

TGPSC

Prelims Cum Mains Based
News Summary

Current
Affairs

FEBRUARY - 2026

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TELANGANA NEWS SUMMARY

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TGPSC News Summary

Budget 2026: Hyderabad to Get Three High-Speed Rail Corridors

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Group-I Mains Paper-IV:
Economy and Development

Important Keywords

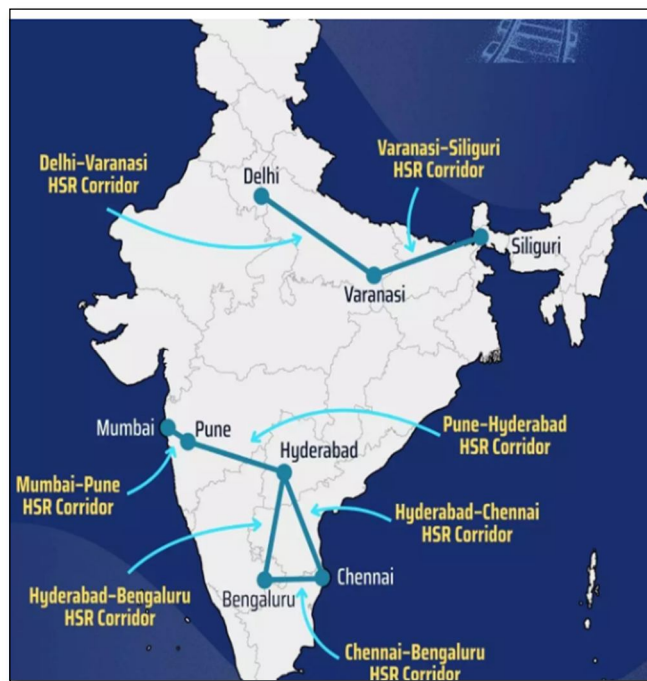
Prelims

- Union Budget 2026–27, High-Speed Rail Corridors, Hyderabad–Pune–Bengaluru–Chennai, BioPharma Shakti Scheme, Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, Fertiliser Subsidy, MSME Fund, Tax Devolution, MRTS, Metro Rail

Mains

- Infrastructure-Led Growth, High-Speed Rail Connectivity, Bio-Pharma Hub, Manufacturing & MSMEs, Fiscal Federalism, Urban Mobility, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Viksit Bharat

textiles, MSMEs, agriculture, education, and women's welfare, with direct implications for the State.



Hyderabad at the Centre of High-Speed Rail Expansion

As part of the announcement of **seven new high-speed rail corridors nationwide**, Hyderabad will be connected to **Pune, Bengaluru, and Chennai**. These corridors are expected to significantly enhance regional connectivity and economic integration across southern and western India.

The proposed rail links are likely to:

Why in News?

The Union Budget 2026–27 announced **three high-speed rail corridors originating from Hyderabad**, positioning Telangana as a major infrastructure and growth hub. The Budget also introduced sector-specific initiatives in **railways, bio-pharma,**



- Strengthen **ring road connectivity** and urban mobility
- Boost **IT, bio-pharma, real estate, and logistics sectors**
- Reduce travel time and promote labour mobility
- Support Hyderabad's role as a **national economic growth engine**

The **railway budget allocation increased by 10% to ₹2.77 lakh crore**, reinforcing the Centre's infrastructure-led growth strategy.

BioPharma Shakti and Industrial Growth

The Budget introduced the **BioPharma Shakti scheme**, aimed at elevating Hyderabad as a **global pharma and vaccine capital**. The initiative focuses on:

- Bulk drugs and formulations
- Vaccines, biologics, and biosimilars
- Strengthening India's position in global pharmaceutical supply chains

This aligns with Hyderabad's existing strengths in life sciences and medical research, reinforcing Telangana's leadership in the sector.

Textiles, MSMEs and Manufacturing Push

The **Kakatiya Mega Textile Park at Warangal** is set to benefit from the **Tex-Eco initiative**, strengthening textile manufacturing and employment generation.

For MSMEs, the Budget announced:

- A **₹10,000 crore fund** covering nearly **38 lakh MSME units**
- Measures to improve credit access and business stability

These steps aim to expand domestic manufacturing, reduce import dependence, and generate jobs.

Agriculture, Rural Development and

Farmers' Support

The Budget significantly increased the **fertiliser subsidy from ₹7,000 crore to ₹1.26 lakh crore**, offering direct relief to farmers, including those in Telangana.

Additional rural initiatives focus on:

- Agricultural productivity
- Purchasing power enhancement
- Poverty reduction and inclusive rural growth

Education, Women's Welfare and Human Capital

A notable social sector announcement is the establishment of **STEM hostels for girls in all 33 districts**, aimed at improving access to education and promoting women's participation in science and technology.

Women's welfare and skill development form a key pillar of the Budget's inclusive growth framework.

Fiscal Transfers and State Finances

State tax devolution to Telangana increased by **13.5%**, rising from **₹29,280 crore (2025-26)** to **₹33,180 crore (2026-27)**. This strengthens the State's fiscal capacity to invest in infrastructure and social development.

Other Key Announcements Impacting Telangana

- **₹28,740 crore allocation** for MRTS and metro projects
- Incentives for **municipal bonds**
- **Tax holiday for data centres till 2047**
- Tweaks in **IT safe harbour norms**
- Launch of a **critical minerals corridor** involving Odisha, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh to support self-reliance



Conclusion

The Union Budget 2026–27 positions Hyderabad and Telangana at the forefront of India's next growth phase through **high-speed rail connectivity, life-sciences leadership, industrial expansion, and inclusive welfare measures**. With

a strong emphasis on infrastructure, manufacturing, and human capital, the Budget reinforces Telangana's role as a **key driver of India's journey towards a Viksit Bharat**.

Right to Menstrual Health as a Fundamental Right: From Judicial Mandate to Ground-Level Action

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Paper-III: Indian Society, Constitution and Governance

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), Article 21, Article 14, Article 21A, Fundamental Rights, Reusable Sanitary Pads, Biodegradable Pads, Project Shakti, School Sanitation

Mains

- Right to Dignity, Gender Equality, Menstrual Poverty, Health as a Fundamental Right, Educational Continuity, Bodily Autonomy, Judicial Activism, Social Justice, Environmental Sustainability

Why in News?

The **Supreme Court of India**, in *Dr. Jaya Thakur vs Government of India*, recognised **menstrual health as a Fundamental Right under Article 21**, mandating free sanitary pads and adequate sanitation facilities in schools. Complementing this judicial push, **Telangana's Project Shakti** has begun distributing

reusable sanitary pads to girl students, signalling a shift from legal recognition to practical implementation.

Menstrual Health as a Constitutional Right

The Supreme Court expanded the scope of the **Right to Life** to include **Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)**, recognising that menstruation is a biological reality which, if unsupported, leads to:

- Educational discontinuity
- Loss of dignity and privacy
- Gender-based inequality

The Court clarified that menstrual support is **not welfare or charity**, but a **constitutional obligation of the State**.

What is Menstruation?

Menstruation is a **natural biological process** in which the **inner lining of the uterus (endometrium)** is shed periodically when pregnancy does not occur. The shed material, consisting of **blood and uterine tissue**, flows out through the **vagina**. It is commonly referred to as **menses, menstrual period, or periods**.

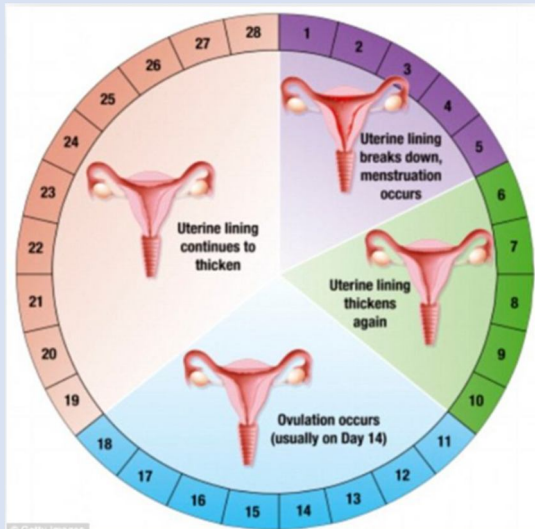
Menstruation is **hormone-regulated** and is an

integral part of the **female reproductive system**, reflecting reproductive health and normal physiological functioning.

What is the Menstrual Cycle?

The **menstrual cycle** refers to the **monthly sequence of hormonal and physiological changes** in the female body that prepares it for pregnancy.

- It is counted from the **first day of one period to the first day of the next period**
- Each individual's cycle may vary, but the basic process remains the same



Duration of the Menstrual Cycle

- **Average cycle length:** 28 days
- **Normal range:** 21 to 35 days

Both shorter and longer cycles within this range are considered **normal**.

Four Phases of the Menstrual Cycle

The menstrual cycle is regulated by **cyclical hormonal changes** that prepare the female body for a possible pregnancy. It is broadly divided into **four phases**:

1. Menses' (Menstrual) Phase

- Begins on the **first day of menstruation**
- The **uterine lining (endometrium)** sheds if pregnancy has not occurred
- Menstrual bleeding lasts **3-7 days** (normal range)
- Triggered by a fall in **estrogen and progesterone**

2. Follicular Phase

- Starts on the **first day of menstruation** and ends with ovulation
- **Estrogen levels rise**, causing thickening of the uterine lining
- **Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH)** stimulates ovarian follicles
- One follicle matures into a fully developed **ovum (egg)**

3. Ovulation Phase

- Occurs around **day 14** in a typical 28-day cycle
- Triggered by a sudden surge of **Luteinizing Hormone (LH)**
- The ovary **releases a mature egg**
- This phase represents the **fertile window**

4. Luteal Phase

- Extends from **ovulation to the next menstrual period** (day 15-28)
- **Progesterone levels increase** to prepare the uterus for implantation
- If fertilisation occurs → pregnancy
- If not → **hormone levels fall**, leading to menstruation

Constitutional Provisions Involved

- **Article 21 (Right to Life and Dignity):** Lack of menstrual facilities violates dignity and bodily autonomy.
- **Article 14 (Right to Equality):** Menstrual poverty creates a gender-specific barrier.



- **Article 21A (Right to Education):** Menstruation-related absenteeism undermines free and compulsory education.

Supreme Court Directions

- **Free Sanitary Pads:** Mandatory provision in all government and private schools (Classes 6–12).
- **Infrastructure:** Functional, gender-segregated, disabled-friendly toilets with water and soap.
- **MHM Corners:** Emergency facilities with spare uniforms, innerwear, and disposal bags.
- **Accountability:** Annual inspections by District Education Officers; de-recognition of non-compliant private schools.

Project Shakti: Translating Rights into Action

To operationalise menstrual dignity at the grassroots level, **Project Shakti** was launched in Telangana.

Key Features

- **Coverage:** First phase reached nearly **7,000 students** at Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Women's University; target of **60,000 students across 2,000 institutions** by March 2026.
- **Product:** Reusable sanitary pads lasting **12–16 months** with proper care.
- **Cost & Environment:** Low-cost alternative reducing household expenses and plastic waste.
- **Implementation:** Rotary Club of Hyderabad East, SBI, Unipads Foundation, with State support.

Social Impact

- Reduces **school absenteeism**

- Promotes **menstrual independence and bodily autonomy**
- Encourages **environmentally sustainable menstrual practices**

Importance of Recognising Menstrual Health as a Right

Educational Continuity

- Girls in rural India miss **2–5 days of school per month** due to menstruation. Legal and policy support aims to end this pattern.

Human Dignity and Autonomy

- By framing menstrual health as a right, girls can demand facilities without shame or stigma.

Health Outcomes

- Proper MHM reduces risks of **Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs)** linked to unhygienic practices.

Gender Equality

- Removes a biological disadvantage that restricts female participation in education and public life.

Environmental Sustainability

- Promotion of **biodegradable and reusable pads** aligns with India's green and waste-management goals.

Implementation Challenges

- Poor maintenance of toilets and water supply
- Persistent cultural stigma around menstruation
- Supply-chain gaps in remote areas
- Lack of sensitisation among teachers
- Inadequate disposal mechanisms

Way Forward



- Integrate menstrual education in NCERT/SCERT curricula
- Install vending machines and incinerators in schools
- Engage ASHAs and Anganwadi workers for community outreach
- Digital monitoring of pad availability and infrastructure
- Support local SHGs for pad production

Conclusion

The recognition of menstrual health as a **Fundamental Right** marks a paradigm shift—from silence and stigma to dignity and entitlement. Initiatives like **Project Shakti** demonstrate how constitutional values can be translated into tangible outcomes. The real success of this reform lies in ensuring that **every girl can attend school, learn, and live with dignity—every day of the month.**

New Licence to Guide AI Data

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **GS Paper II (Governance, Rights, Ethics), GS Paper III (Science & Technology, Digital Economy, AI)**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- VISWAM.AI, Swecha AI, IIIT Hyderabad, SFLC.in, Open-source licences, AI training data, Community datasets, Copyleft, Verifiability, Trust & Safety in AI, FOSS United, Linux Foundation

Mains

- AI Governance, Data Ownership, Digital Commons, Ethical AI, Indigenous Language Data, Platform Capitalism, Data Colonialism, Open-source Ecosystems, Algorithmic Bias, AI Regulation in India

Why in News?

VISWAM.AI, a joint initiative of **Swecha and IIIT Hyderabad**, along with **SFLC.in**, has released a **draft licence for AI training datasets** for public

consultation. The move aims to address gaps in existing open-source licences that inadequately protect **community-created datasets** in the age of artificial intelligence.

Background: Why AI Data Licensing Matters

Artificial Intelligence systems depend heavily on **large volumes of data**, including language, cultural expressions, and community knowledge. However, most existing **open-source licences were designed for software code**, not for **training data**.

As a result:

- Community datasets risk being **used without attribution**
- Value generated by AI models may not **flow back to data creators**
- Indigenous languages and cultures face **digital exploitation**

This has raised concerns of **data colonialism**, where large corporations extract value from community knowledge without reciprocity.

The Proposed AI Data Licence

The new draft licence was announced at a stakeholder roundtable titled

“Understanding Trust and Safety in AI: From Code to Creativity”, held at IIIT Hyderabad in collaboration with FOSS United and The Linux Foundation.

The licence seeks to:

- Protect **community-owned datasets**
- Ensure **ethical and transparent use of AI training data**
- Adapt open-source principles to the **AI era**

Key Features of the Draft Licence

1. Community Ownership & Reciprocity

- Inspired by **copyleft principles**
- Ensures benefits generated from AI models trained on community data are **shared back with the community**

2. Attribution & Credit

- Prevents big tech companies from using datasets **without acknowledgment**
- Protects contributors’ intellectual and cultural labour

3. Verifiability & Transparency

- Requires clear disclosure of **data sources**
- Helps identify **bias, misuse, and safety risks** in AI systems

4. Coverage Beyond Software

- Specifically designed for **AI training data**, unlike traditional open-source licences

Why This Matters for India

Indigenous Language Protection

- Initiatives like **Telugu language datasets** by VISWAM.AI and Swecha safeguard linguistic diversity
- Supports Digital India and multilingual AI development

Democratisation of AI

- Prevents monopolisation of data by proprietary platforms

- Strengthens **community-led innovation**

Ethical & Responsible AI

- Aligns with India’s vision of **trustworthy and inclusive AI**
- Supports safer deployment of AI systems

Governance and Ethical Implications

- Reinforces **data sovereignty** and community rights
- Addresses **algorithmic bias** at the data-collection stage
- Complements future AI regulation and Digital Personal Data Protection frameworks
- Encourages **open yet accountable AI ecosystems**

Challenges Ahead

- Enforcement across jurisdictions
- Industry resistance from proprietary AI developers
- Need for alignment with global AI governance standards
- Balancing openness with innovation incentives

Conclusion

The proposed AI data licence marks a **significant shift in AI governance**, recognising that **data—especially cultural and linguistic data—is not neutral or ownerless**. By embedding principles of **community ownership, reciprocity, and transparency**, the initiative provides a model for ethical AI development rooted in social justice. As India expands its AI footprint, such frameworks will be critical in ensuring that technological progress remains **inclusive, accountable, and culturally respectful**.

Textile Association Welcomes Union Budget's Support for MSMEs

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **GS Paper III - Indian Economy, MSMEs, Manufacturing, Employment**

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- PM MITRA Parks | MSMEs | Textile Clusters | GST Rationalisation | Make in India

Mains:

- Textile-Led Employment Generation | MSME Growth | Cluster-Based Industrialisation | Ease of Doing Business | Export Competitiveness

Why in News?

The Telangana State Federation of Textile Associations has welcomed the Union Budget 2026–27 for its measures aimed at strengthening MSMEs, particularly in the textile and garment sector. The Federation, led by its President Prakash Ammanabolu, highlighted that Budget provisions related to credit access, infrastructure development, and manufacturing support align with the sector's long-standing demands. However, it also sought targeted fiscal and policy support, including GST rationalisation and subsidies, to address persistent structural challenges.

Significance of the Textile Sector in India's MSME Economy

The textile and garment sector is one of India's largest employment-generating industries, second only to agriculture. It plays a critical role in:

- Absorbing low- and semi-skilled labour, especially women
- Supporting millions of MSMEs across spinning, weaving, processing, and trading
- Promoting exports and regional development through clusters and handloom hubs

In states like Telangana, textiles serve as a backbone for rural livelihoods and traditional crafts, making policy support crucial for inclusive growth.



Positive Budget Measures Highlighted by the Textile Federation

The Federation welcomed several Budget announcements that directly benefit the textile ecosystem:

- **MSME Credit Support:** Emphasis on easier access to institutional credit and improved ease of doing business is expected to help small textile traders and manufacturers overcome liquidity constraints.

- **Infrastructure and Cluster Development:** Initiatives such as **PM MITRA Parks**, textile clusters, and integrated infrastructure aim to create end-to-end textile ecosystems, enhancing productivity and export competitiveness.
- **Alignment with National Vision:** The Budget reinforces flagship initiatives like **Make in India** and **Vocal for Local**, positioning India as a potential global textile hub.

Key Demands and Sector-Specific Concerns

Despite welcoming the Budget, the Federation flagged several unresolved issues:

GST Rationalisation: High and uneven GST rates on textiles and garments increase costs for traders and consumers, affecting demand and competitiveness.

Targeted Subsidies:

- Interest subsidy on collateral-based loans
- Subsidised electricity tariffs for textile markets and processing units
- Insurance premium support to protect small traders from unforeseen risks

These measures are seen as essential for MSME resilience in a volatile market environment.

Telangana-Specific Requirements

Highlighting regional priorities, the Federation urged the Centre to:

- Provide financial assistance for **Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, Warangal**
- Strengthen handloom and textile clusters in **Sircilla, Gadwal, Pochampally, and Narayanpet**
- Establish **common processing centres, dyeing units, and testing laboratories** to reduce costs and improve quality
- Support the development of **Hyderabad as a textile trading and distribution hub**
- Enhance export facilitation, branding, warehousing, and logistics for Telangana's handloom products

Conclusion

The Union Budget 2026–27 marks a positive step towards strengthening the textile sector through MSME-centric reforms, infrastructure creation, and manufacturing support. However, realising the sector's full potential requires complementary measures such as GST rationalisation, targeted subsidies, and region-specific interventions. Addressing these gaps can not only revitalise traditional textile clusters but also reinforce textiles as a pillar of employment, exports, and inclusive industrial growth in India

Centre Sanctions ₹146.50 Cr for Tourism Projects in Telangana under PRASHAD

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **Culture & Heritage of Telangana**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- PRASHAD Scheme, Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive, Central Sector Scheme, , Spiritual Tourism, Heritage Tourism, Jogulamba Devi Temple



(Alampur), Ramappa Temple (Mulugu), Bhadrachalam Temple, Sri Renuka Yellamma Temple, UNESCO World Heritage Site,

Mains

- Spiritual Tourism-Led Development, Heritage Conservation, Pilgrim Experience Enhancement, Cultural Preservation, Regional Economic Development, Employment Generation, Sustainable Tourism, Tourism Infrastructure Development, Centre-State Cooperation, Local Livelihoods, Community Participation, Inclusive Growth, Cultural Economy of Telangana

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Tourism** has sanctioned **₹146.50 crore** for **four pilgrimage and heritage tourism projects in Telangana** under the **PRASHAD scheme** to enhance spiritual tourism infrastructure.

About PRASHAD Scheme

- Full form: **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive**
- Type: **Central Sector Scheme**
- Implementing Ministry: **Ministry of Tourism**
- Beneficiaries:
 - State Governments
 - Union Territory Administrations
- Objective:
 - Development of tourism infrastructure at **identified pilgrimage destinations**
 - Enhancement of **spiritual and pilgrim experience**

Objectives of PRASHAD

PRASHAD focuses on creating **world-class amenities** at prominent pilgrimage and heritage sites by improving connectivity, sanitation, interpretation facilities, landscaping, lighting, and visitor services. The scheme aligns with the broader goals of **heritage conservation, regional development, and sustainable tourism**.

Projects Sanctioned in Telangana

Under the scheme, **four major projects** have been approved in Telangana, covering some of the state's most important religious and heritage destinations:

- **Jogulamba Devi Temple, Alampur:** The development works at this Shakti Peetha have been **completed at a cost of ₹33.07 crore**, improving basic amenities and pilgrim facilities.
- **Ramappa Temple, Mulugu district:** For pilgrimage and heritage tourism infrastructure development, the Ministry has sanctioned **₹62 crore**, of which **₹32.73 crore has already been released**. The project complements the temple's UNESCO World Heritage status and aims to boost both domestic and international tourism.
- **Bhadrachalam, Bhadrachalam-Kothagudem district:** The Ministry has sanctioned **₹41.38 crore** for pilgrimage infrastructure development, with **₹8.43 crore released so far**. The project focuses on improving facilities for devotees visiting the famous Sri Rama temple.
- **Sri Renuka Yellamma Temple:** An amount of **₹4.22 crore** has been sanctioned for the development of basic amenities. However, **funds are yet to be released**, indicating pending implementation.



Significance

The sanctioned projects reflect the Centre's commitment to **spiritual tourism-led development** in Telangana. By upgrading pilgrimage infrastructure, PRASHAD not only enhances the religious experience of pilgrims but also supports **local livelihoods, cultural preservation, and regional economic growth**. Once fully implemented, these projects are expected to strengthen Telangana's position on India's spiritual and heritage tourism map.

Historian Seeks State Protection for 3,000-Year-Old Settlement in Telangana

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

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

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Megalithic Burials (Cairns), Iron Age (Deccan), Krishna River Valley, Banjar Raallu / Palnadu Stone

Mains

- Riverine Civilisations and Settlement Patterns, Megalithic Culture and Burial Practices, Technological Advancement in Iron Production, Continuity of Habitation (Iron Age to Medieval Period)

Why in News?

A previously undocumented **ancient settlement** dating back nearly 3,000 years has been identified along the left bank of the **Krishna River** in **Veerlapalem-Veerappa Gudem** villages of **Damarcherla mandal, Nalgonda district**. Historian **Dr. Dyavanapalli Satyanarayana** has urged the

State government to provide **immediate protection** to the site, warning that invaluable archaeological evidence is rapidly disappearing.

Discovery of an Ancient Urban Centre

- The ruins point to a **major city that flourished from the Iron Age (c. 1000 BCE)** and continued to be occupied until the **15th century CE**.
- The site contains **hundreds of megalithic burials (cairns)**, a hallmark of Iron Age cultures in the Deccan.
- Local traditions associate these burials with **fallen warriors**, reflected in village names such as **Veerulapadu** and **Veerappa Gudem**.

Megalithic Burials and Material Culture

- The burial structures consist of **four large upright stone slabs** (about two yards long and one yard high) forming walls, capped by a **flat stone slab**.
- The stones used are locally available **Banjar Raallu (Palnadu stone)**.

- Due to the abundance of this stone, a **cement factory** was established in the region nearly 50 years ago.
- Over time, **locals removed stones from burial sites** for construction and other needs, leaving only a **small number of cairns intact today**.



Dilapidated city overlooking River Krishna.

Evidence of Iron Age Technology and Riverine Economy

- The settlement thrived due to the **perennial Krishna River**, which provided water, fish, and fertile conditions.
- Archaeological indicators such as **iron slag scattered across the site** suggest **local iron production**, advanced enough to work on massive stone structures.
- These findings underline the **technological sophistication** of the Iron Age community.

Later Historical Layers: Medieval Telangana

- The site also preserves remains from **medieval periods**, indicating long-term continuity of habitation.
- Shrines and sculptures discovered include deities such as **Vanadurga, Pochamma, Potharaju, Veerabhadra/Bhairava**, along with **hero stones** depicting warrior couples and individual warriors.
- Based on architectural and sculptural styles, fort walls and idols date to the period of the **Kanduri Cholas and Recherla Padmanayakas (10th-15th centuries CE)**.

Kakatiya and Padmanayaka Associations

- Local tradition holds that **Kakatiya queen Rudramadevi (13th century CE)** used the fort to **store grain reserves**.
- Supporting this belief are **circular granary structures** with diameters of about **six yards**.
- The site also contains a **Lakshmi Narasimha temple** from the **Recherla Padmanayaka period (14th-15th centuries CE)**.
- While the temple's inner sanctum survives, the **garbhagriha is only partially functional**.

Historians Seek Protection of Telangana's Ancient Roots in Puranic Asmaka

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **TGPSC GR I Paper-II: History, Culture and Geography**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Asmaka (Assaka) Mahajan pada, 16 Mahajan padas, Satavahana Dynasty, Satakarni I, Naganika, Kumara Hakusiri, Balikaya Hakusiri, Epigraphical Survey, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), 1st-

5th Century CE Inscriptions, Bodan (Capital of Asmaka), Nizamabad, Buddhist Cave, Rock Paintings,

Mains

- Archaeological Evidence vs Literary Sources, Early Historic Telangana, Mahajanapada Polity, State Formation in Ancient India, Satavahana Expansion in Deccan, Buddhist Patronage, Heritage Conservation, Protected Monument Status, Buddhist Tourism Circuit, Regional Identity and History, Centre-State Coordination in Heritage Protection

Why in News?

Historians and archaeologists have urged the Telangana government to protect and develop **Sitamaloddi** in the Gundaram reserve forest of Peddapalli district after inscriptions confirmed that the region formed part of the ancient **Asmaka Mahajanapada**, one of the 16 Mahajanapadas of early India.



Discovery of an Early Satavahana Site

An epigraphical survey conducted by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** uncovered an early Satavahana site at Sitamaloddi.

- **11 inscriptions** dated between the **1st and 5th centuries CE** were discovered.
- One inscription mentions **Kumara Haksiri**, son of **Satakarni I and Naganika**, as the ruler of **Asmaka Rajya**.
- This inscription provides strong archaeological evidence that parts of present-day Telangana were under the Asmaka kingdom.

Another inscription found in **Mukkatarapeta (2020)** referred to **Balikaya Haksiri** as a minor ruler of Asmaka Rajyam. However, the inscription was later damaged after estampage, according to ASI's Director (Epigraphy), Dr. K. Muniratnam Reddy.



Asmaka Mahajanapada: Historical Context

The **Asmaka (Assaka) Mahajanapada** was one of the **16 Mahajanapadas** that flourished in the **6th century BCE**, alongside Magadha, Kosala, Kashi, Anga, and Vajji.

- The Asmaka region corresponds to present-day **Karimnagar and Nizamabad districts**.



- **Bodan** is believed to have been its capital. Until now, references to Asmaka largely came from **Puranic texts**. The newly discovered inscriptions provide tangible archaeological validation of these literary sources.

The inscriptions also Evidence of Satavahana Patronage of Buddhism

shed light on the religious and cultural environment of the period.

- They indicate **Satavahana patronage of Buddhism**, including gifts and shelter provided to monks.
- The site contains a **Buddhist cave**, strengthening its potential inclusion in the Buddhist tourism circuit.

The area reportedly resembles the prehistoric rock shelters of **Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh)**, suggesting long-term cultural continuity.

Call for Protection and Development

Historians have requested that the site be brought under the protection of either the **ASI** or the State Heritage Department.

Dr. D. Raja Reddy, Chairman of the Numismatic Society of India, emphasized that the discovery offers “strong archaeological evidence” confirming early historical traditions about the Mahajanapadas.

The site was first noticed by photojournalist **Ravinder Reddy**, who identified rock paintings and informed experts, leading to official recognition of its archaeological importance.

Significance

- Provides epigraphic confirmation of Telangana’s link to the Asmaka Mahajanapada.
- Strengthens evidence of early Satavahana rule in the region.
- Highlights Buddhist cultural patronage.
- Opens scope for heritage tourism and academic research.

The discovery underscores the need for immediate conservation to preserve Telangana’s ancient civilizational legacy for future generations.

BioAsia’s Genome Valley Excellence Award 2026 to Honour Bruce Levine

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: **TGPSC GR I Paper-V: Science & Technology**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Bio Asia, Genome Valley Excellence Award, CAR T-Cell Therapy, Cell and Gene Therapy, Cancer Immunotherapy

Mains

- Precision Medicine, Translational Biomedical Research, TechBio Convergence (AI + Biology), Biotechnology Innovation Ecosystem, Living Medicines & Gene Editing

Why in News?

The **Genome Valley Excellence Award 2026**, a prestigious recognition presented at the annual **BioAsia Life Sciences Conference** in Hyderabad,

will be conferred on **Dr. Bruce Levine** for his groundbreaking contributions to cell and gene therapy and cancer immunotherapy.



Awardee and Contribution

Dr. Bruce Levine, **Barbara and Edward Netter Professor in Cancer Gene Therapy** at the **University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine**, has been selected for his pioneering work in:

- **Cell and Gene Therapy**
- **Engineered T-Cell Therapies**
- **CAR T-Cell Immunotherapy**
- **Personalised Living Medicines**

His research has enabled the **safe genetic modification of human cells**, forming the scientific basis for next-generation personalised treatments.

Through landmark discoveries and clinical trials, Dr. Levine played a critical role in the development of **CAR T-cell therapies**, which contributed to the emergence of the **first FDA-approved gene therapies for cancer**.

These innovations have transformed treatment approaches for previously incurable cancers and strengthened global standards in translational biomedical research.

Gene Therapy

What is Gene Therapy?

- Gene therapy is a medical technique that **alters or modifies genes** to treat or prevent diseases.
- It works by **changing gene expression** or **modifying the biological properties of living cells** for therapeutic purposes.
- It is used in the treatment of **cancer, genetic disorders, and infectious diseases**.

Mechanisms of Gene Therapy

Gene therapy can function through multiple approaches:

- **Gene Replacement** - Substituting a defective gene with a healthy copy.
- **Gene Inactivation** - Silencing or disabling a harmful or malfunctioning gene.
- **Gene Addition/Modification** - Introducing a new or modified gene to help fight disease.

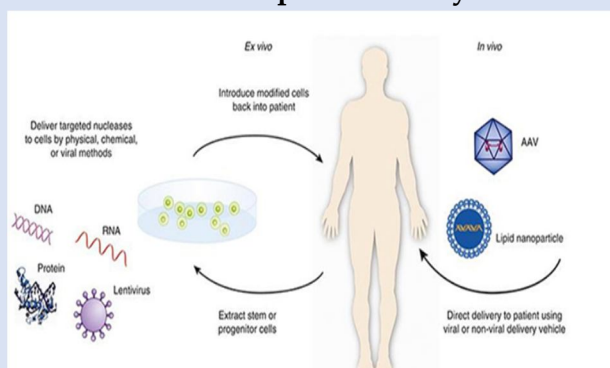
Types of Gene Therapy Products

- **Plasmid DNA**
 - Circular DNA molecules engineered to carry therapeutic genes into cells.
- **Viral Vectors**
 - Modified viruses (rendered non-infectious) used as delivery vehicles to transfer genes into human cells.
- **Bacterial Vectors**
 - Genetically modified bacteria used to transport therapeutic genes into tissues.
- **Gene Editing Technologies**
 - Techniques aimed at repairing mutated genes or disrupting harmful genes.
- **Patient-Derived Cellular Gene Therapy**

- Patient's cells are removed, genetically altered (often using viral vectors), and reintroduced into the body.

Types Based on Delivery Method

- **Ex Vivo Gene Therapy**
 - Cells are modified **outside the body** and then transplanted back into the patient.
- **In Vivo Gene Therapy**
 - Genetic modification occurs **directly inside the patient's body**.



BioAsia 2026: Theme and Focus

The two-day **BioAsia 2026** conference, beginning February 17 in Hyderabad, will be held under the theme:

“TechBio Unleashed: AI, Automation and the Biology Revolution.”

The conference will explore:

- Convergence of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and advanced biology
- Intelligent manufacturing in life sciences
- Transformation in drug discovery and therapy development
- Future of precision and personalised medicine

Significance

- Reinforces Hyderabad's position as a **global life sciences hub** under Genome Valley.
- Highlights India's growing role in **biotechnology, immunotherapy, and translational research**.
- Demonstrates the integration of **AI, automation, and biotech innovation** in modern healthcare.

The award underscores Telangana's commitment to recognising global scientific excellence while strengthening its standing in the global biotechnology ecosystem.

Numaish Masnuat-e-Mulki: Cultural Legacy and Urban Economic Significance

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **TGPSC History & Culture (Paper-II)**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Numaish Masnuat-e-Mulki, All India Industrial Exhibition, Nampally

Exhibition Grounds, Regional Handicrafts, Urban Footfall, Cultural Festivals, Informal Economy, Metro Connectivity

Mains

- Urban Cultural Economy, Local Industrial Promotion, Informal Sector Linkages, Regional Connectivity, Urban Mobility Management, Cultural Heritage

Preservation, Public Event Governance,
City Branding

Why in News?

The 85th edition of the **All-India Industrial Exhibition**, popularly known as Numaish, witnessed a surge in youth participation, with nearly 19.94 lakh visitors recorded so far in 2026. Organisers expect total attendance to cross 23 lakh, surpassing last year's numbers. The changing visitor demographics and rising footfall have once again highlighted the exhibition's cultural and economic relevance for Hyderabad.



Historical and Cultural Significance

Meaning of the Name:

- *Numaish Masnuat-e-Mulki* translates to "**Exhibition of Local Products.**"
- Originally aimed at promoting indigenous industries and local handicrafts.

Evolution Over Time:

- Began as a platform for regional products.
- Gradually evolved into a national-level consumer and cultural exhibition.
- Now attracts exhibitors and visitors from across India.

In-House Radio Tradition:

- Before private FM channels, the exhibition operated its own radio station.

- Played classic Hindi songs by legends such as:
 - Lata Mangeshkar
 - Mohammed Rafi
 - Kishore Kumar
- Announcements for missing visitors were made between songs.
- Created a nostalgic experience for older generations.

Closing-Time Tradition:

- Every evening, the song "*Chalte Chalte Yunhi Koi*" from Pakeezah is played.
- Shop lights are gradually dimmed during the song.
- Symbolically marks the end of the day's festivities and preserves emotional continuity.

Scale and Visitor Trends (85th Edition - 2026)

The 85th edition of the All India Industrial Exhibition has witnessed remarkable public participation.

- **19.94 lakh visitors** attended as of February 11, 2026.
- Daily footfall averages **35,000-50,000** on weekdays.
- Holidays and extended weekends see up to **75,000 visitors per day**.
- February 11 alone recorded **59,000 visitors**.
- Organisers expect total attendance to exceed **23 lakh**, surpassing last year's 21.5 lakh.

Changing Demographics

A notable shift this year has been the surge in visitors from the **14-29 age group**, deviating from the usual dominance of families, children, and those above 40 years.



However, some regular attendees observed that this year's edition featured more food and clothing stalls, with fewer innovative exhibits compared to previous years. The absence of the T-Hub stall—once popular among youth—was particularly noted.

Economic and Commercial Diversity

Numaish functions as a national marketplace showcasing India's diverse craftsmanship and consumer products:

- Dry fruits and handicrafts from **Jammu & Kashmir**
- Handmade garments from **Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh**
- Handicraft items from across India
- Electronic goods from leading brands
- Special stalls by women's self-help groups and prison convicts

Until 2011, the exhibition also featured carpets from Iran and select stalls from Pakistan. Due to diplomatic considerations, these were discontinued from 2012 onward.

The exhibition is equally famous for its food offerings. The iconic Hyderabad Haleem is sold by Pista House, drawing large crowds.

Connectivity and Urban Impact

As the exhibition nears its conclusion each year, visitor numbers increase significantly, often causing traffic congestion between Nampally crossroads and Mozamjahi Market crossroads.

To ease congestion, many visitors opt for Metro connectivity, alighting near the exhibition's Ajantha Gate. This highlights how large-scale cultural events influence urban mobility and infrastructure planning.

Social and Emotional Value

For Hyderabad's residents, Numaish represents more than commerce:

- A multi-generational family outing tradition
- A nostalgic memory tied to radio songs and evening walks
- A winter ritual in the city's cultural calendar

As one senior citizen reflected, the joy of listening to classic songs while shopping with family and friends remains unmatched.

Contemporary Relevance

Even in an era of e-commerce and modern malls, Numaish continues to thrive due to:

- Its blend of tradition and entertainment
- Affordable shopping options
- Regional craft promotion
- Cultural familiarity and emotional attachment

Committee members remain confident that the exhibition's iconic image will continue attracting visitors from across Hyderabad and neighbouring regions.

Conclusion

Numaish Masnuat-e-Mulki stands as a rare example of continuity in India's urban cultural landscape. It is not just a consumer exhibition but a living institution reflecting Hyderabad's socio-economic evolution.

From handcrafted goods and regional delicacies to nostalgic music and youthful energy, Numaish remains a vibrant confluence of commerce, culture, and community—an annual celebration that connects generations under one illuminated roof.

Rare Bhairava Sculpture Found at Rachakonda Hills

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC GR I Paper II - History, Culture & Geography

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Bhairava, Rachakonda Hills, Ranankudupu, Post-Kakatiya period, Rachakonda Velamas, Dvibhanga pose, Vaistastika position, Naga Torana, Bhogandani Mantapa

Mains

- Temple Iconography, Tantric Worship Practices, Warrior Traditions, Regional Dynasties of Telangana, Cultural Heritage Documentation

Why in News?

A rare nine-foot-tall Bhairava sculpture has been documented at Rachakonda Hills in Telangana. The carving, belonging to the post-Kakatiya period, sheds light on ancient tantric worship practices and the warrior traditions of the Rachakonda Velamas.



Location and Discovery

The sculpture was reviewed during research by Kavali Chandrakant, a member of the Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam (KTCB).

It is carved on a large stone wall inside the Bhogandani Mantapa at Rachakonda Hills, amid Ganapati sculptures. The carving has been described as a distinctive form of Bhairava.

Iconographic Features of the Sculpture

According to KTCB observations:

- The deity stands in **dvibhanga pose**.
- The legs are positioned in **vaistastika stance**.
- The figure is depicted with **four arms**.

Attributes:

- Upper hands hold a **damaru** and **trishula**.
- Lower hands carry a **bali khadga** and a **rakta patra**.
- A **dog** is shown leaping upward to catch the blood.
- A devotee is depicted worshipping below.
- To Bhairava's right, a royal devotee sits in **yogapatta posture** on a tiger skin, with vessels placed to receive the blood prasada.

The deity is crowned with a **Naga Torana**, formed by two intertwined serpents with visible fangs.

The sculpture is richly adorned with:

- Serpent earrings
- Necklaces and garlands
- Serpent bands on the chest and knees
- Bracelets and anklets
- Elevated sandals



Ranankudupu and Warrior Traditions

The imagery recalls the **Ranankudupu** practice associated with the Rachakonda Velamas.

- It was a battle-offering ritual.
- The symbolism of blood collection and the presence of Bhairava's dog aligns with this tradition.
- It reflects the strong Bhairava devotion among the warrior elites of Rachakonda.

Post-Kakatiya Tantric Influence

The sculpture belongs to the post-Kakatiya tantric tradition.

It underscores the prominence of Bhairava worship during the period and highlights the religious

identity of the Rachakonda Velamas, who were renowned devotees of Bhairava.

The carving provides material evidence of tantric practices and martial symbolism embedded in regional temple art.

Conclusion

The rare Bhairava sculpture at Rachakonda Hills offers valuable insight into post-Kakatiya tantric traditions and the warrior ethos of the Rachakonda Velamas. Its distinctive iconography, ritual symbolism, and scale make it an important addition to Telangana's cultural heritage.

Tredence Expands AI Footprint with New Innovation Centre in Hyderabad

Source: **Deccan Chronicle**

Relevance: **Paper-IV: Economy and Development**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- AI Innovation Centre, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), Generative AI, Applied AI, Advanced Analytics, Life Sciences Hub, BioAsia 2026, Enterprise AI, Telangana Rising 2047, High-Value Employment, Nanakramguda, AI Ecosystem, Data Science Solutions, Pharma Base, IT & ITeS Expansion

Mains

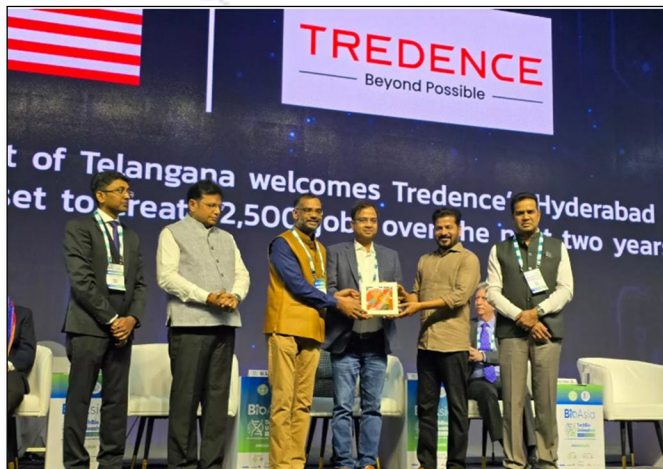
- AI-Led Economic Growth, Digital Infrastructure Expansion, Knowledge Economy, Skill-Intensive Employment, Industry 4.0, Data-Driven Governance,

Innovation Ecosystem, Academia-Industry Linkages, GCC Ecosystem Development, Regional Tech Clusters, State Industrial Policy, AI in Life Sciences, Competitive Federalism, Technology-Driven Development Model, Urban Economic Transformation

Why in News?

Tredence, a leading data science and AI solutions company, has announced the launch of a **20,000 sq. ft. delivery and innovation centre in Nanakramguda, Hyderabad**, during **BioAsia 2026**, Asia's premier life sciences forum.

The move marks a major expansion of the company's India operations and strengthens Hyderabad's position as a growing hub for enterprise AI and global capability centres (GCCs).



Details of the Expansion

- **Location:** Nanakramguda, Hyderabad
- **Facility Size:** 20,000 sq. ft.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Life Sciences
 - Healthcare
 - Retail & Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG)
 - Advanced Analytics
 - Generative AI
 - Applied AI

The new centre is designed to enhance **enterprise AI delivery**, enabling closer collaboration with global clients and accelerating the transition from AI concepts to industry-specific solutions.

Employment and Workforce Plans

Tredence currently employs over **400 professionals in Telangana** and plans a significant workforce expansion:

- **700 new roles in 2026**
- **1,100 additional positions in 2027**
- **Target: 2,200+ employees in Telangana by 2027**

This expansion reflects the company's long-term commitment to Telangana as a strategic AI delivery hub.

Strategic Importance of Hyderabad

According to company leadership:

- Hyderabad has emerged as **India's Life Sciences powerhouse**.
- It is a leading destination for **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**.
- Telangana offers:
 - Strong pharmaceutical base
 - High-quality AI and data science talent
 - Top-tier academic institutions
 - Skilled tech workforce
 - Cost and retention advantages

The centre will leverage Telangana's **GCC, Pharma, and AI ecosystem**, reinforcing Hyderabad's stature in the global AI landscape.

Government Support and Policy Alignment

The expansion was welcomed by the Government of Telangana under the leadership of **Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy**.

The move aligns with the State's:

- **"Telangana Rising 2047" vision**
- Pro-growth industrial policies
- Focus on AI-led development
- Emphasis on high-value employment generation

The Minister for IT, Industries & Commerce highlighted that such investments strengthen Telangana's position as a preferred destination for **AI-driven growth in Life Sciences and BFSI sectors**.

Broader Corporate Context

- Tredence employs over **4,200 professionals globally**.
- The Hyderabad expansion follows recent expansions in **Kolkata and Pune**.
- The company focuses on solving **"last-mile AI challenges"** –bridging the gap between data insights and real business outcomes.



Economic and Technological Significance

1. Strengthening India's AI Ecosystem

- Boosts enterprise AI capability.
- Encourages applied AI solutions in high-growth sectors.

2. Employment Generation

- Creates high-skilled jobs in analytics, AI engineering, and technology consulting.

3. GCC Ecosystem Growth

- Reinforces Hyderabad as a preferred location for global AI operations.

4. Academia-Industry Collaboration

- Promotes talent development.
- Strengthens research-industry integration.

Conclusion

Tredence's new innovation centre in Hyderabad represents more than a corporate expansion—it reflects the growing convergence of **AI, life sciences, and global enterprise capabilities in Telangana.**

- By scaling operations and deepening its AI focus, Tredence is contributing to Hyderabad's transformation into a global data and AI powerhouse, aligned with India's broader ambition to lead in advanced analytics and artificial intelligence-driven economic growth.

Hyderabad's Skyroot Likely to Become India's First Spacetech Unicorn

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC GR I Paper-V: Science & Technology

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Skyroot Aerospace, Vikram-S, Vikram-I, Unicorn, 3D-Printed Engines, Carbon-Fibre Structures, Infinity Campus

Mains

- Private Space Sector, Start-up Funding, Low-Cost Launch Vehicles, Satellite Launch Services, Space Commercialisation

Why in News?

- Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** plans to raise about **\$200 million (₹1,800 crore)** in a fresh funding round.
- The company may become **India's first spacetech unicorn.**
- Valuation reached **\$519 million in 2023**, up

from **\$163 million** a year earlier.

About Skyroot Aerospace

- Founded in **2018** by former ISRO engineers:
 - **Pawan Kumar Chandana**
 - **Naga Bharath Daka**
- Provides **on-demand satellite launch services.**
- Focuses on **low-cost launch vehicles.**

Funding & Valuation

- In 2023, Singapore-based investors:
 - **Temasek**
 - **GIC invested \$27.5 million.**
- Appointed **Kotak Mahindra Capital** to advise on the sale of a minority stake.
- Plans to issue **primary shares** to new investors.
- **No dilution** for existing shareholders.

Key Milestones

- **2022:** First Indian private firm to launch a

rocket into space.

- Mission: **Vikram-S (sub-orbital)**.
- Preparing for **Vikram-I orbital launch in 2026**.

Technological Features

- Vikram series designed for **small satellite launches**.
- Incorporates:
 - **3D-printed engines**
 - **Carbon-fibre structures**
- Operates **Infinity Campus**, described as India's first private integrated rocket development facility.

Expansion Plans

- Target: **One launch per month by 2027**.
- Estimated cost: **\$4-6 million per launch**.

Conclusion

- Skyroot Aerospace reflects the growth of India's private space ecosystem.
- Successful fundraising could make it **India's first spacetechn unicorn**, marking a milestone in commercial space development.

T-Hub Partners with Hauts-de-France to Deepen Indo-French Startup Growth Corridor

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **TGPSC GR I Paper-IV: Economy and Development**

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- T-Hub, Hauts-de-France, Startup Corridor, Indo-French Cooperation, Acceleration Programme, Proof-of-Concept (PoC), Market Entry Support

Mains:

- Startup Diplomacy, Economic Cooperation, Cross-Border Investment, Innovation Ecosystems, Bilateral Economic Platforms

Why in News?

Hyderabad-based startup incubator T-Hub has announced a strategic partnership with the Hauts-

de-France Regional Council to establish a structured implementation framework aimed at strengthening startup-led economic cooperation between India and France.



About the Partnership

The collaboration seeks to create a formal India-Hauts-de-France startup corridor by facilitating reciprocal market access and structured cross-border engagement.

- The partnership focuses on enabling



startups from both regions to scale globally by leveraging institutional networks, investor access and corporate linkages.

T-Hub

- **Established:** 2015
- **Location:** Hyderabad, Telangana
- **Founded By:** Government of Telangana in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad, ISB, NALSAR, Tech Mahindra, and Cyient
- **Campus Size:** ~5,85,000 sq. ft.
- **Startup Capacity:** Around 1,000 startups

Ecosystem & Infrastructure

- Houses data center, banking facilities, experience centers
- Corporate Centers of Excellence from Apollo Tyres, NPCI, Hexagon
- Partnered with DST to establish Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH)
- Partnered with NITI Aayog to set up Atal Incubation Center (AIC)

Impact & Performance

- Supported **2,000+ startups** since inception
- Collaborated with **80+ angel investors and VCs**
- Helped startups raise nearly **\$2 billion in funding**
- Built partnerships with **600+ global and national corporations**
- Runs accelerator programs for Ministry of Defence, MeitY, and other government bodies

Recognition

- **2022:** India's Best Incubator – DPIIT
- **2023:** Best Technology Business Incubator – DST

Key Areas of Collaboration

The agreement includes multiple components designed to support startup expansion and ecosystem integration:

1. Reciprocal Market Entry

Both sides will support:

- Structured immersion programmes
- Market access and business registration assistance
- Local ecosystem navigation support

2. Cross-Border Investment Facilitation

The partnership will enable:

- Investor introductions
- Syndication pathways
- Co-investment opportunities

This is aimed at strengthening capital flows between Indian and French startup ecosystems.

3. Acceleration and Market Readiness

Co-designed acceleration programmes will support:

- Product localisation
- Business model refinement
- International scale-up

4. Corporate-Startup Platforms

The collaboration includes cross-border:

- Innovation challenges
- Pilot projects
- Proof-of-Concept (PoC) opportunities

5. Founder Exchanges

The initiative will facilitate:

- Demo days
- Pitch showcases
- Bootcamps
- Mentor exchanges
- Joint communication initiatives

These measures aim to strengthen integration and global positioning of the corridor.



Indo-French Startup Consortium

A key element of the partnership is the creation of an **Indo-French Startup Consortium**.

This structured bilateral platform will connect:

- Incubators
- Academia
- Investors
- Corporates

The consortium is envisioned as a long-term institutional mechanism to sustain collaboration.

Long-Term Objectives

The partnership aims to:

- Facilitate entry of over 10 French startups into India
- Enable 10 Indian startups to enter the French market

The objective is to establish durable strategic pathways for cross-border startup growth.

Strategic Significance

This initiative reflects growing India-France economic engagement beyond traditional sectors like defence and nuclear energy.

It promotes:

- Startup diplomacy
- Innovation-led economic cooperation
- Cross-border capital mobility
- Integration of regional innovation ecosystems

T-Hub CEO Kavikrut noted that the collaboration would strengthen global market access and capital connectivity for founders building internationally scalable ventures.

Francois Decoster, Vice-President of Hauts-de-France, highlighted expectations of positioning the region within a globally connected startup corridor.

Conclusion

The T-Hub-Hauts-de-France partnership marks a significant step toward institutionalising Indo-French startup cooperation. By integrating policy support, capital access and corporate partnerships, the initiative aims to build a globally competitive innovation corridor that strengthens bilateral economic ties and fosters sustainable entrepreneurial growth.

Top Maoist Leaders Surrender in Telangana

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- CPI (Maoist), Tippiri Tirupati (Devji), Malla Raji Reddy, Nambala Keshava Rao, Mallojula Venugopal Rao, People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA),

Central Committee, Politburo, Radical Students Union (RSU), People's War Group (PWG), Left Wing Extremism (LWE), Asifabad district, Jagtial district, Gadchiroli, Armed Struggle Deadline (March 2026).

Mains:

- Internal Security, Anti-Maoist Operations, Counter-Insurgency Strategy, Leadership Decapitation Strategy, Organisational Dilution of

Extremist Movements, Surrender & Rehabilitation Policy, Centre-State Coordination in Security, Decline of Left Wing Extremism, Security-Development Approach, Mainstreaming of Militants, Intelligence-Based Policing, Democratic Integration of Conflict Zones.

Why in News?

- Senior Maoist leader **Tippiri Tirupati alias Devji** surrendered in Asifabad district, Telangana.
- He laid down arms along with senior leader **Malla Raji Reddy** and other cadres.
- Devji is believed to have taken over as General Secretary of CPI (Maoist) after the killing of **Nambala Keshava Rao** in May 2025.
- Police stated that the surrender was expected and official details would be released shortly.



Background

- The surrender comes amid increasing weakening of the Maoist movement.
- Several senior leaders have either been killed in encounters or surrendered in recent months.
- Earlier, influential Maoist **Mallojula**

Venugopal Rao surrendered in Gadchiroli (October 2025) and urged others to abandon armed struggle.

- The Union government has set **March 2026** as the deadline to eliminate armed struggle in the country.

Operational Breakthrough and Leadership Impact

1. Surrender in Asifabad

- Telangana Police confirmed the surrender of Devji and others.
- Officials described it as a major breakthrough in anti-Maoist operations.

2. Senior Leadership Impact

- Devji, aged 62, was a native of Jagtial district.
- He reportedly became General Secretary of CPI (Maoist) after Nambala Keshava Rao's encounter.
- Malla Raji Reddy, another senior leader with a national role, also surrendered.

3. Cadres Follow Leaders

- Several Maoist cadres followed their leaders in surrendering.
- Indicates reduced patronage and declining support for the militant movement.

Profile of Devji

- Played a key role in creating the **People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA)**.
- Held important positions including:
 - Central Committee member
 - Politburo leader
- Joined armed struggle during his Intermediate days in 1982.
- Was part of the **Radical Students Union (RSU)**, affiliated to the People's War Group (PWG).



- Went underground after clashes between RSU and ABVP in Karimnagar district.

Significance

- Major Achievement for Telangana Police**
 - Many Telangana-origin Maoist leaders had surrendered in neighbouring States earlier.
 - This surrender within Telangana is considered a major success.
- Setback for the Maoist Movement**
 - Leadership-level surrender weakens organisational command structure.
 - Reflects dilution of the movement.
- Momentum Against Armed Struggle**

- Aligns with the Union government's March 2026 deadline.
- Indicates growing trend of abandoning militancy.

Conclusion

The surrender of Devji and other senior Maoist leaders marks a significant setback to the Maoist movement in Telangana. While it strengthens the State's anti-Maoist operations, the broader decline of the movement appears linked to sustained security pressure and diminishing support for armed struggle.

Telangana Produces Only One-Third of Its Vegetable Requirement

Source: [Times of India](#)

RELEVANCE: TGPSC GR IPaper - IV:
Economy and Development

Dependence, Sustainable Horticulture
Development.

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- Horticulture Sector, Vegetable Production Deficit, Per Capita Consumption (250g/300g), Production Coverage (32%), Post-Harvest Losses, Seasonal Shortages, Onion Deficit, Additional Acreage Requirement, Drip Irrigation, Protected Cultivation.

Mains:

- Food & Nutritional Security, Agricultural Productivity Gap, Supply Chain Strengthening, Processing Infrastructure, Value Addition, Climate Variability, Pest & Disease Pressure, Price Volatility, Import

Why in News?

Telangana is facing a severe shortfall in vegetable production despite having a favourable agro-climate and access to modern cultivation technologies. The state currently produces only about one-third of its vegetable requirement, making it heavily dependent on inflows from other regions.

Current Production Scenario

- Telangana has a favourable agro-climate and access to modern cultivation technologies.
- Despite this, the state produces only about **one-third of its vegetable requirement**.
- At the benchmark consumption level of **250**



grams per person per day:

- Annual requirement: **34.67 million metric tonnes**
- Production meets only **32.22%** of demand
- Resulting deficit: **23.50 million metric tonnes**
- At the recommended dietary intake of **300 grams per person per day**:
 - Annual requirement increases to **41.61 million metric tonnes**
 - Production covers only **26.84%** of demand
 - Resulting deficit: **30.44 million metric tonnes**
- Area under vegetable cultivation:
 - **1.12 lakh acres**
- Total production:
 - **11.17 million metric tonnes**
- Average productivity:
 - **9.89 tonnes per acre**
- The shortfall has led to heavy dependence on vegetable inflows from other regions to meet daily consumption needs.

Crop-wise Deficit

Significant shortages are observed in:

- **Onion** - Deficit of 3.77 lakh metric tonnes (requires 44,549 additional acres)
- **Leafy vegetables** - Shortfall of 2.77 lakh metric tonnes (needs 59,045 acres)
- **Potato** - Deficit of 2.15 lakh metric tonnes (requires 26,806 acres)
- Other gaps include **bhendi (okra)** and **tomato**

To achieve self-sufficiency, experts estimate that about **2.69 lakh additional acres** would be required after accounting for post-harvest losses.

Seasonal Supply Instability

Seasonal shortages aggravate the situation:

- Tomato - May to August
- Onion - July to October/November
- Leafy vegetables - January to August
- Potato - May to December

Staggered planting has been recommended to ensure year-round availability.

Major Constraints

The widening gap is attributed to:

- Pest and disease pressure
- Climate variability
- Post-harvest losses
- Limited processing capacity

Specific issues include:

- Sucking pests, borers, fruit fly infestations
- Viral diseases (yellow vein mosaic, leaf curl)
- Fungal diseases (phytophthora, anthracnose)
- Extreme temperatures and excess rainfall

Way Forward

While Telangana benefits from strong market access, good connectivity, and increasing adoption of drip irrigation and protected cultivation, experts emphasise:

- Strengthening supply chains
- Expanding processing infrastructure
- Promoting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)
- Encouraging value addition
- Reducing dependency on imports
- Stabilising prices

Conclusion

Telangana's vegetable production deficit highlights structural challenges in horticulture, including

productivity gaps, post-harvest losses, and supply chain inefficiencies. Addressing these issues through expansion of cultivation area, technological interventions, and improved market

infrastructure is essential to ensure food security, price stability, and farmer income sustainability.

35th Death Anniversary of J. Eashwari Bai Commemorated; J.B. Raju Receives Memorial Award

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

RELEVANCE: Paper-III (Society/Social Movements/Governance)

Important Keywords

For Prelims

- Republican Party of India (RPI), Telangana Movement (Pre-2014 phase), Dalit Rights Activism, Ambedkarite Movement

For Mains

- Grassroots Political Leadership, Social Justice & Representation, Dalit Empowerment, Women in Legislative Politics, Ambedkarite Ideology



- Born in 1918 in Secunderabad, J. Eashwari Bai emerged as a prominent Dalit and women's rights activist.
- She served as a **municipal corporator** and later as a member of the undivided Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- She was a leader of the **Republican Party of India** and a committed Ambedkarite.
- She founded **Geetha Vidyalaya** in Chilakalguda to promote education.
- She passed away on **February 24, 1991**.

Why in News?

- The **35th death anniversary of J. Eashwari Bai** was observed in Hyderabad with floral tributes, speeches, and a documentary screening.
- The **2026 Eashwari Bai Memorial Award** was presented to J.B. Raju, retired Indian Information Service officer and national chairman of the Rashtriya Dalit Sena.

Life and Contributions of J. Eashwari Bai

Highlights of the Commemoration

- Floral tributes paid at her statue in West Marredpally, Secunderabad.
- Evening sabha held at Ravindra Bharathi under the aegis of the Department of Language and Culture and the Eashwari Bai Memorial Trust.
- Documentary screening highlighted her courage in the Assembly and advocacy



during the Telangana movement.

- Minister G. Vivek Venkatswamy recalled her strong stand for Telangana during difficult political times.
- J.B. Raju received the 2026 Memorial Award for his social service and Ambedkarite activism.

Contributions of J. Eashwari Bai

1. Legislative Advocacy

- Raised issues of Telangana and marginalised communities in the Assembly when such advocacy was politically risky.

2. Dalit Rights and Social Justice

- Worked extensively for Dalit upliftment inspired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideals.

3. Women's Empowerment

- A pioneering woman leader in a male-dominated political space.

4. Grassroots Leadership

- Contested elections against powerful ministers and won based on public support rather than resources.

5. Educational Initiatives

- Established educational institutions to empower marginalised communities.

Significance

1. Highlights the role of **Ambedkarite politics** in Telangana's socio-political evolution.
2. Reflects the importance of **grassroots leadership** in democratic institutions.
3. Reinforces the relevance of **Dalit and women representation** in politics.
4. Demonstrates how social reform movements shape long-term political change.

Conclusion

The commemoration of J. Eashwari Bai's 35th death anniversary underscores her enduring legacy in Telangana's political and social landscape. Her life exemplifies leadership grounded in social justice, representation, and grassroots mobilisation – values central to India's democratic framework.

IIT-H Launches NABL-Accredited Drone Propulsion Lab

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Paper-V: Science & Technology

Important Keywords

Prelims

- IIT-Hyderabad, TiHAN Foundation, NABL accreditation, ISO/IEC 17025 standard, eVTOL (Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing), UAV propulsion testing, BLDC motors, thrust measurement (kg-force), propulsion

configurations (single, coaxial, staggered), RPM and thrust efficiency

Mains

- Indigenous drone testing infrastructure, UAV propulsion validation ecosystem, Aatmanirbhar Bharat in drone sector, Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), autonomous navigation systems, regulatory standardisation and certification, industry-academia technology collaboration, defence and civil drone applications



Why in News

IIT-Hyderabad has operationalised an **eVTOL (electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing) and Drone Propulsion Testing Laboratory**, accredited by the **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)** under ISO/IEC 17025 standards.

Introduction

Many drone start-ups previously had to test propulsion systems informally or send them abroad for validation. With the launch of this accredited lab at IIT-Hyderabad, developers can now conduct certified propulsion testing within the city. The lab is being set up under the **Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation (TiHAN) Foundation at IIT-Hyderabad**.

Key Features of the Lab

1. NABL Accreditation

- Accredited under **ISO/IEC 17025 standards**.
- Ensures calibrated and traceable testing environment.
- Data generated can be used for benchmarking, research documentation, and regulatory compliance.

2. Testing Capabilities

- Supports **single, coaxial, and staggered propulsion configurations**.
- Thrust capacity range: **0.1 to 70 kilogram-force**.
- Infrastructure supports up to **75 kilogram-force per motor**.
- Suitable for small drones and heavier payload platforms.

3. Measured Parameters



NABL-accredited measurements include:

- Thrust
- DC current
- DC voltage
- Power
- Thrust efficiency
- RPM
- Temperature

4. Motor Testing

- Tests **Brushless DC (BLDC) motors**.
- Controllers rated from **29 kV to 3000 kV**.
- Includes propeller assemblies used in UAVs.

Significance

For Drone Start-ups

- Access to reliable propulsion validation within India.
- Reduced dependency on foreign testing facilities.
- Faster transition from prototype to deployment.

For Industry & Defence

- Supports UAV original equipment

manufacturers (OEMs).

- Assists advanced air mobility ventures.
- Useful for defence-linked research units and academic teams.

For Emerging Applications

Drone usage is expanding in:

- Logistics
- Surveillance
- Agriculture
- Urban mobility

With increasing applications, propulsion reliability has become a central concern.

Conclusion

The launch of the NABL-accredited drone propulsion lab at IIT-Hyderabad marks a significant step in strengthening India's drone innovation ecosystem. By enabling certified propulsion testing within the country, the facility removes a major barrier for start-ups and manufacturers, accelerating research, regulatory compliance, and deployment in the rapidly expanding drone sector.

Sridhar Babu Sets 2047 Logistics Goal for Telangana

Source: Deccan Chronicle

Relevance: Paper IV - Telangana Economy and Development

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Telangana Rising 2047, Telangana State Logistics Policy 2021-26, Multi Modal Logistic Parks (MMLPs), Regional Ring Road (RRR), Metro Rail Phase-II, Dry Port, 3PL/4PL/5PL, Grade-A

Warehousing, Cold Chain Infrastructure, AI-enabled Logistics

Mains

- Global Logistics Hub Vision, \$3 Trillion State Economy Target, GDP Contribution (5% → 10%), Logistics Cost Optimization, Infrastructure-led Growth Model, Digital Logistics Platforms, Supply Chain Realignment, Sustainable/Green Mobility, Fiscal & Non-Fiscal Incentives, Skill Development Ecosystem



- Faster approvals and transparent policies
- Industry-friendly regulatory framework

Why in News

IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu announced that Telangana aims to emerge as one of India's leading logistics hubs and a global logistics destination by 2047 under the **Telangana Rising 2047 framework**.

Background

Speaking at the **Transport Logistic India 2026 conference** organised by Messe München India at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, Sridhar Babu outlined a structured roadmap to build a future-ready logistics ecosystem.

The logistics sector is expected to play a key role in Telangana's long-term development vision.

Telangana Rising 2047 Vision

- Increase Telangana's contribution to India's GDP from about **5% at present to 10% by 2047**.
- Support the goal of building a **3-trillion-dollar state economy**.
- Position Telangana as a global logistics destination.

Strategic Focus Areas

1. Infrastructure Expansion

Key projects include:

- Regional Ring Road
- Metro Rail Phase-II
- Proposed airports
- Development of a dry port
- Creation of dedicated logistics parks

2. Policy Support

- Implementation of **Telangana Logistics Policy 2.0**

Telangana State Logistics Policy 2021-26

In view of industrial and agricultural growth, the Government formulated the **Draft Telangana State Logistics Policy 2021-26**.

Aim of the Policy

- Encourage growth of logistics sector
- Attract private investment
- Optimize overall logistics cost and time
- Provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives

Purpose & Vision

Purpose

Improve ease of logistics to serve present and future state economy.

Vision

Build a **reliable, robust, and efficient logistics infrastructure** that minimizes cost and transit time.

Key Objectives

1. Development of Robust Infrastructure

Encourage investment in:

- Multi Modal Logistic Parks (MMLPs)
- Integrated Logistic Parks
- Large-scale storage infrastructure

2. Improve Quality of Services

- Achieve international standards
- Attract 3PL / 4PL / 5PL service providers
- Upgrade logistics services to global benchmarks

3. Increase Technology Penetration

- Promote adoption of state-of-the-art technologies
- Improve productivity
- Enhance traceability across the value



chain

- Address low technology usage in the logistics sector

4. Improve Skilled Manpower Availability

- Create awareness on employment opportunities
- Develop skill infrastructure
- Build a trained logistics workforce

3. Digital Integration & Modernisation

- AI-enabled logistics
- Automation
- Digital logistics platforms

4. Sustainability Initiatives

- Promotion of green mobility
- Alignment with global supply-chain realignment trends

5. Skill Development

- Collaboration with **Young India Skills University**
- Partnership with industry stakeholders
- Workforce training aligned with emerging logistics requirements

Investment Opportunities

The government invited investment in:

- Multi-modal logistics
- Rail-linked infrastructure
- Air cargo facilities
- Cold chain infrastructure
- Grade-A warehousing
- Automation systems

Conclusion

Telangana is pursuing a structured and forward-looking roadmap to transform its logistics ecosystem by 2047. By combining infrastructure expansion, policy reforms, digital integration, sustainability measures, and skill development, the state aims to strengthen its logistics competitiveness and contribute significantly to national economic growth.

