

STATE OF THE STATES NEWSLETTER

15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 - 15TH OCTOBER 2025

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.

ACCENTURE TO SET UP ANDHRA PRADESH CAMPUS AMID H-1B VISA FEE HIKE

Accenture has proposed setting up a major new campus in Andhra Pradesh, expected to create around 12,000 jobs. The firm has requested about 10 acres of land in Visakhapatnam, with state officials signaling likely approval. While investment details remain undisclosed, the move expands on Accenture's already significant presence in India, where over 300,000 of its 790,000 employees are based.

The announcement comes shortly after the United States introduced a \$100,000 annual fee on H-1B visas effective September 21, 2025—a policy shift expected to hit India's IT sector hard. By scaling up domestic operations, firms like Accenture appear to be preparing to reduce reliance on overseas staffing.



Similar moves have been made by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Cognizant, which secured land in Visakhapatnam under a state policy offering leases at just 0.99 rupees (\$0.0112) per acre in exchange for job creation. Cognizant has pledged \$183 million and TCS over \$154 million for their facilities, together projected to generate 20,000 jobs. Industry observers see these expansions as part of a broader trend of Indian IT giants reinforcing their local base amid global uncertainties.

Source : <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/technology/tech-news/accenture-to-add-12000-jobs-with-new-andhra-pradesh-campus-amid-h-1b-visa-fee-hike/articleshow/124105905.cms>

TELANGANA TO LAUNCH OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT WING, BOOST SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced plans to set up a special government wing dedicated to helping students and jobseekers secure overseas employment. Speaking in Hyderabad, he emphasized that opportunities extend beyond the USA, highlighting countries such as Germany, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Russia. The new wing will guide candidates through training, passport, and visa processes, aiming to bridge local skills with global job markets.

Alongside this initiative, the Chief Minister unveiled the establishment of a Skills University, a Young India Sports University, and Young India Integrated Residential Schools, designed to equip youth with both academic and practical foundations. He also inaugurated 65 Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), converted from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in partnership with the Tata Group, with a combined Rs 2,400 crore investment. From next year, students enrolled in ATCs will receive a Rs 2,000 monthly stipend. Reddy underlined that these measures are intended to prepare Telangana's youth for global careers while making education and skill development the primary pathways out of poverty.

Source : <https://share.google/rgja3Uzh5P2L6aSwg>



‘TELUGU TECHIES’ SUFFERING UNIMAGINABLE’: CM REVANTH ON US H-1B VISA FEE HIKE

Telangana Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy spoke out against U.S President’s recent decision to raise the H-1B visa fee from USD 215 to USD 100,000. The CM urged Indian Prime Minister PM Modi and External Minister S. Jaishankar to intervene in agency. The decision was rationalised by the White House as aimed to promote the hire of local American workers and prevent the ‘systemic abuse’, of the visa system by outsourcing firms. Indians, especially Telugu tech professionals hold the majority of H-1B visas and consequently the policy has caused widespread outrage. The White House clarified that the fee is applicable only to new applicants, not renewals. India’s Ministry of External Affairs has expressed hope that the U.S will address the humanitarian and economic upheavals caused, underscoring the importance of skilled talent exchange for mutual growth and innovation in Indo - U.S relations.

Source : <https://www.thenewsminute.com/telangana/telugu-techies-suffering-unimaginable-cm-revanth-on-us-h-1b-visa-fee-hike>

BEYOND NEW DELHI : THE EXPANDING ROLE OF INDIAN STATES IN GLOBAL DIPLOMACY

Para - Diplomacy is the phenomenon to include greater state participation in India's foreign policy. Over the past three decades this has developed and was triggered by the 1991 economic reforms, the IT boom, and the rise of influential regional leaders like Chandrababu Naidu. Consequently, Indian states have become key players in economic diplomacy. For instance hosting investor summits and engaging directly with foreign governments. Initiatives like the MEA's State Division is a form of central government support to promote 'competitive and cooperative federalism'.

Despite such developments, effective centre - state coordination remains integral to ensure that political differences do not act as a roadblock in development or foreign policy goals. State participation is required by major initiatives like FTAs, the Act East Policy and Indo - Pacific strategies. Similarly, collaboration in higher education is required as foreign universities are seeking to establish their campuses in India. However, such developments will only successfully occur if there exist in the subcontinent. Strong mechanisms for cohesive national and state level engagement.

Source : <https://redlanternanalytica.com/beyond-new-delhi-the-expanding-role-of-indian-states-in-global-diplomacy/>

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.



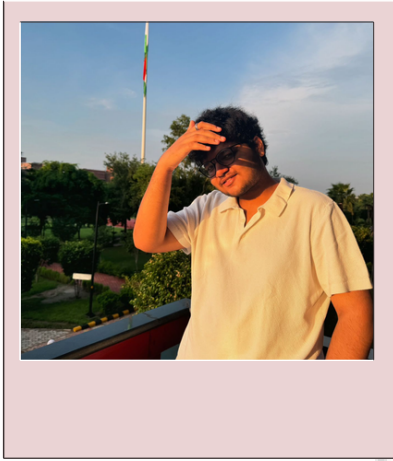
Sonakshi Garg

Sonakshi Garg is a Third - 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.



Tarinee

Tarinee is a Third-year B.A. LL.B. student with a strong interest in international relations, law, and global policy. As a columnist for the International Relations cluster at Nickelled and Dimed, she writes on how diplomacy, conflict, and international law intersect with contemporary global challenges.



Pratyush Buch (he/him) is a Third 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

