

Telangana State Trade Journal

EXPLORING NEW TRADE FRONTIERS

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EXPLORING NEW TRADE FRONTIERS

TELANGANA STATE TRADE PROMOTION CORPORATION LIMITED

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Hon'ble Minister **Sri K T Rama Rao**, Industries & Commerce, IT&C & MA&UD inaugurated - M/s. Sai Life Sciences Research & Technology Centre at Genome Valley in Hyderabad, **Sri Jayesh Ranjan**, IAS, Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce (I&C), Information Technology (IT) Government of Telangana, **Krishna Kanumuri**, CEO, Sai Life Sciences, **Sri E.V. Narasimha Reddy**, TSIC Vice Chairman & Managing Director and **Sri Shakthi Nagappan**, Director Life Sciences & Pharma participated in the event

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CONTENTS

Telangana to have largest private rail coach factory	3
Ester Filmtech to set up ₹1,350 cr manufacturing plant in Telangana	4
Minister proposes setting up turmeric, maize processing units in Nizamabad	5
Sai Life Sciences' new research centre proves Hyderabad's tech talent: KTR	6
Telangana cabinet decides for more incentives for industries employing locals	7
CM KCR wants PM to focus more on augmenting medical facilities in India	8
Proactive policies needed to attract investments into country: KTR	9
KTR emphasizes for promotion of food processing industry in Telangana	10
T-Hub partners with Korea startup agency to support 10 S Korean startups	11
Online version of 'Intinta Innovator Exhibition' launched by KTR	12
Ideal time for Telangana's pharma companies to grow: KTR	13
KTR visits Genome Valley to boost morale of COVID-19 vaccine companies	14
Can the pharma sector regain lost ground ? - Hon'ble Minister KT Rama Rao	15
Telangana reconstitutes Life Sciences Advisory Committee	17
Sircilla mechanic designs power tiller to clear weeds	18
Industrial safety audit to be conducted across Telangana	19
TASK to provide career guidance to underserved communities	20
Develop Palle Prakruthi Vanams in all gram panchayats: CS Somesh Kumar	22
Telangana to take enumeration of mechanised farm implements	23
Industry Catalogue of Telangana soon	24
TWorks ventilator successfully completes technical evaluation	25
ISB to market 'Telangana Sona' rice	26
Journey of Khadyam	27
NTPC achieves highest daily gross generation of 977.07 MU	29
India ranks 3rd in global manufacturing locations among 48 countries	30
MSMEs will take at least 7-8 months to recover from covid impact: Dun & Bradstreet	31
Cooperative banks could be added under ECLGS for MSMEs	32
Construction of National Highways in Telangana	33-37

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Message from the Joint Managing Director's Desk

I am happy to note that Hyderabad has an aviation hub at Adibhatla that makes components for Boeing, Apache and Sikorsky aircraft and helicopters, a tractor factory in Zaheerebad, a bus building unit in Hyderabad and now **the country's largest railway coach factory in the private sector, Medha Servo Rail Coach factory is coming in Kondakal village in Ranga Reddy district with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore.** The factory which will have facilities to manufacture coaches, locomotives, intercity trainsets, metro trains, monorail, among others, will provide direct employment to at least 1,000 persons besides generating indirect employment for another 1,200. The planned production capacity would be 500 coaches of various types and 50 locomotives per year. **M/s. Ester Filmtech** is planning to set up an advanced polyester film manufacturing facility in Telangana with a total **investment of Rs1,350 crore** with an employment potential of 800 and first phase is scheduled to be completed by 2022. It is giving a pleasure to note that **Irishbased M/s. Medtech giant Medtronic Plc is investing Rs 1,200 crore** over the next five years in expanding its existing global R&D centre in Hyderabad into the Medtronic Engineering & Innovation Centre to house 1000 engineers. **Sai Life Sciences Limited**, a growing contract research organisation, announced the **commissioning of its new Research and Technology Centre** spread across 83,000 sqft in **Genome Valley, Hyderabad.**

Government of Telangana is proposing **to set up turmeric, soya and maize-based food processing units** in erstwhile Nizamabad district which is 50 kms close to the existing spices park in 42 acres. **Telangana State Dairy Development Co-Operative Federation Ltd (TSDDCFL) is establishing a mega dairy project in an area of 32.20 acres** in Ranga Reddy district. The State Government announced a **new policy is aimed to make State as a preferred destination for EVs and component manufacturing units, besides making the State a major base for EV and energy storage sectors** by attracting large scale investments and creating employment accordingly it was decided to provide 100 per cent exemption of road tax and registration fee for first EVs to be purchased in the State, Later, the incentives will be extended to two lakh two-wheelers, 20,000 three-wheelers, 5,000 commercial passengers vehicles (taxi, tourist cabs etc), 10,000 electric light goods carriers, 5,000 private cars and 500 e-buses.

In a major development, the State Cabinet approved **a new industrial policy to provide additional incentives and to create more employment opportunities for locals in industries** to be established in the State along with the existing TS-iPASS which attracted huge investments to the State. In a novel initiative to promote industry and business, the State, has initiated creating an **"Industry Catalogue of Telangana State,"** a one-stop portal for complete details on all the industrial units operating in the State. The Government also took necessary steps to extend collateral-free loans to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises under the Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line and ensure that hundred per cent target is achieved. To propel the growth of **Handlooms and Textiles Industry** and to ensure better livelihood for weavers, the State has **signed MoU's with ICT, ISB and UNDP.**

Telangana **State Innovation Cell (TSIC)** has come up with the online version of **'Intinta Innovator Exhibition 2020'** across 33 districts in the State. Further, the State government declared the year **2020 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to accelerate AI readiness and develop a conducive AI innovation ecosystem in the State.

The efforts of the Government in promoting investments in the State are creating a great confidence among the prospective investors. This tempo of driving, would **certainly transform the state into the Best investment destination.**

E. Venkat Narasimha Reddy

Telangana to have largest private rail coach factory

Hyderabad : 13th Aug 2020

Hyderabad will soon be home to the country's largest railway coach factory in the private sector, with IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao laying the foundation stone for the Rs 1,000 crore Medha Servo Rail Coach factory at Kondakal village in Ranga Reddy district. Underscoring Telangana's emergence as a major investment destination in various sectors, the Minister, speaking after the ground breaking ceremony, said: "Hyderabad has an aviation hub at Adibhatla that makes components for Boeing, Apache and Sikorsky aircraft and helicopters, a tractor factory in Zaheerebad, a bus building unit in Hyderabad and now railway coaches will also be manufactured in Telangana."

The factory which will have facilities to manufacture coaches, locomotives, intercity trainsets, metro trains, monorail, among others, will provide direct employment to at least 1,000 persons besides generating indirect employment for another 1,200. The planned production capacity would be 500 coaches of various types and 50 locomotives per year. Rama Rao, stating that the State government's proactive approach and conducive policies had encouraged Medha Group to establish its world-class rail coach factory in the State, said the facility signals the creation of an ecosystem for rail coach manufacturing in Telangana State.

He called upon Medha, established by home grown entrepreneurs, to explore the possibility of venturing into the Rs 30,000 crore initiative of the Union government for manufacture of Metro coaches. He also urged the company to participate in monorail or metro rail projects in tier two cities like Warangal, besides entering the huge Electric Vehicles (EV) market taking advantage of the State government's recent EV policy. "You must analyse our policy and come up with ideas to manufacture EV buses, cars, two-wheelers and even three-wheelers," he said.

He attributed the stupendous growth of Medha, established in 2005, to sheer hardwork, and pointed out that it had grown from a Rs 25 crore company to setting up 12 factories across five continents. "Medha being a home grown company makes Telangana proud," he added. "Telangana must transform into a self-reliant State, which is the aim of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. We must acquire the knowledge to manufacture world class equipment. Medha can partner with European companies and make Telangana the only State to produce world class railway coaches," he said, adding that once the 160 km speed locomotives manufactured by Medha hit the tracks, the entire lifestyle of daily commuters will change.

Daily commute

"Anyone who works in Hyderabad need not necessary have to live in the city. A person from Adilabad can reach Hyderabad in just one hour. Similarly, anyone living in Vijayawada can reach Hyderabad in two hours and from Hyderabad to Bengaluru in just three hours," he said.

Urging the Medha Group to consider adopting Kondakal and Velmal villages as part of



their Corporate Social Responsibility, the Minister also appealed to the MPs to spend money from MPLADS in establishing skill development centres to train local youth under Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK).

Finance Minister T Harish Rao, Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy, MPs Ranjith Reddy and Prabhakar Reddy, Ranga Reddy District Collector Amoy Kumar, Sangareddy District Collector M Hanumanth Rao, Managing Director of Medha Group Y Kashyap Reddy and Executive Director Srinivas Reddy also participated in the ground breaking ceremony.

Ester Filmtech to set up ₹1,350 cr manufacturing plant in Telangana

Gurgram : 17 Aug 2020

Ester Filmtech is planning to set up an advanced polyester film manufacturing facility in Telangana with a total investment of ₹1,350 crore. The implementation of the first phase with a capital outlay of ₹500 crore is scheduled to be completed by the third quarter of the calendar year 2022, the company said.



The project will create direct employment potential for about 800 people. The end products will find applications in packaging material and help contribute towards strengthening the value chain of the flexible packaging industry.

Ester Filmtech said it plans to export 30 to 40 per cent of its production, which will help establish Telangana's footprint on the global flexible packaging map. Chairman Arvind Singhania said the company chose Telangana as an investment destination due to its industry-friendly policies, growth-oriented approach and ease of doing business.

4 / Aug 2020

Ester Industries is one of India's leading producers of polyester films, engineering plastics and speciality polymers. It has manufacturing facilities at Khatima in Uttarakhand with a capacity of 67,000 tonnes per annum of polyester resin, 57,000 TPA of polyester film, 30,000 TPA of speciality polymers and 16,500 TPA of engineering plastics. The company exports about 30 per cent of its production of polyester films with sales and distribution network in more than 56 countries.

Medtronic to inject Rs 1,200 crore to grow Hyderabad R&D centre to largest outside US

Hyderabad : Aug 11, 2020

In a move that's slated to boost Telangana's prospects as an emerging global medical devices hub, Irish medtech giant Medtronic Plc is investing Rs 1,200 crore over the next five years in expanding its existing R&D centre in Hyderabad into the Medtronic Engineering & Innovation Centre.

The Hyderabad MEIC will be the company's largest global R&D centre outside the US and will house over 1000 engineers over the next few years, said a statement released by Telangana industries & IT minister KT Rama Rao's office after a virtual meeting with Medtronic top brass. The existing R&D centre, which is located at Gachibowli, currently houses over 350 engineers.

Omar Ishrak, executive chairman and chairman of the board, Medtronic, said, innovation is crucial to Medtronic's growth strategy and the expansion of MEIC will help the company serve its mission of using medical technology to alleviate pain, restore health and extend life for patients around the world, which is also aligned with the government's vision to improve access to healthcare for patients in India.



TSTPC Trade Journal

KT Rama Rao said Hyderabad hosting Medtronic's largest R&D base outside the US is testimony to the city's growing prowess in the medical devices sector.

"The Telangana government is committed to the growth of medtech in the state and we see this partnership with Medtronic as a pivotal one. We will work with them to ensure this center will continue to contribute to their remarkable efforts to improve healthcare globally," KTR added.

Minister proposes setting up turmeric, maize processing units in Nizamabad

Hyderabad : 12th Aug 2020

Roads and Buildings Minister V Prashanth Reddy proposed promoting establishment of turmeric, soya and maize-based food processing units in erstwhile Nizamabad district, as part of the State government's proposed Food Processing policy.

During the meeting of Council of Ministers at Pragathi Bhavan to discuss the Food Processing and Logistics policies here, Prashanth Reddy said the Spice Park was set up in about 42 acres in Balkonda Assembly constituency which was a perfect choice for setting up turmeric-based industries. He pointed out that turmeric was cultivated on a large scale within 50 km radius from the Spice Park and setting up a turmeric processing industry will be beneficial for farmers.

The Minister also sought establishment of soya and maize-based processing units in Lakkampalli Special Economic Zone developed in about 200 acres in the Armour Assembly constituency. Minister KT Rama Rao responded positively to the request and assured to consider the proposals.

Telangana Govt okays 32.20 acres for mega dairy

Hyderabad : 28th Jul 2020

Telangana government transferred 32.20 acres of land in Raviryal village of Maheswaram mandal in Rangareddy district to the Telangana State Dairy Development Co-Operative Federation Ltd (TSDDCFL) for the establishment of a mega dairy.

In a government order issued by Secretary to government Anita Rajendra, the Director of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry has given consent to lease the land belonging to Mamidipally Large Scale Sheep Breeding farm to be handed over to the Managing Director of TSDDCFL for the establishment of mega dairy unit for an amount of Rs 30,000 per acre per annum.

The government approved the transfer on lease for a period of 99 years from the date of entering into an MoU. However the TSDDCFL should pay lease amount per acre every year to Telangana Sheep and Goats Federation with effect from the date of commencement of the mega dairy subject to an increase of 5 per cent lease amount every year. The order says that the Director Veterinary and Animal Husbandry and the TSDDCFL must enter into an MoU and initiate necessary action.

Telangana to be major base for Electric Vehicles

Hyderabad : 6th Aug 2020

To reduce air pollution and traffic congestion, the State Cabinet decided to encourage and promote usage of Electric Vehicles (EVs) across the State. The Cabinet approved the new Telangana State Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Solution Policy, during the meeting held at Pragathi Bhavan here. It was also decided to encourage the production of electric vehicles in the State by giving them incentives.

The new policy is aimed to make Telangana a preferred destination for EVs and component manufacturing units, besides making the State a major base for EV and energy storage sectors by attracting large scale investments and creating employment. It also proposed to develop an ecosystem of shared mobility through charging and swapping infrastructure, and proactively supporting creation of EV charging infrastructure. The State government will also provide preferential market access to the companies which establish their manufacturing plants in the State.

Under the new policy, the State Cabinet decided to provide 100 per cent exemption of road tax and registration fee for first EVs to be purchased in the

State after the policy comes into force. Accordingly, the incentives will be extended to two lakh two-wheelers, 20,000 three-wheelers, 5,000 commercial passengers vehicles (taxi, tourist cabs etc), 10,000 electric light goods carriers, 5,000 private cars and 500 e-buses.

The State government will extend incentives and subsidies to the manufacturers as well as per the Electronics Policy 2016 which includes 20 per cent capital investment subsidy, SGST reimbursement, power tariff discount, electricity duty exemption, interest subvention, transportation subsidy and other expenditures like stamp duty, transfer duty, registration fee, lease rental assistance and others. India's leading e-bus manufacturer Olectra Greentech-BYD and electric three-wheeler manufacturer Gayam Motor Works already have their base in the state, while several other companies like e-bus manufacturer Mytrah, batter manufacturer Exicom and other expressed interest to establish their units which will result in proposed investment of Rs 4,600 crore, creating nearly 4,200 jobs. The State government is also establishing an Energy Park at Divitapally and plans to develop another EV Park, besides using the existing Electronic Manufacturing Clusters at Raviryal and Maheshwaram for facilitating establishment of the new EV plants.

Sources said the State government is expecting an investment of Rs 30,000 crore to the State in the next a few years, apart from providing 1.2 lakh direct and 2.5 lakh indirect employment opportunities. The government plans to spend around Rs 1,425 crore towards incentives and make 775 acres available for EV manufacturers.

Sai Life Sciences' new research centre proves Hyderabad's tech talent: KTR

Hyderabad : 16th August 2020

Sai Life Sciences Limited, a growing contract research organisation, announced the commissioning of its new Research and Technology Centre in Hyderabad. The Centre, located in Genome Valley, is spread across 83,000 sq ft.

Speaking at the inauguration, IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said, "I am delighted to inaugurate this world-class Research and Technology Centre of Sai Life Sciences. It is a matter of pride for us that Hyderabad is emerging as the innovation hub and serving more than 1,000 global innovators in their vision to improve healthcare and research and development around the globe.

Expansion of Sai Life Sciences in Hyderabad serves as the testimony to Hyderabad's growing R&D prowess and extraordinary talent pool." Krishna Kanumuri, CEO and MD, Sai Life Sciences, said, "Our philosophy behind building this new facility was to go beyond what the norm is in India and to create what our global innovator partners expect in their in-house capabilities." The new centre aims to be the nerve-centre of the company's R&D capability and accelerate the discovery and development of new drugs.

The facility is integrated with features such as 250 fume hoods, intelligent lab design, satellite analytical testing, process safety lab, collaborate workspaces and much more. Rama Rao also laid a foundation stone for Genopolis - a multi-tenanted laboratory and manufacturing space for life sciences and pharma companies in Genome Valley.

Telangana to turn a new chapter- New industrial policy to create additional jobs unveiled; Rs 100 crore more to be released to tackle spread of Covid-19.

Hyderabad : 6th Aug 2020

The State Cabinet took a series of crucial decisions that could put the growth trajectory of the State in a different orbit, create more employment opportunities for locals and tackle pollution through promotion of e-vehicles, all through government incentives to various sectors. It also decided to take the menace of coronavirus head-on by scaling up testing for the virus to 40,000 tests per day from Thursday, double of what is being done presently. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao also announced an additional

Rs 100 crore for measures to be taken to check the spread of the virus, including readying 10,000 beds with oxygen facilities across the State. He also warned private hospitals of stringent action if they failed to follow government directions on treatment and charges.



In a marathon meeting chaired by the Chandrashekhara Rao at Pragathi Bhavan here, the Cabinet approved a new industrial policy under which a major chunk of employment would be given to locals in industries being set up in Telangana State.. The Cabinet was of the view that locals should be given more opportunities in industries being set up in the State, and to encourage this, the Cabinet also decided to extend incentives to industries which provide more job opportunities to locals.

After Telangana State was formed, the government brought in the path-breaking TS-iPASS Act that facilitates easy permissions to set up industrial units in the State. This had resulted in lot of industries coming to the State. The Chief Minister had subsequently instructed the Industries department to come up with a policy that would create more employment potential for the locals in such industries. Consequently, the Industries department, under the leadership of Industries Minister K T Rama Rao, got into the act and came up with a draft policy, which was discussed at length at the Cabinet meeting before it was given the stamp of approval.

In another move to decongest the IT sector from a particular area or zone, the State Cabinet, stating that the IT industry should be spread all over the city, approved a Grid policy (Growth in dispersion). Here again, the Cabinet decided to extend incentives to IT companies being set up in areas other than the West Zone in Hyderabad. Another major decision that would go a long way in checking air pollution in the State was to encourage and promote use of electrical vehicles.

The Cabinet decided to encourage production of e-vehicles in the State by giving them incentives through the Telangana

State Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Solution Policy. The State Cabinet also gave its approval for the construction of the new state-of-the-art integrated Secretariat complex as also the design for the structure.

Cabinet Decisions

10,000 BEDS WITH OXYGEN FACILITIES TO BE SET UP ACROSS THE STATE

- Private hospitals warned of stringent action if they fail to follow government directions on treatment and charges
- Incentives to industries which provide more job opportunities to locals
- Incentives to IT companies being set up in areas other than the West Zone in Hyderabad
- As part of efforts to check air pollution, TS to encourage and promote use of electrical vehicles

Telangana to scale up Covid-19 testing to 40,000 per day

TS-bPASS applicable in ULBs

HYDERABAD: The government decided to bring in an Act or issue an ordinance to make the Telangana State Building Permission Approval and Self Certification System (TS-bPASS) applicable in all Urban Local Bodies across the State including GHMC and HMDA area to bring in uniformity. The TS-bPASS will allow online permission for building construction. (REPORT PAGE 5)

TS to scale up coronavirus testing

HYDERABAD: Scaling up its battle against coronavirus, the government released an additional Rs 100 crore, apart from deciding to increase the number of tests to 40,000 per day and enhance infrastructure in government hospitals. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao said the government was ready to treat each and every Covid-19 patient, without any limit on numbers. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Telangana cabinet decides for more incentives for industries employing locals

Hyderabad : 5th Aug 2020

In a major development, the State Cabinet approved a new industrial policy to create more employment opportunities for locals in industries to be established in the State. The Cabinet also decided to provide additional incentives to the industries which give priority to locals in employment. After the

State formation, the Telangana State government introduced a new industrial policy TS-iPASS which attracted huge investments to the State. However, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao recently directed the Industries department to formulate a new policy to ensure more job opportunities to local youth. Led by Minister KT Rama Rao, the Industries department prepared a draft policy which lays emphasis on creating more jobs for locals and conducting skill development training to make locals financially self-reliant and improve their living standards. The policy was extensively discussed during the Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister at Pragathi Bhavan.

Accordingly, the State government in collaboration with the industry and the academia will make efforts to provide skilled manpower to the new industries to be established in the State. It was observed that neighbouring States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh were insisting on particular percentage of jobs for local youth, to avail incentives from the States which was in violation of Article 16 in the Indian Constitution which states that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or, any employment or office under the State.

To avoid unnecessary criticism, the State government decided to adopt a two pronged strategy to create favourable environment to ensure that local youth are given priority in employment in industries. Accordingly, the government will ensure availability of skilled manpower through institutions like TASK, tagging core industries with ITIs/Polytechnics to ensure continuous availability of skilled manpower. Further, the State government will offer additional incentives to industries of two categories where Category-I industries should have 50 per cent skilled manpower and 70 per cent semi-skilled manpower should be locals. Similarly, Category-II industries should have locals in 60 per cent skilled jobs and 80 per cent semi-skilled jobs.

CM KCR wants PM to focus more on augmenting medical facilities in India - The Chief Minister said that the pandemic has reminded everyone about the need to increase medical facilities in the country.

Hyderabad : 11th Aug 2020

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to focus more on increasing the medical facilities in the country, taking lessons from experience the country faced due to the Corona pandemic. The Chief Minister expressed his opinion, during a videoconference held by Prime Minister with ten Chief Ministers in the country on the Corona pandemic issue. The Chief Minister apprised the Prime Minister of the Corona situation in the state.

The Chief Minister said that the pandemic has reminded everyone about the need to increase medical facilities in the country. “Corona experience has taught us a lesson that there is an urgent need to step up the medical facilities in the country. A visionary outlook and thinking is necessary to take proper and adequate measures in the medical sector for a better future. Strategic planning should be done to create comprehensive medical facilities in the country,” he said.

He suggested that both the Centre and State should jointly implement this comprehensive strategy. “We never had any Corona-like experience in the past. We do not know how many days this Pandemic will last. While dealing with the existing Corona pandemic, we should focus on how we are going to deal with such a situation in future and how we are going to offer better medical facilities to people when the need arises,” Chief Minister said. We have to initiate measures now so that whenever an emergency medical situation develops, we will be able to face it efficiently, he said. ” In the past too, we have seen the emergence of several viruses, and there is

every possibility that a Corona like virus may come up again in the future. Hence, we have to take measures now to face any eventuality in future,” Chief Minister said.

He further added that the time is ripe to think about the ideal Doctor people ratio, how many new medical colleges we need. “We have to consult Institutions such as the Indian Medical Association (IMA), take proper advice and plan the measures. We have to think on these lines and this is a very important issue. The Medical sector should be prepared to face the threat of Corona like viruses in future. The Prime Minister should take the initiative in this regard. The Centre and States should jointly work to create better medical facilities in the country,” the Chief Minister suggested.

Explaining the measures taken by the state government, he said that Telangana has taken all the measures to contain Corona virus. The recovery rate in the State is 71 per cent while the death rate is 0.7 per cent. We have increased the number of tests many fold. “We are giving better treatment to the Corona affected patients. We have kept an adequate number of beds, medicines, staff and other equipment. We are diligently following the guidelines issued from time to time by the ICMR, Niti Aayog and the Central government. Medical and Health Staff, Police personnel and other government machinery are working round the clock and rendering their services,” he said.

Medical and Health Minister Etela Rajender, Government’s Chief Advisor Rajiv Sharma, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, DGP Mahender Reddy, Principal Secretary (Medical and Health) Rizvi, Medical department Heads, Srinivasa Rao, Ramesh Reddy, Gangadhar, Karunakar Reddy and others also participated. Besides, Telangana Chief Minister, Chief Ministers of AP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar, Gujarat and UP interacted with the Prime Minister.

Proactive policies needed to attract investments into country: KTR

Hyderabad : 9th Aug 2020

IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao made a strong pitch for proactive policies to attract investments into the country, particularly in these pandemic times. “Bold reforms are the need of the hour for the country, and we need to design proactive policies to encourage companies to invest in India,” the Minister said, in his keynote address at the online session on ‘Reinventing Technology in India – Combining the Best of Local and Global Talent, Innovation and Capital’ held as part of CII India At 75 Summit.

Stating that the Telangana government had, as a step in this direction, introduced a best in class Electric vehicles policy, Rama Rao said: “The disruption caused by Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to embrace technology in a way never seen before and has helped accelerate our approach towards remote working and implementation of digital solutions.”

The Minister, who has been consistently saying that the country should position itself to tap the potential in the post Covid period, said India has one of the largest pools of technology workforce across the globe and had gained a significant lead in the industry over the last two decades. “The pandemic acts as a perfect platform to strengthen our position in the sector,”



he said, adding that with a median age of 26.8 years, India had the youngest workforce in the world which will play an important role during this phase of acceleration.

The Minister, highlighting the three “Is” mantra, said: “What India needs today is innovation, infrastructure, and inclusive growth.” He also spoke about the importance of use of technology in various sectors such as the agritech sector to increase profitability to farmers, technology for digital education, online retail, and robot deliveries.

Pointing out that 5G will play a very critical role, Rama Rao said India was very well capable of developing a cost-effective and swiftly deployable 5G solution. “This is crucial and will go miles in strengthening our position as a technology leader in the world,” he added. The Minister also stated that Telangana had already fast-tracked the implementation of several use cases-based on advanced technologies such as AI, Drone, Blockchain, and Cloud. IT and Industries Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan was also present during the session.

KTR emphasizes for promotion of food processing industry in Telangana

Hyderabad: 13th Aug 2020

The State government is all set to come up with one of the best food processing and logistics policies in the country soon to promote the food processing sector in the State. A group of Ministers led by IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao that examined the policies and incentives offered by other States and countries, proposed major changes in the draft policies to offer incentives and subsidies to attract investments in the food processing sector.

In a marathon eight-hour meeting at Pragathi Bhavan, Rama Rao emphasised the need to extensively promote food processing industry to succeed in the twin objectives of economic empowerment of farmers and employment opportunities for youth in the State. He stated that special incentives would be offered to SC, ST, minorities and women who establish their own food processing units in the State. “There are abundant investment opportunities in the food processing sector as the State has been registering highest crop yield consistently. These policies will help us attract investments, increase employment opportunities and boost the rural economy,” he said.

Giving a presentation to the Ministers on the proposed food processing and logistics policies, the Minister sought inputs from his Cabinet colleagues and said their suggestions would be taken into consideration while drafting the guidelines. He pointed out that the completion of irrigation projects and other proactive measures initiated by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had helped in increasing irrigation facilities in the State, which in turn boosted agriculture activities.

Rama Rao said that due to the implementation of sheep and fish seedlings distribution schemes, there had been a significant increase in the number of sheep and production of fish. He said the State was experiencing a water revolution and was in the process of witnessing another Green Revolution (agriculture), followed by Blue Revolution (fisheries), Pink Revolution (meat production), and White Revolution (milk).

The Minister highlighted the fact that crops being cultivated in every village, mandal, and district, were



being mapped across the State for comprehensive information on agriculture operations. He also stated that the construction of new irrigation projects had subsequently increased the cultivation area in the State. "The production of crops, especially paddy, cotton, maize, pulses and spices, has increased significantly after implementation of pro-agriculture measures of the State government," he added.

During the discussion, the Ministers suggested promotion of food processing industries based on changing crop patterns. They observed that employment opportunities could be increased in rural areas by setting up poultry, meat production and fish processing units. In the wake of shortage of skilled manpower, they suggested promotion of mechanisation in the processing units. They also proposed providing additional incentives to set up small food processing units in tribal areas, besides encouraging Dalits and women entrepreneurs to grab such opportunities.

Further, the Ministers emphasised the need to promote quality processed products with the Telangana Brand and maintain export quality standards to prevent food adulteration. It was also decided to encourage establishment of modern oil mills and also fruits and vegetable food processing units to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their crops. Ministers T Harish Rao, S Niranjana Reddy, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Eatala Rajender, V Srinivas Goud, Mohammad Mahmood Ali, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Koppula Eeshwar, P Sabitha Indra Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod, V Prashanth Reddy, Gangula Kamalakar, Puvvada Ajay, G Jagadish Reddy, A Indrakaran Reddy, Telangana State Planning Board vice-chairman B Vinod Kumar, Government Chief Advisor Rajiv Sharma, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Principal Secretaries, and senior officials, participated in the meeting.

Way forward

MAJOR CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT POLICIES

- To offer incentives, subsidies to attract investments
- Plans to achieve twin objectives of economic empowerment of ryots and jobs for youth in State
- Special incentives for SCs, STs, minorities and women who establish food processing units
- Ministers suggest job opportunities could be increased in rural areas by setting up poultry, meat production and fish processing units

There are abundant investment opportunities in the food processing sector as the State has been registering highest crop yield consistently. These policies will help us attract investments, increase employment opportunities and boost the rural economy



— K T RAMA RAO, IT and Industries Minister

T-Hub partners with Korea startup agency to support 10 S Korean startups

Hyderabad : 18th Aug 2020

Telangana's startup ecosystem builder T-Hub and Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME), an initiative of the Ministry of SMEs and Startup of South Korea, announced the shortlisting of 10 early-stage South Korean startups for the Startup Accelerator 2020 market access programme. The startups will benefit from new business opportunities, market understanding, access to customers and a deeper understanding of the Indian market. The partnership will create ample opportunities for the startups to scale up in the Indian market.

T-Hub will execute the acceleration programme virtually in view of the pandemic, and the startups will undergo intensive training for two months. Startups accepted in the programme will also receive guidance from T-Hub via a rich curriculum of activities, specifically designed to help the startups explore business opportunities in the Indian market.

T-Hub CEO and Telangana's chief innovation officer Ravi Narayan said, "Startup Accelerator programme has been designed specifically for South Korean startups to help them establish a firm foothold in the Indian market. T-Hub will be acting as their partners to support and guide them."

KOSME chief representative India Jung Hwan Moon, said, "T-Hub being the main driver of this programme, I strongly believe that this two-month of intensive training will help the startups to build a strong foundation for their business in India." The shortlisted startups are One beauty Korea (dental implants), A-virtual, Honour Farm, LabSD, Letsfarm, Braincolla, Coconut Silo, L'air Pur Co., Ltd, TAGHIVE Inc and Korean Aviation Lights.

Online version of 'Intinta Innovator Exhibition' launched by KTR

Hyderabad : 15th Aug 2020

Continuing its success streak of last year, the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) has come up with the online version of 'Intinta Innovator Exhibition 2020' across 33 districts in the State, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao formally launched the online exhibition which will showcase 65 innovations. The campaign received more than 250 entries from all the districts, out of which 65 innovations were chosen after strict evaluation. These innovations are being showcased online as part of Independence Day celebrations. People can visit the website '<https://www.teamtsic.org/intintainnovatorexhibition2020/>' to check the innovations from the State exhibited this year.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary for IT and Industries Jayesh Ranjan said the exhibition had entries from innovative minds from all sections including a school student, an entrepreneur, a housewife and a farmer. The objective is to build a connection between citizens and innovators. The exhibition looks at defining the source of innovation that can come from any individual irrespective of the age, place and culture.

TSIC chief innovation officer (CIO) Ravi Narayan said the exhibition was initiated with an objective of taking innovation to every doorstep and encourage grassroot talents from all corners of the State. "Through this campaign, we have successfully laid foundations for decentralising and institutionalising the process of recognising innovation by involving the district-level administration from all 33 districts in the State," he said. The officials from various departments of the district administrations under the supervision of the District Collectors took up an intensive scouting for innovative minds over a period of 45 days. A central Whatsapp number was shared by Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) ensuring the inclusivity of citizens from all demographics and geographical backgrounds to send the details of their innovation. Palle Srujana, an organisation working with grassroot innovators in the State, also participated in the scouting.

Telangana to seek more fertilisers from Centre

Hyderabad : 18th Aug 2020

With an increased crop acreage in the State, the State government decided to seek more fertilisers from the Centre to meet the demand from the farming community in the State. As against the 14.48 lakh tonnes of fertilisers used last Vaanakalam, officials estimate the demand to be around 22.30 lakh tonnes during the ongoing Vaanakalam season.

As per instructions of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy and Principal Secretary B Janardhan Reddy will leave for New Delhi. They will meet the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers as well as the officials concerned in the Union government.

The Chief Minister held a meeting at Pragathi Bhavan here to review the demand for fertilisers in the State. He observed that about 1.4 crore acres will be cultivated in the State during this monsoon season and demand for fertilisers will increase proportionately. As on August 14 last year, the fertilisers consumption was 8.06 lakh tonnes against 15.88 lakh tonnes this year. Similarly, about 14.48 lakh tonnes of fertilisers were consumed during the Vaanakalam

season last year, while an estimated 22.30 lakh tonnes are expected to be consumed this year. "Fertilisers should be made available in line with the huge increase in crop acreage in the State," he asserted.

Chandrashekhar Rao felt that fertilisers were yet to reach farmers in many areas due to rains, Coronavirus and other problems plaguing the State.

He wanted the authorities to seek more fertilisers from the Centre by explaining the prevailing situation and avoid any shortage of fertilisers during the season to protect the crops.



Ideal time for Telangana's pharma companies to grow: KTR

Hyderabad : 29th Jul 2020

IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao said the coronavirus pandemic has provided the pharma and life sciences sector in the State with an opportunity to fortify its position as a global force in the world of pharmaceuticals. "The pharma industry based out of Hyderabad have already proved its mettle during the pandemic by manufacturing and supplying life-saving drugs and equipment to the world in the fight against the virus," the Minister said, sharing his views on the importance and future direction of pharma and life sciences sector in Hyderabad during a webinar organised by the World Economic Forum.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said Hyderabad had already established itself as a leading pharma destination in the try and Hyworld with projects like Genome Valley which was the largest medical devices park in the country and Pharma City, the largest pharma cluster in the world. "It is a matter of pride that more than 30 per cent of the world's vaccines are produced in Hyderabad. Companies like Bharat Biotech, which already has operations in Hyderabad, are frontrunners in



manufacturing vaccines in the fight against coronavirus. The opportunities available for growth of pharma and life sciences industries in the State are likely to increase further in future," he said.

Rama Rao observed that just like the IT industry created lakhs of jobs in India two decades ago, pharma and life sciences sector was seeing a similar opportunity to grow now. He expressed the hope that there would be many opportunities in the field of pharma and life sciences not only during the pandemic, but also in the post COVID-19 era. "The Telangana government will prepare all the necessary plans to seize the future opportunities in this field," he said.

The Minister said the State government was partnering with the World Economic Forum on various programmes and the current crisis provided more opportunities for collaborations. He pointed out that Apollo Hospitals had partnered with the WEF to launch a programme like 'Medicines from the Sky' to supply medicines using drones in case of emergencies. Pointing out that the world's top five IT companies had set up their second largest offices in Hyderabad, he said: "Similarly, Hyderabad has all the resources to become home for pharma giants. Novartis has already set up its offices in Hyderabad," he said, and emphasised the need to seize the growing opportunities not just in the field of pharmaceuticals, but also in new areas such as digital drug discovery.

KTR visits Genome Valley to boost morale of COVID-19 vaccine companies

Hyderabad : 4th Aug 2020

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao visited the Genome Valley to meet the leadership team of Bharat Biotech and Biological E and examine the status of vaccine development for COVID-19. The objective of the visit was to elicit the opinions of the vaccine manufacturers on the challenges faced by them in vaccine development and support required from the State as well as the Central governments.

Speaking on the occasion, Rama Rao said the life sciences sector emerged as the key sector amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine industry was the biggest ray of hope. He said the world is once again looking upto India to provide a solution as India's vaccine sector will play a critical role in developing and producing vaccine at scale for distribution across the world. "Hyderabad's importance in the global vaccine landscape is only growing. We are really proud that Bharat Biotech has been the first in the country to develop indigenous vaccine against novel Coronavirus, which is currently undergoing trials. I am also happy that Biological E has joined the pursuit to develop COVID-19 vaccine and made significant progress in this direction," the Minister said. He stated that being the vaccine capital of the world, it is the responsibility of the State government to play an enabling role in global vaccination efforts against COVID-19.

Bharat Biotech International Limited chairman and managing director Krishna M Ella thanked the visionary leadership of the Minister in supporting the vaccines industry with bold initiatives and operationalising new pharmaceutical industries in Telangana State. He urged the State government to announce procurement strategies for COVID-19 vaccines, whenever they become available.

Biological E Limited managing director Mahima Datla thanked the Minister interacting with the employees lauding their efforts against COVID-19 and motivating them further to put their best foot forward. She also thanked the State government's unwavering commitment to promote life sciences industry in Telangana, due to which the company was on the verge of commercialising a vaccine which would protect not just the country but the entire world against the COVID-19 pandemic. Shakthi Nagappan, Director (Life Sciences and Pharma) and Chief Executive Officer of Hyderabad Pharma City and other officials were also present.

Can the pharma sector regain lost ground ? - Hon'ble Minister KT Rama Rao



August 17, 2020

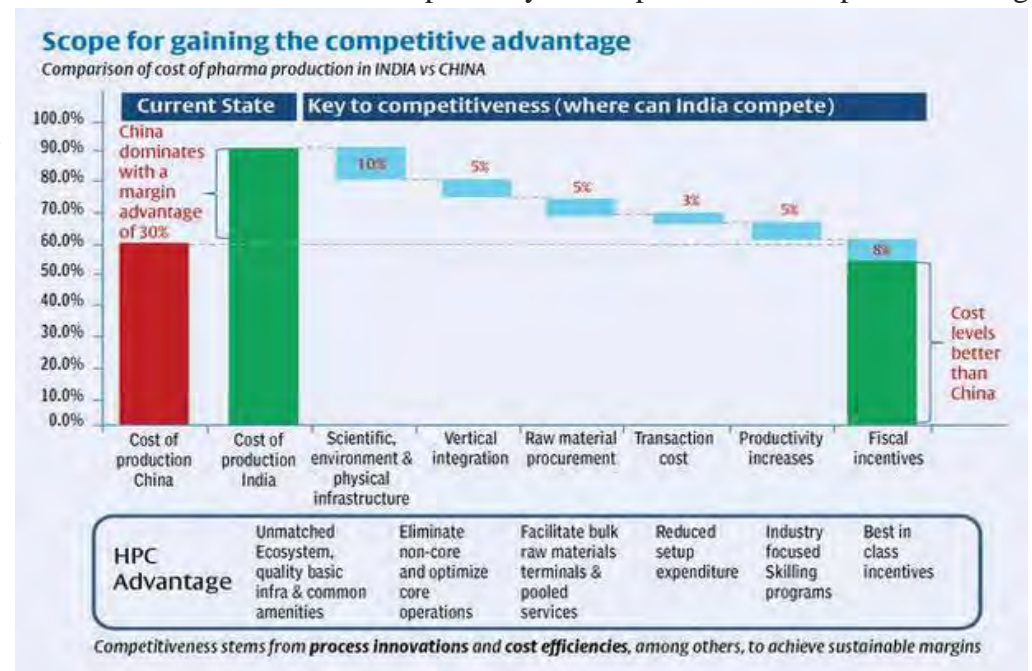
This would entail becoming as cost-competitive as China. Initiatives like Hyderabad Pharma City are crucial to achieve this. The global Covid-19 pandemic has cascaded into a humanitarian crisis more than an healthcare and economic one. India, as the “Pharmacy of the world”, stands to play a vital role as the largest supplier of generic medicines (22 per cent of world consumption) as well as vaccines (around 60 per cent per cent) to the world. While the rest of the world is looking at India to produce at scale and supply drugs/vaccines to the patients, the nation is grappling with its own challenge of containing the rapid spread of Covid-19 infection. Despite the disruptions in supply chains, shortage of labour around the world, India has demonstrated its resilience and dependability in producing and supplying essential medicines at high-quality and affordable cost.

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is set to be a potent actor on the world stage; however, it is critically dependent on imports (close to 70 per cent) from China for its raw materials, particularly the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and other key raw materials. Various geopolitical factors pose a serious threat to not just India but to the pharmaceutical supply chain of the world. The supply of the raw materials was also interrupted previously during the Beijing Olympics (2008), Doklam crisis (2017), and Blue Skies policy (2018), among others. Until the late 1980s, India

was self-sufficient in APIs and manufactured most of its pharma raw materials domestically. However, over time, the manufacturing of APIs shifted to China owing to factors like lower operating costs (primarily subsidised by government), unfavourable pricing policies in India, among others. Consequently, the Indian industry started relying on imports. For instance, we imported ₹203 crore worth APIs for Gabapentin, an anti-epileptic drug used in nerve pain, from China in 2019 despite having 3x capacity to manufacture domestically (Source: KPMG-CII Report 2020).

The cost advantage of importing from China is at least 20 per cent, even after taking into account the customs duty impact. China had strategically promoted and supported KSM (key starting materials)/ API manufacturing with clusters of unprecedented scale featuring all scientific and environmental infrastructure, subsidies in terms of power, water, steam, access to low-cost capital, among others. China has also benefited from its rich resources of coal deposits, lime deposits, chemical and petrochemical industries, which are the starting materials of the pharmaceutical industry.

Estimates suggest that the cost of production in China is about 30 per cent cheaper than in India and China used this advantage to emerge as the global market leader, and creating a monopoly. The health security threat posed by this dependence on imports was long



recognised in the country and the government had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of VM Katoch (former Secretary to the Government of India and Director General, ICMR) to propose ways to reduce imports.

The committee, in 2015, recommended establishment of six mega parks of about 2,000 acres each with sufficient funding to set-up common environmental infrastructure, income tax rebate for 10 years, and access to soft-loans at 7.5 per cent, among others. However, little progress was made in this direction until recently.

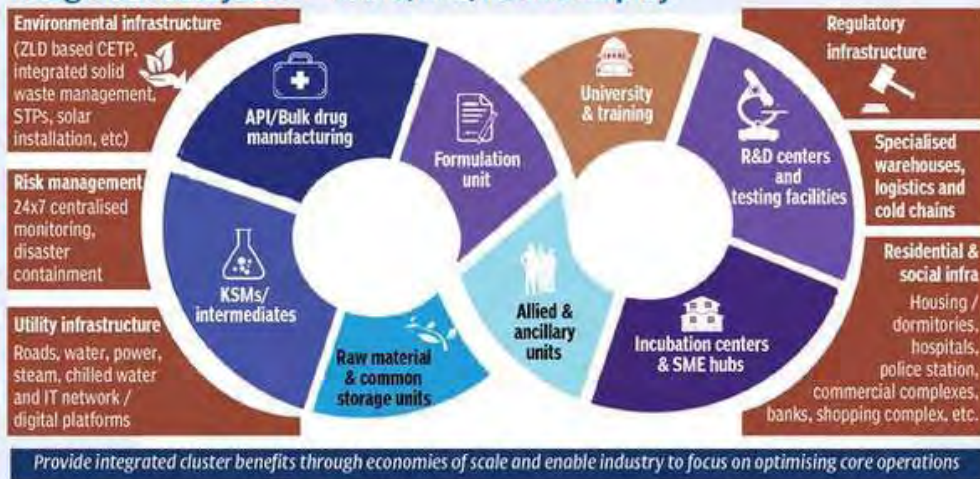
Pharmaceutical cluster

As a State committed to the pharmaceutical sector, Telangana, under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, had envisaged in 2015 the establishment of a pharmaceutical cluster of global scale called Hyderabad Pharma City (HPC), in a bid to improve the cost-competitiveness of the pharmaceutical industry in India.

Telangana already contributes to about 40 per cent of the domestic pharma production and is referred to as the “Bulk Drug Capital” of the country. Hyderabad Pharma City, in an area of about 19,000 acres, will be the world’s largest pharmaceutical cluster co-locating the entire value chain of the industry so as to benefit from scale, synergy and agglomeration.

This is perhaps the first time a park of this size in India will feature district heating plants, district cooling plants, etc., in addition to basic infrastructure like roads, power, water, and also a common effluent treatment plant. A world-class university focussed on pharmaceutical sciences is an integral part of the pharma city, as the presence of such an institution embedded in the industrial city has the potential to accelerate innovation in the sector and also help companies move up the value chain.

Integrated ecosystem – work, live, learn and play



As a result of the synergies and scale, it is estimated that the cluster will help companies optimise their capex and opex by 30-35 per cent leading to their cost of manufacturing being on a par with or even better than China’s. This is particularly beneficial to MSMEs, which are the backbone of our economy. About 90 per cent of the pharma units in Telangana and India are MSMEs.

Undoubtedly, the recent turn of events have presented an unprecedented opportunity for the pharmaceutical sector in India to relook and rebuild. The industry is in desperate need to be further nurtured and the clarion call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to become “aatmanirbhar” (self-reliant) is timely.

The Central government has also launched new schemes — establishment of bulk drug parks, production linked incentives (PLI), etc — which have the potential to go a long way in promoting pharmaceutical manufacturing and further strengthening India’s leadership position in the sector, if implemented effectively.

However, it is imperative for the country to take a holistic view and proactively support the industry by creating an enabling environment with lower operating costs, predictable and consistent policies, streamlined regulatory framework, access to low-cost capital, etc. The success of initiatives such as Hyderabad Pharma city is crucial to the success of the sector as a whole. A mission mode and multi-dimensional approach will be required to add impetus to the sector’s growth.

Telangana reconstitutes Life Sciences Advisory Committee

Hyderabad : 5th Aug 2020

The State government reconstituted the Life Sciences Advisory Committee with Dr Reddy's Laboratories chairman Satish Reddy as the committee chairman and Biological E Limited managing director Mahima Datla as the vice-chairman. The committee comprises members from both the industry and the academia with a term of two years. At the first meeting of the reconstituted committee here, IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said the objective of the Life Sciences Advisory Committee was to serve a structured interface between government, industry and academia. "It is our vision to grow the Life Sciences industry from USD 50 billion to USD 100 billion and creating four lakh new jobs during this decade," he said.

Explaining the efforts of the State government to strengthen the sector, the Minister requested the committee to play a pivotal role in advising the government on the initiatives that can help consolidate Hyderabad's leadership position in the life sciences sector. The Committee members brainstormed and deliberated on different areas such as industry-academia collaboration, strengthening public health infrastructure, development of Genome Valley with focus on innovation, funding to start-ups, skill development, pharma services driven ecosystem, diagnostics and digital medicine.

The first committee was formed in 2016 under the chairmanship of Prof D Balasubramian, Director Emeritus (Research) of LV Prasad Eye Institute and Satish Reddy as the vice-chairman. The reconstituted committee consists of officials from industries department, leaders from industry and research institute covering Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, Medical Devices, and Digital Health among others. The Director of Life Sciences department in the State government, will be convener for the committee.

Virtual launch of Intinta Innovator Exhibition

Encouraged by the success of first-of-its-kind Intinta

Innovator Exhibition in 2019, the Telangana State Innovation Cell, along with 33 district administrations, has come up with an online version of the same in view of Covid-19. The online exhibition was launched by IT Minister KT Rama Rao. The campaign received more than 250 entries from all the districts, out of which 65 were chosen. Addressing the exhibition, IT Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said, "With District Collectors' consistent efforts to scout and present innovative minds from all sections, innovation will continue to be a force of unity." A central WhatsApp number was shared by the TSIC to ensure that citizens from all demographics and backgrounds could send the details of their innovation.

TITA's TikTok alternative to be launched soon

Hyderabad: A made-in-Hyderabad mobile app with features of TikTok, which was developed by the startup community in collaboration with TITA, is set to be launched soon. Launching the logo and teaser of 'Alap', TITA president Sundeep Kumar Makthala said that the app, developed by E-Soft Labs, would emerge as the best alternative to Tiktok. Alap will be available in 13 Indian languages. "There are many apps in the market that are fully commercial, but there are none to meet the social needs of users," Makthala said. The launch of the app by the TITA startup community was aimed at filling this social void and to employ a few techies who lost their jobs due to the pandemic

Telangana to use AI in agriculture innovation

Hyderabad: 12th Aug 2020

IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said the State government declared the year 2020 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accelerate AI readiness and develop a conducive AI innovation ecosystem in the State. He said efforts are on to open new avenues of AI-led innovation for social impact especially in the public sector.

He was delivering a keynote address at the launch of 'AI4AI: Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Innovation' in collaboration with Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), World Economic Forum

(WEF)-India through virtual conference from Hyderabad. A team from C4IR, WEF India has worked closely with Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University and the State government's Information Technology and Communications department to identify high impact use cases of AI – which would benefit both the farmers and the policy-makers.



Rama Rao stated that agriculture has been one of the priority sectors for the State government and it was the right time to bring digital technology-led revolution in this sector. “We strongly feel that AI will offer immense possibilities for the farmers, governments and all other stakeholders of the ecosystem,” he said. He was euphoric to partner with WEF to lead the government-led agritech innovation. He said the State had clearly defined its vision to be a global leader in emerging technologies including AI and has made rapid strides towards achieving the vision.

The Minister listed out a slew of initiatives taken by the State government by partnering with reputed organisations from industry and academia in this regard. In consultation with experts from industry, academia, startup community and civil society, the State government developed a six-pronged AI strategy for Telangana State. “We also launched T-AIM (Telangana’s AI Mission) which is a dedicated body for AI specific initiatives in association with NASSCOM. Another organisation – Centre for Research in Applied AI (CRiAA) was launched in collaboration with Intel, IIIT-Hyderabad and Public Health Foundation of India with special focus on healthcare. Today, we are launching AI4AI programme with C4IR,” he explained.

Speaking on the occasion, NITI Aayog chief executive officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant appreciated the Telangana State government in taking the lead in the AI space. “We are happy to be partnering with Telangana in piloting many AI programmes in agriculture initiatives. There is no better place than Telangana in our country for this initiative and we are happy to work with Minister KT Rama Rao,” he said.

Several dignitaries including WEF C4IR chief advisor J Satyanarayana, WEF LLC managing director Murat Sonmez, Union Ministry of Agriculture joint secretary Vivek Aggarwal, and Union Ministry of Electronics and IT secretary Ajay Sawhney, participated in the virtual session.

Sircilla mechanic designs power tiller to clear weeds

Rajanna-Sircilla: : 13th Aug 2020

Farm mechanisation is the mantra for increased productivity in the agriculture sector now. But there is one area of agriculture activity that is still dependent on manual labour and the plough, particularly in cotton fields — weeding. And with the sector facing acute shortage of labour with the launch of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, it has become a challenge of sorts for cotton farmers to deal with this part the activity, which has to be done at least four times before the crops are harvested. Needless to say, it also causes a hefty dent in the farmers’ pockets that adds up to the production costs.

However, a solution to this may soon be available if the innovative ingenuity of a 55-year-old mechanic from Rajanna-Sircilla district who has designed a power tiller for the task works out well. It certainly has caught the attention of

IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao who tweeted stating: "Loved this idea of a power tiller by a rural innovator from Yellareddypet mandal in Sircilla district." The Minister went on to request the Tworks team to work on the idea and hold a demonstration for Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy.

Ragi Kishan, a native of Boppapur, a tiny village in Yellareddypet mandal, has put together a power tiller that may well solve the problem of manual weeding. Kishan is a popular motor mechanic in Yellareddypet and surrounding areas, and he has been running a workshop at Gollapalli for the past 35 years. He is considered an expert in motorcycles, jeeps, vans, school buses, millers, JCBs, harvesters and other vehicles.



Kishan, moved by the plight of farmers, decided to help them and within a month, designed a power tiller at a cost of Rs 45,000. Kishan said the power tiller, two feet wide and six feet long, can move easily between cotton plants because of the distance between rows. It removes weed with the help of three ploughs and a blade fixed to it. "It is possible to remove weeds in one acre within two hours and it requires just three litres of diesel," he said, adding that since the tiller has dual facility of KG wheels and tyres, it can also move on roads like any other vehicle.

Explaining the functioning, Kishan said in the field, the tyres have to be removed and replaced with KG wheels to start clearing the weeds. "I used a second hand engine for my prototype. The cost would go up by another Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 if new engines are used," he said. Kishan is also planning to upgrade the power tiller by fixing rotavator as well as sprinklers to spray pesticides that would make it a multi-utility gadget.

Industrial safety audit to be conducted across Telangana

Hyderabad : 10th Aug 2020

In the wake of industrial accidents in the neighbouring States like Andhra Pradesh, the State government has decided to focus on safety standards being followed by various factories and manufacturing units in the State. As a precautionary measure, IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao directed the authorities of the Industries department to conduct a thorough industrial safety audit for all factories and manufacturing units in the State within a week.

"Non-compliance of safety norms will be dealt strictly," the Minister warned in a tweet. Following instructions from the Minister, Principal Secretary for IT and Industries Jayesh Ranjan and other senior officials swung into action and formed special teams to commence the safety audit commencing. They will submit a detailed report within a week to the government on factories and manufacturing units which were flouting safety norms for necessary action. Soon after the lockdown was relaxed, the authorities have been conducting surprise checks on several factories and manufacturing units across the State especially in the aftermath of the LG Polymers gas leakage incident at Visakhapatnam. It has

been decided to conduct safety audit in similar accident prone industries and factories across the State.

A five member committee comprising the officials from departments of Industries, Labour, Boilers, Pollution Control Board and Factories, has been appointed in each district, to conduct the safety audits and report any discrepancies in this regard. The District General Manager of Industries department will be the coordinator of the respective district committees. These committees will focus on industries involving manufacturing chemicals, explosives like ammonium nitrate and also red category industries, to conduct the safety audit.

TASK to provide career guidance to underserved communities

Hyderabad : 9th Aug 2020

Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) launched a Career Guidance Cell for the Underserved Communities on the occasion of World Tribal Day (Adivasi Diwas) 2020, Principal Secretary for IT and Industries Jayesh Ranjan launched the Career Guidance Cell where youngsters from the underserved communities can call 040-48488241 to get expert guidance on career. The helpline will be open from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm on all working days.

Speaking on the occasion, Jayesh Ranjan said the State government was committed to the upliftment of under-served indigenous communities of the State. With the right kind of facilities and guidance, he was confident that the tribal youth will be able to scale great heights in their career. The initiatives by TASK will definitely help empower the tribal youth, he added. TASK chief executive officer Shrikant Sinha said, “These initiatives are in addition to the skilling programs we currently offer to the underserved. The new initiatives will be piloted and scaled up in the months to come.”

Apart from providing a dedicated hotline, TASK is going to train 100 tribal youth in English language

to make them industry-ready. Similarly, about 50 tribal girls will be provided mentorship by industry professionals through TASK – Mentor Together partnership.

Further, TASK and 1BRIDGE will partner to conduct a ‘Last Mile Delivery of Products and Services’ training programme for students in rural areas and help them get local job opportunities.

The co-founder and chief executive of 1BRIDGE, Madan Padaki said there were several opportunities in the semi-urban and rural areas that the youth can exploit through micro-entrepreneurship. “Our vision is to help youth make use of such opportunities and become self-sufficient in their own localities,” he said.

Handloom, textile sectors to chart a new course

Hyderabad : 8th Aug 2020

The Handlooms and Textiles department signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with prestigious institutions such as Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Indian School of Business (ISB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to propel the growth of handlooms and textiles industry in the State as also to ensure better livelihood for weavers. The MoUs were signed in the presence of Handlooms and Textiles Minister KT Rama Rao during the National Handloom Day virtual celebrations organised at Pragathi Bhavan here.

While the MoU with ISB aims at evaluating the implementation and performance of State-run policies for the weaving community in the State, the MoU with IICT will focus on conducting applied research on development of sustainable textile yarn dyeing and reduce the hazardous impact of dyeing on weavers and the environment.



Another MoU with the UNDP-India is intended to support the weavers in restoration of their livelihoods. The UNDP-India will facilitate promotion of improved livelihood opportunities through skill upgradation and market linkages. UNDP India Deputy Resident Representative Nadia Rasheed attended the MoU signing ceremony through video conference.

Interacting with the weavers during the celebrations, Rama Rao said the State government will always stand by the weavers community and will continue with its welfare programmes. He said that about 40,000 families were depending on handlooms and textiles for livelihood in the State. "No other State government in this country has introduced welfare schemes exclusively for the weavers community," he pointed out.

Stating that several other States were trying to emulate the Telangana State government's schemes for weavers, Rama Rao instructed the officials to prepare proposals for continuing with the much-appreciated 'Nethanna ku Cheyutha' (Thrift) scheme. He said the State government provided the much-needed relief to weavers considering the Covid-19 pandemic situation, releasing Rs 93 crore to weavers accrued under the scheme well before the mandatory lock-in period of three years.

Further, the Minister explained that about 20,554 weavers were enrolled under the Chenetha Mitra scheme. He said about Rs 7.92 crores was deposited into the accounts of 30,984 weavers and ancillary workers. He announced that the State government plans to establish more block level clusters across the State in addition to the existing eight block level clusters set up at Pochampally, Aleru, Kanukula, Shayampet, Kamalapur, Armoor, Veltur, and Vemulawada at a cost of Rs 10.2 lakh.

The Minister said the State government allocated Rs 15 Crore for the revival of Pochampally Handloom Park and works on the proposed Gadwal Handloom Park will all commence soon. He responded positively to the requests from weavers of Narayanpet for construction of a Common Facility Centre for them. He reiterated that the elected representatives and government officials have been wearing handloom clothes every Monday to increase awareness about handloom clothes and helping weavers.

Awards

Rama Rao also presented the Konda Laxman Babuji Awards-2020 to the weavers on the occasion. While the Minister himself presented the awards to two weavers in Hyderabad, the remaining awards were presented to the weavers by the Collectors in their respective districts. He instructed the officials concerned to increase the cash prize under the Award from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000 from the current financial year and deposit the amount in their respective accounts. Principal Secretary for IT and Industries Jayesh Ranjan, and Handlooms and Textiles Director Shailaja Ramaiyer were present in the meeting.

Ensure maximum coverage of MSMEs under Atmanirbhar Abhiyan package: CS to DCs, bankers

Hyderabad : 6th Aug 2020

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar directed the District Collectors to extend collateral-free loans to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises under the Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line and ensure that hundred per cent target is achieved. The Chief Secretary was speaking at a video conference with district collectors and bankers to review the Atmanirbhar Abhiyan package for MSMEs.

He directed the Collectors to conduct regular review meetings with district managers of industries department and lead bank managers on extending loans to MSMEs in the State so as to ensure maximum benefit to the beneficiaries. He asked the collectors to pay more attention as the scheme will end after the threshold limits are reached and there are no State-wise limits. He asked the bankers to furnish the list of MSMEs eligible under the credit guarantee scheme for subordinate debt.

Referring to the enumeration of street vendors, he asked the collectors to complete enrolment of all the street vendors to extend bank linkage by appointing incharge officer for every street. He advised the bankers to issue necessary instructions to resolve problems faced in branches as also to extend credit to the beneficiaries as per the targets given to them.

Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary MA&UD, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, IT & Industries, Manick Raj, Commissioner Industries, Satyanarayana, CDMA, and other officials attended the meeting.

Develop Palle Prakruthi Vanams in all gram panchayats: CS Somesh Kumar

Hyderabad : 4th Aug 2020

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar directed the district collectors to ensure that all the gram panchayats and other habitations have at least one Palle Prakruthi Vanam. The Vanams will be developed on the lines of urban tree parks whereas at least an urban tree park will be developed in every ward of all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the State. The Palle Prakruthi Vanams were envisaged in accordance with Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's directions to develop greenery in both urban and rural areas.

The Chief Secretary also asked the collectors to regularly review with the municipal commissioners on the work of identification of street vendors in their respective ULBs to ensure that all deserving street vendors are enumerated. In order to ensure more transparency in governance, the collectors were also told to implement e-office in their respective districts.

As per the directions of the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar held a meeting with the district collectors in Hyderabad here and took stock of the progress achieved in identification of lands for special food processing zones, implementation of e-office system in districts, Palle Prakruthi Vanams, urban tree parks, identification of street vendors, construction of Rythu Vedikas, management of COVID-19 treatment and maintenance of revenue records among other issues.

Principal Secretary for Municipal Administration Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary for IT and Industries Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary for General Administration Department (Political) Vikas Raj, Panchayat Raj Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Health Secretary Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi, Panchayat Raj commissioner Raghunandan Rao, senior consultant for Finance Siva Shankar and other officials also attended.

Telangana disburses over Rs 11,000 cr farm loans during Covid crisis

Hyderabad : 4th Aug 2020

Withstanding the financial burden on the State's exchequer due to prolonged lockdown, Telangana has secured the welfare of the farmer by ensuring that sufficient and timely farm loans are issued. While the State level bankers meeting set a target of Rs 31,936 crore as farm loans for the Vaanakalam, Rs 11,093 crore has been disbursed as. It was only Rs 10,580 crore last year by the end of July.

Addressing media, Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy said that the Cooperative banks on the hand have sanctioned loans to the tune of Rs 1516.88 crore so far. "It was only Rs 1296 crore last year. While 11,77,326 farmers have availed loans last year this year the number increased to 12, 97,267," he said adding that the farmers were given more loans when compared to the Vaanakalam season of earlier years.



Countering certain media report alleging lack of farm loans , the Minister said that the Telangana government stood behind the farmer even during the peak stage of Covid-19. “The State lost revenue of Rs 50,000 crore but we have distributed Rs 7251 crore to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme. Every single grain produced by the farmer was procured by going to their doorsteps at a cost of Rs 30,000 crore and farmers obeying the direction of the Chief Minister implemented the regulated cropping pattern suggested by the experts,” he said. He reiterated that the government believes that all the other sectors of the economy will be strong if the agriculture sector is strong. ” The government waived loans up to Rs 25,000 to 2.87 lakh farmers in a single go. While 41 , 31,004 farmers availed farm loans last year, 20 percent of them availed loans from cooperative banks and the rest from commercial banks,” Niranjan Reddy said. Attributing the success in the farming sector to availability of irrigation, he said that 70 percent of the farmers have received assured irrigation, helping them take more crops per acre.

“Rural Telangana was strengthened and farmers have become debt free due to the programmes launched and implemented by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. Loans to women groups, KCR Kits, Aasara pensions, Rythu Bandhu, procurement of grain by government, and a bumper crop made this possible,” he said.

Secretary Agriculture B Janardhan Reddy, SLBC Convener Sitapati Sharma, TSCAB Chairman Ravinder Rao and Managing Director Muralidhar were also present.

Telangana to take enumeration of mechanised farm implements

Hyderabad.: 5th Aug 2020

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao has asked officials to undertake enumeration of the mechanised farm implements so that efforts could be made to procure more mechanised implements, if required for the farming community. The Chief Minister has also asked the officials to ensure completion of the Rythu Vedikas in all the farmers clusters in the State. Chairing the State Cabinet, the Chief Minister also asked the officials to name the Rythu Vedika structures as per the suggestions of the farmers who donate money or lands for the construction.

The State Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao has appreciated the farming community for readily opting for the crops suggested by the Government under the new scheme of the regulated farming. The Cabinet felt that the readiness with which the farming community support the government initiative indicated the willingness of the farming community to embrace change. In view of the massive increase in the acreage in the current season, the Cabinet has decided to bring a comprehensive policy to encourage setting up agriculture-related industries and food processing SEZs in the State. The ministers concerned and the officials will shortly deliberate and finalise the policy, according to an official note issued by the Government.



The Cabinet noted that crops were sown in over 1.13 crore acres so far and operations were still continuing in about 12 lakh acres. The total area under cultivation in this season was in about 1.30 crore acres against 1.22 crore acres. The meeting also noted that 55 per cent of the procurement by the FCI was from Telangana State.

The ministers noted that it was unprecedented in the country that the Telangana government had extended financial assistance of Rs 7251 crore to 57.62 lakh farmers and that this financial assistance proved to be extremely useful during the lockdown period.

Industry Catalogue of Telangana soon

Hyderabad : 3rd Aug 2020

In a novel initiative aimed at promoting industry and business in the State, the Industries department has begun creating an "Industry Catalogue of Telangana State," a one-stop portal for complete details on all the industrial units operating in the State.



The portal is expected to be a boon for industries, particularly those in the MSME sector in the State, since this will serve as a B2B platform where they can not only access information about raw materials suppliers but also use it to identify potential buyers for their products. The department started the initiative a few weeks ago and has asked all the industries in the State to register themselves.

Sources said the registered entrepreneurs will have access to details pertaining to suppliers of various raw materials, peripherals and also finished products. The initiative was taken up following instructions from IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao to consolidate and publish details of all industries in the State through TS-iPASS website.

"The idea is to create a database that will help the entrepreneurs to identify the requirements of different

industries besides facilitating study of the market for potential opportunities in different sectors. We have taken up this resource mapping to help all industrialists and promote B2B (business to business) collaborations," an Industries department official said.

During online registration, the entrepreneurs have to provide various details pertaining to the product being manufactured, annual production capacity, investment, category (mega, large, medium, small and micro), employment provided, and other details. The industrial sectors range from Aerospace and Defence to automobile, food processing to granite/stone crushing, and pharmaceuticals to textiles, which will be uploaded into the catalogue. They also have to furnish information pertaining to raw material procured, whether it is imported and annual consumption, among other details.

Besides urging all the industries to register themselves, the Industries department also directed its general managers in all districts to furnish details pertaining to all the industries set up in their respective areas. "We have the records pertaining to all the industries in each district, but have no digital records. This move will help us digitise all the details to make them available in just one click," the officer said.

Telangana State attracted investments worth over Rs 1.96 lakh crore in the five years since the launch of its TS-iPASS industrial policy. Of the 12,021 projects approved under the policy, 9,021 or 75 per cent have commenced operations and provided jobs to about 13.9 lakh people.

Making Business Easy

- The catalogue will have complete details on all industries in TS
- The digital catalogue will function as a virtual market and research place for entrepreneurs
- Resource mapping initiative will help all industrialists and promote B2B (business to business) collaborations
- Entrepreneurs have to provide details pertaining to product manufactured, annual production capacity, investment, category (mega, large, medium, small and micro), employment provided, among other details
- District General Managers of Industries department asked to furnish details pertaining to all industries set up in their respective areas

TWorks ventilator successfully completes technical evaluation

Hyderabad : 1st Aug 2020

In a major step towards getting introduced in the market, TWorks ventilator had successfully undergone the technical evaluation at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS). The performance of the affordable device was compared to the corresponding parameters of a sophisticated ventilator which is being currently used at the prestigious medical institute under standard conditions.

Apart from being able to set basic parameters, the TWorks ventilator can measure actual delivered parameters such as inspired and expired tidal volume, peak airway pressure and FiO2 among others on par with several sophisticated ventilators available in the market. The option of using either a high-pressure hospital line or a cylinder for oxygen supply allows the device to be used in locations where there are scarce resources and no central supply of medical gases.

"This ventilator will be especially useful in peripheral centres like district and area hospitals. The provision to use it with an oxygen cylinder allows it to be used as a transport ventilator in ambulances as well. It has a potential to save several lives," said Dr Padmaja, heady of Anaesthesiology department at NIMS.

TWorks chief executive officer Sujai Karampuri thanked the NIMS authorities who have been collaborators for the device from its inception. He stated that a detailed feedback from doctors at NIMS during the design and development phase of the ventilator was vital in ensuring that it can be safely used. "We will continue to develop the device's software which allows us to add features and improve its performance significantly while using indigenously developed hardware keeping the cost to a minimum," he added.

TWorks commenced collaborated with several startups, MSMEs and corporates to come up with the affordable ventilator for which work began in March, a week before the first lockdown was announced. The first version was developed in 32 days using in-house equipment including advanced 3D printers and laser cutters. Since then, the team has been refining the design based on inputs from medical professionals and also manufacturing partners.

TSTPC Trade Journal

TS Seed Certification authority warns of unsolicited Chinese seeds

Hyderabad : 31st Jul 2020

Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority Director and Vice President International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) K Keshavulu, has cautioned the State authorities and farmers about the entry of unsolicited seeds into the State that have no identity or certification. Terming this entry of faceless seeds as "agricultural smuggling" he said that being a seed capital, Hyderabad with many seed producing firms in the vicinity of the city must be very careful. "The Americans have recognised that these kinds of seeds are entering from China. These seed packets escape the checking at the port of entry even though they have no markings of quality on them," he said.



Following their entry into North America, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued orders asking farmers not to open the packets or sow the seeds in their farms. The ISTA Vice President further said that the government there has asked the farmers to immediately call the authorities and handover such seed. He said that the US-APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) has swung into action and recognized that the seed is coming from China. "It was said that cultivation of such seed will not only affect the environment by encouraging growth of insect pests but also damage the agriculture in a big way," he said. He said that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has also stepped up its vigil and is checking godowns for the spurious seed.

He said that such unsolicited seed can easily enter India because of the huge quantities of seed that the

25 / Aug 2020

country imports. "Seed companies, seed producers, seed associations, agricultural departments and farmers and national level organizations must be cautious and take precautionary measures," he said. He assured farmers that he would take up the issue to the notice of national level authorities.

ISB to market 'Telangana Sona' rice

Hyderabad : 28th Jul 2020

The Agriculture Department and Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJ TSAU) will work with the Indian School of Business (ISB) to come up with strategies for branding and marketing of 'Telangana Sona' rice variety.

Speaking about the importance of the new paddy variety, B Janardhan Reddy, Secretary, Agriculture and Co-operation, said that sometimes a good face also requires makeup. "Similarly, Telangana Sona is an improved and scientifically developed variety by the prestigious agricultural university of Telangana. It is known as diabetes-controlling rice, but it needs popularity to reap its maximum fruits," he said. "Telangana Sona is a disrupter in the rice market with the potential to make every consumer's diet healthier and more nutritious. In general, small changes are easier for us to make and these changes can often lead to better health. This variety provides customers with the opportunity to make that small change," said Professor Madhu Viswanathan, Marketing Professor, ISB. The ISB would work with the State government to create a marketing and branding strategy for Telangana Sona to drive awareness

among consumers about its benefits, he added.

Expressing happiness over the partnership, Prof Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor, PJ TSAU, said Telangana Sona was beneficial for producers, millers, traders and consumers, particularly for health-conscious rice lovers. "It is a climate-smart variety, which can save 2-4 tmc of water besides saving Rs 20 crore on pesticide use for every one lakh acres by replacing long-duration varieties," he said. The rice variety was highly suitable for both Vanakalam (Kharif) and Yasangi (Rabi) seasons and being super fine, fetches higher price over other fine-grain varieties. It gained popularity among the farmers pan India but requires proper branding for greater visibility and acceptance by the public, the V-C said.

Telangana Sona (RNR 15048) is a new paddy variety developed by PJ TSAU with characteristics such as fine grain, high-yielding quality and blast resistance. The variety is advantageous for farmers as it grows in a relatively shorter time. In addition, it produces short slender grains, good head rice recovery, and high yield potential, making it a good premium paddy variety for farmers to grow. From the perspective of rice millers, Telangana Sona leads to less-broken grain (wastage) after milling. It has the lowest glycaemic index among all known varieties of paddy making it ideal for the rice-eating diabetic population. Further, in comparison with other popular varieties of paddy, the composition of protein, carbohydrates, energy, niacin (vitamin B3) is also higher. This makes Telangana Sona a healthy alternative to other varieties of rice in the market.

TSTPC Dispatches Notebooks through Parcel, Courier & Cargo Services of TSRTC

Telangana State Trade Promotion Corporation Limited has for the first time has started to utilize the new customized service feature of Parcel, Courier & Cargo Services introduced by the TS Road Transport Corporation Limited for the dispatch of Golkonda Brand note books to all the Government Welfare Departments and other institutions. The first batch dispatch operations started on 02/9/2020 from the godowns of TSTPC Paper Product Division at Mamidipally – the officers - Smt. B. Rajeshwari , Manager TSTPC, Sri T. Yella Reddy, AM TSTPC, and Sri.K.Kumar , Depot Manager, Farooqnagar, TSRTC were present during the dispatch.





Journey of Khadyam

To work towards community – sustainable agriculture, which is a production system that sustains the health of soils, preserves eco-system and provides nutritional security to the people, Sitaram komaragiri and Madhavi komaragiri duo founded Khadyam speciality foods pvt ltd in Hyderabad. Khadyam is aimed at bridging the gap between rural and urban communities. In their quest to do something for the farming community both left their corporate careers to work on farming community. Today, Khadyam is the only organisation of its kind to provide complete end-to-end services (Backward linkages with forward market linkages) for producers in Telangana.

Despite working in the corporate for over a decade with a lucrative job, duo did not think twice before giving it up for the greater good of society. Madhavi was disturbed at the plight of the farmers during her tour across the country. Hailing from a farmers' family, Sitaram noticed the missing link between producer (farmer) and end consumer. "Food is something which cannot be made or manufactured in a factory. It has to be cultivated and is essential for mankind survival. In spite of this fact, little or less importance is given to farmers. This pushed us to start Khadyam speciality foods in 2018, where we promote community sustainable agriculture and agri biodiversity," she says justifying her plunge into social entrepreneurship.

We at Khadyam strive to identify and mobilize small and marginal farmers who own less than 4 acres of land. We mobilize 75-100 members group at the village level and build their associations (FPO) at an appropriate federating point to plan and implement product-specific cluster/commercial crop cycles. We encourage organic farming promote the principle

of oneness and most important Khadyam provides complete services like inputs, extension, advisory services and provides 100% market linkages to their produce. We not only look at the well-being of present generations but also keep in mind the generations to come," he elaborates.

Khadyam has been able to conserve and multiply over 09 indigenous millet varieties, started with an initial investment 25 lakh, it has had a direct impact on over 1,350 farmers and their families across three states and an indirect impact on lakhs of people by providing healthy foods. Achieving success was not a cakewalk though. Says Madhavi, "since our model is exclusively for rural women, it was next impossible to draw them out of their homes, talking to them and convincing them another daunting task. As we promote community sustainable agriculture, acquainting them with each other was difficult due to religious, caste and economic factors. While it was tough to bring them together as a community, to inculcate the feeling of oneness was another major task. Also, farmers believe in fertilizers, they think that without fertilizers they cannot get a good yield. We acquainted them to organic farming and discouraged the use of chemicals. However, due to our hard work and dedication we overcame all the obstacles. We also identified semi-literate women in rural areas and took them on our payrolls to help us maintain a relationship with the community".

However, when you take up social entrepreneurship you cannot expect support from peer groups. Since we were working with farmers; we were looked down upon. "When we embarked on my journey in social entrepreneurship, nobody stood by me except my family, now Sitaram my husband

heading the strategy of Khadyam, he has been there for me since beginning. People started ignoring and avoiding me, this did not deter me from my chosen path. things changed gradually. Today, the very same people who once opposed us, approach me for healthy food guidance not only did they start using eco-friendly products but also started supporting organic farmers consider it as one of my major achievements. Though my venture doesn't fetch me as much I earned in my career, yet I am happy. The fact that we are doing something for the community make happier," sitaram.

Narrating the success story of one of the farmers in Vikarabad district, sitaram komaragiri says, "prior to adopting organic farming, Kavitha had invest Rs 5,000- Rs 7000 per acre for seeds, labour, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, thus putting her in debts. In the kharif season of 2018, Kavitha adopted organic farming in 0.30 decimal land with the native variety of Bengal gram .It was the first time she followed total organic total organic practices and harvested 7.30 quintals of Bengal gram whereas earlier she would get only 4 quintals. Thanks to organic farming, an investment of a mere Rs 2300 was sufficient. Encouraged by the experience she decided to adopt organic farming for all her land and found a solution to increase her farm's productivity and eventually pay her debts".

Sitaram met many likeminded people who were ready to come on board and contribute to the society. Among them are like Indian institute of Management, Calcutta. Recalling

the immense and timely support from people from all strata of society, Sitaram says, I have been fortunate to meet likeminded people and social organisation like RICH Hyderabad who helped me in my achievements.

Khadyam takes pride in establish a millet process centre -the first of its kind in Telangana. It provides value addition services to millet growers in enabling maximum price benefit. Khadyam works on a B2B2C that is quite beneficial to farmers. Even different organizations has started recognising their work.no of awards achieved like "Indian best social enterprise award " for 2019 by AFI-ISB

"agriculture is a legacy and our culture, which is to be passed on. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. Unfortunately, youngsters today do not understand this. They are migrating to towns and cities in search of livelihood. They are ready to do anything, even menial jobs, but farming. I am trying to make agriculture into agriculture enterprise. Sitaram's plan is to reach and impact directly with over 10,000 farmers and to provide good food to society ."to reach this goal, we are focusing at the gross roots level to coordinate women farmer groups to educate, train and assist them through all phases of organic farming till it connects them with the end users". He says

Khadyam ultimate motto is to transforming the food systems to provide nutritious food to all current and future generations while protecting bio-diversity.



NTPC achieves highest daily gross generation of 977.07 MU

Hyderabad : 29th Jul 2020

Country's largest power generation company, NTPC Ltd. has achieved highest daily gross generation of 977.07 Million Unit (MU) on July 28. The NTPC's total generation includes power generated from its subsidiary and JV companies..

Five of its power stations at Korba, Sipat & Lara in Chhattisgarh, Talcher Kaniha in Odisha and Koldam hydro in Himachal Pradesh recorded exceptional performance and achieved 100% Plant Load Factor (PLF) on the day. NTPC's previous best daily generation was 935.46 MU achieved on March 12 2019. With a total installed capacity of 62910 MW, NTPC Group has 70 Power stations comprising 24 Coal, 7 combined cycle Gas/Liquid Fuel, 1 Hydro, 13 Renewables along with 25 Subsidiary & JV Power Stations, the press release added

IFC to invest \$10m in Endiya Partners fund

Hyderabad : 10th Aug, 2020

Seed and early-stage venture capital firm Endiya Partners has received a ₹75 crore (around \$10 million) investment commitment for Endiya Fund II from the International Financial Corporation (IFC). IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, has also committed an additional \$10 million for direct co-investments alongside Endiya Fund II. "We are excited to have won IFC's support and backing... value IFC's vast global presence that could offer future expansion markets for our portfolio companies. We are also delighted to have a co-investment envelope from IFC that could be used to support our investees as they scale," Sateesh Andra, Partner at Endiya Partners, said in a statement.

Endiya Fund II seeks to invest in 16-20 start-ups, from \$500,000 to \$1 million in Seed/Pre-series A rounds and planned investments of upto \$5 million per company. It has a corpus target of ₹500 crore (\$65 million) and already completed its first close at ₹280 crore (\$40 million) in May 2019. Limited partners in the Fund include financial institutions, corporates and family offices across India, Europe, and the U.S.

The partnership with IFC will provide Endiya portfolio companies with financial and strategic support resulting in increased access to growth opportunities and sustainable scalability, the statement said. IFC Country Head, India, Jun Zhang said "early stage VC investment volumes in India are markedly lower than in countries like the U.S. and China. Our investment in VC funds like Endiya helps mobilise capital from other LPs and brings that capital to path breaking early stage businesses."

Endiya Partners' current investment portfolio includes Darwinbox, Steradian Semiconductors, Kissht, SigTuple and Myelin Foundry. Its investment strategy addresses a funding gap in the venture capital spectrum in India between Angel and Series A investments. Endiya adds value through concept and market validation, product launch, team building, business model refinement, customer and partner acquisition and follow-on funding, the firm said. Endiya's Fund I was a 2016 vintage fund with ₹175 crore (\$25 million) corpus and had invested in 12 portfolio companies.

Govt reviving eBiz-like portal for quicker regulatory clearances

New Delhi: 18 Aug 2020

The Centre is working to build a single-window platform by integrating central and state government regulatory clearances, two years after shutting down a similar UPA-era portal. A senior government official with knowledge of the matter said the proposed portal is more or less in line with the government-to-business eBiz portal developed by Infosys Ltd and launched by then commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma in January 2013. When asked whether shutting down the eBiz portal was a mistake, the official said: "It was a decision taken at that time. We have to move forward and use the learning from the earlier portal," he added.

A second government official earlier involved in the building of the eBiz portal said he is not sure why the government shut it down and now rebuilding it from scratch. "The eBiz portal had integrated almost 20 central government services and was moving ahead integrating state level services," he said requesting anonymity.

The first government official said a software vendor will be selected next month for the new portal and in first six months of the portal coming live, all central government services will be made available on it. "State government services will be added gradually after that," he added. After the National Democratic Alliance government came to power in May 2014, it latched on to the eBiz idea for improving India's ranking in World Bank's Doing Business ranking. In his first budget speech on 10 July 2014, then finance minister Arun Jaitley announced that all government services would be made available on the eBiz platform by 31 December of that year in a bid to streamline clearances that businesses require. In February 2015, Jaitley, along with then commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman and then World Bank country director Onno Ruhl, added 11 new central government services to the eBiz platform taking the total to 14.

Four months later, the eBiz portal saw its last update on 18 June 2015. The government remembered the usefulness of the portal again in December 2016 after a disappointing improvement in India's ranking in the World Bank's annual Doing Business survey by just one notch to 130. In a high-level meeting of six cabinet ministers, Jaitley finalized an eight-point strategy to realize Modi's target to take India's Doing Business ranking to the top 50.

The first on the list was to make eBiz portal mandatory for starting a business, which will include three functions of the ministry of corporate affairs - registration for PAN (permanent account number) and TAN (tax deduction account number) and registration for Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and Employees' State Insurance Corp. However, reviving the portal never took off. Former industry secretary Ajay Dua said unless there is a role for the central government, building such portals should be very well left to each state government as they have been practicing single window clearance much before the cCentre. "Most of the regulatory clearances for businesses are required at the state level and unless it is a very large project, 99.9% of the projects do not require central government clearance. Centre can focus on strengthening the state level single window clearance concepts," he added.

India ranks 3rd in global manufacturing locations among 48 countries

New Delhi: 16 Jul 2020

India ranks third in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions, according to property consultant Cushman & Wakefield. China and the US retain the top two positions, while India has moved one place higher to rank third, the consultant said in its Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report.

In its annual ranking of the most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in Europe, Americas and the Asia-Pacific, the consultant said India is in top-3 countries this year and an upcoming manufacturing hub globally from an operating conditions and cost-competitiveness perspective. "In the backdrop of the COVID-19 scenario, the government has reiterated its agenda to launch fresh measures that would give a



boost to setting up of a more conducive environment to make India a manufacturing hub.

"At a time like this, India ranking amongst top-3 on the most suitable locations for global manufacturing comes as a shot in the arm for the country," said Anshul Jain, managing director (India and Southeast Asia), C&W.

From a baseline scenario ranking that looks equally at operating conditions and cost-competitiveness but does not consider impact from the current pandemic, China retains the top spot, followed by the US at second and India at third positions, the report said. In cost scenario, India is at 3rd position after China and Vietnam. However, India ranks 30th in risk scenario. Countries that present lower levels of political and economic risks are ranked higher.

The MRI cost scenario places greater emphasis on cost reduction to give a higher score to countries where operating costs, including labour, are lower. While China retains its lead position, Vietnam and India jumped to second and third positions, respectively, it added.

The annual Global MRI scores each country against



20 variables that make up the three final weighted rankings that cover conditions, cost and risk. The MRI 2020 includes analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the global manufacturing sector and ranked countries by their projected ability to restart their manufacturing sectors once confinement measures are relaxed and business starts to return to normal.

MSMEs will take at least 7-8 months to recover from covid impact: Dun & Bradstreet

New Delhi : 11 Aug 2020

The MSMEs will take at least 7-8 months to recover from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and the recovery rate of an enterprise will depend on factors like its rate of digitisation and the sector in which it is operating, Global Chief Economist at Dun & Bradstreet said Arun Singh. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute 29% to the country's GDP. The sector is among the worst hit by the pandemic.

Addressing a webinar, Singh said the recovery time of an MSME will be tied to the sector in which it is operational. According to him, sectors like online gaming, telecommunications and e-education operating in the digital space are witnessing a positive impact by leveraging opportunities arising from the pandemic. On the other hand, traditional sectors like food, drugs, pharmaceutical, ITes (IT enabled services), banking, retail, automotive, real estate and jewellery are witnessing moderate to high to severe impact.

The recovery of these sectors will take six months to more than a year, said the Global Chief Economist at D&B. Sectors like logistics and warehousing, metals, media and entertainment will also take up to one year to recover and return to February 2020 levels, he added. "It will take at least 7-8 months for an average MSME to recover," Singh said.

Cooperative banks could be added under ECLGS for MSMEs

August 11, 2020

MSME minister Shri Nitin Gadkari said at the MSME Conclave organized by FICCI Karnataka State Council that government may include cooperative banks as a lending institution under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS). The scheme was announced to support stressed micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

“The finance minister has explained that due to the dual regulation and supervision, cooperative banks are not included as member lending institutions (MLIs) under ECLGS. However, data regarding their financial position is being collected from scheduled state cooperative banks and urban cooperative banks to include them as MLIs for the scheme, in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), depending on availability of headroom of the scheme” the minister said.

ECLGS is a part of the government’s ₹20-trillion financial package to tide over the difficulties caused by COVID-19. The scheme intends to entice banks, financial institutions and NBFCs to increase access to, and enable availability of additional funding facility to MSME borrowers by providing them 100% guarantee for any losses suffered by them due to the non-repayment of the GECL funding by borrowers.

RBI sets up panel under Kamath to suggest steps to deal with coronavirus-related stressed assets

The Committee will submit its recommendations to the RBI, which will notify them along with modifications, if any, in 30 days. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up an expert committee under veteran banker K.V. Kamath to suggest financial parameters for resolution of coronavirus-related stressed assets.



The Committee will submit its recommendations to the RBI, which will notify them along with modifications, if any, in 30 days. As part of the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies released along with the Monetary Policy Statement, the RBI has announced a ‘Resolution Framework for COVID-19-related Stress’, as a special window under the Prudential Framework on Resolution of Stressed Assets issued on June 7, 2019.

How will the COVID-19 relief for MSMEs help?

The resolution framework envisages constitution of an expert committee by the RBI to make recommendations on the required financial parameters to be factored in into the resolution plans, with sector-specific benchmark ranges for such parameters. The expert committee will also undertake the process validation for the resolution plans to be implemented under this framework, without going into the commercial aspects, in respect of all accounts with an aggregate exposure of ₹1,500 crore and above at the time of invocation. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das asks banks to raise capital in advance, build buffers to ensure credit flow

The other members of the Committee will be Diwakar Gupta (effective September 1, 2020, after the completion of his term as vice-president of ADB); T.N. Manoharan (effective August 14, 2020, after the completion of his term as chairman of Canara Bank); and Ashvin Parekh will be strategy advisor; and the Indian Banks’ Association CEO will function as member secretary of the panel. In a major relief to corporate and retail borrowers, the RBI permitted banks to go for one-time restructuring of loans that are facing stress due to the COVID-19 crisis with a view to mitigating risks to financial stability.

Banks’ gross NPAs may climb to as much as 14.7% by March: RBI

The restructuring will be allowed as per the prudential framework issued on June 7, 2019, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing host of measures after meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee.

CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN TELANGANA

Works under Implementation through State PWD

Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of Project	Length (km)	Sanction cost (Rs. Cr.)	Appointed Date	Schedule / likely date of completion	Physical Progress/ Completed Length
1	167	Widening & Strengthening of NH-167 from km.227/6 to 283/0 in Haggari-Raichur-Jadcherla Section in the State of AP on EPC mode under Corridor approach.	38.748	127.24	12.02.2015	11.02.2017 / 31.12.2019	93.94 / 36.400
2	363 (New 353C)	Widening of existing 2-lane/intermediate lane to 2-lane with paved shoulders in km.67/2 to km109/0 of NH-363 in the State of Telangana under Corridor Approach on EPC mode	41.360	153.21	24.07.2015	23.01.2017 / 31.12.2019	93.11 / 41.360
3	63	Four Laning from Km 4/8 to 24/6 of Nizamabad-Jagdapur section of NH-63 (Old NH-16) in the State of Telangana under NH(O) on EPC mode	19.000	117.56	20.01.2017	15.07.2018 / 31.12.2019	75.56 / 14.379
4	167	Wideining to two/four lane with Paved Shoulders from existing Km 182.120 to Km 227.600 of NH-167 on Haggiri-Jadcherla road on EPC mode under NH(O) in the State of Telangana.	45.916	298.32	21.02.2017	20.02.2019 / 30.06.2020	40.49 / 30.10
5	63	Wideining to two/four lane with Paved Shoulders from existing Km 180.60 to Km 223.00 of NH-63 on Nizamabad-Jagadapur road on EPC mode under NH(O) in the State of Telangana.	42.400	248.83	29.03.2017	28.03.02019 / 31.03.2020	40.27 / 25.10
6	365B	Widening to two lane / four lane with paved shoulders from Km 40/410 to Km 84/037of Thirumalagiri to Suryapet section of NH-365B (Erstwhile SH-16) on EPC mode under NH(O) in the State of Telangana	43.887	244.54	09.05.2017	08.05.2019 / 31.12.2019	94.40 / 43.13
7	365B	Widening to two lane with paved shoulders from Km 0/970 to Km 40/410 of Jangaon-Thirumalagiri section of NH-365B (Erstwhile SH-16) on EPC mode under NH(O) in the State of Telangana	39.180	196.52	01.11.2017	31.10.2019 / 31.12.2019	95.30 / 38.440

Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of Project	Length (km)	Sanction cost (Rs. Cr.)	Appointed Date	Schedule / likely date of completion	Physical Progress/ Completed Length
8	167	Widening to two lane with paved shoulders from Km 15.525 to Km 62.880 of Jadcherla-Kalwakurthy section of NH-167 (Erstwhile SH-18) on EPC mode under NH(O) in the State of Telangana.	47.355	283.00	28.12.2017	27.12.2019	78.87 / 43.63
9	163	Widening to two lane with paved shoulders from Km 59.500 to Km 132.033 of Manneguda-Ravulapally section of NH-163 (Erstwhile SH-4) on EPC mode under NH(O) in the State of Telangana.	72.533	359.27	11.05.2017	10.05.2019 / 31.12.2019	94.42 / 68.32
10	167	Widening to two lane with paved shoulders from Km 67.00 to 114.425 of Kalwakurthy-Mallepally section of NH-167 (Erstwhile SH-18) on EPC mode under NH(O) in the State of Telangana	47.005	300.00	05.05.2017	04.05.2019 / 31.03.2020	57.87 / 38.44
11	44 (New No. 07)	Six laning of km.9/900 to 19/948 (Aramgarh-Shamshabad Section) of Hyderabad-Bangalur Section of NH-44 under NH(O) on EPC basis in the state of Telangana.	10.048	283.15	11.05.2018	10.05.2020	17.81 / 3.13
12	163	Widening & Strengthening of existing 2-lane to 2-lane with paved shoulders from km.159/0 to 165/4 & 186/0 to 215/0 of NH-163 on EPC mode in the state of Telangana.	34.690	230.03	04.06.2018	03-12-2019 / 31.03.2020	69.00 / 29.69
13	63	Reconstruction of minor bridge at Km 65/4-6 on NH-63 under NH(O) 2017-18 in the State of Telangana. (Job No.NH-063-TS-2017- 038)	0	5.83	23.02.2018	22.02.2019	100
14	353C	Widening & Strengthening of existing carriageway in 2 lane with paved shoulders from km.25/0 to 59/2 (Design Ch. Km.25.467 to 59.200) of NH-353C on EPC mode in the state of Telangana.	33.733	206.13	04.06.2018	03.06.2020	72.30 / 27.80
15	167	Rehabilitation and up-gradation of NH-167 from design km.113/900 to km 154/479 to two lane with paved shoulders (Mallepalli to Halia Section) on EPC mode (Pkg-1) in the state of Telangana.	40.579	294.13	02.06.2018	28-11-2019 / 31.03.2020	33.60 / 16.34

Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of Project	Length (km)	Sanction cost (Rs. Cr.)	Appointed Date	Schedule / likely date of completion	Physical Progress/ Completed Length
16	167	Rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-167 from design km.157/707 to 187/723 (design length 30.016 kms) to two lane with paved shoulders	30.016	220.28	17.05.2018	12-11-2019 / 31.03.2020	42.00 / 15.68
17	765D	Rehabilitation and upgradation of Hyderabad outer ring road to Medak Section of NH-765D from existing km.15/970 (Design km.0/0) to existing km.78/70 (Design km.62/92) to two lane with paved shoulder/four lane in the state of Telangana on EPC Mode under NH(O).	62.920	426.52	27.04.2018	26.04.2020	71.00 / 54.96
18	167	Rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-167 from design km.187/723 to 234/434 (Miryalaguda to Kodad Section) to two lane with paved shoulders on EPC mode (Pkg-3)	46.711	322.81	03.09.2018	01.09.2020	9.00 / 0
19	163	Construction of six lane Elevated Corridor from km.7/950 (Uppal) to km.14/200 of NH-163 to De-Congest the Urban Limits of Hyderabad-Bhoopalapatnam Section on EPC mode in the state of Telangana	6.250	626.76	02.07.2018	01.07.2020	12.94 / 0
20	565	Rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-565 from km.1/0 to 86/057 (Nakrekal to Nagarjunsagar Dam Section) to two-lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP-IV on EPC	85.057	270.00	13.03.2017	Work Foreclosed	48.37 / 45.67
21	221	Rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-221 (new No.30) from km.121/0 to 165/0 (Rudrampur- Bhadrachalam Section) in the State of Telangana to two lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP-IV on EPC	44.000	334.82	25.02.2015	23.02.2017 / 31.12.2019	70.86 / 42.297
22	365	Rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-365 from km.0/0 to 72/600 (Nakrekal to Tanamcherla Sec) to two-lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP-IV on EPC	66.560	605.08	01.11.2017	31.10.2019 / 31.03.2020	74.92 / 46.27

Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of Project	Length (km)	Sanction cost (Rs. Cr.)	Appointed Date	Schedule / likely date of completion	Physical Progress/ Completed Length
23	365	Rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-365 from Design km.121/0 to 154/0 (Nakrekal-Mallampalli Sec) to two lane with paved shoulders on EPC mode	33.000	192.67	08.06.2018	07-12-2019 / 31-03-2020	68.00 / 24.50
24	221	Construction of HLB across river Godavari at km 166/0 of NH 221 under Annual Plan on EPC mode in the State of Telangana (Warangal)(Job No.221-AP-2013-14-615)	2.4	98.45	25-07-2014	23-07-2016 / 31.03.2020	73.09 / 0
25	765	Providing Road Safety measures from km.128/600 to 191/100, widening of curves, construction of 170m retaining wall from km.188/408 & km.190/2-6 & Construction of 1500m toe wall from km.128/6 to 130/4 of Hyderabad-Tokapalle section via Srisailam road section of NH-765 in the State of Telangana	0	17.82	31.08.2015	30-05-2016 / 31.03.2020	20.35
26	163	Construction of 4-lane flyover at Amberpet-X road, Hyderabad on NH-202 (new NH-163) in the State of Telangana. (Job NoNH-202- Telangana(1)/2017-S&R(B)-001)	1.465	216.53	10.05.2018 (appointed date to be declared)	-	-
27	65	Improvement of road safety through provision of service roads, improvement of junction, drains etc from km.507/000 to 509/000 on Pune-Hyderabad Section of NH-65 in the State of Telangana under Road Safety Annual Plan 2017-18	2.000	12.63	28.09.2018	28-06-2019 / 31.12.2019	90.00 / 0.90
28	167	Widening and Strengthening/ reconstruction of existing pavement to four lane with paved shoulders from Km 266.348 to Km 283.000 of Mahabubnagar-Jadcherla section of NH-167 on EPC mode in the state of Telangana (167-TS-2018-19- 48)	16.65	193.19	22.07.2019	12.01.2021	-

Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of Project	Length (km)	Sanction cost (Rs. Cr.)	Appointed Date	Schedule / likely date of completion	Physical Progress/ Completed Length
29	563	Providing Road Safety provisions, junction improvement, Central Lighting on NH-563 of Jagtial-Karimnagar-Warangal road from km.50/0 to 52/050 (563-TS-2018-19- 49)	2	15.1	11.03.2019	10.03.2020	73.00 / 2.00
30	63	Strengthening to NH-63 Nizamabad-Jagdalpur road in selective stretches from km.59/0 to 170/0 on EPC mode (63-TS-2018-19-50)	45.8	47.42	07.03.2019	06.09.2020	83.00 / 43.50
		Total	1001.17	6947.84			

PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION BY NHAI

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Length (Km)	Civil cost (Cr)	Appointed Date	Schedule / likely date of completion/ Completed length	Physical progress (in %age)
1	Four-Laning of Yadgiri –Warangal Section of NH-163 (Old NH-202) from Km 54/0 to Km 150/0 (Design Length 99.103 km) in the State of Telangana	99.103	897.00	01.06.2016	01.03.2020 (Interim EOT granted till 19.07.2019)	83.49% (87.39 kms completed)
2	Four-laning of NH-161 from Ramsanpalle to Mangloor in the State of Telangana under BharatmalaPariyojana on Hybrid Annuity Mode	46.81	950.63	02.05.2019	01.05.2021	22.82% (4.32 kms completed)
3	Four-laning of NH-161 from Mangloor to Telangana / Maharashtra Border in the State of Telangana under BharatmalaPariyojana on Hybrid Annuity Mode.	48.96	802.65	12.04.2019	11.04.2021	17% (4.17 kms completed)
		194.873	2650.28			
	Grand Total	1196.04	9598.12			

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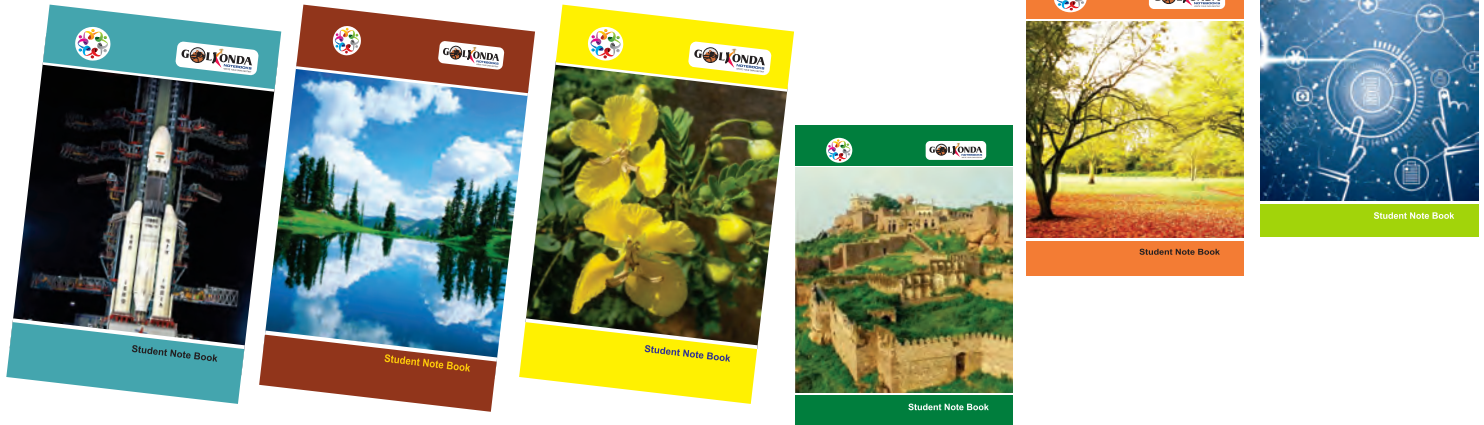
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