

**FACE-TO-FACE WITH:**

**SGK Kishore**  
*CEO*  
**GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd**

Mr SGK Kishore is an Electronics & Communications Engineer from Andhra University and holds a Master's Degree in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay. A Rank holder during Engineering and a Gold Medalist during his Masters, Mr Kishore's illustrious career spans over 30 years across Government and Private sectors.

A 1989 Batch Officer of the elite Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Mr Kishore has held several important positions with the Government of India in areas as diverse as District Administration, Social Justice & Empowerment, Labour Welfare, Finance, Consumer Affairs, Food Security and Urban Development.

Mr Kishore joined the GMR Group in 2006 where he was associated with the development & construction of Hyderabad Airport and later he led the Hyderabad Aerotropolis business as the CEO, spearheading the positioning and development strategy of India's largest Aerotropolis project. In 2013, he took over as CEO of GMR Hyderabad International Airport with overall responsibility for the unique Hyderabad Airport Eco-system spanning the airport, the aerotropolis and the Aerospace & Industrial Park.

Mr Kishore is also a member on the boards of various companies within the Airport eco-system, driving strategy and decision making in varied businesses such as Hyderabad Duty Free, GMR Aero Technic which operates India's most modern and one-of-a-kind 3rd Party aircraft MRO facility at Hyderabad Airport and the Hyderabad Airport Cargo JV with Menzies of UK. He is also an active member of the Governing Board of the Association of Private Airport Operators (APAO), India.

Under his leadership, Hyderabad airport has set milestones/benchmarks in growth, customer delight, operational excellence and environmental management e.g.:

- Successfully steered the airport out of severe financial distress caused by adverse regulatory ruling
- Remained amongst Top 3 airports globally in ACI ASQ for 7 consecutive years
- 1st airport in India to implement a unique end-to-end E-boarding solution
- Innovative strategies for catchment area marketing to boost passenger & cargo traffic growth

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Having steered the Hyderabad Airport onto a higher trajectory of growth, Mr. Kishore's current focus is on creating a world-class 'Airport City' centered on the Hyderabad Airport to incubate India's first and largest 'Aerotropolis'. He envisions an integrated eco-system consisting of Aerospace & Defence manufacturing, Logistics & Warehousing, Offices, Exhibition Centers, Hotels & Social Infrastructure, all geared to boost regional economic growth, besides driving enhanced air connectivity and traffic at the airport.

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**Share with us the approaches which Hyderabad International Airport adopts to develop its airport to optimise airport city property development**

We see our Airport City as a new, self-sustained Greenfield 'Smart City' with the airport at its core, and this approach is an altogether new paradigm for India's urban development. The Hyderabad Airport city is conceived as an integrated ecosystem spread over 1,500 acres of area covering activity centres such as Commercial Office space, Retail, Leisure & Entertainment, Hospitality, Education and Healthcare.

In our view, the development of both the Airport and the Airport City are synergistic and go hand in hand. Almost every element our master plan and strategy is designed to benefit both the Airport in terms of traffic and Airport City in terms of generating demand for various activity centres. The efficiency, service levels and global positioning of Hyderabad Airport reflects in entirety the uniqueness and compelling value proposition of Hyderabad Airport City on a global scale. With this unique ecosystem, our aim is to build up a world class, sustainable development platform that can act as a catalyst for local and regional economic growth.

**What do you feel are the most likely scenarios or changes that the airport city or aerotropolis industry will face in the next 5 years?**

As a concept, the idea of having an Airport City or an aerotropolis is still in its infancy, despite some notable successes worldwide. In our view, this is now beginning to change with the increasing acceptance of the Airport City concept amongst various stakeholders. In the next 5 years, we will see Airport Cities taking a more prominent position amongst urban development efforts, especially in emerging markets such as India where the legacy infrastructure setup in existing cities and urban agglomerations faces many challenges in coping with the demands of economic growth and rapid urbanization.

The aerotropolis industry for its part, must gear up to meet these needs to ensure that it can leverage this opportunity to the fullest extent and doing so would involve developing new and innovative solutions to address challenges of providing large scale urban mobility, resilient utility networks and reliable digital infrastructure among others. All these will contribute significantly for the social and economic development of the Regions and the States.

**What do you think is the role of UBM Airport City (ACE) and how does this benefit the industry?**

We believe that the UBM Airport City (ACE) provides a fantastic platform for the fledgling Airport City community to come together to discuss with and learn from each other about the many challenges

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and opportunities that we come across as developers and operators of airports and airport cities. We have had a very positive experience of attending the earlier editions of ACE and we appreciate the work being done by UBM to promote interactions among the global Airport City fraternity through this gathering of minds at ACE. Over the years, this platform has shown to the world the entire journey from concept to developments of several landmark Airport City developments. It has facilitated strengthening of the Airport City as one of the most effective format of urban development that can address the social, developmental and urbanization challenges in many of the emerging economies of the world.



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