

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Need for industries–govt cooperation stressed

- Industries principal secretary Yuvaraj urges collaboration between industries and gov to elevate the state's Ease of Doing Business ranking globally, emphasising simplified systems, online facilities, and trust-based policies for double-digit growth
- Calls on industry associations like CII and SMEs for clear suggestions, promising govt grants for common facilities and support for MSMEs to meet quality standards

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TIRUPATI

INDUSTRIES and government must work together to place Andhra Pradesh among the leaders in Ease of Doing Business at the global level, said industries department principal secretary Dr N Yuvaraj. Addressing industrialists virtually at a regional awareness conference here on Saturday, Dr Yuvaraj stressed on simplifying systems, online facilities, and trust-based policies to achieve double-digit growth.

He recalled that Andhra Pradesh has introduced

initiatives like the Single Window System, Mee Seva centres, and Guarantee Act but noted that further improvement is required. "We must benchmark our state with global leaders like Singapore and European nations," he said.

Calling for industry associations such as CII and SMEs to provide clear suggestions, he assured government support including grants for common testing and processing facilities. He also underlined that MSMEs, particularly micro and small units, need assistance to meet quality standards. "India is destined to



Industries department principal secretary Dr N Yuvaraj virtually addressing a regional awareness meet of industrialists in Tirupati on Saturday. District collector Dr S Venkateswar and others are also present

emerge as the world's top three economy by 2025 and move into the top two within the next 10–15 years," he said.

District collector Dr S Venkateswar, who attended the event, said industrial development is a top state priority and pledged speedy redressal of investor issues through an online grievance platform.

He announced a special meeting for solving issues at Gajulamandiyam IT Park and promised action on local civic infrastructure. Stating that industries contribute nearly 45 per cent to Tirupati district's GDDP, the collector said the government, guided by the Chief Minister, is moving from Ease of Doing Business towards Speed of Do-

ing Business.

Highlighting the district's potential, he pointed to successful hubs like Sri City, Naidupeta, Krishnapatnam, and Routhumala Industrial Park, boosted by strong road, rail, port, and airport connectivity.

APIIC zonal manager Vijay Bharat Reddy, officials, and industrialists were present.

Boxing hall to come up at Srinivasa Sports Complex

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TIRUPATI

AN indoor boxing hall being built under Public–Private–People Partnership (P4) model at Srinivasa Sports Complex will be completed within two months and will be opened for athletes, announced SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu.

The project, initiated with the cooperation of Junior Chamber International (JCI) Foundation, is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 15 lakh. Founda-

tion works commenced with the traditional bhumi puja performed by State Yadav Corporation Chairman G Narsimha Yadav on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Narasimha Yadav said that JCI's involvement in setting up the boxing hall under the P4 system was commendable and should inspire more donors to come forward for the development of sports infrastructure.

Ravi Naidu emphasised that as per Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's call, donors have extended valu-

able support to create better sports facilities. "The boxing hall will be completed and made available to players within two months," he assured. Both dignitaries facilitated JCI members during the event.

JCI Commission Chairman Dr NB Harshavardhan Reddy, JCI Zone President T Bharat Kumar, JCI Tirupati President Shesha Sai, Administrative Committee Member GL Manohar, JCI Tirupati Foundation Chairman Bhaskar Naidu were present.



SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu, State Yadav Corporation Chairman G Narsimha Yadav and others at the bhumi puja of boxing hall at Srinivasa Sports Complex in Tirupati on Saturday

TTD Trust Board members take oath



Dr M Hari Jawaharlal



Sudarshan Venu

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TIRUMALA

ENDOWMENTS Department Secretary Dr Hari Jawahar Lal and Sudarshan Venu took oath as ex-Officio Member and as TTD Trust Board member respectively at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple here on Saturday. The oath was administered by TTD

Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary. Later, along with their family members, they had Lord Venkateswara darshan. Vedic scholars rendered Veda Asheervachanam at Ranganayakula Mandapam. The Additional EO presented them with the portrait of Srivaru and Tirtha Prasadam. Deputy EO Bhaskar and other officials were present.

Karki is shining example of women empowerment: Modi

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"I want to congratulate Karki on behalf of 140 crore Indians. I am confident that she will pave the way for peace, stability, and prosperity in Nepal," the PM said.

Former Chief Justice Sushila Karki on Friday night became Nepal's first woman prime minister to lead an interim government.

"Karki occupying the top post of that country is an example of women's empowerment," Modi asserted. Her appointment ended days of political uncertainty after the K P Sharma Oli dispensation was forced to quit in the face of a nationwide agitation triggered by a social media ban.

Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between

President Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and the youth protesters, who spearheaded the agitation.

The PM also lauded the resilience of the Nepali people, noting how citizens, especially young men and women, were taking part in cleaning and painting buildings in the past few days, amid political turbulence. "I also want to congratulate the people of Nepal who, despite such turbulent times, have kept democratic values supreme," Modi said, drawing applause from the gathering.

Emphasising India's solidarity, the PM said both nations were "moving forward together", and reiterated New Delhi's commitment to support Nepal's democratic journey and its aspiration for stability.

3-hour pit stop is not compassion: Cong targets Modi's Manipur visit

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"864 days of violence-- 300 lives lost, 67,000 displaced, 1,500 plus injured. You made 46 foreign trips since, but not a single visit to share two words of sympathy with your own citizens," Kharge said.

"Your last visit to Manipur? January 2022 for elections! Your 'Double Engine' has bulldozed the innocent lives of Manipur. You and Home Minister Amit Shah's gross incompetence and complicity in betraying all communities was shielded from scrutiny, by imposing President's Rule in the state. Violence still continues," he said. It is the BJP which was responsible for maintaining law and order in the state and it is now the Union government which is again dithering, he claimed.

"Not to forget, that is your government which is respon-

sible for National Security and border patrol. This hush-hush pit stop isn't repentance. It's not even guilt. You are organising a grand welcome ceremony for yourself. It is a cruel prick to the wounds of those still suffering because of your own abdication of basic constitutional responsibilities!" Kharge said. Speaking with reporters in Wayanad, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the PM and said he should have visited the state long before. "I am glad that he has decided, after two years, that it is worth visiting (Manipur). He should have gone long before. It is very unfortunate that he has allowed what is happening there to continue for so long and for so many people to be killed. That has not been the tradition of prime ministers in India," she said.

CM NAIDU URGES SPS TO FOCUS ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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He stressed that instilling fear in criminals is the best way to reduce crime, citing the example of how he brought an end to rowdiness in Vijayawada, which also helped Hyderabad become the brand it is today.

The Chief Minister asked police officers to take up the murder of YS Vivekananda Reddy as a case study. "A brutal murder was first called a heart attack, then a murder, and later was blamed on me," he said. He highlighted the numerous twists and turns in the case, calling it an "unprecedented" case study for police officials.

Naidu also brought up the recent death of a political worker named Singaiah, who was run over by a car belonging to a party leader. "The incident was initially hidden from the police, and when it was exposed, the same party leaders manipulated the victim's family to speak against the government," he said. "You have to understand their criminal politics." The Chief Minister advised the police to utilise technology to the hilt in investigations.

Naidu suggested a four-point strategy for police

officials: React, Reach, Respond, and Result. React immediately to any serious incident and do not leave it to junior staff. Reach the crime scene quickly to collect evidence and take necessary investigative steps. Respond to misinformation and fake news on social media by taking strict action against those spreading it. Work towards a quick Result in every case.

Naidu instructed the SPs to be friendly with the public, while instilling fear in anti-social elements and controlling "social media psychos" who engage in character assassination. He emphasised that the alliance government's policy is to punish offenders, regardless of their political affiliation.

The Chief Minister warned against political parties' attempts to create unrest under the guise of protests. "I am not against protests, but I will not tolerate any illegal activities," he asserted.

"I have chosen you after a long process, considering all factors. Now, prove yourselves and deliver the best performance," he exhorted the SPs.

LS Speaker to open women lawmakers' meet in Tirupati

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He said generally a Lok Sabha member will chair this committee and Rajahmundry MP D Purandeswari is the current chairperson. Committees of this kind are existing in several state Legislative Assemblies and Councils. Andhra Pradesh has a joint committee with three members from the Legislative Council and nine from the Legislative Assembly,

which is chaired by G Charita Reddy, he added. Suryadevara said respective state committees used to function within their purviews and used to visit other states to learn how they operate, and when given an opportunity, they would deliberate in the visiting state's committees to increase awareness. The Lok Sabha Speaker has taken the initiative of convening all the committees from across the

country in a particular state to deliberate on a particular subject, he said. Under this initiative, this first meeting was held in Maharashtra on Estimate Committee two months ago, followed by an SC, ST Committee meeting in Bhubaneswar in August and the National Conference of the Committee on Empowerment of Women Parliament and State and Union Territory Legislatures is the third meet-

ing in this series scheduled in Andhra Pradesh.

The event brings together women parliamentarians, legislators and social activists working in the domain of women's empowerment on a single platform.

A brainchild of the Lok Sabha Speaker, the event is set to usher in reforms in the field of gender justice, said Andhra Pradesh Legislative Secretary-General S. Prasanna Kumar.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh, Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, A.P. Legislative Speaker Ch. Ayyanna Patrudu, Deputy Speaker K. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju, Lok Sabha women's committee chairperson Dagubati Purandeshwari, State panel chairperson Gouru

Charitha Reddy will participate in the event.

Suryadevara said Birla will deliver the inaugural address, followed by preliminary sessions which will take up two to three themes to discuss in depth. As it is not viable for all the members of the committees from across the states to attend, he said the Lok Sabha Speaker called for the nomination of a four-member committee from each state.

Want to make Manipur symbol of peace & prosperity, says Modi

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After meeting them, I can say with confidence that a new dawn of hope and trust is rising in Manipur," he said.

"For development to take root anywhere, peace is essential.

In the last 11 years, many conflicts and disputes in the Northeast have been resolved. People have chosen the path of peace and given priority to development," he added.

The PM, who faced sharp criticisms from the opposition for not visiting the state despite the prolonged ethnic violence, underlined that the Centre's efforts were already yielding results. "We have seen that recently in the Hills and the Valley... negotiations have taken place for agreements with different groups.

These are part of the efforts of the Government of India to establish peace while giving importance to dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding," he said. "I would appeal to all organisations to move forward on the path of peace and fulfil their dreams. I am with you... The Government of India is with the people of Manipur. We are working towards the goal of making Manipur a symbol of peace, prosperity and progress," he said.

Modi said the Centre is providing support to build 7,000 new houses for families who have been displaced by the violence. A special package of about Rs 3,000 crore has recently been approved, he said, adding that Rs 500 crore has been specifically allocated to assist the displaced people.

UN congratulates new Nepal PM Sushila Karki

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She also recognised the contributions of the president, the chief of army staff and 'Gen Z' youth leaders, noting that their efforts "helped make this transition possible". Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between President Ram Chandra Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and representatives of youth protesters.

President Paudel administered the oath of office to former chief justice Karki, 73, on Friday three days after Oli resigned from the prime minister's post following the worst unrest that the Himalayan nation has witnessed in decades. Oli quit on Tuesday shortly after hundreds of agitators entered his office demanding his resignation for the death of at least 19 people in police action during Monday's protests.

'Students used their pocket money for drugs'

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Supporting this statement, Neha Agarwal, psychologist and co-founder of InnerHeal Therapy, said, "Many of these students are simply trying to fill an emotional void—whether it's love, acceptance, or fear of abandonment. "The pain they want to escape can make drugs seem like an easy way out, offering a quick high and temporary thrill. Sadly, many do not realize that they are trapped until it is already too late to turn back.

Many students from well-off families use their pocket money in unhealthy ways, such as through substance abuse. Easy access to cash sometimes makes them feel independent, but without real responsibility. Often, just to feel included and part of a group, students get pulled into these habits, creating a dangerous cycle that harms their studies and personal growth," she added. Officials stressed that strict surveillance is being paired with the rehabilitation of students. One of the students

recently caught is currently undergoing regular blood tests and counselling. "We are also conducting regular awareness campaigns, in collaboration with universities like ICFAI, to sensitize students to the dangers of substance abuse," an anti-narcotics officer said.

Meanwhile, Mahindra University, in its official statement, maintained that "any act that violates the law or endangers the safety of the student community will be dealt with severely." Vice-Chancellor Dr. Yajulu Meduri assured that the campus would ramp up preventive awareness, counselling, and partnerships with the law enforcement authorities.

Yet, as more institutions figure in the narcotics trail and as courier loopholes remain unaddressed, the case underscores a disturbing dual reality. While Hyderabad's private universities project themselves as global education hubs, they are also becoming fertile grounds for organized rackets feeding on the youth's vulnerabilities.

LOW-PRESSURE AREA TO TRIGGER RAINS IN AP

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Jain also provided a summary of rainfall recorded as of 5:00 pm on Saturday.

Heavy rainfall was recorded in several areas, including Thallapudi in East Godavari district and Lingapalem in Eluru district (87.2 mm), Pedakakani in Guntur district (77.2 mm), Sattenapalli in Palnadu district (75 mm), Vallabhapuram in Guntur (74 mm), Guntur (72.2 mm), Nuzividu (71 mm), Thotlavaluru (70.7 mm), Kouthavaram (70.2 mm), and Darsi in Prakasam district (68.5 mm).

More than 40 mm of rain was recorded in 47 other locations.

NE is India's growth engine: PM

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Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project is a joint India-Myanmar initiative to create a multimodal transport corridor connecting India's eastern ports to India's Northeast through Myanmar, utilising waterways and roads to bypass the Siliguri Corridor.

The Prime Minister said: "After the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project becomes operational, trade and tourism would be boosted a lot in the Northeast region. All these plans are part of India's Act East Policy."

He said that earlier the political parties were doing vote bank politics in Northeast and due to this attitude the entire region suffered greatly.

"Our attitude, plans and vision are different. We want peace and development of the region. Rail, road, air, waterway connectivities were developed a lot in the region and these would be further developed in the

coming days," the Prime Minister said.

Referring to the GST reforms, he said that taxes were lowered substantially in many products making life easier for common people.

During 'Operation Sindoor', India's armed forces taught lessons to terrorists and the entire world witnessed the power of the country's armed forces and 'Made in India' weapons to help protect the country, the Prime Minister pointed out.

Saturday's visit is PM Modi's second trip to Mizoram since he became the Prime Minister in 2014.

From Aizawl, the Prime Minister would fly to Manipur's Churachandpur and then to state capital Imphal.

In both Churachandpur and Imphal, PM Modi would unveil a total of 31 projects worth Rs 8,500 crore for the state of Manipur and would address public gatherings in both the places.