Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs 2017 - January to August
PART 2
Cabinet approves Vijayawada Airport as International Airport.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the declaration of Vijayawada Airport as International Airport, as per the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

The proposal will add to improved connectivity to the State capital. It will provide wider choice of services at competitive costs to the air-travelers and give a boost to domestic/international tourism and socio-economic development of Andhra Pradesh by bringing in international passengers and cargo traffic.

The decision was taken on account of repeated demands from airline operators and surge in passenger traffic.

The infrastructure upgradation required for international operations will be carried out by Airports Authority of India.
AIIB grants $160 million for Andhra Pradesh power project.

The Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved a loan of US$160 million in support of the Andhra Pradesh – 24x7 Power for All project.

The objective is to strengthen the power transmission and distribution system in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Project is part of the Government of India’s Power for All program that was launched in 2014 to provide an efficient, reliable and affordable electricity supply to all consumers across selected states within five years from the start of implementation of the program in each state.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the first states selected for the rollout of the Power for All program.
The *Power for All* program in Andhra Pradesh will be the starting point for AIIB to extend its assistance to other countries in Asia moving towards an ‘Energy for all’ initiatives.

The project is *co-financed with the World Bank*. 
Railway station survey - Andhra's Visakhapatnam cleanest, Bihar's Darbhanga dirtiest.

As per survey, conducted by the Quality Council of India.

This was the 3rd such survey aimed at ascertaining cleanliness at rail premises. The survey is a part of ‘Swachh Rail’ campaign.

Andhra Pradesh was rated the cleanest station among the 75 busiest stations in the country.

Followed by Secunderabad, Jammu, Vijayawada and Anand Vihar railway stations.

The survey was based on criteria such as toilets on platforms, management of tracks and dustbins.

The Darbhanga station in Bihar was rated as the dirtiest.
Varanasi railway station, situated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Lok Sabha constituency, was placed 14th.

New Delhi station was ranked 39, while Nizamuddin and Old Delhi stations were placed at the 23rd and 24th position respectively.

Railway stations are categorised — A1, A, B, C, D, E and F — based on their annual passenger revenue by the ministry.

The stations that contribute over Rs 50 crore annually are in the ‘A1’ category, while those that contribute between Rs 6 crore and Rs 50 crore come under the ‘A’ category.

All suburban stations are in C category, while all halts are in F category.
There are 75 stations listed under the ‘A1’ category, while there are 332 under the ‘A’ category.

Among the ‘A’ category stations, Beas railway station in Punjab was rated the cleanest followed by Khammam located in Telangana.

Jogbani in Bihar was the dirtiest in the A category.
Andhra Pradesh inks deal with HCL Tech to set up Rs 500 crore research facilities.

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh today signed a deal with HCL Technologies for setting up of Rs 500-crore IT research facility in Vijayawada.

The company will invest Rs 500 crore in ten years, for a development centre, training facility and other ancillary facilities.

HCL aims to hire, employ and train 5,000 local residents in the region in two phases.

The company will develop its first centre at Kesarapalle village in Gannavaram mandal of Krishna district in a total area of 17.86 acres and the second centre in Ainavulu village of Amaravati.
A.P., Singapore sign pact for Amaravati development

The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Singapore signed an MoU for the development of the Amaravati start-up area by the Amaravati Development Partners (ADP).

It is a joint venture being floated by the Singapore consortium consisting of Ascendas-Singbridge and Sembcorp Pte Ltd., and the Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC)

Development of the start-up area spread in 6.84 sq. km on the southern banks of River Krishna next to the government administrative core is set to take place in three phases over 15 years

656 acres in Phase-I, 514 acres in Phase-II and 521 acres in the last.

The Singapore consortium is going to have a 58 % equity participation in ADP (the master developer) to the tune of Rs. 306 crore while the ADC comes in with a 42% stake amounting to Rs. 222 crore.
Andhra Pradesh's Banganapalle mango gets GI tag.

The Banganapalle mango has received the geographical indication (GI) tag, making Andhra Pradesh the owner of the variety that originates in its Kurnool district.

The Registrar of Geographical Indications Registry (RGIR) granted Banganapalle the GI status on a six-year-old application from Andhra Pradesh’s horticulture department.

The Banganapalle mango is one the most preferred varieties of the fruit in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The application for the GI tag was made in 2011, prior to the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014 to create Telangana.
MP, Veteran Filmmaker Dasari Narayana Rao Dies at 75

Dasari Narayana Rao is a well-known filmmaker and producer has died.

Rao has celebrated his 75th birthday on May 4 this year.

Rao was a Congress MP from Andhra Pradesh and served as the Union Minister of State for Coal between 2004-2006 and in his second term from 2006-2008.

He holds a record in the Limca Book of Records for directing the maximum number of films. His most famous films are Tandra Paparayudu (1986), Meghasandesam (1983) and Kaante Koothurne Kanu (2000)
Three-day Modi fest begins in Andhra Pradesh

The three-day festival Making of Developed India (MODI) fest was launched in Andhra Pradesh on 2 June 2017.

It begins to celebrate the successful completion of the three-year rule by the Modi government.

The festival was inaugurated by former minister K. Lakshminarayana.

The festival would be held in three phases in three districts of Andhra Pradesh, at Government Ghantasala Music College in Vijayawada, Ambedkar Bhawan, Rajvihar Circle in Kurnool and at Gokul Park, Ramakrishna Beach in Visakhapatnam.

The purpose of the festival is to show various welfare schemes launched by the NDA government during the past 3 years.
MODI Fest, (Making of Developed India Festival), organized by the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

MODI fest is being conducted throughout the country and will be held at 12 places in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The fest also provides the public an opportunity to get detailed information about the various schemes of the Central government like Skill development, Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Fasal Beema Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana.
Ministry of Urban Development launches Liveability Index for 116 cities to measure quality of life.

Urban Development Ministry launched "City Liveability Index".

Launched by the Then Minister of Urban Development Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu here today at a National Workshop on Urban Transformation.

It is a first of its kind initiative to measure the quality of life in 116 major cities including capital cities and those with population over one million.

Cities will be assessed on a comprehensive set of 79 parameters to capture the extent and quality of infrastructure including availability of roads, education and health care, mobility, employment opportunities, emergency response, grievance redressal, pollution, availability of open and green spaces, cultural and entertainment opportunities etc.
The Ministry of Urban Development today disbursed Rs.500 cr as incentive to 16 States that performed well in implementing urban reforms during 2016-17.

Andhra Pradesh topped the list scoring 96.06% marks.

Others who received the incentive fund in order of merit were:

Odisha (95.38%), Jharkhand (91.98%), Chattisgarh (91.37%), Madhya Pradesh (90.20%)

Telangana (86.92%), Rajasthan (84.62%), Punjab (77.02%),

Kerala (75.73%), Goa (75.38*), Mizoram (75.00%), Gujarat (73.80%)

Chandigarh (72.73%), Uttar Pradesh (70.67%) and Maharashtra (70.52).
Marks scored by these States was considered for deciding the quantum of incentive with high scorers getting more.

Reform incentive fund for the next three financial years will be increased from the present allocation of Rs.900 cr to Rs.10,000 cr to promote next generation reforms that would make a substantial difference to urban governance and service delivery and resource mobilization by urban local bodies.
India’s first Rural LED Street Lighting Project to be implemented in Andhra Pradesh

Government will retrofit 10 lakh conventional street lights with LED lights in Gram Panchayats of 7 districts in Andhra Pradesh.

The project will be carried out by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) functioning under the Ministry of Power.

This project will be the first rural LED street lighting project under the Government of India’s Street Lighting National Project (SLNP).

In the first phase of the project, the districts of Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore, Kurnool, Kadapa, Ananthapur and Chittoor will be covered.
The total upfront capital cost of the project would be funded by French Development Agency Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

The project will help the gram panchayats to cumulatively save approximately 147 million units of electricity in a year.

It will lead to a reduction of approximately 12 crore tonnes of CO2.

The EESL will be made responsible for carrying out annual maintenance and warranty replacement exercises in these gram panchayats for a period of 10 years.
Background

Andhra Pradesh became the first state to get assistance from EESL to replace conventional street lighting with LED lighting after cyclone Hudhud caused extensive damage in Visakhapatnam.

Since then, EESL has installed an approximate 5,90,000 LED street lights in the State. These lights have helped the state to reduce over 65,000 tonnes of CO2 every year.

Across the country, more than 23 lakh conventional street lights have been replaced by LED street lights in 21 States.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched ‘100 cities National Programme’ on January 5, 2015 to replace conventional domestic lights with energy efficient LED lights.
Similarly, Under the Street Light National Programme (SLNP), the government has set a target of replacing 1.34 crore conventional street lights with LED lights across the country.

LED bulbs have a very long life, almost 50 times more than ordinary bulbs, and 8 to 10 times that of CFLs, and therefore provide both energy and cost savings in the medium term.
World Bank, AIIB to grant $380 million to Andhra Pradesh power project

The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have together agreed to extend $380 million of loan to Andhra Pradesh

To help the state build a reliable, quality and affordable power supply to citizens.

World Bank said it has signed an agreement with the government of India and Andhra Pradesh government to extend $240 million of loan.

AIIB has also signed a $140 million loan, which is considered the first such project in India to be co-financed by it.

The World Bank and AIIB will provide loans in a 60:40 ratio for all the components of the project that is aimed at providing 24X7 power for all.

The project is part of the government of India's `Power for All' programme launched in 2014 and Andhra Pradesh is among the few states selected for the rollout of this programme.
AP CM Chandrababu launches MSME Corporation with Rs 100 cr.

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu launches the establishment of Micro, Small, Medium Entrepreneurs (MSME) Development Corporation at Vijayawada with fund of Rs.100 crore on the occasion of International MSME Day

Around 15 acres would be allotted for MSME bhavan in Amaravati for research, development and training programmes.

MSME bhavans would be constructed in all the 175 Assembly constituencies and Industrial Promotion Councils are being set up, headed by a Minister, in all the districts.
AP's Vizianagaram bags MGNREGA National Award.

The Ministry of Rural Development has selected Vizianagaram as one among the 17 districts across the nation for the MGNREGA annual award for effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act during 2015-16.

The district had generated works for 3,61,668 households in 2015-16 and disbursed ₹483.42 crore as wages with an average of ₹106.

Over 5,000 farm ponds, 240 rain water harvesting structures, and 440 water shed works were executed. In addition, 3,427 minor irrigation tanks were de-silted and restored to their original capacity.

The State had been utilising 16% of the nation’s MGNREGA funds.
Bill introduced in LS for setting up petroleum institute in AP

The institute would be established in Visakhapatnam district in pursuance of the central government’s commitment for setting up a petroleum university under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, according to the Objects and Reasons of the bill.

The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Bill, 2017’ was introduced by minister of state for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan.

The institute would actively pursue research and development in the fields such as liquefied natural gas, biofuels and renewables.
Andhra, Telangana, Gujarat best in ease of doing business: Amitabh Kant

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Gujarat are the three best-performing states in "ease of doing business", NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

One the other hand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam fare worst in the rankings.

Kant presented the rankings based on key development and social indicators across states and union territories during a national conference of Chief Secretaries.

Similarly, based on availability of electricity in rural households, the best-performing states are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, which have achieved 100 per cent penetration.
Six states/UTs ink MoU with Centre on GeM.

Six states / Union Territories (UT) formally adopted the Centre’s Government e-Marketplace (GeM) initiative.

It aims to ensure that public procurement of goods and services in India worth over ₹5 lakh crore annually is carried out through the online platform for transparency.

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Telangana, Puducherry and Arunachal Pradesh will adopt the GeM.
New canyon system found near Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh.

CANYON - a deep gorge, typically one with a river flowing through it

Scientists for the first time have discovered three new canyons close to Kovvada in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

This discovery was made by team of scientists from CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Visakhapatnam.

These three canyons together form a major canyon system in the depths of the Bay of Bengal.

This discovery was made by clearly mapping the ocean floor between Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam by sending over 32 high density beams to the depths of the sea.
Canyon systems are generally formed by the flow of river water into the sea and they could be as old as the river system, which is close to 23 million years.

The new canyon system was probably formed by river Kandivalasa.

It is very huge and its depth varies from about 90 metres at the starting point to about 2,500 metres at the deepest point. It extends to about 50 to 70 km deep into the sea.

The last canyon systems off the Visakhapatnam coast were discovered in 1963 by American geologist E.C. LaFond of the US Navy Electronics Laboratory.

Most of the canyons in the ocean system across the world act as channels for depositing sediments from the river in the shelf region.

There are more chances of finding hydro-carbons if the deposits are more.
Andhra Pradesh plans hi-tech war on mosquitoes.

A hi-tech war against mosquitoes is being proposed using optical sensors to capture their density, species and gender before moving in to exterminate them.

Three cities in Andhra Pradesh — Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam and Tirupati — want to use modern technology to detect mosquito breeding before malaria and other vector-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and zika become an epidemic.

The Andhra government has sent a 'Smart Mosquito Density System' proposal to the Union urban development ministry for approval.

The three municipalities plan to deploy 10 sensors per sq km. The entire system will require nearly Rs 4 crore.
A total of 1,850 sensors will be deployed across 185 sq kilometers of these cities. Sensors fixed to electricity poles will be used to monitor density of mosquitoes along with gender and species.

The devices will analyse and transfer mosquito density data along with location to a central database.

There will be a control room application to provide mosquito density heat maps, which will help government agencies prioritise sprays.

The system will operate autonomously and use state-of-the-art internet of things (IoT) technology to alert health and other agencies.

According to National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, about 95% population in India resides in malaria endemic areas. Around 5% of the total 214 million deaths across the globe due to malaria happen in India.
Venkaiah Naidu Inaugurated the 3-day Visakha Utsav in Visakhapatnam

The three-day Visakha Utsav was inaugurated by M. Venkaiah Naidu, the then Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Urban Development, in Visakhapatnam.

The state festival, comprising various cultural events is being held at the port city’s Rama Krishna Beach.

Visakha Utsav is an annual festival that aims to bring out the rich culture and tradition of Andhra Pradesh. Its main objective is to promote the brand image of Visakhapatnam.
It includes a cultural event called ‘Utsav Vedika’, which aims to revive the state’s art forms.

The inauguration was followed by a folk dance by Lambadi women from Warangal.

After the presentation of a theme-based song, a dance ballet choreographed by popular Kuchipudi dancer Bala Kondala Rao was staged.

Besides this, the event will also see performances by many popular personalities including Shibani Kashyap, Baba Sehgal and Devi Sri Prasad.

Almost 75 buses have been allotted for the event.
PMAY-NTR Nagar Housing Scheme

PMAY-NTR Nagar Scheme has been announced by the government of Andhra Pradesh to provide affordable houses to urban poor.

The scheme would be implemented under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban, a flagship affordable housing scheme of central government.

Under the PMAY-NTR nagar housing scheme, a total of 1.93 lakh houses would be constructed for poor in urban areas of the state out of which 41,000 would be independent houses.

The AP government has laid foundation stone for construction of 1.20 Lakh affordable homes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in 38 cities and towns of the state.
The government aims to construct about 2 Lakh homes by the year 2022 in AP urban areas.

The total cost of the construction of homes would be about Rs. 11,530 Crore.
Badikostha Bicycle Scheme for Girl Students in Andhra Pradesh

Badikostha is a new initiative by the state government of Andhra Pradesh under which bicycles would be provided to the girls students in the state.

The main objective of the scheme is to encourage girls to continue their education and reduce the number of dropouts.

The free bicycle scheme has been launched by the Andhra Chief Minister on 17th April 2017 from Vijaywada during a public gathering.

The state government under the Badikostha scheme would distribute about 1.82 lakh bicycles to the girl students across the state at a cost of Rs 74.93 crore.
The state government would distribute bicycles to 9th grade girl students in the government schools.

The scheme is aimed at making the state a “Knowledge State – Education Hub” by reducing the number of school and college dropouts.
Andhra Pradesh CM Launched Purushottapatnam Lift Irrigation Scheme

This scheme is being launched with an aim of providing irrigation facility to 2.15 lakh acres in East Godavari district also for fulfilling the demand of drinking and industrial water of Visakhapatnam city.

This scheme proposes to lift 3,500 cusecs of water from the Godavari downstream Polavaram dam and pump into Polavaram left the main canal, and then divert the water into the Yeleru reservoir.

The government starts the initiative of diverting Godavari water to the Krishna through the Polavaram right main canal and the completion of Pattiseema lift irrigation scheme.

This diversion of Godavari water helped in stabilizing the ayacut both in West Godavari and Krishna districts and saving standing crop worth Rs. 2,500 crore amidst drought conditions during Kharif.
In another significant decision, the Cabinet gave its consent to a 50% hike in the salaries of the contract employees of various departments in tune with the recommendation of a Group of Ministers.

However, the hike would be applicable to employees drawing less than Rs. 12,000 per month as per the scales fixed by the Pay Revision Commission of 2010.

The hike would have retrospective effect from April 1 and it would entail a burden of Rs. 200 crore on the government.
Nara Lokesh inducted into Andhra Pradesh cabinet

Telugu Desam Party general secretary Nara Lokesh was inducted into the Andhra Pradesh cabinet as the minister for panchayat raj and IT.

He is son of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Lokesh signed files concerning NREGA workers that include provision of Rs 5 lakh insurance for the family in case of the death or disability of a worker, who has worked for over 50 days.
Cabinet nod for Sheela Bhide panel recommendations

The State Cabinet approved the recommendations of Dr. Sheela Bhide Committee on bifurcation of assets and liabilities relating to nine Backward Classes (BC) Corporations listed under Schedule IX of the AP Reorganisation Act.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the Committee had recommended that the moveable properties, Personal Deposit (PD) accounts and bank balances should be divided in the ratio of 58% and 42% between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

AP would get ₹10.55 crore as its share in the bank balances.
Andhra cabinet clears proposal to build 4 lakh houses for weaker sections

All the houses will be taken up under the NTR housing scheme. While the beneficiaries have to take up the construction themselves, the government will fund the entire cost of unit Rs 1.5 lakh.

The state government will grant a subsidy of Rs 92,000 per unit and Rs 3,000 will be spared under the Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) scheme.

Another Rs 55,000 would be spent from National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). The State Housing Corporation will monitor the programme.

CM Naidu told reporters that 2 lakh units would be constructed during the current fiscal and another 2 lakh during the next fiscal
Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting important decisions

All belt shops in Andhra Pradesh will be permanently shut down. Belt shops are nothing but unauthorized extended counters of existing wine shop licensees who get one licence and open scores of illegal sale counters in areas under their purview. If any person is seen consuming liquor on roads, he should be immediately arrested.

Every district will constitute a 4 member committee with Collector and SP and two others to curb Sand smuggling.

All those poor patients suffering from Kidney diseases would now be getting a monthly pension of Rs.2500.

AP Drinking Water Supply Corporation be formed to enhance water supply in the State. All drinking water supply agencies would be brought under the corporation. At present, the government is supplying 40 to 55 litres to each individual and it would be increased to 100 litres.
Andhra Pradesh cabinet nod to draft Bill for setting up Fisheries and Ocean University

It will come up under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and the state government will have share not more than 49 per cent.

Setting up Fisheries and Ocean University at an estimated cost of Rs 300 crore in 50 acres of land.
Cabinet approves cyber security policy

The Cabinet at its meeting approved the A.P. Cyber Security Policy (AP-CSP) 2017.

And decided to introduce courses in cyber security, Internet of Things, machine learning, financial technologies in colleges from this academic year itself.

It has reckon 2017-18 as the year of e-Pragati.

The CSP envisages protection to cyber and information assets in public and private spheres through various measures, including capacity-building across the departments and strengthening the law enforcement agencies to better equip them with the rising graph of cyber crimes.

The Cabinet resolved to pay an additional ₹30,000 as a special grant to building workers under the Chandranna Bima scheme.
The Cabinet also approved G.O. RT No. 118 issued on January 18, 2017, for creation of a committee that would sort out the issues faced by the State post-bifurcation, auctioning of 350 acres in Keesara and eight commercial establishments in Vijayawada belonging to AgriGold.

And allotment of 172.84 acres to Patanjali Ayurved Limited at Chinnaraopalli village of Vizianagaram.
NITI Aayog shelves A.P. port project

NITI Aayog has finally spiked the proposal to develop a greenfield port at Dugarajapatnam in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh as it was found to be technologically and financially unviable.

The decision to close the chapter was triggered by the techno-economic feasibility study conducted by American consultant Aecom for the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT), the major equity partner in the project.

One of the main reasons for finding Dugarajapatnam unviable is its proximity to Chennai, Krishnapatnam, Kattupalli and Kamarajar (Ennore) ports.

The massive dredging required to handle big size vessels is another deterrent.
Cabinet approves construction of double line in AP.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of double line with electrification between Guntur-Guntakal in Andhra Pradesh.

The total length of the line will be 401.47 km.

The anticipated cost of the Project will be Rs.3631 crore which will be funded through cost sharing of 50:50 by State Government and Ministry of Railway.

The project is likely to be completed in five years.

The project fulfils the commitment given in the Andhra Pradesh Bifurcation Act regarding the increased rail connectivity to the Rayalaseema region to the Amravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh.
The **Guntur-Guntakal** section falls in Guntur, Prakasham, Kurnool and Ananthapur districts of Andhra Pradesh.

This is most accessible shortest route to **Bangaluru** from many important cities of Eastern and North Eastern State.
AP Cabinet nod for 4 private varsities

The state cabinet, which met here cleared the decks for another four private universities and an Institute of Financial Management Research.

Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu at a media briefing said the move is expected to help the state attract investments worth over Rs 3028 crore.

Private universities which expected to establish their branches include RS Trust (VelTech), World Peace University (Maharashtra Academy of Engineering and Educational Research) and Great Lakes International University (Great Lakes of Institute of Management).

Two of them will come up in Sri City and one each in Chittoor and Visakhapatnam.

The government proposed to establish World Class Integrated Food Processing complex at Makavaripalem in Visakhapatnam district under private management. The cabinet resolved to allot 115 acres to a private company for establishing it.
The State Cabinet on Monday approved the Designated Technology Park Policy 2017-2020, which will supersede the previous DTP scheme introduced as part of the IT Policy 2014-20.

The objectives of the new policy are to accelerate industry required infrastructure, encourage IT firms to invest in the State and provide gainful employment.

The government aims to develop 5 million sqft of quality IT office space under the new policy.

The IT space created under the policy is expected to house 50,000 plus high-quality jobs in technology, analytics and core business by March 31, 2020.
It would entitle IT space created for the guarantee of rental earnings to the tune of **50 per cent** of the pre-agreed rent per sq ft on the unoccupied space and up to **70 per cent** of the built-up space for a **period of 18-36 months**, depending on the size of the IT office building.

The estimated budgetary requirement to be provided by the State government during first three financial years for the implementation of the policy is `239 crore.

The Cabinet also cleared a proposal to set up a **lift irrigation for Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi project** in Chittoor district.
Andhra Pradesh govt to give monthly stipend to unemployed youths

With nearly 12 lakh unemployed youths in the state, the Andhra Pradesh government has decided to give a monthly allowance of around Rs 2,000 per person till they find a job.

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet sub-committee, which met on Wednesday, has decided to launch the scheme with an initial budget of Rs 500 crore.

It may be noted that while West Bengal is giving Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 per person per month, Tamil Nadu is giving Rs 500 per month.

Sources said Andhra may fix the monthly allowance at Rs 2,000.
The assistance will be for 2-3 years and first preference would be given to those who are registered with employment exchanges and bureaus for last five years.

Only one unemployed person in a family would receive the benefit.
Ajeya Kallam appointed new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh

He is an IAS of the 1983 batch, appointed as Chief Secretary for one month, from March 1 to 31, 2017.

Unusually, in the same order, GO RT No. 456, the government appointed Dinesh Kumar, also a 1983 batch officer, as Chief Secretary from April 1, when Mr Kallam retires.

Incumbent Chief Secretary S.P. Tucker will complete his tenure on February 28.
Andhra Govt Issues New Bar Policy to Dodge GST License Fee

To avoid paying Goods and Service Tax to the Central government on bar licence fee, the AP government has introduced registration fee system in the new bar policy, which comes into force from July 1.

The bar licence period has been increased from one year to 5 years, subject to payment of non-refundable registration charge and licence fee with an enhancement at 10% annually.

The state government has to pay 18% of licence fee to the Central government.

At present, the state government is collecting Rs 10 lakh to Rs 30 lakh, depending on population of that area as licence fee from bars.
To avoid this, the bar licence fee is reduced to Rs 2 lakh to all bars and remaining amount is collected under non-refundable registration charge.

The state government has fixed the annual non-refundable registration charge.

In the areas up to 50,000 population, the non-refundable registration charge is Rs 8 lakh and license fee is Rs 2 lakh;

in the areas from 50,001 to 5 lakh population, the registration charge is Rs 18 lakh and license fee is Rs 2 lakh

and in the areas where the population is more than 5 lakhs, the registration fee is Rs 28 lakh and license fee is Rs 2 lakh
Andhra Pradesh sets up Rs 600 crore Pi data centre

Chief minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated Pi Datacenters' `600 crore Pi-Amaravati software defined Strategic Data Centre (SDDC) in Mangalagiri, Guntur district.

Pi Datacenters, which is a datacenter and cloud services provider, has entered into an agreement with 10 companies, including PowerGrid, IRCTC, Mahindra & Mahindra Finance, Deutsche Bank, Snap Bizz, Acute and Net Spider.
Andhra Pradesh government partners with British Council.

The Andhra Pradesh (AP) government entered into a partnership with the British Council to launch a pilot program to improve the soft skills and employability of one lakh university and college students in the state.

The pilot project will focus on providing training to students in areas related to spoken English communication, confidence building, better employability, CV/resume writing and preparation for interviews.

It will offer 150 hours (100 hours of face-to-face and 50 hours of online English) of learning model supplemented with mobile learning and English clubs. This initiative also includes the training of 150 master trainers and 2,500 teachers.

AP chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said, “We have a vision of making Andhra Pradesh the best state in the country by 2029 and a major part of this vision entails developing the state into a knowledge hub.”
Andhra Pradesh rich in uranium.

The total uranium resources in the bifurcated Andhra Pradesh has crossed the one lakh tonnes mark.

The state now has 1.04 lakh tonnes of uranium.

Andhra Pradesh lost uranium rich regions in Nalgonda-Mahbubnagar to Telangana following the state bifurcation in 2014.

As of February 2017 Andhra Pradesh alone has 1.22 lakh tonnes of uranium oxide, which is equivalent to 1.04 lakh tonnes of uranium metal.

Telangana has 18,550 tonnes of uranium oxide or 15,731 tonnes of uranium metal.
Andhra Pradesh tops in solar power

Andhra Pradesh is at the top in India when it comes to solar power, with accumulative generation capacity of 1,867 MW.

Telangana State, meanwhile, stands at fourth position with a generation capacity of 1,287 MW.

Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are at second and third positions with 1,812 MW and 1,691 MW respectively.

In 2016-17, India added 5,525 MW solar power generation capacity, taking the total to 12,288 MW.
The Union Power Ministry has estimated that the country has abundant solar power potential — it has been estimated at 748 GW.

In the current financial year, the Centre has decided to add 5,000 MW of rooftop solar and 10,000 MW from large-scale solar projects.

At present the expenditure to set up 1 MW solar unit is about `5 crore. This would have cost `17 crore five years ago.

The Centre has announced many concessions to set up solar units. It has also extended exemption of customs duty to import solar panels and other equipment.
Andhra Pradesh legislature passes state GST Bill

The implementation of GST would cause a revenue loss of Rs 2,600 crore per annum to AP in the initial years.

This loss will, however, be compensated by the Government of India from the fund created under the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017
Centre shifts Mithivirdi nuclear power plant to Andhra Pradesh

The Centre has told the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the 6,000 MW nuclear power plant proposed at Mithivirdi in Gujarat will be shifted to Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh due to delay in land acquisition for the project.

The proposed project witnessed stiff opposition from the local villagers who were not ready to give up their fertile agriculture land for the same.

They eventually challenged the CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) clearance granted to the project by MoEF in March 2015 before NGT.

Following submission from the authorities that the project has been shifted to Andhra Pradesh, the petition was disposed of.
Coromandel International gets green nod for Rs 225 crore expansion project in Andhra Pradesh.

Coromandel International the country's second largest phosphatic fertiliser player, has received environmental clearance for raising production capacity of its facility at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

The company's proposal is to raise phosphoric acid production capacity from 700 tonnes per day to 1,000 tonnes per day and other auxiliary facilities at Sriharipuram to achieve daily complex fertiliser production of 3,900 tonnes.

The estimated project cost of the proposed upgradation and installations will be Rs 225 crore. Out of which, Rs 26.42 crore would be used for environmental management programmes.

The mid-size company has phosphatic fertiliser plants at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
Andhra Pradesh is the second state in the country after Madhya Pradesh to start a Happiness Index Department.

The chief minister had recently launched an “achieving happiness” programme under which civic bodies organised song and dance events.

The Andhra Pradesh government’s ‘Sunrise AP Vision 2029’ has taken Bhutan as a model to focus on matters including psychological well-being, health, time use, education, etc. “

The idea is to see that each family gets Rs 10,000 income and the new index will be measured from data sourced.

India dropped four spots to the 122nd rank in the UN happiness report and ranked lower than Somalia, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh in the list.
Top stock exchange NSE inked a pact with Andhra Pradesh government to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the state to raise capital through listing on the bourse's platform.

As per the memorandum of understanding (MoU), the Andhra Pradesh government would facilitate MSMEs to get listed on NSE Emerge, the platform for small and medium enterprises, by supporting such firms financially or otherwise, in bearing the expenses related to listing.

The pact was signed on the occasion of the International Day for MSMEs i.e. 27th June
Andhra Pradesh plans to build 20,000 check dams

The Andhra Pradesh government is planning to take up rainwater harvesting in a big way with the cooperation of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

It has prepared an action plan to construct **20,000 check dams** from **April 15 to July 15** to meet drinking water and irrigation needs in drought-prone areas during the summer months.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to launch the programme in **Rayalaseema region**.

Besides construction of check dams, all the village tanks would be repaired.
In Andhra Pradesh, dial 1100 and hope corrupt official returns your bribe

If you had paid a bribe for availing of any government service in Andhra Pradesh in the recent days, just dial 1100 and report the matter.

Chance is that the corrupt government servant, who fleeced you, may possibly come knocking on your door to return the amount.

With a recent nation-wide survey report placing AP at the second place after Karnataka as the most corrupt state in the country, the Chandrababu regime has launched this exercise to showcase its fight against corruption.

The 'People First' grievance redressal channel launched by the government on May 25 seems to be "working wonders" and "sending chill down the spines of (corrupt) public servants"
BSNL to roll out 4G services in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh by March 2018

The tender formalities are complete and a total of 1,150 4G sites will be installed in both the states and the 4G services will be launched by March 2018.

For BSNL 4G project, 10,000 4G sites have been planned pan India while Telangana getting 550 sites and 600 in Andhra Pradesh.

The combined AP Circle (covering Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) has achieved the highest number of SIM activations in South Zone in the Q1 of current financial year with 4,27,209.

BSNL earned Rs 2,500 crore revenue for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during 2016-17.
Andhra Pradesh and WTO to promote sustainable tourism.

In its quest to put the State on the international map, it has partnered with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (WTO) to promote sustainable tourism across the state.

The U.N. has declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

The decision comes 50 years after the celebration of the International Tourist Year on Tourism – Passport to Peace (1967) and 15 years since the International Year of Ecotourism (2002).

The WTO Secretary General Taleb D. Rifai inaugurate the A.P. initiative in Berlin on March 8.
The themes that the A.P. Tourism will focus are sustainable fishing culture in East Godavari district, beach tourism at Yerada in Visakhapatnam, at Pulicat Lake and in Kondapalli village.

In Pulicat Lake, the myriad migratory birds, especially flamingos, are a big attraction.

The tourism drive will be guided by three main themes: protection of environment, protection of the livelihood of the local community and steps to ensure that the benefits of the tourism reaches the local community.
Ola ties up with Andhra Pradesh Tourism, looks to introduce Evs (Electronic Vehicles)

The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) has tied up with cab aggregator Ola for transportation services (inter-city and intra-city services) and further promote tourism and mobility ecosystem in the state.

The new capital of the state – Amaravati – is the centre of focus for the Andhra Pradesh government to develop it as a world-class city.

Pushing it as a new investment destination, the state government is looking to improve connectivity as well as tourism.
Ola aims to create **25,000 job** opportunities in the state, encouraging entrepreneurship and sustainable income for the youth over the **next five years**.

The company looks to provide a wider reach and a better experience to tourists and residents by foraying into new cities from existing six (Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Rajahmundry, Tirupati, and Nellore) by the **year 2022**.

In the coming months, Ola says it will bring an additional set of offerings such as **electric vehicles (EV)**, bikes and buses in the state based on feasibility and regulatory constraints.
Heli-tourism comes to State

The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department has signed an MoU with Mak Aero Space and Aviation Pvt. Ltd, Delhi, to promote heli-tourism.

The initial services will be introduced in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati.

The helicopter transport services will include joy rides, packages, heli-taxi services, packaging with wedding plans in Tirupati, aerial reconnaissance and disaster management.

Initially, a six-seater helicopter (Bell 206 L4 / Bell 407) will be introduced and gradually the number of seats will be increased to realise the full potential of heli-tourism and air-connectivity.
AP Tourism Stands 3rd in India

The bifurcated Andhra Pradesh has managed to beat its counterpart Telangana in tourism.

Amongst 35 states and Union Territories in India, AP Tourism stands third in attracting domestic tourists, but Telangana stands at 30.

The above statements are based on figures tabled at Rajya Sabha.

Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a 20% rise in domestic arrivals against the 71% rise in international arrivals between 2013 & 2015.

Telangana on the other hand is falling short on footfalls showing only a 1% rise in domestic arrivals and sadly a 19% decrease in international arrivals.

Hyderabad will also be hosting Skal World Congress, 2017 from October 5 to 9.