

Two years journey of Chandrababu Naidu government in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Continuous review and revision in the hallmark of process in formulating policies setting goals and taking action-able steps, few leaders can match the vision and tenacity of AP Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu. In a short span of two years the Andhra Pradesh government under his stewardship released the status reports on every sector in the state and designed fresh policies that are in tune with in the development goals of the fledging state, this article explain the two years journey of Chandrababu Naidu government.

Keywords: Self-Motivation, debt-rider, NTR Bharosa, Single desk Policy, World Bank, E-Pragati

Introduction

June 2, 2014 is a black day for the people of Andhra Pradesh. That was the day when the irrational division left the State in a lurch. The government that took over on June 8 that year was well aware of the challenges lying ahead. It was an unenviable task as Andhra Pradesh appeared to be an unviable state without a sustainable economy. Two years later, there is light at the end of the tunnel. From the day of assuming the reins, the Chandrababu Naidu Government grappled with the legacy of an unfair and unjust bifurcation with a degree of success. But more importantly, the Chief Minister went about steering the state into a development mode with great fervour. Neither lack of finances nor absence of an urban industrial metropolis had deterred him in this mission.

Two Years Journey

Two years may not be an adequate time to bring about a transformation in the fortunes of a state. Especially, of a state like the disinherited Andhra Pradesh that had touched its lowest ebb in the aftermath of the unfair and unscientific division which left in its wake a plethora of almost insurmountable odds. But thanks to the iron-willed leadership provided by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the residual Andhra Pradesh has witnessed tremendous progress since June 2014 when the new government took over the administration of the orphaned state. Two years later, a sea change is discernible. From a sense of despair, there is a now shining glimmer of hope. A new found confidence that the states future is in the able hands of a leader, whose enormous experience, proactive approach and steely resolve have become legendary. Of course, even for a seasoned captain like Chandrababu Naidu, it was not easy to navigate the rocky ship in the choppy waters. It took him and his government that extra effort, that self-motivation to tide over, to make things work, to get results. Imagine a government that has no capital city to work from, no basic facilities for performing administrative functions, restrictive infrastructure and a debilitating fiscal scenario. Any faint-hearted Chief Minister would have found his spirits dampened in the face of such adversity. But not Chandrababu Naidu who jumped headlong into the business at hand. From creating a policy framework in

the form of grids and missions to branding Sunrise Andhra Pradesh, from setting ambitious targets for various sectors to their monitoring in minute detail, from grounding projects in the shortest possible time such as Pattiseema to attracting big-ticket investments from across the world, the journey of Andhra Pradesh in these two eventful years has been breathtaking.

Amaravati Takes Wings

It was a masterstroke in branding as Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu set out to give a world class city to the Telugus by reviving the historic Amaravati. Amaravati has now become the symbol of the newly resurgent Andhra Pradesh. With a 2,000-year history, Amaravati resonates the glorious past of the Telugus. But the CM is not one to rest on the splendours of the past, as he meticulously set out to create a people's capital that synthesises the ancient symbolism with a contemporary metropolis. Once the name and place for the capital city was decided, the CM went about planning the capital city in right earnest. Singapore, which was entrusted with the responsibility of drawing up masterplan for a world class capital city, submitted its draft soon after. The first brick of the 'People's Capital' of Andhra Pradesh was symbolically put in place by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Vijayadasami (October 22) when he laid the foundation for Amaravati on the banks of the Krishna between Vijayawada and Guntur. On that afternoon, the newly formed state of Andhra Pradesh heralded the beginnings of its newest capital city, Amaravati. In his speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, referring to his gift of soil and water from the precincts of Parliament and River Yamuna in Delhi, said this endowment signified that the entire Indian nation stood with the people of Andhra Pradesh in building Amaravati and, in accordance, Delhi would stand shoulder to shoulder with Andhra Pradesh in its endeavour.,

Historic Land Pooling

Chandrababu Naidu Government has created history by acquiring nearly 33,000 acres under land pooling policy for the new capital of Andhra Pradesh, at a time when the State had no money buy land under the notorious land acquisition.

As the CM would say, it is not just the money, ideas too get the work done.

First River-Linking Project in the Country Pattiseema Lift Irrigation

Krishna meets Godavari as Andhra Pradesh achieves historic inter-linking of rivers. The project, completed in record time, will serve both Krishna delta and the parched Rayalaseema region. Pattiseema remains an unparalleled achievement for the Naidu Government.

Plans to Link More Rivers Irrigation Gets Special Thrust

Irrigation has been receiving a major thrust since the Chandrababu Naidu Government took over in 2014. It has been the focus to drought-proof not only Rayalaseema districts but also the relatively underdeveloped districts of Prakasam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

A Debt Paid

The Chandrababu Naidu Government's most ambitious welfare scheme is agricultural debt redemption. It was a promise made to the debt-ridden farmers by the ruling party, and the Chief Minister made it his mission to implement this commitment at any cost.

Given that the state of finances after the new Government took over was bleak, it seemed nearly an impossible task to fulfill this promise. But a determined Chief Minister's one of the first initiatives after the swearing-in was signing on the file related to debt redemption. Once the Farmers Agricultural Debt Redemption Scheme in June 2014 was approved, the Government evolved a comprehensive, transparent and IT based solution and used it for the systematic implementation of the scheme. The salient features of the scheme include the following:

- ✓ Redemption of outstanding amount of crop loan upto Rs 1.5 lakhs per family
- ✓ One - time - settlement (OTS) of the account in respect of families whose loan eligible for redemption is less than Rs 50,000.

The Government had also announced a separate scheme of debt redemption for the horticulture farmers, at Rs 10,000 per acre. The Agricultural Loan Redemption Scheme has been implemented in 4 phases and amounts eligible have been adjusted to the bank accounts of the Farmers, by the Rythu Saadhikara Samstha.

Highlights

- Total Number of accounts declared eligible in 4 Phases: 54.98 Lakhs
- Number of Farmers benefited: 35.41 Lakhs
- Total amount of loan redeemed (Principal Only): Rs 19,669 crores
- Commitment for next four installments (with interest): Rs 15149 crores
- Horticultural Loan Redemption Scheme
- Total Number of accounts declared eligible: 2.23 Lakhs
- Number of Farmers benefited: 1.79 Lakhs

- Total amount of loan redeemed (Principal Only): Rs 384.47 crores

Debt Redemption Scheme may come to the rescue of farmers immediately, but the Chief Minister's resolve is to boost incomes of farmers in the long run through a host of best agricultural practices and improved storage and marketing. Towards this end, the State Government has taken up a series of initiatives for supporting the sector.

With the objective of making agriculture, more profitable, productive and sustainable, the State Government presented a separate agriculture budget for 2016-17 with an outlay of Rs.16,250.58 crore.

Social Safety net for: The Poor and Vulnerable

Pensions for the poor and vulnerable were not only increased five-fold, but are being implemented through Aadhaar seeding, thus ensuring that there are no leakages.

That the Chandrababu Naidu Government has ensured that there is no scope for leakage in the disbursement of pensions to nearly 44 lakh people every month.

To secure a dignified life to all the poor and vulnerable, particularly, the old and infirm, the State Government embarked upon one of the largest welfare schemes in the country. The Chandrababu Naidu Government launched distribution of the most comprehensive social security pension scheme under 'NTR Bharosa' to various categories of beneficiaries soon after taking over the administration in 2014. Under the Scheme, the various pensions to the underprivileged sections have been dramatically increased. In spite of the challenging financial situation, the Chandrababu Naidu Government enhanced social security amounts five-fold - from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000 per month to Old Age, Widow, Weavers, Toddy Tappers and AIDS patients. The Government also enhanced the pension from Rs. 500 to Rs 1000 per month to Persons with Disabilities (PwD) having 40-79 percent disability and to Rs. 1500 per month to those with 80 percent disability and above is a milestone. The Government has been paying the increased pensions since October 2, 2014 onwards. Authenticated, Aadhaar linked pensions have been provided to nearly 43 Lakh pensioners in 2015-16. The Government has been spending a monthly outlay of over Rs. 460 Crore and a total annual outlay of roughly Rs. 5700 Cr on the scheme. The Tab based distribution of payments is a first of its kind initiative in the entire country in public service delivery where the Government is going to the doorstep of each beneficiary, making pensions an entitlement in the truest sense of the word. The CORE (Chief Minister's Office Real-time Executive) dashboard has been developed to monitor pensions closely. Aadhaar Seeding has been taken up in campaign mode to ensure beneficiary level data is authenticated and unique. The current status is 98 percent (85,61,450 (Rural - 68,31,870 + Urban -18,85,456) members of the 87,17,326 total members) of SHG members data is Aadhaar seeded. The earlier government was spending a little more than Rs 100 crore a month on pensions. In 2013- 14, the then government spent Rs 1349.64 crore on various pensions to approximately the same number of people. Compare that to Rs 5,700 crore presently being disbursed. Another important feature is

S. No	District	Old Age	Weavers	Disabled (>=80)	Disabled (<80)	Widow	Toddy Tappers	ART Pensions	Grand Total
1	Srikakulam	145015	4173	8212	23425	98090	659	2303	281877
2	Vizianagaram	123694	2321	15576	21059	94156	993	2346	260145
3	Visakhapatnam	154698	2354	12532	26028	127901	1072	3420	328005
4	East Godavari	235199	8657	25531	37843	175921	3295	5415	491861
5	West Godavari	192607	3339	26021	19353	106365	1996	3683	353364
6	Krishna	149660	5292	23484	24126	136168	2754	3328	344812
7	Guntur	193022	6598	20367	23126	130100	895	5409	379517
8	Prakasam	159716	6556	13502	19893	95830	158	4043	299698
9	Nellore	121242	4728	9265	21582	95416	948	2586	255767
10	Chittoor	210539	5766	17855	29640	135588	306	2342	402036
11	Kadapa	130144	8913	11299	21317	81008	52	1402	254135
12	Anantapur	213174	11651	17410	39166	118774	193	3185	403553
13	Kurnool	150131	3725	21503	19143	124765	163	269	319699
	Total	2178841	74073	222557	325701	1520082	13484	39731	4374469

Housing for all

The chief Minister wants to provided houses to all those who do not have pucca home by 2019. As part of this initiative, the government has stepped up efforts to start this mega project at the earliest.

The state government committed to providing 'Housing for all by 2022' has taken up an ambitious hosing scheme for the poor and the middle sections. This requires a total of 10 lakh houses in urban houses and 30 lakh houses in rural areas to achieve this vision between 2016 and 2022.

Lighting up Every Home

Andhra Pradesh, in the last two years, has made trail-blazing progress in power sector. Despite starting off with a power of 22 million units (MU) deficit per day in June 2014, Chandrababu Naidu Government had brought it down to zero within 100 days. That was the first milestone in achieving the "Zero power cuts" tag.

Industry on the Growth Curve

From the day he took over, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu put in place, various best-in-class policy instruments and fiscal incentives to spur industrial growth. And the results have been overwhelming. Andhra Pradesh has a healthy pipeline of over Rs 3 lakh crore of investments, which is more than the overall 5-year target envisaged under the Industrial Development Policy. The state has a strong investment pipeline of more than 300 projects, which when realized, could potentially create more than 6.7 lakh new jobs in the state. The Single Desk Policy which aims to create a conducive ecosystem to provide all clearances required to setup industry within 21 working days has ensured a strong second place among Indian states in the Ease of Doing Business in the World Bank rankings. As of April 23, 2016, around 7,623 applications have been received through the Single Desk Portal with over 6,577 applications approved with around 91% compliance of 21-days service level.

Babubali in E-Governance

Andhra Pradesh has become pioneer in the country to introduce state-wide enterprise architecture in governance with the e-pragathi project, to simplify the process of delivery of government and citizen services.

Premier Centre of Education

The chief minister has a dream to make Andhra Pradesh as an Education hub of international standards. Towards this end, the state has taken several initiatives for launching several premier institutions, even while bringing in reforms in the education sector.

Skill Development

The government had signed a MoU with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) for improving employability of students. The government is also proposing to establish a skill development University.

Criticism

1. Failure in getting sufficient funds from central government and proper usage of central government funds.
2. MLAs are become corrupt particularly in sand issue.
3. Minister's are totally depend on chief minister they are not working properly on the other side, Chandrababu Naidu is workaholic Chief Minister.
4. Corruption in bureaucracy is increased.
5. Too much Concentration on capital city Amravati.

It is in times of crisis that the metal of leadership in tested to its full potential. No doubt at all, Chandrababu Naidu proves an efficient administrator in Andhra Pradesh.

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