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## Last 5 yrs all about reform, perform, transform: Modi

**PM says outgoing LS took up key reforms**

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the outgoing Lok Sabha saying many decisions, including the repeal of Article 370 and the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, were taken during its tenure for which many generations had long waited while game-changing reforms in the period laid the foundation of a strong India.

Touching on the discussion on the Ram temple construction in Lok Sabha and the House's adoption of a laudatory resolution on the development, Modi said it will give constitutional strength to the future generations to feel proud of the country's values. Speaking on the last day of Parliament's Budget session, he said the last five years were a period of reform, perform and transform with the country moving towards "big changes" at a fast pace.

In a swipe at the opposition which has constantly targeted the BJP over the temple issue, he said, "This



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Interim Budget Session, in New Delhi.

is true that not everyone has the capacity for these things. Some people are brave to face it while others run away from the battlefield. But for the future record, the speeches that were made today have sensitivity, resolve and sympathy... It also takes forward the mantra of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas.' "The country has moved towards big changes at a fast pace and all members of the House made an important contribution. Such works were completed for which people had waited for centuries," he said. For generations,

people dreamt of one Constitution but this House made that possible by removing Article 370, which had given the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir special rights, he said and noted that several other important decisions like the criminalisation of instant triple talaq were taken as well.

"Several challenges were met and the country was given an appropriate direction. We can say with satisfaction that the work for which many generations waited for centuries was accomplished in the 17th Lok Sabha," Modi said. PTI

## Rs 53,196 crore for Six Guarantees

**Bhatti presents Vote-On-Account Budget with Rs 2.75L cr outlay**

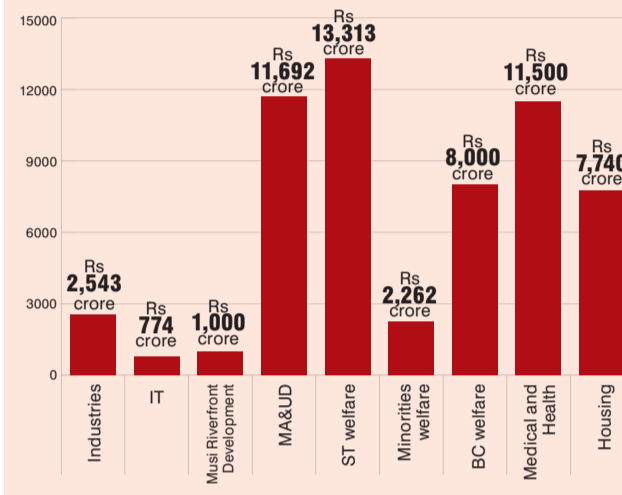
STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

The Congress government on Saturday presented a Vote-On-Account Budget with a truncated outlay of Rs 2,75,891 crore for the financial year 2024-25 against the 2023-24 Budget of Rs 2,90,296 crore. Further, the revised Budget estimates for 2023-24 have been pegged at Rs 2,24,624 crore.

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who tabled the State Budget in the Assembly, declared that a sum of Rs 53,196 crore was allocated for the implementation of the flagship schemes under the promised Six Guarantees.

"Provision of additional funds will be made as required, once a complete assessment is made about the schemes," he said. Introducing the Budget, the Deputy Chief Minister alleged that the previous BRS government had shown huge allocations in the Budget to gain mileage, but did not spend them. To explain the same, he cited an allocation of Rs 17,700 crore made in the Budget for 2021-22 for Dalit Bandhu and alleged that not a single rupee was released. "We dispense with this terrible practice and we have estimated our receipts realistically and have made allocations accordingly. This shows our commitment to match our actions with our words," he added.

### Major allocations



- Panchayat Raj and Rural Development: **Rs 40,080 cr**
- Irrigation: **Rs 28,024 cr**
- SC welfare: **Rs 21,874 cr**
- Education: **Rs 21,389 cr**
- Agriculture: **Rs 19,746 cr**

### Budget let down all sections: BRS

**HYDERABAD:** Almost every section of society has been let down by the Vote-on-Account Budget of the Congress government, said former Finance Minister T Harish Rao. Reacting to the Budget, he said despite the lavish promises made by the party aimed at luring the electorate during the Assembly polls, Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka proved to be tight-fisted. The allocations made by him to key sectors had exposed the yawning gap between the words and deeds of the ruling party, Harish Rao said, adding that the Congress government was certain to incur the ire of the farming community for having made a meagre allocation of Rs 19,746 crore of which nearly Rs 3,000 crore would go for establishment charges such as staff salaries. Waiver of farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh, one of the major electoral promises, would require Rs 40,000 crore while implementation of the enhanced Rythu Bharosa would require an outlay of Rs 22,000 crore. The implementation of all the promises made for the farm sector including Rythu Bima would require not less than Rs 82,000 crore. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Shah hints at new alliances

NEW DELHI

The BJP does not believe in 'family planning' in politics and always welcomes new allies, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted on Saturday and said that talks were on with the Shiromani Akali Dal.

Speaking at an event, Shah also stressed that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) will be implemented before the Lok Sabha polls and predicted the BJP will win 370 seats while the NDA will get

more than 400 seats of the 543 in the elections.

Asked about the possibility of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), headed by Jayant Singh, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and other regional parties joining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the Home Minister said, "We believe in family planning (in general) but not in politics." "We always want our alliance to grow and we always welcome new allies. Our ideology has remained the same since the days of Jan Sangh.

Those who like to join us can come," he said.

When pressed further on the re-entry of SAD in NDA, he said, "Talks are going on but nothing has been finalised." Sukhbir Singh Badal-led SAD had pulled out of the NDA in September 2020 over the now-scrapped three farm laws. On the possibility of joining hands with the TDP, which left the NDA in 2018, or the YSR Congress, Shah said, "Everything is not disclosed in such platforms. Wait for some time." (SEE PAGE 2)

**100 new RTC buses**

HYDERABAD | PAGE 03

**PIO techie dies after assault**

WORLD | PAGE 09



**Kohli opts out of Eng series**

SPORT | PAGE 10



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## Winter Wonderland



**FROZEN ART:** Artists giving final touches to a snow horse-cart sculpture at Sonamarg, in Ganderbal district of Kashmir. — Photo:PTI

## Congress govt hampering Hyd growth: KTR

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao voiced concerns over the first 60 days of the Congress' administration, citing confusion and lack of clarity in their approach. He also said the Congress government was attempting to obstruct the development of Hyderabad with political motives.

Addressing GHMC corporators and others of Sanathnagar constituency, Rama Rao termed the Budget as disappointing. He stated that the Congress government had allocated only Rs 53,000 crore for the implementation of its much-hyped Six Guarantees as against an estimated requirement of Rs 1.25 lakh crore to fulfill all promises. (REPORT PAGE 5)

## Parks to check urban flooding

EPSITA GUNTI  
Hyderabad

In a novel initiative, five parks in Hyderabad have been identified to be part of a pilot project that aims to conserve rainwater and find solutions to the urban flooding problem.

In collaboration with the GHMC, the initiative, taken up by The Rainwater Project, is expected to be completed by March-end. Kakatiya Park in

Habsiguda, KLN Yadav Park, Indira Park, GHMC Park in Sainikpuri, and Techno Park are the five chosen parks for the project where different interventions according to the terrain of the parks will be used to set up rainwater harvesting systems.

"The five parks cover major areas in GHMC, some of which have roads that were inundated in monsoons. Through this project, we hope to avoid a repeat of such situa-

tions. We also want to develop a foolproof system to preserve rainwater," says Dr N Sunanda Rani, Additional Commissioner (UBD), adding that if the project is a success, the GHMC will replicate the system in other areas. The parks are located in low-lying areas, which will enable the researchers to study the terrain and come out with innovative solutions to address the challenge of urban flooding. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 2 die of food poisoning at brick kiln unit

STATE BUREAU  
Peddapalli

Two persons died and 17 others fell sick, allegedly after consuming contaminated food at a brick kiln unit in Goureddypet of Peddapalli mandal.

Though the incident happened on Friday, it came to light on Saturday. Though the police and the brick kiln management claimed that only 11 workers fell sick, a total of 19 labourers devel-

oped health problems after consuming the food. Surprisingly, the funeral of one of the workers who died was performed immediately after the incident by the brick kiln management. According to police, labourers from Odisha, who were working at the MSR brick kiln unit in Goureddypet, fell sick after having lunch at the unit. Unit authorities shifted them to hospitals in Peddapalli and Karimnagar. (SEE PAGE 2)

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