

Infrastructure Development in Rayalseema Region of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Rayalaseema is located between the Eastern Ghats and Deccan Plateau in the state of Andhra Pradesh and consists of eight districts. During the Vijayanagara era, the region was ruled by Sri Krishnadevaraya. This paper focuses on the current economic infrastructure development activities of the Rayalaseema region. Effective infrastructure development is a prerequisite for economic growth since it can increase productivity, improve the functioning of other economic sectors, and alleviate poverty.

Keywords: Rayalaseema, Economic infrastructure, Investment

Introduction

Infrastructure is a complex system of interconnected elements that support various human activities. It plays a crucial role in the development, operation, and maintenance of a society. It supports economic development, promotes efficiency, and enhances the quality of life for individuals. Infrastructure can be classified into hard infrastructure and soft infrastructure. Hard infrastructure refers to physical structures and systems that are necessary for the operation and development of a society. It is typically large-scale and built to last. Examples of hard infrastructure include transportation networks, power plants, water supply systems, and telecommunications networks etc. Transportation networks, such as highways, railways, and airports, are essential for the movement of people and goods within and across countries. They facilitate trade and commerce, connect communities, and provide a sense of mobility. Power plants, on the other hand, generate electricity to power homes and businesses. Reliable access to electricity is crucial for economic growth and development. Water supply systems ensure that communities have access to clean drinking water. These systems include reservoirs, pipelines, and treatment facilities. They are essential for human health, sanitation, and hygiene. Telecommunications networks, including fiber optic cables and wireless networks, enable communication and access to information. They allow people to stay connected, access educational resources, and engage in commerce. In contrast to hard infrastructure, soft infrastructure refers to the non-physical components of society that support social, cultural, and economic activities. It includes elements such as education, healthcare, public safety, and social services etc. Education plays a vital role in shaping the knowledge and skills of individuals. It provides individuals with the necessary foundation for pursuing personal and professional growth. Healthcare systems, including hospitals, clinics, and healthcare professionals, provide essential medical care to communities. Public safety agencies, such as police forces and fire departments, ensure the safety and security of citizens. Social services, such as welfare programs, support individuals in need and promote social cohesion. The benefits of soft infrastructure are manifold.

Education, for instance, promotes critical thinking, innovation, and civic engagement. Healthcare systems ensure access to quality healthcare, preventing diseases and fostering well-being. Public safety and social services address societal challenges, prevent crime, and promote social justice. For India to achieve its goal of becoming a US\$5 trillion economy by 2025, infrastructure development is required. Infrastructure development acts as a catalyst for the growth of the Indian economy. The government has launched several schemes and incentives like National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), Make in India, Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) etc to increase the growth of the infrastructure sector. Historically, more than 80 percent of public infrastructure spending has been used to finance transportation, electricity, water, and irrigation.

Methodology

Objective

To examine the current state of economic infrastructure in rayalseema region

Source of data

For this study, data is collected from secondary sources. The secondary data is collected from articles, government surveys and webpages.

Data Analysis

Andhra Pradesh, retrospectively called as United Andhra Pradesh, Undivided Andhra Pradesh or Ummadi Andhra Pradesh, had Hyderabad as its capital and was reorganized under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014. The state consisted of three distinct cultural regions: Telangana, Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra. In 2014, Telangana was separated from Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh now consists of three major regions, namely Rayalaseema in the southwest, coastal Andhra bordering the Bay of Bengal in the east, and Uttarandhra in the northeast. There are 26 districts in the state including 6 in Uttarandhra, 12 in Coastal Andhra and 8 in Rayalaseema. Rayalaseema districts are Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, YSR, Annamayya, Tirupati, and Chittoor. Before reorganization of districts, rayalaseema region had four districts namely Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool. The main focus of the paper is to know the current state of development of the Rayalaseema region's economic infrastructure. As per the Andhra Pradesh Socio-Economic survey, economic infrastructure is classified into different categories. They are Irrigation, Power, Airports & Ports, Tourism, Roads & Buildings, Information Technology, Electronics & Communication.

Irrigation

To provide water security, the state government is pursuing a strategy for scientific management of water resources, utilizing advanced technologies to deploy supply-side and demand-side measures based on local conditions. There are 40 major, medium, minor rivers in the state of Andhra Pradesh. To ensure adequate water supply for drinking, irrigation and industries particularly in the drought prone rayalaseema, major irrigation projects under jalayagnam are taken up. Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) Phase-I, II is targeted to be completed by 2023. Galeru Nagari Sujala Sravanthi (GNSS) Phase-I, II is expected to be completed by 2025, 2026. Gandikota-Chitravati Balancing Reservoir lifts is targeted to be completed by 2023, 2024. There is a special purpose vehicle project for Rayalseema region to provide water resources namely Andhra Pradesh Rayalseema Drought Mitigation Project Development

Corporation Limited [APRDMPDCL] consisting 33 projects with cost of Rs.40,480 crores which are working-in-progress at different stages.

Power

Power sector is a critical infrastructure required for growth and smooth functioning of the economy. Various Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation programs are under implementation in the state. In Rayalseema, chitravathi and Gandikota sites are identified for huge reverse pumped hydro potential. Geo technical investigations are completed at chitravati for 500MW and Gandikota for 1000 MW. In order to implement Energy Conservation Building Code massive awareness and training programs are conducted in the cities of the state. One such programme held in Tirupati.

Roadways

Roadways are essential for mobility of goods and people at different distances. State government proposed to build Ananthapur to Amaravathi express way of 335 km as on March 2021. For road safety, state government taken up Demonstration Corridor, i.e., Renigunta-Kadapa Road with multi-sector approach and District Road Safety Committees were also constituted in every district under the chairmanship of District Collector. They have been meeting regularly almost every month. Government of India has sanctioned Institute of Driving Training & Research (IDTR) project at Dhone in Kurnool district with a cost of Rs.18.5 Crores. The state government allotted 33.96 acres of land at Kothakota village for establishment of IDTR project and handed over to Transport Department. The Transport Department is having driving test tracks, where testing is being done manually, government to fund automation of 9 such driving test tracks of which five in rayalseema region i.e., chittoor, Ananthapur, Kurnool, Tirupati and Proddutur. The Automation was already started at Chittoor and Ananthapuram. Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation introduced jnNURM buses for urban passengers in major cities. One such city is Tirupathi and online ticket booking system for the convenience of passengers and Tirumala-Tirupathi link tickets (sheegra darshan-1000 tickets per day) to facilitate pilgrims to Tirumala. It is also providing Green saptagiri epress for ghat road passengers from Tirupati to Tirumala. Roof Top Solar panels are installed at Madanpally, Nandyal, Chittoor bus stations.

Airports

Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Limited is the project proponet for developing the three Green Airports, one such airport is No-frills Airport at Orvakallu, Kurnool district. The project is being developed on 1032 acres. The amount of Rs.180 crores has been spent on the project. The Airport has started airline operations under RCS-UDAN scheme-4 by INDIGO. It started operating from March 2021 and it was the first airport in South India to be entirely developed by state government. The Airport has been named as Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy Airport. Proposal for Flying Training Institute is under process. The APDCL also working to develop an Airport city called Aerotropolis. There are two domestic airports at kadapa, Kurnool and one international airport at Tirupati. Tirupati Airport has been granted international status in October 2015. International flights yet to be commenced. Various developmental activities are being taken place like expansion of runway, building of ATC towers. Kadapa Airport is the first airport connected under Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagarik(UDAN). Runway expansion and extension completed. Other works like A320 operations, Parking bays, Isolation bay,

DME works are in progress. It is one of the 10 selected airports in India for Flying Training Operations and is in process.

Tourism

Tourism is one of the fastest growing sector in the world. It has the potential to create direct and indirect employment. State government working on development of tourist places. In Rayalseema, it is providing tourist facilities and water sports activities at Chitravathi Balancing Reservoir at Parnapalli in kadapa district with amount of Rs.5.60 crore. The government proposed to develop Five Star Hotel, International Convention Centre and Family Entertainment Centre at peruru village, Tirupati district with an estimated investment of Rs.126.48 crores. Mega Spiritual and Heritage Tourism Centre at penukonda in Sri Satyasai District have been approved by the Andhrapradesh cabinet with an estimated project cost of Rs.200 crores. Horsley Hills has been identified as a holiday resort for glamping and camping. Proposed for Heritage and Adventure Mega Tourist Centre at Gandikota village with an estimated cost of Rs.1000 crores. APTDC established Information and Reservation offices to promote AP tourism activities. One of such office is located in Tirupati.

Information Technology

The Government of Andhra Pradesh identified Information Technology and IT enabled services as well as Electronics System Design&Manufacturing sectors as priority areas for generating local employment for the citizens of Andhra Pradesh. In Rayalseema, the department has identified Tirupati, Satyasai to be developed as major technology hubs and kopparthy in kadapa as a preferred destination for Electronics manufacturers. The major initiatives of the government are development of IT parks in Tirupati, Satyasai districts. Development of IT concept cities in Anantapuramu and Tirupati. ATAL Incubation Center-SKU, Anantapuramu has been in the activity of nurturing startups under APIS Vision. International Institute of Digital Technologies (IIDT), Tirupati is a unique initiative of Government of Andhra Pradesh to create professionals experts and entrepreneurs for digital future and to make state to be preferred destination for digital opportunities in India.

Conclusion

Government of Andhra Pradesh has initiated many development projects in Rayalseema region with respect to irrigation, power, tourism, technology and others. Even though various initiatives have been taken for development, those activities are being progressed in a slow paced manner. To avail the benefits to the people at earliest, there is need to speed up the projects. Apart from economic infrastructure government has taken several initiatives to improve the social infrastructure.

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