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ANANTAPUR

Anantapur offers some vivid glimpses of the prehistoric past. It is generally held that the place got its name from 'Anaatasagaram', a big tank, which means "Endless Ocean". The villages of Anaantasagaram and Bukkarayasamudram were constructed by Chilkkavodeya, the minister of Bukka-I, a Vijayanagar ruler. Some authorities assert that Anaantasagaram 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.

Anantapur is familiarly known as "HandeAnantapuram". Hande' means chief of the Vijayanagar period. Anantapur and a few other places were gifted by the Vijayanagar rulers to Hanumappa Naidu of the Hande family. The place subsequently came under the QutubShahis, Mughals, and the Nawabs of Cuddapah, although the Hande chiefs continued to rule as their subordinates. It was occupied by the Palergar of Bellary during the time of Ramappa but was eventually won back by his son, Siddappa. MorariRaoGhorpade attacked Anantapur in 1757. Though the army resisted for some time, Siddappa ultimately bought off the enemy for Rs.50,000. It then came into the possession of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. Tipu hanged all the male members of the Siddappa family except Siddappa who escaped from his confinement at Srirangapatnam. 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. Anantapur District was formed in the year 1882 having been separated from Bellary District.

Anantapur 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, Cuddapah and Kolar Districts of Karnataka on South East and North 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 of Anantapur has a fairly good elevation which provides the District with tolerable climate throughout the year. It has a gradual fall from the South North towards the valley of the Pennar in Peddavadugur,

Peddapappur and Tadipatri Mandals. There is a gradual rise in Hindupur, Parigi, Lepakshi, Chilamathur, Agali, Rolla and Madakasira Mandals in the South to join the Karnataka Plateau where the average elevation is about 2000 feet is above the mean sea level. It is about 1100 feet at Anantapur and the lowest 900 feet is at Tadipatri.

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 YadikiMandals. Another line of Hills starts from West of GootyMandal 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.

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 this District in the extreme South of Hindupur Mandal and flows through Parigi. Jayamangala river in Karnataka State enters this District in ParigiMandal and which has its origin joins Pennar River at Sangameswarampalli of ParigiMandal. Another significant river in the District is "CHITRAVATHI". Its origin is in Karnataka State. This river enters the District near Kodikonda village of Chilamathur Mandal and flows North over Rocky and Hilly uplands of Gorantla. VEDAVATHI or 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 Bellary District of Karnataka State. Bhairavanithippa Project (B.T.Project) constructed on this river.Apart from these streams like KUSHAVATHI in Chilamathur Mandal. SWARNAMUKHI in AgaliMandal, MADDILER U in Nallamada, Kadiri and Mudigubba Mandals, PANDAMERU in Kanaganipalli, Raptadu, Anantapur 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.

Anantapur district is rich in mineral resources and is well known for Gold and Diamond deposits. The minor mineral deposits are lime stone, barites, dolomite, iron ore, corundum, steatite, white shale, serpentine and quartz. Black, pink and multicoloured granites are also available in the district. Tadipatri area is rich in cementgrade like stone.

The soils in Anantapur District are predominantly red except Kanekal, Bommanahal, Vidapanakal, Uravakonda, Vajrakarur, Guntakal, Gooty, Pamidi, Peddavadugur, Yadiki, Tadipatri, Yellanur, Peddapappur and Putlurmandals. In these Mandals red and black soils occur almost in equal proportion. Thus 76% red soils, 24% are black soils. The total geographical area of the district is 19.13 lakh Hects. The cultivated area of the District is 11.14 Lakh Hects. out of which 9.82 Lakh Hects. is under Kharif and 1.32 Lakh Hects., is under Rabi Season during the year 2011-12. The District occupies the lowest position in respect of Irrigation facilities with only 15.43% of the gross cropped area during 2011-2012.

Kullaiswamy, a village deity attracting the worshippers irrespective of caste and religion. Lepakshi of Hindupur Mandal is popularfor its veerabhara temple and the huge monolithic Nandi stands nearby. The place is also associated with worshippers of Lord Sri Rama. Temple and is a veritable tresure of sculpture and architecture. Pilgrims visit the place largely for Shivaratri. Penna Ahobilam Lakshimi Narasimha Swamy. The temple of Lakshmi, the Lords temple Sri consort is situated by the side of the main shrines. There is a spring channel knownas Bugga Koneru. Puttaparthi situated on the banks of Chitravati which is universally famous with the abode of Sri Satya Sai Baba who is credited with occult powers. A World reputed super specialty hospital is also located in Puttaparthi where free treatment is given to all. Likewise Penakacherla dam is also a sightseeing place. Kadiri, Alurkona, Kasapuram. Gutibayalu, Gorantla and Hemavati are also of important tourist attractions because of the temples situated in these areas. The Thimmamma Marri Manu (banyan tree) which has spread over more than five acres area has become an important tourist center.

	2011	2001
Actual Population	4,081,148	3,640,478
Male	2,064,495	1,859,588
Female	2,016,653	1,780,890
Population Growth	12.10%	14.34%
Area Sq. Km	19,130	19,130
Density/km2	213	190
Proportion to Andhra Pradesh Population	4.83%	4.78%
Sex Ratio (Per 1000)	977	958
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)	927	959
Average Literacy	63.57	56.13
Male Literacy	73.02	68.38
Female Literacy	53.97	43.34
Total Child Population (0-6 Age)	445,956	479,853
Male Population (0-6 Age)	231,369	244,990
Female Population (0-6 Age)	214,587	234,863
Literates	2,310,960	1,774,088
Male Literates	1,338,474	1,104,042
Female Literates	972,486	670,046
Child Proportion (0-6 Age)	10.93%	13.18%
Boys Proportion (0-6 Age)	11.21%	13.17%
Girls Proportion (0-6 Age)	10.64%	13.19%