a possible “historic decision” during the Special Session of Parliament that began on Monday as declared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government is expected to table a key Bill on Tuesday in the new Parliament building.

Top Government sources said a decision regarding the Bill was taken during the Cabinet meeting late on Monday chaired by Modi.

The media briefing of the Cabinet decision did not take place as the Government wants to convey the decision directly to Parliament by introducing the Bill in keeping with the Parliamentary conventions.

The Cabinet meeting lasted for over 100 minutes and was chaired by Prime Minister Modi.

Modi is known to spring surprises at the last minute and is also adept in holding government business on sensitive



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the media on the first day of the Special Session of Parliament in New Delhi. Union Ministers V Muraleedharan, Pralhad Joshi and Arjun Ram Meghwal are also seen

matters as closely guarded secrets.

While the Government remained tightlipped on the proposed Bill, there was speculation that the Modi Government is planning to bring a new reservation Bill for enlarging the role of women in Parliamentary and Assembly

elections.

There was no official word on the agenda items before the Cabinet.

Ever since it was announced that the Parliament session would be held from September 18, there have been speculation on various Bills, including the Women’s

Reservation Bill that may come up during the Session.

Amid a demand for the Women’s Reservation Bill, Modi on Monday said the contribution of women parliamentarians has been on the rise over the years.

In his speech in the Lok Sabha on the first day of the special session on Monday, Modi highlighted the changing composition of the House over the years, saying it had become more inclusive with all sections of society finding representation.

“Inclusive atmosphere has kept manifesting the aspirations of the people with full power,” he said.

The Prime Minister noted the contributions of women parliamentarians that have helped burnish the dignity of the House.

“Be it Dalits, oppressed, adivasis, backwards or women, every section’s contribution has increased gradually,” Modi said.

Aditya delivers on promises

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India’s Aditya-L1 solar mission spacecraft has commenced collecting data that will help scientists analyse the behaviour of particles surrounding Earth, ISRO said on Monday.

The sensors of an instrument on board India’s first solar observatory have begun measuring supra-thermal and energetic ions and electrons at distances greater than 50,000 km from Earth, it said.

“This data helps scientists analyse the behaviour of particles surrounding Earth,” the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said in a post on X.

The Supra Thermal & Energetic Particle Spectrometer (STEPS) instrument is a part of the Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) payload.

“These STEPS measurements will persist during the cruise phase of the Aditya-L1 mission as it progresses toward the Sun-Earth L1 point.



They will continue once the spacecraft is positioned in its intended orbit”, ISRO said. Data collected around L1 would provide insights into the origin, acceleration, and anisotropy of solar wind and space weather phenomena, it said. STEPS was developed by the Physical Research Laboratory with support from the Space Application Centre in Ahmedabad.

ISRO had launched Aditya-L1 on September 2 using a PSLV-C57 rocket. The Aditya-L1 spacecraft carries a total of seven different payloads to study the Sun, four of which will observe the light from the Sun and the remaining three will measure in situ parameters of the plasma and magnetic fields.

Aditya-L1 will be placed in a halo orbit around the

Lagrangian Point 1 (L1), which is 1.5 million km from the Earth in the direction of the Sun. It will revolve around the Sun with the same relative position and hence can see the Sun continuously.

STEPS comprises six sensors, each observing in different directions and measuring supra-thermal and energetic ions ranging from 20 keV/nucleon to 5 MeV/nucleon, in addition to electrons exceeding 1 MeV.

These measurements are conducted using low and high-energy particle spectrometers. The data collected during Earth’s orbits helps scientists to analyse the behaviour of particles surrounding Earth, especially in the presence of the magnetic field of Earth.

STEPS was activated on September 10 at a distance greater than 50,000 km from Earth. This distance is equivalent to more than eight times the Earth’s radius, placing it well beyond Earth’s radiation belt region, ISRO added.

Artist’s flight of fancy

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As Mumbaikars prepared themselves in a big way to celebrate 10-day-long Ganesh festival from Tuesday, the spotlight turned onto Mumbai’s Khetwadi cha Raja, a Ganpati idol installed by Sarvajani Shree Ganeshotsav Mandal, at Khambata Lane in south Mumbai, theme of which this year is Chandrayan-3’s recent landing on the Moon.

Chandrayan-3 is one of the major themes adopted by the Ganesh Mandals across Mumbai this year.

A majestic 38-feet Khetwadi cha Raja, themed around Chandrayaan-3, will be unveiled on Tuesday morning, as the 10-day festivities get off to an enthusiastic start in Mumbai and various other parts of Maharashtra.

This year, we have chosen Chandrayan-3 as the theme to express gratitude to ISRO scientists for their tremendous work in space technology in general and the recent landing

of the spacecraft on the moon in particular. They are the pride of the nation. We would like to celebrate them this year,” president of Sarvajani Shree Ganeshotsav Mandal told *The Pioneer* on Monday evening.

The tall Ganesh idol, made of Plaster Of Paris (PoP), has been crafted by noted idol maker Kunal Patil, while the lavish pandal has been decorated by Kamlesh Rajapuri.

“We intend to narrate the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 through decorations featuring ISRO, the Lunar Rover, the Moon, and all the planets of our solar system. We are presenting the decorations in 3D form with fluorescent theme colours. It will be a new experience for the devotees this year,” Narkar said.

Every year, the Ganesh Mandals adopt contemporary themes for their Ganpati festival decorations. This year, the Ganpati mandals have chosen Chandrayaan-3 launch to Ayodhya’s Ram Mandir as their

theme.

The 350th coronation of the Maratha King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is another major theme adopted for Mumbai’s most-revered Lalbaugcha Raja (King of Lalbaug), a Ganesh idol installed at Lalbaug in south-central Mumbai.

This year, Lalbaugcha Raja is seated on a throne decorated similar to that of Shivaji Maharaj.

The coronation theme revolving around Raigad Fort was the last of the pandals designed by noted art director Nitin Desai, who committed suicide at his ND Studios at Karjat in Raigad district.

Another crowd-drawing Ganesh pandal is the one set by the GSB Seva Mandal’s Ganapati at Sion in north-central Mumbai.

This year, GSB Seva Mandal’s idol has been decorated with ornaments worth over 60 kgs of gold and 336 kgs of silver.

A special feature of this

GSB Mandal this year will be that it will perform special “havans” on Tuesday and Wednesday for the successful Chandrayaan-3 landing and for the construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya.

The other Ganesh mandals which will draw huge crowds will be idols set up by Tejukaya Mandal, Lalbaug, GSB Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Samiti, Wadala, Kethwadi, 11th Lane, Kethwadi, 12th Lane, Sahyadri Mandal, Tilak Nagar-Chembur, Shri Bal Gopal Ganesh Utsav Mandal, Marine Lines, Fort Vibhag Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Mandal, Fort, Andheri-cha Raja or the Azad Nagar Sarvajani Utsav Samitee at Andheri.

Like every year, Mumbai will reverberate to the beating of drums, cymbals, chants of “Ganpati Bappa Morya” and “Sukh-karta Dukh-harta” bhajan, as Mumbaikars take to their homes more than 3 lakh small and medium-sized Ganpati idols to their homes, while Sarvajani Mandals

install 12,000-odd huge idols across the city.

Besides, awareness of water conservation would be at the centre of Ganesh festivities in Maharashtra’s Latur district.

In view of this, a water literacy campaign will be held during the Ganesh festivities that start on Tuesday and more than 1,350 Ganpati mandals will be contacted, MLA Sambhaji Patil Nilangekar told reporters.

A motorcycle rally from Nilanga to Latur city and other events have been planned to create awareness among people so that they know the importance of water preservation.

The campaign is part of the “Jal Saksharta Abhiyan”, a citizen’s initiative, and is not political, he said.

The district has received less than 50 per cent of the annual average rainfall this year and the local residents have to make do with only 40-50 litres of water per person per day against the normal quota of more than 100 litres, he said.



Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Lovlish Garg S/o sh. Om Prakash Garg # 174 -A Wadhwa Nagar Dhakoli sas nagar Punjab declare that My Son Dhruv Garg are out of my Control. We disown him and her from our moveable, immoveable Property. Anybody dealing Any activities with him and her at his /her own Risk And responsibility.

I, Ram Chander S/O. Sh. Ram Lakhan R/O. #1611, Village Burali, Sector-45, Chandigarh. Declare That Ayush Is My Real Son. He Is Out Of Control. I Disown Him From My All Moveable/Immoveable Properties Any Where In India. Anybody Deal With Him At Their Own Risk.

I Baldev Singh S/o Tikhru Ram, and Akko Devi W/o Baldev Singh, house 117, village Nada Sahib, Devinagar, Panchkula Haryana. Our son Jasveer Singh alias Happy, daughter-in-law Rano Devi, grandson Yuvraj Singh out of our Control. We disown them from our moveable / immovable properties. Anybody deal with them at their own Risk.

I, Nimmy Nishan Kaur D/o Kamal Kumar R/O Pathan wala Mohalla, Ward no. 8, Near Punjabi Ramliia Ground, Samalkha, Distt. Panipat declare that of my passport no. is G8476980, in which my mother's name Sapling is Nachatar Kaur. But my mother's name Sapling is mentioned as Nashater Kaur in all her documents. Which is correct. All concerned noted.

I, Lovepreet Singh s/o Baldev Singh R/O Mohalla Zaildaran VPO Kalanaur District Gurdaspur declare that in my Passport No. M-6721678 my name written as Lovepreet Singh but now I have changed my name from Lovepreet Singh to Singh Lovepreet Singh in my passport. All concerned note.

We, Sheban S/o Majdeen and Manira W/o Sheban # 15/1 Small Flat Maloya colony Chandigarh our daughter shabnam out of our control so we disown her our all movable/immoveable property anybody deal with her at their own risk.

I Sheela khanna W/o Late Sh. Ravinder Khanna R/O H.No. 6188/3 kaziwara, Patel Road, Ambala City inform that my Younger Son Bhuvan Khanna & his wife Shilpa Taneja are out of my control. So I disown both of them from my movable/ immovable properties. if anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Satish Kumar S/O Bishan Dass, R/o House no. 1035/11, Rajeev Colony, Panipat declare that my son Krishan alias Sonu and his wife Mona are out of me and my family control. So I disown them from my movable and immovable property. Who deals with them in the future will be responsible. There will be no responsibility for me and my family.

I, Surinder Pal Sharma S/o Tirath Ram Sharma R/O 769/1, Street No. 3, Batala Road, Rajinder Nagar, Amritsar, Punjab declare that my father was known by two names Tirath Ram and Tirath Ram Sharma. Tirath Ram and Tirath Ram Sharma is one and the same person.

I Toni S/o Rajinder, House 1445, Vikas Nagar, Mauli Jagran Chandigarh inform that My son Saurav, daughter Neha and wife Saroj out of my control. I disown them from my moveable and immovable properties. If they are using my address Proff for Loan and any activity they themself responsible for the same.

We, Sushil Kumar and Kiran (husband and wife) r/o 382/11 Prem Nagar, Hardochhani Road Gurdaspur disinheret our son Harjinder Kumar, his wife Neeraj (Neeru Sharma) and their two sons Ritik and Kartik from our movable and immoveable property. . Because they are not in our control and are living apart from us. We have nothing to do with any of their actions or transactions.

I, No- 15381250K, Rank-Hav, Name- Lakhvinder Singh Gill. Residence Of Vill- Baniala,Po-J0ghon, Tehsil- Nalagarh, District-Solan, State- Himachal Pardesh Declare That I Change My Wife's Name Balbir Kaur To Balbir Kaur And Date Of Birth 04-11-1974 To 13-06-1974 Due To Erroneously Recorded In My Army Record.

I, No. 4483211L Naik Jaswinder Singh (Retd), Resident Of Vpo Kherisaraf Ali, Tehsil Assandh Distt. Karnal (Haryana)- 132053 Have Changed Name Of My Daughter From Jasmeirn Kaur To Jasmeen Kaur Vide Affidavit Dated 18 September, 2023 Sworn In Before Notary Karnal.

I Sudesh Devi W/O Satyawnan Malik R/O 119-A, Ward No.13, Sonipal Gate, Tehsil Gohana, Distt Sonipat. I Declare That In My Educational Documents My Name Is Mentioned As Sudesh Devi. I Have Changed My Name Sudesh Devi To Sudesh Malik . In Future Call And Kwon Me With My Real Name As Sudesh Malik.

I, Nagabhusana Rao Uppada resident of Village- Banjiripeta, P. O.Tekkallapatnam, Teh- Palasa, District- Srikakulam, State- AP, Pin code-532220, have changed my Mother name from Smt. U Purnamma to Uppada Purnavathi Vide affidavit No. IN-PB39228570600359V dated 12 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15489478K DFR Mali Dinesh Subhash resident of Village- Nyhalod, Post- Nyhalod, Tehsil-Dhule, District- Dhule, State- Maharashtra, Pin- 424002, have changed my Daughter name from Bhagashree Dinesh Mali to Bhaghyashri Dinesh Mali Vide affidavit No.IN-PB41297646501930V dated 18 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, Pratibha spouse of No.15489478K DFR Mali Dinesh Subhash resident of Village- Nyhalod, Post- Nyhalod, Tehsil-Dhule, District- Dhule, State- Maharashtra, Pin- 424002, have changed my name from Pratibha to Pratibha Dinesh Mali Vide affidavit No.IN-PB41281421477803451V dated 18 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Rina Singh spouse of No.14842577Y Hav Birkunwar Singh resident of Village- Mathura, Post- Mathura, Tehsil- Bidpur, District- Vaishali, State- Bihar, Pin-844503, have changed my name from Rina Singh to Rina Devi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB41282590548882V dated 18 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15489478K DFR Mali Dinesh Subhash resident of Village- Nyhalod, Post- Nyhalod, Tehsil-Dhule, District- Dhule, State- Maharashtra, Pin- 424002, have changed my Son name from Sumit Dinesh Mali to Sumeet Dinesh Mali Vide affidavit No.IN-PB41298393830553V dated 18 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.14674458M Hav Navin Kumar Pandey resident of Navin Godarmra, Post- Rehla, Tehsil-Daltonganj, District- Palamu, State- Jharkhand, Pin- 822124, have changed my Mother name from Shilpi Suman to Shilpi Suman Pandey Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40900672976190V dated 17 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, Shilpi Suman spouse of No.14674458M Hav Navin Kumar Pandey resident of Village- Godarmra, Post- Rehla, Tehsil-Daltonganj, District- Palamu, State- Jharkhand, Pin- 822124, have changed my name from Shilpi Suman to Shilpi Suman Pandey Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40900672976190V dated 17 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15792723L NK (OPRADIO) Rajmane Sandeep resident of Village- Mandwa Pathan, Post- Yelda, Tehsil- Ambajogai, District- Beed, State- Maharashtra, Pin- 431517, have changed my Father name from Vikram to Vikram Baburao Rajmane Vide affidavit No.IN-PB41314451308791V dated 18 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.14652011P Hav Fakkira Masthihli resident of Village- Mannikeri, Post- Kednur, District- Belagavi, State- Karnataka, Pin-591143, have changed my Daughter name from Tejashwini Masthihli to Tejaswini Masthihli Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40900409550919V dated 17 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, Aparna Singh spouse of No.15497020P LD Binay Kumar Singh resident of Village- Jajuli Post- Bansohi, Tehsil- Masrakh, District- Chhnapra, State- Bihar, Pin-841417, have changed my name from Aparna Singh to Arpana Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40901196461658V dated 17 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, No. 13697883N Ex Hav Surender Kumar S/o Satyavir Singh permanent resident of Village Gopalwas, PO Badarai, District Charkhi Dadri (Haryana) have changed my son name from Deven Kumar (existing name) to Deven (proposed new name) as per my son Education Certificate & Aadhaar Card. In future my son shall may be known/written and called as Deven for all work purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 15 SEP 2023 before Ist Class Magistrate, Rohtak .

I, Naranjan Singh Father of No.4486801P NK Harpreet Singh resident of Village- Sherpur, Post-Sherpur, Tehsil- Dhuri, District- Sangrur, State- Punjab, Pin-148025, have changed my name & DOB from Naranjan Singh to Naranjan Singh and DOB from 16 April 1965 to 21 Feb 1964 Vide affidavitNo.IN-PB09057807929627V dated 23 June 2023 before notary public Dhuri (Punjab)

I, Sarabjit Kaur Mother of No.4486801P NK Harpreet Singh resident of Village- Sherpur, Post-Sherpur, Tehsil- Dhuri, District- Sangrur, State- Punjab, Pin-148025, have changed my name & DOB from Sarabjeet Kaur to Sarabjit Kaur and DOB from 13 June 1967 to 01 Jan 1956 Vide affidavitNo.IN-PB0905628553462 3V dated 23 June 2023 before notary public Dhuri (Punjab).

I, No.15624571F L/NK Rathod Mahesh resident of Village- Memadpur, Post- Memadpur, Tehsil- Vadgam, District- Banaskantha, State- Gujarat, Pin- 385421, have changed my Mother name from Rathod Leelaben Dolagi to Rathod Lilaben Dolaji Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40901432994178V dated 17 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Nagabhusana Rao Uppada resident of Village- Banjiripeta, P. O.Tekkallapatnam, Teh- Palasa, District- Srikakulam, State- AP, Pin code-532220, have changed my Mother name from Smt. U Purnamma to Uppada Purnavathi Vide affidavit No. IN-PB39228570600359V dated 12 Sep 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I Satyawnan S/O Sh. Ram Chander R/O 119-A, Ward No.13, Sonipal Gate, Tehsil Gohana, Distt Sonipat. I Declare That In My Educational Documents My Name Is Mentioned As Satyawnan. I Have Changed My Name Satyawnan To Satyawnan Malik . In Future Call And Kwon Me With My Real Name As Satyawnan Malik.

I Rulda Singh, No-4456171- L Rank- Nk/Ts. Residence Of Vill- Doom Chhari, Po- Morinda, Tehsil- Chamkaur Sahib, District- Rupnagar, State- Punjab Declare That L Amend My Daughter's Name (Mandip Kaur To Mandeep Kaur) And Date Of Birth Is (25-07-1988 To 27-04-1988) Due To Erroneously Recorded In My Army Record.

I, No- 15381250K, Rank-Hav, Name- Lakhvinder Singh Gill. Residence Of Vill- Baniala,Po-J0ghon, Tehsil-Nalagarh, District- Solan, State-Himachal Pardesh Declare That I Change My Father's Date Of Birth 01-07-1938 To 01-01-1938 And Mother Name Manu Kaur To Maan Kaur And Date Of Birth 01-07-1948 To 01-01-1946 Due To Erroneously Recorded In My Army Record.

I Bishnu Kumari Ghimire W/O Kesh Bahadur R/O Himre No. 19, Raja Ram Colony, Barmajra, Sas Nagar, Mohali. My Name Is Mentioned Vijay In The Service Record Of My Husband. But In My All Other Documents My Name Is Mentioned Bishnu Kumari Ghimire Further My Name Should Be Read As Bishnu Kumari Ghimire Instead Of Vijay.

I, Sushila Devi W/O No. 678075-S Ex Sgt Satyapal Singh R/O H.No. 1369 Sector-2 Rohtak (Haryana) Declare That My Name Sushila Is Wrongly Mentioned In My Husband Army Record. But My Correct & Actual Name Is Sushila Devi. Vide Affidavit Dated 18.09.2023 Before Notary Public Rohtak.

I, Subhash Chand Sharma S/O Sh. Babu Ram Sharma R/O H.No. 1401, W.No. 17, Lambi Gali, Paras Mohalla, Bara Bazar, Rohtak Declare That My Son Karan Sharma And His Wife Neelam Sharma Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Them From My All Moveable/Immoveable Properties. Any Body Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk. I Or My Family Are Not Responsible For Any Type Of Their Any Acts.

I, Surinder Kumar S/O Madho Ram R/O #454, St.No.09, Preet Nagar, Gulabgarh Road, Derabassi Tehsil Derabassi Distt Mohali Declare That My Son Deepak Kumar And His Wife Neetu Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Both Of Them From All My Moveable Or Immoveable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

I, Banarsi Lal S/O Late Manu Ram R/O 144 Bada Daulatpur, Near Peer Baba Mandir, Po- Pathankot, Tehsil/Distt Pathankot. My Son Jagdish Raj And His Wife Jyoti Bala Are Not In My And My Family Saying Out Of Control. So I Disinherit Them From My Moveable And Immoveable Property. I Shall Not Be Responsible.

I Harjeet Singh Ghuman S/o S. Beant Singh R/O H.No.: 309, Street No: 2-B. Ghuman Nagar, Patiala declare that my son Janandeep Singh and my daughter-in-law Parminder Kaur are out of my control. So I evict them from my movable and immovable property. Anyone who deals with them will be responsible himself/herself.

I, Banarsi Lal S/O Late Manu Ram R/O 144 Bada Daulatpur, Near Peer Baba Mandir, Po- Pathankot, Tehsil/Distt Pathankot. My Son Jagdish Raj And His Wife Jyoti Bala Are Not In My And My Family Saying Out Of Control. So I Disinherit Them From My Moveable And Immoveable Property. I Shall Not Be Responsible.

I Harjeet Singh Ghuman S/o S. Beant Singh R/O H.No.: 309, Street No: 2-B. Ghuman Nagar, Patiala declare that my son Janandeep Singh and my daughter-in-law Parminder Kaur are out of my control. So I evict them from my movable and immovable property. Anyone who deals with them will be responsible himself/herself.

I, Baljinder Singh S/o Ghumanda Singh R/O Vill: Dolon Kalan (Ludhiana) Punjab-142029, declare that my father name from Ghumanda Singh to Ghamanda Singh.

I, JC-499249A Ex Subedar Mukhtiar Singh S/o Darshan Singh R/O Gali No. 2 Awan Road W.No. 6 Zira Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) declare that in my service record my wife name wrongly entered Kuldeep Kaur. But my wife correct name is Parmajeet Kaur Sandhu. So amended my wife name from Kuldeep Kaur to Parmajeet Kaur in my army service record.

I, Promila Devi W/o Dev Anand Bhardwaj R/O H.No. 70A Gurdev Park Haibowal Kalan (Ludhiana) declare that in my some documents my husband name is written as Dev Anand Bhardwaj and some documents my husband name is written as Dev Anand. That Dev Anand Bhardwaj and Dev Anand one and the same person. Both names are related to my husband.

I, Beena Kumari Wife Of Army No 10361632w Rank Ex Hav Name Ashok Kumar Presently Residing At Village – Bhadan, Post Office - Bhabar Tehsil – Pathankot, Distt – Pathankot, State – Punjab, Pin - 145029. I Have Changed My Name And Dob From Beena Kumari, Dob - 04 Jun 1966 To Veena Kumari, Dob – 20 Feb 1966 Vide Affidavit No In-Pb41273341676906v Before Executive Magistrate, Pathankot, Please Correct It.

I, Shalabh Kohal Son Of Army No 10361632w Rank Ex Hav Name Ashok Kumar Presently Residing At Village – Bhadan, Post Office - Bhabar Tehsil – Pathankot, Distt – Pathankot, State – Punjab, Pin - 145029. I Have Changed My Name And Dob From Shalabh Kohal, Dob – 11 Mar 2001 To Shalabh Kohal, Dob – 18 Oct 1996 Vide Affidavit No In-Pb41274929335348v Before Executive Magistrate, Pathankot, Please Correct It.

I, Army No- Jc356597y Rank- Nb Sub, Name- Bhupendra Kumar Chandrakar R/O Ward No 5, Ganesh Nagar Jamul, Jamul Cement Work,Durg Chattisgarh 490024 Declare That I Have Changed My Daughter Name From Yashita To Yashita Chandrakar. Vide Affidavit No-Jd 0004427217, Dated-16-9-23

ਮੈਂ ਗੁਰਚਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਖੁੱਤਰ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਬਾਇਦ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਗੁਰਚਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਬੈਕ ਕਲਨੀ ਰਾਵੇਰੋਟ ਤਹਿ. ਰਾਵੇਰੋਟ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਆਿਅਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਅਪਣੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਹਰਬੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਪਵਨਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ (ਨੂਨ) ਨੂੰ 05-09-2017 ਨੂੰ ਅਧਕਾਰ ਸਾਹੀ ਬਦਲਵੇਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ। ਹੁਣ ਉਹ ਦੋਵੇਂ ਰਾਤੀ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਨ ਤੇ ਸਾਡੀ ਸਾਂਝ-ਸੋਲਾਭ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਅਪਣੇ ਵੇਲੇ ਲੋੜੀਂਦੀਆਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਹੋਂਦ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਅਪਣੀ ਚੌਲ-ਚਾਲ ਜ਼ਾਇਦਾ ਦੀ ਹੱਕਦਾਰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੰਨਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sumit S/o Ramlal R/O 133-R, Model Town, Sonipat have changed my name from Sumit to Sumit Dara for all purposes.

I Swati W/o Sumit Dara R/O 133-R, Model Town, Sonipat have changed my name to Swati to Swati Bajaj for all purposes.

I Usha Rani W/o Ravi Shankar Aneja R/O 591, Sector-14, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name from Usha Rani to Usha Rani Aneja for all purposes.

I, Sapna Kapoor, W/o Late Sanjay Kapoor R/o H.No. 49 C, Dee Ess Estate, Dhakoli, Zirakpur Distt -Mohali Pin Code--160104 declare that Sapna Kapoor and Sapana Kapoor both one and same person. In future i may be known as Sapna Kapoor.

I, Praveen Kumar Ghai S/o Shri Sidhu Ram house number 209/13 Gurudwara road paddal Mandi 175001 change my name Praveen Kumar to Praveen Kumar Ghai.

I, Keshwer S/o Mohan Lal R/O H.No. 12/8, New Model Town Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Keshwer to Keshwer Sidhu. Concerned note.

I, Sonia W/o Mohan Lal R/O Village Tajewal PO Bachohi Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Sonia to Bakshish Kaur. Concerned note.

I Prince S/o Sh.Anil Choudhary R/O 1159, Urban Estate, Jind have changed my name from Prince to Prince Choudhary for all future purposes.

I, Narinder Kaur D/o Late Sh. Sarwan Kumar Salhotra, W/o Sh. Gurinder Singh R/O House No. 3430, Sector 35D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Narinder Kaur Salhotra to Narinder Kaur.

I Reema Taneja W/o Puneet Kumar Chumber R/o Flat No. 798 FF, Omaxe Cassia, Phase-3, Block D, Mullanpur, New Chandigarh SAS Nagar (Mohali) have changed my name from Reema Taneja to Reema Taneja Chumber.

I, Raisa Kumar d/o Rajesh Kumar, R/o # 1121, Sector 18-C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Raisa.

I Gauri w/o Mohit R/o #2138 Sector 31-C Chandigarh have changed my name from Gaouri to Gori.

I, Kawaljeet Singh S/o S. Balwant Singh, R/o #5025, F Block, Aero City, Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali (PB) states that my name is wrongly mentioned as Kamaljeet Singh in my wife's Passport No. H7187254 instead of Kawaljeet Singh. I am correcting my name in her passport as Kawaljeet Singh.

I Anil Kumar Goyal S/o Brij Lal, House No 3124, Sector 27-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Anil Kumar Goyal to Anil Kumar.

I, Parampreet Kaur Sethi w/o Arun Sethi, R/o # 3189 Sector 28-D, Chandigarh, have changed my name to Preeti Sethi.

I, Asha Arora W/o Rakesh Kumar R/o House No.1647, Sector-13, Urban Estate Kurukshetra has change my name from Asha Rani to Asha Arora.

I, Harjeet Kaur W/o Gulzar Singh, R/o Village Othian, Post Office Vallah, Amritsar, Amritsar Rural, 143501, Punjab, India have changed my name from Harjit Kaur to Harjeet Kaur.

I, Gurbachan Singh S/o Meha Singh S/o Polo Ram R/o Village Raghwai P.O Manhota, Teh Dasuya, Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab. Declare that my name written wrongly Harbhajan Singh S/o Meha Singh S/o Polo Ram in revenue record of village Raghwai Hadd Bast No 469. According to my Aadhar Card, Voter Card my correct name is Gurbachan Singh S/o Meha Singh S/o Polo Ram be amended in revenue record Village Raghwai Hadd Bast No 469.

I, Vishavjit Singh S/o Surinder Pal Singh Village Kalra, P.O. Garhdiwala, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab declare that have changed my name from old name Vishavjeet Singh to Vishavjit Singh. Concerned Note.

I Karmvir S/o Sh. Ram Sharan R/o VPO Bastara, District Karnal have changed my name from Karamvir to Karmvir for all future purposes.

I Sheela W/o Sh. Naresh Kumar R/o Village Bastara, District Karnal have changed my name Sheela to Sheela Devi.

I, Naresh Son of Shri Dei Chand R/O Village, Bastara, District Karnal, have changed my name Naresh to Naresh Kumar.

I, Samriti D/o Sudesh R/O 314, Sawanpuri, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Samriti to Smriti Sharma.

I, Baljeet Singh W/o Amarjeet Singh R/O 1076, Guru Arjun Nagar, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Baljeet Singh to Baljeet Kaur. In future I shall be known as Baljeet Kaur.

I, Pardeep Kumar Dhiman S/o Bhim Sain R/o C-448, Roop Nagar Colony, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Pardeep Kumar Dheman to Pardeep Kumar Dhiman.

I, Khushbu W/o Yogesh Jindal R/O House no. 118, Devi Murti Colony, Near Asian School, Panipat declare that after my marriage I have Changed my name from Khushbu to Khushbu Jindal, for all future purposes.

I, Abhishek Singh S/o Satpal Singh R/O Ward No. 11, VPO Mahilpur Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Abhishek to Abhishek Singh. Concerned note.

I, Gurkirpal Singh S/o Ajit Singh R/O VPO Kandhala Jattan Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Gurkirpal Singh Dhaliwal. Concerned Note.

I, Amandeep Kaur W/o Gurmukh Singh Currently R/o 1/22 Thomas, Street St. Albans, Melbourne, vic 3021, Australia, Permanent R/O Village Rajni Devi PO Bassi Kallian Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab (India) have changed my minor Daughter's name from Jaisman Kaur to Jaisman Kaur Badwal. Concerned Note.

I, Promila Bhardwaj w/o Sunil Bhardwaj r/o h.no 2392 sec-18 Huda panipat declare change my name from Promila to Promila Bhardwaj and in future my name is Promila Bhardwaj.

I, Ashwani Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Sham Lal R/o House No. 80C, Adarsh Enclave, Dhakauli Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali, Punjab, 160104 have changed my name from Ashwani Kumar Garg to Ashwani Kumar. Concerned please note.

I Poonam W/o Shri Ankit Kumar R/o #12, Village- Mugalwali Distt. Yamunanagar (Haryana) have changed my name to Poonam Devi.

I, Darshana Kundu Spouse of No. 117308-K Rank POA(SE) Rajpal R/O Village Mohal Khera Tehsil Narwana Distt Jind Haryana have changed my name from Darshana Kundu to Darshana Kumari.

I, Ramesh Chand Saini s/o Bir Singh r/o Village Bir Pipli, Tehsil Thanesar (Kurukshetra) have changed my name from Ramesh Chand to Ramesh Chand Saini.

I, Shish Pal s/o Ajmer Singh r/o #C-2190, Ansal Sushant City, Sector-32, Kurukshetra have changed my name from Shish Pal Singh to Shish Pal.

I, Vineeta (Aadhaar No. 3763 0326 3125) daughter of Man Singh, and w/o Zila Singh Sundlas r/o H.No: 181, Nada Sahib, Sector-31, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Vineeta to Vineeta Sundlas after my marriage on 10.09.2023, concerned note.

I Sukhwinder Kaur w/o Late Bhim Singh #909, Fendols Colony, Ambala City declared that Savitri Devi and Sukhwinder Kaur is same or one lady. Both names belongs to me. please Note.

I Shyam Sunder Juneja s/o Roshan Lal #357, sector 7, urban estate, ambala city declared that Shyam Sunder Juneja and Shyam Juneja belongs to me. Both names belongs to me, one or same person. Please Note.

I Kewal Krishan Taneja, S/o Braj Lal Taneja, R/o House No. 859, Sector -12 HUDA, Panipat, declare that in some of my documents my name is written as Kewal Krishan Taneja and in some as Kewal Krishan Taneja. But my correct name is Kewal Krishan Taneja. In future I should be known and recognized as Kewal Krishan Taneja.

I, Vikas Kumar S/o No.3176689 Rank SEP/CLK Late Sh. Balbir Singh R/o Vill. Mehrara Tehsil Julana and Dist Jind that I have changed my Name from Vikas to Vikas Kumar as per my all personal documents. Both name Vikas and Vikas Kumar pertain to one and same person.

I Ambika Prasad S/o Bishnu Parsad, House 164, Milk Colony, Dhanas Chandigarh have changed my name from Ambika Prasad to Raju Parshad.

I Rajesh Kumar S/o Dogar Chand Bakshi ,R/o H.No 35 Matura Nagri, Police Line Ambala City have changed my name to Rajesh Bakshi.

I Harnoor Dhiman D/o Jasbir Singh R/o H.No-326 Saraswati Colony Jagadhri Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my Name from Komal Harnoor Kaur, Harnoor alias Komal Dhiman to Harnoor Dhiman.

I Rakesh Chandra S/o Mohan Lal Shastri R/o #176B, Saini Vihar Phase 1, Baltana Zirakpur SAS Nagar Punjab have changed my name from Rakesh Chandra to Rakesh Chandra Shastri.

I, Anil Kumar, S/o Shri Nasib Singh, R/o village Tejli Tehsil Jagadhri District Yamunanagar, have changed my name from Anil Kumar Jattan to Anil Kumar.

I, Chandan Singh, S/o Shri Nasib Singh, R/o village Tejli Tehsil Jagadhri District Yamunanagar, have changed my name from Chandan Singh Jattan to Chandan Singh .

I, Nasib Singh, S/o Shri Bachna Ram, R/o village Tejli Tehsil Jagadhri District Yamunanagar, have changed my name from Nasib Singh Jattan to Nasib Singh.

I, Laxmi Devi , W/o Shri Nasib Singh, R/o village Tejli Tehsil Jagadhri District Yamunanagar, have changed my name from Laxmi Devi Jattan to Laxmi Devi .

I, Tejbir Singh S/O Balkar Singh R/O Vpo Fatehpur Chahhal Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Tejbir Singh To Tejbir Singh Bajwa.

I Monika W/O Vishal Sahdev R/O HNo 1039 Gali Guru Nanak Navi Sadak Katra Karam Singh Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Monika To Monika Sahdev After Marriage

I, Raj Kumar S/O Sohan Lal R/O H.No.G-6/460/94, Gali No.3/14, Abadi Chaudhary Hari Singh Nagar, Joura Phatak, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Raj Kumar To Raj Kumar Arora

I, Rachna W/O Raj Kumar Arora R/O H.No.G-6/460/94, Gali No.3/14, Abadi Chaudhary Hari Singh Nagar, Joura Phatak, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Rachna To Rachna Arora.

I, Gurjit Kaur W/O Harinder Singh R/O 135, Gali Sarpanchan Wali, Dhapal Pained Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Gurjit Kaur To Gurjeet Kaur

Jasmeet Kaur D/O Surjit Singh R/O 5048/A,Sidhu Avenue, Verowal Road, Jandiala Guru, Tehsil Amritsar, Amritsar Rural Have Certified That Kaur Is My Surname And Jasmeet Is My Given Name

I Prabhjot Singh S/O Jagdish Singh R/O H No 5/250 Shastri Nagar Batala Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name To Singh Is My Surname And Prabhjot Is My Given Name

I Kanwardeep Singh S/O Ranjit Singh R/O Ajit Nagar Beas Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt, Amrits Pin:143201, Punjab, India Declare That Kanwardeep Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

I, R Athithan Son Of No. Jc-384407x Sub P Rengaraj Residing At 99, Nadu Street, Veeradiptai, Gandharvakottai, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu Declare That I Have Changed My Name From R Athithan To Athithan R Vide Affidavit No. In-Pb41377592223041v Dated 18-09-2023, Before Notary Public, Amritsar.

Hry to introduce policy for commercial construction in residential areas: Khattar

PNS ■ AMBALA / CHANDIGARH

In a bid to tackle the growing issue of unauthorized commercial construction within residential areas of cities, Haryana is all set to formulate a policy for commercial construction in residential areas, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said.

Addressing a Jan Samvad held at SA Jain College in Ambala city late evening on Sunday, Khattar said that acknowledging the rampant proliferation of commercial establishments and showrooms encroaching upon designated residential zones, the government is gearing up to unveil a comprehensive policy aimed at rectifying this situation.

"Under this policy, areas that have already been transformed into commercial spaces within residential zones will be officially designated as commercial areas," said Khattar.

During the Samvad the Chief Minister also directed Municipal Corporation officers to issue notices to residential areas still undergoing com-



mercialization, saying stricter actions will be taken against non-compliance. During a Samvad, the Municipal Corporation's Superintendent Engineer, Vivek Gill, was questioned about an ongoing com-

mercial construction project. However, he failed to give a satisfactory answer. Consequently, the Chief Minister promptly issued orders for Gill's transfer from his current position. Khattar said that 450

colonies had recently received approval in the state, with an additional 400 colonies currently under review. Notably, 1800 colonies in the state remain unapproved. To enhance security and traffic management, the Chief Minister announced plans to establish an Integrated Command and Control Center in Ambala city.

The government will fully fund this initiative, modeled after similar centres in Gurugram and Karnal, he said. Besides this, he also directed the Deputy Commissioner to conduct a city-wide survey and ensure the installation of CCTV cameras in areas lacking surveillance.

These cameras will be integrated into the Police Integrated Command and Control Centre, said Khattar.

He said grants for development projects would now be allocated based on city populations and a grant of Rs 2500 per person, determined by the population as of December 31 of the previous year, will be disbursed to cities.

Punjab Vidhan Sabha to go paperless from next session

The Chief Minister will officiate the launch of various digital initiatives on Sept 21

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Vidhan Sabha is set to embark on a paperless journey starting from its next legislative session, Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan said on Monday and also unveiled plans for a groundbreaking National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) conference-cum-workshop scheduled for September 21.

The event will be inaugurated by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Sandhwan revealed that the initiative aims to equip all the members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) with the knowledge and tools necessary for a seamless transition into

the digital era. A comprehensive two-day workshop, set for September 21 and 22, will provide MLAs with in-depth insights into the new online system and project.

The Chief Minister will officiate the launch of various digital initiatives, including the National e-Vidhan Application, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Digital Wing, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Website, NeVA Workshop, and NeVA Brochure, on September 21.

Starting with the next legislative session, the entire workings of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha will embrace a hi-tech, paperless approach. MLAs will participate in Legislative Assembly sessions using

tablets, contributing to an eco-friendly initiative that aims to reduce paper consumption. The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) will serve as the primary platform for all information related to Punjab Vidhan Sabha proceedings. Live webcasting of sessions through the National e-Vidhan app will increase public engagement, promoting transparency in the legislative process.

Punjab Government has installed tablets on the tables of all MLAs and all House-related information will be seamlessly exchanged through the National e-Vidhan application, including electronically-stored documents that traditionally sat on the House tables.

Block Utthaan Programme to be rolled out in Hry's 22 underdeveloped blocks

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government's Block Utthaan Programme, a comprehensive initiative aimed at revitalising rural communities, will be rolled out in 22 underdeveloped blocks of the state next month. In a meeting to review the implementation of the first phase of the programme, Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal said nine key performance indicators have been identified across various sectors. These include agriculture and irrigation, equality,

Himachal Assembly mourns death of 441 people who died in rain-related incidents

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The eight-day Monsoon Session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly began on Monday with the House paying homage to 441 people who died due to rain-related incidents in the state and also mourned the death of former MLA Khub Ram.

Making the obituary reference, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said Khub Ram, former MLA from the Anni constituency, was elected to the Assembly in 1982, 1990 and 2012. Khub Ram died on July 19. He also paid homage to the 441 people who have died since the onset of monsoon season on June 24. Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania prayed for those who died in the rain-related incidents.

Expressing grief at the deaths of the 441 people, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Jai Ram Thakur said the affected families are yet to recover from the shock, and they are still waiting to get the bodies of their loved ones.

The session started on a stormy note with the opposition BJP staging a walkout after the Speaker rejected their adjournment motion, seeking an immediate discussion on the monsoon calamity in the state.

Moving the resolution, Sukhu said that destruction

was unprecedented but the state government faced the challenge boldly and besides restoring the services like water and power supply and opening roads, rescued the stranded people from inaccessible areas and also provided them relief. Detailing the measures taken by the government, the chief minister said that besides rescuing 295 people, mostly tourists from Chandratal under sub-zero temperatures, 75,000 other stranded tourists were also rescued safely.

Asserting that no special package has been given by the Centre so far, Sukhu announced that the damages due to the monsoon would be borne by the state government and a special package would be introduced.

He added that the calamity in Himachal Pradesh was declared a "state disaster" and also urged the Centre to declare the devastation a "national disaster", similar to the Kedarnath tragedy.

The chief minister said that the Congress MLAs have donated one month's salary towards the Aapada Rahat Kosh, a state disaster relief fund, while employees have donated a day's salary. Several state governments and individuals have donated funds and even students have come forward for help but the BJP MLAs are yet to donate their salary, he added.

Former Akali Dal Minister, wife drugged, robbed: Domestic Helper Suspected

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA

In a distressing incident, former Akali Dal minister Jagdish Singh Garcha and his family fell victim to a shocking crime. Garcha, along with his wife, sister, and a domestic helper, were discovered in an unconscious state at their residence in Maharaja Ranjit Nagar on Pakhowal road on Monday. Local law enforce-

ment has reported that the family's home was not only ransacked but also subjected to theft. The primary suspect in this unsettling case is the male domestic helper, who has since gone missing, according to the police authorities. Inspector Gurpreet Singh, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Sadar police station, has indicated that initial evidence points to the male domestic helper having served the family food

BRIEFS

Former Pb MLA, husband arrested in DA case
Chandigarh: Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) on Monday took former MLA Satkar Kaur Gehri and her husband Jasmail Singh Gehri into custody in connection with a case involving disproportionate assets. The arrests followed an extensive vigilance enquiry conducted by the authorities. A spokesperson for Punjab Vigilance said the investigation revealed a significant disparity between the couple's accumulated assets and their known sources of income during Satkar Kaur Gehri's tenure as a member of the Legislative Assembly. "During the period under scrutiny, her total income from various sources amounted to Rs 1,65,34,053, while their total expenditures during the same time-frame totaled Rs 4,49,19,831. Consequently, their expenditures exceeded their income by Rs 2,83,85,778.41, representing an alarming disproportionate increase of 171.68 per cent," he added.

Punjab skill development mission begins process to empanel training partners

Chandigarh: To empower the state's youth by imparting industry-relevant skill training for enhancing their prospects for a better livelihood, Punjab Skill Development Mission (PSDM) has embarked on the process to empanel training partners having the vision and dedication to enhance the skills and employability of individuals in the state, Employment Generation, Skill Development and Training Minister Aman Arora said on Monday. Private Academic/ Technical Institutions must possess state-of-the-art infrastructure that promote innovation in the skill-training life cycle, utilising the latest techniques and equipment as the PSDM is keen on imparting training in emerging fields including AI, Cloud Computing and more.

Punjab Human Rights panel takes cognizance of student's mysterious death in Patiala

Chandigarh: Taking suo motu cognizance, the Punjab State Human Rights Commission on Monday ordered an inquiry into the mysterious death of a girl student, Jashandeep Kaur, from Punjabi University, Patiala. The Commission, headed by PSHRC chairperson Justice Sant Parkash and member Justice Nirmaljit Kaur, called for a detailed report from Patiala SSP to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident. Protests broke out at the varsity after the demise of Jashandeep Kaur, a student at Punjabi University, after she was brought back home from the university hostel under mysterious circumstances. The report raised questions about the circumstances of her death, particularly considering her underlying health condition as an asthmatic individual.

into the incident. Jagdish Singh Garcha, who formerly served as an SAD MLA representing Kila Raipur in Ludhiana and held a Cabinet Ministerial position within the SAD-BJP government, had been known for his staunch loyalty to the Badal family. His political journey included serving as the Minister for Technical Education and, at one point, facing allegations of corruption leading to an arrest by the vigilance department. In 2020, he decided to depart from the party, subsequently joining the faction of SAD (Sanyukt) rebels.

Direct into Bank Account Tension-Free Pension

जो ठाना वो कर दिखाया – सामाजिक सुरक्षा में आगे हरियाणा



- **Highest social security pension of ₹2750 per month in the country**
- **Increase in amount of social security pension according to inflation**
- **Old-age and disability pension linked to Parivar Pehchan-Patra, till now pension of 1,07,000 elderly and 13,000 differently-abled persons started automatically**
- **Income eligibility limit for old-age pension increased from 2 lakh to 3 lakh annually**

“ नागरिकों के सशक्तिकरण और सम्मान के लिए बीते वर्षों में एक के बाद एक कई कदम उठाए गए हैं। चाहे वो स्वरोज़गार हो या फिर सामाजिक सुरक्षा, आज अनेक योजनाएं इस दिशा में काम कर रही हैं। ”

नरेन्द्र मोदी



Old giveth way...

The first day of Parliament’s special session was its last in the old building

It can now be said with certain confidence that there is nothing special about the special session of Parliament, which got under way yesterday after prolonged suspense regarding the agenda. The only highlight may perhaps be that Parliament will henceforth assemble in the new building. The Government wanted to hold the monsoon session in the new building but could not since it was not ready then, so, it appears, it thought of a special five-day session. In a way, the move is to showcase the new Parliament House and bid adieu to the old building which would now be a relic serving as a museum. While most MPs were nostalgic about parting ways with the old building, they also hailed their new working place in the grand, state-of-the-art Parliament House. The special session began with an address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha, where he talked about several significant events that have taken place on the old premises. He also hoped that the old building will continue to inspire generations with its rich heritage. The Prime Minister took this opportunity to also enumerate the important Bills passed by his Government, pointing out that several historic decisions and solutions to issues pending for decades were reached in the old building. “The House will always say proudly that (abrogation of) Article 370 became possible due to it. GST was also passed here. One Rank One Pension was witnessed by this House. Ten per cent reservation for the economically weaker sections was successfully allowed in the country for the first time without any dispute,” he said to thunderous applause.



Earlier, MoS (Parliamentary Affairs) Arjun Ram Meghwal had informed the MPs that Indian Parliament’s “journey of 75 years will be discussed throughout the day” but that did not happen. Instead, the day was all about speeches from the Treasury benches and the Opposition, mainly the Congress. Opposition leader Mallikarjun Kharge did not mince words in attacking the Government over its alleged misuse of CBI-ED in muzzling the dissenting voices. Quoting Nehru, he said he believed that the absence of a strong Opposition meant that there were significant drawbacks in the system. If there is no strong Opposition, it is not right. Now that there is a strong Opposition, the focus is on weakening it through ED and CBI, he claimed. The special session will include five sittings across five days, with a focus on discussing eight legislative items. Additionally, there will be deliberations on the “parliamentary journey of 75 years”, encompassing achievements, experiences, memories and learnings. However, how much business is actually transacted in the House remains to be seen. But the bleak possibility of the Government sneaking something up its sleeve and shocking the parliamentarians at a time suited to it appears dimmer each passing minute. We should also, as a responsible nation, not play into paranoia and celebrate the old yielding place to the new: It was simply about shifting from the old building to the new.



An eco-friendly Ganesha idol is made by using at least 5,000 biscuit pockets for Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Chennai

G20 Summit: Towards a just world order

Challenges remain, and the road ahead is not free of headwinds but a strong push has been made

The just concluded G20 meeting in Delhi has been an unqualified success. India, while fulfilling its responsibility of holding the G20 Presidency, has demonstrated an inspiring championship of the issues of the Global South. The path of the G20 summit, from Indonesia last year to India, to Brazil later this year and from there to South Africa, augurs well for the rightful assertion of the Global South within the international community. Like most other international bodies, the G20 carries with it a cause of concern – as it contains the world’s most powerful and influential in its origins. The path of the upcoming summits, as it traverses through the nations of the Global South, however, provides hope of giving momentum to the next phase of decolonisation. The first phase of decolonisation, which concluded by the middle of the last century, saw strong momentums embodied by nationalist struggles leading up, with a few notable exceptions, to the physical ouster of occupations and the first steps of liberation of the Global South.



From quite early on, the Global South realised the need to build collective energies to counter the hegemonies of the Global North, and this saw the Bandung Conference in 1955 and the Non-Aligned Movement that continued to the early 1990s. With a hiatus brought about by the end of the Cold War, we see today renewed recognition of the need to resist the continued hegemony of the Global North. In that context, the decision to welcome the African Union as a permanent member of the G20 will shape the ideas of planetary futures. Powered by the suffering of plundered pasts, popular momentums and a youthful future, there can be little doubt that the peoples and states of the African continent will eventually define the future of equality and justice together with the other nations of the Global South. The G20 New Delhi

Leaders’ Declaration, adopted as a consensus document, shows four key departure points. These include the issue of climate justice, the expressed need for debt restructuring, the agenda of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and the war in Ukraine. Climate action also presents a significant arena for decolonisation. Peoples and nations of the Global South have contributed the least to the climate crisis and yet suffer the most. Within the G20, the G7, in particular, carry the historical responsibility for most damage and, therefore, must shoulder the burden/weight of reparations and compensation for damage. Indeed, climate justice needs to adopt the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The document spells out the need for adequate climate financing by the Global North. The Delhi Declaration brought a sharp focus on global debt vulnerabilities, especially as related to low- and middle-income countries. Progressive opinion has long pushed the agenda of debt cancellation, as the pos-

Congress gears up for elections

Congress leaders are upbeat after the weekend Congress Working Committee meeting in Hyderabad

They are ready to plunge into poll mode. The CWC, the Party’s highest policy-making body agreed on several contentious and sensitive topics and planned its future course. The meeting was the first after Mallikharjun Kharge became party president. The Gandhis had a strong presence, with Sonia, Rahul, and Priyanka attending the conference. Following three productive gatherings of the Opposition coalition in INDIA, the CWC, members voiced their backing for Rahul Gandhi’s leadership and their intention to move forward with the Bharat Jodo Yatra 2-0. There was a sense of assurance and positivity in the air. The choice of Hyderabad as the capital of bifurcated — Telangana is significant as assembly polls are due in three months. The Congress has lost both bifurcated states — Andhra Pradesh since 2014.

After considering the political, economic and security situations, the CWC, emphatically declared that it is fully prepared for the upcoming Assembly polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha. Congress presented itself as an alternative to the BJP with the support of the INDIA coalition. Congress leaders are optimistic about INDIA alliance. The Grand Old Party wants to play a primary role in the coalition and criticised the Modi government’s failure on all fronts, particularly in Manipur and Kashmir. One of the 14 resolutions said, “The CWC, reiterates the Congress party’s resolve to make the INDIA, initiative an ideological and electoral success so that our country is freed from divisive and polarising politics, the forces of social equity and justice are strengthened, and the people get a Union Government that is responsible, responsive, sensitive, transparent and accountable.” In essence, this will be the thrust of the poll campaign. This message serves as a reaffirmation of the Party’s unwavering commitment to its alliance partners. There have been doubts about it because of the inherent contradictions among the players. The Party strategized for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assem-



bly elections in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Mizoram. It took note of the challenges including differing views between the central leadership and specific state units on forming alliances and adjusting seats with some members of the INDIA coalition. According to internal assessments, the Party expects trouble from within its Punjab, Delhi, and West Bengal ranks. Party leaders in Punjab and Delhi don’t support the rival Aam Aadmi Party. In West Bengal, the state leadership competes directly with the Trinamool Congress. In Rajasthan, the Congress and BJP are closely competing for power. Based on internal surveys, the Congress party has a slight advantage in Chhattisgarh and a stronger position in Madhya Pradesh. Party insiders also report that the Congress is gaining momentum in Telangana. The Party organised a two-day event to celebrate Hyderabad Day on September 17th, which marks the city’s inclusion in India in 1948. Resolutions about legislative business in Parliament mainly centred on rejecting proposals to review the Constitution. The Party demanded the one-third women’s reservation Bill and augmented

“THE GRAND OLD PARTY WANTS TO PLAY A PRIMARY ROLE IN THE COALITION. IT HAS CRITICISED THE MODI GOVERNMENT’S FAILURE ON ALL FRONTS

reservation limits for SCs, STs, and OBCs. These measures aim to win over various voter groups. The CWC also opposed a proposed Bill to amend the salary, allowance, and service conditions of the Chief Election Commissioner and the two Election Commissioners. They argued that the bill may harm the independence of the Election Commission. The CWC, has opposed the BJP’s proposal of “one nation, one poll,” citing it as unconstitutional. Nevertheless, the Modi government has established a committee, led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, to explore the feasibility of conducting coexistent elections for Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, municipalities, and panchayats. One resolution criticized the heartlessness of the BJP for celebrating Modi’s G20 achievements during a crisis in Jammu and Kashmir, disrespecting the sacrifice of security personnel. Meanwhile, the Congress is careful and avoids controversial topics by stating that they believe in the principle of sarva dharma sambhavana. Significantly, at a public rally in Madhya Pradesh, Prime Minister Modi recently accused INDIA bloc of trying to eliminate Sanatana culture

and making it a political agenda for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. At the public rally following the CWC, Sonia Gandhi made six promises for the upcoming Telangana elections. Sonia has announced several benefits, which are as follows: 1. Women will receive a monthly sum of ₹2,500. 2. Farmers and tenant farmers will receive an annual amount of ₹15,000. 3. Home loans who need them. 4. Homeless will receive house sites and a sum of ₹5 lakhs. 5. Programs to support the development of young people. 6. Medical assistance to all needy citizens. These benefits were aimed at attracting voters with freebies. The Congress, however, has yet to reveal its new narrative, while it is clear that ideology is the central plank. The Congress has to work hard to improve its position. The success of the Party will depend on several factors, including seat sharing, candidate selection, Alliance, resources, and worker support. But the worker’s morale has been boosted. (The writer is a popular columnist, views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A REMARKABLE VICTORY IN THE ASIA CUP
Sir — India achieved a remarkable victory in the Asia Cup by defeating Sri Lanka by 10 wickets, securing their eighth title across formats. Sri Lanka was bowled out for a mere 50 runs, marking the lowest-ever ODI total against India. Pacer Mohammed Siraj made history by becoming the first Indian to claim four wickets in a single over in international cricket. He also joined the ranks of the quickest bowlers to secure an ODI five-wicket haul. Winning the Asia Cup final held significant importance for India as it allowed them to establish a winning mindset and peak at the right time before the World Cup. This victory will undoubtedly boost the players’ confidence and momentum heading into the upcoming event. We, the Indian people, hope for further success in the World Cup, aiming to bring glory to our nation.
Tauqueer Rahmani | Mumbai

A SIGNIFICANT STRIDE IN JUSTICE
Sir — The Supreme Court has taken a momentous step towards enhancing transparency and addressing the persistent issue of case backlog. The integration of real-time case data from the Supreme Court with the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal holds the promise of being a game-changer. The NJDG is an extensive database that encompasses information regarding orders, judgments, and case details from numerous district, subordinate courts, and high courts throughout the nation. It was established as part of the e-Courts Project. This integration ensures that the NJDG portal will consistently provide up-to-date information on cases pending before the Supreme Court. Currently, the NJDG holds a vast repository of 23 crore orders and judgments, spanning both civil and criminal cases. This development is crucial in addressing India’s persistent issue of case backlogs, with approximately five crore cases pending nationwide. It is imperative for both central and state governments, who are significant lit-

Unveiling of new parliament building

India is poised to mark history with the unveiling of the new Parliament House, a symbol of the nation’s indomitable spirit and its relentless pursuit of progress. This state-of-the-art infrastructure is set to welcome the presiding members of Parliament, speakers of both houses, and various nominated and invitee dignitaries. It boasts a seating capacity of approximately 1272 seats for members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The existing Parliament building, constructed in 1927 under the supervision of British architects Lutyen and Baker, has witnessed the evolution of Indian politics up to the 75th year of the country’s independence. In the face of rapid developments and dynamic changes, the Central Vista project is poised to inscribe the history of New India with greater accountability and responsibility.
Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur Nagar

igants, to actively participate in reducing this backlog. This can be accomplished through investments in judicial infrastructure, filling judicial vacancies, and curbing frivolous litigation. However, the most effective solution involves a comprehensive overhaul of the judicial system, encompassing digitalisation of workflows and procedural reforms. The NJDG, established in 2015, plays a pivotal role in these reforms, utilising technology to expedite the delivery of justice. Recently, the Union Cabinet approved Phase III of the e-Courts Project. This integration in making judiciary more efficient and transparent.
Bishal Kumar Saha | Murshidabad
PROTECTING THE OZONE LAYER
Sir — The slogan “Ozone for Life” and the theme of fixing the ozone layer to reduce climate change take center stage on this year’s International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. On September 16, 1994, the UN General Assembly pledged to protect it from harmful ultraviolet rays and phase out ozone-depleting substances within a specified timeframe. While the extent of the ozone layer’s depletion is still under scrutiny, recent findings from scientists worldwide indicate an overall healing trend. A

new UN report provides encouraging insights into the state of our Earth’s protective shield, projecting its recovery within approximately 43 years. This could save the lives of 2 million people annually. Direct exposure to harmful UV rays poses a significant threat to various species and can lead to skin cancer, cataracts, reduced agricultural productivity, and disruptions in marine ecosystems, thereby disturbing the delicate balance of Earth’s ecosystem. In light of such alarming revelations, the Kigali Amendment in 2016 extended the protocol’s scope to include hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), potent greenhouse gases. The Kyoto Protocol in Japan in 1997 emphasized the need to reduce greenhouse gases, indirectly contributing to the protection of the ozone layer. The Montreal Protocol in 1987, ratified by 187 countries, and the Kigali Amendment have significantly curbed the use of chemicals in refrigeration and air conditioning, as well as other ozone-depleting substances (ODS). This represents one of the greatest victories for the human race.
Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital
Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com




SANDEEP CHACHRA

FIRST COLUMN

TRAITS OF A
SUCCESSFUL LEADER

A successful leader must be highly motivated and a team worker



RAVI VALLURI

Once perched on a hilltop was a consummate tea maker. His virtuosity in the craft was unparalleled. Serpentine queues of curious onlookers, expectant youngsters seeking to become apprentices and tea lovers desirous of savouring the elixir of life called tea were a commonplace sight outside his dwelling.

One day a querulous Samurai happened to singe his tongue while sipping the Master's tea. Piqued and incensed, he challenged the master to a duel.

"I am an ignoramus in strategy and warfare. My entire life has been spent perfecting the art of making tea," exclaimed the tea maker. He took a momentous decision to pass on his legacy and the reins of the establishment to his favourite student. Giving him his sword, he asked the greenhorn to face the challenger by raising the weapon in the same manner that he raised the teapot.

Accepting the advice, the mentee raised the sword without a glitch, undeviating. The combatant was awe-struck seeing the acolyte wield the sword with remarkable countenance.


The story reveals how mastery of one craft is of greater significance than attempting to master multiple skills just to appear more formidable. Certainly, an individual can multitask but only after becoming proficient in one's craft.

CORE COMPETENCY MATTERS

As a marketing strategy, corporations like the Tatas and the Reliance group have cannonaded the electronic and print media with their products. The focus on their core competency never wavers, even as they diversify into different product lines.

Phenomenal all-rounder cricketers like Imran Khan, Kapil Dev, Garry Sobers, the talismanic Chappell brothers, and Shaun Pollock among others have embellished the game of cricket with their splendid stellar performances.

Albert Einstein, one of the two pillars of modern physics is better known for his scientific contributions rather than his ability to play the piano, even though he was more than an amateur in the latter craft.



UPGRADING AND ENRICHING SKILLS

The unrevealed secret of any triumphant leadership is to burnish particular expertise and then make forays into uncharted territories. Psychologists have zeroed in on certain compelling traits that separate celebratory individuals and organizations from the pedestrian.

These are intellectual and personal skills and enhancing creativity to deliver in such a manner as to be the cynosure on the world stage.

INTELLECTUAL AND PERSONAL SKILLS

Primary among these skills is the ability to establish a connection, to empathize. The finesse and aptness to lionize interest in other cultures, experiences, values, points of view, goals and desires provide the cutting edge.

Exceptional leaders have the uncanny skill of disentangling and decoding the most complex and vexed problems. This is often the defining moment in their lives and careers. The momentous decision of Dhoni to tweak the batting order against the Lions of the Emerald Island piloted India to victory in the 2014 World Cup final. The iconoclastic Steve Jobs was expelled from Apple, the company he co-founded, yet he went on to establish Pixar which dramatically altered the contours of the animation industry.

COMMUNICATION: A TWO-WAY PROCESS

Personality attributes defined by an attitude of glasnost and perestroika are centrifugal characteristics of achievers. They waded through the swathes of covenants, conventions and doctrines to discover perceptible solutions. Intrepid and mettlesome individuals or organizations have the quintessential ability to communicate ideas, feelings and emotions both formally and informally. This ability makes them successful leaders.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd and East-West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living)

An idea whose time has come

The idea of "One Nation, One Election" is a reverberation from the past. Though there are hurdles on the way, it is the way to go

While this proposition may appear to be a recent entrant in the annals of public discourse, the concept was, in fact, the status quo in the early formative years of the Indian democratic landscape. From 1952 to 1967, simultaneous elections were the norm, ensuring a rhythm and consistency in the political and governance cycles. However, this period of synchronisation began to disintegrate between 1968 and 1969, when a spate of premature dissolutions of several state assemblies led to a ripple effect that skewed the election timelines irrevocably.

While the merits and demerits of reviving the simultaneous elections are vigorously debated, it's important to recognize the judicial perspectives that have, in an indirect way, endorsed the need for political stability—a cornerstone argument for "One Nation, One Election." Specifically, seminal judgments like Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachillhu And Others (1992) and SR Bommai v. Union of India (1994) serve as critical touchpoints in this context. Although these cases did not directly tackle the subject of simultaneous elections, their implications are far-reaching.

The Supreme Court, in Kihoto Hollohan, upheld the constitutionality of anti-defection laws, thereby affirming the need for legislative stability. Similarly, in SR Bommai, the apex court circumscribed the discretionary use of Article 356 by the President on the advice of the Cabinet, emphasising the sanctity of democratically elected state governments. In essence, these landmark judgments underline the judiciary's stance on the necessity for political stability and offer an implicit nod to ideas like "One Nation, One Election," which aim to create a more stable and predictable political environment.

The financial repercussions of separate elections are monumental. The figures are staggering, both for the Lok Sabha and the state elections. Let's talk numbers. The 2014 General Elections cost the exchequer INR 3,870 crores, a sum that could have easily funded several crucial social welfare programs whilst the estimated figures on the total expenditure rose to almost INR 30,000 crores. The 2019 elections escalated the costs even further, reportedly costing INR 60,000 crores when considering the total expenditure, including that by political parties and candidates. This is significant in the notion of the concept of 'One Nation One Election' because of the exponential rise in the estimated total expenditure during elections rising from INR 10,000 crores in the year 1998 to almost 60,000 crores in 2019. However, let's look beyond mere financials.

A lurking concern that doesn't catch the public eye as much as it should is the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The MCC comes into effect as soon as elections are announced, freezing all new development activities and policy announcements. Considering that India virtually remains in an election mode year-round, the MCC has a long-term chilling effect on governance. Infrastructure projects face constant delays, policy implementation gets mired in uncertainties, and long-term planning takes a backseat. The MCC, in its current ubiquitous presence, essentially acts as a straitjacket on governance.

To pivot the country towards a "One Nation, One Election" model, a multi-tiered strategy will have to be envisioned. The



challenge, constitutionally speaking, is colossal. A slew of amendments will have to be enacted. Article 83(2), which stipulates the term of the Lok Sabha, and Article 172, concerning the term of the state legislative assemblies, will need to be revised. While the constitutional changes form the bedrock of this transformation, the practical aspects cannot be overlooked. Logistically speaking, the transition would necessitate a massive upgrade in electoral infrastructure. The Election Commission would require more Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs).

So, what's the likely timeline for this tectonic shift? The drafting and passing of constitutional amendments alone could take up to two years, considering the political negotiations involved. A pilot phase, involving a few states, could take another two years. If successful, a phased rollout might consume an additional four to six years. Thus, we're looking at a timeline that stretches across nearly a decade, crossing multiple electoral cycles. The "One Nation, One Election" idea, although ambitious, reflects the aspirations of a nation that aims to balance its democratic ethos with administrative efficiency. It's a complex task, steeped in legal intricacies and logistical challenges. Yet, the potential advantages it offers—fiscal responsibility, governance stability, and administrative focus—make it a concept that demands serious attention. In a country as diverse and complex as India, the change will be anything but straightforward.

The prospective advantages of "One Nation, One Election" are multifold and transcend beyond fiscal savings. The idea also promises to bring a certain degree of predictability into the Indian political landscape. This stability, in turn, could make governance more accountable and transparent. But what about the international perspective? One compelling example is the United Kingdom, which had for decades operated under a system of 'snap elections' triggered by various factors including the loss of a no-confidence motion or the decision of the ruling party. This changed with the Fixed-term Parliaments Act of 2011, championed by then Prime Minister David Cameron. The Act stipulated that general elections would be held every five years on the first Thursday in May. This reform brought a semblance of predictability into the British electoral process and has since been a point of reference for other democracies looking to streamline their electoral systems.

Implementing the 'One Nation, One Election' idea would necessitate the realignment of several constitutional provisions. Article 356, which allows for President's Rule, and Article 365, concerning failure to comply with or to give effect to directions given by the Union, could both serve as disruptors to a fixed-term electoral cycle. Thus, modifications to these Articles, likely via constitutional amendments, would be necessary to create a legally sound foundation for simultaneous elections.

Moreover, the Election Commission of India would need to undergo massive infrastructural and logistical changes to implement this mammoth task. Advanced planning, down to the last detail, would be required. An exhaustive

“THE FINANCIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF SEPARATE ELECTIONS ARE MONUMENTAL. THE FIGURES ARE STAGGERING, BOTH FOR THE LOK SABHA AND THE STATE ELECTIONS”

(Writer is a legal expert; studied law at King's College, London)

Meghalaya can reap rich dividends from export of pineapple

Pineapple can be a great money spinner for the state but its processing industry is in its infancy due to expensive canning and the high cost of inputs

A conjoint analysis of local consumers' preferences for pineapple, funded by the Indonesian government in Labuhan Batu district, North Sumatra, in 2021, revealed that consumers like the yellowish-green fruit, which has a sweet taste, great size, pungent flavour, soft and smooth texture. Though consumer preferences for the fruit that sports a crown have yet to be studied in India, the Meghalaya variety ticks all the boxes, standing tall among numerous varieties available worldwide.

Mother Nature has a special place for Meghalaya. Apart from the natural beauty and the lush rolling hills, the northeastern state offers perfect climatic conditions for cultivating the perennial herbaceous plant. The fruit grows well in



SK MALHOTRA

(The writer is former Agriculture and Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India. Views expressed are personal)

areas such as Ri Bhoi, East Khasi, Garo Hills, in Meghalaya, as long as the temperatures are not extreme. The optimum temperature required for successful cultivation is 22-32 degrees C. Sandy loam soils with a pH of 5.0-6.0, precisely the kind of soil pineapple cultivation requires, have plenty in Meghalaya. These help the Meghalaya pineapple to become more delicious and nutrient-rich than its peers and find a special place in the hearts of both within and outside the state. These have won the hearts and tastes in the international markets as well.

Nutritionally, Meghalaya pineapple is a powerhouse. They are rich sources of vitamins A and C, potassium and essential nutritional fibre, making them an obvious choice for

aficionados seeking both flavour and nutrients simultaneously in their diet. The fruit contains vitamins A, B, and C and calcium, magnesium, potassium, and iron. It is also high in bromelain, a digesting enzyme. The fruit can be eaten fresh or in juice, jam, squash, or syrup. In India, canned slices and liquid are in high demand, accounting for over 70% of total production.

Meghalaya contributes over 8% of India's pineapple production, making it a key player in India's agriculture map. From 1,38,701 MT production in 2019-20, pineapple production in Meghalaya has grown significantly over the last few years. Apart from the unique flavour of Meghalayan pineapple, the deep flesh of this pineapple consists of a profusion of juiciness, adding to the overall sensory appeal.

Of the two principal varieties -- Giant Kew and Queen Pineapple, the former is famous for its high BRIX value. Ri-Bhoi district ranks first in pineapple manufacturing in Meghalaya, accounting for 38% of the state's total pineapple production, followed by West Garo Hills district with 62% of the produce.

The Meghalaya pineapples are produced using age-old organic agricultural practices, free from artificial fertilisers and insecticides. As a result, these pineapples contain significantly less metallic and pesticide residue. Natural and conventional cultivation practices make sure that there aren't any harmful chemical residues in the fruit. Thanks to

natural, organic and traditional farming practices, those pineapples are remarkably resistant to pests and sicknesses. However, the remote nature of the terrain adds to the aggregation of costs in the case of Meghalaya pineapples. Thus, a unique challenge remains to reach trade hubs, and markets like Delhi and Mumbai via road /rail for a perishable fruit like pineapple. The pineapple processing industry is still in its infancy due to expensive canning and the high cost of fruit, sugar, containers, and overheads. Fresh pineapple marketing is very challenging.

Beyond its emphasised focus on Pineapple, the Government of Meghalaya has taken up several initiatives to its aspiration to improve

farming livelihoods and double their income. So far, through various mission mode interventions for various products like Lakadong Turmeric, Honey, Aroma, Ginger, Spice, Pepper, Khasi Mandarin, Piggery and others. Along with these, to improve the value chain support, the Government has established about 200 CMC as one-stop shops for assisting farmers and primary farmgate infrastructure being set up to be the nodes for aggregation, processing and marketing of produce in the villages and clusters under the project. Through PRIME Agri Response Vehicle more than 110 farmer groups have been supported with a 50% subsidy and 20 Farmer Markets have been established, to improve the market linkages and provide farmers with wholistic support.

However, despite the odds, tremendous progress has been achieved through persistent efforts by the Government of Meghalaya in the last few years. Issues related to post-harvest management losses have been addressed by installing Cold storage in pineapple clusters. New marketing channels were created to aid farmers in improving visibility and logistics beyond state borders. The government of Meghalaya is exploring options to indulge export-oriented social enterprises in setting up frozen fruit processing units within the active Pineapple clusters, which could be a way to overcome the bottlenecks plaguing the investment milieu of the state.

China flies 103 military planes towards Taiwan

AP ■ TAIPEI

China's military sent 103 warplanes toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period in what the island's defense ministry called a recent new high.

The planes were detected between 6 am on Sunday and 6 am on Monday, the ministry said. As is customary, they turned back before reaching Taiwan.

Chinese warplanes fly toward the self-governing island on a near-daily basis but typically in smaller numbers. The Taiwan ministry didn't explain what time period it meant by a "recent" high. China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan as tensions have grown between the two and with the United States.

The US is Taiwan's main supplier of arms and opposes any attempt to change Taiwan's status by force. The Chinese

government would prefer that Taiwan come under its control voluntarily and last week unveiled a plan for an integrated development demonstration zone in Fujian province, trying to entice Taiwanese even as it threatens the island militarily in what experts say is China's long-running carrot and stick approach.

The recent actions may be an attempt to sway Taiwan's presidential election in January. The governing Democratic Progressive Party, which leans toward formal independence for the island, is anathema to the Chinese leadership. China favours opposition candidates who advocate working with the mainland.

The presidential candidates had no immediate comment Monday on the latest Chinese military activity. Taiwan's Defense Ministry said 40 of the planes crossed the symbolic median line between mainland China and the island. They included more than 30 fighter

jets as well as midair refuelling tanker planes. Taiwan also reported nine Chinese naval vessels in area waters in the previous 24 hours.

The ministry called the Chinese military action "harassment" that it warned could escalate in the current tense atmosphere.

"We urge the Beijing authorities to bear responsibility and immediately stop such kind of destructive military activities," it said in a statement.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, asked about the reported military activity, said there is no such thing as a "median line" because Taiwan is part of Chinese territory.

China last week sent a flotilla of ships including the aircraft carrier Shandong into waters near Taiwan. The drills came shortly after the US and Canada sailed warships through the Taiwan Strait, the waters that separate the island from the mainland.

Russia urges UN's top court to toss out Ukrainian case

AP ■ THR HAGUE

Russia on Monday called a Ukrainian case alleging that Moscow abused the Genocide Convention to justify its invasion last year an "abuse of process," as lawyers for Moscow sought to have judges at the United Nation's highest court throw it out. As a series of lawyers laid out Moscow's objections to the case, the leader of Russia's legal team at the International Court of Justice, Gennady Kuzmin, told the 16-judge panel that Ukraine's case that seeks to halt the invasion "is, hopelessly flawed and at odds with the longstanding jurisprudence of this court." He said Ukraine's filing is "a manifest disregard of the proper administration of justice and constitutes an abuse of process." Kyiv's case filed shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, argues that the attack was based on false claims of acts of genocide in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions of eastern Ukraine and alleges that Moscow was planning genocidal acts in Ukraine.

Ukraine claimed that "Russia has turned the Genocide Convention on its head — making a false claim of genocide as a basis for actions on its part that consti-



Assault unit commander from the 3rd Assault Brigade who goes by the call sign 'Fedia,' passes by the body of a dead Russian soldier at the frontline in Andriivka, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023. The 3rd Assault Brigade announced Friday they had recaptured the war-ravaged settlement which lies 10 kilometers (6 miles) south of Russian-occupied city of Bakhmut, in the country's embattled east.

tute grave violations of the human rights of millions of people across Ukraine." Lawyers for Russia insist that the court does not have jurisdiction and that the genocide convention cannot be used to regulate use of force by nations. Ukraine's legal team will respond Tuesday and urge judges to press ahead to hearings on the substance of its claims.

In his opening speech, Kuzmin echoed Russian claims about what he called "neo-Nazis" in Kyiv and drew parallels between Russia's

attack on Ukraine and the 1999 NATO airstrikes on Serbia aimed at halting Belgrade's military campaign in Kosovo. Ukraine brought the case to the Hague-based court based on the 1948 Genocide Convention, which both Moscow and Kyiv have ratified. In an interim ruling in March 2022, the court ordered Russia to halt hostilities in Ukraine, a binding legal ruling that Moscow has flouted as it presses ahead with its devastating attacks on Ukrainian towns and cities.

Pope meets new Russian envoy

Vatican City (AP): Russia's new ambassador to the Vatican met on Monday with Pope Francis for a protocol visit, as signs emerged that the Vatican's Ukraine peace envoy could soon be undertaking a second mission to Moscow. The Vatican said Ambassador Ivan Soltanovsky was presenting his credentials to Francis, signalling the official start of his term. His motorcade was seen leaving the Russian embassy Monday morning, bound for the Vatican, and returning about two hours later.

Soltanovsky replaced Ambassador Alexander Avdeev, whom Francis met with on February 25, 2022 in a remarkable in-person papal visit to the embassy the day after Moscow's forces invaded Ukraine.

The credential presentation appointment comes after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in recent days that Moscow was ready to meet again with Francis' Ukraine peace envoy, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, a veteran of the Catholic Church's peace initiatives. "The Vatican is continuing its efforts. The papal envoy will come back (to Russia) soon," Lavrov said on September 15 at a roundtable discussion on Ukraine. Since Zuppi was appointed in May, he has visited Kyiv, Moscow, Washington and Beijing.

Initially his mandate appeared limited to measures to try to reunite Ukrainian children taken to Russia after Moscow's invasion. But during his meeting last week with Li Hui, China's special representative for Eurasian affairs, the resumption of stalled grain exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports was also discussed.

Pak court issues notice to FIA on bail plea of Imran

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court on Monday issued a notice to Pakistan's top investigation agency seeking its response to the post-arrest bail plea of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets. Khan, 70, through his lawyer Salman Safdar filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court on Saturday against rejection of his post-arrest bail by a special court that is proceeding against him and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the case.

The special court on September 13 extended the judicial remand of Khan and two-time foreign minister Qureshi till September 26 in the cipher case. Both Khan and Qureshi have been accused of violating the secret laws of the country regarding a document sent by the Pakistan embassy in March last year that has gone missing. Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq after hearing the arguments by Khan's lawyer issued notice to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and directed it to submit its response to his petition.

Later, the court adjourned the hearing until next week, Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party confirmed in a WhatsApp message. The FIA launched the case last month and Khan was arrested when he was in the Attock Jail.

Khan has been kept in the Attock Jail since August 5 after his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case. His sentence was suspended by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on August 29, but he continues to remain in Attock prison in the cipher case.

Qureshi, 67-year-old former foreign minister, was arrested under the Official Secrets Act for violating the

secrecy of the official cable sent by the Pakistani embassy in the US to the foreign office when he was the foreign minister.

The cipher case was filed last month against Khan on the allegations of violating secret laws of the country in the matter of a cable sent by the Pakistan embassy in Washington in March last year.

In March last year, ahead of the vote of no-confidence that resulted in his ouster, Khan pulled out a piece of paper - allegedly the cipher - from his pocket and waved it at a public rally in Islamabad, claiming it was the evidence of an "international conspiracy" being hatched to topple his government. However, during the interrogation with the joint investigation team (JIT) in the jail on August 26, Khan denied that the paper he waved at a public gathering last year was the cipher. He also admitted to losing the cipher, saying he couldn't recall where he kept it.

His principal secretary Azam Khan stated before a magistrate and the FIA that the Khan used it for his 'political gains' and to avert a vote of no-confidence against him.

The purported cipher (secret diplomatic cable) contained an account of a meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan last year.

Of late, Khan has come under increased scrutiny following the publication of a purported copy of the secret cable by the US media outlet The Intercept, with many in the previous government led by Shehbaz Sharif pointing fingers at the PTI chief for being the source of the leak.

Khan, who served as the country's prime minister until April last year, currently faces around 180 cases.

China's Foreign Minister heads to Moscow

AP ■ BEIJING

China's top foreign policy official is heading to Russia for security talks after two days of meetings with US President Joe Biden's national security adviser over the week-end in Malta. Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who simultaneously holds the ruling Communist Party's top foreign policy post, will be in Russia from Monday to Thursday for a round of China-Russia strategic security consultations, the Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement.

The US and China are at odds over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. China has refrained from taking sides in the war, saying that while a country's territory must be respected, the West needs to consider Russia's security concerns about NATO expansion.

Ukraine fires 6 dy. defence ministers

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

Six Ukrainian deputy defence ministers were fired Monday following the dismissal two weeks ago of Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov in a corruption scandal, officials said, as heavy fighting continued in the east.

Russia claimed to have struck key Ukrainian facilities in air attacks overnight, hitting stores of Storm Shadow missiles and depleted uranium ammunition along with electronic intelligence centers and training facilities for Ukrainian military scouts. The deputy defence ministers fired included Hanna Maliar, Vitalii Deyneha and Denys Sharapov, as well as the state secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Kostiantyn Vashchenko, were fired, according to the Telegram account of Taras Melnychuk, permanent representative of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Melnichuk provided no explanation of the firings, but the government has been investigat-

ing accusations of corruption in the military related to purchasing equipment. Rustem Umerov, a Crimean Tatar lawmaker who took over as defence minister, did not immediately issue a statement.

Reznikov was removed earlier this month after a scandal involving the defence ministry's procurement of military jackets at three times their cost. Reznikov denied the allegations but resigned.

The reshuffling of the department came a day after Ukraine's military said it captured the village of Klishchiivka from Russian troops after months of fierce battles. Fighting continued Monday as troops tried to hold the village south of the Russian-held city of Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk region. Its recapture followed the retaking of the nearby village of Andriivka. "The enemy is trying with all his might to regain lost positions," Maliar said in a briefing Monday before she was

fired. "Therefore, our fighters hold back the enemy's attacks there and are entrenched at the achieved frontiers."

Retaking Klishchiivka is considered tactically important, allowing Ukrainian forces to further extend their gains around Bakhmut.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February last year. Ukraine launched a counteroffensive in June that so far has been marked by small victories but no major breakthroughs. Despite being bolstered by NATO-standard weapons worth billions of dollars, Ukrainian military officials have said there are no quick solutions to puncture Russian defensive lines — only slow, grinding battles that have led to heavy losses. In his efforts to draw more support, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is headed to the US where he is expected at the White House and on Capitol Hill this week as he visits during the United Nations General Assembly.



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales, center, walks between soldiers during a visit at the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton, near Yeovil in Somerset, England on Monday. The Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton is one of the Royal Navy's two principal air stations and one of the busiest military airfields in the UK.

Islamabad, Kabul should work for common goals: Pak PM

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Amid heightened tensions at their borders, Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has written to his Afghan counterpart Mullah Muhammad Hasan Akhund that the two countries should work together to achieve common goals, a media report said on Monday.

"Pakistan has close fraternal relations with Afghanistan as we are neighbours and brothers. Pakistan-Afghanistan relations are rooted in religion, culture and history," The News International newspaper reported on Monday. Kakar's letter to Afghanistan's interim Prime Minister comes amid the heightened tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan due to rising cross-border attacks on Pakistani soil, it said. Islamabad blames the Afghan Taliban for supporting

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a dreaded militant group fighting to impose the law of Sharia across Pakistan, which frequently carries out attacks in cash-strapped Pakistan. Kakar said that Islamabad was determined to further strengthen bilateral, political, security, and economic relations with Kabul.

Last week, Pakistan also accused the interim Afghanistan government of misusing the transit trade agreement. "It is important for our customs authorities to ensure that any border trade that takes place complies with the understandings and agreements that exist between Pakistan and Afghanistan and that such commercial activities do not contravene Pakistani laws," the Foreign Office cited the letter as saying. The Foreign Office said the trade between both countries was on the rise,

calling it an established fact and added that the activity has grown because Pakistan facilitated trade with Afghanistan. The comments came following the September 6 clash between the security forces of the two countries, which left a Pakistani Frontier Corps soldier injured. This led to the closure of the key Torkham border for over a week.

Kakar has said that Pakistan was playing its part in ensuring durable peace in Afghanistan and was engaged with the Afghan Taliban and the international community at all the relevant forums. Kakar said the Taliban had made a commitment under the Doha agreement that Afghan soil would not be used against any country for terrorism, adding that they were addressing Afghan transit issues including illegal trade.

India's Mission LiFE takes centre-stage at London Fashion Week

London (PTI): India's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) mission to promote sustainability in all aspects of life took centre-stage for "India Day" at London Fashion Week 2023, with Indian designers showcasing creations using a range of eco-friendly materials. Under the umbrella of "Sustainable Modernity", students of Inter National Institute of Fashion Design (INIFD) in partnership with the London School of Trends presented their collections at a colourful catwalk in London on Saturday.

Their creations were made using plant-based fabrics produced in India such as lotus stems, banana leaves, rose petals, cotton, bamboo and other natural fibres. "The designers were instructed to employ sustainable materials

and zero-waste practices to create a collection that was both cutting edge and wearable," the London School of Trends said in a statement.

"They were tasked to show how the artisans and their surroundings are linked and depend on each other. A profound connection to the Earth has played a significant role in the cultural practices of India, which have a long history of being influenced by the natural environment," it said.

The all-female design team was made up of Rajvi and Yatri Patel, Preksha Jain, Somya Goyal, Vidhita Raut, Sidhi Penkar and Roma Agarwal.

Their unique designs were showcased by models following an earlier interaction at the Indian High Commission in London with High

Peace rally organised in US in solidarity with Manipur's Zomi-Kuki community

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Participants at a peace rally held by a prominent organisation representing the Zo ethnic community in Manipur in front of the Indian embassy here have voiced solidarity with their fellow brethren in the state who have been adversely affected by the ongoing ethnic violence.

The rally organised by Zomi Innkuan USA in front of the Embassy of India in Washington DC last week expressed the participants' unwavering solidarity with the Zomi-Kuki people hit by the crisis in Manipur for more than 120 days, the organisation said in a statement.

More than 180 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill



districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

The violence has inflicted untold suffering on the residents of Manipur and the state government's actions, particularly against the minority Zomi-Kuki tribes, have caused great pain and division in the region, the statement alleged.

The rally, attended by members of the Zomi community in the US and other supporters, aimed to shed light on

the urgent need for a lasting solution to the conflict in Manipur, the statement added.

Demonstrators held placards bearing messages that reflected the plight of the Zo ethnic people and their earnest plea for a separate administration for Manipur.

Dr. Hauzachin Suante, Executive Director of Zomi Innkuan, in his address, said: "Our land, our rights, our freedom - these are not mere slogans but the very heartbeat of our struggle."

5 prisoners sought by US in swap with Iran freed

AP ■ DOHA (QATAR)

Five prisoners sought by the US in a swap with Iran were freed Monday and headed home as part of a deal that saw nearly USD 6 billion in Iranian assets unfrozen. Despite the deal, tensions are almost certain to remain high between the U.S. and Iran, which are locked in various disputes, including over Tehran's nuclear programme. Iran says the programme is peaceful, but it now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels. The planned exchange has unfolded amid a major American military buildup in the Persian Gulf, with the possibility of US troops boarding and guarding commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of all oil shipments pass.

"Today, five innocent Americans who were imprisoned in Iran are finally coming home," President Joe Biden said in a statement released as the plane carrying the group from Tehran landed in Doha, Qatar.

After the plane slowed to a stop, three of the prisoners walked down the ramp and were greeted by the U.S. ambassador to Qatar, Timmy Davis. The former prisoners hugged the ambassador and others.

The three — Siamak Namazi, Emad Sharghi and Morad Tahbaz — then wrapped their arms around their shoulders and walked off to a building in the airport.

In a statement issued on his

behalf after landing, Namazi said: "I would not be free today, if it wasn't for all of you who didn't allow the world to forget me."

"Thank you for being my voice when I could not speak for myself and for making sure I was heard when I mustered the strength to scream from behind the impenetrable walls of Evin Prison," Namazi said.

In addition to the five freed Americans, two U.S. family members flew out of Tehran, according to a senior Biden administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity when the exchange was ongoing. Earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said that the exchange would take place Monday after nearly USD 6 billion in once-frozen Iranian assets reached Qatar.

"Fortunately Iran's frozen assets in South Korea were released and God willing today the assets will start to be fully controlled by the government and the nation," Kanaani said. "On the subject of the prisoner swap, it will happen today and five prisoners, citizens of the Islamic Republic, will be released from the prisons in the US," he added. "Five imprisoned citizens who were in Iran will be given to the US side." He said two of the Iranian prisoners will stay in the US. Meanwhile, Nour News, a website believed to be close to Iran's security apparatus, said two of the Iranian prisoners had arrived in Doha for the swap. Mohammad Reza Farzin,

Iran's Central Bank chief, later came on state television to acknowledge the receipt of over 5.5 billion euros — USD 5.9 billion — in accounts in Qatar. Months ago, Iran had anticipated getting as much as USD 7 billion.

The planned exchange comes ahead of the convening of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly this week in New York, where Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi will speak. The deal has already opened US President Joe Biden to fresh criticism from Republicans and others who say that the administration is helping boost the Iranian economy at a time when Iran poses a growing threat to American troops and Mideast allies. That could have implications in his reelection campaign as well.

In his statement, Biden urged Americans not to travel to Iran, and he demanded more information on what happened to Bob Levinson, an American who went missing years ago. Biden also announced sanctions on former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence. The prisoners freed Monday were: Namazi, who was detained in 2015 and was later sentenced to 10 years in prison on spying charges; Emad Sharghi, a venture capitalist sentenced to 10 years; and Morad Tahbaz, a British-American conservationist of Iranian descent who was arrested in 2018 and also received a 10-year sentence. All of their charges have been

widely criticized by their families, activists and the US government.

US officials have declined to identify the fourth and fifth prisoner.

The five prisoners Iran has said it seeks are mostly held over allegedly trying to export banned material to Iran, such as dual use electronics that can be used by a military. The two that Nour News said were in Doha were: Mehrdad Ansari, an Iranian sentenced to 63 months in prison in 2021 for obtaining equipment that could be used in missiles, electronic warfare, nuclear weapons and other military gear, and Reza Sarhangpour Kafarani, an Iranian charged in 2021 over allegedly unlawfully exporting laboratory equipment to Iran.

The cash represents money South Korea owed Iran — but had not yet paid — for oil purchased before the U.S. imposed sanctions on such transactions in 2019. The US maintains that, once in Qatar, the money will be held in restricted accounts and will only be able to be used for humanitarian goods, such as medicine and food.

Those transactions are currently allowed under American sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic over its advancing nuclear program.

Iranian government officials have largely concurred with that explanation, though some hard-liners have insisted, without providing evidence, that there would be no restrictions on how Tehran spends the money.

UNGA week starts with focus on SDGs

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Heads of State and Governments, world leaders and foreign ministers have arrived at the UN headquarters here for the annual high-level week described as the 'Oscars of Diplomacy', with agendas of Sustainable Development Goals, financing for development, climate action and pandemic response taking centre stage as global priorities at the session.

At the high-level 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which begins Monday, the global organisation will host a series of summits that will bring together Presidents and Prime Ministers and leaders.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who attended the G-20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi and the G-77 and China meeting in Havana earlier this month, said this week, "begins the greatest G of all – the G-193 – the High-Level Week of the General Assembly. It is a one-of-a-kind moment each year for leaders from every corner of the globe to not only assess the state of the world – but to act for the common good.

"Action is what the world needs now. We will be gathering at a time when humanity faces huge challenges – from the worsening climate emergency to escalating conflicts, the global cost-of-living crisis, soaring inequalities and dramatic technological disruptions. People are looking to their leaders for a way out of this mess."

The week will open with the 2023 SDG Summit on September 18-19 that will review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the target year of 2030 for achieving the Goals, the UN said.

Convened by President of the General Assembly Dennis Francis, the Summit will mark the half-way point to the deadline set for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. "It will be the centerpiece of the High-level Week of the General Assembly. It will respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises

facing the world and is expected to reignite a sense of hope, optimism, and enthusiasm for the 2030 Agenda."

From September 19 through September 26, 193 world leaders and foreign ministers will one by one take to the lectern in the UN General Assembly hall and enunciate their positions on global issues at the General Debate, the central event of the high-level week. As is tradition, Brazil will open the General Debate followed by the US, with President Joe Biden arriving in New York on Sunday to attend the UNGA session.

The theme of the General Debate is 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all.'

External Affairs Ministers S Jaishankar will address the debate on September 26.

On September 20, the General Assembly will convene its second High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The dialogue will aim to renew global commitment to financing at the highest political level.

Alongside the SDG Summit, UN chief Guterres will convene the Climate Ambition Summit on September 20, with a call on every leader from Governments, business, cities and regions, civil society, and financial institutions to step up.

The UN chief urges individuals or organizations participating in the event to present credible, serious and new climate action and nature-based solutions that will move the needle forward and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis.

The High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response will be convened by President of the General Assembly, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, on September 20, bringing together Heads of State and Government for the one-day meeting that will adopt a political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will

at the national, regional and international levels for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. In the declaration, the world leaders will commit to scale up their efforts to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and "Strengthen international collaboration and coordination at the highest political levels with the determination to reduce inequities and increase the fair, equitable and timely access to, and strengthening of capacities for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response."

The Preparatory Ministerial Meeting for the Summit of the Future will be held on September 21. The ministerial meeting will take place to prepare for the September 2024 Summit of the Future, which marks a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance global cooperation to tackle critical challenges, address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments, including to the SDGs and the United Nations Charter, and make a multilateral system better positioned to positively impact people's lives, the UN said.

The High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage on September 21 presents an opportunity for countries and stakeholders to renew efforts and accelerate progress toward achieving health for all. This will serve as the foundation for executing policies and ensuring responsibility for strengthening health systems for the future, building on the 2019 Political Declaration, the UN said.

The UN General Assembly will hold the second high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis on September 22.

Guterres said that the high-level will shine a spotlight on how to rescue the SDGs at the half-way mark to 2030, how to boost ambition to tackle the climate crisis, on crucial questions of funding and investments for development, on health challenges, hotspots and a host of other issues. "My appeal to world leaders will be clear: This is not a time for posturing or positioning. This is not a time for indifference or indecision. This is a time to come together for real, practical solutions. It is time for compromise for a better tomorrow.

Military drone crashes during test flight in Iran, injuring 2

AP ■ TEHRAN

A military drone crashed during a test flight in northern Iran on Monday, wounding two people and damaging buildings, state media reported. Debris fell in different parts of the northern city of Gorgan, according to the official IRNA news agency.

The semiofficial Tasnim news agency released a video showing white smoke rising from different areas and the sound of anti-aircraft batteries.

Defence Ministry spokesman Reza Taleainik told state TV that the test flight in a remote area went off track due to a "technical failure."

He did not specify the type of drone, but images of the wreckage circulating on social media suggested it was the type that carries bombs.

Iran is a major producer of both civilian and military drones, and has supplied attack drones to Russia for its war on Ukraine.

'Auto collision kills 4 rescue workers dispatched to flood-stricken Libya'

AP ■ CAIRO

Four Greek rescue workers dispatched to Libya following devastating flooding in the eastern city of Derna were killed in an automobile collision on Sunday, Libya's health minister said. Some 11,300 people died when two dams collapsed during Mediterranean storm Daniel last week sending a wall of water gushing through the city, according to the Red Crescent aid group. A further 10,000 people are missing, presumed dead. Rescue workers from Greece, Turkey, Egypt and other countries have since flocked to the decimated port city to offer help.

On Sunday, a bus carrying 19 Greek rescue workers collided with an oncoming vehicle carrying five Libyan nationals on the road between the cities of Benghazi and Derna, said health minister Othman Abduljaleel in a press conference. Three Libyans in the oncoming vehicle were also killed.

Seven of the surviving Greek rescue workers were in critical condition, the minister said. In a parallel statement, the



Rescue teams search for victims in Derna, Libya, on Sunday. Libyan authorities have opened an investigation into the collapse of two dams that caused a devastating flood in a Derna as rescue teams searched for bodies on Saturday, nearly a week after the deluge killed more than 11,000 people. AP/PTI

Greek Foreign Ministry acknowledged the crash but said all its nationals "only suffered minor injuries" and were being treated at nearby hospitals. The Associated Press was not immediately able to reconcile the conflicting reports. The disaster has brought some rare unity to oil-rich Libya,

which has been divided between rival governments in the country's east and west that are backed by various militia forces and international patrons. Residents from the nearby cities of Benghazi and Tobruk have offered to put up the displaced, while volunteers have helped hunt for survivors

buried beneath the rubble.

But the opposing governments have struggled to respond to the crisis. Their recovery efforts have been hampered by confusion, difficulty getting aid to the hardest-hit areas, and the destruction of Derna's infrastructure, including several bridges. More than 3,283 bodies were buried as of Sunday, Abduljaleel said, many in mass graves outside Derna, while others were transferred to nearby towns and cities.

On Saturday, Libya's General Prosecutor, al-Sediq al-Sour, opened an investigation into the collapse of the two dams, built in the 1970s, as well as the allocation of maintenance funds. Derna's mayor, Abdel-Moneim al-Gaithi, was suspended pending an investigation into the disaster.

Authorities and aid groups have voiced concern about the spread of waterborne diseases and shifting of explosive ordnance from Libya's recent conflicts. Haider al-Saeih, head of Libya's center for combating diseases, said in televised comments Saturday that at least 150 people had suffered from diarrhea after drinking contaminated water in Derna.

Landslide in Congo kills at least 17 people

Kinshasa (AP): Torrential rain in northwestern Congo caused a landslide that killed at least 17 people overnight, authorities said Sunday, warning the toll could rise as rescuers sift through rubble beneath collapsed homes. The disaster took place along the Congo River in the town of Lisal in northwestern Mongala province, according to Matthieu Mole, president of the civil society organization Forces Vives. The victims lived in homes that were built at the foot of a mountain. "A torrential downpour caused a lot of damage, including a landslide that swallowed up several houses," he said. "The toll is still provisional as bodies are still under the rubble." Governor Cesar Limbaya Mbangisa said machinery was desperately needed to help clear away the debris and try to save any survivors.

The governor also offered his condolences to the victims' families and decreed three days of morning throughout the province.

Many annoyed by my rise: Ramaswamy

Washington (PTI): Indian-American Vivek Ramaswamy on Sunday said many people are annoyed by his rise and believe that a 38-year-old is too young to become US President. Following his impressive performance during the maiden Republican presidential primary debate, various opinion polls show that his popularity is on the rise. The latest opinion poll shows that he is 12 points up since his August performance. At the same time his criticism by his opponents has also grown up. "Well, look, we have been taking intense criticism, Shannon, over the last several weeks since I performed well on that second debate. And this is part of the process, so I invite the open debate," Ramaswamy told Fox News in an interview. "The reality is many people are

annoyed by my rise and believe that a 38-year-old is too young to be US President. The fact of the matter is Thomas Jefferson was 33 years old when he wrote the US Declaration of Independence. He also invented the swivel chair while he was at it, by the way," he asserted. Ramaswamy argued that there is a need to revive that spirit. "And I believe, it will take someone whose best days ahead are still yet ahead in life to see a country whose best days are still yet ahead of itself. And I do believe that the United States of America can see our best days still yet ahead. But we can't just be running from something." "I don't actually criticize the radical Biden agenda that much because I think it's the wrong place to focus. Of course, there's a lot to criticize.

Erdogan, Elon Musk discuss establishing Tesla car factory



AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Elon Musk, the head of electric carmaker Tesla, to establish a factory in Turkey during a meeting in New York, Erdogan's office said on Monday. Erdogan, who is in the US to attend the UN General Assembly, also discussed potential cooperation between Musk's space exploration firm SpaceX and Turkey's space programme, the Turkish president's office said. The statement said Erdogan told Musk that

Turkiye would welcome cooperation on artificial intelligence and Starlink, SpaceX's satellite internet service. Musk said SpaceX wanted to secure the necessary license to offer Starlink in Turkey.

Images of the meeting showed Musk holding one of his sons as he talked to Erdogan.

Turkish Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacir, who attended the meeting, said Musk described Turkey as "among the most important candidates for Tesla investment".

SL court remands six for attacking on LTTE activist event

Colombo (PTI): At least six people were remanded to judicial custody by a Sri Lankan court on Monday in connection with an attack by a Sinhalese group on people attending the commemorative event for a prominent LTTE activist in the eastern town of Trincomalee.

Selvaraja Kajendran, a parliamentarian from the Tamil National Alliance, and 14 others were attacked by a gang from the majority Sinhalese in the multi-ethnic Trincomalee's Kappalthurai area on Sunday.

The Tamil group said the police watched in silence as the Sinhalese group assaulted the vehicle float commemorating Thileepan, a prominent LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) activist from the north. The Court in the eastern town of Trincomalee today served remand orders on at least six people in connection with the attack.

The attackers have been remanded to judicial custody till September 21. Thileepan was the LTTE's political leader for Jaffna.

China lodges protest with Germany over foreign minister's comment

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Monday lodged a diplomatic protest with Germany over its Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock labelling President Xi Jinping as a dictator. "If (President Vladimir) Putin were to win this war, what sign would that be for other dictators in the world, like Xi, like the Chinese president? Therefore, Ukraine has to win this war," Baerbock said in an interview on Friday during her trip to the US.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry took exception to Baerbock's remarks, saying that the comments were an "open political provocation." "We deplore and reject the remarks by the German side which are preposterous and extremely irresponsible," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said while responding to a question at a media briefing on the German Minister's comments.

The remarks are contrary

to facts and a breach of diplomatic protocol and China lodged a diplomatic protest to Germany, Mao said.

Earlier this year, US President Joe Biden also called Xi a dictator.

Xi, 70, heads the ruling Communist Party, the military besides the Presidency, earning him the tag of the most powerful Chinese leader after Mao Zedong. Baerbock's comments came in the backdrop of steady deterioration in once flourishing relations between China and the European Union as well as Germany.

Recently, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU executive would launch an investigation into Chinese electric vehicle subsidies.

And the China-German ties which thrived during the previous German Chancellor Angela Merkel's long tenure showed a steady decline, especially over China's backing of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

German envoy's attendance at Israeli court hearing ignites diplomatic spat

Jerusalem (AP): The Israeli government has complained to Germany after the German ambassador attended a high-profile Supreme Court hearing last week looking at the legality of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial overhaul, an Israeli diplomatic official said Monday.

The complaint, sent at the order of Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, sparked a rare diplomatic spat between the two allies, with German leaders defending their ambassador against the criticism.

The Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was discussing behind-the-scenes diplomacy, said that Israel had relayed its "dismay" through diplomatic channels, including the Israeli Embassy in Berlin.

"This was a decision taken by the highest figure in the ministry," he added. Cohen is a close ally of Netanyahu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Kishu Lalwani, S/o. Mahadev Lalwani who is purchasing Partition Bearing Plot No. C-1, Second floor, measuring 378 sq. ft. of Property No. 115-A/1, area measuring 48 sq. yds., Khazana No. 11513 min., situated in the suburb of Lal Dora of Village Matwala, New Delhi 110030, from Mr. Nivesha Kumar S/o. Mr. Kamal Singh who is the owner of the subject property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 23.10.2017, duly registered as Document No. 6288, Airt. Book No. 1, Volume No. 2910, on pages 51-58, on dated 23.10.2017, SRVA, New Delhi/Delhi. and the borrower(s) intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Moolai Capital Finance Private Ltd. that the Sale Deed dated 08.02.2011, executed by Mr. Ravinder Sharma in favour of Mr. Jawahar Lal is dated 02.05.2015, Share in Property No. 115-A/1 (Old No. 115), duly Registered with sub registrar-Delhi, Doc. No. 2245, Book No. 1, Vol. no. 10821, Page no. 53-58, Registered on 08.02.2011, has been Lost and not available and an F.R.R has lodged on dated 15.09.2023 with LR No. 891033/2023 for loss of document. If any Person having any type of claim/right/titles/interest over the said property may inform in writing at the address mentioned below, about his objections within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, Charge, disputes etc.

B-938, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301, Contact#0120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Mrs. Manjit who is the owner of First Floor without Roli Rights (Said Floor) built on property bearing No. 435, area measuring 48 sq. yds., out of Khazana No. 642, situated in Village of Village, Chandigarh @ Chandigarh, in the suburb of Mewa Smt. Chota Bazar, Shekhara, Delhi by virtue of Sale Deed dated 24.03.2023 executed by Sh. Tofiq Ahmed who was owner through Regd. GPA dated 23.11.2020 executed by Sh. Sunder & Smt. Varna who was owner through Relinquishment Deed dated 13.08.2019 executed by Smt. Reema, Sh. Deepak Choudhan, Sh. Pradeep, Sh. Ravi, Smt. Raj Rani, Smt. Radha & Smt. Prem Lata after the death of Mr. Mani Chand.

Now, my client intend to sell the said property to potential purchaser. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of the notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Mohd Khairul Hussain (Advocate)
A-38, Kailash Colony, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-148, Mob. 9810391672

HORNBILL FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Off.: Grace Mansion, Circular road, Dimapur, Nagaland- 797112
CIN: U65929NL2002PLC006840, Email: hfl.ngl@gmail.com

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the shareholders of Hornbill Finance Limited, a company incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 and Registered with Reserve Bank of India vide Certificate Number B.08.00167 dated 07.11.2003 as a Non-Deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Company, with its Registered office situated at Grace Mansion, Circular Road, Dimapur, Nagaland- 797112, are intended to transfer the ownership and control of the company through the sale of shares to (1) TV Gopinath (2) K K Vijayakumar (3) Rajeevu M A (4) Dr Indira K R and (5) Tiatejmen J Kamir (collectively referred to as "Acquirers"). The new management / shareholders seek to acquire 98% of shares from existing shareholders.

The new directors to be appointed are (i) Shri TV Gopinath, #446, Vishwamanava Double Road, Kumavumpungar, Mysore 570023, (ii) Shri K K Vijayakumar, Kompapa, Anikwad West PO, Kottayam- 686503 and (iii) Shri Rajeevu M A, Manakunathu House Paduva PO, Mattakkara, Kottayam 686564, and the resigning directors are (1) Chuba Pongen, H/o 009, Grace Mansion, Circular Road, War-09, Supply Colony Dimapur Sad, Dimapur, Nagaland - 797112 (2) Yongya Chingmar, H/o 1053, Block-1, NH-29, Near Woodstock School, Padampukuri Village, Padampukhuri, Dimapur, Nagaland - 797116 and (3) Tiatejmen Kezevilhou Jamir, H/o-247, Block 3, Chekiye Village, Chekiye, Dimapur, Nagaland - 797115. The proposed transaction will help the company to expand its business operation in other states too. The company can leverage the expertise of the new management in achieving the desired goals.

The above Notice is being given pursuant to RBI Circular NBR, (PD) CC, No.065/03.10.001/2015-16 dated 9 July, 2015 and subsequent relevant Regulations. The RBI vide letter No. GWH.DOS.ADM.No.S151/01-09-167/2023-24 dated 8 September 2023 has provided their 'no objection' to the Company for aforesaid change in its control and management.

In case of any objection in respect of the above-mentioned sale / transfer of control/management, the same may be communicated in writing stating therein the nature of interest and grounds of objection within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice to Hornbill Finance Limited at its registered address with a copy to aforementioned new shareholders at their respective address or to the above mentioned Email ID. This Public Notice is being issued jointly by the Company and the above-mentioned Acquirers.

Dimapur
17.09.2023

Sd/-
Hornbill Finance Limited

Net direct tax collection rises 23.5 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Net direct tax collection grew 23.51 per cent to over Rs 8.65 lakh crore till mid-September, on higher advance tax mop-up from corporates, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

The net direct tax collection of Rs 8,65,117 crore (as on September 16), includes corporate income tax (CIT) at Rs 4,16,217 crore and personal income tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs 4,47,291 crore.

Net direct tax collections for the current fiscal as on September 16, have grown at over 23.51 per cent, the ministry said in a statement.

Advance tax collections stood at Rs 3.55 lakh crore till mid-September, a 21 per cent growth against Rs 2.94 lakh crore collected in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year.



The advance tax collection of Rs 3.55 lakh crore as on September 16, comprises CIT at Rs 2.80 lakh crore and PIT at Rs 74,858 crore.

Refunds of about Rs 1.22 lakh crore have been issued up to September 16.

On a gross basis, direct tax collection for the financial year 2023-24 stands at Rs 9.87 lakh crore, a 18.29 per cent growth over Rs 8.34 lakh crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year.

‘India’s growth in F24 to be above 6%’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic growth will be above 6 per cent in the current fiscal as the country has managed to strengthen its macroeconomic stability and performance even in a period of large global shocks, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Member Ashima Goyal said on Monday.

Goyal further said that a global slowdown reducing India's export growth, geopolitics fueling oil and food prices, and erratic weather are some of the continuing risks that the country faces.

"India has managed to strengthen its macroeconomic stability and performance even in a period of large global shocks.

India's GDP growth in FY24 will be above 6 per cent," she told PTI in a telephonic interview.

While GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7.2 per cent, lower than 9.1 per cent in 2021-22, the RBI projects India's GDP to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Asked when retail inflation will decline to RBI's target of 4 per cent, the eminent

economist said inflation expectations are getting anchored at around 4 per cent.

"For a long time now, firms' inflation expectations are around 4 per cent. That means, despite cost shocks, their price increases do not exceed 4 per cent," Goyal noted.

Observing that core inflation is softening, she said inflation targeting is teaching price-setters to look through transient supply shocks.

According to Goyal, under transient even if repeated supply shocks (like the Ukraine war), monetary tightening should be adequate to anchor inflation expectations, but not so sharp as to impose a large growth sacrifice on the economy.

"But other supply-side policies will continue to reduce inflation," she opined.

Retail inflation declined to 6.83 per cent in August after touching a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, mainly due to softening prices of vegetables, but still remains above the Reserve Bank's comfort zone.

RBI has the mandate to



keep retail inflation in the range of 2 to 6 per cent.

Commenting on a recent brokerage report which stated private capex actually declined in the last two quarters, Goyal asserted that it is absurd to over-interpret quarterly changes.

While observing that since the pandemic annual gross domestic capital formation has been rising, she said it has fluctuated in quarters. "quarter on quarter growth is normally negative in Q1 and shows the highest growth in Q4," Goyal said,

election year,' she said, adding that policy continuity is very important for private capex.

Responding to a question on rising crude oil prices and its impact on the government's subsidy figures and inflation, Goyal said the government and oil companies have built-up counter-cyclical buffers by not fully passing through a fall in international crude oil prices.

Emphasising that in a well-established inflation targeting regime, transient rise in cost is looked through and does not have second round effects, she noted that high crude oil prices have intensified efforts to diversify away from oil. "So overall we are seeing less pass-through of higher oil prices to Indian inflation," she said.

With international crude oil prices breaching USD 90 per barrel mark for the first time in 10 months, Indian refiners which are the key beneficiaries of cheaper Russian crude should still be able to clock refining margins of around USD 9-10 per barrel in current fiscal, CareEdge Ratings had said recently.

Asked if India losing out

on accurate data measurement as the government is yet to come up with the latest version of the Consumer Expenditure Survey and Census, she said overhauling statistical systems takes time.

"The pandemic, as well as excessive criticism, has intensified the break in many of these periodic surveys...The break is a loss to policy-making," Goyal said.

The eminent economist, however, noted that now India has all kinds of new high-frequency data to aid policy.

In 2021, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) decided not to release the Consumer Expenditure Survey results of 2017-18 due to data quality issues.

According to the ministry, the reference period for the next Household Consumer Expenditure Survey is 2022-2023.

The decadal Census, postponed for an indefinite period due to the pandemic, is unlikely to be held before the next Lok Sabha elections that are due in April-May 2024.

Sensex falls 242 points, snaps 11-day winning run

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its record 11-day winning run, Sensex declined by around 242 points on Monday as profit taking in metal, banking and telecom shares amid weak global trends dragged down the benchmark index from record high levels.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 241.79 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at 67,596.84 in a volatile trading. During the day, it declined by 305.8 points or 0.45 per cent to a low of 67,532.83.

Retreating from its all-time high, the broader Nifty closed at 20,133.30, down by 59.05 points or 0.29 per cent, as 26 of its constituents closed in the red while 24 advanced.

BSE Sensex closed at a lifetime high of 67,838.63 after 11 straight days of gains while Nifty settled at record 20,192.35 on Friday following positive



macro data.

Among the Sensex firms, HDFC Bank fell the most by 1.98 per cent. Bharti Airtel (1.71 per cent), Infosys (1.4 per cent), Tata Steel (1.21 per cent), UltraTech Cement (1.19 per cent), Wipro (1.17 per cent), Kotak Mahindra Bank (1.02 per cent), Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra and JSW Steel were the major laggards.

Power Grid, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra and

Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Other than global headwinds, higher domestic index valuations after the recent upsurge is making investors nervous, which may lead to some more profit-taking in the near term, Chouhan said.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "Domestic markets relinquished their momentum as they anticipated a raft of policy rate decisions due this week.

"The investor's confidence was also impacted by the expectations of a demand resurgence in China, combined with crude supply cuts. With the Fed rate hike fears back on the cards, as reflected in the elevated US bond yields, the markets await clarification from major central banks."

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge fell 0.60

per cent and the midcap index declined 0.27 per cent.

Among the indices, telecommunication fell by 1.86 per cent, realty declined 1.27 per cent, commodities (0.96 per cent), teck (0.92 per cent), metal (0.89 per cent) and services (0.74 per cent).

Consumer Discretionary, FMCG, utilities, auto and power were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong settled lower, while Shanghai ended in the green.

European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.39 per cent to USD 94.30 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were buyers on Friday as they bought equities worth Rs 164.42 crore, according to exchange data.

Rupee hits all-time low of 83.29 against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee depreciated for the fourth straight day to settle 13 paise lower at its lifetime low of 83.29 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, mainly due to risk aversion in global markets and rising crude oil prices.

Besides, a strong American currency against key rivals overseas and a negative trend in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments, according to forex traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.09 against the dollar and traded in the range of 83.09 to 83.30 against the greenback.

The rupee finally closed at the record low of 83.29 against the dollar, registering a fall of 13 paise from its previous



close.

On Friday, the rupee fell 13 paise to settle at 83.16 against the US dollar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell marginally by 0.11 per cent to 105.20.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 0.42 per cent higher at USD 94.32 per barrel.

Ahead of the holiday, the rupee closed at another record low following risk-averse sentiments and a rally in crude oil

prices, said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, at HDFC Securities.

"This week will remain highly volatile following a series of central bank policy rate meetings across the developed and emerging market economies. The baseline of it is the dollar to hold onto its strength through the week," Parmar said.

In the near term, spot USD/INR is expected to cross the record high and may see a level of 83.50 to 83.70 while it could hold the support of 83, Parmar added.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex closed 241.79 points or 0.36 per cent lower at 67,596.84 points, while the broader Nifty declined 59.05 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 20,133.30 points.

TCS launches digital solution for life cycle assessment, reporting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Consultancy Services on Monday announced the launch of a life cycle assessment (LCA) tool that computes environmental impact across product lines.

The tool, built in collaboration with PRé Sustainability, is based on open-source technologies and a cloud-agnostic architecture so it can be easily deployed across different cloud platforms, the IT major said in a statement.

TCS Product Life Cycle Profiler enables simultaneous LCA for all products originating from a specific manufacturing facility, offering a comprehensive view of the impact from materials, transportation, suppliers, energy consumption, and processes.

It computes environmental impact across multiple dimensions, beyond greenhouse gas emissions, from



human toxicity and water use to ozone depletion and particulate matter - and highlights impact hotspots to alert the organization to possible changes.

"TCS Product Life Cycle Profiler will help our clients identify the changes they need to make their product value chains more sustainable and advance their climate goals," TCS Global Head for Strategic Capabilities Group Suranjan Chatterjee said.

PRé Sustainability Managing Director and CEO Eric Mieras said, "Our partnership with TCS addresses the need for customers to have reliable and transparent environmental footprint information for products at scale."

Foxconn commits to double employment, investments in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Phone-maker Apple's supplier Foxconn has committed to doubling employment, investments and business size in India by next year, underlining its smooth and rapid growth in the country, according to a social media post by a company executive.

Wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday on Sunday, Foxconn representative V Lee wrote in a LinkedIn post: "Under your leadership, Foxconn has grown smoothly and rapidly in India."

"We will work even harder to present you with a greater birthday gift next year, aiming for another doubling of employment, FDI, and business size in India," Lee said in the post.

Replying to the post on X (formerly Twitter), IT, Electronics and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Government is "fully committed" in its endeavour to support and facilitate.



Earlier this month, Young Liu, Chairman and CEO of Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn), said that India will be an important country in terms of manufacturing in the future, his comment adding to a growing chorus of global voices acknowledging the country's bold moves to position itself as electronics and hi-tech production powerhouse.

In an interaction with reporters in Taipei, the top honcho of the Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant had further said the development of the entire ecosystem and industrial chain, and

opportunities for development in India are "very, very huge opportunities."

"If there is no big change, India will be a very important country in terms of manufacturing in the future," Liu had said.

In the past, it took 30 years to build the entire supply chain ecosystem in China, he noted, adding that while it will take an "appropriate amount of time in India" and the process will be shorter given the experience. The environment too is not quite the same, he had said pointing to the advent of new technologies like AI and generative AI.

Gold climbs ₹180, silver jumps ₹400



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price climbed Rs 180 to Rs 60,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid a jump in yellow metal prices in overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 60,020 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped Rs 400 to Rs 74,400 per kilogram.


"Gold rose on Monday, with spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 60,200/10 grams, up by Rs 180 following a positive trade in the overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the global markets, gold and silver were up at USD 1,927 per ounce and USD 23.10 per ounce, respectively.

INBRIEF


HTECH ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF HONOR 90 5G

New Delhi: Htech, a comprehensive solutions provider, today announced the launch of HONOR 90 5G in India. Equipped with a stunning 200MP Main Camera featuring AI Vlog Master and industry-leading Quad-Curved Floating Display with 3840 Hz PWM Dimming technology, the HONOR 90 5G packs groundbreaking hardware and software into one device to empower the always-on generation with personalised experiences and human-centric solutions. Commenting on the launch, Madhav Sheth, CEO, Htech, said, "We at Htech, are pleased to mark an important milestone by bringing back to Indian consumers a strong brand that has cutting edge technology, and a self-reliant ecosystem. With a focus on empowering consumers with leading technology, Honor continuously works toward bringing innovation in display technology, battery tech software and artificial intelligence, which are backed by strong R&D capabilities. Leveraging HONOR's strong network and value chain, we are introducing the first smartphone in Indian shores with the launch of HONOR 90 5G."



STUDENTS TO SHINE AT ASIAN GAMES

Bhubaneswar: A contingent of 14 exceptional students hailing from the prestigious institutions of KIIT and KISS in Bhubaneswar, India, are poised to represent the nation at the highly anticipated Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. From September 23 to October 8, these gifted athletes will captivate the global stage with their exceptional talents. Notably, KIIT & KISS takes immense pride in being the sole academic institution in India to send the largest contingent of players to the Asian Games.



Banking issues hinder growth of exports through e-commerce: GTRI report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banking issues like reluctance to process forex received through alternate channels and high processing fees are hindering the growth of e-commerce exports from India, and there is a need to bring mindset change to unlock the sector's potential, a report by think tank GTRI said on Monday.

Unlocking India's e-commerce export potential to USD 350 billion by 2030 requires addressing banking issues that hinder growth and increase operational costs, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

"To initiate change, both the RBI and banks must shift their mindset towards treating

small-value exports differently from larger ones. This shift is essential to prevent misuse while streamlining processes. Without this fundamental change, any reforms attempted by the RBI and banks will fall short," it said.

Small e-commerce businesses often face challenges because banks are not equipped to handle low-value transactions efficiently, it added.

The key issues include reluctance to process forex through alternate channels, high processing fees, incorrect purpose code allocation, and limitations in the RBI's EDPMS (Export Data Processing and Monitoring System).

The Reserve Bank of India tracks export payments and

reconciliation through its Export Data Processing and Monitoring System.

"Banks are happy to process forex received through bank transfers but reluctant to process forex received through foreign currency cheques, payment gateways like PayPal, credit cards, Western Union, cash receipt when a buyer selects item live in the retail shop," it said.

Banks delay crediting forex received in a firm's account when payments are received through such channels, and this affects cash flow and hampers business operations, the report noted.

Banks charge money multiple times at different stages for the same small-value shipment, it added.



Elaborating this, it said that essential charges include charges for submitting shipping bills (Rs 80 to Rs 2,000) at the time of forex realisation (1-to-2.5 per cent of value), intermediary bank charges during forex transfers (USD 10 to USD 55 per transaction), penalties for bills pending at

EDPMS (Rs 100 per shipping bill per month).

"Most charges are fixed for a transaction irrespective of value. Bank charges can exceed 50-60 per cent of the shipment value. This makes e-commerce exports commercially unviable," it said, adding banks allocate purpose codes for each

remittance but frequently issue incorrect codes.

For example, purpose code P0103, meant for advance payments, is often assigned even when exports have already occurred and the firm has submitted proof. Incorrect allocation of purpose codes by banks leads to reconciliation problems, EDPMS pendency issues, and issuance of notices and fines on exporters.

The RBI issues notices to exporters for EDPMS defaults but does not give them direct access to view their records, as per the report.

"Exporters must rely on banks/DGFT for critical data, leading to unnecessary delays and complications," GTRI co-founder Ajay Srivastava said.

The report suggested eight

action points, such as the creation of a single window platform for e-commerce and small-value shipments, standardise bank charges, defining a time limit for banks to complete all small export-related requests by the RBI, and exempting shipment value up to USD 1,000 per shipment from monitoring till the single window is implemented.

It also pitched for an extension of the timeline for EDPMS closure from the current nine months to 24 months and redesign the courier shipping bill to reflect correct payment terms.

On the single window, Srivastava called for integrating the RBI, banks, Customs, DGFT, India Post, courier companies and exporters.

"This platform should cover all realisation methods other than bank transfers. The exporter should be able to conduct all transactions online. SW will automate the EDPMS reconciliation process," he added.

He said that high processing fees and multiple charges at different stages of exporting hurt small businesses the most, and the banks should charge a one-time fee for each shipment instead of further charges at various stages.

"The government could subsidise these fees to ease the financial burden on small exporters," the report said, adding there is a need to raise the export realisation variation limit from 25 per cent to 100 per cent.

INDIA FACE CHINA IN ASIAN GAMES OPENER

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Set to play their opening match without any training session and proper rest after the last-minute announcement of the squad, India will be the clear underdogs against formidable China in their Asian Games group game here on Tuesday.

India were able to stitch a rag-tag final squad only on Friday and the team left for China on Sunday, leaving no time for the players to even have a training session together.

Moreover, two players — defenders Kongsam Chinglensana Singh and Lalchungnunga — out of the 22 players picked will join later as their visas were not ready. The Indian contingent's chef de mission Bhupinder

Singh Bajwa has, however, said that the duo will get their 'express visas' in a day or two and they will join the team.

In any case, the duo will not be available for the Group A match against China on Tuesday and that will be a blow for India. Also head coach Igor Stimac said on Sunday that senior defender Sandesh Jhingana and talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri will not play the opening match to save them for the later two matches.

Chhetri has started training just a couple of weeks ago as he needed time with his family after becoming a father recently.

Stimac's move is understandable as India have more chance to win against Bangladesh (September 21) and Myanmar (September 24) than against China, and considering that the

team will take on the hosts without proper rest and training. The head coach was forced to have strategy sessions inside the aircraft and at the airport.

It will have to be seen whether Stimac sticks to what he had said or field Jhingana as defenders Chinglensana and Lalchungnunga will not be available for Tuesday's match. Already, he is facing the problem of full backs and central midfielders as he lamented on Sunday.

Even otherwise, China are a much stronger side than India at the continental stage, and they will also have the advantage of playing at a familiar surroundings at the Huanglong Sports Center Stadium. For India, on the other hand, their first outdoor activity could be the match.

The last time the two coun-



who are really important to them. "One striker looks like a tower, scoring a lot of goals in the Chinese Super League. There is also an attacking midfielder, a senior player of great experience."

On the strategy that he may be employing, Stimac said, "We have to be very clever and see whether we need to invest all our energy (against China) or skip it to keep for the next two matches and try to make it to the knock-out rounds.

"No tournament is a formality for me, neither the players. There is a possibility to qualify from the group, but to do that, some luck needs to be on our side also, and the goal is for the boys to give their best performances of their lives."

The top two teams from the six groups will make it to the round of 16, with four best-ranked third-placed sides also qualifying.

Thirteen players out of the initial 22 were not released by their respective Indian Super League clubs, including Jhingana and first-choice goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. A 17-member team with Chhetri as the only notable face was named initially.

On Friday, the AIFF announced a revised squad of 22 after hectic parleys with Jhingana in it, besides two more senior players in Chinglensana and Lalchungnunga.

Real maintain 100% win record

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid came from behind to beat Real Sociedad 2-1 and climb back to the top of La Liga on Sunday, maintaining their perfect start to the season.

After Barcelona put five past Real Betis in a flashy display on Saturday the onus was on Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid side to maintain their 100 percent record and they did, against the tricky Basque visitors.

Propelled by the electric Takefusa Kubo, Real Sociedad took an early lead through Ander Barrenetxea, but Madrid hit back with goals from Fede Valverde and Joselu to earn their fifth win from five games.

England international Jude Bellingham was unable to continue his excellent goalscoring form, after netting five goals in his first four Madrid matches, but remains the division's top goalscorer.



about the next game which is coming up very soon."

Garcia came through the Real Madrid youth system, moving to another capital club in Rayo Vallecano before Los Blancos brought him back this summer.

The Basque visitors went ahead at the new-look Santiago Bernabeu after only five minutes, when Kubo stroked a fine pass into Barrenetxea's path.

Kepa Arrizabalaga kept out the first effort with a fine

save but could not claw out the second.

Valverde slammed Real Madrid level less than a minute into the second half, lashing Fran Garcia's cut-back in off the post from outside the area.

The left-back created the second goal too, crossing for target man Joselu to nod the hosts ahead at the back post.

The Spain international, on loan from Espanyol, was immediately taken off for Eduardo Camavinga, as Ancelotti sought more control of the game.

tries met in the Asian Games was in the 2002 edition in Busan, Korea, where India lost 0-2. The then Indian team had the likes of Bhaichung Bhutia, Shanmugam Venkatesh, Jo Paul Ancheri, Renedy Singh and current assistant coach Mahesh Gawli.

Stimac was candid enough to concede that it would be a tough task for his side against China, more so due to the unprecedented controversy surrounding the picking of the team, that too after getting exemption of eligibility criteria to take part in the Games.

"They have been preparing this team for a long time. Since March this year, they've played four tough and quality games against strong opponents, losing three and winning one," the Croatian said.

"So, it will be tough because they (China) have invested a lot

in this team, especially because they are hosting the Asian Games."

Talking about the players of the opposition team, Stimac said, "Mostly they (China) prefer a 4-4-2 system, which might change to a 3-4-3 occasionally. They have three senior players

Guardiola says single Champions League trophy 'nothing special'

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola said Manchester City have not done "anything special" by winning just one Champions League as the holders prepare to launch the defence of their crown.

City won the top prize in European club football for the first time in June, beating Inter Milan 1-0 in the final in Istanbul to complete a historic treble.

Guardiola's men, who have won all five of their Premier League matches this season, face former champions Red Star Belgrade at the Etihad on Tuesday.

"For our club to win the Champions League is something incredible," the City boss told reporters on Monday. "But how many teams have won just one Champions League? A lot. "But there are a lot to win

two, three, four, five. In perspective, we didn't do anything special, just one. For us the club didn't have it, to be part of that (makes me) proud."

Real Madrid lead the way with 14 Champions League titles, followed by AC Milan on seven. Liverpool and Bayern Munich have six each.

Guardiola said his team might find it easier to defend their trophy than win it for the first time — their recent triumph came after years of agonising near-misses.

"The hardest thing is to win the first one," he said.

The Champions League final this season will be held at Wembley, but Guardiola said that was not in his thoughts.

"We didn't think about that," he said. "Win the first one. You have to think of the final when you are in the quarters and



semis. The first game in these months, it's a long time. Still a long, long, long time."

"Let's try to win tomorrow (against) a team who is so aggressive and fast upfront."

Defender Kyle Walker, who signed a contract extension last week, said the City players were hungry for more success despite winning multiple trophies in recent years.

"It comes from within to keep going," he said. "The hunger is still definitely in the dressing room from the players and the manager. He (Guardiola) still wants to win more, won't settle for second and we need to follow his footsteps."

City will again be without John Stones, Jack Grealish and Mateo Kovacic for the match against Red Star, who were European champions in 1991.

New-look PSG in relaxed mood ahead of latest CL bid

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain have undergone sweeping changes over the summer ahead of their latest bid for Champions League glory, but new coach Luis Enrique insists the Qatar-owned club will not make winning European football's biggest prize an obsession this season.

PSG host Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday in their first match in a heavyweight Champions League group which also features AC Milan and Newcastle United.

The French title-holders have endured one frustration after another in the competition in recent years, with a defeat by Bayern Munich last season seeing them go out of the Champions League in the last 16 for the fifth time in seven years.

Beaten finalists in 2020, PSG went backwards after that, the decision to sign Lionel Messi ultimately backfiring.

Messi and Neymar have now left the Parc des Princes after a close-season clear-out which continued up to last week, when Marco Verratti was sold to Qatari side Al-Arabi for



a reported 50 million euros (\$53.3m). Verratti spent 11 years in Paris and was, at his peak, one of the finest midfielders in the world.

But PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi decided it was time

to move on and the club accelerated the reconstruction of their squad in recent months, while keeping hold of Kylian Mbappe following a contract dispute that threatened to end his time in the French capital.

They spent an estimated 350 million euros on new players, with the biggest outlay coming to sign France forward Randal Kolo Muani from Eintracht Frankfurt for a reported 75 million euros plus bonuses.

Barcelona winger Ousmane Dembele, Uruguay midfielder Manuel Ugarte, defensive duo Milan Skriniar and Lucas Hernandez, Real Madrid's Marco Asensio, Benfica striker Goncalo Ramos and promising Lyon winger Bradley Barcola are just some of the other new faces brought in. But Luis Enrique and his captain Marquinhos on Monday both sought to play down expectations about the new-look team's prospects in Europe this season.

"There is no added pressure when it comes to the Champions League. It is not an obsession," Brazil defender Marquinhos told reporters at the club's new training ground in the distant Paris suburbs.

"We are competitors and that is the mentality of the club too. They want to win every trophy possible, but those of us in the dressing room, the coach, and the management above him, are not obsessed with the Champions League.

"We want to get to the very top but we know the path that we have to take. It is long, so we have to work hard and go one step at a time."

Derby nightmare set aside for Newcastle clash: Pioli

AP ■ MILAN

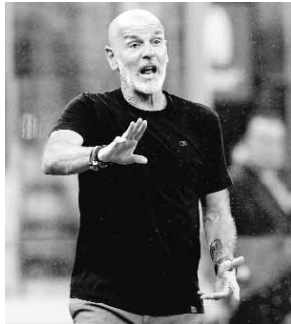
Stefano Pioli insisted on Monday that AC Milan have turned their attentions to the Champions League opener with Newcastle United after local derby humiliation at the weekend.

The seven-time European champions were hammered 5-1 by Serie A leaders Inter Milan on Saturday, a brutal defeat which swept away all the positive vibes created by a new-look team claiming three straight wins before the international break.

It was a fifth defeat in as many Milan derbies in 2023, Inter racking up an aggregate score of 12-1 over those matches which include last season's Champions League semi-final.

"We had a lot of faith and positivity for the derby but it didn't go well, there's no point hiding it," Pioli told reporters.

"It was a big disappointment, but we have the Champions League and that is good as it's the only way to



switch.

"These defeats in the derby hurt... I'd give everything to change them but unfortunately they went how they went."

Milan have been drawn in a tough Group F which also features Borussia Dortmund and French champions Paris Saint-Germain, and a good start at home to Saudi Arabia-backed Newcastle would be the perfect response to Saturday's disappointment.

"I know I have a good team, this group of players will be able to get over a really difficult derby," said Pioli.

"I owe a debt to the fans because last year when we were struggling, when we were playing really badly, they stayed behind us."

Sandro Tonali will return to the San Siro earlier than expected after being sold to Newcastle in July, one of two big changes over the summer with club icon Paolo Maldini being sacked as technical director.

Italy midfielder Tonali, who is expected to feature on Tuesday, is a boyhood Milan fan and was a key component of the team which won a first league title in 11 years in 2022.

"It will be emotional. Sandro is a great player and was important to us getting where we are today," said Pioli.

"We won together and we grew together, and it will be emotional for him to return to the San Siro. We wish him the very best — from the next match."

Milan currently sit third in Serie A, three points behind Inter and one off Juventus.

Barca under brutal pressure after our golden era: Xavi

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said Monday his time in the team as a player helped set a high bar which the club are now struggling to reach in the Champions League.

The Catalan giants won four editions of the competition between 2006 and 2015, and have endured some humiliating eliminations since.

Barcelona let leads slip against Roma and Liverpool and were thrashed by Bayern Munich in recent years, while they have failed to make it out of the group stage in the past two seasons.



"There is huge demand on us, the bar is so high — this is Barca," Xavi told a news conference.

"This is a consequence of the Barca of the past few years, of our era, as a player. In 10 years, from 2006 to 2015, four Champions Leagues were won."

The coach said the club's objective was to make it through the group phase, ahead of their opener in the competition against Belgian champions Royal Antwerp on Tuesday.

"We like challenges, but the level of demand is so high, it's brutal," he continued.

"It's a consequence of inheriting a brilliant era, the best in the history of this club."

However Xavi said his players were coping well and excited to start their new European campaign.

"Looking in the faces of the players, the joy, I see hope," added Xavi. "A lot of hope and desire."

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

The Indian men's hockey team has climbed to the third spot in the latest world rankings issued by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Monday.

India (2771) are back into the top-3, after more than year since dropping out in May 2022. The elevation happened due to their undefeated run in the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 in Chennai last month.

The Indians have won six and drew one of their seven matches. England (2745), who fell just short of winning the EuroHockey title with a 1-2 loss to the Netherlands in the final, are out of top three.

Despite their strong run to the finals, an earlier loss in the tournament against Belgium and the loss in the final, coupled with India's run of wins, saw

India men climb to third spot, women placed 7th in latest FIH list

England slip to fourth.

Netherlands (3113) continue to lead the way with a strong defence of their title at the EuroHockey Championships, to add to their FIH Hockey Pro League title and the bronze medal at the FIH Hockey World Cup in 2023.

Netherlands' dominance has seen them pull off a comfortable lead over Belgium (2989) in second place.

Germany (2689) and Australia (2544) hold on to the fifth and sixth positions respectively, while Argentina (2350) climbed up one spot to seventh ahead of Spain (2347).

In the women's rankings,



Netherlands (3422) are perched at the top spot, remain well clear of the chasing pack, continuing their dominance with a record-extending 12th EuroHockey

Championship title. Australia (2818) and Argentina (2767) stay put in the second and third places respectively.

However, Belgium (2609)

had a great campaign at the EuroHockey Championships, winning the silver medal that propels them ahead of Germany (2574) as the two teams occupy the fourth and fifth spots in the world rankings.

Indian women (2325) have climbed one spot to the seventh position, at the expense of Spain (2173), who finished sixth in the EuroHockey Championships dropping over 150 world ranking points in losses against Belgium and Scotland.

New Zealand (2001) and Japan (1900) continue to hold their ninth and 10th spots, with China (1894) marginally behind Japan in the 11th spot.

INDIA READY TO WIN ODI WORLD CUP: KAPIL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former captain Kapil Dev believes India are ready to win the ODI World Cup at home but he doesn't want to put the favourite tag on the hosts as a lot would depend on luck.

"I think if we can come in top four, that is more important and then it will be about stroke of luck and everything," Kapil said on the sidelines of the launch of the third edition of J&K Open to be held at Jammu Tawi Golf Course from October 4 to 7. "We can't say right now that we are favourites, of course our team is very good. Heart says something else, mind says no we have to work very hard. I know our team, I don't know about other teams, so I would say it is unfair for me to give a blank answer.

"...As far as India team is concerned, it is ready to play and win the championships...They should play passionately, enjoy themselves."

India geared up for the World Cup with the Asia Cup triumph on Sunday. The 10-wicket victory against hosts Sri Lanka was set up by the pacers, who claimed all 10 wickets with Mohammed Siraj returning with magical figures of 6 for 21.

"It is wonderful (to see Siraj bowl). I feel so happy that nowadays in all continents our fast bowlers are taking all 10 wickets, that's the cherry on the cake,"



said India's 1983 world cup winning captain.

"There was a time when we used to depend on spinners, it is not anymore, that's why the strength of the team becomes so good. Kapil, however, said as a fan he would have wanted to see

a close match rather than a lop-sided final in Colombo.

"...What a fantastic cricket played! As a cricketer I would like to see much close games but as a player, I feel bowl them out for 30 and win. As a spectator, probably a little close matches

would have been better."

India have a few fitness concerns ahead of the World Cup as some key players, including Axar Patel and Shreyas Iyer, suffered injuries during the Asia Cup. While Axar is nursing both a wrist injury and a minor

tear in his left quadricep, Iyer had a back spasm and played only two matches during the continental event.

"In any team, if any two main players get injured then it hurts the team's fortunes. That's why stroke of luck is required,

because if your main player gets injured, the team's balance gets disturbed," Kapil said.

Kapil also lauded India opener Shubman Gill.

"This is a youngster who we can look up to. He is the future of Indian cricket. Very very proud to have a player of that ability in India," he said.

There has been a debate on the team selection with some senior players such as Shikhar Dhawan, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal missing the world cup bus.

Kapil, however, backed the selectors, led by Ajit Agarkar, for the picking the best Indian team for the World Cup.

"Those who are not there in the team, what's the point talking about them. Everybody has their opinion. The selectors are better people than us, because they put their heads together and pick the best team.

"Selectors are doing there job. Just leave them alone. It is easy to point figures."

Kapil, who is also the Vice President of Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), was here to attend the launch of the J&K Open golf tournament.

The Rs. 50 lakh event, presented by J&K Tourism, will see top Indian professionals including Udayan Mane, Rashid Khan, defending champion Yuvraj Singh Sandhu and former champion Honey Baisoya, participating in the event.



We're determined to win WC for fans: Kohli

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Celebrated Virat Kohli says he and his teammates are ready to give their best in the upcoming ODI World Cup at home to make the dreams of Indian fans come true once again.

The Men in Blue won the World Cup twice, with their last success coming in 2011 when the competition was jointly hosted by India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

India defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, under the leadership of Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

But Kohli is now eager to end their 12-year-long wait for the title, having missed out on winning the 2015 and 2019 editions in Australia-New Zealand and England, respectively.

"The passion and unwavering support of our fans is what fuels our determination to win the World Cup," Kohli told Star Sports.

"The memories of past World Cup victories, especially the iconic 2011 win, are etched in our hearts, and we want to create new memories for our fans.

"I am thrilled to be a part of this incredible campaign, which perfectly captures the emotions of our fans, and we're ready to give it our all to make their dreams come true," he added.

Kohli's thoughts were echoed by all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

"As a cricketer, there's nothing more motivating than knowing that millions of fans are standing behind you, cheering for your success," he said.

"This campaign reflects the deep passion and obsession of our fans to see Team India win.

"It's a journey we're embarking on together with the entire nation, and we're determined to make our fans proud with our performances on the field."

Fascinating how Pant's impact has changed Indian keeper-batters' mindset: Gilchrist

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Rishabh Pant isn't fit to play the upcoming World Cup but former Australian ace Adam Gilchrist is still fascinated by the kind of impact that the burly keeper-batter has had in his six years with the Indian team.

Pant, who met with a horrific car accident last December, is currently doing his rehabilitation programme at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and is expected to make a comeback sometime next year.

In his absence, KL Rahul will keep wickets for India and Ishan Kishan has a good chance of playing as a specialist middle-order batter.

"I think Rishabh has inspired a lot of wicket-keeper batters around the world to play that way (he does). It is fascinating for such a young man to have such an impact that Rishabh has had and others are responding and playing in that positive manner," Gilchrist said.

Gilchrist was impressed how Kishan has shaped up despite knowing that Rahul will be the first keeper.

"They (India) are well stocked. They have got a couple of options there, obviously when KL was out with his injury, Ishan Kishan took his opportunity



and played really well and now they find themselves in the team together so that's a wonderful case of taking an opportunity," said the man who won three World Cups for Australia.

What Gilchrist found laudable was Kishan's ability to force the selectors to keep him in the mix with consistent performances.

"Being positive and then and forcing the selectors into keeping you in the team so it seems like KL is gonna be the one who is going to continue with the gloves but it does not

seem to hinder Ishan Kishan's batting, he seems to be playing really well, carefree, attacking and dangerous," he explained.

The man, who played nearly 400 international games across three formats, with 15,000 plus runs and over 900 dismissals (catches and stumpings), however had straight forward choices as far as four potential semi-finalists were concerned.

"I think India and Pakistan could feature in the semi-finals, Australia and England are another two teams," opined Gilchrist.

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Hours of net sessions perfecting the art of getting the ball to dart in the air and then deviate away after pitching paid dividends while bamboozling Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka, India's man of the moment Mohammed Siraj, said after his magical spell of 6/21 in the Asia Cup final.

Siraj dismissed Pathum Nissanka, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya De Silva in his second over before returning to clean up Lankan skipper Dasun Shanaka with a peach of a delivery.

"I had practised a lot on generating out-swing deliveries from wide of the crease in West Indies. My outswingers were going well. So I tried from the wide of the crease to push for inswing (which will move away after pitching)," Siraj told bcci.Tv.

"So what I planned, what I had in mind, it turned out to be absolutely perfect and it was my best wicket of the game," Siraj said in an interaction with Indian teammate Kuldeep Yadav. With less than a month to go for the World Cup, Siraj said his spell in the Asia Cup Final would give him a lot of confidence heading into the mega event.

"It's a great achievement for me, especially since it's the final. It will help me gain a lot of confidence before the (ODI) World Cup," he said. "To be honest, it was a magical spell, as I had

Practised a lot to generate outswingers from wide of the crease: Siraj



never dreamt about it. I had to struggle hard to gain the fifth wicket in the last ODI against Lanka in Trivandrum, which never came. But, it all worked out today (Sunday).

"In my first spell, the moment I saw I was able to swing the ball, I realised that I didn't need to hit the wicket. I

just intended on bowling at a particular spot and make the ball talk."

While Siraj grabbed the Man of the Match award on Sunday, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep took home the Man of the Tournament prize.

Kuldeep finished the event as India's second-highest wick-

et-taker, with nine scalps in four innings at an average of 11.44 and an economy of 3.61. His best figures were 5 for 25 against Pakistan.

"I don't think a lot; I just read the wicket. It's very important for me to get the length right, and keep bowling at the good length," he said.

"I also read the batter, as to what shot is he trying to play. I have been efficiently using my wrong one and flipper, and I'm gaining a lot of confidence from it. "I have worked a lot (on the wrong'un) in the last one and a half years. The rhythm is something that breaks off quite often and takes time to get it back."

Southee will be given every chance to prove his fitness: Stead



PTI ■ LONDON

New Zealand pace ace Tim Southee will be given every chance to prove his fitness ahead of the World Cup in India next month, head coach Gary Stead has said.

Southee broke a bone in his right thumb while attempting to take a catch in the fourth ODI against England last week.

Stead said a call on the 34-year-old will be taken after the seamer consults specialists at home.

"Until then, we can't make a call around the World Cup. We'll just need to understand the time frames and what that

looks like and once we have that information, we will then be able to move forward and make a decision."

"We'll want to give Tim every chance of proving his fitness. There will be an element of the unknown being that it's a bone fracture, and at some stage he will have to start catching balls and bowling again.

"The healing process in the next 10 to 12 days will be pretty important for him as well," Stead told reporters.

The Black Caps, who went down 1-3 in the ODIs against England, have flown to Bangladesh for a three-match ODI series, starting Thursday.

They will take on Pakistan and South Africa in the World Cup warm up matches on September 29 and October 2 respectively before playing the tournament opener against England on October 5.

Southee, who featured the last time the tournament was held in India in 2011, will be playing in his fourth ODI World Cup.

Nortje, Magala uncertain for WC

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South African fast bowlers Anrich Nortje and Sisanda Magala's availability for the upcoming ODI World Cup in India will be determined this week following a fitness test.

The duo was named in South Africa's initial 15-member squad for the World Cup, but played only one game each in the just-concluded five-match ODI series against Australia.

While Nortje has sustained a lower-back injury, Magala is nursing a left-knee problem. South Africa is set to leave for India on September 23 and final call on the duo's availability will be taken before the journey.

But going by early indication, both quicks are likely to miss the bus.

"We are continually taking stock as to where both of those players are," South Africa's white-ball coach Rob Walter was quoted as saying by 'ESPNcricinfo' after the 3-2 series win over Australia.

"The fact that they weren't

playing today with a week to go before we board the plane for the World Cup is obviously a cause for concern. We would have wanted them out there. There are complications around taking players that are injured into a World Cup because then you have to provide a medical reason to be swapped out."

In case both Nortje and Magala are ruled out, South Africa is likely to call up Andile Phehlukwayo in the World Cup-bound squad.

"Andile is one of a couple of guys who are part of a broader squad and today he showed us, especially with the bat, what we have seen in terms of his capability," Walter said.

"That knock, you can look at it, and say it was match influencing. A total of 270 looks different to a total of 315 and he was a massive role-player in that.

He took an important wicket with the ball as well. I am very happy that Andile was able to deliver that performance today."

Head to miss first half of World Cup



PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

A fracture in the left hand has ruled out Australia batter Travis Head from the first half of the World Cup in India with his participation in the rest of the tournament also uncertain, leaving the door open for the inclusion of in-form Marnus Labuschagne.

The opener was struck on the left glove by a short delivery from Proteas seamer Gerald Coetzee in the fourth ODI against South Africa last week.

Head coach Andrew McDonald revealed that Head, who will miss the three-match ODI series against India beginning on Friday, doesn't require


surgery but the Australian selectors need to deliberate on the risk of "carrying" him in the World Cup squad.

"The timeframe is still a bit loose at the moment but the good news is he doesn't require surgery as it sits at the moment. There will be an extended period of time out and we've just got to weigh up whether that time (out) falls with an option to carry him through the front half of the World Cup," McDonald said.

"There's no doubt he won't be available for the front half, so that's a decision we'll have to make for the final 15. But I can't give you an exact time frame."

The World Cup starts on

October 5 with the final scheduled for November 19.



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