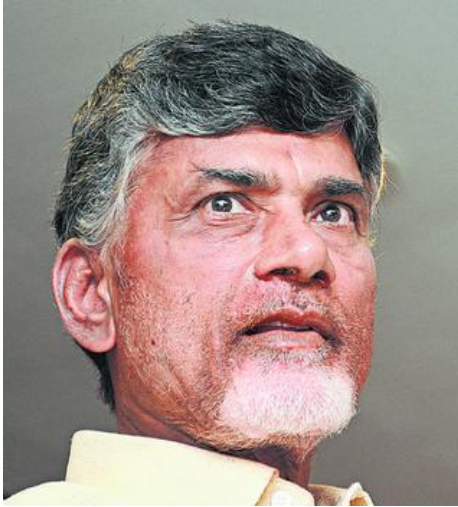


Published: January 23, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: January 23, 2015 07:17 IST

Naidu's talks with Swiss consortium bear fruit

Special Correspondent

Joint panel to work on a master plan



Chandrababu Naidu

The Hindu

A joint committee of Andhra Pradesh officials and Swiss Consortium will be set up shortly to work out a master plan in key technology clusters of smart cities, smart villages, renewable hybrid energy solutions and water management.

This was announced by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, following a meeting with Swiss Solar Technology Consortium on "Enablers for Smart Cities" at Davos, Switzerland on Thursday. Mr. Naidu, who is participating in the World Economic Forum's annual summit, met businessmen and leaders of the Swiss Cleantech Industry. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed soon.

Switzerland, which is a hotbed for solar photovoltaic innovation, is making rapid strides in achieving energy efficiency, a press release from the CM's office said. During the interaction, he underscored his interest in renewable energy projects, including solar and wind and, solid waste management, water management and smart grids.

"Smart Cities, Smart Villages, Smart Andhra Pradesh" was his development mantra, he said, adding the State has skilled human resource.

Members of the consortium informed Chief Minister that their Cleantech industry has the technology and expertise to support his plans.

The interaction with the Chief Minister included top-level delegates from 10 leading Cleantech companies in Switzerland, including Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal (Solventure AG, SRB Energy, swissmango GmbH), Smart Grids and Smart Metering (inGrid AG), Water (iMeth AG, Trunz AG), Smart Cities and Energy Efficient Buildings (LEP Consultants, Soltherm AG), and Investment for Smart Cities (PwC, XNRG). The delegation from AP included Finance Minister Y. Ramakrishnu.

Mr. Naidu met several other industrialists and CEOs, including Royal Philips CEO Frans vans Houten, Usha Rao Monari, CEO, Global Water Development Partners and representative of Mahindra & Mahindra. Mr. Naidu interacted with members of Global Agenda Council, India, who agreed to choose AP as the pilot State for their developmental activities.

Bharat Forge's Chairman Baba N. Kalyani informed the CM that they were interested in investing in AP in defence technologies, especially relating to missiles, renewable energy and automotive forging.

Spanish delegates invited the Mr. Naidu to their country.

Joint panel of AP officials and members from consortium to work on a master plan

Printable version | Jan 23, 2015 10:06:52 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/naidus-talks-with-swiss-consortium-bear-fruit/article6813445.ece>

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