Profile of Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state of India with an area of 2,75,069 sq.kms. It lies in the South-Eastern part of India, with a coast line of 974 km. stretching from Orissa to Tamilnadu. The earliest mention of the Andhra is said to be in Aitereya Brahmana (2000 B.C). 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 kingdom of Vijayanagar and Qutubshahis followed by Nizams. The present Andhra Pradesh was formed on November 15th 1956, with Hyderabad as state capital, under the states Reorganization Act, 1956.¹

The word Andhra means “Leader in battle”, Sanskrit writings reveal that the people region. The state was a political power in the South-Eastern religion. Between 624-1323 A.D the state faced a significant change in the social, religious and literacy spheres. During these periods, Telugu language emerged as a literacy medium for the people and Sanskrit was less emphasized. This alteration in the literature was made by the East and West Chalukyas. The language is described as the “Indian of the East” by C.P. Brown.
During the emperorship of the Mughals, the state also built social status and communal relationship with the Muslims. The Telugu language was equally treated with the Deccan under during colonical area. The state had a great contribution to the freedom movement.

**Andhra Pradesh Government and Politics**

Andhra state was the first state in India that has been formed purely on linguistic basis by carving it out from Madras province in October 15, 1953. Andhra state was later merged with Telugu speaking areas of Hyderabad (Telangana) to create Andhra Pradesh state on November 1st 1956 under the States Reorganization Act, 1956.

Andhra state and Telangana was merged to form Andhra Pradesh State after providing safeguards to Telangana in the form of gentlemen’s agreement. There have been several movements to invalidate the merger of Telangana and Andhra, major movements in 1969, 1972 and 2000 onwards. The Telangana movement gained momentum over decades becoming a widespread political demand of creating a new state from the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh. Finally, the demand of Telangana people for separate state is appreciated and June 2nd is the Appointed Day (official declaration).

The state was governed by Congress party from inception of the state to formation of Telugu Desam party by Sri N.T. Rama Rao in 1982, which swept the Assembly elections in 1983.

BJP, CPI, CPM, YSRCP, TRS, JSAP are other national and regional parties in the state.

**Demographics**

Total population of Andhra Pradesh as per 2011 census is 84,580,777 of which male and female are 42,442,146 and 44,138,631 respectively which form 6.99 per cent of India’s population (2011). In 2001, the total population was 76,210,007 in which males were 38,527,413 which females were 37,682,599. The total population in this decade is 10.98 per cent which in previous decade it was 13.86
Density of Andhra Pradesh is 308 per sq.km which is lower than national average, 382 sq. km. Sex ratio in the state is 933 (i.e. for 1000 males, 933 females which is below national average of 940 as per 2011 census. Of the total population of Andhra Pradesh, 33.36 per cent people live in urban areas and around 66.64 per cent live in the villages of rural areas.

According to 2011 census, literacy rate in Andhra Pradesh has seen upward trend and is 67.02 per cent of which male literacy rate is 74.88 per cent and female literacy is at 58.68 per cent. In actual numbers, total literates in Andhra Pradesh stands at 50,556,760 of which males were 28,251,243 and females were 22,305,517. The total population of the state is expected to rise to 90 million by 2020 which will seriously impinge the states socio-economic development.

**Geography**

The state is situated in a tropical region lying between 13°-20’ North latitudes and 77°-85’ East longitudes. Bounded by Chhattisgarh and Orissa in the North, the Bay of Bengal in the East, Tamilnadu and Karnataka to the South and Maharashtra in West, Andhra Pradesh forms the major link between the North and South of India. The Northern area of the state is mountainous, the highest peak Mahendragiri rises 1500 m above the sea level. The climate is generally hot and humid ranging between 16°C in winters to 40 degrees or more in summers. The Northern part of the state receives rainfall from the South-West monsoon. While the Southern areas like Rayalaseema receive more rainfall from North-East monsoon. Andhra Pradesh has a variety of physiographic features ranging from high hills, undulating plains to coastal deltaic environment.

Andhra Pradesh is the second largest state in forest area in the Indian union. The state has 63,814 sq.kms of forest area constituting 23.2 per cent of the total geographical area of the state. Out of the total forest area, reserved forest area accounted for 50,478 sq.kms. Protected forest forms 12,365 sq.kms and the rest 971 sq.km is unclassified.
For administrative purposes, the state is divided into 23 districts, spread across three distinct regions:

**Andhra:** The coastal region consists of nine districts, Nellore, Prakasam, Krishna, East Godavari, West Godavari, Rajmundry, Vishakapatnam, Vizayanagaram, Srikakulam.

**Telangana:** The interior northern region consisting of the state Capital Hyderabad and adjoining nine districts, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Medak, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Ranga Reddy, Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda.

**Rayalaseema:** The interior region to the south of the state, consisting of four districts, Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool and Anantapuram.

The detailed profile of Anantapuram is given below:

**Historical Background**

Anantapuram is the southern-most district of the Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Area wise, it is the biggest district in the state. The whole district is known for its silk trade in the modern industry. It is generally held that the place got its name from 'Anantasagaram', a big tank, which means "Endless Ocean". The villages of Anantasagaram and Bukkarayasamudram were constructed by Chilkavodeya, the Minister of Bukka-I, a Vijayanagar ruler. Some authorities assert that Anantasagaram was named after Bukka's queen, while some contend that it must have been known after Anantarasa Chikkavodeya himself, as Bukka had no queen by that name.⁵

Anantapuram is familiarly known as "Hande Anantapuramam". 'Hande' means chief of the Vijayanagar period. Anantapuram and a few other places were gifted by the Vijayanagar rulers to Hanumappa Naidu of the Hande family. The place subsequently came under the Qutub Shahis, Mughals, and the Nawabs of Cuddapah, although the Hande chiefs continued to rule as their subordinates. It was occupied by the Palegar of Bellary during the time of Ramappa but was eventually won back by his son, Siddappa. Morari Rao Ghorpade
attacked Anantapuram in 1757. Though the army resisted for some time, Siddappa ultimately bought off the enemy for Rs.50,000.\textsuperscript{6}

It then came into the possession of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. After Tipu’s death, it was once again taken back by Siddappa. Siddappa submitted himself to Nizam because of the treaty of 1799, who took the total control of the area. He was later pensioned off when British occupied the territory.\textsuperscript{7}

Anantapuram District was formed in the year 1882 having been separated from Bellary District. Later on, it was expanded with the addition of Revenue Mandals of Kadiri, Mudigubba, Nallamada, N.P.Kunta, Talupula, Nallacheruvu, O.D.Cheruvu, Tanakal, Amadagur and Gandlapenta (previous Kadiri Taluk) from Cuddapah District in the year 1910. During the year 1956, the present Revenue Mandals of Rayadurg, D. Hirehal, Kanekal, Bommanahal and Gummagatta of Bellary District were added to Anantapuram District.\textsuperscript{8}

For administrative purposes, the District has been divided into 3 Revenue Divisions consisting of 63 revenue mandals (Anantapuram Division 20, Dharmavaram Division 17 and Penukonda Division 26 mandals). Later in June 2013 two more Revenue Divisions, Kadiri and Kalyandurg were created to facilitate faster and more concerted public services and development of the district (Anantapuram Division 19, Dharmavaram Division 8, Penukonda Division 13, Kadiri 12 and Kalyandurg 11 mandals). As per 2011 census, the district has 10 towns and 929 inhabited villages, out of 964 revenue villages, 16 Talukas, 1006 Gram Panchayats, one Municipal Corporation and six Municipalities.\textsuperscript{9}

**Topography**

Anantapuram District lies between 13’-40’ and 15’-15’ Northern Latitude and 76’-50’ and 78’-30’ Eastern Longitude. It is bounded by Bellary, Kurnool District on the North, Kadapa and Kolar districts of Karnataka on South East and North respectively.\textsuperscript{10}
The District may be divided into three Natural Divisions. They are (1) Northern Mandal of Rayadurg, Kanekal, Beluguppa, Gooty, Guntakal, Vajrakarur, Uravakonda, Vidapanakal, Yadiki, Tadipatri, Putlur and Yellanur containing larger areas of Black Cotton soils (2) Kalyandurg, Kambadur, Settur, Brahmasamudram, Ramagiri, Kanaganapalli, C.K. Palli, Dharmavaram, Bathalapalli, Tadimarri, Mudigubba, Anantapuram, Kudair, Pamidi and Peddavadugur in the center which are mainly made up of arid treeless, poor Red Soils, (3) High level land of Penukonda, Roddam, Somandepalli, Hindupur, Lepakshi, Chilamathur, Madakasira, Rolla, Gudibanda and Agali which connects with Mysore plateau at higher elevation of the rest of the District. It has fairly good elevation, slope from south to north. The elevation is about 2,000 feet in southern part and 1,000 feet in northern part. This part has average sandy red soils of normal productivity.11

**Agro-Ecological Characteristics**

Anantapuram District is in the arid agro-ecological zone and is marked by hot arid bioclimatic condition with dry summers and mild winters. The district is characterized by hills, ridges, and undulating and gently sloping lands. Of the total geographical area of the district, hills and ridges cover 14 percent; undulating lands, 27 percent; gently sloping lands and very gently sloping plains extend over 54 percent; and valleys cover 5 percent.12

**Rainfall and Climate**

The geographical location of Anantapuram District is such that it does not get the full benefit of either of the monsoons and hence subjected to droughts due to bad seasons. The south-west monsoon gets cut off by the Western Ghats, while the full benefit of the north-east monsoon is not derived, either, as the district lies far from the eastern coastline. The district is in the rain shadow area and the normal rainfall is 553 mm (the state average is 925 mm) which makes it the second lowest rainfall district in the nation after Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.13
The normal rainfall for the South West Monsoon period is 338.0 mms. which forms about 61.2 per cent of the total rainfall for the year. The failure of the rains in this South West monsoon period of June to September will lead the District to drought by failure of crops. The rainfall for North East monsoon period is 156.0 mms. only, which forms 28.3 per cent mms. of the total rainfall for the year (October to December). On an average, the district rainfall condition was deficient by 37 per cent from normal. Crop failure is very common in the district owing to frequent monsoon failure.

**Forests**

The forest cover is 194678 hectares only which constitutes around 10 per cent of the total area. The district is not rich in the forest wealth. The name ‘Forest’ in Anantapuram District does not indicate any dense tree population with thick foliage of variform of pastures.

The area under forests remains stable at about 10 per cent of geographical area. Though a considerable extent of the area is under forests in Anantapuram District, the nature of these forests is such that this does not contribute towards improving the arid climate in the region. The Anantapuram District Gazetteer, published in 1905, notes, ‘The forests of the district nowhere consist of really dense growth or large timber and in many parts they contain practically no tree at all’ (Government of Andhra Pradesh, 1993). That the nature of forests have remained as pathetic as they were a hundred years ago is clear from the description of forests in the recent publication of the state government as, ‘The forests in the District are thin and scanty......There are numerous isolated peaks and rocky clusters which are devoid of any vegetation’.

The Forests in the District are thin and scanty. The Muchukota Hills about 35 KMs. in length run from North of Gooty town upto extreme southern corner of Tadipatri and Yadiki Mandals. Another line of Hills starts from West of Gooty mandal and run 80 KMs
called by name Nagasamudram Hills. The Mallappakonda Range begins at Dharmavaram and runs into Karnataka State. The Penukonda Range which starts in the South of Dharmavaram through Penukonda and Hindupur proceeds to Karnataka State. In Madakasira, the hills divide Rolla and Agali Mandals into Southern and Northern portions.\textsuperscript{16}

**Rivers**

The important river in the district is Pennar. It has its origin in the Nandi Hills of Karnataka State where it is called "Uttara Pinakini" and enters Anantapuram in the extreme South of Hindupur Mandal. Jayamangala, Chitravathi, Vedavathi or Hagari are some other rivers flowing in the district.

Apart from these, streams like Kushavathi in Chilamathur Mandal, Swarnamukhi in Agali mandal, Maddileru in Nallamada, Kadiri and Mudigubba mandals, Pandameru in Kanaganipalli, Raptadu, Anantapuram, B.K.Samudram and Singanamala Mandals, Papagni in Tanakal mandal are important water supply sources to various large and medium irrigation tanks in the district.\textsuperscript{17}

**Ground Water Resources**

Ground water resource available is 45825 million cubic metres in command area and 985.0 million cubic metres in non-command area.\textsuperscript{18} Data available with the ground water department shows that of the sixty three mandals in Anantapuram district, thirty-three mandals fall in the over-exploited category; five in critical; thirteen in the semi-critical; and only twelve in the safe category, as on 2004. That is, only in 12 mandals is the percentage of ground water utilization to groundwater availability below 70 to 75 per cent (If the percentage of ground water utilization to groundwater availability is more than 100 per cent, the area is classified as over-exploited; 90 per cent to 100 per cent, critical; 70 per cent to 90 per cent, semi critical; below 70 per cent, safe.\textsuperscript{19} The above said information is presented in Figure 4.1.
Figure 4.1

Source: Department of Groundwater, Anantapuram

**Mineral Resources**

**Gold**

At Ramagiri village in Ramagiri mandal, Gold is found to occur in the Cholite Schist’s and physlite along with western part of Dharwar Schist’s Belt in the district. The place extends over a length of 14 kms. Exploratory mining in the area is pruned about 467 meters of ore shoots with an average width of 100 CMS tonnes. Mining
operations are expected to be conducted by Bharat Gold Mines Limited.

**Diamonds**

Diamonds are known to be available near Vajrakarur. They mainly occur in pipe rocks.

**Asbestos**

(Chrysolite variety Cross Fibre type) Barytes High Grade Line Stones, Iron ore and steatite are the minerals occurring in the district. There are however no large sized minerals occurring in the district.

**Irrigation Projects**

The district lies in Pennar river basin (80 per cent), Krishna river basin (20 per cent). The district occupies the lowest position in respect of irrigation facilities with only 14.08 per cent of the gross cropped area during 2006-2007. Due to continuous droughts the ground water levels have gone down precariously and the areas under bore wells/wells have shown a declining trend. Out of the gross irrigated area of 1.37 lakh hectares during 2006-2007, canals accounted for 17.37 per cent, tanks 1.36 per cent, Tube wells 70.83 per cent, wells 10.02 per cent and other sources 0.42 per cent. The sources of irrigation and their area coverage is presented in Figure 4.2.

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**Figure 4.2**

**SOURCES OF IRRIGATION AND AREA COVERED**

![Diagram of irrigation sources]

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Tanks played a very important role in irrigating fields in the District. To catch the maximum runoff, tanks of three different sizes were constructed on watershed principle. At upper reaches of catchment, small size tanks (locally known as kuntas) and cheruvus were built and at lower levels, bigger tanks samudrams were built. All these structures were interconnected with each other so that the surplus water of one tank drained into another tank just below it and so on. Owing to gross negligence, tanks have been declining in a large number in the District since the second half of the 19th century. The number of tanks in the district have declined from about 2,500-3,000 in the second half of 19th century to 1,247 in 1993-94.23

Considering that the survey on water bodies spearheaded by the District Collector in 2004 clearly showed that more than 70 percent of water bodies that existed have fallen under repair in the district, it is very important that the state takes on the responsibility of repair and maintenance of water bodies. A massive programme to repair and restore minor water bodies and tanks is needed which can again be taken up under watershed management programME.

Table 4.1 depicts the sources of irrigation in Anantapuram District

Table 4.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Source of irrigation</th>
<th>Area in hectares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Canals</td>
<td>25363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tanks</td>
<td>5403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tube wells and filter points</td>
<td>103951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Other wells</td>
<td>14840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Other sources</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Net area irrigated</td>
<td>119291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gross area irrigated</td>
<td>151490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Area irrigated more than once</td>
<td>32199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [www.anantapur.gov.in](http://www.anantapur.gov.in)
The Table 4.1 describes the gross irrigated area in the district is 151490 hectares and net irrigated area is 11921 hectares. Out of net area irrigated 31 per cent is from surface water irrigation and 69 per cent is from ground water irrigation.

The details of irrigation projects in the district covering mandals and villages is given in the Table 4.2

**Table 4.2**

**DETAILS OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN ANANTAPURAM DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the project</th>
<th>No. of Mandals covered</th>
<th>No. of villages</th>
<th>Ayacut (in hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thungabhadra Project</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>51771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pennar project</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhairavanithippa project</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennarayaswamy Gudi project</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennar Kumdvathi project</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yogi Vemana Reservoir</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedaballi project</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://irrigation.cgg.gov.in/dp/AnanthapurDistrictProfile.jsp](http://irrigation.cgg.gov.in/dp/AnanthapurDistrictProfile.jsp)

Various major, medium and minor ongoing and contemplated irrigation projects is given below:

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

A. **Major Projects**

**H.N.S.D.W.S Scheme**

The project is a drinking water supply scheme under construction, on the river Krishna near Malyala village, Nandikotkur mandal of Kurnool district. To provide drinking water to 33.00 lakhs people in the districts of Kurnool, Anantapuram and Chittoor. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 740 crores, (in Anantapuram district Rs.491.99 crores) and an amount of Rs. 4.289 crores is spent.
B. Medium Irrigation Projects

Under medium irrigation, five works costing Rs.34.58 lakhs is taken up and completed. During 2003-04, one work costing Rs. 15.88 lakhs is proposed to be taken up.

B. Minor Irrigation Projects

There are two new Minor Irrigation sources i.e., (1) Jilledubanda Vagu near Gunjepalli village in Mudigubba mandal with an ayacut of 2792 Acres. The project is to benefit the mandals of Mudigubba and Bukkapatnam. (2) Potti Cheruvu supply channel with an ayacut of 75 Acres. An ayacut of 2868 Acres will be developed after completion of these two new schemes.

III. CONTEMPLATED PROJECTS

A. Major Projects

Handrineva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS)

The project is proposed to lift 40.00 TMC of surplus waters of Krishna River at Malayala Village, Kurnool district at an estimated cost of Rs. 740.00 crores to create an IP of 6.025 lakh Acres in the districts of (1) Kurnool (85,000 Acres) (2) Anantapuram (3,92,500 Acres) (3) Kadapa (25,000 acres) and (4) Chittoor (1,00,000 acres). The project has started functioning.

There are 374 tanks with an ayacut of 41953 hectares under the control of minor irrigation. There are 2351 tanks under the control of the Panchayati Raj engineering department with 21387 hectares as ayacut. In addition there are 68137 hectares under bore wells.

The total area under irrigation in Anantapuram district is shown in Figure 4.3.
Soils

Soils of Anantapuram originated from both the granite and granite-gneiss land forms, as well as the Dharwar landforms. Both these land forms are characterized by hills and ridges and undulating and gently-sloping lands. There are about thirty four soil families in the district of Anantapuram, and among these, the Anantapuram and Penukonda soil families are the most predominant.

The soils in Anantapuram District are predominantly red except Kanekal, Bommanahal, Vidapanakal, Urvakonda, Vajrakarur, Guntakal, Gooty, Pamidi, Peddavadugur, Yadiki, Tadipatri, Yellanur, Peddapappur and Putlur mandals. In these mandals red and black soils occur almost in equal proportion. Thus 76 per cent red soils, 24 per cent are black soils. The 76 per cent shallow red soils that cover most of the area in the district have low moisture retention capacity.
Land capability classification in a nutshell indicates that while 73 per cent of geographical area of the district is cultivable, 25 per cent of this can be cultivated only once in four years and the remaining 48 per cent can be cultivated only if conservation measures are adopted rigorously. It is estimated that 63 per cent of the total geographical area of the district is covered by sandy loam; 14 per cent is under rock land; and about 19 per cent is under clay. Large areas in the district have coarse soil-surface texture, are poor in water and nutrient retention, and are prone to wind and water erosion.

Further, it is estimated that about 59 per cent of soils of Anantapuram have low ‘available water capacity’, a measure which indicates the amount of moisture that can be easily absorbed by the plant from the soil for its optimum vegetative growth. The soils of the district having very low water storage capacity, Anantapuram suffers from excessive water run off.

The high water-erosion tendency exhibited by the soils make the already scarce rainfall unavailable for effective plant growth, thereby reducing the length of the growing period. These limitations have serious implication for crop productivity in the district.

**Physical Infrastructure**

**Roads**

The district enjoys a developed and reliable road network. National Highway 7 from Varanasi - Kanyakumari passes through the district in the North-South direction. National Highway from Madras-Bombay also passes through the district in the East-West direction. The two highways intersect each other at Anantapuram. Besides, all the towns and almost all the villages are well connected with dependable all-weather roads. The total length of roads in the district is around 9,000 kms. of this, about 2,000 kms. is maintained by PWD; 2,000 kms. by Zilla Parishads and 5,000 kms. by the Panchayat Samithis.
Railways

The total railway line length in the district is about 600 kms. of this, 350 Kms. is broad-gauge and 250 kms meter-gauge. Guntakal and Dharmavaram are the two major junctions connecting the district with places like Madras, Bombay, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Guntur, Goa etc.

Airports

There are two airports in and near by the district. They are at Puttaparthi and Bangalore.

Power

The power network in the district is fairly developed, as per data available for 1996-97, agriculture, domestic and industry sectors emerge as the major consumers of power. The low tension consumers outweigh high tension consumers.

Telecommunications

The telecommunication facilities available in the district consist of telephone network, telegraph offices and post offices. There are 913 post offices, 92 Telegraph offices, 104 telephone exchange and 291 public call offices in the district (1997-98). All the major towns of the district are hooked to the national STD and ISD Network.

Banking

By the end of 1996-97, there are 14 commercial and scheduled banks in the district with a network of 219 branches. Of these, Anantha Grameena Bank with 70 branches, State Bank of India (32), Syndicate Bank (30) and Andhra Bank (22) are leading in terms of maximum services area covered.

Demography30

Anantapuram district population constituted 4.82 per cent of total Andhra Pradesh population (2011 census). According to 2011 census Anantapuram had population of 4,083,315 of which male and female were 2,064,928 and 2,018,387 respectively. There was change of 12.16 per cent in the population compared to population as per
2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Anantapuram District recorded increase of 14.34 per cent to its population compare to 1991.

The initial provisional data suggest a density of 213 in 2011 compared to 190 of 2001. Average literacy rate of Anantapuram in 2011 were 64.28 compared to 56.13 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 74.09 and 54.31 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 68.38 and 43.34 in Anantapuram district. Total literates in Anantapuram district were 2,350,294 of which male and female were 1,365,701 and 984,593 respectively. In 2001, Anantapuram district had 1,774,088 in its total region.

With regard to Sex Ratio in Anantapuram, it stood at 977 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 958. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of 2011 census. The district sex ratio is higher than nation’s sex ratio.

There are 929 inhabited villages, out of 964 total Revenue villages of the district. There are 7.32 lakhs households in the district. The population of rural and urban to the total population of the district works out to 71.91 per cent and 28.09 per cent in 2011 as against 75 per cent and 25 per cent in 2001 respectively.

The district has most of demographic features of under developed region such as low urbanization, higher work participation rate, higher population growth, low literacy rates, adverse condition of women, etc. The working force in the total population of district forms 48.83 per cent as per 2001 census out of which 26 per cent are in the Agriculture Sector.

**Land Utilization**

Agriculture remains the predominant activity in the villages, with 80 per cent of total workers engaged in agriculture, either as cultivators or agriculture labourers. In urban areas, about 11 per cent of the workforce is engaged in agriculture. Almost 75 per cent of the population in the district lives in rural areas.
The total geographical area of the district is 19.13 lakh hectares. The net area sown is 11.13 lakh hectares, which form 58.23 per cent of the total area. The total cropped area is 11.87 lakh hectares. The cultivated area of the district is 11.14 lakh hectares. Out of which 9.82 lakh hectares is under Kharif and 1.32 lakh hectares is under Rabi Season during the year 2011-12. Groundnut is the main crop with 7.5 lakh hectares, which is purely rain fed in kharif.31

The land utilization pattern in the district of Anantapuram is given in Table 4.3

Table 4.3

THE LAND UTILIZATION PATTERN IN THE DISTRICT OF ANANTAPURAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Area (in hectares)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Total Geographical Area</td>
<td>1913000</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Net area sown</td>
<td>1113965</td>
<td>58.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Forests</td>
<td>196978</td>
<td>10.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Barren and Uncultivable Land</td>
<td>183451</td>
<td>9.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Land put to Non-Agricultural uses</td>
<td>119810</td>
<td>6.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Cultivable waste</td>
<td>52819</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Permanent Pastures and other grazing lands</td>
<td>8951</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown</td>
<td>9652</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Current fallows</td>
<td>143126</td>
<td>7.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Other fallow lands</td>
<td>84254</td>
<td>4.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Total cropped area</td>
<td>1187766</td>
<td>62.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Area sown more than once</td>
<td>73801</td>
<td>6.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Mining is also an important activity in Anantapuram District as it is endowed with rich deposits of iron ore and lime stone, as well as other minerals.

There are more than fifty small-scale industrial units in the district, of which nearly one-half are to do with granite. There is also couple of cement industries and steel industries in the district.32
While agriculture remains the most important economic activity of the district, it is characterized by high levels of instability and uncertainty. Being located in the rain-shadow region of Andhra Pradesh, the district is drought-prone. Anantapuram was one of the thirty-one districts identified by the Government of India as being prone to agriculture-related suicides. Drought has been a recurring phenomenon in the District. The adverse affect of drought is felt not only on human beings and on animal health but also on ground water table, drinking water, surface irrigation, power generation as well as crop and fodder production. The small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans are severely affected by drought.33

The district gazetteer, published in 1905, notes that natural conditions in Anantapuram district are extremely unfavorable for agricultural growth. To quote, ‘The natural conditions of Anantapuram could scarcely be more inimical to agricultural prosperity than they are. The soil is, most of it, wretchedly infertile, the rainfall is light and uncertain, fuel and fodder are scarce, irrigation facilities are few, the indigenous cattle are bad, manure is difficult to get and the people are few in number’ (Government of Andhra Pradesh 1993, p.67).34 The above said conditions are prevalent even today in the district and have become even worse.

But since agriculture supports nearly 70 percent of the district’s population, it is important that all possible measures are taken to promote agricultural growth and all constraints to agricultural growth are either overcome or minimized.

At this juncture the district has taken many drought mitigation activities in the district through watershed programmes. Watershed programmes are seen as a boon to the drought prone district of Anantapuram and the programme is given utmost priority.

The district map of Anantapuram is given in Figure 4.5.
Figure 4.4
ANANTAPURAM DISTRICT

REFERENCES


3. Ibid.


5. www.anantapur.gov.in/


7. Ibid.

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10. [http://www.mapsofindia.com](http://www.mapsofindia.com)


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32. Ibid.
33. www.rd.ap.gov.in