

ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER OFFERS FUEL TAX REBATE TO AIRLINES

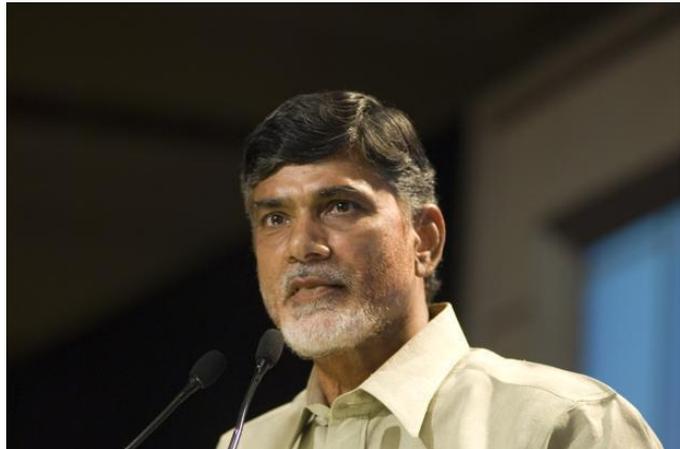
New Delhi: In a move aimed to attract more airlines to AP, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday announced his government's intention to reduce taxes on Aviation Turbine Fuel in the state.

In a meeting with the CEOs of various domestic and international airlines on Tuesday morning, the Chief Minister sought to know the aviation industry's expectations from the new AP government, which wants to build new civil airports in various locations.

"The aviation industry has been demanding tax incentives on ATF. We will certainly look into the demand and we have already reduced one per cent sales tax on flights operating out of Visakhapatnam," Mr Naidu said in a press conference.

Immediately after the meeting, low-cost carrier Indigo announced the launch of new flights from Visakhapatnam from October 10.

During the meeting with CEOs of international carriers like Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Emirates, the Chief Minister assured them that the state's aviation policy would be designed keeping in view the needs of all stakeholders for the next 15 years.



"Explaining that Andhra Pradesh is a state for eco-tourism, venture tourism and religious tourism, the Chief Minister said that the state would look into a proposal of offering tax incentive on Aviation turbine Fuel (ATF)," an official release said.

Naidu told the companies that his government would come up with a model aviation policy for the next 15 years and also consider providing tax concessions on aviation turbine fuel as an immediate measure, according to an official release.

The representatives of various companies including Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Emirates, Indigo, Jet and Spicejet attended the meeting, the press release said. The Emirate Airlines has offered to introduce the services to the state while the Indigo proposed to increase the services from Visakhapatnam, according to the press release.