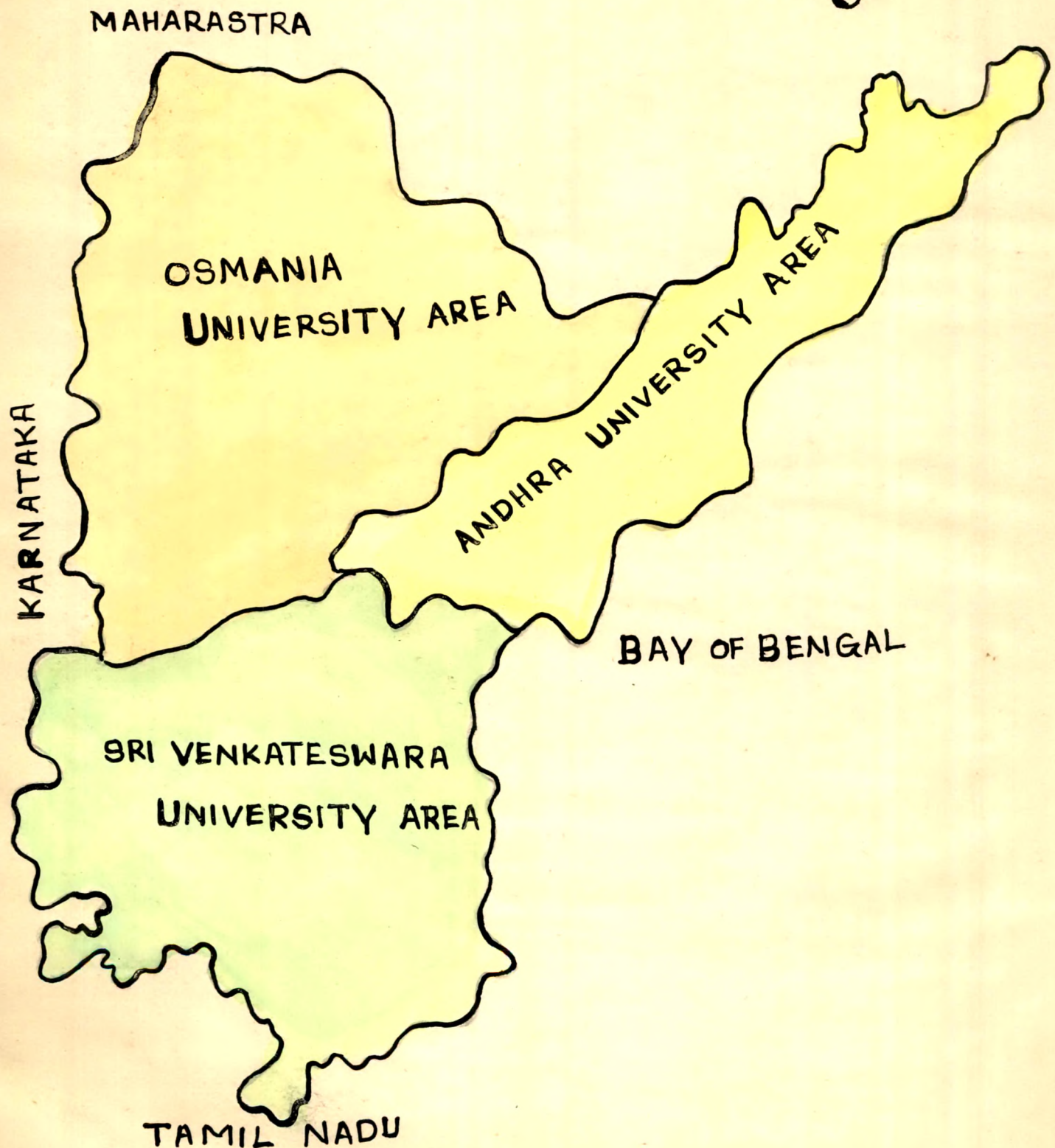


ANDHRA PRADESH AT A GLANCE

Andhra Pradesh

The Three University Areas



ANDHRA PRADESH AT A GLANCE

The State of Andhra Pradesh was ushered in on 1st November 1956 owing to the reorganisation of States on the basis of languages of the people. The erstwhile Andhra State, which had formed part of the erstwhile Madras Presidency till 1st October, 1953, and the Telangana area, which formed part of the erstwhile Hyderabad State, constitute now a single State called Andhra Pradesh. This is the fifth largest state and the fourth most populous one in Indian Union. The State has an area of 21,76,814 sq. km., which is 8.4 per cent of the total area of the Country.

There are twentyone Revenue Districts in the State with about 320 Panchayat Samithis and 27,084 Villages. Besides the Revenue Collectorate, there is a Zilla Parishad at the District Headquarters to look after the local administration in the decentralised set-up.

The present population of the State according to the 1974 census is 4,36,02,708 (44 millions). The principal language of the State is Telugu. Besides Telugu, the people of the State speak Urdu, Hindi, English, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam, etc.

II

Some salient aspects:

Agriculture is the main occupation of about 70% of the people of the State. The main crop is rice. Other important crops are tobacco, oil seeds, cotton, sugar-cane etc.

The State is endowed with a rich variety of minerals. A number of major industries have been established in the State especially around Hyderabad City and Visakhapatnam. Vizag is going to have a Steel Plant soon. The four autonomous Corporations of industries are extending their help for the industrial development of the State.

Andhra Pradesh is known as the "River State of the Indian Union". Important irrigation schemes implemented since independence include, Nagarjuna Sagar Project, Prakasam Barrage, Tungabhadra Low-Level, Kurnool and Cuddapah Canal, Kadam Romperu Drainage Project and Upper Pennar Project in addition to many other medium and minor irrigation schemes.

Pochampadu Project on the Godavary river is under completion. Beside many Hydroelectric projects the Srisaillam Hydro-electric Project is the biggest under construction.

III

Educational Development:

Free and compulsory education has been implemented since 1961 for the children of the age group 5 to 11. There are 42,000 primary schools in the State under the control of Panchayat Samithis following an integrated course of Elementary Education. There are about 7,000 Secondary Schools under Zilla Parishads, Municipalities and Government, following a ten year integrated course.

There are 260 Junior Colleges offering 2-Year Intermediate Course and 200 Degree Colleges offering 3-year Degree Course. The three Universities - Andhra, Osmania and Sri Venkateswara - are serving the three regions of the State, viz. Andhra, Telangana and Rayalaseems respectively. Besides the three Universities, there is one Agricultural University and one Technological University in the Capital City of Hyderabad.

With regard to Teacher Education, all the Basic Training Schools which were preparing teachers for Primary Schools have been kept in abeyance because of disproportionate number of teachers trained.

Regarding Secondary Teacher Education, the three Universities are conducting the B.Ed. Course. There are 15

IV

Colleges of Education in the State at present offering one year full-time B.Ed. Course in the three regions of the State. Among 15 Colleges, three colleges - one Comprehensive College of Education for each University Jurisdiction offers various types of courses in education. Besides the B.Ed. Course some Government Colleges offer special training courses for Language Pandits and also the M.Ed. course.

S.C.E.R.T. which is the academic wing of the Education Department conducts extension programmes by arranging refresher courses, seminars, workshops, etc., for the teachers of various levels.

In view of the past experience and to meet the present needs of the State, the Government is going to introduce a Comprehensive Education Bill and many expansion programmes are expected after the bill is passed by the Legislature.
