

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh Unveils 'SwarnaAndhra@2047: The New Growth Laboratory' at PAFI 13th Annual Forum

Partner State Address Highlights State's Transition from 'Ease' to 'Speed' of Doing Business and a \$2.4 Trillion Economic Roadmap

New Delhi, September 24, 2026 — Unveiling a comprehensive roadmap to build a \$2.4 trillion economy through sector-based clusterization, renewable energy mandates, and a 'speed of doing business' philosophy, **Nara Lokesh, Minister of Human Resources Development, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, and Minister of Real Time Governance, Government of Andhra Pradesh**, addressed a Partner State session titled "**Andhra Pradesh - SwarnaAndhra@2047: The New Growth Laboratory**," organized by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), India's premier organization focused on public policy, public affairs and advocacy, as part of its 13th Annual Forum in New Delhi.

Addressing the session, Mr Lokesh, stated, *"In Andhra Pradesh, the single agenda guiding our efforts is job creation. That is our primary focus. 23 clusters are being developed through a very systematic approach. The objective is to reduce the cost of doing business. When an entire ecosystem is developed within a 100-kilometre radius, it creates significant advantages. We strongly encourage clusterization, particularly thematic and sector-based clusterization. In Andhra Pradesh, we are developing 23 such clusters covering sectors ranging from space, drones, cement, steel, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, AI and data, and horticulture and aquaculture. When we talk about a cluster, we look at it from both vertical and horizontal integration"*

Discussing data centres and education he said, *"There has been considerable discussion about their environmental impact, with some arguing that the environmental burden associated with data centres can outweigh their benefits. However, if we look at how we are developing the data-centre ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh, we are taking a more holistic approach. Our first principle is that at least 70% of the energy used must come from renewable sources. This could include solar, wind, pumped storage, batteries or other renewable-energy sources. The 70% threshold is a fundamental requirement."*

"Our longer-term objective is to introduce what I call the gamification of the classroom. We are working on the use of clicker technology where, after every 45-minute class, students watch a 60- or 90-second video summarising what was taught, followed by four or five questions. Students respond using clickers, effectively gamifying the learning process. The objective is to make children active rather than passive learners. Ultimately, we want this information to feed into our Learning Management System, enabling us to provide more personalised and prescriptive homework."

Positioned as India's New Growth Laboratory, Andhra Pradesh is charting an ambitious roadmap to achieve a \$2.4 trillion economy firmly anchored in its visionary 'SwarnaAndhra@2047' framework. The state is shifting its regulatory philosophy from the traditional 'ease of doing business' to a forward-looking 'speed of doing business' model to attract high-value manufacturing and global capital, backed by India's first comprehensive 'Skill Census', a hub-and-spoke Innovation Hub network, and the novel 'P4 Model' (Public-Private-People Partnership) for zero poverty. The conversation also explored translating economic targets into formal job creation and MSME expansion through the 'One Family, One Entrepreneur' initiative.

The session featured active engagement from industry leaders, including Rakesh Swami, Group President - Corporate Affairs, Godrej Industries Group; moderator Arijit Sen, President, Vivo Mobile India; and Sunita Patnaik, Partner & Head of India Office, DGA Group, who collectively underscored the need for policy stability and public-private synergy to achieve the state's \$2.4 trillion vision.

Highlighting the strategic role of states in driving national economic growth, **Mr. Shivnath Thukral, President, PAFI, and Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs, PhonePe Limited**, remarked, *"Andhra Pradesh's transition towards a 'speed of doing business' framework exemplifies how proactive state governance can anchor global manufacturing and foster inclusive growth. At PAFI, we remain committed to creating impactful platforms that connect state leadership with industry to accelerate investment and economic transformation across India."*

The session was welcomed by **Rakesh Swami**, Group President - Corporate Affairs, Godrej Industries Group, and moderated by **Arijit Sen**, President, Vivo Mobile India Private Limited.

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