

CEF South-Creativity is the new economy

# MSME Minister highlights AP's visionary growth model

- India's strong democratic framework offers an unparalleled platform for talent to flourish
- Kondapalli Srinivas lauds The Hans India for hosting CEF South
- Says that anything created in Visakhapatnam can now reach the world

VASU POTNURU  
VIJAYAWADA

MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas along with Tamil Nadu BJP vice-president Khushbu Sundar, Creative Economy Forum South founder Supriya Suri, among others, at the first edition of the CEF South organised in 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 as the media partner 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 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 ini-

tatives, 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 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 Visakhapatnam 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



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

## Int'l Fleet Review, Milan-2026 to be held in Vizag on Feb 18&19

- Ships from 19 nations, 4,000 delegates to participate
- President, Governor, Chief Minister, defence minister will attend the event
- State govt assures full cooperation to ensure the successful conduct of both events
- Chief of staff, vice admiral along with senior naval officers met CS Vijayanand

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
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Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, the Vice Admiral Sushil Menon, along with senior naval officers, meet chief secretary K Vijayanand to review preparations for International Fleet Review, at the Secretariat on Monday

United States, Germany, and France would also participate. From India, around 90 ships, 45 aircraft, and nearly 600 delegates are expected to take part. The events will be held along the Visakhapatnam coastline on February 18 and 19. President Droupadi Murmu, Governor Justice S Abdul Nazeer, and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will attend the International Fleet Review, while defence minister Rajnath Singh will participate in Milan-2026. The Chief Minister and other dignitaries will also take part in the International City Parade.

Milan is a multinational naval exercise aimed at strengthening mutual cooperation and enhancing maritime capabilities. Naval forces from various countries also participate. Key warships and submarines take part in the programme.

During the meeting, Vice Admiral Menon informed that ships from 19 countries, including Sri Lanka and Iran, would take part in the IFR, along with nearly 4,000 delegates. He said three ships and about 150 delegates from the

to ensure foolproof security and logistical facilities.

The President of India reviews the operational preparedness and capabilities of the Navy once during his tenure through the President's Fleet Review. In the International Fleet Review, warships from friendly and neighbouring countries also participate. Key warships and submarines take part in the programme.

Chief secretary K Vijayanand assured full cooperation from the State government to ensure the successful conduct of both events. He instructed officials of various departments to make necessary arrangements, especially in view of the presence of VVIPs. He also directed them

to ensure foolproof security and logistical facilities.

Principal secretary, GAD, J Shyamala Rao, protocol additional director Mohan Rao, special chief secretary Krishna Babu, and IG operations CH Srikant participated.

## Two AP veterinarians bag national award

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VIJAYAWADA

TWO veterinary officers from Andhra Pradesh have been selected for the prestigious Dr C M Singh Shashwat Gaurav Ratna Samman 2025 national award by the Veterinary Association of India (VAI). The awardees are Dr Nallapati Jagat Srinivas, Deputy Director of On-

## ICC mulls suspending Pakistan as T20WC 'India boycott' row deepens

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Meanwhile, Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha on Monday said the players will follow whatever instructions are given to them by the government or the cricket board with regards to boycotting the marquee T20 World Cup match against India on February 15 in Colombo.

Salman told the media before leaving with the team from Lahore to Colombo that the players

had been informed about the decision by the team manager on Sunday immediately after the match

against Australia. "We are players contracted to the Board and whatever decision our government and Board have taken all the players are on board with it," he said.

Salman said that the T20 World Cup was not just about playing against India and the team was going to Sri Lanka with the aim to perform well and try to win all its matches against every side in the tournament. "We have three other group matches so we will try to win all of them and qualify for next round," he said.

Leader's remarks, the US President said that he was hopeful both the nations will make a deal. "Hopefully, we'll make a deal. If we don't make a deal, then we'll find out whether he was right," Trump said while talking to reporters. Even though Iran and the United States have been at odds for quite some time, the recent

escalation in tensions between the two nations was triggered by the anti-government protests in Iran during which, thousands of people reportedly died during crackdown on demonstrators, which prompted the US President to intervene and warn Iran against taking action against

protesters.

## Parl begins debate on President's Address

NEW DELHI

THE Rajya Sabha has taken up discussion on the motion of thanks on the President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament.

A total of 16 hours has been allotted for the discussion. Moving the motion, Nominated Member C Sadanandan Master said, President Murmu in her address has articulated a clear and confident vision of India's journeys towards Viksit Bharat.

Salman said that the NDA government has been very clear about social justice and poverty eradication.

The MP said, Viksit Bharat can be built only with the basic strategy Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas. He said, Government was able to bring 25 crore people out of poverty in the last decade.

Seconding the motion, Dr Medha Vishram Kulkarni of BJP said, the President's address highlights India's continued progress. She said that India's economy remains very strong, with the growth

## Indus water talks stalled as India rejects Hague arbitration

Continued from P1

NEW DELHI:

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