



# GLORIOUS 10 YEARS

## INDIA'S GREEN GLORY

Telangana has emerged as India's green glory. Thanks to the pace at which it had regained its lost allure as a granary, the land is being looked upon as an enchanting paradise today. Horticulture gardens and plantations that stretch lushly on either side of the highways and rural roads are unusual of its past and they are the visible reality of its quick transformation. Consecutive failure of monsoons, recurring drought, mounting debts, and the unending story of farmers' suicides were once the order of the day. It is altogether a different story now.

Haunted by money lenders, thousands of families of farmers and farm workers deserted their homes and farms and moved to distant towns and cities in search of fresh meadows. Devoid of livelihoods, people were forced by the wretched conditions they lived in and many preferred to sell agricultural lands for a song. There were instances where lands were traded off for milch animals as the scarcity conditions that persisted for long years rendered farming the most baneful activity.

The lands had no takers those days and people pinned no hope on them. But today agricultural lands are the most sought-after. A piece of land has turned dearer than a nugget of gold. Costing no less than Rs 25 lakh to Rs 50 lakh an acre anywhere in the State, there is hardly any seller. Even in the remotest pockets, vast tracts of land are seen lying verdant even under the harsh sun.

Close on the heels of a bumper harvest of Yasangi they had towards the end of April last, farmers are busy again with brisk activity in preparation for the ensuing Vanakalam season. The agrarian crisis was the most talked about in the history of the region. But now, there is a drastic decline in the number of suicides and those ending lives by suicides had not much to do with farming. The loan waiver extended by the State by writing off Rs 17,351.47 crores of crop loan taken by the 40,74,522 farmers 2014 to 2018 came in handy for restoring the dwindled fortunes of the peasant community. Outstanding crop loans of up to Rs.1 lakh per farmer family as on December 11, 2018 were made eligible for waiver. In the annual budget for 2023-24, an allocation of Rs 6,385 crores has been made to clear crop loans.

The extortionist groups that nurtured the practice of funding in kind by collecting 50 to 100 kgs of produce from each farmer right in their khallas in the extremist-affected areas have no trace today. Peace that prevailed all over the State with stable administration and effective law and order resulted in unfaltering progress that helped in shaping up country's most envied as well as the much craved for Telangana model.

**The progress achieved by Telangana in agriculture sector is a role model to the nation. It is the only State in the country that is according top priority for welfare of farmers and spending crores of rupees for development of the agriculture sector...**

**TELANGANA HAS SO FAR SPENT RS 2,16,000 CRORE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF RYTHU BANDHU, RYTHU BIMA, 24 HOUR FREE POWER SUPPLY AND CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS... THIS REFLECTS THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FARMERS...**

— K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO, Chief Minister



From a region which was hit by lack of irrigation facilities and farmers migrating to other States for livelihood, the birth of Telangana and the subsequent farmer-friendly policies transformed the State.

### OVERALL AGRICULTURE AREA & PRODUCTION



### INCREASE in agriculture area

136 lakh acres to 226 lakh acres

### INCREASE in agriculture production

154 lakh tons to 362 lakh tons

### RYTHU BANDHU BENEFICIARIES YEAR-WISE



### POWER SUPPLY



There were villages in the State with more than 100 bore wells sunk, but none yielding a trickle. State Agriculture Secretary M Raghunandan Rao was well-versed with such case studies taken up in person during his stint in the DRDA as a Project Director. Tribal clusters all along the Akeru, a tributary of Munneru river serve as a classic example of a splendid transformation. It was one of the driest rain shadow zones in the region where a blade of grass was seldom seen for a major part of the year. As a way out to quench the thirst of peo-

ple, not to speak of their farming needs, he succeeded in building a string of check dams on the stream to help replenish the groundwater levels. After the formation of Telangana, half-a-dozen irrigation tanks were rejuvenated in the area. Water supply to the tribal habitations is supported under Mission Bhagiratha, now a perennial source. Farmers tasted the heady brew of success growing paddy crops. Red sander plantations are galore. People with small land holdings are making big money growing vegetables. It is not an isolated

success story. Farmers are a spritely community today all over the State adding adequately to the State Gross Domestic Product (SDGDP). More and more of those who left the State during hard times are looking back to their roots. The big support extended in the form of non-repayable Rythu Bandhu has worked wonders. Money remitted directly into the bank accounts at the beginning of every crop season gave them a big relief. They now began to live up to their much-labelled identity of "feeding hands". Since the formation of the

State, the agriculture sector has been enjoying a focused approach from the government. Over Rs 4.50 lakh crores was funneled through the government's special initiatives providing farmers with investment support, infrastructure, extension activity, social security, and procurement of farm produce. Key initiatives including the Rythu Bandhu intended for giving crop investment support of Rs 10,000 per acre a year, 24x7 free power farm service, rejuvenation of over 46,000 irrigation tanks and ponds under Mission Kakatiya, construction of major

irrigation projects, promotion of livestock and fisheries, sheep distribution scheme served as the growth drivers. On Rythu Bandhu alone, the government had spent over Rs 65,191 crores disbursed in ten installments so far reaching out to 65,00,588 pattadars during the past five years. The positive impact of the initiative was acknowledged by umpteen number of organisations tasked with farm studies. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has listed it as one of the 20 schemes world over that

proved to be most useful to the farmers. Families of 99,297 deceased farmers were paid Rs 4,964.85 cr (Rs 5 lakh each) from 2018 to 2023. The Government has paid Rs 5383.83 crores as premium.

The State-sponsored initiatives have led to an increase in the share of agriculture and allied sectors such as fisheries, livestock, and social forestry to the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at current prices to the State economy from 16.3% in 2014-15 to 18.2% in 2022-23.

Since the formation of the State the Gross Cropped Area registered an increase of 83%. has gone up from 1.31 crore acres in 2014 to 2.40 crore acres in 2023. Telangana Share in a India Gross Cropped Area Share Gross Cropped Area has gone up from 3.07% to 5.06% during this period.

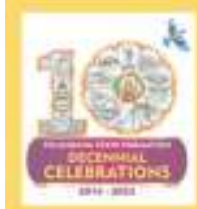
Telangana has emerged as the largest producer of paddy after Punjab over the years. The agriculture production which was only 154 lakh metric tons touched 362 lakh metric tons by 2023. Major steps taken in the direction of farm mechanisation triggered a new page of rapid growth in the agriculture sector.

The State had spent over Rs 1,000 crore on the provision of tractors, harvesters, and other farm machinery and implements. The government had facilitated crop-based custom hiring centres on subsidised rates minimising drudgery on manual labour associated with farm operations. The government has dealt with an iron hand, the supply of substandard seed with fake labelling by private distributors. Seed being a critical determinant in increasing production, it was accorded to priority. Promoting high-yielding varieties suitable for the State soils, the government has supplied 39.98 lakh quintals of seed spending over Rs 928.7 crore from 2014-15 to 2022-23.

As part of the seed bowl initiative, the supply of quality seed ensured by the government has benefited 46.57 lakh farmers so far. The value of the seed industry increased to about \$1.3 billion from \$0.9 billion and the number of seed farmers increased to about 0.35 million by 2022-23 from 0.24 million in 2014-15.

The State has also strengthened seed organisations by implementing seed parks. The government also implements the seed schemes of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for the first time in India to promote seed exports and establish modern seed testing labs with advanced facilities. Raising the awareness on seed certification, it hosted several national and international seed conferences, including the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Congress (2019).





# Glorious 10



## Brimming with prosperity

After the formation of the State in 2014, the irrigation sector registers a massive turnaround with the State government creating infrastructure to irrigate 1.25 crore acres of agricultural land, besides catering to the drinking water and industrial needs of its growing population



The Kaleshwaram project which was completed in a record time has changed the landscape of Telangana.

Scaling up the irrigation coverage was considered as the only option to help revive the dwindled fortunes of Telangana. The fight for Statehood owed mainly to the mounting angst of the water-starved millions in the region.

Decades of neglect of the irrigation sources had spelt doom for its people while the spectre of drought that persisted for years played havoc adding to their misery.

Not even one-third of the population had access to safe drinking water when Telangana was part of the combined State. The access to irrigation was much worse. It is altogether a different story after the formation of the new State. The State government accorded priority to the creation of infrastructure to irrigate 1.25 lakh acres of land, besides catering to the drinking water and industrial needs in villages and urban areas.

A focused approach was made for speedy completion of ongoing projects, rejuvenation of minor irrigation tanks and water bodies under 'Mission Kakatiya', modernisation of projects like Nagarjuna Sagar, Nizam Sagar and Sri Ram Sagar. Three major lift irrigation projects - Kaleshwaram, Palamuru Ranga Reddy, and Sitarama - were taken up.

Kaleshwaram Project, the brainchild of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao was completed in a record time of 3 years. Inaugurated on June

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW AYACUT OF 17.23 LAKH ACRES HAS BEEN CREATED AND ADDITIONALLY 31.50 LAKH ACRES STABILIZED. FURTHER, AN AYACUT OF 50.25 LAKH ACRES WILL BE CREATED IN THE NEXT 3 TO 4 YEARS UNDER THE ONGOING PROJECTS AND THE STATE WILL ACHIEVE THE TARGETED AYACUT OF 1.25 CRORE ACRES

Utilization of irrigation potential has increased to 103 lakh acres by 2022-23 against 48 lakh acres in 2015-17

Paddy cultivation in the State has increased by 180% between 2014-15 and 2021-22 (from 35 lakh acres to 98 lakh acres)

Paddy production in the State has increased by 342% between 2015-16 and 2021-22 (from 46 lakh MTs to 202 lakh MTs)

The Gross Irrigated Area of all crops increased by 117% between 2014-15 and 2021-22 (from 62 lakh acres to 135 lakh acres)

Water use efficiency increased from around 10,000 acres per TMC to 12,000-13,000 acres per TMC

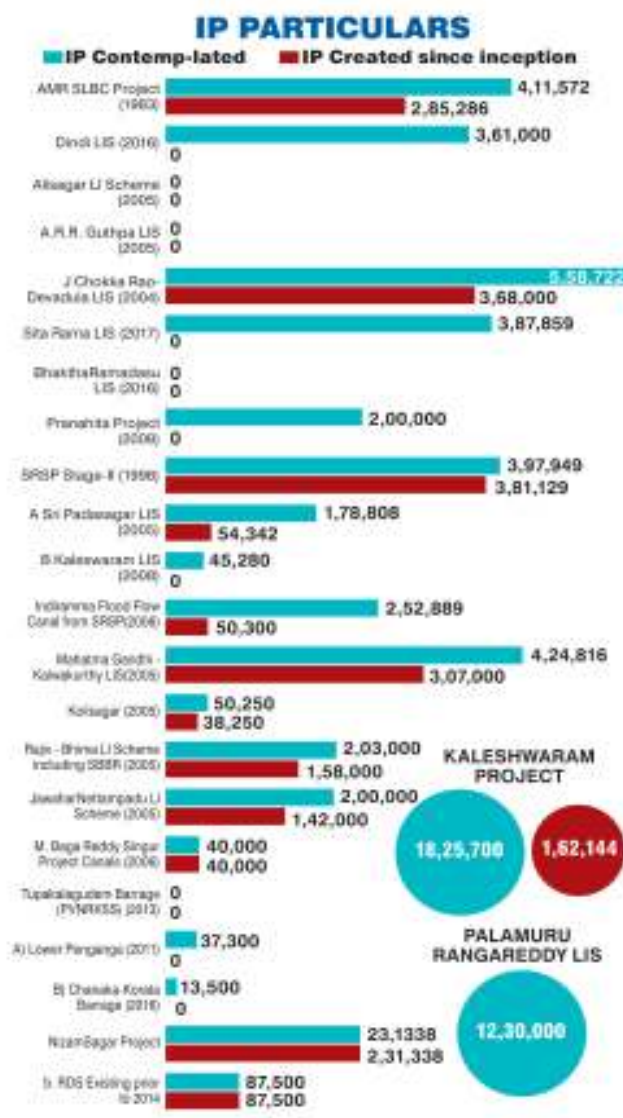
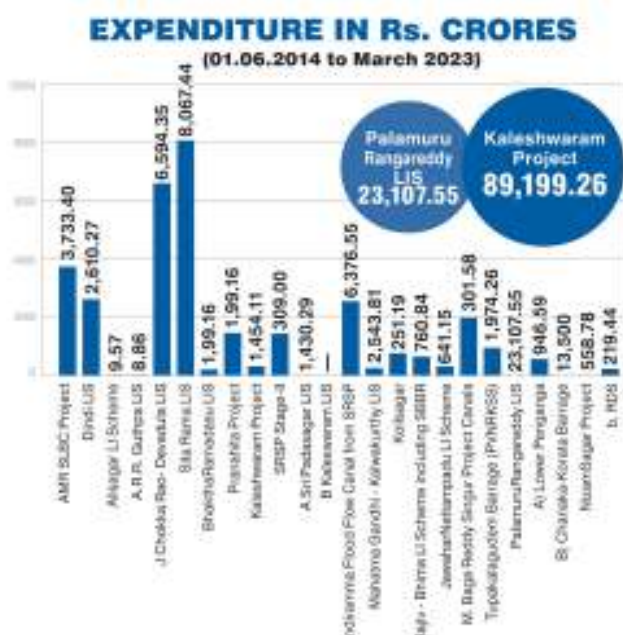
21, 2019, by the CM, it is serving TS, as the growth engine for development.

The project was intended to facilitate utilization of 400 tmc of water from Godavari.

The erstwhile Mahabubnagar, which reeled under drought conditions for years, today has over 8 lakh acres of ayacut served under four different

projects. With a view to meeting the long felt dream of utilising Krishna river water for Mahabubnagar and Rangareddy districts, PRLIS was taken up. It envisages lifting 90 TMC of flood water in 60 days to supply drinking water to 1226 villages in 70 mandals of Nagarkurnool, Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet, Vikarabad, Rangareddy and Nalgonda districts including Hyderabad City in Phase-I and Irrigation facilities to 12.3 lakh acres in Phase-II.

Rejuvenation of water bodies under Mission Kakatiya not only improved water availability, but also helped in recharging ground water across the State. Mission Kakatiya was launched for the restoration of all irrigation tanks, kuntas, anicuts, and check dams in 2016. Under the programme 27,819 tanks were taken up and 21,633 of them were restored with an expenditure of Rs 5,464 crores. With a capital outlay of about Rs 3,825 crores, a total of 1,200 check dams were proposed on 4th to 8th order streams to capture run-off and regenerated water in such minor sources. The initiative was intended to ensure the rejuvenation of the streams and also to prevent sedimentation in the reservoirs. It was intended to develop the State irrigation sector with a holistic approach. Providing real-time status of works on projects and App based progress reports, the project monitoring system (PMS) was developed.



## Empowering the marginalised

Various schemes and initiatives by the TS government have addressed the needs of the downtrodden helping them lead a better life

The Telangana government has taken inclusive growth to the next level by implementing a range of welfare schemes benefiting all sections of society. These initiatives by the Chandrashekhara Rao government are aimed at improving the lives of the poor, marginalised, and vulnerable, and empowering them to lead a better life by addressing their needs.

Through the implementation of these unique schemes, the State government succeeded in reversing decades of injustice done to these sections of society and providing them with a level playing field with others. While some of these schemes are meant to give hope for a better life, others are aimed to empower these marginalised and vulnerable sections.

The Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) government spent a whopping Rs 2.29 lakh crore for social welfare in the last nine years. In terms of annual expenditure for social welfare, Telangana stands first among all other major States. As against Telangana's Rs 33,443.14 crore allocated in 2022-23, the budget allocation for social welfare in Uttar Pradesh was Rs 24,420 crore, Karnataka Rs 22,337 crore, and Rajasthan Rs 15,563 crore. In 2023-24 fiscal, Telangana allocated Rs 35,547 crore for all welfare departments which is three times more than Rs 10,007 crore sanctioned in 2015-16.

### Kalyana Lakshmi/Shaadi Mubarak

To promote social inclusivity and provide financial support to underprivileged couples, the Telangana government launched the Kalyana Lakshmi/Shaadi Mubarak scheme. Under these schemes, eligible brides from economically backward sections are entitled to receive financial aid of up to Rs 1,00,000 for their wedding expenses. This initiative not only ensures that every bride has a memorable wedding ceremony but also helps alleviate the burden of wedding expenses for economically disadvantaged families. Further, it brought much-needed social reform as the number of young women continuing their studies up to the legal age of 18 increased significantly.

### BC Welfare

To provide quality education to children from backward classes, the Mahatma Jyothiba Phule BC Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society is operating 294 schools and 16 degree colleges, with a sanctioned strength of 1.65 lakh students. The number of beneficiaries and expenditure also increased over the years, with a total of 6,08,283 beneficiaries and Rs. 2,117.62 crore spent between 2015-16 and 2022-23.

The government also sanctioned the construction of 41 BC Community Atma Gourava Bhavans, allotting land in Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, involving Rs. 95.25 crore. In addition, free electricity supply of 250 units has been provided to laundries and dhobi-ghats run by the washermen community and hair-cutting salons run by the Nayee Brahmin community. The government provided economic support of a total Rs 460.39 crore for 1,75,647 beneficiaries through BC Corporation.

### ST Welfare

The State government has taken significant steps over the last nine years to support and uplift the Tribal community in the State. Prominent among them is reservation enhancement. The Chief Minister increased reservations for Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 6 percent to 10 percent in educational institutions and government services. This move ensures better representation and socio-economic upliftment of the tribal population. Under ST sub plan government spent Rs 43,936.32 cr in 9 years

Further, ST Thandas (hamlets) were upgraded into gram panchayats, benefiting 2,156 ST hamlets. Special provisions worth Rs 300 crore were made for the construction of gram panchayat buildings, covering 2,168 ST gram panchayats which are now receiving dedicated funds. Since the formation of Telangana, (1,682) ST habitations were connected with BT roads with Rs 1,276 crore from the State budget. Over 2,454 infrastructure development works were taken up

### ST Welfare

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Since Telangana formation, 1,682 ST habitations connected with BT roads involving an expenditure of Rs 1,276 crore

Over 2,454 infrastructure development works taken up with Rs 1,43 lakh crore in ST habitations over the last nine years. Additionally, investments were made in power lines and agricultural support for ST farmers

Kumram Bheem Advaita Bhawan and Sevala Banjara Bhavans were constructed in Hyderabad spending Rs 22 crore

Efforts were made to address land issues for tribals, with claims for Podu lands being verified and placed before District Level Committees

In all, 1.41 lakh students enrolled in 2,052 institutions under TTWREIS (Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society)

Through TPRIDE scheme launched in 2014, over 13,265 beneficiaries received financial incentives amounting to Rs 639.24 crore

with an expenditure of Rs 1.43 lakh crore in ST habitations over the last nine years. Symbolising tribal identity, the Kumram Bheem Advaita Bhawan and Sevala Banjara Bhavans were inaugurated in Hyderabad, and constructed at a cost of Rs 22 crore. Efforts were made to address land issues for tribals, with claims for Podu lands being verified and placed before District Level Committees. Further, Rythu Bandhu has been provided for STs including RoFR lands amounting to Rs 8,305 crore since 2018.

Investments in education have yielded positive outcomes, with all schools converted to English medium. Several ST students qualified for prestigious institutions like IIT, NIT/IIIT, and medical colleges across India.

### Minorities Welfare

The Telangana government is committed to the welfare and upliftment of minorities. It has implemented various schemes for social, economic, educational, and institutional development among minorities. The budget allocation and expenditure for minority welfare increased over the years wherein a total of Rs 8,580.68 crore was spent over the last nine years. The government also established 204 minority residential schools, which have been upgraded to junior colleges. Under the Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme, 2,174 students received scholarships of Rs 397.87 crore to study abroad. The government also took up renovation, construction, and repair of important buildings, including heritage sites and religious institutions. Projects such as the renovation of the Mecca Masjid and the construction of Christian Bhawan and Christian graveyards are underway.

### SC Development

Telangana Dalit Bandhu is a flagship government programme aimed at economically uplifting the Scheduled Castes (SC) community and empowering them by providing financial assistance. Each eligible household will receive a grant of Rs 10 lakh without any bank linkage, enabling them to start a trade or business of their choice. The scheme has been implemented in various constituencies and districts, with a provision of Rs 4,441.00 crore in the financial year 2022-23. During the FY 2022-23, Rs 7,700.00 crore was allocated towards Dalit Bandhu by fixing a target of 1,500 units per Assembly constituency (excluding Huzurabad Assembly constituency to other mandals/millages which were taken up in saturation mode for implementation of the scheme).

The Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund Act was enacted to ensure the allocation of 15.45% of the total State scheme funds for the welfare and development of SCs in Telangana. Since 2014-15, an expenditure of Rs 92,640.41 crores was made under the fund.

## 'Power-packed' performance

When Telangana was carved out of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, it was a power-deficit State, with industrial consumers facing power holidays of up to three days in a week and no supply during peak hours. Domestic and commercial consumers faced up to six hours of power cuts. There were power cuts for 12 to 16 hours in villages, 8 to 12 hours in mandal centres, 6 to 10 hours in district centres and even in capital Hyderabad.

The farm sector had erratic supplies as against the promise of seven hours per day. Farmers' suicides were common due to debts. The rulers in undivided AP even predicted that Telangana would plunge into

darkness once a separate State was carved out and that there would be no development.

However, in less than a year, power cuts were lifted in the new State, and quality power was supplied to all sectors. The government ensured that there were no power cuts, a round-the-clock power supply was available for domestic, commercial, and industry, and a nine-hour supply to the agriculture sectors.

There was a peak power demand shortage of 2,700 MW. However, within a few years, the State turned things around and by the end of 2019-20, Telangana turned into a power surplus State. It was because of the sustained efforts and focus

laid by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on the power sector that Telangana could become a power surplus State that managed to increase the contracted installed power capacity from 7,778 MW in 2014 to the current 18,567 MW. The State government invested Rs. 39,321 crore for strengthening the Transmission and Distribution network in the State in the last nine years.

Today Telangana is managing to supply 24-hour free power to agriculture and uninterrupted power supply to both domestic and industrial sectors. Power consumption has increased substantially in commercial and industrial sectors due to quality power supply

without any power cuts. For all those who said there would be total darkness in Telangana, this growth story is an eye-opener.

Due to the availability of power and pro-industrial policies of the government, business houses have started trusting the government and several multinational and Indian companies have opened their facilities in the State and invested billions of dollars.

In order to provide uninterrupted power supply to farmers, the Telangana government in January 2018 launched 24x7 power supply to the State's 2.3 million farmers free of cost, and today, the number has increased to 27.20 lakh agricul-

ture consumers. To increase its power production capacity, the Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited, commissioned four units of Bhadradi Thermal Power Station (4x270MW = 1080MW), and efforts are being made to commission two Stage-I units and synchronise one Stage-II unit of the 5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station by June 2023.

The remarkable progress made in the power sector in Telangana has caught the attention of the nation. Today Telangana is setting an example to other States in the country for registering rapid progress in electricity in a short time.

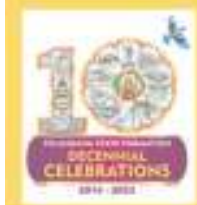
Farmers hail  
**TELANGANA'S GROWTH**  
and speed at work.

People are now enjoying the sweet fruits under Telangana's independence. Through a concerted effort, water is being harnessed, stored and then pumped to the higher planes through lift projects, TUNNELS, CANALS, AND BARRAGES BY MAJOR PROJECTS LIKE KALESHWARAM. THIS HAS MADE THE DREAM OF BRINGING ONE CRORE ACRES UNDER FERTILE LANDS IN THE STATE A REALITY

— K CHANDRASHEKHARA RAO, Chief Minister







# Glorious 10 anniversary



## Steady growth story of IT

From the days when the IT Hub was centred around a few known names in Hi-Tec City to becoming the country's IT powerhouse, the State now has a long line of investors

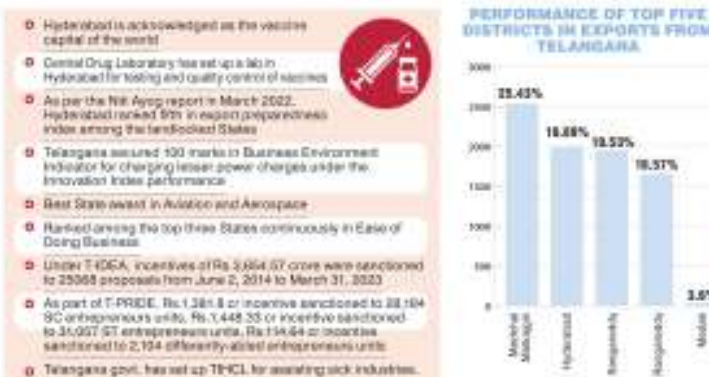


Hyderabad has emerged as the most preferred destination of IT and ITES companies. Industry-friendly policies of the government has been attracting big companies to the State Capital.

## Top destination for marquee firms

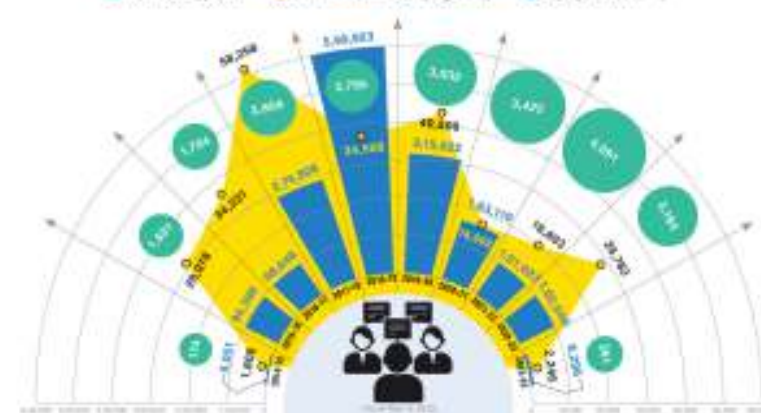
### IMPRESSIVE LINE UP

ESTABLISHED SECTOR-SPECIFIC INDUSTRIAL PARKS LIKE PHARMA CITY AT MUCHERLA, RANGA REDDY, MEDICAL DEVICES PARK AT SULTAN PARK, SANGAREDDY, INDUSTRIAL PARK AT ZAHEERABAD, KAKATIYA MEGA TEXTILE PARK, WARANGAL, ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING CLUSTER AT RAVVYALA AND MAHESWARA, FIBRE GLASS COMPOSITE CLUSTER, HIRABHARATARA, INDUSTRIAL PARK, CHANDENVELLY, INDUSTRIAL PARK, DANDUMALKAPUR, FOOD PARK ETC.



### YEARWISE APPROVALS THROUGH TS-IPASS

Number of approvals Investment (in Rs. crore) Employment (in lakh)



## Path To Progress

### SPECIAL FOCUS ON IT SME SECTOR SUPPORT

WHILE THE ITITES SECTOR IN TELANGANA HAS OVER 8.25 LAKH EMPLOYEES, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 50% OF THIS EMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN GENERATED BY SMES IN THE STATE

Given that SMEs are the backbone of the IT/ITES sector, the government provided financial support to SMEs through rental and talent acquisition subsidies. Space was given in Tier-II and Tier-III cities at no cost for several businesses

**UPSKILLING SUPPORT:** Employees working at SMEs were provided with free upskilling support through TFSR during the pandemic to develop the core competencies to improve revenue generation in their sector

**GOVERNMENT PROJECTS:** Over 25 e-governance projects were offered exclusively to SMEs in order to give more business during the pandemic when most businesses started facing losses

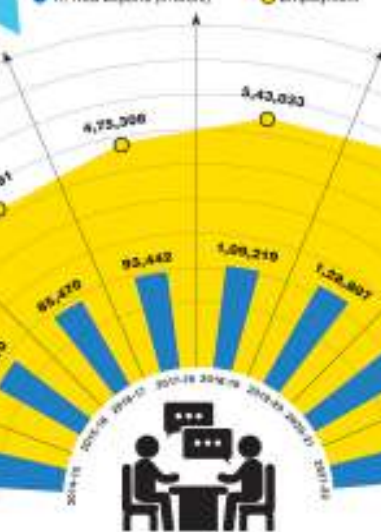
**GLOBAL CONNECT:** The government facilitated the process of finding new customers by connecting SMEs with international trade organisations and embassies. The sector of software exports has especially seen good output in the area

Increasing total direct employment to **10 lakh** by 2026

Double the annual IT exports to **₹3 lakh cr** by 2026

### YEAR WISE APPROVALS THROUGH TS-IPASS

IT (T&E) Exports (in crore) Employment



### TELANGANA - THE STARTUP CAPITAL



SINCE THE FORMATION OF TELANGANA, IT EXPORTS INCREASED FROM RS 57,258 CRORE (IN 2013-14) TO RS 1,83,569 CRORE (IN 2021-22), A GROWTH OF 220 PERCENT IN 8 YEARS

Employment in the IT sector increased from 3,23,396 (in 2013-14) to 8,27,124 (in 2021-22), a growth of 155%

In 2021-22, Telangana added 1,49,506 jobs out of 4.50 lakh jobs PAN India. Telangana accounted for one-third of the net new IT jobs PAN India

Hyderabad currently has over 6.5 lakh employees in the IT/ITES sector. The BPO/KPO segment contributes about 20 percent of the employee base

Telangana is the first State in the country to release a State Robotics Framework policy

IT towers inaugurated in Warangal, Karimnagar, Khannan, and Mahabubnagar. Towers in Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda are in different stages of construction. The IT tower in Siddipet is to be inaugurated soon. The government has also sanctioned an IT tower in Adilabad

The growth of the IT sector in Telangana, from the days when the IT Hub was all about just one Cyber Tower in Madhapur, leading to IT Towers in multiple districts, an entire IT Corridor, the world's marquee companies here and the State becoming the IT powerhouse of the country, was not slow and steady, but fast and steady. There is now a long line of investors, including the world's most known names in the sector, making a beeline to Telangana.

The recent US and UK tour of IT Minister KT Rama Rao showed how Telangana was now a name to reckon with in the global IT arena as multiple companies announced their Telangana plans.

Hyderabad is also gradually becoming a hot favourite. From Amazon Web Services to Microsoft Azure, the State is now home to several hyper-scale and edge data centres, having its own Data Centre Policy right from 2016. Access to dual power grids, low-cost power supply and a high-speed fiber network are just some of the factors that have drawn these data centre majors to Telangana. In fact, earlier this year, IT major Microsoft announced three more data centres in Telangana in addition to the three data centres that were announced last year. In early 2022, Microsoft

**T-HUB**  
THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP T-HUB 1 AND T-HUB 2 TO ENCOURAGE START-UPS. THESE HAVE BECOME FLAGSHIPS OF TELANGANA, ESPECIALLY HYDERABAD

**T HUB 1**  
As an incubator for start-ups with the slogan 'Come with ideas, go with innovation', T-Hub 1 was launched on Nov. 5, 2015 in Dharbhavi.

T-Hub is not only the largest startup incubation center in the country, but also the second largest startup hub in the world.

**T HUB 2**  
Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao inaugurated T-Hub 2 on June 28, 2022 at Knowledge City, Hyderabad.

Constructed with an area of 3.3 lakh square feet (Rs 400 crore cost), T-Hub 2 is the world's largest startup incubation center. Its aim was the 'Three I' principles of innovation, infrastructure and inclusive growth.

To take the startup culture to the tier-II level, the government is establishing T-Hub regional centers in Warangal, Karimnagar, Khannan, Nizamabad and Mahabubnagar.

**MILESTONES ACHIEVED BY T HUB**  
HYDERABAD-BASED STARTUP SKYROOT SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED THE FIRST 'PIRANIA' DESIGNED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM SRINAGAR.

Two nano satellites 'Thal Soil 1' and 'Thal Soil 2' sent by Skyroot from Hyderabad were launched along with ISRO's 'PSLV-C54'.

For the manufacture of private rockets and satellites, already Rs. 1000 crore of investment was made.

T-Hub is a platform for more than 2000 startups across 50 sectors including Health, Electric Vehicles, Blockchain, HR Tech, AgriTech, Education Tech, FinTech.

T-Hub nurtured 2500 startups through various programs, assembled 600 corporates and created over 100 mentors to create new entrepreneurs for the next generation.

announced the setting up of its first captive data centre investment of three campuses.

Last year, German MNC Bosch Global Software Technologies set up its operations in Hyderabad to focus on R&D and to employ about 3,000 people. During the IT Minister's recent tour, Aurum Equity Partners, a leading investor in digital infrastructure real estate data centre assets, allocated \$50 million to Hyderabad for the development of cutting-edge data centres. In addition to this investment, Aurum Venture Partners has also committed \$5 million to support deep tech startups in Telangana. Grid Dynamics Holdings, a leader in enterprise-level digital transformation services and solutions, also announced its plans to significantly expand its existing delivery centre in Hyderabad.

Telangana has a comprehensive innovation ecosystem with research organizations, educational institutions, startups, and marquee companies across sectors.

One major factor of the IT growth saga is that activity is

not restricted to just Hyderabad. Tier II towns and cities are now on the radar of global firms. Recently, Sonata Software decided to set up shop with 200 jobs at the Nalgonda IT Hub. Another company 3M-ECLAT, is to launch an operations centre at Karimnagar. This apart, Rite Software has evinced interest to expand operations to Warangal.

Among other recent additions to IT and ITES sectors are the plans of firms like Sanofi which announced a 350-job centre in Hyderabad. Mondeee Holdings, Inc., a NASDAQ listed, world's largest B2B2C travel marketplace and technology innovation company, delivering a revolutionary technology platform of SaaS, mobile, and cloud products and services to a global customer base, processing over 50 million daily searches is another name that is coming to Hyderabad soon.

Storable, which established its first Global Development Centre (GDC) in Hyderabad recently, has expansion plans. Tekgence, a global supply chain and digital solutions

company, too has made its plans for Telangana public. The firm is planning to set up an Advanced Technology Centre on Product Development and Design Thinking in Hyderabad.

This apart, Plume, the creator of the world's first SaaS experience platform for Communications Service Providers (CSPs) and their subscribers, is starting its centre in Hyderabad employing about 100 people. Leading provider of innovative customer care and customer experience (CX) solutions, Bain Capital-owned VXI Global Solutions, has also unveiled plans to set up a delivery centre with the potential to create employment for 10,000 people.

**Ahead in job creation**  
Hyderabad has beaten Bengaluru in terms of job creation in the IT sector last year. Of the 4.50 lakh jobs created in India in the IT sector last year, Hyderabad created 1.50 lakh jobs, beating Bengaluru, which created 1.46 lakh jobs, according to NASSCOM.

In tune with the rapid em-

ployment, Telangana's IT industry grew by 220 per cent in the last eight years. In 2014-15, the IT exports were about Rs 57,000 and in 2021-22, they increased to Rs 1.83 lakh crore, reflecting the State's remarkable growth in the IT sector.

### Office space absorption

Hyderabad witnessed the highest quantum of office space absorption, around 8.2 million sq ft, in the country between April and September last year, surpassing Bengaluru. The office space market in Hyderabad continues to be dominated by the IT and ITES sector, accounting for around 39 percent share of the total absorption. In 2022, Hyderabad witnessed a surge in the demand for large office spaces, especially those measuring 1,00,000 sq ft or more, according to a recent report by Knight Frank India. These facts substantiate that Hyderabad is surging ahead in different fields, especially in IT. All this was achieved due to the stable government and able leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao.

Hyderabad is the second largest base for corporate giants like Amazon, Google, Meta, Apple, Microsoft, Uber, Qualcomm, Micron and many others in the world. In fact, Amazon's world's largest campus is not in Seattle but in Hyderabad. Telangana, especially Hyderabad is home to more than 1,500 multinational companies.

Save for Microsoft, many of these corporates have set up their campuses or units in Telangana in the last nine years. More importantly, they are not BPOs or KPOs, most cutting-edge technological work in maps, AI, Machine Learning etc happens at these campuses.

### Aerospace and defence sector

Amazon's exclusive cargo airline Amazon Air was launched in Hyderabad for a foray into the country in an attempt to enable faster deliveries to its customers. It also became the first e-commerce company in India to launch a dedicated air cargo network. In the aviation and defence sector, Telangana has a strong private sector industry with over 25 large companies and over 1000 MSMEs. The Aerospace and defence ecosystem in the State has witnessed unprecedented growth in the past five years. Original Equipment Manufacturers such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Safran, Tata, GE, Aviation, Pratt and Whitney, Honeywell, and Collins Aerospace have invested in Telangana and have set up their units. Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has secured an Airbus contract to manufacture cargo and bulk cargo doors for the A320neo aircraft family. TASL will be producing these doors at a new facility in Hyderabad using cutting-edge robotics and automation technology and each shipset will include two cargo doors and one bulk cargo door.

Global defence aerospace player Lockheed Martin and India's Tata Group have inked an agreement for the production of fighter plane wings at their joint venture Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd (TLMAL) in Hyderabad. According to Lockheed Martin, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) envisions production of 29 fighter wing shipsets, with an option of additional shipsets, with deliveries commencing in 2025.

### Pharma sector

The world's largest integrated pharma manufacturing cluster - Pharma City is coming up in Hyderabad. This apart, the State government has envisioned doubling the size of the life sciences sector from the current \$50 billion to \$100 billion by 2025. In fact, Industries Minister

KT Rama Rao while inaugurating the 20th edition of Bio Asia in February early this year announced that life sciences ecosystem value had already touched \$80 billion in 2022. About four lakh people are working in the life sciences and allied sectors and the State government plans to double the number to eight lakh people in the coming five years in Telangana. Plans have been drawn to add an additional 20 lakh sq ft real estate space at Genome Valley, Shamshabad.

Already, about 30 lakh sq ft was built and was being used. Currently, about nine billion doses of vaccines are being made in Telangana. This is about 35 per cent of the total vaccines made in the world. Next year, the number of doses would increase to 14 billion doses or about 50 per cent of the vaccines made globally. This is just the tip of investments flowing into Telangana. Cutting across fields like pharma, life sciences, textiles, aerospace, defence, automobiles, FMCGs and others, Telangana has been the preferred destination for companies. Irrespective of forums or platforms, companies have always been evincing interest in investing in Telangana.

The State attracted nearly Rs 21,400 crore worth investments in different sectors, including data centres, life sciences, FMCG during the recently held World Economic Forum 2023 at Davos, Switzerland.

In addition to these investments from global companies, World Economic Forum declared that the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (CFIR) focused on healthcare and life sciences would be established in Hyderabad. The CFIR will facilitate, advance and accelerate the development of adoption of newer technologies in healthcare in the country. Even during a recent tour to the United States, Industries Minister KT Rama Rao was successful in drawing investments in different fields in the State.

Beginning with Medtronic's Rs 3,000 crore investments, Incredible Husb International (Rs 200 crore), DAZN Development Centre would generate 1000 jobs, London Exchange Group announced its decision to set up a Technology Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad and Warner Bros Discovery declared its decision to set up an International Development Centre, many companies had announced their plans for Telangana. ITC CMD Sanjiv Puri complimented Industries Minister KT Rama Rao for his dynamism and the Telangana government for ensuring multi-dimensional and encompasses all facets of inclusive & sustainable development.

Corporate's hail  
**TELANGANA'S GROWTH**  
and speed at work

Telangana's IT exports have grown 220% in the last eight years, from Rs 57,000 cr in 2014-15 to over Rs 1.83 lakh cr in 2021-22.

TELANGANA HAS ALSO CREATED 1.5 LAKH JOBS, WHICH IS ONE-THIRD OF INDIA'S TOTAL 4.5 LAKH IT JOBS CREATED IN THE LAST FISCAL, DESPITE AN ADVERSE GLOBAL SCENARIO

— KT RAMA RAO, IT and Industries Minister



If you want to see the future, it's right here in Hyderabad. You see it in the enthusiasm of people, space like this (T-Hub) and growth, construction, and momentum.

TELANGANA IS PLAYING AN IMPRESSIVE ROLE IN NOT JUST IN THE START-UP ECOSYSTEM BUT ALSO IN TRANSLATING IDEAS INTO REALITY

— ERIC GARCETTI, US Ambassador to India-Head



First single from *Bhola Shankar* will be out on **JUNE 4**

In addition to these, the Centre is undertaking projects like the wagon manufacturing & overhauling centre, MMTS (second phase), Secunderabad Railway Station modernisation and the Cherlapally Terminal in Telangana.



SELECTION OF 2 MLC CANDIDATES

# CM KCR faces uphill task

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, the undisputed leader of the BRS, is facing problems in selecting two MLC candidates in the Governor's quota.

Nominated BRS MLCs D. Rajeswar Rao and Farooq Hussain completed their terms on May 27. Normally, MLC posts are filled before they become vacant. But this time KCR has not selected candidates for the two MLC posts even four days after they became vacant.

The reason is that the MLC candidates should be selected not as per the choice of KCR but according to the likes of the Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan.

It may be recalled that the Governor did not accept Padi Kaushik Reddy for the MLC post although he was selected by KCR. Later, KCR made



Kaushik an MLC in the MLAs' quota.

KCR has to select candidates who have a clean record to get approval from the Governor for the nominated MLC post.

Telangana Assembly elections will be held in the next five months. KCR has to select MLC candidates keeping in mind the Assembly elections.

Of late, the gap between Pragathi Bhavan and Raj Bhavan has widened. Relations between the BRS government and the Governor have gone from bad to worse.

It may be recalled that the Governor did not accept Padi Kaushik Reddy for the MLC post although he was selected by KCR. Later, KCR made Kaushik an MLC in the MLAs' quota.

BRS ministers openly criticise the Governor and she counters them. In this situation, BRS circles think that there is no guarantee for accepting that the Governor will accept candidates selected by KCR. Due to this, KCR is taking his own time in selecting the MLC candidates.

In the BRS many leaders are in the run for the nominated MLC posts. KCR has to select two candidates from them and they must have a clean record.

# Bhojpuri singer Nisha hurt in celebratory firing

PNS ■ SARAN

Popular Bhojpuri singer Nisha Upadhyay recieved a bullet injury allegedly in celebratory firing at her show in Bihar's Saran district, police said on Thursday. The incident happened in Sendurva village in Janta Bazar police station area on Tuesday but it came to light after videos from the show went viral on social media, they said.

Upadhyay was hit on her left thigh and was admitted to a private hospital in Patna after the incident, they added.

"No complaint was lodged regarding this incident. I have also come to know about it from social media. Further information is being gathered," said Nasruddin Khan, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Janta Bazar.

Her condition is now stated to be stable.

Condemning it, Art and Culture Minister Jitendra Kumar Rai told PTI that celebratory firing was a criminal offence and people must understand it.

"I have been informed about it. It's highly condemnable and action must be initiated against the accused. People must know that celebratory firing even with licensed guns at public gatherings, religious places, weddings or other functions is a criminal offence. The accused must be punished," he said.

"I am sure that the police will examine how the incident took place, who all were involved in the firing, and how the gunshot was fired," he added.

Despite repeated attempts, Upadhyay's family could not be reached for a comment.

# Celebrities shower greetings on TS Formation Day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As Telangana enters its tenth year, noted personalities from different walks of life greeted the people of Telangana.

Film actor Prabhas Raju greeted people on Telangana State Formation Day. Oscar-winning Lyricist Chandrabose extended Telangana State Formation Day greetings.

Among others who greeted the public are Vijay Devarkonda, six-time Grand Slam champion Sania Mirza, Commonwealth Games Medallist Hussam, World Boxing Champion Nikhat Zareen, Film actor Advi Sesh and Film Director Shekar Kamula.

# India's power consumption grows to 136.56 billion units

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power consumption rose marginally by 1.04 per cent to 136.56 billion units in May this year as widespread rains have kept summer temperature under check so far and people used fewer cooling appliances compared to last year.

In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 135.15 billion units (BU), higher than 108.80 BU in May 2021, according to government data.

The power consumption was also affected in March and April this year due to widespread rains in the country.

Experts said that unseasonal rains in March, April and May affected the power consumption in the country.

The power ministry has estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during this summer season. But the demand has not

reached the projected level during April-May this year mainly due unseasonal rains.

Rains reduced the demand for electricity as people used fewer cooling appliances compared to the previous year, according to experts.

Further, experts are hopeful that power consumption and demand would grow from June onwards, due to further improvement in economic activities as well as a rise in temperature during summer season.

The data showed the peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, rose to 221.34 GW in May, 2023.

The peak power supply stood at 204.47 GW in May 2022 and 168.78 GW in May 2021. Peak power demand is expected to touch 229 GW during this summer season, as per the power ministry estimates.

# Cong must clarify it will not enter into an alliance with BRS: Sharmila

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Making it clear that her party will not enter into an alliance with the BRS, YSRTP President YS Sharmila said the BJP has been singing a duet with KCR and that the Congress had sold itself out to KCR.

She made it clear that there is no question of merging her party with any other party. She demanded that all opposition parties should clarify on whether they are against KCR and only then the YSRTP will think of alliances.

"Why do I have to enter into an alliance with the Congress? Is it to sell myself out after winning? The Congress has become a supply company for KCR. The Congress should answer whether its leadership can ensure that winning MLAs will stay with the party. The Congress has to make it clear whether it will support KCR



after the elections or not. What is the guarantee that the Congress would not become a supply company for KCR?" she asked.

She said that two years are over after she launched the YSRTP and that she had floated a party in Telangana as the Congress and the BJP were sleeping. She said that only the YSRTP took up public causes when national parties slept.

"I am the only one question-

ing the excesses of KCR standing by the people. I walked 3,850 km not to merge my party with another party. It is not right to undermine my hard work, insult me, and YS Rajasekhar Reddy in the name of merger," she said and made it clear that the YSRTP will contest alone. "I will field candidates in all constituencies on my own and we are readying candidates for elections," she added.

She said political parties which are hoping for alliances have to answer what is the need for an alliance with the Congress which sells itself to others. Voting for the Congress is nothing but voting for the BRS, she said.

She said that the BRS will not get more than 30 seats and that there is no guarantee that the Congress will not become a supplying company to KCR after the elections.

# ‘83 % Indians would delegate as much work as possible to AI’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than three fourth of people in India surveyed are willing to delegate as much work as possible to artificial intelligence, a Microsoft report said on Thursday.

According to Microsoft Work Trend Index 2023 report, 90 per cent of Indian leaders say employees they hire will need new skills to be prepared for the growth of AI (artificial intelligence).

The research based on a survey of 31,000 people across 31 countries, including about 1,000 from India found that 74 per cent of Indian workers say they're worried AI will replace their jobs.

"Research shows 83 per cent of Indian employees are willing to delegate as

much work as possible to AI to lessen their workload," the report said. More than 3 in 4 Indian leaders (84 per cent) said that they are concerned about lack of innovation.

"The primary culprit disrupting productivity is inefficient meetings, as reported by 46 per cent of Indian workers who feel that their absence in half or more of their meetings would go unnoticed by colleagues," the report said.

According to the report, every employee, not just AI experts, will need new core competencies such as prompt engineering in their day-to-day.

"90 per cent of Indian leaders say employees they hire will need new skills to be prepared for the growth

of AI. 78 per cent of Indian workers say they don't currently have the right capabilities to get their work done," the report said.

Microsoft India Country Head Modern Work Bhaskar Basu said that as the nature of work evolves, AI promises to be the biggest transformation to work.

"The next generation of AI will unlock a new wave of productivity growth, removing the drudgery from our jobs and freeing us to rediscover the joy of creation. The opportunity and responsibility for every organisation and leader is to get AI right -- testing and experimenting with new ways of working to build a brighter future of work for everyone," he said.

# GST mop-up crosses Rs 1.5 lakh crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections crossed Rs 1.50 lakh crore for the third month in a row, recording a 12 per cent increase in May at over Rs 1.57 lakh crore, according to the official data released on Thursday. The collections, tax experts said, reflects a continuation of the good economic performance across states witnessed since last year.

The gross Good & Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of May, 2023 is Rs 1,57,090 crore of which Central GST is Rs 28,411 crore, State GST is Rs 35,828 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 81,363 crore (including Rs 41,772 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 11,489 crore (including Rs 1,057 crore collected on import of goods), a finance ministry statement said.

"The revenues for the month of May 2023 are 12 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year," the ministry said.

During the month, revenue from import of goods was 12 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 11 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

May is the third month in a row that tax collections from goods sold and services rendered have crossed Rs 1.50 lakh crore. In April GST revenues had touched a record high of Rs 1.87 lakh crore, while in March it was Rs 1.60 lakh crore. May is the 14th month in a row when monthly GST revenues came in more than Rs 1.4 lakh crore.

# Sunil Kanugolu appointed Siddu's chief advisor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Karnataka Government has appointed the Congress party's political strategist, Sunil Kanugolu, as the Chief Advisor of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Sunil will have cabinet rank. He will guide Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on key issues like assurances given to the people.

It may be recalled that Sunil Kanugolu, who was working with well-known political strategist Prashanth Kishore, served as the political strategist of the Congress during the recent Karnataka elections in which Congress registered a thumping victory.

It is learnt that the Congress high command decided to give the Chief Advisor post to Sunil Kanugolu as he had played an important role during the Karnataka elections.

# PRAGATI MAIDAN SLUM DEMOLITION Lives turn upside down

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At the crack of dawn on Thursday with the city still asleep, excavators made their way into a slum cluster near Pragati Maidan, waking its inhabitants who felt their lives were about to be upended.

As imminent demolition loomed, poised to reduce their modest homes to rubble, several residents suddenly found themselves shelterless. Anxiety crept in as they began to think of their bleak future and possibly that of their children. Pinky, a mother of four, said she was distressed about her 18-year-old daughter's future. Having somehow managed to gather enough money to send the teenager to a hostel, Pinky said that her daughter might not be able to complete her studies now that her home has been razed in the anti-

encroachment drive.

"This displacement affects my livelihood. We somehow managed to save money and send her to a hostel. After this demolition drive, we are worried that she might have to come back," the woman said.

"Authorities are more concerned about the rich. They are least bothered about poor people like us," she lamented.

Fifty-five shanties were demolished in the slum cluster as part of an anti-encroachment drive, displacing more than 40 families.

Sifting through the rubble in a last-ditch bid to save their belongings, the slum dwellers alleged they had been demanding the government to allot them an alternative place somewhere within a five-kilometre radius.

# BJP aims to...

Continued from page 4

The BJP plans to turn its 'Mahajan Sampark Abhiyans' into election meetings to explain the progress made during Modi's 9-year rule.

The Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister and the BJP President will attend meetings being held this month. BJP leaders have scheduled Prime Minister Modi's rallies in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram along with Telangana where elections will be held this year.

Three top BJP leaders will visit Telangana this month. A public meeting featuring the Prime Minister is expected to be held somewhere in Nalgonda or Khammam district in south Telangana.

The BJP state leadership thinks that Amit Shah's visit to Adilabad district will bring good results as it can attract tribal voters and SCCL workers.

# Blind hatred against Modi...

Continued from page 4

"In my opinion former Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, the pride of all Telugus, was the best PM this country ever had. Unfortunately, he is the most underrated PM and not even recognized by his own party," he said while answering a question about who was the best PM so far.

KTR said that BRS is not taking Asaduddin Owaisi and his All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimen for granted.

"This is the same MP who goes to UP and other states and praises the Telangana Model. So which Asaduddin will you believe? Asad goes to Uttar Pradesh and says, 'Hamare Telangana meih toh yeh hota hai' and speaks about minority welfare programmes. Which is the real Asad?" he said.

When asked about the split in the anti-BJP vote if AIMIM contests in more seats outside its regular arena, KTR said that all Muslims cannot be

considered as pro-AIMIM.

When asked who their opposition is, KTR said, "KA Paul Sharmila and Praveen are gang-ing up. In politics fight is with equals and not dwarfs. The Congress and the BJP are dwarfs in TS. They are intellectually bankrupt too. Show me a Congress government which is better than the Telangana government."

"A bad government was thrown out in Karnataka. The PR efforts of Modi didn't work. While Manipur was burning, the Union Home Minister and the PM were in Karnataka," KTR said.

Fresh from his US trip, KTR recalled that Rahul Gandhi spoke in the US and said that delimitation is not South Vs North. "We need to look at the US, that is, two senators. They need to think of a way. The way it suits Parliamentary democracy and think of justice for the states," KTR said.

"Don't penalise a performing state for doing well on popula-

tion control by reducing constituencies. "UP would have been the sixth largest country in world. How can one state dictate terms to the rest of the country if delimitation is done," he asked. KTR said the five reasons for considering Modi as incompetent is high inflation, high unemployment, LPG prices, high fuel prices and the lowest rupee value.

He said that BJP won't win 3 MLA seats in 2023 and they won't even be third. He said Revanth and Sanjay should be PM candidates of their respective parties.

"TS has been supremely successful and is a successful start-up state. He said it is rare to see a balance in all round development in the contemporary model of governance. At SCCL coal is underground. Is there a better model of governance than the one now in the country? An able government and a stable leadership is the hallmark of the Telangana administration," he said.

# KCR surpasses...

Continued from page 4

In the last nine years of KCR rule Telangana has achieved tremendous progress in agriculture, irrigation and in industrial development.

Under KCR Telangana created history by providing 24x7 power supply and nine hours of free power supply to farmers. In addition to this, KCR constructed the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in record time no one expected. The renovation of the famous Yadadri temple on the lines of the Tirumala Balaji Temple and the construction of a new secretariat building are some other achievements of KCR.

KCR introduced many welfare schemes like Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu and others which were copied by some other states. KCR has emerged as the undisputed leader in the BRS and if the BRS achieves a hat-trick victory in the next Telangana Assembly elections he may become an undisputed leader in Telangana politics also.

# BRS hopes...

Continued from page 4

The focus is on average and non-performing MLAs. Despite giving the opportunity, if the MLAs don't perform then the party may reconsider fielding them.

It may be mentioned here that in 2018, the BRS won 88 seats and in 2014 the BRS won 63 seats. However, these seats increased significantly after Congress MLAs joined the BRS. Elections are likely to be held in November and December.

KTR has already asked during public meetings to elect with a massive majority Padi Koushik Reddy, Sathish Kumar, Warangal Vinay Bhaskar and Kamareddy Jukkal MLA Hanuman Shinde. CR had appealed to the people to elect Minister Singireddy

# Court allows...

Continued from page 4

Reddy was alleged to have led a nexus controlling a huge market share by way of cartelization in clear contravention of the objectives of the excise policy.

A Delhi based businessman Dinesh Arora had earlier turned approver in the corruption case being probed by the CBI.

Former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, who also held the excise portfolio when the alleged scam took place in 2021-22,

is also an accused in the cases being probed by the CBI and ED. He is currently in judicial custody. The ED is investigating alleged money laundering by the accused in the now-scrapped liquor policy.

# Industrialist Paidi Rakesh join BJP

Continued from page 4

MLAs elected on Congress tickets have joined the BRS and support KCR in the Assembly.

He said that KCR and Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjuna Kharge are roaming together in New Delhi.

Chugh said that KCR is trying to forge an alliance with the Congress and TPCC President Revanth Reddy is working on a secret agreement. He said the BJP will end the corrupt BRS rule in Telangana under Prime Minister Modi's leadership and that a double-engine government will take charge in Telangana. He said the BJP will form government in Telangana with a majority after the Assembly elections in November.

Chugh said that Rakesh

Reddy is a son of Telangana. "Rakesh joined the BJP. I am welcoming him. In the last nine years in Telangana has witnessed a corrupt family rule," he said.

Dharmapuri Arvind advised BRS MLC Kavitha to contest from Nizamabad and not to run away to Medak.

He said that Kavitha has a responsibility to contest from Nizamabad as she is its former MP and current MLC.

He said that KCR has been thinking of fielding his daughter from Medak, but Kavitha is not listening to her father. Kavitha must contest from Nizamabad without accepting her father's suggestion, he said.

The Kalvakuntla family is a disease and the antidote for that is the BJP, he said. He said that the Congress and the BRS are one and the same.

# T-model...

Continued from page 4

KCR commemorated the success of the movement, the action plan devised in accordance with the situation and the 'Educate, Gather and Fight' model adopted during the struggle. Nine years ago on June 2, 2014, Telangana became the 29th state of India, the Chief Minister said and added that it is remarkable that the new State of Telangana overcome all problems and defeated the conspiracies of TS antagonists.

KCR said that the Telangana state, which suffered setbacks, is now taking the country forward in all fields. He expressed satisfaction that due to the efforts of the state government and the participation of the people, the achievements of Telangana have become a model for the country.

# TSRTC hikes DA to mark...

Continued from page 4

It is in this background that the TSRTC management has decided to grant the pending seventh DA to the employees as a gift during Telangana state's ninth celebrations. The TSRTC has so far sanctioned seven DAs even though facing problems. The remaining DA will be announced soon."

Speaking to 'The Pioneer' Sajjanar said, "The company did not add DA earlier. So it will be paid to employees along with the salary for June. It will be an added incentive for all employees. The DA for January 2023 will be announced soon."

The last DA hike was announced in October 2022. At that time Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears amounting to Rs 15 crore

and DA hike of Rs 20 crore were paid. The TSRTC had also paid a Diwali advance of Rs 20 crore to its employees.

Bajireddy Govardhan, MLA, the chairman of TSRTC, said that they are working sincerely for the welfare of RCT employees and would pay dues due to the employees with the help of the government.

Reminding that the state government has allocated Rs 1,500 crore in the budget, he said that the RTC is recovering from losses. He said that last year's daily income was Rs 9 crore and that now it has touched Rs 14 crore on an average.

He said that interest was being paid for debts of around Rs 2,000 crore and that all employees are working hard to increase the company's income.





## Too bullish to be true

Morgan Stanley has painted a rosy picture of the economy, but it omits some key indicators

Government and Bharatiya Janata Party supporters must be happy over the recent report by Morgan Stanley, the global financial services firm. "This India is different from what it was in 2013. In a short span of 10 years, India has gained positions in the world order with significant positive consequences for the macro and market outlook," it said. "India has transformed in less than a decade." This is surely a vote of confidence for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his economic policies. The report has highlighted 10 big changes that have taken place since 2014. Bringing down the corporate tax rate at par with the same in other major economies and heavy infrastructure investment are among the top supply-side policy reforms, Morgan Stanley said. The soaring collection of goods and services tax (GST) and the growing share of digital transactions as a percentage of GDP indicate the formalisation of the economy, it added. Other pluses, according to Morgan Stanley, are direct transfer of subsidies to accounts of beneficiaries, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, flexible inflation targeting, focus on foreign direct investment (FDI), Government support for corporate profits, a new law for the realty sector, and MNC sentiment at multi-year high. Manufacturing and capital spending as a percentage of GDP has continuously risen, Morgan Stanley said, adding export market share is projected to more than double to 4.5 per cent by 2031.



Much of what Morgan Stanley has said is correct, but at places optimism seems a bit excessive. It seems to have overlooked a few facts. For instance, FDI inflows into the country fell by 16 per cent to \$71 billion on a gross basis in the last fiscal, though

the decline has been attributed to weak global factors. Similarly, manufacturing remains a laggard; its share continues to languish at 16-17 per cent of the country's GDP. The Government has made big claims about the potential of industrial growth; it launched ambitious programmes like Make in India and the production-linked incentive or PLI scheme for several sectors. And yet, manufacturing's share in GDP is no different than it was in 2011, the year in which the National Manufacturing Policy was announced with the target to make the share go up by 2022. Then there is the issue of jobs; the economy is not able to generate quality employment. This reflects in consumption patterns. The sales of luxury products are zooming, whereas the items used by common people like kitchen appliances are not doing as well. Growth accelerated to 6.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2022-23, and for the entire fiscal it was upwardly revised to 7.2 per cent. For 2023-24 too, India is likely to grow by over 6 per cent, and will be the fastest growing big economy. The Government must persist with reforms and ensure the more supply-side bottlenecks are removed so that the fruits of growth and development are equitably distributed.

### PICTALK



Burqa-clad students play cricket in the J J Hospital premises at Byculla in Mumbai

PTI

## The nuisance that is convocation ceremony

Ceremonies get value only if they are conducted appropriately. Mimicking an auspicious ceremony only demeans its value

Does education have any value in life? Does a degree guarantee a job? These questions always rhyme in our society.

Of course, these questions need detailed discussion. But the root cause of these questions is the declining value of education in today's society, due to the mockeries shown by education institutions. Even from kindergarten onwards, many private educational institutions conduct graduation ceremonies, making a mockery of our education system. We are demeaning the value of actual degree certificates through these ceremonies.

According to UGC, "Convocation" means a ceremonial assembly of a university, normally held for conferring Degrees and other awards to its eligible candidates. Usually, it is the universities that conduct convocation ceremonies in India. But in recent times, many colleges conduct convocation ceremonies or graduation ceremonies. The programme is conducted in a grand manner inviting eminent personalities; in some cases, even the



cellors of universities attend the function. The funny thing is that even students who failed university examinations also get a certificate at these graduation ceremonies. Some college authorities make poor students and parents believe that these certificates have more value than the ones issued by the universities. The ceremony itself is a huge business involving many event managers. A photo in graduation attire can convince the public that the particular person is a degree holder. This can fetch them status and demand in the marriage market. It's like what we see in the movie 'Three Idiots'.

After attending the graduation ceremony conducted by their colleges, students post on social media stating that they have officially become graduates. During earlier times,

the convocation ceremonies are performed only by universities where the university authority hand over graduation certificates. Every student dreams of wearing the ceremonial convocation dress and taking a photo with the degree certificate. There was a time, before the 1990s, when every household used to hang pictures of their graduating family members. During that time, students from every stream and every level, undergraduate to higher degrees, had the privilege to attend convocation ceremonies conducted at universities. Society viewed a university graduate with awe and much respect. With the increase in the number of graduates passing out from our universities, the convocation ceremonies are limited to professional courses and higher degrees like PhD.

The value given to original degree certificates issued by good universities is slowly diminishing because of ceremonies conducted by these private institutions. The students and society at large are finding it challenging to understand which is genuine and which is fake. There

are many people with "Dr." affiliation in our community, whose degree is awarded by private institutions. These institutions, which are mostly registered societies, provide honorary doctoral degrees by charging hefty fees. They even give professional awards after taking huge fees from the nominees. Ceremonies get value only if it is conducted appropriately by the appropriate agency concerned. Mimicking an auspicious ceremony will demean its value. Can we mimic our marriage ceremony to show it to someone? All educational institutions should respect the value associated with various ceremonies and show the correct path to the students and society. Otherwise, our students shall carry certificates that have only a paper's value and have value only on social media platforms. We need to build quality graduates in every domain of knowledge in nation-building. For this, educational institutions should stay away from such gimmicks that make a mockery of our education system and should show the true path to our youngsters.

(The writer is



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

the inauguration of the New Parliament Building has heralded a new history of India in its 75th year of Independence. Leaving apart the controversies wrangling in different corridors, we must realize that the value of democracy lies in upholding the essence and spirit of this new development and with it the whole idea of multiculturalism and the syncretic tradition that binds this nation of 140 crore Indians together. 'Sarva Dharma Prarthana' or Inter-Faith Prayer is one of the great steps in this direction which happened at the inaugural programme on May 28.

India, known for its rich cultural tapestry and religious diversity, has long embraced the idea of syncretism and multiculturalism. This inherent acceptance of diverse beliefs and traditions is exemplified through inter-faith prayers, which hold great significance in various ceremonies across the country. These prayers serve as a unifying force, promoting harmony, tolerance, and cultural integration. Inter-faith prayers at the inaugural ceremony, symbolize the nation's commitment to embracing and maintaining its cultural syncretism. By incorporating inter-faith prayers into the ceremony, the diversity that India stands for was celebrated. This inclusive approach not only strengthens the social fabric but also sends a strong message to the world about India's commitment to secularism and pluralism. Inter-faith prayers hold immense significance in India, as they bring together people from different religious backgrounds/faith, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. India's cultural tapestry is intricately woven with the threads of various religions, each contributing to the vibrant fabric of society. From Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism to Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, the Baha'i, Judaism, Zoroastrianism and others, India has been a melting pot of diverse religious beliefs, rituals, and practices. 'Sarva Dharma Prarthana' acts as the glue that holds this mosaic together, fostering an environment of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. These prayers serve as a powerful

reminder of our shared humanity and transcend religious boundaries, emphasizing the common values and aspirations that bind us as a nation. As the seat or Temple of democracy, the Parliament represents the voice of the people and their diverse aspirations, symbolizing the inclusive spirit of India, for India's syncretic traditions are deeply embedded in its cultural fabric. The country's history is replete with instances where different religious beliefs and practices have intermingled and influenced each other. This syncretism is evident in various aspects of Indian life, including festivals, rituals, and philosophical ideologies. Festivals such as Diwali, Eid, Christmas, and Guru Nanak Jayanti to name a few, are celebrated with equal enthusiasm by people of different faiths. These celebrations not only showcase cultural diversity but also provide an opportunity for individuals to learn about and appreciate different religious traditions.

It is undeniable that India's artistic heritage spans millennia, with influences from various cultures and civilizations. The intricate carvings of the ancient temples in Khajuraho, the Mughal architecture of the Taj Mahal, and the vibrant frescoes of Rajasthan are just a few examples of how differ-

ent artistic styles have merged to create a distinct Indian aesthetic. By appreciating and preserving these art forms, India not only showcases its multicultural heritage but also encourages dialogue and understanding among diverse communities. India's rich spiritual heritage and its embrace of diverse philosophies have given rise to a syncretic tapestry, interwoven with the teachings of renowned saints and philosophers throughout history. Kabir, the 15th-century poet and mystic, whose teachings emphasized the unity of all religions, says, "Dheere dheere re mana, dheere sab kuch hoi. Mali seenche sau ghada, ritu aaye phal hoye", embodies the essence of cultural syncretism by emphasizing the gradual evolution of spiritual growth and the universality of divine wisdom.

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ent artistic styles have merged to create a distinct Indian aesthetic. By appreciating and preserving these art forms, India not only showcases its multicultural heritage but also encourages dialogue and understanding among diverse communities. India's rich spiritual heritage and its embrace of diverse philosophies have given rise to a syncretic tapestry, interwoven with the teachings of renowned saints and philosophers throughout history. Kabir, the 15th-century poet and mystic, whose teachings emphasized the unity of all religions, says, "Dheere dheere re mana, dheere sab kuch hoi. Mali seenche sau ghada, ritu aaye phal hoye", embodies the essence of cultural syncretism by emphasizing the gradual evolution of spiritual growth and the universality of divine wisdom.

Swami Vivekananda also stressed the importance of embracing diversity and unity among religions. He famously said, "I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration but we accept all religions as true." Conceptualized by Swami Vivekananda himself and designed and developed by his engineer brother-monk Swami Vijnanananda, the Ramakrishna Mission in

Belur Math is a clear example of an architectural marvel that beautifully embodies syncretic traditions, blending elements from various Indian architectural styles, with its ornate carvings, domes, and spires, along with Islamic arches and intricate floral motifs and further incorporating elements reminiscent of Gothic architecture, such as stained-glass windows.

Mahatma Gandhi too emphasized the importance of embracing diverse cultures and traditions without losing one's own identity. He envisioned a society where different cultures coexist and enrich one another, fostering understanding and unity. As India embarked on a new chapter with the inauguration of its New Parliament Building, it is essential for all of us to value such wisdom and teachings that have inspired individuals and Nations alike. By promoting interfaith dialogue, preserving linguistic diversity, celebrating artistic expressions, and embracing such vast and versatile traditions, India can continue to be a shining example of unity in diversity in her global endeavour to become a global power under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

(The writer is Program Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti)



FIRST COLUMN

IMPORTANCE OF PM MODI'S US STATE VISIT

Domestic politics aside, there is much at stake for PM Modi's upcoming state visit to the US



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be on a high-profile visit to the United States later this month. The state visit would be the first for the PM, and for the president of the USA and the second during his current tenure, as a host. This visit is happening against the backdrop of many high-profile visits by Indian and American diplomats, secretaries and ministers setting the ground, plank by plank, in what could be one of the most significant milestones in the India US bilateral relationship. The last such fillip to the relationship came in the period from 2005 to 2009 when India went nuclear and, US keeping aside its domestic political reservations and ally concerns (read Pakistan), eased India into the nuclear club, finally culminating in, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's state visit to the US. A state visit is the highest level of honour and prestige accorded bilaterally, and is considered to be the top-notch level in diplomatic relationships.

Prime Minister Modi's scheduled state visit was supposed to have been preceded, by his meeting with US President Joe Biden, at least thrice in less than a month. These included bilateral meetings during G7, to which India was invited, a meeting in Papua New Guinea and a QUAD leaders' summit before culminating in a state visit. However, President Biden had to cut short his trip to the Pacific Ocean Island nation and Australia, due to domestic issues, leading to a few hurried meetings on the sidelines of the G7 in Japan.

The domestic environment for both India and the US is just warming up, to what would be an extremely hot and noisy space for the world's oldest and largest democracy. India and the US face general elections next year and the domestic political climate, if not decibels, are already exceeding tolerable limits. Moving forward it would be unbearable and rough. This casts the dice for these leaders, both of whom are seeking re-election (PM Modi for the third term and President Biden second term), to make it worthwhile for their respective constituencies, which will send them back to the top posts. The US president would have to ensure that his voters, if not the congress and some of his colleagues, see the value of upgrading the India-US bilateral relationship, despite, India's conspicuous silence on Ukraine (except for It is not a time for War statement), close relations and dependencies on Russia and some uncomfortable questions regarding human rights, religious freedom etc.

Indian Prime Minister on his part would like to take the spectacle quotient a tad higher than the Howdy Modi, grand concerts event, when



PM Mod and then President Donald Trump, jointly addressed thousands of Indian Americans in Houston. The PM would expect a significant outcome from the state visit, albeit the cheering crowds, public events would definitely be a part of the package. The PM who was recently on a visit to Australia and Pacific island countries, where he got a rock stars welcome, addressed large cheering crowds in packed arenas and was even called "the boss" by the Australian PM. The Indian American groups are also prepping up for PM Modi's visit, as many of them are expected to participate in some key official ceremonies at the white house, including witnessing the 21-gun salute and perhaps yoga sessions led by Indian PM on International World yoga day on June 21st.

It would be worth remembering that PM Modi's visit would also follow opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's ten days trip to the US, where he interacted with a wide array of stakeholders, civil society, think tanks etc on questions surrounding Indian democracy. The larger questions regarding shrinking space for democratic manoeuvre and political opposition in India, which have been brought out by the opposition leader during his earlier visits to UK etc and which have led to some influencer groups doubting Indian democratic credentials, could have been contained, by the time PM Modi lands in the US. Domestic politics aside there is much at stake for PM Modis' upcoming state visit to the US.

*(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are persoal)*

Judgement, education and effective action

Whether one is the top man or the so-called bottom man, there is always an element of decision-making vested in the role



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM



One of the critical components of decision-making is the ability to decipher decision spaces. Consider the example of a doorkeeper. By any standards, it is a lowly rank and humble in many ways. Yet, in times of knocking at the door, that position becomes more important than that of the Chairman himself. It is the doorkeeper's decision to let somebody in or keep him out. It is a power loaded with security concerns and at times with grave implications of time, life and death. Consider a situation where somebody is ill, and a doctor has been summoned in the late hours of the evening to the building to take care of the ailing person.

The doctor does not get a security clearance, but his entry into the building is critical. Like anything else, there is a risk involved, and somebody may be impersonating the doctor; there may be a rogue doctor or the doctor himself may be very impatient—the possibilities are several. The judgement of the gatekeeper and the judgement to be exercised on the spot make him the kingpin, not only for the moment of the act but indeed for much else, besides.

The derivation is obvious: everyone needs to have effective decision-making skills. The story goes that King Shivaji approached his Rajgad Fort near Pune, in the early hours of the morning after



THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TO NOT ONLY LEAD BUT ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KEY DECISIONS. HIS ABILITY TO JUDGE AND DECIDE WHO TO CONSENT TO, AND TO WHAT EXTENT IS CRUCIAL.

*(The writer is a policy analyst)*

a long long ride and wanted to enter the Rajgad Fort. He had enemies at his heels. The head of security of the fort had it from the king (Maharaj) himself (in this case, Shivaji Maharaj) that no exceptions would be allowed for entry into the fort before dawn.

Shivaji Maharaj had some enemies in his hot pursuit, which he had evaded. The Head of Security took the call that the order of the Maharaj was sacred and Shivaji would not be let into the fort. Shivaji tried to explain to him that his life may be at risk and that he had been exercising his supreme powers by ordering a gate to be opened. The Head of Security refused to comply. When Shivaji asked him who would be responsible for his security, the Head of Security responded, "I am the head of security, and I shall be responsible. We shall make preparations for your comfort outside the fort, and you will be absolutely safe. Our full force will protect you and protect you successfully." The story concludes that Shivaji was finally allowed entry into the fort only at dawn. One of his first acts after his entry was to elevate the rank to the Head of Security.

The narrative, as it is, needs no comment. The larger part of the story is that it makes a point. In the ultimate analysis of the making of the human being: health and judgement are the two most important things. Judgement cannot be taught; it cannot be 'given.' It has to grow from within. It is a judgement that makes a person.

Judgement is both subtle and growing. In a parliamentary system, the Prime Minister is the head of the Executive. He has to not only lead but also be responsible for the key decisions. His ability to judge and decide who to consent to, and to what extent is crucial. He has also to assess to what extent amalgamate the various strands of advice received.

This brings us to the essence of training of the mind and education. The current rollout of the National Education Policy raises these questions in many ways. With increasing frequency, it is being asked many, how so many people, who do not even finish their school education become such original thinkers and make such brilliant contributions. Rabindra Nath Thakur is a common reference.

Indeed, many formally educated people do not get very far and flounder in the race of life in a worse-than-mediocre pattern. This appears as an enigma when it is actually it is not so. The truth is that creativity and judgement propelled even those who had not completed their formal education to higher levels of achievement. Higher levels of achievement do not necessarily follow high degrees. In the case of the educated, the natural achievements which would have followed creativity were sharpened and results were better than if they had not been educated at all.

It is soulful to remember this and use it as a compass to navigate one's own career and those dependent on one. The meaning, the content, the delivery, and the keeping alive of the educational processes are important phenomena. The whys and wherefores of this process need to be understood and developed more fruitfully as a part of any project related to the educational process. Hopefully, as the National Education Policy makes its rollout, these questions will not only surface but get addressed.

Caribbean medical degree can lead to a career in the West

Pursuing medical education in a Caribbean university is a viable route to a career in medicine in the West, although it is not without its challenges

In recent years, there has been a significant surge in the demand for doctors and the aspirations to pursue a medical career. However, the available resources and facilities have struggled to match the pace of this demand, resulting in a considerable gap. Consequently, numerous students have opted to relocate to different countries in search of admission to medical courses, as the distribution of requirements and available facilities remains imbalanced.

To pursue a medical career in the USA or Canada, students typically follow a structured path. Upon finishing their undergraduate degree, students are required to clear the MCAT exam as a prerequisite for admission to medical school. Once a student enters



MAMTA PURBEY

*(The writer is Associate Vice President, Student Acquisition - International, Antigua College of Medicine)*

medical school, they spend another 4-5 years in a medical school which would include their pre-clinical and clinical. Once the student is done with clinical rotations and graduates from medical school, s/he applies for residency. Students submit applications through the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). Depending on the specialisation they opt for, many doctors complete their residency programs in 3 to 7 years.

To become a doctor in the US/Canada, students have the option to pursue a Caribbean medical college route. This involves selecting a reputable and accredited medical school in the Caribbean and completing a 2-year pre-med program, followed by 2 years of pre-clinical studies. The stu-

dents then continue their clinical rotations in the USA/Canada. Studying medicine in the Caribbean region offers a multitude of benefits for aspiring medical students aiming to become practising doctors in the USA, UK, and Canada.

These advantages make Caribbean medical schools an appealing choice for those seeking a top-tier education, practical exposure, and a unique cultural experience. Additionally, these medical schools hold recognition from esteemed international organizations like the World Health Organization and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, ensuring that graduates can practice medicine across all 50 states in the US or in the UK,

and Canada, among other various countries worldwide.

**Lower Financial Burden:** Studying MBBS at leading Caribbean medical colleges generally comes at a lower cost compared to US medical colleges, including both public and private institutions. While certain Caribbean colleges may have costs that approach those of US medical colleges, the overall expenses remain significantly more affordable.

**Hassle-free Admission:** Unlike other foreign medical universities, getting admission to top Caribbean medical colleges is less complex. Apart from decent credentials at the school level, you need to clear the country-specific medical entrance exam such as NEET in India. Most Caribbean colleges have rolling admissions

with three intakes- January, May and September.

**Diverse Learning:** Caribbean medical universities attract a diverse student population from various countries and cultural backgrounds. This multicultural environment fosters a rich learning experience, promoting cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.

**Gateway to the US:** The Caribbean region is globally recognized for its esteemed medical schools. These institutions hold accreditation from prominent international organizations including the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Educational

Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). Such recognition empowers graduates to pursue medical practice in diverse countries across the globe. International medical graduates (IMGs) have a vital role in the American healthcare system, making up 25 per cent of the existing U.S. physician workforce. Among these IMGs, 18 per cent are graduates of Caribbean medical schools, indicating that approximately 4.5 per cent of licensed doctors in the U.S. obtained their MD degrees from Caribbean institutions.

**Accredited Medical Schools:** While choosing a Caribbean medical school, it's very important to check the recognitions and accreditations to ensure quality edu-

cation. Only schools that are recognized by CAAM-HP and accredited by the US Dept of Education, New York State Education Department and other US & Canadian medical education-related departments/bodies should be chosen to ensure a smooth transition into USA / Canada.

Pursuing a medical education at a Caribbean medical school offers a viable route to a rewarding career in medicine, although it is not without its challenges. While the entry requirements may be less stringent compared to those in the US, achieving exceptional grades and excelling in USMLE exams are still essential for securing a position in an American residency program.



MONEY MATTERS

## Air India to reinstate three more weekly flights to US this month

With the crew shortage situation easing progressively, Air India is set to reinstate three more weekly flights to the US this month. Earlier this year, the Tata Group-owned airline temporarily suspended six weekly flights to the US and three of them have already been reinstated. Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said the crew shortage situation is progressively easing. "We had suspended 6 of the 47 weekly flights to the US. We have reinstated 3 of those and the other 3 will be reinstated by the end of June," he told PTI in an interview this week. Six weekly flights — three each to Newark and San Francisco — were suspended due to shortage of crew. In recent months, there have been instances of some long haul flights getting impacted due to crew shortage issues. Currently, Air India, on a weekly basis, operates 44 flights to the US and 14 to Canada. The airline flies to San Francisco, New York, Newark, Washington and Chicago in the US and to the cities of Vancouver and Toronto in Canada.



## Rupee rises 33 paise to close at 82.42 against US dollar

The rupee appreciated by 33 paise to close at 82.42 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as positive macroeconomic data strengthened investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.54 against the US dollar and settled at 82.42 (provisional), up 33 paise over its previous close amid sustained foreign fund inflows. During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.36 and a low of 82.54. On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 82.75 against the US currency. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.20 per cent to 104.12. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.17 per cent to USD 72.72 per barrel. The Indian rupee strengthened amid stellar economic data and foreign fund inflows.



## Indel Money to raise Rs 100 cr via NCDs

Indel Money Limited, a non-bank lender focussed on gold loan, on Thursday said it will raise Rs 100 crore through secured non-convertible debentures (NCDs). The NCD issue of face value of Rs 1,000 each will open on June 6 and close on June 19, the lender said in a release. "The issue includes a base issue size for an amount of up to Rs 50 crore with an option to retain oversubscription up to Rs 50 crore aggregating up to Rs 100 crore," it said. The debentures will be issued for a tenure ranging from 400 days to 72 months with coupon yielding up to 12.25 per cent per annum, the company said, adding that the issue is rated as BBB+/Stable by Crisil Ratings Ltd. "Increased revenue, profitability and visibility are the factors that drive the branch network. With this issue, we aim to expand our sources of funds," said Umesh Mohanan, Executive Director and CEO, Indel Money. Indel Money earlier raised Rs 100 crore through NCDs in May 2022.



## TVS, Ather, Ola hike prices of EVs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler makers TVS Motor Company, Ather Energy and Ola Electric have increased prices of their products as curtailed subsidy structure comes into effect from June 1.

In a statement, TVS Motor Company stated that in order to propel the electrification journey further in a sustainable manner after FAME II scheme revision, it has increased iQube's price between Rs 17,000 and Rs 22,000 depending on the variant.

The iQube base and S trims were earlier priced at Rs 1,06,384 and Rs 1,16,886, respectively in Delhi.

"FAME II will gradually reduce over the next few quarters. The company will continue to deliver delightful product options and great value proposition to propel the electrification and green energy penetration in two-wheelers in the country," TVS Motor Company Director and CEO K N Radhakrishnan said.

The company will offer a loyalty benefit programme for the customers of iQube, who have made bookings till May 20, 2023, for a limited period to ease the cost burden post the revision in FAME II subsidy, he added. Ather Energy said that following the FAME II subsidy revision applicable from today, it has also revised the prices of its scooters with 450X now starting at Rs 1,45,000 (ex-showroom Bengaluru).



## Rising risk appetite may hit banks' credit profiles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A rise in risk appetite among Indian banks highlights the importance of assessing individual banks' ability to withstand expected and unexpected balance-sheet stress as part of the analysis of their intrinsic creditworthiness, said Fitch Ratings in a report.

Banks' loan growth over the financial year ended March 2023 (FY23) reached 15.4 per cent, the highest since FY12.

"We believe, this partly reflected pent-up credit demand following the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as strong nominal GDP growth, and we expect some normalisation in FY24," the global rating agency said on Thursday.

However, rapid loan growth and higher exposure to certain asset classes are also likely to indicate greater risk appetite and could affect risk profiles, it said, adding increasing risk appetite reflects in part banks' efforts to boost returns after funding costs rose over 2022, even as they manage asset



growth relative to capital.

Notably, credit card lending and personal loans exposure rose to 10.2 per cent of system loans by FY23, from 7.5 per cent in FY18, it said.

"We view such unsecured categories as most vulnerable to potential stress, though exposures among our rated entities remain manageable, and improvements in risk controls and loan-book granularity should help to reduce risks associated with any future

asset-quality deterioration relative to previous cycles. We also expect tighter regulatory supervision to slow unsecured lending in the year ahead," it said.

Exposure to non-bank financial corporations (NBFCs) within the services sector has also risen, from 6.5 per cent of total system loans in FY18 to 10.5 per cent in FY23.

Funding pressures and asset-quality risks among NBFCs

have receded since that sector underwent a stress period in 2019. These loans are also typically to well-established private and state-owned entities, so carry less risk than unsecured lending.

However, NBFCs, like banks, are also increasing their risk appetite. It expects banks to continue to lend to the sector, but at a slightly slower pace as more banks run up against regulatory sectoral concentration caps.

### GOVT EXERCISES GREEN SHOE OPTION

## Coal India shares attract bids worth Rs 6,500 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Institutional investors lapped up Coal India shares in this fiscal's maiden government stake-sale, with Rs 6,500 crore bids pouring in on the first day of the offer-for-sale.

The government had offered over 8.31 crore shares to institutional investors on Thursday under the offer-for-sale (OFS), but received bids for 28.76 crore shares or 3.46 times.

At the indicative price of Rs 226.12 a share, the bids of insti-



tutional buyers are worth Rs 6,500 crore.

"Offer for Sale in CIL received enthusiastic response from non-retail investors today. The issue was sub-

scribed 3.46 times of the base size. The government has decided to exercise the green shoe option. Retail investors get to bid tomorrow," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

The government currently holds 66.13 per cent in CIL.

The stake sale in Coal India will help the government inch towards the Rs 51,000-crore disinvestment target set for the current fiscal.

## EV makers require 13 mn sq ft space by 2030

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electric vehicle manufacturers will need around 13 million square feet of real estate space by 2030 to make targeted 23 million units of two-wheelers and 4 million units of four-wheelers, according to CBRE.

Real estate consultant CBRE South Asia released a report, 'Electric Vehicles in India - New Wheels on the Roads', on Thursday that focuses on the trends, growth, and influence of electric vehicles (EVs) on the real estate sector in India.

"Real estate requirements of manufacturing facilities of 4-wheeler and 2-wheeler (4W and 2W) electric vehicles is



estimated to be around 13 million square feet by 2030 as a result of the government's EV adoption targets," it said.

Moreover, EV battery manufacturing facilities would require 2,400 acre of land to accommodate the

production of 200 GWh of batteries by 2030.

By 2030, this real estate requirement will allow a production capacity of about 4 million units of 4Ws and 23 million units of 2Ws.

The Indian EV market is

expected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 49 per cent between 2021-2030 and cross annual sales of 17 million units by 2030.

The consultant noted Built-to-Suit (BTS) and leased facilities are largely preferred by EV manufacturers at present due to ease of capital deployment, flexibility in lease terms, speed to market and location advantages.

However, an owned facility provides more scope for customisation, save monthly rental outgoings and has better prospects for land price appreciation, it added.

## TCS, Reliance, Jio top best Indian brands 2023 ranking

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Technology giant TCS and India's most valuable company Reliance Industries have topped the list of the country's most valuable brands, according to Interbrand, the renowned global brand consultancy.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) topped the 2023 50 Most Valuable Indian Brands list with a brand value of Rs 1.09 lakh crore.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd is at No.2 spot with a brand value of Rs 65,320 crore. His group's telecom and digital unit Jio is also in the top 5 with a

brand value of Rs 49,027 crore.

"Celebrating its 10th year, the Best Indian Brands report has become a definitive guide to the nation's brand landscape since its inaugural publication in 2014," Interbrand said.

This year's edition showcases remarkable growth, with a total list value of Rs 8.3 lakh crore (USD 100 billion), marking a significant 167 per cent increase over the past decade. This is the first time the total value of the table has surpassed the USD 100 billion mark.

IT company Infosys is at No.3 with a brand value of Rs 53,323 crore.

## Markets extend losses for 2<sup>nd</sup> day in highly volatile trade

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower in highly volatile trade on Thursday due to selling in banking, metal and energy counters amid a mixed trend in the global markets.

Falling for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 193.70 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 62,428.54 even after a positive beginning. During the day, it fell 263.1 points or 0.42 per cent to 62,359.14.

The NSE Nifty fell 46.65 points or 0.25 per cent to finish at 18,487.75.



"Despite challenges in the global economies, the domestic market displayed better than estimated Q4 earnings growth, along with 7.2 per cent GDP growth in FY23, adding buoyancy to the market during the week.

"However, today the market closed with a marginal negative bias in which banks witnessed

heavy profit-booking. Investors turned cautious in anticipation of inflationary pressure in the US after raising the US debt ceiling," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel fell 3.42 and Kotak Mahindra Bank declined 3.31 per cent. ICICI Bank, ITC, HDFC Bank, UltraTech Cement, HCL Technologies and Maruti were the other major laggards.

Tata Motors, Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Nestle, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the gainers.

## Sebi to auction properties of seven business groups

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said it will auction 17 properties belonging to seven business groups including MPS Group, Tower Infotech, and Vibgyor Group on June 28, with a total reserve price of Rs 51 crore, in a bid to recover investors' money.

Apart from these, the regulator has put on block properties of Prayag Group, Multipurpose BIOS India Group, Waris Finance International Group and Pailan Group of companies, the Securities and Exchange Board of India

(Sebi) said in a notice.

The 17 properties being auctioned include land parcels, storied buildings, flats, and a commercial space situated across West Bengal.

Inviting bids, Sebi said auction of the properties will be conducted through online mode between 11 am and 1 pm.

## Members of 22 milk producer firms pledge to boost output

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lakhs of dairy farming members of 22 milk producer companies on Thursday pledged to boost milk production for increasing India's share in the global output, NDDB Dairy Services said.

On the World Milk Day being celebrated on Thursday across various states, lakhs of dairy farmers and their families

committed themselves towards making India the 'Dairy of the World', NDDB Dairy Services (NDS) said in a statement.

Out of 22 Milk Producer Companies (MPCs) supported by NDS, 15 have all-women members and all the producer directors on their boards too are women.

These 22 MPCs spread across 130 districts in 9 states, have 8.7 lakh members and 71

per cent of them are women.

Members of these 22 MPCs pledged to 'Make India Dairy of the World by increasing India's share to the total world production', provide quality milk and milk products to consumers by sourcing milk even from the remotest part of the country, and provide a competitive price to farmer members through a transparent process of milk collection

and payments.

They also committed to increase milk productivity through breed improvement programmes and better animal management practices.

Meenesh Shah, Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and its subsidiary NDS, said, "Our Prime Minister has envisioned that India should become the dairy for the world.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
Notice No. 18/EEEDN-19/SLPZ/GHMC/2023-24  
Date: 01.06.2023  
No. of Work: 4 Nos civil works, Estimate Amount: 96.60 Lakhs, Start Date: 02.06.2023 @ 2.00 PM, 05.06.2023 Upto 2.00 PM  
Download End Date & Time: 02.06.2023 @ 2.00 PM, 05.06.2023 Upto 2.00 PM  
Only Name & Address of the Officer: Executive Engineer, Division-19, GHMC, Sri U. Raj Kumar, 99635-50654. Further details can be seen at e-Procurement @ <https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division-19, (SLPZ), GHMC  
R.O.No: 2543-PPCLADVT/11/2023-24, Dt: 01.06.2023

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT  
TENDER NOTICE  
Notice No: 07/2023-24, 08/2023-24, Date: 27-05-2023  
Tenders were floated vide tender notice Nos 07/2023-24, 08/2023-24, Dt: 27-05-2023 for an amount of 29.53 Lakhs available from 01-06-2023 @ 11:00 AM to 09-06-2023 @ 11:00 AM, further details can be seen in <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>.  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Adilabad.  
R.O.No: 2582-PPCLADVT/11/2023-24, Dt: 01.06.2023

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT  
e-Procurement Tender Notice  
Online tenders are invited for 1 road work in Mahabubabad district and 1 High Level Bridge work in Bhadrachalam district, vide e-NIT No. 1/road & 1HLB/KTD&M/Bad/EE (RSW)/DEE(RSW)/AEE3 dt.30.05.2023  
Tenderers can download the tender schedules from : <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Last date is 19.06.2023, 4.00 PM.  
For Chief Engineer (R&B) A&Q, RR,D&PLWE&RSW  
R.O. No.: 255-PPCL-AGENCYADVT/11/2023-24

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
NIT No. 07/GHMC/PTC-C-22/2023-24, Date: 01.06.2023  
Name of the Work: 1 No. work Construction of Compound Wall (Construction of Compound Wall to open Place at Mallikarjuna Nagar in Ward No.112, Ramchandrapuram Circle-22, SLP Zone GHMC), Estimate Amount/ECV/ Rs. 36.00 Lakhs. Download Start Date: 03.06.2023 @ 04.00 PM. Last date & time for receipts of Bids: 09.06.2023 @ 04.15 PM, Name & Address of E.E: Executive Engineer, Palancheru Circle-22, Phone No.8978026758, Sd/- Executive Engineer, Palancheru Circle-22, Dt: 01.06.2023  
R.O.No: 2515-PPCLADVT/11/2023-24, Dt: 01.06.2023

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
TENDER NOTICE  
NIT No. 07/EEC-4/BLNR/GHMC/2023-24, Date: 01.06.2023  
W.No: 16, Name of the Work: Balance Works for the establishment of ward office at Indraprastha Colony phase 2 community hall first floor in ward no 16, Hasthinapuram of L B Nagar Circle-4, GHMC, Amount of Estimate: Rs. 14.00 Lakhs, Bid Document Downloading Start date: 02.06.2023 @ 03.00 PM. Last date & time for receipts of Bids: 03.06.2023 @ 03.00 PM, Price Bid Opening Date: 03.06.2023 @ 03.15 PM.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer L.B.Nagar Circle-4, GHMC.  
R.O.No: 2513-PPCLADVT/11/2023-24, Dt: 01.06.2023

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT  
TENDER NOTICE  
Notice No: 06/2023-24, Date: 27-05-2023  
Tender were floated vide Tender Notice No. 06/2023/24, Dt: 27.05.2023 available from 30.05.2023 to 06.06.2023 for an amount of Rs.106.05 Lakhs. For Further details can be seen @ <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Nirmal.  
Sd/-Superintending Engineer, I&CADD, Irrigation Circle, Nirmal.  
R.O.No: 2621-PPCLADVT/11/2023-24, Dt: 01.06.2023



# ‘Contribution of TS to national GDP has grown significantly’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) hosted Subhrakant Panda, the national president of FICCI, who highlighted Telangana's substantial contribution to the national GDP. Speaking on the industrial progress in India with a special focus on Telangana, the event took place on Wednesday evening at the Federation House of the FICCI in Red Hills.

Subhrakant Panda said, "I have observed through studies that Telangana's contribution to the national GDP has grown significantly. With notable growth in agriculture and allied sectors, its contribution to the country's GDP has steadily increased from 4.1 per cent in 2014-15 to 4.8 per cent in 2022-23. The Telangana government is also directing its attention towards sunrise sectors like



electrical mobility. There is healthy competition among the states, and the introduction of GST has opened a new era, with each state striving to attract investments."

The FICCI national president further emphasised the need to boost the manufacturing sector's contribution to the country's GDP.

He stated, "The manufacturing sector requires a push. I come from the same back-

ground, and I believe manufacturing should contribute significantly. Despite the best efforts in the last two decades, it has stagnated at 15 per cent in terms of GDP contribution. On the other hand, agriculture, which accounts for a similar percentage, provides employment for 50 per cent of the population. Let us work together. From being the fifth largest economy, our country

is on its way to becoming the third largest economy."

Srinivas Garimella of FTCCI, commended Telangana for its remarkable progress since its formation nine years ago. He highlighted the state's growth rate of 11.4 per cent Compound Annual Growth Rate in Gross State Domestic Product, the highest in the country. This achievement was driven by the successful implementation of initiatives like Raithu Bandhu and irrigation, which led to a 99 per cent growth in rice production in Telangana. Arun Chawla, Director General of FICCI, along with representatives from FICCI Telangana State Council, FICCI Senior Vice-President Meela Jayadev, Vice-President Suresh Kumar Singhal, CEO Khyati Naravane, and members of the Managing Committee and past presidents attended the meeting.

## Pattana Pragathi best performer under PM Svanidhi scheme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana's Pattana Pragati programme was on Thursday adjudged the best initiative under the PM Svanidhi scheme.

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Harshdeep Puri felicitated Telangana State at the Vigyan Bhavan on the occasion of three years of PM Svanidhi - Empowering Nano Entrepreneurs.

Special Chief Secretary to the government of Telangana Arvind Kumar took to Twitter and said, "Telangana is among the best performing states in the country in @pmsvanidhi."

The Telangana government launched the Pattana Pragathi programme across all urban local bodies as per the directions of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao in February 2020. As per the scheme, street vendors' development was initiated.

Telangana Municipal Administration and Urban



Development Minister KT Rama Rao ordered issuance of working capital loans to all street vendors and develop vending zones in ULBs. Telangana is the first state to waive the stamp duty in full for the loans under PM Svanidhi with coterminous provisions of the scheme.

In the first phase upto Rs 10,000 per street vendor, was sanctioned to 3,58,776 street vendors (106%) loans sanctioned and Rs 353.17 crore disbursed to 3,56,678 SVs (105%) against the original target of 3,40,000 and later enhanced to 4,00,000 in September 2022. Telangana was first state in the country

to achieve 100% disbursements in first tranche loans as per the original target. In the category of less than one lakh population towns (3,555) in the country, all the top 10 positions in the country are cities from Telangana, Siddipet in 1st position, Sircilla in 2nd, Nirmal in 3rd, Kamareddy in 4th, Bodhan in 5th, Zaheerabad in 6th, Sangareddy in 7th, Manchiryal in 8th, Palwancha in 9th & Armoor in 10th position.

In the category of 1 to 10 lakh population cities (442) in the country, GWMC stands first in the country followed by Nizamabad in the 10th position

In the category of 8 Mega Cities (40 lakh population), GHMC stands in third position in country. Further, in the second phase (upto Rs 20,000 per SV), 1,53,306 SVs (106%) loans sanctioned and Rs 292.60 crore disbursed to 1,46,692 SVs (101%) as against the target of 1,45,100 SVs.



## KU to telecast syllabus-based classes on T-SAT

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kakatiya University will telecast syllabus-based video lessons in various UG and PG courses on T-sat Nipuna.

This Memorandum of Understanding has been signed for allotment of air time on T-SAT satellite channel to Kakatiya University to telecast its syllabus-based video lessons in various UG and PG courses and live recorded discussions on current topics in various subjects, purely educational, on the T-SAT NIPUNA Channel said press information.

This is on a trail basis for a period of one year from the date of signing the MoU.

## Spurious cotton seeds racket busted, two arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Inter-state spurious cotton seeds racket was busted by SOT LB Nagar Zone and Choutuppal police. The police seized 2.2 tonnes of spurious seeds all worth about Rs 70 lakh.

The accused Gaddam Ravindra Babu and Ravi Prasanna Kumar were nabbed near Divis water plant, under the limits of Choutuppal police station while they were transporting the spurious cotton seeds from Nagpur to sell the same to gullible farmers.

The police filed Cr no 285/2023 U/S Sec 420 R/W IPC, clause 3(1) of seeds (Control) order-1983, sec 7 of EC act 1955, Sec 7 and 19 of Seeds act 1966, sec 15(1) of environmental protection act -1986 of Choutuppal PS.

The accused Ravi Prasanna Kumar is a native of Mylavaram, Krishna district and since last 10 years he is a running a fertiliser shop in the name of Navatha Agro Division Seeds and Fertilisers shop at Choutuppal. He came

in contact with Ravindrababu who was into illegal trade of spurious seed. Then he wanted to earn easy money and decided to procure the banned BT-III cotton seeds from one Gaddam Ravindra Babu and sell the same to needy farmers with a promise of high yield.

Ravindra Babu migrated from Palnadu district to Kuhl village near Nagpur about 8 years back and doing agriculture by taking 60 acres of land on lease, with an intention to earn huge easy money within a short span. He indulged in procuring and sale of spurious BT-III/ HT cotton seed.

He has good knowledge that sale of BT-III/HT cotton seeds are banned by the Government of Telangana.

He used to procure the spurious seeds from one Narasimhulu, resident of Madanapalle in Chittoor district and transporting it to Kuhl near Nagpur, Maharashtra, and from there he was selling the same to seed traders of Telangana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh states illegally.

## 7 take ill due to a gas leak at Aurobindo Pharma

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A gas leak at the Aurobindo Pharma company in Hyderabad resulted in seven workers falling unconscious and being rushed to a private hospital for immediate medical attention.

The incident took place on Thursday morning, when the workers reportedly inhaled a toxic gas, causing them to fall sick and lose consciousness. The exact details of the gas leak and the nature of the toxic gas involved are yet to be disclosed.

Upon discovering the affected workers, representatives from the pharmaceutical company acted promptly, taking the unconscious workers to a nearby private hospital for emergency treatment. The timely response aimed to provide the affected individuals with the necessary medical care to address the situation. The condition of five workers is said to be stable, while two workers remain in critical condition.



## IT corridor police station opened at Pocharam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT corridor police station was inaugurated by Home Minister Mahmood Ali at Pocharam under Rachakonda limits.

At a meeting organised on this occasion, Home Minister Mahmood Ali said that the Telangana Police Department is excelling in maintaining peace. It is stated that the crime rate has reduced due to the CCTV cameras installed across the state in the three commissionates of the city. He said that more police stations will be set up for public and necessary support to the police department will be provided from the state government. Telangana State Minister Malla Reddy said that nine new police stations have been set up in Medchal district and crimes have been brought under

control. He said that Pocharam IT Corridor is developing rapidly and due to the efforts of the police department.

Telangana State Director General of Police Anjani Kumar said that the state police is working tirelessly to keep the state of Telangana at a high position in terms of law and order. He said that after the formation of Telangana state, 70 new police stations have been established.

Rachakonda Commissioner of Police DS Chauhan said that with the Pocharam IT corridor police station being established in Medchal district, the crime rate in this area will decrease.

He said that the Pocharam IT corridor is developing rapidly and world class corporate companies are functioning here.

## Man strangles wife to death for refusing sex

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man strangled his wife to death in a fit of rage after she refused to engage in sexual activity with him. The details of the crime emerged when the autopsy report confirmed the cause of death. The police managed to solve the case 10 days after the crime occurred. The accused, Jatavath Tarun (24), admitted to the police that he had strangled his wife, Jhansi (20), following her refusal.

Originally from Nagarkurnool district, the couple had entered into a love marriage in 2021. Tarun worked as an auto-rickshaw driver and had moved to Hyderabad with his wife and their family resided in Khaja Bagh in the IS Sadan division. The couple have a two-year-old son, and Jhansi had given birth to a daughter on April 16.

According to Tarun's statement to the police, on the night of May 20, he expressed his desire to engage in sexual activ-

ity. However, Jhansi informed him that she was too tired. Despite her refusal, Tarun persisted and began to force himself upon her. When Jhansi started shouting, Tarun covered her mouth with his hand. This act resulted in a lack of oxygen, causing her to lose consciousness and foam at the mouth. Panicked by the situation, Tarun alerted his relatives, who rushed Jhansi to Owaisi Hospital. However, the doctors pronounced her dead upon arrival.

The police transferred the body to the Osmania General Hospital for an autopsy. Initially, Tarun remained silent about the cause of his wife's death. However, based on a complaint filed by Jhansi's father, Nenavath Rekiya, a case was registered at Saidabad police station. It was only during further questioning by the police that Tarun confessed to the crime. Consequently, the police arrested him, and he was subsequently remanded to judicial custody.

## TS to have world's first 3D printed place of worship

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

City-based infratech firm Apsuja Infratech, in collaboration with Simpliforge Creations, an innovative 3D printing construction firm, will construct the world's first 3-D printed place of worship in Telangana.

The latest innovation will be set up at Burugupally in Siddipet. The temple will symbolise the integration of technology and nature with sustainability. With the latest development the two firms have positioned India as a leader tin 3-D architecture.

The temple will be a three-part structure sprawling over an impressive 3,800 sq.ft, standing tall at about 30 feet, is a unique architectural wonder. The three sanctums, or garbhās within the structure represent a 'modak' dedicated to Lord Ganesh, a Shivalay, a square abode devoted to Lord Shiva, and a lotus-shaped home for Goddess Parvati. The structure is 3-D printed by Simpliforge with



their in-house developed system and indigenously developed material and software.

This landmark achievement not only showcases the immense potential of 3D printed construction but also demonstrates the architectural freedom and capabilities of the robotic arm system developed by the Simpliforge team, said Hari Krishna Jeedipalli, the Managing Director, Apsuja Infratech.

"With the Shivalay and the modak construction completed, phase II comprising the lotus and the tall spires are already underway," added Hari.

Simpliforge Creations, a leading turnkey solutions provider in 3D printed construction, has hailed this project as a testament to the possibilities within the industry. "This structure demonstrates the firm's ability to

print 51° and 32° in outward and inward cantilever, respectively, especially while printing in-situ catering to the architectural, aesthetic requirements," said Dhruv Gandhi, CEO, Simpliforge Creations. "The enclosed dome shaped structures eliminating the need for flat slab roofs paving the way for extra-terrestrial applications which is Simpliforge's grander vision."

## WORLD BICYCLE DAY TOMORROW Hyd to celebrate cyclist postmen

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an effort to promote active mobility and recognise the sustainable work of postal employees, the Happy Hyderabad Cycling Group and Cycling Community of Hyderabad is set to organise a special gathering on World Bicycle Day.

The event aims to appreciate and acknowledge the contribution of postmen and women who use bicycles for their daily deliveries, while also providing a platform to address their road safety concerns.

The gathering will take place at the Head Post Office near Osmania University on June 3 from 6 am to 7:30 am. The organisers said that Hyderabad has been making remarkable strides towards becoming a pioneer in active mobility, aiming to tackle urban problems such as pollution, traffic congestion and public health.

The cycling community has

been actively involved in innovative initiatives to promote cycling and active transportation. Recognising the large number of postal department employees who still use bicycles for their deliveries, the idea to celebrate them on World Bicycle Day emerged as a fitting tribute. The event aims to acknowledge and



appreciate the efforts of postal employees who have chosen the sustainable and environmentally friendly mode of transportation for their work.

It is set to provide an opportunity for the cyclist postmen and women to voice their concerns about road safety while carrying out their deliveries in Hyderabad.

The organisers anticipate that this event will set an example at the national and international levels, showcasing the Hyderabad Head Post Office as a prime example of an environmentally friendly workplace with postal workers in uniform utilising bicycles.

## A wrong dial relationship drives lovers to suicide

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A wrong dial led to building an extramarital relationship between a Millennial and an adult. The duo - a graduate and government teacher committed suicide thinking that their relationship will not sustain due to families. The police registered cases under Cr No. 632/2023 U/sec 302, 201-IPC at PS Hayathnagar.

Allavula Rajesh (25), a native of Mulugu mandal had completed B-Tech from Sri Indu College, Ibrahimpatnam in 2021 and came to Hyderabad for further studies. He was residing in a hostel room at Chaitanyapuri. A year ago he dialed a missed call to Bathula

Sujatha, a government teacher residing at Siddi Vinayakanagar Colony of Hayathnagar.

He sent a text message to that phone number to know the identity of the caller. When she replied, both started chatting and it turned into a close relationship between them. Since then they spoke over phone and it led to an extramarital affair between them.

On May 24 night, all of a sudden Sujatha consumed poison. Immediately she was shifted to Srinivasa Hospital, Hayathnagar and later to Aware Global Hospital, LB Nagar for treatment.

As she was not responding to Rajesh's phone calls, the next day he went to Sujatha's house

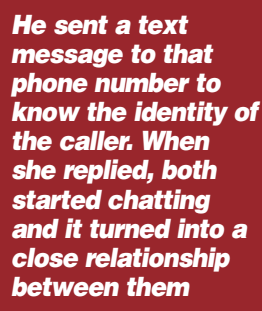


and enquired with her daughter Shivani of Sujatha's whereabouts.

The daughter suspected the behavior of Rajesh and informed her brother Jaichandra. He went to the nearby tea stall and asked

Rajesh why he was moving near his house and later found that Rajesh was the person who was talking with his mother.

The same evening, Rajesh consumed fertiliser and was found dead in an open place in Kuntloor village.



The CCTV footage has helped the police in the investigation.

It is clearly established that both the deceased fell in love. Due to this illicit relationship both suffered mentally and ended their lives.

## 11,985 women receive meals in ICDS centres

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An RTI revealed that in total budget of Rs 73,60,968 for women helpline Central scheme, Rs 36,26,000 has been the expenditure in Hyderabad. In Integrated Child Development Services, pregnant and lactating women who received meals are 11,985.

City-Based Kareem Ansari questioned about the schemes implemented in Hyderabad district under Central department for women and child with name of the person concerned, and the response said

that under the budget allocation of Women Helpline (181), Rs 73,60,968 was released and the expenditure was Rs 36,26,000. This helpline caters to women across India in times of emergency and to acquire information on women-related schemes, programmes and policies. This acts as an intervention to give women more access to formal support.

According to the data under Integrated Child Development Services, pregnant and lactating women receiving meals are 11,985.

In seven months to three years, 55,122 women are receiving the meals. In three to six years, a total of 12,870 women are eating one full meal.

In Hyderabad, the project's locations are ICDS in Charminar, Golconda, Khairatabad, Nampally and Secunderabad. Apart from these, Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Pre School Education, Beti Bachao Beti Padoo and One Stop Centre Sakhi and District Hub for Women Empowerment are catering to women in need.



# 60% of Warangal Health City work done, says Harish Rao

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Minister for Health T Harish Rao conducted a thorough inspection of the ongoing construction works at Warangal Health City.

During a media conference held thereafter, he emphasised the need to expedite the progress and issued directives to the officials in this regard. The project, which involves the contribution of thousands of workers, aims to establish a state-of-the-art healthcare facility with a total capacity of 2100 beds, including 800 super-specialty beds.

Currently, 14 lakh square feet of construction has been completed, accounting for approximately 60 per cent of the entire project. The Warangal Health City is set to offer a wide range of specialised medical services, boasting 36 different specialities. The objective is to provide residents of Warangal with

access to advanced healthcare services without the need to travel to Hyderabad or other major cities.

To facilitate efficient emergency services, dedicated six-line roads around the hospital and entrances will be designated for ambulance access, ensuring smooth access to trauma care facilities. Moreover, the hospital premises will be equipped to accommodate up to 250 people with all necessary amenities, allowing relatives to stay during kidney and liver transplant treatments. The construction of Dharma Shala, a facility to provide accommodation for relatives, will also be established.

The infrastructure of the hospital will include a generator capacity of 6,000 kilowatts to provide a reliable power supply of 480 kilowatts. Additionally, a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with a capacity of 1,200 kg litres and a water treatment plant with a



The infrastructure of the hospital will include a generator capacity of 6,000 kilowatts to provide a reliable power supply of 480 kilowatts. Additionally, a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with a capacity of 1,200 kg litres and a water treatment plant with a capacity of 800 kg litres will be installed to ensure proper waste management and clean water supply

capacity of 800 kg litres will be installed to ensure proper waste management and clean water supply. The hospital will also feature special rooms for 400 resident doctors and a conference hall capable of accommodating up to 450 people for meetings and conferences.

Minister Harish Rao expressed pride in the establishment of a super speciality hospital alongside the Health

University in Warangal. He further highlighted the government's commitment to improving healthcare services in remote areas and providing local medical colleges for each district. The Chief Minister's vision is to offer the best medical services to people across the state, thereby allowing children from these areas to pursue their education locally.

The government's efforts

have resulted in a substantial increase in the number of MBBS seats, with admissions now available for 8340 seats compared to the 2,958 seats available at the time of state formation. This growth aims to eliminate the necessity of pursuing medical education abroad and instead offers students the opportunity to study within the state. Government hospitals have witnessed a significant rise in deliveries, accounting for up to 70 per cent, owing to initiatives such as the KCR Kit, Arogya Lakshmi, and Kcr Nutrition Kit, along with the appointment of doctors. These efforts have bolstered people's trust in government healthcare facilities.

In recognition of the state's commendable achievement of 100 per cent institutional deliveries (both government and private), the Central government acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of Telangana.

# Kaleshwaram Package 21 works completed: Minister

Vemula Prashant Reddy said the project will irrigate 80,000 acres in the Balkonda constituency

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Minister for Roads and Buildings Vemula Prashant Reddy on Thursday said that construction of Sarangapur and Metrajalli pump houses as part of the Kaleshwaram project's package-21, has been completed and it is poised to provide irrigation facility to over 80,000 acres in Bheemgal, Velpur, Kammarpalli mandals and a part of Mortad mandal in Balkonda Assembly constituency.

The Minister inspected the pipeline outlet on Kappala Vaagu in Bada Bhimgal and the outlet developed on Pedda Vagu at Chintaluru and issued several instructions to irrigation authorities. The project was completed at a cost of Rs 1,150 crore. A total of 80,000 acres in the Balkonda constituency would be provided with irrigation facilities.



Minister for Roads and Buildings V Prashant Reddy inspecting Sarangapur and Metrajalli pump house works in Nizamabad district on Thursday

Hitherto, the lands did not have any irrigation facility at all. The Minister said that the balance of the works in the project would be completed soon.

On account of heavy rains experienced during the past four agricultural seasons, it was not possible to develop pipelines in fields. Development of pipeline points at the rate of for every

four acres in Chengal, Pachalanadukuda and Bada Bheemgal has been completed, he said appealing to farmers in the region.

He thanked Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on behalf of the farmers of the region.

Irrigation Department officials and local people's representatives accompanied the Minister.

## Rice Millers urged to unload paddy at the rice mills

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector A Sharat has directed the rice millers to unload the paddy according to the target fixed for them without fail.

He held a meeting with officials of government departments concerned, representatives of the Rice Millers' Association and transport contractors to review the progress of transportation of paddy to the rice mills and unloading of the paddy and other relevant issues.

Addressing the participants, the Collector insisted that the rice millers should immediately unload the paddy allotted to them and directed the District Supplies Officer to take action against those who failed to unload the paddy bags.

## TS DECENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

### Jagadish accuses Cong, BJP of hypocrisy

PNS ■ SURYAPETA

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Thursday accused the Congress and the BJP of hypocrisy and questioned the two parties' intention in holding parallel decennial celebrations.

Speaking to the media here, the Minister said that the Congress and the BJP decided to organise the celebrations for political gains. "They are not at all interested in serving people and they were only craving power," he pointed out. The leaders of these two parties did not come forward to quit their posts at the height of the Telangana movement for statehood. As such, the Congress and BJP cannot claim to have the moral right to hold Telangana State decennial celebrations, he observed.

Jagadish Reddy recalled that the BJP-led Central government had merged seven mandal, including a 500 MW thermal power plant with Andhra Pradesh. Neither the Congress nor the BJP raised their voice to condemn the Centre.

The Telangana State made unprecedented progress dur-



Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy speaking to the media in Suryapet on Thursday

ing the last nine years. The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) government which steered the State towards development decided to hold celebrations on a grand scale. The State has been making rapid strides towards development under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrshekar Rao.

Earlier, the temple's vedic scholars, led by Madugula Nagaraju Sarma, extended traditional welcome to the Sridharbabu, MLA of Manthani, and Putta Madhu.

# Special puja at Hanuman temple

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

Manthani MLA Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Peddapalli Zilla Parishad Chairman Putta Madhukar participated in the religious programmes held in Garepalli village of Kataram mandal of the district on Thursday.

They took part in the installation ceremony of Bhaktanjaneya Swamy, Panchayatana Nagendra Swamy, Nava grahas, padukas of Lord Dattatreya that was held on a grand scale and with religious fervour.

They performed special puja in the temple. The temple was given a facelift raising donations from philanthropic public. Vedic scholars have conducted various rituals and performed special pujas.



Congress MLA D Sridhar Babu and Peddapalli ZP chief Putta Madhukar at the installation ceremony of Bhaktanjaneya Swamy at Garepalli village in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on Thursday

Several devotees of Lord Hanuman who are observing Deeksha took part in the celebrations. People from Kataram, Garepalli villages and those from various villages in Kataram mandal took part in the event.

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Vedic scholars Muddu Dheeraj Sarma, Panatula Megharaju Sarma, Duddilla Srinivasa Sarma and others conducted the rituals. Kataram PACS chairman Challa Narayana Reddy, BRS functionaries Jakku Rakesh, Manthani BJP leader Chandupatla Sunil Reddy and others were present on the occasion.

# Man arrested for possessing pistol without licence

PNS ■ JAGTIAL

Jagtial Police arrested a person, who hailed from Illapur village on charge of possessing a pistol and ammunition without a license. The arrested person is identified as S Laxminarasiah.

District Superintendent of Police Aggadi Bhaskar told the media that Laxminarayana was nabbed during the routine vehicle checking operation on the outskirts of the village on Wednesday. He tried to give a slip to the police as he was running away. The police chased him and caught him.

When searched, he was found possessing a USA-made pistol, two magazines and three bullets of 7.65 calibres. The Superintendent of Police



Jagtial SP speaking to the media in Jagtial on Thursday

said that he had confessed to having purchased the pistol in Mumbai. He intended to extort money from people at the point of the pistol.

Laxminarasiah was a fruit vendor. He suffered a loss to the tune of Rs 50 lakh in the

business. He planned to make easy money by threatening people and extorting money. He purchased the pistol with the help of Raju Bhai who allegedly had links with some elements in Mumbai, Bhaskar said.

# Rowdy-sheeter murdered in broad daylight

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

An alleged rowdy-sheeter was murdered Yedapalle in the district in broad daylight on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Arif Don. His opponents waylaid him when he was on his way back home after attending the court in connection with a case.

His opponents waylaid him while he was riding a motorcycle and attacked with deadly weapons. Arif Don died on the spot, the police said, adding that his follower, Khadir, who was riding pillion, suffered grievous

injuries. He was ferried to Bodhan Hospital. Arif Don's body was shifted to Government Hospital for post-mortem.

Arif Don, who hailed from Nizamabad, was an accused in two murder cases and also in theft cases. He was arrested in connection with the murder of Jungal Ibbu alias Ibrahim on January 2. He was released on bail three months ago.

The police threatened to invoke Preventive Detention Act against Arif Don. The police formed special teams to arrest the accused in the murder of Arif Don.



# Surge in demand for roaming packs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharti Airtel on Thursday announced that Telangana has registered high demand for international roaming packages.

In order to meet the demand, the communication firm has set up a kiosk at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. It has set the initial cost of international roaming packages at Rs 133 per day, the move makes Airtel SIMs cheaper than those of international communication firms.

This has resulted in a significant jump for the company in pack subscriptions in both prepaid and post-paid segments.

# Brahmin Samakhya visits Yadadri temple

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Members of the All India Brahmin Samakhya visited the Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple on Thursday.

The visitors were received by the temple's Deputy Executive Officer, Bhaskar, along with other officials. During their visit, a special puja was conducted by the priests at the temple, and the members actively participated in the Swarna Pushparchana ceremony.

The All India Brahmin Samakhya members arrived in the city for a two-day visit, which included the inauguration

of the newly constructed Brahmin Parishad building at Gopanpally on Wednesday.

Dr Pradeep Jyoti, President of All India Brahmin Samakhya from Kerala, expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the construction of a magnificent building exclusively for the Brahmin community.

He praised the Brahmin Parishad's digital library, highlighting it as a centre of excellence.

He also acknowledged the remarkable transformation of the Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple since his last visit a few years ago.

# Five die in accidents in Khammam district



Two lorries which were involved in a head-on collision at VM Bazaar in Khammam district in the early hours of Thursday

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Five persons died in a gory accident in separate accidents in the district on Thursday.

In the first accident at VM Bazaar, the drivers of the two lorries involved in a head-on collision at VM Bazaar died. The two drivers were trapped in mangled drivers' cabins. The Revenue and Police personnel struggled for two hours extricated them and rushed them to hospital where both of them died while undergoing treatment. The accident happened in the early hours of Thursday

In another accident, three persons of a family died when the car in which they were travelling was sandwiched

between two lorries at Konijerla. The car in which the family members were travelling rammed into a lorry from behind. A speeding lorry rammed into the car from behind. It led to the car being crushed between the two lorries, the police said.

The deceased were identified as Parupalli Rajesh (36), his wife Sujatha (34) and their Ashwith (13). Rajesh's other son Divijith, who suffered grievous injuries, was admitted to hospital.

The accident happened when Rajesh, who hailed from Vippalamadaka village in Khammam district, was on his way to the village from Hyderabad. Rajesh worked in a pharmaceutical company in Hyderabad.



Mynampalli Trust chief Rohit providing financial assistance for a girl's marriage in Medak on Thursday

## Mynampalli Trust to support marriage of orphan woman

PNS ■ MEDAK

Mynampalli Trust Chairman Mynampalli Rohit on Wednesday assured support to an orphan woman and perform her marriage like a brother.

It may be recalled that Mynampalli Charitable Trust has been taking part in several social service activities and won the appreciation of the people.

Bollu Kalpana and her family of Gandhi Nagar in Medak used to sell tea to make the both ends meet. Last year, her father died. Recently, an alliance has been fixed for Kalpana. Meanwhile, her mother passed away rendering her orphan.

Rohit presented Rs 5,000 to her as an immediate assistance and assured her for her marriage expenses.

# ‘Medical devices industry in TS to reach \$250 bn’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries and Commerce Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan on Thursday said that the Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology and Medical devices industry in Telangana will soon reach \$250 billion in the next 10 years.

Speaking at the 9th edition of PharmaLytica, a pharmaceutical exhibition, Jayesh Ranjan said, "The pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical devices industry in Telangana has experienced remarkable growth, surpassing initial expectations.

Initially projected to reach \$100 billion in 10 years, the industry has already reached a substantial size of \$80 billion, prompting a revision of the target to \$250 billion.

This buoyancy reflects the industry's potential and highlights the need for the sector to showcase advanced and sophisticated technologies, moving beyond bulk manufacturing."

He added, "The pharmaceutical industry plays a pivotal role as part of the government's Atma Nirbhar strategy, necessitating introspection and reevaluation to propel further growth.

Additionally, the increasing importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, driven primarily by European buyers, is shaping the future trajectory of the pharmaceutical sector."

Organised by Informa Markets in India, the three-day event is taking place at HITEC,

Hyderabad, hosting over 150 exhibitors. Allied to South Asia's largest Pharma event, the CPHI & P-MEC India show, PharmaLytica is expected to witness over 6,000 domestic and international visitors from 16 countries and 21 Indian states, and approximately 250 delegates over the duration of the expo.

This event serves as a testament to India's vision

of becoming the pharma city of the world, providing a platform that contributes significantly to achieving this ambitious objective. The future of pharma will leverage Robotics and Digitalisation to a significantly high degree. These

include the use of automated systems, data analytics, and cloud-based architecture, which attendees can witness at PharmaLytica 2023.

R.K. Agrawal, National President, BDMAI said, "The pharmaceutical industry is moving towards transparency and visibility. The Indian drug industry can provide antiviral drugs at 1/10th of price to countries like Africa. Bulk Drugs constitute 25% (\$15 Billion) of the Indian Pharma industry.

Also, once the new Pharma City comes up in Telangana, investments of more than Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 crore are easily possible by the local API manufacturers, which will further attract more FDI."

# Postal officials to told disburse NREGS workers wages promptly

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra on Thursday directed the Postal Department officials to take steps to pay wages to the MNREGS workers and Asaara pensions in time from post offices in the district.

At a review meeting held here, he asked the postal authorities to gather information of MNREGS workers completely and take the initiative to disburse salaries to the

workers the moment wages are credited into their postal accounts.

He enquired from the authorities about the problems being faced by Asaara pensioners due to the bio-metric machines sometimes failing due to technical issues.

He asked the officials to take steps to disburse the pending wages of the NREGS workers and Asaara pensions within a week. DRDO Pusushottam, postal officials and others took part in the programme.



Bhupalapally Collector Bhavesh Mishra at a review meeting in Bupalapally on Thursday



# Siddhi Idnani: We cannot underestimate the positive impact inside showbiz anymore

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Siddhi Idnani's character Gitanjali in the recent controversial yet box-office success *The Kerala Story*, was very integral to the plot of the film, and managed to pull off the character and the different shades with ease. That's just one of the pre-eminent actresses from Telugu industry, and Siddhi's upcoming release *Kathar Basha Endra Muthuramalingam* is on its way — is so ready to deal with the themes of politics and power, once again.

It wasn't necessary for her to be bold in this industry, instead the actress brought in her own pinch of fearless ideas and moved ahead in this showbiz without crippling on any dogmas.

In an exclusive interview with us, right from the shooting sets of her next Tamil movie, *Jamba Lakidi Pamba* fame speaks, "We are starting this interview with a bang — so when my last movie was banned in a few states, I was really upset. I was very casual about the reasons behind the ban. Now that the courts have given the permission for screening everywhere, wanted a few people from a section of society want to understand the real inception of this movie and that we are not coming with any political agenda. It did create an uproar! But, it was upsetting. I was helpless."

As we further speak to the actress, we get to understand that she is also one of those who is more interested in the longevity of her films than the grosses. She describes, "My mother is a very popular television actor, predominantly in Gujarati serials. So the set life was always very parallel to mine! From there, my fascination began to grow. Now I wanted to see what a movie set looks like. Now when I look back, because my parents had a love marriage and my mother is a proper Gujarati while my father is a proper Sindhi: I never had cultural issues. So for me to work in multiple industries in multiple regional languages was a swift ride. I think this was destined to be, I am inherited. Now, when we look at cinema, the shares of women protagonists are also fluctuating. So these were never my concerns at least from the time I debuted in the industry because I already started to see the changes inside. I know it for a fact that somebody sitting in South Korea also will be wanting to see our Indian movie. As we do with the k-pop dramas! We cannot underestimate the positive impact inside the entertainment fraternity anymore. It's happening."

She is a person who never believes in planning life ever—neither her act of becoming an actress was pre-decided! She clarifies that if she had to preplan anything in this industry, while making a Hindi debut, she would have chosen a romantic film over a controversial one. But she decided to go for *The Kerala Story* first! Over and above that, "I had never noticed before and how the review headlines are being published. But now that I am being made to learn about it, I probably could have given the other three actresses equal space in the headlines. Having said that, Adah Sharma has been around in the industry for the longest time. Her filmography is much more than what the other three actresses have done, that of course includes me. And technically speaking, the longevity of her character is from beginning to the end. So maybe she deserve that space in the headlines! Could be a creative call also, right? My name not being there in the review headings doesn't bother me so much."

So she wants originality, she wants creativity, and she wants a pacing plot for her to lead the film. As soon as the film was released, the immediate near and dear ones approached her, bothered about whether she was affected by what she did on-screen or not because she was able to convince them so very well. Into the bargain, "I was only receiving hateful comments online. A very harsh comment was posted online by one of the users saying that I did this movie just for the sake of money! I was laughing at his/her mindset. What was even more upsetting as I mentioned before was my



Actress Siddhi Idnani, who had recently given a remarkable performance in *The Kerala Story*, speaks to *The Pioneer* about working in multiple industries, her upcoming Tamil film *Basha Endra Muthuramalingam*, and more.

film getting banned in those states where I had actually done movies for them. I was receiving phone calls and text messages from the people who I know from those states asking me why have I done this without even watching the film. They just got affected by the word ban! On the contrary, I had those kinds of people too who actually travelled to another state just to watch my film. And to tell you the truth, my Muslim friends were thankful that we were able to pull a movie like this that was showcasing how their community was being used for misdeeds. They understood the context very well! Jihadists are turning islamists into terrorists and no muslim wants that. Who told their religion allows terrorism? No, they don't."

She deserves to be at the heart of story-telling! "I can proudly say that I am a Gautam Vasudev Menon heroine too. Because when you look at the history of heroines he has worked with, be it Trisha Krishnan or Sameera Reddy — I wanted to be a part of this gang. So in my career I have done both kinds of films, one where I am the leading lady and two of them with an ensemble cast. But when you are doing a leading role, your character becomes even more meatier! That will make a lot of difference in my career. No matter how many actors I am working with, I'm still very secure in my place. There will be no cat-fights on the sets you'll see me working on! And frankly speaking, whenever I am doing a single heroine film my pressure doubles because of the male actors that I am working with because most of them are my seniors. For me, even the background artists also matter!"

Commenting on the sudden global recognition of southern films, she speaks heartily, "If I specifically speak of Tamil films, while shooting I have been to most of the interior areas of Tamil Nadu, and it's a fact that they are very culturally rooted and that is visible in their films. My generation wouldn't know their traditions at all, so films like these help! And stressing about the fact that culture is extremely different from religion! Our main upcoming film with Aarya is a pakka village film. We were shooting in a village only. No matter how modernise we become, we are traditionally rooted in our subconscious, and that's why films like *Baahubali*, *RRR* or *Kantara* do maximum business!"



## Sreenivas Bellamkonda's *BSS10* shoot to commence this month

Promising young hero Sreenivas Bellamkonda, who created a niche for himself by enthralling audiences with his mass and action entertainers, will be joining forces with director Saagar Chandra who previously directed Power Star Pawan Kalyan in the blockbuster *Bheemla Nayak*. It's an action entertainer with a unique subject and the director will be presenting Bellamkonda in a new look and character.

*#BSS10* will be mounted on a high budget with rich production values under the popular production house 14 Reels Plus. Ram Achanta and Gopi Achanta will be producing the movie. Harish Katta is the executive producer.

*#BSS10* was launched on Thursday with a simple Pooja at

office with special guests gracing the occasion. Director Harish Shankar sounded the clapping for the muhurtham shot, while he also handed over the script to the makers, along with director Parasuram. The camera was switched on by Director Parasuram. The event was also attended by Anil Ravipudi.

The movie will feature some popular actors playing crucial roles, while well-known technicians will handle different departments. The sensational composer Bheems Ceciroleo will score the music, while Jimshi Khalid will crank the camera. Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao will edit the movie and Mallikarjun Chenchu is the art director.

The regular shoot of the movie will commence from June 2nd week.

## First single from *Bhola Shankar* will be out on June 4

The makers of Chiranjeevi's upcoming family entertainer, *Bhola Shankar* had recently announced that the film will have its world theatrical release on August 11 as an Independence Day special treat for fans. And now comes in an exciting update on the film's first single.

*Bhola Shankar*'s first single's lyrical video will be released on June 4. A small song promo will be out on June 2nd to announce the same. The announcement poster features Chiru in an ultra cool avatar. Dressed in a green shirt adorned with stars, Chiru also sports shades and he is seen rotating a chain with a Trishool shape.

Veteran music composer Mani Sharma's son Mahathi Swara Sagar has composed the soundtrack for *Bhola Shankar*. Needless to say, the hype and excitement on the film's audio album are quite high among fans. The film's entire shoot will be wrapped up by June end, and the post-production works are underway in full swing simultaneously.

*Bhola Shankar* has Tamannaah playing Chiru's love interest, while Keerthy Suresh will be seen as the Megastar's sister.

Hero Sushanth plays a key role in the movie. Being directed by Meher Ramesh, the film is produced by Anil Sunkara on a grand scale with a lavish budget.



## Rana Daggubati to produce Dulquer Salmaan Telugu-Tamil bilingual

Rana Daggubati is not only a popular actor but also owns a production house Spirit Media Banner where he backs small films. He has now presented a new film titled *Pareshan* that will hit the screens today in Telugu.

Rana is busy promoting the film on an aggressive note and on the same day, his brother, Abhiram Daggubati's *Ahimsa* is all set for a release. Well, Rana has made headlines once again as news has come out that he is all set to act and produce a film

that will also star Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan.

According to reports, Rana has approached Dulquer with a two hero script and the latter has shown full interest in the project. The word in the film circles is that Dulquer liked his role so much that he gave a green signal right away. As Rana is producing the project, Dulquer is even more happy to come on board says one of unit members. The director who will helm this film has been kept a secret as of now.



## Nani-Mrunal starrer *Nani 30* wraps up its Mumbai schedule



Natural Star Nani's landmark 30th movie under the direction of debutant Shouryuv is being made at a fast pace. After the lengthy schedule in Goa, the makers have now completed the Mumbai schedule as well. They are all geared up for the next schedule of the movie in Coonoor.

A small video released by the makers shows a sea walk of Nani with his face covered with a hoodie. Then, we get to see a scenic location in Coonoor.

Mrunal Thakur of *Sita Ramam* fame is the leading lady in the movie. Mohan Cherukuri (CVM) and Dr Vijender Reddy Teegala are producing the movie being made on a massive

scale under the banner of Vyra Entertainments, while Koti Paruchuri is the COO.

The movie will have some young and talented technicians taking care of different crafts. Sanu John Varughese ISC will be cranking the camera, while popular Malayalam composer Hesham Abdul Wahab of Hridayam fame scores the music. Praveen Anthony is the editor and Avinash Kolla is the production designer, and Satish EVV is the executive producer.

The movie tipped to be a wholesome entertainer with a unique storyline will hit the screens on December 21st, this year.



# WE ARE USED TO DUKES BALL: AXAR



PTI ■ PORTSMOUTH

Switching from playing T20s to the longest format of the game is difficult but practising with the red ball through the IPL will help in the tough transition at the World Test Championship final against Australia, feels India all-rounder Axar Patel.

Most members of the Indian team head to the marquee event after playing T20 cricket in the IPL for over two months.

Additionally, while the SG balls are used to play the red-ball format in India, the Dukes ball will be used for the WTC final.

However, India are well prepared for the twin chal-

lenges. To familiarise themselves with the Dukes ball, which is used in English conditions, the 'Men in Blue' have been working with it.

"We knew about this before the start of the IPL. So even during the IPL, it was discussed that we will bowl with the red ball," Axar told ICC.

"We had red balls, so we were using them. You know when and how to play, how much time you have. This mental switch from white ball to red ball is obviously tough, but we have enough time," Axar added.

The left-arm spinner, however, said that the focus is on hitting the right spot irrespective of the ball used.

"We switch from white

ball to red ball. It is a similar switch to go from SG to Dukes, you have to use your talent and skill. You have to execute your plan, your bowling rhythm. Irrespective of the ball, if you bowl a good ball at a good spot, it works.

"So, that's what we're doing. Since the match is in England, which is different from India, we are planning what lines and lengths will work here. The same thing in practice, we are good to go."

The first batch of Indian players, including the likes of Virat Kohli and Axar, landed in London early last week and have been preparing for the final, scheduled to be held at The Oval from June 7 to 11.



Key for both teams will be to dismiss Smith and Kohli early: Finch

PTI ■ LONDON

Former captain Aaron Finch believes that he will put his money on Steve Smith even though Australia will also need to get rid of star India batter Virat Kohli as early as possible in what promises to be an enticing World Test Championship final, starting June 7 at the Oval here.

"Both (Kohli and Smith) will be batting at number four, so the key is to try and get them as early as possible. Early wickets to expose them to the brand new ball will be absolutely key. I will always side with Steve Smith, I think his record is outstanding, but it will be a very good contest," Finch told Star Sports.

India vs Australia rivalry brings out the best in both teams, he said.

"I think the rivalry is held in such high regard in both countries, that I think it brings out the best in both teams," he added.

"Obviously, India has had the better of Australia in the last three series I think, so both teams will rise to the occasion no matter where it's played, at home or away or this time at neutral territory. It's just a must watch thing."



## 'Conway has caught Williamson bug to keep learning'

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Former New Zealand spinner John Bracewell believes charismatic batter Devon Conway has caught the "Kane Williamson bug" to keep learning from past mistakes and making rapid improvements in his batting technique.

Conway, a late entrant into the New Zealand setup at 29, took the cricketing world by storm by smashing a double hundred on Test debut against England in 2021 to become only the seventh batter to do so in the longest format.

Conway, now 31, also played a vital role for Chennai Super Kings in only his second IPL season, scoring six half-centuries and aggregating 672 runs with a highest of an unbeaten 92 and an average touching 52.

His opening partnerships with Ruturaj Gaikwad formed the cornerstone of CSK's record-equaling fifth title. The all-format New Zealand cricketer was third on the IPL's Orange Cap list behind Shubman Gill and RCB's South African skipper Faf du Plessis.

"I think he's been an absolute magician in terms of his adaptability to all three formats, his skillset and his (growth)," Bracewell, who

played 41 Tests garnering 102 wickets and 1000-plus runs, told Sen Radio.

"I like the way he's becoming a better cricketer all the time, so he's obviously caught the Kane Williamson bug of being a learner, not a guy that actually just sits there and relies on being talented," said the 65-year-old. Conway has so far amassed 1212 Test, 508 ODI and 632 T20I runs, and Bracewell believes the cricketer can rival the best in the business.

"His game is just continuing to progress and that's something that Kane Williamson had introduced into the New Zealand side along with (former wicket-keeper) BJ Watling.

"That's something that Devon Conway's picked up and moved forward with him taking it to another dimension.

Bracewell believes Conway will play a huge role during the ODI World Cup, scheduled to be held in India in October-November this year, given that Williamson would unlikely have recovered completely from an ACL injury he suffered in the IPL.

"He's one of a series of components, but he's certainly an important one," said Bracewell.

## Ronaldo absent with injury as Saudi soccer season ends

AP ■ RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo's first season in Saudi Arabia came to an end, although the star forward was absent as Al-Nassr beat Al-Fateh 3-0 to finish in second place in the league.

Ronaldo, who signed for the Riyadh club in December before scoring 14 goals in 16 league games, picked up a muscle injury four days previously and was rested ahead of Portugal's European Championship qualifiers against Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iceland in June.

In the 38-year-old Ronaldo's absence on Wednesday, Anderson Talisca took center stage to score twice. He also assisted Mohammed Marwan for a third. Al-Ittihad, which had already secured the league championship in the penultimate round, celebrated a first title since 2009 with a 2-0 win against Al-Tai.

Abderazzak Hamdallah of Morocco opened the scoring with a second-half penalty that also secured the golden boot with his 21st goal of the season. Former Leeds United and Wolverhampton winger Helder Costa added the second in injury time.

## Oz need to be wary of Pujara, Kohli: Ponting

PTI ■ LONDON

Australia will have to guard against the "thorn in their side" Cheteshwar Pujara and a "back at his best" Virat Kohli if they are to counter India in the World Test Championship final at The Oval next week, feels legendary cricketer Ricky Ponting.

India's Test batting mainstay Pujara could provide valuable insights to his teammates, having played extensively at Sussex in the English County Championship, while Kohli is at his absolute best having cracked two centuries and six half-tens for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the recently-concluded Indian Premier League. "The Australian team will be talking about Virat, no doubt about it, and they'll be talking about Pujara. They're the two," Ponting said on "The ICC



Review'.

Pujara is known to relish the challenges thrown at him by Australian bowlers, having scored more Test runs and centuries against them than any other side, and his contribution would be crucial to India's chances of lifting the WTC

trophy in their second attempt. "Pujara has been a thorn in their side a lot in the past, and in Australia, and this wicket will potentially be a lot more like an Australian pitch. They know that they'll have to get him early," opined the former Australian captain.



Australia head into the WTC final against India wary of their dismal Oval record

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

As Australia begin preparations for the World Test Championship final against India, the men from Down Under would be eager to put their past struggles at The Oval behind them.

In over 140 years of Test cricket in England, Australia have had one of the worst records at The Oval, which will host the final from June 7 to 11 between the top two Test sides.

Australia, who played at The Oval in 1880 in what was the first-ever Test in England, have managed a mere seven wins from 38 Tests at the famous South London venue, putting their success rate at the venue at 18.42 per cent, their poorest across England.



### Fact sheet on Bid awarded to IRB for the Nehru ORR TOT project

- We are India's leading and the largest multinational integrated infrastructure developers; and being responsible law abiding Corporate Entity, we strongly believe in adhering to the highest level of Corporate Governance.
- **In line with the policy of Central Government, following the procedural guidelines of NHAI, International Competitive Bid was invited on 9th November 2022 through e-Procurement platform** by HMDA (Authority)/HGCL (Implementing Authority) on Tolling, Operation, Maintenance & Transfer (TOT) basis for a Concession Period of 30 years. The bid submission deadline for the same was extended three times and the final Bid due date was March 31, 2023. It needs to be appreciated that **for nearly four months, the Bid Document was in Public Domain and well publicized; however, no one objected to the Telangana Government's decision to award the Nehru ORR for 30 years on TOT basis.**
- **More than 10 prospective bidders participated in the pre-bid meeting and a total of 142 days were provided to the interested bidders to evaluate and prepare their bids, which is among the highest to ensure complete transparency and maximum participation.**
- The project was awarded to the Company as a result of having offered the highest upfront Concession Fee to the Authority
- As a part of the project, the Company, through its Special Purpose Vehicle incorporated for the project, will be paying an upfront Concession Fee amounting to Rs.7,380 crores to the Authority within 120 days of signing the Concession Agreement.
- **We re-iterate here that the entire bidding process was run with utmost transparency on the same lines, as being done by the NHAI and it was only after intense international competitive bidding process, the Company has won this project.**
- **The Model Concession Agreement (MCA) approved by Niti Aayog for such TOT projects, which is being followed by NHAI, is adopted by the Authority for the bidding of this project for facilitating a fair, transparent and competitive Bidding Process.**
- **To date, NHAI / other State authorities together have awarded approx. 8 such TOT projects across the country and garnered approx. Rs.35,000 cores**
- The concept of securitizing future cash flow without compromising on asset ownership is a well-established concept across the world and the instant project is fully in sync with this principle.
- The upfront consideration (Concession Fee) paid for such projects is quoted by the bidders after discounting future toll collection potential over the given concession period and after netting out the operation and maintenance expenses and taxes that the bidder will incur.
- The present project award also strictly compares with other such similar projects awarded by NHAI / State Authorities and has been awarded to us only after evaluation by the Authority. **We, as a responsible Corporate Entity, reassure everyone that the Company has won the project after strictly adhering to the highest governance ethics and values.**
- We strongly believe that the upfront amount once received by the authority will go a long way in developing new assets and pave way for future growth of the State

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