Andhra Pradesh: Relief and Structure

Andhra Pradesh has varied topography. It varies from the hills of Eastern Ghats and Nallamala Hills to the shores of Bay of Bengal.

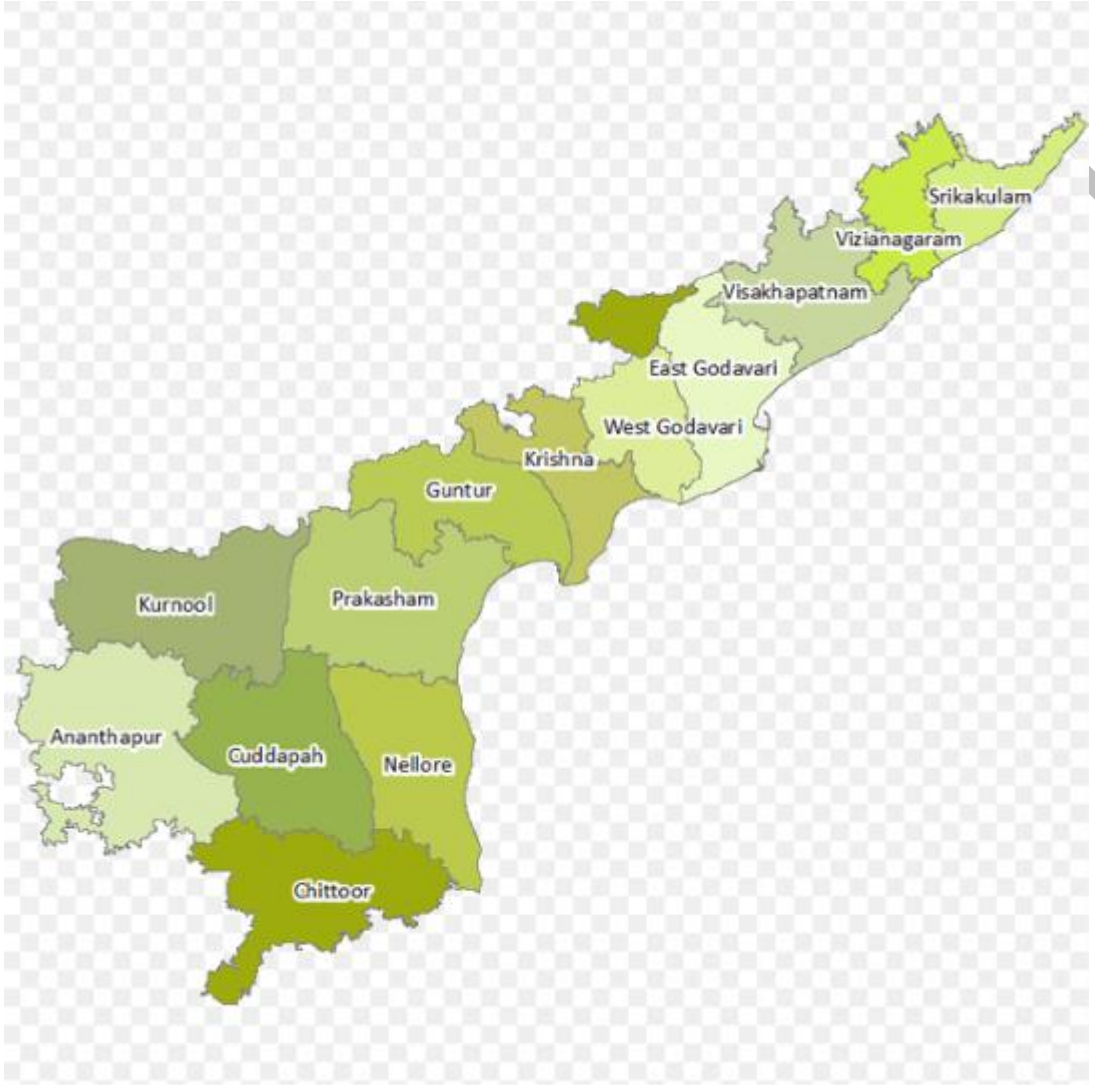

Fig: Andhra Pradesh-Political Map

Two main river of Andhra Pradesh;Krishna and Godavari, flows through the state.

The state has two regions Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema.

The plains to the east of Eastern Ghats form the Eastern coastal plains. The coastal plains are for the most part of delta regions formed by the Godavari, Krishna, and Penna rivers.

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The Eastern Ghats are not continuous and each section of this their own name. The Eastern Ghats are a major dividing line in the state's geography. The Kadapa Basinformed by two arching branches of the Eastern Ghats is a mineral-rich area. The Ghats become more pronounced towards the south and extreme north of the coast. Most of the coastal plains are put to intense agricultural use.

The Rayalaseema region has semi-arid conditions, where average rainfall is very low. In this region dry conditions prevails and droughts are more recurrently occurring. Lambasingi (or Lammasingi), a village in the Chintapalli Mandal of Visakhapatnam district is situated at 1000 meters above the sea level. It is the only place in South India which has snowfall and is also nicknamed as Kashmir of Andhra Pradesh. Throughout the year the temperature here ranges from 0 °C to 10 °C.

Geographically, Andhra Pradesh can be divided into following categories:

1) Deccan Plateau
2) Central Plateau
3) Eastern Highland
4) East Coastal Plains

1) Deccan Plateau-> the western part of Andhra Pradesh comes under Deccan Plateau region. It has semi arid climatic conditions. Ananthapur and Kurnool districts are under this region.

2) Central Plateau->Cuddapah, Prakasham and Guntur district comes under central plateau. It his highland with low to high vegetation cover.

3) Eastern Highland-> This region run parallel to Eastern Ghat. Eastern highland gets good rain through retreating and winter cyclones from Bay of Bengal.

4) East Coastal Plain: These plain is often called Circar in this region. These coastal plains form large deltas from Godavari and Krishna river. Many irrigation project and navigation project are being setup in this region. This area consists of major ports like Vishakhapatnam. Lake Pulicat is brackish water lake on the eastern coastal plains.

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Climate of Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is situated on the south eastern coast of India and is the eighth largest state in India. Hyderabad is the capital of both Andhra Pradesh as well as Telangana but it remains the de jure capital for Andhra Pradesh.

The state is planning to make Amravati its new capital. It is a beautiful state which is rich in culture and heritage. There are beautiful palaces, museums, beaches in the state.

Andhra Pradesh has varied topography. It is bordered by Telangana, Orissa and Chhattisgarh in north , Bay of Bengal in east, Tamil Nadu in south and Karnataka in west. It has the second largest coastline in India. It also has two important rivers flowing through it, Godavari and Krishna. Andhra Pradesh has often been called the food bowl of the south.

Climate of Andhra Pradesh can be referred to as tropical. There are three main seasons in the state i.e. monsoon, summer and winter and there is also short spring season. There is little or no discrepancy in weather in different areas of the state since the state is close to rivers, seas and hills. Moderate climate is experienced in the plateau region in comparison to the coastal belt and low valleys.

Summer season starts from March and continues up to mid June that allows the temperature to increase up to 42 degree maximum. In various regions, variation in maximum temperature is from 23°C to 28°C and a variation can be seen in minimum ranges from 10°C to 12°C. Hot summers are experienced in coastal plains, and at times, temperature reaches at 42 degree centigrade at some places. Temperate climate is enjoyed by plateau residents where cool summers and cold winters are experienced.

A degree of relief can be enjoyed when pre-monsoon showers hit state somewhere around the middle of June, but only drawback of this time is that there is a rise in humidity. Monsoon arrive in the state in the month of July and stays till September but sometimes in October, November and December, heavy rainfall can be experienced. Southwest monsoon winds offer maximum rainfall at times reaching up to 55 inches maximum.

In regions closer to coast, rainfall is heavy but in northern and western plateau regions, meager rainfall is observed. During October and November, heavy rainfall occurs due to north east monsoon winds. From October till February, winter season is experienced by state and this time of year is quite enjoyable and pleasant. Mild winters are enjoyed, and temperature does not go below 16 degree. This is the perfect time to visit this beautiful state.

Seasons of the State

Andhra Pradesh has four distinct seasons like whole of India.Summer season from March till June , And thereafter Monsoon Season from July

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to September and then winter season from October to February and then Spring Season

Summer Season

In Andhra Pradesh, summer season lasts from March till June. Level of moisture is quite high during this time. Summer temperatures in coastal plains' region are higher in comparison to the remaining state. Temperature during summer months oscillates between 20 degree centigrade and 40 degree centigrade. In some places, temperatures rise to about 45 degree on a sunny day.

Monsoon Season

Tropical rains occur in the state of Andhra Pradesh during months of July till September. Heavy rainfall is experienced during this time. The total rainfall's one third is received through North eastern monsoons. In mid June, pre monsoon showers hit state bringing a relief from the scorching heat but at the same time humidity increases. From July till September, monsoon season continues, but from October to December, heavy downpour is experienced. For maximum rains in the state, southwest monsoon winds is considered to be responsible.

In the region located close to coast, heavy rainfall occurs in comparison to plateau regions, especially in west and north regions getting lesser rainfall. Heavy showers are experienced in October and November months, in coastal regions.

Winter Season

From October to February, state experiences winter season. Since there is a vast expanse of the coastal belt in this state, winters are not too excruciating.

Spring Season

A very short spring season also occurs in March and April. During this season, new leaves are sprouted by dry tree or plant branches and the whole atmosphere looks colorful and vibrant. Similarly, New Year is signified by Ugadi, and this is time when one must let bygones be bygones and look forward to an exciting and glorious beginning.

Agro-Climatic Zones

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Based on the climate parameters i.e., rainfall and temperature, the State is broadly divided into 9 distinct Agro-Climatic Zones. The agriculture planning for each zone is supported with the research and recommendations of a Regional Agriculture Research Station of ANGRAU set up within the particular zone.

In an attempt to plan the agricultural operations in much more focused way, these 9 agro climatic zones have been divided into 322 farming situations, which are unique in terms of microenvironment and need specific practices under each situation.

Climate Change in the State

Climate change has adverse effects on whole of India and Andhra is no

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different when comes to climate change. As state is adversely effected by the climate change. Due to coastal area and agricultural economy , state has large impact of climate change. Cyclones also hit the state aggravating the conditions of the state. Major Climate Change issues for the State arise in the agriculture sector and for the long coastline.

Agriculture is severely affected by variability in rainfall and temperature patterns, while rising sea levels and extreme events of marine origin, such as cyclones pose problems for the coastal areas. Besides these, other critical areas of concern are food security, increasing number of climate vulnerable habitats (like slums or village dwellings) and climate vulnerable infrastructure (like roads and bridges which may be washed away by floods). The State Action Plan for Climate Change(SAPCC) has been designed around the existing policies of the State Government by taking into consideration ongoing programmes and schemes being implemented at the State level, as well as the National Action Plan for Climate Change(NAPCC).

Objectives of State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC)

- Inclusive and sustainable development of the State that protects the vulnerable sections of society from adverse effects of CC
- Improved ecological sustainability
- Provide a framework to undertake actions that deliver benefits for growth and development while mitigating and adapting to CC
- Prioritize adaptation/mitigation options for the State and identify financing options
- Engineering new and innovative policies/mechanisms to promote sustainable development.

The climate change strategy and action plan have been based on 5 main guiding principles

• The strategy is focused around supporting the objective of the Central Government on NAPCC, inclusive growth and ensuring economic sustainability for the long term. Actions would be undertaken which deliver benefits for growth and development, while mitigating climate change and ensuring ecological sustainability.

• Initiate process to mobilize significant investments. An estimation of additional resource requirements and exploration of existing and new carbon finance potential has to be carried out.

• Mobilize people/institutions to work towards integrated solutions. This would involve building broader stakeholder engagement to widen perspectives and involvement in implementation. Considering governance and institutional contexts, appropriate institutional arrangements and building capacities have to be ensured, keeping in view the coordination between departments, stakeholders and integration with

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