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ANDHRA PRADESH CM HOPEFUL OF PROTON SETTING UP PLANT IN INDIAN STATE

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- The Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, who recently visited Malaysia and Singapore, is hopeful that Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd (Proton) will build a plant in Andhra Pradesh.

Proton sent a team to the state in July, and was now expected to send another, a technical team, to explore the exact location, the chief minister said in an interview, published in the Financial Express business daily.

In India, the Proton team had visited Punjab, Mumbai (formerly Bombay), Hyderabad, Chennai (formerly Madaras), Visakhapatna and Hyderabad. The last two are in Andhra Pradesh.

Describing his visit to Malaysia, the chief minister said: "After I met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian cabinet took a decision the next day to locate the Proton unit in Andhra Pradesh."

On the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed during his visit, Naidu told the daily that there had been follow-up discussions since then to decide on how best to involve both countries in the development of Andhra Pradesh.

He said: "I am laying a lot of emphasis on the development of infrastructure. This includes power, ports, roads and telecommunications.

"In addition, I would like to prepare the state for the information age. Consequently, I would like to see a lot of development in IT-related activities," he said.

Naidu's vision for the state was, he said, "to achieve a position of leadership and excellence for Andhra Pradesh in the coming millineum. The overall objective is to make Andhra Pradesh the leading state in terms of per capita income, in economic opportunities, and in the quality of life."

-- BERNAMA

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