



# ANDHRA PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

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*Monthly Compendium — July 2026*

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**Target Examinations:**

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

**Compiled Topics:** 61 High-Yield Current Affairs

**Categories:** Governance · Economy · Infrastructure ·

Agriculture · Environment · Health · Culture & Tourism

Current Affairs + Detailed Static Integration + Paper Mapping

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**Prepared****CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

Andhra Pradesh has established **150 relief camps** across Polavaram district due to rising water levels in the Godavari and Sabari rivers following the second flood warning at Bhadrachalam. Around **189 villages** falling under the Polavaram Project submergence zone are on alert. NDRF and SDRF teams have been deployed at Chintoor and K.R. Puram, while 32 boats have been arranged for evacuation. At Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage (Dowleswaram), more than **5.2 lakh cusecs** of floodwater is being discharged into the Bay of Bengal.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Godavari River:** Second-longest river in India after the Ganga. Also called the **Dakshina Ganga**. Origin: Trimbakeshwar, Nashik (Maharashtra). Length: 1,465 km. Drains into the Bay of Bengal. Basin States: Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Puducherry (Yanam).
- **Sabari River:** Major left-bank tributary of the Godavari. Originates in the Eastern Ghats (Odisha). Flows through Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. Joins the Godavari near Kunavaram/K.R. Puram region.
- **Polavaram Project:** National Multipurpose Irrigation Project on the Godavari River. Objectives: Irrigation, Hydropower generation, Flood moderation, Drinking water supply, Inter-basin water transfer to the Krishna basin.
- **Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage (Dowleswaram Barrage):** Located near Rajamahendravaram on the Godavari. Originally constructed by Sir Arthur Cotton. Regulates irrigation water for the Godavari Delta. One of India's oldest major irrigation structures.

**PRELIMS FACTS**

- **NDRF** = National Disaster Response Force; **SDRF** = State Disaster Response Force.
- **Papikonda National Park** lies along the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Flood management in India is coordinated under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-3 / APPSC Governance & Disaster Management:** The deployment of relief camps, disaster response forces, early flood warnings and evacuation mechanisms highlights the importance of preparedness, inter-state coordination and community-based disaster management in minimizing the impact of floods. *Keywords: Flood Preparedness • Early Warning Systems • Disaster Resilience • NDRF • SDRF • River Basin Management • Climate Resilience*

02

### AI-Based 'City Flood Alert' Platform Launched

PAPER V / III — Technology & Disaster Management

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh launched **City Flood Alert**, an AI-powered urban flood forecasting platform developed by the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) in collaboration with APSDMA and IIT Gandhinagar. Initially implemented in Vijayawada, the system provides **48-hour rainfall forecasts** and **6-hour flash flood warnings**. It uses Artificial Intelligence, satellite-based Digital Elevation Models (DEM), hydrological modelling and three decades of Budameru flood data. The platform will later be expanded to all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Andhra Pradesh.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Real Time Governance Society (RTGS):** Nodal technology agency of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Uses AI, Big Data, GIS, IoT, and Predictive Analytics to support evidence-based governance and disaster management.
- **APSDMA:** Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority. Coordinates disaster preparedness, mitigation and emergency response.
- **Digital Elevation Model (DEM):** Three-dimensional representation of terrain elevation. Used for flood modelling, watershed analysis, and disaster management.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- **Budameru** is a flood-prone rivulet affecting Vijayawada.
- AI + Hydrological Modelling + DEM improves urban flood prediction.
- Platform provides: 48-hour rainfall forecast, 6-hour flash flood warning.

**GS-3 / APPSC Disaster Management:** The AI-based City Flood Alert platform demonstrates the shift from reactive disaster response to predictive governance, improving urban resilience through technology-driven early warning systems. *Keywords: Artificial Intelligence • Predictive Governance • Urban Flood Management • RTGS • APSDMA • Climate Resilience*

03

### Registration Service Kendras (RSKs) Introduced

PAPER II / III — Governance & E-Governance

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu clarified that **Registration Service Kendras (RSKs)** are being introduced to provide faster, transparent and citizen-friendly property registration services. The government stated that RSKs do not privatise Sub-Registrar Offices (SROs) but function on the model of Passport Seva Kendras, while statutory powers remain with government officials. The Chief Minister directed officials to create public awareness about the benefits of RSKs and assured alternative livelihood opportunities for document writers.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Registration Service Kendras (RSKs):** Purpose: Faster property registration, citizen-friendly services, digital documentation, reduced waiting time, greater transparency.
- **Sub-Registrar Office (SRO):** Functions: Registration of property, marriages, wills; collection of stamp duty; maintenance of land records.
- **Registration Act, 1908:** Provides the legal framework for registration of immovable property, preservation of ownership records, and prevention of fraudulent transactions.
- **Passport Seva Project (PSP):** Launched by the Ministry of External Affairs. Operates through Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Government retains sovereign functions while private agencies provide citizen facilitation services.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- **Registration Act:** 1908.
- Property registration is administered by the Registration & Stamps Department.
- Passport Seva Kendras function under the Ministry of External Affairs.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Governance & E-Governance:** Registration Service Kendras represent the shift towards citizen-centric governance, improving ease of living, transparency and service delivery through technology while retaining government accountability. *Keywords: Citizen-Centric Governance • Ease of Living • Digital Governance • Property Registration • Service Delivery • Good Governance*

04

### Centre Releases ₹104.29 Crore for Judicial Infrastructure

PAPER II — Polity & Judiciary

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Central Government released **₹104.29 crore** over the last five years for judicial infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh. 10 court complexes have been completed, while 24 are under construction. The **Nyaya Vikas Portal** is being used to monitor project implementation digitally. Andhra Pradesh has 137 judicial vacancies against a sanctioned strength of 875 posts.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure:** Launched: 1993–94. Supports court halls, residential quarters, lawyers' halls, digital infrastructure, and computer rooms.
- **Nyaya Vikas Portal:** Online portal for monitoring judicial infrastructure projects across India.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Judicial infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of State Governments.
- The Central Government provides financial assistance through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Judiciary:** Strengthening judicial infrastructure improves access to justice, reduces pendency and enhances judicial efficiency. *Keywords: Access to Justice • Judicial Infrastructure • Nyaya Vikas Portal • e-Courts*

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh signed an MoU with **UN-Habitat** for inclusive and sustainable urban development. Major objectives include establishing a Centre of Excellence for Urban Affairs in Amaravati, urban poverty alleviation, climate-resilient cities, municipal finance, digital governance, and achievement of SDGs. The partnership supports SURGE AP, RISE AP, and UPLIFT AP initiatives.

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **UN-Habitat:** Full Name: United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Established: 1978. Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. Mission: Sustainable urbanisation, affordable housing, inclusive cities.
- **Sustainable Development Goal 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities. Targets: Inclusive urbanisation, affordable housing, public transport, disaster resilience, green public spaces.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- UN-Habitat headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- SDG 11 focuses on Sustainable Cities.

### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Urban Governance:** Collaboration with UN-Habitat aligns state urban policies with global best practices for sustainable, climate-resilient, and inclusive city planning.

*Keywords: UN-Habitat • SDG 11 • Sustainable Cities • Urban Governance • Climate Resilience*

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh aims to achieve **15% GSDP growth, ₹308 lakh crore GSDP by 2047, and ₹55 lakh per capita income**. The state introduced Monthly Economic Reports (MERs), 651 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and monitoring across 30 Secretariat Departments. Focus areas

include industrialisation, capital expenditure, AI-based governance, and evidence-based policymaking.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP):** Measures the total value of goods and services produced within a State.
- **Capital Expenditure (CapEx):** Government spending on roads, ports, irrigation, schools, hospitals. Creates long-term productive assets.
- **Evidence-Based Governance:** Policy decisions based on data, analytics, monitoring, KPIs, and real-time dashboards.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- MER = Monthly Economic Report.
- KPIs = Key Performance Indicators.
- GSDP measures State economic output.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-3 / APPSC Economy:** Data-driven governance and high capital expenditure are critical for achieving the Swarna Andhra @2047 vision, ensuring sustainable economic growth and improved public service delivery. *Keywords: Data-driven Governance • KPIs • GSDP • Capital Expenditure • Economic Growth • Good Governance*

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District achieved **100% digitalisation** of electoral enumeration forms under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Election Commission of India (ECI):** Constitutional body under Article 324. Responsible for electoral rolls, conduct of elections, and voter registration.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Article 324 establishes the Election Commission.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Polity:** Digitalisation of electoral rolls enhances the accuracy, transparency, and inclusiveness of the democratic process, reducing duplication and ghost voters. *Keywords: Electoral Reforms • Digital Governance • Election Commission • Electoral Rolls*

08

### Singapore Delegation Reviews AP's Digital Governance Model

PAPER V / III — Technology & Governance

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

A Singapore government delegation visited the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS). The delegation reviewed the Data Lake, Data Lens, AI-enabled governance, and Command & Control Centre. Both sides exchanged best practices in digital governance.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Real Time Governance Society (RTGS):** Uses AI, Big Data, GIS, IoT, and real-time dashboards to improve governance and public service delivery.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- RTGS is Andhra Pradesh's flagship digital governance platform.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-3 / APPSC E-Governance:** International recognition of AP's digital governance model validates its technological infrastructure and paves the way for global knowledge exchange in smart governance. *Keywords: RTGS • Artificial Intelligence • Smart Governance • Digital Public Infrastructure • Evidence-Based Governance*

09

### Online Works Monitoring System (OWMS) for Urban Water Projects

PAPER II / III — Governance & Urban Development

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh launched the **Online Works Monitoring System (OWMS)** to monitor more than 800 urban water supply and sewerage projects across 123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The platform provides real-time monitoring through a unified digital dashboard covering water sources, WTPs, pipelines, overhead reservoirs, household water connections, sewerage networks, and STPs. Field engineers upload geo-tagged photographs and progress reports using a mobile

application. The system digitises bill processing, reducing payment time from 20–25 days to nearly one week. Nearly ₹19,561 crore has been mobilised under AMRUT 2.0, AIIB-assisted projects, Urban Challenge Fund, UIDF and Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):** Include Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats. Constitutional Basis: 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 (Part IX-A, Articles 243P–243ZG).
- **AMRUT 2.0:** Launched: 2021. Ministry: MoHUA. Objectives: Universal water supply, sewerage and septage management, water body rejuvenation, urban infrastructure improvement.
- **Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF):** Announced in Union Budget 2023–24. Managed through National Housing Bank (NHB). Supports infrastructure in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- **AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank):** Established: 2016. Headquarters: Beijing, China. Provides financial assistance for urban infrastructure, water supply, transport, energy, and sustainable development.
- **Sewage Treatment Plant (STP):** Treats wastewater before discharge or reuse. Prevents water pollution, protects public health, promotes water recycling.
- **Geo-tagging:** Process of attaching GPS coordinates to photographs or project locations for asset verification, transparency, and GIS mapping.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- 74th Constitutional Amendment Act: 1992.
- AMRUT 2.0: 2021.
- UIDF: Announced in Budget 2023–24.
- AIIB: Established in 2016.
- Andhra Pradesh has 123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- Current urban water deficit: 762 MLD.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / GS-III / APPSC Urban Governance:** The OWMS represents the transition towards data-driven and technology-enabled governance. Real-time monitoring, geo-tagged verification, and digital dashboards enhance transparency, accountability, and timely execution of urban infrastructure projects, contributing to SDG 6 and SDG 11. *Keywords: OWMS • Digital*

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District secured **1st rank in India** under the Basic Infrastructure theme of NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) (March 2026 rankings). The achievement was attributed to improvements in drinking water, road connectivity, rural electrification, solar street lighting, Primary Health Centres, school infrastructure, public toilets, and effective implementation of welfare schemes.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP):** Launched: January 2018. Implemented by: NITI Aayog. Objective: Rapid socio-economic transformation of underdeveloped districts.
- **Five Themes:** Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, Basic Infrastructure.
- **Strategy:** Convergence, Collaboration, Competition.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- ADP launched in 2018.
- Implemented by NITI Aayog.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Inclusive Development:** ASR's top rank demonstrates the effectiveness of targeted, data-driven interventions in historically marginalized tribal and backward regions, serving as a model for inclusive development. *Keywords: Aspirational Districts • NITI Aayog • Inclusive Development • Tribal Development • Infrastructure*

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Union Government released **₹2,545.50 crore** to Andhra Pradesh under the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Grameen) (VB-G RAM G)**. Allocation includes: ₹1,414.16 crore (Wages), ₹942.77 crore (Material component), ₹188.50 crore (Administrative expenses). Objectives: Rural employment, durable community assets, rural infrastructure, sustainable livelihoods.

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Rural Employment Programmes:** Major objectives: Wage employment, asset creation, poverty reduction, rural infrastructure, livelihood enhancement.
- **Sustainable Rural Development:** Focus areas: Water conservation, roads, irrigation, community assets, livelihood generation.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- Total first instalment: ₹2,545.50 crore.

### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / GS-III / APPSC Rural Development:** The VB-G RAM G programme promotes employment-led rural development by combining wage generation with durable infrastructure creation, thereby strengthening rural livelihoods, reducing poverty and supporting inclusive growth. *Keywords: Rural Development • Employment Generation • Community Assets • Inclusive Growth • Sustainable Livelihoods*

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh notified the **Common Zoning Regulations, 2026**, introducing a uniform land-use framework across the State (except the capital region). The regulations replace earlier zoning systems with **nine standard land-use categories**. A negative-list approach has been adopted, allowing activities unless specifically prohibited. Development-restricted zones include heritage areas, forests, hills, water bodies, eco-sensitive areas, and Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ).

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Land Use Zoning:** Regulates urban development by specifying permissible activities within designated areas. Objectives: Planned urban growth, environmental protection, public safety, infrastructure planning.
- **Nine Land Use Categories:** Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Public & Semi-public, Recreational, Transportation, Mixed Use, Agricultural, Development Restricted.
- **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ):** Declared under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Objectives: Protect coastal ecosystems, regulate coastal development, prevent ecological degradation.
- **White & Green Category Industries:** Classification by Pollution Control Boards. White Category: Practically non-polluting industries. Green Category: Low pollution industries.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Common Zoning Regulations: 2026.
- Introduced nine land-use categories.
- CRZ is regulated under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- White category industries require minimal environmental clearance.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Urban Development:** The Common Zoning Regulations promote planned urbanisation, improve ease of doing business, ensure environmental sustainability, and support balanced regional development through transparent, rule-based land-use planning. *Keywords: Urban Planning • Land Use • Sustainable Cities • Zoning Regulations • Environmental Protection • Ease of Doing Business*

## SECTION II — ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

13

### Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram

PAPER III / IV — Infrastructure & Economy

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district is going to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 1 August 2026. It is Andhra Pradesh's first international airport after the 2014 bifurcation. Developed by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport

Limited (GVIAL) under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis. Project Cost: Over ₹4,700 crore. Spread across 2,200+ acres, with nearly 500 acres reserved for future expansion. Commercial operations are scheduled to commence from 17 August 2026, replacing civilian operations at INS Dega Airport.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Why Bhogapuram:** Existing INS Dega Airport functions as a civil enclave inside a naval airbase. Civilian flight operations were constrained due to defence priorities, limited scope for runway/terminal expansion, and increasing passenger/cargo demand required a dedicated greenfield international airport.
- **Strategic Importance:** Strategically located to serve North Coastal Andhra. Approximate distance from: Visakhapatnam (45 km), Vizianagaram (20 km), Srikakulam (60 km). Situated adjacent to National Highway-16 (Chennai–Kolkata Corridor).
- **Technical Features:** Runway Length: 3,800 metres. Runway Category: Code E. Can handle wide-body aircraft including Boeing 777, Boeing 787 Dreamliner, Airbus A330, Airbus A350. Equipped with CAT-I Instrument Landing System (ILS), full-length parallel taxiway, AI-enabled Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC), LED Airfield Lighting. Terminal glass façade designed to withstand cyclonic winds up to 275 km/hr.
- **Aerotropolis:** An urban development model where an airport functions as the nucleus of economic activities, integrating logistics parks, industrial zones, warehousing, commercial centres, hotels, and residential townships.
- **Cargo Potential:** Dedicated cargo terminal with cold-chain facilities expected to boost exports of marine products, pharmaceuticals, agricultural produce, horticultural products, and manufactured goods.
- **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) - DBFOT Model:** Design – Build – Finance – Operate – Transfer. The private developer designs, finances, builds, operates, and maintains the facility for the concession period, then transfers the asset to the Government.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Type: Greenfield International Airport.
- Developer: GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL). Parent Company: GMR Group.
- PPP Model: DBFOT.
- Runway: 3,800 metres (Code E).

- Initial Passenger Capacity: 6 million passengers per annum (MPPA). Ultimate Expansion Capacity: 40 MPPA.
- Located on NH-16 (Chennai–Kolkata Corridor).
- Commercial operations begin from 17 August 2026. Replaces civilian operations at INS Dega.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Infrastructure & Economic Development:** The Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport is a landmark infrastructure project demonstrating the role of PPPs in developing world-class aviation infrastructure. By improving connectivity, logistics, tourism, exports and industrial growth, it is expected to become a major catalyst for the socio-economic transformation of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh. *Keywords: Greenfield Airport • PPP • DBFOT • Aerotropolis • Air Cargo • Logistics Hub • Regional Connectivity • Infrastructure-led Growth • North Coastal Andhra • Economic Development*

14

### **Bhogapuram Airport to be the 'Gateway of Global Andhra'**

PAPER III / IV — Infrastructure & Economy

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh Information and Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy stated that the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram, will serve as the **"Gateway of Global Andhra."** The airport is expected to boost exports, tourism, logistics and industrial growth in North Andhra. The airport has a planned cargo handling capacity of 25,000 metric tonnes. The Government plans to develop an aviation hub, aircraft manufacturing and Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) facilities, Skill Development Centre, Aviation University and Edu City around the airport.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Greenfield Airport:** Constructed on previously undeveloped land. Advantages: Planned infrastructure, future expansion, better connectivity, modern aviation facilities, higher operational efficiency.
- **Cargo Terminal:** Facilitates movement of freight through air transport. Importance: Faster exports, reduced logistics cost, improved cold-chain infrastructure, global market connectivity.

- **Aviation Hub:** Integrated ecosystem comprising airport, Aircraft Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO), cargo logistics, aviation training institutions, aircraft manufacturing, and skill development centres.
- **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO):** Undertakes aircraft maintenance, repair, inspection, component replacement, and airworthiness certification. Benefits: Reduces dependence on foreign MRO facilities, lowers airline operating costs, generates skilled employment, promotes aviation ecosystem.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Airport: Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport.
- Location: Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district.
- Type: Greenfield International Airport.
- Cargo Capacity: 25,000 metric tonnes (initial).
- Developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- Planned ecosystem includes: Aviation Hub, Aircraft MRO facilities, Aviation University, Skill Development Centre, Edu City.
- Airport terminal is designed in the shape of a flying fish, reflecting the coastal identity of North Andhra.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Infrastructure & Logistics:** The Bhogapuram International Airport is envisioned as a multi-modal economic growth engine rather than merely an aviation facility. By integrating air cargo, logistics, MRO services, skill development, education and industrial infrastructure, it is expected to transform North Andhra into a global investment, tourism and export hub.

*Keywords: Greenfield Airport • Aviation Hub • MRO • Air Cargo • Aerotropolis • Export Promotion • Logistics Infrastructure • Regional Connectivity • Skill Development • Global Andhra*

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh sought a dedicated **SWAYAM retail outlet** at Bhogapuram International Airport to market products made by Self-Help Group (SHG) women. The proposal also requested greater

support under PMFME Scheme, interest subvention through Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), and recognition of SHG Federations as District Resource Organisations (DROs).

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME):** Launched: 2020. Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Objectives: Support micro food enterprises, promote ODOP products, improve value addition, generate employment.
- **Stree Nidhi:** SHG credit institution promoted by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments. Provides quick credit to women SHGs.
- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):** Launched: 2020. Provides medium and long-term financing for agricultural infrastructure.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- PMFME: 2020.
- Based on One District One Product (ODOP) approach.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Women Empowerment:** Integrating SHG products into high-footfall international airports provides direct market access, enhances brand visibility, and empowers rural women entrepreneurs, aligning with the 'Vocal for Local' initiative. *Keywords: Women Entrepreneurship • SHGs • PMFME • Food Processing • Rural Livelihoods*

### 16 Cabinet Approves Ballari–Guntakal Railway Multi-Tracking Project

PAPER III / IV — Infrastructure & Economy

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the third and fourth railway lines on the **Ballari–Guntakal section**. Project Cost: ₹1,264 crore. Completion Target: 2028–29. Benefits: Improved connectivity to 99 villages, additional freight capacity of 16.22 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), better logistics under PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan:** Launched: 2021. Objective: Integrated infrastructure planning, multi-modal connectivity, logistics efficiency, faster project implementation.

- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA):** Chaired by the Prime Minister. Approves major economic and infrastructure projects.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- PM GatiShakti: 2021.
- Freight capacity addition: 16.22 MTPA.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Infrastructure:** Railway capacity enhancement improves logistics efficiency, regional connectivity and industrial competitiveness, directly supporting the freight corridor objectives of the eastern seaboard. *Keywords: PM GatiShakti • Railway Infrastructure • Multi-modal Connectivity • Logistics*

### 17 Rayalaseema Emerging as a Major Industrial Hub

PAPER III / IV — Economy & Regional Development

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Rayalaseema is rapidly emerging as a major manufacturing and industrial hub due to large-scale investments, improved infrastructure and investor-friendly policies. The region has attracted major projects including the JSW Integrated Steel Plant (Kadapa), Kia India automobile plant, Royal Enfield manufacturing unit (Tirupati), defence manufacturing projects, renewable energy parks, and the proposed Space City near Sriharikota. The Government attributes this transformation to Ease of Doing Business, Speed of Doing Business, industrial incentives and infrastructure development.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Rayalaseema Region:** Consists of four districts: Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, YSR Kadapa, Annamayya. Characteristics: Located in the rain-shadow region of the Deccan Plateau, receives comparatively low rainfall, frequently affected by drought, rich in mineral resources, suitable for solar and wind energy generation.
- **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) & Speed of Doing Business:** Reforms aimed at making it easier to establish and operate industries through faster approvals, single-window clearance, digital services, transparent regulations, and reduced compliance burden.
- **State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB):** Apex body that approves major investment proposals, facilitates industrial projects, coordinates between departments, and promotes

Andhra Pradesh as an investment destination.

- **Industrial Clusters Emerging:** Automobile Manufacturing (Kia India, Royal Enfield), Steel Industry (JSW Integrated Steel Plant), Defence Manufacturing (DRDO AMCA Integration & Flight Testing Centre, Bharat Forge, HFCL Precision Ammunition), Renewable Energy (Ultra Mega Solar Parks in Kurnool, YSR Kadapa), Space Sector (Proposed Space City near Sriharikota), Food Processing.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Kia India established its manufacturing facility in Sri Sathya Sai District.
- Royal Enfield is setting up its manufacturing plant near Tirupati.
- JSW Steel Plant (Kadapa): Phase-I Investment: ₹4,500 crore. Overall Proposed Investment: ₹16,350 crore.
- Kurnool Ultra Mega Solar Park is one of India's largest solar parks.
- Sriharikota houses the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), India's principal spaceport.
- Rayalaseema is known for the cultivation of Mango, Banana, Tomato, Papaya, Citrus fruits.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Industrial Development:** The transformation of Rayalaseema from a drought-prone region into an emerging industrial hub demonstrates the role of industrial policy, infrastructure development, investment promotion and sectoral diversification in achieving balanced regional development. *Keywords: Regional Development • Industrial Corridors • Ease of Doing Business • Speed of Doing Business • Manufacturing Hub • Defence Corridor • Renewable Energy • Automobile Industry • Food Processing • Balanced Regional Development*

18

### Delhi Firm Proposes ₹100-Crore Flight Training School in Andhra Pradesh

PAPER III / IV — Infrastructure & Skill Development

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Knots Aerospace Pvt. Ltd., a Delhi-based aviation company, has proposed establishing a **Flight Training Organisation (FTO)** in Andhra Pradesh with an investment of ₹100 crore over five years. The proposed locations are Kurnool Airport and Nagarjuna Sagar Airport. The project is expected to generate around 100 direct jobs in the initial phase, expand the training aircraft fleet

from 6 to 20 aircraft within five years, and strengthen aviation skill development and pilot training infrastructure.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Flight Training Organisation (FTO):** An institution approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for training commercial pilots. Training includes ground classes, flight simulation, flying training, aviation regulations, navigation, and meteorology.
- **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA):** Ministry: Ministry of Civil Aviation. Apex aviation safety regulator in India. Responsible for licensing pilots, aircraft certification, flight safety, and approval of Flight Training Organisations.
- **UDAN Scheme:** Launched: 2016. Objective: Improve regional air connectivity, make air travel affordable, develop underutilised airports.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- DGCA functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- UDAN stands for Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik.
- Flight Training Organisations require DGCA approval.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Infrastructure & Skill Development:** The proposed Flight Training Organisation will strengthen aviation skill development, improve employability, and support Andhra Pradesh's ambition of becoming an aviation hub, complementing infrastructure such as the Bhogapuram International Airport. *Keywords: Civil Aviation • DGCA • Flight Training Organisation • Skill Development • Aviation Hub • UDAN*

19

**Centre Targets 83.61 Lakh PNG Connections in Andhra Pradesh by 2032**

PAPER III / V — Energy & Infrastructure

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has approved **10 Geographical Areas (GAs)** in Andhra Pradesh for expansion of the City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network. Target: 83.61 lakh Piped Natural Gas (PNG) domestic connections by March 2032. As of 31 May 2026, 2,98,111 PNG connections have been provided across Andhra Pradesh. East Godavari district has the highest number of PNG connections in the State.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Piped Natural Gas (PNG):** Natural gas supplied directly to households through underground pipelines. Uses: Cooking, water heating, commercial establishments, small industries. Advantages: Cleaner than LPG, continuous supply, safer distribution, lower emissions, no cylinder handling.
- **City Gas Distribution (CGD):** Supplies PNG to households, CNG to transport vehicles, and natural gas to industries and commercial establishments.
- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB):** Established: 2006. Statutory body under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006. Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Functions: Regulates CGD networks, authorises Geographical Areas (GAs), promotes natural gas infrastructure, protects consumer interests.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- PNGRB Act: 2006.
- PNG is supplied through underground pipeline networks.
- CGD includes: PNG, CNG, Industrial natural gas supply.
- Target for Andhra Pradesh: 83.61 lakh PNG connections by March 2032.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Energy & Infrastructure:** Expansion of the City Gas Distribution network promotes clean energy transition, reduces dependence on conventional fuels, lowers carbon emissions, and supports India's commitment towards a gas-based economy and energy security.

*Keywords: PNG • CGD Network • PNGRB • Natural Gas • Clean Energy • Energy Transition • Gas-Based Economy • Sustainable Infrastructure*

20

**Andhra Pradesh Approves ₹1,638.52 Crore  
for Greenfield Ports Expansion**

PAPER III / IV — Infrastructure & Economy

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh approved **₹1,638.52 crore** for Phase-II expansion of Ramayapatnam Port, Mulapeta Port, and Machilipatnam Port. Total land acquisition: 6,248.54 acres. The State also approved the Nexus Integrated Logistics Park in Tirupati with an investment of ₹255 crore and expected employment of ~1,000 jobs.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Greenfield Port:** A newly developed port built at a previously undeveloped coastal location. Benefits: Higher cargo capacity, export promotion, industrial growth, coastal economic development.
- **Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB):** Responsible for port development, maritime infrastructure, and coastal logistics.
- **PM Gati Shakti:** Supports multi-modal connectivity, logistics efficiency, and port-led development.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Ramayapatnam — Nellore.
- Mulapeta — Srikakulam.
- Machilipatnam — Krishna district.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Infrastructure:** Port-led development under the Sagarmala paradigm enhances coastal economic zones, reduces logistics costs, and integrates regional manufacturing with global supply chains. *Keywords: Port-led Development • Blue Economy • Logistics • Maritime Infrastructure • Gati Shakti*

21

### **Andhra Pradesh Opens First Overseas Investment Facilitation Centre in Busan**

PAPER III / IV — Economy & International Relations

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh inaugurated **APEX Korea (Andhra Pradesh External Engagement–Korea)** at Busan, South Korea. It is the State's first overseas investment facilitation centre, established by the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB). Functions include investment promotion, investor facilitation, aftercare services, and government coordination. The State invited Korean companies to invest in the ₹30,000 crore Dugarajapatnam Shipbuilding Cluster, footwear manufacturing, maritime technology, and financial services.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB):** State investment promotion agency responsible for attracting investments, facilitating industries, and improving Ease of Doing Business.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** Investment made by foreign entities in another country's productive assets. Benefits: Technology transfer, employment, capital inflow, export growth.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- APEX Korea established at Busan.
- APEDB is Andhra Pradesh's investment promotion agency.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Economy:** Establishing overseas facilitation centres demonstrates proactive sub-national diplomacy (paradiplomacy), directly targeting high-value FDI and technology transfer to boost state-level industrialisation. *Keywords: FDI • Investment Promotion • Ease of Doing Business • Industrialisation • Paradiplomacy*

22

## Andhra Pradesh Retail Inflation Above National Average

PAPER III — Economy

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh's retail inflation reached **4.9% (May 2026)** compared to the national average of 3.9%, remaining above the national rate for the fifth consecutive month. Rural inflation (5.09%) exceeded urban inflation (4.61%). Major contributors: Food inflation, education, restaurants, and personal care services. The State has placed inflation under its "Needs Attention" watchlist for continuous monitoring.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Retail Inflation:** Measures changes in prices paid by consumers and is measured using the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** Compiled by National Statistics Office (NSO). Base Year: 2012 = 100. Used by RBI for monetary policy.
- **Inflation Targeting:** Under the RBI Act, target inflation is  $4\% \pm 2\%$ .
- **Causes of Inflation:** Supply shortages, rising food prices, increased fuel costs, demand growth, weather events (El Niño).

## PRELIMS FACTS

- CPI compiled by NSO.
- RBI inflation target:  $4\% \pm 2\%$ .
- CPI is used for retail inflation.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Economy:** Persistent above-average inflation, particularly in rural areas, highlights vulnerabilities in the agricultural supply chain and the need for targeted state-level interventions to stabilize essential commodity prices. *Keywords: Inflation • CPI • Food Inflation • Purchasing Power • Monetary Policy • Cost of Living*

23

## Ongole Processes 1.76 Lakh Tonnes of Legacy Waste

PAPER III / V — Environment & Urban Governance

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Ongole Municipal Corporation (OMC) has processed **1.76 lakh tonnes** of the 2.56 lakh tonnes of legacy waste accumulated at the Guthikondavaripalem dumping yard. The processed waste is scientifically utilized: Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) is supplied to cement industries, inert material is used for filling low-lying areas, and bio-soil is utilized as organic manure. The District Collector directed officials to accelerate biomining operations and strengthen source segregation of wet and dry waste.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Legacy Waste:** Old municipal solid waste that has accumulated in dumpsites over several years without scientific treatment. It occupies valuable land, emits methane, contaminates groundwater, and poses serious environmental and public health hazards.
- **Biomining:** Scientific process of excavating old dumpsites and segregating waste into reusable fractions (recyclables, RDF, compost/bio-soil, inert material). Helps reclaim landfill space and reduce environmental pollution.
- **Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF):** Produced from combustible municipal solid waste after removing recyclable and biodegradable materials. Commonly used as an alternative fuel in cement industries and thermal power plants.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 aims to make all cities Garbage Free through scientific waste management and remediation of legacy dumpsites.
- Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandate source segregation, door-to-door collection, scientific processing, and ban on open dumping/burning.
- Waste should be segregated into: Wet (Biodegradable), Dry (Recyclable), Domestic Hazardous Waste.
- Single-use plastic items have been prohibited in India from 1 July 2022 under the Plastic Waste Management Rules.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Environment & Urban Governance:** Scientific processing of legacy waste through biomining supports circular economy principles, reduces landfill pollution, conserves land resources, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and promotes sustainable urban development.  
*Keywords: Legacy Waste • Biomining • Circular Economy • Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 • Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 • Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) • Source Segregation • Sustainable Urban Development*

24

### Anantapur to Establish 170 TPD Waste Processing Plant

PAPER III / V — Environment & Urban Governance

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Swachh Andhra Corporation Ltd. (SACL) will establish a **170 Metric Tonnes Per Day (TPD) waste processing plant** at Anantapur. Project Cost: ₹17.50 crore. Objective: Eliminate legacy waste, develop a garbage-free city, and ensure scientific processing of municipal solid waste.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016:** Objectives: Source segregation, scientific processing, recycling, composting, waste-to-energy. Governed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Solid Waste Management Rules notified in 2016.
- Governed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

**GS-III / APPSC Environment:** Decentralized waste processing infrastructure is critical for tier-2 and tier-3 cities to achieve the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission and transition towards a circular economy. *Keywords: Legacy Waste • Swachh Bharat Mission • Circular Economy • Waste Processing • Sustainable Cities*

25

### Andhra Pradesh Amends Building Rules, 2017

PAPER II / III — Urban Governance & Economy

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Andhra Pradesh Government amended the **Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017** through G.O.Ms. No. 161 issued by the Municipal Administration & Urban Development (MA&UD) Department on 29 July 2026. The reforms aim to speed up building approvals, simplify regulations, attract investments and promote sustainable urban development, aligning with the Central Government's deregulation guidelines and supporting the Swarna Andhra@2047 vision.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017:** Regulate planning, construction and development of buildings in Andhra Pradesh. Implemented by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Urban Development Authorities (UDAs), and MA&UD Department.
- **High-Rise Building:** As per amended rules, buildings 24 metres or more (including the stilt floor) are classified as High-Rise Buildings. Require additional provisions relating to structural stability, fire safety, emergency evacuation, and disaster management.
- **Transferable Development Rights (TDR):** Allows a landowner to transfer unused development rights from one plot to another. Usually granted when private land is surrendered for roads, parks, public infrastructure, or urban development projects. Reduces land acquisition cost and encourages planned urban development.
- **Fire No Objection Certificate (Fire NOC):** Issued by the State Fire Services Department. The amended rules introduce phased Fire NOC, allowing construction up to 24 metres before obtaining clearance for upper floors.
- **All Risks Insurance Policy:** Comprehensive insurance covering risks during construction such as fire, natural disasters, accidents, structural damage, and third-party liability. Mandatory for developers under the amended rules.

- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure:** Mandated installation of EV charging facilities in large residential projects and commercial buildings to support India's transition towards clean mobility.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- G.O.Ms. No. 161, Department: MA&UD, Date: 29 July 2026.
- High-rise building threshold: 24 metres and above.
- Structural design based on soil-bearing capacity is mandatory for buildings above 10 metres.
- Infrastructure Impact Fee can be paid in six equal instalments over three years.
- Public places of worship are exempted from building permit fees, but online approval remains mandatory.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Urban Governance:** The amendments aim to balance ease of doing business with public safety by simplifying approval procedures while strengthening structural, fire and environmental safeguards. The reforms promote transparent, technology-driven urban governance and sustainable infrastructure. *Keywords: Ease of Doing Business • Urban Governance • Building Regulations • High-Rise Buildings • Transferable Development Rights (TDR) • Fire Safety • Sustainable Urban Development • EV Charging Infrastructure • Smart Cities • Swarna Andhra@2047*

### SECTION III — AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

26

#### **Andhra Pradesh Announces Comprehensive Action Plan to Tackle El Niño Threat**

PAPER III / V — Agriculture & Disaster Management

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to implement a comprehensive action plan to mitigate the impact of the anticipated **El Niño-induced drought**. The Government will establish a dedicated El Niño Control Room for continuous monitoring and dissemination of scientific advisories through Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs). Farmers are being encouraged to shift from water-intensive crops like paddy to red gram, black gram and castor in

vulnerable areas. The Chief Minister directed that all cultivated crops must be covered under crop insurance, with District Collectors made responsible for ensuring universal coverage.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **El Niño:** Abnormal warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. It is the warm phase of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO). Generally results in weaker Southwest Monsoon rainfall over India, leading to deficient monsoon rainfall, drought conditions, decline in agricultural production, water scarcity, fodder shortages, and food inflation.
- **Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs):** Village-level agricultural service centres established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Provide crop advisories, quality seeds and fertilizers, soil testing, agricultural extension services, farmer awareness programmes, and digital agriculture services.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):** Launched: 2016. Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. Objective: Provide financial support against crop losses due to natural calamities, pests and diseases; stabilize farmers' income; encourage adoption of modern agricultural practices.
- **Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS):** Provides insurance based on weather parameters such as rainfall, temperature, humidity, and wind speed. Farmers receive compensation when adverse weather conditions exceed prescribed thresholds.
- **Crop Diversification:** Shifting from water-intensive crops to drought-resistant and high-value crops to improve climate resilience. Benefits: Conserves water, reduces climate risk, improves soil fertility, enhances farm income, promotes sustainable agriculture.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- ENSO stands for El Niño–Southern Oscillation.
- El Niño generally weakens the Indian Southwest Monsoon.
- PMFBY was launched in 2016.
- Red gram (Pigeon pea) and black gram (Urad) are relatively drought-tolerant pulse crops.
- Castor is a drought-resistant commercial oilseed crop suitable for low-rainfall areas.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Agriculture & Disaster Management:** The Andhra Pradesh Government's preparedness reflects a climate-resilient agricultural strategy combining early warning systems, scientific advisories, crop diversification, universal crop insurance and inter-departmental

coordination. *Keywords: El Niño • Climate-Resilient Agriculture • Crop Diversification • PMFBY • Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme • Rythu Seva Kendras • Early Warning System • Drought Preparedness • Agricultural Risk Management • Food Security*

27

## Chittoor Faces Fodder Crisis Amid Intensifying El Niño Conditions

PAPER III / V — Agriculture & Animal Husbandry

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Chittoor district is facing a severe fodder shortage due to a prolonged dry spell and El Niño conditions. The district recorded only **66.8 mm rainfall** against the normal 175.7 mm between June 1 and July 28, 2026, a **62% rainfall deficit**. The shortage has affected crop cultivation, reduced availability of crop residues used as livestock feed, and threatens dairy production. The district administration plans to establish fodder banks, promote short-duration fodder crops, distribute fodder seeds and chaff cutters, and open special cattle camps if drought conditions worsen.

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Fodder Crisis:** Occurs when the availability of animal feed falls short of livestock requirements due to drought, floods, crop failure or poor pasture conditions. Major causes: Rainfall deficit, failure of fodder crops, decline in crop residues, drying of grazing lands, climate variability. Consequences: Reduced milk production, decline in livestock health, distress sale of cattle, lower farmer incomes, increased livestock mortality.
- **Chittoor – Dairy Hub of Andhra Pradesh:** One of the leading milk-producing districts of Andhra Pradesh. Has a large population of cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats. Dairy farming is a major source of rural livelihoods.
- **Fodder Management Measures:** Fodder banks, fodder seed distribution, promotion of fodder crops, silage preparation, chaff cutters, cattle camps, transport of fodder from surplus to deficit regions, efficient water management.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- ENSO stands for El Niño–Southern Oscillation.
- El Niño generally causes below-normal Southwest Monsoon rainfall in India. La Niña generally enhances monsoon rainfall.

- Silage is fermented green fodder preserved under anaerobic conditions for feeding livestock during lean periods.
- Napier Grass (Elephant Grass) is a high-yield perennial fodder crop widely cultivated for dairy cattle.
- Sorghum (Jowar) and Maize are important short-duration fodder crops.
- Crop residues such as paddy straw, maize stalks and groundnut haulms are major sources of livestock feed.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Climate Change:** The fodder crisis in Chittoor highlights the increasing impact of climate variability, particularly El Niño, on agriculture and livestock. Strengthening climate-resilient fodder systems, promoting fodder banks, silage technology, drought-tolerant fodder crops and efficient water management are essential to safeguard dairy livelihoods. *Keywords: El Niño • Climate Change • Fodder Security • Animal Husbandry • Drought Management • Silage • Fodder Banks • Climate-Resilient Agriculture • Dairy Development*

28

### Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS)

#### Promoted in Kurnool

PAPER III / V — Agriculture & Environment

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Due to El Niño-induced rainfall deficit, Kurnool district is promoting **Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS)**. Target: 92,000 acres. PMDS uses millets, pulses, oilseeds, and Jeevamrutham bio-fertiliser. Benefits include moisture conservation, fodder production, improved soil fertility, and drought resilience.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing:** Seeds are sown before rainfall. Advantages: Early germination, moisture conservation, reduced crop failure.
- **Jeevamrutham:** Natural bio-fertiliser prepared using cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour, and soil. Used in Natural Farming.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Jeevamrutham is a key input in Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Agriculture:** PMDS is a climate-smart agricultural practice that leverages residual soil moisture, reducing dependency on erratic monsoon onset and enhancing food and fodder security in drought-prone regions. *Keywords: Climate-Resilient Agriculture • Natural Farming • PMDS • El Niño • Drought Mitigation*

29

## Andhra Pradesh Releases Irrigation White Paper

PAPER III / IV — Agriculture & Economy

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh released a **White Paper on Irrigation** outlining a plan to complete 36 irrigation projects by December 2028. Estimated Investment: ₹35,555 crore. ₹24,611 crore spent on irrigation over the last two years. Introduced an Irrigation Action Calendar to accelerate project implementation. Major projects include Polavaram Project, Veligonda Project, and Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS).

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **White Paper:** An official government document presenting policy position, current status, challenges, and future roadmap.
- **Polavaram Project:** National Project. Built on the Godavari River. Multipurpose project: Irrigation, Drinking water, Hydropower, Flood control.
- **Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS):** Lift irrigation project. Supplies Krishna river water to drought-prone Rayalaseema.
- **Veligonda Project:** Irrigation project drawing water from the Srisailem Reservoir through tunnels. Benefits Prakasam, Nellore and YSR Kadapa districts.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- Polavaram is a National Project.
- HNSS benefits Rayalaseema.
- Irrigation Action Calendar aims for time-bound execution.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Water Resources:** The Irrigation White Paper highlights the State's strategy to strengthen water security, drought mitigation, agricultural productivity and regional equity

through time-bound completion of major irrigation projects. *Keywords: Irrigation Infrastructure • Water Security • Polavaram • HNSS • Veligonda • Lift Irrigation • Agricultural Development • Regional Balance*

### 30 **Government to Prepare Action Plan to Address Aqua Farmers' Challenges**

PAPER III / IV — Agriculture & Economy

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The State and Central Governments are preparing a comprehensive action plan to address the challenges faced by aquaculture farmers in Andhra Pradesh. During a review meeting in West Godavari district, 20-Point Programme Chairman Lanka Dinakar highlighted the need to strengthen the aquaculture sector. West Godavari district produced **9.64 lakh metric tonnes** of fish and shrimp worth **₹24,345 crore** during 2025–26, reaffirming its importance as a major aquaculture hub. ₹246 crore has been sanctioned for pond rejuvenation and drinking water projects.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Aquaculture:** Farming of fish, shrimp, prawns, molluscs, aquatic plants and other aquatic organisms under controlled conditions. Includes freshwater, brackish water, and marine aquaculture (Mariculture).
- **Importance of Aquaculture:** Enhances farmers' income, generates rural employment, promotes seafood exports, strengthens food and nutritional security, supports the Blue Economy, contributes significantly to India's agricultural GDP.
- **Andhra Pradesh and Aquaculture:** India's leading producer of fish and shrimp. Among the largest exporters of marine products, particularly Vannamei shrimp. Major aquaculture districts: West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, Bapatla, Nellore, Konaseema, Kakinada.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** Launched: 2020. Ministry: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Objective: Increase fish production and productivity, promote sustainable aquaculture, develop fisheries infrastructure, improve fish exports, enhance fishers' income.
- **Blue Economy:** Promotes the sustainable use of ocean, coastal and inland water resources for economic growth, employment and environmental conservation. Major sectors: Fisheries, aquaculture, marine biotechnology, coastal tourism, ports and shipping, renewable ocean energy.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of aquaculture products in India.
- PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched in 2020.
- Department of Fisheries functions under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- Vannamei shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) is the most widely cultivated shrimp species in India.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Agriculture & Blue Economy:** The proposed action plan reflects the government's focus on strengthening the aquaculture sector, a key pillar of Andhra Pradesh's economy. Addressing issues such as input costs, disease management, market access, infrastructure, insurance and value-chain development will enhance the resilience of aqua farmers and support the objectives of PMMSY. *Keywords: Aquaculture • Blue Economy • PM Matsya Sampada Yojana • Shrimp Farming • Fisheries Exports • Sustainable Aquaculture • Value Chain Development • Rural Livelihoods • Food Security • Andhra Pradesh Fisheries*

31

## Nellore District Targets 50% Green Cover by 2047

PAPER III / V — Environment & Forestry

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

SPSR Nellore district has set a target of achieving **50% green cover by 2047**. The District Forest Committee directed all departments to identify vacant government lands, roadsides, canal bunds, tanks, school campuses and village lands for plantation activities. The initiative includes implementation of: Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh, School Nursery Scheme, Namo Van – Nagar Van Scheme, Palm Groves in Every Village, PM-RKVY Agroforestry Scheme, Vanamahotsav Plantations, VB-GRAMG Timber Plantation Programme, and Seed Ball Dispersal Programme.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Green Cover:** Includes all areas covered by vegetation such as forests, tree cover outside forests, agroforestry plantations, urban parks, roadside plantations, and orchards.  
Importance: Conserves biodiversity, sequesters atmospheric carbon, prevents soil erosion, improves groundwater recharge, regulates local climate, reduces air pollution, supports sustainable livelihoods.

- **Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh:** State-level afforestation initiative inspired by the global concept. Objective: Increase green cover, combat desertification, restore degraded landscapes, enhance climate resilience, improve ecological connectivity.
- **Namo Van – Nagar Van Scheme:** Urban forestry initiative aimed at creating green spaces within cities and towns. Objectives: Improve urban biodiversity, reduce urban heat island effect, enhance recreational spaces, improve air quality.
- **School Nursery Scheme:** Promotes establishment of nurseries in schools. Objectives: Raise quality saplings, create environmental awareness among students, encourage community participation in afforestation.
- **Vanamahotsav:** National tree plantation campaign celebrated annually during the first week of July. Initiated by K.M. Munshi in 1950.
- **Agroforestry:** Practice of integrating trees with crops and livestock on the same land. Benefits: Diversifies farmer income, conserves soil, improves soil fertility, enhances carbon sequestration, increases climate resilience.
- **Seed Ball:** Seeds enclosed in a mixture of clay, compost and soil. Used for afforestation in inaccessible or degraded areas. Protects seeds until favourable germination conditions develop.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- India State of Forest Report (ISFR) is published biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- Forest Survey of India (FSI): Established: 1981, Headquarters: Dehradun.
- National Forest Policy, 1988 recommends: 33% forest and tree cover of the country's geographical area; 66% forest cover in hilly and mountainous regions.
- Vanamahotsav is celebrated during the first week of July every year.
- Agroforestry is promoted under the Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) and PM-RKVY.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Environment, Forestry & Climate Change:** The Nellore initiative reflects an integrated landscape approach to environmental conservation by combining afforestation, agroforestry, urban forestry, school participation and community involvement. Increasing green cover contributes to carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, groundwater recharge, soil conservation and climate change mitigation. *Keywords: Green Cover • Afforestation •*

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Environmental activists urged the Andhra Pradesh Government to continue **Operation Lungs 2.0** for protecting Visakhapatnam's green spaces, hills, wetlands, water bodies, catchment areas, and forests. Concerns were raised regarding encroachments in Erra Matti Dibbalu, Simhachalam forests, Mudasarlova catchment, and natural storm-water channels.

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Urban Green Spaces:** Benefits: Reduce urban heat island effect, improve air quality, recharge groundwater, enhance biodiversity, carbon sequestration.
- **Wetlands:** Importance: Flood moderation, water purification, biodiversity conservation, carbon storage. Protected under: Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- **Erra Matti Dibbalu:** National Geological Heritage Site. Located near Visakhapatnam. Unique red sand dune ecosystem.
- **Ramsar Convention:** International treaty for wetland conservation. Signed in 1971. India became a Contracting Party in 1982.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- Wetlands Rules: 2017.
- Erra Matti Dibbalu is a protected geological heritage site.
- Ramsar Convention signed in 1971.

### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Environment:** Protecting urban natural assets is critical for climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and maintaining the ecological balance of rapidly expanding coastal cities. *Keywords: Urban Ecology • Wetlands • Green Infrastructure • Climate Resilience • Environmental Conservation*

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department has decided to translocate **gaurs (Indian bison)** from Central India to the Nagarjunasagar–Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) and Nallamala forests from September 2026. The initiative aims to increase the prey base for tigers and leopards, improve genetic diversity, and restore the ecological balance of the reserve. The project is being implemented with technical support from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). Simultaneously, two female tigers each from Maharashtra (Chandrapur) and Madhya Pradesh will also be translocated to strengthen the tiger population in NSTR.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Gaur (Indian Bison):** Scientific Name: *Bos gaurus*. Family: Bovidae. Largest wild bovine in the world. IUCN Status: Vulnerable. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I. Habitat: Tropical evergreen, moist deciduous, semi-evergreen forests. Distribution: Western Ghats, Central India, Eastern Ghats, North-Eastern India.
- **Why Gaurs are Important:** Major prey species for large carnivores such as tigers. Maintain ecological balance by regulating vegetation. Indicator of healthy forest ecosystems. Improve prey availability, reducing human–wildlife conflict caused by predators moving outside forests.
- **Nagarjunasagar–Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR):** Established: 1983. Location: Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Area: Approximately 5,443 sq. km. Largest Tiger Reserve in India. Lies in the Nallamala Hills of the Eastern Ghats. River Krishna flows through the reserve. Important fauna: Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Wild Dog (Dhole), Sambar, Chital, Four-horned Antelope, Indian Pangolin.
- **Nallamala Hills:** Part of the Eastern Ghats. Extend across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Drained mainly by the Krishna River and its tributaries. Known for rich biodiversity and dry deciduous forests. Home to the Chenchu, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- **Wildlife Institute of India (WII):** Established: 1982. Headquarters: Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Functions: Wildlife research, conservation planning, wildlife monitoring, species recovery programmes, technical support for wildlife translocation.

- **Tiger Translocation Purpose:** Improve genetic diversity, strengthen breeding population, increase tiger numbers, restore ecological balance, reduce risks of inbreeding.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Scientific Name of Tiger: *Panthera tigris tigris*.
- Tiger is the National Animal of India.
- Project Tiger was launched in 1973.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 through the 2006 amendment.
- Tigers are considered umbrella species and apex predators, indicating healthy forest ecosystems.
- According to recent estimates, the NSTR–Seshachalam landscape recorded 68 tigers and 11 cubs.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Environment, Biodiversity & Wildlife Conservation:** The reintroduction of gaurs into the Nagarjunasagar–Srisailem Tiger Reserve is an example of scientific wildlife management aimed at restoring prey populations, improving genetic diversity, and enhancing ecosystem resilience. Strengthening prey availability helps sustain tiger populations and reduces human–wildlife conflict. *Keywords: Species Reintroduction • Wildlife Translocation • Apex Predator • Prey Base Management • Genetic Diversity • Habitat Restoration • Ecosystem Conservation • Tiger Conservation • Eastern Ghats • NSTR*

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

An adult male tiger named “**Explorer**”, which dispersed from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, has again entered East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh after crossing the Godavari River. The tiger travelled across Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, covering more than 650 km in 53 days. It was tranquilised near Kurmapuram village on February 6, 2026 and released into Papikonda National Park on February 14 following directions of the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Since release, it has crossed the Godavari River

twice and returned to East Godavari. Forest officials confirmed that it has not attacked any human during its entire movement.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Papikonda National Park:** Located in the East Godavari and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. Spreads over an area of 1012.86 square kilometres. Lies in the Papikondalu hill range of the Eastern Ghats. Situated along both the left and right banks of the Godavari River. Known for its distinct river gorge landscape formed by the Godavari flowing through forested hills. Declared a Reserved Forest in 1882, notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1978, upgraded to a National Park in 2008. Dominated by tropical moist deciduous forests. Supports important fauna such as tiger, gaur, and mouse deer.
- **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve:** Located in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. One of India's oldest tiger reserves. Famous for high tiger density, dry deciduous forests, and strong corridor connectivity.
- **Godavari River:** Originates from Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra and flows eastward into the Bay of Bengal, forming a large delta in Andhra Pradesh. Flows through Maharashtra, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh, creating an inter-state river basin. Forms a riverine forest corridor in the Papikondalu region, with continuous forest cover along both banks. The tiger movement indicates that wide rivers do not always act as absolute barriers.
- **Tiger Conservation Framework:** Tiger receives the highest legal protection in India. Under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, tiger is listed under Schedule I. Project Tiger was launched in 1973. Tiger reserves follow a two-zone model: Core Area (strictly protected zone with minimal human interference) and Buffer Area (regulated-use zone around the core for coexistence with local communities).

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Origin of tiger: Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.
- Release site: Papikonda National Park, Andhra Pradesh.
- Tranquilised at: Kurmapuram village, East Godavari.
- Repeated movement area: Korukonda mandal near Munagala village.
- Distance travelled: More than 650 km.
- States covered: Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh.
- River crossed: Godavari River.
- Preferred habitat in summer: Streams and water bodies.

- Human attack reported: No.
- Special field fact: Tranquilisation avoided inside water bodies.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Environment:** Long-distance tiger dispersal highlights the critical need for functional wildlife corridors and inter-state cooperation in landscape-level conservation to ensure genetic viability and reduce human-wildlife conflict. *Keywords: Tiger Corridors • Human-Wildlife Conflict • Landscape Conservation • Protected Area Management • Inter-State Wildlife Movement*

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### Andhra Pradesh to Prepare Action Plan Against Zoonotic Diseases

PAPER II / III — Health & Environment

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Andhra Pradesh Government has decided to prepare a comprehensive State Action Plan to prevent and control **zoonotic diseases** through early detection, coordinated surveillance and inter-departmental collaboration. A three-day workshop was organized in Vijayawada by the Department of Health, Medical & Family Welfare, with technical support from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Jhpiego. Officials from the Health, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries Departments participated under the **One Health** approach.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Zoonotic Diseases (Zoonoses):** Infectious diseases that are naturally transmitted between animals and humans. Caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi, or prions. Modes of Transmission: Direct contact, animal bites/scratches, consumption of contaminated food/water, vector-borne transmission, airborne transmission, contact with contaminated animal products.
- **Examples:** Rabies (Rabies Virus, dog/animal bite), Anthrax (Bacillus anthracis, infected livestock), Scrub Typhus (Orientia tsutsugamushi, chigger mite bite), Brucellosis (Brucella spp., livestock/unpasteurized milk), Leptospirosis (Leptospira bacteria, contaminated water/animal urine), Avian Influenza (Influenza A virus, infected poultry), Nipah Virus Disease (Nipah Virus, bats/pigs), Plague (Yersinia pestis, fleas from rodents), Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD, tick bite).

- **One Health Approach:** Integrated approach recognizing that the health of humans, animals and the environment is interconnected. Promotes collaboration among Human Health, Veterinary Services, Wildlife, Environment, Agriculture, and Fisheries.
- **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC):** Headquarters: New Delhi. Ministry: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Apex institute for disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, epidemiological research, and public health emergency response.
- **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP):** Launched: 2004. Ministry: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Objective: Early detection of disease outbreaks, continuous disease surveillance, timely public health response.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Nearly 60% of known infectious diseases and about 75% of emerging infectious diseases in humans are zoonotic.
- World Zoonoses Day is observed on 6 July every year.
- Rabies is almost 100% preventable through timely post-exposure vaccination.
- Scrub Typhus is transmitted through the bite of infected chigger mites.
- Anthrax is caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*.
- Jhpiego is an international non-profit organization affiliated with Johns Hopkins University, working in public health, maternal health and disease prevention.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Public Health & Environment:** The Andhra Pradesh initiative reflects the importance of the One Health approach, emphasizing coordination among the Health, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Agriculture and Environment Departments for preventing zoonotic diseases. Strengthening surveillance systems, diagnostic laboratories, early warning mechanisms and community awareness is essential to reduce the risk of future outbreaks. *Keywords: One Health • Zoonotic Diseases • Disease Surveillance • Early Warning System • NCDC • IDSP • Public Health Preparedness • Inter-sectoral Coordination • Laboratory Capacity • Epidemic Preparedness*

**Digital Health Programme****CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

Andhra Pradesh will implement the **Sanjeevani digital health programme** across the State from August 2026. The programme will create a digital health profile for every citizen and issue ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) IDs. It integrates PHCs, hospitals, laboratory services, e-Aushadhi, 108 Emergency Services, 104 Mobile Medical Units, telemedicine, and AI-based medical assistance. Citizens can access services through the Sanjeevani Citizen Wellness App.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):** Launched: 2021. Ministry: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Objective: Create a national digital health ecosystem, issue ABHA IDs, enable interoperable health records.
- **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account):** Unique digital health ID for every citizen. Enables secure storage and sharing of health records.
- **e-Aushadhi:** Digital platform for procurement and supply-chain management of medicines.

**PRELIMS FACTS**

- ABDM: 2021.
- ABHA ID is the foundation of India's digital health ecosystem.
- 108 – Emergency Ambulance Service.
- 104 – Mobile Medical & Health Advisory Service.

**MAINS VALUE ADDITION**

**GS-II / APPSC Health Governance:** The Sanjeevani programme integrates Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) with healthcare, promoting preventive care, continuity of treatment and technology-enabled public health delivery. *Keywords: Digital Health • ABDM • ABHA • Telemedicine • AI in Healthcare • e-Health Governance*

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

Andhra Pradesh's first **Diabetic Foot and Ulcer Clinic** was inaugurated at Vizianagaram. The specialised centre provides limb salvage, reconstructive microsurgery, advanced diabetic wound care, and plastic surgery.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Diabetic Foot:** A complication of diabetes caused by neuropathy, poor blood circulation, and infection. Can lead to foot ulcers, gangrene, and amputation.
- **Prevention:** Blood sugar control, foot examination, proper footwear, early treatment.

**PRELIMS FACTS**

- Diabetic foot is a complication of Diabetes Mellitus.
- Early intervention prevents amputations.

**MAINS VALUE ADDITION**

**GS-II / APPSC Health:** Dedicated specialty clinics for diabetes complications address the rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and prevent catastrophic health expenditures and disability among vulnerable populations. *Keywords: Non-Communicable Diseases • Diabetes • Preventive Healthcare • Speciality Care*

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

Dr. P. Vijaya from Guntur was elected to the **World Stroke Organisation (WSO)** Board of Directors. She will serve a four-year term (2026–2030) representing the Asia-Oceania region.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **World Stroke Organisation (WSO):** Global organisation promoting stroke prevention, research, treatment, rehabilitation, and public awareness.

- **Stroke:** Occurs due to interruption of blood supply to the brain. Types: Ischaemic stroke, Haemorrhagic stroke.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- World Stroke Day: 29 October.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Health:** Global representation of Indian medical professionals highlights the country's growing expertise in managing NCDs and contributes to international knowledge exchange in preventive healthcare. *Keywords: Stroke • NCDs • Preventive Healthcare • Neurology*

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### Jonnagiri Gold Mine Renamed as Swarnagiri Gold Mine

PAPER III / I — Economy & Geography

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh officially renamed Jonnagiri Gold Mine as **Swarnagiri Gold Mine** through G.O. Ms. No.181. It is India's first private-sector gold mine after Independence. Operated by GeoMysore Services India Pvt. Ltd. Produces gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Swarnagiri Gold Mine:** Location: Tuggali Mandal, Kurnool District. Area: 597.820 hectares. Located in the Jonnagiri Greenstone Belt of the Eastern Dharwar Craton.
- **Eastern Dharwar Craton:** One of India's oldest geological formations. Rich in gold, iron ore, and base metals.
- **Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM):** Ministry: Ministry of Mines. Responsible for mineral conservation, mine planning, and scientific mining.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first private-sector gold mine after Independence.
- Operated under a 30-year mining lease.
- Uses open-pit mining.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Mineral Resources:** The project strengthens domestic gold production, reduces import dependence and promotes scientific mining practices. *Keywords: Gold Mining • Mineral*

**40 Ramagiri Gold Mines Set to Reopen After 25 Years**

PAPER III / I — Economy &amp; Geography

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated steps to revive the historic **Ramagiri Gold Mines** in Sri Sathya Sai district after nearly 25 years. Mining operations were discontinued in 2000, although the region possesses significant gold reserves. Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) operated the mines between 1982 and 2002. Recent studies by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) indicate: The Ramagiri Gold Belt extends nearly 150 km, estimated 11.4 lakh tonnes of ore, average ore grade of 4 grams of gold per tonne, estimated 9.1 tonnes of gold. Officials cited improved mining technology, higher global gold prices and recovery of gold from low-grade ore and old waste dumps as major reasons for revival.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Ramagiri Gold Mines:** Location: Sri Sathya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh. One of India's oldest gold mining regions. Part of the Ramagiri Greenstone Belt.
- **Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML):** Government-owned company. Managed the Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) and Ramagiri Gold Mines. Operations ceased due to financial losses and declining ore grades.
- **Geological Survey of India (GSI):** Established: 1851. Ministry: Ministry of Mines. Functions: Geological mapping, mineral exploration, resource assessment, geo-scientific studies.
- **Ore Grade:** Concentration of valuable minerals in an ore. Higher ore grade → More economical mining. Modern technology enables extraction even from low-grade deposits.
- **Mine Tailings / Waste Dumps:** Leftover materials after mineral extraction. Modern technologies allow reprocessing of tailings, recovery of residual gold, and reduced environmental impact.

**PRELIMS FACTS**

- GSI was established in 1851.
- GSI functions under the Ministry of Mines.
- BGML managed Kolar and Ramagiri Gold Mines.
- Ramagiri lies in Sri Sathya Sai district.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Mineral Resources:** Revival of the Ramagiri Gold Mines will strengthen domestic mineral production, reduce dependence on imported gold, create employment and promote advanced, sustainable mining technologies. Reprocessing legacy mine waste also supports the circular economy and resource efficiency. *Keywords: Gold Mining • GSI • BGML • Mineral Security • Circular Economy • Sustainable Mining • Critical Minerals*

## SECTION IV — SOCIETY, EDUCATION & WELFARE

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### **District-Level 'Nasha Mukh Yuva'** **Programme Held in Anantapur**

PAPER II — Social Issues & Youth Development

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The '**Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat**' programme was organized in Anantapur by MY Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The campaign aims to encourage drug-free lifestyles among youth and promote their participation in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Various awareness activities, including declamation, slogan writing, painting, folk dance, folk singing, and Nukkad Natak (street plays), were conducted to spread the message against substance abuse. Participants took the pledge, reaffirming their commitment to a drug-free society.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA):** Launched: 15 August 2020. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Implementing Agency: National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) in coordination with State Governments. Objective: Prevent substance abuse, create awareness, facilitate treatment/counselling/rehabilitation, mobilize community participation.
- **MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat):** Launched: 31 October 2023 (National Unity Day). Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Replaced the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). Objective: Provide opportunities for youth participation in nation-building, promote volunteerism, leadership, skill development and community service.
- **National Service Scheme (NSS):** Launched: 1969. Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Motto: "Not Me But You." Objective: Develop the personality of students through community service.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed on 26 June every year.
- NISD (National Institute of Social Defence) functions under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan focuses on: Awareness generation, Capacity building, Treatment and rehabilitation, Community outreach.
- Nukkad Natak (Street Play) is a popular medium for community awareness and behavioural change communication.
- Indian Red Cross Society: Established: 1920. Functions as a humanitarian organization involved in health services, blood donation, disaster relief and community welfare.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Social Issues | Youth Development | Governance:** Drug abuse among youth poses significant challenges to public health, social harmony, productivity and demographic dividend. Programmes such as Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and MY Bharat promote preventive awareness, community participation and youth engagement, contributing to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. *Keywords: Drug De-addiction • Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) • Youth Empowerment • Community Participation • Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan • MY Bharat • Viksit Bharat 2047 • Preventive Healthcare*

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### Chittoor Police Launch 'Operation Flush-Out' Against Drugs

PAPER III — Internal Security & Society

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Chittoor Police launched "**Dharya Sparsa – Operation Flush-Out**", a district-wide anti-drug and anti-illegal liquor campaign. Simultaneous cordon and search operations were conducted at 16 locations, targeting rowdy-sheeters, ganja offenders and habitual suspects. Police used advanced drug detection kits for on-the-spot screening and intensified action against illegal liquor and undocumented vehicles. The initiative combines scientific detection, counselling and legal enforcement to build a drug-free society.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985:** Principal law regulating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India. Objectives: Prevent drug abuse, control

illicit trafficking, regulate medical and scientific use of narcotic drugs. Enforced by: State Police, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

- **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):** Established: 1986. Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs. Apex agency responsible for combating drug trafficking, narcotics abuse, and international drug syndicates.
- **Drug De-addiction Strategy:** India follows a three-pronged strategy: Prevention through awareness, Treatment and rehabilitation, Law enforcement against traffickers.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- NDPS Act: 1985.
- NCB: Established in 1986.
- Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was launched in 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Drug detection kits are increasingly used for rapid field testing of suspected drug users.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Internal Security | Social Issues:** Scientific policing, intelligence-based operations, de-addiction counselling and community awareness are essential components of an effective strategy to combat narcotics, protect youth and strengthen public safety. *Keywords: NDPS Act • NCB • Drug De-addiction • Community Policing • Scientific Investigation • Internal Security*

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### Minister Urges Proper Utilisation of 'Talliki Vandanam' Funds

PAPER II — Education & Social Welfare

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Andhra Pradesh Government urged parents to utilize **Talliki Vandanam** financial assistance exclusively for children's education. Additional announcements included school infrastructure development, construction of classrooms and toilets, promotion of sports, and improvement of Mid-Day Meals using quality rice.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Talliki Vandanam Scheme:** Objective: Financial assistance to families for children's education, reduce school dropouts, improve enrolment and retention.

- **PM POSHAN Scheme:** Formerly Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Objectives: Improve nutrition, increase attendance, reduce classroom hunger.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- PM POSHAN is implemented by the Ministry of Education.
- Focuses on nutritional support in government schools.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Education:** Educational assistance combined with nutrition and infrastructure improves learning outcomes, enrolment and human capital development. *Keywords: Human Capital • School Education • PM POSHAN • Educational Inclusion*

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### Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Mee Mart' to Modernise Public Distribution System

PAPER II / III — Food Security & Digital Governance

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh launched '**Mee Mart**', an initiative to modernise the Public Distribution System (PDS) and provide quality household products at affordable prices. The first Mee Mart was inaugurated at Lalupuram near Guntur. The project is being implemented by the Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Department in partnership with the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF). 1,000 Mee Mart outlets are proposed across the State. Each Mee Mart will stock more than 250 daily-use products, sold ₹3 to ₹5 below prevailing market prices. The government plans to integrate Mee Mart with the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) – Digital Rupee, enabling beneficiaries to use digital subsidies for purchasing essential commodities.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Public Distribution System (PDS):** India's food security mechanism through which essential food grains are distributed to eligible households at subsidised prices. Objectives: Ensure food security, provide affordable food grains, protect vulnerable sections from inflation, reduce hunger and malnutrition.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Coverage: Up to 75% of the rural population, up to 50% of the urban population.

- **Fair Price Shops (FPS):** Licensed retail outlets that distribute subsidised commodities under the PDS. Functions: Distribution of food grains, maintenance of beneficiary records, Aadhaar-based authentication, implementation of welfare schemes.
- **National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF):** Established: 1965. Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Nature: National-level cooperative organisation engaged in procurement of essential commodities, price stabilisation operations, consumer welfare, and supply of food items through cooperative networks.
- **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):** Legal tender issued digitally by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Digital Rupee (₹): Issued by RBI, same value as physical currency, secure digital payment system, supports cashless transactions, can be used for government benefit transfers.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Mee Mart outlets proposed: 1,000. Outlets ready: 553.
- Daily-use products stocked: 250+. Price reduction: ₹3–₹5 below market price.
- Fair Price Shop dealers benefited: Nearly 30,000.
- Implementing Department: Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Department. Partner organisation: NCCF.
- CBDC issuer: Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- NCCF established: 1965. NFSA enacted: 2013.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / GS-III / APPSC Food Security | Public Distribution System | Digital Governance:** The Mee Mart initiative represents a shift from a traditional ration distribution model to a consumer-centric, digitally enabled retail ecosystem. By integrating affordable pricing, Fair Price Shop modernisation, cooperative participation, and Digital Rupee-based subsidy delivery, it strengthens food security, financial inclusion, transparency, and last-mile service delivery.

*Keywords: Mee Mart • Public Distribution System (PDS) • Food Security • Fair Price Shops • NFSA 2013 • NCCF • Digital Rupee • CBDC • Digital Governance • Financial Inclusion • Cooperative Sector*

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV), Tirupati inaugurated the **DST-STI Hub** on "Technology-Based Innovative Practices in Sericulture, Agriculture and Livelihoods". The three-year project is sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The initiative aims to empower Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) women and students through science and technology, innovation, skill development, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods.

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Department of Science & Technology (DST):** Established: 1971. Ministry: Ministry of Science & Technology. Nodal department for science policy, research and innovation, technology development, scientific capacity building, and technology transfer.
- **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Hub:** Launched by DST to ensure that the benefits of science and technology reach Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Objectives: Promote technology-based livelihoods, improve income generation, develop entrepreneurship, build scientific awareness, facilitate skill development, bridge the gap between research institutions and local communities.
- **Sericulture:** Cultivation of silkworms for silk production. Major stages: Mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, cocoon production, silk reeling, silk weaving. Importance: Employment-intensive, women-centric activity, generates rural income, eco-friendly enterprise, supports MSMEs.
- **Agricultural Extension:** Transfer of scientific farming practices, improved technologies, crop management techniques, and market information from research institutions to farmers.
- **Entrepreneurship Development:** Promotes self-employment, value addition, rural enterprises, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and women-led businesses.
- **Constitutional Linkage:** Article 46: The State shall promote the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and protect them from social injustice and exploitation.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- Department of Science & Technology (DST) was established in 1971.
- DST functions under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

- STI Hub Programme focuses on SC/ST empowerment through science and technology.
- Sericulture is the rearing of silkworms for silk production.
- SPMVV (Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam) is a women's university located in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

### GS-II / GS-III / APPSC Inclusive Development | Science & Technology | Women

**Empowerment:** The DST-STI Hub demonstrates how science, technology and innovation can promote inclusive growth by empowering SC/ST women through skill development, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods. Integrating research institutions with local communities enhances technology adoption, supports women-led enterprises, strengthens rural economies and contributes to the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India, Startup India and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *Keywords: Science & Technology • STI Hub • Women Empowerment • SC/ST Development • Sericulture • Rural Livelihoods • Entrepreneurship • Agricultural Extension • Inclusive Development • Sustainable Livelihoods*

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## AP Government & Kia India Sign MoU for ₹12 Crore ITI at Penukonda

PAPER II / III — Skill Development & Governance

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The Andhra Pradesh Government and Kia India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish an **Industrial Training Institute (ITI)** at Penukonda, Sri Sathya Sai district. The ₹12 crore project will be implemented under Kia India's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The ITI will be developed on a 2-acre campus and is expected to become operational from the next academic year, providing industry-oriented technical training to local youth. Nearly ₹36 crore of CSR funds from industries, including Kia India and BEL, are being utilized for infrastructure, healthcare, roads, Anganwadi centres and drinking water projects in the Penukonda Assembly constituency.

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **Industrial Training Institute (ITI):** Vocational training institutions established to provide industry-specific technical skills. Function under the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Objectives: Develop skilled manpower, improve employability, bridge the industry–skill gap, support manufacturing and industrial growth.

- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Responsibility of companies to contribute towards social, economic and environmental development. Governed under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. A company must spend at least 2% of its average net profits of the previous three financial years on CSR activities if it satisfies any one of the following: Net worth: ₹500 crore or more, Turnover: ₹1,000 crore or more, Net profit: ₹5 crore or more.
- **Permissible CSR Activities:** Education and skill development, healthcare, rural development, environmental sustainability, drinking water and sanitation, women empowerment, sports promotion, disaster relief.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** Formal agreement expressing the intention of two or more parties to cooperate on a specific project. Outlines responsibilities, objectives and implementation mechanisms but is not necessarily legally enforceable like a contract.
- **Skill India Mission:** Launched: 2015. Ministry: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Objective: Enhance employability, provide market-oriented vocational skills, promote entrepreneurship, create a globally competitive workforce.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Companies Act, 2013 introduced mandatory CSR provisions in India.
- CSR provisions are contained in Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- Directorate General of Training (DGT) functions under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) provide vocational education in engineering and non-engineering trades.
- Kia India established its automobile manufacturing plant at Anantapur district (Penukonda region), Andhra Pradesh.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Governance | Skill Development | Inclusive Growth:** The partnership between the Andhra Pradesh Government and Kia India demonstrates the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in promoting skill development, employability and rural infrastructure. Industry-supported ITIs help bridge the industry–academia skill gap, generate employment opportunities, and strengthen the objectives of Skill India, Make in India, and inclusive industrial development. *Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility • Skill Development • Industrial Training Institute • Public–Private Partnership • Employability • Industry–Academia Linkage • Inclusive Development • Vocational Education • Skill India • Human Capital Development*

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM), Kurnool organized the **Doctoral Colloquium 2026** to provide a platform for research scholars across India to present their research, receive expert feedback, and promote academic collaboration. The colloquium featured expert sessions on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) & Research Ethics, Future of Artificial Intelligence and Computing, and Scientific Research Writing. The event also included a Research Quiz to encourage academic engagement among scholars.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM), Kurnool:** Established: 2015. Location: Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. Type: Institute of National Importance (INI). Ministry: Ministry of Education, Government of India. Focuses on: Information Technology, Electronics, Artificial Intelligence, Design, Manufacturing, Interdisciplinary Research.
- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** Legal rights granted to creators and innovators to protect their intellectual creations and encourage innovation. Major Types: Patent, Copyright, Trademark, Industrial Design, Geographical Indication (GI), Trade Secret, Plant Variety Protection.
- **Patent:** Grants an inventor exclusive rights over an invention. Patent Term in India: 20 years from the date of filing. Governed by the Patents Act, 1970 (amended in 2005).
- **Research Ethics:** Moral principles governing scientific research. Key Principles: Honesty, Integrity, Objectivity, Transparency, Accountability, Respect for participants, Avoidance of plagiarism, Responsible publication.
- **Plagiarism:** Presenting another person's work or ideas as one's own without proper acknowledgment. Considered academic misconduct. Higher educational institutions follow UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Ability of computer systems to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence. Applications: Healthcare, Agriculture, Education, Manufacturing, Finance, Cybersecurity, Governance.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- IIITDM Kurnool is an Institute of National Importance (INI).
- Patent protection in India is granted for 20 years.
- The Patents Act, 1970 governs patent protection in India.
- UGC Regulations, 2018 deal with the prevention of plagiarism in higher educational institutions.
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): Established: 1967, Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland, Specialized agency of the United Nations.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Science & Technology | Higher Education | Innovation:** Doctoral colloquia promote a research ecosystem, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthen innovation, and create awareness about research ethics, intellectual property rights and scientific publication standards. Such initiatives support India's transition towards a knowledge economy and contribute to the goals of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Viksit Bharat 2047. *Keywords: Research & Innovation • Higher Education • Intellectual Property Rights • Research Ethics • Artificial Intelligence • Academic Collaboration • Knowledge Economy • NEP 2020*

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### IIITDM Kurnool Tops India's '100 5G Use Case Labs' Ranking

PAPER V / III — Science & Technology

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

IIITDM Kurnool secured **1st Rank in India** in the '**100 5G Use Case Labs**' Gradation Framework evaluation conducted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for the January–June 2026 assessment period. The institute ranked first in all four evaluation categories: Overall Excellence, Foundational Excellence, Engagement Excellence, and Innovation Excellence. The 5G Use Case Lab, established in 2023, has developed 18 innovative products in areas such as smart agriculture, healthcare, drones, robotics, communication systems, optics, education and skill development. The awards were presented during the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) review meeting in New Delhi.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **5G Technology:** Fifth Generation Mobile Network. Key Features: Ultra-high data speed, low latency (as low as 1 millisecond), massive device connectivity, high network reliability,

energy-efficient communication. Applications: Smart Cities, Precision Agriculture, Healthcare (Telemedicine & Remote Surgery), Industrial Automation, Robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), Autonomous Vehicles, Smart Manufacturing, Education, Disaster Management.

- **5G Standalone (SA):** Pure 5G network architecture that operates independently without relying on existing 4G infrastructure. Advantages: Lower latency, faster communication, better network slicing, improved reliability, supports advanced industrial applications.
- **Internet of Things (IoT):** Network of interconnected physical devices embedded with sensors, software and communication technologies that collect and exchange data over the internet. Applications: Smart Agriculture, Smart Homes, Healthcare, Smart Grids, Industrial Automation, Logistics, Environmental Monitoring.
- **Department of Telecommunications (DoT):** Ministry: Ministry of Communications. Responsible for telecom policy, licensing, spectrum management, digital connectivity, promotion of telecom research and innovation.
- **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA):** Launched: 2023. A collaborative platform comprising Government, Industry, Start-ups, Academia, Research institutions. Objective: Develop indigenous 6G technologies, position India as a global leader in next-generation communication systems, promote research, innovation and standardization in 6G.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- IIITDM Kurnool: Established: 2015, Institute of National Importance (INI), Located in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- The 5G Use Case Lab at IIITDM Kurnool was inaugurated in 2023.
- The institute developed 18 innovative 5G-based products.
- 5G Standalone (SA) networks operate without dependence on 4G core networks.
- Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) was launched in 2023 to accelerate India's 6G ecosystem.
- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) functions under the Ministry of Communications.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Science & Technology | Telecommunications | Digital India:** The recognition of IIITDM Kurnool as India's best-performing 5G Use Case Lab highlights the growing role of higher educational institutions in indigenous telecom innovation. Research in 5G, IoT, Artificial Intelligence and future 6G technologies strengthens India's digital ecosystem, promotes interdisciplinary research, supports Digital India, and contributes to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047. *Keywords: 5G Technology • 5G Standalone • Internet of Things*

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Efftronics Systems Pvt. Ltd. and JNTU Kakinada signed an MoU to launch a two-year **industry-sponsored M.Tech in Internet of Things (IoT)**. The programme integrates classroom learning, industry internships, practical training, research projects, and industry mentoring. Efftronics will establish IoT laboratories, Centre of Excellence (CoE), and faculty training programmes. Students completing the programme may receive employment opportunities with salaries up to ₹10 lakh per annum.

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020:** Objectives: Experiential learning, industry-academia collaboration, multidisciplinary education, research and innovation, skill development.
- **Internet of Things (IoT):** Interconnected smart devices that collect and exchange data using the internet. Applications: Smart Cities, Healthcare, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Transportation.
- **Centre of Excellence (CoE):** Specialised institution promoting research, innovation, skill development, and industry collaboration.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- NEP: 2020.
- IoT forms a key pillar of Industry 4.0.
- Industry-sponsored degree programmes improve employability.

### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Science & Technology | Education:** Industry-academia collaboration bridges the skill gap, promotes innovation and supports India's transition towards a knowledge-based economy. *Keywords: Industry 4.0 • IoT • NEP 2020 • Skill Development • Employability*

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College (Autonomous), Visakhapatnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT)**, Hyderabad to promote collaborative research, innovation and academic cooperation. The collaboration includes research in natural products, nanotechnology, drug discovery, regenerative medicine, cancer research, polymer chemistry and chemical engineering. A key proposal is the scientific processing and value addition of shrimp waste from the Visakhapatnam region to produce high-value biomolecules such as glucosamine and chitin for pharmaceutical and nutraceutical applications.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT):** Established: 1944. Location: Hyderabad. Operates under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). One of India's premier institutes for chemical sciences and industrial research. Major Research Areas: Drug discovery, organic chemistry, catalysis, green chemistry, biotechnology, natural products, process engineering, materials science.
- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR):** Established: 1942. Ministry: Ministry of Science & Technology. India's largest network of scientific research laboratories. Focuses on industrial research, innovation, technology development, commercialisation of research.
- **Shrimp Waste Utilisation:** Shrimp processing generates waste such as shells, heads, exoskeleton. These contain valuable biomolecules. **Chitin:** Natural polysaccharide found in crustacean shells. Uses: Biomedical products, water purification, agriculture, food industry. **Glucosamine:** Produced from chitin. Widely used as a nutraceutical for joint health and osteoarthritis management.
- **Nutraceuticals:** Products derived from food sources that provide health or medical benefits beyond basic nutrition. Examples: Omega-3 fatty acids, probiotics, glucosamine, herbal extracts.

**PRELIMS FACTS**

- IICT functions under CSIR.
- CSIR was established in 1942.

- IICT Hyderabad was established in 1944.
- Chitin is obtained mainly from crustacean shells.
- Glucosamine is widely used in the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industries.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Science & Technology | Biotechnology | Blue Economy:** The collaboration demonstrates the importance of industry–academia–research partnerships in promoting value addition from marine bio-resources. Converting shrimp waste into high-value biomolecules supports the Blue Economy, reduces environmental pollution, encourages the circular economy, and strengthens biotechnology-based innovation. *Keywords: CSIR • IICT • Marine Biotechnology • Blue Economy • Circular Economy • Biomolecules • Chitin • Glucosamine • Research Collaboration • Value Addition*

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### IISER Tirupati Strengthens India's Scientific Research

PAPER V / II — Science & Education

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

At the 7th Convocation of IISER Tirupati, Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy highlighted the role of IISERs in strengthening India's scientific capabilities. IISER Tirupati achievements: 260 research papers (2025–26), nearly 1,500 publications, around 25,000 citations, h-index: 70, ₹41 crore external research funding, 14 patent applications, ranked 20th in Nature Index 2026 among Indian research institutions.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **IISER:** Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research. Objectives: Scientific research, integrated science education, innovation, basic sciences.
- **Nature Index:** Measures research performance based on publications in high-quality scientific journals.
- **h-index:** Measures both productivity and citation impact of researchers.
- **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):** Established under the ANRF Act, 2023. Purpose: Promote research, foster innovation, support academia-industry collaboration.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- IISERs function under the Ministry of Education.
- Nature Index measures research excellence.
- ANRF established under the ANRF Act, 2023.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Science & Technology:** Strengthening premier research institutions like IISERs is critical for building a robust national innovation ecosystem, fostering high-impact research, and achieving self-reliance in critical technologies. *Keywords: Scientific Research • Innovation • IISER • ANRF • Knowledge Economy*

## SECTION V — CULTURE, TOURISM & HERITAGE

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### Largest Dhimsa Dance Enters Guinness World Records

PAPER I — Art & Culture

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh created a **Guinness World Record** for the Largest Dhimsa Dance performance. More than **13,000 tribal women and girl students** participated at the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram (Vizianagaram district). The Guinness World Records certificate was presented to the Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The event was organized ahead of the Prime Minister's visit for the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Dhimsa Dance:** Traditional folk dance performed by the tribal communities of Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the Agency areas of Alluri Sitarama Raju district and Parvathipuram Manyam district. Predominantly performed by tribal women during harvest festivals, weddings, community celebrations, and religious festivals. Symbolizes unity, harmony, prosperity and tribal cultural identity. Participants dance in circular formations accompanied by traditional tribal musical instruments.
- **Tribes Associated with Dhimsa:** Bagata, Valmiki, Konda Dora, Gadaba, Porja, Savara (Soura), Jatapu.
- **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport:** Located at Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh. Named after Alluri Sitarama Raju, the legendary tribal freedom fighter.

Developed to enhance regional connectivity and promote tourism, trade and investment in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Dhimsa is one of the most important tribal folk dances of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is generally performed by women, though men accompany the performance with traditional musical instruments.
- The dancers usually move in concentric or circular formations while holding each other's hands or shoulders.
- Alluri Sitarama Raju led the Rampa Rebellion (1922–1924) against British rule in the Eastern Ghats.
- The Guinness World Records is an internationally recognized organization that documents record-breaking achievements across various fields.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-I / APPSC – Art & Culture | Tribal Culture:** The Guinness World Record for the Largest Dhimsa Dance highlights the importance of preserving tribal heritage, promoting indigenous art forms and strengthening cultural tourism. Such initiatives enhance tribal identity while contributing to cultural preservation and inclusive development. *Keywords: Tribal Heritage • Intangible Cultural Heritage • Folk Dance • Cultural Preservation • Tribal Empowerment • Cultural Tourism • North Andhra Culture*

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### Tirupati to Host 81st Annual Thyagaraja Music & Dance Festival

PAPER I — Art & Culture

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The **81st Annual Festival of Music and Dance** will be held in Tirupati from 1–5 August 2026. The festival is organized by the Tirupati Sri Thyagaraja Swamy Cultural Trust. TTD Executive Officer M. Ravichandra, the ex-officio President of the festival committee, will inaugurate the event. The prestigious '**Sapthagiri Sangeetha Vidwanmani**' title for 2026 will be conferred on Srimushnam V. Raja Rao. Eminent Carnatic musicians, including Nithyasree Mahadevan and Pantula Rama, will perform during the festival.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Saint Thyagaraja:** (1767–1847) One of the Trinity of Carnatic Music. Born at Tiruvarur (Tamil Nadu) and later settled at Tiruvaiyaru. A great devotee of Lord Rama. Composed nearly 600–700 devotional kritis, mainly in Telugu. His compositions are collectively known as the Thyagaraja Kritis.
- **Trinity of Carnatic Music:** Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar, Syama Sastri.
- **Pancharatna Kritis:** The five most celebrated compositions of Saint Thyagaraja. Composed in Telugu. Traditionally rendered together during the annual Thyagaraja Aradhana at Tiruvaiyaru.
- **Carnatic Music:** One of the two major systems of Indian Classical Music. Predominantly practiced in South India. Based on Raga (Melody) and Tala (Rhythm). Emphasizes devotional compositions.
- **Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD):** Autonomous trust administering the Sri Venkateswara Temple, Tirumala. Established under the A.P. Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions & Endowments Act. Besides temple administration, TTD actively promotes Vedic education, classical music, dance, literature, and religious and cultural heritage.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Saint Thyagaraja is regarded as one of the greatest composers in Carnatic Music.
- He composed primarily in the Telugu language.
- Thyagaraja Aradhana is celebrated annually at Tiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu, commemorating his death anniversary.
- The Carnatic Trinity comprises: Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar, Syama Sastri.
- Nadaswaram and Mridangam are important instruments associated with Carnatic music.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-I / APPSC – Art & Culture:** Festivals such as the Thyagaraja Music Festival play a vital role in preserving India's intangible cultural heritage, promoting Carnatic classical music, nurturing young artists, and strengthening cultural tourism. They also highlight the significant contribution of Telugu literary and musical traditions to India's cultural legacy. *Keywords: Carnatic Music • Intangible Cultural Heritage • Saint Thyagaraja • Carnatic Trinity • Telugu Literature • Classical Arts • Cultural Preservation • Cultural Tourism*

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced that '**Telugu Mahotsavam**' will be organized annually to promote the Telugu language, literature and cultural heritage. The announcement was made by Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh during the valedictory ceremony held at the Undavalli Caves, Guntur district. The Government plans to conduct the festival across all regions of the State and revive traditional Telugu art forms such as Tholu Bommalata, Harikatha, Burrakatha and Padya Natakam. The Minister also announced that Nandi Natakotsavams will be revived on a grand scale, Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao Birth Centenary celebrations will be held on 4 August, and Telugu Language Day and Telugu Language Awards will be celebrated on 29 August, marking the birth anniversary of Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy Pantulu.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Telugu Language:** Belongs to the Dravidian language family. Official Language of Andhra Pradesh and one of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Telugu was declared a Classical Language by the Government of India in 2008. Criteria for Classical Language Status: High antiquity (early texts of over 1,500–2,000 years), rich and ancient literary tradition, original literary heritage, distinct classical tradition.
- **Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy Pantulu (1863–1940):** Eminent Telugu scholar and social reformer. Pioneer of the Vyavaharika Bhasha (Colloquial Telugu) Movement. Advocated the use of simple Telugu in education and administration. His birth anniversary (29 August) is celebrated as Telugu Language Day in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Traditional Telugu Art Forms:**
  - **Tholu Bommalata:** Traditional shadow leather puppet theatre. Recognized as an important folk theatre tradition of Andhra Pradesh. Narrates stories mainly from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas.
  - **Harikatha:** Storytelling tradition combining music, literature, philosophy, and spiritual discourse.
  - **Burrakatha:** Folk narrative performance involving music, dialogue and storytelling. Traditionally used to spread social awareness and historical themes.

- **Padya Natakam:** Classical Telugu theatre where dialogues are predominantly rendered in poetic form.
- **Undavalli Caves:** Located near Vijayawada in Guntur district. Rock-cut cave complex dating to the 4th–5th century CE. Associated with the Vishnukundin dynasty. Famous for the monolithic reclining image of Lord Vishnu (Anantha Padmanabha Swamy). One of Andhra Pradesh's important heritage monuments.
- **Nandi Natakotsavams:** Prestigious theatre festival organized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Promotes Telugu drama, stage theatre, traditional performing arts, new playwrights and artists.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Telugu was declared a Classical Language in 2008.
- Telugu Language Day is observed on 29 August.
- Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy Pantulu is known as the pioneer of Vyavaharika Telugu.
- Undavalli Caves are rock-cut cave temples associated with the Vishnukundins.
- Tholu Bommalata is a shadow puppet theatre tradition of Andhra Pradesh.
- Major cultural awards instituted by the Andhra Pradesh Government include: Ugadi Kala Ratna Awards, Kandukuri Awards, Telugu Language Awards, Gurram Jashuva Awards, Boyi Bheemanna Awards.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-I / APPSC – Art & Culture | Language & Heritage:** The decision to organize Telugu Mahotsavam annually reflects the State's commitment to preserving Telugu language, literature and intangible cultural heritage. Reviving traditional art forms, encouraging mother-tongue education and honoring literary personalities strengthen cultural identity, promote inter-generational transmission of heritage, and contribute to the preservation of India's rich linguistic diversity. *Keywords: Classical Language • Telugu Literature • Intangible Cultural Heritage • Mother Tongue Education • Folk Arts • Cultural Preservation • Language Promotion • Telugu Mahotsavam • Undavalli Caves • Cultural Identity*

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

**Bahuda Yatra**, the Return Chariot Festival of Lord Jagannath, was celebrated in Visakhapatnam, marking the conclusion of the annual Rath Yatra. The procession moved from Turner's Choultry to Sri Jagannatha Swamy Temple amid Vedic chanting and traditional music. The idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra were ceremonially taken back to the temple after performing Dasavatara rituals.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Bahuda Yatra:** The return journey of Lord Jagannath from the Gundicha Temple to the main Jagannath Temple. Celebrated after the annual Rath Yatra. Symbolizes the return of the deities to their abode.
- **Jagannath Trinity:** The deities worshipped are Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra.
- **Jagannath Temple:** Location: Puri, Odisha. One of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites. Famous for its annual Rath Yatra.

**PRELIMS FACTS**

- Bahuda Yatra marks the conclusion of Rath Yatra.
- Jagannath Temple is associated with the Kalinga style of architecture.
- The annual Rath Yatra is celebrated during the Hindu month of Ashadha.

**MAINS VALUE ADDITION**

**GS-I / APPSC – Art & Culture:** The celebration of Bahuda Yatra reflects India's rich tradition of religious festivals that preserve cultural heritage, promote social harmony and strengthen community participation. *Keywords: Jagannath Culture • Rath Yatra • Intangible Cultural Heritage • Temple Traditions*

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

The Andhra Pradesh government has approved the establishment of **tent cities at 21 temple locations** situated along the banks of the Godavari River for the upcoming **Godavari Pushkarams 2027**. The largest tent city is planned at **Bridge Lanka** in Rajamahendravaram, which is being developed under the Godavari Riverfront Project. Alongside this, the State government has also set a target of identifying nearly **50,000 homestay rooms** across Andhra Pradesh over the next five years, beginning with the Konaseema region, to accommodate pilgrims and tourists during the Pushkaram period.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Godavari Pushkaram:** One of the most important river festivals of South India, celebrated when Jupiter (Brihaspati) enters the zodiac sign associated with the Godavari River. The festival follows a 12-year cycle, corresponding to Jupiter's orbital movement through the zodiac signs. Devotees believe that taking a holy dip in the river during Pushkaram helps in spiritual purification, removal of sins, and blessings for ancestors through rituals such as tarpan and pind daan. The first twelve days are called **Adi Pushkaram**, considered the most auspicious period, while the last twelve days are called **Antya Pushkaram**, which also holds ritual significance.
- **Twenty-One Temple Locations:** The government decision specifically focuses on creating temporary accommodation facilities near 21 major temples located on the banks of the Godavari River, where pilgrim movement is expected to be highest. These temple zones are spread across major Pushkaram districts including East Godavari, West Godavari, Konaseema and surrounding Godavari belt regions.
- **Bridge Lanka:** A riverine island formed due to sediment deposition in the Godavari delta system. Strategically important because it lies close to major ghats, temple access points and transport routes. The location is being developed under the broader Godavari Riverfront Project to support tourism, pilgrim movement and riverfront infrastructure.
- **Homestay Model and Konaseema Region:** The process began from the Konaseema region, which is culturally and geographically one of the most important parts of the Godavari delta. Traditional houses and heritage homes are being identified and encouraged to function as

tourism-based homestays. This model is especially useful in rural and semi-urban areas where hotel infrastructure is limited.

- **Godavari River:** Second longest river in India after the Ganga, often called the Dakshin Ganga. Originates from Trimbakeshwar in Nashik district of Maharashtra in the Western Ghats. Flows eastward through Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before draining into the Bay of Bengal. Total length: approximately 1465 kilometres. Important left-bank tributaries include Indravati and Sabari, while important right-bank tributaries include Pravara, Purna and Manjira. Forms a broad and fertile delta in Andhra Pradesh, supporting extensive agriculture, especially paddy cultivation, aquaculture and coconut plantations. The delta also creates sediment-based islands called Lanka.
- **Rajamahendravaram and Pushkaram Administration:** Principal administrative and pilgrimage centre during Godavari Pushkarams. Serves as the main location for river ghats, crowd movement, tourism infrastructure and public administration. Pushkaram management here requires coordination between tourism, police, irrigation, sanitation, health and transport departments.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- Godavari Pushkaram, Adi Pushkaram, Antya Pushkaram, Bridge Lanka, Rajamahendravaram, Konaseema, Godavari Delta, Lanka Islands, Homestay Policy, Riverfront Development.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-I / APPSC – Indian Culture | Geography | Society:** The Pushkaram festival is a unique blend of astronomy, religion, and river ecology. Managing such mega-events requires robust crowd management, sustainable tourism practices, and inter-departmental coordination to ensure pilgrim safety and environmental protection of the riverine ecosystem. *Keywords: Religious Tourism • Pilgrimage Governance • River-Based Festivals • Crowd Management • Sustainable Tourism • Cultural Geography*

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### Godavari Drinking Water Project Begins at Nidadavolu

PAPER II / III — Urban Development & Water Resources

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh launched a **₹94.31 crore Water Grid Project** under AMRUT 2.0 for Nidadavolu Municipality (East Godavari). Water will be drawn from the Godavari River through Sir Arthur

Cotton Barrage (Vijjeswaram). The project includes a 10 MLD Water Treatment Plant, 90 km pipeline network, and household tap water supply. Target completion: January 2028.

#### STATIC LINKAGE

- **AMRUT 2.0:** Launched: 2021. Ministry: Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. Objectives: Universal water supply, sewerage management, water conservation, rejuvenation of water bodies, urban infrastructure improvement.
- **Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage (Dowleswaram Barrage):** Built across the Godavari River. Located near Rajamahendravaram. Designed by Sir Arthur Cotton. Supports irrigation and drinking water supply in coastal Andhra Pradesh.

#### PRELIMS FACTS

- AMRUT 2.0: 2021.
- 10 MLD = 10 Million Litres per Day.
- Godavari is India's second-longest river after the Ganga.

#### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC Urban Development:** Water grid projects under AMRUT 2.0 are critical for ensuring equitable and sustainable urban water supply, reducing groundwater depletion, and improving public health in tier-2 and tier-3 municipalities. *Keywords: AMRUT 2.0 • Water Grid • Urban Water Supply • Drinking Water Security • SDG 6*

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### Madanapalle Secures ₹1,000 Crore Water Grid Project Under Jal Jeevan Mission

PAPER II / III — Rural Development & Water Resources

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Annamayya district has secured approval for Phase-II of the **Madanapalle Water Grid Project** at an estimated cost of ₹1,000 crore under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**. The project aims to provide safe and uninterrupted drinking water to Madanapalle town and the rural mandals of Madanapalle, Nimmanapalle and Ramasamudram. Phase-I, involving the laying of a pipeline from the Gandikota Reservoir to Mavillavaripalle (Gurramkonda Mandal), is already under progress. A Water Treatment Plant (WTP) will be established at Mavillavaripalle, and Phase-II is targeted for completion within 18 months after tendering.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):** Launched: 15 August 2019. Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti.  
Objective: Provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household, ensure safe, adequate and regular drinking water supply, improve public health and quality of life. Key Features: Tap water to every rural household, community participation through Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), source sustainability, water quality monitoring, greywater management.
- **Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC):** Provides adequate quantity of safe drinking water, regular supply, prescribed quality standards, water directly at the household level.
- **Water Grid:** Integrated network of reservoirs, pipelines, pumping stations and treatment plants that transports drinking water from reliable sources to urban and rural areas. Benefits: Assured water supply, efficient distribution, reduced dependence on groundwater, improved drought resilience, regional water security.
- **Water Treatment Plant (WTP):** Removes physical, chemical and biological impurities to make water safe for drinking. Major treatment stages: Screening, Coagulation, Sedimentation, Filtration, Disinfection (usually chlorination).
- **Gandikota Reservoir:** Built across the Pennar (Penna) River. Part of the Telugu Ganga Project. Located in YSR Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh. Supports irrigation and drinking water supply in drought-prone regions of Rayalaseema.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched in 2019.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Objective: Universal Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in rural areas.
- Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) play a key role in planning, implementation and operation of rural water supply schemes.
- Gandikota Reservoir is part of the Telugu Ganga Project on the Pennar River.

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-II / APPSC – Water Resources | Rural Development | Governance:** The Madanapalle Water Grid Project strengthens drinking water security in the drought-prone Rayalaseema region by improving access to safe drinking water through integrated water infrastructure. It supports the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission, enhances public health, reduces dependence on groundwater

and contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation. *Keywords: Jal Jeevan Mission • Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) • Water Grid • Drinking Water Security • Water Treatment Plant • Pennar River • Rayalaseema • Rural Infrastructure • SDG 6 • Water Resource Management*

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## Andhra Pradesh Identifies 99 One District One Product (ODOP) Products

PAPER III / I — Economy & Culture

### CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Andhra Pradesh identified **99 products** under the **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative. Notable products: Udayagiri Wooden Cutlery (Nellore), Paturu Cotton Silk Sarees (Nellore), Etikoppaka Toys (Lacquerware) (Anakapalli), Payakaraopeta Silk Sarees (Anakapalli).

### STATIC LINKAGE

- **One District One Product (ODOP):** Promotes one unique product from every district. Objectives: Branding, export promotion, MSME development, employment generation.
- **Etikoppaka Toys:** GI Tagged handicrafts. Made from Ankudu wood. Coloured using natural dyes.
- **Udayagiri Wooden Cutlery:** Eco-friendly wooden utensils. Promotes sustainable handicrafts.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- ODOP is implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in coordination with States.
- Etikoppaka Toys have Geographical Indication (GI) status.

### MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-III / APPSC Economy:** The ODOP initiative fosters local entrepreneurship, preserves traditional craftsmanship, and integrates rural artisans into global value chains, aligning with the 'Vocal for Local' vision. *Keywords: ODOP • GI Tags • Handicrafts • MSMEs • Export Promotion • Vocal for Local*

**Panakala Narasimha Swamy Temple****CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY**

The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** initiated scientific conservation of the **Sri Panakala Narasimha Swamy Temple, Mangalagiri**. Experts assessed the 16th-century Mandapam and 19th-century Gopuram (153 ft). Scientific conservation measures have been recommended for long-term preservation.

**STATIC LINKAGE**

- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):** Established: 1861. Founder: Alexander Cunningham. Ministry: Ministry of Culture. Functions: Conservation of monuments, archaeological excavations, heritage preservation, epigraphy.
- **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958:** Provides legal protection for ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and protected heritage.
- **Panakala Narasimha Swamy Temple:** Located at Mangalagiri, Guntur district. Dedicated to Lord Narasimha. Famous for offering Panakam (jaggery drink).

**PRELIMS FACTS**

- ASI established in 1861.
- ASI functions under the Ministry of Culture.
- Mangalagiri Temple is dedicated to Lord Narasimha.

**MAINS VALUE ADDITION**

**GS-I / APPSC Art & Culture:** Scientific conservation by the ASI ensures that historical monuments retain their architectural integrity and cultural significance for future generations, balancing religious usage with heritage preservation. *Keywords: Heritage Conservation • ASI • Cultural Heritage • Scientific Conservation • Temple Architecture*

## Ayyanki Venkata Ramanaiah

## CURRENT AFFAIRS SUMMARY

The 136th birth anniversary of **Padma Shri Ayyanki Venkata Ramanaiah**, regarded as the Father of the Library Movement in India, was celebrated in Vijayawada. He popularised the slogan "**Public Libraries are Temples of Knowledge**" and dedicated his life to spreading the library movement to eradicate illiteracy, ignorance and social evils. The celebrations highlighted the continuing role of libraries in education, employment preparation and lifelong learning.

## STATIC LINKAGE

- **Ayyanki Venkata Ramanaiah (1890–1979):** Known as the Father of the Library Movement in India. Native of Konakuduru, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. Led the public library movement across India. Received the Padma Shri for his contribution to education and library development. Contributions: Founded the Andhra Desa Library Association (ADLA) in 1914, popularised the concept of public libraries, promoted adult education and literacy, worked against illiteracy, superstition and social backwardness.
- **Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960:** One of the earliest State laws promoting a public library network. Established: State Library Committee, District Library Authorities, Library Cess for funding.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Father of the Library Movement in India: Ayyanki Venkata Ramanaiah.
- Andhra Desa Library Association (ADLA): Founded in 1914.
- Padma Shri awardee.
- Slogan: "Public Libraries are Temples of Knowledge."

## MAINS VALUE ADDITION

**GS-I / APPSC – Social Reform | Education:** Public libraries are important institutions for lifelong learning, digital literacy, social inclusion and knowledge dissemination, contributing to an informed democratic society. *Keywords: Library Movement • Adult Education • Knowledge Society • Literacy • Social Reform*

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— *End of Compendium* —

*APPSC Exams / Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs — July 2026*

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

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