

ORIGINS AND FORMATION OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WARANGAL

After the bifurcation of Vijayawada Diocese, Hyderabad Diocese was left with the districts of Telangana region only. Let us restrict our view to only those that formed Warangal Diocese. The Hyderabad- Vijayawada Railway line work had brought a good number of Catholic employees to the main Railway junctions and stations like Kazipet, Dornakal and Khammam. The Baptism register kept at Kazipet reveals the presence of Catholic community there since 1887. It was a mixed community of Anglo-Indians, Telugus and Tamils, settled at the Kazipet Railway Junction. Between 1890 and 1930 a good number of Catholic families migrated from Guntur and other parts of Coastal Andhra to Telangana in search of cultivable land for their livelihood. They got settled wherever they found fertile black cotton soil. The early Missionaries helped these migrant traditional Catholic communities in their settlements and took care of their spiritual needs. Some of these Catholic villages were erected into Parishes in course of time and were taken care of by PIME Missionaries. There were already some established parishes in this area before the formation of the Diocese of Warangal. They are: Kazipet (1887), Byyaram (1901), Bhimaram (1905), Mattampally (1908), Kanchanapalli (1910), Vepala Singaram (1910), Wangamarthy (1914), Bhimanapally (1917), Munugodu (1919) Kethepally (1932), Khammam South (1933), Reddipalem (1933), Dornakal (1937) Narimetta (1939), who got settled at the beginning of 1900, Govindapuram (1942), Miryalaguda (1948), Kothagudem (1948), ThimmaraoPET (1952); Bhanigandlapadu (1952), and Thallada (1952). While taking care of the existing Catholics, being true to their missionary charism, the PIME Fathers engaged themselves in spreading the faith to others of the area and gradually won many people for Christ. The growth of Mission centres and the number of the faithful largely increased. The plan of creating the new Diocese of Warangal was already envisaged in 1949, when Msgr. Alphonsus Beretta PIME, as the Vicar Capitular of Hyderabad, asked Fr. Gino Pazzaglini, the parish priest of Kazipet, to look for a site for the future Diocesan Headquarters. But shortly afterwards he had to go to Italy. Fr. Mariani, PIME, was entrusted with the work. He made genuine efforts and made a good survey in and around the city of Warangal (Orugallu) and bought 71 acres of land about 1½ KMs from Kazipet and 11 KMs from Warangal city. The area was later christened Fatimanagar.

Bro. Sala Pasqualino, PIME, the Architect of Fatimanagar:

Bro. Sala Pasqualino, PIME, was sent to Warangal on 18th August, 1949 to take possession of the land. Except for a small hut, the whole area was like a semi forest. On the very next day of his arrival i.e. 19th August, Bro. Sala pitched his tent on the land that was destined to become the heart of a new and flourishing Diocese. If the procurement of one large piece of land was a great thing, the grant of permission to utilize it for the construction of Bishop's House and other buildings was a miracle. The Government officials clearly told Bro. Sala that no permission would be granted for private constructions on this ground as the Government had already drawn its master-plan for a Market, School, Dispensary and some other buildings on the same land. It was a bolt from the blue for Bro. Sala. He made numerous

trips to Hyderabad, seeking the intervention and recommendation of higher authorities to in this regard. This uncertain situation, mixed with fear of bleak future for the mission, lasted more than a year. On May 13th and 14th 1950, the Statue of our Lady of Fatima toured Hyderabad Diocese. Bishop Beretta devoutly prayed for a special intervention of Our Lady of Fatima to overcome the problem. Within five months after the tour of the statue of our Lady of Fatima, officials granted permission for the construction of buildings on this site, changing their earlier master plan. Bishop A. Beretta called it a miracle of our Lady of Fatima. He firmly believed that this achievement was possible due to the miraculous intervention of our Our Lady. On 3rd January 1951, Most Rev. A. Beretta laid foundation stones for Bishop's House and St. Ann's Hospital at Fatimanagar.

On 22 December 1952, the four civil districts namely, Warangal, Nalgonda, Khammam and Karimnagar, were detached from the Ecclesiastical territory of the Diocese of Hyderabad and were erected into the new Diocese of Warangal by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. Most Rev. Alphonsus Beretta, PIME, the then Bishop of Hyderabad, was transferred and appointed as the first Bishop. His Lordship took charge of the Diocese officially on 13th May 1953 with 28,000 Catholics and 21 zealous PIME priests.

The Golden Missionary Age: 1952 - 1985

Most Rev. Alphonsus Beretta had great Missionary zeal. With his Missionary vision and deep spiritual foundation, he gave a dynamic leadership to the new Diocese of Warangal. The new born diocese soon began to grow steadily in every field. Many constructions were undertaken to give a good shape to the Diocesan headquarters. The present Bishop's House was completed in 1952, Fatima High School in 1953, St. Ann's Hospital in 1954, St. Gabriel's High School in 1955 and St. Pius X Seminary in 1956. The construction of Fatima Cathedral began in 1956 and was completed in 1962. All these monuments speak of the great architecture of Bro. Sala. He deserves the title the Architect of Fatimanagar.

Bishop A. Beretta, with his team of PIME Missionaries and a handful of native priests laboured extensively, despite all sorts of hazards, for the growth of the Mission. To meet the increasing demands of the Catholic population, the bishop invited various men and women religious. Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), St. Ann of Providence (SAP), Catechist Sisters of St. Ann (CSA), Sisters of Charity (SCCG) Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel (SG), Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (OFM Cap), and the Order of the Discalced Carmelites (OCD) were among the pioneers. Shortly, many other congregations joined to take up pastoral, educational and health apostolates across the diocese. Of these, F.M.M., S.A.P., C.S.A., and OCD Fathers deserve special mention. OCD Fathers came to the diocese on 18th April, 1971. They were the Mission pioneers in Kothagudem, Palwancha and Tallada areas of Khammam district. The founder PIME Fathers, the local diocesan clergy and men and women religious manifested beautiful collaborative ministry in evangelical, pastoral, educational, health and social apostolates. Their hard work resulted in the birth of numerous Mission centres, educational, social, medical and few religious institutions in the diocese. The Christian presence was reflected across the four districts both in numerical growth of the faithful and institutions established by the religious. The formation of new parishes and institutions such as Kothagudem (1948), Thallada (1952) Nalgonda (1963), Karimnagar (1965), Assisinagar in Warangal city (1970), Khammam (1973), Yellandu (1974), Suryapet (1974), and Reddipalem (1974), Palwancha (1977), Godhavarikhani (1979) bespeak the far-sightedness and great vision of the founding PIME

Fathers. The steep growth in Catholic population and institutions echo the thirst of the pioneers for Evangelisation and the unreserved commitment of the PIME Family under the dynamic leadership of Most Rev. A. Beretta, and all those involved in the task of evangelisation.

Bishop A. Beretta undoubtedly spent all his energies for the growth of the new Missionary diocese. He travelled far and wide tirelessly in the four civil districts spread over 50,000 sq.kms. His special thrust was on Evangelisation and Pastoral care. The bishop's organizational skills are manifested through varied services he initiated. He started Lodi Multipurpose Social Service Society in 1966 and in 1978 Fatima Charitable Trust for social upliftment and economic empowerment of the people. He laid foundation for Pastoral Centre in 1984 which soon devised and started implementing various pastoral programs across the diocese. To cater to the educational needs with particular reference to Catholics, he formed Diocesan Educational Committee (DECO) in 1985. He started the diocesan news letter with the title "The Voice of Fatima".

Birth of Two New Dioceses

The fruits of the tireless efforts of the Founding Missionaries and the local clergy and the religious resulted in the birth of a new diocese Nalgonda being bifurcated from the mother diocese of Warangal. Year 1977 remains a golden page in the history of the Warangal Catholic Church, with the birth of Nalgonda diocese with 22,155 Catholics spread across the two civil districts of Nalgonda and Mahaboobnagar. God's unseen hand was at work all through this Missionary upheaval. As a mark of God's continuous visible sign of blessing Khammam district was bifurcated and made into a new Catholic diocese of Khammam in 1988 with 70,796 Catholics. In addition to giving birth to two missionary dioceses, the diocese of Warangal gave three Bishops to the Church of Andhra Pradesh, in the persons of Most Rev. Thanugundla Balashowry Reddy who was consecrated as the Bishop of Guntur on 12th March, 1974; Most Rev. Thumma Bala Reddy was elected on 6th December, 1986 and was consecrated as the second Bishop of Warangal on 12th March, 1987. Most Rev. Govindu Joji was consecrated as the Bishop of Nalgonda on 24th June, 1997.

The above facts speak for themselves the great Missionary spirit and pastoral zeal of Bishop A. Beretta supported by the PIME stalwarts like Fr. Offreedi, Fr. J. Seminati, Fr. Seporate, Fr. Q. Farina, Fr. A. Bortolato, Fr. P. Angelo Pino, Fr. Q. Finelli, Fr. Angelo Mariani, Fr. Albino Mazzola, Fr. Lino Dal Balcon, Fr. G. Farina, Fr. Tinti, Fr. Radici, Fr. Muselli, Msgr. Giovanni Seminati, Fr. Gino Pazzaglini, Fr. Florindo Antonello, Fr. G. Tirinzoni, Fr. L. Delissandri and Fr. Augustus Colombo, other PIME Fathers.

The spread of the Missionary activities will be complete without mentioning some of the pioneering efforts of the local clergy such as Fr. Yeruva Marreddy, Fr. Varghese, Fr. M. Lourdu Natham, Monsignor Katakam Joji Reddy, Fr. Idara Abraham, Fr. Boyapati Anthony Reddy, and the committed native clergy of the period. Deservedly, this period is hailed as the Golden Missionary Age of the Diocese. The missionary zeal of the native priests deserves special mention in the evangelization of Khammam district. Dedication, spirit of self sacrifice, deep faith in God, undaunted courage in facing various

problems and readiness to put up with any inconvenience are the Values which are left behind to the later Generations by these Missionaries.

The New Era of the Diocese

The installation of Most Rev. Thumma Bala as the Bishop of Warangal on 12th March, 1987 has inaugurated a new era in the history of the diocese of Warangal. The reins of the diocese were thus taken over by the son of the soil. His long and deep experience as pastor and protector of faith, were helpful to him to concentrate on the basic and immediate needs of the diocese. His thrust was, on one hand, the strengthening the existing Catholic Communities in Faith and on the other, spreading the Faith to new areas. He took up regular pastoral visits to all Parishes and villages, during which he would patiently spend a lot of time in meeting the people and instructing them in faith. His natural inclination to mingle with all furnished first hand information of their struggles and urgent needs. Many new parish churches and presbyteries were built and a good number of the old constructions were renovated. He established new Parishes from time to time, depending on the availability of the priests for better pastoral care and spiritual nourishment to the people.

To provide more facilities for pastoral activities, he got constructed the first floor on the Pastoral Centre and he has been taking keen interest in the programmes of the Centre. He bought lands and established new Mission Centres like Dacharam (1988) Kamalapuram (1989), Jagital (1989), Maripeda (1993), Elukaturthy (1993), Mallakpalli (1994), Korutla (1995), Pasara (1995), Manthani (1996), Ranipuram (1996) Mariapuram (1997), Atmakur (1998), Husnabad (1999), Kesamudram (2001), Malkapur (2002) and Parkal (2003) To develop these Centres and other areas, he invited into the Diocese many Men and Women Religious Congregations and encouraged and helped them to take up various apostolates and services. He took interest to improve the Diocesan Newsletter in its shape and content using its Telugu Version, 'Fatima Vani'. Basic Education to all was somehow a priority for Bishop Thumma Bala. This led him for the establishment of many Schools even in the most remote parts of the Diocese. Within a span of 15 years the number of Schools run by the Diocese and the Religious has risen to 62. Of them, specially-mentioned are: A School for the Hearing-impaired, "Little Flower School for Deaf" at Karunapuram, Infant Jesus Convent School for the Physically Handicapped at Mogilicherla and a School for Visually Handicapped, "Carmel Integrated School for Blind" at Elukaturthy.

Further, a good number of Hostels and Parish Boarding-homes like those at Veleru, Ghanpur, Dornakal, Kalampuram and Mulug, etc were also started to provide better study facilities to the poor rural Catholic Children. These Institutions show the efforts put-in to reach out to the Children who are in a special need. Higher Education to Catholic Youth was no less a concern for Bishop Bala. Fatima College of Education was the first Professional College started in 1988. He seized every opportunity to get help from every source possible, especially from Rev. Fr. A. Colombo PIME, in establishing Vidya Niketan Junior College, Vidya Jyothi Degree & P. G. College, and a unique venture for a Diocese, an Engineering College, namely Christu Jyothi Institute of Technology and Science and Academic Centres like Karunapuram, Ghanapur and Jangaon have been started and developed and through the instrumentality of Fr.L.Delissandri, PIME, the Institutions at Peddapalli and at Sultanabad, Karimnagar Dt. are developed. Scholarships are given to the poor and the needy Students of the Diocese through Fatima Charitable Trust (FCT) and Christian Foundation for Children and Aged (CFCA). Under FCT about 8520 and under CFCA 860 students are helped towards their education. He gave to the Diocesan Education Committee (DECO) its clear Direction and Policy in 1987 and appointed a Deputy Manager for Schools and Colleges. Many social welfare programmes like housing, drinking water, bore wells, watersheds, desiltation, Farmers' co-operative societies, Women development Programme, lace & embroidery, are carried on in the Diocese by the Social Service Centres, namely Lodi Multipurpose Social Service Society, Vishwa Karuna

Society and Balavikasa Social Service Society. These Societies, which are headed by different Directors, are carrying out all the programmes efficiently under the able guidance of Bishop Thumma Bala. Health programmes have also received great attention of His Lordship. Hospitals, Dispensaries, Health education camps, Leprosy Patients' Rehabilitation Centres, Aids-Patients' Care and Support Centre are run in different parts of the Diocese through the services of the Religious Communities.

As Fatimanagar developed during the time of Bishop Beretta through the instrumentality of Rev. Bro. Sala, so also 'Karunapuum' has developed in the time of Bishop Thumma Bala through the instrumentality of Rev. Fr. A. Colombo PIME. Formation Houses namely Don Bosco Philosophate, Diocesan St. Xavier's Major Seminary, Mill Hill Formation House, Presentation Formation House, Presentation Sisters' Regional House, Presentation Postulancy, Missionaries of Mary Mediatrix Formation House and other Institutions like Schools, Colleges, Christu Jyothi Evangelisation Centre and Leprosy Patients' Rehabilitation Centre and HIV/AIDS Care & Support Centre etc, make Karunapuram a flourishing Catholic Centre like Fatimanagar.

Bishop Bala gave the Youth due recognition in the Church. He has appointed a full time Youth Director to develop the youth activities through the Diocesan Arunodaya Youth Centre and also established Kolping Centre to guide and serve the Youth. Under his guidance, many Young Men and Women from our Diocese were provided opportunities to participate in Youth Conventions at national and international levels. He served for 10 years as the Chairman of APBC Youth Commission. During his tenure, the National Youth Convention was held at Fatimanagar in 1992. It was a great success and it brought national recognition to the Diocese and to its Youth Wing.

He served on A.P. Jyothirmai Society for 12 Years as Vice- Chairman and Chairman. For the last several years he has been serving on A.P. Commission for Catechetics as Chairman and made available the newly composed Catechism Text Books in Telugu for Classes 1 to 10, Text Books for Colleges, Books on Moral Science in Telugu and Telugu Translation of Catechism of the Catholic Church, which will be available by April, 2004.

At CBCI national level, he served as the Chairman of Health Commission for eight years until April, 2002. He was the key person behind the success of the 10th World Day of the Sick- International Celebrations held at Vellankkani on February 9-11, 2002. Now, he is a Member of the Pontifical Commission for Health-Care Apostolate, Vatican.

Bishop Thumma Bala, though erudite and full of experience, in his humility and simplicity keeps himself easily accessible to all. He wins the love and regard in general. He sees the good in others and appreciating it, encourages them to do more & better still. Man of determination and tenacity, he leaves no stone unturned to realize the objectives set forth. He takes people into confidence, draws their full co-operation and achieves robust success. Trusting totally in God and in the powerful intercession of our Lady of Fatima, he ventured on every new mission and service.

The Vision

The diocese of Warangal has firmly set its step forward in spreading the Light of Christ. Its holistic outlook for the 3rd Millennium was clear in its Vision statement made at the conclusion of Yesu Christu Jayanthi - 2000 celebrations in the diocese. "We visualize our Diocese of Warangal by 2010 as a Community that receives its life from the Triune God, takes roots in the Word of God, proclaims that very Word, reposes Faith in Christ, lives in Him, bears Witness to His Death and Resurrection, journeys in the Holy Spirit towards the Kingdom of God, derives strength through the Sacraments and Liturgy, becomes self-reliant in everything, under the Patronage of our Blessed Mother, Fatima Mata, the Mother of God."

The Diocese is moving forward with its time-bound programmes vigorously for the realization of this Vision. A Church, with its Evangelical and Missionary Vision, will become relevant for the present by living what is celebrated in the Liturgy, by placing Gospel values above worldly values in all its undertakings and by maintaining unity and harmony within itself, with other Christian Brethren and other Religions.

Districts in the Diocese of Warangal, A PROFILE

DISTRICT OF WARANGAL

The Diocese of Warangal comprises of two civil districts, Warangal and Karimnagar. Warangal is one of the renowned districts of Telangana region and stands next to Hyderabad. The district of Warangal lies in between 17^o-20 mts and 19^o-10 mts of northern latitudes and from the West to the East it extends from 78^o-20 mts to 80^o-40 mts east longitude. The states of Madya Pradesh and Orissa border the district in the northeast. The surrounding districts in Andhra Pradesh are Karimnagar in the northwest, Khammam in the southeast, Nalgonda in the south and Medak in the west. Godavari, the only major river, passes through northeastern part of the district.

The City of Warangal enjoyed a glorious past as the Capital of Kakatiya Kingdom for two centuries. This epic City, once called as 'Orugallu' (which means 'Ekashila' and therefore it is also called as Ekashilanagar) was the centre of administration and had been visited by dignitaries like Marcopolo and Mahatma Gandhi. It was built by Kakatiya Prola Raju in 12th century. The richly sculptured 'Thousand Pillars Temple', 'Warangal Fort' and Ramappa Temple and Lake, Laknavaram Lake and Pakala Lake are some of the historical monuments and places. They still remain the hub of tourists not only for the natives but from across the continents.

The climate in the district is mostly dry and hot through the year except during the monsoon period. The temperature exceeds 45° Celsius in the month of May, but in winter it falls to 12°- 14° Celsius in December and January. The annual rainfall varies from 80 to 130 cm; 85% of the rainfall occurs from June to September by the southwest monsoon. The district gets scanty rainfall in October and November by the northeast Monsoon. Western region of the district receives less than average rain. Presently (2013), the civil administration is operated through 59 Revenue Mandals and 14 Panchayat Samithies.

The area of the District of Warangal is 12,846 sq kms and forming 4.46% of the total area of the state of Andhra Pradesh. The geophysical structure of the land is a mixture of black cotton soil (64%) red loan

soil (14%) sandy clay soil (20%) and the rest is hilly and plateau type. Three lakh acres of land is irrigated by the water resources and the rest of 11,00,750 acres of land is dry. 2.49 lakh acres of land is irrigated by the Kakitaya canal, lakes, tanks, open-wells and borewells. 5.60 lakh acres of cultivable land depends solely on monsoons for cultivation. The historical lakes Pakala, Ramappa and Laknavaram, built by the erstwhile kings still provide water for irrigation.

Major food crops grown in the district are paddy, jawary, maize, pulses such as red gram and black gram, sunflower, vegetables and fruits like plantain and mango. The major commercial crops are cotton, chilli, tobacco, turmeric, groundnuts and other oilseeds.

Coal which is across Bhupalapalli belt is one of the richest mineral resources of Warangal district. The other minerals are scanty in mining, namely pig iron, lime, black stone, copper and dolomite. Granite industry is wide-spread all over the district fetching much-coveted foreign exchange.

It is worth mentioning that 28% of the forest Area of Telangana is concentrated in Warangal district alone. The local forest yields valuable teak and other timber, *beedi* leaves, medicinal herbs, honey, gum, tamarind and various edible fruits. The dense forest adjacent to river Godavari provides shelter for wild animals like tigers, cheetas, leopards, bears, wild buffaloes, monkeys, water animals, deers and birds. The deer and bird sanctuary located by the Pakala Lake is a tourist attraction for urban people.

There are no large-scale industries worth mentioning in the district. The Azam Jahi Cotton Mills, which was once very famous in Warangal city, is now closed down. The A.P.Rayons factory at Kamalapuram, presently managed by BILT deserves special mention as it is providing employment for hundreds of local people. A few rice mills, oil mills, jinning mills, hand-loom and carpet weaving, tanning, beedi making units are spread over the district. These small-scale industries provide to certain extent livelihood for even the illiterate.

The population of the district is 28,18,832. It is 4.25% of the population of the state and the density is 219 per sq.km. Warangal city is administered by a Municipal Corporation, comprising of Warangal, Hanamkonda and Kazipet Divisions called as Tricity. Jangaon, Parkal, Mulug, Narsampet, Wardhannapet, Cherial, Mahabubabad and Dornakal are the important major Panchayats.

The major means of transportation are Railways and Roadways. Kazipet Railway Junction connects south and north India. Dornakal Railway Junction connects the route to coal mines in Khammam district. Warangal is another major railway station. The Roadways across the district are built and maintained by various governmental agencies. About 1,487 kms roadways are under the State Govt. Zilla Parishad (District administration) maintains 3,345 kms of roads and 6,267 kms roads are maintained by the Panchayat Samithies. Recently the Central Government of India sanctioned a National Highway Number 163 from Hyderabad to Venkatapur via Warangal.

All the towns in the district, 980 villages and 648 hamlets are electrified. 340 Colonies of Weaker Sections and 1,488 Harijan Colonies are electrified. 1,41,202 agricultural Pump-sets, 5,347 medium and 370 small-scale industries, 2,62,500 residential homes, 1902 public units and 18,156 other units are given

power supply. There is no Power-generating Unit in the district and it depends upon the Power Supply from outside of the District.

Warangal ranks second, next to Hyderabad, in the field of Education. There are 1949 Primary, 330 Upper Primary, 307 High Schools, several Junior, Degree and Professional Colleges in the district. The Kakatiya University, the Kakatiya Medical College (K.M.C.), National Institute of Technology, formerly known as Regional Engineering College are well known in the region of Telangana. Among the private institutes of Technology and Science **Christu Jyothi Institute of Technology & Science**, Colombonagar, Jangaon, owned and managed by the diocese of Warangal deserves special mention for its academic excellence and value-oriented education. There are several social welfare Boardings and Hostels and Residential schools for boys and girls of Tribal and Weaker sections. There are 11 Hospitals, 50 Primary Health Centers, 343 Primary Health Sub-centers 49 Dispensaries which include Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Medicines. Recently Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Waangal is given the status Super Speciality Hospital attached to Kakatiya Medical College.

DISTRICT OF KARIMNAGAR

The civil district of Karimnagar lies in between 17°-05 mts and 19°- 05 mts of northern latitudes and 78° – 20 mts and 80°-20 mts eastern longitude. All through the northern boundary of the district, the river Godhavari flows. The surrounding districts of Karimnagar are Adilabad in the north, Madya Pradesh state in the northeast, Warangal in south-east, Medak in the south and Nizamabad in the west. The area of the district is 11,823 sq.kms and it is 4,29% of the area of the state of AP. The district population is 30,37,486. It forms 4.56% of the population of A.P. with a density of 259 per Sq. Km. Karimnagar is divided into 56 Revenue Mandals and 14 Panchayat Samithies for administration.

The inscriptions and legislations carved on stone pillars at the Forts and sculptured Temples reveal that Kakatiya Rulers once ruled Karimanagar district. The Chalukyas ruled this Region in 8th century from the renowned Pilgrim town, Vemulawada. Later, in 9th century it came under the rule of the Rastrakutas. Due to the attack of Malikka, the Chief of Army of Allauddin Khilji in 1309, Orugallu Kingdom declined and along with it all the Forts in this region also came under the Muslim Rulers and got annexed to Bahmain Empire. After the fall of Bahamans, it came under the power of Kutubshahis of Golkonda, and then followed by Moghul Governors and in 18th century a Moghul Governor declared independence and ruled this entire Region as Nizam State. As Nizam refused to merge the Nizam State with Independent India, there was Police Action in 1948 by the Indian Army and annexed the Nizam State to the Union of States of India. As a result of reorganisation of States of India in 1956, the Telangana Region of Nizam State is merged with Andhra and formed into Andhra Pradesh with Hyderabad as its Capital.

The present Karimnagar town was once called “Sabbinadu”. The inscriptions engraved in this Region by Kakatiya Rulers Prola Raju and Pratap Rudra proved the same. As the District Head Quarters, it has been developing very fast after Lower Maneru Dam was constructed and started getting water from

Pochampadu through Kakathiya Canal. The temperature in the District is generally hot and dry except during southwest Monsoon. Ramagundam Town in the District records extreme temperature, exceeding 45°-47° celsius in May. In the Winter the temperature falls to 12°-14° celsius in December/ January. The average rainfall in the District is 950 mm. The southwest Monsoon gives 790 mm. and the rest by the northeast Monsoon. Some times it rains in Summer also. The Rivers of Godavari and Maneru are the main sources of water. The other rain fed resources of water are lakes, tanks, wells and bore-wells of ground water. The Pochampad or Sreeramsagar project built across the Godavari and Maneru reservoir provide irrigation through canals in the District. 40% of the cropped area is irrigated by the canals and rest by rain-fed resources and ground water.

The varieties of land in the District are black cotton soil, red loam soil and sandy clay soil. The main food crops cultivated in the District are Paddy, Jawary, Maize, Grams, Pulses, Sugarcane, Tobacco, Turmeric, Groundnuts, Sunflower, the Oilseeds and Chillies, Cotton etc. The District has about 252 lakh hectares of Forests and it is 21.2% of area of the District. The Forest yields quality timber and other Forest products such as tamarind, honey, gum, beedi leaves and herbs.

The mineral resources consist of magnetized quartz in Amberpet, Korutla. Venkatapuram, iron ore in Dharwar, lime stone in Vutnoor & Neralla areas and coal in Ramagundam. Among the recognized industries: Nizam Sugar Factory unit, Fertilizer Unit, Kesoram Cement Works, Siricilla Spinning Mills are some of the noted ones in the District. Rice mills, Oil mills and other small scale industries are scattered here and there. The main source of power supply is from National Thermal Power Station at N.T.P.C & Ramagundam. Siricilla Co-operative Power Distribution Society stands first in India under rural development. All the Towns and 1050 Villages in the District are electrified.

The main source of transportation is Roadways. The State Public Works Department maintains 2,773 kms of Road Ways. Zilla Parishath and Panchayat Samities maintain 243 kms roads and the National Highway is 78 kms only. A new Railway line connecting Peddapalli and Nizamabad was sanctioned a few years ago but only a part of it from Peddapalli to Karimnagar is laid so-far and the line from Karimnagar to Nizamabad is yet to be taken up. In the field of Education, the District is not up to the mark. Literacy rate is 38.07%. There are 465 Primary Schools, 415 Upper Primary. 272 High Schools, 23 Junior Colleges, 9 Degree Colleges, a few Professional Colleges and a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the District. There are also Schools for marginalized Communities.

Regarding the medical and health services, the District is lagging behind. Leprosy is widely rampant in the District. Besides the Govt.Hospital at Head-quarters, there are 16 Hospitals in various Towns, 56 Primary Health Centers, 4 Dispensaries, 25 Ayurvedic, 17 Unani and 11 Homeopathic Dispensaries run by the Govt. including a Hospital run by the Church of South India. In addition to these, many private Nursing Homes, special Hospitals including a Cancer Hospital, St. Ann's Health Centre at Appannapet, Jeevadhara Hospital at Shantinagar, Nampally have come up.

Peddapalli, Huzurabad, Jagtial, Korutla, Metpalli, Siricilla, Husnabad, Sultanabad, Manthani and Ramagundam are some of the major Towns. Vemulawada and Kaleswaram are the Pilgrim Centers. Maneru Dam, Illadukunta, Bejjanki, Ramagiri, Kaleswaram and Manthani are the site seeing places of interest.