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APPSC News Summary

Kuppam Sets Guinness World Record by Distributing 5,555 E-Cycles

Source: Deccan Chronicle

Relevance (UPSC GS Papers): GS Paper III: Environment & Ecology - Infrastructure: Transport & Energy - Climate Change and Sustainable Development - Inclusive Growth and Government Initiatives

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Green Mobility, Electric Cycles (E-cycles), Net-Zero Development, Guinness World Record, Swarna Kuppam Vision 2029, Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA), Renewable Energy, Rooftop Solar, Greenhouse Gas Emissions

For Mains

- Sustainable Transport at Local Level, Climate Action through Decentralised Mobility, Women-centric Green Infrastructure, Public Participation in Climate Governance, Net-Zero Development Models in Developing Regions, State-led Innovation in Clean Mobility.

Why in News

Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh set a **Guinness World Record** by distributing **5,555 electric cycles** in a

single day, under the “Green & Healthy Kuppam” initiative, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, showcasing a large-scale, people-centric model of **green mobility and sustainable transport**.



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu leads an e-cycle rally in Kuppam as part of the record-setting distribution of 5,555 electric cycles promoting green mobility and sustainable transport. (Image:DC)

Key Highlights

Record Achievement:

- 5,555 e-cycles distributed within 24 hours
- Recognised by Guinness World Records

Target Beneficiaries:

- Self-Help Group (SHG) members
- Anganwadi workers
- ASHA workers
- Village secretariat staff
- Working women

Technical Features of E-Cycles:

- Range: up to 60 km per charge



- Can be charged using **household electricity and rooftop solar**
- Suitable for **narrow rural and urban roads**

Environmental Impact:

- 74.7% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- CO₂ emissions:
 - E-cycle: **15.2 g/km**
 - Petrol scooter: **67.9 g/km**

Affordability Measures:

- Subsidised price: **₹23,999** (market price ₹34,999)
- Easy EMI via **AP Grameena Bank**
- **No down payment for women beneficiaries**

Local Manufacturing:

- Supplied by **e-Motorad**
- Assembled at **Kuppam unit**, promoting local employment

Governance & Institutional Framework

- Implemented under **Swarna Kuppam Vision 2029**
- Led by **Kuppam Area Development**

Authority (KADA)

- Technical and research support from **IIT Kanpur**
- Model of **State-Academia-Industry collaboration**

Significance

- Demonstrates **net-zero development is feasible** even in semi-rural India
- Strengthens **women empowerment** through mobility and cost savings
- Provides a **scalable template** for other states
- Aligns with India's commitments on **climate action and sustainable transport**
- Bridges global climate goals with **local governance solutions**

Conclusion

The Kuppam e-cycle initiative illustrates how **climate action, social inclusion, and economic affordability** can converge at the grassroots level. By combining public participation, subsidies, local manufacturing, and leadership by example, Andhra Pradesh has showcased a **replicable model of green mobility** that strengthens India's path towards **net-zero and sustainable development**.

Veligonda, Paleru, Korisapadu Projects to Get Priority in A.P. Budget (2026-27)

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance (UPSC GS Papers): GS Paper II: Governance, State Budgeting; GS Paper III: Infrastructure (Irrigation, Roads), Agriculture, Industrial Growth, Regional Development.

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Veligonda Project, Paleru Project, Korisapadu Project, Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), Donakonda Industrial Area, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu.

For Mains

- Regional development through budgetary prioritisation, Irrigation-led agricultural growth, Bio-energy and rural

income enhancement, Infrastructure as a catalyst for district-level development, Centre-State coordination in infrastructure and agriculture.

Why in News

During the **57th Formation Day** celebrations of Prakasam district at Ongole, State Social Welfare Minister **Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy** outlined the developmental roadmap for the district. The Minister emphasized that major irrigation and infrastructure projects in the region would receive top priority in the upcoming **2026-27 Andhra Pradesh State Budget**.

Context: 57th District Formation Day

- The event served as both a commemorative tribute to the "Andhra Kesari" **Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu** and a policy announcement platform. The administration signaled a shift toward integrated development across four pillars: **Agriculture, Industries, Education, and Infrastructure**.



Social Welfare Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy and other officials paying floral tributes to the statue of Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu at Ongole Collectorate campus on Monday. | Photo Credit: KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Key Infrastructure Priorities (A.P. Budget 2026-27)

The government has identified three critical

irrigation projects to transform the drought-prone landscape of the district:

- Veligonda Project (Poola Subbaiah):** A flagship project aimed at providing drinking and irrigation water to the parched tracts of Prakasam, Nellore, and Kadapa districts.
- Paleru & Korisapadu Projects:** To be fast-tracked in the next fiscal year to ensure tail-end water reaches the farmers.
- Connectivity: * Roads:** Four-laning of the road to **Bestavaripeta**.
 - Rail:** Seeking Central cooperation for pending railway projects within the district.

Industrial & Economic Initiatives

To boost the **Per Capita Income (PCI)** of the district, the government is moving away from purely agrarian dependency:

- Donakonda Industrial Hub:** Targeted for new large-scale industries. Donakonda's vast land bank is being positioned as a strategic site for the state's industrial corridor.
- Green Energy:** Establishment of **Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants**. This aligns with the national focus on renewable energy and provides an alternative income stream for rural waste management.

Agricultural and Social Welfare Focus

- Tobacco Farmers:** The district is a hub for FCV (Flue-Cured Virginia) tobacco. The State is currently in high-level discussions with the **Central Government** to resolve price volatility and regulatory hurdles faced by the tobacco farming community.
- Urban & Social Growth:** Focus on **Ongole's**

urban infrastructure and educational facilities to support the rising industrial workforce.

Conclusion

The developmental focus on Prakasam district reflects a broader strategy to bridge the gap between the developed coastal pockets and the

backward interior regions (Rayalaseema and western Prakasam). By prioritizing the **Veligonda project** and the **Donakonda industrial zone**, the 2026-27 Budget aims to convert this drought-prone region into a logistics and industrial hub, leveraging its strategic position between the capital region and the southern districts.

Zero Duty on Raw Tobacco Products Will Benefit AP Farmers

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS Paper III - Indian Economy - Agriculture pricing and farmer income - Taxation reforms and indirect taxes - Effects of government policies on agricultural markets

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Excise Duty, Unbranded Tobacco, HS Code 2401, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Gazette Notification, Indirect Taxes

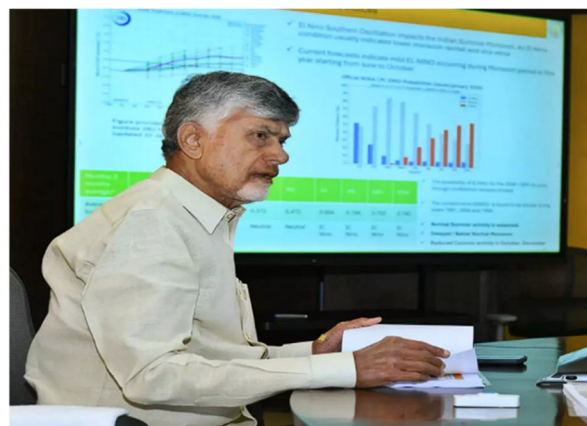
For Mains

- Agricultural price realisation, Tax rationalisation in farm commodities, Policy clarity and market efficiency, Farmer income support mechanisms, Formalisation of agricultural trade, Role of indirect tax reforms in reducing evasion

streamline taxation. This applies to items under tobacco HS code 2401 and took effect from 1 February 2026.

Why This Decision Was Made

- Earlier, the law did **not clearly differentiate** between bulk/raw tobacco and branded products, resulting in confusion and classification disputes.
- This led to **higher costs**, loss of income, and trade difficulties for **farmers, traders, and exporters**.
- By zero-rating unbranded tobacco, multiple duty classifications are eliminated, simplifying trade and reducing financial stress.



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu (Photo: By Arrangement)

Why in News?

The **Central Government** has reduced the **excise duty on unbranded/raw tobacco products** (not packed for retail) to **zero percent** aiming to remove policy ambiguity, support farmers and traders, and

What AP CM Chandrababu Naidu Says

- The decision provides **direct benefits** to **tobacco farmers** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- It ensures **better pricing** for farmers and lessens losses from regulatory ambiguity.
- Clear duty guidelines are expected to reduce **excise duty evasion** and curb misuse of classification loopholes.
- The AP Government has urged **strict implementation** of this policy uniformly across India.

Taxation & Agriculture

Chapter 24

HS Code 2401

UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO & TOBACCO REFUSE

HS Code 2401 covers raw tobacco materials which include unprocessed tobacco leaves, stemmed/stripped tobacco, and waste products from final manufacturing of tobacco.

Raw Tobacco Leaves	Stemmed / Stripped Tobacco	Tobacco Waste (Refuse)
		
Raw Tobacco Leaves	Stemmed / Stripped Tobacco	Tobacco Waste (Refuse)

Excludes:

- Processed, Manufactured Tobacco Products (cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco-based smoking products)



Processed cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco-based smoking products.

- **Fiscal Policy:** Excise duty changes affect government revenue and cost structures in agricultural goods processing.
- **Agricultural Income Stability:** Tobacco is a significant commercial crop in parts of

Andhra Pradesh; reducing duty helps stabilize farmer incomes and market predictability.

Benefits

- **Clarity in Policy** reduces trade disputes and compliance costs.
- **Higher Market Value** for raw tobacco, benefiting farmers directly.
- **Trade Boost** for unbranded tobacco in domestic and export markets.
- **Reduced Tax Evasion** via reduced ambiguity in duty categorisation.

Possible Concerns & Considerations

- Tobacco is a **health-harmful product**; duty reductions might **contradict public health objectives** (e.g., discouraging tobacco consumption through taxation).
- States may face **revenue shortfalls** from excise duty cuts on a widely used commodity.
- Enforcement of “zero duty” must ensure it doesn’t feed into **illegal trade or diversion**.

Policy Implications

- The policy reflects a **balancing act** between farmer welfare and fiscal/public health goals.
- Suggests a trend towards **simplified duty regimes** to ease agricultural trade.
- Raises questions on how **health-related taxes** should interact with farmer livelihood policies.

Key Points

- **Zero excise duty** on unbranded raw tobacco (HS 2401) effective from 1 Feb

2026

- Aims to eliminate **classification ambiguity, ease trade**
- Expected to **benefit farmers, traders, and exporters**
- AP Government supportive and seeking **strict implementation**

Conclusion

The zero-duty reform highlights how targeted fiscal measures can stabilise agricultural markets and support farmer livelihoods. However, long-term policy must balance economic gains with public health and sustainable agriculture objectives.

AI4AP Police Project Launched In 3 Districts

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS Paper III - Science & Technology (Artificial Intelligence, Internal Security); GS Paper II - Governance, Police Reforms, Use of Technology in Administration

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- AI4AP Police, Artificial Intelligence in Policing, CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems), Police Large Language Model (LLM), AI Hackathon, Technology-driven Law Enforcement

For Mains

- AI in Criminal Justice System, Smart Policing, Technology-led Governance, Ethical Concerns in AI Surveillance, Data Security and Privacy, Police Modernisation, Algorithmic Bias in Law Enforcement

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh Police has launched the **AI4AP Police Project** on a pilot basis in **Chittoor, Guntur, and Annamayya districts**, aiming to build an integrated artificial intelligence ecosystem to

modernise policing and improve investigation outcomes.



Background of AI4AP Police

- The initiative emerged from the **AI4 Andhra Police Hackathon (June 2025)** – India's first police-specific AI innovation event.
- Over **200 innovators** participated, generating AI-based solutions for law enforcement challenges.
- The project reflects Andhra Pradesh's push toward **technology-enabled governance**.

Key Features of the Project

- **Integrated AI Ecosystem:** Designed to enhance operational efficiency and data-driven decision-making.
- **CCTNS Integration:** Enables seamless access to crime and criminal databases.



- **Police Large Language Model:** A specialised AI model to assist officers in analysis, documentation, and intelligence gathering.
- **Faster Investigations:** Expected to reduce investigation timelines.
- **Improved Conviction Rates:** Better evidence analysis may strengthen prosecution.
- **Citizen-Centric Outcomes:** Aims to increase public trust and satisfaction.

Institutional Collaboration

- Knowledge Partner: **4sightAI**, led by CEO Surya Kotha.
- Technology Partner: **Sparity** (MoU signed).
- Winning hackathon teams are being onboarded to convert prototypes into operational tools.

Significance

1. Smart Policing

- Moves policing from reactive to **predictive and preventive frameworks**.

2. Police Modernisation

- Aligns with national goals of **technology-driven internal security**.

3. Faster Justice Delivery

- Reduced delays in investigation can improve judicial efficiency.

4. Governance Innovation

- Demonstrates how AI can strengthen **public service delivery**.

5. Replicable Model

- If successful, it could serve as a blueprint for other states.

Challenges & Concerns

- **Privacy Risks:** Large-scale data usage raises surveillance concerns
- **Algorithmic Bias:** AI decisions may unintentionally reinforce social biases.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** Sensitive law enforcement data must be protected.
- **Capacity Building:** Officers require continuous training to use AI effectively.
- **Ethical Governance:** Lack of clear regulatory frameworks for AI policing.

Way Forward

- Establish **AI ethics guidelines** for policing.
- Strengthen **data protection safeguards**.
- Ensure **human oversight** in AI-assisted decisions.
- Promote **regular training** for police personnel.
- Develop a **national framework for AI in law enforcement**.

Andhra University to Host First National Women's Ayurveda Conference (WAPCON-2026)

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance:

- **GS Paper II - Social Justice:** Issues related to women, health, and empowerment; role of government

initiatives in healthcare

- **GS Paper III - Indian Systems of Medicine:** AYUSH, traditional healthcare systems, and medical innovation.

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Andhra University, Women's Ayurveda Parishad Conference (WAPCON-2026), Ministry of AYUSH, Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad, 'Swastha Nari - Sashakt Bharat', Dr Durgabai Deshmukh Women's Studies Centre, Indian Systems of Medicine.

For Mains

- Women's Health and Empowerment, Role of Traditional Medicine in Public Health, Integrating AYUSH with Modern Healthcare, Gender-inclusive Healthcare Policy, Preventive Healthcare, Medical Entrepreneurship in Ayurveda.

Why in News?

Andhra University is set to host **WAPCON-2026**, the **first national conference focused exclusively on women in Ayurveda**, highlighting women's health, leadership, and entrepreneurship in traditional medicine.



The conference, themed 'Swastha Nari - Sashakt Bharat' (Healthy Woman - Empowered India), is expected to attract over 1,000 participants from across the country, including women Ayurveda experts, practitioners, product manufacturers, Andhra University faculty members and students. — DC Image

Background

- The conference coincides with **Andhra**

University's centenary celebrations.

- Organised jointly by the Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad and the Dr Durgabai Deshmukh Women's Studies Centre, with support from the **Ministry of AYUSH**.
- Reflects growing national emphasis on **preventive healthcare and traditional medicine**.

Key Highlights of WAPCON-2026

- **Theme:** "Swastha Nari - Sashakt Bharat" (Healthy Woman - Empowered India).
- Two-day event at the AU Convention Centre, Visakhapatnam.
- Expected participation of **over 1,000 delegates**, including:
 - Women Ayurveda doctors
 - Practitioners
 - Entrepreneurs
 - Product manufacturers
 - Faculty and students
- Special **Ayurvedic product exhibition** to promote innovation and industry linkages.

Institutional Collaboration

- Supported by the **Ministry of AYUSH**, indicating policy backing for traditional medicine.
- Brings academia, industry, and practitioners onto a common platform.
- Encourages research, awareness, and commercialization of Ayurvedic products.

Significance

1. Promotes Women's Health

- Focuses on gender-specific health concerns and preventive care through Ayurveda.

2. Strengthens AYUSH Ecosystem

- Boosts visibility of India's traditional

medicine globally while encouraging research.

3. Encourages Women Entrepreneurship

- Creates opportunities for women-led startups in herbal products and wellness industries.

4. Supports Preventive Healthcare

- Aligns with India's shift from curative to preventive health models.

5. Academic-Industry Interface

- Facilitates knowledge exchange between universities, practitioners, and manufacturers.

Challenges

- Need for stronger scientific validation and clinical trials in Ayurveda.
- Limited integration with mainstream healthcare systems.
- Regulatory and quality-control concerns in herbal products.
- Awareness gaps among urban populations.

Way Forward

- Promote evidence-based Ayurveda through research funding.
- Integrate AYUSH into primary healthcare delivery.
- Strengthen global certification and quality standards.
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration between modern medicine and traditional systems.

Conclusion

WAPCON-2026 represents a significant step toward advancing **women-centric healthcare and traditional medicine** in India. By fostering collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship, the conference supports inclusive health development and reinforces Ayurveda's role in achieving holistic public health.

4 Major Ports under Construction in Andhra Pradesh

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **GS Paper III - Infrastructure, Ports, Economic Development, Logistics**

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Sagarmala Programme, Harit Sagar Guidelines, Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP), Maritime Single Window - Sagar Setu 2.0, Port-led Industrialisation, Vessel Turnaround Time.

For Mains

- Role of port infrastructure in economic growth, Coastal development and logistics efficiency, Green port initiatives and sustainable maritime transport, Port-led industrialisation under Sagarmala.

Why in News?

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways informed Parliament that **four major ports are currently under construction in Andhra Pradesh**, reflecting the Centre's focus on strengthening maritime infrastructure and boosting coastal economic activity.

Ports Under Construction

- **Mulapeta Port** (formerly Bhavanapadu) – Srikakulam district
- **Machilipatnam Port** – Krishna district
- **Ramayapatnam Port** – SPSR Nellore district
- **Kakinada SEZ Port** – Kakinada region

These projects aim to enhance cargo handling capacity and support industrial growth along the eastern coastline.



The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said that four major ports - Mulapeta port, which is formerly Bhavanapadu port in Srikakulam district, Machilipatnam port in Krishna district, Ramayapatnam port in SPSR Nellore district and Kakinada SEZ port were under construction in Andhra Pradesh. (File Photo)

Government Initiatives for Port Modernisation

Key measures include:

- Mechanisation of berths and terminals
- Construction of new berths
- Capital dredging to accommodate larger vessels
- Integration with road, rail, and waterways
- Digitalisation of port processes
- RFID-based gate automation
- Container scanners for faster clearance

These steps seek to reduce logistics costs and improve operational efficiency.

Sagarmala Programme

Financial assistance is provided under five pillars:

1. Port modernisation
2. Port connectivity enhancement
3. Port-led industrialisation
4. Coastal community development

5. Coastal shipping and inland water transport

Green and Digital Maritime Initiatives

- **Harit Sagar Guidelines:** Promote environmentally sustainable ports.
- **Green Tug Transition Programme:** Shift harbour tugs from fossil fuels to cleaner alternatives.
- **Sagar Setu 2.0:** Maritime Single Window to streamline documentation and reduce vessel turnaround time.
- **Cruise Bharat Mission:** Focus on expanding cruise tourism.

Significance

- Strengthens India's maritime trade capacity.
- Boosts Andhra Pradesh as a logistics hub on the east coast.
- Encourages port-led industrial corridors.
- Generates employment and promotes coastal development.
- Supports export competitiveness by reducing transport costs.

Challenges

- Environmental concerns related to coastal ecosystems.
- Land acquisition and rehabilitation issues.
- Need for last-mile connectivity.
- Climate risks such as cyclones affecting coastal infrastructure.

Way Forward

- Adopt climate-resilient port infrastructure.
- Strengthen multimodal connectivity.
- Expand green port practices.
- Encourage private investment through PPP models.
- Align port growth with regional industrial strategies.

Andhra Pradesh to Frame Population Management Policy

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Prelims: Population policy, demographic transition, ageing population, nutrition schemes, public health initiatives. GS Paper II - Government policies & interventions, health, welfare schemes

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

- Population Management Policy, Ageing Society, Demographic Dividend, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Anganwadi Centres, Sanjeevani Project, People-Public-Private-Partnership (P4), Per Capita Income, Araku Coffee, Cocoa City

Why in News?

- The Chief Minister of N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that Andhra Pradesh will introduce a **Population Management Policy** soon.
- The announcement was made during a review meeting with ministers and secretaries at the Secretariat in Vijayawada.
- The policy aims to address **demographic transition**, ageing population concerns, maternal health, nutrition, and economic productivity.

Key Objectives of the Policy

- Address the **aging population challenge**, noting that many European countries are facing demographic stress due to a rising elderly population.

- Change the mindset that people **cannot work after the age of 60**.
- Encourage a **healthy demographic structure** for long-term economic growth.



AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. (Image: X)

Health and Nutrition Initiatives

Nutritional Support

- Prepare an action plan to provide **nutritious food**:
 - Students under the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**
 - Children at **Anganwadi Centres**
 - Beneficiaries of **Anna Canteens**
- Emphasis on **leafy vegetables** and nutritional supplements.

Maternal and Child Health

- Promote **normal deliveries** and reduce unnecessary **C-section births**.
- Improve maternal nutrition through supplements.

Sanjeevani Project Targets

- Health screening for:
 - 66 lakh high-risk individuals**
 - 5 lakh hostel students** by July.



- Prepare **health profiles of 70 lakh students** up to Class XII.

Disease Control Goal

- Target to make Andhra Pradesh **HIV/AIDS-free by 2027**.

Education and Student Welfare

- Develop a **100-day action plan** to improve Class X exam results.
- Reduce **exam pressure** and prevent student suicides.
- Ensure a supportive academic environment.

Governance and Implementation

- Ministers and secretaries instructed to:
 - Conduct **field visits**.
 - Monitor policy implementation at the **micro level**.
- Emphasis: **Good policies succeed only with efficient implementation**.

Economic Growth Targets

- Aim to **double GSDP and per capita income every five years**.
- Per capita income viewed as a key indicator of **living standards**.

P4 Scheme (People-Public-Private-Partnership)

- Designed to **reduce economic inequalities**.
- Increase participation of:
 - **Margadarsis**
 - **Bangaru Mitras**
- Objective: help the poor overcome financial hardships.

Financial Management

- CM criticized the previous **YSR Congress Party** government for financial

mismanagement (2019–2024).

- State currently paying **14% interest** on past loans.
- Government working to:
 - **Reschedule loans**
 - Improve **credit rating**
- Salaries are now being paid on time.
- Implementation of promised **Super Six schemes** underway.

Agriculture and Regional Development

- Explore cultivation of **Kumkuma Puvvu (saffron)** in **Lambasingi** (traditionally grown in **Kashmir**).
- Plan to establish India's first **Cocoa City** near **Eluru**.
- Expand **coffee cultivation** and promote the **Araku Coffee** brand.

Infrastructure and Environmental Measures

- Prepare action plan under the '**GRAM G**' scheme.
- Prevent **groundwater pollution** from industrial effluents.
- Ensure supply of **safe drinking water** to:
 - Educational institutions
 - Hostels
 - General public

Hostel Safety Concern

- Students falling sick at a hostel in **Devarapalli** triggered concern.
- CM warned that district officials would be **held accountable** if such incidents recur.

Governance Philosophy Highlighted by CM

- Officials must **regularly interact with**



- citizens to identify problems.
- Strong focus on:
 - Administrative discipline

- Financial responsibility
- Effective service deliver

APSCHE Quantum Training Initiative & Amaravati Quantum Valley

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: Mains: GS II: Education, Human Resource Development. GS III: Science & Technology, Emerging Technologies, Innovation Ecosystem, Skill Development

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- National Quantum Mission, Quantum Technologies, Gender Parity Index, Hackathons & Skill Development Initiatives

For Mains

- National Quantum Mission (NQM), Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), Quantum Random Number Generation, Gender Parity Index (GPI), Quantum Capacity Building

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) achieved a milestone in India's quantum technology ecosystem through a large-scale training initiative and the foundation of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley**, aligning with the **International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (2025)**.

Background

- 2025 marks **100 years of quantum**

mechanics.

- Global efforts aim to accelerate real-world applications of quantum science.
- The initiative draws inspiration from:
 - **Amaravati Quantum Declaration (June 30, 2025)**
 - **National Quantum Mission**

Key Highlights

1. Large-Scale Capacity Building

- Over **1,000 faculty members** trained.
- Around **1,00,000 students** received quantum technology training across Andhra Pradesh.
- Demonstrates rapid translation of policy into action.

2. Amaravati Quantum Valley

- Foundation stone laid to position **Amaravati as India's "quantum gateway."**
- Reflects state-level participation in high-technology development.

3. Amaravati Quantum Valley Hackathon (AQVH) 2025

- Participation from **94 institutions** and **100+ student teams**.
- Focus areas included:
 - Quantum Key Distribution
 - Quantum Algorithms
 - Quantum Machine Learning
 - Quantum Chemistry
 - Quantum Optimisation

Outcomes:



- 10 winning teams and 10 runners-up.
- **120 students awarded ₹8 lakh.**
- Each team mandatorily included a girl student → promotes inclusivity.

4. Gender Inclusion

- Andhra Pradesh recorded a **positive Gender Parity Index**, indicating higher participation of girl students – notable given global gender gaps in STEM fields.

5. Industry Collaboration

- Jury included experts from **IBM, TCS**, and quantum start-ups.
- Nearly **600 students became job-ready** through hands-on exposure to:
 - IBM Quantum Cloud
 - Qiskit
 - Qbraid
- Start-ups extended job offers. **IBM, with T-Hub**, will facilitate internships and industrial visits.

Significance

1. Strengthening India's Quantum Ecosystem

- Builds skilled manpower essential for emerging technologies.
- Supports goals of the National Quantum Mission.

2. Bridging Academia-Industry Gap

- Industry partnerships improve

employability and innovation.

3. Advancing India's Tech Leadership

- Positions India in the global race for quantum supremacy.

4. Promoting Inclusive Growth

- Higher female participation encourages gender balance in STEM.

5. Regional Innovation Model

- Demonstrates how states can complement national missions.

Challenges

- Quantum infrastructure is capital-intensive.
- Shortage of highly specialized faculty.
- Need for sustained funding and research ecosystem.
- Risk of brain drain without domestic opportunities.

Way Forward

- Expand quantum research centres and labs.
- Strengthen academia-industry partnerships.
- Increase funding for deep-tech startups.
- Integrate quantum education into university curricula.
- Promote international collaboration.

Digital Attendance to Be Introduced in Andhra Pradesh Assembly from Budget Session

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: UPSC GS Paper - 2: Parliament, State Legislature, Executive, Representation of People's Act

Why in News?

The Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, has decided to introduce a **digital attendance system**

for MLAs to curb persistent absenteeism and ensure meaningful participation in legislative proceedings.



Andhra Pradesh Assembly.

Key Highlights

- Digital attendance will be implemented from the **Budget Session**.
- Decision taken due to **continued absence of YSRCP MLAs** after the 2024 elections.
- Only **11 MLAs attended**, and that too solely for the Governor's address.
- Legislators were allegedly **signing the register and leaving** without participating.
- The **Governor's address is NOT treated as a regular sitting**, hence not counted for attendance.
- Duration of the session will be finalized by the **Business Advisory Committee (BAC)**.
- The Speaker briefed Governor S. Abdul Nazeer regarding session arrangements.

Legal / Constitutional basis

- A legislator may face **disqualification if absent for 60 consecutive days** without

permission.

- This aligns with legislative rules aimed at ensuring **responsibility and accountability** of elected representatives.
- The Speaker exercised **discretionary powers** to enforce attendance discipline.

Significance

- Promotes legislative accountability
- Prevents misuse of attendance mechanisms
- Encourages active participation in debates
- Strengthens democratic functioning
- Introduces technology in legislative governance

Challenges

- May trigger **political confrontation** if absenteeism is linked to protest strategies.
- Requires robust digital infrastructure and monitoring.
- Attendance does not always guarantee **quality participation**.

Conclusion

The introduction of digital attendance in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly marks a significant step toward strengthening **legislative accountability and transparency**. By ensuring the actual presence of elected representatives, the reform promotes responsible lawmaking and improves institutional efficiency. However, technology must complement – not replace – the democratic duty of legislators to actively participate in debates and governance.

Andhra Pradesh Education Reforms Draw National Applause at AI Conclave

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance

- **Prelims:** Government schemes, AI in education, Samagra Shiksha, FLN Mission, Digital governance.
- **Mains (GS II):** Issues relating to Education, Government Policies & Interventions, Use of Technology in Governance, AI in Public Service Delivery.

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh's **technology-driven education reforms** received national recognition at an Artificial Intelligence Conclave held in New Delhi.
- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** praised the state for integrating Artificial Intelligence into school education to improve learning outcomes, transparency, and administrative efficiency.



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. (Image: X)

Key Highlights

National Recognition

- Andhra Pradesh showcased its education

reforms through a special stall under **Samagra Shiksha**.

- The stall attracted policymakers, educationists, and officials from multiple states.
- Several states expressed interest in replicating the AP model.

Focus on AI Integration

- The state is systematically embedding **Artificial Intelligence** into mainstream school education.
- Objectives include:
 - Improving learning outcomes
 - Expanding digital access
 - Ensuring measurable academic progress
 - Enhancing governance and transparency

Major Initiatives Displayed

- **PAL (Programme for Academic Learning) Labs** - Strengthen conceptual understanding.
- **Strengthened Mid-Day Meal Programme** - Supports student nutrition and attendance.
- **"Clicker" Classroom Response System** - Enhances student engagement through real-time feedback.
- **Guaranteed FLN Mission** - Focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
- **AI-enabled Chatbot** - Provides academic support to students.
- **AI-driven Face Recognition System** - Tracks attendance and improves administrative efficiency.

Government Response

- Minister Dharmendra Pradhan commended Andhra Pradesh for adopting **forward-looking, tech-enabled reforms**.
- Senior officials highlighted tangible improvements at the district level.
- Other states indicated plans to visit Andhra Pradesh to study implementation.

Conclusion

Andhra Pradesh's AI-driven education reforms demonstrate how technology can enhance learning outcomes, improve governance, and expand digital access in schools. The national recognition highlights the state's emerging role as a model for tech-enabled educational transformation in India.

Strategic Partnership Between Andhra Pradesh & Gates Foundation

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS II - Governance & social sector reforms. GS III - AI, digital economy, agriculture technology, health innovation

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

- Gates Foundation, Swarnandhra Vision-2047, AWARE platform, ORF tool, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, AI governance initiatives

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh entered a **strategic partnership with the Gates Foundation**.
- Aim is to accelerate development using **technology, AI, healthcare innovation, education reforms, and agriculture modernisation**.

Key Objectives of Partnership

- Empower people through improved services.
- Create wealth and economic growth.
- Promote technology-driven governance.

- Improve health, education, and agriculture outcomes.



Naidu described Bill Gates' visit to Amaravati as historic.

Image source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Background Significance

- CM Naidu called Bill Gates' visit **historic**.
- Recalled 1997 interaction leading to Microsoft's Hyderabad presence, which boosted the IT ecosystem.
- Partnership expected to similarly transform Andhra Pradesh's development trajectory.

Swarnandhra Vision-2047

Long-term development roadmap to make AP a leading state by 2047.

Economic & Social Targets

- Economy: **\$180 billion** → **\$2.4 trillion**



- Per capita income: \$3,400 → \$42,000
- Unemployment: 4.1% → 2%
- Women workforce participation: 45.8% → 80%
- Literacy: 72% → 100%
- Skilled workforce: 95%
- Life expectancy: 85 years

Ten Cardinal Principles

- Zero poverty
- Employment for all
- Skill development
- Water security
- Agri-technology adoption
- World-class logistics
- Energy and fuel security
- Product quality improvement
- Swach Andhra
- Deep-tech development

Digital Governance Model

Government focusing on **speed of service delivery** using technology.

Key initiatives:

- Aadhaar-based verification services.
- Personal and family **data lake systems**.
- Integration of State and Central databases.
- **AWARE (AP Wide Area Real-time Execution)** for real-time monitoring.
- WhatsApp governance services.
- DG Verify digital authentication tools.
- Data-driven decision-making using real-time analytics.

Technology & Innovation Clusters

State developing specialised tech hubs:

- **Quantum Valley** – Amaravati
- **Data & AI City** – Visakhapatnam
- **Green Hydrogen Valley** – Kakinada

- **Drone City** – Orvakal
- **Electronics-Aero City** – Lepakshi
- **Electronics-Space City** – Tirupati

Additional facts:

- AI used in **10 sectors and 30 departments**.
- **98 AI use cases** implemented.
- **43 hackathons** conducted.
- Seven data lake projects underway.

Education Sector Initiatives

- Focus on foundational literacy and numeracy.
- Use of **ORF (Oral Reading Fluency)** tool.
- Covers **13.4 lakh students** in **35,000 schools**.
- Technology used to monitor learning outcomes.

Agriculture & Allied Sector

- AI and drones used for:
 - Crop monitoring
 - Pest and disease detection
 - Precision farming practices
- Aim: improve productivity and reduce crop losses.

Health Sector Initiatives

Universal Health Screening

- **71 lakh people screened**.
- 41 diagnostic tests conducted at low cost.
- Linked with **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**.

Sanjeevini Programme

- Pilot project in Kadapa district.
- Healthcare services through **109 centres**.
- Statewide rollout from **July 2026**.
- Target coverage: **5.2 crore people**.

Future Healthcare Vision

- AI-supported healthcare delivery.

- Proposal for **AI doctor access** for every citizen.
- AI to provide expert medical advice in remote areas.

Role of Gates Foundation

- Provides global expertise in:

- Public health systems
- Digital health solutions
- Agricultural innovation
- Data-driven governance models.
- Strengthens international collaboration in development.

International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Prelims - Defence Exercises, Important Events, Indian Navy; GS Paper II - International Relations & Diplomacy; GS Paper III - Security & Maritime Affairs

Important Keywords for Prelims & Mains:

- International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026, Visakhapatnam, Presidential Banquet, President Droupadi Murmu, Eastern Naval Command INS Sumedha (Presidential Yacht), United through Oceans (theme/spirit), Fleet Review, Indo-Pacific Cooperation, Naval Soft Power, Strategic Maritime Engagement, Andhra Pradesh Maritime Hub, SAGAR Vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region)

Why in News?

- International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026 commenced at **Visakhapatnam** with a **Presidential Banquet** hosted by President **Droupadi Murmu** at the Eastern Naval Command Naval Base.
- The event marks a major international naval

gathering showcasing maritime cooperation and naval diplomacy.



The President arrived here by a special flight on Tuesday evening. She was received by governor Nazeer, deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan and senior officials. (Image: X)

Key Highlights

- The Presidential Banquet served as the **official curtain raiser** for IFR-2026.
- Conducted at the **Eastern Naval Command Officers' Mess**, Visakhapatnam.
- The fleet review is being held in the **Bay of Bengal**, approximately **22 km off the Visakhapatnam coast**.
- President Droupadi Murmu will review the assembled naval fleet from the **Presidential Yacht - INS Sumedha**.

Dignitaries Present

- President **Droupadi Murmu**
- Andhra Pradesh Governor **Justice Syed Abdul Nazeer**



- Deputy Chief Minister **Pawan Kalyan**
- Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu**
- Senior naval officials and international naval representatives

About International Fleet Review (IFR)

- A **ceremonial gathering of naval ships** from India and friendly foreign nations.
- Conducted periodically by the **Indian Navy**.
- Aims to:
 - Strengthen maritime cooperation
 - Enhance naval diplomacy
 - Promote goodwill among participating nations
 - Showcase naval capabilities

Theme

- Promotes the spirit of **“United through Oceans”**, highlighting cooperation, peace, and maritime security.

Significance of IFR-2026

1. Maritime Diplomacy

- Provides a platform for interaction among global naval leadership.
- Strengthens India’s strategic partnerships in

the Indo-Pacific region.

2. Strategic Importance

- Demonstrates India’s naval strength and operational readiness.
- Enhances cooperation on maritime security and disaster response.

3. Cultural Diplomacy

- Combines naval engagement with Indian cultural performances and hospitality.
- Promotes India’s heritage and soft power globally.

4. Regional Importance

- Highlights Visakhapatnam as a major naval and maritime hub.
- Showcases Eastern Naval Command’s strategic role.

Key Events of IFR-2026

- Presidential Banquet (Opening Ceremony)
- Fleet Review by the President
- Address to participating naval forces
- Cultural and diplomatic interactions
- International naval engagements

Exercise MILAN 2026

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: GS Paper II - International Relations - Defence diplomacy and maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Important Keywords for Prelims & Mains:

- Exercise MILAN • Indian Navy • Multilateral Naval Exercise •

Visakhapatnam • Biennial Exercise • Started in 1995 • Port Blair (Origin) • Act East Policy • SAGAR Vision • Indo-Pacific Maritime Cooperation • Interoperability • Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) • Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) • Air Defence • Search & Rescue Operations • Harbour Phase • Sea Phase • Defence Diplomacy • Eastern

Naval Command • International Maritime Seminar • Naval Cooperation • Maritime Security

Why in News?

- The **Multilateral Naval Exercise MILAN 2026** is being conducted at **Visakhapatnam**, inaugurated by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**.
- The exercise brings together navies from numerous friendly foreign countries to strengthen maritime cooperation and interoperability.



Key Highlights

- Venue: **Naval Base, Visakhapatnam**
- Inauguration at **Samudrika Auditorium**.
- Chief of Naval Staff **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi** present.
- MILAN Village inaugurated by Eastern Naval Command Chief **Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla**.
- Participation expanded to **around 70 countries** in the current edition.

About Exercise MILAN

- A **biennial multilateral naval exercise** conducted by the **Indian Navy**.

- First conducted in **1995** at **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- Initially involved **Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand**.
- Originated under India's **Look East Policy**, later aligned with **Act East Policy** and **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** vision.
- Shifted to **Visakhapatnam (from 2020)** due to advanced naval infrastructure.

Phases of MILAN 2026

1. Harbour Phase

- Delegation interactions
- Maritime seminar
- Cultural programmes and professional exchanges

2. Sea Phase (Feb 21–25)

Focus areas include:

- Interoperability operations
- Maritime Domain Awareness
- Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)
- Air Defence exercises
- Search and Rescue operations

Objectives

- Strengthen cooperation among friendly navies.
- Enhance operational interoperability.
- Share best practices in maritime security.
- Improve coordination during multilateral naval operations.

Strategic Significance

- Enhances India's maritime leadership in the **Indo-Pacific**.
- Promotes collective maritime security.
- Demonstrates India's growing naval capabilities.

- Strengthens defence diplomacy and regional partnerships.

MILAN = Multilateral naval exercise by Indian Navy.

- Started: **1995**
- Original venue: **Port Blair**
- Frequency: **Biennial**

- Linked to: **Act East Policy & SAGAR doctrine**
- Current venue: **Visakhapatnam**
- Focus: **ASW, Air Defence, MDA, SAR operations.**

Andhra Pradesh Signs MoU to Strengthen Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Prelims - Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme, State-level welfare initiatives; Mains: GS II - Welfare Schemes & Social Sector Development

Important Keywords for Prelims & Mains:

For Prelims

- Midday Meal Scheme, Dokka Seethamma Scheme, Andhra Pradesh, International Innovation Corps (IIC)

For Mains

- AI in Governance, Data Analytics, School Nutrition Programme, Transparency in Welfare Schemes, Digital Monitoring, Service Delivery Reform, Evidence-based Governance

Why in News?

- The Andhra Pradesh School Education Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Innovation Corps (IIC) to improve implementation of the Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme.

- The initiative aims to enhance **transparency, monitoring, and efficiency** in school nutrition programmes using technology and data-driven tools.



Minister for Human Resources Development (HRD) N. Lokesh launched Mid-Day Meal scheme at the government junior college at Payakapuram. (Photo: X)

Key Highlights

- MoU signed at the office of the Secretary, Department of Human Resource Development, **Vijayawada.**
- Collaboration with **International Innovation Corps (IIC)** under the **Chicago University Trust (India).**
- Programme coverage:
 - Nearly **3.23 million students**
 - Across **42,230 schools and colleges** in Andhra Pradesh.
- Focus on improving service delivery of the Midday Meal Scheme.



Objectives of the MoU

- Strengthen transparency and accountability.
- Improve monitoring and implementation efficiency.
- Reduce administrative burden on officials.
- Enable evidence-based decision-making.

Technological Interventions

- Use of **Data Analytics** and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- Accurate estimation of student attendance for meals.
- Monitoring nutritional standards.
- Real-time tracking and streamlined reporting systems.

Stakeholders Involved

- Andhra Pradesh School Education

Department.

- International Innovation Corps (IIC).
- Department of Human Resource Development officials.
- Midday Meal Scheme administration authorities.

Significance

- Enhances nutritional programme governance.
- Supports better child health and learning outcomes.
- Promotes digital governance in welfare schemes.
- Reduces leakages and improves resource utilisation.

NTR District to be Model for Natural Farming

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance (UPSC)

- **Mains: GS Paper III: Agriculture, Sustainable Farming, Food Security, Agro-ecology, Waste Management.**

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Natural Farming, Organic Manure, Traceability System (QR code-based), Regenerative Agriculture, Waste Processing Centres

For Mains

- Sustainable Agriculture, Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), Circular

Economy in Agriculture, Farmer Producer Ecosystems, Transparency in Agri Supply Chain

Why in News?

- Vijayawada MP announced efforts to make **NTR district a model district for natural farming**.
- 225-day seminars planned to promote organic cultivation in every mandal.
- QR-based traceability system introduced for transparency in organic produce.



NTR District Collector G. Lakshmi and others at the Organic Farmers' Festival in Vijayawada on Sunday. | Photo Credit: G.N. RAO



Background

- Natural farming promotes **chemical-free cultivation**, use of indigenous cow-based inputs, and regenerative practices.
- Andhra Pradesh has been a frontrunner in promoting **community-based natural farming** through Rythu Sadhikara Samstha.
- Growing consumer demand for safe and

certified organic products has increased focus on traceability and transparency.

Key Highlights

1. **District-Level Natural Farming Mission**
 - Aim to ensure all farmers in NTR district adopt natural farming.
 - Mandal-level awareness seminars for 225 days.
2. **Urban Participation**
 - Promotion of terrace gardening in cities.
3. **Waste to Wealth Initiative**
 - 107 waste processing centres to produce **1,500 metric tonnes of organic manure daily**.
 - Organic manure to be supplied at subsidised prices.
4. **QR-Based Traceability System**
 - Enables consumers to track produce from seed to sale.
 - Enhances consumer trust and certification transparency.
5. **Community & Institutional Involvement**
 - District administration, farmer societies, and civil society collaboration.
 - Promotion of indigenous seeds and regenerative practices.

Significance

1. **Sustainable Agriculture**
 - Reduces dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
 - Improves soil health and biodiversity.
2. **Climate Resilience**
 - Regenerative practices enhance carbon sequestration.
 - Promotes low-input, climate-adaptive farming.
3. **Circular Economy Model**



- Waste processing centres convert urban waste into organic manure.
- Integrates waste management with agriculture.

4. Farmer Income Enhancement

- Reduced input costs.
- Premium pricing for certified organic produce.

5. Consumer Confidence

- QR-based traceability ensures transparency and food safety.

Challenges

- Yield transition concerns during shift from chemical farming.
- Need for scientific validation and extension support.
- Certification and market access barriers.
- Behavioural resistance among farmers.
- Ensuring authenticity of organic claims.

Way Forward

- Strengthen farmer training and extension services.
- Integrate natural farming with e-NAM and digital marketplaces.
- Provide transition incentives and crop insurance support.
- Promote Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).
- Establish strict quality certification and monitoring frameworks.

Conclusion

The initiative to make NTR district a model for natural farming reflects a shift towards sustainable and technology-enabled agriculture. If successfully implemented, it can serve as a replicable template balancing environmental sustainability, farmer welfare, and consumer trust.

Cycle Rally under 'Operation Vajra Prahar' in Nellore

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: UPSC Mains: GS Paper III: Internal Security; Linkages between drug trafficking and organised crime; Role of security agencies.

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Operation Vajra Prahar, NDPS Act, 1985, PIT NDPS Act, Cordon and Search Operations, Drug Abuse Awareness Campaign

For Mains

- Drug Trafficking & Internal Security, Community Policing, Preventive

Detention, Youth Radicalisation & Substance Abuse, Whole-of-Society Approach

Why in News?

- A cycle rally was conducted in Nellore under 'Operation Vajra Prahar', an anti-drug campaign.
- Flagged off by the Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), the rally promoted awareness under the slogan: "Say No to Drugs, Bro - Ride a Cycle, Bro."
- The initiative aims to curb drug abuse through enforcement and community mobilisation.



ASP Deeksha with Nawabpet CI Venugopal Reddy during the anti-drug rally in Nellore.— Image By Arrangement

Background



- Drug trafficking is regulated under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act, 1985).
- The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PIT NDPS Act) allows preventive detention of habitual offenders.
- Increasing youth vulnerability and organised crime linkages have prompted state-level anti-drug drives.

Key Highlights

1. Awareness Campaign

- Rally from Umesh Chandra Conference Hall to Gandhi statue.
- Emphasis on drug-free youth and community responsibility.

2. Enforcement Measures in SPS Nellore District

- 69 NDPS cases registered.
- 65 arrests made.
- 12 vehicles seized (used in drug transport).
- 9 habitual offenders detained under PIT NDPS Act (lodged in Kadapa jail).

3. Preventive Policing

- Regular cordon and search operations in identified hotspots.
- Public encouraged to share information via AP Eagle toll-free number 1972 (confidentiality assured).

Significance

1. Internal Security Perspective

- Drug networks often linked with organised crime and extremist financing.

2. Youth Protection

- Campaign targets awareness among youth, preventing addiction and social breakdown.

3. Community Policing Model

- Encourages citizen participation in intelligence gathering.

4. Preventive Detention Strategy

- Use of PIT NDPS Act strengthens deterrence against habitual offenders.

Challenges

- Expanding drug supply chains.
- Online drug sales via dark web.
- Cross-border narcotics trafficking.
- Rehabilitation and reintegration of addicted youth.

Way Forward

- Strengthen coordination between State

police and central agencies like NCB.

- Expand school and college-level awareness programs.
- Enhance digital monitoring of online drug trade.
- Improve rehabilitation and counselling infrastructure.
- Promote sports and wellness initiatives as preventive measures.

Conclusion

Operation Vajra Prahar reflects a dual strategy of enforcement and awareness. Combining strict legal action under NDPS laws with community mobilisation can strengthen India's fight against drug abuse and its associated internal security threats.

'Aatavidupu' 2026: Andhra Pradesh Legislators' Sports Meet Revives Spirit of Camaraderie in Vijayawada

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: UPSC GS Paper II - State Legislature - functioning & institutional culture - Democratic values & participatory governance

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Aatavidupu, AP Legislators Sports Meet, Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium (Vijayawada), SAAP (Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh), Legislative Council Chairman, Assembly Speaker

For Mains

- Democratic culture beyond politics, Institutional cohesion, Sports diplomacy at state level, Political camaraderie, Legislative traditions in India

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly's three-day sports meet, 'Aatavidupu', began on a festive

note at the **Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium (IGMC), Vijayawada**, with legislators setting aside political differences to celebrate sportsmanship.



Background of the Initiative

- The initiative was first launched in **1983** during the tenure of **N. T. Rama Rao**, with sports events held at Lal Bahadur Stadium.
- Over time, the tradition faded.
- It has now been revived after consultations with legislators.
- The current Assembly has **78% young MLAs**, encouraging renewed participation.

Key Highlights of Aatavidupu 2026

1. Grand Inauguration



The event was inaugurated with the ceremonial flame lighting by:

- **Koyye Moshen Raju** (Legislative Council Chairman)
- **Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu** (Assembly Speaker)
- **K. Raghurama Krishnam Raju** (Deputy Speaker)
- AP Sports Authority Chairman **A. Ravi Naidu**

The release of balloons marked the formal opening.

2. Sporting Events

Friendly yet competitive contests included:

- Tug-of-war
- Running races
- Volleyball matches

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker led their respective volleyball teams, generating enthusiasm among spectators.

3. Emphasis on Mental Wellbeing

Speaker Ayyanna Patrudu observed that:

- Legislators operate under continuous political and administrative pressure.
- Sports and cultural activities offer much-needed mental relaxation.
- The initiative strengthens personal bonds across party lines.

4. Inclusive Participation

- Public invited to witness competitions.
- Women members encouraged to participate in concluding cultural events.
- Legislators asked to attend valedictory ceremony with families.
- Appeal to “set aside politics for three days.”

Significance

1. Strengthening Democratic Culture

- Encourages non-partisan interaction among lawmakers.
- Promotes cooperative political environment.

2. Institutional Cohesion

- Builds trust and reduces adversarial tension.
- Encourages cross-party dialogue.

3. Work-Life Balance in Public Life

- Recognises stress in legislative responsibilities.
- Promotes wellness and holistic leadership.

4. Revival of Legislative Traditions

- Reconnects with 1983 tradition under N.T. Rama Rao.
- Reinforces continuity in democratic practices.

Challenges / Limitations

- Symbolic gestures must translate into improved legislative cooperation.
- Risk of being perceived as ceremonial without structural reform.
- Need to ensure equal participation across gender and party lines.

Conclusion

‘Aatavidupu’ reflects an effort to humanise politics and foster unity among legislators beyond partisan divides. By reviving a 1983 tradition, Andhra Pradesh underscores the importance of sportsmanship, wellness, and institutional harmony in strengthening democratic governance.

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Pavilion at SATTE 2026, New Delhi

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: UPSC GS Paper III - Indian Economy - Tourism sector and employment generation - Service sector growth and state economic development - GS Paper II - Governance - Government initiatives for economic development - Promotion of states at international forums

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- SATTE (South Asia's Travel & Tourism Exchange), Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department, APTA portal, Araku Valley, Gandikota, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam coastline

For Mains

- Tourism-led economic growth, destination branding, international tourism promotion, state tourism strategy, employment generation through tourism, public-private tourism partnerships, tourism marketing and global outreach

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department inaugurated its pavilion at SATTE 2026 (South Asia's Travel & Tourism Exchange) held at Yashobhoomi, India International Convention and Expo Centre, New Delhi, to promote the

State's tourism potential and strengthen global tourism partnerships.



SATTE 2026, South Asia's largest travel and tourism exhibition, will remain open till Friday, February 27. (Image: Y1)

Deccan Chronicle

About SATTE 2026

- SATTE is **South Asia's largest travel and tourism exhibition.**
- Venue: **Yashobhoomi India International Convention and Expo Centre**
- It brings together:
 - Tourism boards
 - Travel agencies
 - Hospitality companies
 - International tourism stakeholders

Purpose:

- Promote tourism destinations
- Facilitate business networking
- Enhance global tourism partnerships

Andhra Pradesh Pavilion and Participation

High-level delegation

The Andhra Pradesh team included:

- Deputy CEO Srinivas
- Chief Marketing Officer Padmarani



- Marketing Manager Rafeeq Ahmed

Participation of tourism stakeholders

Major tourism and hospitality operators included:

- Pravaasin
- Trek Sum
- Holiday World
- Radisson Blu Resort (Visakhapatnam)
- Brindavan Holidays (Tirupati)
- Starlet Suites

Tour operators registered on the **APTA (Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority) portal** also participated.

Key Tourism Destinations Promoted

Officials highlighted Andhra Pradesh's diverse tourism offerings:

Natural tourism

- Visakhapatnam coastline
- Araku Valley
- Gandikota canyon

Religious tourism

- Tirupati
- Vijayawada
- Srisailem

These destinations were positioned as **world-class tourism attractions**.

Objectives and Strategy

1. Expand global tourism footprint

- Connect Andhra Pradesh tour operators with global travel agencies
- Promote international tourism inflows

2. Strengthen business networks

- Facilitate interaction between local operators and global partners
- Expand tourism-related business opportunities

3. Promote innovative tourism packages

- Design cost-effective international tourism packages

4. Enhance brand positioning

- Strengthen global recognition of Andhra Pradesh as a tourism destination

Significance

Economic growth

- Tourism generates revenue and strengthens the service sector

Employment generation

- Supports jobs in hospitality, travel, transport, and local industries

Global visibility

- Enhances Andhra Pradesh's international tourism brand

Private sector participation

- Encourages collaboration between government and tourism operators

Challenges

- Competition from established tourism destinations
- Need for improved infrastructure and connectivity
- Marketing and branding challenges at the global level
- Ensuring sustainable tourism development

Way Forward

- Increase participation in global tourism platforms
- Strengthen tourism infrastructure
- Promote digital tourism marketing
- Develop sustainable and eco-tourism initiatives

Conclusion

Participation in SATTE 2026 provides Andhra Pradesh a major platform to showcase its tourism potential globally. By strengthening international

partnerships, promoting destinations, and supporting tour operators, the State aims to boost tourism-led economic growth and employment.

Operation Chinnari-Thalli to Curb Crimes Against Children

Source: Deccan Chronicle

Relevance:

- GS Paper II - Governance, Welfare Schemes, Vulnerable Sections - GS Paper III - Internal Security and Crime Prevention

Important Keywords for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Operation Chinnari-Thalli, Andhra Pradesh Police, Harish Kumar Gupta, POCSO Act, Sexual Offenders Sheets (SOS), Women and Child Safety Wing, Speed Trial Monitoring, Good Touch-Bad Touch Awareness, Women and Child Safety Office Tadepalli

For Mains

- Child Protection Mechanisms, Crimes Against Children, Police Preventive Strategy, POCSO Enforcement, Criminal Justice System Efficiency, Conviction Rate Improvement, Child Safety Awareness Programs, Vulnerable Population Protection, Internal Security and Social Safety.

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh Police launched a statewide special drive named **Operation Chinnari-Thalli** to prevent sexual offences against children and strengthen child safety mechanisms across the state.

Operation Chinnari-Thalli is a special initiative launched by the Andhra Pradesh Police under the Women and Child Safety Wing. The programme aims to prevent crimes against children and create a safe environment for minors. The initiative carries the tagline “Safe childhood for sustainable development.”



The campaign was inaugurated with the release of a poster at the DGP's office in Mangalagiri on Thursday. (Photo | Express)

Objectives of Operation Chinnari-Thalli

1. Prevention of Sexual Crimes Against Children

- The primary objective is to reduce and prevent sexual offences against minors.
- The police will take strict action against habitual sexual offenders and anti-social elements.

2. Strengthening Child Safety Mechanisms

- The programme focuses on identifying vulnerable locations and potential threats.
- Police will sensitize families, especially mothers, about risks to children.



Key Features and Measures

1. Identification and Monitoring of Offenders

- Sexual Offenders Sheets (SOS) will be opened against offenders involved in sexual crimes over the past five years.
- This helps police maintain surveillance and prevent repeat offences.

2. Zero Pendency in POCSO Cases

- Police have been directed to ensure zero pendency in arrests related to POCSO cases.
- Charge sheets must be filed within 60 days to ensure timely justice.

3. Speed Trial Monitoring

- The initiative includes monitoring of trial progress to increase conviction rates.
- Faster trials will act as a deterrent against offenders.

4. Awareness and Prevention Programs

- Awareness campaigns on “Good Touch-Bad Touch” will be conducted in:
 - Schools
 - Anganwadis
 - Hostels
- These programs help children identify unsafe situations and protect themselves.

5. Increased Security Measures

- Special security arrangements and intensified night patrolling in crime hotspots.
- Identification of vulnerable areas to prevent incidents before they occur.

Institutional Mechanism and Implementation

1. Monitoring and Supervision

- The Women and Child Safety Office at Tadepalli will monitor implementation.
- The programme is supervised by IGP B.

Rajakumari under the leadership of the DGP.

2. Administrative Action

- Police Commissioners and Superintendents of Police must prepare action plans within 48 hours.
- Senior police officials will ensure strict enforcement of the initiative.

Significance of the Initiative

1. Protection of Children

- Enhances safety and security of minors.
- Prevents exploitation and abuse.

2. Strengthening Law Enforcement

- Improves police monitoring and surveillance of offenders.
- Ensures faster investigation and justice.

3. Improving Conviction Rates

- Speed trial monitoring ensures timely punishment.
- Acts as a strong deterrent against crimes.

4. Awareness and Prevention

- Educates children about personal safety.
- Builds awareness among parents and communities.

Conclusion

Operation Chinnari-Thalli represents a major step by the Andhra Pradesh Police to protect children from sexual offences. By combining preventive policing, awareness campaigns, monitoring mechanisms, and faster legal action, the initiative aims to create a safe and secure environment for children. It also strengthens the criminal justice system and promotes long-term child protection.