



ANDHRA PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

Monthly Compendium — May 2026

Target Examinations:

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

Compiled Topics: 30 High-Yield Current Affairs

Categories: Government Schemes · Economy · Infrastructure ·

Defence · Space · Environment · Legal Judgements

Format: Current Affairs + Detailed Static Integration + Paper Mapping

— A Comprehensive Revision Resource by Carpe Diem IAS —

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01 **PM-Kisan-Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme — ₹3,125 Crore Kharif Installment**

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu released **₹3,125 crore** as the primary installment of financial aid for the 2026 Kharif season. A sum of **₹7,000 per farmer** was transferred via DBT to **46.85 lakh** small and marginal land-owning farmers.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **What is PM-KISAN?** Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is a Central Sector Scheme launched in February 2019. It provides income support of ₹6,000 per year to all landholding farmer families, transferred in three equal installments of ₹2,000 every four months directly into their bank accounts.
- **What is Annadata Sukhibhava?** This is Andhra Pradesh's state-level investment support scheme that supplements PM-KISAN. While PM-KISAN is a central initiative, Annadata Sukhibhava is funded by the state government to provide additional financial assistance to farmers, making AP one of the few states offering a combined central-state income support package.
- **Who are Small & Marginal Farmers (SMFs)?** Farmers owning landholdings of up to 2 hectares. They constitute about **86.2%** of all farmers in India but own only about 47% of the total crop area. In AP, over 90% of farmers fall in this category.
- **What is DBT?** Direct Benefit Transfer — a mechanism where government subsidies are transferred directly to the beneficiary's bank account, integrated with Aadhaar seeding and land record databases.
- **Cropping Seasons of India:**
 - **Kharif (Monsoon):** Sown June–July, harvested Sep–Oct. Major crops: Paddy, Maize, Cotton, Groundnut, Soyabean.
 - **Rabi (Winter):** Sown Oct–Dec, harvested Mar–Apr. Major crops: Wheat, Gram, Mustard, Barley.
 - **Zaid (Summer):** Short season between Rabi and Kharif. Major crops: Watermelon, Muskmelon, Cucumber, Fodder crops.
- **Why important for AP?** Agriculture contributes about 35–40% to AP's GSDP and employs nearly 60% of the state's workforce. Direct financial support impacts rural consumption, poverty reduction, and food security.

02 **Matsyakarula Sevalo Scheme — Refreshed Welfare Components**

PAPER IV / III — Economy & Governance

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state welfare department rolled out refreshed components under the **Matsyakarula Sevalo Scheme**, providing seasonal financial assistance and subsidized fishing equipment to marine fishermen during the

annual fishing ban period.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **What is Matsyakarula Sevalo?** "Matsyakarula" means "of the fishermen" and "Sevalo" means "service" in Telugu. A welfare scheme providing financial assistance during the 45–61-day annual trawl fishing ban (mid-April to mid-June), when fishermen lose their livelihood during the monsoon spawning season.
- **AP's Maritime Profile:**
 - **Coastline:** 974 km — the **2nd longest** in India after Gujarat (1,600 km).
 - **Major Fishing Harbours:** Bhimavaram, Kakinada, Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam, Vadarevu, Gangavaram.
 - **Fishing Communities:** Over 6 lakh fishermen families depend on marine and inland fishing in AP.
- **AP in Fisheries:** AP is India's **largest producer of inland fish** (aquaculture), particularly from Godavari and Krishna delta districts. West Godavari is known as the "Aquaculture Capital of India."
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** Launched 2020 with ₹20,050 crore investment over 5 years. Covers infrastructure, fisherman welfare, post-harvest infrastructure, and fisheries management. Ministry: Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

03

Talliki Vandanam — ₹15,000 Annual Credit to Mothers

PAPER IV / III – Economy & Governance

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state structuralized the **Talliki Vandanam** framework, replacing prior school incentive programmes to credit **₹15,000 annually** to mothers/guardians of school-going pupils to increase classroom retention.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **What is Talliki Vandanam?** "Talliki" = "to the mother," "Vandanam" = "salutation." A restructured version of the earlier **Amma Vodi** scheme (January 2020), providing ₹15,000 per academic year to mothers of children in Classes 1–10, contingent on 75% attendance.
- **Why such schemes exist?** These are **Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)** schemes aimed at reducing dropout rates, improving Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), compensating for the opportunity cost of schooling, and promoting girl child education.
- **Demographic Context:** AP's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is ~1.7, below the replacement level of 2.1. Investing in quality of human capital becomes critical as the population stabilizes and ages.
- **SDG Links:** SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 1 (No Poverty).
- **Similar Schemes Nationally:** Kanyashree (West Bengal), Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana (Bihar), Ladli Laxmi (MP), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (national campaign).

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The government held public consultation meetings and **Gram Sabhas** across all districts to collect grassroots feedback on incentive structures designed to reverse the state's declining fertility rates.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **What is a Gram Sabha?** A body consisting of all registered voters in the area of a Gram Panchayat — the apex forum of direct democracy at the village level. Meets at least twice a year (mandatory).
Constitutional Basis: **Article 243A** (73rd Amendment, 1992).
- **Three-Tier Panchayati Raj System:**
 - Village Level: Gram Panchayat
 - Block/Mandal Level: Mandal Praja Parishad
 - District Level: Zilla Parishad
- **Functions of Gram Sabha:** Approve GPDP, identify welfare beneficiaries, conduct social audits (MGNREGA), provide policy feedback.
- **Demographic Transition Model — 5 Stages:**
 - Stage 1: High birth + high death (pre-industrial)
 - Stage 2: High birth + falling death (population explosion)
 - Stage 3: Falling birth + low death (slowing growth)
 - Stage 4: Low birth + low death — **AP is here**
 - Stage 5: Very low birth + low death (declining population — Japan, Germany)
- **Why is declining fertility a concern?** TFR below 1.7 leads to a shrinking workforce, increased old-age dependency ratio, strain on pension/healthcare systems, and reduced domestic market size.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Structural alignments were executed to uniformly scale up financial assistance under **Kalyana Lakshmi** across newly demarcated districts to assist low-income families with marriage expenses.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Kalyana Lakshmi:** Welfare scheme providing financial assistance to brides from SC, ST, and BC communities for marriage. Aims to reduce financial burden and prevent child marriage and dowry.
- **Shaadi Mubarak:** Equivalent scheme for Muslim brides. Both provide a direct cash transfer of **₹1,00,116** to the bride's bank account on or before marriage.

- **Eligibility:** Bride ≥18 years; family income <₹2,00,000 per year; belongs to SC/ST/BC (Kalyana Lakshmi) or Muslim (Shaadi Mubarak) community; marriage registered under relevant personal law.
- **AP Districts (Post-2022 Reorganisation):** AP reorganized from 13 to 26 districts in April 2022 (later adjusted to 13 in a revised configuration). This created administrative challenges in uniform scheme implementation across new boundaries.
- **Related Constitutional Provisions:** Article 14 (Equality), Article 15(4) (Special provisions for SCs/STs/OBCs), Article 46 (DPSP — promotion of weaker sections).

06 National Panchayat Awards 2026 — 5 AP Villages Honored

PAPER III – Polity & Governance

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Five village panchayats from AP clinched top honors at the **National Panchayat Awards 2026**, recognized by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj for sanitation, digital asset creation, and self-sufficient governance.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **National Panchayat Awards:** Prestigious awards by the **Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj** on **National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)** each year, recognizing outstanding Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- **Award Categories:** GPDP (participatory planning), e-Panchayat Awards (digitization), Child-Friendly Gram Panchayat, Best Gram Panchayat (overall), Model Gram Sabha, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Raj Sangathan Abhiyan (capacity building).
- **Three-Tier PRI Structure in AP:**
 - Village Level: Gram Panchayat (~15,000+ in AP)
 - Mandal Level: Mandal Praja Parishad (588 mandals)
 - District Level: Zilla Parishad (13 in AP)
- **Key Constitutional Articles (PRIs):** Art. 243 (Definitions), 243A (Gram Sabha), 243B (Constitution of Panchayats), 243D (Reservation for SCs/STs/Women), 243G (Powers), 243I (State Finance Commission), 243K (State Election Commission).
- **State Finance Commission (SFC):** Constituted under Article 243I every 5 years by the Governor to recommend distribution of tax revenues between state government and PRIs/ULBs.

07 AP Public Employment Roster — 6 Zones & Multi-Zones

PAPER III – Polity & Governance

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Department of Personnel executed the final framework mapping for the **six newly carved administrative zones** and two multi-zones ratified under the AP Public Employment Order.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Historical Background:** The zonal system has roots in the **Gentlemen's Agreement of 1956** and the **Srikrishna Committee (1969)**, formalized to address agitation over jobs and education. Post-bifurcation (2014), AP retained Zones I–IV reorganized for its 13 districts.
- **The 6 Zones of AP (current):**
 - Zone-I: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam
 - Zone-II: East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna
 - Zone-III: Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore
 - Zone-IV: Kurnool, Kadapa (YSR), Anantapur
 - Zones V & VI: Now in Telangana post-bifurcation
- **Article 371-D:** Inserted by the 32nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1973 (Six-Point Formula). Provides special provisions for AP — equitable opportunities in employment and education, establishment of the AP Administrative Tribunal, and local/reservation rules in public employment.
- **Reservation in AP:** SC 15%, ST 6%, BC 29% (Groups A–E), EWS 10%, OC 40%. Total: 100%.
- **Employment Roster:** A systematic schedule to implement reservation, ensuring reserved category candidates are appointed in the correct proportion per reservation policy.

08

Singapore–AP Governance Excellence Initiative

PAPER III / V – Governance & Tech

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Six state cabinet ministers concluded a week-long administrative training in **Singapore**, focusing on integrating **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** and smart municipal logistics into citizen services.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Shared digital systems that are secure, interoperable, and built on open standards. India's DPI is collectively known as "**India Stack**": Aadhaar, DigiLocker, eSign, UPI, Account Aggregators (DEPA framework).
- **Why Singapore?** Benchmark for e-governance via its "**Smart Nation**" initiative (2014): SingPass (National Digital Identity), ERP (Electronic Road Pricing), integrated gov.sg portal, sensor-based waste management and smart water grids.
- **AP's E-Governance Legacy:**
 - **e-Seva (2001):** First integrated citizen service centers in India.
 - **MeeSeva:** Single-window service delivery.
 - **Gram Sachivalayam System (2019):** 10,000+ village/ward secretariats providing 500+ services; ~1 lakh jobs created.
 - **Village/Ward Volunteer System:** One volunteer per 50 households for last-mile service delivery.
 - **SPANDANA Portal:** Integrated grievance redressal system.
 - **Navasakam:** Direct benefit transfer platform for welfare schemes.

- **International Training Collaborations:** Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Singapore), École Nationale d'Administration (France), Harvard Kennedy School (USA).

SECTION II — ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE & BUSINESS

09 **Visakhapatnam Tops Per Capita Income (FY 2025–26)**

PAPER IV – Economy & Development

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics confirmed **Visakhapatnam district** ranked first in per capita income across AP in the FY 2025–26 provincial economic ledger.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Per Capita Income (PCI):** $GSDP \div Population$. Represents average income per person; a key indicator of economic well-being. Does not capture inequality — high PCI can coexist with high poverty if income is concentrated.
- **GSDP:** Total value of all goods and services produced within a state in a financial year. Measured at current prices (nominal) or constant prices (real — AP uses 2019-20 as base year). Nodal agency: **Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), AP.**
- **Why Vizag leads:**
 - Vizag Port — largest port on India's east coast by volume.
 - Heavy industries: RINL (Vizag Steel), Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL), HPCL Visakh Refinery (13.7 MMTPA).
 - IT Sector: Rushikonda IT Park (Infosys, TCS, Wipro, Tech Mahindra).
 - Defence: Eastern Naval Command HQ, Naval Dockyard, DRDO labs.
 - Pharmaceuticals: Hetero, Aurobindo, Dr. Reddy's.
 - Tourism: RK Beach, Kailasagiri, Araku Valley, Borra Caves.
- **AP Economic Profile (FY 2025-26):** GSDP ~₹14–15 lakh crore; Per Capita Income ~₹1.8–2.0 lakh; Growth Rate ~11–12% nominal, ~6–7% real. Sectoral split: Services ~50%, Industry ~30%, Agriculture ~20%.

10 **Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) Deployment**

PAPER V – Science & Technology

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state cabinet cleared the rapid deployment roadmap for the **Amended BharatNet Programme**, connecting every gram panchayat with high-speed fiber-optic internet.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **BharatNet:** Formerly NOFN (National Optical Fibre Network), one of the **9 Pillars of Digital India**. Aims to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats. Three implementation phases (2011 onwards), with Phase-III approved at ₹1.39 lakh crore.
- **Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) Key Changes:** Shift from government-led to PPP model; state governments play a larger role; revenue-sharing models; integration with 5G rollout.
- **Nodal Agency: Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)** — incorporated 2012, merged with BSNL in February 2023.
- **Implementing CPSUs:** BSNL (state-owned telecom), RAILTEL (uses railway tracks for fiber laying), PGCIL (uses electricity transmission towers).
- **Target:** 100 Mbps to every Gram Panchayat, scalable to 1 Gbps. Enables e-governance, telemedicine, e-education; bridges urban-rural digital divide; essential for Digital India, Smart Villages, and SDG 9.

11

Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster — Strategic Investment Plan

PAPER IV — Economy & Development

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The National Steering Committee approved a **Strategic Investment Plan** to revamp the Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster for deep-tech and maritime manufacturing skills.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs):** Vocational training centers providing technical skills (electrician, fitter, welder, mechanic, plumber) after Class 8 or 10. Courses: 6 months–2 years. Affiliated to the **National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT)** or State Councils (SCVT). Under **Directorate General of Training (DGT)**, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Why Vizag ITI Cluster?** Unique industrial ecosystem: HSL (Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Ministry of Defence), Eastern Naval Command, Vizag Port, RINL (Vizag Steel), pharmaceutical and IT hubs.
- **Deep-Tech:** Technologies based on substantial scientific advances — AI, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Biotechnology, Advanced Materials, Aerospace. Higher capital, longer R&D cycles than consumer tech.
- **Maritime Manufacturing Skills:** Shipbuilding and repair, marine engineering, offshore construction, port operations, underwater welding.
- **Related Skilling Initiatives:** Skill India Mission (2015), PMKVY (flagship skill certification), NAPS (apprenticeship), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), AP Skill Development Corporation (APSDC) as state nodal agency.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Minister Nara Lokesh announced a policy framework for **multi-gigawatt data center capacities** across the Vizag-Kapuluppada corridor, positioning AP as an emerging digital core.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Data Center:** Specialized facility housing computer systems, servers, and networking equipment for storing, processing, and distributing digital data — the physical backbone of cloud computing and AI.
- **"Multi-Gigawatt":** A hyperscale data center consumes 100–500 MW. Multi-gigawatt implies multiple large-scale centers totaling over 1,000 MW — a massive digital infrastructure commitment.
- **Key Requirements for Data Centers:** Power (stable, preferably renewable), cooling, submarine cable proximity, seismic stability (Vizag is Seismic Zone-II), water access, and large contiguous land.
- **Why Vizag-Kapuluppada?** Submarine Cable Landing Station (SEA-ME-WE and other international cables), coastal cooling from sea breeze, proximity to Southeast Asia for low latency, existing Rushikonda IT ecosystem.
- **DPDP Act 2023:** Digital Personal Data Protection Act mandates data localization for certain sensitive data categories, driving domestic data center demand.
- **India's Data Center Market:** ~900 MW capacity (2024), expected 1,700 MW by 2026. Hubs: Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, NCR, Pune. Players: Yotta, Nextra (Airtel), CtrlS, Sify, AWS, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure.
- **Green Data Centers:** Sustainability via PUE (Power Usage Effectiveness) — ideal 1.0; world-class data centers achieve 1.1–1.2. Use of renewable energy, free cooling, water recycling.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Ministry of School Education rolled out the **Andhra Model of Education**, targeting 100% formal school enrollment through hyper-localized tracking of dropouts.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Andhra Model of Education:** A state-specific reform framework aligned with **NEP 2020**, using technology-driven tracking of every child's educational status at village/ward level to achieve 100% GER from pre-primary to senior secondary.
- **NEP 2020 Key Features:**
 - **5+3+3+4 Structure:** Foundational (5 yrs) → Preparatory (3 yrs) → Middle (3 yrs) → Secondary (4 yrs). Replaces the old 10+2 system.

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) by Grade 3 — NIPUN Bharat Mission (target: 2026-27).
- Mother tongue instruction till at least Grade 5; vocational integration from Grade 6; multidisciplinary approach.
- Higher Education GER target: 50% by 2035.
- **AP Education Profile:** Literacy Rate 67.41% (2011); 52,000+ schools; ~1.1 crore students in Classes 1–12; ~2.5 lakh teachers.
- **Key AP Education Initiatives:** Nadu-Nedu (infrastructure upgrade, ₹2 lakh per classroom); English Medium Transition (Classes 1–6); School Complexes; Amma Vodi/Talliki Vandanam; Jagananna Vidya Kanuka (free uniforms and textbooks).
- **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:** Makes education a fundamental right for children aged 6–14 years (Article 21A). Mandates 25% reservation in private schools for EWS children.

14 Operation Clean Sweep — Scientific Waste Management

PAPER V / III – Environment & Governance

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Municipal Administration department initiated **Operation Clean Sweep**, a targeted urban campaign across Tier-1 and Tier-2 corporations for scientific solid waste management.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Scientific SWM:** Systematic collection, segregation, transportation, processing, and disposal using environmentally sustainable methods, as opposed to open dumping and burning.
- **SWM Rules, 2016** (under Environment Protection Act, 1986): Mandates source segregation into Biodegradable (wet), Non-biodegradable (dry), and Domestic Hazardous waste; Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR); User Fee; Ban on Open Burning.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0):** Launched Oct 1, 2021. Budget: ₹1.41 lakh crore for 5 years. Goal: "Garbage Free" cities. Key: 100% source segregation, legacy dumpsite remediation, C&D waste management.
- **Swachh Survekshan:** Annual urban cleanliness survey by Quality Council of India (QCI) for MoHUA. Indore (MP) consistently ranks #1 in recent years.
- **AP Urban Profile:** 17 Municipal Corporations; 113 Municipalities; 7 Cantonment Boards. Waste-to-energy plants operational/planned in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati.
- **Waste Processing Hierarchy:** Reduce → Reuse → Recycle → Recover (energy) → Dispose (scientific landfill as last resort).

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The state assembly fast-tracked policy frameworks to formalize a **Digital Trade Corridor** with global partners, laying the investment layout for the Amaravati Economic Region.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Amaravati Economic Region:** Capital region of AP spanning ~**8,452 sq. km** across parts of Guntur, Palnadu, and Bapatla districts. Governed by **CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority)**, established under the AP CRDA Act, 2014.
- **Master Plan by Surbana Jurong (Singapore):** Water-centric city on the Krishna River; 51% green/water cover; 30-minute city concept; 40% non-motorized transport. Start-up Area: 5.25 sq. km for first-phase government buildings.
- **Key Institutions in Amaravati:** AP Secretariat, AP High Court (permanent bench), AP Legislative Assembly, Finance Tower, AP Police Headquarters (planned/under construction).
- **Digital Trade Corridor:** Agreement enabling seamless cross-border digital transactions — harmonized regulations, recognition of electronic contracts, data flow agreements with privacy safeguards, customs duty moratorium on electronic transmissions.
- **Historical Significance of Amaravati:** Capital of the **Satavahana dynasty** (2nd century BCE–3rd century CE); site of the famous **Amaravati Stupa (Mahachaitya)** — one of the most important Buddhist monuments in India; on India's UNESCO tentative list.

SECTION III — DEFENCE, SPACE & DEEP TECH**CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Bharat Forge finalized an agreement to set up India's first private-sector **Marine Gas Turbine** repair, overhaul, and development facility at Visakhapatnam to service frontline naval warships.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Marine Gas Turbine (MGT):** Internal combustion engine using hot gases for ship propulsion. Lighter and more compact than diesel engines, capable of high speeds. Used in destroyers, frigates, corvettes, and aircraft carriers. Derived from aviation technology (aero-derivative turbines).
- **Strategic Significance:** India has historically depended on GE (USA), Rolls-Royce (UK), and UEC (Russia) for MGTs. Domestic facility reduces import dependency, ensures strategic autonomy, creates high-end engineering jobs, and enables faster MRO turnaround.

- **DRDO's MGT Program:** Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru — developing the "**Marine Gas Turbine — Samudra**", derived from the Kaveri engine program (originally for the Tejas fighter aircraft).
- **About Bharat Forge:** Part of the Kalyani Group (HQ: Pune). Global forging leader. Defence vertical: ATAGS (Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System), armoured vehicles, now marine gas turbines.
- **Vizag's Naval Infrastructure:** Eastern Naval Command (India's largest, one of three: Western Mumbai, Southern Kochi), Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL — Miniratna PSU, Ministry of Defence), Naval Dockyard.
- **Make in India in Defence:** FDI raised to 74% automatic / 100% government route; Positive Indigenisation Lists (hundreds of items banned from import); Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 (68% indigenous content threshold for "Indian" category).

17

Indigenous Super Pressure Balloon Launch — Mission SANA

PAPER V – Science & Technology

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Red Balloon Aerospace, working under Mission SANA, executed India's inaugural indigenous **Super Pressure Balloon** launch from Vijayawada, deploying it into the stratosphere for climate tracking.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Atmospheric Layers:**
 - Troposphere (0–10 km): Weather; commercial aircraft fly here.
 - **Stratosphere (10–50 km):** Contains ozone layer (~20–30 km). Temperature inversion. Ideal for high-altitude balloons.
 - Mesosphere (50–85 km): Coldest layer; meteors burn up here.
 - Thermosphere (85–600 km): Ionosphere, auroras; ISS orbits at ~400 km.
 - Exosphere (600–10,000 km): Outermost layer, merges with outer space.
- **Types of Scientific Balloons:**
 - **Zero-Pressure Balloons (ZPB):** Open at bottom; altitude varies with temperature. Flight: hours to days.
 - **Super Pressure Balloons (SPB):** Sealed, rigid — maintains constant altitude regardless of temperature. Flight: **weeks to months**. Ideal for long-duration observations.
 - **Ultra Long Duration Balloons (ULDB):** NASA's next-gen design for 100+ day flights.
- **Applications:** Climate tracking (greenhouse gases, ozone, aerosols), astronomy (cosmic ray detection, CMB studies), atmospheric research (stratospheric winds), Earth observation (agriculture, disaster management).
- **ISRO's Balloon Program: National Balloon Facility (NBF) in Gadanki**, Tirupati district, AP. Launched hundreds of scientific balloons since the 1970s. Collaborates with NASA, JAXA (Japan), CNES (France).

- **Private Space Ecosystem in India:** Skyroot Aerospace (Vikram-S — first private rocket), Agnikul Cosmos (Agnibaan — 3D-printed rocket), Pixxel (Earth imaging satellites), Dhruva Space (satellite components), Red Balloon Aerospace (stratospheric platforms — Mission SANA).

18 UAV-Precision Guided Missile-V3 Trials — AP Coast

PAPER V — Science & Technology

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

DRDO successfully executed the final developmental trial phases of the **UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile-V3** over testing ranges along the AP coast.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **DRDO:** Defence Research and Development Organisation — premier R&D agency under the Ministry of Defence (est. 1958). Network of 50+ laboratories and 5,000+ scientists across India.
- **UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle / Drone):** Remotely piloted or autonomous aircraft used for military (surveillance, reconnaissance, combat) and civilian purposes (crop spraying, photography, delivery, disaster management).
- **Precision Guided Missile (PGM):** Uses guidance systems for accurate targeting with minimal collateral damage. Guidance: Laser, GPS, Imaging Infrared (IIR), Electro-Optical (EO).
- **UAV-Launched Missiles — Advantages:** Lower cost than fighter aircraft, no risk to human pilots, extended loiter capability, precision strikes from unexpected angles.
- **DRDO's Missile Portfolio:** Prithvi (SRBM), Agni Series (IRBM/ICBM, up to 5,000+ km), Akash (surface-to-air), Nag/HELINA (anti-tank), QRSAM (quick reaction SAM), Astra (BVR air-to-air), SMART (anti-submarine), BrahMos (supersonic cruise, joint venture with Russia).
- **Indian UAVs:** Tapas/Rustom-II (MALE UAV, under development), Abhyas (high-speed target), Lakshya (pilotless target). Imported: MQ-9 Predator (USA), Heron and Searcher (Israel).

SECTION IV — ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE & BIODIVERSITY

19 Three New Plant Species Discovered in Eastern Ghats

PAPER V / II — Environment & Geography

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A collaborative botanical survey team discovered **three previously undocumented plant species** in the dense, rocky biomes of the AP Eastern Ghats.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Eastern Ghats:** Discontinuous mountain range parallel to India's eastern coast (Bay of Bengal), stretching from Odisha through AP to Tamil Nadu. Fragmented by major rivers (Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri). Average elevation 400–600 m.
- **Key Geographic Facts:**

- **Highest Peak:** Arma Konda (1,680 m), Alluri Sitharama Raju district, AP.
- **Geology:** Khondalites, charnockites, granite gneisses — some of the oldest rocks on Earth (Archean era, 2.5+ billion years old).
- **Rivers Originating:** Vamsadhara, Nagavali, Sabari (tributary of Godavari).
- **Endemism:** A species found naturally only in a specific geographic location. Eastern Ghats' isolated hilltops and varied microclimates harbor many endemic plants, insects, amphibians, and reptiles.
- **India's 4 Biodiversity Hotspots:** The Himalayas (Eastern Himalaya), Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, Indo-Burma (NE India, parts of Eastern Ghats), Sundaland (Nicobar Islands).
- **Botanical Survey of India (BSI):** Established 1887. HQ: Kolkata. Under MoEFCC. Surveys, documents, and conserves plant wealth of India. 15 regional circles.
- **Key Species/Conservation in Eastern Ghats (AP):** Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus* — endemic to Seshachalam hills), *Cycas beddomei* (endemic). Protected Areas: Papikonda NP, Sri Venkateswara NP, Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO-recognized), Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (mangrove ecosystem).

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Forest authorities initiated a localized habitat preservation mandate for the **Critically Endangered Peacock Tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*)**, tracking its dwindling micro-populations across Eastern Ghats reserve forests.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Peacock Tarantula:** Scientifically ***Poecilotheria metallica***. Also called "Gooty Tarantula" or "Gooty Sapphire Ornamental." World-famous for striking blue, grey, and black patterns. **Endemic to AP** — found only around Gooty fort, Nandyal district, in dry deciduous forests at 350–600 m altitude.
- **IUCN Status: Critically Endangered (CR)** — estimated fewer than 300 mature individuals.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss (deforestation, quarrying, mining); illegal pet trade (highly sought after internationally despite legal protection); small range makes it vulnerable; low reproductive rate.
- **Legal Protection:** Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 — **Schedule I** (highest protection; hunting/trade punishable with 3–7 years imprisonment). CITES — **Appendix II** (all *Poecilotheria* species — regulated international trade).
- **IUCN Red List Categories:** EX (Extinct) → EW (Extinct in Wild) → **CR (Critically Endangered)** → EN (Endangered) → VU (Vulnerable) → NT (Near Threatened) → LC (Least Concern) → DD (Data Deficient).
- **WPA 1972 Schedules:** Schedule I (highest — Tiger, Lion, Elephant, Great Indian Bustard, Gooty Tarantula); Schedule II (Monkey, Bear, Python); Schedule V (Vermin — rats, crows); Schedule VI (specified plants).

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Department of Agriculture registered an expansive spike in oil palm plantation areas, maintaining AP's top ranking in **domestic oil palm land expansion** and supply.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis*):** Tropical plant native to West Africa. Highest-yielding oilseed crop — 4–5 tonnes of oil per hectare per year (5–10× more than soybean, mustard, or sunflower). Produces palm oil (from fruit pulp) and palm kernel oil (from seed).
- **India's Edible Oil Scenario:** India is the **world's largest importer** of edible oils (~60% of domestic requirement imported; annual import bill ~₹1.5–2 lakh crore). Domestic production meets ~40% of demand.
- **National Mission on Edible Oils — Oil Palm (NMEO-OP):** Launched August 2021; budget ₹11,040 crore. Target: additional 10 lakh hectares under oil palm by 2025–26. Viability Price Support protects farmers from global price fluctuations.
- **Why AP Leads:** AP contributes ~65–70% of India's crude palm oil production. Major districts: West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore. Favorable humid climate, delta water availability, established processing infrastructure (3F Oil Palm, Godrej Agrovet, Patanjali, Wilmar).
- **Environmental Concerns:** Water-intensive (200–250 liters/plant/day); monoculture reduces biodiversity; soil degradation; in Southeast Asia, oil palm expansion has caused massive deforestation threatening orangutans, tigers, and rhinos.
- **Global Scenario:** Top producers: Indonesia (~60%), Malaysia (~25%), Thailand, Colombia, Nigeria. Top consumers: India, China, EU. Used in: cooking oil, processed foods, cosmetics, biofuels, detergents.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A revised **MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions)** tourism draft was introduced to position Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada as corporate tourism vectors.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **MICE Tourism:** Meetings (corporate/board/AGMs), Incentives (reward trips), Conferences/Conventions (large professional gatherings), Exhibitions/Events (trade fairs, expos). A **high-yield, low-volume** segment — MICE tourists spend 2–3× more than regular tourists.
- **Why MICE matters:** High revenue per visitor; reduces tourism seasonality; boosts hospitality and transport; enhances city branding; creates skilled employment in event management and hospitality.
- **Global MICE Hubs:** Singapore, Dubai, Barcelona, Vienna, Las Vegas, Seoul, Bangkok. In India: Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Goa.

- **AP Tourism Circuits:** Buddhist (Amaravati, Nagarjunakonda, Bavikonda), Coastal (Vizag, Bheemunipatnam, Kakinada), Heritage (Tirumala, Lepakshi, Kondaveedu), Eco-Tourism (Araku Valley, Papikondalu, Horsley Hills, Talakona), Spiritual (Tirumala, Srisailem, Ahobilam, Simhachalam).
- **Key Tourist Destinations in AP:** Tirumala-Tirupati (richest temple, ~3–5 crore pilgrims/year), Araku Valley (coffee, tribal culture), Borra Caves (million-year-old limestone caves), Srisailem (Jyotirlinga), Belum Caves (2nd longest cave system in Indian subcontinent, Kurnool).
- **Ministry of Tourism GoI Initiatives:** Incredible India (global branding), Dekho Apna Desh (domestic tourism), Swadesh Darshan (theme-based circuits), PRASHAD (pilgrimage rejuvenation), E-Visa (160+ countries).

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GTM Tourism Award — Best Tourism Promotion State

PAPER IV – Economy & Development

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Andhra Pradesh was decorated with the **Best Tourism Promotion State** accolade at the national **GTM (Global Travel Mart) Tourism Awards** ceremony.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Global Travel Mart (GTM):** One of India's premier B2B travel and tourism exhibitions, bringing together tourism boards, hotels, tour operators, airlines, and travel agents to network and forge business partnerships.
- **Why AP won:** Effective digital marketing and influencer campaigns; participation in international travel fairs (ITB Berlin, WTM London, TII Dubai); development of new tourism circuits; homestay and wayside amenity infrastructure improvements; successful hosting of International Buddhist Conclave.
- **Heritage Sites in AP:**
 - Lepakshi Temple (hanging pillar, Nandi bull statue, Vijayanagara murals)
 - Tirumala Temple (Dravidian architecture, richest Hindu temple)
 - Kondaveedu Fort (Guntur district)
 - Chandavaram Buddhist Site (Prakasam district)
 - Salihundam (Srikakulam — ancient Buddhist port town)
 - Amaravati Buddhist Stupa (on India's UNESCO tentative list)
- **Eco-Tourism in AP:** Papikondalu National Park (scenic hills on Godavari), Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (largest tiger reserve in India by area), Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (2nd largest mangrove formation in India after Sundarbans), Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary (near Vizag).
- **AP Tourism:** APTDC (Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation) operates hotels/resorts. AP Tourism tagline: "**Kohinoor of India.**" Campaign: "So AP."

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The AP High Court and Supreme Court benches adjudicated a historic property and leadership dispute involving the **Sri Swamy Hathiramji Mutt** in Tirupati, clarifying regulatory powers over interim management of ancient religious properties.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Hathiramji Mutt:** A historic Hindu monastery in Tirupati with centuries-old association with Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). Traditionally held the hereditary **Dharmakarta** (trustee/manager) rights of the temple.
- **Constitutional Provisions on Religion:**
 - Article 25: Freedom of conscience, profession, practice, and propagation of religion (subject to public order, morality, health).
 - Article 26: Right of religious denominations to establish institutions, manage their own religious affairs, own and administer property in accordance with law.
 - Articles 27 & 28: Freedom from paying taxes for a specific religion; freedom from attending religious instruction in state-funded institutions.
- **AP Endowments Act, 1987:** Regulates Hindu temples and mutts in AP. Established the **AP Endowments Department**, which administers 42,000+ temples including TTD.
- **Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD):** Statutory body governing the Tirumala Temple. Headed by an IAS officer Chairman and a Board of Trustees appointed by the state government. World's most-visited place of worship (~3–5 crore pilgrims/year).
- **Landmark Shirur Mutt Case (1954):** SC laid down the "**Essential Religious Practices**" doctrine — only practices essential and integral to a religion are protected under Articles 25 and 26. State can regulate secular activities associated with religious practice (temple administration, property management). Foundation of Indian secularism jurisprudence.
- **Other Key Cases:** Venkataramana Devaru vs State of Mysore (1958 — temple entry), Sabarimala Case (Indian Young Lawyers Association vs State of Kerala, 2018 — women's entry, later reviewed by larger bench).

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The AP High Court reaffirmed that strict statutory due process must be observed during state land acquisition pipelines to uphold constitutional property rights (*M/s GGR Housing India Pvt. Ltd. vs State*).

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Land Acquisition:** Power of the state to acquire private land for public purposes, derived from the doctrine of "**Eminent Domain.**"
- **LARR Act, 2013** (replaced the colonial Land Acquisition Act, 1894):
 - **Social Impact Assessment (SIA):** Mandatory for most acquisitions.
 - **Consent:** 70% of affected families for PPP projects; 80% for private projects.
 - **Compensation:** Up to 4× market value (rural); 2× (urban).
 - **R&R Package:** Housing, employment, annuity, infrastructure.
 - **Return of Unused Land:** If not used within 5 years, returned to original owner.
 - Multi-crop irrigated land acquisition only as a demonstrable last resort.
- **Constitutional Position on Right to Property:** Originally a Fundamental Right (Articles 19(1)(f) and 31). After the **44th Amendment (1978)**, removed from Fundamental Rights and made a **Constitutional Right under Article 300A:** "No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law."
- **Significance of This Judgement:** Reinforces that land acquisition cannot be done arbitrarily; due process (SIA, consent, fair compensation, R&R) must be strictly followed; affected families have legal remedies if procedures are violated.

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Bail Petitions Speedy Disposal Circular

PAPER III – Polity & Law

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Chief Justice of the AP High Court issued administrative circulars to streamline rosters for immediate listing and disposal of **anticipatory bail petitions**, complying with apex court directions.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Types of Bail:**
 - **Regular Bail** (Sec. 480 BNSS 2023 / Sec. 439 CrPC 1973): Granted to a person already in custody, applied for after arrest.
 - **Anticipatory Bail** (Sec. 482 BNSS / Sec. 438 CrPC): Granted to a person who apprehends arrest — direction to release on bail if arrested, applied for before arrest.
 - **Default/Statutory Bail** (Sec. 479 BNSS / Sec. 167(2) CrPC): Granted when the investigation agency fails to file charge sheet within prescribed time (60 or 90 days).
- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty). Principle: "**Bail is the rule, jail is the exception**" (State of Rajasthan vs Balchand, 1977).
- **Why Speedy Bail Disposal Matters:** ~75–77% of India's prison population are undertrials (NCRB data); Indian prisons operate at ~118% capacity; prolonged pre-trial detention violates presumption of innocence and right to speedy trial (Hussainara Khatoon vs State of Bihar, 1979).
- **Landmark Bail Judgements:** Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar (2014 — arrest not automatic for <7-year offences; notice under Sec. 41A before arrest), Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI (2022 — comprehensive

bail guidelines), *Siddharth vs State of UP* (2022 — impossible bail conditions struck down).

- **BNSS 2023 Changes:** Replaced CrPC from July 1, 2024. Retains bail framework; adds mandatory intimation of arrest to a nominated person, specific timelines for bail disposal, provisions for e-FIR and electronic evidence.

27

Inter-se Tax Investigation Protocol — Preventing Dual Jeopardy

PAPER III / IV — Law & Economy

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The High Court clarified that if central and state GST/tax authorities find overlapping investigations against a common corporate entity, they must decide *inter-se* who proceeds, preventing dual jeopardy.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **GST:** Goods and Services Tax — unified indirect tax (effective July 1, 2017), replacing VAT, excise, service tax, entry tax etc. Constitutional basis: **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**.
- **Key Articles:** Art. 246A (concurrent GST law-making powers; only Parliament for IGST), Art. 269A (IGST on inter-state trade, revenue shared), Art. 279A (GST Council).
- **GST Structure:** CGST (Centre, intra-state), SGST (State, intra-state), IGST (Centre, inter-state — revenue to destination state), UTGST (UTs without legislature), Compensation Cess (luxury/sin goods).
- **GST Council (Art. 279A):** Chaired by Union Finance Minister; members include UMS Finance and State Finance/Taxation Ministers. Weighted voting: Centre = 1/3rd, States collectively = 2/3rd. Decisions require $\geq 3/4$ th majority of weighted votes. Recommends rates, exemptions, thresholds.
- **GST Administration:** CGST/IGST — Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance. SGST — State Commercial Tax Departments. Both have concurrent investigation powers (source of overlap).
- **Dual Jeopardy:** Article 20(2) — "No person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once." The court's directive ensures central and state authorities coordinate, avoiding taxpayer harassment through simultaneous overlapping investigations on the same issue.
- **GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT):** Established via Finance Act 2024; benches across India to hear GST appeals (previously appeals went directly to High Courts).

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Free Legal Aid Coversheet Mandate

PAPER III — Polity, Law & Ethics

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The High Court instructed that a standard informational coversheet detailing **Free Legal Aid facilities** must be appended to every criminal judgment copy issued.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Constitutional Basis:**

- Article 39A (DPSP): State shall ensure operation of legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity; provide free legal aid to ensure justice is not denied due to economic or other disabilities.
- Articles 14 (Equality), 21 (Right to Life — includes fair trial and legal representation), 22(1) (Right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner).
- **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:** Enacted to give effect to Article 39A (in force: November 9, 1995). Three-tier hierarchy: **NALSA** (National, apex — Patron-in-Chief: CJI; Exec. Chairman: SC Judge) → **SALSA** (State — Patron-in-Chief: HC Chief Justice) → **DLSA** (District — Chairperson: District Judge) → **TLSA** (Taluk/Mandal).
- **Eligibility for Free Legal Aid:** SC/ST members; trafficking/begar victims; women and children; persons with disability; persons in custody; victims of mass disasters, ethnic violence, caste atrocities, industrial disasters; industrial workmen; persons below income threshold (~₹3,00,000 for SC, ₹1,00,000 for other courts).
- **Lok Adalats:** Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) under Legal Services Authorities Act. Awards = decrees of civil court (final, binding, no appeal). Types: Regular Lok Adalat, Permanent Lok Adalat (public utility services). National Lok Adalat: held simultaneously across India (usually 2nd Saturday of each month).
- **Landmark Legal Aid Judgements:** *MH Hoskot vs State of Maharashtra* (1978 — free legal aid as part of Art. 21), *Khatri/Bhagalpur Blinding Case vs State of Bihar* (1981 — state must provide free legal aid from first appearance before magistrate), *Sukh Das vs UT of Arunachal Pradesh* (1986 — failure to provide legal aid vitiates trial).
- **Significance of Coversheet Mandate:** Many undertrials/convicts are unaware of their legal aid rights. Appending a coversheet to every criminal judgment ensures awareness, reduces unrepresented prisoners, and is a proactive access-to-justice initiative.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A division bench of the High Court cleared technical ambiguities concerning **Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act**, standardizing property auction and execution stay protocols for banking disputes.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **SARFAESI Act (2002):** Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. Enables banks and financial institutions to recover NPAs by enforcing security interest (selling mortgaged assets) **without court intervention**. Based on Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reforms.
- **NPA:** Non-Performing Asset — loan or advance where interest/principal installment remains overdue for more than **90 days**. Classified as sub-standard, doubtful, or loss asset.
- **Key SARFAESI Sections:**
 - Sec. 13(2): Demand Notice — bank issues notice demanding repayment within 60 days on default.

- Sec. 13(4): If unpaid, bank can take possession, take over management, appoint manager, or sell the secured asset.
- **Sec. 13(8): Redemption Right** — borrower can recover the secured asset by paying full dues anytime *before* the publication of the auction notice. Once published, the right to redeem is lost.
- Sec. 14: Bank can apply to CMM or DM for assistance in taking possession if borrower refuses.
- Sec. 17: Appeal to Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) within 45 days of action under Sec. 13(4).
- Sec. 18: Civil courts cannot entertain suits against SARFAESI actions.
- **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs):** Buy NPAs from banks at a discount and try to recover them. Regulated by RBI. Examples: ARC India, Edelweiss ARC, ASREC India.
- **Related NPA Recovery Laws:** RDDBFI Act 1993 (Debt Recovery Tribunals for debts above ₹20 lakh), IBC 2016 (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code — time-bound resolution via NCLT if SARFAESI/DRT fail).
- **Significance of Sec. 13(8) Clarification:** Ambiguity about when exactly "publication of auction notice" occurs has now been standardized, protecting both the borrower's redemption right and the bank's recovery right.

CURRENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Legal cells consolidated provisions under the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) law**, formally anchoring Amaravati's statutory designation as the sole permanent capital, operating with a retrospective legal mandate.

STATIC BACKGROUND — EXPLAINED

- **Historical Context:**
 - Pre-2014: Hyderabad was capital of united AP.
 - **AP Reorganisation Act, 2014:** Bifurcated AP and Telangana; Hyderabad designated joint capital for both for ≤10 years (till 2024); AP required to establish a new capital.
 - 2015: CM Chandrababu Naidu selected **Amaravati** (Guntur district, Krishna River banks); ~33,000 acres acquired through land pooling.
- **Three Capitals Proposal (2020) — YSRCP:** Legislative Capital at Amaravati, Executive Capital at Visakhapatnam, Judicial Capital at Kurnool. Based on GN Rao Committee and BCG study. CRDA Repeal Act (2020) was passed — but struck down by AP High Court (March 2022), reaffirming Amaravati as the only legal capital.
- **Return to Amaravati (2024 onwards):** TDP-led NDA returned to power (June 2024); CM Chandrababu Naidu reaffirmed Amaravati as sole capital; construction of Assembly, Secretariat, and High Court buildings resumed. AP Reorganisation (Amendment) law passed to formally anchor Amaravati's status with retrospective effect.

- **APCRDA Act, 2014:** Established CRDA; defined capital region area (8,452 sq. km); empowers land acquisition, layout approval, and infrastructure development. Continues to be the governing law for Amaravati.
- **Geography of Amaravati:** Thullur mandal, Guntur/Palnadu district; southern banks of Krishna River; coordinates ~16.51°N, 80.35°E; ~35 km from Vijayawada; ~270 km from Hyderabad.
- **Historical Significance:** Capital of the **Satavahana dynasty** (2nd century BCE–3rd century CE). Famous **Amaravati Stupa (Mahachaitya)** — exquisite limestone sculptures now preserved in the Amaravati Museum and the British Museum. **Amaravati School of Art** — one of three major ancient Indian art schools (along with Mathura and Gandhara), characterized by dynamic narrative sculptures in white limestone.
- **Key Institutions (Planned/Under Construction):** AP Secretariat, AP Legislative Assembly, AP High Court (currently functional from Amaravati; permanent building under construction), Raj Bhavan (functional), Finance Tower, Police Headquarters.

— *End of Compendium* —

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