Despite being at the crossroads of development and deficit, Budget 2018-19 has aimed at making every citizen of Andhra Pradesh a happy person.

WELFARE IS THE MANTRA
To improve digital literacy and impart skills among educated youth, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has embarked upon an innovative idea called ‘Naipunya Ratham’, a multi-utility vehicle, which aims at enhancing job skills among youth living in the remote corners of the State. The vehicle, which is part of ‘Keen Village - Smart Ward Programme’, was flagged off at Secretariat on March 22. With a budget of Rs 300 crore, this programme is designed to improve the experience and expertise of around 10 lakh individuals across the state in a span of two years. As many as 1000 aptitude advancement focus centres will be set-up very soon. “The Government is planning to roll out 12 more Naipunya Rathams by the end of May 2018, and the first phase of the launch would cover 28 smart villages in 13 districts in collaboration, the CM disclosed. World on Wheels (WoW) Project is an innovative initiative of HP Inc. India deploying self-contained internet-enabled digital lab aimed at driving digital literacy, education programming, entrepreneurship training and other community services in underserved areas. The vehicle is a 20-seater high tech Bus with enabled digital inclusion and learning lab equipped with smart technology gadgets on computing and printing equipment, as well as software suites and e-learning tools, like HP Classroom Manager, HP Video Book and HP Life. The Lab will allow individuals to gain access to IT literacy and connect to different government programmes.
Welfare is the Key

Despite being at crossroads, AP is the only state that has the power and knowledge to create an ecosystem of the knowledge economy that is innovative and futuristic, Finance Minister Y. Ramakrishnudu said in his budget speech.

Literary reminiscences Of Gurazada

EVs (Electrical Vehicles) will rule: CM

CM’s Social Network

Happening Andhra

Various developments across the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Auto Ancillaries Ink MoUs with AP State

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Sadhikara Mitra - the agents of change

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THK to invest Rs 1300 cr at Sri City

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Women and Child Welfare gets boost

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Tollywood Finally Wakes Up To Multi-star-ers

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Amazing AP: MAREDUMILLI

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Last Straw on State’s back

Andhra Pradesh has been shortchanged. Not by one, but two national parties. The Congress Government did a terrible job of the bifurcation, causing enormous damage to the State’s present and future. The residual AP saw light at the end of the tunnel when NDA led by BJP took charge in Delhi. As the ruling TDP was part of the NDA, it was widely hoped that the State would receive the attention it badly needed from the Centre.

However, the reality has been sobering than anyone had expected. For inexplicable reasons, the Centre went back on bestowing Special Category Status on AP, hiding under the 14th Finance Commission Report. Andhra Pradesh led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu chose to be realistic, and reluctantly accepted the Special Package offered by the Centre in the fond hope that Delhi would be sympathetic to the development needs of the State.

The CM had to pay significant political price for endorsing the Special Package. He took pains to reason with people that so long as we got the same benefits, it might be wise to accept them. However, it became painfully evident over a period of time that the Centre’s attitude has been one of disregard towards the State’s situation. The more the CM tried to extract the promised benefits, the more apathetic was Delhi’s response.

The failure to provide legal status to the package, the lack of initiative in fulfilling the provisions of AP Reorganisation Act, and the rather uncharitable comments (‘the Centre does not have free floating funds’) against the State proved to be the last straw, leading the Chief Minister, who is also the ruling TDP chief, to walk out of the NDA.

It is easy for those sitting in glass houses to question the timing, or why the CM hadn’t broken up earlier. The issue is not the prestige of one leader or individual, but the long-term interests of the state. The need to deal with such matters with sensitivity cannot be overemphasised. Before walking out, the CM walked the extra mile with the NDA in good faith. The gesture, unfortunately, was not reciprocated.

When it was crystal clear that Andhra Pradesh was being tricked into nothing, the CM lost no time in coming out openly, taking strong exception to the callous and indifferent posture adapted by the Centre.

As the CM pointed out, “This is about the rights of our people”. The fight for justice might be long and hard, but we need to take it to its logical end.

Ramesh Kandula
Editor
The Hero is here. Hero MotoCorp, the country’s largest two-wheeler manufacturer, is setting up its plant in AP. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for Hero MotoCorp (HMCL) two wheeler factory, the first in South India, at Madannapalem near Sri City’s Special Economic Zone in Satyavedu, about 100 km from Chittoor, on March 23. More than over a year and a half after signing the MoUs with the auto giant, the foundation stone laying ceremony took place. Speaking on the occasion, Naidu said that the Company would invest about Rs 1,600 crore in the first phase for making improved and latest versions of bikes. The two wheeler giant would also invest another Rs 1,600 crore for development of ancillary units. The plant, to come up on 636 acres of land, would be the company’s first facility in South India, he added. The Chief Minister asked managers of the facility to complete construction and begin production by March 2019. Asserted that his Government was very much committed to extend required support to the company and added that they should also look into the aspect of manufacturing electric bikes. The State Government had so far inked many MoUs with auto giants in India to set up facilities in the bifurcated Andhra Pradesh, and Rs 35,000 crore was going to be invested in the automobile sector alone, said CM.

Hero MotoCorp CMD and CEO Pawan Munjal said the new unit is expected to offer employment opportunities for about 12,000 people of the State. By 2020 the total annual production of Hero MotoCorp would cross the 10 million mark, he said. HMCL will provide direct employment to 1,500 people in the first phase and another 3,500 in the subsequent phases.

According to the plan, the two-wheeler giant will commence production of five lakh units (per annum) in the first phase by December 2018 with an investment of Rs 800 crore. It will add another 5 lakh units to its production capacity in the second phase by December 2020, and an additional 8 lakh units in the third phase by December 2023 with an investment of Rs 800 crore for both the phases, State's Industries Secretary M Girija Shankar was quoted saying. This was the first major project in the manufacturing sector that the Chandrababu Naidu Government succeeded in attracting to the state post bifurcation. “In addition to building a state-of-the-art facility, we are committed to creating a world-class manufacturing eco-system in the region, with a base of globally benchmarked vendors and suppliers, which will together generate over 12,000 new jobs, thereby accelerating the socio-economic progress in the state,” said Pawan Munjal.

HMCL also promised an investment of another Rs 1,600 crore for development of ancillary units that could create direct and indirect employment for 15,000 people. In addition to this, employment for 2,000 people would be created by the supply chain partners in Phase-I and would go up to 6,500 at the final stage of expansion. The State Government also agreed to allocate another 200 acres of land within a radius of 25-35 km of the mother plant for the proposed ancillary units that are expected to commence production in the first phase by December 2019 with an investment of Rs 400 crore. Another Rs 600 crore each would be invested for the next two phases by December 2021 and 2024, respectively.

The State Government accepted the request of HMCL to permit it to diversify its manufacturing activity into three-wheelers, electrical vehicles, aerospace and defence and technology relating to green-tech through joint ventures and business associates.
Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu proposed a revenue surplus budget for Andhra Pradesh for the year 2018-19 anticipating that the Government of India would release all the dues as per the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 at least this year. “I am taking a leap of faith and devoting a significant portion of the budgetary allocation for 2018-19 to various welfare measures,” the Minister declared.

Chandrababu government presented a Rs 1.91-lakh-crore budget, with a projected revenue surplus of Rs 5,235 crore, for financial year 2018-19, vowing to make “every citizen in this state a happy person.” The budget estimates entail an overall increase of around 21.69 per cent over Rs 1.56 lakh crore in 2017-18.

Presenting his last full budget in the election year, the Finance Minister said the state’s fiscal deficit was expected to touch Rs 24,205 crore, which would be over Rs 3,000 crore less than of last year.

He also said that the per capita income of the state rose to Rs 1,42,054 in 2017-18, from Rs 1,23,664 in 2016-17, registering a jump of 14.87 per cent.

General education got the lion’s share in the latest budget with an allocation of Rs 24,185 crore, followed by rural development with Rs 20,815 crore.

While a total of Rs 13,722 crore has been earmarked for welfare schemes, an increase of 20.78 per cent, irrigation got Rs 16,978 crore and agriculture and allied services were allotted Rs 12,355 crore. Substantial increases were made in allocations to different departments and specific schemes.

"In 2018-19, I propose a revenue expenditure of Rs 1.50 lakh crore (increase of 19.35 per cent) and a capital expenditure of Rs 28,678 crore (increase of 30.60 per cent), including Rs 9,351 crore towards principal repayment of public debt," the Finance Minister said. "We are at the crossroads of development and deficit, perpetuated by the increasing indifference of the Central government in extending our entitlements as per the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 and the assurances made by the then Prime Minister on the floor of Rajya Sabha (in February 2014), he added.

BC Welfare

The budget proposed Rs. 2,165 crore in 2018-19, as against previous year’s Rs. 1,732 crore, an increase of 25%, for Pre and post metric scholarships, reimbursement of tuition fees (RTF), NTR Vidhyonnathi, NTR Videsi Vidyaaadarana, hostels, residential schools and colleges and BC study circles assisting about 16 lakh students. For assisting the students from the Kapu community an allocation of Rs. 400 crore is proposed. For the Economically Backward Classes an amount of Rs. 700 crore is pro-
The Aadarana Scheme will be implemented throughout the State covering 2,55,000 beneficiaries with a proposed outlay of Rs. 750 crore. The budget proposed to provide Rs. 30 crore for welfare of Vysyas, Rs.1000 crore for welfare of Kapus.

The allocations for livelihood support for various backward classes have been enhanced substantially as follows:

- Toddy tappers: From Rs. 35 crore to Rs. 70 crore
- Valmiki/Boya: From Rs. 25 crore to Rs. 50 crore
- Vaddera: From Rs. 25 crore to Rs. 50 crore
- Viswa Brahmins: From Rs. 30 crore to Rs. 50 crore
- Salivahanas: From Rs. 30 crore to Rs. 50 crore
- Sagaras/Uppara: From Rs. 25 crore to Rs. 40 crore
- Medaras: From Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 30 crore
- Krishna Balija/Pusala: From Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 25 crore

**Social Welfare**

Allocation has been increased for Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (APSWREIS) from Rs. 749 crore to Rs.1,050 crore, an increase of 40%. It is proposed to provide an amount of Rs. 901 crore as subsidy component for Economic Support Schemes assistance to Vulnerable Groups. The overall SC Component is increased to Rs. 11,228 crore, an increase of 14%. Likewise, Rs 60 crore to provide modern workshops to cobblers, Rs 40 crore to LIDCAP to support the small scale leather industries and Rs 12 crore for Dappu artists was allocated.

In 2017-18, Rs 9,847 crore were allocated to 22 departments for the Schedule Caste Component. This is enhanced to Rs 11,228 crore now.

**Tribal Welfare**

As many as 44,365 ST students are studying in 184 Gurukulams from Class I to Intermediate. The government has also converted 179 hostels into 80 residential schools and 30 ashram schools, and 14,923 ST students have been brought under the Residential Education Mode. The Finance Minister proposed to increase the allocation from Rs 100 crore to Rs 250 crore for the construction of residential school complexes and from Rs 524 crore to 670 crore for Tribal Welfare Residential Schools. Rs 262 crore will be allocated to provide economic support schemes and skill development programmes to the ST community.

**Minority Welfare**

For the Overseas Education Scheme, the allocation is proposed to increase from Rs 5 crore to Rs 30 crore. Other allocations include: Rs 80 crore for the Dulhan Scheme, Rs 75 crore as incentives to Imams and Mouzams, from Rs 24 crore, Rs 150 crore for Bank-linked Income Generated Schemes and Rs 75 crore for Christian Minorities, from Rs 35 crore. The overall allocated amount for Minority Welfare in 2018-19 is Rs 1,102 crore.

In an effort to give increased focus to address malnutrition amongst women and children, the Minister proposed to allocate Rs 383 crore for a new scheme, Special Nutrition for Malnourished Children and Mothers. Implementation of Anna Amrutha Hastham has been expanded from 107 to all 257 ICDS projects in the state to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR). Rs 1,016 crore for the Nutrition Programme is proposed, which is almost doubling last year’s allocation.

The other allocations are Rs 100 crore for provide sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and SHG women, Rs 35 crore for the Prosthetics Aids Programme and Rs 30 crore for economic rehabilitation for the differently abled.

The overall allocation for the differently abled is proposed to be Rs 121 crore. Rs 20 crore is proposed to be allocated for the upliftment of the transgender community, to implement the newly formulated Transgender Policy. Rs 3,008 crore will be allocated for the Women, Children,
differently Abled, Transgender and Senior Citizens department, which is 70% more than the last financial year.

**Youth Advancement**

Rs 1,000 crore is proposed to be allocated for the Youth Policy, which is in alignment with Sunrise Andhra Pradesh Vision 2029. Rs 305 crore for the implementation Youth Welfare Schemes. The overall allocation is Rs 1,305 crore, which is 68% higher than the last fiscal year.

**Housing**

“Government of Andhra Pradesh is committed to provide housing for all by 2022”, said Yana-mala Ramakrishnudu. 2,70,000 houses have been completed up to the end of February 2018. Under NTR Urban Housing (BLC), 1,25,000 houses are under construction with the BLC Component of PMAY. Another 4,50,000 houses are under various stages of construction under NTR Rural Housing.

The government intends to provide pucca housing for every poor person in urban areas by 2022, and has taken up construction of 9 lakh houses. Rs 1,000 crore has been proposed to be granted to the implementing agency, AP-TIDCO, for the repayment of loans and Rs 575 crore for distribution of house sites to the needy.

An overall allocation of Rs 4,752 crore is proposed for Housing, which is more than three times the allocated amount of last year.

Under various poverty alleviation schemes, the government has allocated Rs 5,000 crore for NTR Pension Scheme, Rs 1,463 crore for Vaddileni Runalu, Rs 1,700 crore towards capital infusion for SHG women and Rs 100 crore for Streendhi. So far, 2,398 SHG entrepreneurs have been trained and provided with financial support of Rs 9.15 crore.

**Healthcare**

In view of the high incidence of kidney ailments in Srikakulam, 14 dialysis centres will be established in the district to provide relief. An overall allocation of Rs 8,463 crore is proposed for the Health sector, which is 21% more than the last year.

**Human Resource Development**

Rs 160 crore has been proposed for the

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### Budget Allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details of the Schemes &amp; Allocations</th>
<th>Allotted amount in crore</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mega Seed Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance of Cattle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chandranma Pellikanuka for BCs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aadaranar</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Fiber Grid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vana Sanjeevani (SMC Works)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vana Vihari (Eco Tourism)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vana Vihari (SMC Works)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reforestation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land acquisition for house plots</td>
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<td>Industrial, Infrastructure development</td>
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<td>E-pragati</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start-Ups</td>
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<td>AP Electronics, IT Agency</td>
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<td>Anna Canteens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipality and infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jalsirin in Srikakulam and Vizainagaram districts</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>DWACRA Women sanitary napkins supply</td>
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<td>Distribution of five eggs in a week</td>
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<td>Distribution of sanitary napkins to students</td>
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<td>Digital classrooms in high schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction of Toilets in schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital classrooms in Junior colleges</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutritious food for Intermediate students</td>
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<tr>
<td>English labs in Junior Colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual labs in Polytechnic colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modernization of practical labs in Polytechnic colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chandranma Pellikanuka for SCs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acquisition of lands for SCs</td>
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<td>Broadband facility in Tribal areas</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Setting up of market places and godowns under ITDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Baskets for Tribals</td>
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<td>Acquisition of lands for Tribals</td>
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<td>Purchase of Buses for RTC</td>
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<td>Nutrition for Women and Children</td>
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<td>Med Tech Zone</td>
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Badikosta programme for providing bicycle to girls studying in 8th and 9th class. Rs 117 crore has been proposed under Digital Classrooms scheme to cover schools and colleges, Rs 100 crore to maintain hygienic toilets in schools, Rs 377 crore to run Model Schools, Rs 266 crore for increasing number of eggs served in Mid-day meals, Rs 23 crore to extend the Mid-day meals to Intermediate, Rs 21,612 crore for secondary education, as against Rs 17,952 crore in 2017-18 and an overall allocation of Rs 2,835 crore to higher education.

Budget Highlights

▪ The Gross State Domestic Product of Andhra Pradesh for 2018-19 (at current prices) is approximately Rs 8,70,326 crore. This is 10% higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18.

▪ Total expenditure for 2018-19 is estimated to be Rs 1,91,064 crore, a 19.5% increase over the revised estimates of 2017-18. In 2017-18, there was an increase of Rs 2,823 crore (1.8%) in expenditure over the budget estimates.

▪ Total receipts (excluding borrowings) for 2018-19 are estimated to be Rs 1,57,599 crore, an increase of 25.4% as compared to the revised estimates of 2017-18. In 2017-18, total receipts (excluding borrowings) fell short of the budgeted estimate by Rs 1,328 crore.

▪ Revenue surplus for the next financial year is targeted at Rs 5,235 crore, or 0.6% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Fiscal deficit is targeted at Rs 24,205 crore (2.8% of GSDP).

▪ The departments of education, municipal administration and urban development, health, medical and family welfare are estimated to witness the highest increase in allocations over the previous year.

AP Economy in a Nutshell

▪ Economy: The growth in GSDP of Andhra Pradesh has been increasing from 7% in 2013-14 to 11.2% in 2017-18.

▪ Services sector: With a share of 44%, in the GSDP grew by 9.1% in 2017-18 over the previous year.

▪ Agriculture: Contributes to 34% of the GSDP, it grew by 17.8% in 2017-18.

▪ Industries: With a share of 22%, the sector grew by 8.5% in 2017-18.

▪ Per capita income: The per capita income of Andhra Pradesh in 2017-18 (at current prices) is Rs 1,42,054. This is more than the average national per capita income of Rs 1,12,764 in 2017-18.

Expenditure in 2018-19

▪ Capital expenditure for 2018-19 is proposed to be Rs 40,792 crore, which is an increase of 25.3% over the revised estimates of 2017-18. This includes expenditure which affects the assets and liabilities of the state, and leads to creation of assets (such as bridges and hospitals), and repayment of loans, among others.

▪ Revenue expenditure for 2018-19 is proposed to be Rs 1,50,272 crore, which is an increase of 18.1% over revised estimates of 2017-18. This expenditure includes payment of salaries, maintenance, etc.

▪ In 2018-19, Andhra Pradesh is expected to spend Rs 25,928 crore on servicing its debt (i.e., Rs 10,851 crore on repaying loans, and Rs 15,077 crore on interest payments. This is 11.4% higher than the revised estimates of 2017-18.

▪ In 2018-19, Andhra Pradesh estimates to spend Rs 25,836 crore on centrally sponsored schemes. This is 32% more than the revised estimate in 2017-18.

Receipts in 2018-19

▪ The total revenue receipts for 2018-19 are estimated to be Rs 1,55,507 crore, an increase of 26.2% over the revised estimates of 2017-18. Of this, Rs 70,882 crore will be raised by the state through its own resources (46% of the revenue receipts), and Rs 84,626 crore will be devolved by the centre in the form of grants and the state’s share in taxes (54% of the revenue receipts).

▪ Non Tax Revenue: Andhra Pradesh has estimated to generate Rs 5,347 crore through non-tax sources in 2018-19. This is an increase of 34% over the revised estimates of 2017-18. In 2017-18, the estimated revenue fell short by 21.7% at the revised stage. This was due to a fall in collections from the sale of red sandalwood.

Budget pointers

Equal importance to all classes

To attract and empower all classes in the society, finance minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu has come up with an appropriate budget.

▪ Allotted Rs 100 crore towards Chandranna Pellikanuka for beneficiary women of SC and BC communities.

▪ The re-launched ‘Aadarana’ scheme will enable 2.55 lakh artisans of BC community, who are dependent on handicrafts as the new budget earmarked Rs 750 crore for their welfare.

▪ Supply of weaver-made handloom clothing to the poor and needy at 50 per cent discount under the scheme ‘JanathaVasthralu’; Enhancing the lifestyle of fishermen, the government has come up with a scheme that offers social security in the form of pension to people above 50 years besides offering diesel, fishing nets and yachts at a subsidized price.

Under various poverty alleviation schemes, the government has allocated Rs 5,000 crore for NTR Pension Scheme, Rs 1,463 crore for Vaddileni Runalu, Rs 1,700 crore towards capital infusion for SHG women and Rs 100 crore for Streenidhi.
Ringing in a total investment of about Rs 4793 crore, ($737 million), as many as 16 Korean automobile ancillaries exchanged MoUs with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on March 19. The agreement will generate employment to 6583 people. Kia Motors, along with the auto ancillaries from South Korea, is the largest FDI in India in recent times and the ancillaries will supply to Kia motors to cater to the plant’s initial capacity of 3 lakh vehicles per annum. The agreements were signed by representatives of Korean companies and State industries secretary Solomon Arokia Raj, in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and minister for industries, N Amanatha Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion of signing MoUs, Chief Minister said, “Only last month, I was at the project site of Kia Motors for

AUTO ANCILLARIES INK MOUS WITH AP STATE

With Kia setting shop in Anantapuramu, a host of auto ancillary units from Korea have followed.
the Framework Installation Ceremony and was very happy to see significant progress of the project.” He further added, “I hope that by next March, all of you would have set base, so that you will be in sync with the production plan of bringing out the first car then. I am also keen to see more Korean investments come into our state following you, and set up a South Korea Township.”

The Chief Minister also expressed confidence that, “This establishment will help build a big automotive ecosystem, and strengthen the ties between AP and South Korea.” Make AP your second home, as the chosen area for the auto-cluster, Anantapur, is strategically located close to Bengaluru and is a part of two of the state’s main industrial corridors, he added. Apart from 534 acres at Erramanchi, the companies will establish units at Gudipalli (71 acres) and Ammavarupalli (138 acres).

**Korean Township near Penukonda**

Meanwhile, with a ‘mini South Korean Township’ coming up in Penukonda, Anantapur, where the under-construction automobile manufacturing facility of South Korean car major, KIA Motors is setting up its base, the demand for accommodation for the Korean representatives has given rise to builders cashing in on the needs. Lack of proper lodging facilities has become a concern for the foreigners, especially senior and middle management of KIA. Signboards in Korean language have dotted the city lanes offering accommodation, according to a report in The Hindu. The news daily also quoted Prashant Mallem, who employed a Korean national as a facilitator-cum marketing agent for his apartments saying, “We cashed in on the opportunity of housing the Korean nationals who would eventually want to bring their families and settle down close to the factory and the nearest city. We then started our new venture at Ramnagar and decided to even advertise in the Korean language.”

It is estimated that 30 flats on the outskirts have been bought and occupied by Korean nationals, while almost a similar number have booked apartments. Sung Min, a South Korean national, who works with a builder in Anantapur told The Hindu, “Once the assembly line installation starts, a lot of South Koreans will be at work and need accommodation for a few months at least.”

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**Total Employment to be generated:** 6,583

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associate/Vendor</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Investment (Cr.)</th>
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<td>Hyundai Mobis Co. Ltd</td>
<td>436</td>
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<td>Hyundai Dymos Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boogool Industries Co. Ltd</td>
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</tr>
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HAVING patiently waited for four long years for the Centre to fulfill the provisions of the AP Bifurcation Act, the Telugu Desam Government in Andhra Pradesh finally walked out of National Democratic Alliance in March.

“Telugu Desam Party has decided to officially exit the National Democratic Alliance due to failure in fulfilling the promises made in the State Reorganisation Act. This decision was taken unanimously, in a teleconference with Politburo members,” Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said after the decision.

TDP’s decision to leave NDA followed days after union ministers Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Y S Chowdary, who are TDP members, resigned from the union cabinet on 8th March making their displeasure known to the BJP leadership.

“We joined the NDA in the first place only to protect our State’s interests in the aftermath of bifurcation. We waited for four years with the hope that the Centre will honour all the promises, but it only meted out injustice to us,” Naidu said.

The Chief Minister has been at loggerheads with the Centre and BJP over funding to Andhra Pradesh in the Union Budget 2018, ever since it was released in February, saying that the state was not given its due. The party later was prepared to move a no-confidence motion against the Centre in the Parliament to highlight the injustice done to the state.

“We are fighting a dharma yuddham (crusade) against the Centre to secure our state’s legitimate rights. TDP has a credibility at the national level, so many parties are coming forward to support us. I will soon speak to those who are ready to support us,” the CM said. Asserting that he is fighting for the rights of Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister alleged that the Centre was trying to suppress his voice.

Reiterating that he had joined the BJP-led NDA for
the state’s interests, the CM said that his party pulled out of government and exited the alliance as it had failed to deliver on the promises made to the state.

“They are now saying they will wage a war against me. War for what? Did I demand anything unjust? I only asked about the commitments made in Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act and the promises made in Rajya Sabha (during bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh),” said the CM. Stating that he was fighting for the rights of five crore people of the State, the Chief Minister said the TDP would not rest till achieving the goal of special category status.

Naidu said the fight for State’s rights should continue. “We should protest but at the same time we should ensure that the State doesn’t suffer. We should protest like Japan by moving ahead on the path of development,” he added.

He dismissed the letter written by BJP president Amit Shah, where he had said that the decision of the Telugu Desam Party to leave the NDA government was guided by “political considerations”, saying that it was misleading. “Amit Shah’s letter is full of false information which shows their attitude. Even now Centre is providing special benefits to North Eastern states. Had Andhra Pradesh been given the same hand holding, many industries would have come to the state,” Naidu said.

Naidu also refuted Shah’s allegation that the state government was not able to utilize the funds given to it by the Centre. “Amit Shah in his letter says Centre gave many funds to the state, we couldn’t utilise them. They’re trying to say Andhra Pradesh government is incapable. Our Government has good GDP, agriculture and many national awards. That’s our capability. Why are you spreading lies?” he said.

Federalism under threat:

Yanamala

The Centre has been denying funds to performing states like AP, the Minister said, pointing out the 15th Finance Commission recommendations.

Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu expressed concerns over devolution of funds by the Centre. Participating in a discussion on the 2018-19 Budget Appropriation Bill in the Assembly, Ramakrishnudu said attempts to demolish the federal system were evident from the “imprudent manner” in which funds were devolved and the imposition of Centrally-sponsored schemes on the States. He alleged that NDA government was resorting to suppressive federalism in the place of cooperative federalism. Pointing out that bias was creeping in the manner the Centre was treating the southern states, the Minister said, “the Centre has given a total of Rs 1.41 lakh crore to southern states but almost the same amount was given to a single state in the north Uttar Pradesh”.

He said his counterparts from the southern States would discuss the need for the 15th Finance Commission to strike the right balance in devolution of funds at a meeting scheduled for April 10. The impact of the Central government’s retention of veto power in the GST Council, which is dominated by the Finance Ministers of the BJP-ruled States, and other issues jeopardising the fiscal relations between the Central and the State Governments would be taken up at the meeting. Many States had been requesting the Central government to take the 1971 Census as the benchmark for devolution of funds by the 15th Finance Commission instead of the 2011 population but there had so far been no response, the Minister said. He observed that States like Andhra Pradesh which went for family planning would be at a disadvantage compared to those having higher rates of population growth. Pointing to the Centre’s refusal on AP’s claim over revenue deficit, he questioned what respect did the Central government have for the institutions of the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Reserve Bank and the NITI Aayog which pegged AP’s revenue deficit at more than Rs14,000 crore, which more or less tallied with the State’s claim of Rs16,000 crore. The State was demanding its rightful share, and not standing at the Central government’s doorstep with a begging bowl, he said.
"TDP is synonymous with development. Andhra Pradesh is the highest contributor to CGST. Despite our strong efforts and better development in GDP, Andhra is still lagging behind all the southern states in per capita income," the CM further said.

While allaying the apprehensions over possible harassment after severing ties, Naidu said the Centre cannot deny its legitimate and rightful share in the tax revenues. "We are not begging the Centre and the Centre is not doing us any charity. We need to get our legitimate and rightful share of 42% of tax revenues and we will continue to fight our rights," Naidu said in the Assembly.

He wondered why the Prime Minister’s Office is regularly entertaining MPs with criminal cases in court. Dismissing the charge that AP has not been submitting utilisation certificates, the CM said it was the Centre that was running away and not responding to the challenge posed to it by TDP on the issue. "AP stands No.3 in the country when it comes to submitting utilisation certificates. It's time other political parties also took a clear stand on the Centre. They have to decide on supporting a central government that's ignoring people of AP or the TDP which has been fighting for the people of the state," he said.

Addressing the AP assembly, the CM said, "TDP did not snap ties with the BJP for political considerations. In fact, it was BJP that did so in Telangana by parting ways with TDP without informing us. We went to polls together in Telangana and AP, but Telangana BJP leaders unilaterally announced they will not tie up with the TDP for 2019 polls. Did we say anything on that? Contrary to his claims, AP did not get anything new or more than other states despite facing a difficult situation after bifurcation. In fact, you were just giving back taxes paid by the people of Andhra to us after taking your share."

**Failure to honour Bifurcation Act**

Despite the State Government’s continued follow-up and persistent demands, the Centre failed to honour several of the promises made in the AP Bifurcation Act during the last four years. The BJP president Amit Shah’s letter to Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu is filled with rhetoric and doesn't answer key questions such as why the special status for the state has been denied and how far the special package has really grounded. The defence is replete with generalities and accusations against the state government. While giving Centre's version of issues, Shah fails to answer critical questions facing the government.

1. The Centre failed to compensate for the revenue deficit as assured in the Act. The revenue deficit was initially estimated at Rs 16,700 crore. The amount was later revised by the Centre to Rs 7,500 crore and the central government only paid Rs 3,977 crore. While the State government reiterated that the revenue deficit to be paid by the Centre is Rs 12,500 crore, the Centre has been making vague statements that the due in this regard is merely Rs 138 crore.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said several times in the past that the central officials were discussing the issue with the state officials to arrive at a consensus on how much should be paid to the state in this regard. But nothing had happened. The State Government, meanwhile, has proposed that the Centre may appoint a committee headed by the former IAS officer YV Reddy to settle the dispute. There has been no response on this proposal.

2. The Centre has been making dubious assertions on why it was not able to honour the commitment made by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to bestow the status of Special Category to the residual AP in view of the enormous losses the state would be forced to suffer in the wake of bifurcation. In fact, the BJP as opposition party demanded special status for ten years. Despite the fact that senior BJP leaders like M Venkaiah Naidu and Jaitley were the authors of special status, the Narendra Modi gov-
The central government promised special package in lieu of special status. As per this, it was promised that the Centre would fund to the tune of 90 percent in regard to centrally funded schemes. Thus the additional central grant is arrived at Rs 16,447 crore. The Centre proposed to compensate this through higher central component in Externally Aided Projects (EAPs). But, the execution of such projects would take time. Therefore, the state preferred direct fiscal transfers. As half of the 14th Finance Commission period was already over, the state government desired 50 percent of payment. But the Centre has hardly paid Rs 400 crore under this, and now insisting at the last moment that the State should float a special purpose vehicle for funds flow through Nabard.

3. The State Reorganisation Act promised railway zone for Visakhapatnam. Though, the Centre has been dragging its feet on implementing the provisions of an act passed by Parliament. Despite the pressure from the State government, the Centre has been apathetic on the issue, sending confusing signals - saying it was unviable now, and claiming Odisha was objecting the next.

4. The Reorganisation act has also promised to set up a steel plant in the backward Rayalaseema district of Kadapa. The state government has offered to give these mines as captive mines for the proposed steel plant on free of cost basis as the quality of the ore is low grade. This offer of the state government would make the proposed steel plant viable as raw material itself accounts for 50 percent of cost of production. The Centre has been hiding under feasibility study.

5. As per the act, the Polavaram project will be taken up as the national project and the Centre would bear the expenses. The Centre is yet to make its stand clear on the revised estimates of the project, which is pegged at Rs 53,000 crore. Besides, due to inordinate delay in clearing the bills, the state government is incurring an interest burden of Rs 300 crore.

6. As per the reorganisation act, the centre has agreed to provide funds for the development of necessary infrastructure in seven backward districts of Rayalaseema and North Coastal Andhra. So far only Rs 1,050 crore were released at the rate of Rs 150 crore per district.

7. The reorganisation act also mandates Centre to fund the construction of a green field capital at Amravati for the state of Andhra Pradesh as the existing capital of Hyderabad became the capital of Telangana. However, no specific resources were mentioned in the act. Taking advantage of this, the NDA government has granted only Rs 1,500 crore so far. The underground drainage works taken up in Vijayawada and Guntur were also included in this head by the Centre on the pretext that these two cities also fall in the capital region. This is when the PM promised to make Amaravati a better city than New Delhi.

8. The centre was mandated to set up Dugarajapatnam Port in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. Centre claims the project was not feasible for a variety of reasons, and has been stonewalling on this pretext.

9. Andhra Pradesh should also get a petroleum refinery and cracking unit as per bifurcation package. But, the HPCL-GAIL consortium is reportedly seeking a viability gap funding of Rs 1,200 crore per year for a period of 15 years from the state government. The Centre has not been giving any clarity on this, though any such viability gap funding should come from the centre itself.

10. Centre has setup several educational institutions in the state in fulfilment of AP Reorganisation Act. However, the flow of funds to them has been tardy, impacting the functionality of these institutions, as they are running from rented premises with lack of amenities.

Andhra feels that is has been let down. Neither the provisions of State Reorganisation Act nor the promises made therein and thereafter have been fully implemented leaving no other option for the state but to protest.
To safeguard the interests and rights of women, especially for promoting gender equality, the 2018-19 Andhra Pradesh Budget made significant allocations to improve the lives of women in respect of all Human Development Indicators. There is whopping 70 per cent increase in the funds allocation to the department, when compared to the last fiscal. Steps to strengthen schemes such as ICDS, ICPS, SNP, AAH, Giri Gorumuddalu, SABALA are in place with no dearth of funds.

Against Rs 1773 crore allocation during 2017-18, this year, the budget has gone upto Rs 3008 crore for the department.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said, “The state budget 2018 reflects Andhra Pradesh government’s dedication towards the welfare of women & children. 70% increase in allocation of budget for their welfare schemes, this year.”

A new scheme Special Nutrition for Malnourished Children and Mothers scheme has been initiated and delegated a budget of Rs 383 crore. Then, Rs 1,016 crore was earmarked for Anna Amrutha Hashtam scheme to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR). The scheme was given double the allocation in this year’s budget, which was otherwise Rs 523 crore. Keeping in view the welfare of adolescent girls from 11 to 18 years of age, (Sabala scheme), a budget of Rs 60 crore was put aside to promote life management skills, nutrition, education, and personal hygiene among girls. The scheme, which is now under implementation in four districts of the State will be implemented in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari, Prakasam, Kurnool and Kadapa very soon.

A budget of Rs 127 crore was allocated to provide sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in secondary schools and colleges along with SHG Women. This initiative will enable the young girls to take active participation in academic, extra-curricular activities and prevents them from falling sick thus promoting personal hygiene. The welfare of Differently-abled, Transgender and Senior Citizens is also included in this budget.

The government has formulated a policy for Transgenders and to refrain them from resorting to begging, as a means of livelihood, an allocation of Rs 20 crore has been made. Similarly, the total allocation for the Differently-abled has been increased from Rs 89 crore to Rs 121 crore, marking an increase of 36 per cent. The allocation for the prosthetics aids programme has been hiked from Rs 13 crore to Rs 35 crore. At the same time, the allocation for economic rehabilitation has been more than tripled from Rs 9 crore to Rs 30 crore.

Measures to safeguard the interests and rights of women, especially for promoting gender equality, duly ensuring that women and girls are neither subjected to discrimination nor neglected in matters of economic development, security and human rights.

“This International Womens Day, let’s pledge to build a better and a stronger society where women feel secure and are free to spread their horizons,” tweeted Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on the very same day the State budget was presented.
In an endeavour to make Andhra Pradesh pollution free, Andhra Pradesh, said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called on companies producing electric vehicles (EVs) to set up base in the State. He held a meeting with Energy Efficiency Service Limited (EESL), NEDCAP and other companies that deal with Electrical Vehicles and Infrastructure, at Secretariat on March 24.

Speaking on the occasion, CM said, “The 2018 will be the year of Electrical Vehicles. In the coming two years, the government is planning of introducing 1 lakh electric vehicles in the State. Our implementations should become a model of replication for other states. We must try to come up with innovations and look towards creating cost effective solutions in the energy sector.”

He further elaborated, “Andhra Pradesh is number one state in terms of skill development and all the best companies in the world are working with our government. Electrical automobile market should be produced here. This is the cluster we are thinking and the hub we want to create. My government aims to make Andhra Pradesh totally pollution free.”

Since agriculture sector is doing well in Andhra Pradesh with a double digit growth of 10.5 percent, the government now is planning to shift focus on industrialisation and development of service sector, such that there is a growth in economy as well as employment generation, added CM.

With optimism, CM said, “This is a historical meeting and I am sure our collaboration will yield great results. I started power sector reforms in 1995 which was unprecedented and became a landmark reform in the history of our state.” He suggested that they should work towards increasing the power consumption and simultaneously, the aim should also be to create good storage capacity and grid management.

The meeting, which was attended by officials from Micromax, PWC, Deloitte, Mahindra, Kinetic Green and start-ups working on electrical vehicles and charging systems had several discussions on methods to encourage the manufacturing and sales of electric vehicles in the State. The Chief Minister assured the executives of all the companies that the Government will provide necessary assistance to them.

At present there are 30 lakh electric vehicles in the world and by 2020, this number is expected to go up to 90 lakh and will touch 4 crore by 2025, the delegates were informed, during the meeting.

“In a move towards fostering battery-run vehicles in the state, an electric bus and car have been flagged off with a slogan of ‘Go green-Breathe clean’. The electric bus will soon commute between Vijayawada and Amaravati,” said Chandrababu Naidu.

It was reported that as many as 1.05 lakh jobs are expected to be created in Andhra Pradesh with the introduction of electric vehicles (EVs). The newly launched e-bus will ply between Amaravati and Vijayawada for Secretariat employees.

The Chief Minister had flagged off two electric cars, Tata Tigor and Mahindra e-Verito, in the CII Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam, in the month of February.

Sourabh Kumar, MD, EESL, informed that they are right on schedule with their pilot project which aims to roll out 300 electric vehicles soon in AP. The EESL will be coming out with 10,000 electric vehicles very soon as per their recent agreement with the government of AP. These vehicles are first put to use in government offices before being made available for private use.
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who convened a meeting with ‘Sadhikara Mitra’, women of Self Help Groups (SHGs) at Undavalli on March 21, has showered them with appreciation. He complimented them for putting in best efforts for strengthening the welfare schemes in rural areas and for propagating them among real beneficiaries across every nook and corner of the State.

Aiming at spreading the word on government welfare schemes that benefit the public, Sadhikara Mitra has been going strong since its inception. Their impeccable work during ‘Janmabhoomi’ programme was commendable, said Chief Minister adding, “We are stepping into a great future of our state and I am extremely proud of the fact that I have a force of close to 4 lakh ‘Sadhikara Mitra’ members across the state to carry forward the welfare schemes. A budget of Rs 10,000 crore has been earmarked for the benefit of women across the State in this year’s budget and we are making sure that they are empowered and educated.”

CM said, “The Sadhikara Mitra members did a great job during the Janmabhoomi programme and you need to continue the same. We have taken the panchayats, municipalities, officers and all the grass root level volunteers under one window and we need to make sure that all the government schemes reach the beneficiaries.”

Discussing the challenges the state is facing, Chandrababu Naidu further said, “Three and half years back, when the State was bifurcated, we were left with a raw end of the deal. Everybody had great concerns about the future of the State, and I had to start again from block one. The bifurcation was not done properly and promises were made which have not been fulfilled yet and even now we are fighting for a Special Status, which is our right and we shall have it”. He also said, “People have done no wrong and they should not face any kind of injustice. For the development of Andhra Pradesh, people have voluntarily given the government over 30,000 acres of land. You have entrusted me with taking the state ahead from such a delicate position and I will make sure that all promises are fulfilled”.

Chief Minister appreciated the role DWACRA has played in bringing both financial and social independence to the

Sadhikara Mitra is a unique concept of using Self Help Group leaders who will bind the benefactor and beneficiary in a single loop. They are now the harbingers of government schemes to the needy.

SADHIKARA MITRA - the agents of change

Sadhikara Mitra is a unique concept of using Self Help Group leaders who will bind the benefactor and beneficiary in a single loop. They are now the harbingers of government schemes to the needy.
women and said, “You are entrusted with a great responsibility and you must make sure that all the government schemes reach the beneficiaries properly. No irregularities of any kind will be tolerated and in case you come across any, take note of irregularities and inform the same to helpline- 1100.”

Speaking on his goal to make the state a knowledge hub, Chandrababu Naidu said, “Education is every person’s right. It is your duty to take care of every child’s education among the 35 families under you. Andhra Pradesh people have already proven their abilities and today when you look at IT field across the world, you’ll see our people contributing greatly in every country. You need to educate yourself and keep yourself updated. The Government will provide you with all necessary resources and you need to apply all your knowledge in real life.”

Asking the Sadhikara Mitra members to continue with the great work that they have done till now, the Chief Minister said, “You all are in a very responsible position and it is your job to take the government’s schemes to people and make sure that they are implemented and followed well on grass root level. No chance of corruption must be given. I am working for poor people and together we all must make sure that they benefit from all the schemes the government has implemented. You all must be in a position to use technology well, for the same. I have set up real time governance (RTG) in my office and am able to track everything in real time I am also tracking and keeping a close eye on financial and non-financial grievances in real time and making sure that they are resolved quickly. Each and every government employee is answerable and I have introduced the biometric system through which I have a record of their efficiency. My ultimate goal is that 80 out of 100 people are satisfied with the government”.

Speaking further about the government schemes, the Chief Minister said, “To make AP technologically advanced, we are providing broadband, television and telephone services all in a single package just for Rs.149. This is unprecedented and no state or country in the world is providing such services at such low rates. We are also in the process of installing CCTV cameras across the state which will help extensively in controlling eve-teasing, thefts, and robberies, ragging in colleges and any such anti-social activities for that matter. I want to make sure AP is topnotch in terms of law and order.”

Chandrababu Naidu also spoke about skill development to the Sadhikara Mitra members and said, “You and the 35 families under you must make sure that individual income of every earning member is above Rs. 10,000. If that is not the case, find ways to develop the person’s skills so that the figure of Rs.10,000 per month is achieved. The government will provide you with every possible assistance. I request every individual to take benefit of all the schemes and increase efficiency in their work”. He also said, “At the same time you need to take a count in your villages and municipalities and look at these problems-stunting, anemia, and malnutrition among people. I urge Anganwadis to provide full support in this aspect. The pulses, green vegetables, and other nutritious food should be consumed every day. We will be providing you with all the resources and information on the same. Together, we will collaborate and make sure all these cases are resolved,” he added.

“The Annapraasana and Srimantham programs have to be conducted with utmost regularity and without fail. We are educating pregnant woman of all the needs and precautions to take care during the pre-pregnancy and post-pregnancy period. You need to have a clear idea of what you’re going to do for the benefits of 35 families that you are working with. You need to have a clear plan on how you can make your society better. I have a great team in you all and I will definitely make sure that together we will take the state to greater heights. We all need to take responsibility for making the state better. The government is also helping people in performing last rites of their beloved ones as well. We provide Rs 2 lakh for natural death under the age of 50 years,” said CM addressing the women. The meeting was also attended by a number of Sadhikara Mitra members from across the state via video conference, who also shared their experiences and thanked the Chief Minister for providing them with a great opportunity to contribute to the State’s development. Ministers Nara Lokesh, Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao, Paritala Sunitha and Dr P Narayana were also present during the meeting.
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu took part as the chief guest in the ‘Vilambi Nama Samvatsara Ugadi 2018’ celebrations held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram on March 18. The Department of Language and Culture organised the celebrations to mark the beginning of auspicious Telugu New Year with a series of cultural and spiritual activities. Dr. Prabhala Subrahmanya Sarma read out from the almanac on what lies in store for people in this year, at the ‘Panchanga Sravanam’ programme.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu attended the event dressed in a conventional Telugu style and was accompanied by his wife Bhuvaneswari and grandson Devansh, who too was dressed for the occasion, appropriately.

Speaking about the auspicious event of Ugadi, Chandrababu Naidu said that Telugu people have great traditions and a rich culture to be preserved and cherished. He expressed happiness after the predictions in panchanga sravanam hinted at prosperity ahead for the State, especially when told about the great amount of rainfall that is likely to hit the State this year: “Good rainfall will lead to good agriculture production and increase the groundwater levels,” said the Chief Minister.

KALARATNA AWARDSEEES - 2018

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Naidu explained the efforts made by the State government to raise the groundwater levels, which are now yeilding positive results. Agriculture crop area in Rayalaseema region would be increased from 41 lakh acres to one crore acres, added he.

Meanwhile, speaking about the Department of Culture and Language, CM referred to the State budget and mentioned that an allotment of Rs 86 crore has been made towards development of the department. About 6740 artistes were being given pensions every month and stressed on the need to promote the handicrafts and Kondapalli toys extensively at greater avenues for increasing market for them. He also mentioned that steps would be taken to ensure that pension is extended to ‘Dappu’ kalakarulu belonging to SCs.

State Assembly Speaker Kodela
Sivaprasada Rao, Deputy Speaker Mandali Buddha Prasad, Ministers Akhila Priya, Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao, Krishna Zilla Parishad chairperson Gadde Anuradha, large number of people including artistes and officials attended the Telugu New Year celebrations.

Devansh, the cynosure of all eyes
Devansh, clad in a traditional Telugu dress—dhoti, kurtha and Uttareeyam stole the show from the Chief Minister and others at the event. He tailed along his grandparents throughout the event and visited the art exhibition with awe. After the customary pooja formalities, Devansh was fed prasadam by Chandrababu Naidu and Bhuvaneswari gave the mandatory ‘Ugadi Pachadi.’

The Chief Minister said Devansh was born on Ugadi festival three years back and mentioned that right from childhood, he wanted Devansh to be familiar with culture and tradition of Telugus.

Ugadi Kalaratna Puraskarams
On the occasion, Chief Minister also presented special Ugadi Kalaratna Puraskarams to deserving people from various disciplines—Literature, Music, Sculpture, Arts, Culture, Drama, Dance, Medical, Research, Folk arts, Journalism, Photography, Film Industry and History. As many as 47 people received the awards under the aforementioned categories while 99 people were given away annual Ugadi Puraskarams

Eminent people like Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry for lyrics, actor Jaya Prakash Reddy, music director M M Sreilekha, Veturi Ananda Murthy, Bikki Krishnaand Annapureddy Venkateswara Reddy, vedantham Ramalinga Sastry for Kuchipudi, for literature were a few among the recipients of the prestigious awards.

THK to invest Rs 1300 cr at Sri City

THK, a Japanese major engaged in manufacture of linear motion guides and equipment for transport vehicles, plans to invest $200 million (Rs 1300 cr), with $50 million in the first phase in its plant in Sri City to cater to the growth of the industrial market in India. The manufacturing facility, spread across 50 acres will start construction by August 2018. This will be its first base in India.

This MoU was signed by Akihiro Teramachi, President and CEO, THK and J Krishna Kishore, Chief Executive Officer, Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board in the presence of N Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Established in 1971, THK is a $3 billion Japanese major engaged in manufacture of linear motion guides for industrial equipment and transportation vehicles. Operating with a sales office in India since 2012, THK will now establish their first India unit in Andhra Pradesh. In the transportation vehicle-related segment, it is engaged in the development, design, manufacture and sale of steering and suspension parts of automobile and two-wheelers, including link balls and suspension ball joints and others.

Krishna Kishore said “THK shall accelerate full-scale globalisation by investing in Andhra Pradesh as major production supplies are located near the source of demand. Andhra Pradesh is also poised to catalyse investments in manufacturing.”

Andhra Pradesh is also advocating a Japanese Industrial Townships and Japan India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIMs) to attract capital, as well as manufacturers.

THK has a manufacturing presence in Japan, North America, China, Korea and Europe and will be embarking their first manufacturing foray in India with Andhra Pradesh.
Fort
Vizianagaram,
11th August, 1909.
My dear Munisubrahmanyam,

I duly received your letters. I am very busy, as you guess, with so little energy. Thank you for your kind promise to come over here. Please see the Manager of Saraswati Press - Kameswara Rao. He is a very clever writer. Please ascertain how my book is selling. Has a review appeared in Mr. Brahmayya's paper Arya Mata Bodhini? If you can spend next Saturday and Sunday here, I propose to get a note on Wordsworth's Michael. I am collecting material. I am engaged in writing a drama on the story of Bilhana to show that the spoken dialect lends itself to the expression of higher emotions. How do you like your work there? What grammar do Matric students use there? Nesfield? If not, please bring a copy of the book which they use.

Yours Affectionately,

Fort,
Vizianagaram,
4th Dec., 1910.
My dear Munisubrahmanyam,

How is it I have not heard from you for a long while? Did you read my recent poetry in the Andhrtharati? Daman and Pytheus has been praised immediately even by the old school paper-wallahs. You will recollect that some time back you told me that the criticism of Brahmayya Sastri can be considered to be effective in Cocanada and asked me to reply. I delivered my first broadside in a recent issue of Asilekha. You will find it also in Andhra Kesari. Please let me know what you think of it. More articles will follow. Please look up Pillalamarri Pina Viranna Sakuntala Parinayam a copy of the (and) also of my verses in which the authors might have discussed bad poets and the correct principles of poetic art. If you can get hold of Narasimha Puranam Of Erra Pragada (...) quote similar verses from him also. What are you doing now? Please convey my compliments to your revered father. I hope he is keeping excellent health.

Yours Affectionately,
CM Chandrababu Naidu is an active social media user. Many of you have been actively following his activities with admiration. Here are a few snapshots from his Twitter account and those on him.
Thanks to the continuous monitoring of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the prestigious Polavaram project has gained momentum. The expert committee of the Central Water Commission (CWC), which visited the project in March, expressed satisfaction over pace of head works of the Polavaram project. The committee, which visited a non-tribal rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) village on the first day of its visit, said the beneficiaries were almost satisfied with the package.

State Government officials said the committee’s report has given a relief to them in backdrop of present crisis. Chairman of National Commission for Schedules Tribes (NCST) Nand Kumar Sai also expressed satisfaction at the rehabilitation process after visiting several tribal villages.

Convener of the committee R K Pachauri submitted the report to the Union Ministry of Water Resources Department on March 21 after its third inspection of the project between March 15 and 17. In its report, the committee mentioned that smooth transition from first contractor to second contractor was without any issue. It suggested that though 74% of diaphragm wall work was completed, third party quality check has to be ensured and said methodology for construction of cofferdam is yet to be decided by contractor.

“It is ambitious target in view of existing constraints of the envisaging planning,” the committee said and praised Navayuga.

It said that in left main canal (LMC), 315 structures out of 452 and, in right main canal, 75 of total 255 structures are yet to be completed. On R&R and land acquisition, the Central committee said the total area required to +45.72 mts (for submerge, land for land and R&R centres) in East and West Godavari districts, 1.66 lakh acres. Out of that 11 lakh acres has already been acquired. Out of total project disturbed families of 17,739, only 3,348 have only be rehabilitated, it observed.

“Since the project is targeted to complete December 2019, the land acquisition and R&R work is lagging behind. An action plan with a timeline may be prepared separately for land acquisition, construction of colonies for R&R and complete of settlement of PDFs,” it suggested.
Two major ongoing projects in Visakhapatnam city will catapult it into a major IT hub in south India if not in the entire country. Work is going on briskly at the Millennium Towers in Madhurawada and the IT Special Economic Zone in Kapuluppada in the city.

The Millennium Towers is coming up on a four acre site on ten floors for a total built up area of 3.5 lakh sq.ft. It is expected to be ready by May while the ITSEZ at Kapuluppada will be ready by September.

ITSEZ is being developed on a vast extent of 175 acres. Of this 100 acres would be plotted area while the remaining 75 acres will be used for roads, drains, culverts and other facilities. The work is taken up at a cost of Rs.24 crore. The APEPDCL has sent a demand for Rs.9 crore for erecting a sub-station there while Rs.16 crore is the estimated cost for water supply pipeline extension to the place. Once these two projects are ready, it is only a matter of time before global IT majors move in to the city to start their operations, with all the necessary infrastructure facilities available. Also, unlike many other metropolitan cities in the country, Visakhapatnam will remain unaffected this summer, according to Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Commissioner M Harinarayanan. Water levels in the reservoirs which cater to the city are satisfactory and normal supply will be maintained during summer.

Graded autonomy for Andhra University

As we go to the press, we hear that the renowned Andhra University in Visakhapatnam is granted graded autonomy by the University Grants Commission and AU is placed in the Category I. This will mean that Andhra University will now have the freedom to start new courses, departments, pro-
grammes, schools, and centres in disciplines that form a part of its existing academic framework, without the approval of the UGC, though it will continue to remain within the ambit of the UGC. AU can now start innovative courses, attract talent from across the globe and incentivise the deserving faculty to offer the best quality education and make its products worthy of talent and to mark its presence felt in the international arena, AU Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Nageswara Rao says. Also the university will be free to open research parks, incubation centres, set up university society linkage centres in self-financing mode either on its own or in partnership with private agencies. It can hire foreign faculty having taught at any institution in the top 500 world framework. According to the norms, a university will be Category I if it has been accredited by NAAC with a score of 3.51 or more; it has received a corresponding accreditation grade or score from a reputed accreditation agency empanelled by the UGC; orbit has been ranked among the top 500 world rankings such as the Times Higher Education or QS. Having fulfilled this, Andhra University could make it to the grade.

Energy efficient Vizag railway station

Waltair Division’s initiative for energy efficiency measures paid off with the Visakhapatnam Railway Station of East Coast Railway earned the unique distinction of being the first Energy Efficient ‘A1 Category’ Railway Station over the Division. The station has achieved 100% energy efficiency by replacing conventional lights with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, among other steps. All these measures would save about Rs 3.17 lakh per annum with reduction of the connected load for Railways, according to Waltair’s Divisional Railway Manager Mukul Saran Mathur. As a part of energy conservation measures, 1000 KWp On-Grid power from rooftop Solar Photo Voltaic systems on Four service buildings i.e. on Electric Loco Shed, Diesel Loco Shed, Divisional Railway Hospital and on Divisional Railway Manager’s office. The Solar Grid-Power commissioned under Public Private Partnership model including operation and maintenance of the systems for a period of 25 years. The project cost is about Rs 8 Crores. Also, 3360 Solar panels have been provided for the generation of 1 Mega Watt power by utilizing an area of 16250 square meters vacant space of rooftops of the Four service buildings. 3600 units per day is generated from the Solar PV module which will save an amount of Rs 22.55 lakh per annum.

ISO for Vizag Diesel Loco Shed

The Diesel Loco Shed, Visakhapatnam, has achieved yet another milestone by getting certificate ISO 50001:2011 for Energy Management System in addition to ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and OHSAS 18001:2017. Visakhapatnam Diesel Loco Shed, the Largest Loco Shed in India, has been established in the year 1965 in the erstwhile undivided Southeastern Railway. The specialty of the shed is not only its size of the holding but also the variety of locomotives it has been maintaining and for conducting trials of new technology by RDSO. Further, the Visakhapatnam Diesel Loco Shed earned laurels for innovative technological improvement in existing locos to provide additional safety measures, increasing fuel efficiency, monitoring maintenance, successful improvement in Load distribution system for operation of heavier and longer trains particularly in terrain like K-K line.

- B. Prabhakara Sarma

Aéroports de Paris shows interest in AP airports

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met with delegates from Aéroports de Paris (ADP), who have expressed keen interest in partnering with airport projects in Andhra Pradesh.

The company designed and participated in the engineering of 26 airports across the globe including ones in Paris, Beijing, Muscat and New York.

“With a growing middle class, increasing development, population and tourism, air traffic has increased substantially in India. Andhra Pradesh can be your hub for operations in India”, said Chief Minister. He said that Visakhapatnam offers the potential of the best airport in the country, due to its close proximity to the sea, and the popular tourist destinations, Araku and Lambasingi. “This is not just scenic beauty. Coastal Andhra has real strength”, he said.

From around 16 flights a day, there are 72 flights that come and go in the airports in Andhra Pradesh. The government aims to complete 1 lakh rooms in the next 10 years, to help boost the tourism sector. “I was instrumental in introducing greenfield airports in India. Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai followed the first greenfield airport in Hyderabad”, he said.

The vision statement of Andhra Pradesh says that by 2050, it will be the best destination in the world.

The officials said that they are keen to make a long-term partnership, and contribute to the growth of AP. “We consider the requirements of all possible stakeholders, and think of the design of the airport as a whole; not just as a connecting space”, they said. Gratien Maire, CEO of ADP, Julien Coffiner, MD of ADP, Olivier Guichard, Deputy CEO of ADP, V. Umesh True Jet Airline and Manish, CEO of Turbo Megha were present along with Principal Secretary Ajay Jain.
Few days ago, the makers of SS Rajamouli’s upcoming film, starring Ram Charan and NTR Jr, announced the film in style. It was just named #RRR, signifying the three titans coming together for the first time, although the team also clarified that they haven’t finalised the film’s title yet. There’s plenty of excitement about this combination, so to speak, and it’s not without a reason. SS Rajamouli’s previous film Baahubali 2 turned out to be an unstoppable force at the box-office all over the country, and both Ram Charan and NTR Jr are on top of their game these days. And this might very well be the flash point that would force others to think about more multi-starrers.

Prior to the 80s, Telugu cinema saw plenty of multi-starrers with the likes of NTR, ANR coming together for several films. Later, the likes of Krishna, Sobhan Babu, Chandramohan collaborated with other popular actors of the era. However, with the influx of next generation of actors in the mid 80s, multi-starrers took a backseat, and despite several efforts to revive them, they didn’t quite become a mainstay unlike Bollywood which continued to bet big on multi-starrers. In recent years, however, there have been a handful of successful films including Seethamma Vaakitlo Sirimalle Chettu and Oopiri which proved that this trend could work, but it still needed a big push to make everyone think about it.

With a slew of multi-starrers being made in Telugu cinema these days, it’s worth wondering if it could trigger a new wave of collaborative efforts to make it work.

TOLLYWOOD FINALLY WAKES UP TO MULTI STARRERS
In November, 2017, when Rajamouli first posted a picture of him hanging out with Ram Charan and NTR, it became quite clear that they are going to collaborate soon. Since then, there has been a lot speculation about the scale and genre of the film. Although Rajamouli seemed reluctant to make this film too into a visual effects extravaganza like his previous films - Baahubali, Baahubali 2, and Eega - buzz is that #RRR too will have its share of VFX-loaded scenes. The two actors even flew to the US for a test shoot in early March, although the makers have kept the details under wraps. Shortly after #RRR was announced, another filmmaker Anil Ravipudi announced that his next film F2 - Fun and Frustration - will star Venkatesh and Varun Tej in lead roles, which is another first. Amidst all this, there’s Chiranjeevi starrer Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy, which also has Amitabh Bachchan, Nayanthara, Jagapathi Babu, and Vijay Sethupathi playing lead roles.

Among other big-ticket films slated for release this year, there’s the biopic of Savitri - Mahanati - which has been directed by Nag Ashwin. With the likes of Keerthy Suresh, Dulquer Salmaan, Samantha, Vijay Devarakonda, Mohan Babu, Prakash Raj and several others playing the lead roles, Mahanati has turned into a true-blue multi-starrer that’s captured everyone’s interest in Telugu and Tamil cinema. Interestingly, Nagarjuna and Nani are on board another project which is being directed by Sriram Aditya, and Naga Chaitanya’s upcoming film Savyasachi also stars Madhavan in a key role. Meanwhile, Teja’s forthcoming film has Venkatesh, Nara Rohit, Shriya and Eesha playing the lead roles.

Elsewhere in Tamil film industry, two of its biggest names - Shankar and Mani Ratnam - have stepped up their game in terms of bringing together some of the biggest names in showbiz. While Shankar’s 2.0 has Superstar Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar pitted opposite each other, Mani Ratnam’s Chekka Chivantha Vaanam has the likes of Arvind Swami, Jyothika, Simbu, Vijay Sethupathi, Aditi Rao Hydari rubbing shoulders with each other.

There are plenty of more films in Telugu and Tamil cinema which prove that there’s been a positive movement towards embracing the trend of multi-starrers; however, there are many reasons why the industry is still skeptical about them. While there’s always a promise of making big bucks, due to a wider market and reach, the downside is the riding production cost which comes as a necessary attachment to such big multi-starrers. And truth be told, there are quite a few producers and filmmakers, or even writers, who are jittery about making space for everyone in the film, even though the lure of hitting the bull’s eye at the box-office is hard to resist. Another aspect which bothers the actors themselves is how their respective fans will receive the project. Unless it’s directed by a top-rung director, there’s every chance of the overall balance of story and onscreen image of an actor going for a toss. And then, there’s the prospect of how the success or failure of such films will have an impact on their other films.

Over the past few years, even though every other actor has acknowledged that they are open to doing multi-starrers if they find a good script, it’s only in 2018 that things slowly seem to be falling in place. And it’s crucial for at least some of these films to make a big splash after their release if the interest in multi-starrers has to be sustained. Considering how unpredictable films turn out to be, we can only guess what’s going to be the fate when some of the biggest names in showbiz come together to make a difference.

- Hemanth Kumar C R
Amazing Andhra Pradesh

Tranquility Seeps Through your Soul at MAREDUMILLI
Getting there

Maredumilli is a village and mandal in East Godavari district that is 230 kilometers from Vijayawada; located on the way between Bhadrachalam to Rajahmundry. There are numerous ways of transport to reach the place with aplenty trains, buses plying frequently from Vijayawada. The nearest airport and railway station is at Rajahmundry. A jolly bike ride or a gang in a cool four-wheeler can hit it off too, as the place caters to every type of traveler. Once there, traveling around the place can be done mostly on foot.

Accommodation

The options are quite less and if you plan on spending a night or two at Maredumilli, make sure to book the guesthouses at the earliest. There are just a couple of private resorts and one government’s forest department run guesthouse maintained by tribals. The rooms are equipped with basic amenities including ACs and DTH TV facility.

Must do

Feast on the yummy and fresh bamboo chicken cooked with authentic spices. Taste the coffee prepared from the nicest of coffee beans roasted to perfection by the tribal’s, light up a campfire and experience deep woods under the open sky. Do not forget to buy yourself some handmade products made by tribals, that include- soap nut powders, honey, and articrafts. For campfire, firewood is sold locally.

Look out for

The expansive coffee plantations, pepper fields, the twin waterfalls- AmruthaDhara and SwarnaDharathat are said to be highest in the State and thick but enchanting forests, which will surround you with enthralling vibes will make up for a great weekend getaway. Medicinal plants conservation parks, KarthikaVanam, Madanakunj- home for wild habitat among others were a few popular attractions that lure the visitors. Trek up the hills and get lost in the forest or waddle through the parks or absolutely do nothing at this place, you still cannot complain.
Singapore team visits Visakha Port

A delegation from Singapore led by Director of Economic Development Tan Siew Ling, Director of Institutional Development Eric Tan Huck Gim and others paid a visit to Visakhapatnam Port Trust, recently. The visit was aimed at building economic development and adding value to APVPT Deputy Chairman P L Haranadh received the team and walked them through the functioning, traffic projections, environment management initiatives and capacity augmentation and modernization plans of the port. The team was explained about handling the cargo in a mechanized environment, using of sewage treatment plant, investment potential and opportunities in exploring exports and imports from the port.

Adventure Sports academy at Gandikota

With an idea to tap the potential of the region, attract tourists and generate employment to the educated youngsters, State government is making plans to set-up an Academy of adventure Sports at Gandikota. Estimating a budget of Rs 2.71 crore, a project report was prepared by Tourism department for the same. According to Secretary to Tourism, Mukesh Kumar Meena, the Academy will establish three hubs in the state- Kondapalli in Krishna district, Gandikota in Kadapa district and Thatipudi reservoir in Vizianagaram district. Government would provide technical expertise, operation of adventure activities and explore opportunities for tourism.

IT and Mobility Award for AP

For being the ‘Top most and best infrastructure excellent State In India in Information Technology and Mobility,’ Andhra Pradesh has been chosen for the 4th Atal Shastra, Markenomy Award- 2018. The Atal Shastra, Markenomy awards were given for excellence in sustainable economy and clean and green infrastructure, said State Energy Conservation Mission CEO A Chandra Sekhar Reddy. Principal Secretary of IT, K Vijayanand is chosen for the national award for Markenomy Persona by Markenomy Foundation, New Delhi, Institute of Management and falcon Media.

Two national awards for APSRTC

Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) has now new feathers to its cap. The Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTU) has announced two national awards for AP state, for its commendable performance in the year 2016-17. The two awards were secured for putting up highest performance in vehicle productivity and for achieving highest kilometers per liter (KMPL) categories. It is recorded that each RTC vehicle has covered an average of 335.59 kms in the city limits of Vijayawada along with the 3000-vehicle fleet achieving highest KMPL (5.34 kilometers per one litre fuel). APSRTC officials received the award at a function held in New Delhi from Union Secretary of Surface Transport Madhu Veer Singh Mallik, recently.

Chandragiri the 1st ‘all-women’ railway station!

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, the South Central Railway (SCR) named Chandragiri station near Tirupati as the first ‘all-women railway station’ in the zone. The station has 4 stationmasters, a booking clerk, a health worker and 2 technical positions, which are carried out by women. Employees working in Tirupati, Renigunta and Chittoor stations have been transferred to this station for this purpose. Being the far-flung station away from habitation, the daily collection is reported to be about Rs 5000. Chandragiri station is first in the AP to get the privileged status. On the same lines, Ramavarappadu station in Vijayawada too, was pronounced as the all-women station, making it first one of its kind under Vijayawada Division.

Indigo services from Vij Airport

To cater to the air passengers traveling from Gannavaram Airport, Indigo, private airlines has started

AP is the most Consumer Friendly State!

At the World Consumer Rights Day event held at New Delhi, Andhra Pradesh State has been adjudged with the tag of being the first best Consumer Friendly State. APIC special officer K Jaya Rao told that OSD of AP Bhavan, New Delhi, Metta Rama Rao received the award on behalf of the State government. Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh gave away the award.
services to different parts of south India from March 2. The airline now is flying passengers from Vijayawada to Hyderabad thrice in a day along with frequent flights between Vijayawada- Chennai and Vijayawada- Bengaluru. The airline announced they would soon start a service to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Dubai, Singapore, Sharjah among other cities via Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai. The fares start at Rs 1799 for one-way ticket from Vijayawada to Hyderabad and vice versa.

Kapil Dev pitches for Golf courses in AP

Legendary Indian Cricketer Kapil Dev will now play a pivotal role in promotion and setting-up of Golf courses in AP. Keeping in mind the foreign investors and tourists, the State has directed SAAP to spruce up two golf courses- Mulapadu in Krishna and Penukonda in Anantapur. Kapil Dev, who is known for his great involvement in Golf will now look over the designing and developing of golf courses. These courses will initially have 9 holes and will be extended to 18 holes later.

Vizianagaram tops in Niti Ayog survey

In the baseline survey conducted by Niti Ayog on transformation of inspirational districts, Andhra Pradesh’s Vizinanagaram topped the list out of the 116 districts with a rating of 48.13. Kadapa is ranked 4th with 47.43 per cent followe by Visakhapatnam in the 13th place with 42.66 per cent. The baseline survey is conducted in 680 districts across country in November 2017 taking education, health, skill development, health, industries, agriculture, development of basic amenities and financial related sectors as parameters. The survey identified 115 districts as the most backward in the country and among them, with a rate of 48.13 per cent, Vizinanagaram stood as inspirational district. Vizinanagaram bagged the top place in agriculture in sector-wise rankings.

Weavers Welfare Board on cards

In order to protect the livelihood of lakhs of families dependent on the profession, CM Chandrababu Naidu has agreed to establish a Weavers’ Welfare Board, on the lines of Labour Welfare Board. According to a survey, there are about 8 to 9 lakh families dependent on hand-loom and pensions are being given to 72,000 weavers, who are above 50 years of age. CM sanctioned additional 25,000 pensions recently and is keen to extend maximum support to weavers’ and their families, told Handloom Minister K Atchannaidu.

Tourism Minister to pursue Political Science

Minister of Tourism Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh, Bhuma Akhilapriya, is now going to pursue Masters in Political Science at AcharyaNagarjuna University. The young minister has expressed interest in studying political science in distance mode when she attended a sports meeting held at the university, as a chief guest. Vice Chancellor Rajendra Prasad readily offered her an application. On the occasion, she also called out to the women folk to put their goals ahead and work toward them.

Writer Nayuni Krishnamurthy passes away at 67

Prolific Telugu writer Nayuni Krishnamurthy, who was suffering with prolonged illness, breathed his last on March 1 at a hospital in Bengaluru. Born in 1951 at Nadimcharla of Gurramkonda mandal, Chittoor district, Nayuni grew up to become a noted writer. By the age of 23, he authored his first novel ‘Yamini kuntalalu’ and was popular for introducing ‘Mabadi’ and ‘Patashala’, periodicals for the high school students. Nayuni was widely known as the lyricist of a hit song ‘Sumam Prati Sumam’ in the film ‘Maharshi’. He was running Vijayavani Educational institutions at Chowdepalli district until his death.

A/C water bus on river Krishna

The Tourism department will launch an air-conditioned water bus service on Krishna River at the Bhavani Island. The water bus (boat) with a fibreglass cover offers sofa seating arrangement for about 30 persons. Every person in the boat can savour the beauty of the river while sitting at the comfort of the air-conditioning. The service is suitable for holding corporate meetings and private events, according to officials. The boat will sail between Bhavani Island and Pavitra Sangamam in Ibrahimpatnam and other points in the core capital region.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu congratulated young shuttler Srikanth Kidambi for receiving the honor of ‘Padma Shri’ award from President Ram Nath Kovind, at a ceremony held at New Delhi on March 20. Taking to his social media account, CM wrote, “Congratulations to our pride, @srikidambi on being conferred upon with the prestigious Padma Shri Award. Hope that you continue to inspire the youth with your dedication & hard work.” Upon receiving the award, Srikanth has put up a picture of him and wrote, “I thank the government of India, my family, my coaches and the support staff for believing in me and taking good care of me.” Srikanth, who met AP CM recently was given appointment letter as Deputy Collector.
Franklin Templeton Investments, a fortune 500 company, has come to Visakhapatnam. Speaking after inaugurating the office of Franklin Templeton Investments, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said Visakhapatnam will become a fintech hub in the country in future as information technology sector was gaining momentum in the state.

It was a good sign that a Fortune 500 company like Franklin Templeton Investments had chosen to set up a centre in the city, he said. "The company will invest Rs 450 crore here gradually on setting up the centre and provide 2,500 high-end jobs. Today it has opened the office," he added.

Naidu recalled how the company had first set up the centre in Hyderabad in the undivided AP way back in 2002 and expressed confidence that the Vizag centre would be even more successful than the one in Hyderabad. This will be the company’s first facility in Vizag after Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai, and will focus on building core competencies in investment management data science.

Franklin Templeton Investments, president and Chief Operating Officer, Jennifer M Johnson said the company had confidence and faith in the Chief Minister, the key architect and visionary, who built the IT sector in Hyderabad and is now doing so in Visakhapatnam. She expressed confidence that the Vizag centre would flourish.

She said, "Once fully operational, our Vizag centre will play a key role in the firm’s technology plans and this inauguration marks a new chapter in our relationship with India. The fintech centre will be modelled along the lines of our Hyderabad facility which serves as a global offshore support center for Franklin Templeton".

The Vizag facility will serve as a Center of Innovation and one of the key tech hubs for Franklin Templeton Investments globally. The firm will look to leverage its strategic investment pool to invest in disruptive companies and launch vertical disruptors through a rapid development process where 'concept to prototype to design/development' will be nurtured in an expedient manner, the company said in its statement.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the centre of Conduent Inc. in the IT park at Rushikonda. The company will generate 5,000 jobs in the next two years and will invest roughly Rs 650 crore. Naidu said he was trying to create the right eco-system for IT companies to flourish in the city. In this connection, he lamented that some political parties were creating hurdles in the onward march of the state on the path of progress. He said unfortunately a hue and cry was being raised over the allotment of land on the beach road to Lu Lu group to build a world class convention centre and shopping mall.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also participated in the second convocation ceremony of the IIM-Vizag where he exhorted the MBA graduates to become entrepreneurs instead of mere job-seekers. IIM Visakhapatnam Chairman Manohar Bhatia lauded Naidu for making Vizag a clean city. He said, "IIM Vizag has recorded better progress than many other IIMs. He said, "that various types of courses are being offered to the students and existing courses being updated according to the changing needs of the industry, which shows our ability to adapt to the changing requirements of the marketplace".

The Chief Minister Naidu flagged off International Yachting Festival in Visakhapatnam on the same day. State IT Minister Nara Lokesh, Human Resource Development Ganta Srinivasa Rao along with other MLAs graced the event. The festival was also supported by Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT). Several national and international tourists across globe participated in the festival. Visakhapatnam port trust constructed harbour and jetty to boost the tourism, coated around Rs 3.5 crore. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that this festival will bring more employment and tourism. He also said that Visakhapatnam is a very beautiful city and the state government was trying to make it a tourist destination and a tourism hub.
Pic 1: Chief Minister in a meeting with Tun Samy Vellu, Special Envoy for Infrastructure to South Asia, Malaysia, which is conducting a feasibility study for the Technology Park being established in Amaravati.

Pic 2: CM and family including Hindupur MLA Balakrishna during a visit to Tirumala.

Pic 3: Governor ESL Narasimhan visited RTG Centre at Velagapudi and appreciated its working.

Pic 4: CM launching ‘Palakarimpu’, a programme to administer vaccines to children below five years of age.

Pic 5: Chandrababu Naidu, his family, along with Minister Akhila Priya celebrating Ugadi, the Telugu New Year.

Pic 6: Newly appointed RTC Managing Director Surendra Babu IPS making courtesy call on CM.
Ranked No. 1 in EASE OF DOING BUSINESS
by World Bank - Government of India

“ANDHRA PRADESH. LEADING INDIA BY EXAMPLE.”

N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU
HON’BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH

- Top State in attracting private sector investment**
- No. 1 in ‘Implementation of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programmes’ ***
- Top State in the ‘Infrastructure’ category by India Today
- Leader in marine exports
- GDP growth rate of 12.26% in Q1 (April–June 2018)****
- Home to the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC)
- Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC)

IN THE BUSINESS OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Visionary leadership
Power surplus state offering 24x7 power
Leader in energy efficiency and conservation programmes
Single Desk Portal for approvals within 15 days
Robust policy framework with best-in-class incentives
Education hub
Excellent connectivity through ports, airports, railways, and roadways
Stable industrial relations environment

Be a part of this rewarding journey in the Sunris State. Welcome back to Visakhapatnam.

RSVP: Govt. of Andhra Pradesh at sunriseapmeet@ap.gov.in Call at 9808365880

27-28 January 2017
APCIC Ground, Visakpatnam, Andhra Pradesh