



FIFTY FOURTH MEETING OF
THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
TO
APPROVE
ELEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (2007-12)

SPEECH OF
Dr. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

19th DECEMBER, 2007

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Respected Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Galaxy of Union Cabinet Ministers, Distinguished Chief Ministers and Friends,

Allow me, at the outset to sincerely thank the Chairman of the Planning Commission and Deputy Chairman for convening the fifty fourth meeting of the National Development Council. I reverentially congratulate our Prime Minister for wisely steering the nation, especially its economy yet again at crucial junctures. Accelerating national economy, from 5.5% to 7.6% from Ninth Plan to Tenth Plan has made it possible for all of us assembled here to dream about 9% or even 10% growth during the Eleventh plan. Role played by the professional duo to dream big and substantially achieve the same would surely be recorded by future historians. Therefore, I congratulate both of them once again.

The state and people of Andhra Pradesh represent a unique microcosm of Indian union itself – blending its

linguistic, ethnic and geographical diversity. No wonder, its economic rhythm, down the decades has been in harmony with the moving national trends. And its per capita income, like a dutiful Indian wife has always been a modest step behind. But, as growth process accelerates, our state, like a confident woman in the new century looks likely to equal or even surpass national growth levels. Half yearly growth of 9.7% in our economy during 2007-08 is an auspicious beginning for Eleventh Plan.

The approach paper for Eleventh Plan is well thought out and quite a comprehensive document. It envisions 9% plus growth with added emphasis on social and farm sectors for broadening opportunity spectrum to include all sections of the society. It will surely hasten poverty reduction and help bridge multiple divides. Education, nutrition and health sectors have been accorded the highest priority. Gross Budgetary Support to the Eleventh Plan has been enhanced to a historic high. We, therefore support the broad approach as indicated in the plan document.

However, before approaching the Eleventh Plan, we must assess the preceding decadal performance of the whole economy and the relative performance of its different sectors, especially those of priority to us like Agriculture. The picture emerging in Andhra Pradesh is rather mixed. The economy is doing quite well in a few enclaves like Infrastructure and IT sector and these gains need consolidation. However, agricultural sector, especially during drought years continues to border on crisis impacting the entire rural population adversely. If not corrected, it would not only undermine planned economic growth, but afflict our equitable socio-demographic development which is so very essential for an inclusive democratic polity. It is in this context that I would like to share with you some of our experiences and inform this august audience regarding our achievements and learnings.

A.P. Economy – Rise, Decline and Restoration

After Independence, experts broadly agree that Indian Economy broke from the past growth trend in around 1980. During Eighties, the state GSDP growth

averaged 6.03% - higher than Nation's GDP average of 5.68%. Relative slippage commenced during Nineties and became too glaring thereafter. Our GSDP growth during 1992-2002 averaged 5%, significantly lower than National GDP average of 6%. Reform process sweeping across India appears to have left our state untouched during nineties. However, due to bold policy initiatives during mid course in several major areas, the growth trend during 10th Plan in A.P. is 7.1%. It is by far the highest growth achieved during any Five Year Plan in AP – Just as it is true for India.

Therefore, we are confidently targeting for 9.5% annual growth in overall economy of AP during Eleventh Plan (2007-12). The sectoral targets are 5.0% for agriculture and livestock, 10% for industrial sector and 11% for services sector. However, the centrality of bold and sustained state intervention as a necessary precondition for achieving this lofty goal has to be understood – and imbibed by all of us while launching the plan.

Highest Priority to Irrigation and Soil Water Management Through Jalayagnam

Blessed with a riverine geography and a history of rich irrigation systems, somehow, public investment in this vital sector almost dried up during eighties and nineties. No wonder, total irrigation potential realized during the decade spanning Eighth and Ninth Plan was less than 8 lakh acres. And, it was mainly created through private investment by sinking bore wells.

But now, driven by democratic mandate, a massive programme of creating 73 lakh acres fresh ayacut and stabilizing 22 lakh acres by constructing 36 major and 18 medium projects has been mounted since mid Tenth Plan. Several projects have been completed thereby creating a potential of 16 lakh acres during the Tenth Plan. All other projects are on fast track and the state is determined to complete them by 2012. Thus; an additional 80 lakh acre potential is on its way to be created or stabilized during Eleventh Plan. Temples of modern India as envisioned by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru are, showing up

across the riverine geography of A.P. Irrigation history, after a generational gap appears to be repeating itself.

Modernization of Godavari - Krishna irrigation system along with drainage and construction of bunds along major rivers and canals is yet another initiative. It would provide major cushion against torrential rains ravaging crops, livestock, property and population.

Minor Irrigation and livelihoods programme have also been scaled up in an unprecedented manner. A major programme of revival and restoration of all water bodies including Panchayat Raj tanks has been initiated. To ensure optimum utilization of surface water run off, an analysis of water use efficiency of each hydrological unit is being carried out. All these initiatives would revive and rejuvenate 32 lakh acres ayacut.

Bharat Nirman, inter-alia aims at creating 16 million hectares irrigation potential during Eleventh Plan. As 'Jalayagnam' gets accomplished, I humbly submit that 25% of this lofty goal shall be A.P's contribution. We,

therefore solicit total cooperation and facilitation from various Ministries of GOI in this auspicious national endeavor.

As the entire water flowing into the sea is harnessed within the state geography, the very need for linking rivers across peninsular India may, perhaps become redundant. Intra peninsular linking, in isolation has been opposed by us in the past as well. We repeat our stand – yet again. We must have a national perspective on water development.

Heralding Agricultural Renaissance

Agriculture is not merely a sector contributing a certain percentage to our economy, but is the central avenue around which the hopes and aspirations of our majority people converge. And, it shall remain so not only during Eleventh plan but decades beyond. It surely is a gigantic task to rejuvenate this most important sector. But all of us together have to do it – and succeed.

One of the major challenges of the Eleventh Plan must be to reverse the deceleration witnessed since mid

nineties. This decadal deceleration is the root cause of rural distress. It has impacted adversely upon all farm size classes. Its consequences are surfacing as a tragic human story with unflinching regularity across the country.

With a view to get out of the morass, the same National Development Council (NDC) deliberated exclusively during its last meeting focusing entirely on Agriculture Sector. The Council resolved its commitment to achieve 4% annual growth in Agriculture and also ensure food security. Two new initiatives namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) were launched. We welcome both the initiatives with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crores. We were further enthused when Hon'ble Prime Minister along with his team visited our state and held detailed discussions to achieve these twin objectives.

The main objective is to incentivise the states to enhance public investments in Agriculture and Allied Sectors. It is axiomatic that multipurpose river valley projects enhance crop yield by irrigating a large swathe

of agricultural geography, provide water to a huge bovine population and increases fish production. Somehow, this investment does not find mention in parameters fixed for allocations to the states. The very first and foremost input needed for crop is water. All other elements like credit, research, extension and marketing follow thereafter. Following this time tested logic, may I request GOI and Planning Commission to revise and modify the parameter by including Irrigation investments for deciding state allocations under new Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. How can krishi ever achieve 'vikas' without water 'yojana'?

Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Livestock sub-sector is doing fairly well even during drought years. It is providing sustainable daily income to nearly 60 lakh families even during adverse seasonal conditions. The survival of pastoralism is crucial for sustainable land use. Besides conserving domestic biodiversity, it is a means of producing food in dry lands without depleting ground water resources. Budgetary allocations towards live stock could yield highest returns.

Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh has the potential to grow exponentially with the increase in the water spread area due to the Irrigation Projects underway. This sector needs a totally fresh look altogether. Historically, it is treated as allied to Agriculture. By Eleventh Plan, its contribution to GDP may almost equal to that of crop sector. Thereafter, it may be the dominant sub-sector under Agriculture. Therefore, time has come to appropriately change our approach and provide solid budgetary support to this important sub-sector as well. In years to come, there may not be anything like 'sub' about it. Time has come to support this booming yet eco-friendly sector.

Agriculture Research, Extension and Marketing

We have a vast Agricultural Research System. It has served the country well during 70's & 80's. But somehow, the elan is missing thereafter. Reasons may be very many – But business as usual approach shall be disastrous. Food grain production for last decade or so is unable to keep pace even with declining population growth rates. It is worrisome. Imports may provide short term solution.

But, as a country with 1.1 billion people and growing @ 1.6%, we must be able to produce enough food during every single year – for all the times to come. And for that, research must regain its past elan witnessed during 70's & 80's.

'Knowledge deficit', is identified as one of the constraints by National Farmer's Commission. We may perhaps think of inter-connecting all research institutions, extension directorates and Agricultural marketing yards with multilane cyber corridor with adequate Bandwidth through a Satellite. It is possible for groups of farmers to interact with research scientists, extension functionaries and market managers at the same time to arrive at better and informed decisions. Electronic soil quality cards may also be introduced. All knowledge based technologies must keep the farmer informed about appropriate crop, seed, package of practices and market opportunities available at his doorstep. It would save him from distress.

Agricultural Including Livestock Insurance

On the very concept of Agricultural Insurance, I sincerely feel that it should aim at insuring farmer's effort rather than insuring only the bank loan. Agricultural Insurance scheme with village as an insurance unit for one dominant crop has been tried with good success in 5 districts of Andhra Pradesh. We are going to expand its scope and to cover all the 23 districts gradually. With some modifications and simplifications, it may be possible to extend the scheme to the whole country during Eleventh Plan.

As livestock sector booms on a sustained basis, it is bound to overtake crop sector by 2012. 60 lakh families depend upon livestock in Andhra Pradesh. Around 5 lakh families, owning sheep and goat have already been covered with 100% insurance of their livestock. Inspired by its resounding success, we plan to cover entire livestock of all the families with 100% insurance in A.P. They are mostly managed by women folks especially from

poor families. It would enhance their income security and help mitigate their poverty as well.

Farmers' Distress – P.M's Special Package

Credit flow to farmers has doubled during last 3 years. However, due to erratic monsoon and uncertain markets, the overhang of debt burden has also gone up considerably. Private money lending with usually high rates of interest only compounds the problem. Therefore, farmer's distress sometimes resulting in tragic suicides continues to dot our national landscape.

We in A.P. have come out with a novel package more than 3 years ago. It addressed the then acute problem boldly. I feel vindicated as our patience and perseverance surely decimated the suicidal levels within a couple of years. Therefore, I congratulate the Prime Minister to have confronted the problem boldly and come out with the Special Package. It must continue in the foreseeable future – as the challenge though reduced, continues to persist.

Power is Strength

9% growth in economy demands 12% growth in power sector. Therefore, 75% additional power is a must to push our economy during Eleventh Plan. As the growth process accelerates, actual demand may be even more. We are quite conscious of the critical need to add to grid capacity afresh thereby meeting cumulative demand from all the sectors. 12127 MW power generation capacity on 1.4.2007 shall witness a whopping 14000 MW additionality during Eleventh Plan. Power generation, like Jalayagnam is mounted up on a war footing now.

Simultaneously, We are committed to minimize the cost of energy through improvement of efficiency of Transmission and Distribution (T&D) network, particularly catering to the Agriculture sector. Effective implementation of Power reforms in the state have resulted in bringing down the T&D losses from 23.15% in 2003-04 to 20.14% in 2007-08 and to reduce it further to 17.08% by 2009-10. It is proposed to be achieved by implementing High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS), separate Industrial Express feeders and strengthening of T&D network.

A matter of grave concern for us is the future availability of natural gas and coal at reasonable prices. I strongly urge that the central policy approach should harp on this aspect considering the overall growth projections solely related to quality power.

Our strategy is simple – Produce enough power to drive 9% growth and then conserve every unit of energy right from the point of generation all the way right up to the point of ultimate consumption - especially farmers.

Accelerating Industrial Growth

The Industrial sector has gained in strength, slowly yet surely in many ways over last decade or so. It has become possible due to proactive role of state viz. effective policy implementation including single window clearance and incentives, establishing world class infrastructure and most importantly, making available power at the cheapest industrial tariff, thereby releasing entrepreneurial energies in private as well as public sector. A positive mind set of the vast labour force across the industries has also played

its silent role in this growth process. To achieve a growth rate of 9.5% in GSDP, the Industry sector should grow at 10% with manufacturing growing at 12% during XI Plan period. It would require world class facilities like Ports, Airports, Expressways, quality power supply, water supply and world class Telecom. All this would need substantial resources. State plan is already over stretched due to heavy commitments towards ongoing Irrigation Projects. Therefore, Central support in the nature of adequate viability gap funding due to long gestation lag for these infrastructural projects becomes inevitable.

However, within our resource limits, these projects are being planned and executed in a time bound manner in Andhra Pradesh. Results are bound to show up in years to come. We are determined to accelerate manufacturing sector growth by aggressively pursuing Investor-friendly policies. Hyderabad, Vizag and Tada along with their surrounding hinterland of late are becoming the most favoured destinations for a host of industries.

Booming Services Sector for Enhanced Employability

More than 50% of GSDP is accounted for by services sector. If its sustained growth witnessed over last 15 years is any indication, it may as well contribute 57% of GSDP by 2012. Time has come to leverage this booming sector for locating future employment opportunities for our youthful, energetic and ambitious workforce. A few doable suggestions are as follows:

- i) Interconnect all the villages by a Broadband Network with adequate Bandwidth. It would provide voice, text, data and image as integrated service networked through multilane cyber corridor.
- ii) Sustaining quality of technical and professional manpower coming out from various institutes and universities would need the best and committed faculty. Today, it is surely in short supply. As we plan to enhance intake, we must simultaneously provide for quality faculty.

- iii) Modernization of laboratories, existing faculty development, curriculum improvement, course improvement, course flexibility, industry interaction research and development of management capacity would be simultaneously required for quality improvement.

Environment is Sensitive

We are fully aware that the rapid growth in economy need not intensify environmental degradation. We are adopting policies for ensuring safeguards to ecology. We ensure improving air and water quality, and also in solid waste, bio medical waste and hazardous waste management.

For eco-restoration, waste land development by raising Pongamia and Jatropha, avenues for the private participation are being explored. Under Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (REGS), 20% of the funds is targeted to be earmarked for taking-up plantations. With the optimal utilization of funds under REGS, it is programmed to

achieve 33% tree cover in the state from the current level of 22.8%. 8,412 Vana Samrakshna Samithis are programmed to be covered through World Bank & NABARD Funded Schemes besides the Forest Development Agency.

Bridging Multiple Divides to Enhance Social Harmony:

Socially segregated and geographically separated groups like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are entitled for 23% plan allocation across the sectors through SCP and TSP mechanism. I must confess that our performance has fallen short during Ninth and Tenth Plans. Now, we are not only committed to take it to expected level, but exceed it in future. During 2007-08, we have already earmarked 25% allocation to these groups and the tempo shall be maintained during the entire plan. Similarly, scholarships to all the minorities in A.P. have been enhanced like never before. It would bring them out from confines of home and hopelessness to school with a hope for better future. In particular, the impact of

education on girl children in medium and long term would be quite positive. Hon'ble Prime Minister's 15-point programme for minorities is being implemented in AP in its letter and spirit. OBCs constitute an important segment of our society. Besides providing educational opportunities, livelihood enhancement programmes for improving their incomes are under implementation.

To encourage integration and thereby enhancing harmony among all sections of the society, integrated hostels with children from all communities are planned wherein accommodation and dining together would facilitate harmony. We intend to transmit the scholarship amount of around 20 lakh students belonging to SC, ST, OBC and Minority categories to reach the mother of the child directly through e-banking facility.

Remote and Interior areas in Andhra Pradesh, like rest of the country have suffered developmental deficit over decades. Vast distance from state capital has also created attention deficit. These factors have rendered them as fertile ground for extremist movement.

Government is making sincere effort to tackle this long festering problem.

We are committed to resolve this extremist movement through the process of dialogue and consultation. Every one knows that power in our democracy flows through ballot – not bullet. With this conviction, a dialogue was initiated inviting extremists during 2004 to join the main stream. In spite of Government's honest endeavour, the dialogue could not sustain since later 2005. However, as the doors remain open, Government's basic duty to uphold the law of the land coupled with integrated development of tribal and interior areas continues unabated. It is expected that well within the time frame of Eleventh Plan, the problem may be contained - by and large.

Social Sector Programmes:

Education for All:

Highest ever priority accorded to this most vital sector by substantially escalating Gross Support from 7.68% in Tenth Plan to 19.23% in Eleventh Plan is welcome. A set

of actions proposed like upgradation of Upper Primary Schools to Secondary schools at mandal level, modernizing laboratory and library facilities, continuous teacher training and provision of hostels and residential schools for girls are in fact in harmony with what we, in Andhra Pradesh have been following all along. However, we regard education as the most essential building block for an equitable, harmonious and prosperous society. A few suggestions, as born out of our experience may be useful.

- i) Central support to Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is sought to be reduced from 75% to 50% gradually over Eleventh Plan span. I am afraid, this is bound to hurt those very sections of society, especially SC, ST, Minorities and women who continue to lag in literacy inspite of our best efforts. Literacy in AP by the end of Eleventh Plan is likely to be 75%, but performance among SC, ST groups, especially in rural areas would be even less. Therefore, to achieve the lofty goal of SSA, the momentum of Tenth Plan have to continue even

beyond Eleventh Plan. As substantial resources of the state are tied down to irrigation, power and agriculture, it is my humble request to Prime Minister to keep 75% contribution by centre absolutely intact. It is a must. Any reduction in central support would only harm rural children – especially from SC/ST communities. State contribution of 25% is quite reasonable and shall continue till '**Education for All**' becomes a reality.

- ii) The success of SSA has been pressurising high school system for quite sometime. Recognition of this aspect and supported by appropriate measures would ensure a healthy secondary education unfolding during Eleventh Plan. Its impact upon girl children is bound to have a multiplier impact like increasing the age of marriage and eventually reducing mortality rates of population.
- iii) Education for all upto Class X must be interlaced with solid nutritious food. It would have a synergetic impact

upon the children's health and would facilitate better learnings. It would also be conducive for overall social harmony.

- iv) Government of India intends to establish several Central Universities, including IITs, IIMs and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research. We are grateful to the center for establishing a Green Field IIT in A.P. Keeping in view its genuine needs, my humble request to Hon'ble Prime Minister is to establish atleast one Central University, one IIM and one Indian Institute of Sciences Education and Research in A.P.

Health for All

Eleventh Plan approach to provide affordable health services to the entire population of reasonable quality is welcome. Strengthening all aspects of health care system, namely, preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative are in order. Public Health spending of atleast 2% of GDP has our full support. It is well

recognized that better health of our population would need access to clean drinking water, sanitation, nutritious diet, hygiene and feeding practices.

Population growth rate in Andhra Pradesh has considerably come down during last 20 years. Annual growth rate stands at 1.20% today. It has become possible by providing subsidized and balanced nutrition and access to credit through self help groups reaching to its 50% population. Efforts shall continue to bring it down to below 1.0% by 2012. It has been one of the most dramatic success stories of population control in the country. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is also showing significant decline of late. Concerted efforts would continue to ensure its downward trend so as to bring it below 40 by 2012.

MMR is planned below 100 and neonatal mortality rate at 25 by the end of Eleventh Plan.

In times of emergency relating to maternal and neonatal/infant health complications, poor families especially in rural areas face formidable challenges. Rural

Emergency Health Transportation Scheme (REHTS) enables such families to promptly access the hospital health care free of cost. The scheme is initiated in PPP mode wherein 502 ambulances strategically located across the state and equipped with trained staff are ready to evacuate any emergency case anywhere in A.P. on 24x7x365 basis – Just with a toll free number 108. Around 2500 families are accessing this critical service on a daily basis.

Yet another initiative is Health Information Helpline – (104). It allows any person anywhere to access a qualified doctor to discuss his/her health problems. More than 10,000 calls per day with 50% genuine and serious calls are handled by this Helpline – Another initiative running successfully in PPP mode.

This apart, our state has embarked upon a comprehensive health Insurance Scheme covering almost its entire population through Rajiv Arogya Sri. Presently it is implemented on a trial basis in five districts. However, the entire state would be covered within a year or so. It

covers more than 82% families in the state for treatment of major ailments such as cancer, kidney failure, heart, neurosurgical diseases including trauma and burns. Normally, this section of population cannot even imagine having access to high tech corporate hospital services. In normal circumstances, poor families when confronted with these major ailments treat them as a warrant of death – sooner or later. Costly treatment results in heavy indebtedness. Irrespective of the outcome of treatment, the family continues to suffer under debt burden with serious tragic consequences. In future, this Arogya Sri scheme covering all needy population in the state is worth replicating across the entire country. Average expenditure per district comes to a meager Rs. 30 crores per year.

Womens' Agency:

Woman is the pivot around which our society revolves in equilibrium. They power all sectors of our economy, especially its agriculture - silently. For growth to be truly inclusive, their protection, well being, development, empowerment and participation is a must. Experience

shows that sustained success has followed group approach everywhere with multiple benefits through cross cutting theme. This recognition during Eleventh Plan is in full synch with our own approach in A.P. wherein institutional mechanism is firmly in place to involve these groups in developmental process through and through.

Process of group formation commenced during 80's and by now it has swept entire state of Andhra Pradesh in a silent yet dignified manner. This enormous movement has overpowered caste, political and religious boundaries. Today there are 6 lakh groups comprising 9 million members with a corpus of Rs. 4,000 crores. It has substantially become possible by subsidizing interest and making loans available at 3% rate per annum. Membership strength and quantum of revolving fund in A.P. incidentally is more than that of a Grameena Bank of Bangladesh. Our aim is to cover almost all the families in A.P. with 14 lakh groups networking 20 million members and the corpus swelling to more than Rs. 1 lakh crores by 2012.

Saturating Basic Rural Infrastructure

Since Independence, we had completed six decades of journey as Tenth Plan came to a close in 2007. Therefore, during Eleventh Plan, it is possible to think of satisfying a set of basic needs to all our people – especially residing in rural areas. Rural roads, drinking water, sanitation, literacy, mid-day meals, pucca dwelling with an electrical connection and ISDN connectivity is going to be a reality in Andhra Pradesh with in next three years. It is being achieved through a broad sweep under 'INDIRAMMA'.

A largest ever social security net is providing pension to 30 lakh persons comprising aged, handicapped and widows across the state.

Collective impact of all these anti poverty measures is visible in our Twenty Point Programme (TPP) ranking. Scraping at the bottom with 23rd rank a decade ago, it has gradually climbed to 2nd ranking now. Eradicating

poverty in its multiple manifestations is perhaps possible during Eleventh Plan.

Urban Management

Economic growth, substantially driven by Industries and Services sector is witnessing accelerated demographic expansion of urban population, not witnessed during last century across the state. The emerging challenge needs to be tackled on multiple fronts simultaneously.

Drinking water is obviously the topmost challenge. Government aims to increase the water supply to achieve 100 liters per capita per day against 80 liters (WHO standards) to all the urban areas including municipalities by 2009. Progress is on track. More over, emerging water challenge to the capital twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad is taken on a war footing. 90 million gallons per day are being added from Krishna Drinking Water Scheme, thereby improving water availability from 95 LPCD to 145 LPCD. A perspective plan is ready to tap

10 TMC of Godavari Water and is likely to be executed during Eleventh Plan. Several SEZs are planned around the ever expanding Hyderabad Megapolis. Total water demand for these SEZ is also factored in future water planning for the city.

Traffic is yet another challenge. A string of totally self-sufficient satellite town ships are planned to reduce over crowding and congestion in the twin cities.

Service providers in urban areas normally inhabit low lying slums. Government is committed to provide shelter with individual water supply and adequate drainage facilities to all such poor slum dwellers by 2009. Progress, hitherto is on track.

Therefore, all the urban centers in the state are planned for a healthy growth. Its capital Hyderabad, of course is evolving as a future megapolis of 21st Century. Historically, it has been a regional city. But now, as the modern sectors like Information, Communication Technology and Bio-Technology propel it towards future,

thousands of young population from across the country is gravitating towards it as their future destination. City is growing from a regional entity to a national megapolis. The city is surely on its way to become a jewel of India in the coming decades.

Infrastructure Projects

Our experience in envisioning major infrastructure projects and accomplishing them punctually has been the success story during Tenth Plan. Hyderabad International Airport commenced work during 2005 and it shall be operational by 2008. Outer Ring Road (ORR) enveloping the capital city of Hyderabad so as to provide enough breathing space for its future needs is under implementation. Progress is on track. Upgrading the existing ports and two new ports are planned and they would be completed by 2010. Projects to ensure water and power supply on 24x7 basis in the capital city of Hyderabad are under brisk execution.

Keeping in view our successful record, and with a view to give a further fillip to its developmental momentum, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and his team have reviewed major infrastructural projects in Andhra Pradesh on 31.7.2007. They relate to ultra mega power projects, major refinery expansion, Hyderabad Metro Rail and High Speed Rail Corridor interconnecting south Indian states. After intense discussions, we are confident that with the pro-active support from various Ministries of Govt. of India, each one of these projects shall be a reality before 2012.

Information Technology

We are leveraging this fast rising sector to multiply employment opportunities for our aspiring youth. Around one million youngsters are likely to be absorbed in IT and ITES sector during Eleventh Plan in A.P.

As the State attracts National and International attention in high tech sectors, we are committed to take its benefit to all its nooks and corners. During the very first year of Eleventh Plan, we would interconnect around

1200 points upto district/sub district/mandal level with 2 MBPS Bandwidth through optical fibre cable (OFC) network. Thereafter, concrete plans are afoot to interconnect all panchayats/ wards/ schools/ hospitals/ agriculture markets/ revenue and all development offices numbering 50,000 points across the state with similar Broadband network of 100 mbps Bandwidth through the same optical fibre cable (OFC) during next two to three years. Apart from interconnecting our entire population, it would generate at least 2 lakh employment opportunities reaching right upto each panchayat/ward.

Shelter for All

24.95 lakh poor families in A.P. have constructed and occupied their own houses with active state support during Tenth Plan. The Government is committed to provide **Shelter for All**. Demand for houses is 50 lakh in rural areas and 5 lakh in urban areas at the beginning of Eleventh Plan. Taking into account the future emerging needs; we are constructing 21 lakh houses this year. The

same scorching pace would continue in every single coming year. The goal of **shelter for all** shall be a reality in my state well within the span of Eleventh Plan.

All these housing units sprouting everywhere are fast transforming into new homes as family members occupy them. Its ownership title in the name of women is infusing a quiet confidence amongst them. Almost half the families at the bottom of the social pyramid, so empowered economically in our state augers well for consequential domestic harmony and social peace.

Conclusion

The policy initiatives I have referred to are broadly indicative but not exhaustive. We are keen to listen to experiences and initiatives of others – especially our neighbouring states.

We, in Andhra Pradesh have a dream – to transform our state into **Haritha Bhoomi** – And to ensure gainful employment to one and all. Drinking Water, Housing,

Sanitation, Electricity, Telephone and Credit to all the households shall be a reality by 2012.

With silent determination, we have almost caught up with growth trends of the country during Tenth Plan. And now, we intend to help accelerate Indian GDP beyond 9% by in fact exceeding it during the Eleventh Plan.

JAI HIND
