



# ANDHRA PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

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*Monthly Compendium — January 2026*

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**Target Examinations:**

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

**Compiled Topics:** 30 High-Yield Current Affairs

**Categories:** Government Schemes · Economy · Infrastructure ·

Agriculture · Environment · Science & Tech · Governance

**Format:** Current Affairs + Detailed Static Integration + Paper Mapping

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**01 Swarna Andhra Pradesh — 20-Point Programme Acceleration**

PAPER III — Governance &amp; Society

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The state government accelerated infrastructure works under the **20-Point Programme** implementation, aligning administrative priorities with the long-term **Swarna Andhra Pradesh 2047** vision.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Swarna Andhra Pradesh 2047:** A comprehensive vision document aiming to transform AP into a "Golden State" by 2047, marking 100 years of India's independence. It focuses on economic growth, human development, and infrastructure to make AP a \$1 Trillion economy.
- **20-Point Programme:** An administrative framework outlining 20 critical governance parameters (e.g., law & order, health, education, farmer welfare, women empowerment) used to monitor district performance and ensure last-mile delivery of schemes.
- **Vision Pillars:** Often includes sectors like IT & exports, aquaculture, tourism, renewable energy, and skill development, leveraging AP's 974 km coastline and demographic dividend.
- **NITI Aayog Context:** Aligns with the central government's "Viksit Bharat 2047" roadmap, where states are expected to draft their own state-specific development blueprints.

**02 Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme — ₹6,310 Crore Disbursement**

PAPER IV — Economy &amp; Development

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

A total of **₹6,310 crore** was transferred via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to benefit **46 lakh farmers** under the Annadata Sukhibhava agricultural welfare initiative.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **What is Annadata Sukhibhava?** Andhra Pradesh's state-level investment support scheme that supplements the central PM-KISAN. While PM-KISAN provides ₹6,000/year, the state

tops this up to provide comprehensive income support, making AP one of the few states offering a combined central-state package.

- **DBT Mechanism:** Direct Benefit Transfer ensures subsidies reach beneficiaries' bank accounts directly, integrated with Aadhaar seeding and land record databases to eliminate ghost beneficiaries and leakage.
- **Small & Marginal Farmers (SMFs):** Farmers owning landholdings up to 2 hectares. They constitute about 86% of all farmers in India but own only ~47% of the total crop area. In AP, over 90% of farmers fall in this category.
- **Cropping Seasons:** Kharif (Monsoon: June-July sowing), Rabi (Winter: Oct-Dec sowing), Zaid (Summer). Financial installments are usually aligned with these seasons to support input costs.

### 03 Talliki Vandanam — ₹10,090 Crore Disbursement

PAPER IV / III — Economy & Governance

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The government disbursed **₹10,090 crore** targeting **67.27 lakh** school-going student beneficiaries under the structured Talliki Vandanam framework.

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **What is Talliki Vandanam?** "Talliki" = "to the mother," "Vandanam" = "salutation." A restructured version of the earlier Amma Vodi scheme, providing financial assistance per academic year to mothers of children in Classes 1–10, contingent on 75% attendance.
- **Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT):** These schemes aim to reduce dropout rates, improve Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), compensate for the opportunity cost of schooling (child labor), and promote girl child education.
- **Demographic Context:** AP's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is ~1.7, below the replacement level of 2.1. Investing in the quality of human capital becomes critical as the population stabilizes.
- **SDG Links:** SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 1 (No Poverty).

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The launch of **three free LPG cylinders per year** for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families was fully formalised across the state under the Deepam-2 initiative.

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Deepam Scheme Legacy:** Originally launched in 1999 to provide free LPG connections to BPL households, replacing hazardous kerosene. Deepam-2 expands this by ensuring sustained usage through annual free cylinder refills.
- **PM Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):** Central scheme launched in 2016 to provide LPG connections to women from BPL households. Aimed at universalizing LPG access.
- **PAHAL (DBT in LPG):** Direct transfer of LPG subsidy to bank accounts to prevent diversion. Linked with Aadhaar seeding (KYC) to eliminate fake/duplicate connections.
- **Health & Environmental Impact:** Replacing solid biomass (firewood, dung) with LPG reduces indoor air pollution (a major cause of respiratory diseases among rural women) and curbs black carbon emissions.

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The monthly pension distribution mechanism under **NTR Bharosa** was automated with real-time biometric identification verification to ensure transparency.

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **NTR Bharosa Pension:** AP's social security pension scheme providing monthly financial assistance to the elderly, widows, single women, weavers, fishermen, and artisans.
- **Biometric Authentication:** Using Aadhaar-based biometric verification (ABBA) to eliminate "ghost beneficiaries" and ensure pensions reach only legitimate, living recipients.
- **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):** Central scheme providing pensions to BPL elderly, widows, and disabled. AP tops this up significantly from its own funds.

- **Demographic Shift:** As India's demographic transition progresses, the old-age dependency ratio will rise. Robust social security nets are essential to prevent elderly poverty.

## 06 Aadhaar Biometric for PMUY — 71% Completion

PAPER III / V — Governance & Tech

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

AP achieved over **71% completion** in Aadhaar authentication for Ujjwala (PMUY) beneficiaries to stream subsidies seamlessly.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Aadhaar Seeding:** Linking beneficiary databases (like PMUY) with Aadhaar numbers to establish unique identity, preventing duplication and leakage in subsidy distribution.
- **Legal Backing:** After the Supreme Court's *K.S. Puttaswamy judgement (2018)*, Aadhaar is mandatory for welfare schemes funded from the Consolidated Fund of India (Article 266).
- **PMUY Targets:** Initially targeted 5 crore BPL women (2016), expanded to 8 crore (PMUY 2.0 in 2021). Provides deposit for LPG connection and first refill free of cost.
- **Challenge:** Biometric authentication failures due to poor internet connectivity or faded fingerprints in rural/tribal areas. Solutions include iris authentication and OTP-based fallback.

## 07 Tribal Area Health Mission — Sickle Cell Campaign

PAPER II / III — Health & Society

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A special medical campaign targeting **sickle cell anemia** was rolled out across the tribal-majority Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Sickle Cell Anemia (SCA):** A genetic blood disorder where red blood cells become crescent-shaped, causing blockages, pain, and organ damage. It is highly prevalent among tribal populations globally and in India (especially in MP, Maharashtra, and AP tribal belts).

- **Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District:** Carved out of the old Visakhapatnam district, it has a high concentration of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) like the Chenchus, Bagatas, and Koyas.
- **Fifth Schedule Areas:** Tribal areas administered by the Governor under Article 244(1). Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) advises on welfare matters. PESA Act 1996 extends Panchayati Raj to these areas with tribal autonomy.
- **National Sickle Cell Anemia Mission:** Launched by the Ministry of Health to screen 7 crore people in the 0-40 age group by 2029, focusing on tribal districts.

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## JALAJ Livelihood Centres — River Basin Expansion

PAPER IV / V — Environment & Economy

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state expanded **JALAJ livelihood centres** along river basins to support local artisans and fishermen, integrating conservation with sustainable income.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **JALAJ Initiative:** A joint initiative under the **Namami Gange Mission** and Wildlife Institute of India (WII). "Jalaj" means "born of water." It aims to link river conservation with sustainable livelihoods under the broader **Arth Ganga** concept.
- **Arth Ganga Concept:** Shifts the focus from "Nirmal Ganga" (only cleaning the river) to economic connectivity—monetizing river water, promoting zero-budget natural farming, river tourism (dolphin safaris), and local artisan support.
- **AP Riverine Context:** While JALAJ is national, AP has adapted similar models for its major river basins (Godavari, Krishna, Penna) to support inland fishing communities, boatmen, and riverside artisans.
- **Circular Economy:** Promoting waste-to-wealth models along riverbanks, preventing plastic pollution, and creating green jobs.

**09 Export Preparedness Index — AP Secures  
5th Rank**

PAPER IV — Economy &amp; Development

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Andhra Pradesh secured the **5th rank nationally** among large states in NITI Aayog's **Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024** (released Jan 2026).

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Export Preparedness Index (EPI):** Released annually by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute for Competitiveness. It ranks states on four pillars: Export Policy, Business Environment, Export Infrastructure, and Export Performance.
- **AP's Export Strengths:**
  - **Aquaculture:** AP contributes ~70% of India's shrimp exports (primarily white-leg shrimp from West Godavari, Krishna, Nellore).
  - **Spices & Agriculture:** Chillies (Guntur), turmeric, grapes, mango pulp.
  - **Pharmaceuticals & IT:** Vizag and Hyderabad (though Telangana, AP has a growing pharma hub in Vizag/Parawada).
  - **Petroleum Products:** Refineries in Vizag.
- **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023:** Shifted from incentive-based to remission-based, focusing on ease of exports, e-initiatives, and district export hubs (DEHs).
- **District as Export Hub (DeH):** Initiative to identify and boost products with export potential at the grassroots level, removing bottlenecks.

**10 Amaravati Development Funding —  
₹15,000 Crore Assistance**

PAPER IV / III — Economy &amp; Governance

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

A special central assistance of **₹15,000 crore** was fast-tracked for the capital city development works in Amaravati.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Amaravati Context:** The sole capital of AP post-2024 political transition. Construction of the Assembly, Secretariat, and High Court has been accelerated.
- **Special Category Status (SCS):** AP has long demanded SCS (which provides 90% central funding for centrally sponsored schemes) as compensation for bifurcation losses. While SCS was not granted, special financial packages and devolution of funds have been provided.
- **AP Reorganisation Act, 2014:** Mandated the construction of a new capital. Hyderabad was joint capital for up to 10 years (till 2024).
- **CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority):** Statutory body governing the 8,452 sq. km capital region. Master plan by Surbana Jurong (Singapore).

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## Polavaram Project Inflow — ₹18,000 Crore Allocation

PAPER IV / II — Economy & Geography

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Polavaram Multipurpose Project received an allocation of nearly **₹18,000 crore** to expedite irrigation and flood control works.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Polavaram Project:** An irrigation project on the Godavari River. Declared a **National Project** in 2014 (under LARR Act 2013 provisions), meaning the central government funds it entirely.
- **Components:**
  - Earthen dam, concrete barrage, and spillway.
  - Right and Left Main Canals for irrigating ~3.6 lakh acres in Godavari and Krishna districts.
  - 120 MW hydroelectric capacity.
  - Drinking water supply to Visakhapatnam and surrounding areas.
- **Godavari Water Disputes:** Polavaram's backwater affects flood levels in Telangana (formerly part of united AP). The Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) and Supreme Court have adjudicated these issues.

- **Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R):** Submergence of 276 villages (mostly tribal in Alluri Sitharama Raju and Eluru districts). In-situ rehabilitation and new township construction are ongoing.

## 12 **Veligonda Project Phase-I — Final Stages**

PAPER II — Geography & Economy

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state announced the final stages of completion for **Phase-I** of the Veligonda Project to address drought issues in Prakasam and Rayalaseema.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Veligonda Project:** A major lift irrigation and inter-basin transfer project drawing water from the **Krishna River** (Srisaïlam reservoir) to the drought-prone western districts of Prakasam, Nellore, and Kadapa.
- **Rayalaseema Drought:** The region lies in the rain-shadow area of the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats, receiving low and erratic rainfall. It is chronically drought-prone.
- **Inter-Basin Transfer:** Transferring water from a water-surplus basin (Krishna) to a water-deficit basin (Penna and its tributaries). Similar to the Polavaram-Krishna link.
- **Components:** Head regulator, long tunnels through the Nallamala forest range, and canal networks. Environmental clearances for tunneling through tiger reserve fringes have been a challenge.

## 13 **CII Summit Visakhapatnam — ₹13.25 Lakh**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

### **Crete MoUs**

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

MoUs worth **₹13.25 lakh crore** were formally processed following the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, aiming to generate employment for **16.13 lakh** youth.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **CII (Confederation of Indian Industry):** India's premier industry association. The Partnership Summit serves as a platform for states to attract FDI and domestic investment.

- **Vizag as Investment Hub:** Leveraging its port, Eastern Naval Command, IT corridor (Rushikonda), and pharmaceutical hub. Key sectors attracting investment: Renewable Energy, Green Hydrogen, IT/ESM, Electronics Manufacturing, and Petrochemicals.
- **FDI in India:** India receives FDI primarily via the Automatic Route (no prior govt approval). Top source countries: Singapore, Mauritius, USA.
- **Employment Generation:** Capital-intensive sectors (steel, refining) create fewer direct jobs but high indirect employment. IT, textiles, and electronics are more employment-elastic.

## 14 Investment Approvals — ₹8.55 Lakh Crore for Backward Regions

PAPER IV / III — Economy & Governance

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The AP Cabinet formally tracked investments worth **₹8.55 lakh crore** to expand employment avenues across North Andhra and Rayalaseema.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Regional Disparity in AP:** Historically, Coastal Andhra (especially Krishna-Guntur) has been more developed than North Andhra (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vizag) and Rayalaseema (Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapur, Chittoor).
- **Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF):** A defunct central scheme that aimed to redress regional imbalances. Now, states use their own industrial promotion policies (like AP Industrial Policy 2023) to offer incentives (capital subsidies, power tariff concessions) for setting up units in backward districts.
- **Aspirational Districts Programme:** NITI Aayog monitors 112 backward districts. In AP, districts like Vizianagaram, Kurnool, and Anantapur often feature, focusing on health, nutrition, education, and infrastructure.

## 15 VCIC Industrial Corridor Expansion

PAPER IV — Economy & Infrastructure

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The AP Government cleared land allotment policies for the **Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC)** node.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **VCIC:** A part of the broader **East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC)**, which stretches from Kolkata to Kanyakumari. VCIC is the first phase, covering the AP coastline.
- **JICA Funding:** The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a key partner, providing technical assistance and loans for corridor infrastructure (similar to DMIC - Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor).
- **Nodes & Investment Regions:** VCIC has 7 nodes (Srikakulam, Bhogapuram, Maddilapalem, Ayodhyakonda, Machilipatnam, Nellore, Krishnapatnam). Each node has an Investment Region (IR) and an Initial Investment Area (IIA).
- **Sagarmala Linkage:** Industrial corridors are integrated with the Sagarmala programme (port-led development) to reduce logistics costs and boost export competitiveness.

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## Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam Rail Line — Border Transit Link

PAPER IV / II — Infrastructure & Geography

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

AP infrastructure cell coordinated land acquisition clearances for the **Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam** border transit rail link.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Strategic Connectivity:** This rail line connects remote tribal areas of Odisha (Malkangiri) and Telangana/AP borders (Bhadrachalam). It is crucial for integrating Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas into the mainstream economy.
- **LWE Affected Areas:** The "Red Corridor" spans the dense forests of the Eastern Ghats across AP, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana. Infrastructure development is a key component of the central government's LWE management policy.
- **Economic Potential:** The region is rich in bauxite, manganese, and timber. Rail connectivity will enable mining and agro-forestry exports.
- **Railway Zones:** The line likely falls under the jurisdiction of the East Coast Railway (ECoR) zone (HQ: Bhubaneswar).

**17 Coastal Forest & Mangrove Protection Drive**

PAPER V / II — Environment &amp; Geography

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

A dedicated drive was launched to expand the green cover and restore **mangrove ecosystems** along the AP coastline.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Mangroves in AP:** AP has the **2nd largest mangrove cover** in India (after Gujarat). Key locations: **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary** (East Godavari – largest in India), Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary, and Godavari estuary.
- **Ecological Importance:** Mangroves act as bio-shields against cyclones and tsunamis, serve as breeding grounds for fish (supporting aquaculture), and sequester carbon (**Blue Carbon**) at rates 3-5x higher than terrestrial forests.
- **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ):** CRZ Notification 2019 classifies coastal areas (CRZ-I to IV) to regulate development. Mangroves are typically in CRZ-I (ecologically sensitive, no construction allowed).
- **Mission LiFE & Mangrove Initiative:** India aims to restore mangrove cover to align with global commitments under the Ramsar Convention and CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity).

**18 Rice Production Sustainability — DSR Promotion**

PAPER IV / V — Agriculture &amp; Environment

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The state agriculture department introduced a **direct-seeded rice (DSR)** promotion policy to conserve water.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Direct-Seeded Rice (DSR):** Instead of the traditional method of nursery sowing and puddled transplanting (which requires standing water), DSR involves directly sowing dry seeds into the field. It saves 20-30% of water and reduces labor costs.

- **Environmental Benefits:** Reduces methane emissions (a potent greenhouse gas produced by anaerobic decomposition in flooded paddies). Also addresses the issue of stubble burning in northern India if adopted there.
- **Challenges:** Higher weed infestation requires precise herbicide management. Yield may be slightly lower initially without proper agronomic practices.
- **AP Context:** AP is a "Rice Bowl" with extensive paddy cultivation in the Krishna-Godavari deltas. Groundwater depletion in upland areas makes DSR critical for sustainability.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state fisheries department relaxed norms to increase the export efficiency of premium **white-leg shrimp**.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **AP Aquaculture Dominance:** AP produces ~70% of India's farmed shrimp (primarily *Litopenaeus vannamei* or Pacific white-leg shrimp). Major hubs: Nellore, Prakasam, West Godavari, East Godavari.
- **Export Markets:** USA is the largest importer of Indian shrimp, followed by the EU and Southeast Asia.
- **MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority):** Statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce for seafood exports. Sets quality standards and promotes exports.
- **Challenges:** Disease outbreaks (like White Spot Syndrome Virus), antibiotic residue rejections by the EU/USA, and environmental concerns over mangrove destruction for shrimp farms.

**ODF Plus Villages****CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Over **500 villages** in AP achieved "**ODF Plus Model**" status under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) 2.0:** Launched to maintain ODF status and ensure Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in villages.
- **ODF vs. ODF Plus:**
  - **ODF (Open Defecation Free):** No visible open defecation; access to toilets.
  - **ODF Plus:** ODF status maintained + functional SLWM (greywater management, faecal sludge management, plastic waste management, and biogas/compost from organic waste).
  - **ODF Plus Model:** Villages that excel in all parameters of ODF Plus and become role models.
- **SDG 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation. Target 6.2 aims for access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all and end open defecation.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

AP initiated state-wide civic awareness campaigns in preparation for the upcoming **national census**.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Census of India:** Decennial population count conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** (under Ministry of Home Affairs). The last census was in 2011.
- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 246 (Union List, Entry 69) gives Parliament power to take censuses.
- **Significance:** Census data is the basis for:

- **Delimitation:** Drawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies (frozen till 2026 based on 1971 census).
- **Finance Commission:** Devolution of tax revenues to states (though 15th FC used 2011 population).
- **Reservation:** SC/ST population share determines seat reservation in legislatures.
- **Scheme Implementation:** Identifying beneficiaries for welfare schemes.
- **Digital Census:** The upcoming census is expected to be fully digital (first mobile app-based census), collecting data on smartphones.

## SECTION IV — SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENERGY

### 22 **Marine Biomaterials Research Hub — Visakhapatnam**

PAPER V — Science & Technology

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Visakhapatnam was selected for a joint regional research facility focusing on **marine-derived biomaterials**.

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Biomaterials:** Substances engineered to interact with biological systems for medical use (e.g., implants, tissue engineering scaffolds, drug delivery). Marine organisms (sponges, corals, algae) provide unique biocompatible materials.
- **Marine Biotechnology in AP:** Leveraging the 974 km coastline. Vizag hosts institutions like Andhra University (College of Pharmaceutical Sciences), CSIR labs, and the proximity to AMTZ (Amaravati Medtech Zone) for translating research to medical devices.
- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth. India's National Blue Economy Policy focuses on marine biotechnology as a high-growth sector.
- **Applications:** Chitosan from crustacean shells (waste from shrimp industry) used for wound dressings; collagen from fish scales for cosmetics and surgery.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Test facilities off the AP coast were utilised for validation rounds of the indigenous **Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM)**.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **LRAShM:** An indigenous beyond-visual-range anti-ship missile being developed by **DRDO** for the Indian Navy. Designed to be launched from warships and aircraft to destroy enemy ships at long distances.
- **Strategic Significance:** Enhances the Navy's capability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) against adversaries. Part of the "Make in India" push in defence (Atmanirbhar Bharat).
- **Testing Ranges:** DRDO uses Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur (Odisha) and ranges along the AP/Odisha coast for sea-skimming missile trials.
- **Other DRDO Missiles:** BrahMos (supersonic cruise), Astra (air-to-air), Akash (surface-to-air), Prithvi/Agni (ballistic).

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A major expansion policy was announced to use **agricultural drones** for pesticide spraying across all 26 districts via the Drone Corporation of AP.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Drone Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (APDC):** A state-owned entity established to promote drone technology, conduct surveys, and provide drone-as-a-service (DaaS) for agriculture and governance.
- **Kisan Drones:** Used for crop assessment, soil health analysis, and spraying pesticides/fertilizers. Benefits: Reduces human exposure to toxic chemicals, saves water (up to 30%), and increases efficiency.
- **Regulatory Framework:** DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) regulates drones under the **Drone Rules 2021**. Categories: Nano, Micro, Small, Medium, Large.

- **Drone Shakti:** Central initiative to promote the drone ecosystem, including manufacturing hubs, pilot training (Remote Pilot Certificate), and R&D.

## 25 **NTPC Simhadri — Green Hydrogen Hub Trials**

PAPER V — Science & Environment

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

NTPC Simhadri near Visakhapatnam initiated trials for its integrated **green hydrogen blending** project.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Green Hydrogen:** Hydrogen produced by electrolyzing water using **renewable energy** (solar/wind). It is zero-carbon (unlike grey hydrogen from natural gas or brown from coal).
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Launched in 2023 with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore. Target: 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) annual production by 2030, making India a global hub.
- **NTPC Simhadri:** A 2,400 MW coal-based thermal power plant. NTPC is setting up a seawater-to-green-hydrogen plant here, blending it with coal to reduce carbon intensity.
- **Hard-to-Abate Sectors:** Green hydrogen is crucial for decarbonizing steel, cement, refining, and heavy shipping, where direct electrification is difficult.

## 26 **Renewable Energy Storage — 1,200 MW Pumped Hydro (Kurnool)**

PAPER V / IV — Environment & Economy

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state greenlighted a new **pumped hydro storage project** with a 1,200 MW capacity in Kurnool district.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Pumped Storage Project (PSP):** Acts as a "giant water battery." During off-peak hours (or when solar/wind generation is high), water is pumped from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir. During peak demand, water is released to generate electricity.
- **Need for Storage:** Solar and wind are intermittent (variable). Grid stability requires storage to match supply and demand. Kurnool has massive solar potential (Kurnool Ultra Mega Solar

Park) but needs storage to provide firm power.

- **Kurnool's RE Profile:** Kurnool is a renewable energy hub with solar, wind, and now PSP projects (like Greenko's Pinnapuram project).
- **Energy Transition:** India aims for 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. PSP is the most mature and large-scale storage technology available.

## SECTION V — GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION & CIVIC INITIATIVES

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**AP Assembly Schedule — Budget Session Feb 11**

PAPER III — Polity & Governance

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Assembly notification confirmed that the formal **Budget session** would commence on **February 11**.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **State Budget Process:**
  - **Article 202:** Governor causes the Annual Financial Statement (Budget) to be laid before the State Legislature.
  - **Financial Year:** April 1 to March 31.
  - **Vote on Account:** Temporary authorization for government expenditure for a part of the year until the full budget is passed.
- **Legislative Procedure:**
  - **Governor's Address:** First day of the session; outlines government policies.
  - **General Discussion:** Followed by debate on the budget.
  - **Voting on Demands for Grants:** Only in the Legislative Assembly (Vidhana Sabha). Legislative Council (Vidhana Parishad) can only discuss and delay (max 14 days), not veto.
- **AP Legislature:** Bicameral (Assembly + Council). Assembly has 175 members; Council has 58 members.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The "**Meekosam**" portal was integrated with advanced data analytics for faster petition tracking and public grievance redressal.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Meekosam Portal:** Launched originally in 2015 as a single-window platform for citizens to lodge grievances, suggestions, and track their status online. "Meekosam" means "For You" in Telugu.
- **CPGRAMS:** The central government's portal (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System). States often integrate or link with it for inter-agency issues.
- **Right to Public Services Legislation:** AP has laws mandating time-bound delivery of notified public services. Failure to deliver within the stipulated time allows citizens to appeal, and officials may be penalized.
- **Data Analytics in Governance:** Using AI and machine learning to categorize grievances, identify systemic bottlenecks (e.g., if a specific department has a spike in complaints), and predict areas of distress.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Discoms in AP began **Phase-2 implementation** of smart meters for industrial consumers.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS):** Central scheme launched in 2021 with an outlay of ₹3.03 lakh crore. Aim: Improve operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of Discoms.
- **Smart Prepaid Meters:** Enable real-time monitoring of consumption, remote disconnection/reconnection, and eliminate manual billing errors. Crucial for reducing **AT&C (Aggregate Technical & Commercial) losses**.

- **AT&C Losses:** The gap between energy supplied and revenue realized. High in India due to theft, poor infrastructure, and non-payment. Smart meters help plug these.
- **AP Discoms:** APEPDCL (East) and APSPDCL (South). Both have consistently been among the top-performing Discoms in India regarding loss reduction.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

**APSSDC** launched a new partnership with tech giants to set up **50 skill hubs** in rural colleges.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **APSSDC:** Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation. The nodal agency for coordinating skill development initiatives in the state.
- **Demographic Dividend:** India has the largest youth population. Without skilling, this becomes a liability (unemployment). With skilling, it drives economic growth.
- **Skill India Mission:** Launched in 2015. Flagship scheme: **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** for short-term skill training and certification.
- **Industry-Academia Linkage:** Rural hubs bridge the gap between academic curriculum and industry requirements, ensuring students are "job-ready" in sectors like IT, retail, healthcare, and electronics.
- **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS):** Another central scheme focusing on vocational training for non-literates, neo-literates, and school dropouts in rural areas.

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— *End of Compendium* —

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*Compiled by Carpe Diem IAS for focused, exam-oriented revision. Best wishes for your preparation.*

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