



TGPSC

**Prelims Cum Mains Based
News Summary**

**Current
Affairs**

DECEMBER - 2025

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TGPSC Current Affairs

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TELANGANA News Summary

Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad Becomes First in India to Earn 5-Star Quality Rating and ISO Certifications

Source: [Telangana Today](#)

Relevance:

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Nehru Zoological Park Hyderabad, HYM International Certifications, Crocodile Breeding Station, Mouse Deer Breeding, Vulture Conservation

Mains

- Wildlife Conservation & Zoo Management, Ex-situ Conservation in India, Telangana's Biodiversity Initiatives

Why in News?

The Nehru Zoological Park (NZP) in Hyderabad has become the **first zoo in India** to be awarded a **5-Star Quality Rating** along with **ISO 9001:2015** and **ISO 14001:2015** certifications by **HYM International Certifications Pvt. Ltd.** Telangana Forest Minister **Konda Surekha** formally received the certificates and praised the zoo staff for this national achievement.



Image Source: [Telangana Today](#)

Historical Background

- **Established in 1959** by relocating the old zoo from Public Gardens, Hyderabad.
- **Inaugurated on 6 October 1963.**
- Spread across **380 acres**, adjacent to the historic **Mir Alam Tank**, a 200-year-old 24-arch stone bund.
- First zoo in India to arrange animals **in zoological order** within **open, near-natural enclosures**, using both **wet and dry moats**.
- Houses **159 enclosures** designed to mimic natural habitats.
- The natural wetlands around Mir Alam Tank attract many **resident and migratory birds**, adding to its ecological richness.

What Do the Certifications Mean?

1. 5-Star Quality Rating

Awarded for excellence in:

- Animal care standards
- Hygiene and safety
- • Visitor facilities
- • Veterinary services
- • Habitat management

2. ISO 9001:2015 - Quality Management System

Ensures:

- Professional administration
- Standardised operating procedures
- Efficient record-keeping
- Improved visitor services

3. ISO 14001:2015 - Environmental Management System

Recognises:

- Eco-friendly waste management
- Energy and water conservation measures
- Sustainable Park operations

About Nehru Zoological Park

- One of India's largest and most scientifically managed zoos.
- Home to **1,500+ animals** across 150 species.
- Known for a balanced ecosystem, availability of water, and habitat-friendly design.

Animal Diet:

- Species-specific diet charts developed after years of observation and nutritional research.

Major Conservation & Breeding Achievements

1. Crocodile Breeding Station (1980s)

- Established to strengthen the **Mugger crocodile** population.

- Successfully released individuals into the wild.

2. Key Breeding Projects Sponsored by CZA

- Mouse Deer Breeding Programme
- Vulture Conservation and Breeding Programme

3. Successful Breeding of Flagship Species

- Asiatic Lion
- Royal Bengal Tiger
- Spotted Deer, Blackbuck, Nilgai, Sambar Deer

4. Breeding of Rare & Endangered Species

- Indian Rhinoceros
- Elephant
- Lion-tailed Macaque
- Nilgiri Langur
- Sarus Crane
- Grey Pelican, Painted Stork
- Black-headed Ibis
- Indian Python, Star Tortoise, Soft-shell Turtle

5. Successful Breeding of Exotic Species

- Orangutan
- Hippopotamus
- African Lion
- Jaguar
- Ostrich
- Macaws, Green Iguana

Significance of the Achievement

- Positions NZP as a **national model** for scientific zoo management.
- Enhances Telangana's leadership in **wildlife conservation**.
- Sets new benchmarks in **quality, sustainability, and humane animal care**.
- Strengthens eco-tourism and public awareness.

Conclusion

The Nehru Zoological Park's recognition as India's first zoo to receive a **5-Star Quality Rating** along with **ISO 9001:2015** and **ISO 14001:2015 certifications** marks a historic milestone in the country's conservation landscape. Supported by decades of scientific breeding, habitat management, and environmental stewardship, NZP stands as a model for ex-situ conservation in India. The achievement reflects the commitment of the Telangana Forest Department and zoo staff in promoting ethical wildlife care, ecological responsibility, and international standards in zoo governance.

Aahwahan Foundation Launches 'Happiness Kit Programme' for Underprivileged Children

Source: [Telangana Today](#)

Relevance: TGPSC Paper-III - Indian Society, Structure, Issues and Social Movements

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Aahwahan Foundation, Happiness Kit Programme, Educational Kits / School Essentials, Underprivileged Children

Mains

- Education for All, Equity in Education, Social Justice, Child Welfare & Inclusive Development

Why in News?

Aahwahan Foundation, in collaboration with BDO Rise Pvt. Ltd., has launched the '**Happiness Kit Programme**' in Hyderabad to support underprivileged children with essential study materials and school supplies. The

initiative is part of a larger nationwide effort aimed at improving educational access for **over 10,000 children across India**.



About the Happiness Kit Programme

The **Happiness Kit Programme** is an annual philanthropic initiative designed to reduce the financial burden on low-income families by ensuring that children receive a **complete year's worth of educational essentials**.

Key Features

- Distributed across **almost every Indian State**
- Over **1,000 students in Hyderabad** to benefit immediately
- Nationwide impact: **10,000+ children** targeted
- Kits include:
 - Notebooks and stationery
 - Colours and geometry boxes
 - School bags
 - Sweaters
 - Tiffin boxes and water bottles
 - Other year-long study essentials

The programme aims to ensure that **no child is pushed out of learning** due to a lack of basic educational tools.

Objectives of the Programme

1. **Educational Support:** Provide children with the basic materials required for schooling.

2. **Reducing Financial Burden:** Assist economically weaker families by supplying year-long essentials at no cost.
3. **Promoting Equal Opportunity:** Help bridge the gap between privileged and underprivileged students.
4. **Nationwide Expansion:** Implement interventions across multiple states to scale the impact.
5. **Encouraging School Attendance:** Ensure that lack of books or supplies does not hinder learning continuity.

Statement from Aahwahan Foundation

Braja Kishore Pradhan, CEO & Founder, stated:

“Every child carries a dream in their heart, and no dream should fade because of lack of basic tools. With each Happiness Kit, we hope to place opportunity directly in the hands of these young minds.”

- The message underscores the programme’s intention to **empower children through access to essential resources.**

Significance of the Initiative

1. Strengthening Educational Equity

- Supports students in low-income households who often struggle to afford school supplies.

2. Enhancing Learning Readiness

- Children equipped with proper materials have higher attendance and better academic outcomes.

3. Nationwide Reach

- Targets diverse socio-economic backgrounds across rural and urban India.

4. Encouraging CSR and Community Support

- Represents effective collaboration between NGOs and private-sector

partners like **BDO Rise Pvt. Ltd.**

5. Supports NEP 2020 Goals

- Aligns with India’s push for inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all children.

Conclusion

The Aahwahan Foundation’s *Happiness Kit Programme* is a meaningful step towards bridging educational inequalities and empowering underprivileged students. By offering essential school supplies, the initiative not only reduces the financial pressure on vulnerable families but also nurtures children’s dreams and supports their long-term educational journey.

Eco-Bridges to Come Up in Asifabad to Prevent Wildlife Casualties

Source: [Telangana today](#)

Relevance: TGPSC Telangana Ecology, Forest & Wildlife, Infrastructure & Environment

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Eco-bridges, Wildlife Overpasses, Wildlife Corridors, NTCA, Kumram Bheem Asifabad, Revena-Sirpur (T) Rail Line, CCTV Camera Traps,

Mains:

- Habitat Fragmentation, Landscape Connectivity, Human-Wildlife Conflict, Tiger Conservation in Telangana, Infrastructure-Wildlife Interface, Railway Mortality,

Why in News?

Three new **overpass eco-bridges** have been proposed along the **Revena-Sirpur (T)** railway

line in **Kumram Bheem Asifabad district**, Telangana. The initiative aims to prevent wildlife casualties caused by speeding trains on a forested stretch of the railway track. A **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** team visited the site in August and recommended eco-bridges to ensure safe animal movement.



Wild boars passing under an eco-bridge at Goleti in Rebbena mandal.

Image source: [Telangana today](#)

Background: Wildlife Casualties in the Region

The 20-km railway line runs through dense forests of Asifabad, a known habitat for:

- Tigers, Leopards, Wild boars, Jungle cats, Spotted deer, Nilgai, Porcupines

Recent incidents include:

- A tiger **run over by a train** in Manikgarh forests (Maharashtra border).
- A leopard **killed on the tracks** in Sirpur (T) last year.
- Numerous herbivores and small animals hit by trains while crossing tracks.

Increasing wildlife movement is linked to:

- Seasonal migration
- Search for territories
- Winter mating movement
- Movement towards water sources

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- A **statutory body** under **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- Constituted under **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, amended in 2006**.
- Mandated to **strengthen tiger conservation**.

Key Features

- Works through **advisories, guidelines, monitoring and evaluation**.
- Provides funding support under **Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Project Tiger**.
- Oversees **tiger estimation**, habitat protection, and anti-poaching efforts.

Objectives

- Give **statutory authority** to Project Tiger.
- Foster **Centre-State accountability** through MoUs.
- Ensure **Parliamentary oversight**.
- Address **livelihood concerns** of local communities around tiger reserves.

Powers & Functions (Section 38O, WLPA 1972)

- ✓ **Approve** State Tiger Conservation Plans
- ✓ **Evaluate** ecological sustainability of land use; **disallow mining & industrial projects** inside tiger reserves
- ✓ Set **tourism norms** for core & buffer areas
- ✓ Mitigate **human-wildlife conflict** and promote co-existence
- ✓ Monitor **tiger population, prey base, habitat condition, disease surveillance, patrolling**
- ✓ Approve & coordinate **research and monitoring**
- ✓ Ensure **corridors** between tiger reserves

are not diverted for unsustainable uses

- ✓ Support **eco-development** and community participation
 - ✓ Provide **scientific, IT and legal support** to tiger reserves
 - ✓ Conduct **capacity building** of forest staff
- NTCA can issue binding written directions** to any officer/authority for tiger protection.

Details of the Proposed Eco-Bridges

Forest officials have proposed:

- **Three overpasses**, each **100 metres** wide
- To be built across a **20-km-long railway line**
- Supported by **fencing** to guide animals to crossing points
- Continuous **CCTV monitoring** using trap cameras

These structures will significantly reduce wildlife being hit by trains.

Existing Eco-Bridges:

Two existing eco-bridges built across NH-363 at:

1. **Goleti (Rebena mandal)**
2. **Goyagaon (Wankidi mandal)**

They have shown impressive results:

- Wide range of wildlife, including **tigers**, crossing successfully
- **Movement recorded on CCTV traps**
- Wildlife such as wild boars, jungle cats, porcupines, spotted deer frequently using the structures

In November 2024, a tiger was recorded **crossing NH near Goyagaon** using an overpass eco-bridge.

A 30-metre and a 150-metre eco-bridge were constructed earlier at Goyagaon and Goleti with NTCA support.

Why Eco-Bridges Are Needed

- **High wildlife mortality** on railway tracks
- **Tiger dispersal routes** from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve towards Kawal landscape pass through this region
- Habitat fragmentation by highways and railways
- Ensuring safe animal movement reduces poaching and human encounters
- Preventing derailments due to large animal hits

Significance of the Move

- Protects endangered and vulnerable species
- Maintains **ecological connectivity** across fragmented landscapes
- Reduces chances of conflict and accidental deaths
- Supports tiger gene flow in the **Kawal-Tadoba corridor**
- Establishes Telangana as a model for wildlife-friendly infrastructure

Challenges

- High cost of eco-bridge construction (earlier structures cost ₹30-75 crore)
- Need for continuous monitoring and maintenance
- Ensuring animals adapt to using the bridges
- Managing poaching incidents in adjoining forests
- Coordination between Forest Department, Railways and NTCA

Way Forward

- Strengthen fencing to channel wildlife safely
- Install early-warning systems for approaching trains

- Increase patrolling by Special Tiger Protection Force
- Conduct wildlife movement studies with radio-collared animals
- Integrate eco-bridge planning in all new linear infrastructure projects

Indiramma Housing Scheme (Indiramma Indlu): Telangana's New Push for Permanent, Dignified Housing

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#),

Relevance: GS-II (Welfare Schemes, Social Justice), GS-III (Inclusive Growth), Telangana State Exams

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Indiramma Indlu Housing Scheme (2024)
- ₹5 lakh Housing Assistance
- Telangana Movement Activists - Land Allotment

Mains

- Affordable Housing & Social Welfare
- Rural Infrastructure & Livelihood Upliftment
- State-led Inclusive Development Models

Why in News?

Permanent Indiramma houses are rapidly replacing old mud huts across Adilabad, Nirmal, Mancherial, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, and other Telangana districts under the Indiramma Indlu Housing Scheme (2024). Beneficiaries are upgrading to durable homes by adding their own savings to the government's ₹5 lakh assistance. Housewarming ceremonies have begun, new Indiramma colonies are

emerging, and district officials are actively monitoring construction progress, especially in rural and tribal areas.



IMAGE SOURCE : [Deccan Chronicle](#),

What is the Indiramma Indlu Housing Scheme?

The Indiramma Housing Scheme, launched in March 2024, is Telangana's flagship programme aimed at ensuring housing for all landless and low-income families.

It provides:

- Free house site for the landless
- ₹5 lakh financial assistance for construction of a permanent house
- 250 sq. m land allotment for Telangana movement activists

The programme complements rural development, social inclusion, and women's empowerment.

Key Details of the Scheme

Parameter	Details
Scheme Name	Indiramma Indlu / Indiramma Housing Scheme
Launched by	Telangana Government
Start Date	11 March 2024
Beneficiaries	Landless, homeless, low-income families of Telangana
Benefits	Free land + ₹5,00,000 grant
Special Benefit	250 sq. m site for

	Telangana movement activists
Total Budget	₹22,000 crore
Target	22.50 lakh houses over 5 years
First-Year Target	4.50 lakh houses (3,000 per constituency)

Objectives of the Scheme

1. Ensure Housing for All

- Provide **secure and dignified housing** to homeless families and those living in unsafe structures.

2. Promote Socio-Economic Development

- Permanent housing uplifts families, improves health, and supports economic productivity.

3. Support Landless Labourers & Marginal Farmers

- Homeownership improves stability and long-term financial security.

4. Promote Social Inclusion

- Prioritises Dalits, tribals, BCs, minorities, and economically weaker sections.

5. Empower Women

- Houses are being sanctioned in **women's names**, boosting ownership, dignity, and decision-making power.

Benefits of the Indiramma Indlu Scheme

1. Free Land for the Landless

- A major relief for homeless families who cannot afford land in rural or peri-urban areas.

2. ₹5 Lakh Construction Assistance

- Given in phases as per technical norms to ensure transparency and quality.

3. Reserved Land for Telangana Movement Activists

- 250 sq. m house site allotment recognises and honours movement fighters.

4. Massive Housing Allocation

- **3,500 houses per constituency** (provisional)
- Engineering wings support construction, overseen by District Collectors

5. Quality-of-Life Improvement

Permanent houses provide:

- Improved sanitation
- Safety from animals and weather
- Better privacy and ventilation
- Foundation for multi-storey expansion

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the scheme, applicants must:

1. **Be a resident of Telangana**
2. Belong to **low-income or vulnerable communities** (Dalits, STs, minorities, weaker sections)
3. **Own no house** anywhere in India
4. For 250 sq. m benefit: Must be a **Telangana movement activist/fighter**

Challenges in Implementation

Despite major progress, certain challenges remain:

1. Rising Construction Costs

- Beneficiaries face high prices of cement, steel, and construction materials.

2. Need for Additional Funding

- Most families must borrow ₹2-3 lakh to complete their home.

3. Land Availability Issues

- Some villages lack adequate land parcels for mass housing.

4. Technical Delays

- Verification, measurement, and phased fund release sometimes take time.

5. Quality Monitoring

- Ensuring uniform construction quality

across lakhs of houses is demanding.

The Way Forward

1. **Strengthen credit support** through SHGs, banks, and cooperative lending.
2. **Adopt low-cost, disaster-resilient construction technologies.**
3. **Ensure digital monitoring** of each house under the Collector's supervision.
4. **Develop community amenities** (roads, drainage, streetlights) around new colonies.
5. **Promote women-led ownership** to enhance long-term empowerment.

What Is Causing a Surge in Kidney Failure Cases in Telangana?

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: GS Paper-I: General Essay
Social Issues Unregulated alternative medicine, quackery, public health crisis

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Aetiology (CKDu)

Mains

- Public Health Regulation & Medical Ethics, Environmental & Groundwater Contaminants
- Health System Burden & Catastrophic Expenditure

Why in News?

Hospitals across Telangana are reporting a **sharp rise in kidney failure cases**, particularly among **young adults** who lack traditional risk factors such as diabetes or hypertension. A recent study (2024) by Osmania General Hospital and Apollo Hospitals suggests a

possible link to **self-prescribed alternative medicines** and widespread **quackery**, although a direct scientific association is yet to be proven.



IMAGE SOURCE: [The Hindu](#)

Key Study Findings: The Osmania-Apollo Research (2021-2022)

The study examined **75 patients** with chronic kidney disease of *Unknown Aetiology (CKDu)* in Telangana.

Demographic Highlights

- **Mean age:** 41.7 years
- **Men:** 68%
- **Groundwater consumption:** 77.3%
- **Reported past use of alternative medicine:** 40%
- **Kidney biopsies:** 46.6%

Major Clinical Findings

- **44%** showed *global glomerulosclerosis* — permanent scarring of kidney filters.
- **33%** had hyperuricemia.
- **9.3%** required immediate dialysis.

Researchers note that while a **definite causal link** is not yet proven, **unregulated herbal/alternative medicines** remain a strong hypothesis requiring deeper investigation.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

Definition

- CKD is a *progressive* and *irreversible* loss of kidney function over months to years.
- Kidneys normally filter waste, excess fluid, and electrolytes – removed as urine.

Cause & Progression

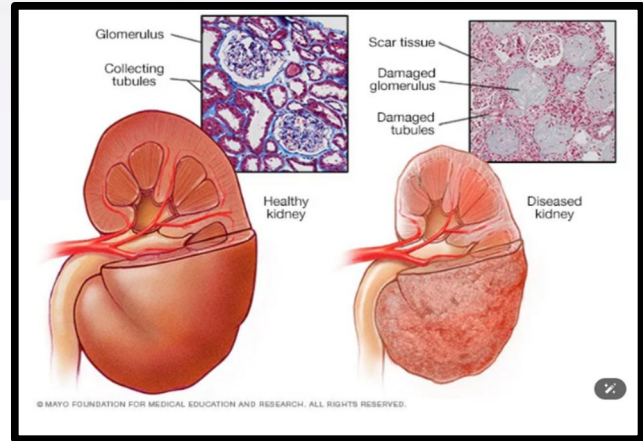
- Common causes: **Diabetes, hypertension**, glomerular diseases.
- But CKD can also occur **without these factors** (e.g., CKDu – CKD of Unknown Aetiology).
- Damage progresses even if the underlying cause is controlled.

Symptoms

- Early CKD: Often **asymptomatic** → diagnosed late.
- Advanced CKD: Accumulation of **waste, fluids, toxins**, leading to:
 - Swelling
 - Electrolyte imbalance
 - Fatigue, nausea
 - Reduced urine output

Stages of CKD Classified based on **GFR (Glomerular Filtration Rate)**:

- Stage 1-2: Mild
- Stage 3-4: Moderate to severe decline
- **Stage 5: End-stage renal disease (ESRD)** → requires *dialysis* or *kidney transplant*



Possible Causes Behind the Surge

1. Increasing Use of Unregulated Alternative Medicines

Doctors report that many affected patients consumed:

- Powders, leaves, and liquids
- Herbs supplied in **unlabelled bottles**
- Substances recommended by **quacks, neighbours, or friends**
- No dosage instructions, no medical supervision

Absence of samples makes toxicology verification difficult.

2. Quackery and Irrational Prescriptions

The Telangana Medical Council warns of rampant unsafe practices:

- Use of **dexamethasone + diclofenac injections** for instant pain relief
- Both drugs are known to cause **direct nephron damage**
- Many rural patients do not know the risks and consider quick relief as “effective treatment”
- Such combinations can accelerate kidney destruction within weeks or months

3. Drug Interactions & Metabolism Issues

Unqualified practitioners prescribe:

- Medicines with **unknown strength**
- Herbs that interact with standard treatments

Consequences include:

- Slow metabolism → drug accumulation → kidney/liver toxicity
- Fast metabolism → drug cleared too quickly → treatment failure
- Potential damage to brain, liver, and kidneys

4. Environmental & Water Quality Factors

- Over 77% depended on groundwater, which in some regions contains heavy metals, fluoride, or contaminants.
- While not conclusively proven in this study, **environmental toxins** remain a potential risk factor.

Why These Cases Are Concerning

1. Young, Healthy People Are Affected

- Unlike conventional CKD, this cluster involves adults with **no diabetes or hypertension**.

2. Late Presentation

- Nearly 40% arrived only at **Stage 5**, when kidneys are severely damaged and options limited.

3. Economic & Social Impact

Kidney failure affects wage-earners, leading to:

- Catastrophic health expenditure
- Long-term dependence on dialysis
- Burden on families and public hospitals

Conclusion

While the **scientific basis is still emerging**, the rise of kidney failure cases in Telangana highlights a dangerous intersection of **unregulated alternative medicines, quackery, and late diagnosis**. A robust public health response – combining **regulation, awareness, clinical research, and enforcement** – is crucial to protect communities and prevent a future health crisis.

Telangana Doing Well in the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme

Source: [The Hindu](#),

Relevance: Paper-III – Indian Society, Constitution & Governance

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, PC-PNDT Act, 1994

Mains

- Gender Empowerment & Social Indicators, Women Protection Mechanisms (OSC, 181 Helpline), Early Childhood Care & Nutrition Governance

Why in News?

The Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development, **Savitri Thakur**, informed Parliament that **Telangana is demonstrating strong progress under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** programme. Responding to Warangal MP **Kadiyam Kavya**, the Minister highlighted improvements in child welfare, girl-child empowerment, and institutional support systems across the State.

Key Details from Parliament Response

1. BBBP Performance in Telangana

The Minister stated that **BBBP interventions are helping address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** and empowering girls through:

- Awareness on PC-PNDT Act
- Promotion of sports & skilling programmes
- Community-led behavioural change campaigns

- Multi-sectoral interventions across health, education & protection

These initiatives have contributed to improved visibility and support for the girl child in Telangana.

2. Warangal MP's Queries in Parliament

MP **Kadiyam Kavya** sought detailed information on:

- BBBP implementation in Warangal
- Mahila Shakti Kendra activities
- Status of **Anganwadi centres** for nutrition & Early Childhood Care
- Growth monitoring under **Poshan Abhiyaan**
- Protection services such as **One-Stop Centres** and **Women Helpline (181)**

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

Launch

- Launched: 22 January 2015
- Location: Panipat, Haryana
- Objective: Address declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) & improve status of the girl child.

Nature of the Scheme

- **Tri-ministerial initiative:**
 1. Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) - Nodal Ministry
 2. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)
 3. Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education)
- **Focus:**
 - Enforcement of PC & PNDT Act, 1994
 - Advocacy & nationwide awareness campaigns
 - Multi-sectoral interventions in 100 low-CSR districts (Phase-I)

Key Elements

- Strict implementation of PC-PNDT Act to prevent sex-selective abortions.
- Social & behaviour change communication.
- Community mobilisation & sensitisation (training, awareness drives).
- Multi-sectoral coordination across health, education & WCD departments.

Objectives

1. Prevent gender-biased sex selection.
2. Improve Child Sex Ratio.
3. Promote education & empowerment of girls.
4. Encourage equal value, dignity & opportunities for girls.
5. Strengthen convergence of existing schemes for girl child welfare.

Integration with Mission Shakti

Since 2021, BBBP functions under **Mission Shakti**, which has two components:

A. Sambal (Safety & Security)

- One-Stop Centres (OSCs)
- Women Helpline 181
- Nari Adalat (community-based grievance redressal)
- BBBP expanded nationwide

B. Samarthya (Empowerment)

- Shakti Sadans (rehabilitation homes)
- Sakhi Niwas (working women hostels)
- Palna (crèche support)
- PMMVY (supports second child if girl)
 - SANKALP-HEW: District single-window convergence system

Popular Initiatives Under BBBP

- "Selfie with Daughter" campaign – started by a sarpanch in Bibipur, Haryana; promoted globally by PM Modi in *Mann Ki Baat*.
- Community awareness programmes

on girl-child rights, sports participation, education and leadership.

Significance

- Addresses declining CSR, especially female foeticide.
- Promotes gender equality and challenges patriarchal norms.
- Enhances education outcomes for girls -> long-term empowerment.
- Helps reduce dropout rates & child marriage.
- Contributes to inclusive social development & balanced demographic growth.

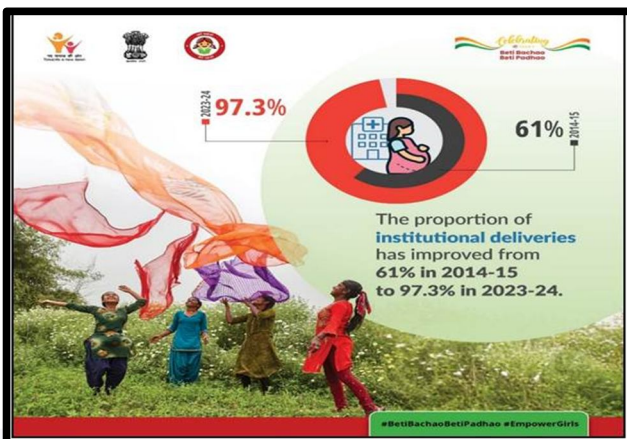


Image source : [pib](#)

3. Women Protection Mechanisms in Telangana

One-Stop Centres (OSCs)

- 36 OSCs operational in Telangana
- 77,858 women assisted since 2015
- Services include:
 - Medical support
 - Legal assistance
 - Psycho-social counselling
 - Police facilitation

Women Helpline (181)

- Integrated with ERSS-112
- 76,444 women supported through 24x7 emergency response
- Provides immediate rescue, counselling, and referral services

4. Child Nutrition & Anganwadi Services

Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0

The Minister highlighted reorganised services under the revamped programme focusing on:

- Nutrition Support (SAM/MAM children, pregnant & lactating women)
- Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE)
- Infrastructure Upgradation of centres

Infrastructure & Coverage

- Telangana has 35,769 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)
- Equipped with:
 - Infantometers
 - Weighing scales
 - Height-measuring equipment
- Used for continuous growth monitoring, enabling early identification of malnutrition & developmental delays

Significance for Telangana

- Strengthens gender equity and girl-child empowerment
- Enhances delivery of nutrition services and early childhood education
- Improves access to emergency support and safety mechanisms for women

- Supports **district-level planning** for vulnerable groups
- Helps Telangana refine CSR, female education, and women's protection indicators

Karimnagar's Silver Filigree Artisans Craft Buddha Mementoes for Global Summit-2025 Delegates

Source: [Telangana today](#)

Relevance: TGPSC Paper-II History & Cultural Heritage of Telangana

Important Keywords

PRELIMS

- Geographical Indication (GI) – 2007, One District One Product, Tarkasi traditional silver craft

MAINS

- Preserving India's intangible cultural heritage, Livelihood security for artisan communities, Challenges in handicraft sector modernisation

Why in News?

The globally renowned **Silver Filigree of Karimnagar (SIFK)** has crafted **60 silver Buddha artefacts** as official souvenirs for the **Global Summit-2025** to be held in Hyderabad.

Growing National & Global Recognition of SIFK Craftsmanship

1. Official Order for Global Delegates

- SIFK received an official order from the **Telangana State Government** to craft **60 images of Gautama Buddha** in a meditation posture.
- These artefacts will be gifted to

international delegates attending the summit.



Image source : *Telangana today*

2. Rapid Production by Master Artisans

- Around **100 skilled filigree artisans** were mobilised.
- Entire order completed **within ten days**.
- All mementoes were delivered ahead of schedule to government authorities.

3. Recognition & Previous Prestigious Works

Karimnagar's filigree craft has consistently gained national and global visibility:

- Mentioned by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in *Mann Ki Baat*.
- Crafted **saree pins** for contestants of **Miss World-2025** held in Hyderabad.
- Produced:
 - **400 gifts** for the wedding of *Anant Ambani*.
 - **200 silver badges** for delegates at the **G20 Summit (New Delhi, 2023)**.

Origin, Evolution & Techniques of Silver Filigree

What is Filigree?

- Derived from Latin **filum (thread) + granum (grain/ bead)**.
- Involves delicate metalwork using **thin silver/gold wires** twisted into ornate motifs.

- Characterised by **zig-zag patterns, curls, spirals, lattices**, and exquisite hollow designs.

Ancient Roots

- Found in **Mesopotamia (3000 BCE)**.
- Perfected in **Greek & Etruscan art (6th-3rd century BCE)**.
- Indian filigree shares continuity with these traditions, showing remarkable design consistency over centuries.

History of Filigree in Karimnagar (Tarkasi)

- Believed to be **400 years old**.
- Originated around **Elgandal Fort**, a Mughal-Nizam armoury centre.
- Skilled craftsmen from across regions trained locals in the art.
- Patronised by **Mughals, Nizams, royals, and wealthy families**.

Karimnagar artisans are renowned for their **purity of silver** and **precision of wire work**.

Institutional Development & Cooperative Support

GI Tag (2007)

- The craft received **Geographical Indication** status for its uniqueness and heritage value.

ODOP Recognition

- Selected as **One District One Product** for Karimnagar to promote export competitiveness.

SIFKA (Silver Filigree Welfare Society)

- Established in **2008**.
- Non-profit managing artisan welfare and revival.
- Has **520 enrolled artisans** – 90% silversmiths.



Support from Government Agencies

- MSME, NABARD, DIC, and Handicrafts Commission facilitate:
 - Training
 - Tool upgradation
 - Financial access
 - Exhibition opportunities

Cultural Workforce: The Vishwakarma Goldsmith Community

- Belongs to **Vishwabrahmin** group (five artisan sub-castes).
- Traditionally hereditary craftsmen.
- Region has produced **8 National Award winners** – starting with **Sri Kadarla Narayana (1967)**.



Significance

- Enhances global awareness of India's

craftsmanship traditions.

- Provides employment and recognition to local artisans.
- Strengthens Telangana's branding in international events.
- Demonstrates how GI-tagged handicrafts can integrate with modern economic and diplomatic activities.

Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025: A Landmark Investment Wave Positioning the State as a National Growth Engine

Source: [The Hindu](#), [THE TIMES OF INDIA](#)

Relevance: Paper-IV: Economy and Development

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Global Summit-2025, Deep Tech Innovation Hub, AI-Ready Data Centres, Solar-Wind Hybrid Projects, Green Hydrogen Ecosystem, Advanced Electronics Manufacturing, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Pumped Storage Projects, Net-Zero Industrial Investments, Pharma-Biotech Clusters (Biosimilars, Cell & Gene Therapy)

Mains

- State-Led Industrial Transformation, Clean Energy Transition & Net-Zero Vision, High-Tech Manufacturing & Digital Infrastructure, Life Sciences & Biopharma Expansion, CURE-PURE-RARE Economic Growth Model (Telangana)

Why in News?

The Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 concluded with record-breaking investment

commitments across Deep Tech, clean energy, life sciences, FMCG, advanced manufacturing, tourism and data infrastructure, signalling Telangana's emergence as one of India's most attractive investment destinations. Across two days, the State secured **multi-sector projects worth several lakh crores**, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's strategic economic vision.



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy participated in series of MoU signing meetings, as part of Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025, at Bharat Future City on Tuesday (December 9, 2025). | Photo Credit: BY ARRANGEMENT

Massive Investment Commitments: Telangana's New Economic Moment

The Summit showcased exceptional investor confidence, with Telangana positioning itself as a **national hub for future technology, renewable energy, high-tech manufacturing and global services**.

Key Highlights

- **₹1.88 lakh crore** investments announced on Day 1 – *one of the highest ever for any Indian state in a single day*.
- Day 2 continued the momentum with mega commitments in **data centres, electronics, food processing, pharma, tourism and creative industries**.
- The event reinforced Telangana's aspiration to become India's leader in **Deep Tech, Green Energy, Digital Infrastructure and Life Sciences**.

1. Deep Tech, Green Energy & High-Value Manufacturing

Bharat Future City (₹75,000 crore)

Brookfield–Axis Ventures announced a global **Net-Zero Deep Tech innovation hub**, focusing on:

- R&D
- High-value services
- Climate-resilient infrastructure

Energy Transition Investments

- **Evren/Axis Energy:** Solar-wind hybrid projects worth **₹31,500 crore**
- **MEIL Group:** **₹8,000 crore** in solar, pumped storage & EV transition
- **Hydrogen, renewables, PCB manufacturing:** **₹8,000 crore** (Renewsys, Midwest, Sohhytech etc.)

BIG-TICKET ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR STATE

- ▶ Deep tech, core infra & Future City see **₹1L cr (approx) investment proposals**, including **₹75k cr commitment** from the Brookfield / Axis Ventures Pvt Ltd consortium
- ▶ Vin Group pledges **₹27k cr** toward integrated projects, covering next-generation renewable energy generation, advanced EV infra
- ▶ GMR Group announces **₹15k cr** investments for expansion of its aviation and cargo, MRO and logistics infra
- ▶ MEIL group proposes **₹8k cr** investments for solar power plants, advanced EV projects among others

“The ₹2.43 lakh crore figure for Day 1 is an undeniable mandate for our progressive governance and our commitment to the 2047 vision —A Revanth Reddy | CM

CM A Revanth Reddy receives Karnataka deputy CM DK Shivakumar at the Global Summit, at Bharat Future City on Monday

2. Aerospace, Defence & Logistics Boost

Hyderabad reaffirmed its position as **India’s aerospace capital**:

- **GMR Group:** ₹15,000 crore for aviation manufacturing, MRO, and cargo operations
- **Apollo Microsystems & Solar Aerospace:** ₹3,000 crore for avionics and artillery systems
- **MPL Logistics & TVS ILP:** Over ₹900 crore in warehousing and industrial parks

3. Electronics & Digital Infrastructure Revolution

AI-Ready Data Parks & Hyperscale Centres

- **Infrakey DC Parks:** ₹70,000 crore for a 1 GW AI-ready data park

- **JCK Infra:** ₹9,000 crore data centre ecosystem
- **AGP Group:** ₹6,750 crore for a hyperscale centre with BESS
- **RCT Energy, Purview Group:** Additional multi-crore data infrastructure commitments

Electronics Manufacturing

- **Kaynes Technology:** ₹1,000+ crore expansion in advanced electronics

ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE IN THE MAKING

35+ MOUS | \$26.9 BN INVESTMENTS

SECTOR-WISE BREAKUP

- 1 Deep Tech, Future City & Infrastructure** (35%)
 - ₹1.84 Lakh Cr
 - ₹75,000 Cr Global Deep Tech Innovation City
 - Brookfield / Axis Ventures (Bharat Future City, Net-Zero R&D hub)
 - ₹1,000 Cr 5000 Startup Fund of Funds
 - ₹1,000 Cr WTC Future City (Think-Work Innovation Hub)
- 2 Renewable Energy & Power Security** (22%)
 - ₹32,200 Cr
 - ₹31,500 Cr
 - Solar & Wind Energy Expansion
 - Everen/Axis Energy
 - Solar, Pumped Storage & EV Projects
 - MEIL Group
- 3 Aerospace, Defence & Logistics** (18%)
 - ₹19,350 Cr
 - ₹15,000 Cr
 - Aviation & Aerospace Expansion
 - GMR Group (MRO & Cargo)
 - ₹900 Cr Logistics & Warehousing
 - MPL Logistics, TVS ILP
 - ₹5,000 Cr Defence Manufacturing
 - Apollo Microsystems, Solar Aerospace
- 4 Advanced Manufacturing & Core Industry** (17%)
 - ₹13,500 Cr
 - ₹7,000 Cr Electronics & Components
 - ₹1,000 Cr Distributed Hydrogen Tech
 - Sohhytech India
 - ₹5,000 Cr Integrated Steel Plant
 - ₹2,000 Cr Krishna Power Utilities
 - ₹2,000 Cr Cement Sector
 - Ultra Bright, Rain Cements
- 5 Textiles & Livelihoods** (13,500+ Cr)
 - ₹3,000 Cr Integrated Textile Unit
 - Seetharam Spinners
 - ₹950 Cr Powerloom Textiles
 - Srikanth Telangana Textile Association, Genius Filters

BIG-TICKET ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1** Ahaath Holdings to invest **₹4,000 crore** in setting up 25 compressed biogas (CBI) plants across 7
 - Project will provide stable rural income and clean mobility
 - Hundreds of direct jobs, thousands indirect to be created
- 2** Vantara (Defence Group) plans to build a world-class conservation and eco-tourism project which will include a wildlife conservatory
 - Advanced veterinary science & research to be done here
 - Habitat restoration & public education on cards
 - Immersive night-safari experiences planned
- 3** Supercross India Pvt Ltd plans to invest in 7 for setting up world-class dirt racing tracks
 - It plans to set up rider training academies
 - Plan is to host national & international championships and build India's motorsport ecosystem
- 4** Salman Khan Ventures Pvt Ltd to invest **₹20,000 crore** in creative economy management
 - Integrated township and world-class film studio to be developed in state
 - Mega project will have hi-tech film & OTT production studios
- 5** Apollo Hospitals Group commits **₹100+ Cr** annual recurring investments
 - ₹800 Cr Deemed-to-be University

CM Revanth Reddy presents at an interactive robot at the summit on Monday

Governor Ishu Dev Dora at the summit

4. Life Sciences, Pharma & Biotechnology

Hyderabad’s world-class pharma ecosystem attracted major expansions:

- **Hetero Group:** ₹1,800 crore for pharma formulations (9,000+ jobs)
- **Aurobindo Pharma:** ₹2,000 crore for biosimilars & injectables
- **Granules India:** ₹1,200 crore CDMO facilities
- **Biological E:** ₹4,000 crore for Green Pharma City facilities
- **Bharat Biotech:** ₹1,000 crore for new CRDMO facility

Emerging sectors saw commitments in:

- Tissue engineering
- Cell & gene therapy
- Precision-health research

5. FMCG, Food Processing & Agri-Tech Investments

Massive investments in large-scale

manufacturing included:

- **Godrej Industries:** ₹150 crore mega dairy plant
- **KJS India:** ₹650 crore beverages unit
- **Vintage Coffee:** ₹1,100 crore freeze-dried coffee plant
- **Reliance Consumer Products Ltd.:** ₹1,500 crore FMCG hub
- **Fertis India:** ₹2,000+ crore AgriTech R&D and Rare Sugars facility

6. Tourism, Hospitality & Creative Industries

Investments worth ₹7,045 crore, generating 40,000 jobs, were announced.

Major commitments:

- **Foodlink Global Centre:** ₹3,000 crore convention & trade hub
- **Polin Group (Turkey):** ₹300 crore Aqua Marine Park
- **Atmosphere Core (Maldives):** ₹800 crore wellness retreat
- Film City collaborations
- Partnerships with IIFA, Tony Blair Institute, ASEAN ministries

Adventure sports, wellness tourism, and entertainment zones formed a significant part of the portfolio.

7. Financial Services, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) & Innovation Hubs

Several global organisations committed to GCCs in Hyderabad:

- **Zurich Insurance** – first India GCC
- **Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)** – GCC with multi-year plan
- **Maximus (USA)** – global public sector technology hub

Startups, AI, and Material-Tech saw commitments such as:

- **Analog AI** Global R&D Lab
- **Altmin** battery materials facility

Government Vision and Strategic Direction

CM Revanth Reddy emphasised the shift from **commitments to execution**, ensuring job creation and global competitiveness.

The State's economic roadmap is anchored in the **CURE-PURE-RARE Model**:

- **CURE (Core Urban Region Economy):** tech, innovation, high-value services
- **PURE (Peri-Urban Region Economy):** industrial growth, large-scale manufacturing
- **RARE (Rural & Agri Region Economy):** agriculture, food systems, rural prosperity

This represents a **balanced spatial-economic strategy** for 2047.

Significance of the Summit

Largest Ever Investment Commitment for Telangana

Across the two days, the investments represent:

- A **diversified industrial portfolio**,
- A shift towards **future-ready sectors**,
- Sustained focus on **jobs, innovation, and clean energy**.

Telangana's New Economic Identity

The Summit positions the State as:

- India's emerging **Deep Tech and AI hub**,
- A new **data centre and digital infrastructure powerhouse**,
- A global centre for **pharma, biotech and advanced manufacturing**,
- A major hub for **tourism, creative industries and convention economy**.

CM's Vision 2047

The Chief Minister emphasised:

- Faster approvals
- Transparency in execution

- Global competitiveness
- Job creation and inclusive growth

Conclusion

The Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 marks a **transformational shift** in the State's investment landscape. With commitments spanning **renewables, Deep Tech, life sciences, FMCG, aerospace, and digital infrastructure**, Telangana is rapidly emerging as a **national and global economic powerhouse**.

The challenge ahead lies in **timely execution, job creation and ensuring equitable, sustainable growth** across the State.

First Phase of Telangana Gram Panchayat Elections-2025 Begins Today;

Source: THE HINDU

Relevance: TGPSC Paper-III: Indian Society, Constitution & Governance

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC), Article 243K & 243ZA, EPIC & ERONET, Model Code of Conduct (MCC), Unanimous Elections

Mains

- Grassroots Democracy, Electoral Transparency, Women's Political Participation, Administrative Accountability, Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

Why in News?

The first phase of the **second ordinary Telangana Gram Panchayat Elections-2025** is being held today, **December 11**, across the State. Polling is scheduled from **7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**,

with **counting of votes beginning at 2:00 p.m.** This phase marks an important step in strengthening grassroots democracy, as lakhs of rural voters participate in selecting local leadership for the next five years.

Overview of the First Phase of Elections

According to the Telangana State Election Commission (TGSEC), over **5.61 lakh voters** will decide the outcome for:

- **12,960 candidates** contesting for **3,834 Sarpanch posts**
- **65,455 candidates** contesting across **27,628 ward seats**

Initially, **4,236 Gram Panchayats (GPs)** and **37,440 wards** were notified for polling in this phase. However, due to unanimous elections, polling will now be conducted in:

- **3,836 GPs**
- **27,960 wards**

First phase of Telangana Gram Panchayat Elections-2025

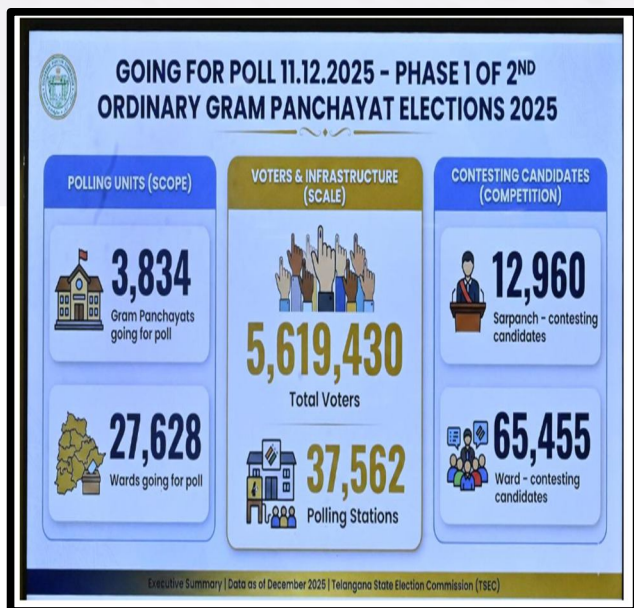
→ Date of poll: December 11, 2025 (Thursday)

→ Poll time: 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

→ Vote counting: From 2:00 p.m.

Category	Number
Total Voters	56,19,430
Male Voters	27,41,070
Female Voters	28,78,159

A noteworthy trend is that **female voters outnumber male voters**, reflecting rising participation of women in local governance—a significant development for rural political empowerment in Telangana.



Unanimous Elections and Reduction in Contested Seats

A total of:

- 395 Sarpanches
- 9,331 ward members

have been **unanimously elected** in the first phase. The Commission has taken **written declarations** from unanimously elected candidates as part of its intensified efforts to curb the **auctioning of posts**, which has been a recurring concern in Panchayat elections.

Logistics and Administrative Preparedness

State Election Commissioner **I. Rani Kumudini** announced that:

- 45,086 ballot boxes
- 37,562 polling stations

have been arranged for smooth conduct of polls. Reinforcing the importance of electoral participation, the Commission has urged all eligible citizens to exercise their franchise responsibly.

Senior officials, including **Additional DGP Mahesh M. Bhagwat**, reviewed law and order arrangements. District administrations have been instructed to maintain strict vigilance at distribution centres, polling stations and sensitive locations.

Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC)

Constitutional Basis

- Constituted in **September 2014**.
- Established under **Article 243K** read with **Article 243ZA** of the Constitution of India.
- These Articles deal with **superintendence, direction, and control of elections to Panchayat Raj and Municipal Bodies**.

Appointment

- Headed by a **State Election Commissioner (SEC)**.
- The SEC is **appointed by the Governor**.

Powers & Functions

- Full control over:
 - Preparation of **electoral rolls** for local body elections.
 - Conduct of elections to **Rural Local Bodies** (Panchayats).
 - Conduct of elections to **Urban Local Bodies** (Municipalities and Corporations).
- Powers are **identical** to those of the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**—but **limited to local body elections**.

Difference Between ECI and TSEC

Feature	ECI	TSEC (Telangana)
Constitutional Article	Article 324	Articles 243K & 243ZA
Election Domain	Lok Sabha & State Assemblies	Panchayats & Municipal Bodies
Appointment	President	Governor

TELANGANA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION (TSEC)
ORDER NO. 173/TSEC-PR/2018: ALTERNATIVE PHOTO IDENTITY DOCUMENTS FOR VOTING (IN ABSENCE OF EPIC)

IMPORTANT: Possession of these documents alone does not entitle voting. The voter's name **MUST** appear in the marked copy of the ELECTORAL ROLLS.

1. AADHAAR CARD Unique Identification Authority of India.	2. PASSPORT International Travel Document.	3. DRIVING LICENCE Issued by Transport Dept.	4. SERVICE IDENTITY CARDS With Photo for Employees of State/Central Gov, PSUs, Local Bodies, Public Ltd. Cos.	5. PASSBOOKS WITH PHOTO Issued by Public Sector Banks, TSCOB, DCCBs, Post Offices.	6. PAN CARD Income Tax Identity Card.
7. NPR SMART CARDS Issued by RGI under National Population Register.	8. MNREGA JOB CARD Issued on or before election notification date.	9. HEALTH INSURANCE SMART CARD Ministry of Labour scheme, issued on/before notification.	10. PENSION DOCUMENTS WITH PHOTO Ex-serviceman, Widow, Old Age Pension Orders, etc. (issued on/before notification).	11. MLA/MLC IDENTITY CARDS With Photo issued by Secretariat of Legislative Assembly/Council.	12. RATION CARDS WITH PHOTO Issued on or before the date of election notification.
13. SC/ST/BC CERTIFICATES WITH PHOTO Issued by competent authority on/before notification.	14. FREEDOM FIGHTER ID CARDS With Photographs.	15. ARMS LICENCES WITH PHOTO Issued on or before the date of election notification.	16. PHYSICAL HANDICAP CERTIFICATE With Photo issued by competent authority on/before notification.	17. MP IDENTITY CARDS With Photo issued by Secretariat of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha.	18. PATTADAR PASSBOOKS Containing photographs, issued on or before election notification date.

Issued in Public Interest by Telangana State Election Commission. www.tsec.gov.in

Alternative photo identity documents for voting in absence of Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) that voter of second ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats can carry | Photo Credit: NAGARA GOPAL

Approved Photo Identity Cards for Voters

In the absence of an EPIC, voters may use any of **18 approved identity documents**, including Aadhaar, Driving Licence, Passport, PAN Card, Ration Card with photo, MNREGA job card, Pension documents with photo, SC/ST/BC certificates with photo, and others. However, the voter's **name must appear in the marked electoral roll**.

Electoral Photo Identity Card

What is EPIC?

- The **Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number** is a **10-digit alphanumeric unique voter identification number** issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Introduced in **1993** under the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960** to curb voter impersonation and electoral fraud.

How is it Issued?

- Generated and managed through **ERONET (Electoral Roll Management System)**.
- ERONET is a **centralized, web-based platform** used by election officials for:
 - Voter registration
 - Correction of entries
 - Migration and deletion
 - Standardizing electoral rolls across states
- Supports **multiple languages and scripts**, ensuring uniform roll management.

Why is EPIC Important?

- Acts as a **unique identifier** linking a voter to:
 - Their **photograph**
 - **Constituency**
 - **Polling station**
- Helps prevent duplication, impersonation, and fraudulent voting.
- Errors or mismatches in EPIC data can result in **voter disenfranchisement** or manipulation.

Model Code of Conduct Enforcement: FIRs & Seizures

Since the MCC came into effect on **November 25, 2025**:

- **3,214 FIRs** have been registered
- **Seizures worth ₹7.54 crore** have been made
 - ₹1.7 crore in cash
 - ₹2.84 crore worth of liquor
 - ₹2.22 crore worth narcotics
- These actions indicate a heightened enforcement effort to curb electoral malpractice, inducements, and unlawful campaigning.

District-level Reviews and Staff Accountability

District Collectors, acting as District Election Authorities, inspected polling material distribution centres.

- **Sangareddy Collector P. Pravinya** instructed staff to strictly follow checklists.
- **Vikarabad Collector Prateek Jain** suspended **14 Presiding Officers** for failing to report for poll duty.

These measures underline the Commission's emphasis on accountability and discipline during the election process.

Phase-wise Election Schedule for 2025

Phase	Date	GPs Notified	Wards Notified
Phase 1	December 11	4,236	37,440
Phase 2	December 14	4,333	38,350
Phase 3	December 17	4,159	36,452
Total	–	12,728	1,12,242

Unanimous Elections Trend

- **1,204 Sarpanches** were unanimously elected in the Telangana Gram Panchayat Elections-2025.
- This number is **significantly lower** than the **2,134 unanimous Sarpanch elections in 2019**, indicating reduced consensus or increased electoral competition.
- For the 2025 elections, **12,728 Gram Panchayats** were notified for polling.
- After accounting for unanimous selections, **11,499 Gram Panchayats** will go to polls.
- **21 Gram Panchayats** will not face elections due to **no nominations or invalid nominations**.
- Out of **1,12,242 notified wards**, **25,551 Ward Members** were unanimously elected.
- **368 wards** received no valid nominations.
- Elections will be held in **86,269 wards** across the State.
- The Election Commission collected written declarations from all unanimously elected candidates as part of a **multi-layered mechanism to curb post-auctioning and ensure transparency**.

Conclusion

The first phase of the Telangana Gram Panchayat Elections-2025 marks a crucial milestone in deepening democratic processes at the village level. With enhanced administrative arrangements, strict enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, and significant voter participation—particularly by women—the election reflects a maturing grassroots governance framework.

- As the State moves toward the second and third phases on **December 14 and 17**, the focus remains on ensuring a transparent, peaceful, and participatory electoral exercise that upholds the integrity of local self-governance.

Underfunded, Overburdened:

Telangana Higher Education Lags Behind

Source: [Indianexpress](#)

Relevance: Paper III (Indian Society, Constitution & Governance)

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), NAAC Accreditation, Public Expenditure on Education, Teacher-Student Ratio, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Budgetary Allocation, Per Capita Education Spend, Affiliation Burden

Mains

- Equity in Higher Education, Privatisation, Quality Deficits, Governance Challenges, Faculty Shortages, Social Inequality in Education, Public Funding Crisis, Institutional Fragmentation

Why in News?

A new report titled “Higher Education in Telangana: Facts and Figures” released by the **Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)** raises serious concerns about the **state’s funding levels, rising inequality, poor institutional quality, and growing privatisation** in higher education.

- Although Telangana has made visible progress in literacy and institution-building, the data reveals deep systemic weaknesses that threaten long-term educational outcomes.

Telangana’s Higher Education Landscape: What the Numbers Reveal

Despite high per capita GSDP, Telangana spends **only about 2% of its GDP on education** – far below the 3%+ average seen in

many Indian states.

- Similarly, while most states allocate around **20% of their budgets** to education, Telangana allocates **less than 15%**, making its **per capita education spending among the lowest in India**.

This mismatch between wealth and educational investment has contributed to:

- An expanding private sector
- High household expenditure on education
- Widening rich-poor inequality in access

Key Findings of the CESS Report

The report assesses five pillars: **access, equity, quality, affordability, and accountability**.

1. Rising Privatisation and Limited Public Investment

- Private expenditure on higher education in Telangana is **among the highest in India**.
- Scholarships and fee reimbursements exist, but **do not fully compensate** for high costs.

2. Uneven Institutional Growth


- Telangana has over **1,000 colleges**, but many are **small, fragmented, and low-quality**.
- Distribution of enrolment is skewed:
 - **<5%** students pursue Arts & Social Sciences (vs. **~33%** nationally).
 - Professional and STEM courses dominate disproportionately.

3. Low Accreditation Levels

- <15% of colleges** are NAAC accredited.
- Among accredited ones:
 - 141 colleges have Grade A
 - 141 Grade B
 - 20 Grade C

This suggests a **systemic quality deficit**.

Higher education Institutions in Telangana registered in AISHE 2025	
Universities	No. of varsities
State public universities	17
Central universities	8
Private & deemed-to-be universities	16
Total	41
COLLEGES & CENTRES	
	No. of Institutions
Constituent colleges	62
Autonomous colleges	32
Affiliated colleges	2,089
PG centres/off-campus centres	12
Recognised centres	3
Total	2,198



EDUCATION EXPENDITURE IN TG AS % OF GDP	
Year	%
2014-15	2.2
2015-16	2.6
2016-17	2.8
2017-18	2.5
2018-19	2.2
2019-20	1.8
2020-21	2.1

Persistent Challenges

1. Inadequate Financial Commitment

- Telangana spends **2% of GSDP** on education, significantly lower than peers.
- Low public investment results in:
 - Weak infrastructure
 - Insufficient teaching staff
 - Overburdened public universities

2. Weak School-Higher Education

Linkages

- GER in higher education: **40%** (higher than national average)
- But **low net enrolment in school education** restricts future GER growth
- Poor age-appropriate progression creates gaps in the talent pipeline

Quality, Equity, and Governance Concerns

Emerging inequalities

Scholars who analysed the report warned that Telangana faces:

- A **deepening gap** between rich and poor students
- Declining access to **affordable, quality**

higher education

- Escalating costs due to privatisation

Governance issues

- Heavy affiliation burden on a **small number of universities**
- Fragmented institutional ecosystem
- Insufficient monitoring and low accountability
- Remedial teaching is **sporadic and unsystematic**, often limited to extra classes

Faculty Crisis and Institutional Weaknesses

Faculty shortages undermine quality across institutions:

Public University Vacancies

- **Osmania University:**
- 891 of 1,264 teaching posts vacant
- **Kakatiya University:**
- 323 of 409 posts vacant
- **Satavahana & Palamuru Universities:**
- **70%-80% of posts vacant**

Consequences include:

- Excessive teacher-student ratios in major institutions
- Limited mentorship and research output
- Poor academic support systems
- Declining NAAC and NIRF performance

Implications for Telangana

The state's ongoing challenges have far-reaching implications:

- Erosion of **quality and competitiveness** in higher education
- Exclusion of marginalised groups due to rising costs
- Weakening of Telangana's knowledge economy and innovation capacity
- Risk of "degree inflation" without corresponding skills or employability
- Reduced ability to attract global or national

research partnerships

If unaddressed, the system may face **long-term structural decline**.

The Way Forward

The CESS report recommends transformative structural reforms to revitalize the sector:

1. Increase Public Investment

- Raise education spending towards **20% of state budget**
- Enhance funding for infrastructure, digital resources, and research

2. Faculty Recruitment and Capacity Building

- Immediately fill long-pending vacancies
- Strengthen training, research grants, and career progression pathways

3. Institutional Consolidation

- Merge or restructure **small, fragmented colleges**
- Promote **Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs)** under NEP 2020

4. Strengthen Accreditation and Quality Assurance

- Make NAAC accreditation mandatory
- Establish state-level quality monitoring cells

5. Improve Access and Equity

- Expand scholarships, fee reimbursement, and digital learning support
- Target interventions for rural and low-income households

Conclusion

Telangana stands at a critical crossroads. While the state has achieved progress in enrolment and infrastructure, **systemic underfunding, unchecked privatisation, faculty shortages, and quality deficits threaten to erode these gains.** A

decisive shift towards **higher public investment, structural reforms, robust governance, and quality assurance** is essential. Only then can Telangana build a higher education system that is **equitable, globally competitive, and aligned with its economic aspirations.**

UNESCO Ambassador Vishal Sharma Visits INCOIS, Supports Dedicated Ocean Observation Satellite

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: UPSC GS Paper 1 - Geography Oceanography, Tsunami and coastal hazards

Important Keywords

Prelims

- INCOIS, UNESCO-IOC, SynOps Lab, Tsunami Early Warning System, Regional Tsunami Service Provider, Ocean Observation Satellite, Oceanography, Disaster Risk Reduction

Mains

- Blue Economy, Coastal Disaster Preparedness, Climate Resilience, Marine Governance, International Scientific Cooperation, Space-based Earth Observation

Why in News?

Ambassador **Vishal V. Sharma**, India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO in Paris, visited the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** in Hyderabad. During his visit, he endorsed the proposal for a **dedicated space-based satellite for ocean observation** in the region and highlighted the need to expand training opportunities for young

ocean researchers.



Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO in Paris, Vishal V. Sharma during his visit to INCOIS on Monday. Seen here are INCOIS director T. M. Balakrishnan Nair and senior scientist E. Pattabhi Ramarao. | Photo Credit: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

About the Visit

Mr. Sharma interacted with INCOIS scientists after reviewing the institute's **SynOps Lab (Synergistic Ocean Observation and Prediction System)**, which supports:

- **Tsunami early warning**, and
- **Ocean forecasting** for India, the Indian Ocean nations, and Pacific Island countries.

He was briefed on INCOIS's functions and initiatives by Director **T. M. Balakrishnan Nair** and senior scientists **Pattabhi Ramarao** and **Sudhir Joseph**.

Functions and Role of INCOIS

INCOIS operates as:

- **India's nodal agency** for tsunami early warning and disaster risk reduction preparedness.
- A **Regional Tsunami Service Provider** for Indian Ocean countries.
- An **International Training Centre** under UNESCO's **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)**.

Through its scientific and operational systems, INCOIS provides critical information services that protect lives, coastal communities, and marine activities.

UNESCO–IOC and India's Engagement

Established in **1960**, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is the **only UN body dedicated exclusively to ocean science**. Its mandate includes promoting:

- Scientific cooperation in oceanography
- Sharing global ocean data
- Transforming ocean science into actionable services for safety, livelihoods, and marine conservation

Mr. Sharma has also played an important role in strengthening this collaboration, including coordinating the recent visit of **Vidar Helgesen**, IOC Head at UNESCO and former Foreign Minister of Norway, to INCOIS.

Significance of the Satellite Proposal

Mr. Sharma's support for a **dedicated ocean observation satellite** reflects the growing need for:

- Enhanced regional ocean monitoring,
- Better forecasting systems, and
- Advanced tools for coastal risk management.

Such a satellite could significantly strengthen INCOIS's capabilities in delivering real-time data and regional ocean services.

Conclusion

The visit by Ambassador Vishal Sharma highlights India's expanding role in global ocean science under UNESCO's IOC framework. By advocating for a region-specific ocean observation satellite and capacity-building programs, the collaboration between UNESCO and INCOIS continues to advance scientific research, early warning systems, and marine resilience across the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Discovery of a 5,000-Year-Old Rock Art Site in Telangana

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC Paper-II – History, Culture and Geography

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Rock Art, Mesolithic Period, Microlithic Culture, Red Ochre Pigments, Veladri Hills, Bainedu Banda, Prehistoric Art, Anthropomorphic Figures, Upper Palaeolithic, Rock Shelters, Tiger Footprints in Rock Art

Mains

- Cultural Heritage Conservation, Prehistoric Human Life, Early Human-Nature Relationship, Archaeological Preservation, State-led Heritage Protection, Significance of Rock Art in Understanding Human Evolution

Why in News?

A new prehistoric rock art site, estimated to be over **5,000 years old**, has been discovered at **Veladri Hills in Khammam district**, Telangana. The discovery adds to the growing list of prehistoric cave shelters in the State and provides fresh insights into the cultural and ecological world of early human communities.

What Was Discovered?

- Heritage officials, with the help of local villagers, identified a cluster of nearly **10 cave shelters**, locally called **Bainedu Banda**, containing multiple prehistoric

paintings. These artworks belong to the **Mesolithic or Microlithic period (10,000 BCE–3,000 BCE)** and represent one of the oldest evidence of human artistic expression in the region.



Image source : [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Features of the Rock Art

The newly discovered paintings showcase a vibrant range of motifs and figures, including:

- **Human figures** with elongated bodies and raised hands
- **Hand impressions**
- **Animals** (deer, reptiles)
- **Tiger footprints**
- **Honey bees** and naturalistic depictions of fauna
- **Geometric patterns**
- **Anthropomorphic forms**

These paintings were made using **red ochre**, a naturally occurring iron-rich pigment commonly used in prehistoric art across the world. Their stylistic features align with known Mesolithic artistic traditions.

Mesolithic Age in India

The **Mesolithic Age (Middle Stone Age)** represents the transitional phase between the **Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age)** and the **Neolithic (New Stone Age)**. In India, this period roughly spans from **10,000 BCE to 4,000 BCE** and is primarily identified by the appearance of **microliths**—tiny, sharp stone tools often set into wooden or bone handles.

Key Features of the Mesolithic Age (Prelims Focus)

1. Chronology & Environment

- Marks the shift from **Pleistocene** to **Holocene** around 10,000 years ago.
- Characterised by:
 - Rising temperatures
 - Warmer and drier climate
 - Transformation in vegetation and fauna

Environmental changes compelled humans to adapt new subsistence and tool-making strategies.

2. Subsistence & Economy

- Mesolithic communities mainly lived by **hunting, gathering, and fishing**.
- Shift from hunting **large Palaeolithic fauna** to **smaller animals** suited for hunting with **bows and arrows**.
- Increasingly selective in choosing specific animal and plant species.
- The period ends with the adoption of **incipient agriculture**, marking the beginning of the Neolithic.

3. Tools of the Mesolithic Age

The defining feature: **Microliths**

- Small chipped stone tools ranging from **under 1 cm to about 5 cm**.
- Produced using **punch and pressure techniques** on materials like:
 - Chalcedony
 - Agate
 - Flint
 - Carnelian

Types of Microliths

- **Geometric**: triangles, trapezes, lunates (crescents)
- **Non-geometric**: small points, scrapers, burins

These were often used as **composite tools**, fitted onto wooden or bone shafts.

Other Tools

- **Macroliths** (larger tools): axes, picks
- **Bone and antler tools** were also common.

4. Settlement Patterns & Way of Life

- Mesolithic people were **semi-nomadic**, moving in search of food.
- Lived in:
 - **Rock shelters** and caves
 - **Temporary huts** made of perishable materials

Excavations reveal:

- Circular and oval hut remains
- Postholes and burnt clay lumps with reed impressions
- Sites such as **Bagor, Tilwara** (Rajasthan), **Chopani Mando** and **Damdama** (UP) show early habitation structures.

Rock Art

- Numerous Mesolithic sites contain **cave paintings**, portraying daily life, hunting scenes, animals, and rituals.
- This art helps reconstruct cultural and symbolic aspects of Mesolithic society.

Archaeological Importance of the Site

According to heritage officials, the site:

- Offers clues about **early human**
- Provides evidence of early symbolic communication and artistic expression.
- Helps reconstruct the **environmental and cultural history** of the region.

Authorities are considering bringing the site under **protected heritage status** to ensure long-term preservation.

Rock Art Tradition in Telangana

Telangana hosts a rich prehistoric art landscape with more than **20 major rock art concentrations** across nearly **30 rock shelters**. These sites span periods from the **Upper Palaeolithic** to the **late Medieval era**.

Major rock art locations include:

- Pandavulagutta
- Kossegutta and Bommala Loddi
- Akka Mahadevi Caves
- Dupadugattu
- Devarlagutta
- Sanganonipalli
- Mudumula
- Potanpalli
- Wargal
- Edithanur
- Kokapet
- Dharmaram
- Bangla Venkatapur

The Veladri Hills discovery enriches this extensive prehistoric cultural map of the State.

Implications for Research and Heritage

lifestyles, hunting patterns, and ritual behaviours.

- Reflects a close **human-animal interaction**, central to Mesolithic life.

Conservation

The discovery is significant for the following reasons:

- Enhances understanding of **Mesolithic societies** in South India.
- Provides material for studying early art, symbolism, and cognitive evolution.
- Strengthens the case for **heritage management and tourism development** in Khammam district.
- Offers opportunities for future **archaeological surveys, excavations, and multidisciplinary research**.

The site is expected to play a vital role in educating future generations about early human history in the Deccan region.

Conclusion

The discovery of the rock art paintings at Veladri Hills is a valuable addition to Telangana's prehistoric heritage. These artworks offer profound insights into the lives, beliefs, and creativity of early human communities. With appropriate protection and research, the site can significantly contribute to India's cultural and archaeological knowledge while preserving a window into humanity's distant past.

**Schools Dump State Board for
CBSE in Telangana**

Source: [Telangana today](#)

Relevance: Issues in School Education, Learning Outcomes,

Important Keywords

Prelims

- CBSE Affiliation, State Board Curriculum, NEP 2020, NCERT Alignment, Skill-Based Courses (AI, Coding), Private Unaided Schools, School Education Governance, Affiliation Policy, Learning Outcomes, Competitive Exams (JEE/NEET/CUET)

Mains

- Educational Inequality, Curriculum Flexibility, Market-Driven School Choice, Decline of State Boards, Skill-Based Learning, Parental Aspirations, Regulatory Challenges, Public vs Private Schooling Gap, NEP Implementation, Quality of Education

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Recent data from the State Education Department shows a sharp rise in CBSE affiliations over the last five years.

Rise in CBSE Demand: Key Data

- CBSE-affiliated private unaided schools in Telangana increased from 354 (2021-22) to 467 (2025-26).
- Nearly 35-40 schools per year have switched from the State Board to CBSE.
- Highest growth is seen in **private unaided urban schools**.
- State Board enrolment is stagnating, especially in competitive academic segments.

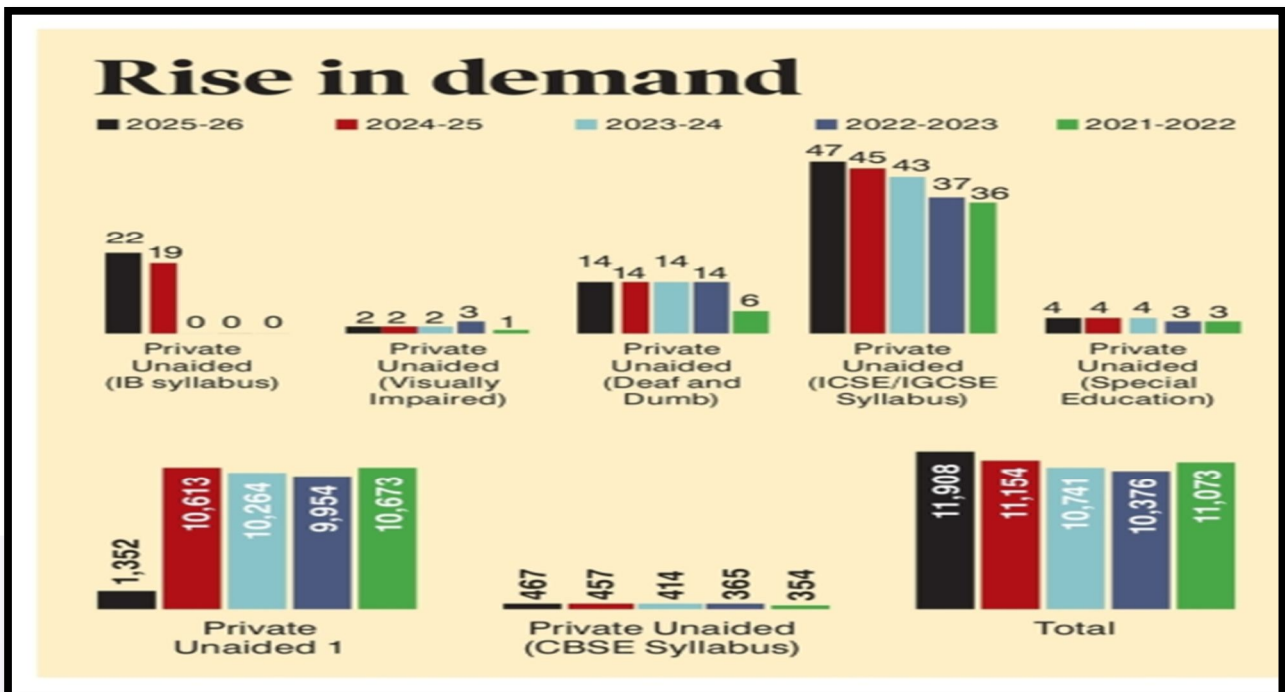
Why Are Schools Switching to CBSE?

1. Flexible and NEP-Aligned Curriculum

- CBSE offers skill-based electives such as **AI, Coding, Data Science, Robotics, Entrepreneurship**.
- Promotes **experiential learning, project-based assessments**, and reduced rote learning.

Why in News?

Private schools in Telangana are increasingly shifting from the **State Board curriculum** to the



2. Competitive Exam Alignment

- CBSE's NCERT syllabus is closely aligned with **JEE, NEET, CUET**, boosting parental preference.
- Schools find CBSE more suitable for national-level exam preparation.

3. Parent and Market Demand

- Increasing number of parents demand CBSE admission for better mobility and uniform curriculum across states.
- Schools perceive CBSE branding as enhancing student outcomes and reputation.

4. Administrative Ease and Policy Push

- State permissions to switch curricula have become smoother.
- Telangana's reforms under NEP 2020 encourage skill-based learning.

Concerns and Implications

1. Weakening of State Board System

- Decline in State Board enrolments may reduce curriculum relevance and resource allocation.

2. Widening Inequalities

- Shift is mostly in **private unaided schools**, increasing the learning gap between government and private schools.

3. Cost Burden on Parents

- CBSE schooling is costlier; economically weaker students may remain limited to State Board schools.

4. Loss of Local Academic Content

- State Board includes Telangana-specific history, geography, culture, and society—areas which may weaken with CBSE dominance.

Conclusion

The shift towards CBSE reflects evolving expectations around competitive exams, modern curricula, and NEP-driven reforms. While this enhances academic flexibility and skill-based learning, Telangana must ensure the **State Board is modernised**, pedagogically strengthened, and capable of delivering equitable and high-quality education to prevent widening inequalities.

Bolstering Turmeric Production, Quality and Exports: India's Strategy towards Viksit Bharat 2047

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: **GS Paper 3 - Agriculture, Agri-exports, Value addition, Farmer income, Food processing**

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- National Turmeric Board, Curcumin content, Spices exports, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Organic farming, Value chain, Telangana Vision 2047

Mains:

- Agri-export competitiveness, Value addition, Farmer-centric reforms, Quality standards, Global spice trade, Income enhancement of farmers

Why in News?

At the **Turmeric Value Chain Summit 2025** organised by **CII Telangana** in collaboration with the **National Turmeric Board**, stakeholders stressed the need to **increase turmeric output**,

improve quality and strengthen exports, in line with India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Why is Turmeric Important for India?

- India is the **largest producer and exporter of turmeric**, meeting over 70% of global demand.
- Turmeric holds **cultural, medicinal and economic significance**, being integral to Indian traditions and Ayurveda.
- It is a high-value **spice crop** with growing global demand due to its **curcumin-based health benefits**.



Status of Turmeric Cultivation

India

- Cultivated over **8 lakh acres** nationwide.
- Major contributor to the global turmeric trade.

Telangana

- About **45,000–48,000 acres** under turmeric cultivation.
- Produces around **1.12 lakh tonnes**, accounting for nearly 10% of global production.
- Cultivated by over **40,000 farmers**, with major markets at Nizamabad, Metpally and Mahabubabad.

Why is There a Need to Improve Quality and Exports?

Rising Global Competition

- Increasing competition from **Vietnam, Myanmar and African countries**.

Quality Concerns

- Need to:
 - Increase **curcumin content**
 - Reduce **moisture levels below 10%** to meet global standards

Export Value Addition

- Focus on processing, branding and compliance with international food safety norms.

Role of National Turmeric Board and Government Support

- **National Turmeric Board**, headquartered in Telangana, aims to:
 - Improve production practices
 - Enhance quality standards
 - Support exports
- Telangana Government emphasised:
 - **Farmer-centric interventions**
 - Promotion of **intercropping**, including turmeric with **palm oil**
 - Strengthening **horticulture and vegetable farming**
- Alignment with **Telangana Vision 2047**, which prioritises **farmer income enhancement**.

Key Challenges Highlighted

- Low awareness among farmers about **quality benchmarks**.
- Limited adoption of **organic and natural farming** methods.
- Weak linkage between **farmers and food processing companies**.
- Need for stronger **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** and market integration.

Way Forward

- Promote **organic and natural farming** to improve health outcomes and export value.
- Strengthen **FPOs and value-chain integration**.
- Enhance **farmer-industry interaction** for better quality control.
- Invest in **processing, storage and branding** to move up the export value chain.

Conclusion

Turmeric represents a strategic agricultural commodity where India enjoys a natural advantage. Strengthening production, improving quality standards, and enhancing value addition—while keeping farmers at the centre—are essential for maintaining global leadership. The combined efforts of the **National Turmeric Board**, State governments, industry and farmers can make turmeric a key contributor to **agri-exports, farmer incomes and Viksit Bharat 2047**.

IDRBT–IIIT Hyderabad MoU: Boost to BFSI Research & Innovation

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance:

- **GS Paper 2 – Government Policies & Collaboration; Education & Research Institutions**
- **GS Paper 3 – Science & Tech; Cyber Security; Digital Economy; BFSI Innovations**

Why in News?

The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) and IIIT-Hyderabad signed an MoU to jointly advance

research, innovation, and skill development in the Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI) sector.



The MoU was signed under the leadership of Prof. Sandeep Shukla, director, IIIT-Hyderabad, and Dr Deepak Kumar, director, IDRBT, in the presence of Prof. H. Krishnamurthy, chief research scientist (Retd.), IISc Bengaluru, and member of the governing councils of both institutions. (DC)

About IDRBT–IIIT Hyderabad MoU

Purpose

To collaborate in **academics, research, training, student exchange, and skill development** for improving security, efficiency, and innovation in the BFSI domain.

Institutions Involved

- **IDRBT** – Apex institution for banking technology (established by RBI).
- **IIIT-Hyderabad** – India's leading research-focused tech institute.

Leadership at Signing

- Prof. Sandeep Shukla – Director, IIIT-H
- Dr. Deepak Kumar – Director, IDRBT
- Presence of senior academic advisor Prof. H. Krishnamurthy (IISc)

Key Areas of Collaboration

1. **Digital Payments Research**
UPI, CBDC integration, frictionless transactions.
2. **Cyber Security & Vulnerability Management**
 - Threat modelling
 - Secure architectures
 - Fraud detection systems

3. **AI & ML for Banking Efficiency**
Adoption of AI to improve customer experience, KYC, credit scoring.
4. **Blockchain & Cryptography**
 - Blockchain audit frameworks
 - Secure crypto protocols
 - NFT and token systems research
5. **Standardisation & Validation of BFSI Technologies**
Testing labs for banks and fintechs.
6. **Domain-Specific SLMs (Specialised Language Models)**
Building Indian BFSI-focused AI models.
7. **Joint PhD & Academic Programs**
Research scholars to work jointly on BFSI innovation.

Other Updates

1. Viksit Bharat PPT Challenge - Telangana

- **529 participants selected** to represent the state at the **National Youth Festival**, New Delhi (Jan 10-12).
- Supervised by Ministry of Youth Affairs; evaluated by 20-member jury.

2. TGRERA Interim Order Against Vasavi Nirmaan

- Complaints of:
 - Missing common washrooms
 - Converting amenities into commercial space
 - Blocking circulation areas
- Developer asked to file a counter-affidavit before Jan 23.

3. Telangana IPE Registrations Cross 10 Lakhs

- 9.91 lakh regular students + 10,000 private candidates.
- Highest registrations since Telangana formation.

- Govt allowed mixed-use (residential+commercial) junior colleges to register students.

4. Nursing Officer Recruitment - Rank List Ready

- 40,000 candidates scrutinised for **2,322 posts**.
- Provisional list to be released; objections invited before final list.
- Joins expected in government hospitals by January.

5. Osmania University International Biotech Conference

- **200 research papers presented** (21 oral, 177 poster).
- 490 participants; 500+ registrations.
- Focus: Biotechnological Innovations for Sustainable Development.

Significance of the MoU

- Strengthens **India's financial cyber security ecosystem**.
- Bridges gap between academia and industry.
- Supports **RBI's fintech innovations** (UPI, CBDC, reg-tech).
- Enhances India's leadership in **AI-based BFSI solutions**.

Way Forward

- Create a **FinTech Innovation Hub** combining IDRBT & IIIT-H strengths.
- Encourage banks to adopt research outputs rapidly.
- Develop **India-specific BFSI cyber security standards**.
- Expand collaboration to include **regulators, insurers, fintech startups**.

Conclusion

The IDRBT-IIIT Hyderabad MoU marks a major

step in modernising India's BFSI sector by leveraging research-driven innovation in AI, blockchain, cybersecurity, and digital payments. This collaboration strengthens India's digital economy and enhances banking resilience in an increasingly tech-driven world.

Telangana Ranks Ninth in Road-Related Deaths

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC Road Safety, Transport Governance, Public Health

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Road accidents, Black spots, 4Es of Road Safety, ANPR cameras, Road Safety Fund, National Highways, State Highways

Mains:

- Road safety governance, Accident black spots, Youth mortality, Emergency trauma care, Traffic enforcement, Infrastructure planning, Behavioural change

Why in News?

Telangana has ranked **eighth in road accidents and ninth in road-related deaths on National Highways**, highlighting a growing public safety crisis. Data from the Transport Department shows that road accidents continue to claim **18-20 lives daily** across the State.



Scale of the Road Safety Problem in Telangana

- In **2025 (up to October)**, Telangana recorded **22,441 road accidents**, resulting in **6,221 deaths**.
- In **2024**, the State reported **25,986 accidents**, causing **7,949 fatalities** and injuries to over **23,600 people**. These figures place a heavy social and economic burden on families and public health systems.

Who Are the Most Affected?

Young adults are the worst hit. Nearly **68% of accident victims are aged between 18 and 45 years**, with the **26-45 age group alone accounting for 51%** of deaths. This disproportionately affects the most productive segment of the population, leading to long-term economic and social consequences.

Accident Hotspots and Highway Risks

National and State Highways account for a large share of fatal accidents, particularly at **black spots**. A black spot is defined as a **500-metre stretch recording over five accidents or ten deaths**.

In **2024**, Telangana identified **936 black spots**, including **656 on National Highways**, **117 on State Highways**, and **163 on other roads**.

Trends in Accident Severity

While total accidents and deaths have increased, the **severity of accidents** (deaths per 100 accidents) declined from **33 in 2023 to 31 in 2024**. Authorities attribute this improvement to **better trauma care and faster emergency response**, though overall fatalities remain high.

Vehicle Growth and Infrastructure Stress

Vehicle registration in Telangana has surged by **over 140% in a decade**, rising from **71 lakh vehicles in 2014 to more than 1.8 crore in 2025**. Two-wheelers dominate this growth, followed by cars and transport vehicles, with **nearly nine lakh vehicles added annually**, intensifying pressure on road infrastructure.

Government Measures for Road Safety

Adoption of 4Es Strategy:

- Education
- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Emergency care

Key initiatives:

- **Awareness campaigns on:**
 - Helmet use
 - Seat belts
 - Speed control
 - Responsible driving
- **Installation of:**
 - ANPR cameras
 - e-challan systems

Phase-I electronic enforcement:

- 100 accident-prone locations
- Focus on:
 - Hyderabad
 - Nalgonda
 - Sangareddy

Expert Insights and Way Forward

Road safety experts stress that **U-turns, intersections, and junctions** are major accident hotspots. A data-driven, continuous approach—rather than periodic drives—is essential to prevent accidents through better design, enforcement, and behavioural change.

Conclusion

Telangana's road safety challenge reflects a wider national crisis, with India witnessing around **400 road accident deaths daily**. While improved emergency care has reduced accident severity, rising vehicle numbers and hazardous road design continue to fuel fatalities. Sustained, data-driven governance and coordinated action across departments are crucial to making Telangana's roads safer for all citizens.

Water Hyacinth Chokes Hyderabad Lakes, Raising Mosquito Threat

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance:

- **GS Paper II - Urban Governance, Local Bodies (GHMC), Public Health**
- **GS Paper III - Environment, Biodiversity, Urban Ecology, Disaster & Health Management**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Urban Lakes, Water Hyacinth (Invasive Species), Mosquito Breeding, Anti-Larval Operations, GHMC, Lake Maintenance Contracts, Vector-Borne Diseases (Dengue, Malaria)

Mains

- Urban Water Governance, Public Health Risk, Invasive Aquatic Weeds, Urban Ecology Degradation, Municipal Capacity Constraints, Election-Governance Trade-offs, Preventive Health Failure, Biodiversity Loss, Sustainable Urban Lake Management

- As a result, regular **anti-larval operations and lake surveillance** were disrupted.

Why in News?

Several lakes across **Hyderabad** are witnessing an uncontrolled spread of **water hyacinth** following the expiry of lake maintenance contracts in **October 2025** and the diversion of **anti-larval staff for election duties**. This has heightened concerns over **mosquito breeding, public health risks, and ecological degradation**.



Background

- Lakes such as **Kamuni Cheruvu, Mundla Kathwa, Maisamma Cheruvu, Sunnam Cheruvu, Rangadhamuni Kunta**, and others were under routine maintenance until October 2025.
- After the contracts lapsed, **mechanical de-weeding stopped** and **entomology staff of GHMC** were reassigned as **booth-level officers for elections**.

Water Hyacinth

About:

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes* Mart.), belonging to the family **Pontederiaceae**, is a **free-floating aquatic weed** widely found in freshwater bodies across **South Asia, including India**.

- It is a **non-native (exotic) species**, introduced to India during the **British colonial period** as an **ornamental plant** from **South America**.
- The plant is characterised by **attractive purple flowers**, which initially gave it high **aesthetic and ornamental value**, leading to its deliberate introduction.
- Over time, its **invasive and fast-growing nature** has turned it into a major ecological and management challenge in lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

Current Situation

- **Rapid thickening of water hyacinth** has reduced visible water spread and slowed circulation.
- Dense hyacinth mats **block sunlight and trap stagnant water**, creating ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- Residents report **increased mosquito presence**, reduced walkability along lake bunds, and growing health concerns, especially during early morning and evening hours.

Public Health and Environmental Significance

- **Mosquito Breeding Risk:** Delay in anti-larval work increases the likelihood of **dengue and malaria outbreaks**,

particularly during winter when breeding often goes unnoticed.

- **Urban Health Challenge:** Rising vector-borne disease risk puts pressure on urban health infrastructure.
- **Ecological Impact:** Prolonged hyacinth growth can degrade **water quality**, reduce oxygen levels, and harm **local biodiversity** in urban lakes.

Administrative Issues Highlighted

- **Contractual Gaps:** Absence of interim arrangements after expiry of maintenance contracts.
- **Human Resource Diversion:** Election duties disrupting essential civic services like mosquito control.
- **Delayed Tendering:** Maintenance tenders not renewed immediately, leading to operational vacuum.

Steps Being Initiated

- GHMC officials indicated that the **tender process for lake maintenance is expected to begin shortly**.
- Once contracts are awarded, **de-weeding and regular anti-larval operations** are expected to resume.
- Authorities acknowledged that while staff are not on election duty daily, overall efficiency has been affected.

Issues and Concerns

- Lack of **contingency planning** for essential urban services during elections.
- Weak **preventive public health approach**, reacting only after risks escalate.
- Inadequate integration of **urban ecology management** with public health planning.

Conclusion

The spread of water hyacinth in Hyderabad's lakes underscores a larger governance challenge in managing **urban commons, public health, and administrative continuity**. Addressing contractual gaps, safeguarding essential services during elections, and adopting a preventive approach to vector control are crucial to protecting both **urban ecosystems and public health**.

Centre Approves ₹6.5 Crore Khelo India Synthetic Track for Jammikunta, Telangana

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS Paper II - Governance & Social Justice | GS Paper III - Human Resource Development / Sports Infrastructure

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Khelo India Scheme, Synthetic Athletics Track, World Athletics Standards, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Fit India Movement, Sports Infrastructure

Mains

- Grassroots Sports Development, Human Capital Formation, Inclusive Growth, Cooperative Federalism, Sports Governance, Social Infrastructure

Why in News?

The Union Government has approved **₹6.5 crore under the Khelo India Scheme** for constructing a **400-metre, four-lane synthetic athletics track** at **Jammikunta mandal in Karimnagar district, Telangana**. The project aims to strengthen **sports infrastructure in rural North Telangana** and support talent identification at the

grassroots level.



About the Khelo India Scheme

The **Khelo India Scheme**, implemented by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, seeks to **revive India's sports culture** by combining infrastructure creation, structured competitions, talent identification, and fitness promotion. The scheme aims to transform sports into a **mass movement** while promoting excellence for national and international competitions.

Key Highlights of Khelo India Scheme



1 Infrastructure and Ecosystem Development

Key achievements:

- ₹3,124.12 crore sanctioned for 326 sports infrastructure projects
- 1,045 Khelo India Centres (KICs) set up across districts for grassroots training
- 34 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCs) notified for elite development
- 306 accredited academies providing advanced training and residential facilities



4 Khelo India Games: Competitive Pathways for the Youth

Khelo India movement institutionalises annual national sporting events for school, university, and para athletes.

Recent highlights:

- Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025 held in Bihar with 27 sports disciplines
- Khelo India University Games (KIUG) provide collegiate-level exposure
- Khelo India Para Games held in 2023 and 2025 with 1,300+ athletes each year
- Khelo India Winter Games promote competitive sports in snow-bound regions like J&K
- Over 17 editions held with more than 50,000 athletes participating cumulatively
- First-ever Water Games was held at Dal Lake from August 21 – 23, 2025. More than 400 athletes from 36 States and UTs competed in events: rowing, canoeing, and kayaking, along with exciting demonstration



2 KIRTI: Khelo India Rising Talent Identification and Target Olympic Podium Scheme

Current scope of KIRTI:

- 174 Talent Assessment Centres (TACs) operational nationwide
- Talent evaluation through standardised protocols, AI, and data analytics
- Integration with Khelo India database to ensure follow-through on athlete development
- Aligned with India's long-term sports vision of being a top 10 sporting nation by 2036 and top 5 by 2047

TOPS

- Government has strengthened support for India's top athletes for Olympic and Paralympic Games
- TOPS contributed to India's medal-winning success in the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics

5 Inclusivity, Indigenous Sports, and Women Empowerment

Women's participation and recognition:

- 575 Women's Leagues across 21 sports with 60,147 participants
- Launch of the ASMITA portal to showcase and support women athletes
- "Dus Ka Dum" initiative held 1,500 events, engaging over 1 lakh women

Promotion of traditional and inclusive sports:

- Focus on Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, with 108 training centres and 21 appointed coaches
- ₹5.7 crore allocated for State/District-level sports events for Persons with Disabilities

3 Athlete Support and Scholarships

Identified athletes are nurtured through a comprehensive support programme that includes financial assistance, coaching, diet, medical care, and education. This system ensures continuity from identification to podium readiness.

Current athlete support status:

- 2,845 Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) receiving benefits
- 296 accredited academies (222 non-SAI, 74 SAI) offering residential coaching



6 Fit India Movement

Major initiatives under Fit India:

- Fit India Carnival 2025 held in New Delhi as a three-day wellness festival
- 'Fit India – Healthy Hindustan': a national talk show launched in 2023
- Fit India Family Sessions to encourage intergenerational fitness routines
- 1,500+ Fit India Plog Runs organised to combine fitness with environmental consciousness

Aims and Objectives of Khelo India

The scheme harnesses the **cross-cutting impact of sports** to promote:

- Holistic development of children and youth
- Community development and social integration
- Gender equality and inclusiveness
- Healthy lifestyles and national pride
- Economic opportunities linked to sports

It also focuses on creating **sustainable physical and social infrastructure** through convergence of Central and State schemes, **CSR funds, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)**, community participation, and innovative financing tools.

Components of the Khelo India Scheme

The revised Khelo India Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26) includes:

1. Creation and upgradation of sports infrastructure
2. Sports competitions and talent development
3. Khelo India Centres and Sports Academies
4. Fit India Movement
5. Promotion of inclusiveness through sports (women, persons with disabilities, rural and indigenous sports)

Fourteen Priority Disciplines under Khelo India

To build **Olympic medal prospects** and adopt a focused **One State-One Sport** approach, the government has identified **14 priority disciplines**:

1. Archery
2. Boxing
3. Shooting
4. Badminton
5. Wrestling

6. Hockey
7. Weightlifting
8. Cycling
9. Athletics
10. Table Tennis
11. Judo
12. Swimming
13. Fencing
14. Rowing

Details of the Jammikunta Synthetic Track Project

- **Outlay:** ₹6.5 crore (Central assistance)
- **Location:** Government Degree College Grounds, Jammikunta Municipality
- **Facility:** 400-metre, four-lane synthetic track
- **Standards:** World Athletics norms
- **Beneficiaries:** Athletes from Karimnagar and neighbouring districts

Significance of the Project

- **Grassroots Talent Development:** Provides international-standard facilities in a rural setting
- **Focus on Athletics:** Supports one of the 14 priority disciplines under Khelo India
- **Inclusive Access:** Public college location ensures community-wide use
- **Regional Balance:** Reduces concentration of sports infrastructure in metros

Planning, Monitoring and Federal Cooperation

District Administrations and State Sports Departments play a key role in planning and execution. Projects are appraised by **Project Appraisal Committees (PAC)** and approved by the **Departmental Project Approval Committee (DPAC)**. Performance under Khelo India is also

linked to the **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration**, incentivising effective grassroots implementation.

Challenges

- Delays in construction and completion
- Maintenance and sustainability of facilities
- Shortage of trained coaches and sports science support
- Risk of under-utilisation after project completion

Way Forward

- Integrate infrastructure with coaching, scouting and competition pathways
- Encourage PPP and CSR participation for sustainability
- Establish local sports academies around new facilities
- Strengthen district-level monitoring and accountability

Conclusion

The approval of the **Khelo India synthetic athletics track at Jammikunta** reflects India's commitment to **inclusive, grassroots-driven sports development**. By strengthening infrastructure for **Athletics**, a priority discipline, the project can play a crucial role in nurturing rural talent, promoting fitness, and building a sustainable sporting ecosystem.

Malaria on the Run: Telangana Registers a Sharp Decline

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS Paper II – Governance & Social Justice (Health) | GS Paper III – Human Development

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Malaria, Vector-borne Diseases, Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs), Disease Surveillance, Primary Health Centres

Mains

- Public Health Governance, Disease Elimination Strategies, Preventive Healthcare, Migrant Health, Decentralised Health Delivery, SDG-3

Why in News?

Telangana has reported a **steep decline in malaria cases over the past decade**, with annual cases falling from nearly **14,000 in 2014** to **around 260–270 cases in 2024–25**. The improvement comes amid national efforts to eliminate malaria, with India recording a **97% reduction** in cases.

Malaria Burden in Telangana: Trends

- **2014:** Nearly 14,000 cases
- **2016–2018:** Annual cases reduced to 1,000–2,500
- **2024:** 261 cases
- **2025:** 270 cases

The data indicate a sustained downward trajectory, particularly after 2022.

Malaria

- Malaria is a **life-threatening vector-borne disease** caused by *Plasmodium* parasites, transmitted through the bite of **infected female Anopheles mosquitoes**.
 - There are **five species of Plasmodium** that cause malaria in humans. Among them, *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* pose the greatest threat.

- Malaria is predominantly found in **tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, South America, and Asia**.
 - The mosquito becomes infected after biting an infected person. The parasites then enter the bloodstream of the next person bitten, travel to the **liver**, mature, and later infect **red blood cells (RBCs)**.
- **Symptoms of malaria** include **fever and flu-like illness**, such as shaking chills, headache, muscle pain, tiredness, and anaemia.
- **Malaria is both preventable and curable**.
 - Preventive measures include use of **mosquito nets**, repellents, wire mesh on doors and windows, and prevention of stagnant water.
 - Treatment involves timely administration of **antimalarial drugs**.

- Significantly reduced mosquito-human contact and transmission

2. Strengthened Surveillance

- Nearly **40 lakh screenings** conducted annually
- Village-level screening using **Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs)** by **Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs)**

3. Early Diagnosis and Prompt Treatment

- Immediate initiation of treatment at **Primary Health Centres**
- **Follow-up testing after one week** to ensure complete recovery

Causes of Malaria Transmission in Telangana

Malaria transmission in Telangana is driven by **two distinct factors**:

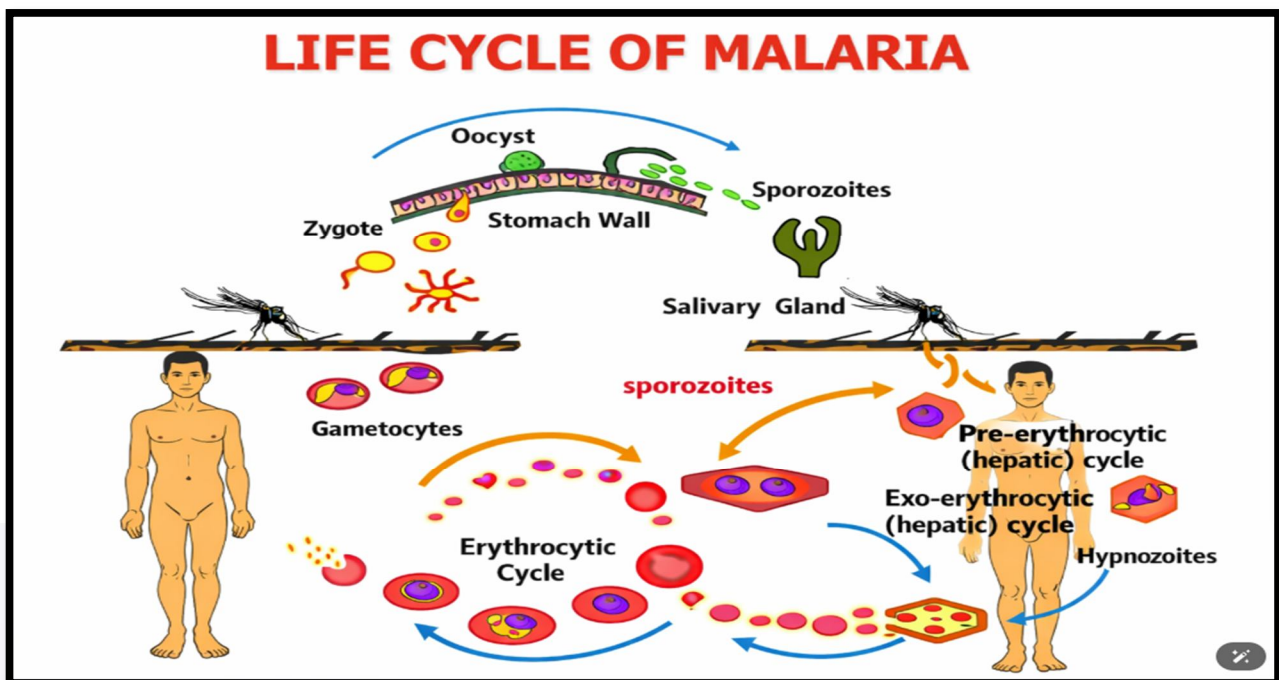
1. Indigenous Transmission in Endemic Areas

- Occurs in **forest-covered and tribal-dominated districts** with favourable mosquito breeding conditions
- Linked to:
 - Stagnant water bodies

Key Interventions Behind the Decline

1. Vector Control through LLINs

- Distribution of **over 7.5 lakh long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets** since 2022



- Limited access to healthcare in remote areas
- Climatic suitability for Anopheles mosquitoes

2. Imported Cases through Migrant Labour

- A significant proportion of cases are **brought in by migrant workers**, particularly from **high-burden neighbouring states such as Chhattisgarh**
- In **Bhadradi Kothagudem district**, nearly **50% of reported cases** are among migrant labourers
- These imported infections pose a risk of **re-establishing local transmission** if surveillance weakens

Surveillance and Treatment Architecture

Telangana follows a **decentralised public health model**, where frontline workers detect cases early and ensure treatment continuity. This has reduced complications, secondary transmission, and mortality.

District-wise and Migrant-linked Challenges

- Nearly **50% of cases** are concentrated in **Bhadradi Kothagudem district**
- A large share involves **migrant labourers**, especially from **Chhattisgarh**
- Sporadic cases reported in **Asifabad and Mulugu**
- Urban areas report minimal transmission

This highlights the role of **population mobility** in sustaining residual malaria.

Challenges Ahead

- Managing imported cases linked to migration

- Sustaining high surveillance levels as cases decline
- Preventing resurgence due to complacency or climate variability

Way Forward

- Cross-border coordination for migrant health screening
- Continued LLIN coverage and indoor residual spraying in endemic pockets
- Community awareness and behaviour-change communication
- Integration of malaria surveillance with digital health platforms

Conclusion

Telangana's success in reducing malaria demonstrates the effectiveness of **preventive public health strategies**, decentralised surveillance, and community-level interventions. Sustained vigilance, especially among migrant populations, will be crucial to achieving **zero indigenous malaria** and ensuring long-term elimination.

Distress in the Fields: Rising Farmer Suicides in Telangana and the Governance Challenge

Source: [Telangana today](#)

Relevance: GS Paper II - Governance, Social Justice, Public Policy Implementation

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Farmer Suicides, Rythu Swarajya Vedika (RSV), Crop Loss Compensation, Rythu Bharosa, Yasangi Crop, Climate Extremes, Rainfall Variability

Mains

- Agrarian Distress, Climate-Induced Vulnerability, Policy Implementation Gaps, Farmers' Income Security, Social Safety Nets, Cooperative Federalism in Agriculture, Governance Deficit

Why in News?

Farmer suicides in Telangana increased to **283 cases in 2025**, up from **256 in 2024**, according to data compiled by **Rythu Swarajya Vedika (RSV)**. The organisation attributes the rise primarily to **heavy and untimely rains, repeated crop losses, delayed compensation, and unmet policy assurances**, highlighting persistent agrarian distress in the State.



What is the Current Situation in Telangana?

- RSV, a farmers' organisation, tracks suicides using **vernacular media reports and volunteer-based field inputs**.
- As of **December 25, 2025**, at least **283 farmer suicides** were reported, with the actual number likely higher due to underreporting.
- The spike coincides with **one of the heaviest rainfall years**, which caused **multiple rounds of crop damage** across districts.

Rythu Bharosa

- **Rythu Bharosa** is the **reformed and renamed version** of the **Rythu Bandhu** scheme of Telangana.
- **Reason for Reform:**
 - Allegations that **non-eligible beneficiaries** received benefits under Rythu Bandhu.
 - Benefits were extended to **uncropped lands, buildings, and venture plots**.
- **Core Focus of Rythu Bharosa:**
 - Provide benefits only to **genuine and needy farmers**.
 - **Explicit inclusion of tenant cultivators**.
- **Proposed Financial Assistance:**
 - Increase from **₹10,000 to ₹15,000 per acre per annum** for:
 - Agricultural landholders
 - Tenant farmers
 - **₹12,000 per annum** proposed for **agricultural labourers**.
- **Objective of the Transition:**
 - Improve **transparency**
 - Strengthen **accountability**
 - Enhance **effectiveness** of agrarian assistance delivery
- **Institutional Mechanism:**
 - A **Cabinet Sub-Committee** has been formed to **finalise guidelines** for Rythu Bharosa.

Key Causes Behind the Rise in Farmer Suicides

1. Climate-Induced Crop Losses

- Telangana witnessed **heavy and untimely rainfall**, damaging standing crops multiple times.

- Farmers in several districts faced **four or more crop losses in a single year**, eroding their financial resilience.

2. Absence of Timely Compensation

- Despite repeated announcements by the Chief Minister, **crop loss compensation was not disbursed**.
- Delays aggravated liquidity stress, especially ahead of the **Yasangi (rabi) season**, when farmers needed fresh investment.

3. Delay in Income Support

- **Rythu Bharosa assistance**, intended as income support, was delayed, affecting farmers' ability to mobilise capital for the next crop cycle.

4. Policy Promises and Trust Deficit

RSV pointed out that several assurances made to the farming community remained unfulfilled, including:

- ₹15,000 per farmer under **Rythu Bharosa**
- **Crop loan waiver up to ₹2 lakh**
- **Bonus for all crops**, not limited to select produce
- **Support measures for tenant farmers**, who remain structurally vulnerable

District-wise Pattern and Regional Vulnerability

- **Adilabad, Siddipet, and Medak** districts together accounted for **nearly 30% of total suicides** in 2025.
- District-wise figures:
 - Adilabad: **30 suicides**
 - Siddipet: **29 suicides**
 - Medak: **25 suicides**
- Siddipet and Medak were particularly affected, with **crop losses occurring at least four times** due to erratic rainfall.

Broader Agrarian and Climatic Context

- Telangana's agriculture remains **rainfall-sensitive**, with limited buffer mechanisms against climate shocks.
- Climate variability has increased the frequency of **extreme weather events**, intensifying agrarian risk.
- Small and marginal farmers, often dependent on credit, face **high exposure to debt traps** when support systems fail.

Implications for Farmers' Welfare and Governance

1. Agrarian Distress as a Governance Issue

- Rising suicides signal not just economic distress but **policy implementation failure**.
- Gaps between **announcements and delivery** weaken institutional trust.

2. Climate Change and Agriculture

- The crisis underscores the urgency of **climate-resilient agriculture**, including crop diversification, insurance penetration, and irrigation security.

3. Need for Comprehensive Safety Nets

- Income support, compensation, credit relief, and tenant farmer inclusion must operate as a **coherent package**, not in silos.

Conclusion

The rise in farmer suicides in Telangana in 2025 reflects a convergence of **climate stress, repeated crop failures, delayed compensation, and governance gaps**. While extreme rainfall events exposed farmers' vulnerability, the absence of timely institutional support deepened distress. Addressing this challenge requires **credible policy delivery, climate-resilient farming strategies, and strengthened social safety nets**, ensuring that agrarian livelihoods are protected not just in intent but in practice.

Adivasis Begin Annual Gangajal Padayatra for Nagoba Jatara, Braving Winter Chill

Source: Deccan Chronicle

Relevance: TGPSC GROUP 1 Paper-II: History, Culture and Geography

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Nagoba Jatara, Mesram Tribe, Gangajal Padayatra, Keslapur, Hastanamadugu, Godavari River, Adivasi Culture, Serpent Deity, Tribal Festivals

Mains

- Tribal Identity, Indigenous Religious Practices, Cultural Continuity, Community Participation, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Social Capital in Tribal Societies

Why in News?

Members of the Adivasi Mesram clan in Telangana have begun their annual **Gangajal Padayatra**, undertaking a barefoot trek of over **150 km** in harsh winter conditions to collect sacred water from the Godavari river for rituals associated with the **Nagoba (Keslapur) Jatara**.



The Adivasi Mesram clan members will reach River Godavari at Hasthina Madugu during the early morning of January 7 and perform Gangapuja. (Image: DC)

Background: Nagoba Jatara and the Mesram Clan

- The Nagoba Jatara is one of the most important tribal festivals of Telangana and the second-largest tribal congregation after the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara. It is centred around the worship of **Nagoba**, the serpentine tribal deity, and is deeply rooted in the spiritual life of the Mesram clan, a prominent Adivasi community of the Adilabad region.



The Gangajal Padayatra: Ritual and Route

Over **100 Mesram clan members** have commenced the pilgrimage on foot from the **Nagoba Temple at Keslapur**, braving temperatures dropping to nearly **6°C**.

- The pilgrims will reach the **Godavari river at Hastanamadugu (near Kalamadugu village in Mancherial district)** by **January 7**, traversing forested and hilly terrain across **Narnoor**,

Lingapur and Dasturabad mandals.

- As per tradition, the sacred water is drawn in a **1,400-year-old brass vessel (jhari)** after performing **Gangapuja** and prayers to the river goddess.

Religious Significance of Gangajal

The collected **Gangajal** is carried back to Keslapur and used for:

- Cleansing the idols
- Performing sacred rituals
- Conducting the **Mahapuja** on the night of **January 18**, which marks the ceremonial climax of the Nagoba Jatara

The five-day jatara culminates on January 18, symbolising renewal, fertility, and protection for the community.

Community Support and Traditional Practices

During the padayatra, the pilgrims observe "**Mukam**", halting at pre-identified locations. Villagers along the route provide food and shelter, reflecting strong community participation and tribal solidarity.

The Mesram clan also follows strict ritual practices, including:

- Use of **only clay pots and utensils**, traditionally crafted by a potter family from **Sirikonda mandal**
- Traditional publicity of the jatara through **bullock-cart processions** in surrounding villages

Key Ritual Events Ahead

- **January 7:** Collection of Gangajal at Hastanamadugu
- **January 14:** Return to Indervelli mandal headquarters and special prayers at **Indrayidevi Temple**
-

January 18: Mahapuja and culmination of Nagoba Jatara

- **January 22:** Traditional **Darbar** at Nagoba Temple, reaffirming customary tribal governance

According to Nagoba Temple Peetadhipati **Mesram Venkatrao**, all rituals are being conducted strictly in accordance with ancestral traditions.

Significance for Tribal Culture and Identity

The Gangajal Padayatra highlights:

- Continuity of indigenous belief systems
- Deep ecological and spiritual connection with rivers and forests
- Collective memory and identity of Adivasi communities
- Resilience of tribal traditions despite modern pressures

Conclusion

The annual Gangajal Padayatra of the Mesram clan is not merely a religious journey but a living expression of tribal heritage, social cohesion, and cultural resilience. Braving winter chill and rugged terrain, the Adivasis reaffirm their commitment to ancestral traditions, ensuring that the spiritual and cultural legacy of the **Nagoba Jatara** continues to thrive in contemporary Telangana

