

AP sets up 360 GCC council chaired by Lokesh to woo global MNCs



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In a decisive move to position Andhra Pradesh as India's next major hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), the state government has constituted a 360-degree GCC Advisory Council, chaired by IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh.

The high-powered body brings together CXOs of multinational corporations, consulting majors, industry bodies, real estate leaders, business councils, and top academic institutions. Among those on board are executives from NASSCOM, Warner Bros. Discovery, Novartis, EY, KPMG, Deloitte, Mastercard, and AXA XL.

Announcing the initiative, the government said the Council would prepare a five-year strategic roadmap to attract investments, strengthen infrastructure, and build a future-ready workforce. It will also oversee the implementation of the new IT & GCC Policy (4.0) and spearhead branding and outreach efforts through roadshows in the US, Europe, and Asia.

The Council's mandate covers several key areas. It will partner with IIT Tirupati, IIM Visakhapatnam, and skill development agencies to expand the state's talent pool. It will also work to drive global collaborations in research and innovation, while developing

world-class IT parks, plug-and-play facilities, and Grade-A commercial spaces. Monitoring policy rollouts and fine-tuning them to meet global investor needs will also form a core part of its agenda.

The Council's composition gives it significant credibility. Members include CXOs and India heads of companies such as AXA XL, Mastercard, Warner Bros. Discovery, Novartis, Syngenta, and BT Group. Global business councils like the US-India Business Council (USIBC) and the European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) are also part of the group. NASSCOM will represent the industry, while consulting and service providers like ANSR, EY, KPMG, Deloitte, and Primus Partners are onboard. Real estate leaders Knight Frank India, Prestige Group, Sattva, and Sobha will support infrastructure planning, alongside talent partner Qess Corp and academic institutions IIT Tirupati and IIM Visakhapatnam.

To reinforce this effort, the state government has cleared a three-month schedule of national and international roadshows aimed at showcasing Andhra Pradesh as a preferred GCC destination. Officials said the initiative could generate thousands of high-value jobs and firmly place the state on the global technology map.