



Telangana Today

Boost for Brand Hyderabad

From high-profile dignitaries to the man on the street, Hyderabad has held them all in awe. If the flawless launch of the ultra-modern Metro service wowed the residents, the conduct of the prestigious Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES 2017) evoked encomiums from participants across the globe. The two back-to-back events have enhanced the global image of the city and made it the cynosure of all eyes. The challenges were many yet the execution was flawless. The Telangana government has earned praise, and deservedly so, not just from international delegates at the summit, held in South Asia for the first time, but also from the Central government agencies and key officials of the United States, which co-organised the event. At the end of eventful, three-day-long deliberations that saw 1,500 participants from 150 countries, the verdict was unanimous: Hyderabad is truly a thriving international city. From meticulous preparations and logistics to showcasing the historic city's entrepreneurial skills, startup culture and innovation, the State left no stone unturned to make the event a memorable one. The city wove a magical web and displayed extraordinary dynamism that was appreciated by all. No wonder that CEO of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant, in his closing remarks, described Hyderabad as the new Silicon Valley of the world. Given the series of policy initiatives that the government has been taking to create an ideal ecosystem for innovative technology startups, 'Brand Hyderabad' will gain further traction in the days ahead.

The events of such scale and magnitude provide an excellent opportunity for networking among innovators, investors, mentors and policymakers. Critics may raise questions about quantifiable outcomes and potential investments emerging from such a gathering. However, it would be naive to expect business deals to be struck at these meetings. The objective must be to provide a platform for entrepreneurs to share their experiences, forge new relationships and pitch ideas to investors. In the words of United States Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green, the GES 2017 has been the 'best ever entrepreneurship summit' in terms of arrangements, number of interactions, ecosystem and dynamism of the host State. The participation of US President Donald Trump's daughter and adviser Ivanka Trump as the leader of her country's 350-member strong delegation raised the level of enthusiasm and excitement. For Telangana, the country's youngest State and ranked first in terms of 'Ease of Doing Business', the choice of Hyderabad as the venue is a testimony to its pro-active policies. The successful conduct of the GES will surely provide further fillip to the startup ecosystem and entrepreneurship culture being promoted in the city.

The successful conduct of GES will provide a further fillip to the startup ecosystem and entrepreneurship culture

How dare they (BJP) criticise me of being partial to a certain section of people — it is absolutely baseless. I work for all sections of the people belonging to different religions and communities



Mamata Banerjee
Bengal Chief Minister

Every scheme introduced by Narendra Modi is so successful that Rahul Gandhi is very 'pareshaan'. He is so troubled that he is queuing up at temples. Have you seen him going to temples before?



Rajnath Singh
Home Minister

India should cherish and nurture its large Muslim population that thinks of itself as Indian... If communities across India are saying they won't fall prey to division, then it will strengthen the hand of politicians who feel that way



Barack Obama
Former US President

Bankers like Morgan Stanley should not run our country but they think they do. So when they say we're a threat, they're right: We're a threat to a damaging and failed system that is rigged for the few.



Jeremy Corbyn
Britain's Labour leader

[Long Chase]

Weakening Maoist guerrilla army

Despite the Maoists beating a tactical retreat, they remain a potent challenge for the security forces even after 17 years



P V RAMANA

It's been 17 years since the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) was founded, on December 2, 2000. Originally formed as People's Guerrilla Army (PGA), it was re-named PLGA following the merger of the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI) and the People's War (PW), popularly known as the PWG, on September 21, 2004. The PGA (as it was then known) was founded on the first death anniversary of Yerram Reddy Santosh Reddy alias Mahesh, Nalla Adi Reddy alias Shyam and Seelam Naresh alias Murali, in a police encounter.

The PLGA is formidable. Its strength is an estimated 6,000 armed, underground cadre. It is guided by the Central Military Commission (CMC) and is believed to be headed by Nambala Kesava Rao alias Basava Raju. At the time of its founding, he said it was meant to "smash the rule of imperialism, feudalism, comprador bureaucrat capitalism, and to seize political power by setting up a new democratic state as a first step in the path to socialism".

Operational Strategy

In fact, the operational strategy of the PLGA was summed up by Cherukuri Raj Kumar alias Azad, then spokesperson of the CPI (Maoist), in a press release on November 14, 2005: "...well-equipped, well-trained, and numerically superior [security] forces can be dealt heavy blows by a numerically weaker but determined, fearless and politically motivated armed force of the people through concrete survey of the weak points of the enemy force, meticulous planning and effective execution based on the principle of taking on the enemy through surprise and lightning speed."

Besides, at its founding, general secretary of the CPI (Maoist) Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathy said: "The PGA must mingle with the masses and



Founded on December 2, 2000, the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) is formidable with some 6,000 armed, underground cadre

become a part of their lives and their aspirations. In this way, the PGA will grow and equip itself to take on the multipronged attack by the government..."

In fact, this is in consonance with what Mao Tse Tung once said: "...all the practical problems in the masses' everyday life should claim our attention. If we attend to these problems, solve them and satisfy the needs of the masses, we shall really become organisers of the well-being of the masses, and they will truly rally round us and give us their warm support..." Eventually, as the mass base of the PLGA expands to include various sections of society, the Maoists hope to transform the PLGA into the PLA (People's Liberation Army). The Maoists are daydreaming!

Three Forces

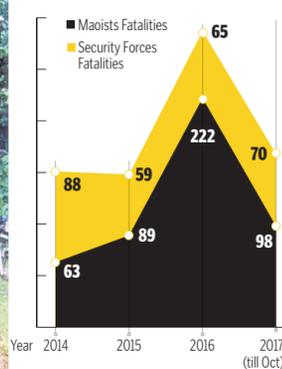
The PLGA consists of three types of forces — Primary Force (platoons), Secondary Force (guerrilla squads) and Base

Force (people's militia). Of these, the Base Force is the largest.

The people's militia had its successes when it participated in synchronised, large-scale attacks in different parts of the country. These included:

- **February 6, 2004:** Koraput raid, Orissa. Armoury containing 528 weapons emptied
 - **June 23, 2005:** Madhuban raid, Bihar
 - **November 11, 2005:** Giridih Home Guards training centre, Jharkhand. 280 weapons looted
 - **November 13, 2005:** Jehanabad Jail break, Bihar. Over 900 prisoners, including Maoist cadres and leaders, escaped to freedom
 - **March 26, 2006:** R Udayagiri raid, Orissa. Police station overrun and 17 SLRs looted
 - **March 31, 2007:** Raid in Riga block, Sitamarhi district, Bihar
 - **February 15, 2008:** Nayagarh Armoury raid, Orissa. 1,100 weapons — including pistols, SLRs, AK series rifles, INSAS rifles and LMGs — and 200,000 rounds of ammunition looted
- There have been no such large-scale attacks, thereafter. The security forces are far more alert and prepared now, while the Maoists have beaten a tactical retreat under intense and sustained pressure from the security forces. In fact, for the first time in 2015, Maoist fatalities outnumbered that of the security forces. And the trend continues. (see infographic)

Fatal Moves



Versatility and Lethality

Of course, the Maoists have come a long way. They have graduated. From fielding sickles, axes and country-made weapons, they now wield LMGs (light machine guns), SLRs (self-loading rifles) and INSAS (Indian New Small Arms System) rifles — all looted from the security forces. They are believed to be developing rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and launchers that could hit stationary targets, sometimes with accuracy. If they acquire mastery over these, the consequences can be disastrous. They had first tested an RPG in 2004 with limited success. The rebels then began to improve upon it.

Thus, the Maoist military machine has acquired a certain versatility and lethality. The security forces would, therefore, need to continue to possess and display immense capacities to fight the guerrillas militarily. The Maoist challenge can certainly be defeated.

Besides weakening the Maoists' lethal capacities and reducing violence, it is also essential to ensure that governance is improved; development schemes and programmes are implemented effectively; and their implementation is monitored rigorously so that those prone to sympathising with, or supporting, the Maoists would in the long-run realise the needlessness and futility of doing so.

(The author is Research Fellow, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi)

As things get more connected, a comprehensive approach will help navigate the world wide web better

Check cybercrimes

Telangana ranking fourth in cyber-crimes is a matter of concern, particularly on the heels of winning unequivocal kudos for successfully conducting the GES with professionalism and aplomb. This paradox is due to a host of reasons: gullibility in sections of society, being the foremost, stemming from huge disparities in literacy and education of those affected, and a scant respect for rule of law, at the other end of the spectrum. The challenges, therefore, are manifold and only a comprehensive and painstaking approach by the State government can curb the trend.

Sankar De
Hyderabad

Misreading Hadiya case

In 2016, 25-year-old Hadiya became the poster child for the conversion debate raging in Kerala. Within the twists and turns of

this case, it has been turned into a question of 'love jihad'. But this is a clear misreading of Hadiya's situation and love jihad as well. 'Love jihad' refers to a Muslim man luring a Hindu woman into relationship and marrying her for the purpose of conversion. Hadiya converted to Islam long before she got married to Shafin Jahan and was practising the religion privately for three years. Therefore, we can not say that she converted for love.

Md Rustam Parwez
Shahin Nagar, Hyderabad

A telling commentary

The sight of a mournful Yadamma caressing her two dead buffaloes (TT, Nov 28) was indeed very moving and a telling commentary on the amazing relationship between animals and human beings. There are several women like her who are dependent on their domesticated bovine creatures for their livelihood. In spite of the tall claims of dou-

ble-digit growth and lofty pronouncements of reduction of poverty being made from time to time, such pictures are eye-openers. The excellent coverage of the iconic Hyderabad Metro Rail along with the moving picture of a distraught Yadamma in the same issue clearly exhibits your balanced approach in coverage of different events.

Amit Banerjee
Chitranjan Park, New Delhi

Metro magic

The Metro has upgraded our lifestyle and we are on a par with the best in the world. This is a great achievement for the present government, which made our dream turn into reality. The Metro journey will be a new experience and we must maintain the standard by not dirtying the place and ensuring its upkeep. Hope we march towards *Bangaru* Telangana soon.

V Vijaya Kumar
Hanamakonda, Warangal



Letters to the editor

We invite your views and comments at
letters@telanganatoday.news

India the hotspot

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

India's Economy Picks Up Speed

India's economic expansion accelerated in the latest quarter, ending a five-quarter slowdown and sparking optimism that the negative effects of recent economic policies may now be behind Asia's third-largest economy. The country's gross domestic product grew 6.3% in the three months through September compared with a year earlier, the government said Thursday. Economists had predicted 6.4% growth.

ALJAZEERA

Why is Rahul Gandhi visiting so many Hindu temples?

It is election season in the Indian state of Gujarat. Its residents will vote to elect their state assembly on December 9 and 14. The vote has thrown opposition politicians into feverish activity. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, for example, has been busy visiting temples in Gujarat although until recently, he was perceived to be a deracinated Hindu, disinterested in religion and its politics. He has already paid obeisance at 21 temples.

FORTUNE

Ivanka Trump Gets the Red Carpet Treatment in Indian City of Hyderabad

India rolled out the red carpet on Tuesday for Ivanka Trump, daughter of the U.S. president, who was set to attend a business summit in the southern tech hub of Hyderabad, where thousands of policemen stood on guard. As political and economic ties expand, India has become a major market for the United States, with two-way trade of about \$115 billion last year.