CII PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

AP sets its sights on next industrial revolution

- Visakhapatnam summit puts space technology, AI and advanced manufacturing in focus
- Global industry leaders, foreign governments and private space companies to converge on November 12-13
- State seeks a larger role in emerging technologies and international supply chains
- CM Naidu to hold high-level discussions with international delegates, multinational companies and Central Ministers



K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

ROCKETS, advanced technology and global industrial capital will take centre stage as Andhra Pradesh prepares to make an ambitious pitch for a place in the next wave of industrial growth. Visakhapatnam will host the 31st CII Partnership Summit on November 12 and 13, bringing together international business leaders, foreign government representatives, diplomats and executives of major companies.

The state is using the global gathering to position itself beyond conventional manufacturing, targeting high-value industries in space technology, clean energy, artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing. Its larger ambition is to attract businesses that can connect Andhra Pradesh with emerging global markets and technology-driven supply chains.

Organised jointly by the state government and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the summit will be inaugurated by Union home minister Amit Shah at Andhra University on November 12, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will participate in key sessions and hold meetings with international delegates, multinational companies and Central ministers.

A major attraction will be the proposed interaction with India's private space industry. Naidu is scheduled to meet representatives of Agnikul, Bellatrix Aerospace, Skyroot and Hawthorne Rockets to explore opportunities in space technology, research and manufacturing.

The participation of these companies brings a distinctive dimension to the State's investment strategy. The expanding private space sector offers opportunities in launch systems, satellite technologies, propulsion and specialised components, creating demand for advanced manufacturing and research facilities. Andhra Pradesh intends to present its infrastructure and policy framework to companies operating in this emerging industry.

The presence of Dr Daren Tang, director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), adds an important international dimension. With patents, innovation and intellectual property protection playing an increasingly significant role in technology-led businesses, Naidu will hold a separate meeting with Tang.

The Chief Minister is also scheduled to meet government representatives from Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Guatemala and Slovakia, besides the ambassadors of Japan and Russia. He will meet the chairman of a Japanese institute focused on international strategy.

The corporate delegation will include representatives of Kia Motors, ReNew, Mondelez India, Saint-Gobain, NALCO and Levista, spanning automobiles, renewable energy, food processing, construction materials, infrastructure and manufacturing. Naidu will also meet ReNew chief executive Sumant Sinha and participate in discussions with CII-associated chief executives.

The summit will provide a platform for the State to seek greater Central support for industrial expansion. Naidu is scheduled to meet Central ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, Chirag Paswan, Pralhad Joshi and Sarbananda Sonowal to discuss sector-specific development measures, central assistance and possible concessions or relaxations for different sections of the state's population. He will also raise the impact of international developments on various sectors in Andhra Pradesh.

A separate Women and Growth Summit 2026 at Novotel, Visakhapatnam, will focus on women's economic empowerment.

Naidu will begin his engagements a day before the summit, meeting Singaporean Minister Gan Siow Huang in Amaravati on November 11. In Visakhapatnam, he is scheduled to meet WIPO Director General Daren Tang, Japanese Ambassador Keiichi Ono, UAE Minister Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri and ReNew chief executive Sumant Sinha, followed by interactions with CII chief executives and a welcome dinner for international delegates.

The state has already secured investment commitments worth Rs 86,000 crore through five regional investor meetings held as preparatory outreach. The Visakhapatnam summit now offers a larger international platform to turn Andhra Pradesh's investment ambitions into long-term business partnerships, technology collaborations and globally competitive industries.

APPSC releases Group-2 notification for 720 vacancies

- 471 executive and 249 non-executive posts to be filled
- December 11 is the last date to submit online applications
- Screening test scheduled for February 21, 2027

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THE Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) released the Group-2 recruitment notification on Tuesday, announcing 720 vacancies across executive and non-executive categories. The online application process commenced on Tuesday, with December 11 at 11.59 p.m. fixed as the deadline for submission of applications.

Of the total vacancies, 471 are executive posts and 249 are non-executive posts. Candidates can submit their applications through the Commission's official website.

The Group-2 screening test will be conducted offline in OMR-based format on February 21, 2027.
The schedule for the main examination, which will be conducted online, will be announced separately by the Commission.

Among the executive posts, 203 vacancies are for deputy tahsildars and 176 for deputy mandal parishad development officers (MPDOs). The other major vacancies include 40 Goods and Services Tax (GST) officers and 29 Prohibition and Excise Sub-Inspectors.

In the non-executive category, the notification includes 80 assistant section officer (ASO) posts and 91 senior accountant posts, along with other vacancies.

Candidates possessing a bachelor's degree from a recognised university are eligible to apply. The notification provides details of post-wise vacancies, age limits, pay scales, zone-wise distribution of posts and the examination pattern.

Candidates have been advised to go through the detailed notification and verify the eligibility conditions before submitting their applications.

Nvidia CEO told me he didn't know Alice was a spy: Trump

Washington

US President Donald Trump took a sympathetic tone towards Jensen Huang on Monday, saying the Nvidia CEO was "suffering greatly" and didn't know a woman he had an affair with was an alleged Chinese spy.

Trump also danced around the question of when he personally was aware of intelligence linking the chip boss to Alice Huang, a Chinese executive who had allegedly been funnelling information to Beijing.

The US leader said he had spoken to Huang earlier on Monday "to see if he's feeling alright," calling the Taiwanese-born tech boss an "amazing guy."

"I asked him that question, 'did you have any idea that she was a spy?' He said, 'I had no idea that she was a spy,' and I really believe him," Trump told reporters at the White House.

He added: "I hope there is no problem. I believe he is suffering greatly... more so because of his family, his wife, who he loves, and his family. But he's definitely suffering." Jensen Huang sent a message to Nvidia employees on Sunday in which he acknowledged having an affair and apologized to both his family and company staff.

Trump said he was not aware about the allegations when Huang accompanied him to China in May. Huang is a key figure in the AI revolution and close to the US President. "No, I didn't hear about it then. But a lot of people have heard about it," Trump said.

Huang has also attended numerous White House events, including a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping in September.

Sends msg to enemies: Hegseth slams bid to impeach him

WASHINGTON: US secretary of war Pete Hegseth on Tuesday described the impeachment efforts against him as sending a message to Washington's adversaries that the US would punish its own military personnel and political leadership for carrying out "lawful operations." "In the 250 years of our American republic, no secretary of war or secretary of defence has ever been impeached for carrying out lawful military operations," Hegseth told reporters. The briefing came a day after President Donald Trump backed Hegseth, saying that he had led the US to victory in "two wars" — referring to the Iran war and the US military intervention in Venezuela in January, which resulted in the removal of Nicolas Maduro. The press conference was the Pentagon chief's first in six months and came a day after Republican US Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky introduced eight articles of impeachment against him.

'WHITEWASHING'

Sonia trying to justify Emergency in her memoir: BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Tuesday accused former Congress president Sonia Gandhi of trying to justify the Emergency in her memoir and said it should have been named "whitewashing" instead of "Belonging: A Journey of Love". Taking to X, BJP's national spokesperson C R Kesavan said the book appears to be an attempt to "sugar-coat the historical wrongs perpetrated" by the Nehru-Gandhi family, which held power at the Centre for several years. "Sonia Gandhi could have titled her memoir as 'Whitewashing' instead of 'Belonging', because the motive of this book appears to be sugarcoating the historical wrongs perpetrated by the Nehru-Gandhi family and camouflaging the cardinal sins committed by the Congress party," Kesavan said.

SC seeks WhatsApp's action plan to curb digital arrest scams

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The matter has been listed for further hearing on November 23.

During the earlier hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for WhatsApp, informed the bench that the platform had taken preventive measures, including action against 9,400 accounts. He also assured the court that an affidavit detailing the steps taken would be filed. Sibal further submitted that WhatsApp was developing software to identify suspicious accounts and alert users.

The latest directions come amid growing concerns over digital arrest scams and other cyber frauds, with the apex court stressing the need for stronger accountability of financial institutions and digital platforms.



India to remain only major economy with workforce surplus thru 2030

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Over 40 per cent of India's population is under 25 years of age, while around 68 per cent, or nearly 961 million people, are of working age, the report said. Global Capability Centres (GCCs) will play a key role in transforming India's position in the global economy. India had 2,117 GCCs in FY26, employing 2.36 million professionals and generating $98.4 billion in revenue, up from $64.6 billion in FY24.

GCCs added nearly 2 lakh net employees during FY26, driven by demand for artificial intelligence, machine learning engineers, cloud experts and product developers.

The report said that India's projected skilled workforce surplus of 45 million by 2030 could address roughly 53 per cent of the anticipated global talent shortfall. The talent can either work from established hubs such as Hyderabad or Pune for clients abroad, or it can move to Frankfurt, Toronto or Houston on a work visa. Overseas Indians sent home a record $129.4 billion in remittances in 2024, accounting for 14.3 per cent of global remittance flows and the number of Indians working abroad has increased to 18.5 million from 6.6 million in 1990. "Universities and vocational programmes must teach AI, cloud, cybersecurity, healthcare and advanced manufacturing, not only coding. The 2025–26 Union Budget announced a national framework to promote GCCs in tier II cities. That should be funded and carried out," the report noted.

Indirect polls to MPP, ZPP chief posts

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The process also includes the election of co-opted members before the selection of the respective parishad leadership. Each MPP will elect one co-opted member, while each ZPP will elect two. These positions are reserved for representatives belonging to religious or linguistic minority communities. As per GO Ms No 131 of the panchayat raj and rural development department, dated March 11, 1995, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) are recognised as religious minorities. Those whose mother tongue is a language other than Telugu are considered linguistic minorities.

The MPTC members will elect the MPP president and vice-president from among themselves, while ZPTC members will similarly elect the ZPP chairperson and vice-chairperson. The elections to these leadership positions will be conducted through a show of hands, making adherence to party whips issued by recognised political parties mandatory for members.

However, party whips will not apply to elections for co-opted members.

Sonia Gandhi's book brings political memoirs in focus

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In the memoir, Sonia Gandhi opens up for the first time about the extraordinary twists and turns of a life that has largely unfolded in full public view. It contains moving glimpses of Gandhi's private grief. She writes about the loss of her first child, who died shortly after birth, and the chilling discovery of grenades in a room of their house after Operation Blue Star, the 1984 military operation against Sikh separatists at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. She also provides a ringside view of several turbulent chapters in Indian politics, not least the violent assassinations of her mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, in 1984 and her husband, Rajiv, in 1991.

"Much has been written about my family, but rarely with real insight into who they were, their motivations, their struggles, their very human flaws. I wanted to portray them honestly, as people I knew and loved," the 79-year-old Gandhi wrote said ahead of the release of the memoir.

Her book also revisits some of the darker episodes that have dogged the Gandhi family and the Congress party, including Indira's imposition of the Emergency in June 1975, a 21-month period during which civil liberties were suspended, political opponents were jailed and the press was gagged, which caused fear and dismay across the country. In Gandhi's account, it also caused a rift within the family.

Born Sonia Maino in 1946 in a small Italian village near Vicenza, she met Rajiv Gandhi — the grandson of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru — at a restaurant in the United Kingdom's Cambridge city. The two got married in New Delhi in 1968, when Rajiv's mother and Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi was serving as India's prime minister.

In her book Sonia Gandhi talks about her 2004 decision to not take up the top job as prime minister of the world's largest democracy. The Nehru-Gandhi family gave India three prime ministers.

In an excerpt from the book, Sonia said her children - and now senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi - had then discussed with her, their mother's possible prime ministership. "One of them asked me straight out whether I would accept the post, just in case our party pulled off a victory. 'Absolutely not' I'd said, almost indignantly,' the excerpt read.

"Neither Rahul nor Priyanka felt that I should become prime minister. They'd lived through the trauma of their grandmother's assassination and the brutal murder of their father. In their minds, holding that office was intrinsically linked with heightened danger. They looked relieved and I, too, felt lighter, having said my views out loud on the question for the first time," Sonia wrote in the memoir.

Ultimately, Gandhi's memoir is a vivid record of six decades of India's political transformation from the Congress-dominated secular republic she moved to in 1968 until today. Gandhi's account offers a glimpse of how deep the political polarisation runs in Indian politics today. In one revealing passage, Gandhi writes that she has had "practically no real contact" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 12 years he has led the nation. In fact, at times when the two have been in the same room, such as the Speaker's small chamber, Modi "tends to look away, avoiding eye contact", she says. On one occasion, she adds, he has asked briefly about her health after a hospital stay.

After the 2001 terror attack on parliament, Gandhi immediately called then-BJP prime minister AB Vajpayee to enquire about his safety, a gesture he appreciated.

Gandhi sees an increasingly authoritarian style of politics, in which those in power seek to "belittle and torment" opponents. For years, Gandhi's son, Rahul, has been the subject of BJP's ridicule, which calls him Pappu, a derisive term intended to portray him as inexperienced and naive. She adds that similar things are happening elsewhere in the world, an observation that can be read in the context of US President Donald Trump's use of personal insults and ridicule against opponents.

In the book, Gandhi describes a 2012 conversation with Hillary Clinton on the country's female leaders and their backgrounds. In her recollections of Indira, she shares that, despite wielding authority, Indira could feel besieged and profoundly alone, and this was particularly acute, Gandhi writes, in the months leading up to the declaration of the Emergency by her mother-in-law.

Gandhi also writes of her own isolation, including when she decided to take on the leadership of the Congress out of a sense of duty to her family's political legacy.

Among the many ways in which Gandhi charts the erosion of India's democratic conventions in Belonging, one particularly telling shift is the changed relationship between the media and those in power. She recalls a time when journalists had opportunities to question prime ministers directly. In 12 years in power, Modi has not addressed a single press conference on his own. He has sat in on one press briefing at the conclusion of an election campaign and appeared alongside US presidents at joint press encounters after bilateral meetings, where they took questions from the press. Gandhi writes warmly of the closeness between the Gandhi family and that of Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan, whose parents she lived with when she first moved to India, but she makes no mention of the subsequent estrangement between the two families. In another instance, she does not name the political leader she describes as "thoroughly dishonest" and who she says she trusted in 1999, when Congress unsuccessfully attempted to form a coalition government.

'SURRENDER TO IRAN'S 7 CONDITIONS'

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Iran's seven conditions include an end to the hostilities on all fronts, lifting the US naval blockade along the Strait of Hormuz, reopening the shipping lanes in the strait immediately and lifting of economic sanctions on Iran. "The war against Iran has torn the US government apart, but Washington is flailing like a desperate gambler - Stop playing. Stop making up news about imaginary negotiations. Do not deny the new order in West Asia -It is time to surrender to Iran's seven conditions," Rezaei told Iranian media. On Monday, Trump engaged in a high-level dialogue with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. The US President announced that key Gulf allies have backed an unprecedented joint land-and-sea blockade against Iran under "Operation Iron Gate," declaring that preventing Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons remains strictly "non-negotiable."
While warning that American forces remain in a high state of combat readiness should regional dynamics deteriorate, Trump projected optimism regarding a potential de-escalation, noting signs of progress toward winding down the hostilities.

Cabinet nod for ₹31,387-cr AI data centre in Vizag dist

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In a move to promote women entrepreneurship, the Cabinet approved a 30-acres FICCI FLO Industrial Park at Jaggayyapeta in NTR district exclusively for women entrepreneurs. It also cleared the proposed SKICORP Integrated Footwear Park over 56.82 acres in Annamayya district and an MSME Park spread across approximately 21 acres in Thamballapalle.

The Cabinet approved incentives for Rathi Green Energy and Newland Labs. It also cleared the cancellation of earlier land allotments made to Websol Renewables and Metro Decorative in the Naidupeta Special Economic Zone. It approved increasing the capacity of the Greenko solar power project from 500 MW to 1,500 MW and a 30-year lease of 192.68 acres of Waqf land in Vajrakarur mandal of Anantapur district for a solar power project. The Cabinet also agreed to examine the feasibility of allowing private participation in nuclear power generation using Small Modular Reactor technology as an alternative to thermal power, subject to the availability of the technology. The Cabinet approved the establishment of a dedicated Directorate of Traffic Management and Road Safety at Police Headquarters in Mangalagiri. It will function under the supervision of the director general of police and will be headed by an officer of inspector general rank. Five acres in Sakhamuru in the capital region will be leased for a Kendriya Vidyalaya, with stamp duty exemption. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of a 15 MW waste-to-energy plant in Vijayawada through the free transfer of 5.50 acres of AP Genco land to the municipal corporation. A one-time settlement of Rs 48.73 crore relating to Sembukarpu was regularised subject to conditions. The Cabinet also approved incentives and other land-allocation proposals relating to industrial development.