FIGHTING for JUSTICE

CM Chandrababu Naidu resents Centre's apathy in responding to the rightful entitlements of the State. He is even ready to cross swords with the ally in the interest of Andhra Pradesh.
No single development is taking place in Sunrise Andhra Pradesh without consideration of Eco-sensitivity and natural resource optimization. Interim Secretariat at Velagapudi is no exception in incorporating these measures, and eco-friendly smart mobility in Amaravati was one of the measures.

In a significant step, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu recently launched bicycles which can be unlocked digitally using smart cards, at the Secretariat. He rode on one from the 2nd block to his office in the 1st block setting the tone for expansion of the environment-friendly initiative.

A total of 24 of these stylish bicycles imported from Germany have been made available at three stands on the Secretariat premises, and the idea is to expand this initiative across the Capital region over a period of time.

CM instructed the A.P.-Capital Region Development Authority (AP-CRDA) Commissioner Cherukuri Sreedhar to look into the possibility of the establishment of units that could assemble such latest bicycles in order to generate employment and more importantly promote the habit of cycling. All India Bicycling Federation Chairman D.V. Manohar promised to extend cooperation in that regard.

For the time being, the bicycles can be used by obtaining free membership and details of the users would be displayed at the stands set up opposite 2nd and 5th blocks and one at the city bus stop outside the Secretariat.
Ready To Cross Swords With Centre

The Chief Minister was upset that Andhra Pradesh was meted out a raw deal in the last Union budget before the general elections and began pressurizing the Centre to fulfill the promises made to the State.

Emirates to Invest Rs 30,000 Crs in State

CM’s Social Network

Happening Andhra
Various developments across the state of Andhra Pradesh.

KPMG Book on AP Launched

Drones to track infra projects

Galla’s Stirring Speech in Lok Sabha

Andritz to Parner with Aqua Feed Solutions

An Ultimatum to DSPs

Kia Motors to roll out cars next year from Ananthapur

Vizag-Poised For All-Round Growth

Migratory Murmurs of Pelican
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is known to be a reliable ally in any coalition, and nobody knows this better than the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre. Unless pushed to the corner, the Chief Minister always preferred to settle any outstanding issues through negotiation and discussion. It is in this backdrop that the CM’s public expression of deep dissatisfaction against the Centre’s apathy in responding to the rightful entitlements of the state should be seen.

If the ties between the Centre and the State have come under strain, it is not the fault of the government in Amaravati. Nearly four years after the ill-conceived bifurcation was thrust on the people, the truncated state of Andhra Pradesh found itself at the receiving end of a raw deal in the hands of the Central government. The fond hope of the CM that Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had promised to turn around the state from Scam Andhra to Swarna Andhra during the 2014 elections was belied to the utter chagrin of the Telugus.

Every time there has been political pressure over the promised Special Category Status (SCS), the Chief Minister had been making efforts to balance the criticism. He took pains to convince the people of the need to accept a special package that was offered in lieu of SCS. He gave benefit of doubt to the Centre when delays in operationalisation of the pledges made in the AP Reorganisation Act were stuck in political red tape. But unfortunately, all the earnestness and optimism of the Chief Minister was met with unexplained coldness during all this time.

The CM has always been clear about his priorities. “The Centre’s support is essential to rebuild the State. That is why I have joined hands with Mr Modi,” he had told the people in 2014. But if the very purpose of this friendship is defeated, and if the state were denied its legitimate rights, then the result is a lack of mutual trust. In demanding justice to Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu is only asking the Centre to honour its commitment. As Chief Minister, it is his bounden duty to reflect his people’s opinion and sentiment.

On that score, as the CM pointed out, there cannot be a compromise. It is not too late for the Centre to make the wrongs done to the State right. The sooner the central leadership realizes this, the better it is for everybody. May better sense prevail!

Ramesh Kandula
Editor
The Asia Paper Pulp (APP), one of the largest pulp and paper companies in the world, has evinced interest in investing in Andhra Pradesh. APP executive director Suresh Kilam and other representatives of the firm called on Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu recently at Secretariat to propose setting up a plant to manufacture 3 tonnes to 5 tonnes of paper a day. APP is one of the largest conglomerates in Indonesia spanning across Banking, Infrastructure, Agribusiness communications, Cooking oil, Palm oil, real estate and telecommunications.

Elaborating their plans, Kilam sought a single site of 2,500 acres in the coastal area to set up the plant. Responding on APP’s proposal, Dr P Krishnaiah, Executive Chairman of APIIC, suggested them to look at available plots of land in Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Krishnapatnam and Machilipatnam.

The Chief Minister enquired about import and export potential, discharge information and the plan of action. Kilam said that once land is confirmed, they will submit a feasibility report in 50 days, and will have a gestation period of 30 months. The plant will require land in a coastal area, produce only packaging paper, and will have a daily import and export of materials weighing around 30,000 tons.

The meeting was facilitated by Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board. The Chief Minister assured all the support required.
From a new state in 2014 to one of the fastest growing states in the country with double-digit GSDP growth rate, Andhra Pradesh has made considerable progress, said Arun M. Kumar, Chairman & CEO, KPMG India, in his foreword to KPMG's book titled ‘Andhra Pradesh: Leading the Transformation’.

Aiming to provide a fair understanding of the state’s transformation journey and way forward, Klynveld Peat Marwick and Goerdeler (KPMG), knowledge partner of AP government, published the book, which was released by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, at the CII Partnership Summit.

The report explores the potential of the State in key focus areas supported by a huge demographic dividend available to be harnessed.

“It has been ranked the No. 1 State in India on ease of doing business reforms in 2016 by DIPP, ranked No.1 in 2017 in implementation of energy efficiency and conservation measures, ranked No.1 in 2015-16 by RBI in attracting private sector investment, ranked No.1 in marine exports, ranked No.1 in barytes production, ranked No.3 in global shrimp production 41% PA wags, ranked No.3 in 2017 in business investment potential by NCAER and AP was amongst top 3 states in manufacturing in FY 2016-17. These are the testimonies to conducive business environment in the State. We believe this report by KPMG in India will provide an understanding of the Sun rise State’s progress and investment potential,” Arun said, speaking on the report.
Happiness of the people of Andhra Pradesh is the supreme goal of the government and people's well-being and happiness is being put at the forefront of state's efforts.

The 86-page report detailed how the State is steadily marching ahead to become India’s 'Sunrise State'. It is providing a fair understanding of the state’s progress and investment potential. The well-circulated book presented the enthusiastic investors an opportunity for forging strong partnerships with AP. As the state navigates its path to a higher growth trajectory, the report had come in handy for a valuable resource for companies — Indian and foreign alike—to find ways in which they can share in the dividend generated by the state's growth, while making their own contribution to the economy's transformation.

A few excerpts from the foreword of the Chairman (KPMG India):

“Andhra Pradesh has had a commendable transformation story. From a new state in 2014 to one of the fastest growing states in the country with double-digit GSDP growth rate, Andhra Pradesh has made considerable progress.

Vision can be effectively achieved if backed up by robust policy environment, efficient action plan and strong governance. Andhra Pradesh’s efforts are reflected in its robust and forward looking policy framework, development initiatives introduced to achieve the vision and transparent and efficient monitoring of the progress.

Leveraging on its strategic locational advantage, Andhra Pradesh has focused on equitable development by involving all districts in its transformation journey. Investments are spread across the state and job opportunities are emerging for people across all strata of society.

I am happy to note that the state has attracted strategic investments in various sectors such as auto, electronics, textiles, pharmaceuticals, aerospace and defence, minerals, renewable energy, to name a few. Andhra Pradesh also has many superlatives to its credit - Asia’s biggest integrated control and command centre, first state in the country to implement the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), first state in South India to offer 24x7 quality and reliable power to industry— to name a few.”

Committee to Realise own State Archives

While planning to set up its own State Archives, State Government of Andhra Pradesh constituted a bureaucratic committee as a precursor. The three-member committee comprises Nagulapalli Srikanth, Principal Secretary, General Administration (GAD), Dr. Manmohan Singh, Special Chief Secretary, Land, Endowments and Disaster Management, and M. Ravi Chandra, Special Chief Secretary, Finance.

The very idea of the initiative is to have its own archive entity post bifurcation, and update and preserve the historical and latest records on iconic projects that are under execution. The committee further constituted a five-member committee of experts seeking inputs to keep State's glorious history on display.

Historical records pertaining to AP are now lying with the Hyderabad-based combined entity, the A.P. State Archives and Research Institute. If new State Archives is set up, they could be returned from the possession of Telangana. According to the committee, the archives of Germany, France, and other countries have been studied thoroughly before arriving at a conclusion that the A.P. Archives should not only be a record of events but also a source of inspiration to posterity.
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, along with Kia Motors Corporation President Han Woo Park, took part in the Frame Installation of Kia Motors at Yerramanchi village in Anantapuramu district of the state on February 23. Andhra Pradesh is all set to emerge as a major automobile hub as South Korea’s Kia Motors is setting up a mega manufacturing plant at Yerramanchi village Penugonda mandal of Anantapur district. Kia Motors is planning to release its first car in March 2019.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the farmers who gave their lands for the industry and opined that with the Kia Motors manufacturing plant, the face and fate of Anantapuramu district would change.

Kia Motors entered into an MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on April 20, 2017, to produce 3 lakh vehicles per year with an investment of Rs 13,000 crore to provide employment opportunity to 11,000 persons, including 4000 direct jobs. “This is a significant step in our efforts to turn Andhra Pradesh into an automobile manufacturing hub. It is a historic day and the strong bond between AP and Kia will endure,” Naidu had said at the time.

The APIIC allotted 535.50 acres for the main plant, 36 acres for the township and 11.20 acres for the training centre.

The State is ready to allot 250 acres to 40 allied industries at Gudipalli and Yerramanchi villages. Besides, the State has been making efforts to allot 100 acres for railway siding and 48.47 acres for truck terminal.

The plant works are being carried out at a brisk pace. The engine shop, body shop, paint shop, seat shop, assembly unit, utility centre and power train shop are getting ready in the main unit of the plant.

Kia Motors said it will roll out first car models from its upcoming facility in Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh by 2019. “The company will roll out its first car models from its upcoming facility in Anantapur in the state by mid-2019. The first India manufacturing facility for the company is coming up over 213.7 hectares of land in Andhra Pradesh to produce 3 lakh cars annually, involv-
ing an investment of over USD 2 billion," CII said in a statement quoting Kook Hyun Shim, MD & CEO, Kia Motors, India.

As many as 40 automobile allied industries will also be set up there.

Kia plans to produce a strategic compact sedan and compact SUV especially for the Indian market at the new plant, which will occupy around 23 million square feet and incorporate facilities for stamping, welding, painting and assembly. The site will also be home to numerous supplier companies’ facilities.

The South Korean-based KIA Motors showcased its three model cars, which are going to be manufactured at its plant in Anantapur, at the three-day CII Partnership Summit venue.

**New Range displayed at CII Summit**

Kia showcased its global range of cars Niro, Soul and Stinger, which includes electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, and sports utility vehicles (SUV). The range also includes the exciting new Stinger sports sedan that attracted many sports car lovers. Kia Motors is looking to replicate its global success in India, as the world’s fastest growing car market. Speaking on the occasion, Industries Minister N Amarnath Reddy said that the State Government is aiming to provide 2 lakh jobs for the youth in automobile sector. In the last three years, the state government had secured 3.7 billion as investments in automobile sector. Companies like Kia, Hero, Amar Raja, Isuzu and Ashok Leyland had already invested in the state of Andhra Pradesh. More automotive companies will be established in Chittoor region and an industrial corridor will be created between Anantapur and Nellore, he said.

**His Highness the Aga Khan at Raj Bhavan**

His Highness the Aga Khan, Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims and founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) met Governor E S L Narasimhan at Raj Bhavan recently as part of his 10-day official visit to the country at the invitation of the Government of India, marking the 60th anniversary of His Highness the Aga Khan’s accession to the leadership of the Shia Ismaili Muslims on July 11, 1957. During his meeting with Aga Khan, the Governor appreciated the various development programmes undertaken by the Aga Khan Development Network and by its partner agencies of Aga Khan Foundation and Aga Khan Agency for Habitat in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and told him that the programmes should be inclusive and sustainable. The Governor assured of full cooperation by both the State Governments to the development activities of the Agencies. Aga Khan informed the Governor that their Agencies have plans for launching various development programmes in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, in the next five years. Governor informed the visiting dignitary that the Aga Khan Development Network and its agencies should continue their activities on a continuous basis with more inclusive and sustainable approach.

His Highness thanked the Governor for the meeting. Governor felicitated His Highness the Aga Khan by presenting a memento.
The Third Sunrise Andhra Pradesh Investment Meet and the 24th CII Partnership Summit held in the City of Destiny of Visakhapatnam was a thumping success in terms of number of delegates attended and the number of MoUs signed. As many as 734 agreements for investment of Rs.4.39 lakh crore and for generating 11 lakh jobs were inked.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu exuded confidence that 90 per cent of them would be implemented and all efforts would be made to measure up to the expectations of investors from the other parts of the country and abroad who had signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government. All the clearances would also be accorded within 21 days and they could begin work on the 22nd day, he assured them.

Among the major projects coming up include Reliance Group’s over Rs 55,000 crore investment to establish a mobile phone unit in the pilgrim city of Tirupati. It will manufacture one million cell phones and establish an electronics cluster at Amaravati. The group will invest a great deal in the oil sector too. Google has signed a MoU to provide connectivity to villages in the State and the Adani group will construct a greenfield port and set up an SEZ at Bhanapadu in Srikakulam district. Besides, the LuLu Group has signed an MoU to construct a world-class convention centre and shopping mall at the venue of the Summit in in Harbour Park area where temporary structures were now being erected for organsing the Summit for the past three years. The permanent convention centre will be in place for the CII Summit at the same place next year, the Chief Minister said. Another significant feature was that Singapore and Japan agencies had come forward to assist in the construction of the new state capital, Amaravati. The CM acknowledged the fact that Singapore in particular has helped a lot from the beginning, drawing up the necessary plans and thanked Singapore Trade Minister S Iswaran who attended the valedictory session. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu opined that Andhra Pradesh should now work for implementation of all the MoUs and launching the projects. He promised all help from the Centre and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted India to become a $5 trillion economy in the next five to seven years and Andhra Pradesh...
should play a big role in achieving it. State Governor E.S.L Narasimhan, who was the chief guest at the valedictory session, said he had no doubts that the State would achieve the targets it had set for itself under leadership of Chandrababu Naidu who worked like a machine. "Because of Nara, Andhra Pradesh Hamaraa," he remarked. To reel out the statistics, over 4253 Delegates, across more than 45 countries attended the three-day Summit. They include 280 from abroad, 3673 from all over India and 300 students keen on setting up startups.

Inaugurating the prestigious Partnership Summit, Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu said that India has emerged as bright spot of economy, thanks to the reforms which caught up with the people. The current account deficit (CAD) has come down from 1.5 per cent to 0.5 per cent, while the fiscal deficit from 5.9 per cent to 3.5 per cent which reflected the health of the Indian economy. India would be a ten trillion economy by the year 2030, he stated. As for Andhra Pradesh, he said that 20 per cent of the seafood exports were from the state and there was lot of scope for investment in aquaculture and also solar power with already 1000 MW installed and another 1000 MW in the pipeline, to pave way for 24-hour uninterrupted power supply for investors in industry, he noted.

Coastal Employment Zone

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on the opening day announced that there were plans for establishing a Coastal Employment Zone in the State. During the past three-and-a-half years, the State attracted as many as 1946 MoUs for investment proposals of Rs.13.54 lakh crore. So far investments to the tune of Rs.5960 crore were achieved, he disclosed. He also said that he was planning to reduce energy charges in the State which was thriving on innovation. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu who also stayed throughout the three-day summit noted at the inaugural function that despite very serious challenges the residual Andhra Pradesh faced, it could move forward to emerge as one of the fastest growing states in India. On the MoU reached in the automobile sector between Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers and AP Economic Development Board, he said Indian auto components were rated as the best in the world.

Chairman of Adani Group Gautam Adani said his group would invest Rs.9000 crore in AP during the next five years. Secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ramesh Abhishek, Confederation of India Industry (CII) president Sobhana Kamianeni, and CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee spoke during the inaugural function.

As many as 8 Plenary Sessions and 2 Special Plenary Sessions were organized during the summit. The topics were Sunrise Andhra Pradesh, the Reform Calculus: Promoting Ease of Doing Business, ‘World Trade on the Comeback Trail in the Midst of Trade Agreements Facing Turbulence’, ‘Future Sectors: Can India lead Industry 4.0’, ‘The Matrix of Skills: Leveraging India’s Workforce’, Redefining the Global value Chain: The challenges of Integrating SMEs from Developing World’, ‘Connectivity and Communication: Fast Tracking Infrastructure Development and Financing’, and ‘Starship Enterprise: The Universe of Startups’. There were also special plenary sessions held on Technologies for Tomorrow, Interaction with a Social Icon – Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji, and three Country Sessions of South Korea, Japan and Singapore. In addition, there were 8 State Sector Sessions on Automotive, Tourism, Aerospace and Defense, Textiles, Renewable Energy, Medical Equipment, Food Processing and Electronics with the participation of experts from the respective fields. What the special was the 15 Chief Minister’s bilateral meetings with Trade Ministers/ Trade Delegations from
Morocco, UAE, Thailand, Japan, United States, Australia, Czech Republic, Myanmar, Spain, Finland, Belgium, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Singapore, and Korea. Chandrababu Naidu also held 40 bilateral meetings with industry leaders from major companies like Mahindra Group, Essel Group, Reliance, Grasim Industries, Adani Group, Diageo, Aegis, Toray (Japan), Lixil (Japan), West Energy Systems, Dasan (Korea), Autogrid, Tata, Amway, Vedanta. Two books were also launched during the summit -- Report on "Andhra Pradesh – Leading the transformation" by KPMG and Investor and Facilitation Handbook by Department of Industries & Commerce. Foundation stones were laid for the International Convention Center, Hotel and Shopping mall by Lulu Group at Visakhapatnam, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kakinada and Indian Institute of Packaging, also to come up at Kakinada.

Andhra Pradesh Pavilion
Andhra Pradesh Pavilion showcased the state as top investment destination in India across various sectors. The pavilion highlighted Real Time Governance, Amaravati, Food Processing, Blockchain & Fintech, Skilling, Tourism, Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Irrigation and APIIC. Vice-President of Republic of Mauritius Paramasivam Pillay Vayyapuri was a surprise guest on for the valedictory function. He had come to meet the Chief Minister and invite him to Mauritius and assist the Telugu cultural council to be set up there.

Lokesh cynosure of all eyes
IT and Panchayat Raj Minister Nara Lokesh was the cynosure of all eyes at the Partnership Summit. He proved to be a chip of the old bloc when he adroitly handled a plenary session on ‘Starship Enterprise The Universe of startups’ on the final day, stunning experts like Co-Founder of Infosys and chairman of Axilor Ventures S. Gopalakrishnan who moderated the programme in which Founder and CEO of AutoGrid Inc, USA Amit Narayan, Managing Partner of Emergent Ventures-USA Ankur Jain, Founder and CEO of Plant-e from The Netherlands Marjolein Helder, Co-founder of Village Energy-Australia Ben Hamilton, Co-founder of Zappresh Deepanshu Manchanda, and Mission Director-ATAL Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog R. Ramanan spoke.

- B. Prabhakara Sarma

FORM IV (see Rule 8)
Statement about ownership and other particulars of the 'Andhra Pradesh' English Monthly Hyderabad as required under rule 8 of the Registration of News Paper (Central) Rules, 1956.

1. Place of Publication : Hyderabad
2. Periodicity of Publication : Monthly
3. Printer’s Name : Ramesh Babu Kandula
   On behalf of Commissioner, I&PR (for Government of A.P.)
   Whether Citizen of India? : Yes
   Address : Samachar Bhavan, A.C. Guards, Masabtank, Hyderabad – 500 028.
4. Publisher’s Name : Ramesh Babu Kandula
   On behalf of Commissioner, I&PR (for Government of A.P.)
   Whether Citizen of India? : Yes
   Address : Samachar Bhavan, A.C. Guards, Masabtank, Hyderabad – 500 028.
5. Editor’s Name : Ramesh Babu Kandula
   On behalf of Commissioner, I&PR (for Government of A.P.)
   Whether Citizen of India? : Yes
   Address : Samachar Bhavan, A.C. Guards, Masabtank, Hyderabad – 500 028.
6. Name & Address of Individuals who own the Newspaper
   Information & Public Relations Department, Govt. of A.P.
   A.C. Guards, Masabtank, Hyderabad – 500 028.
   Whether Citizen of India? : Yes

I, Ramesh Babu Kandula, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date : 01-03-2018
Sd/-Ramesh Babu Kandula (Publisher)
Various proposals were discussed and approved at the Andhra Pradesh cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. During the meeting, held recently at state secretariat, the cabinet approved for the formation of AP Content Corporation. It will be a subsidiary of AP State Fibernet Limited, whose registered office will be situated in the NTR Administrative Block, Pandit Nehru Bus station, Vijayawada. The implementation of the subsidiary will be in the creation of content for news, rural VAS, employment, infotainment, education, entertainment, health, utility, and governance.

**Water Resources Department**

For enhancing the Special Imprest amount from Rs 150 crores to Rs 160 crores with the Superintending Engineer, Polavaram Irrigation Project Headworks Circle, Dowlaiswaram, orders issued by the Water Resources Department were ratified. The Cabinet accorded sanction of Rs. 4.7 crores to J. Sreenivasulu Reddy, Contractor as full and final settlement of the claim towards the construction of Gorakallu bypass canal structure.

Women, Children, Differently Abled & Senior Citizens Department

The Cabinet also approved the setting up of a Special Purpose Vehicle with TATA Trusts, for the production of Balamrutham and other ready-to-eat food for children, pregnant and lactating women. This will also provide scope for manufacturing a range of products to suit the requirements of Severely Under Weight (SUW), Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and also Anaemic Pregnant and Lactating Women.

The SPV will be set up on PPP mode on the lines of AP Food, under Section 8 (Not for Profit), Companies Act. It will take care of the end-to-end process of setting up of a factory, sourcing of raw materials, production, distribution and other operations of the unit.

The objective of the government is to facilitate necessary infrastructure by pooling in private and government resources and to bring in better efficiencies in the unit by inviting private sector participation.

**Finance Department**

8 posts will be created in Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, Appalayaguntu with effect from June 11th, 2008, for regularizing the services of the taken over staff as per the orders of the High Court. The total financial implication of the approval is Rs. 22,53,672 per annum.

**General Administration Department**

The Andhra Pradesh Police (Reforms) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, will be repealed, and be replaced by the Bill, which will be placed before the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

**MA & UD Department.**

A total of 5 lakh houses will be taken up for construction and completion by 2019, at a total cost of Rs. 38,265 crores. Under AHP PMAY – Urban, the government of India will bear Rs. 7,500 crores, the government of AP will bear Rs. 13,035 crores and beneficiaries will bear Rs. 17,730.88 crores.

**Planning Department**

For the preparation of Comprehensive Development Strategy and the Consultancy fees to Mission Experts, Rs. 1.2 crores plus taxes will be directed to the IL&FS clusters. This was presented to the Council of Ministers on the request of Malyadri Srim, MP, Bapatla and the Joint Secretary of ‘Members of Parliament Alliance for Collective Transformation’. This proposal was approved under the condition that they submit an implementation report to the Planning Department.
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been upset at the way Andhra Pradesh was meted out a raw deal in the last Union budget before the general elections. Feeling let down by an ally, the CM came out openly with his dissatisfaction at the non-cooperative attitude of the Central Government. Not only did the Centre fail to keep its promise of granting a special package in lieu of the much awaited special category status (SCS), but it also did not honour the several commitments made in the AP Reorganisation Act. He laid bare the lame excuses offered by the Centre for not giving SCS to Andhra Pradesh, and questioned the rationale behind extending the tenure for SCS beneficiary states by 10, 20 and 30 years.

‘Did the 14th Finance Commission say Andhra Pradesh should not be granted SCS? In fact, the Commission members clarified that they never said so,” recalled Chandrababu Naidu on the Centre’s double-speak. If the SCS could be extended to others, there was no reason why it should not be accorded to Andhra Pradesh, he said, and challenged the Centre for a debate on the issue.

Cry In Wilderness
In the past four years, the Chief Minister made as many as 28 trips to Delhi with the sole purpose of achieving what is due to the state. He regularly met the central ministers and the Prime Minister seeking either the SCS or the special package promised to AP. But his pleas fell on deaf ears. As a last ditch effort, he again met the Prime Minister just before the recent Union Budget and submitted a detailed memorandum to him hoping that something would be done to the State. However, there was nothing in the budget for AP and the people felt cheated as it had become clear what the Centre had promised proved to be all empty talk.

While thousands of crores of rupees was granted to sub-urban train projects in Bangalore and Maharashtra, there was no mention of the Visakhapatnam railway zone, nor the other pending projects. Obviously, it sent wrong signals to the people who were expecting the Centre to come out with something to cheer in the budget. The Chief Minister lamented that de-
spite the state being a victim of bifurcation blues, it was not allotted even one-tenth of what was doled out to the rich states like Maharashtra. The situation was all the more alarming because it was the last full-fledged budget before the 2019 general elections. As soon as it was found out that there was nothing provided for AP in the budget, the Chief Minister immediately held a tele-conference with the party MPs in Delhi and expressed his disappointment over the attitude of the Centre. He also discussed with them the future action programme and how to go about it in the Parliament.

**Apartheid Of Sorts**

After bifurcation of the State, a report was sent to the Centre that AP faced a deficit of Rs.16,000 crore. But so far, only Rs 3,950 crore were released to the state. But on the contrary, Himachal Pradesh is getting Rs 8,000 crore annually from the Centre. The hill state was facing debts accumulated to the tune of Rs 45,000 crore over the last few years and the Centre was extending its helping hand every year. When such was the case, why similar assistance to AP was not extended is baffling. Also, at the time of bifurcation, the then Prime Minister had promised in the Rajya Sabha the seven backward districts in North Andhra and Rayalaseema a special plan on the lines of Kora-put-Bolangir-Kalahandi of Odisha state, and a special package similar to Madhya Pradesh and Bundelkhand of Uttar Pradesh. However, while KBK and Bundelkhand packages contained Rs 6,000 crore each, the Andhra districts were given only Rs 1050 crore. This is nothing but apartheid of sorts and Chandrababu is fretting and fuming over the raw deal meted out to his State. He is determined to bring pressure on the Centre gradually but treading cautiously not to snap ties with the Centre lest the major projects like Polavaram and Amaravati capital should be jeopardized.

“Andhra Pradesh is like an infant. We have to nurse it with care. That does not mean we will compromise on people’s interests. If inevitable, we can take drastic decisions. Then people will also understand us,” were his words reflecting his mature approach for tackling the issue.

He also told the MPs that one has to search where one has lost which means that the fight will be taken to Delhi and the Parliament. On the cordial relations AP maintained with the Centre, he recalled that AP stood by the Centre through thick and thin – during demonetization and other issues. Since the state was the loser during bifurcation of AP, it should be provided justice, he points out.

**Can’t Hide Facts**

Facts cannot be hidden nor suppressed and the Chief Minister has raised some of the issues frequently.

- How many kilometers of highways were laid in the State since 2014-15? Only Rs 6,000 crore was spent on roads. Most of the national highways are laid with private participation and the Centre would not spend from its pocket. It says Rs 20,000 crore was being given to Amaravati Expressway. The State has to spend Rs 8,500 crore for land acquisition alone. And it will incur a further Rs 8,000 crore for creating other basic infrastructural
The revenue deficit issue was discussed twice in the first year. Centre says AP will get only Rs 4000 crore. It will not include the amount spent on the loan waiver, pensions and PRC. Even after this, it initially stated AP would get Rs 7500 crore.

Centre deferred payment of Rs 8500 crore paid towards loan waiver. Does it not come under Revenue Deficit? Why doesn’t it set up a committee to find out for itself what AP should get in excess of the Rs 7500 crore?

The Centre can constitute a committee with the chairman of 14th Finance Commission. Union Finance Minister says that would work out a formula on revenue deficit. He could as well have told the people what exactly it is.

There is no clarity on 19 aspects of the Reorganisation Act. The CM, who got tired of his trips to Delhi, demands the Centre to spell out as to when it will implement the promises in the bifurcation Act.

When crores of money is given to Bangalore and Mumbai suburban train projects, how could it forget the Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam metro rail projects? Can’t one dream of constructing a good capital city? Did the Centre not say that a better capital than Delhi would be built for AP?

Polavaram, Amaravati, revenue deficit, special package and railway zone—these are the most important issues for AP. They talk of everything except these.

Centre promised to take up Polavaram as national project. It is estimated to cost Rs 33,000 crore for relief and rehabilitation works. Centre is not clear on this. It has to bridge the huge gap between the amount spent by the State on Polavaram and what it has given so far.

They talk about a report that Kadapa steel plant is not feasible. Why did they not inform us about it so far?

They say Defence department and ISRO oppose Dugarajapatnam port. We showed Ramayapatnam as an alternative. Why don’t they mention about it?

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu felicitated the participants of a joint certificate programme called ‘Digital Transformation in Public Governance’ at the e-Pragati officers’ graduation ceremony. The e-Pragati scheme is a joint venture by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Indian School of Business (ISB). Chief Minister Naidu attended the graduation ceremony of 96 officers from 51 departments that was held in Amaravati. The ceremony was also attended by IT Minister Nara Lokesh, Civil Supplies Minister Prathipati Pulla Rao, Welfare Minister Nakka Ananda Babu, Dean of ISB, Professor Raj Srivastava and Executive Director of SRITNE Professor Deepa Mani.

In his welcome remarks, N. Balasubramanyam, CEO of e-Pragati detailed the journey of the idea of an integrated platform for all departments of the government. He lauded the Chief Minister’s vision of a citizen-centric governance model.

In his address, IT Minister Nara Lokesh urged officials of all departments to participate in this transition to seamless, paperless and real-time governance.

The Chief Minister congratulated all the participating officers, and lauded the efforts of the faculty at ISB, which ensured more than 90% attendance for lessons that were taught using case studies, technological tools and other non-traditional methods of teaching.

He also spoke about the goal of ensuring that every family in AP will have one digitally literate person. “Technology is constantly changing, and I want the people of my state to have easy access to it.”
Guntur MP Jayadev Galla displayed the much-needed political aggression in his 16-minute speech in Lok Sabha on the raw deal meted out for Andhra Pradesh in the Union Budget.

Pointing out the enormous delay and apathy displayed by the Centre in fulfilling its obligations under AP Bifurcation Act, Jayadev demanded Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Prime Minister Narendra Modi an explanation to the people of AP. Galla powerfully articulated the deep sense of betrayal felt by the people of the state at the inexplicable cold attitude of the Centre. He cautioned the Centre against the prolonged neglect of the State and its requirements at its own peril.

Excerpts from his emotional speech that won great appreciation for him from all the quarters:

Sir,
I do understand about trust an essential requirement for any partnership to continue. I also think that I can safely say that India has not seen her last days of coalition governments. What message do you want to send to your allies and potential allies Mr. Prime Minister. Your allies are feeling neglected, betrayed and humiliated as are the five core people of Andhra Pradesh. We demand an explanation. In the budget there’s no mention of Amaravati, Polavaram, Railway zone, deficit budget, special package, not to mention the other commitments made in the AP Reorganization Act and the assurances made on the floor of the Raja Sabha by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ji, without which this bill would not have been passed and therefore should be considered sacrosanct. Some of your party leaders are trying to convince you that some how your party can grow in Andhra Pradesh by breaking the promises and weakening the Telugu Desham party.

Seasoned admirers of the Congress president convinced her as well in 2014 of an ill-advised strategy and paid a very dear price from being the strongest state unit in the country for the Congress, it went to zero out of 25 MPs and zero out of 175 MLAs where it’s likely to stay for a very long time. The Congress thought that, by betraying the people of Andhra Pradesh it would ensure a win in Telangana and the TRS would merge with it. The Congress also had expected, because of a secret deal between them and the YSRCP, they would win in AP and would also support them if not merge. The people of AP are no fools and the Congress was wiped out in both the states and YSRCP devious plans were understood by the people. Please don’t be of the opinion that the BJP will fare any better if it treads the wrong path. The YSRCP is now again trying to fool the people of AP. They are praising the budget cozying up to the central government, shifting the blame from the central government and the BJP to the AP government and to the TDP. The people of AP are no fools. They know that the YSRCP needs to support whoever is in power.
in the centre in order to keep their leader out of jail. Today it may be you, tomorrow it may not. And what is the message you will send to the country by supporting the party whose founder and president is the poster boy of corruption in India. If you think that the YSRCP would make a better alliance partner in AP it would be a serious lapse of judgement and morality. There’s a saying sir you can fool some of the people all of the time, you can fool all of the people some of the time, but you can’t fool all of the people all of the time. And let me assure you Mr. Prime Minister, the TDP and the people of Andhra Pradesh are certainly no fools. We demand an explanation.

Our CM has visited Delhi 29 times. He’s met the Prime Minister, finance minister, home minister multiple times and every concerned minister to get the promises and assurances fulfilled. He has submitted report after report. The latest report being here Sir, you can see how detailed this report is. This is not the first report. So many reports have been given to every department. It’s a shame. It’s shameful for the government to still say they’re waiting for information or that they’re still examining the situation.

Sir, there are 19 items just in the AP reorganisation act alone that are yet to be fulfilled. I’m not going to cover all of them. I’m only going to focus on five main items from that because of the paucity of time. But there are 19 items just in the reorganisation act alone. These include, I won’t go into detail, but let me read them out. Special category state, bridging the resource gap, Polavaram project, formation of a railway zone, financial assistance to Amaravathi, establishment of Green field crude refinery and petro chemical complex, institutes of national importance, formation of Dugarajapatnam port at Nellore, increase of seats in AP state assembly, anomalies in tax matters, steel plant in Cuddapah district, establishment of Vizag Chennai industrial corridor, Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada Metro rapid rail and road connectivity to Amaravati, development assistant to backward districts, payment of power dues by Discom, appointment of schedule nine institutions, appointment of schedule ten institutions and the formation of the Greyhound training center.

Just in the AP reorganisation act alone Sir, not to mention other assurances made to us sir. Where’s the budget for fulfilling your promises and assurances? Where is it in the budget? How do you plan to do it? Coming to the special package, I wish to remind the honorable finance minister, what he had said on 7 September 2016 while announcing the special financial package to the state of AP sir. He said the government of India will support AP to the hilt. Sir that was in September 2016. Nothing has been done since then. The government cannot take our patience for granted. Not allocating and not even mentioning about the special financial package to AP in this budget is injustice and is deceiving the people of Andhra Pradesh. Secondly, when the finance minister came to Amaravathi to lay the foundation stone for financial assistance it was given only for two years. So I request that it should be given for that until the first sale is made which we’ve made this request over and over again. But we want a confirmation sir. Thirdly, the house is aware that AP has been given the financial package due to immense loss that it has suffered after bifurcation. The house is also very well aware that the financial packages with different nomenclatures were announced to various states and regions earlier and also we know the fate of those announcements sir. So looking at the past experience the people of AP are very apprehensive that this financial package may also meet the same fate hence there have been numerous demands from various quarters and also from our CM for giving legislative backing to the entire financial package announced on September 6, 2016 and also to implement the package in a fixed time frame in view of the above.

I demand the Finance Minister through this house to immediately released a financial package announced and also give legislative backing to the special financial package to legitimize the announcements made by the Finance Minister. I’m sure he would reply to this when he replies to the debate sir. Coming to assurances given during bifurcation, the government of India promised to give equal amount that the special category status would get as a special package. So I don’t want to go into the special category status issue right now. Secondly, the PM (the then Prime Minister) also had assured on the floor of Rajya Sabha , special development package would be given to seven backward districts of Rayalseema and north coastal Andhra and it will be on the lines of the Kora-pur, Kalahandi special plan in Odisha and the Bundelkhand special package in Madhya Pradesh and UP. But so far, the government of India has given just 1050 crores or 50 crores per district every year for three years, while the package given to KBK and Bundelkhand is 6000 crores, only 1050 crores is given to AP and even this 50 crores is stopping after this year sir. We want that package Sir, not a pit- stance to our backward districts sir. Coming to Polavaram, the govern-
The Honourable railway minister made a statement in the other house, in the Rajya Sabha, on the railway zone. He said and I quote – “changing the zone and the contours of any zone involves consultations with a lot of other states. After we finished the consultation with all the states, we’ll find out a viable method by which there is no dispute. This should have been done by now sir. Why are we hearing this up four years later? Why we still hearing this sir? You know this is not something that I expect from a senior leader like Mr. Piyush Goyal sir. This should have been done. This statement by the Honorable railway minister is understood by the people of AP as delaying tactics as a railway zone is part of the AP reorganization Act which this government is supposed to implement.

Sir, coming to our new capital of Amaravathi, section 94(3) of the AP reorganization Act says the central government shall provide special financial support for the creation of essential facilities in the new capital of the successor state of Andhra Pradesh including Raj Bhavan, High Court, Government Secretariat, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council and such other essential infrastructure. It is the “central government shall provide” Sir, not “may provide” but “shall provide”. Provisional estimates indicate requirement of 1.2 lakh crores for the construction of the new capital of Amaravathi but just for the essential infrastructure including the Raj Bhavan, Secretariat, High Court, Legislative Assembly, and Council, the land development is estimated to cost around 42,935 crores over the next five years. But in the last three years, you provided 500 crores in 2014-15, 550 crores in 2015-16, 450 crores in 2016-17. Nothing more has been given. 1000 crores of this has been given for specific projects in Vijayawada and Guntur underground drainage, not even for the capital city. So, I request the finance minister to release at least 10,000 crores annually so that in the next four to five years, the 42,935 crores can be given to construct our Raj bhavan, Secretariat, High Court, assembly and the infrastructure around that. The Finance Minister made a statement in Raja Sabha and said that he has directed the expenditure secretary to sit with officials from AP and finalize about the deficit budget. Officials from AP have reached today and would be discussing with the expenditure secretary and others. So I will speak about this only after the out come of those meetings. But that is definitely an area of concern to us sir.

Sir, coming to the allocation to various institutions mandated to be set up in AP as per the AP reorganisation act, they are pitance sir in this budget. With such paltry allocations every year, it would take 10 to 30 years for these institutions to become a reality. Just to give an example of this, the announced setting up of AIIMS in Amaravathi in our new capital, which also happens to be my parliamentary constituency Sir, the estimated cost is 1618 crores. But so far not even a single penny has been allocated this year. Some money given to AIIMS in various states, but there’s no specific mention about AIIMS in AP sir. May be again because elections are not coming up in AP. So, in the same way I have figures for every institution and allocations to other such as the Vizag steel plant, the Dredging Corporation of India, the Hindustan shipyard, the Vizag Port Trust where allocations are miniscule. The overall allocations made to AP comes to 1814 crores and it is no exaggeration when I say that the telugu movie BAHUBALI’ collections are more than the funds allocated to our states. If the people of AP gave zero seats to the Congress for passing the AP reorganization Act, imagine what they would think about the BJP for not even fulfilling the minimum requirements contained in this act.

We demand an explanation, failing which we have no option than to consider you are acting in bad faith. Let me repeat, we will have no option than to consider you acting in bad faith and will certainly have to reconsider why are we in this relationship. I'm sure you will understand, as will your other allies and potential allies within this very critical election year. This is your last chance to fulfill your promises and assurances and to maintain the Alliance Dharma which we have maintained till now very patiently. It gives us no joy to be in this position and to deliver this message to a friend in an ally but you have given us no other option and no other choice. It's now or never. We still have belief and trust in the finance minister and Prime Minister but we demand a comprehensive explanation and let me remind you again, the people of AP are no fools.
The one-day visit of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to Dubai to attract investments, on February 8 scored a major investment with the Emirates Group. The CM held discussions with Emirates Group, Phoenix Group and Sharaff Group. The Emirates Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (EDB). The Emirates Group intends to invest Rs 30,000 crore in the State. Setting up a Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO), an aviation training centre and a manufacturing unit of in-flight consumables are some of the areas in which the group is planning to invest. The MoU was signed the presence of the CM and Emirates Group Chairman and CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum. Indian Ambassador to UAE Navdeep Suri was also present at the meeting.

At another meeting, Phoenix Group CEO Gaurav Dhavan said they would launch work on mega integrated rice mill at Samalkota in East Godavari district by April. The rice mill, with a capacity of 3 lakh tonnes per annum, will be the biggest in the world if the plans materialise. The group intends to release 1 lakh metric tonnes rice in the Indian market and 2 lakh metric tonnes in the international market. The mill can generate employment to 200 to 400 people.

The group was focusing extensively on the Indian market. Naidu explained the innovative methods that were being adopted in AP in the field of agriculture.

The CM also met Sharaff Group Vice-Chairman Sharafuddin Mohammad Hussain. The group representatives said their executives visited the State to explore investment opportunities and have seen some land parcels for a food processing zone. They expressed concern over land prices and the Union government’s policies regarding food processing industry. Naidu assured them that the State government would give all clearances at the earliest. “The Union government policies can be always worked on to serve the best of everyone’s interest,” he said. Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, Government Advisor (Communications) Parakala Prabhakar, Special Chief Secretary Satish Chandra, Principal Secretary G. Sai Prasad, Principal Secretary (Energy) Ajay Jain, and APEDB CEO Jasthi Krishna Kishore accompanied the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met Fasi Akhtar, CEO of Sigfox, a leading IoT (Internet of Things) connectivity provider in Dubai. Sigfox is a French company dealing in IoT devices and they specialize in developing low power consuming devices and base stations. The Chief Minister told the officials that, “We are going for IoT on a large scale and we need this technology at a reasonable cost.” “You can visit AP and may design and manufacture in the state itself”, added the Chief Minister.

Naidu met the officials from Conares, a steel manufacturing and engineering firm based out of Dubai. Bharat Bhatia, CEO of Conares informed the Chief Minister that they are the largest steel makers in UAE and export to US, UK and Europe in large quantities.

He also met officials from Kaaf Investments, a Dubai based investment group. They informed the Chief Minister that they can create a $300 Million fund for AI in AP and they can also get entrepreneurs to fund projects in AP.

The officials from Dixon Technologies held discussions.
with the CM as a part of his day long tour of Dubai. Sunil Vachnani, Chairman, Dixon Technologies informed the Chief Minister they currently have an electronic goods business in Tirupati which deals in fridges, washing machines, television etc. He was also informed that Dixon Technologies currently has 2 lakh sq.ft of space built ready for factory in Tirupati and already employs around 500 people and are planning to extend it to 2000 people. The officials from Dixon Technologies requested the Chief Minister for allotment of land for their expansion in the state and thanked him for the support extended by the government till now. The Chief Minister directed the officials to take care of the needs of Dixon Technologies and provide them with any assistance required.

The Chief Minister asked officials of DP world, which operates 78 marine and inland terminals in 40 countries, to set up a Special Economic Zone in AP. The group provides maritime services, logistics and ancillary services. He met with Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO, Raj Jit Singh Walia, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Gaurav Khanna, Vice President – Corporate Finance & Business Development. The Chairman said that Indian ports must remove bottlenecks in the supply chain and build logistics and industrial parks. “Ports all over the world grew because of these facilities”, he said. He also said that one of their representatives is visiting India, and will be asked to extend his trip to meet a team from Government of AP. The Chief Minister asked them to explore at least three suitable locations to establish logistics parks, and take a decision in 3 months.

Another bilateral was held with Mohammed Ahmed Al Zarooni, the Director General of Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority (DAFZA), Vice Chairman and CEO of Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority (DSOA) ad Director of Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE).

They discussed the multinational effort to set up the AeroCity project in AP, with KPMG as the consultant, and some financiers from Saudi Arabia. They will submit a detailed project report within three months.

CM also addressed Partnership Summit 2018 Road Show in Dubai. “I was the Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh for 9 years, and my work is there for everybody to see, including Cyberabad”, said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, opening his speech in the Partnership Summit 2018 Road Show held in Dubai. He explained that the state was leading the country in Ease of Doing Business, and that the state partnered with Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy to strengthen our EoDB more. He said that the focus areas of the state were Agri and food processing, Aerospace and Defence, Energy, IT, Life Sciences, Leather, empowering MSMEs amongst others.

Pointing out that the state had been able to develop a strong industrial ecosystem, he said that Kia, Isuzu, Hero and Apollo tyres have already come into our state. Siemens Gamesha and Suzlinbetc in the energy sector have also set up base. Foxconn has also invested in AP. He urged the companies who are interested in agri-processing to come to AP, promising good potential, opportunities and all required facilities. “Dubai thrived in spite of heavy adverse conditions, and so will we. AP has several conducive factors. Our climate, water availability, power supply, tourist attractions and a lot of heritage are our strengths,” he said. “We will take the responsibility of handholding and accelerating your investment process in our state,” he assured.
Visakhapatnam is famous for its beautiful beaches and natural harbour which attract tourists from all parts of the globe. The coastline and the beach are susceptible to erosion and therefore, Visakhapatnam Port Trust makes it a point to organize beach nourishment programme every year. In fact, the entire coastline from Nakapalli to Bheemunipatnam in Visakhapatnam district is prone to erosion. This year, the beach nourishment which began on February 6 will continue for one full month till March first week to pump an estimated three lakh cubic metres of sand, according to VPT chairman MT Krishna Babu. Last year, the VPT had called for a global tender for beach nourishment for a period of three years and the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) had bagged it for Rs 40 crore. Around 1.05 lakh cubic metres of sand was pumped at a cost of Rs 11.09 crore and this year, the cost may go up to Rs 18.37 crore. A survey was conducted along the 974-km coastline of Andhra Pradesh. And as high as 210 km was identified as danger zones in Visakhapatnam. There are a number of structures on the sea-shore which face the risk of increasing erosion. The Kurusura Submarine Museum is a vulnerable spot. This year, the VPT will be pumping the sand near the submarine museum as recommended by NIOT. The Netherlands-based institute Deltares, an independent institute specialising in research in water and sub-surface, is given the contract to prepare a DPR on methods to arrest beach erosion. The entire project cost is estimated to cost Rs 150 crore. Deltares will provide the engineering design, tender estimates and technical support and the report is expected to be ready by January next year.

**ENCORE Excercise**

Like the port, the Eastern Naval Command is another great institution that showcases the greatness of the city. It conducted the ENC Operational Readiness Exercise (ENCORE), Theatre Level Readiness and Operational Exercise on the Eastern Seaboard during February. The month-long exercise saw participation of over 40 ships and submarines including those ships from the Western Naval Command, Andaman & Nicobar Command and Indian Coast Guard and assorted naval and IAF aircraft including Fighters, Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMP) aircraft, Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and Air Early Warning (AEW), Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) helicopters. The exercise was conducted in phases to test various facets of war-fighting capabilities of the combat units including Special Forces of ENC to respond to given threat situations. The Tactical Phase that saw intense action by both the opposing forces helping to validate operational war fighting concepts and provided valuable lessons to sharpen combat skills. The exercise was conducted in real time covering a vast expanse of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) notwithstanding the rough weather due to super cyclone Cebile in the Southern IOR. According to a spokesman of the Navy here, ENCORE assumes great significance in the backdrop of current security scenario. The exercise provided an apt-opportunity
Another feather in the cap of the division is the Loco Shed at Visakhapatnam got ISO 9000, 14000, 18001 certification which is the only shed in Indian Railways that got all the three certifications at the same time.

to test the combat capability of the ENC and refine action plans and contingencies for operations in complex maritime conflict zone.

Waltair Division on growth path

The third major institution in Vizag is the Waltair Division of East Coast Railway. Waltair which is likely to be headquarters of the proposed new railway zone for Andhra Pradesh, during period from April to December-2017, achieved growth in freight loading of 4%, over all earning growth by 8% and improvement of operating ratio by 4% even though there was reduction in passenger traffic by 2% due to various reasons. Visakhapatnam also stood as No.1 in Swachhcha station. The division is progressing well on the infrastructure development front with 24 Level crossing eliminated, 40 km. of double lines laid, 2 long loops, Non-Interlocking done at Simhachalm North and Intermediate block station in record time of 15 days, rebuilt the damaged bridge 249 in KK Line in record time of 58 days, 85 Km of Rail Renewal done and doing the renewal works in 5 or 7 km in record time, WiFi at 14 stations including 10 stations in tribal areas commissioned, Works commissioned for wagon POH work shop, augmentation of Diesel Loco Shed for HHP locos, Central FOB at Visakhapatnam railway station partially commissioned for the convenience of passengers. Another feather in the cap of the division is the Loco Shed at Visakhapatnam got ISO 9000, 14000, 18001 certification which is the only shed in Indian Railways that got all the three certifications at the same time. Also, for the convenience of passengers the Division has run 410 special trains during special occasions, the special train between Visakhapatnam-Jagdalpur extended up to Kirandul to provide connectivity to the hinterland, 975 bio toilets provided in trains, Visakhapatnam Railway station was made 100% digital payment enabled station and a creative art gallery provided for the convenience of the public, for improvement of the station the Division got commitment of Rs 72 lakh from HPCL under Corporate Social Responsibility, according to Divisional Railway Manager of Waltair Mukul Saran Mathur. Besides the three great organizations serving the city for nearly a century, Visakhapatnam is also making strides into the modern age with a centre of excellence with a full-fledged lab and incubation facilities to promote Internet of Things (IoT) coming up in the city shortly. Senior Director in the Union Ministry of Electronics B.K. Murthy who was in the city in February, said the first such centre came up in Bangalore and three other places had been chosen - Visakhapatnam, Gandhinagar and Gurgaon. Mentoring facilities and at least 20-25 startups would be provided in the centre and public sector undertakings like the steel plant, the HPCL and HSL and also private sector units could join. The centre will be established in the public-private partnership mode, with the participation of the Central and State Governments as well as the industry, which all speaks of the rapid strikes the Smart City of Visakhapatnam is making in the path of progress.

- B P Sarma

Andritz to Partner in Aqua Feed Solutions

The officials of Austrian company, Andritz, a byname in the field of animal feed and renewable energy called on the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to discuss a possible investment in the area, concerned.

Richard Hickey, Director Sales, Asia Pacific - Feed and Biofuel Technologies (FBT) and P. Angamuthu, Vice President – FBT, represented Andritz and they were accompanied by N. Hari Kiran, Managing Director, NG Feeds Pvt. Ltd. – Fish & Shrimp Feed Manufacturers and Secretary to the CM. Andritz invited the CM for the inauguration of their project in Arugolana Village, Krishna district. It was their project, which was first aqua feed project with completely European technology. They invested in the project with NGFPL. The construction started in April 2017, and there will be an inauguration in March.

They explained CM how they have recently expanded their operations to plants and services for hydropower stations, the pulp and paper industry, the metal working and steel industries and the solid/liquid separation in the municipal and industrial sectors. They showed interest to become partners in Aqua Feed solutions.

“We prepare more proposals and carry the discussion forward,” they told the CM.

Receiving their proposals positively, the CM asked them to finalize a proposal soon, so that an MoU can be signed accordingly.
Sridevi is gone, rather abruptly; but her magic will live on. She made an unforgettable imprint on Tamil and Hindi cinema, but, it is in her mother-tongue, Telugu, that she’s done the maximum number of films. She has over 300 films to her credit in the five decades that she has been acting, and 83 of those films were in Telugu. One of the cutest roles that she played was as NTR’s granddaughter in Badi Panthulu (1972). Sridevi would go on to act as NTR’s love interest in many films. She was also paired with ANR in films like Premabhishekam (1981). The heroes might have changed; but she remained constant on the screen with new generation of protagonists. She went on to play roles beside Sobhan Babu, Kamal Hassan, Chiranjeevi, Venkatesh and Nagarjuna. The magic she weaved in the film Padaharella Vayasu, a remake of Tamil film 16 Vayathinile (1977) is still afresh in the minds of viewers of the generation. As the British The Guardian said in its tribute, “Sridevi’s face was her fortune: beautiful, with a cherubic guilelessness that enabled her to play romance, musicals, drama, comedy and indeed action”. No wonder, she straddled across states and languages to rule the screen as the first superstar actress.

Her Magic Lives on!
Tawker’s Gardens,
Royapettah.
7-7-1909.

My dear Munisubrahmanyam,

Yours of the 3rd inst. I am sorry that I could not secure a place for you at Vizianagaram. The Ripon High School scheme collapsed. I wished very much that you should settle at Vizianagaram. Let us hope that opportunities will occur. The Cocanada tutorship is not a bad job. But two years bond is an inconvenient thing. I think it is advisable to take it up. If a better (place) offers itself, we can easily induce the College Committee to release you from the bond. About reviews, you will have seen the wretched theft that Mr. (Venkanna) wrote in The Hindu. He copies the first paragraph from the Times of India. Shall stay on here till the 15th inst. at least.

Yours affectionately,

PS.: There is not one person that I know who knows to review a Telugu book. That is why I asked you. You have critical acumen and command over the terminology of criticism.

There was a scholar by name D. Narasaiah who used to edit a bright little weekly. "The People’s Friend" now defunct. He was a native of Nellore. Is he living? If so give me his address. He had a wonderful command of English. Please see him.

Admiralty House,
Mylapore,
31-7-1909

My dear Munisubrahmanyam,

Thanks for your card. We leave on next Friday. Your present place is a bad start and Cocanada is not a bad place either. It is an important commercial centre and let me add, of letters also. Climate is pleasant. I shall introduce you to the Zamindar of Polavaram and other friends. Please make the acquaintance first of (Kasibhotla Brahmayya) of (Arya Mata Bodhini). (He) promised a review of my book. I sent copies to the editresses of the two ladies magazines of Cocanada.

A review by (Saraswathi). I enclose a letter of introduction to D. SivaRao Pantulu who lives with the Zamindar of Polavaram. He is the son-in-law of my uncle. He is a literary man. When you meet him tell him to send a copy to the Editor of (Ravi). I have sent 200 copies to the Manager of the Saraswathi office for sale in Cocanada. The reviews must state where the book is available. Did you read reviews in the Mail or The Hindu and the Telugu papers of Madras? The sales are slack. I suppose for one man who buys, twenty borrow and read. Our country is poor.

Yours etc.

Literary reminiscences Of
GURAZADA APPARAO PANTULU
- Ongole Munisubrahmanyam

Tawker's Gardens,
Royapettah.
7-7-1909.

My dear Munisubrahmanyam,

Yours of the 3rd inst. I am sorry that I could not secure a place for you at Vizianagaram. The Ripon High School scheme collapsed. I wished very much that you should settle at Vizianagaram. Let us hope that opportunities will occur. The Cocanada tutorship is not a bad job. But two years bond is an inconvenient thing. I think it is advisable to take it up. If a better (place) offers itself, we can easily induce the College Committee to release you from the bond. About reviews, you will have seen the wretched theft that Mr. (Venkanna) wrote in The Hindu. He copies the first paragraph from the Times of India. Shall stay on here till the 15th inst. at least.

Yours affectionately,
CM Chandrababu Naidu is an active social media user. Many of you have been actively following his activities with admiration. Here are a few snapshots from his Twitter account and those on him.

An MOU between the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries was exchanged with the Govt of AP during the @CII_PS PartnershipSummit2018 SunriseAP CIIIPS2018

Interacted with students in Banda, a tribal remote village with poor connectivity, with help of the newly installed Google Wi-Fi station & AP Fiber Net. #PartnershipSummit2018 #SunriseAP CIIIPS2018

Interactions with spiritual personalities like Shri @SriSri bring us a fresh perspective and motivation for pursuing excellence. We are thankful to you for your kindness and humility.
#PartnershipSummit2018 #SunriseAP CIIIPS2018

CM Minister's social network

IT Minister from Bhutan visited RTG today and was really impressed by the digital lead taken by the Andhra Pradesh Govt reaching 4.3 cr citizens already under the visionary leadership of CM @ncbn through Real Time Governance.
Energy sector is one of the major sectors getting consistent boosting not only in inking MoUs, but also in the grounding of the projects. In CII partnership summit-2016, the total number of committed projects in Energy sector stand at 24 and the conversion rate was at 62.5 per cent. Of the committed projects, 15 units have gone into production, two units are at advanced state and remaining seven units are at preliminary stage. However, in 2017, most of the projects remained at preliminary stages. In recently concluded CII Partnership summit-2018, discussions around renewable energy took centre stage, as AP signed 38 MoUs worth over Rs 78,935 crore for a host of projects in this area. Another significant point to note is a paradigm shift from conventional to alternative forms of energy. New statistics aver that renewable energy is no longer a fringe player but a main source of energy, particularly wind and solar.
for the past couple of months, there were murmurs in Telugu cinema that the tussle between Telugu Film Producers and Digital Service Providers (DSP) like UFO, QUBE and others, could turn into a full-blown battle. In the last week of February, when the talks failed between the two parties, that’s precisely what seems to have happened.

Now, the ad-hoc committee comprising prominent producers has urged everyone in the industry to not give their content to the existing DSPs. This means, from the first week of March onwards, there won’t be any new film releases in Telugu unless a compromise is reached between the two.

This tussle has its origins in the evolution of digital cinema, and the transition that Tollywood made from print to digital cinema several years ago. In the past, when movies were shot on film and screened, each print cost was close to Rs 60,000-70,000. However, once the industry embraced the digital medium, the cost fell drastically and stabilised at around Rs 20,000-25,000. But, there was a catch. Since the projectors and other equipment had to be changed in every single cinema hall across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, many theatre owners hesitated to make massive investments, which was to the tune of over Rs 25 lakhs. This is precisely where Digital Service Providers came to their rescue and installed all the necessary equipment on their own. In return, the DSPs were allowed to charge VPF (Virtual Print Fee) from the distributors and producers to facilitate a film’s screening.

In December, 2017, a team of producers began negotiating with DSPs to change the terms, which led to VPFs urging them to come up with a list of demands. Eventually, the producers reportedly gave them a list of close to 100 theatres from ‘C’ centres, mostly from rural areas, where the VPF needs to be drastically reduced because the revenue from these centres isn’t high. However, there was no clarity over the list of theatres and in their own research,
DSPs found anomalies since the revenue from several centres was substantial. On top of it, the two parties disagreed over how the revenue from advertising is being shared disproportionately. In the initial days of digital cinema, the ad revenue wasn’t high enough for everyone to stand upright and take notice. However, when DSPs introduced metrics to measure the impact of ads, several national brands came onboard and it shot up the revenue from advertisements. This, in turn, hasn’t gone down well with a section of the producers who wanted DSPs to screen their trailers for free.

Suresh Babu, producer, has been at the forefront of this fight against DSPs and he opined that it’s a wrong move by DSPs to keep charging for equipment, projection technology, and VPF long after the 5-year deadline had passed. “How can a third party come in between to charge us for all this which is fundamental to the functioning of a cinema hall? In near future, there might even be a chance to someone would come forth to install a new sound system and we’ll end up coughing up money instead to help them recover their initial costs. This isn’t the way to be in the business when all of us are interdependent,” he said couple of months ago. A similar stance was, reportedly, taken by several other producers who wanted DSPs to give up their claim on bulk of the ad-revenue. In late February, when the two parties met once again, the producers shocked the DSPs by asking them for a complete removal of VPF component, even though the latter was ready to slash down the VPF costs by nearly 30%-40%.

The issue became more complicated when UFO and QUBE announced a merger in November, 2017, which gave them a wider reach and a bigger chunk of the ad-revenue across single screen theatres in India. A section of film industry held on to a belief that this consolidation in DSP sector will put them on a back foot in future if they have to renegotiate on the pricing model. On top of it, with Tamil film producers too announcing their support to Telugu film producers, the odds are stacked against DSPs.

However, it’s not as rosy as it seems, especially when there are rumours that the Telugu film producers are setting the stage for a new digital service provider to enter the market. While there’s no stopping anyone from competing with UFO or QUBE, two of the biggest players in the market, there are major issues to be sorted out before a new player in the market becomes the preferred DSP. As of now, UFO and QUBE have become a default choice because of their reliability and stringent anti-piracy measures that the companies have taken up. Moreover, both the companies have repeatedly tried to drive home the point that their technology meets the standards set by Hollywood-based studios, which means that any content uploaded on their servers can be screened in any part of the world. For several other smaller players in the market, this is going to be a big challenge, especially in the wake of piracy of content on few occasions in the past. “QUBE, which is predominantly based in South India has a strong workforce in every nook and corner of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to meet the demands from the exhibitors, whenever there’s a maintenance issue. If a show is cancelled for whatever reason, it results in a big loss of revenue for all parties, and the company has been working hard to ensure that everything functions smoothly,” a source close to the company said.

Now that the Telugu film industry has refused to come to an agreement with DSPs, there’s a big question mark on how long it can continue to stand on its decision to not release any new films. Although there are no big releases till mid-March, this summer is action-packed for Telugu cinema with films like Rangasthalam, Bharath Ane Nenu, Naa Peru Surya, Kaala, Mahanati, Savasayach, Krisharjuna Yuddham, Naa Nuvve, MLA, Saakshyam lined up for release in April-May. The dilemma is, no one knows whose court the ball is in. Now, it’s a matter of who’s going to succumb to the pressure from all sides and call for a truce.

- Hemanth Kumar C R
Kolleru Bird Sanctuary

Migratory Murmurs of Pelican
If you desire immensely to travel to a time when human and wildlife lived in harmony, either look for a time-machine, or simply travel 25 KM from Eluru to Atapaka Bird Sanctuary by road. Don’t follow the GPS on your smartphone, but be ready to get misled by the locals to travel on the picturesque sub-lanes along the vast Kolleru lake, one of the largest fresh water lakes in the country.

Atapaka Bird Sanctuary in Kolleru Lake, is an avian paradise, as flocks of Pelicans, Painted Storks and Stilts migrate to Kolleru lake from thousands of miles for their annual sojourn to nest and breed. Especially over 5,000 spot-billed pelicans from various countries reach Kolleru lake every year during winter by travelling over 3500 km. Apart from Pelicans, large-whistling Teals, spot-billed Ducks, River Terns, Black-Winged Stilt, Painted Storks, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Herons, Egrets, Cormorants are the regular guests.

Starting from November, the avian sojourners form into couples and start arranging nests on some particular trees, including Penneru (Singapore Cherry), Thati (Palmyra) and Nalla Thumma ( Black Babool), on a tiny island in the sanctuary. If Painted Storks find no space for arranging nests on the sanctuary premises, they make temporary arrangements outside the sanctuary and within the lake. Amid thousands of winged guests and resident breeders at the sanctuary, White Pelicans is a special attraction for the visitors, whether they are tourists, wildlife enthusiasts, amateur birdwatchers, or professional ornithologists. The migratory birds are also known as Rosy Pelican and American White Pelican. After Kolleru Operation in 2006, Pelicans visiting the sanctuary have become consistent. Spot-billed pelicans started arriving at Atapaka this season from October, 2017.

**First-ever Pelican Festival**

With an objective of attracting national and international tourists and also to emphasize the importance of protecting birds and wildlife, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department recently organised the first-ever Pelican Festival at Atapaka Bird Sanctuary. ‘Pelican Bird Festival-2018’ received an overwhelming public response providing new boost to the Kolleru region. Scores of visitors including locals, tourists, thousands of artists and students participated with pomp and gaiety in the one-day event. Tourism minister Bhuma Akhila Priya, along with district collector B Lakshmikantham, inaugurated the festival and led the huge rally by the locals of neighbouring villages. It was organised with big scale as film artistes, noted singers, including Film star Daggubati Venkatesh, singers Vandemataram Srinivas, took part in cultural programmes organised on the occasion. According to the Akhila Priya, the Pelican festival would be an annual event.

**Other Attractions**

The visitors could climb the birds’ watchtower to have a complete view of the birds’ paradise in the Wildlife Sanctuary. Environment Education Centre is located on the banks of lake. Boat riding facility is another attraction to the visitors, particularly the students. AP tourism boats are available, as they enable the tourists to travel through the water bodies within the lake and listen closely to the voices of the migrated winged beauties. Kolleti Kota temple of local Goddess Peddintilamma is just half an hour boat journey through Kolleru lake.

**how to reach**

Atapaka Sanctuary is located in the Kaikalur mandal of Krishna district. Situated at the border of the district, it is 85 KM from Vijayawada, but only 25 KM from Eluru, head quarters of West Godavari. Being one of the major cities of Andhra Pradesh and also being one of the biggest railway junctions of India, Vijayawada has many a source of connectivity through road, rail and also airways. Eluru is also well connected through road and railway modes of transport.

**accommodation**

Either Vijayawada, or Eluru are major cities of coastal Andhra, they have good number of hotels for accommodation.
CSIR Centre In Amaravati

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has come forward to establish the Centre for Scaling up and Demonstration of Relevant CSIR Technologies at Amaravati. CSIR Director General Girish Sahni along with senior scientists called on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat recently. Sahni told the Chief Minister that the CSIR was one of the biggest research and development organisations in the country. The CSIR would submit the Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the government in the next couple of months. The project would be implemented in association with the State government, he said.

85th Convocation Of AU in March

The 85th convocation of Andhra University is scheduled to be held in March. Candidates who have completed their courses during the academic year 2015-2016 would be eligible for the award of degree or diploma in this edition of the convocation. Apart from this, Ph.D and M.Phil degrees would be awarded to the candidates who would be completing the programme before February 24. Those who are going to receive prizes and gold medals would be informed separately.

Surgeon Selected For Fellowship

Guntur based joint replacement surgeon and director of Sai Bhaskar Hospitals, Busireddy Narendra Reddy has been selected for an international fellowship. Dr. Narendra Reddy has recently attended Orthopedic Surgeons Society seminar held at Indonesia and Bangladesh. In the seminar on Orthoplasty held at Bangladesh, Dr. Reddy spoke on advances on joint replacement surgery. He said that joint replacement surgery is beginning to get popular in Bangladesh and there is a 500 bedded hospital in Dhaka, the biggest in Saarc countries.

Writer Munipalle Passes Away

A campus of National Institute of Disaster Management, was inaugurated at HRD Institute at Bapatla recently. The basic unit comprising of administrative, academic and secretarial support staff, will organise and coordinate all training activities of Southern Campus in collaboration with APSDMA and other State Government Institutions, said D. Chakrapani, Director General of the AP Human Resource Development Institute. NIDM’s Southern campus would be focusing more on ground level issues, district and local planning, last mile connectivity and mainstreaming disaster management into development related issues as are relevant to the region, he said.

Vizag Artist Wins Laurels In Greece

Vizag based artist Ravi Kattakuri has created a niche for himself in the international circuits. Known for his unique style of bright artworks with the characteristic feminine face, Ravi was recently invited for the Lakkos International Art and Culture Exchange Programme in Heraklion, Greece. He was the only artist from the country and among the selected few artists from across the globe for the three weeks art residency programme. Ravi displayed three canvas works, 25 paintings on paper and also made a public art work in the course of the programme last month. The artist who graduated from the Department of Fine Arts in Andhra University, pursued his MFA from Viswa Bharati University, Shantiniketan.

APPSC Signs Mou With Universities

The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) has signed an MoU with universities in the State on recruitment of Assistant Professors. Commission Secretary Y.V.S.T. Sai signed the agreement with Registrars of the respective universities. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the AP State Counsel of Higher Education were present. According to the agreement, APPSC will conduct a written test for recruitment to the post of Assistant Professor when a request is received and extend the merit list to the university concerned. Thereafter, the universities will conduct interview for selection. The

Writer Munipalle Passes Away

A campus of National Institute of Disaster Management, was inaugurated at HRD Institute at Bapatla recently. The basic unit comprising of administrative, academic and secretarial support staff, will organise and coordinate all training activities of Southern Campus in collaboration with APSDMA and other State Government Institutions, said D. Chakrapani, Director General of the AP Human Resource Development Institute. NIDM’s Southern campus would be focusing more on ground level issues, district and local planning, last mile connectivity and mainstreaming disaster management into development related issues as are relevant to the region, he said.

Vizag Artist Wins Laurels In Greece

Vizag based artist Ravi Kattakuri has created a niche for himself in the international circuits. Known for his unique style of bright artworks with the characteristic feminine face, Ravi was recently invited for the Lakkos International Art and Culture Exchange Programme in Heraklion, Greece. He was the only artist from the country and among the selected few artists from across the globe for the three weeks art residency programme. Ravi displayed three canvas works, 25 paintings on paper and also made a public art work in the course of the programme last month. The artist who graduated from the Department of Fine Arts in Andhra University, pursued his MFA from Viswa Bharati University, Shantiniketan.

APPSC Signs Mou With Universities

The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) has signed an MoU with universities in the State on recruitment of Assistant Professors. Commission Secretary Y.V.S.T. Sai signed the agreement with Registrars of the respective universities. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the AP State Counsel of Higher Education were present. According to the agreement, APPSC will conduct a written test for recruitment to the post of Assistant Professor when a request is received and extend the merit list to the university concerned. Thereafter, the universities will conduct interview for selection. The

Comedian Gundu Passes Away

Well-known Telugu cinema comedian Gundu Hanumantha Rao passed away with kidney-related ailments in Hyderabad in the early hours of February 19. He was 61. He is survived by a son. Born in Vijayawada on October 10, 1956, Gundu dabbled in theatre from a young age. The first role he essayed on stage was in a play called Ravana Brahma in Vijayawada. He got a big break when filmmaker Jandhyala offered him a role in Aaha Na Pellanta where he played a groom’s father who is hard of hearing. He has acted in over 400 movies. But it was his roles in TV serials like Amrutam which earned him acclaim and awards including three Nandi awards.
State government has entrusted this additional duty to the APPSC to improve the quality of selection process.

**Sarin New Director Of APFSL**

The government has appointed Rajendra Kumar Sarin as Director of Andhra Pradesh State Forensic Science Laboratory (APFSL) for a period of two years from the date of taking charge. According to the GO RT No. 100, Sarin would work under the supervision of the DGP (M. Malakondaiah) and Advisor, Forensics and Allied Police Support Services (K.P.C. Gandhi). Meanwhile, the government accorded permission for appointing 10 lab assistants in the APFSL headquarters on outsourcing basis.

**Vizag Port Figures Among Top Three**

Visakhapatnam Port has been ranked among top three performing major ports in the country along with JNPT and Kamarajar ports. Visakhapatnam Port has been placed in ‘good’ category in the index benchmarking the performance of major ports was introduced as part of a study conducted by Dun & Bradstreet for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The performance index is developed by combining qualitative perception of stakeholders including customer satisfaction with quantitative outcomes like cargo volumes and physical efficiency.

**From VMC School To IIITs**

As many as 16 students who completed Class X from Municipal Corporation schools secured seats in IIITs across the State. All the students who scored GPA between 9.5 and 10 out of 10 in the recent SSC examinations secured seats in IIIT Nuzvid, IIIT Srikakulam and IIIT Ongole.

**Officials Study Traffic System In Japan**

An official team from Guntur and Krishna districts wound up its week-long visit of Japan recently. Collector Kona Sasidhar, Superintendent of Police, Guntur Urban, Ch. Vijaya Rao and Municipal Commissioner C. Anuradha from Guntur and Principal Secretary, Energy, Ajay Jain, Commissioner of Police, Vijayawada, Gautam Sawang and Municipal Commissioner of Vijayawada J.

**RINL Crosses Another Milestone**

With the recent commissioning of caster at a cost of Rs. 220 crore in the Steel Melt Shop-2 of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has achieved a production capacity of 7.3 million tonne. The modernisation project was taken up at a cost of Rs. 4,000 crore. The modern caster-4 has a capacity to produce one million tonne rounds and blooms. The caster-4 consists of 1x5 strand bloom-cum-round casting machine. The rounds capacity is up to 510 diameters. It will help meet the raw material requirement of RINL’s forged wheel plant coming up at Raebareli at a cost of around Rs. 1,700 crore. RINL will also supply rounds and blooms produced from caster-4 to other customers.

**Special Darshan Quota Increased**

The TTD resolved to enhance the online quota of Rs. 300 special entry darshan ticket till April 15. The decision has been taken as the period between February and mid-April is considered to be slack, when the turnout of pilgrims is generally moderate. The TTD decided to make 17,000 tickets available in addition to the existing quota of 1.25 lakh per week. While 4,000 tickets would be made available additionally on Friday and Sunday in a week, the first three days would see an increase of about 3,000 tickets.

**Kuchipudi Exponent Dead**

Eminent Kuchipudi exponent and guru Pasumarti Sitaramaiah died on February 9 at his residence in Visakhapatnam after a brief illness. He was 95 and is survived by wife Hymavati, three sons and three daughters. Born at Kuchipudi, home for the dance tradition that took the name after it, he began learning dance at the age of five. He was a disciple of Chinta Venkataramaiah and Vedantam Raghavaiah. A recipient of Central Sangeet Natak Academy award in 2004, he was quite famous for his ‘ghatam’ dance.

**FB To Support Digital Initiatives**

Ashwani Rana, Head of Connectivity Policy (India and South Asia) at Facebook, offered to extend cooperation to the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) in providing Internet services to its people through the fiber grid. In a meeting with Minister of Information Technology and Panchayat Raj Nara Lokesh at the Secretariat recently, Rana said Facebook was keen on doing pilot projects in Andhra Pradesh like in e-commerce and other emerging areas in the world of the Internet. Facebook would impart training on women entrepreneurs in the villages on how to market their products through online platforms. Online safety would be another focal point of the social media and networking giant, he added. Lokesh said A.P. was in the forefront of providing access to the Internet up to the last mile through the fiber grid project and that the government would draw upon the Facebook’s expertise in multiple domains.

Nivas and CRDA Commissioner Ch. Sreedhar visited important cities in Japan and interacted with various ministerial delegations.
Bayer to Cooperate AP in digital farming

Following up with a bilateral meeting during the World Economic Forum in Davos in January, the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met with officials of Bayer, a German multinational company and one of the oldest agro chemicals, crop sciences and pharmaceuticals company in the world. The objective of their proposal was to bring all stakeholders together, and provide the farmers with access to market and technology for water, nutrition and economic management.

Impressed with the objective of the firm, the CM told the officials to focus on small and marginal farmers. The CM was also keen on their proposal to bring leading innovation in chemical and biological crop protection with aid of technology and digital farming.

“We want technological penetration in agriculture. We also have many systems in place for soil testing, use of drones and CCTV and other aspects of Internet of Things,” he said.

He also said that they can explore Madanapalle for tomato cultivation and the district Chittoor for mango cultivation. The officials said that they are keen to take the project forward and will revert with more specifics regarding the scale, requirements and past experience.

Srinath Bala, Chief Marketing Officer, Peter R. Mueller, Head of Region APAC 2 (South Asia), Rajvi S. Rathi, Vice President – Public and Government Affairs, represented Bayer CropScience Limited.

AP to organise three-day Happy Cities Summit

Urban Transformation to Global Living will be the theme for the Happy Cities Summit to be held from April 10th to 12th, at A-1 Convention Center, Vijayawada. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reviewed themes, designs and plans for the organization of the Happy Cities Summit at the Secretariat recently. The Chief Minister also reviewed the status of the construction of roads around the capital region and directed officials to complete all the works on road constructions by monsoon.

Officials from Dassault Systems presented their Virtual 3D city proposal. The Chief Minister was informed that the implementation of the Virtual 3D system would help in providing live data of all the happenings in the city to the Government database and can be used to show real-time visuals.

This system would be helpful for monitoring and surveillance purposes. The Virtual 3D system would also help in planning and preparation for any impending natural disasters and can provide the government with live data on people’s opinions and pulse using real-time tracking.

“I want the designs and visualizations to be futuristic. Take the best modules available from all over the world and simulate it in real time,” said the CM.

He wanted the ‘exciting project’ must be built in a way that gives scopes for future development. The Chief Minister also asked officials from Dassault Systems to prepare a demo of Virtual 3D City so that it can be demonstrated at the Happy Cities Summit in April.
Pic 1: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched Tele ophthalmology services throughout AP. A total of 115 CM e-eye centres were launched under public private partnership (PPP) mode.

Pic 2: CM advised the representatives of Majlis-ul-Ulama, who called on him, not to read any religious overtures in his statement on Surya Aradhana (worshiping Sun).

Pic 3: Ex Cricketer VVS Laxman Meets CM in Secretariat recently.

Pic 4: CM released a book 'Mana Telugu Peddalu' penned by I&PR Additional Director Malladi Krishnanand at Secretariat.

Pic 5: CM monitored screens connected to the surveillance cameras to check arrangements for devotees at Sri-sailam and Srikalahasti Temples during Maha Shivaratri Festival.

Pic 6: As part of his regular monitoring, CM reviewed the works at the site of Polavaram project.
Andhra Pradesh:
Leading India by Example.

N. Chandrababu Naidu
HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH

 Ranked No. 1

IN THE BUSINESS OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH

- Top State in attracting private sector investment**
- No. 1 in 'Implementation of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programmes' ***
- Top State in the 'Infrastructure' category by India Today
- Leader in marine exports
- GDSP growth rate of 12.20% in Q1 (April-June 2018)****
- Home to the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCCIC) and Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC)

IN THE BUSINESS OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Visionary leadership
Power surplus state offering 24x7 power
Single Desk Portal for approvals within 25 days

Education hub
Excellent connectivity throughout ports, airports, railways, and roads

Robust policy framework with best-in-class incentives
Stable Industrial relations environment

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

RSVP: Govt. of Andhra Pradesh at sunrisemeet@ap.gov.in. Call at 91-98866-34665.

***World Bank, Energy Efficiency, November 2016 - ****IDBI Bank's, assessment and Why Forward for Backward States, 9th Planning Dept