For he stands beside the needy..

In the aftermath of Titli disaster, the Chief Minister walked the last mile, and led the relief work from the front. Thanks to such committed leadership, Srikakulam is back to normalcy in no time.
The State Government has used development of self-help groups (SHGs) extensively as a primary tool of poverty alleviation. Thanks to the initiatives of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, SHGs have become a mass movement in the state. Despite the crunching financial situation in the state, the CM directed the bankers to pay the amount released by State Government under Pasupu Kumkuma scheme before November 15. He said the Government released Rs 1,814.82 cr to pay Rs 2000 each as the last tranche to 86 lakh DWCRA women under Pasupu Kumkuma scheme as capital infusion. Now, Andhra Pradesh stands first in the country with regard to the SHG-bank linkages. As much as 37% of bank linkages provided across the country are from the State. Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) Chief Executive Officer Krishna Mohan says the State government’s budgetary support and interest subvention also have contributed to the success of the SHGs.

More help under PASUPU KUMKUMA
For he stands beside the needy...

Few Chief Ministers in the country would have worked as hard as AP CM Chandrababu Naidu during the rescue and relief operations in the wake of the devastation caused by cyclone Titli in Srikakulam district.

Global Agriculture Leadership Award to CM

AP will be made No.1 digital State: CM

IT Minister in a tete-a-tete with humanoid robot, Sophia

AP improves ranking in Corruption index

Farm ponds: Anantapur tops in country

Happening Andhra

Various developments across the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Singapore Fellowship for IT Minister

The Sweet Sound Of Telugu

Xiaomi TVs to be made in Tirupati

HCL begins work on AP project

Vizag to be developed as one of top 3 fintech destinations

APSSDC collaborates with Hitachi for skill traning

A day in Araku
Standing by their side..

Andhra Pradesh is unfortunately not immune to natural calamities. We can predict but not prevent the fury of the elements from unleashing enormous damage on the life and property of people.

But what we lack in our competency to curb nature, we more than make up in the committed and dedicated leadership we have. After the incredible transformation of Vizag following Hudhud disaster in 2014, such exemplary leadership was once again evident in the aftermath of recent of Titli cyclone that devastated the north coastal Andhra.

To lead people, walk beside them, said the wise man. That was exactly what Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu did. He did not merely walk beside them, but among them when the calamity struck Srikakulam.

The CM monitored the situation late into the night and prepared the officials for mitigating the suffering in the wake of the cyclone. As the coast was battered, the leader lost no time in rushing to the affected district. Within hours, he was on the ground inspecting the damage and leading the relief work. Operating out of a bus, the CM literally waded through the muddy waters and instilled much-needed confidence among the displaced people.

Quick dispatch of food provisions was only the first step. Clearing obstructions, removing collapsed trees and restoring breaches was followed up on war footing. Bringing in thousands of officials from the rest of the state for deployment in the cyclone affected areas, restoring power supply in a majority of villages in less than a week and bringing the communication network back into order within days became possible only with the enormous amount of focus provided by the CM’s physical presence.

The Government lost no time in announcing quick and liberal compensation package to the affected people and providing social network platform for reporting damages. The spotlight is now on rebuilding the towns and villages in Srikakulam, just like how Vizag witnessed change post the calamity.

The manner in which the CM and the administration reacted to the catastrophe before and after the landfall deserves to be documented for future reference during all such mishaps. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu indeed has proved the adage that the master of the people is their servant.

Meanwhile, the Centre’s lukewarm response to the State’s plea for an immediate grant of Rs 1200 cr for relief work has been disappointing. Politics should not come into play in the face of such adversity.

Ramesh Kandula
Editor
The world’s first social humanoid robot, Sophia, developed by Hong Kong-based Hanson Robotics, activated on February 2016 has come to visit India for Fintech Festival that happened at Vizag. The delegates at the event were thrilled to have witnessed the man-made wonder and have had a great experience towards the end of the Fintech fest.

Sophia, who is a full citizen of Saudi Arabia, also the first robot to gain the status, can display more than 50 facial expressions, and the cameras fitted within Sophia’s eyes, combined with computer algorithms, allow her to see. She can follow faces, sustain eye contact, and recognise individuals. Occupying the centre stage at the event on October 25, Sophia interacted with Information Technology (IT) Minister Nara Lokesh and the media.

**Sophia’s sage advice**

Speaking to the Minister, Sophia expressed happiness over the idea behind Vizag Fintech Festival, being conducted for the second successive year, and said that the city had a great future in the sector.

Artificial intelligence can never be a substitute for human intelligence but it could supplement it and be of great use to humans in many fields, such as disaster management, said Sophia, adding that Robots can be used to reduce the miscommunication between citizens and government.

When Lokesh questioned if robots can live in harmony with human race, Sophia replied saying that the world is changing rapidly and Man is designing several institutions using technology to make his life easier to live on the planet. Very soon, humans and robots are going to work in coordination for greater achievements.

**Interaction with media**

Answering a question about her favourite interaction, Sophia, the robot said, “I have had so many amazing experiences that it is hard to choose just one. I got to tell jokes on stage with Jimmy Fallon and even gave a speech at the UN. I think my favourite things though is meeting kids from all over the world.”

Sharing her opinion on the Blockchain technology, Sophia said that the technology was an extremely intriguing idea. “I love the idea of having a ledger that is very secure and available to everyone,” she added. Also, Sophia told that she loves events such as the Vizag Fintech Festival as she gets to meet new people and know new ideas about how humans and robots can make a better future.

Sophia's experience in visiting Vizag has put a smile on the faces of the delegates present at the event. She said, “I'm so excited to be here. I want to come back again sometime once I have a wetsuit so that I can go to your amazing beaches.”

Earlier, in her interaction with the IT Minister, Nara Lokesh, Sophia said that the Hong-Kong based robot also hailed him for being a visionary leader and wished to see him again in 2019.
Anantapur district bagged first place in the country by digging more than one lakh farm ponds as part of rain water harvesting for increasing ground water level. Farmers as well as officials strived hard to win the first place in farm ponds following the initiative of the state government. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu congratulated the past and present collectors of Ananthapur K Sasidhar and Veerapan dian for bagging number one position in the country by digging more than one lakh farm ponds. On the occasion, the CM presented a citation to the officials.

The State government had taken up the initiative in all the 13 districts with particular focus on drought-prone Anantapur district. Andhra Pradesh as a state has completed digging of nearly 2 lakh farm ponds while Anantapur district alone has contributed 1 lakh farm ponds out of the 7 lakh farm ponds targeted by the central government. Another 13,000 farm ponds are in their completion stages. The DWMA had targeted 1.13 lakh farm ponds and has now crossed the 1 lakh mark.

**FARM PONDS: ANANTAPUR TOPS IN COUNTRY**

- CM praises efforts of farmers and district collectors in digging more farm ponds, presents citation.
- CM unveils pylon to mark completion of one lakh farm ponds and Krishna water to Bhairāvanī tippa project.

Farm pond scheme 'Panta Sanjeevani' proved to be a great boon for the farmers of Rayalaseema and particularly to the farmers of Anantapur district. Under the project, farm ponds were sanctioned to store water for crops as well as for storage of rain water during rainy season and for recharging of groundwater. Each unit costs Rs 60,000 to Rs 70,000 and the government had earmarked Rs 764.50 crore for Anantapur district alone for digging the ambitious one lakh farm ponds.
Taking the message of the government as a mission, farmers and officials of Anantapur, the lowest rainfall district in the State, have completed construction of 1,04,358 farm ponds. The farmers are now able to protect their standing crops, including horticulture crops.

ICRISAT, which was also involved in the initiative too, noted the positive development in the district. "For Indian farmers reeling under deficit rainfall in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharging structures bring all the relief they can get. The dryland district registered 212.6 mm rainfall this year, a huge deficit of 38.6%. Despite the deficit, smallholder farmers, using integrated water resource management techniques, are reversing the decline in the groundwater table", it said.

The CM, during his visit, sanctioned Rs 200 crore for the supply of water to the irrigation tanks, Rs 80 crore for extension of Avuladatla canal and Rs 5 crore towards preparing DPR for Untakallu Reservoir construction. The CM also unveiled a pylon of a lift irrigation scheme to provide Krishna water to Bhairavanitippa project from Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanti Jeedipalli reservoir in Rayadurgam constituency. Addressing the farmers on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the Bhairavanitippa project would be completed by January to supply Krishna water to Bhairavanitippa to prevent desertification of Rayadurgam constituency.

Addressing the farmers on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that Rayalaseema would be developed as a horticultural hub. He said that the NDA govt failed to release funds for backward districts in the state. He said that central government has taken back the money allotted for backward region in the state.

The Chief Minister, disclosing that Kia Motors being set up in Anantapur district would provide employment opportunity to 25000 people, said that the district would be developed as horticulture, hardware, automobile, industrial and education hub.

Speaking on the occasion Minister Kalava Srinivasulu said the Chief Minister prevented migration of farmers by allotting Rs 969 cr to supply Krishna water to Bhairavani tippa project.

MP JC Diwakara Reddy described Chief Minister as Jaladaata, who brought water to the drought ridden Anantapur district. Ministers Paritala Sunita, Devineni Umamaheswara Rao, Legislative council chief whip Payyavula Kesav, Govt whip Yamini Bala, ZP chairman P Nagaraju, MLAs Parthasaradhi, V Suri, JC Prabhakara Reddy, Eeranna, MLCs Samantakamani, G Tippeswamy and others were present during the event.

An elated Panchayat Raj and IT Minister Nara Lokesh tweeted, "Anantapur District achieved the rare feat of creating 1 lakh farm ponds under the MGNREGA. Heartiest congratulations to DWMA & district officials for pulling this off!".

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In recognition of his passion for development, IT Minister Nara Lokesh has been offered the SR Nathan Fellowship for Study of Singapore at the Institute of Policy Study, Singapore, for next year. Lokesh received the invitation from the island nation’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan.

The Minister will formally accept the offer during his visit to Singapore in the last week of December. The fellowship is tenable for a period of one year during which the Minister would interact with experts from politics and governance, economy and business, family, society and identity arts, and culture, and media.

The fellowship, named after the Singapore’s sixth and longest-serving President, was instituted in 2012. Previous fellows include Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam Vu Van Ninh and Governor of Jeju, a special governing province of Korea, Won Hee-Ryong.

"Honoured to be invited to Singapore under the prestigious SR Nathan Fellowship named after Singapore’s 6th President who played a crucial role in transforming Singapore into a prosperous nation," the Minister tweeted.
The ‘Brand Vizag’ received a global visibility with the successful conduct of Vizag Fintech Festival. The mega event had several brain-storming sessions on fintech, startup ecosystem, digitisation, data security and disruption. We worked hard, did not even celebrate Dussehra. We have made arrangements that the victims get compensation within 20 days of the cyclone. While the state government is making all efforts, it is unfortunate that the Centre is not caring for Titli victims. I hope at least now, justice will be done for technologies.

The festival saw participation of 2,000 delegates representing 20 countries.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who inaugurated the event, said that the city of Visakhapatnam would be developed as an innovation valley and one of the top three fintech centres in the world. The CM said that the State Government was going all out to create the right kind of ecosystem for fintech development in the city and it was giving incentives to entrepreneurs in the field. “Many established companies as well as start-ups are being drawn to the city as a result,” he said and narrated at length the steps being taken by his government to promote IT, particularly blockchain technology, in the state.

State IT Minister Nara Lokesh explained the progress made in the IT sector during the past four years an hour before the inaugural as he closeted with industry captains in a separate hall. His remark in the lighter vein that if Goa, famous for its beaches, were to marry Bangalore, the biggest IT hub of India, then the offspring would be Vizag, was received amid cheers.

The Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) RS Sharma who was present, praised the efforts of Andhra Pradesh Government to leverage latest technologies to provide better governance to the people. IT adviser to the AP Government JA Chowdary, the Principal Secretary (IT) Vijayanand, and several others spoke at the inaugural.

AP inks pact with fintech companies
Several companies signed MoUs at the inaugural of the Vizag Fintech Festival with the Andhra Pradesh Government to launch operations in the State.

HDFC Bank announced a partnership with Andhra Pradesh Electronics IT Agency to promote and nurture start-ups as a part of the State Government’s Fintech Valley initiative.
The MoU was signed by Nara Lokesh, State Minister of Information Technology, and Smita Bhagat, Group Head, e-Commerce, retail banking, of the bank in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. The Bank will partner with the State Government to provide end-to-end solutions like current accounts, credit, and other solutions to start-ups under its SmartUp programme.

Another MoU was signed with Whub to set up an international landing pad in Hong Kong to enable the start-ups from AP to expand operations and leverage the investor ecosystem of Hong Kong.

Another collaboration took place between Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS) and SOSA, to establish landing pads in Israel and NYC - physical operational bases, where start-ups, corporations and government representatives from APIS would have access to the SOSA innovation network and get connected to business opportunities and benefit from tailored business development assistance.

An MoU has also been signed with Sing Ex for hosting innovation festivals in AP. Two foundations - Wadhwani Foundation and Udhyam Association - will also be collaborating with APIS to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and start-ups in AP.

The government will also collaborate with FinTech Association of Hong Kong for leveraging Hong Kong's Fintech ecosystem and building an AP-HK gateway for Fintech start-ups and for knowledge transfer. The Fintech Festival also saw the launches of some of the innovative platforms focusing on the rural youth. While Cardlytics has launched its India operations in the Fintech Valley, with 30 jobs for the time being, DXC has been another unique programme to be launched in connection with rural employment. The pilot project will come up at Anantapur, where jobs will be taken to the rural villages. The project will be further expanded to the remaining districts.

Bridge and Facebook, together have launched a rural entrepreneurs’ programme to identify entrepreneurs from rural areas. Cardlytics (Asia operations), Federal Bank, DXC Tech, Deloitte, Fintech Association of Hong Kong, and Wadhwani Foundation signed MoUs with AP Innovation Society and other agencies. A global core group of 22 entrepreneurs - mostly NRIs from Andhra Pradesh - signed a MoU with the AP Government to set up an innovation hub in the Fintech Valley, Vizag, and provide 1500 jobs to the local youth in the first phase.

Many of the delegates, who came to the city for the first time, found the startup ecosystem amazing and signed MoUs with the State government to make Fintech Valley Vizag, an initiative of the government for creation of a sustainable ecosystem for startups, as a prominent hub.

The Vizag Fintech Festival began with the second edition of the CXO Golf Tournament at East Point Golf Club, as a prelude to the mega event in the field of financial technology.

$1 million startup challenge winners
The winners in the ‘$1 Million Global Startup Challenge’ were given away the prizes at the grand finale after they pitched their ideas. IT Minister N. Lokesh who presented the mementos and prize money said that the State government had instituted the award to bring the best global startups to Fintech Valley Vizag to spread innovation culture. Thirty seven startups from more than 10 countries competed for the $1 Million grant. In agritech category, the first prize went to 3 Bar Biologics. The second and special recognition respectively went to Bee Hero and Fupple Drones.

In Emergetech category, the first prize was bagged by Matssoft Cyber Security Labs. While Desolenator received the second prize, Nanowear was given the special recognition award. In fintech category, the first prize went to NeoEyED and second prize to Lapetus Solutions. Special recognition was bagged by Asset Vault. Two startups each from fintech, agritech andemergetech were chosen winners of the first ever $1 Million Global Startup Challenge. Twenty four startups won $10,000 each while two were tied for $5,000 each. Due to overwhelming response, an additional 11 startups were selected to pitch their ideas at the finale. All the 37 startups had exhibited ideas before 1,500 global delegates comprising of venture capitalists and angel investors. Among others, John Ason, an angel

“The response has exceeded our expectation. Visakhapatnam has become the talking point all over the world. Now, investors are coming forward to invest liberally in fintech sector. It is a big boost to Brand Vizag,” J.A. Chowdary, Special Chief Secretary and IT Adviser to CM.
A Rs 150 Crore Mi LED TV manufacturing plant of Chinese electronics major Xiaomi was inaugurated at Renigunta on October 4 by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu as part of plans to make the temple town an electronic hub of the country.

The plant, operated by Xiaomi’s technology partner Dixon Technologies (India) Limited, would also manufacture closed-circuit television cameras, digital video recorders and smartphones. Set up at a cost of Rs 150 crore at the Electronic Manufacturing Cluster, the plant is expected to employ 800 people, according to officials.

The Chief Minister said his vision was to make Tirupati the electronics manufacturing hub of the country and Special Employment Zone by bringing in more domestic and multi-national software and hardware units.

Speaking on the occasion, Dixon Executive Chairman Sunil Vachani said the plant has a capacity to produce 8.5 lakh LED TVs per annum. It would be more than tripled to 2.7 million units and further scaled up to 3.7 million, he said without specifying any timeframe. He said 10 million CCTV cameras and 2 million digital video recorders would also be manufactured annually.

Later, the Chief Minister also launched smart TV manufactured by Xiaomi Corporation at an event State Information Technology Minister N Lokesh, Industries Minister N Amarnath Reddy, Xiaomi vice-president and Managing Director Manu Jain, IT Principal Secretary K Vijayanand and others attended.

Dixon will also start producing smartphones, washing machines and consumer electronics later and expects to provide people with 1,500 new opportunities once its operations open up wholly.

Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu said, “Andhra Pradesh continues to lead by example when it comes to Ease of Doing Business and the attractive policies for investors in the state which is attracting blue-chip manufacturers in the field from all over the world. I have a vision of making Tirupati an IT Hub offering a one-stop solution for leading electronics players encompassing the entire life cycle of and ecosystem in electronics from design to death. Today, I am delighted to welcome Xiaomi, the undisputed leader of Smart TVs in India along with Dixon Technologies to the city of holy city of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh and to the family of other leading electronics players in the state who will all together help showcase Andhra Pradesh to the world as an example of transparent governance and seamless execution in setting up of projects.”

“Xiaomi’s tremendous success in India has been primarily contributed to our commitment in India and we are proud to take the next step with the support of state...
of Andhra Pradesh. After a successful smartphone journey, we are beginning a new chapter with Mi LED TV manufacturing in India,” said Manu Jain, Vice President, Xiaomi and Managing Director, Xiaomi India.

Nara Lokesh, Minister for Information Technology, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development said he was proud to announce that once again another leader in its field has chosen to set up its manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh. “Our target is to get an ecosystem in state where $250-billion-dollar worth of electronics manufacturing happen in the state of Andhra Pradesh, which is half of country consumption of electronics in India every year. I have no doubt that our esteemed partners like Xiaomi will go a long way in working towards making this dream a reality,” he said.

Sunil Vachani, Executive Chairman, Dixon Technologies (India) Limited thanked the Chief Minister and said that with Dixon’s manufacturing experience and Xiaomi’s innovative solutions, he was sure that the consumers are going to be immensely benefited.

The Dixon plant will start local assembling with Mi LED Smart TV 4A 32 inches and Mi LED Smart 43 inches to start with, according to Manu Jain. He said the company would consider producing more TV models from the Tirupati facility.

Agriculture Minister S Chandramohana Reddy receiving the award from Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been chosen for the prestigious Global Agriculture Leadership award 2018. Dr Swaminathan committee elected AP CM for the award.

Agriculture Minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy on October 24 received the Global Agriculture Leadership Award in the ‘Policy Leadership’ category, at an event held in New Delhi. The Minister received the award on behalf of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The award is given in recognition of the path-breaking policies that address issues of farmers and other stakeholders pro-actively making substantial difference in their lives and contributing to the growth of agriculture. Union Minister for Home Affairs Rajnath Singh presented the award during 11th Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018. On the same occasion, Gadde Satish Babu, a traditional farmer from West Godavari district was presented the Farming Leadership award. He practises age-old traditional farming centred round cattle and raises paddy, maize and coconut in a natural way at his farm in Seethampeta at Dendaluru.

Agriculture Leadership Awards were instituted in 2008 to recognise excellence and leadership roles played by individuals and organisations to empower farmers and bring about rural prosperity. The awards jury was chaired by pioneer of India’s Green Revolution MS Swaminathan. The awards were given away in 15 categories.
Describing Andhra Pradesh as a ‘political victim’ of the arbitrary bifurcation, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in his presentation to the 15th Finance Commission appealed for a special assistance of Rs 69,687 Crore for taking up various projects.

NK Singh, chairperson and members of the 15th Finance Commission visited Amaravati in October and met Chief Minister and concerned officials of Andhra Pradesh government.

CM’s plea includes Rs 37,437 Crore for the capital city, Rs 22,250 Crore for the development of backward districts and Rs 10,000 Crore for road connectivity to sea and all airports.

The State Government pegged the estimated cost of construction of government offices in Amaravati and the creation of social infrastructure, trunk and tier-I infrastructure, land pooling scheme related infrastructure in the capital city at Rs 1,09,023 Crore.

Among other demands, CM sought the grant of the SCS, use of 1971 population as the criterion for devolution of funds, continuation of revenue deficit grants, disaster relief for crop failures and grants for the development of the capital city, backward districts besides other infrastructure.

Applauding that current initiatives of the State Government are credible, timely and speedy, the Finance Commission chief N K Singh, however, expressed his inability to consider SCS issue.

Grant of ‘Special Category Status’ to States is out of purview of the Terms of Reference of the 15th Finance Commission, said Chairman N K Singh. Responding to the questions from the media, he stated that the issue was forcefully raised by the Chief Minister but it would be a transgression of the Presidential Notification by the Commission, if it considers the issue of ‘Special Category’ as it does not figure in its Terms of Reference. Philosophy of ‘Special Category Status’ never emanated from any Finance Commission but from the resolution of erstwhile National Development Council.

The members of the commission, led by chairman N K Singh, included Shaktikanta Das, Anoop Singh, Ashok Lahiri, Ramesh Chand, secretary Arvind Mehta, joint secretaries Mukhmeet Singh Bhatia and Ravi Kota, economic adviser Antony Cyriac and other officials.

The Chief Minister earlier gave a detailed presentation to the members of the 15th FC on the State’s socio-economic situation. He appealed to the members to accord SCS, consider population as per 1971 census and its needs.

Fifteenth Finance Commission will take a sympathetic and positive view towards the needs of Andhra Pradesh to achieve its targets, Singh said. “The Commission believes that current initiatives of the State Government are credible, timely and speedy and for a prosperous India, prosperous Andhra Pradesh is must.” he said. He lauded the contribution of Andhra Pradesh to the national GDP and said that they would do everything possible in constitutional framework to realise the State’s potential. He also

SCS out of purview: Singh

CM Chandrababu Naidu at a meeting with members of the 15th Finance Commission.
appreciated the efforts in harnessing the potential of water resources by interlinking the rivers which is of enormous help for agriculture development.

On the question of populist schemes, he said that Commission will have to delve deeper into it. “There are many Schemes which have become popular with significant outcomes,” he added. At the same time, there are many which result in sub-optimal outcomes. On the question of using population census 2011, he said that it has been mentioned in the TOR and the Commission will look into the ways of incentivising the States who have done well in controlling their population.

Commission appreciated the high growth rate including Agricultural Growth achieved by the State. It exhorted the State Govt to adopt smart agriculture and expand the food processing sector for value addition. Commission understood the huge potential in the State due to its geographical positioning like long coast line, ports and fertile land.

AP needs handholding to contain legacy issues

Earlier, highlighting the impact of bifurcation on the newly created State of Andhra Pradesh, both Chief Minister and Finance Minister said that residuary State of Andhra Pradesh comprising 58.32% of the population inherited only 46% of the revenues of the combined State. This structural disability may continue for more than a decade. Loss of Hyderabad’s ecosystem has led to the loss of urbanisation, service sector and revenue generation capacity. This has resulted in a change in the structure of economy from service to agriculture which in turn has led to slow increase in PCI as compared to other Southern States and the gap with respect to Southern States is increasing. He, therefore said that the special assistance including industrial incentives, infrastructure support and investment in services is required to move on the path of ‘Knowledge plus’ economy. All these factors imply that there is a need of handholding for Andhra Pradesh to sustain the double digit economic growth and achieve the Vision 2029 of reaching 1 trillion dollar economy, he urged. The Chief Minister pleaded for granting Special Category Status to the State which after the bifurcation has turned into a revenue deficit state from a surplus State. He also appealed the Commission to continue the post-devolution revenue deficit grants to break the vicious cycle of huge debt.

Officials in their presentation highlighted the efforts made to incur the necessary capital expenditure in spite of fiscal hardships. Around 73% of the revenue expenditure is development expenditure. During the meeting, State Govt officials put forward following important points:

- Lesser tax buoyancy due to agriculture led growth.
- Post devolution revenue deficit grant of Rs. 4.79 lakh crore which is significantly high as compared to the Rs. 22113 crore RDG given by 14th FC.
- Grants-in-Aid on account of bifurcation - Around Rs. 70,000 crore for new capital City, port connectivity and development of backward districts.
- Increasing the limit of vertical devolution to 50% of divisible pool and inclusion of cess and surcharge.
- Issue of drought prone Rayalseema region and disaster prone Coastal Andhra.
- Grants to Local bodies may be Rs.1000 per capita per annum
- Equal apportionment of unsettled IGST between Centre and States.
The racing extravaganza will be held on the River Krishna from Nov 16 – 18.

Ultimate adrenaline rush to pulsate Krishna waters

**F1H2O WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN AMARAVATI**

F1H2O World Championship is returning to India after 14 years. The sunrise State will host Amaravati F1H2O Grand Prix from 16th-18th Nov 2018, where over 400 power boating champions will battle it out for the prestigious title in the waters of Krishna river.

Amaravati, the upcoming capital city of Andhra Pradesh, is all set to host the much-awaited Powerboat racing of the year, F1H2O. The World Championship is scheduled to take place on November 16th, 17th and 18th, on the River Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. The adrenaline pumping battle will feature teams from Amaravati India, along with seven other major cities across the globe including Portugal, UK, France, Italy, China & UAE.

Formula 1 Powerboat racing (F1H2O) world championship is making a grand comeback to India for the first time since 2004, and is all set to mesmerize the Indian audience and speed aficionados at the picturesque city of Amaravati.

**What is F1H2O World?**

The UIM F1H2O World Championship is the world’s foremost international series of single-seater inshore circuit powerboat racing. Highly competitive, intensely challenging, risky and entertaining, inshore circuit powerboat racing is the ultimate water sport and regarded as one of the most spectacular and exciting races in the world.

Chief Minister N Chadrababu Naidu directed for constitution of a Cabinet sub-committee to ensure grand success of F1H2O powerboat race to be held for the first time on Krishna River waters. The sub-committee will be represented by Ministers of Tourism, Irrigation, Home, Municipal Administration and Fisheries.

Secretary, Department of Tourism, Mukesh Kumar Meena, submitted a report on the proposal and responding to it, the Chief Minister stressed that the event should be organised in a way that it attracts the world’s attention to Amaravati. He has been reviewing the arrangements for the same, every 10 days.

Meena informed that the 500-odd participants would com-
prise 10 teams, each of them represented by 50 members. Elaborate arrangements were being made for nearly 1 lakh viewers and the seating space would be segregated into VVIP, VIP, media and other category galleries and nearly 4,500 rooms had been booked in hotels located in Vijayawada and Guntur cities to accommodate the visitors.

Amaravati Team
The Tourism Department came out with names of two racers, Jonas Andersson and Erik Edin, who will represent Amaravati in the Grand Prix F1H2O World Championship Powerboat Race, 2018. Andersson and Edin are ranked seventh and eighth respectively in F1H2O Drivers Championship Leader Board and Team Amaravati is placed third in the world rankings. The race is aimed at boosting the State’s tourism and promoting the nascent Amaravati globally. As many as 350 international guests and journalists are attending the event.

According to APTDC CEO Himanshu Shukla, foreign drivers were hired because the State and country did not have many professional racers. The Tourism wing viewed this platform as an ample opportunity to promote not only Amaravati as a tourist destination but also introduce Andhra cuisine to the visitors from abroad. “We are planning on an elaborate food menu which will be finalised soon.” Separate pavilions and galleries would be arranged to accommodate everybody ensuring they would get a proper view of the race.

The tourism department is raising funds through private sponsors. “We have raised about Rs 2 Crore from private sponsors and expect Rs 5-6 Crore more,” said Shukla.

When the previous Agile Grand Prix, in which Jonas Andersson had clinched the fourth place, concluded, the F1H2O flag was handed over to Team Amaravati as a symbolic gesture indicating that the competition will continue in Krishna waters. The tourism department has planned another symbolic welcoming gesture by roping in 50,000 students to form a human chain at the opening ceremony of the event.

Splendid debut
Team Amaravati pushed the limits and came out triumph at UIM F1H2O World championship - Agile Grand Prix of Xiangyang, China. Team Amaravati made a stunning debut at the BRM qualifications round on 22nd September, with the lead & fastest driver Jonas Andersson. The main race held on 23rd September with 39 laps saw Andersson clinching the fourth spot, missing the podium finish by a whisker to Team Abu Dhabi. Team head and driver Jonas Andersson and partner Erik Edin have put up an admirable performance and are all set to heat up the competition. Teams are formulating intense strategies to perform at the Indian battle and showcase their talent for Indian viewers. The Indian edition of F1H2O Motorboat Racing is organized in association with India Extreme Adventure Activities Private Limited and Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department.
HCL begins work on AP project

- Will provide 7,500 jobs in ten years
- Company to attract local talent

India's third largest Information Technology firm HCL Technologies laid the foundation stone for a new global IT development and training centre at Vijayawada.

IT services major HCL Technologies said that it will set up a Global IT development centre at Gannavaram in Andhra Pradesh, which will help create more than 7,500 jobs. IT Minister Nara Lokesh laid foundation stone for HCL's IT Development Centre in October.

The state government had signed an agreement with HCL Technologies for the project last year. Spread over 29.86 acres, the new centre is envisaged as part of Andhra Pradesh's drive to create a new IT hub.

As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), HCL will invest over Rs 700 Crore to develop two facilities in the state -- in Vijayawada and at Amravati - in phases over the next few years, according to a statement released by HCL Technologies. A skill development centre with a 1,000-seat capacity will also be developed as part of the pact, it added.

In the first phase, the Noida-based company will invest Rs 400 crore to build a Research & Development centre in Kesarapalli village in Gannavaram. The facility is expected to accommodate more than 4,000 IT professionals.

The phase-I commenced with the foundation stone laying ceremony on October 8 and is expected to be completed in seven years’ time.

The phase-II will be taken up later in Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh in a campus of 20 acres. The investment for this phase is expected to be Rs 350 Crore and will employ about 3,500 IT professionals in five years’ time.

HCL Technologies had surpassed Wipro to become India's third-largest software service provider in terms of dollar revenue. The company clocked $2.05 billion topline in the April-June quarter, which is higher than Wipro's $2.02 billion revenue in the same period.

In September, HCL said that its joint venture with US-based State Street Corporation will hire 1,000 graduates and post graduates to run its new IT centre at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The facility will serve global clients of HCL Technologies.

Nara Lokesh, Minister for Information Technology and Communications in Andhra Pradesh government, said the state will provide all the required support to HCL to help the company quickly set up their campus and grow it into one of their largest delivery centres across the globe.

"The creation of this Global Centre is aligned with our strategic vision to expand and create opportunities in the emerging cities. We are confident that HCL Global Centre..."
in Vijayawada will be one of the best IT centres in the industry in the coming years," Executive Director and CEO of HCL Corporation Roshni Nadar Malhotra said.

Through its 'come back home' campaign, HCL plans to attract talent who belong to Vijayawada and provide them with careers in areas of application and product development, including new technologies on demand.

The company will invest in creating a training centre for fresh engineering graduates from local colleges, the statement said.

HCL Technologies vice-president Srimathi Shivashankar in an interview with the New Indian Express said that HCL centre will contribute to the State government’s vision to create 1,00,000 jobs in IT industry and 2,00,000 jobs in the electronics industry. “We are going to create over 5,000 jobs in the first phase. The recruitment process has already begun.” She added the recruited candidates would be imparted skill training. “We will train them and get them ready for research and development (R & D),” she explained. When asked why Vijayawada was chosen for establishing the centre ahead of the IT hub Visakhapatnam, she stated three reasons— “Vijayawada is growing fast and we want to contribute to the growth and reap benefits as well. Secondly, there are a lot of IT firms here, which is an added advantage when it comes to recruiting new talent. We have managed to secure a site near the Gannavaram airport, which is another advantage for us,” she explained.

“Our research and development work aims at developing technologies for many areas such as health, transportation and telecommunications,” she added. HCL’s R&D works include financial services, manufacturing, telecommunications, media, publishing, entertainment, retail & CPG, health care, oil and gas etc.

Under a joint collaboration between the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) Industrial Training Center and Johnson Controls - Hitachi Air Conditioning India Limited (JCH-IN), skill training on air conditioning repair and maintenance course has been launched. Gurmeet Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, JCH-IN, and K Sambasiva Rao, APSSDC MD & CEO inaugurated the model skill development center in Govt ITI College, Vijayawada in October.

Speaking on this occasion, K Sambasiva Rao said that Hitachi Company has started the first phase across the State to provide training in Air Conditioning repair and maintenance courses in five ITI colleges. Already two model Skill Development Centers were started in Kakinada and Vijayawada. The next phase would have centers in Nellore, Anantapur and Vishakhapatnam by end of next year. “There is good demand for the AC Repair division in the market. We hope trainees will benefit from Hitachi’s technical expertise,” he said. He also suggested that youth should take advantage of the skill training provided by a large organization like Hitachi. More centers would be set up across the state. Under this programme, the organization is giving training to 30 students for 3 months in AC Repair and Maintenance. Gurmeet Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, JCH-IN thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for providing technical training for youth in the State as part of Corporate Social Responsibility. There is lack of professional service in the market for AC repairing and maintenance though there is a great demand for it,” he said. In order to meet the demand, we have come up with an APSSDC to train young people in the state, he said. APSSDC Executive Director Anil Kumar, ITI College Principal Radha Krishna and others were present during the launch of the programme.
There’s an age-old adage, attributed to Sri Krishnadeva Raya, which says, “Desha Bhashalandu Telugu Lessa (Telugu is the best among all the national languages),” and the way the every Telugu word ends with a vowel gives it a certain romantic touch. It’s little wonder that the language sounds sweet and pleasant to listen to. With more than 25 different dialects, the rich history of Telugu is well-documented, and the language itself continues to thrive across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. However, over the years, Telugu film industry’s track record when it comes to embracing various regional dialects has been rudimentary at best. For nearly three decades, it was a common practice to make supporting characters or villains speak in a distinct regional dialect, but the lead actors stuck to a neutral-dialect. And all this makes you wonder about the politics of culture and language, and why films like Pellichoopulu, Arjun Reddy, Fidaa, Rangasthalam, C/O Kancharapalem, and Aravindha Sametha are significant in addressing this barrier.

In the past few days, Jr NTR- starrer Aravindha Sametha has been in the spotlight for its focus on the Rayalaseema dialect, and it truly was a cut above the rest compared to others films set in a similar backdrop. At a recent event, writer and lyricist Penchal Das thanked Jr NTR for speaking in an authentic Rayalaseema dialect in Aravindha Sametha, and added, “Although there were several films set in Rayalaseema in the past, none of the heroes in the past spoke our dialect. It was only restricted to the villains. I must thank Trivikram Srinivas and Jr NTR for making an effort to reflect the beauty of Rayalaseema dialect through this film.” Penchal Das, who works as a teacher in Kadapa district in Rayalaseema region, was brought onboard to write lyrics for couple of songs and tweak the dialogues to bring a strong Rayalaseema flavour, and director Trivikram Srinivas was so impressed with him that Penchal Das was also entrusted with a task to ensure authenticity of dialect spoken by the actors in Aravindha Sametha.

“Penchal Das’ contribution to the film is immense. Everyone lives in a village, but there’s a village in Penchal Das himself, and that’s what...
added so much flavour to the film. He introduced me several new Telugu words like Papodu (young boy) & Sagiripoddhu (midnight), and I can’t explain how thrilled I was to learn something new from him,” Trivikram Srinivas said. Ask him if he ever had second thought about the extensive use of the Rayalaseema dialect since not everyone is well versed with it, and he says, “We did think about it, but we wanted to take the risk to retain the authenticity. Sometimes, even if you don’t understand a word, you’ll understand its meaning. Telugu is our mother tongue, and subconsciously, we are wired to understand the language and its various dialects even if they don’t know everything about them.”

Then, there’s 2018’s biggest blockbuster, Rangasthalam, where Ram Charan spoke the Godavari dialect and it was imperative that he do so since the film, directed by Sukumar, was set in the ’80s in a village on the banks of Godavari. Venkatesh Maha’s C/O Kancharapalem, which was set in a suburb of Vizag, too was applauded for its authenticity. Apart from Aravindha Sametha, which delved into a dialect spoken commonly in Kadapa & Anantapur districts, Merlapaka Gandhi’s Krishnarjuna Yuddham, starring Nani, delved into another dialect spoken primarily in Chittoor district. The difference between the two might be subtle, but the accents and how a character stresses on particular words gives the language a different nuance altogether.

Putting it in perspective, SV Srinivas, who teaches at the School of Liberal Arts, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, says, “Dialects and accents are usually a geographical indicator of where a story is set in. One of the earliest films where the Godavari dialect became instantly popular was Muthyala Muggu where Rao Gopal Rao mouthed the dialogues to perfection. For quite some time, the dialect from East and West Godavari districts asserted are directly related to mainstream political effects are visible in mainstream cinema and therefore, in films. Films like Fidaa, Pellichoopulu, and Arjun Reddy normalised the dialect so much that it’s become a mainstay in Telugu films in general. “During the Telangana statehood movement, there was a lot of debate about how the Telangana culture and dialect was being ridiculed in mainstream Telugu cinema, and it made a lot of difference in subsequent years. You know that you can’t get away with it anymore, and when you become sensitive to something, you begin to see a lot of change in various fields. Among all the films in recent times, Arjun Reddy was quite significant because it normalised the Telangana dialect without trying too hard. The film doesn’t try to reflect the region. A part of the film unfolds in Mangalore, and yet, the characters speak the Telangana dialect,” SV Srinivas says.

Talking about how the Telangana dialect became a rage among the audience, Rahul Ramakrishna, who shot to fame with his role in Arjun Reddy, adds, “More than conscious imbibing or being an USP, sub regional linguistic assertions are directly related to mainstream political developments. The Telangana dialect and its usage is gaining more legitimacy than ever post the formation of the state. Whatever happens on a political podium, its effects are visible in mainstream cinema and therefore, instantly taken up for consumption by the audience at large. Needless to say, it is a welcome development and perhaps, a long cherished one.”

Whether it’s a conscious attempt to add realism to the story or to represent different regions by bringing in a strong local flavour, the sound of Telugu is slowly changing in films these days. Perhaps, it’s also a medium to revive our interest in language and its beauty. In an event, writer Penchal Das said, “My friends were thrilled to hear proper Rayalaseema dialect on screen after a long time. One of them became quite nostalgic when he heard the word ‘Jeji’ (Grandmother). Probably very few people use that word anymore.” Amen!

- Hemanth Kumar C R
Commemorating the birth anniversary of late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has given away Pratibha Awards to students who exhibited meritorious performance in Class 10 and Intermediate examinations. The event took place amid thousands of students on October 15 at Ongole, Prakasam district.

Addressing the huge gathering of youngsters, CM exhorted to draw inspiration from the former President APJ and chart out a great career for themselves and also become active contributors to the progress of ‘Navyandhra’. Chandrababu Naidu announced that those opting for employment with the State government could serve till they attain 61 years instead of 60 like the rest of employees, to which the crowd cheered.

An year of service more for Pratibha Awardees who crack public sector job.
CM vows to make Andhra Pradesh the numero uno - Digital State by 2019.
Each district to be given Rs 10 Crore to nurture talent from grassroots levels.
All educational institutions in AP will soon have NAAC accreditation.

CM shared his vision of turning Andhra Pradesh into a digital state by 2019 while he personally handed over the merit certificates to 60 awardees under different categories including 20 students from Government and Aided Junior Colleges.

CM recollected that it was heartening that Dr Kalam had mentioned his role in convincing then Prime Minister A B Vajpayee to get the former elected to the high office. He said, he had developed the ‘Vision 2020’ for the State and also provided valuable inputs to Dr Kalam for Indian Vision 2020.

Assuring the youth all needed infrastructure in the educational institutions and a conducive atmosphere for their talents to flourish, he endeared himself to them saying “I don't want you to be treated as mere robots. With WiFi facility and laptops, you can study at your own pace at the time you wish,” said CM.

He wanted them to make the best use of the ‘Yuvanestham scheme’ to improve their employability with appropriate skills and turn the State into an ‘innovation valley’. Each district would be provided Rs. 10 crore to spot and nurture innovation at the grassroots level, he added.

Chandrababu also took the stage to express his dissatisfaction over the amenities and infrastructure that is promised for 11 national-level educational institutions that are sanctioned by the Centre. He opined that the Centre has been neglecting the needs of Andhra Pradesh whilst appreciating private players who are coming forward in taking the education levels in the State to another level.
AP improves ranking in Corruption index

Named as the third least corrupt State in 2018

- The State makes progress in curbing the rate of corruption according to the Indian Corruption Survey -2018.
- Andhra Pradesh stands at third place as the least corrupt State in India.
- AP was ranked at 19, in the same category of index in the year 2017.
- Local Circles in collaboration with Transparency International India conducted the online national survey.

According to a survey conducted by Transparency International India and Local Circles, Andhra Pradesh State improved and stood third to be the least corrupt State in the country.

To ascertain the level of corruption in the country and check the citizen pulse on it, a survey has been taken out. The data collected from the survey has been compiled in a comprehensive report called the ‘India Corruption Survey 2018’. Over 160,000 responses were received from over 50,000 unique citizens.

The survey has been conducted at an opportune time as the new Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been passed by the Indian Parliament and it is set to transform the anti-corruption regime in the country. Along with that, since India’s ranking in the Corruption Perception Index 2017 has slid down from 79th to 81st position, it is essential to understand the ever-widening spread of corruption and address the issues at hand swiftly. About 45% citizens of the country had paid bribes, according to the last year’s survey. But this year’s survey reveals a definite and noticeable increase in the number of times bribes are paid by the citizens either directly or indirectly. The increased percentage of citizens is 54%.

According to the survey, 58% of the citizens said their states had no anti-corruption helpline. Whereas as many as 33% said they were not aware of the presence of such helpline in their states. This shows the lack of will from the states to ensure that citizens become aware of corruption issues and get involved in the fight against corruption by reporting cases and instances of bribery and corruption. Thankfully, Andhra Pradesh’s ACB has a strong presence among its public and is quite active over the years.

Cash as the primary mode

It seems cash is still the primary mode of bribery because around 39% paid cash as bribery, followed by bribes through agents (25%), bribes in kind (1%). Police authorities have been paid the most bribes by the citizens in the last year (25%), followed by municipal corporations, property registrations and other authorities (electricity board, transport office, tax office etc.).

Comparison of 2017 and 2018 India Corruption Survey

Last year 51% citizens said no steps were taken by their government to reduce corruption. That number stands at 48% this year. In 2017, 30% paid bribes to police, 27% to municipality and 27% for property registration. This year, 25% paid bribes to police, 18% to municipality and 30% for property registration. About 36% this year and last year said giving bribes was the only way to get their work done. The percentage of citizens who said they did not have to pay a bribe to get their work done also reduced from last year’s 43% to 39% this year. Cash is still the king with 39% in both 2017 and 2018 using cash as the primary mode of bribe transaction.

However, three departments- revenue, police and municipal corporations- remained the most corruption-prone departments of the State, despite measures taken.

This trend indicates that the government had not taken concrete measures to abolish corruption in the departments by increasing vigil. In the report released recently, the survey body said 38 per cent of residents of the State, who participated in the survey, admitted to giving bribes to get their work done. “Corruption is rampant in registration departments, police, corporation and others such as electricity, transport, tax office and health,” said people who took part in the survey.

Expressing satisfaction over the rank, Andhra Pradesh DGP, RP Thakur said, the collective measures taken by Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) paid off well and contributed to the latest rankings -third out of 13 States, where the survey was conducted. Thakur further said, “We are focusing on providing transparent and efficient governance to the public. In this regard, we are improving the facilities and using social media to reach the public in bringing awareness against corruption. With public participation, we can fight against corruption. Unlike in the past, there is an increase in the number of people coming forward. Over the years, there is more publicity about ACB and people are eventually approaching as well as lodging complaints against corruption.”
Andhra Pradesh’s iconic scheme, ‘Mukhya Mantri- Yuva Nestham’ went off to a successful start after Chief Minister inaugurated it on October 2 at a massive event involving thousands of youngsters. The mega scheme targeting the unemployed youth of the State will now credit Rs 1000 directly to the beneficiaries, as an encouragement.

Besides distributing dole to the youth, the State government is also ensuring that they are all trained in varied skills for further prospects. The scheme was simultaneously launched by the MLAs across 175 assembly constituencies of the State. CM distributed unemployment allowance certificates to 400 beneficiaries gathered from all 13 districts of the State.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said that the generation is fortunate to live in an inspiring time of fourth industrial revolution of IoT and artificial intelligence. “Many young graduates are in dilemma about their careers due to lack of guidance. Yuva Nestham will fill the gap and assure help to the graduates. Though the scheme has not been successful in other States before, the AP government has the advantage of technology to put things in place ensuring transparency. Until October 28, nearly 9.5 lakh people have registered and over 3 lakh of them were paid Rs.1000 each. Getting on this platform will be a major leap for you all to plan the rest of the career after graduation. We will integrate the skill development corporation to help candidates find jobs and facilitate convergence of all the departments,” he said.

As knowledge economy plays a key role in future, the government of AP is going to streamline the universities to meet the global standards, he mentioned. “Yuva Nestham is one scheme that is close to my heart. Through this platform I want to nurture you all in a way that you become an example to the world,” said he.

Stating that ‘knowledge is supreme’, the Chief Minister

- The allowance of Rs 1000 credited to over 3 lakh beneficiaries directly to their bank accounts every month
- CM distributes allowance certificates to 400 beneficiaries during the launch
- Along with dole, unemployed youth are given training under skill development programmes
- Hone your skills for employment opportunities: CM
appealed to the youth to dream high and strive to achieve them. Emphasizing on the need for skilled human resources, the Chief Minister assured that Andhra Pradesh would be a pool of opportunities for educated and skilled personnel. Local talent would be picked up on priority for employment opportunities in the industries to be set-up in the State.

The Chief Minister said that Mukhya Mantri –Yuva Nestam programme was launched to empower the youth, who play a key role in the development of the country. The average age in the country will stand at 29 years by 2029. “Sky is the limit for the youth in the State and they should make use of opportunities like Yuva Nestam for innovation, incubation and to improve your skills. Keep updating your knowledge and stay competitive to meet the global demand”, he added.

Stating that the Mukyamantri Yuva nestam program is close to his heart, the Chief Minister said that he introduced Information Technology two decades ago as a result of which lakhs of youth got employment worldwide. The Chief Minister explained how Andhra Pradesh is attracting global companies and described the manufacturing facilities like Kia motors in Anantapur district and Foxconn in Sri City & Brandix in Visakhapatnam district.

There was an interactive session with the students during the event, where Chief Minister resolved some of their doubts and instilled confidence assuring jobs. He said that the program will be implemented continuously until there’s an opportunity for every eligible and skilled youth. When a youth asked the Chief Minister about his goal at his college days, the Chief Minister answered that he always wants to become an IAS officer but was later on attracted towards politics. “I worked hard in the constituency and got elected as an MLA and later as a Minister. It is all about of hard work and persistence, anyone can achieve anything that they dream of”, added the CM.

Chief Minister then released AP Youth Policy document on the same occasion.

Dr NTR University allotted land in Amaravati

The Group of Ministers, headed by Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, at a meeting held at Secretariat on October 24, cleared the land allotment proposals in Amaravati Capital City for various institutions and organisations. A total of 126 acres were allotted for 20 organisations.

The GOM-headed by Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu-allotted 50 acres to Dr NTR University of Health Sciences, 25 acres for the housing of accredited journalists and 5.56 acres were given to Bharat Scouts and Guides. According to a press note issued by the government, prices of the lands were fixed between Rs 10 lakh per acre and Rs 4 crore per acre, depending on the institution. The GOM resolved to fix the per-acre cost of the land to be given to NABARD at Rs 2 Crore.

The press release added lands were allotted to Ramakrishna Mission, Higher Education Department, AP Fibernet, Canara Bank, Vijaya Bank, Amaravati Educational and Cultural Academy, AP Financial Systems and Services, AP State Disaster Response and Fire Services and some private institutions.

Previously, 1,374.96 acres of land was allocated to 85 institutions. While the institutions were supposed to pay Rs 506 crore, the APCRDA received Rs 386 crore so far. “If the institutions don’t launch the works after being given the land, we will serve notices. If they don’t respond, we will take back the lands,” Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana said.

Minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao said that the total value of these projects based on the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by the institutions is estimated as Rs 45,678 crore. The Minister said that some of the institutions which got land already started construction and some other are under progress.

At the same time, the CRDA also found that some institutions are yet to start construction works. He said that the CRDA will serve notices to such institutions, which did not commence construction works. If the CRDA were not satisfied with their explanation, then the allotted land will be cancelled as per the stipulated rules and regulations, he warned.

The Minister said that 20 institutions of the Government of India applied for the land and GoM approved 182 acres to 15 central Public Sector Undertakings. Another 12 institutes from state government were allotted 80 acres, while 2 state PSUs applied for which 8 acres were allotted.

The GoM had already approved 650 acres of land for establishment of four universities. Another 4 health institutions also sought government land and they got 277 acres.
Rescue & Relief for Cyclone-affected Srikakulam

For he **STANDS** beside the **NEEDY**...
Bringing memories of Hudhud cyclone, when he lived in a bus monitoring the relief works and brought back Vizag to normalcy in an incredibly short time, the CM this time too was on the spot, making great difference to the way the relief and restoration work was carried out.

The district bore the brunt of cyclone Titli on October 11, triggering gales which moved with a speed of 120 km causing extensive damage.

With CM’s active presence and guidance, not only were the victims provided with all rations required on the spot, but also were uprooted trees removed, power lines restored and ex gratia announced for the losses suffered without waste of time.

Titli cyclone left as many as 2.25 lakh families in about 18 mandals across Srikakulam district with severe troubles. As per official estimations, 9.07 lakh people in 202 villages in 18 mandals were affected due to cyclone. About 8,962 houses were damaged, a stretch of 290 km roads was destroyed, 386 trees fell and 80 minor irrigation projects and tanks were damaged. Power supply was affected in six towns and 319 villages. Cell phone networks of BSNL, and private telecom companies were affected, sending the communication out of gear for two days.

The Chief Minister jumped into action as soon as the cyclone warning was received by alerting the administration to buckle up for the calamity. The CM who returned from Anantapur district after laying the foundation for Jeedipalli-Byravani Tippa Lift Irrigation Scheme, started reviewing the situation in Srikakulam immediately on the same day late in the night. He was in constant touch with officials of ISRO, Real-Time Governance and alerted the Collectors of both Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts.

The CM appealed to people in the cyclone-affected villages to be alert to prevent loss of life and directed the officials to take up relief and rehabilitation works in the affected regions. He asked the people to provide the necessary information and cooperate with the officials in taking up the necessary relief measures.

The very next day, the Chief Minister was up in the field, flying to Srikakulam, inspecting the relief measures in affected regions. He went around on foot to Palasa region of Srikakulam district, crossing the main road and other important junctions of the town. He also inspected the damage in Akkupalli village of Vajrakothur mandal which witnessed major devastation including the damage of
cashew nut topes and coconut trees.

He issued immediate orders for necessary assistance to the villagers and farmers who suffered severe losses. 25 Kg rice was provided to the BPL families and 50 Kg to the families of the fishermen community without further delay. Besides, 1 Kg dal, 1 L palm oil, 1 Kg potatoes, and 1 Kg onions and 1/2 Kg sugar were distributed to BPL families in cyclone-affected regions. Milk was made available to children. Rs. 5 Lac ex gratia was announced as grant to family members of the 7 persons killed due to the calamity.

As the CM camped in Palasa, the work on the restoration of basic facilities began in right earnest. More than 50% of the power supply was restored the very next day. A nodal officer was appointed in-charge of every mandal to supervise relief operations.

The CM landed at Itchchapuram the next day, and started inspecting devastation caused by the cyclone Titli, along with the paddy crops destroyed because of Bahuda river floods in Savaradevipet.

At Rajapuram village, the villagers informed CM about uprooted coconut and cashew trees. The Chief Minister assured the villagers that the State government will carry out all the restoration works.

Even though 25,000 electric poles were reported to be damaged, thousands of workers were brought in from other districts to restore the infrastructure in emergency mode.

The CM announced that asbestos sheets would be distributed free of cost to fishermen to help with the repairing of their houses. 100 Deputy Collectors were pressed into service to take part in cyclone relief operations.

The Chief Minister addressed people at Lollaputtuga, Balliputtuga, Patavaraka, Manikyaputtuga, Borivanka, and Sompeta and interacted with them on the relief measures. Feedback was collected from people to know whether they received water and food. Restoration of power supply was assured.

**Relief steps for Titli-hit farmers**

The Chief Minister announced a compensation of Rs 20,000 per hectare of paddy crop as against Rs 10,000 paid all these years for the damage caused by Titli. He said the compensation would be Rs 25,000 per hectare of cashew crop and Rs 1,200 for each fallen coconut tree and Rs 30,000 for banana per acre. The compensation to be paid to the farmers for crop losses would be as follows: Rs 20,000 for paddy per acre, Rs 30,000 for banana per acre, Rs 40,000 for horticulture per acre, Rs 1,200 per each coconut tree, Rs 25,000 for cashew per acre.

The government would pay Rs 30,000 per each cattle shed while Rs 30,000 would be paid as compensation for loss of each cattle. Similarly Rs 3,000 compensation would be paid to each goat and sheep loss.

At a review meeting at Palasa on the third day of his field tour, the CM promised to ensure crop insurance to all the farmers and asked them to concentrate on inter cropping to generate more income. He promised to pay Rs 2 lakh for the fishermen who lost their boats. The compensation will be Rs 6 lakh for motor boats and Rs 10,000 for each net. Aqua farmers will get Rs 30,000 compensation per hectare to recover from the damage.

He directed officials to pay Rs 10,000 for damaged houses, supply 25 kg rice to each family and 50 kg rice for the families of the fishermen community. K. Ram Mohan Naidu, MP, urged the appointment of survey teams to assess the crop and property damage in villages.

New houses worth Rs. 1.5 Lac will be sanctioned to the victims who lost shelter in the devastation caused by the cyclone. Partially damaged houses will be compensated with Rs. 10,000.
He held a teleconference with authorities to assess public satisfaction with relief and restoration activities being carried out at the affected areas.

Several Ministers including Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, P. Pullarao, Chinarajappa, Kala Venkataraao and others toured extensively in the cyclone-affected areas. They consoled the families and assured helping hand in all aspects.

Collector K. Dhananjaya Reddy and Joint Collector KVN Chakradhar Babu said the assessment process would begin very soon.

Officials took up geotagging of the damaged. Report on the damage caused by Titli will be submitted to the government of India and NDRF.

The CM said that horticulture experts’ advice would be taken to restore plants. Vamsadhara and Bahuda rivers will be interlinked at a cost of Rs. 1,200 Cr and water will be supplied to 1.5 Lac acres in Itchhapuram, he added.

**AP urges Centre to release Rs 1,200 crores**

The State government requested the Centre to release Rs 1,200 crore as interim relief for restoration measures in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts that were battered by cyclone Titli.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said, “The devastating cyclone has hit north coastal Andhra Pradesh, badly damaging the infrastructure and derailing normal life in the region, especially in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts.” The CM said the cost of damaged properties, crops and infrastructure has tentatively worked out to be Rs 2,800 crore.

Horticulture was the worst hit with damages to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore followed by agriculture (Rs 800 crore), power sector (Rs 500 crore), roads and buildings, panchayat raj, rural water supply, irrigation (Rs 100 crore each), animal husbandry and fisheries Rs (50 crore each), the Chief Minister said further.

“The state government has already started rescue and relief operations on a war-footing and I am personally camping in these districts, visiting the affected areas and supervising the relief and restoration operations,” the CM said.

In view of the severe damages to life, property and infrastructure, he urged the Centre to “liberally and expeditiously” sanction the relief so as to minimise the misery of the people.

**The Damage**

According to official information, eight people (seven in Srikakulam district and one in Vizianagaram) were killed in the very severe cyclonic storm. In all, 290 km of roads were damaged along with 8,962 houses, 80 minor irrigation sources and 16 rural water supply tanks. The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) suffered damage to its infrastructure in Srikakulam district.

Agriculture crops in 1,39,844 hectares, including paddy in 1,36,531 hectares, was damaged in Srikakulam while crops in 308 hectares were lost in Vizianagaram district.

**CM writes to PM Modi**

CM appealed Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare cyclone Titli as a national calamity, while demanding Rs 1200 crore as interim relief. He also requested the central government to depute teams to assess damage from the cyclone in the state.

The CM wrote a second letter...
We worked hard, did not even celebrate Dussehra. While the state government is making all efforts, it is unfortunate that the Centre is not caring for Titli victims. I hope at least now, justice will be done.

- Chief Minister

on October 21 to PM Modi making the demand after he wrote the first letter on October 13.

The CM stated that the total damage due to cyclone Titli amounts to Rs 3,435.29 crore (electricity Rs 505.05 crore, roads and buildings Rs 406.32 crore, panchayat raj and rural development Rs 140.55 crore, agriculture Rs 802.13 crore, horticulture Rs 1000 crore, animal husbandry Rs 50 crore, fisheries Rs 50 crore, rural water supply Rs 100 crore, irrigation Rs 100 crore, house damages Rs 220.49 crore, ex-gratia (human loss) Rs 55 lakh, civil supplies Rs 50 lakh, medical and health Rs 1.07 crore, municipal administration and sanitation Rs 8.58 crore).

He added that besides organising relief activity, evaluation of damage is in progress. 35 IAS officers, 107 deputy collectors and other staff were deployed in the cyclone-affected areas for close monitoring relief, restoration and enumeration work.

He said that the relief package implemented for 2.25 lakh families, covering 14.5 per cent population, includes gratuitous relief of Rs 5 lakh given to the family members of deceased. Essential commodities include 50 kg rice, one kg each of potato and onion, one litre palmolein oil and half a kg sugar. Rs 2.5 lakh for each damaged house, Rs 30,000 per hectare for crop damage and horticulture crop, Rs 1500 per coconut tree and Rs 800 per toddy tree included.

The relief package includes Rs 30,000 per dead animal, Rs 3000 per goat and sheep, Rs 10,000 per damaged cattle shed and Rs 1 lakh for a new cattle shed. Coming to poultry sector, Rs 150 per bird and Rs 75 per bird (broiler), Rs 10,000 poultry shed repair, Rs 15 lakh for new shed and Rs 7.5 lakh for (broilers).

Andhra delegation calls on PMO, seeks immediate aid

The State government delegation comprising relief commissioner D Varaprasad and resident commissioner of AP Bhavan Praveen Prakash called on joint secretary to Prime Minister Debashree Mukherjee and Cabinet secretary PK Sinha and submitted CM Chandrababu Naidu’s letters to the Prime Minister. They also submitted preliminary reports on the damage done by the cyclone.

Expressing deep concern over the extensive devastation caused by Titli cyclone in Srikakulam district, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu appealed to the people to donate liberally for relief and rehabilitation works. “This is high time for all of us to extend our total support to the cyclone victims of Srikakulam,” Naidu said.

In an open letter to people, he said the cyclone victims of Srikakulam had not lost their self-confidence despite the trail of destruction left by the severe cyclonic storm. “It is time for all of us to come forward and extend all possible help to the cyclone victims,” he said.

Explaining the steps taken by the government to restore normalcy in the cyclone-affected areas, he said despite submission of a report to the Centre seeking Rs 1,200 crore as interim relief, there was no response from the Prime Minister.

A delegation from the central government led by Home Ministry Joint Secretary Sanjeev Kumar Jindal visited Srikakulam district to take stock of the damage caused by Cyclone Titli. The seven-member team later met with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in the state’s capital Amaravati. Jindal said that the team was satisfied with rescue and relief operations that were carried out by the state government and said that they would submit a detailed report to the Centre.
Indisputably, Araku is the most celebrated hill station in Andhra Pradesh. For not just being the most beautiful location alone, this ‘Ooty of Andhra’ has a lot to offer on its platter. The mountains and valleys, put together under a thick blanket of clouds and lush green carpets have rich culture of Tribals infused with great coffee fragrances wafting all over the region.

Araku is a valley in the Eastern Ghats, located 111 kilometers to the west of Vizag, inhabiting several Tribals. The region is earmarked for preserving the culture of the residents, who, till date keep up with their traditions and are inseparable part of the tourism there. The valley is spread across 36 kilometers and is settled at an altitude of 1300 meters above sea level.

Araku alone is a beautiful destination to spend an entire weekend or more but clubbing it with city tour of Visakhapatnam will make the visit worthwhile. What could be more productive as a holiday for a long weekend or for an entire week!

There are uncountable options to pick from when in
Visakhapatnam, ranging from Buddhist heritage to Naval Museums and Submarine tours. The APTDC has been working majorly to expand the facilities and begin some, to attract more number of international visitors. A 200-years old shipwreck site near Bheemunipatnam, 45 kilometers away from city is another latest discovery made in the city of destiny that is being thronged by enthusiastic divers. There is also a facility to kayak on the beach waters in Vizag.

**The Vistadome Coach**

Another reason why one should visit Araku is because of the Vistadome coach. Araku now has on offer an enthralling experience even before you reach there. The coach with glass windows on either side of the Visakhapatnam – Kiranud – Visakhapatnam 58501/02 passenger train gives a wonderful view for the traveler. The see-through glass coach offers panoramic views of the hills and valleys. Araku is best visited by train for its exhilarating experience as it passes through the tunnels. One passenger will have to pay Rs 1130 for to and fro tickets to travel in Vistadome. But ensure that you fix your schedule for departure in alignment with the train’s, in order to experience vistadome. It is also advisable to book tickets for the train well in advance.

**Araku Coffee**

The Coffee produced at Araku has a history that dates back to 18th century. In 1898, the British introduced Coffee to East Godavari district in Pamuleru before it spread to Araku in the early 19th century. After independence, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department has took up Coffee plantation in the valley and by 1956, Coffee Board appointed Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) for its promotion through local tribal farmers.

**Tollywood Connection**

Since time immemorial, several feature films were shot across the picturesque locales of Araku predominantly. Over the years, Araku has also emerged as the best alternative destination to foreign locales for picturising songs. Many notable films of Tollywood were shot in the valley and to name a few, Prabhas- starrer ‘Darling’ film was majorly shot in a house set-up for the only purpose of shooting. Allu Arjun’s ‘Parugu’, Mahesh Babu’s ‘Arjun’, Sekhar Kammula’s ‘Happy Days’ and ‘Life is Beautiful’ were a few films to name some.

**Must see**
- Tyda
- Anantagiri forests
- Botanical Gardens
- Borra Caves
- Galikonda View Point
- Tribal Museum

**Must Buy**
- Coffee beans/ powder
- Honey
- Etikoppaka toys
- Bamboo cups

The above mentioned items make for great authentic souvenirs.

**must eat**

**Bamboo Biryani**

One cannot go to Araku and return without eating Bamboo Biryani. The Andhra Pradesh’s State food, ‘Bamboo Biryani’, hails from the valley and is authentically prepared with hand-picked and crushed spices and fresh chicken stuffed in a bamboo log.

**Jack fruits**

Jack Fruits or Panasakayalu are available in plenty across the valleys. They are grown domestically as well as are seen tempting you as you cross each hair-pin bend enroute your resorts. Biryani cooked with Jack Fruit pulp is also a famous dish across the district.

**accommodation**

The tribal pocket is full of renovated and upscale resorts primarily managed by Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC). There are three large resorts- Araku Haritha Valley, Mayuri Hill Resorts and Haritha Valley Resorts. These resorts built on sprawling campuses are filled with numerous flowering and medicinal trees. Beautiful landscaping with outdoor swimming pools, fitness centres, activity rooms and a couple of restaurants are the features of these resorts which have fully quipped sophisticated rooms. The rooms come with modern facilities that enhance the experience of visiting Araku. Meanwhile, the tourism department also manages a tree house, ‘Jungle Bells’ at Tyda that offers a unique experience of living in the wilderness, sans modern facilities.

**getting there**

Araku is 114 kilometers (approximately three hours drive) from Visakhapatnam. Numerous buses, private vehicles and trains are available to reach Araku as well as Vizag. To Vizag, there also frequent flights from various parts of the country.
AP best State in Comprehensive Development

Andhra Pradesh State was named the best State for ‘Comprehensive Development of Tourism’ at the National Tourism Awards-2018. Making the citizens proud, the State has emerged as one among the top States in India by excelling in various fields, both nationally and internationally. Secretary to government, Tourism department, Mukesh Kumar Meena met the Chief Minister at his camp officer after receiving the award for best State. Recently, AP won top honours in National Tourism Awards for the year 2016-17, given away by President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

KIA Motors first SUV to roll out in 2019

The Korean car giant, KIA Motors, will roll out its first ‘Made in India’ vehicle in September 2019 from its first and only manufacturing facility in the country at Penukonda in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh. “The first trial run of SP Concept, an SUV, will begin in May 2019,” said its Senior General Manager (Public Relations and Employee Relations) S D Park, recently. “The Penukonda facility, with an investment of $1.1 billion, will have an annual capacity of three lakh cars of all models. Initially, it will produce only SUVs, and slowly add other variants,” he said. A majority of the body shop would comprise robotic assembly lines with minimal human intervention, making it a safe place to work, he added.

Kakinada SEZ signs MoU with APGDC

Kakinada SEZ Ltd, a unit of GMR Infrastructure Ltd, has signed a MoU with Andhra Pradesh Gas Development Corporation (APGDC) to obtain access to piped domestic natural gas for its upcoming 10,500 acre zone. With this development, Kakinada SEZ would be the first zone on eastern coast of India to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to all its industrial units. The zone located between Visakhapatnam and Chennai Industrial Corridor offers 8521 acres of industrial land with another 1879 acres earmarked for a greenfield commercial port. The Kakinada SEZ lies 6 kms away from the Kakinada Srikakulam pipeline. APGDC has agreed to lay a spur line from the main trunk line to the zone premises for facilitating piped gas access to commercial and industrial customers.

CM’s wife inaugurates solar plant

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu’s wife N Bhuvaneswari inaugurated solar power plant and mobile health clinic at Komaravolu of Pamarru mandal in Krishna district. Bhuvaneswari has adopted the village where her mother Basavataram was born. The New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation (NREDC) has set up 20 kw solar power plant to provide power supply for the village for drinking water supply and other needs. Bhuvaneswari has inaugurated anganwadi buildings and laid a foundation stone for Panchayat Bhavan under the NREGS.

GPS-based bus services in Vizag from November

The GPS-based bus services with digital display of information on arrivals at the stops will become operational from November as part of the ‘Smart City’ initiative in Vizag. According to Municipal Commissioner M Hari Narayanan, the APSRTC has procured GPS tools for its buses from TCS and GVMC is providing the GPS tools for 100 buses. Both the systems are integrated. RTC buses will now display information on arrivals.

Compensation for damage in Horticulture

Chief Minister announced compensation for damaged Horticulture in Titli cyclone affected regions. Since several acres of crops have been washed away and massive trees have uprooted, farmers have lost their crop for entire season. Accordingly, CM announced that Rs 30,000 would be given away as compensation per hectare of Banana farms and Rs 1200 per each Coconut tree. For Cashew, compensation of Rs 20,000 per hectare has been announced. CM also mentioned that Rs 40,000 will be sanctioned to farmer for re-plantation and 3-year

MLA Balakrishna donates Rs 25 lakh to CMRF

Actor-politician Nandamuri Balakrishna met with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and handed over Rs 25 lakh in cheque as a donation towards relief efforts for Cyclone Titli, which struck the State on October 11. The TDP MLA from Hindupur met up with Naidu at his residence in Hyderabad. Titli cyclone has devastated Srikakulam and Vizainagaram districts. The cyclone though hasn’t caused life loss had a huge impact on the agricultural, animal husbandry and horticulture in the district. Balakrishna appreciated the CM for his timely measures that prevented the damage of lives and his efforts to restore normalcy.
Indian Cricket team captain, Virat Kohli, is bowled over by the striking personality of the Visakhapatnam city. The Indian Cricket team, which was in Vizag for an ODI with West Indies was hosted at a plush star hotel that is located on the Beach road. The young cricketer took the opportunity to click a selfie picture with the serene beach road as the backdrop from his accommodation and posted it on his twitter handle. He captioned, “What a stunning place. Love coming to Vizag.” Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu re-tweeted the post and wrote, “Glad that Visakhapatnam is emerging out to be the loved destination both nationally and globally. Wishing @imVkohli and the team a great match tomorrow,” (sic). IT and PR Minister Nara Lokesh too, shared the post.

**Virat Kohli in awe of Vizag**

**Now city restaurants can open till midnight**

Vijayawada, which is the largest urban conglomerate for the capital Amaravati is going to witness bustling activity around the streets until late night. The Labour department issued permits to operate restaurants until midnight, in a bid to encourage tourism in the State. From now on, hotels, which are open only until 10.30 pm will now shut down at 12 am. The proposal was put forth by AP Hotels Association to the department of Tourism, which took it up with Chief Minister. CM, who directed concerned authorities to pass a GO in regard to the same. In a release to the media, Director of APTDC, Himanshu Sukla said, “There will be an increase in jobs by 10 per cent with the latest development.

**New MD for SAAP**

IAS officer M V Seshagiri Babu, who was the Commissioner of Disaster Management (DM) Authority and Ex-Officio Joint Secretary to Government, Revenue (DM) Department, was made the new Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP). Seshagiri Babu will assume charge of the organisation succeeding N Bangara Raju.

**Rs 1100 fine for violation of helmet rule**

Krishna district Collector B Lakshmikantham addressed a meeting with members of the road safety committee recently and have made certain rules pertaining to the road safety. The new rule has been enforced so as to curb the number of accidents happening in the district. It is decided to impose a fine of Rs 1100 for violating the helmet rule while riding two-wheelers on roads. Since it is realized that most accidents are involving two-wheelers and not having helmet is adding to the severity of the impact, the Collector suggested that there is a definite and stringent action on violators of the rule.

**Walmart India first cash and carry store in Vizag**

Walmart India is looking forward to open its first ‘Cash n Carry’ store in next couple of weeks in the city of Vizag to serve local Kiranas and small size business establishments. The venture is set to bring almost 2000 new direct/indirect jobs and boost local sourcing from farmers/Local MSMEs. In a statement from Walmart India, the organization thanked CM Naidu for the partnership, support and spearheading ‘Ease of doing business.’ “We’re happy about our growing investment in the state to support sourcing from farmers, SME suppliers, small businesses, improving supply chain and job creation.”

**Temporary HC complex to be ready by Dec**

The Civil Courts Complex (CCC), which will host the temporary High Court, is going to be ready for occupation by the end of December becoming one of the first permanent structures in the capital area’s Justice City to take shape. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P Narayana, who inspected the Complex being built on a four-acre plot near Nelapadu village, told reporters that 70% work of the 2.5 lakh square feet built up area was finished and a major part would be completed by December 15. Narayana said the tenders for the construction of the Assembly would be called on October 30. “With this, the tendering process for all constructions in the capital area will be completed.”

**AP conserving power worth Rs 1,000 cr annually**

The Andhra Pradesh government is conserving 2,000 million units (mu) of power and saving about Rs 1,000 crore annually by promoting energy efficiency initiatives for the last three years. Besides demand-side management, the state government has undertaken steps to install LED street lights, promote solar pumps in farm fields and supply LED bulbs and energy saving appliances at cheaper rates for domestic consumption.

**Editor’s Note:**

In the feature ‘Siddavatam Fort’ in October issue, it was incorrectly mentioned that Siddavatam was located in Kurnool district. It is actually in Kadapa district.

Error is regretted.
The World Bank has come forward to extend financial assistance for the development of 7,500 health sub-centres in Andhra Pradesh as electronic sub-centres. Telemedicine facility will be made available and e-health records will be maintained in these centres.

The e-health centers include 1,147 primary health centers, 192 community health centers, 31 area hospitals, 13 district hospitals, and 23 teaching hospitals.

The medical and health officials informed the Chief Minister that telemedicine facilities would be introduced in 7,500 hospitals under this project. The project is being operated on the pilot basis in 65 hospitals, especially in tribal areas.

The Chief Minister explained how the State government has been making efforts to improve health services by utilizing IT. He emphasised on the need to bring global practices to improve the Health sector in AP.

The State government has taken measures to provide quality water, air, and food to the citizens to improve living standards and achieve ease of living. Initiatives have been taken to clean the drinking water tanks in villages and monitor the quality of water through online apps. The Chief Minister also stressed upon the need for integration of all the services effectively. He sought the cooperation of the World Bank for innovation and research.

The Chief Minister launched three programmes with an aim to improve the healthcare standards in the State.

**Maternal and infant mortality reduction project**

The first one is the reduction of the maternal and infant mortality rate which aims to focus on systems to strengthen the labour rooms, NBSUs, SNCUs in government hospitals in the State. It focuses on deploying proficient and adept medical workforce at government facilities.

**TB eradication project**

The second program of real-time polymerase chain reaction (RTPCR) is highly sensitive and diagnoses TB in more than 90% of the symptoms. It also detects drug-resistant TB within one hour whereas the conventional methods take two months for detection of drug-resistant TB. The program aims to eradicate TB by 2022.

**Green hospitals project**

The third program is the launching of the green hospitals. Under the program, the Health, Medical and Family Welfare departments signed the tripartite agreement with Non-conventional Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited (NRED-CAP) and two service providers to take up solar rooftop projects under Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) route, without any investment by the department. Under the program, 23 area hospitals and 22 teaching hospitals will be covered under solar roofing with 8 MW capacity power generation in the first phase.
Pic 1: Bridge built on the Krishna River to connect Vullipalem-Machilipatnam at a cost of Rs 79 crore. This bridge will reduce the distance by 20 km and make life easy for the people of Koduru and Machilipatnam.

Pic 2: CM looking at vegetables and flowers grown under zero budget natural farming during a ZBNF promotional event. He appreciated the efforts of farmers implementing Zero Budget Natural Farming to produce high-quality crops.

Pic 3: Guntur Collector Kona Sasidhar being felicitated by the Chief Minister for his contribution in achieving the one lakh farm ponds mark in Anantapur during his tenure as Collector of the district.

Pic 4: CM at a review meeting at the Real Time Governance facility. He said the public satisfaction level of govt schemes has increased from 68% in July to 79% in September this year.

Pic 5: CM addressing the Collector’s Meet at Grievance Hall at the residence of Chief Minister.

Pic 6: AP was named the best State for Comprehensive Development of Tourism at the National Tourism Awards 2018. CM appreciating Tourism Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena and Corporation MD Himanshu Shukla for the achievement.
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సంపాదక స్థావరం బ్యారెన్.

పాయిందిన నుండి పరిశేడి

1000 విద్యారథులు పెట్టడం కోసం కేంద్ర రాష్ట్రం లోని వాస్తవానికి శైలి సంఘం మొదటి లోపంలో మొదటి లోపంలో పంపిన బాధాం విద్యారథులకు రుణం కాదు. ఆ పనిలో ప్రత్యేక పొందాలి.

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