



# Vibrant India

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## *Visakhapatnam – ‘City Of Destiny’ on the Move*

*Visakhapatnam is Andhra Pradesh’s largest city, both by population and economy. It is home to one of India’s busiest ports and has an international airport and also lies on the eastern railway corridor connecting Kolkata to Chennai. It has always prided itself on these natural advantages and has been called the ‘City of Destiny’. The city has now been selected by the Ministry of Urban Development as one of the 20 smart cities to be developed in the period FY 2015-16 to 2019-20. The city has taken up this daunting challenge with gusto as shown by the Swachh Bharat ranking taken out last year by the Ministry where it ranked 5th overall in India.*

*Visakhapatnam, or Vizag as it is called locally, has a population of just over 17 lakhs and contributed nearly 12% of the Rs. 6,03,376 crore GSDP of Andhra Pradesh in 2015-16<sup>1</sup>. Officials anticipate the district’s contribution to touch Rs 100,000-110,000 crore over the next five years. The per capita income is about Rs 50580 as against the national average of Rs. 35,947<sup>2</sup>. It is the distribution of the GSDP which sheds light on the potential for further growth in the city as the manufacturing sector contributes towards 35% of the GSDP while the service and agriculture sectors contribute 55% and 10% respectively<sup>3</sup>. It has been a vibrant industrial hub on the East Coast which is home to industries of steel, petroleum, zinc, cement, manufacture of heavy equipment and shipbuilding. The Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor is also a key part of the planned East Economic Corridor and India’s first coastal corridor.*

*The Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu recently stated that that the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and a reputed consultant KPMG, have joined hands with the State*

1. ‘Socio-Economic Survey 2015-16’, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

2. City Profile: Visakhapatnam. Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Urban Development, GoI. [http://smartcities.gov.in/writereaddata/CitiesProfile/AndhraPradesh\\_Visakhapatnam.pdf](http://smartcities.gov.in/writereaddata/CitiesProfile/AndhraPradesh_Visakhapatnam.pdf). Accessed on 10 Jan 17.

3. ‘Vizag district eyes 100% GDP growth’, VDS Rama Raju, Business Standard, 07 Sep 14.



government for development of Visakhapatnam as a Fin Tech (financial technology) Valley<sup>4</sup>. He also said the transformation of the city – the largest in Andhra Pradesh – into a prominent IT hub was on top of his agenda. The Central Government is in the process of establishing an Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) as part of India's digitisation campaign, wherein the state of Andhra Pradesh is set to become an electronic hub for the country<sup>5</sup>. Visakhapatnam is well on the way to also becoming a hub for manufacturing medical devices with plans under implementation for 200 to 300 units with an investment of Rs. 25,000 crore to Rs. 30,000 crore to create 25,000 jobs<sup>6</sup>.

The city is home to the Indian Navy's Eastern Command whose Area of Responsibility (AOR) stretches from the East coast of India till the Malacca Straits. The naval base houses the sea leg of India's nuclear triad, the SSBN INS Arihant, as also the navy's other nuclear powered attack submarine, the INS Chakra. The city also played a gracious host to the International Fleet Review in February 2016 which showcased India's military might and witnessed participation from more than 50 countries.

Notwithstanding these achievements, it is the city's transformation after the devastating cyclone Hudhud, in October 2014, which is most captivating. The cyclone wrought an estimated destruction of about Rs. 22,000 crore, most of which was borne by Vizag<sup>7</sup>. In fact, the city was laid barren with extensive destruction to the power supply network, sanitation system and all major public services. The city was left without water and power supply for more than a week and normalcy was restored after almost a month. It is a tribute to the sagacity and resilience of its citizens and the local government that the city claimed fifth place in the Swachh Bharat rankings in 2016, just a year after this debilitating disaster. Visakhapatnam is the only city in the country to have been selected for city-level support under knowledge partnership through the USAID-sponsored Water and Sanitation for Urban Poor Advisory (WSUP)<sup>8</sup>. In fact, a lot of work done in the Visakhapatnam has now been referred to as lead practices by the Government of India.

The dynamism being witnessed in Visakhapatnam may possibly have been a result of the bifurcation of the state of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana but this event has proved to be a driver of growth for this beautiful city nestled between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal.

It seems Visakhapatnam is well on the path to achieving its 'Destiny'.

4. 'Keen on developing city as FinTech Valley: Naidu'. Special Correspondent, The Hindu, 10 Jan 17.

5. 'Centre will set up three more electronic clusters in State', Santosh Patnaik, The Hindu, 10 Jan 17.

6. 'Vizag to emerge as hub for medical devices: Naidu', Santosh Patnaik, The Hindu, 20 Aug 16.

7. 'Cyclone Hudhud caused Rs 21,908 crore loss, agriculture sector worst hit: Andhra government'. The DNA, 19 Dec 2014.

8. 'Vizag Emerges As Model City in Sanitation', G.V. PrasadaSarma, The Hindu, 23 Dec 16.



## About VIF

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