

AP pitches opportunities for investment at Mumbai roadshow

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

THE state government, in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), organised a major investment promotion roadshow in Mumbai on Wednesday, showcasing investment opportunities in the State and seeking to forge new partnerships with domestic and international businesses.

Minister for micro, small and medium enterprises Kondapalli Srinivas was the chief guest at the roadshow, which was attended by representatives of prominent industrial associations, trade organisations, foreign trade bodies and business groups.

Addressing the gathering, Srinivas said Andhra Pradesh offered a combination of land availability, natural resources, infrastructure, ports and

● Govt, CII showcase opportunities across 10 key sectors

● Minister Srinivas highlights land, ports and logistics infrastructure

● Roadshow aimed at drawing Maharashtra investors to Vizag CII conference



Minister for MSMEs Kondapalli Srinivas with members of the business community at an investment promotion roadshow in Mumbai on Wednesday

logistics connectivity that could support large-scale industrial investments.

He said the State government was committed to facilitating investments through entrepreneur-friendly policies and ensuring a favourable business environment. The roadshow focused on

investment opportunities in BFSI and FinTech, textiles, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, chemicals and petrochemicals, ports and shipping logistics, food processing and FMCG, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres and renewable

energy. The minister said the government was pursuing a 3S approach — speed of doing business, service and stability — to improve the investment climate and provide greater certainty to investors.

The Mumbai event was

organised as part of the State government's broader investment mobilisation strategy and also served as the opening platform for the CII Partnership Conference, scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13.

Srinivas said the government expected the Mumbai roadshow to encourage leading companies and investors from Maharashtra to participate in the Visakhapatnam conference. The interaction with the business community in Mumbai, he said, would help broaden the scope for investments and partnerships in Andhra Pradesh.

The government is using a series of investor outreach programmes to present sector-specific opportunities and build interest ahead of the Visakhapatnam conference.

State brings healthcare to seniors' doorsteps



● Health minister Satya Kumar says Andhra Pradesh conducted over 1.10 crore health check-ups for citizens aged above 60 during 2025-26, alongside more than 6 lakh physiotherapy services

● Special geriatric clinics are being held every Thursday at PHCs, with dedicated elderly wards in district hospitals and referral support for advanced treatment

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hospitals. He said special geriatric services were being conducted every Thursday at primary health centres for people aged above 60. Those requiring advanced treatment were being referred to higher-level hospitals. Special geriatric wards had been established at district hospitals, while area hospitals in places without district hospitals were also providing such services.

According to the government, 1,10,01,508 health check-ups were conducted among elderly people across the state during 2025-26, including 6,12,601 physiotherapy services. During 2026-27, 52,79,669 OP, IP, physiotherapy and other services have so far been provided to senior citizens.

As part of community-based healthcare, special medical teams visited 74 government-recognised old-age homes and conducted comprehensive health assessments.

The teams included specialists in general medicine, psychiatry, gynaecology and other areas.

The assessment identified depression-related problems in 18.8 per cent of the elderly, frequent falls in 9.8 per cent, and memory-related problems in 7.5 per cent. About 2.1 per cent had

both memory problems and depression, while 6.4 per cent had more than one age-related health problem. Others reported difficulties with activities such as cooking, shopping, travelling, going outside and performing routine tasks independently.

Those identified with health or psychosocial problems were provided counselling, treatment and other support services. Mental health professionals also participated in the visits.

The minister said rehabilitation workers were being encouraged to visit at least five elderly people living near community health centres every week to provide physiotherapy and other services.

He said October would be observed as a special month for elderly healthcare, with awareness programmes on healthy ageing, early disease detection, hypertension, mental health, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and geriatric care.

A comprehensive geriatric assessment tool-based questionnaire would also be used at district and area hospitals to collect health information from at least 1,000 elderly people and provide treatment based on their needs.

BJP to host Khadi Mela in Vijayawada on Gandhi Jayanti

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

TO mark Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, the BJP will host a Khadi Mela at the IV Palace in Vijayawada. Organised under the banner 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion', the event forms part of the party's Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, led by AP BJP state president P V N Madhav.

Announcing the event, state BJP spokesperson Mullapudi Renuka said that last year's exhibitions across Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and Rajamahendravaram received overwhelming support, including a visit from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

This year's mela, located on the

● Mela to be held at IV Palace under the theme 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion'

● Event will showcase varying handlooms and feature cultural programmes, with BJP urging families to support local weavers

● AP's handloom heritage, including Ponduru Khadi, Mangalagiri and Venkatagiri, will be highlighted as part of the 'Vocal for Local' push



BJP state unit official spokesperson Mullapudi Renuka speaking to the media in Vijayawada on Wednesday

first floor of IV Palace, will feature handloom showcases along with morning and evening cultural pro-

grams. Renuka urged families to attend and support local weavers, emphasizing that Khadi is more than just a fabric—it is an enduring symbol of Swadeshi, self-reliance and national pride.

She pointed out that handloom and cottage industries remain India's

largest source of employment after agriculture, providing vital dignity and income to rural households, particularly women. Thanks to expanded digital marketing, financial aid, and modern outreach, the sector's national turnover has surged from Rs 33,000 crore in 2013-14 to nearly Rs 1.7 lakh crore today. Renuka also noted the Andhra Pradesh government's active support for weavers through initiatives like Nethanna Sevalo, power subsidies, pensions, and easy credit.

She also referred to the heritage of AP's textile tradition, pointing to Ponduru Khadi's prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, alongside key handloom hubs in Mangalagiri and Venkatagiri.

Jagan assures legal support to farmers over 'Lanka lands'

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TADEPALLI

FARMERS from Lankapalli village in Pamidimukkala mandal of Krishna district sought the support of YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy over a dispute involving nearly 600 acres of 'Lanka (island) lands' or river island lands. The farmers, who met him at party central office here on Wednesday, told Jagan that their families had been cultivating the lands since 1952, but their rights were being ignored. They said local TDP leaders and revenue officials had issued pattadar passbooks in the names of TDP leaders and their benamis, and claimed Pamidimukkala tahsildar K Naveen Kumar had overseen the process.

They urged YSRCP to press for a comprehensive inquiry and stand by them until justice was delivered. After hearing their grievances, Jagan assured them that the party would provide the necessary legal assistance and support efforts to protect their rights. Speaking to the media, former MLA and YSRCP leader Kaile Anil Kumar said TDP leaders in Pamaru are attempting to take over nearly 350 acres of SC Society Lanka lands through resurvey, forged documents and pattadar passbooks issued in names not found in original records.



Lankapalli farmers meet YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy seeking his support on the land dispute, at Tadepalli on Wednesday

After meeting Jagan Mohan Reddy with affected farmers, he demanded immediate government action. Anil said Pamaru has about 1,200 acres, with genuine farmers cultivating around 250 acres, while another 350 acres are being transferred to others under the supervision of local leader Ganta Suresh and with the backing of MLA Varla Kumar Raja. He said 600 acres of SC Society land are also being shown as government land, including about 100 acres proposed for sand excavation. He said nearly Rs 300 crore worth of public resources are being targeted through land, sand and soil dealings. He warned that YSRCP would approach the courts and seek cancellation of illegal passbooks and a judicial inquiry.

Atchanna hails Centre's rabi MSP hike for 2027-28

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AGRICULTURE minister K Atchannaidu welcomed the Centre's decision to increase the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season, saying it would provide greater price security to farmers.

The decision was approved at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the minister, the Centre has fixed the MSP at Rs 2,610 per quintal for wheat, Rs 2,286 for barley, Rs 5,958 for gram, Rs 7,390 for lentil (masur), Rs 6,613 for rapeseed and mustard, and Rs 7,215 for safflower.

Compared with the previous season, the MSP for safflower has been increased by Rs 675 per quintal, rapeseed



and mustard by Rs 413, lentil by Rs 390, barley by Rs 136, gram by Rs 83 and wheat by Rs 25.

Atchannaidu said the higher MSPs for pulses and oilseeds would encourage farmers to diversify their crops and help strengthen returns from agriculture.

He said both the Centre and the state government were committed to ensuring that farmers received remunerative prices that covered

their production costs and provided a reasonable return.

Increasing farmers' incomes, making agriculture more profitable and protecting farmers from market price fluctuations should remain key priorities, he said.

The minister said the state government was ensuring timely availability of seeds, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs. It was also prepared to intervene in markets whenever necessary to help farmers secure remunerative prices for their produce.

He said the state government was working in coordination with the Centre to promote farmers' welfare and the development of the agriculture sector.

The Centre and the state were moving forward together to provide greater financial security to farmers and make agriculture a more profitable livelihood, Atchannaidu said.

TER eyes integrated growth across key sectors

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

THE emerging space, defence, manufacturing, logistics and tourism sectors are set to play a key role in shaping the Tirupati Economic Region's (TER) development roadmap up to 2047.

The state government is preparing a comprehensive development plan for the region by incorporating inputs from elected representatives, industry, academia, officials and other stakeholders. TER CEO M Mukesh Kumar Meena said that the plan would focus on local requirements, development gaps and investment opportunities.

Addressing a stakeholder workshop at the Tirupati collectorate on Wednesday, Meena said the exercise should go beyond data collection and preparation of a report and result in an actionable plan reflecting ground-level needs. KPMG has been appointed as the

strategic support agency for preparing the TER Development Plan 2047.

Representatives from Tirupati, Chittoor and Nellore districts, including collectors, MLAs, industrialists, academicians and experts, participated in the day-long consultation.

Meena highlighted the potential of the region in space, defence, manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, tourism and services. He proposed linking the emerging space and defence clusters in the Tirupati-Nellore belt with research, manufacturing, testing and launch facilities. With a space city coming up over nearly 2,500 acres, he suggested an R&D park involving IIT and IISER and called for policy support for land, buffer zones and infrastructure.

He also proposed examining a bonded corridor connecting ports, airports and industrial areas and integrating cargo, repacking and distribution facilities to

● Tirupati Economic Region CEO Mukesh Kumar Meena says the plan should address ground level needs and development gaps

● Space, defence, manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, tourism and services identified as key growth sectors

improve logistics.

Planning department joint secretary Anantha Shankar said an assessment of the economic conditions, growth potential and per capita income of the nine districts forming the TER had been carried out up to the mandal level. Though the region accounts for more than half of the State's geographical area, it contrib-



TER CEO Mukesh Kumar Meena, planning department joint secretary Anantha Shankar, Tirupati collector S Venkateswar and MLA Arani Srinivasulu at the stakeholder workshop in Tirupati on Wednesday

utes around one-third of its GSDP, he said.

Tirupati collector Dr S Venkateswar said the district's industrial ecosystem covered nearly 15,000 acres and stressed the need for better connectivity between industrial areas and major highways. Chittoor collector Sumit Kumar said 2,000 to 2,500 acres was available for industrial parks and called

for advance planning of power, water and road infrastructure.

Nellore collector Himanshu Shukla sought industry-linked skill programmes in welding, solar ingot and wafer manufacturing, drone technology and gantry crane operations. He also stressed stronger power infrastructure for emerging sectors such as green hydrogen and

data centres.

Tourism proposals included a circuit covering Tirumala, Srikalahasti, Kanipakam, Talakona and Horsley Hills, besides improved accommodation, transport and digital booking facilities. Sullurpeta MLA Nelavala Vijayasree sought a master plan for Pulicat and Sriharikota, while forest officials stressed compliance with sanctuary regulations and required clearances.

MLC Kancherla Srikanth sought stronger college-industry links through internships and skill programmes. Satyavedu MLA Adimulam sought better infrastructure in the industrial belt, including a bypass to Sri City.

Officials said the TER plan would cover industry, healthcare, education, infrastructure, logistics, skills and innovation, with around 50 to 60 key projects likely to be identified based on regional gaps and opportunities.

PAWS ON THE BEAT

State police induct 36 dual-skilled canines



Home minister V Anitha appreciates the skills of a police dog at the passing-out parade of the 23rd batch of canines and handlers at the ISW Canine Training Centre in Mangalagiri on Wednesday. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta is also seen.

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POLICE dogs play a crucial role in crime detection along with modern technology and forensic evidence, home minister Vangalapati Anitha said on Wednesday.

She was speaking at the passing-out parade of the 23rd batch of canines and handlers held at the ISW Canine Training Centre of the 6th Battalion in Mangalagiri. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta attended the event as the guest of honour.

The home minister said 36 dogs had undergone specialised training for 10 months and were now ready for deployment. The state police currently had 218 trained dogs in service, while around 78 dogs had been trained during the past two years.

She said trained canines could detect narcotic substances through smell even when they were packed in multiple layers. Their role in detecting narcotics also helped protect youngsters from the harmful effects of drug abuse. Anitha said the government was focusing on both visible and invisible policing, technology, forensic services and the canine wing to strengthen crime prevention and investigation. The objective was to ensure that offenders did not escape and that investigations were supported by timely forensic and scientific evidence.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said canines had become highly reliable partners in policing. He said the 36 dogs inducted

into the police force had been trained in dual skills to meet emerging crime and internal security requirements. Of the 23rd batch, 13 dogs were trained in explosive detection and tracking, while another 13 received dual training in narcotics detection and tracking. Seven dogs were trained in explosive detection, two in cadaver detection along with search and rescue (SAR), and one in assault and explosive detection.

For the first time, dogs trained in cadaver detection and search and rescue were being inducted into the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the DGP said. The training was conducted in coordination with the Taralu CRPF Dog Breeding and Training Centre in Bengaluru. Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd breeds were also being introduced for dual-purpose duties.

Gupta said dogs of the 22nd batch, deployed in 19 units around 10 months ago, had already contributed to results in 97 cases. Home minister Anitha presented prizes to dogs that excelled in various areas of training. Senior police officials, including CID chief Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, ACB chief Atul Singh, intelligence chief Mahesh Chandra Laddha, additional DGP (law and order) N Madhusudana Reddy, IGs B Rajakumari, Kanthirana Tata and K V Mohan Rao, SP K Arif Hafeez, senior police officers, ISW personnel and veterinary surgeon Dr Pratap Surapaneni attended the programme.