

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 K T Rama Rao, Industries&Commerce, IT&C & MA&UD, inaugurating central lighting system, administrative building, worker's canteen and sewing training centre at the Textile Park in Sircilla along with Director of Handlooms and Textile Smt. Shailaja Ramayyar, IAS, District Collector Sri D Krishna Bhaskar, IAS and other officials

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Message from the Joint Managing Director's Desk

I am happy to note that Government of India has announced certain reforms to stimulate the growth of MSME sector in the country under the title of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" with an objective to face various challenges before MSME sector due to the spread of unprecedented Corona Virus, the global pandemic (COVID-19) which has wreaked havoc all over the world. We are all aware that most advanced countries of the world have been rendered absolutely helpless by this pandemic. Government of India is expecting that the reforms across sectors will drive the country's push towards self-reliance and become vocal for our local products and make them global.

The reforms broadly covered 1) Rs 3 lakh crores Collateral free Automatic Loans for Business, including MSME 2) Rs 20,000 crore Subordinate Debt for MSMEs 3) Rs 50,000 cr equity infusion through MSME Fund of Funds 4) New definition of MSMEs 5) Global tender to be disallowed upto Rs 200 crores 6) Other interventions for MSMEs 7) Rs 2500 crores EPF support for Businesses and Workers for 3 more months 8) EPF contribution reduced for Business & Workers for 3 months 9) Rs 30,000 crores Liquidity Facility for NBFC/HCs/MFIs 10) Rs 45,000 cr Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme 2.0 for NBFC 11) Rs 90,000cr Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs 12) Relief to contractors 13) Extension of Registration and Completion Date of Real Estate Projects under RERA 14) Rs 50,000 cr liquidity through TDS/TCS reductions 15) Other Direct tax Measures 16) Other Direct Tax Measures and 17) Upgradation of Industrial Parks / SEZ / Industrial Clusters etc.

It is expected that the above reforms may not bailout the MSMEs complete but to a little extent, useful to revive the MSMEs those were under lockdown since 24th March 2020. Industrial units in the city surroundings have started operations with minimal staff. The focus is on keeping the machinery engaged and handles small orders at hand. Similarly, to give more liquidity to exporters, the **Reserve Bank had cut the repo and the reverse repo rates to 4 per cent and 3.35 per cent** respectively, extended the loan moratorium period till August 31 from May 31, and also extended the pre-and post-shipment credit for exporters from the existing 12 months to 15 months. An **MoU was signed between BDL, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kanpur's incubator Foundation for Innovation and Research in Science and Technology (FIRST) and Nocco Robotics Private Limited (NRPL) to start large scale manufacturing of ventilators.**

For the first time in the medical history of Telangana, within a span of five months between January and May 2020, the health officials have started nine government laboratories that are capable of conducting highly technical Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test for diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2. **Hetero**, one of India's generic pharmaceutical companies based in Hyderabad and the **world's largest producer of anti-retroviral drugs**, announced that it has **entered into a licensing agreement with Gilead Sciences, Inc for manufacture and distribution of 'Remdesivir' for the treatment of Covid-19.** Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) has decided to foray into making affordable RT-PCR kits indigenously using recombinant technology for production of several enzymes that are used in the PCR kit. **VMware India signed an MoU with WE Hub**, a Government of Telangana initiative for women entrepreneurs, **to extend VMinclusion Taara's up skilling and return to work programme in the State.**

I am happy to inform that Government of Telangana in GO Ms. No. 64, GAD Dated 7-5-2020 permitted all industrial units in the State to function with staggered shifts and social distancing.

I am happy to see the unprecedented growth of Telangana State in IT exports. It is very pleasant to note that the IT exports from Telangana have grown **17.93% as against the national growth of 8.09%** and the **growth IT exports** of share of Telangana exports in the country grew at **23.53% (2019-20)**. The **growth of employment** was **7.2% as against the national growth of 4.93%**. **The share of Telangana in the Indian employment growth for 2019-20 is 19.70%.**

No doubt due to the lockdown from 22nd March 2020 till 31st March 2020, there is lot of negative impact on the economy of the State as well as the nation. However, I am confident that, the manufacturing sector in the State will soon be revived atleast in the next 6 months' time with all the support of Government of Telangana.

E. Venkat Narasimha Reddy

Farming: Hon'ble CM KCR aims for global standards

Hyderabad : 23rd May 2020

In an attempt to bring revolutionary changes in agriculture, the State government will implement both short-term and long-term strategies aimed at making agriculture profitable for farmers. The reforms proposed by Hon'ble Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao will be based on various factors ranging from ever-changing dietary habits of people, market demand, development of food processing and agro industry among others.



The Chief Minister who convened a meeting with experts at Pragathi, wanted agricultural production as per the food consumption habits of people. He wanted the produce in the State to be on par with international standards and ensure that farmers' efforts were not wasted.

He held a lengthy discussion with experts on various issues including required changes in agriculture, increasing yield, value addition to crop from farm lands to market, global markets and competition, reducing usage of pesticides, reducing investment for farmers and others. Rao expressed his plans to hold more such meetings with experts before arriving at a final decision.

Rao recalled that agriculture was in serious crisis when the State was formed and due to proactive measures by the State government, farmers were continuing with agricultural activities. "The era of agricultural reforms in the State should begin with the monsoon this year. All our efforts are for the benefit of farmers. With all the available resources including irrigation facilities, fertile soil, investment, skilled farmers and labour, our agriculture sector as well as agro industry should be on par with international standards," he said.

Rao emphasised the need to adopt both short-term and long-term strategies for agricultural development in the State. As a short-term measure, the government had been making necessary resources available for farmers and ensuring Minimum Support Price for their produce. "But we need to make agriculture profitable. As agriculture is a way of life in the State and many people are dependent on it, more emphasis should be laid on its development," he asserted.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister emphasised the need for value addition to the crops which will ensure higher profits. He said the State government was setting up large scale food processing special economic zones, and promoting collective farming system to supply necessary raw materials to food processing units. "With supply of quality goods, the brand image of Telangana State will increase and help us in the international market," he said. He said agro industries and food processing units of the respective crops should come up near the crop colonies.

Further, the Chief Minister felt that Telangana was congenial for agri-based industries and efforts should be made in this direction. He pointed out that while many people in the State were depending on agriculture, it was not a symbol of progress and instead, focus should be laid on industrialisation. He asserted that farmers in the State should change their crops according to the consumption pattern across the world. "By practicing change in crops pattern, there will be more yield. Soil strength also will increase, reducing pests and insects. All these things should be explained to farmers," he said.

Rao also wanted changes in usage of fertilisers and pesticides. He felt that with no scientific knowledge, farmers were trusting traders and using fertilisers and pesticides as per their suggestions. He pointed out that crops with excess fertiliser content, will not have any demand in the international market. He directed the officials to create awareness among farmers on moderate usage of fertilisers and pesticides to reap benefits.

Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Principal Secretary G Janardhan Reddy, Rythu Bandhu Samithi State chairman Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Telangana State Seed Development Corporation chairman Kondabala Koteswar Rao, CMO Secretary Smita Sabharwal participated in the meeting. Former MLC Professor Nageshwar, PJTSAU Vice-Chancellor Praveen Rao, Agriculture Business College principal Seema, ASCI Director Srinivasachary, Food and Agriculture Management advisor Gopinath Koneti and others were also present.

Industrial units resume production in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: 6th May 2020

Industrial units in the city surroundings have started operations with minimal staff. The focus is on keeping the machinery engaged and handle small orders at hand. The units are now ensuring thermal screening, maintaining social distance and following other hygiene practices. The managements are also giving masks, gloves and also arranging travel for some of the employees.

Industries Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said companies have been asked to follow the standard operating procedures in terms of hygiene and safety. "The companies have been asked to do thermal screening, disinfect the premises, use masks and maintain social distance," he said.

More than 60% of the units started operations in the morning and the number is likely to go up. There are about 16,000 industrial units that are into manufacturing in and around the city, he said.

Operations have begun in Cherlapally, Nacharam, Mallapur, Jeedimetla, IDA Bolarum, Pashamyalam, Gandhinagar and other areas where industrial units are located.

Telangana Industrialists Federation (TIF) president K Sudhir Reddy said companies across sectors — plastics, food processing, electronics, electrical, paper, leather, automobile spares, ancillary units and others had restarted operations from May 2.

The units are operating in a single shift from 9 am to 5 pm. Most of the units are operating with 30-50% employees. The industrial units here employ about 20 lakh people in normal times. "These employees are skilled and they reside in nearby areas. Some companies, depending on the need, have also arranged transport facilities to their staff," he said.

In many cases, people coming from other States reside close to the units with their families. They are not part of the migrant labourers who have left or are leaving to their native places. These people, over time, have turned skilled workers. The unskilled, casual and daily labourers are the ones who are now travelling to their native places, said Reddy.

RBI measures to give more liquidity to exporters: FIEO

Mumbai: 22nd May 2020

Exporters, one of the worst hit organized sectors, have hailed the policy rates cut, extended loan repayment moratorium along with pre- and post-shipment credit extension by the Reserve Bank saying these much-needed steps will help them recover from COVID-19 disruptions.

The Reserve Bank cut the repo and the reverse repo rates to 4 per cent and 3.35 per cent respectively, extended the loan moratorium period till August 31 from May 31, and also extended the pre-and post-shipment credit for exporters from the existing 12 months to 15 months.

National exporters lobby Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president Sharad Kumar Saraf said these measures will give more liquidity to exporters thus helping them in fulfilling their overall obligations during these testing times.

"We are ushering into an era of very competitive credit rates to help manufacturing and overall economy," he said, adding, "these measures will not only help revive growth but will also help in mitigating the impact of the pandemic."

On time for outward remittance for imports being extended from six months to 12 months, he said this will help importers as now they get longer repatriation period. The Rs 15,000-crore dollar swap facility by way of line of credit to the Exim Bank will help leverage long term finance and project exports as a marketing tool, Saraf said.

RBI extends moratorium on loans for another 3 months till August

Mumbai: 22nd May 2020



Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das extended the moratorium on payment of loans by another three months till August to provide much-needed relief to borrowers whose income has been hit due to the coronavirus crisis.

In March, the central bank had allowed a three-month moratorium on payment of all term loans due between March 1, 2020, and May 31, 2020.

Accordingly, the repayment schedule and all subsequent due dates, as also the tenor for such loans, were shifted across the board by three months. As a result of this moratorium, individuals' EMI repayments of loans taken were not deducted from their bank accounts, providing much-needed liquidity. The EMI payments will restart only once the moratorium time period expires on August 31.

Firms in Telangana told to follow safety norms

Hyderabad: 18th May 2020

An interdepartmental committee comprising officials from Industries and Factories, and Pollution Control Board instructed the managements of all industries to comply with safety norms. The committee, which was constituted after gas leak incident in LG Chem in Visakhapatnam a few days ago, inspected more than 100 industries and factories in Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts to know more details about the safety systems on the premises of the companies.

The committee officials mainly focused on major companies that were dealing with hazardous gaseous substances and chemicals to know whether there were any chinks in the safety apparatus.

Authorities inspected 19 factories and companies in Ranga Reddy district while 101 in Medchal-Malkajgiri district. A few companies were mainly into bulk drug manufacturing, while others were dealing with chemicals and solvents. Presently, most companies were working with skeletal-staff only due to lockdown.

An official, who was part of the inspection team, said there were no major deviations with respect to the safety aspect. However, instructions were given to managements to be more cautious while handling reactors for carrying out chemical solvent intermediates.

“We have submitted the inspection report to senior officials for their perusal,” the official said. He added a few days after gas leak in Visakhapatnam, a similar incident took place in Sirpur Papers Mill in Asifabad district in Telangana on May 11 after chlorine gas was leaked.

Out of 20 people, who were present in the factory, only one person was admitted to the hospital with breathing problem. The official explained that the factories department would conduct mock drills for every three months in each company to check the preparedness of the management in handling the situation in case of any incident. As more number of fire accidents occurs during summer, a detailed presentation was also given to the managements asking them to lay emphasis on preventive steps.

IIT Kanpur team team up with Bharat Dynamics to manufacture ventilators for Covid patients

Hyderabad May 14, 2020

Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL), a Defence Public Sector Undertaking, will start large scale manufacturing of ventilators developed by Nocca Robotics, an incubated start-up of IIT Kanpur especially for Covid-19 patients. An MoU to this effect



was signed between BDL, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kanpur's incubator Foundation for Innovation and Research in Science and Technology (FIRST) and Nocca Robotics Private Limited (NRPL).

"Our project for developing an affordable ventilator has been going from strength to strength and now, with Bharat Dynamics Ltd supporting us, we will be able to scale up the production and make this critical device widely available as a 'Make in India' product. I would like to invite more such enterprises to join hands with us in our aim to encourage indigenous design and development," said Prof Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur.

"I am truly impressed by what the young engineers from IIT Kanpur have been able to achieve in such a short time and I hope that more such innovative solutions will come from Indian technopreneurs. I am happy that BDL has partnered with IIT Kanpur in manufacture of these ventilators on a large scale. Together, we will strive our best to serve the nation at this critical hour," said Commodore Siddharth Mishra (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).

Nocca Robotics designed and developed a high-end yet affordable, indigenous ventilator necessary for providing life support to critically ill COVID-19 patients under the overall supervision of IIT Kanpur team led by Prof Amitabha Bandyopadhyay. Apart from providing support to the critical patient, the ventilator's design also has unique features to safeguard the frontline healthcare workers from exposure to the virus. At the helm of this innovation are three young graduates of IIT Kanpur – Nikhil Kurele, Harshit Rathore and Tushar Agarwal.

To support this ambitious project, a group of eminent business leaders, medical devices industry experts, and experienced clinicians from India and abroad, came forward and provided their mentorship to the whole project. Association of BDL with the team from early April has provided the right impetus to the project and has also enabled valuable guidance and inputs from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), an official said.

The outcome of this synergy is that, within five weeks, NRPL has moved from inception to production of the fully functional prototype that is in conformity with the technical features and specifications released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, an official said

Hyderabad-based DRDO labs develops no-contact UVC sanitisation cabinet

Hyderabad: 10th May 2020



The Research Centre Imarat (RCI), a laboratory of DRDO based in the city, has developed an automated contactless UVC sanitisation cabinet Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitizer (DRUVS).

This cabinet is designed to sanitise mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, cheque leafs, challans, passbooks, paper and envelopes. It has contactless operation which is important to contain the spread of virus, a press release said.

The proximity sensor switches clubbed with drawer opening and closing mechanism, makes its operation automatic and contactless.

The DRUVS provides 360 degree exposure of UVC

to the objects placed inside the cabinet. Once the sanitization is done, the system goes in sleep mode and the operator need not wait or stand near the device.

RCI has also developed an automated UVC currency sanitizing device 'Notesclean'.

Bundles of currency notes can be sanitized using DRUVS, however disinfection of each currency notes using it will be a time consuming process. For this purpose, a sanitizing technique has been developed, where one has to just place the loose currency notes at the input slot of the device. It picks the notes one by one and passes them through a series of UVC lamps for complete disinfection, the release added.

Telangana develops nine virology labs in five months

Hyderabad : 22nd May 2020

For the first time in the medical history of Telangana, within a span of five months between January and




May, the health officials have started nine government laboratories that are capable of conducting highly technical Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test for diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2.

Before January, Telangana did not have a single high-end virology laboratory that could conduct a PCR test. In fact, Hyderabad, despite being the first Indian city to report swine flu (H1N1) way back in 2009, did not have a virology laboratory of its own or for that matter trained manpower to conduct such complicated tests.

For a long time, there was a demand to establish high-end virology laboratory aimed at identifying and isolating such new viruses. Till last year, swab samples of H1N1 suspects used to get transported to

NIV, Pune, for testing and the results were released after a delay of 24 hours to 48 hours.

Nine govt labs in State



- Gandhi Hospital
- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)
- Centre for DNA Fingerprinting Diagnostic (CDFD)
- Institute of Preventive Medicine (IPM)
- Osmania Medical College (OMC)
- Fever Hospital
- Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS)
- ESIC Medical College, Sanathnagar
- Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal

In the last few years, high-end laboratories were set up at Fever Hospital, Institute of Preventive Medicine (IPM), Narayanguda and Gandhi Hospital. However, all these facilities were bogged down by lack of trained personnel, as conducting such diagnostic tests are highly technical and needs a lot of capacity building.

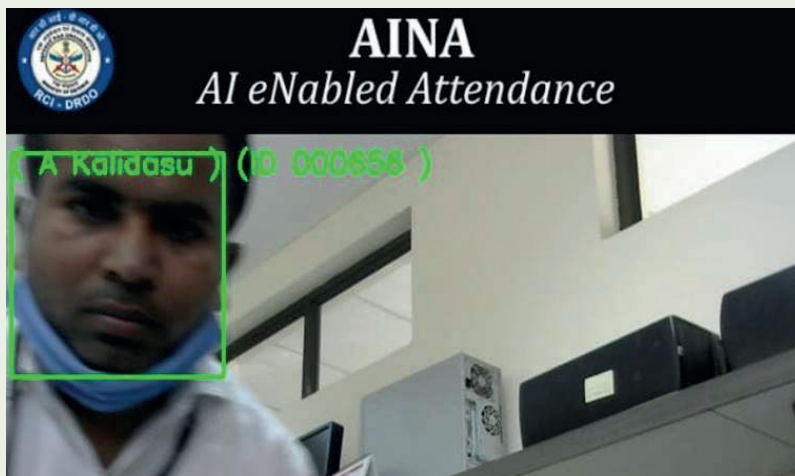
Given the Covid-19 pandemic, government laboratories now have enough trained manpower and infrastructure to conduct at least 2,000 PCR-based diagnostic tests which are widely considered as gold standard tests for detection of Covid-19. The health officials took the help of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) researchers who conducted a series of training sessions to equip lab technicians and healthcare workers from Telangana with knowledge on conducting the coronavirus diagnostic tests in high-end laboratories.

The researchers at CCMB have trained over 25 doctors, technical staff and students from these State-run healthcare institutions. The CCMB also created training videos on best practices for handling patient samples and on conducting tests on PCR, for the benefit of interested microbiologists and doctors.

Nationally, till January, the NIV, Pune, laboratory was the only facility with Covid-19 diagnosis. However, within the next few months, the ICMR managed to expand and set-up 555 laboratories across the country. As many as 12 private laboratories have also received permission from the regulatory authorities to start offering Covid diagnostics in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad: DRDO lab develops AI-based attendance application called 'AINA'

Hyderabad : May 23, 2020



Hyderabad-based Research Center Imarat, a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratory, has developed an AI-based attendance application 'AINA', that captures the facial image of a person through a camera, thus avoiding contact-based verification.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become unsafe to use the biometric verification for attendance and 'AINA' captures the facial image of a registered employee for identification and verification. According to the makers, AINA has a light-weight installation process. It comes

with a very intuitive and user-friendly GUI with audio prompts which can be optionally disabled.

According to a press release, 'AINA', which has been installed in city's ESIC Hospital, can be deployed with minimal upgradation to the legacy attendance infrastructure with RFID readers. 'AINA' can be installed on a normal desktop computer with a GPU-based display adapter and existing CCTV cameras can be utilised for capturing facial images. Facial features of several thousands of employees can be stored in the computer encoded in a small (less than 25KB) file.

It is fully secure as it works as a standalone system, says the press release, adding that it does not require any connection to the internet. Since only the facial features are saved in an encoded form, the actual face images need not be saved, thereby ensuring privacy and security, it said. Furthermore, the server storing the facial features database is confined to the organisation premises.

Hyderabad-based Hetero to make Covid drug

Hyderabad : 13th May 2020



In a development that will bring the capabilities of Hyderabad pharma firms into focus, city-based Hetero will make Remdesivir, authorised for the treatment of patients with severe Covid-19 disease, at its formulation facility in Hyderabad. The facility has been approved by regulatory authorities such as USFDA and EU, among others.

Hetero, one of India's generic pharmaceutical companies and the world's largest producer of anti-retroviral drugs, announced that it has entered into a licensing agreement with Gilead Sciences, Inc for manufacture and distribution of 'Remdesivir' for the treatment of Covid-19.

Under this licensing deal, Hetero will be supplying Remdesivir in 127 countries, including India, subject to regulatory approvals in respective countries.

Dr B Partha Saradhi Reddy, Chairman, Hetero Group of Companies, commented in a release: "Hetero is pleased to partner with Gilead to enable access for this important drug to India and other developing countries at this crucial time. This agreement also illustrates the significance of global collaboration and the need for coming together to fight the health crises impacting humanity. Hetero has developed this product in India and has

already been working with the government, ICMR, and DCGI for necessary studies and approvals to bring this product to treat Covid-19 patients in India.”

Dr Vamsi Krishna Banda, MD of Hetero Labs Limited, said: “Hetero has several licensing partnerships with Gilead across key therapies such as ARV, Hepatitis etc. We have been a long-time partner for them for over a decade. The key focus is to enable access to Remdesivir to patients living in India and other developing countries.”

“We have a fully vertically integrated supply chain for this product complementing the Make in India campaign as defined by our Prime Minister. And, it is also a pride to the Telangana region that the product is being developed here in Hyderabad,” he said on the impetus the deal will give to Hyderabad. He said it is too early to comment on volumes under this agreement.

FDA has granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) for the investigational antiviral Remdesivir to treat Covid-19. Remdesivir is authorised for the treatment of hospitalised patients with severe Covid-19 disease. The optimal duration of treatment is still being studied in ongoing clinical trials, the release added.

Under the EUA, both 5-day and 10-day treatment durations are suggested, based on the severity of disease. The authorisation is temporary and does not take the place of the formal new drug application submission, review and approval process, it said.

The EUA allows for the distribution and emergency use of Remdesivir only for the treatment of Covid-19. Remdesivir remains an investigational drug and is not approved anywhere globally, including US and India, it said. Gilead is also working with two other companies- Cipla and Jubilant Life Sciences on this.

Reagene ties up with Tech Mahindra for Covid therapeutic drugs

Hyderabad : 16th May 2020

Reagene Innovations incubated at ASPIRE-BioNEST of University of Hyderabad (UoH) along with INDRAS Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad, is collaborating with Tech Mahindra, to identify FDA approved drugs which

can be redeployed as therapeutics for the Covid-19.

The collaboration will use both Artificial Intelligence (AI) and rational computational approaches for identifying approved existing drugs validated using biological and pharmacological methods.

The UoH said the objective of the collaboration is to stop the entry of the virus into lung airway epithelial cells. The choice of this strategy is important because of the high transmission rate of the Covid-19 is attributed in part to tight attachment of the virus that facilitates its entry into lung cells. Once the virus is stopped from entering the cells, it is rendered harmless.

Reagene Innovations will create a human vascular lung model to study the Covid-19 using 3D bioprinting technique. This new technique is being used to create human organs and tissues.

Dr Ratnakar Palakodeti, vice president of Life Sciences vertical of Tech Mahindra, said, “the collaboration will bring valuable findings in therapeutic interventions through a faster route than conventional drug discovery as well as add invaluable intellectual property”.

In addition, the collaboration will use the rational in silico scientific expertise of INDRAS in identifying the most suitable drugs which could be repurposed against Covid-19.

“ASPIRE BioNEST incubation centre, established jointly by UoH and BIRAC of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India is hosting over 20 startups and some of them are engaged in developing diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutic molecules for the Covid-19,” said Prof Reddanna, project coordinator of ASPIRE BioNEST incubation centre.

Hyderabad based H-Bots developing robot for hospitals, public places

Hyderabad ; 2nd May 2020

Hyderabad-based robotics company H-Bots, which earlier built a semi-humanoid robot Robo Cop, is now building a robot called Accord Robot that will help hospitals, airports, malls and offices to screen people for Coronavirus and disinfect rooms. Besides meeting



the needs of domestic market, once the lockdown is lifted in India, the company looks to export it, particularly to the European nations.

The company, which has started taking orders, expects to start making and supplying robots from mid of May. It uses its inhouse capabilities in the internet of things, automation, analytics and hardware prototyping amongst others.

The robot is used as part of the regular cleaning cycle or sterilisation cycle and aims at preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases, virus, bacteria, and other types of harmful organic micro-organisms in the environment by breaking down their DNA structure.

Kisshhan PSV, founder & CEO, H-Bots, said, “We have been working on a robot for the last one year that can aid healthcare organisations. With the Coronavirus outbreak, we started working on a specific robot in the last one month that will help in screening people, disinfect rooms and offer information management system to hospitals. We had to redesign the model that we had been working on.”

“Our Accord Robot specially designed for hospitals, airports and offices can disinfect a room in 10-15 minutes with its UV (ultraviolet) technology, provides self-navigation system and detects temperature of a human being at 3-4 metre distance. It also comes with facial recognition system to analyse every visitor and patient. If used for hospitals, the robot comes up with an additional feature—Hospital Information Management System (HIMS) and Doctor-Patient Virtual Interaction. Clients are provided with a user-friendly dashboard,” he added.

It is going to be a fully ‘Made in India’ robot. Certain components are coming from Chennai while the entire design, artificial intelligence and development of the robot is happening in Hyderabad in H-Bots joint venture facility in Bachupally, where it holds 40 per cent stake. Certain permissions are awaited after which the robots will be made at this facility.

Kisshhan said, the company plans to make 50-60 robots per month in the lockdown scenario, which can be scaled up to 400 units per month, depending on the orders. The robots will be made in two different variants, one would weigh around 80-90 kgs while the advanced version with HIMS will weigh 110 kgs. The advanced robot could cost Rs 5 lakh and the regular version will cost Rs 3.5 lakh.

Hyderabad-based IICT to make affordable RT-PCR kits

Hyderabad: 2nd May 2020

Availability and affordability of Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) kits for diagnosis of the novel strain of coronavirus has remained a major bottleneck in the fight against COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

To take these twin challenges head-on, Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) has now decided to foray into making affordable RT-PCR kits indigenously using recombinant technology for production of several enzymes that are used in the PCR kit.

The premier chemical technology research institution will also work towards optimising the reagent conditions that will meet the standards set by the regulatory authorities.

To make RT-PCR Kits, the IICT is partnering with Hyderabad-based Genomix Biotech, which is already into manufacturing rapid diagnostic kits and PCR based molecular diagnostic assays. Senior scientists at IICT said the collaboration would bring down the cost of the PCR Kits and at the same time also make it readily available because at the moment, all the testing kits for diagnosing SARS-CoV-2 are being imported.



Along with Genomix Biotech, the IICT has the wherewithal to produce anywhere between 2 lakh and 2.5 lakh tests every week, which could go a long way in reducing the shortage of the PCR Kits. It is expected that the costs could be down by a minimum of 10 per cent, when compared to the imported test kits.

“We are in the process of approaching the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for the required approvals and validation. There is no doubt that indigenously manufactured test kits will be affordable and readily available,” said senior principal scientist, IICT. Dr Anthony Addlagatta.

According to authorities, the partnering company Genomix Biotech will be optimising the kit for Covid-19 diagnosis. Both the institutions are planning to approach ICMR or its recognized laboratory for validation to launch the product in a couple of weeks.

“We are ready to produce the kits at the earliest in Hyderabad. We need just regulatory permissions to start making them,” he said. Director, IICT, Dr. S Chandrasekhar said that the collaboration will enable to produce affordable quality RT-PCR kit and help meet the huge demand of the country during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, the RT-PCR kit developed by CSIR-IICT can also be used in various other disease diagnostics of humans, animals and plants. This technology will bring down the overall cost of RT-PCR based diagnosis in the country, he added.

UoH, CCMB ties with Vins Products to develop COVID-19 antibody therapy

Hyderabad 15th May 2020

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have tied up with Vins Bioproducts Ltd, a well-known antisera manufacturing company to develop antibody fragment-based immunotherapy for immediate treatment for the COVID-19. The Vins Bioproducts Ltd, is incubated at UoH BioNEST incubation centre.

Scientists are exploring alternative strategies of using horses or other higher animals to generate antibodies against the SARS-COV2 viral antigens. The antibodies, raised in horses using inactivated Coronavirus is fractionated and purified to produce antibody fragments F(ab')₂ for neutralising Coronavirus in the patients for recovery.

In a press release, the UoH said the collaborative effort plans to use the F(ab')₂ platform technology which has



been providing neutralising antibodies from horses for a variety of life-threatening pathologies in humans as anti-venoms, anti-toxins and antivirals.

Horse-based immunoglobulins can be produced in large quantities as a promising alternative therapy, which would be economical and can be made readily available to a larger population, it said, adding that collaborators have complementary expertise required for developing the therapy for treating the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the UoH, the team is quite hopeful about this treatment and feels that this would be more productive, efficient, safe, which can meet the enormous requirement for the treatment of the COVID-19.

The UoH team is headed by Dr. Nooruddin Khan, an Associate Professor at the Department of Animal Biology, School of Life Sciences while the team at CCMB is headed by Dr. Krishnan Harinivas, who is a principal scientist and specializes in the area of molecular virology.

Vins Bioproducts Ltd CEO Siddharth Daga expressed his confidence in the fast track development by complimenting the technical and infrastructural strengths available in the three collaborating organizations and making available a specific therapeutic antiviral product in the shortest possible time.

UoH Vice-Chancellor Prof. Appa Rao Podile hoped this would result in the successful development of antibody fragment-based immunotherapy for immediate treatment for the COVID-19 at the earliest.

Hyderabad-based Cyient partners with Emergent Alliance

Hyderabad : 20th May 2020

Hyderabad-based global engineering and technology solutions company Cyient announced that it has signed a



Statement of Intent with the Emergent Alliance. As part of the association, Cyient will use the latter's combined data knowledge to provide new insights and practical applications to the global Covid-19 response. This will help some of the world's largest organisations, data specialists, and governments to support future decision-making on regional and global economic challenges that will get people back to work and help businesses thrive post-pandemic, a company release said.

The alliance will analyse a broad set of economic, behavioral, and sentiment data to provide new insights and practical applications to aid in the rebuilding of economies and understand the impact of a new normal.

Anand Parameswaran, senior vice-president and A&D business unit head, Cyient said, "The Emergent Alliance is an opportunity to use our skills and expertise to help solve the most significant challenge of the 21st century."

Cyient director of digital solutions Srikanth Tadepalli also added that they are bringing their best data science minds to collaborate with the alliance and recommend strategies that would help identify indicators of revival in economic activity.

T-Hub selects 10 startups for its fintech accelerator programme

Hyderabad : 22nd May 2020

T-Hub said it has shortlisted 10 startups for its fintech accelerator programme. The programme was launched in November 2019 in partnership with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India), the umbrella organisation for retail payments systems in India and DST (Department of Science and Technology).

The programme is designed to enhance faster product development and scale-up of the fintech startups shortlisted to be a part of the batch. The 20 startups were selected from over 150 applications received from across India, after a rigorous evaluation process. Some of the shortlisted startups are Chitmonks, Syntizen, AShield Technologies, amongst others.

Startups accepted into the programme will receive training and guidance from T-Hub and NPCI via a curriculum of activities, specifically designed to support product development and growth in digital payments. Also, startups will have access to NPCI retail payments APIs for product development and T-Hub's network of mentors, industry experts, investors, service providers and the community.



Benefit for startups

Startups will get access to NPCI API Sandbox portal to develop payment products, benefit from Go-to-Market support during the acceleration phase, get the opportunity to showcase the solution to industry experts and the ecosystem during the Fintech Accelerator Demo Day scheduled for July and get access to T-Hub's service providers and leading mentors.

Ravi Narayan, CEO, T-Hub, said, "India's digital payment landscape has grown steadily over the years. Owing to the current pandemic, there has been a fundamental slowdown of transactions at all levels. But all that will fundamentally change. We consider this an opportunity not only to support these deserving startups but to ensure that all the stakeholders in the fintech space see the innovations through the outcome of this programme. The programme in partnership with NPCI and DST will accelerate product development of the shortlisted fintech startups and pave the way for large-scale adoption of digital modes of payments in the country."

New innovation lab

NPCI's TXNNXT hub, an innovation lab within the premises of T-Hub was also launched alongside the fintech accelerator programme that would act as a collaborative innovation space for NPCI. The key objective for setting up the lab for NPCI is to aid startups and other ecosystem participants build next-gen payment and other fintech products.

The hub has spearheaded many of NPCI's initiatives such as product knowledge sessions for startups, informal interactions with NPCI's key executives including its MD & CEO, and workshops on emerging technologies and regulations for the T-Hub ecosystem.

Vishal Anand Kanvaty, Chief of Innovation at NPCI said, "NPCI, through the process of TXN NXT, is in search of the next transaction-Technologies or ideas which can solve, revolutionise and reduce the friction in payments. We would like to acknowledge the aspirations and the efforts of 150 applicants and the 10 selected startups who have made it to fintech accelerator programme. Each one of them has a seed to transform the fintech segment with unique innovations. We believe, it is going to be an inspiring experience in guiding them by providing a direction to their innovative solutions." The accelerator programme is going to take place in a virtual mode due to the current Covid-19 situation.

T-Hub announces partnership with Startup Genome

Hyderabad: 4th May 2020

Telangana's startup ecosystem builder T-Hub announced its partnership with Startup Genome to promote India's innovation and startup ecosystem. Startup Genome, which is a research and policy advisory organisation for

governments committed to advance their startup ecosystems, the partnership with T-Hub will lead to the inclusion of Hyderabad's notable startups in Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) in the 2020 edition. The report will also provide timely insights into the impact of COVID-19 on startup ecosystems globally.

Through Startup Genome, T-Hub joins as a global member network of the startup ecosystem to support growth for startups



everywhere. The membership will strengthen T-Hub's activities and bring new ideas and approaches focused on global peer-learning and the sharing of best practices. In addition, the ecosystem office at T-Hub along with Startup Genome will continue to support the domestic innovation ecosystem through capacity building initiatives.

Based on the connections made via T-Hub, Startup Genome will rely on a variety of metrics to quantify the success and areas of opportunity in the ecosystem and present the metrics in the GSER. T-Hub CEO Ravi Narayan said, "T-Hub is an innovation ecosystem enabler, driven by creating meaningful impact for startups, corporates, governments and academia, amongst others. We are excited to partner with Startup Genome to create thought leadership in the space of building innovation ecosystems to help other ecosystems globally. T-Hub's new partnership with Startup Genome will create a variety of opportunities for Hyderabad-based startups to receive national and international exposure."

WE Hub, VMware India enter into partnership

Hyderabad : 22nd May 2020



Ideate. Implement. Inspire

VMware India signed an MoU with WE Hub, a Government of Telangana initiative for women entrepreneurs, to extend VMinclusion Taara's upskilling and return to work programme in the State. With this MoU, VMware and WE Hub aim to empower women with the skills they need to return to their dormant/ interrupted technology careers.

The aim is also to provide a platform for deeper and better networking opportunities for women in technology to be a part of the economic workforce of the State. WE Hub aims at providing a platform by enabling skill upgradation, networking opportunities and the career options for women returning to workforce in Telangana.

As part of the collaboration, WE Hub will be integrating modules on entrepreneurship as an addition to the curriculum so the various opportunities available for women planning a return to the work force can utilise.

Through VMinclusion Taara, VMware continues to work towards upskilling up to 15,000 women, by providing free technical education and certification courses on digital business transformation technology. Those who enroll will have access to courses on VMware technology (basics, intermediate and advanced certification) and become VMware Certified Professionals.

Upskilling and certification courses on cloud computing, virtualisation, and networking will help women trying to rejoin the workforce after a hiatus or for those working to build their business in this era of technology disruption.

Course enrolment

WE Hub will help enroll women in Telangana who wish to return to the workforce, so they can get up-to-speed with the skills needed to be effective in the IT industry. Candidates will be selected for the programme on a 'first-come-first-serve' basis subject to meeting the criteria.

Women who are citizens of India and reside within the territorial jurisdiction of India can enroll in the programme. It is an upskilling and return-to-work programme. Any Indian woman who has not been employed with any company (whether in India or overseas) for six months or more is eligible to apply for the programme. Any woman who has completed her graduation at least six months earlier and has not yet found employment can also enroll for the programme to become a VMware-certified professional. Since the programme is delivered online, it is self-paced and free of cost, it is easier for women on a break to complete the course based on their schedule.

Building right ecosystem

Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary to the Government of Telangana, IT E&C said, "The Telangana Government has always been at the forefront of bringing in policies and initiatives for increased participation of women by building ecosystem enablers like WE Hub. As a state, we identify that women's contribution to India's GDP stands at 18 per cent, one of the lowest in the world, reflecting the fact that only 25 per cent of India's labour force is female." "Mainstreaming career returns and normalising career breaks can push the needle and help reverse the trend of the declining labour force participation rate of women. It can help businesses infuse greater gender diversity in the workforces and can also have incremental influences on the state and country's GDP," he added.

Deepthi Ravula, CEO, WE Hub said, "In the course of our work to bring more women into entrepreneurship,

we have identified the huge opportunity and potential we are missing out on due to women who have not been able to return to the workforce. While WE Hub has built a strong network, we are glad to partner with VMware, a pioneer in its diversity initiatives to reduce the skill gap. We are also including components of entrepreneurship into the course of our collaboration with Taara so we can motivate more female tech entrepreneurs."

"VMware's public-private sector partnership with WE Hub will encourage more women in India to successfully grow their career at a time when digital skills are more critical than ever before," Duncan Hewett, VMware senior vice president and general manager, Asia Pacific and Japan said.

KTR backs handloom, textiles sector

Hyderabad: 11th May 2020

IT Minister KT Rama Rao has sought several concessions and incentives for the handloom and textiles sector to protect the livelihood of millions of workers in the sector that have been contributing to the country's GDP and exports.

In a letter to Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani in the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, Rama Rao, pointing out that it was imperative for the State and Union government to work together to protect the workers in these sectors, sought among other things, resumption of operations, providing wage support of up to 50 per cent of wages, contingent on continued employment of workforce for a period of up to 6 months, in the form of a long-term loan, allowing the industry a one-time extension of 3 months for deposit of statutory dues of PF and ESI, facilitate higher temporary credit facilities (up to 30 per cent of current limits) to meet cash losses during this slowdown, complete interest waiver or an interest subvention scheme of 2-3 per cent on all loans (including working capital credit) availed by the sector, a special moratorium of 1 year and incentive to exporters.

Pointing out that the Union government had announced Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme for apparel and made-ups segment, the Minister said it was also important that

RoSCTL is extended to other segments like yarn and fabric as well. “This will enable the intermediate segments to improve their operational sustainability,” he said, adding that the Centre should also consider additional incentives to exporters for a period of one year to tide over this crisis. Any incentives to exporters will also indirectly support the domestic value chain, he contended.

Rama Rao, stating that a common refrain from the industry was for expediting the pending refunds of GST, which will release cash and in turn enable the industry to meet payments to workers and other vendors, he said steps should be taken to enable wider market for the piled-up handloom fabric and finished products on national and international e-commerce platforms.

Telangana to release Rs 93 crore to weavers under ‘Nethanna ku Cheyutha’

Hyderabad: 23rd May 2020



Providing much needed relief to weavers, IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao directed the officials to release about Rs 93 crore to weavers accrued under ‘Nethanna ku Cheyutha’ (Thrift) scheme well before the mandatory lock-in period of three years. The decision was taken to benefit about 26,500 weavers and help them gear up for post-COVID-19 world.

Weavers saved about Rs 31 crore and the government

added Rs 62 crore as its share under the Thrift scheme. Weavers will have to wait for a minimum lock-in period of three years from the time of joining the scheme to redeem the amount. But considering the present situation amid COVID-19 pandemic, Minister Rama Rao decided to sanction the amount to the weavers immediately without waiting for three years. Each weaver will now receive anywhere between Rs 50,000 to Rs 1.25 lakh based on their savings. He instructed the officials to ensure that the money goes into the hands of the weavers at the earliest.

Further, the State government will release another Rs 1.18 crore to weavers who enrolled themselves under cooperative societies which completed an earlier savings scheme. “The State government has been supporting the weavers since the initial days of the State formation. Besides allocating major component of budget, the government initiated various programmes and schemes to create a demand for the products of weavers in the State,” the Minister said.



On the occasion, Rama Rao reviewed the status of the production of Bathukamma sarees, works of Kakatiya Mega Textile Park and Hyderabad Pharma City. He also held separate review meetings with various wings of the Industries department on issues pertaining to Aerospace and Defence.

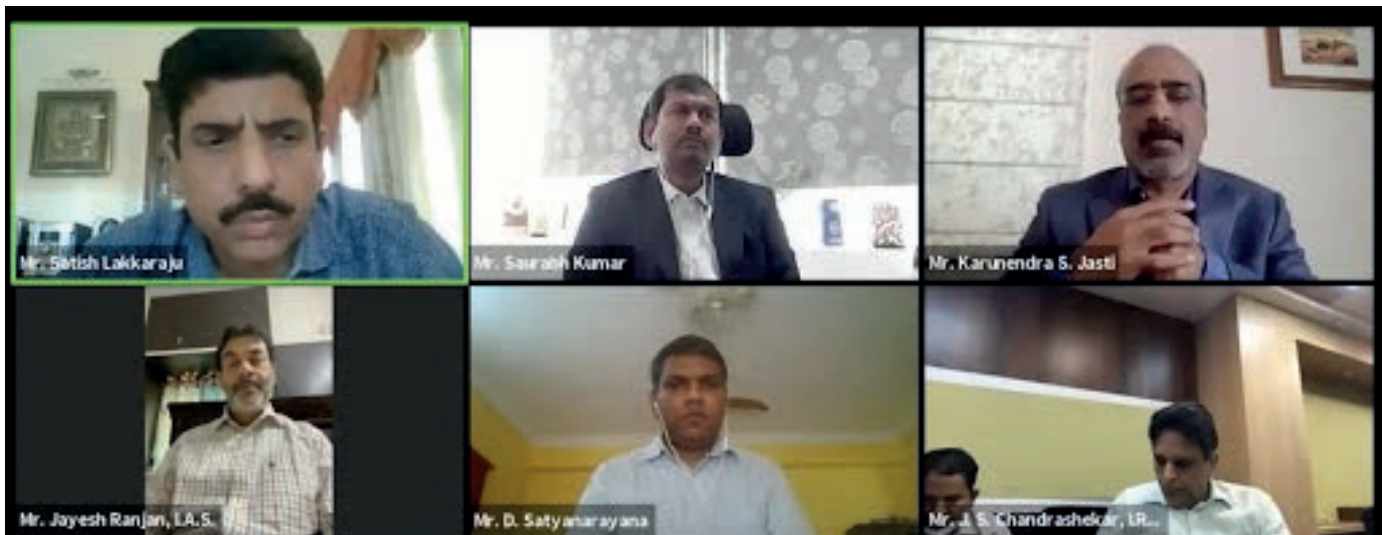
TSIIC chairman Gyadari Balamallu, Principal Secretary for IT and Industries Jayesh Ranjan, Handlooms and Textiles director Shailaja Ramaiyer, TSIIC managing director Narasimha Reddy and other officials were present in the meeting.

Webinar on "EXIM Trade during the Lockdown of pandemic COVID19 held on April 1, 2020

Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Department, Government of Telangana during a Webinar on "EXIM Trade during the Lockdown of pandemic COVID19 jointly organized by The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) and FICCI for the importer and exporter community in the state of Telangana said the Decision making has been fully decentralized for smooth running of business and movement of essential commodities in the state of Telangana.

“Absence of masks and personal protection equipment is becoming a real challenge as most of it comes from China, posing a major bottleneck in the fight against COVID-19, coronavirus. Though some domestic players are manufacturing these items, we mostly depend on China for these products. Unless cargo ships and cargo flights are permitted into India from China, we have to face these challenges for some more time. We are working on this at central and state levels. So far only one flight is coming from China per week to Delhi which is grossly inadequate to meet our demands. We are putting efforts to increase the frequency of those flights and to destinations like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai and Mumbai ” Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, added

Speaking on specific questions on facilitating exports and removing bottlenecks for imported goods especially on last mile connectivity, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan said “Although there is a responsibility to promote export & import, when seen in the larger context of lockdown we need to exercise utmost caution for the health and safety of our people. Because any kind of activity requires people to come out to do transactions and business which involves interactions giving a chance for the virus to spread among communities. Though we understand the importance of doing some basic level activity, we need to keep in mind that it has to be in our interests and mainly for facilitating imports to start with. Pharma is a big exporter from our region. But we need to understand that we have domestic market also for pharma to serve. I am at this point not sure when we can allow usual kind of export business w.r.t. exports of pharma given the circumstances, unless there is a global emergency for our products. We have decentralized the entire operations. Respective district collectors and



police officials were authorized to make necessary assessment and give permissions for manufacturing and movement of goods and people”

Speaking in the conference Mr. J S Chandrasekhar, IRS, Principal Commissioner said the customs is working 24 X 7 to support during this crisis and further clarified that Essential commodities are the priority but even allied commodities that are required to support Essential commodities are being cleared as well. He also mentioned that a control room has been established along with the Telangana State police to ensure smooth of the Containers. He also mentioned that the officer are present at Airport and the ICDs to support the Trade.

Mr. D Satyanarayana, Chief General Manager of CONCOR, explained that they are facing difficulties in moving the containers to the factories in the absence of Drivers and Trucks. He mentioned that CONCOR is even moving empty containers to support the trade in this crisis.

Mr. Saurabh Kumar, CEO, GMR Cargo Hyderabad Airport, informed that major airlines are operating the freighters and cargo is being handled regularly but the employees of CHAs and Freight forwarders are unable to reach the Airport in the absence of Curfew passes.

Mr. Satish Lakkaraju , Chief Commercial officer of Agility Logistics and the Advisor for Logistics for FTCCI moderated the session. He spoke about the difficulties faced by the logistics companies in moving cargo for export and import shipments, including the ones critical to fight the COVID-19 coronavirus and requested all the stake holders to help jointly resolve all the current challenges as that is the need to the hour.

The Webinar among others was attended by Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Department, Government of Telangana; Mr. J.S.Chandrashekar, IRS, Principal Commissioner, Hyderabad Customs Commissionerate; Mr. Saurabh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo; Mr. D Satyanarayana, IRTS, Chief General Manager, Container Corporation of India Ltd. Mr. Satish Lakkaraju , Chief Commercial

officer, Agility Logistics Private Limited And Mr. Karnendu S Jasti President FTCCI.

IT growth momentum will continue: KTR

Hyderabad 25th May 2020

The IT industry in Hyderabad and Telangana will keep up its growth momentum even in the future, asserted Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao. Though coronavirus pandemic has impacted several industries, the IT industry because of the kind of ecosystem Hyderabad provides, will rebound and maintain its growth as in the past, he said.

The Minister, who met the new leadership team of Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (Hysea) at Pragathi Bhavan, emphasised that the IT industry will overcome the crisis and maintain strong growth despite Covid-19 disruptions. Hysea team said the efforts of the Chief Minister and the IT Minister have helped Telangana to surpass the national growth rate in IT exports.

With the support of Telangana government has extended over the last six years, Hyderabad IT industry has achieved significant growth, the industry body observed. Hysea also noted that the State government has taken proactive measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 and minimise the impact on businesses as well as individuals, and the IT industry will always back the government in all its efforts. They assured the IT Minister that all the IT companies will implement their proposed expansion plans in the State after the crisis subsides.

Hysea leadership team discussed with KTR the situation being faced by the IT workforce and the kind of support needed from the government and other stakeholders. KTR said Telangana government has been closely working with industry bodies such as Hysea and had been gathering ideas and suggestions from time to time. The Minister asked the IT industry to see the current challenges created by the pandemic as opportunities. He said, during the lockdown, medical and education sectors have seen increased adoption of technology in the form of video-conferencing for conducting several programmes as well as rolling out



new initiatives, both at the corporate and individual level.

The crisis has shown to the world that technology comes to the rescue when confronted with unprecedented times and unforeseen challenges. The IT industry can actively work towards finding solutions to several problems that society is facing today. KTR added, at a time when the central government is keen to support home-grown and innovation-driven companies, the IT industry should gear up to contribute to the nation and grab new opportunities. He noted that several Hyderabad-based companies have come out with innovative products in the last few months and assured that the State government will provide the needed support and platform to all such companies and innovators even in the future. The IT department of Telangana, for instance, is using the online meeting solutions platform developed by a WE Hub startup for all its internal meetings. The Minister said the State government is taking all the measures to maintain the growth momentum of Hyderabad IT industry, and industry associations such as Hysea need to continue playing a vital role in achieving this goal.

Focus on 3Ds for digitisation: KTR

Hyderabad: 23rd May 2020

IT Minister KT Rama Rao has said that digital literacy, digital infrastructure and digital innovation would be the key enablers for India's digital growth in the post-coronavirus era.

TSTPC Trade Journal

Digital revolution was only possible if digital or even non-digital solutions could be accessed by a common man. "Enabling the common man with the help of technology will make him believe in technology, and create a social impact. If India has to grow we need to make people digitally literate, create broadband and other necessary digital infrastructure and innovate. It is also critical that Union government encourage States to collaborate, coexist and compete with global IT value chain as part of Digital India strategy," the Minister said.

He was speaking at a virtual digital summit titled 'Digital Revolution in Post-Covid Era: Touching Lives & Enriching Businesses' organised by the CII. Dwelling at length on the issue, he elaborated on how implementation of technology in government and government-run services has been selective and in small portions.

"Digitisation has become the need of the hour and if it has to flourish then we need these 3Ds — digital



literacy, digital infrastructure and digital innovation. While the National Digital Literacy Mission needs to be strengthened, it is important that States also concentrate on digital literacy. In terms of infrastructure, as a nation we need to look at digitisation as a basic right so as to make a digital revolution. And finally, it is also important that digital innovation reaches each and every citizen,” Rama Rao said.

He said while India’s ability to lead large corporates was recognised worldwide, the country was still considered to be a service-oriented nation and for this to change the Centre and State governments need to encourage more product companies from India and design strategies and policies for this endeavour.

“Covid-19 has forced governments to reinvent themselves digitally. Lot more can be done and needs to be done in government for the digital revolution to take place. The growth of 18 per cent in Telangana’s IT exports has been majorly contributed by the industry with the government just being an enabler,” he said.

He elaborated on how TWorks, India’s largest prototyping facility, has developed a low-cost ventilator and how the State is using different technologies such as drones, robots and artificial intelligence for surveillance and essential goods delivery. The State is planning to collaborate with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and private agencies to see how it can use drones to deliver medicines to doorsteps, he added.

Addressing the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), secretary, Ajay Prakash Sawhney as part of the summit, Rama Rao said that the government must not let go of this opportunity to encourage electronics manufacturing in India. “The Centre must work with States to set up more manufacturing parks. In addition, I would also request the Centre to look at using satellite systems to impart online education and with the country’s satellite system with Centre, it would be a good move if States have their own satellite domain,” he said.

Finally, the Minister also noted that it is important for governments to enhance and concentrate on data security and create more cyber warriors by

collaborating with the private sector. He also sought some kind of collaboration between States so that they can learn from each other on best and next practices and not compete with each other. “We are operating in silos and we don’t know what other States are doing. We need to collaborate and leverage our minds to become a product manufacturing country,” he said.

ITE&C secretary, Jayesh Ranjan shared an experience on how around 1000+ local kirana stores were empowered through the digital platform offered by the State Government in Covid times. He added that the Pandemic has provided a big push to the digital transformation in the country. While it offers great opportunity, there is also a need to relook Digital India program to ensure that it does not create Digital Divide.

Software Technology Park of India (STPI) Director General Omkar Rai, CII Telangana past chairman V Rajanna, Co Founder and CEO of Mobile Premier League Sai Srinivas Kiran and CII Telangana Chairman Krishna Bodanapu spoke.

Explore construction of STPs under PPP mode: KTR

Hyderabad: 18th May 2020

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao directed the Water Board to explore the possibilities of constructing of Sewerage Treatment Plant (STPs) under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, besides focusing on constructing of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs).

The Minister instructed the HMWSSB to focus on improving the sewerage network system in the city.



Currently HMWSSB treats 772 MLD of water through the existing 25 STPs. Asking the board to explore possibilities of constructing new STPs in vacant space available at the existing STPs, he said plans should be made to construct the new STPs under PPP mode.

He also instructed officials to make it mandatory for all structures with over 100 flats to set up STPs. This apart, emphasis should be laid on constructing FSTPs within the ORR to ensure scientific disposal of waste released through septic tanks, he said.

Officials were also directed to make sure hotels, restaurants, function halls, hostels and other establishments set up silt chambers to avoid flow of waste into sewerage lines.

Follow government advice and reap benefits, KCR to farmers

Hyderabad : 22nd May 2020

Hon'ble Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao asserted that the regulated farming policy being propagated by the State government was only aimed at ensuring that the farmers in the State prosper through scientific crop cultivation based on experts' advice. "All the farmers will continue to receive the Rythu Bandhu assistance but



the cultivation of crops will have to be on the lines suggested by the government policy, which ultimately is only aimed at benefitting the farming community in the State through remunerative prices for their produce," he said.

The Chief Minister was addressing an extended video conference on regulated farming at Pragathi Bhavan here with Ministers, senior officials, corporation chairpersons, district collectors, district agricultural officers, district Rythu Bandhu Samithi presidents, State Agricultural University officials and scientists.

Interacting with officials and Rythu Bandhu Samithi presidents, the Chief Minister tried to clear their doubts, and also sought suggestions from them. He pointed out that farmers will be able to get better prices by growing crops that have demand in the market. "There will be no problem if the farmers grow the crops suggested by the scientists of the Agriculture University," he said, and urged the farmers to make full utilisation of the suitable soils, climatic conditions and good rainfall to their advantage. "The State government is farmer-friendly and would like to see them become competent to take on the world markets," he said.

"Agriculture is the primary occupation in Telangana State. The future of farming must be bright, and farmers must grow quality food and offer them to the world to make good profits," Chandrashekhara Rao said. He observed that farmers were suffering losses because they were growing the same crops all over the State leading to a glut in the supply side and a low demand that finally ends in crash in prices for their produce. "That is why we discussed the issue at length and decided on regulated farming. Experts decided on the season, the type and the extent of crops to be taken up based on the Agri Business department's demand forecast," he said, adding that if strictly followed, the new cropping pattern will bring profits to the farmers. He said that during last Vaanakalam, farmers grew paddy in 40 lakh acres and this year too, they will be taking up paddy in the same extent of land. "Last year, cotton was taken up in 53 lakh acres but this year, it will be more and go up to 70 lakh acres," he said.

Similarly, the Chief Minister suggested that farmers take up Red Gram in 15 lakh acres instead of 7 lakh acres. He said that farmers are free to grow soybean, turmeric, mirchi and vegetables in the same extent of land as last year.

Explaining further, he said that farmers are free to take up seed farming and green manure as per their wishes, but advised them not to take up maize in Vaanakalam and instead, take it up in Yasangi. Farmers who were growing maize in Vaanakalam can take up cotton and red gram instead, he said.

The Chief Minister, however, cautioned the farmers to take precautions while selecting paddy varieties. He suggested that they go for varieties that have demand in the market. “Telangana Sona has very good market because of the 6.5mm grain size, go for it,” he said. Being a farmer himself, the Chief Minister offered to build a Rythu Vedika (Farmers’ meeting hall) in his Erravalli farm cluster at his expense. Inspired by his decision, the ministers at the meeting also offered to construct at least one Rythu Vedika at their expense.

GIS to drive intelligent farming in Telangana

Hyderabad : 21st May 2020

The Telangana State government has been in the forefront in the use of advanced technologies in governance, but for the first time, perhaps in the entire country, the government has taken to extensive GIS mapping in the field of agriculture, more specifically, to study the crop pattern across the State that would ultimately lay the foundation on which it would build up its ambitious regulated farming programme.

The thematic maps covering the entire gamut of crops including paddy, maize, fruits, vegetables and spices

would give a spatial perspective to the government based on which it can decide the crop pattern including proposed areas of cultivation and extent of cultivation for each crop that would best suit the farming community in the State, and make agriculture a profitable venture, Major Shiva Kiran, a consultant associated with the GIS mapping, said.

“Typically, the cultivation area when mapped, throws up a pattern, of what is grown where and to what extent. This exercise presents a comprehensive decision support system to engage domain experts to generate a sustainable agriculture plan for Telangana State,” he said.

The regulated farming proposed to be introduced from the coming Vaanakalam season by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao will take into account various parameters including the critical market demand for crops, availability of water, manpower and other resources, proximity to markets in neighbouring States and the potential for export.

The GIS provides crucial inputs for decision-making on concentration of certain crops in some districts, while others are completely devoid of them. Due to excess cultivation of certain crops in a district, it was found that the available resources such as water were being consumed excessively. “Farmers too were not getting remunerative prices due to excess cultivation of specific crop in a district, even though there was demand for these crops in other districts,” a senior official said.

For instance, paddy cultivation that was largely concentrated in the districts of Nalgonda, Suryapet and Nizamabad, accounted for about for 24.5 per cent of total sown area of about 41 lakh acres. Districts such as Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Rangareddy, Mahabubnagar and Medchal-Malkajgiri that are in close proximity to the State capital and Adilabad, were hardly growing paddy. Similarly, Kamareddy, Jayashankar Bhupalpally and Adilabad were largely focusing on coarse paddy varieties, while fine paddy varieties were popular in the districts of Jogulamba Gadwal (about 98 per cent), Nagarkurnool and Suryapet.



Similarly, cotton cultivation was taken up mostly in the districts of Nalgonda, Adilabad and Nagarkurnool, accounting for 27.07 per cent of the total sown area of about 54.45 lakh acres. Siddipet, Rangareddy and Nagarkurnool districts are hotbeds for maize cultivation in the State. On the other hand, urban and semi-urban areas largely focused on horticulture crops with neighbouring districts of Hyderabad dominating the market. Nalgonda tops in cultivation of Orange, Mosambi (Batthai), and Pomegranate in fruit cultivation even as Khammam and Rangareddy are placed in top position in cultivation of Mangoes and Guava respectively in the State. Rangareddy and Siddipet districts are the largest producers of vegetables especially Tomato, Brinjal, Ladies Finger, Green Chilli and Gourds.

The districts of Nizamabad, Khammam, Sangareddy and Bhadradri Kothagudem are the largest producers of turmeric, red chilli, ginger and oil palm among others

Integrated Report (Top Three Districts)

Vanakalam

Paddy	Maize	Cotton	Soya Bean	Red Gram	Other Crops
Nizamabad	Siddipet	Nalgonda	Nirmal	Narayanpet	Sangareddy
Nalgonda	Rangareddy	Adilabad	Adilabad	Vikarabad	Mahbubnagar
Suryapet	Nagarkurnool	Nagarkurnool	Kamareddy	Adilabad	Vikarabad



Fruits

Mango	Orange	Bhattai	Guava	Pomegranate
Khammam	Nalgonda	Nalgonda	Rangareddy	Nalgonda
Jagtial	Jogulamba	Suryapet	Sangareddy	Mahbubnagar
Rangareddy	Narayanpet	Yadadri	Khammam	Rangareddy



Vegetables

Tomato	Brinjal	Bhendi	Green Chilli	Gourds
Rangareddy	Rangareddy	Rangareddy	Siddipet	Rangareddy
Siddipet	Vikarabad	Siddipet	Rangareddy	Siddipet
Vikarabad	Siddipet	Suryapet	Vikarabad	Nalgonda



Spices

Turmeric	Red Chilli	Ginger	Oil Palm
Nizamabad	Khammam	Sangareddy	Bhadradri
Jagtial	Mahbubabad	Vikarabad	Khammam
Nirmal	Jaishankar Bhupalpally	Jangoan	Nalgonda



MSME definition revised, now medium firms are those with ₹250 cr turnover

New Delhi: : 01 Jun 2020

At a special meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Narendra Modi, the upward revision of MSME definition was approved. The definition of micro manufacturing and services unit was increased to ₹1 crore of investment and ₹5 crore of turnover. The limit of small unit was increased to ₹10 crore of investment and ₹50 crore of turnover. This revision was done after 14 years since the MSME Development Act came into existence in 2006.

It was also decided to further increase the limit for medium manufacturing and service units. Now it will be ₹50 crore of investment and ₹250 crore of turnover. It has also been decided that the turnover with respect to exports will not be counted in the limits of turnover for any category of MSME units whether micro, small or medium. This is yet another step towards

ease of doing business. This will help in attracting investments and creating more jobs in the MSME sector. To ensure that MSME payments are released within the timeframe of 45 days, directions have been issued at the level of Cabinet Secretary, Expenditure Secretary and Secretary, MSME. To further ease the burden on MSMEs, RBI has extended moratorium on repayment of loans for another three months. Also, a robust ICT-based system called CHAMPIONS has also been launched by the Ministry of MSME. The portal is not only helping and handholding MSMEs in the present situation, but is also providing guidance to grab the new business opportunities and in the long run, become national and international Champions.

To provide immediate relief to MSME sector during the pandemic, last month the Modi government has announced ₹3 lakh crore collateral-free automatic loans for MSMEs to meet operational liabilities, buy raw material and restart businesses. In order to create more opportunities for domestic players, the government also disallowed global tenders in procurements upto ₹200 crore.

Micromax, Telangana govt unit in tie-up to make mechanical ventilators

Hyderabad : May 13, 2020

Mobile handset maker Bhagawati Products that produces gadgets under Micromax brand has entered into an agreement with TWorks, a Telangana government initiative, to manufacture the mechanical ventilators being developed for the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a part of this, Micromax has agreed to take up production of the ventilators at its manufacturing facility located at E-City in Hyderabad outskirts. This comes weeks after TWorks in collaboration with the



Hyderabad ecosystem of startups and corporations announced developing a bag valve mask or BVM, popularly known as Ambu bag-based affordable ventilator for emergency use.

The affordable mechanical ventilator was developed in collaboration with hardware startups and corporates from Hyderabad including Qualcomm, Honeywell, Spectrochem Instruments, Entesla, Althion, Trishula and ConserVision. The team is currently working on incorporating certain advanced features useful for medical professionals. Chief executive of TWorks Sujai Karampuri said with the manufacturing expertise of Micromax and advance on licensing fee, TWorks hopes to deliver the best-in-class ventilator for Covid-19 in a short time frame. Micromax's co-founder and chairman Rajesh Agarwal said the company was excited to partner with the Telangana state "in providing low-cost ventilators."

While intensive care units of hospitals generally have a high-pressure piped oxygen supply, emergency field hospitals and rural healthcare centres might not be as equipped and hence a provision for cylinder-based oxygen supply was incorporated into the design of mechanical ventilator. TWorks said the device will go through testing and certification followed by clinical validation for use during emergency pandemic situations.

Telangana IT exports up 18% Rs 1.29 trn in FY20, ahead of India growth rate

Hyderabad : May 21, 2020

Software exports grew 17.93 per cent at Rs 1,28,807 crore (Rs 1.29 trillion) from Telangana in the year 2019-20 as compared to Rs 1,09,219 crore in the previous year, outperforming the overall growth rate of Indian software exports during the year, according to state IT minister K T Rama Rao.

Total software exports from India stood at Rs 11,12,496 crore in 2019-20, an increase of 8.09 per cent over Rs 10,29,248 crore IT exports in the previous year. "Despite the onset of the Covid-19 during the last quarter of the financial year 2019-20, the export growth from Telangana managed to record a phenomenal 17.93 per cent growth for the full financial year. The Hyderabad IT ecosystem has the agility and the resilience to overcome the effects of Covid-19," Rao said adding that several investors were actively engaged in discussions with the department and very soon, there will be announcements in this regard.

Unprecedented Growth Story



Exports

IT/ITES. INR Crores



Total India Exports



Employment

Technology Professionals



Total India Employment



→ Telangana's Exports grew at a 17.93% compared to National Average of 8.09% and Rest of the Nation's Average of 6.92%. In other words, Telangana growth is more than double the National Average or more than two and half times the Rest of the Nation.

→ Similarly Telangana's Employment grew at a 7.2% compared to National Average of 4.93% or Rest of the Nation's Average of 4.59%. Telangana growth rate in employment is about 50% more than the rest of the country.

→ Telangana share of Exports in India grew from 10.61% in (2018-19) to 11.58% (2019-20)

→ Telangana share of Employment in India grew from 13.06% in (2018-19) to 13.34% (2019-20)

→ Overall share of Telangana in the Indian Export Growth for 2019-20 is 23.53%

→ Overall share of Telangana in the Indian Employment Growth for 2019-20 is 19.07%.

**The Export figures were converted into Rupees from the USD figures given by NASSCOM at the current exchange rate of 1 US \$ = Rs. 75.68.

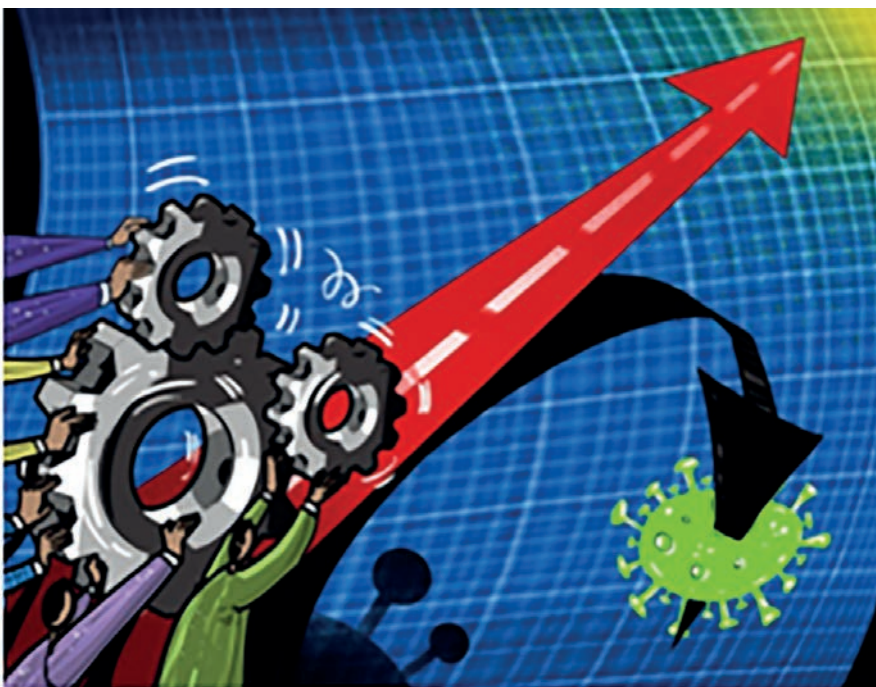
The better export performance of Telangana has increased the state's share in Indian software exports by nearly one per cent to 11.58 per cent from 10.61 per cent in the previous year, according to the state IT department.

"This clearly indicates that Telangana is poised to be the preferred destination for IT investments in the future," chief minister K Chandrasekhara Rao said while responding to these numbers. During the year 2019-20, several marquee investments have taken place in Hyderabad, including the inauguration of Amazon's world's largest facility among others. The commercial space absorption during the first two quarter of the year topped all the Metros in India in growth as well as in absolute terms, according the state IT department.



A roadmap for manufacturing: These five steps can power an industrial revival in the aftermath of corona

Hyderabad, May 7, 2020, KT Rama Rao



The global coronavirus pandemic is leaving its scars quite visibly on the industrial manufacturing sector. Production has come to a halt due to lockdown, and even when relaxations have been given, the supply chain is not yet in place to support full-fledged manufacturing. At the same time consumption is also severely dampened, closing opportunities for cash flows and revenues. Within the manufacturing sector MSMEs are the hardest hit, with many of them getting close to bankruptcy.

While battles against the coronavirus pandemic continue unabated, leaders

and strategists are also sensitive towards many opportunities that this pandemic presents. At a global level, there is a very clear indication that companies that are doing business in China are now looking to consider other attractive investment destinations. Potentially, India can take the lead and present itself as the most compelling destination to receive overseas investments compared to its immediate competitors.

Given the fact that Make in India campaign is on since past five years, and in the backdrop of India reducing corporate tax rates significantly, India's investment attractiveness should have stood out by itself. Yet, worryingly but at the same time not too surprisingly, initial trends show that India is getting a very negligible piece of this action, and the bulk of the shift goes to Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia. It is clear that certain fundamentals that are required to instil confidence in investors are missing.

The following imperatives need to be attended on topmost priority by the nation as a whole to revive the fortunes of the manufacturing sector, and also to position India as a serious value proposition for attracting new investments.

Carry out essential reforms: Soon after launching the Make in India campaign, the Union government facilitated many business process reforms, collectively termed ‘ease of doing business’ (EoDB). This exercise has indeed brought in lots of important reforms in the way permissions and approvals are granted to industries. The far-reaching and business friendly reforms carried out by Telangana called TS-iPASS have been recognised as amongst the best in the country. There are similar best practices in EoDB from other states too.

It is time that the most result oriented and useful EoDB practices from across the country be mandated in all the states uniformly so as to increase the overall attractiveness of the country as a whole. Time is also ripe to introduce long pending reforms in labour laws, bankruptcy laws etc.

Another critical reform that is extremely important at this point in time is guaranteeing consistency in state policies. During the WEF Summit in January, most of the questions directed at Indian delegates related to this concern about governments in India not honouring prior commitments, sometimes even making a 180° shift in the policy, literally overnight. Create industrial infrastructure as a mission over next year: The biggest USP of China has been its large scale industrial parks with the highest quality of infrastructure. India will always be compared unfavourably with China if it cannot come closer to matching this.

The Centre should work with states to develop large self-contained industrial parks and industrial corridors. The states can contribute land while infrastructure funding can be provided by the Centre. China also scores in its ability to mobilise trained workforce in large numbers for these industrial parks. We need world class ITIs in every state.

Improve competitiveness of exports: It is well-recognised that India’s global footprints in the form of exports are far below its potential. Export markets offer a good opportunity for domestic manufacturing to tide over the present crisis in a short period of time. To pursue this objective, one needs to carefully identify the main reasons which have pulled down India’s exports in all these years, and offer targeted solutions to each.

This also requires an aggressive scouting of markets, and creating a deal better than what competing nations offer. To enhance the quality of products that are going to be exported, soft loans for procuring best quality machinery are needed, along with training of staff to maintain international standards in production. An attractive package of incentives on exports is another must.

Bailout for SMEs: The most obvious prescriptions are direct financial assistance for the SMEs in the worst affected sectors, easy and very soft credit for others, along with deferment of statutory dues. Another easy way of helping SMEs is to place priority government orders. The present circumstances are such that some SMEs are definitely going to go belly up, leading to job losses. Providing unemployment allowance and re-employment assistance for those laid off is to be seen as the duty of the government, and the Centre and states need to work together for this.

Empowered Strategy Group: Methods to revive the manufacturing sector as well as attracting new investments to the country require bold and pragmatic vision as well as a detailed implementation plan.

This requires a national consensus as well as working of the best minds and talent available. An Empowered Strategy Group comprising central government representatives, few state governments, industry leaders, bankers, policy experts can be tasked to work on this urgent imperative.

How Covid-19 has affected the global economy

New Delhi, May 16, 2020

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, several countries across the world resorted to lockdowns to “flatten the curve” of the infection. These lockdowns meant confining millions of citizens to their homes, shutting down businesses and ceasing almost all economic activity. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is expected to shrink by over 3 per cent in 2020 - the steepest slowdown since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Now, as some countries lift restrictions and gradually restart their economies, here’s a look at how the pandemic has affected them and how they have coped.

How hard has the economy been hit?

The pandemic has pushed the global economy into a recession, which means the economy starts shrinking and growth stops. In the US, Covid-19-related disruptions have led to millions filing for unemployment benefits. In April alone, the figures were at 20.5 million, and are expected to rise as the impact of the pandemic on the US labour market worsens. As per a Reuters report, since March 21, more than 36 million have filed for unemployment benefits, which is almost a quarter of the working-age population. Further, an early analysis by IMF reveals that the manufacturing output in many countries has gone down, which reflects a fall in external demand and growing expectations of a fall in domestic demand.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and global growth

The IMF’s estimate of the global economy growing at -3 per cent in 2020 is an outcome “far worse” than the 2009 global financial crises. Economies such as the US, Japan, the UK, Germany, France, Italy and Spain are expected to contract this year by 5.9, 5.2, 6.5, 7, 7.2, 9.1 and 8 per cent respectively.

Advanced economies have been hit harder, and together they are expected to grow by -6 per cent in 2020. Emerging markets and developing economies are expected to contract by -1 per cent. If China is excluded from this pool of countries, the growth rate for 2020 is expected to be -2.2 per cent. China’s GDP dropped by 36.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, while South Korea’s output fell by 5.5 per cent, since the country didn’t impose a lockdown but followed a strategy of aggressive testing, contact tracing and quarantining. In Europe, the GDPs of France, Spain and Italy fell by 21.3, 19.2 and 17.5 per cent respectively.

Oil and natural gas

Due to the fall in travel, global industrial activity has been affected. Oil prices fell further in March as the transportation section, which accounts for 60 per cent of the oil demand, was hit due to several countries imposing lockdowns. Not only oil, early this year in China, due to Covid-19-related containment measures, the demand for natural gas fell, as a result of which many Chinese LNG buyers halted their imports as storage tanks filled.

Industrial Metals

Due to lockdowns in China, followed by in the US and Europe, the demand for industrial metals reduced as factories shut down. As per IMF, China accounts for roughly half of the global demand for industrial metals.

Food and beverages

IMF projects a decrease in food prices by 2.6 per cent in 2020, caused by supply chain disruptions, border delays, food security concerns in regions affected by Covid-19 and export restrictions. In the lockdown period, while the price of cereals, oranges, seafood and arabica coffee has increased, prices of tea, meat, wool and cotton have declined. Further, the decline in oil prices has put a downward pressure on the prices for palm oil, soy oil, sugar and corn.

How have countries coped?

According to an assessment by the World Economic Forum (WEF), supporting SMEs and larger businesses is crucial for maintaining employment and financial stability. In India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced some details of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package, to provide relief to Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) in the form of an increase in credit guarantees. Many advanced economies in the world have rolled out support packages. While India's economic stimulus package is 10 per cent of its GDP, Japan's is 21.1 per cent, followed by the US (13 per cent), Sweden (12 per cent), Germany (10.7 per cent), France (9.3 per cent), Spain (7.3 per cent) and Italy (5.7 per cent).

However, the WEF notes, "...there is concern that the size of packages may prove insufficient for the duration of the crisis; that disbursement may be slower than is needed; that not all firms in need would be targeted; and that such programmes may be overly reliant on debt financing." In Asia, countries including India, China, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea account for about 85 per cent of all the Covid-19 cases on the continent. South Korea stands out, since business and economic activities were not completely stopped and therefore, their economy was not severely affected. China recently lifted its lockdown and has since then been gradually reopening its economy without an aggressive second wave of infections so far.

Further, even as economic activity resumes gradually, the situation will take time to normalise, as consumer behaviours change as a result of continued social distancing and uncertainty about how the pandemic will evolve. For instance, in its World Economic Outlook report for 2020, the IMF mentions that firms may start hiring more people and expanding their payroll only slowly, as they may not be clear about the demand for their output. Therefore, along with clear and effective communication, broad monetary and fiscal stimuli will be required to be coordinated on an international scale for maximum impact, and, "would be most effective to boost spending in the recovery phase."



Special Economic Reforms

Comprehensive Reforms of Rs. 20 Lakh Crore

Hon'ble Prime Minister on 12th May 2020 addressed the nation and said that a self-reliant India will stand on five pillars viz. Economy, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change; Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India; System, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements; Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India; and Demand, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity. He underlined the importance of strengthening all stakeholders in the supply chain to increase, as well as fulfil, the demand.

Hon'ble Prime Minister announced a special economic reforms and gave a clarion call for Atmanirbhar Bharat. Hon'ble Prime Minister noted that this reforms, taken together with earlier announcements by the government during COVID crisis and decisions taken by RBI, is to the tune of Rs 20 lakh crore, which is equivalent to almost 10% of India's GDP. He said that the reforms will provide a much needed boost towards achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Hon'ble Prime Minister observed that the reforms will also focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws. It will cater to various sections including cottage industry, MSMEs, labourers, middle class, industries, among others. He informed that the details of the contours of the reforms will be provided by the Finance Minister, in the coming few days. Hon'ble Prime Minister observed that the crisis has taught us the importance of local manufacturing, local market and local supply chains. All our demands during the crisis were met 'locally'. He further said that now, its time to be vocal about the local products and help these local products become global.

Hon'ble Prime Minister noted that several experts and scientists have said that the virus is going to be part of our lives for a long time. But, it is also important to ensure that our life does-not revolve only around it. He exhorted people to work towards their targets while taking precautions like wearing masks and maintaining 'do gazdoori'.

PM gives a clarion call for Atmanirbhar Bharat

New Delhi : 12 May 2020

- PM announces special economic package; comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh crore
- Total package equivalent to 10% of India's GDP
- PM gives a call for self-reliant India; lays down five pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Bold reforms across sectors will drive the country's push towards self-reliance: PM
- It is time to become vocal for our local products and make them global: PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation today. Recalling those who have died battling the pandemic, Prime Minister said that the crisis that has emerged due to COVID-19 is unprecedented, but in this battle, we not only need to protect ourselves but also have to keep moving forward.

Self-reliant India

Talking about the pre and post COVID worlds, Prime Minister observed that in order to fulfill the dream of making the 21st century India's, the way forward is through ensuring that the country becomes self-reliant. Talking about turning a crisis into an opportunity, he gave the example of PPE kits N-95 masks, whose production in India has gone up from almost being negligible to 2 lakh each, on a daily basis.

Prime Minister remarked that the definition of self-reliance has undergone a change in the globalized world

and clarified that when the country talks about self-reliance, it is different from being self-centered. He said that India's culture considers the world as one family, and progress in India is part of, and also contributes to, progress in the whole world. He noted that the world trusts that India has a lot to contribute towards the development of the entire humanity.

Five pillars of a self-reliant India

Recalling the devastation in Kutch after the earthquake, Prime Minister said that through determination and resolve, the area was back on its feet. A similar determination is needed to make the country self-reliant. He said that a self-reliant India will stand on five pillars viz. Economy, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change; Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India; System, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements; Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India; and Demand, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity. He underlined the importance of strengthening all stakeholders in the supply chain to increase, as well as fulfill, the demand.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

Prime Minister announced a special economic package and gave a clarion call for Atmanirbhar Bharat. He noted that this package, taken together with earlier announcements by the government during COVID crisis and decisions taken by RBI, is to the tune of Rs 20 lakh crore, which is equivalent to almost 10% of India's GDP. He said that the package will provide a much needed boost towards achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Prime Minister observed that the package will also focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws. It will cater to various sections including cottage industry, MSMEs, labourers, middle class, industries, among others. He informed that the details of the contours of the package will be provided by the Finance Minister from tomorrow, in the coming few days.

Talking about the positive impact of reforms like JAM trinity and others, brought about in the last six years, Prime Minister said that several bold reforms are needed to make the country self-reliant, so that the impact of crisis such as COVID, can be negated in future. These reforms include supply chain reforms for agriculture, rational tax system, simple and clear laws, capable human resource and a strong financial system. These reforms will promote business, attract investment, and further strengthen Make in India. Prime Minister remarked that self-reliance will prepare the country for tough competition in the global supply chain, and it is important that the country wins this competition. The same has been kept in mind while preparing the package. It will not only increase efficiency in various sectors but also ensure quality.

Highlighting their contribution to the country, Prime Minister said that the package will also focus on empowering the poor, labourers, migrants, etc., both from organized and unorganized sectors. He observed that the crisis has taught us the importance of local manufacturing, local market and local supply chains. All our demands during the crisis were met 'locally'. Now, its time to be vocal about the local products and help these local products become global, he said.

Living with COVID

Prime Minister noted that several experts and scientists have said that the virus is going to be part of our lives for a long time. But, it is also important to ensure that our life does-not revolve only around it. He exhorted people to work towards their targets while taking precautions like wearing masks and maintaining 'do gaz doori'.

On the fourth stage of Lockdown, he said that its contours will be completely different from those seen yet. On the basis of recommendations received from states, new rules will be framed, and information about the same will be conveyed before 18th May.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Part -1 : Businesses including MSMEs (13-5-2020)

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (1)

Rs. 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus:

- Insurance cover of Rs 50 Lakh per health worker
- 80 crore poor people given benefit of 5 kg wheat or rice per person for next 3 months
- 1 kg pulses for each household for free every month for the next 3 months
- 20 crore women Jan Dhan account holders get Rs 500 per month for next 3 months
- Gas cylinders, free of cost, provided to 8 crore poor families for the next 3 months
- Increase in MNREGA wage to Rs 202 a day from Rs 182 to benefit 13.62 crore families
- Ex-gratia of Rs 1,000 to 3 crore poor senior citizen, poor widows and poor Divyang

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (2)

- Front-loaded Rs 2,000 paid to farmers under existing PM-KISAN to benefit 8.7 crore farmers
- Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund allowed to be used to provide relief to workers
- 24% of monthly wages to be credited into their PF accounts for next three months for wage-earners below Rs 15,000 p.m. in businesses having less than 100 workers
- Five crore workers registered under Employee Provident Fund EPF to get non-refundable advance of 75% of the amount or three months of the wages, whichever is lower, from their accounts
- Limit of collateral free lending to be increased from Rs 10 to Rs 20 lakhs for Women Self Help Groups supporting 6.85 crore households.
- District Mineral Fund (DMF) to be used for supplementing and augmenting facilities of medical testing, screening etc..

Other Measures - 1

- On the request of the Government of India, RBI raised the Ways and Means advance limits of States by 60% and enhanced the Overdraft duration limits.
- Issued all the pending income-tax refunds up to ₹5 lakh, immediately benefiting around 14 lakh taxpayers
- Implemented “Special Refund and Drawback Disposal Drive” for all pending refund and drawback claims
- Both the above measures amount to ₹18,000 crore of refund.
- Sanctioned Rs 15,000 crores for Emergency Health Response Package

Other Measures – 2

- Provided Relaxation in Statutory and Compliance matters, such as –
- Extending last date for Income Tax Returns to June 30, 2020
- Extending filing GST returns to end of June 2020
- 24*7 custom clearance till 30th June, 2020
- Relaxation for 3 months for debit cardholders to withdraw cash free from any ATMs, etc

- Allowing payment before 15 May, 2020 for Motor Vehicle and Health Insurance Policies
- Mandatory Board meetings extended by 60 days till 30 September
- Allowing Extraordinary General Meetings through Video Conference with e-voting/simplified voting facility

Measures taken by Reserve Bank of India

- Reduction of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) has resulted in liquidity enhancement of ₹1,37,000 crores
- Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTROs) of
- ₹1,00,050 crore for fresh deployment in investment grade corporate bonds, commercial paper, and non-convertible debentures.
- TLTRO of Rs.50,000 crore for investing them in investment grade bonds, commercial paper, and non-convertible debentures of NBFCs, and MFIs.
- Increased the banks' limit for borrowing overnight under the marginal standing facility (MSF), allowing the banking system to avail an additional ₹1,37,000 crore of liquidity at the reduced MSF rate.

Measures taken by Reserve Bank of India

- Announced special refinance facilities to NABARD, SIDBI and the NHB for a total amount of ₹50,000 crore at the policy repo rate
- Announced the opening of a special liquidity facility (SLF) of ₹50,000 crore for mutual funds to alleviate intensified liquidity pressures.
- Moratorium of three months on payment of instalments and payment of Interest on Working Capital Facilities in respect of all Term Loans
- Easing of Working Capital Financing by reducing margins
- For loans by NBFCs to commercial real estate sector, additional time of one year has been given for extension of the date for commencement for commercial operations (DCCO)

Businesses including MSMEs

1. Rs 3 lakh crores Collateral free Automatic Loans for Business, incl MSME
2. Rs 20,000 crore Subordinate Debt for MSMEs
3. Rs 50,000 cr equity infusion through MSME Fund of Funds
4. New definition of MSMEs
5. Global tender to be disallowed upto Rs 200 crores
6. Other interventions for MSMEs
7. Rs 2500 crores EPF support for Businesses and Workers for 3 more months
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10. Rs 45,000 cr Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme 2.0 for NBFC
11. Rs 90,000 cr Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs
12. Relief to contractors
13. Extension of Registration and Completion Date of Real Estate Projects under RERA
14. Rs 50,000 cr liquidity through TDS/TCS reductions
15. Other Direct tax Measures
16. Other Direct Tax Measures

Rs 3 lakh crores Collateral-free Automatic Loans for Businesses, including MSMEs

- Businesses/MSMEs have been badly hit due to COVID19 need additional funding to meet operational liabilities built up, buy raw material and restart business
- Decision: Emergency Credit Line to Businesses/MSMEs from Banks and NBFCs up to 20% of entire outstanding credit as on 29.2.2020
- Borrowers with up to Rs. 25 crore outstanding and Rs. 100 crore turnover eligible
- Loans to have 4 year tenor with moratorium of 12 months on Principal repayment
- Interest to be capped
- 100% credit guarantee cover to Banks and NBFCs on principal and interest
- Scheme can be availed till 31st Oct 2020
- No guarantee fee, no fresh collateral
- 45 lakh units can resume business activity and safeguard jobs.

Rs 20,000 crores Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs

- Stressed MSMEs need equity support
- GoI will facilitate provision of Rs. 20,000 cr as subordinate debt
- Two lakh MSMEs are likely to benefit
- Functioning MSMEs which are NPA or are stressed will be eligible
- Govt. will provide a support of Rs. 4,000 Cr. to CGTMSE
- CGTMSE will provide partial Credit Guarantee support to Banks
- Promoters of the MSME will be given debt by banks, which will then be infused by promoter as equity in the Unit.

Rs 50,000 cr. Equity infusion for MSMEs through Fund of Funds

- MSMEs face severe shortage of Equity.
- Fund of Funds with Corpus of Rs 10,000 crores will be set up.
- Will provide equity funding for MSMEs with growth potential and viability.
- FoF will be operated through a Mother Fund and few daughter funds
- Fund structure will help leverage Rs 50,000 cr of funds at daughter funds level
- Will help to expand MSME size as well as capacity.
- Will encourage MSMEs to get listed on main board of Stock Exchanges.

New Definition of MSMEs

- Low threshold in MSME definition have created a fear among MSMEs of graduating out of the benefits and hence killing the urge to grow.
- There has been a long-pending demand for revisions.

Announcement:

- Definition of MSMEs will be revised
- Investment limit will be revised upwards
- Additional criteria of turnover also being introduced.
- Distinction between manufacturing and service sector to be eliminated.
- Necessary amendments to law will be brought about.

Existing and Revised Definition of MSMEs

Existing MSME Classification			
Criteria : Investment in Plant & Machinery or Equipment			
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Mfg. Enterprises	Investment < Rs. 25 lac	Investment < Rs. 5 cr.	Investment < Rs. 10 cr.
Services Enterprise	Investment < Rs. 10 lac	Investment < Rs. 2 cr.	Investment < Rs. 5 cr.

Revised MSME Classification			
Composite Criteria : Investment And Annual Turnover			
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing & Services	Investment < Rs. 1 cr. and Turnover < Rs.5 cr.	Investment < Rs. 10 cr. and Turnover < Rs.50 cr.	Investment < Rs. 50 cr. and Turnover < Rs.250 cr.

Global tenders to be disallowed upto Rs 200 crores

- Indian MSMEs and other companies have often faced unfair competition from foreign companies.
- Therefore, Global tenders will be disallowed in Government procurement tenders upto Rs 200 crores
- Necessary amendments of General Financial Rules will be effected.
- This will be a step towards Self-Reliant India and support Make in India
- This will also help MSMEs to increase their business.

Other interventions for MSMEs

- MSMEs currently face problems of marketing and liquidity due to COVID.
- e-market linkage for MSMEs to be promoted to act as a replacement for trade fairs and exhibitions.
- Fintech will be used to enhance transaction based lending using the data generated by the e-marketplace.
- Government has been continuously monitoring settlement of dues to MSME vendors from Government and Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- MSME receivables from Gov and CPSEs to be released in 45 days

Rs. 2500 crore EPF Support for Business & Workers for 3 more months

- Businesses continue to face financial stress as they get back to work.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP), payment of 12% of employer and 12% employee contributions was made into EPF accounts of eligible establishments.
- This was provided earlier for salary months of March, April and May 2020
- This support will be extended by another 3 months to salary months of June, July and August 2020
- This will provide liquidity relief of Rs 2500 cr to 3.67 lakh establishments and for 72.22 lakh employees.

EPF contribution reduced for Business & Workers for 3 months- Rs 6750 crores Liquidity Support

- Businesses need support to ramp up production over the next quarter.
- It is necessary to provide more take home salary to employees and also to give relief to employers in payment of Provident Fund dues, Therefore, statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee will be reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for next 3 months.

- CPSEs and State PSUs will however continue to contribute 12% as employer contribution.
- This scheme will be applicable for workers who are not eligible for 24% EPF support under PM Garib Kalyan Package and its extension.
- This will provide relief to about 6.5 lakh establishments covered under EPFO and about

4.3 crore such employees.

- This will provide liquidity of Rs 6750 Crore to employers and employees over 3 months.

Rs 30,000 crore Special Liquidity Scheme for NBFCs/HFCs/MFIs

- NBFCs/HFCs/MFIs are finding it difficult to raise money in debt markets.
- Government will launch a Rs 30,000 crore Special Liquidity Scheme
- Under this scheme investment will be made in both primary and secondary market transactions in investment grade debt paper of NBFCs/HFCs/MFIs
- Will supplement RBI/Government measures to augment liquidity
- Securities will be fully guaranteed by GoI
- This will provide liquidity support for NBFCs/HFC/MFIs and mutual funds and create confidence in the market.

Rs 45,000 crore Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme 2.0 for NBFCs

- NBFCs, HFCs and MFIs with low credit rating require liquidity to do fresh lending to MSMEs and individuals
- Existing PCGS scheme to be extended to cover borrowings such as primary issuance of Bonds/ CPs (liability side of balance sheets) of such entities
- First 20% of loss will be borne by the Guarantor ie., Government of India.
- AA paper and below including unrated paper eligible for investment (esp. relevant for many MFIs)
- This scheme will result in liquidity of Rs 45,000 crores

Rs. 90,000 Cr. Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs

- Revenues of Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) have plummeted.
- Unprecedented cash flow problem accentuated by demand reduction
- DISCOM payables to Power Generation and Transmission Companies is currently ~ Rs 94,000 cr
- PFC/REC to infuse liquidity of Rs 90,000 cr to DISCOMs against receivables
- Loans to be given against State guarantees for exclusive purpose of discharging liabilities of Discoms to Gencos.
- Linkage to specific activities/reforms: Digital payments facility by Discoms for consumers, liquidation of outstanding dues of State Governments, Plan to reduce financial and operational losses.
- Central Public Sector Generation Companies shall give rebate to Discoms which shall be passed on to the final consumers (industries)

Relief to Contractors

- Extension of up to 6 months (without costs to contractor) to be provided by all Central Agencies (like Railways, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Central Public Works Dept, etc)
- Covers construction/ works and goods and services contracts

- Covers obligations like completion of work, intermediate milestones etc. and extension of Concession period in PPP contracts
- Government agencies to partially release bank guarantees, to the extent contracts are partially completed, to ease cash flows

Extension of Registration and Completion Date of Real Estate Projects under RERA

- Adverse impact due to COVID and projects stand the risk of defaulting on RERA timelines. Time lines need to be extended.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will advise States/UTs and their Regulatory Authorities to the following effect:
- Treat COVID-19 as an event of 'Force Majeure' under RERA.
- Extend the registration and completion date suo-moto by 6 months for all registered projects expiring on or after 25th March, 2020 without individual applications.
- Regulatory Authorities may extend this for another period of upto 3 months, if needed
- Issue fresh 'Project Registration Certificates' automatically with revised timelines.
- Extend timelines for various statutory compliances under RERA concurrently.
- These measures will de-stress real estate developers and ensure completion of projects so that homebuyers are able to get delivery of their booked houses with new timelines.

Rs 50,000 crores liquidity through TDS/TCS rate reduction

- In order to provide more funds at the disposal of the taxpayers, the rates of Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) for non-salaried specified payments made to residents and rates of Tax Collection at Source (TCS) for the specified receipts shall be reduced by 25% of the existing rates.
- Payment for contract, professional fees, interest, rent, dividend, commission, brokerage, etc. shall be eligible for this reduced rate of TDS.
- This reduction shall be applicable for the remaining part of the FY 2020-21 i.e. from tomorrow to 31st March, 2021.
- This measure will release Liquidity of Rs. 50,000 crore.

Other Direct Tax Measures

- All pending refunds to charitable trusts and non- corporate businesses & professions including proprietorship, partnership, LLP and Co-operatives shall be issued immediately.
- Due date of all income-tax return for FY 2019-20 will be extended from 31st July, 2020 & 31st October, 2020 to 30th November, 2020 and Tax audit from 30th September, 2020 to 31st October,2020.

Other Direct Tax Measures

- Date of assessments getting barred on 30th September,2020 extended to 31st December,2020 and those getting barred on 31st March,2021 will be extended to 30th September,2021.
- Period of Vivad se Vishwas Scheme for making payment without additional amount will be extended to 31st December, 2020.

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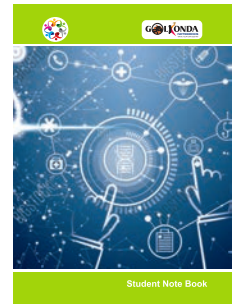
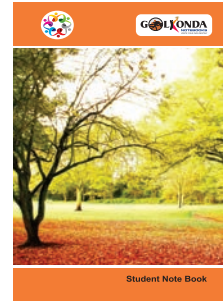
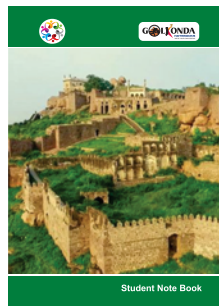
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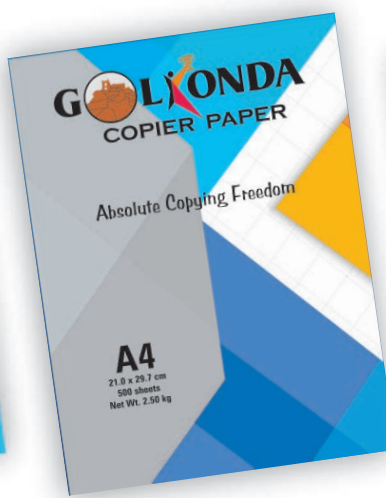
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