



ANDHRA PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

Monthly Compendium — August 2026

APPSC Group-I | APPSC Group-II | APPSC Group-III | APPSC FSO

Compiled Topics: 89 High-Yield Current Affairs

Categories: Governance · Economy · Infrastructure ·

Agriculture · Environment · Health · Culture & Tourism

Format: Current Affairs + Detailed Static Integration + Paper Mapping

— *A Comprehensive Revision Resource by Carpe Diem IAS* —

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01 SC Commission Asks Officials to Ensure Progress of SC and ST Communities

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

State SC Commission chairman K.S. Jawahar visited SPSR Nellore district to review the implementation of welfare and development schemes for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities.

STATIC LINKAGE — STATE COMMISSIONS FOR SC & ST

- **Constitutional Basis:**
 - **Article 338:** Deals with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC). Clause (9) empowers the President to provide by law for the constitution of a State-level Commission for SCs.
 - **Article 338A:** Inserted by the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003. Deals with the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST). Clause (10) empowers the President to provide by law for the constitution of a State-level Commission for STs.
- **Key Functions:**
 - Investigate and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for SCs and STs.
 - Inquire into specific complaints regarding the deprivation of rights and safeguards of these communities.
 - Participate in and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of SCs/STs, and evaluate the progress of their development under the State.
 - Present annual reports (and other reports as required) to the Governor of the State, which are then laid before the State Legislature.
- **Appointment & Tenure:** The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and other members of the State Commission are appointed by the **Governor** of the State. Their conditions of service, tenure, and rules of procedure are determined by the Governor.
- **Powers of a Civil Court:** While investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, the Commission has the powers of a civil court trying a suit. This includes summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person, examining them on oath, and requisitioning any public record or document from any court or office.
- **Significance:** These commissions act as vital watchdogs to ensure that affirmative action policies, reservation benefits, and welfare schemes (like Panchayat Raj extensions, education, and housing) effectively reach the grassroots level without systemic bottlenecks.

WHY IN NEWS

Andhra Pradesh has become the first State in India to notify a comprehensive framework for pedestrian safety and universal accessibility, transforming constitutional mandates into actionable urban governance.

POLICY APPROVAL AND LEGAL BASIS

- **Cabinet Approval:** August 6, 2026.
- **Legal Backing:** Translates the Supreme Court's directions in *S. Rajaseekaran v. Union of India* (decided on October 7, 2025) into enforceable State-level standards.
- **Context:** In 2023, 35,221 pedestrians were killed in road accidents across India, accounting for 20.4% of all road fatalities.

KEY FEATURES FOR ORDINARY CITIZENS

- **Minimum Space:** Prescribes a minimum clear walking space of 2 metres.
- **Smooth Transitions:** Vehicles must negotiate ramps at building/property entrances, preventing pedestrians from repeatedly climbing up and down.
- **Accessibility for Vulnerable Groups:** Tactile ground indicators for the visually impaired; Braille signage and audible pedestrian signals; Traffic signal timings adjusted for slower walking speeds (elderly); Kerb ramps and universal design features for wheelchair users and those with mobility limitations.
- **Road Crossings:** Preference for safe at-grade crossings. Where foot-over-bridges or subways are unavoidable, elevators or lifts are mandatory, along with LED lighting, CCTV surveillance, and panic buttons linked to local police.

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Department has made the Farmer ID (Unique Farmer Number) mandatory for farmers seeking to sell their produce at government procurement centres ahead of the Kharif procurement season.

KEY POLICY DETAILS

- **Mandatory For:** Government procurement, crop insurance schemes, and shortly for the PM-KISAN scheme.
- **Implementing Agencies:** AP Markfed (procuring pulses like green gram, black gram, red gram, and chickpea) and the Civil Supplies Corporation (procuring paddy) have been directed to purchase

produce only from land parcels linked to a valid Farmer ID.

- **Registration Status:** Against the State's target of 64.71 lakh Farmer IDs, 51.83 lakh farmers have been registered so far.
- **Implementation Strategy:** Field-level officials and Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been instructed to proactively assist farmers in completing the registration process to ensure proper identification and linking of landholdings to government operations.

04 **BRICS Sports Ministers Adopt Joint Declaration in Visakhapatnam**

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

The BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting 2026 concluded in Visakhapatnam with the consensus adoption of the BRICS Sports Joint Declaration, reaffirming member States' commitment to strengthen cooperation in sports.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **BRICS Sports Manufacturing Conclave:** To be held in Udaipur, Rajasthan, in November 2026. It will bring together manufacturers, exporters, investors, and technology providers to exchange practices, quality standards, and supply-chain approaches.
- **BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games 2026:** To be held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on October 12 and 13, 2026. This will be a non-competitive, culturally focused event to showcase traditional sporting practices.
- **BRICS Working Group on Sports Technology:** A proposal was advanced focusing on sports science, athlete performance, and digital transformation.

PRE-EVENT ACTIVITY

- Ministers and delegates participated in the BRICS Friendship Cycling Event, part of the 87th edition of Fit India's "Sundays on Cycle" initiative.
- The ride was led by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and MoS Raksha Khadse, joined by ministers from Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, UAE, Iran, and South Africa.

05 **Joint Statement Adopted at BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting in Vizag**

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

The BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting concluded in Visakhapatnam, adopting a Joint Statement to deepen youth cooperation and expand young people's participation in development processes.

KEY THEMES AND INITIATIVES

- **Themes Covered:** Education and skills, youth entrepreneurship, science and technology, social and cultural participation, poverty alleviation, health and sports, environmental sustainability, interfaith dialogue, and youth inclusion.
- **MY Bharat Platform:** Highlighted as a platform for volunteering, learning, and civic engagement, now boasting over 2.5 crore registered youth.
- **Vision 2047:** The Union government is preparing a vision document to develop 1,00,000 young leaders without political backgrounds.
- **Philosophy:** Minister Mansukh Mandaviya called for a shift "from youth participation to youth partnership; from consultation to co-creation; from programmes for youth to platforms built with youth."

06 **AP's AI-Powered GST Model Wins National Acclaim**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Andhra Pradesh's Artificial Intelligence-led GST administration model received nationwide appreciation at the 6th National Co-ordination Meeting held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND FEATURES

- **Revenue Detection:** The AI-driven return scrutiny detected ₹743.43 crore in revenue over six months, compared to ₹365.75 crore under the earlier manual process.
- **System Capabilities:** The AI and Machine Learning-based system covers the entire tax administration process, including case selection, return scrutiny, audit, inspection, and litigation. It integrates multiple data sources, automated analytical reports, and a risk matrix.
- **Legal-AI Officer Assistant:** Trained on GST laws and approximately 22,000 judicial judgments, this tool assists officers in handling litigation. Over 13,700 cases have been brought under this AI-assisted system.
- **National Interest:** Several States, including Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Assam, and Meghalaya, have shown interest in studying and replicating the Andhra Pradesh model.

07 **33.33% Quota for Backward Classes (BCs) in ULB Elections**

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

The A.P. government cleared a policy step for holding ordinary elections to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), authorizing the implementation of a 33.33% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs).

KEY POLICY DETAILS

- **G.O. Details:** G.O. Rt. No. 1065 released by Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar on August 19, 2026.

- **Scope:** Elections will be conducted for 100 out of 123 ULBs (excluding those pending in court cases or other legal issues).
- **Legal Basis:** Articles 243-U, 243-K, and 243-ZA of the Constitution, vesting the State Election Commission with control over electoral rolls and local-body elections.
- **Finance Commission Link:** The order highlighted the 16th Finance Commission's Operational Guidelines, noting that a duly constituted ULB is essential for accessing Finance Commission grants.
- **Statutory Backing:** Implementation of one-third (33.33%) BC reservations under the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Corporations Act, 1994, and the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1965.

08

₹2.83 Lakh Crore Spent on Welfare, Development in Two Years

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Social Welfare Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy highlighted the government's fiscal discipline and welfare achievements during the 'Rendella Nammakam, Abhivruddhi, Sankshemam' programme in Prakasam district.

KEY FINANCIAL AND WELFARE STATISTICS

- **Total Spending:** ₹1.49 lakh crore on public welfare and ₹1.34 lakh crore on development activities.
- **Community-Wise Welfare:** SC: ₹19,100 crore (benefiting 43 lakh people); ST: ₹5,730 crore (benefiting 9 lakh people); BC: ₹32,534 crore (benefiting 1.18 crore people); Minorities: ₹4,856 crore (benefiting >17 lakh people).
- **Fiscal Management:** Secured ₹23 lakh crore in investments; saved ₹8,269 crore via loan rescheduling; released ₹30,849 crore in employee dues; cleared ₹19,357 crore in pending bills from the previous government.
- **Central Schemes:** Revived 86 Central schemes by clearing ₹8,695 crore in pending dues; secured ₹45,138 crore from the Centre.
- **Infrastructure:** Constructed 3,800 km of roads in two years.

09

EAGLE Signs MoU with IRCS to Check Drug Abuse

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

The Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) to check drugs and ganja in the State.

KEY FACTS AND DETAILS

- **Signatories:** Head of EAGLE and Inspector-General of Police Ake Ravi Krishna, and IRCS chairman Y.D. Rama Rao.

- **Venue:** EAGLE headquarters, Vijayawada (on Friday, August 28, 2026).
- **Other Participants:** Superintendents of Police K.M. Maheswara Raju and G. Swaroopa Rani, and IRCS secretary and CEO A.K. Parida.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

- **Village-Level Reach:** The MoU will help check drugs and ganja at the village level by leveraging the wide network of IRCS volunteers.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** IRCS volunteers will join EAGLE teams to create awareness among students in schools and colleges against the menace of drug abuse.
- **Collaboration:** IRCS will extend all possible help to EAGLE officials to curb the ganja and drug menace across the State.

SECTION II — ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

10 ₹8,022 Crore Development Works in Rayalaseema

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan, holding the portfolios of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (PR & RD) and Environment & Forests, highlighted development works worth approximately ₹8,022 crore in the Rayalaseema region. The works cover roads, rural development, village development, forest development, water conservation, drinking water, agriculture, horticulture, employment generation, and sanitation.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Out of the total, ₹4,523 crore has been allocated for more than 23,000 road works covering 5,238 km. These include Bituminous roads (BT roads) and Cement concrete (CC roads).

HORTICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE

Under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar & Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), steps were taken to support horticulture on 62,000 acres, benefiting 28,000 farmers. More than ₹200 crore has been spent on horticultural crop cultivation across approximately 62,000 acres in two phases.

FARM PONDS AND WATER CONSERVATION

- 41,614 farm ponds have been constructed at a cost of ~₹167 crore.
- Another 29,902 farm ponds have been sanctioned under the next phase.
- Farm ponds alone have brought approximately 50,000 additional acres under cultivation across Rayalaseema.

OTHER DEVELOPMENT WORKS AND WILD ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT

The programme covers drinking-water supply, water conservation, employment generation, cattle sheds for dairy farmers, sanitation, and rural infrastructure. Three mega drinking-water supply schemes are

being implemented under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Amarajeevi Jaladhara. To address human-elephant conflict, a training camp was established in the Palamaner Assembly Constituency for trained Kunki elephants. These are trained elephants used in tracking wild elephants, driving/containing problematic elephants, and assisting in conflict-management operations. The trained elephants have completed 15 operations, helping reduce human-elephant conflict by 75% according to the State government.

11 **APCRDA Allots Land for Sancta Maria International School**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has allotted 7.97 acres of land at Thulluru village for establishing Sancta Maria International School in Amaravati. The allotment has been made to St. Mary's Educational Society.

STATIC LINKAGE — APCRDA

- **Full Form:** Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority.
- **Established:** Under the AP Capital Region Development Authority Act, 2014.
- **Jurisdiction:** Covers the capital region spanning 8,452 sq. km across Guntur, Palnadu, and Bapatla districts.
- **Functions:** Planning, coordinating, and executing infrastructure development, land acquisition (land pooling), and zoning regulations for Amaravati.
- **Master Plan:** Designed by Surbana Jurong (Singapore), envisioning a water-centric, sustainable city with 51% green and water space.

12 **AP's Leap: From Mineral Wealth to Manufacturing Power**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Andhra Pradesh is executing a strategic shift from merely extracting and selling raw minerals to processing, manufacturing, and building industries around these resources within the State, thereby moving up the value chain.

MINERALS FOCUS AREAS: GOLD, TITANIUM, COAL, STEEL, LITHIUM, AND GALLIUM.

- **Gold (Swarnagiri and Beyond):** Swarnagiri Gold Mines near Jonnagiri in Kurnool district, operated by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Ltd. Commenced in July 2026. Expected Output: Around 1,000 kg of gold annually. Locally produced 50-gram to 500-gram, 999/24-carat gold bars, branded as 'Made in Andhra/Made in Jonnagiri'. Future Auctions: Boksampalli, Javakula, Chigurugunta, and Ramagiri belts of Anantapur and Chittoor districts will be auctioned shortly.
- **Gas, Hydrogen, Ammonia, and Urea (Reliance Industries Project):** Underground coal-gasification project near Recherla and Chintalapudi in Eluru district. Proposed Investment: More than ₹2 lakh

crore. End Products: Hydrogen, ammonia, urea, methanol, synthetic natural gas, and liquid fuels.

- **Titanium (Adani Group Project):** Beach sand project for Titanium extraction, processing, and manufacturing of value-added products in Srikakulam. Proposed Investment: ₹16,000 crore.
- **Lithium and Gallium:** Preliminary study by NGRI identified traces in Tummalapalle, Kadapa district. MoU signed with NGRI and IIT Dhanbad to explore potential for manufacturing lithium batteries and semiconductor components.
- **Steel:** ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS India) developing an 8.2-million-tonne plant at Rajayyapeta near Anakapalli; JSW Steel setting up a 2-million-tonne facility in Kadapa.

13 AP as Third Subsea Hub Following Datacentre Buildout

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

Driven by massive datacentre buildout in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the AP coastline will soon host new landing stations for subsea cables that connect the global internet to India. This will establish India's third digital international subsea gateway after Mumbai and Chennai.

KEY PROJECTS AND CONSORTIA

- **Microsoft Corp:** Participating in a consortium to land the 3,600 km India-Southeast Asia (I-2SEA) Submarine Cable System. Set to be ready for service in Q4 2029.
- **Google:** Developing the globe-spanning America-India Connect system, which will land in Visakhapatnam, where the tech giant's datacentre complex is being built.

STRATEGIC AND GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE

- **Resilience:** Most existing cables connecting the east coast of India are 8 to 15 years old, filled to capacity, and rapidly reaching end-of-life.
- **Geopolitical Derisking:** Tensions in West Asia are driving traffic to the eastern coast of India to ensure resilience.
- **Global Connectivity:** Vizag will become one of the most connected places in the world, linking India directly with Southeast Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Europe, and beyond.

14 Renigunta Railway Junction Celebrates 164th Anniversary

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

Renigunta railway junction, the gateway to the temple city of Tirupati, marked its 164th anniversary on August 27, 2026.

HISTORICAL FACTS

- **Establishment:** The line was first established in 1862 by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway (MSM), headquartered in Royapuram (North Chennai).
- **Early Purpose:** The Renigunta–Reddipalli line was crucial for lifting charcoal meant for export, alongside locally grown onions.
- **Steam Loco Shed:** Established in 1892 in Renigunta, which reduced the dependence on Chennai where all facilities were earlier centralized.

CURRENT STATUS

It is a four-pronged junction on the busy Chennai-Mumbai line, cleaving towards Gudur and Tirupati.

15

AP Energy Dept. to Set Up Two New 800-MW Thermal Power Plants

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The Energy Department plans to add 1,600 MW of thermal power capacity to meet the State's burgeoning electricity demand and substitute obsolete coal-based generation units.

PROJECT DETAILS

- **Capacity:** Two units of 800 MW each.
- **Estimated Cost:** Up to ₹25,000 crore.
- **Execution Model:** Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate (DBFOO) basis. Open to public and private generators, including State-owned Genco.
- **Approval:** Formal approval granted by the AP Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC). Bidding is set to commence soon.

RATIONALE FOR CAPACITY ADDITION

- Rising electricity demand and peak load requirements.
- Impending mandatory closure of thermal units older than 25 years by 2030.
- Supercritical units (>660 MW) are being encouraged for their efficiency, relatively lower carbon footprint, and technical advantages.

16

Three-Level Mechanism to Fast-Track Building Clearances

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh government has introduced a uniform three-level mechanism for supervisory checks of buildings and processing of Occupancy Certificates across Nagar Panchayats, Municipalities, Municipal Corporations, and Urban Development Authorities (UDAs).

KEY FEATURES OF THE MECHANISM

- **Objective:** Reduce procedural delays, streamline file movement, fix accountability, and retain existing regulatory oversight.
- **Structure:** Restricts the process to three levels, with the Level-3 officer serving as the confirming authority. If the prescribed cadre officer is unavailable, the next higher-ranking officer will exercise the powers.
- **Coverage:** Covers six categories of buildings, ranging from sites up to 100 square metres to those exceeding 4,000 square metres (excluding high-rise buildings).
- **Level Assignments:** The Ward Planning and Regulatory Secretary will serve as the Level-1 officer across all categories. The seniority of officers at Levels 2 and 3 will vary according to the size of the site.

17

Kakinada Gateway Port Set to be Commissioned by Early 2027

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The greenfield Kakinada Gateway Port, being built in the Kakinada Special Economic Zone (KSEZ), is set to be commissioned by early 2027, following the completion of its breakwater facilities. It will be the third port on the Kakinada coast.

PROJECT KEY FACTS

- **Location:** Kona, Kakinada district (within KSEZ).
- **Developer:** Kakinada Gateway Port Private Limited (KGPL), a subsidiary of Auro Infra Private Limited.
- **Estimated Cost:** ₹2,620 crore.
- **Capacity:** Three berths with an annual handling capacity of 16 Million Metric Ton Per Annum (MMTPA).

CONSTRUCTION STATUS AND PHASES

- **Breakwater Completed:** A total 3.3-kilometre-long breakwater facility is complete.
- **First Berth:** Construction is in full swing, expected to be complete by year-end, paving the way for early 2027 commissioning.
- **Phase 1 Focus:** Exporting coal, granite, fertilizers, and aluminium.
- **Phase 2 Focus:** Construction of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal.

18

A.P. and U.K. Sign MoU to Strengthen Urban Infrastructure

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh government and the United Kingdom government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in urban development and infrastructure, with a specific

focus on developing Amaravati as a liveable capital.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Infrastructure planning and sustainable urban development.
- Technology transfer and innovation.
- Integrated urban mobility.
- Project design, feasibility assessment, investment planning, programme management, and execution.
- Specific sectors: Roads, drainage, drinking water, and solid and liquid waste management infrastructure.

19 Quantum Computing Services May Start in Amaravati from Jan 2027

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana announced that quantum computing services are expected to become operational in Amaravati from January 2027, adding a new dimension to the capital's emerging knowledge ecosystem.

KEY PROJECT DETAILS

- **Technology Source:** Developed using German technology.
- **Timeline:** The quantum computing building is expected to be ready by the end of December 2026, with services commencing in January 2027.
- **Strategic Vision:** To develop Amaravati as a premier knowledge and technology hub, mirroring the growth trajectory of Hyderabad as an IT hub.

20 International RBSM Concludes with 88 MoUs in Visakhapatnam

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The three-day International Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) concluded in Visakhapatnam, resulting in 88 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed between overseas buyers and participating MSMEs.

KEY EVENT DETAILS

- **Dates:** August 19 to 21, 2026.
- **Organizers:** Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation (AP MSMEDC) and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme.
- **Participation:** Over 40 overseas buyers from 25 countries and more than 250 MSMEs from across Andhra Pradesh.

- **Sectors Represented:** Agricultural and processed food products, spices, rice, marine products, textiles, chemicals, and engineering products.

STATIC LINKAGE — RAMP SCHEME

- **Full Form:** Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance.
- **Launched:** 2022 (World Bank assisted).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- **Implementing Agency:** National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).
- **Objective:** Improve MSME access to markets and credit, streamline regulations, and strengthen institutional mechanisms for MSME growth.

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ASSOCHAM Confers 'Best State Linked Issuer' Award to APMDC

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited (APMDC) was conferred the 'Best State Linked Issuer' award by the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

KEY DETAILS

- **Venue:** IX National Summit & Awards on Corporate Bond Market, Mumbai (August 20, 2026).
- **Reason for Award:** Successful mobilisation of ₹9,000 crore through Secured Non-Convertible Debentures, marking a significant fund-raising initiative by a State-linked entity.
- **Selection Parameters:** Governance, regulatory compliance, administration, innovation, impact, business excellence, strategic initiatives, operational effectiveness, and overall contribution to industry growth.

STATIC LINKAGE — ASSOCHAM

- **Full Form:** Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.
- **Established:** 1920.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Nature:** Non-government, not-for-profit apex trade association in India.
- **Objective:** Promote trade and industry, advocate policy changes, and foster economic growth through collaboration between government and the private sector.

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₹7,470 Crore Cleared for Infra Works in Urban Local Bodies Under HAM

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The government has accorded administrative sanction for nearly ₹7,470 crore for infrastructure works in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM).

KEY PROJECT DETAILS AND FUNDING

- **Broader Urban Strategy:** Major projects worth about ₹40,744 crore have been sanctioned, taken up, or planned. This includes 514 projects worth ₹15,274.21 crore under implementation (AMRUT 2.0, AIIB, and UIDF Tranches I and II).
- **HAM Component Breakdown (of ₹5,500 crore capital works):** ₹4,656 crore for roads with drains; ₹510 crore for parks; ₹247 crore for street lighting; ₹88 crore for central medians.

HAM OPERATIONAL MECHANISM

- **Repayment:** The concessionaire-financed component will be repaid over 10 years through 40 quarterly instalments via an escrow account, supported by urban-sector revenues.
- **Maintenance:** The model provides for 10 years of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) by the concessionaires to ensure continued upkeep.
- **Monitoring:** A technology-based monitoring system is in place, utilizing geo-tagged photographic evidence, milestone tracking, quality control data, material test results, and third-party quality audits.

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Six Industrial Parks Proposed Under BHAVYA Scheme

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Industries and Commerce Minister T.G. Bharath informed the A.P. Assembly that the State has proposed six sector-specific industrial parks under the Centre's Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) in its first phase, submitted via the challenge route.

PROPOSED PARK LOCATIONS AND DETAILS

- AP Space City: Tirupati district (over 1,000 acres).
- AP Drone City: Kurnool district (over 485.38 acres).
- Tekulodu Aerospace and Defence Park: Sri Sathya Sai district (over 500 acres).
- Makavaripalem Organic Food Park: Anakapalli district (over 500 acres).
- Renewable Energy Manufacturing Zone: Prakasam district (498 acres).
- Veldurthi Mega Textile Park: Palnadu district (over 500 acres).

STATIC LINKAGE — BHAVYA SCHEME

- **Full Form:** Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana.
- **Launched:** Announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry / DPIIT.
- **Objective:** To promote industrial development and boost manufacturing across India by supporting states in establishing sector-specific industrial parks.
- **Features:** Operates on a challenge mode for states, focusing on employment generation, export promotion, and integrating MSMEs into global value chains.

WHY IN NEWS

Kakinada District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to finalize the alignment of a proposed four-lane greenfield road.

PROJECT DETAILS

- **Route:** A 5-kilometre-long stretch connecting the South Gate of the Kakinada deep-sea Port to Uppalanka.
- **Connectivity:** Will connect directly to NH-216.
- **Benefits:** Minimizes the 22-kilometre distance to reach the port from Samarlakota, saving commuters at least 30 minutes of travel time.

WHY IN NEWS

A delegation from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries visited Bhimavaram, West Godavari district, to inspect processed shrimp facilities following the State government's recommendation to declare it as a One District One Product (ODOP).

WHY IN NEWS

Infrastructure and Investments Minister B.C. Janardhana Reddy informed the Assembly that four major port projects will add 108 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTA) of cargo handling capacity and reduce logistics costs by 30% to 50%.

PORT PROJECTS STATUS AND INVESTMENT

- **Total Estimated Cost:** ₹17,067 crore.
- **Clearances:** Environmental and CRZ clearances obtained for all four.
- **Ramayapatnam Port (Prakasam):** 81% progress; 95% of 850 acres acquired.
- **Machilipatnam Port (Krishna):** 59% progress; land acquisition completed.
- **Mulapeta Port (Srikakulam):** 76% progress; 55% of 1,524 acres acquired.
- **Kakinada Gateway Port:** 33% progress; 55% land acquisition.

WHY IN NEWS

Union Minister for Civil Aviation K. Rammohan Naidu announced that the Central and State governments are coordinating to transform Orvakal Drone City in Kurnool district into a national hub for drone manufacturing, research, testing, training, and technological development.

KEY PROJECT DETAILS

- **Land Allocated:** 600 acres.
- **Current Progress:** In Phase 1, 8 out of 12 plots have been allotted; approximately 55 acres assigned to firms for manufacturing units.
- **Investments:** ₹130 crore already secured; projected to attract up to ₹5,000 crore.
- **Employment Potential:** 5,000 direct and 25,000 indirect jobs.

WHY IN NEWS

AP-Genco Managing Director S. Nagalakshmi emphasized the government's top priority of providing daytime power supply to around 22.50 lakh agricultural consumers and ensuring uninterrupted supply to domestic, industrial, and commercial sectors.

KEY POWER SECTOR STATISTICS

- **Peak Demand:** Recorded 15,016 MW on May 21, 2026, with peak daily energy consumption of 288.92 million units.
- **Generation Growth:** Increased from 77,640.55 MU (2024-25) to 79,684.96 MU (2025-26).
- **Capacity Expansion:** A 15,680 MW expansion programme is underway, featuring the Lower Sileru expansion, Polavaram hydropower project, and Upper Sileru Pumped Storage Project.
- **Transmission Efficiency:** AP-Transco reduced transmission technical losses to 2.6% in 2025-26.
- **Renewable Allocation:** Renewable energy projects with a cumulative capacity of 112.45 Gigawatts have been allocated in the State as of June 2026.

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers), in association with the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), organised a workshop on the power market for industrial consumers in Vijayawada.

KEY DETAILS AND OBJECTIVES

- **Target Audience:** Industries with a contracted demand of 1,000 kW and above.
- **Focus Areas:** Emerging trends in the power market, procurement strategies, cost optimisation, and advantages of participating in the electricity market.
- **Benefits Highlighted:** The power exchange provides a transparent and competitive platform for price discovery, enabling greater flexibility in power procurement. IEX facilitates trading in electricity, renewable energy, and energy certificates through an automated nationwide platform.

STATIC LINKAGE — INDIAN ENERGY EXCHANGE (IEX)

- **Established:** 2008.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Regulatory Body:** Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
- **Nature:** India's first and largest automated power exchange.
- **Functions:** Facilitates short-term electricity trading, including Day-Ahead Market (DAM), Term-Ahead Market (TAM), Renewable Energy (RE), and Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts).
- **Significance:** Promotes market-based price discovery, ensures transparent power procurement, and supports renewable energy integration.

30 **APSPDCL Launches Simplified Payment System for Bulk Electricity Consumers**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) became the first Discom in the State to launch a new system for group electricity services, specifically designed for bulk customers.

KEY FEATURES

- **Target Beneficiaries:** Bulk consumers with multiple service connections under a single name (e.g., TTD, municipal corporations, mobile towers, dairy units, and other private players).
- **Functionality:** Developed through its website, the system allows a single consumer to pay electricity bills for multiple services at once with a single click via a single login.
- **Impact:** Eliminates the tedious and repetitive task of selecting each service connection separately for bill payment.

31 **“Agriculture Grows 13.5% in Andhra Pradesh Even as Rainfall Deficit Hits 51.8%**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The Planning Department presented the July 2026 monthly economic report to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, highlighting robust economic growth despite severe El Niño-induced rainfall deficits.

KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS (Q2 2025-26)

- **Overall Growth:** State recorded 10.7% economic growth, continuing to remain above the national average.
- **GSDP Growth:** Real Gross State Domestic Product growth rose from 6.5% (2023-24) to 9.9% (2025-26).
- **Sectoral Growth:** Agriculture: 13.5% (Best-performing sector); Industry: 10.6%; Services: 9.9%.
- **Allied Sectors:** Meat production increased 9.6%, and egg production increased 5.1%.
- **Exports & Registrations:** General exports rose 10.5% to ₹16,322 crore; STPI exports increased 32.2%; commercial vehicle registrations grew 51.6%.
- **Revenue & Investment:** GST collections increased 21% to ₹13,282 crore; Mega projects worth ₹2.88 lakh crore recorded 75.4% growth; MSME investments of about ₹60,000 crore registered 73.6% growth.

32 **APSPDCL Connects 50,000 Services to Grid with Rooftop Solar Initiative**

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) announced it has become the first DISCOM in the State to connect 50,000 services to the grid under rooftop solar systems. Consequently, Andhra Pradesh secured the 4th position nationally in rooftop solar installation.

KEY PROJECT DETAILS

- **Target:** Install rooftop solar systems with a total capacity of 415 MW on 2.07 lakh houses across 9 districts, with a special focus on SC and ST families.
- **Progress:** As per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Utility Led Aggregation (ULA) portal data, 203.95 MW capacity has been installed for 1.01 lakh households so far, with completion for the remaining households targeted by the end of the month.

33 **CM Naidu to Inaugurate 21.77-km Seed Access Road in Amaravati**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to inaugurate the 21.77-km Seed Access Road and the MLA-MLC residential complexes in Amaravati on August 13, 2026.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- **Route:** Designated as E3, begins at Dondapadu, passes through Rayapudi, Venkatapalem, Penumaka, Undavalli, and Tadepalli, merging with NH-16 near Manipal Hospitals.
- **Right-of-Way:** 60 meters throughout.

- **Phase 1 (14.35 km) & Phase 2 (3.92 km):** Feature a 9-lane carriageway, central Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), and two 11-metre-wide service roads. Includes storm-water drains, water/ICT/gas utilities, medium-voltage power/sewer lines, cycle tracks, sidewalks, and green belts.
- **Phase 3 (3.50 km):** Starts at the 18.270-km point. Includes a 280-metre major steel bridge, a 360-metre 4-lane road, and a 110-metre steel bridge across the Buckingham Canal, transitioning into a 6-lane elevated corridor up to NH-16.

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EESL to Launch Smart LED Street Lighting Project Across 123 ULBs

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, will launch a Smart LED Street Lighting Project in partnership with the MA&UD Department to accelerate energy efficiency across all 123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the State.

KEY FEATURES

- **Scope:** Replace nearly 10.50 lakh street lights with Individual Light Monitoring (ILM)-enabled smart LED lights.
- **Phasing:** Initial phase covers 7.50 lakh lights; extended scope covers 3 lakh lights.
- **Technology:** Integrated with a centralised control and monitoring platform, featuring intelligent lighting controls, real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and digital asset management.

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Government to Transform Amaravati, Vizag, Tirupati into Mega Cities

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

MA&UD Minister Pongulu Narayana, while visiting the CREDAI Tirupati Property Expo 2026, outlined the government's vision to transform these three cities into mega-cities through transparent governance and infrastructure development.

KEY REAL ESTATE REFORMS ANNOUNCED

- **Self-Declaration System:** For buildings up to 15 meters in height, eliminating the need for prior permission.
- **Delegated Authority:** Licensed Technical Personnel (LTPs), engineers, and architects can now issue building approvals.
- **Fast-Track Approvals:** 72-hour approval timeline for buildings with more than 10 floors.
- **Other Concessions:** Significantly reduced setback requirements, permission for balconies in non-high-rise buildings, concessions for green building concepts, and a free-sand policy to foster construction industry growth.

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) granted in-principle approval for the State to procure 1,600 MW of coal-based thermal power to meet rising electricity demand and strengthen long-term energy security.

PROCUREMENT DETAILS

- **Model:** Tariff-based competitive bidding under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003, following the Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate (DBFOO) model.
- **Strategic Context:** This is the first phase of the State's long-term thermal capacity addition programme. The Central Electricity Authority's Resource Adequacy Plan recommends a phased addition of 5,588 MW by 2035-36.
- **Purpose:** To provide firm and dispatchable power during peak demand periods and when renewable energy generation is low.

WHY IN NEWS

Special Chief Secretary (Energy) K. Vijayanand directed DISCOMs to accelerate installations under the Central government's PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), aiming to make AP the best-performing State.

KEY STATISTICS (AS OF AUGUST 4)

- **Total Installed:** 4,11,915 rooftop solar systems (placing AP in the top 4 nationally).
- **ULA Target:** 5,99,105 systems (1,198.21 MW) for SC & ST consumers. Materials supplied for 3,01,524; 2,27,549 installations completed on the ground.
- **DISCOM Progress:** SPDCL (47%), CPDCL (35%), and EPDCL (32%).
- **Directive:** Resolve implementation issues on priority and ensure easy access to low-cost loans through coordination with District Collectors, Lead Banks, and financial institutions.

STATIC LINKAGE — PM SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI YOJANA (PMSGMBY)

- **Launched:** February 2024.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- **Objective:** Provide free electricity to households by installing rooftop solar systems. Target: 1 crore households.
- **Subsidy Structure:** Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of up to 60% for 2 kW and 40% for 3 kW systems.

- **Benefits:** Reduces electricity bills, promotes clean energy, generates employment, and supports net-zero emission goals.

38 **India SME Forum Announces AP SME Awards 2026**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The India SME Forum (ISF) launched the 'Top 50 SMEs of Andhra Pradesh' initiative to recognize enterprises excelling in innovation, exports, employment, sustainability, and economic growth.

KEY DETAILS

- **Context:** AP is the 2nd State in this 7-State initiative, chosen for its evolving industrial landscape and progressive MSME policy ecosystem.
- **Benefits:** Selected enterprises receive automatic nomination for the India SME 100 Awards and gain access to investors, VC funds, banks, tech partners, and global market access.

39 **Economy of Andhra Pradesh is Back on Track, Says CM Chandrababu Naidu**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu released a report on the government's performance (2024-2026), asserting that the NDA government has restored economic confidence and fiscal discipline.

KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- **GSDP Growth:** Rose to 11.3% over the past two years. Per capita income stood at ₹2,94,507 in 2025-26.
- **Capital Expenditure:** Increased 1.5 times (Amaravati: ₹10,000 cr; Polavaram: ₹8,300 cr; Ports: ₹5,437 cr; Airports: ₹2,302 cr; Roads: ₹3,439 cr).
- **Investments:** ₹23 lakh crore secured; ₹11.37 lakh crore already grounded.
- **Debt Management:** Renegotiated 370 loans worth ₹1.5 lakh crore, saving ₹1,100 crore annually and ₹8,269 crore long-term.
- **Growth Strategy:** "Double-engine" governance and a "triple-engine growth strategy" focusing on Visakhapatnam Economic Region (Target ₹10 lakh crore investment), Amaravati Region (Target ₹8 lakh crore), Tirupati Region (Target ₹12 lakh crore), and Rayalaseema (Developed as a horticulture hub).

WHY IN NEWS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is set to inaugurate the first phase of the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Irrigation Project and release water into the project on 31 August 2026. The project is highly significant because its foundation stone was laid by Chandrababu Naidu himself on 5 March 1996, when he was Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, making this inauguration occur nearly three decades later. The project aims to address long-standing irrigation and drinking-water problems in the drought-prone regions of Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore, and Kadapa.

PROJECT KEY FACTS

- **Project Name:** Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Irrigation Project
- **River Water Utilised:** Krishna River
- **Source:** Srisailem Reservoir
- **Storage Reservoir:** Nallamala Sagar
- **Main Purpose:** Irrigation and Drinking Water
- **Water Transfer Mechanism:** Gravity
- **Foundation Stone Laid:** 5 March 1996 by N. Chandrababu Naidu
- **Phase-I Inauguration:** 31 August 2026
- **Phase-I Water Release:** 10.70 TMC ft
- **Phase-I Irrigation Benefit:** Approximately 1.19 lakh acres
- **Phase-I Drinking-Water Beneficiaries:** Approximately 4 lakh people
- **Ultimate Irrigation Potential:** 4.47 lakh acres
- **Ultimate Drinking-Water Beneficiaries:** Around 23 lakh people

WATER FLOW MECHANISM

Srisailem Reservoir → Krishna water → Gravity diversion → Nallamala Sagar → Main Canals → Irrigation + Drinking Water. This represents an important inter-basin/regional water-utilisation infrastructure within the Krishna basin system.

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh government has approved a ₹1,886-crore Drinking Water Grid Project to provide a dependable drinking-water supply to drought-prone areas of Chittoor, Annamayya, and Tirupati districts. The project will draw water from the Gandikota Reservoir in Kadapa district.

PROJECT DETAILS AND COVERAGE

- **Project Name:** Multi-Village Scheme (MVS) on Gandikota Reservoir — Phase-II
- **Water Source:** Gandikota Reservoir, Kadapa district
- **Beneficiary Districts:** Chittoor, Annamayya, Tirupati
- **Total Mandals Covered:** 18 (Kuppam: 4 mandals; Palamaner: 5 mandals; Punganur: 6 mandals; Tirupati District: 3 mandals)

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Agriculture Activity Picks Up — Parvatipuram-Manyam

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Agricultural activity has improved in Parvatipuram-Manyam district following decent rainfall in the catchment areas of several rivers. This is significant as farmers had initially reduced agricultural activity due to concerns regarding water availability and the impact of El Niño.

RAINFALL, RIVERS, AND AGRICULTURE

Important rivers flowing through the district's hilly and plain regions include the Nagavali, Suvarnamukhi, Vegavathi, and Gomukhi, with catchments partly along the Andhra Pradesh–Odisha border. The government had estimated an initial rainfall deficit of 31%. Subsequently, rainfall improved across all 15 mandals of the district, improving river flows and irrigation prospects.

CROP AREA AND PRODUCTION

- **Approximate crop area:** 80,000 hectares
- **Major crops:** Paddy, sugarcane, maize, groundnut, pulses, cashew, turmeric, and ginger
- **Fertiliser distribution:** Directed by Parvatipuram Collector N. Prabhakar Reddy to be ensured through 268 Rythu Seva Kendrams.
- **Crop Diversification Advice:** Farmers were encouraged to choose commercial crops requiring less water instead of highly water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane.

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Odisha to Procure Paddy from A.P. Farmers Cultivating in Odisha

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The Odisha government has agreed to procure paddy from Andhra Pradesh farmers who cultivate their crops in Odisha. This initiative is expected to benefit approximately 50,000 farmers from Andhra Pradesh.

WHY IN NEWS

Jana Sena Party MLC Konidela Nagababu assumed charge as Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Green Executive Committee on 28 August 2026. He announced the objective of increasing Andhra Pradesh's overall green cover to 50% of the geographical area by 2047.

CURRENT STATUS AND APPROACH

The present forest/green cover figure cited for Andhra Pradesh is 22.96%. The programme will not focus exclusively on forests; green cover expansion will be pursued through agricultural lands, villages, urban areas, roads, canal bunds, government premises, private institutional premises, industrial areas, suitable wastelands, large-scale plantations, and gardens.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION AND PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

Achieving the target requires coordination among Agriculture, Horticulture, Panchayat Raj, Education, Industries, Revenue, Water Resources, Transport, and the Forest Department. The programme is intended to become a people's movement with participation from farmers, voluntary organisations, CSR groups, students, youth, industrialists, and citizens.

WHY IN NEWS

A bio-fertilizer production laboratory, estimated to cost ₹3.02 crore, will be established at Yendada in Visakhapatnam district under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

KEY FACTS AND DETAILS

- **Location:** Yendada, Bheemili Assembly constituency, Visakhapatnam district.
- **Estimated Cost:** ₹3.02 crore.
- **Scheme:** Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- **Completion Timeline:** Approximately 9 months.

OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

- **Products:** The laboratory will produce bio-fertilizers such as Azotobacter, Azospirillum, and Rhizobium.
- **Agricultural Impact:** These bio-fertilizers will improve nutrient availability in the soil, support root development, and help maintain soil health.
- **Sustainability:** Reduces dependence on chemical fertilizers, lowers cultivation costs, and promotes environmentally friendly and sustainable agriculture.

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh government has undertaken a major project under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme to ensure round-the-clock drinking water supply to the residents of Ongole in Prakasam district.

DRINKING WATER PROJECT KEY FACTS

- **Scheme:** AMRUT 2.0.
- **Total Cost:** ₹424.42 crore.
- **Executing Agency:** Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL).
- **Completion Timeline:** Within 2 years.
- **Daily Water Supply Target:** 85 million litres per day.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- **Re-zoning:** Re-zoning of 35 distribution zones in the city.
- **Network Development:** Developing a drinking water distribution network spanning 605.30 km.
- **Household Connections:** Setting up 51,340 household connections to ensure improved drinking water supply to every house.

WHY IN NEWS

Severe El Niño-induced monsoon deficits and looming drought are causing water scarcity, shrinking crop coverage, and relentlessly rising cultivation costs, turning the 2026 Kharif season into a desperate financial survival test for farmers.

RAINFALL AND CULTIVATION DATA

- **Monsoon Shortfall:** Extreme 51% rainfall shortfall in Andhra Pradesh (compared to a 13% national deficit between June 1 and August 25).
- **District Status:** All 28 districts are in deficit (25 classified as deficit, 3 as large-deficit).
- **Cultivation Area:** Only 20.35 lakh hectares brought under cultivation so far. By August 19, Kharif sowing covered only 18.9 lakh hectares (about 61% of the normal 30.84 lakh hectares target).
- **Crop-wise Sowing:** Groundnut hit hardest at 34% of normal areas; paddy at 62%, pulses at 70%, cotton at 75%, and maize at 61%.

CHALLENGES AND DILEMMAS

- **Crop Diversification Dilemma:** Shifting from water-hungry paddy to drought-hardy crops is difficult due to established ecosystems and heavy debts.

- **Rising Costs:** Delayed canal releases force reliance on diesel-powered pumps, adding roughly ₹15,000 to the seasonal burden for tenant farmers.
- **Replanting Costs:** In areas like West Godavari, crop rot forced second transplantation, adding an estimated ₹6,000 per acre.

BURDEN ON TENANT FARMERS

Tenant farmers lack recognized documents proving cultivation rights, making it difficult to access institutional credit, crop insurance, and government compensation. Emergency expenditures are financed through informal loans carrying high monthly interest rates of 2% to 3%.

48 **Four-Pronged Strategy to Support Agriculture Amid 51% Rainfall Deficit**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Andhra Pradesh has mounted a comprehensive response to one of its most challenging monsoon seasons, registering a 51% deficit rainfall during the Kharif-2026 season. With agriculture supporting nearly 62% of the State's population, protecting farmers and rural livelihoods has become a top priority.

THE FOUR-PRONGED STRATEGY (BASED ON LOCAL WATER AVAILABILITY)

1. **Irrigated Areas:** Advanced crop calendars and optimized water use.
2. **Water-Scarce Regions:** Encouraged farmers to shift from water-intensive paddy to drought-resilient crops.
3. **Sustainable Practices:** Expanded natural farming, pre-monsoon dry sowing, and seed pelleting, covering 18.20 lakh acres so far.
4. **Resource & Risk Management:** Promoted farm ponds, moisture conservation, crop diversification, and fodder security. Expanded crop insurance coverage significantly from 7.83 lakh hectares (Kharif-2025) to 16.39 lakh hectares this season.

'RYTHANNA MEEKOSAM' CAMPAIGN

- Multidisciplinary teams are conducting parcel-level crop surveys across 18,513 villages.
- **Progress:** 96.91% of the targeted 2.74 crore plots have been surveyed.

49 **Government Intensifying Efforts to Resolve Gundrevula Project Woes**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Ministers Nimmala Ramanaidu and Gottipati Ravi Kumar visited Mantralayam to reiterate the government's commitment to resolving inter-State issues surrounding the Gundrevula project and advancing irrigation and drinking water schemes in western Kurnool and the broader Rayalaseema region.

KEY PROJECT ALLOCATIONS AND TARGETS

- **Gundrevula & RDS-Rajolibanda Diversion Projects:** Government is seeking an amicable resolution to inter-State issues.
- **Guru Raghavendra Motors (Western Kurnool):** ₹17 crore allocated for pending bills and maintenance.
- **Vedavathi Project:** Estimated cost of ₹1,600 crore, targeted for completion by 2029.
- **Gorakallu Reservoir:** ₹60 crore allocated for repairs.
- **Water Supply:** Steps underway to supply water to Kadapa and Pulivendula through Gandikota and Chitravathi.
- **Handri-Neeva Project:** Currently transporting 3,800 cusecs of water. The government has sanctioned ₹1,300 crore for the Neeva branch and ₹700 crore for Madakasira.

STATIC LINKAGE — GUNDREVULA PROJECT

- **River:** Vedavathi River (a major tributary of the Penna River).
- **Location:** Kurnool district (AP) and bordering Karnataka.
- **Type:** Inter-state irrigation and drinking water project.
- **Objective:** Provide water security to the drought-prone regions of western Kurnool and Rayalaseema.
- **Associated Projects:** Often integrated with the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) and Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) to maximize water utilization in the region.

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Seven Low-Pressure Systems, But Little Rain Relief for Andhra Pradesh

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

Despite the formation of seven low-pressure systems during the first three months of the Southwest monsoon, Andhra Pradesh continues to face a severe 51.2% monsoon deficit, raising concerns over agricultural impacts.

RAINFALL DEFICIT DATA (JUNE 1 – AUGUST 25)

- **Statewide Deficit:** 51.2%
- **District Status:** All 28 districts recorded deficient rainfall.
- **Highest Deficits:** Annamayya: 75.9%; Prakasam: 67.5%; Chittoor: 65%

METEOROLOGICAL REASONS FOR POOR RAINFALL

1. **Location of Systems:** All seven systems formed in the head of the Bay of Bengal, near the coasts of Odisha, West Bengal, and Bangladesh, rather than over Andhra Pradesh.
2. **El Niño Impact:** Large-scale subsidence associated with El Niño is causing air to sink over the region, suppressing cloud formation and restricting rainfall to isolated, localized pockets.

WHY IN NEWS

The Forest Department has launched a major palmyra seed collection and plantation drive as part of the Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh initiative to create a natural protective barrier along the State's coastline.

PROJECT TARGETS AND PROGRESS

- **Total Target Area:** 5,499 hectares.
- **Seed Target:** Planting nearly 55 lakh palmyra seeds.
- **Current Progress:** 13 lakh seeds collected during the current fruiting season; 1.65 lakh seeds already planted with support from Panchayat Raj, Revenue departments, school students, and local communities.

THE THREE-TIER COASTAL PROTECTION PLAN

1. **First Tier:** Mangrove forests.
2. **Second Tier:** Palmyra groves acting as a natural windbreak against cyclones and extreme weather.
3. **Third Tier:** Broader coastal green cover strategy.

STATIC LINKAGE — GREAT GREEN WALL OF ANDHRA PRADESH (GGW-AP)

- **Overview:** Massive coastal afforestation and climate resilience project designed to build a 5-kilometer-wide, multi-layered "living ecological shield" along the state's 1,053-kilometer coastline by 2030.
- **Nodal Agency:** Department of Environment, Forests, Science & Technology under Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan.
- **Geographic Coverage:** Spans entire coastline from Srikakulam to Tirupati to protect over 3.3 million vulnerable coastal residents from extreme weather events.
- **Inspiration:** Adapted from Africa's Great Green Wall concept, customized for India's eastern seaboard.

KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS

- **Seaward Edge:** Dense planting of hypersalinity-tolerant mangroves (such as *Avicennia marina*) and shelterbelts in non-estuarine zones to absorb tidal energy and mitigate storm surges.
- **Wind Breaks:** Tall casuarina, palm, palmyra, and pandanus trees along canal bunds and roadsides to act as salinity shields and wind barriers.
- **Community Buffer:** Inland agroforestry, sand dune stabilization (using soil-binding species like *Spinifex litoris*), and community-led plantations to enhance local livelihoods and eco-tourism.

GOALS AND FUNDING

- **Primary Targets:** Restore degraded lands, curb severe coastal erosion (affecting roughly 32% of the state's shoreline), and boost green cover from 30% to 50% by 2047.

- **Financing Mechanism:** Funded through convergence of schemes including MGNREGS, CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority), Green Credit Program, and international climate finance.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Andhra Pradesh coastline: 1,053 km (second longest in India after Gujarat).
- Coastal erosion affects approximately 32% of AP's shoreline.
- Target green cover: 50% by 2047 (currently ~30%).
- *Avicennia marina* is a hypersalinity-tolerant mangrove species.
- *Spinifex litoris* is a soil-binding species used for sand dune stabilization.
- CAMPA funds are used for compensatory afforestation.

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Collector Directs Officials to Step Up 'Jaladhara 2.0' Works in Sri Sathya Sai District

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A. Shyam Prasad directed Irrigation and District Water Management Authority (DWMA) officials to intensify the 'Jaladhara-Jalaharathi 2.0' programme to improve groundwater levels and prevent water scarcity amid prevailing El Niño conditions.

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

- Construction of farm ponds, trenches, sunken pits, and community pasture development.
- Desilting, construction of check dams, and restoration of tanks.
- Empowering more workers under the rural employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) to accelerate these water conservation efforts.

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Veligonda Project Inauguration and Fulfilment of 30-Year Promise

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the inauguration of Phase-I of the Veligonda Project on August 31, 2026, at Markapuram, calling it the fulfilment of a commitment made three decades ago to transform the drought-prone regions of the erstwhile Prakasam district.

KEY PROJECT FACTS AND MILESTONES

- **Foundation Stone Laid:** March 5, 1996, by N. Chandrababu Naidu.
- **Inauguration Date:** August 31, 2026.
- **Water Release:** 10.7 TMC of Krishna water will be released into Nallamala Sagar.
- **Phase-I Irrigation Benefit:** 1.19 lakh acres.

- **Phase-II Expected Benefit:** Irrigation facilities extended to another 3.283 lakh acres.
- **Drinking Water:** Will provide clean drinking water to lakhs of people, offering a permanent solution to the fluoride problem in western Prakasam through tap connections to every household.
- **Compensation:** ₹768 crore has been paid as compensation to 6,206 displaced families.

STATIC LINKAGE — VELIGONDA PROJECT

- **River Basin:** Inter-basin transfer from the Krishna River (Srisailem Reservoir) to the Gundlakamma River basin.
- **Location:** Prakasam, Nellore, and YSR Kadapa districts.
- **Key Components:** Includes tunnels through the Nallamala hills, Nallamala Sagar reservoir, and extensive canal networks.
- **Objective:** Irrigation (approx. 4.47 lakh acres) and drinking water supply to drought-prone and fluoride-affected areas.
- **Significance:** One of the largest inter-basin water transfer projects in AP, addressing severe water scarcity in Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra border regions.

54 Improved Inflows in Nagavali, Vamsadhara, and Other Rivers

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

After a gap of 2.5 months and the severe impact of El Niño, rivers in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts are receiving significant water due to incessant rains in their catchment areas along the Andhra-Odisha border, providing relief to farmers with standing crops.

KEY RESERVOIR AND RIVER DATA

- **Vamsadhara River:** The Gotta barrage received 15,647 cusecs of water, and the same quantity was released for crop benefit.
- **Nagavali River:** The Thotapalli project has sufficient water due to continuous inflows. The river is full at Srikakulam city, meeting drinking water needs.
- **Gosthani River:** The Thatipudi reservoir received 15,111 cusecs of water. Irrigation officials discharged 12,700 cusecs to benefit crop areas in Gantyada, Gajapathinagaram, Jami, and surrounding areas of Vizianagaram district.
- **Madduvalasa Reservoir:** Located in Rajam Assembly constituency (Vizianagaram), it received 1,342 cusecs of water, and 710 cusecs were discharged for irrigation.

STATIC LINKAGE — RIVERS OF NORTH COASTAL ANDHRA

- **Vamsadhara River:** Originates in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha. Flows through Srikakulam district before draining into the Bay of Bengal. Key project: Gotta Barrage.
- **Nagavali River:** Originates in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha. Flows through Srikakulam district. Key project: Thotapalli Project.

- **Gosthani River:** Originates in the Eastern Ghats of Vizianagaram district. Key project: Thatipudi Reservoir.
- **Madduvalasa Reservoir:** Located on the Madduvalasa stream in Vizianagaram district, crucial for local irrigation.
- **Significance:** These rivers are vital lifelines for the North Coastal Andhra region, supporting agriculture, drinking water, and local ecosystems.

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Launch of India's First Indigenous Non-GMO Popcorn Maize Hybrid

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan launched India's first indigenous, non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed at Musunuru in Eluru district, marking a significant step toward agricultural self-reliance.

KEY EVENT DETAILS

- **Venue:** Inauguration of the Gourmet Popcornica factory and cold storage facility at Musunuru, Eluru district.
- **Strategic Importance:** Reduces dependence on imported hybrid technology, conserves foreign exchange, and strengthens Aatmanirbhar Bharat by promoting home-grown solutions capable of competing in global markets.

FARMER AND CORPORATE IMPACT

Gourmet Popcornica has expanded from a home-grown enterprise to a major processing company. Currently, more than 17,500 farmers across 8 States, cultivating nearly 40,000 acres, are associated with the company, gaining better market access and income opportunities.

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El Niño: Protective Irrigation Methods Urged in Sri Sathya Sai District

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The district administration has urged farmers in Sri Sathya Sai district (a known rain-shadow region) to adopt protective irrigation, water-saving practices, and alternative crops to minimize losses amid intensified El Niño conditions.

KEY DATA AND MEASURES

- **Current Status:** Only 45% of the district's normal cultivated area has been covered, and rainfall deficiency has touched 57%.
- **Seed Distribution:** 16,000 quintals of seeds are ready for distribution at an 80% subsidy to encourage alternative crops if rains improve.

- **Fodder Security:** Measures are being taken to raise fodder collectively across 1,000 acres to prevent livestock shortages.
- **Natural Farming Expansion:** Directed to expand the successful PMDS (Prakruthi Vyavasaya / natural farming) model from the existing 94,000 acres to 2 lakh acres.
- **Water Management:** Farmers are urged to dig farm ponds for protective irrigation and adopt drip irrigation for borewells to reduce water wastage.

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₹221-Crore Boost to Medical Infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh

PAPER III — Polity, Governance, Law & Ethics

WHY IN NEWS

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav announced that tenders have been invited for 12 projects with an estimated cost of ₹221.67 crore to strengthen medical infrastructure, initiated by APMSIDC through e-procurement.

PROJECT BREAKDOWN (10 AYUSH, 2 ALLOPATHIC)

- **Under National AYUSH Mission (NAM):** Construction of 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals at six locations: Tekkali (Srikakalam), Rampachodavaram (Polavaram), Nandigama (NTR), Tenali (Guntur), Giddalur (Markapuram), and Tirupati district.
- **Medical Colleges:** Government Unani Medical College at Proddatur (Kadapa district): ₹49 crore; Government Ayurveda Medical College at Dharmavaram (Sri Sathya Sai district): ₹49 crore.
- **VIMS Campus, Visakhapatnam:** First-floor construction above the existing ground floor for the Government Naturopathy and Yoga College: ₹9.37 crore; Third-floor construction above the existing second floor for the Clinical Department of the 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospital: ₹3.04 crore.
- **Allopathic Upgrades:** Upgrading the 50-bed Community Health Centre at Chintur into a 100-bed regional hospital: ₹21.99 crore; Construction of a new Out-Patient Department (OPD) building at Kakinada Government General Hospital (GGH): ₹27.13 crore.

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Forest Department to Set Up Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Environment & Forests K. Pawan Kalyan directed the Forest Department to prepare an action plan for setting up an advanced Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Aranyaramam, near Mangalagiri.

KEY FEATURES AND OBJECTIVES

- **Model:** Based on the advanced system currently operational in the Karnataka Forest Department.
- **Core Functions:** Full-scale forest mapping and digital surveillance of wildlife movements and forest activities; Maintenance of geo-spatial dashboards; Drone-based surveys; Real-time analysis of wildlife

numbers through camera traps; Tracking of vehicles traveling along forest routes; Monitoring patrolling parties, forest fires, and human-wildlife conflicts.

- **Technology Integration:** Developing a facility similar to Karnataka's e-Gastu mobile application, integrating it with the existing Forest Portal and Single Sign-On systems.

59 Industries Made Partners in Achieving Green Cover Target

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

Under instructions from Deputy CM K. Pawan Kalyan, the Forest Department, in coordination with the AP Pollution Control Board, has undertaken a special campaign mandating industries to fill 33% of their land premises with trees and plants.

CAMPAIGN DETAILS

- **First Phase (Concluded August 11):** 26 industries (one from each of the 26 districts) planted 43,300 saplings across a total of 129 acres.
- **Species Priority:** Native species based on local climatic conditions and soil quality, fruit-bearing trees, ornamental plants, neem, cluster bean, drumstick, and coconut.
- **Broader State Target:** Increase green cover to 50% by 2047, with an interim goal of 37% by 2030.

60 AP State Climate Change Cell Prescribes 8 Adaptation Measures for Energy Sector

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

The AP State Climate Change Cell (APSCCC) has prescribed eight adaptation measures for the energy sector as part of the A.P. State Action Plan on Climate Change for 2025-30 (SAPCC).

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- **Very Highly Vulnerable:** Majority of northern and central regions.
- **Moderately Vulnerable:** Coastal regions in the South and a few areas in the North and central regions.
- **Relatively Low Vulnerability:** South-western areas of the State.

EIGHT MAJOR ADAPTATION MEASURES

1. Increase renewable energy generation to 40% of the total energy mix (primarily solar and wind).
2. Establish 120 Gigawatts of renewable power projects.
3. Set up two environment-friendly hydrogen hubs with a combined capacity of 60 MW.
4. Install 1 lakh fast and slow electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.
5. Implement energy efficiency measures in existing buildings through retrofit.
6. Create an enabling environment for market penetration of efficient cooling systems.
7. Ensure energy-efficient street lighting.

8. Achieve 100% coverage of Energy Conservation Cells in commercial, industrial, agriculture, and domestic sectors, and increase energy efficiency in drinking water pumping and lift irrigation systems.

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App-Based Fertilizer Distribution System Yielding Positive Results

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Department has ensured transparent and timely distribution of fertilizers during the ongoing Kharif season through the APAIMS App-based distribution system.

KEY STATISTICS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

- **Total Distribution:** 15,25,319 farmers purchased 3,07,183 tonnes of fertilizers through the App.
- **Tenant Farmers:** 3,00,177 tenant farmers procured 96,694 tonnes, accounting for 31% of total fertilizer purchases.
- **Tracking Mechanism:** End-to-end tracking from manufacturer to end-user farmer ensures continuous monitoring and transparency.
- **Strict Enforcement (Since April 1, 2026):** Suspended sale of fertilizer stocks totaling 13,364 tonnes (valued at ₹30.60 crore); Seized 2,331 tonnes (worth ₹5.11 crore); Suspended licences of 215 dealers; Registered 63 cases under Clause 6A; Filed 6 FIRs; Cancelled licences of 5 dealers.

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HDPT Chief Calls for Conservation of Gundlakamma River

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

Andhra Pradesh State Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust (HDPT) Chairman Dasari Srinivasulu announced a major conservation initiative for the Gundlakamma river.

GEOGRAPHY

The Gundlakamma River is a seasonal waterway that flows through the east-central part of the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. It arises in the Nallamala Hills, an offshoot of the Eastern Ghats. Its main headwaters lie some 6 kilometers from the village of Ardhaveedu, Markapuram district at an altitude of 425 m. above sea level. It follows a north-easterly direction and enters the plains near Cumbum, after flowing through a town named after it. The river then flows past the town of Markapur and towards the Coromandel Coast through Addanki town. It finally enters the Bay of Bengal, some 19 km east of Ongole after covering a distance of 225 km. Gundlakamma is the largest of all the rivers that originate from the Nallamalla Hills.

RESERVOIRS

- **Cumbum lake:** A 15th-century dam built by the Gajapati kings straddles the river on its entry into the plains. It is an earthen dam that plugs the river flows through. Called the Cumbum Dam, it is 57 feet (17

m) high, has a drainage area of 430 square miles and a capacity of 3,696,000,000 cubic feet.

- **Veligonda Project:** Under construction to connect the river basin with the adjacent Krishna River basin by a 20 km long tunnel from the Srisailem reservoir. Construction of a 40 Tmcft capacity storage reservoir is also part of this project.
- **Gundlakamma Reservoir Project:** A modern dam called Gundlakamma Reservoir Project too has been constructed across the river at Mallavaram, Prakasam District. Some 80 feet (24 m) high, this dam has a capacity of 3.80 billion cubic feet and can irrigate 80,600 acres of land. It will also provide drinking water for the 250,000 people living in Ongole and its surrounding villages.

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Rising Elephant Population in Chittoor Triggers Human-Wildlife Conflicts

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

The Asian elephant population in Chittoor district has grown phenomenally, making it the only landscape in Andhra Pradesh with a sustained wild elephant presence, but this has led to complex human-elephant conflicts.

KEY DATA AND CONSERVATION DETAILS

- **Population:** Over 140 resident and migratory Asian elephants crisscross the migratory path through Chittoor.
- **Key Habitat:** Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary (spans Palamaner and Kuppam Assembly constituencies), created/strengthened after elephants reappeared near Kuppam in the 1980s after a 200-year hiatus.
- **Casualties (Last Decade):** More than 20 elephants electrocuted in agricultural fields, alongside a dozen human casualties.
- **Mitigation Strategy:** The Forest Department has stationed 6 Kumki elephants (trained elephants) at the Musallamadugu forest camp in Palamaner. Over a dozen Kumki operations have been carried out in the past 5 years.
- **Conservation Highlight:** The elevated Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway corridor through Koundinya sanctuary is considered a marvel in wild elephant conservation.

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Panchadarla Pilgrimage Hills in Rambilli mandal of Anakapalli district a 'No Mining Zone'

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh government officially declared the Panchadarla hills a 'No-Mining Zone' in August 2026, canceling a gravel quarry lease to protect the fragile ecology, water springs, and archaeological heritage from excavation damage.

ABOUT PANCHADARLA SITE

- The name "Panchadarla" (or Panchadaralu) comes from five natural water jets gushing from fountains supplied by an underground perennial spring.
- Panchadarla is an ancient pilgrimage and heritage site in the Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh, famous for its perennial natural water springs and historic temples.
- **Sri Uma Dharmalingeswara Swamy Temple:** A historic Shaivite shrine located at the site, featuring intricate architecture and pillars with inscriptions dating back to the Eastern Chalukya and 15th-century eras.
- **Kotilingam:** The temple houses a prominent Shiva lingam carved with 12 rows of 85 smaller lingams, totaling a symbolic crore (kotilingam) of lingams.

HISTORICAL INSCRIPTIONS

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) documented 17 inscriptions at the Panchadarla temple in Dharapalem in the year 1899. The inscriptions have since been published in South Indian Inscriptions, Volume VI, providing historical records of the rulers, queens, religious endowments and construction activities associated with the temple and the region.

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Elephant Corridors and Habitats Must Be Protected (Eluru DFO)

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

The Eluru Forest Division organised awareness programmes, rallies, and seminars across its forest ranges to mark World Elephant Day (August 12, 2026).

KEY DETAILS

- **Ecological Role:** Elephants disperse seeds, contribute to biodiversity, and serve as an important indicator of a healthy forest ecosystem.
- **Action Taken:** Special surveillance and tracking teams deployed to monitor elephant movement and prevent human-elephant conflict.
- **Call to Action:** Urged forest-fringe communities to remain alert, refrain from harming/disturbing the animals, and protect traditional elephant corridors as a collective social responsibility.

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Nellimarla Turns to Miyawaki Forest to Increase Green Cover

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

The Japanese afforestation technique, the Miyawaki method, is being adopted to rapidly increase green cover in urban areas of Nellimarla and the outskirts of Vizianagaram city.

KEY INITIATIVES

- **Methodology:** Native saplings planted densely to promote faster growth and create a miniature forest in a couple of years.
- **Sanctioned Projects:** 3 'Nagara Vanams' sanctioned for the Nellimarla constituency by Panchayat Raj and Forest Minister Pawan Kalyan.
- **Community Involvement:** Seed ball plantation drives involving schoolchildren and youngsters, including at 'Aranya Vanam' in Bathalapalli village.
- **Strategic Impact:** The new 'Nagara Vanams' will significantly improve greenery in and around the upcoming Bhogapuram international airport.

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A.P. Aqua Farmers Get Power at ₹1.50 a Unit, 10-Acre Cap Lifted

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The State government released G.O. No. 57 at Palakollu, West Godavari district, providing substantial relief to the aquaculture sector.

KEY POLICY DETAILS

- **Power Subsidy:** Power provided at ₹1.50 per unit to aquaculture ponds across Andhra Pradesh, irrespective of their location in aqua zones.
- **Cap Removal:** The 10-acre cap for availing the power subsidy has been completely lifted.
- **Feed Price Regulation:** A committee comprising farmers and aquaculture sector representatives has been constituted. Aqua feed companies can no longer increase prices at will; the committee's consent is now mandatory for any price increase.
- **Financial Comparison:** The NDA government has spent ₹1,150 crore on power subsidy for the aquaculture sector since 2024, compared to ₹724 crore spent by the YSRCP government during its entire five-year term.
- **Sector Growth:** Achieved a 16% growth rate despite export difficulties, rising feed prices, and declining global aquaculture product prices.
- **University Funding:** ₹27 crore will be released soon to speed up construction and works at the Aquaculture University of Andhra Pradesh at Palakollu.

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Sambar Deer Rescued from HNSS Canal in Sri Sathya Sai District

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

A Schedule-I sambar deer (*Rusa Unicolor*), classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, was rescued after slipping into the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) Canal near Penukonda while searching for water.

RESCUE DETAILS

- **Action:** Rescued within 20 minutes by the HANUMAN project team of the Forest Department.
- **Rehabilitation:** Transferred to the Karuna Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Puttaparthi for veterinary treatment before being released back into the wild.

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Government Expediting Rayalaseema Irrigation Projects for Water Security

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

R&B Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy, along with Law Minister N. Md. Farooq and District Collector Rajakumari Ganiya, reviewed irrigation projects in Nandyal to ensure permanent water security for farmers.

PROJECT UPDATES

- **Gorukallu Reservoir:** ₹53 crore to increase storage capacity; ₹54 crore for leakage repairs.
- **Alaganuru Reservoir:** ₹610 crore for large-scale repair and development.
- **Overall Target:** Complete 36 priority projects at ₹35,313 crore over the next 3 years (14 in Rayalaseema).
- **Water Releases:** 60 TMC to Gandikota and 7 TMC to SRBC in 2024-25; 6 TMC to SRBC in 2025-26.
- **Srisailem Status:** Full capacity is 885 ft (215 TMC); current level is 860 ft (105 TMC). 9 TMC is required to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply.
- **Farmer Advisory:** Due to Kharif deficit, farmers are advised to cultivate alternative crops (black gram, red gram, green gram, sorghum, foxtail millet, castor) and mandatorily register for crop insurance.

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Injured Rock Eagle-Owl Rescued and Released in Sathya Sai District

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

A rock eagle-owl, a Schedule-I protected species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, was rescued near Dharmavaram and released into the wild after treatment.

RESCUE DETAILS

- **Initiative:** Conducted under the HANUMAN Wildlife Rescue Initiative.
- **Release Location:** Nelakota Reserve Forest in Sri Sathya Sai district.

WHY IN NEWS

Representatives of the Praja Arogya Vedika met Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav and submitted a memorandum based on a 9-point resolution adopted at a State-level round-table conference in Vijayawada.

KEY DEMANDS

1. Enactment of a Right to Health Act to guarantee universal access to quality healthcare as a legal right.
2. Withdrawal of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements in government medical colleges and hospitals.
3. Substantial increase in public health spending in line with WHO recommendations.
4. Expeditious completion and full operationalisation of all under-construction government medical colleges.

CORE STANCE

Safeguarding public health is the government's primary responsibility; privatisation and insurance-based models cannot substitute a strong, accountable public healthcare system.

SECTION IV — SOCIETY, EDUCATION & WELFARE**WHY IN NEWS**

Tirupati District Collector S. Venkateswar clarified that the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) centre at Tirupati will continue to function and is not being shifted to Amaravati. The Collector stated that the proposed NIELIT presence at Amaravati would strengthen Andhra Pradesh's emerging leadership in Quantum Technology and Artificial Intelligence, while the Tirupati centre would continue to expand.

TIRUPATI NIELIT CENTRE DETAILS

- **Location:** Sri Venkateswara University (SV University)
- **Approval:** Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Status:** Became fully operational before formal inauguration
- **Formal Inauguration Date:** 2 October 2025

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NIELIT) BASIC INFORMATION

- **Full Form:** National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology

- **Former Name:** DOEACC Society
- **Administrative Control:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India
- **Nature:** Autonomous Scientific Society
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

CORE OBJECTIVE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AREAS

NIELIT works primarily for Human Resource Development, Information Technology, Electronics, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT/IECT), digital literacy, technical education, and skill development. It develops training programmes in Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Cyber Forensics, Blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), Cloud Computing, Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM), and other emerging technologies.

NIELIT AS A DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY

- **Status:** Deemed-to-be University — De Novo
- **Date:** 15 July 2024
- **Primary Campus:** Ropar, Punjab
- **Constituent Units (11):** Aizawl, Agartala, Aurangabad, Calicut, Gorakhpur, Imphal, Kohima, Patna, Srinagar, Kekri, and Itanagar

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Centre of Excellence for Tribal Students — Marikavalasa

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh government has established a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the Residential School (RS-B) in Marikavalasa, Visakhapatnam. The objective is to provide intensive competitive-examination coaching to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students, especially for NEET and IIT-JEE, to increase their representation in premier educational institutions.

KEY FEATURES AND COACHING AGENCY

- **Target Students:** Scheduled Tribe (ST) students
- **Competitive Examinations:** NEET and IIT-JEE
- **Sanctioned Intake:** 600 Intermediate students (300 boys and 300 girls)
- **Selection:** Merit-based
- **Coaching Agency:** Physics Wallah (PW), Noida, engaged through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process
- **Faculty:** 18 faculty members deputed; classes have already commenced

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh government has approved the establishment of an advanced technology campus by the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), a Deemed-to-be University under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

KEY PROJECT FACTS

- **Location:** Permanent campus on 8.5 acres in Amaravati.
- **Investment:** ₹730.70 crore over five years, fully proposed to be funded through a Government of India grant-in-aid from MeitY.
- **Temporary Facility:** Academic and skill-development programmes will begin from September 2026 at a temporary facility in Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, while the permanent campus is developed.

FOCUS AREAS AND ALIGNMENT

- Focuses on Quantum Technologies, AI, Semiconductors, and emerging deep-tech areas.
- Integrates education, research, skilling, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- Aligned with the National Quantum Mission, IndiaAI Mission, and India Semiconductor Mission.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Programmes Offered:** Undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral, diploma, and executive programmes in Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication and Security, AI and Machine Learning, Data Science, Semiconductor Fabrication, Chip Design, VLSI, ATMP, Embedded Systems, and High-Performance Computing.
- **Quantum Research, Innovation & Incubation Block:** Spread over 1.25 lakh sq. ft., housing facilities for quantum computing/communication, quantum photonics, quantum security, cryogenic systems, high-performance computing, cleanroom and nano-fabrication, semiconductor technologies, chip design, VLSI, data centres, and start-up co-working.
- **Sustainable Campus:** Will incorporate solar power generation, solar water heating, energy-efficient utilities, EV charging, and scientific waste-management systems with an objective of net-zero operations.

STUDENT INTAKE AND COLLABORATIONS

- **Target:** Train about 8,250 learners over five years (1,650 through formal degree programmes and 6,600 through skilling and certification programmes).
- **Annual Intake:** Projected to reach 3,913 learners by the fifth year.
- **Collaborations:** Proposed with IIT-Tirupati, IIIT-Sri City, Andhra University, and JNTU institutions for academic programmes, research, and technology development.

WHY IN NEWS

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav directed officials to ensure that every eligible handloom weaver receives benefits under the “Nethanna Sevalo” scheme without negligence, discrimination, or political interference.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ₹25,000 annual financial assistance for eligible active BPL handloom weaver families.
- No age limit or restriction on the number of handlooms to receive the scheme benefit.
- Supports handloom weavers by helping them purchase raw materials and maintain their looms.

KEY DETAILS

- **Phase 1:** 71,536 weavers across the State have already received ₹25,000 each.
- **Phase 2:** 36,617 applications have been received. Door-to-door verification is underway to identify genuine beneficiaries, to be completed by the end of August. Remaining eligible beneficiaries will receive ₹25,000 each.

WHY IN NEWS

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav flagged off a new fleet of modernised vehicles and announced the recruitment of female drivers for the Thalli Bidda Express at Area Hospital in Narasaraopeta (Palnadu district).

VEHICLE AND FACILITY UPGRADES

- **Fleet Size:** 300 modernised vehicles.
- **Safety & Comfort Features:** 6 airbags, GPS tracking, SOS button, foot rest, reverse parking sensors, child lock, sliding doors, hand rails, and temperature-controlled air conditioning suitable for newborn babies.
- **Awareness Integration:** In-vehicle audio systems continuously play government guidance on breastfeeding, newborn care, nutrition, vaccinations, and postnatal care.
- **New Hospital Facilities Launched:** Dialysis units, physiotherapy labs, labour rooms, and an RO plant at Narasaraopeta Area Hospital.
- **Service Scope:** Offers free drop-back services for women who delivered at government hospitals and transports high-risk women to the nearest government facility. Helpline: 102.

- **Health Goals:** Strive for zero maternal deaths in Palnadu district and prevent teenage pregnancies, ensuring proper safety and care if such cases are reported.

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Taiwan Delegation Visits VFSTR, Explores Deeper Academic Ties

PAPER V — Science & Technology

WHY IN NEWS

A delegation from Taiwan's Asia University visited the Vignan Foundation for Science, Technology & Research (VFSTR) in Guntur as part of a week-long India-Taiwan Academic Collaboration Programme.

KEY DETAILS

Focus Areas: Student and faculty exchanges, joint research, international internships, dual-degree programmes, and collaboration in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, information technology, and electrical engineering.

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World Adivasi Day Marked with Cultural Fervour in Araku Valley

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

World Adivasi Day was observed on a large scale at the Government Degree College Grounds in Araku Valley, Paderu, featuring cultural performances, tribal handicraft exhibitions, and cuisine.

OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

- **Date Origin:** The United Nations General Assembly established the day in December 1994.
- **The Date's Meaning:** August 9 marks the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982.

KEY INITIATIVES

- **Welfare Schemes Highlighted:** Food in PGRS scheme; Khet Bachao Abhiyan loan melas for tribal farmers; ASR Lakshyam employment cell for tribal youth; Adavi Thalli Bata road connectivity programme (₹1,000 crore outlay); Feeder ambulance services and Schools of Excellence for tribal students.
- **Health Achievement:** Zero Maternal Mortality Rate reported in 11 pilot primary health centres between April and July.
- **SHG Support:** 13,267 self-help groups (over 1.47 lakh women) received financial assistance of ₹24.23 crore.
- **Exhibitions:** Giri Gramadarshini display, bamboo crafts (Kusiriguda village), Chompi Lacquer Toys, Madagada Clay Toys, and an Adivasi Traditional Food Court.

WHY IN NEWS

The Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) released rankings where Andhra Medical College (AMC), Visakhapatnam, emerged as the best-performing medical college in the State.

RANKINGS BREAKDOWN

- **Government Medical Colleges (Top in AP):** 1. Andhra Medical College (AMC), Vizag: 13th nationally, 1st in State, 4th in South. 2. AIIMS, Mangalagiri: 23rd nationally, 2nd in State, 6th in South. 3. Guntur Medical College: 50th nationally, 3rd in State. 4. Kurnool Medical College: 57th nationally, 4th in State. 5. Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada: 59th nationally, 5th in State. 6. Sri Venkateswara Medical College, Tirupati: 69th nationally, 6th in State. 7. Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada: 109th nationally. 8. Government Medical College, Anantapur: 127th nationally.
- **Private Medical Colleges (Top 100 Nationally):** Alluri Sitarama Raju Academy of Medical Sciences (Eluru) and Narayana Medical College (Nellore).
- **Nursing:** St. Luke's College of Nursing, Visakhapatnam (69th nationally).
- **Pharmacy (Top 30 Govt):** A.U. College of Pharmaceutical Sciences (25th), Acharya Nagarjuna University Dept. of Pharm Sciences (26th), Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswa Vidyalayam (29th).
- **Physiotherapy:** Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (10th nationally, 4th in South).

WHY IN NEWS

The Rural Incubation, Skilling and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Centre in Guntupalli, Ibrahimpatnam mandal, NTR district, is playing a significant role in empowering SHG women.

KEY INITIATIVES AND IMPACT

- **Services:** Provides training, mentorship, technical assistance, market opportunities, AI training, and FSSAI certification awareness.
- **Impact:** Conducted 30 workshops reaching around 5,000 women, many of whom established successful micro and mini food processing units.

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Mahakavi Gurajada's Writing Style as a Guiding Force

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

A new book titled 'Gurajada Annarasha', researching the writing style, idioms, and phrases of Mahakavi Gurajada Apparao, was released in Vizianagaram.

KEY DETAILS OF THE EVENT

- **Book Title:** 'Gurajada Annarasha'
- **Author:** Bobbili Sridhar (writer and journalist).
- **Publisher:** Sikkolu Book Trust, founded by Duppala Ravikumar.
- **Location:** Vizianagaram.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORK

The writing style of Gurajada Apparao's play 'Kanyasulkam' will continue to serve as a guiding force for young writers.

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ASI Discovers Earliest Epigraphical References to Guntur's History

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has revealed new insights into the antiquity of Guntur, shedding light on its socio-political and linguistic evolution during the medieval period.

KEY HISTORICAL FINDINGS

- **Revealed By:** ASI Director (Epigraphy), Dr. K. Munirathnam Reddy.
- **First Epigraphical Reference:** Found in the Pune copper plates issued by King Vishnuvardhana II of the Eastern Chalukya dynasty.
- **Date:** The plates are dated to his 1st regnal year in 669 C.E.
- **Linguistic Transition:** The records document the evolution of the city's nomenclature from ancient forms like Kumturu to Gomturu, and finally to the modern Gunturu.
- **Further Historical Backing:** The 10th-century Ederu copper plate inscription records the city's name as Gomturu, a nomenclature that remained in continuous usage across regional inscriptions from the 10th to the 14th century.

WHY IN NEWS

The 154th/155th birth anniversary of freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Andhra State, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu (Andhra Kesari), was commemorated with events in Visakhapatnam and Ongole.

EVENTS IN VISAKHAPATNAM (154TH ANNIVERSARY)

- **Location:** District Collectorate and Gandhi Centre hall, Dr. L.B. College.
- **Key Figures:** District Revenue Officer M. Visweswara Naidu paid floral tributes. Former Andhra University Vice-Chancellor Nageswara Rao was the chief guest at the programme organised by Gandhi Centre and Bala Vikas Foundation.
- **Focus:** Recalled his fearless role in the independence movement, uncompromising stand against the Simon Commission, and distinguished public service as the first Chief Minister of Andhra State.

WHY IN NEWS

The centuries-old Siddhavatam Fort (also known as Sidhout Fort) in Kadapa district is gaining attention for its rich cultural legacy, ongoing ASI restoration work, and proposed tourism revitalization.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND STRATEGIC LOCATION

- Situated on the left bank of the Penna (Pinakini) River, nestled between the Palakonda (Lankamalla) and Veligonda hill ranges.
- Considered the gateway to the Srisailem pilgrimage centre ('Dakshin Kashi') for devotees arriving from the south.
- Spans 30 acres and features monumental gateways, ornately carved pillars, and 17 bastions.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE AND RULERS

- **1233 CE:** Western Gopuram of Siddheswara temple constructed (inscription in Tamil and Grantha characters during the reign of Rajendra III of the Chola dynasty).
- **1303 CE:** Initial fort construction began under Ananta Raja of the Matti (Matli) kings of the Tuluva dynasty.
- **1605 CE:** Inscription by Venkatapati Raya II of Vijayanagara records the achievements of Matli Ananta (son of Ellama Raju), who built the fort and protective stone wall after capturing the region from Kondaraju Tirupati Raju.
- **1682 CE:** Captured by Mir Jumla II (commander under Aurangzeb), marking the transition to the Golconda Sultanate.

- **1714 CE:** Captured by Abdul Nabi Khan, transforming it into a major power centre under the Nawabs of Cuddapah.
- **1779–80 CE:** Captured by Hyder Ali (Mysorean expansion).
- **Early 1790s:** Passed to the Nizams of Hyderabad.
- **1800 CE:** Came under total control of the British East India Company.
- **1807–1812 CE:** Briefly served as the administrative headquarters of Cuddapah district under the British, before floods in the Penna River forced the capital to shift back to Cuddapah.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

- Features a deep trench on the southern side (faussebraye defense system), with local legends claiming crocodiles were bred there to deter enemies.
- **Sculptural Grandeur:** Pillars depict mythological episodes. Key motifs include Gajalakshmi (goddess of wealth) on gateway pillars, and images of Garuda and Hanuman as guardians on the eastern gateway. A sculpture of Dasavatharam (ten incarnations of Maha Vishnu) is also present.
- Internal structures include temples for Siddhavateswara, Ranganatha, Bala Brahma, and Durga, alongside a Jumma Masjid, a dilapidated Rani Mahal, a horse stable, and a subterranean passage leading to the Penna River.

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Srisailem Temple Tableau Wins Second Prize at I-Day Celebrations

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

The tableau displayed by the Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple, Srisailem, won the second prize at the 80th Independence Day celebrations in Nandyal on August 15, 2026.

TABLEAU HIGHLIGHTS

- **Theme:** 'Dharmapatha' (path of righteousness).
- **Features:** Showcased facilities for devotees, online ticketing for darshan, Arjita Sevas, and prasadam through the 'Mana Mitra' governance system.
- **Outreach:** Highlighted the 'Maa Swami Mallanna, Maa Chentake' outreach programmes conducted in Chenchu settlements and planned Devasthanam works.

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APIIC Tableau Bags First Prize at I-Day Event in Tirupati

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) tableau won the first prize at the Independence Day celebrations held at the Police Parade Ground in Tirupati.

TABLEAU RANKINGS

1. **First Prize:** APIIC (Theme: Industrialisation and industrial infrastructure).
2. **Second Prize:** Education Department (Theme: 'Samagra Siksha').
3. **Third & Consolation:** APSPDCL (Energy Dept) and Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA).

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Suryalanka Beach Set for Major Tourism Infrastructure Boost

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

Suryalanka Beach in Bapatla district is poised to emerge as a major tourism destination with significant infrastructure development.

PROJECT DETAILS

- **Funding:** ₹97.52 crore sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme.
- **Progress:** 6 of the 7 identified tourism works are already underway.
- **Amenities:** Walking and cycling tracks, landscaping, lighting, surveillance, sanitation facilities, restaurants, parking, and boating facilities.
- **Private Investment:** Tourism projects involving ITC, Radisson, Royal Orchid, Lemon Tree, and Novotel are expected to attract investments of about ₹65.42 crore and create 1,135 jobs.

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Forest Department to Set Up Craft Wood Banks at Six Locations

PAPER II — History, Culture & Geography

WHY IN NEWS

Under the instructions of Deputy CM and Minister for Environment and Forests K. Pawan Kalyan, the Forest Department is setting up craft wood banks to ensure a steady supply of quality timber at affordable prices for artisans, promoting sustainable forest resource use.

KEY LOCATIONS AND DETAILS

- **Initial Six Locations:** Kondapalli, Etikoppaka, Settigunta, Madhavamala, Udayagiri, and Bobbili.
- **Future Expansions:** A bamboo wood bank at Rajamahendravaram, a red sanders bank at Tirupati, a teak wood bank at Kapavaram, and a central wood bank at Dowleswaram.
- **Operational Model:** Timber will be supplied to artisans on a no-profit basis (priced based on procurement, transportation, and maintenance costs).
- **Conservation Focus:** Prevents illegal timber collection, promotes regeneration of important tree species, and supports scientific forest management.

WHY IN NEWS

The Anglo-Indian Community Association of Andhra Pradesh (AICA-AP), Visakhapatnam Branch, observed World Anglo-Indian Day in Seethammadhara.

KEY DETAILS

- **Honours:** Lifetime Achievement awards presented to Anita Pereira, Christabel Stevenson, and Aubrey Bernard Hoyle for their societal contributions.
- **Programme:** Included a Holy Mass, music by Lemuel Stevenson, and a community dinner.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

- World Anglo-Indian Day is observed annually on August 2nd to celebrate the rich history, unique cultural identity, and global contributions of the Anglo-Indian community.
- **Date Origin:** August 2nd marks the day in 1935 when the term "Anglo-Indian" first rec

— *End of Compendium* —

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