

# 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.

# US AMBASSADOR MEETS TN CM VIJAY, DISCUSSES TRADE TIES ON HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY AS CM

The United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Monday met Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay wished him on his birthday and discussed numerous opportunities for strengthening the economic cooperation between the United States and Tamil Nadu. The details of the meeting were shared on social media platform X, where Ambassador Gor stated that he met the Chief Minister and wished him a happy birthday as well as spoke about exploring a deeper collaboration across sections which include trade and investment, technology, supply chain, manufacturing pharmaceuticals and energy.

This visit fell on CM Vijay's birthday and was marked across the state through welfare activities, public events and celebrations held by party workers and supporters. Adding to the administrative significance of the CM's birthday there was a roll out of new ration cards, social service programs and community outreach initiatives. Global investors have started to look at Tamil Nadu owing to its strong industrial base, skilled workforce and robust infrastructure. The CM since coming into office has focused on increasing industrial growth, having larger foreign investment and creating employment opportunities aiming to position Tamil Nadu as a bigger player in the global supply chain and technology.

The visit by Ambassador Gor added a diplomatic dimension to the celebrations and underscored Tamil Nadu's growing prominence in international economic and business networks.

Source: <https://ommcomnews.com/india-news/us-envoy-sergio-gor-meets-tn-cm-vijay-on-his-birthday-discusses-economic-ties/>

This interaction underscores the rising importance of "para-diplomacy," where Indian state governments actively engage in foreign policy and economic statecraft. By leveraging localized diaspora ties and economic synergies, states like Tamil Nadu act as direct bridges to Southeast Asia. This decentralized approach strengthens India's broader "Act East" policy, deepening strategic, technological, and economic integration with ASEAN nations to counter regional competitors and secure resilient supply chains in sectors like semiconductors and green energy.

Source : <https://www.stratechos.com/post/malaysia-tn-para-diplomacy-gets-a-vijay-boost>

# NAIDU'S SINGAPORE PUSH & THE RISE OF STATE DIPLOMACY

While addressing a CII Partnership roadshow, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu pitched the state as a prime investment destination. He highlighted its natural resources, investor-friendly policies, and strategic connectivity to major southern growth hubs. Emphasizing Singapore's role in designing the blue-green capital plan for Amaravati, Naidu met with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong to seek greater cooperation in infrastructure, AI, semiconductors, and urban governance. Furthermore, Naidu met with leadership at the National University of Singapore, inviting them to establish a satellite campus in Andhra Pradesh.

This diplomatic push coincides with Naidu's efforts to transform Visakhapatnam into a premier tech and data hub, marked by Google beginning construction on an AI hub there in April 2026. This aggressive pursuit of global engagement mirrors actions by other Indian states.

Maharashtra is aiming for a \$5 trillion economy by 2047 after securing \$18.4 billion in FDI, while Telangana is actively leveraging China plus one strategy to directly compete with East Asian nations.

This shifting landscape underscores how competitive federalism and para-diplomacy are redefining India's foreign policy. State governments are no longer passive bystanders. Instead, they act as primary, autonomous economic actors targeting Southeast Asian and global partners to secure critical technology, education, and supply chain investments. Geopolitically, this decentralized diplomacy turbocharges India's Act East policy. It embeds crucial global supply lines for sectors like semiconductors and AI directly into India's regional economies, making the country a more resilient and multi-layered strategic counterweight in the Indo-Pacific.

Source: <https://therise.co.in/2026/06/naidus-singapore-push-and-the-rise-of-state-diplomacy/>

# MEET THE TEAM



**Professor Tridivesh  
Singh Maini**

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.



**Hansin Kapoor**

Hansin Kapoor is a final-year Criminology student at Jindal Global Law School who believes that crime, law, and power are best understood far beyond police files and courtrooms. A columnist for Nicheled and Dime, he writes on history and culture as well as international relations and public policy, tracing how ideas, institutions, and interests collide to shape societies. His work has been published in Aazad.com and other media platforms, where he engages with questions of justice, governance, and global change through a sharp, interdisciplinary lens.



The author of this piece is a second-year BA LLB (Hons.) student at Jindal Global Law School. Her research interests lie in public policy, global politics and the way legal systems intersect with political and social issues.

**Rianne Michael**

