Fasting for the Future of the State

The day-long fast undertaken by CM Chandrababu Naidu to highlight the injustice to AP showcased the overwhelming resentment of the people against the Centre's betrayal.
'Rythu Ratham', the scheme to supply tractors to small and marginal farmers, is being successfully implemented across the State. About 6,000 tractors with appropriate implements have been distributed on subsidy till now. For this, Rs. 125 crore were spent under the Farm Mechanisation Scheme.

It has been noticed that farm power (the power or the rate of completing a task/operation on a farm expressed as horsepower or kilowatt) is below the national average in Andhra Pradesh. The present farm power in the State is 1.87 kW/ha while the national average is 2 kW/ha. The Government intends to reach the national average. Usage of tractors is expected to increase the farm power as the farmers will also use tractor drawn implements such as rotavators, hydraulic mould board plough, mulchers, shredders, etc. The Government is of the view that farmers can improve their financial capability by adding the tractor-operated equipment. But, as the small and marginal farmers lack cash to purchase or hire tractors, the Government has designed the Rythu Radham scheme to tide over the problem.

The Government set itself a target of distributing 20,000 tractors under the scheme. The subsidy allowed for 4 WD tractor 35 HP and above with other equipment like reversible hydraulic mould board plough, rotovator, shredder, mulcher, rotopuddler is of Rs 2.5 lakh and for 2 WD tractor 35 HP would be Rs 2 lakh.
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It was an extraordinary step taken in the backdrop of extraordinary circumstances. When Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu chose to undertake day-long fast on his 69th birthday on April 20, it was meant to send across a message of strong protest. The continuing injustice being meted out to Andhra Pradesh - a state still recovering from the ill-effects of bifurcation - received the much-needed attention across the nation as a result of the rather unusual step taken by the Chief Minister.

A duly elected leader of a state sitting on dharna against the non-cooperation of the Centre is not without precedent. But what differentiates the public expression of anger by the Chief Minister is the backdrop in which it has unfolded. The ruling TDP has been a reliable ally of the NDA that came to power with hopes raised high. The Chief Minister has been a strong supporter of many not-so-popular decisions taken by the Centre in a bid to create a positive synergy. But all that came to naught because of the strangely antagonistic attitude of the Centre in honouring the promises made to the state in the wake of unscientific division of the united AP.

Four precious years have passed by without the Centre rolling out any of the major initiatives enunciated in the AP Reorganisation Act. Few chief ministers would have visited Delhi as many times as the CM did during this period. And fewer would have had followed up with the central leadership as persistently as he did on various issues pending before national government.

With hopes belied on the one hand, and politically suspicious overtures being made on the other, the ruling TDP snapped ties with NDA, and launched an unhinged broadside in support of the state's rights. Some might consider the scathing attack launched against the Centre too hot for a state to handle. But the fact is that unless the bluff is called at least now, the state stands to lose heavily in the long run.

The loss if any as a result of this face-off is expected to befall the Chief Minister and his party; but all the gain would be for the State of Andhra Pradesh. All the more reason why the Chief Minister needs the unconditional support of the people, for whose future this protracted struggle has been undertaken in the first place.

Time to close ranks, and to show unity in the cause of Andhra Pradesh and its future.

Ramesh Kandula
Editor
Despite the problems with the Centre, the pace of works at prestigious Polavaram Project would not suffer in any way, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu made it clear. The CM during his regular visit - the 57th review of the project - to the site said that the Polavaram Irrigation Project has reached an overall progress of 52.2%. This includes the head works, the Right Main Canal and the Left Main Canal. The Chief Minister inspected the ongoing works including the diaphragm wall and the spillway channel.

Naidu instructed officials to shoot off letters to Union Minister of Water Resources Nitin Gadkari and Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, requesting for faster distribution of funds for the irrigation project. In light of the ongoing Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) projects, officials said that this amount will help in achieving the targets. Out of the 45 proposed colonies for 16,687 houses, work has started on 38 of them and is yet to begin on 7 colonies. Officials also informed the Chief Minister that 15 colonies for Rehabilitation and Resettlement of 3,348 displaced families have been constructed in East and West Godavari districts.

Stating that the Government would submit the second part of the detailed estimates soon, Naidu said that the Centre had to release Rs 55,000 crore. "The Centre had agreed to give Rs 22,000 crore but more is required as the Rehabilitation and Resettlement package has almost doubled in the last four years," Naidu said after the inspection.

"Out of the different elements of the project, the most progress was seen in the construction of the diaphragm wall," said Naidu. Overall, 2.29 lakh cubic metres of earthwork was excavated for the spill channel, pilot channel, spillway, left bank and approach channel.

Meanwhile, among the 53 priority projects, Pulakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme and the Adavipalli Reservoir, which is a part of the HNSS Phase 2, will be completed soon. As suggested by the Chief Minister, the Government is making arrangements for the people of the state to "witness history" by visiting the Polavaram project site. According to Water Resources Minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao, special buses will be arranged for students, farmers, faculty members of colleges, writers, poets and mediapersons everyday from May from all the mandal Headquarters for transporting interested people to the project site.

The Water Resources department had submitted a proposal at an estimated cost of Rs 22.5 crore for the same, and got an approval from the Finance Ministry. Secretary of the department Shashi Bhushan Kumar also issued guidelines for the daily bus tours and directed the superintending engineers of the department to make the necessary arrangements for the same.
The Dharma Porat Deeksha of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada on the occasion of his birthday further strengthened the movement for justice to the state. The discontent that is brewing among people over the Central government’s failure to meet its commitments to Andhra Pradesh was evident at Chief Minister’s 12-hour fast, taken up demanding justice to Andhra Pradesh which has been denied its right to the Special Category Status after state bifurcation.

It was an unusual step for the Chief Minister to take up on his birthday to deal with an unusual situation facing the fledgling state. Instead of spending his time with family, Naidu decided to stage a one-day protest on behalf of five crore people of the State to safeguard their interests.

At 7 a.m, Chandrababu Naidu walked into the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium to begin his hunger strike, even as people from all walks of life were seen marching towards the stadium to participate in the Deeksha.

After offering floral tributes to the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Potti Sriramulu, Jyothi Rao Phule and BR Ambedkar, he came onto the dais. He was blessed by priests from Tirumala temple, Kanaka Durga temple, and priests from Islam, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain communities.

The 68-year-old Chandrababu Naidu, known for his frugal diet and disciplined lifestyle, sat silently during his 12-hour fast in the scorching heat of Vijayawada summer.

The stadium was full of people including party leaders and activists, members of different organisations, students, employees and women who came to support his Deeksha, holding placards with slogans demanding implementation of the provisions of the AP Reorganisation Act. Huge tents were erected on the premises to provide shade from the sweltering heat.

“We have come here to support our Chief Minister’s day-long fast as part of his fight against the Central government for the Special Category Status (SCS) which will ensure a better future for us,” P Naveen, a student from Narayana Junior College in Vijayawada was quoted as saying by New Indian Express.

Apart from students, youth, women, artistes, elderly people and the differently-abled extended their support to the Chief Minister, who acknowledged their greetings with a smile. Many people vied with one another to take selfies with him.

D Pawani, a teacher undergoing training at DIET in Krishna district, said that she, along with several others, had come to participate in the agitation feeling that it was her responsibility. Like her, many others extended support to the Chief Minister’s fast. A steady flow of supporters was witnessed throughout the day. A queue line and a ramp were arranged in front of the dais for free movement of...
While concluding his day-long fast, the Chief Minister appealed to the people to be ready and united to face the Centre if it resorted to vindictive measures against the State in the days to come.

Support pours in

Appreciate the efforts of all those who joined me at the protest today, crossing all barriers of age, gender, caste & creed. As I conclude my fast, I am grateful to everyone who bore the immense heat & supported the cause we are fighting for. – Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s birthday wishes, the Chief Minister tweeted: Thank you very much for the greetings. I have just concluded my 1 day fast, Dharma Porata Deeksha, demanding justice for 5 crore people of Andhra Pradesh.

Actor Kamal Hassan wished the CM on his birthday and extended his support to the demands of Andhra Pradesh. He tweeted: Sir you have chosen your birthday to go on a fast for your state. I cant greet you with the regular many happy returns of this day, but I can wish you success in your demand for the returns your state expects for your investment to the country @ncbn

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Bannerji also gave her support, tweeting: We extend support to Andhra Pradesh CM, Chandrababu Naidu @ncbn, for his one-day Hunger Strike for the 5 crore people of AP

Long Struggle Ahead

While concluding his day-long fast, the Chief Minister appealed to the people to be ready and united to face the Centre if it resorted to vindictive measures against the State in the days to come. He termed his protest, christened the Dharma Porata Deeksha, as just the beginning in the long struggle ahead to ensure justice to the State.

“I never thought I will have to take up a Deeksha like this on my birthday... but am very proud today for having done so. It’s my responsibility to fight for the good of the State,” he said and expressed happiness over the participation of people from different walks of life and organisations in the protest programme. Dwelling at length on the failure of the Modi government in fulfilling poll promises as well as implementing provisions in the AP Reorganisation Act, Naidu reiterated his oft-repeated fear that the Modi Sarkar may target the State to take revenge on the TDP for exiting the NDA. “They may target the State after the Karnataka elections... the attack may come in any form... even by way of attacks on individuals,” he claimed, hinting that the Centre may slap cases on TDP...
leaders and urged the people to rebuff any just attempts. In the same breath, Naidu asserted that he was not afraid and would not tolerate if the Centre tried to weaken the State government like it has done in the neighbouring Tamil Nadu. He recalled Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar’s reported comments that the Centre had helped the State in the belief that the TDP would remain in the NDA and sought to know whose money was given to the State. Listing the assurances given by the BJP in the run-up to the 2014 elections, he explained threadbare how it had failed to keep its word. In this context, he explained in detail why the TDP had waited for four years to exit the NDA. “I visited Delhi 29 times and told them that they were betraying the State by colluding with the YSR Congress. They tried to keep us under their control much like they did in Tamil Nadu. They instigated the YSRC and secured that party’s support in the presidential elections. Since no justice was done to the State even after four budgets, our Union ministers resigned. Even then, we gave them one more opportunity... we wanted to solve the issues by remaining in the NDA. Even then they didn’t respond positively. It was then that we had to move a no-confidence motion and walk out of NDA,” he recalled while referring to queries raised by the Opposition as to why the TDP had been mum for four years despite the Centre’s in difference.

The Summit brought together the experts in the global urban landscape such as designers, planners, city leaders, industry and entrepreneurs to discuss and share best practices, innovations and ideas for Amaravati.

City means people, not roads and buildings or canals and sand. The ‘Happy Cities Summit: Amaravati 2018’ provided a gentle reminder to this. The inaugural edition of the annual global event on urban innovation was held at the CK Convention Centre in Mangalagiri of Guntur district from April 10 to 12, 2018. The new capital of Andhra Pradesh coming up at Amaravati under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is all set to bear this point and proclaim that happiness beckons community.

The basis for creating Amaravati from the beginning is the direct involvement of people. The three-day summit adopted a resolution in consonance with this, declaring that people’s involvement should be followed universally since people formed the basis for progress and plans, making up any happy city.

The new Andhra Pradesh is not only vying with developing nations with respect to happiness index, but the Chief Minister is also taking measures to ensure that every government department worked towards achieving people’s happiness. He has even created a separate ministry for this pur-
pose, and is leading from the front to achieve growth of happiness index.

The theme of the summit was ‘Urban Transformation to Global Living’ and the programme helped the cities to be truly people-centric, a principle that the State government had embedded in the design of Amaravati since its inception.

**Unique platform**

Happy Cities Summit was used as a platform to adopt the best global practices in making Andhra Pradesh a happy State. The summit showcased the potential of the State, particularly Amaravati.

Said the Chief Minister: Amaravati, which is the symbol of pride and culture of the people of the State, should figure among the top five best cities in the world. The summit should be a platform for exchange of innovative ideas to make the capital and the State an international benchmark for citizen happiness index.

The Summit brought together the experts in the global urban landscape such as designers, planners, city leaders, industry and entrepreneurs to discuss and share best practices, innovations and ideas for Amaravati. Panel discussions with global experts, a pitch competition to identify cutting-edge urban innovations, a hackathon where citizens redesign public spaces were among the many events organized during the summit. In fact, the state government, in partnership with Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS) and Dalberg Advisors, launched the ‘Happy City Hackathon’, a unique event to which school and college students of the state were invited to re-imagine the Punnami Ghat near Vijayawada to make it a vibrant, inclusive and ‘happy’ public space.

Besides, there were focused workshops for experience sharing and skill building, and a roundtable with city leaders. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the summit and on the opening day founder of Isha Foundation Satguru Jaggi Vasudev spoke on ‘How to lead a happy life’. Over 100 delegates from as many as 27 countries including the USA, Finland, the UK, Singapore, Japan, UAE, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Columbia, Tanzania Israel, and Spain attended the summit.

The summit focused on progress in developing nations, challenges faced by newly formed cities and the steps to overcome them, clean and hygienic environs, vibrant economy, livable conditions, sustainable development and other aspects.

**People all the way**

The Chief Minister has made the people partners in Amaravati not just by way of payment of compensation or sale deeds, but through landpooling. The farmers, amazed at visionary’s goals, voluntarily handed over their lands to etch a new chapter in history.

According to the Chief Minister, people’s partnership does not mean sharing the ordeal but improving people’s happiness index. And in a bid to estimate its status, Andhra Pradesh competed with world nations in Happiness Index survey and secured a good rank. That was the reason why the Happy Cities Summit was hosted by the State.

**Nature is a design**

The Chief Minister’s tete-e-tete in the open with Satguru
Jaggi Vasudev, regaled the audience. The satguru narrated some of the experiences of his life. Eating alone cannot ensure good health and the body has to be taken proper care of, he pointed out. Similarly, all care should be taken while constructing happy cities, smart cities and livable cities, he explained. Chandrababu Naidu had given to the nation Cyberabad in Hyderabad and Amaravati is his second city in the making, he stated and exuded confidence that the Chief Minister would meet success in the endeavour.

In the panel discussion on ‘21st Century Cities: Ease of Living’, Ku Teng Che (Singapore), Peter Westerbaka (Finland), M. Sinha (UK), Julie Rusk, Jean Wiseman, John Boyd (USA), Guy Perry (Dubai), Anibal Gaveria (Colombia), Bharat Visweswaraya, Aswin Mahesh, and Director of Municipal Administration Kannababu took part and aired their views.

Mayor of Gelepse city of Bhutan Tikaram Kafe said Bhutan gave more importance to gross happiness index than gross domestic product (GDP). It provided free health and educational facilities for all and greenery formed 70 per cent of the land. There was a rule imposed that it did not come down to 60 per cent, he revealed. Ministers Pattipati Pulla Rao, P. Narayana, Nakka Anand Babu, Devineni Uma and MLA Sravan Kumar attended the session.

What is happiness?

The summit also discussed at length the parameters for making people happy in the cities. Intelligentsia narrated their own experiences and gave facts and figures through PowerPoint presentations. Representatives of organizations selected for the Pitch contest, gave their presentations before the jury. On the second day, the proceedings began with a presentation by AP CRDA Planning Director Ramakrishna Rao who with the help of a slide show explained how Amaravati was being developed into a Happy City.

The speakers disclosed that the exercise on happiness was already on in the US and the UK for the past decade or so and though the GDP there had doubled between 1973 and 2000, the happiness index did not rise. According to them, India is placed 133rd among 155 countries in the Happiness Index. India was in 122nd position last year. However, it has dropped from there at present. India and China posed psychological problems to the world due to the vast rich-poor divide in both the countries. And in India, 70 per cent of the economic development was cornered by the rich who accounted to just one per cent of the population, depriving happiness to the majority, they said.

Meaningful deliberations

Delegates from the countries which topped the Happiness Index, like Finland, the UK, the US, Bhutan, Columbia and Costa Rica who attended, explained how happiness is measured in their respective countries. The steps taken by them to improve HI made interesting observation. It is laudable that Finland, acclaimed as the best in the realm of education, has come forward to set up a university in Amaravati with about 50,000 boys and girls.

Visual treat

The Amaravati Pavilion set up by the CRDA with 3D designs at the premises was a big draw at the summit. The different designs of Government complex, High Court, Secretariat, Legislative Assembly and quarters for Heads of Departments and MLAs separately were on show. A 3D presentation was made on the LED screens on how Amaravati capital would look like in the future through visuals.

Novel ideas

The response to the call of the CRDA inviting ideas to make Amaravati a happy and most livable city, was overwhelming. The CRDA conducted a Pitch Contest which attracted 125 entries. After the preliminary rounds, 12 institutions were identified, their representatives asked to furnish ideas. A ten-member jury examined their proposals. Meta Verne Systems of Singapore, Wallet EZ Services, Easy Give, and Recity Network of India, SEAB Energy of the UK, Asia Initiative of the USA and others poured their ideas and explained the models. The five best ideas among them will be awarded cash prizes and the CRDA also reached MoUs with some of the organiza-
Indian Green Building Council expressed happiness that top priority is being accorded to GreenBlue in the construction of capital Amaravati. The council, after examining the Amaravati designs, already awarded a platinum rating. The award was given away to Chief Minister Chandrababau Naidu and CRDA Commissioner Cherukuri Sridhar during the summit. It is noteworthy that IGBC chairman Dr. Prem C Jain attended the summit to present the award in person.

CRDA Planning Director Ramakrishna Rao said that starting with selection of the Capital, the people were made partners to every programme implemented so far. The policies were framed in accordance with their wishes which is why the people in the capital believed in the CRDA. "Under the landpooling scheme, we took 34,000 acres from over 27,000 farmers and so far distributed more than 60,000 plots without raising any objections," he points out.

Also, 29 villages in the capital region were connected and efforts were on towards rise in the standard of living of the people there. A 22 km river front, 52 km. fresh water canals with blue network are being set up. Townships comprising four cyberhoods are being created with every township provided with all the necessary infrastructural facilities and amenities, he says, and hopes that about 35 lakh would be able to live comfortably there in the near future.

The Chief Minister released a brochure brought out by the Special secretary to the Government Ajay Jain during the Happy Cities International Summit. Satguru Jaggi Vasudev handed over the brochures to the foreign delegates who were amazed at the beautifully designed new capital city.

Manufacturers of newly designed electric cars and bikes displayed them at the summit. Mahindra’s battery operated cars, Gold Stone Infratech’s electric bus under ‘Build Your Dreams’, and two bikes of Evera New and Renewable Energy Motor Car Tech Private Ltd., were showcased. These can travel at 60 kmph to 120 kmph speed without using a drop of petrol or diesel. While the cost of buses like Volvo is over Rs. One crore, the electric bus costs about Rs.3 crore. People can travel in the bus for 300 km non-stop by charging for four hours, consuming only 100 units. Mahindra has manufactured e-Varity electric cars which cost Rs.12.5 lakh and when charged for eight –and-ahalf hours using 14 units, can travel up to 140 km at speeds of about 80 kmph.

The Happy Cities International Summit came out with a six-point formula on the final day for achieving the goal under Administration, Built Environment, Natural Environment, Economy-Livelihoods, Culture Community and Physical-Mental Well-being.

The Government has to ensure under Administration that all groups in the society lived in harmony, awareness of the government policies from time to time and people’s involvement in planning and their implementation. Built Environment will strike the right balance to create the atmosphere for people to lead quality happy life while the Natural Environment involves providing clean and green atmosphere, with people involved in protection of the environs.

Under Economy-Livelihood, guaranteed employment and enriching culture along with wealth and tapping the talent for creativity will be taken up. Unity in diversity, healthy habits and physical exercise leading to contentment are practiced which automatically help achieve the goal. The Chief Minister during his valedictory address said unpolluted cities alone could provide happiness and assured the people that all the resolutions of the summit would be implemented full. Municipal Administration and Urban Development minister P. Narayana said building a new capital itself was a big challenge and there was need to find ways and means to turn them into happy cities. Several foreign delegates spoke and the Chief Minister gave away certificates to winners of quiz contest. A Rythulaku Vandanam poster and a book on land-pooling were also released on the occasion.
Preserving Heritage for Posterity

Kondapalli Utsav

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu declared the year 2018 be celebrated as the year of ‘Telugu Language Protection and Promotion Year’. Taking cue from it, the department of Creativity and Culture Commission of the State, in association with government has organised a three-day ‘Kondapalli Utsav’ from April 5, coinciding with the takeover of Kondapalli by Vijayanagara empire, which happened after a three-month long battle involving the king Sri Krishnadevarayaalu.

Fete was organised to propagate and celebrate the rich heritage, language, culture and tradition of the Telugu people. The utsav is marked by several cultural, literary and traditional events that coincided with the theme ‘2018-Telugu language Protection and Promotion year’, as coined by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Heritage site Kondapalli khilla served as the backdrop to this prestigious utsav that saw many a prominent people from the fields of culture, literature, dance, art, and history together; taking part in seminars, workshops and cultural events. The legacy of Kondapalli added to the event’s purpose and charm.

On the first and second days of the utsav, Telugu’s history and eminence was talked about. Scholars and researchers discussed achievements of Telugu as a language and an influencing culture. Telugu’s origin, significance, and literature were widely debated on the finale. The event concluded with a group of learned scholars and Telugu enthusiasts taking part in formulating concrete steps for the development and widespread of the Telugu language and its culture.

This utsav is also an attempt to inculcate knowledge of the language among younger generation, who otherwise would overlook it as just another subject for scoring marks. The feeling of nativity has to be instilled among them, asserted the delegates.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Executive Officer D Vijay Bhaskar said the event was proposed so as promoting the language at international level and it is need of the hour to assess the direction of its growth in accordance with modern times.

“These workshops would also strive for creating awareness among the public about the language and its history. Efforts will be made to popularise the language without losing its nativity to the modern younger generation, he said.” Minister for Water Resources Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao and Deputy Speaker Mandali Buddha Prasad attended the event as chief guests.
Capital Amaravati is all set to host the UIM Formula 1 Powerboat racing (F1H2O) World Championship. After coming to India for the first time since 2004, where the first race was held at Mumbai, Amaravati is now set to host the prestigious championship in the coming month of November on river Krishna at Bhavani Island.

The F1H2O Championship is a famous water sport event that takes place every year. This year the championship will begin in Portugal on May 18 and ends on December 15 at Sharjah. The events to take place in Amaravati will be held between November 22 and 24. International guests, participants are expected to throng the region in big numbers.

Amaravati is being lauded as the best place for extensive scope for water-based activity and tourism. As many as seven locations alongside the river are going to be developed into hot shot water sports centers. Diverse water sports activities will be available to public — from Jetski, speed boat, kayaking, river cruise to special rides like zorbing at these places. Hosting an international event as such would only elevate the capital city’s status by another step. With great opportunity at hand, the State government as well as the Tourism Development Corporation are in no mood to look back and are sprucing up for the mega event by pulling out all stops.

This world powerboat racing championship is going to be held in 8 major cities across the world—viz. London, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah etc. Each round was held in one city of the countries. After 2004, there was never another chance for this championship to be held in the country and after 14 years, Amaravati was selected to host one round of the championship.

**World class facilities**

Meanwhile, State Tourism department has geared up drawing out plans to put in place elaborate arrangements for the championship, under the leadership of Minister B Akhilapriya. Besides providing amenities, focus is laid on improving the quality of accommodation at hotels and resorts, sanitation and hygiene; special interest would be on making sure there is sumptuous food available throughout. To cater to diverse visitors and participants from around the world, a round the clock food court has been proposed. Multi-cuisine food will be available for the visitors.

“The F1H2O championship is really a prestigious event and we are proud to host it in Amaravati for the first time. After 2004, Amaravati is selected as the host to one of the racing events and we are thrilled about it. The event will entertain the audience with its uniqueness as there will be boats that run at a speed of 300km per hour. With great footing from Chief Minister, we are putting out efforts to host this event flawlessly,” said the Tourism Minister.

### F1H2O World Championship Schedule

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<th>Place</th>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Portimao</td>
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<td>UK</td>
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<td>June 15-17</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Avion</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>Amaravati</td>
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<td>UAE</td>
<td>Sharjah</td>
<td>December 13-15</td>
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NRT's Icon is envisioned as an exemplary structure in the capital city and being designed to be the home to multiple blue chip companies. It is expected to bring between 2000 - 3000 high wage employees to our capital Amaravati. These jobs will bring the much needed spending capacity, flair and international dynamics to the people's capital and is an attractive investment opportunity for buyers from all over the world. It will house offices of 50 companies floated by Non-Resident Indians.

The investor would get an opportunity to park their funds into a real property in a sunrise city, with minimal risk for their investment. Apart from being an iconic structure being invested into, the property is guaranteed to appreciate due to the involvement of Andhra Pradesh Government and APNRT (Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu) Society, who are the promoters of the project. AP Government in the form of APNRT Society is the promoter and developer of this venture. APNRTS's objectives are to handhold and assist the investors for their ease in setting up companies and smooth functioning.

The APNRTS iconic building to come up in the shape of English letter 'A' (Denoting Amaravati) will have a digital globe at the center. Approving the design of APNRTS iconic building coming up in Amaravati, the Chief Minister suggested that APNRT Society encourage the non-resident Andhras (NRAs) in taking part in the State development and welfare programmes. Ravi Kumar Vemuri, Advisor to AP Government, Non-Resident Affairs and Investments and CEO, APNRT a number of companies were expected to arrive to Amaravati where space has been earmarked for a 27-storeyed IT Tower. Not just small and medium companies but big ones like Microsoft and HCL have shown interest, thanks to some aggressive promotion by the Chief Minister. While the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) allocated 4.6 acres of land for the building, the APNRTS felt that 10 acres of land is required for the building and sought Chief Minister to allocate the remaining land, for which the latter assured consideration.

The ICON project will have offices of 50 companies floated by NRIs, including a fair number of NRT entities, a revolving restaurant and other state-of-the-art facilities targeted at business visitors and tourists. The project will be almost entirely funded by NRTs though the NRTS was formed by AP government, NRTS CEO...
Ravi Kumar Vemuru was quoted saying, NRT’s ICON is the first direct investment project of APNRT Society. To the already existing 32 Information Technology (IT) companies they brought to the State, another 21 companies are going to dot the capital city, very soon. While there are 3090 employees currently, the newly launched companies are expected to increase employment to another 3300 eligible candidates from the State.

Apart from setting up the IT companies, the APNRTS also played a crucial role behind the decision of moving Hyderabad-based micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to set up their units in Veerapanenigudem of Krishna district. As many as 75 such units will shift their base, soon. Heeding to the requests made by the executive council of APNRTS in establishment of IT companies, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu directed the concerned officials to allocate necessary office space for setting up IT companies. MSRCosmos, Adept IT Solutions, Horizon IT, Advance Software, Intellisoft, Intelli Asia, Timesquare IT and Accel IT are a few of the companies that started working from Autonagar, Vijayawada.

“Our relentless efforts in creating a proper IT ecosystem through innovative policy initiatives and providing best of accommodation is bearing fruits now,” said Ravi Kumar Vemuru. Chief Minister also congratulated 107 members of the APNRT Society, who spent `9 crore for development of smart villages.

All non-Andhra Pradesh residents living in other parts of the world can register, join and explore opportunities of investments through NRT. There are about 30 lakh NRTs across the globe and the organization is nulling steps to increase its membership. It has facilitated the signing of MoUs by 76 companies with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and was in touch with more firms keen on investing in the Sunrise State.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on April 12 inaugurated ‘Andhra Pradesh Tech Tower’ constructed at a cost of Rs 18 Crore at AP Police DGP office near Amaravati. The new tech tower will accommodate Tech services wing, AP Forensic Science Lab, Octopus, Police Recruitment Board, Police Communication Organizations, Standardisation, Police Housing Corporation and Police Transport organization.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister stressed that incorporating technology in all spheres of life will elevate functioning and yield faster results with accuracy. The AP tech tower is built with an aim to combat crime with the best available technology and world class modern equipment. Technology can aid in efficient policing, he said. The Chief Minister announced that as many as 80 trained professionals would be appointed for strengthening the cyber security wing and a modern forensic science lab would be developed in the tower. Police academy would be set up either at Anantapur or Vijayawada, he disclosed, while referring to the already under construction 35 modern police stations, he said.

CM expressed concern about cyber security emerging as the biggest concern and elaborated on his plans to effectively put to use the equipment in Tech Tower. “I have asked the police to release monthly crime bulletins for the public to discuss crime trends. The department should conduct crime review every month and look for aspects that help reduce the rate,” Naidu said. Andhra Pradesh DGP M Malakondiah said the Tech Tower would help them in the administration and simplifies the process of investigations.

Tech Tower

The state-of-the-art Tech tower was initially estimated to be built with Rs 10.67 Crore but by the time of inauguration, the expenditure shot up and amounted to Rs 18 Crore. Tech Tower is spread across an area of 5000 square meters in APSP’s 6th Battalion at Mangalagiri. The four-storeyed building has each floor measuring upto 8525 square feet making it a total of 34,100 square feet.
M Chandrababu Naidu launched the prestigious Comprehensive Financial Management System (CFMS) on April 2. The successful implementation of CFMS by the State will become a model for the entire country, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Naidu said that establishment of a proper system would make understanding the Revenue and Finance Departments easy. He cited the difficulties he had faced with the complexity of the departments while serving as a minister for finance in the past. "At that time there was one Subba Rao in the Revenue Department who dealt with revenue records. In his absence, no one in the office could understand them. Now, even common public can understand the revenue records due to technology and reforms," Naidu said. CM appreciated Principal Secretary of Revenue M Ravi Chandra and his team for coming up with the project. "With the SAP’s technology, we are going forward in CFMS," he asserted.

With CFMS, the State would be able to generate revenue and expenditure receipts with a touch of a button and also help the 42,000 drawing and disbursement officers (DDOs) across the State work effectively.

Helps achieve paperless transactions
Chandrababu further said that State’s CFMS project was the first of its kind in the country and had all the financial operations integrated with it. It would also help achieve paperless transactions across counters. Integration and implementation of CFMS, e-Office and e-Pragati would put Andhra Pradesh in a special spot in the world.

Speaking about CFMS, Ravi Chandra said digital initiatives taken up by the RBI, the SBI, GSTN and other agencies helped the CFMS project, though it was difficult initially. Advisor (IT) to Government J Satyanarayana said that special software for financial operations had been made for the State as part of the project. Special Chief Secretary LV Subramanyam said CFMS would put an end to all the hurdles in financial operations.

Apps Launched for Departments
On April 12, the e-Pragati Portal launched 8 services on the core platform for the departments - Panchayat Raj, Roads and Buildings, School Education, Intermediate Education, Agriculture Marketing and Real Estate Regulation and Development Act (RERA). Concerned apps are launched to digitize services in these departments. The completely developed portal will render services in the certificate-less government system, including marriage certificate, online soil health cards, caste certificate and digi-locker to name a few.

In the School Education department, online registration to recognise educational institutions and applications for establishment of new technical institutions are currently being developed. In addition, the Complete Student Life Cycle Management will be ready for launch, digitising all procedures of a student-life, including admissions, certificates, examination management and hostel management.

Other services in this domain include the uberisation of tutors, tutorials and content, the delivery of scholarships, benefits and loan management and the upskilling and capacity building of teachers. To assess the productivity and progress of digital transformation, officials presented the parameters: single access, omni-channel, single source of truth, minimal clicks, rendering of services and improved productivity.

Chief Minister, whilst reviewing the progress of e-pragati at the grievance cell near his residence said that officials should adapt features of the index created by NITI Aayog and come up with a practical model to assess the digital transformation of the Andhra Pradesh Government.
Municipal Jr College students excel in Intermediate results

Minister Narayana addressing the press.

The students of Nellore Municipal Residential Junior College, who appeared for the first year intermediate examinations, have come out with tremendous performance. A few students have been given training in the IIT Foundation course by the initiative of Minister P Narayana, at the college, as a pilot project. The material and syllabus was picked up from the Minister’s educational institution which specializes in competitive examinations. The students scored highest percentages ever, after undergoing cautious programme.

The first of its kind residential junior college programme was initiated for benefiting the financially backward students for competitive exams. The first batch students have excelled in the exams and yielded great results.

Minister Narayana mentioned, “Out of 49 students who attended the first year Intermediate examinations, 32 students secured 10 GPA and 12 students secured 9.8 points while the rest 5 of them scored 9.5 points out of total 10. We are very excited about their results and are keen in introducing the same foundation course programmes in other colleges across the State.”

A special curriculum has been planned for classes 1-5 for introducing IIT course and laying foundation for the same in schools as well. Admission procedures are all in place and seats were filled up to the neck in most of the schools for the following academic year. The State is committed to strengthening the college education as much as it has focus on school education. The Government of India has named Andhra Pradesh as the number one State in the country in terms of introducing revolutionary programmes in educational sector, said Narayana.

Narayana said that IIT foundation course at primary level would be helpful to the students in achieving their goals. The government education has weakened due to lack of observation on latest trends in education system. IIT foundation course which was introduced in all municipal schools had given good results and we are happy about it.

Minister Narayana along with Nellore city Mayor Sk Abdul Aziz along with the students met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who appreciated their efforts and encouraged them for future accomplishments.

Putta Sudhakar Yadav was sworn in as chairman of the TTD Trust Board. Yadav’s appointment comes a year after the expiry of the term of the previous board led by Ch. Krishnamurthy, in which he had served as a member.

At a brief ceremony organised at ‘Bangaru Vakili’ inside the temple, TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal administered the oath to Yadav. Those who took oath as member-trustees were MLAs G.S.S. Shivaji; Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao; and B.K. Partha Saradhi; MP Rayapati Sambasiva Rao; and Challa Ramachandra Reddy, Potluri Ramesh Babu, E. Peddi Reddy, Rudraraju Padma Raju, Meda Krishna Reddy, and Dokka Jagannadham. Mr. Singhal and Special Chief Secretary (endowments) Manmohan Singh took oath as ex-officio members. Soon after the ceremony, the priests showered ‘Vedasir vachanams’ on Yadav and his team.

Chairperson of Infosys Foundation Sudha Narayana Murthy; Telangana TDP MLA Sandra Venkata Veeraiiah; and Sapna Mungantiwar, wife of a Minister from Maharashtra, who were also appointed trustees, could not make it to the function.
It is difficult to describe the multifaceted genius of Balantrapu Rajanikantha Rao, who passed away on 22nd April, 2018 at Vijayawada. He was a scholar, poet, lyricist, musician, musicologist, music composer, a seasoned broadcaster and a critic.

‘Rajani’ as he was popularly known, was the second son of Balantrapu Venkata Rao (one among the famous duo Venkata Parvateeswara Kavulu) and Venkata Ramanamma. He had his education at Pithapuram and Kakinada. He secured first class in honours degree in Literature from Andhra University, Waltair in 1940. His pursuit of music was almost simultaneous. He learnt classical Karnataka music from Manda Krishna Murthy (a disciple of Veena Maestro Sangameswara Sastry) at Pithapuram and Sishtla Sarva Sastry at Kakinada. He blossomed into a lyricist while he was still a student.

Madras (now Chennai) beckoned him, for it was the destination of many aspiring talented young people of the composite Madras state. He could have become a successful film music director and he demonstrated his talent through eternal hits such as Oho Paavuramaa ‘(in the film Swarga Seema which launched Ghantasala Venkateswara Rao in the film music arena). Film field’s loss was the gain of All India Radio (AIR).

Rajani joined AIR at Madras in the early 1940s which he once described as his ‘alma mater’. He was part of the creative glory of Madras station. He could rightly be termed as one of the pioneers of light music in South. He continued to write lyrics in Telugu and was composing music for lyrics in all the four major South Indian languages. He had produced many a musical feature. He was also responsible for bringing Gantasala to Radio. Not many knew that ‘Challa gaalilo’ and ”O vibhavari’ made popular by Rajeswara Rao’s voice were the lyrics of Rajani.

He was popular as ‘Jeep’ at AIR Madras that is the General Purpose man- doubling up as writer, producer, director, composer, musician, sound effects man (occasionally mimicking the cries of animals and birds) apart from producing assorted sounds required to make the Radio programme sound natural.

The songs- ‘Mroyimpu Jayabheri’ and ‘Udayammayenu’ written and set to...
His contribution to literature is of a great value. Rajani’s ‘Satapatra Sundari’, a collection of 300 lyrics won him the Telugu Bhasha Samithi award for 1952-53. He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his book on Vaaggeyakaaras. He has created many musical plays. His ‘Jegi Maamayya Paatalu’ is a collection of lively lyrics written for children.

Rajani’s ‘Vadya Vrinda’ compositions were very popular. He translated many padams of Kshetrayya into English. He revised his famous work ‘Andhra Vaggeyakara Charitramu’ and wrote a sequel to the first part. He continued to produce programmes for AIR till a few years ago.

His contribution to literature is of a great value. Rajani’s ‘Satapatra Sundari’, a collection of 300 lyrics won him the Telugu Bhasha Samithi award for 1952-53. He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his book on Vaaggeyakaaras. He has created many musical plays. His works continue to enthral listeners of AIR, for over forty five years now. His erudite presentation of 22 srutis (22 scales as recognised by his exponents of classical South Indian Music) baffled many a musician.

He was instrumental in recording and popularising many compositions of Annamaacharya fifty years ago. He broadcast different compositions Annamacharya on a daily basis in 1971.

Though his work in film field was limited, his influence on subsequent composers was vast, as observed by well known critic and connoisseur of fine arts VAK Ranga Rao garu.

Rajani received many awards and honours through the years. During the commemoration of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore’s 150th Birth Anniversary, Rajani was honoured with ‘Tagore Akademi Ratna’ award. He was honoured by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with Kala Ratna in 2007 and with Visishta Puraskaram recently.

Rajani’s alma mater, Andhra University conferred Kala Prapoorna on him in 1981. His services were recognised by many cultural organisations and he received many titles such as Naada Sudharnava, Pumbhaava Saraswati, Naveena Vaggeyakara etc.

Rajani pursued many interests other than literature and music. His interest in Astronomy was remarkable.

He had a contented and simple life. During his last few years, he had age related memory problems; but would remember songs from the 1940s if anyone refers to those days. Many a time he would sing the songs as well.

Though physically no more, Rajani will continue to live through his works in literature and music, for generations to come. He was an illustrious Telugu person, who was an Indian at heart.

Dr.P.S.Gopalakrishna
Former Station Director, AIR.
The third big automobile unit comes to Andhra Pradesh after Kia and Hero in a span of one year. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for Ashok Leyland’s bus building plant at the model industrial park at Mallavalli, 40 km from Vijayawada, on March 31.

After laying the stone, Chandrababu Naidu said, “This is the third such big investment after Kia Motors and Hero. Ashok Leyland will be followed by about 700 industrial units with investment. We gave more than 1,100 acres for the industries and the Mallavalli industrial region will change the face of the State for good. The developments speak of huge employment potential. I congratulate Dasari, son of the Krishna district, for choosing the place and swift execution.”

The expected investments in the automobile units, mega food parks, Plastic Park and logistic parks in the region would herald a great future for Amaravati, said he.

Mallavalli would have better access to the airport, the Machilipatnam port and the proposed outer ring road, making it an accessible point.

The Andhra Pradesh government apparently was very cooperative in facilitating the plant in record time. From initial approach, registration to grounding of the plant it was made possible in just four months.

4800 buses per annum
The world’s fourth largest bus maker would recruit more than 5,000 people to make 4800 buses a year. The flagship company of the Hinduja Group would produce its first bus in six months, according to the company.

Ashok Leyland MD and CEO Vinod K Dasari said, “We were initially asked to set up the plant near the auto cluster in Sri City. But we wanted to set up the plant in Krishna district as I hail from this place. We will roll out the first bus in six months.” The company would develop its facility in a 75-acre plot with an investment of Rs. 170 crore to make 4,800 buses annually in the first phase.

Full capacity
The plant would reach full capacity in a year which would be doubled in the second phase in another 75 acres beside the plant.

Mallavelli plant to make 4,800 buses per annum.
World’s fourth largest bus maker Ashok Leyland began construction of its bus making plant in Mallavalli Model Industrial Park, 40 kilometres from Vijayawada. The flagship company of the Hinduja Group will produce its first bus in coming six months according to the company.

The capacity will be doubled in the second phase in another 75 acres beside the plant according to him. Once
completed, the Mallavelli plant will be the third bus making plant of Ashok Leyland after its facilities in Alwar (Rajasthan) and Trichy (Tamil Nadu).

Other than bus making, the facility will house a state of the art learning and skill development centre. The company will recruit over 5000 people for the facility.

Vinod K Dasari, MD & CEO, Ashok Leyland, said: “This facility will help us be ahead of the curve by ensuring our readiness towards implementation of the bus body code and to meet the rising demand for ready-to-use, fully-built trucks. We will also produce electric vehicles at this plant.”

Assuring necessary support for the setting up of the plant, the Chief Minister hoped it would play a crucial role in further strengthening the State as a next major hub for the automotive sector.

Expected to see more than Rs 25,000 crore investments by about 6-7 companies in the automotive sector, Naidu said: “The sector will boost the prospects of local youth and also create a number of ancillary industries and attract other companies to the State.”

This region is seen as the next upcoming manufacturing hub in Krishna district. The Ashok Leyland plant will be spread over 75 acres, with a further capacity to add another 75 acres to the plant site to pave way for expansion.

“The plant, which is likely to see an initial investment of Rs 170 crore, may entail another investment of about Rs 170-200 crore at a later phase,” the MD explained.

**Electric Vehicles**

Apart from making the entire range of buses of Ashok Leyland, the facility will include an electric vehicle development centre comprising a futuristic conveyor line, pilot assembly line and prototype development, Dasari explained.

“We are looking at the huge unfolding opportunity for EVs in the country. Our first batch of EV buses will be deployed in Ahmedabad where we have bagged the contract for 40 EV buses,” he added.

**Green facility**

The company expects to make it a green facility with rooftop solar panels, LED lighting, battery-operated vehicles for in-plant movement, positive water balance and zero discharge.

“In a short time we have designed various elements of the project, and expect to roll out vehicles within six months of having proper road access to move heavy equipment. This will also have capability to double capacity at the same location,” Dasari said.

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**Tech Mahindra Opens Cyber Security Center**

Tech Mahindra has joined hands with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish country’s first Cyber Security Operations Centre (APCSOC) in the city of Vijayawada. The Cyber Security Operations Centre, inaugurated on April 23, is equipped with traditional SOC and predictive threat analytics capabilities. The security coverage extends to all central and state government entities.

Cybersecurity breaches are set to become a bigger menace with increasing focus on digitalization, especially in the government space. Tech Mahindra believes that emerging technologies are driving connected experiences and a security breach may put the entire ecosystem in toss.

“Cybersecurity has undoubtedly become an increasingly critical and important issue. The APCSOC is our first line of defence against cyber threats,” said Minister for IT, E & C, and Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Nara Lokesh, who is on a personal mission to galvanise the fledgling cyber security ecosystem in the state. He continued, “Sunrise Andhra Pradesh is building the next-generation skills that will make Amaravati a thriving hub undertaking advanced research in combatting the ever evolving cyber threats.”

“Tech Mahindra is excited to partner with the Andhra Pradesh government as it pioneers in the cyber security space. APCSOC first of its kind in India will leverage Tech Mahindra’s global expertise in cyber security and risk management. We are confident the APCSOC will be a shining example of excellence and pave the way for a robust government security framework,” said CP Gurnani, MD and CEO, Tech Mahindra.

Speaking during the event, K Vijayanan, Principal Secretary, Department of IT, E & C, said, “The launch of the APCSOC is a great step forward for the state. The SOC will address cyber threat by providing a holistic view in monitoring and tackling these threats.”
Cash-starved state of Andhra Pradesh would further be at the receiving end, if the ‘arbitrary’ Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission are implemented, State Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu said. Speaking at the inaugural session of the first southern Finance Ministers’ conclave, hosted by Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram on April 10, he said AP may incur a highest loss of Rs. 24,340 crore in coming five years, if the ToR for sharing of Central revenue with the states as per the 2011 Census instead of the 1971 Census, get implemented.

Since population is the parameter that would get more weightage, AP, because of its population control measures implemented in the past and the obvious depletion in population growth rate between 1971-81 and 2001-11, would stand to lose 0.616 percent Central revenue share, minister said.

He said the 14th Finance Commission, on the one hand, claims that financial devolution from the Centre to States has been increased from 32 per cent to 42 per cent and on the other; it has changed the ratio of Central assistance to some Centrally-sponsored programme from 90:10 to 60:40, which has placed a 30 per cent additional burden on the States.

"By accepting the 14th Finance Commission’s recommendations, the States are getting 2-4 per cent less revenue from the Union government when compared to the share allocated in the 13th Finance Commission. We have asked for the revenue deficit to be calculated for the period before 14th Finance Commission but there was no response from the Centre," he said.

Taking serious exception to this point in specific, Yanamala said- "It (point seven) should be totally eliminated as it leads to discretion, arbitrariness, and is very subjective”.

Here are a few more points that the FM raised during his speech

- Withdraw the Terms of Reference and leave it to the Finance Commission to finalise them in consultation with the States. Most of the Terms of Reference are very retrograde in nature and not good for Cooperative Federalism. The seriously impact the autonomy of the States.

- Population criteria should be 1971 basis. Alternately a more realistic formula must be provided to ensure that States that responded to National Duty and controlled its population effective are not punished, and States that performed poorly are incentivised. So a Win-Win situation has to be created.

- Taking 2011 as basis may open up this to many more areas like delimitation which is disastrous for the States that responded to National Duty and controlled population growth.

- Vertical devolution should increase from present 42% to give more flexibility to the States.

- Revenue deficit Grant must continue as it is part of constitutional mandate.

- State has most of the subjects dealing with the welfare of the People and if its finances are stifled, it cannot perform its constitutional mandate as well as electoral mandate. (Centre cannot decide what populist scheme is. Schemes are made as per the needs of the people- Mid day meal scheme which was thought of as populist scheme earlier has become a national flagship scheme. Schemes which are ahead of time may be misunderstood as populist)

- Restrictions on borrowings to 1.7% of GSDP as suggested by FRBM review committee is very bad for the States growth. More realistic figure should be taken into consideration.

- Finance Commission should not be burdened with GST issues as there is permanent GST council to look into all issues relating to GST.

- Second edition of the conclave would be in Vijayawada on may 7th.
Fort Vizianagaram, 28-8-1911.

Dear Munisubrahmanyam Pantulu,

I have written to Venkatachalam Pantulu. I could not answer your letter at once on account of the illness of my mother and of my cousin Venkateswarlu and pressure of work under the new system of management. I am sorry for your financial difficulties.

I hope you will succeed as a lawyer and that your financial difficulties will vanish. If you have self-confidence, you are sure to succeed. Intelligence and industry you possess in no small degree. I do not think that లవణరాజుకలు (Lavanaraju Kala) is more musical than my previous efforts (poems). People get accustomed to the new style. That is all.

There are few people of letters among us and public opinion is worth nothing. I value the opinion of cultured persons like you. My namaskarams to (your) father.

Yours affectionately,

To Ongole Munisubrahmanyam, My dear friend,

It is long since I heard from you. I am glad to tell you that our cause has made great progress. How are you faring? Writing anything? Mr. G Natesan, Editor of Indian Review, contests for a seat in the Senate. He is one of our national heroes, a fearless patriot and an able organiser. He has built up an extensive publishing business. His publications are of great educational value on politics, economics and social philosophy. I shall feel obliged if you kindly write to your friend Mr. Venkatarangayya* of PR. College, Cocanada, regarding his vote. Kindly send me his reply. Yours etc.

* This is an undated letter. However, as there is a reference to the Senate elections, we can safely conclude that this must have been written in the month of May, 1913. Madras Govt. gave choice to the students of S.S.L.C. to write either Classical or modern Telugu in the examination of Part II (Translation). This was a partial victory for the spoken Telugu movement.

1. Elections to the Madras University Senate.

2. Prof. Mamidipudi Venkatarangayya is a reputed historian who edited the English and Telugu volumes of History of Freedom Movement in Andhra Desa. He was a prolific writer and a great intellectual. He was a Lecturer in Andhra University for a long time and later became Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science in Bombay University. He was working as lecturer in PR. College, Kakinada at this point of time. Ongole Munisubrahmanyam was a colleague of Venkatarangayya in PR. College for some time.
CM Chandrababu Naidu is an active social media user. Many of you have been actively following his activities with admiration. Here are a few snapshots from his Twitter account and those on him.

**Chief Minister's Social Network**

**CM Chandrababu Naidu**

Thank you very much for your support for our cause. 5 crore people of Andhra Pradesh express their gratitude to you.

**Kamal Hassan**

Sir you have chosen your birthday to go on a fast for your state. I cant’ greet you with the usual happy returns of the day. but I can wish you success in your demand for the return your state expects for your investment to the country. @ncbn

16:01 pm - 20 Apr 2018

630 Retweets 1,999 Likes

**Makamkar TDP Youth**

Thank you sir. #APMahaBhoomi #APMahaBhoomiJtho #APMahaBhoomiStatus #APMahaBhoomiJtho #APMahaBhoomiJtho

@ncbn

Satish Gotta

Replying to @ncbn

Thank you sir.

11:39 pm - 25 Apr 2018

243 Retweets 1,772 Likes

**N Chandrababu Naidu**

Interacted with 38 global suppliers and presented opportunities for Electronics Manufacturing in AP during Xiaomi Supplier Investment Summit. If a global base is set up in India, it will attract $2.5 billion worth investment & generate 50,000 jobs. @XiaomiIndia

@ncbn

10:50 pm - 11 Apr 2018

2,532 Retweets 12,696 Likes

**Ankit @Ankit1**

Great Vision sir! Though I have never visited Andhra but I am ur fan & follow you and ur great work. I am sure that u will develop Amaravati to a Green City and this is a GENIUS and DEDICATED CM. I truly wish u a Good Luck.

@ncbn

9:05 pm - 11 Apr 2018

321 Retweets 404 Likes

**Vishwanath H. Jannik @vishman...**

Congratulations

@ncbn

9:40 pm - 1 Apr 2018

88 Retweets 327 Likes

**BIBHAS MANDAL**

Replies to @ncbn

Congratulations to miss Jahnavi

@ncbn

8:59 pm - 1 Apr 2018

22 Retweets 34 Likes

**Jyoti Tiraral @JyotiTR86614205**

Very nice

@ncbn

9:40 pm - 1 Apr 2018

119 Retweets 905 Likes

**Sridhar Kiran K...@Kiran...**

@ncbn

2:20 pm - 2 Apr 2018

81 Retweets 203 Likes
Andhra Pradesh stood first in the number of farm ponds, in installation of Individual Household Latrines, in completion of Anganwadi centres. The state had a remarkable achievement in laying CC roads in rural areas and in installing LED lights in in Gram Panchayats across the state. Out of 12,918 Gram Panchayats, computers were provided to 4287 of them and APSFL has provided internet connections to 841 GPs. AP also topped the nation by achieving highest workdays under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu expressed joy for these achievements and congratulated the officials for making it happen.

“Andhra Pradesh stands first in the country for a number of achievements in the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development. This #PanchayatiRajDay, let’s salute the hardworking individuals for contributing on grassroots level” - CM twits on April 24.
For long, the development of Visakhapatnam, known as the City of Destiny, hinged on the Visakhapatnam Port and the Waltair Division of the Indian Railways and with the establishment of Visakhapatnam steel plant whose corporate entity is the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., it made rapid strides. Now, with the advent of IT industry, it is expected to grow by leaps and bounds. A heartening feature is that all the three pillars of the city – the port, railways and the steel plant achieved remarkable progress in the just concluded financial year and the results declared by them prove this.

Visakhapatnam Port Trust has handled 63.54 million tonnes of cargo during 2017-18 which is four per cent more than last year, according to VPT chairman MT Krishna Babu. Last year, the port had handled 61.02 MT and now it is about 2.5 MT more. "Coking coal and seam coal have gone up but thermal coal and iron ore have declined. Still, the overall performance has been satisfactory despite stiff competition from the neighbouring private ports," he notes. The VPT is also adjudged the second cleanest in the country. Several projects are were in execution in the port, including some in the PPP (public-private partnership) mode and some others with VPT's own funds. Some of the PPP projects were facing certain difficulties but the port has sent proposals to the Union Ministry of Shipping to sort out the issues regarding storage charges and related matters. Once the projects are completed, the capacity of the port will increase. The VPT was aiming at 85 to 90 MT of cargo by 2020-21, which is quite acceptable. "Our port has spent Rs 250 crore on its own projects and about Rs 600 crore have been spent on the PPP projects during the year. The Essar iron ore handling complex (OHC) set up at a cost of Rs 600 crores was commissioned during the year and two berths have been completed on the west quay and two more will be completed this year. Once we get the environmental clearance, we will begin work on oil berths," Krishna Babu notes. The Vizag port is planning a covered storage facility for bulk cargoes, which will be the first of its kind in the country. It has engaged a consultant for the purpose and the facility will cover 2.5 lakh tonnes of cargoes at an estimated cost of Rs. 125 crore on a 20-acre site. On the pollution
control measures, the VPT chairman says that several initiatives are taken including construction of a wall, sprinkling of the cargo and monitoring of pollution levels so as to make it easy for the residents, as it is a city-based port. He also dwells on the road and rail projects to make cargo evacuation from the port easier. The Sheilanagar-Sabbavaram road is being taken up at a cost of Rs 500 crore by the National Highways Authority of India. It can be completed in the next 18 to 20 months. Also, the city road between Visakhapatnam container terminal and the Convent Junction will be laid at a cost of Rs 120 crore. Within the port, roads will be improved at a cost of Rs 100 crore and the railway siding with Rs.150 crore from port funds. Also, under the Sagarmala project, the port has sent proposals to the ministry for five major projects at a cost of Rs 2,000 crore and the detailed project reports are getting ready. In-principle clearance was given to them. Besides, Rs 40 crore will be spent on improving facilities at the fishing harbour Rs 20 under the Sagarmala project, and the rest to be borne by the State.

Impressive Show By Vizag Steel Plant

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, and the first shore-based steel plant in the country also registered an impressive performance in all facets of its operation during 2017-18. According to RINL chairman and managing director P. Madhusudan, the growth and performance clearly speak of the commitment and dedication of one and all in the plant. He congratulated the entire collective for their remarkable performance in all areas of its operations. The Sales Turnover at over Rs.16,500 crore showed a handsome growth of 31% with the Saleable Steel production touching the 4.5 MT mark for the first time. RINL is rightly on the recovery path of turnaround and it is happy the markets seem to be picking up. RINL will reap the benefits of expansion and modernization and earn profits during the current year, he said. "There is every need to ramp up of volumes and Pulverized Coal Injection (PCI) technology in all the Blast Furnaces which will help reduce costlier coke consumption to further enhance the bottom-line during the current year," Madhusudan observes. RINL is going to launch an eco-friendly “e-office” system for faster decision making in a transparent way. Several initiatives like Coastal shipping, RINL presence in North Eastern regions, development of new products help RINL achieve record sales during the year.

All the major production units of RINL clocked their best ever performances with significant growth--hot metal 17 per cent, liquid steel 19 per cent, finished steel 21 per cent, saleable steel 17 per cent, value added steel 16 per cent and power generation 28 per cent. There were many significant achievements during the fiscal, notable among them being -- Consolidation of 6.3 mtpa expansion with many of the new units crossing their rated capacities; Completion of major Modernisation activities; Commissioning of CCM-4 marking the completion of 7.3 mtpa; Foray into Coastal Shipping; Growth in Exports by 65% and growth in Byproduct Sales by 24% RINL’s outlook is bright for 2018-19 with targeted production of 6.4 million tons of Hot Metal, 6.3 million tons of Liquid Steel and 5.7 million tons of Saleable Steel; and is all set to achieve the same with all internal controls in place.

Waltair Revenue Rises

Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has recorded gross revenue of Rs 7154.99 crore during the just concluded financial year 2017-18 which is 10.82 per cent more than last year’s Rs.6456.42 crore. Divisional Railway Manager Mukul Saran Mathur said that the Division transported 56.54 million tonnes which is 7.29% higher than last year. Revenue from freight loading at Rs 6515.25 crore is an increase of 11.44% over last year’s Rs 5846.24 crores, and 4.63% over the target set for the fiscal year. "The Division has carried 35.06 million passengers to their destination generating revenue of Rs 536.43 crore which is 7.51% more than the last year. We also achieved the best operating ratio of 35.28," he disclosed.

Waltair Division bagged 9 Best Performance Shields, including Overall Performance Shield at the 63rd Railway Week Awards function at Zonal Head Quarters, Bhubaneswar recently. The Division’s consistent performance in all the fields applauded by the General Manager, East Coast Railway, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Suned Kumar said.

- B. Prabhakara Sarma
After a lacklustre first quarter, the success of two of biggest films of the year has come as a big boost to Telugu film industry.

**RANGASTHALAM, BHARAT ANE NENU**

COME TO TELUGU FILM INDUSTRY’S RESCUE
The summer of 2018 is fast turning out to be a memorable event for the entire Telugu film industry, and within four weeks, two of the biggest films of the year, fetched more than Rs 250 crores (gross) at the box-office. The positive buzz surrounding Rangasthalam grew manifold right from the day of the film’s release, and it has already become the third highest grossing Telugu film of all time, and currently, it has amassed a whopping Rs 115 crores (share).

Trade analysts have reported that the producers have earned more than Rs 40 crores as profits from the film, which puts in perspective how big a hit the film is. On similar lines, Bharat Ane Nenu too has set the box-office on fire and went on to gross more than Rs 125 crores within five days of its release. In the process, the film surpassed Mahesh Babu’s biggest hit Srimanthudu, which released back in 2015.

It wasn’t just the two Telugu speaking states where the two summer biggies drew massive crowds. Both Rangasthalam and Bharat Ane Nenu raked in big moolah in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and in the US alone, both the films have crossed the $3 million mark. While Rangasthalam is hovering around $3.5-$3.7 million mark, Bharat Ane Nenu is expected to touch $4 million in the long run. In Australia too, both the films surprised trade analysts by outperforming several other Hindi, Tamil, and Punjabi films which released in recent years.

The fact that both the films were tinkering with genres that haven’t been explored in mainstream Telugu cinema was an additional factor which pulled the crowd in droves to theatres. Rangasthalam is a village drama, set in the 80s, which dealt with local politics, whereas Bharat Ane Nenu is a full-fledged political drama, set in 2014, where the lead character Bharat played a Chief Minister. Both Ram Charan and Mahesh Babu earned rave reviews for their performances respectively, and the whole industry joined the chorus to praise both the actors, and their films, for their performance. In fact, Mahesh Babu and NTR Jr surprised Ram Charan when they came forward to praise the film on social media. That’s not all.

NTR Jr attended the pre-release event of Bharat Ane Nenu as the chief guest, and on two occasions in April, the three actors were spotted bonding big time, much to the delight of their fans.

In the past couple of months, Telugu film industry has been rocked by quite a few controversies ranging from relentless debates on Pawan Kalyan, sexual harassment at workplace, fan wars, and the uncomfortable equation that developed between the media and film industry. Amidst these circumstances, the success of Rangasthalam and Bharat Ane Nenu has come as a silver lining for the industry which is now betting big on other summer releases.

In any given year, the success of a big budget film has a cascading effect on low and medium budget films. The logic behind this sentiment is that the distributors, who earn profits from big films, will go on to reinvest all that money to buy rights of medium and small budget films. In May alone, Tollywood will witness films like Allu Arjun’s Naa Peru Surya, Keerthy Suresh-Dulquer’s Mahanati, Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas-Pooja Hegde’s Saakshhym, and Vijay Deverakonda’s Taxiwala vie for audience’s attention, apart from Nagarjuna’s Office. Then, in June, there’s Sudeer Babu-Aditi Rao Hydari’s Sammohanam and Naga Chaitanya, Nidhhi Agrewal starrer Savvyasachi lined up for release. Meanwhile, SS Rajamouli’s Baahubali 2, which won three National Awards including the award for Best Popular film, is finally going to release in China on May 4 and the whole industry is awaiting the result with bated breath. In recent times, several Hindi films like Dangal, Bhairangi Bhaiaan, Secret Superstar, and Hindi Medium have made a killing at the box-office in China, and if Baahubali 2 too opens to huge numbers in China, it’ll have a good chance to surpass Dangal as the highest grossing Indian film of all time. The mood of the industry has changed considerably in the past few weeks, and it owes a lot to the success of two summer biggies in quick succession. In fact, two weeks after Rangasthalam released, there were numerous discussions among fans of respective stars if people will throng again to theatres to watch Bharat Ane Nenu. However, the film’s huge success has proved that you can’t just stop with one when the other option too is equally good. Thanks to these two films, Telugu film industry has clearly surpassed Tamil film industry as the second biggest contributor in terms of revenue to Indian film industry this year behind Hindi cinema. The Tamil film industry was particularly crippled this year after a strike stalled everything in the industry for 49 days, and several big films including Rajnikanth’s Kaala were postponed.

All said and done, the success of Rangasthalam and Bharat Ane Nenu has given plenty of hope for Telugu film industry that the rest of the films in summer will continue the success streak. Now, all eyes are on Allu Arjun’s Naa Peru Surya to complete the hat-trick.

- Hemanth Kumar C R
Amazing Andhra Pradesh

Beat the summer blues with

Kalamkari
The summer has arrived and it is time for ditching those glamorous chiffons and heavy silk sarees for the breezy handlooms. Talking about handlooms here, Andhra Pradesh is known widely for its diverse art of designing techniques using natural colours on fabric that allows you to breathe. The State can be referred to as a hub of handlooms with various art forms thriving all over the globe. Mangalagiri, Uppada, Dharmavaram, Pedana and Srikalahasti, Venkatagiri, Bandarupalli, Chirala, Madhavaram to name a few. Let us go through one of such wonderful art forms- Kalamkari.

Extensively known for Kalamkari printing, dyeing, designing and trade, Pedana, at a distance of 69 kilometers from Vijayawada will transport you into another world of natural colours, intricate and attractive designs- all handmade. Dating back to 2500 years ago, this art form is popular among Europeans with a great deal of marketing and distributing happening around France. Merely translating to ‘Kalam’ means pen and ‘Kari’ means craftsmanship, it is no wonder if you spot foreigners trying their hands at Kalamkari dyeing and block printing, when you visit Pedana.

Types of Kalamkari
There are two types of Kalamkari art that flourished. Pedana style and Srilakahasti style- both in Andhra Pradesh. While Srilakahasti style largely concentrates on freehand drawing and filled-in colours; the subject remains to be of mythological importance with designs inspired from temples as well as scenes depicting episodes from Ramayana, Mahabharatha and Puranas. On the other hand, Pedana style kalamkari is different in terms of designs. It is mostly inspired by Mughals and Golconda sultanate and has Persian flavor to them. This style adapts to fashion trends to compete in textile market. From the scratch to the finished product- be it a saree, clothing material, a painting, a mural art or even accessories, Kalamkari art involves an intense procedure of seventeen steps, which has derived it the name of organic art.

Kalam (pen) and natural colours
The kalam is prepared from bamboo stick or date palm stick with a bundle of hair attached to one end, to be served as a pen. The brush is soaked in a mixture of fermented jaggery and water before being dipped in colours to follow the design pattern. Colours are extracted from roots of various plants, leaves, flowers and metals like iron, tin, copper and alum. Buffalo milk and Myrobalan are extensively used in fixating the colours on the fabric.

AP Government’s Fillip
The Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is studying the two styles of Kalamkari art in the State to give a fillip on the front of adaptation of technology to improve domestic and overseas market for a range of textile products.

Kalamkari Museum
A dedicated museum was established and inaugurated by renowned Kalamkari artist. The ‘Kalamkari Art Museum’ is developed by Pedana-based Pitchuka Srinivas and his son Varun Kumar. The museum traces the history of the art and displays the process of extraction of natural colours from various sources. The museum has three galleries- wooden blocks, natural colours and history-which establish the connection of the art with the Dutch and the British. “The idea of coming up with the exclusive museum has been realised. It is a result of my serious effort to keep it alive in its true format,” Srinivas said.

international acclaim

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) Curator Sarah Fee got a few historical clues during her field visit in Pedana, recently, to confirm that at least five works among the 200 masterpieces of artwork made in India were done by Machilipatnam and Pedana Kalamkari artisans in the 20th century.

The five Kalamkari works- wall hangings with Mehrab design and other floral motifs sans artistic credit are now on display at the ROM.

how to reach

There are numerous bus services from anywhere in the district to Pedana with trains plying frequently as well. One can reach Pedana via Machilipatnam within a two-hour drive through NH 65. So, why wait? Head straight to Pedana and dig into heaps of Kalamkari textiles that come in various designs in bright hues that make you feel royalty.
HAPPENING AP

Ankamma Chowdary is SAAP Chairman

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu nominated Vijayawada-based senior sports administrator P Ankamma Chowdary as the Chairman of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP). Chowdary is presently serving as vice-president for AP Badminton Association, a member of Badminton Association of India and associate joint secretary to A.P. Olympic Association. He participated as Technical Official in the World Badminton Championship in 2009.

Chittoor gets ODF status

Chittoor district has achieved the 100 per cent Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. The target of 3,80,339 Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) units construction was completed under Swacch Bharat mission, by the end of March. District Collector P S Pradyumna declared that Chittoor district was already declared number one in India in construction of the IHHL units, followed by Gorakhpur district of U.P. and Seetamarri district of Bihar. He attributed the success to the efforts of the officials of all line departments, people’s representatives, women’s group, voluntary organisations and the district police. Since the target is achieved, the focus now is on utilisation factor and administration is bearing up to it, added he.

Mini buses in Rural Areas

In the coming six months, the State government is all set to improve connectivity in rural villages by introducing mini buses to provide reliable transport to every village. An allotment of Rs 200 crore has been made towards purchasing of buses and the Finance department has been requested to release all of it in one go.

“There are 14,123 villages in the State and Palle Velugu buses numbering 5,574, which are covering 18 lakh kilometers every day. The occupancy ratio is 75%. As the occupancy rate is less in these buses, the government is contemplating introducing of mini buses in the rural areas. About 1,000 to 1,500 buses will be purchased.

This is for the first time the government is extending financial support to the APSRTC for procuring the buses,” said Transport Minister K Atchannaidu.

Restaurant opened at Rly Station

A swanky restaurant food joint, ‘The Food Street’ has been opened at the Vijayawada railway station recently. South Central Railway’s Vijayawada Division and Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) joined hands for the same. The plush eatery spread across 1500 square feet has two-storeys that cater to the passengers as well as visitors. A variety of cuisines- South Indian, North Indian and local cuisine will be served round the clock. Apart from the restaurant, the banquet hall on their first floor has a capacity of 100 pax and will be open to organise small gatherings and parties, said the concerned officials.

Railway stations to get international status

Ministry of Railways has come up with a proposal to accord international status to four railway stations in Andhra Pradesh. A circular in this regard was issued by the Ministry of Railways recently seeking officials of Vijayawada, Guntur, Kurnool and Guntakal stations to send proposals for taking up various development works. Vijayawada station, which is under A1 category, registers over one lakh footfalls a day. Already bids to execute the development projects in the station were called for. Food courts, multiplex theatres, shopping malls, pharmacies, budget hotels, ATMs, Internet cafes, executive lounges, cafeterias, multi-level parking are likely to come up on the station premises.

Restriction on VIP darshan at TTD on weekends

To tackle the summer rush, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam has resolved not to entertain any kind of recommendation letters in the VIP break darshan of Lord Venkateswara during the weekends. The restriction came into force from April 20 and will stay on till the second week of July for about fifteen weeks. However those VIPs who fall under the protocol category will be

AP tops in Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as the best state in the country for Energy Efficiency and Conservation programmes by The World Bank. Andhra Pradesh had achieved an energy saving of 1,500 million units in two years through use of LED lighting. “The result-oriented approach of AP government in implementing energy efficiency programmes is worth emulating by other states,” said World Bank Executive Director, Subhash Chandra Garg. With an overall score of 42.01, AP has emerged on top, followed by Rajasthan with 41.89, Karnataka 39.34 and Maharashtra 39.29 in Energy Efficiency Readiness, a release from the State Energy Conservation Mission said. Kerala, Gujarat, NCT Delhi, Punjab, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh are the other states in the top ten ranking in that order. AP has launched a new initiative ‘AP Energy Star’, making it mandatory to procure only five-star rated appliances like air conditioners, refrigerators, ceiling fans and water pump sets in future.
Cancer units in 9 districts

The NTR Cancer Trust, registered under the NTR Vaidya Seva, will set up Cancer Care Institutions (CCI) in 9 districts of the State. The Government of India has agreed to give Rs 126 crore and the Tata Trust is willing to give Rs 100 crore for setting up of cancer institutes for comprehensive care. CCIs will come up in districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Kadapa, and Anantapur. During the first meeting of the trust held recently, it resolved to establish the hospitals in 18 months. Chittoor, Kurnool, Nellore, and Visakhapatnam, which already have a cancer care facility, or an institution of the State or Central government, or a private for-profit/not for-profit institution empanelled under the NTR Vaidya Seva, would be considered in phase II. The hospitals will provide free cancer care to all the poor.

Beach Festival at Bundar

The State government has directed the department of Tourism to organise a beach festival at Manginapudi, near Machilipatnam. According to Minister K Ravindra, the beach festival is set to take place in the first week of May. “State government has allotted a budget of Rs 4 crore for beautification of Manginapudi beach. All necessary arrangements for the festival have commenced. Devotees have come forward to contribute their mite towards the cost of the offering. A poster too, was released on the occasion.”

CM expresses concern over currency shortage

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has asked the bankers to study the reasons for currency shortage and evolve an action plan to solve the problem. When the bankers replied to him saying a sharp decline in the number of deposits is the main cause of the crisis, the Chief Minister said the people should not be afraid as deposits will be converted into equity if a bank collapses. Observing that the banking system is losing people’s confidence due to various financial scams, the CM sought to know what precautionary measures the RBI is taking to reverse the trend. Addressing a State-level Bankers’ Committee (SLBC) meeting at the Grievance Hall at his residence in Undavalli, the Chief Minister expressed concern that the people may no longer come forward to deposit their money in the banks if the customer service fails to improve.

Nalin Prabhat is AP Greyhounds head

Nalin Prabhat is appointed as the head of the Andhra Pradesh Operations Department (Greyhounds, Octopus. Nalin is a 1992 batch officer, who served as the special additional DG of Operations,Vishakhatnam region before. NVSurendra Babu, who recently served as head of operations department, was promoted as DGP and he was replaced by Nalini Prabhath.

Potti Sreeramulu birthday now a State festival

The Andhra Pradesh government has identified the birthday of freedom fighter Potti Sreeramulu as a State festival. Amarajeevi Potti Sreeramulu was instrumental in achieving statehood to the Telugu speaking people from Madras Presidency. He sacrificed his live for separating Andhra Pradesh from Union India. A Government Order has been passed stating the same and henceforth, March 16 will be celebrated as a State festival.

Blhuseva pilot project launched

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the Bhuseva project, under which government and private lands across the State will be assigned 11-digit Bhudhaar numbers on the lines of Aadhaar in a two-step process. It is a pilot project that will be implemented in Vuyyur and Jaggaiahpet in Krishna district and is likely to be extended to other districts by October 2. The ultimate goal is to give Bhudhaar numbers to 2.84 crore agricultural lands and 50 lakh urban and 85 lakh rural properties. Bhudhaar numbers could not be tampered with and any land-related transaction could be monitored on a real-time basis. The lands would be geo-tagged and 11-digit temporary Bhudhaar numbers starting with 99 would be given.
The Andhra Pradesh government on April 18 launched 'Chandranna Pelli Kanuka' welfare scheme. The state cabinet approved welfare scheme has come under implemented from April 20. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu formally launched the website and unveiled the logo of the scheme at his residence in Undavalli. The 'Chandranna Pelli Kanuka' will become a historic scheme in the future, Naidu opined.

Briefing about the scheme Chief Minister said, under this scheme Rs 75,000 will be paid to an SC/ST bride marrying a groom of a different caste. A sum of Rs 50,000 will be given to a backward class bride if she has an inter-caste marriage and Rs 1 lakh if either or both the bride and bridegroom are physically challenged.

If an SC bride marries an SC boy, she would get Rs 40,000 as a gift and Rs 30,000 if a Backward Class girl marries a Backward Class boy, Naidu further added. The state government is planning to spend up to Rs 100 crore for providing financial incentive under this scheme. An institution called 'Kalyana Mitra' will also be created to ensure effective processing of applications and payment of incentives to the brides in time.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister hailed the progress made by women in different walks of life. "A day will come when girls would demand dowry," he remarked.

After launching the website, he mentioned that government will transfer benefits to the beneficiaries without any delay, in the first phase but the intended beneficiaries should file their applications a couple of weeks in advance from May. The Kalyana Mitras will have responsibility to verify the beneficiaries and upload the same in the online portal, he explained.

All the certificates and documents will be verified online. The Kalyana Mitras will provide 20 per cent approved amount on the spot, the remaining amount will be cleared at the time of marriage. Photos or finger prints of the bride and bridegroom will serve as authentication to transfer the money during the time of marriage. Within 48 hours after the marriage, the government will deliver the marriage certificate to the couple, at their home. Chief Minister also insisted that Kalyana Mitras would attend these marriages as his representatives and will be treated as State guests.

Chandrababu further added that earlier there was discrimination against girl child. There were dowry issues and many other social evils. But the society had witnessed lot of changes gradually and today women empowerment is on the rise, thus ascending them to a position where they are choosing their life partners.

One lakh marriages would be organised through Kalyana Mitras in the State every year and the scheme would largely benefit the concerned communities in conducting marriages with the financial incentive, informed Chandrababu Naidu.

Stating that everybody has a right to choose their life partner, Naidu announced special incentives for inter-caste marriages. The government will provide financial assistance to STs, SCs, BCs, minorities and physically challenged persons. He said the government had taken the decision to see smiles on the faces of the poor. The Chief Minister said the government was ensuring proper implementation of social welfare schemes and that the benefits reach the targeted people.

The government achieved 97 per cent satisfaction of the beneficiaries, he pointed out. Naidu mentioned in detail various welfare schemes being implemented by April 20.
Pic 1: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu congratulating Commonwealth gold-medalist Ragala Rahul in Vijayawada.

Pic 2: Chief Minister inaugurated 18 new fire tenders by waving a flag.

Pic 3: Intelligence Bureau Director Rajeev Jain met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at his residence at Undavalli.

Pic 4: CM and other leaders paying respects on B R Ambedkar’s birth anniversary celebrations at Sakhamuri where Ambedkar Memorial will be coming up.

Pic 5: Aerial view of the newly launched flyover on the Rajahmundry - Kakinada route, Dwarapudi village.

Pic 6: Daily wage earner Narisetty Pullaiah donated Rs 22,210 towards building of Amaravati to the Chief Minister.
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HONBLE CHIEF MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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*Statement of State Implementation of Business Reform 2020 by SBD and others, India, 2011. 78 Bars. September 2013