

ORIGINS AND FORMATION OF THE DIOCESE OF WARANGAL

After the bifurcation of Vijayawada Diocese, Hyderabad Diocese was left with Telangana Districts. Of these, let us restrict our view to those that formed Warangal Diocese. The Hyderabad- Vijayawada Railway-line-work had brought a good number of Catholic Employees to the main Railway Junctions / 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 Railway Junction of Kazipet. Between 1890-1930 a good number of Catholic Families migrated from Guntur and other parts of Coastal Andhra to Telangana in search of good cultivable land for their livelihood. Wherever they found good black soil, they settled there. 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 of Milan, Italy. Some of the Centers being already Parishes before the formation of the Diocese of Warangal are: Kazipet (1887), Byyaram (1901), Bhimaram (1905), Mattampally (1908), Kanchanapalli (1910), Vepala Singaram (1910), Wangamarthy (1914), Bhimanapally (1917), Monugodu (1919) Kethepally (1932), Khammam South (1933), Reddipalem (1933), Dornakal (1937) Narimetta (1939), though settled at the beginning of 1900, Govindapuram (1942), Miryalaguda (1948), Kothagudem (1948), Thimmarapet (1952); Bhanigandlapadu (1952), and Thallada (1952). While taking care of 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 clear already in 1949, when Msgr. Alphonsus Beretta PIME, the Vicar Capitular of Hyderabad then, asked Fr. Gino Pazzagli, the then Parish Priest of Kazipet, to look for a site for the future Diocesan Headquarters. But shortly afterwards when he had to go to Italy, it was Fr. Mariani, PIME, who was entrusted with the work. He, with his efforts and prayers, bought 71 acres of land about 1½ kms from Kazipet and 11 kms from Warangal, which is present Fatimanagar.

To take possession of the land, Bro. Sala Pasqualino, PIME, was sent to Warangal on 18th August, 1949. Except for a small hut, the whole area was like a semi forest. On the next day, i.e. 19th August 1949, Bro. Sala pitched his tent on the ground that was destined to become the heart of a new and flourishable Diocese. If the procurement of the land was a great thing, the grant of permission to utilise it for 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. Then on, he made his ceaseless trips to Hyderabad, seeking the recommendation of higher Authorities in this matter. This situation, full of doubts, fears and interruptions, lasted more than a year. On May 13th & 14th 1950, the Statue of our Lady of Fatima toured Hyderabad Diocese. At this time, Bishop Beretta pleaded for a special intervention of our Lady of Fatima to overcome the problem. Meanwhile, Bro. Sala named the Mission Land as Fatimanagar (the Town of Fatima). 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 plans. Bishop A. Beretta called it a miracle of our Lady of Fatima. He believed that this was possible only because of the intervention of our Lady of Fatima. Soon after, on 3rd January 1951, Bishop A. Beretta laid foundation stones for Bishop's House and St. Ann's Hospital at Fatimanagar.

On December 22, 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 of Warangal. His Lordship took charge of the Diocese officially on 13th May 1953 with 28,000 Catholics and 21 PIME Priests.

The Golden Missionary Age: 1952 - 1985

Bishop 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. It soon began to develop steadily in every field. Many constructions were undertaken to give a good shape to the Diocesan Headquarters. The Bishop's House was built in 1952, Fatima High School in 1953, St. Ann's Hospital in 1954, St. Gabriel's High School in 1955, St Pius X Seminary in 1956, and the Fatima Cathedral was started in 1956 and completed in 1962. These constructions stand out as Monuments of the Architecture of Bro. Sala, who drew the master plan of Fatimanagar.

Bishop Alphonsus 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 Community, at the invitation of the Bishop, Men and Women Religious like 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), Order of the Discalced Carmelites (OCD) and others came forward to take up pastoral, educational and health apostolates in different parts of the Diocese. Of these, F.M.M., St. Ann of Providence (SAP) and Catechist sisters of St. Ann, (C.S.A), and OCD Fathers deserve a special mention. OCD Fathers came to the Diocese on 18th April, 1971 and worked very much for the growth of the Mission in Kothagudem, Palwancha, Tallada areas of Khammam District. The PIME Fathers, the Diocesan Clergy and Men and Women Religious worked hand in hand in evangelical, pastoral, educational, health and social apostolates. As a result of their hard work, the number of Mission Centres and other Institutions grew in different parts of the Diocese. The Christian Presence reflected in the People and Institutions in Kothagudem (1948), Thallada (1952) Nalgonda (1963), Karimnagar (1965), Warangal (1970), Khammam (1973), Yellandu (1974), Suryapet (1974), and Reddipalem (1974), Palwancha (1977), Godhavarihani (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 bespeak the Commitment of the Founding PIME Family under the dynamic leadership of Most Rev. A. Beretta, PIME and all those involved in the task of Evangelisation.

Bishop A. Beretta undoubtedly used all his energies for the growth of the new Missionary Diocese. He travelled far and wide tirelessly in the four civil Districts with 50,000 sq.kms. His special thrust was on Evangelisation and Pastoral Care. However, he being an able Administrator, undertook organisational set up of different services in the Diocese. He started in 1966 Lodi Social Service Society and in 1978 Fatima Charitable Trust for social/welfare and economical development of the People. He laid foundation for Pastoral Centre in 1984 to promote pastoral activities. To cater to the educational needs of Catholics, he formed Diocesan Educational Committee (DECO) in 1985. He started the Diocesan Newsletter with the title "The Voice of Fatima" The fruits of the tireless efforts of the Founding Missionaries result in two new Dioceses: Nalgonda and Khammam, which were bifurcated from the Mother Diocese of Warangal: Nalgonda was erected as a Diocese in 1977 with 22,155 Catholics. Later in 1988, Khammam was erected as a Diocese with 70,796 Catholics. During this period, the Diocese of Warangal, besides giving birth to two new Dioceses, gave three Bishops so far to the Church in Andhra Pradesh: Most Rev. Thanugundla Balashowry was raised to Episcopate and consecrated as the Bishop of Guntur on 12th March, 1974 and Most Rev. Thumma Bala was elected on 6 December, 1986 and was consecrated as the Bishop of Warangal on 12th March, 1987 and Most Rev. Govindu Joji was consecrated as the Bishop of Nalgonda on 24th June, 1997.

The above facts speak for themselves of this age and are by themselves a glorious tribute to the Missionary Spirit and Pastoral Zeal of Bishop Alphonsus Beretta and the PIME Fathers 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, Mgr. Giovanni Seminati, and Fr. Gino Pazzaglini, Fr. Florindo Antonello, Fr. G. Tirinzoni Fr. L. Delissandri and Fr. A. Colombo and many other PIME Fathers and the native Clergy of the period. Deservedly, this period is hailed as the Golden Missionary Age of the Diocese. Their missionary zeal and dedication, spirit of self sacrifice, faith in the Lord, undaunted

courage in facing the problems and readiness to put up with any inconvenience are the Values which are left behind to the later Generations.

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 up 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 has been, 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, instructing them in Faith and knowing from them their problems and needs. Many new Parish Churches and Presbyteries have been built or renovated. He has been erecting 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 further 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 'Karunapuam' 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 8 years until April, 2002. He was the key person behind the success of the 10th World Day of the Sick- International Celebrations held at Vellankani 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 ventures 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 rigorously & vigorously for the realization of its Vision. A Church, with its Evangelical and Missionary Vision, will become relevant to today 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°–20 mts and 19°-10 mts of northern latitudes and from west to east it extends from 78°-20 mts to 80°-40 mts east longitude. The States of Madhya 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. The only major river of Godavari passes through northeastern part of the District. The other streams almost dry up after the Monsoon.

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 Marco Polo and Mahatma Gandhi. It was built by Kakatiya Prola Raju in 12th Century. The richly sculptured 'Thousand Pillars' Temple, 'Warangal Fort' and 'Ramappa' Temple & Lake, Laknavaram Lake, Pakala Lake etc. are the important Historical and Tourist Places.

The climate in the District is mostly dry and hot and wet in 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. The District is administered through 59 Revenue Mandals and 14 Panchayat Samithies.

The area of the District of Warangal is 12,846 sq kms and it is 4.46% of the total extent of AP. The Land varieties are the black cotton soil (64%) red loam 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 land depend upon the rain for cropping. The noted lakes that provide water for irrigation are: Pakala, Ramappa and Laknavaram.

Major food crops grown in the District are: paddy, jawary, maize, and pulses, sunflower, vegetables and fruits like plantain and mango etc. The major commercial crops are cotton, chilies, tobacco, turmeric, groundnuts and other oilseeds.

The District of Warangal is poor in mineral resources except Coal. The other minerals are scanty in mining, namely pig iron, lime, black stone, copper and dolomite. Granite industry is wide-spread and it is fetching much-coveted foreign exchange. Coal mining on large-scale is commenced recently at Bhoopalapalli in the District.

28% of the Forest Area of Telangana is concentrated in Warangal District. The Forest in the District yields valuable timber, leaves, medicinal herbs, honey, gum, tamarind, fruits and other commercial articles in large quantities. In the Forest adjacent to river Godavari, various wild animals like tigers, cheetas, leopards, bears, wild buffaloes, monkeys, water animals, deers and birds live and move about. The deer and bird sanctuary located by the 'Pakala Lake' is an attraction for City People.

There are very few Industries in the District. Some of them have become sick units. The Azam Jahi Cotton Mills, which was once very famous in Warangal City, is now closed down. The AP Rayons Factory at Kamalapuram is on modern lines. A few rice and oil mills, ginning mills, hand-loom and carpet weaving, leather toning, beedi making units are spread over in the District, most of the illiterates get some livelihood by them.

The Population of the District is 2818832. 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 Towns in the District.

The means of Transportation are Railways and Roadways. Kazipet and Dornakal are the Railway Junctions and Warangal Railway Station is an important one, at which almost all the trains passing through, stop there. Regarding Roadways, 1,487 kms are of the State Govt.; Z.P. maintains 3,345 kms of roads and 6,267 kms roads are maintained by the Panchayat Samithies. Recently the Central Govt. sanctioned a National Highway from Hyderabad to Venkatapur via Warangal.

There is no Power-generating Unit in the District and it depends upon the Power Supply from outside of the District. 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, 5347 medium and 370 small-scale industries, 2,62,500 residential homes, 1902 public units and 18,156 other units are given power supply.

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 are spread out in the District. The Kakatiya University, the K.M.C. (Kakatiya Medical College), the KITS (Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science) and National Institute of Technology (formerly called R.E.C.) and Christu Jyothi Institute of Technology & Science, Jangaon, situated in the District are of academic excellence. 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 M.G.M. Hospital is given a status Super Speciality attached to KMC. It is providing medical services to the sick and the suffering in and around the District of Warangal.

DISTRICT OF KARIMNAGAR

The 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 of Godhavari flows. The surrounding Districts of Karimnagar are Adilabad in the north, Madya Pradesh 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 Population of the District is 30,37,486; it is 4.56% of the Population of State of AP and the density is 259 per Sq. Km The District is divided into 56 Revenue Mandals and 14 Panchayat Samithes for self government and administration.

The inscriptions and legislations carved on stone pillars at the Forts and sculptured Temples reveal that Kakatiya Rulers once ruled over this District. The Chalukyas ruled this Region in 8th Century from the renowned Pilgrim Center, Vemulawada, but 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 Governer 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 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 Chilies, 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.

