

Andhra Pradesh

Area: 2,75,069 sq. km

Population: 6,210,007

Capital: Hyderabad

Principal Languages: Telugu and Urdu

Sri K. Rosaiah, Chief Minister

General Administration, Law & Order, PE, Finance, Planning, Small Savings, Lotteries, Legislative Affairs and all other portfolios not allotted to other Ministers



Constituency:	MLC
Office Address:	Block-C, Floor-6
Residence Address:	AmeerPet, Hyderabad
Office Phone:	040-23456698
Residence Phone:	Camp Office:- 040-23451805/23455205

Sri P Sudarshan Reddy

Minister for Medical Education



Constituency:	Bodhan
Office Address:	J Block No:201/202
Residence Address:	-
Office Phone:	040-23454715
Residence Phone:	-

Sri D. Sridhar Babu

Minister for Higher Education, NRI Affairs



Constituency:	Manthani
Office Address:	D Block No:430
Residence Address:	-
Office Phone:	040-23453241/23450785
Residence Phone:	-

Sri Damodar Raja Narasimha
Minister for Marketing & Warehousing



Constituency: Andole
Office Address: J Block No:810
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23455998/23450878
Residence Phone: -

Smt V. Sunitha Laxma Reddy
Minister for Minor Irrigation, A.P. Irrigation Development Corporation, Lift Irrigation, Ground Water Development, WALAMTARI



Constituency: Narsapur
Office Address: K Block No:237
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23457144/23450812
Residence Phone: -

Smt J. Geeta
Minister for I & PR, Cinematography, FDC & Tourism, Archaeology, Museums, Archives & Culture



Constituency: Zahirabad
Office Address: D Block No:220
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23453210/23453211
Residence Phone: -

Smt P. Sabita Indra Reddy
Minister for Home, Jails, Fire Services, Sainik Welfare



Constituency: Maheshwaram
Office Address: J Block No:801
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23457687/23453900
Residence Phone: -

Sri D. Nagender

Minister for Health & Family Welfare, APVVP and Hospital Services



Constituency: Khairatabad
 Office Address: D Block No:344
 Residence Address: -
 Office Phone: 040-23450708/23450503
 Residence Phone: -

Sri M. Mukhesh Goud

Minister for B.C. Welfare



Constituency: Goshamahal
 Office Address: A Block No:111
 Residence Address: -
 Office Phone: 040-23456514/23453239
 Residence Phone: -

Smt D.K. Aruna

Minister for Small Scale Industries, Sugar, Khadi & Village Industries, Printing & Stationery



Constituency: Gadwal
 Office Address: D Block No:151
 Residence Address: -
 Office Phone: 040-23453220/23450872
 Residence Phone: -

Sri J. Krishna Rao

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, Legal Metrology & Consumer Affairs



Constituency: Kollapur
 Office Address: J Block No:805
 Residence Address: -
 Office Phone: 040-23450515/23453209

Residence Phone: -

Sri Komatireddy Venkat Reddy
Minister for IT, Youth Services & Sports, Communications



Constituency: Nalgonda
Office Address: D Block No:358
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23450368
Residence Phone: -

Sri P. Lakshmaiah
Minister for Major & Medium Irrigation, A.P. Water Resources Development Corporation



Constituency: Jangoan
Office Address: J Block No:403
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23450633
Residence Phone: -

Sri R. Venkat Reddy
Minister for Cooperation and Labour & Employment, Factories & Boilers



Constituency: Palair
Office Address: D Block No:366
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23453222/23451217
Residence Phone: -

Sri S. Vijayaramaraju
Minister for Transport



Constituency: Pathapatnam
Office Address: D Block No:326
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23450533
Residence Phone: -

Sri D. Prasada Rao
Minister for Revenue, Relief, Rehabilitation, U.L.C.



Constituency: Srikakulam
Office Address: D Block No:142
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23453212
Residence Phone: -

Sri B.Satyanarayana
Minister for Panchayat Raj



Constituency: Cheepurupalle
Office Address: J Block No:301
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23455976
Residence Phone: -

Sri P. Balaraju
Minister for Tribal Welfare & R.I.A.D.



Constituency: Paderu
Office Address: D Block No:115
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23453231/23450328
Residence Phone: -

Sri P. Subash Chandra Bose
Minister for Social Welfare



Constituency: Ramachandrapuram
Office Address: B Block No:402
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23450347
Residence Phone: -

Sri P. Viswarupu
Minister for Rural Water Supply



Constituency: Amalapuram
Office Address: J Block No:510
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23456703
Residence Phone: -

Sri Pitani Satyanarayana
Minister for Arogya Sree, Health Insurance, 104, 108 & Medical Infrastructure



Constituency: Achanta
Office Address: J Block No:811
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23453425/23457113
Residence Phone: -

Sri V. Vasant Kumar
Minister for Rural Development, IKP, Pensions & NREGP, Self Help Groups



Constituency: Unguturu
Office Address: J Block No:501
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23454168
Residence Phone: -

Sri K. Pardha Saradhi

Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries and Veterinary University



Constituency: Penamaluru
 Office Address: J Block No:235
 Residence Address: -
 Office Phone: 040-23456043
 Residence Phone: -

Sri M.V. Raman Rao

Minister for Law & Courts, Technical Education & ITIs



Constituency: Repalle
 Office Address: D Block No:116
 Residence Address: -
 Office Phone: 040-23450372/23452068
 Residence Phone: -

Sri Gade Venkata Reddy

Minister for Endowments, Stamps & Registration



Constituency: Bapatla
 Office Address: D Block No:237
 Residence Address: -
 Office Phone: 040-23450556
 Residence Phone: -

Sri Kanna Lakshmi Narayana

Minister for Major Industries, Commerce & Export Promotion Food Processing



Constituency: Guntur West
 Office Address: D Block No:261
 Residence Address: -
 Office Phone: 040-23450813
 Residence Phone: -

Sri D. Manikya Vara Prasada Rao
Minister for Secondary Education, Government Examinations, A.P. Residential Educational Institutions
Society, Hyderabad Public School & Intermediate Education



Constituency: Tadikonda
Office Address: J Block No:204
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23454238/23451135
Residence Phone: -

Sri B. Srinivasa Reddy
Minister for Mines & Geology, Handlooms & Textiles, Spinning Mills



Constituency: Ongole
Office Address: J Block No:603
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23450579/23454667
Residence Phone: -

Sri Anam Rama Narayana Reddy
Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development



Constituency: Atmakur
Office Address: D Block No:345
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23453233/23450455
Residence Phone: -

Sri Mohd. Ahmadulla Syed
Minister for Minorities Welfare, Wakf, Urdu Academy, Primary Education, SSA, Adult Education, AP Open
Schools Society, Jawahar Bal Bhavan, A.P. Mahila Samata Society, SIET, Public Libraries, SCRET & A.P. Text
Book Press



Constituency: Kadapa
Office Address: B Block No:506
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23450362/23451064
Residence Phone: -

Sri C. Silpa Mohan Reddy
Minister for Housing, Weaker Section Housing Programme, A.P. Coop. Housing Societies Federation, A.P. Housing Board



Constituency: Nandyal
Office Address: D Block No:251
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23452339/23453207
Residence Phone: -

Sri Neelakanthapuram Raghuveera Reddy
Minister for Agriculture, Agriculture Technology Mission, Horticulture, Sericulture, R.S.A.D.



Constituency: Kalyandurg
Office Address: J Block
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23451196
Residence Phone: -

Sri P. Ramachandra Reddy
Minister for Forest, Environment, Science & Technology



Constituency: Punganur
Office Address: D Block No:260
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23454063/23453894
Residence Phone: -

Smt G. Aruna Kumari
Minister for Roads & Buildings



Constituency: Chandragiri
Office Address: L Block No:205
Residence Address: -
Office Phone: 040-23450855/23453230
Residence Phone: -

History and Geography

The earliest mention of the Andhras is said to be in **Aitereya Brahmana** (2000 B.C.). It indicates that the Andhras, originally an Aryan race living in north India migrated to south of the Vindhya and later mixed with non-Aryans. Regular history of **Andhra Desa**, according to historians, begins with 236 B.C., the year of Ashoka's death. During the following centuries, **Satavahanas**, **Sakas**, **Ikshvakus**, Eastern **Chalukyas**, **Kakatiyas** ruled the Telugu country. Other dynasties that ruled over the area in succession were the kingdoms of Vijayanagar and Qutub Shahi followed by Mir Qumruddin and his successors, known as the Nizams. Gradually, from the 17th century onwards, the British annexed territories of the Nizam and constituted the single province of Madras.

Although Sanskrit writings dating to about 1000 bce contain references to a people called "Andhras" living south of the central Indian mountain ranges, definitive historical evidence of the Andhras dates from the times of the Mauryan dynasty, which ruled in the north from the late 4th to the early 2nd century bce. The great Mauryan emperor Ashoka (reigned c. 265–238 bce) sent Buddhist missions to the Andhras in the south. About the 1st century ce, the Satavahanas (or Satakarni), one of the most renowned of the Andhra dynasties, came to power. Its members ruled over almost the entire Deccan plateau and even established trade relations with Rome. They were patrons of diverse religions and also were great builders; their principal city, Amaravati, contained Buddhist monuments that inaugurated a new style of architecture. Experts ascribe parts of the famous paintings in the Ajanta caves of the Deccan to the Andhra painters of that period. Buddhism prospered under the Andhras, and in their capital flourished the great Buddhist university of antiquity, where Nagarjuna (c. 150–250), the founder of the Mahayana school of Buddhism, taught. The ruins of the university, at Nagarjunakonda, still reflect its former glory.

The Andhras continued to prosper over the next millennium, and in the 11th century the eastern Calukya dynasty unified most of the Andhra area. Under the Calukyas, Hinduism emerged as the dominant religion, and the first of the Telugu poets, Nannaya, began translating the Sanskrit epic, the *Mahabharata*, into Telugu, marking the birth of Telugu as a literary medium. During the 12th and 13th centuries the dynasty of the Kakatiyas of Warangal extended Andhra power militarily and culturally; during their regime the commercial expansion of the Andhras toward Southeast Asia reached its peak.

By this time, however, followers of Islam had established themselves in the north, and their invasion of the south led to the fall of Warangal in 1323. But the rise of the kingdom of Vijayanagar, to the southwest of Warangal, arrested further expansion of the Muslim power for some time. Widely acclaimed not only as the greatest kingdom in Andhra history but also as one of the greatest in Indian history, Vijayanagar, under the rule of its preeminent king Krishna Deva Raya (reigned 1509–29), became synonymous with military glory, economic prosperity, good administration, and artistic splendour. Telugu literature, for instance, flourished during this period. The formation of an alliance between the various neighbouring Muslim principalities ultimately led to the fall of Vijayanagar in 1565, leaving the Muslims in control of the Andhra areas.

In the 17th century, European traders began to involve themselves in Indian politics, as successive nizams (rulers) of Hyderabad, seeking to consolidate their kingdom against rivals, obtained first French and later British support. In exchange for their help, the British acquired from the Nizam the coastal Andhra districts lying to the north of the city of Madras (now Chennai) and later the hinterland districts.

Thus, the major part of the Andhra country came under British rule. Part of the Telugu-speaking areas, known as the Telangana region, remained under the nizam's dominion, and the French acquired a few towns.

Indian nationalism arose during the 19th century, and the Andhras took a place at the forefront of the movement. Leaders such as Kandukuri Veerasalingam were pioneers in social reform. In the struggle against British rule, Andhra leaders played decisive roles. Pride in their historical and linguistic achievements led them to demand a separate province. Simultaneously, a movement was organized to unite the Telugu-speaking peoples living under British rule with those under the nizam's administration. Once India gained independence, the Andhras' demand for separate statehood became so insistent that, when the central government refused to comply, a local leader, Potti Sreeramulu, fasted to death in 1952 to dramatize the issue. The government finally acceded to the people's request by creating on Oct. 1, 1953, the Andhra state, which included the Telugu-speaking districts of the former Madras state to the south, thus paving the way for the formation of linguistic states throughout India in 1957. The erstwhile state of Hyderabad, which had joined independent India in 1949, was split up, and its nine Telugu-speaking districts (constituting Telangana) were joined to the Andhra state on Nov. 1, 1956, to form the new state of Andhra Pradesh.

After Independence, Telugu-speaking areas were separated from the composite Madras Presidency and a new Andhra State came into being on 1 October 1953. With the passing of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, there was a merger of Hyderabad State and Andhra State, and consequently Andhra Pradesh came into being on 1 November 1956.

Andhra Pradesh is bound on the north by Orissa and Chhattisgarh, on the west by Maharashtra and Karnataka, on the south by Tamil Nadu and on the east by the Bay of Bengal with a coastline of 974 km.

Land

The state has three main physiographic regions: the coastal plain to the east, extending from the Bay of Bengal to the mountain ranges; the mountain ranges themselves, the Eastern Ghats, which form the western flank of the coastal plain; and the plateau to the west of the Ghats. The coastal plain, also known as the Andhra region, runs almost the entire length of the state and is watered by several rivers, flowing from west to east through the hills into the bay. The deltas formed by the most important of these rivers—the Godavari and the Krishna—make up the central part of the plains, an area of fertile alluvial soil.

The Eastern Ghats are part of a larger mountain system extending from central India to the far south and running parallel to the east coast. Interrupted by the great river valleys, these mountains do not form a continuous range. They have highly porous soils on their flanks.

The plateau to the west of the ranges—part of the Deccan—is composed of gneissic rock (gneiss being a foliated rock formed within the Earth's interior under conditions of heat and pressure); it has an average elevation of about 1,600 feet (500 metres). The southern portion of the plateau is commonly called Rayalaseema, and the northern portion is called Telangana. As the result of erosion, the plateau is a region of graded valleys, with red, sandy soil and isolated hills. Black soil is also found in certain parts of the area.

Climate

A summer that lasts from March to June, a season of tropical rains that runs from July to September, and a winter that lasts from October to February constitute the three seasons of Andhra Pradesh. Throughout much of the state, annual maximum temperatures range from the mid-70s to the low 80s F (the mid-20s C), while minimum temperatures usually read in the low 50s F (about 10 to 12 °C). On the coastal plain, however, summers are extraordinarily warm, with temperatures often exceeding 100 °F (38 °C) in some places. Conversely, summers are cooler and winters colder on the central plateau. Annual rainfall, which derives largely from the southwest monsoon, varies widely across the state. Some coastal areas may receive as much as 55 inches (1,400 mm) of rain, while the northern and western parts of the plateau may receive as little as 20 inches (500 mm).

Plant and animal life

Mangrove swamps and palm trees fringe the coastal plain of Andhra Pradesh, while thorny vegetation covers the scattered hills of the plateau. Of the state's total area, about one-fourth is forest-covered, with dense woodlands occurring primarily in the north along the Godavari River and in the south in the Eastern Ghats. The forests consist of both moist deciduous and dry savanna vegetation; teak, rosewood, wild fruit trees, and bamboo are plentiful. Elsewhere in the state, neem (which produces an aromatic oil), banyan, mango, and the pipal (or Bo; *Ficus religiosa*) are among the common trees. Andhra Pradesh also has an array of flowering vegetation, including jasmine, rose, and a number of endemic species—particularly in the hilly region of the Eastern Ghats.

Animal life, apart from common domestic types (dogs, cats, and cattle), includes tigers, blackbucks, hyenas, sloth bears, gaurs, and chitals, which abound in the hills and forest areas. There also are dozens of species of birds, including flamingos and pelicans, as well as some rare varieties, such as the Jerdon's courser (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*), which is found in the thorny or scrub-covered areas surrounding the Eastern Ghats. The eastern coast is a nesting ground for sea turtles.

Population composition

The population of Andhra Pradesh, like that of the other states of India, is highly diverse. In general, the state's various communities are identified more readily by a combination of language, religion, and social class or caste than they are by specific ethnic affiliation. Telugu is the official and most widely spoken language in the state; a small minority speaks Urdu, a language primarily of northern India and Pakistan. Most of the remaining groups speak border-area languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi, and Oriya. Lambadi (Banjari) and a number of other languages are spoken by the state's Scheduled Tribes (indigenous minority peoples who are not embraced by India's caste hierarchy).

The great majority of the residents of Andhra Pradesh practice Hinduism. Smaller segments of the population follow Islam or Christianity. Christians live mostly in the urban centres and coastal areas, while Muslims are concentrated in the Telangana and Rayalaseema regions.

Settlement patterns

More than one-fourth of the population lives in urban areas. Of the urban dwellers, over a third inhabit the industrial and manufacturing areas around the three main cities—Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam, and

Vijayawada. With increasing industrial development, these cities began to merge with neighbouring towns, forming urban agglomerations.

Agriculture, forestry, and fishing

Dominated by the production of food grains, agriculture is the primary sector of the state's economy. Andhra Pradesh is one of the leading rice-growing states in the country and is a major producer of India's tobacco. The state's rivers, particularly the Godavari and the Krishna, account for its agricultural importance; for a long time their benefits were restricted to the coastal districts of the Andhra region, which had the best irrigation facilities. Since the mid-20th century, however, great efforts have been made to tap the waters of these and other rivers for the benefit of the dry interior; indeed, a significant portion of the state's total investment for development is allotted to agricultural irrigation.

Canal irrigation in the Telangana and Rayalaseema regions of the plateau has given rise to agro-industrial complexes rivaling those of coastal Andhra Pradesh. The Nagarjuna Sagar multipurpose project, diverting the waters of the Krishna for irrigation, has increased substantially the production of rice and sugarcane. Rice flour, rice-bran oil, paints and varnishes, soaps and detergents, cardboard and other packaging materials, and cattle feed are all produced from local paddy rice. Other agricultural commodities now grown statewide include chili peppers, sorghum, pulses (peas, beans, and lentils), castor beans, peanuts (groundnuts), and cotton—all of which are processed locally as well—and grapes, mangoes, bananas, and oranges. This economic development in Telangana and Rayalaseema—further stimulated by improved agricultural technology, use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and upgrades in transport, marketing, and credit systems—has helped to reduce the political tensions that formerly existed between interior and coastal Andhra Pradesh.

The woodlands of Andhra Pradesh annually yield high-quality timber, such as teak and eucalyptus. Nontimber forest produce—including sal seeds (from which an edible oil is extracted), tendu leaves (for rolling local cigarettes), gum karaya (a type of emulsifier), and bamboo—is also important.

With its long coastline and many rivers, the state has a significant and expanding fishing industry. Much of the yield is drawn from freshwater and marine aquaculture, but open-sea fisheries are significant as well. Prawns and shrimp are among the main products of the industry.

Resources and power

Among the state's principal mineral resources are asbestos, mica, manganese, barite, and high-grade coal. Low-grade iron ore is found in the southern parts of the state. Andhra Pradesh produces a major share of the country's barite. It is the only state in southern India that possesses significant coal reserves. In the early 21st century, large deposits of natural gas were discovered onshore and offshore in the basins of the Godavari and Krishna rivers. The diamond mines of Golconda were once renowned worldwide for producing the Koh-i-noor diamond and other famous stones; efforts have been made to revive production in the area. Quartz, limestone, and graphite also occur. The state has established a mining and metal trading corporation to lead the exploitation of its mineral resources.

Most of Andhra Pradesh's energy is produced by thermal generators in the public sector, with hydroelectric power stations providing an important secondary source of energy. In addition, the government has established several wind farms. A number of private companies operate generators

powered by natural gas; they also have worked to develop wind, biomass, and other nonconventional power sources.

Manufacturing

Although Andhra Pradesh has since the mid-20th century become one of the most highly industrialized states in India, manufacturing continues to account for a small percentage of the state's income. Industries such as shipbuilding, aeronautics, and the manufacture of electrical equipment, machine tools, and drugs have been established in the Vishakhapatnam and Hyderabad areas. Private enterprises, many of them located in and around the urban agglomeration of Vijayawada and Guntur in the east-central region, produce chemicals, textiles, cement, fertilizers, processed foods, petroleum derivatives, and cigarettes. A number of important enterprises of moderate size, such as sugar factories, are scattered across the medium and smaller urban areas. There is a mammoth steel plant at Vishakhapatnam, where raw materials and port facilities are easily accessible; an oil refinery also is located there, as is a large shipbuilding yard. The phenomenal increase in power generated by hydroelectric and thermoelectric projects since the late 20th century has benefited industrialization and irrigation.

Transportation

There are airports in the state at Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupati, and Vishakhapatnam. An extensive road and rail system connects Andhra Pradesh with most other parts of India. Bus transportation, a large share of which is privately operated, offers facilities for express travel between various cities. The river canals in coastal areas, especially the saltwater Kommamur (Buckingham) Canal running parallel to the coast from the Krishna River to Chennai (Madras), are used for cargo transportation. Vishakhapatnam is a major international seaport.

Constitutional framework

Andhra Pradesh is a constituent unit of the Republic of India; as such, the structure of its government, like that of most Indian states, is defined by the national constitution of 1950. A governor, appointed by the president of India, is the executive head of the state administration, but the real power is in the hands of a chief minister and a Council of Ministers responsible to the state legislature. The state has a bicameral legislature, the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha), which is elected by adult suffrage from territorial constituencies and Legislative council .

The administration is conducted by various ministries and departments, each under the direction of a minister, assisted by a staff of permanent civil servants. The State Secretariat at Hyderabad supervises the administration of the state's nearly two dozen districts. Local administration in each district is the responsibility of a district collector. Rural local government has been democratically decentralized by the introduction of a system in which local authorities operate at the village, block (a unit consisting of a group of villages), and district levels. Municipal bodies govern the urban areas.

The regional committees for Telangana and Rayalaseema are a special feature of the state government; the duty of the committees is to ensure that the views of the people of Telangana and Rayalaseema are given adequate consideration. The committees were established to protect regional interests when the regions joined Andhra Pradesh in 1956, since the areas were economically and educationally less-

advanced than the coastal Andhra areas. The disparities of development that existed at the regional level in Andhra Pradesh gave rise in the early 1970s to the formation of Telangana Praja Samiti (Telugu: Telangana People's Committee), a political party demanding Telangana statehood. In the following decade, organizers of another political party, Telugu Desam ("Land of Telugu"), advocated a reduced role for the national government in state affairs. Telugu Desam ruled Andhra Pradesh for much of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

The state judiciary is headed by a High Court, located in Hyderabad; the High Court has original jurisdiction in some cases and exercises appellate and administrative control over the district and lower level courts. The High Court is itself subject to the appellate authority of the Supreme Court of India in certain matters. The Secunderabad cantonment, north of Hyderabad, comprises a number of defense establishments, and Vishakhapatnam is the headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command.

Health and welfare

Government-supported health facilities have expanded rapidly since the late 20th century. Under the Primary Health Centres scheme, medical help, both curative and preventive, has been brought to many rural areas. Urban public medical centres, such as the large Osmania Hospital at Hyderabad and the King George Hospital at Vishakhapatnam, have undergone expansion and upgrading; and specialized institutes, including those for treating specific diseases, have been opened. There is also a family-planning program. Medical aid is free to low-income groups, and several medical-insurance schemes cover various categories of employees.

Before the state's independence, social-welfare work was mainly undertaken by private agencies. Since the mid-20th century, however, the magnitude of need and the scarcity of resources, both organizational and financial, led the government to accept primary responsibility in this field. Public investment in social welfare accounts for a large proportion of the total amount spent on planning. There are social-welfare programs for people with disabilities, for Scheduled Castes (formerly called "untouchables") and Scheduled Tribes, and for other groups that are not fully integrated into the social structure. Such programs include, among others, those that reserve places in educational institutions, those that provide employment, and housing and land-distribution schemes. A separate government department addresses women's concerns. There remain, nevertheless, many privately run social organizations that operate alongside those of the government; the Andhra Mahila Sabha, for instance, broadly promotes women's welfare.

Education

The state's educational system provides for 10 years of schooling followed by a two-year junior college course leading to undergraduate and postgraduate education. Primary school has been compulsory since 1961, and both primary and secondary school are provided free of charge. In the early 21st century the literacy rate was roughly 60 percent.

Andhra Pradesh has some 20 universities, a number of which provide postgraduate instruction and research facilities. The Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, which is a nationally prominent institution, is located at Hyderabad. Since the late 20th century, technical education has received special attention in order to meet the demands of industrialization. Various industrial-training institutes offer vocational training, while the engineering colleges of the universities train advanced

technical personnel. Scholarship programs are available for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other disadvantaged groups in all educational institutions that receive substantial financial assistance from state and federal agencies. Privately run facilities also operate at all levels.

Cultural life

The Andhras' contribution to India's cultural heritage is substantial. Architecture and painting have been highly developed arts in the region since ancient times. The *kuchipudi* style of dance is unique in the Indian tradition, while Karnataka (South Indian) music has derived much from Andhra roots. Many of southern India's major classical composers have been Andhras, and Telugu has been the language of most of the compositions. Telugu, one of the four literary languages of the Dravidian family, occupies a prestigious place among Indian languages, being renowned for its antiquity and admired by many for its mellifluous quality. Telugu literature was prominent in the Indian literary renaissance of the 19th and 20th centuries, as the writing resonated with a revolution in literary forms and expression, stimulated to a large degree by Western genres. Andhra Pradesh has many periodicals in English, Telugu, and Urdu. Muslim culture in the Telangana region further enriches the state's cultural diversity.

Before independence, arts and literature thrived mostly under the sponsorship of royal patrons and private organizations, many of which still function. Since independence, the state has created autonomous academies to revive, popularize, and promote fine arts, dance, drama, music, and literature.

The conscious cultivation of cultural expression is more an urban than a rural phenomenon, for cultural performances, literary meetings, and religious discussions occur mostly in towns or cities. Cultural development in different parts of the state under different historical circumstances resulted in the occurrence of recognizable variations in dialect, in caste structure, and in other traditions, all of which ultimately served to diversify the rural arts. Rural cultural media such as balladry, puppetry, and storytelling are indigenous to the area; use of these media in social and political communication is also common. The penetration of the mass media, especially of radio and television, into rural areas has helped to bring an awareness of classical traditions to the rural communities and of rural arts to the urban population. Andhra Pradesh is among the few major moviemaking states of India.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the main occupation of about 62 per cent of the people in Andhra Pradesh. Rice is a major food crop and staple food of the State contributing about 77 per cent of the foodgrain production. Other important crops are jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, small millets, pulses, castor, tobacco, cotton and sugarcane. Forests cover 23 per cent of the State's area. Important forest products are teak, eucalyptus, cashew, casurina, bamboo, softwood, etc.

The Government decided to arrange crop loans to the farmer at concessional rates of interest from the kharif season (2008) under the 'Pavala Vaddi' (3% rate of interest) scheme and also increased the loan amount to farmers from Rs. 23,000 crores in 2007-08 to Rs. 26,000 crores in 2008-09 to achieve the goal of increasing food grain production. Under the Centre's Rs. 60,000 crore loan waiver scheme. 77 lakh farmers of the State benefit to the tune of Rs. 12,000 crore. The prestigious 'Jalayagnam' project is designed by the Government to save the farmer from the vagaries of monsoons and provide assured

irrigation facility to every acre of land. Farming in Andhra Pradesh today is so encouraging and remunerative that no farmer entertains farmers' suicides.

Irrigation

Important irrigation schemes implemented in the State are Vamsadhara Project Stage-I, Godavari Delta System, Yeleru Reservoir Project, Krishna Delta System, Pennar Delta System, Pennar River Canal System, Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy Sagar Project, Tungabhadra Project high level canal Stage-I, Tungabhadra Project low level canal, Sriramsagar Stage-I, Nizamsagar Project, Nagarjuna Sagar Project and Rajolibanda Diversion scheme.

Andhra Pradesh is the first state to involve the farmers in the management of irrigation sources.

Power

Important power projects in the State are: the Nagarjunasagar and Neelam Sanjiva Reddy Sagar (Srisailem Hydel Project), Upper Sileru, Lower Sileru, Tungabhadra Hydel projects and Nellore, Ramagundam, Kothagudem, Vijayawada and Muddanur thermal power projects. The Srisailem Hydro Electric project (Right Bank) with an installed capacity of 770 MW and the Srisailem Left Bank HES capacity of 900 MW and the Nagarjunasagar complex with 960 MW are the principal sources of hydel generation. Vijayawada Thermal Power station with an installed capacity of 1,260 MW and Kothagudem Thermal Power station with an installed capacity of 1,200 MW are the main sources of thermal power generation. The 1,000 MW coal-based Simhadri Thermal Power station aims at supplying the entire energy generated to the State. Installed capacity of the state as on May'08 is 12,382 MW For massive capacity addition of 8860 MW, 17 new projects are programmed by APGENCO which are expected to complete within next five years.

Industry and Minerals

There are several major industries in operation around Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam. They manufacture machine tools, synthetic drugs, pharmaceuticals, heavy electrical machinery, fertilizers, electronic equipments, aeronautical parts, cement and cement products, chemicals, asbestos, glass and watches. Andhra Pradesh has the largest deposits of quality chrysolite asbestos in the country. Other important minerals found in the state are copper ore, manganese, mica, coal and limestone. The Singareni Coal Mines supply coal to the entire South India.

The State Government has been promoting the manufacturing sector in a big way by providing concessions in power tariff, allotting land and relaxing labour laws in SEZs. AP has promoted 71 SEZs of which 52 have been notified by the Government of India with an investment potential of Rs. 35,000 crore and creation of employment for 25 lakh persons.

According to RBI Report of August 2007, Andhra Pradesh ranked second among States in the Country in attracting investments of Rs. 25,173 crore in 2006-07. The Confederation of Indian Industry lauded Andhra Pradesh as the Best Performing State in the manufacturing sector.

Information Technology

Andhra Pradesh has been forging ahead in the sphere of Information Technology. It is ahead of other states in exploiting the opportunities to the hilt. The State Government has introduced many schemes to utilize the maximum number of skilled human resources in the I.T. Sector. During 2007-08 I.T. exports crossed Rs. 26,000 crores.

The Government is making efforts to spread I.T. to Tier II cities like Warangal, Tirupathi, Kakinada, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur and Kadapa. As a result, job opportunities in the I.T. sector in Tier II cities have improved. The IIT coming up in Medak district will become operational from the coming academic year. Further, the Government succeeded in persuading BITS Pilani to open a campus in Hyderabad which will become operational from the coming academic year.

The Government is according top priority to I.T. development by creating the requisite infrastructure and setting up of 3 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Idupulapaya in Kadapa District, Nuzvid in Krishna District and Basara in Adilabad District) under Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies to turn out qualified personnel.

Transport

Roads: National Highways passing through Andhra Pradesh constitute 4,647 km. There are 63,863 km of state roads including 10,412 km of State highways and 1,24,142 km of Panchayati Raj roads in the State as on March 2008.

Railways: Of the railways route covering 5,107 km in Andhra Pradesh, 4,633 km is broad-gauge, 437 km is metre-gauge and 37 km is narrow gauge.

Aviation: Important airports in the State are located at Hyderabad, Tirupathi and Visakhapatnam. International flights are operated from Hyderabad.

Ports: Visakhapatnam is a major port. There are minor ports in the State. Andhra Pradesh has emerged as the country's no. 2 in the share of Cargo handling and its capacity has gone up.

Tourist Centres

Charminar, Salarjung Museum, Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, Thousand Pillar Temple and Fort in Warangal, Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Yadagirigutta, Buddha Stupa at Nagarjunakonda and Nagarjuna Sagar, Sri Venkateswara Temple at Tirumala-Tirupathi, Sri Mallikarjunaswamy Temple at Srisailem, Kanaka Durga Temple at Vijayawada, Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Temple at Annavaram, Sri Varaha Narasimha Swamy Temple at Simhachalam, Sri Sita Rama Temple at Bhadrachalam, Araku Valley, Horsley Hills, Nelapattu, etc., are the major tourist attractions in Andhra Pradesh. Thirty-three life-size statues of eminent Telugu personalities of the State were erected on Tankbund of Hussainsagar lake in Hyderabad. A giant statue of Lord Buddha of a height of about 60 feet has been erected on the Gibraltar rock in the Hussainsagar lake, which separates Hyderabad and Secunderabad cities.
