

TGPSC

Prelims Cum Mains Based
News Summary

Current Affairs

OCTOBER - 2025

<https://t.me/kpiasacademy/6154>

TGPSC Current Affairs

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TGPSC News Summary

Telangana's 63-foot Bathukamma bursts into Guinness glory

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Culture

Context: Bathukamma festival

Why in News?

The 2025 'Mana Bathukamma' festival in Telangana set two Guinness World Records with a 63.11-foot floral Bathukamma and a synchronised dance performance by over 1,000 women.



(Image Source: the Hindu)

Introduction

- The **Bathukamma festival**, an iconic cultural celebration of Telangana, has achieved **two Guinness World Records** during the grand event held at

Saroornagar Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad, on September 29, 2025.

- Organised as part of the 'Mana Bathukamma' festivities by the Telangana Tourism Department (September 21-30), the event showcased the cultural vibrancy of the State while promoting **women's participation, traditional art forms, and eco-friendly floral practices.**

Bathukamma Festival - Cultural Significance

- **Meaning:** 'Bathukamma' literally translates to '**Mother Goddess, come alive**'.
- It is a **floral festival** dedicated to **Goddess Gauri (Parvati)**, symbolising **feminine power, fertility, and nature's abundance.**
- Celebrated by **women and girls across Telangana**, Bathukamma coincides with the post-monsoon season when seasonal flowers like **gunuka, tangedu, and marigold** bloom in abundance.
- Women arrange flowers in **concentric layers shaped like a temple gopuram** and dance around it in circles, singing folk songs in praise of the goddess.
- It is recognised as an **integral part of Telangana's cultural identity** and was declared a **State festival after the formation of Telangana in 2014.**

Highlights of the Guinness World Records Event

1. World's Largest Bathukamma

- **Height:** 63.11 feet
- **Weight:** 10.7 tonnes of flowers arranged in 11 layers
- **Venue:** Saroornagar Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad
- **Effort:** Created over three days by around 300 people
- **Achievement:** Recognised by Guinness as the largest floral goddess installation in the world.

2. Largest Synchronized Bathukamma Dance Performance

- **Participants:** Over 1,354 women (official count awaited)
- **Special Feature:** Women danced in concentric circles around the giant Bathukamma to traditional folk songs.
- **Coordination:** Managed by choreographers with select participants pre-trained during rehearsals.

Telangana forest cover dips, Adilabad worst hit

Source: New Indian Express

TGPSC Relevance: Ecology

Context: India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2025

Why in News?

Telangana's forest cover declines, with Adilabad worst hit, due to shifting cultivation, illegal logging, and poor sapling survival under Haritha Haram.

Introduction

- The **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2025**, released in September, highlights a steady decline in forest cover in

Telangana, with Adilabad district being the worst affected.

- This decline occurs despite significant efforts under the state's **Haritha Haram plantation drive**, launched to increase green cover and mitigate environmental degradation.

Key Findings from ISFR 2025

- **District-wise Forest Cover Changes (2022-23 to 2023-24):**

District	Forest Loss (sq km)	Dense Forest Cover (sq km)
Adilabad	115.50	22.01
Nirmal	45.37	57.74
Komaram Bheem Asifabad	44.61	41.32
Mancherial	-34.96 (gain)	28.42

- **Statewide forest area:** 21,179.04 sq km
- **Net decline:** 100.02 sq km
- **Worst affected districts:** Adilabad and Bhadradri Kothagudem



(Image Source: New Indian Express)

Causes of Forest Cover Loss

- **Shifting (Podu) Cultivation:**
- Traditional slash-and-burn agricultural practice leading to deforestation.
- Tribals often clear forests to cultivate crops, sometimes hoping to secure land pattas.
- **Illegal Tree Felling and Smuggling:**

- Teakwood smuggling remains rampant, especially in **Echoda range**.
- Forest officials have faced resistance and attacks during raids.
- Police are invoking **Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PD) Act** against habitual offenders.
- **Poor Survival of Planted Saplings:**
- Haritha Haram targets **four crore saplings annually**, but survival has been low.
- Land diverted for infrastructure projects should have compensatory plantations, but records remain incomplete.

Positive Observations

- **Reduction in Forest Fires:**
- SNPP-VIIRS sensor data shows a decline in alerts between 2022-23 and 2023-24:
- Adilabad: 786 → 391
- Komaram Bheem Asifabad: 899 → 582
- Nirmal: 1,166 → 685
- Mancheri: 714 → 513
- **Localized Forest Gains:**
- Mancheri district showed an increase of 34.96 sq km in forest cover.

Challenges and Concerns

- **Encroachment:**
- Tribals cultivating forest land, even beyond their legal pattas, continue to threaten forest areas.
- **Inadequate Monitoring and Documentation:**
- Data on felled trees and compensatory plantations is incomplete.
- Weak enforcement mechanisms allow illegal activities to persist.
- **Sustainability of Plantation Drives:**
- Despite large-scale planting, survival rates of saplings are poor due to lack of maintenance and unsuitable planting practices.

Significance

- **Environmental Implications:** Loss of forest cover affects biodiversity, soil conservation, carbon sequestration, and climate regulation.
- **Socio-economic Impact:** Tribals dependent on forests for livelihood face tension between conservation and livelihood needs.
- **Policy Implications:**
 - Need for **integrated forest management**, better enforcement of anti-encroachment laws, and improvement in **Haritha Haram's survival rate**.
 - Encourages adoption of **community-based forest management** to balance ecological and socio-economic interests.

Conclusion

- The decline in Telangana's forest cover, especially in Adilabad, underscores the **gap between plantation targets and ground realities**, driven by illegal logging, shifting cultivation, and weak monitoring.

Telangana topped in crimes against women in 2023

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Women security, Gender disparity

Context: Crimes against women

Why in News?

Telangana leads South India in crimes against women in 2023, with domestic cruelty forming the largest share, while Hyderabad ranks second in cyber abuse cases among metropolitan cities.

Introduction

- The latest **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report** for 2023, released on September 20, 2025, indicates a concerning rise in crimes against women in Telangana, highlighting both traditional and emerging forms of violence, including cyber abuse.

Key Findings - Telangana at a Glance

Overall Rise in Crimes:

- Telangana recorded **23,678 cases** of crimes against women in 2023, marking a **7.31% increase** from 22,066 cases in 2022.
- This represents **5.28% of India's total 4.48 lakh cases**, placing Telangana at the **top among South Indian states**.

Nature of Crimes:

- Cruelty by husband or relatives** forms the largest category:
- 10,518 cases, i.e., **55.5% of total crimes in the state**.
- Accounts for **7.87% of India's 1.33 lakh cases nationally**.
- Other significant categories:
 - Assaults on women with intent to outrage modesty:** 5,024 cases
 - Kidnapping and abduction:** 2,152 cases
 - Rape:** 817 cases
 - Dowry deaths:** 145 cases
 - Stalking:** 1,884 cases
 - Voyeurism:** 165 cases
- Comparison with Other States:**
- Nationally, **Uttar Pradesh** leads with 56,083 cases, followed by **Rajasthan** (40,738) and **Maharashtra** (39,526).
- Telangana's rise highlights both reporting awareness and persisting social issues.



(Image Source: The Hindu)

Hyderabad: Metropolitan Scenario

- Urban Crime Concentration:**
- Hyderabad reported **3,822 cases**, contributing **7.43% of total incidents across 19 metropolitan cities**.
- Breakdown of cases in Hyderabad:
 - Cruelty by husband/relatives:** 1,743
 - Assaults:** 751
 - Kidnapping/abduction:** 273
 - Rapes:** 173
 - Dowry deaths:** 15
 - Stalking:** 416
 - Voyeurism:** 47
- Comparison with Other Metros:**
- Delhi leads with 13,366 cases, followed by Mumbai (6,025), Bengaluru (4,870), Jaipur (3,872), and Hyderabad close behind.
- This indicates **urbanization and metropolitan pressures** correlate with certain crime types.

Emergence of Cyber Crimes

- Digital Crimes in Telangana:**
- Total cases under **Information Technology Act:** 120
- Circulation of sexually explicit content:** 78
- Blackmailing, morphing, defamation, fake profiles:** 42
- Cyber Crime in Hyderabad:**
- 53 cases reported, ranking **second among metropolitan cities**, behind

Bengaluru (127).

- Composition:
 - Sexually explicit content: 47
 - Other forms of online abuse: 6
 - Following Hyderabad: Lucknow (41) and Delhi (36).
- **Implications:** The shift of crimes against women to **digital platforms** reflects changing societal patterns, requiring strengthened cyber policing, digital literacy, and legal frameworks.

Analytical Insights

- **Social Factors:**
- The high prevalence of **domestic cruelty** points to persistent patriarchal norms, gender-based discrimination, and dowry-related pressures.
- **Urbanization and Vulnerability:**
- Hyderabad's ranking among metros illustrates how **rapid urbanization, migration, and anonymity in cities** can exacerbate crime risks, especially sexual violence and online abuse.
- **Policy Implications:**
- There is an urgent need for:
 - **Awareness programs on cyber safety**
 - **Stronger enforcement of IT Act provisions**
 - **Counseling and protection mechanisms for women**
 - **Community-based interventions to reduce domestic violence**

Conclusion

- The NCRB 2023 data underscores that while Telangana and Hyderabad have made reporting more accessible, the **rise in crimes against women, especially domestic cruelty and cyber abuse, signals deep-rooted societal and technological challenges.**

NCVBDC data reveals increased dengue cases in Telangana

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Public Health

Context: NCVBDC data on dengue cases

Why in News?

Telangana recorded 4,296 dengue cases between April and August 2025, according to NCVBDC data, with no fatalities reported.

Introduction

- Telangana has reported **4,296 dengue cases** between April and August 2025, according to data from the **National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC)**, under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. No fatalities have been reported so far.

About Dengue and Chikungunya in Telangana:

- Dengue is a **vector-borne disease** caused by the dengue virus and transmitted primarily by the **Aedes aegypti mosquito**.
- Chikungunya is another mosquito-borne viral disease with symptoms similar to dengue, including fever and joint pain.
- Both diseases show a **seasonal spike during monsoon months** (June to September) due to **stagnant water**, poor sanitation, and favourable mosquito breeding conditions.

Trend Analysis:

- **April–August 2025:** 4,296 dengue cases, no deaths.
- **January–March 2025:** 267 dengue cases (pre-monsoon period).

- **Same period 2024:** 4,648 cases, annual tally later reaching 10,077.
- **2023:** 8,016 cases, indicating a persistently high burden.
- **Chikungunya 2025:** 252 confirmed cases from 7,176 samples tested.

Significance:

- **High Disease Burden:** Telangana continues to experience a **high prevalence of vector-borne diseases**, indicating challenges in vector control and public health preparedness.
- **Monsoon-linked Risks:** The spike in cases aligns with the **monsoon season**, highlighting the role of environmental and climatic factors in disease outbreaks.
- **Data Transparency and Reporting:** The NCVBDC data comes amid the **Telangana Health Department's limited disclosure** of seasonal disease statistics, underscoring the importance of centralized reporting for informed policy-making.
- **Preventive Measures:** Effective **vector control measures**, public awareness campaigns, timely medical interventions, and community participation are essential to manage disease burden.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Year-on-year trends indicate a **continuing high burden**, necessitating **strengthened surveillance and early-warning systems**.

Government Initiatives and Recommendations:

- **NCVBDC:** Monitors vector-borne diseases at the national level, provides data for states, and issues guidelines for prevention and management.
- **State Measures:** Urban cleanliness drives, mosquito breeding site

management, public health advisories, and early case detection.

- **Public Awareness:** Use of mosquito nets, eliminating stagnant water, and seeking timely medical care.

SC refuses to intervene against Telangana govt order enhancing OBC quota to 42% in local bodies

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Polity and Governance

Context: OBC quota Reservation

Why in News?

The Supreme Court refused to intervene against Telangana's order enhancing OBC reservation to 42% in local bodies, leading to a total 67% reservation exceeding the 50% ceiling.

Introduction

- The **Supreme Court of India** on October 6, 2025, refused to entertain a petition challenging the Telangana government's order enhancing the **Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation to 42%** in local bodies.
- With the existing **Scheduled Castes (15%)** and **Scheduled Tribes (10%)** reservations, the **total reservation in municipalities and panchayats in Telangana now stands at 67%**, exceeding the judicially prescribed 50% ceiling.

Details of the Case:

- **Petitioner:** Vanga Gopal Reddy, represented by advocate Somiran Sharma, questioned the **constitutionality of breaching the 50% reservation ceiling** in local bodies.
- **Supreme Court Bench:** Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta.

- The Bench noted that the petitioner had directly approached the **Supreme Court instead of the Telangana High Court**, and gave him liberty to move the High Court.
- The petition argued that the **enhancement order preceded the Telangana State Election Commission's notification** for local body elections, which were scheduled for **October 23 and 27, 2025**.

Legal Background:

- **50% Ceiling on Reservations:**
- Established by a **nine-judge Bench** of the Supreme Court in the **Mandal Commission case (Indra Sawhney v. Union of India, 1992)**.
- Total reservations in any public employment or local body elections generally **cannot exceed 50%**, except in extraordinary circumstances or through a constitutional amendment.

Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018 - Section 285A:

- Explicitly codifies the **50% reservation ceiling** for local bodies.
- **Telangana Backward Classes (Reservation of Seats in Rural and Urban Local Bodies) Bill, 2025:**
- Attempted by the State government to enhance OBC seats to 42%.
- The Bill was **neither assented to by the Governor nor the President**, raising questions on its legal validity.

Significance of the Supreme Court's Response:

- **Adherence to Judicial Process:** The apex court reinforced the **principle of hierarchy in judicial review**, suggesting that High Courts should be approached

first in such matters unless exceptional urgency exists.

- **Reservation Policy Implications:** The case highlights **tensions between state governments' attempts to expand OBC representation** and the **50% ceiling rule established by the Supreme Court**.
- **Electoral Impact:** The enhancement of quotas prior to elections can influence **representation in local governance** and has potential **political implications**.
- **Legal Precedent Reminder:** States cannot **unilaterally bypass legislative procedures** or constitutional safeguards while altering reservation policies.

Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University

Why in News?

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled the logo of the Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University in Delhi.

Introduction

- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** and Union Coal and Mines Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** unveiled the official **logo of the Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University** in New Delhi. The ceremony was attended by the university's Vice-Chancellor **Y. L. Srinivas**.
- The event highlighted the Centre's commitment to advancing **tribal education and cultural inclusion** in Telangana and neighbouring states.

Background:

- The **Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University** is located in **Mulugu district, Telangana**, a region with a significant tribal population.
- The university is named after **Sammakka and Saralamma**, revered tribal warrior women from the Koya tribe who led a historic resistance against oppressive rule in the 13th century.
- Their bravery and sacrifice are remembered during the famous **Sammakka Saralamma Jatara**, one of Asia's largest tribal festivals, recognised for its cultural and spiritual significance.
- Naming the university after these leaders reflects the **respect for tribal heritage and local identity**.

Key Highlights of the Logo

- The logo incorporates **words from various tribal languages**, symbolising **unity in diversity** and inclusiveness.
- It reflects the **creative spirit and cultural vibrancy** of tribal communities.
- The design seeks to embody the **vision of empowering tribal youth** through education rooted in their heritage.



(Image Source: the Hindu)

Government Initiatives and Funding

- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** emphasised the Centre's commitment to tribal education, noting

that **₹800 crore has been allocated** for the development of the university.

- The **Telangana State Government** has already allocated **land** for the construction of the campus.
- Minister **Kishan Reddy** urged the Education Ministry to **expedite the construction of academic and administrative buildings**, highlighting the need for timely infrastructure development.

Academic Vision

The university aims to integrate **cultural relevance** into its curriculum by offering courses such as:

- **Tribal food traditions and culinary heritage**, to preserve indigenous knowledge.
- **Ayurveda and traditional healing practices**, reflecting tribal medicinal wisdom.
- **Instruction in tribal languages**, to promote linguistic diversity and cultural identity.
- Programs that focus on **sustainable development and livelihoods** for tribal regions.

Significance

- **Empowerment of Tribal Communities:** The university is designed to cater to the **educational, cultural, and socio-economic needs** of tribal populations in **Telangana** and neighbouring states like **Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh**.
- **Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge:** By offering courses related to tribal culture, language, and health systems, the institution will help **document and preserve indigenous traditions** for future generations.
- **Regional Development:** The

university's presence in Mulugu is expected to **enhance access to higher education** in remote areas, boost local employment, and contribute to **regional economic development**.

- **Promoting Inclusivity in Education:** The initiative aligns with the goals of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which advocates for **inclusive and equitable access to education**.

Telangana DCA Issues 'Stop Use Notice' for Two Cough Syrups Contaminated with Diethylene Glycol

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Public Health

Context: 'Stop Use Notice' issue

Why in News?

Telangana Drugs Control Administration issued a 'Stop Use Notice' for two cough syrups after the Madhya Pradesh Drug Testing Laboratory detected **Diethylene Glycol (DEG)** contamination.

Introduction

- The **Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA)** issued a 'Stop Use Notice' after being alerted by the **Drug Testing Laboratory (DTL), Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal**, regarding the presence of **Diethylene Glycol (DEG)** in two cough syrups.
- This step was taken to protect public health following the detection of a highly toxic chemical compound known to cause serious health risks, including fatalities.



(Image Source: the Hindu)

Key Details of the Notice:

Adulterated Cough Syrups Identified:

- **Relife Cough Syrup** (Ambroxol Hydrochloride, Guaiphenesin, Terbutaline Sulphate, and Menthol Syrup)
- **Batch No.: LSL25160**
- **Manufacturer:** M/s. Shape Pharma Pvt. Ltd., Shekhpur, Gujarat
- **Respifresh TR Cough Syrup** (Bromhexine Hydrochloride, Terbutaline Sulphate, Guaiphenesin, and Menthol Syrup)

Batch No.: R01GL2523

- **Manufacturer:** M/s. Rednex Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., Bavla, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Both batches carry an **expiry date of December 2026**.
- **Toxic Compound Detected - Diethylene Glycol (DEG):**
- DEG is an **industrial solvent** that is **not suitable for pharmaceutical use**.
- It is known to cause **acute kidney failure, neurological damage, metabolic acidosis**, and in severe cases, **death** when ingested.

Immediate Public Safety Measures:

- The DCA has **urged the public to stop using these syrups immediately** if in possession.
- Citizens have been advised to **report these syrups to the nearest Drugs Control Authority**.

- A toll-free helpline (1800-599-6969) has been made available between **10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on all working days** for complaints and reporting.

Regulatory Actions:

- All **Drugs Inspectors and Assistant Directors** across Telangana were directed to **alert retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and hospitals.**
- Instructions were given to **freeze the stocks of the affected batches** to ensure that the syrups are **neither sold nor dispensed.**
- **Previous Similar Advisory:**
- The DCA had earlier issued a public advisory to **discontinue the use of Coldrif Syrup (Batch No. SR-13)** after reports from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan linked its consumption to the **deaths of several children.**

Significance:

- **Public Health Protection:** The swift issuance of the Stop Use Notice underscores the critical role of **state drug regulators** in safeguarding the public from **adulterated and unsafe medicines.**
- **Pharmaceutical Vigilance:** The case highlights the importance of **inter-state coordination** in monitoring drug quality, as the warning originated from a laboratory in **Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Regulatory Accountability:** It brings attention to the **need for stringent quality control and compliance** in pharmaceutical manufacturing, especially for medicines used by vulnerable populations such as **children.**
- **Strengthening Supply Chain Monitoring:** The incident highlights gaps in **quality assurance during the manufacturing and distribution process,** emphasizing the need for **real-time testing and tracking systems.**

Conclusion:

The action taken by the Telangana DCA to halt the distribution and use of the adulterated **Relife and Respifresh TR** cough syrups shows proactive regulatory intervention to protect public health.

Sigachi Industries chemical factory in Telangana

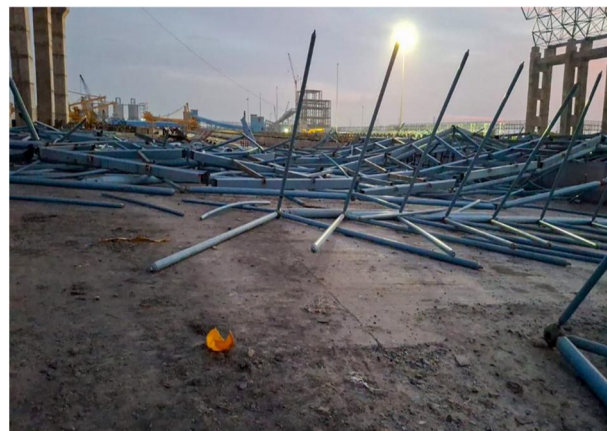
Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University

Why in News?

Industrial accidents in India, such as at Sigachi Industries (Telangana) and Ennore Thermal Power Station (Chennai).



(Image Source: The Hindu)

Introduction

Union India has witnessed a series of industrial tragedies highlighting the erosion of workers' safety:

- **Sigachi Industries, Telangana (June 30, 2025)** – A chemical reactor explosion killed 40 workers and injured many more. The plant was operating at twice the permissible temperature with outdated machinery, no alarms, and no safety officer intervention. Many

unregistered workers were employed without entry or exit records.

- **Gokulesh Fireworks, Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu (July 1, 2025)** – Eight workers were killed in an explosion.
- **Ennore Thermal Power Station, Chennai (September 30, 2025)** – Nine workers died when a 10-metre-high coal-handling structure collapsed due to poor-quality scaffolding or faulty design.
- According to the **British Safety Council**, about **25% of fatal workplace accidents worldwide occur in India**, though underreporting is rampant, especially among informal and contract workers.

Causes of Workplace Accidents

- Industrial accidents in India are **preventable**, and occur mainly due to systemic failures rather than “human error”:
- **Management negligence:** Cutting corners to reduce costs and maximise profits.
- **Unsafe working conditions:** Poorly maintained machinery, outdated equipment, lack of alarms or safety systems.
- **Ignored worker complaints:** Worker concerns often go unheeded.
- **Excessive work pressure:** Long hours, inadequate rest, and low wages force workers to take double shifts.
- **Example:** At Sigachi Industries, workers had to jump factory walls to save themselves; on-site ambulances were missing, and injured workers were taken to hospitals in damaged company buses.
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** notes that industrial accidents are rarely random—they result from employer practices prioritizing profit over safety.

Legal Framework Protecting Workers in India

- **Factories Act, 1948**
 - Governs factory licensing, machinery maintenance, working hours, rest breaks, canteens, and crèches.
 - Focuses on decent working conditions and safety as a fundamental principle.
 - Amended in **1976** and **1987** (post-Bhopal Gas Tragedy).
- **Workmen’s Compensation Act, 1923**
 - Provides compensation for injuries or death at the workplace.
 - Covers loss of earnings including lifetime income.
- **Employees’ State Insurance Act, 1948**
 - Provides social security benefits to insured workers for sickness, maternity, and employment injury.
- **Limitations in practice:**
 - Compensation is often meagre.
 - Employers rarely held criminally liable.
 - Ex gratia payments by government often replace employer responsibility.

Current Trends: Weakening of Labour Protections

- Since the **1990s**, India has systematically **diluted labour protections**:
- Push for **flexibility** in hiring, firing, and work extraction without oversight.
- Weakened inspections and regulatory enforcement.
- Labour laws branded as obstacles to business.
- **Examples:**
 - **Maharashtra (2015)** – Employers allowed to **self-certify** compliance with labour laws.
 - **Occupational Safety, Health and**

Working Conditions (OSHC) Code, 2020 – Currently in abeyance; moves safety from a statutory right to executive discretion.

- **Working hours increase** – States like Karnataka made extended daily limits permanent post-COVID, reducing rest periods.
- **Impact:** Workers' safety has shifted from a **right** to a **government concession**, increasing vulnerability.

Broader Implications

- **Economic:** Unsafe workplaces may reduce long-term productivity despite short-term profit gains.
- **Social:** Workers, especially informal and contract laborers, remain unprotected, facing high mortality risk.
- **Regulatory:** Inspection systems weakened; violations often go unpunished.
- **Moral and ethical:** Prioritizing business profit over human life raises serious ethical concerns.

Way Forward

To restore workers' rights in India:

- **Reinstate workplace safety as a statutory right**, enforceable by law.
- **Strengthen inspections and regulatory oversight**; surprise inspections should be mandatory.
- **Criminal accountability for employers** in preventable accidents.
- **Strengthen compensation mechanisms** for injured or deceased workers.
- **Promote unionization and worker participation** in safety committees.
- **Adopt international best practices** aligned with ILO standards.

Conclusion:

- Industrial accidents in India are preventable and often reflect systemic negligence rather than isolated errors.
- Ensuring worker safety is not just a legal obligation but also an economic and ethical imperative. Until the state reasserts these rights, **workers' lives remain at risk**.

Eight-Day Grameen Bharat Mahotsav Begins to Showcase Rural India

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

Why in News?

The 12th **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav**, organized by NABARD in Hyderabad, showcases rural artisans, SHGs, and entrepreneurs, promoting sustainable livelihoods, GI products, and skill development.

Introduction

- 8-day **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav** exhibition, organized by NABARD, began in Hyderabad on **October 8, 2025**.
- The event showcases the skills, creativity, and craftsmanship of rural artisans, weavers, self-help groups (SHGs), and entrepreneurs from across India.

Event Details:

- The **12th edition** of the Grameen Bharat Mahotsav was inaugurated by **Hyderabad Collector Harichandana Dasari** at **Kamma Sangham, Ameerpet**.
- A **Geographical Indication (GI) Pavilion** was also inaugurated,

highlighting unique products from different regions, which are protected under intellectual property rights to promote authenticity and regional identity.

- **53 stalls** have been set up to display a variety of rural products, including handicrafts, handlooms, and other artisanal goods.

Objectives and Significance:

- **Empowering Rural Producers:**
 - The Mahotsav provides a **platform for rural producers** to reach wider markets, thereby enabling them to sustain livelihoods and gain recognition for their craftsmanship.
 - It bridges the gap between **traditional skills and modern market demands**, ensuring that local artisans benefit from commercialization without losing cultural authenticity.
- **Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods:**
 - By connecting artisans and entrepreneurs with customers and buyers from urban areas and other regions, the exhibition encourages **financial self-reliance** and entrepreneurship in rural areas.
 - It emphasizes **sustainability**, promoting products made through eco-friendly and traditional methods.
- **Skill Development and Coordination:**
 - Collector Dasari suggested that NABARD could **coordinate with the National Academy of Construction** to provide **skill development programs** for rural communities, improving employability and productivity.
 - Skill development initiatives complement financial support and

market access, ensuring holistic rural empowerment.

- **Promotion of Geographical Indications (GI):**
 - The GI Pavilion educates visitors about **region-specific products** and their unique qualities.
 - GI recognition helps protect local crafts from imitation and enhances the **market value of authentic rural products**.

Policy Relevance:

- The Mahotsav aligns with government initiatives such as **Make in India, Start-Up India**, and schemes targeting **self-help groups, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**, and **rural entrepreneurship**.
- It demonstrates NABARD's role in **financial inclusion, rural development, and skill-based capacity building**.

Conclusion:

- The **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav** serves as more than a trade exhibition; it is a platform that integrates **tradition, skill, and market opportunities**.

Telangana to Launch TDR Policy for Lake Development

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: New Transferable Development Rights (TDR) policy

Why in News?

Telangana government plans to introduce a new Transferable Development Rights (TDR) policy to make land acquisition for lake development and infrastructure projects.

Introduction

- **Telangana government** is planning to introduce a **new Transferable Development Rights (TDR) policy** to make TDRs more attractive for property owners who lose land to **infrastructure and lake development projects**.
- The initiative aims to address hurdles in land acquisition and promote sustainable **urban infrastructure** while reducing the **financial burden on the State**.



(Image Source: The Hindu)

What is TDR?

- **Transferable Development Rights (TDRs)** are compensatory rights given to landowners in lieu of monetary compensation when their land is acquired for **public purposes** such as **road widening, water body conservation, or heritage protection**.
- The landowners can **sell or use** these rights to **construct additional built-up area** beyond permissible limits at another site.
- TDRs are governed by urban development authorities such as the **Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)** and **Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA)**.

Existing TDR Framework (2017 Policy)

As per the **2017 Telangana TDR Policy**, different levels of TDR were provided based on project type:

Project Type	Applicable TDR Value
Road widening projects	400%
Lake and drain development	200%
Heritage site conservation	100%

However, despite these provisions, **demand for TDRs remained low** for several years.

Need for Revision

1. **Rising Real Estate Prices: The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (RFCTLARR), 2013)** provides compensation much below the **urban market value**, discouraging landowners from surrendering land.
2. **Low Demand for TDRs:** The earlier policy failed to create a robust market for TDRs due to **limited use and low investor confidence**.
3. **Lake Development Hurdles:** Ownership disputes and **private properties inside lake zones** have stalled **beautification and conservation** projects.
4. **Private Land in FTL Zones:** Many properties fall within the **Full Tank Level (FTL)** or **buffer zones** of lakes, making them **non-saleable**. The affected owners are seeking ways to **monetize** their holdings through TDRs.

Proposed Policy Reforms

The proposed revised TDR policy aims to:

- **Increase TDR value** to make it more attractive to affected property owners.

- **Make TDRs mandatory** for builders seeking permission for constructing **beyond a specified number of floors** – thereby **creating consistent demand**.
- **Reduce government expenditure** on land acquisition by substituting monetary compensation with **development rights**.
- **Facilitate lake rejuvenation and infrastructure development** by resolving ownership and compensation disputes.

Institutional Mechanisms and Recent Developments

- **HYDRAA (Hyderabad Disaster Response & Asset Protection Agency)** is leading the charge in protecting and restoring urban lakes.
- Several lakes such as **Sunnam Cheruvu, Thammidi Kunta, and Nallagandla Pedda Cheruvu** have faced **legal challenges** due to private ownership claims.
- The previous government had encouraged **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)-based** lake beautification projects, but most were **stalled** due to land disputes.

Significance of the New Policy

1. **Financial Sustainability:** By promoting **TDR-based compensation**, the State can **avoid high cash payouts** for land acquisition.
2. **Environmental Restoration:** The policy can remove ownership-related bottlenecks and enable the **revival of urban lakes**, essential for flood control, biodiversity, and groundwater recharge.
3. **Boost to Urban Development:** Mandatory TDR purchase for **high-rise permissions** will stimulate demand and

regulate **urban vertical expansion**.

4. **Property Market Formalization:** Monetization through TDRs can bring **transparency** and **market linkage** for landowners in restricted zones.

Challenges Ahead

- **Balancing Supply and Demand:** If TDRs are over-issued, it could **flood the market**, reducing their value.
- **Legal Disputes:** Ongoing **court cases over lake land ownership** may delay implementation.
- **Ensuring Equity:** Urban poor or small landowners must also benefit, not just large builders.
- **Administrative Capacity:** Effective monitoring by GHMC, HMDA, and HYDRAA is needed to prevent misuse and ensure fairness.

Way Forward

- **Digitize TDR transactions** to ensure transparency.
- **Categorize TDRs by zones** (heritage, green, water body, road) to control market stability.
- **Encourage PPP and CSR models** for lake restoration with clear land demarcation.
- **Community participation** in lake maintenance to prevent encroachment post-restoration.

Conclusion

The proposed **Telangana TDR reform** is a strategic move to integrate **urban infrastructure growth** with **ecological restoration**.

Hyderabad Photographer Jeet Aman Wins Special Award for 'Leopard with Full Moon' Image

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Global Big Cats Photography Competition 2025

Why in News?

Hyderabad-based wildlife photographer Jeet Aman received a special award at the Global Big Cats Photography Competition 2025 for his image of a leopard with a full moon.

Detailed Explanation

- **Jeet Aman**, a renowned **wildlife and nature photographer** from Hyderabad, received a **special award** for his photograph titled **"Leopard with Full Moon"**.
- The award was presented by **Bhupender Yadav**, Union Minister for **Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- The competition aimed to **showcase global wildlife photography** that highlights the beauty and conservation of **big cats**.

About the Global Big Cats Photography Competition 2025

- The competition was jointly organised by:
 - International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)
 - Aarts Maestro
 - Uttar Pradesh Eco-Tourism Development Board
- **Objective:** The event sought to **promote conservation awareness** and **celebrate biodiversity** by encouraging photographers to capture **majestic big cats** in their natural habitats.

- **Participation:**
 - **Over 1,000 participants** submitted **1,400 images** globally.
 - Around **400 images** were shortlisted by the jury.
 - The **top 100** were further evaluated, and **8 final winners** were selected.
 - Jeet Aman's photograph ranked **6th among the top 8** globally.

Jeet Aman's Winning Entries

- **Leopard with Full Moon** – Captured in **Jawai Bera, Rajasthan**, showing a leopard silhouetted against a rising full moon behind rocky terrain.
- **Cheetah Coalition in Masai Mara, Kenya** – Showcased five sub-adult cheetahs coordinating in a hunting strategy.
- **Terai Tiger Attack in Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh** – Captured a rare moment of a tiger attacking a calf in the wild.
- The **"Leopard with Full Moon"** photograph earned him a **special award**, which included a **4-night stay at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**.

About Jeet Aman

- **Age:** 58 years
- **Profession:** Managing Director, **Enviri India Services Pvt. Ltd.**, Hyderabad (a **Global Capability Centre (GCC)** of **Enviri Corporation**, a global environmental solutions company).
- A **passionate wildlife explorer**, he has travelled extensively to **India's national parks** and **international locations** like **Masai Mara (Kenya)** and the **North Pole** (to photograph polar bears).
- He balances his corporate responsibilities with his **commitment to wildlife photography** and environmental awareness.

About the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)

- **Launched:** 2023
- **Initiative by:** Government of India under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- **Objective:** To conserve seven major big cats – Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah – across **97 range countries**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India.

Significance of the Award

- **Recognition of Indian Talent:** Showcases India's growing global presence in **wildlife photography and conservation storytelling**.
- **Conservation Awareness:** Reinforces the importance of **wildlife documentation** in shaping **public perception** and **policy support** for conservation.
- **Soft Power Diplomacy:** Demonstrates India's leadership in **wildlife conservation** through global initiatives like the IBCA.

Conclusion:

- The **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav** serves as more than a trade exhibition; it is a platform that integrates **tradition, skill, and market opportunities**.

Telangana HC directives on enhanced BC quota and old reservation rules

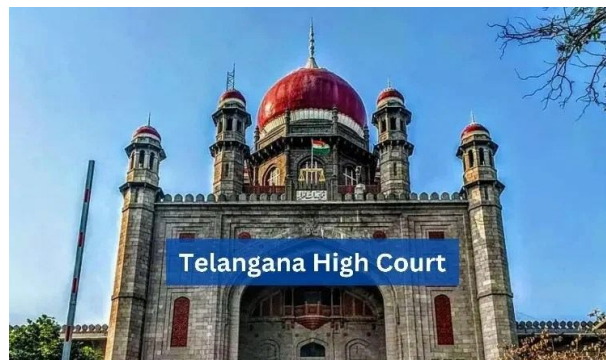
Source: New Indian Express

TGPSC Relevance: Polity and Governance

Context: BC Quota in Local Body Elections

Why in News?

Telangana High Court has stayed the implementation of enhanced BC quota in local body elections, directing polls to proceed under the previous reservation framework in line with the 50% ceiling rule.



(Image Source: A2Z Taxcorp LLP)

Introduction

- The Telangana High Court, in a significant interim order, has **stayed the implementation of Government Order (GO) No. 9, dated September 26, 2025**, which enhanced **Backward Classes (BC) reservation in local bodies from 23% to 42%**.
- The court directed that the **forthcoming local body elections** be conducted under the **earlier reservation framework**, in conformity with the **Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018**, and the **constitutional ceiling limit of 50% total reservation**.

Background of the Case:

- The **Government of Telangana** issued **GO 9** to increase the BC quota in local body institutions – **gram panchayats, mandal parishads, and zilla parishads** – from **23% to 42%**.
- The order was challenged in the High Court through a batch of **writ petitions**, alleging that it violated constitutional provisions and Supreme Court

directions on reservation limits.

- Petitioners argued that the move breached the **50% cap on total reservations**, which includes quotas for **Scheduled Castes (SCs)**, **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**, and **Backward Classes (BCs)** combined.

Key Observations of the High Court:

- A **Division Bench** comprising **Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh** and **Justice G.M. Mohiuddin** made several key observations:
- **Violation of the "Triple Test" Requirement:** The Court noted that the State Government failed to comply with the **"triple test"** established by the Supreme Court in cases such as *K. Krishna Murthy vs. Union of India (2010)* and *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali vs. State of Maharashtra (2021)*. The triple test requires:
 - (i) Empirical data collection on backwardness in the concerned local bodies,
 - (ii) Appointment of a dedicated commission to study and recommend reservation levels, and
 - (iii) Adherence to the **50% ceiling** on total reservation.
- The **One-Man Commission Report** relied upon by the Telangana Government was found to be **unpublished** and **not subjected to public objections**, thus violating both procedural and judicial mandates.
- **Statutory Violation under Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018:**
- Section **285A** of the Act explicitly restricts the total reservation for SCs, STs, and BCs to **50%**.
- Enhancing the BC quota to 42% would push the total reservation **well beyond**

this ceiling, making it **statutorily untenable**.

Election Process Not Interrupted:

- The Court, while **refusing to stall the election process**, directed the **Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC)** to conduct elections as per the **existing reservation pattern** prior to the issuance of GO 9.
- The **additional 17% BC-reserved areas** were to be **treated as general category seats** for the purpose of the upcoming elections.

Judicial Directions:

- The High Court **stayed the operation of GO 9** and ordered the TSEC to **proceed under the earlier reservation framework**.
- The **State Government** was given **four weeks** to file its **counter-affidavit**, and the **petitioners two weeks thereafter** to respond.
- The Court reiterated that **constitutional and statutory safeguards** must guide any future alteration of reservation percentages.

Constitutional and Legal Framework Involved:

- **Article 243D:** Provides for reservation of seats for SCs, STs, and women in Panchayats.
- **Article 243T:** Applies similar provisions to municipalities.
- **Supreme Court's 50% Ceiling Rule:** Originating from *Indra Sawhney vs. Union of India (1992)* and reaffirmed in subsequent judgments, the **aggregate reservation cannot exceed 50%** to maintain the balance between equality and affirmative action.
- **Section 285A, Telangana Panchayat Raj**

Act, 2018: Reinforces this constitutional ceiling within the state's statutory framework.

Significance of the Judgment:

- **Upholds Constitutional Balance:** The judgment reinforces the **balance between social justice and equality**, ensuring that political reservations do not breach constitutional limits.
- **Ensures Procedural Rigor:** The insistence on the **triple test** ensures that **empirical and evidence-based policymaking** guides reservation policy rather than arbitrary expansion.
- **Precedent for Other States:** This order serves as a **precedent for other states** considering enhancement of political reservations without adequate data and procedural compliance.
- **Checks Executive Overreach:** The ruling reaffirms the judiciary's role as a **constitutional guardian**, checking arbitrary or politically motivated policy actions.

Conclusion:

- The Telangana High Court's order to **halt the enhanced BC quota** in local body elections underscores the **constitutional sanctity of the 50% reservation limit** and the **importance of evidence-based policymaking** in affirmative action.

Telangana deploys tourist police units to enhance safety across heritage spots

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Tourist Police Units in Telangana

Why in News?

Telangana has deployed Tourist Police units across seven districts to enhance safety, manage heritage and religious sites, and provide a world-class visitor experience.



(Image Source: The Hindu)

Detailed Explanation

- In October 2025, the **Government of Telangana** launched **Tourist Police units** across major tourist destinations in the state, including heritage monuments, temples, and other prominent cultural sites.
- This initiative aims to **enhance visitor safety, ensure smooth tourist management, and provide a world-class travel experience.**

Objective of the Initiative

- Strengthen **safety and security** at high-footfall tourist locations.
- Provide **assistance and guidance to tourists**, both domestic and international.
- Improve the overall **tourist experience** through trained personnel who are **orientated in hospitality, local history, and cultural sensitivity.**
- Promote Telangana as a **safe, tourist-friendly destination**, enhancing the state's **tourism potential and global image.**

Training and Capacity Building

- 80 police personnel underwent specialised training from October 6 to 9, 2025, at the National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM), Hyderabad.
- The training program focused on:
 - Orientation and sensitisation of Tourist Police duties
 - Tourist interaction skills
 - Emergency response and crowd management
- Field visits to key tourist destinations, including Yadagirigutta, Bhongir Fort, Golconda Fort, Qutb Shahi Tombs, and Lumbini Park, were conducted on October 10-11 to provide practical exposure to on-ground tourist management.

Deployment of Tourist Police

- Trained officers have been stationed across seven districts of Telangana, including Hyderabad, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Vikarabad, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Mulugu, Nalgonda, and Nagarkurnool.

Key locations include:

District	Key Tourist Destinations
Hyderabad	Charminar, Golconda Fort, Salar Jung Museum
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	Yadadri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, Pochampally Rural Tourism Destination, Bhongir Fort, Sree Ramalingeshwara Swamy Temple (Keesaragutta)
Vikarabad	Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple, Ananthagiri Hills, Kotapalli Reservoir
Bhadradri	Sree Sita Rama Chandra

Kothagudem	Swamy Temple (Bhadrachalam), Parnasala, Kinnerasani Dam
Mulugu	Ramappa Temple and Lake, Sammakka Sarakka Temple (Medaram)
Nalgonda	Buddhavanam, North Vijayapuri Project (Peddavoora), Chaya Someswara Swamy Temple (Panagal), Sri Parvati Jadala Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple (Cheruvugattu)
Nagarkurnool	Amrabad, Somasila Temple

Significance of the Initiative

- **Enhanced Tourist Safety**
 - Ensures that high-footfall heritage sites and religious destinations are under constant vigilance.
 - Reduces risks of mismanagement, accidents, and security lapses.
- **Professional and Trained Workforce**
 - Officers are trained in discipline, punctuality, professionalism, and tourist handling protocols, improving visitor satisfaction.
- **Promotion of Heritage and Culture**
 - Tourist Police act as ambassadors of Telangana’s cultural heritage, guiding visitors and providing authentic information.
- **Support for Telangana Tourism Growth**
 - Improved safety and management is expected to boost tourism footfall, strengthen local economies, and support sustainable tourism practices.
- **World-Class Visitor Experience**
- Through structured deployment and training, the initiative aims to position Telangana as a globally recognized

tourist-friendly state.

Implementation Highlights

- **Formal Inauguration:** The Tourist Police units were formally inaugurated on **September 27, 2025**, coinciding with **World Tourism Day** during the **Telangana Tourism Conclave 2025**.
- **Field-Oriented Training:** Combines classroom training with **hands-on field experience** at key monuments and heritage sites.
- **District-Wise Coverage:** Ensures **balanced deployment** across heritage, religious, and ecotourism destinations.

Conclusion

- The deployment of **Tourist Police units** across Telangana represents a **strategic effort to enhance visitor safety, manage tourism effectively, and promote the state's cultural and heritage assets**.

Devi Awards Make Comeback in Hyderabad After 9 Years

Source: New Indian Express

TGPSC Relevance: Awards and Honours

Context: Devi Awards

Why in News?

The Devi Awards 2025 in Hyderabad celebrated ten exceptional women from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh who exemplify courage, creativity, and social transformation across diverse fields.

Introduction

- The **Devi Awards**, instituted by *The New Indian Express* in 2014, once again celebrated women's leadership and transformative achievements as they

returned to **Hyderabad after nine years**.

- The event, held at **ITC Kakatiya, Begumpet**, honoured ten women changemakers from **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh** who have redefined excellence in fields ranging from science and art to law, entrepreneurship, and social reform.



(Image Source: Indian Express)

About the Devi Awards

- **Instituted:** 2014 by *The New Indian Express*
- **Objective:** To honour women who have gone beyond personal and professional boundaries to create positive change in society.
- **Total Editions:** 34 editions so far
- **Total Awardees:** 405 women across India

Theme 2025: Power of Change

- The 2025 edition celebrated women who exemplify **courage, creativity, and conviction**—the three pillars of transformative leadership.
- The awardees' work spanned multiple domains including **science, genomics, fashion, art, and technology**, symbolizing India's evolving socio-cultural and scientific landscape.

Key Awardees and Their Contributions

Name	Field	Contribution
Saraswathi Malluvalasa	Rural Development	Founder of <i>Millets Sisters Network</i> , empowering women and promoting sustainable livelihoods in Andhra Pradesh through millet-based initiatives.
Shreya Paropkari	Law & Animal Rights	Legal expert advancing animal protection law; a leading voice in strengthening India's animal welfare legislation.
Anjani Reddy	Art & Culture	Celebrated painter who has shaped the contours of contemporary Indian art.
Anu Acharya	Science & Entrepreneurship	Visionary entrepreneur and founder of <i>Mapmygenome</i> ; instrumental in placing Indian genomics on

		the global map.
Dr Rashna Bhandari	Science & Research	Cellular biochemist leading cutting-edge work at the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) .
Dr Palukuri Lakshmi	Medicine	First woman to head the Department of Burns, Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery at Osmania Medical College.
Elahe Hiptoola	Film & Culture	Film producer and creative catalyst fostering Hyderabad's creative and cinematic ecosystem.
Mrunalini Rao	Fashion & Design	NIFT gold medallist redefining Indian fashion with a balance of modernity and tradition.
Talluri Pallavi	Technology & Innovation	Young innovator

		leveraging Artificial Intelligence for real-world problem-solving.
Rekha Lahoti	Education & Culture	CEO of Kalakriti India ; Founder of <i>Krishmakriti Foundation</i> and <i>Franco-Indian Education Trust</i> , promoting cultural and educational exchange.

Significance of the Awards

- **Women Empowerment:** Highlights women-led transformation in diverse sectors.
- **Encouragement of Innovation:** Recognizes emerging fields such as AI and genomics, linking women's empowerment with technology.
- **Cultural Impact:** Promotes inclusivity and acknowledges creative contributions to art, education, and public service.
- **Continuity of Legacy:** The awards, now in their 34th edition, represent a decade-long journey of celebrating women who embody the spirit of *Devi*—**fierce, fearless, and transformative**.

Conclusion

The return of the **Devi Awards** to Hyderabad marks not just a celebration of individual achievement but a reaffirmation of **India's collective commitment to gender justice, creativity, and social transformation**.

Panels to Monitor 24,000+ State-Run Schools in Telangana

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Monitoring government and local body school

Why in News?

Telangana has formed inspection panels to regularly monitor over 24,000 government and local body schools for academic and administrative performance.

Introduction

- The Telangana School Education Department has announced the formation of **panel inspection teams** to monitor the functioning of over **24,146 government and local body schools** across the state.
- The initiative aims to ensure accountability, improve educational standards, and strengthen administrative oversight in the school education system.

Key Details

- **Coverage:** The panels will monitor a total of **24,146 schools**, comprising:
 - **16,381 primary schools**
 - **3,094 upper primary schools**
 - **4,671 high schools**
- **Inspection Frequency:** Each team will inspect **100 primary and upper primary schools** and **50 high schools** every quarter.
- **Team Composition:**
 - **Primary & Upper Primary Schools:** 3 members: a *Primary School Headmaster* as **Nodal Officer**, and two *Secondary Grade Teachers*.
 - **High Schools:** 9 members: a *Gazetted*

Headmaster as Nodal Officer, seven Subject Teachers, and one Physical Education School Assistant.

- **Tenure:** Each panel will serve for **one academic year**, functioning as a **full-time inspection team**.

Objectives of the Initiative

- **Academic Monitoring:** To ensure completion of syllabus, lesson planning, assessments, and co-curricular activities.
- **Administrative Oversight:** To evaluate the functioning of libraries, laboratories, and physical education programmes.
- **Midday Meal Supervision:** To verify the implementation and quality of the Midday Meal Scheme in schools.
- **Data-Driven Feedback:** Teams will submit weekly reports to the District Education Officer (DEO) and upload findings to the department's **online portal** for transparency and data-based review.

Implementation Mechanism

- **Full-Time Deputation:** Teachers assigned to the inspection panels will serve full-time in this role. The DEO will ensure regular teaching continues in their absence.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Inspections will follow standardised procedures under **specific guidelines** defining roles and responsibilities of each member.

Significance

- **Improves Accountability:** Establishes a structured mechanism for **regular supervision and quality assurance** in government schools.
- **Strengthens Governance:** Enhances

administrative efficiency and **data-based decision-making** within the education department.

- **Supports Policy Implementation:** Ensures timely and effective **implementation of educational schemes** like the Midday Meal Programme.

Conclusion

- The Telangana government's decision to institutionalize school inspection panels reflects a proactive step toward **systematic monitoring, quality education, and transparent governance** in the school sector.

CSIR-NGRI to set up two new research facilities

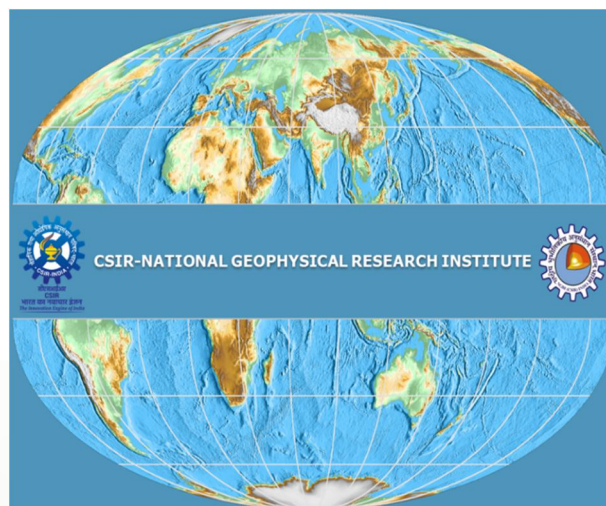
Source: New Indian Express

TGPSG Relevance: Governance

Context: New Research Facilities in Telangana

Why in News?

CSIR-NGRI announced two new facilities – the Laser Interferometer Seismological Observatory (LISO) and the Centre for Geothermal Energy Research (CGER).



(Image Source: www.ngri.res.in)

Introduction

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad, announced the establishment of two cutting-edge facilities – the **Laser Interferometer Seismological Observatory (LISO)** and the **Centre for Geothermal Energy Research (CGER)** – to enhance India’s research capacity in advanced earth science domains.

About CSIR-NGRI

- Full Name:** CSIR–National Geophysical Research Institute.
- Established:** 1961, Hyderabad.
- Parent Body:** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology.
- Mandate:** Conducts multidisciplinary research in *earth sciences*, including *seismology, geodynamics, groundwater studies, mineral exploration, and geothermal energy*.

New Facilities Announced

1. Laser Interferometer Seismological Observatory (LISO)

- Purpose:** To develop ultra-sensitive instruments capable of detecting the tiniest seismic vibrations using laser interferometry.
- Significance:**
- Will improve India’s capability in **earthquake detection and monitoring**.
- Supports real-time **seismic hazard assessment** in regions like the **Himalayas**, prone to high tectonic activity.
- Helps integrate India’s seismic data network with global earthquake monitoring systems.

2. Centre for Geothermal Energy Research (CGER)

- Objective:** To promote research and technology development in **geothermal energy** – a clean and renewable energy source derived from Earth’s internal heat.
- Focus Areas:**
- Exploration of **geothermal hotspots** across India.
- Research on **sustainable energy extraction** methods.
- Contribute to India’s *renewable energy transition and energy security goals*.

Strategic Importance

- The initiative directly contributes to two of the **ten visionary goals** outlined by **CSIR** for advancing India’s scientific and technological frontiers.
- These facilities will help position India among the global leaders in **solid earth studies, seismic research, and renewable energy exploration**.
- They strengthen the link between **scientific research** and **national resilience**, especially in disaster management and energy innovation.

Other Highlights from the Foundation Day Event

- CSIR-NGRI’s Legacy:** Former Director **V.P. Dimri** emphasized its pioneering work in:
- Earthquake hazard assessment** across the Himalayas.
- Groundwater mapping** for sustainable resource use.
- Mineral and resource exploration** aiding industrial growth.
- Recognition:** Executive Director **Harsh Gupta** lauded the institute’s publication of the **Encyclopaedia of Solid Earth Geophysics**, a landmark in global earth science literature.

- **Applied Contribution:** The scientific team's role in the **Srisailem Left Bank Canal tunnel rescue** showcased NGRI's expertise in *geophysical emergency operations*.

Significance for India

- Enhances **disaster preparedness** and **earthquake resilience**.
- Advances **clean energy research** through geothermal initiatives.
- Strengthens India's global scientific collaborations in geophysics.
- Aligns with national missions such as the **National Energy Transition Plan** and **Disaster Risk Reduction Framework**.

Telangana governor hails state government's Jeevandan programme

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Health Governance

Context: Jeevandan organ donation programme

Why in News?

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma praised the State's *Jeevandan* organ donation programme as a model initiative in promoting organ donation and life-saving healthcare.

Introduction

- The Telangana Governor **Jishnu Dev Varma** recently praised the State government's "**Jeevandan**" **organ donation programme**, describing it as a **model initiative** that has positioned Telangana among India's leaders in **organ donation and transplantation**.
- Speaking at an event celebrating **300**

kidney transplants at Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City, the Governor highlighted the state's achievements and ongoing efforts to expand life-saving healthcare infrastructure.

About the Jeevandan Programme

- **Launched:** 2013
- **Implemented by:** Department of Health, Medical & Family Welfare, Government of Telangana
- **Objective:** To promote **cadaver (deceased donor) organ donation** and facilitate a transparent, efficient, and ethical system for organ transplantation.
- **Nodal Agency:** **Jeevandan - Cadaver Transplantation Programme**, under the **Telangana State Organ Transplant Authority (TSOTA)**.
- The programme aims to bridge the gap between the **demand and supply of organs**, encourage **public awareness** on organ donation, and ensure fair allocation through an **online centralized system**.

Achievements and Statistics

1. National Leader in Organ Donation

- In **2022**, Telangana recorded **194 deceased organ donors**, the **highest in India**.
- From these donations, **263 kidney transplants** and several heart, liver, and lung transplants were performed.
- On average, the state performs:
- **~500 living donor kidney transplants** per year
- **~250-300 deceased donor kidney transplants** per year

2. Institutional Network

- The programme works in close coordination with both **government and private hospitals**, including leading

transplant centres in Hyderabad such as NIMS, Osmania General Hospital, Yashoda Hospitals, and Apollo Hospitals.

- Telangana operates **102 government dialysis centres**, with plans to ensure one dialysis facility every **20–25 km**, enhancing accessibility for patients with chronic kidney disease.

3. Transparent Online Allocation

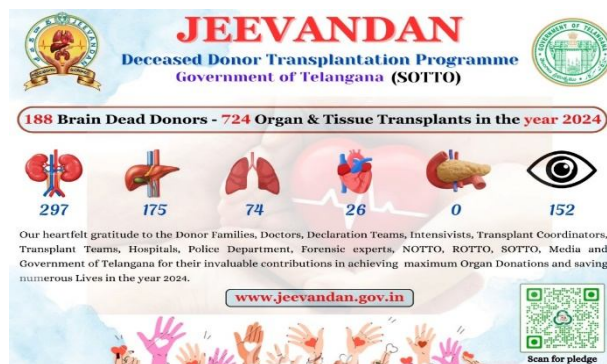
- Jeevandan maintains a **centralized digital registry** for organ donation and allocation.
- The allocation process is based on **medical urgency, compatibility, and waiting list order**, ensuring transparency and fairness.

Key Features of the Programme

Feature	Description
Centralized Coordination	State-level coordination committee oversees organ donation and transplantation processes.
Public Awareness Campaigns	Extensive outreach through hospitals, NGOs, and media to encourage voluntary pledging.
Training and Capacity Building	Specialized training for transplant coordinators, ICU staff, and counselors.
Legal and Ethical Oversight	Operates under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994 and its amendments.
Partnership Model	Collaboration with private hospitals, NGOs, and faith-based organizations to enhance organ donation rates.

Significance of Jeevandan

- **Humanitarian Impact:** Saves hundreds of lives annually through timely organ transplants, providing a second chance to patients with end-stage organ failure.
- **Public Health Model:** Demonstrates effective state-led coordination in a sensitive healthcare domain requiring both medical and ethical governance.
- **Transparency and Trust:** The online, real-time registry and allocation mechanism have built **public confidence** in the fairness of organ distribution.
- **Replication Potential:** The Jeevandan model has been **recognized nationally** and is being studied for replication in other states.



(Image Source: jeevandan.gov.in)

Challenges in Organ Donation in India

- Despite progress, India continues to face a **shortage of organ donors**:

Issue	Impact
Low Awareness	Many families decline organ donation due to lack of information or cultural hesitation.
Legal and Ethical Concerns	Misuse or trafficking concerns deter trust in the system.
Infrastructure Gaps	Limited ICU and transplant facilities in smaller districts hinder timely organ retrieval and preservation.

Coordination Issues	Delays in matching donors and recipients due to fragmented hospital coordination.
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National Context: Organ Donation Framework

At the national level, organ donation is coordinated by:

- **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)** - Central authority for policy and coordination.
- **State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisations (SOTTOs)** - State-level implementation agencies (like Jeevandan).
- **Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisations (ROTTOs)** - Regional coordination bodies.
- **Legal Framework:**
- Governed by the **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994**, amended in 2011 and 2014.
- Allows organ donation after **brain death certification** and mandates authorization by family consent.

Way Forward

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Strengthen education in schools, workplaces, and religious institutions to promote voluntary organ pledging.
- **Expand Infrastructure:** Increase the number of **certified transplant and retrieval centres** in district hospitals.
- **Digital Integration:** Link state databases with NOTTO's **national registry** for real-time coordination.
- **Family Counselling Units:** Establish dedicated units in ICUs to facilitate organ donation consent.
- **Recognition of Donor Families:** Publicly

honour donor families to encourage a culture of altruism.

Conclusion

- The **Jeevandan Programme** exemplifies how a **state-led, ethically governed, and medically robust framework** can transform organ donation into a sustainable healthcare model.

Brilliant Trophy Juniors Online Chess Tournament

Source: Telangana Today

TGPSC Relevance: Awards and Honours

Context: Brilliant Trophy Juniors Online Chess Tournament

Why in News?

Sricharan Tej of Care Model High School won the Brilliant Trophy Juniors online chess tournament, highlighting growing participation in youth online chess competitions in India.



(Image Source: Telangana Today)

Introduction

- The **Brilliant Trophy Juniors online chess tournament** is a platform for young chess players to showcase their talent in a competitive environment.
- The recent edition witnessed participants from various age categories, promoting early development of strategic thinking and analytical skills

among children.

Brilliant Trophy Juniors Online Chess Tournament

- A **national-level online chess competition** for junior players in India.
- Provides a platform for young talents to **showcase strategic thinking and analytical skills**.
- Encourages participation across **various age categories**, from under-7 to under-15.

Format & Scoring:

- Conducted online over **12 rounds**.
- **Standard scoring system**: 1 point for a win, 0.5 for a draw, 0 for a loss.
- Separate categories for **boys and girls** to promote gender equality.

Significance:

- Encourages **cognitive development, problem-solving, and critical thinking** among children.
- Helps in **identifying and nurturing emerging chess talent** at state and national levels.
- Promotes **mind sports** and makes chess accessible through online platforms.
- Integrates **extracurricular skill development** with education, fostering discipline and sportsmanship.

Key Highlights:

- **Top Winners (Juniors Category):**
- **Champion:** Sricharan Tej - 11 points from 12 rounds
- **Runner-up:** Leeladityavardhan - 10 points
- **Third Place:** P. Harshit - 9 points
- **Top 10 Junior Placings:** K. Sricharan Tej , Leeladityavardhan , P. Harshit , S. Harivardhan , T. Hanshit , Medhansh , P. Lakshith , Yeshwin , Teja Anusha , Vihaan Rachuri

Category-wise Winners:

Boys:

Under-15: 1. K. Harshavarshan, 2. P. Nikhil
 Under-13: 1. G. Ranay Reddy, 2. K. Kulakarni
 Under-11: 1. Manas Arun Sritej, 2. Laxmi Rishaank
 Under-9: 1. A. Shanmukha Vasudeva, 2. Nihal Naga Saitej
 Under-7: 1. Keshav Garg, 2. Ashrit Padhy

Girls:

Under-13: 1. Jaya Ahalya, 2. Varshitha
 Under-11: 1. Akanksha S. Biradar, 2. R. Manaswini
 Under-9: 1. Sree Sivاتمika, 2. R. Vishalini

Significance:

- Encourages **strategic thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills** among children
- Provides a platform for **emerging chess talent** at state and national levels
- Promotes **gender equality in sports**, with separate categories for boys and girls
- Highlights the **rise of online chess platforms**, improving accessibility for participants across regions

Chess in Telangana & India

- Telangana has produced notable chess players including **Grandmaster Harika Dronavalli** from Guntur, who has represented India internationally.
- India is a **chess powerhouse**, producing 77+ Grandmasters, with **Viswanathan Anand** being the most iconic figure.
- Chess is recognized under the **Khelo India program**, and its inclusion in schools enhances cognitive development.
- Online tournaments, especially post-

COVID, have increased youth participation and talent scouting.

Conclusion:

- The **Brilliant Trophy Juniors online chess tournament** exemplifies the growing importance of **mind sports in India**. By providing young players like **Sricharan Tej** an opportunity to excel, it contributes to **skill development, holistic education, and competitive excellence**, while promoting chess as an inclusive and strategic sport.

Hyderabad man becomes first Indian to scale all accessible 8,000-metre peaks

Source: Times of India

TGPSC Relevance: Sports

Context: First Indian to scale all accessible 8,000-metre peaks

Why in News?

Bharath Thammineni, a mountaineer from Hyderabad, became the first Indian to summit all nine 8,000-metre peaks accessible to Indian climbers.

Introduction

- Bharath Thammineni, a mountaineer from **Hyderabad**, etched his name in history by becoming the **first Indian to successfully summit all nine of the world’s 8,000-metre peaks currently accessible to Indian climbers**.
- On **October 14, 2025**, he reached the summit of **Cho Oyu (8,201 metres)**, the sixth-highest peak globally, marking the completion of a **decade-long quest** that captured the imagination of India’s adventure sports community.
- Chronology of Summits:** Bharath’s

remarkable mountaineering journey spans multiple high-altitude expeditions:

Mountain	Height	Year of Summit	Significance
Mount Everest	8,848 m	2017	First Indian-led expedition of the season, notable for surviving the 2015 Nepal earthquake aftermath.
Kangchenjunga	8,586 m	2022	Third-highest mountain in the world.
Lhotse	8,516 m	2019	Known for its steep climbs and proximity to Everest.
Makalu	8,463 m	2023	Fifth-highest peak, technically challenging.
Dhaulagiri	8,167	2025	Seventh-

	m		highest peak, completed recently.
Manaslu	8,163 m	2018	Eighth-highest peak, notable for avalanche risks.
Annapurna I	8,091 m	2022	Tenth-highest peak; considered one of the deadliest peaks historically.
Shishapangma	8,012 m	2024	Fourteenth-highest peak, located in Tibet.
Cho Oyu	8,201 m	2025	Sixth-highest peak, completing Bharath's 8,000-metre goal.

Challenges and Leadership:

- Bharath's expeditions tested **perseverance, resilience, and leadership skills**. During his Everest expedition in 2017, he led the **first team of the season**, despite having survived the devastating

Nepal earthquake in 2015 during a previous attempt.

- Each climb demanded extreme **physical endurance, mental fortitude, and strategic planning** to navigate high-altitude risks, including avalanches, crevasses, and severe weather conditions.

Contribution to Adventure Sports:



- Beyond personal achievements, Bharath actively promotes **sustainable climbing practices** and encourages **youth participation in outdoor sports**. Some notable initiatives include:
- Guiding **India's youngest climber (16 years old)** to complete the **Seven Summits Challenge**.
- Assisting the **first blind Indian girl** to successfully summit **Mount Everest** in April 2025.

Significance:

- **Adventure and Sports:** Bharath's feat highlights India's growing presence in **high-altitude mountaineering** and adventure sports.
- **Leadership and Mentorship:** His efforts to mentor young climbers and differently-abled mountaineers demonstrate the **integration of sports with social impact**.
- **Sustainability in Mountaineering:** Advocating **eco-friendly climbing practices** aligns with global efforts to

preserve fragile Himalayan ecosystems.

Prominent Peaks in Telangana

- **Doli Gutta - 965 m** Located on the border of Mulugu district (Telangana) and Bijapur district (Chhattisgarh), Doli Gutta is Telangana's highest peak. Its prominence increased following the transfer of certain mandals from Khammam district to Andhra Pradesh in 2014.
- **Bedam Gutta - 856 m** Situated near the Godavari River, Bedam Gutta is notable for its elevation and prominence.
- **Pātāl Toka - 826 m** Recognized for its significant prominence, making it a notable feature in the region's topography.
- **Pedda Kurva - 809 m** Located in the Nallamala Hills, Pedda Kurva is among the higher elevations in the state.
- **Kodijutta Gutta - 801 m** Found near the Godavari River, this peak is notable for its elevation and prominence.
- **Pothathoka Kurva - 799 m** Recognized for its significant prominence in the region's topography.
- **Mallatirtamma Gutta - 768 m** Located near the Godavari River, Mallatirtamma Gutta is among the higher elevations in the state.
- **Posūn Gutta - 761 m** Situated near the Godavari River, Posūn Gutta is notable for its elevation and prominence.
- **Yerra Dari - 757 m** Recognized for its significant prominence, making it a notable feature in the region's topography.
- **Vāni Konda - 751 m** Located near the Godavari River, Vāni Konda is among the higher elevations in the state.

Notable Mountaineering Achievements

from Telangana

- **Bharath Thammineni:** A mountaineer from Hyderabad, Bharath became the first Indian to scale all nine of the world's currently accessible 8,000-meter peaks. His summits include Mount Everest (2017), Kangchenjunga (2022), Lhotse (2019), Makalu (2023), Dhaulagiri (2025), Manaslu (2018), Annapurna I (2022), Shishapangma (2024), and Cho Oyu (2025).
- **Bhukya Yashwanth:** A young mountaineer from Telangana, Yashwanth successfully scaled Phawngpui (Blue Mountain), the highest peak in Mizoram at 2,157 meters, as part of his national campaign "Har Shikhar Par Tiranga," aiming to hoist the Indian flag atop high peaks across India.

Conclusion:

- Bharath Thammineni's historic accomplishment of conquering all nine accessible 8,000-metre peaks **inspires a new generation of Indian adventurers** and reinforces the values of **perseverance, leadership, and sustainable practices** in high-altitude mountaineering.
- His journey underscores the **convergence of personal excellence and social contribution** in Indian adventure sports.

Supreme Court dismisses Telangana's plea against HC order

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Polity and Governance

Context: OBC reservation in local body elections

Why in News?

The Supreme Court of India dismissed Telangana's appeal challenging the High Court order that stayed the State's decision to enhance OBC reservation to 42% in local body elections.



(Image Source: The Hindu)

Introduction

- The Supreme Court of India (SC) recently dismissed the Telangana government's appeal challenging a State High Court order that had stayed the enhancement of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation in municipalities and panchayats to 42%.
- This issue revolves around the constitutional ceiling on reservations and its application to local self-government institutions.

Background:

- Telangana had issued Government Orders (GOs) to increase OBC reservation in local bodies from the existing level to 42%, alongside 15% for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 10% for Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- The move was intended to empower marginalized communities and ensure greater representation in local governance.
- The State High Court, however, stayed these GOs, observing that the total reservation would rise to 67%, exceeding

the 50% ceiling established by the Supreme Court in prior rulings.

- Importantly, the High Court did not stay the elections themselves, and the State Election Commission was directed to conduct polls while capping reservations at 50%.

Supreme Court Observations:

- A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta declined to interfere with the High Court's interim order.
- The SC emphasized adherence to Constitution Bench rulings fixing a 50% ceiling on reservations, stating that it cannot take a view inconsistent with established law.
- The Court allowed local body elections to proceed without the proposed hike in OBC quotas.
- The SC questioned the timing of the government's decision, noting that the reservation hike was introduced after the election notification and that formal assent for the Bill was pending.

Arguments by Telangana Government:

- The State argued that the reservation enhancement was a policy decision aimed at empowering marginalized sections.
- Senior counsel cited the 1992 **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India** judgment to contend that the 50% ceiling could be breached in exceptional circumstances.
- The government also referred to the concept of "deemed assent" from the Tamil Nadu Governor case, arguing that delay in Governor's approval should not impede the policy.
- Emphasized that extraordinary local situations might require flexibility in applying the 50% ceiling due to India's

diversity and unique regional conditions.

Arguments by Opposing Party:

- Senior counsel Gopal Sankaranarayanan highlighted that the High Court's interim stay followed well-established constitutional principles, citing **Vikas Kishanrao Gawali (2021)**, which reaffirmed the 50% limit.
- The State's GOs had lapsed on August 30, making subsequent orders legally untenable.

Key Legal Principles Involved:

- **50% Reservation Ceiling:**
- Established by the Constitution Bench and reinforced in multiple judgments to prevent excessive fragmentation of merit-based public representation.
- **Triple Test (K. Krishna Murthy v. Union of India, 2010):**
- Identification of backwardness
- Determination of inadequate representation
- Ensuring administrative efficiency
- Must be followed before extending reservation in local bodies.
- **Exceptional Circumstances Clause:**
- While 50% is a general rule, courts have recognized that certain extraordinary situations might justify exceeding the ceiling, but such exceptions require robust justification.

Implications:

- This ruling reinforces the Supreme Court's commitment to the 50% ceiling on reservations in local bodies.
- States must ensure that reservation policies comply with the legal framework and follow the triple test before implementation.

- While aiming for social justice through increased representation, states must balance it with constitutional limits and administrative feasibility.
- The judgment also signals judicial caution against retrospective or belated policy changes that may conflict with election timelines.

Current Status:

- Telangana local body elections are scheduled for October 23 and 27, 2025, to proceed with reservations capped at 50%.
- The larger question of whether the 50% ceiling can be flexibly interpreted remains pending, and the State may approach the judiciary in the future for clarity.

Bathymetric survey to measure the depth of lakes as part of HMDA Master Plan

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Water sources

Context: Bathymetric Survey- HMDA

Why in News?

HMDA plans a bathymetric survey of lakes and water bodies to create an accurate base map for urban planning and water management in Telangana.



(Image Source: The Hindu)

Introduction

- The **Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA)** is set to undertake a **bathymetric survey** of lakes and water bodies as part of its **Master Plan** exercise.
- The survey will scientifically measure the depth and underwater terrain of water bodies to improve the accuracy of urban planning, water management, and land-use decisions.

Key Features of the Initiative:

- **Bathymetric Survey Methodology:**
 - A **bathymetric survey** involves measuring the depth and underwater terrain of lakes using **echo-sounding (sonar) devices**.
 - This helps distinguish **actual water bodies** from **stagnant water**, ensuring precise mapping of tanks, lakes, and surplus channels.

Objectives of the Survey:

- **Accurate Water Body Identification:** Determine the **full tank levels** of each water body at multiple locations.
- **Urban Planning Aid:** Assist planning officials to differentiate between permanent water bodies and temporary or stagnant water, avoiding errors in previous master plans.
- **Support Base Map Preparation:** Create a **scientifically accurate base map** for HMDA's extended area of **11,500 square kilometres**, including the **Future City Development Authority (FCDA - 762 sq km)** and the **Yadadri Temple Development Authority (YTDA - 98 sq km)**.

Technological Integration:

- For the **2,053 sq km Telangana Core**

Urban Region (TCUR), a **three-dimensional map** will be prepared using **Digital Elevation Model (DEM)**.

- For the remaining areas, a **two-dimensional map** will be created using **Digital Surface Model (DSM)** via **LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)** technology.
- This time, **lat-long coordinates** will form the primary basis for mapping, moving away from traditional survey numbers, though they may be superimposed.

Significance for Planning and Development:

- **Prevent Planning Errors:** Earlier master plans mistakenly recorded stagnant water as permanent water bodies, leading to complications. The survey will reduce such discrepancies.
- **Water Resource Management:** Helps in better management of lakes, surplus channels, and stormwater infrastructure.
- **Facilitates Development Authorities:** FCDA and YTDA can prepare their **own master plans** based on the accurate base map provided by HMDA.
- **Scientific Urban Governance:** Ensures **evidence-based decision-making** and reduces environmental and administrative controversies.
- **Timeline and Implementation:**
 - The **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the bathymetric survey will be issued soon.
 - LiDAR surveys for the TCUR region are expected between **December 2025 and June 2026**.

Significance and Implications:

- **Enhanced Accuracy in Urban Planning:** Accurate identification of water bodies ensures **proper zoning, land use, and flood management** in Hyderabad and surrounding areas.

- **Environmental Management:** Identifying true water bodies helps in **conservation, pollution control, and ecological planning**, maintaining the hydrological balance.
- **Integration of Advanced Technology:** Use of **DEM, DSM, LiDAR, and lat-long coordinates** demonstrates the shift towards **technology-driven urban governance** in Indian cities.
- **Supporting Future Development:** Provides a reliable base for **FCDA and YTDA master plans**, enabling well-informed **infrastructure and cultural development projects**, including urban expansion and temple town planning.

Conclusion:

- The **bathymetric survey** by HMDA represents a **scientific and technology-driven approach to urban planning**, ensuring accurate water body mapping, better environmental management, and improved infrastructure development.

FSSAI Bans Misleading Sugar-Based ORS Drinks After Hyderabad Paediatrician's 8-Year Campaign

Source: *The New Indian Express*

TGPSC Relevance: Public Health, Regulatory Ethics, Governance Reforms, Telangana in National Policy

Context Misleading Sugar-Based ORS Drinks

Why in News

After an **eight-year-long campaign** by Dr. Sivaranjani Santosh, a Hyderabad-based paediatrician, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has issued a **landmark nationwide ban** on the misuse of the

term **"ORS" (Oral Rehydration Solution)** for sugar-based commercial drinks that do not conform to **World Health Organization (WHO)** standards.



Source: Telangana today

The Health Crisis Behind the Ban

- **Fake ORS Products:** For years, "fruit-flavoured ORS" drinks were sold in pharmacies, hospitals, and supermarkets, misleading parents.
- **Scientific Violation:** These products contained **9-10 times more sugar** than the WHO's prescribed ORS formula – turning a life-saving remedy into a health hazard.
- **Child Mortality Link:** In India, **13 out of every 100 under-five deaths** are linked to diarrhoea. The misuse of such drinks worsened dehydration and, in extreme cases, could lead to death.

The Long Fight for Accountability

- **2017-2020:** Dr. Sivaranjani began raising awareness after noticing deteriorating outcomes among children treated with such products.
- **2021-2022:** She wrote to **CDSO, FSSAI, and the Health Ministry** – each passing the issue between departments.
- **2024:** Filed a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)**, gaining support from the **Endocrine Society of India** and the **Women Paediatricians Forum**.

- **2025:** After fresh evidence and pressure from doctors and parents – and in the wake of India’s cough syrup controversy – FSSAI issued a decisive ban.

Ethical and Governance Dimensions

- The case highlights **systemic loopholes** in India’s regulatory enforcement and the **influence of commercial lobbies** in the healthcare sector.
- Dr. Sivaranjani’s efforts demonstrate how **citizen ethics**, combined with professional responsibility, can overcome bureaucratic inertia.
- The ban reaffirms India’s commitment to **ethical medical marketing, public safety, and evidence-based regulation.**

Policy & Administrative Impact

- **Public Health Protection:** Ensures that only **scientifically validated ORS products** are sold under the medical label.
- **Regulatory Reform:** Sets a precedent for **truthful labelling and consumer protection**, similar to bans on misleading “immunity boosters” and “energy tonics.”
- **Global Alignment:** Brings India’s standards in line with **WHO and Codex Alimentarius** guidelines on health claims.
- **State Role:** Telangana’s proactive medical community has once again influenced **national-level regulation**, reinforcing the state’s reputation for **ethical healthcare advocacy.**

The Way Forward

- **Monitoring & Compliance:** FSSAI must ensure old stocks are not rebranded as ORS.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Need for

regional-language outreach (Telugu, Hindi, Tamil) on reading product labels and understanding dehydration management.

- **Medical Community Role:** Professional bodies like the **Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP)** must avoid conflicts of interest with corporate sponsors.

Telangana Police Housing Corporation Renamed as Telangana Police Housing Infratech and Consultancy Services Corporation (TGPICS)

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance, Public Sector Reforms

Context: Infrastructure Development

Why in News

The Telangana Police Housing Corporation Limited (TPHCL) has been officially renamed as the Telangana Police Housing Infratech and Consultancy Services Corporation Limited (TGPICS) with effect from October 18, 2025.

Source: The New Indian Express



Source: ETV Bharat

Highlights

Official Approval and New Identity:

- The rebranding was notified through government orders issued on **October 18, 2025**.
- The corporation will now operate under the new title **TGPICS**, emphasising its *infra and consultancy capabilities*.

Expanded Functional Mandate:

- Earlier, the Corporation focused on **police quarters, office buildings, and training centers**.
- Now, it offers wide-ranging **consultancy and engineering services**, including:
 - Technology-based project design and management
 - Infrastructure expansion and modernisation
 - Sports and recreational facility construction
 - Civil engineering, logistics, and allied services
 - Business process optimisation and technical advice

Strategic Purpose:

- The renaming aligns with the Telangana Government's focus on transforming state enterprises into multi-service technical hubs, improving efficiency and revenue generation through consultancy-based operations.

Formation Year of Telangana Police Housing Corporation

- Established in 2014, after bifurcation from the Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation.
- Parent Department- Functions under the Telangana Home Department.

Significance of the Rebranding

Functional Diversification

- Shifts from a **construction-only agency**

to a **technical consultancy and project management organisation**.

- Enables participation in non-police projects – such as **sports infrastructure, smart policing facilities, and district-level public buildings**.

Economic and Administrative Benefits

- Strengthens the corporation's **financial sustainability** through consultancy fees and external contracts.
- Encourages **in-house engineering expertise**, reducing reliance on private consultancies.
- Improves **quality control** and ensures **timely completion** of infrastructure projects.

Alignment with Telangana's Infrastructure Vision

- Complements flagship programmes like:
 - **Mission Bhagiratha** (rural water supply)
 - **Mission Kakatiya** (lake rejuvenation)
 - **2BHK Housing Scheme** (for the poor)
- Reflects the broader model of **smart governance and integrated public infrastructure delivery**.

Capacity Building for Modernisation

- By combining **housing, engineering, and consultancy**, TGPICS can provide **design-to-delivery solutions** for government departments, sports complexes, and urban projects.
- Enhances Telangana's reputation as one of India's most **administratively modern and infrastructure-focused states**.

Nizam Sagar Records Second-Highest Inflow in 50 Years

Source: Telangana Today

TGPSC Relevance: Infrastructure

Context: Nizam Sagar irrigation project

Why in News?

Nizam Sagar irrigation project in Telangana records its second-highest inflow in 50 years with 291 TMCft due to heavy monsoon rains in the Manjeera basin, largely fed by the Singur project.

Introduction

- The **Nizam Sagar irrigation project**, constructed in 1931 across the **Manjeera River**, has received its **second-highest inflow in the past 50 years**, recording **291 TMCft** of water due to intense monsoon rainfall in the Manjeera basin.
- A significant portion of this inflow (217 TMCft) originated from the **upstream Singur project**, which also experienced its **highest-ever inflow this year**.

Historical Background:

- The **Nizam Sagar project** was built by the **seventh Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan**, to provide irrigation and drinking water to the drought-prone regions of present-day Telangana.
- **Construction period:** 1923–1931 (8 years).
- **Location:** On the Manjeera River, a tributary of the Godavari, situated on the **border of Sangareddy and Kamareddy districts**.
- **Storage capacity:** 17.802 TMCft.
- **Purpose:** To irrigate farmlands in Nizamabad and Medak districts and supply drinking water to Hyderabad.

Recent Developments (2025):

- **Exceptional Monsoon in the Manjeera Basin:**
- Due to **intense rainfall** in the Manjeera

catchment area, the reservoir has received **291 TMCft** of cumulative inflows – the **second-highest since 1975**.

- **Highest inflow:** 329 TMCft during 1983–84.
- **Previous second-highest:** 287 TMCft in 1988–89.
- **Current Year's Highlights:**
- **2025 inflow:** 291 TMCft (as of October).
- **Single-day peak inflow:** 2.2 lakh cusecs on **August 28, 2025**.
- **Gates lifted:** 27 out of 48 crest gates were opened to manage surplus water.
- **Current inflow rate:** Around 4,000 cusecs, with officials expecting total inflows to **cross 300 TMCft soon**.

Contribution from Upstream Projects:

- **Singur project (constructed 1998):**
- Located near **Pulkal mandal** in Sangareddy district.
- Contributed **217 TMCft** to Nizam Sagar's inflow this year.
- Recorded its **highest-ever inflow of 217 TMCft**, surpassing its previous record of 176.50 TMCft (1998–99).
- **Other tributaries and catchment areas:** Contributed the remaining **74 TMCft**.
- **Flood Management Efforts:**
- Multiple crest gates were lifted between **August and October** to safely discharge excess water.
- Continuous monitoring and coordination between **Irrigation Department officials** ensured controlled flow and downstream safety.



(Image Source: Telangana Today)

Hydrological and Environmental Significance:

- The record inflows underscore **climate variability and changing rainfall patterns** in Telangana.
- Indicates **improved storage and river connectivity** between Singur and Nizam Sagar, showing the interlinked nature of irrigation systems in the Godavari basin.
- Contributes to **groundwater recharge and ecosystem replenishment**, benefiting downstream agriculture.

Socio-Economic Implications:

Agricultural Benefits:

- Enhanced water availability will **boost rabi crop irrigation** in adjoining districts.
- Stabilizes livelihood for farmers dependent on canal irrigation systems.

Drinking Water Supply:

- The inflow will ensure **adequate drinking water supply** to Hyderabad and nearby urban centers through linked water pipelines.

Flood Risk and Management:

- While inflows are beneficial, managing excess discharge is crucial to prevent **flooding in downstream villages**.
- Demonstrates the importance of **early warning systems and flood management infrastructure**.

Engineering and Administrative Aspects:

- **Capacity vs. Inflow:** The project's inflow (291 TMCft) is **over 16 times its storage capacity (17.802 TMCft)**, highlighting the need for efficient gate operation and water release management.
- **Record-keeping:** Officials have maintained **inflow data since 1975**, providing valuable historical hydrological records for planning and policy decisions.

Conclusion:

- The Nizam Sagar's record inflow in 2025 is a significant hydrological event for Telangana, reflecting **changing rainfall dynamics, efficient reservoir management, and strengthened water connectivity** in the Manjeera basin.

GI Tag Sought for Telangana's Naikpod Tribal Masks to Preserve Cultural Heritage

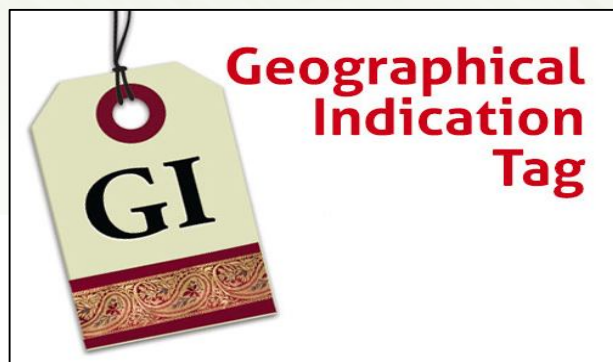
Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Art and Culture

Context: Telangana's Naikpod Tribal Masks

Why in News?

A Geographical Indication (GI) application has been filed for Telangana's traditional *Naikpod tribal masks*, aiming to protect the community's eco-friendly art and cultural heritage.



(Image Source: Ipleaders)

Introduction

- The Telangana's unique **Naikpod tribal arts and crafts** are set to gain national recognition as an application has been filed for a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** for traditional *Naikpod masks*.
- The application was submitted on **October 21, 2025**, marking a major step towards preserving and promoting indigenous tribal heritage.

About the GI Application

- The **single-class application** was filed under **Class 20** (Select Goods Type) by **Subhajit Saha**, CEO of *Resolute IP Services LLP*.
- Upon approval, the *Naikpod Tribal Masks* will become the **29th GI-tagged product from Telangana**, further enriching the state's growing portfolio of region-specific crafts and traditions.

About Naikpod Tribal Art and Craft

- The **Naikpod community** is an indigenous tribe primarily residing in the **forested regions of Telangana**, known for their deep ecological and cultural connection with nature.
- Their **masks and crafts** are characterised by:
- **Vibrant designs and intricate motifs** inspired by nature and tribal mythology.
- Use of **eco-friendly materials** such as

bamboo, wood, and natural dyes sourced locally.

- **Handcrafted techniques** passed down through generations, reflecting both **artistic excellence and sustainability**.
- These masks are often used in **tribal festivals, rituals, and storytelling performances**, symbolising spirits, deities, and ancestral figures.

Significance of GI Tagging

Cultural Preservation:

- The GI tag will safeguard the *Naikpod community's artistic heritage*, which has faced decline due to modernization and lack of market access.
- It ensures **legal protection** against imitation or commercial misuse of traditional designs.

Economic Empowerment:

- The GI recognition will **enhance market value** and **create livelihood opportunities** for local artisans.
- It will help in the **promotion of tribal handicrafts** at national and international platforms, increasing rural income and tourism potential.

Environmental and Social Value:

- The Naikpod crafts embody **eco-conscious production**, aligning with the principles of **sustainable development and circular economy**.
- Promotes **inclusive growth** by integrating marginalized tribal communities into India's formal craft economy.

Wider Context - GI Tags in Telangana

- Telangana has a rich tradition of **GI-registered products**, such as:
 - **Pochampally Ikat** (handloom textile)
 - **Nirmal Paintings**

- **Hyderabadi Haleem**
- **Warangal Durries**
- The Naikpod tribal masks will add to this diverse heritage list, showcasing Telangana's **fusion of cultural diversity and craftsmanship**.

Conclusion

- The GI application for Naikpod tribal masks represents more than just a legal step – it symbolizes the **recognition of indigenous knowledge systems, promotion of cultural diversity, and empowerment of tribal artisans**.

Sakshi Yadav wins four gold in Telangana Masters championship

Source: Telangana Today

TGPSC Relevance: Sports

Context: Telangana Masters Swimming Championship

Why in News?

Sakshi Yadav won four gold medals in the 30–34 years women's category at the Telangana Masters Swimming Championship 2025, highlighting women's achievements in masters-level competitive sports.

Introduction

- The **Telangana Masters Inter-District Swimming Championship**, held at the **Amberpet Swimming Pool in Hyderabad**, showcased the growing talent and competitiveness in state-level swimming.
- The championship featured athletes across multiple age groups and categories, highlighting not only elite performance but also the promotion of **fitness, sports culture, and women's participation in aquatic sports**.

Telangana Masters Inter-District Swimming Championship 2025

- The **Telangana Masters Inter-District Swimming Championship 2025**, held at the **Amberpet Swimming Pool, Hyderabad**, is a premier state-level competition for **adult and masters swimmers**.
- The event showcases talent across multiple **age groups and both genders**, emphasizing **lifelong fitness, competitive spirit, and gender inclusivity** in sports.
- **Objectives of the Championship**
 - **Promotion of Masters Swimming:** Encourage adults above 25 years to participate in competitive swimming.
 - **Lifelong Fitness & Health:** Promote physical fitness, wellness, and healthy lifestyle habits.
 - **Talent Identification:** Identify and nurture swimming talent at district and state levels.
 - **Gender Empowerment:** Provide a platform for **women athletes** to compete at high levels across age categories.
- **Regional Sports Development:** Strengthen Telangana's **district-level sports infrastructure** and competitive culture.

Sakshi Yadav's Stellar Performance

- In the **women's 30-34 years category**, **Sakshi Yadav of Ranga Reddy district** delivered a remarkable performance by winning **four gold medals** in the following events:
 - 100m freestyle
 - 50m freestyle
 - 50m breaststroke
 - 100m breaststroke

- Her sweep demonstrates both **versatility across strokes** (freestyle and breaststroke) and **endurance**, highlighting the growing competitiveness of masters-level swimming in Telangana.
- **Significance:** Sakshi's achievements underscore the **importance of promoting sports among women aged 30 and above**, contributing to lifelong fitness and breaking societal stereotypes regarding age and gender in competitive sports.



(Image Source: Telangana Today)

Other Notable Performances

- The championship also witnessed strong performances in both **men's and women's categories** across different age groups:
- **Men's Highlights:**
 - **25-29 years:** R. Prashanth (Krmnr) dominated 100m freestyle and 50m breaststroke.
 - **30-34 years:** G. Lakshmi Narasimha Achyuth (Hyd) won gold in 100m and 400m freestyle.
 - **35-39 years:** Sheshank Dudyala (RR) excelled in 100m freestyle; Girish Kumar Anem (RR) in 400m freestyle.
 - **40-44 years & 55-59 years:** Praveen, Ajith Sudarshan, and Rakesh Kumar Jain secured top positions in freestyle events.

- **Women's Highlights:**
 - **25-29 years:** J. Bhavani (Wgl) and Kamalshetty Swetha (Hyd) secured gold in 100m and 50m freestyle events.
 - **35-39 years:** K. Lavanya (Krmnr) won gold in 100m freestyle and 50m breaststroke.
 - **40-44 years:** D. Sunitha Reddy (RR) and Preeti Ramdas (Hyd) excelled in freestyle events.
- **Observation:** The results reflect **strong representation from Ranga Reddy (RR), Hyderabad (Hyd), and Krishna-Mahbubnagar districts**, highlighting regional hubs of swimming talent in Telangana.

Importance of Masters Swimming

- **Promotion of Lifelong Fitness:** Masters swimming encourages **physical activity among adults**, promoting health and well-being.
- **Gender Inclusivity:** Participation of women across age groups, as demonstrated by Sakshi Yadav, promotes **empowerment through sports**.
- **Talent Development:** Provides a **platform for post-college athletes** to continue competitive swimming and potentially inspire younger athletes.
- **Sports Culture in Telangana:** Events like this enhance **district-level talent scouting**, community engagement, and awareness about swimming as both a sport and life skill.

Conclusion

- The **Telangana Masters Swimming Championship 2025** highlighted the **state's commitment to promoting sports for all ages**, fostering **healthy competition, skill development, and**

gender parity in athletics.

Govt. relaxes rules allowing G+1 houses in urban areas under Indiramma Indlu

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Indiramma Indlu Scheme

Why in News?

Telangana government relaxes Indiramma Indlu guidelines, allowing G+1 houses for urban poor on small plots with financial support of ₹5 lakh.

Introduction

- The Telangana State government has recently announced a significant relaxation in the guidelines of the **Indiramma Indlu Scheme**, enabling eligible urban beneficiaries to construct **G+1 houses** on their own plots.
- The decision aims to give a much-needed facelift to urban slums while extending the benefits of this flagship housing programme, previously concentrated in rural areas, to the urban poor.

Background

- The **Indiramma Indlu scheme**, launched to provide housing for the weaker sections, has made notable progress in rural areas, offering affordable housing solutions with essential amenities.
- Recognising the growing need for urban housing solutions, the government has now extended the scheme to urban regions, particularly focusing on slum dwellers and low-income families.
- The move comes after a detailed review of urban housing needs and the realization that many urban poor live in

temporary shelters or makeshift arrangements.

- The relaxed guidelines are designed to make it feasible for them to own structurally sound houses.



Indiramma Indlu Housing Scheme

(Image Source: HexaHome)

Key Provisions of the Relaxed Guidelines

- **Eligibility & Plot Size:** Beneficiaries must own a plot. Recognising that most urban poor possess small plots, the guidelines allow construction even on plots **less than 60 sq. yards**.

House Structure & Area:

- Beneficiaries can construct **G+1 houses** with **RCC roofs**.
- **Plinth area:** 30 sq. meters.
- **Rooms:** Ground and first floors can have rooms of 200 sq. ft each.
- **Detailed room specification:** Two rooms of 96 sq. ft and 70 sq. ft, along with a **kitchen of minimum 35.5 sq. ft**.
- Mandatory **bathroom and toilet facilities** are included.
- **Financial Support:**
- The government provides **₹5 lakh**, disbursed in **four installments** aligned with the stages of construction, ensuring beneficiaries receive funds progressively.

Significance

- The relaxation is significant for several reasons:
- **Empowering the urban poor:** Many beneficiaries, living in temporary shelters, can now realize the dream of owning a permanent house.
- **Inclusive urban development:** Extending the scheme to urban slums ensures more equitable access to government welfare and infrastructure development.
- **Encouraging planned urban housing:** Standardized housing with basic amenities contributes to improved living conditions, sanitation, and urban aesthetics.
- **Financial feasibility:** The installment-based financial assistance makes construction affordable and manageable for low-income families.

Government Perspective

- Revenue Minister **Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy** emphasized that urban housing presents unique challenges compared to rural housing.
- The relaxed guidelines are a product of extensive study on urban housing needs and aim to help those sustaining with minimum facilities construct their own dwellings. Officials have been urged to prioritize urban housing projects under the Indiramma Indlu scheme.

Conclusion

- The extension of **Indiramma Indlu** to urban areas represents a critical step in **inclusive urban development** and poverty alleviation.

Rashtrakuta-Era Inscription Found in Siddipet's Nagapuri Village

Source: Telangana Today

TGPSC Relevance: Art and Culture

Context: Rashtrakuta-era inscription

Why in News?

A Rashtrakuta-era (8th–10th century AD) inscription was discovered at Nagapuri village in Siddipet district, Telangana, highlighting the region's medieval heritage.

Introduction

- A significant archaeological find has emerged in Nagapuri village, located in Cheriyal mandal of Siddipet district, Telangana.
- An inscription believed to date back to the Rashtrakuta period (8th–10th century AD) was discovered recently, shedding light on the rich historical heritage of the region.

Discovery:

The inscription was uncovered by Kolipaka Srinivas, an archaeology enthusiast and member of the Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam (KTCB).

- Srinivas noticed the inscription during a routine walk in the village near a dilapidated ancient temple located close to the Pochamma temple, hidden amid dense vegetation.
- The stone carrying the inscription had remained largely unnoticed until Srinivas identified its historical potential.

Significance of the Rashtrakuta Period:

- The Rashtrakuta dynasty, which flourished in the Deccan region between the 8th and 10th centuries AD, is known for its contributions to art, architecture, and literature.
- Inscriptions from this period provide critical insights into political

administration, socio-economic structures, religious practices, and cultural exchanges in medieval India.

- Discoveries such as this can significantly enhance our understanding of the Rashtrakutas' influence in the Telangana region, which is less documented compared to Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Current Status:

- The inscription remains undeciphered at present because it is covered with layers of paint. Srinivas has appealed to the local residents and authorities to facilitate the involvement of epigraphists and historians to carefully study, preserve, and interpret the script. Expert analysis may reveal details about the temple, the community, or the local administration during the Rashtrakuta era.

Historical and Cultural Implications:

- **Preservation of heritage:** Discoveries like this highlight the need to protect neglected historical structures and artifacts in rural areas.
- **Epigraphical importance:** Deciphering such inscriptions can provide valuable primary sources for reconstructing regional history.
- **Tourism potential:** Once authenticated and preserved, such sites can enhance local tourism and awareness about Telangana's medieval past.



(Image Source: Telangana Today)

Way Forward:

- The discovery underscores the role of citizen historians and local communities in heritage conservation.
- Coordinated efforts between archaeology experts, local authorities, and residents are essential to preserve and study the inscription.
- Additionally, the state government may consider documentation and protective measures for the site to prevent further degradation.

Conclusion:

- The Rashtrakuta-era inscription at Nagapuri village is more than a relic; it is a doorway to understanding the socio-cultural and political history of medieval Telangana. Expert intervention and careful preservation could transform this local find into a significant contribution to India's historical scholarship.

**Science Centre for Slum Students
Launched in Hyderabad to
Promote Hands-on Learning**

Source: Telangana Today

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Science Centre for Slum Students

Why in News?

Hyderabad's Secunderabad Cantonment Board, in collaboration with Akshaya Vidya Foundation, inaugurated the Sir CV Raman Akshaya Vidya Science Centre.

Introduction

- The Brigadier S Rajeev, President of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB), inaugurated the **Sir CV Raman Akshaya Vidya Science Centre** at Tadbund, Hyderabad.
- This initiative marks the establishment of the first science centre in the city exclusively dedicated to students from slum areas.



(Image Source: Telangana Today)

Sir CV Raman Akshaya Vidya Science Centre

Location: Tadbund, Hyderabad

Initiators:

- **Akshaya Vidya Foundation** (NGO based in Hyderabad)
- **Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB)**

Purpose:

- First science centre in Hyderabad exclusively for **slum students**.
- Provides **hands-on, curriculum-based science learning** for students from grades 6 to 10 in government schools.

- Aims to **ignite curiosity, encourage innovation, and make science learning interactive and fun**.

Target Impact:

- To reach **15,000 government school students** over three years.
- Focuses on **experiential learning** and practical understanding of scientific concepts.

Initiators and Partners:

- The centre has been set up collaboratively by the **Akshaya Vidya Foundation**, a Hyderabad-based non-governmental organization, and the **Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB)**.
- The project reflects a public-private partnership aimed at enhancing science education accessibility for underprivileged students.

Objectives of the Centre:

- To provide **hands-on, curriculum-based learning** experiences to students from government schools, particularly those from economically weaker sections residing in slums.
- To **ignite curiosity and interest in science**, encouraging students to explore scientific concepts practically rather than only theoretically.
- To foster **innovation and critical thinking** by making science learning interactive and enjoyable.

Target Beneficiaries:

- Students from **grades 6 to 10** attending government schools in slum areas of Hyderabad.
- The project aims to reach and positively impact **15,000 students over three years**, providing them with exposure to

practical scientific applications aligned with their school curriculum.

Significance:

- This initiative addresses the **educational disparity** between urban private schools and government schools in underprivileged areas.
- Hands-on science education has been linked to better understanding, retention, and application of scientific concepts, thereby contributing to **quality education and skill development**.
- By focusing on slum students, the project promotes **inclusive education**, aligning with **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 - Quality Education**.

Long-term Implications:

- Encouraging scientific temper among students from marginalized communities can contribute to **enhanced employability and innovation-driven growth** in the long run.
- It sets a precedent for **other cities and states** to replicate similar models for experiential learning in under-resourced schools.

Conclusion:

- The inauguration of the Sir CV Raman Akshaya Vidya Science Centre represents a **landmark step toward democratizing science education** in Hyderabad.
- By enabling slum students to experience practical, curriculum-based science learning, it seeks to bridge educational inequalities and nurture a generation of curious, innovative, and scientifically literate youth.

Shobath Kadi: Gondi translation

of the Sundarakanda

Source: New Indian Express

TGPSC Relevance: Art and Culture-Literature

Context: Gondi Translation of the Sundarakanda

Why in News?

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma released *Shobath Kadi*, the Gondi translation of the *Sundarakanda*, composed by teacher Thodasam Kailas in 37 songs using the Telugu script.



(Image Source: New Indian Express)

Introduction

- Telangana Governor **Jishnu Dev Varma** released *Shobath Kadi*, a **Gondi-language translation of the Sundarakanda**, at a cultural event organised by the **Vanvasi Kalyani Parishad** in Mahbubnagar.
- The translation was completed by **Thodasam Kailas**, a government school teacher from Adilabad, in just **45 days**.
- The event also featured **111 mass marriages (Samuhika Pellilu)** and was attended by dignitaries including former Haryana Governor **Bandaru Dattatreya**.

About the Work

- **Translator:** Thodasam Kailas, a teacher and musician from Adilabad.
- **Title:** *Shobath Kadi* – a Gondi translation of *Sundarakanda*.

- **Form:** Collection of 37 devotional songs written in the **Telugu script**.
- **Inspiration:** Drawn from MS Rama Rao's musical rendition of the *Sundarakanda* and Kailas's daily devotional piano sessions.
- **Previous Work:** Kailas earlier translated the *Mahabharata* into Gondi and plans to translate the entire *Ramayana*.

Significance

- **Cultural Preservation:** The translation marks a major step in bringing revered Hindu epics closer to **Gondi-speaking Adivasi communities**, preserving their linguistic and cultural identity.
- **Language Revitalisation:** Gondi, an endangered Dravidian language, gains new vitality through such literary projects, which help expand its vocabulary and literary corpus.
- **Script and Accessibility:** Using the **Telugu script** makes the text more accessible to Gondi speakers in Telangana, where Telugu literacy is widespread.
- **State Support and Recognition:** The Governor's involvement symbolises **official encouragement** for indigenous languages and underscores the government's role in promoting **inclusive cultural policies**.
- **Role of Technology and Creativity:** Kailas's innovative approach, blending devotional music, translation, and modern tools, demonstrates how technology can aid **tribal-language preservation**.

Policy and Broader Implications

- Encourages inclusion of tribal languages in **school curricula** and **local libraries**.
- Supports **digitisation and publication** of indigenous works for cultural

continuity.

- Highlights the need for **community-led language preservation** with state assistance.
- Aligns with India's constitutional goal of protecting linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

Conclusion

- The release of *Shobath Kadi* represents a powerful blend of devotion, creativity, and cultural assertion. It not only honours the Gondi language but also reflects a broader movement toward **linguistic inclusivity and preservation of India's tribal heritage**. The initiative demonstrates how **individual effort**, supported by **institutional recognition**, can strengthen the cultural and linguistic fabric of the nation.

Komaram Bheem: The Tribal Freedom Fighter of Telangana

Source: New Indian Express

TGPSC Relevance: Art and Culture

Context: Komaram Bheem

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 127th episode of Mann Ki Baat (October 2025), paid tribute to tribal freedom fighter Komaram Bheem.

Introduction

- The Komaram Bheem (1901–1940) was a legendary tribal freedom fighter and a symbol of resistance against oppression in the Hyderabad princely state under the Nizam's rule.
- Born in the **Gond tribal community** in **Sankepalli village (present-day Telangana)**, Bheem devoted his short life

to fighting for the rights and dignity of his people – the Adivasis.

- His call of “**Jal, Jangal, Zameen**” (**Water, Forest, Land**) became an enduring slogan representing the struggle of tribal communities for self-determination and natural rights.

Early Life and Background

- Komaram Bheem was born into a poor Gond family. The Gond tribes of Adilabad district were forest dwellers who depended on the land and forest for their livelihood.
- However, during the early 20th century, the **Nizam of Hyderabad’s administration**, along with feudal landlords and forest officials, **exploited the tribal population** through forced labor, land confiscation, and unjust taxes.
- Growing up amid this oppression, Bheem witnessed firsthand how **tribals were denied access to their own forests, their crops were seized, and they were punished brutally for resistance**. These experiences shaped his deep sense of rebellion and justice.

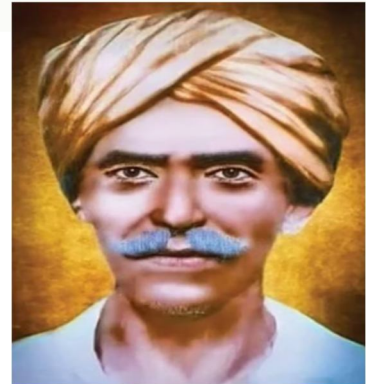
The Spark of Rebellion

- A turning point came when **Nizam’s officers attempted to seize the agricultural produce** of tribal farmers in Bheem’s village. When the villagers resisted, the officials unleashed violence. Bheem retaliated by **killing an officer named Siddiqui**, who was sent to suppress them. This act made him a wanted man, forcing him to flee the region.
- Bheem escaped to **Assam**, where he spent several years learning about labor movements and colonial resistance. There, he came into contact with revolutionary ideas and realized that

collective struggle was the only path to justice.

Return to Hyderabad and Revolt

After returning to Telangana around 1928, Bheem began organizing the **Gond and Kolam tribes** in the forests of **Adilabad**, particularly around **Jodeghat**.



He inspired them with the vision of “**self-rule**” and **freedom from Nizam’s oppression**.

- His movement was not just political – it was deeply **social and ecological**, emphasizing that tribals must have ownership over their natural resources:
- “**Jal, Jangal, Zameen hamara hai**” (**Water, Forest, Land belong to us**).
- This slogan captured the spirit of the Adivasi struggle and continues to resonate in tribal movements across India today.

(Image Source: New Indian Express)

Conflict with the Nizam’s Forces

- Bheem’s growing popularity alarmed the Nizam’s administration. The Nizam sent a large force under **Nizam’s police commander Abdul Sattar** to crush the rebellion. In 1940, Bheem and his small band of followers were surrounded at **Jodeghat hills**.
- Despite being heavily outnumbered and poorly armed, Bheem refused to surrender. A fierce battle followed in which Komaram Bheem and many of his comrades were **martyred**. He was only about **40 years old** when he sacrificed his life.

Legacy and Inspiration

- Komaram Bheem's martyrdom turned him into a **folk hero and symbol of resistance**. For the Gond and other tribal communities, he represents **valor, dignity, and the fight for justice**. His ideas continue to inspire tribal rights movements even today.
- In independent India, his contribution has been recognized in several ways:
 - The **Telangana government built a memorial and museum at Jodeghat**, the site of his martyrdom.
 - The **Komaram Bheem Asifabad district** was named in his honor.
 - His life and struggle have been depicted in films, books, and cultural programs, including popular culture references like the film *RRR*, where one of the protagonists was inspired by him.

Telangana Seeks Relaxation of Moisture Norms for Cotton Procurement at MSP

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Agriculture

Context: MSP procurement in Telangana

Why in News?

Telangana has urged the Centre to relax the maximum moisture content norm for cotton procurement under MSP from 12% to 20% due to continuous rains during the 2025–26.

Introduction

- In a significant development aimed at protecting the interests of cotton farmers, **Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao** has urged the **Union Government** to **relax the existing**

moisture content norm for cotton procurement under the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** scheme.

- The appeal comes in light of the **prolonged rainy conditions** during the cotton harvesting season, which have led to higher moisture levels in the produce.

Background: MSP and Moisture Norms in Cotton Procurement

- The **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)**, a central public sector enterprise under the **Ministry of Textiles**, procures cotton from farmers at the MSP announced by the Centre. The MSP serves as a **price safety net**, ensuring that farmers receive a remunerative rate even if market prices fall below the government-fixed threshold.
- However, CCI's procurement is bound by **quality parameters**, including **moisture content**, which is currently capped between **8% and 12%**.
- Cotton with higher moisture is rejected or purchased at a lower price due to **risks of damage, fungal growth, and reduced fibre quality** during storage.

Current Cotton Scenario in Telangana

- Telangana is one of the **largest cotton-producing states in India**, and cotton remains a **key Kharif crop** for its farmers. According to the Minister:
 - **Area under cotton cultivation:** 45.32 lakh acres
 - **Estimated production:** 28.29 lakh tonnes
 - **Market trend:** Global cotton prices are showing a **downward movement**, indicating possible challenges in open-market sales.
- The combination of **lower prices and quality-related procurement restrictions** has amplified concerns over

farmers' income security in the current season.



(Image Source: The Hindustan Times)

Farmers' Concerns

- Farmers' representatives have appealed to the State government, stating that:
- The **prevailing wet conditions** make it impossible to achieve the prescribed **12% moisture limit**.
- As a result, **large quantities of cotton remain unsold**, leading to **financial hardship** and **storage difficulties**.
- The strict enforcement of the norm has effectively **disqualified a significant portion of the crop** from MSP coverage.
- The relaxation of the norm to **20% moisture content**, they argue, would ensure that **most farmers can sell their produce** at the guaranteed support price, mitigating losses due to weather and market volatility.

Rationale for Relaxation

- **Weather-induced Unavoidable Moisture:** The rains during October–November are **natural and unavoidable**, affecting nearly all cotton-growing regions in Telangana.
- **Farmers' Welfare and Income Support:** Enforcing a strict norm during adverse weather conditions defeats the **protective intent of the MSP system**, designed to safeguard farmers' income.
- **State-level Precedents:** In past instances,

the Centre has **temporarily relaxed moisture norms** during exceptional climatic conditions to facilitate procurement and prevent distress sales.

- **Market Stability:** Government procurement of high-moisture cotton will help **stabilize market prices** and prevent **exploitative middlemen practices**.

Potential Challenges

While the relaxation would offer immediate relief to farmers, it also presents **operational challenges**:

- **Storage and quality maintenance:** High-moisture cotton is susceptible to **mold, discoloration, and deterioration**, posing a **risk to CCI's warehouses**.
- **Increased drying and processing costs:** Additional resources may be required to **reduce moisture levels post-procurement**.
- **Potential impact on export quality:** Maintaining export-grade cotton standards could become more difficult if quality parameters are relaxed extensively.

Conclusion

- The Telangana government's appeal to **relax the cotton moisture norm** underscores the **tension between procurement quality standards and farmers' welfare needs**. While the **12% moisture limit** ensures quality and storage safety, the **exceptional rainfall conditions** of 2025 have made it impractical for farmers to meet the criterion.

Musi River Development Project and Institutional Land Transfer to MRDCL

Source: New Indian Express

TGPSC Relevance: Infrastructure

Context: Musi River Development Project

Why in News?

The Telangana government has resumed and transferred 734 acres of institutional land along the Easa (Esi) River to the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL) for the Musi River Development Project.

Introduction

- In a major step towards rejuvenating Hyderabad's **Musi River**, the Telangana government has resumed and transferred 734 acres of institutional lands to the **Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL)**.
- This move, announced marks a crucial advancement in the implementation of the **Musi River Development Project**, aimed at riverfront beautification, ecological restoration, and urban renewal along the Musi and Esi rivers.

Background: Reviving the Musi River

- The **Musi River Development Project** is part of the Telangana government's broader effort to **restore the ecological health of the Musi River** and its tributaries, including the **Easa (Esi) River**, while developing sustainable urban infrastructure along its banks.
- The **Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL)** was constituted as the nodal agency to oversee planning, land management, and execution of development works such as green corridors, flood control mechanisms, and urban rejuvenation.
- The transfer of institutional lands along the river represents one of the most

significant administrative actions to ensure the **availability of contiguous land parcels** for the riverfront project.

Details of Land Transfer

A total of **734 acres** of institutional land located along the **Easa (Esi) River**, a tributary of the Musi, has been **resumed from various government and semi-government institutions** and **transferred to MRDCL** for development purposes. The lands are spread across several villages in **Rangareddy district**, including:

- **Himayathsagar** and **Kismathpur** in **Gandipet Mandal**
- **Premavathipet** and **Budvel** in **Rajendranagar Mandal**
- **Kothwalguda** in **Shamshabad Mandal**

Institution-wise Land Resumed

- The land resumption process covered multiple departments and training institutions. The breakup is as follows:

Institution	Remarks
Telangana State Engineering Research Laboratory (TSERL)	Technical research land resumed for riverfront project
Water and Land Management Training and Research Institute (WALAMTARI)	Major landholding transferred to MRDCL
Indian Institute of Public Health	Part of campus land resumed
Extension Training Centre (VDOTC)	Directly resumed for project use
Bankers Institute of Rural and Entrepreneurship Development (BIRED)	Small portion resumed
Extension Training	Indirectly resumed

Centre (ETC) - indirectly controlled lands (including Reddy Hostel, IAS Study Circle for STs, and TS Institute of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development)	from institutions under ETC's control
HMDA Eco Park	Land alienated from HMDA's jurisdiction
Tourism Department	Land allocated for project integration
Open and disputed lands	Transferred despite pending litigation



(Image Source: The Hindu)

Alternative Land Allotments

To compensate the institutions whose lands were resumed, the government has **allotted alternative land parcels** at:

- HMDA layout at Shamshabad, and
- **Future City**, another planned development zone.
- However, the **extent of land allotted is significantly smaller** than that resumed, except in the case of Reddy Hostel, which was allotted **30 acres in lieu of 15 acres resumed**, indicating special consideration.

Significance of the Decision

- **Facilitating Riverfront Development:**

The availability of consolidated land will enable the MRDCL to initiate large-scale **river beautification, green belt creation, floodplain restoration, and infrastructure development.**

- **Strengthening Urban Resilience:** The project aims to mitigate **urban flooding**, enhance **stormwater management**, and restore **natural drainage** systems connected to the Musi and its tributaries.
- **Promoting Environmental Sustainability:** Rejuvenation of the Musi River aligns with the **state's sustainable urban development goals**, focusing on pollution control, water quality improvement, and biodiversity conservation.
- **Urban Aesthetics and Public Spaces:** Once completed, the project will provide **recreational zones, eco-parks, walking tracks, and tourism infrastructure**, contributing to Hyderabad's urban transformation.
- **Administrative Consolidation:** The transfer showcases **efficient inter-departmental coordination**, ensuring that fragmented institutional holdings are brought under a single development authority for better planning and implementation.

Challenges Ahead

- **Legal complexities** regarding the 52 acres of land still under court cases.
- **Institutional adjustments**, as several training and research centres have lost operational lands.
- **Balancing development and ecological conservation**, to ensure that construction does not harm the natural river ecosystem.

Conclusion

- The resumption and transfer of **734 acres**

of institutional land to the MRDCL marks a pivotal administrative move in the Musi River Development Project. It underlines the Telangana government's commitment to **urban rejuvenation, environmental restoration, and sustainable infrastructure creation.**

Historic Revival of Hyderabad's Bam Rukn-ud-Daula Lake

Source: New Indian Express

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Bam Rukn-ud-Daula Lake

Why in News?

HYDRAA is restoring the historic Bam Rukn-ud-Daula Lake in Hyderabad's Old City to its original 18-acre size, integrating heritage conservation with urban ecological renewal.

Introduction

- In a landmark initiative towards urban heritage conservation and sustainable water management, the Hyderabad Road Development and Ancillary Authority (HYDRAA) has undertaken the **restoration of the historic Bam Rukn-ud-Daula Lake** located in the Old City of Hyderabad.
- This project symbolizes a broader urban ecological renewal, balancing **heritage preservation, environmental sustainability, and community well-being.**

Background: The Legacy of Bam Rukn-ud-Daula Lake

- The **Bam Rukn-ud-Daula Lake**, a centuries-old water body built during the Nizam era, once spread over **18 acres** and served as a crucial component of Hyderabad's intricate network of man-

made lakes. These lakes, part of the city's traditional hydrological system, were historically designed for **rainwater harvesting, flood control, and groundwater recharge** – demonstrating early ecological engineering.

- However, rapid **urbanization, illegal encroachments, and poor maintenance** led to the lake's degradation. Over the years, its area reduced to just **4.12 acres**, with pollution, siltation, and encroachment threatening its ecological and heritage value.

HYDRAA's Restoration Initiative

- HYDRAA, under the leadership of Commissioner **A.V. Ranganath**, initiated an ambitious restoration drive to reclaim the lake's **original expanse and ecological function.**

1. Encroachment Removal

- In **August 2024**, encroachments surrounding the lake were cleared.
- The reclaimed land enabled the expansion of the lake back to **its original 18-acre spread**, reinstating its hydrological capacity.

2. Infrastructure and Ecological Restoration

- **Inlets and outlets** were redesigned to ensure the **natural flow of rainwater**, thereby improving flood management.
- **Bund strengthening** was carried out to prevent erosion and enhance stability.
- The **historic Nizam-era stone bund** has been **conserved**, preserving the architectural legacy of the region.

3. Sustainable Urban Design Features

- The rejuvenated lake is being developed as a **community-centered eco-recreational zone**, including:
 - **Walking tracks and green belts** for public use.
 - **Children's play areas, open gyms, and**

senior citizen zones, promoting inclusivity.

- **CCTV surveillance**, fencing, and lighting for safety and upkeep.
- **Landscaped parks and tree plantations**, creating a green lung in the Old City.

4. Water and Environmental Management

- Enhanced **flood control systems** are being integrated.
- **Groundwater recharge structures** are embedded to aid the city's aquifer sustainability.
- The lake is also expected to serve as a **biodiversity hotspot**, supporting aquatic flora and fauna once again.



(Image Source: New Indian Express)

Ecological and Social Significance

The restoration of Bam Rukn-ud-Daula Lake represents **multidimensional benefits**:

- **1. Ecological Revival:** Restored lakes act as **natural sponges**, mitigating floods and improving **groundwater recharge**. They serve as **carbon sinks** and reduce urban heat island effects.
- **2. Heritage Conservation:** The conservation of Nizam-era structures reconnects citizens with Hyderabad's **historic urban water systems**, which once defined its resilience and prosperity.
- **3. Community Engagement:** By integrating recreational and cultural zones, the project ensures **public ownership and participation** in

maintaining ecological assets. Revived lakes contribute to **urban aesthetics**, **mental well-being**, and **local tourism**.

Challenges in Urban Lake Restoration

Despite the progress, several structural and administrative challenges persist in the broader context of lake rejuvenation across India:

- **Urban encroachments and real estate pressures** continue to threaten lake boundaries.
- **Fragmented governance** between municipal, irrigation, and environment departments hampers coordinated action.
- **Pollution from domestic sewage and solid waste** reduces the water quality of many urban lakes.
- Lack of **community awareness and maintenance mechanisms** can lead to re-degradation.

Broader Context: Urban Water Heritage in India

- India's major cities – including Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Delhi – were historically sustained by **traditional lake systems and tanks**. However, post-independence urban sprawl led to their neglect.
- Recent initiatives such as:
 - **Mission Amrit Sarovar** (National Mission for rejuvenation of 75 water bodies in each district),
 - **National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP)**, and
 - **State-level lake authorities (like HYDRAA)**
- are working towards restoring **urban water heritage** as a part of **climate resilience and sustainable city planning**.

Conclusion

- The restoration of **Bam Rukn-ud-Daula Lake** by HYDRAA is more than a heritage conservation project – it is a **model of integrated urban ecological governance**.
- By merging **traditional wisdom with modern environmental management**, it revives Hyderabad's legacy as the "**City of Lakes**" while addressing contemporary challenges of climate change, water scarcity, and urban livability.

Indiramma Housing Scheme in Telangana

Source: New Indian Express

TGpsc Relevance: Governance

Context: Indiramma Housing Scheme

Why in News?

Telangana's *Indiramma Housing Scheme* has disbursed over ₹2,500 crore for constructing 2.25 lakh houses, integrating State and Central welfare schemes to promote dignified housing and rural development.

Introduction

- The *Indiramma Housing Scheme* in Telangana has emerged as one of the state's flagship welfare-cum-development initiatives aimed at ensuring "*Housing for All*" with a focus on equity, dignity, and economic inclusion.
- As of **October 2025**, the disbursement under the scheme has surpassed **₹2,500 crore**, with over **2.25 lakh houses grounded** out of approximately **3 lakh sanctioned** within just six months of launch.
- The scheme represents a blend of *social welfare, economic stimulus, and rural*

development.

Background and Objectives

- The *Indiramma Housing Scheme* – revived under the Telangana government – targets *economically weaker sections (EWS)* and *low-income families*, especially those without pucca houses. The project's fundamental goals include:
 - **Ensuring dignified housing** for all eligible families.
 - **Preventing debt traps** among poor beneficiaries during house construction.
 - **Stimulating local economies** through employment creation and material demand.
 - **Integrating welfare with development**, by linking housing assistance to broader socio-economic goals.
- The scheme was **piloted in January 2025**, with full-scale implementation across **gram panchayats** beginning in **May 2025**.

Implementation and Financial Design

- Each beneficiary under the Indiramma scheme receives **₹5 lakh in four instalments** to construct a house on their owned land.
- **House Size:**
 - *Minimum:* 400 sq. ft.
 - *Maximum:* 600 sq. ft.
- **Structure Option:** G+1 (Ground plus one floor) construction allowed on smaller plots (<400 sq. ft.) with a minimum carpet area of 323 sq. ft., especially benefiting urban poor with limited land availability.

Cost Control Logic:

- The cap on maximum area (600 sq. ft.) ensures that the scheme remains focused

on genuinely needy families and avoids misuse by relatively well-off individuals who can afford larger constructions.

- According to the *Telangana State Housing Corporation Managing Director V. P. Gautham*, this area limit also prevents beneficiaries from entering into **debt traps**, as constructing beyond the ₹5 lakh support could require heavy borrowing.



(image Source: The Hindu)

Funding Mechanism and Central Integration

- The ₹5 lakh assistance per beneficiary is sourced through a **blended funding model**, integrating **State and Central schemes**:

Source	Contribution	Scheme Involved
State Government	₹3.88 lakh	Indiramma Housing Assistance
Central Government	₹1.12 lakh (approx.)	Linked via MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission, etc.

- Thus, the Indiramma Scheme represents an example of *convergent governance* – leveraging multiple schemes for holistic development.
- Additionally, **21,993 beneficiaries** who lacked initial capital to begin construction were provided **loans of varying amounts** to enable timely

commencement, showing proactive financial inclusion measures.

Progress So Far

- Sanctioned Houses: 3 lakh
 - **Grounded Houses (construction started):** 2.25 lakh
 - **Slabs laid:** 29,000
 - **Funds Disbursed:** ₹2,500+ crore
 - **Beneficiaries receiving start-up loans:** 21,993
- The large-scale grounding of houses within six months demonstrates strong administrative efficiency and public participation. The Housing Corporation has also instituted a *verification process* to ensure that the final installment (₹1 lakh) is released only after satisfactory progress and completion.

Socio-Economic Impact

- **Rural Employment Generation:** Integration with *MGNREGA* ensures wage employment for rural workers in construction activities, boosting income and reducing seasonal distress migration.
- **Local Economic Multiplier Effect:** The scheme stimulates demand for local materials such as sand, cement, bricks, and roofing sheets, strengthening rural supply chains.
- **Women Empowerment:** Titles and funds are often jointly registered in the name of women beneficiaries, enhancing social security and gender equity.
- **Urban Inclusion:** The new **G+1 provision** supports the urban poor with smaller plots, adapting welfare design to spatial realities of growing cities.
- **Social Stability and Asset Creation:** The scheme provides long-term security through housing assets, contributing to intergenerational stability and improved

living standards.

Administrative Reforms and Governance Approach

- The *Indiramma Housing Scheme* exemplifies **evidence-based policymaking** and **data-driven governance**:
- Feedback from ground-level surveys led to modification of the G.O. allowing G+1 constructions.
- Real-time monitoring through the Housing Corporation ensures transparency and accountability.
- Fund transfer in instalments ensures financial discipline and progress-linked disbursement.

Challenges and Way Forward

- **Challenges:**
- Some beneficiaries lack land ownership or clear titles.
- Rising construction material costs may strain the ₹5 lakh limit.
- Delays in Central scheme convergence or bank loan disbursement may slow construction.

Way Forward:

- Strengthening digital monitoring tools for progress tracking.
- Promoting low-cost, sustainable construction materials.
- Introducing community-based construction clusters for economies of scale.

Telangana's Decade of Growth: A Services Sector Success Story

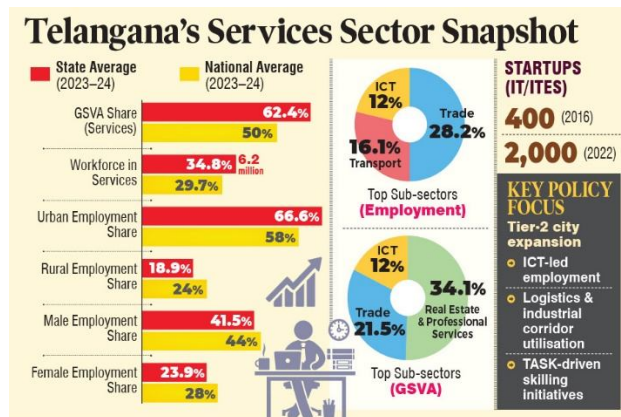
Source: Telangana today

TGPSC Relevance: Economy

Context: Service growth of Telangana

Why in News?

Telangana has emerged as one of India's strongest service-led economies, with over 62% GSVA share and 34.8% workforce employed in the services sector, as highlighted by recent NITI Aayog reports.



(Image Source: Telangana today)

Introduction

- Over the past decade, Telangana has emerged as one of India's strongest performers in the **services sector**, reflecting the State's sustained policy focus on digital infrastructure, innovation, and IT-led economic transformation.
- According to the latest **NITI Aayog reports**, Telangana's growth trajectory has been shaped by a consistent and strategic policy drive under the previous BRS government led by **K. Chandrashekhara Rao**.

A Decade of Transformation

- The twin NITI Aayog reports – *“India's Service Sector: Insights from Employment Trends and State-Level Dynamics”* and *“India's Service Sector: Insights from GVA Trends and State-Level Dynamics”* – highlight Telangana's remarkable journey from 2011-12 to 2023-24.
- The **share of the services sector in Telangana's Gross State Value Added**

(GSVA) surged from **52.8% in 2011-12 to 62.4% in 2023-24**, averaging **60.3%** over the decade.

- **34.8% of the State's workforce** – around **6.2 million people** – is employed in the services sector, well above the **national average of 29.7%**.
- This reflects Telangana's transformation into a **service-led economy**, powered by rapid expansion in **information technology, professional services, finance, real estate, and trade**.

Digital and Innovation Ecosystem

- Hyderabad's vibrant innovation ecosystem has been the driving force behind this growth. The creation of **T-Hub, T-Works, WE-Hub**, and the **IMAGE Tower** has positioned Telangana as a **national leader in digital infrastructure and innovation**. These institutions fostered collaboration between startups, industries, and academia, enabling the rise of new-age entrepreneurship.
- The State's **IT and ITES sectors** saw a five-fold rise in startups – from about **400 in 2016 to nearly 2,000 by 2022**. Hyderabad now hosts **1,500 IT/ITES companies employing over nine lakh people**, including global giants like **Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Infosys, TCS, Accenture, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra**, which have expanded their operations during the BRS regime.

Sectoral Composition and Urban Growth

The services sector in Telangana reflects a **balanced and diversified structure**:

- **Real estate, professional, and urban services** contributed **34.1%** of GSVA, showcasing sustainable urban expansion.
- **Trade and repair services** accounted for

21.5%, while **education, healthcare, and community services** contributed **12.9%**.

- This composition highlights both **economic dynamism** and **social development** through investments in human capital.
- The **urban concentration of services** is particularly strong – **66.6% of urban workers** are engaged in the sector, compared to **18.9% in rural areas**, underscoring the centrality of Hyderabad in the State's growth model.
- However, this also reflects a **rural-urban disparity**, as most high-value service jobs are clustered in metropolitan areas.

Employment Trends and Gender Gaps

- While the sector has become a major engine of economic growth, employment patterns reveal significant structural nuances:
 - **41.5% of men** and **23.9% of women** in Telangana are employed in the services sector, showing a persistent **gender gap** in workforce participation.
 - The **agriculture sector** still remains the **largest employer**, especially in rural areas, with **42.5% of the population** engaged in it.
- Within the services sector, key sub-segments dominate employment:
 - **Wholesale and retail trade** – 28.2%
 - **Transportation and storage** – 16.1%
 - **Information and communication** – 12%
 - **Education** – 9.3%
 - **Public administration** – 5.9%
- These figures indicate that Telangana's growth has not only been **technology-driven** but also **employment-generating** across a range of service domains.

Policy Drivers Behind the Success

Key contributing factors include:

- **Massive investments in digital infrastructure** enabling a globally connected IT ecosystem.
- **Startup incubation and entrepreneurship promotion** through flagship hubs like T-Hub and WE-Hub.
- **Investor-friendly industrial and IT policies**, which attracted both domestic and global companies.
- **Proactive global outreach and branding of Hyderabad** as a world-class investment destination.
- **Skill development programs** under TASK (Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge), bridging the gap between education and employability.
- These policies collectively promoted **economic diversification** and created **quality employment opportunities** across urban and peri-urban areas.

Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite its success, the NITI Aayog reports identify **key challenges**:

- **Urban Concentration:** With 66.6% of service workers in cities, rural Telangana remains under-integrated into the service economy.
- **Gender Disparity:** Women's participation (23.9%) remains significantly below men's (41.5%).
- **Skilling Gaps in Tier-2 Cities:** Towns like Warangal and Karimnagar require targeted ICT expansion and skill training to attract service industries.
- To address these issues, NITI Aayog recommends:
- Expanding **ICT infrastructure and startup incubation** in **Tier-2 cities** such as Warangal and Karimnagar.
- Leveraging the **Hyderabad-Warangal Industrial Corridor** and **logistics parks** to boost **transport-linked services**.

- Encouraging **female workforce participation** through flexible employment models and digital skilling.

Conclusion

- Telangana's experience over the past decade stands as a **model of service-led development** in India.
- The State's ability to combine **digital innovation, urban growth, and economic diversification** has propelled it among the **top-performing states** in NITI Aayog's services sector rankings, alongside **Delhi, Chandigarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, and Maharashtra**.

Hyderabad Emerges as a Global Command Centre for Global Capability Centres (GCCs)

Source: The Hindu

TGPSC Relevance: Technology

Context: Global Command Centre

Why in News?

Hyderabad has emerged as a Global Command Centre for multinational corporations, with Global Capability Centres (GCCs) like McDonald's driving innovation, decision-making, and global operations from the city.

Introduction

- Hyderabad, long known for its IT prowess, has now firmly positioned itself as the epicentre of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) – facilities that are driving global innovation, strategy, and customer experience across continents.
- At the inauguration of the McDonald's Corporation Global Office in Hyderabad, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka described the city as a

“global command centre,” where decisions made within its offices are shaping markets from Chicago to Charminar, Boston to Banjara Hills, and London to Lingampally.

McDonald's Global Office: A Symbol of Trust and Transformation

- The newly inaugurated McDonald's Corporation GCC marks another milestone in Hyderabad's transformation into a hub of global corporate operations.
- McDonald's, an American fast-food giant, has set up this centre as part of its global business services network, underscoring Hyderabad's strategic importance in its worldwide operations.
- **Facility Details:**
 - Spread across four floors, covering 156,496 sq. ft.
 - Capacity: 1,200-1,500 employees
 - Functions: Enterprise data and analytics, technology, human resources, and finance
 - Objective: To support over 65 million customers worldwide each day



(Image Source: The Hindu)

Why Hyderabad?

- Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu highlighted the reasons behind Hyderabad's growing dominance in the GCC landscape:
- **Strong Talent Pool:** Hyderabad's

universities and technical institutions produce a steady stream of skilled professionals in IT, analytics, and business services.

- **World-Class Infrastructure:** The city offers high-quality office spaces, robust digital connectivity, and a supportive business ecosystem.
- **Proactive Governance:** Consistent policy support and industry-friendly reforms have strengthened investor confidence. The government's focus on skill development and employment generation further enhances its appeal.
- The Minister added that the arrival of McDonald's adds to a growing list of global firms who have chosen Hyderabad – including giants from the technology, finance, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors. The hospitality sector is also joining this wave, with Marriott set to open its first GCC in the city soon.

GCCs: Beyond Back Offices

- Deputy CM Vikramarka stressed that Hyderabad's GCCs are not mere back offices, but nerve centres of global innovation. These centres are where critical functions – from data-driven decision-making to digital transformation – are executed for multinational corporations.
- This evolution signals Hyderabad's transformation from an IT outsourcing hub to a strategic global innovation powerhouse.
- He noted that just as McDonald's has reinvented its supply chains, sustainability, and digital customer experiences, Hyderabad too is redefining itself as a city where technology and humanity go hand in hand.

Commitment to Social Responsibility:

Ronald McDonald House

- Alongside the global office, McDonald's Corporation announced plans to establish a Ronald McDonald House programme in Hyderabad.
- This global non-profit initiative provides support and essential resources for families whose children are battling serious illnesses or injuries.
- The initiative demonstrates McDonald's broader commitment to community welfare alongside business growth.

Broader Significance: Hyderabad and the Global Economy

The inauguration of McDonald's GCC is symbolic of a larger economic transformation:

- **Integration into Global Supply Chains:** Hyderabad is now directly connected to corporate headquarters and markets across continents.
- **Rise of GCCs in India:** India hosts over 1,600 GCCs, employing nearly 1.7 million professionals, contributing to innovation in sectors like AI, fintech, retail, and healthcare.
- **Telangana's Vision:** The state government aims to leverage this momentum to make Hyderabad the "GCC capital of the world," with an emphasis on sustainability, skill enhancement, and inclusive growth.

Conclusion

- The launch of McDonald's Global Capability Centre in Hyderabad not only reflects the confidence of global corporations in Telangana's governance and workforce but also cements the city's place as a nerve centre of global business innovation.
- As Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

aptly stated, these GCCs are shaping global markets and customer experiences, positioning Hyderabad as a bridge between the world's largest economies – from Chicago to Charminar.

GHMC Launches Mobile App for Real-Time Road Safety Inspections

Source: Telangana today

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Mobile App for Real-Time Road Safety Inspections

Why in News?

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has launched a Periodic Public Safety Inspection App using ArcGIS Field Maps for real-time road safety and infrastructure monitoring.

Introduction

- In a significant step towards enhancing urban road safety and infrastructure management, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has launched a **Periodic Public Safety Inspection App**, developed using **ArcGIS Field Maps technology**.
- The initiative aims to digitize and modernize the process of road safety inspections through real-time data collection, monitoring, and decision-making.

About the Initiative

- The **Periodic Public Safety Inspection (PPSI) App** is a mobile-based platform designed to enable GHMC engineers to conduct on-site inspections and report road-related issues instantly.

- By integrating **Geographic Information System (GIS)** technology, the app ensures accurate and location-based reporting of road defects and hazards.
- The app has been developed to support **comprehensive and continuous public safety monitoring** across Hyderabad's extensive road network. It reflects GHMC's broader goal of improving **transparency, accountability, and efficiency** in urban governance.

Key Features of the App

- **Real-Time Reporting:** Field engineers can instantly record and upload road safety issues such as:
 - Potholes and uneven surfaces
 - Open manholes and damaged catch pits
 - Protruding iron bars or stones
 - Broken or missing footpath slabs
 - Improper barricading around ongoing works
 - Open electrical boxes or unsafe street installations
- **GIS-Enabled Data Capture:** The use of **ArcGIS Field Maps** allows engineers to collect geo-referenced data, ensuring every issue is tagged to its precise location for quicker identification and resolution.
- **Evidence-Based Monitoring:** Each report includes **geo-tagged photographs** and **GPS data**, creating a verifiable digital record of field observations.
- **Centralised Dashboard:** A central monitoring dashboard tracks every issue – from inspection to resolution – allowing supervisors and higher officials to monitor progress in real-time.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The system ensures greater visibility into road maintenance operations, reducing the scope for delays or unreported

hazards.

- **Decision Support System:** The centralized data pool aids in **data-driven decision-making**, prioritizing repairs based on urgency, frequency, and location-specific safety risks.



(Image Source: Telangana Today)

Significance of the Initiative

- **Enhanced Public Safety:** Real-time detection and rectification of road hazards will reduce accidents, pedestrian injuries, and vehicle damage.
- **Smart Governance:** The initiative aligns with the **Smart City** objectives by leveraging digital technologies for civic management and public service delivery.
- **Operational Efficiency:** The automation of inspections and reporting minimizes manual paperwork, enabling faster coordination between engineers, contractors, and monitoring authorities.
- **Transparency and Citizen Trust:** Geo-tagged data and visual evidence improve accountability and promote citizen confidence in municipal governance.
- **Data-Driven Urban Planning:** The accumulated data on road conditions can help GHMC plan long-term infrastructure improvements and budget allocations based on real evidence.

Wider Implications

- **Model for Other Urban Bodies:** The initiative can serve as a **replicable model** for municipal corporations across India to adopt GIS-based tools for urban infrastructure monitoring.
- **Integration with Smart City Systems:** The app's real-time capabilities can be integrated with Hyderabad's **Smart City Command and Control Centre**, improving coordination among departments such as Roads, Electricity, and Sanitation.
- **Support for Sustainable Urban Mobility:** Well-maintained roads directly contribute to smoother traffic flow, lower vehicle emissions, and enhanced commuter safety – key elements of sustainable urban transport.

Conclusion

- The GHMC's launch of the **Periodic Public Safety Inspection App** marks a progressive move toward technology-driven governance and safer urban living.

Telangana High Court Stays Human Rights Commission Proceedings Against Sultan-ul-Uloom Educational Society

Source: Telangana Today

TGPSC Relevance: Governance

Context: Human rights issue in Telangana

Why in News?

The Telangana High Court stayed proceedings by the State Human Rights Commission against Sultan-ul-Uloom Educational Society.



(image Source: Telangana Today)

Introduction

- In a significant development concerning the limits of quasi-judicial powers, the Telangana High Court has stayed the proceedings initiated by the Telangana State Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) against Sultan-ul-Uloom Educational Society.
- The stay order was issued by a division bench comprising Chief Justice **Aparesh Kumar Singh** and Justice **G.M. Mohiuddin**, which observed that the matter raised serious questions regarding the *jurisdiction and statutory authority* of the Human Rights Commission under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**.

Background of the Case

- The case arose from a complaint filed before the TGHRC against the **Sultan-ul-Uloom College of Pharmacy**, an institution under the Sultan-ul-Uloom Educational Society.
- The Commission had taken cognisance of issues related to the **remarks in conduct certificates** and **issuance of academic documents**, which the complainant alleged constituted violations of human rights.
- Challenging the Commission's intervention, the College filed a **writ petition** before the Telangana High

Court, asserting that such issues were **purely academic and administrative** in nature and therefore **fell outside the purview** of the Human Rights Commission.

Petitioner's Arguments

The petitioner contended that the TGHRC had **no jurisdiction** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**, to entertain or inquire into matters relating to the internal administration of educational institutions. Key arguments included:

- **Statutory Limitation:** Under **Section 2(d)** of the Act, "human rights" refer specifically to rights relating to *life, liberty, equality, and dignity* guaranteed by the Constitution or international covenants. Administrative issues such as conduct certificates or academic documentation do not qualify as human rights violations.
- **Ultra Vires Action:** The petitioner claimed that the Commission's actions – including its recommendations and directions – were **ultra vires** (beyond the powers conferred by law), amounting to **statutory overreach**.
- **Autonomy of Educational Institutions:** The intervention was described as an **unwarranted intrusion** into the internal affairs of an **autonomous educational body**, undermining its independence and governance framework.

High Court's Observations

- Taking note of the submissions, the Bench held that the case raised a **substantial question of law** regarding the **scope and limits of the Human Rights Commission's jurisdiction** in dealing with disputes arising from educational or administrative matters.
- The Court emphasized the need to

carefully delineate between genuine *human rights violations* and routine *institutional or academic grievances*, to prevent misuse or overextension of the Commission's powers.

- Accordingly, the High Court:
 - **Stayed the ongoing proceedings** before the TGHRC against the Sultan-ul-Uloom Educational Society.
 - **Admitted the writ petition** for detailed examination on the issue of jurisdictional overreach.
 - Directed that the matter be **listed for further hearing** after notice to the respondents.

Legal Significance

- The case highlights the **boundaries of quasi-judicial authority** under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. It brings to the forefront the need to distinguish between *statutory human rights violations* and *administrative grievances*, especially in the education sector.
- The High Court's intervention underscores two important legal principles:
- **Jurisdictional Restraint:** Statutory bodies must act strictly within the scope defined by the parent legislation.
- **Autonomy of Institutions:** Educational institutions enjoy a degree of autonomy in academic and administrative matters, which should not be interfered with unless there is a clear violation of constitutional or statutory rights.

Way Forward

- The case will now proceed for further hearing, where the Telangana High Court will determine whether the Human Rights Commission exceeded its

statutory mandate in entertaining complaints related to academic administration.

- The outcome is expected to set an important **judicial precedent** on the **jurisdictional limits of human rights commissions** vis-à-vis autonomous educational institutions – balancing **institutional autonomy** with **protection of individual rights**.

Hyderabad RWA member receives USA Burlington University Award

Source: Telangana Today

TGPSC Relevance: Awards and Honours

Context: USA Burlington University Award

Why in News?

- K. Raghavendra Rao, an Air Force veteran and Hyderabad RWA leader, received an Honoris Causa PhD with a Gold Medal from Burlington State University, USA

Introduction

- K. Raghavendra Rao, a social worker and community leader from Hyderabad, has been conferred an **Honoris Causa PhD in Business Management & Social Work with a Gold Medal** by **Burlington State University, USA**.
- Currently serving as the **General Secretary of Srinivas Nagar RWA (Yapral)** and an active member of the **United Federation of Residents Welfare Associations (UFERWAS)**, he has been recognised for his outstanding civic contributions, social service, and

commitment to grassroots welfare activities.

Recognition and Award

- The award was officially communicated by **Dr. Laura Mae, Registrar of Burlington State University**, and will be formally presented at a **convocation ceremony in Delhi on October 12, 2025**.
- The honour recognises Rao's **dedicated service in multiple spheres** – Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs), civil society groups, national-level activities under the **Confederation of Residents Welfare Associations (CORWA)**, and humanitarian work through Lionism.
- His leadership is acknowledged for being marked by **honesty, integrity, and sustained service to the needy**.

Background and Career

- **Air Force Service**
 - Rao served as a **Junior Warrant Officer (JWO)** in the **Air Defence System of the Indian Air Force** between 2000–2021.
 - He was awarded the **Best Employee Award** at Air Force Station Salua in 2008.
 - His disciplined service background shaped his approach to civic responsibility and community leadership.
- **RWA and Civic Engagement**
 - Rao has been actively engaged in **Residents Welfare Association (RWA)** activities for over 12 years, particularly in **Uttam Nagar Colony (Safilguda, Malkajgiri Constituency)**.
 - He has held key roles as **Member and Secretary**, spearheading **various developmental works** in his locality.'

- As part of **UFERWAS Hyderabad**, an apex body addressing the concerns of 4,500 RWAs in Greater Hyderabad, Rao has played a critical role in **urban civic problem-solving, community mobilisation, and policy advocacy.**

- **National-Level Engagement**



- His association with **CORWA (Confederation of RWAs)** highlights his contributions to **national RWA movements**, which act as pressure groups for better urban governance, civic amenities, and resident welfare rights across India.

(Image Source: Telangana Today)

Significance of the Award

- **Global Recognition:** The conferment of an **international honorary PhD** validates the

importance of **grassroots social work and civic leadership** in shaping communities.

- **Strengthening Civic Participation:** Recognition of RWA leaders like Rao showcases how **citizen-led initiatives** complement government institutions in managing urban issues.
- **Encouragement for Social Work:** The award serves as motivation for individuals engaged in **volunteerism, community service, and urban development**, highlighting that social contributions at the local level hold international value.
- **Linking Defence Service and Social Service:** His trajectory from the **Air Force to social servicae** reflects the **continuity of public duty beyond formal employment**, reinforcing the value of veterans' participation in civil society.

