

# MAKING INDIA A DEVELOPED COUNTRY BY YEAR 2047 IS A CHALLENGING TASK

■ BY ARUN KUMAR

**T**HE Prime Minister has set the goal of India becoming a developed country by 2047. On the way, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is soon going to surpass that of Germany and Japan, if the current official rates of growth are maintained. In today's world, projecting five years or 24 years ahead is fraught with challenges. Who could have foreseen the COVID pandemic in 2020 and the war in Ukraine in 2022? Successful landing of Chandrayaan 3 near the South Pole of the Moon is undoubtedly a great achievement for the nation. But that does not make India a developed nation. Major challenges confront the nation, such as providing good education and healthcare. This can only be achieved if the number of schools and health facilities in rural and semi-rural areas is increased substantially.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s success shows that India can achieve much more if it sets its mind to it. ISRO's success also implies that even though we focus on going to the Moon, we neglect day-to-day things that are necessary to become a developed nation—like providing clean drinking water and sanitation to all. Suppose nothing untoward happens on the road to 2047, our official GDP will keep rising. Before the pandemic, the official growth rate had dropped sharply from 8 per cent to 3.9 per cent, for an average of 6 per cent. If the growth rate continues to hover around the 6 per cent mark till 2047, India's GDP will become 4.05 times the current official GDP of US \$3.7 trillion, that is, US \$15 trillion. Still much behind US and China's current GDP.

In the meantime, the world's two largest economies would have continued to grow. India's population is expected to reach 1.65 billion by 2047 so the per capita income will become US \$9,000 by that year. The current World Bank benchmark for a high-income country is a per capita income of US \$14,000. So, India will only transit from a lower-middle

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to an upper-middle income category country. Only if the average rate of growth becomes 8 per cent now will the per capita income reach US \$14,000 by 2047. Growing at 6 per cent over 24 years will be a challenge—8 per cent appears like a far-fetched dream. The current high levels of inflation, slow growth of major world economies and supply bottlenecks will be the major impediments in achieving a 6 per cent growth rate.

Even if India's per capita income reaches US \$14,000 by 2047, would that make India a developed nation? Oil producing nations such as Kuwait and Brunei have for long enjoyed high per capita incomes. They are characterised as rich but not developed nations. A developed nation is one that is technologically advanced and is able to move along the technology frontier to stay competitive. It has to be dynamic to take care of its problems and has to be able to compete on equal terms at the global stage. India does not fit that bill, as it is heavily depend-

ent on import of high technology products. Granted it has done better than most developing world nations but it mostly functions with intermediate and low technologies. Consequently, India mostly exports low value-added items while importing higher value-added items. The result is a large trade deficit. Countries that possess high technology do not share it. So India has to develop it on its own.

Multiple factors underlie technological dynamism. First, as data from the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) shows, the quality of school education is not very good. On the other hand, only a few institutions of higher learning are involved in advanced research. Poor school education results in a weak base which makes students less capable of undertaking advanced research. Sub-standard advanced research means both educators and the knowledge base for school education continue to be of a deficient quality. Second, given India's poverty (India

is the poorest G20 nation), adequate expenditure on public education is a crucial factor in nurturing talent and for employing talented researchers and teachers. Third, commitment is crucial for good teaching and research and that to a large extent depends on society's commitment to promoting knowledge generation. Fourth, technology itself creates multiple possibilities at the technical and social levels, which makes it impossible to plan the future precisely. Before 2000, people wrote letters and sent telegrams but that is largely history now. One visited a bank branch for transactions but now they are carried out via the Internet and machines, such as ATMs. E-commerce has spread to the detriment of the neighbourhood stores. Even those who are at the frontiers of AI are asking for a moratorium on further research because it poses an existential challenge to human kind. AI, automation and mechanisation are not only posing challenges to semi-skilled jobs such as those of vehicle drivers and workers in business process outsourcing (BPOs) but also to skilled jobs of technicians and army men. It is said that in five years even many skilled jobs such as those of teachers may be impacted by AI. Technology development requires investment in research and development (R&D). But it is risky because there is no guarantee of success and there is a chance of obsolescence due to the acceleration of technical change. So, investors may not be able to recoup the investment made.

Various committees that have proposed reforms in higher education have treated autonomy as a slogan to be bandied while actually their proposals would result in greater bureaucratisation of the institutions which would undermine autonomy. So, India may do well in select areas, like space exploration, but not in general, and that makes the task of becoming a developed country difficult even with a higher per capita income.

(IPA)

Courtesy: The Leaflet

# 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' in UNESCO Heritage List

NEW DELHI, Sept 19 (PTI)

'SACRED Ensembles of the Hoysala', the Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka, have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The world body made the announcement in a post on X on Monday, a day after Santiniketan, the famed place in West Bengal where poet Rabindranath Tagore built Visva-Bharati over a century ago, received the coveted tag.

"Just inscribed on the @UNESCO #WorldHeritage List: Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas, #India. Congratulations!, UNESCO



posted on X. The decision was taken during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee currently underway in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"More pride for India! The magnificent Sacred Ensembles

of the Hoysalas have been inscribed on the @UNESCO World Heritage List. The timeless beauty and intricate details of the Hoysala temples are a testament to India's rich cultural heritage and the excep-

tional craftsmanship of our ancestors," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X. "Good news keeps coming in. A deserving recognition for our traditional art and architecture," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar posted on X.

'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' were on UNESCO's Tentative list since April 2014. India had sent this as a nomination for consideration as world heritage for the year 2022-2023. They together represent "one of the highest points of human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country," the Culture Ministry had said.

# Old Parlt building renamed 'Samvidhan Sadan'



NEW DELHI, Sept 19 (PTI)

THE old Parliament building will now be known as

'Samvidhan Sadan', Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Tuesday as the functioning of Parliament shifted to its new

building here.

The Speaker also announced that henceforth, terms such as 'House', 'Lobby', and 'Galleries' used in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha will refer to the new building, which is now the Parliament House of India.

"The building where we gathered in the morning will now be known as Samvidhan Sadan," he said.

Earlier, at a function held in the Central Hall of the old Parliament building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested that the buildings should

be renamed "Samvidhan Sadan". "We are shifting to the new Parliament building. It is an auspicious day, it is Ganesh Chaturthi," he said.

"My suggestion is that as we are going to the new building, the glory of this building should never decline. It should not be called just the old Parliament... It can be named Samvidhan Sadan," Modi said.

Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Tuesday gathered at the historic Central Hall of the old Parliament building for the function.

# Tit-for-tat: India expels Canadian diplomat

■ The move came after Canada expelled top Indian diplomat and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau charged that India played a role in the June killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar

NEW DELHI, Sept 19 (PTI)

**INDIA** on Tuesday rejected as "absurd" and "motivated" Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of "potential" Indian links to the killing of a Khalistani separatist leader and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in retaliation to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian



Canadian High Commissioner to India Cameron Mackay arrives at the Ministry of External Affairs Headquarters as he was summoned by the MEA in a reciprocal move to Canada expelling a senior Indian diplomat, in New Delhi on Tuesday. (ANI)

official over the case, in fresh strains to the bilateral ties.

Canadian High Commissioner to India

Cameron MacKay was summoned and informed about the decision to expel the senior official, with the Ministry

of External Affairs (MEA) saying the move reflects New Delhi's growing concern at the "interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities."

Read Time & Tide  
**TIME FOR A  
HARD PUNCH**  
on page 8

In a strong reaction to remarks by Trudeau and the Canadian Foreign Minister, the MEA said such "unsubstantiated" allegations seek to "shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in  
(Contd on page 5)

# LOW SHARE IN PARLIAMENT, LOWER STILL IN THE STATES

There are 82 women MPs in the Lok Sabha (15.2%) and 31 in the Rajya Sabha (13%). Barring Tripura, states have even lower women's representation in their assemblies. Women make up 10% or more of legislators in only 11 states while Mizoram doesn't have a single woman MLA. **Atul Thakur** breaks it down

## Low Representation But a Record High

Women's representation in Lok Sabha touched 14.4% only after the 2019 elections. This is thrice the level of the 1951 Lok Sabha but far lower than other countries. In Rajya Sabha, women's strength has increased from 6.9% in 1952 to 13%.

### Rajya Sabha

Women MPs | Current MPs  
**31** | **238**



### Lok Sabha

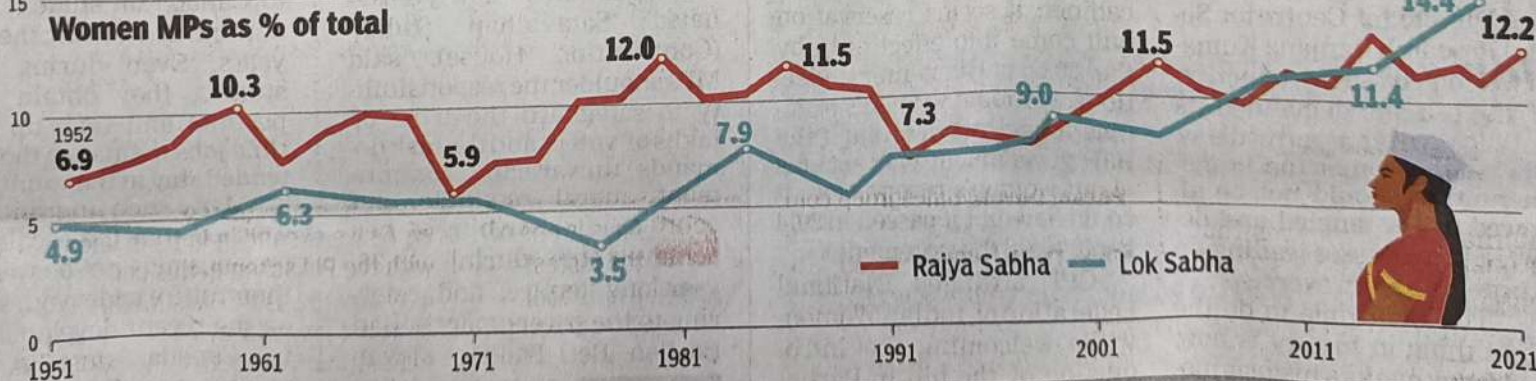
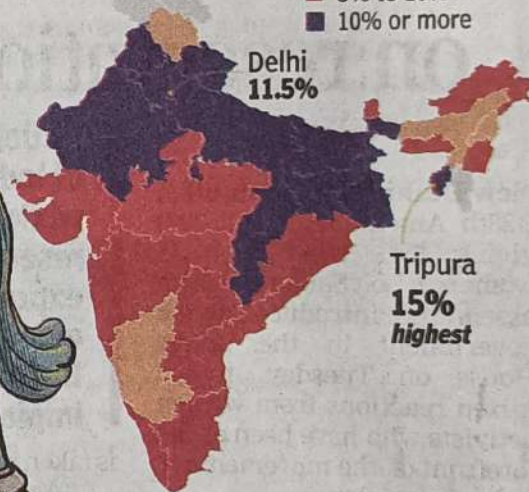
Women MPs | Current MPs  
**82** | **539**



### Women's representation in the state assembly

Women as % of total

- Less than 5%
- 5% to 10%
- 10% or more

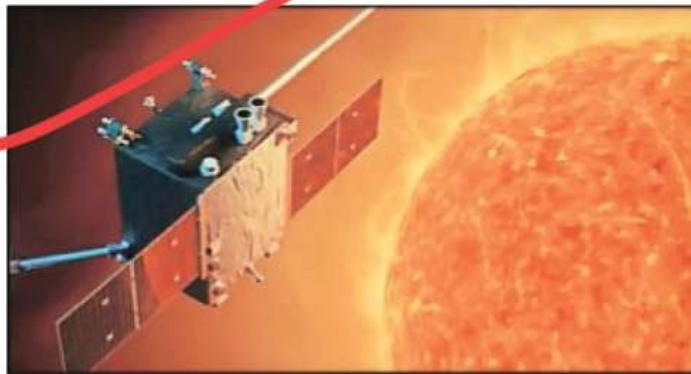


# Aditya-L1 gets send off from Earth

■ "The spacecraft is now on a trajectory that will take it to the Sun-Earth L1 point. It will be injected into an orbit around L1 through a manoeuvre after about 110 days," ISRO said

BENGALURU, Sept 19 (PTI)

**ADITYA L1** spacecraft, India's first space-based mission to study the Sun, got a "send-off" from the Earth after orbiting it since its September 2 launch



as it underwent a key manoeuvre in the early hours of Tuesday, ISRO said.

The Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion manoeuvre marks

the beginning of the spacecraft's about 110-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point, a balanced gravitational location between

the Earth and the Sun.

"Off to Sun-Earth L1 point! The Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (TL1I) manoeuvre is performed successfully. The spacecraft is now on a trajectory that will take it to the Sun-Earth L1 point. It will be injected into an orbit around L1 through a maneuver after about 110 days," ISRO said in a post on X.

This is the fifth consecutive time the Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully transferred an object on a trajectory toward another celestial body or location in space, the country's space agency said.

# 'Absurd': India slams Trudeau's charge of hand in Nijjar's killing

## Both Countries Expel One Diplomat Each

Sachin Parashar & Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Canada announced Monday that it had expelled a top Indian diplomat over the murder of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar, shortly after PM Justin Trudeau said in the nation's Parliament that his government was probing "credible allegations" that Indian agents were responsible for the killing in June this year.

Hours later, the Indian government ordered a senior Canadian diplomat to leave the country within five days, saying the decision reflected growing concern over interference by Canadian diplomats in India's affairs and their anti-India activities. India summoned Canada's high commissioner Cameron MacKay

► **Country's interests must be paramount: Cong, P 12**  
► **Expelled diplomat is a Pjb cadre IPS officer, P 12**

to convey its decision to expel the diplomat, identified as Olivier Sylvestere, who headed Canadian intelligence here.

India said Trudeau's unsubstantiated and absurd allegations were only meant to shift focus from Canada's support to Khalistan terrorists.

The expelled Indian official was identified as Pavan Kumar Rai, a 1997-batch IPS officer handling, as per Indian high commission, economic, coordination and community affairs. Canada's foreign mi-

## TIES MOVING INTO DEEP FREEZE

### Plumber To Khalistani Separatist & Murder In A Parking Lot

► Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, was shot by 2 men in the parking lot of the Guru Nanak Singh gurdwara in Surrey (of which he was president) around 8.30pm on June 18 as he was leaving after evening prayers

► The shooters, 'heavy-set' men in masks, escaped in a getaway car. **No one has been arrested yet**

► Born in Bhar Singh Pura in Jalandhar, Nijjar arrived in Toronto in 1997 on a fake passport in the name of 'Ravi Sharma'. Ended up with a plumbing operation in Surrey. Married in Canada, had two sons

► Joined Babbar Khalsa Int'l and visited Pak in 2013-14 to meet Jagtar Singh Tara of Khalistan Tiger Force. After Tara's arrest in 2015, Nijjar became head of KTF

► Among other cases, red corner notices issued against Nijjar by Punjab police in 2014 & 2016 for role in blast near temple, plotting to kill religious leaders

► Notified as designated terrorist by NIA in July 2020. Punjab police sought his extradition in August last year

► Cash reward of ₹10 lakh on Nijjar announced in July 2022 over murder of a Hindu priest in Jalandhar in Jan 2021

► Played key role in organising Sept 2022 'Khalistan referendum' in Brampton



### India: PM Completely Rejected Allegations

► No details of alleged Indian involvement in the killing offered, but Canadian public safety minister said the national security adviser and intelligence chief had travelled over the past few weeks to 'confront Indian intel agencies'

► PM Trudeau told Parliament 'any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty'. Said he raised the matter with PM Modi during the G20 meet. Some Indo-Canadians, said Trudeau, are feeling 'angry' and 'perhaps frightened right now'

► Jagmeet Singh, leader of the New Democratic Party whose support is critical for the minority Trudeau govt, tweeted: 'I will leave no stone unturned in the pursuit of justice, including holding Narendra Modi accountable'



► Calling the charge 'absurd and motivated', India said 'such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada' and continue to threaten India's sovereignty

► PM Modi, the MEA said, 'completely rejected' the allegations when they were made before him

► Expressing concern over 'sympathy' shown by Canadian public figures to separatist elements, the foreign ministry said, 'The space given in Canada to a range of illegal activities, including murders, human trafficking and organised crime, is not new'

## US, UK, Aus & NZ voice 'concern' but shun Canada's call for joint condemnation

The Five Eyes intel alliance — comprising the US, UK, Australia and New Zealand, apart from Canada — called the accusations serious, but reportedly refused Canada's request to denounce the murder in a joint statement. The US said it was "deeply concerned" and the perpetrators of the murder must be brought to justice. The UK too described the allegations as serious and backed a probe into it. Australia's foreign ministry said it had conveyed its concerns to India at "senior levels". A Reuters report quoted a Canadian govt source as saying the US and Canada had worked closely on the probe and evidence would be shared "in due course". P 12

## Avoid travel to parts of India: Canada

Amid diplomatic tensions, Canada Tuesday updated its travel advisory, urging citizens to exercise "high degree of caution" while travelling to specific parts of India, citing threat from terrorism. It asked Canadians to avoid "non-essential travel" to J&K, Assam and Manipur. IANS

# Women's quota bill tabled in LS, Modi says will ensure passage

## First Legislation To Be Brought In New Parliament

Akhilesh Singh & Dipak Dash

**New Delhi:** The government on Tuesday introduced a Constitution amendment bill seeking to reserve one-third seats in Parliament and state legislatures for women, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi throwing his full weight behind the radical measure and raising the prospect for its passage in Parliament by

**FULL COVERAGE  
FLAP OPP & P 15, 16, 18**

September 22 when the special session comes to an end.

Referring to the failure of several efforts made by previous governments to promulgate women's quota to correct the persisting gender imbalance in legislatures, Modi said, "The dream has remained unfulfilled. It seems that God has chosen me for the sacred task of empowering women and leveraging their power."

"I congratulate all mothers, sisters and daughters of the country for the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill, and I assure them that we are committed to ensure that this legislation becomes law."

Appealing for unanimous support, the PM said, "A bill passed with unanimous backing will be so much more powerful." His exhortation came even as Congress vied for credit for the legislation, and BJD, JD(U) and Trinamool Congress emphasised their credentials as being the first movers in the field of wo-

## ONLY AFTER CENSUS AND DELIMITATION

> Named **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** and introduced in Lower House by law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal. It was the first bill to be introduced in the new Parliament building

> **Unlikely to be in force during next Lok Sabha elections** in 2024

> Reservation can be implemented **only after publication of next Census and subsequent delimitation exercise**, which has been frozen until 2026 by the 91st Amendment to the Constitution

in 2001. **Census** – a decennial exercise as per convention – **was last due to be undertaken in 2020-2021 but got delayed due to Covid pandemic and hasn't resumed.** A Census is highly unlikely in election year (2024)

> Bill proposes that **quota will continue for 15 years and there will be quota for SC/STs** within reserved seats. The **reserved seats will be rotated** after each delimitation exercise

> **Bill will need assent of two-thirds of both LS and RS.**

Officials said that according to provisions of Article 368, the Constitution amendment bill **will require ratification by at least 50% of the states**

> Meghwal said **number of women in Lok Sabha will rise to 181 from 82** currently after the bill comes into force

> Ex-EC O P Rawat says that **if state assemblies call a special session of 2-3 days to pass bill**, then it can happen sooner. **'It is possible that it can be implemented by Dec,'** he said

“It seems that God has chosen me for the sacred task of empowering women and leveraging their power” — PM Narendra Modi

It (the bill) is ours, apna hai (it was during UPA govt that bill was passed in RS in 2010) — Congress leader Sonia Gandhi

## Cong, regional parties seek OBC quota; SP for more sub-categories

Congress made common cause with social justice outfits like RJD, JD(U) and SP to slam the bill for not providing an OBC quota. BSP chief Mayawati supported the bill but sought 50% reservation. She said BSP would vote for the bill even if its demand was not accepted. SP's Rajendra Chaudhary said, "In principle we support of the bill, but it is conditional on provision for reservation to Dalits, tribals, backward classes and minorities." **FLAP OPP, P16**

men's empowerment, and familiar antagonists appeared to be holding out.

Modi linked the introduction of the bill to the importance of the occasion — Parliament holding its first meeting in the new building, something that should ensure that the women's quota bill goes down in the annals as the first legislation to have received parliamentary imprimatur. "On this historic occasion, in the first sitting in the new building, let us herald a change by joining hands and

## Adhir says Cong must get credit; 'factually incorrect', counters Shah

When Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury tried to claim credit for the bill, home minister Amit Shah said the legislation brought by the Manmohan Singh government had lapsed. "The bill... was passed by Rajya Sabha and hence is still alive," Chowdhury said. "What Adhirji said is factually incorrect... If he has any supporting document to prove what he said, he should table it or withdraw his statement," Shah countered. **FLAP OPP**

opening up new avenues for women's power," he said, adding that by enhancing women's participation in public life, the "bill would deepen democracy's roots".

The PM said the bill, first introduced in 1996, was taken up by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government many times but the numbers were not adequate and the dream remained unfulfilled. "For several years, there has been a discussion about women's reservation and several controversies also took place... Once again, our

government has taken a step in this direction," Modi said.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha later, the PM said the government was striving to ensure ease of living and quality of life. "When we talk about ease of living and quality of life, the first claim of that ease belongs to women since they bear all the problems. That's why our effort and responsibility is to see that they have their share in nation building," he said.

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