



## TIRUPATI COMMISSIONERATE AND TOURISM AND PILGRIMAGE

Tirupati Commissionerate was formed w.e.f 01-11-2012 spread over four districts of Andhra Pradesh popularly known as Royalaseema. Each district is housing a division and is also delighting every one with exotic locations of nature, art & architecture .

**ANANTAPUR      KADAPA      KURNOOL      CHITTOOR**

(CLICK ON THE DISTRICT TO ENTER THE WORLD OF BEAUTY AND DELIGHT)

Historically speaking these districts with abundance of temples, lush green forest, hills, waterfalls, ashramams and historical places command great respect world wide for their exuberant beauty, spirituality & Culture.



### MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

TIRUPATI	SRI KALAHASTI	KANIPAKAM	HORSLEYHILLS	TALAKONA
GOOTY	PUTTAPARTHI	TADIPATRI	PENUGONDA	LEPAKSHI
KADAPA	TALLAPAKA	GANDIKOTA	BRAMHAMGARI	MATHAM
KURNOOL	BELUMCAVES	SRI SAILAM	AHOBILAM	MANTRALAYAM



# ANANTAPUR

(THE LAND OF GODS AND KINGS)

Anantapur is the largest district of Andhra Pradesh and the second largest district in India, first being the Ladakh Valley of Kashmir. Known throughout the country for its silk trade industry, it is said that Anantapur derived its name from, 'Anantasagaram' (meaning Endless Ocean), a huge tank in the vicinity. 'Hande Anantapuram' is the other name for the place.

Anantapur district has many tourist places worth visiting. The district appears to be drenched in a celestial aura with its ancient temples. There are imposing forts in its periphery that conjure up the reminiscences of the royalty. Celebration of fairs and festivals keep it's dwellers in cheerful spirits. Anantapur district also forms part of the Rayalaseema region. Just travel to Ananthapur and be a witness to the cache of asceticism along with the glorious.past.



## PLACES OF INTEREST

PUTTAPARTHI  
KADIRI  
GOOTY  
ANANTASAGARAM

PENUGONDA  
LEPAKSHI  
RAIDURGAM  
YOGI VEMANA

TIMMAMMA MARRIMANU  
HEMAVATI  
TADIPATRI  
YADIKI CAVES & OTHERS

**HOW TO REACH** : Anantapur is connected to cities like Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mumbai, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Pune, Vishakapatnam and other major cities, by a well laid out network of trains and Buses as the National Highways 7 and 205 pass through.



## ANANTAPUR (THE LAND OF GODS AND KINGS)

### PUTTAPARTHI

India has always been known for its spiritual and cultural roots. This divine land has given birth to numerous blessed souls and mystics. Puttaparthi being one of such lands got recognition with the little boy who was born here and later rose up to be known as 'Sri Satya Sai Baba'.



Puttaparthi is today an important spiritual destination for the devotees of Sri Satya Sai Baba, who are spread all over the world. The Prashanti Nilayam ashram here, with a huge prayer hall where spiritual discourses are held regularly, and the meditation centre are important places of interest.

#### **HOW TO REACH :**

##### **Air**

Puttaparthi has an airport which is connected to Mumbai and Chennai by Indian Airlines as a stopover for their Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam services. The services are however run only seasonally and on need base and flights are not scheduled regularly. Passengers desiring to travel here should check the flight schedule before planning their trip by air. It is located 6 km from the ashram. It is owned by the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and is spread over 450 acres (1.8 km) of land, housing a runway that is 2,230 metres long.

##### **Rail & Bus**

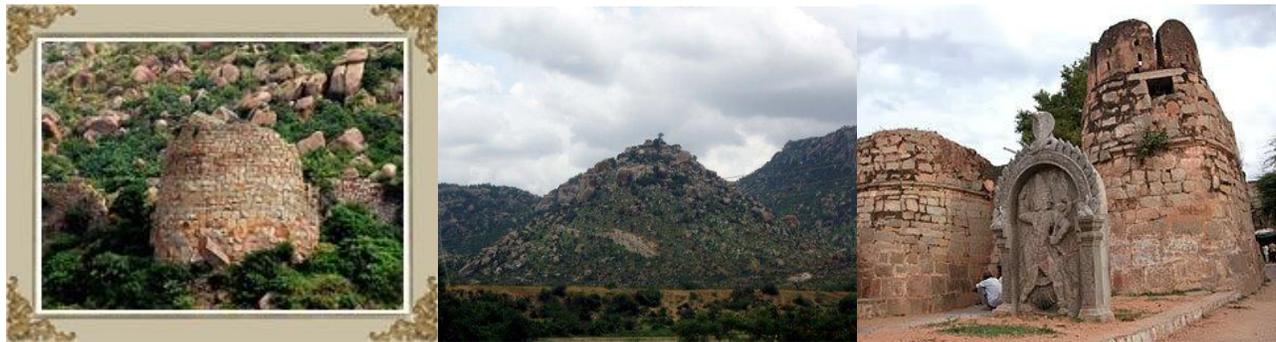
Puttaparthi has a railway station SSSPN (Sri Satya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam) which started functioning from 23 November 2000. It is about 8 kms from the ashram. This station falls under South Western Railway, Bangalore Division and lies on the Bangalore-Guntakal railway line. It is easy to reach the town from the railway station, in 20 - 25 mins, through various modes of transport like cabs, autos & APSRTC buses. It is connected to Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Mumbai and New Delhi directly. The nearest major railway station is 45 kms away at Dharmavaram, where one can board a train to many of the major cities in India. Dharmavaram railway station itself is connected to Puttaparthi by APSRTC buses.

Puttaparthi is well connected by road to Hyderabad (state capital) (472 kms ), Ananthapur (Dist. hqrs) (84 kms ), Bangalore (154 kms ), Hindupur (65 kms), Kadiri (70 kms ), Penukonda (40 kms ) and Chennai (375 kms ), by State-run APSRTC buses. KSRTC buses also ply from Bangalore.



## [PENUGONDA](#)

Penugonda is historically important town in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh. In the medieval times, it used to serve as the second capital of the Vijayanagar Kings. The Penugonda Fort is a colossal structure, whose each and every stone boasts of royalty of the erstwhile era. There are several other places of Interest like age old *Pache Parsvanath Swamy Temple*, Dargah of Baba Fakruddin and Kaleswara Baba Ashramam etc.



( Penugonda Fort)

This region was controlled at different points in history by the Hoysalas, Chalukyas, Vijayanagar, Nawabs, Maratha chieftain Murari Rao, Tipu Sultan, Nizam and eventually came under British rule after it was *ceded* to the British by the Nizam of Hyderabad. It was a melting pot of different religions but the town and fort were established by early Hoysala kings, who were practitioners of Jainism.

After Krishna Deva Raya, Venkatapathi Rayalu, the Emperor of Vijayanagar, took over. He made Raya Dalavayi Koneti Naidu (son of Kasturi Naidu, grandson of Akkappa Naidu, great-grandson of Kanaka Naidu of Chandragiri), as the governor of Penugonda and conferred him the title with Maha-rajara-sri and celebrated Koneti Naidu's marriage to Swarna. Koneti Naidu hailed from the Vasarasi family of Balija caste. Koneti Naidu ruled Penugonda, Rayadurga and Kundurpi Forts for about 17 years (1635-1652AD). After the ruling of Koneti Nayudu his descendants Raya Dalavayi Sri Venkatapathi Nayudu, Peda Timmappa Nayudu, Venkatapathi Nayudu, Koneti Nayudu, Rajagopala Nayudu and Timmappa Nayudu ruled this Penugonda country.

Because of its ancient Jain history and presence of many temples it is one of the most revered places for Jains. The famous *Pache Parsvanath Swamy Temple*, with idol of *Parsvanath* containing a single green coloured stone (Pacha) is located here. The famous Babaiah Dargah makes this place venerable to Muslims as well.

Hazrath Baba Fakruddin was a great Sufi Saint of 12th century. Purportedly before coming to Penugonda, he was a king of Sistan and Shahpur in Iran. Legend says that he was searching for a place to settle and his Guru gave him a dry twig and said to him: *..wherever this twig will bloom to a big plant stay there...* He planted the twig and slept under a tree only to awake and saw it become a beautiful plant and he stayed there. He is called Babaiah by the local people and due to the love and respect he garnered, many men of various faiths have taken his name over centuries.

This town is easily accessible since it is located on NH 7 that runs between Hyderabad and Bangalore and falls near Puttaparthi and Lepakshi.



## LEPAKSHI

Lepakshi, presently a small place, is very important historically and archaeologically. There are three shrines dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu and Virabhadra. The famous Veerabhadra temple, dedicated to Veerabhadra, is located here. Built by the brothers Viranna and Virupanna, the temple is a notable



example of the Vijayanagar architectural style. It is famous for its sculptures, which were created by the artisans of Vijayanagara empire. A huge Nandi bull made out of a single granite stone is one of the attractions in Lepakshi. The place is renowned for being one of the best repository of mural paintings of the Vijayanagar Kings. Many old Kannada inscriptions dating back to centuries can be seen on its walls. Legend has it that the Naga of the Nagalinga was carved out of a single stone by sculptors while they waited for their mother to prepare lunch.

## GOOTY



Gooty is a small town, known for one of the oldest forts of Andhra Pradesh. At a distance of 52 km from Anantapur city, the fort is a prime attraction for tourists. Above the plains in Gooty, the impregnable fort is perched at a height of 300 meters, amidst hills.

## TADIPATRI



Tadipatri is a hamlet that boasts of many interesting religious monuments. To be found 90 km from Anantapur, the Chintala Venkataramana Temple here is known for its gigantic spire. Bugga Ramalingeshwara Temple is another shrine beside Pennar River that is notable for a Lingam, set on a pedestal and perpetually sprinkled with water from a small brook.



### TIMMAMMA MARRIMANU:



Located about 35 km from Kadiri, and 100 km from Anantapur, it is famous for a banyan tree, which is locally called as "Thimmamma Marrimanu". It is regarded as the biggest of its kind in South India. Its branches spread over nearly 5 acres, named after 'Thimmamma' who was considered to be the representative of the Almighty. A small temple dedicated to Thimmamma lies under the tree. An account of this lady in Telugu kept at the shrine reveals that she was the daughter of a Setti Balija couple Sennakka Venkatappa and Mangamma, born in AD 1394. She was married to a Bala Veerayya who died in 1434, and Thimmamma committed 'Sati'

The banyan tree is believed to have sprouted at the place where Thimmamma ascended the funeral pyre, when she committed 'Sati'. The people of this area strongly believe that if a childless couple worship "Thimmamma" they will have a child the very next year. A big 'Jatara' is conducted here on the day of "Shivaratri" when thousands of people flock here to worship 'Thimmamma' on this occasion. To add to the pride of India, the "Marrimanu" was recorded as the biggest tree in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1989

### KADIRI

Kadiri is a Municipality situated at a distance of 90 km from Anantapur. It is known for the Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, a shrine where the presiding deity 'Swayambhu' emerged from the roots of



Khadri tree. The main attraction here is the idol that sweats. Rathotsavam (Chariot Festival) is the major event observed here every year, summoning many pilgrims from all over the state.

### HEMAVATI(Capital City of Pallavas)



Located at a distance of about 160 km from Anantapur, Hemavathi once served as the capital of Pallavas. The place has a remarkable collection of Pallava and Chola architecture. It boasts of the ruins of an ancient fort, the Hemavathi Fort. Doddeswara Swamy Temple is another structure that was built during the Pallava reign. Some other renowned temples situated here are Siddeshwara Swamy, Mallikarjuna Swamy and

Gorantla.



**RAYADURG:** 'Rayadurga' literally means "King's Hill Fortress". Raidurga Fort is a primeval structure, which had a considerable role in the history of the Vijayanagar Empire. The impregnable fort has many temples. The shrines dedicated to Narashimhaswamy, Hanuman, Prasanna Venkateswara, Jambukeswara,



Kanyakaparameswari and Elamma are the prominent ones. Though now mostly in ruins, the fort takes you back to the royal splendour. It also offers a breathtaking view of the town below.

### **ANANTASAGARAM**



Anantasagaram is an old reservoir in Anantapur. In fact, the city derived its name from the same tank. Acclaimed as one of the biggest reservoirs in the district, Anantasagaram occupies an area of 2,511 acres in Anantapur and Bukkarayasamudram. A fraction of the tank is known as 'Musalammakatta' and it is said to be named after Musalamma (a lady from Bukkarayasamudram), who sacrificed herself to seal the breach in the tank.

### **YADIKI CAVES**



You find Yadiki midway between Gooty and Tadipatri. The cave system is in the picturesque village of Konapulappadu which is 18 kms from Yadiki. The magnificent view of the hillocks, gorges, spring, paddy fields, lake and winding roads enthralls every visitor. Geemanugavi cave is 5kms in length and one can go up to 2kms inside. The intricate designs of stalactite and stalagmite formations takes shape of chandeliers, bridges, globes, snakes etc. The sight of some, which glitters like diamonds is amazing. Udamanugavi, another cave can accommodate 100 people . Kona Ramalingeswara temple adjacent to the spring adds to the beauty. For those who are young in mind and body there is scope for **trekking** and **rock climbing**.



## GUDUGU

The village in Narpala Mandal is at a distance of 29 kms from Anantapur and is situated among the Mutchukota Hills. It is known for its **Moharum Festival** and Sri Kullai Swamy is the name of the much venerated saint. Barren women are said to become fertile by paying a visit to the shrine. Fire walking ceremony is conducted on the night of the 11 th day of Moharrum. There is also Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple near by the abode of Sri Kullai Swamy Chavidi.

## YOGI VEMANA TOMB



Famous for the Yogi Vemana Samadhi, Kattarupally attracts a lot of pilgrims. Situated 25 kms. from Kadiri enroute Thimmamamarimanu, the journey offers spectacular views of rock formations of various shapes. Yogi Vemana is widely known as peoples' poet. His simple and colloquial Telugu poems, which narrates truths of day to day life and social evils, are more popular among the literates and illiterate ruralites.

## DHARMAVARAM

Dharmavaram is located at a distance of 46 km from Ananthapur and 200 KM from Bangalore . This place is well connected by rail and road. Private transport facility is available from Ananthapur.

**Historical Significance :** There is historical evidence to prove that it was ruled by Bijayanagar Vidya kings for nearly 500 years from 1075 Satavahana Saka. Dharmavaram tank is one of the large tanks in Anantapur district. Sri Kriyasakhti Wadiyar, who constructed the tank, built a village in memory of his late mother Dharmamba and named it Dharmavaram.

**Temples:** Dharmavaram is famous for the temple of **Sri Lakshmi Chennakesava Swamy** . Temple is renowned for its architectural brilliance and for the **perennial waterspout and pillars**. The temple has a multi-storied tower, extensive enclosures and an entrance carved in the Vijayanagar style. The architecturally exquisite Ramalingeswara Temple has a perennial water spout and seven independent



pillars which produce seven different musical notes when struck.

**Silk Sarees:** Dharmavaram is also known for its cotton and silk weaving industry. Dharmavaram silk sarees are well known all over the country. Leather puppets are also made in the vicinity. It is famous for silk sarees and has a great past. Thousands of families depend on the silk industry, for which Dharmavaram attained fame. The brand of silk weaved here is one of the most famous silks in the country. More than 1000 Silk Shops are located in the Town and turn-over of silk business is Rs 1000 crores per year. nearly 30 silk cooperative societies help those engaged in the trade. This silk-were is exported to Germany, France and other countries abroad. Only in Dharmavaram exists a Silk Exchange. Many freedom-fighters belong to this place.