

AP ideal destination for semicon manufacturing: Naidu in Singapore

Says India is a highly secure nation for global investments and Andhra Pradesh particularly a favourable state

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said on Tuesday that the state is an ideal destination for semiconductor manufacturing.

He invited entrepreneurs from Singapore to visit the state within the next 30 days to examine the prevailing policies. Speaking at the 'Semicon Ecosystem' roundtable conference in Singapore on the second day of his two-day visit, the Chief Minister highlighted the state's commitment to the 'Speed of Doing Business' approach. He told the conference that India is a highly secure region for global investments, with Andhra Pradesh a particularly favourable state. He also noted that the current moment is ideal for investment.

According to an official release here, he outlined the vast opportunities available in Andhra Pradesh for semiconductor manufacturing and announced that a semiconductor manufacturing plant would soon be established in the Ray-



alaseema region. He noted the potential of the Rayalaseema region to become a hub for defence, aerospace, electronics, fighter jet production, and automobile manufacturing.

Representatives from various semiconductor manufacturing companies in Singapore attended the roundtable conference. At another event, Chief Minister Naidu unveiled the book titled 'CBN@361 Degrees: Polymath' in Singapore. The Chief Minister released the book while participating in an event organised by the Kakatiya Cultural Association.

He presented the first copies to India's High Commissioner to Singapore, Shilpak Ambule, Minister P. Narayana, and representatives of the Kakatiya Cultural Association.

The book has been authored by Sakhamuru Srinivasa Prasad, Chief Editor of the 'Repaktosam' daily, and translated into English by retired IAS officer K.V. Satyanarayana. It analyses the decisions made by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in his capacity as a visionary leader on various occasions. The author explained that CM Chandrababu makes decisions akin to global stalwarts -- such as former Prime Ministers Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore and Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, who are recognised as some of the world's best leaders -- citing the formulation of development visions for Andhra Pradesh and the meticulous attention paid to the construction of the capital, Amaravati, as prime examples.

Air travellers bat for viability funding to ply intl flights from Bhogapuram

At present, it has a direct flight between the city and Singapore by Scoot Airlines. Another flight to Abu Dhabi suspended due to conflict in West Asia

Visakhapatnam is rapidly becoming the Data Centre and AI Capital of India. With multi-billion-dollar investments by Google, Reliance Industries Ltd, Sify Technologies, Meta and others committing heavy investments. RMZ Group and AirTrunk also have plans for mega investments

SANTOSH PATNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

AS the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport is getting ready for commercial operations from next month, air travellers have urged the State Government to extend its support for better international connectivity from the new airport developed by GMR Group by offering Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

At present, Visakhapatnam International Airport operates

as a civil enclave on INS Dega airbase of Indian Navy with a 3,050 meter runway and night-landing facility under the control of Airports Authority of India. At present, it has a direct flight between the city and Singapore by Scoot Airlines. Another flight to Abu Dhabi was suspended due to conflict in West Asia. This was preceded by withdrawal of direct flights to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Colombo by low-cost air carriers on 'technical grounds.'

The air travellers want that the new airport at Bhogapuram should have direct flights to Europe, UK, Gulf, SE Asia for which urgent measures are required to develop the Coastal Corridor, a road parallel to the National Highway and flyovers to reach the airport from different directions of Visakhapatnam in a hassle-free manner.

In a representation to Chief



Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh Air Travelers Association (APATA) president Dr K Kumar Raja, vice-presidents DS Varma and O. Naresh Kumar, the Bhogapuram International Airport will be the first true international gateway for 1.7+ crore people of North Coastal AP and South Odisha. The airport's global success hinges on one decision: launching direct international flights from Day . Visakhapatnam is rapidly becoming the Data Centre and AI Capital of India. with multi-billion-dollar investments

by Google, Reliance Industries Ltd, Sify Technologies, Meta and others committing heavy investments. RMZ Group and AirTrunk also have plans for mega investments.

Many anticipate that the city will metamorphose into a metropolis once big ticket projects like the steel plant by ArcelorMittal-Nippon Steel (India) with an investment of Rs.1.35 lakh and Green Hydrogen Hub by NTPC Green Ltd with an investment of over Rs.1 lakh crore materialise. A new pharma cluster is coming up near Nakkapalli. Several

semiconductors & electronics industries under the ESDM policy are expected along with giga scale battery storage and EV component making units.

APATA says all these sectors generate high-yield international business travel, expat traffic, technical teams, and urgent cargo. Without direct international flights from Bhogapuram, AP will lose FDI, MICE tourism, and global talent to Bengaluru/Hyderabad. With it, Bhogapuram becomes the gateway for India's next growth engine.

APATA office-bearers appealed to the Chief Minister to impress upon the officials concerned to ply flights to Frankfurt, London, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Colombo to take care of the Telugu diaspora settled in Europe, promote IT, fintech, education sectors and business traffic as well as the requirement for MICE tourism.

IN BRIEF

Free bus for students appearing for NEET exam

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy on Tuesday said APSRTC buses will offer free rides to students appearing for NEET examination on June 21. The minister noted that students can produce their examination hall ticket to avail the free bus journey to the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET UG) centre. "APSRTC (Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation) is making special arrangements for students appearing for the NEET examination. We are offering free bus rides for students who produce their hall tickets," Reddy said in an official release. Further, he observed that additional bus services will be operated across the state where needed, and called on the students to avail the bus facility.

Atria Renewable spreads solar footprint



HYDERABAD: Atria Renewable Private Limited, a Bengaluru-based solar energy company, has announced the launch of its regional operations across Andhra Pradesh, starting with Mangalagiri and Vijayawada. This expansion reinforces the company's commitment to accelerating clean energy adoption across South India's fast-growing urban centres. The company specialises in bringing high-quality, hassle-free rooftop solar to residential and commercial customers, completing most installations within a matter of hours, and providing customers with 24/7 real-time performance monitoring through its proprietary Namma Atria App. With every system backed by a 30-year warranty and five years of complimentary quarterly maintenance, the company has built its proposition around making the switch to solar as seamless and reliable as possible for Indian homes and businesses.

Green India conference concludes

VIJAYAWADA: Green India Conference 2026, held as part of the three-day Green Energy India Expo concluded here on Tuesday with an enthusiastic response from industry leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, academia, and students, making it a grand success. The conference was jointly organised by the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) and Exhibition Catalyst Pvt. Ltd. The conference sessions were coordinated and moderated by B Phani Chandra, board member and vice chairman, Energy Committee, AP Chambers, along with P Koti Rao, chairman, Energy Committee, AP Chambers, facilitating insightful discussions on investments, policy initiatives, financing, grid infrastructure, manufacturing opportunities, emerging technologies, and employment generation in the green energy sector.

Naidu seeks Singapore investments for AP

SANTOSH PATNAIK
AMARAVATI

Addresses CII partnership summit roadshow

MAKING a strong pitch for investments in various sectors in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday invited Singapore business men to make the State their preferred investment destination.

He highlighted the State's investor-friendly policies, abundant resources and world-class infrastructure. Addressing the CII Partnership Summit Roadshow in Singapore ahead of the upcoming summit to be hosted in Visakhapatnam, the Chief Minister described Andhra Pradesh as a model State for investment and economic growth. He said Andhra Pradesh enjoys a long-standing and productive relationship with Singapore. He recalled Singapore's contribution to the development of Hyderabad during the undivided Andhra Pradesh era and its pivotal



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu addressing a roadshow at CII Partnership Summit in Singapore on Tuesday

role in preparing the master plan for Amaravati after State bifurcation.

"Singapore has designed a remarkable blue-green capital city plan for Amaravati. We continue to work closely with Singapore on urban development and infrastructure initiatives. Andhra Pradesh is one of the best destinations for investment, and I invite Singaporean entrepreneurs to make Amaravati and Andhra Pradesh their second home," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasised that Andhra Pradesh has institutionalised "Speed of Doing Business" model that ensures rapid approvals, efficient administration and seamless project execution.

He cited the example of global steel giant ArcelorMittal, which received approvals in record time and is expected to commence production and exports from Andhra Pradesh by 2028.

Naidu also said a Google Cloud AI Data Hub is being established in the State and will be powered by green energy.

According to the Chief Minister, nearly 10 GW of data center capacity is being developed by various companies in Andhra Pradesh. He also highlighted the proposed Rs 7,000 crore home appliance manufacturing facility by LG Electronics at Sri City.

To address future workforce requirements, the State is establishing an Operational Skill University to create industry-ready talent. He added that the government is increasingly relying on data-driven governance and technology-enabled decision-making to improve citizen services and economic outcomes.

Referring to the State's long-term development strategy, Naidu said Andhra Pradesh has formulated the Swarna Andhra Vision 2047, aligned with India's Viksit Bharat 2047 mission.

India is rapidly emerging as a global economic power and Andhra Pradesh will soon become one of its key

economic engines," he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted the State's strengths, including its long coastline, rich mineral resources, tourism potential, leadership in aquaculture, horticulture, agriculture and services, as well as political stability at both the state and national levels. He noted that Andhra Pradesh is implementing 26 industrial policies to create a favorable investment climate and is investing heavily in infrastructure, water management, and industrial ecosystems. The State's abundant land and water resources, supported by the Krishna and Godavari river systems, provide a strong foundation for industrial growth. Naidu said Andhra Pradesh is pursuing a vision of transforming every family into an entrepreneurial unit through the One Family-One Entrepreneur initiative. The government is also focused on improving product quality standards, particularly among MSMEs.

NARASARAOPET: Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister and Palnadu district in-charge Gottipati Ravi Kumar on has said the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was implementing the promises made to the people and pursuing welfare and development simultaneously. Participating in the coalition government's second anniversary celebrations at Narasaraopet, Ravi Kumar distributed subsidised tractors, drip irrigation systems and agricultural equipment to farmers. He also handed over subsidised autorickshaws to beneficiaries under programmes implemented by the DRDA and Velugu.

The Minister visited exhibition stalls set up by various departments showcasing achievements and programmes implemented during the coalition government's two years in office.

Aadhaar only for ID proof: SC seeks Centre, States' response

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday sought response of the Centre and States on a plea alleging misuse of the Unique Identification Authority of India-issued Aadhaar cards as proof of citizenship, domicile and residential address, and seeking directions to restrict its use strictly for identity verification.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana issued notices to the Centre and all the states and UTs on a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay and tagged it with the pending similar matters.



The plea has sought directions to the Centre, states and the Election Commission to ensure that Aadhaar is used as a proof of identity and not as a proof of citizenship, domicile, address and date of birth.

The plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Dubey, also sought directions that the use of Aadhaar as a proof of date of birth and residence in the application form for new voter registration be considered

against Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, Section 23(4) of the RPA, 1950 and Article 14 of the Constitution.

"Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 expressly states that 'Aadhaar is not the evidence of citizenship or domicile'. The Unique Identification Authority of India notification dated August 22, 2023 clearly states that 'Aadhaar is proof of identity, not of citizenship, address or date of birth'. The petition contended that the existing verification mechanism under Form-6 is inadequate and might allow individuals without proper supporting documents to be included in the electoral database.

Jagan calls for maximum vigilance on SIR

TADEPALLI: Former Chief Minister and YSRCP president former YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday asked all constituency coordinators and regional in-charges to remain on the highest alert during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, describing the next four weeks as critical for safeguarding every genuine vote. At a review meeting held at the party's central office here with senior leaders of YSRCPs, Jagan instructed coordinators to monitor the SIR process on a daily basis, immediately report any irregularities to the concerned election authorities, and escalate unresolved issues to the party headquarters without delay.

AP forms experts panel to check shrimp feed prices

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

IN a bid to check unilateral increase by shrimp feed manufacturers from Rs10 to Rs12 per kg of feed due to increase in input cost, Andhra Pradesh Government constituted a high-power committee.

AP Shrimp Feed Ingredients Price Monitoring Committee, which has been set up under an order issued on Monday comprising representatives from government departments, research organizations, fisheries educational institutions, feed manufacturers, aqua farmers associations and feed dealers will check

the price rise. The committee will have representative from Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Director/Representative from Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), from Fisheries University, aquaculture feed manufacturers, aqua farmers associations, Andhra Pradesh State Aquaculture Development Authority (APSADA), Aqua Feed Dealers Associations, technical officer nominated by Commissioner of Fisheries and Principal, State Institute of Fisheries Technology (SIFT), Kakinada. It will also have representation from RTGS (Digital APP Design & Monitoring).

Mandaviya to lead Fit India Cyclothon marking Yoga Day

SET AGAINST PICTURESQUE BACKDROP OF THE ARABIAN SEA, RIDE WILL REINFORCE THE GOVERNMENT'S MESSAGE OF INTEGRATING FITNESS INTO EVERYDAY LIFE

NEW DELHI

UNION Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment Mansukh Mandaviya will spearhead a special edition of the Fit India Cyclothon at Mumbai's scenic Worli Coastal Cycle Track on Wednesday as part of the nationwide build-up to the 11th International Day of Yoga, which will be celebrated on June 21.

The event, organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Regional Centre

Mumbai, under the flagship Fit India Movement, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 am and is expected to draw nearly 250 cyclists. Bringing together fitness enthusiasts, sportspersons, students, and members of the public, the cyclothon aims to encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyles through regular physical activity and to promote cycling as an environmentally friendly mode of transport.

Set against the picturesque backdrop of the Arabian Sea, the ride will reinforce



the government's message of integrating fitness into everyday life. The initiative

also serves as a curtain-raiser to International Yoga Day, highlighting the shared

focus of yoga and cycling on physical well-being, mental health, and preventive healthcare.

Mandaviya has been a leading advocate of the Fit India Movement and has consistently promoted cycling as a simple yet effective means of improving public health. Since the launch of the Fit India Sundays on Cycle campaign in December 2024, he has actively participated in cycling events across the country, encouraging citizens of all ages to make fitness part

of their daily routine. The nationwide campaign, organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India, Yogasana Bharat, Raahgiri Foundation, and MY Bharat, has grown rapidly over the past few months. According to official figures, the initiative has reached more than 30 lakh participants across over three lakh locations, reflecting growing public awareness of the importance of regular exercise and healthy living. Wednesday's

cyclothon is expected to further strengthen the objectives of the Fit India Movement by inspiring greater community participation in physical activities and promoting sustainable mobility through cycling. The event also aligns with the broader vision of creating a healthier and more active India while fostering a culture of fitness across cities and towns. The Mumbai cyclothon also serves as a curtain-raiser for the global celebrations of the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21,

which will see millions of people participate in more than 180 countries.

Over the last ten years, the International Day of Yoga has grown into one of the largest global wellness movements, with India leading the way. As countries worldwide unite to promote holistic health and preventive care, initiatives like Fit India Sundays on Cycle and Yoga Day highlight India's role in encouraging a healthier, more active, and sustainable lifestyle for people around the world.