As farmers prepare for a rich harvest, AP is all set to become India’s first Zero Budget Natural Farming state.

CM Chandrababu Naidu going about rice planting to mark Eruvaka at Raavikanti peta village of Srikakulam district. Ministers Kala Venkata Rao and K Archanamidu are also seen.
For the first time ever, the citizens of Krishna district were treated to a grand bonanza of fun and frolic by the district administration in association with the department of Tourism Development. A three-day grand ‘Masula Beach Festival’ was held from June 9 at the Manginapudi beach near Machilipatnam. The ‘beach party’ was quite eventful as it spread cheers in the air and filled up the hearts of the visitors with joy. According to estimates, there was a footfall of about 8 lakh people, who dwelled in the event’s spirit.

Beach festival was promoted across the State and was kick started with a 2k run held in Machilipatnam. Olympian P V Sindhu took part in the promotional campaign organized by the department of Sports. Minister Kollu Ravindra and Collector B Lakshmikantham were phenomenal in planning, organizing and executing the entire event smoothly. The beach was entirely lightened up for the festival and was filled with varied entertainment activities that kept the visitors engaged. From joy rides like giant-wheel, break dance, cup and saucer, Columbus, horse-riding and alike to adrenaline pumping adventure sports—helicopter rides, jet boats, speed boats, they were all there challenging the beach bums to make the most of their time. Music concerts by Tollywood musicians, S Thaman and S Koti enthralled the thronging crowds. Popular mimicry artiste, actor Shivarreddy’s slot had the visitors in splits until the end of his performance. The entire event was presented by popular television host Gayatri Bhargavi.
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>AP to become India's first Natural Farming state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The goal is to sensitise the 6 million farmers who are toiling in 8 million hectares of land to take up conventional methods by the end of 2024. CM envisions AP as the country's first State that follows 100% natural farming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>State gets new symbols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Niti Aayog meet: Give us our dues, demands CM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>100 Anna canteens ready for inauguration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>AP govt strengthens ACB in the State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>CM’s Social Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Happening Andhra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Various developments across the state of Andhra Pradesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Unemployment allowance soon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Telugu at Risk of Dying Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>After Kabali and Kaala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Polavaram diaphragm wall creates record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Pattiseema to become potential tourism spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>AP wins over 60 Skoch Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nava Nirmana Deeksha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>MoU for Amaravati start-up area development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Snapshot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Talking Tough

Andhra Pradesh has found itself in an unenviable position, where the State Government has been forced to talk tough over the non-implementation of AP Reorganisation Act. For reasons best known to them, the Centre has been less than empathetic in their approach and understanding of the problems that the bifurcated state has been beset with. Having decided to be upfront on the issue, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu minced no words in highlighting the non-fulfilment of several provisions of the Act at the recent Niti Aayog meeting in New Delhi.

"Mine is a special state with special problems. I will take more time," the Chief Minister declared and then went on to raise various issues in a span of 20 minutes. The AP CM found support for his demand when Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar vouched for it and took the opportunity to call for a special category status for his state as well.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also supported the CM’s demand and urged the Prime Minister to grant SCS to Andhra Pradesh. Apart from the issue of Polavaram project, the CM also spoke about revenue deficit grant and funds for education institutions. He explained how the State was lagging behind in terms of development compared to other southern States, and why there was no rise in the per capita income despite constant efforts.

The CM’s opposition to the terms of reference of the 15th Finance Commission which is penalizing states for performing well also found resonance with other Chief Ministers. Chandrababu Naidu’s scathing attack on the Centre for not following the spirit of "cooperative federalism" helped putting the plight of the State in perspective at the national level, with media widely reporting it.

While the facts are such, it is rather pathetic to see some of the opposition leaders carping about the Chief Minister shaking hands with the Prime Minister after the Niti Aayog meeting, as if it were a compromise. Such cheap gripes would only bring down the seriousness of the debate.

While taking the government to task is an inalienable right of the opposition in a democratic system like ours, such shallow commentary to score some political brownie points would cause immense damage to the long-term interests of the State. Let’s not miss the woods for the trees!

Ramesh Kandula
Editor
Andhra Pradesh, to distinguish itself from its newly formed neighbor, has declared new State symbols. Accordingly, Neem tree and Black Buck have been named as the State tree and animal with Rose-ringed Parakeet referred to as the State bird. Jasmine flower is decided as the state flower. While the State retained Neem Tree (Vepa Chettu) and Black Buck (Krishna Jinka) as its official tree and animal, for the newly formed AP, Chief Minister chose Jasmine flower (Malle puvvu) as the State flower and Rose-ringed parakeet (Rama Chiluka) as the State bird. Principal Secretary of the Department of Environment and Forests, G Anantha Ramu announced the State symbols on May 31. “The government felt that it is necessary to have separate symbols for the State after the bifurcation. Accordingly, the symbols have been notified for Andhra Pradesh,” he announced.

**Decoding the symbols**

**State Animal**
Blackbuck is declared as the State animal of AP, as it is known for its swiftness and ability to take charge in uncertain situations and rise victorious, which is symbolic of AP and its people.

**State Bird**
Rose-ringed parrot is declared as the State bird for its beauty and cheerfulness. The government has envisioned AP as a State which is green and eco-friendly with beautiful landscaping, to make people happy and cheerful.

**State Flower**
Jasmine is declared as the State flower of Andhra Pradesh, as the purity of its fragrance symbolizes the State's vision to spread positivity and knowledge among its people and in the nation.

**State Tree**
Neem is declared as the State tree. Known for nourishing those around it with clean air, Neem tree symbolizes the State's genuine & transparent relations with its people.
The Nava Nirmana Deeksha, being undertaken every year on state formation, has been a reminder of the arbitrary division and a resolve to overcome the hurdles posed by the unfair bifurcation. The week-long Nava Nirmana Deeksha programmes held during the month of June saw the Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu giving a clarion call to the five-crore Andhras to rise up to the occasion, and build a great state.

This pledge - “We are ready to mend the damage caused to our State by corrupt and unscientific division, through hard work. Let us prepare ourselves for a united struggle against the injustice done to the State and politics of betrayal and conspiracy.... All of us take the Nava Nirmana Deeksha pledge at this moment. Jai Hind, Jai Andhra Pradesh” - was to instill a sense of purpose and provide the state a direction.

The Chief Minister administered this Nava Nirmana Deeksha pledge, which lasted two minutes, to all the assembled people at the Benz Circle in Vijayawada which reverberated through the entire state.

**No Celebrations**

Since the division of the State was done against our wishes, June 2, the day on which the residuary state came into existence is certainly not an occasion for celebrations. And therefore, the Nava Nirmana Deeksha is to dedicate ourselves to building a new state. Even before shifting to Amaravati or Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh topped the country in ‘ease of doing business’ and achieved a growth rate of 11 per cent. However, though the Chandrababu-led government was going ahead achieving the targets before the deadlines, the State did not get the deserving help as enunciated in the Reorganisation Act. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted his greetings on June 2. But the Chief Minister wondered if any happiness was left to the State in the aftermath of bifurcation. Particularly, because the Centre had failed to grant ‘special category status (SCS)’ and implement the bifurcation assurances to the State.

“The Centre did not release the promised funds even to the Polavaram project. It has troubled us with several queries all along and did not release funds. Still, we could complete 55 per cent of the work. The Centre is also coming in the way of the petrochemical factory near Kakinada demanding that we pay Rs 5,500 crore in advance. And in the case of the separate railway zone with Visakhapatnam as headquarters, it tried to provoke the neighbouring Odisha state to create obstacles for us. It neither provided assistance for the Tribal University in Visakhapatnam, nor compensated for the revenue deficit,” the CM pointed out.

On the other hand, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was informed by his Singapore counterpart that a beautiful
city was coming up in Amaravati with the latter’s partnership, which speaks of the tremendous work put in by the State Government, he noted.

Famine-Free AP
The ground was prepared for making a famine-free Andhra Pradesh during the week-long Nava Nirmana Deeksha with Chandrababu Naidu participating in a variety of events which included Jala Harati, Pantakuntalu, laying the foundation for as many as 66 tanks and unveiling the pylon for five lakh Pantakuntalu.

It is significant that the State Government accorded top priority for irrigation and spent Rs 52,000 crore on construction of projects during the past four years. Of the 54 projects taken up, eight were already completed and another 15 will be ready within a couple of months. The work on Vamsadhara phase 2 is to begin shortly and the Tarnaka Keerti Sagaram scheme in Vizianagaram will be completed by June next year. Another barrage will be built in Krishna delta from where water will be released to Sagar right canal for the Somasila project.

On the topic of water conservation and drought-free state alone, as many as 9,876 gram sabhas were conducted. Awareness programmes were held on Neeru-Chettu, Neeru-Pragati, Check Dams, Pantakuntalu, Linking of Rivers, and Polavaram and other projects, improving the ground water table, and drinking water. Also, 3,450 demonstrations, 3,818 foundation laying ceremonies and 8,917 inaugural functions were witnessed with respect to various schemes.

Aid To Agri And Allied Sector
While participating in the Nava Nirmana Deeksha at Srngavarapu Kota (S Kota) in Vizianagaram district, the Chief Minister took up discussion on agriculture and allied industries sector. The eating habits changed all over the world and the farmers should keep in tune with the changing scenario and form farmers’ unions among themselves to take up the agri-allied sector without stopping at agriculture, he advised. It was important to note that Andhra Pradesh had achieved a growth of 17.3 per cent in agriculture compared with the national average of three per cent which reflected the amount of work put into the sector, he observed.

“We were successful in reducing fertilizers and chemical worth Rs.350 crore by conducting proper soil tests and supplying free manures. We have plans to come out with an App for making available agriculture implements on hire to the needy,” Chief Minister said. He also said that his Government could waive farm loans to the extent of Rs.24,000 crore. Farmers whose loans were within Rs.1.5 lakh became debt-free. The State is rising the level of becoming a leader in the area of organic farming. The Government was taken closer to the people by laying CC roads, construction of toilets and implementing schemes such as Chandranna Beema and gifts for marriages.

The CM, who also participated in the Nava Nirmana Deeksha programme at Amalapuram of East Godavari district, said that Andhra Pradesh was the only State in the country giving pensions to 50.5 lakh people. Of them, 3.86 lakh were disbursed pensions during the week-long programme. Besides, 48,480 new ration cards and housing for 36,570 was sanctioned.

Year Of Education
This year, 15 degree and 50 Intermediate colleges will be set up in the state, Naidu announced during the deeksha programme in Kadapa, while inaugurating virtual class-rooms through video conference.

“We have created history in the country by deciding to set up virtual classrooms in 6,000 schools. At present, 3,000 such classrooms have started and rest would be established soon. e-classes will be conducted through Content
A slew of welfare and development programmes were announced during the week-long Nava Nirmana Deeksha, reflecting the spirit of the pledge.

Corporation,” he announced. All these will make it possible to achieve 100 per cent literacy in the state by the end of 2019. The youth who have passed degree and are unemployed are being given Rs.1,000. He referred to a new policy, by which the students need not run from pillar to post for certificates. Also, the students of Fathima college would be provided justice, he said.

The Chief Minister toured the Chandramakulapalle village which is rated as a 11-Star village without any basic problems and conducted Gramadarsani programme there. The Government was providing internet, telephone and TV facility through fiber grid and the State was marching ahead in LED bulb facility everywhere. In the past, there was a shortage of 22 million units of power and farmers and people used to suffer. But after the Chandrababu Government was set up, the power shortage was overcome within a couple of months. Also, it focused on wind and solar energy. Power generation would be stepped up further in the future without increasing the power tariff, he stated.

The Chief Minister who visited the residence of a woman Kausalyamma n Chandramakulapalle, enquired how the fiber grid and internet were functioning. He asked her to speak to her son, who was a Pani-puri vendor in Kurnool over a video call.

“I came to your home. How are you? You can make video calls to your parents here after and we have given the internet facility,” he told Haribabu, her son, much to the latter’s delight.

On the seventh and final day of Nava Nirmana Deeksha, Chandrababu Naidu administered Mahasankalpam oath to the people and as part of the programme, decided to disburse pension to single women through the NTR Bharosa scheme. Under this, unmarried women aged 30 years and above in rural areas and over 35 years in urban regions will be provided Rs.1000 a month as pension. Similarly those who are above 18 years and are divorcees living away from husband, will get Rs.1000 per month. It is estimated that the number of single women will be around three to four lakh in the State. Thanks to the decision of the Government, 90 per cent of the families in the State are likely to be covered under one pension scheme or the other.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated two new Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) offices in Vijayawada and Guntur on June 27. With these two new offices, ACB has grown from 11 offices to 13 across the State. The staff strength of ACB was increased by 100 per cent over the last year, which speaks of the commendable work put in by the officials of the department.

State government has earmarked Rs 16 crore to build district office buildings for ACB department across the State.

Speaking on the occasion, after inaugurating the offices virtually, Chandrababu Naidu said, “I congratulate the authorities for completing all ACB offices in record time. While 95% of the staff is sincere at discharging duties, the rest of them, who are hindering the spirit of the department, will be picked-up and charged.”

CM opined that ACB should be equipped for adapting technology for increased transparency in government schemes. Transparency in programmes will help government be more accountable and will aid in providing online services. Also, 1100 Parishkara Vedhikas can be used to curb corruption in order to reach out to more people, he added.

ACB Director General R P Tagore, making a presentation about functioning of the ACB offices mentioned, “Manpower is increased to more than 100 per cent this year. We are looking forward to making all the 13 offices solar efficient. We thank Chief Minister for his constant support. We are committed towards achieving the CM’s vision of achieving a corruption-free society.”
AP poised on fast track growth - Governor

As part of the initiative to promote the Indian states, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, deputed the Indian Ambassadors to Spain, Austria, Vietnam and Kuwait to visit Andhra Pradesh on 27th and 28th June, to get firsthand experience of the investment potential in the state.

In this regard, D. Bala Venktesh Verma, Indian Ambassador to Spain, P. Harish, Indian Ambassador to Vietnam, K. Jeeva Sagar, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, met E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, at Raj Bhavan. Speaking to the Indian Ambassadors, the Governor said that the sunrise State of Andhra Pradesh is poised on a fast track growth, in the past four years. He said the government has initiated several innovative programmes such Real Time Governance (RTG) system to monitor progress of projects on real-time basis, through online system. The Governor said Andhra Pradesh bagged the top spot in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) ranks in the country. Governor said Andhra Pradesh bagged the top spot in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) ranks in the country. Governor said that the Korean automobile giant Kia Motors is setting up its car manufacturing unit in Anantapur district, and Tirupati is fast gaining the popularity as a cluster of electronic industries.

Governor said that Andhra Pradesh is endowed with availability of vast tracts of land, abundant water, forest cover and mineral resources. He said that the state also has the second longest coast line of 974 kilometres in the country with potential for maritime development and suitable for setting up industries with assured power supply and availability of skilled manpower.

The Governor informed the visiting Indian Ambassadors that the opportunities for investment are plenty in the state with the new capital city of Amaravati, being constructed in association with Singapore and also with the three industrial corridors coming up across the state would provide a great economic boost to the region.

AP Govt to go ahead with unemployment allowance

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu decided to go ahead with the proposal of introducing allowance for educated yet unemployed youth in the State. Accordingly, it is decided to provide Rs 1000 as a monthly allowance to the eligible youth.

The State Cabinet, which met on May 31, approved modalities for implementation of the much-awaited unemployment allowance scheme under which the applicant will have to be aged between 22 and 35 and possess a degree. The scheme will be also applicable to more than one in a family.

Addressing the media after cabinet meeting, IT Minister Nara Lokesh said that the policy framework of the scheme was formulated after the sub-committee constituted by the CM had studied similar schemes implementation in close to 10 States and 12 countries. “We had six-seven meetings involving several departments and came up with a policy framework. We will go ahead after feedback from the youth. The scheme was not successful in other States. Some states discontinued it after two years, some others after just six months. No State or country has implemented the scheme under the Saturation model, which we propose to adopt,” explained Lokesh. The scheme will add an additional burden of Rs 1,200 crore per annum.

To be eligible for the dole, an applicant must belong to the below poverty line (BPL) family having a white ration card and aged between 22 and 35. “We propose to pay Rs 1,000 per month. The applicant must have a degree or equivalent qualification or diploma. It is not restricted to one person in a family. The amount will be paid directly into the bank account. Lastly, training will be given to the unemployed to hone their skills,” he explained.

He added that the government wants to create a website wherein the applicants can enroll themselves using their Aadhaar number and specify their areas of interest for the same. Training will be imparted among youth on their areas of interest.

Lokesh also pointed out that the proposed job portal could serve as a point of reference for companies across the country to hunt for talent in Andhra Pradesh.
At the fourth Niti Aayog Governing Council meeting on June 17 at Rashtrapati Bhavan with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Chair, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu raised several pending issues for the State, including that of Special Category Status (SCS).

In a span of 20 minutes, he raised pressing issues like the bifurcation-related Special Category Status, capital city, Polavaram project, revenue deficit, pull back of Rs. 350 crore relating to backward areas development fund and the many other pending issues.

Explaining how his State was lagging behind in terms of development compared to other southern States, he elaborated on why there was no rise in the per capita income despite constant efforts. The speech of the AP Chief Minister was received well by some of the other Chief Ministers such as Nitish Kumar of Bihar and Mamata Banerjee of West Bengal.
The following are some of the key issues raised by the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at Niti Aayog meeting:

**State Organisation Related Issues**
People of Andhra Pradesh did not ask for bifurcation but it was inflicted following unscientific and unjust approach.
People are suffering, are hurt and are sentimental about the loss and subsequent neglect.
Even the assurances of the then Prime Minister on the floor of Rajya Sabha, CAG reports and advices of Supreme Court are not being honoured.

**Special Category Status**
The contribution of the Agriculture sector which was 23% in the combined state during 2013-14, is 34% during 2017-18 for the new state of Andhra Pradesh.
Service sector which generates higher tax revenue and higher per capita income, contributes about 44% to the economy of Andhra Pradesh - Telangana (63%), Tamilnadu (57%), Karnataka (64%) and Kerala (64%) and all India average of 53%.
The per capita income of the combined state of Andhra Pradesh was Rs.89,214 for the year 2013-14.
The per capita income of remaining 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh for the same year stood at Rs.82,870 whereas it was Rs.1,12,162 for the state of Telangana.
Despite the highest average economic growth in the country during last four years, Andhra Pradesh with a per capita income of Rs 1.42 lakh continues to lag behind the other Southern Indian states which have crossed the mark of Rs 1.74 lakh per capita income, with a gap of around Rs 32,000+ per person in Andhra Pradesh.
The then Prime Minister of India, in the presence of Members of Parliament of various political parties, as a condition to passing the AP Reorganisation Bill, assured on the floor of Rajya Sabha to accord Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh for a period of five years till the finances of state of Andhra Pradesh is on a firmer footing.
The Union Government attempted to mislead the people of India by announcing Special Assistance Measure in lieu of Special Category Status citing that the Fourteenth Finance Commission had done away with the provisions of Special Category Status.
The election manifesto of Bhartiya Janata Party, for Andhra Pradesh, assured Special Category Status for 10 years.

Despite the highest average economic growth in the country during last four years, Andhra Pradesh with a per capita income of Rs 1.42 lakh continues to lag behind the other Southern Indian states.

Therefore, the people of Andhra Pradesh feel resentful due to breach of promise made to its people.
Polavaram Project being National Project, Government of India is duty bound to cover the entire cost of the project including land acquisition, R&R, construction in accordance of the Union Cabinet resolution during 2013
More than 56% of the works completed. DPR-II should be approved and pending amount of Rs 1,892 crores should be reimbursed.
Amaravati – Establishing a Green field city is matter of National pride and great opportunity. An ecosystem of R&D institutions, government and private institutions should be established which is time taking and resource intensive. It will need about 5 lakh crore in next 20 years.
More than 27,000 farmers of the capital area, pooled their land worth more than Rs 50000 crore. The Union Government has released only Rs 1,500 crores for construction of new capital Government of India will be a major beneficiary of the new capital city by way of increased tax revenue generation, yet it is not extending required support.

**Other pending issues**
Formation of a Railway Zone, Establishment of Greenfield Crude Oil Refinery & Petrochemical Complex, Increase of Seats in A.P. State Legislative Assembly, Resolving Anomalies in Taxation Matters, Construction of a Steel Plant at...
YSR Kadapa District, Establishment of the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, Constructions of Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada Metro Rails, Duggirajpatnam port Rapid Rail and Road Connectivity to Amaravati and Establishing Greyhound Training Centre.

I, on behalf of 5 crore people of Andhra Pradesh, demand the Union government to accord special category status to Andhra Pradesh, fulfill all the assurances and implement all the provisions of the AP Reorganisation Act People of Andhra Pradesh are hurt and should not be further let down by Government of India

Prominent Issues of National Importance
Terms of Reference of 15th Finance Commission: State governments submitted a Memorandum to the President of India requesting for amendment of the Terms of Reference of the 15th Finance Commission. The reference to adopt 2011 census population instead of 1971 census population despite two time review would have far reaching adverse consequences for the democratic and federal setup of our country. Smaller shares from the common pool of devolutions, penalizing the performing states which successfully controlled the population

Effect of demonetization: We support the ideology of the policy, adequate care was not taken in rolling out and managing its implementation. Till date, people are put to hardship for receiving their own funds affecting small businesses and workers.

ill-drafted provisions of the FRDI Bill like conversion of deposits of individual investors into equity have led to widespread fear among public. There is a severe cash crunch in the country with no cash available in ATMs or banks for farming operations, to disburse pensions or for daily other needs.

Goods and Services Tax (GST): The implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has common man, tax payers and businesses. The advantage of reducing global prices of crude oil has not been passed on to people.

Devolution of funds: Further, amount of tax revenue raised by Central Government through special levies has increased sharply in recent period. The share of special levies in Central Government’s gross tax revenue (GTR) has increased rapidly from 8.8% in 2012-13 to 15.2% in 2016-17. Similarly, share of cess has increased from 6.7% in 2013-14 to 10.8% in 2016-17 as proportion of GTR.

Key Concerns with Specific Reference to the Agenda Items
Agriculture sector: Procurement Policy and Minimum Support Price: The Hon’ble Union Minister for Finance, during the Budget Speech on 1st Feb.2018 stated “In our party manifesto it has been stated that the farmers should realize at least 50 per cent more than the cost of their produce, in other words, one and a half times of their cost of production.”

MSP should be fixed considering the Dr.M.S.Swaminathan recommendations Model C2+50% of Cost of Production for sustainable and profitable agriculture in view of the increased cost of inputs, farm labour and risks involved More over the Government of India is unable to align its policies to global market conditions to regulate export and import of agriculture produce and thereby affecting adversely the local prices and the profitability of the agriculture of the local farmer.

Government of India is notifying the MSP for pulses while procuring 40% of the total production only. The Government of AP alone has to spend more than Rs.1000 crores on procurement of various pulses during the last year.

Similarly, the Government of India has refused to support the procurement of coarse cereals if they are not part of PDS. As a result, the Govt. of A.P has to procure coarse cereals by spending about Rs.350 crores Crop Insurance: The current insurance regime insures the loan and not the crop. This need to be revisited immediately. During 2017-18, our farmers contributed to foreign exchange with an export value of Rs. 24000 crore, (60% of total export from India with average GVA growth rate of 27%.

Distress due to more than 50% fall in the shrimp prices and due to sudden reduction in exports in last 5 months. Government of India to intervene urgently by extending insurance cover to aqua culture, implementing minimum support price (MSP) scheme to the aqua produce and by treating aqua culture and poultry at par with agriculture.

Doubling farmer’s income – Doubling the farmer’s income in five years requires a CAGR of 12% in agriculture sector.

Nation’s average agriculture growth during last four years is 2.42% whereas Andhra Pradesh agriculture sector average growth rate is 11% during the same period. This can be achieved if we address the changing food
habit of people and an ecosystem approach consisting of water conservation, irrigation, soil health cards and soil management, scientific input management, livestock and fisheries, risk mitigation measures, capacity building and diversification to horticulture and convergence of agriculture and water conservation with MGNREGS.

Health: We have invested in preventive, diagnostic and curative health care service delivery to all its citizens. Due to the efforts of the state government, there has been significant improvement in the health indicators like IMR, MMR, malnutrition, anemia, communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Health services are being provided in PPP mode to ensure better delivery with quality. Reputed national & international institutions are engaged as Technology Partners to provide technical inputs.

Ayushman Bharat - Use of SECC data: Andhra Pradesh has been effectively implementing NTR Vydyaa Seva for 1.44 crore households in the state. However, Government of India's stance to use the SECC data limits it to 56 lakh households only.

The GoI has been advocating the use of SECC data for others schemes also like Housing while there are inconsistencies in the SECC data. There is a need to sort it out immediately.

Mission Poshan: The government of India is providing meagre allocation. More over the schemes and staff support are being discontinued inbetween.

Aspirational districts: Three districts of Andhra Pradesh are included in of 115 most backward aspirational districts of the country and are also part of the Special Development Package. The Rs. 350 crore pulled back by the GoI include Rs 150 crores for these three districts.

Major Achievements of Government of Andhra Pradesh During Last Four Years

Impressive Double Digit Growth of Economy - Despite the adversities of bifurcation of the state, Andhra Pradesh has emerged as best economic performer by registering average double-digit growth of 10.5% during the last four years. We registered 10.60% growth rate during 2015-16, 11.07% growth rate during 2016-17 and 11.22% in 2017-18.

We have achieved saturation in household electrification, LPG and ODF and we are nearing saturation in rural road connectivity, internal CC roads in the villages and LED street lighting.

We have become a power surplus state from a power deficit state in May 2014. We have laid out a plan for 100% Fibre net connectivity and drinking water provisioning in next two years.

Under Swach Bharat Mission, the Union government provided only Rs. 4,000/- per individual household toilet in urban areas while the state government provided Rs.11,000/- additionally to provide a dignified facility.

In addition to above achievements, we have provided social security to our people by providing 47 lakh pensions @ Rs 1000-1500, insurance to 2.46 crore unorganized labour; food security to 1.44 crore families under PDS; nutrition security to over 6 lakh pregnant women, lactating mother and more than 24 lakh children; livelihood security to 86 lakh SHG women for Rs.10,000 income per family; water security to our farmers by digging 7.25 lakh farm ponds, 19,355 percolation tanks leading to a net rise in ground water level, inter-linking of Godavari and Krishna rivers; housing security through 14 lakh houses in rural areas and 5 lakh in urban areas and power security of upto 75 free units to SC/ST households, to name a few.

Conclusion- A Vision for India with States as Partners

A supportive environment and facilitation by government of India will go a long way to provide concrete shape to spirit of cooperative federalism to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The GoI should provide the macro strategy and should not micro manage the schemes as is currently being done. The states should be empowered with funds and freedom to implement the schemes. Manufacturing sector is not expanding and not competitive compared to our eastern countries.

The Government of India should focus on fast and time bound development of globally competitive big economic infrastructure like Ports, Airports, Rail, Road links, coastal economic zone, Economic Corridors to make India competitive in South Asia and South East Asia in terms of attracting foreign investment to provide job opportunities and better living standards. A country wide road map of growth need to be prepared making the respective states equal and empowered partners in realizing the vision of developed India.

Andhra Pradesh is a proud partner of Team India engaged in nation building process and expects a supportive environment by Government of India.

The CM concluded, “I finally demand the implementation of the provisions of AP Reorganisation Act Special Category Status and other assurances to assuage the hurt feelings of the people of Andhra Pradesh and to support its growth till it is at par with the neighboring states”.

A supportive environment and facilitation by government of India will go a long way to provide concrete shape to spirit of cooperative federalism to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
Telugu is one of the non-Hindi Indian languages, whose domain usage is shrinking in alarming rapidity. The publication of statistics of the latest language data from the 2011 census by the Indian census bureau revealed how Telugu has been in a sorry state of erosion. One could see the worrying trend of Telugu losing to Hindi and English. Among all other non-Hindi languages, Telugu is one of the languages that is losing speakers. Bengali has been able to sustain its percentage at 8.

During 1971-81, 8.16 per cent of Indian population used to speak Telugu and same percentage of population was speaking Bengali. Through decades, Bengali has been able to sustain its percentage at 8. But, there has been a consistent depletion in the percentage of Telugu speakers; their percentage in 1981 was 7.61, in 2001, it was 7.19 and finally in 2011, the percentage of Telugu speakers in India dropped to 6.7.

22 languages were specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. According to the language data based on 2011 census, Telugu, with 8.11 crore native speakers, was in third place in the list of non-Hindi languages. Bengali with 9.72 and Marathi with 8.3 crore, were ahead of Telugu. Hindi was on the top with 52.83 crore speakers. In other words, for every 10,000 Indians, 4363 persons speak Hindi, 670 persons were Telugu-speakers, 686 persons speak Marathi and for 803 persons, Bengali was the mother-tongue. It is interesting to note that a good number of people with Telugu as mother-tongue was spread in various parts of the country. There were 159 native speakers of Telugu for 10,000 population in Odisha, 60 in Chhattisgarh, 118 in Maharashtra, 584 in Karnataka, 76 in Goa, 587 in Tamil Nadu, 596 in Pondicherry and, surprisingly, 1324 Telugus for every 10,000 people in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The language data further reveals that the other non-Hindi Indian languages were also losing to Hindi and English. Only Hindi is increasing in percentages, as 36.99 percent of Indian population used to speak Hindi in 1971, whereas 43.63 percent of population were speakers of Hindi in 2011.
The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched a scale-out plan to transition 6 million farms/farmers cultivating 8 million hectares of land from conventional synthetic chemical agriculture to Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) by 2024, making Andhra Pradesh India’s first 100 per cent natural farming state.

The programme is led by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) – a not-for-profit established by the Government to implement the ZBNF programme - and supported by the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF) – an innovative partnership between UN Environment, BNP Paribas, and the World Agroforestry Centre.

With more than 8000 farmers present, the launch event was attended by international dignitaries including Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment; Sunny Verghese, Chair, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and Co-Founder and Group CEO of Olam International; Pavan Sukhdev, President of WWF International; Antoine Sire, Member of the Global Management Committee, BNP Paribas SA, among others.

“This is an unprecedented transformation towards sustainable agriculture on a massive scale, and the kind of bold change we need to see to protect the climate, biodiversity, and food security,” said Erik Solheim, head of UN Environment. “We’re pinning a great deal on the Zero Budget Natural Farming programme, which I hope will inspire the widespread adoption of a natural farming scheme. It’s a better deal for farmers, consumers, and the planet.”

The official launch of the ZBNF scale-out programme marked an unprecedented commitment by the state to promote the scale-out of climate-resilient, regenerative agriculture in a broader effort to transform and protect local food systems and long-term well-being of farmers.

“The success of climate-resilient, Zero Budget Natural Farming in Andhra Pradesh will not only help India in meeting its SDGs but it can also inspire and transform the lives of millions of farmers across the developing world,” said Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu.

“The Andhra Pradesh government is showing true leadership in transitioning one of India’s first “Green Revolution” states into one of India’s first natural farming states,” said Pavan Sukhdev, President, WWF International.

As both a social and environmental programme, it aims to ensure that farming – particularly smallholder farming – is economically viable by enhancing farm biodiversity and ecosystem services. It reduces farmers’ costs through eliminating external inputs and using in-situ resources to rejuvenate soils, whilst simultaneously increasing incomes, and restoring ecosystem health through diverse, multi-layered cropping systems.

Zero Budget Natural Farming also aims to create the social capital necessary for vibrant and inclusive agricultural production, by establishing farmers’ federations and self-help groups, and placing farmers at the forefront of knowledge creation and dissemination. “The AP ZBNF programme embeds social, environmental, and economic considerations to ensure inclusive and responsible growth. A farm cannot be economically viable if it continues to deplete the resources it needs, both ecological and social, to be productive” said Sunny Verghese, Chair, World Business Council for Sustainable Development.
The AP Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) and Singapore-Amaravati Investments Holding Ltd (SAIH) on June 7 signed a Concession and Development Agreement (CADA) in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Singapore Minister for Communications S Iswaran, to develop the start-up area in Amaravati during the 3rd Joint Implementation Committee meeting (JISC) in Vijayawada.

After a tete-a-tete with Singapore Minister S Iswaran, Naidu, the Chief Minister said the Singapore-Amaravati Investments Holding Ltd (SAIH) was formed to take forward the start-up area development in Amaravati. CM and Iswaran discussed the teamwork between AP government and Singapore Consortium.

With this development, people will be able to see visible development in capital Amaravati in the next three-six months as the works pertaining to the much-delayed Start-up area will be launched soon. Addressing the media, the Chief Minister said, “Day Zero for the development of the seed capital (Start-up area) has begun with the signing of the agreements. It will be developed in three phases in 15 years.”

The Chief Minister said the AP government requires the assistance of the Singapore Consortium to bring in convergence of activities in infrastructure, tourism, education and the service sector. “Catalytic Development should be our medium to bring in more investments and economic activities. Creating an ecosystem to encourage entrepreneurship is important for ensuring sustainability,” he said.

CM wanted the cooperation of Singapore in developing the tourism sector in Andhra Pradesh. Iswaran has agreed to the proposal of the Chief Minister to send AP students to Singapore under students exchange scheme. They also decided that direct flights between Singapore and Vijayawada should commence in a month. “The first flight from Singapore should land in Vijayawada on July 8,” said the Chief Minister.

S Iswaran said they entered the (CADA) agreement with AP to prevent any legal problems in executing development projects in Amaravati. “We are happy to work with Andhra Pradesh keeping in mind the larger interests of the state,” he said.

Principal Secretary to APCRDA Ajay Jain presented a brief report on the progress in the capital city. “After substantial progress since November, singing CADA in 3rd JISC meeting is the last step towards starting the grounding of the start-up project,” he said.

The newly-formed organization, Amaravati Development Partners (ADP), consists of the Singapore Business Federation, CLC, and other members of the Consortium, who will be developing a project called Catalytic Development, for acting as the centre for business activities and recording the development of the capital region. The project consists of a welcome gallery, an exhibition area and a visitor area that will be completed by June 2019. A presentation of virtual reality version of Amaravati was given by representatives from Metaverse.

The World Cities Summit will be hosted in Singapore from July 8 to 10, in which the Chief Minister will be speaking at the Mayors Forum to be held on July 8 and the Plenary Opening Session on July 9. A separate make-shift booth will be set-up showcasing the development and planning of Amaravati at the forum.

Ministers Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, P Narayana, CRDA Commissioner Sreedhar Cherukuri and ADC Chairperson Lakshmi Parthasarathy and other officials represented the AP government during the JISC
Skill Development Centres in Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government and Singapore signed several pacts for the development of a start-up area (1,691 acres) in the new capital, Amaravati. The papers were signed and exchanged by senior officials of the state government and Singapore in the presence of Chief Minister and S Iswaran.

The land parcel of 660 acres would be handed over in three phases to the Singapore companies for infrastructure development and other promotional activities. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said it marked “a historic beginning to the development of the new capital”, and Singapore would assist the state in making Amaravati a world-class city.

Iswaran said Singapore would join hands with the state government not only in building the new capital, Amaravati, but in various other activities such as skill development, institution building, industrial development and agri business. He said Singapore had also set up a separate Amaravati Development Office to focus on capital development. There would also be greater people-to-people contact, with the growing co-operation between AP and Singapore.

During the JISC meeting, the conceptual designs of the Welcome Centre, Visitors Gallery and Exhibition Centre, which will come up in the Start-up area, were presented. The officials were directed to complete the construction of the structures by early as 2019. “We have also decided to have student exchange programmes between AP and Singapore,” the CM said.

Skill Enhancing Programme

International Skill development and entrepreneurship development is going to be set-up in Amaravati in a sprawling area of 10 acres. The skill centres will function in joint collaboration of Synchroserve global solutions and Singapore based company, SkillNG Ventures. Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSC) will supervise the entire skill development programme in imparting required industry ready skills for the educated youngsters.

To empower the future generation, a special programme called ‘Empowering next generation Applied Business Leadership and Employability Skills Programme’ (ENABLE). Since construction of permanent buildings for training institutes is going to take some time, APSSDC has to ensure that training sessions begin within another month in hired buildings, as to not waste any time, mentioned Chief Minister to APSSDC managing director K Sambasiva Rao.

The first phase training for the selected candidates will be imparted in-Lorry crane material handlings, professional make-up, photography, fashion designing, forklift operation, textiles, chefs, artificial intelligence and machine learning categories. Financial support to these programmes are borne by APSSDC and adding to the skills imparting programme, the ENABLE centre is going to conduct 100 hours of orientation course to the candidates on soft skills, communication skills and tricks and trips for nailing a job.

Skill development centre in 1, 00,000 Sft

The first phase of the skill imparting scheme will have six courses that are hand-picked by the industry professionals to suit the youngsters’ interests thus driving them for an opportunity. The Skill Development centre in the capital is going to be built in an area measuring 1,00,000 square feet in the first phase and will gradually expand to 5,00,000 square feet. The training centre is aimed at catering to 10,000 youths per year. There will be 10 centres of excellence in this building which will require Rs 50 crore of funds. Beauty and wellness, Media and entertainment, Textile, Information Technology, Tourism, Banking, Financial services, Agriculture and allied activities, Logistics, Hospitality, Food refining will be separate departments under which several courses will be designed. Youth hailing from families of capital region farmers will be prioritised in the training institute.

With this development, people will be able to see visible development in capital Amaravati in the next three-six months as the works pertaining to the Start-up area will be launched soon.
AP, Flextronics sign pact to set up unit in Sri City

Electronics major Flex has come to Andhra Pradesh, marking the state’s pursuit to become the electronics hub of India. The State signed MoU with US-based Flex Ltd’s Indian arm for setting up a plant at the Sri City Special Economic Zone in Chittoor district.

The MoU between Flextronics Technologies (India) Pvt Ltd and the state government was inked by Flex President (Global Operations and Components) Francois Barbier and Principal Secretary (Information Technology) K Vijayanand.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister N Lokesh were present on the occasion when the deal was signed at the Secretariat. Flex, which has its manufacturing facilities in over 30 countries and employs over two lakh people, was committed to investing Rs 585 crore on its proposed facility near Tirupati and provide jobs to 6,600 people. It will manufacture a range of intelligent products at the plant. Flex provides innovative design, engineering, manufacturing, real-time supply chain insight and logistics services to companies in various industries and end-markets.

“We are working towards developing AP as a major attraction for capital investments. AP has the best electronics and hardware sectors and provides the entire infrastructure needed in the State. I am pleased to inform that Tirupati, Nellore and the cluster around it will have airports and infrastructure specifically for this purpose. Land is available in abundance along with a great connectivity. Krishnapatnam port that is very near to the cluster is bustling and growing and you would not get all these advantages anywhere else,” said CM.

The Chief Minister informed the company officials that they will be receiving all possible support from government – in the form of power, infrastructure, water or any logistical backing that may be required.

The Minister of IT Communications & Electronics Nara Lokesh put in continuous efforts to bring this electronics giant to Andhra Pradesh. “This is yet another mega investment for AP that will create thousands of jobs,” Lokesh said.

President Global Operations and Components at Flex, Francois Barbier said that the ecosystem in the State was suitable to reach a more number of customers and hence the company decided to establish the manufacturing facility here. "We are here as we trust the State government," he said.

Minister Lokesh said, “Andhra Pradesh has been striving hard in providing best-in-class investments to boost investments in the IT and Electronics sector. An eco-system has been designed and policies were put in place to promote the growth of electronics, information and technology sectors. The State aims to capture a lion’s share of 50 per cent of electronics production in the country and has been leaving no stone unturned to realise it at the earliest.

The estimated investment of the company will generate direct employment for thousands in the electronics sector. The government is looking at creation of 2 lakh jobs alone in electronics sector. Flextronics coming to AP is a remarkable feat and within a very short span, the State will be in top position when it comes to manufacturing electronics in South India, said Lokesh, adding that the production will likely begin from August 15. The day is not far enough when AP will be numero uno in the country in electronics manufacturing, Lokesh said.
Andhra Pradesh has won more than 60 Skoch awards including Platinum Award of State of the Year in Irrigation under National Significant Award category and Platinum Award for overall water resource department. Minister for IT and Panchayat Raj, Nara Lokesh, won the ‘Person of the Year’- Governance award. The awards were given away at the 52nd Skoch Summit for 2018 held in New Delhi on June 23. Director of Panchayat Raj, Ranjith Basha received the award on behalf of Lokesh. Appreciating the employees of the State for making this possible, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said, “the awards were result of the team spirit put in by the employees under various departments. The efforts of the government and that of the employees since the last four years have paid off. All these awards are dedicated to the public.”

CM further added that other States have got only 20 to 30 awards this year, but Andhra Pradesh stood best among them by securing more number of awards. Panchayat Raj department alone bagged 4 gold awards, a silver and 3 order of merit awards totaling to 8 awards.

The 8 Skoch awards in the Panchayat Raj department include Gold Award for using GPS tracking for the ‘Mana Neeru-Mana Uru’ scheme under which the government supplied drinking water to villages transparently. Silver award was received by the department for implementing cutting edge technology in collecting taxes in villages. The departments of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development have together won a gold award for becoming the best departments while a gold award was given away for ‘Grama Vikasam’ programme of Panchayat Raj.

Order of Merit Silver was presented to Panchayat Raj department through voting on the Grama Vikasam. National Significance Gold Award is won by the department for better performance in the country among all states. For implementing various services in rural areas including tax collection through survey system, exempting poor from tax ambit, the Panchayat Raj department bagged Order of Merit Bronze Award. Another award was presented for effectively implementing drinking water supply to villages in the rural areas during summer – Order of Merit Silver. On the other hand, the APCRDA also won the Skoch Order of Merit Awards for Block Chain Technology and Mana Amaravati App. Meanwhile, AP Innovation Society got Platinum Award for encouraging the Start-up companies in the state. The Mee- Seva in the IT department got Gold Award.

The Irrigation Department achieved 19 awards including 3 platinum for ‘Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme’, ‘Neeru-Chetu’ and Real Time monitoring of groundwater levels, 5 gold awards for ‘AP Water Resources Information System’, ‘Purushottapatham Lift Irrigation Scheme’, ‘Gandikota LI Scheme’, ‘Muchumurri LI Scheme’ and ‘Revival of defunct LI Scheme’, 8 Order of Merit Awards and one Bronze Award.

The AP Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) has won the Skoch Order of Merit under Skoch Good Governance Awards – 2018 for the project ‘third-party monitoring of industrial projects’ which brings transparency and accountability in investments made and employment generated in the State.

Chandrababu Naidu asked the employees to exhibit the same enthusiasm and strive to achieve 15 per cent growth rate in this financial year target.
Here it is the concluding part of "Literary Reminiscences of Gurazada Apparao Pantulu", by Ongole Munisubrahmanyam (1886-1969), an ardent admirer and beloved follower of Gurazada and was a pleader by profession, at Ongole. His acclaimed contribution to Telugu literature, if at all there is any, is preserving invaluable letters of Gurazada addressed to him during 1909-11, which unfold the vision and world view of colossus Gurazada.

Munisubrahmanyam came into contact with Gurazada in 1905 "just by accident". Reminiscing his early association with Gurazada, he said: "I was then a poor student of the Maharaja's College at Vizianagaram seeking his help to carry on my college studies. Slowly, I found myself, quite unconsciously, both morning and evening, at his desk or in his library, dabbling in all kinds of literary work that he was doing. When, in 1909, I graduated from that College and left Vizianagaram and settled down as teacher in my native district of Nellore, and afterwards as Tutor in PR. College, Cocanada, the literary work that was being carried on was disturbed and the same had to be done by correspondence for one or two years. It was during that period that Apparao Pantulu wrote to me a number of letters, rather lengthy, some of them which are pieces of fine literature in English and treatises on several aspects of literature, science and arts".

Evidently there must be more number of letters than that are available. However, it is beyond comprehension why the correspondence between them came to a sudden end after Munisubrahmanyam settled at Ongole in 1911. All the available letters were published here in these columns. Here is only one letter available, written by Ongole to Gurazada.

Stonehousepet, Nellore. 10-5-1909.
Dear Sir,

I received the first 128 Pages of Kanyasulkam from the printers. I have gone through it carefully. I am sure it has undergone a great change. It has gained considerably in humour. I believe I am able to appreciate its high merits. At all events, I am able to enjoy it immensely. My friend Mr. Sivakamaiah B.A., a fellow teacher, is in raptures at it. Girisam, with all his remarkable capabilities as a teacher, as a lover, as a social reformer and politician and as a flippant young man of these days never fails to amuse us in all our walks, gatherings and conversations. Agnihotra and Lubadha are the real portraits of two old world orthodox Brahmns, who are most skilfully duped by two different persons in two different ways. Buchamma and Minakshi illustrate the main theme and title of the play. They are two types of young Indian widows - the one innocent and lovable and the other immoral and perverted beyond correction. The lightly drawn and
finely shaded portrait of Ramappantulu is perhaps not unfamiliar to us at Vizianagaram. He could also have been a drunkard, but as it is, his character needs a final finish. Perhaps, Madhuravani is the type of the professional prostitutes of India. The situations in which gentlemen are put to all sorts of humiliation in the brothel, are excellently conceived; and are calculated to teach us that a frequenter of that place must be prepared to embrace all ignominy and compromise all dignity and self-respect. Venkatesam, a young man of marriageable age and so stupid and shallow-headed as never once to be able to peep into tutor’s movements and actions is not a unique figure at all.

Everything in the play is so natural and realistic; and the humour is sure to burst one’s lungs by its unceasing attacks. There is no part of the play that does not, in some degree, advance the plot, main or subordinate; and each character develops gradually with time and circumstances the play, as a (...) does not (...).

I understand your criticism of Prataparudrium and endorse it to the word. I have studied two other plays of Mr. Sastri (Vedam Venkatarya Sastri) as text-books, Usha and Naganandam. They are found guilty of a little looseness of structure. I have studied “Harischandra” by Kandukuri Veeresalingam as a text-book and Chilakamarthi Lakshminarasimham’s ‘Parijathapaharanam’ and ‘Prasannayadavam’. I shall be highly thankful if you supply me with short critiques on them, as promised by you.

I shall send you a list of words not used in these parts in a week. I received only 128 pages of the book Kanyasulkam. Please ask the printer to send me a copy of the book, as far as it is printed till now. Hoping my letter reaches you in the enjoyment and health.

I am, affectionately yours,
O. Munisubrahmanya
(Concluded)
The Polavaram project, considered the most prestigious irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh, achieved a milestone after Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the diaphragm wall pylon in West Godavari district on June 11.

"This is the biggest diaphragm wall in India. This is the lifeline for Andhra Pradesh. Despite several hurdles, the TDP government is committed to complete the polavaram project," said CM. Considered an important part of the Polavaram project, which is considered as last one of its kind in the country, the 1,550 metre long and 95 metre deep diaphragm wall was constructed in a record time of two seasons (started in February 2017 and completed by June 2018) by L&T and Bauer.

"Ours is the first government to realise river interlinking in India. We are rehabilitating almost one lakh tribal families for it. Government of India is still due to pay more than Rs 1000 crore for the project and however, we are going to complete the project by December 2019," he asserted. He further tweeted, "The workers, planners and engineers involved in the Polavaram irrigation project have worked hard with incredible dedication. With the completion of the diaphragm wall pylon, the project will soon reach its final stage."

The diaphragm wall forms the foundation for 150-feet high Earth-cum-Rock-Fill (ECRF) dam, which will store 194 tmcft of water. The diaphragm wall that is constructed below ECRF prevents the leakage of water across the dam from the bottom of ECRF through sand pores. Made with the help of latest German technology, the diaphragm wall is constructed using a special clay construction material called 'bentonite' to make
The construction of the diaphragm wall started on February 1 last year and was successfully completed in 414 working days with a budget of Rs 450 crore.

This can facilitate the hassle-free project construction even during the flood season without any leakages or breaches. It is noted that over 2500 workers and 500 engineers worked on a mission mode towards completing the diaphragm wall, which is a key in the Polavaram project.

For timely completion of the diaphragm wall, Chandrababu Naidu had conducted 25 physical inspections and 63 virtual inspections at regular intervals. Polavaram, which is now 55 percent complete, will help irrigate over 7.2 lakh acres of land besides bringing along many other benefits. The project is said to be beneficial to the entire Andhra Pradesh State directly or indirectly.

The Chief Minister said Navayuga, which is executing the works, has created a record by completing 11,558 cubic metre of concrete work in 24 hours. “Even for Kaleshwaram project in Telangana, the concrete work record stood at 7,250 cubic metre in a single day,” he pointed out.

The Chief Minister reiterated that he is determined to complete the project by 2019-end at any cost. Once it is completed, it will help in making the State drought-proof.

Explaining the cost of the project, Naidu said the total cost of the project is estimated to be around Rs 57,000 crore, of which Rs 5,000 crore is for the power project, Rs 27,000 crore to Rs 28,000 crore will be needed for land acquisition and R&R package. “Out of the needed 1,68,213 acres of land, 1,10,355 acres have been acquired. A sum of Rs 21,027 crore is required to rehabilitate nearly 1 lakh families, most of them tribals,” Naidu said.

He said his government had spent Rs 14,000 crore on the project so far, of which Rs 8,613 crore was spent after the project was declared a national project. The Central government has reimbursed Rs 6,727 crore only. He stressed the need for people to visit the Polavaram project and understand the facts. “It is important, so people will not be carried away by the statements of those criticising from their office rooms,” he said.

CM missive to Gadkari
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu wrote a letter to Union Minister of Water Resources Nitin Gadkari urging him to clear the dues relating to the Polavaram project. The Centre had to reimburse Rs 1935.41 crore, he said. Delay will seriously hamper the pace of the work, the CM wrote.

IT Minister Nara Lokesh, meanwhile, tweeted that compared to the progress of 16 national projects, Polavaram project was progressing ahead without interruption. He said he was shocked to see only five of the 16 national irrigation projects have been grounded and Polavaram is the only project on track.
AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on June 22 laid foundation stone for the construction of APNRT’s Icon towers at Rayapudi village in Amaravati. The iconic tower is being developed jointly by State government and Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugus (APNRT) for making Amaravati a silicon valley of Andhra Pradesh.

NRT Icon is envisioned as a unique opportunity for global NRTs to share the growth and prosperity of the sunrise state of Andhra Pradesh. NRT Icon is being promoted as an iconic structure in the capital city of Andhra Pradesh and being designed to be the home to multiple blue chip companies. It is expected to bring high wage employees to our capital Amaravati. These jobs will bring the much needed spending capacity, flair and international dynamics to the people’s capital and is an attractive investment opportunity for buyers from all over the world.

The Icon tower is designed to be a 33-storey structure with 11 lakh sft area. The towers will cater to office needs and residential space for the employees. The towers are said to be a landmark of the capital city. More than 100 companies providing 5,000 direct employment and 20,000 indirect employment will operate from the NRT towers. The project cost is estimated to be around Rs 500 Crore. Icon towers will have features like revolving restaurants, NRT club, world class auditorium, high-end class rooms with state of the art audio video equipment, sustainability features with water and energy conservation etc.

NRT Icon is being projected as a unique opportunity to NTIs to own a part of the most prestigious address in Amaravati. The investor would get an opportunity to park their funds into a real property in a sunrise city, with minimal risk for their investment. Apart from being an iconic structure being invested into, the property is guaranteed to appreciate due to the involvement of Gov’t of Andhra Pradesh and AP NRT Society, who are the promoters of the project.

Speaking on the occasion, CM said, “Amaravati will become an innovation valley in the future. State government will establish the industries for Non Resident Telugu community. It is my goal to ensure that Amaravati becomes one of the top five cities in the world. I feel proud about the NRT entrepreneurs who are spread across 120 countries including Telugus working in higher ranks in Silicon Valley.” After recollecting about his initial vision for software industry and how he had prioritized IT over other industries, CM also emphasised upon the importance of educational institutions and his vision to make Amaravati a knowledge hub. The Chief Minister said, “At least one digital literate must hail from every house in the State, and most citizens should become entrepreneurs.” He urged all the citizens to come forward and work together to make the dream of building a world-class Amaravati a reality.

The foundation stone laying ceremony organised by Non Resident Telugu Society was attended by about a thousand NRT delegates.
The representatives of the Korean automobile giant, Kia Motors, told Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu that they were all bucked up in rolling out the first vehicle by New Year 2019. In a meeting held with CM at Secretariat on June 12, a delegation of Kia Motors India explained the progress of the various modules of the project at their set-up in Anantapur. Kia officials earlier planned to bring out the first care from Andhra in March next year. However, the CM wanted to advance the date.

Explaning the status of the production unit, representatives mentioned that 65.3% of the assembly shop, 63.1% of the paint shop and 65.1% of the body shop along with 64.1% of the press have been completed so far. The ‘Made in India’ car will be likely unveiled on January 1, 2019. However, other works at the production unit include - Head Office, Engine Shop, Manual Transmission, Coil Centre, Seats, Test track besides township with residential buildings.

The Chief Minister congratulated the team for keeping up at the tasks ahead of the set targets and asked their officials to ensure that there is real-time updation of the physical progress of the project. He also directed the Anantapur Collectorate to clear off land acquisition issues pertaining to the project’s development at the earliest.

Kia in Skill imparting
Kia Motors India and AP State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) together started a Basic Training Course in the automobile sector on June 20. This course admitted students only from the Anantapur district, who will be equipped with sound knowledge required for the automobile industry. Their skills are updated to suit the needs of the Kia Motors. As many as 4000 students are undergoing the training course before they will be roped in to work for it. Meanwhile, Kia Motors India had already announced 3000 employment opportunities for the people to operate the plant. Kia Motors entered into an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government on April 20, 2017, to produce 3 lakh vehicles annually, with an investment of Rs 13,000 cr to provide employment opportunities to 11,000 persons, including 4,000 direct jobs. The APIIC allotted 535.50 acres to the main plant, 36 acres to the township and 11.20 acres to the training centre. The state is ready to allot 250 acres to 40 automobile allied industries in Gudipalli and Yerramanchi villages. Besides, the state has been making efforts to allot 100 acres for railway siding and 48.47 acres for a truck terminal, the release added.
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.

In a positive response to the launch of the Sadhikara Mithra app, 39,000 Sadhikara Mithras have downloaded it. We are introducing basic technology to ensure real-time governance even at grassroots level.

Clearing of weed at Pavitra Sangamam and Prakasam Barrage has been completed within 3 days as per given instructions in the previous surprise inspection. We will monitor different parts of the State regularly from RTG with the help of surveillance cameras.

Happy to announce that @KiaMotorsIN’s Basic Technical Course for Automobile Industry has begun for the first batch in @anantapurgoap.
Three cities in A.P. figured among the top-10 Swachh Survekshan - 2018 rankings. With a score of 3580.24, Vijayawada stood in the 5th position followed by Tirupati and Visakhapatnam with scores of 3575.8 and 3546.5 respectively. The State got 19 ranks among 200 clean cities and 31 among 300 cities. Ongole and Chittoor stood in the 83rd and 95th positions. Vijayawada earned the distinction of being the cleanest city in more than 10-lakh population category and Tirupati best in SWM in 3 lakh+ category.

Apart from the top three cities which ranked below 10, the other cities which outscored other Indian cities to find a place in the top-200 list include Ongole (83), Chittoor (95), Tenali (108), Kakinada (118), Narsaraopet (120), Guntur (129), Rajahmundry (138), Vizianagaram (154), Kadapa (163), Nandyal (176), Srikakulam (180), Proddatur (184), Machilipatnam (186), Mangalagiri (187), Eluru (192) and Nellore (193). In order to foster a healthy competition among the cities to improve cleanliness standards, the ministry of urban development (MoUD) has initiated the survey in 2016.

Meanwhile, District Collector PS Pradyumna and Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) Commissioner Vijaya Rama Raju felicitated more than 100 sanitation workers at Mahathi Auditorium, for their efforts in achieving sixth place in the cleanliness in the national-level Swachh Survekshan-2018 competition.
There’s something about Superstar Rajinikanth’s stardom that’s hard to define. His films from the ‘90s, like Baasha, Arunachalam, Muthu, and Narasimha, have set a tone about what to expect from his films, and no matter how hard he tries to get away from it, it’s become harder to accept the new version of Rajinikanth on screen. In the last two decades, with the exception of Shivaji, there hasn’t been a single film where his aura and stardom did justice to his magnetic screen presence. Even a massive blockbuster like Endhiran, which was released in Telugu as Robo, is seen more of a Shankar’s film than a Rajini’s. His recent choices like Kabali and Kaala, both of which were directed by Pa Ranjith, have left many wondering if they’ll ever see a vintage Rajinikanth back on screen anytime soon. And the bigger question is, has the equation between Rajinikanth, the Superstar, and his ardent admirers changed over the years?

There’s no denying that Rajinikanth is still the biggest star in South Indian cinema, with a commendable fan following in North India. He commands the highest remuneration in the South, and his films do astounding pre-release business. The satellite rights of Kaala alone have been sold for more than Rs 60 crores, and for 2.0, the figure has been pegged at more than Rs 100 crores across all languages. Yet, there has been a palpable change in the box-office numbers once the film releases. When he signed Kabali few years ago, it was a monumental decision to team up with a young filmmaker, whose previous film, Madras, was praised for its political undertones. With Kabali and Kaala, Pa Ranjith got the biggest star available to be part of his endeavour to highlight social issues that are rarely talked about in mainstream cinema. While Kabali spoke about the trouble that Tamil migrants in Malaysia have gone through over the past few decades, their most recent film Kaala delved into the rights of slum dwellers in Dharavi, Mumbai.

In less than two years, thanks to these two films, Pa
Ranjith has done something which no other filmmaker has managed to in the past 20-25 years. Pa Ranjith humanised Rajinikanth and how!

In both the films, Rajinikanth doesn’t seem to be the star who can do anything under the Sun. He isn’t the Superstar of Narasimha, who took on an entire rival family to restore the honour of his family; or the Superstar of Baasha, who shocked the underworld of Mumbai; or even the good-hearted guy in Arunachalam, whose humble origins offered a dramatic landscape for his transformation later on. In Kabali, Rajinikanth was just an old man trying to search for his wife. Yes, there are traces of his dazzling screen presence in few scenes, but then his stardom was tamed to play a realistic character. It’s slightly more dramatic in Kaala, where he played a kind-hearted don, who wants to end violence before he passes away. But it’s nowhere close to the Rajinikanth we have grown up watching.

All this begs us to confront one of our greatest fears while watching a Rajinikanth’s film - Can we ever watch a Rajinikanth film purely for the story and not for his unique mannerisms and larger-than-life image? The answer is both yes and no. With the exception of Shankar’s forthcoming sci-fi epic 2.0, it might take Rajinikanth a long time to deliver what his ardent admirers expect from him. The fact that he isn’t getting any younger has had a clear impact on what he does on screen. No more gravity-defying stunts, or lengthy action sequences which might test his endurance; however, the biggest change has been his willingness to play his age and let the younger filmmakers narrate their stories without having to tweak them to impress Rajinikanth’s fan base. It’s the bitter truth which all of us need to gulp to make sense of his new set of movies in the post-Endhiran phase.

Currently, he’s playing the lead role in Karthik Subbaraj’s upcoming film, and the makers are playing the cards close to their chest about what sort of role Rajini would play in this drama. This leaves with just one film - Shankar’s 2.0, whose budget has been pegged at more than Rs 400 crores, making it the costliest film ever in the history of Indian cinema. Rajinikanth will be seen in dual roles, once again, as a robot and a scientist. And this time, he has Akshay Kumar as an arch-nemesis, along with Amy Jackson, who reportedly plays a robot. The film has been in the making for a while and it was supposed to hit the screens in November last year; however, it has now been pushed to early 2019 owing to VFX delay and post-production. Considering that the film was shot in 3D, this long delay was expected; however, with Kaala failing to work wonders at the box-office, there are plenty of doubts on 2.0’s box-office potential to recover its investment.

Recent developments suggest that Lyca Productions, which has produced 2.0, is pumping in additional Rs 100 crores for the completion of post-production. While there’s still no clarity about the exact budget of the film, it’s going to be the biggest film ever in India when it releases and the hype will be at its zenith to see Rajinikanth in a brand new avatar. Given Shankar’s penchant to combine social drama with Rajinikanth’s superstardom, as exemplified in Shivaji and Endhiran, it will hardly be surprising if 2.0 turns out to be the biggest hit in Rajinikanth’s career.

For now, 2.0 is the only hope left for Rajinikanth’s admirers to see him in a role where he makes anything seem possible. Other filmmakers might have succeeded in weaving interesting, and sometimes important, stories that need to be debated about, but the adrenaline rush of watching Rajinikanth in a Shankar’s film is beyond all these comparisons.

A long time ago, Grady Hendrix, a writer at Slate, once described Rajinikanth’s phenomenon as - “This is Rajinikanth, and he is no mere actor—he is a force of nature. If a tiger had sex with a tornado and then their tiger-nado baby got married to an earthquake, their offspring would be Rajinikanth. Or, as his films are contractually obligated to credit him, “SUPERSTAR Rajinikanth!” Let’s hope that at least 2.0 justifies that the adjectives that Rajinikanth’s fans have attributed to him over the year. But only time will tell if Rajinikanth, who’s now playing an active role in politics, will leave acting as Rajinikanth or Superstar Rajinikanth!

- Hemanth Kumar C R
Amazing Andhra Pradesh

The **DUTCH** connection of Masula
BUILT in the early 1600s by the Dutch, the Bandar Kota also called as the ‘Dutch Fort’ stands tall with pride that has been camouflaged by the quick revolution of time. With a great history behind, the Fort, which is not very popular, needs a special mention not only for its epic personality but also for what it has withstood over testing times.

Located in Machilipatnam in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, the Dutch Fort is an unexplored historical monument until recently. Built by the Dutch East India Company in early 1600 A.D., the fort has survived several natural calamities and was subjected to severe negligence until the department of Archaeology and Museums considered the Fort to be part of their restoration programme under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Conservation measures are initiated at the fort after the Amaravati capital city has come up with great focus on developing heritage for tapping tourism.

‘Masulipatnam’ was the first British trading settlement (1611) on the Bay of Bengal. From 1686 to 1759, the city was held by the French and the Dutch, before British finally captured the city and the fort from the French in 1759.

A great centre of commerce

The Dutch constructed an armoury, a fort, and a belfry (Ganta Sthambam) near the Machilipatnam Port, which played a vital role in the commerce between Europe and India. Known to the Romans during 3rd century B.C. as ‘Maisolos’, the Port here is a major trading centre and phenomenal for having a natural harbor. For centuries, the famous Golconda diamonds have been traded to other countries out of India from the harbor. During excavations, many gold coins from the Roman era and the Satavahana era have been discovered at the Port, which is a proof enough for us to imagine the hustling activity of the port, which is considered a gateway to the trade in South India. The harbor has its name ‘Bandar’ from Persian, which translates to Port, literally.

While the roof of the fort caved in in some portions, the armoury and Ganta Sthambham are still intact. One can also witness roofless and ruined walls of a jail and a hospital constructed by the Nizams of Golconda. It was under the patronage of the Golconda rulers that the European traders first established themselves at the port town, which played a significant role in the maritime contacts in Coramandel coast right from ancient times.

Impressive Structure

The Fort and the armoury together are known as Port and Customs Office and Belfry. The Fort has many big and small rooms, narrow staircases that lead to a dilapidated roof; once used as customs and port office. It is a quadrangular structure with rooms and godowns built around it. The compound of the fort is divided into two open spaces with narrow buildings in the centre. The otherwise busy fort was depopulated when Machilipatnam was hit by a massive cyclone that killed 30,000 people in the year 1864.

An arsenal

According to the signage that was stationed at the Fort, it is mentioned that Captain Albert Harvey, in his book titled ‘Ten Years in India,’ described the fort as having an arsenal store meant for supply to the troops in the Hyderabad and Nagpur subsidiary forces, as well as the whole of the northern division of the army. It contained necessities of every description and was kept in first rate order by the commissariat and the many warrant officers attached to the establishment. Mandu Bandagaram, where all the ammunition was stored is located along the Bandar Fort “During the British control, the fort was modified further. For some time, the fort was under the French as a part of Northern Circars and annexed to the East India Company,” Ch Babji Rao, an archaeologist with the Archaeological Survey of India was quoted saying earlier.

The Belfry, which has entry from two sides, is one of a few monuments that stand testimonial to the engineering marvels of the Dutch. The pillar was designed in such a way that the bell sound could be heard to 8 kilometers away from it. In the early 16th century, the Dutch had established factories in Machilipatnam. There is also a cemetery within the limits of Machilipatnam municipalities which was occupied by locals at Bandarkota.

accommodation:

Machilipatnam being the district headquarters has innumerable hotels that treat you to a good weekend getaway with beautiful sea views and sunrises along with some tasty seafood.

getting there:

From Vijayawada, Machilipatnam is at a distance of 60 kilometers and is easily accessible via road. There are plenty of buses and other vehicles that can drop you there for a nominal ticket price. You can otherwise go on a long ride on two, four-wheelers or hire a self-drive cabs. It hardly takes two hours to reach Bandar from where you may ask locals for direction to the Fort.

must see/do

We know you will head to Manginapudi beach however but do not forget to pay a visit to the Fort, St. Mary’s Church in Englishpalem and the Governor’s Building, a British construction that now serves as the Collector’s office. Treat yourself to some authentic ‘Bandar Laddu’ (Thokkudu Laddu) and pack a truck load for your dear ones.
CM has 4 million plus followers on Twitter

Ever since Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had joined the micro-blogging site in the year 2009, his followers have been growing steadily at a fast pace. Latest update reveals, as on June 1, 2018, the followers of CM in Twitter have crossed a whopping four million. “The motive behind my online presence is to connect better with the people and disseminate information through the personalised channel. Taking insights from valuable feedback and, on its basis, redressing the grievances has been a driving force for using the social media platforms like Twitter actively,” CM was quoted saying.

Gulf Visa Centre in Krishna District

The city will soon get passport printing facility along with visa application centres of the Gulf countries, said district Collector Lakshmikantham. Addressing a press conference earlier in June, he mentioned that the passport printing facility will begin in the city and it will aid in delivering passports quickly after printing. Also, visa centre for Gulf countries is going to be set-up, to prevent travelers from the burden of visiting other States for obtaining visas.

8 Star hotels to start works in Amaravati soon

CRDA Commissioner Ch Sreedhar asked the managements of the concerned four five-star hotel groups – Novotel, Doubletree by Hilton, Hilton and Crowne Plaza to start construction works within three months, in the capital region. In a press release, it was disclosed that Letters of Intent (LoIs) were given to the managements to begin works in Lingayapalem, Mandadam, Sakhamuru and Navuluru. The CRDA has already allotted four acres to each group. Similarly, in four-star category, LoIs were issued to GRT Hotel, Holiday Inn, Dasapalla and Green Park hotels. Four star hotels were sanctioned two acres of land each at a rate of Rs 1.5 crore. According to the norms, these hotels will have to start business in another three years.

AU inks MoU with Lincoln University

Andhra University (AU) has signed an MoU with Lincoln University College of Malaysia on June 19. The pact would expand the academic activities of the prestigious AU to international arena. The MoU was signed by CEO of Lincoln University College Dr Amiya Bhauumik and Registrar of the AU, Prof V Umamaheswara Rao. Speaking on the occasion, AU’s Vice Chancellor Prof Nageswara Rao said, both the universities will work together in research and the tie up will facilitate academic exchange.

VMC wins another award

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has bagged Skoch Award for installation of smart semi-underground waste collection bins across the city. Their surveillance through CCTV cameras has yielded great results and secured an award for the VMC. The engineering department officials have identified 201 locations in the city and placed about 321 dumper bins. They have arranged for CCTV surveillance at the same which are solar-powered. The award was given away to VMC Commissioner J Nivas and Mayor Koneru Sreedhar at a meeting held at New Delhi on June 22.

Diesel subsidy hike for fisher boats

State government has given in to the demands of Fishermen and agreed to enhance the subsidy on Diesel for boats. In the wake of demands from Fishermen’s Unions to hike the subsidy on fuel, government has increased it from existing Rs 6.03 per litre to Rs 12.93 per litre. In connection, State Finance minister Ramakrishnudu mentioned that government has agreed to hike the subsidy price and with this decision, a burden of Rs 20 crore is levied upon the State government. Representatives of the 9 Fishermen’s Unions have met the minister on June 15 and appealed to consider their request. Also, the members thanked the government for sanctioning Rs 1000 as pension toward retired/old fishermen.

Cargo services at Gannavaram airport

Gannavaram airport is now ready to start its cargo service with 15 metric tonne of load on everyday basis. The cargo facility has been green-signaled by Airport Authority of India after multiple requests, though the cargo terminal was prepared in 2017. Very soon, the cargo service limit will be extended from 15 metric tonnes to 30 metric tonnes. Proposals were made for cold storage construction. “The cargo services will attract large crowd of businessmen and industrialists who wants to export or import goods. A lot of the seafood, agricultural produce is exported from this region,” said Airport director G Madhusudhan Rao.
Honorary salary hike to anganwadis

State government has decided to hike honorary wages up to Rs 10,500 for the Anganwadi teachers working in the state. Keeping up to the promise made by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to them, a government order was released for the salary hike. Until date, anganwadi workers were being paid Rs 7000 only. Similarly, salaries for anganwadi workers were raised from Rs 4,500 to Rs 6000. The CM also announced that about 4.62 lakh Sathikara Mithras would be provided by smart phones.

Rs 1000 Cr for urban Poor housing

Andhra Pradesh government had passed a decree releasing Rs 1000 crore towards housing facility of the urban poor living in the State under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and NTR Nagar. The Center and State government have decided to build 6.81 lakh houses for urban poor and so far works have begun for close to 5.5 lakh houses. For each house being built under the scheme, State government is funding a minimum of Rs 2.25 lakh and a maximum of Rs 2.56 lakh. The construction works are going at a fast pace.

City Archer to participate in 18th Asian Games

City-based Archer and Arjuna awardee Vennem Jyothi Surekha has been selected to take part in 18th Asian Games to be held at Jakarta, Indonesia. The archer will participate at the tournament from August 19 to September 2. Meanwhile, the young champion will also participate in the World Cup Stage IV tournament which will be held at Berlin, Germany from July 16 to July 22.

150 acres Beachfront development

Ap Tourism Development Corporation will now develop 150 acres of beachfront area at Manginapudi beach in Machilipatnam. MD of APTDC, Himanshu Sukla and Minister Kollu Ravindra have announced their plans for sprucing up tourism across the coastline in the district. A detailed project report would be soon prepared. Guest house by the R&B department and a youth hostel will also come up at the beachfront development programme besides other facilities in public and private partnership mode.

Tourism Satellite Accounts in AP

AP Tourism has now introduced “Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) in the State to identify the needs of tourists. Datamation agency has been appointed for collecting information by conducting a survey that reveals the purpose of the visit, mode of transport, range of expenditure, preferences and feedback from the tourists. Tourism department officers were asked to identify key locations to conduct the survey and support the agency in equipping the tourism data.

CM Interacting with newly trained Sub-Inspectors at Praja Vedika, Undavalli on June 27. DGP Malakondaiah, other senior police officials are also seen.
The Sunrise State of Andhra Pradesh is aiming big when it comes to tourism and its activities. To introduce new concepts, develop the existing facilities and to tap the potentiality of the region are among the important tasks for the government right now. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the activities of State Tourism Planning Board at a meeting held at the Secretariat. The officials presented the Chief Minister with a master plan for the development of the three Shilparamams coming up in Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Tirupati.

"The works related to the Shilparamams of Guntur, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati will begin as a part of phase one and the prime purpose is to bring improvements to the brand Shilparamam so that revenue generations and operations are handled independently by Shilparamam", said Mukesh Kumar Meena, Secretary (Tourism).

The Visakhapatnam Shilparamam works have been divided into 3 phases and the project is expected to be completed in the next 24 months. The Chief Minister was informed that the Visakhapatnam unit will have enhanced security with 160 rooms for accommodations, banquet hall, multipurpose function hall with a capacity of 1200, and a crafts bazaar which will have artworks by local artisans displayed across 30 stalls. This Shilparamam will also have a themed water park and an ice land to provide a sub-zero degree experience to the visitors, and will be built up with an estimated cost of Rs. 30 crores and spread over an area of 12.5 crores.

The Tirupati unit of Shilparamam will be spread across 6 zones which would have light shows, amusement parks, craft exhibitions, festival grounds, deluxe guest houses and restaurants spread across them. The six zones would be constructed with an estimated cost of 120.8 crores and the first phase of works will be completed by February 2019. Briefing the Chief Minister on the works related to the Guntur Shilparamam, the officials said that the Guntur unit is divided into 3 zones with zone 1 being a flat land, zone 2 being a lake and zone 3 being an extension of the lake. The project’s designs have been inspired by Undavalli Caves and Buddha Stupa. The Guntur Shilparamam will also have all the state of the art facilities and will be spread across 12.25 acres with an estimated project cost of Rs.80 crores.

The Chief Minister was also informed of the plans to develop Pattiseema into a tourist hub. The project is divided into 5 zones with all zones having special attractions such as arts and crafts, play area, go-karting, food zone and golf course. Speaking to officials on the need to have a vision, the Chief Minister said, “We are having excellent resources in the state and to provide them with more visibility, you must consult with the experts to understand the potential and speciality of each of the areas marked. We are focusing more on the service sector and are trying to build 1 lakh rooms across the state and for that purpose the tourism has to develop.”

The Tourism Board officials informed the Chief Minister that 16.54 crore people visited AP last year, showing an increase of 1.2 crores compared to the previous year. The State tourism growth rate was at 15% which is third in the country and 4% above the national average. He was also informed that last year 16 events were organized by the tourism board which were attended by 16 lakh people.
IN PICS

Pic 1: Chief Minister participating in the International Yoga Day in Vijayawada.

Pic 2: Ramzan prayers in Vijayawada witnessed the Chief Minister joining the namazis.

Pic 3: The CM at the inauguration of the newly constructed Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Nambur in Guntur district.

Pic 4: The CM speaking at the Health Festival, the first of its kind in the state, organised in Vizag.

Pic 5: Village Revenue Assistants (VRAs) felicitating the CM for enhancing their salary from Rs 6,000 to Rs 10,500 per month. The step will benefit 27,000 VROs in the state.