Empowering the Youth for the Right Career

Mukhyamantri Yuvanestham scheme announced by the Chandrababu Naidu Government does not merely offer unemployment dole, but provides a pathway to a great career, through skilling and training of the youth for suitable jobs.
During his tenure as Chief Minister of combined Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundations for transforming the city of pearls into a pulsating hub of information technology. The software industry grew by leaps and bounds since then, not only changing the landscape of Hyderabad but also transforming the lives of many young people. It was IT that catapulted many from the rural interiors of the state to the high-end tech firms dotting Silicon Valley in the USA. No wonder then that such Non-Resident Telugus are grateful for the opportunity provided to them by Naidu’s contribution. Here is one such NRT expressing his sense of gratitude during the recent trip of the Chief Minister to the USA. “Images like this where an NRI held a framed placard in New York to thank Hon’ble CM @ncbn during his visit inspires us more to work harder and create value in the lives of millions of Telugus,” tweeted Nara Lokesh, IT Minister.
Though payment of unemployment dole may not be new, ‘Mukhyamantri YuvaNestham’ scheme stands out for providing training and placement thereafter. It also aims to swiftly clear the unemployment roster and turn the State into a haven of employment opportunities.
Andhra Pradesh is now officially the best place to live. The State has topped the chart in the ‘Ease of Living Index’ rankings under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). The Ease of Living index, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, analysed various cities in the country on the basis of the quality of infrastructure, basic services available to the people, and found AP the most livable.

It has now become a penchant for the State of Andhra Pradesh to score the top rank in the implementation of every scheme and area of governance. The ‘Ease of Living’ recognition comes close on the heels of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development department sweeping the Union Ministry of Rural Development Annual Awards. AP bagged 11 national awards, the highest for any state, for effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The splendid show continued with the State receiving another award for effective implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana.

Another impressive performance was by Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation which created a record of sorts bagging 15 awards under various categories from the SKOCH Foundation. AP is the only State to receive platinum award in corporate excellence category.

The latest feather to the already much decorated cap of Andhra Pradesh is being chosen for the top prize for promoting AP Tourism as a global brand at the National Tourism Awards 2016-17.

The State’s power sector has been winning awards regularly. AP Transco has bagged SKOCH Order-of-Merit 2018 award for e-measurement book while AP State Energy Conservation Mission got award for adopting best practices in energy conservation. It is a matter of pride that the Central authorities called upon other states to follow AP model of energy efficiency and renewable energy areas.

Only a little while ago, three urban local bodies (ULBs) from Andhra Pradesh figured among top 10 cleanest cities (more than one lakh population) in the country as per the Swachh Survekshan-2018 rankings.

These awards, presented by the Centre, attest to the vision, commitment and planning of the leadership in the government, besides demonstrating the impeccable execution by the official machinery. These accolades coming at the national level should open the eyes of those who seem to have closed minds when it comes to the scorching pace of development happening in the State.

Ramesh Babu Kandula
Editor
State Street HCL to create 1,000 jobs at new IT centre in Vijaywada

It is another major exciting step towards the march for creating one lakh IT jobs in Andhra Pradesh. State Street HCL Services (SSHS) Facility, a joint venture between HCL Technologies and US-based ‘State Street Corporation’, has opened its Information Technology (IT) centre at Medha Tech Park at Gannavaram near Vijayawada. IT Minister Nara Lokesh formally inaugurated the company on September 13. The new facility will provide 1000 plus jobs for the eligible youth and will serve global clients of HCL Technologies.

Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh said that Amaravati has attracted several IT companies over the last two years. Multiple verticals of IT companies, including services, product companies, global in-house centers, and research companies have been establishing their units in Amaravati. The State Street HCL, a joint venture company, which provides financial services, is the addition to this growing list.

“The IT platform would give a great opportunity to the local talent. This initiative will help provide a diverse range of employment opportunities to the youth in the region that will help in building a strong foundation for their future by enhancing the quality of life. I am confident that the opening of this center will help unlock the talent potential of the state and offer a great platform for local talent to pursue global opportunities,” said the IT Minister.

The joint venture offers high-end financial services. The facility, spread over 63,000 sq ft extends opportunities in the areas of capital market, fund administration, investment management and brokerage services. Chairman of the board of State Street HCL India, Michael Brager expressed confidence in the State government and opined that the unit will strike the right chords.

AP Non Resident Telugus (APNRT) president, Ravi Vemuru said, “With the combination of visionary Chief Minister, young IT Minister, progressive policy and directed skill development programmes, we have no doubt that Amaravati will be attracting many more quality companies in near future.”

“We are confident that our expanding presence across Andhra Pradesh will boost employment and skill development opportunities for the youth of the state, who will be able to access these opportunities in their home towns,” said Anoop Tiwari, Corporate Vice President, HCL Technologies at the launch of the facility. “This initiative will help provide a diverse range of employment opportunities to the youth in the region that will help in building a strong foundation for their future by enhancing the quality of life,” the statement by HCL said.
Inspired by the initiatives of Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) practices, an NRI, Lakshmi Narayana Raju Mantena returned to his native village- Buddham of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. Mantena had given up his well-paying IT job of 66K USD per annum, in US and chose to take up natural farming back home. He is one among many IT professionals, who has proved what Chandrababu told the august gathering of international seminar on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) in New York.

“It may be hard to believe that the IT professionals are switching over to agriculture with the introduction of the zero budget natural farming in the State. A reverse migration to villages is the new trend,” the CM said during his key note address on ‘Financing sustainable agriculture: Global challenges and opportunities’, in the seminar that was jointly organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Women, BNP Paribas SA and the World Agroforestry Centre at the United Nations General Assembly. "Out of all the conferences and forums I’ve addressed so far, speaking about ZBNF program at the UN conference has been the most proud and unforgettable experience of my life," said the Chief Minister on his experience.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh had launched a scale-out plan to transition 6 million farms/farmers cultivating 8 million hectares of land from conventional synthetic chemical agriculture to Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) by 2024, making Andhra Pradesh India’s first 100 per cent natural farming state.

“The success of climate-resilient, Zero Budget Natural Farming in Andhra Pradesh will not only help India in meeting its SDGs but it can also inspire and transform the lives of millions of farmers across the developing world,” said, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.
Showing his emotional affinity with Telugu, the CM began his speech in Telugu, in which he thanked the delegates of the seminar on behalf of the Telugu speaking people and Indians. “I use this privilege to greet you in my mother tongue,” he said.

Thanking the moderator of the seminar for ascribing him an iconic leader, Chandrababu explained the Mission 2024 of Andhra Pradesh, 'India’s first Natural Farming State'. “Andhra Pradesh had become a hub of natural farming. About 60 lakh farmers would be involved in the process and 8 million hectares would be brought under it. Andhra Pradesh would be a role model for the world,” he said.

He said 62 per cent of population are employed in agriculture and related activities. AP has second longest coastline of 974 km and largest producer of fruits, eggs and aquaculture covering horticulture in 1.7 million hectares.

The Chief Minister said that the state govt has been encouraging ZBNF to reduce costs and risks in farming, more and safe food with nutritious values, reverse migration to villages and enhance soil health to safeguard our collective future. He said microbial seed coating, bio inoculants, cover crops, mulching, soil aeration and zero chemicals will promote living soil concept. He said a target was set to make villages as bio villages in five years period.

Over 1.63 Lac farmers could improve the quality of their products using chemical-free, natural and cost-effective methods through Zero Budget Natural Farming in the last 2 years. This year we aim to reach around 5 Lac farmers from 3,000 villages across Andhra Pradesh, he said.

The Chief Minister said with the help of women self help groups, community resources persons and technology backbone 6 million farmers will be involved in zero budget natural farming. He said that the zero budget farming will help to reach sustainable development goals. The scale at which AP has implemented ZBNF has gathered massive praise and recognition internationally. ZBNF, its benefits must be shared with the global community for which leaders across nations must join hands in terms of knowledge-sharing, philanthropy, financing and marketing, said the Chief Minister.

Earlier in a bilateral meeting with Dr Tony Simons, director General, world agroforestry centre (ICRAF) and Dr Ravi Prabhu, deputy director general, research ICRAF, the Chief minister discussed on ongoing research activities in AP to strengthen scientific evidence and assess impacts of Zero budget natural farming through field based data collection.

Dr Tony Simons said that their organisation is carrying out research programmes in agroforestry sector in 30 countries and eager to study the natural farming practices in AP. He expressed his readiness to extend their research programmes in natural farming practices of AP. He said training of farmers play key role in success of natural farming and invited the decision of Chief Minister in this regard. He expressed willingness to exchange technology know how.

The Chief Minister was visibly delighted after the speakers at the meet highlighted the success of AP for sending more IT professionals across the world and mentioned that he took technology as priority and achieved the results.
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, during the five day tour of United States, participated in several business meetings and interacted with prospective investors. The CM expressed satisfaction over his recent visit to the U.S., where he delivered lecture at UNEP, and said, “We used to go to U.N. to represent our issues, but now we’ve suggested a great solution in the form of Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF). Many international agencies, including the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), have praised it. Even this initiative is being mocked at by many, but I feel it’s a great contribution and A.P.’s achievement.”

MoU with Triton Solar
The Chief Minister made use of the invite to the UN to attract global brands to the State. During his visit, Triton Solar entered into a MoU with AP Economic Development Board (APEDB) to set up a solar battery manufacturing plant in AP under PPP mode. The plant will help with conversion of electrical vehicles and securing of 200 MW solar power storage supply to meet the State’s solar energy needs. The company is expected to set up a solar battery manufacturing plant with an investment of Rs 727 Crore in AP.

Triton Solar’s heads informed that the company is ready to invest Rs 727 Crore in a phased manner in the solar battery unit which will produce batteries based on nano and lithium polymer technology. They said that the company would generate plenty of employment opportunities for the local youth. In addition to this, it would also contribute to the reduction of pollution caused by vehicles in the State.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister by CEO of AP Economic Development Board, Jasti Krishna Kishore and Triton Solar’s Chairman, Himansu Patel. AP’s Principal Secretary of Industry and Investments, Ajay Jain and Managing partner of Triton Solar, Nand Sandilya were present.

DOER to set up R&D wing in AP
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu during his US tour met up with Ms. Liz Taylor, President of Deep Ocean Exploration and Research Inc (DOER) Marine, inviting them to explore marine wealth in AP using their advanced technology. DOER expressed willingness to offer marine related services to the State and other domestic and national organizations. The company will initially invest Rs 200 Crore for training the Scientists and technicians under Marine Technology in AP.

CM CREATES IMPACT IN US TOUR
The Chief Minister made use of every opportunity to drive investments and technology into Andhra Pradesh.
An exhilarating experience listening to the talk by AP Chief Minister on Technology and Governance. Doubtful that any state in the United States is doing what Shri @ncbn is doing in Andhra to prepare for the 4th Industrial Revolution. - Aravind Panagaria, former Chairman, NITI Ayog, currently Professor, Columbia University.

Of the 1095 kms of national waterways, 895 kms is in AP, designated to be used as waterways for transportation of cargo. In addition, the 40 major and medium rivers including Godavari, Krishna and Pennar contribute to a major chunk of surface transport.

AI can increase citizen happiness: CM
Addressing a roundtable meeting on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Paradigm Shift, the Chief Minister said that AP government has been using cloud management and data storage to analyze every issue through information technology and real-time governance. “The State government introduced Bhudar to prevent tampering of land records. Virtual classrooms have been introduced in schools and colleges to improve educational standards to meet the global demand,” said he.

Chief Data Scientist at Data Camp, David Robinson, Director of Innovation and Transformation at Ogilvy Group, Yuri Aguiar, Innovative Technology leader, Tim Sullivan, global business leader, Raj Patil, globally recognised leader in financial services, Sridhar Chityala, co-founder of 212 Media, Neal Shenoy, president of Global Solutions and Services at Incdeo, Rena Nigam, and a leader in the field of big data analytics, Sriram Rajappa and others took part in the round-table while multi-business director Ramana Jampala served as the panel moderator.

The Chief Minister met up with noted Oncologist Dr Nori Dattatreyyudu during his visit to the New York and spoke to their team of doctors. Dr Nori readily agreed to offer specialized cancer treatment training to the cancer specialists in AP, through Centre for the Excellence of US.

Accelerating Sustainable Production in AP
During the World Economic Forum, Sustainable Development Impact Summit in New York, the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu threw light upon the findings of the project, “Accelerating Sustainable Production” in Andhra Pradesh. The joint study undertaken by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Accenture Strategy in collaboration with the State government identifies a $5 billion annual opportunity for the automotive and electronics sector of Andhra Pradesh enabled by Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies for manufacturing.

Andhra Pradesh is the first region where World Economic Forum is working towards contextualizing 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 to help industries to work along with the government 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 test bed these technologies.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said, “I am very happy that Andhra Pradesh is leading the Fourth Industrial Revolution by championing the idea of collaboration. We are in an era where success is determined through right partnerships. I am confident that this partnership will go a long way in successfully implementing technologies for sustainable manufacturing. Our aim is to create a model where global and local businesses would collaborate as the transition to Industry 4.0 happens.”

Andhra Pradesh continues its focus on developments related to Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies and leverage from global best practices as well as platforms such as the World Economic Forum. The State Government is looking at evolving its policy framework through the partnerships as well as stakeholder interactions which will help shape economic development agenda for the State.

During his address in New York to the global audience about the progressive measures of the State, he also echoed the discussion between the WEF management team and Minister for IT, Electronics and Communication of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Lokesh in Tianjin, on partnering with the soon to be launched Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution India.

The Centre is partnering with the government of Andhra Pradesh and will bring together leading companies, academia, civil society and international organizations from around the world to co-design, test and scale-up policy tools, industry standards, norms and guidelines for governing Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies in the Indian context.

CM on ‘Governance in the age of Technology’
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said that Andhra Pradesh achieved progress in several sectors for the past four years by utilising the state bifurcation crisis as an opportunity for progress of the State. By 2029, Andhra Pradesh would be developed as the number one State in the entire country, said CM, addressing a session on ‘Gov-
Chandrababu Naidu elaborated on the 7 missions formulated for development of the Sunrise State—primary sector, social empowerment mission, infrastructure, service sector, knowledge, skill development, urban development and industrial development. “With constant efforts, the State emerged as power surplus from being power deficit in the past. A holistic approach would be adopted for development in roads in all the regions. Tele Vision with 250 channels, internet, and net phone facilities were provided to each house for Rs 149 per month under AP Fibre grid project,” he said.

Elaborating the initiatives and projects the State Government has embarked upon, CM further said that for the very first time in the country, AP government has taken up river linking project by linking rivers Krishna and Godavari through Pattiseema lift irrigation scheme. Prioritizing education, AP has been extending financial support to the students who want to pursue overseas education by implementing ‘Vidyonnati scheme’. He said the State Govt has been giving Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 to brides under ‘Chandranna Pellikanuka scheme’. The monthly ration, pensions and insurance are being distributed using Aadhar, Iris or facial recognition for ensuring transparency. In yet another innovative approach, the updates and progress of every government department can be witnessed online through CM’s dashboard.

The Chief Minister said that ‘Chandranna Bhima’ scheme is being successfully implemented under real time governance (RTG) and using real time governance, accountability is made possible to all the public services. He said all departments were brought under e-Pragati and separate Apps were introduced for utilising some of the services. The grievance cell No: 1100 help to register and redress the grievances of lakhs of people is being effectively used.

Also, the Chief Minister took the opportunity to meet several CEOs and heads of various firms, organizations and start Ups to discuss ideas and investment opportunities in India at AP.

CM met the Founder-Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, Sunil Bharti Mittal and spoke about initiatives like AP Fiber Grid and AP Tower Corporation. Responding in positive, Mittal will soon be visiting Amaravati to discuss possible collaborations with AP government.

V Resorts CEO, Aditi Balbir, Massive Earth Fund CEO, Sailesh Singh, too met up with the Chief Minister and spoke about construction of eco-based retreat resorts in Andhra Pradesh. Designs, budgets and plans for the same were discussed in detail during their meet.

Triton Solar, a US-based battery cell and solar thin film maker is expected to roll out its first set of battery packs assembled at a greenfield plant in AP.
State of Andhra Pradesh Real Time Governance has been named Hitachi Transformation Award People’s Choice Winner at Hitachi NEXT 2019 event.

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ernance has been named Hitachi Transfor-
mation Award People’s Choice Winner at Hitachi
NEXT 2019 event. Hitachi Vantara, a wholly
owned subsidiary of Hitachi Ltd, concluded its sec-
ond annual user conference Hitachi NEXT 2018 at
San Diego in the US.
The Real Time Governance model adopted by the
Government of Andhra Pradesh has got global recog-
nition. AP Real Time Governance facility, housed in
the Secretariat Complex at Amaravati, which handles
all the important events and natural calamities on
real-time basis, leveraging e-governance technology
and electronic communication, received Hitachi
Transformation People’s Choice Award.
The award was presented to B Rajasekhar, Principal
Secretary, Department of RTG and Babu A, CEO of
RTG and Hariprasad, advisor, RTG, at the Hitachi
Next-2018 event held at San Diego on September
27. NEXT 2018 attendees and the general public
were encouraged to vote for their favorite story from
the Hitachi Transformation Awards winners. NASA
Johnson Space Center, State of Andhra Pradesh and
Smart Payments by Nets won awards based on the
substantial business outcomes they have achieved
through accelerating business transformation, im-
proving user experience, innovating with data and
using the internet of things (IoT). The votes were tal-
lied and the People’s Choice Award went to State of
Andhra Pradesh Real Time Governance.

RTG’s Capabilities

With a people-first motto, the Government of Andhra
Pradesh, strives to provide an agile and efficient
public service delivery system benefitting nearly 50
million citizens in a 360-degree life cycle approach
through its Real Time Governance (RTG) initiative.
With the help of Real Time Governance, Andhra
Pradesh can now swiftly resolve citizen grievances
and monitor infrastructure projects, incidents,
weather and climatic events across the state in real
time, leveraging technology services.

RTG is able to analyze big data sets gathered from
various sources with the help of Hitachi to make in-
sightful decisions that vibrantly transform citizen
services.Keeping technology in its mind and citizen
centrality in its heart, Real Time Governance is set to
revolutionize governance in Andhra Pradesh, cat-
alyzing government operations to create a safer,
more efficient and sustainable society.
The enterprising Minister was able to generate considerable interest for the state amongst the Chinese corporate community, with many global players in the IT industry coming forward to set up their operations in Andhra Pradesh.

In the whirlwind tour, Lokesh has succeeded in signing several MoUs with big companies and visited CEOs of other companies, who evinced interest in expanding their base in India at AP. He assured that AP State government will assist in setting up firms by establishing electronics manufacturing clusters and ensuring speedy clearance for necessary permissions.

China’s TCL Electronics to step into India via Tirupati

Thanks to the efforts of the Minister, another electronics manufacturing biggie has chosen Andhra Pradesh to set up their unit. China’s leading consumer electronics manufacturing company, TCL Corporation, will set up operations at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. Representatives of state IT and electronics department and TCL Corporation signed agreements in this regard in the
presence of IT Minister Nara Lokesh and TCL Electronics, CEO, Kevin Wang. It will be TCL’s only investment in India. TCL is into manufacturing of TVs, smart phones, washing machines, air conditioners, refrigerators and other consumer electronics. TCL Company employs around 75,000 people across its companies around the globe. Lokesh told the representatives of TCL that Andhra Pradesh was the only state in India which has three electronics manufacturing clusters. He added that while other states have been into assembling of electronic goods, AP is emerging as an electronics manufacturing hub. He added AP has plans to emerge as a destination for electronics design.

MoU with HCTG

In Beijing, the AP team led by Lokesh signed an MoU with Huaxingxinrui Communication Technology Group which produces optical fiber cable series, digital cable series, FTTx series and tools for construction including fiber cleavers and fiber splicers.

The company management explained their Rs. 2100 crore investment plan in India. The Minister requested them to consider Andhra Pradesh for the bulk of that investment and assured them of complete support from the Government of AP.

Later, Lokesh Wong Bin of China Electronics Technology Group (CETC) based in Beijing, CETC (India). An ancillary of CETC has already started work on their 200-MW solar photovoltaic cell (PVC) manufacturing park (phase 1) at Sri City in Andhra Pradesh. The Minister explained the wide range of opportunities that India possesses because of the increasing demand for alternative energy, especially solar, and how AP is well positioned to be the focal point of it all. He requested them for their support in bringing ancillary companies of CETC to AP and assured GoAP’s support for all their future endeavours. The representatives have evinced keen interest in expanding their operations in the State.

Lokesh had a good meeting with Jianpeng Jeng, Director (Operations) of Risen Solar Technology, one of the largest PV Module Suppliers in the world and with representatives of Sunny Optical Technology, a leading optical device manufacturer.

Participating in the Xiaomi Suppliers Investment Summit held in Beijing, the Minister elaborated on the conducive business environment that Andhra Pradesh presents to potential investors and how they can grow their businesses with active support from the Government. He told them about the steps being taken to have AP capture $240 billion of India’s $480 billion electronics market.

@ WEF Meeting

Taking part at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions by World Economic Forum held at Tianjin, Lokesh met HERE Technologies’ Head of Global Operations Ms. Melody and invited her to the Fintech Challenge event being held at Vizag in October and explore the opportunities that the fastest growing City in India with best-in-class infra and facilities has to offer.

In his meeting with Dr. Joachim von Amsberg, Vice President - Policy & Strategy – Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Lokesh took him through the Panchayath Raj dashboard and described how every single rupee is utilized efficiently. AIIB had recently extended a loan to AP to improve road transport connectivity in previously unserved communities by providing all weather rural roads in all districts. He also had discussions with Kirk Bresniker, Hewlett Packard Labs Chief Architect & VP at Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Saehong, President & CEO of GS Global, a South Korean industry major.

The Minister had an interaction with World Economic Forum Board members, Murat Sönmez, Head of Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution & Global Network, Sarita Nayyar, Chief Operating Officer Forum LLC and Harrison Wolf, Project Lead - Civil Drones for Tomorrow’s Commerce. The WEF will soon set up a Centre in India to speed up initiatives under their 4th industrial revolution & global network programme.

At a session on Day 2 of the WEF Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin, Lokesh spoke on how AP is using Drone Technology to transform agriculture and quality of roads. On the sidelines, Lokesh spoke to the delegation of 16 start-ups brought by ‘India Invest’ to Tianjin after they requested for a session with him. On Day 3 of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions, he spoke at session on Emerging Technologies & 4th Industrial Revolution among others. He explained how AP is always the first mover and shaker in the Country when it comes to utilizing technologies for the benefit of people.

In Shenzhen, the AP delegation
visited the plant of Avary – a subsidiary of Taiwan-based Zhen Ding Technology Holding - World’s largest Printed Circuit Board Manufacturer. Avary Holding’s Chairman Charles Shen, thoroughly impressed with the State’s initiative, said he will soon send a delegation to learn more about the opportunities.

**Round table with PCB Manufacturing Companies**
During a round table discussion with PCB Manufacturing Companies including AAC Technologies Vice President Kim Chul, Bomin Electronics Assistant President Ginger Xu, Wus Printed Circuit Company President Chris Wu, SGC PCB Group Chairman Mark Zhang & Sytech Director Renxi Chen, the IT Minister informed them about the giant strides taken by AP in attracting big ticket companies from the electronics sector. After a meeting with Shen Wei - President and CEO of Vivo Communication Technology, Lokesh participated in a Workshop organized by the Indian Cellular & Electronics Association in collaboration with Government of AP in Shenzhen. The workshop was attended by representatives of several Chinese mobile, electronics and parts manufacturers. Vivo, which is an established Chinese Technology Company that makes Smartphones, Smartphone Accessories, Software, and offers Online Services is keen on expanding their base to India to start services in AP.

After exchanging views with Mingyang Smart Energy Chief Representative to India & South East Asia Zhang Jian, the Minister met Axis Mobility Chairman Ravi Kumar & Shanghai Aoweit’s Wen Yuanzhang in Shenzhen. Axis Mobility is already working on a pilot project in Amaravati where it will operate 4 buses in coordination with APSRTC. The AP delegation requested Ravi to consider setting up a unit in Andhra Pradesh to manufacture Buses and Capacitors.

Lokesh’s meeting with Tongda Group Holdings’ Vice Chairman Wang Ya Hua was fruitful. The company supplies 60% of Xiaomi’s plastic cases. On an invitation by the Minister to visit Andhra Pradesh and explore the market opportunity, logistical advantage, access to talent, quality of universities and innovation like nowhere else in India. Wang Ya Hua has said that they are actively considering making their first investment outside of China, that AP is on top of their agenda because of the growing demand in India. A delegation will come to AP in the 2nd week of October to evaluate before taking a final decision.

During a meeting with Huang Zhengkong, Director of CVTE, a Chinese major which is into design, development of LCD main boards, Intelligent Interactive Panel, Medical devices and related Intelligent hardware, he spoke about the company’s expansion plans and has shown keen interest in coming to Andhra Pradesh to study the business environment and investment opportunities to take the final decision. The Minister, who visited Huawei in Shenzhen, was hugely impressed with the futuristic facility. He was extended warm welcome by Vice President Han Xiao and his team.

**MoU with Astrum**
Lokesh participated in a conference of Hongkong and Chinese investors organized by Astrum. The Andhra Pradesh State has already signed a MoU with Astrum, which is into design and manufacturing of mobile accessories, audio devices and LED lights for setting up their unit in Tirupati. They will invest Rs. 100 Crore and generate employment for 1000 people. Following the steps of Astrum, another three companies – LLK Design, Shenzhen Power Technology Limited & Dongguan Weiji Electronic Technology – have signed MoUs with Astrum to set up industries in AP. LLK Design will set up a manufacturing unit in Tirupati and Dongguan Weiji will provide technology support to Astrum's operations.
Andhra Pradesh has topped in implementation of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) at the national level. It is named as the first State in the country in ‘Ease of Living (EoL)’ category. Once again, the State has proved that it has been pioneering in every aspect of development ever since the bifurcation. The State has succeeded in making its impact felt nationwide on various parameters of good governance. After being on top in Ease of Doing Business and AP’s cities winning laurels in individual categories on Central stage, AP has been named as the best State in implementing developmental works.

In the latest rankings released by Central authorities concerned, Andhra Pradesh stood first in implementation of AMRUT with 65.24 per cent, followed by Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and then Telangana, in the rankings awarded to States and Union Territories (UTs). The rankings were given by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) after reviewing the implementation of AMRUT in the country in the past three years.

Addressing a National Dissemination Index workshop on ‘Ease of Living Index’, held at New Delhi on September 24, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri said that the index would encourage all cities to move towards an ‘outcome-based’ approach to urban planning and management, and promote healthy competition among cities. This exercise marked a major milestone in India’s goal to promote evidence-based planning and action towards sustainable urbanization. India has undertaken the “most comprehensive” planned urbanization programme in the world and stressed that India still had to build 70 per cent of the new urban infrastructure required by 2030 and this has to be green and resilient.

The Central government launched AMRUT on June 25, 2015 for effective execution of development works and infrastructure provision such as storm water and drainage system, drinking water supply, sanitation and garbage collection in municipal towns. The Central Minister underlined that“new technologies and platforms will increasingly enable citizens to engage with governments, voice their opinions, coordinate their efforts and even circumvent the supervision of public authorities”. This phenomenon is embedded in the concept, design, and implementation of India’s Smart Cities Mission, he said.

On the occasion, naming Andhra Pradesh as the top State in implementing the scheme close to perfection, the Municipal Administration Director K Kanna Babu was handed over the award. Preparation of detailed project reports (DPRs), contracts awarded, completion of development projects, submission of utilisation certificates, urban reforms and several other factors are taken into consideration in awarding rankings to the States in implementation of AMRUT. It speaks volumes of the State’s efforts as Andhra Pradesh topped all the categories that led to the achievement.

Expressing his views on the same, Director of Municipal Administration, K Kanna Babu said, “The use of modern technology in execution of works enabled the State reach the top position. We have introduced several reforms with focus on infrastructure development to improve the Ease of Living Index in urban areas. More reforms will be introduced in the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Departments in the near future to provide better services to people.” He attributed the success and performance to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana.
Mukhyamantri Yuvanestham, launched by the Andhra Pradesh Government recently, is a unique scheme, which goes above and beyond providing unemployment dole to the youth. Its main objective is to empower youth by skilling them and offering them opportunities to find a career suitable to them.

It is in the backdrop that the Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has given a call to the youth to aim high and utilise the opportunities available, instead of being content with the dole that the Government is providing. Speaking on the occasion of launching the web portal www.yuvanestham.ap.gov.in, the CM said the youth should not be content with the Rs.1,000 they got as unemployment dole, but should work hard to reach higher targets and realise their goals.

He said that those who are eligible for the Mukhyamantri Yuvanestham scheme would be provided skill-development training through job portal and job opportunities would also be created. They will be trained to appear for various competitive examinations for employment and the scheme would provide jobs for 11 lakh through convergence method.

CM opined that the youth should develop a positive attitude and hone their skills through technology. “The government will give training under skill development to about 10 Lakh youngsters and also provide employment opportunities to them within their respective fields. As many as 260 training partners appointed from several organisations of Singapore, Germany and UK along with Indian firms have been working on improving skills of the educated youth.”

He remarked that initiatives like ‘Gnana Bheri’, ‘Yuvanestham’ and other skill development programs are aimed at empowering youth to become entrepreneurs. State government is encouraging industrialisation to provide employment to improve the economy, said Chandrababu Naidu.

Focusing on the students in the gathering, the CM said that his aim is to fulfill the ambitions of the youth, bring convergence including skill development, self-employment and apprenticeship for youth empowerment. By launching a job portal, the State government will help the youth in training and placements, including competitive examinations, he added.
The youth in the age group of 20-30 years have a lot of potential to achieve great things and they should be brought under a single platform, so that they can be trained as a powerful force. Universities should establish a data bank of both graduates and postgraduates and should concentrate on both education and placements vigorously,” he said.

Stating that ‘Mukhyamantri Yuvanestham’ will provide a platform to focus on youth empowerment, the Chief Minister advised the youth to be innovative. “AP has emerged as the destination for development with 11.2% growth rate. The youth should utilise opportunities. Knowledge with information technology is a deadly combination. With Information Technology (IT) as background, youth can do wonders,” added he.

**An Ideal Scheme in the Country**

Information Technology Minister, Nara Lokesh said, “The Yuvanestham scheme will emerge as an ideal scheme in the country. The scheme is aimed to provide skill development to youth, along with self-employment opportunities and apprenticeship through a tie-up with various industries.”

All the large and medium scale companies operating in the country will be given access to the job portal to search for their desired candidates to make them employees. A special mobile app will also be created for the convenience of the unemployed youth and employers to make the job search easy and hassle-free.

The State government permitted the Director of Youth Services and the Managing Director of APSTEP to open savings bank accounts in Andhra Bank, AP Secretariat branch, for facilitating payment of dole to the beneficiaries. The government has already allocated Rs 1,000 crore for implementation of the scheme.

Eligible persons can also lodge a complaint to Parishkara Vedika 1100 in case of not getting the dole. According to estimates, 12 lakh people expected to be benefited under Yuva Nestham and Rs 1200 crore may be required for the scheme per year.

The scheme will be extended to all those eligible even if there are more than one beneficiary in a family. “We will implement the scheme in a very transparent manner like pension scheme. The money will be credited directly into the bank accounts through biometric authentication,” Lokesh assured.

The Chief Minister, providing a large perspective on the scheme, said that as part of enhancing the ‘ease of living’, the State had launched the Yuva Nestham scheme enabling educated jobless youth to seek monthly allowance in a hassle-free manner without the role of middlemen.
MUKHYAMANTRI YUVANESTHAM SCHEME
Of Cash and in Kind too!

Though payment of unemployment dole may not be new, ‘Mukhyamantri YuvaNestham’ scheme stands out for providing training and placement thereafter. It also aims to swiftly clear the unemployment roster and turn the State into a haven of employment opportunities.

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu’s yet another flagship programme, ‘Mukhyamantri YuvaNestham’, to provide Rs.1,000 as unemployment allowance to youth is historic, for, never before has any government attempted such a unique scheme. ‘Mukhyamantri Yuvanestham’ is a crucial step taken by the Chief Minister in his efforts to bestow the Constitutional Right of employment to the youth. Under this scheme, about 12 lakh unemployed youth will get Rs.1,000 as unemployment dole every month. This is a comprehensive scheme that will not only lessen the burden on the families of the unemployed on the one hand but also provide vocational training and skill development to the unemployed youth to shape their careers.

A Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu thoroughly examined similar programmes in other parts of the country and did a lot of exercise to come out with Mukhyamantri Yuvanestham scheme. Thanks to the initiative taken by the Minister for Panchayat Raj and Information Technology Nara Lokesh, the scheme is fully made online. As boys and girls are aware of the online methods, the registration process was completed online linking it to the data obtained from various departments. It was designed in such a way that when the Aadhar number is linked, one will know if one is eligible for the dole or not. Mukhyamantri Yuvanestham portal has worked like an employment exchange. The scheme, aimed at youth empowerment, is developed to focus on skill-training, self-employment and apprenticeship.

The Government provided the opportunity to apply online for Mukhyamantri Yuvanestham from September 14 to 30 and the unemployed enrolled themselves on http://yuvanestham.ap.gov.in.

The Government will now credit the unemployment allowance to their bank accounts directly from October 2. In case of any problem with respect to the scheme, the call centre number 1100 may be contacted or the issues may be directly brought to the notice of the officials through email yuvanestham-rtgs@ap.gov.in

Who is eligible?

- Applicants should be unemployed and belong to Andhra Pradesh
- Should possess at least a degree or a two-year diploma
- Aged between 22 and 35 years
- Preference to caste/community will be given according to rules
- Those from below poverty line families and have all qualifications will be considered
- Those coming under the purview of Provident Fund are not eligible for the scheme. Families with four-wheelers are not eligible
- Those holding 2.5 acres of wet land and a maximum of 5 acres are eligible. For those from Anantapur district, the limit is 5 acres of wet land or 10 acres of dry land.
- In case they get financial assistance or loan under Government schemes, they are not eligible for the Rs.50,000 subsidy
- Those studying officially are not eligible
- Those working in public/private sector/quasi-government or self-employed are not eligible
- Those retrenched from Central/State government services are not eligible
- Applicant should not have criminal record

Documents necessary for registration

Aadhar card, ration card, SSC, Degree/ Diploma certificate.
The government of Andhra Pradesh launched a mobile platform, e-Rythu (e-farmer in Telugu), which will enable small-scale farmers to market their produce at reasonable prices. The platform has been developed by global payments and technology company Mastercard and aims to digitize agriculture marketplaces, payments, workflows, and provide farmers an easy and secure way to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural products via their feature phones.

E-Rythu makes payments much safer and simpler for all stakeholders in the agricultural supply chain: the farmers, the buyers, the agents. The platform has a goal of reaching one million horticulture and agriculture farmers and over 300 farmer-producer organizations (FPOs) in Andhra Pradesh.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has launched the e-Rythu digital marketplace at an elaborate event held at Amaravati on September 12. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Mastercard launched e-Rythu, a mobile platform that digitizes agriculture marketplaces, payments, workflows, and provides farmers with an easy and secure way to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural products via their phones.

It will help small-scale farmers looking to sell their products to connect with the right buyers more efficiently in their local language and receive the best possible prices. The platform has been developed by Mastercard Labs for Financial Inclusion in Nairobi, Kenya and has been customized for the collaboration in India through the Labs team based in Pune.

After launching the app, Chief Minister said, “The future generations will be very health conscious. Through a platform like e-Rythu, we are prioritising farmer as well as citizen welfare. e-Rythu is a comprehensive product and it will facilitate the growth of the agricultural sector in AP.”

Due to the small scale and long travel distance from the places where they sell, most of the small and medium farmers in Andhra Pradesh suffer income losses. Additionally, since these farmers do not have a formal credit history, it is difficult for them to access any formal financial services.

E-Rythu will bring a positive change to the lives of over one million small and medium farmers in Andhra Pradesh by allowing them direct access to markets through the platform, to discovering the best prices of their crops and receive digital payments for what they sell. The platform also creates a digital transaction history which allows farmers to receive formal credit services from banks and other financial institutions.

The project will kick off with one large buyer, Lawrencedale Agro Processing India Ltd (LEAF) and four FPOs, namely LEAF Lambasinghi Horticulture Farmers Producers Co-operative Society Limited, Visakhapatnam, Chicacole Coconut Farmers Producer Company, Srikakulam, Giri Chaitanya Farming and Marketing Mutually Aided Cooperative Society Ltd, Visakhapatnam and Andhra Kashmir Farmers Producer Organization (Grijana Vikas Foundation), Visakhapatnam.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner of Horticulture, Chiranjiv Choudhary said, “Our partnership with Mastercard to introduce e-Rythu will make horticulture markets more transparent for sellers, buyers, and other stakeholders, and pave the way for financial inclusion of millions of small and medium farmers in the State.”

Mastercard’s Division president of South Asia, Porush Singh said, “Mastercard is glad to extend partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to introduce e-Rythu.”
Ever since the State government has bucked up for improving the living standards of people by providing best amenities, the results have been outstanding. The persistent effort and constant up-keeping of the targets to complete tasks has earned recognition for the State and its departments at national level. The slew of recent awards announced by Union Ministry of Rural Development once again attested to the hard work of the State government.

The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development department has bagged 10 national awards for effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The State also received another award for effective implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The awards were given away in New Delhi on September 11. Andhra Pradesh topped the country in ‘Transparency and Accountability’ category along with other awards in various categories.

Andhra Pradesh has got the distinction of receiving the award under the Transparency and Accountability category consecutively for the last three years. The measures taken for bringing transparency and accountability have fetched the first prize to the State. The Prakasam and the Visakhapatnam districts spent about Rs 601 crore and Rs 587 crore respectively during 2016-17 and received awards for their overall performance in creating wage employment.

The good governance initiatives such as proper maintenance of the MGNREGS records, proactive disclosure of information to public through citizen information boards and job cards updation etc. secured the State the third position. Geo tagging of assets (100%), cashless DBT to wage seekers, closure of works, effective implementation at the GP level have fetched the awards under many other categories.

Principal Secretary (PR&RD) K.S. Jawahar Reddy, Secretary (RWS&S) B. Ramanjaneyulu, and Director P Ranjit Basha and Visakhapatnam and Prakasam Collectors Pravin Kumar and V. Vinay Chand received the awards.

AP won the highest number of awards in the country, demonstrating the commitment of the State Government.
Minister Nara Lokesh congratulated K Sharon Paul from Kurnool, D Rambabu from Nandyal, and Kotabylu in Chittoor district, who won the awards in GIS Asset Supervisor, effective initiative by Gramin Dak Sevak, and Best Performing Gram Panchayat in implementation of MGNREGA respectively. In the State Level Award category, Andhra Pradesh is Number 1 in the country for ‘Transparency and Accountability’ and stood second in ‘Convergence and Livelihood Augmentation’. In the District Level Award category, Vizag and Prakasam districts stood 1st and 2nd in the country for ‘Effective Implementation of MGNREGA by District Team’. We will take inspiration from this and continue to have Andhra Pradesh occupy the leadership position, added the Minister.

Minister Nara Lokesh said, “With its powerhouse performance and various progressive reforms, we are proud to share the news that Andhra Pradesh has swept the Ministry of Rural Development Annual Awards, winning as many as 10 awards – the highest in the country for a State.

Meanwhile, the Minister was invited to the The Economic Times Rural Strategy Summit 2018 in New Delhi to accept the award for the pioneering reforms introduced in Rural Development in AP. Praveen Prakash, Resident Commissioner, AP Bhavan received the award of behalf of the Minister.

The Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL, Government of India) has retrofitted 10 lakh LED lights in gram panchayats under the first phase and is preparing for installing 13 lakh LED lights in the second phase. So far, 15.92 lakh LED street lights were installed in rural and urban areas, which covers around one fourth of the nation’s LED street lighting. Setting a target of creating world record in Smart Street Lighting project, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed the officials concerned to take steps to launch Alert Management System (AMS), a delivery mechanism with global standards to deal with complaints pertaining to LED streetlights, in all gram panchayats in the State. AMS will ensure accountability among concerned government departments and create confidence among the general public that their complaints are dealt with effectively and resolved in a stipulated time.

The Chief Minister, during a teleconference with officials of Energy and Rural Development departments on the progress of flagship programmes said that the State had already created a national record in LED street lighting project and that the Energy and Panchayat Raj department should focus on achieving world record. “The gram panchayat LED street lighting project will become the best large-scale rural LED programme in the world,” he said.

“People’s satisfaction is paramount. Take feedback from gram panchayats and strive to ensure 100 percent satisfaction levels over the LED street light project,” he said. The State government has been focusing on creating basic infrastructure and providing modern facilities in rural areas, the CM said.

No other State has implemented such a gigantic task so far. Erection of third wire to set up centralised control monitoring system has been completed in 10 districts and installation is almost completed in Chittoor, Anantapur, Vizianagaram, West Godavari and Kadapa. Installation will be completed in Srikakulam and Kurnool by October, Guntur and in Krishna by November, Prakasam and Nellore by December, covering all the districts across the State.

IT & Rural Development Minister Lokesh said that the entire department in coordination with EESL, DISCOMS, APSEEDCO and NREDCAP is fully geared up to complete the LED project by December-end.

AP govt to complete LED street-lighting by the end of 2019
ata Trusts and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) have joined hands for the construction of a state-of-the-art cancer centre in the temple town in Andhra Pradesh. The hospital will function as the command centre for the Cancer grid in entire South India. The foundation stone for Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care and Advance Research (SVICCAR) was laid by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu along with the Tata Trusts Chairman, Ratan Tata, on August 31. The prestigious hospital and research institute will be built with a budget of Rs 600 Crore on a sprawling 25 acres of land along the foothills of Tirumala Devasthanam, allotted by the TTD. After the ground-breaking ceremony for the state-of-the-art Cancer institute, Chief Minister unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion. He said that their government would very soon establish Cancer hospitals across nine district headquarters, in addition to the already existing ones at Visakhapatnam, Nellore and the one that is coming up at Kurnool. “The objective is to ensure that cancer patients get timely and affordable treatment,” he said.

“The Centre will be constructed in two phases with a total outlay of Rs. 600 crore. The 376-bedded hospitals will be equipped with tele-radiology, tele-diagnostics and tele-treatment plans. It will also be a radiation therapy hub with holistic care and advanced research. Bone marrow transplants, advanced Cancer research and training for Cancer experts will be provided at the institute,” he elaborated. CM appreciated and praised the endeavors of Tata Trusts in serving the people through its network of 124 hospitals. “With strong national and international tie-ups, it brings the best practices in the world to its hospitals,” Naidu said. He further mentioned that Amaravati, the world-class capital will soon become a hub for medical and health with the establishment of 14 medical colleges and institutions that are lined-up. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Tata Trusts, Ratan Tata described Cancer as a deadly disease that does not differentiate between poor and rich. “Sometime back, it was believed that cancer was not treatable. Now, advanced treatment is available and I hope that it can soon be said that cancer is a curable disease. Our endeavor is to improve the treatment of cancer, increase the survival rate of the cancer affected and, perhaps, one day we will find a total cure for the disease,” he said adding that Tata Trust is committed to render support for cancer care in the country. The TTD and the Tata Trusts had last year signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up SVICCAR. The centre will strive to provide care to the patients without denying it to those with financial constraints.
The Government of Andhra Pradesh led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has decided to develop Indian Air Force enclaves in the State. The decision was announced on September 18, following the CM’s meeting with Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of Southern Air Command (SAC) Air Marshal Balakrishnan Suresh and his team at the Assembly.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister proposed that Donakonda, Gannavaram, Bhogapuram, Rajahmundry and Nellore be developed as enclaves, to which the delegation responded in positive. The delegation was also asked to cooperate in securing permissions for Kuppam airport, for which they agreed.

Balakrishnan Suresh said that the Indian Air Force is willing to develop enclaves at Donakonda, Gannavaram, Bhogapuram, Rajahmundry and Nellore. However, the delegation has put forth a request for sanction of land for the same purpose at respective airports. Accordingly, to set up and develop the special stations, the delegation requested for 800 acres of land in Donakonda, 25 acres near Gannavaram airport, 10 acres near Bhogapuram and Nellore. However, the delegation has put forth a request for sanction of land for the same purpose at respective airports. Consequently, to set up and develop the special stations, the delegation requested for 800 acres of land in Donakonda, 25 acres near Gannavaram airport, 10 acres near Bhogapuram and Nellore. However, the delegation has put forth a request for sanction of land for the same purpose at respective airports.

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The Andhra Pradesh State government has taken up initiatives worth a whopping Rs 50,000 Crore for urban development across the State with focus on enhancing the liveability of its cities. The announcement was made during an event organized by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) in association with the Royal Embassy of Denmark in India, at Amaravati on September 19.

Principal Secretary (Energy, Infrastructure, Investment and APCRDA) Ajay Jain, addressing the delegates at the Southern Region Policy Dialogue on ‘Making Liveable Cities: Challenges and Way Forward’ in Amaravati said that urban development initiatives worth Rs 50,000 crore were underway across the State. The State government is working in line with the agenda of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Because of enhancing liveability, Vijayawada, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam have been ranked among the top 20 cities in India’s ‘Ease of Living Index 2018’. Under various urban development missions, 50,000 crore works are underway in the State,” Jain remarked adding that one of the key pillars of ‘liveability’ and smart governance is citizen engagement in decision-making. Citing the example of the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) used for procuring land for capital Amaravati, he said, “Amaravati’s success with the LPS has shown how public participation can result in fast-track and effective implementation. It has been the fastest land procurement in history of the country with more than 33,500 acres acquired from 27,365 farmers.”

APCRDA chief Cherukuri Sreedhar, who was attending the meeting said that the government has already established the Amaravati Smart and Sustainable City Corporation Ltd with an emphasis on the development of micro climate management, urban mobility, blue-green, smart utilities and smart governance. Representatives of Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Odisha, Puducherry and Chhattisgarh States took part in the event and spoke on challenges in implementation of the schemes and developmental activities that are being implemented at their respective States.
Government of Andhra Pradesh has joined hands with several private organizations to enhance and expand the quality of medical advancements in treatment and diagnosis. One such initiative is the Knowledge City planned for Apollo Medical Institute in Chittoor. The first phase of the Knowledge City was inaugurated at the Apollo Medical College premises on September 1 by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that optimal use of technology in healthcare is the need of the hour, and the State government had accorded top priority to the sector by ushering in public-private partnership, bolstering the working style of the government hospitals. The CM said that it is a welcome sign that a major health sector player like Apollo had come forward with innovative ideas such as Knowledge City to usher in total health programmes. The State is very soon going to be a destination for medical requirements and top class treatment facilities, opined CM.

CM appreciated the zeal of Pratap C Reddy, Chairman of Apollo Health Care, in bringing advance medical care and world-class facilities for the people of the State, out of public sector. He remarked that Chittoor has become a medical hub and people like him and Pratap, who were based out of Chittoor are indebted to do a lot more for the development of the region and the living conditions of the people as well.

Apollo Knowledge City - a 70 acre integrated knowledge campus with modern teaching facilities is built to be a learning and innovation hub committed to clinical and academic excellence with facilities for education, training and research. Apollo Knowledge City comprises of several colleges that impart training and education for about 7000 medical and para-medical students.

Addressing the gathering, Pratap C Reddy said: “Holistic health to all is the motive of the district. A facility called Proton Therapy would be inaugurated in November which is first of its kind in the country for treating cancer. England and Singapore do not have such facility until now. College and hospital will be fully equipped with state-of-the-art technical expertise and we have joined hands with one of the world’s largest Artificial Intelligence group to support the institutions.”

Key Highlights
- It is the first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model between the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Apollo Hospitals Educational and Research Foundation (AHERF). This partnership further gave an opportunity to upgrade the district headquarters government hospital for providing world-class and affordable healthcare facilities to the people of Andhra Pradesh.
- District government hospital and the Medical College will provide holistic healthcare to the individuals of all age groups, in Chittoor district and Andhra Pradesh.

This unique PPP model will make huge difference not only in the state of Andhra Pradesh, but also will be a model for the rest of the nation.
Andhra Pradesh is making rapid strides in the Tourism sector and is quite likely to occupy the No. 1 position in the state as a tourist destination par excellence. There is good reason to hope that Andhra Pradesh can achieve its goals judging by the rapid strides it is making in tourism.

Ambitious plans
When the present government took charge in the year 2014, the State was standing at No. 5 position in the country. Today, it has improved to third spot, thanks to the initiatives the Government has introduced. As against nine crore tourists who visited Andhra Pradesh in the year 2014, this year their number has crossed 15.37 crore, giving a clear indication of the shape of things to come. The Government is drawing new plans to attract foreign tourists, for, apart from industrialisation, it is tourism that can help all-round development of a State.

The slew of measures includes setting up a Submarine Heritage Museum and TU 142 Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam beach. Activities like scuba diving and sky school will be introduced to draw foreign travellers to the state. Andhra Pradesh is well-known for its heritage structures, historic places and great pilgrim centres. Tourism circuits will be drawn and special packages introduced for the benefit of the visitors to give a boost to State tourism. The latest development in this is the decision to promote seven of the 14 islands in Krishna river by establishing hotels, resorts and amusement parks and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Business Leaders’ Forum of the United Arab Emirates late August. Under this, a golf course, a hotel complex, convention centre, recreation villas besides apartments on 500 acres will be created by the BLF.

Picturesque locales
Andhra Pradesh has a very long 974-km coast line, the second longest for any state in the country. Visakhapatnam with its beautiful beaches is gaining prominence. The port city also has the picturesque Araku Valley with green hills, streams and waterfalls besides the millions of years’ old Borra Caves. And there is the ever green Konaseema region which is rich in natural scenery with coconut groves and enchanting green fields. Papikondalu, Machilipatnam Manginapudi beach, Baruva, Kalingapatnam, Bhavanapaadu beach are being specially developed as tourist centres. The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation is coming out with special packages to attract tourists. As part of this, a separate circuit to promote religious tourism linking all prominent pilgrim centres and temples is introduced. Eight new air-conditioned Volvo buses are being purchased for the purpose and Harita Resorts are remodelled to provide start hotel comforts for the visitors. At present, there are seven star hotels in the State and another seven are under construction. The tourism department has reached an agreement with an international organisation to implement action plan for drawing tourists. Under this pact, the accommodation which is now limited to 1000 rooms will go up to 25,000 rooms very shortly.

195 new projects
According to CEO of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority and Managing Director of AP Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) Himanshu Shukla, proposals have been received for 195 tourism projects, entailing investment of more than Rs.15,000 crore during the three successive CII Partnership Summits held in Visakhapatnam during the past three years. Of these, 74 had been grounded and the rest would take off soon. Also, when the State was bifurcated in 2014, there were only six five-star hotels and now another seven are under construction. Land has been allotted for ten more 5-Star hotels and more land will be allotted for some 7-Star hotels very soon. In all, Andhra Pradesh will have more than 30 five-star hotels in the next few years, say by 2020-21. From the present level of 10,000 quality rooms in star hotels, the State will have 15,000 hotel rooms! This gives a clear indication that the day is not far off when Andhra Pradesh emerges as No.1 Tourist destination in the country.

- B. Prabhakara Sarma

AP set to become India No.1 in tourism
The Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved a $455-million loan for a road project in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, the bank said in a statement.

“More than two million people living in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh stand to benefit from an improved road network connecting them with markets, schools and other services,” it added.

6,000 km of roads

The project aims for construction and upgradation of more than 6,000 km of roads connecting around 3,300 rural habitations in Andhra Pradesh.

“In addition to improving transport links to facilitate the delivery of agricultural and farm goods to markets, all-weather connectivity is also expected to result in better health and education outcomes. School attendance rates, especially among girls, are expected to improve,” AIIB said.

Second project

This is a second project AIIB has financed in Andhra Pradesh. In May 2017, the China-led bank sanctioned a $160-million loan for a power project in the State.

AIIB’s mandate focuses on promoting economic development in Asia by helping build sustainable infrastructure.

“By integrating the rural population with the rest of the State and markets, the project will extend economic development to the State as a whole,” said AIIB Vice-President and Chief Investment Officer DJ Pandian. He added that this is AIIB’s third investment in rural roads projects in India as such projects align with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Government of India’s priorities.

Largest loan recipient

The new loan takes AIIB’s total commitment to India to over $1.76 billion spread across seven infrastructure projects and a $200 million equity investment commitment to India’s National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) approved earlier this year.

Beijing-headquartered AIIB was formed in 2016 with a committed capital of $100 billion. India, the second largest shareholder of AIIB with a 8.72 per cent stake is also the largest recipient of loans from the bank so far.
Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa and Rajasthan bagged top honours at the National Tourism Awards 2016-2017, which were presented by Union Minister K J Alphons in September. The awards were given in various segments of travel, tourism and hospitality industries. AP Tourism Department Principal Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena received the award from President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

The Tourism Minister also launched the ‘Incredible India’ mobile app and the ‘Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification’ programme.

Andhra Pradesh bagged the top prize for promoting ‘Andhra Pradesh Tourism’ as a global brand, Kerala came second for comprehensive development of tourism. Rajasthan and Goa shared the third spot. The awardees were chosen on the basis of several parameters including tourist footfall, initiative of the state government and policies implemented to make the state tourist-friendly.

A total of 77 awards were presented to the tourism industry stakeholders, state governments, central agencies and individuals. Speaking on the occasion, Alphons said that tourism is the cornerstone of the Indian economy as it is a major source of employment and foreign exchange and in order to tap the full potential of this sector, the industry has to join hands, he said.

Andhra Pradesh, after bifurcation, is banking heavily on the tourism sector for employment generation and to stimulate economic growth, and is taking all steps to strengthen the infrastructure. The criteria for selection of the award were multiple tourism products and special mention was made of the following places of tourist interest, which saw AP reaching the top: Tirupati – Sri Venkateshwara Swamy temple handling 30 million visitors annually; Anantapur – Rajiv Gandhi National Park; Srisailam – India’s largest tiger reserve; Vijayawada – ancient capital of the Satavahana empire; Amaravati is where the Buddha gave his famous Kalachakra sermon; Visakhapatnam – Kursura museum, the only submarine museum in South East Asia; Rajamahendravaram – waterfalls and natural beauty, including Papikondalu.

According to Himanshu Shukla, CEO of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority and the Managing Director of AP Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC), the State had been divided into four tourism hubs - Amaravati (the new capital), Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and the picturesque Konaseema area in East Godavari district. Concerted efforts were being made to develop tourism facilities in all the four identified areas.

Proposals for 195 tourism projects, entailing an investment of more than Rs 15,000 crore, had been received during the three successive partnership summits of the CII held. Of these projects, 74 had been grounded and the rest would take off soon.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh Tourism stall achieved great response at Chalo India-2018 conclave at New Jersey Convention and Exhibition Centre in New Jersey, USA from August 31 to September 2, organised by AIANA (American Indian Association of North America). The exhibition was said to have over one lakh visitors from the USA and across the world.
The prestigious Polavaram project has reached an important milestone on September 12 as Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the spill way gallery walk and led the MLAs, MLCs and others walk through the historic construction.

The Chief Minister reached the project site in a helicopter and led the public representatives along with his own family to walk the 1073.70 meters long, 2 meters wide and 2.5 meters height spill way gallery built on the diaphragm wall. The spill way gallery passes through the pillars below the crest gates enabling the concerned engineers and staff to check for any leakages in the due course.

The Chief Minister spent an entire hour at the site with his wife Bhuvaneswari, son and Minister for IT, Nara Lokesh, daughter-in-law Brahmani and grandson Devansh. Speaking on the occasion, CM said that the project, which is dedicated to the nation, is his dream and the gallery walk is a historical moment. “Not many get the opportunity to join the first gallery walk of a major project like Polavaram. It is a rarest achievement for the country and comes after Nagarjuna Sagar,” said an elated CM.

He further mentioned that despite non-cooperation from the Central government, the State was able to complete several historic milestones over the last four years. This day would not have been realised had the project execution work been left for the Central government. We are keen on completing the project as per schedule. “I have come to visit the project site for 27th time and the government spent about Rs 14,600 Crore so far to complete 58.15 per cent of the works.”

Speaking on the occasion, Assembly Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao appreciated the focus and efforts of Chief Minister in the progress of project works. Minister for Heavy Irrigation, Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao, Minister Nara Lokesh and others addressed the gathering.

BJP Floor leader P Vishnu Kuamr Raju, who was present at the inauguration of spillway gallery, congratulated Chief Minister on this achievement and execution of the project work. He mentioned that the Central government is prepared to reimburse the project cost to the State government besides meeting the land acquisition cost and the rehabilitation and resettlement expenditure.
The Fishin’ Co, an USA-based company, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Andhra Pradesh regarding the cage cultivation of fish in water bodies. The formal agreement was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at his chambers in Assembly on September 17.

The company expressed a willingness to raise the ‘Tilapia fish’, which is popular across the globe at present in consumption. Officials informed that the breed of fish can be largely cultivated in the region under the supervision of The Fishin’ Co for great business prospects. “Favourable climate, availability of hatcheries, improvement in export facilities, development of ports and practising fish farmers are the strengths of Andhra Pradesh in attracting the global companies. The company aims to invest Rs 500 Crore in various water bodies across the State”, said the officials.

With the MoU signed by the Fisheries department, the investment that flow in will provide direct employment to about 4000 people and indirect employment to 8000 people in the State. Emphasising on the rich aquaculture and abundant resources in the State, the Chief Minister opined “Andhra Pradesh will emerge as the leading State in the country in terms of exporting fish products. Tilapia fish is rich in essential vitamins like B and D and Omega 3 fatty acids. This MoU will yield great results.”

He further inquired the representatives of The Fishin’ Company if they are going by the proposals and are keeping up with the timing and other arrangements of the project.
Siddavatam Fort in Rajampet Town of Kurnool district is a famous heritage site that is enthralling the visitors with its old-world charm, intriguing architecture and picturesque landscape.

This is a 684 years old riverside fortress built by Matti Rajulu of Tuluva dynasty on the banks of River Pennar is an exciting stone marvel. The archaeological site was build during 1301 A.D. The fort is situated at the foot of Lankamalla hills and is a standing example of military strategy and architectural skills of our ancient India. Located on the route from Badvel to Kadapa, the fort and its surroundings are of pilgrims importance. Siddavatam fort is spread across 30 acres of land and has vast history and struggle protecting the rich heritage and culture from regional and foreign invaders. The British East India Company have kept the fort under their rule for 150 years and used it house defensives before the fort changed hands among the kings of several dynasties.

The fort makes for a wonderful family getaway and also attracts history buffs and travelers alike, who would be blown away by its extravagance in structure and design. Siddavatam fort is different from the rest of forts that are under the control of ASI. The fort has functional temples where the residing deities are worshipped till today. So, it doubles as a heritage site as well as a pilgrim place.

**History of the Fort**

It is said that this place used to be inhabited by people who wanted to meditate in the serenity of climate.
The Siddavatam fort is 25 kilometers from Kadapa and 132 kilometers from Temple city, Tirupati. There are frequent buses plying to and fro to the region besides private auto-rickshaws and cabs. From Tirupati, the fort is a two and a half hour drive on road. September and October are considered as the best months to visit the fort leisurely due to decrease in humidity and temperature. The nearest railway station is at Kadapa at a distance of 25 kilometers and the bus station is at Siddavatam at one kilometer away from the fort.

**Construction and Heritage**

Siddavatam fort is entirely built in Hindu architectural pattern. It has two entrances and the main entrance has captivating figurines of Hindu idols Hanuman and Garutmanthudu carved and the other one with women in dancing postures on either sides. Top of the fort has been adorned with carvings of Gajalakshmi. This is very uniquely carved rock depicting the Goddess seated in a lotus flower flanked by two elephants shown as hurling flowers on this Goddess. It is also noteworthy that the 17 bastions which once used to protect the region are still visible in the fort, intact.

The fort houses an ancillary passage which allows the visitors to gain access even after the closure of the main gates. It is considered as the gateway to 'Dakshina Kashi' aka 'Gateway to Srisailam'. The temples present inside its premise include the Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Siddheswara Temple, Durga Temple and the Bala Brahma Temple.

These are the best stone carved temples found in the region and many of its pillars are made out of single stone. The residing deities in the temples too, are carved out of single stone. Inside the fort are many chambers and verendahs that were built of granite. Finally, the fort, which was once under the rule of Nizams of Hyderabad before they captured it from Tippu Sultan of Mysore was undertaken by Archaeological department of India in the year 1956.

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and had a thick canopy of Indian banyan trees, rightly serving their purpose. In Sanskrit, Sidda means people who perform meditation and vata is the Indian Banyan tree. Hence, the name Siddavatam is said to be a portmanteau of two words Sidda and vatam. The fort here was much developed under the rule of King Varadha Raju, who is the son-in-law of Sri Krishna Deva Raya. This fort was just a mud fort at the time the area was ruled by Matli Rajulu. Later it came under the control of Varadha Raju. Earlier it was a part of Udayagiri Kingdom. Matli Yellama Raju used to support the second Venkatapathi Rayalu in many wars.

For this favour, Siddavatam was given to Matli Yellama Raju as a gift in commemoration of Ootukuru war. Later Matli Anantha Raju re-modelled the fort as Rock Fort. Over time, the fort was ruled by many rulers like Aurangazeb’s Commander Mir Jumla II, Aarakatu Nawabs, Abdul Nabi Khan and Mayana Nawabs. In 1800, the Nizams of Hyderabad surrendered the fort to Britishers.

**getting there**

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**must visit**

- The sixteen pillared temple built on the name of Bhakara Panthulu
- Ranganatha swamy temple

**accomodation**

Kadapa and Tirupati, both have plenty of accommodation facilities including star hotels and budget-friendly B&Bs.
Decrease in MMR and IMR in AP

With persistent efforts from the State government in safeguarding the health of mother and new born, tremendous results were achieved. Maternal mortality rate has been significantly decreased from 92 in the year 2014 to 74 in 2018, per one lakh live births. Similarly, in Infant Mortality Rate, there was a dip from 39 in 2014 to 31.2 in 2018. More than 5.7 lakh NTR maternity kits have been distributed since 2016 in government hospitals. Talli-Bidda express services for transportation, helpline (102) for mother-child advice centre, vaccinations and providing nutritious food and RFID tagging of mother and child are a few of the measures the State government has put in place for achieving the progress.

AP will soon be a Wi-Fi hub

Under the Andhra Pradesh Fiber Grid Project, 4.83 Lac wi-fi connections have been provided to houses & institutions. 4.75 Lac households have benefitted through affordable high-speed internet, television and telephone services. Soon every household in AP will be a wi-fi hub.

Call center for NRTs

The Andhra Pradesh government has established an NRT (Non-Resident Telugus) Cell in the Crime Investigation Department (CID) to exclusively deal with the grievances of Non-Resident Telugus. It is a collaboration of the Police Department and the A.P. Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRT). The cell will cater to the needs of nearly 25 lakh NRTs in more than 150 countries, according to an official release. The APNRT offered to do the preliminary screening of all complaints from NRTs by an officer experienced in law enforcement prior to forwarding them to the NRT Cell for further processing. He mentioned that the Andhra Pradesh government was setting up A.P. Investment Safety and Security Cell to create a safe environment for investments by NRIs and foreign and domestic investors.

30 % of capital region to turn Green

The Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL) is working in full swing to raise greenery in 15,990 acres (30 %) of total capital region under the Amaravati Green Development Project (AGDP) to reach an important milestone by January 2019. CM wanted focus to be laid on development of parks like the big ones coming up at Sakhamuru (300 acres), Anantavaram (35 acres) and Malkapuram (21 acres) to make Amaravati a livable city with plenty of lung spaces. ADCL chairperson D Lakshmi Parthasarathy informed that of the 34 roads measuring 322 kms planned in the capital region, 23 roads with 134 kms length would have a green buffer. So far, 17 roads with 74.45 kms avenue plantations were taken up and completed to an extent of 55 kms. He also told about raising greenery along Kondaveetivagu and Palavagu under the Krishna River Front Development project up to a total length of 25 kms and that the World Bank had agreed in principle to provide a loan of Rs 1,485 crore for the greenery project.

12th century Brahma sculpture found

An interesting and a rare sculpture of Brahma and Goddess Saraswati carved on a panel was discovered at Pedakonduru village, Duggirala mandal of Guntur district. Archaeologist Emani Sivanagi Reddy and his team have found the sculpture as part of their campaign ‘Preserve Heritage for Prosperity’. According to him, by the style of the art and two inscriptions of Kandara Deva, ruler of Konduru issued in 1170 and 1173 AD, the sculpture can be dated back to the 12th century. The red and sand stone sculpture depicted Brahma in Sukhasana with four heads and four hands holding a Rudraksh mala, Kamandal, Sruk and Sruva in three hands and fourth hand, embracing Goddess Saraswathi, who is seated in padmasana.

IAF plans to make AP its strategic base

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has come up with major plans for Andhra Pradesh to make it a ‘strategic base’. Prime

CM inaugurates Pumping scheme

The Chief Minister inaugurated Kondaveeti Vagu Flood Water Pumping Scheme, commissioned to divert flash floods from inundating Amaravati, at Undavalli in September. Speaking on the occasion, he said, “Twelve irrigation projects have been inaugurated so far and another 45 will be inaugurated before the May elections. In all, 57 irrigation projects will be completed in five years. No other government in the country has done so much. We are spending Rs 58,000 crore, despite being a cash-strapped State, on improving our water resources”.

CM inaugurates Pumping scheme
Anil Chandra Punetha appointed new Chief Secretary

The State government appointed 1984-batch IAS officer Anil Chandra Punetha as the new Chief Secretary. Punetha currently the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA). The government issued GO (RT 2115) appointing Punetha as successor to Dinesh Kumar, who will be retiring on September 30. Punetha started his career as Rajampet Sub-Collector and later worked in various capacities, including Srikakulam District Collector, Principal Secretary of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development. Meanwhile, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and officials felicitated the outgoing Chief Secretary Dinesh Kumar, and lauded his efforts for the development of the State.

Bank POs coaching by Kapu Corporation

Under the scheme ‘Vidyonnathi 2018’, for the unemployed Kapu youth in the State, a special coaching programme has been launched. Under this programme, aspirants between 20-30 years of age, aiming to become Probationary Officers (POs) in Banks can undergo free training at chosen centres in their region. Students and youth belonging to Kapu, Balija, Ontari and Telaga caste are eligible for the free training. The training lasts between two-six months. However for books and other reparation material, an amount of Rs 8000 are to be spent by the candidate.

Fisherfolk trained in GPS

The State Fisheries Department in association with the Reliance Foundation has conducted a day-long workshop on how to use global positioning system (GPS) to the Fisherfolk of Dummulapeta village of Kakinada district. The Fishermen were taught about the importance of the GPS and simple steps to make better use of the device in the sea. The folk were also advised to avail the information of Fish potential zones in the sea by ringing the toll free number 1800-419-8800.

IT based garbage management system

The Guntur Municipal Corporation will adapt to Real Time Monitoring System (RTMS), an IT-based solid waste management system following the dismissal of a slew of petitions filed in various courts. Municipal Commissioner Srikesh B Latkar said, 62 wards have been segregated into 736 micro pockets under the new system. Each pocket will have about 300 households and will be managed by two sanitary workers and a push cart. About 1605 sanitary workers will handle the collection of solid waste from households and commercial outlets. The collection points have been tagged and the entire data of the number of houses covered would be displayed in the RTMS dash board.

2 MW floating solar power plant

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu recently inaugurated a 2 MW floating solar power plant built on Mudasarlova reservoir. The power plant envisages saving the burning of 1,540 tonnes of coal a year and release of 300 tonnes of carbon dioxide. As part of the ‘Smart City’ initiative, the solar power plant was built in 20 acres of the reservoir, among the oldest man-made water bodies, on the outskirts of the city, at a cost of ₹11.34 crore. The works were executed by DES Engineers of Hyderabad under the supervision of AECOM, consultants for the Smart City projects.

SBI plans to open 40 more branches

The State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to open 40 more branches in Andhra Pradesh, in addition to the existing 1,406, Chief General Manager, SBI Amaravati Circle, Mani Palvesan has said. Inaugurating the new premises of an overseas branch on the VIP Road at Siripuram in Visakhapatnam, he said established during the mid-1980s, it was the only overseas branch of the SBI in Andhra Pradesh, after bifurcation. Visakhapatnam, being the commercial capital of the State, the overseas branch would continue to serve the State from Vizag, the CGM told the media.

State gives nod for Jashuva Cultural Centre

The memory of the most popular verse poet Gurram Jashuva will be kept alive as the Government of Andhra Pradesh has given its nod for the construction of a Jashuva Cultural Centre in the Capital Amaravati region. The 124th birth anniversary celebrations of the poet who hails from Vinukonda in Guntur district is celebrated on September 28. In a GO issued in September, Tourism Secretary M.K Meena said that a sum of Rs. 3 crore has been allotted for the construction of the Jashuva Cultural Centre (Jashuva Kala Pranganam) and renovation of his tomb in Guntur. Recruiting agencies, it said. MLC and chief whip, AP Legislative Council, Dokka Manikya Prasada Rao thanked the Chief Minister for sanctioning of funds for construction of a cultural centre.
The efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in expanding connectivity from the State to foreign countries have finally come to be true. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has cleared approvals to finally fly an international service between Vijayawada to Singapore starting this October. Abiding by the memorandum of understanding signed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and AP State government earlier, Indigo Airlines has come forward to begin the services from October 2, tentatively. The first service will be from Vijayawada to Singapore. The airline has been involved in making necessary arrangements for the same. However, there is no official information about the ticket price and schedule of the international shuttle service.

The old terminal at the Gannavaram airport will now be used for international departures after it has been upgraded to suit the requirements. About 55 police personnel were deployed at the airport for immigration check post. Earlier, it is said that government was in talks with budget airlines Scoot, which is based out of Singapore to start services from the region. However, it is Indigo that will now carry passengers from the airport to first international destination.

Immigration services
The Gannavaram airport officials have also got their select personnel trained in immigration services to cater to international passengers from Gannavaram airport. The training was imparted for a period of 15 days in the month of February to the candidates with focus on dealing with international passengers.

Integrated International Terminal
Besides using the old terminal for international departures, the Andhra Pradesh Airport Development Corporation Limited (APADCL) has been working on the construction of the new integrated international terminal with a budget of Rs 116 crore. Spread across 4,00,000 sft, the new terminal will have world-class facilities and state-of-the-art infrastructure. The terminal is estimated to be ready by the end of 2020. Also, the extension of runway works are simultaneously being carried out with Rs 120 Crore and is expected to cater needs by the end of 2019. The existing runway of 7,500 sft will be made into 11,023 sft.

Mid roaring displeasure and angst against the Centre’s decision on fuel hike, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has stepped-in to relieve the burden on people of the State. Chandrababu Naidu demanded the central government to roll back their decision in the interest of common man. Expressing solidarity to the agitations carried out across the nation condemning fuel hike, AP CM too joined forces. He introduced a resolution at the Assembly saying that the prices of petrol and diesel have reached their all-time high as the result of policies made by the central government over the years. In a very inspiring stint, he announced reduction of the price by Rs 2 on petrol and diesel. The decision was hailed by one and all in the State, which breathed a sigh of relief among the people.

The Chief Minister condemned the statement made by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan, that the increase in the petroleum prices is due to the hike in petroleum prices in international market and increase in the Value Added Tax (VAT) by State governments. The Chief Minister explained that the crude oil price per barrel stands at Rs 105.52 dollars during 2013-14 which is now at 72.23 dollars but the petrol price per litre kept increasing from Rs 49.6 in 2014 to Rs 86.71 today. He took a dig at the central government for failing at containing the fuel prices despite a fall in the price of crude oil in the international market.

“The excise duty on diesel per litre stands at Rs 3.56 during 2014 which increased to Rs 17.33 by September 2017. The excise duty on petrol per litre stands at Rs 9.48 in 2014 against Rs 19.48 by 2018. In addition, the central government imposed an additional burden of Rs 7 on petrol and Rs 8 on diesel in the name of infrastructure,” he elaborated.

Andhra Pradesh currently levies around Rs 4 a litre of value added tax on petrol and diesel, earning around Rs 2,240 crore a year through state taxes on fuel. The decision to slash taxes on diesel and petrol by Rs 2 a litre was taken only keeping in view the unbearable burden on the common man despite the financial crisis in the state with deficit budget,” Naidu said.
IN PICS

Pic 1: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu interacting with tribal women during his visit to Chintalapudi agency area.

Pic 2: As part of Mission MCROT (Mechanised Cleaning of Rural Overheads Tanks), which is intended to provide safe drinking water in villages, the CM launched the Swachh Dhara programme.

Pic 3: CM along with his wife Bhuveswari participating in the Brahmotsavam festivities at Tirumala temple.

Pic 4: An artist’s impression of HCL’s workspace that will come up in Vijayawada soon. Ground for the project will be broken in the early second week of October.

Pic 5: CM interacting with students during Jnana Bheri programme intended to expose them to innovations and entrepreneurship.

Pic 6: On his return from US tour, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu immediately left for Paderu town in Visakhapatnam agency area and called on the family members of late MLA Kidari Sarveswara Rao, who was killed by Maoists.

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యువనేషథం ఎపిఎం‌గ్మోడ్‌ యువ శాసనం

యువనేషథం ఎపిఎం‌గ్మోడ్‌ యువ శాసనం

ద్వారం పోషించే యువ ఉద్యోగ ఎంపికలు

ఈ సంస్కరణలను ఉద్యోగ రిట్యూ శాసనం సాధారణీత్వ ప్రాప్తి సంపన్నత కేంద్రం పోషించాదు. ప్రతి సంస్కరణ నంది ప్రాంతాలు పోషించాదు. ఈ సంస్కరణ యువ ఉద్యోగ రిట్యూ శాసనం సాధారణీత్వ ప్రాప్తి సంపన్నత కేంద్రం పోషించాదు.

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