

APPSC

*Prelims Cum Mains Based*  
News Summary

**C**urrent  
**A**ffairs

**JANUARY - 2026**

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# ANDHRA PRADESH NEWS SUMMARY

## Double-Engine Government Delivering Good Governance and Inclusive Welfare in Andhra Pradesh

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS Paper II - Governance, Centre-State relations, Government policies and welfare schemes

### Why in News?

- The Chairman of the **20-Point Programme Implementation (Viksit Bharat - Swarna Andhra Pradesh)**, Lanka Dinakar, stated that **2025 laid a strong foundation for accelerated growth in 2026**, driven by a **double-engine government** in Andhra Pradesh.
- He highlighted progress in **infrastructure, welfare delivery, investment inflows, employment generation, and water security**, aligned with **N. Chandrababu Naidu's** vision of *Swarna Andhra Pradesh* and **Narendra Modi's** *Viksit Bharat* mission.

### Key Governance and Infrastructure Achievements

#### 1. Capital and Irrigation Projects

- Amaravati Capital Development**
  - Works fast-tracked with **₹15,000 crore** central assistance.

- Polavaram Multipurpose Project**
  - Received nearly **₹18,000 crore** in funding.
  - Critical for irrigation, drinking water, and flood control.
- Veligonda Project (Phase-I)**
  - Nearing completion.
  - Expected to ensure **long-term water security** for drought-prone regions.



#### 2. Investment and Employment Generation

- Investments Approved in 2025**
  - ₹8.55 lakh crore** approved.
  - Expected to generate **8.23 lakh jobs**.
- CII Summit, Visakhapatnam**
  - MoUs worth **₹13.25 lakh crore** signed.

- Employment potential for **16.13 lakh youth**.
- **Regional Focus**
  - Special emphasis on:
    - North Andhra
    - Prakasam
    - Rayalaseema

### 3. Inclusive Welfare Initiatives

#### 1. Annadata Sukhibhava

- ₹6,310 crore transferred.
- Benefited **46 lakh farmers**.

#### 2. Talliki Vandanam

- ₹10,090 crore disbursed.
- Reached **67.27 lakh beneficiaries**.

#### 3. Deepam-2

- Provision of **three free LPG cylinders** to poor families.
- Supports clean energy access and women's health.

#### 4. Stree Shakti

- **Free bus travel for women**.
- Recorded **3.25 crore journeys**, improving mobility and workforce participation.

### Economic Context

- India has emerged as the **world's fourth-largest economy**.
- Andhra Pradesh's growth trajectory is presented as part of this broader national economic rise.
- Confidence expressed that **2026 will witness accelerated growth**.

### Conclusion

The Andhra Pradesh government's 2025 performance, under the framework of a **double-engine governance model**, highlights a combination of **infrastructure acceleration, inclusive welfare delivery, investment mobilisation, and employment generation**.

Aligned with the national vision of *Viksit Bharat*, the State's development strategy seeks to balance growth with social equity, positioning 2026 as a year of further economic momentum.

## AP Removes Five Categories of Land from Prohibited List (Section 22-A)

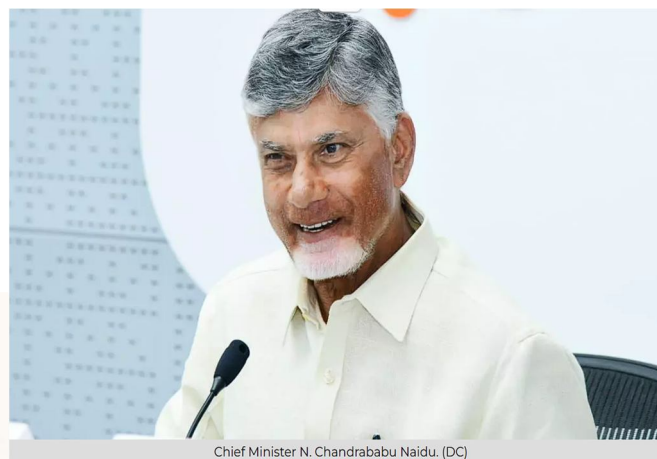
Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance (UPSC & State PSC)

- **GS Paper II: Governance, State Government policies, Land administration, Citizen-centric reforms**
- **GS Paper III: Land reforms, Digitisation of land records, Use of technology in governance**
- **Prelims: Section 22-A, prohibited lands, pattadar passbooks, blockchain in land governance**

### Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government has **removed five categories of land from the prohibited list under Section 22-A**, granting long-pending relief to farmers and landowners. The decision follows Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu's** directive to correct wrongful inclusion of private lands and reform the revenue administration system.



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. (DC)



## Background: Section 22-A of the Registration Act

- Section 22-A empowers the State to **prohibit registration of certain categories of land** to prevent illegal transfers.
- Over time, **genuine private lands** were wrongly included, causing:
  - Registration freeze
  - Legal disputes
  - Economic distress to farmers

## Key Decision: Removal of Five Land Categories

The Revenue Department removed the following from the prohibited list:

1. **Lands allotted to former & serving defence personnel**
2. **Lands granted to freedom fighters**
3. **Lands allotted to political victims**
4. **Assignments made prior to 18 June 1954**
5. **Private patta lands**

In **partially disputed survey numbers**, only the disputed portion will remain prohibited after subdivision.

## Pending Decisions (Under Consideration)

A Group of Ministers will soon decide on:

- Conditional patta lands
- Service inam lands
- Certain 'dotted lands' re-included during re-surveys
- Freehold lands (decision expected within **two months**)

## Administrative & Governance Reforms Announced

### Citizen-Friendly Measures

- **Single-document sufficiency** (any one of):
  - Old revenue registers

- Assignment records
- Record of Holdings
- Registration documents
- DKT pattas
- Officials instructed **not to harass applicants**

## Technology-Driven Reforms

- **Resurvey of lands**
- **Digitisation of land records**
- **Auto-mutation of pattadar passbooks**
- Use of **Artificial Intelligence & Blockchain** to prevent tampering and disputes

## Institutional Empowerment & Enforcement

- Collectors empowered to:
  - Cancel **fake registrations**
  - Prevent **double registrations**
- **21.8 lakh new pattadar passbooks** to be distributed (Jan 1–9, 2026)

## Political & Administrative Significance

- 2026 declared as **"Year of Land Reforms"**
- Investigation into **large-scale land irregularities** during the previous regime
- Zero tolerance towards:
  - Land encroachments
  - Fake registrations
- Revenue Minister **Anagani Satyaprasad** led implementation

## Significance

- Restores **property rights** of genuine landowners
- Enhances **ease of living & ease of doing transactions**
- Reduces land disputes through **technology-backed governance**
- Strengthens **trust in state institutions**

## Way Forward

- Complete pending category decisions swiftly
- Ensure district-level grievance redressal
- Integrate blockchain land records with registration portals
- Continuous monitoring to prevent misuse

## Conclusion

The delisting of land categories under Section 22-A marks a **transformative land governance reform in Andhra Pradesh**, combining **justice, technology, and administrative accountability**. If effectively implemented, it can become a **model for land reforms across Indian states**.

## Vadde Obanna Jayanti Declared State Festival in Andhra Pradesh

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS-I: Modern Indian History, Freedom Struggle - Early Resistance, Indian Culture & Regional History

### Why in News?

The **Andhra Pradesh government** announced that the **birth anniversary of Vadde Obanna**, an early freedom fighter who resisted British rule in South India, will be **observed annually as a State Festival on January 11**, following the issuance of a permanent Government Order (GO).



### Background: Who was Vadde Obanna?

- Vadde Obanna was a **pioneering freedom fighter** from the **Renati region** of present-day Andhra Pradesh.

- He **resisted British colonial oppression much before the First War of Independence (1857)**.
- His resistance represents **early regional anti-colonial struggles**, often absent from mainstream nationalist narratives.
- He belonged to the **Vaddera community**, a Backward Class traditionally engaged in stone-cutting and construction.



### Government Decision & Implementation

- **State Festival Status** accorded to *Vadde Obanna Jayanti*.
- **Date of observance: January 11 every year.**
- **Celebrations to be held:**
  - At all district headquarters.
  - **State-level function** to be organised at **Anantapur**.

- A **permanent Government Order (GO)** ensures institutional continuity.
- Decision implemented by the **BC Welfare Department** under CM N. Chandrababu Naidu.

### Political and Social Significance

- Reinforces the government's emphasis on **inclusive historical recognition**.
- Symbolises **assertion of dignity and self-respect of Backward Classes**.
- Aligns with the coalition government's commitment to **social justice and identity recognition**.
- Strengthens **community-state engagement**, particularly among BC groups.

### Relevance to Backward Classes (BC) Welfare

- Part of a broader initiative to officially celebrate **Jayantis of BC icons**, including:
  - Viswakarma
  - Valmiki
  - Kanakadasa
  - Bhagiratha
  - Gouthu Lachanna
- Helps **mainstream marginalised histories** into public memory.
- Acts as a tool for **cultural empowerment and political inclusion**.

### Broader Historical Importance

- Highlights that **India's freedom struggle was not monolithic**.
- Recognises **localised resistance movements** that predated 1857.
- Encourages **regional historiography**, challenging elite-centric narratives of nationalism.

- Useful for **GS-I themes** on *Modern Indian History and Popular Resistance*.

### Significance

- Promotes **pluralistic understanding of Indian nationalism**.
- Strengthens **cultural federalism**.
- Encourages **youth inspiration through local heroes**.
- Institutionalises remembrance beyond symbolic gestures.

### Way Forward

- Incorporate **Vadde Obanna and similar figures** into:
  - School textbooks
  - State museums
  - Cultural and academic research
- Encourage **scholarly documentation** of pre-1857 resistance.
- Use Jayanti platforms for **awareness on social justice and equality**.

### Conclusion

The declaration of **Vadde Obanna Jayanti** as a **State Festival** marks a significant step towards **inclusive historiography and social justice**. By recognising an early freedom fighter from a marginalised community, Andhra Pradesh reinforces the idea that India's struggle for freedom was shaped by **diverse regional voices**, not just nationally celebrated leaders.

## Konaseema Witnesses Major Blowout After 30 Years

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **GS Paper III - Disaster management and industrial safety**

## Why in News?

Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh has witnessed another major blowout in January 2026, nearly **30 years after the Pasarlapudi blowout (1995)**. This incident has revived concerns over safety in oil and gas exploration activities in the **Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin**.



## Background

- Konaseema lies in the hydrocarbon-rich **Krishna-Godavari Basin**, where extensive oil and natural gas exploration is carried out.
- Operations are primarily undertaken by **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** and gas transportation by **Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)**.
- Repeated blowouts and pipeline blasts highlight environmental, human safety, and regulatory challenges.

## Major Gas & Oil Mishaps in Konaseema

- **Komarada Mud Blowout (1992)**
  - Mud eruption; capped within 5 days.
- **Pasarlapudi Blowout (8 January 1995)**
  - Location: Devarlanka village, Allavaram mandal
  - Fire raged for **65 days**
  - Around **6,000 families evacuated**
  - International experts failed; ONGC's

internal team capped the well on **15 March 1995**.

- **Devarapalli Blowout (19 February 1997)**
  - Flames rose over **100 metres**
  - Capped after **42 hours**
  - **400 families evacuated** as precaution.
- **Tandavapalli Blowout (8 September 2005)**
  - Capped within **4 hours**.
- **Nagaram GAIL Pipeline Blast (27 June 2014)**
  - Gas pipeline rupture
  - **23 deaths, 16 injured**
  - Severe loss of livestock and birds
  - Fire subsided once gas supply exhausted.
- **Uppudi Blowout (2 February 2020)**
  - Well capped on **4 February 2020**.
- **Latest Konaseema Blowout (January 2026)**
  - Occurred after a gap of nearly **three decades** from Pasarlapudi
  - Area declared **danger zone for 24 hours**
  - ONGC monitoring situation.

## Causes & Concerns

- High-pressure hydrocarbon reservoirs in deltaic sedimentary formations
- Ageing pipelines and infrastructure
- Inadequate disaster-preparedness at local level
- Ecological sensitivity of delta regions

## Way Forward

- Strengthening **blowout preventer (BOP)** standards
- Periodic safety audits of pipelines and wells
- Community-based disaster preparedness in exploration zones
- Stronger regulatory oversight in ecologically fragile regions

## Coastal Forest Protection and Green Cover Expansion in Andhra Pradesh

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

### Relevance

- GS Paper III - Environment, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Coastal Ecosystems
- GS Paper II - Governance, Inter-departmental Coordination, Public Policy
- State PSC (APPSC / TGpsc) - Mangroves, Green Cover, Coastal Regulation

### Important Keywords

#### Prelims

- Coastal Forests, Mangroves, Green Cover Programme, Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh, Satellite Mapping, Forest Encroachment, Inter-departmental Task Force

#### Mains

- Coastal Ecosystem Protection, Mangrove Conservation, Climate Resilience, Community Participation, Forest Governance, Land Use Regulation, Sustainable Development

### Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government has accorded **high priority to coastal forest protection**, with Deputy Chief Minister and Forest & Environment Minister **K. Pawan Kalyan** directing officials to **fast-track green cover initiatives** and bring **unclassified mangrove forests under legal protection**.



### Importance of Coastal Forests

Coastal forests, especially **mangroves**, play a crucial role in:

- Protecting coastlines from cyclones, storm surges and erosion
- Supporting marine biodiversity and fisheries
- Acting as carbon sinks (blue carbon ecosystems)
- Enhancing livelihood security of coastal communities

Andhra Pradesh, with a long coastline along the Bay of Bengal, is particularly vulnerable to climate-induced coastal hazards.

### Government Initiatives in Andhra Pradesh

The State is implementing two major flagship programmes:

- **Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh**
- **50% Green Cover Programme**

Achieving 50% green cover has been identified as a **key governance and environmental priority** under the leadership of Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu**.

### Mangrove Protection through Satellite Mapping



- Nearly 10,000 acres of unclassified mangrove forests have been identified
- Detection was done using satellite imagery and geospatial data
- The government plans to notify these areas as protected forests, bringing them under the legal forest framework

This step is significant as unclassified forests are often the most vulnerable to encroachment and land-use change.

### Institutional and Governance Measures

- A special inter-departmental task force will be constituted
- A clear road map for implementation is to be finalised by the end of January
- Departments dealing with forests, revenue, coastal regulation and rural development will coordinate for time-bound execution

### Role of Coastal Communities

The government has emphasised community participation, urging:

- Active involvement of coastal communities in plantation protection
- Local vigilance to prevent forest encroachments
- Community ownership of conservation outcomes

Such participation improves long-term sustainability and compliance.

### Environmental and Climate Significance

Strengthening coastal forests contributes to:

- Climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- Biodiversity conservation
- Carbon sequestration and climate mitigation

- Sustainable coastal development

### Challenges

- Encroachments on forest and mangrove land
- Competing land-use pressures
- Need for sustained monitoring and enforcement
- Ensuring livelihood compatibility with conservation goals

### Way Forward

- Legal notification of all identified mangrove areas
- Integration of satellite monitoring with ground enforcement
- Incentivising community-led conservation
- Linking green cover expansion with climate action plans

### Conclusion

By prioritising coastal forest protection, mangrove conservation and green cover expansion, Andhra Pradesh is taking a proactive climate-resilient development approach. The combination of technology-driven mapping, strong governance, and community participation can significantly strengthen coastal ecosystems while safeguarding livelihoods and environmental security.

## Amaravati–Avakaya Festival 2026

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS Paper I - Indian culture, regional traditions, heritage

### Why in News?

- The Amaravati–Avakaya Festival 2026 was inaugurated to institutionalise Andhra

Pradesh's cultural, culinary, and cinematic heritage as a state-led cultural tourism initiative, projecting regional identity on national and global platforms.



## Venue & Inauguration

- The **Amaravati–Avakaya Festival 2026** was inaugurated at **Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada**.
- The festival was formally launched by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu**.
- The event featured traditional rituals, including *Jala Harathi* offered to the River Krishna by priests of the Kanakadurga temple.

## Objectives of the Festival

- To bring together on a single platform:
  - The richness of **Andhra cuisine** (symbolised by Avakaya),
  - The cultural ethos of **Amaravati**,
  - The glorious legacy of **Telugu cinema**.
- To institutionalise cultural festivals as living traditions that preserve Telugu pride, customs, and values.

## Participation

- Tourism Minister **Kandula Durgesh** and other dignitaries attended the programme.

## Cultural & Culinary Significance

- Avakaya was highlighted as a global symbol of Andhra Pradesh's culinary heritage.
- The CM noted that when people think of food, India comes to mind—and within India, Andhra Pradesh stands out for its bold and rich flavours.
- The festival aims to project Andhra cuisine onto national and international platforms.

## Events & Activities

- The festival includes:
  - **28 special cultural events**
  - **4 dedicated workshops**
- Focus areas include:
  - Traditional arts and performances,
  - Culinary heritage,
  - Creative and cultural industries.

## Celebration of Telugu Cinema

- The Chief Minister traced the evolution of Telugu cinema:
  - From *Bhakta Prahlada* to *Baahubali*.



- He paid tribute to legendary actors:
  - NTR, ANR, and Sobhan Babu (all from Krishna district).
- Contemporary stars like Pawan Kalyan and Balakrishna were credited with taking Telugu cinema to greater heights.

### Global Outreach & Diplomacy

- The presence of European Union Ambassador Hervé Delphin highlighted the festival's international dimension.
- The event underscored Andhra Pradesh's efforts to blend cultural diplomacy with tourism promotion.

### Revival of Festivals & Tourism Push

- The CM recalled the revival of major celebrations such as:
  - Vijayawada Utsav,
  - Dasara festivities.
- Vijayawada has now emerged as a prominent Dasara destination alongside Mysuru and Kolkata.
- Tourism is being positioned as a key employment generator.

### Development Vision & Technology

- Visakhapatnam is proposed to be developed as an AI hub.
- **Green hydrogen initiatives** aim to bring future-ready technologies closer to households.
- The CM dismissed fears of job losses due to AI, stressing that:
  - Technology + Tourism = More employment.

### Economic & Social Observations

- Krishna district was praised for its

entrepreneurial spirit and wealth creation.

- The transition from hard work to smart work was emphasised.
- The global success of Telugu people was linked to early investments in IT education.

## Mega Green Ammonia Project in Kakinada

**Source:** [Deccan Chronicle](#)

**Relevance:** GS Paper III - Renewable energy, climate change, industrial revival, green jobs, energy security

### Important Keywords for Prelims

#### Prelims

- Green hydrogen, Green ammonia, Electrolyser, Pumped hydro storage, Clean energy exports, Integrated Clean Energy (ICE) Policy 2024, Renewable energy transition

#### Mains

- Renewable energy, climate change, industrial revival, green jobs, energy security

### Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan laid the foundation stone for **India's first and the world's largest green ammonia project in Kakinada**, marking the beginning of **India's green energy exports to Europe and advanced Asian markets**.



### Project launch and leadership

- Foundation stone laid at **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**
- Launched by **CM N. Chandrababu Naidu** and **Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan**
- Implemented by **AM Green (Greenko Group)**

### Investment & Scale

- Investment: **₹18,000 crore (~\$2 billion)** initially
- Total clean-energy ecosystem investment: **\$10 billion**
- Area: **495 acres**
- India's **largest green ammonia complex**

### Production Capacity

- Green ammonia capacity: **1.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA)**
- Phased commissioning:
  - **0.5 MTPA by 2027**
  - **1.0 MTPA by 2028**
  - **1.5 MTPA by 2030**
- Electrolyser capacity: **1,950 MW**
- Renewable energy integration:
  - **7.5 GW solar + wind**
  - **2 GW round-the-clock power**
  - Supported by **pumped hydro storage**

### Employment Generation

- **8,000 jobs** during construction phase
- Long-term jobs in:
  - Logistics
  - Storage
  - Port services
  - Renewable energy
  - High-skill clean-tech operations

### Global Exports

- Green ammonia to be exported to:
  - **Germany**
  - **Japan**
  - **Singapore**
- Key offtaker: **Uniper (Germany)**
- First-ever export of **green energy from India to Europe**

### Global Partnerships

- Project supported by:
  - **Petronas (Malaysia)**
  - **GIC (Singapore)**
  - **ADIA (UAE)**
- Long-term supply agreements signed with global firms

### Industrial Revival Model

- Brownfield conversion of **Nagarjuna Fertilisers plant**
- Example of:
  - Industrial recycling
  - Low-carbon industrial transformation
  - Sustainable manufacturing

### Policy Alignment & Significance

- Aligned with **Integrated Clean Energy (ICE) Policy, 2024**
- Establishes Andhra Pradesh as:

- India's **green hydrogen hub**
- **Clean-energy export gateway**
- Green ammonia use:
  - Clean shipping fuel
  - Power generation
  - Green hydrogen carrier
- Replaces **coal, oil, and gas** with zero-emission energy

**Beach, Visakhapatnam**, highlighting coastal security, patriotism, and national integration.



During a press conference at the Harbour Park Port Guest House, CISF deputy inspector general Dr M.G. Raghavendra Kumar announced the second edition of this nationwide cycling expedition.

## Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon-2026

**Source:** [Deccan Chronicle](#)

**Relevance:**

- **GS Paper I - History & Culture- National symbols and freedom movement legacy- Cultural nationalism and patriotic mobilisation**
- **GS Paper III - Security & Disaster Management - Maritime security - Coastal vulnerability and vigilance - Community-based security models**

### Important Keywords for Prelims

**For Prelims**

- Vande Mataram, RK Beach, Maritime Vigilance, Community Policing, CAPF, National Integration, Coastal Cyclothon, Internal Security.

### Why in News?

The CISF is organising the **Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon-2026** to commemorate the **150th anniversary of the national song "Vande Mataram"**, with major celebrations planned at **RK**

### Context & Contemporary Relevance

- Marks **150 years of "Vande Mataram"** (1876-2026), written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- Connects **national identity, coastal security, youth participation, and community awareness.**
- Reinforces India's focus on **maritime security** amid rising coastal vulnerabilities.
- Promotes **citizen participation in internal security awareness**, especially among fishermen.

### Prelims Facts

- **Event Name:** Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon-2026
- **Organiser:** Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- **Theme:** "Safe Coasts - Prosperous India"
- **Duration:** February 4 - February 22, 2026
- **Total Distance:** ~6,500 km
- **States Covered:** 9 coastal states
- **Andhra Pradesh Stretch:** 964 km (8 days)
- **Entry Point in AP:** Chilika / Sompeta
- **Route in AP:** Srikakulam → Visakhapatnam →

Kakinada → Machilipatnam → Chirala → Kavali → Naidupeta

- **Major Public Event:** February 6
- **Grand Celebration:** February 7 at RK Beach, Visakhapatnam

### Objectives of the Cyclothon

- Raise **awareness on coastal security** among fishing communities
- Promote **vigilance against suspicious activities**
- Foster **patriotism among youth and students**
- Encourage **careers in security forces**
- Promote **physical fitness and unity**
- Strengthen **national integration through mass participation**

### Social & Cultural Outreach

- Cultural programmes in coastal villages:
  - Koppili
  - Uppada
  - Tallapalem
  - Ramapuram
  - Tummalapenta
- Focus on **community engagement and awareness-building**

### Institutional Significance

- CISF plays a key role in:
  - Port security
  - Coastal infrastructure protection
  - Critical installations security
- Cyclothon aligns with India's **coastal surveillance and maritime security strategy**

## Goddess Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari's Self-Sacrifice Declared State Festival

Source: *Deccan Chronicle*

**Relevance:** GS Paper I (Art & Culture) - Living traditions and regional religious practices - Feminine divine symbolism in Indian culture - Cultural festivals as intangible heritage

### Important Keywords for Prelims & Mains

- Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari, State Festival, Penugonda shrine, Adi Shakti, Cultural federalism, Intangible cultural heritage, Women symbolism in tradition, Andhra Pradesh cultural policy, Social cohesion through culture



Ramanaidu underlined that the message of the Goddess is not limited to any caste or religion.— DC Image

### Why in News?

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has announced that the **self-sacrifice day of Goddess Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari** will be observed as a **State Festival**.
- The announcement was made by **Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu** at the Goddess's shrine in **Penugonda**, in the



presence of local MLAs and devotees.

- The decision was taken under the leadership of **Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu**, as part of the coalition government's cultural initiatives.

### Context & Contemporary Relevance

- The declaration reflects a broader trend of **state-led cultural revival and recognition of local religious traditions**.
- Such state festivals are increasingly used as tools for:
  - Cultural preservation
  - Social cohesion
  - Tourism promotion
  - Reinforcing shared heritage beyond caste and religion
- It aligns with recent efforts by states to **institutionalise festivals as part of identity, governance, and soft power**.

### About Goddess Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari

- She is revered as a **symbol of sacrifice, truth, and righteousness**.
- Her self-sacrifice is considered an act of **Adi Shakti (feminine divine power)** undertaken to uphold *dharma*.
- The tradition emphasises that:
  - The sacrifice was not death, but **moral resistance through spiritual strength**.
  - Her message transcends **caste, community, and religious boundaries**.

### Institutional & Cultural Significance

- Declaring a state festival:
  - Gives **official recognition to community traditions**
  - Ensures **annual government-supported celebrations**

- Strengthens **cultural federalism**

- It also reflects the role of states in **preserving intangible cultural heritage**, complementing national-level efforts like:
  - Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
  - Cultural mapping under Ministry of Culture

### Social & Ethical Significance

- The narrative of Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari:
  - Highlights **women's moral agency in history**
  - Reinforces values of **truth, sacrifice, and justice**
  - Promotes **inclusive spirituality**, not confined to one community
- It provides a **cultural counter-narrative to violence**, emphasising ethical resistance.

### Conclusion

The declaration of Goddess Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari's self-sacrifice day as a **State Festival** reflects Andhra Pradesh's commitment to preserving **living cultural traditions** while promoting **inclusive values of righteousness and sacrifice**. Beyond ritual, it represents the use of culture as a tool of governance, unity, and ethical inspiration.

### Davos Meet: CM Projects Andhra Pradesh as Global Green Revolution Hub

**Source:** [Deccan Chronicle](#)

**Relevance:** UPSC Syllabus GS Paper III - Sustainable agriculture, Climate change mitigation, Environmental conservation, Inclusive growth and farmer welfare

## Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu showcased the state's **natural farming model** at the **World Economic Forum (Davos)**.
- He projected Andhra Pradesh as a **global hub for green and nature-based agriculture**, inviting international investors, environmentalists, and institutions to partner in sustainable food systems.
- The initiative aligns with global climate action, sustainable development goals, and green economy transitions.



A delegate takes a selfie with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at Davos

## Contemporary Relevance

- Agriculture is a major contributor to **climate change, groundwater depletion, and soil degradation**.
- There is rising global demand for **clean, organic, and climate-resilient food systems**.
- Andhra Pradesh's model presents a **scalable alternative** to chemical-intensive farming while also addressing **rural poverty, climate mitigation, and farmer income security**.
- The presentation at Davos places **Indian sub-national climate action** on the global stage.

## What is Andhra Pradesh's Natural Farming Model?

- A **chemical-free, low-cost, regenerative farming system** based on:
  - Soil rejuvenation
  - Biodiversity enhancement
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Reduced water use
- It focuses on **nature-based solutions (NbS)** rather than synthetic inputs.
- It is being implemented at **unprecedented scale**:
  - **18 lakh farmers mobilised**
  - **20 lakh acres under natural farming**

## Key Highlights from the Davos Address

### 1. Climate Mitigation and Environmental Benefits

- Natural farming improves **carbon sequestration**, capturing atmospheric carbon in soil.
- It reduces **greenhouse gas emissions**, especially nitrous oxide from fertilisers.
- Enhances **soil fertility, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience**.
- Helps conserve **water resources** through reduced irrigation needs.

### 2. Economic Sustainability for Farmers

- Natural farming **slashes input costs**, eliminating chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
- Farmers experience **higher net income from the first harvest** itself.
- Strengthening farmer income is positioned as the **foundation of rural economic revival**.
- The model addresses **inter-generational farmer debt and distress**.



### 3. Global Market Integration

- Andhra Pradesh is fast-tracking:
  - **International organic certification**
  - **Export-oriented marketing infrastructure**
  - **Technology-enabled price discovery**
- The state aims to position AP produce as the **first choice in global clean food markets**.
- Natural farming is projected not just as a welfare model but as a **global business opportunity**.

### 4. Technology and Governance Support

- Use of **digital platforms and modern technologies** to ensure remunerative prices.
- Integration of **climate-smart agriculture + tech-driven governance**.
- State support for farmers during transition through incentives and institutional backing.

### Significance of the Initiative

#### For India

- Demonstrates India's leadership in **climate-resilient agriculture**.
- Supports commitments under:
  - **SDGs (2, 12, 13, 15)**
  - **Global climate action frameworks**
- Strengthens India's position in **green exports and climate diplomacy**.

#### For Andhra Pradesh

- Positions the state as:
  - A **living laboratory for sustainable agriculture**
  - A hub for **green investment**
  - A leader in **rural transformation through climate action**
- Integrates agriculture with **green economy**

and employment generation.

### Challenges & Limitations

- Transition risks for small farmers during early adoption.
- Need for sustained **financial incentives and extension support**.
- Requirement of **global certification compliance and traceability systems**.
- Market volatility in premium organic exports.
- Need for long-term monitoring of ecological outcomes.

### Way Forward

- Scale up natural farming to cover more regions and crops.
- Integrate natural farming with:
  - **MSP reform**
  - **Climate finance**
  - **Carbon credit markets**
- Strengthen farmer producer organisations (FPOs) for global marketing.
- Link natural farming with **agri-tourism and rural enterprises**.
- Build international partnerships for research, certification, and technology transfer.

## AP Plans India's First Human-Carrier Drone Ambulance

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

**Relevance:** UPSC GS Paper III - Science and Technology - application of emerging technologies- Disaster management and emergency response- Infrastructure, innovation, and Make in India- Internal security (airspace management, drone corridors)

## Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh has announced the launch of **India's first human-carrier drone ambulance**, a pioneering initiative aimed at revolutionising emergency medical response, especially in areas affected by traffic congestion, difficult terrain, and poor accessibility.



Andhra Pradesh would create history with the launch of India's first human-carrier drone ambulance, a pioneering initiative that promises to revolutionize emergency medical services. (Photo: X)

## Background and Vision

- The initiative is part of CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's **vision** to make Andhra Pradesh a **global hub for drone and aerospace innovation**.
- The flying ambulance concept prioritises **technology for humanitarian use**, especially in life-and-death situations.

## Key Features of the Drone Ambulance

- **Altitude:** ~1,200 feet
- **Payload capacity:** Up to 150 kg
- **Speed:** 50–60 kmph
- **Capability:** Human-carrier (patient transport)
- **Special upgrade:** Provision for **paramedic accompaniment** during transit
- **Operations:** Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS)
- **Safety:** Advanced robotic assistance and aviation safety protocols

## Institutions and Expert Support

- Guided by **G. Satheesh Reddy**, former DRDO Chairman and AP's Aero Defence Adviser
- Designed and certified with support from:
  - **Kalam Advanced UAV Research Centre (CASR), Anna University**
  - **IIT Tirupati**
- Demonstrates **civil-defence technology convergence**

## Operational Ecosystem

- Dedicated **emergency air corridors** planned for safe operations
- Monitoring through **Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) system**
- Prototype demonstration expected in **May 2026**
- Proposal to establish a **major drone port and operational hub in Vijayawada**

## Governance and Regulatory Aspect

- Next phase depends on **Central Government drone regulations and policies**
- Highlights need for:
  - Airspace governance
  - Safety certification
  - Centre-State coordination

## Significance

- **Healthcare:** Reduces response time in golden hour emergencies
- **Technology:** First-of-its-kind human-carrying drone in India
- **Governance:** Model for tech-enabled public service delivery
- **Economy:** Boosts drone ecosystem and aerospace innovation
- **Equity:** Benefits rural, tribal, and disaster-prone regions

## Lokesh Aims to Develop Mangalagiri as Model Constituency

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS Paper II - Governance, Polity & Social Justice - Role of elected representatives in grassroots governance - Constituency-level development as a governance model

### Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh Education Minister **Nara Lokesh** announced plans to develop **Mangalagiri Assembly Constituency** as a **model constituency**, emphasizing collective effort, social responsibility, and community participation during a public religious event.



Lokesh was present at the installation ceremony of a Lutheran Church at Atmakur Parish of Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church at Mangalagiri town in Guntur district on Monday. (Image: X)

### Key Highlights of the Event

- Nara Lokesh attended the **installation ceremony of a Lutheran Church** at Atmakur Parish, Mangalagiri.
- Participated in community activities: ribbon cutting, plaque unveiling, and tree plantation.
- Appreciated collective effort in rebuilding the church within a year.
- Spoke about **mental resilience**, urging youth not to panic over failures.

- Referred to his own **electoral defeat (2019)** and comeback victory (2024) as a lesson in perseverance.
- Called upon citizens to support the vision of making Mangalagiri a **model assembly constituency**.

### Governance Significance

- Model Constituency Concept:** Demonstrates decentralised development through leadership, citizen participation, and institutional cooperation.
- Community Engagement:** Use of social and religious institutions as platforms for social cohesion.
- People-Centric Governance:** Emphasis on emotional wellbeing, social responsibility, and participatory development.
- Leadership Ethics:** Promotes resilience, humility, and service-oriented politics.

## AP Rolls Out Scientific SOP for De-Siltation of Urban Drains

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance (UPSC)

- GS Paper II: Governance, Urban Local Bodies, Government Policies & Interventions**
- GS Paper III: Disaster Management, Urban Flooding, Climate Resilience, Infrastructure**

### Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government has approved and implemented a **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** for **scientific de-siltation and safe cleaning of urban drains** across all Urban Local Bodies



(ULBs) ahead of the monsoon, aiming to prevent flooding, improve sanitation, and ensure worker safety through technology-driven and accountable governance.

## Key Features of the SOP

### 1. Shift from Ad Hoc to Scientific Drainage Management

- Replaces manual, irregular drain cleaning with **planned, technology-driven maintenance**
- Drain maintenance treated as **core urban infrastructure function**, not routine sanitation

### 2. Comprehensive Lifecycle Approach

Covers:

- Design and mapping of drains
- Routine maintenance schedules
- Monitoring and reporting
- Structural corrections to prevent recurring blockages

### 3. Classification-Based Maintenance

Drains classified into:

- Minor
  - Medium
  - Major
  - Natural channels
- Each category has **separate, fixed cleaning schedules**

### 4. Technology Integration

- **GIS-based digital inventory** of all urban drains
- **Digital monitoring and reporting**
- Mechanised cleaning using modern equipment
- Outcome-based contracts to ensure performance

### 5. Worker Safety and Accountability

- Mandatory use of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
- Municipal Commissioners made **personally responsible for compliance**
- Penalties for illegal dumping
- Citizen participation in monitoring

### 6. Climate-Resilient Urban Vision

Aligned with CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision of:

- Flood-free cities
- Preventive governance
- Climate-resilient urban infrastructure
- Public health protection

### Significance

- Reduces urban flooding and waterlogging
- Prevents vector-borne diseases
- Protects urban infrastructure
- Improves urban liveability
- Strengthens disaster preparedness before monsoon
- Promotes accountability-based urban governance

## Kangundi to be Declared Andhra Pradesh's First Heritage Village

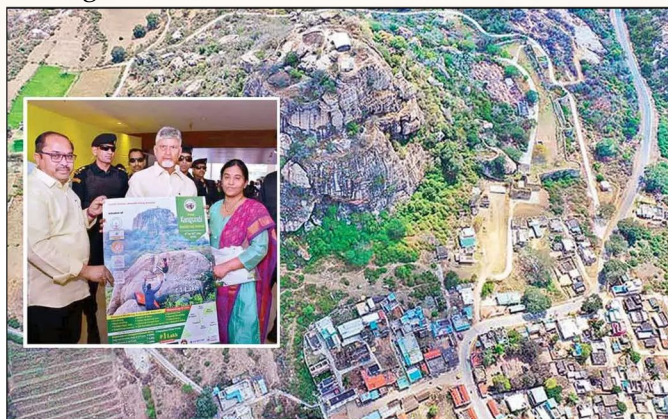
Source: Deccan Chronicle

Relevance: GS Paper I (Indian Heritage and Culture)

### Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government will declare **Kangundi village near Kuppam** as the **first Heritage Village of the State** under the Centre's Swachh, Suramya and Sanskrutik framework as

part of the **Swarna Kuppam initiative**, aimed at heritage conservation and sustainable tourism.



### Background & Location

- Kangundi is located at the **tri-junction of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**.
- The village is known for:
  - Ancient **Neolithic cave art**
  - Rock formations suitable for **bouldering and climbing**
  - Temples from **Chola, Hoysala, and Vijayanagara periods**
  - Sacred hills revered by **local tribal communities**
- It has recently emerged as a hub for **adventure tourism** with homestays and climbing facilities.

### What is the Heritage Village Initiative?

- Implemented under the **Swachh, Suramya and Sanskrutik** framework
- Part of the **Swarna Kuppam development programme**
- Focuses on:
  - Conservation of cultural and archaeological heritage
  - Planned tourism development

- Community participation in preservation
- Regulation of unplanned construction and commercialization

### Key Features of the Kangundi Heritage Village Project

#### Heritage Conservation

- Protection of cave art, temples, sacred landscapes
- Heritage-themed Street paintings and village aesthetics

#### Tourism Infrastructure

- Kangundi Rocks Bouldering Gymnasium
- Village café supported by local societies
- Visitor amenities and signage control

#### Adventure & Sports Tourism

- Annual **Kangundi Bouldering Festival & Climbing Cup**
- Proposal to develop an **AP Sports Climbing Hub**
- Olympic-standard climbing wall planned

#### Community-Based Development

- Direct livelihood benefits to local residents
- Homestays and local tourism services

#### Environmental Management

- Funds for waste management and sanitation
- Preservation of ecological and cultural balance

#### Institutions Involved

- Kuppam Area Development Authority
- Andhra Pradesh Tourism
- Indian Mountaineering Foundation
- Mahavatar Babaji TadEkam Foundation



## Significance

- **For Heritage Conservation:** Protects vulnerable archaeological and cultural assets
- **For Tourism:** Promotes sustainable and experiential tourism
- **For Local Economy:** Generates livelihoods through homestays, guiding, and services
- **For Governance:** Model for heritage-led rural development
- **For Sports:** Positions AP on the national adventure sports map

## Challenges Highlighted

- Gaps in waste management and sanitation
- Digital connectivity issues
- Need for regulation of tourism influx
- Ensuring long-term community participation

## Way Forward

- Strengthen heritage governance through local committees
- Integrate digital infrastructure with tourism management
- Develop Kangundi as a **replicable model for heritage villages** in India
- Link heritage conservation with **sports, eco-tourism, and livelihoods**

## AP to Launch Public Awareness Drive Ahead of 2027 Census

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance (UPSC Syllabus): **GS Paper I: Population and Associated Issues, Census, Demographic Data. GS Paper II: Government Policies & Interventions, Governance, Federalism, Role of State Administration**

## Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

### For Prelims:

- Census 2027, House Listing and Housing Census (HLO), Population Enumeration (PE), Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Principal Census Officer, Delimitation.

### For Mains:

- Census as the foundation of evidence-based governance, Role of States in national data exercises, Administrative preparedness for large-scale surveys, Census and delimitation linkage, Digital governance and data accuracy, Centre-State coordination in federal governance.

## Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government has launched a **statewide public awareness campaign** to ensure smooth and accurate conduct of the **2027 Census**, emphasizing citizen participation, grassroots communication, and administrative preparedness.

## Background & Context

- The **last Census was conducted in 2011**; the upcoming Census 2027 will be held after a 16-year gap.
- Census data will have major implications for **delimitation, welfare planning, fiscal transfers, and governance reforms**.
- The **Chief Secretary of AP, K. Vijayanand**, reviewed preparations with district collectors via video conference.



## Key Features of the Awareness Drive

### 1. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign

- Special IEC materials to be prepared and circulated across all districts
- Focus on explaining the **importance, process, and benefits of Census participation**
- Aimed at ensuring **maximum coverage and accuracy**

### 2. Two-Phase Census Process

- **House Listing and Housing Census (HLO):**
  - April 1 - September 30, 2026
- **Population Enumeration (PE):**
  - To follow as per Central schedule
- Based on **gazette notifications issued by the Centre (June 16 and January 7)**

### 3. Administrative Structure

- District Collectors → **Principal Census Officers**
- Municipal Commissioners → Census heads in corporations
- RDOs, Tahsildars, BDOs → Charge Officers at mandal level

### 4. Human Resources Deployment

- Enumerators and supervisors from:
  - Government employees
  - Teachers
  - Ward & Swarna Gramam staff
  - Local body personnel
- Paid remuneration as per norms

### 5. Capacity Building

- Training for Principal Census Officers and municipal commissioners
- Scheduled for **third week of February 2026**

## Institutional Coordination

- State Census Director: **J. Nivas**

- Departments involved:
  - Industries & Commerce
  - Information & Public Relations
  - RTGS
  - State Services
- Multi-level coordination between **State, district, and local governments**

## Significance

- Ensures **accurate demographic data** for policy-making
- Critical for **delimitation after 2027** and welfare targeting
- Strengthens **cooperative federalism and data-driven governance**
- Enhances public trust through transparency and awareness

## Challenges

- Public apathy and misinformation
- Training and coordination across large workforce
- Ensuring data accuracy in remote and urban slum areas
- Digital literacy gaps

## Way Forward

- Use of **digital tools and local media** for outreach
- Community-based awareness via SHGs, schools, panchayats
- Continuous monitoring and grievance redressal
- Strong Centre-State coordination for timelines and quality control

# NEWS IN SHORT

## Mount Bur Ni Telong

Indonesian authorities have **raised the alert level** for **Mount Bur Ni Telong** following a **surge in volcanic activity**, marked by frequent seismic events, raising concerns of a possible eruption.

- The volcano is located in **Bener Meriah Regency, Aceh Province (Indonesia)**.
- Monitoring agencies have recorded **multiple shallow and deep volcanic earthquakes**, indicating rising magma movement.
- **Evacuation of nearby residents** has begun as a precautionary measure.
- Authorities have warned people to stay away from **fumaroles and solfataras** due to the risk of **toxic gas emissions**, especially during bad weather.
- The alert comes amid **recent floods and landslides** in the region, increasing disaster vulnerability.



### About Mount Bur Ni Telong

- **Type:** Stratovolcano

- **Height:** 2,624 metres
- **Location:** Western Aceh, Sumatra Island, Indonesia
- **Geological setting:** Part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, a highly seismically active zone
- **Volcanic behaviour:** Characterised by explosive eruptions, seismic swarms, and gas emissions

## Launch of Land Stack & Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT)

Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, launched '**Land Stack**' and released the '**Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT)**' on **31 December 2025** in **New Delhi**, marking a major push towards **transparent, digital, and citizen-centric land governance** under the **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**.

- **Land Stack** launched on a **pilot basis** in **UT Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu**.
- Initiatives aim to improve **Ease of Living**, transparency, and trust in land administration.
- Aligns India's traditional land record systems with **modern digital governance**.

### About Land Stack

- **Nature:** Integrated, **GIS-based digital platform** for land and property data
- **Modelled on:** Global best practices (e.g., Singapore, UK, Finland)



- **Purpose:** Overcomes fragmented land information spread across departments by offering **single-window access** to citizens and government agencies.

#### Key Benefits:

- Enables **informed decision-making** for citizens
- Enhances **convenience, transparency, and trust**
- Reduces risk of purchasing **unauthorised or non-compliant properties**
- Improves **inter-departmental coordination**
- Supports **data-driven governance** in land administration
- Represents a major **e-Governance reform** under DILRMP

#### About Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT)

India's land administration uses varied terminology shaped by historical systems—**Todar Mal's reforms** and British-era settlements like **Ryotwari** and **Mahalwari**—leading to inconsistencies across States.

- **Prepared by:** Department of Land Resources (DoLR)
- **In collaboration with:** Centre of Excellence in Land Administration and Management (CoE-LAM), YASHADA, Pune

#### Key Highlights:

- Explains land revenue terms in **Vernacular languages, Hindi, English, and Roman scripts**
- Aims to **harmonise terminology** nationally without replacing State-specific terms
- Makes land data **comparable and interoperable** across India
- Serves as an **authoritative reference** for:
  - Revenue officials
  - Policymakers
  - Judicial authorities

- Citizens

## BSNL Launches Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) Nationwide

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced the **nationwide rollout of Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi)** across **all telecom circles** (1 January 2026), improving call quality in low-signal areas.

- Enables **voice calls and SMS over Wi-Fi** using the **existing mobile number** and phone dialer.
- **IMS-based** service with **seamless handover** between Wi-Fi and mobile networks.
- Works in **homes, offices, basements, rural and remote areas** with stable Wi-Fi (incl. **BSNL Bharat Fiber**).
- **Free of cost**; helps **reduce network congestion**.
- Supported on **most modern smartphones** (enable *Wi-Fi Calling*).

#### About Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi)

- **What it is:** Technology that allows voice calls over **Wi-Fi networks**, bypassing cellular signals.
- **Also called:** **Wi-Fi Calling**.
- **How it works:** Uses **VoIP** to transmit voice as digital packets over the internet; built into the phone OS—no third-party apps needed.
- **Benefits:** Clear connectivity in weak-signal zones; reliable, cost-free calling with existing number.

## Cellulitis

Cellulitis is a **common bacterial skin infection**, mainly caused by **Streptococcus** and **Staphylococcus** bacteria, which enter the body through **broken skin or wounds**.

- Affects **subcutaneous tissues** beneath the skin

- Commonly involves **legs, feet, and toes** (may also affect face, arms, hands)
- **Not contagious**, but can spread if untreated
- Higher risk in people with **skin injuries, diabetes, weak immunity, poor hygiene**

### Symptoms



- Redness or **skin discoloration**, warmth
- **Swelling, tenderness, pain**
- Fever, chills, fatigue
- Blisters, skin dimpling, fluid-filled lesions
- Severe cases may spread to **lymph nodes and bloodstream**

### Treatment

- **Oral antibiotics** in most cases
- **Hospitalisation & IV antibiotics** for severe infections
- Completing the **full antibiotic course is essential**

### Prevention

- Maintain **good skin hygiene**
- Clean and cover small wounds promptly
- Keep skin dry; trim nails regularly
- Wear clean clothes; wash hands frequently

## World's Rarest 'Galaxy Frogs' Presumed Dead



A recent study has reported that **seven individuals of the rare galaxy frog have vanished and are presumed dead** due to disturbances caused by **photo tourism in the Western Ghats (Kerala)**.

- The frogs disappeared after **multiple photographers repeatedly disturbed their microhabitat**.
- Activities included **overturning logs, handling frogs with bare hands, and prolonged camera flash exposure**.
- Such disturbances likely affected **feeding, respiration, and breeding success**.

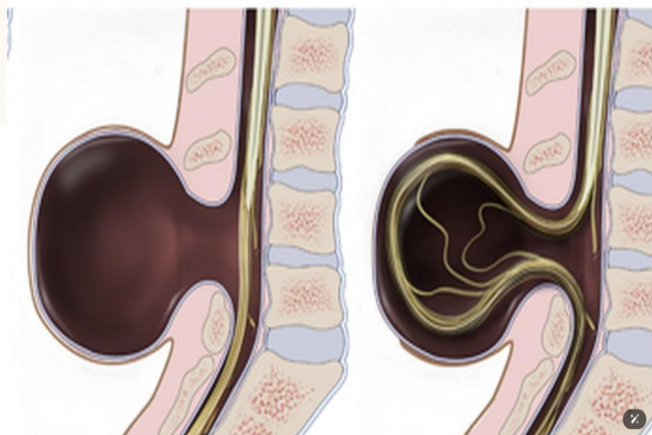
### About Galaxy Frog (*Melanobatrachus indicus*)

- **Endemic to:** Western Ghats, Kerala
- **Habitat:** Under rotten logs in moist forest patches
- **Size:** ~2–3.5 cm
- **IUCN status:** Vulnerable
- Communicates **without vocal calls**; relies on body patterns

## Spina Bifida

While several countries have launched **systematic awareness programmes** to prevent Spina Bifida through **folic acid supplementation**, **India has yet**

to implement such large-scale preventive initiatives.



#### About Spina Bifida

- Spina Bifida is a **congenital defect of the spinal cord** that can lead to **severe paralysis in childhood**.
- It occurs when the **spine and spinal cord fail to develop completely** during the early embryonic stage.
- The disorder develops in **early pregnancy** and varies widely in severity, from mild to disabling forms.
- **Causes:** Not definitively known; believed to arise from a mix of **genetic, nutritional (folate deficiency), and environmental factors**.

#### Types of Spina Bifida

- **Myelomeningocele:**
  - The **most severe form**, where part of the spinal cord and nerves protrude through an opening in the spine.
- **Meningocele:**
  - A **less common form** in which the protective membranes of the spinal cord bulge out in a fluid-filled sac.
- **Spina Bifida Occulta:**
  - The **mildest form**, involving incomplete formation of one or more vertebrae,

often with minimal or no visible symptoms.

#### Symptoms

- Bowel and bladder dysfunction
- Back pain
- Weakness or paralysis of the legs
- Reduced or absent sensation in the lower limbs

#### Prevention and Management

- **Prevention:** Most cases can be prevented by **adequate folic acid intake during the early weeks of pregnancy**, especially before conception.
- **Treatment:** There is **no permanent cure**, but **medical and surgical interventions** can help manage symptoms and improve quality of life.

### Salal Hydroelectric Project

The **Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs** has directed **sediment flushing at the Salal Hydroelectric Project in Jammu and Kashmir** to optimise water use, amid the **Indus Waters Treaty being kept in abeyance** between India and Pakistan.

#### About the Salal Hydroelectric Project



- A **690 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project** built on the **Chenab River in Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir**.



- Conceptualised in **pre-Independence India**; detailed planning began in the 1960s.
- **Construction started:** 1970
- **Commercial operation:** 1987
- **Developer & owner:** National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).
- **Significance:** First hydropower project constructed by India in Kashmir under the **Indus Waters Treaty framework**.
- **Dam height:** ~130 metres (≈1627 feet above mean sea level).

#### Power Sharing

- **12.5% of generated power** allocated to **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Remaining power supplied to the **Northern Grid**, benefiting **Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- J&K can also **purchase additional power at normal tariffs**.

### Melghat Tiger Reserve

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has released 15 critically endangered Indian vultures at Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, to aid species recovery.

#### About Melghat Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Maharashtra; on the **Gavilgarh Hills**, a southern offshoot of the **Satpura Range**
- **Status:** **First tiger reserve in Maharashtra**
- **Meaning of name:** 'Melghat' – confluence of valleys/ghats
- **Vegetation:** **Tropical dry deciduous forests**, teak-dominated
- **Rivers:** Catchment for **Khandu, Khapra, Sipna, Gadga, Dolar** (tributaries of the **Tapti River**)

- **Boundaries:** Tapti River and Gawilgad ridge
- **Tribes:** **Korku** (largest), Gawli, Gond
- **Fauna:** Tiger, leopard, sloth bear, gaur, sambar, nilgai, dhole, hyena
- **Special note:** Stronghold of the **critically endangered forest owl**

### SHINE Scheme Launched

At the **79th Foundation Day of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, Union Ministers launched the **SHINE Scheme** in New Delhi.

#### About SHINE Scheme

- **Full form:** *Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women (SHINE)*
- A **new initiative of BIS** aimed at placing **women at the centre of India's quality ecosystem**.
- Focuses on empowering women through:
  - **Structured training programmes**
  - **Partnerships with NGOs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**
  - **Locally delivered, practical awareness initiatives**
- Promotes awareness on **standards, safety, and quality** at the **household and community level**.
- Seeks to **protect families and strengthen livelihoods** through informed choices.

#### Key Facts about Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- **National Standards Body of India**, established under the **BIS Act, 2016**
- Successor to the **Indian Standards Institution (ISI), 1947**
- Responsible for **standardisation, quality certification, and marking of goods**
- Represents India at **ISO and IEC**



- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

## Biomaterials

As countries transition to **low-carbon and circular manufacturing**, **biomaterials** are emerging as a critical alternative to fossil-based plastics and textiles, with significant relevance for India's sustainability and industrial strategy.

### What are Biomaterials?

- Materials **derived wholly or partly from biological sources** or produced using **biological processes**.
- Used across **packaging, textiles, construction, and healthcare**.

### Types:

- **Drop-in biomaterials:** Chemically identical to fossil-based materials; compatible with existing systems (e.g., bio-PET).
- **Drop-out biomaterials:** Chemically different; need new processing/end-of-life systems (e.g., PLA).
- **Novel biomaterials:** Offer new properties like **self-healing, bioactivity, advanced composites**.

### Why Biomaterials Matter for India

- Reduce dependence on **fossil-based imports** for plastics and chemicals.
- Create **new income streams** for farmers using crops and agricultural residues.
- Support **climate goals, single-use plastic bans, and waste reduction**.
- Improve India's **export competitiveness** as global demand shifts to green products.

### India's Current Position

- India's **bioplastics market ~USD 500 million (2024)**, with strong growth prospects.

- Major investments like **PLA plants** and innovations by startups converting **waste into biomaterials**.
- However, India still depends on **foreign technologies** in parts of the value chain.

## Wangchhu Hydroelectric Project

The **Adani Group** has commenced work on the **570 MW Wangchhu Hydroelectric Project** in **Bhutan**, strengthening India-Bhutan energy cooperation.

### About Wangchhu Hydroelectric Project

- **Type:** 570 MW **run-of-the-river** hydropower project
- **River:** Wangchhu River (called **Raidāk River** in India), a tributary of the **Brahmaputra**
- **Location:** **Chukha District, Bhutan**
- **Developer:** **Wangchhu Hydroelectric Power Limited (WHPL)**
  - JV between **Adani Power Ltd (49%)** and **Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (51%)**
- **Investment:** ~₹6,000 crore
- **Model:** **BOOT** (Build-Own-Operate-Transfer)
- **Configuration:** 4 turbines × 142.5 MW
- **Annual generation:** ~2,478.93 GWh
- **Function:** **Peaking plant** to manage seasonal hydropower variability

### Power Use:

- Meets **Bhutan's winter electricity demand**
- **Surplus summer power exported to India**

## Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASHM)

India's **indigenous LRASHM** will be showcased at the **Republic Day Parade (26 January)**, underscoring the country's advancing **maritime strike and hypersonic capabilities**.

### About LRASHM



- Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- A hypersonic glide missile using a Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) – unlike ballistic missiles, it follows unpredictable, manoeuvrable flight paths after boost-phase launch.
- Designed primarily for anti-ship roles; a land-attack variant may follow.
- Reportedly outperforms comparable systems in range and technology.

#### Key Features

- **Range:** > 1,500 km
- **Speed:** ~ Mach 10 (10× speed of sound)
- **Time-to-target:** ~ 7–8 minutes
- **Guidance:** RF seeker effective at hypersonic speeds for moving targets (warships).
- **Launch platforms:** Land-based and naval.
- **Payloads:** Conventional or nuclear.
- **Design:** Delta-wing HGV with heat-resistant materials to withstand extreme temperatures.

### Weimar Triangle

India's External Affairs Minister recently took part in India's first-ever engagement with the Weimar Triangle, alongside counterparts from France and Poland and representatives from Germany,

marking a new step in India's outreach to European political groupings.

#### About the Weimar Triangle

- A regional political grouping comprising France, Germany, and Poland.
- **Established:** 29 August 1991 at Weimar, Germany, through a joint declaration by the three Foreign Ministers.

#### Core Objectives:

- Involve France in German-Polish reconciliation, drawing on the Franco-German experience.
- Strengthen political dialogue and cooperation among the three countries.
- Support Poland's integration into NATO and the European Union.

#### Key Features

- Regular meetings at multiple levels, including heads of government and foreign ministers.
- Played a role in Poland's accession to NATO (1999) and the EU (2004).
- Lacks a formal institutional structure but remains a significant political coordination forum.
- Extends beyond diplomacy to civil society initiatives such as youth exchanges, academic cooperation, and business networks.

### M-STrIPES at Anamalai Tiger Reserve

Forest staff conducting the tiger and wildlife census at Anamalai Tiger Reserve will use the M-STrIPES app to enhance monitoring and protection.

#### About M-STrIPES

- **Full form:** Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status

- Launched in 2010 by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** with the **Wildlife Institute of India**.
- A **software-based system** for patrolling, monitoring, and management of Protected Areas.
- **Components:**
  - Central analytical engine (desktop + online tools)
  - **Android mobile app** for field data with **real-time GPS**
- Uses **GPS, GPRS, remote sensing, GIS, and statistical tools**.
- Forest guards patrol their **beats** (smallest forest admin unit) and log tracks and observations digitally.

#### About Anamalai Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Anamalai Hills, **Tamil Nadu**; south of the **Palakkad Gap** (Western Ghats).
- **Altitude:** ~1,400 m
- **Neighbouring areas:** Parambikulam TR, Chinnar WLS, Eravikulam NP
- **Habitats:** Evergreen to dry deciduous forests, shola, grasslands, marshes
- **Fauna:** Tiger, Asiatic elephant, leopard, sambar, spotted deer, jungle cat
- **Communities:** Kadar, Muduvar, Malasar, Malai Malasar, Eravalar, Pulayar

### Aralam Declared Kerala's First Butterfly Sanctuary

The **Kerala government** has renamed **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** as **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**, making it the **first butterfly sanctuary in the State**.

- Notified via **SRO No. 1407/2025** under **Section 18(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

- Decision based on recommendations of the **State Board for Wildlife**, citing exceptional butterfly diversity.
- Amends the original **1984 notification** that declared the area a wildlife sanctuary.

#### About Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary

- **Location:** Kannur district, Kerala
- **Area:** ~55 sq km of **evergreen and semi-evergreen forests**
- **Ecological features:** Large-scale **butterfly migration** and **mud-puddling sites**
- **Fauna:** Habitat of the **Schedule I Slender Loris**



- **Boundaries:** Brahmagiri WLS (Karnataka), Kottiyoor WLS, North Wayanad forest division
- **River:** **Cheenkanni River** flows through the sanctuary

#### Biodiversity Highlights

- **266 butterfly species** recorded here out of **327 species in Kerala**.
- Mass migrations observed, including:
  - ~**12,000 Common Albatross** butterflies in five minutes
  - Over **8 lakh Albatross butterflies** recorded on **11 January 2025**
- Other species include **Malabar Rose, Buddha Mayuri, Rosy, Thalir Neeli, Okila, and Spotted Butterfly**.

## Kathputli Folk Art

In Jaipur, nearly 250 families continue to preserve Kathputli, one of Rajasthan's oldest folk art traditions.

### About Kathputli

- A traditional string puppet theatre of Rajasthan.
- Derived from **kath** (wood) and **putli** (doll).
- Puppets are made of **wood, cloth, cotton, thread, and metal wire**.
- **Legless figures** draped in long skirts; controlled using **2-5 strings** tied to the puppeteer's fingers.

### Key Features

- **Distinctive faces:** Large eyes, oval faces, prominent lips, arched eyebrows.
- **Costumes:** Bright colours inspired by **royal courts and desert culture**.
- **Themes:** Stories of **Rajput kings, warriors, folk heroes**, and moral tales.
- **Music:** Accompanied by **dholak and harmonium**.
- Performances blend **humour, satire, music**, and social commentary.

## Bhadrakali Temple Inscription

### Highlights Somnath's Legacy

An ancient Bhadrakali Temple inscription at Prabhas Patan sheds light on the timeless legacy of the Somnath Temple and the role of Solanki rulers, especially Kumarapala, in its revival.

### Key Highlights of the Inscription

- **Dated:** 1169 CE (Valabhi Samvat 850 / Vikram Samvat 1255)
- **Type:** Eulogistic inscription of **Param Pashupata Acharya Bhavabrihaspati**, spiritual preceptor of **Maharajadhiraj Kumarapala**

- **Location:** Embedded in the **Bhadrakali Temple** wall near Prabhas Patan Museum
- **Protection:** Under the **State Department of Archaeology**



### What the Inscription Records

- Construction of **Somnath Mahadev** in all four Yugas:
  - **Satya Yuga:** Gold temple by **Chandra (Soma)**
  - **Treta Yuga:** Silver temple by **Ravana**
  - **Dvapara Yuga:** Wooden temple by **Shri Krishna**
  - **Kali Yuga:** Stone temple by **Bhimdev Solanki**
- **Fifth reconstruction** of Somnath by **Kumarapala (1169 CE)** on earlier remains.

### Historical Significance

- Under the **Solanki dynasty**, Prabhas Patan emerged as a hub of **religion, architecture, and literature**.
- **Siddharaj Jaysinh's justice** and **Kumarapala's devotion** marked Gujarat's **Golden Age**.
- The inscription reflects **Sanatan cultural continuity**, valor, and resilience despite invasions.

## Bargi Dam Issued Show-Cause Notice

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has issued a **show-cause notice** to the Narmada Valley Development Authority over **safety concerns at the Bargi Dam** in Madhya Pradesh.



### About Bargi Dam

- **Type:** Major **multi-purpose dam** (irrigation, water supply, hydropower)
- **River:** Narmada River
- **Project:** Part of the Narmada Valley Development Project
- **Timeline:** Construction began 1974; completed 1990
- **Significance:** Among the **first completed dams** on the Narmada
- **Safety Status:** Classified **Safety Category III** ("minor deficiencies") in pre- and post-monsoon inspections

### About National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)

- **Established under:** Dam Safety Act, 2021
- **Mandate:** Regulation, oversight, and inspection of dams
- **Structure:** Chairperson + five members (Policy & Research, Technical, Regulation, Disaster & Resilience, Admin & Finance)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Functions:**

- Implement policies of the **National Committee on Dam Safety**
- Resolve disputes involving **State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs)**
- Frame inspection/investigation regulations
- Accredit agencies for dam design, construction, and alterations

## NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme (NSPS)

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has introduced the **NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme (NSPS)** on a **pilot basis** to test the integration of healthcare support within the pension system.

### About NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme (NSPS)

- NSPS is a **new initiative** of PFRDA launched as a **Proof of Concept (PoC)** under its **Regulatory Sandbox Framework**.
- The scheme seeks to **combine health-related financial protection with retirement savings** under the existing **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- It is designed to provide financial assistance for both **out-patient and in-patient medical expenses**.
- The scheme operates as a **sector-specific contributory pension scheme** under the **Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF)** of NPS.
- Participation is **voluntary** and open to **all Indian citizens**.
- Pension Funds will roll out the scheme **only after obtaining approval from PFRDA**.
- Being a pilot project, the number of subscribers will be **restricted during the PoC phase**.

- To enable smooth implementation, **certain provisions of the PFRDA (Exits and Withdrawals under NPS) Regulations, 2015** have been relaxed.
- Pension Funds may partner with **FinTech companies and Health Service Administrators** for operational support.

### Key Features of NSPS

#### Eligibility & Contributions

- All Indian citizens can enroll, provided they have a **Common Scheme Account under NPS**.
- Subscribers may contribute **any amount**, as per existing NPS rules for the non-government sector.
- Subscribers **above 40 years of age** (excluding government employees) can transfer **up to 30% of their NPS contributions** to the Swasthya Pension Scheme.

#### Withdrawals for Medical Purposes

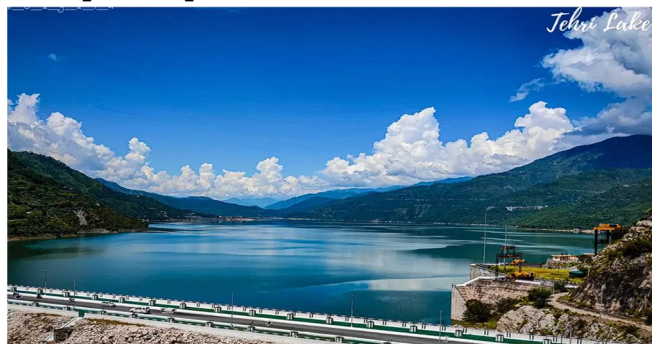
- Partial withdrawals up to 25%** of the subscriber's own contribution are allowed for medical expenses.
- There is **no cap on the number of withdrawals**, provided the **minimum accumulated corpus is ₹50,000**.
- In case of **critical inpatient treatment**, where expenses exceed **70% of the available corpus**, subscribers may withdraw **up to 100% of the corpus prematurely** to meet medical costs.

#### Claim Settlement & Safeguards

- Withdrawn amounts will be paid **directly to hospitals, Health Benefit Administrators (HBA), or Third-Party Administrators (TPA)** based on valid medical claims.
- Any **unused surplus** after settling medical bills will be **credited back to the subscriber's Common Scheme Account**.

### Tehri Lake

Two paragliders were recently rescued by the **State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)** after falling into **Tehri Lake** during the **Acro Festival & SIV Championship Tehri 2026**.



#### About Tehri Lake

- Artificial reservoir** formed by the **Tehri Dam in Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand**
- Created by **diverting the Bhagirathi River** during dam construction
- Located at an elevation of **~1,700 m** above sea level
- Depth: ~262 m | Length: ~42 km**
- Supports **hydropower generation, drinking water supply, and irrigation**
- Surrounded by the **Himalayan ranges**, making it a major tourism site

#### Key Facts about Tehri Dam

- Multipurpose dam** on the **Bhagirathi River** (source stream of the Ganga)
- Height: 260 m** → *Tallest dam in India; among the tallest in the world*
- Completed: 2006**
- Type: Earth and rock-fill dam**
- Installed capacity:**
  - 1,000 MW hydropower
  - 1,000 MW pumped storage
- Managed by: THDC India Limited** (subsidiary of NTPC Limited)

## Pechora Missile System

Bengaluru-based Alpha Design Technologies Limited (ADTL) has successfully completed a major indigenous upgrade of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Pechora surface-to-air missile system, aligning with the government's push to modernise legacy defence platforms under *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.



### About Pechora Missile System

- **Official name:** S-125 Neva/Pechora
- **Origin:** Soviet Union
- **Type:** Medium-range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) system
- **Role:** Interception of low- to medium-altitude aerial targets
- Part of India's air defence network since the 1970s.

### Key Features

- Consists of radar-guided missile launchers and a fire control unit
- Uses the V-600 missile for interception
- Employs 4R90 Yatagan radar with five parabolic antennas for detection and tracking
- Highly effective against low-flying aircraft, drones, and cruise missiles
- Can function independently or within an integrated air defence network

- Designed to operate effectively even under heavy electronic jamming

### Technical Specifications

- **Range:** 30–35.4 km (up to 35.4 km in upgraded versions)
- **Engagement altitude:** 20 m to 20–25 km
- **Radar detection range:** ~100 km
- **Target capability:** Can engage two targets simultaneously
- **Speed handling:** Up to 900 m/s
- **Kill probability:** ~92%

## PAIMANA Portal

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has operationalised the PAIMANA Portal for mandatory monitoring of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing ₹150 crore and above.

### About PAIMANA Portal

- **Full form:** *Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building (PAIMANA)*
- **Nodal Ministry:** MoSPI
- A flagship digital initiative for systematic monitoring of large infrastructure projects
- Acts as a centralised national repository of infrastructure project data
- Enables web-based analytics, improved data accuracy, and operational efficiency
- Integrated with DPIIT's Integrated Project Monitoring Portal (IPMP / IIG-PMG) through APIs

### Key Features

- **Centralised Project Monitoring:**
  - Single-window platform for ministries, departments, and agencies to upload and track projects
- **Real-time Dashboards:**

- Sector-wise, state-wise, and timeline-based monitoring with drill-down features
- **Advanced Analytics:**
  - Role-based access, interactive dashboards, reporting & query modules
  - Helps identify **data gaps, delays, and bottlenecks**
- **Coverage:**
  - Mandatory for **Central Sector Infrastructure Projects ≥ ₹150 crore**

**Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)**

A 29-year-old man in Karnataka recently died after contracting **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)**, also known as **monkey fever**, highlighting renewed concerns about this often-neglected tick-borne disease.

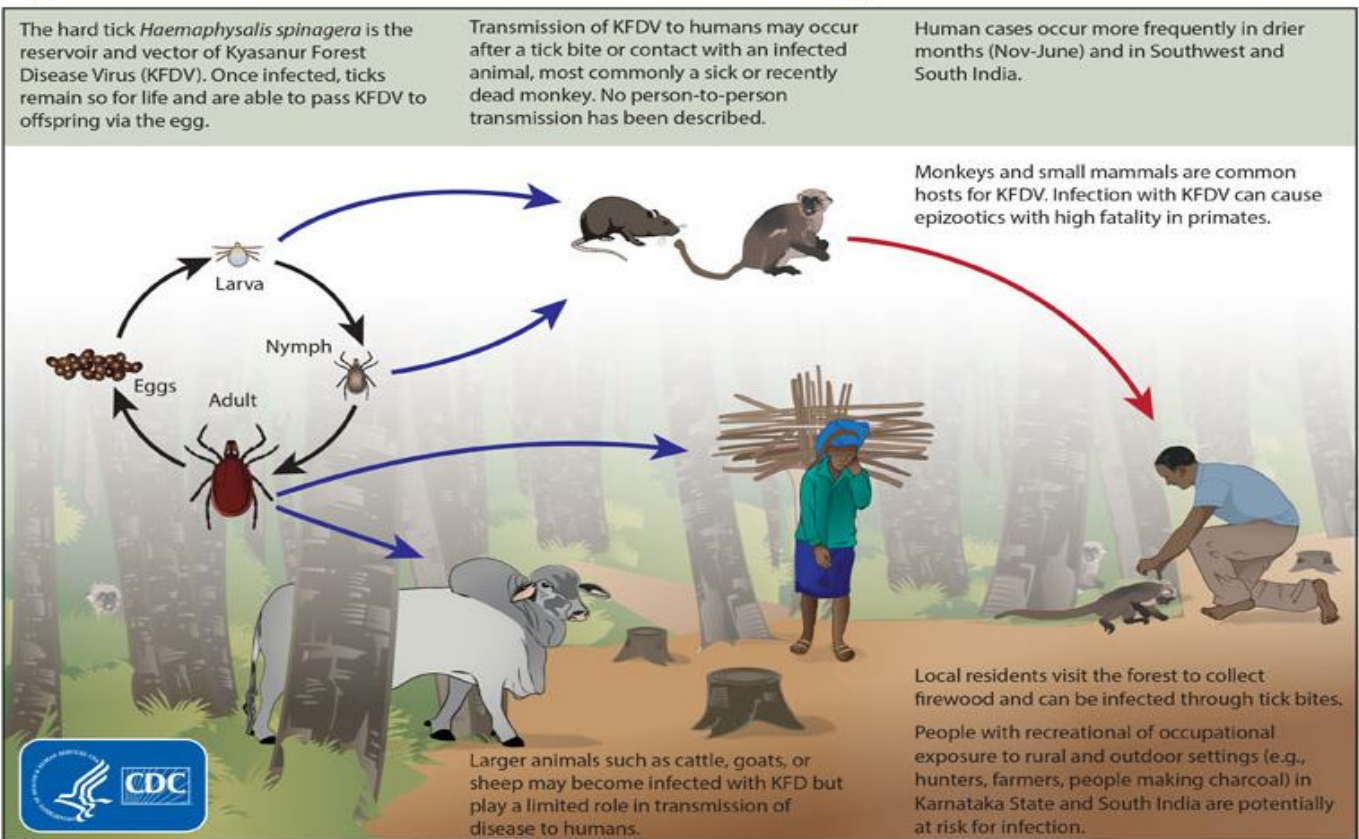
**About Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)**

- **Tick-borne viral haemorrhagic disease** endemic to **southern India**
- First identified in **1957 in Kyasanur Forest, Karnataka**
- Caused by **KFD virus** (family *Flaviviridae*, genus *Flavivirus*)
- Belongs to the **tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) complex**
- Called **monkey fever** due to frequent monkey deaths linked with outbreaks

**Transmission**

- Spread by **hard ticks (Hemaphysalis spinigera)**
- Humans infected through:
  - **Tick bites**

**Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) Virus Ecology**





- Contact with infected animals, especially **sick or dead monkeys**
- **No human-to-human transmission**
- **Seasonality:**
  - Begins: October–November
  - Peaks: January–April
  - Declines: May–June

### Symptoms

- Sudden high fever, extreme weakness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- May progress to **neurological and haemorrhagic complications**
- **Fatality rate:** 5–10%

### Treatment

- **No specific antiviral cure** available
- Only **supportive treatment:** fluids, oxygen, BP management, and treatment of secondary infections
- Early medical care significantly improves recovery

### Vaccine

- **KFD vaccine** available
- Recommended for people in **endemic regions of India**

## Solar Cycles

A research team from **IIT Kanpur** has developed a **new method to predict solar cycles**, improving the understanding of solar activity and its Earth impacts.

### About Solar Cycles

- A **solar cycle** is an approximately **11-year periodic variation in solar activity**
- Driven by changes in the **Sun's magnetic field**
- Marked by the **number and intensity of sunspots** on the solar surface
- Every ~11 years, the Sun's **magnetic poles flip** (north ↔ south)

- It takes another 11 years to flip back → forming a **22-year magnetic cycle (Hale cycle)**
- Solar activity is tracked mainly through **sunspot counts**

### Stages of a Solar Cycle

- **Solar Minimum:**
  - Beginning/end of a cycle
  - Very few or no sunspots
- **Solar Maximum:**
  - Mid-point of the cycle
  - Peak sunspot activity, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs)
- After maximum, activity declines back to **solar minimum**, starting a new cycle

### Impacts on Earth

- Influences **space weather** and satellite operations
- Affects **radio communication, GPS, and power grids**
- Alters **cosmic ray flux, ozone distribution, and upper atmospheric conditions**
- May have **indirect climatic effects** through variations in solar radiation

## JALAJ Livelihood Centres

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated **25 JALAJ Livelihood Centres** to strengthen river conservation through community-based livelihoods.

### About JALAJ

- Joint initiative of **Namami Gange Mission** and **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**
- Integrates **river conservation with sustainable livelihoods** in the Ganga basin
- Based on **circular economy model**
- Trains local communities in eco-friendly livelihood practices



### Key Features

- Promotes **community ownership**, with special focus on **women's participation**
- Establishes **symbiotic relationship between rivers and people**
- Centres reflect **local culture and indigenous communities**
- Act as hubs for:
  - Conservation education
  - Livelihood training
  - Sale of eco-products
- **Target:** 75 centres

### Phosphorus

Excess **phosphorus accumulation in US farmlands** is causing severe **water pollution and eutrophication**.

#### About Phosphorus

- Chemical element (Group 15), **symbol: P, atomic number: 15**
- Highly reactive non-metal
- Main forms:
  - **White phosphorus** (toxic, flammable)
  - **Red phosphorus** (non-toxic, stable)

#### Uses

- **Fertilisers (largest use)** - ammonium phosphate
- Matches, flares, incendiaries
- Steel production
- Detergents (being phased out due to pollution)
- Special glass & chinaware

#### Biological Role

- Essential for **bones, teeth, ATP, DNA, RNA, phospholipids**
- Key nutrient for **energy storage and cell repair**

#### Environmental Concern

- Excess phosphates cause **algal blooms & oxygen depletion**

### Deuteron

A study by the **ALICE collaboration at CERN (LHC)** explained how deuterons survive extreme particle collisions.

#### About Deuteron

- Nucleus of **heavy hydrogen ( $^2\text{H}$  or D)**
- Contains **1 proton + 1 neutron**
- Found in natural water and gas giants

#### Properties

- Mass  $\approx 2 \times$  proton
- Charge: +1
- Spin: 1
- Magnetic moment: 0.8574 nuclear magnetons

#### Applications

- Heavy water (nuclear reactors)
- Fusion fuel (deuterium)
- Tritium production

### Scabies

The **WHO** highlighted scabies as one of the most common skin diseases in developing countries.

#### About Scabies

- Contagious **parasitic skin disease**
- Caused by **Sarcoptes scabiei mite**
- Common in **hot, tropical regions**

#### Transmission

- Direct skin-to-skin contact
- Shared clothing & bedding
- Spreads rapidly in crowded settings

#### Symptoms & Treatment

- Severe itching (worse at night), rash
- Treated with **topical creams & oral drugs**

#### WHO Status

- Classified as a **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**

## Sea of Japan (East Sea)



North Korea fired a ballistic missile towards the Sea of Japan.

### About

- Marginal sea of the **western Pacific Ocean**
- Bounded by **Japan, Russia, North Korea, South Korea**
- Also called **East Sea**

### Connections

- East China Sea → Tsushima & Korea Straits
- Okhotsk Sea → La Perouse & Tatar Straits
- Pacific Ocean → Tsugaru Strait
- Inland Sea of Japan → Kanmon Strait

### Key Features

- Deepest point: **Dohoku Seamount (underwater volcano)**
- Warm waters → mild Japanese climate
- Almost **no tides** (like Mediterranean Sea)
- High oxygen → **high marine productivity**

### Major Ports

- **Russia:** Vladivostok, Nakhodka
- **North Korea:** Chongjin, Wonsan
- **Japan:** Niigata, Maizuru

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