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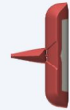
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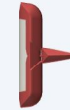
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TGPSC News Summary

Saving Telangana's Heritage: Activists Demand More ASI-Protected Monuments

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC - Paper II (History & Culture of Telangana) | Paper IV (Tourism & Development)

Important Key Words

Prelims:

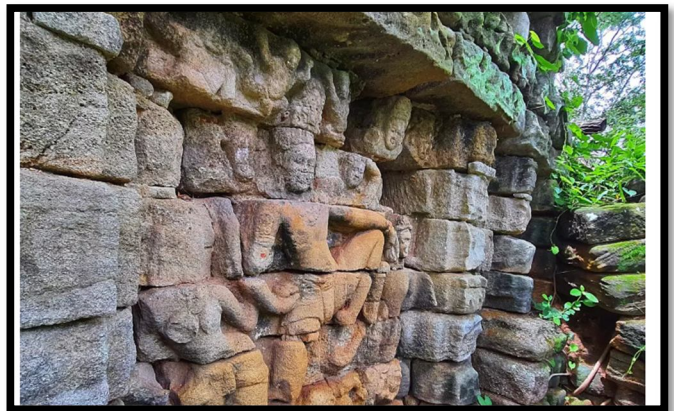
- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), ASI-Protected Monuments, Torch (Team of Research on Culture and Heritage), Gollathagudi Brick Temple (Mahbubnagar), Devunigutta Temple (6th Century CE), Pandavulagutta Rock Art (30,000-8,000 years), Qutub Shahi Tombs Complex, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Charminar, Golconda Fort

Mains:

- Heritage Conservation Policy, Centre-State Coordination in Monument Protection, Cultural Tourism Promotion, Prehistoric Rock Art Heritage, Temple Architecture & Sandstone Brick Construction, Satavahanas to Asaf Jahis Dynastic Legacy, Budget Constraints in Heritage Management, Legal Protection of Monument Boundaries, Tourism-Culture Linkage Strategy, National vs State Protected Monuments Framework

Why in News

Heritage activists in Telangana have demanded the inclusion of more historical sites under the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** protected monuments list, stating that the state currently has only eight ASI-protected monuments despite its rich historical and architectural legacy.



Current Status of ASI Protection in Telangana

- Telangana has only **eight monuments** protected by ASI.
- Many historically significant sites do not feature even in the state protected list.
- According to heritage group **Torch (Team of Research on Culture and Heritage)**, around **120 heritage sites** have been

identified for protection, and representations have been submitted to the government.

- However, the files remain pending.

Experts note that the **state heritage department's limited annual budget** is sufficient to conserve only one site per year, restricting large-scale preservation efforts.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- **Established:** 1861
- **Founder:** Alexander Cunningham
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Administrative Ministry:** Ministry of Culture
- **Statutory Status:** Under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act)
- **Other Act Administered:** Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972
- **Primary Functions:**
 - Maintenance and conservation of **ancient monuments & archaeological sites**
 - Protection of **monuments of national importance**
 - Regulation of **archaeological excavations and activities**
 - Regulation of **antiquities and art treasures**
- **Monuments of National Importance:** 3679 (declared by Central Government)

Examples of Neglected Heritage Sites

Heritage activists have highlighted several important monuments that remain outside the protected list:

Gollathagudi Brick Temple (Mahbubnagar District)

- Taller than the brick temple at Bhitargaon in Uttar Pradesh, currently considered the tallest such structure.
- Requires urgent conservation attention.

Devunigutta Temple

- A 6th century CE temple.
- Reflects Shaivite and Buddhist traditions.
- Built using approximately 1,600 sculpted sandstone brick blocks.
- Not included in the protected list.

Pandavulagutta

- Known for rock art paintings dating between 30,000 to 8,000 years ago.
- Represents prehistoric heritage.
- Not protected.

Historical Significance of Telangana

Telangana has been home to major empires and dynasties, including:

- Satavahanas
- Vakatakas
- Ikshvakus
- Vishnukundins
- Chalukyas
- Kakatiyas
- Qutub Shahis
- Asaf Jahis

Given this historical legacy, activists argue that having only eight ASI-protected monuments reflects neglect.

Hyderabad's Heritage Concerns

Heritage activist Md. Habeebuddin pointed out that monuments around **Charminar** and **Golconda Fort**, once surrounded by numerous historical structures, now retain only a few.

- Along with the **Qutub Shahi Tombs complex** – comprising around 70

monuments including mosques and idgahs – these major archaeological sites in Hyderabad have not yet been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Why ASI Protection Matters

If a monument is declared ASI-protected:

- Boundaries are legally safeguarded.
- Funding is provided by the Union Ministry of Culture.
- Conservation follows archaeological norms.
- Tourism development receives national attention.

Activists believe expanding the ASI list would:

- Ensure long-term conservation
- Boost tourism
- Create national and international awareness of Telangana's heritage

Conclusion

Despite Telangana's deep historical roots and architectural richness, the limited number of ASI-protected monuments has raised concerns among heritage activists. With 120 sites identified for protection and several historically significant structures awaiting recognition, there is growing pressure on authorities to expand the protected list. Activists argue that timely action would not only preserve Telangana's past but also strengthen its cultural identity and tourism potential for the future.

Telangana Governor to Celebrate Eco-Friendly Holi with PJTSAU's Plant-Based Colours

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Paper II - History, Culture & Geography

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- PJTSAU, Natural Dye Processing & Incubation Centre, Plant-Based Holi Colours, Annatto Seeds, Marigold Extract, Indigo Leaves, Sappanwood Extract, Starch-Based Formulation, World Bank-Funded Project, Eco-Friendly Celebrations

Mains:

- Sustainable Cultural Practices, Green Consumerism, Traditional Natural Dyeing, Agro-Based Value Addition, University-Led Innovation, Rural Entrepreneurship, Environmental-Friendly Alternatives, Skill Development through Incubation Centres, Sustainable Agriculture Linkages, Telangana-Specific Innovation Model

Why in News?

Telangana Governor **Jishnu Dev Varma** will celebrate Holi at Lok Bhavan using eco-friendly, plant-based colours developed by **Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTSAU)**. The initiative highlights sustainable alternatives to synthetic festival products.

About the Initiative

PJTSAU has been commercially producing natural Holi colours since **2016**, under the Natural Dye Processing and Incubation Centre at the College of Community Science.

- The centre was established after research conducted between **2008 and 2013** under a



World Bank-funded project.

- Dr. Lakshmi Pooja, Assistant Professor in the Department of Apparel and Textiles, currently leads the unit.

Natural Colour Palette

Initially developed in 14 shades, the product line was streamlined to five traditional Holi colours based on consumer demand:

- **Orange** – Extracted from *annatto seeds* (also used as a food colourant)
- **Yellow** – Derived from fresh *marigold flowers*
- **Blue** – Produced from fermented *indigo leaves*
- **Pink** – Made from *sappanwood extract*
- **Green** – Prepared using *indigo leaf powder*

Production Process

- **Base Material:** Starch
- Natural plant extracts are mixed with the base
- Grinding and wet processing (where required)
- Drying, pulverising and sieving
- Completely plant-based formulation

The colours are free from synthetic chemicals and are designed to be skin-friendly and environmentally safe.

Broader Research and Innovation

The centre's work extends beyond festival colours. Researchers have also developed:

- Naturally dyed textiles
- Water-based paints
- Eco-friendly Ganesh idol formulations
- Natural dyes for absorbent materials

Fourth-year students actively participate in production and marketing, providing hands-on training in sustainable entrepreneurship.

Significance

- Promotes **eco-friendly alternatives** to chemical-based Holi colours
- Supports **traditional natural dye practices**
- Encourages **sustainable agriculture-linked enterprises**
- Demonstrates university-led innovation with commercial viability
- Strengthens the role of state agricultural universities in green product development

Conclusion

The Governor's adoption of PJTSAU's plant-based Holi colours symbolizes a broader shift towards sustainable celebrations and environmentally responsible consumer practices. By combining traditional dye knowledge with modern research and incubation support, the university has created a model for eco-conscious innovation rooted in local agricultural resources.

Telangana's Self-Help Group (SHG) Women's Health Profile Programme

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: Governance

Why in News?

The **Telangana government** has launched a massive health profiling programme aimed at securing the health of **46 lakh women** associated with **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** across the state. The massive screening drive will officially begin on **March 8, 2026**, marking **International Women's Day**.

Background and Context

This specific women's health initiative is a crucial part of a broader, 99-day public outreach action

plan called 'Praja Palana-Pragati Pranalika' (People's Governance-Progress Plan). This overarching drive, which also includes a **100-day Health Mission**, runs from **March 6 to June 12, 2026**, and aims to take welfare schemes and essential public services directly to the people.

Key Features of Programme:

- **Massive Beneficiary Base:** The programme exclusively targets **46 lakh SHG women** who form the economic backbone of rural and urban communities.
- **Comprehensive Diagnostic Screening:** Every single participant will undergo **30 different medical tests**, entirely free of cost. These include routine blood panels, vital evaluations, and highly critical **cancer screenings**.
- **Testing Infrastructure:** The diagnostic services will be seamlessly executed through **Telangana Diagnostics**, the state-run laboratory network.
- **Digital Health Database:** A permanent **digital health profile** will be created for each woman to ensure her medical history is instantly accessible for any future emergency treatments.



Health Minister C. Damodar Rajanarasimha at a review meeting with senior Health officials on Wednesday. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Implementation Strategy

To ensure smooth execution, the health profiling will be carried out in a phased manner across the districts:

- **Stage 1:** The programme will begin in 5 administrative blocks (mandals) in each district.
- **Stage 2:** It will then expand to cover 10 additional mandals per district.
- **Stage 3:** Finally, the screening will be extended to all the remaining mandals in the state.

Government Response / Policy Measures

The SHG health profiling is embedded within a highly structured **four-phase health mission**:

- **Phase 1 (March 6 to March 31):** Focuses on maternal, child, adolescent, and elderly care. This phase features the launch of the **SHG health profile** and large-scale **anaemia control** in schools and Anganwadis.
- **Phase 2 (April 1 to April 15):** Targets **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**. The state will set up massive camps at sub-centres to detect hypertension, diabetes, and cancer, alongside mapping chemotherapy services.
- **Phase 3 (April 16 to May 15):** Focuses on infection control and seasonal preparedness. Features the **TB Mukht Bharat** initiative and public awareness drives for sunstroke, dengue, and malaria.
- **Phase 4 (May 16 to June 12):** Aims at massive urban healthcare upgrades by converting **145 Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) into polyclinics** offering specialty services, supported by mobile medical camps in slums.

Challenges / Concerns

- **Operational Burden:** Conducting 30 tests for 46 lakh women within six months puts massive pressure on the existing workforce and **Telangana Diagnostics** infrastructure.
- **Follow-up Care:** Diagnostic screening is only the first step; providing continuous, free, and accessible treatment for the severe diseases detected (like cancer) requires long-term funding.
- **Service Disruption:** Ensuring that these massive specialized camps do not disrupt the daily routine medical services in general government hospitals.

Way Forward

- The government must ensure that the newly created **digital health profiles** are securely integrated with national digital health registries like the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**. Furthermore, robust supply chains for medicines must be guaranteed to treat the ailments diagnosed during this massive screening drive.

Conclusion

The Telangana SHG Women's Health Profile programme is a highly strategic shift from reactive medical treatment to proactive, preventive healthcare. By integrating widespread diagnostic testing with community networks, the state is building a highly resilient public health infrastructure that directly secures the lives of its most vulnerable citizens.

Project Shakti: Promoting Menstrual Hygiene through Reusable Sanitary Pads in Telangana

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **GS Paper II - Social Justice, Health, Education; GS Paper III - Environment & Sustainable Development; Telangana-specific Current Affairs**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Project Shakti, Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), Reusable Sanitary Pads, Veeranari Chakali Iamma Women's University, Rotary Club of Hyderabad East, Unipads Foundation, Menstrual Health Awareness, Plastic Sanitary Waste, Sustainable Menstrual Products, Menstrual Hygiene Kits

Mains

- Menstrual Health and Gender Equality, School Absenteeism among Girls, Women's Health and Dignity, Public-Private Collaboration in Social Welfare, Sustainable Hygiene Practices, Environmental Impact of Sanitary Waste, Adolescent Health and Education, Social Stigma around Menstruation, Right to Health under Article 21, Gender-Sensitive Public Health Policies

Why in News?

Nearly 7,000 girl students at Veeranari Chakali Iamma Women's University, Hyderabad received reusable sanitary pad kits under **Project Shakti**, a statewide initiative aimed at improving menstrual



hygiene and reducing school absenteeism among girls in Telangana.

About Project Shakti

Project Shakti is a menstrual hygiene initiative designed to provide **reusable sanitary pad kits** to girl students across Telangana.

- **First Phase Distribution:** 7,000 students
- **Programme Value:** Approximately ₹35 lakh
- **Target:** Reach 60,000 girl students
- **Coverage:** Around 2,000 schools and colleges in Telangana by March 2026

The programme aims to improve **menstrual health awareness, ensure school attendance, and promote sustainable menstrual products.**

Key Features of Reusable Pads

Reusable sanitary pads are promoted as an affordable and environmentally friendly alternative to disposable products.

Important Characteristics:

- **Reusable lifespan:** 12-16 months with proper care
- **Cost-effective:** Reduces recurring expenses for families
- **Eco-friendly:** Minimizes plastic waste from disposable pads
- **Washable and skin-friendly**
- **Sustainable menstrual hygiene solution**

Implementation and Partnerships

Project Shakti is implemented through collaboration between multiple organisations:

- **Rotary Club of Hyderabad East**
- **State Bank of India**
- **Unipads Foundation**
- Supported by the **Government of Telangana**

Apart from distribution, students will also receive

awareness sessions and orientation programmes on menstrual hygiene and proper use of reusable products.

Social Significance

Officials emphasised that menstrual hygiene is closely linked to education, health, and gender equality.

- According to **Harichandana Dasari**, Hyderabad District Collector, menstrual independence ensures **dignity, equality, and uninterrupted access to education.**

The initiative seeks to address key challenges such as:

- Menstrual stigma and taboos
- School absenteeism among adolescent girls
- Lack of access to affordable menstrual products
- Environmental pollution from plastic-based sanitary waste

Constitutional and Legal Perspective

- The **Supreme Court of India** has recognised **menstrual hygiene as part of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution**, emphasising the responsibility of the state to ensure dignified menstrual health management for women and girls.

Educational Impact

- University Vice-Chancellor **Surya Dhananjay** noted that access to proper menstrual products enables girls to participate fully in education and daily activities without anxiety or social restrictions.

Environmental Benefits

Reusable pads significantly reduce plastic waste

generated by disposable sanitary products.

By encouraging sustainable alternatives, the programme contributes to:

- **Reduced environmental pollution**
- **Promotion of eco-friendly lifestyle choices**
- **Sustainable waste management practices**

Conclusion

Project Shakti represents an important step toward improving menstrual health, empowering young women, and promoting sustainable hygiene practices in Telangana. By combining awareness, accessibility, and environmental responsibility, the initiative seeks to ensure that menstrual health does not become a barrier to education, dignity, or equality for girls.

Gaddar Telangana Film Awards 2025: Celebrating Telugu Cinema and Telangana Culture

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **TGPSC - Culture of Telangana, Film Industry & Cultural Promotion**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Gaddar Telangana Film Awards (TGFA), Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC), Gaddar (Revolutionary Poet of Telangana), Telugu Film Industry (Tollywood), Ugadi Festival, NTR National Award, ANR Award, Paidi Jairaj Award.

Mains

- Cultural Promotion through Cinema,

Regional Cultural Identity, Telangana Cultural Heritage, Film Industry Policy Support, Cultural Soft Power, Content-Driven Cinema, Regional Language Film Promotion, Creative Economy Development.

Why in News

The winners of the **Gaddar Telangana Film Awards (TGFA) 2025** were announced by the Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC). The awards recognise excellence in Telugu cinema and celebrate films rooted in Telangana culture and storytelling.

- The awards ceremony will be held on **Ugadi**, where the winners will receive their honours in the presence of **Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy**.



About the Gaddar Telangana Film Awards

The **Gaddar Telangana Film Awards (TGFA)** were instituted by the Telangana government to honour contributions to the Telugu film industry and encourage films that reflect **Telangana's cultural identity, language, traditions and social realities**.

The awards are named after **Gaddar**, the legendary revolutionary poet, singer and cultural icon of Telangana.



The 2025 edition marks the second edition of the awards.

Selection Process

The list of winners was released by Dil Raju, Chairman of the Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC).

- The awards were decided based on the recommendations of a jury comprising prominent figures from the film industry.
- The final list was submitted to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka before the official announcement.

Major Award Winners

Top Film Awards

- **Best Film:** *Raju Weds Rambai*
- **Second Best Film:** *Dhandoraa*
- **Third Best Film:** *The Great Pre-Wedding Show*

Performance Awards

- **Best Actor:** Naga Chaitanya (*Thandel*)
- **Best Actress:** Rashmika Mandanna (*The Girlfriend*)
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Shivaji (*Dhandoraa*)
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Bhumi (*Euphoria*)

Direction and Music

- **Best Director:** Sailu (*Raju Weds Rambai*)
- **Best Music Director:** Mark K. Robin (*Dhandoraa*)

Playback Singing

- **Best Male Playback Singer:** Anurag Kulkarni (*Raju Weds Rambai*)
- **Best Female Playback Singer:** Sahithi Chaganti (*Kannappa*)

Other Acting Awards

- **Best Comedian:** Krishna Teja (*Jigris*)
- **Best Child Actor:** Rohan Roy (*The Great Pre-Wedding Show*)

Film and Technical Category Awards

Several awards were also presented for technical excellence and thematic storytelling.

Special Film Categories

- **National Integration Film:** *Thandel*
- **Best Environmental Film:** *Igua*
- **Best Debut Feature Film:** *Little Hearts*
- **Best Entertainment Film:** *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam*
- **Best Social Message Film:** *Court*
- **Best Special Effects Film:** *Mirai*
- **Best Children's Film:** *Anaganagana*

Technical Awards

- **Best Story Writer:** Gunasekhar (*Euphoria*)
- **Best Screenplay Writer:** Anil Ravipudi
- **Best Lyricist:** Nandakishore (*Kuberaa*)
- **Best Cinematographer:** Karthik Ghattamaneni (*Mirai*)
- **Best Editor:** Sreekar Prasad (*Mirai*)
- **Best Audiographer:** M.R. Rajakrishnan (*Kishkindhapuri*)
- **Best Choreographer:** Gira Gira Gira (*Champion*)
- **Best Art Director:** Thota Tharani (*Champion*)
- **Best Makeup Artist:** Govind (*Akhanda 2*)
- **Best Costume Designer:** Chandrakant (*Champion*)

Special Jury Awards

The jury also recognised outstanding performances and films in special categories.

- **Best Special Jury Film:** 23
- **Special Jury Best Actor:** Chaitu Jonnalagadda (*Raju Weds Rambai*)



- **Special Jury Best Actress:** Ananthika (8 *Vasanthalu*)
- **Special Jury Hero:** Roshan (*Champion*)

Legendary Honour Awards

The awards ceremony also honoured several stalwarts of Indian cinema for their lifetime contributions.

- **NTR National Award:** Chiranjeevi
- **ANR Award:** Jayasudha
- **Kantha Rao Award:** R. Narayana Murthy
- **B.N. Reddy Award:** Singeetam Srinivasa Rao
- **Paidi Jairaj Award:** Kamal Haasan
- **Nagireddy Chakrapani Award:** Ashwini Dutt
- **C. Narayana Reddy Award:** Suddala Ashok Teja

Significance of the Awards

The awards recognise both mainstream and small-budget films, highlighting the growing influence of **content-driven cinema in Telugu films**.

Producer **Raj Kandukuri** praised the recognition given to films made by young directors such as:

- *Raju Weds Rambai*
- *Little Hearts*
- *Dhandora*
- *The Great Pre-Wedding Show*

These films gained both **critical appreciation and commercial success**, reflecting the evolving trends in Telugu cinema.

Promotion of Telangana Cultural Identity

Director **Venu Udugula**, producer of *Raju Weds Rambai*, emphasised the importance of encouraging films rooted in Telangana's culture.

He noted that Telangana has a distinct cultural identity reflected in its:

- Dialect
- Food
- Traditions
- Attire
- Social environment

Promoting Telangana-based stories could strengthen regional cinema in a way similar to **Marathi cinema in Maharashtra**.

Conclusion

The **Gaddar Telangana Film Awards 2025** highlight the Telangana government's efforts to promote cinema that reflects regional identity while recognising artistic and technical excellence in the Telugu film industry. By encouraging culturally rooted storytelling and supporting young filmmakers, the awards aim to strengthen the creative ecosystem of Telangana's film industry.

Telangana Has Lower Outstanding Crop Loans Compared to Other Southern States

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

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

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Outstanding Agricultural Loans, Crop Loans, Term Loans, Telangana Crop Loan Waiver Scheme (2024), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Ground-Level Credit Flow to Agriculture, NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22, Kisan Credit Card (KCC).

Mains:



- Agricultural Credit System in India, Institutional Credit for Farmers, Crop Loan Waiver Policy, Rural Financial Inclusion, Priority Sector Lending, Agricultural Investment and Working Capital Needs, Farmer Financial Security, Government Schemes for Farmer Welfare.

Why in News

- Telangana has **relatively lower outstanding crop loans** compared to other southern states.
- According to data tabled in **Parliament**, the total outstanding agricultural loans of farmers in Telangana stood at **₹1.75 lakh crore** as of **December 31, 2025**.

Outstanding Agricultural Loans in Southern States

- **Tamil Nadu** recorded the **highest outstanding agricultural loans** among southern states and also topped the country with **₹5.06 lakh crore**.
 - Crop loans: **₹1.65 lakh crore**
 - Term loans: **₹3.41 lakh crore**
- **Andhra Pradesh** recorded the **second-highest agricultural loans** with **₹3.75 lakh crore**.
- **Karnataka** reported agricultural loans amounting to **₹2.10 lakh crore**.
- **Kerala** recorded the **lowest outstanding agricultural loans among southern states** at **₹1.61 lakh crore**.

Outstanding Agricultural Loans in Telangana

Telangana's total outstanding agricultural loans

stood at **₹1,75,960.56 crore**.

- **Crop loans:** ₹95,167.98 crore
- **Term loans:** ₹80,792.58 crore

Officials stated that these loans accumulated **after December 9, 2023**, which was the **cut-off date for the crop loan waiver scheme implemented in 2024**.

Telangana Crop Loan Waiver Scheme (2024)

The Telangana government implemented a **crop loan waiver scheme** to reduce farmers' financial burden.

Key features include:

- **Total loan waiver:** ₹21,000 crore
- **Beneficiaries:** Around **25 lakh farmers**
- **Loan coverage:** Up to **₹2 lakh per farmer**
- **Cut-off date:** December 9, 2023

The scheme aimed to provide relief to farmers and improve their access to agricultural credit.

Agricultural Credit Trends in India

According to the **NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22**:

- Around **55% of agricultural households in India** have accessed credit facilities.

Farmers generally take loans for:

- **Capital investment in agriculture**
- **Working capital requirements**
- **Purchase of agricultural inputs**
- **Expansion of farming operations**

Government Measures to Promote Agricultural Credit

The Union government has taken several initiatives to improve access to institutional credit for farmers.

These include:

- Fixing **annual targets for ground-level agricultural credit**
- Setting **priority sector lending targets for**



banks

- Expanding affordable credit access through:
 - Kisan Credit Card (KCC)**
 - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme**

The government is also implementing long-term measures to strengthen farmers' economic security through schemes such as:

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**
- Krishonnati Yojana**
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**

Conclusion

The parliamentary data indicates that **Telangana has comparatively lower outstanding crop loans among southern states**, partly due to policy measures such as the **crop loan waiver scheme**. However, institutional agricultural credit remains essential for supporting farmers' investments, sustaining agricultural operations, and promoting rural economic growth.

Musi Riverfront Development Project: Rejuvenating Hyderabad's Lifeline

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Musi River, Krishna tributary, Musa and Esi rivulets, 1908 Musi floods, Mir Osman Ali

Khan, Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar, Mallanna Sagar Reservoir, 2.5 TMC water diversion, Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), Gandhi Sarovar, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Mains

- Urban River Rejuvenation, Sustainable Urban Development, Sewage Management, Ecological Restoration, Riverfront Development, Urban Infrastructure, Environmental Governance, Land Acquisition, Displacement and Rehabilitation, Social Justice, Public Consultation, Heritage Conservation, Inclusive Urban Planning, Environment vs Development.

Why in News?

The **Musi Riverfront Development Project** proposed by the Government of Telangana aims to rejuvenate the Musi River in Hyderabad and transform it into a year-round flowing urban river with recreational and cultural infrastructure. However, the project has sparked controversy due to concerns about displacement of residents and land acquisition.

About the Musi River

The **Musi River** flows through **Hyderabad** and is an important tributary of the **Krishna River**.

Key Facts:

- Total river length: **About 260 km**
- Stretch within Hyderabad: **Approximately 55 km**
- Origin: **Ananthagiri Hills in Vikarabad district**
- Formed by the confluence of two rivulets:

Musa and Esi

Over time, rapid urbanisation and untreated sewage discharge have turned the river into an open sewage channel for most of the year.



Historical Background

The Musi River gained historical significance after the **devastating floods of 1908**, which caused massive destruction in Hyderabad.

- Following the disaster, the ruler of the Hyderabad princely state, **Mir Osman Ali Khan**, ordered the construction of two major reservoirs:
- **Osman Sagar**
- **Himayat Sagar**

These reservoirs were designed to **control flooding and regulate water flow in the Musi River**.

What is the Musi Riverfront Development Project?

The Musi Riverfront Development Project aims to **restore the ecological health of the river while transforming its banks into an urban waterfront corridor**.

- The plan proposes development along **both sides of the 55-km river stretch in Hyderabad**, including public infrastructure, tourism facilities, and heritage spaces.

Major Components of the Project

1. River Rejuvenation

- The government plans to ensure **perennial flow in the Musi River** by diverting **2.5 TMC of water from the Godavari River through the Mallanna Sagar Reservoir**.
- Water will be released gradually into **Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs**, which will maintain a continuous flow in the Musi River.

2. Sewage Treatment Infrastructure

One of the main causes of pollution in the river is untreated sewage.

To address this, the government plans to:

- Build **39 new Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)**
- Strengthen the existing **31 STPs**
- Treat sewage before it enters the river

3. Riverfront Development

The project includes the development of urban waterfront infrastructure such as:

- Parks and leisure spaces
- Cultural and heritage zones
- Shopping areas
- Pedestrian corridors and public spaces

The aim is to create a **modern riverfront similar to international urban waterfront models**.

4. Gandhi Sarovar Cultural Precinct

- A major landmark proposed under the project is "**Gandhi Sarovar**," located at the **confluence of the Musa and Esi streams**.

Key features include:

- A **large cultural precinct**
- A proposed "**world's tallest statue of Mahatma Gandhi**"
- Tourism and recreational facilities



Project Implementation

In **October 2024**, the Telangana government appointed a **consortium of five companies** to prepare the **Detailed Project Report (DPR)**.

- The project is planned in phases, beginning with relatively **less populated stretches of the Musa and Esi rivers covering about 21 km**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has provided **in-principle approval for funding** for the first phase.

Opposition and Controversy

Despite its environmental objectives, the project has triggered strong protests.

1. Eviction of Riverbank Residents

- The government began **evicting slum dwellers living along the Musi riverbed in 2024**.
- Many residents claim they have lived there **for decades**, and fear losing their homes and livelihoods.

2. Musi Jan Andolan

- Opposition groups have formed a coalition called **"Musi Jan Andolan."**

Their concerns include:

- Forced displacement of residents
- Lack of public consultation
- Absence of a publicly available Detailed Project Report (DPR)

3. Land Acquisition Disputes

- The controversy intensified when the government issued **three land acquisition notifications** related to the project.
- Residents of nearby **gated communities** have also opposed the move after their properties were listed for acquisition for the **Gandhi Sarovar project**.

Key Issues in the Debate

The Musi Riverfront project raises important urban development questions:

- **Environmental restoration vs. displacement of communities**
- **Urban beautification vs. social justice**
- **Infrastructure development vs. heritage conservation**

Critics argue that **river rejuvenation should involve local communities as stakeholders rather than displacing them**.

Conclusion

The Musi Riverfront Development Project represents an ambitious attempt to restore Hyderabad's historic river and transform it into a vibrant urban space. While the project promises environmental rejuvenation, improved infrastructure, and tourism opportunities, concerns about displacement, transparency, and land acquisition remain major challenges.

- **Balancing ecological restoration, urban development, and social justice** will be critical for the long-term success and public acceptance of the project.

Telangana Ranks 7th in NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index for 2023-24

Source: [Telangana Today](#)

Relevance: **TGPSC - Paper IV (Telangana Economy) | Fiscal Governance & Public Finance**

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Fiscal Health Index (FHI), NITI Aayog Fiscal

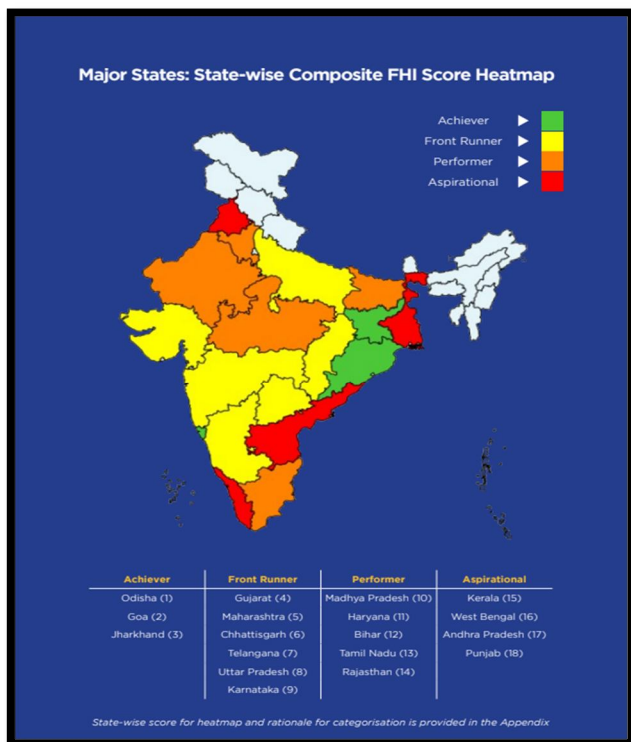
Health Index 2026, Revenue Mobilisation, Quality of Expenditure, Fiscal Prudence, State-wise Debt Index, FRBM Act, Capital Expenditure, Revenue Surplus

Mains:

- State Fiscal Management, Revenue Mobilisation Strategy, Welfare Expenditure and Fiscal Sustainability, Infrastructure-led Growth, Fiscal Prudence in State Finances, Public Debt Management

Why in News

- Telangana secured **7th rank** in NITI Aayog's **Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026** for the financial year **2023-24**.
- The State scored **44.3 points**, placing it among the **frontrunner States** in fiscal management.
- Telangana also recorded the **highest FHI score among major southern States**.



Fiscal Health Index (FHI)

The **Fiscal Health Index** released by NITI Aayog evaluates the fiscal performance of States based on indicators such as:

- Revenue mobilisation
- Quality of expenditure
- Fiscal prudence
- Debt sustainability
- Debt Index

Pillar	Definition
Quality of Expenditure	Quality of Expenditure refers to how effectively a state uses its financial resources, prioritizing productive spending such as capital investment, health, education, and infrastructure rather than routine expenses like salaries, pensions, and interest payments.
Revenue Mobilisation	Revenue Mobilisation refers to the ability of a state government to generate revenue from its own sources such as taxes and non-tax revenues, reducing dependence on transfers and grants from the central government.
Fiscal Prudence	Fiscal Prudence refers to the discipline with which a state manages its finances by controlling deficits, adhering to fiscal responsibility rules, and ensuring balanced and sustainable public finances.
Debt Index	Debt Index measures the size, composition, and burden of a

state's outstanding debt, including liabilities and interest obligations, indicating the level of financial stress and the ability to service debt.

Debt Sustainability Debt Sustainability refers to a state's ability to manage and repay its debt over the long term without compromising economic growth or essential government expenditure.

Performance of Telangana

The report highlights Telangana's **stable fiscal condition and development-oriented expenditure**.

Key observations include:

- Telangana has **consistently ranked around 7th place since its formation in 2014**, except during pandemic years.
- The State ranked **3rd in Revenue Mobilisation**, reflecting strong tax collection and financial management.
- Telangana was recognised among **achiever States in Quality of Expenditure**.
- It ranked **10th in the State-wise Debt Index**,

States	FHI Score	Rank 2023-24	Quality of Expenditure	Revenue Mobilisation	Fiscal Prudence	Debt Index	Debt Sustainability
Odisha	73.1	1	71.2	80.3	58.7	95.8	59.5
Goa	54.7	2	49.5	80.4	45.0	56.8	41.9
Jharkhand	50.5	3	66.3	37.6	54.4	67.9	26.3
Gujarat	49.9	4	48.7	44.8	51.5	74.2	30.2
Maharashtra	45.0	5	36.9	52.7	35.2	76.0	24.3
Chhattisgarh	44.3	6	60.8	48.4	8.4	72.5	31.5
Telangana	44.3	7	57.1	60.8	30.0	53.5	20.0
Uttar Pradesh	41.9	8	50.9	28.1	38.8	60.2	31.7
Karnataka	41.7	9	46.8	43.2	33.1	61.4	24.1
Madhya Pradesh	37.8	10	60.8	32.0	35.1	58.9	2.2
Haryana	34.5	11	35.8	48.0	27.3	32.8	28.7
Bihar	30.9	12	58.3	2.9	27.4	48.0	17.8
Tamil Nadu	29.8	13	30.5	39.8	21.5	39.1	18.2
Rajasthan	27.6	14	43.7	29.4	11.3	32.1	21.5
Kerala	24.8	15	4.1	47.8	24.0	23.3	24.8
West Bengal	23.8	16	37.4	12.9	22.7	20.1	25.6
Andhra Pradesh	23.1	17	43.1	21.7	9.9	36.6	4.2
Punjab	12.4	18	8.1	29.8	5.9	2.1	15.9

Source: Author's Calculations



remaining among leading States in debt management.

The report attributes these outcomes to **strong fiscal policies and development-oriented spending** during the BRS government.

Telangana's ranks in all parameters:

Parameter	Telangana Score	Telangana Rank
FHI Score	44.3	7
Quality of Expenditure	57.1	6
Revenue Mobilisation	60.8	4
Fiscal Prudence	30.0	10
Debt Index	53.5	10
Debt Sustainability	20.0	12

Growth Drivers of Telangana's Fiscal Performance

The report identified several factors behind Telangana's fiscal strength.

Increase in Capital Expenditure

- Developmental capital expenditure increased from **₹16,860 crore in 2019-20** to **₹43,918 crore in 2023-24**.
- This represents an increase of **over 160%**, reflecting major investments in infrastructure.

Expansion of Economic Services Spending

- Spending on **economic services more than doubled**, supporting economic development and infrastructure expansion.

High Social Sector Spending

- Social sector expenditure remained high at **38-39%**, indicating continued focus on welfare and human development.

Growth in Revenue Receipts

- Revenue receipts increased from **₹1.02 lakh crore (2019-20)** to **₹1.69 lakh crore (2023-24)**.

Strong State Tax Revenues

- Nearly **80% of revenue receipts** came from the State's own tax revenues, indicating a strong and self-sustaining tax base.

Growth in Non-Tax Revenues

- Non-tax revenues also increased significantly, strengthening fiscal stability.

Fiscal Prudence and Debt Management

The report notes that Telangana maintained **revenue surplus and fiscal discipline**.

Key points include:

- Fiscal deficit remained **largely within statutory limits**.
- Debt levels rose slightly above the **FRBM ceiling**, but the borrowings were mainly used for **capital creation and welfare programmes**.
- Fiscal prudence improved since **2017-20**, supported by better capital management and strong tax growth.

Role of Development-Oriented Policies

Officials indicated that the fiscal performance reflected the **policy framework adopted during the BRS government**.

Major areas of investment included:

- Irrigation infrastructure
- Urban development
- Welfare programmes
- Infrastructure expansion

These investments improved **expenditure quality and revenue mobilisation**, helping Telangana remain among the **better-performing States in fiscal management**.

Conclusion

Telangana's 7th rank in the Fiscal Health Index 2026 highlights its strong fiscal management and development-oriented spending. The State's emphasis on infrastructure investment, welfare programmes, and robust revenue mobilisation has contributed to fiscal stability while supporting economic growth. The findings underscore the importance of balanced fiscal policies that combine development spending with responsible financial management.

Netflix Eyeline Studios VFX Hub Inaugurated in Hyderabad

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: Paper - IV: Economy and Development

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Netflix Eyeline Studios, Visual Effects (VFX), Animation Visual Effects Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Sector, Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure, Generative Virtual Effects, Virtual Production Technology, Digital Content Production, Global Production Pipeline, Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), Bharat Future City

Mains:

- Creative Economy Growth, Digital Media and Entertainment Industry, AVGC Sector Development in India, Employment Generation in Creative Industries, Globalisation of Film Production Networks, Technology

Integration in Entertainment Sector, Skill Development for Digital Creative Workforce, State Policies for Media and Technology Investment

Why in News?

The Telangana government inaugurated a major Visual Effects (VFX) hub of Netflix's Eyeline Studios in Hyderabad on March 12, 2026, marking a significant development for India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) sector. The new facility is expected to strengthen India's position in global digital content production and visual storytelling.



Inauguration of Netflix Eyeline Studios VFX Hub

The Chief Minister of Telangana, A. Revanth Reddy, inaugurated the Netflix Eyeline Studios Visual Effects (VFX) hub in Hyderabad. The event was attended by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu along with senior industry representatives.

This new facility marks a major step in strengthening Hyderabad's role as a global centre for digital media production and visual effects technology.



Fifth Global Location

The Hyderabad centre is **Eyeline Studios' fifth global facility**.

Other global locations include:

- Los Angeles
- Vancouver
- Seoul
- London

The addition of Hyderabad reflects **Netflix's strategy to expand its global production and innovation infrastructure**.

Advanced Infrastructure and Technology

The VFX hub spans **32,000 square feet** and is equipped with advanced production technology.

Key technological features include:

- Advanced **Visual Effects (VFX) production systems**
- **Generative virtual effects technology**
- **Hybrid cloud infrastructure** supporting global collaboration
- Next-generation tools for **virtual production and digital storytelling**

These capabilities will allow the Hyderabad facility to contribute to **high-end visual storytelling for global entertainment projects**.

Boost to India's AVGC Sector

The facility strengthens India's growing **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) ecosystem**.

Key impacts include:

- Expansion of **high-end VFX production capabilities**
- Creation of new opportunities for **skilled digital artists and technicians**
- Integration of India into **global production pipelines**

Netflix has also indicated that it plans to **hire**

specialised VFX talent from India, highlighting the country's strong technical workforce.

Telangana Government's Vision for the Creative Economy

Target of \$1 Trillion Economy

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stated that attracting global companies is part of the state's broader strategy to achieve:

- **\$1 trillion economy by 2035**
- **\$3 trillion economy by 2047**

The government aims to host **facilities of Fortune 500 companies** as part of this long-term economic vision.

Proposal for Bharat Future City

The Chief Minister invited Netflix to consider establishing its **India headquarters in the proposed Bharat Future City** near Hyderabad.

Key details:

- Planned area: **30,000 acres**
- Intended as a **global technology and innovation hub**
- Focus on **digital industries, media technology, and future technologies**

Hyderabad as an Emerging AVGC Hub

Strong Industry Ecosystem

Union Information and Broadcasting Secretary **Sanjay Jaju** highlighted that Hyderabad already hosts **offices of several major Hollywood studios**.

The city has become a centre for:

- Film production
- Animation and VFX
- Digital storytelling

Hyderabad also gained global recognition through blockbuster films like **Baahubali**, which used advanced visual effects.



Skill Development and Talent Growth

The government is focusing on developing skilled talent for the AVGC sector.

Key initiatives include:

- Establishment of the **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)** in Hyderabad
- Collaboration between industry and government for **skill development programmes**

Job Creation Potential

According to industry leaders such as actor and producer **Rana Daggubati**, the AVGC sector has enormous employment potential.

Key projections:

- The sector may generate **around 2 million jobs in India** in the coming years.
- Hyderabad alone could create **nearly 1 million jobs** in this sector.

This offers significant opportunities for **artists, designers, animators, programmers and digital storytellers**.

Importance of the Development

The launch of Netflix's Eyeline Studios hub has multiple strategic implications.

1. Strengthening India's Global Content Production Role

The facility integrates India into **global visual effects production networks**.

2. Growth of the Creative Economy

It supports the expansion of **digital media, animation and entertainment industries**.

3. Employment Generation

The AVGC sector offers high-skilled employment opportunities for **youth in creative and technology fields**.

4. Technology and Innovation

The use of **cloud-based VFX production and virtual production tools** enhances technological capabilities in India's entertainment sector.

Conclusion

The inauguration of Netflix Eyeline Studios' VFX hub in Hyderabad marks a significant milestone for India's creative and digital economy. By strengthening the **AVGC ecosystem, promoting technological innovation, and generating employment**, the new facility reinforces Hyderabad's emergence as a **global hub for digital storytelling and visual effects production**.

Heritage Activists Seek Protection for 13th-Century Jain Shrine Near Ramappa

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Paper-II - History, Culture and Geography

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Ramappa Temple, Sri Rudreshwara Swamy Temple, Kakatiya Architecture, Jain Shrine, Vardhamana Mahavira, Tirthankara, Kadamba Nagara Shikhara, Garbhagriha, Ardha Mandapa, Monument of National Importance, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), UNESCO World Heritage Site

Mains:

- Conservation of Cultural Heritage in India, Protection of Ancient Monuments, Kakatiya Period Architecture, Role of ASI in Heritage Preservation, Religious

Diversity in Medieval Telangana,
Challenges in Heritage Conservation

Why in News?

Heritage activists and archaeology experts have urged authorities to protect and restore a **13th-century Jain shrine located near the UNESCO World Heritage site Ramappa (Sri Rudreshwara Swamy) Temple** at Palampet in Mulugu district of Telangana.

- The appeal comes after experts observed that the structure is **overgrown with vegetation and facing deterioration**, highlighting the urgent need for conservation measures.

Discovery and Condition of the Jain Shrine

During a recent field visit to the site near **Palampet village in Venkatapur mandal**, heritage experts discovered that the Jain shrine is currently in a neglected state.

The structure is:

- Covered with **wild vegetation**
- Exposed to **weathering and natural damage**
- Lacking systematic conservation efforts

Experts warned that without immediate intervention, the shrine may **suffer irreversible damage**.

Architectural Features of the Shrine

The shrine represents a fine example of **Kakatiya-period architecture from the 13th century**.

Key architectural elements include:

- **Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum)** – the inner chamber where the deity was originally installed
- **Ardha Mandapa** – a small hall or porch leading to the sanctum

- **Kadamba Nagara Shikhara** – a stepped pyramidal tower above the sanctum

Additional features include:

- **Perforated stone jalis** at the entrance
- A **decorated lintel with miniature shikharas**

Although the idol is currently missing, the shrine retains significant architectural value.

Historical and Religious Significance

Researchers identified a **stone pedestal carved with lion sculptures**, known as a “**lanchana**” (symbol).

The lion symbol is traditionally associated with **Vardhamana Mahavira**, the **24th Tirthankara of Jainism**.

- This suggests that the shrine was originally dedicated to **Lord Mahavira**, indicating the presence of **Jain religious traditions in the Kakatiya region** during the medieval period.

Vardhaman Mahavira:

- **Vardhaman Mahavira** was the **24th Tirthankara of Jainism**.
- He was born in **540 B.C.** at **Kundagrama**, near **Vaishali** in present-day **Bihar**.
- His birth anniversary is celebrated as **Mahavir Jayanti**.
- His father was **King Siddhartha**, chief of the **Jnatrika/Nata clan**.
- His mother was **Queen Trishala**.
- He belonged to the **Kshatriya varna** and the **Ikshvaku dynasty**.
- His parents were followers of **Parshvanatha**, the **23rd Tirthankara**.
- He was called **Vardhamana** because prosperity increased after his birth.
- He married **Yashoda**.
- They had **one daughter**.

Renunciation and Enlightenment

- At the age of 30, Mahavira renounced worldly life.
- He left his family and possessions in search of truth and liberation from suffering.
- He practised **severe penance, meditation, and silence** for 12 and a half years.
- He followed a life of **extreme austerity** and self-discipline.
- He attained **Kevala Jnana** (supreme knowledge or enlightenment).
- After enlightenment, he came to be known as **Jina**, meaning **the conqueror**.

Death

- Mahavira attained **Nirvana** at the age of 72.
- He died in 527 B.C. at **Pava (Pawapuri)** in present-day Bihar.

Main Teachings of Mahavira

- The highest aim of life is **liberation (moksha/nirvana)**.
- Liberation means freedom from the cycle of **birth, death, pain, and suffering**.
- Mahavira emphasised:
 - **Non-violence**
 - **Truth**
 - **Non-stealing**
 - **Non-possession**
 - **Celibacy/chastity**

Pancha Mahavratas (Five Great Vows)

- **Ahimsa** - non-violence
- **Satya** - truth
- **Asteya** - non-stealing
- **Aparigraha** - non-possession/non-attachment
- **Brahmacharya** - celibacy

Appeal for ASI Protection

The appeal for protection was led by:

- **Dr E. Sivanagi Reddy**, historian and heritage expert
- **Arvind Arya**, secretary of the Warangal-based **Team of Research on Culture and Heritage (TORCH)**

They have urged the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Hyderabad Circle**, to include the Jain shrine in the list of **protected monuments**.

The ASI has recently initiated steps to grant **“Monument of National Importance”** status to nearby structures such as:

- **A Shiva temple**
- **Gollala Gudi**

Activists argue that the Jain shrine should also receive similar protection to ensure its preservation.

Kakatiya Period Religious Diversity

The existence of the Jain shrine near the Ramappa Temple reflects the **religious diversity that flourished during the Kakatiya period (12th-14th centuries)**.

The Kakatiya rulers were known for:

- Patronage of **multiple religious traditions**
- Development of **temples and architectural monuments**
- Promotion of **regional artistic and architectural styles**

The presence of both **Hindu and Jain religious structures** in the region highlights the **pluralistic nature of medieval Telangana society**.

Importance of Heritage Conservation

Experts emphasised that preserving such monuments is important for several reasons.

Cultural Significance

- Historic monuments reflect the **artistic and**



religious traditions of past civilizations.

Historical Knowledge

- They provide valuable insights into **architecture, culture, and socio-religious practices** of earlier periods.

Tourism Potential

- Conserved monuments can enhance **heritage tourism**, particularly around the already famous **Ramappa Temple UNESCO site**.

Protection of Regional Identity

- Preserving monuments from the **Kakatiya period strengthens Telangana's cultural heritage and historical identity**.

Conclusion

The 13th-century Jain shrine near the Ramappa Temple is an important yet neglected example of **Kakatiya-era architecture and religious diversity**. Heritage activists and scholars have urged authorities to grant the shrine protected status to prevent further deterioration.

Including the structure in the **ASI's list of protected monuments** will help preserve this valuable historical site and safeguard Telangana's rich cultural legacy for future generations.

Telangana Economy Stays Resilient

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Paper -IV - Economy and Development

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Per Capita Income, Gross Value Added

(GVA), Telangana Rising Vision 2047, CURE-PURE-RARE Model, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), Inflation Rate, IT Exports Telangana, Safran-CFM MRO Facility, Life Sciences Sector Telangana

Mains:

- State Economic Growth Models, Telangana Development Strategy, Sectoral Contribution to Economy, Balanced Regional Development, Role of Services Sector in Growth, Investment Promotion and Industrial Policy, Agriculture and Allied Sector Contribution

Why in News?

The Governor of Telangana, **Shiv Pratap Shukla**, highlighted the State's strong economic performance in his address to the Legislature during the Budget session, stating that **Telangana's economy remains resilient and fast-growing**.

Telangana's Economic Performance

The State has demonstrated robust economic growth in recent years.

Key highlights include:

- **GSDP (2025-26):** ₹17.82 lakh crore
- **Growth Rate:** 10.7%
- **Contribution to India's GDP:** 4.99%
- **Per Capita Income:** ₹4,18,931 (crossed ₹4 lakh for the first time)
- **Inflation Rate:** 0.2% (well controlled)

These indicators reflect a **stable and expanding state economy**.

Vision 2047 and Long-Term Strategy

The government has launched the **"Telangana Rising Vision 2047"**, aligning with the national

goal of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Targets:

- **\$1 trillion economy by 2034**
- **\$3 trillion economy by 2047**

The vision document was prepared with inputs from:

- **NITI Aayog**
- **Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad**
- **NALSAR University of Law**

This reflects a **planned, long-term development strategy**.

CURE-PURE-RARE Development Model

The State has adopted a **polycentric growth model** through the **CURE-PURE-RARE framework** to ensure balanced regional development.

Components:

CURE (Core Urban Region Economy)

- **Focus:** Knowledge economy and innovation
- **Goal:** Develop into a **net-zero knowledge hub**

PURE (Peri-Urban Region Economy)

- **Focus:** Manufacturing and logistics
- **Goal:** Become an **industrial growth engine**

RARE (Rural Agri Region Economy)

- **Focus:** Agriculture and rural economy
- **Goal:** Promote **climate-smart agriculture, food processing, and eco-tourism**

This model aims to **reduce regional disparities and decentralize growth beyond Hyderabad**.

Investment and Industrial Growth

The State has attracted significant investments through policy initiatives.

Key Developments:

- **Telangana Rising Global Summit** secured investments worth **₹5.75 lakh crore**
- Establishment of **Safran-CFM International**

aero-engine Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Hyderabad (first and largest in India)

These developments highlight Telangana as a **major investment destination**.

Growth of Services and IT Sector

The **services sector** remains the backbone of Telangana's economy.

Key Data:

- **Contribution to GVA:** 68.6%
- **Growth Rate:** 13.5%

IT Sector:

- **IT Exports:** ₹3.13 lakh crore
- **Employment:** 9.39 lakh jobs
- Hyderabad hosts nearly **20% of India's Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**

This positions Hyderabad as a **global technology and innovation hub**.

Tourism and Life Sciences Sector

Tourism:

- **Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030** aims to attract **₹15,000 crore investment**
- Expected to generate **3 lakh jobs**

Life Sciences:

- **Investments:** ₹73,360 crore
- **Employment:** **Over 1 lakh direct jobs**

These sectors contribute significantly to **diversification of the economy**.

Agriculture and Allied Sectors

Agriculture continues to play a vital role in Telangana's economy.

Key Highlights:

- **Budget Allocation:** ₹26,684 crore (2025-26)
- **Foodgrain Production:** **236.87 lakh metric tonnes (record level)**
- **Livestock and Fisheries Contribution:** ₹1.11

lakh crore

The focus is on **productivity, sustainability, and rural income growth.**

Importance of the Development

The strong performance of Telangana's economy has multiple implications:

1. Balanced Growth

- The **CURE-PURE-RARE model** promotes equitable development across urban, peri-urban, and rural regions.

2. Investment Hub

- Large-scale investments enhance Telangana's position as a **preferred destination for global companies.**

3. Employment Generation

- Growth in IT, tourism, and life sciences sectors creates **large-scale job opportunities.**

4. Economic Diversification

- Balanced contribution from **services, industry, and agriculture** ensures economic stability.

Conclusion

Telangana's economy has demonstrated strong resilience through sustained growth, rising income levels, and diversified sectoral development. With strategic initiatives such as **Vision 2047, investment promotion, and balanced regional development models**, the State is positioning itself as a leading economic powerhouse in India.

- Continued focus on innovation, infrastructure, and inclusive growth will be crucial for achieving its long-term targets of becoming a **\$3 trillion economy by 2047.**

Hyderabad Scientist Elected President of World Neem Organisation

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **GS Paper III - Agriculture, Biotechnology, Environment; Telangana Current Affairs**

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- World Neem Organisation (WNO), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Bio-pesticides, Organic Agriculture, International Neem Summit 2026, Global Neem Trade Fair, BioAgri Inputs Producers Association, Neem-based Products, Sustainable Farming, Agri-biotechnology

Mains:

- Sustainable Agriculture, Organic Farming Promotion, Bio-inputs and Green Alternatives, Agricultural Biotechnology Innovation, Environmental Conservation through Agro-practices, Farmer Income Diversification, Reduction of Chemical Dependency, Climate-resilient Agriculture, Global Agro-trade in Natural Products

Why in News?

A Hyderabad-based scientist, **Venkatesh Devanur**, has been elected as the **President of the World Neem Organisation (WNO)** during the **International Neem Summit 2026** held in Pune.

About the Appointment

Dr. Venkatesh Devanur is a noted **agri-biotech**



entrepreneur and scientist known for his contributions to:

- Bio-pesticides
- Organic agriculture
- Sustainable farming practices

Key highlights:

- Previously served as **Vice President of WNO**
- Founding member of the **BioAgri Inputs Producers Association**
- Pioneer in promoting **neem-based agricultural solutions in India**

About World Neem Organisation (WNO)

The **World Neem Organisation** is an international non-profit body dedicated to promoting the **use of neem in agriculture, health, and industry**.

Key Objectives

- Promote **neem cultivation globally**
- Support **research on medicinal and agricultural benefits**
- Encourage production and trade of **neem-based products**
- Create awareness about **sustainable farming practices**
- Provide a platform for **scientists, farmers, and industry stakeholders**

The election took place during the **3rd International Neem Summit** and the **4th Global Neem Trade Fair** held in Pune

International Neem Summit 2026

Key Highlights

- Participation of **150+ delegates** including:
 - Scientists
 - Farmers
 - Industry representatives
- Release of:
 - **A White Paper on the Neem Industry**

- **A documentary on neem seed collection and processing**

Importance of Neem in Agriculture and Environment

Neem (**Azadirachta indica**) is widely known for its ecological and economic significance.

Key Benefits

- **Natural bio-pesticide:** Reduces dependence on chemical pesticides
- **Soil health improvement:** Enhances fertility and microbial activity
- **Medicinal value:** Used in traditional medicine systems
- **Eco-friendly:** Supports sustainable and organic farming
- **Climate resilience:** Helps in biodiversity conservation

Significance of the Development

- Strengthens India's leadership in **organic agriculture and bio-inputs**
- Promotes **global adoption of neem-based solutions**
- Boosts **agri-biotechnology innovation**
- Enhances opportunities for **farmers and green enterprises**
- Supports **sustainable agriculture and environmental protection**

Conclusion

The election of Dr. Venkatesh Devanur as President of the World Neem Organisation highlights India's growing role in promoting **eco-friendly agricultural practices**. With increasing global emphasis on sustainability, neem-based solutions can play a crucial role in reducing chemical dependency, improving farm productivity, and supporting environmental conservation.

Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: Regional Current Affairs

Important Key Words for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims:

- Telangana Gaddar Film Awards, HITEX Convention Centre, NTR National Film Award, Paidi Jairaj Film Award, C. Narayana Reddy Award

For Mains:

- Cultural Policy, Film Industry as Soft Power, Role of State in Promoting Cinema, Creative Economy, Cultural Identity and Regional Expression

Why in News?

- The **Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025** were held in Hyderabad, celebrating excellence in Telugu cinema.
- The event brought together **film personalities, government representatives, and audiences**, highlighting cinema as both an industry and a cultural medium.



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy along with actors Konidela Chiranjeevi and Kamal Haasan at the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025 in Hyderabad on Thursday, March 19. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

Key Highlights of the Event

- Venue: **HITEX Convention Centre, Hyderabad**
- Organised by: **Telangana Government**
- Conducted for the **second consecutive year**

Event Features

- Cultural performances and award presentations
- Participation of leading film personalities and policymakers
- Tribute performances and musical renditions
- Recognition of jury members before main awards

Notable Dignitaries Present

- Chief Minister **A. Revanth Reddy**
- Deputy CM **Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka**
- Tourism Minister **Jupally Krishna Rao**
- Prominent actors including Chiranjeevi, Kamal Haasan, Rashmika Mandanna, Ram Charan



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy along with actors Madhuri Dixit, Ritesh Deshmukh, Genelia Deshmukh, Telangana Film Development Corporation chairman Dil Raju and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on the sidelines of the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025 at HITEX Convention Centre in Hyderabad on March 19, 2026. | Photo Credit: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Major Award Winners

Top Honours

- **NTR National Film Award - Konidela Chiranjeevi**



- **Paidi Jairaj Film Award** – Kamal Haasan
- **C. Narayana Reddy Award** – Suddala Ashok Teja

Lifetime Achievement Honours

- Singeetham Srinivasa Rao
- Jayasudha

Feature Film Awards

- **First Best Feature Film:** *Raju Weds Rambai*
- **Best Director:** Saailu Kaampati (*Raju Weds Rambai*)
- **Best Leading Actor:** Akkineni Naga Chaitanya (*Thandel*)
- **Best Feature Film on National Integration:** *Thandel*
- **Best Leading Actress:** Rashmika Mandanna (*The Girlfriend*)

Cultural and Institutional Significance

1. Recognition of Cinema as Cultural Expression

- Awards named after **Gaddar**, symbolising:
 - cultural identity
 - social voice of Telangana

2. Promotion of Regional Cinema

- Highlights growth of **Telugu cinema beyond regional boundaries**
- Recognises both **artistic and socially relevant films**

3. Platform for Creative Talent

- Encourages actors, filmmakers, musicians, and writers
- Provides **credible recognition through structured evaluation**

Role of Government and Film Industry

- The Telangana government aims to:
 - strengthen ties with the film industry

- promote cinema as an **economic and cultural sector**
- Film Development Corporation plays a role in:
 - organising events
 - ensuring transparency in awards

Significance

1. Strengthening Creative Economy

- Film industry contributes to employment, tourism, and revenue

2. Cultural Diplomacy

- Cinema acts as a medium of **soft power and cultural outreach**

3. Social Reflection

- Films reflect **social themes and public issues**, enhancing awareness

4. Institutional Recognition

- Establishes a **formal and credible platform for film awards**

Challenges / Concerns

- Ensuring transparency and fairness in award selection
- Balancing commercial success with artistic merit
- Sustaining long-term institutional credibility

Way Forward

- Institutionalise awards as a **permanent annual platform**
- Expand participation at national and international levels
- Promote regional cinema globally
- Strengthen infrastructure and policy support for film industry

Conclusion

The Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025 highlight the growing importance of cinema as both a **cultural expression and an economic sector**. By recognising excellence and encouraging creative talent, the initiative strengthens the role of cinema in shaping society and regional identity.

Telangana CM to Inaugurate Oil Palm Factory at Narmetta

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC Paper – IV: Economy and Development

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Oil Palm Cultivation, Edible Oil Import Dependence, Oil Extraction Ratio, Integrated Oil Palm Processing, Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIPR), Captive Power Plant, Biogas Unit, Agro-Processing Infrastructure, Rythu Mahotsavams

Mains:

- Agricultural Diversification, Edible Oil Self-Sufficiency, Value Chain Development in Agriculture, Agro-Industrialisation, Farmer Income Enhancement, Import Substitution Strategy, Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Use

Why in News?

The Telangana Chief Minister **A. Revanth Reddy** is set to inaugurate a **major oil palm processing factory at Narmetta (Siddipet district)**. The project assumes significance in the context of **India's heavy dependence on edible oil imports** and the push for **self-reliance in oilseed production**.



Inauguration and Key Events

- Inaugurate the **oil palm factory**
- Lay the foundation stone for **Telangana's first integrated oil refinery**

Extensive administrative arrangements have been made including **security, infrastructure, and emergency services**, indicating the project's importance.

Background and Policy Context

- Project conceptualised during the **BRS government**
- Foundation laid in **April 2022**
- Supported by **Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIPR)** approval
- Investment:

- ₹300 crore (factory)
- ₹40 crore (refinery)

Policy Linkages

- Aligns with:
 - National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)
 - Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative

Focus on reducing **import dependence on edible oils**

Oil Palm

1. Origin & Yield

- Native to **tropical rainforests of West Africa**
- High-yield crop; **highest vegetable oil per hectare**
- Oil yield **≈ 5 times higher** than traditional oilseeds

2. Types of Oil

- **Palm Oil:** From *mesocarp* (45-55% oil content)
- **Palm Kernel Oil:** From *kernel* (rich in lauric oil)

3. Cultivation in India

- **Major States:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala (~98% production)
- **Other States:** Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland

4. Potential

- Total potential area: **~28 lakh hectares**
- Area under cultivation: **~3.7 lakh hectares**

5. Imports

- India = **world's largest palm oil importer**
- Imports (2023-24): **~9.2 million tonnes**
- **~60% of edible oil imports** = palm oil
- Major sources: **Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand**

Detailed Features of the Narmetta Oil Palm Factory

1. Processing Capacity

- Initial: **30 tonnes/hour**
- Maximum: **120 tonnes/hour** (among highest in India)

2. Integrated Refining Facility

- First **integrated refinery in Telangana**
- Enables:
 - Processing → Refining → Packaging at same location
 - Reduces logistical inefficiencies

3. Area Coverage

- Designed to process produce from **40,000 acres annually**

4. Infrastructure Components

- **10 crore litre water reservoir**
- **Biogas plant** (energy recovery)
- **4 MW captive power plant**
- Ensures **energy efficiency and operational sustainability**

5. Higher Oil Recovery Efficiency

- 100 tonnes fruit → **20 tonnes oil**
- Higher than conventional plants (~19 tonnes)
- Leads to **better farmer remuneration**

6. Waste-to-Wealth Approach

By-products used for:

- Organic fertilisers
- Fish feed
- Industrial materials (e.g., mattress manufacturing)
- Promotes **circular economy principles**

7. Employment Generation

- **1,000+ direct and indirect jobs**
- Boost to **local rural economy**



Role in Strengthening Value Chain

Currently:

- Oil palm from Telangana is transported to **Aswaraopet plant**

After Narmetta:

- Local processing + refining
- Direct **market-ready oil supply**

Strengthens entire **farm-to-market value chain**

Oil Palm Cultivation: State and National Scenario

Telangana

- Total area: **~2.91 lakh acres**
- Siddipet: **~14,300 acres**
- Expansion trend: Rapid growth in last 5 years
- Multiple factories under development

India

- High dependence on **imported edible oil**
- Potential cultivation area: **~70 lakh acres**
- Oil palm offers **highest oil yield per hectare among oilseeds**

Economic, Agricultural and Strategic Significance

1. Import Substitution

- Reduces reliance on **foreign edible oil markets**

2. Farmer Income Enhancement

- Higher yields + better processing efficiency
- Assured market access

3. Agro-Industrial Development

- Promotes **rural industrialisation**
- Integrates agriculture with processing industries

4. Food and Nutritional Security

- Strengthens **domestic edible oil availability**

5. Regional Development

- Development beyond urban centres
- Boost to **semi-urban and rural economies**

Rythu Mahotsavams and Extension Services

- Conducted prior to inauguration
- Participation from **farmers across districts**

Key Features:

- 150+ stalls** showcasing:
 - Agricultural mechanisation
 - Oil palm practices
 - Allied sectors (dairy, fisheries, horticulture)
- Scientists provided:
 - Technical guidance**
 - Awareness on **modern farming techniques**
 - Strengthens **agricultural extension ecosystem**

Environmental and Sustainability Concerns

- Oil palm is **water-intensive crop**
- Risk of:
 - Over-extraction of groundwater
 - Monoculture expansion
 - Requires **region-specific planning and sustainability safeguards**

Challenges in Oil Palm Expansion

- Long gestation period (**3-4 years**)
- Price volatility in global edible oil markets
- Limited awareness among farmers
- Ecological concerns (land use changes)
- Need for strong **processing infrastructure linkage**

Way Forward

- Promote **sustainable oil palm cultivation practices**
- Integrate with:
 - Micro-irrigation systems
 - Climate-resilient agriculture
- Strengthen:
 - Farmer training
 - Institutional support (FPOs)
- Ensure **environmental safeguards** in expansion
- Improve **market linkages and price stability mechanisms**

Conclusion

The Narmetta oil palm factory marks a significant step in **strengthening India's edible oil ecosystem through value addition, infrastructure development, and farmer-centric growth**. By integrating processing, refining, and marketing, the project enhances efficiency and income opportunities.

However, long-term success will depend on ensuring **sustainability, resource management, and balanced agricultural diversification**, making it a crucial component of India's journey towards **self-reliance in edible oils**.

14th Century Hero Stone Inscription Found in Prakasam

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Group 1& 2 - Indian History (Medieval), Art & Culture (Inscriptions and Memorial Stones)

Important Key Words for Prelims and Mains

For Prelims

- Hero Stone (Veeragallu), Telugu Script, Vira-gotra, Medieval Inscriptions, Cattle Raid Tradition

For Mains

- Memorial Culture, Social History through Inscriptions, Rural Warfare Traditions, Cultural Practices in Medieval South India

Why in News?

A 14th-century hero stone inscription has been discovered at Vemavaram village in Prakasam

district, Andhra Pradesh by the Archaeological Society of India.



The inscription, written in Telugu script, commemorates the death of three warriors—Amnayavira, Tipurayavira, and Mummayavira—identified as the sons of Bhokkana of the Vira-gotra. (Image: DC)

Deccan chronicle





What are Hero Stones?

- Hero stones (Veeragallu) are **memorial stones erected in honour of warriors** who died in battle or while performing acts of bravery.
- Common in **South India**, especially during the **medieval period**.
- Often depict themes such as:
 - Cattle raids and protection
 - Village defence
 - Sacrifice in warfare

They serve as important sources for reconstructing **local history and social practices**.

Key Findings of the Discovery

- **Location:** Vemavaram village, Marripudi mandal, Prakasam district
- **Period:** 14th Century (Medieval period)
- **Script:** Telugu script

Inscription Details

- Commemorates **three warriors**:
 - Amnayavira
 - Tipurayavira
 - Mummayavira
- Identified as sons of **Bhokkana of Vira-gotra**

Theme

- Warriors died while **rescuing cattle**
- Reflects a **common motif in hero stones of the period**

Historical and Cultural Context

- Cattle raids were significant in **agrarian societies** as cattle represented wealth and livelihood.
- Protection of cattle was considered an act of **valour and social duty**.
- Hero stones reflect:

- **Clan identities (e.g., Vira-gotra)**
- Local conflicts and defence mechanisms
- Social honour attached to sacrifice

Significance of the Discovery

1. Source of Local History

- Provides insights into **regional socio-political conditions**
- Highlight's role of **local warriors and clans**

2. Cultural Understanding

- Demonstrates traditions of **honouring bravery and sacrifice**

3. Linguistic Value

- Telugu script inscription helps trace **language evolution and usage**

4. Archaeological Importance

- Adds to database of **medieval inscriptions in South India**

Challenges in Preservation

- Weathering and erosion of inscriptions
- Lack of awareness at local level
- Threat from urbanisation and land use changes

Way Forward

- Documentation and digitisation of inscriptions
- Community participation in heritage conservation
- Inclusion in local tourism and educational programmes
- Strengthening archaeological surveys

Conclusion

The discovery of the 14th-century hero stone inscription in Prakasam district provides valuable insights into the **social, cultural, and historical fabric of medieval Andhra Pradesh**, highlighting

traditions of bravery, community values, and regional identity.

Mudumal Menhirs Excavation to Strengthen UNESCO World Heritage Bid

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

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

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- Mudumal Menhirs, Megalithic Site, Menhir, Solstice, Equinox, Thermoluminescence Dating, Carbon Dating, NGRI, CCMB

Mains:

- Cultural Heritage Conservation, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Archaeological Excavation, Scientific Dating Techniques, Ancient Astronomy, Telangana History

Why in News?

The Telangana Department of Heritage is set to undertake **scientific excavations at the Mudumal Menhirs site in Narayanpet district**, with the objective of strengthening its candidature for **UNESCO World Heritage status**. The site is already included in UNESCO's **tentative list**, and the excavation aims to generate crucial scientific evidence to establish its **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)**, which is a key requirement for final recognition.

Location and Background of the Site

- The Mudumal Menhirs site is located in **Narayanpet district, Telangana**
- Locally known as **Niluralla Thimappa**
- Belongs to the **Megalithic period**, dating back approximately **3,000 years**

The site represents the cultural, technological, and intellectual achievements of ancient communities that inhabited the region.



What are Menhirs?

- Menhirs are **large upright standing stones** erected by prehistoric communities
- They are often associated with:
 - Burial practices
 - Ritualistic activities
 - Astronomical observations

At Mudumal, these structures are not isolated but form a **complex archaeological landscape**, indicating advanced planning and cultural sophistication.

Key Features of Mudumal Menhirs

The site is significant due to its scale, structure, and scientific importance:

- Contains around **80 menhirs**, each measuring **3-5 metres in height**



- Accompanied by **thousands of alignment stones** measuring **1-1.5 metres**
- Spread originally over an area of **about 80 acres**
- Includes **megalithic stone circles**, indicating burial or ritual significance

Astronomical Significance

One of the most remarkable aspects of the site is its **astronomical alignment and knowledge**:

- Menhirs and stones are arranged in **precise rows**
- Alignments correspond with:
 - **Rising and setting sun during solstices**
 - **Equinoxes**
- Presence of **cup marks on stones** depicting constellations such as:
 - **Ursa Major (Saptarshi Mandala)**
 - **Leo**

These features suggest that the site may have functioned as an **early astronomical observatory**, reflecting sophisticated knowledge of celestial phenomena.

Institutional Collaboration

The project involves multiple scientific institutions:

- **Department of Heritage (Telangana)** - Lead agency
- **National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)** - Documentation and thermoluminescence dating
- **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad** - DNA analysis
- **Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany, Lucknow** - Scientific testing
- **Beta Labs, USA** - Carbon dating and metal analysis

Techniques to be Used

- **Thermoluminescence Dating** - Determines age of materials exposed to heat
- **Carbon Dating** - Establishes chronological age of organic remains
- **DNA Analysis** - Provides insights into ancient populations
- **Metal Analysis** - Studies technological capabilities

These methods will provide **scientific validation of the site's antiquity and significance**

Types of Megaliths in India

Category	Type	Description	Example (India)
Polyolithic (Multiple Stones)	Dolmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomb structure made of three or more upright stones with a large flat capstone. • Usually a single-chamber burial. • Often covered with earth or smaller stones to form a barrow. 	Hire Benkal, Karnataka
	Cairn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man-made pile of stones, often conical in shape. • Found in uplands, hills, or near water bodies. 	Ottiyambakkam, Tamil Nadu

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used as burial monuments or markers; sometimes linked to astronomical purposes. 	
	Cromlech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term used for prehistoric stone structures (origin from British usage). Often refers to stone circles or dolmen-like arrangements. 	Found in various parts of South India
	Cist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stone-lined burial chamber used to enclose dead bodies. Sometimes associated with other megalithic structures. 	Brahmagiri, Karnataka
Monolithic Type (Single Stone)	Menhir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single upright standing stone. Shapes vary from irregular to tapering forms. Likely used for ritual, commemorative, or burial purposes. 	Ellarigudem, Telangana
	Stone Circle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrangement of standing stones in circular or elliptical form. May mark burial sites or ritual spaces. 	Junapani, Madhya Pradesh

Project Details

- Excavation expected to begin in the **second week of April**
- Duration: **60 days**
- Funding requested: **₹50 lakh from the State Government**
- Approved by: **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**

Importance for UNESCO World Heritage Status

For a site to be recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it must demonstrate **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)**.

Role of Excavation

- Provides **scientific evidence** supporting:
 - Historical significance
 - Cultural uniqueness
 - Technological advancement
- Strengthens India's case for **global**

recognition of the site

Cultural and Historical Significance

The Mudumal Menhirs site offers insights into:

- Cultural traditions** of ancient communities
- Ritual practices and burial systems**
- Early scientific and astronomical knowledge**

It reflects a **high level of social organisation and intellectual development** in prehistoric South India

Broader Significance

- Enhances understanding of **Megalithic culture in India**
- Strengthens Telangana's position in **heritage tourism and cultural mapping**
- Contributes to **global archaeological knowledge**



Conclusion

The excavation of the Mudumal Menhirs marks a crucial step in uncovering the scientific, cultural, and astronomical significance of this ancient site. By generating robust evidence through advanced scientific methods, the project is expected to strengthen its bid for UNESCO World Heritage status.

- The site stands as a testament to the **technological sophistication and cosmological understanding of early human societies**, reinforcing the importance of preserving and studying India's rich archaeological heritage.

CSIR-IICT Converts "Unrecyclable" Plastic Waste into Fuel, Plastics and Hydrogen

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: **Paper- V - Science & Technology**

Important Key Words

Prelims:

- CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Multilayer Plastic Waste, FMCG Wrappers, Catalytic Pyrolysis, Plastic Pyrolysis Oil (PPO), Catalytic Cracking, Steam Reforming, Light Olefins (Ethylene, Propylene, Butylene), Hydrogen Production, Waste-to-Wealth, Circular Economy

Mains:

- Waste Management, Plastic Pollution, Technological Innovation, Sustainable Development, Circular Economy Model,

Energy Security, Clean Energy Transition, Resource Efficiency, Urban Waste Solutions, Environmental Sustainability

Why in News?

Scientists at the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (Hyderabad) have developed an innovative process to convert **multilayer plastic waste such as FMCG wrappers into fuel, plastic feedstock, and hydrogen**. This breakthrough addresses a long-standing challenge in waste management, as such plastics were traditionally considered non-recyclable.

The Problem: Multilayer Plastic Waste

Everyday items like chips packets and snack wrappers are made of multilayer plastics, which pose a serious environmental challenge. Unlike single-layer plastics or materials such as glass, these cannot be easily melted, reused, or decomposed.

As a result, millions of such wrappers:

- End up in landfills
- Are burnt, releasing toxic fumes
- Are washed into rivers and lakes

This has made multilayer plastic one of the most persistent and problematic forms of waste globally.

Scientific Innovation by CSIR-IICT

- To address this issue, a research team from the Chemical Engineering and Process Technology (CE&PT) department, led by scientist Vineet Aniya, has developed a **novel conversion process using catalytic pyrolysis**.
- The process begins with the collection, shredding, and compression of plastic wrappers. These are then heated in a



specialised reactor under controlled conditions. At high temperatures, the plastic breaks down into vapours, which are cooled and condensed into a liquid known as **Plastic Pyrolysis Oil (PPO)**.

Nature and Uses of Plastic Pyrolysis Oil (PPO)

- **Basic Nature:**
 - Resembles crude petroleum
 - Dark, viscous liquid
 - Contains sulphur, metals, and particulates
- **Technical Characteristics:**
 - Thicker than conventional refinery feedstock
- **Direct Use:**
 - Suitable for industrial applications (e.g., ship boilers)
- **Core Significance:**
 - Value lies beyond basic use as fuel
 - Can be further upgraded into higher-value products

Advanced Conversion into High-Value Products

The scientists refined the process further to maximise output from waste. Using advanced techniques, PPO is converted into:

- **Light olefins (ethylene, propylene, butylene)** through catalytic cracking
- **Hydrogen** through steam reforming

These outputs are highly significant:

- Olefins are key building blocks in the manufacturing of new plastics
- Hydrogen is a critical component of the emerging clean energy economy

This dual process enables the extraction of multiple valuable products from a single waste source.

Key Breakthrough

The combination of catalytic cracking and steam reforming represents a major technological advancement. It allows:

- Production of fuel
- Generation of plastic raw materials
- Creation of hydrogen

All from discarded plastic wrappers that were previously considered unusable. This makes the system both efficient and resource-maximising.

Economic and Scalability Potential

One of the most important aspects of this innovation is its economic feasibility. Plastic waste is available at virtually no cost, making even small decentralised plants viable.

For instance:

- A unit processing **one tonne of plastic waste per day** can operate economically
- Decentralised units can produce oil locally
- The oil can then be aggregated at central facilities for further processing

This model is scalable and can be replicated across urban centres in India.

Environmental and Strategic Significance

This innovation has multiple environmental benefits. It reduces the accumulation of plastic waste in landfills, minimises open burning, and prevents pollution of water bodies.

- At a strategic level, it also addresses India's growing dependence on fossil fuels. With plastic demand increasing at about 6% annually and imports of fossil-based naphtha rising nearly 19% each year, this technology offers an alternative by converting domestic waste into valuable resources.



Waste to Wealth Transformation

The process fundamentally changes the perception of plastic waste. What was once a liability for municipal bodies is now transformed into a resource for:

- Fuel production
- Industrial raw materials
- Clean energy generation

This represents a clear shift towards a **waste-to-wealth model**, aligning with the principles of a circular economy.

Conclusion

The CSIR-IICT innovation demonstrates how scientific research can address complex environmental challenges while contributing to economic and energy goals. By converting unrecyclable plastic waste into fuel, olefins, and hydrogen, it integrates waste management with industrial production and clean energy.

- This breakthrough highlights the potential of transforming environmental liabilities into strategic assets, paving the way for sustainable development and resource efficiency.

Over 70 Protected Monuments Vanish in Telangana

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Paper-II - History, Culture and Geography

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- Megalithic Burials, Cairns, Stone Circles, Cromlechs, Neolithic Artifacts

Mains:

- Heritage Conservation, Urbanisation, Cultural Loss, Archaeological Sites

Why in News

More than **70 state-protected monuments in Telangana** have reportedly vanished on the ground, though they continue to exist in official records.

Background

Telangana has **346 state-protected monuments** under the Department of Heritage. These include:

- Prehistoric burial sites
- Megalithic burials
- Buddhist, Jain, Hindu and Islamic religious sites
- Forts and British-period monuments

Key Findings

Disappearance of Monuments

- **Over 70 monuments have disappeared physically** but remain listed in official records.

Field Observations

- Heritage activists conducted extensive field visits.
- Many listed monuments were found missing on the ground.

Major Causes of Disappearance

1. Rapid Urbanisation:

- Expansion of cities and infrastructure projects leading to encroachment of heritage sites and complete destruction of archaeological remains

2. Agricultural Expansion:

- Conversion of protected sites into farmland; example – Kondaparthi cairns site where stone circles were removed and paddy cultivation introduced

3. Lack of Monitoring and Enforcement:

- No regular field verification; weak enforcement of protection laws; sites exist only “on paper”

4. Administrative Neglect:

- Poor coordination between departments; absence of updated heritage databases

Examples of Lost Sites

- Bizigiri, Jammikunta (Karimnagar district)
- Vastapur, Raikal (Jagtial district)
- Madhira (Khammam district)

Activists' Suggestions

- Comprehensive review of the protected

monuments list

- Delisting of vanished sites
- Inclusion of deserving sites
- Ensuring accuracy and conservation

Government Response

- Memo to be issued to district heritage officers
- Collection of information on missing sites
- De-protection of vanished sites after verification

Financial Constraint

- Proposed allocation: ₹175 crore
- Actual allocation: ₹3 crore
- Funding insufficient even to conserve a single site

List of Vanished Sites

District	Location / Site	Type of Site
Karimnagar	Bizigiri, Jammikunta	Megalithic burials
Jagtial	Vastapur, Raikal	Megalithic burials
Khammam	Madhira	Prehistoric flakes, cores & stone implements
Khammam	SR & BGNR College area	Megalithic burials
Bhadradi Kothagudem	Waira	Megalithic burials
Bhadradi Kothagudem	Mallaram, Manuguru	Stone circles & burials
Bhadradi Kothagudem	Palvancha	Megalithic burials
Mahbubnagar	Badepalli, Jadcherla	Cairns (Rakasi Gullu)
Mahbubnagar	Jadcherla	Stone circles
Mahbubnagar	Nazrullabad	Cairns
Nagarkurnool	Kollapur (Fathepur)	Cairns
Nagarkurnool	Dindi Project area	Cairns sites
Nagarkurnool	Kothur	Stone circles
Wanaparthi	Balanagar	Stone circle (megalithic burial)
Rangareddy	Farooqnagar (Mughalgida)	Megalithic burials
Rangareddy	Chevella (Gundala,	Megalithic burials



	Kethireddypalli, Shapur)	
Hyderabad	Tolichowki / Charminar (Tolukatta)	Neolithic artifacts
Medchal-Malkajgiri	Moula Ali	Cairns & cromlechs
Medchal-Malkajgiri	Alwal / Bowenpally	Cairns
Medchal-Malkajgiri	Balanagar (Hasmathpet)	Cairns
Medchal-Malkajgiri	Kukatpally	Megalithic burials
Siddipet	Ponnal	Proto-historic burials
Kamareddy	Yellareddy	Cairns
Kamareddy	Mahur	Megalithic burials
Nizamabad	Armur (Kolhapur)	Megalithic burials
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	Raigir (Bhongir)	Cairns
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	Nagavaram (Valigonda)	Stone circles
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	Shaligouraram (B. Yadagiri)	Cairn circles
Nalgonda	Nakirekal	Stone circles, cairns & menhirs
Hanamkonda	Alipur	Stone circles
Hanamkonda	Hunter Road	Cairns
Hanamkonda	Kondaparthi	Cairns
Hanamkonda	Arepalli	Cairns
Warangal	Hasanparthy (Sidapur)	Stone circles
Mulugu	Mulugu Road	Cairns
Jangaon	Ghanpur Station	Megalithic burials
Mahbubabad	Dornakal	Flakes, cores and neoliths

Way Forward

- 1. Comprehensive Heritage Audit:** Physical verification of all protected sites; updating official records
- 2. Strengthening Legal Protection:** Strict enforcement against encroachments; penal action for destruction
- 3. Increased Funding Allocation:** Adequate budget for conservation; public-private partnerships
- 4. Community Participation:** Involving local communities in protection; awareness programmes
- 5. Integration with Urban Planning:** Heritage-

sensitive development policies; mandatory heritage impact assessments

Conclusion

The disappearance of over 70 protected monuments in Telangana highlights a **serious crisis in heritage governance and conservation**. It reflects the growing tension between development and preservation. Unless urgent corrective measures are taken, Telangana risks losing a significant portion of its **prehistoric and cultural legacy**, which cannot be restored once destroyed.

Telangana's Parental Support Salary Bill, 2026

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: **GS Paper II - Governance & Social Justice**

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- Maintenance Act, Senior Citizens Commission, Salary Apportionment

Mains:

- Elderly welfare, Social security, Family responsibility, State intervention

Why in News?

The Telangana Legislative Assembly has passed a significant welfare-oriented Bill aimed at strengthening financial support for elderly parents by making salaried children legally accountable.



About the Bill

The proposed legislation, titled “**Telangana Employees Accountability and Monitoring of Parental Support Act, 2026**”, mandates a portion of an employee’s salary to be transferred directly to

dependent parents under specified conditions.

This initiative supplements the existing framework under the **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007**, by introducing stricter enforcement mechanisms.

Key Provisions

1. Mandatory Financial Support

- Employees may be required to transfer:
 - **15% of monthly gross salary OR**
 - **₹10,000**
- **Whichever is lower** will be applicable.

2. Applicability

The Bill applies to:

- State government employees
- Employees of private organizations operating in Telangana
- Employees of State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)
- Elected representatives (MLAs, MLCs, local body members)
- Employees of government-controlled corporations

3. Application Process

- Either or both dependent parents can file an application.
- Application must be submitted to the **District Collector (Designated Authority)**.
- Parents must prove:
 - Lack of sufficient income
 - Financial dependency on the employee

4. Role of Designated Authority

- The **District Collector** will:
 - Verify eligibility
 - Hear both parties
 - Decide within **60 days**
- If approved:
 - Salary portion is directly credited to parents’ bank accounts

5. Appeal Mechanism

- If:
 - Application is rejected OR
 - Not decided within 60 days
- Appeal can be made to the **Senior Citizens Commission** within **45 days**

6. Penalties

- Employers failing to comply with orders may face penalties imposed by:
 - District Collector OR
 - Senior Citizens Commission

7. Withdrawal Provision

- Parents can:
 - Withdraw application
 - Cancel orders
 - Do so at any stage of proceedings or after implementation

Need for the Bill

Although the **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007** exists, its enforcement has been weak due to:

- Lengthy legal processes
- Lack of monitoring
- Increasing cases of elderly neglect

This Bill aims to:

- Ensure **direct and enforceable financial support**
- Reduce dependency on litigation
- Strengthen **social security for senior citizens**

Significance

1. Social Justice

- Reinforces family responsibility in a legal framework

2. Administrative Innovation

- Introduces **salary-based enforcement**, unlike existing complaint-driven mechanisms

3. Targeted Welfare

- Focuses on **financial vulnerability of elderly parents**

Concerns & Criticism

- Possible **misuse of provisions**
- Increased **administrative burden on district collectors**
- Questions on **privacy and autonomy of salaried individuals**
- Overlap with existing central legislation

Status of the Bill

- Passed in the **Telangana Legislative Assembly**
- Pending approval in the **Legislative Council**
- Will require **Governor's assent** to become law

Conclusion

The *Telangana's Parental Support Salary Bill, 2026* strengthens elderly welfare by making financial support from children **legally enforceable and time-bound**. While it improves upon the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, its effectiveness will depend on **balanced implementation, preventing misuse, and protecting individual autonomy**.