

Chapter – IV

PROFILE OF THE UNIVERSE

Narasapur, previously the headquarters of taluk and now the revenue division of the same name, picturesquely situated on the right bank of the Vasista Godavari river about 9.6 kilometers from Bay of Bengal. This ancient place was known as Nrusimhapuram and Narasimhapurm in the past. The place is famous for settlements of the Dutch and the French and the British took them from the French in 1759. The inscriptions in the Madanagopala Swamy Temple testify to the existence of ships and boats were built here. Even, though big ships are not built, the craft is still kept up here by building small boats. Narsapur is connected by road with Eluru, Nidadavole, Tanuku, Rajahmundry and Hyderabad. Narsapur is also well connected with Ongole, Chennai and other places by '214- A' coastal highway. The Nidadavole-Narsapur broad gauge section of the South Central Railway terminates here. In recent times, the town is growing in cultural, educational, commercial and industrial importance. Crochet Lace making an important cottage industry carried on extensively in Narsapur and its surrounding villages. Crochet Laces are exported to foreign countries like USA, UK, Canada, France and Australia. The Government of India established the Lace Park in Narsapur.

LOCATION AND SIZE:

Narasapur is located in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh in South India, in 10° EN¹ and it can be identified between the North latitude of 16.27° and East longitudes of $81^{\circ}.44^{\circ 2}$. The Narasapur is bounded on the North by Palakollu Constituency, on the South by Bay of Bengal and River Godavari, on the East by the River Godavari and on the west by Mogaltur Mandalam.³ It is a densely populated area in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh.⁴ Narsapur is the revenue division of the same name, is situated at a distance of 56 kilometers from Nidadavole and about 128

kilometers from Eluru. The Narsapur is one of the big market centres of Paddy, Rice, Prawn and Crochet Laces.

GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION:

The town is picturesquely situated on the right bank of the Vasista Godavari about 9.6 kilometers from the Bay of Bengal. Narasapur is West Delta area of river Godavari; it is a plain fertile land, which is on the banks of River Godavari.⁵ The River Godavari falls into Bay of Bengal near Antervedi, which is 9.6 kms from Narasapur.⁶ An oppressive summer season and good seasonal rainfall characterizes the climate and the air is humid through out the year.⁷

HISTORY:

Narasapur in West Godavari District was for a long time not a homogeneous unit and it was under the rule of various dynasties at different periods of time like the district as well as Andhra Pradesh. The dynasties that held sway over the district were the Mauryas, Satavahanas, Salankayanas, Vishnukundins, Western Chalukyas of Badami, Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi, Imperial Cholas, Velanati Cholas, Kakatiyas, Gajapatis of Orissa, Qutub Shahis, Mughals and Asaf Jahis. The constituent parts of the present district as well as Narasapur were at first administered by the Chief and Council at Machilipatnam, but in 1794, Collectors, who were made directly responsible to the Board of Revenue, were appointed at Guntur and Machilipatnam. Several changes were made in the administration of the district till 1859, when the districts of Rajahmundry, Machilipatnam and Guntur were reorganized into Godavari and Krishna districts. The two districts of Krishna and Godavari had, therefore, to be again readjusted and formed a new district called Guntur in 1904. On the 15th of April, 1925, Krishna district was further bifurcated and West Godavari district was formed with Machilipatnam as its headquarters. In 1926 the headquarters of the district was shifted from Machilipatnam to Eluru. The new district comprised the Niddadavole, Tadepalligudem, Narsapur, Eluru

revenue divisions and in 1961 it consisted of eight taluks grouped under the three revenue divisions such as Eluru, Kovvur and Narsapur revenue divisions.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME 'NARASAPUR':

Narasapur is the oldest town in the West Godavari District, it was recognized as township in 1901. First it is called as 'Nrusimhapuram', gradually it changed into 'Narasimhapuram', now it is called Narasapur.⁸ West Godavari District has three Revenue Division, Eluru, Kovvur, and Narasapur and similarly there are two parliamentary constituencies formed as Eluru and Narasapur in West Godavari District. Narasapur has an assembly constituency since 1905.⁹

POPULATION:

The latest available figures in regard to the population of this town are those provided by the Census of 2011, according to which the total population of the town is 58,901. The population of Narsapur town in 2001 was 58,612. When compared to the 2001 Census, the population growth in Narsapur is very low. Out of this, there are 30,115 females and 28,785 males in Narsapur town. Interestingly, the Narsapur town accounted for more number of females than the males. But in 2001 Census there were 28,906 males and 29,706 females recorded. For last 10 years, between 2001 and 2011, there is a decline in male population and considerable growth in female population in the town. The total number of house holds in Narsapur are 15,560. According to Census 2011, the literacy rate in Narsapur town is 79.61%, out of which there are 77.18% female literacy and 82.16% male literacy recorded. The literacy rate of Narsapur town is higher than the district literacy (74.32%) rate. According to the statistics available from the Municipal Office, there are 36,149 voters, out of which 18,954 female voters and 17,195 male voters. In 2005 elections there were 38,854 voters in Narsapur Municipality. When compared to 2005 voters, there is a decline in total voters in Narsapur Municipality in 2011.

RELIGION AND CASTE:

Principal religious groups in the district are numerically speaking, the Hindus, Christians and Muslims. Hindus consist of Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas and Sudras the four castes under the traditional Varnasramadhrama, besides Harijans. They are again subdivided each into a number of sub-castes. The Brahmins has no more monopoly of learning and priesthood than the Vaisya of trade, the Kshatriya of governance or the Sudra of tilling the soil. Dr.M.N.Srinivas, noted Indian Sociologist, has called 'sanskritisation and secularisation' can be seen among the Hindus of this area, leading to a blurring of the rigid frontiers between one caste and another. Nevertheless, we can now broadly identify certain castes or groups with specific occupations. The Vaisyas in this area are largely engaged in trade and commerce, and some in money lending. The Kshatriyas, Brahmins, Kapus, Kammas, Reddeys and Velamas are largely landowning and cultivating. The Kapus, numerically dominant community in this area, are widely diffused cultivating caste a majority of whom are ordinary cultivators. Harijans (Scheduled Castes) too are cultivators and hold all sorts of land tenures. The Madigas and Malas who form the two principal sub castes under Harijans are largely labourers, both agricultural and non-agricultural.

There are also some other groups associated with distinct professions or trades. The Yadavas (known as Gollas) are primarily a caste of graziers and have a distinctly agricultural background. The Idigas now called Settibalijas are engaged in the tapping and sale of arrack in the district as well as in Narsapur. The Padmasales are the chief weaver caste. The Viswabrahmins (Goldsmiths) constitute primarily a community of goldsmiths, blacksmiths, coppersmiths and brassmiths. The Vadrangis are Carpenters. There are also the functional groups namely, Chakalas (Washermen), Mangalas (Barbers) and Kummaras (Potters).

Social characteristics determine political performance. Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Jain religious people are living in this area, Brahmins, Kapu, Kamma, Settibalja,

Mala, Madiga, Kshatriya, Padmasali, Rajaka, Agnikula Kshatriya etc., are the dominated castes in this area.

IRRIGATION:

The undulating character of the terrain of the area lends itself favourably to irrigation from canals, tanks, wells and streams. The chief sources of irrigation in the district are canals from the Godavari and good number of tanks and wells. The River Godavari divides itself near Dowlaiswaram into two branches, namely the Gautami Godavari and Vasita Godavari and its delta forms lower down this point. The central portion lying between them is known as the Central Delta, while eastern and western portions lying to the east and west of them are known as Eastern and Western deltas respectively. The Western Delta lies entirely in this West Godavari District and Narsapur comes under this Western Delta. Sir Arthur Cotton, then Major Cotton, was directed in 1844 to prepare a scheme. He recommended the construction of an anicut across the river Godavari at an estimated cost of 1,65,000 pounds and it was sanctioned in the year 1846. The Anicut was completed in 1852 and the excavation of canals and construction of masonry structures were completed by 1874. In those days, the construction of the Anicut was undoubtedly a great achievement and a notable landmark in the history of irrigation in India. The canals, which drew their supply from the Godavari River, have converted the delta areas into one vast expanse of paddy fields where failure of crops for want of water is unknown. The Western section of the delta, generally known as the Godavari Western division, comprises area lying on the right of the river, bounded by the Vasita Arm on the east, the Bay of Bengal on the south and Kolleru lake on the west. The main canal, which takes off from the river on the right side from the Vijjeswaram Lock and head sluice, serves both the irrigation and navigational needs through various canals, channels and distributaries. Irrigation in this district is carried on through a network of many canals, one of those canals is Narsapur Canal. The Narsapur Canal takes off its course from the Peravali Lock and traverses over 48 kilometers, passing through the

locks of Maruteru, Kavitam, Palakol and Mogaltur before joining the Upputeru, salt creek.

Alluvial and delta alluvium soils are found alongside the river Godavari, particularly in the areas of Kovvur and Narsapur. These soils are highly fertile. This soil is highly suitable for the cultivation of paddy, sugar cane, banana and other irrigated crops.

DRINKING WATER:

In Narsapur town, there is 11 lakh gallons of drinking water consumption everyday. This drinking water is being supplied through various sources. About 350 taps were constructed for the public. Apart from this, drinking water is supplied to households through 4219 taps. In Narsapur town, there is a huge pond which is spreading in an area of 55 acres. It is the main source of drinking water to the entire Narsapur. The said pond was constructed by Cherukuri Lakshmana Rao during his tenure as the chairperson of Narsapur municipality. The pond was constructed towards the north-east of the town. The then chairperson Cherukuri Lakshmana Rao constructed the pond and arranged the taps in every street of the town, with an intention of supplying protected drinking water to the inhabitants of Narsapur town. His work was highlighted and was admired as 'Apara Bhagiratha' by the people of Narsapur town. To remember his services, to the people of Narsapur town a colossal life size statue was erected in front of the municipal office.

AGRICULTURE:

Coastal delta belt is considered to be one of the prosperous areas of the state. It is popularly known as the 'Rice Bowl of Andhra Pradesh'. River Godavari is the source of water for irrigation. West side of the Godavari is a canal for use of irrigation, drinking water, transport and fishing. Paddy Coconut and Prawn are the main productions in this area.¹⁰ Earlier, a substantial percentage of the population depended chiefly on agricultural sources and only 27% on non-agricultural sources for their livelihood in Narsapur town. At present this situation is totally changed.

There are two main cropping seasons in this area, namely, Kharif from May to December and Rabi from December to April. The Kharif and Rabi seasons are locally known as Saruva and Daluva respectively in this district as well as in Narsapur. The Agricultural Research Centre, Maruteru (20 Kilometers from Narsapur) was established in 1925 with a view to evolve and supply strains of paddy suitable to the Godavari and Krishna Deltas and also recommended to the farmers the improved methods of manorial and cultural practices. It is one of the important agricultural research centres in Andhra Pradesh with good reputation for its remarkable achievements in rice research.

INDUSTRIES:

It appears that this area denoted by the district has at all times been a preponderantly agricultural tract except for some of the time honoured crafts associated with the villages of ancient India. The crafts pursued in olden days were mostly cotton spinning and weaving, carpentry, crochet laces, coir etc., were developed. The crochet laces of this Narsapur area even to this day proverbial for their exquisite craftsmanship. Now lace industry got world fame. Narsapur is main center to export lace to USA, European Countries and Arabic countries etc. It creates employment to many weaker sections. In 1860 an Irish Missionary introduced the lace making in women community. After independence, however, a vigorous and multi-pronged effort has been made both by the Government and the private agencies to revive such industries by extending financial assistance and training facilities, and also providing the district with an industrial base.

The handloom weaving is an important cottage industry of the district. Particularly noted areas like Narsapur, Tanuku, Eluru, Tadepalligudem and Nidadavole are the main centres of handloom weaving. The main products of this industry include coarse cloth of hand spun yarn and fine cloth woven with mill yarn. The lace making is another important cottage industry of this area carried on extensively in surrounding villages of Narsapur town.

LACE PARK

Lace Park in Narasapur being the worlds first of its kind unit, with the concept of where self-help helps and federating mutually aided cooperative societies of the village to organize villages to organize village for women artisans into self help groups. They are now making bed sheets, T.V. covers, dining table cloths, which are now on world demand.

Lace park is established at Rustumbada Village in Narasapur Mandal in a spacious 3.00 acres site with modern and sophisticated infrastructure for maintaining the international standards of the crochet lace products. With the establishment of lace park in Narasapur significantly and the credit goes to the house training programme being imparted by the DRDA, West Godavari and initiation taken by the former District Collector Mr. Sanjay Jaju IAS.

All the women lace artisans became the members of those self-help groups, have joined as members of village level mutually aided cooperative societies, are being given free in-house training in making of exquisite, cute and standardized crochet lace products.

OIL AND GAS

Oil and gas are biggest assets of the area. Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) has taken up investigation under the Krishna Godavari Basin from 1959. The first well was drilled at Linganaboyina Cherla in Narsapur Mandal in 1979. Another well was drilled at Yenuguvani Lanka near Narasapur. In 1985 traced out 3 lakhs cubic meters of gas per-day. From 1988 purified gas is being supplied for industrial purposes and producing electricity. The O.N.G.C. wants to supply gas through pipes to people of Narasapur area in due course of time.

EDUCATION:

The historical background of Narasapur in the matters of education and culture is quite rich. From 1850's western education slowly spread in this constituency. Christian

Missionaries, Philanthropic Zamindars and Government efforts were made to spread the education.¹¹ The state secondary education in Narsapur during the nineteenth century A.D., was approximately the same as it was in the rest of the erstwhile Madras Presidency. In 1826, a tahsil school was opened at Narsapur. Subsequently, the scheme was scrapped and this school was consequently abolished in A.D. 1836. There appears to have been a virtual blackout with regard to secondary education in the district itself until A.D. 1853, when the present Taylor High School was started at Narsapur. G.N.Taylor, Sub-collector formed a society and started a school at Narsapur. In the beginning Sri Y.N.College was located in Taylor High School. Addepalli Sarvisetti started a Sanskrit School for Girls. Later, Christian missionaries as well as other agencies also evinced interest in the spread of secondary education during this decade. Secondary school was also opened by the elite of the district at Narsapur.

The district, which is fairly well advanced in the field of higher education, lies within the territorial jurisdiction of the Andhra University which was established in 1926. The earliest of these are the Sir CRR College at Eluru, DNR College at Bhimavaram and Sri Y.N.M. College at Narsapur. The history of Sri Y.N.College goes back to 1949 when it was established as second grade college by the pioneering efforts of the local elite of the Narsapur town. Sri Y.N.College was earlier known as The Narsapur College. This was subsequently named after Sri Yerramilli Narayana Murthy, the founder Secretary, in appreciation his services rendered to the institution. Later it was upgraded as first grade college. In 1967 B.G.B.S College for Women was established by Padmasri Addepalli Sarvisetti. Now in Narsapur two P.G. Colleges, 6 Degree Colleges, 7 Inter Colleges (up to XII), 30 High Schools, 32 Secondary Schools, 175 Primary Schools and 27 Non-formal Education Centers besides number of private convents and tutorials are established for spread of education in Narsapur area.¹²

TEMPLES AND CHURCHES:

Madana Gopalaswamy Temple, Raja Gopalaswamy temple, Kapliamalleswara Swamy Temple and Embermannar Swamytemples are famous temples in Narasapur. Only Sri Permbadur, Sri Rangapatnam and Narasapur are still continuing the Vykanasa system of tradition which is continuing even today. Number of temples for goddesses are built here. There is a mosque for the Muslims known as Mastan Saheb Darga (nearly 400 years aged Darga) and also three Churches for the Christians in the town (150 years old Church). these are also famous in Narasapur town. The Brahmotsavam celebrated in honour of Adikesava for ten days during March-April and the Jvalatorana mahotsavam celebrated during October-November in honour of Kapila Malleswara are the most important festivals here.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM:

Drainage system in Narsapur municipality is lousy. There are no proper outlets to discharge drain water. During rainy season, most of the streets in Narsapur town are flooded with rain water. As a result, inundation is caused in several areas. Due to stagnation of water, in majority of the drains, the drains become breeding places for mosquitoes. As a result, the outbreak of Malaria, is rampant, in this town. Neither municipal authorities nor the denizens evinces any interest in clearing the drains. Most of the drains are filled with silt, which hamper the smooth flow of drain water. The municipality does not take any action in removing the silt. Sometimes, drinking water source is merged with drain water and causes water-borne diseases.

GARBAGE DUMPING YARD:

Narsapur municipality lacks garbage dumping yard. The garbage collected from the households is being transported in tractors owned by the municipality and sometimes hired from the private operators and dumped in the low-lying areas. Garbage dumping yard is the immediate need of the Narsapur Municipality.

FREEDOM MOVEMENT:

Narasapur figures quite prominently in the contribution it made to the liberation. In the Golkonda Nawabs time, the Dutch East India Company occupied Madhavayapalem in 1628.¹³ It is a part of Narasapur. They erected as Iron work shop. English East India company occupied it in 1677. The political leaders of this area right from the beginning actively reacted at every stage in the national movement. Many people from Narasapur and surroundings participated in All India Congress Committee meeting which was held in 1921 at Vijayawada. On the conviction side popular Panchayat Courts disposed about a 100 cases.¹⁴ The Narsapur showed again its political awareness in connection with the visit of the Simon Commission in 1928. Another outstanding feature of the period was the visit of Mahatma Gandhi to many towns and villages of West Godavari district to raise funds for the Khaddar Movement and also to prepare the country for the final struggle. When Gandhiji started his civil disobedience campaign again on 12th march 1930, Narasapur again responded magnificently to this movement. The village Mettalapalem (presently known as Matlapalem in Yelamanchili Mandalam) was selected as centre for breaking the salt law formally on 1st January 1932. Many freedom fighters in Narsapur participated in this breaking of the salt law formally along with Pericherla Subba Raju and others. India National Congress resumed civil disobedience movement under Gandhiji leadership, a branch of league was started to encourage Indian goods and Industries at Narasapur the endeavors of Dr. Bhaskarulu Venkateswarulu, P.V.R.Somayajulu, Muddula Satyanarayana and Cherukuru Narasimha Raju were unsuccessful on account of police interference. Bhaskarulu Eswarudu, Toleti Perraju fought against the British Rule. They spend in Jails for many years. Illa Niladri Raju, Achanta Madhusudana Rao, Parakala Seshavatharam and P.P. Ramaraju were in freedom fighting. We got freedom in 1947. Andhra Pradesh formed on 1st November 1956.

POLITICAL HISTORY:

Narasapur was for a long time not a homogeneous unit and its component parts were ruled by various dynasties at different periods of time. The dynasties that held Eastern Chanukahs (of Vengi). Imperial Cholas, Velanati Cholas, Kakatiya, Musunuri Reddies of Kondaveedu, Gajapathies of Orrissa, Telugu Cholas of Evua, Moghals, Qutub Shahis, Asab Shahis and the Britishers.¹⁵ The place is famous for settlements of the Dutch and the French and the British took them from the French in A.D.1759. The inscriptions in the Madanagopala Swamy Temple testify to the existence of this place from A.D.1173. It was used as a port by the Dutch and ships and boats were built here.

REPRESENTATION OF NARAPUR IN THE STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES:

Under the Representation of the People Act of 1950, West Godavari was allotted twelve seats in the erstwhile Madras State Legislative Assembly by delimiting the district into eight single-member constituencies, namely, Chintalapudi, Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Alampuram, Undi, Bheemavaram, Tanuku and Penugonda and two double-member constituencies, namely Narapur and Kovvur for the First General Elections to the Assembly held in 1952. One seat in each of the double-member constituencies of Narsapur and Kovvur was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. In October 1954, however, it was increased from the twelve to sixteen. The double-member constituency of Narsapur was converted into single-member constituency of which the single-member constituency of Tadepalligudem was made a double-member constituency. In accordance with the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order of the 19th of December, 1956, the composition of the Assembly constituencies relating to this district underwent some changes, while the number of seats remained unaltered. In subsequent elections, till today, the Narsapur has been the single-member Assembly Constituency.

With regard to the elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha), this district was delimited under the Representation of People Act of 1950, into a double-member

constituency, namely, Eluru and one of its two seats was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Again, in accordance with the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order of 1956, the Eluru Double-member Constituency was split into two single-member constituencies, namely, Narsapur and Eluru. There was no change in the number of seats in the subsequent elections even today.

EVOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN INDIA:

The word municipality is derived from the Roman word 'Municipium'. It is the Roman Law from which the source of the idea of corporate entities to be found.¹⁶ The municipalities have to perform important functions in every day civic life. They stand to cater for the civic needs of the people. Municipal Government was deeply rooted in Indian history. Mohenjadarо and Harappa excavations and Indus Valley Civilization which was as old as 3000 B.C. speak volumes of the organized urban life in ancient times in India. They revealed that they were some of the oldest planned cities of the world.¹⁷ Mahabharata mentions that every town was administered by an officer assisted by a team of his subordinates.¹⁸ These testify to the existence of vigilant and effective municipal government in ancient India. Also, reference to highly organized system of urban local government can be found in Vedas, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Upanishada and Kautilya's Arthasastra. The 'Indica' of Megasthenese and the 'Arthasastra' of Kautilya record the excellent system of town planning and municipal administration in Mauryan Period.¹⁹ Pataliputra, Ujjain and Takshila towns have their own administration²⁰ in the Mauryan and Gupta empires. During the Gupta period, towns were generally administered by a council called the 'Parishad' and there was a provision of having elected administrative officers who used to play crucial role in the city administration.²¹ Thus town administration was on a firm footing in India then. So, centuries before the advent of Mughuls or British rule India had urban self-governing institutions.²²

MUSLIM PERIOD:

In the Mauryan period, followed by the Gupta era and subsequently in the medieval period, the system of local self-government continued to be more or less the same. However, the system was quite different in the Mughal period. The representative character was abolished and the whole administration of a city was placed in the charge of a nominated government official known as the 'Kotwal' who not only controlled the various municipal activities, but also performed certain magisterial functions, including the control over police and intelligence.²³ In the later Mughal period, the system suffered a marked decline, not only were the urban areas mal-administered, but most of them lay unhealthy and unclear till the time Britishers came and assumed authority.²⁴

By the time the British thought of local self-government in urban areas, traces of municipal government as existing before practically disappeared. Though the British hesitated to introduce municipal institutions in the beginning, they found it desirable to introduce these for various reasons. In doing so, they were to borrow mostly from their own institutions as prevailing before.²⁵ Though local government institutions have existed in India since ancient times, but these acquired representative character during the British Period.

EVOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION IN MODERN INDIA:

FIRST PHASE UPTO 1882 - British Period:

A beginning of local self-government in India may be said to have been made in 1687 when for the first time a local self-government body was set-up for the city of Madras. It was local government but not a self-government as it was officed wholly by Europeans. Thus, local self-government is about three centuries old in India, its history since 1882 is rather chequered and ever-exotic.²⁶

As already mentioned the modern structure of local self-government in India is a British creation. The local self-government institutions as they exist today do not

represent a process of continuous growth but are the product of convenience, which was found necessary by the British Government in the interest of administration. A Royal Charter of 1720 established Mayor's Court in each of the three Presidency Towns of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta. These courts were more judicial than administrative bodies.²⁷ A statutory basis of the urban local government was not provided until 1793 when the Governor General in Council was empowered to appoint Justices of Peace for the Presidency towns from among consented civilians and the British subjects, who were vested with the authority to impose taxes on houses and lands to provide for the sanitation of the towns.²⁸

In 1870, Lord Mayo's Resolution came into force. In this resolution emphasis was given to the decentralization from the Centre to the Provinces. It was also stated that Indians should be associated in the administration, and the municipal government was best for that purpose. The resolutions say that²⁹

“Local interest, supervision and care are necessary to success in the management of funds devoted to education, sanitation, medical charity and local public works. The operation of this Resolution, in its meaning and integrity, will afford opportunities for the development of self-government, for strengthening Municipal Institutions, and for the association of natives and Europeans, to a greater extent than hereto force, in the administration of affairs.”

The purpose of Mayo's reform was to lessen the burden on imperial finances. Furthermore, the main object of the Lord Mayo's Resolution was to promote education, public health, sanitation, medical relief and local civic works and also give facilities to self-government for strengthening municipal institutions. To make a success of Lord Mayo's Resolution several new municipal legislations were passed in various provinces.

SECOND PHASE 1882-1919:

In Lord Ripon's Resolution (1882), fuller scope for local self-government was introduced. Under this approach emphasis was laid on the fact that local self-government

in the final analysis was chiefly desirable as an instrument of political and popular education.³⁰ Lord Ripon's Resolution of 1882 is regarded as the Magna Carta of Local Government in India. According to Lord Ripon, local self-government was "an instrument of political and popular education".³¹

Lord Ripon's regime was the most important landmark in the history of local government in British Raj. He announced a new policy in 1882 and established local self-government on a liberal basis. Paragraph 5 of Ripon Resolution laid down the main purpose of this reform. It is not primarily with a view to improvement in administration that the measure was put forward and supported. It was chiefly designed as an instrument of political and popular education. As a consequence Lord Ripon's Resolution mark the first step in bestowing some real powers to self-governing institutions.³² The new scheme laid great emphasis on the manner of securing people's representation. The municipal boards constituted for the three year term, consisted of both elected and nominated members. The system of 'rotation' and division of the town into municipal wards was affected. The terms of Municipal Chairman and vice-Chairman were of three years and one year duration respectively.

In short, the Report recommended elective majorities, elected non-official chairmen, widening the franchise, freedom of taxation within the limits laid down by law, abolition of government control from outside except in matters of appointment and conditions of services of executive and technical officials. The Report however favored governments retaining some control over municipal budgeting. At a time when the provinces were anxious to make legislation consistent with Resolution of 1918, the subject of local government became one of the transferred subjects under the Government of India Act of 1919. This gave the necessary impetus to the provinces to chalk out their programmes in the domain of local self-government keeping in view urban circumstances. From the study of the evolution of the municipal government during the second phase; we can make a few observations. First, the period was characterized by the

sincere efforts of Lord Ripon to extend municipal self-government as a means of political and popular education even at the expense of administrative efficiency.

THIRD PHASE – 1919-1947:

“As a part of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms which brought the system of diarchy to the Indian Provinces in which local self-government was one of the un-transferred subjects, i.e., under Indian control. The Government of India set out to democratize local self-government by the extension of the franchise, the replacement of official chairman by non-official and expansion in the proportion of elected members.”³³

In 1920s double-member constituencies were in existence, with seats reserved for Muslims. The Muslims separatist movement was emphasizing the unity of the community over the preservation of minority interest. The proposals were also included an expansion in the powers of taxation and the control of services for which the local authority was paying. In the early 1920, active nationalist leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhai Patel, Babu Rajendra Prasad, C.R.Das, Pheroz Shah Mehta, served on municipal councils. The focus of political activity after 1928 shifted to the national scene. Men like Jawaharlal Nehru took up national issues once again while municipal politics were linked to national movements especially of the Congress.

The inauguration of provincial autonomy under the Government of India Act, 1935 is very important in the evolution of the local self-government in India. Under this Act, a fully responsible government of the British Parliamentary type was provided for each province with certain restrictions. According to the report of the Local Self-Government Committee, ‘the passing of Government of India Act, 1935, and the introduction of provincial autonomy in 1937 gave a fillip to the development of local self-government on popular basis. As a result, several acts were passed with a view to further democratization of the local bodies and widening their powers and functions.’³⁴

The Government of India Act, 1935 came into force in 1936, which replaced the dyarchical system of government and system of provincial autonomy was introduced. The popularly elected members were drawn with the affairs of the provincial governments. The provincial governments were empowered to enlarge their resources of revenue. While the functions of the local bodies were enlarged, their financial powers were actually curtailed. Terminal taxes were transferred to the Centre from the provinces, and clear cut demarcation between the provincial and local taxes was done away with. As the Local Finance Enquiry Committee pointed out “this change has rather unfortunate for local authorities, as State Governments have in certain cases utilized what were previously recognized to be purely local taxes for their...”³⁵

The significance of urban local government is being slowly realized in the Indian Republic. Owing to the inauguration of the Indian Constitution embodying the principles of democracy and welfare state, municipal governments are expected to assume an increasing role in local and state politics and administration. It is also realized that urban governments have to be definitely recognized as an organ for promoting grass-roots democracy and for providing civic services for the welfare of the local people as well as for carrying out the task of urban development and planning.

FOURTH PHASE – 1947-1985:

The advent of Independence opened a new chapter in the socio-economic reforms embodied in the Directive Principles of the State Policy incorporated in Part-IV of the Constitution of India. “When the Constitution of India came into force in 1950 the local government was enumerated in the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution”.³⁶ Article 40 of the Indian Constitution provides that the Village Panchayats should be reorganized and more powers should be given to enable them to function as the units of self-government. The central Government set up a Central Council of Local Self-Government in 1954. The Third Five Year Plan suggested planning of many towns and cities as possible at any state those with a population of one lakh or more, should come into the scheme of planning in an organic way and the municipal administration should

be strengthened by increasing their resources and by enlarging their functions. Thus, viewed, the local self-government has now become an integral part of the national administration playing the same vital role that is assigned to the local self-government in other independent democratic countries.

To improve the effectiveness of municipal administration 'Directorates' at the State level have been set up by some State Governments. These serve the purpose of exercising control and supervision over the working of municipal authorities and also of India in their urban development activities. At present there are six full-fledged directorates (with different regional branches) in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan.³⁷ This step is followed by further democratization of municipalities. In some of the North India States, an experiment was made in having the municipal chairman directly elected by the electorate at large but it was subsequently abandoned as it resulted in friction between the chairmen and the councilors.³⁸

FIFTH PHASE 1985-1992:

In spite of the apathetic attitude of the governments in considering the local governments as their youngest sister, the problems of urban areas as well as the structure and composition of municipal bodies, their functions and duties and their resources were the subject of discussion and debate on various forums. As a consequence of this and the complexities arisen of the growing urban population, for the first time the national Commission on Urbanization was set up in 1985. The Commission gave detailed recommendations about the measures required for strengthening the management and administration of urban local government institutions in the country. The need for according an independent status to urban local government in India had also been considered.³⁹ Based on the recommendations of the Commission, the then Prime Minister organized and addressed a number of Nagar Palika Sammelans where officials and non-officials were invited to discuss the subject thoroughly.⁴⁰

SEVENTY FOURTH AMENDMENT ACT, 1992:

The 74th Amendment to the Constitution is a landmark in the process of devolution of powers to the people at the grass-roots level which was started in 1989. The Amendment Act provides opportunity to the State Governments to incorporate necessary changes in their existing laws that are inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act. However, the existing laws continue until the new arrangements are made despite some of them being inconsistent with the new ones.⁴¹

BACKGROUND OF AMENDMENT ACTS:

Wide range of consultations among the elected representatives of the municipal bodies were held and a number of regional Nagarpalika Sammelans were organized in 1989 by the Union Government besides a Seminar of Municipal Officers from all over the country. Discussions were also held with Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories together separately from convention of the State Ministers for Local Self-Government and the Chief Ministers. The basic issue of all these discussions was how to strengthen urban self-governments and ensure proper functioning. On the basis of these discussions, the Constitution (65th Amendment) Bill had been introduced in August, 1989 and was passed by the Lok Sabha. Subsequently, with the change of government, the Constitution Amendment Bill was reviewed and the Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in September, 1990. But unfortunately, this bill lapsed with the dissolution of the then Lok Sabha. Later, the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Bill, 1991, relating to Municipalities which was essentially based on (65th Amendment) bill, 1989 was introduced in Lok Sabha on September, 1991. It was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee which held several sittings and took oral evidence and written comments from various organizations and individuals. The Joint Parliamentary committee held detailed discussion with various municipalities and their officers and elected representatives and also with the State Governments. Based on the report of Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Lok Sabha considered the Constitution (74th Amendment) Bill and passed on 22nd December, 1992 and the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December, 1992. This bill has been ratified

by the resolution by at least half the number of State Legislatures and received the assent of the President on 20th April, 1993.⁴²

The survival of democracy depends upon the functioning of the representatives legislative bodies at all levels of governance. The efficacy of these bodies in tune, depends upon the availability of structural arrangements, i.e., constitutional provisions. There is no constitutional obligation for local self-government in urban areas, even though there is reference to village panchayts in the Directive Principle of State Policy. There is no reference to municipalities except through the entry No.5 in the State List as the subject of local self-government. As a result of this inadequate constitutional protection for urban local self-government, the democracy in municipal government has been very unstable. It is a common knowledge that the municipal bodies are frequently suspended on one or other pretext even though the municipal Acts provide for regular election to them. For example, in Salur Municipality in Andhra Pradesh, the elected members who constitute the deliberative wing were suspended several times. These suspensions have a very deleterious effect on democracy at the grass-roots level and have been responsible for eroding the very basis of the local self-government in urban areas.

The Constitution (74th Amendment Act), 1992 has introduced a new part namely, Part-IXA in the Constitution which deals with matters relating to the municipalities which as structure and composition of municipalities, reservation of seats, election of municipalities, their powers and functions, finance, planning at the district and metropolitan levels and miscellaneous provisions.⁴³ The 74th Amendment Act describes a municipality as a transitional or a smaller urban area; or a larger urban area means such area having regard to the population of area, density of population therein, revenue generated from local administration, percentage of employment in non-agricultural activities, economic importance or such other factors as the State Government may consider it.⁴⁴

In this connection, it needs to be ascertained that at what state a rural area starts assuming an urban character. It is not merely a question of population, but there are other factors as listed above which would warrant the rural area being re-designated as urban. For example, an area for Nagar Panchayat is basically rural in character which over a period of time develops urban functions. The municipal councils are to be constituted for smaller urban areas and municipal corporations for larger urban areas. Since the demographic and other conditions for determination of a particular type of urban local body vary from State to State, the Act has left to the State Government to decide which type of municipality would be constituted for each urban area. In this way, a fair degree of elasticity is built into the Act for a State to constitute different types of urban local bodies, keeping in view the local conditions obtaining in the State.

The Composition of Municipalities has been designed in such a manner that all the seats are to be filled by direct election to make it more responsive to the people. For the purpose of elections, the territorial constituencies in the municipal area have been divided into wards and each seat shall represent a ward in the municipality. With regard to the election of Chairpersons of Municipalities, it has been left to be specified by the State Legislature which may decide either by direct elections or from amongst the elected persons of the concerned municipalities.

The important issue is related to the question of responsiveness of urban government. The present basic urban unit is a ward. In small towns, the size of the ward is smaller and hence provides relatively easy access to the citizens of their council. The ward size is over 10,000 and in some cases as high as 50,000 which renders municipal administration 'impersonal' and 'inaccessible'.⁴⁵ In order to increase the accessibility of the elected representatives to the citizen and reduce the distance between electorate and the elected, the Act has provided for the constitution of ward committees. However the composition and representation to territorial area on the ward committees and the manner in which the seats shall be filled up have been left to the discretion of State Legislatures.

It is expected that it would be a good instrument for helping in the implementation of programmes and bring about greater involvement of the people and their representatives at the grass-root level. Another important feature is that a member of a municipality representing a ward within the territorial area of the ward committee is to be a member of the ward committee, which means that such member of the municipality would be an ex-officio member of the Ward Committee and he would be the chairperson of the Ward Committee.

The reservation of seats for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and women in the urban local bodies varies considerably from State to State. The Municipalities Act has laid down that reservation for SCs and STs in the municipalities shall be the same as the proportion of population of SCs and STs in the municipal areas to the total population of that area and the reservation is made in respect of the seats to be filled by direct election only. There is a mandatory provision that no less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved for SCs and STs would be reserved for women belonging to SCs and STs. The reservation of seats for women and for the SCs and STs are to be allotted by rotation in different constituencies in a municipality. However, it is an optional provision and the State Government would be free to decide the manner of allotment of the reserved seats. The State municipal Acts are also to make provision for the reservation of the office of the Chairpersons of municipalities for SC and ST and women and the extent of reservation shall be decided by the State Government. As per the 74th Amendment Act, the Andhra Pradesh Government had conducted the elections in 1995 and 2000 strictly adhering to the policy of reservations.⁴⁶ But till today, most of the women chairpersons are not taken proper steps individually and they depended upon their husbands besides leaders of their political parties for guidance.

The provision with regard to reservation for the weaker sections of our society is intended to secure adequate representation, full participation and an equitable share of benefits of municipal administration. It is necessary that the reserved seats, as envisaged

in the Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 are being filled by direct election and not by nomination.

A singular feature of this Constitutional Amendment is the new role envisaged for elected local bodies in the planning process. At present, there are many different agencies operating outside the framework of democratically elected local bodies which have been entrusted with the major task of urban planning. Some of these authorities are city development authorities and city improvement trusts in addition to other agencies responsible to the State and not to the people. With passing of the Act (74th Amendment), the municipalities would be called up to play a more active role in urban development involving examination of the various measures to strengthen the local bodies from both the management and functional points of view. A new schedule called 12th Schedule has been added to the Constitution containing town planning, recognition of land use and construction of buildings and planning for economic and social development as the functional items of priority of the municipal bodies., Meshram and Bansal felt that the Act provides for the first time, for the constitution of a District Planning Committee in every State at the district level to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and Municipalities and prepares a draft development plan for the district as a whole.⁴⁷

NARASAPUR MUNICIPALITY – A PROFILE:

The passing of the India Act XXVI of 1850 was the first attempt at the creation of municipalities in the West Godavari District. The Act authorized the Government to constitute any town into a municipality in case its inhabitants were desirous of making better provision for public health and other amenities. The next step in this direction was the Madras Towns Improvement Act of 1865, a reference to which has already been made. This Act was applied to all towns with a population of 5,000 or more. The subsequent legislative landmarks in the sphere of municipal administration, it was the Act of 1884 which introduced for the first time the concept of Municipality. The fourth town (among the then Seven Municipalities) in the district to become a municipality is

Narsapur. It was constituted into a municipality in October, 1956, comprising the village of Narsapur and parts of the revenue villages of Rustumbada and Chinamamidipalle and covering a total area of about 11.32 square kilometers. The sanctioned strength of the council was 20, of which three seats were reserved for the Scheduled Castes and two for women. The strength was increased to 24 in 1976 with four reserved seats, two each for women and scheduled castes. It maintains about 21 kilometers of roads, 25 elementary schools, a travelers' bungalow, a rest-house and Unani-Ayurvedic dispensary. Initially it was constituted as third grade Municipality in the year 1956, later upgraded to second grade Municipality in 1965 and first grade Municipality in 2001. Upto 2000 municipal elections, Narasapur Municipality is divided into 28 Wards for administrative convenience and in 2004 these wards are reconstituted as 31 wards. According to 2001 census, there are 28,906 Men and 29,706 women in this municipality. The total population of Narasapur Municipal area is 58,612. Among this population there are 43,927 literates and 14,685 illiterates. In this Municipal area there are 22,588 men literates and 21,339 female literates. The latest available figures in regard to the population of this town are those provided by the Census of 2011, according to which the total population of the town is 58,901. Out of this, there are 30,115 females and 28,785 males in Narsapur town. Interestingly, the Narsapur town accounted for more number of females than the males. According to Census 2011, the literacy rate in Narsapur town is 79.61%, out of which there are 77.18% female literacy and 82.16% male literacy recorded. The literacy rate of Narsapur town is higher than the district literacy rate. According to the statistics available from the Municipal Office, there are 36,149 voters, out of which 18,954 female voters and 17,195 male voters.

DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPALITY:

Before the inception of (formation) Narsapur municipality, it was a tiny hamlet. In 1958, Yerramilli Narayanamurthy became the chairman of Narsapur municipality. With the arrival of Yerramilli Narayanamurthy as a chairman, the Narsapur municipality had been completely changed because of his relentless efforts for its upliftment. The present 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 wards which are in Rustumbada and Chinamamidipilli

localities were merged into the municipality and developed. By laying roads, in these localities, they changed the lives of the residents. All the educational institutions within the vicinity of Narsapur municipality, were taken over by Yerramilli. He laid a good path for their development, in the field of education. The then Mission High School mud road was converted into a gravel road for the smooth flow of the traffic during his time. Currently, this road has got a great significance. One of the reputed college in the state, Sri Y.N.College was founded by him. During the regime of Kureseti Krishnamurthy, Alluri Satyanarayana Raju municipal complex was built to serve to the needs of petty traders. Because of the efforts of Krishna Murthy, the Narsapur municipality gained the ferry auction of Narsapur from 1962-1965. During his time, scavengers colony was constructed in the present 23 ward. In 1971, Cherukuri Lakshman Rao was elected as a municipal chairman and relived the Narsapur inhabitants from drinking water crisis by constructing a pond (tank) on the 55 acres land. Before that, the inhabitants faced many hardships to procure potable water. In those days, there were only 2 water sources, 1) a well in the Sub-collectors Office 2) a well in the Kovala temple helped the inhabitants of Narsapur to quench their thirst. Because of this acute scarcity of drinking water, the then chairperson came forward and constructed a huge tank on the north-east of Narsapur town and provided clean drinking water to the entire Narsapur town by installing taps. After this, he attained a permanent place in the hearts of Narsapur people. He was hailed as 'Apara Bhagiratha' among the people of Narsapur town. During the regime of Manda Satyanarayana cement roads were laid in the Narsapur town. During his tenure, Gandhi and Nehru Bazars were constructed, besides, a fish market. In those days, Lenin High School was adopted by the municipality. In 1987, Jakkam Ammani was the first women chairperson, who developed the Narsapur municipality to a great extent. By spending flood grants and Pushkar grants, she obtained laurels from the people of Narsapur town. During her stay in the municipality, Pushkar Ghats were constructed, old school buildings were innovated, new school buildings were constructed. Besides, municipal open air theatre was also taken up during her rule. All these works were carried out by her by spending huge grants which she obtained from the government. In addition by spending

74 lakhs, she expedited sewer works (drainage). Second over head tank for the drinking water purpose was also carried out during her rule. During the regime of Bontu Padmaja as a municipal chairperson, a tremendous development took place in Narsapur Municipality, when compared to the other municipalities. Besides, a dilapidated Alluri complex was reconstructed by spending 1 crore and 27 lakhs. As a literate, she evinced much interest in the development of schools and parks. During the rule of Doctor-turned Municipal Chairman Kopparti Venu Gopala Rao, Narsapur town was face-lifted. With the help of the government grants, he completely transformed Narsapur town into a picturesque one. During that time, the union minister Krishnam Raju and state minister Subbaraidu helped Mr. Venu Gopala Rao in lending their grants for the development of the Narsapur town. During Pushkarams, crores of rupees were spent and laid a path for the development. During 2005, election took place between the two major parties namely Congress and TDP. Mrs. Kotipalli Padma contested on the Congress ticket, for the chairmanship. Mrs. Kotthapalli Sailaja contested on the Telugu Desam ticket, for the chairmanship. Kotipalli Padma won the seat with a thumping majority.

Ex-Chairpersons in Narsapur Municipality:

1) Yerramilli Narayana Murthy Panthulu

An outspoken Big-wig of Narsapur town, Mr. Yerramilli Narayana Murthy who was the founder of the Yerramilli Narayana Murthy College of Narsapur town. He was elected as chairman of Narsapur Municipality in 1958 through indirect method of election. He merged the tail-end villages Rustumbada and Chinamamidipalli into Narsapur municipality and strove hard for their development. During his regime, many schools were brought under the administration of Narsapur municipality.

2) Kureseti Krishnamurthy

Kuriseti Krishnamurthy was an Industrialist. He was elected as a chairman after Yerramilli Narayana Murthy. During his stay, in the office, he developed a daily market by extending it, with the construction of Alluri Satyanarayana Raju Municipal Shopping complex. He also did his best in constructing the scavengers colony on 23rd ward.

3) Dr. Ponnappilli Subrahmanyam

An eminent doctor of Narsapur town, who followed the footsteps of Yerramilli and Osuri and worked for the upliftment of the Narsapur town. He has developed cultural arts in Narsapur town by organizing Nataka Parishaths. He was responsible for inviting versatile matinee idols' like S.V.Ranga Rao, Raja Sulochana, Anjali Devi, Savithri etc., to Narsapur town.

4) Cherukuri Lakshmana Rao

An industrialist, by profession, he developed the Narsapur town to a great extent. Under his regime, he provided hygienic drinking water to the residents of Narsapur town by constructing a huge pond. He took the step to tide over this drinking problem, for the posterity. He was hailed as “Apara Bhagiratha” by the people of Narsapur town.

5) Osuri Gangadharam

A landlord and progressive farmer who acted as a Vice-chairman during the regime of Yerramilli Narayana Murthy as a chairman. Later he became the chairman of Narsapur town and strove hard for the development of schools and roads.

6) Manda Satyanarayana Murthy

Mr. Manda Satyanarayana Murthy, an industrialist by profession, who was a nephew to the former chairperson Kuriseti Krishna Murthy. After a gap of decade, he was elected to the Narsapur Municipality as a chairman in 1981. His period of rule lasted from 1981-86. He did his best in constructing Gandhi and Nehru markets. He also tried his best in merging Lenin High School from Murthy Raju Charitable trust. He was the man, who formed a fish market to the fish mongers.

7) Jakkam Ammani

A devout and God-fearing Mrs. Jakkam Ammani who occupied the post of Chairpersonship in 1987, through direct election. During her regime, she took up many developmental works, in Narsapur Municipality with the pushkaram grants. The municipality open Air Theatre was also constructed during her rule. Besides, she extended the drinking water supply by constructing a second water reservoir.

8) Bontu Padmaja

Mrs. Bontu Padmaja who was a lawyer, by profession was elected to the Narsapur Municipality as a chair-person in 1995. Her period lasted from 1995-2000. During her regime, the dilapidated Alluri Satyanarayana Raju municipal complex was renovated by spending 1.27 crores.

9) Dr. Kopparti Venugopala Rao

Mr. Kopparti Venugopal Rao is a doctor by profession. He was elected to the chairperson post of Narsapur Municipality in the year 2000. His period of rule lasted from 2000-2005. During his regime, Narsapur town was developed to a great extent. He could carryout the works in Narsapur town because of pushkaram grants which came in large amounts. He tried utmost in developing the Godavari bank of Narsapur area, as a tourist resort. He also made efforts in completing the third water reservoir to supply drinking water to the distant places of the town.

10) Kotipalli Padma

The current chairperson Kotipalli Padma was born in an opulent family. Her spouse is a class-I contractor. She did her B.Com., degree from the most prestigious Y.N.College, Narsapur in West Godavari District. She was the youngest women who served as Municipal Chairperson. She has done tremendous development in all the 31 wards in Narsapur Municipality.

STATE LEADERS FROM NARSAPUR TOWN:

Popular political giants in the district like Alluri Bapineedu, Malpuri Venkata Rangaiah, Ch.V.P.Murthy Raju, Javvadi Lakshmayya Naidu, G.V.Reddy Naidu, Dasari Perumallu and Nachu Venkata Ramayya were elected in 1955 Assembly Elections of Andhra State from West Godavari District. Of these, Ch.V.P.Murthy Raju and Alluri Bapineedu emerged as key figures in the District Congress Party around whom factional conflict occurred more frequently between 1951 and 1978. In this sense the district leaders have the potential power and influence in state politics. Sri G.V.Reddi Naidu who belongs to Narsapur town worked as Minister in the Cabinet of Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Another leader from Narsapur town is Sri Parakala Seshavataram also worked as Minister in Sri P.V.Narasimha Rao Cabinet and Jalagam Vengala Rao's Cabinets. Following are the some of the leaders who played an important role in district as well as state politics.

G.V.Reddi Naidu, Former Minister of Andhra Pradesh:

Sri Grandhi Venkata Reddi Naidu was a resident of Narsapur town and worked as Minister for Public Works and Law in the Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy's Cabinet. Basically, he was an advocate and popular politician in Narsapur town. He contested in Assembly elections in 1955 as Congress Party candidate and won the election. Along with Alluri Satyanarayana Raju, the prominent leader of the district, played a vital role in making Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy and Damdaram Sanjeevaiah as Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh. In 1955 elections, G.V.Reddi Naidu elected and created history as a minister for law in this state politics as well as West Godavari District as he belonged to kapu community which is a dominant community in this area.

Parakala Seshavataram, Former Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Sri Parakala Seshavataram, Brahmin by caste, hailed from Narsapur town and worked as Minister in the P.V.Narasimha Rao, Jalagam Vengala Rao, Marri Chenna Reddy and Tanguturi Anjaiah cabinets. Sri Seshavataram contested from Narsapur

Assembly Constituency in 1962, 1967, 1972 and 1978 elections. Only in 1967 elections he was defeated by CPI-M leader Rudraraju Satyanarayana Raju. In all other elections such as 1962, 1972 and 1978 assembly elections he won the popular mandate from Narsapur Constituency. He maintained a good rapport with the state leaders like P.V.Narasimha Rao, Jalagam Vengala Rao, Marri Chenna Reddi, Tanguturi Anjaiah, Bhavanam Venkata Ram and others. From 1962 to 1978 he played an important role in State politics from our district.

Ch.V.Hari Rama Jogaiah, Former Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Another popular leader and veteran politician Sri Chegondi Harirama Jogayya, Kapu by caste, native of Doddipatla and former Zilla Parishad president of West Godavari district. The emergence of Telugu Desam Party under the dynamic leadership of matinee idol, N.T.Rama Rao had direct impact on the Assembly elections in this state in 1983. These elections have created a land mark in the political history of Andhra Pradesh by bringing a new political party into power. Rama Rao succeed in establishing a viable alternative to Congress (I) with the embryonic history of his Telugu Desam Party. In West Godavari district there was a straight fight between Telugu Desam Party and Congress (I) contested all the 16 seats. The Telugu Desam Party swept the polls by wining 15 of 16 seats in West Godavari. The remaining one seat was won by an independent. From Narasapur constituency which was a strong bastion of Congress Party CH.V.Hari Rama Jogaiah contested as Telugu Desam Party candidate and won the seat with a majority of 23,650 votes. He worked as Minister in N.T.Rama Rao's Cabinet between 1983 to 1985. In Mid-term Assembly Elections held in 1985 again he contested from Narsapur Constituency and won the seat with 33,047 majority of votes as Telugu Desam Party candidate.

Kottapalli Subba Rayudu, Former Minister of Andhra Pradesh

In the absence of any Pro-NTR wave of the kind that prevailed in 1983 and 1985 elections the verdict in 1989 elections become a referendum on NTR's seven years rule.

In these elections Congress (I) came back to power by capturing 182 seats and the Telugu Desam Party secured only 73 seats. In West Godavari District, the Congress (I) regained 7 seats and came to power, with the result factionalism and factional linkages forged again. It is significant in this election the performance of Telugu Desam Party was very poor as it managed to get only 8 seats out of 16. In Narsapur constituency K.Subba Rayudu, a new entrant and belonged to kapu community, contested as Telugu Desam Party candidate and won the seat with a majority of 13,201 votes. Subba Rayudu started his career as ward councilor and step by step reached the political heights and worked as minister in N.T.R's cabinet and also in Chandra Babu Naidu's cabinet. The T.D.P. candidate K. Subbarayudu was thrice elected to Assembly from this seat. It is believed that the T.D.P. candidate had the advantage of caste as he belongs to a numerically preponderant Kapu community. In the final outcome, the T.D.P. nominee K. Subbarayudu emerged victorious with a margin of 15,447 votes over his nearest Congress rival in 1994 elections in Narsapuram Assembly segment. As he contested as Member of Parliament from Narsapur Parliamentary Constituency from TDP, in 1996 by-elections, T.D.P. replaced Kottapalli Janakiram, own brother of Kottapali Subbarayudu, as a strong candidate, Congress after considering various options fielded Kalavakolanu Tulasi Rao a businesses tycoon and a lace exporter. Despite the predictions, T.D.P. candidate K. Janakiram, brother of Subba Rayudu, emerged victorious with a whooping majority of 34,729 votes. Again in 1999 elections in Narsapuram Assembly segment Subba Rayudu contested as T.D.P. candidate and won the seat. He became a Minister for Power in N.Chandra Babu Naidu's cabinet. Despite the predictions, T.D.P. candidate K. Subbarayudu emerged victorious with a small majority of 3,518 votes. Once again in 2004 Assembly elections, Kottapalli Subba Rayudu contested from Narsapur Assembly constituency and bagged the seat though the Congress Party under the leadership of Dr.Y.S.Rajasekhara Reddy, swept the poll in Andhra Pradesh. But in 2009 Assembly Elections Rayudu was defeated as he was defected to Praja Rajyam Party led by Mega Star Chiranjeevi. The sitting MLA Sri M.Prasada Raju who won the seat joined in YSR Congress Party and resigned to his MLA seat. In 2012 Mid Term Assembly elections, Sri

K.Subba Rayudu contested as Congress Candidate and won the seat with a significant majority. Presently he has been designated as President of District Congress Committee of West Godavari.

U.V.Krishnam Raju, Former Union Minister:

Sri U.V.Krishnam Raju native of Mogaltur village and a popular Cine Star, (popularly known as Rebel Star) contested as BJP candidate from Narasapur Parliamentary Constituency and won the seat in 1999. Later he became a Minister for State for Rural Development Ministry in the Vajpayee Cabinet at the centre. Initially he was in Congress Party and later joined in BJP. Again he joined in Praja Rajyam, a regional party emerged in 2008 established by his co-cine star Chiranjeevi, contested from Rajahmundry Parliament Constituency in 2009 elections.

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