CM Chandrababu Naidu has scored a moral victory in the no-confidence motion moved against the Centre’s denial of justice to residual Andhra Pradesh. The motion itself might have fallen through, but the State was successful in exposing the utter lack of commitment on the part of the Centre in the implementation of AP Reorganisation Act.
The no-trust motion moved on behalf of five crore Andhra people in Parliament against the Central Government’s refusal to accord Special Category Status attracted massive public response in AP. In solidarity with the MPs’ move, the people, along with local representatives including Ministers took out torch and candle rallies across the state, expressing their anger and disappointment.

Rallies were taken out at every nook and corner of the State demanding fulfillment of AP Reorganisation Act promises. Public took part voluntarily in these protests for according Special Category Status to the region as assured in the Act.

In the picture above, Minister for Major Irrigation Devenineni Uma Maheswara Rao, MLAs Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao, Jaleel Khan, Bode Prasad, MLC Budha Venkanna among others led the protests that took place in Vijayawada.
A Fight Between Morality And Majority

Entire Andhra Pradesh waited for justice, only to be disappointed time and again. They have majority but they breached "neeti". We will keep fighting till we get what is our due, thundered Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on the eve of no-confidence motion against the Centre.

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1500 Days of Good Governance

Unkept Promises, Day in and Day Out!

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Project Gandiva to groom capable sportsmen from the State

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A Proud Moment

AP has done it again. For the third year in a row, the Sunrise State has occupied the number one position in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) rankings in the country. It is creditable that the State topped the list for the third consecutive year with the highest score of 98.42 per cent. For a new State still struggling with the pangs of its caesarean birth, this achievement is remarkable and is a testament to the visionary leadership that AP has been blessed with.

These rankings are credible and highly valued because they are prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) of the Government of India based on World Bank guidelines. What qualitatively differentiates this year’s score is the introduction of feedback garnered from actual users of the business services provided by the government departments. The listings – an elaborate exercise carried out over a period of many months – have further enhanced the image of the State in its quest for emerging as the most sought after investment destination.

Kudos must go to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu who made this extraordinary accomplishment possible. From day one, he had set the goals, fixed time-frames, fired up the officials and spurred various departments into actionable programmes. At the same time, he went around various countries to attract businesses and explore investment opportunities in the fledgling State. As a result, AP has signed 2,284 MoUs for investment of about Rs 16 lakh crore paving the way for generating 34 lakh jobs in the days to come.

The CM now wants the State to compete with the top 15 countries in the world in Ease of Doing Business. That is the mark of a leader who is barely content with resting on laurels.

Even as the Government is committed to achieving its development targets, the Chief Minister has ensured there was no let up in pressing for the rightful entitlements due and unfulfilled promises made to Andhra Pradesh. The latest no-confidence motion against the Centre was successful in its primary objective of creating awareness across the country over the denial of justice to the State. Young MPs Galla Jayadev and Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu deserve special mention for articulating the angst of the people of the State with great passion and anguish.

It is all the more admirable that the State has been performing at the top in various areas despite the legacy issues that it had to contend with. The latest proof of this positive mindset is EoDB rankings. It is this spirit of looking ahead that will drive us into an exciting future.
Grama Darshini is a new programme of the State Government that does not let the people to remain mere spectators, but be the participants of the governance. The 75-day long ‘Grama Darshini’ programme launched on July 16, coinciding with Chandrababu government completing 1,500 days in office, was, in other words, another effort to bring people closer to the administration to have their voices heard and their needs met more efficiently and effectively.

‘Grama Darshini- Grama Vikasam’ Programme, launched by the Chief Minister, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, will be organised in every Assembly constituency every week, till January 10. The staff of the local governance was instructed to mingle with the people and visit every household and interact with every family to create awareness among the people on the developmental efforts, the welfare programmes of the government. A detailed note on the problems faced by the people in the vicinity must be prepared for the redressal in Grama Sabhas. The gramas sabhas, under Grama Darsini programme, will be conducted in every village, to solve the problems and also to highlight the achievements of the government during the last four years. The aim of highlighting many welfare schemes such as Chandranna Bima, Chandranna Bharosa - the social security pensions, the fee reimbursement and enhanced salaries of the employees etc, is intended to create awareness among the eligible to make use of the schemes. The objective of the 75-day programme is to take the administration to the doorsteps of people and resolve their grievances there and then. The programme has already kick-started on July 16 and the officials started visiting the SC and ST colonies and local government offices and institutions, besides dining with school children to have a taste of the mid-day meal being served to them.

Setting Example

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu himself set an example to the officials in eliciting feedback on implementation of government schemes in ‘Grama Darshini’. Marking the launch of the programme in a Dalit hamlet, which was part of the Vemuru Assembly constituency, Guntur district, he engaged the women in a discussion on implementation of welfare schemes such as Chandranna Bima (accidental insurance), Chandranna Bharosa (monthly pension) and provision of ration through fair price shops.

Before the interactive session, the CM walked through the lanes of the Dalit colony to have first-hand experience of the difficulties most families were facing in the construction of houses. A tenant farmer complained that he was not getting loan from the bank to take up farming. During the interface with villagers, the CM sought the list of pensioners in the village from village secretary and crosschecked with the list available with his CORE Dashboard. He summoned the three fair price dealers and engaged one of his accompanying officers to check the satisfaction levels of the public distribution system. Much to the relief of the dealers, the figures in the data matched with their words.

“This is why I encourage technology in a big way. Sitting in my office, I know what exactly is happening at the ground level. I know the number of people getting pension, the exact delivery of ration, and the number of street lights functioning in each village,” the CM said.

He was touched by the poignant story of a young widow, a beneficiary of Chandranna Bima, Vemula Sireesha, who lost her only companion - her mother - recently. The CM appreciated her for re-couping to become community resource person for the Zero Based Natural Farming.

Ministers Nakka Ananda Babu, and Pattipati Pulla Rao, Collector Kona Sasidhar, Bapatla MP Malyadri and MLAs A. Rajendra Prasad (Tenali) and A. Satya Prasad (Repalle) were present along with the CM.
Representing the angst of 50 million people of disgruntled Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu made Vijayawada MP Kesineni Srinivas (Nani) move no-confidence motion in Lok Sabha against the Union government for its ‘lack of fairness, lack of trust, lack of priority and the lack of an unbiased approach’ towards the residuary Andhra Pradesh. The outcome was predictable- the motion was defeated. But, the CM, through his brigade of MPs, proved the so-called majority was merely a number that could technically indulge in empty posturing for the public.

The no-confidence motion gave Andhra Pradesh a podium to present its case before the nation. Chandrababu made the political spectrum of the country enunciate what it thinks of four years of Modi regime, with regional parties attacking the BJP over AP-specific, as well as national concerns. The MPs from the State, representing TDP, Galla Jayadev, Kesineni Nani and K Ram Mohan Naidu took the opportunity to explain to the country at large on the Centre’s refusal to honour its promise to accord special category status (SCS) to Andhra Pradesh. The debate, which lasted for 12 hours, involved the entire political spectrum represented in the two Houses, which was also present in 2013 when the bifurcation of AP was discussed and SCS for residuary AP was promised. It was for all these to see how the promise has not been kept, and how Andhra was betrayed.

We reproduce the speeches made in Parliament by MPs G Jayadev and K Ram Mohan Naidu exposing the failure of the Centre to honour promises made in the same august House.

Entire Andhra Pradesh waited for justice, only to be disappointed again, said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on the outcome of no-confidence motion. They have majority but they breached "neeti". But the fight will go on, he said.

A Fight Between Morality And Majority
Madam Speaker,

Non-implementation of an Act of Parliament is a national issue. Non-implementation of assurances given by none other than the PM on the floor of Parliament, during consideration of the AP Reorganization Bill, without which this Bill would not have been passed, is also a national issue. So, it is not prudent to say that the issues of AP are not national issues; they are certainly national issues and also emotional issues for the people of AP and today it is a litmus test to Parliament how it ensures implementation of these and similar other issues.

It is not a war between BJP and TDP; it is a war between the Modi Regime and the 5 Cr people of AP. This No Confidence Motion has been brought by the TDP because of 4 reasons – Fairness, Trust, Priority and Bias. Or rather, lack of Fairness, lack of Trust, lack of Priority, and lack of an unbiased approach.

I will be focusing on my speech which reflects the voice of 5 Cr people of AP and it will be focusing on these four aspects. It has been 4 years since the bill is passed and 2 new States were formed. Telangana is not a new State, AP is a new State. All the challenges and burdens are to be faced by AP. We are the ones who have to build infrastructure, capital, industrial base etc., where Telangana has all of them.

When AP was divided

- AP was burdened with huge revenue deficit of 16,000 crores.
- 1.31 lakh crores of loan burden was put on AP;
- 24,000 crores undivided loan burden put on AP for which interest is being paid by GoAP which shattered our FRBM limits;
- Power allocation was made on consumption basis -- AP is the loser;
- Refund of tax liability made on the basis of population at 58% for AP and 42% for Telangana -- AP is loser since it has very, very limited revenue generation sources;
- Assets have been given on the basis of their location -- AP lost 3,800 crores;
- Singareni Collieries -- a Schedule IX Co., -- given to Telangana with 51% equity. But, similar dispensation for its subsidy APHMLE in AP which is also a Schedule IX Co., has not been given to AP. Is it equal justice?
- Pension liabilities from the combined State divided on the basis of population i.e., 58:42 thereby burdened AP. Is it equal justice?

Bifurcation impact on economy

AP is a Southern State. It was one of four Southern States and now is one of five. The undivided AP was competing on all parameters with other Southern neighbours. Now, after asymmetrical bifurcation, Telangana with less population, has been given more resources and AP with more population has been given less resources.

Assurances

Then-PM, MMS, has given 6 assurances on 20-02-2014 on the floor of RS. They are:

- Special Category Status for 5 years.
- Industrial incentives on the lines of 11 States.
- Assistance to backward districts on the lines of Bundelkhand and KBK districts.
- Amendment for Polavaram i.e., to bring back 7 Mandals to AP.
- Distribution of assets and liabilities to be completed satisfactorily.
- Revenue deficit between the appointed day and acceptance of 14 FC recommendations to be compensated in 2014-15. It is 10 months from June, 2014, to March, 2015.

On Special Category Status

Congress Party, in 2014, sliced ‘Telugu Talli’ into two pieces in crude, unscientific and irrational way and Shri Narendra Modi, while campaigning in AP, had rightly said and I quote:

“Congress killed the mother and saved the child. Had I been there, I would have saved the mother too.”

People of AP fell flat for this statement and determined in their heart and soul that, come what may, we will be with Mr. Modi. We have waited; people of AP waited for four long years that Mr. Modi would save the mother. Instead of saving AP, Mr. Modi, through the FM, through his press conference on 7th March, 2018, announced that no SCS...
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu took serious exception to PM’s ‘misleading’ speech during no-confidence motion debate on July 20 in Lok Sabha. He went all the way to Delhi from Vijayawada to explain to the nation why his party, on the behalf of 5 crore people, moved no-confidence motion on NDA government, besides exposing the lies of the PM. Speaking at a press conference, convened in Delhi, the CM ridiculed Modi for accusing him of taking a “U-turn” by withdrawing support from the NDA government.

“I have not taken U-turn on special category status. In fact, you have taken the U-turn on the promise,” CM said. Giving a point-by-point rebuttal to Modi accusations, Chandrababu explained how the PM broke all the promises that he had made to Andhra Pradesh when he came to power.

“Because of the bifurcation, AP lost out on many things. So we had thought that we would need the support of a national party to get the state back into shape. The BJP had assured us that all promises made to AP in the bifurcation Act will be fulfilled. And that special category status will also be accorded to the state. In the last four years, I came to Delhi 29 times to meet the Prime Minister but all my appeals went unheard,” he said.

He said that the Prime Minister was “misleading” the people by saying that it could not grant a Special Category Status to AP on the basis of the 14th Finance Commission’s recommendations. “Nowhere in the Finance Commission recommendations is it mentioned that SCS cannot be granted. The Centre now says that it (Special Status) can be granted only to northeastern and hilly states, but the government is misleading. It (the decision to accord Special Status) is entirely an executive decision. The Special Status is our right. We will not accept the betrayal,” he said.

He also refuted Modi’s claim that the Centre was ready to give a special assistance package that would be commensurate to Special Category. The TDP chief listed several projects for which Central funds were owed to the state but had not been disbursed in the last four years.

“Entire Andhra Pradesh waited for justice, only to be disappointed again. They have majority but they breached ‘neeti’. The Prime Minister’s speech has caused much pain. As part of our continuous fight, we introduced this no-confidence motion,” he added.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that industrial incentives given to other SCSs will no longer exist post-GST implementation which is completely a misleading statement. Even then, we insisted that whatever industrial incentives that these States get post-GST implementation should be given to AP as well on the lines of assurance given by PM. But, what AP given is 15% additional depreciation on new plant & machinery and 15% additional investment allowance. But, they are given only to backward areas, not to the entire State.

Secondly, it is not exclusively for 7 districts of AP. It is for all the 150 backward districts in the country. What is special for AP? There is nothing special. Whereas, even post-GST implementation, the SCSs continue to get industrial incentives in line with what they were getting earlier. As per the Notification issued in July, 2017, in pursuance of Budgetary support of Rs. 27,000 crores to the existing 4,324 units in SCS, till sunset period of March, 2027.

And, again, on 21st March, 2018, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry approved the North-East Industrial Development Scheme with a financial outlay of Rs. 3,000 crores to North-East States up to March, 2020.

Backward districts

Section 46(3) of AP Reorganisation Act talks about special development package for backward districts in AP. This emanates from the assurance given by PM. But, this assurance has been diluted in the Act. The assurance was to provide package on the lines of KBK districts in Odisha and Bundelkhand in MP and UP. If you look at all economic and human development indicators, it reveals that all 7 backward districts are closer to SCSs rather than other Southern States. But, Modi Regime has given just 1050 crores for 7 districts for 3 years. It is not in line with what has been given to KBK and Bundelkhand under special package. KBK was given 5,500 crores and Bundelkhand was given 7,200 crores each to UP and MP. And, if you calculate per capita allocation, it is mindboggling to know. Under Bundelkhand package per head allocation of
Rs. 4,115 was made. Whereas, for AP, per head allocation is just Rs. 428.57. So, what GOI given to AP is pittance! Secondly, BJP is crying foul that we have not spent even this small amount of money. We have spent 946 crores out of 1050 crores which is 92% of allocation, not 12% as claimed by them. We have UCs to prove that.

Thirdly, Finance Ministry proposed additional 350 crores and RBI released it on 9th February, 2018. But, PMO stopped giving clearance to it on 15th February, 2018. So, funds have gone back to RBI. Now, GOI has given Defence industrial corridor worth Rs. 20,000 crores for Bundelkhand. But, in case of releasing a paltry 350 crores, the file is languishing in the PMO for the last 6 months.

Why this bias and partisan attitude, Mr. PM? Is this the way you wanted to help backward districts in AP? It is a shame. Therefore, this promise also remains unfulfilled.

Distribution of assets/Taxation anomalies
We are even deprived in distribution of assets. If you look at Sections 50, 51 & 56, there is a huge discrepancy in right to recover tax arrears and sharing of liability of refund of tax arrears. This has resulted 3820 crores loss to AP. There is a great delay in apportionment of institutions under Section 68 of the Act. AP Bhawan is yet to be divided between the two.

On Revenue Deficit
There is a dispute with regard to the quantum of amount between GoAP and GOI. Revenue deficit for 10 months i.e., from 2nd June, 2014, to 31st March, 2015, as per GoAP, is Rs. 16,078.76 crores. GOI released Rs. 3,979.50 crores. Unilaterally taking ‘standardised expenditure’, GOI qualified it at Rs.4117 crores making the balance to be paid as 138.39 crores only. But, the bone of contention is:

- CAG put the figure at 16,078 crores and even approved it.
- Ministry of Finance made its own valuation and put the figure at 7,500 crores;
- PMO reduced it to 4,117 crores without any explanation;
- FM now says he can give only 138 crores.

How is it justified, Mr. PM?
Secondly, as I said earlier, GOI has increased devolution of funds from 32 to 42%. But, there are Cesses such as Krishi Kalyan Cess, Swachh Cess, Higher Education Cess, etc. If you look at how much GOI collected through above Cesses and other surcharges under direct and indirect taxes in 2016-17, it is mindboggling. Rs. 2.35 lakh crores collected. But, there is no share for States in these Cesses. So, effectively, it is not 42%, but it is somewhere around 36-37%.

BJP is saying that 22,113 crores have been given to AP alone as Revenue Deficit. It is wrong. 14 FC has also recommended revenue deficit of 4519 crores to Kerala; Rs. 11716 crores to West Bengal. They are all statutory allocations. But, the tragedy is that even after 5 years of Award period of 14 FC, AP is the only State which will remain revenue deficit, except SCSs. So, BJP wanted to equate AP with North-Eastern States and not willing to bring it at par with other Southern States! How is it justified?

EAP projects
GOI says that 8,800 crore worth of EAP projects approved for AP. But, GOI has not issued any guidelines. When guidelines are not issued, nothing can be spent. So, GoAP is paying the interest of Rs. 5 crores on approved loans. Since guidelines have not been framed, GoAP asked for routing them through NABARD. But, again, here, you are putting FRBM on AP. Finally, Finance Ministry agreed that they could not issue guidelines for EAP projects. So, we have asked for NABARD. Then, they said to set up an SPV. Whether there is any history in the country to set up SPV for EAPs, to route funds through SPV and FRBM will also be borne by the State? So, it is totally a delay tactics of the Finance Minister.

On Rs. 13,472 crores given to AP
FM and President of AP BJP unit have been trumpeting through press conferences that they have given Rs. 13,472 crores to AP and they have also said that they have never given such huge amount to any other State. But, what you have given is this.

Out of 16,078 crores revenue deficit, you have given 3,979 crores.
For Polavaram, project cost is 58,000 crores, but you have given 6,764 crores.
You have given 576 crores for 11 institutions whereas the required amount is 11,672 crores.
For new capital, we need 43,000 crores, but you have given 1550 crores.
We should get 23,000 crores for backward districts, but you have given 1050 crores.
So, GoAP is asking for 1.54 lakh crores, whereas, you have given just 13,472 crores.
Government is saying that it is fulfilling all the promises. merely giving 2-3% of funds, is it fulfillment?! Mr. PM, is this justified?!

Amaravati
Section 94(3) says that financial support for creation of essential facilities in the new capital of AP would be provided by GOI. The estimates were made. Rs. 43,000 crores is required over a period of 5 years to construct essential infrastructure in Amaravati. But, GOI has given just 1,500 crores and now screaming, instead of releasing more money, that GoAP has not submitted UCs in spite of submitting the same. Out of 1,500 crores given by GOI, GoAP submitted UCs for 1,583 crores.

PM is constructing Dholera city in Gujarat. It is 80 kms away from Ahmedabad. Dholera would be twice the size of Delhi, which took 1000 years to grow to what it is now. Dholera proposed to be six times bigger than Shanghai. Is it wrong for the enterprising people of Andhra Pradesh to dream of having a world class capital?
K injarapu Rammohan Naidu, late Yerran Naidu's son, is junior among the lot of MPs, but has taken the House by storm with his genuine outpouring of hurt feelings in an anguished speech, delivered in impeccable Hindi. The first time Parliamentarian in his hard-hitting speech on the no-trust motion, posed pointed questions to the PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh, about the unfulfilled promises made to AP. He exposed the double-speak of the central authorities, while dealing with the Infrastructure and Institutions-related issues of the AP Reorganisation Act.

Questioning on the delaying tactics being adopted on Visakhapatnam Railway Zone, which is part of the AP Reorganisation Act, RammohanNaidu referred to the seven new Railway zones created since the Chief Minister of AP started pursuing the same since 8th December, 2014. Rammohan Naidu also referred to the promise made on Polavaram project, the lifeline of AP, detailing the statistics with updated DPR with an estimated cost of Rs. 58,000 crores including rehabilitation and resettlement. He questioned the half-hearted manner in which the 11 Central institutions, promised in the Act, were meagerly funded. As only Rs. 638 crores were given against the requirement of Rs. 11673 crores, these institutions might take years before they could function to their full capacity.

He said one more instance of ignoring the needs of AP was related to Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) that is progressing at snail’s pace. Referring to the release of a whopping Rs. 17,500 crores as equity to Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and initiation of Mumbai-Gurgaon Expressway with Rs.60,000 crores, he asked the PM why VCIC was not a priority for the Centre.

Excerpts from Ram Mohan Naidu speech:
What happened to the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone? Why is there a delay?
When the debate on bifurcation was on, the very same Venkaiah Naidu and Arun Jaitley said the SCS should be there for AP for 10 years and not five years. Why don't they do it now? You keep changing the word once a year and are we not supposed to ask you about the same?
You say you have given institutions but how much have you released. Only 5 per cent of the total funds? When will you give the rest? In the next 80 years? Who will study in them and who will see them?
You construct your party headquarters in Delhi in two years with 70 rooms, digital library and latest facilities but not establish universities promised to us?
What happened to the petro chemical complex promised to us? What happens in Gujarat where ONGC etc spend thousands of crores but similar projects would not happen in AP just because you don't keep your word.
What happened to the Metro?
Where would we go if we don’t talk here and demand here. This is the biggest temple of democracy in the country. Here is where the Act was made and here is where we demand the same. We did not know the Congress would support it today. Just the 15 members, all of us, started this. Allow us to demand and ask the PM to answer. It is not my promise. It is the PM’s promise. He repeatedly told us that he would give the status for 10 years. We are only seeking the same.
Following the new sports policy announced for the period 2017-22 with a mission to groom sports talent, the State government initiated a unique programme 'Project Gandiva' that helps nurture the young talent by training them as competitive sportsmen.

The project was formally launched on July 24 at Vidyadharapuram in Vijayawada where Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu also laid foundation stone for the construction of prestigious ‘Amaravati International Sports Complex’, in the presence of some top sports talent in the State. The sports complex is designed to be built in 8.9 acres with a budget of Rs 60 crore. The complex would feature world-class infrastructure with high-end equipment for sportsmen.

Renowned sports personalities Karanam Malleswari, Ashwini Nachappa, Anil Kumble, Koneru Humpy, Navy sailor lieutenant commander P Swati, Ram Singh Shekawat among others were present during the project launch. The Chief Minister felicitated the sports personalities who came down to take part in the launch of Project Gandiva. Special Chief Secretary L V Subramanyam, Minister for Sports, Kollu Ravindra, District Sports Development Authority, members of SAAP and public representatives were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM said, “Andhra Pradesh is launching ‘Project Gandiva’ to revolutionise sports culture in the State. Under this project, State government will select students of age between 10-16 years from village to State level, and provide them with international level facilities, infrastructure and coaching.”

“Project Gandiva will ensure that every talent in the State of Andhra Pradesh is identified, nurtured and trained by international coaches. We will see Olympians rise from this sunrise State,” the CM said. Project Gandiva is a long-term athletic development programme designed by the State. As part of the policy, the talented sportspersons will be picked up and groomed to compete at national and international events so that they win medals and bring laurels to the State in particular.

For 2018-19, a long-term athletic development scheme under the programme was launched. The objective is to ensure that AP excels in sports in a span of 10 years from now. The project envisages that by 2021, the State should become number one in national athletics and by next year, the State should secure medals in Asian and Commonwealth Games. By 2024, State should represent Olympics and by 2028 Olympics, they should win medals.

Accordingly, in pursuit of the target, government has already identified about 300 government schools and welfare educational institutions. Among them, 100 schools having a 200 meters track and play fields will function as hub and model to the Centre of Excellence at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. Besides, the government is establishing state sports academies, sports schools and sports nurseries. Selections will be held according to the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) guidelines to identify about 90 young students through seven simple tests. Then a team comprising SAAP coaches and members of the State Athletic Association will conduct final selections in every district. In selected 100 schools coaching will be provided by top class coaches and the trained athletes will be sponsored for Indian and international exposures.

Reputed international coaches from Jamaica, South Africa and Europe will be positioned at centre of excellence at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, who will train 100 physical literacy teachers of the State so that they can impart training in their respective institutions. All the children, parents, NGOs and youth clubs will be involved in identifying talented children.
Capitalising on **Amaravati**

**CM’s Singapore Visit**
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu proved again to be both Brand and also Brand Ambassador of Andhra Pradesh, during his 3-day whirlwind tour to Singapore. Singapore with which he struck a tremendous rapport to attract that nation into lending a helping hand for the development of the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh in general and the new capital of Amaravati in particular, is a familiar ground and no wonder he was all over during this tour, participating in global-level meetings to not only convince Singapore to provide expertise to help develop Amaravati as a world class city, but also make technology giants queue up for investments in Andhra Pradesh.

Chandrababu Naidu was the special guest along with Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe during the meet- World Cities Summit Mayors Forum, in which 120 city mayors from all over the world took part. While addressing Mayors Forum, he showcased Amaravati as investors’ destination. Impressed over the presentation of Chief Minister Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) director general of investment operations Pang Yee Ean said that they are willing to work with AP to develop roads, water supply, irrigation and electricity sectors. Lodha group CEO Abhishek Mangal Prabhat Lodha came forward to invest in malls and entertainment sectors in Amaravati. The Chief Minister invited Ftescure Metals Group of Australia to set up steel plant in Kadapa. It may be noted that Ftescure has come forward to set up a floating storage des-gasification unit and lithium battery manufacturing unit in AP.

Metro rail unit in AP
In addition, the SMH Rail of Malaysia and Royal Holdings of Singapore expressed readiness to invest in metro rail manufacturing, infrastructure, entertainment and housing sectors. Its Group Project Director Jaheen Jaman said that his group was making efforts to establish metro rail manufacturing units in India and found Andhra Pradesh very conducive to set up one. He also briefed the Chief Minister on the group's acclaim in manufacturing new locomotives, making the old ones anew, and wheels and axles, besides electrical components. Jaman also revealed that the Group was working with major groups like the GE, Siemens, and Hyundai.

Aero Hub
The Managing Director of Eli Hajaj Group from Israel, Offer Gabinett expressed interest to set up aero hub in AP to produce 75 per cent of aircraft components and sought land allotment. The group promised to start production within six months after allotment of land, and said that it had the technical capabilities for setting up 30 to 40 units at one go. It already has a production unit in Bangalore and bagged many orders so far, he stated. The Chief Minister suggested him to meet his officers in Amaravati.

Affordable housing using modern technology
Addressing plenary session of World Cities summit in Singapore on the second day, the CM said the capital city of Amaravati would be developed protecting its ancient glory and providing modern infrastructure. Stating that Amaravati has a special place in the history of the country, he said the capital would reflect the wishes and hopes of five crore people. The Chief Minister also stressed on affordable housing with modern amenities in capital city.

The Chief Minister said priority would be given to protect water and environment while developing the capital city with modern technology. He said using internet of things the ground water, water sources, climate and air quality would be analysed to provide better living conditions in the city.

Steps have been taken for proper use of urban and rural garbage and encouraging people to switch over to natural farming to prevent usage of dangerous pesticides. Earlier, the Chief Minister had a glance at Singapore city solutions exhibition and directed the officials to study the housing pattern adopted by Singapore to provide affordable housing with modern amenities in Amaravati.

Stating that Amaravti is a major point of investments due to its blue green nature, 30 km water front, social infrastructure and trained manpower, the Chief Minister said to ensure sustainable ecology “..we are in-
creasing green cover and promoting Zero based natural farming in a big way’. He said Amaravati is going to emerge as a major economic hub and appealed to world giants to look at AP for investments.

Another welcome development was the willingness of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which came forward to provide financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh in highways, irrigation and energy sectors. Pang Yee Ean, AIIB Director General, said that already the AIIB representatives were working with Andhra Pradesh teams in the areas like rural roads and sanitation.

When Chandrababu Naidu wanted assistance in capacity funding, Pang Yee Ean responded positively and sought details of the project proposals. He also said that since he was involved in several projects of the State, he spent most of his time in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, he considered himself a citizen of AP, Pang Yee Ean, who is also working with the Singapore Government for setting up the Amaravati Urban Management Centre of Excellence, said. He also brought to the notice of the Chief Minister how he was personally involved in designing of the master plans for Amaravati, and assured the CM of a partnership in the AP housing projects.

The Dassaults Third Experience Laboratory CEO Bernard Charles said that they were working in collaboration with China, Seoul and Singapore and with this experience, Dassaults Systems would be able to acquire better in Amaravati. He explained about its plans to reduce day temperature in Amaravati capital region which would in turn help water conservation and greenery projects.

**Aussies invited to Kadapa**

Australia’s chief representative in Europe, India and South Asia Gautam Verma of Fortex Metals also met Chandrababu Naidu during the tour and explained to him the company’s expertise in mining of iron ore and exploration of natural gas in coastal areas. The Chief Minister said he should come forward to set up the steel plant in Kadapa upon which he assured that he would get back to him after consulting his partner companies.

Verma also revealed that they were making efforts to establish a lithium ion battery unit with the assistance of ISRO in India. He said that they were ready to set up a Floating Gas Storage regassification unit in Andhra Pradesh. Chief Secretary Infrastructure Ajay Jain assured him on making available the necessary infrastructure and early clearances to the project.

**Pact with Agribusiness**

The Agribusiness team from Germany met the Chief Minister during his Singapore tour. Discussions were held under the aegis of APEDB with Chief Customer Solutions Officer of the company Ilwin Tan. Already the company has an understanding for MoU with APEDB which will focus on ten products. Agribusiness was leader in raw material, food production and exports, Tan said. Chandrababu sought his cooperation for value addition to agriculture which has already recorded development due to several measures he had taken.

**Meeting with Singapore envoy**

Singapore envoy Gopinath Pillai explained to Chandrababu Naidu that a review meeting was being held once in three months on India-Singapore relations and other aspects. This step paved way for attracting investments. Success of agriculture and allied industries would be useful to the farming community, he opined. Chandrababu told him that Andhra Pradesh topped in agri yields in the country with the highest rate of development.

**Shrimp exports**

During the tour Chandrababu successfully explained how 60 per cent of shrimp exports of India were from Andhra Pradesh which contributed to development of
the country. A single window ensured all clearances to new industries within 21 days and Andhra Pradesh followed Singapore example in most of the administrative aspects, he stated. AP stood in no. 1 position with regard to creation of infrastructure, liberalized economy and concession to industries, he added.

**Honour for Chandrababu**

On the second day of tour, an MoU was signed between Asia Competitiveness Institute-Lee Kuan Yew School of Public policy and Government of Andhra Pradesh in capacity building. Participating in a panel discussion on ‘Urbanisation-water, environment and Transport management’ Chief Minister said that Amaravati capital would be developed as a blend of technology, innovation and culture. On the concluding day, in a meeting with Singapore Finance Minister Hung Swee Keat, the Chief Minister said that they are planning to increase usage of technology to serve the people better. He said that Singapore has a deep financial strength and AP has skilled manpower. The Chief Minister said that AP is ready to associate with Singapore in skill development initiative. Showering praises on Chief Minister as an able administrator, the Singapore finance minister compared him with the architect of modern Singapore Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father and first prime minister of Singapore, and said that they were happy to enter into tie up with AP.

**Skill development for Commerce grads in Cloud Accounting Software**

To skill 20 million people in 15 years by meeting skilled human power demands of all missions and shape AP as the skilled-workforce and Knowledge Hub for the world, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up multiple initiatives.

The Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) has joined hands with ‘Zoho’ and Insta Emi’s to impart training in ‘Cloud Accounting Software’ to the Commerce graduates. An agreement has been signed by the APSSDC Managing Director M Varaprasad and Director of Zoho, Narayanan, CEO of Insta Emi, Hanumanthu.

Under the guidance of APSSDC, 391 Employability Skills Centers across the state will be available to the students through Zoho and Insta Emi. Students who pursued Bachelors and Masters in Commerce, and studied Business Administration will be eligible to undergo training in Cloud Accounting Software.

Speaking on the occasion, Director of Zoho, Narayanan said, “Future cloud accounting software would have good demand in the market. Through its organization, B.COM second and third year students will be provided with skill training and they will get better job opportunities in the market. As per Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu instructions we have already started our office in Tirupati and we are recognizing Andhra Pradesh as a special state.”

Hanumanthu said, “Skill training in accordance with the opportunities offered in the financial market would help students get better self-employment and job opportunities. The event was attended by APSSDC MD and CEO M Varaprasad, Executive Directors of the APSSDC Anil Kumar and Balasubrahmanyam.”
Resembling Gurudwara’s langar, the food at the new eatery is served among people of diverse backgrounds, while fostering a spirit of togetherness. The eatery is - Anna Canteen, a new community kitchen by Government of Andhra Pradesh. Entrenched in the welfare tradition of the Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu, Anna Canteens across the State were launched to serve the destitute and the working class of informal sector at of cost of Rs 5 a meal.

On July 11, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated an ‘Anna Canteen’ at Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada kick-starting the services of affordable food for economically backward population of the State. He savoured food that was prepared in the kitchen, thus marking the launch of the programme. In the first phase, about 60 such canteens were inaugurated across State.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that the main objective of these canteens is to provide food security to the poor. “These 203 hygienic Anna canteens were planned to be constructed with advanced infrastructure that can compete with the commercial food giants. Out of this, 100 canteens have been inaugurated. Feedback will be taken about the quality and maintenance regularly. The supply of food will be monitored on the real-time basis in a transparent manner,” he added.

After completion of setting up 203 canteens, they will be able to provide 2.15 lakh meals every day. Each canteen is expected to serve at least 350 plates of food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The capacity could be extended up to 500 plates when needed. “This is a record and an example of the government’s commitment to the welfare of the poor,” added CM.

CM said that Anna Canteens accept donations made in the name of their near and dear ones. They can sponsor food for a few plates or for the entire segment of for the entire canteens. However, proper guidelines will be framed for the same before enthusiasts can make bookings for donations.

Spread across 35 cities in 11 districts, these Anna Canteens will provide over 2.15 Lakh plates of hygienic food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. With an aim of making healthy food affordable for all, the Government of AP has decided to bring these canteens to all urban local bodies bearing population of 50,000 and more.

As many as 203 Anna Canteens were planned to be built in 2 phases in 110 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the State with a budget demarcation of Rs 200 crore per year. Akshaya Patra Foundation will work in collaboration with the State.

60 Anna Canteens
Inaugurated across State

Quality food for Rs 5 at Anna Canteens
government’s Civil Supplies and Municipal Administration departments for Anna canteens. The second phase of the canteens will be completed by August in which 103 canteens are expected to be built.

**Surveillance and facial recognition**

The State Government has taken up this programme prestigiously and had put in place state-of-art facilities in technically equipping the canteens with CCTV surveillance cameras and gadgets. The display monitors, token issuing, feedback system and the distribution will help in hassle-free experience for the visitors. Every canteen sports decent interiors and a uniform elevation and design. Once a person enters, his fingerprint or Iris is captured for facial recognition. This will prevent entry of fraudulent people, said Chandrababu Naidu.

**Salient Features of Anna Canteens**

- Uniform infrastructure and design
- Standardised menu and quality of food
- CCTV surveillance in both canteens and kitchens
- Pleasant and green surroundings
- IVRS based feedback from stakeholders
- Audiovisual display and electronic token system
- RFID tracking of cooking vessels and vehicles
- Canteen-wise management information system
- Analytics for effective Monitoring.
The Andhra Pradesh State government has set a new record in housing by formally handing over the houses built for the people below poverty line under the NTR Housing scheme. As many as 3 lakh houses built for the beneficiaries in the second phase were inaugurated virtually by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on July 5. CM launched the programme- ‘Gruhamasthu’, at an elaborate event arranged at Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium (IGMC) in Vijayawada. The beneficiaries entered their allocated houses (housewarming) simultaneously as the local representatives have participated in the programme in their respective districts and constituencies, as CM viewed them through video conferencing. To prevent discrepancies in allocation of houses, government ensured that they all are geo-tagged.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said, “The government has inaugurated houses with geo-tagging to provide shelter to the needy in the State through NTR Housing Scheme. Inaugurating 3 Lakh houses in a single day is not only historic for people in Andhra Pradesh, but also to the whole country. Bringing happiness to these families is a major achievement for our government. There is a festive atmosphere throughout the State.”

We aim to build 19 lakh houses with an investment of Rs 50,000 crore by the end of 2019. Despite financial crisis, the State government is committed to TDP’s poll promises and has succeeded so far in building houses with Rs 6205 crore. We are working to extend the target by building an additional 5 Lakh houses. We will soon announce the construction of 60,000 houses to women. Another 2 lakh houses will be inaugurated on October 2,” added CM.

He recollected that houses built in the first phase under the scheme were inaugurated in 9,835 villages and 884 Wards in the year 2017.

“Inaugurating 1 Lakh houses in one day was a record then, and today that record has been broken by inaugurating 3 Lakh houses by us. We are going ahead with a clear and transparent policy especially when it comes to citizen welfare. All the details of the beneficiaries are registered and photos of their houses have been uploaded online. Anyone can check their details anytime and this is how we are into transparency,” he added.

District wise allocation table follows.

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The recent no-trust motion against NDA government in Lok Sabha helped expose the denial of justice to Andhra Pradesh. The MPs from the State, Galla Jayadev and Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, ripped apart the NDA Government’s claims of fulfilling 85 per cent of the bifurcation assurances. It is not merely the big promises that were broken; several projects in the pipeline were also given a go-by.

Here are a few vindictive instances of shelving major projects to AP that supplement the facts. Hostile Centre put at least five mega projects on hold, after everything seemed okay.

The first of them is the NTPC 4000 MW power project proposed to be set up at Pudimadaka in Visakhapatnam district. Acclaimed to be biggest of its kind in the State with all modern machinery estimated to cost over Rs.30,000 crore, the Centre put spokes into it by directing the project to use only domestic coal instead of imported coal which was originally planned.

The NTPC had already acquired 1200 acres for the project from the APIIC. Though the decision to shelve the project is not yet taken, it would be difficult to implement due to the new directive from the Centre as it requires a total change in the entire design and structure.

Similarly, the LNG terminal of Petronet LNG Ltd at Gangavaram port, which was set up as a joint venture by many major oil-making companies. The terminal with a capacity of 10 million tones and investment of nearly Rs.10,000 crore has not moved an inch though the public hearing for the project was held in the year 2013 itself.

Though the entire state knows that Visakhapatnam will be the major IT hub in Andhra Pradesh the Central government came with a decision to do away with the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) policy. The State government even identified nearly 6000 acres of non-processing area and over 4000 acres of processing land for the ITIR to be set up at a cost of nearly Rs.60,000 crore.

A consultancy firm conducted the survey and its proposal was sent to Centre’s approval which turned out to be a point of no return. The Centre has also come in the way of the petrochemical project near Kakinada demanding that the state pay the Rs.5,500 crore in advance. Due to paucity of funds, and the Centre also not releasing the funds which it is due to the State, the project may not be implemented as of now.

To rub salt into wounds, curbs are being imposed on civil airlines operations at Visakhapatnam international airport from November this year with the Navy deciding to introduce flying slot for military aircraft, which is seen as a big blow to the development of the port-cum-steel city. Visakhapatnam is the biggest tourist destination in the Sunrise state of Andhra Pradesh and a lot of investment for night-landing and other facilities has gone into the airport which is under the control of the Navy. Now, the Navy wants the airport for military aircraft training from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday, during which time the civilian aircraft operations will not be allowed. Of late, the air-travellers at Visakhapatnam airport has increased by leaps and bounds and any curbs will severely inconvenience the passengers and thereby the development of the city, observers opine. The Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said he had already written to the Centre and talked to the Navy officials to defer the decision by a few days till the Centre’s orders are issued. It is hoped that the restrictions at the airport are lifted to pave way for improved flight operations from the fast growing city.

- B Prabhakara Sarma
Andhra Pradesh State Government’s prestigious initiative ‘e-Pragati Core’ has been launched by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the grievance cell in his residence near Undavalli on July 19. With an objective of offering document-less government services, e-pragati core is a one-stop access point to all of the 750 government services in the State.

The motto behind the initiative is - ‘invisible government, visible governance’. E-Pragati core is easily the world’s largest and most complex government digital transformation project.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said, “We believe in data and it is wealth. The objective is to use data to create solutions so that we can move towards data-driven policy formulation. Efficient governance will eventually result in public happiness.”

“We have launched the first of its kind online government portal e-Pragathi, with a goal of taking technology to the masses. By integrating 34 departments, this portal will provide citizens with a single access to all government services. The e-Pragathi Core will provide 750 services to over 30 million citizens by integrating 34 departments on a single platform. The citizens will have a seamless service experience as they no longer have to go to government offices and can access the services from anywhere in the world,” he said.

As of now, there are about 20 services that e-Pragati offers and more services shall be included within the end of 2018. “Over 100 services will be added shortly. But, I asked the officials to offer over 300 services. You will see a complete transformation in the governance in the coming two years,” Naidu said.

To help determine the socio-economic trends at a micro level, e-Pragati relies on Aadhaar identification, opined CM adding that, “Earlier, people used to feel harassed as they were asked for unnecessary certificates/documents for availing most of the government services. They used to run from pillar to post for three months. Now, it is entirely different. People don’t need to go anywhere; the government will go to them.”

Elaborating on the services and upgradation of the initiative, CM said, “I want to go beyond the apps and use voice commands to do the business. I am certain that day is not far when we use voice to avail services.”
Meanwhile, IT minister Nara Lokesh and CEO of e-Pragati N Balasubramanyam gave a presentation on the five frameworks of the service— a single portal for all citizen services, APP store which would have apps of all departments, certificate-less governance system, license management system and e-Highway.

Explaining about government initiatives to move towards paperless government, IT Minister Nara Lokesh said certificate-less admissions were introduced in the State. “This initiative is the “mother of all digital platforms”. The certificate-less governance system will help the government in doing away with physical certificates and curbing fake certificates menace.

“The democratization of data would help to know the ground level problems of people. The taxation system at grass root level is also digitalised,” Lokesh said.

To realize the vision of ‘Sunrise State 2022’, the government has intended to introduce e-Pragati, which connects citizens to 34 departments, 336 autonomous organizations and more than 745 services that are included within them. The concerned authority will achieve its goals by supporting seven development missions launched in the areas of e-governance, skill development, social empowerment, infrastructure, industrial development, urban development and services sector. E-Pragati would be a unique platform to connect all departments and stand alone to resolve the issues. Co-ordination between government and people will yield great results in the coming days, opined CM.

Wonders could be done with IT and internet of things (IoT). The IT and IoT have been helping in a big way to improve performance of the government, stated Chandrababu referring to Andhra Pradesh which stood first in regard to Information Technology.

CEO of e-Pragati N Balasubrahmanayam explained the e-Pragati journey right from its beginning while IT adviser to the State government J Satyanarayana explained about IT revolution in AP.

The salient features of the meta-model of ePragati Core Platform are:

- At the heart of ePragati lies the ePragati Core Platform, which provides program level services, citizen related services rendered by each department, services internal to the department, provides API interface for applications external to the platform.
- The services of the ePragati Core Platform are critical for achieving the vision of ePragati Authority and GoAP, represented by the following goals:
  - One Government - ‘Citizen-centric’ service delivery with a citizen-life-cycle approach. The paradigm for service delivery is ‘Velocity, Access and Transparency’.
  - Single point of entry to government services provided through ePragati Portal.
  - Progress towards zero touch points in services through simplification, standardization and automation of services. - Ensure best experience “Minimum Interaction with citizen and Deliver Maximum Outcomes”.
  - Accessibility through multiple channels.
  - Integrated interface for communicating by and to the government of Andhra Pradesh, inter/intra departmental business functions and services.
  - ePragati Core Platform intends to deliver a proven and technological foundation for digital transformation of particular services, by enabling departments/organizations to streamline operations, deliver consistent service, and modernize operations without interruption.
  - ePragati Core Platform enables line departments of government to deploy highly automated applications without extensive configuration, which can precisely meet evolving policy needs and real time governance requirements.
  - ePragati Core Platform enables development of common applications which are agnostic of the department and relate to horizontal functions of the government, like performance management, productivity tools, workflow management and core data management, open API, messaging, user management, system administration and security. These common applications are built centrally and used in common by all the line departments, with appropriate configuration required by each department.
According to All India rankings in 2014, Andhra Pradesh has been visited by 9.3 Crore tourists at 5th place. In the latest rankings of 2017-18, with a footfall of 16.57 Crore tourists, Andhra Pradesh has secured third position in the country. The aim is to become number one tourist destination in the country by 2025 for which the state has taken up several initiatives.

This was revealed during a press tour initiated by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) to Vizag and Araku in the month of July.

Inhabited by fascinating indigenous tribes, the Eastern Ghats located in Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh need a special mention for their marvelous landscapes, mesmerizing locales and mysterious caves. Araku Valley is a popular hill station in India for its exquisiteness and verdant green environs.

With fantastic connectivity from around the country, the unique selling point of the region is a drive through some of the scenic and vibrant tourist attractions. As the region demands for more active and recreational tourism infrastructure, the Vishakhapatnam Tourism Council of Andhra Pradesh government has come up with a detailed project report for ‘Development of Araku Eco Tourism Circuit in Vizag’ under the ‘Swadesh Darshan Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

With an estimated project cost of Rs...
183.06 crore; Central government bearing Rs 159.06 crore and State government spending the rest of Rs 24 crore, the project is something that excites travelers and tourists across the country and world alike.

Speaking at the press conference held at Vishakhapatnam, Secretary for government of AP Tourism, Mukesh Kumar Meena elaborated on the plans for improvising the quality of tourism at Vizag region.

The progress plans include sprucing up accommodation and catering, transportation, tourist amenities, water sports, wayside amenities among others.

He explained that vast plans were made to be carried out at Srngavarapukota, Ananthagiri, Borra caves, Patherbaluguda, Vajralakonda, Chaparai waterfalls, Paderu, Dallapalli, Lambasingi, Erramatti Dibbalu, amenities for Yarada beach, Thotapalli reservoir, Kondakarla Ava, Siva Nagar beach (Uddaanam), Hill view resorts construction at Jagathipalli, Pudimadaka offshore area, Thotlakonda beach, Yendada and Mangamaripeta and Dallapalli.

As part of the progress works, tourists amenities center, souvenir shops, parking lots, beautification, power, water, signage facilities, food kiosks, craft villages, adventure sports, elevated view points, sports arena, nursery, conference halls, cottages, renovation of shops, wooden suspension bridge, Open air theatre and its renovation, installation of sculptures, cycle tracks, public convenience facilities, solar lighting system shall be equipped at the abovementioned destinations.

The development plans also include upgradation of Tribal museum, eat street, Araku Tribal Haat, Coffee tourism at Kollaput among others, in association with District Tourism Council of Vishakhapatnam and Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), said he.

In addition to them, the State government proposed to come up with elevated view points at three locations and develop Highway amenities along Ghat road for every 50 kilometers. The project shall be operated and maintained through professional hospitality agencies under management contract. The council also extends handholding support to the local tribal youth in providing skill development, added Mukesh.

Upgradation of accommodation and catering will take place at Yatrinivas, Haritha beach resort, Haritha Valley resort, Mayuri Complex Araku, Jungle Bells, Borra Caves, restaurant in Anantagiri, Haritha hill resort, Haritha beach resort in Baruva, Haritha hotel in kalingapatnam,

Beach shacks at Thotlakonda.

AP Tourism Development Corporation is operating package tours:

- Local sightseeing heritage tour
- Leisure tour-Night local package tour
- Araky Rail-cum-Road tour
- Araku-Tyda-Borra Caves by road
- Araky 2 days package tour
- Vizag- Bhadrachalam tour
- Bhubaneswar Tour
- Vizag-Araku-Jagdhalpur
- Arasawalli tour
- Vizag-Rajahmundry-Papikondalu

Araku Wellness Tourism

Responding to a query about developing Araku as a centre for Wellness, Tourism Secretary said, “We do have ample scope for introducing wellness and spa resorts in Araku but there isn’t a chance for any private enthusiasts to take up anything in Araku (Tribal areas) until and unless the government is involved. We are negotiating with some private operators who can provide services in government constructed buildings. An ayurvedic spa, medicinal plants park will likely come up in the region very soon.”

Tie-ups with private players

Meena further explained, “We have a target of making 1000 hotel rooms available in the next few years and by 2020, there shall be one lakh hotels rooms available in the region, as the vision set by Chief Minister. The State government has made arrangements with private startups like OYO, FAB Hotels to upgrade the rooms and focus on hotel rooms that have close proximity to the temple. The private players will look into the marketing and upgradation facilities.”

He emphasized on the need for budget hotel rooms as well as five-star category hotels in the region. “When compared to other States, we do not have five-star properties and resorts other than government operated. We are looking into developing the facilities,” said he.
For the second time again, Andhra Pradesh has outperformed the other 28 States and seven Union Territories (UTs) to become the best in the country to do business in, according to latest rankings released by the central government on July 10. States have been ranked on how well they have implemented 405 business reforms initiatives identified by the centre and the feedback from businesses.

As said by Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) third edition annual ratings of all States and UTs, Andhra Pradesh pushed behind the rest of them all, again with a score of 98.42 per cent and topped the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) list prepared by the World Bank and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Feedback score of Andhra Pradesh from the industrialists was 86.50 per cent, which is the highest of all the States, and helped Andhra Pradesh to top the list. In addition, the capacity to tweak the policies gave the State a winning edge. AP secured 99.73 per cent score in reform evidence and 86.50 per cent in feedback score.

Developmental reforms made in the past few years have made AP the most investor-friendly State. With companies like Kia Motors and Hero Motors already setting up base in the State, it won’t be long before Andhra Pradesh becomes the industrial hub of the country.
like Kia Motors and Hero Motors already setting up base in the State, it won’t be long before Andhra Pradesh becomes the industrial hub of the country. Accordingly, the government adopted industrial reforms to simplify the process of investing on businesses in the State. The policy and framework has attracted several international and national companies, start-ups and MSMEs to venture into AP. Besides, initiatives such as single window system, single desk bureau, environmental registration, plenty of land availability, access to information, online processing of industrial incentives, grievance redressal, and easy processing have helped Andhra Pradesh achieve the unique honor.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said, “Proud to inform that our efforts in improving the business scenario in Andhra Pradesh have paid off, as it has been declared the number one State in ‘Ease of Doing Business’ for the second time in a row. Developmental reforms made in the past few years have made AP the most investor-friendly State.”

“We will make more reforms and work towards achieving the distant number 1,” he added.

The latest ranking is based on 372 action points or reforms undertaken to ease regulation. It is aimed at triggering competition among states to attract investments and improve business climate.

Andhra Pradesh Planning Board vice-chairman Kutumba Rao opined, “We are putting in efforts to bring in a timeline for all clearances less than seven days through single window system integrated with the Chief Minister’s CORE dashboard in a transparent manner.”

**Feedback Score**

Out of the 372 recommendations, 78 action points will have feedback from the actual users or businesses. The feedback was collected from over 50,000 of the services professionals such as architects, lawyers and electrical contractors.

Meanwhile, Information Technology (IT) and Panchayat Raj Minister Nara Lokesh tweeted, “We've done it again! Andhra Pradesh is No. 1 in Ease of Doing Business. Reason why some of the best companies in the world are looking here to invest!! Kudos to NCBN.”

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![Table](table.png)
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.

Chief Minister's Social Network

Ramanarayanam temple is one of the must-visit places in Vizianagaram. It is located on the outskirts of Vizianagaram and designed based on the theme of 'Ramayana'. The temple is sculptured in a bow shape with a big Anjanyaya Statue. #AmazingAndhra @APTDCCofficial

Sreenivasan Malayath @Sreenivas... · 6h
Replied to @vzmgoap and @APTDCCofficial
Great place

Krishna Mohan N @krishnamogu... · 21h
Replied to @vzmgoap, @ncbn, and @APTDCCofficial
Nice Architectural Design

Shafiuulla Shaik @ShafiuullaSh... · 26 Jul
Replied to @vzmgoap, @ncbn, and @APTDCCofficial
Nice place to visit
The State government has released a progress card on the irrigation projects that were taken up during the ‘1500 days of good governance’ in Andhra Pradesh. The recent review of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari found 56.34 per cent of the prestigious Polavaram-works were completed. Expressing satisfaction, Gadkari said, “Completion of a large-scale project like Polavaram at this impressive rate is very difficult. I appreciate the determination and hard-work with which the government officials, engineers, contractors and workers are working.” The Central Minister’s words are an affirmation of the State Government’s commitment.

In an effort to prioritise farmers’ welfare in Andhra Pradesh, the State government has taken up various irrigation projects that will enrich agriculture in the State. The State government has undertaken 54 Irrigation projects in the last 4 years and about 31.4 lakh acres of land was enriched through them. A whopping amount of Rs 54,607 Crore was spent on irrigation and water conservation projects. On completion of Polavaram, 7.20 lakh acres of land will be irrigated in the State.
Spy thrillers are somewhat of a rarity these days in Telugu cinema, despite their popularity in the mid '60s and '70s. Several decades ago, it was Superstar Krishna, who was instrumental in popularising this genre of films with his James Bond-inspired films like Gudachari 116, James Bond 777, Agent Gopi, Rahasya Gudachari, and Gudachari 117. Although the genre continued to be popular till the late '80s, the influx of Hollywood films slowly altered the way people consumed these films. Telugu films were no longer preferred to get a dose of adrenaline rush, especially in the wake of Mission Impossible, James Bond, and Bourne series in the 2000s. However, in the past few years, a handful of films like Kamal Haasan’s Vishwaroopam and PSV Garuda Vega, apart from a few Hindi films like Baby, Phantom, and Naam Shabana, have turned the spotlight on home-grown spy dramas.

Truth be told, unlike the USA and UK, which have reams of published material about the operations of their respective intelligence agencies like CIA and MI6, there’s very little that people know about RAW (Research and Analysis Wing), India’s intelligence agency. Since 1968, RAW had played a key role in several significant events including the liberation of Bangladesh, amalgamation of Sikkim in India, Sri Lanka, gathering intelligence from neighbouring countries, and also provide security to important national events like nuclear testing. Despite all this, RAW’s operations hadn't captured public imagination and thus, even the film industry didn’t make a conscious attempt to highlight their achievements and secret operations. All this began to change slowly in post 9/11 era and the deadly bombings in Mumbai in 2008 when there was a lot more emphasis on the work being done by the intelligence agency. And then, words like counter-terrorism and covert operations were firmly cemented in our minds in the wake of the Indian army’s surgical strike in 2016.

In this context, where a precedent has already been
set, the time is right for home-grown spy dramas to make their presence felt amidst the clutter of family dramas and romantic comedies. Adivi Sesh, writer and lead actor of Goodachari, says, “Although I had written the story of Goodachari several years ago, I was waiting for an appropriate time to make the film. It’s the original story of a spy and narrates how a common man can get sucked into the world of spies, counter-terrorism etc. Superstar Krishna had introduced Telugu audiences to this genre several decades ago and he’s truly a pioneer in every sense. Goodachari wouldn’t have been possible if Krishna garu hadn’t made Goodachari 116 back in the mid ’60s. Today, when I want to introduce people to this world, I don’t have to start from the basics. Moreover, there’s lot more public awareness about covert operations and intelligence gathering by RAW and its likes.” Directed by Sashi Kiran Tikka, Goodachari stars Adivi Sesh, Sobhita Dhulipala in lead roles, along with Prakash Raj, Anish Kuruvilla, and Supriya Yarlagadda essaying crucial roles.

Of late, most action dramas have stuck to a template, where a hero goes on a mission to put an end to feudalism, capitalism, unite families, or avenge the death of his family members. The landscapes in which these stories are usually set have become all too familiar to movie-goers, and the characters too aren’t inventive, so to speak. In such a scenario, a spy drama sets itself right from the beginning. A case in point is 2017’s smash hit PSV Garuda Vega. Although it had a protagonist who works with NIA, the film, directed by Praveen Sattaru, used a lot of tropes that are quite common in spy dramas. Whether it’s a covert operation, or the hero going on a mission to crack a series of clues to stop a villain or a terrorist organisation’s bigger plan, PSV Garuda Vega had all that and more. “In the past few years, NIA had played an active role in solving a lot of cases in India. The idea of an Indian officer, whether he’s from NIA or RAW, doing heroic deeds for the safety of our nation,doesn’t seem alien anymore. Some people might wonder what’s the relevance of such concepts for Telugu-speaking audience; however, once you begin watching a film, all those doubts go out of the window because that’s how the script was written,” Praveen Sattaru said in an interview.

In Tamil cinema, Ajith starrer Vivegam too dabbled in the same genre; however, the film’s lacklustre performance at the box-office didn’t quite inspire a trend. But all that might change with Kamal Haasan’s Vishwaroopam 2, a sequel to the superhit film of the same name which released back in 2013. The plot of the original film revolved around Wisam Ahmad Kashmiri, an Indian secret agent living in the US, who gathers intelligence about Al-Qaeda terrorists in Afghan-Pak border, and tries to foil their plan to detonate a bomb in New York. It’s quite evident that the stakes are higher in the sequel with the principal cast from the original film - Kamal Haasan, Andra Jeremiah, Pooja Kumar, Sekhar Kapur - coming together once again in yet another secret mission. The film has been in the making for a while, and finally, Kamal Haasan is releasing the film on August 10.

While it’s quite early to conclude whether our home-grown spies will make a mark in a cinematic world where everyone looks up to James Bond, Ethan Hawke, or Jason Bourne, the fact that our filmmakers are even attempting to make a spy drama needs to be applauded. Sometimes, all it takes is a step in the right direction. With the team of Goodachari hoping to build a franchise around their film if the origin story gets a thumbs up from the audience, it’s a matter of time before we get to know whether the genre will sustain people’s interest or if it’s going to fizzle out quickly.

- Hemanth Kumar C R
An affair with Uppada
Located at a distance of 16 km from Kakinada, there is a quiet little popular town called Uppada. The place is otherwise known for production of Uppada silk. Not withstanding the fact that Uppada sarees are known across the world for their finest quality: we always felt that its beach is something that has been underrated so far.

Uppada has a beautiful beach road flanked by rocks. The passage makes a soothing sight for the visitors across Kakinada-Uppada Road. With clean waters and wide sea shore, the beach makes for a quick getaway for people bitten by travel bugs. The place offers privacy, tranquility with their serene environs that adequately paint a perfect holiday picture.

Peace is what has to be on top when it comes to talking about Uppada beach and its distinctiveness. Unlike other beaches in our State, Uppada beach is a stunning beauty that looks like as if straight out of a fairytale. For those who want to steer away from the hustle and bustle, Uppada beach is a charming location and is not commercialized.

The pristine shoreline of the beach with sun-kissed sand is perfect for you to get down to business in the clean and clear waters of Bay of Bengal. The wide shoreline and the gradual slope into the water make it a safe beach. The scenic beach is a favorite family holiday spot.

**Hope Island**

Hope Island is a small island of about 1000 hectares, 7 kms off the Kakinada coast, which is one of the most beautiful tourist places in the State. Found in the 18th century, you need to enquire with the locals or APTDC guides for the availability of motor boats to reach the island. Once you get into a boat, you will reach the island in 45 minutes with picturesque sceneries throughout the thrilling ride. It is advisable to be prepared with necessary refreshments, plenty of water and insect repellents as the island doesn’t have any habitat. Lounge around and chill, do nothing at the island but relax and breathe-in the nature. If you feel like camping at the island, carry along the necessary gear. Click some good pictures and take a stroll around the ships at the artificial harbor.

**Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary**

Established in 1978, Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with 35 tree species and more than 120 bird species. It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture along with crow pheasant, flamingos, painted stork, and oriented white ibis among others. The sanctuary is located at a distance of 18 kilometers from Kakinada. With rich mangrove vegetation and varied flora and fauna, the sanctuary makes a perfect nature-nestled home for these exotic birds.

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**when in uppada**

Uppada is not just about the exciting shoreline and tantalizing sarees. Try the famous Godavari special delicacies and pay a visit to

- Adurru (Buddhist Site)
- Kolleru Lake
- Draksharamam

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**getting there**

Reaching Kakinada is quite easy if you are traveling from Vijayawada. There are several buses run by government and plenty of trains. From Vijayawada, Kakinada is 212 kilometers and will take approximately 5 to 6 hours. From Kakinada, Uppada is 16 kilometers and you will get onto the beach road within 5 kilometers of Samalkot-Kakinada Bypass road.

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**accommodation**

AP Tourism’s Haritha Beach Resorts near Kakinada Lighthouse is a good option while there are also several private hotel operators. However, there isn’t any facility at the beach for you to walk straight into it from your balcony. Haritha resorts have boating facility right at their campus.

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**uppada jamdani sarees**

The sarees weaved on handlooms from this region definitely require a great deal of mention when we are talking about Uppada. Without exaggeration, the sarees weaved in cotton and silk varieties are super comfortable, soft and are light-weight. The authentic sarees are recognized with geographical indication tag. Uppada Jamdani saree weaving takes nearly 10-60 days time for which at least 2-3 weavers has to spend 10 hours of their day. Also, they are available from Rs 2000 for a Silk based saree.
Pension for Dappu artistes

Under the SC component, State government has introduced pension scheme for 'Dappu' artistes in the State. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has announced the same at 'Dalita Tejam-Telugu Desam' meeting held at Nellore. Accordingly, State government issued guidelines for providing Rs 1500 as social security pension to the beneficiaries on a monthly basis under Dappu Artistes scheme.

AP NREDCAP wins award

AP’s New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation (NREDCAP) is awarded the most ‘Progressive State Agency of the Year 2018’ award. AP has generated nearly 7,000 mw of power through solar and wind energy in 2018. Government has been making the most of alternative energy resources and has put in practice several energy conservation methods. AP reaped every available award in the power and energy sector, including the National Energy Conservation Award-2017.

AP is the only State with 3 cleanest cities

Andhra Pradesh has achieved the unique distinction of being named as the only State in India to have three cleanest cities, in the Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings. AP is the only State to have achieved this honor in the country. Due to State government’s initiatives for effective solid waste management, Andhra Pradesh became home to 3 of the Top 7 cleanest cities. As the State government has now achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and is campaigning for ODF plus, several challenges are up for maintaining the Swachh rankings. Door-to-door garbage collection in urban areas was a great success and innovative and efficient RFID tags are used for the same.

CM launches Vanam –Manam

AP CM Chandrababu Naidu launched the massive tree plantation programme, ‘Vanam Manam’ on July 16 at the campus of Indian Institute of Industrial Training (IIIT), at Nuzvid, in Krishna district. As part of the green drive, saplings were planted to inculcate green consciousness among public. Chief Minister announced that through the programme, the government aims to plant 26 crore saplings in the duration of 127 days.

SV Ranga Rao’s bronze statue unveiled

The Chief Minister unveiled the bronze statue of thespian SV Ranga Rao at Gogulapadu village on his 100th birth anniversary celebrations held on July 6. “SVR is one of the few people who are world-renowned in their respective fields. He brought international recognition to Telugu cinema through his work. Generations have passed by, but legends like him will never fade away. He was remarkable as an actor, writer, director and a philanthropist,” said CM in the public meeting.

RP Thakur is the DGP of AP

Andhra Pradesh government appointed Ram Pravesh Thakur (RP Thakur) as the new Director General of Police, Head of Police Force (DGP, HoPF). Chief Secretary of the AP government has appointed 1986 batch IPS RP Thakur as the DGP. Before being appointed as the DGP, Thakur was heading the department of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). He took over after former DGP M Malakondaiah retired from service. Thakur assumed charge as the new Police boss on June 30 after meeting the Chief Minister.

Vijayawada has a new CP

Following the transfer of D Gautam Sawang, Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao took charge as the new Commissioner of Police at the Commissioner’s office in Vijayawada on July 19. After assuming charge, the new Commissioner said that focus has been laid on protecting human rights and strictly following the law. He assured that a strong team would be formed to tackle the problems in the city and

CM felicitated award winning officers

CM Chandrababu Naidu felicitated close to 300 government officials and officers who were recognized for their services and bagged several national and international awards for the State. The event took place on July 26 at the Grievance hall at his residence in Undavalli. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister mentioned that the services, schemes and programs introduced by government of Andhra Pradesh won appreciations from United Nations Organisation. He congratulated the officials for their team spirit and opined that this team is most effective and is best for taking Andhra Pradesh to further heights. “I appreciate everyone behind the success, from the bottom of my heart. The performance of AP government employees is being recognised and appreciated by many great persons around the world. Recognising our hard work and ability we have been invited to give a lecture at United Nations Organisation” he added.
preserve peace and harmony while a separate wing will exclusively look into security and safety of women and girl children.

CM congratulates sprinter Hima Das

Hima Das is an Indian sprinter from the state of Assam. The 18 years old sprinter has become the first Indian to win a Gold medal in a track event at the World Junior Athletics Championships in 2018. CM tweeted, “Congratulating athlete Hima Das for becoming India’s first ever track and field gold medalist, and acing the women’s 400 meters event at the World U-20 Championships in Tampere, Finland.”

Migrant Resource Centre for NRIs in Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Migrant Resource Centre was inaugurated in Tadepalli, Guntur district on July 9 by NRI Empowerment and Relations Minister Kollu Ravindra. The centre will offer a range of support services to the migrants, migrant workers and their families including information, pre-departure orientation and counseling referral. The resource centre is the initiative of APNRTs in association with State government. “The government of AP has been doing a tremendous job by building up a network with NRIs,” said Ravindra.

‘Mahila Raksha Scheme’ from August

The ‘Mahila Raksha’ scheme initiated by the State government for supporting women and girl children during their menstrual cycle is going to be launched in August. Under this programme, government will provide sanitary napkins through ration shops at a subsidized price. A pack of 8 pads is priced at Rs 36 in the market whereas in the ration shops, government will be giving it at a 50 per cent subsidy price, thus making them available for Rs 18. This move has been initiated to encourage women and girl children in adapting to hygienic practices; preventing spread of infections.

Open side drains in villages

The State government has decided to construct open side drains in village panchayats with population less than 5000. The Finance Commission, Swachh Bharat Mission and Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will be integrated for funding this experimental project. Every mandal will have an open side drain constructed in the first phase. The government ordered the concerned officials to come up with a detailed project report.

Nutri-Gardens in Schools and Colleges

Nutri-gardens will be developed in schools and colleges across the State in a bid to address the challenge of malnutrition among children. The district administration has launched this program in 527 schools. Addressing the concerned department officials, Chief Minister asked them to make better use of the vacant space on the premises of government schools.

CM appreciates Anganwadis

The Chief Minister heaped praises on the Anganwadi workers for their dedication and hard-work. He interacted with Anganwadi teachers and workers at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in the city on July 12. Speaking on the occasion, “I appreciate the hard-work of 1 Lac Anganwadi workers, 600 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) supervisors, and 400 Child Development Officers working in 55,607 centres across the State. The whole team is nurturing over 34 Lac children all over the State,” he added. Focusing on malnutrition, he said, “Anganwadi workers along with 250 welfare programs launched by the State government will achieve the well-being of women and children in Andhra Pradesh. The focus is on entirely defeating malnutrition in the State.”

UNESCO Digital hub at Vizag

A delegation from UNESCO met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat on July 4 to explain their proposal - to build a Gaming and Digital Learning Hub at Vishakhapatnam. The zone dubbed as ‘Intelligent Hub’ will be the first of its kind in the country and will focus primarily on Edutech Gaming. Gaming industry giants such as Microsoft, UB Soft and Samsung will be setting up their centres of development at this Intelligent Hub. The proposal includes plans of establishing the first global research centre for the science of learning by bringing in some of the best faculty in the world. The officials emphasised on the need to push the education sector towards advancement with the introduction of digital platforms.
Signature of authentic Andhra cuisine:

**BAMBOO BIRYANI**

Andhra Pradesh brands ‘Bamboo Biryani’ as the delicacy of AP

Bamboo chicken biryani or bongulo chicken biryani from the famous hill station Araku valley tops the list when we talk of authentic Andhra cuisine. With distinctive procedure and use of technique in its preparation, the dish is savoured across the Telugu States for its rich taste in low-calorie when compared to that of the regular chicken biryani that is abundantly prepared in other places.

Now, the State government has decided to name Bamboo biryani as the brand delicacy of the true Andhra cuisine that has a great mix of sweets, snacks, hand-churned chutneys, and some real deal of mouth-watering spicy main course.

**Preparing Bamboo biryani**

As the name suggests, the biryani is prepared using a bamboo log. The delectable dish is made by stuffing rice, chicken, and handful of spices with a bit of oil in the bamboo log which is then sealed with leaves preventing the steam to escape. The log is then placed on fire and is left until the outer layer turns into charcoal. It is turned around every now and then to ensure that heat is spread uniformly on all the sides for better cooking of the ingredients inside. The whole process takes a good 40 to 50 minutes before the log is emptied into plates; resulting in burst of unique flavors.

The essence that bamboo distributes to the ingredients inside, cooking them slowly gives it a flavour that is sure going to linger around for a very long time. One has to taste it to believe and soon, the dish is going to be massively available across the State.

**AP Tourism initiative**

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) CEO Himanshu Shukla asked the officials to popularise the dish and familiarize its recipe/preparation so that it becomes one of the key brands of Andhra Pradesh. The key is to promote Bamboo biryani as a dish of Andhra Pradesh like what is a chicken biryani for Hyderabad.

**Popularising the dish**

Plans are afoot to promote this tribal delicacy to the world by conducting workshops and food festivals across AP. Chefs and hotel management students around the State will be imparted training in preparing the biryani. It is then made available abundantly at food joints, hotels and food festivals. Meanwhile, the Tourism officials are also exercising to get geographical indication (GI) to Kakinada Kaja, Puthekkulu and Ulavacharu.
**Pic 1:** The Chief Minister in Awareness programme for Anganwadi workers conducted by the department of Women and Child Welfare in IG Municipal Stadium, Vijayawada.

**Pic 2:** CM at the unveiling the bronze statue of SV Ranga Rao at Kalaparru village, West Godavari, marking his 100th birth anniversary celebrations.

**Pic 3:** CM and his wife Nara Bhuvaneswari, along with their grandson Devansh, taking part in Vanam- Manam programme at IIIT premises, Nezvid.

**Pic 4:** Miss India 2018 second runner-up Shreya Rao Kamavarapu, native of Krishna district, with CM in Secretariat.

**Pic 5:** Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari with CM during their visit to Polavaram project.

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