

Interview Preparation content based on residence_1

Topics: Telangana, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Telugu, Mahbubnagar

Previous toppers:

1. Rahul Raj, 2014, AIR 375

Q1: M3: questions on industrial policy and industrial sector of telangana, mission kakatiya, mining in telangana, what is sirisilla famous for, location of power plants in TS, installed power capacity, its usage, where is araku valley, what is it famous for... etc.

Q2. M4: Recent controversy in osmania university, telangana agitation, expectations of telangana people, role of students and KCR(present CM of TS) in telangana movement, jobs to all households, TRS promises before elections, present working of the TRS government, peoples opinion on the present government, are u happy by the formation of telangana.... And many cross questions...

Q3. CM : Asked about Amaravati(Capital of AP), land pooling and Land acquisition.

2. S. Bharat Vaishnov, 2013, CAPF AIR 185

Q.1. Which is the language in India with most native speakers? Next? Next? Next?

A – Hindi > Bengali > Marathi > Telugu

Telangana:

Q.1 What is Telangana's contribution to Indian economy? Anything special about the state budget?

Notes: Highlights of Telangana Economy:

Sector	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Contribution of Telangana in National economy	4.7%	2.9%	5.1%

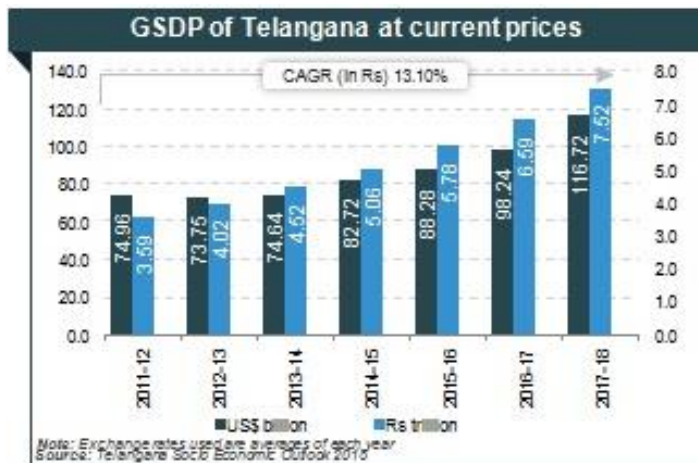
(Telangana Data: Telangana at a glance 2017; National data: Central Statistical Office)

The **GSDP** of Telangana for 2019-20 is ~Rs. 9.5 trillion. (vs. ~Rs. 211 trillion All India, i.e **4.5% of India's GDP**)

	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services
Share (2018-19)	17% (15% AI)	19% (23% AI)	64% (62% AI)
Growth (year on year)	11%	15%	16%

- Telangana contributes to ~**11%** of India's IT exports (INR 1.09 lakh crore, 2018-19) (almost entirely from Hyderabad).
- Hyderabad is the **second largest contributor** to IT export revenue across the country after bengaluru.
- Telangana was ranked **second in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** Rankings, 2018 with a score of 98.28%, trailing by just 0.02 percentage points from Andhra Pradesh, which was ranked first.
- It has the **highest** capacity of solar power commissioned in India in 2017.
- It has the **second highest** number of operational SEZs (30) in India.
- It is the **third largest** producer of long staple cotton in India.
- It has the **third largest** pool of inland fisheries in India.

Between 2011-12 and 2018-19, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) expanded at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 13.40 per cent (in Rupee terms) to Rs 8.67 trillion (US\$ 126.81 billion) whereas the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) expanded at a CAGR of 13.49 per cent to Rs 7.89 trillion (US\$ 115.35 billion).



The capital city of Hyderabad is a hub for information technology (IT) and pharmaceutical sectors. During 2019-19, export of IT products of Telangana was Rs 1.09 lakh crores.

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **cumulative FDI inflows** in Telangana from April 2000 to March 2019, totalled **US\$ 18.46 billion**. Total merchandise exports from the state stood at US\$ 6.57 billion during 2017-18. The **exports** stood at **US\$ 7.23 billion** during 2018-19.

(Source: India Brand Equity Foundation)

Budget highlights (2019-20):

1. GSDP: ~Rs. 9.5 lakh cr.
2. Revenue surplus: ~ Rs. 2000 cr. (0.21% GSDP)
3. Fiscal Deficit: Rs. 24000 Cr. (~2.5% of GSDP)
4. Highest increase in allocation: Energy (61%)
5. Highest decline in allocation: Water supply, sanitation, housing and urban development (69%)

Policy highlights: Crop loan waiver scheme, Increased assistance to Rythu bandhu scheme, Increase in ASARA pension.

Q.2: Did Telangana go from a revenue surplus to revenue deficit state?

Points to note: Revenue surplus in 2014-15 budget was of ~Rs. 300 Cr. The state showed Revenue surplus in 2015-16, 16-17 (~6700 Cr), 17-18. For 2019-20 revenue surplus budgeted was ~2000 Cr. (BE).

But, the CAG has rapped the state for erroneous accounting. According to CAG, the state had revenue surplus of ~1300 Cr in 2016-17 and deficit of ~285 cr in 2017-18.

* In 2016-17, Telangana had highest own tax revenue (OTR) to GSDP of 7.34% amongst all 29 states as compared to average OTR of 6.27% of all States.

* Except in the initial months, the State has not received any GST compensation. The growth rate of GST revenue for State of Telangana was 20% against 14.7% for Andhra Pradesh from April to Dec., 2018 over the same period last year.

Reasons for Surplus to deficit transition: Hiked salaries for employees, crop loan waiver scheme (Rs. 6000 Cr), fee reimbursement, Social security pensions (Rs. 12600), Increased rice quota for BPL families etc. In 2018, there was addition of Rythu Bandhu scheme (Rs. 12000 Cr), and in 2019 addition of unemployment allowance of Rs. 3016 pm (Rs. 1800 Cr).

In 2019-20 budget: Rs. 6,000 Cr allocated for crop loan waiver, Rs. 12,000 Cr allocated to Rythu Bandhu, and under ASARA pension scheme, pension was doubled. Old age pension eligibility was lowered from 65yrs to 57yrs. Rs. 12,600 Cr allocated for the same. Rs. ~1800 Cr went to unemployment allowance.

Q.3: Is it justified?

A – While income support schemes to farmers like Rythu Bandhu are definitely welcome, the long term effects of prioritizing pension expenditure over education might be negative. (The expenditure on education is ~7.5% in compared to ~16% for other states). Crop loan waiver too is a populist measure that is not sustainable in the long run.

Status of the economy (As of Feb 2019) (N.K.Singh on livemint): Stating that Telangana chief minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao is not guided by a “pessimistic view” of “conventional economics”, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission N.K. Singh on Tuesday said that the new state, however, has a **fiscal deficit** that “looks somewhat stressed”. Singh made the remarks, in which he also lauded the state for its **growth trajectory** and its major irrigation projects, after a tour across the state over the last three days during which he met various stakeholders.

"I can say that he acted with both audacity and panache. He (Rao) believes that economic growth and wealth maximization (through **welfare schemes** like Rythu Bandhu and other projects) will have **multiple gains** for the people of Telangana," Singh said while addressing a press conference after his three-day tour ended on Tuesday. The 15th Finance Commission chairman, however, hit the caution button over Telangana's "**unsound development**".

He pointed out that the **four districts (Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Malkajgiri and Medchal) out of the 33 contribute 52% of the gross state domestic product**, while some of the others are below the average. While stating that Telangana's **growth rate touched 20%** (from April to December 2018) as against the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh's 14%, Singh, however, said that a roadmap was also required to address the **fiscal deficit, which rose sharply** from 3.26% of GSDP in 2015-16 to 5.35% in 2016-17 (The fiscal deficit has, however, come down to 3.12% in 2017-18).

In his observations, Singh also noted that in 2016-17, Telangana had the **highest own tax revenue (OTR) to GSDP of 7.34% amongst all 29 states** as compared to average OTR of 6.27% of all states in India. "Except in the initial months, the state has not received any GST compensation," he added and also termed Rao's flagship drinking water '**Mission Bhagiratha**' scheme as a "**great vision**".

Q.4: What are the problems faced by the people of the state?

A – (i) Higher Urbanization than the national average. About one fifth population lives in or near Hyderabad. Enormous burden on civic infrastructure. Rapid development of slums.

(ii)- High percentage of population which is **marginalized**.

(iii)- Large **tribal** population.

(iv) – Non- homogeneous **distribution** of marginalized sections creates further divisions and issues such as inclusion/exclusion in special category list. Eg. Lambadis and mala-madigas issue.

(v) – High **indebtedness** among marginalized sections. Institutional credit penetration to Scheduled Castes is still negligible.

(vi) – High percentage of educated youth without employable **skills**. There is a strong need for skill development. 62% of youth had attainments above the secondary level in 2011-12 but 96% did not have any technical education.

(vii) – High number of **unskilled** and semi-skilled workers. Higher labor force participation rate (67%) than national average (53%) but lack of industrial development. There is a massive skill deficit.

(viii) – Uneven regional distribution of income, coupled with **uneven growth** led to widening regional disparities. Progress is also uneven across ethnic groups.

(ix) – Lower **literacy** rate (66% vs 73% average), slow growth of literacy, and increasing shift towards private education shows low confidence in public education. About a third households in rural telangana have no adult literates.

(x) – High **malnutrition** among women, and an overwhelmingly large population of women who are widowed especially in rural areas.

Q.5: What is this bus strike issue? What should be done to avoid it elsewhere?

Notes - TSRTC employees have listed 26 demands. These include merger of the TSRTC with the state government, which would make them eligible to a number of perks and benefits; reimbursement of government dues to TSRTC; and an allocation of 1% of the state Budget to TSRTC. Other demands include job security for drivers and conductors; and immediate reimbursement of a salary hike due since April 1, 2017. TSRTC union leader said employees called for the strike also because they felt the government was preparing to privatise the corporation.

The Govt is unwilling to talk with them because they went on strike during Dussera which is the most important festival in the state. Lakhs travel to their homes during the week. It caused immense hardship to the public. The CM's contention is that TSRTC incurs losses to the tune of Rs. 1,200 Cr and has debts of Rs. 5,000 Cr. Privatization would make it profitable. The Govt plan as of early November is to privatize half the routes.

As of early November, the HC has allowed the decision to privatise half of the bus routes. Strike is continuing over uncertainty about whether striking employees would be allowed to resume duties.

To avoid such situations elsewhere, steps should be taken to improve efficiency of the RTC and employee resentment needs to be assessed on a regular basis. For improving efficiency lessons should be learnt from the profitable RTCs in the country – MSRTC (Mh), KSRTC (Ka), BMTC (Bengaluru). These RTCs are run like professional organizations and have automatic fare revision systems. There is minimal political interference. In other states Govts compel RTCs to provide discounts to students, senior citizens and other categories of passengers, and then do not pay their dues on time. Instead the RTCs should run independently and governments should directly pay the discounts to the eligible passengers like DBT scheme for LPG cylinders using Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile linkage.

A strong public transport system is key to reducing urban congestion and GHG emissions. Allowing private operators to run the system may go against public priorities.

Q.6: The CM of Telangana has one of the strongest mandates in the country. What caused it?

Notes: Being a revenue surplus state with one of the highest percentage of own tax revenue; the Integrated Household Survey, 2015; and updation and digitization of land records early on allowed the first Telangana govt to plan and implement very successful schemes such as:

- (i) The services sector may be the driver of the economy but agriculture is more important politically. Nearly 55% of the state's workforce depends on agriculture. Most of the state is in semi-arid region. To increase drought resilience the TRS government has invested significantly in irrigation (~14% of budget vs 4.5% average). Kaleshwaram project is the largest irrigation project in India.
- (ii) The Rythu Bandhu Scheme (discussed elsewhere) was a huge success politically. The updated land records before launching the scheme proved immensely useful.

- (iii) A quarter of the state's population is of vulnerable sections – SC/ST. 8.5% of budget was targeted towards these sections, highest in the country. The Integrated Household Survey in 2015 allowed him to customize his welfare schemes. Other welfare schemes like increased pensions for senior citizens, widows, persons with disability proved very popular.
- (iv) The state's tax revenues have grown at CAGR of 25% between 2014-15 to 2018-19.
- (v) With respect to Central Schemes, in Telangana, compared with the rest of India, more National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) payments are made in time, more toilets have been constructed as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA), and more road works completed as part of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGYS).

Q.7: Is it helping the state?

A – The strong mandate has definitely helped the government go ahead with quick implementation of the programs. It allows them to have a vision and work for it, especially in fields like Information Technology. Eg. Telangana is leading among the states with respect to building of AI infrastructure. It is the first state to have an MoU with NASSCOM to have a center of excellence on AI and the second state to have an open data policy to encourage start-ups to come up with data driven solutions to public problems.

On the other hand, since there is effectively no opposition, the quality and quantity of debate on policies is low. The govt's refusal to meet with striking RTC members even after a month, and their decision to demolish heritage structures for a new assembly etc are situations where effective opposition would have helped.

Q.8: Mission Bhagiratha – evaluation?

Notes: Mission Bhagiratha is project aimed at providing safe drinking water across the state of Telangana. Budgeted at ~Rs.44,000 Cr, it was launched in 2016 by PM Modi.

Aim: Supplying 100L clean water per head per day in rural areas, 135 L in municipal towns and 150L in cities (Except Hyderabad which has its own water supply board). Water is mainly sourced from Godavari and Krishna rivers by creating a grid of reservoirs. In total 55 lakh

rural households and 20 lakh urban households will be benefitted. All 25,000 habitations will be covered.

Status: About 90% of the storage, pipeline and other infrastructure works have been completed (claimed). In Feb'19, the deposit for new tap connections was reduced from Rs. 6000 to Rs. 100 for general households and Re.1 for BPL households. The rural households will be supplied for free.

In Nov'19, Union Water Minister said the center will examine the possibility of replicating the project nationwide for Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

Concerns: In April'19 due to dwindling water supply, a major portion was diverted to drinking needs of people, mostly located in urban areas. This triggered massive protests by farmers in a few districts. In one district, farmers reportedly resorted to damaging the drinking water pipelines laid under the Mission Bhagiratha Project.

Q. 9: Mission Kakatiya – evaluation?

Notes – Mission Kakatiya is a programme for restoring all minor irrigation tanks and lakes in Telangana. In a semi-arid state like Telangana, tanks are a major source of water for irrigation. The name is a tribute to Kakatiya rulers who developed a large number of tanks to support agriculture.

It was announced in 2014. The plan is to restore 46,000 tanks in five phases in five years.

A major component of the programme is to provide farmers with silt removed from tanks. This silt has been shown to significantly improve land productivity.

The budget for irrigation and flood control is about 60,000 Cr in the 2017-20 period (includes actual and budgeted estimates). This includes Kaleshwaram project and mission Kakatiya.

Status: While the programme has been lauded for its vision, implementation has been tardy. The CAG audited the work done in the first 3 phases (i.e. upto 2017) and reported that the irrigation department could complete only 28% of the target. Unrealistic targets and major delays have been cited as reasons.

Nevertheless, visiting teams from University of Michigan and University of Chicago are studying the impact of the programme and have shown positive effects in their preliminary findings though not to the extent projected.

Q. 10. Haritha haram scheme – evaluation?

Notes: ‘Telangana ku Haritha Haram’ is a large scale tree plantation program aimed at improving the state’s forest cover from 24% to 33%. Launched in 2015, it is said to be the **third largest sapling plantation programme in the world**. The target was to plant 230 Cr trees by 2019. The fifth phase began with the rainy season of 2019.

Various **planting models** include Avenue plantation (highways and roads), Block plantation (panchayat lands), Institutional plantation (schools, colleges, govt institutions etc), Tank fore shore plantation (along tanks), Homestead plantation (residential areas), agro-forestry plantation (farmland), Barren Hill plantation. NREGS funds are used for installing plant guards. Budget allocation was 1200 Cr in 2018-19. **Geo-tagging** is being used to monitor the plant growth. Also, **seed bombing** technique is used which involves preparing seed balls with earth, manure and other nutrients and dropping them on hilly tracts and remote locations.

Status: The govt has claimed that the first four phases were a success. The official site mentions 63 Cr saplings planted till July’17. (No independent review found.)

Concerns: Survival of the saplings is a big concern. The Minister of Forests claimed that 67% of 48 Cr saplings planted in first two phases survived, calling it a success. An RTI query showed that survival rate of *eetha chattu* (Phoenix plant) was less than half in many districts. The same query showed mistakes in numbers recorded (at one place more survived than planted), and unrealistic number of field visits. Other grievances include shortage of saplings, low diversity of ones being used and poor quality of the ones available. A sapling must be at least 5 years old to be suitable for plantation, but the timelines do not permit it. Officials have also reported paucity of funds.

Q. 11 (a): What’s special about the Pharma industry in Telangana?

Notes: With 800 plus pharma, biotech and medical technology companies in the state, Telangana already has a combined industry value of \$50 billion. The state currently boasts of having one of the largest life sciences sector in Asia, accounting for 35-40% of the national pharma production. The Genome Valley near Hyderabad, one of Asia's premium biotech and research and development hubs, is a case in point.

The Telangana government is looking to leverage the life sciences and pharmaceutical sector to create a \$100 billion industry in the coming decade. It plans to do so with initiatives such as the upcoming Hyderabad Pharma City--a 19,000 acre area catering to set up a value chain pharma industry, Genome Valley 2.0, a medical devices park, and the Biological Scale-up manufacturing facility (B-Hub).

(Source: livemint.com)

Q. 11 (b): Pharma City – speciality? Status?

Notes: The Pharma City is a proposed Pharmaceutical Industrial Park near Hyderabad announced in 2014. It would be spread over 19,000 acres. Over a 100 large industries and 200 MSMEs have submitted expression of interest. The park seeks to create the entire value chain of pharmaceuticals including R&D, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, biological manufacturing etc. It would also include a Pharma University.

The govt has estimated that while the cost of development of Infrastructure would be ~16,000 Cr, it would generate investments of about Rs. 64,000 Cr, and provide direct and indirect employment to more than 5 lakh persons.

Concerns have been raised with respect to methods being used for land acquisition, unfair compensation, waste generation (20kg waste in solid, liquid, and gaseous form for every kg of finished product), damage to wildlife, threat of 'superbugs' etc.

Q.12: What is the status of Kaleshwaram project? How successful is lift irrigation?

Notes: The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) is world's largest lift irrigation project. It has been designed to irrigate 45 lakh acres of land for two crops in a year besides meeting the drinking water requirements of 70% of the state. Built near the confluence of Godavari and Pranahita at Kaleshwaram.

Budget: Rs. 80,500 Cr.

Water supply: Lifting 2TMC (Thousand Million Cubic Feet) per day

Duration: Record time of 3 years (2016-19)

Other lift irrigation projects:

- Palamuru Rangareddy lift irrigation – Krishna River – 12.3 lakh acres – Rs. 35,000 Cr.
- Vidya Sagar Rao Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme, Nalgonda – to aide fluoride affected people in the district.
- Sri Seetharama Project, Khammam district.

Advantages of lift irrigation: Supply of water to higher reaches, fewer land acquisition issues, low water losses, less requirement of man-power.

Concerns: Massive requirement of power supply: 5GW. The power supply bill will be huge. State government will have to be cautious about this.

Q. 13: Issue of inclusion of Lambadis in ST list?

Notes: While Adivasis are traditional forest-dwelling communities known to be the original inhabitants of the forest areas of Telangana, Lambadas are a nomadic community that is believed to have migrated from Rajasthan to other states several centuries ago.

In 1976, Lambadas – also called Sugalis or Banjaras – were included in the list of Scheduled Tribes by the government of undivided Andhra Pradesh. Telangana continues this categorisation. In contrast, Karnataka classifies Lambadas as Scheduled Castes while Maharashtra includes them in the Other Backward Classes.

By 2011, Lambadas accounted for 64% of Telangana's 3.2 million Scheduled Tribes population. The state has 33 communities listed as Scheduled Tribes.

In the Adilabad region, Adivasis allege the Lambada community has cornered a disproportionate share of the 6% Scheduled Tribes reservation in government jobs, pushing them further down the ladder of development.

The underlying fault lines between Adivasis and Lambadas came to the fore in October, 2017 when protests erupted in Jodeghat.

While the demands of Adivasi protestors have centred on the question of reservation in education and government jobs, their anger extends to becoming disempowered labourers in their own lands. Moreover, while the farm crisis poses a common struggle for both communities, the difference between them appears to lie in their access to education and jobs. Adivasis allege that since most teachers are from Lambada community, they do not address the problems of adivasi children. Due to a language barrier, adivasi children are labelled as slow-learners.

The Lambadas, on the other hand, claim that they got the jobs because of their hard work and merit.

The truth is that the Lambada community was faster in adapting to changing conditions and taking up jobs as municipal workers, auto, Ola and Uber drivers etc.

Across the region, however, both Adivasi and Lambada settlements appear to face the same crisis of water scarcity, failing crops, high interest rates imposed by moneylenders, delay in loans from banks because of poor payment record and increased dependence on non-agricultural work.

Conclusion: It cannot be denied that both communities are marginalized and need institutional support like reservation. As to the question of disproportionate benefits going to one community, the govt will have to come up with innovative solutions like the EWS reservation or Creamy layer criterion to democratise the distribution of benefits. At the end

of the day, this is a problem of rationalization of reservation as much as of representation. Bringing both communities to the table and proactively engaging them will be a good start.

Q.14: What is the employment scenario in telangana pre and post creation of the state? Is it worsening?

Notes: During the Telangana statehood agitation, lakhs of youth and students participated hoping for greater employment opportunities in the separate state.

- During 2014-18, only about 38,000 vacancies were approved and about 15,000 were filled through TSPSC.
- In 2018, for 700 posts of village revenue officers and village revenue assistants, five lakh persons applied including PhD, MBA, MA, M.Tech graduates.

Telangana has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, especially among the youth. 2 reports laid out the employment statistics recently. Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2017-18 and the PLFS Quarterly bulletin (Oct-Dec 18).

- In the Quarterly Bulletin, unemployment rate in Telangana among the youth (15-29) in urban areas is around 33% compared to All-India figure of 24%.

- In 2017-18, Telangana had the 7th highest unemployment rate within the states of 7.6%. National rate was at 6.1%.

Initiatives: The govt has started the Telangana Nirudyoga Bruthi Scheme to provide financial assistance of Rs. 3016 to the unemployed youth of the state.

For skill development, the state has taken active steps like launching Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) and 'Skills on Wheels Program'. (Skills on wheels – to train youth in renewable energy space. A mobile van retrofitted with solar modules travels to rural areas and a 30 day program combining theory and practicals is given).

Concerns: A draft Skill Development Policy was prepared and opened for discussion, but was not finalized.

Q.15: What are the art and crafts Telangana is famous for? Which community propagates it?

Notes: (From Telangana Tourism website)

Pembarthi Brassware –



Pembarthi, Warangal district. 800 years old tradition. Witnessed glory under Kakatiya Patronage. Workers belong to the 'Vishwakarma community'.

Telangana temples bear their signature style, since most of them were built under Kakatiya patronage. The craft evolved under Muslim rule and now incorporates both traditional hindu and muslim elements. It has a GI tag.

Cheriyal Scroll painting:



Cheriyal Village, Siddipet district. Distinct local invention, depicting local traditions and stories from puranas and epics. Earlier they were painted in narrative format similar to a film roll. These days single images are also being painted. Unique characteristics: vivid hues

with mostly primary colours, predominantly red background. Iconography of major deities like Vishnu and Shiva. Major themes are Krishna Leela, Mahabharata, Ramayana, Shiva Puranam, Markandey Puranam, along with folk stories of Gauda, Madiga and other local communities. Main narrative involved rural life such as women working kitchen chores, men working in fields, festivals etc. The costume and settings reflect culture of Telangana. Has a GI tag.

Nirmal paintings and toys:



Nirmal town, Nirmal district (erstwhile Adilabad District). Influenced by Kangra school, Mughal miniatures, Ajanta paintings. Patronized by both Kakatiya and Mughal rulers. Paintings depict mythological scenes, as well as local elements like the grace of a dancer, musicians rhythm to birds, panoramic nature settings etc. Nirmal toys are distinctive in their use of lacquer.

Batik Paintings:



Popular form of Fabric painting. More than a thousand years old. Originated in Indonesia. Uses wax-resist dye technique in textiles. Wax prevents dye from getting absorbed, but dye seeps in through cracks. So varied usage of wax gives varied shades of the dye. Giving it a rich hue.

Bidri Metal craft –



Originated in Bidar, Karnataka under Bahmani patronage. Brought to Hyderabad by Nizams. Silver engraved on metal. Has a GI tag. Designs of flowers, leaves, geometric designs. Stylized poppy plants, human figures etc are used. Paan holders, hookahs, vases, ornament boxes, earrings, and showpiece items are commonly made.

Dokra metal craft:



Ancient bell metal craft practiced by Ojha metal smiths living in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odhisha, WB, and Telangana (Adilabad distt). Use lost-wax technique that was also found in

Mohenjo-daro. Mainly made in brass. Designs use metal figurines, elephants, folk motifs, peacocks, horses, household articles etc.

Pochampalli Handlooms:



Pochampally village, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district. Known for Ikat designs and weaves. Fabric used is cotton, silk or sico (mix of silk and cotton). Has a GI tag. The village made it to UNESCO tentative world heritage list under the title 'Iconic saree weaving clusters of India'. This handloom has a good market in India and abroad. The Pochampally handloom weavers' Cooperative society has a turnover of Rs. 2.5 Cr annually.

Silver Filigree:



Karimnagar region. Ancient metal work. Roots traced to French and Italian metal work of 17th century. Artifacts use silver alloys. A platinum polish sometimes ushers a brilliant glare. Created by delicately twisting silver wires and soldering them. Used to give an intricate lace like appearance.

Gadwal handlooms:



Handloom Zari sarees. 5 metres of saree can be folded in something as small as a match box. Characteristic cotton sarees that comes with attached silk border (pallu). Pallu is made of Tussar or mulberry silk and body of unbleached cotton. Popular for durability of colours and fabric.

Pearls – Hyderabad is known as ‘city of pearls’. Pearl trade was patronized by Nizams and Qutb shahis. Largest trading center for pearls in India. Stores more than a century old are still running. Hyderabad is also one of the largest pearl drilling centers of the country. Also exported to overseas market.

Narayanpet handlooms -



Narayanpet town, same district. Fusion of Telangana and Maratha style. It is said that King Shivaji once rested at this place and a few weavers from his convoy settled in the village. Characteristic checked surface design with intricate borders. The borders are accompanied by alternating bands of various shades. Cotton silk blends and light pure silk sarees are the best models. Known for durability of colours. Due to affordability, durability and low-maintenance these sarees are quite popular.

Banjara embroidery:



Worn by the nomadic tribe of Banjaras who are originally from Rajasthan. They moved to Deccan region during Aurangzeb's tenure and spread all over. The embroidery of Kutch and Gujarat banjaras is different from Telangana Banjaras. It features intricate geometric designs, bright colourful threads, and copious use of beads, shells and mirrors. Mirror usage is a distinctive feature of this design. Apart from attire, this needlework is also done on bags, purses, belts, cushions, quilts etc.

(Credit for pictures and information: Telangana Tourism Portal)

Q.16: Who are the important freedom fighters from Telangana?

Notes:

1. Chityala Ailamma – She was an activist and worked actively against the Nizam's tyranny. Her act of defiance against the local Zamindar to cultivate her own land became an inspiration for many during the Telangana rebellion against landlords.

2. Komaram Bheem – He was a Gond tribal leader who led a prolonged tribal revolt against the Asaf Jahi Dynasty's autocratic rule, and died in the 1940 revolt. He gave the slogan "Jal, Jungle, Zameen". The district Komaram Bheem Asifabad was named against him.

3. P V Narasimha Rao – He played a role in the Vande Mataram movement in Hyderabad state in late 1930s (his teenage). His major contribution to our nation are post-independence, including bringing the LPG reforms, laying the groundwork for Pokhran II tests, and land reforms, strict implementation of land ceiling act in Telangana region as CM of AP.

4. **Raavi Narayana Reddy** – A prominent member of Andhra Mahasabha, he played a major role in Hyderabad liberation movement and Telangana rebellion. He was one of the founding members of Communist Party of Telangana during 1940s. In his opposition to the Nizam's rule he was supported by **Makhdoom Mohiuddin** who was also a leader of the communist party at the time.

5. **Konda Laxman Bapuji** – He participated in the Quit India movement. But he is more popular for his role in 1952 Mulki agitation (demanding jobs for locals), and the 1969 Telangana agitation.

6. **Kaloji Narayana Rao** – He was awarded Padma Vibhushan (1992) for his contribution to literary and social fields. He was inspired by Arya Samaj movement (especially the civil rights part of it), the library movement and the Andhra Maha Sabha movement. He was imprisoned by the Nizam for his participation in the Hyderabad liberation movement. His active involvement with the masses and their problems and his tireless struggle for their emancipation have naturally earned him in equal measure the love of the people and the wrath of the powers that be. He is popularly known as 'Praja Kavi'.

7. **Mallu Swarajyam** – Leading member of CPI and freedom fighter. At age 11, she responded to the call of Andhra Mahasabha to end bonded labour by distributing rice to bonded labourers going against her family. She became the commander of a 'dalam' fighting against zamindars and carried a prize of Rs.10,000 on her head placed by the Nizam.

Other prominent freedom fighters from Telangana include **Madapati Hanumantha Rao** (Padma Bhushan, founded Andhra Mahasabha), **Daasaradhi Krishnamacharyulu**, **KV Ranga Reddy**, **P. Sadasiva Rao** (cousin of PVNR and founder of Kakatiya Patrika), **Dasaradhi Rangacharya** (translated Vedas into Telugu, wrote novels in local dialect, won National Literature Award), **Swami Ramananda Tirtha**, **Doddi Komarayya** (liberated podu land from zamindars and started autonomous governments in 3000 villages against the Nizam rule), **Baddam Yella Reddy**, **Devulapalli Venkateshwar Rao**, **Arutla Ramchandra Reddy**.

Q. 17: Number of districts? Why changed so many times?

Notes: Timeline: 2014: 10 Districts; 2016: 31 Districts; 2019: 33 Districts.

Reason: In 2016, before district reorganization, Telangana's average population and area per district stood at 3.6 million and 11,000 sq. km, compared to a national average of 1.8 million and 4,000 sq. km, respectively.

Creation of new districts was a promise in the manifesto and had massive public support. The new districts were created based on population, sociocultural factors and ease of administration.

In smaller districts, the distance between the district headquarters and remote areas is shortened, to better monitor government schemes and ensure law and order.

Backward Districts – Bhupalapally, Asifabad, Khammam are in center's 115 backward district list (Jan'18) for "Transformation of Aspirational districts". These districts are lagging in education, health, nutrition, basic infrastructure like rural road connectivity, rural household electrification, access to potable water and individual toilets.

Q.18: Festivals of Telangana?

Notes: Important traditional festivals of Telangana include:

Bathukamma – This the flower festival of Telangana. It comes during the latter half of monsoon and continues till Durgashtmi. It is celebrated for 9 days during Durga Navratri. The women folk normally go back to their parents' house and make small 'bathukammas'. They sing songs circling it and celebrate sisterhood. The festival ends with immersion of Bathukamma flowers into a nearby waterbody. Bathukamma celebrates the inherent relationship between earth, water and human beings. It is a symbol of Telangana's cultural identity.

Bonalu – It is a festival worshipping Goddess Mahakali. Celebrated in twin cities of Hyderabad, secunderabad, and other parts of the state during Ashada masam (July/Aug). Bonalu is worship of Goddess Kali in her various forms such as Mysamma, Pochamma, Yellamma, Dokkalamma, Pedamma, Poleramma, Ankamma, Maremma, Nookamma etc.

Women carrying earthen pots on their heads to make offering to the goddess is a common scene. The pots are adorned with neem leaves, turmeric and vermillion.

Dussehra – Same as rest of the country. More popular in Telangana than Diwali (as opposed to North India).

Ramzan – Ramzan is believed to be the month in which the Quran was revealed. Fasting is done by able-bodied men, women and children who have reached puberty. The biggest congregation is witnessed at Mecca Masjid near charminar. The city of Hyderabad with its rich Muslim heritage comes vibrantly alive during this month. Stalls of 'haleem' are seen at every street and corner, a dish cherished for breaking the fast.

Muharram – Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and the second holiest month after Ramzan. The tenth day of muharram is known as Ashura. It is the day when Shia muslims mourn the martyrdom of Husayn Ibn Ali. In Telangana it is marked by processions in which many hindus participate along with muslims, chanting 'ya hussain'. Also, thousands of hindus visit Sufi Shrines on this day. The Badeshai Ashurkhana in Hyderabad has a rich 400 yr old history and receives huge crowds on this day. The festival is also celebrated in rural areas close to Sufi shrines or Dargahs.

Sammakka-Saarakka Jatra - Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara held by forest dwelling Koya tribe of Telangana and surrounding States, is the biggest Tribal festival in Asia which is attended by one crore people on an average. It commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers (Kakatiya rulers) against an unjust law (forcible taxes). The Jatara begins at Medaram in Warangal District. It is located in Eturanagaram Wild Life sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya.

Q.19: Revenue official murdered at work...Why? How to avoid it?

Notes: Vijaya Reddy, a tehsildar in Abdullapurmet in was burnt alive by an angry land owner. The incident comes amid growing resentment in Telangana over alleged discrepancies that have cropped up in land records in the course of an ongoing digitisation drive. The accused was furious about the authorities not fixing errors in his documents despite making multiple trips to the revenue office. The accused's family was fighting a court case over a property.

The incident was also a lapse in security. The accused managed to sneak in a bottle of kerosene into the tehsildar's office. Also, the accused managed to lock the room from inside, which delayed any help the victim could get.

There has been an increase in complaints of irregularities and corruption in filing land records over the last few months. Many state welfare programmes such as Rythu Bandhu, which provides investment support per acre of land, are linked to property ownership.

The revenue officials have claimed that the Dharani (Land Records Website) website is full of errors. Due to these errors there are several litigation in land records. When they apprise the District Collectors of the situation, they ask the revenue officials to handle the situation. Farmers, on the other hand, assume that the revenue officials deliberately delay the issues. Apparently it is a structural problem. The farmers are mostly illiterate and don't understand the legalities.

The revenue department also has a reputation of being corrupt. Individual officials may be different but this reputation does make the farmers more aggressive towards all officials in the department. Also, the CM had promised a new Revenue Act a few months ago, to root out corruption in the department. This was an official endorsement of the corruption.

Measure to prevent such incidents:

1. Errors in Dharani portals should be corrected in mission mode.
2. Prajavani is Telangana's centralized grievance redressal portal. It needs to be strengthened and made transparent and accessible so that the common man does not feel the need to take drastic steps.
3. Strengthening of RTI.
4. Recruitment of greater judicial officers and speeding up adjudication of land disputes.

Q.20: What made Rythu Bandhu scheme so successful? And why didn't PM Kisan Yojana make the same impact?

Notes: The Rythu Bandhu scheme is an income support scheme for landed farmers in Telangana. The government provides Rs. 8,000 (now Rs. 10,000) per acre to each farmer per

year. The budget was Rs. 12,000 Cr. in 2018-19. The scheme was considered a huge success and has been replicated by the center (PM Kisan scheme), AP (Annadata Sukhibhava), Odisha (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme).

Reasons for success of the scheme:

- Before announcing the scheme, an intensive survey and verification of land records was done across more than 10,000 villages. Land records have been digitized under previous governments.
- Compared to farm loan waivers or price support measures to pacify farmers' unions, income transfers are more equitable and do not impact either the banking ecosystem (leading to defaults by farmers and banks advancing lower volumes of fresh credit) or crop choices (like growing sugarcane in water-scarce Maharashtra).
- Cheaper than farm loan waiver.
- Quick and timely implementation.
- Inclusive, easy to administer and less prone to leakage because of digitization and the Jan Dhan – Aadhar – Mobile infrastructure.

Comparison with PM Kisan scheme: PM Kisan scheme- Small and marginal farmers with less than five acres will receive Rs. 6000 every year in three instalments. The amount transferred under PM Kisan is meagre compared to Rythu Bandhu (since it is independent of land size). Also, not all states have digitized land records so identifying beneficiaries is a problem, especially since PM Kisan scheme is only for small and marginal farmers.

Criticism of Rythu Bandhu scheme –

- 1.5 million tenant farmers are left out. They cultivate about 30% land in Telangana. Even landless agricultural labourers are left out.
- Rich farmers with bigger land size benefit more. Number of farmers who own >25 acres of land is more than 60,000. They benefit >2 lakh a year from the scheme. Land ceiling act puts a ceiling of 50 acres per farmer but many have more than that registered under their name. Implementation of the act is not finished yet.

- Absentee landlords are benefitted. About 40% of the money goes to people who are not agriculturists according to one estimate.

Improvements over the scheme:

Odisha govt scheme includes 90% of the state's farmers as it includes landless rural households. Farmers receive Rs. 10,000 every year while landless rural households Rs. 12,500 for investment in fisheries and animal husbandry.

In AP, farmers eligible for PM Kisan scheme will get an additional Rs. 9000 per annum. Farmers who own >5acres, not eligible for PM Kisan will get Rs. 10,000 per year, while tenant farmers will get Rs. 15,000 per year.

Andhra and Odisha are more progressive with regard to the input subsidy schemes by including tenant farmers, and are giving more money to small and marginal farmers.

Q.21: The 2BHK scheme – evaluation?

Notes: The Telangana government's 2BHK Scheme, also referred to as the 'Dignity Housing Scheme', offers homes to eligible beneficiaries free of cost. Although the scheme is very popular, it has missed its deadline due to paucity of funds. The estimated cost of the project is 22000 Cr of which 3200 Cr has been sanctioned as of Sept. 2019.

Target: 5.7 lakh houses.

Beneficiaries: BPL families, and owner would be a female member of the household.

Other amenities: The budget includes water supply lines, electricity lines, roads, drainage etc. Electricity is proposed to be provided under center's Saubhagya Scheme.

Status: By June 2019 only about 23,000 houses constructed. Shortage of funds is a major hurdle. The state government has proposed to merge it with PMAY to fast track the process.

Snippet: The 2BHK scheme received the HUDCO design award in 2018.

Q.22: What is your opinion on Muslim Reservation issue?

Notes: The Telangana backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes (reservation of seats in educational institutions and of appointments or posts in services under the state)

bill, 2017 seeks to provide 12% reservation to backward sections among Muslims in Govt Jobs and educational institutions. It would breach the 50% reservation cap but follows the 69% limit of Tamilnadu. It has not been approved by the center and is also subject to Supreme Court's judgement.

Currently backward sections of Muslims already have 4% reservation.

In the proposed legislation social groups like Syeds, Pathans, Arab, Bohras, Memons etc are excluded. It seeks to implement recommendations of Sachar Committee report. A majority of Muslims are daily wage earners and mostly self-employed doing petty works for a living. According to Rajinder Sachar committee report, the condition of Muslims is worse than Dalits.

Q.23: Solar power status in Telangana – evaluation?

Notes – As of Sept, 2019, Telangana has the second highest solar capacity in the country after Karnataka at 3.8 GW. It is on course to reach 5GW by 2020.

The state has opted for decentralized distributed solar installation projects, as opposed to the solar park model. In the park model a huge capacity comes up at a single location making its management relatively tougher and needing additional infrastructure. The state has encouraged projects across over 180 locations, instead of concentration of energy in solar parks. The distributed model has saved about Rs. 500Cr. – 50Cr in T&D losses and 450Cr in a transmission network. The cost of solar power has been brought down to Rs. 2.40 per unit.

The state is tweaking its solar policy as it is keen that new projects are tendered out, come up at attractive prices, factoring the drop in cost of solar modules, and related equipment etc. The govt has recently floated tenders for another 1000MW worth of projects.

Q.24 – River water sharing issues?

Notes: 2 rivers' water has to be shared – Krishna and Godavari.

Krishna water sharing: The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal II under Brajesh Kumar allocated water in 2013 as :

AP: 1001 TMC; Karnataka: 907 TMC; Maharashtra: 666 TMC

After Telangana state formation in 2014, the tribunal decided to divide the allocation to AP between the two states. Hearings are ongoing. The final award has not been declared.

In Aug.'19, AP and Telangana agreed to share the waters according to the old formula of 66:34.

Godavari water sharing: The Godavari Water Dispute tribunal under Sri Bachawat gave its award in 1980. It allowed each of the states (MH,MP,AP,Or) to freely utilize flow of the river and the tributaries up to a certain level. After the formation of Telangana, the Godavari water and specifically Polavaram project became a bone of contention because of submergence of villages in Telangana and Odisha. It is now a national project and center is trying to get all states to go along. The Polavaram dispute is pending before the Supreme Court.

Overall: About 4000 TMC water is available in Krishna and Godavari rivers for the two states. Of this about 3000 TMC goes into the sea. The two CMs have decided to amicably share the waters. There is a plan to share the waters of Godavari and transfer it to Srisailem reservoir on Krishna river. This will allow water to reach unirrigated regions of southern Telangana and Rayalseema in AP therefore benefitting farmers from both states.

Q.25 – Industrial development policy, 2014 – evaluation?

Notes- Telangana's industrial policy has been well appreciated. Some of the salient features are: (Source: telangana.gov.in)

- Telangana is the first state in India to bestow on investors the right to get clearance for their projects within a set time-limit. It also makes the state liable for penal action if it fails to respond to investment proposals within the time frame.
- All the mega projects (> Rs. 200 Cr) will get clearance in 15 days, while other projects will be approved in a month. There is also a provision of automatic approval system on submission of a self-certification.
- **Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self Certification System (TS-IPASS) Act, 2014** - A bill to provide speedy processing for issue of various licenses,

clearances and certificates required for setting up of industrial undertakings for the promotion of industrial development and also to provide for an investor friendly environment in the state of telangana and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This act provides a Common Application Form (CAF) for all department approvals. Time limit for approval: 1 day to maximum 30 days depending on complexity of approval.

- **T-IDEA scheme** – A new industrial incentive scheme called Telangana State Industrial Development and Entrepreneur Advancement (T-IDEA) was launched to extend various incentives for setting up of new enterprises in the state.
- **IIDF** – Industrial Infrastructure Development Fund (IIDF) will provide 50% of cost of infrastructure (upto Rs.1 Cr) to standalone units. This includes roads, power and water.
- **T-Hub: (Source – The News Minute)**
India's largest technology Incubator, T-Hub was launched in 2015.
The T-hub is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership between the Telangana government, three central academic institutes - IIIT-H, Indian School of Business (ISB), NALSAR Law University and private entities.

The main aim of the partnership is to aid technology-related start-ups and the 'hub' provides an innovation driven ecosystem for these companies at a nominal fee. The incubator is expected to be a vantage point for entrepreneurs and investors from India and the world, as it is hard for start-ups to acquire sophisticated infrastructure and professional services.

The T-hub will allow its members to share office space with other budding companies. Members will also have access to exclusive launches and to professional services at negotiated rates.

Member companies can also take part in events, seminars that will host experts from various fields. Moreover, it will allow entrepreneurs to interact and talk about tackling common problems.

While the ISB helps with the business aspect of the start-up, IIIT helps with the technology and NALSAR will help with the patents.

Other than that, experts would be made available to guide companies that show potential to become industry leaders.

WE-Hub: The “Women Entrepreneurs’ Hub” is India’s first state-led incubator exclusively for women. It was launched in 2018.

RICH- Research and Economic Circle of Hyderabad. It is a non-profit company supported by Govt of Telangana which will provide a platform to connect the wide range of educational and research institutions with the industrial sector. It will provide a link between research institutes, academia, industry, venture capitalists, angel investors and even incubation funds.

IMAGE tower: IMAGE stands for Innovation in Multimedia, Animation, Gaming and Entertainment. It is an exclusive facility developed by Telangana govt to boost animation, gaming and visual effects industry. It is the first of its kind in the world. Cost: 1,000 Cr. Space: 16 lakh sq.ft.

Results (Source: Economic Times): According to data provided by the Telangana government, between January 2015 and November 2018, over 8,500 projects with a total investment of Rs 1.4 lakh crore have been approved. Of those, over 6,000 projects with an investment of around Rs 60,660 crore have commenced operations. The government claims these projects have generated 2.7 lakh jobs. Of the investments in the operational projects, around a fifth has come from manufacturing projects with an investment of at least Rs 10 crore, and services projects with a minimum outlay of Rs. 5 Cr, according to data provided by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

Some of the other major initiatives taken by the Govt are: (Source: India Brand Equity Foundation)

- Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) of two hydro power projects is under implementation and is expected to be completed by 2018-19.
- The state government has launched Telangana Municipal Development Project (TMDP) with financial assistance from the World Bank. Preparation of GIS Base Maps for 37 urban local bodies in Phase-I and 22 urban local bodies in Phase-II is currently underway.
- The state government introduced IOT (Internet of Things) Policy in October 2017 to create an atmosphere conducive for IoT specific businesses and manufacturing units to thrive in the state.
- There is a plan to set up India's first Blockchain District. Land at subsidised rates, funding of research and regulatory and policy support are among the features of Telangana government's draft Blockchain Policy aimed at wooing firms and startups in the field to set up shop in the state.
- TSIIIC has undertaken the task of setting up of a National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) in Telangana. The NIMZ will be set up over 12,635 acres of land. As of May 2018, the state has acquired around 3,000 acres of land out of the 3,500 acres required in the first phase of the project. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by 2020.
- The state government is setting up the Hyderabad Pharma City, which will be the first of its kind, smart ecosystem creating a new international benchmark for Sustainable Industrial cities. The project will be developed over an area of 19,000 acres and is expected to attract Rs 64,000 crore (US\$ 993.02 million).
- Telangana is pharmaceutical manufacturing hub in the country attracts over Rs 10,000 crore (US\$ 1.49 billion) investments in the life sciences sector in the past four years.
- There is a proposed Kakatiya Mega Textile Park to be set up in Warangal Rural District. It will be the country's biggest textile park. With an area of 2000-3000 acres, it will be a "fibre-to-fabric" i.e. end to end facility.
- A 500 acre Aerospace park near Adibatla is already fully functional. Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) along with their Joint Venture partners Sikorsky and Lockheed Martin have set up facilities to manufacture helicopter cabins, aircrafts and its components. The govt has announced three more aerospace and defence parks over

the next four years. The idea is to integrate all activities including R&D, manufacturing, incubation etc at one place. The country's first Center for Excellence for Defence is also in the pipeline.

- Telangana State GlobalLinker – a digital networking platform for MSMEs was launched.
- TSIC has planned a model plastic park of 200 acres in Chandanvelli Village, RR Distt. Another green plastic cluster is being developed for the expansion of plastic industry. It being planned as a pollution-free industrial estate.
- In consonance with the Industrial Policy, 2014 are three policies unveiled in 2016 under the Dept of IT, Electronics and Communication: **Telangana IT Policy, 2016, Telangana Electronics Policy, 2016, Telangana Innovation Policy, 2016.**
- There is also a draft **EV policy, 2019**. Telangana is only the fourth state to have its own EV policy.

Together these policies are expected to provide a vision for the future.

Q.26. What is going on with farmers' suicides in Telangana?

Notes: Telangana has witnessed about 4,000 farmers' suicides since its formation in 2014.

It is the **second highest** number in the country.

Nevertheless, according to NCRB data farmers' **suicides have more than halved** in Telangana: 1,347 (2014), 1,400 (2015), 645 (2016 – latest data released as of Nov. 2019).

Measures: The state govt has started two targeted schemes for farmers: Rythu Bandhu (detailed earlier) and Rythu Bandhu Bheema Scheme – insurance scheme where govt will pay Rs. 2,271 per year per farmer to LIC for life insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakh.

Also, the massive funding to Mission Kakatiya for irrigation will give results over time.

Reasons for the high rate: Indebtedness, failure of crops, lack of access to irrigation (historically). Telangana falls in a **rainshadow region**, making it prone to droughts.

Lack of access to institutional credit to tenant farmers and those practising shifting cultivation exacerbates the financial stress.

Farmers have also observed that market linkages are still poor that makes it prohibitively costly for farmers to sell their produce. It leads to poor returns particularly in horticultural crops.

Way forward: Almost 75% of farmers committing suicides are **tenant farmers** (As per study conducted by Rythu Swarajya Vedika, RSV). Rythu Bandhu scheme does not cover tenant farmers and landless labourers. Current schemes also exclude farmers cultivating endowment lands and tribals farmers cultivating forest titles without land titles.

A scheme specifically targeting the high risk and vulnerable sections within farming community is required.

Q.27: What is the issue with Uranium mining in Nallamala forest?

Notes: Nallamala forest is spread across 5 districts of AP and two erstwhile districts of Telangana – Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda.

The MoEFCC has recently recommended an 'in principle' approval to the Dept of Atomic Energy for survey and exploration of Uranium in 83 sq km of the forests.

This has **alarmed** a large group of **locals and activists** because:

- Locals have not been officially informed about the mining and the possible impact, causing widespread fear. This also violates provisions of the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, PESA, 1996 – which mandates consent of gram sabhas is mandatory.
- Nallamala forests are the primary residence of Chenchus, a PVTG group experiencing declining population.
- Mining of radioactive substances like Uranium are known to contaminate the local environment.
- **Amrabad Tiger reserve** (with a critical tiger habitat of 2,100 sq km – second largest in India) also falls in the affected area. The Field Director, Amrabad Tiger Reserve Circle in June 2016 said the survey and exploration threatens wildlife like panthers, sloth bears, wild dogs, spotted deer, wild boar and tigers.

- Approval of National Board for Wildlife and National Tiger Conservation Authority is required as per Wildlife Protection Act, 2006. It is unclear whether it has been approved by the bodies.
- The report by the Field Director highlighted that the impact includes erosion, formation of sinkholes, damage to biodiversity, and contamination of ground and surface waters.
- The mining may pollute rivulets that reach Nagarjunasagar reservoir, which provides water to Hyderabad among other regions.

Counterpoint:

- The DAE has stated that this exploration is required to meet the Govt's target of producing 40 GW of nuclear power by 2030.
- The DAE has narrowed down to this region after review of all potential areas – Northern Cuddapah basin has high grade, large tonnage of Uranium deposits.
- The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of MoEFCC that gave the approval has noted that there are deficiencies in the proposal, but agreed that it was of 'critical importance from a national perspective'.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment will take into account the concerns of locals as well as activists.
- The Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) had recommended in favour of the proposal, with a few riders, that only existing cart tracks, roads, and footpaths in the forest areas should be utilized and that there should not be any felling of trees or lopping of branches.

Update: Due to severe protests and a unanimous resolution by Telangana Assembly against the proposal, the center in Nov'19 announced in the Lok Sabha that Uranium mining will not be allowed in the Nallamala forests.

Q.28: How much of Telangana is covered by forests?

Notes:

- According to Forests Survey of India report 2017, 24% of Telangana is classified as forest land.

- The same report also mentions that according to satellite imagery ~**18%** of the state is under forest cover of which about half is moderate or very dense forest.
- The FSI report notes that a **net increase of 565 sq km** of forest area has been observed in the state in 2017 compared to 2015.

Q.29: Highlights of theTelangana Electronics Policy?

Notes: Telangana Electronics policy was unveiled in 2016. The state aspires to achieve the following by 2020:

- Attract investments to the tune of US\$ 3 billion in the electronics sector
- Create employment for 160,000 people in this sector
- Enhance manufacturing turnover from approximately US\$ 1 billion to US\$ 7.5 billion in the electronics industry
- The state seeks to achieve the above targets by offering the following:

a) Infrastructure support

- State-of-art EMCs (electronics manufacturing clusters) through public and private collaboration
- High quality roads and transportation
- Good connectivity through rail, road and air
- Reliable electricity and water supply
- Promote the concept of duty-free warehousing

b) Skilled workforce

Create the environment to ensure the availability of low cost and skilled manpower through:

- Skills development programmes from Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK)
- Workforce training subsidies

c) Supportive policy environment

- Offer incentives for domestic manufacturing
- Favourable regulatory environment resulting in ease of doing business

d) An enabling tax and fiscal regime

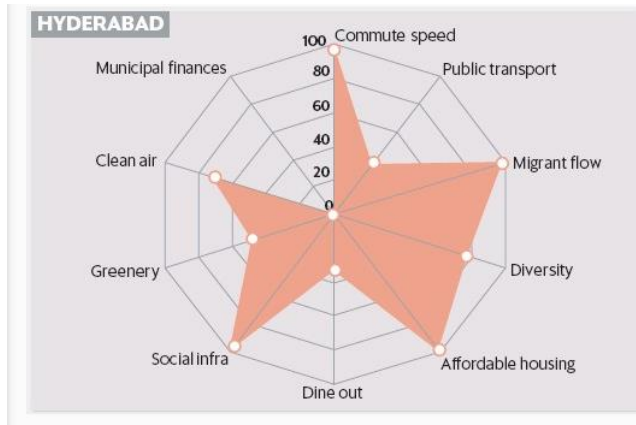
- Subsidies and other incentives
- Stable and predictable tax regime

(Source: electronicsb2b.com)

Hyderabad:

Q.1: How does Hyderabad compare with other metros?

Notes – According to a recent Mint analysis (Nov'19), Hyderabad is the most liveable city among India's 6 largest urban agglomerations (Mum, Del, Chen, Kol, Beng, Hyd). It has the best commute speed, migrant flow, social infrastructure and affordable housing. Also scores decently in diversity and clean air. It is the worst performer on municipal finances (municipal spending per capita).



Southern metros more livable compared to rest

Hyderabad tops Mint's livability index



The scores are averages of all the sub-indices: commute speeds, public transport, migrant flow, diversity, affordable housing, dineout, social infra, greenery, clean air and municipal spending.

Source: Mint calculations • [Get the data](#) • [Created with Datawrapper](#)

Q.2: What are the things Hyderabad is famous for?

- City of Pearls; Biryani; IT hub; 'Most Vegan friendly city' by PETA; 'Creative city of gastronomy' by UNESCO; Charminar; Golconda fort, Hussain Sagar Statue, Bidri Art.

Other unique facts:

- Kohinoor was mined and sold in Golconda kingdom.
- Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan was featured on the cover of TIME magazine in 1937, labelled as the 5th richest man in history and the richest Indian ever.
- World's biggest Film City – Ramoji film city.
- Mecca Masjid, is one of the largest mosques in India with a capacity of 20,000. The central arch contains bricks from the holy city of Mecca itself.

- Ranked the best city to live in India for the fifth time in a row in 2019 by Mercer's Quality of Living (India) Rankings, 2019

- Sir Ronald Ross discovered the Malaria parasite at Military Hospital, Secunderabad.

Q.3: What are the issues faced by Hyderabad?

Notes:

1. **Looming water crisis**, dropping water levels in Nagarjunsagar, Srisailem, Almatti dams.

Also, there is a depleting ground water reserve. Heavily dependent on monsoons in catchment areas of Krishna in Karnataka and Godavari in Maharashtra.

2. **Other issues** common to most urban areas – uncontrolled urbanisation (1.2 Cr vs 4 Cr in Telangana, i.e. almost 1/3rd of the state), traffic congestion, pollution, Women safety, crumbling public transport, Lack of land availability for major projects, waste management, lack of green spaces etc.

Q.4: Is Hyderabad a Global city? What can we do to make it a Smart Global city?

Notes:

1. Hyderabad frequently ranks as as the most livable city in India.
2. On a global scale, Hyderabad has ranked at 143 according to Mercer Quality of Living Ratings, 2019.

Recommendations to make Hyderabad (by JLL, an American real estate firm) include:

Key Areas:

- Improving the civic sense among residents through sustained education and awareness programs
- Strengthening urban development by reducing the time delay between planning and execution
- Improving public transport thereby reducing pollution
- Better sewage management to retain good public health
- Promoting urban forestry to lead to climatic control

Key Tasks:

- Decentralisation of business hubs all across Hyderabad. The Look East Policy to encourage economic development in east of the city.
- Infrastructure development in suburban locations like ECIL, Ghatkesar, Kompally and Adibatla.
- Special emphasis on social infrastructure- Development of open spaces, parks, play grounds and Party halls
- Diversification of economic base and development of new economic hubs by promotion of other economic sectors such as manufacturing, automobiles, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals and health care instruments
- Transparent and effective building approval mechanism and policy support.
- Introduction of urban infrastructure management technologies

Efforts to make Hyderabad a Global City: Concerted efforts and political will is being provided by the State Govt.

1. The State govt has tied up with AECOM, a hong-kong based world-renowned consultancy. The company will provide specialised designs for city development and remedies to the growing problems mainly traffic congestion, revival of lakes, and development of parks in GHMC.
2. The State govt has also roped in CII in making Hyderabad a Global City. CII has appreciated the initiatives with respect to Real Estate planning and development under the current govt.
 - The entire property tax registration and payment process has been made online. Town planning process simplified, building permissions process is online and self-certification has been introduced and all other approvals have been brought under single window clearance.
 - In order to provide thrust to the Green Building movement in the state, the Green Building Code is provided in the Municipal Act. The Act also specifies to provide necessary electric vehicle charging points at commercial buildings and large townships.

- While seeking to improve public transport facility, there is growing focus on extending last-mile connectivity.
- The state government is working on developing a mega-township close to the IT hub at Kokapet, which could see development of 90 million sq.ft of workspace.

Q.5: What policies led to growth of IT in Hyderabad? How can we replicate it elsewhere?

Notes: The development of Hyderabad was initially benefitted from the entrepreneurial class among the people of Andhra Pradesh. This was because people from Andhra, being directly under British rule had better access to educational facilities. Better irrigation facilities caused higher agricultural productivity, eventually leading to an entrepreneurial class.

- Growth story of the city begins from 1996 when Chandrababu Naidu got elected. Naidu focussed on attracting investments from within and outside the country. He got World Bank to assess the govt policies. He met Bill Gates at Seattle, leading to a Microsoft center being set up in the city. With the help of McKinsey, he prepared a 20 year plan and wooed investors like never before. Through consistent efforts and pro-Industry policies, major momentum was generated.

- These policies were continued by YSR.

- After the formation of Telangana, there has been a renewed focus on development of the IT sector due to policies such as T-Hub, Blockchain district, Hyderabad Security Cluster (HSC) designed to become the hub for Cybersecurity, declaration of 2020 as the 'Year of Artificial Intelligence' by Govt of Telangana etc.

Q.6: What are the prominent industries of Hyderabad?

A- IT & ITES, Biotechnology, and Pharmaceuticals.

Q.7: Why does Hyderabad produce so many Shuttle sportspersons?

Notes: In 2001, shuttler Pullela Gopichand became All England Champion. He was already struggling with a few injuries, so he decided to train the next generation of players. He was offered 5 acres of land in 2003 by then CM, Chandrababu Naidu. With help from other entrepreneurs and his wife (former olympian), the academy as set up by 2008.

It is through his consistent efforts via this academy that Hyderabad has become a hub for badminton players. His students include – Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu, P Kashyap, K Srikanth etc all of whom have brought in awards for the country.

The main reason why Hyderabad continues to dominate is the infrastructure facilities provided by the academies. With eight international standard courts, a health club, a running track, a swimming pool, a rehabilitation and wellness center, Gopichand's academy has it all.

Other world class academies include the Chetan Anand Badminton Academy (himself a former national champion), the (recently opened) Bhaskar Babu Li Ning Badminton Academy etc.

The growth of the IT sector has also helped in providing people with sufficient financial resources to follow sports as career.

Q.8: Which are the important PSUs in Hyderabad? Universities?

A – PSUs – Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL),

National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd (**Navratna**),

Mishra Dhatu Nigam (MIDHANI) Ltd (**Navratna**),

Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)(Miniratna I category),

Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd,

Sponge Iron India Ltd.

Universities and Institutes –

ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), **CRIDA** (The Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture), **CCMB** (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology), **IICT** (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology), **DRDL** (Defence Research and Development Laboratory), **NIPER** (National Institute for Pharmaceutical Education and Research), **IITH** (Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad), **BITS** (Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Hyderabad), **IIIT** (International Institute of Information Technology), **ISB** (Indian School of Business), **UoH** (University of Hyderabad), **OU** (Osmania University).

Note: In 2014, IICT Hyderabad invented two HFC substitutes:

HFC-134A, refrigerant gas and a well recommended substitute for the ozone-depleting CFC and HFC-227ea, a fire-extinguishing gas and a substitute for halons.

Q. 9: Why are there so many engineering colleges in Hyderabad?

Notes:

- Higher literacy rates and higher share of children graduating from school
- Rise of the IT sector.
- Larger share of students from Hyderabad heading abroad for higher education, especially US.
- Fee reimbursement scheme introduced in 2008 by YSR govt. The scheme came as a boon for the private sector, particularly engineering colleges in rural areas since there were few takers due to high fees. Many colleges mushroomed and enrolled OBC students to claim reimbursement from the govt.

Q.10: What is the science behind the fish medicine?

Notes: Every year the Bathini Goud family administers the “fish medicine”, now called ‘fish prasadam’ as a cure for asthma. In 2018, 1.3lakh people took the prasadam.

The patients have to gulp down a live ‘murrel’ fish (or jaggery for vegetarians) with a yellow herbal paste in its mouth which is said to provide relief if taken for three consecutive years.

The science: The science behind the claims is not established yet. Doctors are also divided on the issue as there is no controlled study that has been done to test the claims.

The Goud family claims that “live fish travels, wagging its tail and fins, through the throat and negotiates the phlegm congestion,” essentially curing the patient.

Doctors have reported some patients getting relief from the prasadam while others getting another bout. Patients also have claimed that while the prasadam does not cure their asthma, it definitely provides them relief for a year. Even Allopathic medicine does not yet have a cure for asthma and only provides symptomatic relief.

It could also be due to the ‘placebo’ effect.

Q.11: Why is Bengaluru ahead of Hyderabad in IT investments?

Notes: Bengaluru’s IT exports were ~Rs 2.2 lakh Cr in 2015-16 itself whereas Hyderabad’s IT exports touched Rs. 1.09 lakh Cr in 2018-19. There are several reasons for this:

- Bengaluru entered the sector of electronics and software in the late 70s with the creation of electronics city. In 1985 Texas Instruments became the first big name to set its headquarters in Bengaluru and many big names followed. Whereas, most of the structured IT economy in Hyderabad came up only in late 90s and 2000s.
- Presently Bengaluru headquarters 80% of global IT companies. In 2017 Bengaluru ranked in top 20 of WEF list of 85 most digitally advanced cities on the planet and was named the world’s most dynamic city based on factors including innovation and technology.
- Apart from an early start, Bengaluru has a strong regulatory environment, effective tax incentives and a number of state policy initiatives that support the IT industry.
- Also, a globally competitive talent pool and the availability of capital for early-stage investment make it one of the best destinations for IT investments in India.

Rise of Hyderabad: Hyderabad has witnessed a swift rise in its stature. In 2018-19 IT exports from Hyderabad grew 17% which is almost double the national average (9%). It has proper infrastructure, skilled manpower, presence of a large number of technical education institutions, and industry friendly policies like T-Hub, TS-iPASS etc.

Conclusion: One of the biggest advantages Bengaluru has over Hyderabad is that it has a unique mix of mature IT organizations, Multinationals and Startups. It opens a new startup almost daily. Nevertheless, in the last few years, Bengaluru's infrastructure has not been able to keep pace with overall development leading to high traffic congestion and costly real estate. In comparison, Hyderabad has topped the Mercer's Quality of Living (India) Index five times in a row. Also, Telangana is placed second in EODB index compared to 13th for Karnataka. All these factors show a promising future for Hyderabad.

Rangareddy:

Q.1. Who is Rangareddy? Why is the district named after him?

Notes – K.V.Rangareddy is a former Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He is a freedom fighter, who fought in the Telangana Rebellion against the Jagirdars and Razakars.

Telugu:

Q.1: Is it justified to have two states with same language?

Notes: It is justified since the Hindi belt has many states.

Also, the two states have different cultural identities, despite speaking the same language. Prior to separation, there was also developmental inequality, which played a major role in the demand for separation.

Q.2: Rank of Telugu in order of languages by number of native speakers?

A – Fourth. (Hindi > Bangla > Marathi > Telugu)

Q.3: Why is Telugu called “Italian of the east?”

A- Because like Italian, every word of Telugu ends in a vowel.

Q.4: Who translated Ramayana and Mahabharata into Telugu?

Notes: Ramayana – Multiple poets and writers including Sri Ranganatha, Aatukuri Molla, Pingali Surana (writer of Raghava Pandaveeyam in dvayarthi i.e. double meaning style) etc.

Mahabharata – Translated by Kavitravam: Nannayya, Tikkanna, Yerra Pragada.

Mahbubnagar:

Q.1: Why is it named so?

A – It was formed during Nizam Mir Mahbub Ali Khan, the 6th Nizam. Named after him.

Q.2: What are some of the issues faced by people of your district?

Notes: In 2006, Mahbubnagar was included in 250 most backward districts out of 640. It is one of the 9 districts in Telangana currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BGRF) programme.

- It falls under rainshadow area, so persistent drought is the leading problem.
- Illiteracy and poor health indicators. It was one the 256 high priority districts (HPD) under National Health Mission (NHM).
- Vested interests of labour contractors, who have encouraged labour migration under all circumstances.
- Poverty, drinking water, irrigation, sanitation etc are other unaddressed issues. This is despite Krishna and Tungabhadra flowing through the districts.

Changes: The district used to be the hub of low wage migrant labourers within and outside the state. Since 2015 it has changed due to Advantage Mahbubnagar Cell and other initiatives started by District Collector T K Sreedevi.

~ Rs. 900 Cr worth of investment by 13 companies in various sectors were announced at an Investors Meet held by the district administration in 2015. Also, two vegetable clusters in 12 villages have been planned. These initiatives made mahbubnagar the top district in the state to receive investments.

Also, new units set up 3 MNCs – Procter and Gamble, Johnson and Johnson and Cogent totalling Rs. 1,500 Cr have brought much needed employment to the district.

Q.3: Anything special or unique about the district?

Notes:

1. One of the oldest terracotta style Jain temples in the country is in Jadcherla, Mahbubnagar. Built between 7Th and 8Th century, during Gupta period, it is one of the only two surviving temples of this kind. The other one is in Kanpur, UP.
2. The earliest astronomical observatory in India is a megalithic site in Mudmal Village, Mahbubnagar. It is one-of-its-kind in South Asia. It was surveyed in 2016. It has the depiction of earliest sky chart noticed anywhere in south asia so far. Some menhirs are aligned to summer solstice, some to winter solstice. Based on the movement of the sun, they seemed to have used the alignment for calculating seasons and days.