PREFACE
The Scheduled Castes who are also called as 'Dalits' are the most depressed, oppressed, suppressed community of the Indian population. Traditionally, they have been considered 'Panchama' varna and referred to as 'Asprushyas or untouchables. Besides, over the decades, they were prone to social discrimination, economic exploitation, cultural deprivation and denied educational benefits. However, after Independence, the Government of India through its constitution provided several provisions, privileges, welfare schemes and programmes for the upliftment of these communities. In addition, concrete efforts are made to setup special institutions exclusively for the cause of these communities. Establishment of Ministry of Social Welfare both at Central and State level, launching of Commissionerate at the State and SC Corporation, Financial Corporation at the District level, provision of reservations for jobs and educational institutions to pursue higher education, undertaking poverty alleviation programmes, schemes for land purchase and development programmes for liberated scavenger, CMEY, PMRY, SES and Jogins/Basivis are some of the worth-mentioning efforts initiated for the cause of these communities.

Nevertheless, one must remember to the fact that the effective and efficient administrative setup of various institutions on one side, policy frameworks and their implementation by such institutions on
the other, indeed, pose a daunting and challenging task to all those who are concerned with the welfare and upliftment of SC communities.

It is evident from the review of literature that there are studies on SCs and also on welfare programmes. But surprisingly, no studies are made on the institutions, and their administrative efficiency by an agency, institutions or individual researchers. Therefore, the present study titled “Welfare programmes for Scheduled Castes in Anantapur District – A Study” is an humble attempt in this direction.

It is hoped that the findings of the study would help to identify the administrative lapses and operational flows of various institutions working for the welfare of SC communities both at the State and the district level. The inferences and suggestions of the study would help the policy-makers, Government and non-Government agencies, politicians, public administrators, social reformers, researchers and academics and host of other who are striving for the welfare of down-trodden communities like SCs. As a modest attempt, Anantapur district which is one of the backward districts of A.P. which has more SC population has been purposefully selected for a detailed study and analysis.

Anantapur is one of the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh, one of the biggest district in area and one of the backward and also drought district in Rayalaseema region. The above-mentioned programmes have
been in operation in Anantapur district since the Scheduled Caste Cooperative Finance Corporation has started (1972). Over the years, these Scheduled Caste Welfare Schemes have been spread over the district.

**Plan of the Study**

The entire theme of the study is presented and discussed in five chapters.

**Chapter – I – Introduction and Methodology**

This chapter describes the position of the Scheduled Castes in Indian society, presents the statement of the problem, reviews the literature and also explains the methodology adopted for the study.

**Chapter – II – Position of the Scheduled Castes and Welfare programmes**

This chapter traces out the position of the Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh in particular. It presents the constitutional safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and also gives out brief summary of various developmental programmes like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, JRY/IAY which are being implemented for the welfare of weaker section.

**Chapter – III – Welfare Programmes for the Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh**

It presents and analyses the welfare programmes for SCs in Andhra Pradesh and explains the administrative setup and role of the
Scheduled Caste Corporation Finance Limited at the State and the District level.

Chapter – IV – Profile of Anantapur District – Welfare programmes for the Scheduled Castes – Analysis

This chapter deals with the Anantapur district profile and welfare programmes for the Scheduled Castes in Anantapur district. It analyses various welfare programmes, targets, achievements, administrative constraints in implementing such programmes.

Chapter – V – Summary of findings and suggestions

This chapter summarises the findings and offers suggestions for effective functioning of the social welfare programmes for the Scheduled Castes.