

OPINION 6
CONGRESS GEARS UP
FOR ELECTIONS

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PLANES TOWARDS TAIWAN

MONEY 10
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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 pass 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,



Old and new Parliament Houses in New Delhi on Monday

the then Editor of *The Pioneer*, 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.



Unveiling ‘Statue of Oneness’ would be with full dignity

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the unveiling programme of “Statue of Oneness” in Omkareshwar on 21st September should be organised with full dignity, grandeur and divinity. All the prominent sages and saints of the country participating in the programme should be accorded traditional welcome. In view of the rainy season, the district administration should be especially sensitive and alert regarding the venue and traffic arrangements and do point-wise planning. Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the preparations for the unveiling programme of the Statue of Oneness at Ekatm Dham

located at Omkareshwar in the office building Samatvain Bhopal. Culture Minister Usha Thakur, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains attended the meeting virtually. Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture Ashok Varnwal, Principal Secretary Culture Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary Energy Sanjay Dubey and other officers were present in Samatva Bhawan. Indore Divisional Commissioner and Khandwa Collector joined the meeting virtually. **Sadhus and saints will be welcomed according to the religious traditions of Kerala** Chief Minister Chouhan will welcome the Sadhus and saints as per the religious traditions of Kerala on

21st September at 11 am. After this, offerings will be made in the Vedic Yagya ritual by the Chief Minister and revered saints. On this occasion, along with the performances of dances of Shaiva tradition by artists from across the country, there will be presentation of Panchayatana puja tradition promoted by Acharya by artists of Indian performing styles. CM Chouhan and revered saints will unveil the Statue of Oneness and perform bhoomi and shila puja of Advaita Lok. CM Chouhan and the revered saints will offer floral tributes at the feet of the Statue of Oneness amidst chanting of Vedas and blowing of conch shells by a total of 101 batukas. After this, Chief Minister Chouhan along

with saints and dignitaries will leave for Brahmotsav. **Saint Vimarsh and Chief Minister’s address will be held in Brahmotsav** It was informed that Brahmotsav will be held at Siddhavarkoot. In this, Shankar Sangeet Vedochhar, group dance presentation “Shivoham” focused on the sources of Acharya Shankar and release of books based on “Ekatm Dham” and Advaita Yuva Jagran Shivir published by Acharya Shankar Cultural Unity Trust will be done. In the Brahmotsav there will also be a screening of the film “Ekatma Ki Yatra”. There will be dialogue of saints and address of Chief Minister Chouhan in the afternoon. In the Brahmotsav there will be a

gathering of about 5 thousand saints, sages and dignitaries. **Havan is being performed by Vedic priests** Before the unveiling of the idol, Vedic ritual worship and 21 Kundiya Havan are being performed by Swami Brahondrananda of Uttarkashi and 32 Sannyasis on Mandhata Parvat under the guidance of Prasthanatray Bhashya Parayan and Dakshinamnaya Shringeri Sharda Peeth by about 300 renowned Vedic Archaks of the country. The unveiling of the Statue of Oneness and the bhoomi and shila puja of Advaita Lok will be organised under the guidance of Dakshinamnaya Shringeri Sharda Peeth.



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during BJP's Jan Ashirwad Yatra in Sironj, Vidisha district Madhya Pradesh on Monday. Pioneer Photo

Relief from heavy rains in MP, relief works on

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Rainfall creating havoc has taken breather in the state but only after damaging and making situation worse at several places in the state. All small and big rivers including Narmada, Shipra, Kalisindh, Chambal have swollen and many villages of Indore, Ujjain, Mandasaur, Dhar, Barwani districts have turned into islands. Eight people were washed away after a pond burst in Bahadur Pada village of Jhabua on Sunday, 3 bodies have been found. Another strong system is forming in the Bay of Bengal. Due to its activation, there are chances of heavy rain again in the state from September 22. Two more gates of Bargi Dam were closed in Jabalpur on

Water is still being released into Narmada by keeping the three gates of the dam open for half a metre

Monday. Water is still being released into Narmada by keeping the three gates of the dam open for half a metre. On Friday, 13 gates of Bargi Dam were opened. Holiday was declared in schools and Anganwadis of Indore, Ujjain, Ratlam and Mandasaur districts. Mortakka Bridge on Indore-Khandwa Highway has been damaged due to floods in Narmada River. Flood water continued to flow up to 10 feet on the 900 metre long bridge. Indore-Khandwa road is

closed for two days. NHAI Indore Project Director Sumesh Banjal said that the engineering college team will investigate the condition of the bridge. Vehicular movement will start after repairs. Due to heavy rains for 6 days, 15 districts have come out of the red zone. At present Bhopal, Guna, Ashoknagar, Damoh, Satna, Rewa, Sidhi and Singrauli districts are included in the Red Zone. Bhopal, Damoh and Singrauli are on the verge of exiting the Red Zone. Madhya Pradesh came out of the drought situation due to extremely heavy rains across the state for the last three days. So far, an average of 35.33 inches of rain has fallen, whereas it should have been 35.64 inches. Indore, Ujjain, Dhar, Jhabua,

Alirajpur, Barwani, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Khargone, Katni, Raisen, Chhindwara, Seoni, Niwari, Dewas, Ratlam, Bhind, Sheopur Kalan, Harda, Betul and Anuppur districts have received more than normal rainfall. Tikamgarh, Jabalpur, Mandla, Dindori, Shivpuri, Sagar, Agar-Malwa, Morena and Shahdol districts have received more than 90 percent rainfall than normal. Satna, Ashoknagar, Rewa and Sidhi districts have received the least rainfall. Moderate to heavy rain would be witnessed in Neemuch, Mandasaur and Ratlam. Light rain would be witnessed in Jhabua, Alirajpur, Dhar, Barwani, Khargone, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Shivpuri, Morena, Anuppur, Rewa, Sidhi and Singrauli.

IIFM organises Hindi fortnight

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) successfully organized “Hindi Pakhwada” from September 1 to September 14, 2023. The event observed enthusiastic participation from both the institute’s employees and students. During the fortnight, the Hindi cell of the institute organized a wide range of competitions, including Hindi essay writing, Hindi linguistics, Hindi message composition, Hindi speech, Hindi typing, Hindi noting, and drafting. A significant highlight of this celebration was the observance of “Hindi Diwas” on September 14, 2023. On this occasion, a lively debate competition and essay writing competition were held, focusing on the theme “Pragati Moolam Prakriti.” These events were tailored to promote the

Hindi fortnight

Hindi language among the students, and they witnessed overwhelming participation, demonstrating the students’ affection for “Hindi” language. On this occasion, Dr. K. Ravichandran, Director, IIFM, expressed the institute’s unwavering commitment to achieving the targets outlined by the Department of Official Language. He emphasized the institute’s enthusiasm for hosting such events on a grand scale. He said, “Over the past fortnight, the Hindi Cell has successfully organized a variety of competitions and activities dedicated to promoting the use of ‘Rajbhasha’ (official language). The Hindi Cell deserves commendation for their commendable efforts in this regard”. Recognition of outstanding performances in these competitions, Dr. K. Ravichandran felicitated the winners with cash prizes and certificates.

Managing Trustee reviews preparations for free urology camp at Sewa Sadan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Managing Trustee of Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital LC Janiyani reviewed pre arrangements made for 98th Free Urology camp being organised in SSEH from September 23rd, 2023 here on Monday. It was told in the meeting that the arrangement of required medicines, surgical items and Blood Units have already been made. Permission of organizing Urology camp from the Health department have also been obtained. Lodging and boarding arrangements of urology surgeons and paramedical staff is done. Maintenance and Fumigation of operation theatre have been done. Volunteers in adequate numbers are deployed for pre and post operative care of the patients. In view to facilitate urology patients, registration procedure is

It was told in the meeting that the arrangement of required medicines, surgical items and Blood Units have already been made

simplified. Patients can now register their names on mobile no. 6260392547 till September 22, 2023 by 11 AM to 5 PM except Sundays. L.C. Janiyani said that Paramhansa Sant Hirdaram Sahib ji had shown us path of service. Rev. Siddh Bhauji is now moving forward on the same path. He told that one who is blessed can only get an opportunity of service of poor and down trodden. Members of core group, volunteers and employees of SSEH were present in the review meeting.



A coach of Bhopal Metro unloaded at Subhash Nagar depot ahead of its trial run, in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Scientists unravel genetic composition of the Amla plant

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal (IISER-Bhopal), have, for the first time, unravelled the draft genome of the Indian gooseberry plant, popularly known as Amla. Understanding the genetic composition of Amla can help us understand their origins, evolution, and how they create the biochemicals that are of medicinal value. The team, led by Dr Vineet Sharma, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, includes Shruti Mahajan, Manohar Singh Bisht, and Abhisek Chakraborty from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal. Amla is a well-known plant indigenous to South Asian countries and has been used

Amla is a well-known plant indigenous to South Asian countries and has been used in traditional Indian and Chinese medicine and home remedies

in traditional Indian and Chinese medicine and home remedies for centuries. The stone-fruit of the Amla tree is believed to have high Vitamin C content, in addition to being a rich source of various phytochemicals, minerals, and amino acids. Amla has been thought to be effective in treating conditions like unhealthy levels of fat, type

2 diabetes, chronic gum diseases, symptomatic knee osteoarthritis, and more. While Amla holds significant pharmaceutical and nutritional importance, its genetic composition has hitherto not been studied in detail. Explaining the technical approach of the IISER Team, the lead researcher Dr Vineet Sharma, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal, said: “We analysed the genome and transcriptome of the amla plant using leaves from our campus. We employed advanced sequencing technologies, including 10x Genomics and Oxford Nanopore Technology (ONT) long-read sequencing, along with transcriptomic sequencing.”

Apart from obtaining the draft genome structure of the Amla for the first time, the researchers also identified genes responsible for vitamin C biosynthesis and compared them with genes in other plants that bear vitamin C-rich fruits. The team found that Amla’s exceptional antioxidant power comes from the adaptive evolution of certain genes involved in the production of antioxidants like vitamin C and flavonoids. Amla’s abundant vitamin C content and the remarkable capacity of each tree to yield up to 100 kg of fruits make it superior to other vitamin C-rich fruits such as the West Indian cherry from Mexico and the camu camu fruit found in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela and makes it a perfect choice for switching from the synthetic to a natural source of Vitamin C.

AIIMS organizes one day free Medical Camp at Ashok Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A one-day free medical camp on Sunday was organized by Dr. Krishna Pal Singh Yadav, Hon’ble Member of Parliament Lok Sabha, Guna at Maa Jaanki Mandir, Karila Dham, Ashoknagar. Under the guidance of Prof Dr Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal, a team of 12 doctors from AIIMS Bhopal was sent to the camp to serve the patients. A team of 12 doctors from AIIMS Bhopal participated in the camp, 1633 patients registered for the health camp. The health checkup of patients was conducted by doctors of many different specialties during the whole day camp. The following doctors provided patient care during the camp - Dr. Moorat Singh Yadav, Associate Professor, Department of General Surgery, Dr. Vipin Kharade, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiotherapy, Dr. Amol Mittal, Senior Resident, Department of

A team of 12 doctors from AIIMS Bhopal participated in the camp. 1633 patients registered for the health camp

Neurosurgery, Dr. Sonali Barik, Senior Resident, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Hemraj, Senior Resident, Department of Orthopedics, Dr. Jignesh, Senior Resident, Department of Paediatrics, Dr. Monika Chouhan, Senior Resident, Department of Dermatology, Dr. Akash Mangroli, Senior Resident, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Dr. Deepashri Tekam, Senior Resident, Department of Dentistry, and Junior Residents - Dr. Srinivas and Dr. Varshit V. The coordination of activities of the health camp was carried out by Dr Anindo Majumdar, Associate Professor, Department of Community & Family Medicine.

FIITJEE admission cum scholarship test in Vidisha

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

FIITJEE, a prominent name in empowering students for renowned competitive examinations fulfils their quest. FIITJEE carries a legacy of preparing the students for academic excellence. With this laudable purpose, It has unveiled the Big Bang Edge Test. Big Bang Edge Test is the most scientific tool tailored to furnish students with deep insights into their potential and help them make more informed and right career decisions. While other education players have unveiled similar tests, none have been able to match the level of excellence of FIITJEE. The Big Bang Edge Test is known for its comprehensive and scientific design with goal wise testing patterns, duration, quality of test papers, and analytical reports. FIITJEE Admission cum Scholarship Test Big Bang Age on October 22 and 29, 2023 in Vidisha.

30-year-old man dies after his car hits electric pole at Shahpura lake

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 30-year-old man died while his friend escaped with severe injuries after their car hit an electric pole at Shahpura Lake late in the night on Sunday. The deceased identified as Ayush Saxena was son of Assistant Director Vivek Saxena, posted in the Food Department in Bhopal while the condition of his friend Ayush Tiwari remains critical and he is undergoing treatment at Bansal Hospital. Due to the speed of the car, the electric pole it hit bent while the car was completely damaged. Last night at around 10 pm, Ayush Saxena’s friend Ayush Tiwari reached home in his Alto car to pick him up. The family members were not aware of where both of them had gone. Ayush Tiwari did not return home throughout the night, the family kept waiting. His mobile number was switched off around 2.30 in the night. In the morning, Ayush Tiwari’s family informed that both of them had an accident in front of

The family members of Ayush were not aware of where he and his friend had gone. Ayush Tiwari did not return home throughout the night, the family kept waiting

Shahpura Lake. Vivek Saxena, retired from the post of Assistant Director from the Food Department in March this year, Ayush was his only son. Ayush was working in a company named Zee Learning in Jaipur. Vivek alleged that they did not find his purse and gold chain was also missing. There is no trace of his mobile phone either. How and where did all belongings gone, while the police station is just one kilometer away from the accident spot and the house is at a distance of one and a half kilometers from here, no information was provided to the family.



Madhya Pradesh State Congress President Kamal Nath during a programme to mark the martyrdom day of Tribal leaders Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

New service of CKRT started in Nephrology department

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the series of adding new services to the AIIMS, Bhopal led by Executive Director Prof (Dr) Ajai Singh, a new form of kidney replacement therapy “Continuous Kidney Replacement Therapy” (CKRT) is added to the Department of Nephrology today. Continuous Kidney

Replacement Therapy (CKRT) is a special form of dialysis which is useful for critical patients with acute kidney injury. Dr Mahendra Atlani, Nephrologist, AIIMS, Bhopal informed that it helps in supporting kidney functions of patients who have low blood pressure, and who cannot tolerate the normal form of dialysis. It also helps patients having

brain injuries and bleeding problems in addition to kidney problems simultaneously. This therapy is started in a patient who had simultaneously the septic shock, respiratory failure and Kidney failure and he has started on Continuous Veno-Venous Hemodiafiltration (CVVHDF) with regional citrate anticoagulation. Patient is doing well and improving.

Govt succeeded in winning trust of Bastar people: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■
BIJAPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday said the government had succeeded in winning the trust of people in Bastar region.

He said that a major change had come in the lives of people of Bijapur and the entire Bastar region in recent years.

Baghel said this at a public meeting at a mini stadium here in which he inaugurated and laid foundation for development works worth Rs 457 crores.

He made a slew of announcements for the region including establishment of new paddy procurement centers in Cherpai, Vardali, Sankapalli and Papanpal villages and establishing new



primary schools in Madepur and Jarpalli.

He also announced that the District Hospital at Bijapur

will be renamed after Mahadev Rana and the Usur

“A major change had come in the lives of people of Bijapur and the entire Bastar region in recent years”

square, at Awapalli in Bijapur district, will be renamed as Nagul Dorla square.

An announcement of naming the new Government Model College at Javanga (Gedam) after Veerangana Masak Devi Nag was also made.

Chakradhar festival in Raigarh from today

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The three-day 38th Chakradhar Festival will begin on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district from on Tuesday.

The festival will be dedicated to art and culture such as sitar music, Kathak, Bharat Natyam, patriotic songs, Chhattisgarhi folk music and more.

Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel will preside over the opening programme.

A special performance will be presented by Indira Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh, on the concluding day.



C'garh begins organic product's certification

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

In view of the immense potential of organic farming, the Indian government is promoting the certification of organic products.

For this, the Chhattisgarh Certification Society India for Forestry and Agriculture (CGCERT) is carrying out the work of organic certification of agricultural products, minor forest produce products, processed products and more, an official communiqué said on Monday.

The CGCERT certifies organic products as per the National Organic Production Programme.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, V. Srinivas Rao, said CGCERT monitors the organic production, processing, selling or handling activities in



accordance with the organic standards.

For the certification process, interested parties can find information on

CGCERT's website, www.cgcert.com. To get an application, they can send an email to cgcert@gmail.com or visit the CGCERT office.

CM opens garment factory in Bijapur

STAFF REPORTER ■
BIJAPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday inaugurated a multi-product manufacturing government factory in Itpal village in Maoist-hit Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

The plant accommodates a garment factory, set up with an investment of over Rs 6.90 crores.

The Chief Minister also inspected the factory and interacted with the women workers.

The main source of livelihood of the villagers living in Bijapur district is agriculture and forest resources. In view of the migration of rural people to other states for work, the Bijapur administration



decided to establish the garment factory.

Counseling of 800 women to work in the factory was

started and training was given to 200 beneficiaries. In June,

The Chief Minister flagged off the first batch of products ready for the market from the factory

the management signed a five-year contract with Dixcy Co and started production in the District Project Livelihood College with 70 women.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister flagged off the first batch of products ready for the market from the factory.



A glimpse from the two-day fourth and final meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group under the Indian Presidency, which began in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on Monday.

Chhattisgarh Mahtari a symbol of pride: CM



STAFF REPORTER ■
BIJAPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Monday that the Chhattisgarh Mahtari is a symbol of the state's identity, honour and pride.

“The Chhattisgarh government is dedicated to promoting the state's art and culture,” he said.

He said this at an event in which he unveiled the statue of

the Chhattisgarh Mahtari at the Collectorate office premises in Bijapur district.

He said: “Meaningful initiatives like the Tribal Dance Festival, Rejuvenation of Devgudi and Adivasi Parab Samman Nidhi have been taken to honour the tribal community.

“Initiatives are also being taken to celebrate Chhattisgarh's traditional festivals on a large scale.”

Durg Bandh over killing of Sikh man

STAFF REPORTER ■
BHILAI

A bandh was observed on Monday over the death of a 32-year-old man from the Sikh community who was thrashed by a group of men last week in Durg district in Chhattisgarh.

Business establishments were shut in Durg and Bhilai cities till late afternoon during the bandh called by the Chhattisgarh Sikh Panchayat.

Four persons were arrested and a teenage boy was detained on Saturday for beating Malkeet Singh alias Veeru to death in Khursipar area.

The bandh, supported by the BJP and the Chamber of Commerce, was observed from 9 am to 2 pm.

The body of the deceased is in a hospital in Raipur as his family has refused to cremate the remains demanding a government job for his



widow and compensation of Rs 20 lakh, said Arvind Singh Khurana, president of the Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha (Durg).

Durg collector Pushpendra Singh Meena said the district administration has offered Rs 5 lakh and a contractual job in the government to a family member of the deceased but the family is yet to accept them.

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Authorized Officer - Swapnil Pandey | Contact Number - 7776067773



APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (ii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iii) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 10th October 2023 as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i), due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited).

S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Date and Amount	(ii) Name Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s)	(iii) PROPERTY ADDRESS	(iv) Reserve Price Amount	(v) EMD Amount	(vi) Date and Time of Auction	(vii) Date and Time of EMD Auction	(viii) Date and time of Inspection
1	INR 45,33,657.54/- Demand Notice Dated: 05-10-2018	Paresh Bakshi & Neelam Bakshi	Plot No. 15, 16 & 17, KH No. 477/19, P.C.No. 14/19, Durg, Chhattisgarh-491001	INR 33,54,170/-	INR 3,35,417/-	10th October 2023 11.00 TO 1.00 PM	9th October 2023	4th October 2023 11.00 TO 5.00 PM
2	INR 12,37,583.55/- Demand Notice Dated: 16-05-2019	Kamlesh Kaushal & Heena Koushal	Plot No. 4 & 5, Sai City Kh No. 20 & 117/2, Part, Ph No. 08, Bhilai - 3 Mouja - Sankara, Tehsil - Patan, Dist - Durg, (C.G), Durg, Chhattisgarh - 491001	INR 10,36,800/-	INR 1,03,680/-	10th October 2023 11.00 TO 1.00 PM	9th October 2023	4th October 2023 11.00 TO 5.00 PM
3	INR 16,71,028.33/- Demand Notice Dated: 29-07-2019	Mahavir Jain & Deepak Jain	Plot No. 37, Kh No. 482/ 1, Ph No. 19, Mouja - Kurud, B/H Rungta Collage, Teh & Dist - Raipur (CG)-492001	INR 15,59,160/-	INR 1,95,916/-	10th October 2023 11.00 TO 1.00 PM	9th October 2023	4th October 2023 11.00 TO 5.00 PM
4	INR 27,74,756.19/- Demand Notice Dated: 09-12-2019	Sunil Kumar Singh & Sapna Kaushlesh Singh	Part of Kh no - 179/24, situated at Dagniya, D.C. No. - 104, R/(Raipur-), Tehsil and Dist). Raipur (C.G.)-492001	INR 14,58,000/-	INR 1,45,800/-	10th October 2023 11.00 TO 1.00 PM	9th October 2023	4th October 2023 11.00 TO 5.00 PM
5	INR 22,06,885.10/- Demand Notice Dated: 20-05-2021	Mr. Mohammed Hanif & Mrs. Seeyda Bano	All That Part And Parcel Of The Mouja-Kurud, P.H.No. 14/19, Part Of Kharsa No. 477/17, R.N.M-Durg-1, Tah & Dist Durg, Chhattisgarh And Measuring North 60.9 Feet, South 60.09 Feet, East 33.8 Feet, West 33.8 Total Area 191.26 Sq. Mtrs. And Bounded:- East: 25 Feet Rasta, West: Land Of Mannu Lal, North: Property Of Kanihiya Lal Patwa, Part Of Plot No. 08 & South: Land Of Pramod Verma	INR 6,66,800/-	INR 66,680/-	10th October 2023 11.00 TO 1.00 PM	9th October 2023	4th October 2023 11.00 TO 5.00 PM
6	INR 56,79,166.07/- Demand Notice Dated: 11-04-2021	Devraj Kishore Das & Ghanashyam Kishore Das	Property-1-All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 25, 26 And Part Of 27, Admeasuring (1200 + 1080 + 520 = 2800 Sq. Ft.), P.C. No. 14/19, Kh. No. 483/2, Vill. Khurud Dist Durg Cg, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 491001, And Bounded As:- East: 25 Feet Passage, West: Plot No. 24, North: Plot No. 29 And Part Of Plot No. 27 & South: 25 Feet Passage Property-2-All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 24, 29 And 30, Admeasuring (1089.82 + 1000 + 1111.03 = 3200.85 Sq. Ft.), P.C. No. 14/19, Kh. No. 483/2, Vill. Khurud Dist Durg Cg, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 491001, And Bounded As:- East: Plot No. 28 And Part Of Plot No. 27 And Plot No. 25, West: Land Of Roongta, North: 25 Feet Passage & South: 25 Feet Passage	INR 9,07,200/-	INR 90,720/-	10th October 2023 11.00 TO 1.00 PM	9th October 2023	4th October 2023 11.00 TO 5.00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.
Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Date : 19.09.2023

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited)

Rajya Sabha pays tributes to architects of Constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Monday paid tributes to architects of the Constitution saying it has stood the test of time with Leader of the House Piyush Goyal stating Parliament upholds democracy. Highlighting the contribution of Congress in laying the foundation of Constitution, the party claimed the ruling BJP combine was harassing the Opposition by using agencies like the Enforcement Directorate or Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Opposition members also hit out at the Government, accusing it of indulging in majoritarianism and defying the tenets of parliamentary democracy.

Various political parties including the BJP, Congress and others also called for passing the women's reservation bill while discussing the 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.

Initiating the discussion, Goyal underlined the contributions made towards strengthening parliamentary democracy by various chairmen of the Upper House, including Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Zakir Husain,

Shankar Dayal Sharma, Kocheril Raman Narayanan, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Mohammad Hamid Ansari, M Venkaiah Naidu and Dhankhar.

Goyal said the Rajya Sabha is a witness to enlightening debates and the House always functioned by evolving consensus despite difference of opinion. He urged the members to maintain decorum and uphold the dignity of the house.

He also said the Rajya Sabha has all along maintained the principle of agree to disagree despite difference of opinion and stressed the opposition's role of keeping the government in check.

In his opening remarks in Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said the hallowed precincts of Parliament for years have witnessed highs and lows, which need to be reflected and deliberated upon so as to take the country to its rightful place in 2047, when it celebrates the centenary of its independence.

"The honourable members' use of wit, humour, sarcasm and even acerbic comments inside Parliament are an important, inalienable facet of a vigorous democracy. These days we do not get to hear such light-hearted exchanges. Hopefully, we will see the revival of wit, humour and scholarly debates," the Chairman said.

Meanwhile, Goyal said while the elected MPs have made big contributions to strengthen democracy, the nominated Rajya Sabha members have also given their best.

Leader of the House also recalled the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, the process for which started in the Upper House. The legislations concerning "triple talaq" and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) too figured prominently in his nearly 40-minute speech.

While most of Goyal's speech focused on the achievements of the 75-year journey of India's parliamentary democracy and the last nine years of the Narendra Modi government, he also highlighted certain memories, such as Emergency, the 2001 Parliament terror attack, the cash-for-votes scam and the parliamentary proceedings associated with the creation of the state of Telangana. He said India showed democracy is invincible after the terror attack on Parliament.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader noted that the opposition has a key role to play in keeping the government in check and said Parliament is an institution to keep democracy alive. Goyal called upon the Members of Parliament to work towards women empowerment and making India a corruption-free, developed



country.

Starting his speech, Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge requested the chairman to revoke the suspension of two Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) members -- Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha -- at a time when the House is holding the session and moving into the new Parliament building.

Kharge said constitution is the bedrock of Indian democracy and highlighted the role of his party in laying the sound foundation for it. He then quipped the Congress worked to strengthen democratic institutions over 70 years and have an inclusive society. The Congress leader also said constitution provided for adult franchise.

Claiming that the ruling BJP combine was targeting Opposition by using investigative agencies like the

Enforcement Directorate (ED), Kharge charged the government was trying to weaken the strong opposition through these means.

He asked the government what did it achieve by shifting the parliamentary proceedings to a new building. "Badalna hai to halat badlo, aise naam badalne se kya hota hai. Dena hein to yuva ko rozgar do, sab ko berozgar karke kya hota hai. Dil ko thoda bada karke dekho, logon ko marne se kya hota hai. Kuch kar nahi sakte ho, kursi chor do, baat baat mein darane se kya hota hai."

"Apni hukumrani par guroor hai, logon ko darane se dhamkane se kya hota hai. Badalna hai to halat badlo, aise naam badalne se kya hota hai. Yahan se wahan jane mein kya aur honewala hai," the Congress leader said.

He took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

said he rarely participates in the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha adding erstwhile Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru always honoured difference of opinion and the role of the opposition.

Kharge said former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee gave 21 speeches in the House during his term, while Manmohan Singh gave about 30 speeches. "The current prime minister spoke only twice, leaving aside the customary speeches, in the last nine years," he added.

The Congress leader urged the government to address issues like rising unemployment and inflation warning joblessness poses danger to democracy. He also questioned Prime Minister Modi's silence on Manipur. Kharge said the Prime Minister is yet to visit the north-eastern state witnessing turmoil for the last three months or so.

Kharge also expressed concern over the passage of several bills in a manner faster than the "bullet train", without referring to parliamentary standing committees. He urged the government to bring Women Reservation Bill in the parliament and said "Women Reservation Bill should come. We all tried. This issue if you (Chair) raise then they will."

Kharge highlighted the small numbers of women lawmakers in parliament, saying

they constituted only 14 per cent in both houses combined, while their number in legislative assemblies is just 10 per cent. The proportion of women MPs was just five per cent in first Lok Sabha in 1952.

Kharge told the House that the proportion of women members had risen to 28 per cent from two per cent in the US Parliament while in Britain, it jumped to 33 per cent from three per cent.

Ram Nath Thakur of JD(U) too demanded reservation for women when the lawmakers shift to the new parliament building and also demanded a special session to discuss rising inflation and remedy for it.

Taking part in the discussion, Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD) quoted the chief architect of the Constitution B R Ambedkar and said democracy also meant "preventing tyranny of the majority".

There is a need for a majority as governments cannot run without a majority but there is a "difference between majority and majoritarianism", he added.

Jose K Mani (KC(M) said, "It is an undeniable fact (that) recent years have witnessed instances of undemocratic parliamentary methods and procedures, which threatened the very essence of democracy."

Tiruchi Siva (DMK) claimed that the space for the

opposition is shrinking. "There has been a decline in the ability of Parliament to hold the government accountable... The government resorts to ordinances rather than legislation," he said.

S Niranjan Reddy (YSRCP) said as Parliament is moving to a new building, there is concern among south Indian states. "South Indian states, the more developed Indian states, are feeling that will they be outnumbered because Article 82 gives protection until 2026. Would that be balanced in some manner? We will debate it," he said.

Article 82 deals with the number of seats allotted to the House of People.

John Brittas (CPM) said according to Ambedkar, democracy is not the law of the majority but the protection of the minority. He alleged that the current government was flouting the tenets of parliamentary democracy of the accountability of the executive to the legislator.

The NCP's Praful Patel, BJP's Bhubaneswar Kalita, AGP's Birendra Prasad Baishya, TMC's Md Nadimul Haque, Congress' Shaktisinh Gohil and Rajiv Shukla, AIADMK's M Thambidurai, BRS' K Keshava Rao, AAP's Vikramjit Singh Sahney, BJD's Mamata Mohanta and GK Vasan of the TMC(M) also took part in the discussion.

PARLIAMENT TITBITS

DISRUPTION JUSTICE

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday asked the Opposition how long it plans to keep justifying disrupting the House citing past precedent and said the Congress was absent from the House when the time came for the party to put forward its view. Dhankhar was responding to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge saying the Opposition party was only taking its cue from BJP leaders when they sat on the other side of the aisle.

COPYING BJP: KHARGE

Participating in a discussion on "Parliamentary Journey of 75 Years Starting from Samvidhan Sabha - Achievements, Experiences, Memories, and Learnings", Kharge, the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, said that with its disruptions, his party was only following the example of late BJP leaders Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj when they were in Opposition. Quoting a remark from Jaitley from an Upper House proceeding on January 30, 2011, Kharge said, "The job of Parliament is to discuss. Whenever issues are ignored, creating obstacles is in the interest of the public system. Therefore, Parliamentary obstruction cannot be called undemocratic." "Swaraj too had said in the Lok Sabha, 'Not allowing Parliament to function is also a form of democracy in other words.' "When we are doing the same, we are attacked," Kharge said. The chairman responded to his remarks, saying, "Think carefully and then tell me, how long will we continue to disturb the house



based on past precedent? How long will we continue to justify the disturbance."

OFFICIALS CONTRIBUTION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday lauded the contribution of chamber attendants and officials in ensuring the smooth functioning of Parliament and also remembered journalists who have dedicated their lives to reporting the proceedings of Parliament, even without the use of the latest technology. Modi said that bidding farewell to the old Parliament building will be an even tougher task for journalists as they have been connected with the establishment more than its members. "There is a group of people who help us, elected representatives, at every stage... Sometimes they bring us papers and documents. Their contribution is no less," Modi said in Lok Sabha initiating the discussion on "Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha -- Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings". Some may have served "us tea or water, some may have ensured that no one remains hungry when House proceedings stretch into

the night", he said and also remembered House Marshals who remain alert to ensure no mistake creeps in during parliamentary proceedings. "Their contribution too has improved the quality of governance. I extend my compliments to them and those who have served in the past," he said on the first day of the five-day session of Parliament. There are some who have ensured the upkeep of Parliament's surroundings while some have maintained cleanliness, Modi said. "There are countless people who have ensured that the ambience and systems are in place to help us discharge our duties in a better way," Prime Minister Modi said.

MMS ALL EARS

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh attended Rajya Sabha proceedings in a wheelchair while MPs from K Chandrashekar Rao's BRS displayed posters in bright pink colour in the Rajya Sabha. The 90-year-old frail-looking Singh sat quietly for exactly an hour, listening to Leader of the House and Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Leader of the Opposition and Congress president M Mallikarjun Kharge speak on a discussion on

75 years of parliamentary journey. Congress MPs, including former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram, greeted Singh with folded hands as they passed by. As the session started, MPs from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi, formerly known as Telangana Rashtira Samithi, stood up holding posters demanding passage of the Women's Reservation Bill. BRS leader K Keshava Rao rose to speak holding a poster in bright pink colour. When his party colleagues too stood up displaying similar posters, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar warned of action if any MP violated the rules by displaying posters. At this, Rao and his party colleagues quickly folded up the posters, and Dhankhar said they will be given an opportunity to speak on the issue.

SOUND EFFECT

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien said his microphone was turned off suddenly in middle of speech during the discussion on 75 years of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, and the House was adjourned. "What happened in the Old Parliament building today was sad. I was the last speaker today

from the Opposition, my party Trinamool Congress was given 18 minutes to speak. Then I was told I would only get a chance to speak for 10 minutes. Suddenly at 10 minutes to six, in the middle of my speech, I was stopped and the House was adjourned," he told after the adjournment.

"We are talking about 75 years of democracy, we should have such a day spoilt by censorship. I was not allowed to conclude my speech, so I have come here to the Gandhi statue to speak," he said. "Give me my India where I can eat what I want, where I can speak in Parliament, where I can love who I want. Give me back my India where unity and diversity is not just an empty phrase but a belief, a way of life..." he said. "They have mocked and undermined Parliament and they did it again today," he said.

SPEAKERS LINED UP

For the Joint Session address on Tuesday, first Vice President Dhankar will speak, followed by Prime Minister Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Leader of House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal, Leader of Congress (largest opposition party) in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Kharge. Those invited to be the first speakers are BJP member former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi for holding record number woman representative in Lok Sabha, former PM Manmohan Singh longest serving Rajya Sabha MP and JMM leader former Union Minister Shibui Soren for holding the record of longest tenure together in both the Houses of Parliament.

Induction into CBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The CBI has inducted Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Gaurav Singh as Superintendent of Police in the agency.

A 2012-batch IPS officer of Maharashtra cadre, Singh has been inducted in the agency for five years, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

In another order, it said the deputisation tenure of Manoj Verma has been extended by one year in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Verma, the second-in-command in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), is currently working as an SP in the CBI.

His tenure has been extended from August 28, 2023 to August 27, 2024, the order said.

The Centre has also approved the "extension/regularisation" of the deputisation of two Deputy Inspectors General - Keshav Ram Chaurasia and Prem Kumar Gautam - who were associated with the inquiry and investigating the coal blocks allocation cases.

Gautam is a 2005-batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre and Chaurasia belongs to the 2003 batch.

Gautam's tenure has been extended/regularised from January 28, 2019 to September 30, 2023 and Chaurasia's tenure from June 7, 2016 to August 25, 2023, it said citing a direction from Supreme Court in this connection.

TDP, YSRCP trade barbs in Lok Sabha over Naidu's arrest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the TDP and the YSRCP traded barbs in the Lok Sabha on Monday as Telugu Desam Party MP Jayadev Gala raised the issue of the arrest of his party chief and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Gala accused the ruling YSRCP in the state of indulging in vendetta politics and said it was a black day for democracy when the TDP leader was arrested.

He was participating in the discussion on Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha -- Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings.

"Today we see an unblemished senior leader being arrested with political incarceration. It is a black day for democracy and in the history of Andhra Pradesh," Gala said, adding, "I wish to inform the prime minister and the home minister on how laws are being violated in the State".

Gala demanded that the TDP chief be released at the earliest. Responding to his comments, YSRCP member PV Midhun Reddy said that a notice has been served by the Income Tax department and the ED has found a money trail.

US delegation meets iDEX-DIO team at IIT-D

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



As Indian defence industry is witnessing increasing participation of start-ups using latest technology, a US delegation led by Under Secretary (Research and Engineering), Department of Defence Heidi Shyu, met a team of Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) under Ministry of Defence at Inidna Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi on Monday.

Giving details here, defence ministry officials said Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Production) and Additional CEO of DIO Anurag Bajpai presented an overview on iDEX to the US delegation, explaining how the initiative is revolutionising the defence innovation ecosystem in India.

He highlighted how iDEX is fostering innovation, in critical domains like Artificial Intelligence (AI), unmanned solutions, domain awareness, communications, space, cybersecurity etc. He brought out how technologies developed by iDEX winners are acting as force multipliers for the Services and the innovators are beginning to make their mark globally with their dual-use solutions.

The Joint Secretary brought out that the India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) initiative will further deepen the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial

cooperation between the two sides.

He appreciated the momentum in INDUS-X activities and informed that iDEX and Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) teams have finalised two challenges to kick start joint challenges, to be launched soon.

A showcase of select iDEX winners and defence innovation start-ups with cutting-edge dual-use technologies was organised. Deep-tech innovations including on information security and cyber security, AI/Machine Learning-based imaging, maritime technologies, wireless communication, space technologies and advanced sensors were showcased.

Heidi Shyu was highly appreciative of the start-up showcase, and the way the iDEX scheme and stakeholders have revolutionised the defence innovation ecosystem in India. She noted the rapid developments under the collaboration agenda of INDUS-X and suggested that procurement of

advanced technologies be given due consideration under INDUS-X.

iDEX, in partnership with US Department of Defence, conducted the India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) event in Washington DC on June 20-21. The initiative will expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between the start-up ecosystems, businesses and academic institutions.

The first-ever joint technology showcasing by the Indian and US start-ups generated great interest during the INDUS-X Event. The collaboration agenda under the Defence Innovation Bridge includes launch of Joint Challenges, Innovation Partnership Program, Academia partnership, Joint Innovation Fund, establishing of Testing and Certification facilities in India. The INDUS-X event found mention in the Joint Statement of the two leaders during the recent bilateral meetings.

Indian Sellers Collective trashes UN backed report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Sellers Collective, an Umbrella body of trade associations and sellers across the country, has outrightly trashed the WHO backed report "The growth of ultra-processed foods in India: An analysis of trends, issues and policy recommendations", saying that it hurts the interests of the domestic traditional food manufacturers.

The Indian Sellers Collective has alleged that the report by the WHO is a proxy report on behalf of global Cola and food MNCs who are pushing their agenda to undermine Indian traditional food and facilitate the takeover of the Indian foods market by popular foreign foods and proliferate the growth of foreign companies that make such products.

The body has also made a representation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protect their interests and initiate an investigation into

the WHO report.

In July 2023, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) had released a report classifying that aspartame, one of the world's most common artificial sweeteners is possibly carcinogenic or cancerous to humans.

Aspartame is used in diet soft drinks and remains a preferred choice for many who consider it as a healthy option vis-à-vis non sugar-free added soft beverages.

To decrease the cost of zero-sugar soft drinks and make them more accessible to Indian consumers, the WHO report in question proposes that zero-sugar carbonated drinks should not be classified under the same GST category as all carbonated drinks, which currently carry a 28% tax rate coupled with a 12% sin tax, totalling 40%.

"However, it's worth noting that in May 2023, WHO introduced new guidelines on non-sugar sweeteners (NSS). These guidelines advise against the use of NSS for weight control or reducing the risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)," said the Indian sellers Collective.

Abhay Raj Mishra, Member & National Coordinator, Indian Sellers Collective, alleged that "This WHO report contradicts its own advisory of advocating prohibition of non-sugar sweeteners, commonly found in zero-sugar carbonated drinks.

"This contradictory stance appears to push a biased narrative by the global body, suggesting an agenda to promote products from multinational corporations in the Indian market. This positioning of carcinogenic non-sugar sweeteners by WHO is clearly geared to suit the interests of a few at the cost of the health of millions of Indians."

India to soon launch flue, pneumococcal vaccination schedule

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

India may soon start a national immunization schedule for the elderly people offering flu and pneumococcal vaccines aiming to reduce the burden of respiratory infections and antimicrobial use in this susceptible population.

As a first step towards this direction, the top research body has invited researchers and research institutions to conduct studies to evaluate the effectiveness of these jabs vaccines for flu and pneumonia in reducing infections and subsequent antimicrobial use in the susceptible population.

Post Covid-19 pandemic, the impact of vaccinating the adults against vaccine-preventable diseases in terms of health, social and economic benefits is being increasingly recognized, said a scientist from the premier research body.

More so, given that the

population over 50 years is expected to represent 27 per cent of the projected population in India in 2036 out of which 13 per cent population will be over 60 years.

"Elderly people suffer from dual medical problems, i.e., both communicable as well as non-communicable diseases. A decline in immunity with age leads to increased risk of infections in the elderly like pneumococcal infection, influenza, tetanus and herpes zoster."

The upper respiratory tract infections (URTI) are among the major causes of morbidity and mortality among the elderly and are responsible for a large number of deaths and hospitalizations, he said.

Incidentally, they also account for major portion of antibiotic prescriptions especially in developing countries, thus fuelling the already ongoing crisis of antibiotic resistance, the scientist noted.

Complete preparations ahead of PM’s visit, says CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inspected the proposed visit sites of Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Monday evening and instructed the officers to complete preparations on time by launching a campaign on war footing. The PM is proposed to arrive in his parliamentary constituency (Varanasi) for a day-long visit on September 23 when he would stay here for 5-6 hours.

To check the preparations, Yogi first landed at the helipad of his own ‘dream project’ Atal Residential School set up at Karsada. The PM during his visit will formally inaugurate all such schools set up at divisional level in all the 16 divisions of the state to impart standard education to the kids of construction workers as well as orphans of Covid-19 pandemic. During his visit, the CM spent a good time visiting the smart classrooms as the first session there has already started giving admissions to boys and girls from four districts of the divisions. He inquired about the children studying there and their families and also took information about the education system being provided in the school.

He also took detailed information from the children regarding the arrangements for their accommodation, food, education etc. The CM blessed the children to study diligently and progress in life with all their might. He also instructed the officers present on the spot and the school principal to provide a high level education system to the children as per the intention of the govern-



CM Yogi Adityanath inspecting PM's public meeting site at Ganjari in Varanasi on Monday evening.

ment. During the inspection, Yogi interacted with the children in the classroom and took information about their studies. During this, the CM also examined the quality of education by questioning the children about the words written in English on the digital sign boards installed in the classrooms. During the inspection of the classroom, he was seen in the role of a teacher on the sign board. He also saw the school library and the demo of the school's design.

As many as 80 students have been admitted in the school of the age group of 6 to 14 years and they will be provided free quality education in primary, junior high school and secondary school by the state government. The school, built on 12.25 acres with a cost of Rs 66.54 crore. Among the students taking admission in the school, there are 40 boys and 40

girls. Education and boarding facilities will be free for these students. Sports and entertainment facilities will be provided to the children by the government. The CM was accompanied by three local UP Ministers Anil Rajbhar, Ravindra Jaiswal and Dayashankar Mishra ‘Dayalu’ apart from District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer Himanshu Nagpal and other officers.

Then the CM reached Ganjari in Rajatalab area where an international cricket stadium will be built. The PM will lay the foundation stone of the stadium and address a public meeting also there. It will be the first international standard stadium being constructed by the Board of Cricket Control of India (BCCI) in India and for this land has been provided by the state government. After

reaching there, the CM inspected the stage, pandal, sitting and other arrangements and asked about all the details from the Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma. MLAs Neelkanth Tiwari and Awadhesh Singh, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya and others were also present there.

Later, after the on-site inspection, the CM held a meeting at Circuit House and reviewed the development works and law and order apart from all the preparations for the PM's visit. He also offered prayers at Kaal Bhairav and Kashi Vishwanath temples. During his visit, the PM will also attend a programme at Rudraksh International Convention Centre at Sigra where he will give awards to the winners of Kashi Sansad Sanskritik Mahotsav.

CP, V-C inspect Modi’s visit site in SSU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Commissioner of Police (CP) Mutha Ashok Jain, along with Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Bihari Lal Sharma and other university officers, inspected the site on Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) campus here on Monday afternoon where during one-day visit to his parliamentary constituency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit on September 23.

During the visit, the PM may see the amazing store of rare manuscripts kept in Saraswati Bhawan Library in the university. Both the CP and V-C took stock of preparations and other arrangements. Registrar Rakesh Kumar, Chief Proctor Prof Dinesh Kumar Garg, Dr Padmakar Mishra, Prof Jitendra Kumar, Ramvijay Singh and other officials were present.

The V-C Prof Bihari Lal Sharma himself is taking stock of the entire preparations for which various committees on cleanliness and other types have been formed at the university level. Along with this, other concerned officers are



CP MA Jain, V-C Prof BL Sharma inspecting Modi's visit site on SSU campus in Varanasi on Monday.

also busy in discharging their responsibilities.

CONFERENCE OF ‘HAEMOCON’ HELD: The Indian College of Haematology and Oncology Society in association with Bharat Vikas Parishad Varuna Seva Sansthan Trust organised its 2nd national conference of ‘HAEMO-

CON, 2023’ in Cantonment area here.

In the closing session of the conference held on Saturday, the chief guest and National President of Indian Medical Association (IMA) Dr Shard Agrawal and Member, NMML, Ministry of Culture, Government of India Prof

Kamlesh P Joshipura and ex-Director, IMS, BHU Prof VP Singh jointly released a book ‘The Textbook of Clinical Hematology’.

The Fellowship was also given by the organisation to as many as 25 doctors including Dr Sharad Agrawal, IMA National President.

G20 event increased India’s reputation, says economist

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

President of Indian Economic Association (IEA) Prof Ghanshyam N Singh said that successfully hosting of the G20 event has increased the country's reputation across the world and now India has become a leader in the world. He was addressing an online National Conclave on ‘future challenges of emerging India’, organised jointly by IEA and Harishchandra Post-Graduate College (HPGC) as the chief guest. He said that at present our country is the fifth largest economy in the world but there are still both internal and external challenges for the future, for which efforts should be made to overcome through other organisations like G20. He was of the opinion that the Russia-Ukraine war should be ended through dialogue.

The Conference President of the IEA and former Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of Manipur University Prof Adya Prasad Pandey, while presenting a keynote address, said that

the biggest challenge facing emerging India is unemployment and the government can reduce it by running skill development related programmes. Along with this, he said that for sustainable and inclusive development, we will have to pay attention to rural development along with cities. He said that there should be proper utilisation of resources in the country and human values should be developed and this will reduce the problems of the country, he added.

Prof RK Upadhyay talked about two types of challenges (internal and external) facing emerging India. Among the internal challenges he talked about the population, unemployment, education and inequality and to deal with these challenges, he suggested promotion of manufacturing. He said that we can achieve demographic dividend through our increased population. Dr Manish Hindvi said that there is no economic development without an increase in income. Dr Anil Kumar Thakur said how income inequality and

crime are increasing due to unemployment.

Prof Shyam Pal said that most of the population of our country lives in villages and earn their livelihood from agriculture. The government's aim was to double the income of farmers but it could not be achieved as there is no price stability in agriculture hence the lower class is not getting the benefit of development. Dr Udhram Singh of KMCL University, Lucknow said that income inequality is increasing day by day, there is a need for labour reforms and agriculture.

Presiding over the conclave, HPGC Prof Rajnish Kunwar said that our country is facing both internal and external challenges. Under internal challenges, problems like poverty, unemployment, starvation exit and under external problems there are border disputes and country security is important and there is a need to keep the country safe. Prof AK Tomar, Chief Conference Coordinator of the IEA said that poverty and unemploy-

ment can be removed from the country by increasing public expenditure on education, health and skill development in our country, which will help in the development of the country. Prof Jagadish Singh, Regional Joint Secretary of IEA and Head of Economics department, HPGC said that our country is moving towards a five trillion dollar economy and the country is facing both internal and external problems.

Dr DK Asthana, General Secretary IEA said that everything cannot be left in the hands of the government. Technical support was provided by Dr Monika Varshney and Karunesh Ojha. Prof Shashi Jain, Dr Remmiya Rajan P, Dr Vikram Singh, Prof Ripu Daman Singh, Prof Mukulika Hitkari, Dr Vivek Singh, Dr Priya Mittal, Dr Anju Aggarwal, Dr Tarun Kumar Dwiwedi, Prof Hanuman Prasad, Prof Praveen Sharma, Dr Marutesh, Dr MS Khan, Dr Poonam Gupta, Dr Sahab Singh, Dr Rachna and Dr Archana Mudgal also participated.

Nitish can’t be trusted: Chirag

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Nitish Kumar will certainly ditch the Opposition alliance, said LJP leader Chirag Paswan while discussing Bihar politics here on Sunday.

Chirag had arrived here to console the Dalit family of which three members had been killed a couple of days ago. Son of Ram Vilas Paswan, Chirag is considered to be a prominent Dalit face in NDA.

Nitish had his eyes on the

chair of prime minister and the day he will realise that his dream will not be fulfilled while remaining a part of INDIA, he will waste no time in separating himself from the alliance and search for new partners.

His previous records say that he can go to any extent to grab power. He can join hands with the arch rival Laloo and can ditch him to garner support of the BJP on the other hand.

Time will come soon when Nitish will say good bye to the Opposition alliance, in which he had not been made even convener.

Earlier he was enthusiastically attached to INDIA, but his detachment is quite visible now on different issues. He had ditched the NDA in the past and is the time to do the same with INDIA bloc.

Nitish and Laloo have come together in Bihar to grab power at any cost even by sup-

porting ‘corruption’ of the RJD.

On being asked for his political comments, Paswan first said that it was no time to discuss politics as he had arrived here for a totally different purpose, but later attacked Nitish Kumar and Laloo family.

He also showered praises on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the success of G-20 summit. India is on a totally different platform at present, he added.

Motorcycle rally taken out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

To spread awareness amongst the residents about the air display at Sangam on October 8 a motorcycle rally was taken out from the Headquarters Central Air Command to Sangam and back. It was flagged off by Air Vice Marshal JS Mann Vayusena Medal, ACAS Ops (Offensive) and 35 air warriors participated in it with great zeal.

The air warriors interacted with the local populace and informed them about the air display over Sangam and exhorted them to witness the grand event on October 8, from 02.30 pm onwards. The rally also offered an opportunity to the youth to know about the various exciting career options in the Indian Air Force.



Workshop on bird watching and documentation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Birder lovers and wildlife enthusiasts from Lucknow, Ayodhya, Kanpur and other parts of Uttar Pradesh had a unique opportunity to interact with eminent birdwatchers and photographers and bird data scientists at the state's first workshop on bird watching and documentation organised by Bengaluru-based organisation ‘Bird Count India Collective’ here. This unique workshop was organised under the supervision of Dr Arpit Bansal- Advanced Laparoscopy and Cancer Surgeon and an acclaimed wildlife and bird photographer. A quiz was also organised at the workshop also attended by some students and teachers from SHUATS Naini. The Wildlife Institute of India members and volunteers also attended the workshop.

Addressing the gathering Dr Arpit Bansal said UP has some fascinating bird species and it calls for their proper documentation and conservation efforts. The eBird.org is one such prestigious online site on which the birdwatchers can upload all details of bird species they have spotted and clicked, besides track bird species in different states in India. “The eBird.org assisted me in organising my short birding trips at the right places. This in turn



helped me getting the picture of 1120th bird species found in India and claiming the sixth spot for spotting/clicking over 1100 bird species in India as per eBird.org. Therefore, it is very important for all the bird-watchers to regularly document the presence of bird species on sites like eBird.org, as it will help in their conservation efforts,” he pointed out.

A scientist with Bird Count India Collective Ashwin Viswanathan said birds and biodiversity in general are declining across the world. To address this India has set ambi-

tious goals of reversing this loss, and restoring ecosystems. As part of initiative State of India's Birds 2020 report was the first attempt to assess the conservation status of majority of India's bird species. It identified 101 species of high conservation concern, which require focused efforts. The report also suggests that birds that live in key habitats like open ecosystems, rivers and coasts have declines and so has the population of raptors, migratory shorebirds and ducks. Project coordinator with Bird Count India Mittal Gala said they have identified some

bird species in UP that needs high conservation efforts. These species are Indian skimmers black-bellied tern, little tern to name some. If bird-watchers regularly document the details of birds they have clicked/spotted on ebird.org or other similar sites, the data analysts will get clear picture of the bird count, their population trend, nesting sites etc and they will go a long way in conservation efforts. She also appreciated the efforts being done by Dr Bansal in highlighting the birds population in Prayagraj region.

Two youths killed in road accident

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Two youths died and one was seriously injured in a head-on collision between bikes under Chunar police station on Sunday. Yogendra Kumar (24) of Pathara Dasaundhi under Dehat Kotwali police station was going home on his bike from Chunar area via Dagmagpur when at Bargawaan village it collided with the bike of Ram Kumar (30) of Bargawaan under Chunar police station. Jy Prakash (26) of Madhupur, Sonbhadra, was sitting the pillion rider on the bike of his brother-in-law Ram Kumar at the time of the accident. On information the police admitted the injured to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared Ram Kumar and Yogendra as brought dead while Jy Prakash was referred to the Trauma Centre, Varanasi. SHO Chunar police station Sanjeev Singh said the family members of the victims had been informed.

PM'S BIRTHDAY: The birthday of PM Narendra Modi was celebrated throughout the

district on Sunday. Giving details to the media at BJP office on Sunday district president BJP Brij Bhushan Singh said that at all its Shakti Kendras workers organised the programmes and made plan for further activities. He said the party had decided to observe the birthday of the PM as ‘Seva Pakhawara’ from September 17 to October 2. It started on the birthday of Modi and will conclude on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. To make people aware about the programmes related to public welfare a bike rally was taken out under the leadership of Ram Kumar Vishwakarma, he added.

About other activities during the fortnight the BJP president said apart from blood donation on a large scale by the youth wing of the party the workers will help eligible persons to avail themselves of the benefit of different welfare schemes. The workers will find out names of the needy and ensure to easy availability of the facilities, he added. On the occasion MLAs Ratnakar

Mishra, Rama Shankar Singh Patel and Anurag Patel, chairman Zila Panchayat Raju Kanauiya, chairman Cooperative Bank Jagdeesh Singh Patel, workers Sanjay Yadav, Gyan Prakash Dubey and others were also present.

COUPLES REUNITE: Under Project Milan programme four couples reunited through the Family Counselling Centre (FCC) located at Police Lines on Sunday. The said couples were living separately due to misunderstanding over trivial issues and cases were brought to the police. The police had referred the cases to the FCC and after separate sittings the couples agreed to live together. Incharge of the centre sub-inspector Shashi Tiwari, constable Pinki Jaiswal and counsellors Nirmala Rai and Prakash Chandra along with others were present during the counselling.

INSPECTED: Executive Engineer Distribution Division-II of UP Power Corporation Rajesh Kumar while inspecting the ongoing works under Vindhya Corridor

project on Sunday asked the officials to complete the work of laying of underground cable at Vindhyachal within the stipulated time frame. The laying of underground cable IN Vindhyachal town was to be done for a length of 4.2 kilometres in four streets for which Rs 12 crore has been allocated. He said for connection to residents 32 distribution boxes were to be installed and the target was to complete the work within this month in view of Navratri Mela. During the inspection he warned to workers to speed up the work and complete it on time otherwise remain prepared to face the music.

ARRESTED: The Vindhya police on Sunday arrested an accused of enticing a minor girl away. One person had lodged a named first information report (FIR) on Sunday alleging that the accused enticed his minor daughter away.

SHO Vindhyachal Arvind Mishra took the case seriously and the girl was recovered and the accused was nabbed by the police team and sent to jail.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

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 **PTI**

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.



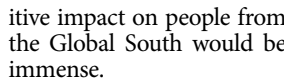
From quite early on, the Global South realised the need to build collective energies to counter the hegemonies of the Global North, and this saw the Bandung Conference in 1955 and the Non-Aligned Movement that continued to the early 1990s. With a hiatus brought about by the end of the Cold War, we see 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-



SANDEEP CHACHRA

itive impact on people from the Global South would be immense.

As a reiteration of the feminist sentiment to consign patriarchy to the dustbin of history, the Delhi Declaration has called for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. While legal frameworks for women's rights exist in most countries, achieving gender equality in social and economic spheres remains challenging. This could be the defining moment for women of the world with the G20 endorsing the vision of a feminist future.

Challenges remain. Most important is whether the agreements coming out of G20 will go beyond the symbolic and escape the subterfuge of Greenwashing and market solutions, which have proven only to benefit business owners. Symbols, rhetoric and broader participation must translate into tangible and urgent ground action. Such legacies live only when the most vulnerable see them realised.

(The writer is executive director of Action Aid Association. Views are personal)

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

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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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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 wade through the swaths 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



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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)

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 fis-

cal 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

database would have to be created and maintained to ensure that electoral rolls are accurate, reflecting the dynamic demographic changes of a nation with a population of over 1.3 billion. Technological improvements, including the potential deployment of blockchain technology for secure and transparent elections, could also be explored. Given the grand scale of this change, one could argue that a decade might be an optimistic estimate for its full implementation. The first two to three years could be devoted solely to building a bipartisan consensus, followed by meticulous legal drafting. The pilot projects, reviews, and nationwide implementation could then be staggered over the remaining years.

The reality is that "One Nation, One Election" is a vision that demands serious contemplation. It requires us to juggle constitutional amendments, tackle logistical nightmares, address political concerns, and yet keep the democratic spirit intact. It's a high-stakes gamble, with the potential for monumental gains. The dividends it promises in terms of governance, fiscal responsibility, and administrative convenience, are too significant to overlook. It cannot just reform but transform the way India administers itself. In a country where every policy and every reform is intensely scrutinised, critiqued, and debated, the road to "One Nation, One Election" will undoubtedly be fraught with hurdles. Yet, it is an idea whose time has come, and it is up to the collective wisdom of the Indian polity to navigate the intricacies and lay down a roadmap for one of the most significant electoral reforms in Indian history.

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

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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 profu-

sion 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.

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.

Melnychuk 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.

'Rights situation in Russia has deteriorated'

AP ■ GENEVA

The rights situation in Russia has "significantly deteriorated" since President Vladimir Putin launched his war against Ukraine in February last year, an expert commissioned by the UN's top human rights body said in her first report on the country on Monday. Mariana Katzarova, the special rapporteur on Russia's rights situation mandated by the Human Rights Council, chronicled the domestic crackdown that has largely targeted critics of Putin's war as well as other opposition voices in Russia.

Her report, made public on Monday, is separate from another probe by UN-backed investigators that has accused Russia of war crimes in Ukraine. Never before has the council authorised a rights expert to examine rights issues in one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

The report cited figures last month from OVD-Info, which tracks human rights violations, indicating that more than 20,000 people were detained between February last year and June for participating in anti-war protests.

More than 600 criminal lawsuits were initiated against "anti-war activity," it said. The report said over half of all protesters who were arrested for what it called "peaceful anti-war activism" were women.

Katzarova said she had received "credible reports" of a litany of rights violations including torture, allegations of rape and sexual violence, and threats of sexual abuse by law enforcement officers against both men and women. None of those cases had been officially investigated, she said.

The Russian Justice Ministry's registry of "foreign agents" contained 649 organisations and individuals by the end of July — an increase of more than 25 per cent in six months, the report said. More than 100 organizations were declared as "undesirable" at the end of July, meaning they could be banned.

Last April, barely six weeks after Russia's armed invasion of Ukraine, the UN General Assembly suspended Russia's seat in the 47-member-country rights council in Geneva.

The mandate of Katzarova, who is Bulgarian, was created a year ago, and she started work in May.

Authorities in Russia have refused to cooperate, and said submissions from her team would be "automatically disregarded," the report said.

Rights in Russia have been on a "steady decline" over the last two decades, the report said, but Katzarova found the situation has "significantly deteriorated since its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022."

The report was built on consultations with over 60 Russian and international rights organisations and individuals, and nearly 100 written submissions, including from rights advocates and witnesses of rights violations. The rights council is set to discuss it Thursday. Since the start of the war, the Kremlin has claimed that the vast majority of Russians support its "special military operation" in Ukraine, while also insisting that those who disagree are free to do so.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has noted, however, that those willing to criticize the government must do it in compliance with the existing laws. Putin himself has said that he is "not judging" those "who behaved not like patriots."

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 Kafrani, 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 Talaeinik 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.

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."

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Kishu Lalwani, S/o. Mahadev Lalwani, a purchasing Puriton Bearing P/N. No. C-1, Second floor, measuring 378 sq. ft. of Property No. 115-A/1, area measuring 48 sq. yds., Khazra No. 115/13, situated in the suburb of Lal Dom of Village Matruhi, New Delhi 110038, 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 Mollie Capital Home Finance 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/ title/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 Khazra No. 642, situated in the suburb of Village Chandrawali G/S Shikhar, in the suburb of Mawa Smt. Chota Bazar, Shahdara, 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. Verna 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) have/has 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, Kirti Colony, Kirti & Kirti, New Delhi-48, Mob. 9810391672

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 Türkiye 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 Türkiye's space programme, the Turkish president's office said. The statement said Erdogan told Musk that

Türkiye 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 Türkiye.

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 Türkiye 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 Thillepan, 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. Thillepan 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.

HORNBILL FINANCE LIMITED
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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, Kumavumpunagar, 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 Chingmak, H/O 1053, Block-1, NH-29, Near Woodstock School, Padampukhuri 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,

adding that many other types of data, including bank credit, IPOs and capital goods imports, show a revival in private capex.

Pointing out that the government capex creates opportunities for private capex in steel, cement, logistics, green infrastructure, she noted that people mistakenly think it is not happening because they expect a 2008 type boom.

“Private capex will rise sustainably in step with GDP in a virtuous cycle, even if there are some delays because of political uncertainty in an

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

NTPC were among the gainers.

“Markets finally reversed the 11-session winning streak as profit-taking came into play in banking, realty, IT and telecom stocks. Along with concerns over rising global crude oil prices and uptick in dollar index and US treasury yields, investors trimmed their exposure ahead of the outcome of the US FOMC meeting on interest rates on Wednesday,” Shrikant Chouhan, Head of

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.

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.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex,
Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059

Branch Office: Sky Park, Ground Floor, Unit No.1, Near Canal Road Raipur - 492001

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Borrower's Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.).	Name of Branch
1.	Dhaneshwar Kumar Dewangan (Borrower), Mamta Dewangan (Co-Borrower), LHRPR00001356202.	Na Mauja Amleshwar Durg Nagar Amleshwar PH No. 05 Khasra No. 909 16 Rnm Bhilai 3 Durga Nagar Amleshwar Durg 909 16 Durg- 491111 (Ref LAN No. LHRPR00001356202). Bounded By- North: Land of Parvti Sonkar, South: Land of Usha Thakrey, East: Road, West: Land of Anita/ Date of Possession- 15-Sep-23	09-05-2023 Rs. 6,22,939/-	Raipur-B
2.	Dhaneshwar Kumar Dewangan (Borrower), Mamta Dewangan (Co-Borrower), LHRPR00001356204.	Na Mauja Amleshwar Durg Nagar Amleshwar PH No. 05 Khasra No. 909 16 Rnm Bhilai 3 Durga Nagar Amleshwar Durg 909 16 Durg- 491111 (Ref LAN No. LHRPR00001356204). Bounded By- North: Land of Parvti Sonkar, South: Land of Usha Thakrey, East: Road, West: Land of Anita/ Date of Possession-15-Sep-23	09-05-2023 Rs. 2,69,030/-	Raipur-B
3.	Dhaneshwar Kumar Dewangan (Borrower), Mamta Dewangan (Co-Borrower), LHRPR00001356205.	Na Mauja Amleshwar Durg Nagar Amleshwar PH No. 05 Khasra No. 909 16 Rnm Bhilai 3 Durga Nagar Amleshwar Durg 909 16 Durg- 491111 (Ref LAN No. LHRPR00001356205). Bounded By- North: Land of Parvti Sonkar, South: Land of Usha Thakrey, East: Road, West: Land of Anita/ Date of Possession-15-Sep-23	09-05-2023 Rs. 52,793/-	Raipur-B

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: September 19, 2023

Place: Durg

Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

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 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.

Head's injury leaves the door ajar for Labuschagne, who did not make Australia's 15-

member provisional squad. However, the Test star put up tremendous display in the ODIs against South Africa, finishing as the leading run-scorer.

"I can't talk on behalf of the selection panel and lock him away in the World Cup 15 but

it's no doubt looking likely," McDonald said. "He's made a significant shift in his intent at the crease and putting the bowlers under pressure (more) than he was potentially 12 months ago. He's struck at around 100 strike-rate in this series.