AP No.1 in EoDB
Amaravati Bonds show investors’ trust
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Industrial Concessions
Tirupati and Vijayawada the most liveable cities
Anna Canteen is ‘modern Akshaya Patra’
From the desk of Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu
Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Chairman, APEDB

At a time when the Indian economy is undergoing massive changes, Andhra Pradesh’s economy continues to grow. This is because we have had the foresight and vision to ensure economic growth and stability for the State. The benefits of economic growth must percolate down to the common man, and the goal of my Government is to provide employment for all – that is, every employable person in the State has access to a livelihood, a job.

We will leave no stone unturned to attract investors to our State, whether it is through policies, concessions or building infrastructure. That Andhra Pradesh was deprivation to growth. Within no time, we should be on a level-playing field among the best States in India.

If you examine the budget, you will see that the education sector has received a large allocation of Rs.24,185 crores followed by rural development with Rs.20,815 crores. Further, Rs.13,722 crores has been allocated towards welfare schemes – an increase of 20.79 per cent. Other key sectors include irrigation with an outlay of Rs.16,978 crores and agriculture and allied services with an outlay Rs.12,355 crores.

The budget reflects the AP Vision 2029 with commitment to people’s well-being.
New Wave of Economy
The country is undergoing a rapid transformation towards a more urban, more middle class, more connected and more interdependent economy across sectors and economies. Successive waves of economics are transiting from factor driven to technology and innovation-driven efficient economy. The State of Andhra Pradesh too is witnessing this change and it should be supported by strong institutions and collaborations.

Service Sector and Economy
Services have played a unique role in sustaining the country’s and State’s economic growth. Only 45.1% of our current growth is drawn from the services sector, whereas the country’s leading States have secured a service sector contribution between 57%-65%.

Sub-Sectors that add high value
Sub-sectors of services such as Information Technology & Information Technology Enabled Services (IT & ITeS), Education Services, Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value, Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Entertainment Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services and Financial Services should be supported for enabling the structural transformation.

Some initial steps
Some of the key initiatives taken up under the APEDB include, reach-out strategy to attract private players to invest and bring 5 lakh students under higher education and technical education from the current 2 Lakhs, under new private universities; adding 20,000 additional hospital beds, therefore, promoting health care and medical value travel; promotion of spiritual and health tourism, improving business competitiveness through integrated supply chains, etc.

Sri Anil Chandra Punetha, IAS was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh
On September 28, 2018, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh appointed Mr. Anil Chandra Punetha, an Indian Administrative Service officer of 1984 batch, as the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Punetha will succeed the retiring Chief Secretary Mr. Dinesh Kumar, a 1983 batch IAS officer.

Mr. Punetha was previously the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration and had previously held important posts in the Andhra Pradesh government, such as Principal Secretary (Revenue), Health and Family Welfare Commissioner and Agriculture Commissioner. During his stint as Srikakulam district Collector in the 1990s, he won the Best Collector award for three consecutive years, which is a unique record.

Mr Punetha recently mentioned that ‘Andhra Pradesh has been undergoing remarkable transformation under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The development of the State and its new capital will indeed be a remarkable chapter in the India’s development story which will be watched not just in India, but by the global partners worldwide.’

It is the Hon’ble Chief Minister’s vision to make Andhra Pradesh a developed state by 2029. Furthering this vision, the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSSP) have entered into an MoU for drafting the version 2.0 of the Vision 2029 document. The MoU was signed by Mr. Punetha and LKYSSP Dean Professor Danny Quah in the presence of the Hon’ble Chief Minister.
It was a proud moment in Singapore when the Hon’ble Finance Minister of Singapore Mr. Heng See Keat described Hon’ble Chief Minister Mr. Chandrababu Naidu as one of the finest politicians today, who is more like a successful CEO than a politician.
Andhra Pradesh is No. 1 in Ease of Doing Business

In the latest ranking prepared by the World Bank and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on Ease of Doing Business, Andhra Pradesh is at the top. This is the second consecutive year that the State beat other States and Union Territories in the country to emerge as the best, scoring 98.42 per cent on the various parameters. Reacting to the news, IT Minister Nara Lokesh tweeted, “We’ve Done It Again! Andhra Pradesh is No. 1 in Ease of Doing Business.”

AP implementing 95% of the reforms

The final ranking is based on a combination of “reform evidence score” and “feedback score”, where the State scored 99.73 per cent and 86.50 per cent respectively. States implementing over 95 per cent of the reforms fall into the ‘Top Achievers’ bracket, of which there were nine. Over 18 States with a ranking below 80 per cent when it came to implementation were declared ‘aspirers’. Responding to the latest rankings, AP Planning Board Vice Chairman C Kutumba Rao commented, “The fast track implementation of Kia Motors is an outstanding example of the actual implementation of reforms in AP.”

Global benchmark in EoDB

He went on to note, “This is testament to the corruption free and transparent governance that forms the DNA of doing business in the State... It is important to note that Andhra Pradesh is determined to raise the bar and... is benchmarking itself against global parameters with regard to Ease of Doing Business and is constantly working towards becoming one of the world’s top-25 investment destinations.”

Factors that contributed to the excellent score

The State introduced several reforms, in 372 areas to be precise, to enable it to occupy the top position. These include ease in starting a business through the Single Window System and use of a common application form (CAF), online processing of industrial incentives, reforms in areas such as tax payment, protection of minority investors, issuance of construction permits, providing new power connections, property registration; conflict resolution, and access to data and information.

Andhra Pradesh has also updated its geographic information system to provide comprehensive information on the existing infrastructure, including roads, water and electricity supply, proximity to national and State highways, railway lines.

India’s fastest growing State

The State is one of India’s fastest growing ones and the Government is tirelessly working towards ensuring that it is among the top three by 2022. With investment potential of ₹16,04,656 crores and an employability potential of 34,03,370 people, there is every likelihood that the goal will be achieved. Its current track record is very encouraging, with 721 operational projects with an investment of ₹48,462 crores and creation of 2,26,305 jobs.
Amaravati bonds over-subscribed 1.53 times; reflecting investors’ trust in AP

It was a proud moment for the State of Andhra Pradesh when the Chief Minister rang the opening bell at the Sir Dinshaw Petit International Convention Hall of the Bombay Stock Exchange to mark the listing of Amaravati Bonds. It was an even prouder moment when the bonds were oversubscribed 1.53 times, reflecting the people’s faith, especially the investors’, in his vision and Government.

The Chief Minister shared his dream of transforming Amaravati into one of the top five best cities in the world. He mentioned that he is keen to develop the capital as a green city which is not just modern and smart but also sustainable and balanced. His aim is to make it the happiest city in the world by using relevant data, knowledge and innovation. It will also be built in a sustainable manner by promoting the use of renewable energy.

Upward trajectory in economic growth

AP is already on the upward trajectory when it comes to economic growth, with the growth rate moving up from 10.5 per cent to 11.2 per cent over the last three years. Inviting investors, the Chief Minister said this is indeed the right time to invest in the State, which has been ranked at the top in Ease of Doing Business consistently for the second year. The Chief Minister also invited the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) to set up its innovation centre in the State.

The Chief Minister has outlined the Government’s efforts to stay ahead through real-time governance, comprehensive finance management systems, e-Office.

The other officials who were present at the event include Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, Minister for Finance, P. Narayana, Minister for Urban Development, Satish Chandra, Special Chief Secretary, Ajay Jain and G Sai Prasad, Principal Secretaries, C. Kutumba Rao, AP Planning Board Vice-Chairman, J. Krishna Kishore, APEDB CEO, A. Babu, RTG CEO, and Mr. Sridhar, CRDA Commissioner.
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu with business leaders at a Round Table Conference in Mumbai. He also had one to one meetings with global business leaders.
Hindware exploring opportunities in Andhra Pradesh

Leaders in sanitaryware in India, Hindware, which enjoys 38 per cent market share in India, has evinced interest in setting up ceramic units in Andhra Pradesh. Over the last four years, the company has succeeded in building a brand name synonymous with quality sanitary products.

Hindware Vice-Chairman & Managing Director and Senior Vice-President of FICCI, Mr. Sandip Somany discussed their plans with the Hon’ble Chief Minister. This ties up very nicely with the State Government’s plan to grow the ceramic industry since there is increasing demand for construction and building materials in Andhra Pradesh.

Tirupati and Vijayawada among top 10 most liveable cities in India

The cities of Andhra Pradesh have been performing creditably well in multiple national surveys. In the recent release of the Ease of Living Index by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Gol, where 111 cities were assessed, Tirupati and Vijayawada earned the distinction of being among the top ten most liveable cities, standing at fourth and ninth place respectively.

Criteria for evaluation

The criteria for evaluation included physical infrastructure, governance, social indicators, and economic performance, and AP cities stood out in all of them. Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, and Vijayawada scored well on multiple parameters, the first two bagging sixth and tenth place in physical infrastructure, respectively, and all three making the top ten list in governance, with Tirupati coming in second, Vijayawada coming in ninth, and Visakhapatnam coming in tenth. While Vijayawada was placed eighth in terms of social indicators, Tirupati earned the top spot.

Based on the report submitted to MoHUA by Vijayawada’s civic body, the MoHUA graded the city’s position on 78 indicators. Tirupati scored 57.52 points and Vijayawada scored 49.27 points out of 100 and out of 78 indicators, these two cities excelled in governance, health, education, wastewater management and assured water supply.

J. Nivas, Municipal Commissioner of Vijayawada, commented that the civic body has been simultaneously targeting development of outdoor spaces for sport and leisure as well as water supply and wastewater management.

Cleanliness Index

Paving the way for a cleaner and brighter future, Andhra Pradesh has also proved its mettle in the area of urban sanitation. In the national 2018 Swachh Survekshan that surveyed 4,203 Urban Local Bodies, Vijayawada placed fifth in the category of cities with populations above one lakh, closely followed by Tirupati and Visakhapatnam in sixth and seventh place respectively.

Tirupati and Vijayawada railway stations have also received national recognition in the ‘Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat’ survey report released by the Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal. Of the 75 stations in the A1 category, these cities were placed third and fourth respectively.
APCRDA enters into MoU with BLF to develop Krishna River Islands

With Andhra Pradesh making steady progress towards being a shining example of urban planning and administration, the Government has left no stone unturned in planning innovation for its capital city Amaravati, including development of the Krishna river. During a recent review meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to beautify the river and its canals. In a bid to transform the riverbank into a tranquil and beautiful recreational space, he suggested construction of a platform for the national flag, and beautification of bunds on both sides.

About Business Leaders Forum
BLF is a forum by the UAE Ministry of Economy and the Indian Embassy & Consulate in UAE to enhance trade and investments between UAE and India. The proposals were put forward by the Business Leaders Forum, led by Ram Buxani and offered to develop two islands in the river including a professional golf court, a convention centre, villas and apartments, and a hotel complex, occupying a total area of around 500 acres. The AP Government signed an MoU with the Forum to this effect, with the process facilitated by APEDB.

Introducing digital numbering of houses
The review meeting also saw CRDA Commissioner Mr. Sridhar QR codes, which would interface with Daari – a smart navigation app.

A world-class media hub in Amaravati
In the future, Amaravati is expected to be a world-class media hub, playing host to renowned international events like the Grammys, the Cannes film festival. Film producer D. Suresh Babu described Amaravati as an exciting city of the future, which is bound to attract the film and television industries and spur cultural and artistic activities.

Minister for Municipal Administration P. Narayana, Principal Secretary Satish Chandra, Principal Secretary Ajay Jain, Principal Secretary G. Sai Prasad, and Amaravati Development Corporation CMD D. Lakshmi Parthasarathi also participated in the meeting.
Anna Canteens: Providing quality food to the poor at affordable prices

In July 2018, the AP Government launched Anna Canteens across the State. The aim is to provide the common man access to three wholesome, nutritious meals a day at the extremely subsidized price of Rs. 5 per meal. During the first phase, 60 canteens have been opened and, soon, many more canteens will come up across the State, serving food that has already been praised for its quality and quantity.

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, responsible for the management of the canteens, is maintaining a delicious and healthy menu. Breakfast options include a plate of three idlis or three pooris, or upma or pongal. Lunch and dinner consist of rice, curry, curd, pickle, and dal or sambar. Hygiene is a priority and food preparation is monitored in real-time. To ensure fairness and transparency, an electronic token system has been implemented. An IVRS system has also been put in place in order to receive complaints, suggestions, and feedback.

Providing quality food at an affordable price

The AP Government is investing immense amounts of time and energy to reach its target of serving an average of 2.5 lakh plates of food per day. Currently, an already commendable 70,000 plates of food are being served. The cost of three meals per day is Rs. 73, of which the Government contributes Rs. 58, ensuring that the people do not have to spend more than Rs. 15 per day towards a nutritious meal.

Expansion plans

The people’s response to the canteens has been overwhelming, many have praised the food for its affordability, taste, and ability to satisfy. In India, where low BMI and poor nutrition are big challenges, these subsidised canteens will address the problem head on. Aware that a happy and healthy population holds the key to well-developed State, the AP Government is upscaling the programme, and will be opening 203 canteens across the State shortly. This programme will address the problem of food-insecurity in a big way, and, at the same time, create employment, especially for women.

Novel plan to curb unemployment: APSSDC inks MoU with JCH-IN

In addition to job creation, the AP Government is also working to reduce unemployment by skillling unemployed youth and school dropouts. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and Johnson Controls- Hitachi Air Conditioning India Limited (JCH-IN). The MoU was signed by T. Anil Kumar, Executive Director of APSSDC, and S. Vivek Mani of JCH-IN.

The objective is to create Model Skill Development Centres (MSDCs) which will offer three-month courses in AC repair and maintenance. As Stated by Mr. T. Anil Kumar, the goal is to have four batches per year consisting of 20-30 trainees each, with the end result being that the centres train around 600 candidates per year. JCH-IN plans to provide the course syllabus and, upon completion of the course, the trainees are jointly certified by APSSDC and JCH-IN.

The aim is to combat unemployment by creating AC technicians who will be able to pursue a career either through self-employment or through an AC dealer/company. Kakinada and Vijayawada will have the first two MSDCs, which will be operational this year. Visakhapatnam, Anantapur, and Nellore will house the centres planned for the next phase.
LIXIL sets up first sanitary ware manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh

On the 8th of August in Bhimadole, West Godavari, LIXIL, a Japanese pioneer in water and housing products manufacturing has established their first sanitary-ware facility in India. The LIXIL Group spans operations in more than 150 countries and approximately 300 operating companies including INAX, GROHE, American Standard, and TOSTEM.

This State-of-the-art facility is built on a 45-acre campus and has the capacity to produce over 1 million units per annum. 80% of the plant’s production capacity will cater to the Indian market, while the remaining capacity will produce for the global markets. With an investment of INR 400 crores in this facility, it aspires to generate employment opportunities for more than 400 individuals in the State. Additionally, in line with the Government’s ‘Skill India’ initiative, LIXIL will induct 150 ITI student trainees under National Employability Enhancement Mission (NEEM) Scheme.

Applauding the LIXIL’s decision, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the sanitation sector presents untapped potential and Andhra Pradesh is taking steps to help tackle the sanitation crisis. There are remarkable opportunities for stakeholders in the sanitation sector, which is pegged to be at 62 USD Billion by 2021. As a pioneer in sanitary-ware and toilet technology, LIXIL and Andhra Pradesh believe that everyone should have access to safe sanitation. By considering the ‘Sanitation’ market, LIXIL’s manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh will not only provide employment, but also unlock unprecedented social change, while tapping into India’s circular economy.

Ease of Doing Business in AP attracts investment

Mr. Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB, acknowledged how LIXIL’s investment in Andhra Pradesh would unlock new growth opportunities and markets and open up alternative development pathways for human health and hygiene. The new collaboration also highlighted the State’s ability to attract investments in high-value exports “owing to (its) robust infrastructure, efficient policies and an industry ready workforce”.

Speaking at the inauguration, LIXIL Group Corporation’s President and CEO, Kinya Seto, reminiscing the meetings at Davos and Partnership summit expressed they are extremely happy to be associated with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB). He appreciated the Board’s efforts in realising the project and said they are keen on continuing this strong partnership in the coming years. LIXIL’s facility is one of the most technologically advanced in the Indian market, with excellent infrastructure and performance testing processes. The plant will have stringent testing mechanisms for all its inputs to ensure product quality.

The facility was inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh’s Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Home Mr. Nimmakayala Chinarajappa. Also present at the inauguration were Mr. Amaranath Reddy, Industries Minister, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. Ryoji Furui, Counsellor Embassy of Japan in India, Mr. Yasujiro Miyake, Executive Director, Southwest Asia Office, Trade Policy Bureau, METI, and Shinji Ito, Chief Supply Chain Officer, LIXIL Water Technologies, Asia Pacific.
Andhra Pradesh to develop six economic cities

While most ponder what marvels cities in the future will hold, the AP Government is realising those visions starting this very year. A total of six Economic Cities are scheduled for development, with at least two of them expected to be complete by December 2018. The cities, which are to be located near Vijayawada, Guntur, Visakhapatnam, Kurnool, and Rajahmundry, will have high-quality infrastructure designed to attract the relocation of leading financial and technological firms from major Indian metros.

The cities will contain everything from special economic zones and international techno-parks to international education zones and shopping malls, complemented by efficient transport networks and walk-to-work concepts that will ensure accessibility and mobility. There are also plans for the increased utilisation of drones in areas such as municipal administration, agriculture, and safety and security. The projects will involve the cooperation of the AP Government with the best bureaucratic minds and urban planning experts. It is expected that the total investment required will be around ₹22,000 crore.

An inclusive plan

Private construction agencies will be responsible for the construction and maintenance of these self-sufficient cities. The AP Government will incentivise the process by providing fee exemptions on costs such as building licenses and registration charges. Upliftment of all Andhra people, including the lower classes, has always been a hallmark of the AP Government agenda, and it shines through in this endeavour as well. Of the 88,987 houses to be constructed, 75,233 houses have been reserved for the lower income group and economically weaker sections.

In addition to setting the standard for urban planning and development, the economic cities are also expected to generate employment with a projected creation of around 1.2 lakh jobs as well as 40,000 construction jobs. A shining example of what the future can hold, the cities will merge what were previously considered to be contradictory ideals: sustainable and efficient living with large-scale economic growth, technological advancements, and the nurturing of art and culture.

Galvanisation of IT industry will produce three lakh jobs by 2019: Nara Lokesh

IT Minister Nara Lokesh recently inaugurated 10 IT and ITES firms supported by the Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRTS) at Tadepalli. These firms offer a range of goods and services, from healthcare, engineering consultation, and analytics, to IT security, mobile apps, and big data. They are expected to generate direct employment for at least 1,000 people.

Mr. Lokesh also disclosed the AP Government’s plan to create one lakh IT and two lakh electronic manufacturing jobs in the next year. The long-term plan is to duplicate the success of ‘Cyberabad’ five times over in Andhra Pradesh by stimulating the IT sector in Amaravati, Tirupati, Anantapur, Visakhapatnam and Godavari.

“About 80 per cent of jobs in the IT industry are created by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). So, besides rolling (the) red carpet to big ticket companies, we are also encouraging SMEs by giving them incentives so that an ecosystem is created. Our aim is to create five Cyberabads so that jobs will be available for the youth living around those IT cities,” he said.

Multi-pronged approach to tackle unemployment

Mr. Lokesh revealed that the IT Department helped place 11,412 candidates in various companies across India. “Our target is not only to bring the companies to the State, but also to have one lakh people placed in companies,” he said. The Government is utilising a multi-faceted approach to tackle unemployment, combining job creation and placement facilitation with the skilling of youth. To address issues of office space availability the State is also implementing a rental guarantee policy assuring the developers 50 per cent rent. “No other State in the country is offering such a policy”, said Mr. Lokesh.

APNRTS president Ravi Vemuru said, “We are going to make Amaravati and Visakhapatnam the “go to destinations” for IT companies by providing quality workspace, adequate incentives and well-trained work force. We are creating “directed training programmes” under which a prospective employer can specify the required skill set and employees will be trained accordingly.”
Andhra Pradesh partners with UNESCO to strengthen its knowledge economy

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is taking giant steps towards developing into a knowledge-based economy under the vision set by the Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri. N. Chandra Babu Naidu.

In line with the Vision 2029 the State has entered into a partnership with UNESCO MGIEP and a consortium of leading industry players to set up an international gaming and digital learning hub in Visakhapatnam. It is a first of its kind collaboration between an inter-governmental organisation, a State Government, a diverse set of industries and academic. UNESCO MGIEP is bringing in a unique approach to transform education using digital pedagogies.

Intelligent Hub attracts industry giants

The global education market is valued at USD 5 trillion and yet education is only 2% digitalised (IBIS Capital Report), with significant worldwide opportunities for EdTech products and services. The EdTech market in India, is expected to grow to a USD 1.96 billion by 2021 (Google KPMG Report, 2017). Recognising that the explosive growth in EdTech and Gaming industries offers huge economic opportunity the Government of Andhra Pradesh has spared no effort towards supporting this Intelligent hub right from its conception. This project was initiated in December 2017 in the first edition of the TECH conference by UNESCO MGIEP. An MoU was signed by APEDB and the Department of Higher Education to facilitate the development of the Hub and attract more world class investments into the mega project. It is proposed to be an entire eco-system consisting of various gaming and technology companies, Educational Institutes, Skill Development Centres, Start-ups, Incubators, Accelerators etc to develop quality and UNESCO-certified games and EdTech applications. The focus of the Hub will be on the development of intellectual and emotional intelligence in students, thereby laying the foundation for achieving Andhra Pradesh’s 2029 Vision, as well as the global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

Gaming and Digital learning

The Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri. N. Chandrababu Naidu, who has always been a technology pioneer, met with the UNESCO delegation in July 2018 once again to review the draft blueprint and assured the UNESCO MGIEP led delegation of the full support from Government of Andhra Pradesh. He further added that Gaming & Digital Learning products shall be adopted by 50,000 schools in the State of Andhra Pradesh, over five years; benefitting about 50 Lakh students. The “Intelligent Hub” will be the first of its kind in India. It will bring together multiple stakeholders, who will use technology to educate and skill people, and promote literacy; in other words, the focus will be on Educational Gaming. The intelligent hub is estimated to generate at least 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and to be spread over 100 acres.

Cross-sectoral Skill Development Centre

So far the Hub has succeeded in attracting significant inter-alias investment commitments such as a design university, a science of learning research center, a global certification bureau by MGIEP, a few startups and gaming companies. Various partnership and investment opportunities exist such as the setting up of EdTech Company offices, setting up of a cross-sectoral skill development centre, research centre, funding for research exchanges, setting up Science of learning research facilities and laboratories, incubators and co-working spaces for start-ups, universities with relevant expertise. The APEDB is working closely with the team from UNESCO MGIEP, the high-level consortium of investors and other Government of Andhra Pradesh agencies to seamlessly
following the new sports policy announced for the period 2017-22 with a mission to groom sports talent, the State Government bets big on ‘Project Gandiva’ in identifying talent at a young age. In keeping with the vision of nurturing a truly progressive State, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the ambitious sports programme ‘Project Gandiva’ for the construction of the sports complex in an 8.9 acre area at Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada. This will include a world-class stadium which is estimated to cost Rs.60 crores. “The aim of the project is to achieve medals at international sports meets like the Olympic Games. Besides, it is planned to see AP top the country in athletics by 2021, win a medal in the Asian and Commonwealth Games in 2022, compete in the Olympics in 2024 and win a medal at the Olympics in 2024”.

Strong foundation to nurture a sport culture
The Government is taking steps to ensure that sports are an integral part of education. The programme will draw in school education departments, sports associations, sports management agencies and physical training teachers as stakeholders. The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) has prescribed seven simple tests to identify 70-90 boys/girls in a drive to be conducted by Physical Literacy Teachers (PLT). Trainers of international repute will be brought from Jamaica, South Africa and Europe to the State to train 100 PLTs first, who will in turn train the students.

Chief Minister felicitates sportsmen and coaches
The Chief Minister instructed the officials to speed up their efforts and complete the project in a year rather than spreading it over two phases. The Chief Minister also felicitated 14 sportsmen and coaches on the occasion and also presented a cheque of Rs.25 lakh to the city-based archer Cherukuri Sivani.

Cricketer Mr. Anil Kumble, former weight lifter Ms. Karnam Malleswari and former athlete Ms. Ashwini Nachappa were part of the programme. Many of India’s well-known sports people shared the platform to cheer the State’s efforts.
Japan sees immense opportunity in collaborating with Andhra Pradesh

Japanese-Indian businessman Ryuko Hira called upon the Honorable Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at Amaravati last month. Mr. Hira is the Founder and Representative Director of HMI group of hotels and hospitality. The consortium is one of the largest hotel groups in Japan with nearly 90 hotels across the country.

The Honorable Chief Minister invited Mr. Hira to assess the investment opportunities in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Ryuko Hira, who is also the Chairman of The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan (ICIJ), was interested in convention centres, tourism, transport and other infrastructure projects.

CM's respect for Japanese culture

Mr. Hira is confident that the State will draw many investors and appreciated the Chief Minister’s respect for Japanese culture and entrepreneurship. He is confident that Andhra Pradesh-Japan economic collaborations will be strengthened under Mr. Naidu’s leadership. The automobile industry, marine food exports, infrastructure development, including urban townships, are sectors where he sees great potential. The Chief Minister invited Mr. Hira and other Japanese companies to fully utilise the business opportunities in the State, similar to what other countries in the east Asia have done in the State.

Senior officials from the Government of Andhra Pradesh were also present, including G. Saiprasad, Principal Secretary and J. Krishna Kishore, CEO APEDB. Acknowledging Mr. Kishore’s immense contribution to the bilateral relationships, Mr. Hira said that his one-on-one meetings with 60 companies in Japan last month had “sowed the seeds for prospective investments into Andhra Pradesh.”

Andhra Pradesh to boost jobs in tourism

The AP Government recently revealed its 2018-19 action plan to boost employment opportunities in the tourism sector. The plan was jointly released by Mukesh Kumar Meena, Secretary, Department of Tourism, and Himanshu Shukla, CEO, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority and Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation.

The Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to execute its plan, and it will include skill training, capacity building and encouraging tourism in the State.

A plan for capacity building

The capacity building training will focus on food and beverage services, including production, housekeeping, city, regional tour guides and also train cab drivers and front-office staff. The plan is to train 8,550 students in 285 batches (around 30 students in each batch).

The training programmes have already begun, with the first one being conducted in July in Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Anantapur and Rajahmahendravaram. The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority will also organise skills development programmes for employees of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) Hotels and Resorts. Totally, 9,250 employees will be trained in 320 batches (20 employees in each batch).

The training began in APTDC hotels located in Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Anantapur and Rajahmahendravaram in July.

Since AP is looking at this sector to boost economic growth and increase employment opportunities, skilling this sector and increasing staff efficiency gains considerable importance.
Seamless delivery of Government services: CM launches e-Pragati

One of the most progressive Chief Ministers of India, N. Chandrababu Naidu understands the importance of data and technology. The e-Pragati Core Initiative launched in July is a case in point. It translates the Government’s motto ‘Invisible Government, visible governance’ into practice. It seeks to provide 745 services covering Government to Customer (G2C), Government to Business (G2B), Government to Government (G2G), Government to an app store, just like the Apple store,” he stated.

One of the world’s largest and most complex Government digital transformation projects

The e-Pragati Core has been termed as one of the world’s largest and most complex Government digital transformation projects. It will go beyond the apps to use voice commands to do business and avail services.

Mother of all digital flat farms

In the presentation made by IT Minister Nara Lokesh and e-Pragati CEO N. Balasubramanyam, they shared the five frameworks of the Initiative – a single portal for all citizen services, APP store which will have apps of all departments, certificate-less governance system, license management system and e-Highway.

Mr. Lokesh called the e-Pragati Core the “mother of all digital platforms” and said that it will help curb the fake certificate menace.
Nandamuri Balakrishna inaugurates Basvatarakam Cancer Hospital in Amaravati

A clinic, which also serves as information centre for Basvatarakam, Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (BIACH&RI), Hyderabad, was inaugurated at Governorpet, Vijayawada by legislator Nandamuri Balakrishna, who is also Chairman and Managing Trustee of Nandamuri Basvatarakam Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Foundation (NBTRCF). This will be a temporary premise as the administration is planning to develop a full-fledged cancer hospital in Amaravati. In this regard, he thanked the Government of Andhra Pradesh for allocating 15 acres of land at Thullur for the Amaravati unit of the hospital. While the centre will be temporarily housed at its present premises, the administration will work towards establishing a full-fledged cancer hospital in Amaravati. The first phase of work will begin soon and efforts are on for construction of 1,000 bed hospital in one-and-a-half year’s time.

A dream comes true

At the inauguration, Mr Balakrishna recounted how Mr. N T Rama Rao, the former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, had dreamt of creating an institution devoted to cancer treatment and research so that future generations could access quality care. BIACH&RI has made this dream come true. “He lauded the efforts of the doctors saying that the institution “had developed into one of the best cancer hospitals in the country with the latest facilities.” He stressed on the importance of cancer awareness programmes and the need to educate the people on the importance of early detection. Early detection will greatly increase the chances for the success of the treatment. He said, hospital provides treatment at a lower cost and holds, able staff boost patients confidence.

Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao, who is a member of the Board of Trustees of BTRCF, also spoke on the occasion, acknowledging that the hospital in Hyderabad was the biggest cancer facility across the country offering quality treatment.

AP’s industrialisation & employment prospects to receive a boost through VCIC : ADB Vice-President

In July 2016, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a $631-million loan to “help develop the first 800 km section of the planned 2,500 km East Coast Economic Corridor. The corridor is expected to spur development on India’s eastern coast and enable seamless trade links with other parts of South and Southeast Asia.” Recently, Mr. Wencai Zhang, Vice- President of ADB, expressed satisfaction over the progress of the project. He was confident that the Visakhapatnam–Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) will boost the industrialisation and employment prospects of Andhra Pradesh. He said that the nodes, which are being built in Visakhapatnam and Srikalahasti, besides several other industrial clusters, will attract more investments. He also made it clear that, during the construction of the corridor, the interests of stakeholders and environmental concerns would not be compromised in anyway.

ADB joins skill training and knowledge sharing

Mr. Zhang said, “Apart from extending financial assistance, the ADB will also facilitate investments. We are working together with the State Government on skill training and knowledge sharing.” US $80 million of funds have already been released. ADB will release more funds soon as the project work progresses ahead. Mr Wencai Zhang complimented the AP Government for the several reforms it has introduced and for being ranked first in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB). Impressed by the State’s support in its endeavours, he hinted that ADB would respond positively if any proposal with regard to funding assistance for construction of Amravati came up. He confirmed that the Government’s request for a loan of $500 million to streamline rural water supply was under consideration.
Royal General Industries inks MoU with APEDB to set up construction material plants

Mr. Durairaj Periasamy, Chairman Royal General Industries LLP (RGI) and Mr. Purushottam Tota, Managing Director of Royal General Industries LLP (RGI) met with Mr. Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB, in July, to discuss RGI’s investment plans in Andhra Pradesh. The discussions resulted in the two parties signing MoUs to set up two construction material manufacturing plants in the State.

The first one, which will be built in Nellore district, will manufacture Putty, UPVC doors, and metal screws, with a total investment of Rs.32 crores. It will create 230 direct and indirect jobs in the economy. The second plant, which will be in Srikakulam district, will manufacture Gypsum boards, and will see an investment of Rs.110 crores, creating 250 direct and indirect jobs.

Thanking RGI for coming forward to invest in the State, Mr. Kishore assured them of full cooperation on both the proposed projects.

Creating value-add for agricultural goods: APEDB signs MoU with NCML

Innovative risk manager and supply chain solution provider National Collateral Management Services Limited (NCML) will invest Rs.100 crores in cold chain and storage infrastructure in AP. NCML is owned by Fairfax India, an investment holding company. NCML has an excellent track record in managing risks across various stages of commodity and inventory handling. Recently, they signed an MoU with APEDB, in Hyderabad, to set up a Terminal Market and Processed Foods Distribution Hub near Amaravati.

The MoU was signed by Sanjay Kaul, MD & CEO, NCML and Krishna Kishore, CEO, APEDB. Along with building efficient food cold chain infrastructure in the State, the project will generate more than 1000 jobs.

**State-of-the-art storage facility**

Speaking at the event, Mr. Kaul said, "NCML commits to leverage its strengths for the putting in place a State-of-the art facility for stepping up the cold chain logistics in Andhra Pradesh. The cold chain segment is both an opportunity as well as a serious challenge today for India."

APEDB looked forward to collaborating with NCML and committed itself to providing the necessary assistance for the project. Sumit Maheshwari, CEO, Fairbridge Capital Private Limited, said, “Fairfax India encourages investment in this project and looks forward to greater opportunities of making investments in the State of Andhra Pradesh.”
Quess Corp Limited, India’s leading business services provider, will soon be setting up a skill university in the State under an MoU that it signed recently with APEDB. The aim is to create a model of education that will focus on technical and vocational learning to meet the job demands in the various sectors.

Quess boasts of a staff of over 272,000 employees across India and various other countries, covering various segments, including Industrials, Facility Management, People Services, Technology Solutions and Internet Business. The company has a strong market presence in the HR services space and offers end-to-end services across Employee Lifecycle Management. They not only train and skill personnel but also deploy them across sectors, maximising value creation for both the individual and the organisation.

In fact, Quess is collaborating with the Ministry of Rural Development and National Skills Development Corporation and engaged in skill development of over 40,000 students across 66 training centres.

Creating a skilling ecosystem

APEDB CEO, Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, pointed out how timely this collaboration was since “The State of Andhra Pradesh is fast becoming an ideal investment destination across major sectors. With more than 33,50,398 jobs estimated to be created in the State through committed investments there will be a massive demand for high-level skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling programmes across sectors.”

The proposed university will run short-term programmes of less than one-year duration, which are dovetailed to meet the demands of the thrust sectors of the State as outlined in the AP Vision 2029 document. The plan is to, initially, admit 1500 students per annum, and then, over the course of time, in phases, increase capacity. It will offer employment to around 1500 individuals.

The project will nurture the skilling eco-system of the State and reinforce AP’s position as the No.1 global investment destination.
Alibaba Cloud inks MoU with APEDB to leverage smart-city technologies

Alibaba Cloud − ranked as China’s largest public cloud service provider and the third largest cloud company in the world − will collaborate with APEDB to leverage the Chinese company’s ET (Extreme Tech) City Brain expertise in cloud computing and other smart-city technologies to improve performance in various areas like real-time governance, smart city and integrated traffic management, small and medium enterprises and skill upgrading.

The MoU was signed by Alibaba Cloud India (ACI) MD Alex Li and APEDB CEO J. Krishna Kishore in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Mr. Naidu was confident that since ACI offers “high-performance, elastic computing power in the cloud” it would revolutionise service delivery in the State.

The MoU was the outcome of the discussions that the Chief Minister held with senior executives of the Alibaba Group on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meeting at Davos early this year.

Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board signs MoU with Nisha Designs

Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) signed a MoU with Nisha Designs in Vijayawada. The MoU was signed by APEDB CEO, J.Krishna Kishore and Mr. Samir Goenka, head of the Texport Group in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

With this MoU, APEDB and Nisha Designs have agreed to set up two garmenting units with a total investment of Rs.215 crore, employing 7500 people. The garmenting unit, set up in Hindupur with an investment of Rs.50 crore, is operational since 2016 and employs another 1500 people making it a total of Rs.265 crore investments and providing employment for 9,000 in the State.

Seven out of 8 factories are located in the suburbs of Bangalore, Karnataka, whereas the eighth plant is located in Pargi mandal, Hindupur, AP. With the advent of fast fashion with reduced lifecycle, the textile players are integrating their manufacturing operations from fibre to fashion within India. This provides a huge opportunity from India and especially Andhra Pradesh.
India has a very large retail market – worth around Rs.47 lakh crores and growing at a steady 7 per cent. AP will get to be a part of this ever-growing consumption economy soon through an MoU signed between APEDB and the Retailers Association of India (RAI) in Mumbai in August. The MoU was inked by Mr. J. Krishna Kishore, APEDB CEO and Kumar Rajagopalan, Retailers Association of India CEO.

The retail sector is one of the fastest-growing and most dynamic sectors and RAI is the unified voice of retailers in India, while APEDB is a single-point of contact for sustainable economic growth through trade, investments, partnerships & collaborations in AP. Through this MoU, the partners will collaborate “to encourage, develop, facilitate, support and partner retailers to modernise, grow, expand and adopt best practices across technology, logistics, warehousing, skill development and infrastructure.”

A regulatory framework for retail growth
Observing that this was the right step at an opportune moment, Mr. Kishore said that “rising incomes, (changing) tastes and preferences, emerging markets in tier-2 and tier-3 cities makes AP an attractive destination for retailers.” This MoU will also enable the drawing up of a regulatory framework for the retail industry in the State.

RAI CEO Mr. Rajagopalan pointed out that the State was standing on the threshold of a retail revolution and that “this collaboration would closely develop the retail industry in Andhra Pradesh.”

In 2016, AP became the first State to unveil its own retail policy. The primary objectives included making AP one of the most preferred destinations for retail trade in India; making it a hub for retail logistics by promoting setting up of warehouses and distribution centres; and accelerating investment flow to underdeveloped regions of the State. The policy introduced a host of facilities for retail enterprises, including greater flexibility in terms of working hours, engaging part-time employees and doing away with stock limits for essential commodities.
EoI invited to develop open mall to kickstart commercial activity

The AP Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) has invited Expressions of Interest (EoI) in setting up a commercial mall in Amaravati to evaluate the preparedness of private players to participate in creating entertainment infrastructure.

APCRDA is conducting a unique experiment in that this will be an open mall and common areas will not be enclosed. This will help engender a feeling of community among the visitors. According to an official, “The plan is to develop a mall modelled on the lines of a street market in Amaravati. We have a few areas in mind, but are yet to finalise the location. We have invited EoIs to gauge the interest among prospective investors, and to get different concepts and modalities for project execution.”

Project to be completed in two years

The plan is to develop the mall in 5-7 acres. The proposed mall-cum-entertainment centre will have many facilities including products showrooms, food courts, multiplexes and other entertainment zones.

APCRDA is looking for a ‘high profile’ developer or entrepreneur to invest in the project. Once the EoIs come in, qualified bidders will receive a Request for Proposal (RFP). According to a CRDA official, “We will decide the modalities of the project such as the built-up area, the number of civil structures and other matters, after the EoIs are examined.” The plan is to complete the project in two years once the contractor has been identified.

Dr. Sreedhar Cherukuri I.A.S, Commissioner, APCRDA

Building awareness about water use through Water Conservation Theme Park in Amaravati

Conservation is a very important part of sustainable development. It is equally important to create awareness about it. The State Government has come up with a novel idea of increasing public awareness regarding water use - by building a Water Conservation Theme Park in Amaravati.

Mr. Naidu, who was at a review meeting evaluating progress of various works under the MGNREGA and Panchayat Raj departments, suggested that the park should be modelled in such a way that all water conservation efforts of the State, including interlinking of rivers, check dams and farm ponds, were showcased. Five acres of land had been allotted for the park that would come up in Amravati. The immediate target was to complete all the farm ponds using funds available under MGNREGA.

Managing waste efficiently and update on achievements

The Chief Minister also touched on the topic of dry-solid waste management, directing officials to finish constructing sheds in 9,000 villages by the end of December. The Panchayat Raj officials were instructed to construct pre-fabricated concrete drains in villages with populations above 2,000 and below 5,000. Villages with a population of more than 5,000 would have underground drainage systems.

With a view to increasing the green cover, saplings would be planted along the canals, drains and all other water bodies in the State.

The officials also informed the Chief Minister that, as part of their energy conservation efforts, 53 per cent of installation of LED lights in the villages have been completed out of the targeted 24 lakh.

One-acre park planned in each identified Mandal

Officials also shared plans for establishing at least one one-acre park in each identified village in the 608 mandals. Additionally, 2,865 villages were sanctioned playgrounds and 4,148 villages were sanctioned burial grounds. During the current financial year, construction of 1468-km of concrete roads, 278 Anganwadi buildings, and 15,021 individual toilets have been completed.

The meeting ended with the State Employees Guarantee Council representatives donating Rs.150,000 to the Anna Canteens to provide food to the poor.
Japanese major Toray plans to set up plant at Sri City: Minister Amarnath Reddy lays the foundation stone

N Amarnath Reddy, Minister of Industries, AP Government, laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Toray Industries (India) Limited at Sri City. Mr. Uchiyama, Consul General of Japan, and Akihiro Nikkaky, CEO & COO Toray Industries (India), were also present at the event.

Toray Industries is a leading manufacturer in fibres, textiles, and performance chemicals. The company plans to set up two plants at the 85-acre site − a poly propylene (PP) spun bond plant to produce Meditech, an advanced technical textile used in diaper manufacturing, and an engineered plastics resin compounding plant to produce raw materials that will be used by the automotive, electrical and fast-moving consumer goods industries.

Production to start soon
The plastics resin compounding plant will start production in September 2019, while the poly propylene spun bond plant will become operational in March 2020. During the first phase, both plants together will generate 130 direct and 520 indirect jobs.

Funding the various projects
As far funding the various projects, the officials suggested pooling funds totalling around Rs. 26,000 crore and mooted the idea of floating rate bonds to generate capital.

All industrial activity has to be sustainable. So when officials suggested the uprooting of some trees for laying high-tension lines, Mr. Naidu advised transplanting them instead.

Capital city will benefit from the Mixed Economy says Chandrababu Naidu

A mixed economy is one where both Government and private enterprises contribute to growth. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu’s considered opinion is that the capital city will benefit from such an economy. He has requested the department officials to create an ecosystem where both public and private enterprises can thrive.

At the APCRDA review meeting, the Chief Minister urged officials to encourage private partnership in affordable housing, commercial complexes, business and IT parks, tourism and infrastructure. Updating the Chief Minister about their initiatives, the officials shared details about the land lease system, joint venture, joint development and private and public partnership project options. DLF, Sobha, Prestige, Myhome, Shapoorji Pallco, Aparna, Radian, GVK, RMZ and NSL were among the many private companies that came forward with offers.

Mr. Naidu asked the officials to prepare a policy that will promote Amaravati as a hub of mixed economic activity. He cautioned the officials saying that, when approving projects, they should ensure that they are technically sound and meet international standards.

Minister for Municipal Administration P. Narayang, Chief Minister’s Special Secretary Satish Chandra, Secretary Sai Prasad, CRDA Principal Secretary Ajay Jain, Amaravati Development Corporation CMD Lakshmi Parthasaradhi and CRDA Commissioner Mr. Sridhar participated in the review.
To attract investment into the State, it is important to highlight the benefits of partnering with AP and to showcase the successes. Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board hosted over 25 Indian Foreign Service officers at an interactive session to promote the State as an investment destination. This was probably the first time that any State had succeeded in putting such a large delegation of Ambassadors on the same platform.

The introductions were made by the APDEB CEO Mr. Krishna Kishore, who outlined the steps undertaken by the Sunrise State to enable it to become one of the most sought after investment destinations in the country and occupy the top rank in Ease of Doing Business. The IT Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Lokesh, was the Chief Guest of the evening.

**Surging ahead of competition**

Andhra Pradesh is a State that leads by example. Among the many characteristics that define the State are equitable development, economic stability, and investor friendliness. The factors that enable AP to surge ahead of its competitors are the fact that it has a policy driven governance coupled with stable political and social environments. Further, it is also blessed with a highly qualified talent pool. A single desk portal for clearances and excellent infrastructure in terms of six airports and six operational seaports and a large coastline, further enhance the State’s attractiveness and sets the ground for it to become the Gateway to the East.

The interactive sessions served to give the Ambassadors a comprehensive understanding of the State’s strengths and opportunities, equipping them to promote the State’s interests through their respective Indian embassies and consulates.

**AP’s innovative initiatives**

There were many aspects of AP’s growth that caught the attention of the participants, especially the industrial transformation that could be seen across different sectors like automobiles and auto components, electronics and IT, food processing, aerospace, etc. When it comes to administrative functioning, real-time time governance (RTG) Core Dashboard that used real-time data to devise solutions and is connected to more than 33 departments; paperless offices (e-office), and the ambitious AP fibre grid programme that link every nook and corner of the State are unique and innovative initiatives.

The Minister requested the dignitaries to be the Ambassadors of Andhra Pradesh and help in promoting the State to the investors abroad and wished to work in tandem with the Embassies and Consulates in promoting business in AP.

The Ambassadors commended the State’s achievements and promised to promote the State’s interests.
Clean, green and sustainable will be the key themes driving the development of the new capital

During the Singapore visit, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu focused on another area that is close to his heart – building a capital city whose hallmarks are technology, innovation and culture.

On the second day of his tour, Mr. Naidu participated in a panel discussion on ‘Urbanisation – Water, Environment and Transport Management’.

The panel included many esteemed speakers like Kristalina Georgieva, CEO, The World Bank Group, Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE, Steven Demetriou Chairman and CEO, Jacobs, and Bernard Charles, Vice-Chairman & CEO, Dassault Systèmes. The World Bank CEO spelt out the key ingredients for the success of environment projects: providing the right incentives, using resources wisely, aligning priorities at the various governance and public levels, and equitable distribution of benefits.

Make Amaravati one of the top five cities in the world

Delineating his dream with regard to the capital city, the Chief Minister said, “Ultimately, we want to make it the happiest city and one among the top five cities in the world.” To realise this dream, the State had adopted renewable energy. In fact, the generation of solar power had cut power production costs in the State from Rs.5 to Rs.2. He shared the fact that 20 per cent of the power generated in AP was from renewable sources and confirmed that the State was working towards reducing its dependency on thermal and nuclear energy. Further, the Government had plans to develop smart grids to reduce transportation losses.

Managing waste

Hailing Singapore’s efforts in recycling waste water, the Chief Minister said, “NE Water is an excellent product in Singapore. I admire how the PM assured citizens about the quality of the product by drinking the first glass of treated water himself.” He said that his Government will take effort to replicate its successes in implementing solid waste management in liquid waste management too. Reuse, reduce and recycle was his Government’s mantra.

Conservation has to be all encompassing and that includes air quality too. The AP Government was striving to protect the environment with its focus on the use of renewable energy; encouraging electric transportation was another step in this direction.

Handling urban space innovatively

During his visit, the Chief Minister also visited various exhibitions, covering various themes like public health, sustainability, affordable public housing, habitats, innovation, water and sewerage infrastructure, financing and construction. The Chief Minister used this opportunity to study new ways of handling urban space innovatively to manage the growing population and instructed Government delegates who accompanied him to study the practices that could be modified and applied back home. He also wanted the officials to examine how Singapore had innovated in its biodiversity maintenance practices.
Holitech plans ₹1400 crore plant in Andhra Pradesh to make components for Xiaomi

Leading Chinese company Holitech Technology, a key supplier of mobile components, will establish its first unit in India in Tirupati. An MoU was signed with the company at the Interim Government Complex in Velagapudi. The total investment, over a period of three years, will be to the tune of ₹1,400 crore, and it will provide employment to 6,000 people. In the words of the company’s CEO, Flame Chen, “We are pleased to bring several industry firsts to AP and propel the growth of component manufacturing in India.”

Spread over 75 acres of Government-allotted land, the company will manufacture camera modules, thin film transistors, capacitive touchscreens, flexible printed circuits and fingerprint sensors. Holitech Technology CEO, Guisheng Chen, told reporters that the facility will cater exclusively to Xiaomi, giving a fillip to the Chinese handset-maker’s manufacturing plans. The company is scheduled to start manufacturing in the first quarter of 2019.

Mr. Manu Jain, Xiaomi Global Vice-President and Xiaomi India Managing Director, acknowledged the role that Holitech’s entry into India would make to realise his company’s target to fight competition and occupy the top slot in the Indian mobile market. Further, the availability of components that could be locally sourced would reduce mobile prices and production to market time.

Best ecosystem for component manufacturers
Holitech’s entry into India was in response to the assurances given by the Chief Minister at a conclave held in Tirupati that the State will create the best ecosystem for component manufacturers. In fact, the Government has introduced a host of incentives under the State’s Electronics Policy.

Xiaomi India head Manu Kumar Jain exchanging the MoU with the official from AP Government in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh.
Chandrababu Naidu raises Amravati’s brand value through his Singapore tour

In July, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu concluded an extremely productive three-day visit to Singapore. He went with a single-minded goal – promoting Andhra Pradesh as an investment destination, and succeeded in attracting interest and commitments from quite a large number of companies!

On the first day of the tour, the Chief Minister addressed the World Cities Summit Mayors Forum, making a concerted effort to build a brand for Amaravati and Andhra Pradesh. His presentations were extremely well-received.

Many countries interested in partnering with India

Responding to the Chief Minister’s showcasing of the State, Pang Yee Ean, Director General of Investment Operations, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), expressed willingness to work with the State to build infrastructure in terms of roads, water supply, irrigation and electricity. AIIB was also willing to lend funds directly to the State without the central Government’s intervention. “I myself am of half-Andhr origin and am willing to spend time on the projects of the State,” said Mr. Pang. He said that he was taking personal interest in the preparation of Amaravati’s masterplan, and wanted to also explore the possibilities of funding affordable housing.

Abhishek Mangal Prabhat Lodha, the CEO of Lodha Group, offered to invest in malls and entertainment sectors in Amaravati.

The Chief Minister also met Gautam Varma, who is the Chief Representative for Europe, India and SE Asia for Fortescue Metals Group Ltd, Australia. Mr. Varma updated the Chief Minister on their businesses which include offshore degasification and iron ore.

He said, “We are based in Western Australia which is really the sister State of AP. We have a large interest in lithium and are looking at manufacturing lithium ion batteries in India with ISRO technology. We are also interested in establishing an Australian City with a port and attached economic activities.”

FSRU collaboration with AP

Mr. Varma also shared their interest in setting up a Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) in AP and confirmed collaboration in developing batteries and power storage. Ajay Jain, Principal Secretary Energy responded saying that all clearances were in place to set up an FSRU. The Chief Minister also discussed the possibilities of Fortescue Metals building a steel plant in Kadapa.

The other companies who came forward to collaborate were SMH Rail of Malaysia and Royal Holdings of Singapore. Raj Kumar Hiranandani of Royal Holdings said, “Being Singapore’s leading developer, we are very interested to work with Amaravati as well.” He spoke of the 17-year association with the State, which he would like to continue to keep alive. They were interested in housing and building a health resort in Amaravati. SMH Rail expressed interest in partnering with the State to set up the metro rail.

The Eli Hajaj Group requested the Chief Minister to allot them land to set up aero hub in AP to produce aircraft components.

On the environment front, Dassault Systems, world leaders in sustainable innovation, will be engaged in reducing day temperatures in Amravati.

Greater collaboration with Singapore

On day two of the tour, the Asia Competitiveness Institute-Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Government of Andhra Pradesh signed an MoU to build capacity and improve competitiveness through collaboration in research and training.

The touring Chief Minister shared his vision for Amaravati during a panel discussion on ‘Urbanisation-water, environment and transport management’. He said that the capital would showcase the best of technology, innovation and culture.

On the last day of the tour, Mr. Naidu
had a meeting with the Singapore Finance Minister, Hung Swee Keat, seeking greater collaboration between the two Governments.

He said that his Government took inspiration from Singapore, which had turned adversities into opportunities. Singapore’s financial strength and AP’s skilled manpower would be an excellent combination to push the State on the growth trajectory. Singapore’s Finance Minister responded by saying that his country looked forward to partnering with AP.

An MoU signed by the LKYSSP Dean Professor Danny Quah and Special Chief Secretary and CCLA Anil Chandra Punetha (new Chief Secretary of AP) in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at Asia Policy Forum, Singapore.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and his AP team felicitating Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister of National Development, Singapore during a Bilateral Meeting.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and his AP team meeting with CEO, World Bank Group during the World Cities Summit, Singapore.
Andhra Pradesh Government explores innovative ways of tackling unemployment

The people’s welfare has always been a priority for the AP Government. It has clear plans on how to fight the unemployment bugbear. In July, Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh along with the Youth Services Minister Kollu Ravindra initiated a meeting with the department officials to flesh out the guidelines for the implementation of the Unemployment Allowance Scheme.

Under this scheme, any unemployed youth who has a degree or diploma and who is in the age group between 22-35 years can avail the benefits. Around 12 lakh unemployed youth in the State will be paid an allowance of Rs.1,000 per month. Totally, Rs.1200 crores will be required to implement the scheme.

Employability & expansion
Speaking at the BTC course inauguration, Collector G Veerapandian said, “Around 2000 candidates are expected to be trained during the first phase, out of which 600 candidates may be selected by Kia Motors India. APSSDC will be setting up a similar training centre at Govt. Polytechnic College, Anantapuramu District in order to train more number of candidates.”

KIA Motors to train 2000 workers at its plant

On 20 June 2018, Kia Motors India had inaugurated the Basic Technical Course (BTC) in Automotive Sector, which will be conducted at its training centre in Anantapur. Candidates interested in working in automobile sector will be trained at this center which is spread over 5 acres. The skill training will be undertaken in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC).

According to Kookhyun Shim, MD & CEO, Kia Motors India Pvt. Ltd, “The Automotive Industry is evolving at a fast pace and to match the advancements in technology, we need to constantly upgrade the skills of our manpower by providing them a platform that offers training modules. Basic Technical Course (BTC) will not only provide the relevant knowledge but also empower them to be skilled technicians who can they apply for jobs at Kia Motors India and their vendor companies”.

Training details
Interested candidates under Basic Technical Course (BTC) will have to work on 20 Workstations which are designed and installed considering the tasks that are undertaken during the process of manufacturing a car. The five-day hands-on course, with a batch size of 20 candidates, will test the skills of candidates who undergo training.

Employability & expansion
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State Government provides industrial concessions worth ₹2,500 crore

The Andhra Pradesh Government has been taking every effort to attract investors to the State and has been successful in doing so. The State’s ranking as No.1 in Ease of Doing Business by the World Bank acknowledges its efforts.

In July, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu took another bold step to build the business eco-system when he announced that the State Government would provide industrial concessions worth Rs. 2,500 crore in a span of 45 days.

Innumerable reforms have been undertaken to ease regulations and procedures, which have been standardised and digitised. Impact on environment is a key defining factor in determining policies.

Commenting on the Government’s achievements, he said, “With a lot of hard work from our department, Kia Motors, Apollo Tyres and various huge investments have come to AP. Each investment is a success story on its own. Telugu people have been dynamic and successful all over the world. We are professionals today, let us aim to become the best entrepreneurs too.”

Working group for IT sector to speed up growth

The economy of Andhra Pradesh is one of the fastest-growing economies in India and the IT industry is one of the core sectors driving this growth. The Government’s efforts are on to further improve the performance of this sector. Recently, IT Minister Nara Lokesh held a meeting with the members of the Information Technology Association of AP (iTAAP), which is a not-for-profit organisation to foster growth of IT and related sectors.

The members concurred that it was imperative that an industry working group be established, comprising representatives from both the IT department and the industry, with the immediate task of resolving issues pertaining to the IT sector.

Outlining the ambitions of the Government with regard to this sector, the Minister said that the target was to generate one lakh jobs. To reach this target, the Government would extend every support to new companies, including allocation of suitable lands. Additionally, under the Designated Technology Park Policy, the Government would also provide the required infrastructure to speed up commencement of operations.

At the TiE Impact session held in Visakhapatnam, in July, the IT Minister shared the struggles that the State had been facing post-bifurcation and how they were overcoming them. He was confident that AP could fast-forward development by riding on the back of technology.
New airport and cargo hub at Dagadarthi, Nellore

The Government of Andhra Pradesh and a consortium of SCL-Turbo, signed an agreement to build a greenfield airport and a cargo hub at Dagadarthi. Mr Vankayalapati Umesh, Managing Director of Nellore International Airport (of the SCL Turbo Consortium), and Mr M. Venkateshwarlu, Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh Airport Development Corporation Ltd., were signatories to the agreement. The consortium won the project at a revenue share of 9 per cent to the Government. The proposed airport, is at a distance of 25km from Nellore. It would be developed as a no-frills airport spread over 1,350 acres. The estimated investment for the project is Rs.368 crores. The project will be developed through a public-private-partnership (PPP) mode and will be the first such airport project to be developed in Andhra Pradesh. Responding to the questions from the media, Mr. Umesh said: “We expect this airport to play an important role in the rapidly growing industrial hub, and the proposed cargo village will serve as a cargo hub for the State and also for Chennai.” Ajay Jain, Principal Secretary, Energy and Infrastructure for AP, saw the airport playing the role of a catalyst for socio-economic growth, boosting tourism and industrial development in Nellore and the adjoining areas. According to Mr. Jain, there were two bidders for the project. The winning consortium has already finalised a French airport operator to manage operations and maintenance of the Dagadarthi Airport. The airport will have the capacity to handle around 2 million passengers and 55,000 tonnes of cargo a year. Work on the airport is scheduled to begin in January 2019 and commercial operations would begin a year later.

AP’s energy policy is a win-win proposition for all stakeholders: Ajay Jain

Energy conservation has been high on the State’s list of priorities. Efficient use of energy has been a guiding principle of the State’s endeavors towards building infrastructure and enhancing mobility. On 3 July 2018, Shimla played host to a conference of Power Ministers across the States. At the conference, Andhra Pradesh was lauded for its outstanding performance in energy management and its various initiatives to reduce energy consumption including the Electric Mobility Policy. Ajay Jain, The Principal Secretary (Energy), delineated the details of the Policy. As per the policy the introduction of electric vehicles (EVs), is expected to play a significant role in reducing carbon footprint.

Green policy highlights

Some of the key highlights of the green policy include exemption of electric vehicles from registration fees and road tax, establishing manufacturing parks devoted to EVs, setting up charging stations, stamp duty reimbursement for purchase or lease of land, etc. In its efforts to become energy efficient, the State is also encouraging agriculture to contribute and draw power from solar energy sources. A pilot project has been undertaken in Vizianagaram, where 250 grid-connected solar BLDC pump sets have been installed. Farmers would use the power generated for operating the pump sets and the surplus generation would be fed into the grid. These pump sets would be set up across the State, making it a mutually beneficial programme for farmers and discoms. The State’s energy policy has enabled it to achieve self-sufficiency in the power sector, enabling it to export more than 500 MW power a day during non-peak hours. Mr. Jain said, “The installed capacity has been more than doubled from 8307 MW to 18,046 MW. Furthermore APTRANSCO, has created a record in achieving the lowest transmission loss of 2.92 per cent. This has been achieved for the first time in the country."
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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