

ANDHRA PRADESH

'Help Amaravati become world's best health hub'



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STAFF REPORTER

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AAIMS should be starting point, says Naidu after laying stone for it

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday called upon NRIs belonging to the capital region to bring in best medical practices and knowledge they have gained in the U.S. to the capital region and make it the world's best healthcare destination.

Mr. Naidu laid the foundation stone for the Amaravati American Institute of Medical Sciences (AAIMS) by unveiling a digital plaque here.

He said: "AAIMS should be the starting point of world class healthcare initiations in the capital region, and it should be able to provide better services than the prestigious All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences."

He asked the NRIs to serve their birthplace by investing in their region and help it become world's best capital and a symbol of Telugu people's self-esteem.

Mr. Naidu said: "AAIMS is going to be the 13th healthcare institute coming up in the capital region. Even Hyderabad does not have so many medical colleges."

"Krishna and Guntur districts are sources of abundant knowledge and talented human resource. Through new initiatives, we have to develop the region," he said.

Call for baby boom

Stressing the need for population growth, Mr. Naidu said: "Earlier, I had asked people not to have more than one child, but the situation now is different. People are not willing to have children. This will push our country into a situation being faced by nations such as Japan,

where ageing population is high. As a result, they are increasingly dependent on robots. If we don't wake up now, we will have to face similar situations after a decade."

Cautioning against excessive use of technology, Mr. Naidu said people were going crazy and cited the example of Blue Whale Challenge that was driving people to suicide.

"Once we did not have cellphones. After visiting China, I told the then Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee about the need for de-regulation and reforms in the telecommunication sector. Now, we are able to do everything with technology but should be careful," he said.

AAIMS is a project of a 1,200-bed hospital on a 20-acre land given away by Mallela Padmanabha Rao, a former sarpanch of Ibrahimpatnam with government's cooperation. In the first phase, AAIMS will have a 300-bed facility by 2019.

Ministers K. Srinivas, D. Umamaeswara Rao and B. Akhila Priya; AP EDB CEO J. Krishna Kishore; AAIMS founders Dr. G. Navaneeta Krishna, Chandra Sekhar Mokkalapati, and Mallikharjuna Rao Chalasani were present.

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