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Covid-19 situation - An opportunity for the growth of Telangana Food Processing Exports

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Releasing Rs 100 crore subsidy to 2,000 SC and ST entrepreneurs by Sri KT Rama Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Industries & Commerce, IT & C & MA & UD coined the '**3E' principle - Education, Entrepreneurship and Employment** - to uplift the downtrodden classes - Smt. Satyavathi Rathod, Hon'ble ST Welfare Minister and Sri Koppula Eshwar, Hon'ble SC Welfare Minister, Sri Erolla Srinivas, Hon'ble Chairman SC/ST Commission and other officials were present at the event.

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Message from the Joint Managing Director's Desk

I am happy to note that, this edition of the Telangana State Trade Journal has covered the detailed analysis on the impact of Covid-19 on Exports from the Food Processing sector of Telangana State. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation estimates, from April to June in FY2020-21, India's GDP growth rate contracted by 23.9% and the economy contracted by 22.8% in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA). Exports of goods such as food products and pharmaceuticals recorded healthy growth in July 2020, driven by the rising global demand. Exports from the Telangana State during the COVID-19 (April-June 2020) was impressive with a growth of 12.87% as against the national growth of (-) 36.71%.

The major exports sectors of Telangana State are Drugs, Pharmaceuticals, Food Processing, Mines & Mineral, Gems & Jewellery, Engineering Goods etc. Keeping this in view, the impact of Covid-19 on exports on the food processing sector is analysed. It is a great pleasure to note that the State have achieved nearly 1% growth in exports of food processing commodities in the complete adverse conditions. The major export commodities are Genus Capsicum, Boneless Meat of Bovine Animals, Sweet Biscuits, Rice in husk, other vegetable products, Rice products like parboiled rice and other variety of rice etc.

The major exported countries include China, USA, Vietnam, UAE, Pakistan, Philippines, Malaysia, Netherland, Thailand, Mynamar, Saudi Arabia etc. Similarly, the ports / airports / ICDs involved in the exports from Telangana State are ICD Hyderabad, Chennai port, Nhava Sheva port (Mumbai), Hyderabad Air Cargo, Kattupalli port (Tiruvallur), ICD Thimmapur (Continental) (Mahabubnagar), Mumbai Air Cargo, Mundra port (Gujarat), Kakinada port and Krishnapatnam Port. ICD Hyderabad, Mumbai Air cargo and Kakinada port have shown good growth of exports.

Telangana primary sector is growing @ 10.7%, out of which crops, livestock, are growing at @ 15.7%, 14.6% respectively. Cereals & Millets, Paddy and Maize are the rich crops. Rice is large exporting commodity. Paddy is the largest cultivated crop grown in an area of 13.32 lakh hectare resulting in the production of 66.70 lakh tonnes of paddy, ranking at 6th position in the country. In respect of yield it is 5th position in the country with 3.45 tonnes per hectare. The Government has taken a number of measures to improve farmer welfare – (i) Rythu Bandhu for investment support, (ii) Rythu Bima provides life insurance cover to farmers (iii) ensuring access to quality inputs (Soil Health Cards, credit, seeds, mechanical implements etc.), (iv) disseminating technical inputs to encourage best-practices, (v) facilitating market reforms to ensure farmers can take their produce to the market and get fair compensation, and (vi) crop insurance scheme to protect farmers against the vagaries of nature. The agriculture sector of Telangana provides livelihood to 55% of the state's workforce.

The advantage for Telangana State to achieve growth in the exports is that the State is having suitable **food processing infrastructure** like food parks and warehouses, **Food Processing policy**, incentives schemes, **road**, **air and port connectivity**, huge **agri resources bank**, presence of **Export Promotion Councils** like APEDA, Spices Board, FIEO, EXIM Bank, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India, Addl. DGFT etc. The state has **best logistic facilities** like GMR Air Cargo, ICD Hyderabad, ICD Thimmapur etc. and **strong supply chain management**. I am sure that the analysis covered in this edition shall provide suitable inputs for the exporters in exploring the export business both in terms of right products and perfect market destinations.

Goldman Sachs chooses Hyderabad for its second office in India Hyderabad: 2nd Oct 2020



Yet another global player has selected Hyderabad to expand its presence in India. The Goldman Sachs group, a leading global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to corporations, financial institutions, governments and individuals is setting its foot in Hyderabad. The Goldman Sachs has identified Hyderabad as a new location for its global shared services footprint in India. This is a part of the firm's India location strategy to diversify its geographic presence and enhance talent reach, to support the growing global businesses and enhance long-term competitiveness.

The new Hyderabad office will be the second location for Goldman Sachs Services in India, and will complement the Bengaluru office footprint in terms of both the execution and support that it will provide to the firm's businesses globally.

The announcement came after representatives of Goldman Sachs interacted with IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao and explained their plans to come to Hyderabad over a video conference. The Minister responded positively and stated that the government will provide complete support to the firm in their future ventures. The new office here is expected to commence in the second half of 2021 with about 500 employees, and has potential for future growth. It will leverage the expertise of the existing leadership in Bengaluru office, while investing in a strong pool of competitive world class local talent. Key criteria for the new office location included the availability of commercial real estate and housing for employees, a diverse talent pool, quality infrastructure in the city, and support and commitment from the local government. It's Bengaluru office, at outer ring road, with over half of its 6,000 employees as engineers, will continue to be a major location for Goldman Sachs in India

KCR calls for qualitative changes in horticultural cultivation

Hyderabad : 14th Oct 2020

Calling for a qualitative change in the way fruits, vegetables and flowers are cultivated in the State, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has asked Horticultural department to update its skill and strengthen from within to bring the required change. "The State is endowed with fertile and and a wide variety of soils, good rainfall and skilled farmers to bring revolutionary changes in the cultivation of horticultural crops," he said.

Speaking at a high-level meeting on horticulture at Pragathi Bhavan, the Chief Minister said the government was determined to further strengthen the department. He instructed the officials to draft a comprehensive Horticulture Cropping Policy for the State and encouraged them to achieve results within a year. "Telangana has achieved number one position in many sectors and we must be number one in cultivation of horticulture crops too," he said.

"Despite having fertile soils, annual average rainfall of 900-1500 mm and lakhs of farmers with required skills, Telangana is still importing fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices and oil seeds from other States," he said, adding that the situation has to change to achieve self-sufficiency in production of these crops. He hoped that Telangana State would not only reach self-sufficiency in horticulture crops for its own consumption but also produce enough for export to other countries.

Chandrashekhar Rao announced that the State government will soon establish an exclusive 300 acre horticulture marketing yard in Kongara Kalan area of Hyderabad on the lines of Azadpur market in Delhi.

Chandrashekhar Rao said the department has to gear up and inspire farmers. "We must decide on the type of crop and the location, and create awareness about it among the farmers so that we can excel among all other Indian States," he said. He advised the department to expand its activities on horticulture education, extension and research to achieve that top position.



"Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana and some other states in the country, and countries like the Netherlands, are doing well in horticulture sector. We must go there and learn about their experiences, methods of cultivation and ways of marketing the produce," he advised.

He suggested that horticultural officers from the State be sent to Bengalurubased Indian Institute of Horticulture Research for training and also invite experts from the institute to Telangana to conduct special training classes for the staff. "There must be extensive research on horticultural crops in the State Horticulture University and also in the department. The department must embark on studying various new and novel approaches in the cultivation and marketing of these crops," he said. He also wanted the department to encourage mechanisation in cultivation of horticulture crops.

Comprehensive Horticulture Cropping Pattern

"To achieve a qualitative change, we must come up with a cropping pattern for horticulture similar to the regular agriculture crops. "Travel and prepare a system suitable for Telangana within three months and achieve the envisaged changes within a year," he said. He also pointed out that there was a need to expand the department. "Government is keen on appointing one horticulture officer for each mandal in the State. There must be separate and specialised wings under senior officers to study the changes being ushered in the sector and also be updated on the changes in marketing of these crops," he said.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to prepare a wish list of the required number of staff and steps to expand the department and assured them that the government was ready to appoint officers and employees to strengthen the department. He said that arrangement will be made for the horticulture officers to sit with farmers and discuss issues at all "Rythu Vedikas" being built across the State. He also called upon the department heads to concentrate on the marketing aspect of horticulture produce by identifying crops with highest demand across the globe and equipping the farmers with required know-how to cultivate the same in Telangana.

Ministers S Niranjan Reddy, Sabitha Indra Reddy, Rytu Bandhu Samithi State Chairman Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, CMO Secretary Smitha Sabharwal, principal secretary agriculture B Janardhan Reddy, joint director Sarojana, deputy director Sunanda and senior officials of the department participated in the meeting.

TS to improve medical infrastructure: KTR

Hyderabad: 8th Oct 2020

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development K T Rama Rao said the State government will take all measures to strengthen the medical infrastructure in the State. The need to further augment the existing infrastructure was felt in the past six monts of Covid-19 pandemic, he said.



Addressing the Cabinet Sub Committee on Medical and Health Department, the Minister congratulated the department for its work during the past six months. "The department under Health Minister Eatala Rajender's leadership worked very well. Not only during the past six months but from the past six years, the department has worked very hard and instilled confidence among the people of the State about government medical services," he observed. He said the department helped reduce neonatal death rate and mortality rate among young mothers, established diagnostic centres, intensive care units, and dialysis centres. He complimented Aasha workers, heads of different departments and the health secretary for the exemplary work that they have being doing. He observed that the intensity of seasonal diseases had drastically come down this year. "This was possible because of the cooperation between Panchayat Raj and the Health departments. There was also a marked improvement among the general public on seasonal diseases," he said. While the number of Covid cases were increasing elsewhere in the country, the incidence had come down in Telangana, thanks to the work of the medical and health department, he said.

Rajender said the department which works round the clock all around the year will be further strengthened. "The need to improve medical and health infrastructure was felt all over the world during the pandemic. In Telangana, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao directed us to take steps in that direction," he said. Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav also participated in the meeting.

Eatala Rajender inaugurates Stem Cell wing at NIMS

Hyderabad: : 3rd Oct 2020

The assessment of Telangana on Covid-19 and the State government's efforts to combat the infection from the beginning have proved to be right, said Health Minister E Rajender. He inaugurated the Stem Cell Banking, Clinical Research and Regenerative Medicine at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) said, "We have maintained that in the name of plasma therapy and injections, a patient could be fleeced but can't be saved, and that has proved to be true. We also said that a person with normal symptoms could be treated spending Rs 10,000 and that too proved true," he said."In the coming days, we will have to coexist with it the way we are coexisting with dengue, viral fevers, H1N1 and malaria," the Health Minister said, adding that sustained efforts on part of the Telangana government has helped in containing Covid-19 in the State.

In tune with Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's plans to provide an impetus to the health infrastructure and have leading medical institutions on four sides of Hyderabad, two hospitals will come up on the Shamirpet-Medchal side and

Kongara

Kalan. Rajender said already two major health facilities have come up on two sides of the city – AIIMS at Bibinagar and TIMS at Gachibowli. Following the instructions of the Chief Minister to increase the outpatient facilities at NIMS, an OP block and critical care unit would be set up at a cost of Rs 250 crore. Presently the OP wing was catering to 2,500 patients and efforts were on to increase the outpatient care here to 5,000, he said.

With the Stem Cell Banking, Clinical Research and Regenerative Medicine wing was opened, NIMS has emerged as a leading hospital in the country. The stem cell unit will provide treatment of highest standards to blood cancer patients and for the poor, treatment will be free through Arogya Sri. "Previously, samples used to be sent to New Delhi for testing. Now, NIMS has capabitlity to undertake 10,000 tests every day," he said. Some of the services at NIMS which were stopped due to the Covid pandemic would be restored in a week's time, the Minister added.

KTR writes to Gadkari, seeks Rs 500 cr for development of Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway

Hyderabad : 1st Oct 2020

Minister for Municipal Affairs and Urban Development KT Rama Rao has asked Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari to allocate special fund of Rs 500 crore to sort out problems plaguing the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway and to undertake further development of one of the important highways linking Hyderabad.



In a letter written to the Union Minister, Rama Rao has said that the road was spread 25 kilometres across

the city limits but lacks facilities such as level junctions and service roads even though the road passes through some of the busiest places of the city. The Minister said that the State Public Works Department has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to develop the road at a cost of Rs 500 crore. He said the Union Minister that the Telangana government has undertaken several projects to create infrastructure at a large scale to match the needs of ever expanding city. Rama Rao informed Nitin Gadkari that three out of the four urban projects sanctioned by the union government are nearing completion and the works on Amberpet Flyover will begin soon. However, he said that the State government is spending money for acquiring land and for the shifting of utilities from its own funds. He pointed out that the city is developing at a rapid pace because of its geographical position and also because of the policies implemented by the State government.

Many internationally renowned institutions such as Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook and Sales force have set up their second largest centres here, in addition to this, many pharma, defence and aerospace manufacturing industries are coming to Hyderabad. He said that the Telangana government has established Metro rail, keeping in mind the present and future needs of the city. He said that several flyovers, ROBs, RUBs and link roads have been constructed under the Strategic Road Development Project (SRDP). Rama Rao reminded the Union Minister that the Telangana government has initiated and completed these projects despite the Covid-19 scare and the lockdown. He wanted the union Minister to encourage and help the State government which has been undertaking infrastructural works on a large scale by allocating Rs 500 crore for the Hyderabad-Vijayawada road.

Indsom Chamber Of Commerce set up in Hyderabad

Hyderabad : 30th Sep 2020

The Indsom Chamber of Commerce, set up by businessmen from India and Somalia who saw the need to provide an institutional link for the promotion of commercial goodwill and economic relations between the two countries, was inaugurated. Somalia is on its way to economic recovery and has a huge potential market for most modern services. The country aims at exploiting the natural resources of petroleum and fisheries while agriculture, livestock and manufacturing require sophisticated production activities and huge investment in both domestic and international levels, according to a press release.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of the Industries and Commerce and IT, said the Telangana government would support the Indsom Chamber of Commerce in promoting trade and commerce.

Y Kiron, founder, Indsom Chamber of Commerce, said the momentum was already built into growth trajectory and the underlying potentials between two economies make the chamber the perfect platform that offers informal and institutional investors investable businesses by sourcing, selecting and preparing SMEs for an investment and will encourage enthusiastic entrepreneurs to do business in both the countries.

IKEA India to strengthen omnichannel presence across markets

Hyderabad: 7th Oct 2020

IKEA India aims to enter the top Indian cities with an omnichannel approach. The Ingka Group company opened its first retail store in Hyderabad in August 2018, followed by online stores in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Pune last year. Over 2 million customers visited the company's Hyderabad store and more than 25 million visited online stores in the city, Mumbai and Pune during the financial year 2020.

"We look forward to a strong and positive FY 2021 with our new IKEA store and also smaller formats coming up in Mumbai and continue establishing a strong omnichannel presence in our markets. 2021 is also the leap year of sustainability for IKEA and we will continue to enable and inspire more people to live a more sustainable life at home," said Peter Betzel, CEO and CSO, IKEA India.

He added, "New services like

Click & Collect, remote planning and home furnishing consultancy were launched in Hyderabad. We have been lowering our prices for many articles to become even more affordable for our consumers. As more people have been forced to stay home, the interest in home furnishing has increased and online shopping grew significantly." IKEA has over 50 suppliers with 45,000 direct employees and 4,00,000 people in the extended supply chain in India producing for IKEA stores worldwide.

Global retail sales

Ingka Group achieved retail sales of EUR 35.2 billion for the financial year 2020, compared to EUR 36.7 billion for the financial year 2019, despite the economic and public health challenges posed by Covid-19. The company's fiscal year is effective between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020. "Our strong performance over this unique time, shows the resilience of our business and the impressive leadership among colleagues across IKEA. During the last six months we managed to quickly adapt to meet the new needs of our customers – and even if our values have been put to the test it's clear that our purpose is what unites us," said Jesper Brodin, CEO, Ingka Group.

Ingka Group has accelerated its retail transformation over the year, repurposing its stores to fulfilment units, as well as implementing click & collect services. Over the year, the company has opened 26 new IKEA locations globally in cities such as Shanghai, Seoul, Moscow and Tokyo, and developed a more seamless experience with new digital solutions.



Hyderabad startup partners with Australian blockchain firm

Hyderabad : 30th Sep 2020

Hyderabad-based startup that offers emerging technology-based solutions provider ETgarage announced a strategic technology partnership with VeriDoc Global, a blockchain solutions company headquartered in Australia. ETgarage works with companies in the e-governance, FMCG, agriculture, healthcare, energy and BFSI sector and brings about the best use of emerging technologies to simplify the process of verification, authentication and traceability.

Established in 2019 by Prabir Mishra and Puru Modani with the objective of creating a platform that uses emerging technologies to solve complex business problem statements, the startup envisions the partnership with VeriDoc Global to lay the foundation for faster translation of blockchain technology in India. Mishra said, "We firmly believe this alliance with VeriDoc Global will revolutionize the use of blockchain technology in our business practices." VeriDoc Global has developed a verification protocol that combines anti-fraud tech with distributed ledger technology providing end solutions across many different horizontals and verticals. VeriDoc Global currently leverages several diverse blockchain stacks to give customers more control over their data.

OTO Capital forays into Hyderabad

Hyderabad : 7th Oct 2020

Vehicle leasing company OTO Capital has entered into Hyderabad to offer two-wheelers from all major brands. This is the first time the company will be providing their services through a completely online model.OTO has partnered with 45 dealerships in Hyderabad already and plans to sign up 50 more showrooms in the next two months. The company said it has observed high demand in the city with over 200 queries being made every month to lease twowheelers.

The company has tied up with dealerships such as Fortune Honda, Gem Suzuki, Varun Bajaj, Phoenix Hero, Pearl Yamaha, Shanthi Motors and others. The company said while it has always had an online focus, this



is the first time the full range of offerings will be available online. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, buyers are no longer visiting showrooms frequently. A buyer doesn't need to step out of the house to own a vehicle. The home delivery and home test-drive options are also available in the city now. OTO Capital has seen traction in Bengaluru and Pune. The company has leased more than 1,000 twowheelers since January 2020. The company says that one can save up to 30 per cent through OTO Monthly Instalments (OMI) compared to a traditional bank loan EMI. The buyer has complete control over the ownership and can choose to lease the vehicle between one year to three years. At the end of the leasing period, one can also buy back the vehicle from OTO or upgrade to any other vehicle of their choosing.

OTO said major OEMs have started leveraging its online platform. Hyderabad has been a tech-forward

city with a high number of early adopters. The city's two-wheeler segment has recovered from the economic slowdown faster than Bengaluru and Pune this year, which makes it a key market for OTO Capital.

Sumit Chhazed, co-founder, OTO Capital, "We have seen huge demand from the city but due to Covid we were unsure of how to carry out our operations on ground. This is why we decided to go completely online as the Hyderabad audience is very tech-savvy and are open to new solutions."

Dr Reddy's joins global initiative to reduce carbon emissions

Hyderabad : 5th Oct 2020

Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Dr Reddy's Laboratories has joined the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), becoming the first Indian and the third Asian pharmaceutical company to have set its Science-Based Targets to further minimise environmental impact. The company has committed to reduce Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 from a FY 2017-18 base year, which is in line with the latest climate science of limiting global warming to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources while Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the company. G V Prasad, co-chairman and managing director, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, said, "Continuous improvement in our environmental performance is a notable aspect of our sustainability journey."

As of FY 2019-20, Dr Reddy's has reduced its Scope 1 emissions by 8.6 per cent and Scope 2 emissions by 20.7 per cent over the baseline of FY 2017-18. The combined Scope 1 and 2 emissions have been reduced by 13 per cent over the same base year, putting it on a fast track to achieving GHG reduction targets. SBTi, a joint initiative of Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), World Resources Institutes (WRI) and World Wide Fund (WWF), provides companies with a clearly defined pathway to future-proof growth by specifying how much and how quickly they need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to well-below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. As of now, 472 companies have set their targets as per SBTi. In the pharmaceutical and biotech sector globally, 17 companies have set their emission reduction targets affirming their pledge to mitigate climate change impac

Torrent Gas opens five CNG stations in Telangana

Hyderabad : 8th Oct 2020

Torrent Gas has opened five new CNG stations in Telangana, taking the company's total count in the State to 11. The company has authorisation to lay City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Sangareddy, Medak and Siddipet districts. The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan through a video conference from Delhi, recently dedicated 42 CNG Stations (including those in Telangana) and three City Gate Stations across India. With the completion of these 42 CNG stations, the total count has gone up to 100.

The company has authorisation to lay CGD network in 32 districts across seven States including Telangana and one Union Territory. Inaugurating the stations, Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Making Natural Gas available in upcountry regions, will encourage consumers to adopt this cleaner and cheaper fuel, thereby having a positive impact on the environment and benefiting the citizens at large. Government of India intends to increase the number of CNG stations in the country from approximately 3,000 currently to 10,000 within the next 4 to 5 years."

Speaking on the occasion, Jinal Mehta, director, Torrent Gas said, "Torrent Gas intends to make a total investment of Rs 8,000 crore over the next 5 years towards the creation of CGD infrastructure in the country, of which Rs 1,050 crores has already been invested. Despite the constraints presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, Torrent Gas has been able to set up 100 CNG stations within a relatively short span of time." "We are now working towards our near-term goal of setting up 200 CNG stations by March 2021 and medium-term goal of setting up 500 CNG stations by March 2021 and residences in our authorised areas." added Mehta.



Telangana govt support to be the game changer in EV sector'

Hyderabad : 7th Oct 2020

Telangana is emerging as a major electric vehicle (EV) hub in the country attracting several electric mobility companies to set up their manufacturing base as well as introduce their latest products, backed by government support.Among several companies that are looking at the State, Gurugram-based Evolet India is exploring possibilities to set up an assembly plant in Telangana as well as manufacturing options to make e-buses, to create additional capacities beyond its Haryana unit.

Evolet India CEO Prerana Chaturvedi said, "One of the major advantages of Telangana is its prime geographic location, which presents a logistics and economic sense to EV makers. The State government is pushing the entire ecosystem around electric vehicles, by providing land, skilled manpower and subsidies. Telangana is also opening the door to receive supply as the first customer, being the frontrunner in EV adoption. This will be the game changer." Many EV makers are lining up their product launches in the State. Bengaluru-headquartered Ather Energy plans to deliver its latest scooter 450X in Hyderabad from November onwards, marking its foray into this growing EV market. Charging infrastructure will be created in the city from this month onwards.

Tarun Mehta, CEO, Ather Energy, said, "We find Hyderabad as a very strong market for electric vehicles, with a lot of customer interest. The city has a lot of young customers and people here understand and appreciate new technology. Not all cities in India are like this." "Hyderabad has a lot of tech crowd and people have a broad world view on environmental impact, technology, new brands and startups. I am surprised, we did not launch our vehicles in Hyderabad earlier," Mehta added.

Policy push

E-DRIVE 100

Being one of the very few States in India with a dedicated Electric Vehicle (EV) and Energy Storage Systems (ESS) policy, Telangana is offering both incentives to manufacturers to set up their facilities as well as customers with the benefit of subsidies if they become early adopters of EVs.Mahindra Electric managing director & chief executive officer Mahesh Babu said, the recently announced Telangana EV & ESS policy will ensure EVs are more accessible and affordable in the State.

Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary, Industries & Commerce and IT, Government of Telangana, said, "We have introduced several policy initiatives in the areas of electric mobility, electric vehicles and electric storage. We are today seen as the most progressive and industryfriendly State.""Several companies have evinced interest in setting up manufacturing facilities for electric vehicles and batteries. National and foreign companies are aiming to strengthen their presence in south India as the region is progressive, people are enterprising, and the EV adoption is faster. Telangana connects to both northern and southern parts of the country and offers a strategic logistics advantage," Ranjan added

Mehta emphasised, Telangana's policy framework will facilitate manufacturing and create more jobs. On the consumer front, no road tax and no registration fee for

EVs will bring down the effective price of the vehicles, pushing sales.

Sri Harsha Bavirisetty, COO of Hyderabad-based EV company Gayam Motor Works, said, "The manufacturing ecosystem in Hyderabad and the State's policy framework have been encouraging. We are not only making products to cater to the domestic market but also to export markets such as Japan, Lebanon, Italy, UK, France and Portugal. To meet our growth needs, we are planning to set up a larger facility in Hyderabad."

Telangana EV Policy Goals

 To reduce the total cost of mobility by increasing the adoption of EVs

- To promote a shift from dependence on fossil fuels to locally produced renewable energy
- Make TS the preferred destination for electric vehicle, energy storage systems and component manufacturing
- To attract investments worth \$4 billion and create employment for 1,20,000 people by 2030
- To enable creation of EV charging infrastructure and market for commercially viable EV charging business
- To develop Telangana as a global centre for cuttingedge research and innovation

Telangana has highest percentage of working women in India

Hyderabad : 01st October 2020

Telangana has the highest percentage of working women in the country, including in the organised sector, a report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has revealed. According to the report, about 46 per cent of women aged 15-59 years in the State spend a part of their day in 'employment and related activities'. Nationally, this figure stands at just 21.7 per cent. The report also points a stark difference between the percentage of women who spend a part of their day working at a job in rural and urban Telangana. While almost 57 per cent of the women in rural Telangana spend a part of their day in employment-related activities, it is just 30.5 per cent in the urban parts of the State.

Unpaid work at home

There is a deep contrast in the amount of unpaid work, including taking care of family members, that men and women do at home in Telangana, despite the fact that there is not much difference between the time they spend on employment-related activities. According to the report, while Telangana women (15-59 years) spend an average of 425 minutes every day on employment-related activities, men (15-59 years) spend 534 minutes. However, when it comes to unpaid work at home, the women of the State spend 252 minutes a day on providing unpaid domestic services at home, against just 88 minutes by men. Also, women spend 158 minutes on unpaid caregiving tasks at home as compared to a negligible 83 minutes by men.

Overall employment scenario better

Telangana has the largest percentage of persons (men and women) who spend time on employment-related activities, indicating that the employment scenario in the State is better than the rest of the country. According to the report, 62.4 per cent of the people aged 15-59 years spend a part of their day on employment-related activities against the national average of 46.3 per cent. The figure is 69 per cent in rural Telangana and 53.5 per cent in urban areas.

Further, Telangana has one of the highest percentage of persons (15-59 years) involved in the System of National Accounts (SNA) Production, 63.6 per cent - men form 70.5 per cent and women 54.4 per cent, according to the Union Ministry's report. SNA Production includes employment in corporations, government, non-profit institutions and also household enterprises to produce goods.

Hyderabad based 'Eride' vehicles eyeing global markets

Hyderabad : 10th Oct 2020

As the Vijaya Dairy e-cart mobile dairy parlours arrive on the streets of Malakpet, Abids, Diamond Point and other areas in the city, they grab the attention of everyone with their innovative design, eco-friendly service and offering cost effective transport option. Having started as a small company in January 2019, city-based Eride electric vehicles manufacturing and mobility company is taking giant steps and has set its eye on the global market. Beating 28 other companies, Eride secured the largest electric vehicles order from Telangana State Dairy Development Cooperative Federation Limited for 200 e-vehicles, which are equipped with chiller and freezer, said A Devender Reddy, Eride founder and CEO. The company has already delivered 50 vehicles and is in the process of delivering the rest. Since its launch, it has manufactured loaders and passenger e-vehicles and about 80 loaders are being used for internal transportation in government departments, pharma companies and other entities, he said.

After working with top global companies in different designations, Reddy had set up Eride e-vehicles manufacturing company in the city. "The future is all going to be e-vehicles and there is lot of scope in this segment. I accidently got into this industry and I am happy with the prospects," he said. Not confining to one particular design concept, the company delivers vehicles as per the requirements of its clients. "Customisation is our USP and we manufacture vehicles according to the needs of clients. Some client companies have approached us for display and delivery of vegetables, meat on wheels vehicles, and even library on vehicles," Reddy said.He claims the owners of Vijaya e-cart mobile dairy parlour are making good money after meeting all their expenditure. "It is mainly due to minimal operation costs and least maintenance. The cost per km of these vehicles is about 0.30 to 0.40 paise," he said, adding that average consumption of electricity for full charge of batteries is six units and average run per charge is 80 km to 100 km.

By March 2021, the company has set a target of manufacturing 400 more e-vehicles and expand its manufacturing capacity. There are plans to set up dealership outlets in Bengaluru, Chennai, Vijayawada, Nagpur, Indore and other places. "The idea is to launch Eride vehicles in SAARC countries," he said. Different government departments are extending subsidies for owners operating these e-vehicles and Mudra loans are also offered.

Striving for women empowerment

State Dairy Developme erative Federation Ltd

In tune with its expansion plans, Eride is also striving to empower women and make them financially independent for which it is launching She-Rickshaws. The company has already trained some women on

VIJAYA

how to drive, self-defense techniques, basic communication skills in English and also handling minor repairs and snags in the vehicles.

The idea is to offer safe and comfortable first and last mile rides for women. It would be convenient for women passengers to board these vehicles and reach Metro stations or bus stops from their colonies or visit a nearby shopping mall or a hospital. The cost of the ride would also be very effective, Devender Reddy said. These vehicles can be operated in short but multiple rides for the convenience of passengers, especially women. Besides aiding in decent earnings for women drivers, this service will also offer a comfortable transportation option for passengers, he added.

Blue Dart strengthening logistics infra for pharma

Hyderabad : 10th Oct 2020

Logistics provider Blue Dart is strengthening specialised its temperature-controlled logistics (TCL) solution for life sciences, healthcare and clinical trials sectors. The company also provides reefer vehicle (cold chain) services to the biotech sector for seamless transport of vaccines. The Deutsche Post DHL Group company is keen to help improve the supply chain and ensure timely medical provisions by ramping up its infrastructure with its specialised TCL capabilities to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ketan Kulkarni, CMO and head, Business Development, Blue Dart, said, "As the development of the Covid-19 vaccine progresses across development phases, stringent temperature requirements (up to $- 80^{\circ}$ C) will be a critical factor for its transportation and warehousing at every stage." An efficient and specialised logistics network will be a prerequisite, to ensure safe and rapid delivery of billions of Covid-19 vaccine doses for mass immunisation, and other temperature sensitive pharma products on a national and global scale, Kulkarni added.

The company is actively working with various pharmaceutical and biotech companies that are conducting clinical trials to produce Covid-19 drugs and vaccines in India in their pre and post production activity. It is also involved in supply of critical medical equipment, testing kits, ventilators, PPEs, reagents, enzymes, respirators, surgical masks, goggles and gloves amongst other material. In addition to having operational experience and infrastructure required for handling bio-medical shipments and supplies. the company has a fleet of six Boeing 757 freighters, over 20,000 ground vehicles, servicing more than 35,000 locations. Blue Dart has pharmagrade conditioning rooms at eight strategic locations in India including Hyderabad, at a close proximity to its aviation stations, which increase turnaround time and ensure speedy delivery. Kulkarni further added, "As of now, we are expecting large-scale vaccine manufacturing mainly in Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad and Blue Dart is capable and prepared to meet any immediate large-scale demand."

In order to meet the Covid-19 drug and vaccine supply requirements, the company has kept in place material for packaging, insulated shippers, rooms, walk-in cold coolants, network, manpower and technology. Further, Blue Dart has access to the global logistics network of the Group, covering over 220 countries. Blue Dart has made strategic investments ahead of the curve to improve transit times, network optimisation, infrastructure and technology solutions, and is focusing on emerging markets, he added.



Evolet keen on investing in Telangana

Hyderabad : 5th Oct 2020

Electric vehicle (EV) maker Evolet India, part of Rissala Group, is keen on setting up assembly and manufacturing facilities in Telangana State. The company is planning to create an assembly plant for electric two-wheelers to cater to both domestic and export markets. There is also scope to set up product lines for ancillaries such as EV motors, controllers and batteries. Squadron Leader Prerana Chaturvedi, CEO, Evolet India said: "We want to establish a lithium-ion battery manufacturing facility in south India, and Telangana is certainly on our radar. We

will be taking the decision by the first quarter of 2021. For all manufacturing that we intend to make in the coming 1-2 years in India, we would be making investments of over Rs 500 crore."

"We have completed the design and engineering of e-buses and we are now in the process of building and developing state-of-the-art buses that will reduce the payloads by 45 per cent. Telangana will remain one of the key States for our bus segment," she informed. The company currently operates a plant at Manesar, Haryana with a built-up

area of 1.4 lakh sq ft with an installed capacity of 3.5 lakh two-wheelers per annum. Evolet is also looking to acquire manufacturing units in India for three-wheelers and four-wheelers.

Gurugram-based company which made its formal announcement on its foray into Telangana with its first showroom in Madhapur, plans to expand its dealer network across the State. Telangana is emerging as one of the key markets for electric vehicles, with the State government pushing green mobility with right policy support, noted Chaturvedi.

Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary, Industries and Commerce and IT, Government of Telangana, said, "Several electric vehicle companies are foraying into Telangana. The State offers enormous opportunities as a manufacturing hub, as there is a good connectivity to south, west and eastern parts of India, offering an edge in terms of logistics. With a dedicated 400-acre industrial park for batteries, cells and accessories in the State, EV companies such as Evolet can gain by setting up facilities here."

Evolet is currently strengthening its portfolio



comprising electric scooters, motorcycles, mopeds, quad bikes, jeeps, autos and buses. The company is aiming for 150 touchpoints pan-India by December 2020. Evolet is also seeing export opportunities in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Dubai, Italy and the UK. Rissala Group, which also has interests in the aerospace sector, is seeing the possibility of getting into production of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), in Telangana, as the State has become an aerospace and defence hub.

TS makes progress in renewable energy: CPI Asia Director

Hyderabad: 29th Sep 2020

Telangana was the forerunner in the space for renewable energy. The state has seen capacity growth increase from 30-35 MW in 2015 to 4 059 MW in 2019, with more than 90 per cent of it being used by solar energy. The state has not only achieved success in capacity spending, but also with energy conservation, the creation of industry-friendly policies and the encouragement of emerging sectors such as green mobility through electric vehicles. Asia Asia Director Mahua Acharya, director of the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), said : 'Telangana Solar Power Policy has launched a wave of soups for developers, such as single-glazed windows and rapid clearances, exemption from the Ground Ceiling Act , which is considered conversion to non-agricultural land status, 100 percent refund on VAT and VAT, refund on stamp duty, exemption from electricity wheel costs and quick approvals from the State Pollution Board."

On the other hand, TSREDCO, the State Entity for Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) and the Ministry of Power (MoP), provide incentives, subsidies, technical insurance, feasibility and necessary support for the implementation of renewable energy projects. CPI's research has mapped 270 million in rural energy access and other areas in the past year. This is a significant amount that places Telangana among the best states in the country, she noted.

Energy efficiency

In the state's energy efficiency report in 2019, Telangana was first in energy efficiency in municipalities, second in cross sectors, third in domestic and transport sector, and fourth in industries and energy saving. Mahua Acharya said: 'The state has implemented demand-side management activities to reduce energy consumption at municipal and panchayat level. In Hyderabad alone, about four lakh of existing street lights have been replaced with energy-efficient LED street lights, which have helped reduce energy demand by 40 MW. "

The state ranks sixth in India with 106 LEED-certified green building projects in 2019, with the private sector and commercial spaces leading this change. The large-scale tree planting program Haritha Haram, which moves beyond the green buildings, has given the municipality and gram panchayats a mandate to allocate significant budgets for the promotion of the green row.

At the forefront of electric vehicles, the state has taken the lead by launching EV policies, by providing exemption from road taxes and other incentives for not only private but also public vehicles. EV companies will also gain preferential market access to establish their manufacturing plants in Telangana. While he and wind policies are being actively considered, the next biggest revolution that can stimulate renewable energy in the state is with the electric vehicles, she stressed.

Hetero Drugs adopts 2,543 acres of forest area in Telangana

Hyderabad : 5th Oct 2020

In an attempt to strengthen the State government's efforts to improve green cover, pharma giant Hetero Drugs has adopted 2,543 acres of Mambapur- Nallavelli forest area.Hetero Chairman Partha Saradhi Reddy planted saplings and laid foundation stone at the urban forest. On the occasion, he appreciated Rajya Sabha MP Santosh Kumar's Green India Challenge initiative, which motivated Hetero Drugs to come forward for the adoption. Reddy handed over a cheque of Rs. five crore to the State government in the presence of Forest Minister Indrakaran Reddy, MP Santosh Kumar and forest officials. Mumbapur urban forest block is located near Gundlapochampalli in Sangareddy district. The urban forestry is extended in 3 compartments wherein Mumbapur (1,777 acres) and Nallavelli (766 acres) are adopted by Hetero Pharma.



Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had recently visited Narsapur forest area and ordered forest officials to take proper care and protection as it is located near Outer Ring Road touching industrial corridors and highways of Narsapur-Medak-Bhodhan. Rajya Sabha MP Santosh Kumar appreciated Hetero Pharma for its social commitment to protect greenery by adopting urban forest. As part of the adoption, there would be stabilisation of 2,543 acres of urban forest by fencing almost 25 km periphery and development of a small eco-park by the money donated by Hetero.

T-Hub launches fourth batch of Lab32 programme

Hyderabad : 5th Oct 2020

T-Hub launched the fourth batch of its flagship programme, Lab32. The startups under the programme will receive goal-oriented consultation from experts on product design and market expansion. The selected startups offer innovative solutions in key industries such as healthcare, food technology, HR and enterprise SaaS solutions among others. The programme has been designed in such a way that startups will not be required to be physically present and make the best use of various benefits of Lab32 through active interventions. The batch has startups from Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kolkata.

The primary focus of the programme will be to validate the business objectives of the startups through gap analysis and goal setting. The startups will undergo rigorous training and consultation sessions by professional trainers, advisors, and subject matter experts, based on the track they choose. There are product and marketing tracks.All the startups will closely work with professional consultants who will help them define and develop their product or marketing strategies. The programme will conclude with an assessment of the progress made by the startups in the respective track. Additionally, Lab32 will be offering the startups opportunities for collaboration and relationship building with relevant alumni startups and companies that are already part of the T-Hub community.

Ravi Narayan, CEO of T-Hub and chief innovation officer of Telangana, said, "The fourth batch of Lab32 has around 50 per cent startups in the early and mid-growth, that have not just managed the challenges that the pandemic introduced into their markets, but are ready to thrive. There are some exceptional minds behind each startup's team who have the potential to tap into the rapidly evolving opportunities in the digital economy in India."

"Numerous startups have scaled up rapidly through the previous three batches. The fourth batch of Lab32 brings in digital enablement and the hybrid mode of programme delivery, which we believe will benefit the startups better than ever before," Narayan added. A few of the shortlisted startups are Diagnocare, Talentrackr, Oqupi Health Tech, Crossforge Solutions, Vividminds Technologies, Shri Shakti Opstech, among others. About 40 startups graduated from the third batch in July.

TQ Cert becomes India's first drone certification body

Hyderabad : 3rd Oct 2020

Hyderabad-headquartered TO Cert Services, a Tata Group company, has become India's first third-party certification body (CB) for drones. The approval came after a thorough evaluation process by the Quality Council of India (QCI), in line with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) guidelines. A wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Projects, TO Cert is accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) in India, and has presence across 40 countries. Hyderabad also has the distinction of hosting four out of 13 DGCA-approved drone schools in the country. Telangana State Aviation Academy, Flytech Aviation Academy, Wings Aviation Academy and Asia Pacific Flight Training Academy will be offering remote pilot training.

The DGCA on September 22 has notified the third-party drone certification scheme following which drones can now be tested and certified by certification bodies empanelled by the QCI. DGCA has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the QCI to develop and operate the scheme. This is a culmination of over eight months of hard work, Amber Dubey, joint secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India. For implementation of the certification scheme, a Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSC) has been formed, supported by technical and certification committees, comprising officials and representatives from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, government institutions, regulatory bodies, certification agencies and key academia.

The certification process will ensure that the remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) meet applicable regulatory requirements and secure international acceptability. The certification bodies approved under the scheme would eventually be accredited as per the international standard ISO 17065, by the NABCB, a constituent Board of QCI.

Wells Fargo tower in Hyderabad conferred with LEED certification

Hyderabad : 2nd Oct 2020

Wells Fargo India has announced that its latest tower in the Hyderabad campus has achieved LEED v4 Platinum certification. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a globally recognised green building rating system that addresses the entire lifecycle of a building from design and construction to operations and maintenance. Created by the US Green Building Council, or USGBC, LEED defines and measures green building requirements, providing a roadmap for developing sustainable buildings and establishing a baseline for reducing environmental impacts.This accomplishment makes Wells Fargo India the first organization to achieve LEED v4 Platinum certification under LEED ID+C for a building in Hyderabad. With an area of 374,000 square feet, Tower 3 is the newest building at Wells Fargo India's Hyderabad campus and was inaugurated in November 2018.

Reaffirming Wells Fargo's commitment towards sustainable practices, Arindam Banerrji, managing director and head of Wells Fargo India & Philippines, said, "This recognition is a testimony for futureforward organizations as ours, where sustainability is a way of life. It is a great milestone to become the first building in Hyderabad and the second building in South Asia to obtain LEED v4 ID+C Platinum certification. It encourages us to continue working towards green practices and adopting innovative ways of improving the health, safety and wellbeing of the communities we operate in. It affirms our pledge to reach a lower-carbon economy and reduce the impact on climate change as an organization while bringing us to the forefront of the green building movement." All existing built-to-suit Wells Fargo facilities in India are also LEED-certified.



Hyderabad-based Sigachi Industries files for Rs 60-crore IPO

Hyderabad : 29th Sep 2020

Hyderabad-based Sigachi Industries, a manufacturer of cellulose-based excipients catering to the pharmaceuticals industry, has filed its IPO prospectus to raise approximately Rs 60 crores. The IPO is a fresh issuance of up to 28,41,500 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each. The company is engaged in the manufacturing of microcrystalline cellulose (MCC), the polymer widely used for finished dosages in the pharmaceutical industry. The polymer has varied applications in the pharmaceutical, food, nutraceuticals and the cosmetic industries. Presently, the company manufactures 50 different grades of MCC at its manufacturing units, situated at Hyderabad and Gujarat under the brand named HiCel and AceCel.

The net proceeds of the issue are to be used for expansion of production facilities of MCC at Dahej and Jhagadia in Gujarat between FY21 and FY22 as well as general corporate purposes.The proposed expansion will add 3,600 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity to the Dahej and Jhagadia facility, augmenting its capacity to 7,890 MTPA and 5,760 MTPA respectively.



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ICMR, Biological E to develop antisera for Covid treatment

Hyderabad : 1st Oct 2020

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and city-based **Biological E Limited have collaborated** to develop highly purified antisera, which is raised from animals for the purpose of prophylaxis and treatment of Covid-19.Back in June, the ICMR had invited drug makers from across the country for development of 'equine antiserum' against the novel coronavirus. The antiserum is a blood-based serum, which is usually extracted from either animals or humans and contains antibodies against the pathogen i.e. the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

In this case, the blood is obtained from horses that have recovered from the SARS-CoV-2 and found to have antibodies in their system. Antibodies from horses are quite commonly used in management and treatment for various kinds of viral and bacterial infections. "Such measures have previously been used in medical science to control many viral and bacterial infections such as Rabies, Hepatitis B, Vaccinia virus, Tetanus, Botulism and Diphtheria," ICMR said.

According to reports, the equine antiserum was isolated by ICMR's National Institute of Virology, Pune. The ICMR had provided licenses to scale-up the production of antiserum to various pharma manufacturers across the country.Although plasma collected from patients who have recovered from Covid could serve similar purpose, the profile of antibodies, their efficacy and concentration keep varying from one patient to another and therefore makes it an unreliable clinical tool for patient management, ICMR said.

The research organisation said that 'Standardisation achievable through equine sera based treatment modality stands out as yet another remarkable public health initiative supported by ICMR in the time of Covid-19'.

GMM Pfaudler to begin operations at Hyderabad plant

Hyderabad:: 7th Oct 2020

GMM Pfaudler (GMMP), which had acquired De Dietrich Process Systems India's glass lined equipment manufacturing facility in Hyderabad in July, is going to begin operations soon. The facility located at Nacharam Industrial Estate is spread across an area of six acres. The unit has been formally inaugurated, signalling the resumption of operations. In addition to this facility, GMM Pfaudler operates two facilities in west India, one at Karamsad, Gujarat and the other at Pune, Maharashtra. With an employee strength of over 500 employees and a sales & service support team spread across seven cities in India, GMM Pfaudler is into supply of engineered equipment and systems to the pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

Speaking on the occasion, Tarak Patel, MD, GMM Pfaudler said, "Not only does this facility significantly augment our glass lined equipment manufacturing capacity, but will also help us to meet the growing demand of the pharmaceutical and chemical industries."

TSTPC Trade Journal

CSIR-IICT scientist gets prestigious award

Hyderabad : 29th Sep 2020

Dr. Rambabu Chegondi, Senior Scientist, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad was awarded the prestigious Dr A V Rama Rao Young Scientist Award-2019 for his significant research contributions in the area of organic chemistry. A cash award of Rs 50,000 is equally shared by Dr Rambabu and other awardee, Dr. Santanu Mukherjee, Associate Professor, Department of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. The award is sponsored every year by AVRA Foundation, AVRA Laboratories, Hyderabad.

Dr. Rambabu Chegondi received his M.Sc. degree from University of Hyderabad and completed Ph D in Organic Chemistry from CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad. Later, he went to The University of Kansas, USA for post-doctoral studies. After returning from USA, he joined CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad as a Scientist. Recently, he was awarded CSIR-IICT Young Scientist Award for the year 2018.

Three startups from Telangana win National Startup Awards 2020

Hyderabad : 6th Oct 2020

Three startups from Telangana have won the National Startup Awards 2020. Skyroot Aerospace and Dhruva Space emerged winners in the space category while Cornext Agri Products was the winner in agriculture, all headquartered in Hyderabad. The city-based Skyroot Aerospace and Dhruva Space emerged as winners while Bellatrix Aerospace from Mysore was the third winner. Telangana saw three applications in this category.

Cornext Agri Products emerged winner in the agriculture category while other winners included Mandya Organic Foods (Bengaluru), Intello Labs (New Delhi) and Nava Design & Innovation (Kochi). Telangana saw 10 applications in the category.

The Rs 5 lakh award recognised exceptional startups across various categories that are providing innovative solutions to solve real problems and challenges for India, developing innovative technologies, products, and solutions from India, building businesses that are scalable, sustainable and responsible and delivering measurable developmental gains. The winners were chosen from entries across the country in 12 sectors including agriculture, education, enterprise technology, energy, finance, food, health, industry 4.0, space, security, tourism and urban services for these awards. There were 82 applications submitted from Telangana startups across these categories, out of the 1,641 applications from across India. Enterprise technology saw the maximum applications at 349 while the space sector received the minimum at 15 pan-India.

Skyroot Aerospace

Skyroot believes a new Space Age is kicking off, and snagging the extraordinary opportunities in space depends on robust transportation systems from Earth to orbit. Their Vikram launch vehicle, when operational, is expected to be one of the most cost-effective small satellite launch vehicles in the world, positioning India for interstellar dominance. Not only are the company's launch vehicles affordable and easily mass-produced, but the upper stage of the rocket is capable of moving itself out of orbit on mission completion, thereby leaving no space debris. The company's upper stage liquid engines are fully 3D printed, cutting costs by 40 per cent. It has also developed a highly efficient LNG/LOX Cryogenic liquid engine that uses greener, more sustainable rocket fuel.

Dhruva Space

Dhruva Space builds small satellite constellations for Earth observation and other scientific applications. Instead of hiring multiple entities for designing and building a satellite, launching liaising and for ground stations to communicate with the satellite, the company's constellation of low-Earth orbit satellites reduces the cost and time taken to set up the

necessary infrastructure. The company is also developing satellites with de-orbiting functionality. The company's space stack could enable 108 countries with no space assets to have satellites in orbit. It has been invited by the European Space Agency's Business Incubation Centre in Austria for incubation along with a grant.

Cornext Agri Products

Cornext addresses the green fodder shortage in India caused by the reduction in grazing lands and inconsistent crop practices. It preserves green fodder when available, in the form of silage. During a shortage, these silage bales cater to a larger number of dairy farmers across the country. It has produced and distributed up to 1 lakh metric tonnes of baled silage as high-quality green fodder, equivalent to four months of summer ration for one lakh animals.The Mini Silage Baler has a daily production capacity of 20 metric tonnes, equal to 2,000 animal rations per day. The company received the 2019 Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge Award from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Telangana to soon export fish, prawns: Talasani

Hyderabad 10th Oct 2020

Fisheries Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav announced that the State government will soon begin preparations for exporting fish and prawns being produced in the State to other countries. The Fisheries department signed a memorandum of understanding with MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) to support the State in fish production, marketing and also training fishermen in latest techniques of aquaculture among others.

The Minister inaugurated the new regional office of MPEDA on the premises of the office of Director of Animal Husbandry department at Masab Tank. MPEDA chairman Srinivas, Animal Husbandry Secretary Anita Rajendra and other officials were present. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Yadav said Telangana State had huge potential for aquaculture and stated that the State government was releasing fishlings into various water bodies where licensed fishermen can catch fish to earn their livelihood. After Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Telangana State is in third position in terms of in-land water availability at 5.72 lakh hectares. The State was ranked eighth in the country with fish production of 3.1 lakh tonnes. "We are largely taking up cultivation of only five types of fish. We plan to encourage quality exports and there is huge demand for exporting Tilapia and fresh water prawns," the Minister said. In addition to providing training and creating other livelihood sources to fishermen, the State government will soon establish fish processing units across the State. He pointed out that State government opened 150 mobile fish outlets across the GHMC area to serve fish delicacies as well.

Kaveri Seeds features in Forbes Asia's Best under A Billion 2020 list

Hyderabad : 29th Sep 2020

Kaveri Seeds, Hyderabad-based seed company, has been featured in this year's edition of Forbes, Asia's Best Under A Billion, which highlights 200 Asia-Pacific public companies with less than \$1 billion in revenue and consistent top- and bottom-line growth. Set up in 1976 by G V Bhaskar Rao, with an objective to fuel India's green revolution, Kaveri Seeds today specialises in hybrid seeds. The company has been a part of "Forbes Asia's Best Under a Billion List" five times earlier too in the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and now in 2020.

Commenting on the listing, Bhaskar Rao said, "Today, Kaveri Seeds has successfully forged a differentiated identity as an iconic seed company, laying the foundations for a stronger and steadier tomorrow – carrying forward its zeal to support and sustain farmer prosperity across the value chain."He further added, "As a preferred partner, we have always aimed at enriching the lives of small and marginal farmers, the backbone of our nation. We strive to deliver products that not only reap a good harvest but offer optimum conditions for agricultural productivity– year after year."

The companies on the Forbes list have scored above their peers in a composite ranking that includes sales and profit growth, low debt levels and robust governance. The criteria also ensured a geographic diversity of companies from across the region.

Crop cultivation reaches 1.44 crore acres in Telangana

Hyderabad : 2nd Oct 2020

Crop sowing is nearing completion in Telangana State even as the southwest monsoon started its retreat. For the first time, the total cultivation area had reached about 1.44 crore acres including 1.34 crore acres of agricultural crops and 9.87 lakh acres of horticultural crops during this monsoon season. Two crops – cotton with 60.22 lakh acres and paddy with 52.55 lakh acres, accounted for more than 1.12 crore acres under cultivation this season.

The State had witnessed 30 per cent increase in cultivation of agricultural crops. Against the normal cultivated area of 1.03 crore acres, the State had recorded cultivation of about 1.34 crore acres this year. During the Vaanakalam season last year, the total cultivation area was 1.22 crore acres. Taking the call for regulated farming by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, farmers restricted themselves to crops with demand in the market. "Unlike the Vaankalam (Kharif) season last year where farmers had mostly cultivated crops en masse, several farmers chose to consult the Agriculture Department officials. We can observe a considerable increase in cultivation of pulses and horticultural crops," said an Agriculture department official.

Maize had witnessed sharp decline from 10.11 lakh acres during last monsoon season to 2.25 lakh acres this season. Similarly, Jowar cultivation decreased from 1.47 lakh acres last Vaanakalam season to 1.06 lakh acres in this season. In all, the pulses cultivation has increased from 9.3 lakh acres during the previous monsoon season to 12.88 lakh acres in this Vaanakalam season. There is a marginal decline in cultivation of oil seeds from 5.25 lakh acres in the Vaanakalam season last year to 4.63 lakh acres during this Vaanakalam season. Among horticultural crops, fruits and other perennial crops are being cultivated in orchards spread across about 5.78 lakh acres. While red chillies are being cultivated in about two lakh acres, turmeric is being cultivated in only 1.01 lakh acres. Vegetables are being cultivated in about 0.92 lakh acres in the State.

Telangana farmers stick to Regulated Crop Plan

Hyderabad : August 31, 2020

It had been a dream run for farmers in Telangana this kharif season. With the monsoon bringing in bountiful rainfall, farmers have sown crop in 124 lakh acres as against the targeted sown area of 126 lakh acres under the maiden Regulated Crop Plan of the State government. The farmers covered 103 lakh acres last year, with the additional acreage coming in from the new irrigation facilities that came up in the State. Extensive rains in August have damaged the crop in about in 3-5 lakh acres in different parts of the State.

According to the latest reports, the farmers have sown paddy in 44.75 lakh acres this season as against the season normal of 27 lakh acres, showing a growth of 64 per cent. This is higher than the targeted 42 lakh acres. With more

land getting support from the lift irrigation projects, the State had decided to regulate the crops. "The government has decided to set up a Research and Analysis Committee with experts drawn from various sectors to analyse the demand for crops at the national and international level and prepare a cropping plan for the following season," said B Janardhan Reddy, Secretary (Agriculture and Co-operation Department).

According to the maiden plan this year, cotton is to be sown in 60 lakh acres. The farmers have sown the fibre crop in 58.63 lakh acres, showing a growth of 32 per cent over the previous kharif's cotton area.

Though the State asked the farmers not to grow maize in the kharif season, farmers grew the crop in 2 lakh acres. But this is only 17 per cent of the normal maize area of 12 lakh acres. The area under red gram went up to 10.50 lakh acres from the season normal of 7.5 lakh acres. The State received 740 mm of rainfall so far as against the normal rainfall of 514 mm.

Telangana farmers demand ₹15,000/quintal MSP for turmeric

October 6, 2020

For turmeric growers, 2020 didn't begin on an auspicious be aware, as unabated rains inundated the fields within the turmeric-growing areas of Nizamabad, impacting their prospects. With the prices ruling within the vary of $\gtrless53-62$ a kg within the wholesale market, farmers are disheartened. Considered to be the turmeric hub of the nation, Telangana grows the spice on about 1.33 lakh acres. This year, nevertheless, the area has come right down to 1.1 lakh acres. Continuous rains for a couple of weeks in August-September and extended water-logging in hundreds of acres have dampened hopes of yield too. In 2018-19, the State produced 3.45 lakh tonnes of turmeric.

Anvesh Reddy, a frontrunner of the turmeric farmers group within the State, stated this year the commerce expects output to drop by about 15 per

cent. He additionally expressed concern over low cost price for turmeric out there. "Farmers spend about $\gtrless1.50$ lakh to sow turmeric in an acre of land and see yield of about 22-24 quintals. The break-even price comes to $\gtrless7,000$ per quintal for farmers. But over last few years market price has been ruling much below the break-even price," added Reddy.

The prices of turmeric across the same period final year had been within the vary of ₹4,050-6,500 a quintal. A peak price of ₹7, 778 a quintal was recorded within the third week of May final year.

Low market price

The peak season for turmeric arrivals is between January and June each year. Though the arrivals will start from subsequent month, the wholesale markets see increased volumes from January to June.Presently, the unpolished number of turmeric fetches ₹53-56 a kg, whereas the polished selection is traded at ₹55-62 a kg. "These rates are not viable for us," stated, Lakshma Reddy, one other turmeric farmer from Nizamabad. With the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh government having introduced MSP for 24 crops, together with turmeric, Telangana farmers are additionally in search of some government help.The AP government has provided ₹6,550/quintal as MSP for the crop.

Telangana plans to use Al-driven drones in farming

Karimnagar : 1st Oct 2020

A novel experiment to test the efficacy of drones using artificial intelligence to identify crops, pests and later spray pesticides or fertilizer, began in Karimnagar district. A team of agricultural scientists, officials and representatives of the World Economic Forum (WEF) launched the drone, equipped with artificial intelligence tools, to shoot photos of the crops. The team would be studying the photographs taken by the drone and compare it with the field-level inputs to decide on the efficacy, officials involved in the pilot study.

During the pilot study, efforts are being made to identify Telangana Sona (RNR 15048) and Kunaram Sannalu (KNM 118) paddy varieties. Representatives of the World Economic Forum, IT wing officials of Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agriculture University and Agriculture Department conducted the drone surveys in Nustulapur and Nallagonda of Thimmapur mandal. The pilot project would be extended across the State later.



The drone captured about 2,000 aerial shots of the fields covering an area of 500 acres during one sortie. The pictures captured by the drone are analysed by the artificial intelligence tools and variety of crops and diseases or pests found are identified. "This data would be cross checked with the data collected by the Agriculture Department officials while on field to establish the accuracy of the results given by the Al-driven drones," District Agriculture Officer V Sreedhar said.Similar surveys will also be done in Nizamabad and Wanaparthy districts. While Nizamabad has been chosen to study pests, focus would be on cotton crops in Wanaparthy.

Regional Agriculture Research Station, Polasa, Assistant Director Dr Uma Reddy, said the study was a trial run and not a final official one. The scientists are trying to study different aspects, including pros and cons of drone usage in agriculture sector. Whether it was possible to get accurate pictures of crops, varietal identification of crops, pests and spray pesticides to crops by using drones would be the other aspects of the study.

SCCL clears proposals to open new, expand existing mines

Hyderabad : 3rd Oct 2020

The Board of Directors of Singareni Collieries Corporation Limited (SCCL) cleared the proposals for four new mining plans, construction contracts for third phase of solar power plants and also new uniforms to 3.65 crore workers in the Corporation. The meeting was chaired by SCCL Chairman and Managing Director N Sridhar.

To meet the future coal production requirements, the SCCL Board approved the proposals to start an open cast mine in Kothagudem area, as well as the mining plans for expansion of Kasipet, RK-1A, Srirampur-1, Srirampur-3 and 3A underground mines. The Board also cleared the proposal to gift uniforms to its 3.65 crore workers and decided to award the contract to the Telangana State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society (TSCO) on nomination basis. Another proposal for purchase of ammonium nitrate and other products for explosives used in the mines, was approved.

The Corporation has already commenced diversifying its portfolio and commenced construction of a 300 MW solar power plant. As part of the power plant, the Board cleared the proposals to award construction contract for third and last phase of the solar power plant with a 80.5 MW capacity. Under the third phase, the floating solar power plants will be constructed on the water reservoir of Singareni Thermal Power Plant with 10 MW, and the Bellampally Dorli open cast mine quarry which has been shutdown with 5 MW. Further, solar panels will be erected at Kothagudem and Chennur as well as RG OC-1 and Dorli OC-1 overburden dumps.

Centre grants Rs 10 cr for tribal tourism circuit in Telangana

Adilabad : 30th Sep 2020

The Union government has finally granted Rs 10 crore to the Tribal Welfare Department for creating the maiden tribal ecotourism circuit of Telangana, proposed three years ago. The Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA)-Utnoor has begun the process of inviting bids from agencies to prepare a detailed project report for developing three tourist spots which are part of the circuit. To give a fillip to the tourism sector, provide employment to aboriginal tribes and preserve their unique culture, the Union Ministry of Tourism envisaged to form a tribal ecotourism circuit for the first time in the State in 2017. Accordingly, authorities of the Tourism Department prepared proposals and sent the same to the Ministry, seeking its nod.

The circuit, which was proposed under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, begins at Dichpalli of Nizamabad district and connects popular tourist spots such as Shyamgarh Fort in Nirmal, Koratikal waterfalls, Kuntala waterfalls, Gayatri waterfalls, Utnoor Fort of Adilabad district, Sapthagundal waterfalls and Jodeghat Valley of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. A slew of wayside amenities, beautification of the attractions and introduction of adventure activities were planned at an estimated cost of Rs 141 crore with a State government's share of Rs 20 crore.

"Recently, the Union government sanctioned Rs 9.96 crore for developing the ancient Utnoor Fort, creating a tribal village, comprising ethnic resort and eco-friendly cottages, at Kuntala village in Neradigonda mandal of Adilabad and giving a makeover to Sapthagundala waterfalls near Pittaguda village in Lingapur mandal of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. Applications were invited from agencies for expressing their interest to prepare DPRs relating to the circuit," ITDA-Utnoor Project Officer Bhavesh Mishra said.

According to the IDTA authorities, the expressions of interest will be presented before a committee which would finalise an agency for developing and beautifying the tourist spots. The works will commence once this process is complete. The three attractions would be able to draw tourists from different parts of the country soon. The remaining spots of the circuit would be developed in a phased manner, the officials said.

"Besides creating basic facilities and beautifying the spots, the focus can be laid on introducing activities and adventure sports such as rappelling, trekking, rafting, boating and kayaking. Local tribes must be trained in receiving tourists. Ensuring safety and branding of the tourist spots will help draw the attention of the tourists belonging to not only Telangana but also neighbouring States," K Ranga Rao, chairman of Adventure Club of Telangana, opined.

Estimated

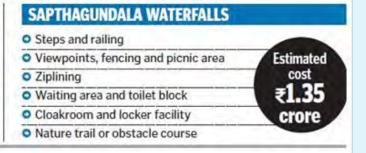
cost

crore



TRIBAL VILLAGE AT KUNTALA

- O Eco-ethnic resort near Kuntala waterfalls
- Dining area
- 40 eco-friendly cottages that look like traditional tribal huts
- Activity zone/entertainment zones
- Large parking area



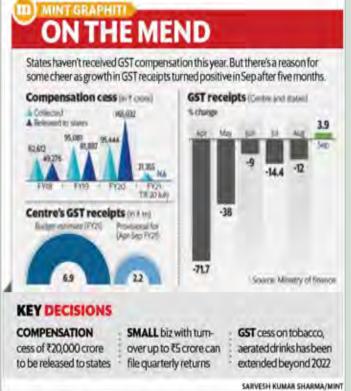
Centre calls truce with states on GST

Hyderabad : 06 Oct 2020

The Central government sought to buy peace by accepting states' demand for full compensation of their shortfall in tax receipts because of the implementation of goods and services tax (GST) or the corona virus pandemic, but a final call on how states will be compensated will be taken by the GST Council next week. The federal tax body, which met via videoconference, decided to extend the GST cess on items such as cars, tobacco and aerated drinks beyond 2022 for as long as needed to repay the debt raised to make up for states' tax losses.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and chairperson of GST Council assured states of full compensation and said that the Centre will disburse to states ₹20,000 crore collected as compensation cess so far this year tonight itself. "Nobody is going to be denied compensation for losses arising out of implementation of GST or due to covid impact," said the minister. States' GST revenue shortfall this year either due to GST implementation or due to covid will be met completely," the minister assured.

Sitharaman's assurance is aimed at pacifying opposition-ruled states, including Kerala, Punjab and Delhi, that demanded activation of a dispute resolution mechanism to settle the differences over the issue, though it might take time for the political fault lines to get mended.Kerala finance minister Thomas Isaac said in a tweet after the council meeting that 10 states had demanded that full compensation should be paid this year as per clauses in the law and that the Centre should borrow. "Decision was postponed to 12 October," Isaac said.



Sitharaman said the borrowing to be made by states to meet the shortfall will be outside their already enhanced borrowing ceiling of 5% of gross state domestic product. "Neither the interest nor the principal needs to be paid from states' other resources. The cess is going to take care of it. The entire compensation is going to be paid. We may have differentiated between covid-related and GST-related. Both are getting paid," the minister said.Sitharaman also said the collective borrowing for GST-related losses that states may want to raise under the special RBI window has been raised from ₹97,000 crore to ₹1.1 trillion.

The council also decided to release ₹25,000 crore dues for FY18 by the end of next week to states which received less tax revenue from inter-state trade (IGST) due to adoption of an ad hoc disbursement formula. From 1 January, businesses with sales up to ₹5 crore will be allowed to file quarterly returns and pay taxes on a monthly basis.

The council also decided to exempt 18% GST on satellite launching services aimed at boosting the domestic industry. The move is expected to benefit Isro and Antrix Corp. The council also decided on the road map for revamping the return filing process with an emphasis on ease of doing business and better compliance.

"The continuing efforts to simplify compliance, including those related to automatic population of various figures in returns from January 2021 are good for business. However, there should be a facility during the initial periods to take care of system errors," said M.S Mani, senior director, Deloitte India.

South Central Railway to enhance parcel loading

Hyderabad 30th Sep 2020

A virtual meeting was held by officials of the South Central Railway (SCR) with representatives of e-commerce giant Flipkart. The SCR is one of the top zones involved in significant loading of parcel traffic and has been making efforts to enhance the same and expand its freight basket.

In this regard, a team of the SCR officials interacted with the Flipkart representatives and explained about the feasibility and advantages of transporting e-commerce consignments through the railways. The SCR officials outlined the connectivity advantages provided by the railways covering metropolitan as well as rural areas. They also highlighted how the transportation of parcels by the railways was quick, convenient and beneficial.

NTPC launches AI system to curb unauthorised vehicles

Peddapalli: : 28th Sep 2020

In a move to control the entry of unauthorised vehicles and giving an additional tool to township security, National Thermal Power Corporation-Ramagundam has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based gate management system at its township gate. Executive Director, NTPC-Ramagundam & Telangana, Raj Kumar formally inaugurated the new facility and examined its performance.

The state-of-the-art AI based object/vehicle detection model identifies the vehicles while entering the gate through the camera streams. The RFID (Radio-Frequency Identification) readers recognises the authorised (vehicles those having RFID tags) vehicles. Similarly, it flashes an alert (visible and audible), when the vehicle is identified by the camera stream but not recognised by RFID reader. Number plate is also being captured and stored.General Manager (O&M) Abhay Kumar Samaiyar, GM (TS) PK Laad, AGM (CSR-HR/Head of HR (Incharge) Rafiqul Islam and others were present on the occasion.

India's skilling firms have entered the ICU

New Delhi: 06 Oct 2020

On 21 March, a few days before India announced the nation-wide lockdown to combat covid-19, Ganga Ram, 23, boarded a bus from Ahmedabad, where he worked in the welding shop of an automotive company, to Barmer in Rajasthan, his hometown. "I wanted to briefly visit my family of two brothers, two sisters and my mother," he said. "But the lockdown made my stay permanent."

Ganga Ram was lucky - he didn't have to walk back to his village like millions of migrants eventually ended up doing. But he was now without a job or money. Ganga Ram was a contractual worker and the employer had stopped paying. Two months into the lockdown, he approached the placement officer at Learnet Skills Limited, a skilling company. "I wanted to work somewhere closer home. I was asked to apply through the Pravasi Rojgar portal and got a job at an engineering company working at the Pachpadra refinery project (a refinery-cum-petrochemical complex being built), 50km from my house," Ganga Ram said. Pravasi Rojgar, started by actor Sonu Sood, is working to connect returning migrants to employers. Ganga Ram, however, couldn't be connected to a welder's job. He works as an office assistant now and takes home ₹12,000 a month. Ganga Ram has what skilling experts say are 'transferable skills'; he is a rare case of a worker who could land on his feet.

Fact is, hundreds of thousands of students training for short-term and even long-term vocations from sewing machine operators and LED Light repair technicians to plumbers and retail sales associates are stranded as skilling institutes remained shut for over six months. Out of funds, many of the private training companies face an existential crisis. They cannot pay rentals. Some have shut shop, laying off their trainers, counsellors, hostel wardens, security and the placement staff.

Learnet Skills closed 50 of its 250 institutes. Gram Tarang Employability Training Services, which provides training in vocations such as automotive, manufacturing, apparel, and hospitality, ran 42 centres pre-covid in different states. It shut down 14. Another firm Inductus runs over 12 centres and said it is on the verge of closing some of them down because it cannot pay rentals without **The skilling crisis** income.

These companies are the larger ones. Things could be worse for the smaller training firms. According to one estimate, about 30% of the 15,000 blue-collar training centres in India could eventually close down if the cash flow issues don't get sorted soon. Much of vocational training piggybacks on central- and state-government funding; programmes are mostly placement-linked. This model has collapsed since the demand side has collapsed. Sectors such as hospitality have no jobs while manufacturing is yet to spring back to life. India, therefore, not only faces a jobs crisis; it is staring at a skills crisis at a time of significant demographic flux.

About 60 million people between the ages of 15 and 30 are expected to join India's labour force by 2023, an analysis by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) showed. They need training. Besides, India's existing labour force needs re-skilling to remain relevant. The pandemic complicates things for the blue-collar worker. There's not that much of an impact at the white-collar level because this category of professionals can up-skill online through courses offered by umpteen universities. In contrast, training for a welder, an electrician, a swing machine operator require dexterity. Long-term vocational training - provided by government and privaterun Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)-is in trouble too. Manpower from these institutes form the backbone of Make in India.

"The big one staring at us in the face nationally, is the evaporation of jobs for the ITI and Polytechnic trained youth who have graduated this year. Unlike engineering graduates, most of whom come from better earning families and hence will have economic ability to survive the situation, these young people come from the bottom of the pyramid," Subroto Bagchi, chairman of Odisha Skill Development Authority, said.

"In India, we do have an apprenticeship policy, well intended but varied in its execution and effectiveness. The central government should consider taking the entire graduating class of 2020 and sending them out for apprenticeships funded by the government as a special drive for a year," he added.

Abhinav Madan, the co-founder and CEO of Gram Tarang joined this writer for a discussion on Zoom. The call gets interrupted twice Madan is trying to negotiate a pending payment with an executive of a private company. Gram Tarang implements training programmes for both the private sector and governments. Money is stuck on every side."It is a bloodbath. We are as badly hit as hospitality," Madan said, pointing to government schemes where payments are stuck. "We have no clarity on when the money will be paid," he added.

Training companies have dues pending from central government schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). Also from state governments. DDU-GKY is a Ministry of Rural Development scheme that focuses on short-term training for those between 15 and 35 years from poor families. PMKVY is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and is implemented by NSDC through training partners such as Gram Tarang.

The dues have added up because most government programmes follow a staggered model of payments. The training provider invests upfront in infrastructure, people, and enrols the candidates. The government then reimburses in three tranches based on milestones. The first tranche is usually released on enrolment; the second on completion of training and certification; the third after the candidate is placed and remains employed for at least three months.

The lockdown has disrupted this system. Candidates in training have gone back to their villages and are unwilling to come back. Some of them were just days away from being certified. Those who were placed in factories have either been laid off or have reverse migrated less than three months after being placed. Navanit Samaiyar, CEO of the Alliance of Skill Training Partners, said that across the country, 250,000 to 300,000 students and about 200,000-250,000 direct and indirect employees in the ecosystem are currently stuck.

"The training institutes are brick and mortar. There are fixed costs but no corresponding activity through which revenue can be generated," RCM Reddy, MD and CEO at Schoolnet India Ltd, the parent company of Learnet Skills, said. The training skills ecosystem has got into a vicious cycle, he pointed out. "They borrowed money and invested, and started training. The government now doesn't have money to release dues. Since you haven't got money back, you can't re-invest."

NSDC's aid

Manish Kumar, MD & CEO at NSDC, agrees that the risk of the small falling is high but peppers his comments with a dose of hope. "As soon as the economy rebounds, there will be a huge surge and need for people because the industry is hungry. All of us are in the waiting game, hoping that we get back up quick enough," he said.

NSDC, a company where the government of India holds 49% of the share capital, is India's nodal body to promote skill development and catalyse the creation of quality vocational institutions. What is its plan to cushion the pain? The company lends to vocational institutes. It provided a moratorium on both the principal and interest for six months till September. A decision on if the moratorium on the principal should continue is pending. Kumar said that NSDC wants to protect the better training partners with working capital loans. However, government grants are constrained at the moment.

"The government is trying to do as much as possible but most of the money and resources would go for covidrelated issues," Kumar explained. The central government recently approved a new version of PMKVY. "That implies funds will begin to flow. Once funds begin to flow, the health of many of these companies will get better," Kumar added.

NSDC, in the meantime, has stepped up efforts to match the skilled workforce to jobs. Much like the private effort of Pravasi Rojgar, it created an e-platform, the Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM), which matches demand with supply using artificial intelligence (AI). As of August 2020, about 7 million candidates' data have been uploaded; 557 employers are registered; over 300,000 jobs have been posted by employers; 210,000 jobs are offered.

New directions

Ajano Ngullie, who is from Dimapur, has a family of siblings

and her mother to support after her father's death. A friend directed her to a training centre of Orion Edutech Private Limited, a skilling company. Under the PMKVY scheme, she picked a three-month course in beauty therapy that trained her in threading, facial, pedicure, and manicure. Ngullie migrated to Delhi thereafter where she worked in a spa, earning ₹20,000 a month. "It's not only that I am supporting my family financially but I am also supporting my sibling's education," she wrote on the impact of her training on PMKVY's website.

An important role in her course choice was played by a counsellor at the training centre who could guide her to a job role that is in demand. But this was before covid. Beauty and wellness faces turbulence over the short term with many spas still closed. The post pandemic demand scenario is therefore forcing skilling providers to reorient what they teach over the medium term.

Institutes Mint spoke to said they would lower their focus on hospitality, food and beverage, sales and marketing for organised retail for some time these sectors may take time to revive. Data from ASEEM indicated the likely areas of interest, going ahead. Logistics is the top sector in terms of the number of jobs posted (31.8%), followed by healthcare (22.2%), retail (6.2%), Banking, financial services and insurance (6.1%) and construction (5.7%).

The rise of e-commerce is fuelling logistics jobs. The pandemic, meanwhile, has underlined the supply-demand gap in healthcare. Dr Srinivasa Rao Pulijala, CEO at Apollo Medskills Ltd, a healthcare skilling company, said that there is a spike in demand for phlebotomy technicians or those who collect samples. Pharmacy assistants and those who deliver home healthcare are in short supply, too. At the top-end of the healthcare workforce pyramid, doctors have to be up-skilled in critical care. "We trained 86,000 doctors through e-learning and a lakh nurses during the last six months," Pulijala said.

Meanwhile, white collar professionals have it better: they 'snack' on new learning content while continuing with their day jobs. India's vast army of software engineers has started up-skilling in technologies such as AI, cloud computing and cyber security with industry bodies pushing the re-skilling agenda. But for now, it is India's 15,000-odd vocational training centres that need attention, some form of a rescue package. Else, lakhs of budding blue collar professionals would be left in the lurch, in turn impacting India's economic goals. Subroto Bagchi said a rescue could include clearing dues on trust; forwarding zero-interest loans for a year; and suspending the placement-linkage prevalent in government schemes over the short-term. Training providers could also be compensated for reduced batch-sizes—since social distancing would be the norm in training spaces.

DRDO successfully flight tests supersonic missile assisted release of torpedo

Hyderabad : 05 Oct 2020

India successfully flight tested the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha. All mission objectives, including missile flight upto the range and altitude, separation of the nose cone, the release of Torpedo and deployment of Velocity Reduction Mechanism (VRM), were met perfectly in the flight test. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the success. "The DRDO has successfully flight tested the Supersonic Missile assisted release of Torpedo, SMART. This will be a major technology breakthrough for stand-off capability in anti-submarine warfare. I congratulate DRDO and other stakeholders for this significant achievement," Singh's tweet read. SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations for far beyond torpedo range. This launch and demonstration are significant in establishing ASW capabilities.

Speaking about it, Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy, said, "SMART is a game-changer technology demonstration in the ASW." The events of today were monitored by the tracking stations (Radars, Electro Optical Systems) along the coast and the telemetry stations including down range ships. A number of DRDO laboratories, including DRDL, RCI Hyderabad, ADRDE Agra, NSTL Visakhapatnam, have developed the technologies required for SMART. Earlier, this month DRDO had successfully tested Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile. The test was conducted from MBT Arjun at KK Ranges (ACC&S) Ahmednagar in continuation with the successful trials done on September 22.

India can be the world's great back-up factory

New Delhi : 08 Oct 2020

The enthusiastic response from global manufacturers to a government incentive scheme could well be a prelude to greater inward investment. We should not let up on reforms now.India's ambitious production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, designed to facilitate the country's emergence as a global manufacturing hub for mobile phones and electronic components, appears to have gotten off to an encouraging start. As many as 11 global handset and input makers - Foxconn and Samsung among them - are reported to have qualified for special incentives spanning five

years, along with five domestic entities, including the makers of Lava and Micromax devices. The government expects the initiative to result in output worth ₹10.5 trillion over half a decade, about 60% of it from exports. The big feather in our cap, of course, is the interest shown by Apple Inc's supply network in expanding operations here. Except Korea's Samsung, all the foreign firms on the PLI list work for the California-based company as contract manufacturers. And it is not just about tele-mobility. With the high-end electric car sensation Tesla seen to be on its way in, India could play itself up as a factory to the world for some of its



most fancied products. What may be working in India's favour is the "China plus" strategy for global value chains that has gained appeal among transnational corporations keen to diversify their sources of supply, especially after the risks of their Chinese dependence began to rise. Their anxieties were first evoked by US President Donald Trump's trade war with China and efforts to isolate that country, and have been aggravated by apprehensions of a "bamboo curtain" like the iron version of the Cold War era - foreseeably splitting the world apart into western and eastern blocs. Worries have also arisen of mala fide intent on the part of Chinese businesses that have little choice but to kowtow to Beijing. As a constitutional democracy sworn to uphold the rule of law, India ought to be considered a far safer bet. Yet, we should not labour under the illusion of those factors overriding cost and revenue calculations. For all of Beijing's misadventures, China is not about to lose its tag as the world's factory. In a snub to Trump's call for America Inc to decouple from China, a recent survey of over 200 US firms operating in the People's Republic revealed that only about 4% were shifting some production back to the US. Not only does China remain an attractively cheap place to make stuff, it also offers a huge domestic market that might take us rather long to match.

For India to strengthen its appeal as a country to set assembly lines rolling in, we must not draw the wrong lessons from China's success. Cherry-picked businesses should not be given privileges at the cost of people at large, for example, as Beijing has long done. It should be easy for all to do business. Recent changes in our labour laws may be a salutary move in that direction. Wage bill flexibility is crucial for any large-scale export venture. But there are plenty of other compliance requirements that need to be whittled down. Our land acquisition policy needs clarity, too. As of now, state-earmarked parcels are all we have on offer. Investors, though, need greater choice. Skill and infrastructure gaps must get plugged as well. An assurance of policy stability will also help. Our import duties have seen too much flux of late, for example, while every link in a global value chain - which must operate across borders - must allow reliable cost projections. Plus, taxation could do with an overhaul to simplify a jumble of levies. If we get it right, India could be the world's back-up factory.

World Bank projects India's GDP to contract 9.6% in FY21

New Delhi: 08 Oct 2020

The World Bank projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to plunge in FY21 by 9.6% revised down since its June forecast of 3.2% drop, reflecting the impact of the nationwide lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and small urban service firms. "However, there is substantial uncertainty related to the course and duration of the pandemic; the speed at which households and firm behavior will adjust to the lifting of lockdowns; and a possible new round of countercyclical fiscal policy," the World Bank said in its latest South Asia Economic Focus report. While the government has signalled it is prepared to support the economy, there is no clarity about the timing or the extent of the next round of stimulus.

The Indian economy contracted a record 23.9% in the June quarter, underlining the extent of economic damage brought about by the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown. Many forecasters now expect Indian economy to contract in double digits in FY21. The multi-lateral agency said the impact of the pandemic materialised in the backdrop of enduring fragility in the financial sector, slowing overall growth and limited fiscal buffers. "The response of the government of India to the covid-19 outbreak was swift and comprehensive. Nonetheless, there was a massive contraction in output and poor and vulnerable households experienced significant social hardship - specifically urban migrants and workers in the informal economy."

Growth is expected to rebound to 5.4% in FY22, according to the World Bank estimate, which assumes covid-related restrictions are completely lifted, but mostly reflecting base effects. However, the Bank said, potential output is expected to remain depressed in the medium term and inflation is expected remain around the RBI's target range mid-point of 4% in the near term. The Bank said the covid-19 shock will lead to a long-lasting inflexion in India's fiscal trajectory. "Assuming that the combined deficit of the states is

contained within 4.5-5% of GDP, the general government fiscal deficit is projected to rise to above 12% in FY21 before improving gradually. Public debt is expected to remain elevated, around 94% (in FY23), due to the gradual pace of recovery." While policy interventions have preserved the normal functioning of financial markets thus far, the Bank said, demand slowdown could lead to rising loan delinquencies and risk aversion. Recent RBI analysis indicates that gross nonperforming loans to asset ratio of scheduled commercial banks may increase to 12.5% by March 2021 from 8.5% in March 2020.

Intel India sets up centre for artificial intelligence

New Delhi : 12 October, 2020

Partners IIIT-H, PHFI, Telangana govt.

Intel India said it had partnered IIIT Hyderabad, Public Health Foundation of India and the Telangana government to unveil a research centre to focus on leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to solve India's population-scale challenges in sectors such as healthcare and smart mobility. The applied AI research centre, INAI, here will act as a catalyst to accelerate India's leadership in AI while creating national assets such as curated data sets and computing infrastructure with the aim to attract global talent for high-impact research towards social sector development, Intel India said. In his address, Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said India was bound to be a robust player in AI application as data was the 'oxygen' for AI and India's huge population, along with a robust digital ecosystem, was going to generate huge amounts of data. He, however, added that the AI ecosystem must be kept free from biases. "AI has the great potential [for]of face recognition. But the facial recognition process should not show any bias of colour or ethnicity," he reasoned.

Mr. Prasad also said the government was keen that data of Indians remained protected and "therefore, certain... standards are required to be laid down... there must be transparency in the algorithms... the details must be shared and there must be a trust element in this AI system". Further, he stressed that users needed to be adequately informed about the purpose for which their data is being used.

Meanwhile, Nivruti Rai, country head, Intel India and vice president, Data Platforms Group, Intel Corporation said that with its unique strengths of talent, technology, data availability, and the potential for population-scale Al adoption, India had tremendous opportunity to lead human-centric

applications and democratise AI for the world. the U.S. accounted for 16% of the global AI talent, followed by China (9%) and India (8%)."Our goal is to make this 8% grow to 16% to 32%... because that's the need of the hour," she said. She also pointed that China accounted for 60% of investments that had been made globally into AI, followed by the U.S. (30%) and India (5%).



Detailed Analysis on the Impact of Covid-19 on Exports from the Food Processing Sector of Telangana State

Food Processing - Exports from Telangana



Telangana Food Processing Exports (Apr-Jul)



S. No	HS Code	Export Commodity	Export Value Rs crs
1	9042110	Genus Capsicum	194.29
2	2023000	Boneless Meat of Bovine Animals , Frozen	162.66
3	19053100	Sweet Biscuits	119.14
4	10061010	Rice In Husk of Seed Olty	78.08
5	13021990	Others, Derived From VegetbleProdcts	73.30
6	10063090	Rice Excptg Parboiled (Excl Basmati Rice)	72.38
7	10063010	Rice Parboiled	59.06
8	12099190	Vegetable Seeds for Planting N.E.S.	46.69
9	19019090	All OthrPrpn of FIr Meal Strch / MItExtrct	41.64
10	13021919	Other Extracts	40.78
11	12099160	Tomato Seeds	37.85
12	10051000	Maize Seed	34.02
13	7114000	Cucumbers and Gherkins Provisionally Presvd	33.50
14	17049090	Other Sugar Confectionery, Not Containing Cocoa	28.48
15	10071000	Seed	22.98
16	12099910	Fruit Seedsfor Planting Or Sowings	19.80
17	9042211	Chilly Powder	14.63
18	10063020	Basmati Rice	13.13
19	13021916	Extracts, Neem	11.65
20	8119090	Othr Fruits andnuts W/N Cokd, Frzn Not ContngSugr	11.35

Top 20 Export Commodities (Food Processing) from Telangana during April-July 2019

Top 20 Export Commodities (Food Processing) from Telangana during April-July 2020

S. No	HS Code	Export Commodity	Export Value Rscrs
1	9042110	Genus Capsicum	229.66
2	10063090	Rice Excepting Parboiled (Excluding Basmati Rice)	160.55
3	10061010	Rice in Husk of Seed quality	120.20
4	19053100	Sweet Biscuits	113.21
5	10063010	Rice Parboiled	94.10
6	2023000	Boneless Meat of Bovine Animals , Frozen	74.67
7	13021919	Other Extracts	69.94
8	12099160	Tomato Seeds	37.65
9	9103020	Dry	37.26
10	20011000	Cucumbers and Gherkins Prpd/Prsvd By Acetic Acid	36.96
11	12099190	Vegetable Seeds For Planting N.E.S.	33.50
12	19019090	All Other proportion of Flour Meal Starch/Mlt Extract	26.54
13	11010000	Wheat or Meslin Flour	25.50
14	10064000	Broken Rice	24.84
15	9042211	Chilly Powder	15.85
16	10063020	Basmati Rice	14.33
17	2062900	Other Edible Offal of Bovine Animals, Frozen	13.05
18	20019000	Other Edible Parts of Plants Prepared or Preserved By Vi	10.31
19	4089100	Birds Eggs not in Shell Dried	8.87
20	12099910	Fruit Seeds for Planting or Sowings	8.79

Comparison of increase of exports of top common food processing products from Telangana between April-July 2019 and April-July 2020

				-		
S. No	HS Code	Export Commodity	Apr-Jul 2019 Export Value Rs.crs	Apr-Jul 2020 Export Value Rs.crs	Increase / decrease Rs.crs	% growth
1	9042110	Genus Capsicum	194.29	229.66	35.37	18.20
2	10063090	Rice Excepting Parboiled (Excluding Basmati Rice)	72.38	160.55	88.17	121.82
3	10061010	Rice in Husk of Seed quality	78.08	120.2	42.12	53.94
4	19053100	Sweet Biscuits	119.14	113.21	-5.93	-4.98
5	10063010	Rice Parboiled	59.06	94.1	35.04	59.33
6	2023000	Boneless Meat of Bovine Animals, Frozen	162.66	74.67	-87.99	-54.09
7	13021919	Other Extracts	40.78	69.94	29.16	71.51
8	12099160	Tomato Seeds	37.85	37.65	-0.2	-0.53
9	9042211	Chilly Powder	14.63	15.85	1.22	8.34
10	10063020	Basmati Rice	13.13	14.33	1.2	9.14
11	12099910	Fruit Seeds for Planting or Sowings	19.8	8.79	-11.01	-55.61
12	12099190	Vegetable Seeds for Planting N.E.S.	46.69	33.5	-13.19	-28.25
13	19019090	All Other proportion of Flour Meal Starch / Mlt Extract	41.64	26.54	-15.1	-36.26
14	9103020	Dry		37.26		
15	20011000	Cucumbers and Gherkins Prepared/ Preserved By Acetic Acid		36.96		
16	11010000	Wheat or Meslin Flour		25.5		
17	10064000	Broken Rice		24.84		
18	2062900	Other Edible Offal of Bovine Animals, Frozen		13.05		
19	20019000	Other Edible Parts of Plants Prepared or Preserved By Vi		10.31		
20	4089100	Birds Eggs not in Shell Dried		8.87		
21	7114000	Cucumbers and Gherkins Provisionally Preserved	33.5			
22	8119090	Othr Fruits and nuts W/N Cooked, Frozon Not containing sugar	11.35			
23	10051000	Maize Seed	34.02			
24	10071000	Seed	22.98			
25	13021916	Extracts, Neem	11.65			
26	13021990	Others, Derived From Vegetable Products	73.3			
27	17049090	Other Sugar Confectionery, Not Containing Cocoa	28.48			

Top 20 countries Export Commodities (Food Processing) from Telangana during April-July 2019

S. No	Exported to Country	Export Value Rs crs
1	China P Rp	221.71
2	USA	179.12
3	Vietnam Soc Rep	92.25
4	U Arab Emts	85.22
5	Pakistan Ir	66.43
6	Philippines	60.89
7	Malaysia	47.90
8	Netherland	46.08
9	Thailand	45.23
10	Myanmar	43.42
11	Saudi Arab	40.50
12	Bangladesh Pr	38.25
13	Qatar	33.36
14	Cote D' Ivoire	25.63
15	Nepal	25.26
16	Canada	22.85
17	Angola	22.54
18	Nigeria	17.07
19	UK	14.28
20	Benin	11.62
21	Sudan	11.51
22	Russia	10.22

Top 20 countries Export Commodities (Food Processing) from Telangana during April-July 2020

S. No	Exported to Country	Export Value Rs crs
1	USA	257.85
2	China	179.99
3	UAE	110.13
4	Philippines	108.17
5	Bangladesh	59.94
6	Netherland	46.67
7	Vietnam	41.43
8	Thailand	37.40
9	Nepal	36.47
10	Qatar	36.06
11	Canada	31.18
12	Malaysia	28.72
13	Belgium	27.92
14	Senegal	26.89
15	Hong Kong	24.10
16	Myanmar	22.10
17	Saudi Arabia	19.39
18	Angola	14.59
19	Iran	13.04
20	Congo D. Rep.	8.80
21	SUDAN	11.51
22	RUSSIA	10.22

Source: DGCIS

S. No	Exported to Country	2019- Export Value Rs crs	2020- Export Value Rs crs	Increse / decreas Rs crs	% Increase / decrease
1	USA	179.12	257.85	78.73	30.53
2	China P Rp	221.71	179.99	-41.72	-23.18
3	U Arab Emts	85.22	110.13	24.91	22.62
4	Philippines	60.89	108.17	47.28	43.71
5	Bangladesh Pr	38.25	59.94	21.69	36.19
6	Netherland	46.08	46.67	0.59	1.26
7	Vietnam Soc Rep	92.25	41.43	-50.82	-122.66
8	Thailand	45.23	37.40	-7.83	-20.94
9	Nepal	25.26	36.47	11.21	30.74
10	Qatar	33.36	36.06	2.70	7.49
11	Canada	22.85	31.18	8.33	26.72
12	Malaysia	47.90	28.72	-19.18	-66.78
13	Myanmar	43.42	22.10	-21.32	-96.47
14	Saudi Arab	40.50	19.39	-21.11	-108.87
15	Belgium		27.92		
16	Senegal		26.89		
17	Hong Kong		24.1		
18	Angola		14.59		
19	Iran		13.04		
20	Congo D. Rep.		8.8		
21	Pakistan Ir	66.43			
22	Cote D' Ivoire	25.63			
23	Angola	22.54			
24	Nigeria	17.07			
25	UK	14.28			
26	Benin	11.62			
27	Sudan	11.51			
28	Russia	10.22			

Comparison of exports (Food Processing) from Telangana to top Countries between April-July 2019 and April-July 2020

Source: DGCIS

Telangana Exported (Food Processing) from top Ports/ Airports / ICDs from during April-July 2019

S. No	Exported to Country	Export Value Rscrs
1	ICD Hyderabad	314.26
2	Chennai Sea	258.65
3	Nhava Sheva Sea	219.72
4	Hyderabad Airport	148.03
5	Kattupalli Port/ Tiruvallur	127.42
6	ICD Thimmapur (Cmtl)/Ap	70.11
7	Mumbai Air	68.40
8	Mundra	58.50
9	Kakinada Sea	39.77
10	Krishnapatnam	21.04
11	Raxaul Land	20.98
12	Amritsar Rly.Stn.	19.06
13	Petrapole Land	13.74
14	ICD Tondiar-Pet Chennai	9.90
15	ICD Marriapallaem	3.44
16	Ghajadanga	2.93
17	Kolkata Air	2.48

Telangana Exported (Food Processing) from top Ports / Airports / ICDs from during April-July 2020

S. No	Exported to Country	Export Value Rscrs
1	ICD Hyderabad	386.45
2	Chennai Sea	174.97
3	Nhava Sheva Sea	156.75
4	Hyderabad Airport	114.79
5	ICD Thimmapur (Cmtl)/AP	98.06
6	Kattupalli Port/ Tiruvallur	87.94
7	Mundra	84.12
8	Kakinada Sea	76.98
9	ICD Marriapallaem	58.58
10	Krishnapatnam	36.16
11	Mumbai Airport	34.19
12	Raxaul Land	22.54
13	ICD Tondiarpet Chennai	21.80
14	Visakhapatnam Sea	13.33
15	Ghajadanga	9.77
16	Kotwaligate (Mohedipur)	8.97
17	Jogbani	7.42
18	ICD Patli	5.86

Comparison of food processing exports from Telangana from top Ports / Airports / ICDs between April-July 2019 and April-July 2020

					o/ :
S. No	Exported to Country	2019 - Export	2020 - Export	Increase /	% increase or
0.110		Value Rs crs	Value Rs crs	decrease Rs crs	decrease
1	ICD Hyderabad	314.26	386.45	72.19	22.97
2	Chennai Sea	258.65	174.97	-101.9	-39.40
3	Nhava Sheva Sea	219.72	156.75	-104.93	-47.76
4	Hyderabad Airport	148.03	114.79	-60.09	-40.59
5	Kattupalli Port/ Tiruvallur	127.42	87.94	-29.36	-23.04
6	ICD Thimmapur (Cmtl)/AP	70.11	98.06	-35.92	-51.23
7	Mumbai Air	68.4	34.19	15.72	22.98
8	Mundra	58.5	84.12	18.48	31.59
9	Kakinada Sea	39.77	76.98	-3.61	-9.08
10	Krishnapatnam	21.04	36.16	1.5	7.13
11	Raxaul Land	20.98	22.54	0.82	3.91
12	ICD Tondiar-Pet Chennai	9.9	21.8	48.68	491.72
13	ICD Marriapallaem	3.44	58.58	6.33	184.01
14	Ghajadanga	2.93	9.77	6.84	233.45
15	Amritsar Rly.Stn.	19.06			
16	Petrapole Land	13.74			
17	Kolkata Air	2.48			
18	Visakhapatnam Sea		13.33		
19	Kotwaligate (Mohedipur)		8.97		
20	Jogbani		7.42		
21	ICD Patli		5.86		
Source	: DGCIS				

GOLKONDA BRAND PRODUCTS

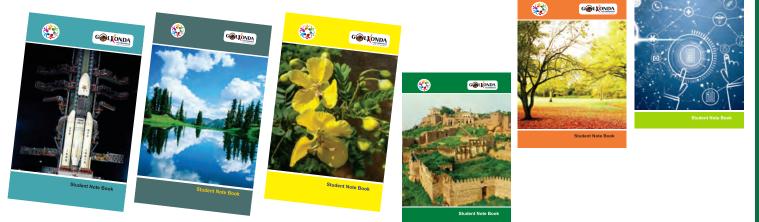


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