

Tourism industry generate invisible income to State

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Abstract

In 12th century A.D, the Voddars who carted stones for the construction of temple at Alampur, Mehboob Nagar on the left bank of river Tungabadra, used the sight where the town now stands as a stopping place before crossing the Tungabadra. Kurnool is one of the important districts in the state of Andhra Pradesh and most prominent districts of Rayalaseema region. The major important tourist places in Kurnool district are the belum caves geographically and historically important caves. The word Belum caves is derived from 'Belum' which means caves in Sanskrit. The caves in the past were being used as to dump wastes from nearby places. Belum caves provided employment to local people and its has become source of revenue for them tourism industry may generate invisible income to government.

Keywords: Kurnool District, Belum Caves, Invisible Income, Employment

Introduction

In 12th century A.D, the Voddars who carted stones for the construction of temple at Alampur, Mehboob Nagar on the left bank of river Tungabadra, used the sight where the town now stands as a stopping place before crossing the Tungabadra. They greased their cart wheels with oil supply by local oil merchants and called the place "Kandanaoolu" which in course of time came to be known as "Kurnool". Kurnool occupies an area of approximately 17,656 km^[1]. It is surrounded by the districts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on its north Mehboob Nagar, south Anantapur and Kadappa, east Prakasham and west Bellary districts. On the formation of Andhra state on 1st October 1953, Kurnool became its capital and continued till 1st November 1956 when Andhra Pradesh was formed. The district is strategically located on one of the important highways NH7 and NH18. The district headquarters, Kurnool town is 200km away from the state capital Hyderabad. Kurnool district is gifted with rich natural resources and bounded on the north by major rivers of Krishna and Tungabadra. One of the largest hydro-electric power project is constructed across river Krishna at Srisailam.^[2] Nallamallas and Yerramallas are the two important mountain ranges in the district running parallel from north to south with thick vegetation. Nearly 18% of the total geographical area is under thick forest cover which is a rich source of forest wealth. Further the district is also endowed with rich minerals and enormous deposits of limestone suitable for cement manufacture

Table 1: Demographic Details of Kurnool District

S.no	Particulars	1991	2001	2011
1.	Area (sq.km)	17.65	17.65	17.65
2.	Population in tota; in lakhs	29.73	35.29	40.46
3.	Male	14.96	17.69	20.40
4.	Female	14.77	17.630	20.06
5.	Density per sq.km	168	200	229

Source: National Information Centre, Hyderabad

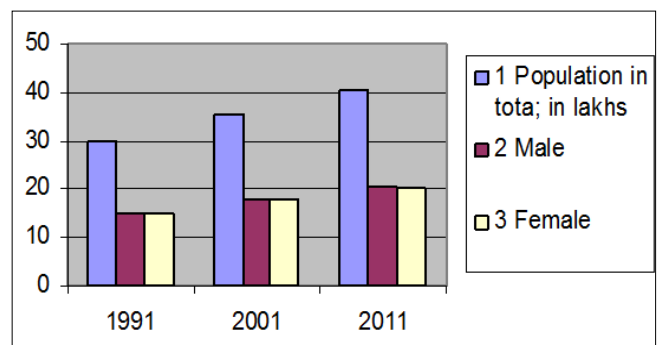


Fig 1: Demographic Details of Kurnool District

Table no 2.1 summarizes the demographic details of Kurnool in last 3 census period. Kurnool extends over an area of 17,650 sq.km. It is noted that the population of the district gradually increasing during the last 3 decades. However, total population of district increased from 29.73

¹ States and Union Territories – Andhra Pradesh, Govt. of India, Pg. No. 1100

² Industrial Profile of Kurnool District – P.g No.4

lakhs to 40.46 lakhs in 2011. Perhaps, as a result the density of population also increased from 168persons/sq.km to 229persons/sq.km from 1991-2011. It is interesting to note that the male and female population steadily increased from last 3 decades and found nearly 3% of growth rate from 1991-2011.

Important Tourist places in Kurnool District

The major important tourist places in Kurnool district are the Belum Caves geographically and historically important caves. Sresailam, Mahanandi, Ahobilam, Mantralayam and Yaganti, Sresailam is famous for Sree Mallikarjuna Swamy in the form of Lingam. It is located in the western part of Nallamala hills at an attitude of about 800 meters above mean sea level. The Mahanandi is a reputed Pilgrim centre of Mahanandeswara located east of Nallamala hills, about 20 km from Nandyal. The festival of Mahanandeswara is celebrated in February and March months. Ahobilam is a famous religious centre located 25 km from Allagadda and is offered to worship Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy. The Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the months of February and March. The Mantralayam is situated on the banks of river Tungabhadra and is significant for Jeevasamadhi of Madhava saint Sri Raghavendra Swamy. The Yaganti is located 11 km from Banaganapalli and is situated amidst natural scenery with caves and water falls. The presiding deity is Uma Maheswara.

References

1. States and Union Territories-Andhra Pradesh, Govt. of India, 1100.
2. Industrial Profile of Kurnool District, 4.