This year’s budget is a reflection of the commitments of the Government for the realisation of the goals enshrined in Vision 2029.

REVITALISING RURAL ECONOMY

ONLINE WITH THE LORD BRIDGE ON RIVER KRISHNA
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met various business delegations and representatives of governments to forge partnerships in Andhra Pradesh.

1. The CM with Jennifer Daubeny, Consul General of Canada, with whom he discussed possible partnerships & investments in AP.
2. With Jerry Rao, founder of MPhasiS. The meet explored opportunities to work together in various sectors.
3. In an engaging conversation with Ajay Banga of MasterCard, and his team, the CM discussed on FinTech initiatives in the state.
4. With Jan Widerstrom of SAAB India. The CM discussed on possibilities of making AP a hub for defence manufacturing.
5. The CM discussed possible synergies with Mohamed Faiszer Musthapha, Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Govt, Sri Lanka
6. With Erik Solheim, ED of UNEP and team. They told the CM they were keen to be knowledge partner with AP on climate resilient programs.
Pushing for all-round development

The budget came up with several new initiatives as the government focussed on job creation, housing, and revival of sick industries.

State favours simultaneous polls

Growth strategies yielding fruitful results

Making Agriculture Profitable

Snapshot: On Steady Path of Growth

The Bridge on River Krishna

AP turning into mobile hub

Amaravati gets access roads

AP Special Package gets Centre's Approval

Road projects worth Rs 4,500 crore in AP

Musical Genius C.R.Subburaman

Amaravati designs to imbue Telugu culture

Online with the Lord

Happening Andhra

Various developments across the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Baahubali: The Conclusion

Creating the Fintech eco-system
Reclaiming the Glory

The glory of Amaravati has been rekindled once again. Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Y Ramakrishundu has indeed brought back legislative power to the historical city after nearly 2,000 years by presenting the budget for 2017-18 in the newly got up Assembly.

From allocations to Ambedkar Smritivanam to creation of unemployment dole, the Government has not left out any of its promises unfulfilled in the budget. With an increase of 15.77% in outlay compared to the previous year, the budget ensured that no section was sidestepped out of the development process.

Focussing on welfare and growth, the budget helped to create, in the words of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, ‘its own strain of development that integrates rapid economic growth’.

Meanwhile, the Centre’s move to clear the Special Package to Andhra Pradesh through Union Cabinet approval has not come a day late. The State Government has been pushing for some time to secure legal status to the Special Package announced last September by the Centre in lieu of Special Category Status.

A pragmatic leadership in the State chose to garner as much benefit to the state as possible in the backdrop of Centre’s stand on SCS. The demand from certain quarters to go after two birds in the bush - even while the one in the hand may get lost - appears more political than practical.

Time is of essence at this juncture for the state. A lot of energy needs to be spent on things that matter – like the capital building and the Polavaram project. The blueprints are getting ready for the first phase of Amaravati, and the construction of permanent structures is set to start in a few months from now. Polavaram is receiving unprecedented attention from the CM, who is leaving no stone unturned to complete the project.

May we get our act together and may this Hevalambi Ugadi usher in all-round development in the state!

Ramesh Babu Kandula
Editor
My government is in full agreement with the view that elections to both the assemblies and the Lok Sabha be held simultaneously so that the governments at the Centre and in the states could pay undivided attention to issues of policy and governance during their tenures.

- Governor ESL Narasimhan

The Andhra Pradesh government expressed itself in favour of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. The state not only backed the idea to hold simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies but even suggested that polls to urban and rural local bodies too be held within one year thereon.

Governor ESL Narasimhan articulated the state’s stand while addressing the joint session of the AP Legislative Council and the Assembly on the opening day of the Budget session in the new Legislature building in Amaravati.

A debate is on in the country over the polity being in continuous election mode due to elections happening in one state or another. “It won’t be unreasonable to state that the Indian polity is perennially in an election mode. Barring a few exceptional years within a normal 5 year tenure of the Lok Sabha, the country witnesses, on an average, elections to about 5-7 State Assemblies every year,” said a discussion paper by Bibek Debroy and Kishore Desai, both of Niti Aayog.

"My government is in full agreement with the view that elections to both state assemblies and Lok Sabha be held simultaneously so that Centre and state governments could pay their undivided attention to issues of policy and governance. We will go a step further and suggest that elections to urban and rural local bodies too should be held within one year of the elections to the State and Central legislative Houses," the Governor said.

"Historically, elections to state assemblies and Lok Sabha began together but over the years, for varied reasons, they were de-coupled. Now the situation has come to a stage that we conduct elections in significantly large parts of the country almost every year, if not throughout the year. Political parties, and therefore governments, have to continually keep an eye on electoral calculations. This is bound to take its toll on governance, policy-making and administration."

Simultaneous polls would give governments a “full four years of undistracted” time to address issues of governance, the Governor said, adding "it is desirable" to have a national debate involving all sections of people.

The Niti Aayog paper felt that simultaneous polls would be a stepping stone towards improved governance and a larger initiation of “electoral reforms” – a desperately needed measure to re-boot the Indian polity.
The Andhra Pradesh Government has pushed for welfare, education and rural development in its annual budget of Rs 1.56 lakh crore for the year 2017-18. Presenting the budget in the Assembly, Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu said the outlay marked an increase of 15.77% compared to the previous year. The TDP's poll promise of providing unemployment allowance found place in the budget with the Government earmarking ₹500 crore. It has also proposed to spend Rs 695 crore, for the first time, to support the Economically Backward Classes.

The Finance Minister said comprehensive action would be taken during the fiscal and beyond to improve the lives of women. The Government came up with a new concept, outcome budget, to ensure clarity on goals, strategies as well as physical and financial targets. Doing away with plan and non-plan expenditure classification, the Government switched to the system of expenditure as revenue and capital, in line with the Centre’s move.

The allocation for industrial sector has been increased by a substantial 113% over last year.

The Minister proposed an expenditure of Rs. 1,56,999 crore, with revenue expenditure estimated at Rs.1,25,912 crore and capital expenditure estimated at around Rs.31,087 crore (which includes Rs.8,009 crores towards principal repayment of Public Debt).

The 2017-18 Budget Estimates entail an overall increase of around 15.70 percent over the 2016-17 budget estimates. While the revenue expenditure is estimated to increase by around 10.28 per cent, the capital expenditure is estimated to grow by around 44.54 per cent over the 2016-17 financial year. The estimated Revenue Deficit is around Rs. 416 crore and the Fiscal Deficit is estimated at around Rs. 23,054 crore. The fiscal deficit will be around 3 per cent of the GSDP, whereas the Revenue Deficit would be around 0.05 per cent of the GSDP.

Excerpts from the Finance Minister’s Budget Speech:

On Demonetisation

That the Government successfully responded to the crisis is evident from the fact that cashless Aadhar Enabled Payment System is functional in nearly all Fair Price shops in the State. Fair Price shop dealers have been appointed as Banking Correspondents to enable financial
transactions in rural areas through micro ATMs and ePOS terminals. SHG women were trained through Shree Nidhi Scheme and they are serving as Banking Correspondents in more than 178 locations covering more than 700 villages.

Social Welfare Protected
I wish to clear another point. Despite the reclassification of overall expenditure, the expenditure on social welfare schemes and public assistance going to the poorest remains protected. The allocation for SC component and ST component is based as a percentage of total schemes allocations in the earlier plan provisions with a substantial increase. An allocation of Rs. 9,847 crore has been proposed towards SC component (earlier sub-plan) and Rs. 3,528 crore towards ST component (earlier sub-plan) for the financial year 2017-18.

Rural Economy
We have allocated Rs.9,091 crore constituting 5.79% of total budgetary allocation to Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Rs. 19,565 crore to Rural Development which is 12.46% of total budgetary allocation, and Rs. 12,770 crore to Irrigation Sector comprising 8.13% of total budgetary allocation. These allocations will revitalise the rural economy.

Debt Redemption Scheme
Despite the State inheriting a huge revenue deficit, the Government stood by its commitment, disbursed Rs. 11,000 crore to 55 lakh farmer accounts till date. This is a defining moment as no Government in the country have ever embarked on loan redemption of such magnitude regardless of the economics of this socially relevant measure under difficult and harsh circumstances. We are proposing Rs. 3,600 crore in the current budget of 2017-18 for the next instalment of debt redemption for farmers.

Fisheries
The Sunrise State of Andhra Pradesh is considered the Aqua Hub of India, contributing nearly 70% of total cultured prawn production besides having a lion’s share of 45% in total seafood exports of the country. It stood first in the country for the last three years both in production and value. It recorded a growth of 22.06% on production front and 30.09% on GVA during the year 2016-17. The State recorded a production of 27.58 lakh tonnes with GVA of Rs. 43,538 crore during 2016-17.

Mega Foodparks
With a view to transform the development topography of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema regions, eight mega food processing parks are being planned by private firms in the State. While five of the food parks are expected to come up in the four Coastal Districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari, three of them are being planned in the Rayalaseemsa districts of Chittoor, Kurnool and Ananthapuram.

Horticulture
Andhra Pradesh stands at the top of our country as the second largest producer of fruits. The contribution of Horticulture sector to the GSDP is Rs.41,478 crore (current prices) during the year 2015-16 and the target for the year 2016-17 was Rs. 49,845 crore.

IT
IT investment proposals worth Rs. 3,649 crore are at various stages of implementation in the State to generate direct employment to 4,755 people. An estimated IT export of Rs. 570 crore during the year is envisaged.

Culture
Kondapalli Fort has been identified to be developed as an iconic heritage monument. Museums are the mirror of unique culture and heritage. The government proposes to develop Bapu Museum, Amaravati Heritage Centre and Andhra Sahitya Parishad at Kakinada. During 2017-18, we plan to introduce some initiatives such as assistance to eminent scholars and artists, establishment of Ghantasala Museum at Vijayawada, interstate and international Cultural Exchange Programmes, and giving of awards including Ugadi Puraskars.

Telugu Language
The ‘Telugu Bhasha Pradhikara Samstha’ is set to replace the ‘Adhikara Bhasha Sangham’. The new body will have more scope and authority to guide and implement measures to promote our language, culture, literature, arts and historical research.

Social Welfare schools
The Government is supporting boarding, shelter & education of 95,800 students, in the 958 Social Welfare Hostels. Besides, the A.P. Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society is providing education to 1,05,000 children in 180 institutions, with consistently good results, which are much higher than the State average. In view of the good results shown by Residential Schools, we are committed to convert all the Hostels into Residential Schools in a phased manner.

Ambedkar Memorial
The Government have also sanctioned Rs. 97.69 crore for the creation of “Ambedkar Smruthi Vanam” having 125 feet statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Convention centre, Meditation hall, Library, etc. at Amaravati and entrusted the execution of the work to APIDC.

Kapus & Brahmins
An allocation of Rs. 75 crore is proposed for Brahmin Welfare Corporation and Rs. 1,000 crore for Kapu Corporation.
Minorities
For supporting the poor Minorities families in performing the marriage of women, an amount of Rs. 60 crore is proposed in 2017-18 under the Dulhan scheme. In 2016-17, 10,954 were benefitted under this scheme. The honorarium given for the welfare of Pesh Imams and Mouzans of 5,000 no-income mosques, is Rs.5000/- and Rs.3000/- per month. It is the highest in the country. Rs. 24 crore is proposed in the financial year 2017-18 for incentives to Imams and Mouzans. An amount of Rs. 15 crore is proposed for Urdu Ghar-Shadi Khanas. The Records of Waqf Board are being digitised & Waqf Board Portal has been launched. Rs. 50 crore has been proposed to Survey Commission of Waqf.

The Government is firmly committed to 4% reservation for Muslims and is defending the case strongly in the Supreme Court.

Gender Equality
Towards promoting Gender Equality and in continuing with the efforts of institutionalisation of gender responsive planning and budgeting, our Government will undertake a comprehensive set of actions during the current financial year and beyond with a view to improve the lives of women across all Human Development Indicators and to save women and girls from discrimination and neglect in matters of development, progress, security and human rights.

Anna Canteens
The Government will be implementing the Anna NTR Canteen scheme to provide subsidised meals to the poor people in the State with a proposed allocation of Rs.200 crore in the financial year 2017-18.

LPG for All
With a view to cover all the households in the State with LPG and to make the State 100% LPG enabled, 24 lakh LPG connections are planned to be given to the left over families by June 2017 for which a provision of Rs. 350 crore is proposed in the financial year 2017-18.

Housing
Under Affordable Housing Projects, Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to undertake 1,10,000 houses for the year 2017-18.

Water Resources
The allocation to Water Resources Department reflects the importance that the Government lays to the sector. Investment under irrigation, therefore, continues to be crucial and its proposed allocation has gone up from Rs. 7,978 crore to Rs. 12,770 crore in 2017-18, a phenomenal increase of 60%.

Skill Development
Allocation of Rs 398 crore is proposed to be provided to Skill development, Entrepreneurship and Innovation department in 2017-18.

Amaravati
I am proposing Rs. 1,061 crore in the 2017-18 budget estimates for capital development operations. This, however, would only be a small amount while CRDA has already entered into agreement with HUDCO for Rs.7,000 crore and World Bank has in-principle agreed to provide funds. Funds, therefore, would not be a constraint in giving shape to our dream capital Amaravati.

City Development
For the development of Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Tirupati under National Smart City Missions Rs 450 crore is proposed in BE 2017-18. State Government is...
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developing 13 more Smart Cities viz., Vizianagaram, Eluru, Vijayawada, Guntur, Ongole, Kurnool, Ananthapur, Kadapa, Nellore, Machilipatnam, Chittoor, Rajahmundry, Srikakulam. I proposed Rs.150 crore for this purpose in BE 2017-18.

Sewerage system
The sewerage system is to be developed in 11 cities in the State having sewage treatment capacity of about 539 MLD. A provision of Rs. 184 crore is proposed in the financial year 2017-18 towards solid waste management.

Energy
World’s largest solar park will be commissioned in Kurnool district during 2017. Four more Solar Parks with a capacity of 1,000 MW each will be completed by 2018-19. The State will achieve a capacity of 5,000 MW from wind by 2018-19. Efforts are being made to commission 6 Waste-to-Energy plants during 2017-18.

Airports
The State has handed over the required land to Airports Authority of India for expansion of airports at Vijayawada, Rajahmundry and Tirupati. The work of runway expansion at Rajahmundry is in progress. Orvakal and Dagadarthi airports have received all the clearances required and will be awarded shortly. Land acquisition to an extent of 86% has been completed for Bhogapuram airport and bid process is underway. CONCOR has taken up work of Logistics Parks at Visakhapatnam, Krishnapatnam and Kakinada. Land acquisition process for new ports at Bhavanapadu and Machilipatnam has been initiated.

New Jobs
Government has also accorded permission for direct recruitment of 10,000 posts for which recruitment process is under way. This is in addition to the permission already given for filling up of 12,552 posts in the past two and half years. The total financial implication on these measures would be to the tune of Rs 2,702 crore.

Following are major allocations for social welfare:

- For PDS Rs. 2,800 crore
- Towards Aadhar linked Pensions, Rs. 4,376 crore
- To provide clean drinking water under NTR Sujala Sravanthi, Rs. 100 crore
- For subsidising electricity supply to the poor, Rs. 3,300 crore
- Towards housing for the rural and urban poor, Rs 1,456 crore
- Under Dr.NTR Vaidya Seva, Rs.1,000 crore
- For Skill Development, Rs. 398 crore
- For rural roads, Rs. 262 crore
- Debt relief Rs. 3,600 crore
- Capital infusion to DWACRA groups Rs. 1,600 crore
- Mahila Sadhikarana Samstha Rs. 400 crore
- LPG Connection forwomen in rural areas, Rs. 350 crore
- Anna Canteen Rs. 200 crore
- Assistance to unemployed youth Rs. 500 crore

This budget is also historic, as it was the first such exercise in Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.
I am delighted to address this fourth joint session of both the Houses of Andhra Pradesh Legislature on the occasion of the Budget Session of 2017-18. This is truly a historic moment as we are meeting for the first time in the new assembly premises built in a record time.

Undaunted by the numerous challenges post bifurcation, my Government converted every crisis into an opportunity, thanks to an astute leadership. The numerous post bifurcation challenges including budgetary constraints, infrastructural deficiencies and unresolved issues arising from the Reorganisation Act have not deterred my Government. The Visionary leadership basing its resolve on turning every adversity into a challenging opportunity has helped the State to gallop towards its avowed objective of all around development over the last two and a half years.

At a juncture when both the Central and State governments share a common development vision and a deep concern for the wellbeing of our people, I am very happy to tell you that our State is progressing with great clarity in respect of its goals, to be one among the top three performing states in the country by 2022, the best state in the country by 2029 and eventually becoming the most preferred global investment destination by 2050. To achieve these goals, my government has evolved a holistic monitoring strategy encompassing five themes: Gross Value Added (GVA), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Samaja Vikasam, Kutumba Vikasam and Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The broad development strategy under the 7 Missions, 5 Grids and 5 Campaign modes taken up by my government will be the basis for this overall Vision framework for a total transformation of our society towards 'Total Prosperity with Happiness all over.'

A review of our performance during the last two and half years is a clear display of positive achievements. The completion of the prestigious Pattiseema in a record time of a year, moving ahead on Polavaram project to give water by gravity before 2018 and attain fruition by 2019, prioritization of other irrigation projects, transforming the state from a power deficit status to one of surplus power, rapid adoption of energy efficient LED bulbs, drought proofing measures, real time governance, conduct of Krishna Pushkarams, construction of new interim Secretariat and Legislature buildings in a record time, effective and good encouraging results at the partnership summits are among the many more.

In sync with Union Government’s decision to dispense with Plan and Non-Plan category.

Turning every adversity into a challenging opportunity has helped the State to gallop towards its objective of all around development, the Governor’s address to the joint session of Andhra Pradesh Legislature said.
rization and to classify the expenditure under Capital and Revenue heads from 2017-18 onwards, my government is streamlining the budgeting process. We are optimising allocation of funds to departments by assessing the performance under key parameters for achieving clear outcomes.

It is pertinent to recall my statement in the last year’s address in the budget session, that sustaining double digit growth for next 14 years is imperative for Andhra Pradesh to stand tall among its peers and attain global benchmarks. Despite the fact that the state reorganisation had put tremendous stress on the financial and other resources, my government’s unflinching commitment to withstand the challenges and pursue specific growth strategies has started yielding fruitful results. Our aspiration of double digit inclusive growth is today a reality.

My State has recorded an impressive economic growth performance of 10.99% in the fiscal year 2015-16, the only State in the Country to record double digit growth. We find encouraging trends in the current year also. Due to untiring efforts and innovative policies, my government could post a healthy growth rate of 12.23% during the first half of the financial year 2016-17 and expects to maintain double digit growth for the full year.

As a result of strategic planning and innovative practices for productivity improvement and value addition, Agriculture and Allied sectors have shown phenomenal growth of 24.44% during the first half (April-September 2016) of the current financial year. This was achieved despite 28% deficit rainfall in the State. Agriculture with 3.69%, Fisheries with 42.57%, Livestock with 14.91% and Horticulture with 18.33% growth rates have provided support to the agriculture sector. Industries and Service sectors, with sectoral growth rates of 9.98% and 9.57% respectively during the first half year of 2016-17 have also displayed promising results.

Service Sector being a major growth driver and employment generator, my government is planning to give a big push to all the key sub-sectors.

HCL TO OPEN IT AND TRAINING CENTRE

I
n a major boost to the fledgling IT industry in AP, HCL signed an agreement with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to open an information technology development and training centre at Vijayawada.

HCL aims to hire, employ and train 5,000 local residents in the region with a plan to leverage a gender equal workforce, it said in a statement.

The selected candidates will undergo a training programme by industry experts on skills required for working for global customers of HCL. The centre will also work on developing innovative high-end technologies for global clients.

The centre is a part of the Andhra Pradesh government’s plan to promote holistic growth and boost IT investment within the state.

“The Andhra Pradesh Government is committed to economic development and providing more opportunities to the young workforce of the State. The HCL IT and Training Centre will offer a great platform to local talent in cities like Vijayawada by providing them growth opportunities and ultimately helping contribute to our vision of becoming the best state in the country by 2029,” said Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

“HCL has always been at the forefront of bringing new opportunities to the Indian populace. This is an innovative initiative to reach out to the local talent, refine their skills and make them future ready for IT careers. By leveraging the skilled talent pool available in the city through the HCL Global Centre we can help put Vijayawada on the global IT map,” Shiv Nadar, Founder & Chairman - HCL said in a statement. The creation of global centre at Vijayawada is in line with HCL’s strategic vision to expand and create opportunities in non-metro cities, it said.
My government is targeting water security by creating smart water grid for drinking water, irrigation and industrial purposes. Interlinking of rivers Godavari and Krishna through Pattiseema Lift Scheme has helped in stabilizing Krishna Delta resulting in significant gains to the farmers. The scheme has a potential to benefit more than 14 lakh acres. We may recall that one of the first decisions of the Union Government to transfer the seven mandals in Telangana to our State made Polavaram becoming reality. Assistance from the Union Government through NABARD to the Polavaram Project Authority helped in hastening the pace of work with a targeted completion by 2019. Project works like Diaphragm wall, coffer dam, earth-cum-rockfill dam, crest gates, spillway and spill channels are in progress. We have been monitoring the progress of the project by virtual inspection with the help of drones on a real time basis to complete the project on time.

My government is committed to complete all prioritized projects in a focused manner within a definite timeframe. Thotapalli, Polavaram Right canal and Gandikota projects have been completed. Polavaram left canal, Telugu Ganga, Veligonda, Handri Neeva and Galeru-Nagari projects are being executed in on a fasttrack mode and some of them are in advanced stage of completion. Purshothapatnam and interlinking of Nagavali-Vamsadhara rivers are being accorded priority. Setting up of ‘smart water grid’ through interlinking of rivers is our commitment. My government is keen to conserve every drop of water and is working towards sustainable ground and surface water management through programmes like Neeru Chettu, Neeru–Pragathi, Panta Sanjeevini (farm ponds), Panta Raksha (Rainguns) and borewells under the NTR Jala Siri Programme. For optimum utilisation of water resources, my government plans to extensively deploy micro irrigation facilities. We aim to drought-proof the state and provide irrigation facilities for all the regions.

Hon’ble Members may recall that we had assured to provide clean drinking water to all households under NTR Sujala. We are committed to fulfill this promise in totality. We are also committed to supply clean drinking water to the fluoride affected and saline affected areas. All problematic villages will be addressed under targeted programmes which will not only have normal budgetary support but EAP assistance as well.

My Government is committed to make Agriculture more profitable, attractive and cost effective through adoption of innovative practices leading to substantial improvements in production and productivity. Programmes like ‘Micronutrient deficiency correction’, providing Soil Health Cards to all the farmers to reduce fertilizer consumption, extensive use of vermi compost, farm mechanization on subsidy basis, relieving small & marginal farmers from high cost machinery by putting custom hiring centres in place, increasing cropping intensity, encouraging Intercropping and putting in place large scale extension services are some of the important interventions that are helping the farmers to earn additional farm incomes. Demonstration of ‘Best Management Practices’ in cluster mode through Chandranna Rythu Kshetralu has resulted in improved productivity levels of Paddy, Maize, Redgram and Cotton. My Government is promoting ‘zero budget natural farming’ in a big way formulating clusters...
in each mandal of the districts. Subhash Palekar’s zero budget natural farming practices are being adopted. A MoU has been signed with Azim Premzi Philanthropy initiative in this regard. Despite the huge revenue deficit, the implementation of the debt redemption scheme in a transparent manner through Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (Farmers’ Empowerment Organization), is truly commendable. It is pertinent to observe that under the scheme, more than Rs.11,000 crores has been paid into 55 lakh farmers’ accounts till date towards one time settlement (for farmers having debt less than Rs.50,000) and two installments (for farmers who are having debt of Rs.50,000 and above upto Rs.1,50,000). The outstanding installments to the farmers carry 10% interest payment also. Debt waiver to a tune of Rs. 385 crore has been extended to the horticulture farmers also.

In spite of my Government’s resolve to effectively implement various farmer-friendly programmes adversarial attempts in the garb of fake and spurious seed manufacturers and dealers have been intent in harming the interests of the farming community. To arrest and curb this menace, my government is committed to bring in ‘Special Seed Act’, which would attract severe punishment to offenders. Making quality seed available to farmers is our commitment.

The agrarian state of Andhra Pradesh is heading towards a value addition platform from the conventional production approach. ‘Horticulture’ sector is an essential component for food and nutritional security in the State. Efforts of my Government have kept Andhra Pradesh atop in the production of Oil palm, Papaya, Citrus and Chillies and 2nd in the production of Mango & Tomato in the Country. Micro irrigation through drip and sprinkler mechanisms has proved effective both in terms of cost and output. We are implementing strategies to make Rayalaseema as a Horticulture hub. My government targets to cover one million farmers in the next three years under Farmer Producer Organisations for Agriculture & Allied sectors in order to establish forward and backward linkages and to promote the products of Andhra Pradesh to global standards. Livestock sector has emerged as an alternative and dependable source of income generation even during the times of severe drought. My government is providing fodder to livestock at the doorsteps of the farmers below poverty line (BPL) at 50% subsidy ensuring fodder security under Kutumba Vikasam. My government endeavours to insulate the farmers from the vagaries of agriculture by focus on livestock sector to ensure that every household has a minimum monthly income of Rs.10,000.

Fisheries sector has witnessed a phenomenal growth in the recent past. Andhra Pradesh state is accounting for 70% of the total culture prawn in the country and holds a share of 45% in total seafood exports in the country. Andhra Pradesh state is accounting for 70% of the total culture prawn in the country and holds a share of 45% in total seafood exports in the country.
Plans to construct an iconic cultural bridge from Vijayawada to Amaravati are in the final stage. The proposed bridge – 3.8 km long out of which 1.2 km will be cable-supported – will begin from Moolapadu near Pavitra-rasangamam and end at Velagapudi in Amaravati.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu wants the ultra-modern bridge to reflect the rich culture of the region. He also wants this bridge across River Krishna to be an iconic construction, and a shining example of the new resurgent state.

Among the different models presented for the iconic bridge, the Chief Minister preferred the one taking inspiration from the traditional art form of the region – Kuchipudi. Leading construction firm L&T presented six different models for the bridge, taking off on Indian greeting Namaskar, Kuchipudi pose, a double-decker, Amaravati stupa, a flower and inspiration from Kondapalli toys.

Of these, the CM showed interest on the Kuchipudi model, but wanted the bridge to be double-decker, where the lower one will serve for transport, while the upper layer can be used for people activities. He also wanted the planners to ensure that the upper deck is used for entertainment. Feedback on the designs is now being sought, after which the Government will take a final decision.

**Amaravati Bridge Concepts**

1. Namaskār, also known as namastē, is a form of greeting practiced most in the Indian Subcontinent. It is used both while greeting and departing.

2. Kuchipudi is the classical dance form from the South-East Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It is known for its graceful movements and its strong narrative/dramatic character. Transformation of one of the expressive gestures of mudra in Kuchipudi dance to the pylon tower of iconic bridge across river Krishna.

3. People’s Bridge - Double bridge with separate Vehicular & Pedestrian movement at two levels. Top of bridge will be used for different people activities.
Chinese handset vendor Xiaomi has partnered Foxconn to set up its second manufacturing unit in India at Sri City in Andhra Pradesh.

Xiaomi had entered India in July 2014 and started local manufacturing just over a year later. The Chinese smartphone maker started assembling phones the facility in Sri City in August 2015.

The new facility will be exclusive to Xiaomi, while the older one may see Foxconn making handsets for other vendors too.

While the company declined to comment on the investment details, it said Xiaomi will be able to make “one phone per second in India”.

“While I cannot disclose the exact capacity, I can tell you that we will be able to manufacture one phone per second whenever the lines are running. The two factories combined will provide employment to about 5,000 people, 90 per cent of which are women,” Xiaomi India Head Manu Jain said.

The move will help Xiaomi meet about 95 per cent of its demand in India from these two facilities.

However, it will continue to import accessories, ecosystem products and its premium product, Mi5 from China.

According to research firm IDC, Xiaomi had a 10.7 per cent share of the Indian market, putting the company just behind Samsung (over 25 per cent share) at the end of December quarter.

“The smartphone market in India will grow from 110 million units per annum to 200 million plus units, in 3-5 years, Jain added.

The company has also launched a new device – Redmi 4A – that will also be manufactured at the Indian facilities.

The Sri City unit will be Xiaomi’s second production hub outside its home base of China. Foxconn had started its smart phone assembly plant in a 40,000 square-foot facility in May 2015 at Sri City industrial park in Andhra Pradesh. Three months later Chinese smart phone company Xiaomi had rolled out its first 'Made in India' smart phone Redmi Prime from Sri City facility on August 11, 2015.

We believe this partnership will provide new opportunities to youth of the state and develop an electronics manufacturing ecosystem of global standards in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said at the time.

Foxconn had started its smart phone assembly plant in a 40,000 square-foot facility in May 2015 at Sri City industrial park in Andhra Pradesh.

Xiaomi decided to go ahead with assembling phones at Foxconn’s Andhra Pradesh facility because of the presence of skilled technical manpower, and the speed with which the state government moved.

AP government had set a manufacturing target of 20 million mobile hand sets in the state in view of its employment potential. The government had offered land and other facilities to 4-5 domestic companies to develop a mobile handset manufacturing cluster near Tirupati in addition to Sri City’s Foxconn operations.
Amaravati is all set to get international standard road connectivity with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu laying the foundation stone at Errabalem on Ugadi for seven seed access roads at a cost of Rs. 1,020 crore.

On the occasion, the CM said Amaravati is poised to showcase an outer ring road (ORR) with a distance of 180 km, bigger than that of the one in Hyderabad (160 km). He said it will change the very face of the capital once completed. It is expected to be completed by next Ugadi.

The roads would be laid in 68.85 km distance radius with an estimated cost of Rs 1,051 crore. The roads would be laid with international standards by developing both sides with greenery at cost of Rs 4.46 crore.

The roads with a width of 40-60 metres would ensure a hassle-free ride to Velagapudi. The seed access roads are being laid as straight as possible and are being built with high-end technology resembling express highways. The roads would have greenery and a dedicated bicycle track.

Of the seven roads, four would be laid from west to east covering Ananthavaram, Pitchukulavari palem, Borupalem and Nekkalu. The roads being laid from North to South would cover Mangalagiri, Nidamarru, Bethapudi, Sakhamuru and would lead to Krishna river. Each road would cover a distance of 8-15 km.

The final master plan has proposals to lay 16 roads towards East and 18 roads towards North at a cost of Rs. 1,800 crore.

Amaravati will be connected with the rest of the country by six national highways, the Chief Minister said, after laying the foundation stone for seven seed access roads.

The highways will ensure road connectivity with all major cities in the country, he said. The super express highway lane also would be connected to Amaravati from Bengaluru through Anantapur. The road would reduce the journey time to four hours from Rayalaseema districts to capital city. Water taxis would be introduced as part of internal transportation in the capital, he explained.

**Seed Roads**
- Krishnayapalem to Nekkallu (14.95 km)
- Uddandarayunipalem to Nidamarru (13.6 km)
- Venkatapalem to Navuluru (7.17 km)
- Borupalem to Sakhamuru (8.27 km)
- Penumaka to Inavolu (7.81 km)
- Mangalagiri to Neerukonda (7.36 km)
- Abbarajupalem to Nekkalu (8.77 km)

He criticised the opposition indirectly for creating hurdles to capital construction. The government was making plans to construct world class capital even though

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**CM launches works**

Amaravati gets access roads
the State was passing through financial crisis, he said. The city is being planned in such a way that it can host the International Olympics in future. The capital city construction and Polavaram projects are two important tasks, very dear to him, the CM said, and added that his one and only passion was the development of the state on all fronts.

Meanwhile, the alignment and design of the access-controlled Amaravati-Ananthapuramu highway which has been declared as a National Expressway by the Centre were finalised. The proposed 394 kms long expressway would also be the longest in the country. Andhra Pradesh Road and Buildings Department officials said that the Expressway would be four-lane in 185.400 kms and six-lane in 208.194 kms. Two feeder highways connecting Kurnool and Kadapa towns would also be part of the expressway making it nearly 600 kms long.

The expressway would start at the outer ring road of Amaravati City and go through Guntur, Prakasham, Kurnool, YSR Kadapa, and terminate at the Ananthapuramu-Bengaluru Bypass road on the outskirts of Ananthapuramu. Separate highways radiating towards Chennai to the south and Hyderabad to the north, and feeder roads connecting Kadapa and Kurnool towns to expressway would be laid. The expressway would bring down the distance between Anantapur and Amaravati from 472 kms to 371 kms; Kadapa and Amaravati from 370 kms to 290 kms; and Kurnool to Amaravati from 320 kms to 280 kms. Officials said that 26,793 acres of land has been acquired for the project. Of this, 9,324 hectares was forest land that has been de-notified.

Amaravati is all set to get international standard road connectivity with CM N Chandrababu Naidu laying the foundation stone at Errabalem on Ugadi for seven seed access roads.

AP bags CNBC State of the Year award

Andhra Pradesh bagged the ‘State of the Year’ award announced by CNBC TV 18 under the ‘business leader’ category. A jury, comprising eminent persons from the fields of banking and industry, has selected Andhra Pradesh unanimously for the prestigious award and invited Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to participate in a programme to be organised on March 23 to receive the award.

HDFC CMD Aditya Puri, State Bank of India CMD Arundhati Bhattacharya, KKR CEO Sanjay Nayar, E and Y chairman Rajiv Memani and corporate advocate Cyril Shroff are the members of the jury which selected Andhra Pradesh for the award.

State Minister Ayyanna Patrudu received the award on behalf of AP government at a special function in Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said while the hard work of the government is receiving acclaim from all across, the opposition in the state was creating hurdles in the path.

Thanking the centre for the help being extended to the state, Naidu requested Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who was also present at the event, to continue offering a helping hand to the southern state.

This laurel is indeed an encouragement for the AP government to perform even better and keep striving for excellence in all sectors, the Chief Minister said.

“I dedicate this award to the people of my state who believe in me and my constant efforts in making AP shine”, he added.
The Special Package announced for Andhra Pradesh by the Centre received statutory status with the Union Cabinet approval. Andhra Pradesh government has been insisting on providing statutory guarantees to the Special Package announced in lieu of Special Category Status.

The Centre approved financial assistance for bifurcated Andhra Pradesh by way of special dispensation in funding of externally aided projects (EAPs) and also the irrigation component of Polavaram project.

The special assistance approved by the Cabinet will be provided to the state towards repayment of loan and interest for EAPs signed and disbursed during 2015-16 to 2019-20, an official release said.

After a determined Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu stuck to his resolve of securing a ‘special status’ for the State, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an announcement in September 2016 which, in practical terms, amounts to the treatment of residual Andhra Pradesh as a Special Category state.

After hours of gruelling negotiations in the government and consultations with the Chief Minister, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, flanked by his colleague Venkaiah Naidu, had announced the details of the package which is valid for five years — 2015 to 2020.

The Centre will also fund 100 per cent of the irrigation component of the Polavaram project starting from April 1, 2014, it said further.

"This support for capital expenditure by way of repayment of EAP loans would help and assist the newly formed state of Andhra Pradesh to put the State’s finances on a firmer footing and promote economic growth," it said.

The Centre while fulfilling its commitments under Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014, has already provided ‘Special Assistance’ of Rs 1,976.50 crore to the state during 2016-17.

Besides, the Ministry of Water Resources has also provided Rs 2,081.54 crore for the Polavaram Irrigation Project during the current financial year.

"Thus the Central government, after the enactment of the Reorganisation Act, has provided central assistance of Rs 10,461.04 crore to the state of Andhra Pradesh which includes Rs 4,403 crore released during 2014-15, Rs 2,000 crore released during 2015-16 and Rs 4,058.04 crore in 2016-17.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu welcomed the Union Cabinet’s approval for the special economic package to the state.

"What all benefits the state would have got under the special category status, would now accrue under the special economic package. I said this long ago. Politicising the issue is not correct. Development of the state comes before everything,” said the Chief Minister.

The opposition parties should ponder over this, he added. Chandrababu reiterated that he never compromised on the issue of development of the state. "Confrontation achieves nothing. We can get things done only through amicable means," he said.

The Centre agreed to establish a new railway zone at Visakhapatnam and also enhance the number of As-
The special package revolves around various sections in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, the 14th Finance Commission report recommendations, oral commitment made by the then Prime Minister in February 2014 and the recommendations made by the Niti Ayog in 2015.

Assembly constituencies, he claimed. “That will hasten the development process, he added.

The package revolves around various sections in the A.P. Reorganisation Act, the 14th Finance Commission report recommendations, oral commitment made by the then Prime Minister in February 2014 and the recommendations made by the Niti Ayog in 2015.

“People of the state have been waiting for this for many days now... Had they granted special status, I would have been happier. In case they have some technical problems, they should do whatever is possible as per law,” he told a press conference later.

With respect to the construction of capital city Amaravati, he said Rs 2500 crore already been sanctioned and another Rs 1000 crore promised would not be in any way sufficient.

Replying to the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the Governor’s Address in the Legislative Council, Naidu thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving the special assistance to the state and 100 per cent funding for the Polavaram.

While thanking Union ministers M Venkaiah Naidu, Arun Jaitley and Uma Bharti, he said, “I had visited Delhi 26 times to pursue the issue and I am very happy today as the Union Cabinet has approved both Special Assistance and total funding for Polavaram Project.

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed a resolution thanking the Central Government for approving a special economic package for the state.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced the package in September last and since then the state government had been demanding the Centre to accord “legal sanctity” to it.

“This will be the harbinger of development of our new state that suffered heavily due to the irrational bifurcation,” Chandrababu said.

Road projects worth Rs 4,500 crore in AP

The Centre has sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh 14 road projects costing Rs 4,500 crore in the current fiscal. “During the current financial year, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sanctioned 14 major projects costing Rs 4,500 crore on National Highways under corridor approach and NHDP 4 scheme for Andhra Pradesh,” said Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping.

The long pending demand for Vizianagaram bypass has been fulfilled. The work of four-laning of the bypass with concrete road for Rs 430 crore has been sanctioned, he said.

“Visakhapatnam area grid separator at convent junction on Visakhapatnam old road is being developed at a cost of Rs 60 crore. Out of this, Rs 30 crore will be funded under the Sagar mala programme, Rs 15 crore by NHAi and another Rs 15 crore by Visakhapatnam Port Trust,” he added.

Another project, the minister said, is six-laning of Anakapalli-Anandapuram access controlled highways as part of NH16, providing connectivity of 12 km to Visakhapatnam port with service road on both sides. This will be a dedicated corridor to port Visakhapatnam- Ranantharam and 47 km of NH 16 is also to be six-laned at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore.

Bids for the project are already done and the construction will start in the next four to five months, he informed. For the outer ring road of 186 km around Amaravati, Rs 20,000 crore has been sanctioned. Land acquisition is to be done by state government.

Nandigama and Kanchikacharla bypasses which were pending since 2007 have been sanctioned by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Mandaviya said.

The Amaravathi-Ananthapuram Expressway with connectivity to Kadapa and Kurnool in a length of nearly 690 km at a cost of nearly Rs 28,000 crore would be taken up by NHAI. Land acquisition is to be done by the state government.

Avenue plantations along the National Highways are to be taken up with the partnership of local industrialists, farmers and NGOs.

Electric Transport in the new capital

Electric buses with no emissions will run in Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh. The suggestion by the master architect of Amaravati — UK-based architects Foster and Partners — to use only eco-friendly, non-polluting public transport, especially buses, was approved by the government. Unmanned electric buses will run on roads of Amaravati administrative city with dedicated stops, said CM N Chandrababu Naidu after a meeting with Foster and Partners at Vijayawada.
Lord Venkateswara Temple at Tirumala is one of the best managed spiritual and religious institutions in the country. Described as the richest temple in India, the Tirumala temple, located on seven hills of Tirupati, is administered by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD). The temple’s management of pilgrims, averaging between 60,000 to a 100,000 a day, while ensuring the upkeep of the entire place in pristine and sacred splendour, has received wide acclaim.

Tirumala has emerged as the model spiritual centre in terms of its maintenance, order, devotee-friendly initiatives and development activities. A large part of the credit for this achievement goes to the successive Executive Officers, who headed the administrative body over the years. Dr D Sambasiva Rao, a senior IAS officer, who is the present Executive Officer, has brought about major changes in the day-to-day administration of the temple affairs, enabling more number of devotees to have the darshan of the Lord without as little hardship as possible.

Dr Dondapati Sambasiva Rao spoke to Andhra Pradesh about the technological initiatives of the Tirumala administration.

Technology is being widely used in Tirumala administration. Can you explain how it is helping?

Basically people come here for darshan – they range around 70,000 to 100,000 a day. The other day, there were 89,000. And this is supposed to be lean season. There are different types of darshan – Sarva Darshan, Darshan for Walkers and Seeghra Darshan (faster darshan). Those who opt for Seeghra Darshan earlier would go up the hill, and then buy tickets, a process which would take 3-4 hours. These would be in the range of 25,000 tickets. Now, we have placed these tickets online, wherein we release around 2500 tickets once every hour during the day. They can be purchased 120 days in advance. They can buy laddus also in advance. This will enable the pilgrims to have darshan in 2 to 2.5 hours and leave the place. All this, without any stress on the resources of the Temple. Here, the technology is as good as the one used by Railways for ticket booking.

How many pilgrims are making their arrangements online?

Out of 2.60 crore who visited Tirumala last year. 71 lakh devotees came through booking online. That works out roughly to 25-30 percent. Because of the use of technology, there is less strain on the administration.

Do you have a separate wing for technology in TTD?

No. Tata Computer Services (TCS) is helping us as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity. Around 120 computer engineers are working on TTD projects. Their services are freely provided to the TTD.

Where else is technology being used?

Advance booking of accommodation is also now made available online. We have about 6500-7000 rooms, out of which 2000 rooms can be booked in advance of 120 days online. Here, technology helps us ensure that there is no blocking of rooms; so there is optimum utilisation of the available space. Also, the rooms are made
Tata Computer Services (TCS) is helping us as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity. They maintain the website and its operations. Around 120 computer engineers are working on TTD projects. Their services are freely provided to the TTD.

about 50,000 of them - are also available online. They are released first Friday of every month. Technology has made it possible for people from anywhere in the world to book their tickets and plan their visit to the Temple in advance. All these are interlinked in the system, providing for smooth running of the administration and comfortable darshan of the Lord for the devotees. The website www.tirumala.org, developed by TCS as part of their CSR activity, is one stop source for all the online bookings.

Are you accepting donations online?

We have also introduced a Donor Management System. Earlier, it was a hassle to make donation to the 9 different Trusts of TTD that serve the people in various ways. Now after the introduction of online system, donors can make their contributions from anywhere and, unlike in the past, they get acknowledgment instantly. They also get their IT exemption certificate and their digital passbook immediately. The donors also can download their privileges in terms of darshan and accommodation from the net.

For the cottage donation scheme also, we are implementing the same online procedure. There is also e-hundi, wherein devotees can put their money in 3-4 steps from the comfort of their system. There is no need to physically go to the hundi at the Temple, and offer their money. Likewise, for those who want to donate shares, we have opened a demat account, and people can donate their shares online.

All the TTD publications are also now available online, which can be accessed freely without any payment. They include everything that TTD produces - from Annapoorna kirtan cassettes to yearly calendars.

What have been the latest trends?

Compared to last year, we are witnessing 10,000 more pilgrims every day now.

How many people can you accommodate for darshan in a day?

We are trying to improve systems so that we can have optimal use of time to provide darshan to the visitors. We are ensuring there is a continuous flow of pilgrims, which will ensure that devotees are not crowded at one place. Even when there are a 100,000 people visiting the Temple, you will not find crowds at Tirumala, as visitors are always on the move. If 4,500 people come out of the Temple (after darshan) every hour, we can ensure that there is no crowding.

Thus, we have now been able to ensure there are no big crowds gathered in one place.

How is the revenue for the Temple?

The revenue is going up by 8-10 percent, though there was slight dip recently due to demonetisation. Most of the revenue comes through Seeghra Darshan. Donations for various schemes come from devotees all the time. For Anna Prasadam, the corpus fund has gone up by Rs 800 crores - this financial year, Rs 100 crore was received as donation. We have 9 Trusts - together they get around Rs 150 crore as donations every year.

What are the major expenses for TTD?

It is salaries and pensions. There are around 20,000 employees, out of which 10,000 are permanent employees.

TTD calendars seems to be in great demand?

Our calendars and diaries are much sought after. For 2017, we have had 32 lakh calendars and 10 lakh diaries printed and sold. This is probably one of such largest exercises anywhere.
The building of people’s capital Amaravati is one of the two projects that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is very obsessive about. In accordance with his grandiose plans to create a city that will outsmart any other in India, Naidu has been spending enormous amount of time on every minute detail with regard to the capital construction. Naidu wants the city to reflect the history and cultural fabric of the 29 villages that constitute the emerging capital city. This is what he conveyed to Foster + Partners, entrusted with the designs for the capital.

The capital city Amaravati is all set to enter the execution phase soon with the architectural plans being nearly finalized. London-based Foster + Partners (F+P) presented the revised master plan of the core government buildings in Amaravati titled ‘Amaravati-People’s Capital-Building Sustainable Vision’ to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu as well as to the MLAs and MLCs of the state in a specially organized event.

The Chief Minister had announced that the committee headed by Government Advisor (Communications) Parakala Prabhakar would recommend ways to incorporate Telugu history and culture in the designs conceived by Foster and his team.

Norman Foster, the founder-chairman of London-based Foster + Partners, submitted four concept designs of the government buildings to be constructed in the core capital Amaravati, to the Chief Minister in early March. During last week of March, a comprehensive architecture plan was presented on the basis of feedback obtained from local and international experts. Based on the suggestions that were received in the earlier meeting, Foster + Partners and Architect Hafeez Contractor made a presentation titled ‘Amaravati- The People’s Capital – Building a Sustainable Vision.

The presentation highlighted the need for integrating green and blue spaces. It said that the city would consist of 51 percent green, 10 percent water, 14 percent road and 25 percent building footprint i.e of 1,000,000 sqm.

To promote Andhra Pradesh’s culture, heritage and arts the representatives said that the architectural heritage should be
The Parakala Prabhakar committee, consisting of eminent personalities from the disciplines of history, archaeology, heritage and culture, would suggest ways to blend various cultures of different ages, carved out by eminent rulers of historical importance, in the designs for Amaravati.

Meanwhile, the experts committee entrusted with the task of incorporating Telugu culture and history in the buildings has decided to expedite its exercise.

Two teams of the committee, which had visited New Delhi, Tirupati, North Coastal Andhra and Amaravati areas, gave their presentations during a meeting recently. The committee discussed traffic islands, entry points, government buildings, lawns, water fountains and parks to be come up in Amaravati.

Prabhakar said that 'Foster + Partners' had submitted the state government some conceptual plans after incorporating some symbols relating to Telugu culture and heritage in the primary designs.

As the final designs of Amaravati are likely to be submitted by Foster + Partners by April end, Prabhakar suggested the members of the committee to finalise the issues relating to culture, history and heritage for incorporating in the designs as per the aspirations of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Cine Art Director Anand Sai said that he is drawing some designs based on some of the heritage symbols in Sri Venkateswara Museum in Tirupati and National Museum in New Delhi.

Noted archaeologist K. Paddayya, Professor Emeritus and former director of Deccan College, Pune, is also lending his expertise. Robert Knox, the famous keeper of the department of original antiquities of British Museum, was also roped in to provide expert advice.

Tirupati’s Sri Venkateswara museum director V Ranganayakulu said that the government offices should reflect the ancient ‘man- duva logili’ structures for free flow of air and sunlight. The buildings should be named with historical names.

Sri Venkateswara University retired professor Kirankant Chowdary said that the structures in the capital should reflect ancient kingdoms including Satavahanas, Ikshvakas, Salankayanas and Buddhists. Writer Sai Papineni said that the designers should adopt the technology in Los Angeles structures to bring down the temperature. A retired archaeological official KV Rao said that the buildings should reflect the Buddhism traces in Amaravati region. Director of cultural affairs Vijay Bhaskar said that the structures should reflect the history of Kalinga kingdom. Archeologist E Siva Nagireddy said that the structures in Amaravati should reflect the culture of all regions of the state.

Amaravati heritage city advisor Galla Amareswar said that the suggestions of experts should be developed as designs in 3D and should be presented to Foster and Partner. Designer Vasuki Balasubramanian, historian P Hanumanta Rao were also present.
Even after seven decades, these haunting melodies and many more composed by C.R. Subburaman are popular across generations of film music lovers. A child prodigy, Subburaman became a music director when he was barely 19 and in the next ten years he made a lasting impact on Telugu and Tamil film industry with his melodious score before fate snatched him away at a very young age.

**Early Years**

Chintamani Rama Subburaman was born in Chintamani village in Tirunelveli district in the then composite Madras Presidency in 1923. His ancestors hailed from the Andhra region. At the tender age of five, Subburaman developed interest towards music and his father Ramasamy Iyer encouraged him to take music lessons from a nadhaswaram player in Kumbakonam. Later he took him to Madras (now Chennai) to learn piano and master harmonium. Recommended by editor M.S. Money and Sundara Bhagavathar, brother of veteran music composer G. Ramanathan, Subburaman joined the HMV orchestra as a harmonist at the age of 16. The orchestra was headed by R. S. Chinnaiyah. Interestingly, Saluri Rajeswara Rao was also with the HMV orchestra at that time. With his talent and hard work, Subburaman soon rose to the level of assistant music director at HMV.

**Tryst with Cinema**

For his Telugu production, Chenchulakshmi (1943) producer Soundararajan of Tamil Nadu Talkies commissioned the HMV orchestra to compose the songs. Young Subburaman played harmonium as part of the orchestra. After setting tunes for two songs, Chinnaiah suddenly died. S. Rajeswara Rao stepped in and, after composing four songs, he left due to personal reasons. All along Soundararajan was observing the young harmonist during the recordings. He said, ‘you are my music director.’ Subburaman was at first apprehensive because he did not know a word of Telugu and was wavering to accept the offer. However, the film’s lyric writer Samudrala Raghavacharya, popularly known as Samudrala Sr. encouraged him to take up the job. Samudrala explained to him the meaning of the lyrics and was with him during the composing and recording sessions. It was then that Subburaman completed the task successfully and earned kudos for his work. No wonder, he always said that Samudrala Sr. was his guru.

**Innovative genius**

That was how Subburaman made his tinsel town entry...
Chintamani Rama Subburaman, whose ancestors hailed from Andhra region, made his tinsel town entry with a Telugu film and even made history when he used playback singing in Chenchulakshmi.

with a Telugu film and even made history when he used playback singing in Chenchulakshmi. Kamala Kotnis played the title role and the alluring song, Thinne Meeda Chinnoda, which was filmed on her was rendered by Rao Balasaraswati. For the title music and for a dance number without a song, Subburaman introduced Latin American instruments to Telugu cinema. Chenchulakshmi’s success brought him instant recognition as a music composer and offers came his way from Tamil film producers too.

The most sought after Tamil actor and singer of the time M.K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar signed him for ‘Udhayanan’ but, just on the day of the recording, MKT was arrested for his involvement in journalist Lakshminathan’s murder. The irony was that though Subburaman had nothing to do with it he was considered unlucky by the producers of the film and was replaced.

**Fruitful association**

However, the disappointment for Subburaman was short lived. Again it was the Telugu film industry that came to his rescue in the form of Bhanumathi Ramakrishna and her Bharani Pictures. Bhanumathi signed him for Rathnamala along with Ghantasala, Balantrapu Rajanikantharao and Saluri Rajeswara Rao. Subburaman’s compositions for the film, Oho Naa Premadharaa and Madana Swagathamoyi turned out to be so popular that he became a permanent music director for Bharani Pictures. Musical hits like Laila Majnu and Prema followed. For Laila Majnu, to bring realistic touch to his compositions, Subburaman blended Arabian and Western tunes. Virithaavula Leela, Preme Neramou and Payananaye Priyathama are some of the songs from the film that are popular to this day. Besides other films, Subburaman also composed music for Bhanumathi’s trilingual movie, Chandrani in Telugu, Tamil and Hindi.

His association with another popular banner of the time, Pratibha Pictures came when he worked as an assistant music director for Gali Penchala Narasimha Rao besides composing the background score for the super hit, Balaraju. The film’s production chief’ Pratibha’ Sastri has said in an interview that it was Subburaman who composed music for the two super hit songs, O Balaraja Preme Yerugava and O Balaraja Jaali Ledaa Balaraja. Pratibha’s next production the A N R-Anjali Devi starrer, Swapnasundari owes its success to Subburaman’s music.

When M.K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar returned to films after his release, he signed Subburaman to compose music for Rajamukthi and soon Subburaman became a busy music director in Tamil too with such hits as Rathnakumar, Mangayar Karasi and Marmayogi. It was Subburaman who introduced Ghantasala in Tamil films with Pythiyakaran (1947) and M.L. Vasanthakumari in Rajamukthi. Another talented singer P. Leela learnt classical music from Subburaman.

**As a producer**

Subburaman was associated with director Vedantam Raghavaiah, writer Samudrala Sr. and production chief D.L. Narayana since his Bharani Pictures days. When the trio formed Vinoda Pictures with D.L. as the producer, Subburaman joined them as partner and music director. The first film to roll out from the banner was the ANR-Anjali Devi starrer, Stree Sahasam followed by Shanti. But it was their third film, a bilingual in Telugu and Tamil, Devadasu that became not only a money spinner but also a cult classic. Every song from the movie starring ANR and Savitri was a hit.

Unfortunately, Subburaman was not destined to see his music’s mega success. He was afflicted with epilepsy since childhood. By then he had composed tunes for all but two songs for Devadasu (the two songs Intha Telisiyundi, Jagame Maaya were tuned by his assistants M.S. Viswanathan and T.K. Ramamurthy). A sudden and severe bout of fits took its toll on him and he died at a very young age of 29 leaving behind a treasure trove of music for nearly 50 films in Telugu and Tamil, and his talented assistants Ghantasala, Susarla Dakshinamurthy, M.S. Viswanathan and T.K. Ramamurthy to continue with his legacy.

- M L Narasimham
Any filmmaker worth his salt would do anything to be in a position where SS Rajamouli is right now. It’s not everyday that a Telugu filmmaker earns the respect from millions of movie-goers north of the Vindhyas or even the villages and towns spread across Tamil Nadu and Kerala, but Rajamouli has done the impossible. He has now joined the ranks of an elite league of filmmakers in the country whose name alone is a stamp of integrity, grandeur and larger-than-life experience that cinema boasts of. Shankar and Mani Ratnam are two such filmmakers from the South who have managed to make inroads in the North Indian market to some degree of success; however, Rajamouli, with Baahubali, has turned into a national treasure, a feat which is often tagged to filmmakers like Rajkumar Hirani or Karan Johar to name a few.

It all began in 2012 when SS Rajamouli’s Eega flew to markets beyond the horizons of Telugu cinema. It established Rajamouli’s name in Tamil Nadu as a filmmaker to reckon with and earned rave reviews from national media, although the Hindi version of the film didn’t quite do well at the box-office. The success of Baahubali - The Beginning in 2015 came as a major shot in the arm, not just for SS Rajamouli but also to the whole of Telugu film industry. For the first time, after several years, Telugu films began making news for all the interesting work, in various fields, being done here, not just for the masala-driven content, which is often at the centre of several remakes in Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Bengali cinema.

Within a span of two years, as Hindi and Tamil filmmakers, began to keep a tab on films being made in Telugu film industry, new players have emerged who are taking their work beyond borders. Last year, films like Kshanam and Pelli Choopulu got a lot of attention from Bollywood and both the films are going to be remade in Hindi and Tamil soon. While there has been no dearth of commercial films in recent past, the focus on making period dramas, which push the heroism to a whole new level, has only increased. After Baahubali, there were films like Rudhramadevi and Gautamiputra Satakarni which walked down the same route as Baahubali and it wouldn’t be surprising if this interest in period dramas, fantasy and mythology is sustained for a longer period of time in Telugu cinema.

This brings us back to the impact that the second part of the Baahubali film series, Baahubali : The Conclusion is going to have on filmmaking as such in the South. The two films were made with a budget of close to Rs 450 crores, an unimaginable number for a regional film; however, the interesting part is that the makers of Baahubali have
already sold the theatrical and satellite rights of the film for close to Rs 500 crores. The film’s trailer, which was launched on March 16, shattered all records and it is currently the most watched trailer of all time in Indian cinema. This is significant for a number of reasons, but the most important of them all is that ‘Baahubali : The Conclusion’ has been baptised as a national film, made in Hyderabad and few other parts of India and Europe.

Traditionally, the success of one film draws attention to that director and actor’s previous work. In some rare instances, it turns out to be a window to explore other films made in the same language or film industry. Of late, thanks to the dubbed content, Telugu films and celebrities have become quite popular in the Hindi belt. Mahesh Babu’s 1-Nenokkadine is a big hit with the internet users, whereas Ravi Teja, Nagarjuna command a huge fan following in rural India. People there might not know what the film’s title was in Telugu, but they recognise the actor and that’s a big deal. With Baahubali : The Conclusion turning into a storm at the box-office, it’ll once again encourage people to dive deep into Telugu cinema of the recent past. Who knows what other gems will people, who aren’t well-versed with Telugu cinema, discover in near future.

Currently, the focus is clearly on Rajamouli and the spectacular world of Mahishmati that he has created for Baahubali : The Conclusion. The action looks much bigger than what it was in part one and the drama is expected to be an immersive experience in itself. With a lot of buzz surrounding ‘Why Kattappa Killed Baahubali?’, the film is going to grab a lot more eyeballs than what its predecessor did. Now that the foot is in the door, Baahubali has also given other filmmakers a chance to go beyond the borders of the two Telugu speaking states. Multi-linguals are expected to flourish in near future, including in-depth research and the cooperation of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam and Chief Priests. Inside Tirumala Tirupati promo views on National Geographic Facebook page have touched more than 12 million and ticking.

**From Bollywood to Tamil cinema, everyone is in awe of SS Rajamouli and his Baahubali team for what they seem to have achieved in the filmmaker’s latest epic saga Baahubali - The Conclusion. Here’s a look at how the film has cut across all barriers to become a truly Indian film.**

A documentary titled ‘Inside Tirumala Tirupati’ directed by New Delhi-based award-winning documentary film maker Rajendra Srivathsa Kondapalli, premiered on National Geographic India channel was widely watched for its spectacular capture of the world-renowned temple.

The 45-minute documentary allows viewers to experience the temple and its surroundings like an insider would, including getting a front-row seat to witness the spectacular annual celebration of Brahmostavam – an event that attracts such massive crowds that it makes the Tirumala temple one of the most visited Hindu pilgrimages in the world. The film presents the magnificent sanctum and its setting through time-lapse and hyper-lapse photography. The viewers would get a feeling of walking alongside devotees who scale the Seshachalam or Seven Hills on foot to reach the hilltop temple for a coveted Darshan of Lord Venkateshwara.

It took more than a year to develop and produce the film, including in-depth research with the cooperation of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam and Chief Priests. Inside Tirumala Tirupati promo views on National Geographic Facebook page have touched more than 12 million and ticking.
Setting the stage for Government of Andhra Pradesh’s ambitious initiative, #SpringConference 2017 was inaugurated at Novotel, Visakhapatnam recently. Fintech Valley Vizag is Government of Andhra Pradesh’s flagship initiative that brings together industry, academia and investors to innovate, co-create and build the fintech ecosystem. The Fintech Spring Conference 2017 marks the beginning of this journey. The primary objective of the event is to explore trends and opportunities in fintech. This is a platform where the finest minds of financial and startup community get to share mind-space with thought leaders, business leaders, artists, actors, musicians, futurists and entrepreneurs.

Offering full support to organisations, incubators, facilitators and start-ups, inviting anyone with disruptive ideas to be a part of Fintech Valley, on the edge of innovation, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu interacted with delegates for an hour over video conference and took inputs from fintech community present at the Spring Conference. He chaired The Fintech Valley Forum setup to focus on various aspects of the ecosystem creation. While addressing the august gathering he said, “The Fintech Valley Spring Conference is our step in joining the Fourth Industrial Revolution which is a spectacular combination of technology and Internet of Things (IoT). In recent times, technology has started influencing our lives in a comprehensive manner. The demand for Fintech is growing each day. To meet this demand, we would need the support from Fintech and Cyber security companies. We also need the academic institutions to adapt curriculum that trains individuals to contribute to fintech sector. I extend my best wishes for the success of the initiative and hope it provides multiple opportunities to meet the futuristic requirements of our country and the global economy at large.”

In his keynote address, Special Chief Secretary and IT Advisor to the AP Chief Minister, J. A. Chowdary stated, “Indian IT 1.0 is facing difficulties. The next flight towards IT 2.0 will be backed by fintech. The tectonic shifts this will cause and entail is captured by the expression ‘fintectonics’. It is a fintech culture we are creating here – a culture of doing something for the betterment of the common man, a culture of creating an ecosystem by getting the right industry
In his keynote address, Special Chief Secretary and IT Advisor to the AP Chief Minister, J. A. Chowdary stated, “Indian IT 1.0 is facing difficulties. The next flight towards IT 2.0 will be backed by fintech. The tectonic shifts this will cause and entail is captured by the expression ‘fintectonics’.

linkages and finding the right formula for the critical man-power.” Present on the dais were Mr. Roy Teo, Director, Fintech & Innovation Group, Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS); Utkarsh Palnitkar, Partner KPMG; George Inasu – COO, Fidelity Financial Services; Puneet Pushkarna, Chairman, TIE – Singapore and Joe Seunghyun Cho – Co-founder and Chairman, Marvelstone Group.

To accelerate the evolution of Fintech Valley, the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has also initiated a fintech networking event every month, in addition to the annual fintech international flagship event. This year, on October 9-10, the government will host the Blockchain Technology International Event. The flagship Global Fintech Summit will take place on Feb 19th & 20th, 2018. This event provides the opportunity to participate in the $1 million global fintech award challenge and the INR 1 crore Indian fintech award challenge.

An invigorating Investment Panel Discussion on ‘Funding Fintech – wearing an investor’s hat’ was moderated by P. S. Sreekanth, Investment Director, Hyderabad Angels; Sampath Iyengar, Partner, Forum Synergies; Abhinav Chaturvedi, Principal, Accel Partners; Prasad Vanga, Founder and CEO, Anthill Ventures; Utkarsh Sinha, Enterprise Technology Investor, Bitkemy Ventures; Puneet Pushkarna, Chairman, TIE – Singapore and Utkarsh Palnitkar, Partner and National Head IGS Advisory Management, KPMG. Beginning the discussion with the post demonetization scenario, the panelists sustained their dynamic dialogue in identifying fintech investment portfolios with high RoIs.

Additionally, the finalists’ demos and presentations for the ICICI Bank Start-Up Challenge & the HDFC Life Start-Up Challenge were showcased to the audience, wherein the competitors took questions from the judging panelists. Following this, another Banking Panel Discussion on ‘Consumers and Marketplaces changing in an increasingly cashless world’ was moderated by Ms. Neha Punater, Partner and Head Fintech, KPMG. Key panelists Akhil Handa, Advisor to MD&CEO, Bank of Baroda; Shashi Bhushan, Managing Director, Investment Management Technology, Goldman Sachs India; Ramesh Loganathan, Professor, IIIT Hyderabad and Sudin Baraokar, Head of Innovation SBI discussed challenges faced by start-ups in being unable to identify and direct resources towards the accurate fintech problem area. They also proposed the need to create a consolidated industry-wide ‘use case’ library to facilitate innovation.

Furthering collaboration towards developing this ecosystem, the Government also signed a partnership agreement with Lattice80, Pearson, Anthill Ventures, HackerEarth, F6S, Forum Synergies, Hyderabad Angels, Zone Startups, ParadigmIT and Trade Land Finance Tech Consortium (TLF). The first Fintech Valley Vizag Spring Conference brought together fintech companies, start-ups, researchers and key government officials working in the fintech sector and provided opportunities for disruptive business solutions. The peaceful atmosphere offered by Visakhapatnam compared to other bustling tech-hubs in India, created a serene environment for igniting fintech innovation and disruption ideas at the Fintech Valley Spring Conference. Fintech Valley Vizag is rapidly becoming the epicentre of fintech disruption. Since the launch of Fintech Tower, the Andhra Pradesh government has signed numerous partnership agreements with renowned educational institutions, corporations and governments that share the state’s vision of becoming pioneers for building strong standards for fintech and mutually sharing the desire in working towards cooperative advancement through information and resource sharing.

Courtesy: The DQ Week
Come, Let’s VIZAG!
Hill stations have been the summer destinations to Kumar Buradikatti of Bengaluru for a few years. But, this year, he is trying something different while making Vizag, a.k.a Visakhapatnam, the port city of Andhra Pradesh, a new holiday spot. He booked his slot for May 5th to spend his weekend. Why did he choose Vizag - the City of Destiny as his new destiny in summer? It is because of the most aggressive campaign, being launched by Andhra Pradesh Tourism department to promote tourism and to attract more sojourners.

The campaign was named ‘Let’s Vizag’, aimed to promote Vizag as the ideal summer holiday destination and accordingly, a website https://letsvizag.com/ was also kicked-started. Kumar Buradikatti was one of the aspirant- visitors that registered with the site. Thanks to the massive campaign, on which tourist department is spending Rs. 2.5 crore, there is a surge of inquiries and registrations from the other metropolitan cities, including Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai and New Delhi, besides Bengaluru.

“It’s all about assortment and dealing with swelling markets of tourism,” Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Himanshu Shukla said. The aim, according to him, is to turn Vizag into state’s one of top three tourist destinations.

Vizag is surely a pointer to evolving trends in its culture, it has always been relatively inclusive place. It is nestled in the lap of hillocks on the shores of Bay of Bengal. Aglow with swanky urban features like clubs, cottages, boutiques etc, it is now hosting Rs. 2.5 crore ‘Let’s Vizag’ campaign.

Thus, apart from the conventional advertising campaigns, Let's Vizag campaign is concentrating more in the digital domains. Its state-of-the-art website, with improvements in terms of all latest features, is reaching out the visitors of new-generation. The website presents the visitor a panoramic view of virtual vicinity of Vizag. In the first category, 'Let’s Walk Across The Sands', the uniqueness and beauty of Vizag beaches, including Ramakrishna beach, Gangaavaram beach, Bhimli, Yarada and Rishikonda beaches, are portrayed. In the section - ‘Let’s Discover Nature‘- picturesque beauty of Ananthagiri Hills, Lambasingi, Araku and Burra Caves, is explained.

Vizag has become more cosmopolitan, nevertheless, culturally aware. It is clearly culturally attuned in most ways, which truly earned the city an epithet cultural capital of Andhra. Owing to the cultural plurality of the area, Let’s Vizag website provided a category- ‘Let’s Explore a New Culture’- to make the visitor understand the diversity.

The campaign covers most of the social media networks, viz, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, besides smart phones. According to the officials, the main target is to attract young and recently married couples as well as the well-off sections of society. AP Tourist department came to an understanding with all the hotels, 17 tour operators in the city to offer the best deals to the tourists. Thus, Let’s Vizag is said to be a collective effort of the Tourism department, hotels and the tour operators. A free tour would also be offered for 200 winners of the contests on the social media and other platforms.

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**packages**

- The packages are as low as Rs. 3,350 per person for two nights and three days that cover Vizag and Araku with stay in budget hotels.
- The highest package for the same duration and locations in quality accommodation in five-star hotels costs Rs. 7,975.
- Stay in tree houses, surfing and scuba diving will be the special attractions.
- The packages can be booked till May 31 and tours will be available from May 1 to June 30.

For more details visit: https://letsvizag.com/
Widening of NG 5 in AP

Highways developer Ashoka Buildcon said its arm has won a Rs 1,187 crore project from NHAI for widening of a stretch of NH 5 in Andhra Pradesh. “The company’s subsidiary viz Ashoka Concessions Ltd (ACL) has received letter of award from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for six laning of Ranastalam to Annapuram (Visakhapatnam) section of NH 5 (new NH 16) in Andhra Pradesh,” Ashoka Buildcon said in a regulatory filing to the BSE. The project will be undertaken on hybrid annuity mode under the National Highways Development Project phase V, it said. “The accepted bid project cost is Rs 1,187.10 crore,” it said.

McNally Bharat secures solar project

McNally Bharat Engineering said it has bagged Rs 415 crore solar power project order in Andhra Pradesh. “The company has received letter of award from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for six laning of Ranastalam to Annapuram (Visakhapatnam) section of NH 5 (new NH 16) in Andhra Pradesh,” McNally Bharat Engineering said in a BSE filing.

MLA Bhuma Nagi Reddy Passes Away

Bhuma Nagi Reddy, legislator from Nandyal in Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh, died of heart attack. He was 53. Reddy is survived by his daughter Bhuma Akhila Priya, who is also a Legislator from Allagadda constituency. His wife Sobha Nagi Reddy died in a road accident two years ago, while campaigning for her election from Allagadda constituency. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed his condolences to the bereaved family.

Great Lakes Institute sets up university

Chennai and Gurgaon-based Great Lakes Institute of Management has launched the Great Lakes International University (GLIU) in Andhra Pradesh, making it one of the first few private universities being set up in the state. The university will commence its first academic session in August with two courses — a BBA and a B.Tech in computer science. “The university aims to nurture future leaders who are armed with intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and confidence derived from strong values and a global perspective,” Mohan Lakhamraju, founder of the university, said.

Rasna to set up factory in AP

Fruit-based concentrate manufacturing major Rasna said it plans to set up a new production facility in Andhra Pradesh as part of its proposal to increase market share in the powder drink segment. The new factory would be the company’s 10th facility in the country that would help strengthen its market share in the powder drink segment, Rasna Pvt Ltd. Chairman and Managing Director, Piruz Khambatta told reporters. “This factory will be an integral part of Rasna to strengthen the market share in the powder drink segment”, he said.

CM launches distribution of four-wheelers

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu formally launched the distribution of 125 Toyota Innova and an equal number of TATA Ace vehicles to the beneficiaries of the Scheduled Castes’ (SCs) Action Plan 2016-17 at the Interim Government Complex at Velagapudi. The actual distribution of vehicles will take place on April 14 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The vehicles are being given to unemployed youth belonging to the SCs at 35% subsidy, 5% beneficiary contribution and the balance in the form of a loan component from the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation. Social Welfare Minister Ravela Kishore Babu said the beneficiaries were selected through a lottery, and representatives of the respective automobile companies (Toyota and TATA) gave a presentation on their technical specifications and operation.

Haritha park to be made a 5-star resort

The state tourism officials plan to convert the Haritha Resort located at the Berm Park on the banks of the river Krishna in Vijayawada into a grand five-star riverfront resort with 100 rooms. The project will be implemented in PPP mode at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore. “Request for Proposal for the project has been issued and a developer will be selected soon. Work related to landscaping and clearing of areas to develop natural trails are already in progress. New pathways, selfie points and many other attractions will be developed as part of the project,” said Himanshu Shukla, Director, Andhra Pradesh Tourism.

Rly stations in State with cashless facility

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu declared Vijayawada, Tirupati, Kakinada Town and Guntur railway stations as 100% Digital Payment Enabled (DigiPAY) stations. He launched the services online from the Hi-Tech City railway station in Hyderabad. Railway authorities said the Tirupati railway station handled the largest flow of pilgrim traffic anywhere in the Indian Railways. As many as 78,000 passenger footfalls were recorded in the station every day generating Rs 73.43 lakh. The Vijayawada station, the gateway to AP capital Amaravati, was one of the busiest railway stations and hub for railway services. About 97,166 passengers travel from Vijayawada a day and the station was earning Rs 68.11 lakh per day. Located in the Konaseema area, the Kakinada Town station was serving the population of coastal
area and meeting the industrial and economic needs. The station was getting Rs 8.42 lakh revenue per day by handling 7,118 passengers. The Guntur station would be a vital link to the sub-urban commuter corridor of Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali. The station was contributing Rs 7.78 lakh revenue per day to the railways by handling 44,000 passengers a day.

10,647 cr. released towards farm loan waiver
Agriculture Minister Prathipati Pulla Rao said the government had till date released about Rs 10,647 crore to 35,65,150 farmers under the Agriculture Debt Re- demption Scheme–2014. The pending applications were being looked into. However, it is committed to fulfilling its promise in entirety in the due course, he said, replying to a question by TDP members A. Radha Krishna and Nimmala Rama Naidu in the Assembly as to how many farmers have got their loans waived and to what extent since June 2014.

State govt plans to set up Anna canteens
The government is planning to set up 65 Anna canteens in various municipal corporations and municipalities in the state in first phase and increase them depending on the requirement. Civil supplies minister Paritala Sunita made this announcement in Legislative Council while answering a question by M V V S Murthi during Question Hour. She further said that a Cabinet sub-commit tee will discuss the matter and take a decision. The aim of the government is to supply good quality food at nominal prices to the poor. The government is ready to provide necessary budget support to the scheme. There are also proposals to set up Anna canteens near RTC bus stands and railway stations to supply food at nominal rate to the poor, she added.

All constituencies to get stadia
Labour and employment minister K. Atchannaidu said in Legislative Council that the government was constructing the stadiums in all the Assembly constituencies in the state to encourage sports. He further said that he had asked all the MLAs take initiative to allot five acres each in their respective constituencies for the purpose and 75 MLAs allotted land so far. Replying to a question by MLC M V V S Murthi, during the Question Hour, Atchannaidu said that the state government had taken the initiative to conduct National Games in 2018 in AP. He further said that the government would bring out a new sports policy, which would come into force as soon as the state Cabinet approves it.

Renaming of Tirupati and Vijayawada airports
The Andhra Pradesh legislature today passed resolutions urging the Union Civil Aviation Ministry to rename Tirupati and Vijayawada airports, after Lord Venkateswara and legendary Telugu actor N T Rama Rao, respectively. The resolutions to rename both the existing airports were moved, on behalf of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, first in the Legislative Assembly and later in the Legislative Council, and were approved unanimously. In a resolution, the Andhra Pradesh government requested the Aviation Ministry to change the names of the Tirupati airport as Sri Venkateswara Airport, Tirupati, after the famous deity. In another resolution, it wanted Vijayawada airport at Gannavaram renamed as Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao Airport, Amaravati, after the legendary Telugu film star and former Chief Minister. Since the Vijayawada airport is located in NTR’s home district Krishna, the government wanted it named after him.

Tirupati offerings net Rs 4.75 Cr in a day
The offering box at the hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara in Tirupati on March 27 netted cash offerings to the tune of Rs 4.75 crore in new notes, the highest single day collection post demonetisation. Since the announcement of demonetisation scheme, everyday the handi (offering box) had collected between Rs 2.5 and Rs 3 crore, besides offerings in gold and silver, from thousands of devotees across the country, who are un-
The state government had set a target of achieving 15% growth rate in the coming fiscal.

For the current year (2016-17), the state has achieved 11.61 % growth rate against 7.11 % in the country.

The growth rate was 14.03% in agriculture and allied sectors against the national average of 4.37%.

AP achieved 10.05 % in the industrial sector and 10.16 % in the service sector.

The national average in the industrial sector was 5.77 %, while it was 7.87 % in the service sector.

Per Capita income 2016-17

AP : Rs 1,22,376

India : Rs 1,03,818
Pic 1: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was a special guest at the swearing in ceremony of Yogi Adityanath as the newly elected Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Pic 2: The Chief Minister and his wife Bhuvaneswari inaugurated Aakruti Vastra exhibition of AP Crafts Council and interacted with artisans.

Pic 3: The CM was the chief guest at the Institute of Management Technology (IMT) Convocation in Hyderabad, and spoke on the need for students to work for the country.

Pic 4: In review on Amaravati, Chris Bubb of Fosters + Partners explaining the salient features of the plan to CM and Ministers.

Pic 5: CM paying respects to MLA Bhuma Nagireddy, who passed away at a young age. Bhuma’s daughters, including MLA Akhila Priya is also seen.
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*Assessment of State implementation of Business Reforms 2015 by DPIE, Department of Industries, November 2016 **IBBI Studies, September 2016

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27-28 January 2017
APG Ground, Parappu Park, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh