



# ANDHRA PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

---

*Monthly Compendium — March 2026*

---

**Target Examinations:**

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

**Compiled Topics:** 43 High-Yield Current Affairs

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

Technology · Environment · Defence · Administration

**Format:** Current Affairs + Detailed Static Integration + Analytical Dimensions

[www.carpediemias.com](http://www.carpediemias.com)

— A Comprehensive Revision Resource by Carpe Diem IAS —

# INDEX / TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## SECTION I — Governance, Polity & Social Justice (10 Topics)

1. Panchayat Raj National Award
  2. Rurban Panchayats Classification
  3. Divyang Shakti Scheme Launch
  4. Consumer Justice Ranking (IJR 2026)
  5. AP Legislative Reforms 2026 (3 Major Bills)
  6. National Judicial Academy for Amaravati
  7. Population Management Policy 2026
  8. State Literacy Mission
  9. 4.4% Drop in Crimes Against Women
  10. Fast-Track Special Courts for Land Disputes
- 

## SECTION II — Infrastructure, Economy & Urban Development (10 Topics)

11. Fiscal Health Index & GSDP Growth
  12. Bhogapuram Airport Progress
  13. Vizag-Chennai Industrial Node (Nakkapalli)
  14. AP Inland Waterways (NW-4 Survey)
  15. Cashew Processing Clusters (Palasa)
  16. Paddy Procurement Automation (48-Hr DBT)
  17. Groundwater Recharge Policy (Mandatory RWH)
  18. Guntur Chilli Yard Digitization (e-NAM)
  19. Commercial Crop Leader (Chilli, Oil Palm, Tobacco)
  20. AI-Powered Traffic System in Nellore
- 

## SECTION III — Technology, Education & Deep Tech (7 Topics)

21. Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding Centre
  22. NIOT Deep-Sea Monitoring (Nellore)
  23. APCO Bags SKOCH Award
  24. Handicraft Marketing Hub (Lepakshi E-Commerce)
  25. Autonomous Colleges Status (UGC)
  26. Central University Anantapur Expansion
  27. Vemana Suktulu Integration
- 

## SECTION IV — Environment, Agriculture, Health & Welfare (12 Topics)

28. Project Hanuman (AI Elephant Tracking)
  29. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (Universal Safe Water)
  30. Statewide FMD Vaccination Drive
  31. Indigenous Seed Revival ("From Hills to Markets")
  32. Solar Pump Component Subsidy (PM-KUSUM)
  33. Organ Donation Rank (6th Nationally)
  34. NTR Vaidya Seva Expansion
  35. AP Ranks First in Hypertension Awareness
  36. Nutritional Supply (ICDS) & Last-Mile Gaps
  37. Amrabad Turns Lantana into 'Black Gold'
  38. Mangrove Conservation Cess
  39. Tirumala Green Footprint (100% EV Transition)
- 

## **SECTION V — Defence, Culture, Tourism & Institutions (4 Topics)**

40. CISF Raising Day at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant
  41. Molla Jayanti as State Festival
  42. 'Araku Kouni' Tribal Millet Menu
  43. AP Festival 2026 Logo Unveiled
-

01 **Panchayat Raj National Award**

PAPER II / III — Polity &amp; Governance

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Department won the prestigious **Panchayat Raj National Award** for the second consecutive year, recognizing its excellence in decentralized governance, digital service delivery, and rural infrastructure management.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992):** Mandates the establishment of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) system and devolves 29 functional items (11th Schedule) to local bodies for grassroots democracy. It introduced mandatory reservations for SCs/STs and women (not less than one-third).
- **Rashtriya Gram Panchayat Awards:** Instituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, these awards evaluate Gram Panchayats based on e-governance, financial management, social justice, and the implementation of the "Gram Panchayat Development Plan" (GPDP).
- **e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project:** Aims to digitize PRI functioning through software applications like **Priasoftware** (accounting), **PlanPlus** (planning), and **AuditOnline** to ensure transparency and direct fund transfers.
- **State Finance Commission (Art. 243-I):** Constituted every five years by the Governor to review the financial position of Panchayats and recommend the distribution of taxes, duties, tolls, and fees between the state government and local bodies.

02 **Rurban Panchayats Classification**

PAPER II — Rural Development

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The Ministry of Rural Development classified **359 panchayats** in Andhra Pradesh under the smart **Rurban cluster scheme**, aiming to bridge the rural-urban divide by providing urban amenities in rural areas.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM, 2016):** Aims to develop 300+ Rurban clusters across India. A cluster is defined as a geographically contiguous territory with a

population of 25,000 to 50,000 in plain and coastal areas (and 5,000 to 25,000 in desert, hilly, or tribal areas).

- **Core Objective:** To stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well-planned rural clusters, essentially maintaining the "rural soul" while providing "urban amenities" to curb distress migration to cities.
- **Convergence Model:** The scheme does not create new funding silos; it relies heavily on the convergence of existing central and state schemes (like MGNREGA, PMGSY, Swachh Bharat, PM Awas Yojana) to fill critical infrastructure gaps.
- **Cluster Development Approach:** Focuses on spatial planning and economic development simultaneously, ensuring better utilization of resources, shared infrastructure, and the creation of local economic zones.

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the **Divyang Shakti** facility, providing **100% free travel** for specially-abled individuals across all state public transport, including Palle Velugu and Metro Express buses.

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **RPWD Act, 2016:** The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act expanded recognized disabilities from 7 to 21 categories (including autism, acid attack victims, and sickle cell disease) and mandated 4% reservation in government jobs and 5% in higher education for benchmark disabilities.
- **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat):** A nationwide flagship campaign to achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the built environment, transport network, and ICT ecosystem.
- **Constitutional & Global Framework:** The initiative aligns with Article 41 (Right to work and public assistance in cases of disablement) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which mandates personal mobility and accessibility.
- **Eligibility & Impact:** The scheme targets individuals with more than 40% benchmark disability across 21 categories, expected to benefit over 12.76 lakh persons in the state with an annual allocation of ₹207 crore, significantly reducing their economic burden.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Andhra Pradesh secured the **top spot nationally** in consumer justice delivery, according to the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2026**, highlighting efficient dispute resolution and consumer court infrastructure.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019:** Replaced the 1986 Act. It introduced the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, product liability, and misleading advertisements.
- **Three-Tier Quasi-Judicial Mechanism:** District Commissions (claims up to ₹1 Cr), State Commissions (₹1 Cr to ₹10 Cr), and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) (above ₹10 Cr).
- **India Justice Report (IJR):** A collaborative initiative supported by Tata Trusts that ranks states on their capacity to deliver justice across four pillars: police, judiciary, prisons, and legal aid.
- **E-DAKHIL Portal:** An integrated e-filing system adopted by consumer commissions to allow citizens to file complaints online from anywhere in India, reducing physical visits and speeding up case registration.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The AP Legislative Assembly passed three landmark Bills: providing **compassionate appointments** for victims of political violence, the **Fire Service (Amendment) Bill** replacing NOCs with Fire Safety Certificates (FSC), and the **Jan Vishwas Bill** decriminalizing minor business offenses.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Article 16 & Compassionate Appointment:** While Article 16 guarantees equality of opportunity in public employment, the Supreme Court has ruled that compassionate appointments are a valid exception to prevent destitution. The Bill bypasses the 1994 AP Public Services Act for specific cases via a Council of Ministers resolution.

- **Fire Safety Certificate (FSC):** The new Fire Bill shifts the department from a regulatory body issuing NOCs to a proactive "Emergency Service" model. It mandates compliance with the **National Building Code (NBC) 2025** for super high-rises and introduces strict penalties (fines up to ₹10,000 and building seizure).
- **Jan Vishwas Philosophy:** Inspired by the Central Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, this state reform embodies "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance." It replaces imprisonment with monetary penalties for technical defaults, utilizing **Administrative Adjudication** to reduce the burden on lower courts.
- **Governor's Assent (Article 200):** As these Bills proceed to the Governor, Article 200 outlines four options: give assent, withhold assent, return for reconsideration (if not a Money Bill), or reserve for the President's consideration.

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

CM Naidu formally sought a regional branch of the **National Judicial Academy (NJA)** to be established in the proposed Amaravati Justice City to enhance judicial training and alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **National Judicial Academy (Bhopal):** Established in 2009, it is the apex body for training judicial officers and judges across India. A regional branch in Amaravati would significantly decentralize judicial training and capacity building for Southern states.
- **Mediation Act, 2023:** The CJI emphasized that mediation is a "pillar of justice." The new Act gives legal enforceability to mediated settlements, aligning with the global shift towards non-adversarial dispute resolution and reducing the burden of 5+ crore pending cases.
- **Amaravati Land Pooling:** The capital city was built through the voluntary pooling of nearly 33,000 acres by approximately 30,000 farmers, a globally recognized model of "blue-green field" capital development.
- **Article 21 (Speedy Justice):** The Supreme Court has read the right to a speedy trial into Article 21. Reducing pendency through ADR and robust infrastructure is a constitutional mandate essential for economic development and investor confidence.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

AP introduced a draft **Population Management Policy**, shifting from population control to management. It proposes financial incentives (₹25,000) for a second/third child, removes the two-child norm for local elections, and focuses on the "Poshana-Shiksha-Suraksha" package.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** AP's TFR has dropped to 1.5 (NFHS-5 data), well below the replacement level of 2.1. This mirrors trends in developed nations, leading to concerns about an ageing population and shrinking workforce.
- **Delimitation Context (Art. 82 & 170):** Lok Sabha and Assembly seats are distributed based on population. The freeze on delimitation (until the first Census post-2026) means southern states fear losing political representation to high-population northern states like Bihar (TFR 2.8) and UP (TFR 2.6).
- **Five Pillars:** The policy is built on Matrutva (maternal health), Shakti (women's workforce participation), Kshema (elderly care), Naipunyam (skill development), and Sanjeevani (digital health).
- **Pro-Natalist Shift:** Unlike 1990s policies that penalized large families, this policy recognizes "population as the strongest economic resource" and offers subsidized IVF, extended maternity/paternity leave, and aims to reduce C-section rates from 67.5% to below 40%.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

A target-oriented **adult literacy program** was launched across districts with literacy rates below the state average, aiming to bridge the educational divide and empower marginalized demographics.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **New India Literacy Programme (NILP):** A central scheme launched to cover non-literates aged 15 and above. It focuses on foundational literacy, numeracy, and critical life skills (financial, digital, and legal literacy).

- **SDG 4:** Ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. Adult literacy complements this by addressing the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy among parents.
- **Article 21A:** Right to free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14. While 21A focuses on children, adult literacy is essential for the holistic development of society and effective democratic participation.
- **Critical Learning:** Moving beyond just reading and writing, modern literacy programs include vocational skills and awareness of government welfare schemes, directly impacting the socio-economic status of rural women.

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

AP reported a **4.4% decline in crimes against women**, attributed to Women's Safety Week rallies, the launch of **Shakti Teams**, and the creation of **Sexual Offender Sheets (SOS)** against repeat offenders.

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Preventive Policing:** Shifting from reactive investigation to proactive deterrence through database tracking (SOS) of habitual offenders and localized surveillance. This aligns with the Justice Verma Committee (2013) recommendations on policing reforms.
- **Nirbhaya Fund:** A central corpus for initiatives ensuring the safety and security of women, funding projects like Emergency Response Support Systems (ERSS-112) and Safe City Projects.
- **POCSO Act, 2012:** Protection of Children from Sexual Offences. Mandates child-friendly reporting, investigation, and speedy trial (within 1 year). AP's focus on zero pendency in POCSO cases is a direct implementation of this mandate.
- **Articles 14, 15(3), & 21:** The Constitution guarantees equality, allows special provisions for women, and ensures the right to live with dignity, forming the basis for state-led safety interventions and fast-track courts.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The AP Cabinet approved the setup of **specialized fast-track courts** exclusively dedicated to clearing the massive backlog of pending land dispute litigations, crucial for infrastructure and capital city development.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Land Litigation in India:** Land and property disputes account for over 60% of all civil litigation in India, heavily clogging the judiciary and delaying infrastructure projects. The Supreme Court has often highlighted this as a major hurdle to economic growth.
- **Fast-Track Courts (FTCs):** Established to expedite cases, particularly those involving vulnerable sections, economic offenses, or critical developmental bottlenecks. They operate with simplified procedures and dedicated judicial officers.
- **Article 21 & Speedy Trial:** The right to a speedy trial is a fundamental right under Article 21. Clearing decades-old land disputes ensures that citizens' property rights are secured and government projects can proceed without legal injunctions.
- **Impact on Capital City:** For Amaravati and other major infrastructure nodes, resolving land pooling and acquisition disputes quickly is essential to attract investment and maintain the momentum of urban development.

**SECTION II — INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMY & URBAN DEVELOPMENT****CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

NITI Aayog's **Fiscal Health Index (FHI)** placed AP at the 17th position for 2023–24. Meanwhile, official data revealed the state's **nominal GSDP has tripled** in size over the past decade.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Fiscal Health Index (FHI):** Evaluates states on parameters like fiscal discipline, debt sustainability, and quality of expenditure. It encourages states to adhere to FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) targets.

- **GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product):** The primary indicator of a state's economic size and growth trajectory. A tripled nominal GSDP indicates robust expansion in state income and economic activity, though real GSDP (adjusted for inflation) is the true measure of growth.
- **Fiscal Deficit vs. Revenue Deficit:** Fiscal deficit is the total borrowing requirement, while revenue deficit implies borrowing to finance consumption. The FHI rewards states that reduce revenue deficits and boost capital expenditure, which has a higher multiplier effect.
- **15th Finance Commission Criteria:** The FC uses parameters like demographic performance, tax efforts, and forest cover to distribute funds, rewarding states that maintain fiscal discipline and control population growth.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The civil aviation cell confirmed that **65% of the runway structure** at the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport (near Visakhapatnam) has been completed.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Greenfield Airports:** Built from scratch on new land to decongest existing city airports and handle larger, long-haul international aircraft. Bhogapuram is being developed to replace the aging Vizag airport at Rajavamsinghapuram.
- **UDAN Scheme:** While Bhogapuram is a major international project, it complements the regional connectivity framework envisioned under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, which aims to make flying affordable for the common man.
- **BCBC Policy:** The Civil Aviation Ministry's Greenfield Airport Policy regulates the development of new airports to ensure viability and prevent overlap with existing AAI airports within a 150 km radius.
- **Economic Multiplier Effect:** Airports act as "cities within cities," boosting logistics, hospitality, and real estate in North Coastal Andhra, and serving as a catalyst for the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The APIIC completed land acquisition for the **Nakkapalli industrial node** in Visakhapatnam district, a critical component of the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC).

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC):** India's first coastal economic corridor, stretching from Kolkata to Tuticorin. VCIC is its northernmost and most developed segment, aiming to leverage the eastern coastline for export-oriented manufacturing.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):** A key funding and technical partner for the VCIC, focusing on port-led industrialization and logistics efficiency. The ADB provides loans and policy advice to streamline land acquisition and clearances.
- **APIIC Role:** The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation is the nodal agency for developing industrial parks, providing plug-and-play facilities to attract FDI and reduce the initial capital burden on investors.
- **Port-Led Development:** Aligns with the Sagarmala Programme, leveraging the 974 km coastline to reduce logistics costs. India's logistics costs are currently around 13-14% of GDP, compared to 8-10% in developed nations.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) completed **hydrographic surveys** along the Krishna River (National Waterway 4) to facilitate cargo movement.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **National Waterways Act, 2016:** Declared 111 inland waterways across the country to promote eco-friendly and cost-effective transport. NW-4 covers the Krishna and Godavari rivers along with the Buckingham Canal.
- **Advantages of IWT:** Inland water transport (IWT) has the lowest fuel consumption per tonne-km (1/3rd of rail and 1/7th of road) and causes minimal land acquisition issues compared to road/rail.

- **Hydrographic Survey:** Involves mapping the riverbed, identifying shoals, and determining the draft capacity required for safe navigation of barges. It is essential for declaring a river navigable.
- **Modal Shift:** Shifting bulk cargo (like coal, fertilizers, and food grains) from road to waterways reduces carbon emissions, decongests national highways, and lowers the overall logistics cost for the state's industries.

## 15 **Cashew Processing Clusters (Palasa)**

PAPER IV — Agriculture & MSME

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Palasa in Srikakulam district received a dedicated central grant to modernise **automated cashew processing machinery**, boosting the local agro-industry.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **PMFME Scheme:** PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme provides financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of micro-enterprises. It follows the "One District One Product" (ODOP) approach.
- **Palasa Cashew Economy:** Srikakulam's coastal and hilly terrain is ideal for cashew plantations. The region is a major hub for raw cashew nut (RCN) processing and export, often called the "Cashew City" of AP.
- **Value Addition:** Automated shelling and grading reduce kernel breakage, ensuring higher grades (like W180, W240) that command premium prices in the global market. Manual processing often results in lower quality and health hazards for workers.
- **GI Tags & Exports:** Indian cashews are globally renowned. Modernization helps MSMEs compete with large corporate processors and meet international phytosanitary standards, crucial for accessing markets like the USA and EU.

## 16 **Paddy Procurement Automation (48-Hr DBT)**

PAPER II / IV — Governance & Economy

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) turnaround time for paddy procurement was reduced to a strict **48-hour window**, ensuring immediate liquidity for farmers post-harvest.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **MSP & Procurement:** Minimum Support Price acts as a safety net. State agencies procure paddy on behalf of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the Central Pool, ensuring farmers get remunerative prices.
- **DBT in Agriculture:** Direct transfer of funds to Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts eliminates leakages and delays associated with manual cheque distribution. It ensures that the benefit reaches the intended beneficiary without middlemen.
- **PM-AASHA:** Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan aims to ensure farmers get remunerative prices for their produce through Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).
- **e-NAM Integration:** While procurement is state-led, the broader agricultural market is being unified through the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal for transparent price discovery and inter-state trade.

## 17 Groundwater Recharge Policy (Mandatory RWH)

PAPER I / V — Geography & Environment

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Mandatory **rooftop rainwater harvesting rules** were strictly enforced for all new residential layouts exceeding 300 square yards to combat groundwater depletion.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:** A central scheme for sustainable groundwater management with community participation, focusing on water-stressed areas. It emphasizes the importance of local aquifer management plans.
- **Urban Hydrology:** Concrete surfaces prevent natural percolation. Mandating RWH in layouts ensures aquifer recharge and mitigates urban flooding by capturing runoff at the source.
- **CGWB Regulations:** The Central Ground Water Authority regulates groundwater extraction. States must align their building bylaws with CGWB's NOC requirements for high-consumption units to prevent over-exploitation.
- **Aquifer Mapping:** AP has conducted detailed aquifer mapping to identify over-exploited, critical, and semi-critical zones, guiding where artificial recharge structures are most critical to restore the water table.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Asia's largest chilli yard in Guntur moved its bidding and invoicing completely to an **e-NAM digital system**, ensuring transparent price discovery.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **e-NAM (National Agriculture Market):** A pan-India electronic trading portal that networks existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. It enables transparent price discovery based on quality assaying.
- **Guntur Chilli GI Tag:** Guntur is famous for high-capsaicin chilli varieties (like Teja). The GI tag protects its unique geographical origin and quality, commanding premium prices in the global market.
- **Benefits of Digitization:** Eliminates middlemen, ensures real-time price discovery, and enables direct bank transfers to farmers. It also creates a digital trail that helps in accessing formal credit and insurance.
- **Export Hub:** Guntur supplies a significant portion of India's chilli exports to countries like the USA, China, and Southeast Asia. Digitization helps in maintaining strict traceability to meet international aflatoxin and pesticide residue norms.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics reported AP among the **top three national producers** of major commercial crops, specifically chilli, oil palm, and tobacco.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Horticulture & Cash Crops:** AP is aggressively expanding oil palm under the National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO-OP) to reduce India's import dependency (India imports ~60% of its edible oil requirements).
- **Tobacco Board:** Headquartered in Guntur, it regulates the Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco trade. AP contributes nearly 25% of India's total tobacco production, primarily from Prakasam and Nellore districts.

- **Economic Impact:** Commercial crops offer higher remunerations to farmers compared to staple cereals, boosting rural income and export earnings. They are crucial for the agro-processing industry and rural employment.
- **Crop Diversification:** Encouraging commercial crops helps in efficient water use (like oil palm in specific zones with assured irrigation) and provides raw material for value-added industries, shifting farmers from subsistence to commercial farming.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

An **AI-Powered Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS)** is set to go live in Nellore, utilizing computer vision, radar-based speed detection, and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) for automated enforcement.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS):** Use of AI, IoT, and ANPR to manage traffic flows, detect violations (no-helmet, triple-riding), and optimize signal timings without human intervention. It reduces corruption and manual enforcement errors.
- **VAHAN & SARATHI Databases:** The ANPR system links directly to the national VAHAN (vehicle registration) and SARATHI (driving license) databases for seamless e-challan generation and jurisdiction-independent enforcement.
- **Smart Cities Mission:** Promotes the integration of digital technologies into urban governance to improve safety, efficiency, and citizen services. Nellore's ITMS is a prime example of smart urban mobility.
- **DPDP Act 2023:** The use of AI and facial recognition raises privacy concerns. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act mandates strict data minimization, purpose limitation, and secure storage of the massive volume of citizen data generated by these cameras.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The world's first **Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding Centre** is being developed in Nellore by Sagar Defence Engineering, focusing on AI navigation, unmanned naval systems (USVs/AUVs), and digital twin technology.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs):** Critical for modern coastal surveillance, mine countermeasures, and persistent maritime domain awareness without risking human crews. They are a key component of future naval warfare.
- **Digital Twin Technology:** Creating a virtual replica of a physical ship to simulate performance, predict maintenance needs, and test AI navigation algorithms in virtual sea conditions before physical deployment.
- **Make in India & Blue Economy:** Aligns with the "Make in India" defence initiative and the Blue Economy policy, promoting indigenous manufacturing and ocean resource utilization. It reduces reliance on imported maritime technologies.
- **Strategic Location:** Located near Juvvaladinne fishing harbour in Bogole mandal, it leverages the Bay of Bengal's strategic maritime routes and supports the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** satellite station in Nellore operationalised new deep-sea monitoring buoys for oceanographic data collection.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **NIOT:** An autonomous society under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). It manages the Deep Ocean Mission and O-SMART scheme, focusing on ocean exploration and technology development.

- **OMNI Buoy System:** Designed to measure oceanographic parameters (temperature, salinity, currents) in real-time, aiding in cyclone prediction, fisheries management, and climate modeling. It is crucial for the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) monitoring.
- **Deep Ocean Mission:** Aims to explore deep-sea resources, including polymetallic nodules, and develop technologies for deep-sea mining and offshore aquaculture. It has a budget of over ₹4,000 crore for 2021-2026.
- **Tsunami Warning:** Real-time data from these buoys feeds into the Tsunami Early Warning System, crucial for the vulnerable eastern coastline. It helps in understanding sea-level changes and coastal erosion patterns.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The AP State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society (**APCO**) won the **SKOCH Award 2025** for its digitisation initiatives, integrating computerized billing and e-commerce for weavers.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Handloom Sector:** A vital source of rural employment and cultural heritage. Digitization helps bypass middlemen, ensures transparent subsidy delivery, and opens global markets. It is the second-largest employer after agriculture in rural areas.
- **SKOCH Awards:** Prestigious independent awards recognizing projects that promote inclusive growth and digital governance in India. They highlight initiatives that bridge the digital divide.
- **GI Tags in AP:** Pochampally Ikat, Dharmavaram Pattu Sarees, and Srikalahasti Kalamkari possess GI tags, protecting their unique heritage and commanding premium prices. Digitization helps in authenticating these products.
- **e-Commerce Integration:** Platforms like ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) are increasingly being leveraged to provide MSMEs and artisans direct access to international buyers, reducing dependency on local middlemen.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

**Lepakshi emporiums** launched a global e-commerce portal to directly export iconic GI-tagged products like Kondapalli toys and Dharmavaram sarees.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Lepakshi (APHDC):** The Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation is the state nodal agency for promoting traditional arts, crafts, and handlooms. It preserves the state's rich cultural heritage.
- **Kondapalli Toys (GI):** Lightweight wooden toys from Krishna district, crafted using Tella Poniki wood. They are a hallmark of Andhra's cultural heritage and are now being promoted globally through e-commerce.
- **Geographical Indications (GI):** An intellectual property right that identifies a product as originating from a specific territory where a given quality or reputation is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.
- **Export Promotion:** Direct e-commerce exports eliminate intermediaries, ensuring higher profit margins for artisans and better price realization for global buyers. It aligns with the "Vocal for Local" initiative.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The UGC granted **autonomous status** to six major degree colleges in Vijayawada and Guntur, allowing them to design their own curricula and conduct independent examinations.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **UGC Regulations on Autonomy:** Aim to decentralize higher education, promote academic innovation, and allow institutions to adapt courses to local and global industry needs. Autonomous colleges do not need university approval for syllabus changes.
- **NEP 2020 Vision:** Envisions all higher education institutions becoming multidisciplinary and autonomous by 2035, moving away from rigid affiliating university models. It promotes flexibility and interdisciplinary learning.

- **Choice Based Credit System (CBCS):** Autonomous colleges can implement CBCS more effectively, allowing students to choose interdisciplinary courses and electives. It facilitates the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) integration.
- **Academic Freedom:** Autonomy allows colleges to update syllabi rapidly to include emerging fields like AI, data science, and regional skill requirements without waiting for university approvals, making graduates more employable.

26

## Central University Anantapur Expansion

PAPER II — Education &amp; Development

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The central government released significant infrastructure funds to expand the permanent campus building of the **Central University of Andhra Pradesh** in Anantapur.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Central Universities Act, 2009:** The university was established via an Act of Parliament following the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, to serve as an institution of national importance for the newly formed state.
- **Regional Equity:** Locating the central university in Anantapur (Rayalaseema) aims to boost higher education access in a historically backward and drought-prone region, addressing regional imbalances.
- **Institutions of National Importance:** These institutions receive direct funding from the Ministry of Education and are governed by their own Acts of Parliament, ensuring high academic standards and autonomy.
- **NEP 2020 & Multidisciplinary Focus:** Central Universities are expected to lead the transition to multidisciplinary education, integrating sciences, arts, and vocational courses to create holistic graduates.

27

## Vemana Suktulu Integration

PAPER II — Education &amp; Culture

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The education department decided to re-introduce lessons on **Vemana moral poems (Suktulu)** across primary state boards to instill ethical values and cultural roots.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Yogi Vemana:** An 17th-century Telugu philosopher and poet known for his simple four-line poems (Ataveladi) ending with "Viswadhaabhirama Vinura Vema," criticizing social evils and promoting humanism.
- **Value Education:** Aligns with the NEP 2020's emphasis on integrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), ethics, and moral reasoning into the foundational stage of schooling.
- **Literary Significance:** Vemana's works are considered a mirror to 18th-century Andhra society, addressing themes of yoga, morality, and social justice in accessible Telugu. They are a cornerstone of Telugu literature.
- **Cultural Continuity:** Re-introducing regional literary classics helps preserve linguistic heritage and fosters a sense of identity among the younger generation, connecting them to their roots in a globalized world.

## SECTION IV — ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, HEALTH & WELFARE

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state forest department rolled out **Project Hanuman**, an AI-assisted wildlife tracking and early warning system designed to curb human-elephant conflict in border districts.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC):** A major conservation challenge caused by habitat fragmentation and shrinking forest corridors, particularly in the Eastern Ghats. It poses a threat to both human lives and wildlife.
- **AI in Conservation:** Uses thermal cameras, seismic sensors, and machine learning algorithms to detect elephant herds and trigger automated SMS alerts to villagers and forest staff before the animals reach settlements.
- **Elephant Corridors:** AP has identified critical elephant corridors (like the Chintoor-Venkatapuram corridor) that require protection from linear infrastructure (roads/railways) to ensure safe migration.

- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Elephants are listed in Schedule I, granting them the highest level of legal protection. The state is also liable to pay compensation for crop damage or human casualties under the scheme.

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

AP shifted focus toward the sustainability of supply under **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0**, targeting universal safe drinking water by 2028 and emphasizing Operation & Maintenance (O&M) via Panchayats.

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Har Ghar Jal:** The original JJM aimed to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household by 2024. Nationally, over 16 crore households have been covered. Phase 2 focuses on sustainability and source augmentation.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Emphasizes aquifer recharge, source sustainability, and greywater management to ensure taps don't run dry during summer months. It shifts from mere infrastructure creation to long-term service delivery.
- **Decentralized Governance:** Maintenance responsibilities are assigned to Panchayats and DWCRA women groups, enhancing local ownership and accountability. This prevents the "build-neglect-rebuild" cycle.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** The mission includes testing for contaminants like fluoride and arsenic, which are prevalent in parts of Rayalaseema and coastal AP. Safe water access directly reduces the burden of water-borne diseases.

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A massive state-wide livestock vaccination drive was launched to protect over **80 lakh cattle** against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) under the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP).

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **NADCP:** A central scheme launched in 2019 with a budget of ₹13,343 crore to control FMD and Brucellosis through 100% vaccination coverage. It aims to protect the livestock sector, which contributes significantly to the agricultural GDP.
- **FMD Characteristics:** A highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals. It causes severe economic losses due to reduced milk yield, loss of draught power, and trade restrictions. Cross-bred cattle are more susceptible.
- **OIE (WOAH) Status:** Controlling FMD is critical for India to achieve "FMD-free" status from the World Organisation for Animal Health, which would unlock massive export potential for meat and dairy products.
- **Vaccination Strategy:** The drive uses bi-annual booster doses and door-to-door campaigns to ensure coverage of even remote and tribal livestock populations. It requires strict cold-chain maintenance for the vaccines.

## 31 Indigenous Seed Revival ("From Hills to Markets")

PAPER IV / I — Agriculture & Environment

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A grassroots network in the Eastern Ghats, led by the **Sanjeevini Rural Development Society** in Gasaba village (Peda Bayalu mandal, ASR district), is reviving indigenous seeds. Supported by **RySS** and **APCNF**, the initiative has established a seed bank with over 360 varieties.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Agro-Biodiversity & Climate Resilience:** Indigenous seeds possess deep root systems and natural resistance to local pests and erratic rainfall, making them crucial for climate adaptation in the drought-prone Eastern Ghats.
- **Seed Sovereignty:** Community-managed seed banks free farmers from dependency on expensive commercial hybrids and chemical fertilizers. This aligns perfectly with the principles of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) using bio-inputs like Jeevamrutam.
- **Plant Genome Saviour Award:** Recognizes communities that have conserved and developed plant genetic resources. AP tribal communities have been past recipients for their work, awarded by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA).

- **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006:** The initiative respects the traditional rights of tribal communities over forest resources and customary farming practices, promoting sustainable livelihoods without ecological degradation.

## 32 **Solar Pump Component Subsidy (PM-KUSUM)**

PAPER IV — Agriculture & Energy

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Farmers under **PM-KUSUM** were granted an additional **20% state subsidy** to install solar agriculture pump sets, reducing reliance on grid power and diesel.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **PM-KUSUM:** Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan. It aims to solarize the agriculture sector, providing farmers a reliable daytime power source and reducing the subsidy burden on DISCOMs.
- **Components:** Component A (decentralized solar plants), Component B (installation of standalone solar pumps), and Component C (solarization of grid-connected pump sets). The state subsidy accelerates Component B adoption.
- **DISCOM Savings:** Solarizing agricultural feeders reduces the massive subsidy burden on state DISCOMs, which lose money supplying free power to farmers. It improves the financial health of the power sector.
- **Additional Income:** Farmers can sell surplus power generated by their solar pumps back to the grid, providing a steady secondary income stream and incentivizing energy conservation.

## 33 **Organ Donation Rank (6th Nationally)**

PAPER II — Health & Society

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (**NOTTO**) ranked AP **6th nationally** in cadaveric organ donations, reflecting improved medical infrastructure and awareness.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **THOA, 1994:** The Transplantation of Human Organs Act regulates organ donation and prevents commercial dealings. It legally recognizes "brain death" as a criterion for cadaveric donation, a crucial legal milestone.

- **NOTTO & ROTTO/SOTTO:** The national, regional, and state bodies coordinate the waiting lists, allocation, and retrieval networks for deceased organ donation. They ensure transparency and fairness in the allocation process.
- **Brain Death Certification:** Requires certification by a board of four medical specialists. AP has streamlined this process to reduce the time window for organ retrieval, increasing the viability of donated organs.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** State-led initiatives like "Jeevanandanu" encourage pledging organs, addressing cultural and religious myths surrounding donation. Public awareness is key to bridging the gap between demand and supply.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Andhra Pradesh Government expanded the **NTR Vaidya Seva** free cashless health insurance scheme by including **five additional critical cardiovascular procedures**, strengthening access to advanced cardiac care for eligible beneficiaries.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC):** NTR Vaidya Seva is Andhra Pradesh's flagship public health insurance programme, providing cashless tertiary healthcare to economically vulnerable families and reducing catastrophic out-of-pocket medical expenditure.
- **Convergence with PM-JAY:** The scheme is implemented in convergence with **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, enabling greater financial support, wider hospital empanelment, and portability of benefits.
- **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs):** Cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of mortality in India. Expanding coverage for advanced procedures such as angioplasty, bypass surgery, and other specialised cardiac interventions improves timely treatment and survival rates.
- **Empanelled Hospital Network:** NTR Vaidya Seva operates through a large network of empanelled government and private hospitals offering cashless treatment, supported by digital monitoring, medical audits, and fraud-prevention mechanisms to ensure quality healthcare delivery.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Andhra Pradesh ranked **first nationally in hypertension awareness**, driven by large-scale grassroots screening campaigns by village health workers during World Hypertension Day.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **NPCDCS:** National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke. Focuses on lifestyle changes and early screening at Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs).
- **"Silent Killer":** Hypertension often presents no early symptoms but is a leading risk factor for strokes, heart attacks, and chronic kidney disease. AP's success lies in shifting from tertiary care treatment to primary care prevention.
- **India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI):** A joint initiative by MoHFW, WHO, and Resolve to Save Lives to standardize hypertension treatment protocols in public health facilities. It aims to improve incidence control rates.
- **Role of Village Volunteers:** AP's unique grassroots network plays a pivotal role in door-to-door screening, ensuring early detection in rural and semi-urban areas where health literacy may be low. This decentralized approach is a model for other states.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Surveys indicated high satisfaction with AP's nutritional supply under ICDS, though **last-mile gaps persist** in remote tribal hamlets and Rayalaseema districts.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Saksham Anganwadi & POSHAN 2.0:** The umbrella scheme integrating ICDS, supplementary nutrition, and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls to tackle malnutrition and stunting. It provides a package of six services to children and mothers.
- **Take-Home Ration (THR):** Provided to children (6 months-3 years) and pregnant/lactating mothers. Fortification of THR with micronutrients is a key modern reform to combat "hidden hunger" and anemia.

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** Aims to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia, and low birth weight. It uses the POSHAN Tracker app for real-time monitoring of Anganwadi services, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- **Regional Disparities:** Tribal areas and drought-prone districts often face logistical challenges in cold-chain maintenance and regular supply of perishable items like eggs and milk. Addressing these gaps is crucial for equitable development.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

An innovative ecological project successfully turned invasive **Lantana weeds** into sustainable biocharcoal, dubbed 'Black Gold', clearing forest floors in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve and providing rural employment.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Lantana camara:** A highly invasive weed native to Central/South America (Family: Verbenaceae). It exhibits **allelopathy**—releasing chemicals into the soil that inhibit the growth of native plants, giving it a massive competitive advantage.
- **IUCN Status:** It is listed among the **100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species**. In Amrabad Tiger Reserve (part of the Nallamala forest), it occupies nearly 25% of the forest area, severely degrading tiger habitat and reducing fodder for herbivores.
- **Circular Economy Model:** Instead of manual uprooting and burning (which releases carbon and fails to prevent regrowth), the biocharcoal process involves low-oxygen pyrolysis. This transforms an ecological menace into a high-value commercial product (₹7,000/tonne) used in metallurgy and agriculture.
- **Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs):** Local tribal communities are engaged in the harvesting and processing, ensuring that conservation efforts directly benefit forest dwellers and align with the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

A minor **conservation cess** was introduced for port-operating companies to fund coastal mangrove plantations and restore blue carbon ecosystems.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Blue Carbon:** Carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems. Mangroves sequester carbon at rates up to 4x higher than terrestrial forests, making them critical for climate change mitigation.
- **MISHTI Scheme:** Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Island Territories, aimed at expanding mangrove cover using CAMPA and MGNREGA funds. It focuses on restoring degraded coastal areas.
- **CRZ Norms:** The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules strictly regulate activities near the coast. Mangroves are classified as CRZ-I (ecologically sensitive), prohibiting industrial activity and protecting these fragile ecosystems.
- **AP's Mangrove Cover:** AP has the second-largest mangrove cover in India (after Gujarat), primarily in the Krishna-Godavari delta regions (Coringa, Kakinada). They act as natural buffers against cyclones and tsunamis.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) announced the complete transition of all its internal transport vehicles to **100% electric power**, achieving a zero-emission temple town.

**STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED**

- **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ):** The Tirumala hills are ecologically fragile. Replacing diesel buses with EVs drastically reduces localized air pollution and noise, protecting the sensitive shola forest ecosystem and wildlife.
- **Green Mobility:** Aligns with India's EV30@30 goal (30% EV penetration by 2030) and sets a benchmark for other high-footfall religious and tourist destinations globally. It demonstrates the viability of large-scale EV adoption.

- **TTD Administration:** TTD manages not just the temple but the entire township of Tirumala. Its environmental policies have a massive impact on the Seshachalam biosphere reserve, one of the most biodiverse regions in India.
- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** The transition eliminates thousands of tons of CO2 emissions annually, contributing to India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and combating global warming.

## SECTION V — DEFENCE, CULTURE, TOURISM & INSTITUTIONS

### 40 **CISF Raising Day at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

PAPER III — Internal Security

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The **CISF Raising Day** was prominently celebrated at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL), highlighting the force's critical role in safeguarding strategic industrial assets.

#### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **CISF (Central Industrial Security Force):** Raised in 1969 under the CISF Act, it is the premier central armed police force tasked with providing security to critical infrastructure, including nuclear installations, space centers, and airports. It functions under the MHA.
- **Industrial Security:** As India expands its manufacturing base (Make in India), the role of CISF in maintaining internal security and preventing sabotage at industrial hubs grows exponentially. It ensures uninterrupted operations.
- **Fire Wing:** CISF also maintains a specialized Fire Wing that provides emergency response and firefighting services at high-risk industrial installations like steel plants and oil refineries. It is a critical component of disaster management.
- **RINL Significance:** The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is a strategic PSU. Its security is vital not just for the local economy but for national industrial resilience and the supply chain of essential steel products.

### 41 **Molla Jayanti as State Festival**

PAPER I — Art & Culture

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Andhra Pradesh announced it will officially celebrate **Molla Jayanti** as a State Festival to honor the legacy of the classical Telugu poetess Atukuri Molla.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Atukuri Molla:** A 16th-century Telugu poetess who famously translated the Sanskrit Ramayana into simple Telugu (Molla Ramayanam), making the epic accessible to the common masses. She was born in Gopavaram village (Kadapa district).
- **Adi Kavayitri:** While Nannayya is the Adi Kavi (first poet) of Telugu literature, Molla is revered as the Adi Kavayitri (first poetess). Her work is celebrated for its simplicity and devotional fervor.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** State festivals around literary figures help preserve regional heritage, promote tourism, and foster linguistic pride among the youth. It reinforces the importance of Telugu literature in the Indian cultural mosaic.
- **Social Inclusiveness:** Molla's background illustrates how literary excellence transcends social barriers, as she rose to prominence despite her modest social background (potter's family), challenging the rigid caste norms of her time.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The CM launched the **'Araku Kouni' Tribal Millet Menu**, introducing indigenous millet-based dishes in state-run Haritha restaurants to promote culinary tourism.

## STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Millets (Shree Anna):** Highly nutritious, gluten-free, and climate-resilient grains. AP is actively promoting them under the International Year of Millets legacy. Varieties like Korra (Foxtail) and Ragi (Finger) are traditional staples in the Eastern Ghats.
- **Culinary Tourism:** Integrating local, traditional tribal food into mainstream tourism circuits boosts local tribal economies and preserves indigenous food systems. It attracts tourists seeking authentic experiences.
- **Indian Culinary Institute (Tirupati):** Collaborated to document recipes, nutritional value, and calorific index, ensuring the menu meets modern food safety and presentation standards while retaining authentic tribal flavors.
- **APTDC & Haritha:** The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation uses its Haritha resort chain to showcase local biodiversity and sustainable tourism practices, aligning with the global trend of eco-tourism.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The official logo of the **AP Festival 2026** was unveiled in Vijayawada. The three-day event at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram aims to showcase a confluence of arts, cinema, and industry.

### STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Creative Economy:** Festivals act as catalysts for the "Orange Economy" (creative industries), generating revenue for local artisans, performers, and hospitality sectors. It promotes cultural vibrancy alongside economic engagement.
- **Tummalapalli Kalakshetram:** A premier cultural center in Vijayawada dedicated to the promotion of classical arts, theater, and literature in the Telugu states. It serves as a hub for cultural exchange and artistic excellence.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** The festival is jointly organized by industry chambers (APCCI) and cultural foundations, demonstrating a model for sustainable cultural funding that reduces the fiscal burden on the state exchequer.
- **Cultural Integration:** By bringing together industry leaders and artists, the festival aims to foster collaborations that can modernize traditional arts and expand their global reach, ensuring their relevance in a rapidly changing world.

---

— *End of Compendium* —

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

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

[www.carpediemias.com](http://www.carpediemias.com)