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Naidu gets positive signals from Airbus, Lockheed Martin



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu addressing CEOs at Davos on Thursday. -PHOTO: BY ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who is currently in Davos, has invited Airbus and Lockheed Martin to set up their facilities in the State during his interaction with top officials of both the companies.

Marillyn Hewson, CEO Lockheed Martin, told Mr. Naidu that her company was planning to shift parts of their manufacturing facility from Texas to India and was looking for a suitable location, according to a press release from the Chief Minister's Office.

The Chief Minister briefed her on the advantages of AP as an attractive investment destination for the defence sector.

Informing Mr. Naidu that Airbus was committed to making an investment in India, its Deputy CEO Dirk Carstn Hoke, said that he would soon visit AP to explore possibilities of investment.

'Investor-friendly policies'

Explaining the investor-friendly policies the government offers, the Chief Minister said that AP hosts India's satellite launching station in Nellore district. "We have some positive ecosystem for space and defence industry in the State. In this regard, we have begun to create necessary infrastructure in Anantapur, at a closer proximity to Bengaluru," he told Mr. Hoke.

Later, the Chief Minister addressed the CII investor meet and participated in the Q & A session. On a question relating to inclusion of poorer sections in AP growth, he said that while the world was growing at 2.5 per cent, India was growing at 7.5 per cent. In spite of being a newly formed State, AP was performing better than other States. "We are working towards achieving inclusive growth. For this, we are concentrating on welfare and creating employment opportunities for the poor."

Replying to another question on the lack of water, power and labour, he said AP has an advantage in all these areas. He said AP was now a power-surplus State and there was also no shortage of water. He said several labour reforms were also introduced and skilled development centres started.

On land pooling for building new capital, he said farmers responded positively to his call.