The district of Anantapur lies to the Western part of the State of Andhra Pradesh between 13° 41' and 15° 14' N and 76° 47' and 78° 26' E. It is bounded on the north by the Bellary district of Karnataka state and Kurool district of Andhra Pradesh, on the east by Cuddapah and Chittoor districts and on the south and west by Karnataka state. It forms part of the northern extremity of the Mysore Plateau slopes from south to north. The eastern side of the district towards Cuddapah is hilly. The Erramalas flank its northern frontiers.

Anantapur district can be grouped into three natural divisions of which the first division comprising Gooty, Tadpatri and Uravakonda in the North with large areas of black cotton soils, the second division comprising Anantapur, Kalyandurg, Rayadurg, Dharmavaram, Kadiri and Penukonda in the centre with their arid treeless expanses of poor soils and the third division comprising Hindupur and Madakasira in the south with their comparatively less inhospitable soils.
The terrain of Anantapur is undulating and the soil, for most part, red and gravelly. Consequently the taluk is poor in vegetation and is mostly desolate and barren, although there are some small tracts of fertile black soils to its north.

According to the census of 1981 the total area of the district is 7,388 square miles and its population is 25.48 lakhs of which 20.17 lakhs is rural population. There are three administrative divisions in Anantapur district. They are: (1) Anantapur division in which there are 20 mandals, 352 villages, and 346 gram panchayats, (2) Dharmavaram division in which there are 17 mandals, 218 villages and 208 gram panchayats (Table 17) and (3) Penukonda division in which there are 26 mandals 394 villages and 311 gram panchayats.

Hill Ranges

As one travelling round the district will not fail to notice its plains and rocks with little or no vegetation. The hills have wonderful colouring. The hill ranges run from north to south but are not known by any particular name. Five of these pass through the district either separating some taluks or traversing them. Besides these, there are numerous isolated peaks and rocky clusters.
# TABLE 17

LIST OF MANDALS, VILLAGES AND GRAM PANCHAYATS

IN DHARMAVARAM DIVISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of the Mandal</th>
<th>No. of Villages</th>
<th>No. of gram panchayats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Dharmavaram</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Tadimarri</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bathalapalli</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>C.K.Palli</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Kanaganipalli</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Ramagiri</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Kalyandurg</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Beluguppa</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Kambhadur</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Kundurpi</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Brahmasamudram</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Settur</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Rayadurg</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>D.Hirehal</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Gummagatla</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Kanskal</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Bommannahal</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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River Systems

The Penneru river rises in the Chennakesava hills, north-west of Nandidurga in Kolar district of Karnataka. Another river Ponnaiyar which has its source near by the Chennakesava hills and runs southwards into Tamilnadu, Kumudvati, a tributary joins Penneru at Hindupur town, the Jayamangali another tributary at Utukuru.

Chitravati is the second important river in the district. It rises in Harlhareswar hills, north of Nandidurga, in Kolar district of Karnataka and enters the Hindupur taluk at Kodikonda. Kushavati is a tributary to this river. It provides good irrigation facilities to Dharmavaram taluk.

Hagari or Vedarati, another river rises in Karnataka State and runs through the heart of Rayadurg taluk. The river feeds the big tanks of the district.

Papaghni is another river which flows through Kadiri taluk. It rises in the Nandi hills of Karnataka and joins the Penneru river near Adminimmayapalle in Cuddapah district.

The other rivers of the district are the Swarnamukhi a tributary of Hagari, and Tadakaleru which rises in the southernmost recesses of the Nagasamudram hills.
Geology and Mineral resources

The geological formations in Anantapur District can broadly be categorised into two districts and well marked groups, an older group of archean rock and younger one of sedimentary rocks equivalent in age relation to Cuddapah and Kurool systems of Cuddapah basin. Rocks belonging to the latter formations are pre-cambrian in age and covers the area of Tadpatri Taluk and the Eastern parts of Gooty and Anantapur taluks. The remaining parts of the district comprise the older archean group of rocks which include schists, gneisses and granites.

Mineral Wealth

The district is fairly well known for some of its mineral deposits such as gold, diamond, barytes, asbestos, calcite, calcareous tufa, corundum, iron, copper, mica, steatite etc. Asbestos occurs at Vanganapalli, Singanaguttapalli, chala-vemula, Mallagundla and Sivapuram in Dharmavaram taluk. Barytes occurs at the taluks of Gooty, Tadpatri and Kadiri. The Calcite, an industrial mineral occurs as veins within limestone in some parts of Gooty, Tadpatri and Anantapur taluks. Corundum which is used as an abrasive and ranks next to diamond in hardness occurs in Anantapur, Dharmavaram, Hindupur and Kalyandurg taluks.
Diamonds, the precious stone materials are known to occur in Vajrakarur, Konganapalle and Badsanipalle of Gooty taluk. Gold, the precious metal is known to occur at Ramagiri in Dharmavaram taluk and Ramapuram and Venkatampalle in Gooty taluk.

Iron, an important ore occurs in Rayadurg taluk and copper at Mudigubba in Kadiri taluk. Mica is reported from Sanapa and Siddarampuram in Anantapur taluk. Steatite, a mineral which the Hindus use in the form of utensils. This occurs in Anantapur and Tadapatri taluks.

Serpentine is an ornamental building stone, suitable for interior decoration. It occurs at Chintalacheruvu in Gooty taluk and Chinnayekkaluru, Rayalacheruvu, Kondapuram and Vengannapalle in Tadapatri taluk.

Besides the mineral wealth, building material is also found in this district. The various outcrops of granite, quartzite, dolerite, dolomite and limestone provide excellent material for use as building stone and road metals.

Flora

The climatic and geographical conditions of the district have a direct bearing on its flora. The flora of the
district reflects all the representative genera on a modest scale. The most popular trees and shrubs are as follows: Nallathumma (Acacia arabica), Maredu (Aegle marmelos), Kalabanda (Agave americana), Dirisnam (Albizziabebback), Seethapalam (Anoma Squamosa), Vepa (Azdirachta indica) Mullugorinta (Berleria priono
ties), Thati (Borassus flabellifer), Jilledu (Calotropsigigantea), Thangedu (Cassia auriculata), Nerodi (Elaeodendronlaucum), Neelagiri chettu (Eucalyptus), Marri (Ficus bengalensis), Mamidi (Mangifera indica), Usiri (Phyllanthus emblic), Innmaddi (Termina
diomomentosa), Nalleru (Vitisquadranularis) etc.

Forests

Forests cover about 10% of the total extent of the area of the district. A majority of them are of a dry deciduous and open scrub type.

Fauna

All the forests of the district are the dwelling places of a variety of wild life. Where there are perennial or semi­
perennial water sources, various species of wild life make their appearance mostly at dawn and dusk. The most commonly found fauna in the district are; Kothi (the Bonnet macaque), Chirutapuli (Panther), Thodelu (Jackal), Nakka (Fox), Yelugubanti (Bear),
Duppi (Antelope), Jinka (Chital), Udutha (Squirrel), Mundlapandi (Porcupine) etc.

Apart from animals, a variety of birds seen in the district are Bulbul, Crow, Green Pigeon, Partridge, Mynah, Golden Oriole, Wood Pecker, Peacock, Peafowl, Indian Bustard, Sandgrouse etc. Cobras and Vipers are also seen in the district.

Climate

Like its neighbouring districts, the district is also fairly hot. The year may be divided into four seasons. The period from December to February is the dry, comparatively cool season. The summer season is March to May and is followed by the south-west monsoon from June to September. October and November form the retreating monsoon season.

Rainfall

The district gets moderate rainfall. The average rainfall in the district is 544.1 mm. The rainfall generally increase from the north-west to the south-east. The rainfall in this district is chiefly confined to the months of May to November.
In October and November storms originating in the Bay of Bengal sometimes cross the east coast of India and move in a westerly to north-westerly direction causing widespread rain.

**Temperature**

March, April and May are warm months when the normal daily maximum temperature ranges between 29.1°C to 38.4°C. November, December and January are cooler months when the temperature falls to about 17.2°C.

**Humidity**

The period from February to May is the driest part of the year when the relative humidities over 50-60 per cent in the mornings and 20-30 per cent in the afternoons.

**Crops**

The important crops grown in the district are paddy (Vari), Jowar (Jonna), Bajra (Sajja), Ragi (Chodi), Korra (Korralu), Horsegram (Vulabulu), Chillies (Mirapakayalu), Onions (Ulligaddalu), Sugarcane (Cheruku), Cotton (Prathi), Gingelly (Nuvvulu), Castor (Amudalu), Groundnut (Vrusenaga) and Tobacco (Pogaku).
Vegetables and flowers

Vegetables and flowers are not largely grown because of the proximity of the district to Bangalore city where they are abundently cultivated.

Land Utilisation

The total geographical area of the district is 47.28 lakhs acres. The recorded data shows that the net area sown is 22,97,547 acres which form 48.5% of the total area. The total cropped area is 23,04,551 acres. Are a sown more than once is 7,004 acres. The normal cultivated area of the district is 23.43 lakh acres, out of which a stretch of 20.68 lakh acres is under kharif season and another stretch of 2.29 lakhs acres is under Rabi season.

Places of Tourist Importance

Gugudu, Lepakshi, Kasapuram, Alurkona, Penna, Ahobilam, Gutibayalu and Puttaparthi are some of the most important places of tourist importance.