

STATE OF THE STATES NEWSLETTER

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REDEFINING DIPLOMACY, ONE STATE
AT A TIME

EDITOR'S NOTE

In recent years, paradiplomacy—where subnational governments directly engage in international relations—has gained traction in India, allowing states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala to forge foreign ties, attract investment, and participate in global networks on trade, climate, and public health. This decentralized approach is reshaping India's diplomatic landscape by enhancing economic profiles, fostering cultural exchange, and promoting development while complementing national objectives.

Therefore, to explore this exciting new world of international relations, the issue delves into the various dimensions of paradiplomacy within India—its origins, current dynamics, and future prospects. We explore how Indian states are leveraging paradiplomacy to foster new models and ideals for development and federalism.

We hope this edition provides a valuable perspective on the evolving landscape of paradiplomacy in India and encourages further dialogue on its implications for the country's global engagement.

THE PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2025

On 9th January, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas which was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Odisha government in Bhubaneswar. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9 January every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. The theme for this year was the “Diaspora’s contribution to a Viksit Bharat”. The event was scheduled from January 8 to January 10 and was kicked off by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar who called upon NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin to actively participate in the quest for a ‘viksit Bharat’. The partnership between Union and State that organised this event is another splendid example of how poignant para diplomacy can be in geopolitics.



ASSAM'S INVESTOR ROADSHOW EXPANDS GLOBAL OUTREACH, REACHES THAILAND

A high level delegation led by Assam's Revenue, Science and Technology Minister, Keshab Mahanta visited Bangkok, Thailand this last Thursday the 9th. This visit is one of many scheduled to showcase Assam's untapped potential as an investment destination and get Thai Businesses and corporations to participate in the Investment Summit scheduled for February 24-25 in Guwahati. This is the second country that the Roadshow hit after Singapore became the one to announce its decision to partner Assam in the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit. Thailand is certainly not the last stop for this roadshow as it is a global itinerary that includes stops in the United States, Japan and others. The Assam 2.0 initiative reflects the state's ambition to attract diverse investments and position itself as a key player in India's economic growth story. This roadshow is also the embodiment of how important paradiplomacy can be in furthering economic ties with allied nations.

MAHARASHTRA'S 360 DEGREE APPROACH ON INVESTMENTS.

Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, and laid out Maharashtra's plan to create a 360 degree approach towards attracting investments. Sectors of importance included manufacturing, technology, data centers, healthcare, and clean energy and the state's commitment to foster new - age, sustainable technology like electric vehicles and clean energy was also highlighted.

Fadnavis inaugurated the Maharashtra pavilion at Davos, while also meeting several global business leaders to discuss the future of investments in the state. For instance, in his meeting with Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar S, there was dialogue on the expansion of the company's offices to Nagpur, Nashik, and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. Discussions on creating a Medicity and Sportscity were also included.

Similarly, with AP Moller-Maersk CEO Vincent Clerc, the CM focused on steering conversation towards the transformation of the Madhavan port into a global transshipment hub, stressing on Maharashtra's commitment to revolutionizing India's port capacity.

A meeting with KPMG India CEO Yezdi Nagporewalla, was also sought to explore potential collaborations on skilling, digitization, the Clean India initiative, and MahaCyber. Corporate input for Innovation City in Navi Mumbai was also part of the conversation to reinforce Maharashtra's push for digital and technological advancement.

Therefore, with a packed schedule of bilateral meetings, Fadnavis exuberated confidence in securing significant investments for Maharashtra, poising the state as a leading Indian and global destinations for businesses.



FROM MAHARASHTRA TO UP: STATES COMPETE FOR INVESTORS AT DAVOS

Six Indian states—Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala, battled it out on the floors of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, to ensure that their state's acquire the crown as the prime investment destination in the country.

The event features two India pavilions: one for the central government and another for the six-state delegation, each occupying different floors. The state's of Maharashtra and Telangana, set ambitious investment targets, by aiming to sign MoUs worth Rs 7 trillion and Rs 1 trillion, respectively. Andhra Pradesh sent the largest delegation of 20 members, spending Rs 15 crore on its pavilion themed Sunrise State Andhra Pradesh. Andhra CM Naidu, scheduled 19 high-level meetings while IT Minister Nara Lokesh will hold 50 bilateral discussions. The state's investment priorities were highlighted to be IT, petrochemicals, food and beverage, and pharmaceuticals.

Similarly, Tamil Nadu launched a global campaign, Brand Tamil Nadu—#BullishOnTN, and arranged 50 meetings with potential partners to strengthen global partnerships. Industries Secretary Arun Roy emphasized on the state's commitment to policy continuity and efficient approvals.

Telangana's Telangana Rising 2050 initiative focused on balancing the regions growth by dividing the state into three clusters beyond Hyderabad. Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan highlighted this strategy for inclusive development.

Lastly, Kerala sent a six-member delegation, primarily targeting IT investments. Uttar Pradesh and other states also leveraged the WEF platform to showcase their economic potential, making the event a crucial battleground for attracting global investors.



MEET THE TEAM



**Professor Tridivesh
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Prof. Tridivesh Singh Maini, currently Assistant Professor, has been a faculty member of the Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA) since August 2014. He was also a Public Policy Scholar with The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy, Chennai (November 2013-March 2014), and an Asia Society India-Pakistan Regional Young Leaders Initiative (IPRYLI) Fellow (2013-2014). His research interests include — India's ties with its extended neighbourhood (with a focus on Gulf and Iran), Geo-economics in South Asia, The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the role of India's states in the country's external relations.



Sonakshi Garg

Sonakshi Garg is a Second - year law student at Jindal Global Law School. She is one of the hosts of The Interlinked Podcast and leads the Conversations in Developmental Studies (CIDS). She is deeply passionate about the subjects of History, Psychology and Gender Studies and is an International Relations enthusiast.



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Pratyush Buch (he/him) is a second year law student at Jindal Global Law School. He finished his schooling from Anand Niketan Shilaj. He has always had a keen interest in public speaking, an interest which only grew as time went on. Following geopolitics, international relations and Indian politics has always been one of his hobbies. He has a great interest in Public International Law and Comparative Constitutional Law.

Pratyush Buch