Fast Forward

The State made impressive gains in the last four years despite challenging circumstances, under the CM's tenacious leadership.
StartAP, an organisation which enables growing entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Sunrise State has been doing its bit in bringing together the potential investors, enthusiastic youngsters with creative ideas to share, explore, discuss and nurture ideas that work. For the very first time since StartAP’s inception in 2014, the team had come forward to identify and felicitate the achievers who made it big by being an entrepreneur.

With the support from AP State Government, StartAP organized its first Entrepreneur Awards on May 25 at Vizag. Referring to the endeavours of StartAP, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu tweeted, “Andhra Pradesh has become one of the world’s most sought after technology hubs.”

Andhrapreneur, the signature award of StartAP was given away to Xiaomi. There are three categories- Leadership Awards, Organisational Awards and Startup Awards. About 35 awards were given away to the entrepreneurs who excelled in their play. The event saw more than 1000 special invitees, 200 plus Startups, 20 speakers, 3 power panels with panellists from across the country.

“We are involving leading startups of Indian community Paytm, Xiaomi, CallHealth, Nestaway, UTV and big companies like LinkedIn, Fintech, Infotech, Cigniti, Cyient, Amazon and ITC group and leading investor groups like Microsoft Ventures, 50K Ventures, Unitus Seed Fund, Endiya, KLCP and Lead Angel,” said Siddharth Marupeddi, CEO of StartAP.
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The Pains of Re-birth

The four years since its caesarian birth have been the most testing times for Andhra Pradesh. Looking back, it has been a stressful but fulfilling journey. When people had reposed their faith in a government led by Nara Chandrababu Naidu, it was essentially a vote for his leadership qualities and proven record in navigating the united state through developmental paradigm. The Chief Minister’s experience, hard work and vision were much sought to lift the residuary state out of the deep morass into which it was pushed.

Andhra Pradesh has certainly come a long way since 2014. The state has made visible progress on several parameters. Economy is looking up, per capita income is growing, infrastructure is improving and industrial development is apace. A slew of welfare schemes are being implemented at great cost. For a state that was left with little economic viability at inception, AP has made significant progress on both welfare and development fronts. The consistently achieved double digit growth is proof of the enormous strides being made across various sectors.

It is of course true that the state is miles to go before it can stake a claim to leadership in the country. From Polavaram to Amaravati, there are many big ticket projects which need to be completed. Given the pace of the progress and the relentless manner in which the Chief Minister has been following up on these initiatives, the goal is within grasp.

However, unexpected developments triggered of late by power politics seem to threaten the ongoing development strides. At a time when the state needs more growth and less politics, there appears to be a concerted effort to derail the path of progress. If the same pace were to be maintained, the Chandrababu Naidu Government appeared all set to meet several milestones by the end of the fifth year.

Hopefully, the parties will realise that Andhra Pradesh is now standing at crossroads of its uncertain future. More importantly, the people of the state need to be aware that time is of essence for the fledgling state, and squandering energies in politics of one-up-man-ship would spell ruin to the bright prospects that are within reach. It is time to be circumspect over wasteful pursuits, and stick to the real agenda - of development.
Investment opportunities in Amaravati were showcased by Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (AP-CRDA) in a road-show held in Mumbai on May 25. Senior officials, including Commissioner Cherukuri Sreedhar, Andhra Pradesh Planning Board vice-chairman C Kutumba Rao were in the country’s financial capital to invite participation from top financial institutions in its Rs 2,000 crore unsecured bond issue, backed by the state government.

Sreedhar said various financing options were being considered for the construction of Amaravati, ranging from multilateral funding by the World Bank, term loans from financial institutions and commercial banks and private placement of bonds. More than 80 senior executives from 30 institutional investors and Qualified Institutional Bidders took part in the event, where Sreedhar explained the financial plan of Amaravati, the cash flows, the progress of various projects, the project management and the governance structure.

He also outlined the revenue model and the structure of the bonds proposed to be issued through the electronic bidding platform of the Bombay Stock Exchange.

The issue is proposed with a tenor of 10 years and is rated AA- by Brickworks Ratings India Pvt. Ltd and Smera Ratings Ltd. The state government, through the APCRDA, has already received funding close to Rs27,000 crore from the World Bank and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO), with 48% of capex planned in phase 1 already under execution. With SBI Capital as advisors, the APCRDA also plans to raise Rs5,000 crore through masala bonds.

CRDA special commissioner V. Rama Manohara Rao dwelt on the rating process conducted by two agencies. State Planning Board vice-chairman C. Kutumba Rao appraised the investors about the support and guarantee extended by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the bond issue. Advisers to the issue A.K. Capital, representatives of the strategic management consultant McKinsey and rating agency CRISIL took part.

Later, in a press released, the CRDA officials said, “The investors expressed keen interest and willingness, but requested for extension of the timeframe for the issuance of the bonds.”

The Andhra Pradesh government plans to incur a capital expenditure of Rs51,208 crore on the first phase of development of its capital city Amaravati, senior state government officials said.

In the first phase, which is scheduled to be completed by 2020, the largest chunk of Rs14,554 crore is to be spent on road construction with about less than half the distance of 1,604 km under tender or construction.

Further, the government aims to monetise close to 25% of the pooled land (around 10,000 acres) over a 20-30 year period to raise over Rs 50,000 crore to cover its interest and debt payments.

Amaravati aims to house 3.5 million people and is scheduled to be completed by 2029.
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu released the performance appraisal and district economic scenario for 2017-18 at the 16th two-day Collectors’ conference held from May 8 at the Grievance Cell in CM’s residence in Undavalli, Amaravati.

The report said the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) had increased to Rs. 6,07,388 crore from Rs. 5,46,104 crore in 2016-17. Maharashtra stood a distant first with Rs. 24.97 lakh crore in 2017-18. Uttar Pradesh stood second with Rs. 12.39 lakh crore followed by Karnataka with Rs. 12.69 lakh crore.

The AP’s GSDP growth was 11.22%. Krishna, Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari districts were identified as high potential districts as they had contributed 52.90% to the GSDP. All the districts had crossed double digit growth except Srikakulam which achieved 9.25%. Krishna district topped in the State with the highest per capita income of Rs. 1,89,121 while Srikakulam is at the bottom of the pyramid with Rs. 99,792. The State PCI stood at Rs. 1, 42,054. Chittoor, home district of Naidu, registered a PCI of Rs. 1, 35,008.

During the two day event, Chief Minister reviewed department-wise progress and gave directions to the secretaries and district collectors on the implementation of various development and welfare schemes.

Andhra Pradesh stood fourth among eight States that released the PCI data in 2017-18. Haryana, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Punjab were ahead of Andhra Pradesh with regard to the PCI in 2016-2017.

"Law and order, safety are crucial for good governance along with implementation of welfare and development schemes properly," Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said addressing the Collectors’ conference.

During the two day event, Chief Minister reviewed department-wise progress and gave directions to the secretaries and district collectors on the implementation of various development and welfare schemes. Secretaries have made mission-wise presentations on overview of the achievements made by concerned departments under sustainable development goals.

On the first day of conference, discussions on infrastructure mission, industry sector mission, urban development mission, knowledge and skill development mission and revenue earning and regulatory departments were held. On the following day, primary sector mission, social empowerment mission and service sector mission were examined.

The meeting kicked off with Chief Secretary Dinesh Kumar mentioning the significant progress that has been made in the area of rural infrastructure with the government having achieved 100% LPG connections for all eligible households along with 100% electrification. Additionally, 80% Open Defecation Free (ODF) status has been achieved in the rural areas. “There is a need for special focus on the ST population across 30 mandals. These mandals constitute of 42 % of state’s ST population.” The percentage of severely underweight children in these ST dominated mandals is 4.2% which is more than twice that of state’s average of 2%, he revealed.
The Chief Minister was also informed that Kurnool has the highest percentage of underweight children in the state with 21% of state's underweight children.

Responding on the issue, CM said, "A consolidated effort along with targeted action needs to be taken. The district collectors need to collaborate with the other local authorities to address the issue of malnutrition, low infant mortality and other such health issues. Not just health and nutrition, a similar approach is needed in the areas of public distribution system, scholarships, education, poverty, malnutrition, garbage collection, ODF plus road connectivity, agriculture and other key areas. We need to make sure that the public satisfaction is the highest here."

**Improvement in Health**

Briefing the Chief Minister on the progress of the department, Principal Secretary, Health and Nutrition, Poonam Malakondaiah informed that overall core health indicators and social health indicators across the 13 districts have seen improvement with a growth of 3.05% in fourth quarter of 2017-18 from the previous quarter.

The maternal and infant mortality rates were also presented as an area of concern with East Godavari followed by Kadapa and Ananthapur leading in maternal mortality. Ananthapur followed by Guntur and Kurnool were the leading districts in Infant mortality rates.

The Chief Minister was also presented with an action plan where each of the district collectors was entrusted to identify 40,000 square feet of land to set up District Cancer hospitals by NTR trust.

Delivering the keynote address, CM Naidu said law and order and safety are crucial for good governance and proper implementation of welfare and development schemes. The State is implementing development and welfare schemes in order to keep the public satisfied, and that maintains peace in the society. Naidu said.

Whilst pointing the failures of the predecessor government; he recollected his implementations and achievements when he was the CM of undivided AP. "When I was CM for united AP, had fought communal violence, Naxal extremism, and faction menace. Now after bifurcation, we are facing red sandal and ganja smuggling. We have to curb those anti-social elements firmly. Betting is also on raise," he noted.

Commenting on the newly launched financial system, CFMS, CM said, "By the end of the month, CFMS will be running smoothly. Very soon, everything will be online and can be operated and monitored in real-time."

**Preventing sexual attacks**

Talking about sexual assaults on minors, Naidu said that sexual assaults on minor girls are on raise. "Dachepalli incident in our state is not a lone incident. Such trend is seen across the country, Dachepalli kind of incidents should not repeat. Criminals should be punished immediately. Police should act together with departments like women and child welfare, etc. Collector and SP of every district should meet at least once in a week, and review the situation. They should plan preventive measures," added CM.

Chandrababu said, "We are no.1 in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), and many other central government measurements. However, we are low in per capita income; as our state started with less income post bifurcation. In these four years after bifurcation, we fought many problems like drought, cyclones etc," mentioned CM.

Chief Minister remarked that police should be more accessible to people so that they can approach them without fear. "Interactive policing is the need of the hour and will bring about tremendous change in the functioning. Police should be invisible, Policing should be visible. Police are supposed to build confidence and trust among people of the society," he advised.
Popularising Electric Vehicles
The status of electric vehicles and their future was also discussed at length during the conference. "All collectors have to ensure that garbage collection vehicles also have to come under electric vehicles category. If we manage to popularise electric vehicles in two and three wheelers also, it would be a game changer and will be very cost effective in the long run. You all must also look at ways to convert existing vehicles into electric ones if possible," he said.

AP Fiber Connections
During the meet, officials informed CM about AP Fiber Connections and mentioned that a total of 2, 14,100 household connections were given out across 13 districts under Phase 1. "Another 25,000 villages will be connected by WiFi by the end of the year and we need to focus specially in that direction. The process of developing smart cities must be carried out with an aim of developing AP into a knowledge economy," said the Chief Minister.

Real Time Governance (RTG)
CEO of RTG, Ahmed Babu, said that citizen satisfaction levels have increased by 11% since the last Collectors’ Conference. From 66% in March, they have reached 74% satisfaction level now. Guntur and Krishna are the districts with the highest satisfaction levels. 1.13 crore grievances have been raised in all districts, and tremendous effort is being taken by District Collectors to resolve them.

RTGS also sends weather alerts through notifications, personalised phone calls to MROs and MPDOs and call blasts to functionaries from Parishkara Vedika Call centre.

Ahmed Babu also presented some case studies which demonstrated the speed at which RTG helped during emergency situations. An anaemic pregnant woman’s life was saved in Rampachodavaram, when she required blood of a rare group. Within 3 hours, 20 people had arrived, offering to donate blood. There were many lives saved during thunderstorm and lightning, due to alerts and emergency operations. Near the Vizag coast, 100 boats were saved in a rescue operation.

Krishna tops in welfare
Krishna district is in the forefront in implementing various government welfare schemes and development programmes. Reports showed that the district has gained 78% satisfaction level and had topped in many programmes and services including uberisation of resources, civil supplies, BC welfare hostels, loaning to tenant farmers, digital classrooms, welfare corporations’ bank linked schemes among others.

The Civil Supplies department had received 343 proposals for the Chandra Village Malls while the department proposed to have 939 malls across the State. So far, 30 malls were established in the district, said concerned officials to CM. In uberisation, 3,08,362 farmers are using the Rythu Seva mobile application through which they can connect for farming equipment, public and private warehouses, cold storages and vermi compost. Across the State only 10.01 lakh farmers were involved in uberisation.

According to district Collector B Lakshmikantham, the district also achieved 114% target in issuing credit to tenant farmers. While the target was 8,192 tenant farmers, loans were given to 9,357 needy farmers in 2017-18 fiscal. The target for 2018-19 is 8,176.

In the BC welfare schools too, the district topped by distributing all kits to the inmates besides conducting the highest number of parents meetings. Under the Animal Husbandry department also, the district was ranked first in serving farmers through animals.

Swachch Andhra
Speaking of Swachcha Andhra and its targets, CM said that “we have been towards ODF plus and we need to further plan it better. It was explained that 76% of verification of ODF GP’s percentage is completed and by the end of May, Andhra Pradesh becomes ODF State. In the last 4 years, we have built over 37 lakh toilets. We need to ensure that Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste management is done by following proper disposal methods.”

Rural Housing
A total of 3,15,985 houses were completed in the year 17-18, with an expenditure of 3277.29 Cr. Under NTR Rural Housing 16-17, 1,58,061 houses have been completed out of 2,00,000. Rest all houses will be completed by the end of June -18. Under NTR Rural Housing 17-18, 1,44,297 houses have been grounded out of 1,93,689. A total of 65,762 houses have been completed. Under NTR Rural Housing 18-19, Out of 2,00,000 houses, 17,410 are yet to be sanctioned. 1,07,310 have been grounded while 20,524 have been completed.

Publications released
CM had released four publications that were brought out by Planning Department. A district wise performance appraisal, brochure of green vision for sustainable inclusive double digit growth, report of inventory of greenhouse gases in AP along with a Calendar of ODF Events by PR&RD Department were released on the occasion.

App on AP CM Chandrababu Naidu
An exclusive interactive mobile application ‘NCBN’ has been launched during the conference. The app contains live updates of the CM, links to his social media activity and a way for users to directly interact with him.
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, along with his Cabinet colleagues and women’s organisations, participated in a rally to create awareness on sexual abuse against girl child in Vijayawada on May 7. In the light of increasing attacks and heinous crimes on girl children and women, the CM called upon the public to pledge for women safety through a campaign ‘Adapillaku Rakshanaga Kadaludam.’

Women and girls from educational institutions, private organisations, NGO homes, Mahila Mitra group members and general public turned out in large numbers to take part in the rally. The participants, carrying placards and banners, raised slogans against crimes against children and called for steps to protect them.

CM interacts with girls

Chandrababu joined the rally from the Tummalapalli Kalakshetram to the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) stadium on the M.G. Road in solidarity for the cause. In the 30-minute walk, the Chief Minister spoke with girls, shook hands and enquired about their education and welfare.

The Women Development and Child Welfare Department erected banners on various schemes meant for girl child development and arranged a photo exhibition. The Mahila Mitra and Mahila Rakshak teams explained their activities in the expo that is set-up for the occasion.

Measures for protection of women, children

Emphasising the need for social consciousness and responsiveness to atrocities against women and children, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called for the public shaming of the perpetrators.

“People who resort to cruelty against women don’t deserve any respect. A sexual offenders registry would be prepared on the lines of rowdy sheets and their names would be published online so that everyone hates them,” said Naidu, and cited the case of Dachepalli in which police’s thorough search operation and loathing shown by the entire village led the culprit to end life. Naidu further said that the menace of porn sites must be addressed effectively. “I will write to the Centre regarding this menace,” he said.

Special teams

He said that special teams involving officials of over 10 government and non-government organisations, including Police, Women and Child Welfare and Panchayat Raj departments would address the issues at the grassroot level.

“Special courts to deal with atrocities against women will be set up. Special police cadre for women and juvenile police cadres will be formed. An organization will be floated and funds will be allotted for the victims. They will be taken care of by the government,” said CM adding “In a month’s time, we will go through all the existing laws and strength them.”

Speaking on the occasion, DGP M Malakondaiah said, “Ninety-five percent of the atrocities against children are committed by relatives, friends and neighbours. If this problem is not addressed, it will cripple the society in future. To serve justice within the time frame, we need to improve investigation techniques. We will soon get a forensic lab that will help investigations. The department will ensure only DSP-level officers take up cases of crime against women and children,” he said.

Ministers Devineni Umamaheswara Rao and Kollu Ravindra, A.P. Mahila Commission Chairperson Nannapaneni Rajakumari, chess grandmaster Koneru Hampy, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Gadde Anuradha, MLAs, MLCs and others accompanied him along with bureaucrats, students and others taking part in the programme.

Praising Naidu for his focus on the issue, well-known social activist Sunitha Krishnan, who works for women and children’s rights said, “It is not common for a Chief Minister of a State to walk for 2.5 kms as a mark of protest and commitment to end sex crimes against women & children.”
Under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s astute leadership, Andhra Pradesh has risen from ashes. The state has not only recovered from the deep scars left by the bifurcation, but also is catching up fast in the race to be the most developed region in the country.
From a residuary state to a vibrant new Andhra Pradesh, the state’s march in the path of progress during the last four years has been remarkable. The achievement is all the more significant in the wake of the failure by the Central government to keep its promises and assurances made at the time of bifurcation. The non-fulfilment of AP Bifurcation Act has not deterred the state government leadership to set high targets for itself and pursue them with utmost dedication.

The Government under Chandrababu Naidu has been on a mission to transform every sector. The last four years have witnessed such a transformation across the spectrum. As a result, AP has been recognised with awards and rewards. The state has been ranked most business friendly in India for 'Ease of Doing Business'. It has been chosen for the 4th Atal Shastra, Markenomy Award-2018 for being ‘Top most and best infrastructure excel- lent State in India in IT and Mobility’. The state received three gold awards at the 20th National Conference on E-Governance. The department of tourism was recognised for making AP the best new hot spot destination at the Patwa Awards, the world’s biggest tourism expo — ITB Berlin-2017. Nine Projects from Andhra Pradesh have been selected for SKOCH - order of Merit Award. AP reaped every available award in the power and energy sector, including the National Energy Conservation Award-2017 for the best SDA (State Designated Agency). Vijayawada was ranked as the 'cleanest city' among big cities in the country having more than one million population in the Swachh Survekshan-2018. The list goes on and on.

Loan waiver is an example of the commitment of this government to fulfil promises even in the most trying of circumstances. There was resistance from the Centre as well as RBI over implementation of the scheme, and hence there was no cooperation in this regard. The banks did not allow even rescheduling of farm loans. In such circumstances, the Chief Minister spent Rs.14,000 crore so far in three phases to provide relief to the ryots. Besides, he allocated another Rs.4,100 crore in the latest budget for the fourth phase of loan waiver. In the first two phases, Rs.10,867 crore was credited into the account of as many as 54.98 lakh farmers. During the third phase in the year 2017-18, Rs.3,629 crore inclusive of ten per cent interest, was spent to benefit 36.89 lakh farmers. About 23.46 lakh farmers who had debt below Rs.50,000, were made debt-free at one go by the Government which released Rs.4,456 crore in a single phase. Even horticulture farmers—there were about 2.23 lakh of them - were provided a relief of Rs.384.47 crore though it was not part of the election manifesto.

No other government in the country can boast of implementing as many as welfare schemes as Andhra Pradesh government. Nearly 13 lakh houses at a cost of Rs 20,000 crore are being built under NTR Housing. The social security scheme, NTR Bharosa, was extended to 47.26 lakh beneficiaries involving Rs. 523 crore. The number is all set to reach the five million mark with 2,000 more beneficiaries are being added in each constituency.

The pension amounts for elders, widows and weavers were increased five-fold from Rs.200 to Rs.1,000 a
month while the differently-abled now get Rs.1500 per month as against only Rs.500 p.m. paid to them in the past. The Government is all set to pay unemployment dole from June this year. The modalities are being worked out for this. Apart from the five-fold increase in allocations for welfare, care was taken to eliminate corruption by introducing biometric and iris methods to disburse the pension.

Testing Times

The Chief Minister has made all-out efforts to get the Central assistance which was promised under AP Reorganisation Act. He made as many as 29 trips to New Delhi but unfortunately, things did not move in the right direction. And when the Centre failed to allocate any funds to Andhra Pradesh in the fifth and final budget, the Chief Minister withdrew his two Cabinet ministers in the NDA Government, and followed it up by breaking ties with the NDA in protest. As a result of this non-cooperation, the pace of progress of several prestigious projects including Amaravati and Polvaram projects have suffered. But, the Chief Minister is determined to complete them at any cost, using all resources at his disposal. While the state government continues to press for its rightful entitlements from the Centre, the Chief Minister is going about his work with the same rigour and dedication. The focus on increasing individual incomes along with individual happiness has not waned a bit.

Various sectors in the state in the last four years reported significant growth. Investments in manufacturing sector have grown manifold. As many as 1193 projects with a committed investment of Rs 4,55,692 crore, providing 13 lakh jobs are in the pipeline. Passenger traffic in AP airports has grown to 4.1 million in 2017-18 from 1.1 million in 2014-15. Ports in AP have grown at about 15 percent year on year. Work on the ambitious Amaravati, the new capital, with all the infrastructural facilities to make it a world class city and also the construction of the mighty Polvaram project to meet the drinking water and irrigation needs of the State, is going on at a brisk pace despite the non-availability of the necessary funds the state was promised for these mega projects. Amaravati trunk infrastructure and Amaravati Government Complex work is under rapid construction.

Fired by ambition

The Chief Minister is determined to make Andhra Pradesh one of the three top States in India by the year 2022, best state in the country by 2029 and one of the best in the world by 2050.

Visionary par excellence

Chandrababu Naidu has proved to be a great visionary. His aim was to ensure that the farmers reaped the benefits of technology and has succeeded in this to a great extent. Irrigation security to the Krishna delta which has 162-year history, drinking water and water for irrigation to the Rayalaseema region, and utilization of the 3000 TMC ft Godavari flood waters going waste by joining the sea, through the Polavaram project. He is personally supervising the construction of Polavaram dam which is progressing well. Apart from this, he made linking of rivers a reality—Godavari and Krishna under the Pattiseema project. The next ambitious projects are linking Vamsadhana and Nagavali, and Penna and Krishna. Such a programme will greatly help farmers who depend on rains which are becoming scanty. The Chief Minister also introduced soil testing mapping for the benefit of farmers and has chalked out plans for helping farmers in cultivation, nutritious diet, and health.

Chandrababu Naidu’s schemes for uplift of the backward classes who account for 45 per cent of the population have been multiple. The Aadarana scheme, which helps artisans procure professional equipment is being implemented in a big way. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is being executed with great success.

Andhra Pradesh Government has also taken up development of tourism and industries in a big way. The state has already become a hub of automobile sector. Kia Motors, Apollo, Ashok Leyalnd, Isuzu Motors have arrived in the State, particularly to Rayalaseema region, thanks to the CM’s efforts.

It is also his dream to get investments to the tune of Rs.100 lakh crore by the year 2029 and generate employment for 1.5 crore people. The three CII Partnership Summits which attracted Rs.20 lakh crore investments have paved the way for this. It is to the credit of the Chandrababu Naidu Government that the per capita income of the state which stood at Rs.94,000 at the time of bifurcation, has now reached Rs.1.22 lakh.

The Chief Minister has been more determined and more energetic than ever to replicate the success that he achieved in united Andhra Pradesh. Despite the hurdles, Andhra Pradesh is all set to emerge as one of the top three states in the country by 2022.
Oyo to invest Rs 100 cr in AP

Hospitality chain Oyo, which has over 70,000 rooms and is present in 230 cities across 3 countries, will be investing Rs 100 crore in the state of Andhra Pradesh over the next five years. Founder Ritesh Agarwal made the announcement at the StartAP awards in Visakhapatnam where he won the Entrepreneur of the year award.

Oyo, which currently has a balance sheet of $250 million will also rapidly expand its room count in the state. From the current 1500 exclusive fully-operated franchise properties, it will expand it to 2,500 by the end of this year and 20,000 rooms in the next five years.

I have no question that with the ecosystem support given by the government, the next generation of great companies solving for the modern customer can also come out of here, Ritesh said.

Ritesh claims that the company has so far created 1000 jobs within AP and targets to create at least 10,000 more jobs in the next three years and is also in discussion with the state to train people and send them to other parts of the country.

Ritesh later discussed investment opportunities in tourism and hospitality sectors in the State with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat in Velagapudi. Naidu asked to collaborate with the State in promoting village tourism and agriculture tourism and another important prospect was sports tourism, for which there are many rivers, reservoirs and water bodies. Oyo, which has over 20 million customers who have used the platform so far, has been rapidly expanding its operations. Ritesh claims that 90% of its revenue currently comes from repeat customers.

Having started as just a hotel room aggregator, Oyo today runs various formats including Townhouse and Oyo Home and Silver Key. Most recently, it also forayed into holiday packages with the launch of Oyo Total Holidays, which offers packages across the country and other countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, Dubai, and Nepal.

Great fillip to MSMEs and EVs

A policy was approved to establish Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Parks (M-Parks) in each Assembly Constituency, and provide infrastructural support in developing MSME clusters/parks in all 175 constituencies. In line with this move, the Cabinet approved the instituting of the M-Parks Policy 2018-23. This policy lays out the financial support available for developers of MSME Parks over the next 5 years.

The implementing agency will be AP MSME Development Corporation, with each Park set up in around 100 acres in preferably contiguous areas. To promote higher market prospects for MSMEs, the policy provides flexibility to provide up to 10% of the allocable area in the park to Large and Mega Enterprises (Anchor Investors).

For support to develop external infrastructures such as road, water and power connectivity, M-Parks Policy provides for a support up to Rs 4 lakh per acre. Up to a maximum of Rs 10 lakh per acre, the policy also provides for a grant of 50% of project cost, excluding land cost. Post-establishment, AP MSME Development Corporation will provide necessary business development support to MSMEs like improving quality, marketing, exports, access to warehouse facilities, skill development etc.

The overall target is to create around 200 parks by 2023 with 30,000 MSMEs with an employment potential for 3 lakh people and an investment of Rs 45,000 crores. Temporary posts have been created under various categories to work in AP (MSMEs) Development Corporation for operationalising and instituting a globally competitive MSME Governance Architecture structure.

These posts are created at the cost of Rs 144.11 lakh per year. An Additional Director (Industries), one Superintendent Engineer, three Executive Engineers, one Joint Director (Treasuries), one Accounts Officer/Director (Treasuries), one Joint Director (re-deployed) and three Assistant Directors will be employed.

Chief Minister said, “MSMEs are generating 8 out of every 10 jobs in the economy. AP cabinet’s approval of MSME Parks Policy 2018-23 will bring countless MSMEs and investments to create job opportunities in each constituency of AP”

Pollution Free Andhra Pradesh

On the same lines, the cabinet approved AP- Electric Mobility Policy 2018-23. The policy will have Rs 30,000 crore in investments generating close to 60,000 job opportunities for the skilled youth. As many as 1 lakh Electric Vehicle charging stations will come up by 2024. In top four cities of the State, APSRTC buses will be converted to EVs; commercial vehicles to become EVs by the end of 2024. By the end of 2024, all government vehicles will be electric ones. 10 GWh advanced battery manufacturing in next 5 years. Focus area of the policy: Manufacturing, Charging and Hydrogen re-fuelling Infrastructure, Demand creation, Integrated Innovation Clusters.

Speaking about it, Chief Minister said, “We are committed to make the State of AP pollution-free and are constantly working towards achieving it. The AP cabinet has passed Electric Mobility Policy 2018-23 to actively promote an eco-friendly lifestyle to its people.”
Providing much relief to the government employees, State Government constituted 11th Pay Revision Commission (PRC). Following the decision taken in the Cabinet meeting, orders constituting the 11th Pay Revision Commission (PRC) were issued. The orders for appointment of Pay Revision Commissioner will be issued in due course. The PRC will submit its report to the government within one year from the date of assumption of charge of the Pay Revision Commissioner. The PRC would lay down its own procedure for receiving representations, examining witnesses and calling for information.

The pay scales of the State government employees were revised with effect from July 1, 2013 with monetary benefit from June 2, 2014.

Earlier on May 2, the State Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, approved the proposal of formation of 11th PRC. The 10th PRC was formed in united Andhra Pradesh in 2013 and the report was submitted in 2014. The decision would benefit nearly 4.3 lakh government employees in the state.

The recommendations of the 10th PRC were implemented with modifications such as allowing fitment of 43 per cent as against the recommended 29 per cent.

The cabinet gave its nod for payment of arrears to the tune of Rs 3,999 crore in a phased manner. The arrears would be paid in the form of cash to pensioners and GPF to employees.

The cabinet also approved to extend a government guarantee towards raising a loan of Rs 1,092 crore from banks towards land acquisition, rail connectivity and other developmental activities at the Machilipatnam deep water port. This would facilitate the setting up of an integrated logistics and manufacturing zone by the Container Corporation of India at Machilipatnam. The cabinet also approved a proposal to operate boat service between Ibrahimapatnam and Lingayapalem connecting the capital. The AP tourism department would take up the task and start the service soon.

Establishment of Higher Education Institutions

The Cabinet approved the establishment of higher educational institutions and issue a letter of intent to the sponsoring body of Gatti Valley Educational Foundation, Bangalore, for setting up the Best Innovation University at Gowrivariapalli in Anantapur district. It will come up in 102 acres at a cost of Rs 151 crore and 15,000 stu-
Students could be enrolled in it by the 10th year of its establishment. The cabinet has decided that the varsity should take shape this academic year itself. The state has already issued a Letter Of Intent (LOI) to the respective sponsoring bodies for the establishment of following Greenfield universities: SRM University, VIT University, AMITY University, Centurion University, VELTECH University, IFMR University (Later renamed as KREA University), World Peace University, Great Lakes Institute of Management (GLIU), Savitha University and Accord University.

Brahma Kumaris Society will now be referred to as Brahma Kumaris Educational Society and have been given land to the extent of 10 acres, at the rate of 10 lakh per acre on free hold basis. It was decided to allot land, to an extent of 51.92 acres to Central Bureau of Investigation, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Indian Meteorological Department, ministry of external affairs, and 15 other bodies, during the meet.

The Cabinet also approved the changing of name of Xavier School of Management (XLRI) to Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI). XLRI is among the 15 institutions that was allotted land in the CRDA region and was given 50 acres.

Exemption of property tax on properties owned by Ramakrishna Mission of Vivekananda Vidyा Vihar High School, Tadepalli, Guntur was approved. These are being used for the purpose of running an English medium school on charitable lines for the residential quarters of the staff working.

The Cabinet accepted a proposal to grant lease of land measuring 5.57 acres to Sri Sri Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Swami Trust, Kakinada for an annual rent of Rs 10,000 per acre for a period of 11 years.

The Cabinet resolved for the formation of AP Virtual Classroom Corporation. The body formed would facilitate effective digital learning by students and would also help in assessment of knowledge of the students in real time in the Government schools. This move goes in sync with the ongoing IT revolution started by Government of AP and envisages leveraging technology for providing a seamless experience in learning and education.

Adding to the already increasing capacity of the State's solar power production, the Cabinet gave the green signal for a 160 MW wind solar hybrid power project at Muttavakunta and Kanaganapalli villages in Anantapur district. It will be set up by NREDCAP.

**Important Decisions**

The other important decision taken in the Cabinet meet include the following:

- AP Compulsory Registrations of Marriage Act, 2002 to be amended to help people avail benefits without delay through an integrated system under the Chandranna Pelli Kanuka scheme.
- Allotment of 51.92 acres to various organisations, including the CBI, IGNOU, IMD, Ministry of External Affairs for Videsh Bhavan and 15 others.
- Sanction of 45 personnel including an SI, two ASIs, five HCs and thirty seven PCs at the newly established Police Station at Atkuru Village of Unguturu Mandal in East Division of Vijayawada Police Commissionerate. This station's jurisdiction includes villages such as Peddavutupalli, Atkuru, Pottipadu, Tellaprolu and Nara Apparaopeta. All these villages are very sensitive from the law and order perspective and have strong political rival groups.
- The Cabinet also approved the proposal of creation of one Deputy Registrar post at Dr YSR Horticultural University at Venkataramanagudem. The Deputy Registrar post would not be having any additional financial commitment on part of the University/Government and would add on to the already existing Deputy Registrar, who is handling matters related to teaching and non-teaching staff, labour matters, legal and vigilance matters and other administrative matters pertaining to four horticultural colleges, four horticultural polytechnic colleges, 18 research stations and three Krishi Vignan Kendras.
- The Cabinet approved the proposal of granting permission of operations of Roll on and Roll of services between Ibrahimpatnam Ferry and Lingayapalem, Krishna Right Flood Bank Village in Guntur District. The construction of temporary jetties for this purpose has been taken up in accordance with permissions of the Inland Waterway Authority of India, Noida and other permissions have been acquired from Water Resource Department.
- Also, the Cabinet approved a proposal to set up Ductile Iron Pipe unit over an area of 161 acres in favour of M/s Nachu Corporation Steel Industries for Phase-1 at Meedivemula village, Orvakal mandal,
Land Allotment in Capital Amaravati

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Extent of Land (In Acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Bureau of Investigation</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGNOU</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of External Affairs for Videsh Bhavan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Forensic Science and Laboratory for R&amp;D and Tech Convention Centre</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Police Department-Intelligence wing</td>
<td>2000 sq.yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEDB</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APTRANSCO Substation</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Bank of India</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bharat Petroleum Corporation of India</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Bank</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Chinmaya Mission Trust</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruptech Educational India</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlearn Education Pvt Ltd</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St.Lawrence Education Society Trust</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadbhavana Knowledge Foundation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anandilal Ganesh Podar Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad Educational Academy</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Schools Holdings Pvt Ltd</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed industry would provide direct employment to 1132 people and also an additional 1044 people would be employed on a contract basis. The project would establish 2, 50,000 TPA capacity Integrated DI pipeline manufacturing facility and would help in development of Orvakal Mega Industrial hub in Kurnool.

- A plan of action for implementation of reforms under AMRUT was also approved at the cabinet meeting. The objective is to bring out a policy for improvement in levy and collection of user charges for water supply in ULBs. Revised draft guidelines on ease of getting water tap connections in ULBs were also approved.

Development of Anna Canteens

A second cabinet meeting was held on May 16 in which several important decisions were taken:

The Cabinet has approved the construction of 203 Anna Canteens in 71 Urban Local Bodies and one canteen at Undavalli under CRDA region which will have an estimated cost of Rs 80 crore. The respective collectors will have the responsibility of handing over the sites to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in their districts. The Cabinet also approved on procuring catering services from reputed NGOs, trusts and societies. This will be facilitated with the help of a government subsidy of Rs 131 crores out of a total estimated cost of Rs 164 crores for all the 203 SLBs. The Cabinet decided to fix the beneficiary contribution at Rs 5 each for breakfast, lunch and dinner totaling to Rs 15 each day as the beneficiary contribution.

Subsidy for Red Gram Dal

The Council of Ministers accepted proposals for the purchase of Red Gram Dal (whole) available with the AP Markfed and their distribution through the PDS. The economic cost of the processed Red Gram Dal is Rs 63.75 per kg, and the end price will be Rs 40 per kg. The subsidy to be provided will be Rs 24.45 per kg and a commission of Rs 0.7 per kilo to the dealer, which is on par with the commission given for rice. The total quantity which will be used by Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd is 53,760 metric tonnes and Rs 131 crore will be the cost towards subsidy to the Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited.

AP Motor Vehicles Taxation Ordinance

The Cabinet approved on a draft ordinance of AP
Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 levying lifetime tax for e-rickshaws, e-carts and auto rickshaws carrying up to 4 people, tractors, agricultural tractors, trailers and light goods vehicles up to a laden weight of 3,000 kg on the same lines of eight and ninth schedules of AP Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1963.

Special Remission for prisoners
The Cabinet approved the grant of a Special Remission to 49 life convict prisoners on the occasion of Republic Day, as approved by the Standing Committee. The Government received representations from Political Parties, Public Representatives of the state and family members of life convicted prisoners requesting for grant of premature release (special remission) to life convicted prisoners who have completed 5/7 years of the sentence, the prisoners who have crossed the age of 65 years and suffering from chronic diseases etc.

Loan for APRDC
The Cabinet accorded permissions to the Andhra Pradesh Road Development Corporation (APRDC) for obtaining a loan of Rs. 1,000 crore by contacting banks and duly fixing and maximum borrowing limit to Rs 5,000 crore for development of state highways and other major district roads in Andhra Pradesh. APRDC is currently looking after the development and maintenance of 14,721.58 kilometres of state highways which connect national highways, district headquarters, and industrial corridors etc, which carry around 60% of the commercial traffic.

Department of Finance
The Cabinet approved of the creation of one post for a Secretary and Chief Executive Officer in the cadre of the Additional Commissioner of Labour in Andhra Pradesh Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board (APBOCWWB). This will have a financial implication of Rs 15.59 lakh. Also, 392 posts of Junior Assistant were upgraded to the cadre of Senior Assistant in the Revenue Department costing Rs 734.14 lakh per year.

The Cabinet also approved the creation of 34 supernumerary posts in the cadres of Chief Engineer (1), Superintending Engineer (14) and Executive Engineer (19) in Water Resources Department. The Government has taken up a Water Conservation Mission as a Primary Sector Mission with ‘Neeru-Chettu’ as a Sub-Mission with a vision to make Andhra Pradesh drought-free, and with a view to eradicate the poverty and to reduce economic inequalities by better ‘water conservation and sustainable management’.

As many as 7 temporary posts were created in different categories and outsourcing the remaining services in the AP State Food Commission, for the purpose of reviewing the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Startup Area in Amaravati
The draft General Power of Attorney to be issued by APCRDA to Amaravati Development Partners Private Ltd was approved. This is on behalf of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and pursuant to signing the Concession and Development (CADA) that was approved for the development of 6.84 sq km of Startup Area in Amaravati.

The Cabinet approved the setting up of a Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Processing Facility at Rajahmundry cluster from the SFC grant meant for Urban Local Bodies in that cluster. Administrative sanction was accorded for an amount of Rs 12,600 crore to take up works under critical Infrastructure Investment Plan in the areas of Water Supply, Sewerage & Septage Management, Storm Water Drainage, Roads & Resurfacing, Burial Grounds and Parks. System improvement plans, AMRUT gap funding and A&OE charges by taking 90% cost as a loan from scheduled banks and 10% cost as equity from the state government. The financial modeling for the project is worked out considering the execution period as 2 years, with a rate of interest at 8%, repayment period of 15 years. The annual repayment burden on GoAP will be Rs 950 crore for 13 years.

Panchayat Raj Road
The Cabinet accorded permission for the formation of a new road in exchange for private land to an extent of 1.298 acres with ZPP road (V.Savaram-Rayavaram) measuring 1.28 acres. Hence the Cabinet has approved their request for a new road and directed the Commissioner PR& RD to accord permission on the condition that the new roads will be developed by donors with their own funds and once completed, the roads will be handed over to the Zilla Praja Parishad, East Godavari.
The immense job potential of IT industry was evident when as many as 2,186 landed in jobs and another 2,838 short-listed for various jobs during the ongoing drive by the Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Academy (APITA) during the third week of May.

The drive was held for just a couple of days in Visakhapatnam district. Nearly 60 companies were conducting the final rounds among the short-listed candidates. Over 460 candidates were selected from Kadapa followed by 415 from Kurnool, Nellore 358, Visakhapatnam 219, Srikakulam 191, Chittoor 170, Guntur 138, Krishna 132 and West Godavari 102. One hundred and twenty-two companies from IT, ITES, BFSL, e-commerce and electronics sector participated in the drive which was conducted later at Anantapur, Vizianagaram, Prakasam and East Godavari districts where similar numbers are expected to land in jobs. The companies include big recruiters like Infosys, HCL, Walmart, Future group, Paytm, Flipkart, GMR and education technology learning portal Byju. According to APITA Additional CEO Winny Patrro, they had not ignored anyone. Jobs were provided to diploma holders by Foxconn. For the first time, the APITA is using loop reality platform -perspective AI and virtual reality to assess personality traits, cognitive skills and cultural fitness of the candidates during the drive which is part of Look for Employees in Andhra Pradesh (LEAP) that was launched simultaneously in Nellore and Guntur districts mid-May.

The assessment is being done completely through VR games. Prior to the mega job drive, the APITA conducted job airs in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati during the past eight months and facilitated 6,120 jobs with an average salary package of Rs.2.5 lakh to Rs.3 lakh a year. Similarly, in the recent recruitment drive held for a period of 15 days across 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh, a total of 3810 candidates were selected for various reputed companies. The job drive began on May 15th and concluded on May 29 with 14,250 registered footfall and 4241 candidates being shortlisted. Earlier, there was recruitment of 6092 candidates in the span of 9 months.

Visakhapatnam continues to be the preferred destination for IT sector in the State, offering good job potential.

Visakhapatnam continues to be the preferred destination for IT sector in the State, offering good job potential.

IT industry has acquired a new thrust after Nara Lokesh took over as Minister.
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu laid foundation for Haj House in Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada on May 12. With an estimated budget of Rs 80 crore, the Haj House is being built on a sprawling five acre of land as a G+6 building. This is one of the two Haj Houses that are coming up in the Sunrise State.

The construction is designed to house close to 1200 pilgrims at a time with 30 service apartments, 20 dormitories and 120 rooms spread across the floors. Along with the accommodation facilities and other amenities, a Mosque and an Eidgah will be built in the Haj House. After laying foundation stone, Chief Minister said, “Gone are the days when Muslim brethren had to go to Mumbai for Haj registration. We are now constructing two Haj Houses in AP and the first one is under construction at Kadapa at a brisk pace. The one in the capital region can accommodate more number of Muslims and will feature ultramodern facilities.”

Simultaneoulsy, speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu mentioned the state was slowly creating assets and is progressing gradually. Post bifurcation, Andhra Pradesh, which started with revenue deficit is now able to have its own resources, besides inviting national and international investment. With the kind of hard work that is invested by the officials and cabinet over the last four years, the growth rate too is very encouraging, said he.

Despite financial deficit and other challenges, the government is working toward striking a right balance between welfare and development. The well-being of all sections in the society is prioritized. Going by the current growth rate, Andhra Pradesh is sure to crawl up to number one position in the coming ten years, he affirmed.

Two cities of Andhra Pradesh have bagged top honours in the latest survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). Vijayawada has been ranked as the ‘cleanest city’ among big cities in the country having population more than one million and is ranked 4th in the country in Swachh Survekshan survey. On the other hand, Tirupati is named as the ‘Best City in Solid Waste Management’. The results of Swachh Survekshan 2018 - a survey aimed at assessing all the municipal cities in the country for their progress on the government’s flagship Swachh Bharat Mission, were announced by Minister of State for Housing Hardeep Singh Puri. In the Swachh Survekshan-2016 rankings, Vijayawada secured 23rd rank and 19th rank in the year 2017 among the 500 cities surveyed. The survey was conducted in 4,200 cities, covering a population of 40 crore. A three-member team from Quality Council of India (QCI) completed the survey in the city in the first week of February as part of the assessment for the Swachh Survekshan-2018 rankings. The QCI teams, as part of their inspection, visited major locations and examined sanitation. The team members also visited commercial areas, residential areas and slums and gathered data. They also took feedback from people on cleanliness. The QCI officials, after inspection, sent photos and videos of the locations from the site to New Delhi through geo-tagging. Collection and transportation of municipal solid waste (30 per cent), Processing and disposal of solid waste (25%), IEC (Information, Education and Communication) (5%), Capacity building (5%) and Innovation and best practices (5%) are the six parameters taken into consideration to allot rankings.

Vijayawada ranks 1st in Swachh Survekshan 2018

AP’s second Haj House Foundation laid in Vijayawada
Summary of the Projects
A total of 2850 projects were proposed in 18 departments of the State with a committed investment of Rs 15,83,563 Crore. These projects have assured employment generation to 36,51,216 people.

Civil Work Commencement and beyond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2,92,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trial production</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>14,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery Erected</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>91,227</td>
<td>91,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ready for Foundation stone</td>
<td>137</td>
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<td>Civil Works Commenced</td>
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<td>1,99,496</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,065</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,53,887</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,27,186</strong></td>
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Before Civil Work Commencement

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<tr>
<td>Land in possession and approvals granted</td>
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<td>Land allotted and approvals in process</td>
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<td>Govt land sought and allocation in process</td>
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<td>8,36,346</td>
<td>16,45,324</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1785</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,29,677</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,24,030</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Investment Status of the Projects
There are a total of 1193 projects that fall under I and C, FP and Textiles industries which have invested an amount of Rs 4,55,692 Crore, promising jobs to 13,53,655 people.

Civil work commenced and beyond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gone into Production</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>38,919</td>
<td>1,32,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trial Production</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1512</td>
<td>2634</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machinery Erected</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>87,795</td>
<td>88,524</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Works Commenced</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>66,040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ready for Foundation Stone</td>
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<td>1100</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>502</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3,09,684</strong></td>
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Before Civil Work Commencement

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<td>Govt land sought and allocation in process</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>691</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,58,466</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,43,971</strong></td>
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</table>
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had laid foundation stone for setting up of Jai Raj Ispat Integrated Steel plant at Pudicherla village of Orvakal mandal, Kurnool district on May 10. Bringing in a total investment of about Rs 2938 crore, the facility in the first phase will provide direct employment to 3200 people and indirect employment to 11,800. The annual production is estimated to be around 0.7 million metric tonnes per annum until they carry out expansion in second and third phases. The plant, however, is aimed at production of 2.2 million metric tonnes by the end of their expansion.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, CM said this project is going to benefit the region and its people at large. With ample scope for production and manufacturing in the industry, the State has become a thriving place for steel manufacturing. For now, Andhra Pradesh is manufacturing 11 million metric tonnes in a year and the latest addition will up the game. Jai Raj Ispat supplied steel for many prestigious constructions like Godavari bridges, Hyderabad Central, Panjagutta Flyover, among others. The State government has provided 415 acres for the steel plant.

Promising development of the district as an industrial hub, Naidu asserted that the government would develop Orvakal on the lines of Sri City in Tirupati. “Close to 90 proposals with a budget estimate of Rs 88,000 Crore generating as many as 80,000 employment opportunities are in pipeline for the Rayalaseema region, which is now going to become an industrial hub like never before. This is what we have achieved for the region by far and is a reason for us to look forward to,” said the Chief Minister.

More industrial projects at an estimated investment of Rs 23,000 crore will come to Kurnool district, creating 28,000 more jobs. “Once Orvakal is industrialized, the local youths need not have to go to other places in search of jobs. They can be employed in the region. In fact, people from other places will migrate to Orvakal for jobs in the future,” he remarked. Inviting entrepreneurs to set up units at Orvakal, Naidu promised water for the units from the Muchumarri Lift Irrigation Scheme.

He referred to Mega Seed Park at Thangadancha in the district established in 650 acres with the help of IOWA University, calling it as another step in the industrialisation of the area. Asserting he would fulfill promises made to the district, he assured sanction of Rs 50 Crore toward developing a cluster university in the district. The airport being built at Orvakal would be completed by August this year, he said.

The Chief Minister said apart from completing all irrigation projects, the promised six-lane highway project between Kurnool and Guntur too would be started soon. Deputy Chief Minister KE Krishnamurthy, ministers N Amarnath Reddy, B Akhila Priya and AP Legislative Council Chairman NMD Farooq were present during the event.
To R to Erode Financial Autonomy of States

FM s of five States submit memo to President

Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy and Finance Ministers of five states, including state Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, called on President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi recently and submitted a memorandum on Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission. They alleged that the ToR are absolutely violative of spirit of cooperative federalism and according to them, ToR lead to the erosion of financial autonomy of States.

The memorandum took serious exception of ToR, as some of the changes in ToR infringe upon the provisions of the Constitution and some others were disruptive of well-settled federal fiscal arrangements in India. Yet other changes constitute technical errors. We believe that these changes will restrict the States from fulfilling their Constitutional obligations as listed in the Seventh Schedule. They will also prevent States from working effectively towards independent and distinct goals and aspirations within the overall Constitutional framework. They will thus further weaken cooperative federalism in India.

There are well-established precedents for amendments to the Terms of Reference of a Finance Commission. As you are aware, the Terms of Reference of previous Commissions have been amended on different occasions.

We propose that the award of the Fifteenth Finance Commission must apply to Union Territories with legislature, namely, the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and Union Territory of Puducherry. The Terms of Reference may be amended accordingly.

The amendments Proposed by us to the Terms of Reference are summarised below:- Please note that none
of the changes we propose seeks to abridge or dilute in any way the responsibilities of the Finance Commission as laid out in Article 280 of the Constitution read with Article 275. On the contrary, the first amendment that we propose, which is to paragraph 4(ii) of the Terms of Reference, seeks to restore the Constitutional position on the approval of grants to States in need of assistance.

We place below the changes we seek in the Terms Of Reference of the Fifteenth Finance Commission

**Amendment Sought to the term of reference of the fifteenth Finance Commission**

**Para 1:** (As per TOR) Terms of Reference and the matters that shall be taken into consideration by the Fifteenth Finance Commission in making the recommendations are as under:

(i) The distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them under Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;

(ii) The principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India and the sums to be paid to the States by way of grants-in-aid of their revenues under Article 275 of the Constitution for purposes other than those specified in the provisos to clause (1) of that article; and

(iii) The measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State.

**Amendment suggested:** The words “which are in need of assistance” mentioned in Article 275 of the Constitution may be restored in the appropriate place in the paragraph.

**Para 2:** (AS per TOR) The Commission shall review the current status of the finance, deficit, debt levels, cash balances and fiscal discipline efforts of the Union and the States, and recommend a fiscal consolidation roadmap for sound fiscal management, taking into account the responsibility of the Central Government and State Government to adhere to appropriate levels of general and consolidated government debt and deficit levels, while fostering higher inclusive growth in the country, guided by the principles of equity, efficiency and transparency. The Commission may also examine whether revenue deficit grants be provided at all.

**Amendment suggested:** The last sentence relating to revenue deficit grants may be deleted.

**Para 3(i):** (As per TOR) The resources of the Central Government and the State Governments for the five years commencing on 1st April 2020 on the basis of the levels of tax and the non-tax revenues likely to be reached by 2024-25. In the context of both tax and non-tax revenues, the Commission will also take into consideration their potential and fiscal capacity.

**Amendment suggested:** Delete “likely to be reached by 2024-25.” Insert the word “current” after the words “on the basis of.”

**Para 3(iv):** (As per TOR) The impact on the fiscal situation of the Union Government of substantially enhanced tax devolution to States following recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, coupled with the continuing imperative of the national development programme including New India 2022:

**Amendment suggested:** The paragraph containing the reference to the award of the 14th Finance Commission and the reference to the imperative of the national development programme, including New India-2022, on the Central Government’s finances may be deleted.

**Para 3(v):** (AS per TOR) The impact of the GST, including payment of compensation for possible loss of revenues for 5 years, and abolition of a number of cesses, earmarking thereof for compensation and other structural reforms programme, on the finances of Centre and States; and

**Amendment suggested:** This sub-paragraph may read as follows: “The impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the finances of the Centre and States;”

**Para 3(vi):** (As per TOR) The conditions that GoI may impose on the States while providing consent under Article 293(3) of the Constitution.

**Amendment suggested:** This sub-paragraph, which refers to conditions that the Government of India may impose on the States while providing consent under Article 293(3) of the Constitution, may be deleted.

**Para 4(i):** (As per TOR) Efforts made by the States in expansion and deepening of tax net under GST;

**Amendment suggested:** The reference to the efforts made by the States in the expansion and deepening of tax net under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) may be deleted.

**Para 4(ii):** (As per TOR) Efforts and Progress made in moving towards replacement rate of population growth;

**Amendment suggested:** The reference to providing incentives to States reaching replacement rate of population growth may be deleted. [The position on the population criterion is in Term of Reference 8.]

**Para 4 (iii):** (As per TOR) Achievements in implementa-
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu hosted the Conclave of Finance Ministers on May 7 at Secretariat in Amaravati, to deliberate on the impact of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the 15th Finance Commission on fiscal federalism. The conclave is a follow up to the one-day workshop held at Trivandrum on April 10. The aim of the conclave is to persuade the Centre to reframe the ToR in order to prevent a federal imbalance of the country.

Addressing the gathering of finance ministers representing various States in the country, Chief Minister Chandrababu said, “The Terms of Reference of the 15th Finance Commission almost penalize States for being progressive and well-performing. States that are good at population control will be in debt. South Indian states, in particular, which have been reportedly good at population control, will be affected. The few seats that South Indian MPs have in the parliament will soon not be ours. The little voice we have will soon go away,” he remarked.

Referring to post-bifurcation problems, he said that Andhra Pradesh has been dealt with from the Centre since a long time. “But we have still managed to address the need of gas, electricity, water and LED bulbs on our own.” “Poorly performing states must be uplifted, but not at the cost of progressive states. A new paradigm for devolution must be established in the spirit of partnership between Centre and States,” added he.

He further continued, “India will prosper only if all the States prosper. The Finance Commission has to see that in the absence of adequate financial resources, efforts of poverty alleviation take a beating, preventing the poor to rise economically.”

Quoting the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, he said, “The central government is borrowing a lot of money but not allowing State governments to, which is unfair. The 15th FC has been asked to determine whether the States are controlling the expenditure on populist measures. The obvious question that arises is why shouldn’t the Centre be assessed through the same lens? The ToR weak-
ens the very cause of cooperative federalism,” said Chandrababu. Meanwhile, during the conclave, Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu mentioned, “I hope that the common Memorandum that we will work on acts as a starting point for fresh thinking in regard to devolution in recognition of the growing reality of States being more than equal partners in development of the country. A new paradigm for devolution must be established in the spirit of partnership between the Centre and the States, and not based on dominance of the former over the latter.”

Yanamala spoke about other key concerns of the ToR, and was followed by Chief Minister of Puducherry, V Narayanaswamy, who pointed that the ToR should contain a paragraph to include provisions for union territories also. “The present ToR indicates a move towards central discretion in the release of funds to States. What the States want is the opposite. We want a financial regime in which there is a decisive move away from discretionary assured devolutions”, he said.

Manish Sisodia, the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, said that the 15th Finance Commission will only lead to a centralised path to development. He expressed his support and agreement with the cause of the conclave, and said he looks forward to participate in drafting the memorandum.

Amit Mitra, Finance Minister of West Bengal said that resistance to this Finance Commission is vital, as the ToR is in violation of fundamental constitutional values. “States are facing massive revenue deficits”, he said. “West Bengal has not received funds of Rs 9,958 crores. We are forced to borrow from the market to keep our basic government initiatives running. We need to resist this forced ceiling placed on States’ ability to borrow.”

“These terms of reference are a part of undermining the federal structure. And to my knowledge, other Chief Ministers too have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding their concerns about the 15th Finance Commission,” added Mitra.

Finance Minister of Punjab, Manpreet Singh Badal spoke about the impact of GST-related changes, and explained that Punjab is a consequence of many industries migrating away during the partition. “We need to take care of power subsidies, food security and facilities that we assure our people. The ToR acts as an impediment, and is violative of at least Articles 270 and 285.”

Minister of Finance of Kerala, Dr. T M Thomas Issac mentioned Tamil Nadu and Telangana were agreeing to the cause in private but are not willing to go public about it.

Advisor (Communications) to Government of AP Dr. Parakala Prabhakar, Member of 14th Finance Commission M Govinda Rao, Former Special Chief Secretary (Finance) of AP, V Bhaskar; finance expert V B Athreya, Vice Chairman of Kerala State Planning Board V K Ramachandran, Director of Gulati Institute D Narayana, Principal Secretary (Finance) of Kerala, Expenditure Secretary of Kerala Dr. Ekroop Caur and Principal Secretary (Finance) Muddada Ravi Chandra were a few among others who attended the conclave.

Representatives of Tamil Nadu and Telangana, those from Mizoram, Meghalaya, Odisha and Sikkim too did not turn up to the conclave.

Amendment suggested: Delete reference to flagship schemes of Government of India.

Para 4 (iv): (AS per TOR) Progress made in increasing capital expenditure, eliminating losses of power sector, and improving the quality of such expenditure in generating future income streams;

Amendment suggested: Delete this sub-paragraph.

Para 4 (v): (AS per TOR) Progress made in increasing tax/non-tax revenues, promoting savings by adoption of Direct Benefit Transfers and Public Finance Management System, promoting digital economy and removing layers between the government and the beneficiaries;

Amendment suggested: Delete reference here to Direct Benefit Transfers.

Para 4 (viii): (AS per TOR) Control or lack of it in incurring expenditure on populist measures; and

Amendment suggested: The reference to control of expenditure on populist measures may be deleted.

Para 5: (As per TOR) The Commission shall use the population data of 2011 while making its recommendations.

Amendment suggested: This paragraph may be amended to read “The Commission while making its recommendations, is directed to use the population data of 1971 in all cases where population is a factor for determination of the devolution of taxes and duties and grants-in-aid.” Proposed addition for the UTs with Legislature:

A suitable amendment may be made in TOR to ensure that the award of Fifteenth Finance Commission must apply to UTs with Legislature also.
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.
# Housing Schemes

## Targets and Achievements at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House allotted</td>
<td>13,28,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houses finally taken up</td>
<td>13,02,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target for the year (2017-18)</td>
<td>5,00,000 Houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houses completed during 2017-18</td>
<td>3,15,985 (63.1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure incurred during 2017-18</td>
<td>Rs 3,277.29 Crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance to be completed as on</td>
<td>9,86,096 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2018 Target for the year 2018-19</td>
<td>5,46,000 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houses completed during 2018-19</td>
<td>41,567 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(April 1, 2018 to April 30, 2018)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure from April 1,2018 to April 30,2018</td>
<td>Rs 386.12 Crore</td>
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Nag Ashwin’s glorious tribute to legendary actress Savitri with his recent film ‘Mahanati’ has opened a new window of opportunity for scores of other filmmakers in Telugu cinema. The film brought alive the rise and fall of Savitri in great detail, and its success at the box-office sent a clear signal to the rest of the industry that biopics are a major hit with the audiences. And just days after the film released, there were several rumours in Tollywood that a handful of filmmakers are mulling to direct biopics based on the lives of Uday Kiran, Soundarya, and several other filmmakers and actors who ruled the roost in the past. Already, two of the most awaited biopics based on the lives of Uday Kiran, Sondarya, and several other filmmakers and actors who ruled the roost in the past. And just days after the film released, there were several rumours in Tollywood that a handful of filmmakers are mulling to direct biopics based on the lives of Uday Kiran, Soundarya, and several other filmmakers and actors who ruled the roost in the past. Already, two of the most awaited biopics based on the lives of Uday Kiran, Soundarya, and several other filmmakers and actors who ruled the roost in the past. Already, two of the most awaited biopics based on the lives of Uday Kiran, Soundarya, and several other filmmakers and actors who ruled the roost in the past.

Among others, there are plans to make biopics on the lives of KCR, the chief minister of Telangana, and Jayalalitha, actress and former CM of Tamil Nadu; however, details about both these projects have been kept under wraps for now. Elsewhere, Kannada filmmaker Indrajit Lankesh is directing a multi-lingual film, a biopic of Shaheena, who was the undisputed queen of softcore and B-movies in the ’80s and ’90s in Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu cinema. Richa Chadha will play the title role, and the film is expected to be dubbed in Telugu as well.

In 2019, Tollywood will unveil its biggest film since Baahubali 2 in the form of Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy, one of the earliest freedom fighters who took on the British empire in the 19th century. Megastar Chiranjeevi is playing the titular role, and Ram Charan is producing the film. Directed by Surender Reddy, the film boasts of some of the biggest names in showbiz today with the likes of Amitabh Bachchan, Nayanthara, and...
Tamannaah, Vijay Sethupathi and several others playing important roles. Since there’s very little documented information on Narasimha Reddy, Surender Reddy and writers Paruchuri Brothers have gone all out to reconstruct the freedom fighters life from oral stories, legends, and documents available on him. The scale of the film is so huge that the budget is being pegged at Rs 200 crores; however, neither Ram Charan nor Chiranjeevi have confirmed these rumours. Whatever the case might be, Ram Charan is betting big on the project and is said to be closely monitoring its progress.

Apart from all these films, one of the most ambitious projects that is about to take off soon is the story of Kaliyuga Bheema, Indian Hercules - Kodi Ramamurthy Naidu - India’s most popular wrestler who even shocked the King of England with his skills in the early 20th century. Rana Daggubati is going to play the lead role and the actor himself had evinced interest in bringing the story of Ramamurthy Naidu alive on big screen. So far, no formal announcements have been made about the cast and crew, but it’s expected to release sometime in 2019. Over the past few years, Rana has been constantly trying to push the boundaries and make inroads in other industries as well, thus proving that there are no limits to art. The actor will also make his foray in Malayalam cinema later this year with the biopic on the life of Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma, the King of Travancore, who defeated the Dutch in the mid 18th century. Directed by K Madhu, the film boasts of several top technicians including stunt choreographer Peter Hein, sound designer Resul Pookutty, and music director MM Keeravani. Talking about the film, screenwriter Robin said, “Marthanda Varma is the one who shaped modern Thiruvananthapuram and the one who surrendered his kingdom to Sree Padmanabhswamy through the Thrippadi Danam. He was instrumental in keeping safe the wealth of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple, the richest in the world, and also for its renovation. The film will be featuring these milestones.”

Although Hindi cinema is miles ahead when it comes to embracing biopics, the same wasn’t true for Telugu cinema until recently. However, the success of Mahanati has given a new ray of hope to several filmmakers that the audiences are willing to embrace new content. Biopics are inherently inspiring or heart-breaking, and a perfect recipe to narrate a gripping story. The question is - will it open flood gates to more biopics in future? Because, there’s no end to stories worth telling.

- Hemanth Kumar C R
The Mystery Mango of Ulavapadu

Nageswara Rao, Local Farmer
I t had always been a mystery... a basketful of them packed delicately in hay arriving at our doorstep, the first among the many that followed before the vacations ended and the eventual onset of rains. They come from a place called Ulavapadu. The name, the moment it is conjured, makes my tongue tingle with a memory of sweetness, preserved in some remote neurons of my brain, and a shiver of anticipation and despair transmits to the extremities of my body, leaving me weak with yearning, yearning for the season to begin, a season when the mercury touches mid-forties and hot westerlies blow scorching everything in their way... the season of mangoes.

Year after every year the yearning for mangoes rises with the summer heat. Varieties of mangoes that reach the plate in the early seasonly heighten the anticipation for the ultimate king of fruit, the 'Banaganapalle' nurtured carefully in the orchards of Ulavapadu, a village forty kilometers south of Ongole, nestled snugly between the Madras-Calcutta railway and the Grand Trunk Road (NH-16). The time to make the annual pilgrimage always arrives, to visit the orchards and the stalls lined upon both sides of the highway for over a couple of miles.

A sliver from a mango ripened when still on tree, plucked and expertly cut gives the first taste of heaven and sets me off wondering, 'where did this fruit get its taste from, so sweet and special?' The mystery remained unsolved until a clue was provided by a friend, a marine archaeologist. You may wonder, what has marine archaeology to do with the taste of a mango. Probably it's a force of habit that I look for answers in the history of a place, that made me consider his words seriously. It was about two thousand years ago an Egyptian prince, Ptolemy wrote a book called 'Geography'. He mentioned an Indian Ocean port called Manarpha. Historians believe that it was an estuary at the mouth of the rivulet called Manneru, which meanders in a loop around the village Ulavapadu and empties into the Bay of Bengal a couple of miles east. Sporadic discoveries of sherds of rouletted pottery from China and Roman amphorae in and around Ulavapadu strengthen the view that the port served the trade between China and Rome. A five kilometer radius around the village, from Mannetikota in the west to the tank abutting Karedu in the east, is the area under intensive mango plantation today, and once upon a time it was a lagoon served as a safe harbor for seafaring vessels.

This coastal lagoon was a laterite trough into which the annual floods of Manneru brought substantial amounts of silt, rich in nutrients forming a loamy layer at the bottom. Sometime between the years 780 and 920 of the current era, a tsunami of gigantic proportions inundated the coastlines of the southern bay, an event recorded by the paleo-environmentalists. The inundation covered the lagoon with a dense layer of sand, at places as deep as twenty meters. The sheer weight of sand had compacted and composted the loamy substratum ringed by the porous laterite rock. The whole treasure-chest of soil nutrients was preserved for centuries deep under the sand inaccessible to the native vegetation, leaving the surface barren apart from a few stunted shrubs of desert thorn. But it is not beyond the reach of the long taproot of Mangiferaindica with its thick foliage creating enough suction to draw nutrients from such depths. But when did the mango make its journey of over a hundred miles from Banaganapalle to Ulavapadu?

PotuNageswar Rao, a local farmer and a lecturer of chemistry, recounts some recollections of his elders about the first mango plantations in the area. It was in the early 19th century a family of farmers driven by famine reached Mannetikota, a village few kilometers west with an ancient temple of Siva partially sunk in sand. 'It was here they had introduced the tree,' he says. 'A small village on the west bank of the stream called Binganapalli retains the memory of their original home. After the opening of the railway in the eighties of that century, the plantations moved closer to the newly built railway station of Ulavapadu.' There in their new home the trees thrived. The rich nutrients in the soil and the water table helped the yield, both in quantity and size of the fruit. But what made them so much sweeter?

Mr. Rao has an answer. He says that the cool coastal winds in the evenings and prolonged dry summers allow the mangoes to mature late with high starch accretion. The subsoil aluminum compounds in the laterite trigger the production of ethylene essential for the conversion of starch into simple sugars. And finally, the hot westerly winds towards the end of summer desiccate the excess water and make the fruit perfect for the table.

So, an ancient lagoon, a catastrophic tsunami, a famine, a railway and the forbidding climate have conspired with a few generations of doughty farmers, to produce these mangoes. No wonder they are so special.

It’s a quick three hour drive from Amaravati to stock up for the season. Worth a trip, isn’t it?

- Sai Papineni
CRDA Flats in Amaravati
The works of constructing houses for private employees in the capital region by Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) will kick start in another two months. The State government has chalked out plans to construct apartments for private employees working in Amaravati. As many as 1,000 flats would be constructed in three different categories at a cost of Rs 494 crore. Decision was taken long ago and the project details have been approved. The government has earmarked 10 acres to construct G+11 apartments in the Amaravati. The government is planning to build 1,200 sft (500), 1,500 sft (300), and 1800 sft (200) flats on no profit no loss basis. Square feet of the flat would cost Rs 3,500, and once done, the flats would be auctioned.

Varla Ramaiah is the new chief of RTC
AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has appointed Varla Ramaiah as the Chairman of the AP State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC). Ramaiah, after taking oath of secrecy administered by the Transport Minister, expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for reposing faith in him. He said he would do his best to efficiently lead the APSRTC. Irrigation Minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao, Minister for Civil Supplies Prathipati Pullarao and Minister for BC Welfare Nakka Anand Babu, APSRTC MD Surendra Babu, Ministers Amarnath Reddy and Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy among others were present.

Ramzan Tohfa for 12 lakh beneficiaries
The State government is going to release Chandranna Tohfa to the Muslim brethren in the month of June on the eve of Ramzan. This year, the tohfa will be given away to as many as 12 lakh beneficiaries. It is decided that the tohfa will include 5 kilos of Wheat, 2 kilos of Sugar, one kilo Vermicelli and 100 ml ghee. Every white ration card holder from the community will be eligible to receive the tohfa.

Passport Seva Kendram in Guntur
Guntur got a long pending demand from the locals, especially of students who want to study abroad fulfilled by getting a Passport Seva Kendram. Legislative Assembly Speaker Kodela Siva Prasad Rao has inaugurated a Passport Seva Kendram in Guntur on May 10. As part of making passport processing accessible and easy to the public of Guntur, a new centre to facilitate applications has been set up at Chandramoulinagar. Unlike before, Guntur denizens can appear for documents scrutiny at the newly opened Seva Kendram to obtain passports. The regional centre is said to handle as many as 50 applications in a day.

5866 constables complete training
As many as 5,866 police constables including 1607 women constables trained at 19 different district police training centers across the state completed their nine-months training and would be joining the duty soon. 33 candidates were post-graduates, 54 completed their engineering, 105 held degrees in other spheres and 34 joined the service after finishing intermediate. “Their education background is an advantage to the police department and they can easily adapt new technology. About 216 constables were given driving licenses along with training in computer operation, drone technology and prevention of cyber crimes,” said Minister for Water Resources Devineni Umamaheswara Rao.

Now an app to support Sadhikara Mithras
In a bid to educate and direct ‘Sadhikara Mitras’ in the State with information and plans, an exclusive mobile phone application has been designed. The new app was launched by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in a meeting held with Sadhikara Mitras on May 21 in Amaravati. The app was developed using Real Time Gover-

AP CM felicitates ‘Mahanati’ team
Following the stupendous success of the film ‘Mahanati’, a biopic on legendary actress Savithri directed by Nag Ashwin, AP CM Chandrababu Naidu showered praise on the entire cast and crew of the film, at a formal felicitation meet held at Amaravati on May 26. “Actress Savithri gained popularity and worship from Telugu people on par with NTR. The unit of the film have put in their hard work and it shows. I would do my bit in co-operating for tax exemption of the Mahanati,” said he. Meanwhile, Producer of the film Swapna Dutt announced Rs 50 lakh donation toward construction of capital Amaravati. Mementos were given away to the cast and crew along with Savithri’s daughter Vijaya Chamundeswari among others.
nance (RTG) by its CEO Babu A. As many as 17 policies regarding the programme were updated in the app as of now and it will be upgraded continuously for future requirements, said CM.

Another 58 Rythu Bazaars in the State

AP State government has embarked on expansion of Rythu Bazaars across mandals and major panchayats. In the first phase, about 58 Rythu Bazaars will be built and according to the target, these works have to be completed by August. An amount of Rs7.66 crore has been set aside for the purpose. According to the plans, 41 Rythu Bazaars are planned in West Godavari district alone. In East Godavari and Kurnool, 4 Rythu Bazaars are planned while 3 Rythu Bazaars will come up in Srikakulam and Krishna districts. A Rythu Bazaar is planned in Vizianagaram district as well.

Novelist Yaddanapudi passes away at 78

Yaddanapudi, who foreshadowed a new era in Telugu fictional literature passed away on May 21 in California at 78 due to age related complications. She was born in 1940 in Kaza village of Krishna district and rose to fame for her contemporary writing style on relationships and family drama. She authored more than 40 novels which reflect the changing trends of the 60’s. Most of her novels were translated to celluloid with prominent heroes-Akkineni Nageswara Rao, Shobhan Babu among others perfectly fitting the bill to play protagonists of her coming of age stories. While most of them proved to be successful at the box office, she had an ardent following in readers who awaited episodes of her novels in weekly books and magazines. Tributes were paid by people across Telugu States. AP CM said,” Yaddanapudi had encouraged many women back in the day with her writings and instilled confidence among middle-class women.”

Writer Peddibhotla dies at 79

Sahitya Akademi Award winner Peddibhotla Subbarmaiah passed away following a prolonged illness at a hospital in Vijayawada on May 18. Popularly called Ped-

A
fter receiving the prestigious Kalam Innovation in Governance Award-2018 (KIGA) presented by the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Centre in New Delhi in the month of January, the Andhra Pradesh State Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and IT Minister Nara Lokesh was yet again conferred on with ‘Digital Leader of the Year’ award. The award was given during the Businessworld Digital India Summit and Awards 2018, held at Delhi on May 18. The ‘Business World’ magazine has announced this award for the best utilisation of technology in governance. Lokesh won this award for using cutting edge technology and yielding good results in Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Rural Water Supply departments. Also, the state Panchayat Raj and Rural Water Supply Department officials have won another award for the ultramodern tracking system for water supply program.

Vijayawada Skater goes places

Fifteen-year-old city skater Riya Saboo is all set to take part in the Asian Roller Skating Championship to be held in South Korea from September 4 to 14. Riya, who is studying class 10 at a private school here, is currently undergoing training at Ahmedabad for the championship. After completing her selection trials in the first week of May, Riya will be taking part in frees style and pair skating. She has so far participated in two world championships in Italy and China along with an Asian event in China. She has so far clinched 14 national medals, including eight gold, and over 25 State medals that included 14 gold.

Gnanamaiah passed away following a prolonged illness at a hospital in Vijayawada on May 18. Popularly called Ped-

Gnana Dhaar Summer Camp

The Department of School Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh has come out with a special summer camp programme- ‘Gnana Dhara’, for the first time. Students of government schools transitioning from class 5 to 6 and class 9 to 10 are identified and admitted in a residential summer programme at Kasturba Girls Hostels across the State. The summer coaching camp not only offers programmes to equip the students with sound knowledge of Mathematics, Sciences and English but also provides training in life skills and communication skills. Painting, music, sports and arts are also included in the programme that concludes in the first week of June before schools re-open.
The government of Andhra Pradesh has set a target of 50% green cover for the State by 2029 and is working towards achieving this goal, as it envisions a green Andhra Pradesh with abundant forest cover for a thriving biodiversity and at the same time acting as a huge carbon sink. The objective is to create a sustainable living space for the citizens of the State while doing its part in creating a safer and sustainable planet at the same time. AP has launched “Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh” to increase green cover by giving top priority to planting and conservation activities under “Vanam-Manam”.

It is realised that there is an increase of 2,141 sq kms in forest cover that has been achieved in the State, which is by far the highest among any State due to planting and conservation activities from 2015 to 2017 (India State Forest Report 2017). The State has contributed to a positive change of 37 sq kms of Mangrove forests and ranks 2nd in the country.

Also, 7 districts have greater than 1 lakh hectares area available for greening within forests, and therefore are being given top priority for greening. The action plan for the green cover includes various sub-plans like-Vanam Manam: Greenery development by planting 25 crore seedlings on campaign mode along with the participation of people, the government, NGOs, and private agencies.

Pavithra Vanam: Hill afforestation and establishing eco-parks near temples at 12 locations.

Manya Haritham: Barren hill afforestation with SMC works to cover 214 no. hillocks- 5486 ha.

Nagara Vanams: Establishment & development of city forests/eco-parks in urban areas at 18 locations.

Haritha Theeram: 920 ha of Casuarina plantation and 380 ha of restoration with Mangrove forest to protect coastal areas from natural calamities.

Vana Vihari: Establishment and development of eco-tourism centres at 14 locations to promote tourism.

Haritha Sreni: 876 km of avenue plantation along highways and important roads.

Vana Sanjeevani: 3103 kms trench work (232.75 lakh cubic meters earthwork) around forest blocks to improve forest protection, facilitate water conservation and mitigate man-animal conflicts.

Vana Suraksha: Forest and wildlife protection by promoting base camps (193 no.), strike forces (52 no.), anti-poaching squads and check posts (113 no.)

Vanyaprani Samrakshana: Habitat improvement and holistic wildlife conservation, ex-situ conservation through zoological parks, sea turtle conservation, and environmental education.

The existing green cover within forest is at 17%, 23 lakh ha and 4 lakh ha outside forest, 8% or 13 lakh ha is available for greening within forest, 16% or 26 lakh ha is available for greening outside forest, and 9% or 15 lakh ha is to be identified for greening from revenue and private land.

**Clean Energy**

AP is envisioned to become a model State for renewable energy and energy efficiency programmes. 2148 MW of solar power and 3952 MW of wind power is installed. It is planned to add 10,000 MW of solar and 8,000 MW of wind energy in the State by 2022. There has been a 12% point improvement in Renewable energy in 2017 from 2016, which has resulted in a reduction of about 8.5 million tons of GHG emissions. Energy efficiency is expected to achieve 25% reduction in energy consumption. About 6.18 lakh street lights have been replaced with energy-efficient lights in urban local bodies, 22,955 bore wells with solar pumps are installed, ECBC (Energy Conservation Building Code) is adopted and mandated to all new commercial and public meetings, 25,000 5-star rated pump sets are distributed, 9.72% Transmission & Distribution loss was incurred in 2017-18 as compared to 13.33% in 2014, and 2.17 crore LED bulbs have been distributed to households.

Solar and wind energy will be promoted to achieve 30% renewable energy share. A high growth scenario entails a corresponding increase in the demand for energy resources. This entails an installed capacity of 49 GW by 2029 from the current capacity of 18.49 GW (2017). The current per capita consumption is 1085 KWH and 3500 KWH is the per capita consumption targeted for 2029. Andhra Pradesh has graduated from a power-deficit State in 2014 to a power surplus State by 2017 with 24x7 quality reliable power supply.
IN PICS

**Pic 1:** Chief Minister congratulating newly elected Chief Minister of Karnataka H D Kumaraswamy.

**Pic 2:** CM consoling the families of those killed in boat accident during a cruise in Papikondalu in East Godavari district.

**Pic 3:** Industrialist Anil Ambani meeting with the Chief Minister at Velagapudi.

**Pic 4:** CM met with Rajan Anandan, MD of GoogleIndia & discussed the promotion of more start-ups in AP & providing them resources to find solutions to existing problems.

**Pic 5:** Chandrababu Naidu speaking at Dharma Porata Deeksha in Vizag against the Centre’s refusal to implement AP Reorganisation Act.

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*Assessment of State implementation of Business Reforms/2013 by DPIPED-Government of India, November 2016 ** RKE Survey, September 2016