

VIJAYAWADA

AP, Western Australia seal sister State deal



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STAFF REPORTER

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Deputy PM Cook, Naidu discuss areas for cooperation

Western Australia and the Andhra Pradesh State government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sister State relations here on Thursday.

Western Australia Deputy Premier Roger Cook met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at CM's camp office here. The duo discussed about sister State relations, investment opportunities in AP and other related issues. Western Australia would assist the AP government in geological mapping of mines in the State. Also, Western Australia will invest ₹3,000 crore in the mining sector in AP. Mr. Cook said that his government would work with the AP government in the fields of mines, transport, technology, medical and education.

Australian industrialists would be encouraged to invest in A.P. With signing of the MoU, the relations between AP and Western Australia would become stronger, he said.

Mr. Naidu said that the AP was marching ahead of others by effectively using the technology. Andhra Pradesh was a newly created State. Though there were a few teething problems, AP has its own advantages. Vast coastline, abundant natural resources and best human resources were a few to mention. AP has set a target of becoming one of the top three States in the country by 2022 and the best State by 2029 and the best destination across the globe by 2050, he said.

Staff exchange

The Chief Minister said that there would be staff exchange programme between the AP Economic Development Board (EDB) and Western Australia in Tourism, science and innovation. An MoU would be entered between NG Ranga Agricultural university and the University of Western Australia for research and teaching collaboration in fields of dryland agriculture. The State government and Western Australia company KSI global company would enter into an MoU under which unique roller safety barriers would be tested on black spots on the Tirupati ghat roads, he said.