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Shah: Centre will announce new cooperative policy soon

CJI says Legislature needs to revisit laws

Joe Biden reiterates US support for India's entry...

In brief

Dalit made to spend Rs 11K on feast for entering temple

Close on the heels of a Dalit family being penalised Rs 25,000 over their two-year-old son entering a temple in Kustagi, a Dalit man was forced to arrange a feast spending Rs 11,000 for entering a Lakshmi Devi temple in a village at Karatagi about 11 days ago, a police officer said. "Yes, it is true that the man spent Rs 11,000 to arrange feast for entering the temple. Our officers are investigating the matter," SP T Sreedhara said on Saturday. According to him, the incident came to light only on Friday and since then the temple management led by the priest raised an alarm and forced the man to organise the feast. Sreedhara said a few months ago, a theft had taken place in the village and it was decided that no one except the priest enters the temple.

Cong backs Bharat Bandh called by agitating farmers

The Congress on Saturday extended support to the Bharat Bandh call given by farmer unions against the Centre's three agri laws and demanded that discussions be initiated with the protesters. Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said the Congress party and all its workers will support the 'peaceful Bharat Bandh' on September 27, called by farmer unions and farmers. "We demand that the due process of discussion with the farmers should be initiated because they are sitting on the borders of Delhi for last more than nine months. We demand that these three black laws be taken back," Gourav Vallabh said.

CBIC makes Aadhaar mandatory for GST refund

The government has made Aadhaar authentication of taxpayers mandatory for claiming GST refund. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has amended GST rules bringing in various anti-evasion measures, including disbursement of GST refunds only in the bank account, which is linked with same PAN on which Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration has been obtained. The notification also states that from January 1, 2022, businesses who have defaulted in filing summary return and paying monthly GST will not be able to file GSTR-1 sales return of the succeeding month.

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TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Bhadrapada & Krishna Paksha panchangam

Tithi : Panchami 13:04

Nakshatram: Kritika 14:33

Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam: 4:35 pm - 6:05 pm

Yamagandam: 12:07 pm - 1:36 pm

Variyam: Nil

Gulika: 3:06 pm - 4:35 pm

Good Time: (to start any important work)

Amritakalam: 11:51 am - 1:39 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:43 am - 12:31 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy
Temp: 29
Humidity: 74%
Sunrise: 6:03 am
Sunset: 6:09 pm
Current Weather Conditions
Updated September 25, 2021 5:00 PM

OBTUSE ANGLE



When India reforms, world transforms, PM tells UNGA



PNS ■ NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, wherein he said "India is a shining example of a vibrant democracy". He flew to New York from Washington after his first bilateral meeting with Joe Biden.

Calling India the "Mother of Democracy", Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday showcased the country's credentials on this front before the United Nations General Assembly. Speaking at the 76th such gathering in New York, he held forth the example of India's political system empowering people and ensuring "equitable development".

"When India grows, the world grows, when India transforms, the world transforms", he announced. "Yes, democracy can deliver. Yes, democracy has delivered," Prime Minister Modi said emphatically, citing his own 20 years as head of a government -- both as Gujarat Chief Minister and the Indian Premier.

"When India grows, the world grows, when India transforms, the world transforms", he announced. "Yes, democracy can deliver. Yes, democracy has delivered," Prime Minister Modi said emphatically, citing his own 20 years as head of a government -- both as Gujarat Chief Minister and the Indian Premier.

ically, citing his own 20 years as head of a government -- both as Gujarat Chief Minister and the Indian Premier.

He noted that last month, India had entered the 75th year of its Independence, and further bunched the country's democratic traditions saying its diversity was the "identity" of that tradition.

4th UN speech of little boy who helped father at tea stall: PM

A little boy who at one time used to help his father at his tea stall is today addressing the United Nations General Assembly for the fourth time, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting the strength of the Indian democracy. "The strength of our democracy is demonstrated by the fact that a little boy who at one time used to help his father at his tea stall at a railway station is today addressing the United Nations General Assembly for the fourth time as prime minister of India," he said. PM Modi, speaking at the 76th session UNGA, said that he represents a country that is known as the "mother of democracy." "We have a great tradition of democracy that goes back thousands of years."

India has developed the world's first DNA vaccine that can be given to everyone above 12 years of age, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today while addressing the United Nations as he gave an open invite to manufacturers across the world: "Come, make vaccine in India."

ED freezes Rs 700 cr shares and assets of Karvy stock broking CMD C Parthasarathy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has frozen shares worth Rs 700 crore after raids against Karvy Stock Broking Limited (KSBL) CMD C Parthasarathy and others as part of a money laundering investigation against them.

He is currently lodged in the Chanchalguda jail of Hyderabad

after being arrested by the Telangana Police last month.

The ED searches were carried out on September 22 at six locations in Hyderabad and on various premises of Karvy group of companies, connected entities and the residential premises of C Parthasarathy, the agency said in a statement.

"Several incriminating evidences in the form of property

documents, personal diaries, electronic devices, email dumps, etc have been seized and are being analysed," it said.

"It is reliably learnt that C Parthasarathy is trying to off-load his shares in the group companies through private deals and thus, in order to preserve the proceeds of crime till further investigation,

GOVT NOT FOR PRIVATISATION

RTC mulls monetisation of assets, ticket fare hike

ML MELLY MAITREYI

■ HYDERABAD

Notwithstanding the speculation about privatisation of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation given the financial crisis it has been going through, reliable sources in the government categorically ruled out any such move.

It may be mentioned here that as part of their election campaign in the Huzurabad Assembly constituency, TRS leaders have been trying to corner the BJP over its policy of privatising PSUs and handing them over to corporate.

Government sources said efforts would be explore ways and means to improve the revenues of RTC through increasing ticket fare and monetising some of the valuable assets of the Corporation by giving them on lease.



In a recent high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao with RTC officials and its Chairman about the measures to bring the Corporation out of its financial crisis due to the pandemic and worsened by the hike in petrol, diesel rates and prices of spare parts, officials strongly favoured hike in RTC fare.

Only common projects under Boards: KCR

TS CM seeks postponement of gazette notification implementation; nod for Palamuru-Ranga Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, who reached Delhi on Saturday met Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to discuss the concerns of the State related to sharing of river waters with Andhra Pradesh and about certain provisions in the gazette notification on jurisdiction of Krishna and Godavari River

Management Boards.

He is also believed to have requested postponement of implementation of notification from October 14.

According to those in the know, KCR reiterated the request that only projects common to both the Telugu States should be brought under the ambit of the jurisdiction of the Boards.



Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao presents a bouquet of flowers to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi on Saturday.

Modi govt guided by Deendayal Upadhyay's principles: Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president J P Nadda on Saturday said the Modi government's policies and programmes are guided by the principles espoused by the party's ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay as he paid tributes to him on his 105th birth anniversary.

Be it economy or social sector, Upadhyay's mantras of "integral humanism" and 'antayodaya' have been the driving force of the government's programmes, Nadda said in a statement, adding that Modi's emphasis on 'sabka saath, sabka vikas' is guided by this.

On the occasion, Nadda also felicitated veteran workers of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the precursor to the BJP, at the party headquarters here.

He cited a number of government's programmes like Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi,

Cyclone Gulab to drench Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Impending Cyclone 'Gulab' is expected to bring rains across Telangana on Sunday and Monday while the northern parts of the State would receive heavy rainfall.

The depression over northeast and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal has now intensified into a deep depression, with the IMD on Saturday. The weathermen said that the system may further concentrate into a cyclonic storm and move towards Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Cyclone 'Gulab' is likely to cross the Odisha and Andhra Pradesh coast with wind speeds of 70 to 80 kmph and gusting up to 90kmph speed on Sunday evening.



The deep depression lay centred 510 km east-southeast of Gopalpur and 590 km east of Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh early on Saturday.

As TSDPS weather forecast said: "Under the influence of this depression,

Denmark team visits NTPC's Ramagundam unit

P 2

'HMDA jurisdiction to be increased'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Saturday said that the jurisdiction of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is likely to be increased soon.

Speaking at the HMWSSB office here on Saturday, Talasani said, "Greater Hyderabad is the heart of Telangana and India. HMDA jurisdiction is also likely to increase. Hyderabad is developing and expanding faster than



Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav speaks at the HMWSSB office on Saturday.

any other city in the country and the world."

HMDA was formed in 2008, with an area of 7,257 sq km

under its purview. HMDA jurisdiction covers seven districts,

EC clears confusion; symbols resembling TRS's 'car' not to be used

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has imposed restrictions on the use of auto-rickshaw, cap, iron box and truck as poll symbols in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Apart from AP and Telangana, other States and Union Territories across the country have been given the opportunity to use these poll symbols.

It may be mentioned here that TRS had earlier written to EC on how voters in Telangana State were getting confused with party symbols,

CM pays tributes to Ailamma

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Saturday recalled the democratic fighting spirit of Chityala (Chakali) Ailamma and the Telangana Armed Struggle Icon on the occasion of her 126th Jayanti falling on September 26.

He said that Ailamma became the symbol of women's awareness and the self-respect of the Telangana artisan communities. In a statement, KCR said that Ailamma, who was born in the Most Backward Classes community, gave inspiration to the Telangana Bahujan communities. She was a great democrat who fought for her rights during the Armed Struggle days, within the framework of law and in the courts for justice, the Chief Minister said. He said that Ailamma's democratic fighting spirit was very much part in the Telangana statehood movement. Chityala Ailamma's birth and death anniversaries were being organised officially by the government and more programmes would be taken up in coming days to make future generations remember the great leader, he said.



Denmark team visits NTPC's Ramagundam unit

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLY

A high-level delegation from the Danish Energy Agency visited NTPC's Ramagundam unit here on Saturday. Sunil Kumar, CGM (Ramagundam & Telangana) and other senior officials welcomed the delegates and guided them during

their visit to prominent locations in the plant. Of the nine-member delegation, five are from the Danish Energy Agency, two from COWI and two others from the Embassy of Denmark.

The delegation visited the plant as part of the India-Denmark Energy Partnership

(INDEP) study program on 'Flexibilization and Waste Heat Recovery in Thermal Power Plant'. The delegates went round Unit no.7 Control Room, Boiler and Turbine area and discussed technical aspects.

The team also went round the FGD area in Telangana

Project, Miyawaki Forest and saw the 100-MW Floating Solar Project. They were briefed on its uniqueness and the progress of works. The delegates as well as NTPC senior officials planted saplings in the township. NTPC senior officials and others were present on the occasion.

Clash over payment of fine claims student's life

BITS imposed fine for broken windowpane

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A clash among three students sharing a hostel room over who should pay the fine imposed on them by the college hostel authorities for a broken windowpane resulted in the death of one of them on Friday night.

The incident took place in the Balaji Institute of Science and Technology (BITS). The deceased, a polytechnic diploma student, was identified as N Sanjay Kumar, 18, resident of Vangapally village in Kamalapur mandal of Hanumakonda district.

During the scuffle among the three, one of them fell through the window, which had no pane and received severe injuries. He was rushed to a private hospital in Warangal town for treatment,

but he died on Friday night.

According to sources, the three students viz. N Sanjay Kumar, Shiva Raj and Manohar, pursuing polytechnic diploma course in the BITS, share room in the college hostel. A few days ago, they broke the window pane. During an inspection, when the college management found that there was no windowpane in the room, a fine was imposed on them.

On Friday night, the three students came to the room and started arguing with one another about who should pay the fine. Soon they started manhandling and pushing one another, in the course of which Sanjay Kumar fell through the window.

College security alerted BITS chairman Dr Rajendra Prasad Reddy, who rushed to

the spot. The injured student Sanjay Kumar was shifted to the Narsampet hospital, where the doctors stated that his condition was critical. Immediately he was shifted to a private hospital in Warangal. However, he succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment there.

The parents of the deceased student, N Bhaskar and Kavitha, held the college management responsible for their son's death. They wanted the management to take immediate action against the culprits and demanded compensation.

The body of the student was shifted to MGM Hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered with the Narsampet Police Station. Circle Inspector K Karuasagar Reddy and Sub-Inspector V Ramcharan are investigating the case.

When India reforms...

Continued from page 1

"Despite limited resources, India - which believes in the philosophy of 'Seva Param Dharam' (service is the highest religion) - is completely invested in the development and manufacture of the vaccines," PM Modi stressed as he gave details about Zydus Cadila's three-dose COVID-19 DNA vaccine that was cleared by the drug regulator DCGA last month.

ZyCoV-D is the world's first plasmid DNA vaccine against the coronavirus. It uses a section of genetic material from the virus that gives instructions as either DNA or RNA to make the specific protein that the immune system recognises and responds to.

"There is another m-RNA vaccine, which is in the final stages of development. Our country's scientists are also involved in the development of a nasal vaccine for coronavirus."

"While understanding the responsibility towards humanity, India has yet again started giving vaccines to those who need it," the Prime Minister said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a swipe at Pakistan over "using terrorism as a political tool" at his address to the UN General Assembly today. "The danger of regressive thinking and extremism is rising in the world," PM Modi said at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which

was held online last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Those who use terrorism as a political tool should know that terrorism is dangerous for them too," PM Modi said, a day after India gave a strong response to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan bringing up the Kashmir issue at the UNGA.

Pakistan has long been known to shelter terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed on its soil and India has brought this up umpteen times in the international fora. The 9/11 attacks mastermind Osama Bin Laden was found hiding in Pakistan, and the country has several terror camps near the Line of Control with India. One of them in Balakot was hit by Indian airstrikes in February 2019.

PM Modi called for a broader global response against terrorism, and also asked nations to work towards keeping the world's shipping lanes free from "expansionism".

"In Afghanistan, minorities need help. We should fulfil our responsibility... We must keep in mind that we can use ocean resources, but not abuse them. The world must protect the oceans from expansionism and keep maritime trade free," PM Modi said.

Earlier, the Pakistani Prime Minister raised the Kashmir issue by mentioning India's move to make Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory.

With pledge to combat threats, Quad begins new cooperation

PNS ■ WASHINGTON DC

The leaders of Australia, India, Japan and the US on Friday said that they are beginning new cooperation in cyberspace and pledged to work together to combat cyber threats, promote resilience and secure the critical infrastructure of the member nations.

"In space, we will identify new collaboration opportunities and share satellite data for peaceful purposes such as monitoring climate change, disaster response and preparedness, sustainable uses of oceans and marine resources, and on responding to challenges in shared domains," Quad leaders said in a statement.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) Summit was held on Friday where a range

of issues, including Afghanistan, cooperation in infrastructure, COVID-19 vaccines, and the Indo-Pacific, were discussed.

Leader-level experts vowed to meet regularly to advance work between government and industry on driving continuous improvements in areas, including adoption and implementation of shared cyber standards; development of secure software; building workforce and talent; and promoting the scalability and cybersecurity of secure and trustworthy digital infrastructure.

The statement said the Quad will begin space cooperation for the first time with a new working group. "In particular, our partnership will exchange satellite data, focused on monitoring and adapting to climate

change, disaster preparedness, and responding to challenges in shared domains."

It said the Quad nations will share Satellite Data to protect the earth and help member countries to better adapt to climate change.

"Our four countries will start discussions to exchange Earth observation satellite data and analysis on climate-change risks and the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources. Sharing this data will help Quad countries to better adapt to climate change and to build capacity in other Indo-Pacific states that are at grave climate risk, in coordination with the Quad Climate Working group."

Quad leaders also renewed their commitment to promote free, open, rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

ED freezes Rs 700 cr shares...

Continued from page 1

ED has issued a freezing order on September 24 and the estimated value of these shares has been arrived at Rs 700 crore as per the valuation for the year 2019-20," it said.

These shares of the Karvy group are being held "directly and indirectly" by CMD Comandur Parthasarathy, his sons Rajat Parthasarathy and Adhiraj Parthasarathy, and their entities.

The ED case, filed under the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), is based on a Telangana Police FIR alleging KSBL had "illegally pledged the securities of its clients and taken a loan of Rs 329 crore and diverted the same."

"Another FIR has been registered by central crime station of Hyderabad Police for defrauding IndusInd Bank to the tune of Rs 137 crore and one more FIR has been registered by Cyberabad Police authorities for defrauding ICICI Bank

to the tune of Rs 562.5 crore," it said.

The ED has clubbed all these FIRs as part of its probe and has also recorded the statement of C Parthasarathy in jail.

KSBL under the leadership of C Parthasarathy had committed "gross irregularities" and all the illegally taken loans have become NPA, the agency said.

It is learnt that more FIRs are being registered by other banks and also individual shareholders/ investors, the ED said.

The total loan proceeds taken from multiple banks using the same modus operandi is around Rs 2,873 crore, it said, adding that the NSE and SEBI are also investigating the affairs of KSBL.

The agency said its probe found that KSBL "did not report" the depository participatory or DP account no. 11458979, named KARVY STOCK BROKING LTD (BSE), in the filings made from January-August, 2019 with regulators/exchanges.

V-P Naidu calls...

Continued from page 1

Naidu called for improving the nurse to population ratio (1:670 in India, compared to the WHO norm of 1:300) on a mission mode. On the shortage of trained manpower in rural areas, he suggested creating better incentives and infrastructure to attract healthcare workers to serve in villages. While noting the improvement in different health indicators since independence, he said that there were many challenges that require a coordinated and concerted approach by both the government and the private sector.

He stressed that the first step to achieving the goal of 'Health for All' is to increase public spending on health.

He referred to the 15th Finance Commission recommendations, which said that states should increase spending on health to more than eight per cent of their respective budgets by 2022 and the public health expenditure of the Centre and States together should be increased in a progressive manner to reach 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025.

RTC mulls monetisation...

Continued from page 1

The meeting also discussed the ways and means be explored to increase the revenue of RTC apart from increasing the fare to ensure that it becomes self-reliant. At present, the Corporation is struggling to pay salaries of its employees and is not in a position to add to its fleet despite the need to step up the number of bus services and increase the frequency of trips to meet the demand from passengers.

The privatisation proposal came to the fore when RTC Chairman Bajireddy Govardhan disclosed that the Chief Minister gave four months to the Corporation to improve its finances or there would be no option but to privatise it.

Though there was no indication to that effect from the CMO, the Chairman's remarks added fuel to the speculation

that government, which is looking at monetisation of lands for resource mobilisation, might also dispose of RTC's assets citing its poor financial status.

A report believed to have been submitted by the RTC authorities to the government about the assets and liabilities of RTC gave credence to the talk.

The report said that RTC has about 1,400 acres in 10 erstwhile districts, 11 regions, 97 depots, 364 bus stands and several assets in the form of buildings and facilities. The open market value of land would be over Rs 70,000 crore as per RTC's report while the government registration value would be Rs 12,000 crore.

The liabilities of RTC are estimated at Rs 5,600 crore - including Rs 1,395 crore in bank loans raised by mortgaging land in five places, Rs 2,279 crore loan under government guarantee.

Modi govt guided...

Continued from page 1

Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, direct benefit transfer, Ujjwala scheme and electrification exercise to say that Upadhyay's idea of empowering the most deprived is at their root. He asked BJP workers to seek inspiration from his life. The party is observing his birth anniversary at over 10.40 lakh booths across the country, he noted.

Nadda called Upadhyay a multifaceted personality who dedicated himself to serving the society. His political journey was very short but in such a short span, he played an important role in increasing the strength of Jana Sangh and establishing it as a national party, Nadda said.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹264
Without Skin	₹284
Broiler at Farm	₹147

EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	432
VIJAYAWADA	438
VISAKHAPATNAM	470
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.32

4th UN speech of little...

Continued from page 1

India's diversity is the identity of the country's strong democracy, he added. "It is a country that has dozens of languages and hundreds of dialects, different lifestyles and cuisine. This is the best example of a vibrant democracy."

TS gets Rs 174 cr from Centre...

Continued from page 1

The eight states include Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim and Telangana.

Under the scheme, special assistance is being provided to the State Governments in the form of 50-year interest-free loan up to an overall sum not exceeding Rs 15,000 crore during Financial Year 2021-22.

The scheme has three parts - the first for the eight Northeast States and the hill States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Accordingly, Rs 200 crore has been allocated to each of the seven North-East States and Rs 400 crore each to Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

In the second part, Rs 7,400 crore is allocated to States in proportion to their

share of Central taxes as per the award of the 15th Finance Commission for the year 2021-22.

In the third part, Part-III incentives will be given State Governments for privatisation/disinvestment of the State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs) and monetisation/recycling of assets. Under this part, States will be provided additional funds under the scheme over and above their allocation under Part-I or Part-II.

An amount of Rs 5,000 crore is allocated for the third part of the scheme. For this part, there is no State specific allocation and funds will be provided on a "first-come first-served basis".

A similar scheme entitled 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure for 2020-21' was also launched by the Ministry of Finance in the last Financial Year.

'Kanyadaan' outdated ritual? Alia's...

Continued from page 1

"Neither of us believes that women are commodities to be given away or 'donated'. Women have agency, selfhood and can make decisions about their lives on their own so my wedding reflected exactly that by not including a ritual like 'kanyadaan'," the actor told PTI.

She even engaged a female priest for her wedding to emphasise gender equality.

"It is time for young couples to define how they want to get married and if their ceremony is truly representative of their personalities and love for each other," said the actor, who is also the United Nation's National Goodwill Ambassador for India.

The ritual of giving away the bride is, of course, not just about Hindu weddings. It is also a vital part of a Christian

wedding service where the father walks down the aisle with his daughter and "hands her over" to the waiting groom.

Brought up on tradition and a diet of popular culture, including movies, both Indian and western, many women have now begun to question the patriarchal traditions of wedding ceremonies across societies.

Mumbai-based IT analyst Meghna Trivedi, who got married in February last year, said the ritual of "kanyadaan" does not make sense in today's day and age but had to undergo the ritual anyway.

Trivedi, a Gujarati who married a Punjabi, said she asked the priest to find another way but he maintained 'kanyadaan' is a 'must'.

"What you mean by 'kanyadaan' is that you're giving away your daughter to somebody else and that is

something you have to do in your life and it's related to your duties as a parent that now your daughter belongs to another family," she told PTI. "But I'm still my parents' daughter after I got married... 'Kanyadaan' is like you're giving me away and you have nothing to do with me anymore... You're severing ties like I'm some object basically that you're giving away. My parents did understand it but the issue was 'this is how it is, has been and will be.'"

Actor Kangana Ranaut was among those who disagreed.

Criticising the ad in an Instagram post, she said, "Humble request to all brands... don't use religion, minority, majority politics to sell things... Stop manipulating naive consumer with shrewd divisive concepts and advertising... Please stop mocking Hindus and their rituals..."

SECOND WAVE, ALONE IN DELHI, COVID

M'rashtra youth triumphs odds to crack civil services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid almost shattered his dream, making him so weak he thought he wouldn't survive. On Saturday, a day after he cracked the civil services, Aditya Jiwane said thank you - to his parents for making him think big and to bureaucrats from his home state Maharashtra who handheld him through multiple crises in a new city. Jiwane, 25, was ranked 399 in the civil services results announced on Friday. He is confident he will find a place in the elite Indian Administrative Service, and also triumph that he had overcome many odds.

"Civil services is the dreams my parents saw for me," Jiwane, a mechanical engineer from Yashwantrao College of Engineering, Nagpur, told PTI.

"As I grew, their dreams became mine," added the son of teacher parents. While his father lectures in a local college in Warora in Chandrapur, his mother teaches in a zilla parishad school there.

That dream almost didn't happen, he said.

It was April, the second wave was raging through the national capital and Jiwane, who had decided to move to Delhi in January for his Mains exam in January after appearing for his Prelims in Nagpur, was alone.

Jiwane, who had made two unsuccessful attempts at the exams, was preparing for the interview - the last step in the gruelling three-stage examination process of one of the most sought after exams in the country - when he too was struck by Covid. Hospitals were over-

whelmed and Jiwane was one of the many struggling to find a bed in a city where the health infrastructure had been crippled by the high number of cases. His high resolution CT (HRCT) score of the chest was 18, indicating that the situation was indeed perilous.

He was alone with high fever in his room in Mukherjee Nagar - the civil services hub in northwest Delhi - and thought he wouldn't make it for the interview, then scheduled in May. Jiwane said he somehow managed an oxygen cylinder for himself. That started emptying rapidly and he knew he needed hospitalisation. But that was easier said than done.

He then sent an SOS message on different WhatsApp groups. Civil servants from his state, posted in different parts of the

country, spotted the message and chipped in.

"His condition was really critical. We got in touch with his parents and other officers posted in Delhi so that he can get immediate help. His parents also had to be comforted as they were really worried," said Deputy Commissioner (Customs), Nitish Pathode, an Indian Revenue Service officer currently posted at the Mumbai airport.

"We could manage a bed, but then it was without an oxygen," Pathode told PTI.

Swagat Patil, a DANIPS (Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Police Service) officer and an assistant commissioner with Delhi Police helped him get a bed in Burari.

CBIC makes Aadhaar...

Continued from page 1

The notification follows the decisions taken at the meeting of the GST Council in Lucknow on September 17.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said, "To arrest tax evasion, the government has made Aadhaar authentication for proprietor, partner, karta, Managing Director, whole time Director, and authorised signatory compulsory before filing an application for revocation of cancellation registration and refund application."

EY Tax Partner Abhishek Jain said with the objective of preventing revenue leakage, the government has made Aadhaar authentication mandatory for a taxpayer to be able to claim refunds.

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TiE expects about \$100 mn startups funding in sustainability summit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian chapters of non-profit organisation The IndUS Entrepreneurs expect to facilitate long-term funding of up to USD 100 million for social entrepreneurs during the upcoming sustainability summit to be hosted by its Hyderabad Chapter.

TiE expects to facilitate funding of USD 20 million in social enterprises in the short term.

The non-profit body said that it is confident of funding at least 50 to 100 social enterprises during the summit, where the social entrepreneurs will be making a pitch to about 200 global investors.



"Through its technology platform TiE is confident of facilitating funding to a tune of USD

20 million in the short-term and about USD 100 million in the long term (8-10 years to

promising social enterprises with ability to create a deep impact on human society, animals and nature," Manohar Reddy, TSS Global Chair and President TiE Hyderabad said in a statement.

TiE Sustainability Summit (TSS) is scheduled to be held during October 4 to 6, 2021, through a virtual platform.

"At TSS, we have designed a Match Making Technology Platform for potential social impact investors to meet their prospective investees (social enterprises) who have the capability and promise to not only provide high return on investment, but also create a deep social impact," Reddy said.

Mahavir Sharma, former global chairman of the Board, TiE Global and Co-Founder, Rajasthan Angel said social enterprises are the future unicorns of the world.

"They will be building a trillion dollar economy. At TiE we stay committed to fulfilling the needs of social entrepreneurs who are faced with the challenges of funding, attracting talent we will be solving both these by partnering with social impact funds and large business to fund them to a tune of USD 100 million in the long term spread across a few phases based on business viability and ability," Sharma said.



SHE Teams promise a 'real' show at this Sunday's Funday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of the State government's efforts to make Sundays fundays for the families on the Tank Bund by introducing them to a slew of immersive and enjoyable experiences, the Women Safety Wing of the Telangana State Police will be organising its event on 26th September. The Women Safety Wing, in partnership with Lead Life Foundation, 92.7 Big FM and Aerock Dance Fitness, will create awareness about the functioning of SHE-TEAMS in the State.

The Women Safety Wing is a state level vertical of the Telangana Police looking after the safety and security of women and children from a 360-degree perspective. As a nodal agency for SHE-TEAMS, which are now functioning in all police units, the wing plans to conduct such awareness sessions in the lake-side stretch of the Hussain Sagar on Sundays to enthral the crowd the with fun and educate them alongside towards the vision of 'gender equal' state ensuring the safe-

ty, dignity and empowerment of women & children.

The first kick-off session will be conducted on the upcoming Sunday and is expected to include many fun activities like Zumba, self plays, self-defence techniques etc.

Members of the public are welcome to participate and join with the Telangana Police in their efforts to provide a safe environment for women and children within the carnival atmosphere this Sunday at Hyderabad's Tank Bund Road.

Man with fake gun license held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Task Force team of North Zone, Hyderabad unearthed and apprehended one security guard Rajaram Singh of Bihar State who is illegally procuring and possession of FireArm (DBBL Gun, with live cartridges) allegedly possession of Fake Gun License on Saturday. The Police have seized a DBBL Gun, fifteen live cartridges, fake gun license and mobile. The accused has done job successfully with a fake gun license and came to Hyderabad for the same purpose, but his fake license was exposed here.

Rajaram Singh (38) is native of Mirzapur of Bihar state. He is working as a security guard in Bihar for livelihood. He came to know that Ex-Service men are getting high amounts with gun licenses and Firearms. There is demand for armed security personnel, as most of the private companies, ATM Security Services are preferring armed security personnel.



#Hyderabad
Early Evening shots at Sanjeevalah Park (#HussainSagar) maintained by @HMUDA_Gov
Did you know that a ??? ????? (maze) exists there ! Cyclone
Thanks @Govind_Nm

Promote Inter first year students without exam: NSUI

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

National Students Union of India (NSUI) state unit president Venkat Balamoor, along with a delegation, on Saturday handed over a petition to the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education Secretary Omar Jaleel seeking immediate withdrawal of the Intermediate examination schedule released on Friday. While speaking to media persons, Venkat Balamoor said "releasing the schedule again is not an excuse to say that we will promote without tests in the past ignoring the promise you made to yourself and re-testing can lead to unforeseen events for students to worry about". He pointed out that students taking the first year examinations would be stressed while preparing for



competitive exams. He said that the Board should promote all students with at least 60% marks. "Will the government accept responsibility if there is any danger to the students due to the exams", he asked.

NSUI State vice president Saddam, State General Secretaries Riteish Rao and

Jeevan, State Secretaries Shreekar, Moheed, Pawan, Hyderabad District NSUI president Abhijeet Yadav, Hyderabad District general secretaries Narsa Goud and Manikanta Goud, District Secretaries Bilal and Siva Rama Krishna were among the delegation.

Telangana logs 248 new Covid cases, one death

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana on Saturday reported 248 new Covid-19 cases, pushing the tally to 6,64,898, while the death toll rose to 3,912 with one more fatality.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) accounted for the most number of cases with 66, followed by Karimnagar (21) and Ranga Reddy (18) districts, a state government bulletin said, providing details as of 5.30 PM on Saturday.

The number of recoveries outnumbered fresh cases on

Saturday with 324 people recuperating from the infectious disease. The cumulative number of recoveries till date was 6,56,285. Active cases stood at 4,701.

The bulletin said 52,702 samples were tested today and the total number tested till date was 2,61,57,678. The samples tested per million population were 7,02,785.

The case fatality and recovery rates were at 0.58 per cent and 98.70 per cent compared to 1.3 per cent and 97.75 per cent, respectively at the national level.



Krithi Shetty inaugurates new JC Brothers's showroom at Kukatpally

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

JC Brothers managing directors—Marri Janardhan Reddy and Marri Venkat Reddy on Saturday have said that they are developing day by day doing cloth business aiming to provide quality cloths to the people of Hyderabad for the last 20 years with their complements. They said that they shifted their showroom to a big building only to provide comfortable services to the Kukatpally customers. The chief guest for the opening program cine actor Kruthi Shetty said that the owners transformed the showroom as a wonderful



one. The cloth collection is also so trendy, she said. Definitely it will become a trendy shopping destiny cloth showroom to the com-

ing festival season, she stated.

Earlier, Krithi Shetty inaugurated the show room in grand gala program.

CEA confident of LIC listing this yr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Saturday expressed confidence that the listing of LIC would happen by the fourth quarter of this year.

"...this year's budget has Rs 1.75 lakh crores as the proceeds from privatisation. Air India is proceeding well. You must have read that there are two bids that have come. Bharat Petroleum and LIC's listing is also, we are confident it should happen by the fourth quarter of this year," he said. "I am quite confident that this year, history will look at as a very, very important year for privatisation," he said at an interactive session as part of 'PGPMAX Leadership Summit 2021' of Indian School of Business (ISB) here.

The government has recent-



ly appointed 10 merchant bankers including Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Citigroup Global Markets India, and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India to manage the mega initial public offering of country's largest insurer LIC.

Subramanian, replying to a query on privatisation, talked about the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' policy and the key reform of promoting privatisation vis-a-vis public sector entities except for some strategic sectors.

No freeze of Palle and Pattana Pragathi funds, clarifies govt

Rs 381 crore released every month for villages, towns, points out Finance Department

M L MELLY MAITREYI ■ HYDERABAD

In wake of mounting criticism that the personal funds spent by Sarpanches on works executed under the Palle Pragathi programme have not been reimbursed, the State Finance Department on Saturday released details of the money released so far during the current financial year.

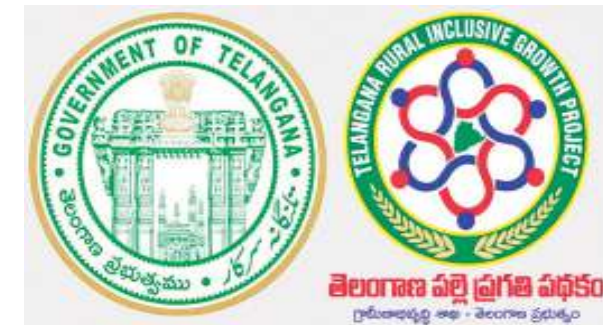
Denying reports that the government put a hold on release of Finance Commission funds or funds to the Palle Pragathi and Pattana Pragathi programmes, it said Rs 2,487 crore was released till September 23 in Financial Year 2021-22 to villages and towns.

Ramakrishna Rao, Special Chief Secretary, Finance made it clear that no freeze of any kind was imposed either on Finance Commission funds or on payment of bills for the

works executed under the Palle and Pattana Pragathi programmes. "The release of funds is regular without any interruption," he said.

Though the State had been facing financial problems under the impact of the pandemic since last financial year, the Finance Department has been releasing funds in tune with the government's priority for both development and welfare programmes and it would continue in future, Ramakrishna Rao said.

He said that the State government has given standing instructions for release of Rs 381.17 crore every month – Rs 267 crore for villages and Rs 112 crore for towns – to take up development works and maintenance of amenities under the twin Palle and Pattana Pragathi programmes. In fact Rs 200 crore was released additionally over and above the



mandated monthly funds, it was pointed out.

The department issued clarification on various charges ranging from pending dues to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore to diversion of NREGA funds and freeze on release of Finance Commission funds.

At present Rs 431 crore were with e-Kuber for payments to be made – Rs 279 crore under Palle Pragathi and Rs 152 crore under Pattana Pragathi.

percent matching grant to the Finance Commission funds, he said. The Finance Commission so far during this year released only Rs.733 crore while the State government disbursed Rs 2,487 crore, an additional Rs 1,754 crore to the local bodies.

He dismissed reports of some sarpanches committing suicide due to non-sanction of pending bills as totally baseless. The administration sought reports over the suicide of the sarpanch of Somavarampet in Siricilla district and it came to light that he was suffering from a kidney ailment.

Somavarampet panchayat was released Rs 8.66 lakh during this financial year and only two bills worth Rs 53,000 submitted during this month were to be paid. In the last five years, this panchayat was sanctioned and paid bills worth Rs 61.56 lakh, Ramakrishna Rao said.

He also gave detailed

account of funds released for various works — Vaikunthadnam - Rs 527 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 514 crore this year and no bills were pending; CC Roads – Rs 315 crore last year and Rs 146 crore this year; Rs 41 crore bills to be cleared; Sheds for solid waste—Rs 268 crore paid for two years and no bills pending; Palle Prakruthi Vanams – Rs 13 crore last year and Rs 144 crore this year and no bills pending.

Ramakrishna Rao said that under Pattana Pragathi, barring Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Rs 1,241.72 crore was released for 141 municipalities and corporations this year and Rs 1,152 crore were already paid and bills worth Rs 89.69 crore were under process.

For GHMC, Rs.377.42 crore was transferred last year under Pattana Pragathi and Rs 185.87 crore this year so far.

Million March if there is no job notification by Diwali: Bandi

Ex-MP and actress Vijayashanti urged youth to oust TRS govt

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRICILLA

Bharatiya Janata Party Telangana unit president and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar has declared that his party would organize a 'Million March' in support of unemployed youth should the TRS government fail to issue employment notification by Deepavali festival.

He was addressing a public meeting on the 29th day of his Praja Sangram Yatra at Ankireddypalli in the Siricilla Assembly constituency. The MP pointed out that about 1.91 lakh government jobs were lying vacant in the state and more than 25 lakh youth were unemployed as per official data.

Youth had supported the Telangana Rashtra Samiti during the statehood movement with a hope that they would get jobs in the new Telangana



State. But Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had deceived them by not filling even the vacant government posts, he said.

The BJP state unit president urged jobless youth to refrain from taking any extreme steps

and assured them that the BJP would organize Million March to protect their rights if the state government failed to release job notification by Deepavali.

Recalling the sacrifices of Srikanth Chari, constable

Krishna, Yadagiri, Sunil Nayak and others who had committed suicide for Telangana, Sanjay said it was unfortunate that KCR was not concerned though youth and farmers were committing suicide in Telangana State.

Addressing the gathering, ex-MP and actress Vijayashanti recalled the contribution of people, particularly youth, during the movement for achieving a separate Telanana state. "Now youth should show the same spirit to oust this corrupt government," she observed.

Party ex-MLA NVSS Prabhakar, Rajanna district prathy president P Rama krishnam, BJYM state president Bhanu Prakash, Yatra Pramila Dr Manohar Reddy, spokes person Rakesh Reddy and district leaders also attended the meeting.

EC clears confusion; symbols resembling TRS's 'car' not to be used

Continued from Page 1

especially truck, iron, cap and camera, which closely resemble the TRS poll symbol.

TRS believed that the party candidates lost the election by a slim margin in some constituencies only due to confusion with symbols that appear more or less similar to the TRS poll symbol, the 'car'. Meanwhile, the ECI placed the 'glass' poll symbol, previously assigned to Janasena, in the 'free symbols' category.

This move ahead of Huzurabad bypoll, raises eyebrows.

The ECI had on Friday issued a gazette notification amending the election symbols. The poll panel assigns permanent election symbols to national and state parties.

The Election Commission has imposed some restrictions on the allocation of free symbols for unrecognised parties. It has issued fresh orders taking steps to prevent the use of multiple markers in the respective States in accordance with the conditions prevailing.

Singareni crosses 200 MW solar capacity with new plant

PNS ■ KOTHAGUDEM

In a major milestone, the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has crossed 200 megawatt (MW) solar energy capacity with the commissioning of the latest 37 MW solar plant in Kothagudem. This 37 MW plant was inaugurated on Wednesday by company directors N.Balaram and D.Satyanarayana Rao.

Singareni has been erecting solar plants as part of its environment protection and conservation measures. It has decided to initially erect 13 plants totaling 300 MW in eight areas of the company. Erection of these plants is to be completed in three phases.

In the first phase, BHEL was given the contract to complete solar plants in four areas for 129 MW power generation. Out of this, 40 MW in Ramagundam-3, 30 MW in Manuguru, 39 MW in Yellandu, and 10 MW plant in power plant area have been completed and generation has begun. The balance 10 MW plant erection in this phase at RG-3 will be completed in another month.

Adani Construction Company was given the contract to complete 4 plants in



three areas with a capacity of 90 MW. Of this, 37 MW at Kothagudem, 28 MW at Mandamarri-A block, 15 MW at Mandamarri-B block and 10 MW at Bhupalapalli have been completed. With this, SCCL has reached solar power generation of 209 MW.

Singareni Collieries is the first coal company to enter the solar power sector along with thermal power. SCCL Chairman and Managing Director N.Sridhar showed special interest in solar power. In Singareni already 122.3 million units of solar power has been generated and connected to the grid. This solar power is being used in different areas of Singareni, thereby reducing the purchase of power from distribution companies. The

company has thus saved around Rs 75 crore until now.

When the 300 MW solar power generation is completed, Singareni would be saving around Rs 120 crore per year.

15 MW floating solar plant

In the third phase, Singareni is going to erect 81 MW capacity solar plants and it has handed over to the Adani and Novas group. Novas group has already started erection of 15 MW floating power plant on the reservoir on the premises of the Singareni thermal power plant. The Adani group has taken up erection of 22 MW plant on RG-3 open cast dump, 10 MW on Dorli open cast dump, and 34 MW at Kothagudem, Chennai.



Minister inspects progress of 2BHK houses in Khammam

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar on Saturday inspected 1,000 2BHK houses being built in Tekulapalli in the city and expressed his happiness over the progress of works.

The Minister inspected the units which are scheduled to be allotted to beneficiaries by Dasara.

The Minister was happy at the rapid progress of 2 BHK houses for the homeless poor, with the block being titled 'KCR Towers'.

He thanked Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for keeping the promise he had made during his last Assembly election campaign to people on building 2,000 2BHK houses and releasing funds for the same.

The Minister also inspected the Gollapadu Channel modernisation works.

District collector VP Gautam, City Mayor Neeraja, Municipal Commissioner Adarsh Surabhi, R and B EE Shyam Prasad and others were also present.

CONCERN OVER INCREASING VIRAL FEVERS IN SIDDIPET DISTRICT

Harish orders special drive to check communicable diseases

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Finance Minister T Harish Rao has ordered a special drive to check communicable diseases in towns here on Sunday in view of the increasing number of viral fever cases in certain municipal areas of the district.

The drive, with a highly focused approach, includes fogging operations, dropping of oil balls in water bodies, and ensuring that there is no water stagnation in and around houses.

During a teleconference with elected people's representatives, municipal chairmen, councillors, commissioners as well as medical and health officials on Saturday, the Minister enquired from the authorities the situation with regard to seasonal diseases and the treatment being provided to patients in the district.

District Medical and Health official Dr Manohar told the Minister that so far 14 dengue cases had been registered in the district. There were no cases of chickengunya and malaria. However, more and more viral fever cases were being reported, he told the Minister.

Expressing concern over the increasing number of viral fevers in the district, Harish Rao directed the Medical and Health Dept officials to monitor the seasonal fever cases and asked people having fever



symptoms to get themselves tested immediately as suitable arrangements had been made in government hospitals for diagnosis and treatment.

Mentioning that fever patients had been approaching hospitals - both private and government, he observed that fever cases were very high in urban areas. Therefore, he asked the municipalities to launch a full-scale drive in towns on Sunday in all wards with people's participation. He suggested that municipal chairmen, councillors, commissioners, officials and sanitation workers should take part in the drive without fail. Further, he asked the MP, MLC, MLAs and district officials to take part in the drive and sensitise people on viral fevers.

Harish insisted that a focused drive should be launched by constituting special teams under the leadership

of the District Collector from Monday onwards till the situation was brought under control. The teams should focus on areas where cases had been reported and ensure that there was no water stagnation in and around houses in the affected localities.

Medical and Health, Panchayat Raj and Municipal officials should remain alert till the monsoon season was over, he suggested.

District Collector P Venkatrami Reddy said that the special drive would be launched in towns from Sunday onwards to ensure hygienic surroundings, besides sensitizing people.

Local MP Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, MLC Farooq Hussain, MLAs Veditala Satish Kumar and Raghunandan Rao, additional collector Muzammil Khan and others took part in the video conference.

Over 20,000 turn out at 'Reddy Garjana'

PNS ■ JAMMIKUNTA

Over 20,000 people belonging to the Reddy community, including women and youth, turned up at the 'Reddy Garjana' held at the marketplace in Jammikunta here on Saturday to garner support for TRS' Huzurabad candidate Gelupu Srinivasa Yadav. The crowd spilled onto the streets near the venue of the event.

Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Finance Minister T Harish Rao, Education Minister Sabita Indra Reddy, Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy, Civil Supplies Minister Gangula Kamalakara, Welfare Minister Koppula Eswar, Rytu Bandhu president Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and others took part in the event.

The entire premises reverberated with 'Jai Reddy-Jai Reddy' slogans.

Pocharam Srinivasa Reddy addressed the gathering first and left the venue early because of his preoccupation with other works. TRS Huzurabad candi-



date Srinivasa Yadav was the main draw at the event. He greeted the audience from the dais. Former minister Inugala Peddireddy presided over the meeting.

Several people were heard remarking that the Garjana was the biggest gathering of the Reddy community to take place in the Huzurabad constituency. The Ministers appealed to the Reddy community to ensure the victory of Srinivasa Yadav with the highest majority. TRS youth leader Padi Kaushik Reddy, in his characteristic style, criticised former minister

Eatala Rajender, drawing loud cheers from the gathering.

Former minister Peddireddy and Reddy association leaders worked hard to make the event a grand success. TRS circles are jubilant over the success of the Reddy Garjana, held on the lines of the Gouda Garjana in Huzurabad under the leadership of Harish Rao.

The meeting would have its impact in Jammikunta surrounding villages.

MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy highlighted the importance being given to the Reddy community by Chief Minister K

Chandrasekhar Rao.

Several speakers appealed to the gathering to ensure the victory of Gelupu Srinivas in the Huzurabad by-elections and give their support to KCR who had been striving to secure quota for EBCs.

Several speakers highlighted the pro-farmer approach of the government.

Harish Rao appreciated Peddy Reddy and other leaders for making the event a grand success. He urged them to work with the same spirit to ensure the victory of Srinivas in Huzurabad.



PLEASANT SURPRISE

Secretary to Chief Minister Smita Sabharwal, endearingly known as 'people's officer', on Saturday paid a surprise visit to WEHUB to meet the bubbling entrepreneurs there. She was accompanied by Addl CP Crimes Hyd Shikha and others.

CYCLONE GULAB TO DRENCH TELANGANA

Continued from Page 1

light to moderate rain / thundershowers are expected at many places with heavy rain at isolated places up to Sunday. Thereafter, light to moderate rain / thundershowers at many places with heavy to very heavy falls at isolated places for next two days."

The deep depression is expected to bring heavy to very heavy rainfall alert to 14 districts in Telangana on Sunday

- Adilabad, Kumaram-Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Peddapalli, Jayashankar-Bhupalapally, Khammam, Mahabubabad, Warangal (Rural), Warangal (Urban), Siddipet, Yadadri-Bhuvangiri, Sangareddy, Medak and Kamareddy, the weather forecast said.

The TSDPS weather forecast said that heavy to very heavy rain would lash 11 districts on Monday - Mulugu, Khammam, Warangal (Rural), Warangal

(Urban), Janagaon, Yadadri-Bhuvangiri, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak and Kamareddy.

Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning with wind speed of 30-40 kmph are very likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana, the forecast said. As per Skymet weather, rain will also lash north Telangana, south Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha and Southeast Madhya Pradesh on September 26 and may intensify on September 27.

Allies and rivals keep political cauldron boiling in Telugu States

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

There is no better example of the saying "politics makes strange bedfellows" than the two Telugu States where allies and friends, rivals and enemies acquire an entirely new definition.

Those new to the political scene in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh may be surprised by the fact that while two political parties are friends in one State, they are bitter rivals, at least for public consumption, in the other.

For example, Telugu Desam Party politics revolves around the Jana Sena and Congress in one State, Jana Sena politics revolves around BJP and TDP and Congress politics revolves around anti-BJP parties in Telangana.

The TDP and Congress are friends in Telangana but in Andhra Pradesh these two parties are rivals. BJP and Jana Sena are friends in Telangana but in Andhra Pradesh, there is no clarity over which party Jana Sena is sailing with. Officially though, BJP and Jana Sena have formed an alliance in AP, and BJP and TDP are enemies.

But the Jana Sena struck an alliance with the TDP at some places in the recent ZPP and MPP elections. While TDP and Congress have joined hands with each other in Telangana, in Andhra Pradesh, the Congress is a big 'no' for the TDP.

TDP leaders fear if they join hands with Congress in Andhra Pradesh, the 'sin' of State bifurcation will stick to their party,



and their standing among the people will go from bad to worse.

The people of Andhra Pradesh still see the Congress as the villain of State bifurcation. In the two Assembly elections after bifurcation, the party has not been to win even a single seat in residuary AP. Keeping this in view, the TDP will not have an alliance with the Congress in AP at any cost.

In Telangana, a contrary situation prevails - here, State Congress leaders vehemently oppose any alliance with TDP. However, under pressure from the party high command, the Telangana Congress leaders grudgingly accepted a tie-up with the TDP in the last Assembly elections. Perhaps as a result of this alliance, the Congress failed to win a sizable number of seats in the previous assembly elections in Telangana in spite of support by TDP and other opposition parties.

However, in the changed political scenario in Telangana, the State Congress now wants to continue the relations with TDP

and the latter seems to be positively inclined.

In Andhra Pradesh, the TDP is ready to have an alliance with the Jana Sena, which officially is an ally of the BJP.

After the rout in the last Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, the TDP has tried its best to woo the BJP and revive their past relationship. However, the BJP is not ready for an alliance with TDP as it remembers the bitter experience of the past.

Rebuffed, the TDP is now trying to woo Jana Sena. Political observers say that a TDP-Jana Sena combination would be far more potent than a BJP-Jana Sena alliance, in AP.

On its part, the Jana Sena is gradually distancing itself from the BJP and veering towards the TDP. Its backing of the agitation against the Union government's decision to privatise the Vizag Steel Plant and supporting the TDP in the MPP elections indicates this.

There is every chance of the TDP, Jana Sena and Left parties coming together in Andhra Pradesh to take on the ruling YSR Congress Party.

At the same time in Telangana, the Congress, TDP, TJS and Left parties appear to be headed towards an alliance against the ruling TRS.

These alliances may be the result of the TDP in Andhra Pradesh and the Congress in Telangana having realised that they cannot defeat the ruling parties in their respective states on their own.

Only common projects under Boards: KCR

Continued from Page 1

Water allocation for various projects should be decided before the Boards start exercising their authority, KCR is believed to have told Shekhawat.

KCR reached Delhi to attend the conference of Chief Ministers of States affected by Left Wing Extremism convened by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday.

In his 40-minute long one-on-one meeting with Shekhawat, KCR reportedly discussed the dispute with sharing of Krishna water and some of the controversial projects taken up by Andhra Pradesh without allocation of water in Krishna basin like Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation scheme and the adverse impact of the project on Mahbubnagar district.

During his last visit to Delhi in the first week of September, KCR had given Shekhawat a detailed representation on these issues which he followed up again to give more clarity about the concerns of the State. He also requested approval to Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation scheme and also allocation of water.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by TRS MLAs from Mahbubnagar district Lakshma Reddy, Rajender Reddy and Ala Venkateswar Reddy whom he introduced to the Union Minister.

TRANSFER PRICING BY FOREIGN FIRMS

I-T dept notifies FY21 ‘safe harbour’ rates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The tax department has notified the 'safe harbour' rates for 2020-21 for calculation of transfer pricing by foreign companies in India.

Generally, safe harbour is defined as circumstances in which the tax authority shall accept the transfer price declared by the taxpayer to be at arm's length.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes, through a notification has extended the applicability of Safe Harbour Rules (SHR) to 2020-21.

As per the notification, the rates under SHR applicable from 2016-17 to 2018-19, and later extended to 2019-20, will continue to apply for 2020-21 as well.

Transfer pricing implies the prices at which various overseas divisions of a company transact with each other.

Nangia & Co LLP, Partner-Transfer Pricing, Nitin Narang said like last year, this year again, the rates have been prescribed for one year only,



instead of 3-year and 5-year period earlier.

SHR should be mutually beneficial for both taxpayers and tax authorities. For taxpayers, in terms of reduced compliance burden, cost saving, administrative convenience and resources channelised in other business area, and for tax authorities, in terms of reduced time for review and litigation, agreed margins with computation mechanism and taxes thereon.

“Given that businesses are amid an unprecedented economic situation and the past year has been severely impacted due to the pandemic, any lowering of the rates in line with the current economic circumstances would have gone a long way to make SHR more attractive and lowering of thresholds, or adding more transactions, may add more willing taxpayers,” Narang added.

Being an alternate dispute

resolution mechanism, SHR should have been made more attractive and exhaustive rather than just been extended, to give more impetus, Narang added.

Following international best practice, India introduced the concept of SHR in Finance Act 2009. Post that, the first round of SHR provisions were introduced in August 2013 for a period of three years, followed by a revision in 2017 in the SHR which was applicable till 2019-20.

USFDA issues 6 observations after inspection of Biocon’s unit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Biotechnology major Biocon on Saturday said the US health regulator has issued six observations after the inspection of the manufacturing facility of its Malaysian subsidiary Biocon Sdn Bhd.

The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) conducted an on-site pre-approval inspection of the company's Malaysian subsidiary Biocon Sdn Bhd's manufacturing facility for Insulin Aspart between September 13 and September 24, Biocon said in a statement.

"At the conclusion of the inspection, the agency has issued a Form 483 with a total of 6 observations across Drug Substance, Drug Product and Devices Facilities," it added.

A Biocon spokesperson said the company is confident of addressing these observations through procedural enhancements and an appropriate Corrective and Preventive Action Plan (CAPA), which will be submitted to the USFDA in the stipulated time.

Shah: Centre will announce new cooperative policy soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Centre will soon come out with a new cooperative policy and work in tandem with states to strengthen the cooperative movement.

Shah, who is also the Union Home Minister, also announced that the number of primary agriculture cooperatives (PACs) will be increased to 3 lakh in the next five years. At present, there are about 65,000 PACs.

He was speaking at the first Sehkarita Sammelan or National Cooperative Conference here. The Ministry of Cooperation was formed in July this year.

Addressing the gathering comprising over 2,100 representatives of different cooperatives and nearly 6 crore online participants, Shah said some people wonder why the Centre created this new ministry as the cooperatives are a state subject.

Shah said there could be a legal response to it, but he does not want to "get into this argument".

The Centre, he stressed, will cooperate with states and "there will be no friction".



"We will work with all states to take forward the cooperative movement," he said, and added the Ministry of Cooperation has been formed to strengthen and modernise the sector.

On the proposed new cooperative policy, Shah said a policy was brought in 2002 by the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and now the Modi government will start working on a new policy.

Stressing that the cooperative movement was more rel-

evant today than ever, Shah said cooperatives can contribute a lot in the development of the country.

According to him, the cooperatives will play a crucial part in making India a USD 5 trillion economy.

Referring to the problems being faced by cooperatives on taxation front and other issues, Shah said he was aware of the concerns and assured that there would be no injustice towards them.

MONEY MATTERS

Balkrishna Industries to raise up to Rs 1,000 cr via long-term finance

Off-highway tyres major Balkrishna Industries on Saturday said it will raise up to Rs 1,000 crore through long-term borrowings. In a regulatory filing, the company said its board at a meeting held on Saturday decided to raise "funds up to Rs 1,000 crore through broader means of long-term finance". The long-term finance "can be in the form of foreign currency bonds, non-convertible debentures (NCD), external commercial borrowings and term loans in various currencies", it added. "These long-term borrowings may be secured or unsecured, rated or unrated, in one or more tranches/drawdowns, and in case of bonds or NCDs — it may be listed or unlisted in one or more stock exchanges in India," the filing added. The company, which sells its tyres under the BKT brand, said its board has further delegated the power to its Finance Committee to do the needful for the fundraising. Known for its off-highway tyres, BKT has focused on specialist segments such as agricultural, construction and industrial as well as earthmoving, port and mining, ATV, and gardening applications. The company has undertaken a Rs 1,000-crore capacity expansion programme and earlier this month commenced trial production at its new manufacturing unit at Waluj in Maharashtra. The new plant has an installed capacity of 30,000 MT per annum along with warehousing facility for raw materials and finished goods.

HDFC sells part of invoked shares of Ansal Housing

Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) on Saturday said it has sold a part of the shares, invoked by it of Ansal Housing, to recover its dues. In August, HDFC had invoked 46,20,000 shares of Ansal Housing Limited (Ansal) aggregating 7.78 per cent of the paid-up share capital, for recovery of part outstanding dues against loans availed by pledgers/borrowers. "In this connection, we wish to inform you that out of this, the Corporation has in aggregate sold 12,67,504 shares, representing 2.13 per cent of the paid-up share capital of Ansal, including 1,57,939 shares representing 0.27 per cent of the paid-up share capital of Ansal which were sold on September 24, 2021," HDFC said in a regulatory filing.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Health Division, Karimnagar.
e-Procurement Short Tender Notice - 1st CALL
1) NIT No. 2067/TS/4M/BNZ/SEHOC/HQ/2021-22. Dt:24-09-2021. 2) Name of work: Construction of Community Halls, Mahila Mandali Buildings, Anganwadi Centers and Cultural Centers etc in Jammikunta Municipality under SOP 2021-22. 3) No. of Works: (25) work, 4) Total Estimated Cost: Rs. 11,54,00,000-00. 5) Start Date for Receipt of Bids:24-09-2021 upto 10:30 A.M., 6) Last Date for Receipt of Bids: 27-09-2021 upto 5:00 P.M., 7) Price Bid Opening Date: 05-10-2021, 10:30 A.M. onwards 8) Name & Address of the tender issuing officer: The Executive Engineer, PH Division, Karimnagar. Further details can be seen at www.e-procurement.gov.in.
BPR R.O. No. : 525/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Sd/- Executive Engineer (PAC), Public Health Division, Karimnagar.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NIT No. 39/E.1.14/GHMC/2021-22 Dated: 25-09-2021
Name of Work: Various works under Goshamahai 14, Division 14, K2, GHMC. Estimate Amount/ECV (Rs In Lakhs): 51.75. Start Date/ Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids: 27-09-2021@11.00 AM - 30-09-2021@11.00 AM, Name & Address Officer: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER -14, GHMC, 5th floor Abids Parking Complex, Abids, Hyderabad. 9989930428.
For further details can be seen at e-procurement website www.tender.telangana.gov.in
R.O. No. : 1637/PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DIVISION-14, GHMC

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Superintending Engineer (R&B), Headquarters Circle, Khairatabad/Hyderabad-500004.
NIT No. 16/TA/TS/SEHOC/Main Building/High Court/2021-22 Dt: 23.09.2021
1) Name of work: Replacing the Roof slab in Lime Concrete with RCC Slab and Strengthening of Load bearing walls, Arches by grouting including new Plumbing, Drainage lines and New Electrical Cables of Main Building in the High Court Premises, Hyderabad.
2) Estimate Contract Value: Rs.7,95,41,180/- 3) Date and Time of issue of Tenders: 25.09.2021 from 3.00 PM to 11.10.2021 upto 3.00 PM. 4) Date and Time of Receipt of Tenders: 25.09.2021 from 3.00 PM to 11.10.2021 upto 3.30 PM. 5) Date of opening of Technical Bid: 11.10.2021 @ 4.00 PM. 6) Date of opening of Price Bid: 13.10.2021 @ 01.00 PM.
Further details can be seen at "e-Procurement market place at <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 25.09.2021 @ 3.00 PM onwards
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (R&B), Headquarters circle, Hyderabad.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. NIT No.26/SE-M/LBNZ/GHMC/J2&J3/2021-22. Date: 24.09.2021
Name of the Work: 1 No. of Restoration work and 1 No. of Box Culvert works in Circle 2, LB Nagar Zone, GHMC. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 150.00. 1 No. of Box Drain in Hayathnagar Circle 3, L.B. Nagar Zone, Rs. in Lakhs.300.00. GHMC Total 3 Nos. of works: 450.00. Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 25/09/2021 @ 12.00 PM, 29/09/2021 @ 12.00 PM. - 25/09/2021 @ 12.00 PM - 05/10/2021 @ 12.00 PM Name & Address Office Ph No: SE-M, LBNZ GHMC Zonal Office, Gaddiannaram, Hyd. seel.ghmc@gmail.com 9701362708. Further details can be seen at <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>.
R.O. No. : 16368-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER LB NAGAR ZONE, GHMC

Tourism sector heading for a comeback

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the help of large-scale vaccination programmes and new norms rolling out, the tourism sector is inching its way back to recovery, and restart of tourism will help kick-start recovery and growth, the Confederation of Hospitality, Technology and Tourism Industry said on Saturday.

It is also essential that the benefits this will bring are enjoyed widely and fairly, the industry body said in a statement.

"The travel sector, especially domestic travel, appears to be heading for a comeback. Indian travellers are looking for quick getaways through road trips, weekend breaks and staycations that offer local stay experiences," Airbnb India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Taiwan General Manager, Amanpreet Bajaj said.

Travellers are also becoming increasingly aware of sustainable travel and are making environment-friendly choices



when travelling, he added.

"The pandemic has helped promote environmental awareness amongst travellers and today, it's encouraging to see people actively seeking sustainable travel choices," MakeMyTrip Co-Founder & Group CEO Rajesh Magow said.

In a similar vein, EaseMyTrip CEO and Co-Founder Nishant Pitti said, "We have noticed that Indian travellers have started making more sustainable travel decisions as the pandemic has

made everyone think about the kind of impact they are creating while travelling."

They are now more aware of their choices as they reevaluate their plans keeping sustainability in mind, he added.

"The industry travel booking trends suggest that in a year from now we will be witnessing the best phase for the travel sector. The demand we are witnessing is fairly distributed and holiday patterns have changed tremendously," OYO India & South-East Asia CEO Rohit Kapoor said.

UK eyes visa change to ease trucker shortage

PNS ■ LONDON

In a U-turn, the British government is expected to ease visa rules for truck drivers to help fix supply-chain problems that have triggered long lines at gas stations and some shuttered pumps.

The government said late Friday it was "looking at temporary measures to avoid any immediate problems." It said any action it took would be "very strictly time-limited."

The haulage industry says the UK is short tens of thousands of truckers, due to a perfect storm of factors including the coronavirus pandemic, an aging workforce and an exodus of foreign workers following Britain's departure from the European Union.

Post-Brexit immigration rules mean EU citizens can no longer live and work visa-free in Britain, as they could when the UK was a member of the trade bloc.

Trucking companies have been urging the Conservative government to ease immigration rules so drivers can more easily be recruited from across Europe.

Britain's farming and food processing industries, which are short of fruit-pickers and meat-packers, have made similar requests.

The government has resisted, saying British workers should be trained up to take the jobs. It has stressed that Britain is not short of fuel, but that has not stopped motorists forming lines at gas stations to fill up just in case.

One-third of employees feel disconnected with leadership: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the new normal after the Covid-19 completely changing the work culture across the world, a report has revealed that one-third of employees interviewed across the world feel disconnected from their leaders as interactions between employees and employers plunged amid the pandemic.

One in every three employees feels disconnected from the leader, furthering feelings of isolation and loneliness, according to a report by O C Tanner's the '2022 Global Culture Report'.

The report further found that 61 per cent of employees said the workplace is where they form most of their new friendships

and that their social group at work inspires them to do their best work.

Around 45 per cent of employees said the number of individuals they regularly interact with at work has decreased significantly over the past year, and 57 per cent said they engage in fewer social activities, it stated.

When employees feel less connected to their workplace, culture and purpose, the likelihood of great work falls about 90 per cent, the probability of burnout increases drastically and the odds that employees will leave within three years surges, the report noted.

Therefore, organisations need to maintain strong connections



among team members to ensure the best possible employee experience, which will result in less likelihood of fragmentation and will help minimise the risk to the company, the report noted.

"The former concept of workplace 'normalcy' left the building in March 2020, and it's not

coming back. A new landscape of work and business has emerged from the pandemic, and helping employees feel connected to purpose, accomplishment, and one another—no matter where or when they work—is more important than ever," O C Tanner Institute Vice-

President Gary Beckstrand said. "2022 Global Culture Report" by O C Tanner, the global leader in employee recognition and workplace culture, is based on data gathered from over 38,000 employees, leaders, HR practitioners, and executives from 21 countries worldwide, including from over 5,500 respondents in India.

Meanwhile, the report found that one in every three employees do not feel connected to their leaders which leads to diminishing cultural and business outcomes.

Currently, 62 per cent of leaders communicate what success looks like and 52 per cent make others aware of their employees' success, said the report adding

that only 57 per cent of employees feel appreciated by their leaders.

"Whether intentional or not, when leaders don't make an effort to connect to employees, employees perceive the leader doesn't care about them and doesn't want to help them feel included in the organisation," it said.

In organisations where diversity is high, recognition is an important way to showcase how everyone can work and succeed together and it allows every employee to develop leadership skills, and the company benefits from improved cultural and business outcomes and a strong pipeline of leaders as a result, it added.



ASCI rejects complaint against Lux Cozi TV ad by rival

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Advertising sector regulator ASCI has rejected a complaint against underwear brand Lux Cozi's TV Commercial featuring Bollywood star Varun Dhawan, filed by its rival Amul Macho claiming plagiarism of its campaign.

The Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) of the ASCI observed that both the advertisements "barely had any similarities" between them in terms of concept and execution elements, and was not in contravention of its Code.

"The CCC concluded that the advertiser's advertisement was not similar to the complainant's earlier run advertisement in general layout, copy, slogans, visual presentations, music or sound effects, so as to suggest plagiarism. The TVC was not in contravention of the ASCI Code," the order said.

"This complaint was not upheld," said the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Earlier, this month, J G Hosiyer, which owns the Amul Macho underwear brand, had alleged its TOING Ad has been copied by Lux Industries for its LUX Cozi television commercial and had

approached ASCI.

Kolkata-based Lux Industries has launched a new advertising campaign for its Lux Cozi underwear brand featuring Varun Dhawan.

Lux Industries had contended before ASCI, its advertisement is unique on individual points as well as in totality, and any semblance is fleeting and

only in respect of elements commonly used in the trade, such as shape and colour of the garment.

Moreover, Amul's Toing advertisement was last aired in 2007, and thereafter, banned.

"No reputation, goodwill or brand equity can be vested in publicity/marketing material that has been banned to the public for the last 14 years," it had said.

Commenting on the development, Lux industries Executive Director Udit Todt said: "We welcome the verdict passed by ASCI."

"This advertisement is something of a first, and the verdict does add some necessary clarity and sends out the right message about a responsible brand like Lux Cozi. We are already witnessing a growth trajectory in our sales and are very confident about our product's success," he added.

I think everybody
has the right to a
private life
—Keira Knightley



Attached to none

Renunciation is a critical part of the journey towards enlightenment. The way to look at it is what makes it different for all

8



9

young writers

Today young children are just not interested in excelling in academics. Pursuing their passion and dream gets



Active Parenting can help parents significantly in reducing stress, both for their children and for themselves, writes RAMG VALLATH, as he suggests strategies & age-appropriate techniques to tackle the challenges being faced by most

PANDEMIC: A TRIPLE-WHAMMY FOR PARENTS



The pandemic has delivered a triple-whammy to parents. First and foremost, the pandemic itself is an unprecedented, once-in-a-lifetime event. Even the best of scientists cannot predict where it is headed; who are safe, who are vulnerable; or what precautions — including vaccines — afford what level of protection. Secondly, children have been uprooted from their routines, confined inside the house, kept away from socialising and have even been forced by circumstances to become screen addicts. Parenting, which is a discovery process, even in normal circumstances, has become far tougher due to these added stresses. Thirdly, parents themselves have been uprooted from their routines and forced to reduce social interactions. Many have lost their jobs and many have work hours that have eaten up into personal time in an unprecedented blending of work and personal life. And now, their world is going to be shaken up yet again, with schools reopening. Routines being practiced over the last 18 months will need to be unlearned and new routines re-established, with the sword of Damocles of a possible new wave always hanging on their heads. This is when the principles of Active Parenting can come to the rescue of parents.

WHAT IS ACTIVE PARENTING?

While every child is unique and every family and circumstances unique, the underlying principles, framework and strategies of Active Parenting can substantially help in every situation, for every child and every parent. Active Parenting can help parents significantly in reducing stress — both for their children and for themselves. In fact, it can even help in converting these uncertainties into learning opportunities for children and bonding opportunities for the family. The three key principles of Active Parenting are as below.

- Inculcate the right attributes and qualities systematically and proactively instead of fire-fighting when issues pop up
- Be mindful that every opportunity can be utilised to build these attributes and qualities and proactively use every opportunity to do that
- Provide high support, while empowering children to take ownership and responsibility for their own lives

Based on the above principles, there are several strategies and age-appropriate techniques that a practitioner of Active Parenting can use to tackle each of the challenges that school reopening presents.

CHALLENGES POSED BY REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

First let us list out the challenges to be tackled.

- Both parents and children may have fear of

Covid. Even though most schools are taking utmost care in putting in place strict guidelines for ensuring there is no Covid outbreak, in a school with many children, implementation is unlikely to be perfect. This could lead to anxiety and stress for both parents and children.

- For both children and parents, reopening means changing routines drastically. For children, it means having to get up earlier by sometimes as much as 60 to 90 minutes, getting ready, giving up on snacking any time they want, coming back from school feeling tired etc. For parents, it again means having to get up earlier to get children ready, ensuring breakfast/snack is ready on time, sometimes having to drop and pick up children from the school or bus stop etc. These can induce stress and also create conflict between parents and children.
- For children, school reopening will create academic stress. After perhaps 18 months, they are going back into a formal classroom. While most schools had organised for online classes, in is a less-than-perfect mode of learning and it is likely that the topics covered in the last eighteen months haven't been absorbed well enough. Even worse, surveys have shown that there is even some slippage of concepts learned before the pandemic. Many children will feel overwhelmed by the workload in the first few months as schools try to cover lost ground.
- Social stress is another problem that some children will need to deal with, especially the more introverted children. Children who have been subjected to bullying in the past and who have had a safe cocoon at home in these eighteen months will be suddenly confronted with the prospect of facing their tormentors again. There could also be children who are apprehensive of certain teachers who would dread the prospect of facing them face to face again.

In children, these signs of stress could manifest in many ways. Reluctance to go to school, tantrums, unusual levels of obstinacy, subdued look, emotional meltdowns, headache, upset stomach etc. are few of the signs that parents can watch out for. On the other hand, stress can cause irritation, short-temper, frustration, and even anger in parents.

APPLYING ACTIVE PARENTING PRINCIPLES

With so much stress on themselves and on the children on various counts, the principles of Active Parenting can come to the rescue. First and foremost, parents need to extend unconditional support to their children by demonstrating deep love, compassion and trust. While it is understandable that parents, who are themselves under stress, might feel irritated, impatient and short-tempered when children show reluctance to go to school or otherwise act difficult, parents need to be understanding and empathetic.

In fact, they need to be proactive in bring-



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ing up the possibility of the above stress points and assure the children that they understand that there may be stress on them and that the parents are there to help them. What the child needs in a parent in a situation like this is a friend who they can share their apprehensions or worries with and not a pushy and aggressive master. To quote the famous model of the clinical psychologist, Diana Baumrind, parents need to be high on warmth and responsiveness during this turmoil.

BEFRIENDING

But the question remains — how can parents ensure that children share their apprehensions openly? This would depend a lot on the nature of the child. But one of the key strategies of Active Parenting — befriending — can help in unlocking some of the reluctance of children to share deeply personal stuff. The underlying principle is that children, like adults, feel more comfortable in sharing inner feelings when there is empathy and trust instead of judgment. For this, parents need to spend quality time with children. It will help if parents can share instances from their own childhood, when they faced stressful situations. This may give the confidence for children to open up their own fears.

Another technique would be to have a family team discussion: with each member sharing their own challenges and fears relating to the current situation. Then each member can share an action plan on what they intend to do to overcome the challenges. Finally, each member can request specific support from other members of the team. It can start with each of the parents sharing how the new routines could affect them and asking specific support from each other to help them cope with this. Then they could also ask for specific support from the children, such as 'taking responsibility for managing their own routine' or 'being patient when they come back home hungry, if their favourite food isn't available'. This could prompt the children to also share their challenges and expected support.

One of the aspects that can get addressed through the above 'team approach' is Covid appropriate behaviour. As someone who has been deeply involved with the pandemic response of a large philanthropic organisation, I would like to reassure the parents that there is very little chance of children catching a severe attack of Covid.

However, it is important to take all precaution and ensuring both children and parents follow Covid appropriate behaviour is critical. Parents need to impress upon children the importance of following the protocols such as masking, regular handwashing, and physical distancing. They need to spell these out and ensure children understand the reason behind these guidelines.

The children should know that their deviation from the protocols could affect the parents and other elders at home — if any — far worse than it would affect themselves. This is a great way to build a sense of responsibility. Let the children know that you trust them to adhere to the guidelines. Parents also need to role model Covid-appropriate behaviour when they themselves venture out.

RESPECT, TRUST AND EMPATHY

During this challenging transition period, the two traits that parents need to role-model are patience and empathy. With each other, as well as with kids. If the parents are biting each other's heads off at the drop of a hat, it would be unreasonable and impractical for them to expect a patient behaviour from their children. When children observe their parents facing stressful situations in a candid and humorous fashion, they are also likely to adopt the same behaviour. This includes unabashed apology from parents to each other and to the children when they lose their cool and making fun of their own such 'ridiculous' behaviour.

STORY-TELLING

Another key Active Parenting strategy that can come in handy in such situations is story-telling. There is no better way to inculcate the desired qualities (values and traits) in children than by telling them stories — of real life heroes and fictitious heroes who manifested the same qualities and succeeded because of them. Similarly, parents telling the children of times when they themselves demonstrated these qualities to their own advantage will also help in driving home the benefit of these qualities. Of course, it is important that these story-telling sessions do not appear to be sessions for the sake of building these qualities.

The primary purpose of stories should be entertainment as far as the child is concerned. The secondary and invisible purpose is inculcating the traits and values. The child should subconsciously absorb these deeper messages. In a stressful situation like this, the most desirable qualities to instil are self-discipline, sense of responsibility, ownership, sense of humour, respect, gratitude etc. remember that stories plant seeds in the mind and at the appropriate time, these seeds sprout.

Every crisis is an opportunity. If the above suggestions are embraced by parents wholeheartedly, they might find that this stressful situation was the best learning period for themselves and their children and that it offered a truly life-altering situation with family bonds becoming stronger than ever.

The writer is an IITian, a tech company co-founder, a motivational speaker & the author of Active Parenting: How to raise children with boundless potential, published by HarperCollins India



WORRY NEVER ROBBS
TOMORROW OF ITS
SORROW, IT ONLY SAPS
TODAY OF ITS JOY
— LEO BUSCAGLIAO

ATTACHED TO NONE

Renunciation is a critical part of the journey towards enlightenment. The way to look at it is what makes it different, writes HINGORI



Vairagya, in Sanskrit, roughly translates as dispassion, detachment, or renunciation. The big question on renunciation is 'what is it that we are renouncing'?

Is *tyaag* (sacrifice) of all our worldly possessions the same as renunciation? To understand this, I would like to draw from Yog Vashistha. There is a wonderful story of a king and queen who eventually realised the truth. While the queen realised it very early, the king decided that the way to enlightenment was austerity and penance. He left his kingdom in the care of his wife, gave up all his worldly possessions and moved to the forest where he performed severe penance for many years — so was this the right path to enlightenment? Not really, it just resulted in him being extremely frustrated and unhappy. This is a common confusion with initiates on the path to spiritual growth.

True renunciation does not lie in becoming a swami, going to the mountains, living in a '*dharamshala*' and sleeping on the floor. Further, it can be attained by anyone — whether a multi-millionaire, *yogi*, student, farmer, doctor, prisoner or anyone else. It's not what you have or don't have; it's your state of consciousness. This, of course, sounds very profound but let's discuss what it really means. The

renunciate is someone who rests in the joy of the spirit rather than that provided by the senses. A true renunciate enjoys what comes to them unsought, and does not chase desires in this illusionary world. In fact seeking enlightenment and forcibly renouncing worldly pleasures as the king also translates into intense desire as does the setting of milestones to measure spiritual progress.

If I were to put it in a single statement — someone who has overcome the attraction of the senses and is detached in terms of possessions, relationships and desires is a true renunciate.

Renunciation is a critical part of the journey towards enlightenment, however the way to look at it is not that you don't 'own anything' rather it is to not let anything 'own you'. Not your senses, not your mind, not your possessions, not your relationships and most of all not your 'identity'. Remain established in the 'self'. So how does one renounce all these 'thinks' and 'things'?

A simple way to look at it is equanimity. When we remain unaffected by joy and sorrow, pain and pleasure, likes and dislikes, we achieve equanimity. How then do we reach this stage. In this article we will examine one of the ways to get there, and that is the way of 'acceptance'. When we see things just

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'as they are' and not as they 'should or should not be' we develop acceptance. Apart from situations and scenarios that may occur externally, this also pertains to accepting ourselves. This does not mean inaction or making no effort towards correction and change. But once acceptance has permeated within, it lacks the emotion and you learn to accept yourself on an 'as-is-where-is' basis. I am not recommending a sense of futility or fatalism, which are both negative in connotation. Rather, saints often talk about 'contentment', the root of which lies in 'acceptance' which stems from a positive mindset.

Rabia of Basra, was a well-known Sufi mystic. Her approach to spiritual life won respect from many contemporaries. When people asked her, "When are servants of god content?" She replied, "They are content when they are as grateful for pain, as they are for pleasure."

It's a long journey, a journey which we have traversed across many lifetimes, and as we continue the path. Let me share a great tool to build acceptance of oneself and others. It is known as *pratipaksh bhavana*. This is one of the yogic mind practices that teaches you to cultivate a positive thought every time a negative one enters the mind. In other words, it is a device to create an opposite attitude

towards thoughts or feelings that cause a disturbance in your mind.

In simpler words, it reflects an opposite viewpoint. When you receive thoughts about something your intellect does not like, you select an opposite thought to superimpose the disliked original one. For example, if someone is rude to you, instead of naturally developing animosity towards them, *pratipaksh bhavana* teaches you to look at them in the opposite manner. You can convince yourself that maybe the person was going through stress and did not realise how they were speaking, or that perhaps it was your destiny to face a crude reaction from someone, or you can ask yourself if something you said initiated this reaction. These are just a few illustrations of how you can stop the other person's behaviour from hurting you.

As a golden rule instead of looking at the rate of success, look at the rate of decreasing failure.

Maharishi Patanjali remarked, "Expose the mind to constant thoughts of anger and resentment, and you will find these anger-waves build up anger-samskars, which will predispose you to find occasions for anger permeating your daily life. A man with well-developed anger-samskars is said to have a bad temper."

Once a guru was questioned, "What should I do if I get sensual thoughts while treating women?" He smiled as if he had been asked that question a hundred times before. He said, "While treating women visualise her as an infant and then an old lady." This was a unique example of a kind of *pratipaksh bhavana*, where you superimpose not an opposite emotion but a variation of visualisations to avoid a negative one.

I urge you to think about a game of cricket. Technically, it is almost impossible to see a ball at 100 miles an hour and then decide how to play it. Few batsmen can do that. So how do they hit a ball that moves faster than one can think? It is called practice. It also leads to muscle memory.

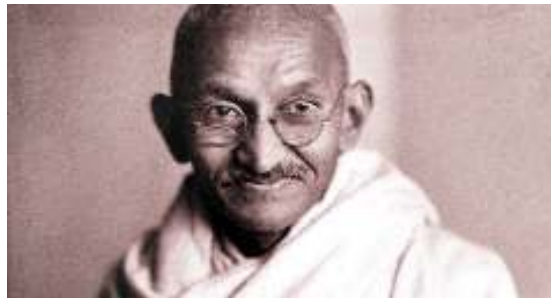
You have to go to the nets and keep practicing till you know what to do. You need to understand that you will improve, but only a little at a time. And so it is with spiritual practices.

Even when struggling to accept yourself, you can look at the flip side and say, "These days, I dislike myself less" and then say, "I hardly dislike myself", which will eventually lead to a feeling wherein you will not dislike yourself at all. From here on, I pray that you can start accepting yourself unquestioningly.

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras series of spiritual books



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK



Gandhi as I see him

Writing about Gandhi is a passion for some. It is a fashion for some. But there is another class that has emerged on the scene, the Gandhi baiters. Though still insignificant in numbers, the group is aggressive, vocal and kind of social media activist who believe that a storm can be created in a tea cup. For such activists attempts to demean Gandhi is a pastime they enjoy. Whether it is a perception or a propaganda, misinformation or disinformation, the campaign is more impulsive than objective. But there is need to let the right knowledge reach the vast young population who get carried away by social media. Maybe, the recent research publication by an authentic source like the Sage throw some light on the nature of social media misinformation and serve as an eye opener. The study has rightly found that India is one of the most misinformation affected country and also produces the largest amount of misinformation. Obviously, because social media is a full time pastime for a large number of people. Against this backdrop, and even at risk of coming in the firing range of the troll brigade let's talk about Gandhi on his yet another birthday. More so, because we are celebrating 75 years of Indian independence in a big way. Though it must be acknowledged that there were many who fought for and contributed towards India's freedom, yet it was Gandhi who played the stellar role. Many before his advent on the scene tried to make the British Government listen, but it was Gandhi who succeeded. It was Gandhi who proved that the British were not invincible. It was Gandhi who converted the Congress into an organ of mass movement from a motley group of passionate people dominated by lawyers. And it was Gandhi who influenced the world's opinion against the British that ultimately paved way for their retreat. From Champaran to Dandi it was Gandhi who involved the common Indian in the fight against the British. The greatest misstatement on Gandhi is about his Hindu credentials. The fact is that he was a more devout Hindu than the many who are championing the cause today. Gandhi not only understood Hinduism in its real sense, but he also practiced it religiously. He followed the principles of Geeta and believed in the philosophy of the religion so lucidly advocated by Swami Vivekananda. His understanding of Ram was much better than many of the claimants of Ram's legacy today. A perfect blend of tradition and modernity, Gandhi was an example of ethical leadership, so popular in Management classrooms today. In fact, no course on ethics can be complete without a mention of Gandhi. He not only preached ethical conduct, but he epitomised it. Ethics for him was not about right behaviour when you are in temple, but also when you are alone and no one is watching. He believed in truth and nonviolence, he believed in upliftment of the poorest, he believed in cleanliness as Godliness. For him simple living and high thinking was the credo and he practiced what he preached. For him means and ends were interchangeable. His economic ideas were endorsed by the World Bank time and again. Little wonder, he still is one of our most popular global brands. Rightly was he adjudged man of the millennium in the year 2000. For those who still not understand him: forgive them O'lord, for they know not what they do.

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Turn to art for progress

Creativity in any form helps to relieve stress, enhances mental health, and strengthens the immune system, says AARTI ZAVERI



Anyone can be an artist, regardless of their talent. Using art, creativity, and imagination in your daily life may lead to bravery, breakthroughs, and uniqueness, all of which can pave the path for genuine success. Understanding how art makes you more creative and capable of thinking outside the box will push you out of your comfort zone and make you willing to face any challenges that come your way. Here are ways that incorporating art and imagination into your regular work will result in productivity and accomplish-

ment in the long run. It's simple to assume that looking at art makes us happy. Whether one prefers modern subjects, classic styles, sculptures, still life, or ceramics, the love for art is universal, even among people who do not consider themselves artists. This reciprocal emotion, though, isn't just for show. Exposure to art influences our health, success, and our life. Let's take a deeper look at some of the ways art may improve your life.

ART AFFECTS OUR LIFE

Did you realise that gazing

at art has a direct impact on the brain? The University of London reported in 2011 that when individuals saw attractive artwork, blood flow to the brain increased by up to 10%. Perhaps the word 'art' is hidden within the term 'smart' for a reason! Art can heal both the mind and the physical. This fact has garnered attention, as physicians have discovered that looking at and producing art has many health advantages. It relieves stress, enhances mental health, and strengthens the immune system. Art reduces patient recovery time and increases

hospital staff productivity. There is so much proof that art improves health that we now have trained art therapists.

ART FACILITATES COMMUNICATION

When words fail to express something, the visual arts are a method to communicate it. It's a method for us to express ourselves and think about the human predicament. We make an image with a message based on what we think or feel and share it with others to see how they perceive it. In this sense, art might be the ticket that allows us to build a more peaceful environment in which to live.

ART IS A FUEL THAT IMPROVES ONE'S QUALITY OF LIFE

Art not only improves our physical and mental wellbeing, but it also gives us a feeling of direction. The creativity that comes with creating and viewing art may transform our perspective on life and assure us that there are brighter days ahead. Do you get a sense of impending doom? Take a look at some art, or pick up a brush or pen and try your hand at it. Art provides a respite from the daily grind and an opportunity to tackle difficulties in a healthy way. Do you want to see more art in your life? Take advantage of those little perks by stopping by an art gallery on your way home or while doing errands.

The writer is visual artist

God is easily pleased

If we wish to lead a quality life, we must be prepared to listen to God and try to please Him, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

God is always on a lookout for ways to help us, reward us. That is why He is always watching us, listening to us and He even knows what we are thinking. The purpose is to respond to us as necessary. Such is the cosmic design. He pleased when someone is dutiful, i.e. one performs one's duties. Of course, God is much more pleased if someone acts according to '*dharma*' for which reason He incarnates. He appreciates those engaged in welfare activities to an extent that He has assured no '*durgati*' (bad end) for such persons. Lord Krishna has specifically commended Janakaji for his selfless working with public welfare. (3.20)

God has commended even those who approach Him due to distress; Lord Krishna has called such persons noble. (7.18) Same view He holds about seekers of wealth. There is nothing wrong in seeking wealth; God's only requirement is that it should be according to '*dharma*'. If seeking wealth was not desirable, the entire world would be disqualified. Can you expect God to have such a mindset? Then, where is our problem in pleasing God? What we want must be bona fide and God will be pleased if we approach Him. And spiritual acts, even a little, are highly pleasing to God; He promises protection from great fear. (3.40) It is impossible to imagine if anyone of us is pleased so easily and readily.

But we have plenty of excuses both not to approach God and also not to try to please Him by our acts. The most common excuse is that others are not doing it. Yes, they are not, because they won't as Lord Krishna has pointed out when he stated, "Due to the illusion



caused by hate and duality of wish, all living entities get illusioned." (7.27) If we wish to be one of the masses and go through the cycle of birth and death and spend an ordinary life and return for another ordinary life, that is our decision. But if we wish to lead a quality life in this one and the next, we must be prepared to listen to God's instructions and try to please Him. Is he not the one who holds all the cards?

Another excuse is that we will do what God says in old age. Noble idea, but it does not work. By that time our habits become rigid and bodies weak. The reality is that any effort required to approach God and please Him becomes increasingly difficult with age. The third excuse is that mind does not agree. Of course it won't because we have embraced a child's mindset, who refuses to eat a fruit because he does not like it. Has he tasted the fruit? No, he

hasn't. This explains the fourth excuse, which is: who has seen God? Surely, you haven't because you didn't make the requisite effort. But how can you be sure that others have also not seen God? Have you checked with everyone before making such a statement? The list of excuses is endless. So where does it get us? The Lord has answered: in illusion. I am sure some of us are smart enough to admit that the present life is not that great and something should be done about it. God is very merciful. As the saying goes, you take one step. He takes 99 towards you. This one baby step will also please God and He will reward adequately much more than our expectations. It is no wonder that devotees of God write such praise for God, because they are overwhelmed by what God does for them.

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MEET INDIA'S YOUNG WRITERS

Today young children are just not interested in excelling in academics. Pursuing their passion and dream gets them going — be it to become entrepreneurs or authors. SHALINI SAKSENA chats up a few such children who talk about their novels

Artistically inclined

Ishanvi Jain
11 years old
Author of: **Throne of the Sea**

You expect 11-year-olds enjoying with friends and doing kid stuff. What you don't expect is that they will have a day cramped with school classes and then Art of Communication course that teaches with how to perfect their English grammar. Not only this, the classes at Camp K-12 also teach the kids how to write — write novels.

One such student is Ishanvi Jain, an 11-year-old studying in Delhi Public School, Durgapur. She is in Class VI and loves reading books, listening to music, doodling and travelling.

Her novel, *The Throne of the Sea* that is available on Amazon and Kindle is about underwater creatures and the story is how true love finds its way and true friends help each other in every phase of life through thick and thin.

"When I was planning on what to write my six-year-old sister told me that I should write on her favourite topic, the mermaids and the underwater world. She is so fascinated by both. So I gave this theme a shot and the novel was born, Jain says.

It was during one of the daily booster sessions, her men-



tor talked about English. "The way she explained things and the way she taught was very fascinating. She explained how to write as well. All this was very inspiring. So I decided to take the class full-time. Once we had taken a certain number of classes, we were invited to write a story. I was one of the lucky ones to be chosen. And here I am today, an author," Jain tells you.

Her friends who have read her book are inspired and want to join the class and become writers. Her favourite subjects

are English and history. "I love to read and know about facts. History is all about facts, about people and how they lived back then. It is fascinating to read that despite not being very educated they were able to achieve so much," Jain says.

She tells you that she loves to read novels that have fantasy as a theme. She loves Sudha Murthy novels. She was introduced to these by her mentor. *How I taught my Grandmother to Read* is her favourite.

"I love the way she writes. Also, her life inspires me. She

had lived a very humble life. I am told that she is a very down to earth person. Of course, there are other authors I read as well; Ruskin Bond is one of them. My tutor also tells me what books I should read to increase my vocabulary. She tells me that these will help me improve my language skills. She also tells me that reading more and more books will give me an insight about how authors take a subject and weave their stories. This helps me to have a perspective as well," Jain says.

It has been over a year since she joined these classes and plans to continue to take them since she loves the classes. Also the personal attention that she and other kids get, keeps her going. There are many changes that she has seen in her writing since she started.

"To begin with I didn't know how to be descriptive. Now, I can. I have learnt how to be a better writer. I have a better grasp of the language. This helps me to weave the stories," Jain explains who also loves listening to music.

"I love all kinds of music. I also listen to Tamil and Telugu songs as well. I do have a few favourite English songs like *Yummy* by Justin Bieber and *Jalebi Baby* by Teshar," Jain says.

She also does a lot of mindless doodling. Once again she took a class for this and even made a Unicorn using mandala art. "It was my mother who introduced me to this art form and I love it," Jain says.

Fantasy world beckons her

Nevaeha Palkar
10 years old
Author of: **Adventure on the Other Side**

She was born in the US. When she was three years old, her parents decided to come back to India and settle in Pune. A Class V student of PICT Model School, Pune, this 10-year-old decided to join the Art of Communication course with Camp K-12 because she loves English. Meet Nevaeha Palkar.

She tells you that a few months back, her mother came across an ad in the newspaper. There was an announcement for a competition in English. Palkar enrolled and she ranked No 3. It was a competition that tested us on grammar and vocabulary. It was after I participated in this competitive exam that we came to know about Camp K-12. It was my mother's decision to enroll me for these classes since she knows that I love English," Palkar says.

While she loves reading books and novels, she doesn't have a single book that is her favourite. However, she tells you that she does have a favourite author, Sudha Murthy who has written many kids novels.

"I absolutely love her novels; they are truly amazing. I love the way she writes. I read her first book when I was much younger. I don't really remember how old I was. But my mother gave it to me and I instantly fell in love with them. I also love to read Enid Blyton and Roald Dahl books as well," Palkar says.

She tells you that her debut novel, *Adventures of the Other Side*, is about three friends who embark on a journey that takes them on the other side of the world and now they have to figure a way out to get back home.



My debut novel, Adventures of the Other Side, is about three friends who embark on a journey that takes them on the other side of the world and now they have to figure a way out to get back home

"I love to read adventure, fantasy and mythological stories. My passion to write has also encouraged me to write poems as well. These however have not been published but my mother shares these on her Facebook page. So when I had to submit a story for the Art of Communication course, I decided to write it on this topic. Once I submitted it, the mentors really loved it and that's when I developed it into a novel," Palkar says.

It was the workshop that helped her shape her novel. "In the workshop we are taught how to write and how to develop a story. I loved the course and decided to continue to take the classes. For now, I have not written anything else. But I plan to write another novel or write a sequel to my debut novel," Palkar says whose novel is available on Amazon and Kindle.

But this is not all. Palkar is a girl of many talents. When she was six, she found that a kids clothing company was looking for kid models around her age. I decided to participate. I had so much fun doing it," Palkar tells you. She is also into singing, and is learning western vocals.

She is also an animal lover, especially cats. While her parents have not allowed her to keep one as a pet, she hopes that she will be allowed to keep one in the near future. She tells you that while she is an author at heart, she wants to pursue medicine when she grows up. However, she will not give up her passion for writing and will continue to write. "I don't know what I will write about in the future. Maybe it will be a book about medicine or it can be on mythology. It is difficult to say what I will do in the future," Palkar says. Her friends have loved her novel which has 84 pages.

"My parents have encouraged me all through my journey," Palkar says.

'I want to base all my stories on animals'

Parvathy Ramnarayan
11 years old
Author of: **The Great Escapade of Vegla The Polar Bear**

This student of Class VI is not your average school-goer. From horse riding to playing basketball to drawing to even writing a novel is what keeps her occupied. Though her day calendar is filled with extracurricular activities and competitions, she does manage to take time out for her pet — a mongrel, Brownie, that she has adopted. If this was not enough on her plate, this 11-year-old has also joined

writing classes at Camp K-12 and loves participating in the spelling bee and other competitions organised by them.

This student of Kendriya Vidyalaya from Kanhangad, Kerala tells you that she loves to read and write. She tells you that taking online classes has been a tad difficult because she is unable to meet her friends. "I miss meeting them and seeing them online and talking with them is not the same. Also, where I stay, sometimes there are Internet problems. There are many interruptions," she laments.

Looking at her interest in reading and writing, her mother told her about a workshop where she could enroll. "The best part of this class is that they teach us something new



every time. This keeps me interested. Also the teacher ensures that the one-hour session is never boring. I have been taking these classes for the last four months and I plan to keep taking them. Even though my day is full since I enjoy these classes it is never a chore to attend them," Ramnarayan says.

Her novel, *The Great Escapades of Vegla The Polar Bear*, is about a female polar bear who decides to explore the world. "She is bored of her pristine white world and wants to add colour to her life and to roam the world that see what it has to offer. She is not aware of the dangers that the outside world poses. All her friends try to dissuade her from embarking on this journey but Vegla is determined. She doesn't listen to them and

goes on this journey," Ramnarayan says. Her novel is available on Amazon and Kindle.

She decided to write a story on polar bears after extensive research on these wonderful animals that live in the ice cold regions of the world. "I read so much about polar bears. There was so much information on them. When I looked at their pictures, I found that they were cute looking, especially the cubs. Also, not many people know about their world. Not many people have explored their world. These animals shun human presence. This was another reason why I chose to make Vegla the hero of my novel," Ramnarayan tells you.

Interestingly, nobody told her to choose this subject. She decided on her own.

"My teacher taught me about speeches and how to improve my vocabulary. I was taught so many things that I didn't know about," Ramnarayan says.

This also includes horse riding. At that time the family lived near a horse riding academy. Her father encouraged her to take the classes. "It was fun," she tells you.

For now, she is in the process of deciding what to write next. One thing she is sure of is that it will be related to animals only. She plans to continue with the classes since her dream is to be a writer. Not only this, she wants to pursue archaeology. "I love history and to know all about our past. There are so many things about it that we don't know and I would love to explore it," Ramnarayan says.



Ocean Photography Awards 2021

Winners of the Ocean Photography Awards 2021 have been announced, as the outdoor exhibition, showcasing some of the most striking submissions, opens to the public in London. Waves, whales, penguins and turtles are recurring themes, with Aimee Jan named Ocean Photographer of the Year for her hypnotic image of a sea turtle crowded by a school of glass fish, taken on Ningaloo Reef in Australia. "I was out snorkelling when one of my colleagues told me there was a turtle under a ledge in a school of glass fish, about 10 metres down," Jan says of her image. "When I dived down to look, the fish separated around the turtle perfectly. I said to her: 'I think I just took the best photo I have ever taken'." Second place was awarded to Henley Spiers for her image of gannets diving for mackerel in the Shetland Islands, UK, and third place went to Matty Smith, for his shot of a turtle hatchling's first moments of life. Including Ocean Photographer of the Year, there are eight awards in the competition.



3rd place in Exploration Photographer of the Year, Matty Smith: A portrait of a squid, taken in Bushrangers Bay, Australia



Third place in Collective Portfolio Award, Alex Kydd: A rare encounter with a fever of crownnose rays on the Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia



Third place in Ocean Adventure Photographer of the Year, Sebastien Pontoizeau: A freediver duck dives to capture a photograph of a humpback whale off the coast of Reunion Island

Winner of Conservation Photographer of the Year, Kerim Sabuncuoglu: A dead moray eel on an abandoned fishing line in Bodrum, Turkey



2nd place in Collective Portfolio Award, Matty Smith: A southern bobtail squid performs a spectacular display on the seabed at night



Joe Biden reiterates US support for India's entry in top UN body

US President Joe Biden has reiterated America's support for India's permanent membership on a reformed United Nations Security Council and its entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group during his first in-person bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House.

President Biden, in his talks with Prime Minister Modi, applauded India's "strong leadership" during its UN Security Council Presidency in August 2021, according to the US-India Joint Leaders' Statement issued after their meeting in the White House on Friday.

"In this context, President Biden also reiterated US support for India's permanent membership on a reformed UN Security Council and for other countries who are important champions of multilateral cooperation and aspire to permanent seats on the UN Security Council," it said.

President Biden's support provides a big boost to New Delhi's push for the reform of the powerful UN organ as India has been at the forefront of efforts at the United Nations to push for an urgent long-pending reform of the Security Council, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member.

India in June asserted that the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on UN Security Council reforms can no longer be used as a smoke-screen, as the General Assembly decided to roll over the IGN work to the next UN General Assembly session and agreed to include an amendment proposed by the G4 nations of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan. At present, the UN Security Council comprises five permanent members and 10

non-permanent member countries which are elected for a two-year term by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Closest known relatives of virus behind Covid found



Scientists have found three viruses in bats in Laos that are more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses. Researchers say that parts of their genetic code bolster claims that the virus behind Covid-19 has a natural origin — but their discovery also raises fears that there are numerous coronaviruses with the potential to infect people. David Robertson, a virologist at the University of Glasgow, UK, calls the find "fascinating, and quite terrifying". The results, which are not peer reviewed, have been posted on the preprint server Research Square1. Particularly concerning is that the new viruses contain receptor binding domains that are almost identical to that of SARS-CoV-2, and can therefore infect human cells. The receptor binding domain allows SARS-CoV-2 to attach to a receptor called ACE2 on the surface of human cells to enter them.

Abhishek wishes mom Jaya Bachchan on completing 50 years in cinema

Jaya Bachchan completed 50 glorious years in Bollywood on Saturday and on the special occasion, her son Abhishek Bachchan shared a post on his Instagram profile. The actor shared some film stills from Jaya Bachchan's movies over the years and he wrote a caption along with it, which read, "I'm so grateful to be her son, and to see her complete 50 years in the film industry is a moment of pride. Happy 50 years of cinema Ma, I love you." In the comments section, Jaya Bachchan's granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda wrote: "She is love." Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor, Chitrangda Singh and other actors dropped heart emojis in the comments section of the post.



Brother of Arjun Rampal's partner, 3 others arrested after Goa drug raids

The brother of Arjun Rampal's partner Gabriella Demetriades is among four people arrested from Goa for alleged possession of drugs. The NCB had arrested Agisilaos Demetriades last year too in connection with its investigation into the alleged Bollywood drugs nexus and he was later released on bail. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) made the arrests during a series of raids in Goa over the week, an official said, according to a report by news agency PTL. The NCB's Goa sub zone unit arrested Nouman Savary (22), originally from Chhattisgarh, at Siolim beach village in North Goa on Wednesday. Thereafter, they arrested his partner Siddiq Ahmed (25) of Hyderabad, the official said.



UK minister takes on ambitious research agenda

The United Kingdom has a new science minister — its ninth since 2010, following a reshuffle of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's cabinet. George Freeman, a former investor in life-sciences companies, takes the role at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has renewed focus on research. But there are concerns that the Conservative government's ambitious target for research spending will not be met; the United Kingdom's relationship with Europe

is also likely to influence the minister's agenda.

Freeman has been a Conservative Member of Parliament since 2010 and has previously served as a government life-sciences adviser and transport minister. He takes over his latest role — a junior ministerial job — from Amanda Solloway, who was appointed in early 2020.

His background, as a minister and a biotechnology venture capitalist, makes Freeman a relatively popular choice for some



George Freeman

researchers. "I think it's a good appointment," says James Wilsdon, who studies research policy at the University of Sheffield, UK. "It's great to have someone in the role who understands the research and innovation system." Kieron Flanagan, who studies science and policy at the University of Manchester, UK, agrees. "I think most scientists will be happy to have an enthusiast who values science for its commercial and economic potential," he says.

Resistance to frontline malaria drugs confirmed in Africa

Scientists have confirmed that malaria parasites in Africa have developed resistance to a key family of drugs used to protect against them. "We've all been expecting and dreading this for quite some time," says Leann Tilley, a biochemist at the University of Melbourne in Australia, who researches the molecular basis of antimalarial resistance. Signs of drug resistance have long been present in Africa: for instance, in Rwanda between 2012 and 2015, scientists detected the existence of gene mutations associated with resistance in malaria parasites. A new study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine today2, bolsters these findings by showing that such mutations are causing an observable drop in antimalarials' ability to quickly treat people with the disease. The 'gold standard' treatments for malaria — the drug family including artemisinin and its derivatives — are often administered alongside 'partner' drugs in what are called artemisinin-combination therapies (ACTs), because multiple drugs are more difficult for parasites to develop resistance against.

