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AND CULTURE

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*Army testimonies implicate two
generals in the 2023 Poonch torture
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THE CARAVAN



The discreet charm of
CHANDRABABU NAIDU



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Drive to Survive

The discreet charm of Chandrababu Naidu

SUJATHA SIVAGNAMAM

Since he first took office, three decades ago, Chandrababu Naidu has projected himself as the CEO, rather than chief minister, of Andhra Pradesh, centralising the administration, pushing through massive infrastructure projects and implementing structural reforms to attract private investment, earning acclaim not just in India but in the top echelons of the neoliberal world. A closer examination, however, punctures this image. Naidu's policies and their implementation have had devastating effects, both in the short and the long term, and have tended to benefit his core supporters at the expense of the vast majority of the population. He has done little to improve Andhra Pradesh's position on various human-development indices and has a poor record of upholding human rights. Far from embodying some new paradigm of far-sighted governance, Naidu has often revealed himself as a typical politician, with all the associated venality, duplicity and opportunism. What does set him apart, however, is a keen survival instinct that has enabled him to prop up four prime ministers, form alliances with almost every major political party and script two comebacks.



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