CHAPTER - II
Anantapur town is located at 14°.40' North latitude, 77°.37' East longitude. It is situated on the National Highway number 7. It is the district head quarter of the Anantapur district. The Anantapur municipality spreads over an area about 2683 hectares with a population of 2,30,312 as per 2001 census. Out of them 1,17,618 are males, 1,12,694 are females. The total numbers of revenue wards are 28. The number of households is 57,578. There are about 51 slums with a population of about 60,820.

HISTORICAL GROWTH OF ANANTAPUR:

The town formed part of the Vijayanagaram Empire during 14th century. The origin of town appears to have come up after Anantha Sagar Lake named after queen of Bukka I. of Vijayanagaram. Anantapur town was familiarly known as Hande Anantapur after the Hande chiefs of Vijayanagara period. This Anantapur and few other places were gifted by Vijayanagara rulers to Hanumanthappa Naidu of the Hande family in return for his help. The place subsequently comes under the influence of Quthubshahis in 1589 A.D., Moghuls in 1687 A.D and Nawabs of Cuddapah although the Hande chiefs continue to rule as their subordinates. During the time of Ramappa of the Hande chief the Anantapur was occupied by the Palegar of Ballary. In 1753 A.D Ramappa’s son Siddappa was installed as the Palegar with the help of troops supplied by Morari of Gooty. The place was again attacked by Morari Rao, Ghorpade in 1757 A.D. The place then came into position of Hyder Ali in 1775 A.D. He was succeeded by Tippu Sultan in 1792 A.D.
Tippu Sultan hanged all the male members of Paleger’s family except Siddappa, who escaped from his confinement at Srirangapatnam. After Tippu Sultan’s death Siddappa took back Anantapur in 1799 A.D. He acquired control over the area by the treaty of 1799 A.D with the Nizam. He was made as Sidharampuram jaggier. The British occupied the Anantapur territories in 1800 A.D. The Nizam agreed to seed to the British all the territories of acquired by Siddappa. Under the two treaties of 1792 and 1799 A.D. Anantapur district together with Ballary and Cuddapah districts and a part of Kurnool thus passed into the Handes of the British. After the transfer of this territory into the British in 1800 A.D. Sir Thomas Munrow has selected as first principal collector of the seeded district with Anantapur as head quarter. The year after the departure of Sir Thomas Munrow in 1807 A.D this area was divided into two collectrates of Ballary and Cuddapah. In 1882 A.D the Ballary was again bifurcated into districts of Ballary and Anantapur. The Anantapur continued to be the head quarter of the Anantapur district under the British administration forming part of Madras Presidency.

With the advent of countries Independence on 15th August 1947 the national government took over the India’s administration. In 1953 when linguistic states were reconstituted Anantapur district is formed part of Andhra Pradesh in November 1956.

Morphologically Anantapur town is located in moderately weathered pedi plains. Geologically the town is located in the unclassified granitic gneisses with dolerite rock intrusives. The Anantapur town contains mostly loamy soils. The Anantapur town receives an annual rainfall of about 539 mm. The rainfall is less than 10 mm in January, February, March and December months. The rainfall ranges 10 mm to 50 mm in April and June months. The rainfall varies from 50 mm to 100 mm in May,
July, August, October and November months. In the month of September it exceeds 100 mm. The lowest mean rainfall of 3 mm is found in January, February and March months and highest mean rainfall 148.1 mm is noticed in September month.

The mean maximum temperature in the month of April and May rise beyond 40°C. The minimum temperature is noticed in December and January months and falls to about 17°C. The mean average temperature during April and May months is about 32°C. During March, June, July, August, September and October months the mean temperature varies from 27°C to 29°C. In the month of February it is 26°C. In January and December months the mean temperature varies from 23°C to 24°C. The mean relative humidity varies from a minimum of 33% in March month to a maximum of 66% in October month. The mean relative humidity is less than 40% in March and April months. It ranges from 40% to 60% in January, February, May, June, November and December months. The mean relative humidity exceeds 63% in July, August, September and October months. The mean wind speed in Anantapur municipality varies from a minimum of 7.9 Km/hour in October month to a maximum of 18.9 Km/hour in July month. The mean wind speed is less than 10 Km/hour in February, March, October, November and December months. It ranges from 10 Km/hour to 15 Km/hour in January, April, May and September months. The mean wind speed exceeds 15 Km/hour in June, July and August months. The predominant directions of the wind are broadly taken as west during the months from April to September and east during the months from November to February.

GROWTH OF THE ANANTAPUR TOWN

The growth of the town during the Vijayanagara period, Quethubshahi’s, Moghal’s, Nowab’s, Nijam’s, Hydarali’s, Tippusultan’s and British’s period was not
recorded. However in 1920 the Anantapur town had confined to the contiguous development in the old town area and both sides of the Gandhi road bounded by old municipal market in the north, Ananatha sagar tank in the east, Erraburadha road and collector office road on the south and Ellamma katta road and Rajaji street in the west. It covered an area of about 11.45 hectares of land in 1920. A residential sub urban was found to the north of Ballary road and to the west of Railway track. Georgepet has started developing in the new town area.

By 1953 there was substantial development in the new town area and there was no change in old town area. The Georgepet further expanded towards north almost near about the Railway station. New residential colonies sprang up to the east of Railway track. The prominent residential area was Kamala Nagar located north of Subash road, Adimurthy Nagar, Guljarpet, and Prakash Nagar to the south of Prakash road.

By about 1962 the old town extended beyond its west edge limits along the Gandhi road in north south direction. Towards north a few developments had come up along Gooty road. The residential area like Ranipet, Kajana Nagar, Munna Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar had extended. Georgepet further expanded towards north beyond Railway station and a new residential colony Ramachandra Nagar had come up. North of this are the residential areas like Sanjeeva Nagar and Revenue colony. Kamala Nagar further extended towards north up to Railway station road, Raju road and municipal bus stand. Surya Nagar and Vidyuth Nagar residential area had been developed. Adimurthy Nagar, Guljarpet and Prakash Nagar had expanded towards south. Aravind Nagar came into existence to east of Railway track. Later Ramnagar and Laxmi Nagar sprang up to the west of Railway track. By 1971 the area of town
URBAN SPRAWL OF ANANTAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (1971 TO 2001)

Fig. 2.1
was 489 hectares (Fig. 2.1). Out of these 68 hectares were residential area, 5 hectares commercial area, 5 hectares industrial area, 24 hectares public and semi-public offices area, 25 hectares transport and communications area, 308 hectares agricultural land and 54 hectares water course and water bodies.

By 1972 the old and new towns have been linked up and separated by Morava vanka. Further south of Morava vanka and west of collectorate, Drivers colony and Ashok Nagar have developed. Georgepet had extended up to Nadimi vanka. Later the developments have taken place to the west Nadimi vanka along the Ballary road and Kalyanadurg roads. By 1981 the total area of the town was 806 hectares. Out of this the residential area was 102 hectares, commercial area was 8 hectares, and industrial area was 8 hectares, public and semi-public offices was 60 hectares, transport and communications was 62 hectares, agriculture land was 508 hectares and water course and water bodies was 58 hectares.

Towards north of Ballary road, Indiragandhi Nagar had come into existence. Azad Nagar has developed on either side of the Kalyanadurg road. Further north of Georgepet along Railway track, Tungabhadra high level canal colony has come up. The southeast of Aravind Nagar new residential area like Jesus Nagar, Obuladev Nagar have sprang up. In between Ram Nagar and Laxmi Nagar the residential areas like Mahammad Nagar, Kuvoor Nagar had developed. A number of educational and administration offices have come up in Anantapur municipality with good trading activity. They have further contributed to a large development of the Anantapur town.

By 1991 the total area of the Anantapur Municipality was 1598 hectares and it was upgraded to the selection grade municipality with 28 wards. Out of the 1598 hectares of land, 231 hectares of land was under residential area, 11 hectares of land.
was under commercial area, 14 hectares was under industrial area, 132 hectares was under public and semi-public offices area, 133 hectares was under transport and communications area, 984 hectares was under agricultural land and 93 hectares of land under water course and water bodies.

By 1997 the area of the Anantapur municipality has been extended up to 2683 hectares. Out of this total area 1361 hectares of land was under residential area, 94 hectares of land was under commercial area, 179 hectares was under industrial area, 579 hectares of land was under public and semi-public offices, 314 hectares of land was under transport and communications, 78 hectares of land was under agriculture land and 78 hectares of land was under water course and water bodies. There was rapid development of town of Anantapur municipality between 1991 and 1997. The residential area was expanded by 1130 hectares. The commercial area was extended by 83 hectares. The industrial area was extended by 165 hectares. The public and semi-public offices were raised by 447 hectares and the transport and communications was extended by 181 hectares. There was an increase in agricultural land by 258 hectares and water course and water bodies by 29 hectares. Between 1997 and 2004 there was an increase in residential area by 375 hectares of land. The commercial area was expanded by 19 hectares. The public and semi-public offices were expanded 15 hectares. The transport and communications was increased by 32 hectares of land.

The Anantapur municipality was about 11.45 hectares of land in 1920. It has expanded to 489 hectares by 1971. It further sprawled to 806 hectares aerially in 1981, 1598 hectares in 1991, 1636 hectares in 1994 and 2683 hectares in 1997. The Anantapur municipality was made Corporation on 1st April 2005. The aerial expansion
of the Anantapur municipality was 42.70 times between 1920 and 1971 and 5.48 times between 1971 and 1997.