



Shah: Centre will announce new cooperative policy soon

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CJI says Legislature needs to revisit laws

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

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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 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 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.

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

VIJAYAWADA

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

Temp: 34

Humidity: 67%

Sunrise: 6:03 am

Sunset: 6:09 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 25, 2021 5:00 PM

OBTUSE ANGLE



Cyclone 'Gulab' looms over AP horizon, orange alert issued

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal has intensified into Cyclone 'Gulab' on Saturday and an orange alert has been issued for north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Cyclonic storm 'Gulab' is expected to bring heavy to very heavy rains in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam in the State, as well as Odisha and West Bengal and districts of in the next 48 hours.

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

The cyclonic storm is likely to move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts between Kalingapatnam and Gopalpur around Sunday evening, the Cyclone Warning Division of the IMD said.

"The deep depression over northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal moved nearly westwards with a speed of 7 kmph in last six hours, and intensified into Cyclonic Storm Gulab," the IMD said.

A cyclone warning has been issued for north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts. An 'orange' alert has also been issued for Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coasts.

The 'orange' alert is issued as a warning of extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.

Under its influence, the weatherman said that light to moderate showers at most places with heavy rainfall at isolated places is expected over Odisha and coastal AP on Sunday.

2



Police officials caution fishermen about the impending danger off Vizag coast on Saturday.

CM reviews preparedness

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chairing a review meeting on the preparedness of the official machinery in view of the cyclone alert issued by the IMD, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Saturday directed officials to take all necessary steps.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that they have alerted district Collectors to take all necessary steps. They said control

rooms were being set up village secretariat-wise and that they have readied disaster management staff in Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts.

The district Collectors are taking steps to set up relief camps at required locations, the officials informed the Chief Minister.

Jagan directed them to be alert and take necessary steps as there are chances of heavy rains after the cyclonic storm makes landfall.

Officials asked to report for duty on Sunday

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

With the cyclone threat looming over north coastal districts, the administration is gearing up to address all kinds of emergencies.

With the alerts from the Disaster Management authorities and also the IMD, the administrations of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam have alerted officials of all line departments to be on duty on Sunday too.

2

NDRF deploys 18 teams in AP, Odisha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has begun deploying a total of 18 teams in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in view of a cyclonic storm forming over the Bay of Bengal.

NDRF director general SN Pradhan tweeted that the teams - 13 in Odisha and five in Andhra Pradesh - will be in place by Saturday night.

The NDRF teams in Odisha will be deployed in Balasore, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada,

2

NCMC takes stock of preparations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Crisis Management Committee on Saturday reviewed the preparedness to deal with a cyclonic storm developing in the Bay of Bengal and directed authorities to take all necessary measures.

The storm is expected to cross the northern Andhra Pradesh and the southern Odisha coasts on Sunday evening with wind speeds ranging from 75-85 kmph, gusting to 95 kmph, accompanied by heavy rainfall.

It is likely to affect districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and Ganjam and Gajapati in Odisha.

2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 76th United Nations General Assembly on Saturday.

When India reforms, world transforms, Modi tells UNGA

PNS ■ UNITED NATION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that when Indians make progress, it also gives an impetus to the development of the world as its growth is linked with the globe.

Addressing the 76th UN General Assembly session here, Prime Minister Modi said that today, every sixth person in the world is an Indian.

When Indians make progress, it also gives an impetus to the development of the world, he said while speaking in Hindi. "When India grows, the world grows. When India reforms, the world transforms," Modi said.

He said that the science and technology-based innovations taking place in India can make a big contribution to the world. The scalability of tech solutions and cost effectiveness are both unparalleled. Over 3.5 billion transactions are taking place every month in India through the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), the Prime Minister said.

India's vaccine delivery platform CoWin offers digital support to register the administration of millions of vaccine doses in a single day, Modi said, adding that India puts into prac-

tice the principle of Seva Parmo Dharma (service is the highest religion).

He said that India today is moving forward on the path of integrated equitable development. "Our priority is that development should be all inclusive, all pervasive, universal and one that nurtures all," he said.

During the last seven years, India has brought over 430 million people who were previously unbundled into the banking system. Today, over 360 million people who earlier could not even imagine this was possible now have insurance coverage as security, the Prime Minister said.

"By giving over 500 million people the facility of free treatment in hospitals, India has given them access to quality health services, he said, adding that by building 30 million proper homes, India has made homeless families homeowners," Modi said.

Speaking about potable water, he said polluted water is a very big problem not just for India but for the entire world, and in particular for poor and developing countries.

2

Ruling party candidates bag all Zilla Parishad chairperson posts

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The ruling YSRCP grabbed all 13 Zilla Parishad chairperson posts across the State, elections for which were held on Saturday.

Following the completion of the election process, those elected as ZP chairpersons across the State were - U Harika from Krishna district, B Girajamma from Anantapur district, Srinivasulu from Chittoor district, Venugopala Rao from East Godavari district, K Srinivas from West Godavari district, Heni Kreestina from Guntur district, Venkata Subba Reddy from Kurnool district, A

Arunamma from Nellore district, Venkayamma from Prakasam district, A Amarnath Reddy from Kadapa district, B Subhadra from Visakhapatnam district, M Srinivas Rao from Vizianagaram district and Vijaya from Srikakulam district.

The election of ZP chairperson and deputy chairpersons for Krishna district was held at the ZP Hall in Machilipatnam on Saturday. Apart from ZP chairperson U Harika from Gudlavalleru, G Krishnam Raju from Nuzvid and G Sridevi from Ibrahimpatnam were elected deputy chairpersons. District

Collector J Nivas was the presiding officer and Muralidhar Reddy the observer.

Candidates hailing from SC/ST/BC and Minority communities bagged 67 percent of MPP posts; women were given 64 percent of MPP posts.

SC/ST/BC and Minority communities bag 69 percent of ZP chair posts and 73 percent of deputy chairpersons 1 and 2 posts and the women bagged 54 percent of ZP chairperson and 58 percent of ZP vice chairperson 1 and 2 posts.

2

YSRCP backs bandh, no buses on Sept 27

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The ruling YSR Congress Party has extended its support to Bharat Bandh called by opposition parties on September 27.

State Transport Minister Perni Venkataramaiah alias Nani said that YSRCP was declaring its "total support to the Bharat Bandh" against the three contentious agricultural laws and proposed privatisation of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

The Minister said that as part of the bandh, RTC buses will not ply from midnight of September 26 to

1 pm of September 27. He stated that buses would ply as usual after 1 pm.

Nani said that passengers should take note of the cancellation of RTC bus services.

He said that YSRCP urges the Union government on behalf of the State not to privatise Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and to repeal the three farm laws.

The Minister appealed to the farmers' unions to ensure the bandh remains peaceful and is a total success.



Das appointed Chief Advisor to AP govt

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das was on Saturday appointed the Chief Advisor to the Government of Andhra Pradesh with Cabinet status and will be positioned at AP Bhavan, New Delhi, after his superannuation on September 30.

2

Allies and rivals keep political cauldron boiling in AP, TS

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 TS, but in AP these two parties are rivals. BJP and Jana Sena are friends in TS but in AP, 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. TDP and Congress have joined hands with each other in TS while in AP, the Congress is a big 'no' for the TDP.

TDP leaders fear if they join hands with Congress in AP, 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 AP 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 sizeable number of seats in the previous 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 AP 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.



37 junior civil judges promoted, transferred across the State

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as 37 junior civil judges were promoted as Civil Judges (Senior Division) and transferred across the State on Saturday.

As per the orders issued by the Andhra Pradesh High Court Registrar (Vigilance) S Sailaja, the principal junior civil judge Kavali, Nellore district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Adoni, Kurnool district in the existing vacancy. G Yagna Narayana, junior civil judge Jangareddigudem, West Godavari district was posted as senior civil judge, Vizianagaram district in the existing vacancy.

N Ramesh Naidu, principal junior civil judge, Kakinada, East Godavari district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge Markapur, Prakasam district. N Vijaya Babu, principal junior civil judge, Ongole, Prakasam district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Kandukur, Prakasam district.

R Sanyasi Naidu, VI Metropolitan Magistrate for Railways, Visakhapatnam is posted to VII Additional senior civil judge, Visakhapatnam.

TVSS Prakash, II Additional junior civil judge, B h e m u n i p a t n a m , Visakhapatnam district was promoted, transferred and posted as I additional chief magistrate Vijayawada, Krishna district.

P Vijaya, principal junior civil judge-cum-IV additional MM Bheemuniapatnam, Visakhapatnam district was promoted, transferred and posted as additional senior civil judge, Eluru, West Godavari district. K Vani, I



additional junior civil judge, Ongole, Prakasam district was promoted, transferred and posted as additional civil judge, Tenali, Guntur district. T Ramachandrudu, additional senior civil judge, Tenali, Guntur district was promoted, transferred and posted as principal senior civil judge, Tenali, Guntur district.

G Shiva Prasad Yadav, principal junior civil judge, Tirupati, Chittoor district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge Proddatur, Kadapa district.

T Vasudevan, principal junior civil judge, Chilakaluripet, Guntur district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Bobbili, Vizianagaram district. A Padma, principal junior civil judge, Kurnool was promoted and posted as additional senior civil judge, Kurnool.

T Kesava, additional senior civil judge, Kurnool was promoted and posted as principal senior civil judge, Kurnool. D Naga Venkata Lakshmi, principal junior civil judge, Anantapur was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Sattenapalle, Guntur district.

S Hemalatha, principal

junior civil judge, Kadapa was promoted and posted as additional civil judge, Kadapa. G Ganga Raju, junior civil judge, Kanagiri, Prakasam district was promoted, transferred and posted as additional senior civil judge, Anakapalle, Visakhapatnam district.

Ch Yugandhar, I additional junior civil judge, Rajahmundry, East Godavari was promoted, transferred and posted as I additional chief metropolitan magistrate, Visakhapatnam.

K Aruna, VI principal junior civil judge, Guntur was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Srikalahasti, Chittoor district. MVN Padmaja, special mobile court for trial of cases under PCR Act-cum III principal junior civil judge, Kurnool was promoted, transferred and posted as II Additional senior civil judge, Kakinada, East Godavari district.

K Madhavi Devi IV principal junior civil judge, Nellore was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Ramachandrapuram, East Godavari. A Sunitha Rani, principal junior civil judge, Guntur was promoted and posted as IV additional senior

civil judge, Guntur.

K Madhavi, I additional principal junior civil judge, Kovvur, West Godavari was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Pithapuram, East Godavari district.

A Shobha Rani, I Additional junior civil judge, Tirupati, Chittoor district was promoted, transferred and posted as additional senior civil judge, Narasaraopet, Guntur district. Sunkara Sridevi, additional senior civil judge, Narasaraopet, Guntur district was promoted and posted as principal senior civil judge, Narasaraopet, Guntur district.

M Babu, principal junior civil judge, Kandukur, Prakasam district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Rajam, Srikakulam district. K Vasudeva Rao, principal junior civil judge, Tadepalligudem, West Godavari district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Punganur, Chittoor district.

K Prakash Babu, junior civil judge, Kotabammali, Srikakulam district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Tadepalligudem, West Godavari district. Yalamarthi Srinivasa Rao, junior civil judge, Udayagiri, Nellore district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Narsapur, West Godavari district.

S Arunasri, principal junior civil judge, Puttur, Chittoor district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Chodavaram, Visakhapatnam district. GLV Prasad, principal junior civil judge, Tuni, East Godavari district was promoted, transferred and posted as

senior civil judge, Darsi, Prakasam district.

H Amara Rangeswara Rao, principal junior civil judge, Alamur, East Godavari district was promoted, transferred and posted as additional senior civil judge, Anakapalle, Visakhapatnam district.

B Leela Venkata Seshadri, V additional junior civil judge Nellore was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Gurazala, Guntur district.

Marapu Sreedhar, principal junior civil judge, Vijayawada, Krishna district was promoted, transferred and posted as senior civil judge, Kothapet, East Godavari district.

K Prathush Kumari, junior civil judge, Lakkireddipalli, Kadapa district was promoted, transferred and posted as secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Rajahmundry, East Godavari district.

P Goverdhan, principal junior civil judge, Anakapalle, Visakhapatnam district was promoted and posted as principal senior civil judge, Visakhapatnam. KVL Hima Bhidhu, secretary, District Legal Services Authority, East Godavari was promoted, transferred and posted as II additional chief metropolitan magistrate (Juvenile court) Visakhapatnam. S Praveen Kumar, additional senior civil judge, Kadapa was promoted, transferred and posted as I additional senior civil judge Rajahmundry, East Godavari district.

High Court Registrar (Vigilance) Sunitha said in her order that all the judicial officers shall get themselves relieved from their present posts and join their new posts on or before October 8.

Cyclone ‘Gulab’ looms over AP horizon...

Continued from page 1

There is also a likelihood of light to moderate showers at most places on Sunday with heavy to very heavy rain in some areas and extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places over south Odisha and north coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Parts of north interior Odisha, Telangana and Chhattisgarh may also experience heavy rainfall on Sunday.

Similarly, for September 27, the IMD forecast light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy showers at isolated places over Odisha and Telangana and heavy rainfall at isolated places over coastal West Bengal.

It also predicted squally weather with wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph and gusting up to 70 kmph over northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal.

Wind speed may gradually increase to 70-80 kmph and gust up to 90 kmph on Sunday, the weather office said. During the next three days, the sea condition will be rough to very rough, it said.

Only common projects must be under Boards, says KCR

■ Seeks postponement of gazette notification implementation; nod for Palamuru-Ranga Reddy

M L MELLY MAITREYI ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhra 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.

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.

After the meeting with Amit Shah on Sunday, he is scheduled to meet Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Piyush Goyal and discuss paddy procurement.

Ruling party candidates...

Continued from page 1

In a statement, the YSRCP said that the election was a reiteration of the party and its supreme YS Jagannathan Reddy's commitment to uplift downtrodden communities (SC/ST/BC and Minorities) and women by ensuring that 64 percent, 54 percent and 58 percent of MPP, ZP chair and ZP Vice chair 1 and 2 are bagged by women and 67 percent 69 percent and 62 percent of MPP, ZP chair and ZP Vice chair 1 & 2 posts are bagged by candidates belonging to the SC/ST/BC and minority

communities.

The YSRCP and the AP government have ensured that social justice is furthered at all possible levels, since taking charge in May, 2019, the statement said.

Nearly 60 percent of posts in the State Cabinet are given to candidates hailing from the SC/ST/BC and Minority communities – including one Deputy Chief Minister post each to SC/ST/BC and Minority communities. Both the speakers of the Legislative Assembly and Council hail from the same communities, the statement said.

50 percent of the Raja

Sabha Members nominated by the YSRCP government belong to the BC community. Of the 15 members nominated to the Legislative Council, a whopping 11 hail from the aforementioned communities, the Statement said. The government has ensured that 50 percent of all nominated posts and contracts are dedicated to the SC/ST/BC and Minority communities and 50 percent to women while 83 percent of the permanent posts in village and ward secretariats were secured by the SC/ST/BC and Minority communities.

NDRF deploys

Continued from page 1

According to a senior Odisha government official, seven districts of the state - Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal - have been put on high alert as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted the formation of a cyclonic storm over the Bay of Bengal.

The cyclone, according to the IMD prediction, may subsequently move towards the southern part of Odisha and neighbouring A.P.

The IMD had earlier said a deep depression that lay over north and adjoining central Bay of Bengal has moved westwards at a speed of 14 kmph.

At 8.30 am on Saturday, it was centred around 470 km east-southeast of Gopalpur in Odisha and 540 km east-northeast of Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

"It (the weather system) is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm and move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur, around Kalingapatnam, by evening of September 26," the agency noted. IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the wind speed of the weather system will vary between 75 kmph and 85 kmph, gusting up to 95 kmph.

For September 27, the IMD forecast light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy showers at isolated places in Odisha and Telangana and torrential rainfall at isolated places in coastal West Bengal.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹254
Without Skin	₹274
Broiler at Farm	₹141

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	441
HYDERABAD	428
VISAKHAPATNAM	470
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.41

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Pawan to visit East Godavari on October 2

PNS ■ KAKINADA

Janasena party chief K Pawan Kalyan will visit East Godavari district on October 2. According to party sources, Pawan Kalyan will arrive at Rajahmundry airport on October 2 morning. He will visit the Janasena activists who have suffered injuries in the alleged attack by the YSRCP activists at Kadiyapulanka village. Pawan Kalyan will inspect he damaged roads at various places in Rajahmundry parliamentary constituency. He will also participate in a dharna protesting against the bad state of roads. The Janasena activists have started making arrangements for Pawan Kalyan's visit and according him a grand manner.

Cabinet reshuffle after Dasara, hints Balineni

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Energy Minister Balineni Srinivas Reddy made a few key remarks on the upcoming Cabinet reshuffle by YSRCP president and Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. The Minister on Saturday made a bold statement at a programme organised in connection with the ZP chairperson election in Ongole.

On the occasion, he said that CM Jaganmohan Reddy had earlier said that chance would be given to other legislators. He said that there would be a 100 percent reshuffle in the Cabinet soon, and added that he was ready to give up the ministry and continue to work for the party with commitment as the party is more important to him.

It may be recalled that during the formation of the Cabinet for the first time, CM Jagan made it clear that there would be changes in the Cabinet after two-and-a-half years. Up to 90 percent of the present ministers would be changed and a chance would be given to new legislators. With more than two-and-a-



During the formation of the Cabinet for the first time, CM made it clear that there would be changes in the Cabinet after two-and-a-half years. Up to 90 percent of the present ministers would be changed and a chance would be given to new legislators.

half years being completed there is a debate in political circles on the expansion of the Cabinet.

It is being reported that there is a possibility of expansion anytime after the Dasara festival.

Recently, CM Jagan offered nominated posts to leaders who had worked for the party. Adhering to the policy that

MLAs should not hold two posts, nominated posts to RK Roja, Jakkampudi Raja, and Malladi Vishnu were cancelled.

Speculation is rife that the responsibilities will be given to ministers who will leave the Cabinet. Many are trying to secure a berth in the new Cabinet. It seems that the party will choose the new Cabinet carefully.



AP candidate secures 441st rank in Civils

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Thirupathi Rao Ghanta secured All India Rank 441 in the UPSC Civil Services Examination results that were announced on Friday.

He went to interview in the previous attempt but missed the service by a whisker. This time around, he hit the bull's eye and would probably get an IAS.

Talking to media persons here on Saturday, Rao said, "My parents are farmers from Gangada, a remote village in Vizianagaram district that doesn't even have bus connectivity. I studied in Government Telugu medium school and did B Tech and worked as PMRDF (Prime Minister Rural Development Fellow). During my work, I observed the problems of rural people and tribals and have decided to become a civil servant as it provides me ample opportunities to solve their problems."

75,283 to appear for test at 467 centres in AP, eight in Telangana

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as 75,283 candidates are going to attend RGUKT-CET - 21, popularly known as IIIT, scheduled to be held on September 26 (Sunday) from 11 am to 1 pm. The RGUKT officials initiated all measures for the smooth performance of RGUKT-CET-21 in 467 examination centres in AP and eight in Telangana State following Covid-19 protocol. In Telangana, the centers are located in Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Nizamabad, Mahaboobnagar, Karimnagar, Warangal, Nalgonda and Khammam districts.

Addressing a press meet in IIIT-Nuzvid on Saturday, RGUKT Chancellor Prof KC Reddy said that a total of 75,283 candidates registered for the test in which YSR Kadapa District has maximum registration of 8,887 with a share of 12 percent of the total candidates. Anantapur stood second with 7,281 registrations, Prakasam third with 6,567 registrations and Kurnool fourth with 6,066 registrations. While 5,836 candidates registered in Chittoor, 5,763 in Srikakulam, 5,760 in Guntur and 5,535 in Krishna. The lowest registration was observed in West Godavari with 3,060



candidates.

Prof. KC Reddy said that of the total candidates 54 percent are boys and 46 percent girls. He explained that the count of applications by social background shows that 21 percent belong to BC-D followed by SC with 17.6 percent, BC-B (16 percent) and BC-A with 13.4 percent. The share of OC candidates is 16.7 percent of the total candidates and 7 percent of the candidates belong to EWS (Economically Weaker Section). The percent of BC-E candidates is 4% and the same percentage (4 percent) is also observed in the case of ST candidates. The registration of BC-C candidates is 0.4 percent of the total candidates.

Prof KC Reddy said that all arrangements are made to conduct the test smoothly and effectively following Corona protocol.

RGUKT-CET-21 convener Prof D Harinarayana said that the

Test will be conducted in all mandals of the Andhra Pradesh State provided a minimum of 60 students registered in a center. A total of 467 examination centers are selected in the State under which the highest 52 centers are located in YSR Kadapa district and the lowest number of 16 centers are located in West Godavari district, which also has the lowest number of registration.

Prof Harinarayana said that the maximum number of candidates accommodated in a center is 240 and the minimum is 60 and the seating capacity of an examination hall is fixed at a maximum of 24 or 16 following Corona guidelines. He stated that Candidates with Covid protocols will only be allowed into the test centers.

RGUKT-CET-21 Registrar Dr K Samrajya Lakhmi and other officials participated in the press meet.

TDP suspects drugs case cover-up bid

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP MP K Rammohan Naidu on Saturday accused the YSRCP government and the AP police of trying to cover up the involvement of the Vijayawada-based firm in the international drug smuggling racket.

Rammohan Naidu asked how the State police were not at all investigating the shady activities of Aashi trading company in whose name heroin worth Rs. 72,000 crore was caught in Gujarat. This tainted company was located in the vicinity of the Chief Minister's official residence and it was registered after the YSRCP came to power in the State. Instead of ordering a probe, even the DGP was trying to blame the Opposition leaders.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP MP said that the national media was widely reporting that the drug smuggling was going on in the name of an AP company. The DGP was wrongfully saying that there was no drug smuggling from AP. Such efforts were being made only to save the face of the AP Government. They were trying to throw the blame on the opposi-



tion leaders by making false statements. The YSRCP leaders were bringing disrepute to the AP State all over the country.

Rammohan asserted that the TDP had a duty to ask questions on the huge drug seizure made in Gujarat in the name of the AP company. The DGP was not giving proper clarifications. The police officials were making political statements in the State under the Jaganmohan Reddy regime. It had become a routine for the YSRCP leaders to spread false and fake information campaigns as they did on the pink diamond in the past. With regard to the heroin seizure, there were proofs available. Aashi trading company had been paying GST for over nine months. The DGP should explain this.

TDP extends support to Bharat Bandh

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP State president K Atchannaidu on Saturday said their party would extend total support to the Bharat Bandh to be observed on September 27 by the national level farmers' associations in protest against the Union Government's new farm laws. Atchannaidu called upon the party leaders and activists to take part in the nationwide bandh and make it a success. Already, the TDP MPs had made it clear in the Parliament that their party was opposed to the farm laws and that the Central Government should rethink them. In a statement here, the TDP leader deplored that Jaganmohan Reddy was pursuing anti-farmer policies in Andhra Pradesh. The AP Government had turned cultivators into coolies with its draconian decisions. Meters

were being fixed on the agricultural motors with an ulterior motive to get multi-crore loans. The meters on motors were going to be a noose round the necks of the farmers. The drip irrigation benefits were stopped, which was putting severe problems to the farmers in upland areas. Atchannaidu recalled how CM Jaganmohan Reddy had betrayed the farmers by reneging on his promise to give Rs 12,500 assistance under Rythu Bharosa. After becoming the CM, he was given just Rs 7,500. The Chief Minister had also conveniently forgotten about the Rs 50,000 investment assistance to the farmers. They promised to provide free borewells and spent crores of rupees but no benefits were given to farmers. Not a single borewell was provided in the past 28 months.

Oppn making baseless charges over drug bust: YSRCP MLA

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Asserting that TDP leaders are indulging in cheap politics over drug bust in Gujarat, YSRCP MLA Dr Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy said that the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is investigating the case and the Opposition is making baseless allegations against the government creating panic among the people.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, the MLA said that there is no link between the huge consignment of heroin in Gujarat and Vijayawada, where DRI, an apex body for anti-smuggling, intelligence, and operations, had clearly stated that the investigation is going on. However, the TDP leaders are making misleading statements and creating chaos in the State, he said and added that opposition leaders have no right to speak about such issues.

The MLA stated that Ashi



Ashi Trading Company's address is in Vijayawada, but the company has no activities in AP and is operated from Chennai

Trading Company's address is in Vijayawada, but the company has no activities in Andhra Pradesh and is operated from Chennai, where the suspect had moved to Chennai almost eight years back. The DRI officials had already confirmed this and there is no evidence that the heroin was imported to Vijayawada. It was clearly intended to reach Delhi. Even though there is no constructive evidence, the opposition and a section of media are desperately trying to mislead the public with false allegations against the government.

He assured that Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy who strives for the good future of students and youth in the State will not allow drugs into Andhra Pradesh and also constituted a Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) to take serious action on anti-social activities. MLA Srinivas Reddy stated that the government will take responsibility if the opposition proves their claims with evidence. He asked the State Police to take action on those trying to defame the government and trying to create panic among the public through false propaganda.

Video contest by NSUI

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In an innovative initiative, the student wing of Congress party NSUI is conducting a video competition on "Who Killed Gandhi? Why" topic on the occasion of 75 years of Independence for students. NSUI State vice-president Moola Reddy Dhruva Kumar Reddy released a video poster on the competition which would be held for students and said that prizes would be given to winners.

Dhruvkumar Reddy said that the NSUI national committee decided to bring about an awareness on Gandhi and conspiracy to kill him in view of the false propaganda by the saffron organisations. He said that NSUI AP is conducting a video competition on "Who Killed Gandhi? Why" topic. He said that students can participate in the short video competition on the subject. He stated that Rs 11,000 would be first prize, Rs 5,500 will be second prize and Rs 3,300 is the third prize for the best short videos.

37th RPF Raising Day celebrations conclude

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel of Waltair Division celebrated the conclusion of the 37th RPF Raising Day on Saturday. A parade was held at the Senior Divisional Security Commissioner's office campus here in which the RPF Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, Waltair, Ch.Raghuvir took the salute and highlighted the achievements of the force.

Divisional Railway Manager Anup Satpathy and C.J. Chakradhar, Assistant Commissioner RPF graced the occasion. A week-long programme was organised in Waltair Division to mark the RPF Raising Day by conducting blood donation camp, tree plantation, and public awareness programmes. During the function, Five RPF personnel were honored by issuing them with 'certificate of commendation' for their excellent work done in 2021.

A brief presentation on achievement and accomplishments of RPF was given by the Senior Divisional Security Commissioner. The various initiatives taken by RPF for curbing the illegal activities, protection of railway assets, security enhancement and ensuring safety of the travelling public were highlighted.

Govt eyeing assets of aided colleges, alleges Ashok Babu

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP MLC P Ashok Babu on Saturday advised the Jaganmohan Reddy Government to withdraw GO No. 42 in order to preserve and protect the decades-old system of aided educational institutions in the State.

Ashok Babu said it was unbecoming of the Jagan regime to use its habitual tactics of political rowdiness to suppress the managements of aided colleges including those under the management of minorities. The GO 42 was unlawful and draconian as it had contained threats to the aided managements if they did not surrender their aided staff and properties to the State Government. This sort of suppression of educational institutions was not seen anywhere in the country and

never before in the history of AP.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP leader demanded that the Chief Minister change his arbitrary policies considering the rising resentment from different sections. Now, over 12 aided institutions including the famous Loyola, AJ Kalasala in Machilipatnam, SVAS College in Giddalur and MG College in Guntur, had challenged GO 42 in the court. The YSRCP regime should realise the foolishness of its policy and start taking a right policy regarding the aided institutions.

Ashok Babu said that the aided system was continuing in the country since the 1880s, when the kings and affluent people donated lands and money to start and run colleges by paying even salaries of

teachers. CM Jagan was trying to smash such a long running aided system that had helped in providing educational opportunities to generations of students. The YSRCP regime was putting out an illogical argument that there was no need for aided systems since it was implementing Nadu Nedu, Amma Vadi, Jagananna Vidya Deevena and such programmes.

The TDP MLC said that there were 9,000 teaching staff and 5,000 non-teaching staff in aided posts in over 140 degree colleges and 118 junior colleges in the State. The AP and Central Governments were contributing 50 percent each towards Rs. 565 Cr on these aided staff. Though the burden was far less, the Jagan regime was giving flimsy excuses to kill the aided system.

IIT Tirupati convocations conducted

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The second and third convocations of the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati were conducted in a joint ceremony on its permanent campus at Yerpedu in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday.

Saint Gobain CEO (Asia-Pacific) B Santhanam attended as the chief guest for the convocations, presided over by Union Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare, a press release here said.

On the occasion, 208 B.Tech degrees, 99 M.Tech degrees, nine M.Sc, 11 MS degrees and the institute's first Ph.D were awarded.

B.Tech graduate S Nares Chockalingam was awarded the President's gold medal for outstanding academic performance for the year 2020 and S Gowtham for 2021.

Saishradha Mohanty and Surya Ganesh Vadhri received the Governor's prize for all-



round performance in curricular and extra-curricular activities for the years 2020 and 2021 respectively, the release said.

IIT Director K N Satyanarayana explained the development of the institute over the past three years and

the ongoing construction of the campus. Khare said it was remarkable that state-of-the-art facilities were developed in a span of only six years since the inception of IIT.

The chief guest exhorted the graduates to follow the

STAY framework that could serve as a radar chart for evaluating their positioning at critical points in their career.

"Stay immersed, stay relevant, stay connected and stay organised," Santhanam told the graduates.

Vizag to host first-ever AP Amateur Golf Championship

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

East Point Golf Club (EPGC), Visakhapatnam, is gearing up to host the first-ever Andhra Pradesh Amateur Golf Championship being organised under the aegis of the Indian Golf Union (IGU) from September 28 to October 1 in the city.

The stars of Indian Golf including Anirban Lahiri (Olympics, PGA tour) Gaganjeet Bhullar (Asian tour) Shiv Kapur (Asian games Gold medalist and European tour) Chikkarangappa, Rashid Khan, Subhankar Sharma, Aditi Ashok (Olympics) and Udayan

Mane (Olympics) have come through the IGU Amateur system.

IGU runs the sport of Golf in India and regulates the rules. IGU runs the junior events, ladies' events, and the Amateur circuit. The IGU conducts amateur events annually for men around the country on a variety of courses and also sends amateur teams to international events such as the Asian Games, Eisenhower Trophy (World Amateur Team Championship), Nomura Cup (Asia Pacific Amateur Team Golf Championship), Faldo Series, Asian Junior Championships and now the

Olympics.

This year due to Covid, the IGU circuit was cut short by six tournaments confining mostly to the metro cities like RCGC Kolkata and Delhi Golf Club only.

However, with some persuasion, Visakhapatnam was added to the calendar while Tamil Nadu and Telangana are not having the event this year.

The AP Golf Association is recognised by IGU as the AP State Golf Association and is also based at EPGC, Visakhapatnam, and is responsible for bringing the Amateur Championship to the port city.

About 80 Amateurs from across the country will participate in this tournament which will determine their Indian Rankings. EPGC is now firmly on the National Golf Map and will open the doors for national tournaments, professional golf, and more importantly, will give a boost to junior golf.

The East Point Golf Club, founded around 1884, is Visakhapatnam's premier golf club and the only golf course in Andhra Pradesh with 18 holes and is also working towards popularising the game of golf and promoting Golf Tourism in Andhra Pradesh.



ZP chairpersons take oath in dists

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chairpersons of Zilla Parishads of various districts were sworn in on Saturday.

In Guntur, Kathera Henry Christina was sworn in as chairperson of Zilla Parishad of Guntur district at a colourful function held in the ZP office here on Saturday. Two vice-chairpersons S Narsi Reddy and B Anuradha were also sworn in. District Collector Vivek Yadav administered the oath to the Chairperson and vice-chairpersons.

A host of YSRCP leaders including MP Lavu Sri Krishnadevaraya, MLAs Kona Raghupathi, Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, MP Mopidevi Venkataramana MLC Ummareddy Venkateswarulu were among those who attended the programme. Kathera Henry Christina thanked the Chief Minister for giving her an opportunity to serve the people.

In Eluru, Kavuru Srinivas was sworn-in as Zilla Parishad chairman of West Godavari district here on Saturday. District Collector Karitikeya Mishra administered oath with Kavuru Srinivas as chairman and P Srilekha and Penumala Vijay Babu as vice-chairmen.

The Special Meeting of Zilla Parishad was conducted at Godavari meeting hall in District Collectorate here in the afternoon. The District Collector and Presiding officer Kartikeya Mishra conducted the election to Zilla Parishad Chairman and Vice Chairmen posts.

As no other candidate filed nominations for the ZP Chairman post, Kavuru Srinivas remained in the fray. With this, after scrutiny, the Presiding officer announced that Kavuru Srinivas was elected unanimously to the post of Chairman of Zilla parishad. Penumala Vijayababu ZPTC member of Pedavegi and Posina Srilekha, ZPTC member of Tallapudi are only members who filed their nominations to

the post of vice-chairpersons.

Speaking after taking the oath, Kavuru Srinivas thanked Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy for giving him an opportunity to serve the people of the district as ZP chairman. He also extended gratitudes to ministers Alla Kalikrishna Srinivas, Cherukuvada Sri Ranghanadh Raju, Taneti Vanita and MLAs and MLCs. A host of YSRCP leaders including Ministers Alla Kalikrishna Srinivas, Cherukuvada Sri Ranghanadh Raju, Taneti Vanita, MP Margani Bharat Kumar, MLAs K Abbayya Chowdary, K Nageswara Rao, K Satyanarayana MLCs Moshen Raju, and MLAs and MLCs were among those who present.

In Ongole, Buchepalli Venkayamma was sworn-in as chairperson of Prakasham district here on Saturday. District Collector Pravin Kumar administered the oath with the ZP chairperson and two vice-chairpersons. s.Aruna and Sujata were the two vice-chairpersons. Collector declared they were elected unopposed. Collector Pravin Kumar congratulated the ZP chairperson and vice-chairpersons.

Ministers Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, Adimulapu Suresh, MP Magunta Srinivasa Reddy who were present in the programme congratulated the newly elected ZP chairperson and vice-chairpersons. A slew of YSRCP leaders including MLA Karaman Balam were present.

In Kadapa, Akepati Amarnath Reddy was sworn-in as chairman of Zilla parishad of Kadapadistrict.

J Sharada and Balaiah P were sworn in vice chairpersons. District Collector V Vijayarama Raju administered the oath to the chairman.

Deputy Chief Minister S B Amzath Basha, Chief Whip G Srikanth Reddy, Whip K Srinivasulu, MP Y S Avinash Reddy and MLCs C Ramachandraiah were among a host of YSRCP leaders who attended the programme.



Kathera Henry Christina takes oath as Zilla Parishad Chairperson of Guntur district

ZP CHIEF POLLS PEACEFUL IN NORTH COASTAL AP

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The elections to Zilla Parishad Chairperson posts in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts were held peacefully on Friday. With no opposition to the YSRCP candidates, the elections were held as per schedule.

J.Subhadra was elected Visakhapatnam Zilla Parishad Chairperson while T Apparao and B V Satyavathi are elected as vice-chairpersons. M Srinivasa Rao took the oath as Chairman of Vizianagaram Zilla Parishad while M Bapujinaidu and A Anil Kumar elected his deputies. In Srikakulam district, P

Vijaya was elected the Chairperson of Zilla Parishad while S Jaganmohan Rao and P Sravani were elected the vice-chairpersons.

All ministers representing the three districts, MLAs, MPs and others were present in their respective districts during the elections. They complimented the the successful candidates.



V Venugopala Rao was sworn in as Chairman of Zilla Parishad of East Godavari district in Kakinada on Saturday.

Government creating infra for industries: Kannababu

PNS ■ KAKINADA

Minister for Agriculture Kurasala Kannababu has said that the government is creating the required infrastructure for the establishment of industries and informed that 65 major industries have been set up during the last two years in the State.

The minister, along with Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ch Srinivas Venugopala Krishna and MP Vanga Gita, inaugurated the Vanijya Utsavam 2021 at Nagamallithota here on Saturday. The programme is

being organised as part of the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotav.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kannababu said that 65 major industries had been established in the State in the last two years. He said that about 16,000 MSMEs had also started their production in the State.

Kannababu said that EG district is witnessing industrial development and food processing units are being set up here. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is taking all steps to make EG district an industrial hub. He said that there are two seaports in the

district and SEZ status is helping a lot for the establishment of industries here.

Minister Srinivasa Venugopal Krishna said that the government had taken up many programmes to encourage and extend needed support to the entrepreneurs to set up industries here.

MP Vanga Gita and Collector C Hari Kiran also spoke.

MLAs Dwarampudi Chandrasekhar Reddy, Jakkampudi Raja and R Varaprasada Rao were among those who attended the programme.



ED freezes Rs 700 cr shares and assets of Karvy CMD

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 offload his shares in the group companies through private deals and thus, in order to preserve the proceeds of crime till further investigation, 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.

"KSBL fraudulently transferred shares belonging to its clients to its own demat account (which is not disclosed to the exchanges) and pledged the shares held in these accounts with the lenders/banks (HDFC bank, ICICI bank, IndusInd bank, Axis Bank, etc.)."

"The securities lying in the aforesaid DP account of KSBL, actually belonged to the clients who were/are the legitimate owners of the pledged securities," the agency said.

It said KSBL did not have any legal right to create a pledge on these securities and generate funds.

"The quantum of such loans taken by KSBL from illegal pledge of shares is to the tune of Rs 2,873 crore. KSBL credited the funds raised by pledging of client securities to 6 of its own bank accounts (stock broker-own account) instead of the "Stock Broker-Client Account" and further has not reported these 6 own bank accounts (stock broker-own account) held with various private banks to the Sebi," it alleged.

Prima facie, the ED said, a net amount of Rs 1,096 crore was transferred by KSBL to its group company—Karvy Realty (India) Ltd—between April 1, 2016 to October 19, 2019.

It accused KSBL of conducting "large-scale trading activities in the names of 9 companies that included Karvy Consultants Limited (KCL), which is a group company of Karvy, and 8 other shell companies, in the guise of doing insurance business."

SHORT TAKES



Gutka, liquor seized, 2 held

KAKINADA: The police seized a huge quantity of banned gutka and liquor bottles while being transported illegally at Krishnavaram toll gate plaza in Kirlampudi mandal. Superintendent of Police M Ravindranath Babu told the media that on a tip-off a police team led by CI Suresh Babu conducted checking of vehicles. The police seized 51,000 gutka sachets and 127 liquor bottles of various brands which were being transported illegally in a mini-truck. The police arrested two persons Md. Irfan Khan Hafiz and Salman Sharif in this connection. They were transporting gutka sachets and liquor bottles from Hyderabad to Anakapalli illegally. The kingpin of the racket is at large and the police launched a search for him. The SP appreciated the police team for seizure of huge quantities of d gutka sachets and liquor.

HC Judge takes driving test

GUNTUR: High Court judge Justice U Durga Prasad Rao took a driving test to obtain a driving licence on Saturday. The Judge took the driving test conducted by the Transport department officials at the motor vehicle inspection office. Guntur district Transport Commissioner E Meera Prasad and other officials were present.



Fire breaks out in GMR plant

KAKINADA: Fire broke out in the GMR power plant located on the beach road here on Saturday. The flames spread all over within a few minutes. The power plant has remained closed for the last five years. The flames, which erupted during welding work, were suspected to be the reason for the fire accident. The fire tenders rushed there and put out the fire. No one was hurt in the fire mishap.



Parents should play key role to protect Telugu language

PNS ■ KADAPA

Andhra Pradesh Telugu Sanskrit Academy president Dr. Nandamuri Lakshmi Parvathi has underlined the need for parents to play a vital role to protect and promote the Telugu language.

She was addressing a seminar on "Opportunities to promote Telugu Language-Challenges" organised by the Yogi Vemana University here on Saturday.

Referring to the introduction of English medium in all government schools, Lakshmi Parvati said that a survey was conducted on the introduction of the English medium in government schools. In Naravaripalle, which is the native village of former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, 98 percent favoured English medium education in government schools. Those 2 percent of people who opposed were the relatives of Chandrababu Naidu, she ridiculed.

"Even if the English medium is implemented in all government schools, Telugu will remain a subject so that no damage will be done to the Telugu language. It is imperative to the students to



Telugu language is lagging in the bottom in world languages as per the UNESCO survey and the Chief Minister had taken steps to bring glory to the Telugu language.

study in the English medium of instruction to compete at the international level", she asserted.

Mr.Lakshmi Parvati claimed that the Telugu language is lagging in the bottom in world languages as per the UNESCO survey and the Chief Minister had taken steps to bring glory to the Telugu language.

She emphasized upon the need for all to speak in the Telugu language only at their homes. She recalled that N T Rama Rao had brought worldwide recognition to the Telugu language by floating the Telugu Desam party in 1982.

The erstwhile rulers ruined the Telugu Academy but present Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had taken all steps for the promotion of the Telugu language. Yogi Vemana university vice-chancellor Prof.M Surya Kalavati said that the Telugu language is one of the six ancient languages and all Telugus should feel proud of that. She explained the efforts YVU is making for the development and promotion of the Telugu language. Chief guest prof.D Vijaya Raghava Prasad, Prof. Chandramathi Shankar also spoke.

TTD warns organisers of games portals

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Saturday warned of legal action against those who were running the games portal in the name of 'Tirupati Hill Climbing Racing Game' and 'Tirupati bus driver' and also operating a website by the name 'Digital Annamaiah'.

In a statement, TTD Chief Vigilance Security Officer (CVSO) Gopinath Jatti said that the TTD vigilance inquiries showed that a person Varadachari Suresh had designed an online game and uploaded it in Google Play store in total violation of TTD regulations.

The CVSO warned that the accused is also managing a website on TTD's name on which the TTD will take legal action.

WARM WELCOME



Guntur District Collector Vivek Yadav called on e-Commerce Secretary B V R Subramanyam of the Union government on Saturday. The e-Commerce Secretary was here to attend the meeting with the tobacco scientists, farmers and traders. The Collector met Subramanyam in the Annapurma D Royal palace hotel. Later, the e-Commerce Secretary, Joint Secretary Diwakarnath Mishra and Tobacco Board ED Addanki Babu discussed various issues.

V-P Naidu calls for addressing shortage of healthcare staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday called for addressing the shortage of trained human resources in the health sector on a war footing.

Naidu made the remarks while addressing the convocation of the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS).

Noting the low doctor to population ratio at 1:1,511 in India against the WHO norm of 1:1,000, he stressed the need for creating more medical colleges in line with the government's intention of setting up one medical college and hospital in every district of the country.

Referring to the paucity of paramedical staff in the country, 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 man-

power 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.

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 threshold, 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.

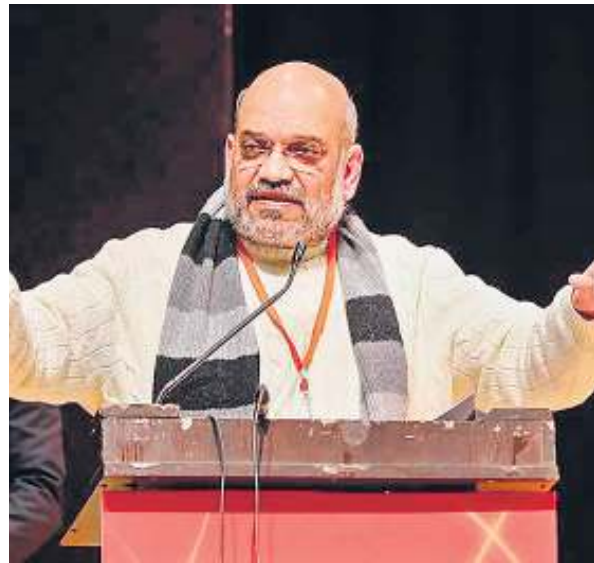
Shah, who is also the Union Home Minister, also announced that the number of primary agriculture cooperatives (PACs) will be increased to 3 lakh in the next five years. At present, there are about 65,000 PACs.

He was speaking at the first Sekharita 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.

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.



NTPC wins 1.9 GW solar projects under CPSU scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned power giant NTPC has bagged 1.9 GW solar projects in CPSU Scheme-II tender.

With this, NTPC now has over 6.3 GW capacity won through competitive biddings. This shall pave the way for NTPC's plan of 60 GW RE (renewable energy) capacity by 2032, a company statement said.

The company has won the projects in tranche 3 of 5 GW tender. Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II envisages setting up 12,000 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic power projects by the government producers with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support.

Godavari Biorefineries files IPO papers with SEBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Godavari Biorefineries has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 370 crore and an offer of sale (OFS) of 65,58,278 equity shares by promoters and investors, the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) showed.

The OFS consists of sale of 5 lakh equity shares each by Samir Shantil Somaiya and Somaiya Agencies, up to 49.27 lakh by Mandala Capital, up to 3 lakh equity shares by Filmidea Communication Systems, up to 1.31 lakh equity shares by Somaiya Properties and Investments and up to 2 lakh equity shares by Lakshmiwadi Mines and Minerals.

The company may consider a pre-IPO placement of up to Rs 100 crore. If such placement is completed, the fresh issue size will be reduced.

Proceeds from the fresh



issue will be used for payment of debt, to fund capital expenditure for sugarcane crushing expansion, support capital expenditure for the potash unit and for general corporate purposes.

Godavari Biorefineries is one of the leading producers of ethanol and a pioneer in manufacturing ethanol-based chemicals in India. The diversified product portfolio comprises bio-based chemicals, sugar, rectified spirits, ethanol, other grades of alcohol and power.

Equirus Capital and JM Financial are the book running lead managers to the issue.

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.

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 Hosiery, which owns the Amul Macho underwear brand, had alleged its TOING Ad had 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 Todi 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.

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.

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 fundraise. 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.



Piaggio's India arm sets up first EV facility in Chennai

Italy-headquartered Piaggio Group's Indian subsidiary Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd has set up its first EV outlet in Chennai, which is first-of-its kind facility in Tamil Nadu, the company said on Saturday.



Inaugurated by Minister for Medical and Family Welfare of Tamil Nadu, M A Subramaniam, the experience centre (EV showroom) will allow customers to access Piaggio's entire range of electric vehicles, the company said. "We are happy to open our first EV exclusive showroom in Tamil Nadu at Chennai. Chennai being a big metro and a major business hub, inter-city transportation business is one of the major economic drivers," said Saiju Nair, EVP and Head of Commercial Vehicle Business, Piaggio India Pvt Ltd. After Chennai, the company further looks to expand its EV presence in various other markets in Tamil Nadu, Nair added. Piaggio had recently launched their FX range (fixed battery) of EVs in both cargo and passenger segments. These new products will be available at the new Chennai outlet, it said. "With the TN government's focus on eco-friendly technologies, EV vehicles are going to be of extreme importance in the future. Our EV policy is drawn in order to facilitate multi-fold increase in production and infrastructure development of electric vehicles," said Subramaniam at the launch. Piaggio's new range of electric vehicles will definitely help in increasing the earnability due to its low cost of operation superior range, he said. "We are offering unique service solutions like class leading warranty and free maintenance package to ensure confidence and peace of mind for our customers while shifting to EV technology," Nair said.

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

7



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-



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

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



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 Square. 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 PTI. 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 today, 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.

