CHAPTER II

PROFILE OF THE KURNOOL DISTRICT

Kurnool was the capital of Andhra State from 1st October 1953 to 1st November, 1956. The name of the district is derived from the chief town Kurnool which was the capital of former Nawabs. The name of the district is said to have been derived from 'Kandenavolu'.

Location:

Kurnool district lies in between the northern latitudes of 14°.54' and 16°.11' and eastern longitudes of 76°.58' and 78°.25'. The district is bounded on the north by Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers as well as Mahabubnagar district, on the South by Cuddapah and Anantapur districts, on the west by Karnataka state and on the east by Prakasham district. The area of the district is 17,658/Km². The total population of the district 29,67,837 as per 1991 census provisionally and the density is 168 persons per Km². At present the district comprises 3 revenue divisions, 54 revenue mandals, 53, Mandal Praja Parishads, 821 Grampanchayats and 918 revenue villages.
Physiography:

Physiographically the district is divided into two major mountain ranges namely Nallamallas and Erramallas running parallel from north to south. The Nallamallas are located on north eastern, eastern and south eastern parts of the district and range in attitude from 350 to 900 metres above MSL. The Erramallas divide the district into two well defined tracts from East to West. Between the Erramallas and Nallamallas lies the major tract of black cotton soil sloping to the south along the Kunderu river. There are about 25 mandals in between the two major mountain ranges and altitude is less than 350 metres above MSL. The western part of Kurnool district comprises 29 mandals and the terrain here slopes from south to north along Hundri river which joins the river Tungabhadra at Kurnool. The northwestern part of the district comprises black cotton soils. The altitude varies from 550 to 650 above MSL (Mean Sea Level).

Climate:

The climate of Kurnool district is normally good and healthy. January, February and March months are usually pleasant with moderate winds from southeast. The average temperature varies from 24° to 28°C. The mean minimum temperature ranges from 17° to 22°C and the mean maximum temperature varies from 31° to 37°C. April and May are the hottest-months of the year and the winds shift towards southwest. The average temperature varies from 32° to 34°C. The mean maximum temperature ranges from 39° to 40°C and mean minimum from 26° to 27°C. From June to September the winds blow from western side and bring fairly good rainfall. The average temperature ranges from 27° to 30°C. The mean maximum temperature ranges from from 31° to 36°C. and the mean minimum varies from 23° to 25°C.
During the months of October and November the eastern parts of the district receive rainfall due to the influence of northeast monsoon and cyclones formed in Bay of Bengal. The average temperature varies from 22° to 24°C. The mean maximum temperature ranges from 31° to 33°C and the mean minimum temperature varies from 19° to 22°C. In the month of December the weather is fine and the rainfall is rare. The wind is light with occurrence of heavy dew. The average temperature is 23.5°C and the mean minimum is 16.6° and the mean maximum is 30.3°C. The average annual rainfall of the district is 656 mm. Out of this about 4.3 mm rainfall is received in winter, 65.4 mm in summer period, 448.2 mm in southwest monsoon and 112.1 mm in northeast monsoon period. The district enjoys dry subhumid type of climate.

Drainage:

The major rivers flowing in the district are the Tungabhadra, and its tributary the Hundri, the Krishna and the Kunderu. The Tungabhadra river rises in the Western Ghats and forms a northern boundary of the Kurnool district and separates the Rayalaseema and Telangana areas. It flows towards eastern direction and receives Hundri river near Kurnool town and confluences with Krishna river at Kudalisangam after winding northwards. The Hundri, a tributary of Tungabhadra rises in the fields of Maddikera in Maddikera Mandal and receives a stream from Erramallas at Laddagiri in Kodumur Mandal and Joins Tungabhadra at Kurnool. It drains through Maddikera, Pathikonda, Devanakonda, Gonegandla, Kodumur and Kallur Mandals. The Kunderu also called Kumudvati rises on western side of Erramallas, flows through Kunderu valley and flows in a southern direction. If flows through Orvakal, Midthur, Gadivemula, Nandyal, Gospadu, Koilakuntla, Dornipadu and Chagalamarri Mandals and then enters Cuddapah district.
Natural Vegetation:

The natural vegetation of the district stands in direct relation to that of climate and edaphic conditions. The eastern parts of the district bear better vegetation than the western half which shows a desolate appearance and the vegetation is confined to small pockets of reserved forests. The total area under natural forests cover is 3,18,385 hectares and accounts for 18% of the total geographical area of the district. The major parts of natural forests are confined to Nallamallas, Erramallas and part of Velikondas. The forests covering the Erramallas and Velikondas are of interior type. Bamboo with timber species occur fairly in extensive areas in the district. Tamarind and beedi leaves are the important forest produce of the district.

Fauna of the district:

Wild animals are found in plenty in Nallamalla and Erramalla hills. Tigers, Panthers, Bears, Jackals, Hyaenas, Wild Bears, Foxes, Spotted Bears, Sambars, Black bucks, Nilgais, Wild Sheep etc. are found in these forests. In order to preserve the wild animals the forest cover of northeastern parts of Nallamallas covering about 46,815 hectares has been brought under the Nagarjuna Sagar - Srisailam wild life Sanctuary. Partridges, Peacocks, Red jungle foul, Green pigeon and quails are the Chief birds found in the forests of the district. The great Indian bustard (Batta Meka) an endangered bird species is found near Rollapadu Village of Midthur Mandal. An area of about 1600 hectares around Rollapadu Village has been declared as protected area in propagation of great Indian bustards. In the year 1983 the Tiger Project has been launched near Srisailam covering 3,568 Km² in Nallamalla forest. There are about 97 Tigers as per 1991 census.
Soils:

The soils of the Kurnool district are broadly categorised into alluvial, red sandy and black cotton clayey soils. The alluvial soils are found along the major river valleys of Tungabhadra and its tributaries Hundri, the Krishna and Kunderu. The eastern parts of the district between Erramallas and Nallamallas the predominant soil type is black cotton clayey soil. The northwestern part of the district is also covered by the same type of soil. Around the Erramallas the red sandy soils are found. The poor red sandy soils are found on the southern part of the district.

Land use:

During the year 1990-91 the land under forest area is about 3,18,385 hectares of land and forms 18% of the total geographical area of the district. The land under barren and uncultivable land is about 99,416 hectares of land and accounts for 5.65% of the total land of the district. The land put to non agricultural use is about 100,851 hectares and covers about 5.73% of the total land. The land under permanent pastures and grazing lands is about 4,077 hectares of land and amounts 0.23% of the total land. The area under miscellaneous tree crops and groves is about 2030 hectares and accounts 0.12% of the total land. The land under culturable waste land is about 81,892 hectares of land and amounts 4.65% of the total geographical area of the district. The other fallows land cover about 142,834 hectares of land and accounts for 5.77% of the total geographical area of the district. The current fallows cover 101,611 hectares of land and amounts 5.77% of the total land. The net sown area of the district for the year 1990-91 is 909,686 hectares of land and covers 51.66% of the total geographical of the district. The total cropped area of the district is 10.01 lakh hectares and the area sown more than once during 1990-91 is about 0.91 lakh hectares of land.
Irrigation:

There are about three major irrigation and four medium irrigation projects in the district and accounts for about 153,124 hectares of registered ayacut. There are about 426 minor irrigation projects in the district and covers an ayacut area of about 4,310 hectares of land. The total area under canal irrigation is about 104,286 hectares, tanks is about 17,218 hectares, wells is about 47,893 hectares, tube wells is about 8,344 hectares and other sources is about 9,584 hectares of land. The net area irrigated is 150,249 hectares and area irrigated more that once is 37,075 hectares of land. The total irrigated area of the district through all sources accounts for 8.50% of the total geographical area of the district.

Power:

The district receives its power supply from Tungabhadra and Hampi Hydro-Electric Power stations. Srisailam Hydro-Electric power project is constructed across the river Krishna 3 Km. away from the famous Srisailam Mallikarjuna Temple at a cost of about Rs. 433 crores. There are seven Hydro Generators of 110 M.W. capacity and the electricity produced during the year 1990-91 was 3,590 M.W.

Mineral resources:

Kurnool district possesses enormous deposits of limestone suitable for cement manufacture, a part from the other important minerals like barytes, yellow shale, white shale, steatite, serpentine, quartz, silica sand etc. The occurrence of limestone is abundant in Kallur, Orvakal, Dhone, Peapully, Panyam, Banganapalli, Owk, Gadivemula, and Kolimigundla mandals. The annual exploitation is about 3.48 lakh tonnes. The Adoni, Alur, Peddakadubur, Krishnagiri and Yemmiganur mandals are
famous for granite and road metal. The annual output of the minerals in the district is about 1.02 lakh tonnes and the revenue to the district for the year 1990-91 is about Rs. 368.83 lakhs.

**Places of Tourist importance:**

There are about five important religious centres in the district which attracts tourists within and around the district. The Srisailam is the most ancient sacred place of South India famous for Lord Mallikarjuna in the form of lingam is located at an altitude of about 460 metres above MSL in the northern part of Nallamallas hill ranges. The Mahanandi in Mahanandi mandal is famous for Mahanandeswara is located east of Nallamallas hill ranges and attracts pilgrims and tourists from all parts of India particularly South India. The Ahobilam is a great religious place of Lord Narasimha is located 28 Km. away from Allagadda mandal Head Quarters. The Brahmostavam is celebrated annually in the month of February and March. The Mantralayam is known for Madhva Saint Sri Raghavendra Swamy. It is located on the bank of river Tungabhadra and attracts pilgrims from South India. The Yaganti lies at a distance of about 11 Km. from Banaganapalli and is situated amidst natural scenery with caves and waterfalls around. The presiding deity is Uma Maheswara Swamy popularly known as Yaganti Swamy. The most striking feature of this temple is the huge Nandi and Mahasivaratri festival is celebrated with a large gathering of pilgrims from in and around the district.

**Population:**

The total population of the district is about 29,73,709 persons. Out of this 15,20,640 persons are male and 14,53,069 persons are female. The females for 1,000 males is about 956 according to 1991 census. The density of the population is about 168. The decennial growth rate of population is 23.53% from 1981 to 1991.
There are about 11 towns in the district with a total population of 5,89,599 as per 1981 census. About 44.25% of total population are main workers, and 32.3% are agricultural workers as per 1981 census. In the district there are 3,75,978 persons belong to scheduled caste and account for 15.62% of the total population and 39,914 persons belong to scheduled tribe and cover 1.66% of the total population as per 1991 census. There are 6,91,574 literature population and accounts for 28.73% of the total population. Out of this about 4,90,246 (39.96%) are male and 2,01,328 (17.06%) are female as per 1981 census. There are about 17 hospitals, 15 dispensaries, 58 Public Health centres, 417 doctors and 1,519 beds in various hospitals of the district during the 1990-91 rendering medical services to the people living in the district.