

Naidu's vision bringing investments: MSME Minister

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

CREATIVITY today is not just an idea but a powerful economic driver capable of positioning regions on the global map, MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas underlined. Delivering his address at the concluding session of the first edition of Creative Economy Forum (CEF) South organised by The Hans India in collaboration with the CEF along with HMTV and Bizz Buzz as the media partners in Visakhapatnam, the minister stressed the immense economic power of creativity and that innovative thinking has the potential to build strong and sustainable economies.

Underlining that India's strong democratic framework offers an unparalleled platform for talent to flourish, the minister said, "The state government's progressive journey, the minister attributed credit to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for his visionary leadership spanning over

Kondapalli Srinivas lauds The Hans India for hosting CEF South



MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas speaking at the CEF South organised by The Hans India and CEF in Visakhapatnam

four decades. Between 1995 and 2004, the Chief Minister was among the top leaders in the country to foresee the future of Information Technology, laying a strong foundation through pioneering IT initiatives, modern agricultural practices,

micro-education reforms, and reliable power supply for farming."

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's future-ready governance, he stated that the government has rolled out 23 progressive policies covering key sectors such as



Telugu Film Producers Council President KL Damodar Prasad with actress and Tamil Nadu BJP Vice President KhushbuSundar (to his right), K Hanumanta Rao, Managing Director, Hyderabad Media House, and founder of Creative Economy Forum Supriya Suri are present

Artificial Intelligence, advanced equipment manufacturing, aeronautics and space technology. Despite challenging circumstances, these reforms have helped the state attract substantial investments, with nearly 25 percent of India's total

investments in the past year flowing into Andhra Pradesh, Kondapalli Srinivas stressed. Talking about Visakhapatnam's growing role as a global hub for innovation and enterprise, the minister said, "Anything created in Visakhapa-

tnam can now reach the world."After spending 17 years in the IT sector, the Minister shared that he returned to his hometown to actively support government-led initiatives and contribute to educational institutions. The Minister further noted that the Chief Minister's commitment to transparent and efficient administration led to the adoption of real-time governance.

Stressing the importance of ideas in entrepreneurship, the minister said that strong and original ideas naturally attract investment and sponsorship. With multiple funding mechanisms now available, he said, even innovators from remote areas have an opportunity to pitch their ideas.

Appreciating *The Hans India* for organising the prestigious event in Visakhapatnam, the minister described the event as a true representation of South India's dynamic spirit, calling it highly inspiring and impactful.

South India dominating creative space: Khushbu

ACTRESS SPEAK

- Films from south breaking language barriers
- South Indian film can release worldwide on day one
- IP is power ownership and has long-term value



RANI DEVALLA
VISAKHAPATNAM

SOUTH India's creative industries are no longer emerging but leading globally, emphasised actress and Tamil Nadu BJP Vice President Khushbu Sundar.

At the inaugural of the Creative Economy Forum (CEF), South that was organised by The Hans India and CEF at Vizag Convention Centre in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, Khushbu Sundar stated that from cinema that breaks language barriers to music that travels from village festivals to global playlists-South India doesn't just create content, but dominates the creative space.

In an awe-inspiring address at the CEF South, Khushbu mentioned that the forum creates a culture at large. "But if our creativity is world-class, why isn't our creative economy always treated that way? That's exactly we try to focus on the theme 'Money, Markets & IP: Financing the Future of Films & Music-matters,'" the Tamil Nadu BJP vice president mentioned.

For too long, great ideas have struggled to find the right capital. Financing is often informal.

Risk is unevenly shared and creators pay the price, Khushbu opined, adding that global impact needs global-grade financing,

institutional funding and private investment. Talking about markets, Khushbu said today, a South Indian film can release worldwide on day one. "A song composed in Chennai can trend in Europe by evening. It is that fast and the market has exploded but access remains fragmented. What we need is stronger distribution pipelines, better export strategies and a clear roadmap to monetise across languages, platforms and borders. Local stories deserve global pathways without losing their soul," Khushbu stressed.

Terming intellectual property as the most important pillar of all-intellectual properties, Khushbu said, "IP is power, ownership and has long-term value. In the future of films and music, who owns IP will decide who wins. Investors must treat IP as a growth engine and policymakers must ensure protection, clarity and ease of enforcement."

The CEF South brought creators, financiers, policy-makers, and industry leaders to develop solutions together.

The inaugural session was held in the presence of founder of Creative Economy Forum Supriya Suri, Telugu Film Producers Council President KL Damodar Prasad and Managing Director of Hyderabad Media House Private Limited K Hanumanta Rao.



FASHION SHOW AT CEF SOUTH IN VIZAG

FDDI organised Fashion Show at CEF South in Visakhapatnam. The Hans India and CEF organised the Creative Economy Forum South in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

Jogi Ramesh booked for remarks against CM Naidu

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Police have booked a case against former Minister and YSR Congress Party leader Jogi Ramesh for his alleged objectionable remarks against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh.

On a complaint by a leader of Telugu Desam Party (TDP), a case was registered at Ibrahimpatnam Police Station in NTR district, a police officer said on Monday.

Police also registered a separate case against TDP activists who attacked Jogi Ramesh's house in Ibrahimpatnam on Sunday.

On a complaint by a police official, a case was registered for public nuisance, il-



legal assembly and attack on the house. Protesting against certain remarks made by Jogi Ramesh against TDP leaders, the activists gathered outside his house. They removed banners, barged into the house, vandalised it and set the furniture on fire.

YSRCP leaders alleged that petrol bombs were used by the attackers.

Jogi Ramesh was not present in the house at the time of the attack. He visited the house late on Sunday night.

Nine AP fishermen return from Bangladesh

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VISAKHAPATNAM

NINE fishermen from Andhra Pradesh returned to Visakhapatnam on Monday after being released from a Bangladesh jail.

They were detained by the Bangladesh Navy in October last year for inadvertently crossing maritime boundaries while fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

The Indian Coast Guard escorted them to the Visakhapatnam coast and handed them over to the marine police.

It was a tearful reunion of the fishermen with their families after four months. The fishermen and their families thanked the Central and the state governments for ensuring their safe return.



The Bangladesh Coast Guard handed over the fishermen to the Indian Coast Guard at the International Maritime Boundary Line on January 29.

Two fishing boats carrying 15 crew members sailed from Visakhapatnam then to receive these fishermen mid-sea and brought them to the Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour.

Budget progressive, to give push to realty: Credai

Risk Guarantee Fund, asset monetisation and City Economic Region funding seen as key to improving project finance and private investment

SANTOSH PATNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

CREDAI Visakhapatnam has termed the Union Budget 2026 -27, presented in the Lok Sabha by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, as progressive and supportive of the real estate and infrastructure sectors.

Lauding the proposals, representatives of Credai highlighted the proposed Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund as a major announcement.

In a chat with Bizz Buzz, E Ashok Kumar, President of the Credai Visakhapatnam chapter, said the move to provide calibrated public credit guarantees to lenders during high risk construction phases addresses a key project financing challenge.

He noted that this is expected to improve lender confidence and encourage stronger private participation in housing and infrastructure.

Ashok Kumar opined that better access to capital and smoother credit flow



E Ashok Kumar, President, Credai Vizag

could ease financing bottlenecks that often delay large scale projects. The policy direction, he said, reflects an intent to attract private investment and create

an enabling environment, rather than depending only on public expenditure.

The association also welcomed the focus on asset monetisation, especially measures aimed at faster recycling of real estate assets held by Central Public Sector Enterprises through rights-based structures.

According to Ashok Kumar, unlocking value from underutilised public assets can release capital for new investments while ensuring more efficient use of existing land and built infrastructure.

Referring to regional development, he said the allocation of Rs5,000 crore to each City Economic Region over five years is a significant step.

For Visakhapatnam, he said, this will support infrastructure, housing and connectivity, strengthening the city's position as a growth centre beyond major metros. He added that public investment helps reduce risk and build buyer and investor confidence, which in turn encourages sustained private participation.

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