

Nizamabad awaits industrial growth



Agriculture and poultry resources available in abundance. Development plans made but yet to see the light of the day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

TELANGANA government has been pushing the industrial development by focusing on establishment of large and small industries in the Nizamabad district. The State government's thrust is on speeding up traditional industrial growth vis a vis software and information technology industry development in the Nizamabad district.

In a bid to boost the software industry in the district, the State government has constructed IT towers in Nizamabad town at an investment of Rs 25 crore.

The government has identified that the district has huge untapped potential for establishing industries related to food processing. There is an abundant availability of the several kinds of agriculture produce, which can act as raw material for the food processing industries. These units in turn would create employment opportunities in the district.

The district can be transformed from a purely agrarian economy to an agrarian and industrial economy. Turmeric, oil extraction from paddy, soybean and oil seeds, soy products,

rice and maize products and milk and dairy segments are its strengths.

Currently, agricultural produce is transported to other districts and States for processing. Thus depriving the district of the crucial industrial growth. For example, there is only one mill making industrial grade starch in the district.

Providing important facilities that can enable the ease of setting up units and running business such as, establishing common pool of infrastructure and amenities to be used by a group of small units, is rapidly picking up in the district. This acts as value addition for the opportunities with low per capita investment.

Spice Park

The Spice Park proposed in Padgal village of Velpur mandal has not yet become operational. It has to be established in an area of 43.23 acres. The government had made an allocation of Rs 15.50 crore in the 2016-17 budget and the total estimate was pegged at about Rs 30 crore.

Smart Agro Industries Corporation Private Limited has set up a food processing park in Nandipet mandal. The facility is ready for setting up units. However, no investments have been

BIZZ TAKE



On various investment opportunities in districts

TELANGANA

NIZAMABAD

made yet. The TS government wants to encourage private players to process turmeric and encourage turmeric by-products.

Efforts were made to rope in the Patanjali Company headed by prominent Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev to establish the park. But not to be.

Some other private players such as Tetrapak wanted to establish milk processing and storage units. They wanted to work in unison with the Nizamabad unit of Telangana State Dairy Development Federation Corporation.

There is sufficient scope for im-

proving milk production, poultry population increase besides promoting layering and broiler production activities that can be carried out on the marginal and waste lands.

The share of the district in the State agriculture output is significant – paddy 18 per cent, soya bean 25 per cent, turmeric 31 per cent.

Nizamabad has a prominent place on the global turmeric map. It contributes 8 per cent to global production. There are about 690 small and medium sized units, predominantly into rice milling, seed processing and timber cutting, employing over 10,000 people. About 10,000 graduates enter the employment market each year with few job opportunities in the district.

Nizamabad has eco spots that can be developed to create interest in tourists through leisure stay, trekking and adventure stay, and pilgrimages. Interestingly, hotels are built in abandoned quarries abroad to promote tourism, a research paper on the district development states.

Largest sugar factory in Asia, Nizam Sugars was established in 1938 in Bodhan. Later its units were established in several other places. In undivided Andhra Pradesh, the then

TDP government as part of development of Nizam Sugars sold 51 per cent stake to private players.

The sugar factory has three additional units at Bodhan, Metpally and Mumbojipally (Medak). During 2014 election campaign, the TRS leadership had promised to take over Nizam Sugars if they come to power and develop it.

As promised, the TRS government in 2015 issued a GO to continue all the three units of the sugar factory under cooperative sector. In this backdrop a lay off was declared and all the three units were closed. People still waiting for the poll promises to be fulfilled.

The district can be transformed from a purely agrarian economy to an agrarian and industrial economy. Turmeric, oil extraction from paddy, soybean and oil seeds, soy products, rice and maize products and milk and dairy segments are its strengths

SANTOSH PATNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

SEVERAL trade unions of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, the corporation entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, have decided to boycott the Formation Day celebrations on February 18 and organise a road blockade by about 20,000 protesters even as the privatisation is likely to become a key issue in the elections announced for Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation on March 10.

Civic issues like erratic road digging and clogging drains are expected to be pushed to the corner, with various political parties gearing up to make Centre's decision to privatise RINL the main topic. The elections for GVMC—the largest corporation in Andhra Pradesh are being held after a gap of 14 years due to court cases over merger of 10 villages from Bheemili and Anakapalle with the corporation.

GVMC has a key role to play in development of smart city with funds to the tune of Rs1,000 crore sanctioned by the Centre and 140.11-km Metro Rail proposed by the State Government from Anakapalle to Bhogapuram International Airport at an estimated cost of Rs 22,000 crore.

Due to long gestation, the steel plant was

Trade unions to boycott RINL Day fete

Privatisation bid to become key issue in GVMC elections



established on February 18, 1982. "We will not only abstain from the celebrations in protest against privatisation decision, but also block nearly 2-km long road near Kurmannapalem gate to Kanithi Balancing Reservoir Road by about 20,000 people by inviting leaders from YSRCP, TDP and other parties barring the BJP," Visakha Ukku Parirakshana Committee leader and recognised union president J Ayodharam told Bizz Buzz on Tuesday.

As almost every family in the city has some connections with Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, set up after a decade-long agitation in 1960s claiming 32 human lives in police firing forcing then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to concede the demand.

The decision of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on January 27, disclosed through

a tweet to sell 100 per cent shareholding in RINL, is being described as an insult to 'Pride of Andhra Pradesh' as the steel plant was established after the 'Visakha Ukku Andhrula Hakku' agitation.

Now various political parties such as YSR Congress Party and Telugu Desam Party are trading charges against each other. The local BJP leaders who called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with BJP national general secretary and former Vizag MP Daggubati Purundeswari and State BJP president Somu Veerajulu have already felt the heat and appealed to the Centre to reconsider the decision.

Palla hospitalised

Meanwhile, tension gripped parts of Gajuwaka following early morning shifting of TDP leader and former MP Palla Srinivasa Rao to the hospital run by a dairy following deterioration of his health. He was on a fast-unto-death from last Wednesday demanding continuation of RINL in public sector.

The police hospitalised him hours before the scheduled visit of TDP leader and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to the city to express his solidarity with the agitating employees of RINL.