

STATE

TS energy requirement to touch 97,547 MU in 2024-25 **page 5**

NATION

India-US ties at all-time high, says MEA **page 7**

WORLD

Fresno becomes second US city to ban caste discrimination **page 9**



Award for Sudha Murthy

NATION | PAGE 07

US drops aid for Ukraine in Bill

WORLD | PAGE 09



Vishnu begins shoot of Kannappa

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12



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At last, Modi heeds to State's demands

Okays long-pending demand for turmeric board, tribal varsity

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Clearly shaken by the fact that the Bharatiya Janata Party was fast losing ground in Telangana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday finally relented and gave in to two of the State's long-standing demands since formation — a Tribal University in Mulugu and a National Turmeric Board.

Modi, who laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple developmental projects worth about Rs 13,500 crore in Mahabubnagar on Sunday, announced the formation of the National Turmeric Board apart from announcing a Central Tribal University in Mulugu district. The university would be named after tribal goddesses Sammakka-Sarakka. About Rs 900 crore would be spent on the Sammakka-Sarakka Central Tribal University, he said.

Interestingly, what Modi did not mention in his speech was that the Tribal University was actually a commitment made to Telangana under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act way back in 2014 and that the State had relentlessly been requesting the Centre to move the project forward and had even allocated land. This was when Modi's government sanctioned and made operational a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh in 2020 itself.

Varsity: A promise in cold storage for 10 yrs

PS DILEEP
Hyderabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a Central Tribal University at Mulugu, which is in fact a stale promise dished out on a new platter, after keeping it in a deep freezer for nearly 10 years.

The proposal for varsity was initially made under AP Reorganisation Act of 2014, during the formation of Telangana State. However, it remained nothing more than a promise, despite repeated requests and allocation of land by the State government, i.e., till Modi was forced to take desperate measures to

The political agenda behind the Turmeric Board, which the State had been demanding for a long and what the BJP had promised much before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls too, becomes clear when one recalls the Centre's declaration during the recent monsoon session of Parliament that it had no plans to set up turmeric boards in the State. It had instead entrusted the Spices Board with the responsibility of promoting 52 spices, including turmeric.

prevent the BJP from being completely wiped out in Telangana. While Sunday's announcement is certainly a victory for Telangana and the BRS in particular for not giving up and for continuously pressurising the Centre, what exposes Modi's political agenda is that Telangana is being promised a Central Tribal University, when the neighbouring AP was helped in getting one operational in August 2020 itself. This was after the Telangana allotted 116 acres of assigned land, 50 acres of forest land and 169 acres of government land for the establishment of the varsity. (SEE PAGE 2)

Turmeric board, Modi's new political stunt

HYDERABAD: When failure began staring him in the face, Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to go against what his own party's Union Minister declared in Parliament. And thus came announcement on a Turmeric Board. Till a few months ago, the Centre had no plans to set up a turmeric board in the State and made clear this as recent as the just-concluded Monsoon Session, when Union Minister Anupriya Patel said there was no proposal to establish turmeric board or any other spice-specific board in the country. (REPORT PAGE 5)

While these two projects were, without doubt, an attempt at damage control after giving the very same demands the cold shoulder for 10 years, Modi tried a little more to douse the fire over the continued neglect from the Centre towards Telangana. This was by laying the foundation for and inaugurating a few other projects, including the Nagpur - Vijayawada Economic Corridor. He said economic hubs were identified in the corridor, including eight

Special Economic Zones, five Mega food parks, four fishing seafood clusters, three pharma and medical clusters and one textiles cluster.

The Suryapet-Khammam section of the Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam corridor would help in reaching the East Coast. The railway line being built between Jaklair and Krishna section would also be important for the people here, he said. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

BRS exposes PM's lies, shows him the mirror

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a fiery retort to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegations against the BRS government, IT Minister KT Rama Rao demanded the former to immediately withdraw his statements if he had any common sense left in him. Addressing a massive gathering in Peddapalli, the BRS working president advised Modi to exercise caution and verify facts before making allegations.

He reminded the Prime Minister that K Chandrashekhara Rao was the only Chief Minister in the country to waive crop loans worth Rs 37,000 crore twice during his tenure, and also to provide Rs 72,000 crore as Rythu Bandhu financial assistance to farmers. He highlighted that no BJP-ruled State had undertaken such significant and far-reaching farmer-centric initiatives.

He also brushed aside the accusation of dynasty politics, asserting that Chandrashekhara Rao's 'family' comprised over four crore



IT Minister KT Rama Rao at the public meeting in Peddapalli district on Sunday.

“The people of Telangana are not ready to believe the Prime Minister who for 10 years ignored the provisions mandated under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act

— KT RAMA RAO, IT Minister

people in Telangana. The CM had fulfilled his responsibilities as a son, brother and uncle of the people of Telangana, through various welfare programmes. The Minister also criticised

Modi's dismissal of suggestions from the BRS to provide uninterrupted free power to all farmers in the country at an expenditure of Rs 1.45 lakh crore by terming it as a 'freebie'. (SEE PAGE 2)

Manipur killings: Four arrested

IMPHAL

Four people were arrested by CBI in connection with the kidnapping and killing of two Manipuri youths, and the government will ensure the maximum punishment for them, Chief Minister N Biren Singh said.

The four, including the wife of the main accused, were taken "outside the State" by a special flight, he said. He, however, did not

disclose where the four accused had been taken.

Officials of the Chief Minister's secretariat said two minor girls, aged 11 and 9, were detained in connection with the case but they were released later. The two are daughters of the main accused. "The CBI arrested four people from Henglep area of Churachandpur district for the murder of the two youths," the Chief Minister said. P11

AFSPA extended in 4 Assam districts

GUWAHATI: The Assam Police on Sunday said AFSPA has been extended in four districts of the State for six more months. At the Police Day celebrations, DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh said 'disturbed area' tag, which allows enforcement of the AFSPA, has, however, been withdrawn from four other districts.

Govt employees protest for OPS

NEW DELHI

Thousands of government employees from across the country converged at Ramlila Maidan in the national capital on Sunday, seeking restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS).

The employees, under the aegis of the National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS), organised a rally to raise their demand before the Central government.

The 'Pension Shanknaad Maharally' has been organised with the aim of pressurising the Centre to implement the old pension scheme instead of the existing National Pension

Thousands from across the country converge in Delhi seeking restoration of the old pension scheme

Scheme (NPS). The organisers of the rally said that when four States have already announced the implementation of the old pension scheme, then why cannot the Central government implement it? Thousands of government employees from various parts of the country participated in the rally at Ramlila Maidan. P11



Avinash Mukund Sable celebrates after winning the men's 3,000-metre steeplechase final. — Photos: AP (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 10)

Super Sunday for India



Prithviraj Tondaiman, Zoravar Singh Sandhu and Kynan Darius Chenai who won gold in men's trap event. Tajinderpal Singh Toor who won gold in the men's shot put final event.

THE DAY'S TALLY: 15



STATE GIRL NANDINI CLINCHES BRONZE

India's Nandini Agasara competes during the long jump in the women's heptathlon at the Asian Games in Hangzhou on Sunday.

India's 1st solar roof cycle track now in Hyd

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a significant leap towards an environmentally sustainable future in urban transportation, the country's first solar roof cycle track was inaugurated here by Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Minister KT Rama Rao on Sunday. This innovative track, named Healthway, is the second of its kind globally.

Located on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) between the main carriage-way and service road, the track will be open 24x7,



MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao inaugurated the facility, the second of its kind globally, in Hyderabad on Sunday.

giving a major push to the dedicated bicycling community in the city. It is

also a vital step in the direction of making Hyderabad, the active mobility capital of the country. Speaking at the inauguration of the track, the Minister revealed plans to set up a similar track around the Gandipet Lake and in the Financial District and Neopolis areas.

"This track is a viable and self-sustaining project. The main goal here is to get our kids enthused about cycling and mobility so that they do not have any lifestyle-related illness in the future," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Social welfare students to learn coding from Class VI

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

Coding in schools is not just about preparing the next generation of coding specialists and software professionals but also equipping students with the necessary skills to thrive in a technology-driven world.

This is what the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS) has embarked upon. Catching them young, the Society is imparting coding to students from Class VI itself.

Aiming at creating future coding specialists from marginalised communities, a Coding Academy has been established by the TSWREIS to provide high-quality coding and computing education in a unique residential mode that is the first of its kind in the country.

New campus

While the academy is currently operating from a temporary building in Moinabad, a new residential campus is being set up in Bachupally. (SEE PAGE 2)

CATCHING 'EM YOUNG

- TSWREIS established Coding Academy to provide high-quality coding, computing education
- Academy currently operating from temporary building in Moinabad
- A new residential campus for Coding Academy coming up in Bachupally
- To design curriculum, Society ties up with Raspberry Pi Foundation, UK
- Formal course will be taught from Class VI till undergraduate level apart from regular academics

Hafiz Saeed's close aide killed in Pak

NEW DELHI

A close associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) Hafiz Saeed, Mufti Qaiser Farooq, has been killed by unidentified gunmen in Karachi, Pakistan.

Hafiz Saeed is considered to be the mastermind behind the 26/11 attacks in India. Earlier this month, another cleric Maulana Ziaur Rahman, with ties to Lashkar-e-Taiba was also killed after he was fatally shot by two motorcycle-riding assailants during his routine evening walk in Karachi. IANS