



From the Minister's Desk:

A very happy new year 2020 to you all. As mentioned in my New Year tweet - it's a leap year, you have 366 new days and as many chances. Please make the best use of the same.

After almost a gap of one year, I was inducted into the Cabinet and I thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri K Chandrashekar Rao garu for the opportunity he has bestowed on me. Among other portfolios, I am fortunate to have been endowed with the responsibility of Information Technology once again.

Large corporates like Intel, Mphasis and Micron have expanded their footprint by setting up their global development centres in the last three months reinforcing their faith in Telangana and its resources.

In fact, Telangana Government has decided to declare the Year 2020 as the year of Artificial Intelligence (AI). We want to promote the use of Artificial Intelligence in areas like agriculture, urban transportation and healthcare.

I informed NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh in October 2019 that the state government would host a series of events throughout the year 2020 to promote AI.

Several foreign countries have been very keen on investing in Telangana. Most of the ambassadors who met me in the last four months have expressed desire to organize meetings for the industry captains from their countries with

Telangana government and identify the areas of investment and commence work.

This is a welcome scenario, for they would generate direct employment to a lot of youths from the State and also boost the economy of the State, at a crucial time.

In fact, I wish and hope that Telangana emerges as an innovation hub and the most happening place technologically in the months and years to come. It's a matter of pride for Telangana that companies from France, South Africa and Luxembourg have evinced interest in exploring investment opportunities in Telangana. The same was discussed threadbare when the Ambassadors of those countries visited Hyderabad.

In fact, Telangana Government is ready to set up an exclusive cluster for companies from Korea that are showing a lot of interest in investing in Telangana. I made this offer when a delegation led by Ambassador Shin Bongkil met me three months ago.

Consul-General of Singapore in Chennai, Pong Kok Tian, who met me in November, 2019 lauded the investor-friendly policies of Telangana and proposed to organise a meet with Singapore companies.

I am looking forward to a successful and fulfilling 2020.

All the very best.

KT Rama Rao

KTR takes oath as Minister

| September 8 |

The TRS Working President Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao took oath as a Minister at a simple ceremony at the Raj Bhavan. Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan administered oath of office and secrecy to the minister. KTR has been allocated IT, Industries and MA&UD portfolios, apart from Mining & Geology, Handlooms and Textiles.



US Consul General meets KTR

| September 11 |

US Consul General in Hyderabad Joel Reifman, along with Consular Chief Eric Alexander, called on KTR in Hyderabad. Noted economist Kristen Loehr and political & economic specialist Srimali Kari also met the minister.

During the meeting, KTR highlighted the long-standing relationship of Hyderabad with US business houses and also the opportunities for further investments in the state. Ministers Vemula Prashanth Reddy and Satyavathi Rathod were present.



France, SA, Luxembourg diplomats meet KTR

| September 19 |

A delegation of officials from South Africa led by High Commissioner Joel Sibusiso Ndebele called on Minister KTR in Hyderabad. Sibusiso Ndebele said that South African companies were looking for investment opportunities in India and the delegation had visited Telangana to explore such opportunities.



Ambassador of Luxembourg Jean Claude Kugener met IT Minister KT Rama Rao and explained that they were looking for investment opportunities in Telangana.



Consul General of France Dr. Marjorie Vanbaelinghem also met KTR and discussed various issues including mutual cooperation in the innovation space. Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and We Hub CEO Deepthi Ravula were also present.



TS, NJ ink Sister State Partnership Agreement

| September 18 |

Telangana has signed a 'Sister State Partnership Agreement' with US state New Jersey, in Hyderabad. Telangana Chief Secretary SK Joshi and New Jersey State Governor Phil Murphy signed the agreement in the presence of IT Minister KT Rama Rao.

The agreement allows both the states to help each other for the development of IT, pharma, life sciences, biotech, media, clean energy, higher education, tourism, culture, and healthcare sectors.

KTR said that the agreement would give impetus to the economic development of the state.



KTR bats for growth corridor in South India

| September 26 |



Industries Minister KT Rama Rao suggested that a block of south Indian states be created for the development of the industrial growth of the region, when a delegation of CII-Telangana led by its Chairman D. Raju met him.

The delegation evinced interest in working with the state government on emerging technologies, logistics hub and CSR project.

He asked the CII to act as a catalyst to enhance industrial growth rate and added that the Telangana government was working on Hyderabad-Warangal industrial corridor.

Mphasis opens new facility in Hyderabad

| September 27 |



Inaugurating the new development centre set up by IT major Mphasis in Hyderabad, Information Technology Minister KT Rama Rao said: "Telangana Government has always endeavoured to promote development by encouraging investments in key sectors such as information technology."

"As a state, we continue to welcome interest from innovators globally to capitalise on the available tech talent in the city.

I had the privilege of inaugurating the Mphasis maiden facility back in 2016 and am immensely pleased to see them expand base here," he added.

Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan accompanied the minister. Mphasis CEO Nitin Rakesh and Chief Human Resource Officer Srikanth Karra attended the ceremony.

Korean caravan plans to expand footprint in TS

| September 25 |



A South Korean delegation, 'Korean Caravan', led by Ambassador Shin Bongkil met Industries Minister KTR and discussed investment opportunities for Korean firms in various sectors like electronics, textiles, food processing and Pharma in Telangana.

KTR offered to create an industrial cluster for South Korean companies to set up manufacturing facilities in the State.

He shed light on the state government's progressive industrial policies which rank high in terms of 'Ease of Doing Business' (EODB). "Telangana is already home to several marquee companies, including top five IT giants in the world. Besides IT, the government identified 14 priority sectors, which attract special incentives and approvals," he added.

Eliciting information on the ways to attract more investments from South Korea, KTR said the State was home to Asia's largest life sciences cluster, 'Genome Valley', and world's largest pharma cluster, 'Pharma City'. India's largest textile

park was coming up in Warangal. "We are also ready to extend support to Korean startups and innovation companies through T-Hub, which is one of the largest incubation centres in the world," he said.

"Telangana is keen on attracting South Korean companies in a big way and is willing to set up an exclusive cluster of such firms," Rama Rao said.

He said the government will provide complete assistance to the companies and will work together with organisations such as Korea International Trade Association (KITA), Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) - to support the Korean companies in the State.

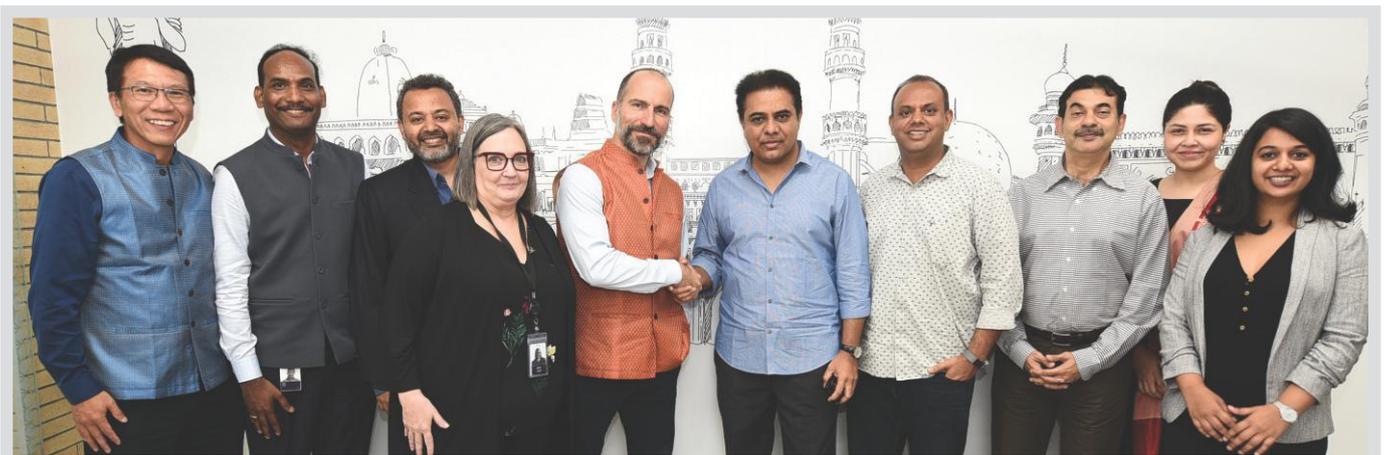
Korean Ambassador Shin Bongkil said Korea was keen on expanding its business footprint in Telangana, along with strengthening cultural relations.

Telangana Chief Secretary SK Joshi and Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan were present.

KTR visits Uber facility

| October 24 |

IT Minister KT Rama Rao, along with Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, met Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi at their facility in Hyderabad.



Stronger states will make India stronger: KTR

| October 3 |



Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KTR batted for transfer of more subjects from the concurrent list to the State list to boost the performance of the states.

Addressing a panel discussion at World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit 2019 held in New Delhi, he said, "Stronger states will lead to a stronger country. Telangana has been ranking top in Ease of Doing Business in the country. The Centre has to play the role of an enabler instead of intervening in the way of states which receive capital from various lending agencies"

Talking about urbanisation, he said that people migrate to cities for a better life, education and medical services. "Mahatma Gandhi said that India lives in villages. However, cities and urban areas are financially supporting India and states. They are the prime contributors to GDP or GSDP," he added.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath and AP IT Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy participated in the discussion.

The Minister along with Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan released a report on 'Medicine from the Sky', a pilot project being implemented by the government of Telangana in collaboration with Apollo Hospitals and WEF. It uses drones to deliver blood samples, vaccines and medicines to people.



On the sidelines of the Summit, KTR met Johnson & Johnson Executive Director, Government Affairs and Policy, Rohit Kumar, INVESTCORP Co-Chief Executive Officer Rishi Kapoor, Salesforce Executive Vice President, Government Affairs Eric Loeb and Director, Government Affairs, Shweta Rajpal Kohli.

Apollo Tyres President APMEA (Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa) Satish Sharma and BASF India MD Krishnamohan Narayan also called on the Minister.

JETRO DG calls on KTR

| October 2 |

A Japanese delegation led by JETRO Bengaluru Director General Takashi Suzuki met K T Rama Rao in Hyderabad. During the meeting, both parties discussed setting up solutions in Solid Waste Management by engaging Clean Air Authority, Tokyo.



Micron opens Global Development Centre in Hyd

| October 4 |

IT Minister KT Rama Rao inaugurated Micron Technology Development Centre in Hyderabad. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, US Consul General in Hyderabad Joel Reifman, Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra and Chairman Robert Switz attended the ceremony.



Focus on building Naya Bharat, KTR tells industry captains

| October 4 |



Minister for Industries KT Rama Rao called upon the industry captains to focus on four Is - investment in innovation, infrastructure, industrial cluster and internationalisation of business operations - to build Naya Bharat or New India.

Addressing the CII Southern Region Council meeting, the Minister urged the industry captains to support the

formation of a Southern Industrial Corridor on the lines of DMIC (Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor) and work closely with Central and other state governments. He said that many inventions of Telangana were being replicated across the country and by many other states.

Tourism Minister Sri V Srinivas Goud was also present.

Singapore team upbeat about opportunities in TS

| November 19 |

Lauding the investor-friendly policies of Telangana state government, Consul General of Singapore in Chennai Pong Kok Tian said that such policies were bound to encourage Singapore companies to invest in the state.

A delegation led by Tian called on Minister KT Rama Rao in Hyderabad and discussed opportunities for Singapore companies to invest in different sectors such as information technology, urban infrastructure, pharma, and tourism.

Rao highlighted the Telangana government's industrial policy, TS-iPASS, and how the state emerged as a favourite destination for global companies.

He proposed a meeting with the heads of Singapore companies looking for opportunities to invest in the state and extended full support to such companies.

Reminding that Singapore's Surbana Jurong was preparing the master plan for Hyderabad Pharma City, he urged the Consul General to visit Telangana's industrial parks and incubators such as T-Hub to understand the ecosystem in the state. KTR requested the Consul General office to assist them in inviting major pharma companies to BioAsia 2020 event. Vice-Consul Ivan Tan and Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan were present in the meeting.



TS to declare 2020 as year of AI

| October 25 |



IT Minister KT Rama Rao said : "The government of Telangana has decided to declare the year 2020 as the year of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to promote its use in various sectors like agriculture, urban transportation and healthcare."

Interacting with NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh who met him at Pragati Bhavan, he said that the state government would host a series of events throughout the year to promote AI. Rao and Ghosh discussed a host of

issues including ways to develop skills for emerging sectors like IoT, AI and cybersecurity.

Meanwhile, Ghosh said that NASSCOM would be delighted to collaborate with the Telangana government in launching AI applications in various sectors and also creating an ecosystem for startups to implement AI applications.

Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Emerging Technologies Director Rama Devi and Digital Media Director Dileep Konatham were present at the meeting.

Lockheed Martin India top brass calls on KTR

| November 7 |

Lockheed Martin India's outgoing CEO Phil Shaw and the newly appointed CEO William Blair paid a courtesy call on IT & Industries Minister KT Rama Rao in Hyderabad.



Cognizant VP meets IT Minister KTR

| October 24 |

Cognizant EVP and President Digital Operations Ganesh Ayyar met IT and Industries Minister Sri KTR in Hyderabad. Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan was also present.



KTR inaugurates Intel's design centre in Hyderabad

| December 2 |

US-based chip maker Intel has opened its design and engineering centre in Hyderabad. The new facility will contribute to its critical global products and technologies across next generation system on chip (SOCs), graphics, hardware platforms and software. Intel aims at focussing on Exascale computing that handle large volumes of data and analyse data of wide applications.

Inaugurating the facility, IT Minister KT Rama Rao said: "Hyderabad has emerged as an IT hub and has a strong base in software. I think the time has come to start looking at hardware."

Intel Corporation senior VP Raja M Koduri said: "We are going to work on Exascale Computing, which will be driven by artificial intelligence. Nowadays, we are generating a lot of data that is difficult to analyse real-time. We need Exascale computing to analyse the data generated through phones, cameras and sensors."



"Our new design facility in Hyderabad will enable us to further boost innovation for India and the world," said Nivruti Rai, country head, Intel India.

Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said that Intel's presence would add value to the ecosystem which the state government has been building in Hyderabad.

Switzerland is country partner for BioAsia 2020

| December 10 |



Switzerland will be the partner country for the 17th edition of BioAsia slated to be held from February 17 to 19 in city.

BioAsia is an annual event in which global biotech, pharma companies, and other stakeholders in the lifesciences sector come together to discuss the new innovations in the sphere and explore the possibility of business collaborations in the sector.

Telangana government officials and the Consulate General of Switzerland signed a partnership agreement in this connection in the presence of Minister Rama Rao and Switzerland Deputy Consul General Silvana Renggli-Frey

Renggli-Frey said: "As a country partner of BioAsia, we are bringing a holistic representation of the Swiss healthtech ecosystem spanning from corporates to startups to academia to investors. We are eager to collaborate with the key players in India and pursue new solutions today, for tomorrow."

Saudi ambassador meets IT Minister

| December 9 |

Saudi Arabia Ambassador Dr. Saud bin Mohammed Al Sati met Rama Rao at Pragati Bhavan. Rao and Al Sati discussed various topics including investment opportunities in IT sector in Telangana and strengthening ties between Telangana and Saudi Arabia.

Home Minister Sri Mohammad Mahmood Ali, Government Advisor (Minority Affairs) A K Khan, Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan were also present in the meeting.



WE Hub Partners with Startup India to Launch WING Program for Women Entrepreneurs in Telangana

| December 20 |



IT Minister KTR visited We Hub and spoke at the launch of WING, an initiative by Startup India and led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. The capacity development programme aims to train about 500 women entrepreneurs. WE Hub is India's first state-led incubator to foster & promote women to start-up, scale-up & accelerate with market access.

In his address after launching the initiative, the minister said "Telangana State will be the first customer if startups come up with products and services that are relevant to the

Government. While this applies to all startups, those led by women stand to get additional benefits under the TS-iPASS, the State's industrial policy."

KTR interacted with select entrepreneurs and witnessed their technical presentations. Jayesh Ranjan IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of IT E & C, Deepthi Ravula, CEO of WE Hub, Jasleen Lamba, Senior Manager, Startup India Hub, Invest India, Anil Agrawal, Joint Secretary, DPIIT were present.



Telangana poised to be the hub for South Asia's gaming, technology & entertainment industry: KTR

| November 20 |



IT Minister KTR inaugurated India's Biggest Event for Gaming, Media and Entertainment 'IndiaJoy 2019' in Hyderabad. The 2nd edition of IndiaJoy event has become one of the most important platforms in the world for projecting the digital, media and entertainment corporations to engage in business, DIY, and networking. The inaugural spectacle witnessed a big gathering of some of the biggest names from the industry and enthusiasts from different parts of the world. The four-day event attracted over 30,000 visitors.

In his opening remarks after inaugurating IndiaJoy, KTR said, "We plan to make Telangana a hub for the South Asian industry in the gaming, technology and entertainment space with world-class technicians, post-production facilities, VFX setup. VFX, post-production work for Hollywood movies and something like our very own Chota Bheem are done within the State already. Besides, we are happy that the State houses over 250 gaming startups and the number is only growing with time."

"On the future course, we plan to build an Image tower in the city spread over 16 lakh square foot that could help global giants with anything from animation to visual effects to gaming to motion capture technologies. We seek to provide employment to those residing in tier-2 and tier-3 towns. We are easing the policy to encourage more firms to set shop in the State. Our main goal through an event like IndiaJoy is to help SMEs in this space flourish and also ring in more publishers, marketeers, local producers and help them find their feet in Telangana," the Minister added.



Skyworth group, a China-based consumer electronics manufacturer signed an MOU with the Telangana Government for setting up a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility with an investment outlay of USD 100 million in a phased manner.

| November 29 |





Minister KTR spoke at the Pre Valedictory Function of 94th Foundation Course for AIS & CCS Officers at MCRHRDI.

| December 5 |



IT Minister KT Rama Rao participated in the 5th Anniversary Celebrations of TS-iPASS (Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self Certification System)

| December 4 |



T-Hub hosted Minister KTR and Kanwal Rekhi, a renowned venture capitalist, angel investor. They exchanged views on entrepreneurship, technology, & more.

| December 2 |



Industries Minister of Chhattisgarh Mr. Kawasi Lakhma met Minister KTR and invited KTR to the 'National Tribal Dance Festival-2019' held in Raipur from 27 to 29 Decemeber.

| November 25 |



Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary for Amazon Mr. David Zapolsky met Minister KTR. Mr. David informed KTR about the rapid growth of Amazon headcount in Telangana.

| November 20 |



IT & Industries Minister presented the Intinta Innovator Awards at the 15th edition of CII MAN'EXE event held in Hyderabad.

| October 18 |



IT & Industries Minister KT Rama Rao delivered the inaugural address at the 3rd edition of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) 'Defence Conclave' in Hyderabad.

| December 4 |



IT Minister KTR attended & addressed the delegates at the inaugural session of US-India Defense Ties Conference in Hyderabad.

| December 18 |



Mr. Prasad Panda, Minister of Infrastructure, Alberta, Canada called on Minister KT Rama Rao.

| December 16 |

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