

A force to reckon with...

Former CM of the state, CHANDRABABU NAIDU, is credited by many for putting the city on the global IT map. But there's a lot more to him than IT.

HE was the CEO of the state. One who thought of IT as the sole recourse to establishing a *Swarna Andhra Pradesh*. A shrewd politician, Chandrababu Naidu makes news even when he's off the corridors of power, which is why everyone sits up and takes notice when he announces the revamp of the student wing of TDP. He proved himself as a strategist when he stood by the legendary NTR and helped him get back the reins of power. Unwilling to confine himself to the state, he played mastermind in the formation of United Front government at the centre twice. IT biggies such as Bill Gates queued up at our Hi-tech corridors to set up shop. On the conventional realms, he launched *Janmabhoomi*, *Deepam* and the DWCRAs programmes. Using IT as

a tool, he introduced the teleconferencing facility, AP-SWAN and TWINS that won him accolades.

ANANDANS

GLOBAL CITY

The changing landscape of Hyderabad leaves little doubt that it is among the best in the world...



Md ilias

Towards a world-class city – a clarion call

I BELIEVE that Hyderabad certainly has the potential to be a Global City. As I understand, a Global city is one that offers exceptional business opportunities and a superb quality of life to citizens. Citizens will enjoy 24/7 water supply, power, good infrastructure and safety. Simply put, citizens will be 'healthy, happy and rich'.

CEO, Confluence

Consultancy,

KARUNA GOPAL,

says that Hyderabad's

answers lie in forging

government-private

partnerships

Yes, Hyderabad can do it. Certainly it is not a new game!

Cities across the world have re-invented themselves, re-built lost assets and are planning to rediscover their potential. While rapid urbanisation, failing civic services and crumbling infrastructure have compelled some cities to change, others have undergone metamorphosis to attract FDIs and to become globally competitive.

Why are cities important?

More than 50 per cent of the GDP comes from cities. If we want Hyderabad

to become a hot investment destination, then we need to know how others did it. Be it the initiative of rebuilding lower Manhattan after 9/11 attacks through New York New Vision, Toronto's Revitalisation Strategy or Hong Kong's World City effort, all of them aimed at City Development. They had a corporate plan for the city, a vision and a strategy.

These smart cities understood that developing a city is a process that is based on ownership and partnership. To translate their intent into action, these cities sought stakeholders' support. City government should learn the art of partnering. It should incorporate community wisdom into its policies – a trend increasingly seen all over the world.

It's all a give and take game

I feel that Hyderabad's problems and threats don't outweigh its assets and opportunities. Is it such a difficult task considering the intellectual capital we have in the form of brilliant brains driving huge IT, pharma, biotech, education and service organisations?

If we are looking for precedents, they are available. If we are looking for guidance, that's available too. We need to get our act together and plunge into action. Collectively we can chart a brilliant course for Hyderabad and propel the city to attain the status of a world-class city. When a small City like Da Nang in war-ravaged Vietnam, can do it, what's preventing us, I pray?

Looking ahead

Where is our city headed towards? The chief minister, YS RAJASEKHARA REDDY speaks...

I AM glad to note that *Hyderabad Times* is celebrating its fifth anniversary and coming out with a special issue on the occasion.

Understanding the highest potential in economic development and employment generation in core sectors of industry, trade and commerce, the state government is determined to position Hyderabad and the other important places of the state as the most congenial investment destinations.

A new and investment-friendly Industrial Investment Promotion Policy has been evolved recently to attract industrial entrepreneurs from within the country and abroad, by offering a number of incentives, subsidies and concessions besides providing all types of infrastructure facilities. Several prestigious establishments of international repute have already come forward to invest and set up their concerns here.

Basic amenities like land allotment, water supply, uninterrupted power supply, marketing and transport facilities have been ensured for the entrepreneurs. The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation acts as a nodal agency to provide all necessary facilities for setting up of industries.

Under the New IT&C policy, a 'Knowledge Corridor' is being developed near the city so that Hyderabad will become an IT hub on a sustainable basis. The state government has expedited the process of constructing the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport and recently the chairperson of the National Advisory Council Ms Sonia Gandhi laid the foundation for it. To mitigate the drinking water scarcity in the Twin cities, Krishna Drinking Water Project Phase – 2 at the cost of Rs 1,000 crore is being expedited for completion by March 2005. In order to tackle ever-growing traffic and the consequential pollution in Hyderabad and its surroundings, a 100 km long outer ring road with an outlay of Rs 400 crore is being taken up.

I hope that the informative date in the Special Issue would be useful as a source of inspiration and guidance for several entrepreneurs to come up with huge investments and set up industries in the state's capital. I wish the effort all success.

