

Assam, the Gateway to ASEAN, invites TS industrialists

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INVITING investors from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the government of Assam is, for the first time conducting - Advantage Assam - the Global Investors Summit 2018 on February 3 and 4 next year in Guwahati.

This is being held in association with the FICCI. Focusing on various sectors, and highlighting latest policies, the Summit will be an opportunity for possible investors to look at Assam as the gateway to all the ASEAN countries. Pointing out that the North Eastern State's geographical lo-



cation is such that it is well connected to Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and several other countries, it has a lot of potential

for entrepreneurs said Keshab Mahanta, IT Minister, Assam.

"The summit will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We have identified key focus sectors which include agriculture, food processing, handloom, textile and handicrafts, pharma and tourism among others. The Start Up Policy, IT Policy, Handloom Policy 2017 and along with other policies have been designed keeping in mind the growing GDP of the state which was

USD 30.72 bn in 2015-16 and grew at 9 per cent in the last 10 years. We have chalked out the investible areas in each sector and we are open to more ideas," added the minister.

Ravi Kota, principal secretary to government of Assam, elaborated on all the lucrative aspects of the state for investors. "Assam is one of the fastest growing economies with a growth rate of more than 7 per cent and it also has the largest youth population.

With new policies in place in every sector, there is going to be ease in ways of doing business in the state," he said. With good

flight connectivity, investors could look at targeting the ASEAN countries as a potential market, he added. Kota gave a detailed presentation highlighting the opportunities for investors.

For example, Assam produces 50 per cent of the tea in the country and the government is looking for investors exploring beyond production of tea. Also, with the Brahmaputra flowing through the state, there is scope for a number of renewable energy projects. "The Assam floods happen on a regular basis and entrepreneurs can look at utilising this and putting it to best use," added Kota.



Pharma industries in Telangana can also look at opportunities in Assam. Assam govt is providing subsidies for various sectors

Ravi Kota, principal secretary to Assam govt