US Visit Brings Home Long-term Global Engagement for AP

Chinese Investors Explore Investment Opportunities in AP

34,000 of IT jobs created

APEDB Bags Skoch Award Gold

AP Ranks No. 1 in Employability

AP CM Conferred ICFA Policy Leadership Award 2018
From the desk of Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu
Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Chairman, APEDB

When the new state of Andhra Pradesh was formed, we laid down a vision for our state, that of making Andhra Pradesh one among the three most developed state by 2022, a developed state by 2029 and a leading global destination by 2050. I am glad to say that we are well on our way to realising the first goal.

Blessed with a strong supply-side, Andhra Pradesh is focused on building a strong agro-and food-processing ecosystem in the state with INR 5,000 crore (USD 0.8 billion) worth of new investments and 50,000 jobs by 2020. Similarly, Andhra Pradesh promotes investments and establishing ultra, mega and integrated food parks and ensuring supply of power 24/7 with power subsidy. Investors. The state also reimburses taxes such as VAT, CST or SGST.

In this backdrop, the state has already attracted many global and national players in this sector. Currently, 3000 Indian- and foreign-owned food processing units are operating in the state.

Even as my government has firmly set its eyes on double-digit growth for Andhra Pradesh, I am proud to say that we are charting a course for sustainable development with controlled resource use. Our signing an MoU with Triton Solar is a step in this direction that also leads to an investment of INR 727 crores. We are also adopting Zero Budget Natural Farming to make food production sustainable, viable for producers and consumers.

We identified that drones could help us deliver better governance in health, crop, disaster, and weather management and other sectors. To help us build and promote a drone ecosystem, we signed an MoU with Prof. Stephen Perkins, Department of Computer Science, the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD).

I have always believed in inviting strong players of all sectors to Andhra Pradesh. South Korea’s capabilities in manufacturing are laudable. Therefore, we signed an MoU to set up an Ethane Petroleum Cracker Complex in AP. The INR 35,000 crore complex is also expected to create huge employment opportunities for experts, skilled and semi-skilled workforce.

The Vizag Fintech Festival too has witnessed signing 9 MoUs that will put AP on the world’s map along with the launch of five companies.

As a state, we firmly believe that development is sustainable only when our vision embraces the empowerment that the world has to offer. On this note, I invite all of you to partner with Andhra Pradesh, the Sunrise State.

Message from Sri Yanamala Ramakrishnudu
Minister for Finance & Planning, Commercial Tax & Legislative Affairs.

The agro- and food-processing industry enjoys a wide variety of fiscal incentives in Andhra Pradesh. Some major infrastructure incentives include 50% capital subsidy, 25% subsidy on project cost and 25% subsidy on equipment cost for both new or upgraded equipment.

Fifty per cent of subsidy for setting up primary processing centres or primary collection centres is another attractive incentive to make a difference at the grassroots.

Seven per cent interest subsidy reduces the burden on the entrepreneurs and investors. The state also reimburses taxes such as VAT, CST or SGST.

While providing top-notch infrastructure and services to the investors and entrepreneurs in agro- and food processing is a priority, we have ensured that our farmers are served very well. Some major initiatives in this direction are interlinking of rivers, real-time monitoring of groundwater, agricultural insurance, water harvesting structures, rain guns and soil grid.

As a dynamic, progressive and inclusive state, we believe that farming is a way of life. And we invite all of you to become a part of the movement called Andhra Pradesh.
Sri S.P. Tucker

AP 2029: Nerve Center for Global Value Chains
Disruptions happening in the global supply chain present opportunities for Indian logistics players. The state with strong geographical advantage should focus on reducing logistics cost from about 14% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to only 7-8%, similar to developed countries. Promoting trade and manufacturing are linked with logistics, and improvement in its efficiency would help to cut the cost of doing business along with the ease of doing business.

Integrating Logistics with Port Development
The sector’s full potential will be realised with dedicated institutions and enabling policy. At APEDB we have developed a strategy for integrating logistics for economic efficiency and position AP as a nerve centre for global value chains. The draft was launched and circulated to the stakeholders from industry and academia for feedback on the 21st December. The strategy calls for global standards for world class infrastructure in storage, mobility and connectivity. Subsequently, this strategy will lead to a policy on Integrated Logistics.

Employment Generation
The most difficult challenge our country faces today is unemployment, and the Logistics sector is known for engagement of high numbers of workforce at entry level and has huge demand for skilled workforce. Coherent initiatives should be taken up for upgrading the education & skill ecosystem, existing in the supply chain management to Global best.

Mr. J. Krishna Kishore

Message from Sri S.P. Tucker, IAS (Rtd.)
Executive Vice Chairman, APEDB and Former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Message from Sri J. Krishna Kishore, IRS., Chief Executive Officer, APEDB, Andhra Pradesh

We are delighted with the exceptional response we are receiving for our Sunrise newsletter. To keep up with the demands of the market, henceforth, we will be publishing our newsletter once a month, instead of once in two months.

“We hope this change will bring the most important news from Andhra Pradesh to you expeditiously and will help you in prompt decision making.”

Andhra Pradesh continues to lead in using technology to drive positive outcomes in conventional sectors such as agriculture. This is evident in the State driving remarkable outcomes in Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) and other initiatives in the food processing sector, which led to global recognition at the United Nations in September 2018.

The State’s global outreach continues with the Hon. Minister for IT and Panchayat Raj, Sri. Nara Lokesh visit to China to attract investments in the Electronics sector. With the objective of building a complete electronics industry ecosystem in AP, the Hon. Minister met a number of potential investors who can expand the scope of Electronics manufacturing beyond mobile phone manufacturing in AP.

We continue to make steady progress in identifying new investors across sectors. New MoUs were signed with Triton Solar, Dawson Solar, Alibaba Cloud, the Central Leather Research Institute, and Aarka Sports to facilitate investments. Further, to develop talent for the future, AP continues to work with UNESCO and international Edtech companies to develop new pedagogies for digital learning. Already the Hon. Chief Minister’s goal of making AP a knowledge and skills hub is paying off with AP topping the list of states with the highest employable of talent as per India Skills Report 2019.

Infrastructure Development
The AP Government is also focusing on developing world-class infrastructure to attract global businesses. The State is in the process of releasing an Industrial Parks policy after careful consideration of the views of the industry players. Also, a second port at Kakinada is awarded to the Kakinada SEZ. It will develop a deep-water port near Kona village in 1,811 acres with an investment of around 2,000 crores.

Further, the AP Government has started an ambitious project for upgrading 3,100 kms of roads and 430 bridges at a cost of INR 6,400 Crores for improving rural connectivity.

Together these infrastructure initiatives will enhance the growth potential of Andhra Pradesh.
Chief Minister’s US Visit Brings Home Long-term Global Engagement for AP

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu and his team visited the United States of America (USA) between 23-26 September 2018. The trip supported the Chief Minister’s twin goals, that of taking Andhra Pradesh to the global forums and bringing the foreign investments to Andhra Pradesh.

Meeting with the Permanent Representative of India to UN

The Chief Minister met the Ambassador H.E. Mr. Syed Akbaruddin, India’s permanent representative to the United Nations. The Chief Minister discussed enhancing the state’s engagement with the UN, how to benefit from the various UN programmes and the possibility of opening UN’s offices in Amaravati.

UNEP Session on ZBNF

The Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu presented a session on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The presentation was well received and highly commended by the audience consisting of ministers from various countries, top administrators, global environmental experts and other important persons from countries across the globe.

The speakers opined that Andhra Pradesh would be a role model for the world in bringing about healthy and sustainable practices and promoting the safe environment.

A theme song highlighting AP’s ZBNF
implementation was played by the well-known Grammy Award winner and musician Mr. Ricky Kej & Group.

**UNEP to Support ZBNF Knowledge Exchange**

In a meeting with Mr. Erik Solheim, UNEP Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, it was agreed that:

- UNEP will support the scientific evidence building of the impact of ZBNF in Andhra Pradesh. The UNEP will organise events and intergovernmental conferences on the replication of the social capital creation through ZBNF and inclusion of smallholder women farmers.
- Also, UNEP will hold knowledge exchange programmes for other countries to benefit from Andhra Pradesh’s strength in IT.
- UNEP will publish lessons on scaling ZBNF to restore 30 million acres by 2030 to fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.
- UNEP will publish best-practices for norm-setting and consensus building.

**Meeting with Prof. Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum**

The Chief Minister and Prof. Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum (WEF) met to discuss the ongoing engagement between the WEF and Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The interview will help the WEF team to showcase the engagement of Andhra Pradesh with WEF’s Shaping of the Future of Production initiative that is aligned with UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**AP Signs an MoU with Triton Solar**

Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) signed an MoU with the representatives of Triton Solar in the presence of the Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Mr. Ajay Jain, Principal Secretary of Industry and investments, and Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB.

Triton solar is a US-based manufacturer of printable solar cells, printed lighting and printed batteries. The plant will be established under the public-private partnership model with an investment of INR 727 crores in Visakhapatnam or Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh. It will produce batteries based on nano and lithium polymer technology and will be developed in phases. The plant aims to reach an annual capacity of 200 MW.
Mr Sunil Mittal, Chairman, Bharti Airtel Group, Meets the CM

In his meeting with the Hon’ble CM, Mr Sunil Mittal agreed to support Andhra Pradesh Government through new investments in the manufacturing sector, to collaborate with the state government in the development of the fibre grid project, and to support the state government in marketing the farm produce. Mr Sunil Mittal has also highly commended the AP government for developing the fibre grid.

A World of Investors, Heads of Institutions & Dignitaries and NRIs Meet the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Nara Chandrababu Naidu met many dignitaries, investors and heads of institutions at World Economic Forum.

The Chief Minister met Ardor Equity Partners (AEP), Ms. Liz Taylor, President & CEO, Deep Ocean Exploration and Research (DOER Marine), Dr. Tony Simmons, Director General and Dr. Ravi Prabhu, Deputy Director General, I.C.R.A.F and Tom Moore, VP – X, and Mahesh Krishnaswamy, Project Lead, FSOC, X.
A multilateral meeting was held to present a white paper published by the World Economic Forum in association with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board and Accenture on the theme, Accelerating Sustainable Production.

A roundtable was held with investors focussing on the development of Artificial Intelligence in Andhra Pradesh.

Leading Fintech investors met Mr Chandrababu Naidu to discuss promoting investments in the Fintech Valley, Visakhapatnam.

The Chief Minister also held a meeting with Mr Atluri, Head of Technology, New York Stock Exchange, to discuss setting up the Amaravati International Stock Exchange.

A roundtable meeting was hosted by the United States India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) to promote investments in Andhra Pradesh. The meeting was attended by top entrepreneurs from New York, who have pledged to support the state through investments.

Prof. Stephen Perkins, Department of Computer Science, the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) has signed an MoU with the Drones Corporation of A.P to promote drone manufacturing and drone ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr Scott Ferguson, President and CEO of the World Trade Centers Association and WTC Amaravati investors met the Chief Minister and discussed the construction of World Trade Centre in Amaravati.

A public meeting organised with the Non-Resident Telugu community was a touching experience. More than 4000 people attended the meeting.

Mr Chandrababu Naidu called them to support the motherland with investments and services.

Mr Russell Stokes, President and CEO of General Electric Power, met the Chief Minister. The corporation agreed to consider Andhra Pradesh for collaboration and manufacture of power systems and equipment.

The Chief Minister launched the book ‘Connecting the Dots: Lessons for Leadership in a Connected World’ authored by Mr John T. Chambers, Former Chairman, Cisco.
UNESCO-MGIEP’S TECH 2018

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) MGIEP’s international conference, Transforming Education Conference for Humanity (TECH) was jointly organised by UNESCO, government of Andhra Pradesh and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development. In its second edition, the global conference was held on two days, November 15-17, 2018, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. APEDB partnered with UNESCO MGIEP and Andhra Pradesh at the High-level Policy Forum (HLPF) to bring out a declaration on global guidelines for educational games and technologies.

Digital Learning Infrastructure in Schools

Addressing the delegates, the Hon’ble Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that his government gives education the highest priority and digital learning plays a key role in education since it can make education playful and stress-free. Mr Chandrababu Naidu said that the government has already set up 5000 digital classrooms and 4000 virtual classrooms and more would be established.

I-HUB in Visakhapatnam

He announced that Visakhapatnam shall have I-Hub and that the AP Government will provide 50 acres of land to UNESCO MGIEP to set up I-Hub to promote digital education in Andhra Pradesh.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu exchanging MoU with Garima Babbar, Head - Programs, South Asia and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (Education and Skill Development), Adobe Inc. at the TECH-2018 conference held in Visakhapatnam. The APEDB works closely with the team from UNESCO MGIEP, the high-level consortium of investors and other government of Andhra Pradesh agencies to seamlessly facilitate new investments and partnerships in the proposed I-Hub.
APEDB and Finland Delegation Meet at the Tech 2018 Conference in Visakhapatnam

Mr S.P. Tucker, Executive Vice Chairman, APEDB, and Mr Aditya Nath Das, Special Chief Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Andhra Pradesh met the delegation from Finland on the sidelines of Tech 2018 Conference in Visakhapatnam.

The Finland and Andhra Pradesh delegations were led by Mr Peter Vesterbacka and Mr S.P Tucker respectively.

The delegation from Finland included India Development, Vaasa University, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (SAMK), Helsinki School of Business, Head AI, Hatch Entertainment, Education, and Hame University of Applied Sciences (HAMK).

The delegations discussed progress on the proposition of setting up an AI & Robotics University, Center of Excellence on Happiness, a Gaming Hub in Amaravati, Summer Schools, and Centres of Excellence on emerging technologies.

In June-August 2018, the delegation participated in Happy Cities Summit in Amaravati, under the guidance of the Chief Minister and the strategic guidance of Mr S.P. Tucker in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC).

Anantha Duraiappah said TECH 2018 would showcase the role of games and digital learning in enabling a shift from ‘transmissive pedagogies’ to ‘transformative pedagogies’ to create peaceful and sustainable societies.

India Game Development Challenge

The delegation initiated the India Game Development Challenge (IGDC) 2018, a 12-week residential training programme, in the SRM University in Amaravati. As part of the programme, about 500 students were trained by the faculty from Kajaani University, Finland, in Advanced Gaming Development. The students developed 48 games, of which 16 games are hosted on Google Play. The Finalists of the IGDC 2018 Challenge will participate in Slush Helsinki.
The AP delegation led by the Minister for IT and Panchayati Raj, Nara Lokesh to China to explore Investment Opportunities in the Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing

The Minister for IT and Panchayati Raj, Shri. Nara Lokesh led a delegation from the State Govt to the Republic of China to attract investments in electronics, hardware, semiconductor and mobile manufacturing. They met the representatives of the companies manufacturing consumer electronics, semiconductors, hardware, mobile, networking equipment, data processing machine and cables.

The visit has proved to be an appropriate forum to showcase Andhra Pradesh as an ideal investment destination to the global audience of world leaders and industry champions. It also served as an ideal platform to portray the achievements of the state in different areas, including the improvement in ease of doing business in the state, significant growth in primary, secondary and services sectors, and strides made toward making Amaravati a reality.

The delegation has also participated at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) “12th Annual Meeting of the New Champions”, a foremost global summit on innovation, science and technology, and promoting entrepreneurship in the global public interest. The meeting gathered WEF members, technology pioneers, C-level executives of some of the world’s largest multinational companies, public figures, young global leaders, civil society and academic institutions, and young scientists among others.

Further to this, the delegation has conducted bilateral meetings and garnered investment interests from the ESDM companies to the likes of China Electronic Technology Group Corporation (CETC), Risen Energy Co., Ltd, HERE Technologies, Airbus Defense and space, Guangzhou Automobile Group Co, CVTE, TCL Corporation, AAC Technologies, Bomin Electronics, WusPrintedCircuit, SGC, Vivo, and other distinguished business leaders and conducted the Roundtable-conference with companies based out of Shenzen.

The electronics manufacturing hubs have already attracted companies such as Foxconn, Holitech, Pegatron, Xiaomi, MI, Gionee, Karbonn, Lava, Oppo and Gouttee Phone. Several Chinese manufacturers like Xiaomi, MI, Gionee, Oppo, Trina, Longi have already set up their presence in Andhra Pradesh.
Hon’ble Minister Nara Lokesh interacted with various investors during his 6 day tour to China for the World Economic Forum.

**Investor Meet**

Speaking at the investors meet, the Hon’ble Minister, Mr. Nara Lokesh explained that interlinking of rivers is ensuring year-round water supply. The measures taken by the government to promote industry-friendly atmosphere include zero power cuts, excellent connectivity, and labour reforms that allow women to work in three shifts.

The minister pointed out that Foxconn employs 15,000 women in 3 shifts at its Sri City facility which is a glowing tribute to the flourishing economy of the state.

**Infrastructure and Incentives**

Detailing the incentives, the Minister said land allocation happens within 60 days of submission of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and that in less than one-year operations can start. Extolling the industry friendliness of AP, the minister pointed out that within four months, Xiaomi and Foxconn were able to start operations in Andhra Pradesh. He pointed out that the same zeal pervades every action that the government takes to attract investments.

**The Silicon Corridor**

Andhra Pradesh has 3 clusters dedicated to electronics. Together, they are called the Silicon Corridor of AP. Visakhapatnam, popularly known as Vizag, Sri City and Tirupati make the three clusters. Many mobile manufacturing majors are setting up shop in Sri City and Tirupati.
Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board wins Skoch Gold Award for Ease of Doing Business in Investment Promotion and Project Facilitation

The Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) won the Gold Award for being the best organization in India for Investment Promotion & Project Facilitation at the 55th Skoch Summit, held in New Delhi.

The award was received by Mr. J Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB and Ms. Bhavna Saxena, Special Commissioner, APEDB and the duo presented the same to the Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu.

The Skoch awards celebrate human excellence and agents of change in the Indian society. The jury appreciated APEDB for contributing towards a pragmatic policy regime, acting as a nodal agency for engaging with foreign governments, embassies, multilateral and bilateral agencies and trade associations, and for providing sustained and dynamic feedback to the executing departments. “The Skoch award to APEDB is a testimony to the excellent work being done by the board to promote AP as the foremost destination for investments.”

APEDB won the Gold Award, for contributing towards economic growth, employment generation and establishing a globally competitive investment climate, capable of quickly responding to fast changing global economic and technological scenario.

APEDB has spearheaded over 86 inbound international delegations and 111 outbound delegations within three years by elevating the status of partnership with organisations from various countries including South Korea, UK, Japan, China, Europe, United States, Singapore, Malaysia and Russia. Over 25 billion USD of committed investments are in the pipeline, due to the efforts of APEDB.

The board is responsible for marquee investments like Kia Motors, Asia Pulp and Paper, Saint Gobain, THK, Toray, Lixil, Arvind Mills and Rockman Industries.

APEDB CEO J Krishna Kishore says, “Created by an Act of the State Legislature, APEDB is unique in design, structure and thinking and owes its remarkable success to the independent and holistic mandate given by the government. Chaired and guided by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the Board is flexible and efficient with a ready and dynamic talent pool.

This has resulted in the immense contribution by APEDB to the development of Andhra Pradesh.” He further says, “This award is a testimony to the confidence among investors that the institution dealing with them is adequately empowered in determining the nature of support the government can provide for their investments.

At the heart of APEDB’s values and ethos, is a young, talented, skilled and agile workforce that is capable of working round-the-clock to achieve development goals. Hand-picked from top institutes, this young workforce are proactive and go beyond business as usual,” Kishore added.

The Chief Minister said the Skoch award to Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board is an eloquent testimony to the excellent work done by the Board to promote Andhra Pradesh as the foremost destination for investments. The APEDB team worked remarkably to promote Andhra Pradesh in India and abroad and has contributed to the growth of the state.
Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a set of farming practices that do not require a farmer to spend money on buying seeds, manure and fertilisers to grow a crop. The inputs for a crop are locally obtained including inoculations and manures in the form of cow dung and cow urine. A farmer practising ZBNF has a lower cost of inputs. It is observed that ZBNF not only produces chemical-free food and improves farmers economic and social conditions but also has a positive impact on soil fertility and climate change.

**Zero Budget Natural Farming in AP: the Whole World is Watching**

**ZBNF in AP**

The Chief Minister has laid down the vision that 60 lakh farmers shall transition to ZBNF by 2024. Andhra Pradesh has set up Rythu Sadhikara Samstha or RySS (Farmer’s Empowerment Corporation), under the Department of Agriculture, to promote ZBNF. Andhra Pradesh has launched a massive programme to mobilise farmers to practice ZBNF.

**AP ZBNF is Making Waves**

The Chief Minister said that the central government has incorporated AP ZBNF guidelines in its guidelines for ZBNF practice and is circulating the guidelines among the Indian states. He also mentioned that, in April 2018, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) recognised AP’s ZBNF model as one of the thirty best practices in the world in Agro-ecology.

The Chief Minister presented ZBNF to world leaders at Financing Sustainable Landscapes held on September 24, 2018, at the UN headquarters in New York, USA. The presentation focused on the fundamental shift in agriculture. Today, the global audience is familiar with and highly appreciative of the significance of the grassroots-level impact of ZBNF on various sectors.

In November 2018, an Indonesian delegation led by Mr. Sofyam A Djajil, the Hon’ble Minister for Agriculture and Planning, Indonesia, visited Andhra Pradesh. The delegation expressed interest in collaborating with AP to develop ZBNF practices in Indonesia and also discussed the transfer of technology involved in practicing ZBNF.
AP’s Stakeholder Consultation on Draft Industrial Parks Policy

To develop excellent industrial infrastructure in the state, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has come up with the concept of developing integrated industrial parks.

Many private infrastructure development companies are showing a keen interest to develop the industrial infrastructure of the state and have been submitting proposals for the same.

The Goals of the Draft Industrial Parks Policy

In this backdrop, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has brought out a draft industrial parks policy. The draft policy aims for:

Balanced regional development in the state by incentivising development in all areas across Andhra Pradesh.

Streamline private sector participation in developing industrial parks.

The Stakeholders Meet

To discuss the draft Industrial Parks Policy, the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) organised the Stakeholders Meet on 2nd November 2018, at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat in Amaravati.

Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB, made the opening presentation. He discussed the various initiatives taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to promote industrial investments in the state. He also highlighted the success stories of industrial development in the state.

Dr. P. Krishnaiah, Executive Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation and other senior officials from the Government of Andhra Pradesh were present at the meet and discussed key points about the industrial ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh.

The stakeholders discussed the key provisions of the draft policy and presented their concerns and views.

The participants had an excellent opportunity to interact with the senior officials of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and discuss the investment and development opportunities for industrial parks in the state.

The stakeholders highly appreciated the initiative to gather the views of the industry players on the draft policy. They also shared their deep interest in participating the state’s growth story.

Draft Industrial Parks Policy Review

The state government will soon consolidate the responses of the participants, modify the policy suitably and formally publish the policy. Once published, the policy measures are expected to attract infrastructure developers to build world-class industrial parks in the state.
Mr. Jeong Doek-Min, the Consul General of South Korea and the Special Envoy to Andhra Pradesh from Busan called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Mr. Jeong Doek-Min led a 20-member delegation from South Korea.

**About Busan**
Busan is South Korea’s second-most populous city with a population of over 3.5 million inhabitants. It is the economic, cultural and educational centre of south-eastern Korea. Also, the Southeast Economic Zone surrounding Busan is South Korea's largest industrial area. Its port is Korea's busiest and the 9th busiest in the world. Busan is a maritime logistics hub and is a gateway to Northeast Asia.

**Delegation from Busan**
The member companies of the delegation sought to explore manufacturing opportunities in automobiles, food processing, shipbuilding, industrial engineering and construction.

The delegation from Busan expressed their interest to participate in the manufacturing opportunities the state has to offer, specifically in automobiles, engineering, shipbuilding and food processing. Development of a Korean Township at Amaravati, Korea-AP Innovation Hub and Amaravati - Korea Cultural Centre are among other major initiatives discussed in the meeting.

**MoU for Korean Industrial City**
On this occasion, a MoU was signed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up a Korean industrial city in the state.

Mr. Jeong Doek-Min requested for stronger economic, trade and cultural ties between Busan and Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister expressed his hope that Andhra Pradesh would be industrialised on the lines of Busan soon and called for elevating the status of the partnership with Busan. The delegation also had a roundtable meeting with the Secretaries of various departments in Andhra Pradesh and expressed keen interest in working with the relevant ministries.

Mr. Krishna Kishore, Chief Executive Officer, APEDB, said that South Korea is an integral partner in the growth story of Andhra Pradesh. He also said that such high-profile delegations are a testimony to the progress of Andhra Pradesh’s development and AP’s entrepreneurial ethos.

The delegation included representatives of organisations such as BN BIP, Elentec, Dongnam TS, Sunbo and Daesan Model.
AP Prepares Ground for a Thriving MSME Ecosystem

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector is one of the 12 focus sectors identified by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the rapid development of the state. Andhra Pradesh has 25.96 lakh MSMEs that employ 70.69 lakh people. Keeping the significance of MSMEs’ contribution to employment and revenue to the state’s exchequer, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is following a multi-faceted approach to MSME development in the state.

Incentives
The AP government will provide a grant of up to 50% subsidy in project cost or a subsidy of up to INR 10 lakhs per acre of land occupied by an MSME. The MSME parks will have state of the art facilities to establish and sustain the MSME businesses. In addition, the government will provide land at a reasonable cost in the range of INR 2 to 8 lakhs per acre to industries that set up shop in the MSME Parks. The state government has also decided that all incentives available to MSMEs should be made available to the industries that operate from the MSME parks.

In the past 4 years, INR 1475 crores have been given to MSMEs as incentives.

Infrastructure for MSMEs
The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched 31 MSME Parks and a portal dedicated to the MSME parks. The portal can be accessed through the website of Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation’s (APIIC) website.

Andhra Pradesh enjoys a resilient infrastructure with 974 km long coastline and port-, rail- road - and air-connectivity. The opportunities for food-processing industries are abundant in the state. The long coastline offers good quality shrimp and fish. On the other hand, Rayalaseema and Northern Andhra Pradesh are into horticulture in a big way. All these factors support setting up food processing units in Andhra Pradesh.

After the state was formed in 2014, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has ensured that power is available 24/7. The government of India selected Andhra Pradesh as the model state for power supply to industrial units.

India has a total of 5 industrial corridors whereas the state of Andhra Pradesh alone has 2 of them, the Chennai - Visakhapatnam corridor and the Chennai - Bangalore corridor. The Chennai - Vishakhapatnam industrial corridor’s infrastructure development is supported by the Asian Development Bank with a loan of INR 5600 crores.

Vision and Leadership
Also, the leadership of the Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has firmly established a perspective in the national and international investors that AP is a business-friendly state that pursues growth in all earnestness.

MSME Parks Policy (2018-2023)
To reflect the government’s measures and support for MSMEs, the Government of Andhra Pradesh created the AP MSME Park Policy (2018-2023). The cabinet approved the policy in May 2018. The policy envisages the establishment of 200 MSME parks that house 30,000 MSMEs and create 3 lakh jobs in the state.
India Skills Report 2019 is Out: Andhra Pradesh Tops Hiring Destination List

India Skills Report 2019 is based on a joint-survey conducted by Wheebox, PeopleStrong, CII, and supported and backed by AICTE, UNDP and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

India Skills Report 2019 has placed the southern state of Andhra Pradesh on top of the list of states with the highest employability. Rajasthan is at number two followed by its neighbour Haryana. The report also credits Andhra Pradesh for offering equal opportunities to both males and females, thus doing well on the parameter of gender equality.

Speaking to media, Ms. Neeti Sharma, Senior Vice President, TeamLease Services said, “It is heartening to see Andhra Pradesh at the top of the leader board. It brings in a lot of confidence in the programmes that are being undertaken to create a robust skill pool in India”.

Mr. Shantanu Rooj, Founder and CEO, Schoolguru Eduserve Pvt. Ltd., congratulated the state government and hailed their strong and persistent focus in improving the employability of the higher education students of the state at all levels and that has produced results. Adding that it is a nice precedent for other states to follow, Mr. Rooj said, “Education must be linked to the purpose and an outcome; a deficiency of either is not sustainable”.

“Other States need to have structured programme right at the grassroot levels. Skill education and training needs to start right from schools and continue across the spectrum of the academic chain up till candidates reach the employment stage”, said experts.

Indeed India’s Managing Director Mr. Sashi Kumar seconded Sharma’s words. We cannot claim that our CEO sir said these words. So we are rewriting the same.

Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB, said that the Chief Minister’s vision guided AP in making it to the top of the employability charts. He added that an integrated framework linking employability, learning and skill training is required to help gauge the skill gap and train students better.
TCL Ground Breaking for Manufacturing Plant in Tirupati

Chinese electronics major TCL, one of the world’s largest TV panels manufacturer and a leading consumer electronics firm, performed the ground breaking ceremony of its first integrated smart manufacturing industrial park in India at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

The company plans to invest Rs. 2,200 crores which will generate 8,000 jobs in the facility. The manufacturing plant will be set up in a record eight months’ time and is scheduled to commence production from the fourth quarter of 2019.

Spread over 158 acres of government-allotted land, the primary facility of the industrial park is the panel module factory, which is the first of its kind production unit of TCL outside China. The TCL industrial park will also include a smart TV manufacturing facility to efficiently integrate the panel module and TV set production. The smart TV manufacturing facility is designed to manufacture 60 lakh 32-inch to 65-inch TV sets per year.

Mr. Tomson Li, Chairman and CEO of TCL Corporation who participated in the ground breaking ceremony, stated that India is a strategic market for TCL and this investment in India is a significant milestone in their globalization plans.

Tirupati Attracts More Than Rs 300 Billion Investments in Electronics Hardware Industry

Speaking on this occasion, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu said the temple town of Tirupati will be attracting more than Rs. 300 billion investments in electronics hardware industry in the coming months.

The Chief Minister said his government has named Tirupati and its adjoining region as the silicon corridor as this region is going to house every important component of electronics and mobile phone manufacturing in the near future.

Shri Nara Lokesh, Honourable Minister of Information Technology, Andhra Pradesh stated “We have designed the electronic policy in such a way that the units will come to the state with plans from design to death mode. Everything will be made in Andhra Pradesh”. He added that the state was already producing PCBs, chip designs, camera modules and batteries that are required in the electronic firms.

Among the upcoming investments, Reliance Group had recently announced to establish an electronics hardware park in 150 acres at Tirupati for making mobile phones, TV sets among other devices at a cumulative investment of 150 billion rupees.

The Chinese mobile phone brand Xiaomi’s manufacturing partner Holitech is also setting up a manufacturing facility to produce mobile phone, camera modules and TV panels at Tirupati. It may be recalled that the global electronics OEM company Foxconn began producing made in India (MI) brand phones for Xiaomi from its manufacturing plant at Sri City in 2015. It currently employs around 15,000 people, mostly women.

Few other notable electronics investments in the state include Flextronics, Celkon, Lava, Karbonn, Dixon, Munoth, Trina, Longi, Hareon Solar, CETC and Goutte Phone, making Andhra Pradesh the prime destination for electronics investments in India.
34,000 of One Lakh Promised IT jobs Created, says Nara Lokesh

Stating that IT department has achieved 34 per cent of its target of creating one lakh jobs, Information Technology (IT) Minister Nara Lokesh exuded confidence that it would make significant progress in the coming months. When asked if his department could reach the target of one lakh jobs, as repeatedly promised by him, in the remaining four months of the government’s tenure, the minister said, “We have created 34,000 jobs, which mean 34 per cent, and with the inauguration of five firms now, we will add 600 more jobs to the list. We are moving in right direction and people are observing the government’s progress”. He was talking to the media after inaugurating five IT/IT Enabled Services (IT eS) firms at Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society’s (APNRTS) Infosight Park in Tadepalli. A few more major announcements regarding the establishment of IT firms are expected to be made soon. “We already have the State Investment Promotion Board and Comprehensive Financial Management System online. We are working on integrating them so that incentives can be extended in real time”. he added.

He recalled that a top management executive of HCL Technologies expressed apprehensions regarding investing in Gannavaram. Later in the day, Mr. Lokesh inaugurated the Development Centre set up by AP Online in Vijayawada. AP Online is a joint venture of TCS and the State government.

CLRI and AP Government Ink an MoU to Develop Leather Industry

The Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop the leather industry in Andhra Pradesh. GoAP aims to increase business in the leather industry to upwards of INR 20,000 crore in the next three years. Under the MoU, mini leather parks, business centres at Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati and 78 leather showrooms will be established by CLRI.

On the eve of signing the MoU, the CLRI Authorities and the top business leaders in the sector met the Hon'ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat and expressed their willingness to invest in the state.

Avanti Leather Ltd., Overseas Leathers, Chava Leather Export Company have committed to invest INR 150 crore, INR 20 crore and INR 15 crore respectively to generate a total of 3000 jobs.

Expressing happiness over the proposals, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu suggested establishing industries with eco-friendly technologies and producing world-class goods.
A Joint Study by World Economic Forum and Government of Andhra Pradesh Identifies a $5 Billion Annual Opportunity in the Automotive and Electronics Sector in Andhra Pradesh

During the World Economic Forum, Sustainable Development Impact Summit in New York, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, released the findings of the project, “Accelerating Sustainable Production” in Andhra Pradesh.

This joint study undertaken by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with Government of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board and Accenture Strategy identifies a $5 billion annual opportunity for the automotive and electronics sector in Andhra Pradesh enabled by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies for manufacturing.

Andhra Pradesh is the first region where World Economic Forum is working towards conceptualising their global study on ‘Driving the Sustainability of Production Systems with Fourth Industrial Revolution Innovation’.

The World Economic Forum and Government of Andhra Pradesh have agreed to work towards creating a platform for industry and Government to work together through the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board.

The WEF will provide the global context along with Industry leaders and the State Government will provide the regional context to provide a platform to testbed these technologies.

The State Government aims to adopt partnerships and collaborations that will help large corporates as well as medium scale organizations with access to newer technologies and leverage skilling platforms.

Government of Andhra Pradesh will also be partnering with the World Economic Forum for their Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution to curate a trusted space where policy-makers, business executives, technology experts and other key stakeholders from both India and globally can convene to exchange insights on the latest technological trends and applications and help shape the future of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The state of Andhra Pradesh, under the futuristic vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, is leapfrogging in its approach for preparing the state’s economy to lead and be ready to embrace the opportunities that the 4IR has to offer.

Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the state government is working very closely with international institutions and well as businesses to scope out the opportunities for job creation. Also, the government is laying a lot of emphasis on training and skilling to make the youth job ready for the jobs of the future.

**AP Ranks No.1 in Employability**

According to the India Skills Report 2019, Andhra Pradesh topped the list of states with the highest employability. India Skills Report is an annual report published by Wheebox in collaboration with People Strong, Pearson and The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The India Skills Report 2019 also mentioned that Andhra Pradesh is the most preferred hiring destination as well as one of the most preferred states for work.

The Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said that the government’s vision is to make AP the knowledge and skills hub of the country by facilitating the development of a skilling ecosystem of international standards. He also added that the government of AP gives top priority to enhance the employability skills of students and unemployed youth to meet the skilled workforce demand.
15 Medical Colleges to Come Up in Amaravati Capital Region: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

On the occasion of the Teachers Day, the Hon’ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu addressed a congregation of teachers and educationists at CK Convention, Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh.

Remembering the great teacher, scholar, philosopher and statesman, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Chandrababu Naidu asked the teachers to get inspired by Sri Radhakrishnan to remain life-long learners.

On this occasion, he also recalled the role of his teachers in shaping his life.

Educational Infrastructure
Talking about the infrastructure, the Chief Minister added that the state has over 76 lakh students studying in 63,000 educational institutions. Therefore, the state government is giving top priority to developing infrastructure in this space. Consequently, his government had allotted 25,000 crores for development of education, and 5000 to 6000 schools will get virtual classrooms. "The 33.33% reservation in government jobs for women encourage more women to enter the workforce as teachers and police", he said.

He also noted, "the dropout rate in schools has reduced with the rise in pass percentage".

Emphasising on the importance of professional education, he said that fifteen medical colleges would come up in the Amaravati Capital Region.

Awards for Teachers
The Chief Minister also felicitated 127 teachers across school, intermediate, collegiate and technical education spheres. Also, he felicitated Ms. P.V. Sindhu, the renowned shuttle badminton player.

He called on the teachers to identify the best students they come across and that his government would support such students to realise their dreams.

AP Makes its Mark at the 13th International Conference on Energizing Indian Aerospace Industry: Mapping the Change

The 13th International Conference on Energising Indian Aerospace Industry: Mapping the Change was organised in New Delhi on two days, by the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The conference enjoyed wide participation from the industry delegates and stakeholders.

Aerospace & Defence: A Major Thrust Sector for Andhra Pradesh

Aerospace & Defence is one of the twelve focus sectors identified by the government of Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Krishna Kishore, CEO of Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB), highlighted the wide range of benefits and facilities extended by the state government to promote the sector during the session on Defence Industrial Corridors. Mr. Kishore's talk presented a bird's eye view of the investment haven that AP is. His talk focused on the infrastructure, fiscal incentives, and availability of skilled workforce. While fiscal incentives abound for industries, the infrastructure earmarked for industries is well embedded in a web of connectivity by land, air and waterways. The talk outlined how the government is not only thinking of today’s needs of the industries, but, also their future needs. Mr. Kishore also had several one-to-one discussions with prospective investors and key stakeholders. With AP's successful positioning as a long-term growth partner and the inquiries pouring in, the conference has proved as a great forum for generating investors' interest in AP in the aerospace and defence sector.

Experience AP

Mr. Krishna Kishore's presentation is available on APEDB's YouTube channel with the title 13th International Conference on Energising Indian Aerospace Industry. You can watch it to experience the data that drives AP’s attractiveness as a long term growth partner.
With Five Company Launches and Nine MoUs, Vizag Fintech Festival is a Grand Success

The Vizag Fintech Festival, stood witness to the government of Andhra Pradesh signing nine MoUs and inaugurating five companies, which began their operations and projects in Andhra Pradesh. The Hon’ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu exchanged the MoUs with the respective companies during the Fintech Festival.

HDFC Bank
A MoU has been signed with the HDFC bank, as they would promote Fintech Valley. The government’s collaboration with the bank is expected to take care of the banking requirements of the start-ups, promote HDFC banking products within other government departments and explore prospects of an HDFC-backed Fintech Valley Accelerator programme.

Whub
Another MoU was signed with Whub of Hong Kong to set up an international landing pad in Hong Kong to enable the start-ups from network and get connected to business opportunities and benefit from tailored business development assistance.

FinTech Association of Hong Kong
The government will also collaborate with the FinTech Association of Hong Kong for leveraging Hong Kong’s Fintech ecosystem and building an AP-HK gateway for Fintech start-ups and knowledge transfer.

Other MoUs
An MoU has also been signed separately with SingEx, Wadhwani Foundation and Udayam Association for collaborating with APIS to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and start-ups in AP.

APIS
A MoU has been signed with APIS Innovation Society (APIS) and SOSA, to establish landing pads in Israel and New York City, where start-ups, corporations and government representatives from APIS would have access to the SOSA innovation network and get connected to business opportunities and benefit from tailored business development assistance.

SOSA
Another MoU was signed by Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS) and SOSA, to establish landing pads in Israel and New York City, where start-ups, corporations and government representatives from APIS would have access to the SOSA innovation network and get connected to business opportunities and benefit from tailored business development assistance.

Company Launch
The Fintech Festival also saw the launch of platforms focusing on the rural youth. Cardlytics has launched its India operations in the Fintech Valley with 30 jobs. DXC is another unique programme in rural employment. The pilot project of DXC will come up at Anantapur, where the jobs will be taken to the rural villages. The project will be further extended to the remaining districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Bridge and Facebook, together have launched a rural entrepreneurs’ programme to identify entrepreneurs from rural areas.
Aarka Sports Signs an MoU to Set Up MS Dhoni Cricket Academy and School


Infrastructure and Benefits

This integrated project will include world-class sports infrastructure, school infrastructure with parks, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, 24 different sporting playgrounds, indoor/outdoor stadiums, labs, e-learning and on site libraries, rejuvenation centres, innovation centres, conference rooms, hostels, medical facilities, transport hubs, dedicated talent grooming centers etc.

J. Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB said: “Andhra Pradesh has always worked towards developing world-class partnerships and is delighted to have the M.S. Dhoni Cricket Academy, which will be run by expert coaches and will likely produce athletes and world-class sports men”.

APEDB signs MoU with Dawson Solar and Semiconductors Pvt Ltd to set up manufacturing of active cathode materials and cells for lithium-ion batteries

The Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) signed an MoU with Dawson Solar and Semiconductors Pvt. Ltd. The MoU will facilitate setting up a large-scale plant for the manufacturing of active cathode materials and cells for lithium-ion batteries.

Dawson Solar and Semiconductors is a technology and innovation-based company with state-of-the-art technologies in nano-technology and solid-state chemistry.

Catering to the export and local markets, the Dawson plant will be the first commercial-scale project in India to produce active cathode material and lithium-ion cells. The plant will have the active cathode material production capacity of 1,000 tons per year and 5 million units of lithium-ion cells.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, CEO of APEDB, Mr. Amlan Ajay, Director of Dawson, Mr. Ajay Mukund, CEO of Dawson, and the APEDB team.
AP CM Conferred ICFA Policy Leadership Award 2018

The Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) conferred the Hon'ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu with the Policy Leadership Award for the year 2018. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture, Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy received the award on behalf of the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in a glittering ceremony in New Delhi.

The jury led by Dr. Swaminathan chose Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu as the recipient for his vision and leadership in the implementation of agricultural policies, incentives, research & development, irrigation, natural farming and marketing for agriculture products.

India Betters Its HDI Ranking

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the Human Development Index (HDI) Rankings on September 14, 2018.

The index ranked 189 countries based on various parameters of human development such as health, education, and living standards. The HDI is one of the five indices that UNDP releases every year.

India improved its rank by one spot from 131 in 2017 to 130 in 2018 with an HDI value of 0.640. This is higher than the regional HDI value of 0.638. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are at ranks 76 and 101 respectively. However, Bangladesh and Pakistan are at ranks 136 and 150 respectively.

Strengthening Road Connectivity in AP

The state of Andhra Pradesh is embarking on massive road renovation across the state. Rural Connectivity Improvement Project, Andhra Pradesh Mandal Connectivity and Rural Connectivity Improvement Project (APMCCIP) and Andhra Pradesh Roads and Bridges Reconstruction Project (APRBRP) are planned to improve rural connectivity in AP.

Many mandals have single lane roads. The single lane roads will be developed into double lane roads with at least 7 metres of width. The projects will result in upgrading 3,100 km long roads and 430 bridges including construction of new bridges at the cost of Rs. 6,400 crores. The government approached the New Development Bank (NDB) at Shanghai to lend a loan through Directorate of Economic Affairs (GoI). The New Development Bank officials visited Amaravati and approved 3,200 crores of funding for each project.
Chinese Firm Keen to Set Up Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh

At a time when the State government is preparing ground for laying the foundation stone of an integrated steel plant in Kadapa district, a Chinese firm has expressed its readiness to establish a mega steel plant in AP. After calling on CM N Chandrababu Naidu, representatives of the firm unveiled their plan to set up 7,000 MT capacity (per year) steel plant near any port. Informing that investments will be made under the China-India Steel Plant Project, the representatives said that they have selected AP as the favourite location for setting up the plant. “Keeping in mind the demand for steel in India as well as the business in Asian countries, we are planning to set up a steel plant in the state,” they said, adding that they have already entered into an agreement with an Australian firm for supply of iron ore and coal. The CM suggested to the representatives to come up with a detailed project report.

California to Establish Strong Relationship with Andhra Pradesh

A delegation of state legislators from California showered praise on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his innovation and use of technology to serve people. The six members of California state assembly, Cecilia Aguia, Richord Bloom, Elise Gomez Reyes, Shalon Quirk Silva and Mark Store led by Ash Kalra, member of 27th district, met the Chief Minister at the secretariat. The delegation is on a tour of India and has visited Delhi, Hyderabad and Andhra Pradesh so far. Interacting with the Chief Minister, the team head Ash Kalra said that they were very much impressed by the vision of the Chief Minister in water management and making use of technology including e-Governance and Real Time Governance. Stating that they want to establish strong relations with the state of Andhra Pradesh, he praised the Chief Minister for preserving history of Amaravati and his efforts to build a world class capital. Interacting with the California delegation, the Chief Minister said, everything is possible with proper vision and right decisions in right time. The members of the delegation said that they are ready to share their innovation and ideas with AP government.
Chandrababu Naidu Dedicates the AP Medtech Zone to the Nation

Visakhapatnam is set to emerge as a major hub for manufacturing medical devices in the country, meeting the requirements of the domestic market as well as the export market, according to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the fourth WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices after dedicating the AP Medtech Zone to the nation. He said 80-90 per cent of the medical devices in the country were imported and most of them could be manufactured at the AP Medtech Zone and even exports could be taken up at a later stage. The park will give a tremendous boost to the medical devices segment in the healthcare industry, he added.

He complimented CEO Jitendar Sharma for his hard work in completing the 1st phase of the park in a year’s time. The Chief Minister said it was the 1st time the WHO Global Forum on Medical devices was being held in the country and he thanked the WHO representative Henk Bekedam for choosing Visakhapatnam and AP Medtech Zone for the purpose.

The Chief Minister offered to host it the next time as well. Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Chowbey congratulated the AP government for setting up the Medtech Zone. Smt. Poonam Malakondaiah, Principal Secretary, Health, AP, said all facilities had been set up in the park for manufacture, testing, and certification of medical devices in the park and from a simple thermometer to CT scan machines, all medical tools will be manufactured and tested at the AMTZ. The facilities include the largest 3D printing centre, biomaterial testing, X-ray tube testing, prototyping, rapid tooling, CT scan tube, largest gamma sterilisation plant for medical devices.

Chief Minister Urged Investors to Come to AP.

Addressing representatives from 90 countries, Chief Minister urged them to invest in the AMTZ. As per the National Medical Devices Manufacturing Policy 2015, he said investors in the AMTZ would get permissions through single window process. Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Chowbey, in his address, said that India imports 70 per cent of medical devices that it requires (25 per cent from China and 15 per cent from the USA). He opined that the AMTZ would give improved medical facilities in rural areas.
Tirupati to Develop as Medical Hub Soon: Chief Minister

Tata Trusts and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams have come together to build a 300-bed cancer hospital in Tirupati. Named Sri Venkateswara Tata Cancer Care and Advanced Research Institute, the hospital will be set up in 25 acres of land awarded by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). In due course, the hospital will be extended to 1000 beds.

The foundation stone was laid by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Nara Chandrababu Naidu and the Tata Trusts Chairman Mr. Ratan N. Tata. They also unveiled a plaque on this occasion.

Cancer Therapy & Research

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that the hospital would emerge as a hub for radiation therapy, holistic care and advanced research.

Benefits for Poor People

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to Mr. Ratan N. Tata and thanked Tata Trusts for coming forward to set up the state-of-the-art facility in AP. He also said that the hospital not only makes cancer treatment affordable but also makes it accessible by eliminating the need for long distances to cities like Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru for the 50,000 cancer patients of the state.

Better Life Style and Early Diagnosis

The Chief Minister extolled the people to adopt healthy food habits to avoid cancer. He also advised that one should undergo regular screening tests as early diagnosis of cancer is critical to curing it.

Tirupati to Emerge as a Medical Hub

The Chief Minister added that in addition to the existing healthcare infrastructure in Tirupati, which consists of SVIMS, BIRRD, the Ruia hospital, and two medical colleges, Tirupati would witness a host of other medical research institutions. He envisioned that Tirupati would emerge as the capital for cancer care in South India and would be connected to the National Cancer Grid.

The other dignitaries present on the occasion were Mr. R. Venkataramanan, Managing Trustee, Tata Trusts, Mr. R. K. Krishna Kumar, Trustee, Tata Trusts, Mr. Anil Kumar Singhal, Executive Officer of TTD and Dr. P. Narayana Murthy, Director, Sri Venkateswara Tata Cancer Care and Advanced Research Institute.

IT Minister Nara Lokesh Launches Make in AP Initiative

The Hon’ble Minister for IT, Electronics and Communications and Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Nara Lokesh launched the Make in AP initiative on 21st November, 2018. About 50 corporates and 100 mentors are on board for this initiative. Key partners in this programme are IBM, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Amazon Webservices, Franklin Templeton, ICRISAT and Kotak.

Prize money, mentoring and offers for incubation are the trophies for the participating teams. The government is expecting 15,000 participants during the next four months.

Vision

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Nara Lokesh said that Andhra Pradesh should create at least 10 unicorns in the next 5 years. Also, he added that his government is allotting 10 crores for each district for promoting startups.

Key Partners

About 50 corporates and 100 mentors are on board for this initiative. Key partners in this programme are IBM, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Amazon Webservices, Franklin Templeton, ICRISAT and Kotak.
APEDB Inks MOU with Texport Syndicate India Limited for a Garment Manufacturing Unit Providing over 2000 Direct and 2000 Indirect Employment

The Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Texport Syndicate India Limited in Vijayawada today.

This MoU was signed by Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, Chief Executive Officer, APEDB & Mr. Barinder Singh Basan, Chief Executive Officer, Texport Syndicate India Limited, in the presence of N Chandrababu Naidu, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Texport Syndicate India Limited, established in 1978, is one of the leading apparel exporters in India with capabilities that extend from design to delivery. Headquartered in Bangalore, India, Texport Syndicate has seven integrated state-of-the-art production centers in India and design teams in New York, London, Spain, and Mumbai. With an annual turnover of INR 600 crores producing 20 million units per year, it employs a workforce of 10,000+ of which 80% are women. 6 out of 7 factories are located in the suburbs of Bengaluru, Karnataka whereas the seventh plant is located in Kodur, Hindupur district, AP. Its main markets are the USA, European Union, and the Middle East.

Texport Syndicate India Limited would establish their Readymade Garments Manufacturing Project in Andhra Pradesh with an investment of INR 35 crores to build a garment manufacturing unit with a capacity of 4.5 million units per year, which would generate direct employment of over 2000 and indirect employment of another 2000 in the region. The garment manufacturing unit already set up in Kodur with an investment of INR 36 crores is operational since September 2018 providing direct employment of 2100 making it a total of INR 71 crores investment and direct employment of 4100 in the state.

This proposed investment was facilitated by Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board, a single point of contact for spearheading sustainable growth through investments, partnerships, and collaborations.

The size of India’s textile market as of July 2017 was around USD 150 billion, which is expected to touch USD 250 billion by 2019, growing at a CAGR of 13.58 percent between 2009-2019. With the advent of fast fashion with reduced lifecycle times, the textile players are integrating their manufacturing operations from fiber to fashion. These changes coupled with the focus on the Textile & Apparel sector provides a huge opportunity for India and especially Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. J Krishna Kishore, Chief Executive Officer, Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board said “This MoU is a step in the right direction as textiles is a priority sector for the government of Andhra Pradesh and the government envisages increasing productivity and efficiency in the cotton-to-garment value chain”.

Mr. Barinder Singh Basan, Chief Executive Officer, Texport Syndicate India Limited expressed his pleasure in manufacturing in the state of Andhra Pradesh. As quoted by him “Texport Syndicate, a four-decade old company made its first foray into the state of Andhra Pradesh in 2018 with a mega project in Anantapur District. The ease with which we were able to implement the project has instilled great confidence in policies, processes, and procedures of Andhra Pradesh government. With a very impressive textile policy in place, we are pleased to go ahead and start our next mega project in the state. The eagerness and confidence displayed by the Honourable Chief Minister, Nara Chandrababu Naidu during the MOU signing ceremony consolidated our faith further. We are sure that under the able and dynamic leadership of Mr. Naidu, the state is in a position to attract many more such projects and push the state on to the path of prosperity”.

As India gears up to become one of the world’s largest textile manufacturing hub, this MoU between APEDB & Texport Syndicate taps into this huge opportunity.

The Andhra Pradesh government has unveiled a new textile policy 2018-23 which aim to attract investments worth INR 15,000 crores and create 2.5 lakh jobs in the state. Touted to be the first-of-its-kind policy in the country, the policy helps Andhra Pradesh emerge as the ideal hub for textiles and promotes setting up ancillary units apart from accelerating socio-economic development.
GMR Kakinada Gateway Port Ltd Holds Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Greenfield Kakinada Port

GMR Kakinada Gateway Port Ltd held the ground-breaking ceremony for the development of Greenfield commercial port near Kona village in East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. The foundation stone was laid by Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Kakinada Gateway Port is promoted by Kakinada SEZ Ltd., a subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure Limited, the flagship company of GMR Group.

Kakinada Gateway Port Limited had signed the Concession Agreement on 21st November, 2018 with the Director of Ports, Kakinada, GoAP for development of the Port on DBFOT basis (Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer). The concession has been awarded with a concession fee of 2.7% of revenue share in the first 30 years of COD, 5.4% of revenue share in the years 31 to 40 and 10.8% revenue share in the years 41 to 50. The port would be developed in an area of over 1811 acres owned by KSEZ GoAP would lease 133 acres of sea front land for the period of concession.

The port is expected to handle coal, general cargo and liquid cargoes over the concession period. The estimated project cost is ~ 3,000 cr. The port is expected to generate huge direct and indirect employment opportunities for the people of Thondangi mandal in the East Godavari district of the state.

On the occasion, Mr. N Chandrababu Naidu said, "The 974 km coastline of the State offers tremendous scope for port development and thus economic development & employment generation in the region. I am confident that Kakinada Gateway Port would go on to become a gem among the ports and would stand as a shining example not just for the state or the country, but for the whole world."

Taking the cue from the Chief Minister, Mr. BVN Rao, Chairman, Transportation & Urban Infrastructure of GMR Group, said, "This event heralds a new era of industrialisation for the Kakinada Region. The port and the Industrial Park will definitely have symbiotic relationship. While the port will provide an excellent value proposition for the manufacturing industry to set up unit in the Industrial Park, the cargo import & export from the park will provide the traffic upside for the economic attractiveness of the port."

An MoU was signed between GoAP and HPL in Kakinada. Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd (HPL) is a competitive modern naphtha-based Petrochemical Complex at Haldia, West Bengal which is 125 kms from Kolkata. The HPL project in Haldia is a joint venture project of the Government of West Bengal, The Chatterjee Group, the TATAs, the Indian Oil Corporation, etc. as major stakeholders with an investment of Rs 5,864 crore. The proposed refinery and petrochemical project in Kakinada SEZ over the years is expected to generate around 5 lakh direct and indirect jobs. It will also provide a fillip to the Port, with significant liquid cargo traffic. GMR Group aims to develop the region on the lines of Jurong Industrial Cluster in Singapore and Houston of the United States.

The port has large industrial land of Kakinada SEZ (~8,521 acres) in the backyard. Being strategically located on the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, the port and Industrial Park together are expected to become the gateway to the East Coast of India. Kakinada SEZ had also signed an agreement with AP Gas Distribution Corporation in October, 2018 for supply of piped natural gas to industries in the Industrial Park, making it a highly attractive destination for gas dependent manufacturing industries. Kakinada SEZ would be the first Industrial Park on Eastern Coast of India that can provide piped Natural Gas supply to all its industrial units.

Given the assurance of the GMR Group, abundant water, surplus power, assured gas supply, Kakinada SEZ Industrial Park has been receiving enquiries from various international companies from countries like Korea, Taiwan and China. The companies are from sectors like Chemicals, Petrochemicals, Food Processing, Solar Equipment Manufacturing, Toys & Textiles and Glass & Ceramics manufacturing. Institutions of repute such as Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Indian Institute of Packaging are also being set up in 25 acres each at Kakinada SEZ.
APEDB Hosts Knowledge Sharing Session for Himachal Pradesh Delegation

Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board hosted the delegation from Government of Himachal Pradesh on December 19, 2018 at APEDB’s office and shared the best practices followed by the state of Andhra Pradesh for investment promotion.

The delegation led by Mr. Manoj Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Industries) included Mr. Abid Hussain, Special Secretary and Mr. Anil Kumar, Deputy Director from the Industries department, Government of H.P. along with the representatives from Invest India.

Mr. S.P. Tucker, Executive Vice Chairman, APEDB and Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB briefed the delegation on the genesis and journey of APEDB as an investment promotion agency responsible for spearheading economic growth through trade, investments, partnerships and collaborations under the chairmanship of Honourable Chief Minister, Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

The APEDB team gave a detailed presentation on the structure and working of APEDB, investment promotion strategy adopted, challenges faced by the organisation in its journey and the milestones achieved so far. The APEDB organisation structure is aligned as per the APEDB ACT to meet the targets of the State’s Vision 2019 and in alignment with the functioning of Singapore EDB. The major divisions include Investment Promotion and Facilitation, External Engagement, Strategic Planning & Policy Division among others.

The delegation’s visit to Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board was initiated by Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India that acts as the first point of reference for investors in India. Invest India also actively works with several Indian states to build capacity as well as bring in global best practices in investment targeting, promotion and facilitation.

APEDB in the past has imparted similar training and capacity building workshops to investment promotion agencies of the states of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Ministry of North Eastern Regions. Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board believes that these initiatives stand as a testimony to Cooperative Federalism in India and looks forward to be part of such knowledge sharing platforms to improve the institutional capacities of the states.
The Ambassador of France to India, Hon’ble Chief Minister and COO Accor Group Mr. Jean Michael Casse inaugurated the Novotel in Vijayawada which is a collaboration between the French based Accor group and India based Varun group. On the sidelines of the inauguration, The Ambassador of France to India held a bilateral discussion with Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh wherein various French engagements in the state were discussed. The Ambassador led a delegation comprising of nearly 30 French based businesses who expressed interest in various marquee projects in the state namely Amaravati Metro, Smart city projects in Vishakapatnam and Amaravati. The French Development Agency, AFD, indicated a strong partnership with the state in the coming years, considering the possibility of French funding in some of the projects in Andhra Pradesh. Special Commissioner, APEDB presented the opportunities in the state across various industrial and service sectors to the delegation. Officials from Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority curated a site visit of marquee projects in Amaravati. The delegation led by the Ambassador along with officials from APEDB held consultations with Secretary, Municipal Administration Urban Development, and officials from Amaravati Metro Rail Corporation and Andhra Pradesh Urban Infrastructure Asset Management Limited. The presence and expansion of French companies in India has been increasing steadily. APEDB will leverage its network in France and India and continue to explore new growth avenues that would lead to investment and knowledge partnerships.

Delegation led by Deputy Minister of Zurich Canton in Amaravati

Government of Andhra Pradesh’s participation at World Economic Forum has resulted in various international collaborations to promote sustainable development in the state. One such partnership is with the Canton of Zurich, which is driven by APEDB and Department of Economic Affairs of the Canton of Zurich. To set the context for this partnership is a delegation from Zurich conducted a fact-finding mission in 2017, which was followed up through a similar exercise, by a delegation led by Mr. Bruno Sauter, Deputy Minister of Zurich Canton, Department of Economic Affairs, in December 2018. The objective of this mission was to finalise the areas for further engagement. The delegation from Canton of Zurich along with officials from Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board held consultations with Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department and Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department. Key projects were identified in these sectors to devise cooperation plans and establish joint working group. The delegation from Canton of Zurich expressed interest in developing a 2000 Watt Carbon Neutral township in Amaravati. Officials from APCRDA curated a site visit for the delegation to highlight the upcoming projects in Amaravati.

Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board and the Department of Economic Affairs, Canton of Zurich will work together to facilitate economic cooperation, technology partnerships and investment relationships in areas like Sustainable Urban Development, Technology in Governance, Vocational Education, Tourism and Agriculture.
A high-level delegation led by Pham Vu Hong, Chairman, People’s Committee of Kien Giang Province, Vietnam met Mr. S.P. Tucker, Executive Vice Chairman, APEDB and Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, Chief Executive Officer, APEDB.