India-Korea teams to make battery cathode materials in AP

- A Rs 4,000 crore integrated LFP battery materials plant to come up at Naidupeta in Tirupati district
- Minister for HRD, IT & Electronics Nara Lokesh meets the leadership of Carbon Cosmo Advanced Materials Private Limited

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

ANDHRA Pradesh announced a Rs 4,000 crore integrated LFP battery materials plant at Naidupeta in Tirupati district, after Nara Lokesh, Minister for HRD, IT & Electronics, met the leadership of Carbon Cosmo Advanced Materials Private Limited in Visakhapatnam on the eve of the CII Partnership Summit.

The plant will make ferric phosphate (FP) precursor and lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cathode materials, which are key inputs for lithium-ion batteries.



Minister for HRD, IT & Electronics Nara Lokesh discusses with Korean officials at the meeting in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

Carbon Cosmo is a joint venture of Kolkata-based Carbon Resources Pvt Ltd (CRPL), which already runs a calcined petroleum coke plant at Bobbili in Vizianagaram district, and South Korea's COSMO AM&T Co., Ltd, a listed maker of cathode materials that supplies Samsung SDI and LG Energy Solution.

The plant will come up on 230 acres using COSMO technology. At full scale, it will produce 1.8 lakh tonnes per annum (TPA) each of FP and LFP, with up to 1.3 lakh TPA for export. It will be built in three phases. Phase I, with 30,000 TPA of each, is due by mid-2028, and Phase III by 2031.

The project is expected to create 700 direct jobs and 3,500 to 5,000 indirect jobs.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on October 16 at SRM University, Amaravati. The State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) approved the project on November 6.

Lokesh invited COSMO to partner with IIT Tirupati on a cathode-testing and battery-recycling lab. "I am excited to welcome Carbon Cosmo to Andhra Pradesh.

This India-Korea partnership brings world-class cathode technology to Naidupeta and fills a critical gap in India's battery supply chain.

Andhra Pradesh is determined to become the country's hub for EV and battery manufacturing, and we will back this project at every step," said Nara Lokesh, Minister for HRD, IT & Electronics.

The company was represented by Abhinav Kumar Jalan, managing director, CRPL Group; Deuk-Kyu Park, Vice President, COSMO AM&T; Byeongdae Kim, general manager, COSMO AM&T; Aman Kapur, Seung Jong Lee and others.

2,700 police personnel deployed for multi-layered security

- More than 58 representatives and diplomats from foreign governments are expected to participate in the summit
- Police have put in place comprehensive security arrangements for the smooth and incident-free conduct of the international summit


The stage is set for the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam


Folk artistes rehearsing on the eve of the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE coalition government has made elaborate arrangements to host the prestigious 31st CII Partnership Summit-2026 in Visakhapatnam on a grand scale.

At a time when the city is considered a major investment destination and the financial powerhouse of Andhra Pradesh, the summit adds to the brimming investments the state has already attracted.

District In-charge Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy mentioned that the state is witnessing an unprecedented inflow of investments under the focused initiatives of IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh. He stated that projects involving investments of nearly Rs.20 lakh crore had been secured so far, with works worth approximately Rs.17 lakh crore already in progress. He further revealed that fresh Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth another Rs 11 lakh crore are expected to be signed during the two-day summit. With these agreements, the total investment commitments are projected to reach Rs.31 lakh crore, potentially creating employment opportunities for nearly 25 lakh youth.

The summit will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will chair the proceedings. The Vice-President will participate in the concluding ceremony on the final day and deliver a special message.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is also actively participating in various review meetings to ensure the successful conduct of the international event.

More than 58 representatives and diplomats from foreign governments are expected to participate in the summit. Over 400 Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings have also been scheduled, providing an important platform for investors, industrialists and international business representatives to explore partnerships and investment opportunities.

Meanwhile, the city police have put in place comprehensive security arrangements for the smooth and incident-free conduct of the international summit.

City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi, along with senior police officials, briefed the officers and personnel deployed for summit security.

Around 2,700 police personnel, including senior officers, 35 ACPs, 103 Circle Inspectors, 250 Sub-Inspectors and nearly 1,800 ASIs, Head Constables, Police Constables and Home Guards, have been mobilised for security duties.

The conference venue and other strategically important locations across the city are being continuously monitored through the Command and Control Centre. Advanced surveillance systems, including drones, CCTV cameras, body-worn cameras and other technological equipment, have been installed to strengthen security.

To ensure hassle-free transportation and timely arrival of delegates at the summit venue, a dedicated mobile application has been developed.

The initiative is aimed at coordinating the movement of delegates representing different organisations and preventing delays.

As part of preventive security measures, city police personnel are conducting continuous inspections of hotels, lodges, resorts and guesthouses falling under all police station limits.

Accommodation facilities where delegates are staying are also being thoroughly checked by sniffer dog squads and bomb detection teams. With extensive administrative coordination, international participation and multi-layered security arrangements, Visakhapatnam is gearing up to host one of the state's most significant investment-focused events scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Japanese companies keen on investing in AP

- Keiichi Ono arrives in Visakhapatnam to participate in the CII Partnership Summit
- The Japanese Ambassador says that several Japanese companies were already operating at Sri City
- Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu explains that the govt is creating an industry-friendly ecosystem to attract investments into AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

JAPANESE companies are keen on investing in Andhra Pradesh and Japan is ready to establish an industrial cluster in the state, Japanese Ambassador to India Keiichi Ono has said. Keiichi Ono, who arrived in Visakhapatnam to participate in the CII Partnership Summit, met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and discussed various aspects concerning industrial investments, skill development, infrastructure, critical mineral supply chains and green energy. The Japanese Ambassador pointed out that several Japanese companies were already operating at Sri City. He also brought various issues raised by Japanese industrial groups and the Japanese community in the region to the Chief Minister's attention.



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu holding discussions with Japanese Ambassador to India Keiichi Ono, among others, in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

He informed the Chief Minister that companies such as Marubeni Corporation, Sumitomo and Mitsui Group had expressed interest in establishing a second Japanese Industrial Cluster in Andhra Pradesh as part of the 20 sector-specific industrial parks planned by the state government. Chandrababu Naidu explained that the government is creating an industry-friendly ecosystem to attract investments into Andhra Pradesh. He mentioned that the state had introduced an escrow account mechanism to ensure greater transparency and reliability in the disbursement of incentives to industries.

The Chief Minister urged Japanese companies to extend their cooperation in developing a skilled workforce to meet industry requirements.

He stated that if young people were provided with training tailored to the needs of Japanese companies, the state could supply highly-skilled human resources.

Responding positively to the appeal, the Japanese delegation expressed its willingness to provide skill development training to employees working in industries across Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister also invited leading Japanese automobile and heavy machinery manufacturers, including Suzuki, Honda, Komatsu, Kawasaki and Yamaha, to explore investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh as part of their business expansion plans.

Leveraging the expertise and talent of Indian professionals, the Japanese representatives further informed the Chief Minister that a new Global Capability Centre (GCC) had been launched in Visakhapatnam this year through India-Japan collaboration. The meeting also included discussion on a preliminary agreement between Japan-based JERA and AM Green for the procurement of approximately 70,000 tonnes of green ammonia annually for five years. The discussions highlighted the growing cooperation between India and Japan in the green energy sector.

Union Bank of India celebrates its 108th Foundation Day



Officials of Union Bank of India celebrating its 108th Foundation Day in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

UNION Bank of India celebrated its 108th Foundation Day in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

Marking the occasion, the regional and zonal office in Visakhapatnam organised a commemorative function, highlighting over a century of trust, innovation, and excellence in banking services with the theme '108 Years Young Shaping a Brighter Future Together' under the leadership of Sonalika, zonal head, S.Jayaraju, DGM and J Simhachalam, regional head, Visakhapatnam, the Foundation Day was celebrated with enthusiastic participation from employees, customers, pensioners, valued stakeholders, distinguished guests, and staff.

Speaking on the occasion, zonal head Sonalika called upon the team to continue serving with commitment and the 'U before I' concept. DGM S.Jayaraju and regional head J Simhachalam thanked the staff and customers for their continued trust and support. On the occasion, the bank's employees contributed Rs 11.17 crore to the National Defence Fund.

Marking the annual day, 108 new branches were opened across the country. Of these, 25 branches are in the North Eastern Region, 51 are general business branches, 16 are Yuva branches, 9 are specialised start-up branches and 7 are Agri Value Chain Finance Branches.

'Sea Vigil-26' spans entire coastline, exclusive economic zone

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE fifth edition of the Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-26' is being carried out from November 11 to 19, coordinated by the Indian Navy as the lead agency. The exercise will be conducted in two phases. The Coastal Defence and Security Readiness valuation (CDSRE) phase from November 11 to 17, followed by the sea phase on November 18 and 19.

Conceptualised in 2018 to validate measures instituted to strengthen maritime security following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the Sea Vigil exercise is significant in terms of its geographical spread, the number of participating agencies and units, and the range of its objectives. The 'Sea Vigil-26' will span the entire coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India, involving all Coastal States and Union Territories, along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities. Assets of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, coastal security police, customs and other maritime agencies will participate. The conduct of the exercise is also being facilitated by the Ministries of Defence; Home Affairs; Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, together with other agencies of the Centre and Coastal states and Union Territories.


The fifth edition of the Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-26' will be carried out till November 19

Sea Vigil is also a build-up to the Indian Navy's biennial Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX). Together, Sea Vigil and TROPEX address the entire spectrum of maritime security challenges, from coastal defence to operations on the high seas. The conduct of exercise at the national-level provides an opportunity, at the apex level, to assess the nation's preparedness towards Maritime Security and Coastal Defence.

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

Vizag creates history by securing national top rank

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P Narayana, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg receive the award from President Droupadi Murmu

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a historic achievement, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) secured the first rank in the 'Swachh Shehar' category under the national Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, among cities with a population of over 10 lakh. This is the first time in Visakhapatnam's history that the city has secured the No. 1 position nationally in the prestigious category, bringing immense pride and recognition to the City of Destiny.

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P Narayana, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg received the prestigious award from the President of India Droupadi Murmu at the national award presentation ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday.


Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana receiving the Swachh Survekshan 2025–26 Award in Swachh Shehar category from the President Droupadi Murmu along with GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg in New Delhi

Principal Secretary S Suresh Kumar, and Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration P Sampath Kumar were also present on the occasion.

Expressing happiness over the landmark achievement, Ketan Garg described the recognition as a moment of immense pride for Visakhapatnam. He said the national award was not merely an institutional accomplishment for GVMC but a collective victory of the entire city.

The Commissioner attributed the success to the sustained efforts and cooperation of citizens, public representatives, voluntary organisations, sanitation workers and GVMC officials and employees.

The Commissioner lauded the sanitation workers for their tireless services in maintaining the city's cleanliness, working round the clock despite challenging weather conditions. He observed that their dedication, combined with active public participation and civic responsibility, played a crucial role in securing the prestigious national recognition.

In a special gesture, Ketan Garg dedicated the award to the sanitation workers for their unwavering commitment and to the people of Visakhapatnam for their continuous support in keeping the city clean and healthy.

He expressed gratitude to district collector and GVMC Special Officer M Abhishikth Kishore for his constant guidance, valuable suggestions and support to the municipal administration in its efforts to secure the top national position.

Emphasising the importance of sustaining the achievement, the Commissioner mentioned that cleanliness should not be viewed merely as a responsibility of the municipal administration but as a continuous social commitment requiring active participation from every citizen.

The historic recognition has placed Visakhapatnam firmly on the national cleanliness map, setting a new benchmark for urban sanitation, environmental sustainability and citizen-led civic responsibility.