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**We cannot afford to lose
sheen of IBC:**
Nirmala Sitharaman

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**Bolstering national security has been
our top priority: Rajnath**

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**Western push on China,
Russia at UN rights
body faces test**

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In brief

WhatsApp bans over 23.28 lakh Indian accounts

WhatsApp banned over 23.28 lakh Indian accounts in August, of which over 10 lakh accounts were proactively taken down before any report from users, the messaging platform said on Saturday. This is lower than the level seen in the previous month. Over 23.87 lakh Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp in July. Between 1 August, 2022 and 31 August, 2022, 2,328,000 WhatsApp accounts were banned. 1,008,000 of these accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users. WhatsApp said in its monthly compliance report. An Indian account is identified via a +91 phone number. Over 22 lakh Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp in June on the basis of complaints received via its grievance redressal channel and through its own mechanism to detect violations.

10-year-old boy raped, assaulted by friends; dies in hospital

A 10-year-old boy, who was assaulted and allegedly raped by three of his friends in northeast Delhi's New Seelampur area, died at a hospital here on Saturday where he was admitted for over a week, police said. A senior police officer said that the boy had died Saturday morning at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash hospital where he was undergoing treatment. The boy was raped and hit by a few other boys with a rod on his leg which developed into an infection and spread in his body, the officer said. However, the inputs from hospital authorities were awaited. In a Hindi tweet, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Malviwal confirmed the boy's death.

Cleanest city has no garbage bins, earns crores from its waste

The processing of 1,900 tons of urban waste every day which earns it crores of rupees and also fuels its buses has helped Indore bag 'India's cleanest city' award for the sixth straight time, officials said here. The results of the Union government's annual cleanliness survey were announced on Saturday. Indore was adjudged the cleanest city. While segregation of garbage into 'dry' and 'wet' categories is common, in Indore segregation happens in six categories at a collection point. The largest city with a population of 35 lakh, is garbage bin-free, even though it generates 1,200 tons of dry waste and 700 tons of wet waste daily.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Tithi: Oct 01 08:47 PM to Oct 02 06:47 PM

Saptami: Oct 02 06:47 PM to Oct 03 04:38 PM

Ashtami:

Nakshatram:

Moola: Oct 02 03:11 AM to Oct 03 01:52 AM

Purva Ashadha: Oct 03 01:52 AM to Oct 04 12:25 AM

Rahukalam: 4:32 PM to 6:00 PM

Yamagandam: 12:05 PM to 1:34 PM

Varjyam: 10:53 AM to 12:24 PM

Gulika: 3:03 PM to 4:32 PM

Amritakalam: 07:54 PM to 09:25 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:41 AM to 12:29 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

Temp: 30°

Humidity: 72%

Sunrise: 6:06 AM

Sunset: 6:04 PM

Updated: OCTOBER 1, 2022 5:00 PM

OBTUSE ANGLE



'Intellectuals must mobilise people'

KCR calls for new India; raises 'Jai Bharath' slogan

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao, who is reportedly set to take a plunge into national politics by starting a new outfit in the next couple of days, said on Saturday that intellectuals must mobilise people for creating a new India. KCR was speaking after inaugurating the Pratima Relief Institute of Medical Sciences at Mulugu crossroads near Warangal district centre on Saturday. The institute is a Medical College cum Hospital. "The citizens of this country should be updated about resources and observe what is happening around. We should try our best to reform it and make it better. We should strive to spread a progressive ideology. India is known for its tol-



erance. The country is ready for sacrifices and also to fight if needed. India is like a bouquet of flowers that embraces everyone. Some miscreants are trying to plant poisonous seeds in the country. It is not justified at all," KCR observed during his speech on the occasion.

KCR'S CRUCIAL MEETING WITH MINISTERS TODAY

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will preside over a crucial meeting with Ministers and presidents of TRS district units at Pragati Bhavan at 1 pm on Sunday.



Over lunch, KCR is expected to discuss, inter alia, the arrangements for the larger meeting to be held at Telangana Bhavan on 5th October.

'Much ado about nothing'

Centre dismisses TS Ministers' claim on Mission Bhagiratha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union Jal Sakthi Ministry dismissed as misleading the claim made by Telangana ministers T. Harish Rao and Errabelli Dayakar Rao that the TS government's flagship programme Mission Bhagiratha was a role model for the country.

The ministers, at a press conference on Friday, had claimed that the announcement of the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) award to the Telangana government was an



endorsement of the successful implementation of the Mission Bhagiratha scheme in the state.

Centre's hypocrisy exposed: TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Rural Water Supply Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao responded to Union Ministry of Jal Shakti's statement on Mission Bhagiratha being given an award.

Dayakar said that the hypocrisy of the Centre was exposed as they had assessed Mission Bhagiratha but was making false claims.

Awards politics takes centre-stage

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Politics over awards is going in Telangana. TRS leaders claim that awards are being given by the Centre.

The CM during a public meeting on Saturday said that Telangana tops the country in many fields. Union Ministers will give awards and a day after that they will come to Telangana and hurl abuses, the CM had said. He said the Centre is discriminating against Telangana.

As the CM was speaking, the Central Government said the claim

that Telangana's Mission Bhagiratha bagged a national award is misleading. The Central Department saw the news report and found it misleading as the same is not based on facts and information given by the State Government.

The Centre said, "Telangana is being given an award in the category of supplying water regularly to rural households on October 2. However, regularity in the water supply is only one of the many parameters adopted for overall functionality assessment. It may also be noted although the State has report-

ed 100 per cent tap water connections it has not got it certified through Gram Panchayats as required under the Jal Jeevan Mission." No assessment of 'Mission Bhagiratha' scheme has been carried out by the Jal Shakti Department. It is also pertinent to state here that a 'Functionality Assessment 2022' was carried out by this department to assess the functionality of tap water connections against JJM norms of 55 LPCD and quality as per BIS 10500 standards.

'Mahatma a role model for all times'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao said the life of Mahatma Gandhi who led the country during the freedom movement is a role model for all times.

Gandhi taught people about the democratic method of pray and plea and then protest and fight to achieve freedom.

KCR said that Telangana is moving forward for its rights inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's words, "It is easy to be one among a crowd but it requires courage to stand alone."

He paid glorious tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary (October 2). The Chief Minister remembered Gandhiji's inspiring leadership to the nation on the occasion.

KCR said that Mahatma Gandhi showed a new way of fighting to the world through non-violence and



satyagraha against British colonial rule during the fight for independence. The Chief Minister said that many countries which followed Gandhian principles won freedom from slavery.

The CM recalled that Telangana state was achieved through a peaceful struggle inspired by Gandhi.

The Chief Minister said that

KCR TO UNVEIL 16-FEET GANDHI STATUE TODAY



IMD predicts rains for next five days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said that isolated light to moderate rains or thundershowers are likely to occur in Telangana in the next five days. A yellow alert has been sounded for October 5.

Regulations needed to end abuse of social media: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao recommended a strong regulatory framework for controlling the abuse of social media.

He was speaking at the Digital India conclave in New Delhi where he presented the rapid progress made by Telangana's IT sector and its E-Governance initiatives

KTR demanded that the Centre reconsider the decision to scrap ITIR-Hyderabad and allocate STPIs to the tier-2 towns of Telangana. He also recommended to the Centre to frame laws to control rampant cybercrime and a new law with provisions for stringent action against ISPs and telecom networks to curb pornography.

IMPROPER WASTE MANAGEMENT NGT directs TS govt to pay Rs 3,800 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has imposed a penalty of Rs 3,800 crore on the Telangana government for its failure to treat solid and liquid waste. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said huge gaps exist in the management of solid and liquid waste in the southern state. The bench, also comprising Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said the liability of the state for past violations had to be quantified on the "polluter pays" principle, to be utilised for the



restoration of the environment. Providing clean air, water, hygiene and environment have to be the top priorities for good governance, the bench said, adding that the state

could not avoid its constitutional responsibility of providing a pollution-free environment.

TS 2nd, bags 16 awards in Swachh Survekshan rankings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana grabbed Rank 2 and bagged 16 awards in Swachh Survekshan urban rankings.

Hyderabad (GHMC) was ranked at 26 and the ranking is up from 37 last year. However, the category of ranking for Hyderabad changed from the 40 lakh plus category to one lakh plus.

The Special Chief Secretary of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Arvind Kumar, on Saturday hailed the encouragement of KTR on behalf of elected local body representatives for guid-



ing urban local bodies to secure the top notch at the national level. Minister KT Rama Rao hailed

Arvind and other officials of the MA&UD department for bagging 16 awards for Telangana municipalities,

the highest ever for Telangana and second most for a state. The senior IAS official in a tweet

CONG PREZ POLL It's Kharge vs Tharoor

K N Tripathi's nomination rejected



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Jharkhand minister K N Tripathi's nomination for the Congress presidential election was rejected on Saturday, leaving party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor in the fray.

The three had filed nominations on Friday, the last day of the process. The withdrawal of nominations is allowed till October 8 and the final list of candidates will be out at 5 pm on the same day.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters here, the party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said the panel met for scrutiny of forms on Saturday.

A total of 20 forms were received during the nomination process. Four of them were rejected as signatures were repeated or did not match, he said.

While Kharge submitted 14 forms, Tharoor submitted five and Tripathi one.

"Two candidates - Kharge and Tharoor - are in a direct contest now. One form of another candidate from Jharkhand has been rejected," Mistry said. There is a seven-day window for withdrawal of forms till October 8 when the picture will be clearer, he said.

If no one withdraws, the polling will be held, he added. Mistry said Tripathi's form was rejected as the signature of one of his proposers did not match and another proposer's signature was repeated.

While one rejected form was of Tripathi, Mistry refused to divulge who had filed the other three forms that were rejected

Reacting to the development and sharing the list of valid nominations issued by the chief election authority, Tharoor tweeted, "Delighted to learn that, following scrutiny, Shri Kharge and I will be squaring off in the friendly contest for President of Congress."

Kishan Reddy is totally misinformed, says KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao came down heavily on Union Minister Kishan Reddy's comments on the Bayyaram Steel Plant and the allocation of medical colleges. KTR in a tweet said, "Dear Kishanreddy BJP Garu, I respect you as a brother but have not seen a more misinformed & hapless Union Cabinet Minister. You had announced that the Centre sanctioned nine medical colleges to Telangana which was an utter lie. You didn't even have the guts to apologise." "Subsequently you had announced that the Centre intends to establish a Global Centre for Traditional

Medicine in Hyderabad. Of course as usual, your Gujarat bosses have shifted it to their state. Again, you have misled the people of Hyderabad. Yet you have not corrected your false claim," KTR added. "Continuing with your half-baked false propaganda, you have now started claiming that an integrated steel plant in Bayyaram as promised in the AP Reorganisation Act is not viable. You are clearly someone who just peddles half-truths & false news to please your bosses in Gujarat," KTR added. He concluded by stating, "Therefore, we demand that the PM should make an official statement on why the Centre is renegeing on its promises made to the people of Telangana.



KCR to unveil 16-foot Gandhi Statue today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao will unveil a 16-foot bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad on Sunday. The 16 feet statue of the Father of The Nation was sculpted by Ram Sutar Fine Arts. The statue costed Rs 1.25 crore and weighs approximately five tonnes. KCR will first pay floral tributes at the Gandhi Park on MG Road and then go to Gandhi Hospital to unveil the statue. Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav inspected the work on Saturday and said that the Chief Minister after paying tributes at Gandhi Park, will travel through Park Lane, Patny, Clock Tower and Chilkalguda Cross Roads to Gandhi Hospital. After unveiling the statue, the Chief Minister will attend a public meeting organised on the premises of the Gandhi Hospital.

Dawn of a new era

Continued from page 1

"5G is the beginning of an infinite sky of opportunities." With speeds multiple times faster than 4G and lag-free connectivity, 5G can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real time. It holds the promise of revolutionising sectors from health-care and education to agriculture and disaster monitoring. The 5G services will progressively cover the entire country over the next couple of years -- Jio promises to do that by December 2023 and Bharti Airtel by March 2024. Modi said while the nation was dependent on foreign countries for 2G, 3G and 4G telecom services, India has created histo-

ry with indigenous technology playing a major role in 5G. "With 5G, India is setting a global standard in telecom technology for the first time," he said. The Prime Minister said his government's vision for 'Digital India' was founded on four pillars -- the cost of devices, digital connectivity, data cost and the digital-first approach. This approach has led to mobile manufacturing units in India increased from just two in 2014 to over 200 now, bringing down the cost of handsets. Also, India now has the world's lowest data charges, as tariffs fell from a high of Rs 300 per 1 GB of data in 2014 to just Rs 10 per GB.

Centre's...

Continued from page 1

He said, "On September 26, Additional Secretary, Jal Jeevan Mission Director Vikas Sheel wrote a letter to the Chief Secretary. He asked the Telangana Government to send officials to receive the award on October 2 for excellence in safe drinking water supply to rural households."

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹300
Without Skin	₹320
Broiler at Farm	₹165
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	411
VIJAYAWADA	405
VISAKHAPATNAM	420
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.11

IMD predicts rains for...

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In Hyderabad, during the next 48 hours the sky will be generally cloudy. Light rains are likely to occur in the city. Surface winds are likely to be Northerlies with a speed of around 4 to 8 kmph. The maximum and minimum

'TRS govt will not last till completion of new Secretariat'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Taking serious exception to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, BJP National Executive Committee member Eatala Rajender said that KCR's comments about Prime Minister Narendra Modi were shocking. KCR has been speaking without culture and civility. Eatala warned KCR that the TRS government will not survive till the completion of the new Secretariat building. Eatala lashed out at KCR for stating that the nation is in the hands of divisive forces. He said the entire world is praising India and Modi.

He said that Prime Minister Modi must be credited for keeping the economy of the nation stable. Addressing the intellectuals' conference organised by Medchal district BJP on Saturday, Eatala said the state used to get Rs 10,700 crore when Telangana was formed. However, it has now reached Rs 45,000 crore, he said. Eatala said that youth became weak after the creation of Telangana. He said the TRS government is giving Rs 12,000 crore as pensions, and Rs 2,000 crore for Kalyana Laxmi. The government is giving Rs 26,000 crore to the people. But it has been taking Rs 45,000 crore

from the people through liquor. Telangana is the one and only state in India which is increasing its revenue from liquor, he said. How can the state be called rich even if it is not in a position to pay salaries on the first of every month? he asked. "I am ready to rub my nose on the ground if it is proved that there is a village drinking only Mission Bhagiratha water," he said adding that IAS officers have become robots in KCR's hands. Eatala said that KCR never prepares 'people-oriented' policies but only 'power-oriented' policies. He asked KCR to explain

why he had remembered Dalit Bandhu when the Huzurabad by-poll was held. KCR is such a foolish man that he once said that he will give Dalit Bandhu sops even to IAS and IPS officers, Eatala said. He said that KCR has been stating that he will launch the Girijana Bandhu scheme as tribals are more in Munugode constituency. He alleged that KCR has been raping Dharmmand that people will teach him a lesson. KCR became a land broker by grabbing 5,800 acres of lands from SCs. He said that everyone is looking at the BJP and that the BJP is moving ahead like a rocket.

'Centre must explain giving 'National Tourism Award to TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress said that the Centre issued a statement stating that it has not given an award to the Telangana government for its Mission Bhagiratha Scheme only to escape the challenge thrown by the Congress to IT Minister KT Ramarao, Telangana BJP president Sanjay, and Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy to debate Mission Bhagiratha irregularities. Speaking to the media on Saturday at the Gun Park challenging KTR, Sanjay and Kishan Reddy to come for a debate on October 9, AICC member Judson questioned the Centre, which had stated that it has not given any

AICC member Judson questioned the Centre, which had stated that it has not given any award to Mission Bhagiratha Scheme, to explain who had given the National Tourism Award to Telangana.

award to Mission Bhagiratha Scheme, to explain who had given the National Tourism Award to Telangana. He said that he had examined the implementation of Mission Bhagiratha Scheme in the Aushapur village of Ghatkesar mandal in Medchal district on Friday.

Concerns on functioning of collegium cannot be ignored: NV Ramana

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Concerns raised in different quarters, including by the government, relating to the functioning of the Supreme Court collegium system cannot be ignored or brushed aside, former Chief Justice N V Ramana said on Saturday. The ex-CJI said the Supreme Court passed a series of judgments declaring the collegium system necessary to ensure the independence of the judiciary, but added that the judiciary is merely one of the many players involved in the process. Ramana also said the

absence of an institutional mechanism to ensure diversity on the Bench in the judiciary is a problem. He was speaking online on the topic Cultural Diversity and the Legal Profession at the National Cultural Diversity Summit of Asian Australian Lawyers' Association Inc. In India, the appointment of judges to high courts and the Supreme Court takes place through the 'Collegium system' in which five senior-most judges of the top court have full power to decide on who must be appointed to the judiciary, the former CJI noted. "The Supreme Court passed a

series of judgments declaring the 'Collegium system' to be necessary to ensure the independence of the judiciary and to exclude the influence of the executive. However, the fact is that the judiciary is merely one of the many players involved in the process. Many authorities are involved, including the state or central Government, as the case may be. There have been various concerns raised in different quarters, including by the Government, lawyers' groups and civil society, relating to the functioning of the collegium system in India.

KCR delayed ST quota for 8 years blaming Centre: Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The lone Congress MLC, T. Jeevan Reddy, said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao delayed implementing ST reservations in Telangana for eight years by blaming the Centre. He asked the Centre why it had failed to return the ST Reservations Bill sent by the Telangana government if it has no connection with it. He said that both the TRS and the BJP were deceiving the STs and that the Congress will compensate the lost four per cent reservations by creating supernumerary posts after

coming to power. Addressing the media on Saturday at the Assembly Media Point, Jeevan said that there is no meaning in TRS leaders conducting celebrations as the TRS government issued the GO on ST reservations after eight years. He said that the way the TRS government issued the GO No: 33 shocked him. He recalled that the Supreme Court did not say that reservations should not cross 50 per cent mark even in the Indira Sahani case. It had said that the states could provide more than 50 per cent reservations in special conditions.

22 killed as tractor-trolley falls into pond

PNS ■ KANPUR (UP)

At least 22 people were killed and several critically injured when a tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond near a village in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, a senior official said. The incident occurred in the evening near Bhadeuna village located within the Saar police station limits, he added. The tractor-trolley, carrying about 50 people, was on its way to Ghatampur after the passengers attended a 'mundan' ceremony at the Chandrika Devi

temple in Fatehpur, the official said. He added that more than a dozen people were killed on the spot. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have expressed grief over the incident. "Distressed by the tractor-trolley mishap in Kanpur. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. Prayers with the injured. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to the affected," Modi said in a tweet. Adityanath has sent senior

ministers Rakesh Sachan and Ajit Pal to the accident site to oversee the relief-and-rescue measures. The injured were rushed to a community health centre (CHC) in Bheetergaon in ambulances arranged by police, the official said, adding that more than a dozen people were declared dead at the facility. Talking to PTI over the phone, District Magistrate (DM) Vishak G Ayyar said police and the district administration have been told to carry out the rescue operation

and ensure all possible assistance to the victims. "An investigation is on to ascertain the reasons behind the accident," the DM said, adding, "The exact death toll will be shared with the media soon." The chief minister is personally monitoring the rescue operation, a government spokesperson said in Lucknow. Adityanath has announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs 2 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those seriously injured, the spokesperson added.

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Calculating the total environmental compensation to be paid by Telangana, the bench said the amount for the gap in the treatment of liquid waste or sewage is Rs 3,648 crore, while the compensation for the state's failure to scientifically manage solid waste is Rs 177 crore. "The total compensation comes to Rs 3,825 crore or, say, Rs 3,800 crore, which may be deposited by the state of Telangana in a separate ring-fenced account within two months, to be operated as

per the directions of the chief secretary and utilised for restoration measures," the bench said. Further, it said the restoration of sewage management would include setting up sewage treatment and utilisation systems, upgrading systems or operations of the existing sewage treatment facilities to ensure the utilisation of their full capacities, ensuring compliance with standards, including those of faecal coliform and setting up a proper faecal sewage and sludge management mechanism in rural areas. For solid waste manage-

ment, the execution plan would include setting up the required waste processing plants and remediation of the left-out sites, the bench said. The restoration plans requires to be immediately implemented across the state in a time-bound manner and if the violations continued, the liability to pay additional compensation would be considered, the green panel added. The NGT said compliance would be the chief secretary's responsibility and directed him to file progress reports every six months.

'Much ado...

Continued from page 1

In a statement on Saturday, a senior official of the Union Jal Sakthi Ministry said the claim made by the Telangana ministers was misleading and not based on the facts and information in the statement. The official said there were news reports based on the ministers' statement containing false claims such as the Centre, through the NJJM reviewed the Mission Bhagiratha scheme and that each household is getting 100 litres per capita drinking water under the scheme. The reports also quoted the ministers as saying that inspections were conducted in 320 randomly selected villages across Telangana and all villages were provided uninterrupted, daily quality drinking water through taps.

'Intellectuals must...

Continued from page 1

Noticeably, the Chief Minister concluded his speech on Saturday with the slogan 'Jai Telangana, Jai Bharat', though normally he winds up with 'Jai Hind, Jai Telangana'. Referring to students, KCR said it was their duty to make the country great. He said that society would move forward when intellectuals mobilised people. The Chief Minister requested everyone to take steps to establish a new society and a new India. "I predicted that Telangana will be the richest state in the country. It is happening. A remarkable achievement is that Telangana's per capita income is higher than that of Maharashtra although Mumbai is its capital, which is the financial capital of India. Telangana's GSDP growth and per capita power utilization is higher, KCR said. KCR said that Telangana had achieved wonders in healthcare, though the stated need to achieve more. "Telangana was neglected in the past. There were only five medical colleges in the government sector. Today, 12 more colleges have been added. The

total number of medical colleges is now 17. Although the Central government discriminated against Telangana and did not sanction even a single medical college, the Telangana government sanctioned colleges in 33 districts on its own. The mission will be completed in a few days," KCR said. The Chief Minister said with the young Harish Rao as Health Minister everything was being done fast. KCR said upon establishment of medical colleges in all districts, there

would be 10,000 MBBS seats. "There is no need to go to Russia, China or Ukraine for medical education. Telangana students can pursue education here itself," he said. "India is 'Annapurana' to the world. The wealth of the country was not found in any other country in the world. India has abundant natural resources and people are eating McDonald's and burgers. Today, India, which supplies food to the world, is being cheated.

KCR'S CRUCIAL MEETING WITH...

Continued from page 1

The buzz is that the Chief Minister will announce his national foray on 5th October. Sources said that the meeting on Sunday would be only about the pros and cons of renaming the party, which is considered the easiest option. Sources said, "CM KCR is of the opinion that changing the party name would be easier. As all we need to do is notify the Election Commission about name change may be after an internal meeting. The

symbol, flag and face of the party will be same. The name will be Bharat Rashtra Samithi". If a new party with a new symbol is launched, people will be confused and then again we need to contest, sources said. The Chief Minister's initial choice was Naya Bharat, but the nuances involved with BRS are less compared to registering a new party. Sources said that Sunday's meeting will finalise the details of BRS and how to go about the formal announcement scheduled for Dasara.

Awards politics takes...

Continued from page 1

The Functionality Assessment data indicates that in Telangana, out of a total of 12,570 sampled households (HHs) in 409 villages, 8 per cent were getting less than 55 litres per capita per day of drinking water. Similarly, out

of a total sampled HHs in 5 per cent HHs the water quality was found not to be as per JJM norms. It may be mentioned here that a similar claim was made by TS about Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Telangana government released the letter sent by

Central govt rebuking the claim on Mission Bhagiratha. The letter reads, "State of Telangana has been selected for felicitation for exemplary performance in the regulatory parameters of functionality of tap connections". The letter doesn't reference to Mission Bhagiratha directly.

TS 2nd, bags 16 awards...

Continued from page 1

Five urban local bodies in the under 15,000 population category, that is, Boothpur, Chandur, Chitaly, Koththapalli and Neredcharla ULBs got awards in the below 15,000 population category. Koththapalli, Ghatkesar, Gajwel and Badangpet municipalities won the awards in the cleanest city categories. Secunderabad Cantonment

urban local body won the best city in the citizen feedback category. Urban local bodies Husnabad, Kompalli, Adibatla and Vemulawada bagged awards in the 15,000 to 25,000 population category. Turkayamjal, Korutla and Siricilla won awards in the 25,000 to 15,000 population category in the Azaadi @75 Awards of Swachh Survekshan.

1 Boothpur:	Best Self Sustainable City (<15K Population Category)
2 CHANDUR:	Fastest Moving City (<15K Population Category)
3 CHITYAL:	Best city in 'Innovation and Best Practice' (<15K Population Category)
4 KOTHAPALLY:	Cleanest city (<15K Population Category)
5 NEREDCHERLA:	Best city in 'Citizen Feedback' (<15K Population Category)
6 GHATKESAR:	Cleanest city (15K - 25K Population Category)
7 HUSNABAD:	Best city in 'Citizen Feedback' (15K-25K Population Category)
8 KOMPALLY:	Fastest moving city (15K - 25K Population Category)
9 ADIBATLA:	Best self-sustainable city (15K-25K Population Category)
10 VEMULAWADA:	Best city in 'Citizen Feedback' (25K-50K Population Category)
11 GAJWEL:	Cleanest city (25K-50K Population Category)
12 TURKA YAMJAL:	Fastest moving city (25K-50K Population Category)
13 SIRICILLA:	Best self-sustainable city (50K - 1 Lakh Population Category)
15 BADANGPET:	Cleanest city (50K-1 Lakh Population Category)
16 KORUTLA:	Fastest moving city (50K - 1 Lakh Population Category)
17 Secunderabad:	Best city in 'Citizen Feedback' (Cantonment Board)

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6,615 HECTARES BROUGHT UNDER ASSURED IRRIGATION

TS groundwater levels up by 32% in 7 years

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The average groundwater levels in Telangana were analysed with respect to rainfall after formation of Telangana state. The average pre-monsoon (May) groundwater levels in the state during 2015 is 13.27 meter below ground level (mbgl) and 9.01 mbgl during 2022 and thus showing a rise of 4.26 m in the last 7 years.

During 2021-22, the department carried out 12,500 investigations under various schemes and recommended 10,946 sites. The total annual extractable groundwater resources is 19,251 million cubic meter (mcm) and groundwater extraction for all uses is 8,009 mcm. Stage of groundwater extraction reduced from 50 % (from earlier assess-



ment) to 42% and now 83% of mandals from the state falls under safe category.

Under schemes like SCSDf and STSDF, 2,885 sites (768 & 2117 sites) were recommended for construction of borewells/tubewells through which 6,615 hectares of area has been brought under assured irrigation and 4,500 beneficiaries were benefitted. The den-

sity of monitoring network wells in the state is about 86 Km2/well, which is far above the national density network of 140 Km2/well.

The department entered into the final stage SKOCH Award during this year for the theme "Telangana State Groundwater Level Data Monitoring for Assessment of Groundwater Regime Status." The

As part of Mission Kakatiya, studies were carried out (7 years) for pre-monsoon and post-scenario period in nine basins. During post-scenario assessment, a rise of about 2.4 m (pre-monsoon) and 8.6 m (pre-monsoon) was observed in influence zone as compared to pre-scenario and water level trends have shown a

rise of about 18 % more in influence zone as compared to non-influence zone. Groundwater extraction reduced by 29 % and now the overall area falls in safe category. Improvement in groundwater quality is observed as concentration of total dissolved solids, fluoride and nitrate decreased considerably.

Groundwater Department received Outstanding Performance in Implementation of TS-i-PASS" Award from Minister for MA & UD, Industries & IT, K. T. Rama Rao in 2019. During the year 2021-22, 9942 samples were collected and analysed for groundwater suitability for

drinking and irrigation purposes. A report on "Groundwater quality in principal aquifers" was prepared for the year 2020. The department lab was accredited with NABL certificate (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories).

Blood donation drive held at TTI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A blood donation and free eye examination programme was conducted for Thalassemia-affected children on Saturday at the Traffic Training Institute in Begumpet. The drive was organised by the Hyderabad city police in collaboration with Indian Red Cross, Lions Club Maredpally and Niranjan Seva Samithi. More than 100 people donated blood. Joint CP (Traffic) AV Ranganath was the chief guest for the drive. Addressing the donors and invitees, he congratulated those who participated in the programme and donated blood. Just like this, in the same spirit, people are requested to cooperate with the many measures being taken up by the Hyderabad traffic police for the convenience of the people, he said.

College of Air Warfare celebrates 90th anniversary of Indian Air Force

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Air Force completed 89 years of glorious service to the nation on October 8. From its humble beginning in 1932, the IAF has grown to become the third largest air force in the world and is globally acknowledged as a force to reckon with.

The history of IAF is replete with examples of valour in all operations that it has been a part of. The yeoman service rendered by the IAF in providing humanitarian assistance to the people during natural and man-made disasters both in India and abroad has only added more feathers to its cap. These achievements, both during peacetime and during war, in its illustrious past have lent credence to its motto 'Touch The Sky With



IAF officials at the commemorative event organised as part of 90th anniversary of Indian Air Force at College of Air Warfare, Secunderabad on Saturday.

Glory.'

As part of its 90th anniversary celebrations, a commemorative event was hosted by the College of Air Warfare, Secunderabad, on Saturday for all IAF establishments located in the twin cities. The event provided an opportunity to the serving personnel to acknowledge contribution by the veterans and

reignite the bonding. The senior most IAF officers present on the occasion included Air Marshal Janak Kapur (Retd), Air Marshal KN Nair (Retd), Air Marshal KN Duckworth (Retd), Air Marshal M Baladitya (Retd) and Air Marshal C Hari Kumar (Retd). The chief guest for the event was Air Marshal NAK Browne (Retd).

Electoral roll dates announced for Teachers Constituency in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana on Saturday announced election schedule of Mahbubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad Teachers constituency of Telangana State Legislative Council as the tenure of existing MLC Katepally Janardhan Reddy will be ending on March 29, 2023. First republication of notice in Newspapers under Rule 31(4) will be on October 15. The second republication will be on October 25. The last date of receipt of applications is November 7. The period for the preparation of manuscripts and printing of draft electoral rolls will be till November 19. The draft publication of electoral rolls will happen on November 23.

IIIT Hyd, Silicon Labs launch campus network for smart city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



IIIT Hyderabad and Silicon Labs launched a campus-wide Wi-SUN network to enable research and solutions for Internet of Things (IoT) and smart cities. Wi-SUN is an open standard protocol enabling interoperable solutions through open source software with multi-layer security. It will enable utilities, municipalities and other enterprises to deploy long-range, low-power wireless-mesh networks connecting thousands of IoT nodes.

IIIT Hyderabad Smart City Lab is set up as an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and IT, National Cities Mission and Government of

Telangana, with knowledge support from European Business Technology Council. Professor Ramesh Loganathan said, "The smart city lab, an year-old now, is already a testbed for various startups and research. IIIT Hyderabad's campus consists of sensor networks monitoring different verticals such as

water, energy, air pollution as well as strong standards based data network." The Wi-SUN network will add to the existing modes of sensor communications, including Wi-Fi and LORA. Wi-SUN needs no towers or expensive communications infrastructure and allows sensors to connect easily to the cloud.

Lot Mobiles comes out with Dasara, Diwali offers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Smartphone retail chain Lot Mobiles has announced their Dasara and Diwali offers for its customers. The chain has more than 150 stores in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The retailer is offering a smart watch, tower fan, a truly wireless airpods, bluetooth neckband, portable speaker and a home theater. Lot is offering smart TVs starting at Rs 8,999 and laptops starting at Rs 17,499. There is also an instant cash back offer of at 7.5 per cent upto a maximum of Rs 3,000 for payments made through SBI credit cards. The other offers include Rs 8,000 exchange bonus on premium smartphones and 75 per cent discount on smart watches. Customers can get bonus upto Rs 10,000 on

the purchase of Samsung mobile phones, cashback upto Rs 6,000 on OnePlus phones. For smart TVs, customers can get a cash-back and instant discount upto Rs 17,500 on purchase of TVs from Oneplus, MI and Realme brands. Also, the company is giving a cashback of Rs 6,800 on using the Bajaj Finance Wallet. Akhil, Director, Lot Mobiles, requested all the people to visit their nearby retail store and avail all the offers on the occasion of Dasara and Diwali.

Sixth annual meeting of SCSC held in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Around 120 members participated in the sixth annual general meeting of the Society for Cyberabad Security Council held on Friday. Krishna Yedula, Secretary General of SCSC, said the council has been growing very well due to the decisions taken for the IT & ITes industry over the years. About the Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security, he said the CoE is one of its kinds in the country to spread awareness on cybercrimes. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Stephen Raveendra said the SCSC has been taking many proactive steps during the past many years and these decisions and thought process has impacted the industry very positively.

Helpline number for the elderly launched in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 31st International Day of Older Persons was celebrated in Hyderabad on Saturday at Ravindra Bharathi. Minister for BC Welfare Koppula Eshwar and Minister for Home Mahmood Ali honoured the senior citizens. They also launched the poster of elderly helpline number '14567'.

Koppula Eshwar, speaking on the occasion, said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has introduced and implemented many schemes for the welfare of all the communities. The Asara scheme was introduced with the idea that the elderly and disabled should not suffer. Many old age homes are being constructed in all the 33 districts of the state to help those who are in need at this old age. Some family members do not bother about the care of the elderly in their homes, this should change. They should know that there are special laws now in order for the elderly. Efforts will also be made to include laws related to

The Asara scheme was introduced with the idea that the elderly and disabled should not suffer.

the welfare of the community in the school curriculum from the next academic year, he added.

He further stated that it is suggested that everyone should move forward with the service attitude of the survival of the society. Many people came forward to help the elderly whose children stay elsewhere during the Covid pandemic.

Earlier, there were many atrocities against the SC and ST castes which have now decreased. "Similarly, we have to create awareness about the elderly care and strict action should be taken against those who do not obey the laws," he added.



Minister for BC Welfare Koppula Eshwar and Minister for Home Mahmood Ali light a lamp to mark the 31st International Day of Older Persons in Hyderabad on Saturday

TIME FOR REJUVENATION



Bengali Association of south-east hyderabad celebrates Krishiti Gosthi Maa Durga festival with the theme of 75 years of Independence at DRDO township community hall, Kanchanbagh on Saturday Photo by SV Chary

Police to cultivate volunteers in edn institutions, hostels

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad police are toying with the idea of cultivating some secret agents in schools and hostels across the Greater Hyderabad as the incidents of atrocities are increasing on minors.

The parents are not able to understand what has happened to their wards unless they intensely question them when their children reach home for vacations.

The students are not immediately reporting any unsavoury incident immediately for fear of the police and other reasons.

In this backdrop, the Cyberabad police has come out with a new action plan to check such activities.

They have decided to deploy SHE team moles in schools, colleges, private and government hostels.

The police are likely to train 5-10 interested volunteers in each institute and sensitise them on good touch and bad touch, the POCSO Act, cases under it and the punishment awarded for them. The police would train them how to keep an eye on miscreants activities, how to contact the police and how to respond on each problem.

Fitness test before pregnancy can minimise maternal deaths

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The missing part in India with regards to maternal health is that mothers need to test their fitness levels before planning for pregnancy. It can minimise maternal deaths, say doctors.

Any couple before planning for their children can visit their gynecologist and get themselves tested along with basic investigations. Some people have congenital heart diseases, which means the condition is present in them from birth itself. These things among others can be repaired before the mother becomes pregnant.

Dr Kiran Madala, HOD Critical Care, Government



Medical College, Nizamabad, said, "There are about 60,000 deliveries per month in the state of Telangana for which there are 38 possible deaths due

every delivery but most of the deaths are due to cardiac reasons as the pressure and workload on the heart increases during pregnancy. Any other abnormalities already existing can also become a health issue. Many times, small infections such as cold also in the long run start affecting the kidney which for some set of people goes unrecognised leading to complications."

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), major complications that account for nearly two-thirds of all maternal deaths are severe bleeding after childbirth, infections, high BP during pregnancy and other complications.

FAKE CUSTOMER CARE NUMBERS OF BANKS

Police advise people to be wary of cyber fraudsters

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyber fraudsters have been duping gullible public by creating fake customer care service numbers of reputed banks and other organisations. They also promise loans, credit cards to relieve the hard earned money of the people. Besides, fraudulent job consultancies also targeted the innocent people.

Annually, of the total number of cyber crimes registered, 66 per cent of the cases pertain to cheating.

The police advise the people

to not to reveal their bank account number, KYC details and not to walk into the trap set by the fraudsters offering loans, jobs and credit cards.

With the rapid increase of Internet and majority of people using smart phones, it has become extremely difficult for the people to distinguish between what is truth and what is fraud. Cyber experts feel that it has become a huge advantage for the fraudsters.

The police ask the people not to reveal the OTP or open the suspicious internet links and get cheated. Sarat of Himayat



Nagar paid credit card bill through the payment gateway but did not receive confirmation even after several hours of

making the payment. He searched Google for customer care number and gave the card number, PIN and other details.

He soon received a message to the effect of Rs 1.2 lakh deducted from his bank account. The Cyber police have noted that some individuals have been resorting to fraud by posting their numbers as customer care in the Google. They advise the customers to use only the customer care number listed in the official website. In fact, thousands have been duped in the city with the help of fake customer care numbers.

Police authorities have identified that at least Rs 3,000 crore is being stolen from gullible customers annually. Awareness

and alertness are key to avoid getting duped by the cyber fraudsters. A woman belonging to Secunderabad received an offer from an online fraudster of Rs 2 lakh loan. The woman was asked to repay the loan after two years. She shared her Aadhar Card Number, bank account number and mobile phone OTP with the caller. Soon, she discovered that Rs 42,000 is deducted from her bank account. A youth received e-mail making a job offer to him and filled all the blanks in the application form sent along with the mail.

People told not to post in social media about leaving for native place for Dasara

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city police has warned residents of the city against posting information in social media about going to native place for Dasara festival as there is danger of the robbers breaking into their homes.

The police warned the people that criminals have grown very intelligent and following social media and breaking into the homes of those who left the city for their native places. Cyberabad police commissioner has asked the people to follow certain precautions for their safety.

He asked the people to give information about going to

their native place keeping the house under lock and key.

He asked the people to install CCTV cameras inside the house and fix the DVR at a secret place in the house. The CCTV cameras should be monitored online for time to time. He asked the people to deposit their valuables, including gold and silver articles, and cash in bank. The people should fix security alarm and motion sensors.

In case of coming across suspected persons in any colony, the local residents should call up the police control room on 100 or send WhatsApp message on 9490617444.

Kavita presents bangaru bonam to Goddess Durga

PNS ■ MEDAK

Telangana Jagruti chairperson Kalwakuntla Kavita on Saturday performed special puja to Goddess Durga at Yedupayaja jatara and presented golden bonam to the deity.

MLA Padma Devender Reddy, Telangana State Mahila Commission chairperson Sunita Lakshma Reddy and others took part in the event.

Speaking later, Kavita said that she along with 100 women presented Bonam to the deity. She said that the Yedupayala temple is very special.

The region developed with the execution of the Mallanna Sagar project.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao earmarked Rs 100 crore for development of the region, she said promising necessary support for the development of the temple.

She greeted the people on the occasion of Saddula Bathukamma.

RAHUL GANDHI'S BHARAT JODO YATRA

Maharashtra, TS facing common problems: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that Telangana and Maharashtra have common problems, TPCC president Revanth Reddy said that Telangana Congress leaders have discussed how to reveal them through former AICC president Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra which enters Telangana on October 24.

The Congress leaders of Maharashtra and Telangana will go to Karnataka together and study Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra there.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Revanth said that they want to see that no mistakes are made during Rahul's padayatra in Telangana.

He said that such a Padayatra will not happen again for another 100 years and that this Yatra will change the future of the country. Revanth said that Rahul will be taken to Maharashtra with at least



Congress leaders meet DGP M Mahender Reddy on Saturday seeking permission for Rahul Gandhi's padayatra in Telangana

25,000 Congress workers.

The Congress leaders of Telangana and Maharashtra held a media conference in the background of the Bharat Jodo Yatra after the meeting at the residence of AICC secretary SA Sampath Kumar.

On this occasion, the TPCC Chief said the Bharat Jodo

Yatra will be in Telangana for around 13 days. After Telangana, Rahul's march will enter Maharashtra.

He said that a coordination meeting was arranged with Maharashtra leaders on Rahul's Yatra. A coordination committee will be formed with leaders of Maharashtra and Telangana,

he said.

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka described Rahul's padayatra as a historical one. He said they will organise Rahul's padayatra in Telangana more effectively than in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Former Maharashtra Minister Naseem Khan said that Rahul launched the Bharat Jodo Yatra to unite the nation. He said that Telangana and Maharashtra leaders are like brothers and Maharashtra has been waiting for Rahul's padayatra.

Maharashtra CLP leader Bala Saheb Thorat said they came to Hyderabad to see the arrangements made by the Telangana Congress for Rahul's Yatra. "We will welcome Rahul's padayatra in an unforgettable manner."

AICC secretaries Sonal Patel, Ashish and others too attended the meeting.

Minister felicitates the aged

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Tourism Dr V Srinivas Goud has said that time is ripe for repaying the aged out of gratitude for their services to society.

The Minister felicitated the aged at a programme held at Revenue Meeting Hall here on Saturday on the occasion of the World Elders' Day. The programme was held under the aegis of the department of women, child and physically challenged welfare.

The Minister felicitated senior citizen K Gangaiah and touched his feet on the occasion out of reverence.

The Minister said that any amount of service done to the aged, who contributed their mite for the development of their children and society at large, is inadequate.

The State Government is going to build a home for the aged in two acres near the town, he declared.

He asked the district officials to set up an orphanage next to the home for the aged.

As and when the retired employees placed a request with him to take steps for



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud felicitating senior citizens on the occasion of World Senior Citizens Day, in Mahabubnagar on Saturday

establishing a wellness center, the minister said that the center has been sanctioned and a medical officer and lab technician were appointed and necessary drugs were stocked there.

The T-Hub has been conducting 64 diagnostic tests on a par with private diagnostic centers, he said exhorting the aged to make use of the facility. Special services will be offered to the aged on Thursdays at the PHCs, he said. At one time, the aged suf-

fered even for want of drinking water in the district, he said adding Mission Bhagiradha has been providing clean and safe drinking water to the people of the district.

Unmindful of his 24x7 service to the development of the district, some vested interests have been causing hurdles on the path of development, he said and however added that he would develop the district with the support of the people.

HOLY VISIT



Sri Parvathi Rajarajeswari Swamy temple Executive Officer Krishna Prasad presenting a portrait of God and Goddess to State Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan in Vemulavada in Rajanna Sircilla district on Saturday

Arrangements for immersion of Bathukammas reviewed

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Local legislator Kancharla Bhupal Reddy and District Collector Vinay Krishna Reddy on Saturday asked district officials to make arrangements for immersion of Bathukamma on the day of Saddula Bathukamma in Vallabharao tank in the town. They were inspecting arrangements for immersion of the Bathukammas in the tank along with officials.

They asked the officials concerned to remove the electric poles and electric wires that come in the way of immersion of the Bathukammas in the tank.

Protect child rights: Jagadish to rights panels

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy has advised the people's representatives and officials to ensure that the State emerges as a role model in protection of child rights. The State has already set an example for the country in implementation of welfare schemes. Inaugurating an awareness campaign on the role of village and mandal level Child Protection Committees, the Minister the responsibility for protection of child rights should begin at home. He stressed the need to curb the organised gangs involved in trafficking and abuse of child.

Jagadish Reddy felt that the number of underage marriage had dropped after introduc-



Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy lighting a traditional lamp to mark the inauguration of awareness campaign on child rights in Nalgonda on Saturday

tion of Kalyana Lakshmi. The government had set up 2,000 residential schools to ensure that every child from poor families gets education. The Government School now have English-medium classes. The schools were developed on a

par with corporate schools. If one generation was educated, the entire society would be changed. He asked the officials of the Child Rights Commission to rescue the children of migrant workers in brick kilns.

Financially helped KCR before 2014, says Rajgopal Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP leader and Munugode former MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy has said that he extended financial help to Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao before 2014. However, KCR is now trying to purchase flights with the money looted by him, he added. While extending Rs 1 lakh help to the Telangana activist and KCR's big fan Polepalli Narsimha, who has been facing lot of troubles, at Thangadavalli village in Choutuppal mandal on Saturday, Rajgopal Reddy said that Narsimha is the best example that KCR had not helped any Telangana activist.

Girl's parents set husband's home afire

PNS ■ NALGONDA

In a heart-wrenching incident, the home of a youth was set on fire allegedly by his wife's relatives who were opposed to their marriage. The incident took place at Turkpally in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district on Saturday.

The girl and boy hailed from the same village and they fell in love with each other though they belonged to different castes. The girl's parents were against her marriage to a boy of a different caste.

A 26-year-old youth, named Banu, is the operator of a money transaction online at Gandamala village.

He fell in love with a 17-year-old girl from the same village. They got married against the wishes of the girl's parents.

The girl and boy hailed from the same village and they fell in love with each other though they belonged to different castes.

They ran away from the village and posted the wedding photos online.

As retaliation, the relatives of the girls allegedly set the boy's home afire. Fortunately, there was none in the house when it was set on fire.

Meanwhile, the girl's parents lodged a complaint with the police, alleging that the boy had lured the minor and married her.



DC disburses Dasara bonus among hamalis, sweepers of Civil Supplies Corporation

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector Sarat, Telangana State Handlooms Development Corporation Chairman Chinta Prabhakar along with additional Collector Veera Reddy distributed bonus among hamalis of the district civil supplies corporation at a simple programme held at Collectorate chambers here on Saturday.

They disbursed Rs 4.65 lakh towards bonus for 69 hamalis and six sweepers at the rate of Rs 6200 per head for Dasara.

The district authorities credited Rs 5500 in their bank accounts and gave a sweet box worth Rs 700 besides a pair of new clothes.

Chinta Prabhakar and Sarat greeted the hamalis and sweepers on the occasion of Dasara.

Additional Collector Veera Reddy, Civil Supplies Corporation District Manager Suguna Bai, DCCB vice-Chairman Manikyam, district civil supplies corporation president Rajaiah, secretary SK Babumia and other hamalis took part in the event.

ASSEMBLY, LS TICKETS IN AP

No cakewalk for heirs in 2024

SAMBASIVA RAO M
■ VIJAYAWADA

With the ruling YSRCP and the Opposition TDP taking the ensuing General Elections as a prestige, it will not be a cakewalk for the heirs of dynastic leaders to get tickets.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is firm on giving tickets only to winning horses as part of his now famous and ambitious 'Mission 175'.

In fact, the majority of the heirs of the leaders managed tickets in their respective Assembly constituencies easily, till the 2019 General Elections.

Now, the scenario has changed and suddenly the dynastic politics in Andhra Pradesh is facing a challenge due to political compulsions due to the tight competition. Generally, the dynastic leaders have the ability to

retain their seats in both the Telugu states, either by ensuring tickets to their spouses or children.

In the wake of a clear message from the Chief Minister to the MLAs that he would not consider the work done by their family members but their own performance that comes from their 'Gadapa Gadapaku' visits, expecting tickets to their heirs is like building castles in the air.

Though the YSRCP supremo is confident of returning to power for a second time in the State, capturing all the 175 seats with a thumping majority, he is not willing to take any chances.

On the other hand, TDP president Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who has been organising Assembly constituency-wise review meetings every day, is also keen on selecting suitable

Though the YSRCP supremo is confident of returning to power for a second time in the State, capturing all the 175 seats with a thumping majority, he is not willing to take any chances.

candidates for the upcoming General Elections.

As TDP has only 23 MLAs in the Assembly and some of them have already shifted their loyalties to YSRCP, Naidu is making meticulous moves in the selection of candidates.

SC relief to Raghurama in bank fraud case

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Apex Court gave a big relief to rebel YSRCP MP K Raghurama Ramakrishna Raju on Saturday and stay on the probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged bank fraud case involving his company. A division bench of the Apex Court comprising Justice Ajay Rastogi and CT Ravi Kumar, heard the arguments into the petition filed by Raghurama Ramakrishna Raju, challenging the CBI inquiry into the bank loan fraud allegedly indulged in by his company Ind-Barath Thermal Power Infra Ltd.

SWACHH SARVEKSHAN 2022

Vijayawada adjudged the best State Capital

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada was adjudged the best city in the 'State Capitals' category and the fifth in the 'Clean Cities' category at the 'Swachh Sarvekshan 2022' awards presentation ceremony held at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday. The event was organised by the Union Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. Andhra Pradesh Minister for Municipal Administration Audimulapu Suresh, Vijayawada City Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, and Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar received the awards.

Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinkar said that Vijayawada city got the award due to the collective efforts of the officials, staff, sanitary workers, denizens, and others. He

thanked Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy for extending all kinds of support to the VMC.

He congratulated the VMC public health workers, ward sanitation secretaries, supervisors, health officers, and other staff for achieving the first rank in the country among the capital cities in India in Swachh Sarvekshan 2022. He attributed the success to the teamwork of the city and thanked the denizens of Vijayawada for giving cooperation in keeping the city clean. The VMC Commissioner said without the cooperation of the people, the VMC could not have achieved the awards.

Additional Commissioner (Projects) K V Satyavati, Chief Medical Officer Dr. P Ratnavali and other officials accompanied the Mayor and the Commissioner.

We cannot afford to lose sheen of IBC: Sitharaman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said insolvency law cannot lose its "sheen".

Sitharaman, who is in charge of finance and corporate affairs ministries, was speaking at a function in the national capital to mark the sixth annual day of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Speaking about the Code over the last six years and the way forward, she also said that "we cannot have stress signals go unnoticed".

IBBI is a key institution in the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which provides for a market-linked and time-bound resolution of distressed firms. The code came into force in 2016.

National Company Law Tribunal President Chief Justice (Retd) Ramalingam Sudhakar and Competition Commission of India (CCI) Chairperson Ashok Kumar Gupta, among others, were present. As many as 1,934 corporate debtors have been rescued through the Code till June this year. These include 517 through resolution plans, 774



Sitharaman, who is in charge of finance and corporate affairs ministries, was speaking at a function in the national capital to mark the sixth annual day of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Inflation at manageable level, says Finance Minister

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said inflation is at a manageable level. Her comments came a day after RBI hiked interest rate by 50 basis points to tame inflation. "Inflation is at a manageable level," she said here. On Friday, RBI retained its

inflation projection for FY23 at 6.7 per cent amid geopolitical concerns triggered by Russia-Ukraine war, and expected inflation to be under control from January. The central bank is mandated to keep retail inflation in a band of 2-6 per cent. Inflation has remained above

RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January 2022. Last month, inflation touched 7 per cent. Speaking at the annual day function of regulator IBBI, Sitharaman, who is also the corporate affairs minister, said: "We are in an era of robust economic activities".

through appeal or review or settlement and 643 through withdrawal. In value terms, around 69 per cent of dis-

tressed assets, which entered the process under the Code, have been resolved, as per IBBI.

through appeal or review or settlement and 643 through withdrawal. In value terms, around 69 per cent of dis-

Govt extends deadline for filing tax audit report till Oct 7

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The income tax department has extended the due date for filing tax audit report for fiscal 2021-22 by 7 days till October 7. "On consideration of difficulties faced by the taxpayers and other stakeholders in the filing of various reports of audit for the Assessment Year 2022-23, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has decided to extend the due date for filing of various reports of audit for the Assessment Year 2022-23, which was September 30, 2022, to October 7, 2022," an official statement said on Friday night. Under the income tax act, those taxpayers who need to get their accounts audited by a chartered accountant are required to file the tax audit report with the I-T department by September 30.

GST mop-up Rs 1.47 lakh crore; festive season to push up revenues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections remained above Rs 1.40 lakh crore for the seventh month in a row at Rs 1.47 lakh crore in September, a 26 per cent increase over last year, reflecting buoyancy in tax collection and stability of the GST portal, the finance ministry said on Saturday.

With the ongoing festive season, the collections are expected to go up in the coming months, experts said.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September 2022 is Rs 1,47,686 crore, of which Central GST is Rs 25,271 crore, State GST is Rs 31,813 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 80,464 crore (including Rs 41,215 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 10,137 crore (including Rs 856 crore collected on import of goods)," it said. The GST collections had



touched a record Rs 1.67 lakh crore in April, while in August it was over Rs 1.43 lakh crore.

The revenues for the month of September 2022 were 26 per cent higher than those recorded in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods were 39 per cent higher, while from domestic transaction (including import of services) the mop-up was 22 per cent more than the amount collected from these sources in the year-ago month. The growth in GST revenue till September 2022 over

the same period last year is 27 per cent, thus continuing to display very high buoyancy.

In August 2022, a total of 7.7 crore e-way bills were generated, which was marginally higher than 7.5 crore in July 2022.

This month witnessed the second highest single day collection of Rs 49,453 crore on September 20 with second highest number of 8.77 lakh challans filed, next only to Rs 57,846 crore collected on July 20, 2022 through 9.58 lakh challans, which pertained to end of the year returns.

Airtel announces launch of 5G service in 8 cities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel's 5G service will be available in eight cities from Saturday, its chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said at India Mobile Congress.

With this, Bharti Airtel has become the first company to launch 5G services in the country.

"When you (Prime Minister) will launch 5G today, 5G from Airtel will be available in 8 cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Bangalore and other cities," Mittal said. He also said that Airtel will roll out 5G services in several cities across the country by March 2023 and across India by March 2024.

Mittal lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's understanding of technology and connecting it with the nation's progress. "We are proud and very fortunate that we have amongst us a leader who understands technology meticulously. Many leaders appreciate technology but its granular understanding and linking it for the progress of the country, according to me what Modi Ji can do no one else will be able to do," he said.

5G to usher in inclusive digital transformation: India Inc

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India Inc welcomed the launch of 5G services by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, terming it a milestone in the country's telecom revolution that will help usher in inclusive digital transformation.

Sanjiv Bajaj, President, CII, said, "With this launch, we are moving towards an inclusive digital transformation ensuring that digital technologies are universally available, accessible, and adoptable, enabling meaningful and safe use of the Internet and digital services for all."

Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said the ultra-high speed internet will be a catalyst for transformative innovation in a host of key sectors like education, health and agriculture.

"It would also unleash many more entrepreneurs to explore new areas of businesses riding on the success of Digital India. The unveiling of 5G technology will ensure a seamless, efficient and transparent way of working in coming times," he added. FICCI President Sanjiv Mehta said 5G will facilitate both ease-of-doing-business and ease of living.



Jio 5G across India by Dec 2023: Mukesh Ambani

Reliance Jio, the nation's biggest telecom firm, will expand 5G telephony services offering ultra high-speed internet connectivity to every part of the country by December 2023, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Saturday. Jio had in September 2016 made an entry into the telecom sector, offering free voice calls and dirt-cheap data, forcing the competition to either match or fold up/consolidate.

Ambani has now promised affordable 5G services. "Today, I want to reiterate Jio's commitment to deliver 5G to every town, every taluka, and every tehsil of our country by

December 2023," he said at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) conference here.

Ambani had at his flagship Reliance Industries Ltd's annual shareholder meeting in August announced the rollout of 5G services across multiple key cities, including metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, by Diwali.

Most of Jio's 5G is developed in India, and hence carries the stamp of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', he said, adding 5G and 5G-enabled digital solutions can bring affordable and high-quality education and skill development within the reach of common Indians.

NTPC clocks 15.1% growth in power generation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-run power giant NTPC said it has logged 15.1 per cent growth in power generation at 203.5 billion units (BU) during April-September 2022.

The high generation growth indicates improved performance and an increase in demand for power in the current year, it added.

"NTPC group companies recorded a generation of 203.5 BU from April to September

2022, registering an increase of 15.1% from 176.8 BU generated in April to September 2021," the company said in a statement. NTPC Rihand (3,000 MW) in Uttar Pradesh was the top performing thermal power plant with 90.22 per cent Plant Load Factor (PLF or capacity utilisation) between April to September 2022. Overall PLF of NTPC coal stations stood at 76.3 per cent in the period under review.



MONEY MATTERS

Tata Motors total domestic sales up 44 pc



Tata Motors on Saturday said its total domestic sales increased by 44 per cent to 80,633 units in September. The company had dispatched 55,988 units to dealers in September 2021. The Mumbai-based automaker reported an 85 per cent increase in its total domestic passenger

vehicle dispatches at 47,654 units last month against 25,730 units in September 2021. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said the company attained its highest ever monthly sales of 47,654 last month led by record sales of Nexon and Punch. "With the recent launch of the Tiago EV, the company has opened new vistas and is poised to drive the mass adoption of EVs across the country. Going forward, we expect the festive season will witness strong retail on the back of improving the supply of vehicles," he added. The company said its commercial vehicle dispatches in the domestic market increased by 9 per cent to 32,979 units last month compared to 30,258 units in September last year.

Maruti Suzuki reports over two-fold increase in sales



The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Saturday reported a two-fold increase in total wholesales to 1,76,306 units in September.

Hit by a massive shortage of electronic components, the company managed to dispatch 86,380 units in September 2021. Last month, the company's domestic sales rose over two-fold to 1,54,903 units against 68,815 units in September 2021, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement. Sales of mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, rose to 29,574 units compared to 14,936 in the same month last year. Similarly, sales in the compact segment, including models Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, increased to 72,176 units from 20,891 cars in September 2021. Sales of mid-sized sedan Ciaz rose to 1,359 units compared to 981 units in September 2021. Utility vehicle sales, including Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and Ertiga, rose to 32,574 units against 18,459 vehicles in the year-ago month, MSI said. Exports jumped to 21,403 units from 17,565 units in the corresponding month last year, the company said.

RBI rate hike to manage growth-inflation dynamics, say bankers

Bankers welcomed the 50 bps hike in the repo rate by RBI on Friday, saying the move helps manage the growth and inflation dynamics as such a gradualistic approach is welcome amid rising global uncertainty. Bankers are of the view that a cautious monetary policy will help better address the risks of rising instability in the global economic and financial environment. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara opined that the monetary policy statement, which was on expected lines, is a nudge to stay nimble and agile in a volatile global environment. Considering the evolving macroeconomic developments domestically and across the globe, the 50 bps repo rate hike is on expected lines, said A K Goel, chairman of the Indian Banks Association. He, however, was quick to note that considering the headwinds from the geopolitical tensions and tightening of the global financial conditions, there is risk to our external sector, especially exports. Goel, who is also the managing director of Punjab National Bank, welcomed the various measures like the 28-day variable rate repo auctions (VRRR) with 14-day VRRR to tide over temporary moderation in surplus liquidity in the system. He thanked the regulator for agreeing to release a discussion paper on expected loss based approach for loan loss provisioning by banks, in response to IBA's recent representation.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PRISONS DEPARTMENT
No. P&L-4r/125 (re-e-senders/2021-L) Date: 28-09-2022
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from:- Manufacturers/Wholesale dealers etc. The items to be supplied:- Uniform Kit Articles and Stainless Steel Articles (Grade 316 high resistance) are required.
Schedule Sale Opening Date & Time:- 07.10.2022 at 11:00 AM. Bid submission CLOSING DATE:- 17.10.2022 at 10:30 AM. Opening of Pre-Qualification Bid:- 18.10.2022 at 11:00 AM. Meeting of Technical Specifications:- 19.10.2022 at 12:30 AM. Opening of Price/Financial Bid:- 20.10.2022 at 11:30 AM
Sd/- Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services (FAC)
R.O. No. 786-OPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/110023-23

India's unemployment rate drops to 6.43% in September

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India's unemployment rate has drastically dropped to 6.43 per cent in September due to an increase in labour participation in the rural and urban areas, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

During August, India's unemployment rate surged to a one-year high of 8.3 per cent as employment sequentially fell by 2 million to 394.6 million.

"In September, the unemployment rate has fallen significantly with an increase in labour participation in both urban and rural areas," CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas told PTI over the phone



on Saturday.

The unemployment rate in the rural areas fell to 5.84 per cent in September from 7.68 per cent in August, while in the urban areas it dropped to 7.70 per cent against 9.57 per cent in the previous month, according to the data.

The nearly 8 million increase in labour participation is a sign that the economy of the country is doing well, Vyas added.

According to the CMIE data, the unemployment rate was the highest in Rajasthan at 23.8 per cent in September, followed by Jammu and Kashmir at 23.2 per cent, Haryana at 22.9 per cent, Tripura at 17 per cent, Jharkhand at 12.2 per cent and Bihar at 11.4 per cent.

Rs 2/ltr addl excise duty on petrol put off by one month

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has put off by one month the levy of an additional Rs 2 per litre excise duty on petrol that is not doped with ethanol and by six months for diesel not blended with bio-diesel in a bid to give the industry more time to implement the measure.

The finance ministry, in a Gazette notification issued late on Friday (September 30), stated that the additional excise tax on petrol will now be levied from November 1, 2022, and that on diesel from April 2023.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in her Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 brought a Rs 2 per litre additional levy on petrol and diesel that is not blended with ethanol and bio-diesel, respectively. This duty was to be applicable from October 1, 2022, but now has been deferred to

November 1 for petrol and April 1, 2023 for diesel. Presently, 10 per cent



ethanol, extracted from sugarcane or surplus foodgrain, is blended or mixed in petrol (meaning 10 per cent of ethanol mixed with 90 per cent of petrol) with a view to cutting oil import dependence and providing farmers with an additional source of income. But there is only an experimental blending of bio-diesel, extracted from non-edible oilseeds, in diesel -- the most used fuel in the country.

13 firms ink non-disclosure agreement with govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 13 firms, including MapMyIndia, CargoExchange and Yes Bank, have signed a non-disclosure agreement with the government to access data from the Unified Logistics Interface Platform, the commerce and industry ministry said on Saturday.

The Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) was launched on September 17 as part of the national logistics policy. The ministry said that

11 more organisations like Instavans and Trucks, Bosch India, Portlinks and Shiprocket are in the process of signing the agreement.

The policy aims to bring ease of doing business in the logistics sector by simplifying the logistics processes, improving its efficiency, bringing in transparency and visibility, and reducing logistics cost and time. "Till date, 13 organisations - MapMyIndia, CargoExchange, Freight Fox, Conmove, Intugine, Eikonatech, Yes Bank,

Superprocure, CargoShakti, CloudStrats, Shyplite, APSEZL, and AITWA have signed Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to access data on ULIP," the ministry said in a statement.

Startups are gearing up to showcase their innovative ideas for creating new solutions for the sector whereas large enterprises are mulling to integrate with ULIP for simplifying complex logistics processes, verifying the documents of vendors as well as to get visibility of cargo movement, it added.

Insolvency law changing the way society perceives biz

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With a huge unsatiated appetite for freedom of exit, the insolvency law is changing the way society perceives business failures and striving to build confidence among creditors, Competition Commission of India chief Ashok Kumar Gupta said on Saturday.

He also emphasised that suiting the new economic milieu, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) projects exit as a resolvable fall-out of market competition and provides a rather graceful exit for entrepreneurs.

He was delivering the annual day lecture of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), a key institution in implementing the Code.

"Fuelled by a huge unsatiated appetite for freedom of exit, the insolvency law is changing the way society perceives business failures, as it becomes a reform by, for and of stakeholders." Standing on the two critical pillars of transparency and credibility, the Code and its implementation have continuously strived to build confidence among the creditors and the new management through an efficient bidding process,"



Gupta said.

IBC came into force in 2016 and provides for a market-linked and time-bound resolution of stressed assets.

On the issue of haircuts taken by creditors during the resolution process, the CCI Chairperson said it should be viewed in the light of the fact

that the Code provides a market-driven mechanism to stakeholders for reorganisation, and the resolution plan is approved by the Committee of Creditors in their commercial wisdom.

"The extent of the haircut may reflect the degree of discount the market demands. It is a function of the stage of stress at which the company comes to IBC... it is incumbent upon the stakeholders to avail of the tool that the IBC offers in the early days of stress, before the value deteriorates significantly, and not as a last resort, after exhausting all alter-

native avenues," he said.

Gupta noted that the Code and IBBI will continue to play a critical role in giving young risk-takers the comfort of rapid, simple and seamless resolution or exit in case of honest business failures.

"A professional and institutionalised mechanism of exit reduces the emotional cost and stigma that has been traditionally attached to business failures and insolvency. Suiting the new economic milieu, IBC projects exit as a resolvable fall-out of market competition and provides a rather graceful exit for entrepreneurs," he added.

“Be happy with being you. Love your flaws. Own your quirks. And know that you are just as perfect as anyone else, exactly as you are”
—Ariana Grande



AFTER A LONG ROPE, PFI FINALLY NAILED

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agenda,, writes RAKESH SINGH

The ban on the radical outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates by the Centre earlier this week under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has come in the wake of intelligence reports that the Islamist organization's scale of radicalization has reached monumental proportions and its linkages with several global terror groups was threatening national security.

The banned outfit's deep-seated strategic ambit is clear as it has begun regrouping within a week of the ban under the banner of Tipu Sultan Volunteer Force.

The most alarming element in the PFI's tactics was the recruitment of a large number of mentally challenged children by its affiliate Rehab India Foundation, also banned along with the parent organization. The clandestine nature of such recruitment left the children open to abuse into drug trafficking, organ harvesting, gunrunning, and suicide bombing without them being aware of their role in such affairs.

While the government has banned the Rehab India Foundation, measures are yet to be taken to rescue these children. Their legal verification and tracing of their families are the need of the hour to stem any possible threat posed by their misuse in the future.

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agendas.

The PFI affiliate National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation was working in the guise of raising human rights issues of the Rohingyas and also organized protests in favour of the displaced Myanmar nationals illegally residing in India and also organized anti-state protests in the name of human rights violations of the Muslims to further its anti-government propaganda by projecting that the Muslims were being crushed in the country at the hands of the state. It was also working to create a pro-Rohingya and anti-UAPA narrative. It was being mentored by an American Human Rights group and also had a working relationship with urban Naxals and ultra-Left human rights groups.

The Empower India Foundation that brought the Vision 2047 document for Islamisation of India was engaged in intellectual narrative building and pushing Muslims at different levels of the government administrative machinery.

Likewise, the All India Imams Council, also a PFI affiliate, also banned, was allegedly working to convert the youths of Islamic factions like Sufism and Shia denominations into radical

Salafism. It also engaged in conversion for which it issued a detailed set of guidelines.

PFI's National Women's Front was reportedly tasked to spearhead the hijab movement. The outfit was not only radicalizing gullible Indian youths but also Islamic cohorts from a number of countries like Maldives and Seychelles among others.

The PFI had also reportedly ran a "Boycott India" campaign in the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region when India was coping with the Covid pandemic and cryogenic oxygen was being imported from the Gulf countries. Through the Boycott India campaign, the outfit intended to disrupt the supply of oxygen so that more and more Indians could die due to the pandemic.

The outfit had grown so bold that it issued threats to a few serving and former Intelligence officers including Interlocutor for the Northeast RN Ravi last year.

The organization, with a membership base of over 15 lakh, was growing organically. The Tamil Nadu Tauheed Jamat merged with it in 2021. Tauheed Jamaat's Sri Lankan faction was involved in the 2019 serial bombings in Colombo in the high security diplomatic zone killing over 200 people.

The PFI had developed significant connections with the Rohingyas. On the Uyghurs, the PFI facilitated the movement of leaders to Hyderabad but in a display of a double game, it did not endorse Uyghur demands in line with the Pakistani government line on the issue.

The PFI was also in the advanced state of setting up training camps abroad in conjunction with the Taliban and ISIS.

The PFI hierarchy is divided into two factions-the one owing allegiance to ISIS and the other to Al Qaeda. The current action against the PFI by the law enforcement agencies entails measures against the ISIS faction within the outfit.

The PFI leadership, tilted toward the Al Qaeda global terror group, was in contact with the Tahreek-e-Taliban. The group had also prepared a hit list of top political leaders.

The PFI was indulging in "disturbing" the country's communal and secular fabric and "posing a grave threat" to national security by advancing its radical ideology and seeking to establish "political Islam" in India besides targeting Hindu activists.

According to agencies monitoring the activities of the PFI and its members, a secret 'service team' was formed, similar to the 'hit squads', whose main task was to provide security to senior PFI leaders and also keep track of Hindu leaders in their areas and plan action against them.

The PFI also covertly organised training exercises, and military-like drills, where participants are trained to use force and violence against certain religious groups, which are perceived as enemies of Islam.

Since its inception, the PFI has been against Hindu organisations and their leaders. The e group has a secret hit squad that engages in targeted killings of Hindu activists and those allegedly indulging in blasphemy.

The PFI is alleged to have been continuously involved in anti-government propaganda and spreading the narrative that Muslims were being

THE MOST ALARMING ELEMENT IN THE PFI'S TACTICS WAS THE RECRUITMENT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN BY ITS AFFILIATE REHAB INDIA FOUNDATION, ALSO BANNED ALONG WITH THE PARENT ORGANIZATION. THE CLANDESTINE NATURE OF SUCH RECRUITMENT LEFT THE CHILDREN OPEN FOR ABUSE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, ORGAN HARVESTING, GUNRUNNING, AND SUICIDE BOMBING WITHOUT THEM BEING AWARE OF THEIR ROLE IN SUCH AFFAIRS

persecuted in India.

The outfit was at the forefront in organising anti-CAA protests during December 2019-March 2020 and many cases were registered against them which included 51 in Uttar Pradesh alone where the PFI-led platform, Samvidhan Suraksha Andolan, was among those which coordinated the anti-CAA agitations.

Through active involvement in the protests, the PFI was able to project itself as a prominent Muslim organisation capable of safeguarding the interests of the community.

By projecting itself as the champion of Muslim causes, the PFI had been successful in attracting new members over the years. Its role in the Delhi riots was also investigated by the ED.

In recent years, the peaceful atmosphere of the country was

threatened by PFI, which has a presence in 17 States.

The murder of Praveen Nettaru in Bellare town on July 26 was one of the cases that exposed the violent character of PFI. Nettaru, a member of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha and a local businessman, was hacked to death in typical ISIS style by bike-borne assailants and most of the accused in the case had an affiliation with the PFI.

An investigation by local police claimed a chilling tale of cold-blooded murder by PFI cadres and SDPI members in retaliation to the killing of 19-year-old Masood, a Muslim migrant labourer.

A list of RSS and Bajrang Dal members of the town was prepared and the PFI leaders handpicked some members to avenge Masood's death. Nettaru was targeted as he had commented on the halal issue, officials said.

Contrary to PFI's claim of being a social organisation working for the uplift of Muslims, the ground actions of the outfit tell a totally different story with several of its cadres having a violent history.

Over 1,400 criminal cases had been registered against PFI cadres and its affiliates across the country including under the UAPA, the Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act and other sections of the IPC.

The interrogation of the accused in various cases showed that the PFI would identify Muslim youths, from poor or middle-class backgrounds, for physical training during which they were also inculcated with anti-Hindutva ideology.

These cadres were trained in handling knives, swords, and rods and how to attack specific body parts to inflict maximum damage.

On July 4, Telangana Police registered a case against 27 people after a training camp for 200 PFI cadres was found in Nizamabad. The PFI had been trying hard to make inroads into Telangana to increase its cadre base and was undertaking social programmes like distributing school books and food to the poor to gain traction among them.

There have been a number of instances of international linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups where some PFI activists, particularly from Kerala, had joined ISIS and had participated in terror activities in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, which was an outcome of the continuous radicalisation of its cadres.

While investigating the foreign funding trail of PFI, the ED found that PFI had formed district executive committees in various gulf countries including the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The India Fraternity Forum (IFF) and Indian Social Forum (ISF) were PFI's overseas fronts and were to politically engage the expatriate Muslims to conform to their ideology and organise funds for activities of PFI in India.

Their executive committees were responsible for sending money to PFI in India without leaving any trail. Funds were generally collected in cash and remitted to India either through hawala channels or camouflaged as remittances made to relatives and friends of PFI's members and sympathisers working abroad.

Further, PFI had linkages with the dreaded Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, which was involved in several terror incidents in that country.

Also, 21 people having linkages with the PFI had joined the internationally banned ISIS terror group.

Some Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) training videos, depicting gruesome murders, were recovered from the PFI cadres accused in the professor TJ Joseph hand-chopping case in 2010.

PFI's top leaders visited Turkey in 2018 and 2019 to attend programmes related to Palestine.

Its radical activities had attracted the attention of an international radical outfit namely, the Party of Islamic Renewal, which had in April sent an online letter to PFI on Twitter, praising its activities and urging it to organize a 'Revolutionary Army' for Jihad against the Indian government.

The PFI has also been targeting leaders of the Sufi Islamic Board, who were campaigning constantly for a ban on the PFI.

Since its inception in 2006, the PFI encouraged its cadres to undertake actions that mar peace and harmony among religious groups and disrupt the secular fabric of the country.

On December 9, 2006, three south Indian Muslim fundamentalist groups -- National Development Front/NDF, Kerala; Karnataka Forum for Dignity/KFD, Karnataka; and Manitha Neethi Pasaraai/MNP, Tamil Nadu, rechristened 'South India Council' (a Bengaluru-based organisation floated by NDF in 2004) as 'Popular Front of India'.

Several members of PFI, including its top leadership, had been active members of banned SIMI. They included EM Abdul Rahman (former Chairman), E Abubacker (Member, National Executive Council/NEC) and P Koya (Member, NEC).

SIMI was banned in 2001 under the UAPA for anti-national activities.

In their oath of allegiance, the PFI cadres swear to sacrifice their lives for the creation of Allah's rule (Shariah). This oath was administered to the cadre

only when he was judged to have been suitably radicalised for the group.

PFI recruits were radicalised by the display of selective video clippings on emotive issues like the Babri Masjid demolition, and communal riots in Gujarat and other parts of the country, aimed at instilling a sense of Muslim persecution and distrust against the state as well as other communities.

During interrogation by the ED (December 2020), Rauf Sharief (former general secretary, CFI), had said that PFI runs a secret relief wing, which actually plans and executes revenge attacks on selected RSS leaders.

On the funding part, the officials said that PFI receives dubious funding from within the country as well as from abroad.

PFI and its affiliates maintain a large number of bank accounts and receive money through its well-wishers/financers based in India and abroad. It also collects Zakat (donations) from its wealthy supporters.

The ED searched several office premises and residences of PFI leaders in 2020 and 2021 for suspected money laundering and arrested PFI leaders. The ED probe revealed that the PFI had created a very well-organized structure in Gulf countries for raising funds and the collected fund was sent to India through Hawala.

PFI was operating money laundering fronts overseas, which included the Munnar Villa vista project in Kerala and Darbar restaurant in Abu Dhabi.

In the Munnar Villa vista project, lakhs of unaccounted cash were infused and some benami shareholders were located in UAE, who later transferred the shares to PFI leaders.

The PFI was parking its illegally raised funds in this project so as to use them as and when required.

ED probe also revealed that Anshad Badruddin (PFI, arrested by UP ATS in Lucknow in February 2021 with arms and explosives) had received more than Rs 3 lakh from PFI (from 2018 to 2021) for criminal activities.

The PFI's accountant during the investigation, in the aftermath of the Delhi riots, told his interrogators that PFI's headquarters at Shaheen Bagh, Delhi kept crores of unaccounted money, which they use without any accountability.

Many cases of Hawala money transactions were being investigated by various law enforcement agencies against PFI.

A large jewellery company from Kerala is also suspected to be funding PFI.

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)



DELHI UNIVERSITY RECOLLECTING THE PAST

As Delhi university celebrates its centenary, Union Minister HARDEEP SINGH PURI launched an anthology of writings by its well-known alumni titled — DELHI UNIVERSITY: CELEBRATING 100 GLORIOUS YEARS—and reminisced the time he spent in DU's Hindu College and noted that a good institution is defined by its student body. The book is edited by Puri himself

BY HARDEEP SINGH PURI

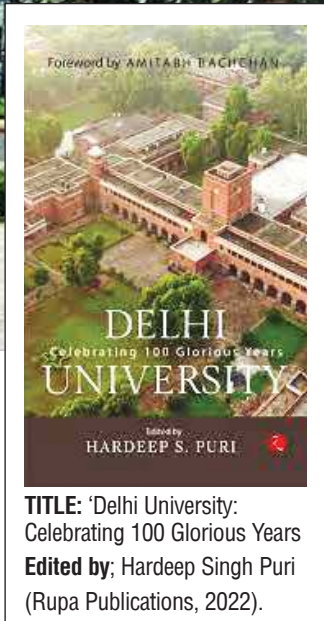
Many of India's most consequential nation-builders and opinion-makers have emerged from the hallowed grounds of the University of Delhi — India's most sought-after educational institution. Its alumni include political leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and litterateurs of the highest caliber. The university celebrated its 100 th anniversary on May 1 2022. I am proud and honoured that I brought together some of its most illustrious alumni to collective reflect on its rich history, vibrant student life, and influence in India's public discourse today.

As Editor, coordinating the development of this anthology was made easy because the whos who of Indian public life agreed to help me in this endeavour without a moment's hesitation. This anthology was conceived to celebrate the 100 years of our alma mater and the role it has played in furthering world-class education. It has successfully captured a spectrum of viewpoints that covers five decades of studying or teaching at the university.

While no such work can be exhaustive, I do believe that we have been able to capture the ineffable spirit of the university in the eclectic recollections of our authors.

Prospective students who have seen the university from afar will get an inside view of one of the most prestigious public universities in the country, while those intimately familiar with the institution will reconnect with their fondest memories through the words of some of its most famous alumni.

Speaking at the launch of the book at Hindu College, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri—an alumnus of Hindu College—noted that the university is a leading centre of excellence in the country and among the most successful universities in the country. The launch was also attended by other contributors to the book — Former DU Vice Chancellor Dinesh Singh; former assistant secretary-general



at the United Nations and deputy executive director of UN WOMEN, Lakshmi Puri; lawyer Raian Karanjawala; Indian writer Namita Gokhale; and Director Imtiaz Ali.

List of authors who have contributed to the anthology

- Amitabh Bachchan (wrote the Foreword)

- Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Singh
- Sanjeev Sanyal
- Dr. Shashi Tharoor
- Hon. (Dr.) Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
- Mrs. Lakshmi Puri
- Imtiaz Ali
- Arnab Goswami
- Raian Karanjawala
- Dr. Bibek Debroy
- Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath

- Kiren Rijju
- Namita Gokhale
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Hardeep Puri, who has edited this anthology, has had a distinguished four-decade career in diplomacy spanning the bilateral and multilateral arena, having held Ambassadorial posts in London, Brasilia and as India's Permanent

Representative to the United Nations in both Geneva (2002-2005) and New York (2009-2013). He is one of the few Indians to preside over the United Nations Security Council and the only one to have chaired its Counter-terrorism Committee. He served as Chairman, RIS; as Vice President at the International Peace Institute; and as Secretary-General of the

Independent Commission on Multilateralism in New York.

He is the author of three books: 'Separating the Wheat from the Chaff', 'Decoding Dominant Narratives' (Konark Publications, 2019); 'Delusional Politics: Back to the Future' (Penguin Viking, 2019); and 'Perilous Interventions: The Security Council & The Politics of Chaos' (Harper Collins, 2016).

A pilgrimage with a difference

A ritualistic bath at Sangam during Kumbh is a dream for millions of Hindus across India. One of the best-known Bengali writers of our time, Samresh Bose, takes us on a memorable journey to the Kumbh mela in his fabulous book IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR. On this pilgrimage, Bose also exposes the duplicity of our belief system, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY



The magic of Kumbh mela, a humongous congregation of millions of devotees for taking the purifying ritualistic dip at Sangam, has spawned hundreds of fiction, non-fiction and memoirs. Samresh Bose's IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is one such effort.

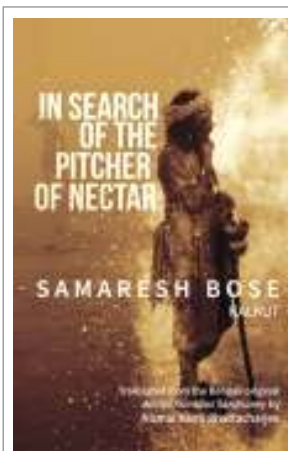
Translated from the Bengali original "Amrita Kumbher Sandhaney" by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, the book revives the magical atmosphere of the Kumbh Mela and the mythical

tales surrounding it: How a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, at the moment of the Kumbh, can provide you with "moksha" both here and in the afterlife.

The title of the book comes from the mythical tale that Amrita, the nectar of immortality arising out of Samundra manthan, the churning of the ocean by Gods and asuras, spilled out from the pot at this location. The dialogues between the two main characters in the

first few pages underline the essence of their spiritual journey. One such exchange takes place as early as on page 11:

He smiled sweetly and asked, "Why do people from the whole world go there? Why do saints and monks come there to take a dip? Have not you seen how bright they look? How well-built their physique? People are cured of their disease and receive a hundred years of life span if they bathe in the Sangam at the auspicious Kumbh moment. This is why I am also going?"



TITLE: In Search of the Pitcher of Nectar
Writer: Samresh Bose
Translator: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee
Publisher: Niyogi books
Price: Rs 450

The narrator commences on this journey with the desire not to achieve atonement, but to learn about life, about people. He is amazed and inspired by every character he meets, whether it is his fellow passenger on the train, sadhus, and devotees like Mahavir and Ramjidasi at the festival, or the family with whom he shares a tent.

The protagonists reveal the double standard of the society that Kumbh brings to the fore.. How many of those millions who take the ritualistic bath are really spiritual, kind, and compassionate? The book highlights how these hardcore devotees are unable to leave behind their social prejudices, their weakness for sensual pleasure, their joys, and sorrows, their possessions and obsessions even when they are thinking of "mokshas".

Samresh Bose, born in Dhaka in 1924, is regarded as one of the greatest Bengali writers of all time. His stories have been turned into award-winning films. He received the Sahitya academy award (1980) for his novel Shambha. Among his more successful novels and short stories, collections are Baghini; Ganga; B.T. Roder Dharey; Shastharipu; Rituanga. He wrote several travelogues under the nom-de-plume Kalkut.

Anyone interested in literature and travelogues as well as spiritualist forays will find this a fascinating book. The language, the dialogues, and the translations are excellent. IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is undoubtedly one of the finest books to hit the stands in recent months in the domestic market.

NIF Book Prize longlist announced

Books on gender parity, the Chipko movement, the Tata group and iconic painter Syed Haider Raza are among 10 works named in the longlist of the 2022 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize on Thursday.

The longlisted books for the fifth edition of the prize include "Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India's Professional Elite" (Swetha S Ballakrishnen), "The Truths and Lies of Nationalism as Narrated by Charvak" (Partha Chatterjee), "Syed Haider Raza: The Journey of an Iconic Artist" (Yashodhara Dalmia), "Governance by Stealth: The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Making of the Indian State" (Subrata Mitra), and "The Chipko Movement: A People's History" (Shekhar Pathak).

"Tata: The Global Corporation That Built Indian Capitalism" (Mircea Raianu), "Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India" (Rukmini S), "Congress Radio: Usha Mehta and the Underground Radio Station of 1942" (Usha Thakkar), "Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India" (Suchitra Vijayan) and Ghazala Wahab's "Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India" complete the list.

This year's longlist covers a variety of themes in combining keen research with scholarly writing, the New India Foundation said, adding each offers valuable insight into different aspects of the country's history.



ferent aspects of the country's history.

"Ranging from biography and art history to analysis of environmental, industrial, and governmental shifts, the books selected this year represent the ways in which India has come to be shaped in this 75th year of independence. In theorizing the past and present, the longlisted titles offer a new way of interpreting paths towards an aspirational future," the NIF said in a statement.

Named after one of India's foremost nation-builders, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates the finest non-fiction literature on modern and contemporary India published in the previous calendar year by writers of all nationalities. Instituted in 2018, it carries an award of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.

The shortlist will be announced on November 8 and the winner on December 1.

This year's jury was headed by political scientist Niraja

Gopal Jayal and also included entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, historians Srinath Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri, former diplomat Navtej Sarna, and attorney Rahul Matthan.

The jury termed the longlist "wonderfully diverse". "The many themes in modern Indian history that it covers have great relevance today: if the histories of nationalism, business, the environment and state institutions offer a sobering historical lens on the present, the more contemporary works on feminism and data give reasons for optimism about the future. Deeply researched and engagingly written, these works of history reflect on the contemporary Indian condition," it said.

Previous winners of the prize are Milan Vaishnav (2018), Ornit Shani (2019), Amit Ahuja and Jairam Ramesh (2020 jointly) and Dinyar Patel (2021).

PTI

CUET: Predicament & possibilities

A nation infatuated with IITs and AIIMSs makes it difficult for the vast majority of students to seek a degree in a field other than engineering or medicine. Yet, students who are unable to acquire admission to either tier II or tier III institutes often end up enrolling in a non-technical degree course. So, what we are seeing in the form of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) — a homogenised objective test — is nothing more than the fallout of that fixation where the students could be evaluated on a similar standardised test.

In an academic environment where near-perfect scores are the norm rather than the exception, the introduction of CUET to decide students' eligibility for university admission is a much-needed initiative. However, if the proposed entrance exam is going to be based on Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) test, I am afraid it would only result in mushrooming of more coaching centres to prepare students for university entrance test.

Testing a student's suitability, particularly for liberal subjects, necessitates a comprehensive evaluation. Therefore, this test cannot be solely dependent on multiple-choice questions. When a candidate is expected to employ her critical and argumentative acumen during the course, testing her ability to memorise facts and information is never a good idea. Hence, the assessment should ideally be a blend of both objective and subjective questions, done in stages (preliminary and advanced). The intention behind having an advanced stage consisting of subjective paper is to assess the applicants' linguistic, critical, and analytical skills.

This is important because the purpose of higher education is much more than just creating high paying job opportunities for students. Quality education has an inherent responsibility to play an enabling role in personal accomplishment, constructive public engagement, and productive contribution to society. The broader objective is to engage faculty and students



with local communities to learn a thing or two about real-world problems while functioning in collaborative, inclusive, and cross-disciplinary ways.

In liberal education, exploration is not just a whimsical luxury; it is a central benefit. Learning stuff is of secondary importance than learning about oneself, the emphasis is on developing all capacities of a human being — intellectual, physical, emotional, aesthetic, and moral — in an integrated manner.

There are no entry barriers to pursuing a graduation

degree in India. Anyone who can afford the fees can obtain the degree with minimal effort. As a result, we keep producing graduates who lack any employable skills. According to the most recent data from the periodic Labour Force Survey (20-21), only 13.8 per cent of Indian youth are vocationally trained. In comparison to Germany's 75 per cent and the United States' 50 per cent, this is woefully inadequate to reap the benefits of demographic dividend.

And we can't blame anyone but ourselves for this complete mess. We live in a country

where everyone wants to secure a limited number of white-collar jobs by acquiring a college degree. The vast majority of them are academically challenged, but they don't mind crowding colleges and universities.

Against this backdrop, it makes more sense for us to borrow a leaf or two from the US education system, where cost and academic talent are major barriers to acquire a graduate degree. The obvious advantage of this type of ecosystem is that a large number of students do not qualify for a degree course. And these

students eventually go on to pursue industry-related specific skill upgradation via diploma or certification — making them qualified for blue collar jobs.

However, there is a widespread aversion to blue collar jobs in India. Despite the government's numerous policy initiatives to connect schools to ITIs and polytechnics, the number of trained people being absorbed in industries is not encouraging.

Unless we can prepare academically average students for decent industrial opportunities, this lot of students will con-

tinue to graduate with no skill set.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to create a better entry barrier to degree colleges while also imparting industry relevant courses at ITIs and Polytechnics.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to distinguish the concept of wellbeing from wealth. In the absence of this fundamental distinction, people invariably choose wealth over wellbeing.

A generation raised on the yardstick of Instagram filter has its own challenge of accepting their inherent flaws.

Making peace with the fact that someone might not be intellectually gifted to make a dent in the academic or business world is a first step towards exploring possibilities in life.

And you never know how this exploration could prove to be a gateway to a life worth living, where you can strive to be someone who offers meaning to things rather than someone who seeks meaning in things.

(The writer is a former IRS officer & author of the book 'Current Perspectives on the Indian Economy')

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PIYUSH KAMAL

PERSPECTIVE

Western push on China, Russia at UN rights body faces test

Western countries are leading a rare two-pronged push at the UN's main human rights body to better scrutinise the human rights records of two big world powers: China, over allegations of abuses during an anti-extremism campaign in western Xinjiang, and Russia, over its government's crackdown on dissent and protest against the war in Ukraine.

Going after two such influential UN members — two of the five permanent members of the Security Council no less — at the same time will be no small political task, diplomats and rights advocates say. It testifies to a growing rift between democracies and more autocratic countries, and is shaping up as a gamble of geopolitical clout, the outcome of which will resonate beyond the Geneva conference room where the Human Rights Council meets.

Some Western diplomats insist it's now or never, and say it just so happens the two issues need separate attention. Britain, Canada, the US and the five Nordic countries are leading a call for council members to agree a debate at its next session in March on alleged abuses against Uyghurs and other, mostly Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang. They aim to build momentum on an August 31 report by the UN human rights chief that raised concerns about possible crimes against humanity during Beijing's anti-extremism drive in the region.

On Tuesday, 26 European Union countries — all of them except Hungary — floated a

proposal for the council to appoint a "special rapporteur" on Russia, citing a string of concerns about mass arrests and detentions; harassment of journalists, opposition politicians, activists and rights defenders; and crackdowns — at times violent — on protesters against President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. Both issues will come up for a vote near the end of the council's current session on October 7.

Intense backroom diplomacy is already underway. Developing countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and West Asia make up the majority of the 47 current members of the council. Stalwart allies of China and Russia, including Cuba, Eritrea and Venezuela, are members, as is China itself. Western and European countries have expressed concern that the cultural, political and economic ties — even dependence — that many developing countries have with both Russia and China could torpedo the Western initiatives.

Alexander Pchelyakov, press secretary of the Russian diplomatic mission in Geneva, rejected the "politicised" Western proposal on Russia, insisting its "main goals are to punish Russia for pursuing an independent foreign policy course" and to divert attention away from the West's own problems when it comes to human rights, economics and energy.

The proposal on China is for a simple debate, with no consistent monitoring of the



People gather to protest against China on human rights on the eve of China's National Day in front of the Bank of China in Taipei, Taiwan, on Friday

AP

rights situation, and is just about the least intrusive form of scrutiny that the council could seek. The call stops short of creating a team of investigators to look into possible crimes in Xinjiang, or appoint a special rapporteur — a proposal that is on the table with Russia.

John Fisher, global advo-

cacy deputy director at Human Rights Watch, said recently that action on China and Russia are its top two priorities, and they amount to "no small challenge."

"There was a time when states like China and Russia felt to be almost untouchable," he said. "But it now feels that states of principle are finally saying

'enough' and standing up to those who would seek to disrupt the international rules-based order."

"Even the fact that these initiatives are under active consideration — and quite likely both to move forward — is itself a signal of the relevance and engagement of the Human Rights Council," Fisher added.

Western diplomats appear to feel more confident about success with the Russia measure. The council has little power to force countries to act, and there's little certainty that Moscow would even allow an outside UN-backed monitor into Russia as part of the post if the council seeks to create it. The Xinjiang debate proposal

is shaping up as the bigger ask, diplomats say. The situation is perceived, rightly or wrongly, as a less pressing one than in Russia, where a crackdown is continuing. China, ever-protective of its reputation as its global profile and power rise, has said it has largely shuttered what it called training centers in Xinjiang — and what critics

derided as detention centres.

One Western diplomat whose country backs the debate on Xinjiang, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, insisted the proposal was a "measured" response. Some supporters of China fret that the plan for a springtime debate is secretly just a foot in the door — a quiet effort that will aim to ramp up pressure on Beijing later on.

A key test will be with Africa, whose countries hold 13 council seats. Some have populations that are predominantly Muslim. Nicolas Agostini of DefendDefenders, an NGO that promotes human rights in East Africa, told reporters recently that it estimates most African countries will abstain in the Russia vote, but maybe one or two — "we identified Malawi and the Gambia as the two most progressive African states that are members of the council right now" — will vote yes.

"Regarding China, it's much more complex," he said, alluding to "extreme Chinese pressure on African states, including members of the OIC that are African states." One African diplomat, also speaking on condition of anonymity because his country is still calibrating its response, said it has a "principled and objective approach" on the China resolution. "We will have to consider our bilateral relations with the Chinese," the diplomacy said coyly. "We're not just going to jump in there (in support of the draft decision)."

(Courtesy: AP)

Western push on China, Russia at UN rights body faces test

The queen died of old age, says certificate

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The proposal on China is for a simple debate, with no consistent monitoring of the rights situation, and is just about the least intrusive form of scrutiny that the council could seek. The call stops short of creating a team of investigators to look into possible crimes in Xinjiang, or appoint a special rapporteur - a proposal that is on the table with

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THERE'S NO CLOSURE

The other reason why old age has been seldom used as the cause of death in the 20th and 21st centuries was that it doesn't provide any closure to families of the deceased. Research shows families want information about how their loved one died, not only because it can be useful for managing their own health concerns, but also

because it provides a resolution to their loved one's death.

An unknown cause of death can exacerbate grief and trauma, particularly if the death was sudden or unexpected. Researchers have long argued families form continuing relationships with their loved one after they die. Ascertaining how they died is one part of how the family members left behind manage their grief and memorialise the deceased.

A GOOD DEATH

We may decide that asking for more information about how the queen died at the age of 96 is just macabre titillation. We may decide the royal family deserves privacy surrounding intimate details of the queen's death.

However, a specific cause of death of someone who lived a privileged life and who died at an old age, for instance, can tell us much about how to lead a healthy life and plan for a good death.

Melbourne, Oct 1 (The Conversation) Queen Elizabeth's newly released death certificate contains just two curious words under her cause of death old age.

We might talk about people dying of old age in everyday speech. But who actually dies of old age, medically speaking, in the 21st century? Such a vague cause of death

not only raises questions about how someone died, it can also be hard on family and loved ones left behind.

The many ways people die in England and Wales are dementia and Alzheimer's disease; heart disease; cerebrovascular diseases (such as stroke); cancer; and COVID.

Other notable causes include chronic lower respiratory diseases (such as asthma); influenza; and pneumonia.

In fact, old age as a cause of death alongside the vague description of frailty is often categorised under symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions .

This latter category is in the top ten causes of death. But this currently trails well below COVID, and on average over a five year period, below influenza and pneumonia.

AN INTERESTING HISTORY

Old age, as a category for causing death, has a long history. It was a leading cause of death in the 19th century, alongside the vague description of found dead .

In the mid-19th century, registering someone's death moved from clerical to secular, with the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1836 (UK).

There was then the landmark publication, the Bertillon Classification of Causes of Death, written by French statistician and demographer Jacques Bertillon. Canadian philosopher Ian Hacking wrote that dying of anything other than what was on the official list was illegal, for example, to die of old age .

We may say this is a bit hyperbolic. Surely, by the end of the 19th century, it was not illegal to die of old age?

What this suggests is that providing a precise cause of death is important because it's a valuable tool for tracking mortality trends at different levels of the population.

Eventually, old age became a last resort phrase to describe an unknown cause of death. Or it became useful where a person may have died from a number of complications, but where it was not practical or ethical to order an autopsy to find the precise underlying cause of death.

Monkeypox elimination unlikely in US

Some US health officials are conceding that monkeypox is probably not going away anytime soon.

The disease's spread is slowing but the virus is so widespread that elimination is unlikely, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said.

That conclusion was in a recent CDC report, and echoed Friday by Marc Lipsitch, director of science in the agency's disease-forecasting centre.

Lipsitch hesitated to say monkeypox is permanently here to stay, but he said it stands to be a continuing threat for the next few years.

It's in many geographic locations within the country" as well as

in other countries, Lipsitch told The Associated Press. There's no clear path in our mind to complete elimination domestically.

The virus has mainly spread among gay and bisexual men, though health officials continue to stress that anyone can be infected.

It's important that people at risk take steps to prevent spread and that vaccination efforts continue, Lipsitch said.

The CDC report contained some good news: The US outbreak seems to have peaked in early August. The average number of daily cases being reported fewer than 150 is about a third what it was reported in the middle of the summer, and officials expect the decline will continue for



at least the next several weeks.

Lipsitch attributed the good news to increasing vaccinations, cautious behaviour by people at risk and infection-derived immunity in the highest risk populations.

Dr. Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security, agreed that it's unlikely that spread of monkeypox will stop in the US anytime soon, but he said it's still possible in the long term.

Jimmy Carter to celebrate 98th birthday with family & friends

Jimmy Carter, already the longest-living US president in history, will celebrate his 98th birthday on Saturday with family and friends in Plains, the tiny Georgia town where he and his wife, 95-year-old Rosalynn, were born in the years between World War I and the Great Depression.

The 39th president's latest milestone comes as The Carter Centre, which the Carters established together after their one White House term, marks 40 years of promoting democracy and conflict resolution, monitoring elections, and advancing public health



in the developing world.

Jason Carter, the former president's grandson now leading the

Carter Centre board, described his grandfather, an outspoken Christian, as content with his life and legacy.

He is looking at his 98th birthday with faith in God's plan for him, the younger Carter, 47, said, and that's just a beautiful blessing for all of us to know, personally, that he is at peace and happy with where he has been and where he's going.

Carter Centre leaders said the former president, who survived a cancer diagnosis in 2015 and a serious fall at home in 2019, already has enjoyed reading con-

gratulatory messages sent by well-wishers around the world via social media and the centre's website.


But Jason Carter said his grandfather is mostly looking forward to a simple day that includes watching his favourite Major League Baseball team, the Atlanta Braves, on television.

Mahatma Gandhi makes special appearance at UN

In a first, Mahatma Gandhi made a special appearance at the United Nations, sharing his message on education at the world organisation as it commemorated the International Day of Non-Violence on the occasion of the Indian leader's birth anniversary.

A special life-size hologram of Gandhi was projected during a panel discussion organised on Friday by India's Permanent Mission to the UN and UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) at the UN headquarters here to commemorate the International Day of Non-Violence.

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2, the birthday of Gandhi. According to the General Assembly resolution of June 2007, which established the commemoration, the day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".



The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".

The panel discussion featured India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj; CEO of The King Centre, Atlanta Bernice King; and youth representative and digital education transformation champion Princess Hayu of Indonesia.

The discussion, moderated by UNESCO MGIEP Director Anantha

ing out of the best in the child and the man, body, mind and spirit. By spiritual training, I mean education of the heart, Gandhi said.

Ahead of the panel discussion, a message by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was read out.

In his message, Guterres said Gandhi's life and example reveal a timeless pathway to a more peaceful and tolerant world, as the UN chief called on the international community to walk this path together, in solidarity, as one human family.

Director of the Mahatma Gandhi Digital Museum in Hyderabad Birad Yajnik told the event's audience that the hologram was the second edition of the Gandhi hologram in 4k.

He recalled that the making of the hologram was a process that started in 2018 when Ambassador Kamboj was in South Africa.

In 2019, in association with the MGIEP, a dialogue with a hologram of Gandhi was envisioned. Ananda and his team researched the collect-

ed works of Gandhi and his thoughts on education.


At our end, digitally graphic files were further sculpted, merged with motion graphics to produce a high-definition hologram that narrated the script, Yajnik said, adding that this version led the panel discussion at UNESCO in Paris and later in New Delhi.

The future of this hologram is to enable it with AI (Artificial Intelligence) voice engine that can engage the people of the world. The message of Mahatma Gandhi is a message of peace and love, a message that the world desperately needs today. And this would be our small effort to bring it to the youth of the world through the language of technology, Yajnik said.

Hurricane Ian heads for Carolinas after pounding Florida

Arived Hurricane Ian threatened coastal South Carolina and the historic city of Charleston with severe flooding Friday after the deadly storm caused catastrophic damage in Florida and trapped thousands in their homes.

With South Carolina's coast under a hurricane warning, many left Charleston for higher ground and store owners in low-lying areas used sandbags in hopes of holding back high water levels.



Ian left a broad swath of destruction after it came ashore on Florida's Gulf Coast as one of the strongest storms ever to hit the U.S. The storm flooded areas on both of Florida's coasts, tore homes from their slabs, demolished beachfront businesses and left more than 2 million people without power. At least seven people were confirmed dead in the state a number that was likely to increase as officials confirm more deaths and search for people.