

Telangana State Trade Journal

EXPLORING NEW TRADE FRONTIERS

VOLUME - 6

ISSUE - 5

MAY 2021



Read

Trade

Export



TSTPC

EXPLORING NEW TRADE FRONTIERS

TELANGANA STATE TRADE PROMOTION CORPORATION LIMITED

D.No. 5-10-174, Shakkar Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad-4
Phone: +91 40 23237591, Fax: +91 40 23231249, Email: info@tstpc.org, web: www.tstpc.org



Safran Chairman **Mr. Ross McInnes**, Senior EVP International & Public Affairs **Mr. Alexandre Ziegler**, Safran, and Safran India MD **Mr. Pierre Dickeli** met **Hon'ble Minister Sri K T Rama Rao**, Industry & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics Communications, MA & UD, **Sri. Jayesh Ranjan**, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics Communications Government of Telangana, **Sri. P. A Praveen**, Director Aerospace and Defence . Government of Telangana

Tariff for Advertisements in the TS Trade Journal

Publication Tariff	
Cover Page Inside (Colour)	
1. Full Page (once)	Rs. 20,000/-
2. Half Page (once)	Rs. 10,000/-
3. Quarter Page (once)	Rs. 7,500/-
Inside TS Trade Journal (Colour)	
1. Full Page (once)	Rs. 15,000/-
2. Half Page (once)	Rs 7,500/-
3. Quarter Page (once)	Rs 5,000/-

Telangana State Trade Journal is published every month to provide information on day to day development and new projects in the trade, industry and investment and analytical study reports and statistical data on industry, trade/exports, industrial and export infrastructure, economy, Energy, Government schemes, policies of different states, potential sector study reports etc. The contents of the **Telangana State Trade Journal** provides lot of insight for the businessmen, Government machinery and various institutions involved in the promotion of trade industry and infrastructure which enables to re-orient their projects, policies, business strategies, project finance, implementation process etc.

500 copies **Telangana State Trade Journal** are being published every month and circulated to all top industrialists, exporters, Export Promotion Councils & Trade Bodies (across the country), Foreign Embassies, Officials of the Industries & Commerce and other related Departments at all levels both State and Central Government, Government Undertakings, Research, Development & HRD Institutes, Industrial Associations, Financial Institutions, Centres of Excellence, Academic Institutions.

Advertisements will be printed in colour as per the tariffs indicated in the above table. Cost of Advertisement shall be paid in the form of crossed Demand Draft drawn in favour of "Telangana State Trade Promotion Corporation Limited" along with the copy of the advertisement. A Soft Copy of the advertisement shall also be emailed to sailaja.tstpc@gmail.com. The Demand Draft along with the advertisement shall be sent to "TSTPC Limited" Telangana State Trade Promotion Corporation D.No.5-10-174, Shakkar Bhavan, II Floor, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad- 500 004". **For any further information**, please contact: Dr. M. Sailaja, Associate Editor @ 9959666311.

MONTHLY TRADE JOURNAL

Telangana State Trade Promotion Corporation Limited.

Volume : 6

Issue : 5

May : 2021

CONTENTS

Safran to inaugurate expanded aircraft engines unit in Hyderabad in Q3	3
Investments attracted by TS-iPASS concentrated in districts	4
Gokaldas Images Company to open its unit at Sircilla Apparel Park	5
Industrial park for making aids for differently-abled soon in Telangana	6
IndiQube enabling women entrepreneurs	7
Incubation centre for tribal women entrepreneurs inaugurated in Warangal	8
IT hubs in Tier II, III towns of Telangana soon	10
Sops for MSMEs in the works to reform apprentice system	11
CIM launches DGFT's trade facilitation mobile app	12
Rs 110 cr sanctioned to turn Ranganayasagar into world class tourism spot	13
CM KCR strongly pitches for establishing six airstrips in Hyderabad	14
Telangana using emerging technologies in healthcare: KTR	15
Telangana wins national award for best e-Panchayat	16
Telangana registers 2.37 crore metric tonnes of paddy yield in 2020-21	17
Telangana turned farming profitable, says KCR	18
Warangal Metro plans on track	19
Singareni Thermal Plant bags national award for fly ash utilisation	20
Centre issues notification for DPR on Regional Ring Road in Telangana	21
AB InBev adopts renewable energy at Telangana facility	22
Marut Dronetech's Agricopter receives MANAGE RKVY-RAFTAAR grant	23
India poised to be top EV manufacturing hub'	24
India-EU roll-out partnership blueprint to tackle post-covid challenges	26
IMF to revisit growth forecast for India due to surge in COVID-19 cases	27
Analysis on National Economic Growth	28-37

Managing Editor :
E. VENKAT NARASIMHA REDDY
JMD, TSTPC

Associate Editor :
Dr. M. SAILAJA
Manager, TSTPC

The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and do not reflect the views of the TSTPC.



Message from the Joint Managing Director's Desk

The global economy is exhibiting incipient signs of recovery as countries renew their trust with growth, supported by monetary and fiscal stimulus. Still, activity remains uneven across countries and sectors. In April 2021, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised up its **global growth projection for 2021 to 6.0 per cent** on the assumption that vaccines would be available in advanced economies.

Between mid-September and February, as a country, India did manage to lower infections at a time when the rest of the world was reeling under malevolent surges of the virus. As the financial year 2020-21 – the year of the pandemic – was drawing to a close, the Indian economy was advantageously poised, relative to peers. Today, India is fighting a ferocious rise in infections and mortalities. New mutant strains have emerged, causing severe strains on healthcare and medical facilities, vaccine supplies and frontline health personnel. The fresh crisis is still unfolding. India has mounted a valiant defence, domestically and globally, to ramp up vaccines and medical support, and save lives. Reports suggest that the disruption in manufacturing units so far is minimal and India's power consumption registered a growth rate of 40 per cent in April 2021 over April 2020, signalling sustained industrial and commercial activity. Rail freight has registered growth of over 76 per cent year-on-year in April. Steady increase in GST revenues crossing ₹1 lakh crore for the last seven months in succession is a clear indication of sustained economic recovery during this period. E-way bills generated are a strong leading indicator of revenue collections, supply chain corrections and logistics growth. Port traffic also continued to grow in March for the fifth consecutive month, mirroring the boost in global economic recovery.

After registering a growth of 1.6 per cent in December 2020, industrial production moved into the negative territory by contracting 0.9 per cent in January 2021 and **3.6 per cent in February 2021**. The sequential deterioration was broad-based across sectors with Year on Year contraction in **manufacturing and mining at 3.7 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively**.

In the external sector, **India's merchandise exports and imports rose sharply in March 2021. For the year 2020-21** as a whole, the merchandise trade deficit shrank to US \$98.6 billion from US \$ 161 billion a year ago. India's merchandise exports and imports continue to witness broad-based robust growth performance in April 2021. Net FDI stood strong at USD 41.4 billion in FY 2020-21 with 6.1 per cent increase over previous year.

The trends of new investments to Telangana state are progressive. **M/s. Safran Electrical & Power**, part of the French multinational aircraft & rocket engine, aerospace component, defence and Security Company, plans to inaugurate its expanded aircraft engines facility in Hyderabad. **M/s. Gokaldas Images Company**, a popular readymade garments company, is setting up its unit in Sircilla Apparel Park. **M/s. GMR Group** has launched GMR AeroCity Hyderabad. An **Incubation centre** for tribal women entrepreneurs has been set up in Warangal. **More IT hubs** are being setting in Tier II and Tier III towns such as Ramagaundam and Wanaparthy.

The immediate objective of the country is to preserve human life and restore livelihoods through all means possible. India is emphasizing on a five-fold strategy to curb the tide of new COVID cases – **Test, Track, Treat, COVID Appropriate Behaviour, and Vaccination**. The second wave, though debilitating, is not insurmountable. It is during our darkest moments that we must focus on the light.

E. Venkat Narasimha Reddy

Safran to inaugurate expanded aircraft engines unit in Hyderabad in Q3

Hyderabad: 16th Apr 2021

Safran Electrical & Power, part of the French multinational aircraft & rocket engine, aerospace component, defence and security company, plans to inaugurate its expanded aircraft engines facility in Hyderabad in the third quarter of 2021. Safran started operations in Hyderabad in 2018 and its facility manufactures aero engine wire harnesses and interconnection systems for LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engines, FADEC (Full Authority Digital Engine Control) and Rafale programmes.



A leadership team headed by Safran chairman Ross McInnes, senior executive vice president International & Public Affairs Alexandre Ziegler and Safran India MD Pierre Dickeli called on Telangana Industries Minister KT Rama Rao in Hyderabad.

It is pertinent to note that Hyderabad has been ranked number one in the latest edition of fDI's Aerospace Cities of the Future 2020/21 rankings, under the category of 'Top 10 Aerospace Cities in Cost-Effectiveness' by FDI Intelligence.com, a division of Financial Times Group. Despite Covid, Hyderabad Defence and aerospace ecosystem is attracting fresh investments and most players are expanding capacities to meet the opportunities presented by indigenisation goals.

Telangana go-to place for industries

Hyderabad: 5th Apr 2021

Telangana's emergence as a progressive and industry-friendly State can be gauged from the fact that it saw a three-fold jump in the number of new industrial units coming up in the State and subsequent employment generation in these industries, thanks to the implementation of its unique TS-iPASS, the single window clearance system in 2015. Under the scheme, approvals were issued for establishment of 15,326 industries in the State in the last six years with commitments to invest Rs 2.13 lakh crore that would also generate employment opportunities to 15.52 lakh persons, both direct and indirect.

So far, 11,954 industries have commenced their operations with the total investment estimated at around Rs 97,405 crore. Around 7.67 lakh persons are employed in these industries at present. Prior to 2014, successive government could only attract 5,100 industrial units in Telangana region that generated employment of a little over 4 lakh jobs.



Thermal power sector attracted the largest investment commitments since 2015 through TS-iPASS with 29.7 per cent of total investments and is worth Rs 61,646 crore. The other top four sectors that attracted large investment commitments are real estate, industrial parks and IT buildings (27.4 per cent) at Rs 56,899 crore, solar and other renewable energy (9.6 per cent) at Rs 19,945 crore, pharmaceuticals and chemicals (6.2 per cent) with Rs 12,770 crore, and fertilisers (4.2 per cent) at Rs 8,691 crore.

However, the sectors that registered the highest number of jobs under TS-iPASS include real estate, industrial parks and IT buildings (57.2 per cent) generating 8.34 lakh jobs, textiles (13.8 per cent) with more than two lakh jobs, pharmaceuticals and chemicals (5 per cent) with 73,620 jobs, food processing (3.9 per cent) 57,419 jobs, and engineering (3.5 per cent) 51,522 jobs. The number of units registered, investment committed and employment generated through the industries processed under TS-iPASS varies substantially at the district level. The top three districts in terms of number of units registered are Medchal-Malkajgiri (23.3 per cent) with 3,327 units, Sangareddy (8 per cent) with 1,149 units and Rangareddy (7.6 per cent) with 1,089 units.

Industry-friendly TS-iPASS

APPROVALS WERE ISSUED FOR **15,326** INDUSTRIES WITH COMMITMENT OF INVESTMENTS WORTH **Rs 2.13 LAKH CR** AND GENERATING ABOUT **15.52 LAKH** JOBS

- Top sectors attracting investment commitments are thermal power; real estate, industrial parks and IT buildings; solar and other renewable energy; pharmaceuticals and chemicals; and fertilisers
- **TOP JOB GENERATING SECTORS:** real estate, industrial parks and IT buildings; textiles; pharmaceuticals and chemicals; food processing; and engineering
- **TOP DISTRICTS:** Medchal-Malkajgiri in terms of number of units; Ranga Reddy in terms of investments commitments and job generation



So far,
11,954
industries have commenced operations with an investment of around **Rs 97,405 cr** and around **7.67 lakh** persons are employed

Investments attracted by TS-iPASS concentrated in districts

Hyderabad: 4th Apr 2021

The distribution of investments attracted under the TS-iPASS since 2015 has been significantly concentrated in districts such as Rangareddy (32.5 per cent) with Rs 67,431 crore, Nalgonda (13 per cent) with Rs 27,061 crore and Bhadradri Kothagudem (10.6 per cent) with Rs 21,917 crore. This pattern of concentration is even more pronounced while measuring employment, with Rangareddy alone accounting for 60.4 per cent (8.81 lakh) of the employment, followed by Warangal Rural with 13 per cent (1.9 lakh jobs) and Medchal-Malkajgiri with 7.1 per cent (over 1 lakh jobs).

As per the Telangana Socio-Economic Outlook 2021, the investment committed by firms using TS-iPASS has increased by over 33 per cent since 2015. Between January 2020 and December 2020, 15 of the 33 districts saw an increase in investment commitments through TS-iPASS, while 18 districts saw an increase in employment commitments. Given the Covid-19 shock, the fact that more than half the districts in the State did not experience similar shortfalls is encouraging.

Under TS-iPASS, 35 clearances from 27 departments are covered and a common application has been designed to cater to the requirements of all departments. It has streamlined the process of approvals by reducing the number of attachments from 110 to 10. The TS-iPASS portal provides for online pre-scrutiny of applications within 72 hours, which ensures that the applicant is informed of any shortfalls before making payment. An 'industry chasing cell' was created in the office of the Chief Minister, headed by a Principal Secretary, to monitor the implementation of major projects and inter-departmental coordination.

Gokaldas Images Company to open its unit at Sircilla Apparel Park

Hyderabad: 9th Apr 2021

Gokaldas Images Company, a popular readymade garments company, will be setting up its unit in Sircilla Apparel Park. The company representatives signed an agreement with the Industries department in the presence of Industries Minister KT Rama Rao at Pragathi Bhavan here.

On the occasion, company Managing Director Sumeer Hinduja briefed about the company's invest plans to the Minister. He said the company would facilitate direct employment to nearly 1,100 persons, of which 75 per cent would be women. To this effect, the company in association with Telangana Government would train women in and around Sircilla, he said adding "Our company is into apparels business since four decades and specialises in readymade garments manufacturing."

"We are impressed with industry-friendly policies of the Telangana Government and have decided to set up our unit in Sircilla park" said Hinduja whose company supplies garments to leading brands in the world. From Sircilla unit, the company will be exporting garments to popular brands in United States and Europe, he informed.

Expressing happiness over Gokaldas Company investing in Telangana, Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said Telangana Government was according top priority to textiles sector. Besides providing amenities for development of industry, the Telangana Government is prepared to train people and make them industry-ready, he said.



Till date, the textiles sector in the State was predominantly into manufacturing textiles and now with Gokaldas Images Company, Telangana will turn into a hub for readymade garments, the Minister said. “With Gokaldas Images Company investing in Telangana, I hope readymade garments manufacturing companies will follow suit,” said Rama Rao. He assured the Gokaldas management that State Government would extend all the support.

The deal with Gokaldas company would facilitate direct employment to nearly 1100 persons in the Park, which is coming up at Ponder in a area spread over 65 acres. Already provision of basic amenities is completed in the park and Sircilla will become a hub for powerlooms sector, besides textiles and apparels, officials said.

Industrial park for making aids for differently-abled soon in Telangana

Hyderabad: 17th Apr 2021

A proposal to set up an exclusive industrial park to manufacture aids and appliances for persons with disabilities (PWDs) differently-abled persons in the State would be discussed with Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao soon, IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said. Responding to a request made by Social Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar on establishing an industrial park at a programme organised to distribute aids and appliances to 16,660 differently-abled persons at LB Stadium here, Rama Rao said the industrial park would help in manufacturing prosthetic limbs, tricycles, wheelchairs, fabricated appliances and other aids.

Welcoming Eshwar’s suggestion, Rama Rao said the proposed industrial park would also generate employment and assist in procuring appliances easily. Retrofitted vehicles, 4G smartphones, laptops, battery-operated wheelchairs, tricycles and two-wheelers among other appliances, all worth over Rs 24.38 crore were distributed to the differently-abled persons free.



“As Ministers and elected representatives, we regularly attend several programmes but only some programmes give satisfaction. This is one such programme that gives me satisfaction, and I am saying this from my heart,” Rama Rao said. The TRS government is striving for the welfare of differently-abled persons and keen on bringing a smile on their faces. From the Rs 500 pension in the united AP, the Telangana government had increased it to Rs 3,016 apart from providing pre- and post-matric scholarships, and economic rehabilitation and marriage incentive programmes for them.

“Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes are also extended to them. Separate allowance is being given to employees, teachers and lecturers with various disabilities,” Rama Rao said, adding that the Chief Minister had already given instructions to ensure five per cent allocation to differently-abled in 2BHK houses.

Stating that instructions had already been issued to the District Collectors in this regard, the Minister said the State government is also implementing a five per cent reservation for the differently-abled in welfare and other schemes apart from a four per cent reservation in government recruitments. Rama Rao said the Central government declared Telangana as the best State for its efforts to empower and develop differently-abled persons for two consecutive years in 2018 and 2019.

Helping hand

Aids and appliances distributed for differently-abled persons

900 Retrofitted Vehicles

650 Battery-operated wheelchairs

300 Laptops

400 4G smartphones for hearing-impaired students

TRICYCLES **1,500**

WHEELCHAIRS **2,000**

CRUTCHES **3,000**

HEARING AIDS **1,460**

SMART CANES FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED **2,065**

MP3 PLAYERS **800**

Calipers Innovative wheelchairs to play cricket

IndiQube enabling women entrepreneurs

Hyderabad: 16th Apr 2021

Managed office space and co-working space provider IndiQube, which has forayed into Hyderabad with one property in Mindspace, is emerging as an end-to-end office solutions provider, introducing new concepts into the sector such as HerQube, offering significant scale-up support to women entrepreneurs by providing them funding network as well as offering price reduction.

Talking about the HerQube initiative, Meghna Agarwal, co-founder, IndiQube, said, "Women entrepreneurs need a right work ecosystem and funding connect. We are providing support to several entrepreneurs

across domains. We are facilitating corporate advisory to startups on business plans and giving them an audience to explore funding possibilities. We have provided more than 50 per cent price subsidy to women entrepreneurs who take space with us."

"Going beyond the gender, the company is also helping all budding entrepreneurs. We are encouraging early-stage startups whom we consider 'infants', whom we have offered differential pricing, before and after they raise investment. We have 250 clients in India and half of them are budding entrepreneurs," she added.

Emerging trends

When asked about the impact of remote working on flexible spaces, she said, a hybrid model will emerge in future where distributed work culture will develop. While demand for office space may slightly decline for startups in certain domains in the next 2-3 years, because of Covid impact, this will be nullified by the demand that will emerge from global technology majors looking at managed spaces.

"Even during Covid, we have seen 35 per cent growth in uptake of space as hiring has gone up significantly in fintech, edutech and captive centres," Agarwal noted.

Pan-India expansion

IndiQube, starting with a single property in Bengaluru, in a span of about six years has spread its operations across six cities in India with 50,000 seat capacity (including Hyderabad with 1,000-seat capacity in a facility spread over 70,000 sq ft), with over 50 centres and more than 3.5 million sq ft space. In the next two years, the company aims to reach 5 million sq ft and 1,00,000-seat capacity. It sees potential to add over 30,000 seats year-on-year in India.

The company believes Bengaluru and Pune have become key markets for managed office space as they are infused with startups and Hyderabad is seeing growth gradually year-on-year. "We will go deeper and penetrate into micro-markets of the existing six cities where we operate. We will also enter into more tier-2 cities across India in the coming years. We are looking at Rs 400 crore revenues in the current fiscal," she informed.



Asked if the company is exploring overseas opportunities, she added, "India is showing healthy consumption patterns. Consumption of commercial real estate in Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, for example, is lesser than that of India. Flexible space and end-to-end office solutions is the future. IndiQube is geared up for the emerging market opportunities in the country and scale-up rapidly."

Large enterprises such as Walmart, Philips, KPMG, Allegis; MNCs such as Hitachi and Eli Lilly, Standard Chartered, Enphase, Elanco; unicorns like Byjus, MakeMyTrip and thriving startups such as Unacademy, Bira91, Grofers, Scripbox use or have used IndiQube's services.

Incubation centre for tribal women entrepreneurs inaugurated in Warangal

Warangal Urban: 9th Apr 2021

Stating that the tribals are lagging behind the development, Minister for Tribal Welfare Satyavathi Rathod said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was striving to support the tribal women to become entrepreneurs. She said the dream of tribal women which was considered unimaginable, was being realised with the establishment of the incubation centre in Warangal.



The Minister has inaugurated an incubation centre for tribal women entrepreneurs at the YTC Building here. Speaking on the occasion, Satyavathi Rathod said that development is not just about providing welfare schemes to households and giving pensions, but also empower every family to stand on their own feet and make them provide employment to other people. "Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is striving a lot for the upliftment of the tribals. As a part of this, an incubation centre is being set up through Tricor in association with ITDAs and We-Hub to transform tribals into entrepreneurs through the CMST Entrepreneurship and Innovation Scheme," she said adding that the tribal women should take advantage of this opportunity to grow up and bring good name to the Tribal Welfare department and the State.

According to the officials, the Incubation Centre will provide a three-month training to 100 women entrepreneurs at a cost of Rs 40 lakh. On the other hand, 300 more women under the limits of ITDAs of Eturunagaram, Bhadrachalam, and Utnoor will be provided pre-incubation training. "As many as 260 tribal women were already selected for the pre-incubation training," said an official. The ITDAs will provide a free transport facility, lunch, and accommodation for the women entrepreneurs.

Government Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar, Secretary and Commissioner of Tribal Welfare Dr Christina Z Chongthu and other officials attended the programme.

GMR launches business district Hyderabad AeroCity

Hyderabad 17th Apr 2021

GMR Group launched GMR AeroCity Hyderabad as part of its vision to provide world-class infrastructure in India. Being developed as an urban landscape with an international airport at its core, it aims to bring speed, agility and connectivity.

GMR AeroCity Hyderabad offers a gateway airport with growing air connectivity, passenger traffic and logistics hub with smart technologies in place. Spread across 1,500 acres, it is envisaged to be an integrated mixed-use development, which includes key ports and establishments, such as business park, retail park, aerospace and

industrial park, logistics park, hospitality etc.

It also provides complete living and working experience, with support infrastructure including schools, healthcare, rental accommodation, leisure & entertainment. Identifying the gap in leisure, retail, fun and entertainment avenues, GMR Group is conceptualising a lifestyle destination retail project “GMR Interchange” to enable Live/Work/Play at the GMR AeroCity Hyderabad campus. Various entertainment avenues under proposal include a Cinema



and a Family Entertainment Centre to be part of the Interchange project. A Hospitality district is also being planned to cater to the multitude of demand coming from various users of AeroCity.

Business Park

GMR Business Park housed in GMR AeroCity Hyderabad offers varied office real-estate solutions like ready to move-in Grade-A offices and Built-to-Suit Campuses. It offers best in class infrastructural support for the prospective and existing businesses. A Notified Area Committee (NAC), which is a one-stop clearance window for all building plan approvals enabling ease of doing business. It focuses on sustainable development using green technologies and new generation smart digital infrastructure along with physical infrastructure.

Spanning around 1 million sq ft of leasable area, spread over four towers (being developed in phases, with Tower 1 fully occupied and Tower 2 ready for occupancy), GMR AeroCity Hyderabad has been seamlessly designed for the future business corridor. The Business Park is suitable for Grade A offices, Network Planning offices, Sales Office, R&D etc.

The facilities such as the food court/gymnasium/ retail bank branch/proposed health centre and an airport public plaza will ensure that employees have all social amenities. Well connected with an eight-lane expressway and an elevated corridor with the primary and secondary business districts of Hyderabad, GMR Business Park is strategically located with local and global connectivity. In addition, the airport is currently connected by more than 150 buses round the clock, and soon will be connected via an express Metro system to the city.

“Being part of airport ecosystem, which has won many accolades over the years from national & international bodies for its service and infrastructure superiority and consistency, Hyderabad AeroCity also provides unparalleled ease of doing business to its trusted partners, who love to focus on their core business, leaving behind issues of infra, facilities, security etc,” said Aman Kapoor, CEO, GMR Airport Land Development.

Though GMR management declined to comment on the overall investment, but looking at the scale of the entire project, it will run into several thousands of crores.

IT hubs in Tier II, III towns of Telangana soon

Hyderabad: : 30th Apr 2021

In a major thrust to the Information Technology sector in the State, the Telangana government has decided to go aggressive on IT expansion with special focus on setting up more Hubs in Tier II and Tier III towns such as Ramagandam and Wanaparthy. "The aim is to ensure that 25,000 IT professionals get employment in various existing IT Hubs as also the upcoming ones in the next two years," said Vijay Rangineni, CEO IT Hubs.

Apart from Hyderabad, some tier II towns have already become new hubs for the IT sector and IT enabled services (ITES). The State government is now looking beyond tier II cities and focusing on expanding the IT hubs to tier III towns as well. IT Towers have already come up in Warangal, Khammam and Karimnagar in the recent past and several more are in the pipeline. IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao recently laid the foundation stone for the phase II Tower in Khammam. It would have a built up space of 55,000 square feet with a 570 seat capacity. This is in addition to the existing Phase I hub at Yellandu circle, which has a seating capacity of 430 seats.

The State Government is now focusing on setting up more IT towers in Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Siddipet districts. "It's not limited to tier II towns, and plans have already been chalked out to set up IT towers in tier III towns such as Ramagandam and Wanaparthy," Vijay Rangineni said.

In tune with the State Government initiatives, top companies too are evincing keen interest to set up their units in tier II and tier III towns. Cyient, Tech Mahindra and many leading IT and ITES companies have set up their units and have been successfully operating in the last few years. The IT hubs in Warangal,

On IT Radar ▶

- Mahabubnagar IT hub slabs completed and it will have a seat capacity of about **750**
- Siddipet hub will have a seat capacity of **1,200 plus**. Contract has been awarded to complete the works in **12 to 18 months**
- Land identified for Nalgonda hub with a seat capacity of **1,500** and works will commence soon
- IT Towers have already come up in Warangal, Khammam and Karimnagar
- Talks with 31 companies for commencing operations in Khammam phase II IT hub

NIZAMABAD HUB, WITH A SEAT CAPACITY OF ABOUT 600, EXPECTED TO BE READY IN ANOTHER FOUR MONTHS



THE IT DEPARTMENT IS WORKING HARD TOWARDS SETTING UP MORE HUBS AND HELP COMPANIES COMMENCE THEIR OPERATIONS IN PLUG AND PLAY MODE, WITHOUT FACING ANY LOGISTICS OR OTHER HURDLES

— Vijay Rangineni,
CEO IT Hubs

Karimnagar and Khammam Phase I are abuzz with activity with about 3,000 professionals working currently in these hubs for various multinational companies. Stating that discussions were on with 31 companies for commencing operations in Khammam phase II, Vijay Rangineni said a leading IT player was likely to make an announcement about launching its operations in Warangal in the next couple of months.

Rama Rao has been reiterating that the State Government would extend all help to companies keen on setting up new units in tier II and III towns. Subsequently, the IT Department is working hard towards setting up more hubs and facilitate companies to commence their operations in plug and play mode, without facing any logistics or other hurdles.

Under this initiative, a new hub is coming up in Nalgonda district. The location has already been identified and things are in advance stage of take off, he said. "Again, here too the talks are on with many companies and they have evinced interest in occupying about 1350 of the total 1,500 seat capacity," said Vijay Rangineni. In the next couple of years, there would be lot of transformation in tier II and III towns with many companies expected to commence their operations, promising good employment opportunities for local youth.

Sops for MSMEs in the works to reform apprentice system

New Delhi: 04 May 2021

The Union government is working on measures to reform the apprentice system in the country, including providing incentives to small businesses for hiring apprentices and allowing industries to post them at client facilities. The skills and entrepreneurship ministry and NITI Aayog are working on the initiatives, which also includes allowing educational institutions to hire apprentices.

The draft plan also suggests adopting a franchise model, which will allow employers to deploy apprentices at client locations and take the help of third-party aggregators (TPAs) to enable industries in improving apprentice training. Sectors such as retail, logistics and IT-ITeS have also demanded that the upper limit of engaging apprentices be hiked to 25% of their manpower strength and financial incentives be introduced for third-party aggregators. Currently, the limit is less than 15%, the draft plan said.

According to the draft documents reviewed by Mint, the ministry has received suggestion from industries for incentivizing MSMEs at least for a limited period of time.

“MSME organizations can be given some financial incentives at least for a limited period so they start adopting apprenticeship,” the draft proposal said, citing industry suggestions. It further said that a cluster-based approach to address “MSME apprenticeship through third-party aggregators” is a possible option.

TSTPC Trade Journal

“In order to create ease of doing business for the industry, and engage a larger number of apprentices, TPAs may be engaged for assisting the industry. TPAs, which can work as facilitators on demand and supply side, can be a win-win solution for all stakeholders,” said the draft proposal, which has been shared with stakeholders for feedback. Apprenticeship is considered as one of the best human resource training systems as it provides trainees hands-on experience on the shop floor.

IT MSMEs policy to be out soon: Jayesh Ranjan

Hyderabad: 9th Apr 2021

In order to facilitate and handhold MSMEs in the IT sector, the Telangana government is all set to formulate a policy for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) soon, a top official said. Telangana IT and Industries department principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan also advised that the IT MSMEs must expand their horizons and look at unexplored geographies to provide their services. Terming the pandemic period as the new Y2K – wherein large Indian IT companies played a

key role — the principal secretary said that now IT industry has become democratized and there are many companies providing services much better than large enterprises.

“The IT industry in Hyderabad is an important global centre and the transition during the Covid-19 period has happened smoothly. Many companies have been able to reach productivity and recruitment targets. In this, MSMEs have played major role and the real contribution has come from these companies. A few niche companies have emerged during this period,” he said.

Ranjan, who was speaking at the 2nd edition of Hysea BizSummit with an overarching theme, ‘Expanding Growth Horizons in the new Normal’, added that the government is keen to work with MSMEs and startups in the domains of agriculture and education. He also mentioned that along with industry associations, the government is looking at providing skilling and upskilling opportunities to MSMEs.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (Hysea) president Bharani Kumar Aroll said, “MSMEs are the hotbed of innovation



and about 80 per cent of our member companies are from this segment. About 1,500 IT MSMEs are present in Hyderabad, employing 50 per cent of the total 6.5 lakh IT employees. We have made some recommendations to the State government on the upcoming IT policy from the MSME committee. These include a purchase support, subsidized office space for MSMEs, construction of dedicated IT towers and creation of financial instruments for capital infusion.”

CIM launches DGFT’s trade facilitation mobile app

April 13, 2021

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal launched the DGFT’s trade facilitation mobile app. He stated that the app will be a state-of-the-art system that will help improve the efficiency of both importers and exporters by providing real-time trade policy updates, notifications, applications, status alerts and real-time data.

The app will also enable exporters and importers to explore item wise exim (export-import) data, policy, and statistics. It will also provide artificial intelligence-based 24×7 assistance and all services of DGFT.

The CIM further opined that mobile governance will enable the creation of quality-conscious and cross competitive domestic industry, thereby contributing significantly to the export target of US\$ 1 trillion by 2025.

The Minister further suggested that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade should be rechristened to “something more facilitative, something more collaborative” and we should move away from the phrase ‘director general’.

Hyderabad to add data centre capacity

Hyderabad: 5th Apr 2021

The Indian data centre sector is expected to see 560 MW (IT Power Load) capacity additions during 2021-23, which will drive the capacity of 447 MW to 1,007 MW. Of this, Hyderabad alone is expected to see a capacity addition of 66 MW by 2023, accounting for over 9.5 per cent of India’s capacity then, from the current 30MW level.

Telangana is among the very few States in the country to have an independent Data Centre Policy, as early as 2016. Apart from being home to a large pool of talented manpower, high quality and cost-effective infrastructure, the city is centrally located in India, well connected and seismologically safe. All these advantages backed by a dedicated policy make Hyderabad one of the most attractive investment destinations for setting up data centres, say experts.

Of India’s current data centre capacity of 447 MW, Hyderabad accounts for seven per cent share as of December 2020 standing at 30 MW IT power load capacity. India’s data centre capacity is expected to grow from 447 MW in H2 2020 to 1,007 MW by 2023, registering a CAGR of 31 per cent.

During 2021-23, despite absence of cable landing stations, Hyderabad is expected to attract data centre companies as well as hyperscale cloud providers due to favourable policy incentives, reliable power supply and economical set up costs, said Sandip Patnaik, MD & head Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, JLL.

New projects

Hyderabad today roughly has an IT design power load of 30MW capacity with a data centre built up space of over seven lakh sq ft primarily concentrated in HITEC City and Budvel. About 80 per cent of the built up space is utilised by 5,864 racks/units. The city is expected to see an addition of 8MW in 2021, followed by 29 MW each for 2022 and 2023, he added.

One of the dominant players in the segment with a 50 per cent share in the market, Hyderabad-headquartered



CtrlS is setting up a 2 million sq ft hyperscale data centre in the city, which will add city's capabilities and capacities. Flipkart has also set up its data centre in Hyderabad in April 2019.

Amazon is setting up large scale hyperscale data centres in the city with an investment of Rs 11,624 crore (approximately \$1.6 billion). While the data centre in Meerhanpet village will be spread across 82,883 sq metres, the centre in Chandanvelly and Hythabad village will be 66,003 sq metres area. The data centres are expected to begin operations by 2022-23.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation for retail payments and settlement systems will be setting its own tier-4, smart data centre at an investment of Rs 500 crore at Narsingi in Hyderabad.

According to JLL, India's data centre built up space stood at around 10 million sq ft by the end of 2020. Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and Hyderabad lead the data centre activity in the country.

Rs 110 cr sanctioned to turn Ranganayakasagar into world class tourism spot

Hyderabad: 15th Apr 2021

The State government has sanctioned Rs 110 crore to develop Ranganayakasagar into a world class tourism spot, Finance Minister T Harish Rao said. Komaticheruvu, on the southern part of Siddipet, has already developed into an excellent tourism centre and Ranganayakasagar would also be developed into a popular tourism spot," he said.

During his recent visit to Siddipet, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao visited Ranganayakasagar and announced that it would be developed into a major tourism spot.

The guest house constructed on Pallagutta in the middle of Ranganayakasagar apart from road connectivity that has been developed has been drawing many tourists, the Minister said, adding that in undivided Andhra Pradesh, water bodies in the district used to be filled only when it rained and when lakes had water, farmers would take up agriculture activities."The situation has now changed completely in the district since all the lakes are brimming with water after works were taken up under Mission Kakatiya scheme. The three TMC capacity Ranganayakasagar was filled with Godavari water through the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme," Harish Rao said.

The same Kaleshwaram water was also used to fill other lakes in the district to meet the irrigation requirements and greenery can now be seen in agricultural lands across the district, he said. The Ranganayakasagar is not only meeting the irrigation requirements but also drawing tourists on a large scale, he added.



CM KCR strongly pitches for establishing six airstrips in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: 3rd Apr 2021

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao strongly pitched with the Centre for speedy sanction of the proposed airstrips in six locations across the State. He took up the issue with Union Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola who called on the Chief Minister at Pragathi Bhavan. He reminded that the State government had already made several appeals to the Centre in this regard.

The State government has decided to develop six airstrips – Mamunur in Warangal district, Basant Nagar in Peddapalli district, Adilabad district headquarters, Palvancha in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Jakranpalli in Nizamabad district and Devarakadra in Mahabubnagar district in the State. During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasised the need for the airstrips and sought speedy approvals for the proposals from the Centre. Responding positively, the Union Civil Aviation Secretary assured to strive for expediting the sanction of airstrips in the State.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Special Chief Secretary for Transport Sunil Sharma, engineer-in-chief Ravinder Rao and officials were present.



Medtronic sets up largest R&D centre outside the US in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: 7th Apr 2021

Medtronic, global medical technology company, opened its newly expanded state-of-the-art Medtronic Engineering and Innovation Center (MEIC) in Hyderabad. The 150,000 square feet centre employs engineers currently in the areas of software development and testing, test automation, mechanical design, analysis and hardware.

The facility was inaugurated by KT Rama Rao, Minister

for Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce, and Information Technology and his team of officials from the Government of Telangana. Joining the event virtually were S Aparna, secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, Joel Reifman, US consul general, Hyderabad, and Geoff Martha, Medtronic chairman and CEO.

Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary, Industries & Commerce and IT, Government of Telangana and Shakthi Nagappan, director, Life Sciences & Pharma, Government of Telangana were also present. With this expansion, MEIC aims to leverage the sizable pool of diverse and skilled talent in India to continue its pioneering work in the medical technology space and add further to Medtronic's 150 plus patents and 400 plus IP disclosures globally that MEIC has been a part of.

"Innovation is one of the cornerstones for Medtronic. Over the years, Medtronic has expanded its footprint, while significantly contributing to the healthcare ecosystem. Given the market size and availability of a high-class talent pool, India is transforming into a global R&D hub," said Martha. "With MEIC we aim to tap the talent to continue to innovate for India and beyond. This partnership with the Government of Telangana for the expansion of MEIC will help us serve our Mission – to alleviate pain, restore health and extend life for patients around the world."

Globally, Medtronic has spent approximately \$2.3 billion annually in research and development in recent years, and MEIC recently received an investment of Rs 1,200 crore (\$160 million) for expansion in Hyderabad. This investment planned over five years aims to foster global innovation and create several job opportunities.

During the inauguration, KT Rama Rao reiterated the contribution of Medtronic in India's R&D and said, "Hyderabad today is emerging as a hotspot for Medtech innovation benefitting from the progressive Government policies, abundant talent pool, extraordinary infrastructure, etc. The Government of Telangana is fully committed to foster the culture of innovation in the State and has been undertaking several initiatives to mark India on a global map as an ideal destination for both manufacturing and research & development."

“Hyderabad is already home to marquee technology and life sciences companies and now, we are extremely delighted to host the largest R&D facility for Medtronic outside the United States. Medical devices sector has been identified as one key focus sector by the state. Inauguration of the new MEIC site will boost Telangana’s MedTech plans and cement Hyderabad’s position as the medical devices hub in India,” added KTR.



Speaking at the inauguration function, Madan Krishnan, vice president and managing director, India Medtronic, said, “Hyderabad is positioned to become India’s hub for technology companies across the world. We see enormous potential in energising the medical devices innovation ecosystem in the country. The R&D team in India is a key contributor to Medtronic’s global product development. The opening of the new site is an important milestone for us as it serves as a critical component in strengthening our global R&D organization and will also drive innovation and growth.”

MEIC serves as a global hub for development, testing and qualification for some of the most advanced and innovative technologies. The setting up of the new R&D facility will focus on various therapy areas including respiratory intervention, remote patient monitoring and digital health, surgical robotics, electrosurgical generators, cardiac rhythm and heart failure, and navigation, amongst others.

Telangana using emerging technologies in healthcare: KTR

Hyderabad : Apr 7 2021

Telangana's Industry and Information Technology K.T. Rama Rao said that the state government is utilising emerging technologies to boost health services in combating Covid-19. Participating virtually in the Global Technology Government Summit organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the minister, speaking on the theme 'Saving lives with emerging technologies', highlighted the importance of emerging technologies in the health sector.



KTR, as the minister is popularly known, stated that the Covid-19 pandemic showed inadequacies in the health infrastructure across the world, including in the first-world countries like the US and across Europe. Stressing emerging technologies will play a key role in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, he said Telangana is a front runner in emerging technologies, and was efficiently utilising them in the healthcare sector. He mentioned that his government is already working on a pilot project using drone technology in coordination with the WEF.

Dwelling on the need for digitising the health profile of every citizen to combat pandemics such as Covid-19, KTR told the session that Telangana is constantly working on leveraging technology to come up with various citizen-centric services with a larger societal benefit. He pointed out that the government has succeeded in taking education and health services to rural areas of the state by using various technologies during the pandemic. He also noted that utilising technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Virtual Reality will help the government in serving the citizens more efficiently. The summit saw participation by close to 45 delegates and tech heads from across the world. The delegates included Rwanda's IT Minister Paula Ingabire.

Telangana wins national award for best e-Panchayat

Hyderabad: 14th Apr 2021

Telangana has received one more national award as it stood number one in the country in the maintenance of e-Panchayat, an initiative launched to improve the quality of governance of Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Bijay Kumar Behera, economic advisor of the Panchayati Raj ministry announced the award for the year 2019-20. Under e-Panchayat award, performance assessment parameters were developed for monitoring the efficient utilisation of e-Applications – both Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) applications and State specific applications for the performance year 2019-20.

The States and Union Territories were classified into three categories. The Ministry has been recognising the efforts put in by the States and Union Territories in use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by the Panchayats by conferring e-Panchayat puraskars, Behera said.

Speaking on the occasion, Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao said Telangana stood number one in ensuring transparency, efficiency and accountability in Gram Panchayats, using ICT.

Dayakar Rao thanked the Central government and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao for getting the

award. “We got the award only because of the Chief Minister’s foresight and vision,” he said, adding that the Panchayat Raj department was receiving several awards in the recent past.

The local bodies received 12 awards recently apart from the Swachh Sarvekshan award. Dayakar Rao complimented the Panchayat Raj department Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania and Commissioner M Raghunandan Rao, and sanitary workers across the State for their contribution in developing villages and paving way in getting the award.

Telangana to multiply paddy procurement centres

Hyderabad: 13th Apr 2021

The Telangana government, which has recently kick-started paddy procurement in the State, is all set to increase the number of paddy procurement centres for the ongoing Yasangi (Rabi) season in the next couple of days. Currently, officials are operating 650 centres across the State, and their numbers will increase to 6,575 over the next few days.

The government aims at procuring about 80 lakh tonnes of paddy this Yasangi, taking the total paddy purchases during the 2020-21 agriculture year to a whopping 1.28 crore tonnes. Nearly 48.89 lakh tonnes of paddy was purchased from over 11 lakh farmers during Vaanakalam 2020-21.



Paddy was cultivated in around 52.78 lakh acres then against this Yasangi's 68.14 lakh acres. The total paddy yield is estimated to be around 1.38 crore tonnes, including 1.17 crore tonnes of coarse variety and 21 lakh tonnes of fine variety. Through the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation (TSCSC), the State government is planning to procure about 80 lakh tonnes, which will be supplied to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) towards the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Millers in Telangana are likely to purchase around 20 lakh tonnes, and the seed companies would buy another 10 lakh tonnes for seed processing. The rest is expected to be purchased by millers from other States.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao decided to purchase the entire paddy crop for the third consecutive season since the lockdown during Yasangi 2019-20 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Officials made all the arrangements to procure paddy as per Covid-19 guidelines to ensure that there is no overcrowding at the centres.

“Adequate measures are being taken to ensure that farmers need not wait at procurement centres. They are being given tokens to bring their crop on a specific date and time. As per the Central government's restrictions, paddy with moisture content less than 17 per cent will only be purchased,” TSCSC Corporation Chairman Mareddy Srinivas Reddy said.

Further, farmers have also been asked to bring paddy without husk and discoloured or infested grains. As per the Chief Minister's directions, the officials made arrangements to give Rs 20,000-crore bank guarantee to enable the corporation to purchase the paddy and make payments to farmers at the earliest. The officials also arranged for around 20 crore gunny bags.

Fulfilling numbers

- Civil Supplies Corporation aims at achieving procurement target of 1.28 crore tonnes of paddy this agri year
- It procured 48.89 lakh tonnes during 2020-21 Vaanakalam
- Sets a target for another 80 lakh tonnes this Yasangi
- Paddy cultivated in 68.14 lakh acres
- Expected yield: 1.38 crore tonnes

Telangana registers 2.37 crore metric tonnes of paddy yield in 2020-21

Hyderabad:9th Apr 2021

- The Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation procured 3.93 crore metric tonnes of paddy worth Rs.68,000 crore at minimum support price from 2014-15 to 2020-21 Vaanakalam, Corporation Chairman said.
- He said Telangana was now a role model for the entire country in paddy cultivation and this was possible only because of the vision and



commitment of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. Under the leadership of Chandrashekhar Rao, Telangana achieved significant progress in paddy procurement.

- Addressing a press conference here, he said the 2020-21 Vaanakalam saw 1.5 crore metric tonnes of paddy yield and 1.32 crore metric tonnes yield was expected in Yasangi. The two seasons put together would register 2.37 crore metric tonnes of paddy yield this time.
- In Vaanakalam, the corporation procured 48.85 lakh metric tonnes of paddy and plans have been drawn to procure 80 lakh to 90 lakh paddy in Yasangi. In all, 1.28 crore metric tonnes of paddy would be procured in the two seasons, he said.
- Reddy said a decision was also taken to procure paddy from 6,575 procurement centres in the State during Yasangi. Depending on the requirement, more procurement centres would be opened.
- As many as 179 centres had already started procurement in Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Khammam and Suryapet. In 2019-20, the corporation procured 64.17 lakh metric tonnes of paddy through 6500 centres during Yasangi. Following instructions from the Chief Minister, necessary steps were being taken to ensure that farmers sell paddy at the procurement centres in a hassle-free manner without waiting for their turn.
- Despite difficulties, the Chief Minister sanctioned Rs.20,000 crore for procurement of paddy for the welfare of farmers. The procurement would be carried out adhering to Covid-19 safety protocols and instructions in this regard were also given to officials concerned.
- Reddy advised farmers to cultivate crops that had market demand. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) would not be in a position to purchase boiled rice in future and in Yasangi too, it did not initially evince interest to purchase boiled rice.
- From Telangana, boiled rice used to be transported to Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal. Since these States were getting their required crop, the FCI is insisting on raw rice only and clarified that it won't accept boiled rice.

- Taking all these aspects into consideration, the farmers should go for the crops that are in demand in the market, he said.

Telangana turned farming profitable, says KCR

Hyderabad:13th Apr 2021

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao said the State government was giving top priority to agriculture and allied sectors, spending over Rs 50,000 crore every year on construction of irrigation projects and implementation of schemes like Rythu Bandhu, Rhythu Bima, loan waiver and uninterrupted power supply, among others.

“The aim of the State government is to bring happiness among the farmers and make them lead comfortable lives,” Chandrasekhar Rao said, while conveyed greetings to the people of Telangana on the occasion of Ugadi festival, marking the commencement of Telugu new year of ‘Plava’.

He said that as predicted in the Telugu Almanac that there would be more importance to flow of water this new year, water for irrigation would be available in abundance in the State. “It is a good omen that even nature seems to be favouring the government’s vision in this regard,” he said, in his message.

The Chief Minister, describing Ugadi as farmers’ festival marking the commencement of agriculture activities, said the festival welcomes the end of the Fall and the beginning of Spring season. “It ushers in a new enthusiasm,” he said, adding that the season was favourable for growth of new shoots of plants.

“People consuming ‘Ugadi Pachchadi’ is an age-old tradition which has a great message for all. The mixture of fresh neem flowers, raw mango, tamarind, sugarcane and other ingredients in the ‘Pachchadi’ symbolise various tastes from sweet, sour to bitter which is the essence of life comprising divergent experiences of a human life,” he said.

Chandrashekhar Rao said the people of Telangana who tasted bitterness of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, were now enjoying the sweet fruits of self-governance. He reminded that water was harnessed, stored and then

pumped to the agriculture fields above the Mean Sea level, through lifts, tunnels, canals and barrages.

He said the ambitious Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme was winning accolades for filling several water bodies to the brim even during the scorching summer and making the dream of one crore acre fertile lands in the State a reality, helping farmers reap bumper yields.

“We will be completing Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and other ongoing irrigation projects in a few months,” the Chief Minister said. Proving critics wrong, he said Telangana was ranked first in the country in paddy cultivation as also in yield. “Telangana has become a rice bowl of the country,” he said, adding that the State government was purchasing the agriculture produce at Minimum Support Price even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chandrashekhar Rao said schemes like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima had instilled confidence among the farmers and their families in the State, giving them new hope for a brighter future. He said the Telangana government has taken upon itself the responsibility of farmers and was bringing them together through the constitution of Rythu Bandhu Samithis and construction of Rythu Veditas across the State.

“The Telangana government has turned farming into a profitable profession for farmers who suffered in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh,” he added.

Warangal Metro plans on track

Hyderabad: 11th Apr 2021



The ball has been set rolling for Warangal to emerge as the second city in Telangana to have a metro rail after Hyderabad, with the detailed project

report (DPR) that has already been prepared likely to be submitted to the State Cabinet soon.

Unlike the Hyderabad Metro, Warangal's will be a Neo system and will be a combination of both At-Grade (ground level) and elevated system, covering a distance of 15.5 km with 21 stations, a senior official said.

The metro will run between Kazipet-Hanamkonda-Warangal via the District Police Office (DPO) junction.

Peak into project

Metro Neo is proposed on Kazipet-Hanamkonda-Warangal route via DPO junction

It will cover 15.5 km and have 21 stations (12 at elevated level and 9 at ground level)

- Designed speed is **70 kmph** and scheduled speed **25 kmph**
- Tickets will be purchased outside the vehicle (before boarding) and then validated inside
- Maintenance depot proposed near Warangal Railway Station on Narsampet highway

Stations proposed at Kazipet, Fathima Nagar, NIT bus stop, Forest Office, Subedari, Rohini Hospital, Adalath, Nakkallagutta, Ambedkar Junction, DPO junction, Maternity Hospital, Hanamkonda Chowrasta, Alankar Circle, Mulugu Crossroads, KMC, MGM, Pochamma Maidan, LB Nagar, Kashil Bugga, Venkatrama Talkies and Warangal Bus Station

Metro Neo is a Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) providing low-cost, energy-efficient and eco-friendly urban transportation for tier-II and tier-III cities. It is a lighter and smaller system than the regular Metro systems and costs much less.

The Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA) has appointed the Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (Maha Metro) to examine the feasibility for an MRTS in Warangal. Subsequently, the Maha Metro prepared a DPR in conformity with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs guidelines and submitted it to the KUDA. It prepared the DPR for Nashik Metro as well, the official said.

The proposed Metro Neo, at ground level, will cover 7.1 km while the elevated system will cover 8.4 km with a dedicated corridor, totalling 15.5 km, the official said.

Among the 21 stations proposed for the project, 12 stations will be at elevated level and 9 at ground level. The speed of Warangal Neo would be 70 kmph while the scheduled speed would be 25 kmph.

Advanced signalling and telecommunications systems are being proposed for the Metro Neo. It will be equipped with Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system with anti-collision device. Traffic lights will be provided at major

locations, and the coaches will be operated by drivers with a pre-defined speed limit. The entire operations will be monitored from a central command control.

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao has been consistently reiterating that the State government is focused on developing tier-II and tier-III cities in the State on par with Hyderabad.

The government is working on the development of infrastructure, especially urban transportation for tier-II and tier-III cities, and accordingly, Metro Neo was proposed for Warangal.

Singareni Thermal Plant bags national award for fly ash utilisation

Hyderabad: 11th Apr 2021

Singareni Thermal Power Plant has received a national award for effectively utilising fly ash. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Director (Electrical and Maintenance) D Satyanarayana Rao received the award from Mission Energy Foundation Director Manoj Kumar at a concluding ceremony of the International Convention on the use of fly ash in Goa.



The SCCL received the award in 500 MW power generation categories. Congratulating the staff for getting the award, SCCL Chairman and Managing Director N Sridhar said the Singareni was utilising fly and bottom ash without stocking it up and this helped in getting the award. The fly ash was mainly transported to the cement manufacturing companies. According to Sridhar, the SCCL has utilised fly ash to 107 per cent in 2020-21 by transporting 16.86 lakh tonnes of fly ash to the cement companies.

The ACC cement company in Tamil Nadu was receiving fly ash from the Singareni plant through railway wagons

from this year as an agreement was also signed in this regard. At the same time, Kesoram, Orient, and 10 other cement companies were using Singareni fly ash. The Singareni plant has achieved recognition as an environment-friendly plant for transporting fly ash immediately from the premises.

Biogas, biomanure plants in Karimnagar, Warangal soon: Vinod Kumar

Hyderabad: 10th Apr 2021

Telangana Planning Commission Vice chairman B. Vinod Kumar said biogas and biomanure plants would be set up in Karimnagar and Warangal smart cities shortly. All the vegetables, fruits and flowers waste can be utilized in generating biogas and biomanure, he said.



To this effect, a meeting was convened with Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) senior scientists.

Apart from pollution, vegetables and fruits waste could affect the health of people, he said adding that the idea behind setting up biogas and biomanure plants was to ensure scientific disposal of vegetables, flower and fruits waste.

Each plant would process 10 tonnes of vegetables, flowers and fruits waste and generate biomanure and biogas. To set up one plant, it is estimated to cost Rs.5 crore, he informed. These plants would be set up in coordination with IICT scientists under the Smart Cities programme, he said.

Already, Vinod Kumar had discussed the project concepts with Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao, Municipal Administration Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar and Karimnagar and Warangal district Collectors.

Centre issues notification for DPR on Regional Ring Road in Telangana

Hyderabad: 11th Apr 2021

The relentless efforts put in by Telangana have finally fructified as the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued notification declaring numbers for the national highways sanctioned to the State, besides a notification for setting up a consultant for preparation of detailed project report for Regional Ring Road (RRR).

The Ministry issued the notification for a consultant to prepare the DPR for land acquisition details for RRR, besides a report on the northern end of RRR covering a distance of 158 kms. Further, another notification has been issued synchronising the

Mahabubnagar-Kodangal-Tandur route via Chincholi in Karnataka with NH 65 and renaming it as NH 167 N. Similarly, the Kothagudem-Ilhandu-Mahabubabad-Nellikuduru-Thoroor-Valigonda route has been synchronised with Gourelli junction, Outer Ring Road on the outskirts of Hyderabad and it has been declared as NH 930P.

Sharing these details, Khammam MP Nama Nageswara Rao said it was Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's vision to ensure allocation of National Highways to the State, which would eventually aid in comprehensive development of the State. All sections are welcoming the Central Government's move to issue a notification for declaring numbers to the national Highways to the State, he said adding that it was the outcome of relentless effort put in by Telangana government to make the Centre declare numbers for Highways allocated to the State.

The State Government, including Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao had written many letters and personally appealed to the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to sanction funds for development of National Highways in the State. A delegation of Telangana MPs too regularly approached the Union Minister for the purpose, said the Khammam MP.

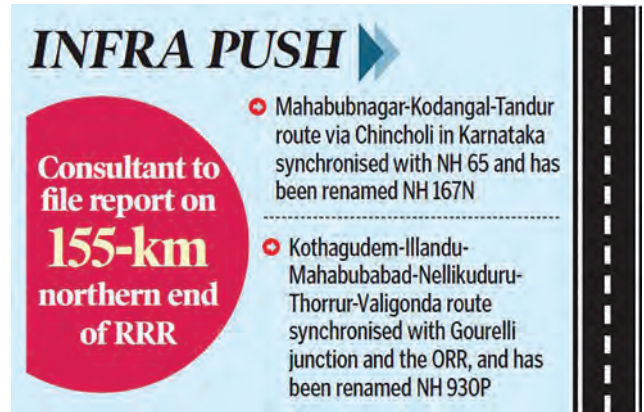
In the past, several requisitions were made to Nitin Gadkari regarding recognising the Kothagudem-Ilhandu-Mahabubabad-Nellikuduru-Thoroor-Valigonda route as National Highway and develop it accordingly, he informed. In addition to these, appeals were also made to declare the Medak- Yellareddy-Rudruru route as National Highway. Development of National Highways would not only aid in better transportation facilities but would also help in comprehensive development of the regions, the MP said. "Land prices will escalate and people's income levels will also increase. With the sanction of NH 930 P, there will be more development in the region," said Nageswara Rao.

The Central government has approved this national Highway as per the route map suggested by the Chief Minister. This new national Highways will facilitate connectivity of new districts with Hyderabad. It will reduce both time and distance for the travellers, besides aiding in smooth transportation of goods, he said. People in Kothagudem, Bhadrachalam, Manuguru and Ashwaraopeta constituencies can now reach Hyderabad comfortably, he added.

SCCL plans to set up 350 MW floating solar power plant on LMD

Hyderabad: 9th Apr 2021

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director N Sridhar here said that proposals pertaining to setting up of 350 MW floating solar power plant on the waters of Lower Manair Dam in Karimnagar, were submitted to the State government.



The SCCL appointed an agency for conducting a feasibility study for establishing the plant before preparing a detailed project report (DPR). Water levels in Lower Manair Dam for the last 20 years, inflows data and sedimentation along with other details were submitted to the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

Officials from the SECI will be visiting the dam next week for a detailed study, Sridhar said at a reviewing meeting conducted here. A DPR would be prepared after exploring the possibility of the floating plant at the dam for getting permission, he added. He asked SCCL Director (Electrical and Maintenance) D Satyanarayana Rao to lay a special focus on setting up of floating solar power plant on the dam. The floating solar plant will be in addition to the 300 MW solar power plants being constructed at nine places in Singareni in three phases.

Sridhar asked officials to complete the installation of power plants by October end and synchronise them with the TS Transco grid. Reviewing the installation of solar power plants with SCCL officials dealing with solar and thermal power along with BHEL, Adani and Novis Companies, which are establishing the plants, he said installation of 129 MW power plants in the Phase-I in Singareni was already completed.

Sridhar also reviewed the progress of installation of 81 MW solar power plants in Phase-III. He asked the companies to complete 300 MW solar power plants by October end and synchronise with TS Transco.

AB InBev adopts renewable energy at Telangana facility

Hyderabad:19th Apr 2021

Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) India's Crown brewery in Telangana has made a shift to solar power, augmenting its adoption of greener electricity across its brewing operations. The adoption of renewable electricity in its third brewery contributes towards AB InBev's global commitment to secure 100 per cent of the company's purchased electricity from renewable sources by 2025. The brewer's facilities in Mysore and Aurangabad had earlier partially switched to renewable electricity.

The project capacity for the solar panel installation at Crown brewery is DC 998 KWP, AC 773 KW, which will generate an average of 4,000 units per day. With an electricity requirement of about 22,000 units per day, AB InBev India will produce 18 per cent of the electricity through renewable sources. "As climate change continues to threaten our world, we at AB InBev, remain committed to adopt greener alternatives," said Ashwin Kak, Procurement & Sustainability head, India & South East Asia, AB InBev.

AB InBev is a publicly traded company based in Leuven, Belgium, with secondary listings on the Mexico and South Africa stock exchanges and with American Depositary Receipts on the New York Stock Exchange.

AB InBev is part of RE-100, a collaborative, global initiative uniting more than 100 businesses committed to the use of renewable electricity in their operations. The company plans to enter into similar agreements in the future.





Marut Dronetech's Agricopter receives MANAGE RKVY-RAFTAAR grant

Hyderabad : 9th Apr 2021

Agricopter, part of Marut Dronetech, received RKVY-RAFTAAR (Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation) grant of Rs 20 lakh for its agri-tech solution. MANAGE-CIA, Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship, is the central government's knowledge partner in implementation of the scheme.

Agricopter visualises a farmer-centric precision agriculture solution, which works at scale with primary emphasis on reducing farming costs, improving crop yield there by raising farm incomes. Further in its work, it collaborates with research institutes to ensure all its products and processes are backed by rigorous scientific research.

The company custom builds drones to fulfil various services such as imaging, spraying, pollination and seeding and combine these with scientifically established protocols to arrive at most optimal solutions. Till date, Agricopter has worked on nearly 5,700 hectares of farms with more than 8,900 drone flight hours taking its technologies to farmers.

Solutions are built on farm-level data, facilitated by drone imaging and internet of things coupled with AI-powered data for early pest detection and customised crop advisory. This helps farmers prevent crop losses and manage risks effectively.

Prem Kumar Vislawath, founder and CEO of Marut Dronetech said, 'Agricopter is our answer to our country's

vision of doubling farmer's income. While taking a closer look at the agriculture sector, we have realised that the main problems are input costs (which remain high, in spite of subsidisation), unpredictable labour shortages and near zero upgradation of techniques & methodologies."

"We have then built our solutions on lines to address these. We have partnered with research institutes – ICRISAT, PJTSAU, RICH – to develop standard operating procedures for drone spraying and image-based, AI driven diagnosis (based on phenotyping)," he added.

Dr Saravanan Raj, director (Agricultural Extension) of MANAGE and CEO of Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship says 'Through MANAGE-CIA, we aim to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector. We value our startups and help them to survive the tides of uncertainty by offering a comprehensive set of benefits. Agricopter fits in with our values and outlook for the space. We are excited to see how they progress and happy to add our support to their journey.'

The company is working on crops such as paddy, cotton, red gram, groundnut, soybean, which cover over 90 per cent of Telangana's cultivated area. In the next few years, the company is focusing on extending technology to other crops and reaching new geographies for making India's vision of doubling farmer's income a reality. Agricopter and PJTSAU, ICRISAT have recently received permissions from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for field trials.

India poised to be top EV manufacturing hub'

New Delhi: 18 Apr 2021

With the cost of developing and operating electric vehicles (EVs) expected to decline substantially with a drop in prices of lithium-ion batteries, India is likely to become a leading hub for manufacturing EVs and EV components, said Nitin Gadkari, the Union minister for road transport, highways and MSMEs, at an event hosted by Amazon.

The Union government is also focusing on other alternative technologies, such as hydrogen fuel cell-driven EVs, besides announcing a scrappage scheme to help boost manufacturing of EVs for exports, Gadkari added. The Narendra Modi administration has urged vehicle manufacturers to increase local production of EVs to increase the number of zero-emission vehicles plying on Indian roads, curb vehicular pollution and reduce the country's dependence on crude oil imports. "Our country imports around ₹8 trillion of crude oil and this is going to double in the next four to five years, which will have a huge impact on the economy. It is necessary to look for an efficient and alternative mode of energy for future mobility needs. India is a power surplus nation and e-mobility will be the most effective solution to develop import substitute, cost-effective, indigenous and pollution-free modes of transport," said Gadkari. He said India could be the largest manufacturing hub for electric two- and three-wheelers and cars, and the Union government is actively working to support the industry by framing favourable policies, such as reducing goods and services tax on EVs to 5%, besides other incentives.

Besides urging the manufacturers to develop low-cost EVs, the government has also been asking e-commerce companies to shift their goods delivery fleet to electric and help push the number of electric vehicles plying on Indian roads. Accordingly, e-commerce majors, such as Flipkart and Amazon, have plans to shift their existing vehicle fleets to electric.

Jeff Bezos-led Amazon said it will introduce 10,000 units of electric vehicles in its goods delivery fleet in India by 2025.

It's time for the World Bank to scrap its Doing Business rankings

London: 22 Apr 2021

On March 29, at a virtual meeting hosted by the London School of Economics before the 2021 World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings, World Bank President David Malpass called for long-term, integrated strategies that emphasise "green, inclusive and resilient development" to tackle what he calls the COVID-19 "pandemic of inequality". Underlining the importance of helping countries improve their readiness for future pandemics through policies supporting sustainable development, he urged policymakers to avoid repeating the "errors of the past".



World Bank representatives reiterated the same discourse at the Spring Meetings and last week's UN Financing for Development Forum. Yet, one of the Bank's most powerful policy advice tools, the Doing Business rankings, continues to produce skewed policy prescriptions that obstruct developing countries' pandemic recovery efforts and constrain their resilience to future crises.

For 17 years, political leaders and policymakers around the world have peered anxiously over the Bank's annual Doing Business report. The Bank's flagship publication ranks 190 economies on how easy and cheap it is for companies to do business there. The fewer regulations, the higher a country scores on the Doing Business index, increasing its chances of attracting foreign investment. According to the Bank, this leads to economic growth with trickle-down benefits to the population.

The report was launched in 2004 as the new face of the much-criticised Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs), which were rooted in the idea that deregulation

and privatisation encourage investment and boosts development and economic growth. There is now ample evidence of the negative consequences of SAPs, which were widely implemented through World Bank and International Monetary Fund loans in the 1980s and 90s. Although some of the Bank's loan conditionalities have evolved with time, the same ideological preferences continue to be promoted under the Doing Business rankings to this day.

With the Doing Business index, the Bank made itself both the referee and the rule maker of its global benchmarking and investor-friendly policy reforms exercise. Governments that want to signal to the world that they are open for international business race each other to cut red tape and win a place on the Bank's "top ten improvers" list. But this regulatory race to the bottom erodes worker and environmental protections in the meantime. The reports' recommendations have concrete effects on shaping policy in developing countries.

Policies rewarded in the rankings include cutting corporate income taxes and contributions to employees' retirement schemes in India; reducing social tax rates in Hungary and Kazakhstan, and completely abolishing social security contributions in Georgia.

Meanwhile, the Doing Business report discourages welfare and environmental protection. Bolivia and Trinidad and Tobago got a lower mark for raising social security contribution rates for employers, while Guatemala increased its score by relaxing requirements for environmental impact assessments and Vietnam gained points for scrapping environmental protection fees. Some countries, such as India and Indonesia, design national reforms with the sole intention of climbing up the rankings. Rwanda has an entire ministry devoted to this purpose.

India's new laws to deregulate agricultural markets show how far governments can go to protect private investors' interests and follow the World Bank's policy prescriptions. Legal reforms which will affect 800 million Indians whose livelihoods depend on farming passed with no public debate. The largest ever farmer protests in response to it were met with paramilitary violence, arbitrary arrests and internet shutdowns.

The 2020 enactment of the Omnibus Law in Indonesia is another example of a package of reforms explicitly designed to help a country climb on the Doing Business ranking. Though the bill faced massive pushback from labour unions and social movements for its effects on workers' rights and the environment, it received the World Bank's unconditional endorsement.

A 2019 Cambridge University study clearly illustrated the outsized influence the Doing Business rankings have on investors. In an experiment, the researchers provided a group of investors with various economic and political indicators for a set of countries. They found that even when most other indicators looked positive, a low ranking on the Doing Business index caused investors to refrain from investing in a country. This finding begs the question: should the World Bank promote a deregulation blueprint that disproportionately serves firms with headquarters in the rich countries that govern it, at the expense of worker rights and climate and ecological sustainability in many developing countries?

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, in her push for increasing corporate taxation, recently stated that competitiveness "is about making sure that governments have stable tax systems that raise sufficient revenue to invest in essential public goods and respond to crises". And yet this is exactly what the World Bank, whose largest shareholder is the US, makes impossible to attain through the Doing Business recipe for attracting private investments.

Privatisation, outsourcing, and budget cuts have already undermined the capacities of countries to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. And inequality-boosting policies encouraged by the World Bank will continue to be harmful in the post-pandemic world. The erosion of social safety nets, deemed "burdensome" and "costly" by the Bank's metrics, have affected 2.7 billion people facing unemployment and income loss. Since its inception, the Doing Business index has been criticised by civil society organisations, academics, trade unions and the World Bank's chief economist and an independent panel of experts.

In August 2020, the Bank was forced to suspend the publication due to "a number of irregularities". An

internal investigation concluded that undue pressure by Bank management over the Doing Business team to manipulate data in 2017 and 2019 led to altered results for Azerbaijan, China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. An external panel has been tasked to undertake a comprehensive review of the Doing Business methodology, but the process so far has lacked transparency and accountability, with limited consultation with civil society.

As the Bank prepares to launch its Doing Business report for 2021, more than 360 civil society organisations, academics, former UN staff and independent experts from 80 countries have signed an open letter calling for an end to the Doing Business rankings and reports. If the World Bank is serious about building a resilient and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, it is time it aligns its discourse with its actions. Ditching the harmful Doing Business rankings would be a good place to start.

India-EU roll-out partnership blueprint to tackle post-covid challenges

NEW DELHI:

India and European Union (EU) rolled out a blueprint for scaling up and broad basing their strategic partnership to meet the challenges of a post-covid-19 world, not only in established areas like trade and investment, but also in newer areas like technology and the Indo-Pacific region.

Leaders and officials of both sides hailed the first India-EU Leaders' meeting – attended by all 27 heads of EU countries and Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- as "opening a new chapter in relations." The EU has met with only US president Joe Biden in this format before – in March this year. It comes against the backdrop of the unpredictable rise of China, doubts bring raised about globalization



and multilateralism as well as growing nationalistic and protectionist tendencies in the world.

"The European Union is an important partner for India. Our common values such as democracy, rule-of-law and fundamental freedoms makes us natural partners to meet the shared challenges in an increasingly multipolar world," said Vikas Swaroop, Secretary West in the Indian foreign ministry. "At the same time, the political logic of a stronger India and the EU is complemented by compelling economic rationale. The EU was our largest trading partner in goods 2019-20, ahead of China and the US, with total trade close to \$ 90 billion," he told reporters after the summit. Technology including collaboration in 5G, super computing and Artificial Intelligence, data privacy, partnership in vaccines, reform of multilateral institutions, climate change and sustainability besides the Indo-Pacific were among the subjects taken up for discussion.

The key take away from the summit was the revival of trade talks between India and the EU. Stalled after 16 rounds six years after starting talks in 2007, the two sides agreed to "enhance our trade and investment relationship to realise its untapped potential thus contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and recovery from the covid-9 pandemic." "We agreed to resume negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreement which would respond to the current challenges," a joint statement said. "We agreed that in order to create the required positive dynamic for negotiations, it is imperative to find solutions to long-standing market access issues. We also agreed to the launch of negotiations on a stand-alone investment protection agreement. We also agreed to start negotiations on a separate agreement on geographical indications which could be concluded separately or integrated into the trade agreement, depending on the pace of negotiations," the joint statement said.

According to Swaroop, "Negotiations on both the Trade and Investment Agreements will be pursued on parallel tracks with an intention to achieve early conclusion of both of them." The High-Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment set up after the last India-EU summit in 2020 and headed by Trade Minister Piyush Goyal on the Indian side and Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis on the EU side would set timelines for the start and completion of

the pacts, he said. The two sides also set up two working groups – one on resilient supply chains and the second to “intensify regulatory cooperation on goods and services” the statement said.

At the multilateral level, India and the EU pledged to strengthen coordination on issues of global economic governance – at the World Trade Organisation and the G20. Senior officials of the two sides will start a dialogue to deepen cooperation on WTO issues, under the supervision of Goyal and Dombrovskis. Given the second wave of the covid-19 pandemic raging through India and some European countries suffering a third wave, discussions on the pandemic also took place, officials said.

During the summit, Prime Minister Modi urged the EU to join an initiative to temporarily waive patent protections for covid-19 vaccines which would make available supplies for poorer nations. The proposal was put forth by India and South Africa last year in October and backed by the US and France this week. But there is no unanimous view among the 27 member bloc. According to the joint statement, India and the EU have committed to “work together to better prepare for and respond to global health emergencies.” This included resilient medical supply chains, vaccines and the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and on the application of international good manufacturing standards to ensure high quality and safety of products.

The two sides also agreed to advance global health but strengthening the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) preparedness and response to health emergencies and also by reforming the WHO, the joint statement said. “The EU invited India to work towards an international treaty on pandemics within the framework of the WHO,” it said.

Climate change and increasing funding in India of green and sustainable means of transport by the European Investment Bank were also covered in the talks as were the greening of the railways, ports and shipping sectors, and the decarbonisation of civil aviation.

A second major takeaway from the Leaders’ Summit was the Connectivity Partnership “that upholds international law, conforms with international norms and affirms the shared values of democracy, freedom, rule of law and respect for international commitments,” the joint statement said.

In what may be seen as a swipe at China for its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative that is seen as plunging countries into debt traps and being unmindful of the environmental impact of infrastructure projects, the joint statement said: “Our Partnership will promote a transparent, viable, inclusive, sustainable, comprehensive, and rules-based connectivity.” “It is based on principles of social, economic, fiscal, climate and environmental sustainability and a level playing field for economic operators,” it said.

“We aim at enhancing and widening cooperation between us through projects, including with third countries and regions, notably in Africa, Central Asia and the Indo-Pacific, in order to build digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity,” it added. “We welcomed the close cooperation on global digital standards and network security and agreed to enhance it further including in relation to 5G technology and beyond 5G,” the joint statement said.

IMF to revisit growth forecast for India due to surge in COVID-19 cases

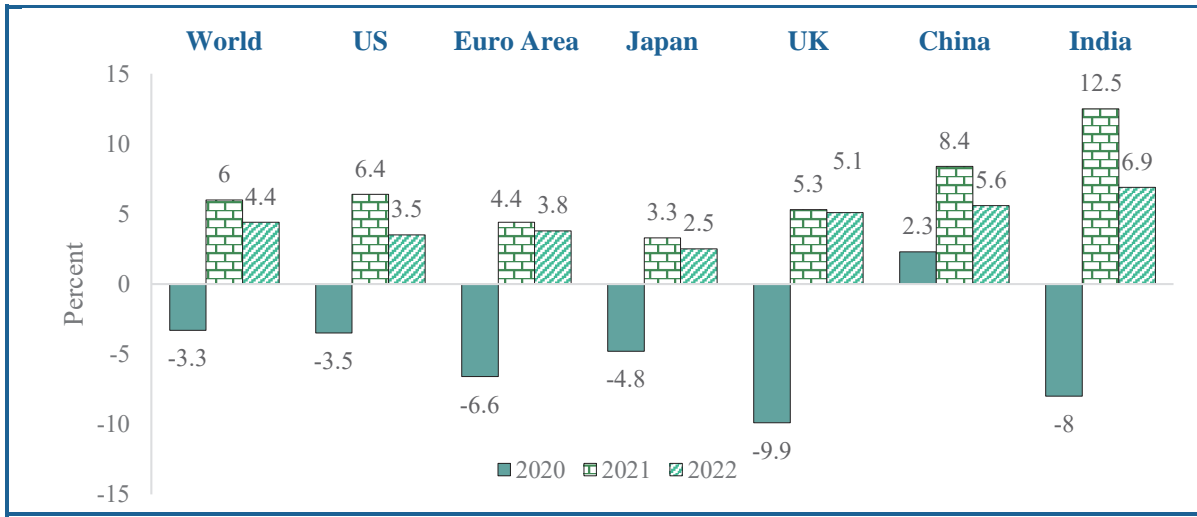
New Delhi: May 06, 2021

The International Monetary Fund said the recent jump in COVID-19 cases in India posed downside risks to the Fund’s April forecast for 12.5% growth in India’s economic output in fiscal years 2021 and 2022. The IMF will revisit that forecast when it issued a fresh World Economic Outlook in July, IMF spokesman Gerry Rice told reporters at a regular briefing, but gave no further details.

He said the developments in India, the world’s second-most populous nation, would have spillover effects for the region and the global economy, depending on how long the crisis lasted, but it was too soon to give specifics. “We’re all watching what is happening in India with concern,” Rice said. “There will be spillovers ... contingent on how deep and how long the severity of this crisis continues.” India, with a population of 1.3 billion people, reported a record 412,262 new COVID-19 cases and a record 3,980 deaths, as a second wave of infections swamped its healthcare system. COVID-19 infections in India have surged past 21 million, with a death toll of 230,168, health ministry data showed. Medical experts say India’s actual figures could be five to 10 times the official tallies.

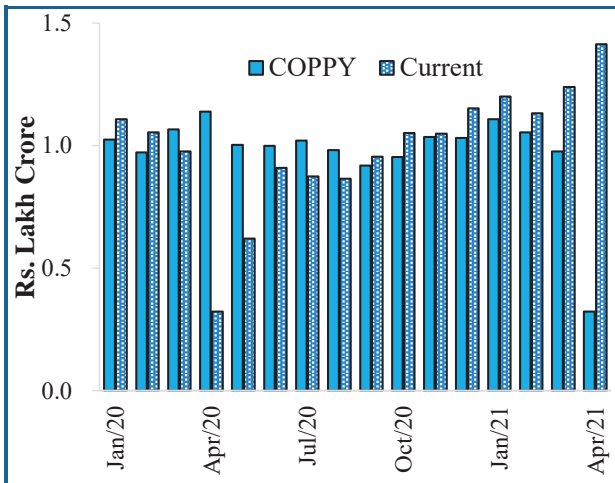
ANALYSIS ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

IMF's Growth Projections (Real GDP, YoY growth)

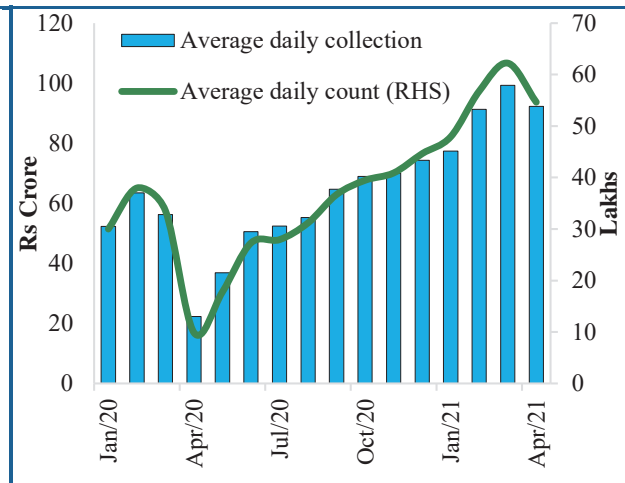


Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2021

GST revenue collection



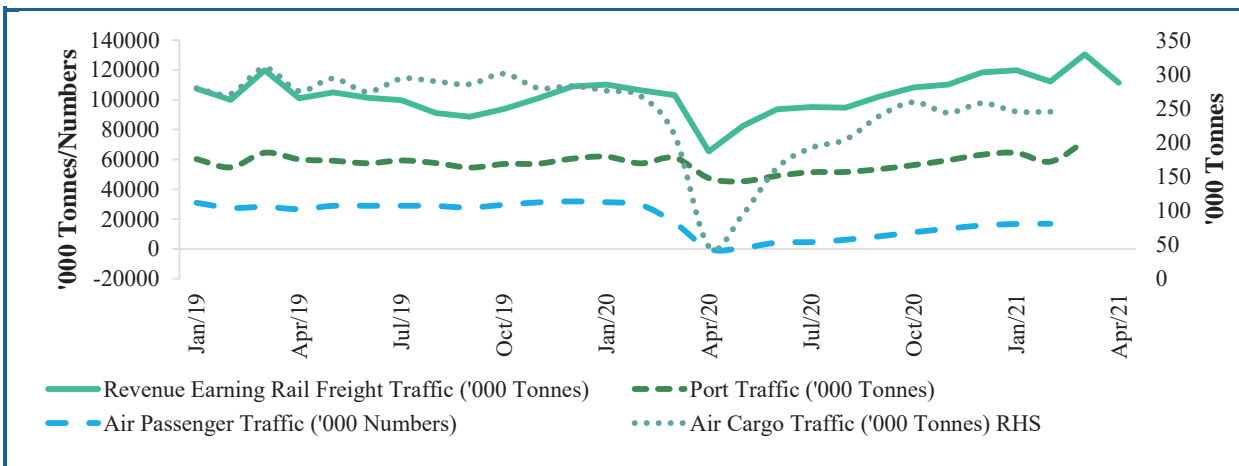
ETC Collection and Count



Source: GSTN

*ETC - Electronic Toll Collection

Freight and Traffic Activity



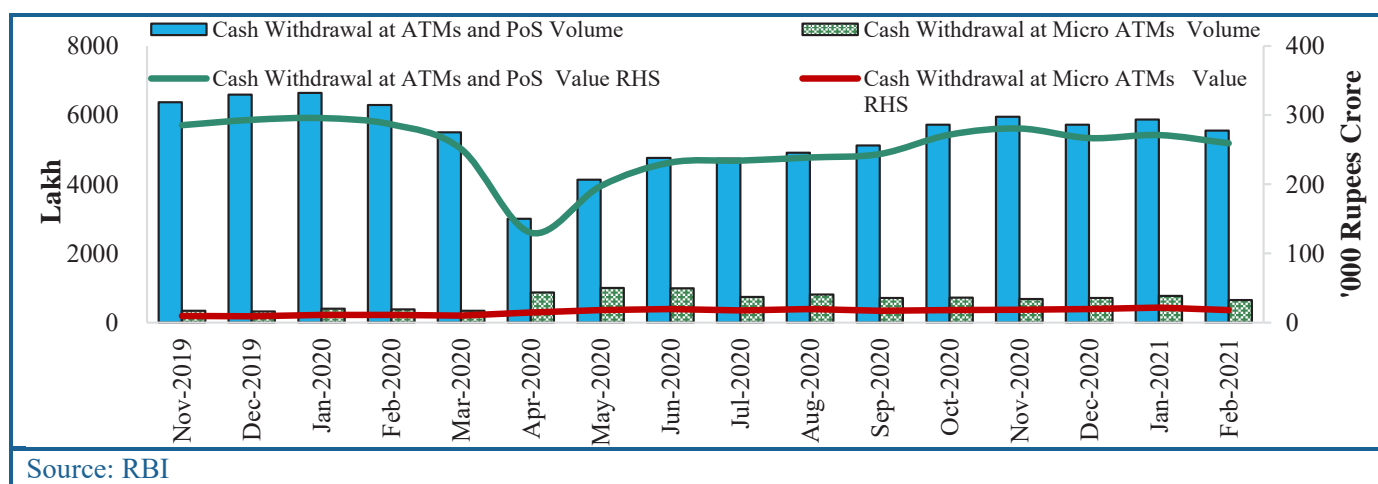
Source: Ministry of Railways, Indian Ports Association, Airports Authority of India

State-wise Trends in Electronic Toll Collection Value

AVERAGE DAILY ETC AMOUNT (Rs lakh)						YoY growth (%)
State	Pre-Covid average (Avg of Jan-Feb 20)	Jan21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	Apr21/Pre Covid average
Andhra Pradesh	451.1	605.4	664.7	703.4	673.0	49.2
Assam	15.7	43.3	63.6	87.8	96.0	513.3
Bihar	142.2	211.5	275.0	330.1	337.0	137.0
Chhattisgarh	62.1	94.1	123.5	134.4	115.7	86.3
Delhi	171.4	0.09	0.15	0.14	0.09	-99.9
Gujarat	695.1	1003.2	1118.6	1160.1	1038.6	49.4
Haryana	261.6	60.0	140.7	152.5	139.0	-46.9
Himachal Pradesh	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.3	2.7	336.6
J&K	10.3	25.5	42.6	63.2	62.6	506.5
Jharkhand	54.3	94.9	114.8	141.1	140.9	159.5
Karnataka	361.6	548.7	624.8	655.9	593.2	64.1
Kerala	32.5	47.8	59.1	62.5	59.5	83.1
Madhya Pradesh	378.8	537.7	630.1	725.1	692.2	82.7
Maharashtra	603.8	928.1	1082.1	1209.0	1015.5	68.2
Odisha	143.7	199.6	240.4	263.4	268.1	86.5
Punjab	111.2	0.4	1.02	0.01	0.01	-100.0
Rajasthan	764.9	870.8	1038.4	1044.5	948.5	24.0
Tamil Nadu	478.7	658.5	778.6	820.7	741.3	54.8
Telangana	206.1	385.8	423.0	452.2	464.5	125.4
Uttar Pradesh	636.9	1077.7	1270.6	1381.6	1312.0	106.0
Uttarakhand	5.8	13.5	29.3	48.0	41.9	629.2
West Bengal	202.8	317.2	394.7	474.8	467.1	130.3
Grand Total	5791.2	7734.2	9132.2	9932.4	9231.9	59.4

Source: IHMCL, M/o Road, Transport & Highways

Cash Withdrawal Trends from ATMs, Point of Sale Devices and Micro-ATMs

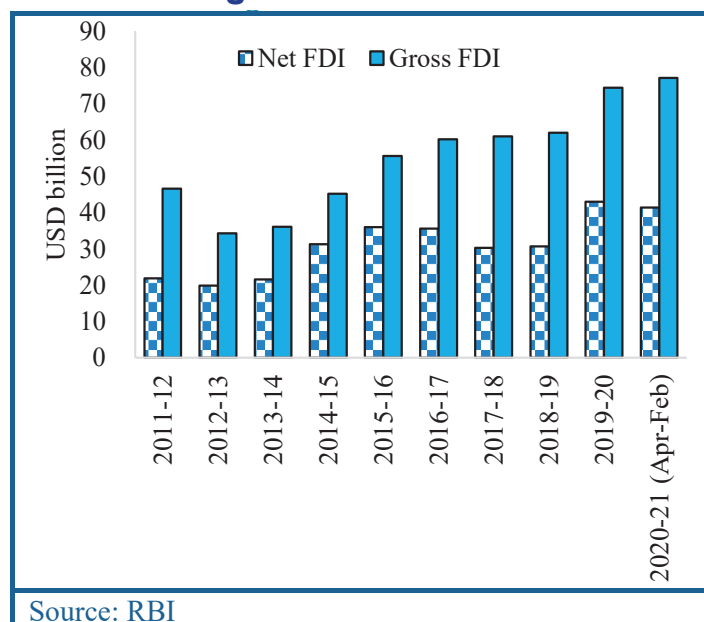


Source: RBI

State-wise Trends in Foreign Direct Investment inflows

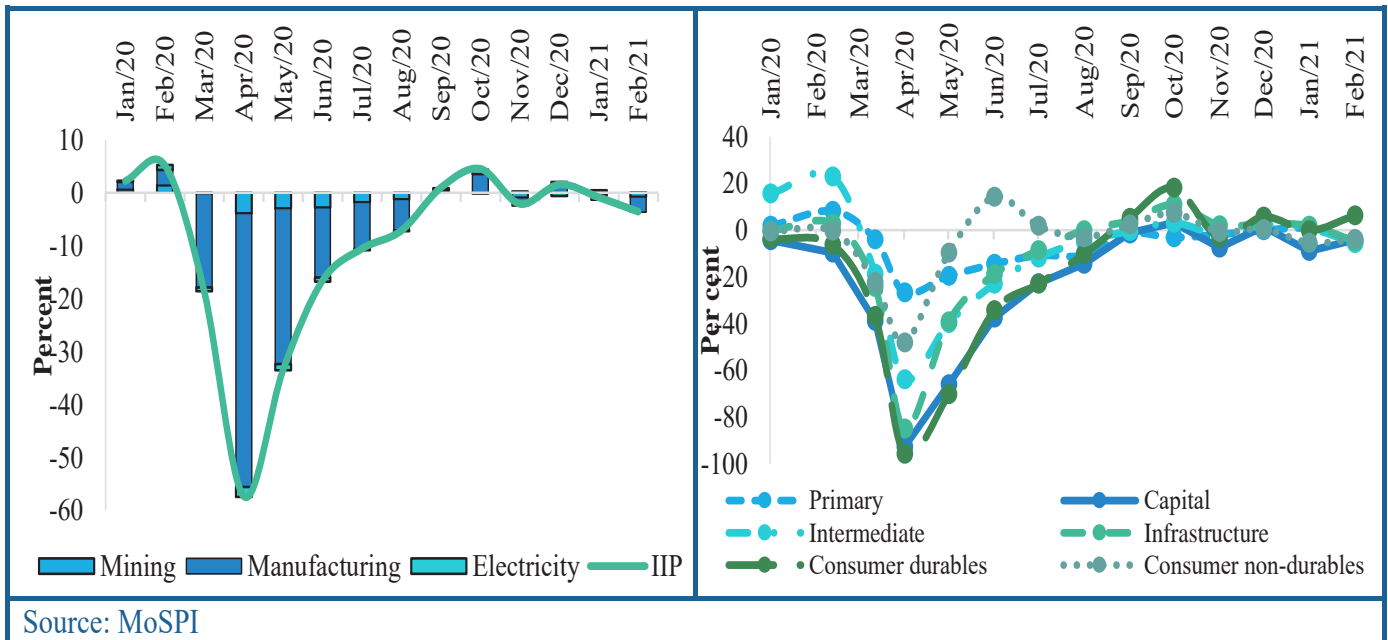
State FDI inflows (USD million)							YoY % change
State (in order of decreasing share)	Share in Total FDI (%)	Q3: FY19-20	Q4:FY 19-20	Q1:FY 20-21	Q2:FY 20-21	Q3:FY 20-21	(Q3: FY20-21) / (Q3:FY19-20)
Maharashtra	46.67	3,133.50	4129.1	1166.9	2452.2	10017.5	219.69
Gujarat	24.38	871.5	1719.6	401.6	15603	5234	500.56
Karnataka	12.63	2,384.50	1904	1349.9	2310.1	2710.9	13.69
NCT of Delhi	7.25	2,441.40	1531.3	952.7	1709.9	1557.3	-36.21
Tamil Nadu	3.45	525.3	480.8	444.5	493.3	740	40.87
Haryana	2.11	447	278.7	228.2	453.8	453.2	1.39
Telangana	0.89	310.8	369.1	551.2	116.7	192.1	-38.2
West Bengal	0.61	58.7	131.5	253.3	7.7	130.8	122.89
Uttar Pradesh	0.43	37.1	205.8	100.2	124.5	93.2	151
Kerala	0.41	29.1	28.2	76.5	40.7	89	205.77
Puducherry	0.27	0.5	0	0.2	0.2	57.8	12742.22
Rajasthan	0.25	157.8	31.3	80.6	22	53.8	-65.94
Madhya Pradesh	0.18	30.9	44.7	97.2	52.8	37.9	22.43
Punjab	0.14	45.5	51.3	17	4.8	29.1	-35.97
Andhra Pradesh	0.11	64.6	141.4	23.2	19.6	24	-62.83
Odisha	0.03	2	11	1.9	8.9	6.3	207.88
Himachal Pradesh	0.02	10	1.9	4.3	1.5	5	-49.75
Arunachal Pradesh	0.02		0	0	0.1	4.7	0
Chandigarh	0.02	2.2	1.4	5	0.5	3.6	63.23
Assam	0.01	2.6	0.4	2.4	2.8	2.3	-9.8
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0.01	0	2.9	0	3	2.1	0
Uttarakhand	0.01	11.3	3.4	1.1	0.3	1.5	-86.55
Goa	0.01	52.9	11.6	2.6	10.9	1.4	-97.43
Bihar	0.002	0.1	5.5	10.7	0.1	0.4	311.11
Jharkhand	0.001	0.4	1851.6	791	0.7	0.3	-27.27
India	100.00	10,673.30	13208	6562.3	23441.3	21466.7	101.12

Foreign Direct Investment

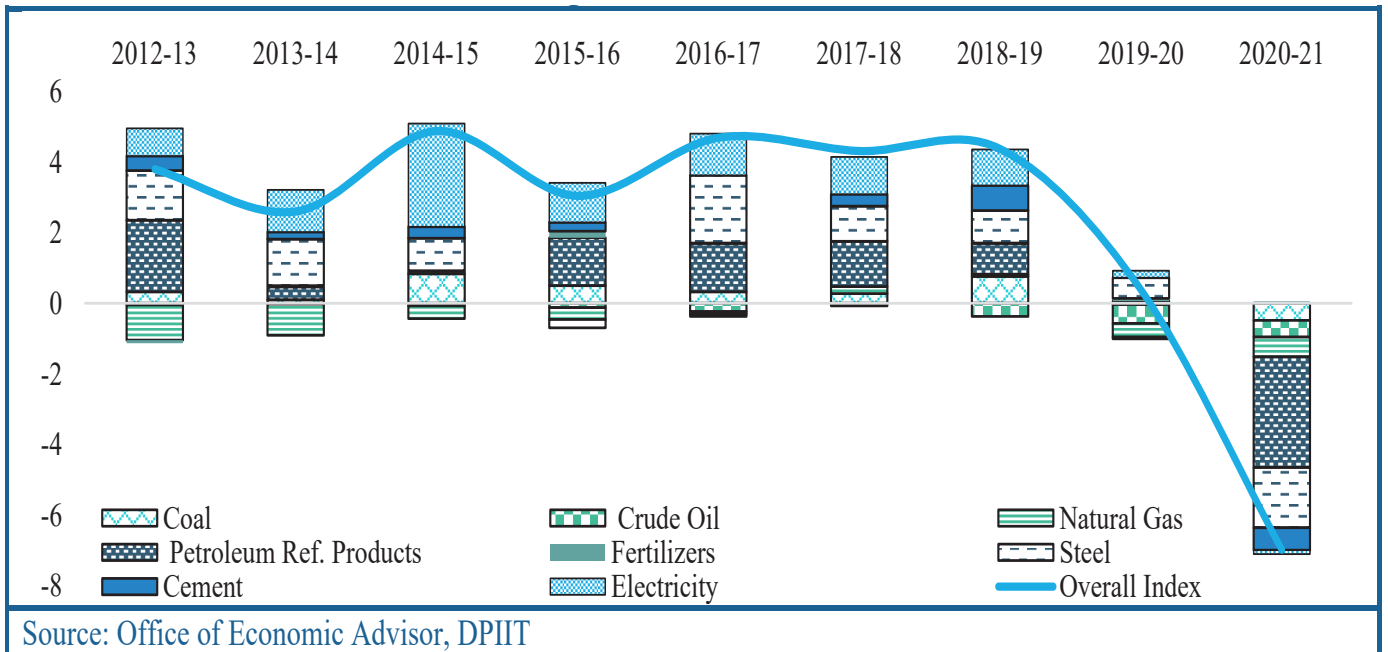


Source : RBI

Index of Industrial Production Growth



Eight Core Industries

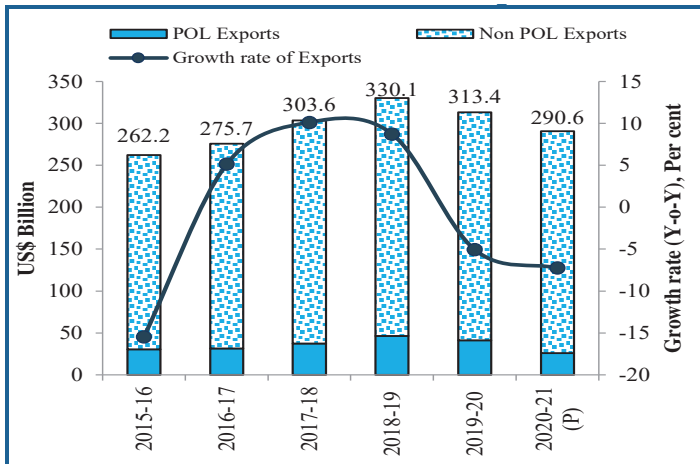


State-wise Trends in Power Consumption

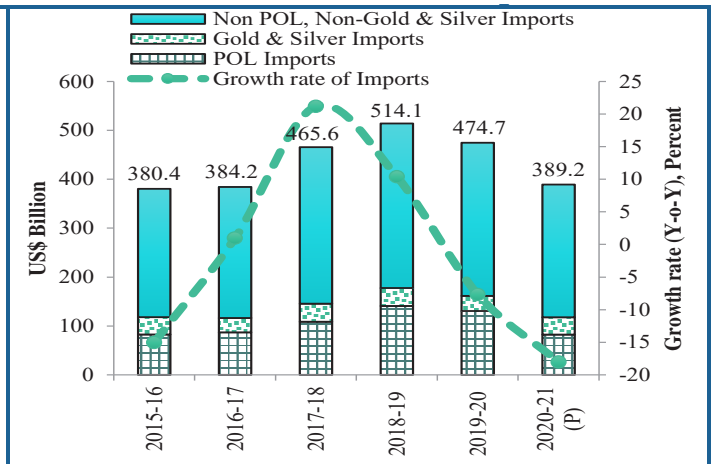
State/UT	Energy demand met (MU)				YoY growth	
	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	Apr 21/Apr 20	Apr 21/Apr 19
Andhra Pradesh	5329	5281	5933	6289.4	31.4	10.1
Arunachal Pradesh	74	67	72	63.4	428.3	2.3
Assam	728	673	793	832.9	302.4	19.7
Bihar	2735	2420	2918	3264.9	40.7	26.4
Chandigarh	124	95	99	105.5	38.8	-9.8
Chhattisgarh	2791	2667	3279	3233	45.0	6.4
D&D	225	209	229	213.7	214.3	-2.0
Delhi	2262	1788	2077	2229.8	36.0	-17.3
DNH	590	550	606	553.1	550.7	0.2
Goa	327	280	364	349	44.8	-9.4
Gujarat	10523	9953	11817	11802.8	51.6	5.2
Haryana	3919	3714	3985	3847.2	52.7	1.5
Himachal Pradesh	1007	884	934	843.7	109.9	9.3
J&K	1654	1434	1556	1518.9	19.5	17.2
Jharkhand	863	766	892	870	24.6	19.2
Karnataka	6451	6469	7294	7316.3	19.5	4.4
Kerala	2178	2107	2319	2430.5	18.3	-0.5
Madhya Pradesh	8769	7500	7145	6956.9	27.2	3.5
Maharashtra	14427	13400	16375	16080.3	37.7	9.2
Manipur	103	83	78	74.2	363.8	21.6
Meghalaya	209	176	172	151.2	202.4	-4.9
Mizoram	63	55	53	48.3	201.9	7.3
Nagaland	66	60	64	63.3	272.4	9.1
Odisha	2348	2297	2942	3146.2	52.7	12.9
Pondicherry	215	206	227	269.2	80.7	3.9
Punjab	3832	3611	4044	3700.6	54.8	1.6
Rajasthan	7790	7395	7258	6411.7	31.5	3.3
Sikkim	57	50	51	26.9	-34.4	-34.4
Tamil Nadu	7887	8367	9477	10519.8	44.3	2.1
Telangana	6954	6836	7574	6710.7	39.8	17.4
Tripura	169	158	221	144.3	26.6	-28.6
Uttar Pradesh	9206	8123	9837	10122.3	27.2	0.3
Uttarakhand	1260	1093	1142	1107.8	77.0	-1.7
West Bengal	4056	3874	5373	5371.6	46.9	5.9
ALL INDIA	112060	105259	120110	119274	40.7	5.5

Source: dea.gov.in

India's Merchandise Exports

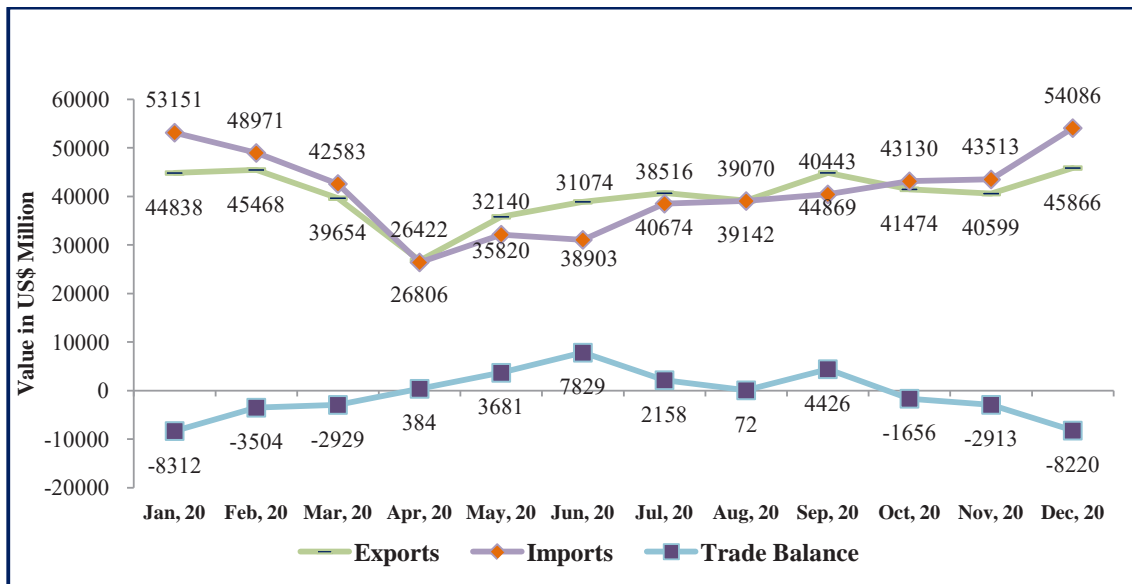


India's Merchandise Imports

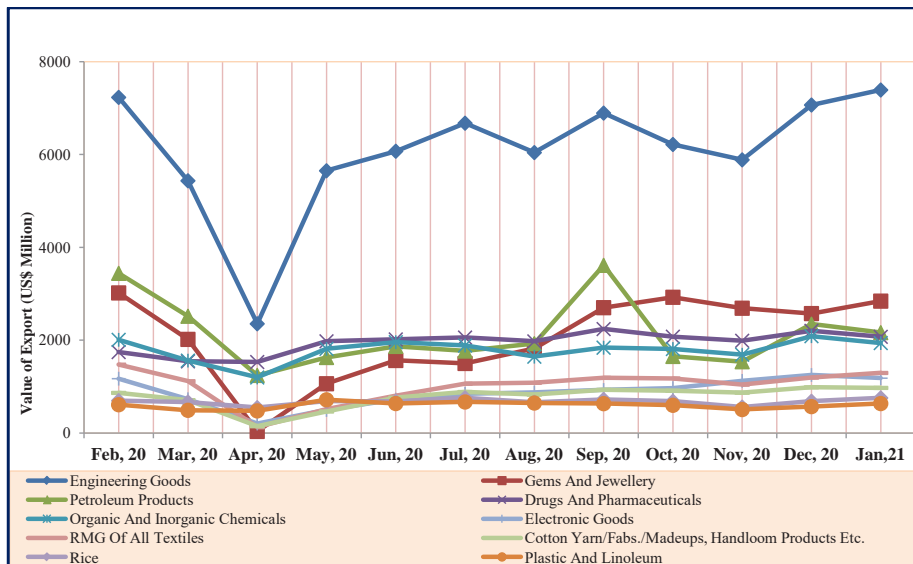


Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Trend of Overall Trade for last 12 months



Trend of Export values of Major Commodities for last 12 months



Source : DGCI&S

Three Major Destinations of Export of Top 10 Principal Commodities (April-January, 2020-21):

S.No.	Principal Commodities	Major Destinations		
1	Petroleum Products	Singapore (16.09%)	U Arab Emts (11.21%)	Netherland (7.04%)
2	Drug Formulations, Biologicals	U S A (37.92%)	South Africa (3.81%)	U K (3.11%)
3	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones	U S A (37.29%)	Hong Kong (34.72%)	Belgium (6.75%)
4	Iron And Steel	China P Rp (24.87%)	Vietnam Soc Rep (9.28%)	Nepal (7.59%)
5	Electric Machinery And Equipment	U S A (32.4%)	Germany (7.96%)	Singapore (4.22%)
6	Organic Chemicals	China P Rp (20.75%)	U S A (11.9%)	Saudi Arab (5.94%)
7	RMG Cotton Incl Accessories	U S A (28.61%)	U Arab Emts (9.94%)	U K (9.44%)
8	Gold And Other Precious Metal Jewellery	Hong Kong (31.89%)	U S A (30.92%)	U Arab Emts (18.15%)
9	Products Of Iron And Steel	U S A (22.28%)	U Arab Emts (4.97%)	Germany (4.92%)
10	Marine Products	U S A (40.54%)	China P Rp (15%)	Japan (7.13%)

Top Three Major Principal Commodities exported to top ten Destinations (April-Jan 2020-21):

Sl. No	Destinations	Major Principal Commodities		
1	U S A	Drug Formulations, Biologicals (14.49%)	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones (12.33%)	Electric Machinery And Equipment (5.17%)
2	China P Rp	Iron Ore (18.97%)	Iron And Steel (13.91%)	Organic Chemicals (7.52%)
3	U Arab Emts	Petroleum Products (17.16%)	Gold And Other Precious Metal Jewellery (7.26%)	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones (6.56%)
4	Hong Kong	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones (57.94%)	Gold And Other Precious Metal Jewellery (20.18%)	Buffalo Meat (9.22%)
5	Singapore	Petroleum Products (45.72%)	Ship, Boat And Floating Structure (14.92%)	Electric Machinery And Equipment (3.98%)
6	Bangladesh PR	Cotton Raw Included. Waste (8.16%)	Cotton Yarn (7.62%)	Other Commodities (6.83%)
7	Germany	Electric Machinery & Equipment (8.08%)	Rmg Cotton Incl Accessories (5.63%)	Telecom Instruments (4.46%)
8	U K	RMG Cotton Incl Accessories (8.08%)	Drug Formulations, Biologicals (7.83%)	Electric Machinery And Equipment (3.64%)
9	Nepal	Petroleum Products (16.83%)	Iron And Steel (14.02%)	Rice (Other Than Basmati) (6.28%)
10	Malaysia	Aluminium, Products Of Aluminium (21.63%)	Petroleum Products (20.7%)	Buffalo Meat (5.74%)

Source : DGCI&S

Three Major Sources of Import of Top ten Principal Commodities (April-Jan 2020-21):

S. No.	Principal Commodities	Major Sources		
1	Petroleum: Crude	Iraq (21.88%)	Saudi Arab (19.19%)	U Arab Emts (12.10%)
2	Gold	Switzerland (43.60%)	U Arab Emts (12.90%)	South Africa (7.02%)
3	Petroleum Products	Qatar (24.76%)	U Arab Emts (18.61%)	Saudi Arab (9.62%)
4	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones	U Arab Emts (27.11%)	U S A (20.05%)	Belgium (18.94%)
5	Coal, Coke And Briquettes Etc	Australia (33.13%)	Indonesia (29.24%)	South Africa (12.55%)
6	Telecom Instruments	China P Rp (44.04%)	Hong Kong (18.49%)	Vietnam Soc Rep (14.13%)
7	Electronics Components	China P Rp (39.06%)	Hong Kong (22.34%)	Singapore (9.35%)
8	Vegetable Oils	Indonesia (29.19%)	Malaysia (20.75%)	Argentina (19.62%)
9	Organic Chemicals	China P Rp (31.56%)	U S A (12.47%)	Singapore (7.17%)
10	Computer Hardware, Peripherals	China P Rp (50.72%)	Hong Kong (12.94%)	Singapore (12.80%)

Top Three Major Principal Commodities imported from Top ten Sources during April-Jan 2020-21

S. No.	Sources	Major Principal Commodities Imported		
1	China P Rp	Telecom Instruments (10.48%)	Electronics Components (8.82%)	Computer Hardware, Peripherals (8.32%)
2	U S A	Petroleum: Crude (15.19%)	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones (12.85%)	Petroleum Products (7.56%)
3	U Arab Emts	Petroleum: Crude (28.04%)	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones (19.21%)	Petroleum Products (16.78%)
4	Saudi Arab	Petroleum: Crude (67.11%)	Petroleum Products (13.09%)	Fertilizers Manufactured (5.56%)
5	Hong Kong	Electronics Components (21.27%)	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones (19.97%)	Telecom Instruments (18.54%)
6	Iraq	Petroleum: Crude (90.88%)	Petroleum Products (8.19%)	Fresh Fruits (0.52%)
7	Germany	Aircraft, Spacecraft And Parts (26.99%)	Indl. Machinery For Dairy Etc (8.85%)	Electric Machinery And Equipment (5.19%)
8	Switzerland	Gold (85.06%)	Drug Formulations, Biologicals (2.62%)	Coal, Coke & Briquettes Etc (1.67%)
9	Indonesia	Coal, Coke & Briquettes Etc (38.52%)	Vegetable Oils (26.54%)	Bulk Minerals And Ores (3.04%)
10	Singapore	Electronics Components (11.08%)	Computer Hardware, Peripherals (11.02%)	Plastic Raw Materials (6.40%)

Source : DGCI&S

India's Export Profile : State-wise Growth

(value in US\$ Million)							
S. No.	States	2018-19	% Share	2019-20	% Share	April-Jan 2020-21	%Share
1	Gujarat	67412.15	20.42	63448.40	20.25	48353.67	21.13
2	Maharashtra	72809.28	22.06	64906.08	20.71	45356.94	19.82
3	Tamil Nadu	30525.91	9.25	30014.55	9.58	20491.31	8.96
4	Andhra Pradesh	14085.63	4.27	14787.75	4.72	13171.23	5.76
5	Uttar Pradesh	16289.17	4.93	16989.21	5.42	12933.14	5.65
6	Karnataka	17341.29	5.25	16639.45	5.31	11822.30	5.17
7	Haryana	13833.25	4.19	12056.14	3.85	9061.21	3.96
8	Odisha	6303.36	1.91	6655.69	2.12	7958.72	3.48
9	Telangana	7168.26	2.17	7359.32	2.35	7161.58	3.13
10	West Bengal	10057.13	3.05	9490.84	3.03	6811.47	2.98
11	Delhi	9464.60	2.87	10370.15	3.31	6163.66	2.69
12	Madhya Pradesh	6382.37	1.93	5318.32	1.70	5210.87	2.28
13	Rajasthan	7061.61	2.14	6637.05	2.12	5209.78	2.28
14	Punjab	6038.07	1.83	5605.90	1.79	4247.69	1.86
15	Kerala	9834.25	2.98	10146.80	3.24	2996.15	1.31
16	Uttarakhand	2351.18	0.71	2279.78	0.73	1854.13	0.81
17	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2143.38	0.65	2177.41	0.69	2052.13	0.90
18	Chhattisgarh	1244.10	0.38	1278.69	0.41	1789.42	0.78
19	Goa	2063.64	0.63	2000.42	0.64	1879.98	0.82
20	Jharkhand	1252.79	0.38	1168.01	0.37	1351.81	0.59
21	Himachal Pradesh	1323.43	0.40	1392.91	0.44	1362.88	0.60
22	Bihar	1640.91	0.50	1661.13	0.53	1160.72	0.51
23	Daman & Diu	1053.39	0.32	1109.22	0.35	534.82	0.23
24	Pondicherry	392.79	0.12	366.31	0.12	343.67	0.15
25	Assam	369.90	0.11	436.72	0.14	341.59	0.15
26	Jammu & Kashmir	196.43	0.06	188.18	0.06	125.65	0.05
27	Chandigarh	71.89	0.02	76.54	0.02	62.04	0.03
28	Tripura	1.72	0.00	1.75	0.00	10.77	0.00
29	Sikkim	7.94	0.00	9.88	0.00	7.99	0.00
30	Meghalaya	53.86	0.02	46.99	0.01	5.67	0.00
31	Nagaland	2.78	0.00	5.71	0.00	4.22	0.00
32	Andaman & Nicobar	4.01	0.00	1.30	0.00	1.58	0.00
33	Manipur	2.66	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.86	0.00
34	Mizoram	1.41	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.36	0.00
35	Arunachal Pradesh	2.31	0.00	1.55	0.00	0.27	0.00
36	Lakshadweep	0.41	0.00	2.56	0.00	0.16	0.00
37	Unspecified	21290.81	6.45	18728.82	5.98	8946.88	3.91
India's Export		330078.09	100.00	313361.04	100.00	228787.33	100.00

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

India's Export Profile : State-wise Share

(value in US\$ Million)							
S. No.	States	2018-19	2019-20	% Change	April-Jan 2019-20	April-Jan 2020-21	% Change
1	Gujarat	67412.15	63448.40	-5.88	51419.75	48353.67	-5.96
2	Maharashtra	72809.28	64906.08	-10.85	55320.19	45356.94	-18.01
3	Tamil Nadu	30525.91	30014.55	-1.68	25267.39	20491.31	-18.90
4	Andhra Pradesh	14085.63	14787.75	4.98	11884.21	13171.23	10.83
5	Uttar Pradesh	16289.17	16989.21	4.30	14319.16	12933.14	-9.68
6	Karnataka	17341.29	16639.45	-4.05	14079.92	11822.30	-16.03
7	Haryana	13833.25	12056.14	-12.85	10030.47	9061.21	-9.66
8	Odisha	6303.36	6655.69	5.59	5463.23	7958.72	45.68
9	Telangana	7168.26	7359.32	2.67	6150.27	7161.58	16.44
10	West Bengal	10057.13	9490.84	-5.63	8055.55	6811.47	-15.44
11	Delhi	9464.60	10370.15	9.57	8681.63	6163.66	-29.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	6382.37	5318.32	-16.67	4466.79	5210.87	16.66
13	Rajasthan	7061.61	6637.05	-6.01	5582.20	5209.78	-6.67
14	Punjab	6038.07	5605.90	-7.16	4527.35	4247.69	-6.18
15	Kerala	9834.25	10146.80	3.18	8523.70	2996.15	-64.85
16	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2143.38	2177.41	1.59	1834.97	2052.13	11.83
17	Goa	2063.64	2000.42	-3.06	1704.26	1879.98	10.31
18	Uttarakhand	2351.18	2279.78	-3.04	2065.88	1854.13	-10.25
19	Chattisgarh	1244.10	1278.69	2.78	1069.72	1789.42	67.28
20	Himachal Pradesh	1323.43	1392.91	5.25	1150.26	1362.88	18.49
21	Jharkhand	1252.79	1168.01	-6.77	966.83	1351.81	39.82
22	Bihar	1640.91	1661.13	1.23	1421.61	1160.72	-18.35
23	Daman & Diu	1053.39	1109.22	5.30	927.35	534.82	-42.33
24	Pondicherry	392.79	366.31	-6.74	306.73	343.67	12.04
25	Assam	369.90	436.72	18.06	363.78	341.59	-6.10
26	Jammu & Kashmir	196.43	188.18	-4.20	160.75	125.65	-21.83
27	Chandigarh	71.89	76.54	6.46	63.47	62.04	-2.25
28	Tripura	1.72	1.75	1.62	1.10	10.77	881.47
29	Sikkim	7.94	9.88	24.43	8.27	7.99	-3.37
30	Meghalaya	53.86	46.99	-12.75	39.18	5.67	-85.53
31	Nagaland	2.78	5.71	104.97	5.52	4.22	-23.42
32	Andaman & Nicobar	4.01	1.30	-67.63	1.10	1.58	42.68
33	Manipur	2.66	0.93	-64.87	0.92	0.86	-6.39
34	Mizoram	1.41	0.58	-59.12	0.48	0.36	-25.80
35	Arunachal Pradesh	2.31	1.55	-32.83	1.33	0.27	-79.56
36	Lakshadweep	0.41	2.56	524.47	2.49	0.16	-93.64
37	Unspecified	21290.81	18728.82	-12.03	18259.83	8946.88	-51.00
India's Export		330078.09	313361.04	-5.06	264127.61	228787.33	-13.38

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

GOLKONDA BRAND PRODUCTS

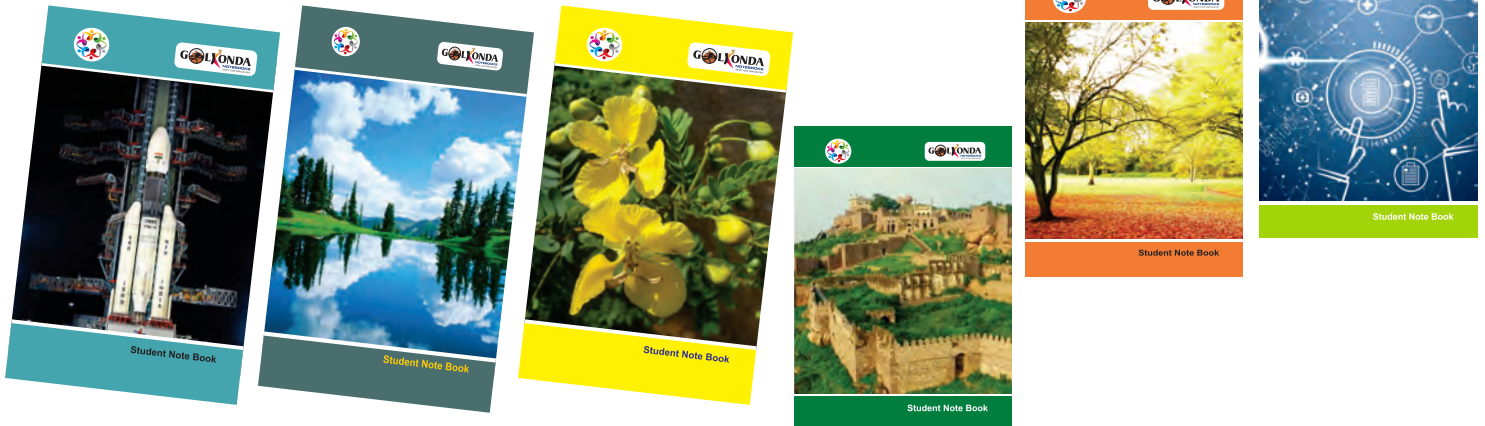
GOLKONDA NOTE BOOKS

WRITE YOUR OWN DESTINY

Students Favoured choice

QUALITY & QUANTITY GUARANTEED

- ✓ Affordable Price
- ✓ Accurate Size
- ✓ Whiter Pages



GOLKONDA COPIER PAPER

- ✓ High brightness and opacity
- ✓ Improved electrostatic properties
- ✓ Dimensional stability and stiffness
- ✓ Absolute copying freedom



Marketed by :



TSTPC

EXPLORING NEW TRADE FRONTIERS

TELANGANA STATE TRADE PROMOTION CORPORATION LIMITED

D.No. 5-10-174, Shakkar Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad-4

Phone: +91 40 23237591, Email: info@tstpc.org, web: www.tstpc.org