



ANDHRA PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

Monthly Compendium — June 2026

Target Examinations:

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

Compiled Topics: 28 High-Yield Current Affairs

Categories: Policy & Governance · Infrastructure · Economy ·

Culture & Heritage · Sports · Environment · Appointments

Format: Current Affairs + Detailed Static Integration + Analytical Dimensions

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INDEX / TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I — Policy, Governance & Cabinet Decisions (10 Topics)

1. New Aviation Policy 2026-31 (APAP-2026)
 2. Old Pension Scheme (OPS) Option for CPS
 3. PSU Retirement Age Extension to 62
 4. Port Operational Jurisdiction Reduction
 5. Human Organ Transplantation Ordinance
 6. Beach Shacks Policy Amendment
 7. Viksit Bharat (Gramin) & MGNREGS Expansion
 8. Stamp Duty Exemptions for "Quantum Valley"
 9. Amaravati Capital Progress Monitoring
 10. APIIC Direct Land Allotment Decentralization
-

SECTION II — Projects & Infrastructure (7 Topics)

11. Jonnagiri Gold Mine ("Swarnagiri") Launch
 12. Mass Clearance of SIPB Projects
 13. Trunk Infrastructure Funding for Undavalli
 14. AP Judicial Academy Sanction
 15. Revised Sanction for Polavaram Left Main Canal
 16. Amaravati Eye Tourism Project
 17. HUDCO Loan Guarantee for AP Power Finance
-

SECTION III — Economy & State Finance (3 Topics)

18. Commercial Tax Revenue Surge (16% YoY)
 19. Record Net GST Collections (June 2026)
 20. ₹30,000 Crore Food Processing Target
-

SECTION IV — Culture, Heritage, Sports & Environment (4 Topics)

21. Seshachalam Vijayanagara Inscription Discovery
 22. AP's First International Indoor Boxing Ring
 23. Yogandhra-2026 Campaign
 24. NSTR Monsoon Closure for Breeding
-

SECTION V — Governance, Appointments & E-Governance (4 Topics)

25. Institutionalisation of Action Taken Reports (ATRs)
26. Mahesh Dixit Appointed as IB Director

27. Special Land Pooling Posts Under APCRDA

28. 'One-Time Delete' Digital Governance Reform

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Approved on June 4, the comprehensive 5-year **AP Aviation Policy (APAP-2026)** replaces a decade-old framework. The blueprint outlines the development of **9 new low-cost airports and 10 waterdromes/heliports** to guarantee airport access within a 150-km radius. It targets an increase in passenger handling from 6.2 million to 30.38 million by 2035, aiming to make AP India's "Eastern Gateway".

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Greenfield Airport Policy (2021):** The central policy regulates the development of new airports to ensure viability and prevent overlap with existing AAI airports within a 150 km radius. AP's policy aligns with this to decongest existing hubs like Vizag and Vijayawada.
- **UDAN Scheme:** The 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik' scheme focuses on regional connectivity by subsidizing flights to unserved and underserved airports. The new waterdromes and heliports will heavily integrate with UDAN's seaplane and helicopter routes.
- **Constitutional Division of Power:** "Airways" and "Airports" are in the **Union List (Entry 29)**, meaning the state must coordinate closely with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for technical clearances and airspace management.
- **Economic Multiplier:** Airports act as catalysts for logistics, MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) services, and high-value tourism, significantly boosting the state's GSDP and integration into global supply chains.
- **Existing AP Airports:** AP currently has operational airports at Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Rajahmundry, and Kadapa; a new Greenfield airport is also planned at Bhogapuram (near Vizag) to decongest the existing Vizag airport.
- **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016:** The parent central policy that introduced the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN), capped fares on regional routes, and promoted a "hub-and-spoke" model — the template AP's own policy builds upon.
- **Seaplane/Waterdrome Operations:** India's first seaplane service was flown in Gujarat (Statue of Unity–Sabarmati route); AP's waterdrome push along river stretches and reservoirs would be among the earliest such networks on the east coast.

- **MRO Hub Potential:** India imports most aircraft MRO services; a dedicated MRO SEZ near a new AP airport would reduce foreign exchange outflow and align with the "Make in India" push in aerospace manufacturing.

02

Old Pension Scheme (OPS) Option for CPS

PAPER II / III — Polity & Economy

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The **AP** Cabinet cleared a one-time structural correction allowing **10,715 state employees** to migrate from the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS/NPS) back to the **Old Pension Scheme (OPS)**. This specifically covers employees whose recruitment notifications were released before September 1, 2004, but who joined service after that cut-off date due to administrative delays.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **NPS vs. OPS:** The OPS (defined benefit) guarantees a fixed pension based on the last drawn salary, whereas the NPS (defined contribution) links the pension corpus to market returns. The shift back to OPS for this specific cohort addresses historical recruitment anomalies.
- **Article 309:** Empowers the President/Governor to regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of persons serving the Union/State. Pension rights are considered vested property rights under Article 300A.
- **Fiscal Implications:** While OPS provides higher security for employees, it creates massive long-term unfunded liabilities for the state exchequer, impacting the Fiscal Deficit and the state's ability to fund capital expenditure.
- **Supreme Court Stance:** The Apex Court has repeatedly ruled that employees do not have a fundamental right to choose their pension scheme, but states can legislate or issue executive orders to regularize specific anomalies based on equity.
- **NPS Launch (2004):** The National Pension System was introduced for central government employees joining on or after January 1, 2004, and most states (including undivided AP) adopted it from September 1, 2004, replacing the defined-benefit OPS.
- **PFRDA:** The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (statutory since 2013) regulates the NPS, oversight of pension fund managers, and subscriber grievance redressal.
- **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS):** Notified by the Centre in 2024 as a hybrid option offering assured payouts under NPS, giving another comparative reference point for state-level pension reforms like AP's OPS migration.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

To maintain parity with core government departments, the **AP** state government extended the retirement age from 60 to **62 years** for staff employed across state Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), autonomous societies, and Schedule IX institutions.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Retirement Age Trends:** The central government retirement age is 60 years. However, several states (like AP, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha) have extended it to 62 years for state government employees to address aging workforce issues and retain institutional memory.
- **Human Resource Management:** Extending the age helps PSUs retain highly skilled technical experts and senior managers, reducing the brain drain to the private sector and avoiding the immediate burden of massive recruitment cycles.
- **Pension & Wage Bill Impact:** While it delays pension payouts, it keeps experienced employees on the payroll longer, increasing the immediate wage bill. It requires a careful actuarial balance by the state's finance department.
- **Autonomous Bodies:** Schedule IX institutions often include universities, research councils, and medical colleges. Parity ensures that administrative staff and faculty do not face abrupt career truncation compared to their state secretariat counterparts.
- **Comparative Note — Central Govt Doctors:** Central government and many state medical/teaching cadres already retire at 62-65, showing that retirement-age policy is often sector-specific rather than uniform across all employee categories.
- **Demographic Dividend vs. Aging Workforce:** While India enjoys a demographic dividend overall, specialized technical PSU cadres (engineers, doctors, scientists) take years to train; raising the retirement age is a stopgap to protect institutional expertise until a fresh talent pipeline matures.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The operational maritime limits of **AP's Machilipatnam Port** were slashed from 64 km to 15 km, and **Ramayapatnam Port** from 51 km to 15 km. This legislative amendment de-notifies vast

coastal stretches to eliminate overlapping regulations and enhance the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) for private coastal players.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Major vs. Non-Major Ports:** Under the Constitution, Major Ports (Entry 28, Union List) are controlled by the Centre, while Non-Major Ports (Entry 30, State List) are under state jurisdiction. Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam are non-major ports, allowing the state to dictate their boundaries.
- **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Norms:** The CRZ Notification 2019 regulates activities near the coast. By reducing the port's operational jurisdiction, the state frees up the de-notified coastal stretches from strict port-related industrial restrictions, allowing for tourism, fisheries, and real estate development.
- **Sagarmala Programme:** Aims to promote port-led direct and indirect development. De-regulating coastal zones encourages private investment in ancillary logistics, warehousing, and coastal shipping.
- **Blue Economy:** Refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources. Balancing port expansion with ecological preservation and local livelihoods (fishing communities) is the core challenge of maritime spatial planning.
- **AP's Port Profile:** AP has one Major Port (Visakhapatnam, under the Centre) and multiple Non-Major/greenfield ports being developed — Machilipatnam, Ramayapatnam, Krishnapatnam, Gangavaram, and Bhavanapadu — forming the backbone of the state's maritime logistics network.
- **Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030:** The Centre's roadmap to double port capacity and boost coastal shipping; state-level jurisdictional streamlining supports MIV 2030's ease-of-business targets.
- **Coastal Employment:** Reduced port jurisdiction can free coastal stretches for traditional fishing and small-craft harbors, directly affecting the livelihoods of AP's large fishing community, one of the largest in India by workforce.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The **AP** Cabinet approved a new ordinance to decentralise and streamline the legal framework of organ donations. It establishes **regional authorization committees** to accelerate verification,

combat illegal organ trading, and drastically reduce the approval turnaround time for critical surgeries.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994:** Regulates the storage, removal, and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and prevents commercial dealings. The new ordinance operationalizes this by decentralizing the approval process.
- **Article 213 (Ordinance Power):** Empowers the Governor to promulgate ordinances when the State Legislature is not in session. It has the same force as an Act but must be approved by the legislature within six weeks of its reassembly.
- **NOTTO & ROTTO:** The National and Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisations coordinate the waiting lists and allocation networks. Decentralizing authorization committees speeds up the process at the district/regional level, saving critical lives.
- **Brain Death Certification:** The Act legally recognizes brain stem death as death, allowing for cadaveric organ donation. Strict medical boards must certify this to prevent ethical violations and illegal organ harvesting rackets.
- **Living vs. Deceased Donation:** THOA permits living donation only among "near relatives" (or with authorization committee approval for others), while deceased/cadaveric donation requires next-of-kin consent and brain-death certification by an independent medical board.
- **Green Corridor Concept:** A traffic-free route created by police to transport harvested organs rapidly between hospitals; faster regional authorization directly shortens the "cold ischemia time" window for viable transplantation.
- **Concurrent List Subject:** Transplantation of human organs falls under the Concurrent List, allowing both Parliament and state legislatures to enact rules — hence a state-level ordinance to decentralize committees is constitutionally valid.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Modifying the **AP** State Excise Policy, the government permitted the formal setup of **regulated beach shacks** along designated tourist zones, starting primarily with Visakhapatnam and Cheerala. The move mimics successful models in Goa to boost night tourism and state hospitality revenues.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **State Excise Subject:** Alcoholic liquor for human consumption is a **State List (Entry 8)** subject. The state has the exclusive power to legislate on its sale, consumption, and regulation, including granting licenses for beach shacks.
- **CRZ & Tourism:** The Ministry of Environment allows temporary tourist facilities (like beach shacks) in CRZ-III and CRZ-IV areas, provided they are temporary, eco-friendly, and do not obstruct public access to the beach or traditional fishing activities.
- **Tourism Economics:** Beach shacks extend the dwell time of tourists, boosting the "night economy." It generates direct employment for local youth and indirect revenue for the state through excise duties and lease premiums.
- **Goa Model:** Goa's beach shack policy is globally recognized for balancing vibrant tourism with local ecology. AP aims to replicate this by enforcing strict waste management and noise pollution norms in the new zones.
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0:** The central scheme for sustainable and responsible tourism destination development; coastal circuit development in AP (Vizag, Cheerala) can dovetail with this scheme for infrastructure grants.
- **AP's Coastline:** At roughly 974 km, Andhra Pradesh has India's second-longest coastline (after Gujarat), spanning 9 coastal districts — giving the state a natural comparative advantage in beach and coastal tourism.
- **Licensing & Seasonal Nature:** Beach shacks are typically allotted via lottery/tender for a tourist season (Oct-May) and must be dismantled thereafter to comply with CRZ norms and protect the coast during the monsoon and cyclone season.

07

Viksit Bharat (Gramin) & MGNREGS Expansion

PAPER II / III — Rural Dev & Economy

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Under the newly approved **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission**, the AP state government integrated its rural development funds to increase the guaranteed wage employment days from 100 to **125 days per year** for selected distressed rural pockets.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **MGNREGA 2005:** Guarantees 100 days of wage employment per year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It is a rights-based framework anchored in Article 41 (Right to Work).
- **State Top-Ups:** While the central Act mandates 100 days, states have the fiscal space to extend this limit using their own funds. Providing 125 days acts as a crucial social safety net during agrarian distress, droughts, or lean agricultural seasons.
- **Rural Distress Migration:** By increasing employment days locally, the state aims to curb distress migration to urban slums, ensuring that rural labor has sufficient income to sustain livelihoods and meet basic nutritional needs.
- **Asset Creation:** MGNREGA funds are legally mandated to be used for creating durable rural assets (water conservation, rural connectivity, land development). At least 60% of the works must be related to agriculture and allied sectors.
- **Social Audit Mandate:** Section 17 of MGNREGA requires mandatory social audits by Gram Sabhas at least once every six months, making it one of the few Indian laws with a statutory social-audit requirement — a key transparency safeguard as employment days expand.
- **Wage Payment via DBT:** Wages are credited directly into worker bank/post-office accounts via the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)/NEFT architecture, reducing leakages and middlemen.
- **Women's Participation:** MGNREGA mandates that at least one-third of beneficiaries be women; AP has historically recorded women's participation well above this national floor, aiding rural women's financial inclusion.
- **Viksit Bharat @2047:** The umbrella vision framework for India's centenary of independence; "Viksit Bharat Gramin" schemes align state rural-development top-ups with this long-term national development roadmap.

08

Stamp Duty Exemptions for "Quantum Valley"

PAPER IV / V — Economy & Deep Tech

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

To position the capital region as a deep-tech epicenter, the **AP** Cabinet sanctioned a **100% exemption on stamp duty and registration fees** for tech enterprises setting up operations within the proposed "Quantum Valley" in Amaravati.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Quantum Computing:** An emerging field that uses quantum mechanics to solve complex problems exponentially faster than classical computers. India's National Quantum Mission aims to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial R&D in this area.
- **Indian Stamp Act, 1899:** Stamp duty on property and business registrations is a major revenue source for states. Exempting it for a specific tech zone is a targeted fiscal incentive to attract high-value FDI and domestic tech investments.
- **Deep Tech Hubs:** Similar to Hyderabad's push for GenAI and Semiconductor clusters, Amaravati's "Quantum Valley" aims to create an ecosystem of startups, research labs, and VC funding, moving the state up the value chain from traditional IT services.
- **SEZ vs. Tech Parks:** While Special Economic Zones (SEZs) offer broader tax holidays, targeted exemptions on stamp duty and utility costs are agile tools used by state governments to quickly incentivize specific sunrise sectors.
- **National Quantum Mission (NQM):** Approved by the Union Cabinet in 2023 with an outlay of about ₹6,003 crore for 2023-31, NQM seeds Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in quantum computing, communication, sensing, and materials — AP's Quantum Valley seeks to plug into this national mission.
- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):** A parallel deep-tech push (₹76,000 crore outlay) for chip design and fabrication; AP and Telangana are both competing to attract semiconductor and quantum-adjacent investment under India's broader tech self-reliance strategy.
- **Ease of Doing Business Rankings:** States are periodically ranked by DPIIT's Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP); fiscal incentives like stamp-duty waivers are a common lever states use to climb these rankings and attract sunrise-sector FDI.

09

Amaravati Capital Progress Monitoring

PAPER II — Governance & Administration

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Instating a strict project-management framework, **AP** CM N. Chandrababu Naidu passed a directive establishing a mandatory **two-month review cycle** for all ongoing capital city construction works. This guarantees direct executive oversight to avoid delays on the ₹50,999 crore worth of contracts awarded for the Assembly, High Court, and Secretariat Towers.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **CRDA Act, 2014:** The AP Capital Region Development Authority is the statutory body responsible for integrated planning and execution. Regular monitoring ensures that the master plan's vision is translated into physical infrastructure without bureaucratic lag.
- **Project Management in Governance:** Large-scale infrastructure projects often suffer from time and cost overruns. Institutionalizing a fixed review cycle (like the PRAGATI model at the central level) ensures accountability among contractors and line departments.
- **Land Pooling Model:** Amaravati is built on a land pooling scheme where farmers contributed land. Delays in construction erode farmer trust and increase the state's interest burden on compensation payouts. Timely execution is both an economic and political imperative.
- **Separation of Powers:** The construction of the High Court and Secretariat touches upon the functional independence of the judiciary and the executive. Providing them with world-class, timely infrastructure is a constitutional obligation to ensure efficient governance and justice delivery.
- **Capital History:** Amaravati was notified as AP's capital in 2015 after the bifurcation of the state under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, which stripped Hyderabad (the joint capital) from residual AP after a 10-year transition period.
- **Sivaramakrishnan Committee (2014):** The Centre-appointed expert committee that examined capital-siting options and cautioned against concentrating the capital in a single high-fertility river-delta zone — a recommendation debated during Amaravati's finalisation.
- **Naya Raipur/Amravati (Maharashtra) Comparisons:** Amaravati is frequently compared to other planned Indian capitals (e.g., Naya Raipur, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar) as a case study in greenfield capital-city planning and execution challenges.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Industries Minister announced that the **Andhra Pradesh** Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) has been empowered to directly allot industrial land packages up to 50 acres without needing slow, top-tier cabinet approvals. This significantly removes red tape for medium and large enterprises.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **APIIC Role:** The nodal agency for developing industrial parks, providing plug-and-play facilities (roads, power, water) to attract FDI and domestic investment. Decentralizing its powers accelerates the "Time to Market" for new factories.
- **Single Window Clearance:** A core component of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB). By removing the Cabinet approval layer for mid-sized land parcels, the state reduces the approval timeline from months to weeks, a key metric in the World Bank's regulatory frameworks.
- **Land Acquisition Act, 2013:** The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act mandates strict social impact assessments and high compensation. APIIC's pre-acquired land banks are crucial because acquiring fresh land under the 2013 Act is highly time-consuming and expensive.
- **Industrial Corridors:** This policy directly supports the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) by ensuring that land availability does not become a bottleneck for manufacturing units setting up along the corridor nodes.
- **Existing Industrial Nodes:** Key APIIC-developed parks/SEZs include Atchutapuram and Achutapuram (Vizag), Sri City (a private integrated business city near Chennai border), and Koppaithy/Orvakal nodes on VCIC — reference points for land-allotment case studies.
- **Chandrayan-2/PM Gati Shakti Linkage:** Faster industrial land allotment complements the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, which integrates multimodal connectivity data to reduce logistics costs for new industrial units.

SECTION II — PROJECTS & INFRASTRUCTURE

11

Jonnagiri Gold Mine ("Swarnagiri") Launch

PAPER IV / I — Economy & Geography

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

On June 24, commercial operations began at the **Jonnagiri Gold Mine** in Tuggali mandal, Kurnool district. Developed by Geomysore Services with an investment of ₹405 crore, it stands as **India's first private-sector utility-scale gold mine** with an integrated processing facility in 70 years. The **AP** state government expects a 4% royalty on its output.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957:** Governs the mining sector in India. Recent amendments allowed the private sector to participate in the mining of

specified minerals, including gold, through auctions to boost domestic production.

- **Gold Reserves in India:** India has significant gold reserves but historically relied on imports. Major known reserves include Hutti (Karnataka - operated by state-owned Hutti Gold Mines), Kolar (closed), Ramagiri (Anantapur), and Jonnagiri (Kurnool).
- **Royalties & DMF:** Mining lease holders pay royalties to the state government. A portion of this is mandated to go into the **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)**, which funds local welfare, healthcare, and infrastructure in mining-affected areas.
- **Geography of Rayalaseema:** Kurnool and Anantapur districts lie in the gold-rich greenstone belts of the Dharwar craton. Commercial mining here boosts the regional economy, creates technical jobs, and reduces the current account deficit caused by gold imports.
- **National Mineral Policy, 2019:** Emphasizes private-sector participation, exploration-license auctions, and a "no-go" area framework to balance mining growth with environmental protection — the enabling policy backdrop for Jonnagiri-type projects.
- **Rayalaseema Region:** Comprises Kurnool, Anantapur (Sri Sathya Sai), Kadapa (YSR), and Chittoor districts; historically drought-prone and mineral-rich, it is a focus area for balanced regional development under Article 371D.
- **Import Substitution:** India is the world's largest gold importer; domestic gold mining, though currently a small fraction of demand, is strategically significant for reducing the trade deficit and gold-driven currency pressure.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The AP Cabinet ratified **87 independent industrial proposals** thoroughly vetted by the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB). Accumulating a cumulative investment value of **₹34,000 crore**, these projects span green energy, textile parks, and eco-tourism resorts across backward regions.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **SIPB Role:** The apex body chaired by the Chief Minister that approves large-scale investments, resolves policy bottlenecks, and coordinates between various line departments for environmental, forest, and land clearances.
- **Balanced Regional Development:** By specifically targeting "backward regions," the state aligns with the spirit of **Article 371D**, which mandates equitable opportunities in education

and public employment, and seeks to reduce regional economic disparities.

- **Green Energy & Textiles:** AP is a leader in solar and wind energy. Adding green energy manufacturing (like solar modules, green hydrogen) and textile parks (leveraging the state's massive cotton and synthetic fiber base) diversifies the industrial base.
- **Capital Investment Multiplier:** A ₹34,000 crore investment creates direct construction jobs, followed by permanent operational jobs, and induces secondary economic activity in local supply chains, significantly boosting the state's GSDP.
- **AP Industrial Development Policy 2024-29:** The overarching state policy framework (sector-specific incentives for electronics, textiles, food processing, and green energy) under which SIPB clearances like this batch are typically issued.
- **Ease of Doing Business Reforms:** Single-window portals (e.g., AP's erstwhile "APIIC Online"/single-desk systems) and deemed-approval timelines are complementary reforms that make bulk project clearances like this one administratively feasible.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The **AP** government formally cleared a specific administrative fiscal allocation of **₹426.46 crore**. The funds are earmarked for building arterial roads, high-capacity underground drainage, and water supply networks in the **Undavalli zone** of Amaravati.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Trunk Infrastructure:** Refers to the primary, large-scale utility networks (main water lines, trunk sewers, major arterial roads) that connect different zones of a city. Without trunk infrastructure, individual plot development is impossible.
- **Urban Planning & AMRUT:** The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) focuses on basic urban infrastructure. The Undavalli allocation mirrors these goals, ensuring that the new capital meets modern urban resilience standards.
- **Municipal Finance:** Funding trunk infrastructure requires massive capital expenditure (CapEx). States often use a mix of state budget allocations, central grants, and municipal bonds to finance these long-gestation assets.
- **Master Plan Execution:** Undavalli is designated as a key residential and administrative zone in the Amaravati Master Plan. Timely completion of trunk infrastructure is critical to hand over plots to the land-pooling farmers and government employees.

- **Undavalli Caves:** The zone is historically famous for the Undavalli Caves, 4th-5th century rock-cut cave temples on the banks of the Krishna river, showing the interplay between new capital infrastructure and existing heritage sites.
- **Smart City Mission Linkage:** Modern trunk infrastructure (integrated command-and-control systems, underground utility ducts) mirrors design principles used in India's Smart Cities Mission projects.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A sum of **₹130.38 crore** was officially approved by the **AP** government for the phase-1 development of the **Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy**. It will feature digital courtrooms and advanced legal research centers to train judicial officers.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Article 233 & 234:** Deal with the appointment and control of district judges and the judicial service. Continuous training of these officers is mandated to ensure they can handle complex modern litigation, from cybercrime to commercial disputes.
- **National Judicial Academy (NJA):** Located in Bhopal, it is the apex body for judicial training. State academies complement NJA by focusing on regional languages, local state amendments, and specific procedural bottlenecks of the High Court and subordinate courts.
- **Digital Courts Mission:** The e-Courts project aims to digitize the judiciary. Training judges in managing digital evidence, virtual hearings, and case flow management software is essential to reduce the massive pendency of over 4 crore cases in lower courts.
- **Right to Speedy Trial:** Read into Article 21 by the Supreme Court. A well-trained, technologically equipped judiciary is the most effective mechanism to deliver speedy justice and uphold the rule of law.
- **AP High Court:** The common High Court for Andhra Pradesh (at Amaravati) was bifurcated from the joint AP/Telangana High Court on January 1, 2019, making judicial infrastructure development in the new capital especially significant.
- **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):** Constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, NALSA and its state counterpart (APSLSA) work alongside judicial academies to widen access to justice through Lok Adalats and legal aid clinics.

- **Judicial Vacancies:** India faces a persistent judge-population ratio gap (roughly 21 judges per million, against the Law Commission's recommended 50); investment in training infrastructure is one lever states use to improve judicial efficiency despite vacancies.

15 Revised Sanction for Polavaram Left Main Canal

PAPER IV — Infrastructure & Geography

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

To prevent cost escalations and kickstart pending distributary works, the **AP** state irrigation department issued a **Revised Administrative Sanction (RAS)** for the Polavaram Left Main Canal project. This facilitates immediate fund release to supply water to Visakhapatnam's industrial and drinking needs.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Polavaram National Project:** Granted National Project status under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. It is a multi-purpose dam on the Godavari River designed for irrigation, flood control, and drinking water.
- **Interlinking of Rivers:** Polavaram is a critical link in the National River Linking Project (NRLP). It transfers surplus Godavari waters to the Krishna river and via the LMC to the drought-prone regions of North Coastal Andhra and Vizag.
- **Administrative Sanction (AS) vs. Revised AS (RAS):** AS is the initial approval of a project's estimate. Due to inflation, design changes, or delays, costs escalate. A RAS is required to legally approve the enhanced costs and release further funds from the treasury.
- **Vizag Water Security:** Visakhapatnam is a water-deficit industrial hub. The Polavaram LMC is the lifeline for the city, ensuring that the steel plant, port, and IT corridors do not face the severe summer water crises that plagued the region in the past.
- **Interstate River Dispute:** Polavaram has faced objections from Odisha and Chhattisgarh over potential submergence of their territory; the Polavaram Project Authority (a central body) mediates interstate coordination on this Godavari-basin project.
- **Godavari-Krishna Interlinking:** The Polavaram-based interlinking is one of the earliest operational examples of the National River Linking Project (NRLP) concept, transferring "surplus" Godavari flood waters to the Krishna basin's water-stressed delta areas.
- **Displacement & Rehabilitation:** As a large dam project, Polavaram involves significant submergence of tribal (Scheduled Area) habitations; Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R)

under the LARR Act, 2013 is a recurring exam-relevant governance issue tied to the project.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Marking a niche in medical tourism, the **AP** state government approved a specialized **"Eye Tourism" medical zone** in the capital. It offers land incentives to global ophthalmology chains to combine world-class eye surgeries with local heritage tourism packages.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Medical Tourism in India:** India is a global hub for medical tourism due to high-quality healthcare at a fraction of Western costs. Common specialties include cardiology, orthopedics, and ophthalmology (cataract, LASIK, retina surgeries).
- **Service Sector Exports:** Medical tourism is classified under service exports. It brings in valuable foreign exchange and creates a high-value ecosystem of hospitals, hospitality, and specialized travel agencies.
- **Visa Regulations:** The Ministry of Home Affairs offers a specific **Medical Visa (M-Visa)** for foreign nationals seeking medical treatment in India, allowing up to three attendants to accompany the patient.
- **Convergence of Sectors:** By bundling healthcare with heritage tourism (e.g., recovering in a serene environment near Amaravati's Buddhist sites or Undavalli caves), the state increases the average spend per tourist and extends their length of stay.
- **Heal in India Initiative:** The Centre's flagship medical-tourism promotion campaign (with a dedicated e-Medical Visa category) that state-level projects like Amaravati's Eye Tourism zone can leverage for international patient inflow.
- **Public Health Infrastructure Nearby:** AIIMS Mangalagiri, located near Amaravati, adds tertiary-care credibility to the capital region's positioning as a medical hub, complementing private ophthalmology chains.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The **AP** state cabinet stepped in as a **sovereign guarantor** for a ₹300 crore loan extended by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) to the AP Power Finance Corporation. The money will be directly used to upgrade the rural distribution transformers of state DISCOMs.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **HUDCO Role:** A Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, HUDCO provides financing for housing, urban infrastructure, and now, social infrastructure like power distribution upgrades.
- **DISCOM Reforms (RDSS):** The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme aims to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of DISCOMs. Upgrading transformers reduces technical losses (AT&C losses) and prevents burnouts.
- **Sovereign Guarantees:** When a state PSU borrows from the market, lenders often demand a state government guarantee. This guarantee counts towards the state's contingent liabilities and is factored into its fiscal deficit calculations under FRBM rules.
- **Rural Electrification:** Reliable power in rural areas is critical for agricultural productivity (pumpsets), rural MSMEs, and the quality of life. Upgrading the last-mile distribution network is the final step in ensuring 24/7 quality power.
- **AP's DISCOMs:** Power distribution in the state is handled by three companies — APSPDCL (Southern Power Distribution), APEPDCL (Eastern Power Distribution), and APCPDCL (Central Power Distribution) — each covering different district clusters.
- **UDAY Scheme (2015):** The Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana was an earlier central scheme for DISCOM financial turnaround via state take-over of debt; RDSS (2021) is its successor, focused more on loss reduction through infrastructure upgrades like this HUDCO-funded one.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Andhra Pradesh recorded an impressive **16% year-on-year growth** in total commercial tax collections for June 2026, amassing ₹4,829 crore. This rounded off a strong first quarter (Q1) for FY 2026-27, with cumulative revenue rising to ₹15,323 crore.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR):** Commercial taxes (primarily GST and state excise) form the largest chunk of a state's own revenue. A 16% surge indicates robust economic activity, high consumption, and effective tax compliance.
- **Fiscal Health & FRBM:** High revenue growth allows the state to meet its Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) targets. It reduces the reliance on borrowing to fund revenue expenditure, freeing up funds for capital investment.
- **GSDP Correlation:** Tax collections are a leading indicator of the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth. A surge in commercial tax usually correlates with expansion in the manufacturing, services, and retail sectors.
- **Revenue vs. Capital Expenditure:** A strong revenue position enables the state to maintain a healthy Revenue Surplus, which is essential to finance Capital Expenditure (infrastructure creation) without resorting to deficit financing.
- **15th Finance Commission:** State tax buoyancy figures like this are also scrutinized against Finance Commission devolution formulas and fiscal-deficit ceilings (typically 3% of GSDP, extendable under specific conditions) recommended for states.
- **Commercial Taxes Department:** AP's apex authority for VAT (on petroleum/liquor, which remain outside GST), professional tax, and GST administration at the state level, working in tandem with the central CBIC.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Led by **AP** State Tax Chief Commissioner Babu A., the Net GST component shot up by **21.35%**, yielding ₹3,144 crore for June 2026. The spike was driven by consumption growth and

technology-driven tax policing, including AI-based return scrutiny, UPI transaction tracking, and Aadhaar authentication to eliminate fake input tax credits (ITC).

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **GST Structure & Article 246A:** The 101st Constitutional Amendment introduced Article 246A, giving both Parliament and State Legislatures the power to levy GST. It is a destination-based consumption tax.
- **Input Tax Credit (ITC) Fraud:** Fake ITC is a major revenue leak where bogus entities issue invoices without actual supply of goods, allowing real businesses to claim false tax credits. Tracking UPI and Aadhaar helps establish the genuineness of transactions.
- **TaxTech & AI:** The use of Artificial Intelligence in tax administration (like the GSTN's AI tools) matches purchase data with sales data, flags anomalies, and automates notices, drastically improving compliance without increasing the physical burden on honest taxpayers.
- **GST Council:** The federal body chaired by the Union Finance Minister recommends tax rates and rules. The smooth collection and anti-evasion measures reflect the maturity of the GST regime seven years post-implementation.
- **GST Slabs & E-Way Bill:** GST operates mainly on 5/12/18/28% slabs plus a compensation cess on luxury/sin goods; the e-way bill system (mandatory for goods movement above a threshold value) is a key anti-evasion tool referenced alongside AI-based scrutiny.
- **CGST vs. SGST vs. IGST:** Intra-state supplies attract CGST (Centre) + SGST (State) in equal halves, while inter-state supplies attract IGST (collected by the Centre and apportioned) — the "Net GST" figure for AP reflects its SGST plus settlement share.
- **GST Compensation Cess Sunset:** The five-year GST compensation guarantee to states (2017-2022) has lapsed; states like AP now depend more heavily on organic SGST buoyancy and anti-evasion measures for revenue growth, making figures like this 21.35% jump especially significant.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The **AP** Ministry of Industries declared a structural goal to attract **₹30,000 crore in investments** into the agriculture and food processing industries over the next three years. The strategy heavily leverages AP's extensive coastline and aquaculture strength to build mega food parks.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Value Addition in Agriculture:** India loses nearly 10-15% of its agricultural produce due to a lack of processing and cold chain infrastructure. Food processing converts perishable raw produce into stable, high-value products, doubling farmer incomes.
- **PMKSY (Sampada):** The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (now PM SAMPADA) is the central umbrella scheme for creating modern infrastructure for food processing. Mega Food Parks create a cluster-based approach linking farmers to processors.
- **AP's Agro-Climatic Advantage:** AP is a leader in aquaculture (shrimp exports), spices (Guntur chilli), and horticulture. Targeting this sector leverages existing raw material availability, reducing logistics costs for processing units.
- **Employment Generation:** The food processing sector is highly labor-intensive. Unlike heavy industries, it creates massive semi-skilled and unskilled jobs in rural and semi-urban areas, directly curbing agrarian distress and urban migration.
- **PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME):** A central scheme supporting the "One District One Product" (ODOP) approach; AP's ODOP picks include Guntur chilli, Krishna mangoes, and Godavari-belt aquaculture products.
- **Seafood Exports:** AP is India's largest producer of farmed shrimp and a leading seafood-exporting state; cold-chain and processing investment directly strengthens this export basket, which is sensitive to international sanitary/phytosanitary (SPS) standards.
- **Operation Greens & Cold Chain Grid:** Central schemes for reducing post-harvest losses in perishables (tomato-onion-potato and beyond) that mega food parks and processing clusters typically tap into for viability-gap funding.

SECTION IV — CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORTS & ENVIRONMENT

21

Seshachalam Vijayanagara Inscription Discovery

PAPER I — History & Culture

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Explorers from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered three highly critical **16th-century multilingual inscriptions** at Sadasivakona inside the dense Seshachalam forest of Tirupati district in **AP**. Written in Telugu and Tamil characters, they record land endowments and state grants given to local temples during the reign of the Vijayanagara Dynasty.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Epigraphy & History:** Inscriptions are primary historical sources. Multilingual inscriptions (Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Sanskrit) reflect the administrative cosmopolitanism of the Vijayanagara Empire and the cultural integration of the Rayalaseema region.
- **Vijayanagara Administration:** The empire had a highly organized system of land grants (Agraharas, Brahamdeya) to temples and scholars. These grants were tax-exempt and served as centers of learning, agriculture, and local governance.
- **ASI & AMT Act, 1958:** The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act protects heritage sites. Discoveries in dense forests like Seshachalam highlight the ongoing need for systematic archaeological surveys beyond established monuments.
- **Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve:** Notified in 2010, it is one of India's Biosphere Reserves located in the Eastern Ghats (Tirupati/Annamayya districts), known for its red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) forests, a species endemic to this belt and protected under CITES due to rampant smuggling.
- **Biosphere Reserve Concept:** Under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, a Biosphere Reserve has three zones — a strictly protected *Core Zone*, a regulated *Buffer Zone*, and a habitation-permitting *Transition Zone* — designed to conserve biodiversity while allowing sustainable human use.
- **Other Indian Biosphere Reserves (Exam Reference):** India has 18 Biosphere Reserves, including Nilgiri (first, 1986), Nanda Devi, Sundarbans, Gulf of Mannar, Similipal, Great Nicobar, Achanakmar-Amarkantak, Panna, and Agasthyamalai; 12 of these are also part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- **Vijayanagara Empire Timeline:** Founded in 1336 CE by Harihara and Bukka; key dynasties within it were the Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva (which produced Krishnadevaraya, its most famous ruler), and Aravidu — the Seshachalam inscriptions likely belong to the Tuluva or early Aravidu period given the 16th-century dating.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Sports Authority of **Andhra Pradesh** (SAAP) formally operationalized the state's very first **international-standard indoor boxing ring** on June 29. Located at the Srinivasa Sports Complex in Tirupati, it is designed to host national and Asian-level tournaments.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Sports Infrastructure:** Hosting international events requires specific technical specifications (lighting, mat quality, seating, broadcasting). This facility bridges the infrastructure gap, allowing Indian boxers to train and compete in world-class conditions at home.
- **Khelo India Scheme:** The central government's flagship program to revive sports culture at the grassroots. It includes the creation of sports infrastructure, support for national sports federations, and talent identification through Khelo India State Centres.
- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):** Provides scientific support (coaching, exposure, equipment) to elite athletes. World-class domestic infrastructure is essential for the rigorous training cycles required for Olympic qualification.
- **Economic Impact of Sports:** Hosting tournaments boosts local hospitality, transport, and retail sectors. It also inspires local youth, potentially creating a talent pipeline from Tirupati and surrounding districts.
- **Boxing Federation of India (BFI):** The national sports federation recognized by the International Boxing Association (World Boxing) for governing amateur boxing in India; state-level world-class rings support BFI's talent-scouting and ranking events.
- **National Sports Policy Framework:** The draft National Sports Policy (successor to the National Sports Policy 2001) emphasizes decentralized, state-level infrastructure creation — directly relevant to why states like AP are investing in discipline-specific arenas.
- **SAAP's Mandate:** The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh functions analogous to the central Sports Authority of India (SAI), managing state sports infrastructure, hostels, and coaching schemes like "Aadhar Athletes" and residential academies.

23

Yogandhra-2026 Campaign

PAPER II / V — Health & Culture

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Launched on June 7, this flagship mass yoga wellness campaign gathered over 25,000 registrations on day one. Curated by the **AP** state AYUSH department, it deployed 5,922 Master Trainers across all districts. The initiative achieved international recognition from the **World Book of Records** after engaging over 1.07 crore citizens by International Yoga Day (June 21).

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **International Day of Yoga:** Declared by the UN General Assembly in 2014 (Resolution 69/131) following a historic call by Indian PM. It is celebrated globally on June 21 to raise awareness of

the benefits of practicing yoga.

- **AYUSH Ministry:** The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy promotes traditional Indian systems of medicine. Mass campaigns like Yogandhra integrate preventive healthcare into public policy.
- **Soft Power Diplomacy:** Yoga is one of India's most potent soft power assets. State-level records and mass participation reinforce India's global leadership in holistic wellness and cultural export.
- **Preventive Healthcare:** In a state with a high burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and hypertension, yoga serves as a zero-cost, highly effective lifestyle intervention to reduce the long-term burden on the healthcare infrastructure.
- **World Book of Records vs. Guinness World Records:** The World Book of Records (London) is a private record-certifying body distinct from the more widely known Guinness World Records — a nuance examiners sometimes test when a state event cites "international recognition."
- **Fit India Movement:** Launched in 2019, this is the broader central campaign for citizen fitness that mass-yoga drives like Yogandhra dovetail with, alongside the AYUSH Ministry's own "Yoga Mahotsav" campaigns.
- **Master Trainer Cascade Model:** Deploying thousands of trained instructors (as with Yogandhra's ~5,922 trainers) follows a "training of trainers" (ToT) cascade model commonly used in large public-health and skilling campaigns to scale reach quickly.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Adhering to the Wildlife Protection Act guidelines, **AP** forest authorities instituted a complete seasonal ban on tourist safari vehicles inside the **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR)** for the monsoon breeding cycle. NSTR remains India's largest tiger reserve by core area, spanning the Nallamala forest track.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Empowers the state to regulate and close tourist activities in Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries) to ensure the undisturbed breeding and rearing of wildlife, particularly during the monsoon.

- **Project Tiger & NTCA:** Launched in 1973, Project Tiger aims to conserve tigers in India. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) mandates strict ecological guidelines, including minimizing human interference in core habitats.
- **Core vs. Buffer Zones:** A Tiger Reserve consists of a Core Area (National Park/Sanctuary) where no human activity is allowed, and a Buffer Area where regulated tourism and forestry activities can occur. The monsoon closure applies strictly to the core and sensitive buffer zones.
- **Nallamala Ecosystem:** Part of the Eastern Ghats, it is a critical corridor connecting tiger populations between the Deccan plateau and the coastal forests. Protecting this habitat is vital for the genetic diversity of the Indian tiger population.
- **NSTR Statistics:** Notified in 1983 and spread across Nandyal, Prakasam, Kurnool, and Guntur districts (with parts in Telangana as well post-bifurcation), NSTR is India's largest tiger reserve by area, encompassing the Nagarjunasagar and Srisailem reservoirs on the Krishna river.
- **All-India Tiger Estimation:** Conducted every four years by NTCA and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) using camera-trap and DNA-based methods (latest cycle: 2022 results released 2023); the next all-India cycle is due around 2026, making reserve-level conservation actions like breeding-season closures especially relevant now.
- **Other AP/Nallamala Protected Areas:** The broader Nallamala hill range also hosts the Gundla Brahmeswaram, Rollapadu (Great Indian Bustard habitat, in the plains nearby), and Papikonda landscapes, useful comparative references for AP's protected-area network.

SECTION V — GOVERNANCE, APPOINTMENTS & E-GOVERNANCE

25

Institutionalisation of Action Taken Reports (ATRs)

PAPER II — Governance & Accountability

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Beginning June 22, the **AP** state secretariat initiated a transparent governance tracking protocol by publishing specific "**Action Taken Reports**" (**ATRs**). These documents track active administrative progress directly against the seven sector white papers published by the coalition government.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **White Papers in Governance:** A white paper is an authoritative report that outlines government policy, identifies problems, and proposes solutions. Publishing ATRs against these white papers ensures that the government's manifesto and policy promises are tracked publicly.
- **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005:** Proactive disclosure of governance metrics aligns with Section 4 of the RTI Act, which mandates that public authorities must voluntarily publish key information to minimize the need for citizens to file formal RTI applications.
- **Accountability & Transparency:** ATRs shift governance from "announcement-based" to "outcome-based." It allows civil society, media, and voters to objectively evaluate whether the bureaucracy is delivering on the executive's policy mandates.
- **E-Governance Integration:** Publishing these reports on state portals leverages digital infrastructure to create a feedback loop, where citizen grievances and ground realities can be mapped against the stated policy goals.
- **Citizens' Charter:** A complementary governance tool where departments publicly commit to specific service-delivery standards and timelines; ATRs extend this same spirit from service delivery to policy-implementation tracking.
- **Sunset/Review Clauses:** Good governance practice increasingly embeds review or "sunset" checkpoints into policy design; the two-monthly ATR cycle functions as a built-in review mechanism against the coalition government's white papers.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

In a major bureaucratic development at the national level, **Mahesh Dixit**, a senior 1993-batch IPS officer belonging to the **Andhra Pradesh** cadre, was formally selected and appointed to head the central **Intelligence Bureau (IB)**.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Intelligence Bureau (IB):** Established in 1887, it is India's oldest and premier internal intelligence agency. It operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and is tasked with counter-terrorism, counter-intelligence, and internal security.
- **IB vs. RAW:** While the IB focuses on internal security and domestic intelligence, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), established in 1968, handles external intelligence and foreign

operations.

- **AP Cadre Achievements:** The AP cadre IPS has a strong reputation for producing top-tier central security heads. This appointment highlights the caliber of the state's police leadership and its contribution to national security architecture.
- **Internal Security Challenges:** The IB Director plays a critical role in managing threats from Left-Wing Extremism (LWE/Naxalism), cross-border terrorism in J&K, and cyber threats. The IB's intelligence inputs are crucial for the deployment of central armed police forces.
- **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):** The seven CAPFs (BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, Assam Rifles, NSG) work in close coordination with the IB for internal-security operations, especially in LWE-affected and border states.
- **Appointment Process:** The IB Director is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), typically from senior IPS officers with extensive tenure in intelligence and internal-security postings, usually for a fixed (often two-year) tenure.
- **National Security Advisor (NSA) Coordination:** The IB Director reports through the Union Home Ministry but works closely with the NSA and the National Security Council Secretariat on matters of strategic intelligence coordination between IB, RAW, and military intelligence.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

To accelerate land consolidation and solve pending farmer grievances in the capital zone, the **AP** Cabinet sanctioned **95 temporary, high-level administrative posts** strictly within the AP Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA).

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Land Pooling vs. Acquisition:** Unlike the coercive Land Acquisition Act, land pooling is a voluntary, collaborative model where farmers pool their land, and the government develops it, returning a portion (70-75%) as platted, developed plots to the owners.
- **APCRDA Act, 2014:** The statutory body that executed the land pooling scheme for Amaravati. Managing the metadata, legal titles, and physical demarcation of over 33,000 acres contributed by 30,000+ farmers requires a massive, specialized administrative machinery.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Over a decade, issues regarding plot allocation, compensation arrears, and title clearances have accumulated. Dedicated high-level posts ensure that these grievances are resolved swiftly, restoring farmer confidence and preventing litigation.

- **Urban Statutory Bodies:** Effective urban development requires specialized cadres (town planners, revenue officers, legal experts). Creating temporary, project-specific posts allows the state to bring in expertise without permanently bloating the general state payroll.
- **Comparative Model — Singapore's Land Pooling:** Amaravati's land-pooling scheme is often compared internationally to Singapore's Land Acquisition Act model and Gujarat's Town Planning (TP) Scheme mechanism, both cited as inspirations during the capital's planning phase.
- **Transferable Development Rights (TDR):** A complementary urban-planning tool (used in Amaravati's compensation package) where landowners receive development rights that can be sold or used elsewhere, in lieu of or alongside direct plot returns.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

To minimize applicant distress caused by technical typos on recruitment portals, the **AP** state government rolled out a unique **"One-Time Delete Option"** tool. It allows candidates to completely clear a faulty, unsubmitted application draft and re-apply from scratch without incurring double processing fees.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Citizen-Centric E-Governance:** The core philosophy of Digital India is to make services accessible and user-friendly. Recognizing that technical glitches or user errors can cause immense stress, this reform prioritizes the citizen's experience over rigid bureaucratic rules.
- **Good Governance Index (GGI):** The GGI evaluates states on various parameters, including "Public Grievance Redressal" and "E-Governance." User-friendly portals and empathetic digital tools directly improve a state's ranking in these metrics.
- **Recruitment Transparency:** APPSC and state recruitment bodies handle millions of applications. Ensuring that the data submitted is accurate is crucial for the integrity of the exam process. Allowing a clean reset prevents candidates from submitting incorrect data out of panic.
- **Digital Literacy Challenges:** In rural and semi-urban areas, candidates often rely on third-party cyber cafes to fill forms. A "delete and restart" feature acts as a safety net against the digital divide and technical illiteracy, ensuring equal opportunity.

- **Mee Seva Platform:** AP's pioneering integrated citizen-service delivery portal (launched 2011, a precursor to many national e-governance models); the "one-time delete" tool for recruitment portals extends this same citizen-first digital philosophy to APPSC processes.
- **Digital India Mission:** The central umbrella program (launched 2015) promoting "Digital Empowerment of Citizens"; state-level UX reforms like this one contribute to India's broader e-governance maturity indices, including the UN's E-Government Development Index (EGDI).

— *End of Compendium* —

APPSC Exams / Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs — June 2026

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