Fighting injustice, Challenging adversity...

Even as we fight the injustice done to the State, we will move forward, and seek glory in adversity, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called upon the people on Independence Day.

The four-day horticulture expo, inaugurated by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, showcased the different technologies and practices pertaining to horticulture development and organic farming. It offered a forum for the farmers, scientists and entrepreneurs for the cross-cultural exchange of knowledge, views and technology towards a sustainable and profitable development of horticulture. Around 120 to 150 exhibitors from different sectors participated in the event. The expo provided a platform for the organic food suppliers to display wide range of healthy organic foods at the food street pavilion.

Horticulture crops are cultivated in over 41.87 lakh acres in the State with a production of 304.42 lakh metric tonnes. Government is keen to expand cultivation area of the crops to one crore acres in the next five years.
# CONTENTS

## 10

**CBN’s Clarion Call for Another Freedom Struggle**

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reaffirmed his government’s commitment to continue the relentless fight with the spirit of Independence Day for the state’s rights, especially the special category status promised by the Centre at the time of bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh in 2014.

## 6

**Amaravati bonds a hit**

TTD to construct a replica of Venkateswara Swamy temple in Amaravati

## 5

**Foundation laid for IIIT in Prakasam**

## 20

**BEST Thermal battery plant in AP**

## 25

**Vizag will be IT destination in AP**

## 26

**Krishna Reddy and the Art of Print Making**

## 32

**Various developments across the state of Andhra Pradesh.**

## 14

**CM Naidu bats for the Development of Tribals**

## 18

**Scuba Diving and Para motor gliding to come up in Vizag**

## 22

**Krishna islands to be developed**

## 23

**Holitech ventures out to India**

## 24

**3 AP cities in top 10**

## 30

**A hidden treasure: Bojjanakonda**

## 28

**Stamps on Tourist destinations**

## 16

**Jnanabheri a unique platform for students to interact with CM**
The success of Amaravati Bonds 2018 has come as a fillip to the efforts of the Andhra Pradesh Government in mobilising funds for the construction of the world-class capital. The overwhelming response to the bonds issued by the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) is a testament to the confidence reposed by the investors in the State’s leadership.

At a time when the Centre has been less than helpful in fulfilling its responsibilities towards the State, the record oversubscription has come as a shot in the arm to the efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

The bonds, being considered India’s largest issue till date from any local authority, have witnessed an impressive 1.53 times oversubscription, enabling the state to mobilise Rs 2,000 crore of funds. It is a matter of pride for this Government that the issue has surpassed the cumulative funds of Rs 1,800 crore raised by various municipalities across the country till date.

The capital construction requires roughly Rs 48,000 crores in the first phase, but the Centre has barely provided Rs 1,500 crores during the last four years. Refusing to give up despite the lack of support, the State Government has been exploring various options for mobilising the funds. The Amaravati Bonds 2018 are a first step in this direction.

The Chief Minister wants to make the people of the State partners in the development of the capital city. Enthused over the response of the institutional investors, the Government is now contemplating to issue bonds for retail investors that will enable the common man to partake in the process of building Amaravati.

The naysayers have not stopped grumbling. They alleged that the overwhelming response was due to the 10.32 interest rate. The fact is that the Government of India agencies offer loans at interest rate over and above 10 percent. Besides, investors subscribed to the bonds only after satisfying themselves with the capital project and the pace of the ongoing works.

The State Government has already clarified that the rate of interest was also low compared to banks and financial institutions like Hudco, and that the interest rate was far less compared to the bonds issued by other States like Gujarat.

Critics may carp all they want, but the people’s faith is what matters. And this was found in abundance in the response to the bonds.

Ramesh Kandula
Editor
In what could be called as another prestigious landmark for the world-class capital Amaravati, a replica of the Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple is going to be built on the banks of River Krishna, by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD). Now, there will be not one but two Venkateswara Swamy temples in the State. The temple will be constructed in another two years.

A team of TTD officials led by joint executive officer P Bhaskar, presented their plans and designs of the temple, which will be on the lines of Tirumala temple, to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at his residence in Undavalli on August 23. The prestigious construction will be made out of stone and will have the same architecture the original temple has. The temple, which will come up in a sprawling 25 acres of land allotted to it at Venkatapalem (Thulluru mandal) in Amaravati. The TTD board of trustees on August 28 unanimously resolved to take up the construction of the temple of Lord Venkateswara at Amavarati at a cost of Rs. 150 crore.

The officers said that the designs for new temple have been made as per Agama and Vastu sastras. The TTD has submitted the temple design to CM Chandrababu and he formally approved the design. The temple consisting of Garbhalayam with Vimana or Sikhara, named as ‘Prasada’ by Agamas and Vastu sastras is worshipped as a symbolic form of God.

The Chief Minister said that the sanctity of temple must be protected and modern facilities be provided outside the temple with separate funds. The architecture and sculptures of the proposed temple plans have been prepared in accordance with the Kasyapa Silpasastram, Mayamathamu and Maanasaramu, said concerned TTD officials.

The temple architecture which shall be a fusion of Pallava, Chola, Chalukya and Vijayanagara styles shall be initially built in five acres and the rest will be developed in a phased manner. The Chola architecture includes Tanjore and Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Tiruchurappalli district in Tamil Nadu built in 11th century AD. The Chalukya architecture rock temple include Lord Vishnu temple in Badami, Aihole and Virupaksha temple of Lord Shiva at Pattadakal in Bijapur district of Karnataka. The Vijayanagara architecture includes the splendid temples of Hazararama and Vittala at Hampi built in Krishnadevaraya reign of 1509-50 AD.
Amaravati Bonds 2018, issued by the Andhra Pradesh Government, met with tremendous response, signifying a new chapter in the development of capital city. The bonds have been listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), with a customary bell rung by CM Chandrababu Naidu on August 27. The event marked another milestone for the Sunrise State in raising funds for the construction of capital city Amaravati. The bonds, which were issued by a local authority in the country, stood out to be the largest bonds that were ever issued, given their over subscription, generating Rs 2000 crore of funds against Rs 1300 Crore bonds.

The bonds issued by AP Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) on August 14 were lapped up in a one-hour offer window on the BSE’s electronic platform. They were oversubscribed 1.53 times with the backing of A+ rating by CRISIL against the minimum investment grade of BBB. Managing Director and CEO of BSE, Ashikumar Chauhan presided over the meeting that followed for the invitees after listing the bonds. Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu spoke about the plans for capital Amaravati and its world-class infrastructure facilities. He exuded confidence that the new capital will be the most liveable city in the country. Success of the Amaravati bonds 2018 reflects the investor confidence in this government and the development of Andhra Pradesh. “I want Amaravati to be the happiest city incorporating the highest quality of infrastructure and a thriving economic environment,” said he.

He further elaborated on innovative methods being implemented by Andhra Pradesh in view of its future. Usage of alternative power resources, solar energy, and focus on green cover, promotion of electric vehicles for ensuring clean air, water, and environment were spoken of. He exalted that farmers of Capital region have entrusted him with the responsibility of constructing a world-class capital for them and have given away a land of 33800 acres in land pooling. An opportunity to design and construct a capital city for a State is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am glad to have been elected to do it for our State, he added.

Bombay Stock Exchange MD and CEO, Ashish Kumar Chauhan described Amaravati as a land of opportunities and assured the stock exchange’s support for its development as Principal Secretary Ajay Jain explained the process of Amaravati Bonds as a hit.
CRDA Commissioner Ch Sridhar speaking about the remarkable response said, “The overwhelming response shows us the faith the investors have reposed in the AP government, the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and the way our government is functioning. We are working out the modalities and will see that the bonds are open for retail investors within a period of three months. We will take a decision on exercising the greenshoe option and retaining the oversubscribed amount of Rs 700 Crore.” The State government stood guarantee for the bonds with a rating by CRISIL, Brickword and Auicte. AK Capital acted as the sole arranger. The government offered a moderate 10.32 per cent interest on the bonds. CRDA officials claim that Amaravati Bond is India’s largest bond issued by any local authority till date.

‘Amaravati bond interest far less’

In the wake of some issues raised by some people over the issuance of Amaravati bonds, CRDA issued clarification to some of the doubts expressed by some quarters:

- The interest rate being mentioned as 10.5% is factually incorrect. The actual rate is 10.32%. The fact is that the interest is not paid monthly but quarterly.
- The calculation shown that the interest paid per annum is Rs 2520 Cr is not a fact. The statement that “the government has to pay commission to the Bombay Stock Exchange and around Rs 400 Crore additional funds are needed to pay 20% incentive for the bonds after five years” is also a factually wrong statement.
- It is clarified that there is no commission nor service charge paid to the Bombay Stock Exchange for utilizing the services for conducting the bidding on BSE electronic bidding platform, though a nominal fee of few thousands to be paid for listing the bonds.
- There is no such “20 per cent incentive” as being mentioned by the “experts”. It is not “incentive” but simply repaying the Principal. There is no need for “additional funds”, as Principal must be repaid in any debt, which is a common understanding. The repayment of Principal starts from 6th year onwards as per the Bond’s structure and every year the Principal will be repaid thereafter at 20% per annum i.e., Rs 400 Crore (20% of 2000 Crore). At this rate of 20% per annum, total principal of Rs 2000 Crore is repaid in next five years from 6th year onwards of total tenor of 10 years. As per the actual calculations, the interest rate for 10 years would be Rs 1573.73 Crore only, not “at least another Rs 3000 Crore” as highlighted in the News Papers report.
- Perhaps even a cursory study of the structure of the Bond would have helped avoiding the fundamental calculation errors by the “experts” thereby avoiding misleading the people of Andhra Pradesh based on such preposterous calculations.
- In addition, it may not be out of context to point out that the interest rate charged by HUDCO, which is a Government of India agency for funding core infrastructure projects across States like AP, Telangana, UP, MP, Maharashtra is 10.10% yearly rate, 3 yearly rate of 10.25% and a floating rate of 10.35% above three years.

A.P. Planning Board Vice-Chairman C. Kutumba Rao clarified that the interest rate was far less compared to the bonds issued by other States like Gujarat. The APCRDA issued the bonds at a rate of 10.32%, while the Gujarat Power Corporation floated bonds at a rate of 10.48% recently, he said.
Sridhar elaborated that the amount derived from the bonds would be primarily spent on infrastructure development in the capital region Amaravati and for other works. Development works in the capital region had picked up pace and the momentum would be maintained with dedication. Of the 56 works taken up, 32 works worth Rs 26,600 Crore are under execution. Another six projects worth Rs 10,167 Crore are at various stages of tendering. And 18 projects worth Rs 11,352 crore are at pre-tender stage. The capital construction requires roughly Rs 48,000 crores in the first phase and we are exploring various options of mobilising the funds. The Authority is exploring options like pooling funds through the World Bank, Hudco, the commercial banks and also market bonds.

CRDA is the nodal agency for developing the much-hyped new capital. The Authority pooled 33,000 acres from nearly 24,000 farmers for building the capital. The Chandrababu Naidu government came up with the idea of floating bonds after the Centre washed off its hands, after providing nearly Rs 1,500 crore assistance for the capital of the residual Andhra Pradesh. The CRDA intends to use the Rs 2,000 crore as an equity pool and keep investing towards equity contribution for infrastructure projects in capital city. It claimed in a statement that projects worth Rs 27,000 crore are currently underway at Amaravati and projects worth Rs 11,000 crore were ready for award.

**Visit to Tata Experience Centre**

On the other hand, during his visit to the financial capital of India, Chandrababu Naidu visited Tata Experience Centre and met former Chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata and the current Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekharan. He was run down about the initiatives the Trust has adopted across the country and was accompanied by Ratan Tata throughout. He took the opportunity to discuss possible collaborations for the State.

During his Mumbai visit, the CM spoke to officials of the Tata group which evinced interest in investing in the hospitality industry and the electric vehicle manufacturing sector in the State.

**Boost to Start-Ups**

Known for being the future-oriented visionary leader that he is, CM also took time out to meet up founders of ‘ZoneStartUpsIn’, which is helping enthusiastic youngsters to begin startups. They provide mentorship, industry connects and investor access. CM interacted with a few of the entrepreneurs as well.

**Round-table with Business Leaders**

Chief Minister then proceeded for a business meeting round-table with the bigwigs of the country at Taj Mahal Palace hotel. Later he met one-on-one with Managing Director of Godrej industries and Chairman of Godrej Agrovet, Nadir Godrej. He represented the State and its vast spread business opportunities and possible collaborations with AP government.

**MoUs Signed with AP government**

On the very same day, government of Andhra Pradesh and Retailers Association of India (RAI) signed a MoU. RAI tied up with Reliance Retail and Future Group to convert fair price shops under the Public Distribution System (PDS) into Village Malls. There are 29,000 fair price shops across the State of which 6,500 would be converted in the
Retailers and brands are embracing technology in a big way to drive a seamless user experience in an effort to blend in with the increasingly digital world and provide convenience and benefits to the consumer.

In order to further the innovation within the Retail industry, the APEDB is keen to collaborate with the Retailers Association of India (RAI) to unlock synergies and create employment in this fast growing industry.

The APEDB and RAI would work closely to enhance the competitiveness of traditional retail industry in Andhra Pradesh by introducing emerging technologies such as Multi-agent distributed processing, RFID and wireless technology adoption among others and therefore building intelligent value chains.

**PRAMA HIKVision to invest Rs 500 Crore**

Another MoU has been signed by government of Andhra Pradesh with Prama Hikvision India Limited, a joint venture between Prama India and Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology, at the Round Table Session at Taj Mahal Place Hotel, Mumbai.

Based out of Mumbai, Prama Hikvision is committed to provide high-quality products with sound technical support serving a large network of dealers and system integrators across India, through its 51 branches and a workforce of about 700 employees. The company is looking to treble its capacity to make cameras by expanding its manufacturing footprint in India to meet a steady increase in demand for cameras and digital video recorders.

The Company wishes to invest in a manufacturing facility for electronic security and surveillance and other latest electronic equipment tuned to the capacity of approximately 15-20 lakhs cameras and recording back-end devices production per month in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The project will bring an investment of approximately Rs 500 Cr, which is expected to generate 1,000 direct and indirect jobs and more in auxiliary industries.

The CM made use of his visit to BSE to meet the financial honchos of Mumbai including Ratan Tata and Nadir Godrej and discussed investment opportunities the Sunrise State can offer.
CBN’s Clarion Call for Another Freedom Struggle
Reiterating his commitment to the development of the state despite severe constraints, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu took the pledge to strive relentlessly for the progress of the State till the last drop of blood. Addressing the Independence Day celebrations 72nd Independence Day celebrations held at the Government Arts College grounds in Srikakulam town, he said, "My goal is to ensure that the fruits of welfare schemes reach everyone and to continue to help the people as an elder brother. Despite financial crunch in the aftermath of the bifurcation of our State, we are crossing hurdle after hurdle with determination and implementing all the welfare Prior to his speech, Naidu reviewed the colourful parade and took the salute from contingents of police forces including Andhra Pradesh Special Police, women’s brigade of Prohibition and Excise Department, Police Band, Bharat Scouts and Guide and former servicemen.

Rain did not dampen the spirit of the people, who gathered to witness the tricolour unfurled. Addressing the people after unfurling the flag, the CM said the government accorded priority to the welfare of the poor, downtrodden, weaker sections, minorities and financially backward classes and implemented several welfare schemes for them. A Sub Plan is being implemented with Rs.10,000 crore for Backward Classes. The financially backward sections were allocated Rs.200 crore. The Government was sincerely making efforts for providing reservations to Kapus and set up a separate corporation with an annual grant of Rs.1,000 crore towards their social and financial development. Similarly, separate corporations were established for Brahmans and Vysyas and a plethora of programmes were being implemented, he pointed out.

Woman and Child Express for pregnant women, Balamrutham and Gorumuddalu for infants, midday meals along with scholarships for children, bicycles for girl students, and unemployment allowance along with skill development training for the job-seeking youth are being implemented for the benefit of various sections.

Apart from these, inter-linking of rivers was taken up and importance was given to utilisation of water resources. The farmers are capable of cultivating rich crops if they are provided water for irrigation. And water also can attract industries to the State and the drinking water problem is solved once and for all. "Having this in mind, we implemented the Pattiseema project linking the Godavari and Krishna rivers and created history. The inter-linking of the Nagavali and Vamsadhara rivers will also be taken up soon," he announced.

No Let Up In SCS Battle

The Chief Minister also declared that steps are being taken to complete the prestigious Polavaram project at jet-speed and already 57 per cent of the work was over. Out of the 56 projects launched in the state, 29 were in the last stage of construction. So far, Rs.54,000 crore were spent and efforts are on to link Godavari-Krishna, Penna-Godavari, Godavari- Nagavali- Vamsadhara rivers. By inter-linking of rivers, the waters can be diverted from the rain-fed regions to other areas and in the future, a beginning will be made for the grand confluence of the rivers, he declared.

And despite the Central Government going back on its promise and failing to release the funds needed for development, the Government was going ahead with great grit and determination for the comprehensive development of the State, he said, adding that the two-digit growth rate achieved by Andhra Pradesh which is much higher compared to the neighbouring State, is a pointer to this. There was no question of keeping quiet if the Centre cheats us with respect to the grant of special category status to the State and we have been into aDharma Poratam -just struggle-for SCS, he stated.

Even Development

Science and Technology is being used to increase yields in agricultural production. The food habits of people are changing and changes are brought in to cater to the needs. Target is set to take up horticulture on one crore acres and special measures introduced for dairy development. Efforts are on to develop the state as an Aqua Hub, the Chief Minister said.

The Prime Minister of India has gone back on his promises and adopting a discriminatory policy against Andhra Pradesh, and therefore, a relentless struggle has become inevitable.
The Chief Minister gave a detailed account of the welfare and development schemes launched in the last four years. He said the government waived about Rs 24,000 crore farm loans and focussed on agriculture to increase productivity.

This is the fifth Independence Day celebrations after bifurcation of the State and the celebrations are being conducted in different districts every year to ensure the fruits of development is equally distributed, he explained. Parades were previously held at Kurnool, Visakhapatnam, Anatapur and Tirupati.

**Tenacious Telugus**

Since the State was divided in an unfair and unjust manner, we are now building a new Andhra Pradesh. Telugus are synonymous for tenacity and none is willing to end up loser. That is why, the day on which the new state is born is declared Mahasankalpa Dinam and observed every year since. Plans are prepared for comprehensive development of the State and targets for the years 2022, 2029 and 2050 are fixed. As part of this, efforts are on to make Navyandhra pradesh one of the top three states in the country by the year 2022, and No. 1 State by 2029, Chandrababu Naidu revealed.

The Government is able to provide administration to achieve 76 percent satisfaction level of the people, he disclosed. It is working towards achieving 100 per cent satisfaction levels in all government departments. The growth rate in 2014-14 was 9.2 per cent, in 2015-16 it was 10.6, in 2016-17, it rose to 11.07 per cent and in the year 2017-18 it further increased to 11.22 per cent, making Andhra Pradesh the only State in the entire country to achieve a two-digit growth rate over four years, he disclosed. While the national average in the agriculture sector is three per cent, AP was able achieve a 17.76 percent growth rate, he pointed out.

**Rs 24,500 crore farm loan waiver**

Though the State was facing a resource crunch after bifurcation, the Government kept its word by waiving loans up to Rs 24,500 crore to help the farmer. On the same lines, DWCRA Groups were also provided financial assistance to the extent of Rs 10,000 crore, he said. To encourage girls’ education, we began distributing bicycles and so far 5.4 lakh girls were given bicycles to attend classes. Pre-Matric, post-Matric scholarships were enhanced and Pratibha awards and free reimbursement schemes are implemented towards encouraging education among the girls.

Kapu Bhavans are under construction in every district to encourage Kapu development. Every year Rs 1,000 crore is given to them. Besides, Mini Kapu Bhavans will be constructed in another 96 regions. The Government has spent Rs 210 crore through Brahmin Corporation and poor Vysyas are also supported through a separate
corporation. Rs.40 crore assistance is provided to Christians for pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The Chief Minister has also revealed that the Government has recommended to the centre for inclusion of the backward classes of Valmiki, Boya, Rajakas and Vadderas in the Scheduled Castes list. The Central Government has to establish 11 Universities, and some more varsities are due, for which efforts are on. Rs.16.12 lakh crore investments. Investments are being encouraged through a single window system providing them all concessions. So far, three Partnership Summits held in Visakhapatnam attracted Rs.16.12 lakh crore and as many as 2,721 industrial units are in various stages of construction. Once these units are complete, the state can boast of providing employment to as many as 36.4 lakh people.

The Amaravati Bonds for construction of new capital could mobilise Rs.2,000 crore which reflects the increasing trust and faith reposed on the Government, the Chief Minister noted. The State has a long coast line of 974 km which gave it a profound second place in the country. Already six ports in addition to Bhavanapadu Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam are being developed. Apart from the sea ports, airports are also being constructed. In addition to the existing six, new airports will come up at Orvakallu, Dagadurthi, Kuppam and Bhogapuram.

Stating that the Polavaram was the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh, the CM alleged that the Centre was not making required funds available for its execution despite bestowing it the status of a national project.

Anna Canteens for food security
Anna canteens are run in the state to ensure food security for the poor. Meals and other food dishes are given for just Rs.5. Under food security programme 1.44 crore families are given rice on ration card. Chandranna kits are supplied during Christmas, Sankranti and Ramzan festivals.

25 lakh houses in 5 years
The Government has fixed itself a target of building 25 lakh houses for the homeless and already 19 lakh houses are constructed. Till date, four lakh were given house-site pattas. The CM sought cooperation of all and announced that better facilities will be provided to government staff. Apart from giving fitment, the new 11 PRC is set up. Similarly, the salaries of homeguards, revenue, Asha workers and Anganwadi workers were increased.

511 Awards in 1500 Days
The Chief Minister said that Andhra Pradesh received as many as 511 international awards in 1500 days. It is making rapid strides in every sector in achieving the targets which was why the awards were bestowed on it.
Andhra Pradesh Government was spending Rs 2,546 crore for the development of tribals and tribal areas in the state. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu disclosed this while participating in the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People (Adivasi Day) celebrations at Paderu village in Visakhapatnam district on August 9. He took part in elaborate events that were taken out on the occasion.

He described Adivasis as "Gems of the soil" while he was welcomed by Tribal artistes with traditional Dhimsa and Tiger dance. After paying a visit to the temple of the presiding deity Modakondamma Thalli, Chief Minister kick-started the International Adivasi Day celebrations. He also unveiled the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister revealed his plans for the upliftment and well-being of Tribals in the State. Chief Minister said, "We lay emphasis upon the importance of inclusive growth for improving the quality of life of citizens and ensuring that all communities are included in the mainstream of society. We are committed towards the upliftment of tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh."

He then listed out the welfare schemes launched by his government in the last four years- such as provision of rice at Rs 5 a kilo, nutritious food to children, pensions, Chandranna Bima, and Chandranna Pelli Kanuka, besides development works such as septic latrines, CC roads, and LED bulbs in the tribal areas. All the ITDA (Integrated Tribal Development Agencies) present in the state were present in the celebrations.

200 Cellphone Towers
Reiterating that communication is vital for development, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced that around 200 cellphone towers would be set up in the tribal belt across the State to enable access to communication and network.
GCC Cashew as a global brand

“Efforts will be made to achieve an international brand image for GCC cashew on the lines of Araku Coffee. We have succeeded in promoting Araku coffee at a large scale on the global platform,” CM said.

Assurance for Tribal University

When tribal student union leaders stood up seeking the establishment of a Tribal university, Chief Minister assured them that he would take the request into consideration and work on it. Meanwhile, he inaugurated developmental works taken up with an amount of Rs 5.28 crore and laid foundation stones for as many as 17 projects worth Rs 259.44 Crore.

Health Tourism and Horticulture hub

With great focus on developing Araku and Paderu as the wellness destinations in Andhra Pradesh, the State government and the Tourism Corporation are working towards establishing several facilities to make them ideal Wellness Retreat places. Plans are afoot for setting up botanical gardens, herbal gardens, ayurvedic spa centres and natural treatment services. In enhancing the beauty of these regions, the horticulture department is entrusted with the job of conserving as well as increasing the green cover as well as beautification. “We would develop Araku and Paderu as Health Tourism Centres and Horticulture Hub in the coming days,” he said.

Ban on Bauxite mining

Chandrababu Naidu has assured the people that he or his government will not take any action that will be detrimental to their interests, thus making it clear that he is against bauxite mining in the Agency area. He also reminded them that it was during the period of Congress, that permissions to mine bauxite in the Agency area.

Showering sops on the tribal area, Naidu announced transformation of Paderu into a model panchayat at Rs 20 crore. “A sum of Rs 2,564 crore will be spent on development of tribal areas. The minimum age for pensions to tribals has been reduced to 50, and the PHCs will be upgraded with Rs 31 crore,” he said after distributing pattas for 13,186 acres to 4,470 beneficiaries. Other measures announced included Rs 1 lakh more for housing for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), Rs 75,000 for tribals and Rs 50,000 for tribals living in plains. A special DSC would be held for teacher recruitment for them, CM added.

Highway planned

Naidu said a highway was being planned from Kakinada to Vizianagaram through the Agency area to provide better mobility to the tribal areas. Expressing satisfaction at some youth taking his pictures on their cell phones, he said: “Soon, you will get fibernet connectivity, through which one can watch films on TV, browse Internet, and hold video conference with your near and dear ones living across the globe.” The Chief Minister made use of his visit to the region and took the opportunity to interact with the people. He explained the efforts being made to promote tourism, coffee cultivation, and increasing scope for commercial crops in the tribal areas.

Whilst speaking to the villagers, he sought their opinion on implementation of various schemes. He enquired with the Sadhikara Mitras, MPDOs and panchayat secretaries about the activities being taken up by them in their respective areas, and cross-checked their claims by posing questions to the villagers.
Jnanabheri programme, which is the brainchild of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has been initiated to transform Andhra Pradesh into a knowledge hub with innovation and information technology at the forefront of our growth strategy. The programme vision is to enable students for the future they are entitled to, in the growing Sunrise State.

Jnanabheri is a unique platform for students to interact with Chief Minister and discuss, share their ideas and vice-versa. Under the initiative, students one encouraged to build communication skills, increase problem solving capacity, learn management skills, critical thinking, and to ensure establish, innovative, businesses providing services to the people all over the world from AP.

It will avail opportunities in world class educational institutions, top employment opportunities in the State and realise true potential of youth and excel in the career as per their choice. With a profound idea to strengthen the youth for the better prospects of their future self and that of the State. Instilling lead-
leadership qualities and courage among students is what the need of the day is, and the government is committed to fulfil it.

There are 323 engineering colleges in the State with 1,10,000 students enrolling every year. British Council, Skill Development with JKC, TISS Dassault Systemes, and job oriented training with Siemens centres helping students in a big way to empower them with industry-ready skills.

As part of the programme, various cultural, sports, essay writings, debates and in many other events were held for the enthusiastic youth. Winners were given an opportunity to receive appreciation mementos by CM.

Tirupati Gnanbheri

Addressing a congregation of 16,000 students mobilised from various colleges and universities in the region for the government-sponsored Jnanabheri (knowledge summit) organised for the first time at SV University, Tirupati, he said, “Sunrise Andhra Pradesh was being developed as a knowledge society to make it a $1,000 billion economy by 2029”. He asked the students to think and act innovatively to improve the living standards of the people.

“We want to transform the State into a bastion of knowledge, with innovation and Information Technology as the backbone, to serve the global community. It is heartening to so many youngsters under one roof, and we are sure that the programme would create history,” CM added.

Insist on becoming Job Givers/ Entrepreneurs

The Chief Minister asked the students to not look for a mere job but become entrepreneurs and create jobs. Entrepreneurship would lead to creation of several jobs, he said, and promised all support to the students who work towards solving the problems faced by the people, mainly in the rural areas.

Multi-disciplinary teams of various departments of colleges and universities would be constituted for deputation to the villages to identify the problems and suggest the government on the ways of improving the delivery system.

They would also suggest measures on how to improve the rural economy, he said.

Describing Jnanabheri as a unique scheme aimed at encouraging out-of-the box ideas among the students, he said they had allocated Rs 10 crore for each district to hold such conclaves to encourage young talent.

Rcollecting his student days at SVU and his subsequent foray into the Assembly nearly 40 years ago, Chandrababu turned a bit nostalgic, and asserted that the student phase was one of the most memorable Stages in a person’s life.

“The future would thrive on knowledge and innovation. Youngsters should scale up accordingly, and put the State on the world map,” he said.

Knowledge Summit at Vizag

Speaking at the second edition of the Knowledge Summit (Jnanabheri) held at Vishakhapatnam’s Andhra University campus on August 24, he asked the students to be creative in their approach, CM Naidu narrated how he being the Chief Minister of the combined State had promoted Information Technology in a big way by convincing Microsoft founder Bill Gates to open a campus in Hyderabad for the first time out of Seattle.

‘After Microsoft, Oracle, Amazon, Google and other multinationals opened their campuses in Hyderabad, leading to creation of ‘Cyberabad’ and putting it on the IT map of the world,” he stated.

The one-day long programme has close to 18,000 students taking part and a few of them got an opportunity to exhibit their talent at the stalls put up describing their inventions and art.

Highlighting the transformation of the unified Andhra Pradesh, especially Hyderabad, into an IT hub, CM outlined the inherent advantages for the youngsters, and urged them to take up their innovations into the incubation. Andhra University had conducted several competitions for the students on the occasion in about 10 categories. They announced Rs 1 lakh as the first price. The second and third winners were given away an amount of Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000 as cash rewards by Chief Minisiter.
Tapping the resources that Andhra Pradesh is naturally blessed with, the department of Tourism and government of Andhra Pradesh is making every effort possible to expand the range of entertainment activities for people of the State. Competing with the other holiday destinations across the country, Andhra Pradesh too, is gearing up for establishing a full-length professional Scuba Diving and Paragliding hubs. Yet again, Vizag, the charm of the State has been chosen as the feasible place for developing these activities after a ship-wreck was found by two divers at Bheemunipatnam beach.

Addressing a review meeting of State Tourism Promotion Board at the Secretariat on August 24, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu asked the Tourism department officials to identify maximum number of places of interest and prepare detailed plans for their development. He asked the tourism officials to coordinate with other departments in identifying and promoting the tourist spots. Stressing that Andhra Pradesh has a vast potential for development with its natural resources and beautiful locales, CM asked the officials to identify tourism circuits and develop world-class infrastructure to attract domestic and international tourists.

Secretary to government for Tourism and Culture, Mukesh Kumar Meena, then informed to CM that the footfall in domestic arrivals stands at 168 million and international arrivals are at 2, 50,000 during the year 2017-18. He explained the progress of various tourism projects: “Twenty three 5-star hotels will be available by 2020 and tender process is going on for additional 5-star hotels. We are working towards creating a separate division for development of hotels as suggested.”

Three agencies presented their designs for the development of Submarine Heritage Museum at Beach Road, Visakhapatnam. The Chief Minister asked the officials to put the designs for public debate and finalise the process. He said that the museum should be developed on world class standards. He enquired the Navy officials present at the meeting to provide an opportunity for the citizens to understand navy in protecting the country.

CM asked the officials to lay special focus on promoting temple tourism. “Officials should link projects with temple tourism. There is a vast opportunity to develop water-based tourism as well. Tourism packages should include riverfronts and beaches and focus on leisure tourism,” he said.

He further ordered that officials look into improving the hospitality across the facilities to attract more number of tourists. “The reception levels of tourists should be improved by introducing traditional welcome by Kuchipudi artistes as ambassadors of AP. Village tourism should be improved and tourists should be served with traditional organic food. Tourism sector of the State reflects the performance of its government”, remarked CM.

The scuba diving experts explained on the scuba diving promotion near Visakhapatnam. The Sky School representatives also explained on paragliding and paramotor gliding facilities to be set up in AP. The Chief Minister directed the officials to study the feasibility to introduce the Paramotor gliding facility right from Visakhapatnam to Araku valley.

Scuba Diving in Vizag

About 45 kilometers from Vizag is the Bheemunipatnam beach where two divers, who conduct adventure sports in the city, Balaram Naidu and Anil Kumar have discovered a centuries old shipwreck. Ever since, the city of destiny is all set to become a first and big scuba diving destination in the coastal Andhra.

The shipwreck was found at a depth of just six meters below the surface and is estimated to be around 200 years old. The ship measured as long as 150 meters. During their diving expedition, they found parrot fish, sweet lips, ribbonfish, moray eel, lion fish, and yellow back snappers among other aquatic life.
**Foundation laid for IIIT in Prakasam**

“Education is very essential. Without education, man cannot develop. So I appeal to parents to give good education to their children instead of giving property,” said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu quite a few times. To develop Amaravati, the people’s capital, as a world class education and knowledge hub has been one of the important goals for Chandrababu Naidu after the bifurcation. Ever since, he has been making the right moves to bring in several top class universities to set up their academic programmes and facilitated several negotiations with world famous universities.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been insisting on providing quality education to the students of the State and emphasis has been laid on using infotech in an enormous way. So as to keep up his assurances to the youth of the region and to increase the brand value of Amaravati as an education hub, all measures are put in place.

On the same lines, taking the educational scene to another level, CM has laid foundation stone for Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) building named after Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at Dubagunta village, Prakasam district on August 7. The institute will be built across a sprawling 208 acres. Speaking on the occasion, he said, “The State government is taking several important measures to make Andhra Pradesh the knowledge hub of the country. Education is key to human development. The Andhra Pradesh government has been utilising informational technology in a big way to usher in educational field. The universities in Amaravati and Andhra Pradesh will have standards and infrastructure on par with best universities across the world. Establishing IIIT in backward villages is a great initiative for our government. We are committed to fulfill the assurances made and will go to any length in fighting with the Centre to get 11 national universities built in the State.” He exuded confidence that Andhra Pradesh will turn into innovation valley in no time. “My aim is to place Andhra Pradesh among the best three states in the country by 2022 and number 1 in utilisation of IT,” added CM. In the coming days, along with mining, veterinary and horticulture universities in the district, the National Science Center will be set up at Ongole.

**AP Contributes Rs 50 Cr for Kerala Flood Relief**

Andhra Pradesh has lent a financial assistance of Rs 50 Crore overall through various means towards the flood-ravaged Kerala. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been proactive in mobilising all possible help from within the state to the battered Kerala.

In a meeting held at Secretariat on August 20, CM said that he spoke to the Chief Minister of Kerala and enquired about the situation. There is a need for rice and money. “Andhra Pradesh extended assistance of nearly Rs 50 crore through all means including financial help, donations in cash and kind. I have announced Rs 10 Crores, sent 12 boats, NDRF and SDRF teams. We will send another 2000 metric tonnes of rice.”

He also added that “All MPs, MLAs, and MLCs of our party will donate one-month basic salary towards the relief. MPs will contribute through MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme). The IAS, IPS, IFS officers association, Andhra secretariat employees associations and NGOs associations among others came forward to donate one-day wage to the flood relief in Kerala.”

Speaking on the occasion, the CM demanded that Central government should declare Kerala floods as a national calamity and lend undeterred support for its revival. He also asked public and corporate firms to donate for the people in Kerala. It is the responsibility of everyone to restore normalcy back in Kerala, added CM. He expressed concern over the help lent to Kerala as 80 per cent of the entire State has been destroyed and a mere Rs 600 crore wouldn’t do any justice to it. I demand proactive help in this worst scenario said he.

He also said that AP itself has been receiving heavy rainfall since the past few days. Kunavaram in East Godavari district received 275.7 mm of rainfall. East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and Visakhapatnam districts were affected with heavy rainfall and floods. About 16 relief camps were set up and 6,330 people were shifted to in Eluru, Kovvur, Narasapur and Kukkunur. “Smart water grid will be developed in Andhra Pradesh. Priority will be given to rainwater harvesting, water management and cost-effective water supply. Despite rainfall deficit in Rayalaseema region, the State government is able to fill all the tanks in the region to meet both irrigation and drinking water needs,” he added.
India became home to the world’s first-ever thermal battery plant that came up in the promising land of Andhra Pradesh.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the battery plant on August 6 at Praja Vedika, that aims to create a new energy storage form that is expected to have commercial applications, while also maintaining a low carbon footprint, and being less dependent on external factors like weather. Owned by Bharat Energy Storage Technology (BEST), the thermal battery facility could provide energy solutions for transport, telecom services and electrical grids. The plant is first-of-its-kind cell and aims at boosting up renewable sources of energy production, instead of non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation. It can also be effectively used in remote locations, such as hilly terrains and islands.

The BEST also aims to set up a Greenfield Project in India, at an estimated cost of Rs 660 crores, through which nearly 3000 jobs will be created within next three years. From a capacity of 1000 megawatts, BEST would enhance the same to 10 GWs in the next six to seven years. Batteries suited for telecommunications, mini or micro grids and electric buses would be manufactured in the first phase at the plant.

Under the project, electric buses, produced in collaboration with Bilva Motors, a global consortium, could deliver an 800-kilometre range with a single charge, with the help of BEST’s thermal cells. The cell can be customised to be charged in four or eight hours, depending on the source. It can also provide output ranging between 5Kwh and 1 Mwh. The plant in Andhra Pradesh is expected to start commercial operations by May 2019.

Although solar power is considered the most reliable source of energy yet, it has pitfalls. The energy generation is not possible after sunset and high rainfall areas, which brings in the need for a robust energy storage infrastructure. Thus, the coming of thermal battery is a landmark development in the field of technology and environmental protection.

Existing energy storage technologies depend on Lithium-based batteries, which are limited by life cycles, making it a very expensive proposition with replacements needed every six to seven years. They are also low on energy density and need a high footprint. Furthermore, Lithium's sensitivity to extreme temperatures requires the energy storage systems to be placed in conditioned temperatures, requiring about eight to ten per cent energy storage for the cause.

However, BEST’s High Energy Density Storage (HEDS) device is a revolutionary technology - invented and patented by Dr Patrick Glynn in India 2016. What sets this storage device apart is the fact that it requires a small footprint and is priced at par with Lithium-based solutions, which have limited life cycles.

The company also plans to deliver the storage devices that are 100 per cent environment-friendly, using no hard metal or inflammmable substances and those which comprise 95 per cent re-usable materials.
It also aims at thriving in the global market by helping curtail global warming and carbon emissions and looks forward to helping achieve the Government of India’s vision of electrified mobility by 2030.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said as a part of second phase of power sector reforms, priority is being given for alternative energy sources and storage facilities. Stating that solar and wind energy a sustainable source of energy at present, he asked the students to concentrate on research programmes and innovation. Now the State has turned into a power-surplus one he said.

He mentioned that a 1,000-MW solar energy plant was set up in Kurnool district and solar pumpssets were also distributed to farmers in Vizianagaram district. He stressed the need for cost-effective power generation.

The Chief Minister said that 100-150 acres would be allotted to develop storage facilities in the State. Amaravati city would be developed as a green city with 50 per cent green cover and renewable energy. The State Government, giving priority for solar and wind energy in Kadapa, Anantapur and Kurnool districts, he added.

Later, he launched the renewable purchasing obligation compliance monitoring and reporting web tool of AP. IIT Roorkee has entered into a memorandum of agreement with BEST on renewable and sustainable energy technologies for research and industrial collaboration. Griffith University in Australia has also entered into a MoU with BEST in energy storage sector.

Earlier, Patrick Glynn, Chairman of Bharat Energy Storage Technology, explained the functioning of BEST thermal storage cell. He said, unlike standard battery technology, BEST thermal cell can be charged and discharged simultaneously. This does away with power outages and guarantees constant electricity supply as the BEST thermal cell effectively decouples generation from utilisation of electrical energy.

Vijay Maddali, CEO of Bharat Energy Storage Technology, said, the high energy density storage technology would pave the way for a clean sustainable, green and energy-secure future. He said the smallest unit of BEST, to be unveiled shortly with 300 kwh unit, will supply power to 80 houses.

**Thermal battery technology: How it works**

Conventional battery technology is based on the system of charging/discharging cycles that are driven by electricity. For example, the Lithium-ion battery, a staple of many electronic devices, consists of electric charges being transferred from electrodes. Energy is derived from this battery, when lithium atoms turn into lithium ions (Li+), and get stored when this reaction reverses. Therefore, Lithium batteries work on the basis of electrical energy.

Thermal batteries, on the other hand, use thermal energy to operate, i.e., the energy created by temperature differences. Therefore, the energy transfer in thermal batteries helps store heat when heat travels from one part of the battery setup to the other. For that to happen, a thermal battery consists of two parts: a cool zone known as sink, and a hot source called source. Both these sides consist of compounds known as phase-changing materials (PCMs), which can change their state of matter on the basis of a physical/chemical reaction.

When the sink of a thermal battery receives heat, it transforms physically or chemically, thereby storing energy, while the source cools down. During operation, the sink is cooled down, so it releases the stored energy, while the source heats up. Depending on the nature of the battery, the system can derive heat from any source, which makes a thermal battery very versatile. Thermal battery technology was patented in India by Dr Patrick Glynn in 2016.

**Thermal battery technology: Integration with power grids**

Given the positives from thermal battery technology, its main application lies in the possible integration with power grids, which can help industrial demand, while also supporting public transport systems and telecom grids. In the field of power transmission, thermal batteries will be able to function as long as there is a heat source to drive their operation. This could help solve power issues in remote areas, and also address rising energy requirements from regional or national grids.

Power-intensive industries will also be major beneficiaries, and the transformation will mean reduced dependence on fossil fuels for energy. Telecom infrastructure is also a target area, as thermal batteries will help maintain signal strength and network connectivity. This, in turn, could also improve internet penetration and ultra-fast mobile services.

At the initial stage of commercial operations, set for May 2019, BEST plans to create a battery capacity of 1000MW. This is expected to be upgraded to a 10GW capacity by 2025.

**Thermal battery technology: E-vehicle manufacturing**

Another area that could receive impetus from thermal batteries is that of electric vehicles. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stated that by 2030, India’s automobile industry will completely rely on manufacturing of e-vehicles. Currently, Tata and Mahindra are the only domestic firms working on such transport systems. With thermal battery technology, car makers could consider going green, and deploy clean energy at minimal maintenance costs. At the same time, e-vehicles could also derive charging power from stations that run on thermal batteries. In AP plant, BEST aims to setup an electric truck that can run up to 800kms on a single charge.
Very soon, people of the State will be treated to an extravagant riverfront activity with lavish recreational facilities, right in our capital city Amaravati. While the State government is mulling all plans for setting up an extraordinary lifestyle enhancing entertainment destination on the banks of river Krishna, United Arab Emirates has come forward offering executing solutions for the same.

A delegation led by UAE’s Business Leaders’ Forum (BLF) president Ram Buxani met up with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on August 17 during a Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) meeting held at Amaravati.

The forum of Ministry of Economy UAE and Indian Embassy and Consulate General in UAE offered proposals to develop PGA state Golf Court, Hotel complex, Convention centre, recreation villas and apartments in nearly 500 acres of two islands. Later they signed a MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Government.

Chief Minister was told by the delegation that 7 islands out of the 14 islands have adequate potential to be developed into resorts and theme parks. Addressing the delegation, Chief Minister said that the proposals have to be made in a clear cut manner with environment compliances in mind and that the project has to be completed within stipulated timelines. The BLF team mentioned that they would take three to four months of time for coming up with a detailed plan.

Chandrababu directed CRDA officials to beautify Krishna river bunds downstream of Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada. He suggested construction of a platform and a national flag post at the central point of river bed. “The place’s atmosphere should be such that people visit it in the evenings for relaxation,” he said. He also said that the hill beside the barrage in Seetangaram should be beautified.

Taking stock of the nine thematic cities proposed in Amaravati, the CM suggested that nine committees be formed to oversee the development of the cities. On the occasion, CRDA Commissioner Cherukuri Sreedhar informed CM about the proposal to develop a film studio on 25 acres in the Media City, which would be developed into a world-class media hub, with a long-term vision to host international events like Cannes Film Festival, Grammy Awards, e-Sports World Cup and other events. He also elaborated on the success of Amaravati bonds.

Film Producer D Suresh Babu, who was also present during the meeting, mentioned the need for establishing an entity to identify and nurture local talent for Television and Films, so as to decentralize and increase scope for film production in Andhra Pradesh. He suggested that world-class film and TV training institutes come up in the capital to create movie-friendly atmosphere that could attract the film industry.

Responding to it, CM asked the producers of the Tollywood industry to take initiative and come forward for starting film production in the State. Municipal minister and CRDA vice-chairman, P Narayana, however said that the government would float tenders for the development of the two islands. “The BLF has asked for four months time. We will go for tenders for the project. If other firms come forward to take up the project, we will give them a chance.”
Marking its first major expansion outside China, one of the top three electronics manufacturing companies in the world, Holitech Technology, has signed a MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish a manufacturing unit in Tirupati. Founded in the year 2004, Holitech Technology has made it to one of the world’s best component manufacturing industries that provides parts for high-end and expensive mobile phones including Apple.

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu, along with Minister for Information Technology, Nara Lokesh signed the MoUs with Co-founder and CEO, Holitech Technology, Flame Chen and Vice president and Managing director, Xiaomi India, Manu Kumar Jain on August 6.

The leading electronic manufacturer is investing a whopping Rs 1400 Crore (200 million dollars) for its Tirupati plant to be set up on 75 acres of land. The new plant will produce components for ‘Mi’ India and will help Chinese handset maker reduce prices of its devices further. The plant will complete its full-length base over a period of three years. This upcoming plant in Tirupati will also create direct employment for 6,000 people.

“The phenomenal growth of Xiaomi along with their initiatives to promote local manufacturing has encouraged us to explore component manufacturing for Xiaomi in India. The works are being done at a great speed and production of the component will begin from January 2019.”

Vice president and Managing director, Xiaomi India, Manu Kumar Jain, remarked that Holitech is an important global component supplier of Xiaomi and with its entry in India, a new era of local manufacturing will begin with several job creations. The local sourcing of these components will help reduce the prices of its smartphones in India “From moving from assembling to making components in India will give a push to ‘Make in India’ program.”
Andhra Pradesh’s famous temple cities—Tirupati and Vijayawada have featured in the top ten cities that are livable in the country, according to the latest rankings of Ease of Living Index, released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Pushing behind the developed metropolitans, Tirupati has secured 4th place while Vijayawada stood in the 9th place among top ten cities worth living in India.

The above mentioned rankings were decided based on the institutional, social, economic and physical parameters, which include governance, health, education, economy and employment, public open spaces, power supply, solid waste management and etc. A total of 111 cities were taken into consideration to list out the Ease of Living Index in India.

Earlier, Swacch Survekshan 2018 survey named Tirupati and Vijayawada as the 5th and 6th cleanest cities in India. On the other hand, Visakhapatnam is also competing with other developed cities in making an impact in the top ten sectors. All three cities have made it up to the national rankings across categories such as cleanliness, ease of living index, infrastructure among others.

The consistent growth and significant improvement of these cities in AP have reaped great results at the nationwide rankings in surveys taken out by the Government of India. It is indeed a matter of pride for the bifurcated Andhra Pradesh, which is trying to cope from a severe financial deficit and yet perform remarkably well chalking out a place for its cities nationally.

Tirupati: Fourth most Livable city in India
The temple city Tirupati swept off the laurels for being ranked as the first best city in Social category and 2nd in Institutional and 6th in Physical categories in Ease of Living Index-2018. The abode of Lord Venkateswara stood second in the country in the parameter of ‘safety and security’ in Ease of Living Index. Adding to it, Tirupati’s railway station is also named as the third cleanest railway station in the entire India. With an overall cleanliness score of 96.5%, which indicates a percentage change of 30.9% from its last year’s score, the railway station leaped from 19th rank to securing a place in the top three stations in the newly released rankings. Falling under the South Central Railway zone, the Tirupati railway station registered a total of 964.96 points (out of 1000), tabulated via scores taken from process evaluation, direct observation and citizen feedback, in this year’s cleanliness assessment.

Vijayawada: 9th most Livable city in India
The city of victory, Vijayawada, which came in at the 9th place in Ease of Living Index also stood as the fourth best cleanest railway stations in the country. Also, according to the rankings announced by the Ministry of Urban Development, Vijayawada is named as the 8th best in Social category, 9th in Institutional and 10th in Economic aspects. Visakhapatnam is ranked 10th in both Institutional and Physical categories in the Ease of Living Index-2018. The city of destiny has been named for having 10th best railway station in the Country.
Visakhapatnam is the ‘mother ship’ as far as IT is concerned and it will be developed as the IT destination on the eastern seaboard, declared IT Minister N Lokesh.

Visakhapatnam, the City of Destiny, has long been known for its progress in the IT sector and was next only to the HiTech City of Hyderabad in the combined Andhra Pradesh. And after bifurcation of the State, it was automatically no. 1 in IT besides being the biggest city in the residuary state of AP. However, with big plans for the new capital Amaravati under execution, there was fear in north Andhra region, known for its backwardness, that it would be pushed further backward if Visakhapatnam, which accounts for the limited progress it had made over decades, is also left behind.

It is exactly here the young Minister for IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Nara Lokesh butted in. During a visit to Vizag in the first half of August, he categorically stated that there is no truth in the talk that the State government is concentrating on development of IT in Amaravati, neglecting the IT potential of Visakhapatnam.

Responding to a query at a media conference in Vizag, he said: “Visakhapatnam is the ‘mother ship’ as far as IT is concerned and it will be developed as the IT destination on the eastern seaboard. But, we are keen on development Information Technology in Amaravati, Tirupathi, Anantpur and other places also.”

The government has already created 1.5 lakh sft and was in the process of developing another 5 lakh sft of IT space in Amaravati. There is no problem for development of IT in Amaravati, he noted and acknowledged the fact that a lot needs to be done for creation of IT infra in Vizag.

Lokesh was also crystal clear on the initiatives taken by the government. Incentives to IT companies have been stream-lined, Preferential Market Access (PMA) is given and feedback is being taken on where the IT industry is moving. In this regard, he particularly appreciated the work being done by the AP EITA (AP Electronics and IT Agency) for providing training programmes on skill development to IT job-seekers. According to him, the first tower of Signature Towers will be handed over soon and construction of the second one will begin soon. The Minister visited the Kapuluppada IT Park, on the outskirts of the city, earlier in the day and saw the progress of various development works. The IT Park is coming up on a vast extent of 700 acres and will be ready in four phases with roads, drainage, water supply, power and other basic amenities. Besides, housing and schools will also come up for the convenience of employees working on the hill. It is hoped that the Park will generate five lakh jobs in the IT sector. In the first phase, 100 acres will be ready for use and the minister directed the officials to ensure these works are ready by September end.

He also inaugurated on Hill no. 2 of Rushikonda as many as 13 new IT companies at various locations in the city. They include CES Ltd which is providing Business Process Management Services with 11 jobs, Serium Systems Pvt. Ltd., (1000 jobs) which is aiding the VLSI and Embedded Software sector with global design services, Sahasramaya Technology which is giving employment to 500 in its services in artificial intelligence, machine learning, IoT, and blockchain technology services, and others like Symbiosys, Inspire Edge IT Solutions, and Patra Corp., whose CEO Matt Easterlin said that the company would add 1,000 jobs in Vizag in the next one year and this was expected to be the largest workforce of an IT company in Vizag. Lokesh said he was delighted to inaugurate so many companies on a single day. Special Secretary ITE and C Anoop Singh, Special Chief Secretary and IT Advisor to the Chief Minister, J.A. Choudhary, District Collector Pravin Kumar and CEO Promotion APEITA Tirumala Rao and Patra India BPO Managing Director Lakshmi Mukkavilli participated in Mr Lokesh’s programmes.

- B Prabhakara Sarma
Krishna Reddy, N, one of the more successful and internationally known Indian contemporary artists, was born in Nandanooru, a village in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh in 1925 in the household of Narayana Reddy and Lakshmamma. Growing up among the farming community in the colorful, lyrical atmosphere of a village, Krishna Reddy was enticed early into drawing. When he was studying at the Theosophical College, he befriended an art teacher at the Rishi Valley School and was influenced by the teachings of Jiddu Krishnamurti. He later joined the Visva Bharati University founded by Rabindranath Tagore in Santiniketan. At Santiniketan, he came under the influence of Master Moshai, the eminent artist Nandalal Bose, who pointed him towards the very depths of the nature and to the importance of one’s own initiative. He also had the opportunity to watch Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and came to understand that art making is a living process, an organic phenomenon, a product of the life-force itself. There is no difference between the poet and the visual artist; each is an individual giving expression to a personal vision.

He received his diploma in fine arts in 1947 from the Viswa Bharati University and went on to teach art at Kalakshetra, founded by the legendary dancer Rukminidevi Arundale at Adyar (Madras). He had the opportunity to interact with Jiddu Krishnamurti himself. Printmaking and sculpture are the two loves of Krishna Reddy. One was born in Santiniketan and the other was nurtured in Kalakshetra.

In 1949, Krishna Reddy went to London to study sculpture with Henry Moore and Reg Butler at the Slade School of Fine Arts. Later, he joined the Institute of Contemporary Art and got to know several contemporary sculptors from London. He had a fateful meeting with Krishna Menon, the first Indian High Commissioner to UK, at whose insistence, Krishna Reddy considered going to Paris in search of a better learning environment.

In Paris, Krishna Reddy could easily visit the masters like Brancusi, Fernand Lager and Pablo Picasso in their studios and have discussions with them in the cafes. His quest for refinement in the fine art continued at Academie Grande Chaumiere and Atelier 17 with Ossip Zadkine in Paris and with Marino Marini in Milan. In the 1950s and 1960s, Reddy made his presence felt in the kaleidoscopic world of art in Paris. Initially a sculptor, he later shifted his focus to printmaking. In Paris, he also mastered engraving with one of the best known artists and printmakers of that era, S.W. Hayter. Intermingling with the likes of Picasso and Miro, Krishna Reddy was part of the art movement which had redefined the way the world perceived art. He

Dynamism on a Static Surface

Krishna Reddy and the Art of Print Making

The finest and world-renowned printmaker, sculptor and artist N. Krishna Reddy passed away on August 22 in New York. In the rarefied field of etching and printmaking, a son of Telugu land, Reddy was a recognized master, one of the best in the technique of intaglio printmaking and a pioneer in using oil viscosity. He was also a celebrated teacher of the technique, and a well respected painter and sculptor. Here are the excerpts from Dr Jampala’s article published in the Souvenir of the 17th TANA Conference - Chicago, 2009
felt privileged to “have met almost all the masters of that time”. He worked and taught at Hayter’s from 1957 to 1976. He became an associate director at Atelier 17 in 1965.

Talking about the art scene in Paris while he was a young student artist, Krishna Reddy reflected, “The masters and art in general were very international at that time. The artists adored and were willing to explore the oriental cultures to find inspiration for their art. They respected the oriental concepts.”

It was at Atelier 17, Krishna Reddy’s discovery of the principle of color viscosity was viewed as a breakthrough toward more controllable and predictable results in the area of simultaneous color printing. The essence of printmaking is the transfer of an image from a matrix to the print itself, usually ink on paper. The artist works with a hard matrix of wood, stone, metal or glass, drawing or carving marks onto or into a resistant solid. Then, in contrast, he must choose fluid ink and soft paper to hold crisp lines above its surface or accept color into its very fiber. Particular techniques give distinct results. Intaglio printmaking is a slow complicated process utilizing an intractable material (metal). Working with his friend, Kaiku Moti, he found that by analyzing the oil content of their inks, and by controlling the amount of oil added to the inks being used, a reliable viscosity, or stickiness, and intensity of tone can be established and maintained. The range of the printed colors can be vastly extended. This elaborate operation would distinguish Krishna Reddy’s work from all other printmakers, from that time to this day. It revolutionized the intaglio printing and ensured Krishna’s place in the history of graphic arts.

While living in Paris, Krishna Reddy began travelling widely and was receiving invitations from universities and art centres in United States regularly, sometimes as a distinguished visiting artist and, at other times, as an artist in residence. In 1976, New York University invited him to help them with their printmaking program. He started working there as a Professor and Director of the Department of graphics and as Artist in Residence. From there, he exercised a vast influence on the art of printmaking in United States. In New York, Krishna Reddy found a loft in SoHo and moved in. Krishna Reddy taught the art of graphics and printmaking in the Department of Art and Art Professions at New York University for over twenty years and is now a Professor Emeritus in Art.

Considered a master in intaglio printmaking, Krishna Reddy is a celebrated teacher in this field. His Visiting Artist and Artist-in-Residence commitments have spanned over 250 universities and art centers internationally. He has published many papers and a book titled “Intaglio Simultaneous Color Printing” by SUNY Press.

Krishna Reddy has presented more than 200 solo exhibitions of his work throughout the world. His work is displayed in more than 250 international museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the British Museum, London; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Gallery and the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; the Albertina Museum, Vienna; the Art Institute of Chicago and some major private collections.

A close examination of Krishna Reddy’s prints is revealing in its sense of the infinite, a veritable microcosm of timelessness, the evolving universe, colors that are unusually subtle, textures suggesting they are of the Paleolithic Age, even his actual etched plates have the appearance of artifacts from prehistoric antiquities. Somehow, his images connote contemporary thought and means yet suggest no overt influences. In short, Krishna Reddy is a perfect example of his teaching. To paraphrase his own words, the artist is an explorer engaged and experimenting in the ecstasy of freedom. He wishes for the viewers of his prints to share in what he has discovered, to share in his sense of wonderment. Further, and most important, his work reflects his deeply rooted beliefs that, in his words, “Our senses bring knowledge that leads to memory and then to ideas and ideals, that begin a life of their own. Thought is the activity of knowledge, of memory, of ideas, conclusions and beliefs forming our consciousness.”

He explains the learning process in art making saying, “We stand between the immense cosmos and the unfathomable universe within us. If we pause for a moment and watch the great mysteries, we are filled with awe and wonder. There is an urge in us to discover and learn what lies behind these mysteries... A healthy mind that is fully open, free from prejudices and narrow attachments, develops an ability to see things as they really are. To see things in their wholeness. When the mind enters into this state of learning, there is creativity. It is an opportunity to be truly alive every moment. Learning is the most effective way to develop a more profound vision, to develop our full potential as human beings”.

In 1972, Krishna Reddy received the coveted Padma Sree award bestowed by the Government of India. He was named Printmaker Emeritus by the Southern Graphics Council (U.S.) in 2000.

Krishna Reddy’s passion for creativity remains undiminished throughout the remarkably long span of his career. Bent over his workbench in his loft studio-cum-residence in New York, Reddy chips away at copper and/ or zinc metal plates trying to present his vision of some of the social problems of the modern world. His work still remains on the cutting edge.

- Dr Jampala V Chowdary
With the motive of promoting tourist destinations of Andhra Pradesh across the country, the Tourism Development Corporation of AP, in association with the Department of Posts has come forward with an innovative idea of printing postal stamps on the popular tourist destinations. The focus is to propagate these destinations across the globe and escalate Andhra Pradesh State to number one position from number three in attracting the domestic tourists, within a year.

Owing to the increased connectivity, the State, spearheaded by temple tourism has attracted large number of tourists and visitors over the years, contributing to the increased footfalls that put the State on third place in the entire country. Covering 13 districts of the State and picking 12 such places of interest, the postal department has utilized the scheme ‘My Stamp’ to create the custom stamps for the department of Tourism.

On August 24, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the stamps at his office among the presence of Minister for Tourism, B Akhilapriya and Chief Secretary of Tourism, Mukesh Kumar Meena. He expressed happiness about the initiative and referred it as a welcome gesture by the department of Posts to take part in promoting Tourism. Speaking on the occasion, he said, “These stamps bearing 12 tourist destinations on them will help in popularizing the State and its popular places among domestic and international tourists. This is a great initiative.”

The famous tourist spots promoted through stamps include- Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (Tirupati), Brahmaramba Sametha Mallikarjun Swamivari Devasthanam in Srisailam, the Kanaka Durga temple in Vijayawada, the Girijan (Tribal) museum of Araku, Gandikota rock valley in Kadapa, Ramakrishna beach in Visakhapatnam, Chandragiri Fort in Chittoor, Pavithra Sangamam in Amavati (Ibrahimpatnam), Papikondalu in Rajahmundry, Borra Caves in Araku, Pulicat Lake in Nellore and Ganna Buddha in Amaravathi. People can choose their favorite stamps to save them for their numismatic collection as well. Simultaneously, CM also released a magazine, ‘Andhra Pradesh Journeys’ that is being brought out by the Tourism department.
CM’s dole to benefit 12 lakh youth in the State

The Chief Minister’s innovative scheme ‘Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam’, dole to the educated unemployed youth is soon going to roll out into the pockets of the eligible. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 1,000 will be credited toward the beneficiary account every month.

According to the recent guidelines issued by the Chief Minister, the website for ‘Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam’ will be launched by the end of August. Eligible candidates can enroll their names and details in the website. After 15 days of registration, the disbursement of allowance amount will be credited into the bank accounts that were saved in the website, directly.

With the proposed dole, as many as 12.26 lakh youth from 13 districts of the State are estimated to benefit. Educated unemployed youth between 22 to 35 years of age with a valid graduation or equivalent certificate are eligible for the allowance.

Registrations from August end

Candidates can start enrolling for the dole once the website is up for registration. The scheme will benefit the youth holding a valid graduation, post-graduation or equivalent certificate yet unemployed. Candidates who are contributing for Provident Fund (PF) will not be entertained under the scheme. To ensure transparency and accuracy, the dole will be given directly to the beneficiary on the same lines of pension scheme. The amount will be credited using biometric authentication.

Simultaneously, government will impart skill development and train the youth in fields of their interests. Also, by integrating State and central schemes, apprenticeship programs will be rolled out through which the youth can get on-job training and upgrade their skills.

The data of the unemployed youth of Andhra Pradesh will be made available to industries and companies that are looking for young talent. However, the individuals will not be eligible to get the allowance once they are employed. The scheme will be implemented in accordance to the poll promise made by the Chief Minister during the 2014 election campaign. The State Cabinet has also decided to recruit employees to fill 20,000 job vacancies, 9,000 teaching posts, and vacancies in other departments.

Visitors throng Polavaram

Expressing happiness over the progress of Polavaram project works, the Chief Minister asked the concerned officials to make essential arrangements for the gallery walk of the spillway by September 3. He was happy to learn that over 1 lakh people have visited the Polavaram site so far and many more are expected to visit the dam site in the coming days.

Conducting the 71st virtual review on the progress of Polavaram project works at Secretariat, the Chief Minister said that an action plan should be prepared for the completion of rehabilitation by December this year. 57.41% of project works have been completed so far including 44.23% head works, 42.80% main dam package, 77% excavation works, 33.70% concrete works, 61.75% radial gate works and 94.20% jet grouting works.

The Chief Minister also said that every drop of rainwater should be saved by diverting the water to tanks and reservoirs. He ordered that 571 reservoirs in the State be geo-tagged, and even in the case of a dry spell officials should be able to provide water security to people in drought-affected areas.

"Steps should be taken to supply water to 2 Crore acres of land including 1 Crore acres of horticultural land. 1 Crore acres should be covered under micro irrigation in the coming 6 years," said the CM. The officials were advised to take up digging of larger farm ponds to use the water during a dry spell and save the standing crops through rain guns. Steps are to be taken to fill all the minor irrigation tanks.

The Chief Minister also informed that 905.26 TMC of water is available in the State including, 380.68 TMC in reservoirs, 48 TMC in minor irrigation tanks, 476.58 TMC through soil moisture and 5.75 TMC in water conservation structures.

Appreciating the efforts of officials for completing the second phase of Vamsadhara and supplying water to Heeramandalam, the Chief Minister said that awards would be presented to the respective Collector, Joint Collector, engineers and contractors. Officials were also asked to monitor the river bunds carefully to prevent breaches during the rainy season.
A hidden treasure: BOJJANAKONDA
Since time immemorial, Andhra Pradesh has been a great platform for the Buddhists to propagate their religion. They have settled across parts of the State and spread the teachings of Buddha through their sculpture and stupas. Known as the relics, till today, even after several centuries, their craftsmanship and dedication continue to thrill us.

Situated at a distance of 45 Kilometers from Vishakhapatnam near Anakapalle, Sankaram is the place where you have this one unsung gem – Bojjanakonda. It was excavated under the aegis of Alexander Rim in 1906. Bojjanakonda is a twin hill with Lingalakonda adjacent to it, where sculptors have carved stupas depicting their rich tradition. Believed to date between 4th and 9th centuries, these rock-cut caves are living testimonials for flourishing three phases of Buddhism. Unlike other Buddhist sites, these caves depict the three stages of Buddhism- Hinayana, Mahayana and Vijnayana.

The hill was a worship place for the followers of Buddha 2000 years ago and was called as ‘Buddhuni Konda’ (Buddha’s hill) before it changed its name to ‘Bojjanakonda’ in due course. Till today, Vaisakha Pournami is celebrated with great devotion at the hills. As Buddhism began to spread, many centres of learning and viharas for the monks were set up in various regions across the district of Vishakhapatnam.

On this hill there are six rock-cut caves which have sculptured panels on them. One main cave has sixteen pillars, out of which five are broken, and it enshrines a monolithic stupa in the centre. There is a pradakshina-patha around it. On the ceiling over the stupa is a carving of a chhatra, i.e., umbrella which was originally connected with the top of the stupa, the shaft being now lost. Above this cave, is an upper storey with the sculpt figures of Buddha. Most panels consist of a seated Buddha and attendants. Both the hills are flanked by green paddy fields and chaityas and monasteries forming one of the most remarkable Buddhist establishments in AP.

With very less or minute crowds, the twin hills make for a good escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday lives to people seeking solitude. The hills are scalable and make for a good trekking activity for the rock-climbers and enthusiasts. It would take about two to three hours to completely cover the area, after which one can just laze around.

With stupas as high as a two-storied building, this Buddhist monument has been neglected over time until Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) stepped in for reviving the heritage site. Signages were put up, depicting the significance of the caves. The rock-cut caves have prayer halls and preaching areas built out of rock. There are nine pillars built and wells to preserve water. Although smaller in size when compared to other Buddhist monuments, the construction surprisingly is beautiful.

The Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage, (INTACH), has already appealed to the authorities to ensure better protection of Buddhist sites by taking up the declaration of Bavikonda, Thotlakonda, Pavurallakonda and Bojjanakonda as heritage sites by UNESCO. This will not only pave the way for steady flow of funds, but also generate employment opportunities for the locals.

Not many amenities are equipped at the place as of now and non-Telugu speaking tourists may find it difficult to catch hold of a guide who can explain the place better. It is advisable to carry your essentials like refreshments and water but do not litter.

getting there

The nearest airport is at Vishakhapatnam and from there, number of local transportation facilities will land you at the region. One can hire a vehicle and leisurely tour around the city and visit these Buddhist relics in a day. There are plenty of APSRTC run buses and trains that halt at Anakapalle. From Anakapalle, Bojjanakonda can be reached within a 15 minute drive by road. To Vishakhapatnam and Anakapalle, buses are frequently available from across the State.

accommodation

Since it is nestled in a rural set-up, finding appropriate accommodation facilities is out of the question. But in Anakapalle, there are decent options for stay. For comfort and luxury, you can book a room in Vizag and then plan to visit the caves within a day.

things to do

Stroll around the adjacent hills and gain some knowledge of the ancient lifestyle, Buddhist traditions. If trekking is your thing, scale them up. Trekking a hill takes about 3 hours if you halt in between. Vishakhapatnam is a good Buddhist circuit with amazing monuments lying around. Do make time for visiting nearby Buddhist sites Thotlakonda, Bavikonda, and Pavurallakonda.
Butterfly Theme Park

For developing the first ever State’s butterfly park in the Kondapalli Reserve Forest (KRF), a team of Forest Department authorities, Wildlife photographers and Ornithologists from the Birds Society of Andhra Pradesh have come together. A scientific survey has been initiated to confirm the butterfly species which are known to be present in 50 various kinds in the Mulapadu hills. There will be signage displayed about each species at the proposed park. “A proposal to ban entry of the two and four-wheelers in the forest trail beginning at the Mulapadu block is under consideration. The idea is to protect the fragile habitat and enable the visitors to witness the scintillating scenes of butterflies. The theme park will be developed in a phased manner by adding multiple attractions,” Vijayawada Divisional Forest Officer Ramachandra Rao was quoted saying The Hindu.

Harikrishna dies in road mishap

Actor and Telugu Desam Party leader Nandamuri Harikrishna, the fourth son of N T Rama Rao and brother-in-law of Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, died in a road accident today near Nalgonda on NH 65. Harikrishna, 61, was driving a Toyota Fortuner and going to Kavali in Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh to attend a fan’s wedding. However, the SUV hit a road median on the Nalgonda highway near Anaparthi and flipped over several times. Harikrishna made his debut as an actor in Sri Krishnavataram as a child artiste in 1964. He served as the member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1996–1999. He became a Cabinet Minister for Road Transport in 1996. In 2008, he was a candidate of the Telugu Desam Party and was elected to Rajya Sabha.

Watersports training begins at Nagayalanka

The first batch training for the young students in Watersports near Nagayalanka has kick started on August 7. Deputy Speaker Mandali Buddha Prasad flagged off the boats to formally inaugurate the training programme. A total of 50 candidates between the ages of 11-15 including 15 girls belonging to local government schools have been undergoing training at the Watersports Academy at the Nagayalanka ghat in river Krishna. Two professional coaches were brought in for the purpose of training the young students in Kayaking and Canoeing. The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh has set up the academy to groom the local children into national level players. They acquired necessary equipment and boats to groom the children.

GI Tag for Chirala Weaves

Following the suit of Tirupati laddu and Banganapalle mango, the handloom products of Chirala weavers, who have made a mark with their expertise in making eco-friendly fabric, will shortly get the Geographic Indication (GI) tag. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu revealed the news soon after he interacted with a group of weavers at an event held at Chirala to mark the National Handloom Day on August 7. He appreciated the weavers who displayed a variety of products- traditional sarees and dress materials and said, “I have asked the officials concerned to initiate the process of completing the formalities.” He assured facilitation with e-commerce sites for providing a global reach to their designs and work to increase marketability.

APTDC acquires luxury boats

In a bid to enhance the experience of water rides on river Krishna, the AP State Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) has acquired two luxury boats- a triple pontoon boat and an AC bus boat. With great focus on expansion of services and tourist experience, the government is making the right moves ahead of the ultimate water sport fest, F1H20 International Power Boat Championship in the next few months. The newly acquired boats are anchored at Punnami ghat from where the rides will be operated for duration of 15 minutes. The 30-seater bus boat is made up of fiber-reinforced plastic (FRP) and is covered with transparent glass that

Sindhu clinches silver at Asian Games

Continuing her scintillating performance, PV Sindhu clinched silver after losing 13-21, 16-21 against World No. 1 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the women’s badminton singles final at Asian Games 2018. Earlier, Sindhu became the first Indian shuttler to reach the Asian Games badminton finals after defeating Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi. Till that point, Syed Modi’s bronze in men’s singles at the 1982 Games in New Delhi was the only individual medal for India at the Asian Games. Saina Nehwal claimed the bronze medal after losing to Tai Tzu Ying in the semifinals.

“Another proud moment for India as P V Sindhu added a silver to the country’s medal tally at #AsianGames2018,” CM Chandrababu Naidu tweeted. P V Sindhu also finished second best in a major tournament final as she went down to Carolina Marin in the World Championships’ women’s singles title clash.
Kalaignar Karunanidhi dies at 94

A prolific screen writer-turned-politician Muthuvel Karunanidhi breathed his last on August 7 at Kauvery Hospital due to multiple organ failure. Karunanidhi served Tamilnadu’s legislative assembly for 13 times from 1957 until his death. He was also the chief minister of the State for 5 times, that is 19 years beginning from 1969. As an atheist, he challenged the upper caste’s hold on the downtrodden community. His policies and initiatives for the welfare of people have fetched him laurels as a leader and were replicated in other States. His influence was strong across the nation despite ruling just one State. President, Prime Minister and political leaders paid homage to the stalwart who was laid to rest at the Marina Beach.

CM pledges for Organ donation

Chief Minister asked the people to let go of their superstitious beliefs and realise the importance of donating organs. He and 1.2 lakh others pledged for donating their organs to save lives. MEPMA has taken out the initiative to handover the organ donation pledge cards to the volunteers at an event held in the city on August 7. CM also added that one’s pledge to donate organs would be considered while issuing a driving license. The pledge letters were handed over to the Head of Jeevan Daan Organisation, NTR Health University. Assembly Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao also was present on the occasion and opined that government should provide incentives to organ donors.

CM Flags off Haj pilgrimage buses

Chief Minister has flagged off the buses with the first batch of Haj pilgrims travelling from Amaravati on August 10. The batch consists of 2348 pilgrims including 1101 women. There are travelers aging between 2 years old to 77 years. Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said that his government is committed towards welfare of minorities and has earmarked a decent part of funds for their education, welfare and benefits. A fund of Rs 1100 Crore has been set aside for beautification of Mosques, construction of Haj House in Kadapa, model Haj house construction in Vijayawada and building of Shaadikhanas and issue scholarships among other benefits to students and youngsters. He also promised to look into the GST waiver for Haj pilgrims.

APCOB’s mobile ATMs in villages

The Andhra Pradesh State Co-Operative Bank Limited (APCOB) has come up with an innovative idea to reach out to rural parts of the State by offering mobile financial services to people. As many as 12 mobile ATMs that dispense cash were flagged off by Chief Minister at Praja Vedika. The initiative also helps familiarize rural people about the services of banking industry and spread financial literacy among them. Speaking on the occasion, CM said, “The initiative is another attempt of the government to spread digital banking to rural AP and mitigate the cash crunch.”

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Ex-MP Chennupati Vidya dies of heart attack

Former Member of Lok Sabha, Chennupati Vidya (84) breathed her last on the wee hours of August 18. She was elected to the Parliament as a Congress candidate from Vijayawada twice. Gandhian Vidya was the daughter of Atheist movement leader Goparaju Ramachandra Rao (GoRa) and established Vasavya Mahila Mandali for the upliftment of women. CM paid respects before her final rites and said, “Vidya rendered exemplary services as an MP. Her work for women empowerment, in particular, was commendable.” Vidya also won the prestigious Jannalal Bajaj Award in recognition of her services to women.

Kuldeep Nayyar passes away

Renowned Journalist, Indian writer Kuldeep Nayyar (95) passed away at his home in Delhi on August 24. Nayyar is remembered for his fierce fight for freedom of press during emergency. He authored 15 books including ‘Beyond the Lines’ ‘India after Nehru’ and ‘Emergency Retold’ among others. Nayyar was honoured with the Ramnath Goenka Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to journalism. A member of Rajya Sabha back in 1997, he also served as High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom.

Satheesh Reddy to head DRDO

A Telugu from Andhra Pradesh G. Satheesh Reddy was appointed by the Centre as the new Secretary, Defence (R&D) and Chairman, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), for a period of two years. In his mid-fifties, the distinguished scientist and expert in navigation technologies succeeds S Christopher who retired on May 29. After Christopher’s retirement, the Government asked a Secretary in the Defence Ministry to take charge for three months. Satheesh Reddy has served as Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri from June 2015 to June 2018. Prior to that he was Director of the Research Centre Imarat (RCI). He is currently the Director General, Missiles & Strategic Systems. He has played a significant role in the development of the country’s missiles systems and their launches.

allows the visitors to experience the view differently. The ride would set you back by Rs 160 per person. The triple pontoon is a 12-seater with fare of Rs 120 per person. The APTDC offers group rides for Rs 7,000 plus GST in the bus boat and for Rs 5,000 plus GST in the triple pontoon boat.

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Taking a giant leap in the eco-friendly power generation, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on August 23 inaugurated a 2 megawatts solar floating power plant at Visakhapatnam. The power plant envisages saving the burning of 1,540 tonnes of coal a year and release of 300 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Built on Mudasarlova reservoir, flanked by the green hills of Kambalakonda and Simhachalam, the solar floating power plant will has added another feather to the touristic place. The oldest man-made water body which has been supplying drinking water to Vizag will be the bedrock for solar plant holding 6250 solar panels. Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has taken up establishment of the power plant in 20 acres of land and is making efforts to start producing at least 1MW of electric power by the end of July.

As part of the ‘Smart City’ initiative, the solar power plant was built on the outskirts of the city, at a cost of Rs 11.34 Crore. The works were executed by DES Engineers of Hyderabad under the supervision of AECOM, consultants for the Smart City projects. The works for the plant began in May, 2018 and prior to it, the reservoir was de-silted at a cost of Rs 20 lakh.

As part of the project, solar panels have been installed at the base of the floats on water. The bases have bed-like structure at the bottom so that when the water dries up, the panels don’t get damaged. The solar panels will be mounted on top of the floats which will hover on the water. They are deemed to have higher efficiency over the ground installed panels due to the cooler temperature of the water, thus providing better performance. The solar panels were also made using aluminium instead iron, to avoid rusting.

Also, Chief Minister laid foundation stones for seven other ‘Smart City’ projects worth Rs 368.14 crore. Besides, he also inaugurated the first-of-its-kind ‘All-Abilities’ park that has facilities for the differently-abled. Developed by GVMC as part of Smart Cities Mission, the park was constructed at the cost of Rs 3.5 Crore. Of the 27 play equipment available at the park, eleven are exclusively meant for differently-abled children. Palm-wheel, leg-roller and shoulder-builder are some facilities among them.

Google has partnered Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Ltd (APSFNL) to bring Google Station to over 12,000 villages, a move that will provide Internet access to about 10 million people.

The tech giant has also rebranded its ‘Tez’ as ‘Google Pay’ as part of its efforts to take the digital payments app to more online and retail merchants across the country.

“Building for India has helped Google build for everyone all around the world... Our partnership with RailTel is an example where millions of people are accessing Internet from hundreds of railway stations in India. We have also taken Google Station to other countries like Indonesia, Nigeria, Thailand and Mexico,” Google General Manager (Next Billion Users initiative and Payments) Caesar Sengupta said.

“We have partnered APSFNL. We expect to start rolling out services by the end of the year with cities like Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, to connect gram panchayats, primary health care centres and other public places,” he said.

Goolge made announcement in May last to set up Wi-Fi stations in all the Gram Panchayats of the state. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the time tweeted saying that APSFNL along with Google India will facilitate wifi stations in Andhra Pradesh which will be set up in all the Gram Panchayats, with around 25000 hotspots coming up by December 2018. Talking about payments, Sengupta said Tez - which was built for the Indian market - has seen strong traction with 22 million people using the platform every month. Already, 750 million transactions have been made with USD 30 billion in annual run rate of transaction value, he added.

“Many governments (globally) have taken note and have asked us to collaborate. Keeping that in mind, we are compiling our payments under Google Pay. Everything with Tez remains the same,” he noted.

Sengupta said the company is also adding more merchants – online and offline -- onto its platform.

Google is working with big retailers and payments technology companies like Pine Labs to help merchants accept digital payments, he added. The tech giant is also collaborating with lenders like Federal Bank, HDFC Bank and others to offer pre-approved loans on the Google Pay platform, a move it believes will accelerate efforts of financial inclusion.
Pic 1: Leading a Japanese delegation, Kenji Hiramatsu, Japanese ambassador to India, met the Chief Minister and explored business opportunities in Andhra Pradesh. The delegation showed interest in making investments in the State.

Pic 2: A total of 1464 houses were built under housing programme at Damineedu Housing Colony in Tirupati. CM took part in the house warming ceremony.

Pic 3: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurating Amaravati Selfie Point at Prakasam Barrage.

Pic 4: CM laid the foundation stone of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam IIIT at its Bhoomi Pooja program, Dubagunta village, Prakasam district.

Pic 5: CM addressing Vanam-Manam meet to encourage tree plantation in the state.

Pic 6: The AP Government signed an MoU with Prama HIKVision India LTD which would bring about Rs 500 Cr investment in a manufacturing facility for electronic security & surveillance.
అయికతో భారతదేశం మాత్రమే నామంతరం
ధారించగలిగి ఉత్కృష్టం అభివృద్ధి తరువాత

మొత్తం ఉత్పత్తి 2,730 లక్షలు
విత్తన వైంతి 16,04,740 రూపాయలు
విద్యుత్తం 34,03,548 రూపాయలు

వైంతి ఉత్పత్తి 721 లక్షలు
విద్యుత్తం 14,46,462 రూపాయలు
విద్యుత్తం 826,305 రూపాయలు

చదరపు ఉత్పత్తి 881 లక్షలు
విద్యుత్తం 4,31,293 రూపాయలు
విద్యుత్తం 7,04,580 రూపాయలు

మ. రామాయ్య రాజ్
ప్రధాని పినాడి విభాగం ఆధ్యాత్మక పరిపాలన పరిస్థితి విభాగం

ANDHRA PRADESH
India's Sunrise State

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH