

APPSC

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APPSC News Summary

Mega Sustainability Plan for Andhra Pradesh MSMEs

Source: Deccan Chronicle

Relevance: APPSC: AP Economy, industrial development, MSME policy, sustainable development

Important Key Words

For Prelims

- EESL, RAMP Programme, MSME, AP MSME & Entrepreneur Development Policy 4.0, Energy Audit, Water Audit, Industrial Clusters, Green Employment, Energy Efficiency

For Mains

- Sustainable industrialisation, MSME competitiveness, green economy, resource efficiency, climate commitments, cost reduction, clean technology deployment

Why in News?

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Union Ministry of Power, has finalised an action plan to transform Andhra Pradesh's MSME sector through advanced technologies in **energy efficiency** and **water efficiency**.

- The initiative will be implemented under the Centre's **RAMP Programme** and the **Andhra Pradesh MSME & Entrepreneur Development Policy 4.0**. It is being

described as one of India's largest MSME efficiency programmes.

Background

MSMEs are an important part of Andhra Pradesh's economy. They provide employment, support local entrepreneurship and contribute to industrial growth.

- However, many MSMEs face problems such as high electricity costs, inefficient machinery, water wastage, low productivity and limited access to modern technologies. These issues reduce their competitiveness.
- To address these problems, Andhra Pradesh is working with **EESL** to introduce energy and water-saving technologies in MSME clusters.

What is EESL?

Energy Efficiency Services Limited is a public sector company under the Union Ministry of Power.

- It works to promote energy-efficient technologies and reduce energy consumption in different sectors.
- EESL is known for implementing large-scale efficiency programmes in areas such as LED lighting, electric mobility, smart meters and energy-efficient appliances.

About RAMP Programme

RAMP stands for **Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance**.

- It is a World Bank-supported Central Sector Scheme launched by the Government of India in **2022**. It is implemented by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises during **2022-23 to 2026-27**.
- The programme aims to strengthen the MSME ecosystem by improving access to technology, finance, markets, digitisation, innovation and greening initiatives.

Key Highlights of the AP MSME Sustainability Plan

Under Phase-I of the project, EESL will implement a structured roadmap for MSME efficiency improvement in Andhra Pradesh.

The main components include:

- Cluster mapping and diagnostic studies in 15 industrial clusters
- Investment-grade energy audits for 452 MSMEs
- Water audits for 300 MSMEs
- Capacity-building workshops for MSME units
- Deployment of energy-efficient and water-efficient technologies
- Technical support for clean technology adoption
- Promotion of sustainable industrial practices

The programme is expected to improve productivity, reduce operational costs and support environmental sustainability.

Objectives of the Initiative

The main objective is to make Andhra Pradesh's MSME sector more competitive, resource-efficient

and environmentally sustainable.

The initiative aims to:

- Reduce electricity and maintenance costs
- Improve water-use efficiency
- Increase productivity of MSME units
- Promote modern and efficient technologies
- Create green employment opportunities
- Reduce industrial carbon emissions
- Support India's climate commitments
- Strengthen long-term economic sustainability of MSMEs

Significance of the Initiative

1. Reduces Cost Burden on MSMEs

- Energy and water costs are major expenses for small industries. Energy-efficient machinery and water-saving systems can reduce monthly expenditure.
- This will help MSMEs improve profits and survive in a competitive market.

2. Improves Industrial Competitiveness

- Modern technology can improve output quality, reduce wastage and increase productivity.
- This will help Andhra Pradesh MSMEs compete with larger firms and other states.

3. Supports Green Industrial Growth

- The initiative encourages clean technology and efficient resource use.
- It supports the idea of **sustainable industrialisation**, where economic growth happens without heavy environmental damage.

4. Creates Green Jobs

The programme can create employment in areas such as:

- Energy auditing
- Water management

- Clean technology installation
- Technical consulting
- Automation
- Sustainability services

This can help build a skilled green workforce in Andhra Pradesh.

5. Strengthens Climate Action

- By reducing energy use and carbon emissions, the initiative supports India's climate goals.
- It also helps industries prepare for future environmental standards and green supply chains.

Challenges

1. Financial Capacity of MSMEs

- Many MSMEs may find it difficult to invest in new technologies, even if these technologies reduce costs in the long term.

2. Low Awareness

- Small entrepreneurs may not fully understand the benefits of energy audits, water audits and green technologies.

3. Technology Adoption Gap

- Some MSMEs may lack technical knowledge to adopt and maintain modern systems.

4. Cluster-Level Differences

- Each industrial cluster has different needs. A common solution may not work for all sectors.

5. Need for Skilled Manpower

- Energy auditors, water experts and technical consultants are required for successful implementation.

6. Monitoring and Follow-Up

- Audits alone are not enough. The government must ensure that recommendations are actually implemented.

Government Initiatives and Policy Support

RAMP Programme

- RAMP supports MSMEs through technology upgradation, innovation, digitisation, market access, credit support and greening initiatives.

AP MSME & Entrepreneur Development Policy 4.0

- This policy aims to promote entrepreneurship, improve MSME competitiveness and support industrial growth in Andhra Pradesh.

MSME Growth Summit

- The work order handover to EESL was facilitated during the AP MSME Growth Summit. The summit also focused on strengthening the MSME ecosystem and promoting investment in the state.

Way Forward

- Andhra Pradesh should ensure that the energy and water audit findings are converted into practical action.
- MSMEs should be given easy access to low-interest loans, subsidies or pay-as-you-save models for adopting efficient technologies.
- The government should create cluster-specific solutions instead of one common model for all industries.
- Awareness campaigns and training workshops should be conducted in local industrial areas.
- There should be regular monitoring of

energy savings, water savings, emission reduction and employment generation.

- The state can also link this initiative with solar energy, smart metering and digital monitoring systems.

Conclusion

The EESL-led sustainability plan for Andhra Pradesh MSMEs is an important step towards **green industrial transformation**.

- It can reduce costs, improve productivity, create green jobs and make MSMEs more competitive. At the same time, it supports environmental sustainability and India's climate commitments.
- For Andhra Pradesh, this initiative can become a model for combining **industrial growth, entrepreneurship and climate responsibility**.

Vizag Data Centre: Opportunities and Challenges

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh economy, Visakhapatnam development, digital infrastructure, environment and governance

Important Key Words

For Prelims

- Google Cloud India AI Hub, Hyperscale Data Centre, 1 GW Data Centre, Subsea Cables, America-India Connect, Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure, Power Usage Effectiveness, Renewable Energy, Environmental Impact Assessment

For Mains

- Digital sovereignty, sovereign AI, data localisation, energy-water stress, environmental governance, public consultation, green data centres, digital infrastructure diplomacy, regional development

Why in News?

- Google and the Andhra Pradesh government recently broke ground for the **Google Cloud India AI Hub** in **Visakhapatnam**.
- The project is expected to involve a massive investment and includes a **1 GW hyperscale AI data centre**, high-capacity digital connectivity and international subsea cable landing infrastructure. The project is being developed with partners such as **AdaniConneX** and **Airtel Nxtra**.
- The project is seen as a major step in India's digital infrastructure growth. However, it has also raised concerns about **power demand, water use, environmental safeguards, data sovereignty and dependence on foreign technology providers**.

What is the Google Cloud India AI Hub?

The **Google Cloud India AI Hub** is a large digital infrastructure project proposed in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

It includes:

- A **1 GW hyperscale AI data centre**
- High-performance computing infrastructure
- International subsea cable connectivity
- Cloud and AI services
- Digital ecosystem development around Visakhapatnam

A **hyperscale data centre** is a very large facility that stores, processes and manages huge amounts of data. It is used for cloud computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital services and large-scale internet applications.



Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu, Kinjarapu, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and others are seen during the foundation-stone laying ceremony of the Google Cloud India AI Hub in Visakhapatnam on April 28, 2026. | Photo Credit: PTI

What is America-India Connect?

America-India Connect is Google's international digital connectivity initiative.

- It aims to develop new subsea cable routes linking India with other major regions. Google has stated that the initiative will develop a direct fibre-optic path between **Vizag and Chennai** on India's east coast and connect it with routes towards **South Africa** and the **United States**.
- This can make Visakhapatnam an important digital gateway on India's eastern coast.

Strategic Significance of the Project

1. Moves India from IT Services to Digital Infrastructure

- India has long been known for software services and coding.
- The Vizag AI Hub represents a shift towards ownership of high-end digital infrastructure such as data centres, cloud systems and AI computing capacity.

- This is important for India's ambition to become a global digital power.

2. Supports AI and Cloud Economy

Artificial intelligence requires large computing power.

A hyperscale AI hub can support:

- AI model training
- Cloud computing
- Data storage
- Digital public infrastructure
- Start-ups and enterprises
- High-performance computing services

This can strengthen India's AI ecosystem.

3. Boosts Visakhapatnam as a Digital Gateway

- The project can make Visakhapatnam India's second major gateway on the eastern seaboard.
- Subsea cable landing can improve global data connectivity and reduce dependence on existing routes.
- It can also reduce excessive dependence on older routes through Mumbai, Chennai or foreign-controlled cable paths.

4. Reduces Geopolitical Cable Risk

- Many data cables from India's western coast pass through sensitive geopolitical zones such as the **Red Sea**.
- An eastern gateway through Visakhapatnam can provide alternative routes.
- This can improve digital resilience and reduce risk from geopolitical disruptions.

5. Supports Semiconductor and Hardware Demand

- Large AI data centres require servers, chips, GPUs, cooling systems and power

equipment.

- This can indirectly create demand for high-end electronics and computing hardware.
- It may support India's broader push for semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.

6. Promotes Regional Development

The project can move high-value technology activity beyond traditional metropolitan centres.

Visakhapatnam may attract:

- Cloud companies
- AI start-ups
- Technical manpower
- Data infrastructure firms
- Cable and network companies
- Renewable energy investments

This can help Andhra Pradesh build a new technology-driven growth corridor.

Major Challenges

1. Huge Power Demand

- The proposed hub may require around **1 GW** of power.
- This is a very large electricity requirement for a single digital infrastructure facility.
- Such demand can strain the local grid and affect power availability for residents, small industries and other users.

2. Renewable Energy Challenge

- Google has pledged to use renewable energy.
- However, data centres need continuous power supply throughout the day.
- Since solar and wind power are intermittent, the project may still require backup systems, grid balancing and storage solutions.
- Backup diesel generators can affect local air quality.

3. High Water Requirement

- AI data centres generate large amounts of heat.
- In humid coastal conditions such as Visakhapatnam, efficient cooling can become difficult.
- If evaporative cooling is used, it may require large quantities of water.
- The article estimates that similar facilities may consume more than **2 million litres per day per 100 MW**. For a **1 GW** facility, this may mean nearly **20 million litres per day**.
- This raises concerns because Visakhapatnam district periodically faces water stress, especially in summer.

4. Environmental Impact

Large data centres require land, power infrastructure, cooling systems, water supply and backup generators.

Possible environmental impacts include:

- Groundwater stress
- Increased water extraction
- Local air pollution from diesel backup
- Heat generation
- Pressure on land resources
- Carbon emissions if renewable supply is not truly additional

Therefore, environmental safeguards are essential.

5. Data Sovereignty Concerns

- The project can help Indian firms store and process data within India.
- However, dependence on a single foreign cloud provider may create risks.
- India may become a location for "sovereign AI" only in physical terms, while the technology stack, algorithms, cloud architecture and decision-making remain controlled by a foreign company.

6. Vendor Lock-in

- If Indian firms and public institutions depend heavily on one proprietary cloud system, they may face vendor lock-in.
- Vendor lock-in means users become dependent on one company's technology and find it difficult or costly to shift to another provider.
- This can affect competition, digital autonomy and long-term bargaining power.

7. Public Consultation and EIA Concerns

- Rights groups have raised concerns that the project may have avoided a full environmental impact assessment and public hearings.
- For large infrastructure projects, public consultation is important because local communities may be affected by land use, water use, power infrastructure and environmental impacts.

Governance Issues

1. Need for Strong Environmental Benchmarks

State governments often offer tax holidays, land incentives and power subsidies to attract large investors.

However, these incentives should be linked with environmental conditions.

For data centres, benchmarks should include:

- Renewable energy targets
- Water-use limits
- Waste heat management
- Diesel generator restrictions
- Rainwater harvesting
- Wastewater recycling
- Local environmental monitoring

2. Need for Resource Accounting

Before approving such projects, governments should calculate their expected demand for:

- Power
- Water
- Land
- Backup fuel
- Cooling infrastructure
- Transmission systems
- Local ecological capacity

Without resource accounting, digital growth may create hidden environmental costs.

3. Need for Public Hearings

- Local communities should be informed about the project's benefits and risks.
- Public hearings help identify local concerns related to land, water, employment and pollution.
- They also make the project more transparent and democratic.

4. Need for Data Governance Framework

India needs strong rules on:

- Data localisation
- Cross-border data flows
- Cybersecurity
- Cloud procurement
- Algorithmic accountability
- Critical digital infrastructure
- Competition in cloud services

This will ensure that digital infrastructure supports national interest.

Significance for Andhra Pradesh

The Vizag AI Hub can be a major opportunity for Andhra Pradesh.

It can help the state develop as:

- A digital infrastructure hub
- An AI and cloud services centre
- A subsea cable gateway

- A technology investment destination
- A new employment and skill development centre

However, Andhra Pradesh must balance this growth with environmental sustainability and local resource security.

Challenges for Andhra Pradesh

The state will need to manage:

- Power supply for the data centre and citizens
- Water availability in summer months
- Environmental clearances
- Land-related concerns
- Public consultation
- Local employment expectations
- Urban pressure on Visakhapatnam
- Long-term ecological impact

A project of this size can become a growth engine only if it is supported by transparent and sustainable planning.

Way Forward

1. Mandatory Environmental Assessment

- Large hyperscale data centres should undergo full environmental assessment.
- This should include power, water, land, emissions, cooling systems and local ecological impact.

2. Water-Neutral Data Centre Model

The project should use:

- Recycled wastewater
- Rainwater harvesting
- Zero liquid discharge systems
- Dry cooling where feasible
- Water replenishment projects
- Real-time water-use monitoring

Freshwater use should be strictly limited.

3. 24x7 Renewable Energy Matching

- The company should not only buy renewable energy certificates.
- It should ensure real-time clean energy supply through solar, wind, storage and grid balancing.

4. Strong Public Consultation

- Local communities should be consulted before and during the project.
- The government should publish clear information on land use, water demand, employment generation and environmental safeguards.

5. Avoid Vendor Lock-in

- India should promote multi-cloud systems, open standards and domestic cloud capacity.
- Public institutions should avoid complete dependence on a single foreign provider.

6. Data Sovereignty Safeguards

- India must ensure that data storage in India is matched with Indian regulatory control, cybersecurity standards and accountability.
- Sovereign AI should mean not only local data storage but also meaningful control over infrastructure, models and governance.

7. Central Guidelines for Data Centres

India needs national standards for large data centres.

These should cover:

- Energy efficiency
- Power usage effectiveness
- Water usage effectiveness
- Renewable energy use
- Public hearings
- Local resource accounting
- Disaster resilience
- Cybersecurity

Conclusion

The Google Cloud India AI Hub in Visakhapatnam is a major step in India's digital infrastructure journey.

- It can strengthen India's AI ecosystem, improve global connectivity and make Andhra Pradesh a major digital gateway.
- However, the project also shows that AI is not only a software issue. It is also an infrastructure issue involving power, water, land, environment and governance.
- India must ensure that its rise in the digital economy does not weaken environmental protection or democratic accountability. The future of digital infrastructure should be **technologically advanced, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible.**

Andhra Gandhi Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya: Legacy Recalled on 137th Birth Anniversary

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh History, Freedom Movement in Andhra, Social Reformers and Nationalist Leaders.

Important Key Words

For Prelims:

- Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya, Andhra Gandhi, Andhra Ratna, Chirala-Perala Movement, Ramadandu, Civil Disobedience Movement, All India Congress Committee.

For Mains:

- Regional Freedom Movements, Mass Mobilisation, National Awakening,

Gandhian Methods, Volunteer Organisations, Civic Resistance, Social Reform.

Why in News?

Rich tributes were paid to freedom fighter and social reformer **Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya**, popularly known as "**Andhra Gandhi**," on his **137th birth anniversary** at Bapatla.

- The commemorative event was organised under the aegis of the **Forum for Better Bapatla**. Officials and citizens paid floral tributes to his statue and recalled his role in the **Chirala-Perala movement**, national awakening and India's freedom struggle.

Who was Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya?

Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya was a prominent freedom fighter, social reformer and nationalist leader from Andhra Pradesh.

He is popularly known as:

- **Andhra Gandhi**
- **Andhra Ratna**

He earned these titles because of his commitment to the nationalist cause, his leadership in mass movements and his ability to mobilise people through peaceful and disciplined methods.



Officials and citizens pay floral tributes to Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya in Bapatla. (Image: Youtube)

Early Life and Education

- Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya studied at the **Bapatla Board School**.
- He began his career as a **clerk in the Bapatla Taluk Office**.
- Later, he dedicated himself to public service and the freedom struggle.
- His life shows the journey of an ordinary government employee becoming an extraordinary nationalist leader.

Role in the Freedom Movement

Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya played an important role in spreading nationalist consciousness in Andhra.

He inspired people to participate in the freedom struggle and helped create political awareness among the masses.

His leadership was marked by:

- Patriotism
- Discipline
- Organisational ability
- Public mobilisation
- Social reform
- Commitment to national freedom

He was also the **first leader from Andhra to be elected as General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee**.

Chirala-Perala Movement

The **Chirala-Perala movement** was one of the most important episodes in Andhra's freedom struggle.

- Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya emerged as the hero of this movement. It was linked with resistance against colonial administrative policies and became a powerful example of mass mobilisation.
- The movement attracted national attention because it showed how people could resist

British rule through collective action and moral courage.

It became an important chapter in the larger **Civil Disobedience tradition** of India's freedom movement.

Ramadandu Volunteer Force

One of Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya's major contributions was the formation of **Ramadandu**.

Ramadandu was a volunteer force known for:

- Discipline
- Patriotism
- Spiritual motivation
- National service
- Public mobilisation

It helped organise people during the freedom movement and created a sense of unity, sacrifice and courage among citizens.

Educational and Social Contributions

In **1920**, Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya established the **Madandhra Vidyapeeth Goshti** in Chirala.

Its aim was to promote:

- Education
- National consciousness
- Social awareness
- Public service

This shows that his contribution was not limited to political protest. He also believed in education as a tool for national awakening.

Significance of His Legacy

1. Symbol of Regional Contribution to Freedom Struggle

- Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya shows that India's freedom movement was not limited to national capitals. Regional leaders played a major role in mobilising people.

2. Mass Mobilisation

- Through the Chirala-Perala movement and Ramadandu, he showed how ordinary people could be organised for a national cause.

3. Gandhian Spirit

- He followed the ideals of discipline, sacrifice, moral courage and public service. This earned him the title **Andhra Gandhi**.

4. Educational Awakening

- His efforts to promote education reflected the link between learning and nationalism.

5. Inspiration for Youth

- His life teaches students the values of patriotism, leadership, public service and social responsibility.

Conclusion

Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya occupies an important place in Andhra Pradesh's freedom movement. His leadership in the **Chirala-Perala movement**, formation of **Ramadandu**, and efforts to promote education and national consciousness made him a respected freedom fighter and social reformer.

- His 137th birth anniversary is a reminder of the sacrifices made by regional leaders in India's freedom struggle. Remembering his legacy helps students understand that freedom was achieved not only through national-level movements but also through local struggles, people's participation and courageous leadership.

AP's First Google AI Lab Inaugurated at Vignan's University, Guntur

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Science and Technology, Skill Development, Digital Governance.

Important Key Words

For Prelims:

- Artificial Intelligence, Google AI Lab, Vignan's University, Gemini Enterprise for Education, Generative AI, Agentic AI, Centre of Excellence, Google Cloud.

For Mains:

- AI-driven Education, Industry-Academia Collaboration, Digital Skill Development, Innovation Ecosystem, Future-ready Workforce, AI in Agriculture and Healthcare.

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh's first **Google AI Lab** was inaugurated at the **Vadlamudi campus of Vignan's University in Guntur district**. The lab was launched to strengthen education, research and practical training in artificial intelligence. Google has launched the AI Lab at Vignan's University to support AI education, hands-on training and research exposure for students and faculty.

- The facility was inaugurated by **Google Cloud Regional Head (Education) Navisha Prabhakar**. It has been established by the Department of Advanced Computer Science and Engineering in collaboration with **Gemini Enterprise for Education**.

What is Google AI Lab?

A **Google AI Lab** is a specialised learning and innovation facility that gives students and faculty access to modern AI tools, platforms and practical training.

It is designed to help students move beyond classroom theory and work on real-world problems using artificial intelligence.

The lab will support:

- AI learning
- Research projects
- Innovation activities
- Industry-linked training
- Practical exposure to advanced AI platforms
- Collaboration between students, faculty and technology experts



Google Cloud regional head (Education) Navisha Prabhakar inaugurates the state-of-the-art facility.

Key Features of the Lab

- First Google AI Lab in Andhra Pradesh.
- Set up at **Vignan's University, Guntur district**.
- Established in collaboration with **Gemini Enterprise for Education**.
- Provides access to advanced AI tools and platforms.
- Supports hands-on learning in **Generative AI** and **Agentic AI**.
- Promotes research collaboration and

innovation projects.

- Helps students become technology creators rather than only technology users.
- Expected to function as a practical innovation centre, not merely a symbolic facility.

What is Gemini Enterprise for Education?

Gemini Enterprise for Education is an advanced AI platform that supports learning, research, productivity and problem-solving in educational institutions.

Through this platform, students and faculty can gain exposure to:

- Generative AI tools
- AI-based research support
- Data analysis
- Automation
- Content generation
- Problem-solving applications
- Agentic AI systems

This can help students understand how AI is being used in modern industries.

Importance for Students and Faculty

The Google AI Lab can help students and faculty in several ways:

- Provides practical AI training.
- Improves employability in emerging technology sectors.
- Encourages real-world problem-solving.
- Builds research skills among students and faculty.
- Supports start-up and innovation culture.
- Bridges the gap between classroom learning and industry needs.
- Helps students become globally competitive technology professionals.

Role of AI in Key Sectors

Artificial Intelligence is becoming important across many sectors.

1. Fintech

- AI can help in fraud detection, digital payments, credit scoring and customer service.

2. Healthcare

- AI can support disease diagnosis, medical imaging, drug discovery and patient monitoring.

3. Agriculture

- AI can help in crop monitoring, pest detection, weather advisories and precision farming.

4. Robotics and Automation

- AI enables smart machines, industrial robots and automated production systems.

5. Engineering

- AI can improve design, testing, simulation and predictive maintenance.

6. Quantum Computing

- AI can support advanced computation, data analysis and future research.

7. Blue Economy

- AI can help in ocean monitoring, fisheries management, port logistics and marine resource mapping.

Significance for Andhra Pradesh

- Strengthens Andhra Pradesh's higher education ecosystem.
- Supports the State's digital and technology-driven development.
- Creates skilled AI professionals for future industries.

- Encourages industry-academia collaboration.
- Helps students from Andhra Pradesh access global AI tools.
- Promotes innovation in agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing and marine sectors.
- Can attract more technology partnerships and Centres of Excellence.
- Supports the goal of making campuses AI-ready and industry-ready.

Challenges

- Faculty need continuous training in advanced AI tools.
- Students require strong basics in mathematics, coding and data science.
- AI labs must focus on real problem-solving, not only certificates.
- Ethical use of AI must be taught clearly.
- Data privacy and cybersecurity concerns must be addressed.
- Rural students may need additional support to bridge the digital skill gap.
- Industry collaboration must be sustained beyond the inauguration stage.

Way Forward

- Create structured AI certification programmes for students.
- Train faculty through regular workshops.
- Start student-led AI innovation projects.
- Build Centres of Excellence in engineering, medicine, pharmacy, management and agriculture.
- Promote AI start-ups from the campus.
- Link AI projects with local problems in Andhra Pradesh.
- Include AI ethics, data privacy and

responsible AI in the curriculum.

- Encourage collaboration with industries, government departments and research institutions.

Conclusion

The inauguration of Andhra Pradesh's first **Google AI Lab** at Vignan's University is an important step in preparing students for an AI-driven future. It can strengthen digital skills, research culture and industry-oriented learning in the State.

- However, the success of the lab will depend on how effectively it is used for practical training, innovation, research collaboration and real-world problem-solving. If implemented well, such AI labs can help Andhra Pradesh produce future-ready professionals and contribute to India's digital economy.

Andhra Pradesh Natural Farming Programme Wins 2026 Food Planet Prize

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Economy, Agriculture, Natural Farming, Rural Development and Women Self-Help Groups.

Important Key Words

For Prelims:

- APCNF, Food Planet Prize, Curt Bergfors Foundation, Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, Natural Farming, Agroecology, Women SHGs, Soil Health.

For Mains:

- Sustainable Agriculture, Climate-resilient Farming, Input Cost Reduction,

Farmer Incomes, Community-led Agriculture, Women-led Rural Development, Food Systems Transformation.

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh's **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming programme (APCNF)** has won the **2026 Food Planet Prize**, one of the world's major environmental awards focused on transforming food systems. The prize, worth **\$1.5 million**, was presented in **Båstad, Sweden**, on **2 June 2026**.

- The programme was recognised for promoting **community-led natural farming**, reducing dependence on synthetic inputs, improving soil health, strengthening climate resilience and supporting rural incomes.

What is the Food Planet Prize?

The **Food Planet Prize** is awarded by Sweden's **Curt Bergfors Foundation**. It recognises initiatives that can transform food systems in a sustainable and climate-friendly manner.

For 2026, APCNF was selected from more than **1,000 nominations** from across the world. It was among four finalists selected from a longlist of 35 initiatives across 19 countries and six continents.

What is APCNF?

APCNF stands for **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming**.

- It was launched in **2016** by **Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)** under the Agriculture Department of Andhra Pradesh. Its aim is to help farmers shift from chemical-based farming to **natural farming** practices.



APCNF Wins 2026 Food Planet Prize

Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming Programme

Source: DTE / Curt Bergfors Foundation



1 WHY IN NEWS?



- Andhra Pradesh's APCNF has won the 2026 Food Planet Prize.
- Prize value: **\$1.5 million**.
- Presented on 2 June 2026 at Båstad, Sweden.
- Recognised for community-led natural farming, soil health, climate resilience and rural incomes.

2 WHAT IS THE FOOD PLANET PRIZE?



- Awarded by Sweden's Curt Bergfors Foundation.
- Recognises sustainable and climate-friendly food system transformation.
- APCNF was selected from **1,000+** nominations.
- It was among **4** finalists from **35** initiatives across **19** countries and **6** continents.

3 WHAT IS APCNF?



- Full form: **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming**.
- Launched in 2016 by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS).
- Works under the Agriculture Department of Andhra Pradesh.
- Helps farmers shift from chemical-based farming to natural farming.
- One of the world's largest community-led agroecology movements.

4 APCNF AT A GLANCE



1.8 million
farming families



3.4 lakh
women SHGs



10,000+
community
resource persons



60%+
women
resource persons



Model shared in
22
Indian States



Also shared in
Sri Lanka
and **Zambia**

5 KEY FEATURES OF APCNF

- Reduced use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides
- Use of natural inputs and local resources
- Improvement of soil health
- Promotion of biodiversity on farms
- Farmer-to-farmer learning
- Community-led extension system
- Climate-resilient farming practices
- Focus on small and marginal farmers
- Support from community resource persons and farmer mentors



6 ROLE OF WOMEN SELF-HELP GROUPS

- Mobilising farmers
- Spreading awareness
- Supporting training and adoption
- Strengthening community ownership
- Helping small farmers reduce risk
- Promoting nutrition gardens and chemical-free food



7 WHY DID APCNF WIN THE AWARD?

- Natural farming at scale
- Lower dependence on synthetic inputs
- Better soil health and biodiversity
- Lower input costs
- Strong climate resilience
- Improved farmer incomes
- Women-led community model
- Replicable model for other regions



8 SIGNIFICANCE



Global recognition
for India's
sustainable
agriculture



Supports
climate-resilient
agriculture



Reduces
cultivation
costs



Improves long-term
soil productivity



Helps small
and marginal
farmers



Promotes women-led
rural transformation



Offers a
replicable policy
model



APCNF shows that community-led natural farming can improve soil health, reduce costs, strengthen climate resilience and support sustainable rural livelihoods.



- It is described as one of the world's largest community-led agroecology movements, working with about **1.8 million farming families** and **3.4 lakh women's self-help groups** across Andhra Pradesh.



Key Features of APCNF

The programme promotes farming practices that work in harmony with nature.

Important features include:

- Reduced use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.
- Use of natural inputs and local resources.
- Improvement of soil health.
- Promotion of biodiversity on farms.
- Farmer-to-farmer learning.
- Community-led extension system.
- Climate-resilient farming practices.
- Focus on small and marginal farmers.
- Support from community resource persons and farmer mentors.

More than **10,000 community resource persons** support farmer-to-farmer learning under the programme.

Role of Women Self-Help Groups

Women's self-help groups are central to the APCNF model.

The programme works with nearly **3.4 lakh women's self-help groups**, making women important agents of agricultural transformation.

Their role includes:

- Mobilising farmers.
- Spreading awareness about natural farming.
- Supporting training and adoption.
- Strengthening community ownership.
- Helping small farmers reduce risk.
- Promoting nutrition gardens and chemical-free food.

More than **60% of community resource persons** involved in training farmers are women, showing the strong role of women in rural leadership.

Why APCNF Won the Award

APCNF won the 2026 Food Planet Prize because it demonstrated that large-scale farming transformation is possible through community participation.

The award recognised APCNF for:

- Promoting natural farming at scale.
- Reducing dependence on synthetic inputs.
- Improving soil health.
- Supporting biodiversity.
- Reducing input costs.
- Strengthening climate resilience.
- Improving farmer incomes.
- Building a women-led community farming model.
- Creating a replicable model for other regions.

The model is now being shared across **22 Indian States**, as well as countries such as **Sri Lanka and Zambia**.

Significance

1. Global Recognition for India

- The award is a major international recognition for India's sustainable agriculture efforts. Andhra Pradesh's Chief



Minister described it as a “first for India”.

2. Climate-resilient Agriculture

- Natural farming can help farmers deal with climate risks such as drought, erratic rainfall and soil degradation.

3. Reduction in Input Costs

- By reducing dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, farmers can reduce cultivation costs and improve net incomes.

4. Soil Health Improvement

- Natural farming improves soil organic matter, microbial activity and long-term land productivity.

5. Support to Small Farmers

- The programme is useful for small and marginal farmers because it reduces cash dependence on external inputs.

6. Women-led Rural Transformation

- The involvement of women’s self-help groups makes APCNF a strong example of community-led and gender-sensitive rural development.

7. Replicable Model

- The spread of APCNF methods to other Indian States and countries shows that the model has wider policy relevance.

Challenges

- Farmers may initially hesitate to shift from chemical-based farming.
- Natural farming needs regular training and handholding.
- Yield concerns during the transition period must be addressed.
- Market linkages for natural farming produce need strengthening.
- Certification and branding systems must be

improved.

- More scientific documentation is needed to prove long-term results.
- Scaling up requires strong institutional and financial support.
- Climate risks may still affect small farmers without crop insurance and irrigation support.

Way Forward

- Expand farmer-to-farmer training through community resource persons.
- Strengthen women self-help groups as local farming institutions.
- Improve market access and price support for natural farming produce.
- Promote nutrition gardens and local food security.
- Document scientific evidence on soil health, yields and incomes.
- Link APCNF with climate adaptation policies.
- Encourage school and community awareness on chemical-free food.
- Support natural farming through credit, insurance and procurement systems.
- Promote Andhra Pradesh’s target of becoming **100% natural farming State by 2047**.

Conclusion

The 2026 Food Planet Prize for APCNF is a landmark recognition for Andhra Pradesh and India. It shows that sustainable agriculture can be built through community participation, women’s leadership and farmer-to-farmer learning.

- APCNF is not only an agriculture programme. It is a model for climate resilience, soil health, rural livelihoods and

food system transformation. If supported with markets, scientific validation and policy continuity, it can become an important pathway for sustainable farming in India and other countries.

Yogandhra-2026: Andhra Pradesh Launches Statewide Yoga Campaign

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs, Health Programmes, Public Awareness Campaigns, Yoga and Wellness.

Important Key Words

Prelims Keywords:

- Yogandhra-2026, International Yoga Day, June 21, Preventive Healthcare, Master Trainers, Lepakshi Temple, Yoga Awareness Campaign.

Mains Keywords:

- Public Health Awareness, Preventive Healthcare, Mental Health, Lifestyle Diseases, Community Participation, Health Promotion, Indian Knowledge Systems.

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government launched its flagship **Yogandhra-2026** campaign on **June 7, 2026**.

- The campaign began with an enthusiastic response, as **25,000 people registered on the Yogandhra portal on the first day**. The initiative aims to involve **one crore people** in yoga activities ahead of **International Yoga Day on June 21**.
- The campaign will continue till **June 20**, with awareness and promotional programmes across all **28 districts** of Andhra Pradesh.



Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Health and Family Welfare Commissioner G. Veerapandian, EAGLE IG Ake Ravi Krishna, Commissioner of Police Rajashekar Babu and others participate in a yoga training programme in Vijayawada on Sunday. | Photo Credit: G.N. RAO

What is Yogandhra-2026?

Yogandhra-2026 is a State-level yoga awareness and participation campaign launched by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

- The main aim is to promote yoga as a part of daily life and encourage people to adopt it for physical fitness, mental health and overall well-being.
- It is being conducted as part of the preparations for **International Yoga Day**, observed every year on **June 21**.

Key Highlights

- Campaign launched on **June 7, 2026**.
- 25,000 people** registered on the Yogandhra portal on the first day.
- Target is to involve **one crore people** in yoga activities.
- Activities will continue till **June 20, 2026**.
- Programmes will be organised across all **28 districts**.
- State-level inaugural event was held at **Lepakshi Temple** in Sri Sathya Sai district.
- 5,922 Master Trainers** completed training.
- 50,752 people** received yoga training on the first day.
- Government aims to train **2.5 lakh people** through a five-day programme.



YOGANDHRA-2026

Andhra Pradesh's State-wide Yoga Campaign

Promoting yoga, health and well-being ahead of International Yoga Day



1 WHY IN NEWS?

- Launched by the Andhra Pradesh government on 7 June 2026.
- 25,000 registrations on the Yogandhra portal on Day 1.
- Campaign runs till 20 June 2026.
- Aim: involve 1 crore people before International Yoga Day (21 June).



2 WHAT IS YOGANDHRA-2026?

- A State-level yoga awareness and participation campaign.
- Promotes yoga as part of daily life.
- Focus: physical fitness, mental health and overall well-being.



3 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

25,000
Day-1
registrations

1 crore
participation
target

28
districts
covered

5,922
Master Trainers
trained

50,752
people trained
on Day 1

2.5 lakh
people targeted
through a 5-day
training programme

4 MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- State launch at Lepakshi Temple, Sri Sathya Sai district.
- District yoga events held at:
 - Lepakshi – 1,952 participants
 - Ontimitta – 625
 - Manginapudi Beach – 758
 - SV Zoo Park, Tirupati – 2,150
- Theme-based events:
 - Vijayawada – around 1,000 police personnel
 - Amalapuram – around 845 farmers
- Yoga awareness competitions in 253 village and ward secretariats.
- About 1,700 participants joined competitions on Day 1.
- Government medical colleges directed to organise activities till 20 June.

5 IMPORTANCE OF YOGA

- Improves physical fitness
- Reduces stress
- Improves concentration
- Strengthens immunity
- Supports mental health
- Prevents lifestyle diseases
- Improves flexibility and balance
- Promotes healthy living



6 QUICK TAKEAWAY / CONCLUSION

- Yogandhra-2026 combines public health, cultural heritage and mass participation.



- It highlights yoga as a preventive healthcare practice and a way of life.



Major Activities under the Campaign

1. State-level Launch

- The State-level event was held at **Lepakshi Temple** under the leadership of Health Minister **N. Satya Kumar Yadav**.
- The Minister described yoga as a symbol of **Indian culture and way of life** and urged citizens to participate actively.

2. Training through Master Trainers

- A total of **5,922 Master Trainers** completed training. These trainers will guide yoga practice and awareness programmes across the State.

3. District-level Yoga Events

Yoga events were held at important places across Andhra Pradesh, including:

- Lepakshi:** 1,952 participants
- Ontimitta, Kadapa district:** 625 participants
- Manginapudi Beach, Krishna district:** 758 participants
- SV Zoo Park, Tirupati:** 2,150 participants

4. Theme-based Yoga Programmes

Theme-based yoga events were organised in:

- Vijayawada:** Around 1,000 police personnel participated.
- Amalapuram:** Around 845 farmers attended.

5. Village and Ward Secretariat Competitions

- Yoga awareness competitions were conducted through **253 village and ward secretariats**.
- Around **1,700 participants** took part on the first day. These competitions will continue for **13 days** with different yoga-related themes.

6. Medical Colleges' Participation

The government directed all government medical

colleges to organise Yogandhra activities till June 20 and encourage medical students to participate.

Importance of Yoga

Yoga is an ancient Indian practice that combines physical postures, breathing techniques and mental discipline.

It helps in:

- Improving physical fitness
- Reducing stress
- Improving concentration
- Strengthening immunity
- Supporting mental health
- Preventing lifestyle diseases
- Improving flexibility and balance
- Promoting discipline and healthy living

In modern public health, yoga is important because it promotes **preventive healthcare**.

Significance of Yogandhra-2026

1. Promotes Preventive Healthcare

- The campaign encourages people to adopt yoga before diseases develop. This can reduce the burden of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity.

2. Strengthens Mental Health

- Yoga can help reduce stress, anxiety and mental fatigue. This is important for students, working people, police personnel and farmers.

3. Encourages Community Participation

- The campaign involves citizens, police personnel, farmers, students, medical colleges and local secretariats. This makes it a community-driven health initiative.

4. Connects Culture with Health

- Yoga is part of India's cultural heritage. Yogandhra-2026 links traditional knowledge with modern health awareness.



5. Supports International Yoga Day

- The campaign prepares the State for large-scale participation in **International Yoga Day** on June 21.

6. Decentralised Awareness

- By using village and ward secretariats, the campaign can reach people at the grassroots level.

Challenges

- Sustaining public interest after International Yoga Day.
- Ensuring participation from rural and remote areas.
- Training quality must be maintained across all districts.
- People with health conditions need safe and guided yoga practice.
- Awareness should not remain limited to one-time events.
- Regular follow-up is needed to make yoga part of daily routine.

Way Forward

- Continue yoga sessions beyond June 21.
- Include yoga in schools, colleges and community health centres.
- Train local volunteers at village and ward levels.
- Prepare simple yoga modules for farmers, police, students and elderly people.
- Use digital platforms for daily yoga guidance.
- Link yoga with preventive health programmes.
- Encourage medical colleges to conduct research on yoga and lifestyle diseases.
- Promote inclusive yoga sessions for women, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Conclusion

Yogandhra-2026 is an important public health and awareness campaign by the Andhra Pradesh government. Its target of involving **one crore people** shows the State's focus on preventive healthcare and community wellness.

- Yoga can help improve physical fitness, mental health and lifestyle discipline. The success of the campaign will depend on regular practice, trained guidance, grassroots participation and continuity beyond International Yoga Day. If implemented effectively, Yogandhra-2026 can become a strong model for community-based health promotion.

Major fire accident at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant claims eight lives

Source: [News on Air](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Disaster Management, Industrial Accidents, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Labour Safety.

Important Key Words

Prelims Keywords:

- Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Steel Melting Shop-2, Molten Metal Accident, Industrial Safety, PMNRF, Occupational Hazard.

Mains Keywords:

- Workplace Safety, Industrial Disaster Management, Labour Protection, Safety Audit, Emergency Response, Accountability in Public Sector Units.

Why in News?

A major fire accident occurred at the **Visakhapatnam Steel Plant** in Andhra Pradesh. The accident claimed **eight lives** and injured **six workers**.

- The incident took place in the **CCD section of Steel Melting Shop-2 (SMS-2)**. Preliminary information suggests that buckets carrying hot molten metal reportedly fell from a ladle, causing a sudden surge of molten metal and triggering the accident.

What Happened?

According to preliminary information:

- The accident occurred in the **Steel Melting Shop-2** section.
- Buckets carrying hot molten metal reportedly fell from a ladle.
- This caused a sudden spread of molten metal.
- A major fire accident followed.
- Eight workers lost their lives.
- Six workers were injured and shifted to nearby hospitals.

Rescue and relief operations were immediately started by security personnel, fire service teams and emergency response units.



Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Tragedy: An injured being shifted to MGM Seven Hills Hospitals in Visakhapatnam on June 8, 2026. | Photo Credit: V. Raju

About Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, also known as **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)**, is one of India's important public sector steel plants.

It is located in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.

The plant is significant because:

- It contributes to India's steel production.
- It provides large-scale employment.
- It supports industrial development in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is closely linked with the economy of Visakhapatnam region.

Possible Cause of the Accident

The exact cause will be known after the official inquiry.

However, preliminary reports indicate that the accident may have occurred due to:

- Falling of buckets carrying molten metal.
- Sudden surge of molten metal.
- High-temperature exposure in the steel melting section.
- Possible equipment failure or operational safety lapse.

Steel plants are high-risk industrial units because they involve molten metal, heavy machinery, gas systems, furnaces and high-temperature operations.



Immediate Response

After the accident:

- Security personnel rushed to the site.
- Fire service teams started fire control measures.
- Emergency units launched rescue operations.
- Injured workers were taken to hospitals.
- Operations in the affected section were suspended.
- Technical teams and senior plant officials started monitoring the situation.

Government Response

Prime Minister's Response

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** expressed grief over the loss of lives and conveyed condolences to the affected families.

He announced ex-gratia assistance from the **Prime Minister's National Relief Fund**:

- ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased.
- ₹50,000 for each injured person.

Vice President's Response

- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** expressed condolences to the bereaved families and wished speedy recovery to the injured.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Response

Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** expressed grief and directed officials to ensure coordinated rescue and relief operations.

He instructed authorities to:

- Provide best medical care to the injured.
- Extend assistance to affected families.
- Conduct a detailed inquiry into the accident.
- Identify the cause of the incident.

Industrial Safety Concerns

The accident raises serious concerns about industrial safety in high-risk sectors such as steel production.

Major safety concerns include:

- Handling of molten metal.
- Safety of ladles, cranes and buckets.
- Worker protection in high-temperature zones.
- Emergency response preparedness.
- Regular inspection of equipment.
- Compliance with safety protocols.
- Availability of protective gear.
- Training of workers in accident response.

Significance

1. Focus on Workplace Safety

- The incident shows the importance of strict safety systems in large industrial units.

2. Labour Welfare

- Workers in hazardous industries need strong safety protection, insurance and emergency medical support.

3. Disaster Preparedness

- Industrial units must have quick-response fire and medical teams.

4. Accountability

- A detailed inquiry can identify whether the accident was caused by technical failure, negligence or safety gaps.

5. Policy Relevance

- The accident is important for discussions on industrial safety laws, occupational health and public sector accountability.

Challenges

- High-risk nature of steel plant operations.
- Ageing industrial equipment in some public sector units.
- Need for continuous safety audits.
- Ensuring strict compliance with safety

manuals.

- Training contract and regular workers equally.
- Preventing human error in high-temperature zones.
- Providing advanced safety technology.
- Maintaining emergency medical readiness inside plants.

Way Forward

- Conduct a detailed and transparent inquiry.
- Identify responsibility for technical or safety lapses.
- Strengthen safety audits in all steel plants.
- Modernise equipment used for handling molten metal.
- Provide advanced protective gear to workers.
- Install real-time monitoring systems in high-risk zones.
- Conduct regular mock drills for fire and industrial accidents.
- Improve emergency medical facilities inside industrial units.
- Ensure compensation, rehabilitation and family support for victims.
- Strengthen implementation of occupational safety laws.

Conclusion

The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant fire accident is a tragic reminder that industrial growth must go hand in hand with worker safety. Steel plants are vital for the economy, but they operate in hazardous conditions where even a small lapse can lead to serious loss of life.

The immediate priority is rescue, treatment and support to affected families. In the long term, strict safety audits, modern equipment, worker training

and accountability are necessary to prevent such accidents. Industrial development must always protect the dignity, life and safety of workers.

AP Oil Palm Institute Signs MoU with Patanjali Foods

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC / State PSCs: Andhra Pradesh Economy, Agriculture, Research Institutes, Oil Palm Cultivation, Farmer Welfare and Current Affairs.

Important Key Words

Prelims Keywords:

- ICAR, Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, IOPR, Oil Palm, Ganoderma Disease, Basal Stem Rot, Patanjali Foods, MoU, Rapid Diagnostic Technology.

Mains Keywords:

- Agricultural Research, Disease Surveillance, Oil Palm Productivity, Farmer Income, Sustainable Agriculture, Public-Private Partnership, Technology Transfer, Crop Disease Management.

Why in News?

ICAR's **Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research** has signed an **MoU with Patanjali Foods** for the use of a technology developed by the institute for the **rapid detection of Ganoderma disease** in oil palm plantations.

- The technology will help identify infected palms even before severe disease symptoms appear. This can help farmers take timely preventive and management measures.

What is the MoU About?

- The MoU is between ICAR's Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research and Patanjali Foods.
- It focuses on using a rapid diagnostic technology for detecting **Ganoderma disease** in oil palm plantations.
- The technology will help in early identification of infected palms.
- It aims to support timely disease management and reduce the spread of infection.
- The partnership is expected to help farmers maintain healthy plantations and improve income.

About Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research

- The **Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research** is an institute under ICAR.
- **ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR)** is located in Pedavegi village, near Eluru city in the Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh.
- It works on research related to **oil palm cultivation, productivity and disease management**.
- It develops technologies to support oil palm farmers and improve sustainable oil palm production.
- The institute plays an important role in strengthening India's edible oil security through oil palm research.

What is Ganoderma Disease?

- **Ganoderma disease** is a serious disease affecting oil palm plantations.
- It is caused by the fungus **Ganoderma**.
- It can damage the palm and reduce

productivity.

- If not detected early, it can spread and cause major losses to farmers.
- It is one of the major challenges in sustainable oil palm cultivation.



ICAR's Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research

Ganoderma zonatum



Ganoderma zonatum fruiting at the base of a palm tree

What is Basal Stem Rot?

- **Basal Stem Rot** is a disease caused by **Ganoderma**.
- It affects the lower part of the stem of oil palm.

- The disease weakens the plant and affects its growth.
- Severe infection may lead to decline in yield and death of the palm.
- Early detection is important because visible symptoms often appear only after serious internal damage.

Importance of Rapid Detection Technology

- It helps identify disease before severe symptoms are visible.
- It supports early preventive action.
- It reduces the spread of disease within plantations.
- It helps farmers avoid large-scale crop loss.
- It improves plantation health and productivity.
- It supports sustainable oil palm production.
- It can reduce the cost of disease management by acting early.

Significance of the MoU

- Promotes **technology transfer** from research institute to industry and farmers.
- Strengthens **public-private partnership** in agriculture.
- Helps farmers access reliable and rapid diagnostic technology.
- Supports scientific disease management in oil palm plantations.
- Improves productivity and income of oil palm farmers.
- Contributes to sustainable oil palm cultivation.
- Supports India's goal of increasing domestic edible oil production.

Importance for Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh is an important State for oil palm cultivation.
- Oil palm farmers face risks from plant diseases such as Ganoderma.
- Early disease detection can protect farmer income.
- The MoU can help improve plantation management in oil palm-growing regions.
- It can strengthen the role of agricultural research institutions in State agriculture.

Challenges in Oil Palm Cultivation

- Disease attacks such as Ganoderma and Basal Stem Rot.
- Delayed identification of infected palms.
- Lack of awareness among farmers about early symptoms.
- High cost of plantation management.
- Long gestation period of oil palm.
- Need for assured irrigation and scientific crop management.
- Dependence on timely technical support.

Way Forward

- Make rapid diagnostic kits easily available to farmers.
- Train farmers and field staff in disease identification.
- Create awareness on Ganoderma and Basal Stem Rot management.
- Strengthen extension services in oil palm-growing areas.
- Promote regular plantation health monitoring.
- Encourage more collaboration between ICAR institutes and private firms.
- Support digital advisory services for oil palm farmers.

- Link disease detection with timely preventive and management measures.

Conclusion

The MoU between **IOPR and Patanjali Foods** is an important step in applying agricultural research for practical farmer benefit. Rapid detection of **Ganoderma** disease can help prevent crop losses, improve oil palm productivity and enhance farmer income.

- For long-term success, the technology must reach farmers quickly through training, awareness, affordable access and strong extension support. Such collaborations can strengthen sustainable agriculture and India's edible oil security.

Naidu Thanks PM Modi for Project Fund Allocation

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Economy, Amaravati Capital Development, Governance, Infrastructure, Centre-State Relations and Current Affairs.

Important Key Words

Prelims Keywords:

- Amaravati, Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation, Union Cabinet, Administrative Infrastructure, Greenfield Capital City, Public Infrastructure.

Mains Keywords:

- Administrative Efficiency, Centre-State Cooperation, Capital City Development, Service Delivery, Urban Governance, Institutional Infrastructure, Sustainable Public Infrastructure.

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet has approved the **Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation Project** in **Amaravati**, Andhra Pradesh.

- Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** thanked Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and the Union Cabinet for clearing the project. The project is expected to strengthen the presence of Central government institutions in Andhra Pradesh and support the development of Amaravati as a greenfield capital city.

What is the Project?

- The project is a **Central government office accommodation complex** proposed in Amaravati.
- It will bring multiple Central government offices under one roof.
- The project cost is around **₹1,299 crore**.
- The office complex will have a built-up area of about **23.2 lakh square feet**.
- It is expected to create essential administrative infrastructure for the future growth of Amaravati.



AP CM Chandrababu Naidu and PM Narendra Modi. (Image: X)

Key Features

Feature	Details
Project	Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation
Location	Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh
Approved by	Union Cabinet
Estimated Cost	₹1,299 crore
Built-up Area	23.2 lakh sq. ft.
Purpose	Housing multiple Central government offices
Expected Impact	Better coordination, improved governance and capital development

Importance for Amaravati

- Amaravati is being developed as a **greenfield capital city**.
- The project can strengthen its administrative and institutional base.
- It will improve the presence of Central government departments in the State.
- It can support planned capital development and long-term urban growth.
- The office complex may also improve accessibility for citizens and officials.
- It will add momentum to public infrastructure development in Amaravati.

Significance for Governance

- **Better coordination:** Multiple Central government offices under one roof can improve coordination among departments.
- **Efficient service delivery:** Citizens may get faster access to Central government services.
- **Administrative convenience:** Officials can work in a more integrated and organised

environment.

- **Reduced fragmentation:** Instead of scattered offices, a common complex can improve administrative efficiency.
- **Future-ready infrastructure:** The project can meet the long-term governance needs of the State capital.

Centre-State Cooperation

- The approval reflects cooperation between the Union government and Andhra Pradesh.
- Such projects show the role of the Centre in supporting capital city development.
- It strengthens institutional presence in the State after bifurcation.
- It can help Amaravati emerge as a major administrative hub.
- It also reflects the importance of public investment in State-level infrastructure.

Significance

- Boosts Amaravati's capital city development.
- Strengthens Central government presence in Andhra Pradesh.
- Supports efficient governance and public service delivery.
- Creates modern administrative infrastructure.
- Promotes better inter-departmental coordination.
- Encourages planned urban growth.
- Improves citizen access to government offices.
- Marks an important milestone in Amaravati's development.



Amaravati Office Accommodation Project

Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation



Why in News?

The Union Cabinet has approved the Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation Project in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. The project is expected to strengthen the presence of Central government institutions in the State and support Amaravati's development as a greenfield capital city.



Project Snapshot



Location:
Amaravati,
Andhra Pradesh



Approved by:
Union Cabinet



Estimated Cost:
₹1,299 crore



Built-up Area:
23.2 lakh sq. ft.



Purpose:
Multiple Central
government offices
under one roof



What is the Project?

- A Central government office accommodation complex proposed in Amaravati.
- It will bring multiple Central government offices under one roof.
- It will create essential administrative infrastructure.
- It will support the future growth of Amaravati.



Why It Matters for Amaravati

- ✓ Strengthens the administrative base of the greenfield capital city
- ✓ Improves accessibility for citizens and officials
- ✓ Enhances governance efficiency
- ✓ Adds momentum to Amaravati's development



Expected Impact



Better coordination among departments



Improved delivery of services to citizens



Stronger Central institutional presence in Andhra Pradesh



Support for planned capital development and long-term urban growth



Boost to public infrastructure in Amaravati



At a Glance



Project Cost:
₹1,299 crore



Office Space:
23.2 lakh
sq. ft.



Focus:
Administrative
Infrastructure



Benefit:
Governance +
Capital Development



Challenges

- Timely completion of the project is essential.
- Cost escalation must be avoided through proper monitoring.
- Sustainable design and green building norms should be followed.
- Connectivity to the office complex must be improved.
- Coordination among Central departments and State agencies is necessary.
- The project should be integrated with Amaravati's master plan.
- Public services should be made citizen-friendly and digitally enabled.

Way Forward

- Prepare a clear implementation timeline.
- Ensure transparent tendering and quality construction.
- Follow modern, sustainable and energy-efficient building standards.
- Integrate the complex with transport, housing and civic infrastructure.
- Provide digital service counters for citizens.
- Ensure coordination between Central government departments and the State government.
- Use the project as a model for future administrative infrastructure in Amaravati.

Conclusion

The approval of the **₹1,299 crore Central government office complex in Amaravati** is an important step in strengthening administrative infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh.

- By bringing multiple Central government offices under one roof, the project can improve coordination, enhance service delivery and support Amaravati's growth

as a modern capital city. Its success will depend on timely execution, sustainable design and effective integration with the larger capital development plan.

Swarna Andhra @2047 Vision

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Economy, Governance, Swarna Andhra Vision, Human Capital, Poverty Reduction, Technology-led Administration and Current Affairs.

Important Key Words

For Prelims:

- Swarna Andhra @2047, NITI Aayog Governing Council, Real Time Governance, AWARE, Zero Poverty P4 Initiative, Viksit Bharat 2047, Direct Benefit Transfer.

For Mains:

- Human Capital-driven Development, Inclusive Growth, Technology-led Governance, Policy Stability, Infrastructure-led Growth, Demographic Sustainability, Zero Poverty, Skill Development.

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu presented the **Swarna Andhra @2047 Vision** at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting in New Delhi.

- He said that Andhra Pradesh aims to become a **prosperous, inclusive and globally competitive economy** through a **human capital-driven development model**. The vision is linked with India's broader goal of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.



Naidu highlighted AP's growing reputation as a technology-enabled state, citing the successful implementation of the Real Time Governance Society, Artificial Intelligence-powered analytics, real-time monitoring systems and predictive governance tools such as AWARE. (Image: X)

What is Swarna Andhra @2047 Vision?

- **Swarna Andhra @2047** is Andhra Pradesh's long-term development vision.
- It aims to transform the State into a prosperous and globally competitive economy by **2047**.

Padi Sutralu – Swarna Andhra @2047 (Ten Guiding Principles)

1. **Zero Poverty:** Family as the unit of development; every household to get tap water, electricity, clean energy, sanitation, digital connectivity, social security and affordable healthcare.
2. **Skilling and Employment:** Focus on jobs, industrial infrastructure, reskilling, upskilling, simplified procedures, product quality and Women MSME Parks.
3. **Population Management and HRD:** Remote learning centres, Skill University, skill curriculum, Unique Skill Passport, skill audit, 100% digital literacy and demographic management.

4. **Water Security:** Tap water for every household, water conservation, river interlinking, irrigation for every acre, rainwater harvesting and resilient infrastructure.
5. **Farmer-Agri Tech:** Higher farmer income through credit, mentorship, natural farming, horticulture, aquaculture, AI, IoT, drones, robotics and GIS-based water management.
6. **Global Best Logistics:** Strong roads, railways, ports, airports, shipbuilding, inland waterways, coastal economic zones and multi-modal logistics parks.
7. **Energy and Fuel Cost Optimisation:** Solar, wind, pumped storage, green hydrogen, net zero by 2047, green innovation and early warning systems.
8. **Product Perfection:** Innovation districts, global investors, universities, R&D centres, incubation parks, global brands and Blue Economy potential.
9. **Swachh Andhra:** WASH for all, waste management, liveable cities, marine ecosystem protection and green financing.
10. **Deep Tech in All Walks of Life:** AI hub, data centres, cloud services, Drone Capital of India, quantum computing, genomics and technology commercialisation.
11. It is designed to align Andhra Pradesh's growth strategy with **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Major Goals of the Vision

- Achieve **zero poverty**.
- Create large-scale employment opportunities.
- Strengthen skills and human capital.
- Ensure water and energy security.
- Promote growth through:
 - Agri-tech
 - Logistics

- Deep-tech
- Artificial Intelligence
- Quantum technologies
- Build a globally competitive and investment-friendly economy.
- Ensure inclusive development for all citizens.

Technology-led Governance Model

Andhra Pradesh is using a technology-driven governance framework to improve administration.

Key Tools

- Real Time Governance
- Artificial Intelligence-enabled analytics
- Real-time monitoring systems
- Predictive governance tools such as AWARE

Expected Benefits

- Better administrative efficiency.
- Faster decision-making.
- Evidence-based policy implementation.
- Improved citizen service delivery.
- Early identification of governance problems.
- Better monitoring of welfare schemes and infrastructure projects.

Investment and Economic Growth

- Chief Minister Naidu stated that Andhra Pradesh has attracted investments of more than **₹23 lakh crore** over the last two years.
- This has been linked to:
 - Transparent policies
 - Governance reforms
 - Business-friendly ecosystem
 - Faster approvals
 - Policy stability
- He advised States to focus on:
 - Strong infrastructure

- Stable policies
- Quick clearances
- Efficient approvals

- He cautioned against unsustainable incentive-based competition among States to attract investments.

Seven Basic Necessities

The State government aims to ensure that every family has access to seven basic necessities.

Basic Necessity	Importance
Housing	Shelter and dignity
Sanitation	Health and hygiene
Tap Water	Safe drinking water
Clean Cooking Fuel	Better health and reduced indoor pollution
Electricity	Basic living and economic activity
Digital Connectivity	Access to services and opportunities
Direct Benefit Transfers	Transparent welfare delivery

These seven necessities form the foundation of the State's inclusive development agenda.

Zero Poverty P4 Initiative

- The Chief Minister highlighted the **Zero Poverty P4 initiative**.
- **P4** encourages the top **10% of society** to support the bottom **20%**.
- Support may be provided through:
 - Philanthropy
 - Mentorship
 - Community participation
 - Social responsibility
- The aim is to promote inclusive and equitable growth.
- It seeks to combine government welfare with citizen participation.

SWARNA ANDHRA @2047

A.P.'s Human Capital-Driven Vision for a Prosperous, Inclusive and Globally Competitive Economy

Presented by CM N. Chandrababu Naidu at the NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting | Aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047



WHAT IS IT?

Swarna Andhra @2047 is Andhra Pradesh's long-term development vision to transform the State into a prosperous, inclusive and globally competitive economy by 2047.



N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

Swarna
Andhra
@2047



Human
Capital



Infrastructure



Technology



Inclusion



Viksit
Bharat
2047

PADI SUTRALU – TEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



1 Zero Poverty

Family-centred development; every household gets basic services.



2 Skilling & Employment

Jobs, industrial infrastructure, reskilling, upskilling and Women MSME Parks.



3 Population Management & HRD

Skill curriculum, Skill University, digital literacy and demographic management.



4 Water Security

Tap water, conservation, irrigation, river linking and rainwater harvesting.



5 Farmer-Agri Tech

Higher farmer income through credit, natural farming, AI, IoT, drones and GIS.



6 Global Best Logistics

Roads, railways, ports, airports, shipbuilding and logistics parks.



7 Energy & Fuel Cost Optimisation

Solar, wind, pumped storage, green hydrogen and Net Zero by 2047.



8 Product Perfection

Innovation districts, R&D, incubation, global brands and Blue Economy.



9 Swachh Andhra

WASH for all, waste management, liveable cities and marine ecosystem protection.



10 Deep Tech in All Walks of Life

AI hub, data centres, cloud services, drones, quantum and genomics.

ZERO POVERTY P4 INITIATIVE



Top 10% support
Bottom 20%



Philanthropy



Mentorship



Community
participation



Social
responsibility



Goal: inclusive and
equitable growth



KEY TAKEAWAY

Through the ten guiding principles and the P4 approach, Andhra Pradesh seeks inclusive growth, stronger human capital, better infrastructure and a globally competitive economy.



People First



Sustainability



Innovation



Inclusive Growth



Global Competitiveness

Education and Skilling Reforms

Andhra Pradesh is focusing on preparing its workforce for the future.

Major Reforms

- AI-enabled learning.
- Industry-integrated higher education.
- Flexible lifelong learning pathways.
- Advanced skilling programmes.
- Training in emerging fields such as:
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Quantum technologies
 - Deep technology

Importance

- Improves employability.
- Helps youth adapt to future job markets.
- Connects education with industry needs.
- Supports innovation-driven economic growth.

Demographic Sustainability

- The Chief Minister pointed out that Andhra Pradesh's fertility rate is below 1.5.
- A very low fertility rate can create future challenges such as:
 - Ageing population
 - Workforce shortage
 - Rising dependency ratio
 - Pressure on healthcare and pensions
 - Slower economic growth
- Andhra Pradesh has outlined a **Population Management Policy** to address these concerns.
- The policy aims to ensure long-term workforce availability and economic sustainability.

Significance

- Provides a long-term roadmap for Andhra

Pradesh's development.

- Aligns State development with **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- Promotes inclusive growth through basic necessities and poverty reduction.
- Encourages technology-led governance and data-based decision-making.
- Focuses on human capital, skills and future industries.
- Supports investment-led economic growth.
- Highlights the need for policy stability and infrastructure rather than excessive incentives.
- Recognises demographic sustainability as a long-term development challenge.

Challenges

- Translating vision documents into ground-level implementation.
- Ensuring benefits reach poor and vulnerable groups.
- Attracting investments across all regions, not only major urban centres.
- Creating sufficient quality jobs for youth.
- Preventing skill mismatch between education and industry needs.
- Managing low fertility and ageing-related challenges.
- Ensuring adequate water and energy security.
- Maintaining transparency and accountability in technology-led governance.

Way Forward

- Prepare clear sector-wise action plans with timelines.
- Strengthen district-level implementation and monitoring.

- Link education reforms with local industry needs.
- Expand skilling in AI, logistics, agri-tech and manufacturing.
- Ensure last-mile delivery of the seven basic necessities.
- Promote balanced regional development.
- Encourage public-private partnerships for infrastructure and skills.
- Use technology for transparency, but protect citizen data and privacy.
- Develop a long-term demographic strategy for workforce sustainability.

Conclusion

The **Swarna Andhra @2047 Vision** represents Andhra Pradesh's attempt to build a prosperous, inclusive and globally competitive State by 2047. Its focus on **zero poverty, human capital, technology-led governance, investment, infrastructure and demographic sustainability** makes it a comprehensive development framework.

- Its success will depend on effective implementation, policy continuity, inclusive delivery and strong coordination with the Union government and NITI Aayog.

Google to Set Up Task Force to Explore Technology Partnership with Andhra Pradesh

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance

APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Economy, Investment Promotion, Technology, Amaravati Development and Current Affairs.

Important Keywords

- Google Cloud, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Digital Governance, Real-Time Governance, Data Centres, Sanjeevani Healthcare Project, Logistics Parks, Supply-Chain City, UN-Habitat, National University of Singapore, Amaravati, MRO

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government and Google agreed to establish a **special task force** to explore cooperation in **artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital governance**.

- The decision followed Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's meeting with Google Cloud Asia-Pacific President Karan Bajwa during his visit to Singapore.



Google-Andhra Pradesh Task Force

The proposed task force will explore cooperation in:

- Artificial intelligence
- Cloud computing
- Digital governance
- Real-time governance systems
- Data centres
- Digital infrastructure
- Technology-based skill development

The Chief Minister expressed his vision of developing Andhra Pradesh as a major hub for **AI, data centres and digital infrastructure**.

AI and Cloud Skill Development

The Andhra Pradesh government sought Google's support for large-scale training programmes in:

- Artificial intelligence
- Machine learning
- Cloud computing

The Chief Minister proposed:

- Expansion of AI-skilling programmes
- Cloud-certification initiatives
- AI and cloud-computing centres in universities
- Similar centres in engineering colleges

These initiatives aim to improve technology skills among students and young people.

Sanjeevani Healthcare Project

Google was also invited to participate in Andhra Pradesh's technology-driven **Sanjeevani healthcare project**.

The proposal reflects the State government's effort to use advanced technologies in public healthcare.

Logistics Parks and Supply-Chain City

The Chief Minister met representatives of **YCH Logistics Group** and discussed:

- Establishment of logistics parks
- Development of a modern supply-chain city
- Investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh

He highlighted the State's:

- Long coastline
- Extensive transport connectivity
- Growing industrial base
- Leadership in horticulture
- Strength in aquaculture

Cooperation with UN-Habitat

The Chief Minister invited **UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach** to establish a

Centre of Excellence in Andhra Pradesh.

Discussions focused on:

- Sustainable urban development
- Slum-upgrading programmes
- Municipal-finance reforms
- Climate funding
- Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in growing cities

Proposal for NUS Campus in Amaravati

The Chief Minister met **National University of Singapore President Professor Tan Eng Chye** and invited the institution to establish:

- An international branch campus, or
- A satellite campus in Amaravati

The State aims to develop a world-class educational ecosystem in the capital region.

The government also sought NUS support in:

- Policy design
- Higher-education initiatives

Andhra Pradesh-Singapore Economic Cooperation

During his meeting with India's High Commissioner to Singapore, **Shilpak Ambule**, the Chief Minister discussed ways to deepen economic and trade relations between Singapore and Andhra Pradesh.

- The High Commissioner highlighted Singapore's strong commercial relationship with India and its interest in expanding cooperation with Indian States.

Potential Investment Sectors

The Chief Minister invited Singaporean companies to explore opportunities in:

- Food processing
- Electronics
- Semiconductors

- Quantum technologies
- Shipbuilding
- Civil-aviation MRO facilities
- Logistics
- Horticulture
- Aquaculture

He also stated that nearly **two million acres** had been brought under natural farming and that Andhra Pradesh farmers were producing horticultural products with export potential.

Significance

1. Technology Development

- Cooperation with Google can support Andhra Pradesh's ambition to become a centre for AI, cloud computing, data centres and digital infrastructure.

2. Digital Governance

- Advanced cloud technologies can strengthen digital and real-time governance systems.

3. Skill Development

- AI, machine-learning and cloud-certification programmes can improve the technical skills of students.

4. Investment Promotion

- The visit seeks to attract global investments in technology, logistics, education and infrastructure.

5. Logistics Growth

- Logistics parks and a supply-chain city can support the State's industrial, horticultural and aquaculture sectors.

6. Urban Development

- UN-Habitat cooperation can support sustainable urban development, municipal finance and climate funding.

7. Higher Education

- A possible NUS campus can contribute to the development of Amaravati as an international education centre.

Conclusion

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Singapore visit focused on attracting global investment and creating strategic partnerships in technology, logistics, urban development and education.

- The proposed Google task force can strengthen cooperation in AI, cloud computing and digital governance. Partnerships with YCH Logistics, UN-Habitat and the National University of Singapore can also support Andhra Pradesh's development as a destination for technology, education, logistics and sustainable urban growth.

Centre Assures Support for Andhra Pradesh's 'Clean Godavari' Initiative

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs, Godavari River, Pushkarams, Panchayat Raj, Environment, Wildlife Conservation

Important Key Words

For Prelims:

- Clean Godavari, Namami Gange, CPCB, Godavari Pushkarams, Aranyaramam, Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, Indian Gaur, Kumki Elephants, Model Panchayats.

For Mains:

- River Rejuvenation, Sewage Treatment,

Pollution Monitoring, Centre-State Coordination, Biodiversity Conservation, Human-Wildlife Conflict, Rural Sanitation and Ecological Sustainability.

Why in News?

The Union government assured support to Andhra Pradesh for a proposed **Clean Godavari programme** on the lines of the **Namami Gange Programme**.

The Centre also agreed to send a **Central Pollution Control Board team** to assess pollution levels in the Godavari and recommend remedial measures ahead of the next Godavari Pushkarams.



Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan presenting a memento to Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil in New Delhi on Tuesday. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

Mission Godavari Clean Project

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister **K. Pawan Kalyan** sought Central support for the proposed **Mission Godavari Clean Project**.

The programme aims to address pollution caused by:

- Untreated sewage
- Industrial effluents
- Solid waste entering the river

The State sought assistance for:

- Pollution control
- Sewage-treatment infrastructure

- River-ecosystem restoration
- Crowd management
- Pilgrim amenities

Godavari Pushkarams

The State plans to organise the next Godavari Pushkarams under the theme:

“Swachh Godavari, Pavitra Pushkaralu”

The proposed Clean Godavari initiative is intended to ensure:

- A pollution-free river
- Safe and hygienic pilgrimage conditions
- Better sanitation and drainage
- Protection of the river ecosystem
- Improved facilities for pilgrims

CPCB Pollution Assessment

The Centre agreed to send a team from the **Central Pollution Control Board** to:

- Study pollution levels in the Godavari
- Identify major pollution sources
- Assess sewage, industrial-effluent and solid-waste inflows
- Recommend remedial measures
- Support pollution-monitoring and conservation initiatives

The assessment can provide the scientific basis for designing river-cleaning interventions.

Aranyaramam Common Facility Centre

The State sought approval for the proposed **Aranyaramam Common Facility Centre**.

It will house advanced monitoring and command centres related to:

- Wildlife conservation
- Forest-fire management
- Environmental monitoring
- Ecological management

Clean Godavari Initiative - Andhra Pradesh

— Centre assures support ahead of the next Godavari Pushkarams —



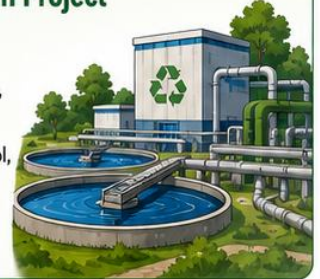
1 Why in News?

- Centre assured support for a proposed Clean Godavari programme on the lines of Namami Gange.
- CPCB team to assess pollution in the Godavari and suggest remedial measures.



2 Mission Godavari Clean Project

- Proposed by Andhra Pradesh.
- Targets pollution from untreated sewage, industrial effluents and solid waste.
- State sought support for pollution control, sewage-treatment infrastructure, river-ecosystem restoration, crowd management and pilgrim amenities.



3 Pushkaram Focus



Theme:
"Swachh Godavari,
Pavitra Pushkaralu"



Aim: pollution-free river, safe pilgrimage, better sanitation and ecosystem protection.

4 CPCB Pollution Assessment



Study pollution levels.



Identify major pollution sources.



Assess sewage, industrial effluent and solid-waste inflows.



Recommend remedial measures.



Support monitoring and conservation.

5 Aranyaramam Common Facility Centre



Proposed advanced monitoring and command centre.



Focus: wildlife conservation, forest-fire management, environmental monitoring and ecological management.

6 Wildlife & Forest Initiatives



Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve: base camps proposed from 90 to 150.



Expected to create opportunities for local Chenchu youth.



50 Indian Gaurs proposed from Madhya Pradesh.



6 female tigers proposed from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.



Kumki elephants sought from Odisha for human-elephant conflict management in Parvathipuram-Manyam.

7 Model Panchayats Along Godavari



260 model panchayats under Viksit Bharat-Gram Gaurav.



Focus on sanitation, drainage, wastewater management and stronger rural infrastructure.



Role: prevent untreated waste from entering the river.



Why it matters



Cleaner river ecosystem



Better pilgrimage management



Stronger rural sanitation



Improved environmental governance



Support for wildlife conservation

The proposed facility is intended to strengthen coordination and technology-based environmental governance.

Nagarjunasagar–Srisailem Tiger Reserve

Andhra Pradesh proposed increasing the number of base camps in the **Nagarjunasagar–Srisailem Tiger Reserve** from:

- **Existing:** 90 base camps
- **Proposed:** 150 base camps

The proposal is also expected to create employment opportunities for local **Chenchu youth**.

Wildlife-Conservation Proposals

Relocation of Indian Gaurs

The State discussed plans to bring **50 Indian Gaurs** from **Madhya Pradesh**.

The proposal aims to:

- Strengthen biodiversity
- Address ecological imbalances
- Improve wildlife populations

Relocation of Female Tigers

Andhra Pradesh proposed bringing **six female tigers** from:

- Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh

The initiative is intended to strengthen tiger populations and ecological balance.

Kumki Elephants

- The State requested trained **kumki elephants** from **Odisha** to manage human–elephant conflict in **Parvathipuram–Manyam district**.
- Kumki elephants are trained elephants used in the management of wild elephants and conflict situations.

Model Panchayats along the Godavari

The Centre assured support for developing **260 model panchayats** along the Godavari under the **Viksit Bharat–Gram Gaurav programme**.

The initiative will focus on:

- Sanitation
- Drainage
- Wastewater management
- Pollution-free Pushkaram celebrations
- Strengthening rural infrastructure

These panchayats can play an important role in preventing untreated waste from entering the river.

Significance

River Conservation

- The programme can reduce sewage, effluent and solid-waste pollution in the Godavari.

Scientific Pollution Management

- The CPCB assessment can help identify pollution sources and design suitable remedial measures.

Safe Pushkarams

- Improved sanitation, crowd management and pilgrim facilities can ensure safer religious gatherings.

Rural Infrastructure

- Model panchayats can strengthen drainage, wastewater treatment and sanitation along the river.

Biodiversity Conservation

- The proposals involving gaurs, tigers and reserve base camps aim to strengthen wildlife conservation.

Human–Wildlife Conflict Management

- Kumki elephants can assist in managing elephant-related conflicts in Parvathipuram–Manyam.

Local Employment

- Expansion of tiger-reserve base camps may create livelihood opportunities for Chenchu youth.

Centre-State Cooperation

- The initiative requires coordination among the Union and State governments, pollution-control institutions and local bodies.

Challenges

- Preventing untreated sewage from entering the river
- Controlling industrial effluents
- Managing solid waste during Pushkarams
- Completing sewage-treatment projects before the event
- Coordinating among different departments and local bodies
- Ensuring adequate funds and timely implementation
- Managing large pilgrim crowds
- Protecting wildlife during relocation
- Addressing human-wildlife conflicts
- Maintaining sanitation after the Pushkarams

Way Forward

- Complete the CPCB pollution assessment at the earliest.
- Identify major pollution hotspots along the Godavari.
- Establish adequate sewage-treatment facilities.
- Strengthen industrial-effluent monitoring.
- Improve solid-waste collection and disposal.
- Prepare village-level sanitation and wastewater plans.

- Ensure coordination among municipalities and panchayats.
- Establish clear timelines for Pushkaram-related works.
- Strengthen wildlife-monitoring and forest-fire response systems.
- Involve local communities, including Chenchu youth, in conservation programmes.

Conclusion

The proposed Clean Godavari programme combines **river rejuvenation, rural sanitation, pilgrim management and ecological conservation.**

- The CPCB assessment, sewage-treatment infrastructure and development of 260 model panchayats can help reduce pollution before the Godavari Pushkarams. At the same time, the Aranyaramam centre and wildlife proposals can strengthen environmental management across Andhra Pradesh.
- Effective implementation will require scientific planning, adequate funding, Centre-State coordination and active participation by local bodies and communities.

Andhra Pradesh Launches Mandatory Disability Screening for All School Students

Source: The Hindu

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Education, Samagra Shiksha, Inclusive Education, Children with Special Needs and Digital Initiatives.



Important Key Words

Prelims Keywords:

- Prashast 2.0, Samagra Shiksha, CwSN, UDISE+, Bhavita Centres, IERPs, Special Educators.

Mains Keywords:

- Inclusive Education, Early Disability Identification, Educational Intervention, Universal Screening, Digital Monitoring, Equal Learning Opportunities.

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government announced mandatory disability screening for all students studying in:

- Government schools
- Local-body schools
- Aided schools
- Private schools

The screening will be conducted through **Prashast 2.0**, an upgraded application designed to identify **21 types of disabilities among children**.

The initiative will be implemented during the **2026-27 academic year** in accordance with directions from the Union Ministry of Education.

What is Prashast 2.0?

Prashast 2.0 is an upgraded digital application used for screening disabilities among schoolchildren.

It aims to:

- Screen students for 21 types of disabilities
- Facilitate early identification
- Support systematic monitoring
- Enable appropriate educational intervention
- Help identify Children with Special Needs

Objective of the Initiative

The main purpose is to identify children with disabilities at an early stage and ensure that they receive:

- Suitable educational support
- Special-education services
- Necessary interventions
- Follow-up assistance
- Inclusive learning opportunities

Early identification can help schools respond to the educational needs of students before learning difficulties become more serious.

Coverage of the Screening

The screening is mandatory for every student enrolled in schools across Andhra Pradesh.

The government aims to achieve:

100% Screening Coverage

Headmasters and principals have been instructed to ensure that no enrolled student is excluded from the process.

Integration with UDISE+

Prashast 2.0 has been integrated with **UDISE+**.

This integration is expected to make the process of:

- Screening
- Identification
- Monitoring
- Recording student information

more transparent and systematic.

Screening Process

The screening will take place in two stages.

Part-I Screening

- Conducted by class teachers
- Covers every student in the class
- Functions as the preliminary screening stage
- Identifies students who may require further assessment



A.P. LAUNCHES MANDATORY DISABILITY SCREENING FOR ALL STUDENTS



Through Prashast 2.0 for Academic Year 2026–27

WHY IN NEWS?

- Mandatory disability screening for all students in
 - Government schools
 - Local-body schools
 - Aided schools
 - Private schools
- Screening through **Prashast 2.0** to identify **21 types** of disabilities in children.
- To be implemented in **2026–27** as per directions of the Union Ministry of Education.

WHAT IS PRASHAST 2.0?

- Upgraded digital application for screening disabilities among schoolchildren.
- Aims to:
 - Screen 21 types of disabilities
 - Enable early identification
 - Support systematic monitoring
 - Ensure appropriate educational intervention
 - Help identify Children with Special Needs (CwSN)



OBJECTIVE

- Identify children with disabilities at an early stage.
- Ensure:
 - Suitable educational support
 - Special-education services
 - Necessary interventions
 - Follow-up assistance
 - Inclusive learning opportunities



COVERAGE OF THE SCREENING

- Mandatory for every student enrolled in all schools across Andhra Pradesh.

GOAL: 100% SCREENING COVERAGE

Headmasters and principals must ensure that no student is left out.

INTEGRATION WITH UDISE+

Prashast 2.0 is integrated with UDISE+ to make screening, identification, monitoring and recording of student information more transparent and systematic.



SCREENING PROCESS (TWO STAGES)

PART-I SCREENING



- Conducted by class teachers
- Covers every student in the class
- Preliminary screening stage
- Identifies students who may require further assessment

PART-II SCREENING



- Conducted only where required
- By special educators and Bhavita Centre staff
- Based on Part-I results
- As per Prashast app guidelines

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

HEADMASTERS & PRINCIPALS



- Create & activate institutional/admin logins
- Personally supervise screening
- Ensure all students are screened
- Monitor process completion
- Achieve full coverage in schools

CLASS TEACHERS



- Map students
- Assign students in the application
- Complete Part-I screening for every student

SPECIAL EDUCATORS & BHAVITA CENTRE STAFF



- Conduct Part-II screening when required
- Follow app guidelines
- Support identification of Children with Special Needs

BHAVITA CENTRES & IERPs



- Register on Prashast app
- Activate accounts
- Assist in specialised screening
- Support follow-up identification & intervention

IERPs: Inclusive Education Resource Person

TRAINING & AWARENESS



District Educational Officers and Additional Project Coordinators will organise district-level programmes for:

- Teachers
- Headmasters
- Special educators
- Bhavita Centre personnel
- Other stakeholders

Focus: Effective use of Prashast 2.0 and proper implementation of the screening process.



IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

JUNE-JULY 2026



- Creation of institutional or administrative logins
- Activation by headmasters & principals

AUGUST 2026



- Mapping of students
- Assignment of students to class teachers and special educators

SEPTEMBER 2026



- Completion of Part-I screening by general teachers

OCTOBER 2026



- Completion of Part-II screening by special educators wherever required



Early identification • Timely support • Inclusive education for every child

Part-II Screening

- Conducted only where required
- Undertaken by special educators and Bhavita Centre staff
- Based on the results of Part-I
- Follows the guidelines available in the Prashast application

Role of School Authorities

Headmasters and Principals

They must:

- Create and activate institutional or administrative logins
- Personally supervise the screening
- Ensure all students are screened
- Monitor the completion of the process
- Achieve full coverage in their institutions

Class Teachers

They are responsible for:

- Mapping students
- Assigning students in the application
- Completing Part-I screening for every student

Special Educators and Bhavita Centre Staff

They will:

- Conduct Part-II screening when required
- Follow application guidelines
- Support the identification of Children with Special Needs

Role of Bhavita Centres and IERPs

Special Education School Assistants and **Inclusive Education Resource Persons** working in Bhavita Centres have been directed to:

- Register on the Prashast application
- Activate their accounts
- Assist in specialised screening
- Support follow-up identification and intervention

Training and Awareness

District Educational Officers and Additional Project Coordinators have been instructed to organise district-level programmes for:

- Teachers
- Headmasters
- Special educators
- Bhavita Centre personnel
- Other stakeholders

These programmes will focus on the effective use of Prashast 2.0 and the proper implementation of the screening process.

Implementation Timeline

June–July 2026

- Creation of institutional or administrative logins
- Activation by headmasters and principals

August 2026

- Mapping of students
- Assignment of students to class teachers and special educators

September 2026

- Completion of Part-I screening by general teachers

October 2026

- Completion of Part-II screening by special educators wherever required

Conclusion

The mandatory screening initiative through Prashast 2.0 marks an important step towards inclusive education in Andhra Pradesh.

Its success will depend not only on identifying disabilities but also on ensuring timely assessment, appropriate educational intervention and continuous support. Effective implementation can help Children with Special Needs participate fully and equally in the school system.

Andhra Pradesh Tops India in PM SHRI Fund Utilisation

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Education, PM SHRI, KGBVs, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Student Welfare and Learning Outcomes.

Important Key Words

Prelims

- PM SHRI Scheme, PM Schools for Rising India, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), Talliki Vandanam Scheme, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra Kits, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Samagra Shiksha, Telugu Academy

Mains

- School Education Reforms, Learning Outcomes, Educational Infrastructure, Inclusive Education, Girl Child Education, Welfare Delivery, Digital Access to Education, Human Capital Development

Why in News

- Andhra Pradesh has secured the **top position in India in the utilisation of funds under the PM SHRI Scheme**.
- Human Resource Development Minister **Nara Lokesh** reviewed the performance of the Education Department and announced several measures aimed at strengthening educational infrastructure, student welfare, and learning outcomes.

PM SHRI Fund Utilisation: Andhra Pradesh Leads the Country

- Andhra Pradesh ranked Andhra Pradesh

had secured the top position in **the country** in the utilisation of funds under the **Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme**.

- PM SHRI is a Central Government initiative aimed at:
 - Modernising government schools.
 - Improving infrastructure and learning environments.
 - Promoting quality education aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP).
- The Minister congratulated Education Department officials for achieving the top national ranking.



Key Educational Infrastructure Initiatives

Smart Kitchens in Schools

- The government plans to construct **844 smart kitchens** across the State.
- The initiative will follow the **Kadapa model** to improve the quality and hygiene of school meals.

Student Learning Materials

- Distribution of **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra Kits** has commenced.
- The process will be completed before the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting programme.

Hostel Infrastructure for Girls

- The government will provide:
 - 53,180 bunk beds
 - Benefiting 1,06,360 girl students
 - Across 430 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs)
- Similar facilities will be extended to residential schools and colleges.

Junior College Student Support

- Educational kits are being distributed to 2,03,430 students studying in government junior colleges.

Welfare Measures for Students

Talliki Vandanam Scheme

The government decided to extend benefits of the scheme to orphaned children.

Measures include:

- Collection of guardian details.
- Transfer of benefits through guardians where available.
- Funds routed through District Collectors when guardians are absent.
- Direct transfer into children's bank accounts.
- Proposal for a permanent mechanism enabling access to accumulated funds after completion of education.

This initiative aims to ensure that no child is excluded from educational welfare benefits.

Improving Learning Outcomes

The Minister emphasised improving student performance and school participation.

Key Targets

- Maintain school attendance above 95%.

ANDHRA PRADESH EDUCATION INITIATIVES 2026

AP leads the country in PM SHRI fund utilisation

Current Affairs | Education | Andhra Pradesh

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1. WHY IN NEWS?

- Andhra Pradesh secured the top position in India in utilisation of funds under the PM SHRI Scheme.
- HRD Minister Nara Lokesh reviewed the Education Department's performance.
- Several measures were announced to strengthen infrastructure, student welfare, and learning outcomes.

2. PM SHRI FUND UTILISATION: AP LEADS

- PM SHRI = Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India.
- Aim: modernise government schools.
- Improves infrastructure and learning environment.
- Promotes quality education aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP).

The Minister congratulated the Education Department for securing the top national rank.

3. KEY EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES

A) Smart Kitchens in Schools

- 844 smart kitchens to be constructed across the State.
- Based on the Kadapa model.
- Aim: better quality and hygiene of school meals.

B) Student Learning Materials

- Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra Kits distribution has started.
- To be completed before the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting.

C) Hostel Infrastructure for Girls

- 53,180 bunk beds.
- Benefiting 1,06,360 girl students.
- Across 430 KGBVs.
- Similar facilities to be extended to residential schools and colleges.

D) Junior College Student Support

- Educational kits distributed to 2,03,430 government junior college students.

4. WELFARE MEASURES FOR STUDENTS

Talliki Vandanam Scheme

Benefits extended to orphaned children.

- Guardian details collected
- Benefits transferred through guardians where available
- If no guardian, funds routed through District Collectors
- Direct transfer into children's bank accounts
- Permanent mechanism proposed to access accumulated funds after completion of education

No child should be excluded from educational welfare benefits.

5. IMPROVING LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Maintain school attendance above 95%.
- Improve foundational learning.
- Improve subject-specific learning outcomes.

Special Focus Districts/Regions:

- Kurnool
- Anantapur
- Markapuram
- Alluri Sitharama Raju District
- Polavaram Region

Measures Proposed:

- Assess teacher availability.
- Prepare district-specific action plans.
- Provide academic support for weaker students.

6. EDUCATIONAL REFORMS & GOVERNANCE

A) Regulation of Private Schools

- Remove unnecessary conditions for permissions to private unaided schools.
- Mandatory public display of approved fee structures.
- Greater transparency in school fee regulation.

B) Telugu Academy Books Online

- Telugu Academy textbooks to be available on Amazon and Flipkart.
- Improves accessibility for students and the public.

C) Strengthening Core Subjects

- Concern over failures in Mathematics, Science, and Telugu.
- Bridge-course material.
- Remedial coaching.
- Additional classes for weaker students.

D) Mid-Day Meal Monitoring

- Greater emphasis on quality and transparency.
- Better nutritional support for students.

7. QUICK HIGHLIGHTS / SNAP BOX

#1 in PM SHRI Fund Utilisation

844 Smart Kitchens

53,180 Bunk Beds

1,06,360 Girl Students Benefited

430 KGBVs

2,03,430 Junior College Students

Attendance Target: 95%+

Education reforms aim to improve infrastructure, welfare, transparency, and learning outcomes across Andhra Pradesh.

- Improve foundational and subject-specific learning outcomes.

Special Focus Districts

Educationally backward districts identified for targeted interventions include:

- Kurnool, Anantapur, Marka Puram, Alluri Sitharama Raju District, Polavaram Region

Measures Proposed

- Assessment of teacher availability.
- Preparation of district-specific action plans.
- Additional academic support for weaker students.

Educational Reforms and Governance Measures

Regulation of Private Schools

- Removal of unnecessary conditions in granting permissions to private unaided schools.
- Mandatory public display of approved fee structures.
- Greater transparency in school fee regulation.

Telugu Academy Books Online

- Telugu Academy textbooks will be made available through:
 - Amazon, Flipkart

This will improve accessibility for students and the general public.

Strengthening Core Subjects

The government expressed concern over failures in:

- Mathematics, Science, Telugu

To address this, officials were directed to:

- Provide bridge-course material.
- Conduct remedial coaching.
- Organise additional classes for academically weaker students.

Mid-Day Meal Monitoring

- Greater emphasis on quality and transparency in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- Measures to ensure better nutritional support for students.

Conclusion

Andhra Pradesh's top ranking in PM SHRI fund utilisation demonstrates effective implementation of educational schemes. The State's focus on infrastructure development, welfare support for vulnerable children, digital access, and learning improvement highlights a multi-dimensional strategy aimed at creating an inclusive, efficient, and student-centric education system.

Andhra Pradesh Pushes Natural Farming and Farmer Welfare through ₹3,125-Crore Support

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Agriculture, Farmer-Welfare Schemes, Natural Farming, Irrigation Projects and Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra.

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- PM-Kisan, Annadata Sukhibhava, Natural Farming, E-Crop System, Forest Rights Act

Mains Keywords

- Sustainable Agriculture, Soil-Health Conservation, Crop Diversification, Farm-Income Security, Residue-Free Exports

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu released **₹3,125.47 crore** under the **PM-Kisan-Annadata Sukhibhava scheme**, benefiting **46.86 lakh farmer families**. The assistance was released during the PM-Kisan-Annadata Sukhibhava and **Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra** programmes at Linganguntla village in Palnadu district. The Chief Minister also emphasised natural farming, responsible use of agricultural chemicals, crop diversification, irrigation development and timely payments to farmers.



What is the PM-Kisan-Annadata Sukhibhava Assistance?

Each eligible farmer family received **₹7,000** in the first instalment:

- **₹5,000** from the Andhra Pradesh government
- **₹2,000** under the Union government's PM-Kisan scheme

The State government has promised annual financial assistance of **₹20,000 per farmer family**, consisting of:

- **₹14,000** from the State government
- **₹6,000** from the Union government

The present instalment covers **46,85,838 farmer families**, including cultivators recognised under

the Forest Rights Act.

What is Annadata Sukhibhava?

- Annadata Sukhibhava is Andhra Pradesh's farmer-income support programme implemented along with PM-Kisan assistance.
- Its objective is to provide direct financial support to eligible farmer families and reduce their immediate cultivation-related financial burden.
- Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu stated that **₹8,985.41 crore** had been distributed under Annadata Sukhibhava during the previous year.

Why Did the Chief Minister Emphasise Natural Farming?

- **Declining Soil Fertility:** Excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides can degrade soil health and reduce long-term agricultural productivity.
- **Public-Health Concerns:** High chemical residues in food may affect consumer health.
- **Agricultural Sustainability:** Input-intensive farming may undermine the ecological and economic sustainability of agriculture over time.
- **Export Market Access:** Agricultural products with excessive pesticide residues face rejection in international markets.

The Chief Minister urged farmers to follow scientific recommendations while applying fertilisers and pesticides and to gradually adopt natural-farming practices.

What is Andhra Pradesh's Position in Natural Farming?



Andhra Pradesh was described as a national leader in natural farming, with nearly **20 lakh acres** under natural cultivation.

Natural farming seeks to reduce dependence on external chemical inputs and promote:

- Soil-health restoration
- Local and biological inputs
- Reduced pesticide residues
- Lower cultivation costs
- Environmentally sustainable farming

Why are Pesticide Residues a Major Concern?

The Chief Minister referred to reports that China had returned **three containers of chilli exported from Guntur** because of pesticide-residue concerns.

This highlights two major risks:

- **Export Rejection:** Countries may reject farm products that do not meet residue-safety standards.
- **Income Loss:** Rejected consignments can reduce farmers' earnings and damage the credibility of agricultural exports.

Therefore, farmers need to follow scientifically prescribed quantities and waiting periods while using fertilisers and pesticides.

How is the Government Supporting Farmers?

- **Seed-to-Market Support:** The State government stated that it was supporting farmers from seed supply to agricultural marketing.
- **Timely Paddy Payments:** Payments for procured paddy are being made within **48 hours**.
- **E-Crop System:** Digital crop-registration systems help record cultivation details and support the delivery of government services.

- **SMS Advisories:** Farmers receive timely agricultural information and crop-related guidance through mobile messages.
- **Fertiliser Availability:** The government assured adequate fertiliser stocks across the State.
- **Household Outreach:** Public representatives will visit farmer households to understand problems and spread awareness about government schemes.

Why is Crop Diversification Important?

- **Income Improvement:** Cultivating a wider range of crops can create additional income opportunities.
- **Risk Reduction:** Dependence on a single crop exposes farmers to price, pest and climatic risks.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Different crops have different water and nutrient requirements, helping improve resource use.
- **Market Responsiveness:** Diversification allows farmers to respond to changes in consumer and export demand.

The government proposed direct engagement with farmers to promote crop diversification based on local conditions.

What Agricultural Programmes Are Being Revived?

The State government is reviving programmes related to:

- **Soil-Health Conservation:** Protecting soil fertility and promoting balanced nutrient application.
- **Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation:** Improving water-use efficiency.
- **Farm Mechanisation:** Reducing labour burden and improving operational

efficiency.

- **Drone-Based Agriculture:** Using drones for agricultural monitoring and farm operations.
- **Organic and Scientific Farming:** Reducing excessive chemical use while improving productivity.

The agriculture minister specifically urged farmers to reduce excessive use of **urea**.

What is the Role of Technology in Agriculture?

- **E-Crop Registration:** Helps identify cultivated crops and link farmers with government services.
- **SMS-Based Advisories:** Provide timely information on cultivation practices and farm management.
- **Drone Agriculture:** Can support monitoring, spraying and precision-based farm operations.
- **Micro-Irrigation:** Drip and sprinkler systems deliver water efficiently and reduce wastage.

Technology can strengthen decision-making, reduce input costs and improve the delivery of agricultural support.

What is Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra?

As part of the **Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra initiative**, the Chief Minister laid foundation stones for two waste-to-energy plants in:

- Kadapa
- Kurnool

Key Facts

- **Combined Capacity:** 15 MW
- **Investment:** ₹330 crore
- **State Plan:** Establishment of eight waste-to-energy plants

The objective is to convert waste into energy and reduce the burden of accumulated garbage.

Significance

- **Direct Income Support:** Financial assistance reduces the immediate economic burden on farmer families.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Natural farming protects soil fertility and supports long-term productivity.
- **Export Competitiveness:** Lower pesticide residues can improve access to international markets.
- **Water Security:** Irrigation projects and micro-irrigation systems improve agricultural resilience.
- **Technology Adoption:** E-crop systems, SMS advisories and drones support modern farm management.
- **Timely Procurement Payments:** Paddy payments within 48 hours improve farmers' cash flow.
- **Inclusive Coverage:** Farmers covered under the Forest Rights Act are included in the assistance programme.

Key Challenges

- Excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides
- Declining soil fertility
- Pesticide residues in export produce
- Farmer dependence on a limited number of crops
- Need for scientific input use
- Timely completion of irrigation projects
- Expansion of natural farming without reducing farmer incomes
- Effective delivery of advisories and welfare benefits



Way Forward

- **Scientific Input Use:** Farmers should follow recommended doses of fertilisers and pesticides.
- **Scale Up Natural Farming:** Expansion should be supported with training, local inputs and market access.
- **Residue Testing:** Strong testing and traceability systems are needed for export-oriented crops.
- **Crop Diversification:** Crop choices should reflect soil, water availability and market demand.
- **Strengthen Micro-Irrigation:** Drip and sprinkler systems should be expanded in water-stressed areas.
- **Improve Extension Services:** E-crop records, SMS advisories and household visits should provide practical guidance.
- **Ensure Market Support:** Procurement, timely payments and marketing assistance should accompany production reforms.

Conclusion

Andhra Pradesh's recent farmer-support programme combines **direct income assistance, natural farming, irrigation development, digital agriculture and market support**. The release of ₹3,125.47 crore provides immediate financial relief, while the focus on soil health, reduced chemical use and crop diversification addresses the long-term sustainability of agriculture. The success of this approach will depend on balancing environmental protection with productivity, income security and reliable market access for farmers.

Andhra Pradesh Partners with IFMR to Accelerate Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh Economy, Swarna Andhra 2047, State Planning and Governance Reforms.

Important Key Words

Prelims Keywords

- Swarna Andhra 2047, IFMR, Krea University, GSDP, Mission Cells

Mains Keywords

- Evidence-Based Policymaking, Mission-Mode Governance, Inclusive Growth, Technology-Led Development, Institutional Capacity

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Financial Management and Research**, a constituent institution of **Krea University**, to support the implementation of the **Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision**.

- The partnership seeks to provide research, policy and institutional support for transforming Andhra Pradesh into a **high-growth and inclusive economy** over the next two decades.
- The MoU was exchanged in the presence of Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** at the State Secretariat in Amaravati.

What is the AP-IFMR Partnership?

The partnership brings together the Andhra Pradesh Planning Department and IFMR to

strengthen long-term development planning.

IFMR will provide:

- Policy support
- Research inputs
- Institutional expertise
- Field-level evidence
- Programme evaluation
- Innovative governance recommendations

The collaboration is intended to help translate the broad goals of Swarna Andhra 2047 into implementable programmes and measurable outcomes.



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu witnesses the exchange of the MoU between the A.P. Planning Department and the IFMR, at the Secretariat in Amaravati on Monday. | Photo Credit: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

What Growth Target Has Andhra Pradesh Set?

- Andhra Pradesh has set a target of achieving an annual economic growth rate of **15%** under the Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision.
- The Chief Minister noted that the State recorded a **compound annual growth rate of 13.5% between 2014 and 2019**.
- The government believes that focused planning and effective implementation can help the State exceed its previous growth performance.

What Role Will IFMR Play?

Establishing Mission Cells

- IFMR will assist the State Planning Department in creating specialised **mission cells** for accelerating GSDP growth.
- These cells are expected to provide dedicated institutional attention to priority development objectives.

Monitoring Strategic Principles

- The institution will help monitor programmes linked to the government's **10 strategic principles**.

Conducting Field Studies

- IFMR will undertake field-level studies to understand implementation conditions and development outcomes.

Providing Policy Recommendations

- Evidence generated through research and field studies will be used to suggest suitable policy interventions.

Evaluating Programme Outcomes

- IFMR will work with government departments to assess whether programmes are achieving their intended objectives.

Supporting Governance Innovation

- The partnership will identify innovative governance practices that may improve implementation efficiency and development outcomes.

Which Missions Will Receive Initial Focus?

The collaboration will initially concentrate on three priority missions.

Zero Poverty Mission

- The mission seeks to support the State's broader objective of inclusive growth by focusing on the elimination of poverty.

Water Security Mission

- It will focus on strategies and programmes connected with ensuring water security.

Deep Tech Mission

- The mission will promote the use and development of advanced and emerging technologies.
- IFMR will work with the concerned government departments to formulate strategies, evaluate programme performance and provide evidence-based recommendations for these missions.

How Does Technology Fit into the Vision?

Andhra Pradesh aims to position itself as a hub for emerging technologies and advanced manufacturing.

The priority areas identified include:

- Artificial intelligence
- Quantum technologies
- Drone mapping
- Semiconductors
- Defence manufacturing
- Automobiles
- Metals and steel
- Rare-earth minerals

The Chief Minister particularly highlighted the role of **artificial intelligence and quantum technologies** in shaping the State's future economy. The approach seeks to connect economic growth with technology, industrial development and improved governance.

What is the Significance of the Partnership?

Evidence-Based Planning

- Research and field studies can help ensure that policy decisions reflect actual development conditions rather than relying

only on administrative assumptions.

Mission-Mode Implementation

- Dedicated mission cells can improve focus, coordination and monitoring of priority programmes.

Higher Economic Growth

- The partnership is expected to support policies aimed at accelerating GSDP growth and achieving the State's 15% target.

Inclusive Development

- The focus on the Zero Poverty and Water Security Missions indicates that economic growth is intended to be accompanied by social and developmental outcomes.

Technology-Led Economy

- The Deep Tech Mission and investments in emerging sectors can support innovation, industrial growth and future employment opportunities.

Institutional Capacity

- Collaboration with IFMR can strengthen the Planning Department's capacity in research, programme evaluation and policy formulation.

What Will Effective Implementation Require?

The objectives outlined under the partnership will require:

- Close coordination between IFMR and government departments
- Clear responsibilities for mission cells
- Reliable field-level data
- Regular evaluation of programme outcomes
- Timely translation of research into policy action
- Effective monitoring of the 10 strategic

principles

- Alignment between technology investments and inclusive development
- Focused planning to achieve the targeted growth rate

Conclusion

The Andhra Pradesh-IFMR partnership seeks to provide an institutional and evidence-based foundation for implementing the **Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision**. Mission cells, field research, programme evaluation and policy recommendations can help the State pursue its ambitious 15% growth target.

Its success will depend on converting research and technological ambition into coordinated government action that produces measurable, inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

MEPMA Signs MoU to Establish Crèche Centres in Four AP Cities

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance

APPSC: Urban Poverty Alleviation, Women Self-Help Groups, Child Welfare, Swarna Andhra@2047

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- MEPMA, Mobile Crèches, Urban Self-Help Groups, Early Childhood Care and Education, ICDS, Primary Health Centres, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, Management Information System

Mains Keywords

- Care economy, women's workforce participation, urban childcare

infrastructure, early childhood development, nutrition security, community-based childcare, institutional convergence, gender-responsive urban governance

Why in News?

The **Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA)** of Andhra Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Mobile Crèches** to establish childcare centres in four major cities.

The crèche centres will be set up in:

- Vijayawada
- Visakhapatnam
- Tirupati
- Guntur

The initiative aims to provide quality childcare for the children of urban women self-help group members and enable women to pursue employment and entrepreneurial activities.



What is the Urban Crèche Initiative?

The programme proposes the establishment of **15 crèche centres** for children between **six months and six years of age**.

The centres are expected to benefit around **375 children**.

They will provide:

- Daycare and supervision
- Nutrition support
- Basic health services
- Early childhood education
- Safe learning and play spaces
- Age-appropriate care

The programme is aligned with the State's long-term development vision, **Swarna Andhra@2047**.

Institutional Arrangement

The initiative is based on a partnership between MEPMA and Mobile Crèches.

- **MEPMA:** It will function as the implementing agency and coordinate the programme at the urban local level.
- **Mobile Crèches:** It will provide technical support, training, caregiving models and institutional guidance.

This model combines government implementation capacity with the technical experience of a specialised childcare organisation.

What is MEPMA?

The **Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas** functions under the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Department.

It works towards:

- Urban poverty reduction
- Organisation of urban poor women into self-help groups
- Livelihood promotion
- Skill development
- Financial inclusion
- Access to welfare schemes
- Community-level institution building

The crèche initiative expands MEPMA's role from livelihood promotion to supporting the care needs of working women.

Why are Urban Crèche Centres Necessary?

Women's employment:

- Lack of affordable childcare often prevents women from entering or continuing in paid work. Crèches allow mothers to pursue jobs, self-employment and entrepreneurship without compromising child safety.

Early childhood development:

- The period from birth to six years is crucial for physical growth, cognitive development, emotional well-being and school readiness.

Nutrition and health:

- Crèche centres can support regular nutrition, health monitoring and timely referral to public health institutions.

Urban vulnerability:

- Women in informal employment may lack maternity benefits, flexible work arrangements and access to organised childcare.

Reduction in sibling care:

- In many low-income households, adolescent girls are asked to care for younger siblings. Community crèches can reduce this burden and help girls continue their education.

Capacity-Building Measures

During the **2026-27 financial year**, the programme proposes to:

- Train **45 women from self-help groups** as crèche workers.
- Certify **15 master trainers**.
- Develop Telugu-language caregiving materials.
- Establish a dedicated Management

Information System.

- Improve monitoring and accountability.

Training SHG women as crèche workers can generate local employment while creating a community-owned childcare system.

Role of the Management Information System

The proposed Management Information System will assist in:

- Child enrolment and attendance tracking
- Nutrition and health monitoring
- Staff and training records
- Service-quality assessment
- Reporting and programme evaluation
- Identification of gaps in implementation

A digital monitoring system can improve transparency and support evidence-based programme expansion.

Convergence with Existing Health and Childcare Services

- The programme will promote coordination with existing public schemes and institutions.

Integrated Child Development Services:

- ICDS provides supplementary nutrition, health check-ups, preschool education and referral services through Anganwadi Centres.

Primary Health Centres:

- PHCs can support immunisation, medical examination, treatment and referral of children requiring specialised care.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram:

RBSK focuses on early identification and intervention for children affected by the four Ds:

- Defects at birth
- Diseases
- Deficiencies
- Developmental delays, including

disabilities

Institutional convergence can prevent duplication and improve the overall quality of childcare.

Significance of the Initiative

Promotes women's workforce participation:

- Reliable childcare can help urban women take up employment and entrepreneurial activities.

Strengthens the care economy:

- The programme formally recognises childcare as essential social infrastructure supporting economic participation.

Improves child nutrition:

- Regular meals and nutrition monitoring can reduce the risk of undernutrition among young children.

Supports early learning:

- Age-appropriate education and play can improve school readiness and cognitive development.

Creates local employment:

- Training SHG members as childcare workers provides livelihood opportunities within local communities.

Advances gender equality:

- The programme reduces the disproportionate unpaid care burden carried by women and adolescent girls.

Develops a replicable model:

- The four-city initiative can serve as a model for expansion across other urban areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Conclusion

The MEPMA-Mobile Crèches initiative recognises childcare as an essential component of women's economic empowerment and urban social development. By integrating childcare, nutrition,

health and early education, the programme can improve the well-being of children while enabling women to participate more fully in employment and entrepreneurship. Strong quality standards, institutional convergence and community ownership will be necessary to transform the pilot into a sustainable urban childcare model across Andhra Pradesh.

Vijayanagara-Era Inscriptions Discovered in Seshachalam Forest

Source: The Hindu

Relevance: APPSC: Andhra Pradesh History, Art and Culture, Archaeology, Vijayanagara Empire and Tirupati Region.

Important Key Words

Prelims Keywords

- Sadasivakona, Seshachalam Forest, Vijayanagara Dynasty, ASI, Estampage

Mains Keywords

- Epigraphical Evidence, Cultural Heritage, Multilingual Inscriptions, Temple Patronage, Heritage Conservation

Why in News?

An expert team of the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** discovered three rare inscriptions dating to the **16th century** at **Sadasivakona**, deep inside the Seshachalam forest in Tirupati district. The inscriptions belong to the period of the **Vijayanagara dynasty** and provide evidence of royal patronage to religious institutions in the region.

Where Were the Inscriptions Found?

- The inscriptions were discovered at

Sadasivakona, a relatively unexplored and pristine forest area in the Seshachalam range.

- The ASI team focused on this region after conducting an epigraphical survey in the **Nallamala Hills**.
- The team was led by **K. Muniratnam Reddy**, Director of Epigraphy, ASI, Mysuru. It worked for three days inside the forest to locate and document the inscriptions.



A team from the ASI takes an inked impression of a rock inscription at Sadasivakona in the Seshachalam forest range, Tirupati district, on Tuesday. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

What are the Key Features of the Inscriptions?

- Three rare inscriptions were discovered.
- They date to the **16th century**.
- The inscriptions contain text in:
 - Telugu
 - Tamil
 - Kannada
- The scripts represent the writing styles used during the period.
- They belong to the era of **Sadasiva Deva Raya** of the Vijayanagara dynasty.
- The inscriptions are dated to **1554**.

The multilingual character of the inscriptions reflects the cultural and administrative interaction among different linguistic regions under Vijayanagara rule.

What Does the Main Inscription Record?

The principal inscription records the construction of:

- A **Siva temple**
- A **monastery or mutt**

These structures were built at **Papavinasa in Sadasivakona** by King Sadasivaraya during his pilgrimage to the sacred site.

The inscription indicates that the king:

- Personally, visited the religious site
- Took a holy bath
- Granted a donation
- Supported the construction of religious institutions

What is an Estampage?

The inscriptions were copied in the form of **estampages** for preservation and further study.

An estampage is an impression taken from the surface of an inscription to reproduce its engraved text. It enables epigraphists to study inscriptions without repeatedly disturbing the original stone surface.

Historical Significance

Evidence of Royal Pilgrimage

- The inscription confirms that the Vijayanagara ruler personally visited Sadasivakona as part of a religious pilgrimage.

Temple and Mutt Patronage

- It highlights the role of Vijayanagara rulers in supporting temples, monasteries and sacred centres.

Multilingual Culture

- The presence of Telugu, Tamil and Kannada inscriptions demonstrates the multilingual character of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Importance of Sadasivakona

- The discovery reveals that Sadasivakona was not merely a forested area but an important religious centre during the 16th century.

Epigraphical Source

- The inscriptions provide primary historical evidence regarding royal donations, religious construction and regional cultural connections.

Link with Gudimallam Temple

The report also refers to the ancient Siva shrine at **Gudimallam**, dating to the **2nd century BCE**.

Though the shrine was overshadowed over time by other prominent temples in the region, the newly discovered inscription points to its historical importance and the religious prominence of the wider Tirupati region.

Role of the Archaeological Survey of India

The ASI's epigraphy team:

- Conducted surveys in difficult forest terrain
- Located the inscriptions
- Studied their language and script
- Prepared estampages
- Preserved the inscriptions for further research

The discovery demonstrates the importance of systematic archaeological and epigraphical exploration in reconstructing regional history.

Importance for Andhra Pradesh

- Adds new evidence to the history of the Vijayanagara Empire in Andhra Pradesh
- Strengthens the historical importance of Tirupati district
- Highlights the cultural significance of the Seshachalam region

- Supports heritage tourism and archaeological research
- Emphasises the need to protect inscriptions located in forest areas

Challenges in Heritage Conservation

- Difficult access to inscriptions located deep inside forests
- Natural weathering of stone surfaces
- Risk of human interference or vandalism
- Limited awareness about lesser-known heritage sites
- Need for scientific documentation and continuous monitoring

Way Forward

- Complete the decipherment and publication of all three inscriptions.
- Digitally document the inscriptions and their surroundings.
- Provide protection without disturbing the forest ecosystem.
- Promote collaboration among archaeologists, historians and forest authorities.
- Create awareness about the historical importance of Sadasivakona.
- Develop controlled heritage tourism only after ensuring ecological safeguards.

Conclusion

The discovery of 16th-century Vijayanagara inscriptions at Sadasivakona adds an important chapter to Andhra Pradesh's cultural history. The inscriptions reveal royal pilgrimage, temple patronage and the multilingual character of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Their documentation and preservation can deepen understanding of the historical relationship

between the Vijayanagara rulers, the Tirupati region and its sacred landscapes.

Tungabhadra River: Course, Dam Project and Inter-State Water Sharing

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Krishna Basin and Irrigation Projects

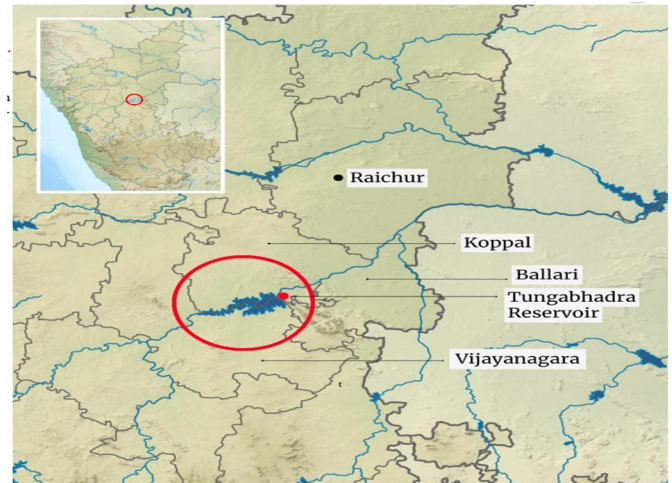
Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Tungabhadra, Sangamaleshwaram, Tungabhadra Board, KWDT, Upper Bhadra Project

Mains Keywords

- Inter-State Water Governance, Irrigation Security, Upstream-Downstream Conflict, Dam Safety, Cooperative Federalism



Why in News?

All 33 crest gates of the Tungabhadra dam near Hosapete in Karnataka were replaced and dedicated to the public on **June 25, 2026**. The replacement followed the washout of **Gate No. 19**

during the 2024 monsoon, which exposed vulnerabilities in the ageing dam system.

Origin and Course

- The Tungabhadra is formed by the confluence of:
 - Tunga River
 - Bhadra River
- Both originate in the **Western Ghats** and meet near Shivamogga in Karnataka.
- The river flows for about **531 km** and joins the Krishna at **Sangamaleshwaram in Andhra Pradesh**. The Krishna later enters the Bay of Bengal at Hamsaladeevi.
- The Tungabhadra depends mainly on the **south-west monsoon**.

Timeline of Tungabhadra dam construction



Completion	Work
June 1952	Foundation excavation
October 1953	Masonry
August 1955	Drilling and Grouting
February 1955	Crest Gates, embedded
June 1955	part
February 1956	Spillway shutters
January 1957	Operation bridges
January 1957	Counterweight
June 1957	Hoists
June 1958	Gate House
	Utility Tower
Recent works	
August 10, 2024	Crest Gate No. 19 washed away
August 17, 2024	Temporary stop-log gate installed
April 25, 2026	Installation of new crest gates completed

Tungabhadra Dam Project

- The dam was constructed near **Hosapete in Karnataka's Vijayanagara district** and commissioned in the early 1950s.

It is an inter-State project serving:

- Karnataka
- Andhra Pradesh
- Telangana

The reservoir irrigates more than **16 lakh acres** through the Left Bank and Right Bank canal systems. It also supports:

- Drinking-water supply
- Hydroelectric power
- Fisheries
- Tourism
- Rural livelihoods

The project is a lifeline for drought-prone areas of northern Karnataka and Rayalaseema.

Tungabhadra Board

- The **Tungabhadra Board** manages the common inter-State project.

Major Functions

- Regulates water releases, implements tribunal directions, Maintains the dam and reservoir, Records water flows and losses, Regulates the Right Bank canals, Supports irrigation and power generation

The Board has helped prevent frequent disputes through institutional regulation.

Water-Sharing Arrangement

- The **Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal**, constituted in 1969, fixed the broad sharing arrangement in 1976.

Broad Ratio

- Karnataka: 65%**
- Undivided Andhra Pradesh: 35%**

Major Allocations

- Karnataka: **151.49 tmcft**
- Undivided Andhra Pradesh: **78.51 tmcft**
- Telangana's share: **15.9 tmcft**
- Andhra Pradesh's assured allocation from the dam: **32 tmcft**
- The Tribunal supported the continuation of the Tungabhadra Board until an alternative institutional mechanism is created.

Emerging Water-Sharing Disputes

Upper Bhadra Project

- Karnataka's Upper Bhadra lift-irrigation project is located upstream of the reservoir.
- Andhra Pradesh argues that it may intercept water before it reaches the dam and affect irrigation supplies to:
 - Anantapur
 - Kadapa
 - Kurnool
- Andhra Pradesh approached the Supreme Court in 2023 challenging the project and its clearances.

Telangana's Concern

- Telangana claims that it is not receiving its full allocation of **15.9 tmcft** and faces a shortfall of about **5–6 tmcft**.
- It has also argued that excess withdrawals may reduce downstream flows into the **Srisailem reservoir**.

Significance of the Tungabhadra Project

- Supports agriculture across three States
- Provides drinking water
- Strengthens drought resilience
- Supports hydroelectricity and fisheries
- Influences downstream Krishna-basin reservoirs
- Demonstrates tribunal-based inter-State water governance

Conclusion

The Tungabhadra reservoir is a vital inter-State lifeline for Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Its long-term sustainability depends on safe infrastructure, transparent water accounting, respect for tribunal allocations and effective cooperation among the riparian States.

Hypoxia Likely Caused Mass Fish Deaths on Anakapalli Coast

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC: Coastal Environment and Pollution Control

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Hypoxia, Algal Bloom, Trichodesmium, Eutrophication, Pony Fish

Mains Keywords

- Marine Dead Zones, Coastal Pollution, Oxygen Depletion, Industrial Effluents, Ecosystem Monitoring

Why in News?

A preliminary study by the **ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** has suggested that hypoxia, or severe oxygen depletion, likely caused the mass death of fish along the Boyapadu coast in Anakapalli district. Nearly **11 tonnes of fish**, mostly pony fish, washed ashore along a 1,500-metre coastal stretch.

What Happened at Boyapadu?

The incident was reported on June 20, 2026, near the Boyapadu Fish Landing Centre in Nakkapalli mandal.

Major observations included:

- Around 94% of the dead fish were pony fish belonging to the *Leiognathus* group.
- Fish were reportedly washed ashore alive before dying.
- Most specimens had open mouths, indicating respiratory stress.
- No external lesions or signs of disease were found.

- Seabirds and scavenging birds were absent from the affected stretch.

The estimated economic value of the dead fish was nearly ₹5 lakh.



What Did the CMFRI Study Find?

- Water samples showed a high concentration of **Trichodesmium**, a cyanobacterium commonly associated with algal blooms.
- The concentration was recorded at around **380 cells per millilitre**.

The preliminary assessment linked the mortality to:

- Dense algal bloom
- Oxygen depletion
- Hypoxic or anoxic water
- Possible eutrophication
- Formation of near-shore oxygen-dead zones

How Can Algal Blooms Cause Fish Deaths?

An algal bloom is the rapid growth of algae or cyanobacteria in water.

Its likely sequence is:

- Nutrient-rich water promotes rapid algal growth.
- The bloom forms a dense layer near the coast.
- Algae die and decompose.
- Microorganisms consume dissolved oxygen during decomposition.

- Oxygen levels fall sharply, creating hypoxic or anoxic conditions.
- Fish experience respiratory stress and may die.

Intermittent rainfall and a sudden rise in temperature may also have created stratified water layers, accelerating the bloom and oxygen depletion.

Why Were Pony Fish Affected?

- Pony fish are commonly found in shallow coastal waters and close to the seabed.
- When oxygen-deficient bottom water moved towards the shore during high tide, the fish may have become trapped and unable to escape.
- This explains the observed open-mouth condition and the eyewitness account that fish reached the shore alive but in a distressed state.

Could Industrial Pollution Be Responsible?

Local fishermen suspected wastewater discharge from nearby bulk-drug industries.

They alleged that offshore industrial discharge pipelines may have created polluted zones affecting marine life.

However, the CMFRI study stated that available observations were insufficient to establish industrial effluents as the definitive cause.

Further investigations are required into:

- Industrial discharge points
- Effluent-treatment plants
- Toxic substances
- Nutrient pollution
- Long-term water-quality changes

Role of Institutions

ICAR-CMFRI

- Conducted field investigation
- Collected fish and water samples
- Examined disease and oxygen-stress indicators
- Submitted a preliminary report

Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board

- Initiated the inquiry
- Sought scientific investigation
- Is examining possible industrial pollution

Fisheries Department

- Assessed the scale of fish mortality
- Recorded fishermen's concerns
- Participated in the investigation

Way Forward

- Conduct continuous water-quality and toxicological monitoring.
- Examine industrial discharge pipelines and effluent-treatment plants.
- Monitor dissolved oxygen, nutrients and phytoplankton.
- Establish an early-warning system for harmful algal blooms.

Conclusion

The Boyapadu fish mortality appears to have been caused primarily by oxygen depletion associated with a *Trichodesmium* algal bloom. However, the role of industrial pollution has not yet been ruled out. A definitive conclusion requires long-term water-quality, toxicological and phytoplankton studies. The incident underlines the importance of stronger coastal monitoring, pollution control and protection of marine livelihoods.

Andhra Pradesh's First International-Standard Boxing Ring Opens in Tirupati

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC, Group I & II: Andhra Pradesh current affairs; youth development and sports infrastructure.

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), Srinivasa Sports Complex, Tirupati, international-standard boxing ring, indoor boxing hall, Junior Chamber International, talent pool, sports infrastructure

Mains Keywords

- Year-round training, talent identification, athlete safety, grassroots sports development, climate-independent infrastructure, public-community partnership, competitive preparedness, human-capital development

Why in News?

The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) inaugurated Andhra Pradesh's first **international-standard boxing ring** at the **Srinivasa Sports Complex in Tirupati** on 29 June 2026.

The indoor boxing facility was developed with the support of **Junior Chamber International (JCI)**. It aims to provide continuous training facilities to boxers and develop a pool of skilled athletes for national and international competitions.



Young boxers land punches on each other at the new boxing ring opened at Srinivasa Sports Complex in Tirupati on Monday. Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chairman A. Ravi Naidu is seen. | Photo Credit: K.V. Poornachandra Kumar

What is an International-Standard Boxing Ring?

A boxing ring is a specially designed square platform used for boxing training and competitions. It normally includes:

- A properly padded floor;
- Protective ropes and corner posts;
- Adequate space for boxers and officials;
- Safety arrangements to reduce the risk of injuries;
- A separate training and warm-up area; and
- Facilities suitable for organised competitions.

An **international-standard boxing ring** is expected to follow recognised norms relating to the dimensions of the ring, quality of equipment, athlete safety and competition management.

The Tirupati facility has been described as an international-standard ring because of its specialised infrastructure, training space and safety arrangements.

Key Features of the Tirupati Boxing Facility

1. First Facility of its Kind in Andhra Pradesh

- The facility is the **first international-standard boxing ring established in the State**. It represents an important addition to Andhra Pradesh's sports infrastructure.

2. Located at Srinivasa Sports Complex

- The boxing ring has been established at the **Srinivasa Sports Complex in Tirupati**, providing aspiring boxers in the region with access to organised training facilities.

3. Indoor Training Hall

- The ring is located inside an **indoor boxing hall**. This allows athletes to train throughout the year without being affected by heat, rainfall or other adverse climatic conditions.

4. Safety-Oriented Infrastructure

- The facility includes a designated boxing ring, training area and safety arrangements. Such infrastructure is necessary to reduce injuries and provide a disciplined training environment.

5. Support from Junior Chamber International

- The boxing hall was developed with the support of **Junior Chamber International**, demonstrating the role of cooperation between public institutions and community-based organisations in developing sports infrastructure.

6. Creation of a Talent Pool

- The facility will be used to identify and train promising boxers. It is expected to create a pool of athletes capable of participating in **national and international sporting events**.

Institutional Arrangement

The project reflects a coordinated institutional approach involving different stakeholders.

- **Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh:** SAAP inaugurated the facility and inspected its infrastructure, safety standards and training arrangements.

ANDHRA PRADESH'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL-STANDARD BOXING RING OPENS IN TIRUPATI



SAAP INAUGURATES INDOOR FACILITY AT SRINIVASA SPORTS COMPLEX



SAAP Chairman A. Ravi Naidu inspecting the new boxing ring



Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) inaugurated the State's first international-standard boxing ring at the Srinivasa Sports Complex in Tirupati.



SAAP Chairman A. Ravi Naidu inspected the infrastructure, training facilities, ring, and safety standards.



Players can now undergo training throughout the year and practice for upcoming sporting events irrespective of the climatic conditions."



The facility aims to create a talent pool of trained players ahead of national and international sporting events.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



INDOOR FACILITY
Year-round training regardless of weather conditions.



SAFETY FIRST
Built with standard safety measures for athletes.



INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Designed as per global boxing norms.



TALENT DEVELOPMENT
To identify and groom future champions.



PUBLIC-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
Developed with the support of JCI.

WHY IT MATTERS?



- Continuous training for athletes
- Builds competitive readiness
- Promotes grassroots sports
- Encourages youth discipline and fitness
- Strengthens Andhra Pradesh's sports ecosystem

WHAT IS AN INTERNATIONAL-STANDARD BOXING RING?



- Properly padded floor
- Protective ropes and corner posts
- Adequate space for boxers and officials
- Safety arrangements to reduce injuries
- Separate training & warm-up area
- Suitable for organised competitions

CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Need for qualified coaches & support staff
- Regular maintenance of infrastructure
- Ensuring equal access for all athletes
- More competitions for proper exposure
- Sports science & medical support
- Sustainable funding for long-term impact



WAY FORWARD



Recruit certified coaches



Conduct talent identification camps



Organise regular competitions



Integrate sports science support



Ensure inclusive & transparent access



Build partnerships for growth

★ ★ ★ A STEP TOWARDS BUILDING CHAMPIONS AND A FITTER, STRONGER ANDHRA PRADESH ★ ★ ★



- Junior Chamber International:** JCI supported the development of the indoor boxing hall.
- District Sports Administration:** The District Sports Development Officer is expected to support the local implementation and functioning of sports programmes.
- Coaches and Sports Associations:** Their participation will be necessary for talent identification, regular coaching and competition preparation.

Such cooperation can reduce infrastructure gaps and improve the quality of sports training at the district level.

Conclusion

The establishment of Andhra Pradesh's first international-standard boxing ring in Tirupati is an important step towards strengthening the State's

sports ecosystem. The indoor facility can provide safe and uninterrupted training, identify local talent and prepare athletes for higher-level competitions. However, infrastructure must be supported by qualified coaching, sports science, regular competitions, inclusive access and proper maintenance. With sustained institutional support, the facility can become a major centre for developing competitive boxers from Andhra Pradesh.