CHAPTER-III

ANANTAPUR DISTRICT: A PROFILE
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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Anantapur District was formed in the year 1882 separating from Bellary District. Later on, it was expanded with the addition of Revenue Mandals of Kadiri, Mudigubba, Nallamada, Nambulipulikunta, Talupula, Nallacheruvu, Obuladevaracheruvu, 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 Anantapur District. The District has been divided into three Revenue divisions consisting of 63 Revenue Mandals Anantapur division 20, Dharmavaram Division 17 and Penukonda Division 26.

Boundaries and Topography

Anantapur District lies between 13° – 40, and 15° – 15, Northern altitude and 76° – 50, and 78° – 30, Eastern Longitude. It is bounded by Bellary, Kurnool Districts on the North, Cuddapah and Kolar District of Karnataka on South East and South respectively. The District is roughly oblong in shape; the longer side running North to South with a portion of Chitradurg District of Karnataka State, intruding into it from West between Kundurpi and Amarapuram Mandals. The District may be divided into three natural divisions. They are (1) Northern Mandals of Rayadurg, Kanekal, Beluguppa, Gooty, Guntakal, Vajrakarur, Uravakonda, Vidapanakal, Yadiki, Tadpatri, Putlur, Yellanur, containing large areas of Black Cotton Soils (2) Kalyandurg, Kambadur, Settur, Brahmasamudram, Ramagiri, Kanagainpalli, C.K.Palli, Dharmavaram, Bathalapalli, Tadimarrri, Mudigubba, Anantapur, Kudair, Atmakur, Garladinne, Pamidi, Peddavadugur, in the centre which are mainly made up of arid, treeless, expense of poor Red soils. (3) High level land of Penukonda, Roddam, Somandepalli, Hindupur,
Lepakshi, Chilamathur, Madakasira, Rolla, Gudibada, Agali, which connects with Mysore plateau stand at higher elevation than the rest of the District. This part has average sandy red soils of normal productivity.

**Hills**

The forests in the District are thin and scanty. The Matchukota Hills about 35 kms in length run from north of Gooty town upto extreme southern corner of Tadpatri, Yadiki, Mandals. Another line of Hills starts from west of Gooty Mandal, run 80 kms called by name Nagasamudram Hills. The Mallappakonda range begins at Dharmavaram runs into Karnataka State. Numerous isolated peaks and Rocky clusters are devoid of any vegetation. Jayamangala River has its origin in Karnataka State. Another significant river in the district is "CHITRAVATHI". Its origin is in Karnataka State. This river enters this district near Kodaikonda Village of Chillumathur Mandal and flows North over Rocky and Hilly uplands of Gorantala, Puttaparthy, Bukkapatnam, Kothacheruvu, C.K. Palli, Dharmavaram, Bathalapalli, Tadimari and Yelianur Mandals and falls into Pennar river at Gandikotta in Cuddapah District. Vedavathior Hagari River also an important one in the District has its origin in Karnataka State and flows through Gummagatta, Brahmasamudram, Beluguppa, Kanekal and D.Hirehal Mandals and enters into Bellary District of Karnataka State. Bhairavanithippa Project (B.T. Project) constructed on this river also originates in Karnataka State enters D.Hirehal Mandal and flows through Bommanahal Mandal and joins with Hagari river in Bommanahal Mandal and finally enters into Bellary District of Karnataka State.

Apart from these, streams like Kushavati in Chiamathur Mandal, Swarnamukhi in Agali Mandal, Maddileru in Nallamada, Kadiri and Mudigubba Mandals, Pandameru in Kanaganipalli, Raptadu, Anantapur, Bukkarayasamudram and Singanamala Mandals, Papagni in Tanakal Mandal are important water supply source to various large and medium irrigation tanks in the District. There is one major irrigation Project i.e., Tunga
Bhadra Project High Level Canal and three medium irrigation projects, namely Upper Pennar Project, Bhiravanithippa Project, and Chennaraya Gudi Project.

**DEMOGRAPHIC PARTICULARS**

The District has a population of 31.81 Lakhs as per 1991 census accounting for 5 percent of the States population. The decennial growth to 1981 is 24.93% slightly higher than state average. The density of the population is 172 per Sq.Km in the district against 242 per Sq.Km of the state. The literate population constitutes 11.14 lakhs of the total population compared to State population of 244.88 Lakhs. 77 per cent of the population lives in villages. Schedule Castes population constitutes about 14.19%, Scheduled Tribe about 3.49% and minority committees about 12%. The work force in the District constitutes about 46.2% of the population of which 32.20% are in agricultural sector. There are 946 females per 1000 males.

**Administration**

The District has been divided into three revenue divisions. i.e. Anantapur, (20 revenue mandals), Dharmavaram division (17 revenue mandals) and Penukonda division (26 revenue mandals) in the total consisting of 63 Revenue Mandals and Panchayati Raj mandals with identical Jurisdiction which are the basic administrative and development units. The district has 11 towns and 964 revenue villages in which 28 are uninhabited. There are 2415 hamlets indicating an average of 3 hamlets for each revenue village. All villages are covered under 866 Panchayats.

**Soils**

The soils in Anantapur, Singanamala, Dharmavaram, Chennekothapalli, Kalyandurg, Kanekal, Kambadur, Rayadurg, Penukonda, Kadiri, Hindupur and Madakasira blocks are predominantly red. In Uravakonda and Gooty blocks, the red and black soils are almost in equal proportions. Red soils constitute 76 per cent and black soil 24 per cent of the total area in the district.
Rainfall and Climate

Anantapur district is the driest part of the country with the second lowest average rainfall of 544 mm after Jaisalmeer district in the state of Rajasthan and is classified as tropical arid with an aridity index of 72.5. The rainfall is highly erratic. Normally southwest monsoon favours with 65 per cent of the total rainfall and being far away from east coast, northeast monsoon will not be vigorous in the district. Intermittent dry spells ranging from 4 to 6 weeks in the crucial stage of crop growth period coupled with high velocity winds often result in low productivity of crops. 32 rainy days in a year yield mean precipitation of 544 mm, but this too is not realised many a year. The altitude varies from 900' above MSL at Tadpatri to 2000' above MSL in Madakasira taluk. Maximum temperature ranging between 37.4° C to 40.2°C is recorded during the months of March, April and May. November and January are cooler months with a minimum temperature of 17.6°C.

Rivers

The district is not endowed with perennial rivers. Seasonal rivers like Pennar Jayamaryala, Chitravati and Vedavathi Rivers flow during the rainy days and benefit the seasonal requirements of the farmers on riverbanks in 317 kms route of the rivers. Streams like Kushavathi in Hindupur block, Swarna Mukhi in Madakasira.

Forest Resources

The district is very poor in forest wealth both in terms of area and in terms of richness of flora. 4.86 lakh acres constituting 10.3 per cent of the total geo-area is classified as forests against optimal area of 33 per cent indicated in the National Forest Policy. The value of forest produce such as beedi leaves, custard apple, tamarind and soapnut is meagre. Another resource is agave (sisil) plant that is a wild growth, from which fibre is being extracted. The forest in Anantapur district means only wild bushes, bald hillocks and rocky terrain.
Mineral Resources

Anantapur district is rich in mineral resources and is well known for Gold and Diamond deposits. The main mineral deposits are lime stone, barytes, dolamite, iron ore, corundum, steatite, white shale, serpentine and green quarts. Black, pink and multi-coloured granites are also available in the district. Tadpatri area is rich in cement grade like stone deposits.

Agriculture

Dry land farming continues to be the main stay of the people of the district. Anantapur district has largest gross cropped area in the state (25 lakh acres) and 85 per cent of the cropped area is rainfed. Gross cropped area accounts for 52.6 per cent of the total geographical area of the district. Food crops are cultivated in 29.8 per cent of the total cropped area. The Principal crops raised in the district are groundnut (18.35 lakh acres), jowar (1.06 acres) and paddy (1.5 lakh acres). The mulbery cultivation is fast improving the total area under mulberry cultivation is about 26521 acres and the cocoon yield about 12000 tonnes per annum providing a very good scope for silk industry. With Nizam Sugar Factory, again on stream the area under Sugarcane has considerably improved. (Appendix-II)

Irrigation Facilities

Gross irrigated area in the district is 3.67 lakh acres. 52.9 per cent of irrigation is contributed by wells and 10.4 per cent by tanks. The net cultivated area under wells and tanks is very much dependent on the rainfall.

Industries

The district is industrially backward with lowest number of workers employed in registered factories. The industrial development is concentrated mostly in urban areas. The District industries Centre have been functioning since 1978. There are seven
industrial estates at Anantapur, Tadpatri, Kadiri, Guntakal, Gooty and Hindupur (2). There are four mini industrial estates to benefit scheduled caste beneficiaries. The industrial estates and industrial development areas are expected to be developed in Dharmavaram, Madakasira and Rayadurg.

**Power**

The domestic and industrial power requirements of the district are drawn from Thungabadra Hydel Project at Hospet. Integrated power grid is established at Gooty connecting Nagarjunasagar, Kothagudem and Thungabadra. The district is provided with 88 electrical sub-stations with 24742.16 kms length transmission lines as on 31.3.1993. Recently National Thermal Power Corporation has installed a power station at Gooty.

**Transport and Communication**

Anantapur district has 9139 kms road and 5898 kms of railway line. The district is linked with Madras, Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore and Hyderabad by the railways. Guntakal is one of the biggest railway junctions in the country.

**Financial Institutions**

The district is having 131 commercial bank branches, 70 Grameena Bank branches (Sree Ananta Grameena Bank) and 16 branches of Cooperative Bank with 233 Primary Agricultural Co-Operative Societies and 1 branch of AP State Finance Corporation. 62 per cent of the bank branches are in rural areas and 38 per cent of bank branches in semi urban areas.

**Education and Unemployment**

The district is provided with two universities namely, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur and Sri Satya Sai Baba Institute of Higher Learning at Puttaparti. There is one Engineering College, two polytechnic colleges, 20 degree colleges, 45
junior colleges, 271 high schools 198 upper primary schools and 6 industrial training institutions. Oil Technological Research Institute only one of its type in the south and dry land agriculture research station are situated in Anantapur. (Appendix-III)

Social Forestry

The Department has taken up a massive programme of establishing nurseries in different parts of the District to meet the demands. Planting of trees on the road sides and in the compounds of all Government Offices, Schools etc., is specially emphasised in the recent past which is picking up with financial assistance also. The Department of Forestry has also formed Vanasamrakshana Samithis for increasing and maintaining of forestry in the District.

Industrial Development: State’s Strategy

The District industries Centre has a pivotal role to play in identifying viable industrial pockets both under SSI an Rural Artisans for giving a desired fillip to the sector, inclusive of self employment ventures like PMRY.(Prime Minister’s Rojgar Yojana).

Milk Marketing

Milk Marketing of the beneficiaries will be arranged through the milk collection centres of the villages and transportation will be arranged by the dairy units of Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Co-operative Federation Ltd., i.e., Anantapur Dairy and Milk Chilling Centre, Hindupur. The handling capacity of Anantapur dairy is 25,000 litres per day and that of Hindupur Chilling Centre is 20,000 litres per day.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Anantapur District is one of the Districts in our State, apart from Mahboobnagar selected by GDI for implementation of this programme. Under this scheme, every eligible member in the family is to be financed unlike in other anti-poverty schemes,
until the family gets annual income of Rs.10,000/- including the existing income. However, subsidy is restricted to usual norms and an additional amount of Rs.1000/- to the entire family will be sanctioned as a special case. In the year 1994-95, 6 banks have taken up scheme of financing 500 families in the entire District. Identification of 500 families is completed and the same is implemented in the year 1995-96 where total loan amount to a family will be Rs.20,000/- to 25,000/- with a maximum subsidy ceiling Rs.6000/- per family. The scheme is implemented during the year 1997-98, with a target of 600 units and is expected to continue during 1998-99.

Aksharatha Samithi

This is an overall literacy development campaign that is taken up in the District during the year 1994-95 where it is expected to impart literacy and development to the tune of 6.5 lakh persons. People between the age group of 15 to 45 are enrolled in the scheme. About 6000 volunteers are working under this head. During the year 1996-97, under the scheme, three lakh persons are covered in the District. The District is implementing Post Literacy Programme in the year 1997-98.

Cash Disbursals

The system of cash disbursal is introduced in three blocks namely Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Penukonda against original plan to include 8 blocks as per instructions from Panchayati Raj, Government of A.P. The bankers are expressing concern for the non-flow of instructions to Veterinary Hospitals for issue of Health Certificate for insuring livestock. The other effects are not known immediately. However, largely all the bankers desire that this system of cash disbursal should be extended to the entire district.

Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises Programme

53 branches of various banks and 1 APSFC serve all the seven municipalities in Anantapur Districts. Out of these, 32 branches are participating in SUME programme,
and have shown fruitful results in this front helping many unemployed youth for taking up their respective ventures. Allocations have been made in all municipalities and there is considerable progress. The same is being continued for the year 1997-98.

**Prime Minister’s Rojgar Yojana Programme**

As per the new guidelines from Central Government, the District Industries Centre and Bankers implement Prime Minister’s Rojgar Yojana Programme in the District. During 1996-97, the target under the scheme was 1118, grounded were 971. During 1997-98, the District target is 1180 units, against which sanctions were accorded to the tune of 1102. The programme is very much initiated in the District and will be continued for the year 1998-99 also.

**Prime Minister’s Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme**

The Prime Minister’s Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) was introduced during the year 1996-97 wherein in Anantapur District 3 municipalities are identified namely Tadipatri, Kadiri and Dharmavaram, whose population falls between 50,000 to 1 lakh, as per 19991 census. Under this programme two schemes are covered i.e. (1) Self-Employment through setting up micro enterprises (SES) and (2) Shelter Upgradation Scheme (SUS). The implementing agency is Municipality and the credit agencies are all public and private sector banks. There is no physical target, however, the subsidy portion itself will be the target for the above two schemes.

**Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) Programme**

During the year 1993-94, the Government has already identified more than 2185 groups. In the year 1994-95, more than 3000 new groups were organised in the District. At Hindupur, some new groups were identified which are working very well and can be taken as model groups. It is a pleasure to inform that almost all the groups are
functioning very well. With regard to marketing, separate marketing society is formed and ADRAMS is effectively catering to the marketing requirements of both IRDP and DWCRA products. There is marketing problem only in the case of readymade garments and handicrafts. The Government Officials further recommended it and Bankers that Anantapur District may be selected under Phase II of bank financing of informal groups under DWCRA programme. As on December 1997, there are 7743 groups, functioning in the District with a revolving fund of Rs.1156.47 lakhs.

Self Help Groups

The system of linking self-help groups with banks was introduced as a pilot project by NABARD with full refinance support. As at the end of Mach, 1997 about 48 groups had been assisted by different banks. Though this SHG System were not under government sponsored programmes as per Dr.Mehta Committee Report on IRDP implementation, much importance is given to SHGs, women and family as a unit while financing under IRDP. As per this, SHGs may be included while identifying the beneficiaries under IRDP. In view of the above, 600 units may be estimated for the year 1998-99. The units of UNDP operating in the District is coordinating between different agencies and self help groups and arranging for training programmes to the SHGs about the orientation with banking an other aspects. They are also being given training for skill upgradation to take up different types of income generating activities.

NABARD’s Priority Lending Institutions and Sector Wise Allocations

National Bank as a nodal institution for agriculture and rural development, has taken the responsibility of preparing the Priority Lending Institutions of the district, which acts as the supplementary source of information to the banks in the preparation of their Service Area Credit Plans. The Priority Lending Institutions includes the developmental activities related to various Government departments and their assistance available for taking up of different activities in the district. This would help the banks to build up a meaningful link between their developmental plans in the district as
envisaged by various government departments and the credit plan by all the banks. The Priority Lending Institutions prepared by the National Bank will be on the basis of the potential available, resources at the banks’ disposal, and average demand and supply of various aspects etc. This is also based on the potential available, gaps under different sectors/activities in each mandal and the available infrastructure, marketing support and backward/forward linkages etc. The present year’s Priority Lending Institutions also contain the estimates of 1998-99, block-wise, item-wise physical and financial potentials for the year.

**Rural Development and self-employment Training Institutes**

Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Educational Trust, Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank jointly sponsor Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institutes. RUDSET institutes identify, motivate and train unemployed youth, provide escort services, busi 2000 counseling and consultancy so that entrepreneurship is promoted. They also train other NGOs involved in rural development and promotion of S.H.Gs. This initiative is going to be inaugurated at Anantapur during March 1998.

**Swarna Jayanthi Sahari Rojgar Yojna (S.J.S.R.Y)**

The Ministry of Urban affairs and Employment, Government of India have launched a rationalised Poverty Alleviation Scheme namely SJSRY, replacing the three existing schemes i.e. 1. Nehru Rojgar Yojna (SUME), 2. Urban Basic Service for the poor (UBSP) and 3. PMPIUPEP. The new scheme contains almost all the essential elements of the existing schemes and the scheme was being operated from 01.12.1997 in all urban areas of the country.

**NEW SCHEMES**

Apart from all the above schemes in Anantapur District, bankers have taken up the special programmes implemented by the branches of various banks like Adarsh Grama Yojana, Paripoorna, Housing colonies, Farm information Exchange Clubs,
Extension of Education programme, Grape Development, Drip Irrigation, Sericulture, Pisciculture. Further, NABARD has informed the introduction of the schemes like Tamarind and Coconut cultivation, NADEP Composting and Vermi composting system for which NABARD has given the unit cost in respect of the above and bankers/ Government Departments concerned are requested to encourage the schemes.

SC Action Plan

Number of developmental programmes for upliftment of Schedule Caste population is undertaken by the Schedule Caste Service Co-operative society. It provides margin for bank loans and also subsidy in some cases. The total financial outlay for SC Action Plan under I.R.D.P. and outside IRDP is worked out at Rs.8.38 crores comprising Rs.1.08 crores as margin money. A sum of Rs.95.46 lakhs is available as subsidy from I.R.D.P. and Rs.82.35 lakhs as subsidy from SC Action Plan funds. This Action Plans aim is to bring 5495 SC families above poverty line every year.

Backward Class Action Programme

A sum of Rs.36.00 lakhs is provided as Margin money to the beneficiaries under BC Cooperative Finance Corporation during the year 1988, benefitting 2500 beneficiaries and the total financial requirement from banks per year is about Rs.1.44 crores. The BC Action Plan will be implemented apart of IRDP for the district.

Non-Conventional Energy Development Programme

The department has proposed establishing of 500 Gobar Gas plants during the plan period.

Minority Finance Corporation

The department has projected Rs.32.23 lakhs of financial outlay for Anti Poverty programme benefiting about 1171 beneficiaries and 143 beneficiaries under Self-Employment Programme with a total outlay of Rs.6.45 lakhs.
REFERENCES


3. Andhra Pradesh Darshini.

