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News Summary (EM)

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TGPSC News Summary

Hyderabad Set to Lead India's Semiconductor Design

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **Science and Technology, Telangana Economy, Industrial Development, Innovation Ecosystem.**

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- Semiconductor, Chip Design, VLSI, SoC, Semiconductor IP, Global Capability Centres, NITI Aayog, Frontier Tech Hub, Advanced Packaging, Chiplets, Compound Semiconductors.

Mains Keywords:

- Semiconductor Ecosystem, Strategic Technology, Design Talent, Technology Self-Reliance, Electronics Manufacturing, Innovation Cluster, Global Value Chains, Digital Economy.

Why in News?

Hyderabad is expected to emerge as one of India's leading **semiconductor design hubs** after NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released a 10-year road map for the future of India's semiconductor industry.

- The road map aims to build a **\$120 billion to \$150 billion semiconductor ecosystem** by 2035. It identifies **semiconductor design**

talent development as one of the five key pillars. Hyderabad, which already hosts seven of the world's top 10 semiconductor firms, is seen as a major centre for achieving this goal.



What is Semiconductor Design?

Semiconductor design refers to the process of designing the structure and functioning of chips before they are manufactured.

- In simple terms, it is like preparing the **blueprint of a chip**. Engineers decide how the chip will process data, consume power, perform calculations and support devices such as smartphones, computers, electric vehicles, satellites and AI systems.

Semiconductor design includes areas such as:

- VLSI design
- System-on-Chip design
- Chip verification

- AI accelerator design
- Embedded systems
- Semiconductor IP development

NITI Aayog's Semiconductor Road Map

The NITI Aayog road map focuses on building India's semiconductor capacity over the next decade. Its larger vision is to make India a strong player in the global semiconductor value chain.

The road map targets:

- A **\$120-150 billion semiconductor ecosystem by 2035**
- Development of **100+ advanced semiconductor design IPs**
- Strong focus on **design talent**
- Growth in **advanced packaging**
- Expansion of **chiplet design**
- Promotion of **compound semiconductors**
- Development of a deeper semiconductor ecosystem beyond only fabrication plants

A **semiconductor** is a material that can conduct electricity under certain conditions but does not conduct electricity as freely as metals.

It stands between:

Category	Conductivity	Example
Conductor	High conductivity	Copper, Aluminium
Semiconductor	Moderate and controllable conductivity	Silicon, Germanium
Insulator	Very low conductivity	Rubber, Glass

Why Hyderabad is Important

Hyderabad is already a major technology centre in India. It has a strong base in IT, AI, life sciences, global capability centres and semiconductor design. The city is important because:

- It hosts **seven of the world's top 10 semiconductor firms**.
- It is reportedly outpacing Bengaluru in chip design hiring.
- It has around **9,300 semiconductor professionals**.
- Its semiconductor talent pool is growing at about **4% annually**.
- Hyderabad and Bengaluru together account for nearly **two-thirds of India's semiconductor design capability**.
- The city has a mature ecosystem of design GCCs and technology companies.

Key Strengths of Hyderabad

1. Strong Talent Base

- Hyderabad has engineers working in advanced areas such as chip verification, AI accelerators and System-on-Chip design. This makes the city important for India's goal of creating advanced semiconductor design IPs.

2. Presence of Global Firms

- The presence of leading semiconductor companies gives Hyderabad access to global design practices, skilled professionals and advanced projects.

3. Innovation Cluster

Hyderabad has a unique convergence of:

- IT
- Semiconductors
- Artificial Intelligence
- Life sciences
- Global Capability Centres

This helps create a strong innovation ecosystem.

4. Common Facility Centre

- The proposed common facility centre at **Knowledge City** can help start-ups and

mid-sized design firms. Such firms often cannot afford expensive prototyping infrastructure on their own.

5. Infrastructure Expansion

- Telangana's plan to expand Hyderabad's infrastructure over the next decade can further strengthen its role as a semiconductor hub.

Importance of Semiconductor Design Talent

Semiconductor manufacturing is not only about fabrication plants. Design is one of the most valuable parts of the chip ecosystem.

Design talent is important because:

- It creates intellectual property.
- It supports high-value jobs.
- It strengthens technology self-reliance.
- It reduces dependence on foreign chip design.
- It supports electronics, defence, AI, automotive and telecom sectors.
- It helps India move from being a chip consumer to a chip creator.

More-than-Moore Technologies

The NITI Aayog road map gives importance to **"more-than-Moore" technologies**.

This means improving chip performance not only by making transistors smaller, but also by using new designs, materials and packaging methods.

Important areas include:

- **Advanced packaging**
- **Chiplet design**
- **Compound semiconductors**
- **Embedded systems**
- **AI-specific chips**

Hyderabad is well placed in these areas because of its existing strengths in embedded systems, chip

verification and advanced design work.

Challenges

- India still has limited semiconductor manufacturing capacity.
- Design talent must be continuously upgraded.
- Start-ups need access to funding, prototyping and testing infrastructure.
- Semiconductor research requires strong industry-academia collaboration.
- Global competition in chip design is very high.
- Advanced tools and Electronic Design Automation software are expensive.
- India needs more domestic semiconductor IP ownership.
- Supply chain and export control risks can affect semiconductor growth.

Way Forward

- Strengthen semiconductor design education in universities and engineering colleges.
- Create industry-linked training programmes in VLSI, SoC and chip verification.
- Support start-ups with common prototyping and testing facilities.
- Expand the proposed common facility centre at Knowledge City.
- Promote domestic semiconductor IP creation.
- Encourage collaboration among industry, academia and government.
- Provide incentives for advanced packaging, chiplets and compound semiconductor firms.
- Build strong links between Hyderabad, Bengaluru and other semiconductor

clusters.

- Ensure long-term policy stability and infrastructure support.

Conclusion

Hyderabad's rise as a semiconductor design hub reflects India's shift from being mainly a technology consumer to becoming a technology creator. The city's strong talent base, presence of global semiconductor firms, mature GCC ecosystem and innovation cluster make it well positioned to support India's semiconductor ambitions.

- However, design capability alone is not enough. India must strengthen skills, research, prototyping infrastructure, start-up support and domestic IP creation. If planned effectively, Hyderabad can become a major driver of India's semiconductor ecosystem and contribute significantly to the goal of a strong, self-reliant digital economy.

Telangana State Formation Day

Source: [Telangana today](#)

Relevance: Telangana Movement

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- Telangana Formation Day, June 2, Operation Polo, Hyderabad State, Standstill Agreement, States Reorganisation Act 1956, Gentlemen's Agreement, Mulki Rules, 32nd Constitutional Amendment, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014.

Mains Keywords:

- Regional Aspirations, Indian Federalism,

Democratic Mobilisation, State Reorganisation, Telangana Identity, Neellu-Nidhulu-Niyaamakaalu, Inclusive Development, Cultural Assertion.

Why in News?

- **Telangana State Formation Day** is celebrated every year on **2 June** to mark the creation of Telangana as a separate State of India in **2014**.
- The day represents the long struggle of the people of Telangana for **regional identity, self-respect, equitable development and democratic rights**. It also reminds us of the historical journey of Telangana from the Hyderabad State period to its formation as a separate State under the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**.



Historical Background

- Before Independence, Telangana was part of the **Hyderabad State** ruled by the Nizam. The region had a distinct political, cultural and administrative identity.
- After India became independent, the Nizam of Hyderabad did not immediately agree to join the Indian Union. This created political

TELANGANA: KEY FACTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE



1 FORMATION & BASIC FACTS • Formed on 2nd June 2014. • Carved out from Andhra Pradesh. • Became the 29th State of India. • Capital: Hyderabad. • Area: 1,12,077 sq. km. • 12th largest State in India in terms of area and population. • Population: about 3.50 crore (Census 2011). <tr><td> 2 LOCATION & BORDERS Telangana lies on the Deccan Plateau in southern India. Borders: • Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh in the north • Karnataka in the west • Andhra Pradesh in the south, east and north-east <tr><td> 3 STATE SYMBOLS State Bird: Palapitta / Indian Roller State Animal: Jinka / Deer State Tree: Jammi Chettu / Prosopis cineraria State Flower: Tangedu / Tanner's Cassia <tr><td> 4 CLIMATE, SOILS & AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONES Climate is mainly hot and dry. Annual normal rainfall: about 905.3 mm. Major soils: red sandy loams, red loams with clay base, and small patches of alluvial soils. 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uncertainty and instability in the region. The later integration of Hyderabad and the linguistic reorganisation of States shaped the political history of Telangana.

Telangana Rebellion

- The **Telangana rebellion** began in the late 1940s as a peasant struggle against the **jagirdari system**.
- Under this system, landlords and revenue officials exercised strong control over land and peasants. The movement was linked with agrarian distress and resistance to feudal oppression.
- The rebellion also came into conflict with the **Razakars**, a militia led by **Kasim Rizvi**. The disturbed law and order situation in Hyderabad State became one of the major reasons for India's intervention through **Operation Polo**.

Standstill Agreement and Operation Polo

- After Independence, the Nizam of Hyderabad did not immediately agree to join the Indian Union.
- India signed a **Standstill Agreement** with Hyderabad to temporarily continue existing administrative arrangements. However, violence and instability continued due to Razakar activities.
- In **September 1948**, India launched **Operation Polo**. Within a few days, Hyderabad State was integrated into the Indian Union. This was a major turning point in the political history of Telangana.

Linguistic Reorganisation and Telangana

- In **1953**, Andhra State was created by separating Telugu-speaking areas from the

Madras State. It was the first linguistic State in India.

- Later, the question arose whether the Telugu-speaking Telangana region of Hyderabad State should be merged with Andhra.
- The **States Reorganisation Commission** suggested that Telangana could remain separate for some time and later decide on merger. However, in **1956**, Telangana was merged with Andhra State to form **Andhra Pradesh** under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.
- Hyderabad became the capital of the enlarged Andhra Pradesh.

Gentlemen's Agreement and Mulki Rules

- The merger was accompanied by safeguards under the **Gentlemen's Agreement of 1956**. These safeguards were meant to protect Telangana's interests in employment, education, public funds and regional development.
- Telangana also had **Mulki Rules**, which acted as local employment safeguards in Hyderabad State. These rules aimed to protect government job opportunities for local residents.
- However, protests arose when many non-locals were appointed to government posts. In **1969**, student protests intensified due to alleged violations of safeguards promised under the Gentlemen's Agreement.

- In **1972**, the Supreme Court upheld the Mulki Rules. This was followed by the **Jai Andhra Movement**, and Andhra Pradesh was placed under **President's Rule in 1973**.

32nd Constitutional Amendment

In **1973**, the **32nd Constitutional Amendment** was introduced.

Under this arrangement:

- Andhra Pradesh was divided into **six zones** for public employment purposes.
- Job reservations were linked with zonal arrangements.
- The **Mulki Rules Act** was repealed.

This was an attempt to address regional employment concerns, but the demand for separate Telangana continued in different forms.

Telangana Movement

The first major phase of the Telangana movement was the **Jai Telangana Movement of 1969**. It demanded proper implementation of safeguards and separate Statehood for Telangana.

The movement was based on three major concerns:

- **Neellu - Water:** fair share of river waters and irrigation.
- **Nidhulu - Funds:** fair use of Telangana's revenue for Telangana's development.
- **Niyaamakaalu - Jobs:** fair employment opportunities for local people.

These three issues became the emotional and political foundation of the Telangana Statehood movement.

Timeline of the Telangana Movement

Year	Important Development
1948	Hyderabad State, including Telangana, was integrated into the Indian Union through Operation Polo .

Year	Important Development
1952	Burgula Ramakrishna Rao became the first Chief Minister of Hyderabad State after democratic elections.
1953	Andhra State was formed on linguistic basis after Potti Sriramulu's 53-day fast for a separate Telugu-speaking State.
1955	Andhra Assembly passed a resolution favouring the merger of Andhra with Telangana.
1956	Telangana was merged with Andhra State to form Andhra Pradesh . The Gentlemen's Agreement was signed to protect Telangana's interests.
1969	Marri Channa Reddy launched the Telangana Praja Samiti demanding a separate Telangana State. Students played a major role in the agitation.
1969	Prime Minister Indira Gandhi proposed an Eight-Point Plan , but protests continued.
1972	The Jai Andhra Movement started in Andhra-Rayalaseema as a counter-response to Telangana demands.
1973	The Six-Point Formula was introduced to address regional concerns in Andhra Pradesh.
1985	Telangana employees raised concerns about injustice in government appointments.
1999	The Congress party demanded the creation of Telangana.
2001	K. Chandrashekar Rao formed the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) after leaving the Telugu Desam Party.
2004	Congress came to power, and TRS became part of the coalition government.
2006	TRS quit the coalition governments and continued its independent struggle for Telangana.
2008	Telugu Desam Party declared support for the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.
2009	TRS launched a hunger strike. The Centre announced that the process for Telangana formation would be initiated.
2010	A five-member committee appointed by the Centre submitted its report on the Telangana issue.
2011-12	Telangana witnessed major agitations such as Million March, Chalo Assembly and Sakalajanula Samme .
2012	The Union Home Ministry called an all-party meeting to discuss the Telangana issue.
2014	The Telangana Bill was passed in Parliament, leading to the formation of Telangana on 2 June 2014 .

Renewed Movement in the 2000s

The Telangana movement gained renewed momentum in **2001** with the formation of the **Telangana Rashtra Samithi** under **K. Chandrashekar Rao**.

The movement received support from:

- Students, Employees, Farmers, Intellectuals, Civil society organisations, Cultural activists
- A major turning point came in **2009**, when KCR began a **fast unto death** demanding Telangana Statehood. The agitation created strong political pressure and brought the issue to the national agenda.

Formation of Telangana

After prolonged public agitations, political negotiations and parliamentary processes, Parliament passed the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**.

- Telangana officially became a State on **2 June 2014**.
- It became the **29th State of India**.
- It was carved out of the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Hyderabad** became the capital of Telangana.
- Telangana initially had **10 districts**.
- The districts were later reorganised into **33 districts** for administrative convenience.
- **K. Chandrashekar Rao** became the first Chief Minister of Telangana.

Conclusion

Telangana State Formation Day is not only a celebration of a new State. It is a reminder of a long people's movement for identity, justice and self-governance.

- The journey of Telangana includes the Hyderabad State period, the Telangana rebellion, Operation Polo, linguistic reorganisation, Mulki Rules, the 1969 movement and the final Statehood struggle. It shows that regional aspirations can be addressed within India's constitutional framework. Telangana's future depends on balanced development, employment generation, irrigation security, cultural preservation and inclusive governance.

Telangana Agriculture Department's El Niño Advisory: Shift from Paddy to Alternative Crops

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance

TGPSC: Agriculture, Telangana Economy, Climate Risk, Irrigation, Disaster Preparedness and Current Affairs.

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- El Niño, ENSO, La Niña, Southwest Monsoon, Kharif Season, Paddy, Contingency Crop Planning, Krishna Basin, Godavari Basin.

Mains:

- Climate-resilient Agriculture, Crop Diversification, Water-use Efficiency, Monsoon Variability, Drought Preparedness, Farmer Advisory System, Sustainable Agriculture.

Why in News?

The Telangana Agriculture Department has launched a campaign asking farmers to avoid water-intensive **paddy cultivation** and choose **short-duration alternative crops** during the Kharif season due to the possibility of poor rainfall linked to **El Niño**.

- The department has warned that below-normal rainfall in the **Krishna and Godavari river catchments** may reduce reservoir inflows, affecting irrigation supply and timely paddy sowing.



What is El Niño?

- El Niño** is a climatic phenomenon caused by the abnormal warming of surface waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- Under normal conditions, trade winds blow from east to west across the Pacific Ocean. This pushes warm water towards Indonesia and allows cold water to rise near the Peru coast. This rising of cold water is called **upwelling**.
- During El Niño, trade winds weaken or reverse. Warm water moves eastwards and suppresses cold water upwelling in the eastern Pacific Ocean. This increases sea

surface temperatures and disturbs atmospheric circulation, especially the **Walker Circulation**.

- El Niño generally occurs once in **2 to 7 years** and usually lasts for about **9 to 12 months**, though it may continue longer in some cases.

El Niño and Indian Monsoon

El Niño often weakens the **Indian southwest monsoon**. It can reduce rainfall and increase the chances of drought-like conditions.

Its major impacts include:

- Reduced monsoon rainfall in India.
- Lower water availability in reservoirs.
- Delayed sowing of Kharif crops.
- Stress on irrigation-dependent crops.
- Higher risk for paddy cultivation.
- Impact on agriculture, drinking water and livestock.

Globally, El Niño may cause heavy rainfall and flooding in parts of western South America, while causing drought-like conditions in India, Australia and Indonesia.

Why Paddy is a Concern?

- Paddy is a water-intensive crop. It needs assured water supply during different stages of growth.
- In Telangana, paddy has become a dominant crop in recent years. However, if rainfall is poor and reservoir inflows are delayed, paddy cultivation may face serious risks.

The Agriculture Department has warned that poor rainfall in:

- Karnataka's Krishna basin catchments** may reduce inflows into **Srisailem, Jurala and Nagarjunasagar reservoirs**.

- **Godavari river catchments** may reduce water availability for irrigation.

This can directly affect timely paddy sowing and crop survival.

Agriculture Department's Campaign

The department has started a farmer awareness campaign to promote climate-resilient crop choices. Major features include:

- Social media campaign through YouTube.
- Awareness video explaining El Niño and alternative crops.
- Messages shared through a WhatsApp channel with around **57,000 farmers**.
- Weather messaging service to reach nearly **15 lakh farmers**.
- Direct outreach through district-level officials.
- Farmer advisories based on updated weather conditions.

Agriculture Commissioner Dr. B. Gopi said that the department will continue updating farmers as weather conditions change.

Contingency Agriculture Plan

The department has prepared **district-wise contingency agriculture plans** for three rainfall situations:

- No rain till **July 15**
- No rain till **July 30**
- No rain till **August 15**

These plans will guide farmers on what crops to grow depending on rainfall delay.

District Collectors will act as **nodal officers** for implementing the plan according to local weather conditions.

Suggested Crop Strategy

- **If Monsoon is Delayed**
Farmers are advised to avoid long-duration paddy varieties and instead choose crops

that need less water and mature quickly.

- **If Farmers Still Choose Paddy**

They should select **short-duration paddy varieties** with a crop period of **125 days or less**.

Recommended Alternative Crops

The Agriculture Department has suggested major contingency crops such as:

- **Red gram , Green gram , Black gram , Jowar, Bajra, Maize**

These crops are more suitable under poor rainfall conditions because they need comparatively less water and have shorter crop duration.

Challenges

- Farmers may hesitate to shift from paddy due to market and procurement concerns.
- Availability of quality seeds for alternative crops must be ensured.
- Farmers need assured prices and market linkages for pulses and millets.
- Delayed rainfall may still affect even short-duration crops.
- Small farmers may lack access to irrigation-saving technologies.
- Crop diversification requires continuous extension support.

Way Forward

- Strengthen village-level crop advisory systems.
- Provide assured seed supply for pulses, millets and maize.
- Promote procurement support for alternative crops.
- Encourage micro-irrigation and water-saving methods.
- Link crop planning with reservoir water

availability.

- Use weather-based advisories in local languages.
- Promote millets and pulses as climate-resilient crops.
- Coordinate agriculture, irrigation and disaster management departments.
- Provide crop insurance support for farmers facing climate risks.

Conclusion

The Telangana Agriculture Department's El Niño advisory is an important step towards climate-resilient agriculture. As paddy requires high water availability, farmers need to adjust crop choices according to rainfall and reservoir conditions.

- Short-duration crops such as pulses, millets and maize can reduce risk during poor monsoon years. The success of the campaign will depend on timely weather advisories, seed availability, farmer awareness, market support and strong coordination among government departments.

Telangana-South Africa Cooperation: Education, Medical Tourism and Investments

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance:

TGPSC/: Telangana Economy, Hyderabad Development, Bharat Future City, Investments, Skill Development, Medical Tourism and Current Affairs.

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026,

Bharat Future City, South Africa, Paul Mashatile, Global Capability Centres, Medical Tourism, Young India Skills University, Thuringia, African Continental Free Trade Area.

Mains Keywords:

- Investment Promotion, Skill Ecosystem, India-Africa Cooperation, Medical Tourism, Human Capital Development, Technology Partnerships, Startups, Semiconductor Ecosystem, Global Workforce Mobility.

Why in News?

Telangana Chief Minister **A. Revanth Reddy** invited South African industrialists and entrepreneurs to participate in the **Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026**, scheduled to be held in December at **Bharat Future City**. The invitation was extended during a meeting with a high-level South African delegation led by **Deputy President Paul Mashatile**. The discussions focused on cooperation in **education, skill development, medical tourism, investments, technology, startups and life sciences**.



Background

Telangana is trying to position itself as a major investment and innovation hub in India.

Hyderabad already has a strong base in **information technology, pharmaceuticals, defence, aerospace, life sciences and Global Capability Centres.**

- The State government is also promoting **Bharat Future City**, a proposed large-scale urban and industrial development project near Hyderabad's international airport. The project is expected to attract global companies and support Telangana's long-term growth vision.

Key Highlights of the South Africa Meeting

- Chief Minister Revanth Reddy invited South African businesses to the **Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026.**
- The summit is expected to be held at **Bharat Future City** in December.
- The Chief Minister highlighted Hyderabad's strong education and skill training ecosystem.
- He said Hyderabad has become a preferred destination for **Global Capability Centres of Fortune 500 companies.**
- Telangana also projected Hyderabad as a growing **medical tourism hub** due to cost-effective healthcare facilities.
- South African Deputy President **Paul Mashatile** said India and South Africa share strong historical and cultural ties.
- He noted that South Africa can offer Indian companies access to African markets through the **African Continental Free Trade Area.**

Why Hyderabad is Important

Hyderabad has emerged as a major knowledge and innovation centre.

Its key strengths include:

- Strong higher education ecosystem , Skilled engineering talent , Information technology base , Pharmaceutical and life sciences industry, Defence and aerospace ecosystem, Medical infrastructure , Startup ecosystem , Global Capability Centres Cost-effective healthcare services

These strengths make Hyderabad suitable for attracting investments in technology, research, healthcare, manufacturing and services.

Bharat Future City

Bharat Future City is proposed as a major future-ready development project near Hyderabad's international airport.

The Chief Minister invited global investors to explore opportunities in the proposed **30,000-acre Bharat Future City.**

It is expected to support:

- Technology industries
- Global Capability Centres
- Startups
- Life sciences
- Education and skill development
- Healthcare and medical tourism
- Defence and aerospace
- Future industries

Bharat Future City is being projected as a new growth engine for Telangana.

Areas of Cooperation with South Africa

1. Education

- Telangana and South Africa can cooperate in student exchange, higher education partnerships and joint academic programmes.

2. Skill Development

- Skill training can be aligned with global workforce requirements in sectors such as

IT, healthcare, engineering, manufacturing and services.

3. Medical Tourism

- Hyderabad's affordable and advanced healthcare facilities can attract patients from South Africa and other African countries.

4. Pharmaceuticals

- South Africa expressed interest in greater collaboration in pharmaceuticals. Telangana's strong pharma ecosystem can support medicine supply, research and investment.

5. Startups and Technology

- Both sides can cooperate in innovation, digital technology, startups and entrepreneurship.

6. Life Sciences

- Hyderabad's life sciences ecosystem can support research, manufacturing and healthcare innovation.

7. Market Access

- South Africa can act as a gateway for Indian firms to African markets through the **African Continental Free Trade Area**.

Challenges

- Global investors need clear policy stability and fast approvals.
- Bharat Future City** requires strong infrastructure, land planning and connectivity.
- Skill programmes must match actual industry demand.
- Medical tourism requires quality, trust, language support and patient care systems.
- Competition from other Indian States for global investments is high.
- International collaborations need proper follow-up after MoUs.

- Workforce mobility requires language training, certification and global-standard skills.

Way Forward

- Create a dedicated investment facilitation system for South African and German firms.
- Fast-track infrastructure development in **Bharat Future City**.
- Build sector-specific clusters for pharma, life sciences, defence, aerospace and semiconductors.
- Strengthen **Young India Skills University** with international curricula.
- Expand German, Japanese and Korean language training for workforce mobility.
- Promote Hyderabad as a medical tourism destination in African markets.
- Support startups through incubation, funding and global mentorship.
- Ensure MoUs are converted into practical projects with timelines.
- Develop a single-window system for global investors.

Conclusion

Telangana's outreach to South Africa and Germany reflects the State's ambition to become a global hub for investment, skills, technology and medical tourism. Hyderabad's strong education, healthcare, IT, pharma and innovation ecosystem gives the State a major advantage. The success of these partnerships will depend on converting discussions and MoUs into real investments, jobs, skill programmes and infrastructure. If implemented effectively, **Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026** and **Bharat Future City** can strengthen Telangana's role in India's economic and technological growth.

Hyderabad Emerging as India's Fast-Growing Data Centre Hub

Source: [Times of India](#)

Relevance: Telangana Economy, Hyderabad Development, IT Sector, Data Centres, AI Infrastructure .

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- Data Centre, Hyperscaler, Cloud Computing, GPU, Liquid Cooling, AWS, Microsoft, Oracle, Knight Frank India, AI Workloads.

Mains Keywords:

- Digital Infrastructure, AI Economy, Hyperscale Data Centres, Cloud Adoption, Sovereign Data, Telangana Industrial Policy, Digital Economy, Disaster-safe Geography.

Why in News?

Hyderabad has rapidly emerged as one of India's fastest-growing **data centre markets**. According to a Knight Frank India report, the city's live data centre capacity more than doubled from **60.9 MW in 2022** to **151.4 MW by the end of 2025**.

What is a Data Centre?

A **data centre** is a specialised facility used to store, process and manage large amounts of digital data.

It contains:

- Servers
- Storage systems
- Networking equipment
- Cooling systems
- Power backup systems
- Security infrastructure

Hyderabad's Data Centre Growth

Hyderabad is shifting from being a secondary IT location to a major **hyperscale data centre hub**.

The city is attracting large-scale data centre investments because of:

- Strong IT ecosystem
- Availability of skilled talent
- Growing cloud demand
- AI-led workloads
- Government incentives
- Disaster-safe geography
- Availability of large campus-scale sites
- Presence of global cloud companies

Why Hyderabad is Attracting Data Centres

1. Large Campus-scale Deployments

- Operators prefer Hyderabad for large, campus-style data centre projects. Such sites allow companies to build scalable infrastructure for future digital and AI demand.

2. Disaster-safe Geography

- Hyderabad's location is considered relatively safe from coastal disasters such as cyclones and sea-level risks. This gives the city an advantage over some expensive coastal hubs.

3. Strong IT and Talent Ecosystem

- Hyderabad already has a strong base in IT, ITeS, pharma, startups, Global Capability Centres and engineering talent. This supports the growth of digital infrastructure.

4. Government Incentives

Telangana is promoting itself as a global **AI data centre hub** by offering incentives for advanced infrastructure such as:

- High-density GPUs
- Large-scale AI training compute
- Liquid cooling systems
- Campus-scale facilities

5. Cost Advantage

- Compared to some coastal hubs, Hyderabad offers a strategic alternative for operators looking for scalable and cost-effective digital infrastructure.

Role of Global Hyperscalers

- A major reason for Hyderabad's growth is the increasing presence of **global hyperscalers**.

Microsoft

- Microsoft is launching its **India South Central data centre region** in Hyderabad in 2026.

Amazon Web Services

- AWS operates **three availability zones** in Hyderabad. It holds around **46% market share** of the city's live IT capacity.

Oracle

- Oracle operates cloud services in Hyderabad through a colocation-based model and has announced plans to launch a data centre in Hyderabad to expand its India capacity.
- The presence of these companies strengthens Hyderabad's position as a credible hyperscale cloud hub.

Telangana's AI Data Centre Ambition

- Data centre demand is increasing due to the rise of artificial intelligence. AI needs large computing power, especially for training advanced models.

Telangana is aiming to build Hyderabad as a **global AI data centre hub**. This requires infrastructure such as:

- Advanced GPUs
- High-density computing
- Reliable power supply
- Efficient cooling
- Liquid cooling systems
- High-speed connectivity
- Skilled workforce

The State's push towards AI infrastructure can help Hyderabad become important in India's digital and AI economy.

Challenges

- Data centres require large amounts of electricity.
- AI data centres need advanced cooling systems and high water efficiency.
- Reliable renewable energy supply is essential for sustainability.
- Land availability and environmental clearances may become important issues.
- Data centres need strong cybersecurity and data protection systems.
- Skilled manpower is needed for operations, cloud systems and AI infrastructure.
- Competition from Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and other data centre hubs remains strong.

Way Forward

- Ensure reliable and affordable power supply.
- Promote renewable energy-linked data centres.
- Encourage water-efficient and liquid cooling technologies.
- Strengthen fibre connectivity and cloud infrastructure.
- Develop clear data centre policies and fast approval systems.

- Promote skill development in cloud computing, AI infrastructure and cybersecurity.
- Build disaster-resilient and energy-efficient data centre campuses.
- Support domestic AI compute infrastructure for startups, researchers and enterprises.

Conclusion

Hyderabad's rapid rise as a data centre hub reflects the growing importance of digital infrastructure in India's economy. The city's live capacity has more than doubled since 2022, and its future pipeline places it among India's leading data centre markets. With strong government incentives, global hyperscaler presence, skilled talent and disaster-safe geography, Hyderabad is well placed to become a major hub for cloud and AI infrastructure. However, long-term success will depend on sustainable power, efficient cooling, cybersecurity, skill development and planned urban infrastructure.

Thread by thread, Pochampally's weavers bring a living tradition to Hyderabad

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: Telangana Culture, Handloom Industry, Pochampally Ikat, GI Tags, Rural Economy.

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- Pochampally Ikat, Bhoodan Pochampally, GI Tag, UNESCO Tentative List, Tie and

Dye, Handloom, Natural Dyes, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri.

Mains Keywords:

- Handloom Heritage, Artisan Livelihoods, Cultural Economy, Sustainable Textiles, Traditional Knowledge, Rural Entrepreneurship, Craft Preservation.

Why in News?

A three-day exhibition-cum-sale titled “**Thread Pochampally**” was organised at **HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad**, to celebrate Telangana's world-famous **Pochampally Ikat** tradition. The exhibition brought together around **100 weavers** and showcased sarees, dress materials, shirts, home furnishings and lifestyle products. It also displayed the process of weaving, natural dyes and traditional looms.



What is Thread Pochampally?

- **Thread Pochampally** is a first-of-its-kind exhibition dedicated entirely to **Pochampally Ikat**.
- It was organised by the **Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district administration** with support from CSR partners.
- The programme was inaugurated by the Minister for Agriculture, Marketing,

Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles **Tummala Nageswara Rao**, in the presence of Minister **Komatireddy Venkat Reddy** and other officials.

The exhibition aimed to:

- Promote authentic Pochampally handloom products.
- Create direct market access for weavers.
- Educate visitors about the Ikat-making process.
- Encourage citizens to support Telangana's handloom communities.
- Present Pochampally as both a heritage craft and a modern fashion identity.

What is Pochampally Ikat?

Pochampally Ikat is a traditional handloom textile from **Bhoodan Pochampally** in Telangana.

It is famous for its:

- Geometric patterns
- Bright colour combinations
- Fine handwoven designs
- Tie-and-dye technique
- Durable colours
- Use of cotton, silk and silk-cotton blends

Pochampally Ikat is one of Telangana's most celebrated handloom traditions and is known both in India and abroad.

Weaving Technique

- Pochampally Ikat is based on the **Ikat or Tie-and-Dye weaving technique**.
- In this method, designs are transferred onto the threads **before weaving**. This gives the fabric a unique blurred or feathered edge effect.

The process includes:

- Lining up warp threads
- Marking the design

- Tying selected thread portions
- Dyeing in a dye bath
- Unwrapping the threads
- Arranging them on the loom
- Weaving the final fabric

This process requires high skill, patience and mathematical precision. Even a small mistake in tying or arranging threads can affect the design.

Materials Used

Common materials used in Pochampally Ikat include:

- Cotton
- Silk
- Sico, a silk-cotton blend

Natural dyes and pure dyes are also used in many traditional products. The exhibition displayed natural dyes and their ingredients, helping visitors understand the eco-friendly side of the craft.

Cultural and Economic Importance

Pochampally Ikat is not merely a textile product. It is a living cultural tradition.

Its importance can be seen in the following ways:

1. Cultural Identity

- Pochampally Ikat represents Telangana's artistic heritage and traditional knowledge.

2. Rural Livelihood

- The craft supports thousands of weaver families and allied workers involved in dyeing, designing, finishing and marketing.

3. Sustainable Textile Tradition

- Handloom weaving uses less energy compared to machine-made textiles and supports slow, sustainable fashion.

4. Women and Family Labour

- Many handloom processes involve family-

based work, including women's contribution in preparation, dyeing and finishing.

5. Tourism Potential

- Telangana Tourism is promoting customised packages for visitors to explore weaving villages, interact with artisan families and see traditional looms.

GI Status and UNESCO Recognition

- Pochampally Ikat received **Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2005**. This gives legal recognition to its unique identity and protects it from imitation.
- Pochampally is also included in the **UNESCO tentative list of World Heritage Sites**, reflecting its cultural and heritage value.

The GI tag is important because it:

- Protects the authenticity of the craft.
- Helps promote the product in domestic and global markets.
- Supports weaver identity and brand value.
- Prevents misuse of the Pochampally name by fake products.

Weavers' Cooperative Society

- The **Pochampally Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Ltd.** was established in **1955**.
- It includes around **125 weaver families** and has received several national recognitions.

The cooperative model helps weavers by supporting:

- Production
- Marketing
- Collective bargaining
- Product promotion
- Craft preservation

Such institutions are important for protecting

traditional crafts from market instability.

Weavers' Concerns

- Despite public appreciation, weavers face serious concerns.
- Elderly weavers fear that younger generations are moving away from the craft. Many children and grandchildren of weavers are not interested in continuing the tradition due to income uncertainty and hard labour.

Major concerns include:

- Declining interest among youth
- Low and uncertain income
- Competition from powerloom and machine-made products
- Lack of awareness among consumers
- Difficulty in distinguishing genuine handloom from imitation
- Limited direct market access
- Rising cost of raw materials
- Need for modern design and branding support

Challenges

- Younger generations are not showing enough interest in weaving.
- Fake and machine-made products weaken the value of genuine Ikat.
- Handloom products are often seen as expensive by consumers.
- Weavers need better design, branding and e-commerce support.
- Raw material prices affect production costs.
- Middlemen reduce the income of artisans.
- Many weavers lack social security and stable market access.
- Traditional skills may decline if training is not institutionalised.

Way Forward

- Promote genuine Pochampally Ikat through GI-based branding.
- Create handloom awareness campaigns in schools, colleges and urban markets.
- Strengthen direct-to-consumer exhibitions and online sales.
- Provide design training to young weavers.
- Link handlooms with fashion institutes and designers.
- Promote weaving village tourism through Telangana Tourism.
- Provide social security, credit support and insurance to weavers.
- Use technology such as virtual try-on, QR codes and digital certification.
- Encourage government and private institutions to buy handloom products.
- Train youth in both traditional weaving and modern entrepreneurship.

Conclusion

The **Thread Pochampally** exhibition showed that Pochampally Ikat is not just a fabric but a living heritage of Telangana. Every saree carries the skill, patience and cultural memory of the weaver.

- The success of the exhibition proves that traditional crafts can survive when people understand their value and support artisans directly. Preserving Pochampally Ikat requires a balance of **heritage protection, modern design, technology, tourism and fair income for weavers.**

Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030

Source: [Telangana Tourism](#)

Relevance: **Telangana History, Telangana Economy, Tourism Policy, Heritage Sites, Cultural Development**

Important Keywords

Prelims

- Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-30, Trilingadesha, Kakatiya Rule, Qutb Shahi Dynasty, Asaf Jahi Dynasty, Classical Language Status, Special Tourism Areas, Tourism-Friendly Index, Safe Tourism, Infrastructure Development

Mains

- Tourism-led development, heritage conservation, employment generation, private investment, cultural tourism, eco-tourism, spiritual tourism, infrastructure development, ease of doing business

Background: Our history is Our Future

Telangana has a rich historical and cultural identity. The region has a long legacy from prehistoric times to the mighty **Kakatiya rule in the 14th century CE**. In historical literature, the region was known as **Trilingadesha**, meaning the land surrounded by three sacred Shaiva centres:

- **Srisailem**
- **Draksharamam**
- **Kaleshwaram**

Over time, the term **Trilingadesha** became **Telingadesha** and later evolved into **Telangana**.



Historical and Cultural Importance of Telangana

- Telangana flourished under different dynasties and cultural traditions. During the period of the **Qutb Shahi** and **Asaf Jahi** dynasties, the State developed in the fields of language, literature, arts, crafts and architecture.
- The region reflects the **Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb**, which represents cultural harmony and composite traditions. The erstwhile State of Hyderabad also emerged as one of the richest domains in the country.

Telangana is known for its:

- Magnificent forts and monuments
- Hindu and Persian architectural blend
- Islamic and Christian structures
- Buddhist and Jain sites
- Carved temples
- Lakes and rocky regions
- Wildlife, flora and fauna
- Diverse ethnic groups, festivals, art and culture

This makes Telangana a cultural mosaic and a historical paradise.

Need for Telangana Tourism Policy

- Since the formation of Telangana, tourism infrastructure development has not fully matched the State's tourism potential. The State also did not have a dedicated tourism policy since **2014**.
- Tourism infrastructure is largely driven by the private sector. Therefore, the government felt the need for a clear policy and administrative framework to improve investor confidence.

The policy aims to provide:

- Tourism infrastructure development
- Strategic concessions and incentives
- Ease and speed of doing business

- Private sector participation
- Branding of Telangana as a global tourist destination
- Capacity-building
- Institutional mechanism

The **Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-30** is the first tourism policy of Telangana.

Vision of the Policy

The vision of the Tourism Policy 2025-30 is to position Telangana as **"India's Most Preferred Destination."**

The policy seeks to promote a harmonious blend of:

- Spiritual tourism
- Heritage tourism
- Culture tourism
- Adventure tourism
- Medical and wellness tourism
- Eco-tourism
- Community empowerment
- Modern infrastructure
- World-class services

The aim is to attract both tourists and investments.

Outcomes of the Policy

The policy aims to achieve the following outcomes in the next five years:

1. Attract **₹15,000 crore** of new investment in the tourism sector.
2. Create additional employment opportunities for **three lakh people**.
3. Position Telangana among the **top 5 States** in domestic and international tourist arrivals.
4. Promote diverse attractions of the State at the global level through digital marketing, social media presence, literary documentation and preservation.
5. Enhance tourism contribution to **10% or more** of the State GDP.

Key Drivers of the Policy

Safe Tourism

The policy focuses on making Telangana a safe and welcoming destination for tourists.

Important measures include:

- Creation of dedicated tourist police units and tourist patrols across key tourist destinations.
- Women-friendly measures to ensure the safety of female tourists.
- Use of **Tourism-Friendly Index** to evaluate safety standards of destinations.
- Additional CCTV surveillance at all tourist destinations.

These steps aim to create a safer environment for tourists.

Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development is one of the major drivers of the policy.

Major initiatives include:

- **Railway and Airport Connectivity**
The policy proposes to position **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad** as a focal point by creating iconic projects within one to two hours' drive.

- **Dry Port and Regional Ring Road Development**

A dry port may be developed along the **Regional Ring Road** and connected with the Greenfield Highway to **Machilipatnam Port**. This may support business tourism and construction-related shopping.

Mega Retail Malls

- Mega retail malls such as luxury branded malls and factory outlets are proposed along Outer Ring Road exit points based on land availability in PPP mode.

River Tourism

- The policy promotes **Godavari and Krishna river tourism** through jetties, launch stations, water sports and houseboats. It also proposes river festivals on the lines of the boat festival of Kerala.

Air Connectivity

- The policy proposes helipads and extensive air connectivity at all **Special Tourism Areas**.

Golf Tourism

- The policy also seeks to explore golf tourism potential in the State.

Digital Promotion

- A strong social media and digital presence will be created to promote Telangana as a dynamic tourism destination.

Familiarisation Trips

- The policy proposes familiarisation trips for domestic and international travel communities, especially from South East Asian countries. This is aimed at attracting Buddhist tourists and investments to the State.

Sports Tourism

- Existing sports infrastructure will be revitalised. The policy proposes international sports arenas and stadiums, along with an annual sports event calendar.

Adoption of Monuments

- The policy encourages corporates to adopt monuments for conservation of heritage buildings, forts, palaces, tombs and tourist attractions.

Development of Special Tourism Areas

The policy proposes the development of **Special Tourism Areas** based on the tourism potential of different regions and destinations.

- At present, **27 Special Tourism Areas** have

been identified. Each area will be critically reviewed through a master planning approach.

- The policy states that infrastructure and tourism ecosystem gaps will be identified. Based on this, Special Tourism Area-specific strategies and road maps will be prepared with defined implementation schedules.



List of STAs with Tentative Destinations

S. No.	Category	Special Tourism Area	Tentative Destinations
1	Spiritual	Yadagirigutta	Yadagirigutta, Bhongir Fort, Baswapur, Kolanupaka Temples, Mahadevapuram
2	Spiritual	Bhadrachalam	Bhadrachalam, Parnasala, Kinnerasani Dam & Sanctuary, Kanakagiri Hills
3	Spiritual	Basara	Gyana Saraswati Temple, Vyasa Maharshi Temple and surrounding destinations
4	Spiritual	Vemulawada	Vemulawada, Kondagattu, Kotilingala, Dharmapuri
5	Spiritual	Alampur - Somasila	Alampur Shakti Peeth, Beechupalli, Jatprole, Kollapur, Somasila & Backwaters
6	Spiritual	Ramappa	Ramappa, Laknavaram, Medaram, Bogatha Waterfalls, Etunagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, Pandavula Gutta, Ghanpur Temples
7	Spiritual	Kaleshwaram	Kaleshwaram, Shivaram Sanctuary, Gandhari Fort
8	Spiritual	Medak	Medak Church & Fort, Pocharam Reservoir & Wildlife Sanctuary, Edupayala Temple, Narsapur Forest Landscape, Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary, Singur Dam

S. No.	Category	Special Tourism Area	Tentative Destinations
9	Heritage	Warangal	Warangal Fort & Temples, Pakhal Lake, Guduru Wildlife Sanctuary
10	Heritage	Nalgonda	Panagal Group of Temples, Devarakonda Fort
11	Heritage	Palakurthy	Palakurthy, Bommera, Pembarti, Cheriya, Valmidi, Jafargad
12	Heritage	Karimnagar	Elgandal Fort, Silver Filigree, Manthani Temples & Ramagiri Fort
13	Heritage	Charminar Cluster	Charminar, Mecca Masjid, Laad Bazaar, Salarjung Museum, Nizam Museum, Chowmahalla Palace
14	Heritage	Hyderabad-Rangareddy Medchal Cluster	Golconda Fort, Qutb Shahi Tombs, Taramati Baradari, Redevelopment of Buddha Purnima Area, Keesaragutta, Net Zero City & Eco Park, Shamirpet Lake, Urban Forest Parks
15	Eco & Wellness	Siddipet	Ranganayak Sagar & Temple, Annapurna Reservoir, Wargal Rock Arts & Gollabhama Crafts
16	Eco & Wellness	Nallamala Circuit	Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Farhabad, Saleswaram, Mallelatheertham, Mannanur, Uma Maheshwaram Temple, Madhava Swamy Temple, Bedi Anjaneya Swamy Temple
17	Eco & Wellness	Sriram Sagar	Sriram Sagar Reservoir and its Backwaters
18	Eco & Wellness	Jannaram	Kadem, Kawal Tiger Reserve, Sapthagundala Waterfalls
19	Eco & Wellness	Tribal Cluster	Jodeghat, Uttoor, Ushegoan & Keslapur, Kaghaznagar Tiger Landscape
20	Eco & Wellness	Nagarjuna Sagar	Buddhist Heritage, Backwaters & Islands
21	Eco & Wellness	Vikarabad	Vikarabad, Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple, Ananthagiri Hills, Kotpalli, Parigi, Damagundam
22	Eco & Wellness	Mahabubnagar	Koil Sagar, Pillalamarri, Manyamkonda
23	Crafts	Pochampally	—

S. No.	Category	Special Tourism Area	Tentative Destinations
24	Crafts	Narayanpet	—
25	Crafts	Gadwal & Kothakota	—
26	Waterfalls Circuit	Waterfalls Circuit	Koratikal, Kuntala, Pochera, Gayatri
27	Buddhist Circuit	Buddhist Circuit	Kondapur, Dhulikatta, Karukonda, Nelakondapalli, Buddhavanam, Phanigiri, Gajulabanda

Significance of the Policy

1. Boost to State Economy

- The policy aims to increase tourism contribution to **10% or more of State GDP**. This can make tourism an important economic growth sector for Telangana.

2. Employment Generation

- The target of creating jobs for **three lakh people** can support youth employment and service-sector growth.

3. Heritage Conservation

- The policy supports the preservation of forts, monuments, temples, tombs, palaces and other cultural assets.

4. Private Investment

- By offering concessions and incentives, the policy seeks to attract **₹15,000 crore** of new investment in tourism.

5. Global Branding

- The policy aims to promote Telangana globally through digital marketing, social media and documentation of cultural attractions.

6. Inclusive Tourism

- The focus on community empowerment,

eco-tourism and safe tourism can make tourism more inclusive and sustainable.

Way Forward

- Implement Special Tourism Area plans with clear timelines.
- Strengthen tourist police units and women-friendly tourism measures.
- Promote Telangana's heritage through digital platforms.
- Develop river tourism, waterfront tourism and sports tourism.
- Encourage corporate participation in monument conservation.
- Improve connectivity between major tourist destinations.
- Promote Buddhist, spiritual, heritage, eco, medical and wellness tourism.
- Ensure strong coordination between government, private sector and local communities.

Conclusion

The **Telangana Tourism Policy 2025–2030** is an important step towards making tourism a priority sector in the State. Telangana has a rich historical legacy, cultural diversity, strong infrastructure and excellent connectivity. The policy seeks to convert

this potential into investment, employment and global recognition.

By focusing on safe tourism, infrastructure development and Special Tourism Areas, Telangana aims to become **India's Most Preferred Destination** and a major contributor to the State economy.

Science and Technology Key to Protecting Oceans: INCOIS Initiatives

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance

TGPSC: Environment, Science and Technology, Disaster Management, Telangana-based institutions.

Important Keywords

PRELIMS:

- INCOIS, World Oceans Day, NIRMAL Sagar, Marine Litter, Indian Ocean Region, Ocean Modelling, Satellite Remote Sensing

MAINS:

- Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blue Economy, Ocean Governance, Marine Genetic Resources, Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar, SDGs.

Why in News?

- World Oceans Day celebrations were organised by the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** in Hyderabad.
- During the event, INCOIS launched two new initiatives: **NIRMAL Sagar**, a marine litter tracking programme for the Indian

Ocean Region, and the **INCOIS Research Scholars Collective (IRSC)**, a student-led platform to promote research collaboration among young scientists.



Background

- **World Oceans Day** is observed every year on **June 8** under the United Nations framework.
- The theme for World Oceans Day 2026 was **"Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, A New Relationship with Our Ocean."**
- The theme highlights the need for new, sustainable and technology-driven approaches to address ocean-related challenges such as pollution, climate change, marine resource degradation and weak ocean governance.

About INCOIS

- The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** is located in Hyderabad.
- It works under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** and provides ocean-related information and services.

Its work is important for:

- Ocean monitoring
- Disaster warning

- Coastal safety
- Fisheries advisory
- Climate studies
- Marine resource management
- Sustainable ocean development

What is NIRMAL Sagar?

- **NIRMAL Sagar** is a marine litter tracking programme launched by INCOIS for the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- It aims to create an integrated framework to monitor and track marine litter.

Key Features

- Identifies **marine litter hotspots**.
- Tracks movement of marine debris.
- Uses modern scientific tools such as:
 - **Ocean modelling**
 - **Satellite remote sensing**
 - **Artificial intelligence**
 - **Machine learning**
- Supports targeted clean-up efforts.
- Helps in better marine pollution management.
- Aligns with the **Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar** campaign.
- Supports the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**.

Role of Science and Technology in Ocean Protection

Science and technology can help in:

- Monitoring marine pollution.
- Predicting movement of marine litter.
- Understanding ocean currents.
- Tracking climate variability.
- Supporting early warning systems.
- Improving disaster resilience.
- Promoting sustainable blue economy.
- Strengthening marine resource management.

Importance of Ocean Observation Systems

These systems help collect data on:

- Sea surface temperature
- Ocean currents
- Sea-level changes
- Cyclones
- Marine pollution
- Climate variability
- Coastal hazards

Sustained ocean observations are important for climate studies, disaster preparedness and marine ecosystem conservation.

Ocean Governance and Blue Economy

During the technical session, experts discussed:

- Ocean governance
- Blue economy
- Climate change
- Marine genetic resources
- Marine resource management

This means ocean policies should be based on scientific evidence and should protect the entire marine ecosystem, not only individual resources.

Significance for India

India has a long coastline and depends heavily on oceans for trade, fisheries, climate regulation, energy and livelihoods.

Ocean protection is important for:

- Coastal communities
- Fishermen
- Marine biodiversity
- Disaster risk reduction
- Blue economy
- Maritime security
- Climate resilience
- Sustainable Development Goals

Institutions like **INCOIS** are important because

they connect science with public policy and disaster preparedness.

Way Forward

- Strengthen ocean observation systems.
- Use **AI, satellite data and machine learning** for marine monitoring.
- Promote ocean literacy among students and citizens.
- Encourage interdisciplinary research.
- Improve cooperation among Indian Ocean countries.
- Link ocean governance with climate action and disaster resilience.
- Support sustainable blue economy practices.
- Promote community participation in marine conservation.
- Expand programmes like **NIRMAL Sagar** for long-term marine pollution monitoring.

Conclusion

The launch of **NIRMAL Sagar** and the **INCOIS Research Scholars Collective** shows India's growing focus on science-based ocean governance. Protecting oceans requires technology, research, public awareness and international cooperation. By using tools such as satellite remote sensing, ocean modelling, artificial intelligence and machine learning, India can strengthen marine litter tracking, disaster resilience and sustainable ocean management. Oceans are central to climate stability, livelihoods and the blue economy. Therefore, ocean protection must become a key part of India's sustainable development strategy.

Early Arrival of Rain Bugs Cheers Farmers in Telangana

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance:

TGPSC: Agriculture, Environment, Biodiversity and Farmer Practices.

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- Arudra Purugu, Red Velvet Mites, Rain Bugs, Arthropods, Monsoon Indicator, Soil Health, Natural Pest Control, Arudra Karthe.

Mains Keywords:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Soil Biodiversity, Sustainable Agriculture, Monsoon-dependent Farming, Agro-ecology, Farmer Resilience, Natural Pest Management.

Why in News?

Farmers in **Jam and Chincholi villages of Nirmal taluka, Telangana**, are celebrating the early appearance of **Arudra purugu**, also known as **red velvet mites** or **rain bugs**.

- These insects usually appear during **Arudra Karthe**, beginning around **June 22**. However, their early emergence after the first monsoon showers has created optimism among farmers about good rains and healthy crop growth.

What are Rain Bugs?

- Rain bugs are commonly known as **red velvet mites**.
- Locally in Telangana, they are called **Arudra purugu**.



- They are small red-coloured arthropods that usually appear after the onset of rains.
- They spend most of the year hidden inside the soil.
- They come to the surface mainly during the rainy season for mating.
- They are **not** crop pests.

Traditional Belief in Telangana

- In Telangana folk belief, the appearance of **Arudra purugu** is considered an auspicious sign.
- Farmers and elders believe that their appearance indicates:
 - Arrival of monsoon rains
 - Strengthening of seasonal rainfall
 - Better soil moisture
 - Favourable conditions for paddy transplanting
 - Healthy crop growth
- Farmers often associate their presence with a good agricultural season.

Scientific Importance

- Agricultural extension workers clarified that red velvet mites are **beneficial** organisms.



Red Velvet Mite

(*Dinothrombium grandissimum*)

A striking monsoon arachnid and natural pest controller

1. SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION

Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Arthropoda
Subphylum	Chelicerata
Class	Arachnida
Order	Trombidiiformes
Superfamily	Trombidoidea
Family	Trombidiidae
Genus	<i>Dinothrombium</i>
Species	<i>Dinothrombium grandissimum</i>

2. KEY CHARACTERISTICS & BEHAVIOUR

- Bright red colour with a soft, velvety body covering.
- Two small eyes.
- First pair of legs often held forward and may resemble antennae during movement.
- Adults have four pairs of legs; larvae have three pairs.
- Body segmentation is not distinctly visible.
- Chelicerae are used for feeding and sucking body fluids from prey or hosts.
- Diurnal: active during daytime and hides beneath soil at night.
- Undergoes hibernation or dormancy during winter.
- Usually emerges with the onset of monsoon rains.
- Constructs burrows in sandy or yellowish soils.
- Harmless to humans.
- Haemolymph is red in colour.
- Burrowing mite that spends much of the monsoon season in self-made underground chambers.
- When disturbed, often remains motionless or hides beneath its body, then resumes movement after a short time.

3. ADDITIONAL FACTS

- Common names: Red Velvet Mite, Rain Bug, Ram Ki Dukariya.
- Found in regions such as the Chambal ravines and other semi-arid areas after rainfall.
- Plays an important ecological role by feeding on insect eggs and small arthropods, helping in **natural pest control**.
- Its appearance after the first rains makes it an important **indicator of the monsoon season** in many rural areas.
- Larval stage is often **parasitic** on insects, while nymphs and adults are generally **predatory**.

WHY IT MATTERS: ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

NATURAL PEST CONTROL

Feeds on insect eggs and small arthropods, helping to regulate pest populations naturally.

MONSOON INDICATOR

Its emergence after the first rains signals the arrival of the monsoon in many rural areas.

ROLE IN SOIL ECOSYSTEM

A burrowing mite that contributes to soil health and the balance of the soil food web.

- They are **non-pest arthropods**.
- Their larval stages feed on harmful soil pests.
- This makes them useful in **natural pest control**.
- Their presence helps maintain ecological balance in agricultural fields.

Link with Soil Health

- High populations of rain bugs are considered an indicator of **healthy soil**.
- Their emergence suggests that the soil has received enough moisture after rains.
- Their presence is often linked with:
 - Organic-rich soil
 - Less toxic land conditions
 - Moist soil environment
 - Better soil biological activity
- In black clay soils, their sudden surfacing may indicate that the soil is sufficiently wet and suitable for sowing preparations.

Importance for Farmers

- The early arrival of rain bugs has raised hopes among farmers after a dry spell.
- Farmers in Nirmal taluka are preparing nurseries and fields.
- The appearance of rain bugs gives confidence for:
 - Paddy transplanting
 - Sowing operations
 - Crop planning
 - Monsoon-based farming decisions
- It also strengthens the link between traditional knowledge and agricultural observation.

Significance

- Highlights the role of **traditional ecological knowledge** in rural farming.
- Shows how farmers observe natural

indicators to understand monsoon behaviour.

- Encourages respect for soil organisms and biodiversity.
- Supports the idea of **sustainable and ecological farming**.
- Demonstrates the importance of natural pest control.
- Helps create awareness that not all insects in fields are harmful.
- Connects agriculture with local culture and folk practices.

Conclusion

The early appearance of **Arudra purugu** in Telangana reflects the deep relationship between farmers, monsoon and soil biodiversity. While it is seen as a traditional sign of good rains, science also recognises red velvet mites as beneficial organisms that support soil health and natural pest control.

A balanced approach combining **local knowledge, scientific advisories and sustainable farming practices** can help farmers make better decisions and strengthen climate-resilient agriculture.

Centre Sanctions ₹3,825.31 Crore for VB-G-RAM-G in Telangana

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: **Telangana Economy, Rural Development, Welfare Schemes, Employment, Centre-State Financial Relations and Current Affairs.**

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- VB-G-RAM-G, MGNREGS, Rural Employment, Rozgar Guarantee Card, Workdays, Weekly Wage Payment,

Unemployment Allowance, 60:40
Funding Pattern.

Mains Keywords:

- Rural Livelihood Security, Centre-State Coordination, Wage Employment, Fiscal Federalism, Agricultural Labour Management, Inclusive Rural Development.

Why in News?

The Centre has sanctioned ₹3,825.31 crore as Central share for the implementation of the VB-G-RAM-G scheme in Telangana.

- Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** approved the amount. Union Coal Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** said the scheme is expected to be rolled out from **July**, but the Telangana government must issue the required notification and allocate its 40%

State share for implementation.

What is VB-G-RAM-G?

- VB-G-RAM-G** is the Centre's new rural employment programme.
- It replaces the earlier **MGNREGS** framework.
- It guarantees **125 days of work** to rural households.
- Earlier, MGNREGS provided **100 days of guaranteed wage employment**.
- The scheme aims to strengthen rural livelihood security.
- It also seeks to improve wage payment systems and accountability.

Funding Pattern

- The scheme will follow a **60:40 Centre-State funding pattern**.
- The Centre will bear **60%** of the cost.

VB-G RAM G Rules, 2026

Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)



1. Why in News?

The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 will come into force from **1 July 2026**. It will replace the two-decade-old MGNREGA. The Union Government has released draft rules for its implementation.



2. Key Features



- Replacement of MGNREGA** – VB-G RAM G will replace Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. MGNREGA provided employment to over 5 crore rural families in 2025–26.



- Increase in Guaranteed Work Days** – Guaranteed wage employment increased from 100 days to **125 days**.



- 60-Day Agricultural Pause** – Work may pause for **60 days** during peak sowing and harvesting seasons to ensure availability of farm labour.



- Change in Funding Pattern** – Under MGNREGS, the Centre paid 100% wage bill. Under VB-G RAM G, states will bear **40%** funding burden. Centre will bear 90% for North-Eastern and Himalayan States and UTs with legislature, and 100% for UTs without legislature.



- Top-Down Fund Allocation** – Earlier, allocations were based on state labour budgets. Now, the Centre will determine state-wise allocations.



- Transitional Provision** – Existing verified MGNREGS job cards will remain valid. Workers must renew and verify job cards through e-KYC.



- Direct Benefit Transfer** – Wages and unemployment allowance will be paid through DBT into bank or post office accounts.



- Normative Allocation** – The Centre will use the Sixteenth Finance Commission formula for state-wise allocation. Some states may receive lower allocations, while others may gain.



- Performance-Based Fund Reserve** – A portion of allocation may be reserved and distributed based on timely wage payment, social audit compliance, completion of works, and other performance indicators.



- Burden of Excess Expenditure** – If expenditure exceeds normative allocation, the state government must bear the extra cost.



3. Significance

VB-G RAM G increases employment guarantee days and continues rural wage support, but it also increases the financial responsibility of states and centralises allocation decisions.



- The State government must bear **40%** of the cost.
- The Telangana government has to issue notification and allocate its share before full rollout.
- This makes Centre-State coordination essential for timely implementation.

Workdays and Wage Benefits

VB-G-RAM-G promises stronger wage and employment support than the earlier framework.

Key Benefits

- **125 days of guaranteed work** for rural households.
- **Rozgar Guarantee Cards** for beneficiaries.
- **Weekly wage payments** to workers.
- If wages are delayed beyond **15 days**, compensation will be paid with **0.5% interest**.
- If work is not provided, **unemployment allowance** must be paid within **15 days**.

Role of Telangana Government

The Telangana government must complete key preparatory steps:

- Issue the required notification.
- Allocate the State's **40% fund share**.
- Consult farmers and local stakeholders.
- Finalise the **60-day advance holiday period** for agricultural operations.
- Coordinate with Central teams for smooth implementation.
- Prepare administrative machinery for issuing Rozgar Guarantee Cards.

60-Day Agricultural Holiday Period

- The scheme requires States to identify a **60-day advance holiday period** for agricultural operations.

- This period is meant to ensure that rural employment works do not disturb:
 - Sowing
 - Planting
 - Harvesting
 - Other peak agricultural activities
- The Telangana government must consult farmers before finalising this period.
- This is important because many rural workers are also agricultural labourers.

Significance

- Increases rural employment guarantee from **100 days to 125 days**.
- Provides stronger livelihood support to rural households.
- Weekly wage payments can improve income stability for workers.
- Compensation for delayed wages can improve accountability.
- Unemployment allowance protects workers when work is not provided.
- The 60-day agricultural holiday can reduce conflict between farm work and public employment works.
- The scheme can support rural purchasing power and village-level economic activity.
- It reflects the importance of Centre-State cooperation in welfare delivery.

Way Forward

- Telangana should issue the notification quickly.
- The State must make budgetary provision for its 40% share.
- Farmer consultations should be held at mandal and district levels.
- The 60-day agricultural holiday period should be based on local cropping patterns.

- Wage payment systems must be digitally monitored.
- Social audits should be strengthened.
- Rozgar Guarantee Cards should be issued without excluding genuine workers.
- Central and State teams should coordinate regularly for smooth rollout.

Conclusion

The sanction of ₹3,825.31 crore for VB-G-RAM-G in Telangana is an important step towards strengthening rural employment and livelihood security. The scheme promises more workdays, weekly wages, compensation for delayed payments and unemployment allowance.

- However, its success will depend on timely action by the Telangana government, proper fund allocation, farmer consultations and strong administrative monitoring. Effective implementation can make the scheme a major instrument of rural income support and inclusive development.

Telangana Rising Global Summit to Become an Annual Investment Event

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC: Telangana Economy, Industrial Policy, Investment Promotion, Urban Infrastructure.

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- Telangana Rising Global Summit, Bharat Future City, Future City Development Authority, Young India Skills University,

Fortune 500, Telangana Rising 2047.

Mains Keywords:

- Investment Promotion, Global Business Destination, Planned Urbanisation, Industrial Clusters, Greenfield Development, Employment Generation, Policy Stability, Sustainable Urban Growth.

Why in News?

The Telangana government has decided to institutionalise the **Telangana Rising Global Summit** as its flagship annual investment promotion event.

- Chief Minister **A. Revanth Reddy** directed officials to organise the second edition in **December 2026** at **Bharat Future City**. The summit will seek to attract global investments and strengthen Telangana's position as an international business destination.



What is the Telangana Rising Global Summit?

- It is Telangana's flagship global investors' summit.
- It brings together:
 - Global investors

- Industry leaders
- Policymakers
- Technology companies
- Financial institutions
- Senior executives of multinational corporations
- The summit aims to showcase Telangana's:
 - Investment opportunities
 - Industrial policies
 - Skilled workforce
 - Digital infrastructure
 - Emerging urban projects
- The government plans to hold it every year at Bharat Future City.

Objectives of the Annual Summit

- Attract domestic and foreign investment.
- Promote Telangana as a global business destination.
- Showcase the development of Bharat Future City.
- Bring senior executives from **Fortune 500 companies** to the State.
- Generate employment and economic opportunities.
- Encourage investments in high-growth and technology-driven sectors.
- Improve Telangana's visibility among global investors.

First Telangana Rising Global Summit

- The first summit was held on **December 8-9, 2025**.
- It was organised after the Congress government revived the practice of holding a major global investors' meeting.
- The summit secured prospective investment commitments worth **₹5.75 lakh crore**.
- It was described as the highest mobilisation

of investment commitments in Telangana's history.

- The response encouraged the government to convert the summit into an annual event.

About Bharat Future City

- Bharat Future City is a major planned urban development project on the outskirts of Hyderabad.
- It is spread across more than **30,000 acres**.

Land-use Pattern

Component	Area	Proposed Use
Core urban zone	15,000 acres	AI, IT, manufacturing, education and healthcare clusters
Green and ecological zone	15,000 acres	Urban forests, green spaces and eco-tourism

- It is planned as a modern, sustainable and technology-driven city.
- The headquarters of the **Future City Development Authority** was inaugurated on **June 10, 2026**.
- The campus of **Young India Skills University** is nearing completion.

Role of the Future City Development Authority

- The **Future City Development Authority** is responsible for planning and developing Bharat Future City.
- Its functions include:
 - Urban planning
 - Infrastructure development
 - Coordination with investors
 - Cluster development
 - Environmental planning
 - Monitoring of major projects
- The authority will work with the Industries

and Information Technology Departments to organise the annual summit.

Priority Investment Sectors

The summit will focus on attracting investment in the following sectors:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Information Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Healthcare and Life Sciences
- Deep Technology
- Digital Infrastructure
- Clean Energy
- Financial Services
- Tourism and Eco-tourism
- Education and Skill Development

Telangana Rising 2047 Vision

- The summit is aligned with the **Telangana Rising 2047 Vision**.
- The vision aims to make Telangana:
 - A \$1 trillion economy by 2034
 - A \$3 trillion economy by 2047
- It seeks to promote:
 - Innovation-led growth
 - Global investment
 - Urban development
 - Employment creation
 - Sustainable infrastructure
 - Human capital development

Why Annual Investment Summits Matter

- They provide a common platform for government and industry.
- They help States present projects directly to investors.
- They can improve global visibility and investor confidence.
- They support sector-specific partnerships

and technology transfer.

- They encourage competition among States to improve infrastructure and governance.
- They can create investment pipelines for long-term industrial development.

However, signed commitments must be converted into projects, production and employment.

Challenges

- Investment commitments may not always become actual projects.
- Land acquisition and clearances can delay implementation.
- Infrastructure must be completed before large-scale industrial activity begins.
- Investors require policy continuity and regulatory certainty.
- Skilled manpower must match the needs of advanced industries.
- Rapid development can affect local communities and the environment.
- Water, energy, mobility and waste-management systems must support the proposed city.
- Excessive incentives can create a fiscal burden on the State.

Way Forward

- Establish a transparent system to track each investment commitment.
- Publish regular data on investments grounded, projects completed and jobs created.
- Ensure single-window, time-bound approvals.
- Complete trunk infrastructure before allotting land.
- Link Young India Skills University with industries coming to Future City.

- Maintain stable and predictable industrial policies.
- Protect green zones and follow sustainable urban planning principles.
- Promote investments across different districts of Telangana.
- Focus on project execution rather than only signing memoranda of understanding.

Conclusion

Institutionalising the **Telangana Rising Global Summit** can strengthen the State's investment promotion strategy and establish Bharat Future City as an international business and innovation hub.

- The first summit's ₹5.75 lakh crore investment commitments demonstrate strong investor interest. However, the success of the annual event will ultimately be measured by the conversion of commitments into functioning projects, quality employment, sustainable infrastructure and inclusive regional development.

Telangana Launches Breakfast Scheme for Government School and Junior College Students

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance

TGPSC: Telangana Education, Social Welfare, Child Nutrition.

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords:

- Telangana Breakfast Scheme, Government Schools, Junior Colleges,

Millet Idli, Ragi Jawa, Centralised Kitchens, Child Nutrition.

Mains Keywords:

- Nutritional Security, School Attendance, Learning Outcomes, Human Capital, Social Inclusion, Millet Promotion, Last-Mile Delivery

Why in News?

The Telangana government launched a **breakfast scheme for students from pre-primary to Class XII** in government schools and junior colleges. The initiative aims to improve nutrition, health, attendance and classroom concentration. Textbooks and notebooks were also distributed to students.



What is the Breakfast Scheme?

- It is a state government nutrition programme for students studying in:
 - Government pre-primary institutions
 - Government schools
 - Government junior colleges
- It covers students from **pre-primary to Class XII**.
- Nutritious breakfast will be served from **Monday to Saturday**.
- The scheme aims to improve the physical and psychological well-being of students.

Beneficiaries and Coverage

- The scheme is intended for students studying in government educational institutions across Telangana.
- It includes junior college students, extending nutritional support beyond the school level.
- In the first phase, the programme will cover:
 - 1,302 institutions**
 - Including **33 junior colleges**
 - Across **eight districts**
- It will later be expanded across the State in phases.

Weekly Breakfast Menu

Day	Breakfast	Supplementary Drink
Monday	Dosa with chutney or chapathi with curry	Milk
Tuesday	Two millet idlis with sambar	Ragi jawa
Wednesday	Puri with aloo kurma	Milk
Thursday	Two millet idlis with sambar	Ragi jawa
Friday	Millet upma or pongal with chutney	Milk
Saturday	Two bondas with chutney	Ragi jawa

Focus on Millet-Based Nutrition

- Millet idli and millet upma are included in the weekly menu.

- Millet are rich in:
 - Dietary fibre
 - Minerals
 - Complex carbohydrates
 - Micronutrients
- Ragi jawa** provides calcium and energy and is suitable for school-age children.
- The menu combines traditional foods with locally familiar dietary practices.
- Millet inclusion can also promote demand for nutritious and climate-resilient crops.

Role of Partner Organisations

The following organisations will implement the scheme during Phase I:

- Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Trust**
- Manna Trust**

Their responsibilities are expected to include:

- Preparing breakfast
- Maintaining kitchen hygiene
- Transporting meals to institutions
- Ensuring timely delivery
- Following prescribed nutritional and quality standards

Need for a School Breakfast Programme

Many students, particularly those from economically weaker families, may attend school without eating breakfast.

This can lead to:

- Hunger during morning classes
- Reduced concentration
- Fatigue
- Lower classroom participation
- Poor learning outcomes
- Irregular attendance

Breakfast provides energy after the overnight fasting period and supports children during the first half of the school day.

Significance of the Scheme

1. Improved Student Nutrition

- Regular breakfast can provide essential energy and nutrients required for physical development.

2. Better Classroom Concentration

- Students who eat breakfast are more likely to remain attentive and actively participate in morning lessons.

3. Higher Attendance

- The availability of nutritious food may encourage students to attend educational institutions regularly and on time.

4. Reduction in Dropouts

- Food support can reduce the financial burden on vulnerable families and help retain students in education.

5. Social Equality

- Children from different social and economic backgrounds eat the same food in the same institution, strengthening inclusion.

6. Support for Adolescent Students

- The extension of the programme to **junior colleges** recognises that older students also face nutritional needs and financial difficulties.

7. Promotion of Millets

- The inclusion of millet-based food promotes nutritious diets and creates awareness about traditional grains.

8. Human Capital Development

- Improved nutrition can support health, education, productivity and long-term economic development.

Challenges

- Maintaining food quality across a large

number of institutions

- Ensuring meals reach schools before classes begin
- Preventing contamination during preparation and transportation
- Maintaining centralised kitchen hygiene
- Providing sufficient nutritional diversity
- Managing food preferences and local dietary variations
- Monitoring private implementing organisations

Way Forward

- Establish strict food safety and hygiene protocols.
- Conduct regular inspection of centralised kitchens.
- Create school-level meal monitoring committees.
- Collect feedback from students, teachers and parents.
- Display the weekly menu publicly in every institution.
- Ensure timely delivery before morning classes begin.
- Use locally available foods and seasonal ingredients.
- Include periodic health and nutrition assessments.
- Link the programme with anaemia prevention and adolescent health initiatives.
- Publish data on:
 - Institutions covered
 - Students served
 - Attendance changes
 - Food quality
 - Learning and health outcomes
- Expand the scheme carefully after evaluating Phase I.

Conclusion

Telangana's breakfast scheme represents an important investment in **child nutrition, educational participation and human capital development**. Its extension from pre-primary classes to junior colleges gives it a broad and inclusive character.

- The millet-based menu, milk and ragi jawa can help reduce classroom hunger and improve student well-being. However, the scheme's success will depend on food safety, timely delivery, nutritional quality, transparent monitoring and effective statewide expansion.

Telangana Wins MNRE Award for Ecosystem-Driven Renewable Energy Development

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance

TGPSC: Telangana Economy, Renewable Energy Potential, Wind Power, State Institutions and Current Affairs.

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- MNRE, Global Wind Day, NIWE, TGREDCO, Wind Monitoring Mast, Wind Density, Installed Capacity.

Mains:

- Renewable-Energy Ecosystem, Wind Resource Assessment, Competitive Bidding, Land Availability, Grid Evacuation and Green Growth.

Why in News?

Telangana participated in the **Global Wind Day 2026 National Conference**, organised by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** in Goa under the theme "**Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration.**"

- The State was also conferred with the **Inclusive Enterprise and Ecosystem Development Award** for its ecosystem-driven approach to renewable-energy development.

Global Wind Day Conference

Telangana was represented by:

- Navin Mittal**, Special Chief Secretary, Energy
- V. Anila**, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, TGREDCO

The conference was attended by Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy **Pralhad Joshi** and other dignitaries.

The event provided Telangana with a national platform to showcase its wind-resource potential and renewable-energy planning.

Telangana's Wind-Energy Potential

Assessments by the **National Institute of Wind Energy** indicate that Telangana possesses substantial untapped wind potential.

Hub Height	Assessed Wind Potential
100 metres	4,240 MW
120 metres	24,835 MW
150 metres	54,717 MW

The sharp increase in potential at higher hub heights indicates that taller and more advanced wind turbines can access stronger and more consistent winds.



What is Hub Height?

Hub height is the distance from the ground to the central part of a wind turbine where the blades and rotor are attached.

Higher hub heights may offer:

- Stronger wind speeds
- More stable wind flow
- Higher electricity generation
- Better project viability

High Wind-Density Zones

High wind-density zones have been identified across the erstwhile districts of:

- Nalgonda
- Mahabubnagar
- Rangareddy
- Medak
- Hyderabad
- Nizamabad

These areas can be considered for detailed technical studies and future wind-project development.

Wind-Resource Monitoring

TGREDCO, with support from NIWE, installed **139 wind-monitoring masts** across the identified districts.

Private developers installed an additional **25 masts**.

Total Monitoring Network

- TGREDCO and NIWE: **139 masts**
- Private developers: **25 masts**
- **Total: 164 masts**

This network has created a strong wind-resource database for future project planning.

Role of Wind-Monitoring Masts

Wind-monitoring masts collect information on:

- Wind speed
- Wind direction
- Wind density
- Seasonal variation
- Site suitability
- Expected power-generation potential

Reliable data helps reduce investment risk and identify commercially viable locations.

Present Wind Capacity

Despite its large assessed potential, Telangana has commissioned only **128.8 MW** of wind-power capacity.

This reveals a major gap between:

- **Resource potential**, and
- **Actual installed capacity**

It also indicates significant scope for accelerated investment and project development.

Significance

Renewable-Energy Diversification

- Wind power can complement other renewable-energy sources and diversify Telangana's energy mix.

Energy Security

- Locally generated wind energy can strengthen the State's electricity supply.

Investment Potential

- The large gap between assessed potential and installed capacity creates opportunities

for new investment.

Data-Driven Governance

- The wind-monitoring network supports evidence-based planning and project selection.

Green Development

- Wind power can contribute to cleaner energy generation and sustainable economic growth.

Employment Creation

- Wind projects can generate jobs in construction, installation, operation and maintenance.

Challenges

- Converting assessed potential into operational projects
- Availability of suitable and pre-cleared land
- Construction of evacuation infrastructure
- Financial viability of tariffs
- Timely clearances
- Integration of variable wind power into the grid
- Attracting long-term private investment

Conclusion

Telangana possesses substantial wind-energy potential, estimated at up to **54,717 MW at a hub height of 150 metres**. However, only **128.8 MW** has been commissioned so far.

- The State's extensive monitoring network and national recognition provide a strong foundation. The next step is to convert wind-resource data into projects through **transparent bidding, pre-cleared land, assured grid evacuation and effective institutional coordination**.

Telangana Public Schools to Promote Quality Education, Skills and Social Integration

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: TGPSC: Telangana Education, Government Schools, Skill Development and Sports.

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- Telangana Public School, Education Commission, Young India Integrated Residential Schools, Sports University.

Mains:

- Quality Education, Employability, Social Integration, Government-School Infrastructure, Holistic Development, Sporting Culture

Why in News?

Telangana Chief Minister and Education Minister **A. Revanth Reddy** inaugurated a **Telangana Public School at Arutla in Ranga Reddy district**. Three more Telangana Public Schools, including one at **Vangur in the erstwhile Mahbubnagar district**, were inaugurated simultaneously. The government stated that it was committed to creating infrastructure for quality education and skilling in State-run institutions to make students employment-ready.

Telangana Public Schools

- The schools have been established with facilities comparable to corporate educational institutions.

Their focus includes:

- Academic education
- Skill development
- Sports
- Cultural activities
- Personality development

The government aims to improve the quality of education in State-run institutions and develop them as role models for the country.



Education Budget

The Telangana government earmarked **8.5% of its total budget outlay** for education.

- **Total State budget:** More than ₹3 lakh crore
- **Education allocation:** Around ₹27,000 crore

The Chief Minister stated that concerns still remained regarding the quality of education and the employability of students.

Role of the Education Commission

- The State government constituted an **Education Commission** to recommend measures for improving the education sector.
- Based on the need for reform, the government decided to focus on rebuilding Telangana's future through quality education.



Academic and Co-curricular Facilities

The Telangana Public School at Arutla provides resources for:

- Academic learning
- Cultural activities
- Personality development

Sports infrastructure has been created for:

- Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Tennis, Kabaddi

The schools therefore seek to give equal importance to academics and the overall development of students.

Student Kits

The government proposed a special kit for public-school students containing:

- Quality uniforms
- School bags
- Other necessary items

The tender for providing these kits was valued at approximately ₹680 crore.

Social Integration

The Chief Minister stated that Telangana Public Schools and **Young India Integrated Residential Schools** were intended to bring students from different communities together.

The institutions seek to:

- Reduce caste-based separation

- Remove social barriers
- Address practices such as untouchability
- Enable students of all communities to study together

He observed that the earlier practice of establishing separate schools for different communities allowed caste barriers to continue.

Education as a Tool of Progress

The Chief Minister encouraged students to study in government institutions and use education as a tool for personal advancement.

He referred to:

- His own education in a government school
- Former Prime Minister **P.V. Narasimha Rao**, who also studied in a government school

He stated that students could become leaders and attain important positions by effectively using educational opportunities.

Sports Promotion

- Telangana Public Schools give importance to developing a sporting culture among students.
- The State government has also established a **sports university** with the objective of preparing athletes capable of securing Olympic gold medals in **2034**.
- The Chief Minister stressed the need for India to improve its performance in international sporting competitions.

Significance

Quality Government Education

- Modern facilities are intended to improve the quality of education in government institutions.

Employment Readiness

- Academic education and skills are expected

to prepare students for a competitive employment environment.

Holistic Development

- Sports, cultural activities and personality development form part of the school system.

Social Equality

- Students from different communities studying together can help reduce caste and social barriers.

Sporting Culture

- School-level sports facilities and the sports university aim to strengthen sporting talent in Telangana.

Conclusion

Telangana Public Schools represent the State government's effort to strengthen government education through better infrastructure, skill development, sports and social integration. The initiative seeks to make public educational institutions comparable to corporate schools while preparing students academically, socially and physically for future opportunities.

Telangana eyes ₹2,580-crore World Bank loan for healthcare overhaul focused on NCDs, elderly care

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance

TGPSC: Telangana Healthcare System, NCDs, Elderly Care, Digital Health and World Bank Assistance.

Important Keywords

Prelims:

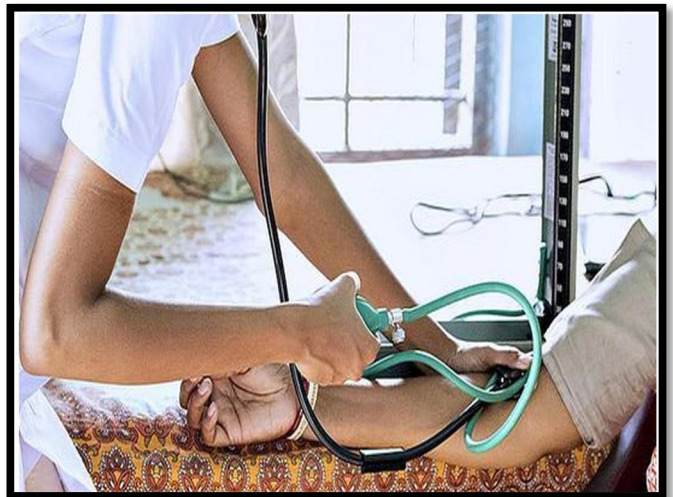
- TG-SVASTH, World Bank, IBRD, PforR, ESSA, Project P512286, NCDs.

Mains:

- Preventive Healthcare, Person-Centred Care, Health-System Resilience, Digital Transformation, Inclusive Healthcare, Institutional Capacity, Accountability.

Why in News?

Telangana is considering a **₹2,580-crore, or US\$300 million, World Bank loan** for a major healthcare transformation programme called the **Telangana Strategic Vision for Attaining Sustainable Transformation in Health Care (TG-SVASTH)**. The proposal is detailed in the World Bank's final draft **Environment and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA)** prepared for **Project P512286**. The programme focuses on the growing burden of **non-communicable diseases, women's health, elderly care, preventive healthcare, digital transformation and health-system governance**.



What is TG-SVASTH?

TG-SVASTH (Telangana Strategic Vision for Attaining Sustainable Transformation in Health Care) is a proposed health-system reform programme intended to help Telangana respond to its changing disease burden and demographic profile.

It seeks to strengthen:

- Management of non-communicable diseases
- Women's healthcare
- Elderly healthcare
- Preventive and early-screening services
- Digital-health systems
- Governance and monitoring
- Institutional capacity
- Healthcare access for vulnerable sections

The programme represents a planned transition from a predominantly **disease-specific and hospital-centric model** towards **integrated, person-centred and preventive healthcare**.

Financing Architecture

Proposed Loan

- **Amount:** ₹2,580 crore
- **Equivalent:** US\$300 million
- **Lending institution:** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **Recipient:** Government of India
- **Implementing department:** Telangana Department of Health, Medical and Family Welfare

Program-for-Results Mechanism

The World Bank proposes to provide financing through the **Program-for-Results mechanism**.

Under PforR:

- Funds are linked to agreed performance targets.
- Disbursement depends on verified results.
- Financing is not based merely on expenditure.
- Institutional performance and measurable outcomes gain greater importance.

Thus, the programme links financial assistance with improvements in health-system delivery and governance.

Why Does Telangana Need a Health-System Shift?

Telangana already has an extensive public-health network consisting of:

- Sub-centres
- Primary health centres
- Urban primary health centres

The State has also recorded:

- Improvement in maternal mortality indicators
- Improvement in infant mortality indicators
- High institutional-delivery rates

However, the nature of the health challenge is changing.

Emerging Disease Burden

The State is witnessing a rise in:

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Cancers

Unlike many acute illnesses, these conditions require:

- Early detection
- Long-term treatment
- Regular monitoring
- Lifestyle counselling
- Continuous follow-up

Demographic Change

An ageing population is creating greater demand for:

- Elderly healthcare
- Long-term care
- Home-based services
- Regular monitoring
- Person-centred support

Therefore, Telangana must move beyond a healthcare model centred mainly on hospitals and individual diseases.



Three Major Result Areas

1. Improving Quality and Accessibility

The first result area focuses on improving healthcare services for:

- Patients with non-communicable diseases
- Women
- Elderly persons

The emphasis is on both **quality of care** and **accessibility of services**.

2. Preventive Healthcare and Digital Transformation

The second result area seeks to strengthen preventive healthcare by:

- Encouraging early screening
- Improving community awareness
- Reducing avoidable hospitalisation
- Expanding digital-health systems
- Supporting continuous monitoring

This approach aims to identify health risks before they develop into severe and costly medical conditions.

3. Governance and Institutional Capacity

The third result area focuses on strengthening:

- Health-system governance
- Monitoring mechanisms
- Institutional capacity
- Accountability
- Administrative performance

This is significant because better health outcomes depend not only on hospitals and doctors, but also on effective management, monitoring and coordination.

Focus on Elderly Care

The report gives specific attention to **home-based care for elderly persons**.

It recommends:

- Operational guidelines
- Training mechanisms

- Safe delivery protocols
- Effective monitoring
- Capacity building of health personnel

Home-based services can support elderly persons who may find it difficult to regularly visit health facilities.

The programme therefore recognises elderly care as an important part of mainstream public-health planning.

Focus on Vulnerable Groups

TG-SVASTH seeks to improve healthcare access for:

- Scheduled Tribe communities
- Women
- Elderly citizens
- Persons with disabilities

The focus on vulnerable groups indicates that the programme is designed not merely to improve overall health indicators, but also to address inequalities in access.

Grievance Redress and Institutional Safety

The proposed reforms include strengthening grievance-redress systems.

These mechanisms will also address complaints related to:

- Sexual exploitation
- Abuse
- Harassment

Such systems are intended to improve:

- Institutional accountability
- Patient protection
- Responsiveness of health facilities
- Safety within the healthcare system

Environmental and Social Systems Assessment

The World Bank's ESSA examines the environmental and social systems connected with the proposed programme.

The action plan includes:

- Training health personnel

- Strengthening environmental safeguards
- Strengthening social safeguards
- Improving healthcare accessibility
- Enhancing monitoring systems
- Improving accountability
- Building institutional capacity

These measures are intended to ensure that health-system expansion is socially inclusive and institutionally sustainable.

Significance of TG-SVASTH

1. Response to the NCD Transition

- The programme recognises that Telangana's disease burden is increasingly shaped by chronic conditions rather than only communicable diseases.

2. Shift Towards Prevention

- Early screening and awareness can reduce disease severity and avoidable hospitalisation.

3. Person-Centred Healthcare

- The programme seeks to organise services around the needs of patients rather than around individual diseases or institutions.

4. Elderly-Care Integration

- Home-based care brings ageing-related healthcare into the formal public-health framework.

5. Digital Health Transformation

- Digital systems can support monitoring, continuity of care and better coordination.

6. Inclusive Healthcare

- Special attention to Scheduled Tribes, women, elderly citizens and persons with disabilities can reduce inequalities in healthcare access.

7. Results-Based Governance

- PforR financing links funds with

measurable achievements, strengthening accountability and performance orientation.

8. Health-System Resilience

- Institutional reforms and capacity building can help Telangana respond to future disease and demographic challenges.

Conclusion

TG-SVASTH reflects Telangana's attempt to realign its healthcare system with emerging realities. Rising non-communicable diseases and an ageing population require continuous, preventive and person-centred care rather than an exclusively hospital-based response.

- By combining early screening, digital transformation, elderly home care, vulnerable-group inclusion and institutional reform, the programme seeks to build a more **resilient, inclusive and sustainable healthcare system**. Its results-based financing model also places greater emphasis on measurable outcomes and accountability.

International Day of Yoga 2026: India's Global Wellness Movement

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC: Health and Wellness Initiatives.

Important Keywords

Prelims:

- International Day of Yoga, Yoga Sutras, Maharishi Patanjali, UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, Common Yoga Protocol

Mains:

- Preventive Healthcare, Healthy Ageing,

Mental Resilience, Cultural Diplomacy,
Inclusive Wellness

Why in News?

The **International Day of Yoga 2026** was observed across Telangana through programmes at **Lok Bhavan, the Intelligence Security Wing at Yousufguda and AIIMS Bibinagar**.

- Governor **Shiv Pratap Shukla** described yoga as India's timeless gift to humanity and highlighted its role in promoting physical strength, mental resilience, inner balance and spiritual well-being.



How Did Yoga Become a Global Wellness Movement?

India and yoga share a relationship extending over several millennia. Rooted in India's ancient spiritual and philosophical traditions, yoga has developed into a global movement for **physical, mental and emotional well-being**.

Recognising its universal appeal, the **United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014**.

- The proposal was introduced by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during the **69th session of the UN General Assembly**.
- It received the support of **175 member countries**.
- The first International Day of Yoga was

observed on **June 21, 2015**.

- Yoga was inscribed on UNESCO's **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016**.

The global recognition of yoga highlights India's contribution to international wellness and strengthens yoga's role as a bridge promoting **health, harmony and sustainable lifestyles**.



What is the Historical and Civilisational Legacy of Yoga?

- Ancient Origins:** Yoga is among the world's oldest knowledge traditions, with its roots traced to the **Indus-Saraswati civilisation around 2700 BCE**.
- Meaning of Yoga:** The term "yoga" comes from Sanskrit and means **to join or unite**, symbolising the integration of body and consciousness.
- Scriptural References:** Yogic practices and ideas appear in the **Vedas, Upanishads, Buddhist and Jain traditions, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana**.
- Patanjali's Contribution:** **Maharishi Patanjali** systematised the yogic tradition

through the **Yoga Sutras**, providing a philosophical and practical framework.

- **Living Tradition:** Successive sages and yoga practitioners preserved and enriched yoga, allowing it to spread across India and the world.

Why is Yoga Considered India's Timeless Gift?

- **Holistic Health:** Yoga combines physical postures, breathing techniques and meditation to promote physical, mental and spiritual wellness.
- **Inner Balance:** It supports self-discipline, emotional stability, positive energy and inner peace.
- **Universal Adaptability:** Yoga can be practised by different age groups and adapted according to individual health needs.
- **Preventive Value:** Regular yoga practice encourages active lifestyles, physical flexibility and improved stress management.
- **Civilisational Contribution:** Its global acceptance reflects the continuing relevance of India's ancient knowledge traditions.

What Was the Theme at AIIMS Bibinagar?

AIIMS Bibinagar celebrated Yoga Day under the theme:

"Yoga for Healthy Ageing"

- The theme emphasised yoga's contribution to physical mobility, emotional wellness and quality of life across different stages of life.

What Special Programmes Were Conducted?

AIIMS Bibinagar organised a week-long series of activities for different population groups.

Garbhsanskar

- Focused on the physical and mental well-being of pregnant women through appropriate wellness practices.

Bala Yoga

- Introduced schoolchildren to age-appropriate yoga for physical fitness, concentration and discipline.

Vriddha Yoga

- Promoted gentle yoga for elderly persons to support mobility, balance and healthy ageing.

Chakra Meditation

- Focused on mindfulness, relaxation and emotional well-being.

Adolescent Yoga

- Addressed the physical, psychological and emotional needs of adolescents.
- Radio talks were also conducted on these themes, along with sessions on the history of yoga.

How Does Yoga Support Healthy Ageing?

- **Mobility and Balance:** Appropriate postures can support flexibility, muscular strength and physical balance.
- **Mental Wellness:** Meditation and controlled breathing encourage calmness and emotional stability.
- **Active Ageing:** Regular practice can help elderly persons remain physically active and socially engaged.
- **Adaptable Practice:** Yoga can be modified according to age, health condition and physical capacity.
- **Quality of Life:** It provides an accessible and low-cost wellness practice for older persons.

Why is Inclusive Yoga Programming Important?

Different population groups have distinct health and wellness needs.

- Pregnant women require safe and supervised practices.
- Children benefit from exercises supporting concentration and discipline.
- Adolescents need support for emotional and psychological stress.
- Elderly persons require gentle practices for balance and mobility.
- Security personnel benefit from stress reduction and alertness.

Significance

- **Preventive Healthcare:** Yoga promotes healthy habits and may reduce lifestyle-related health risks.
- **Mental Well-Being:** Pranayama and meditation support stress management and emotional balance.
- **Healthy Ageing:** Age-appropriate yoga helps support mobility, independence and active ageing.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** International Yoga Day strengthens India's soft power and civilisational influence.
- **Community Participation:** The involvement of officials, students, healthcare institutions and local communities promotes collective wellness.
- **Sustainable Lifestyle:** Yoga encourages disciplined, balanced and health-conscious living.

Conclusion

International Day of Yoga 2026 highlighted yoga as both an **ancient Indian knowledge tradition** and a

modern global wellness movement. Its journey from India's civilisational heritage to international recognition demonstrates its universal relevance.

- The celebrations in Telangana showed that yoga can contribute to **preventive healthcare, mental resilience, healthy ageing and inclusive well-being** when adapted for pregnant women, children, adolescents, elderly persons and security personnel.

Cyberabad Plans Sustainable Street Food Hubs under PM SVANidhi

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: TGPSC: Telangana Urban Development, Municipal Administration and Current Affairs.

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- PM SVANidhi, Malkam Cheruvu, Street Food Hub, Self-Help Groups, Biogas

Mains Keywords

- Inclusive Public Spaces, Vendor Livelihoods, Food Hygiene, Circular Waste Management, Sustainable Urban Tourism

Why in News?

The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) is preparing a proposal to establish dedicated **Street Food Hubs** under the **PM SVANidhi** scheme, including a proposed hub at **Malkam Cheruvu**. The initiative aims to provide hygienic, affordable and quality food while creating livelihood opportunities for **street vendors and self-help group women**.

What is the Proposed Initiative?

The proposed Street Food Hubs are envisaged as clean, organised and inclusive public spaces combining:

- Affordable food, Global standards of quality, Hygiene monitoring, Vendor livelihood support, Women's participation, Waste treatment, Renewable energy, Public amenities, Cultural activities, Tourism connectivity

The hubs are expected to serve people across income groups, including **autorickshaw drivers, workers, students and families.**

PM SVANidhi: Financial Inclusion for Street Vendors

About the Scheme

- **Full Name:** Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).
- **Nature:** Central Sector Scheme.
- **Launched:** June 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Joint Implementation:** MoHUA and the Department of Financial Services (DFS).
- **Extended Lending Period:** Up to March 2030.

What Facilities and Standards are Planned?

Food Quality and Affordability

- Food served at the hubs is expected to meet **global quality standards**, while prices would remain reasonable and accessible.

Hygiene Monitoring

- The proposal includes regular checks

through **"hygienic indices"** to assess cleanliness and food-handling conditions.

Public Amenities

The hubs may include:

- Automatic smart toilets
- International-standard washing facilities
- Safe drinking-water facilities
- Designated waste bins
- Common seating and gathering spaces

Vendors would be required to follow prescribed waste-management rules and use designated bins.

How Will Vendors and SHG Women Benefit?

Street-Vendor Livelihoods

- The hubs would provide vendors with planned spaces, better public visibility and opportunities to serve a wider customer base.

SHG Women's Participation

Self-help group women may participate in:

- Food vending
- Operation of the hubs
- Maintenance of common facilities
- Cleanliness and sanitation work

The proposal could therefore support local enterprise and expand women's participation in urban economic activities.

How Will Environmental Sustainability be Ensured?

Waste Treatment

Waste generated at the hubs would be processed through:

- In-situ treatment systems
- External treatment facilities

PM SVANidhi

Financial Inclusion for Street Vendors

Current Affairs | Economy | Social Welfare

Since : 2003

21st Century IAS

Producing Next Generation Leaders for Good Governance

A/C Campus

1 ABOUT THE SCHEME

Full Name: Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

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Extended Lending Period: Up to March 2030

2 OBJECTIVES

- Provide collateral-free working capital loans
- Help street vendors restart and expand businesses affected by COVID-19
- Promote financial inclusion, digital payments and formal recognition
- Provide a reliable source of institutional credit
- Link beneficiaries with other social welfare and protection schemes

3 WHO IS A STREET VENDOR?

A person who sells goods or provides services in streets, footpaths, pavements or public places through a temporary setup or by moving place to place.

EXAMPLES

Vegetable/Fruit Seller

Street-Food Vendor

Barber

Cobbler

Laundry Service Provider

4 ELIGIBILITY

- Vendors with Certificate of Vending or Identity Card
- Vendors identified in ULB surveys even if documents are pending
- Left-out vendors, new vendors and peri-urban or rural vendors operating within ULB limits
- Left-out vendors need a Letter of Recommendation from the ULB or Town Vending Committee

States/UTs must have notified rules under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

5 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

THIRD TRANCHE
Up to ₹50,000

SECOND TRANCHE
Up to ₹25,000

FIRST TRANCHE
Up to ₹15,000

Timely or early repayment makes vendors eligible for the next higher tranche.

6 MAJOR BENEFITS

7% interest subsidy on working capital loans

Credit guarantee through CGTMSE

Digital payment incentive: cashback up to ₹1,600

RuPay credit card: UPI-linked facility up to ₹30,000 for eligible vendors

Social security linkage through "SVANidhi se Samridhhi"

7 ELIGIBILITY FOR ₹30,000 CREDIT CARD

- Vendors who successfully repaid the second loan tranche
- Vendors who already received the third loan tranche, whether active or repaid

8 IMPLEMENTATION ROLE OF DFS

Facilitates access to loans and credit cards through banks, financial institutions and ground-level banking functionaries.

9 COVERAGE EXPANSION

STATUTORY TOWNS → CENSUS TOWNS → PERI-URBAN AREAS

10 SVANIDHI SE SAMRIDHI

- Links street vendors and their families with other government welfare schemes
- Strengthened through monthly Lok Kalyan Melas
- Supports broader social and economic development of vendor households

QUICK HIGHLIGHTS

Collateral-free loans

3 progressive tranches

7% interest subsidy

Cashback up to ₹1,600

RuPay credit card up to ₹30,000

Lending period up to March 2030

PM SVANidhi strengthens livelihoods, promotes inclusion, and brings street vendors into the formal financial system.

Biogas Production

- Biodegradable food waste may be converted into biogas, turning organic waste into a useful energy resource.

Solar Power

- The hubs may use **solar panels** as part of the proposed net-zero model.

Sustainable Materials

Furniture and infrastructure are proposed to use:

- Bamboo, Stone, Granite, Recycled materials

Together, these measures seek to reduce waste, improve cleanliness and limit the environmental impact of the food hubs.

How Will Culture, Tourism and Accessibility be Integrated?

Cultural Programmes

Weekly cultural and entertainment activities may feature:

- Music
- Dance
- Traditional art forms
- Cuisines from different States

These programmes could transform the hubs into community gathering spaces rather than food outlets alone.

Tourism Linkages



- The visiting team inspected nearby tourist attractions to assess whether the hubs could be included in regular tourist itineraries.

Public Promotion

Promotional campaigns may involve:

- Celebrities, Social-media influencers, YouTubers, Sportspersons

These campaigns are intended to increase public awareness and attract visitors.

Transport Access

- For the proposed hub at **Malkam Cheruvu**, the CMC discussed introducing special bus services to improve visitor access.

How is the Proposal Being Planned?

Officials from the Union urban affairs ministry and the Centre of Excellence, Vijayawada:

- Held discussions with CMC officials
- Inspected potential sites
- Examined nearby tourist locations
- Consulted street vendors
- Interacted with SHG women
- Discussed transport access to Malkam Cheruvu

The planning process therefore combines municipal coordination, site assessment and stakeholder consultation.

Significance

Inclusive Urban Development

- The hubs are designed to serve citizens from different occupations and income groups within common public spaces.

Livelihood Protection

- Organised vending spaces can support street vendors while preserving their role in providing affordable urban food.

Women-Led Enterprise

- Participation in vending, operation and maintenance can create economic opportunities for SHG women.

Public Health and Hygiene

- Clean water, washing facilities, toilets, designated bins and hygiene checks can improve consumer confidence and food-safety conditions.

Circular Waste Use

- Converting biodegradable waste into biogas links urban food systems with resource recovery.

Better Urban Amenities

- The hubs can improve access to clean food, sanitation, seating, cultural activities and public transport.

Local Tourism

- Food, culture and nearby attractions may be combined to create new visitor experiences.

Implementation Priorities

Based on the proposal, effective implementation would require:

- Maintaining affordable prices along with quality standards
- Ensuring regular hygiene checks
- Enforcing waste segregation and designated-bin use
- Operating biogas and waste-treatment systems effectively
- Maintaining toilets, washing and drinking-water facilities
- Ensuring genuine participation of vendors and SHG women
- Providing convenient access to Malkam Cheruvu

- Conducting cultural and promotional programmes regularly
- Achieving the proposed net-zero objective through solar power and sustainable materials

Conclusion

Cyberabad's proposed Street Food Hubs seek to integrate **affordable food, vendor livelihoods, women's participation, hygiene and environmental sustainability** within organised public spaces.

- The Malkam Cheruvu proposal could become a citizen-friendly model if food quality remains affordable, vendors and SHG women receive meaningful opportunities, waste systems function effectively and public transport ensures easy access.

Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone Ropeway and Heritage Tourism Infrastructure Planned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance

TGPSC: Telangana History, Heritage Tourism, Yadadri-Bhongir District, State Development Initiatives

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Bhongir Fort, Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0, Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone, Passenger Ropeway, Monocable Jig-Back System, Kolanupaka, Yadadri,

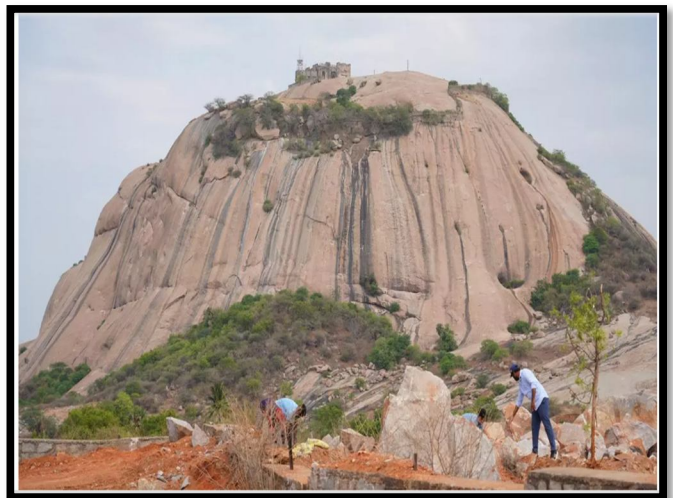
Interpretation Centre

Mains Keywords

- Heritage conservation, integrated tourism circuit, sustainable tourism, visitor accessibility, regional economic development, tourism-led employment, adaptive reuse of heritage, public safety infrastructure

Why in News?

The Telangana government has accelerated tourism development works at **Bhongir Fort**, including the construction of a passenger ropeway and restoration of heritage structures. Tourism Minister **Jupally Krishna Rao** inspected the ongoing works and directed officials to complete them by **October 2, 2026**. The project is being developed as the **"Development of Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone"** under the Union government's **Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0**, with an approved cost of **₹56.81 crore**.



About Bhongir Fort

- **Category:** Historic Fort
- **Location:** Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana
- Built on a huge **oval-shaped monolithic**

rock.

- The hill is about **610 metres high**.
- It appears like a **tortoise from the south** and a **sleeping elephant from the west**.

Historical Background

- The region shows evidence of **Neolithic and medieval human settlements**.
- Archaeological remains include:
 - Stone axes, Arrows and swords, Tombs, Ancient habitational remains
- Coins of the **Vishnukundin period** are also said to have been found.

Dynastic Association

- The fort is associated with **Vikramaditya VI of the Western Chalukya dynasty**.
- It became prominent during the **Kakatiya period**.
- It later remained under the **Qutb Shahis**.
- After the Mughal conquest of Golconda in **1687**, it came under Mughal control.
- **Sarvai Pandu** reportedly captured Orugallu in **1708** and later occupied Bhuvanagiri.

Architectural Features

- High defensive walls and spacious rooms
- Fortified gateway
- Royal palaces and courtyards
- Stables, granaries and military quarters
- Caves and secret underground tunnels
- Chalukya and Kakatiya-style sculptures
- Islamic architectural influence in gateways and walls

What is the Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone?

The project aims to transform Bhongir Fort into a modern heritage tourism destination by combining:

- Heritage conservation
- Improved visitor access

- Tourism amenities
- Digital interpretation
- Safety and surveillance systems
- Environment-friendly transport
- Improved waste and water management

The project seeks to modernise the tourism experience without affecting the fort's historic character.

Major Components of the Project

1. Passenger Ropeway System

A passenger ropeway will be constructed to improve access to the hilltop fort.

Key Features

- **Project cost:** ₹17.91 crore
- **Ropeway system:** Monocable Jig-Back System
- **Length:** Approximately 1,020 metres
- **Elevation difference:** Around 180 metres
- **Number of cabins:** 6 operational cabins and 1 additional cabin
- **Cabin capacity:** Six persons per cabin
- **Passenger capacity:** 250–300 passengers per hour
- **Maximum line speed:** Six metres per second

The work includes design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning on a turnkey basis.

2. Restoration of Heritage Structures

Heritage structures located on the hill will be restored to preserve the fort's historical character.

The restoration programme includes:

- Repair and conservation of old structures
- Renovation of stone pathways and steps
- Chiselling and levelling of pathways
- Stone masonry works
- Improvement of viewing areas
- Tensile roofing for the interpretation centre

3. Roads, Parking and Accessibility

The project provides for access roads and organised parking infrastructure.

Major works include:

- Access road development, Parking facilities, Stormwater drains, Box culverts, Retaining walls, Footpaths, Roads around the ropeway's lower station, Parking infrastructure over approximately 2.9 acres

Twenty-six-seater electric vehicles will also be provided for visitor movement, supported by charging facilities.

4. Entrance Plaza and Visitor Amenities

The entrance zone will be developed as the main reception and visitor-management area.

Facilities include:

- Administrative block, Entrance gate and compound wall, Renovated and newly constructed restrooms, Children's play area, Sculpture zone, Pergolas and seating areas, Food kiosks

These facilities are intended to increase visitor comfort and encourage longer stays.

5. Interpretation Centre

An **interpretation centre** will help visitors understand the fort's history, architecture and cultural significance.

It may use:

- Displays and models, Maps and historical timelines, Audio-visual presentations, Digital storytelling, Information on local traditions and heritage

6. Utility and Environmental Infrastructure

The project includes basic utility systems required for safe and sustainable tourism.

These include:

- Internal and external electrification, Outdoor and street lighting, Water-supply network, Water-storage sump, Wastewater

treatment through biodigester tanks, Solid-waste collection through designated dustbins, Sanitary facilities

Such infrastructure is essential to prevent pollution and protect the fort's surroundings.

7. Visitor Safety and Digital Surveillance

The project includes advanced security and crowd-management systems.

Major provisions include:

- CCTV cameras, Emergency call boxes, Camera poles and supporting infrastructure, 32-channel Network Video Recorder, Video storage capacity of 45 days, Uninterrupted power supply with one-hour backup, Crowd-management and surveillance systems, X-ray baggage scanning, 100 Mbps internet leased line for video transmission

Integrated Heritage and Spiritual Tourism Circuit

The Telangana government plans to create an integrated tourism circuit connecting:

- **Yadadri**
- **Bhongir Fort**
- **Kolanupaka**

Importance of the Circuit

- **Yadadri:** Major spiritual and pilgrimage destination centred on the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple.
- **Bhongir Fort:** Historical and adventure tourism destination.
- **Kolanupaka:** Important religious and heritage centre, particularly known for its ancient Jain temple.

What is Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0?

- The **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.
- The original scheme focused on developing theme-based tourism circuits.
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0** adopts a destination-

centred and sustainable approach. It emphasises:

- Sustainable tourism development
- Destination management
- Local community participation
- Improved tourist experience
- Heritage conservation
- Employment generation
- Public and private investment
- Responsible use of natural and cultural resources

Under the scheme, the Bhongir Fort project has received an approved cost of **₹56.81 crore**.

Significance of the Project

- **Improved accessibility:** The ropeway will make the hilltop fort more accessible to elderly persons, children and tourists with mobility difficulties.
- **Heritage conservation:** Restoration works can protect the fort's historic structures and prevent further deterioration.
- **Tourism diversification:** The project combines heritage, spiritual, recreational and adventure tourism.
- **Regional development:** Increased tourist arrivals can benefit hotels, transport services, guides, artisans and local businesses.
- **Employment generation:** Construction, maintenance, hospitality, security and tourism services can create direct and indirect jobs.
- **Longer tourist stays:** Linking Yadadri, Bhongir and Kolanupaka may encourage visitors to spend more time in the region.
- **Visitor safety:** Surveillance, emergency systems and regulated movement can improve safety at the hill fort.

- **Sustainable mobility:** Electric vehicles and organised visitor transport can reduce congestion and pollution.

Conclusion

The Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone has the potential to transform the historic fort into a major heritage tourism destination in Telangana. The ropeway, restoration works, visitor facilities and integrated Yadadri-Bhongir-Kolanupaka circuit can improve accessibility, generate employment and strengthen the regional economy. However, the project's success will depend on maintaining a careful balance between **modern tourism infrastructure and the preservation of Bhongir Fort's historic grandeur**.

Telangana Emerges as a Key Pillar of India's Pharmaceutical Production

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance:

TGPSC: Telangana Economy, Industrial Development, Genome Valley, Life Sciences and Biotechnology.

Important Keywords

Prelims :

- NITI Aayog Trade Watch, Genome Valley, USFDA, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient, Life Sciences

Mains:

- Cluster-Based Development, Global Value Chains, Pharmaceutical Competitiveness, Export Diversification, Research and Innovation

Why in News?

NITI Aayog's Trade Watch (January–March 2026) identified **Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra** as key pillars of India's pharmaceutical industry.

- Telangana is a leading centre for **pharmaceutical manufacturing, life sciences, vaccines, biotechnology and exports**. It contributes nearly **40% of India's pharmaceutical production** and hosts many globally approved manufacturing facilities.



What Does the NITI Aayog Report Highlight?

The report examined India's trade performance during **2025–26** and identified pharmaceuticals as a sector with significant growth potential.

It noted that **Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra** collectively contribute substantially to:

- Pharmaceutical production
- Exports
- Research and development
- Vaccine manufacturing
- Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
- Integration with global supply chains

The success of these States is based on manufacturing capacity, specialised industrial clusters, globally competitive firms and supportive policy ecosystems.

Why is Telangana a Major Pharmaceutical Hub?

Strong Manufacturing Base

- Telangana hosts more than **2,000 life-sciences companies**, making it one of India's largest pharmaceutical manufacturing centres.

Global Regulatory Compliance

- The State has more than **269 facilities approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration**.
- USFDA-approved facilities indicate adherence to internationally accepted standards and help firms access major global markets.

Vaccine and Biotechnology Leadership

Telangana has emerged as a global hub for:

- Vaccines
- Life sciences
- Biotechnology
- Pharmaceutical research
- Advanced manufacturing

Supportive Policy Environment

The State's pharmaceutical growth has been supported by:

- Industrial policies
- Research institutions
- Startup participation
- Infrastructure development
- Cluster-based planning

Together, these factors have enabled Telangana to become deeply integrated into global pharmaceutical value chains.

How Do Gujarat and Maharashtra Complement India's Pharma Ecosystem?

Gujarat: Chemical and Export Strength

Gujarat has built its pharmaceutical industry on a

strong chemical-manufacturing base.

Its major strengths include:

- Large number of manufacturing units
- Strong port connectivity
- Export orientation
- Chemical and pharmaceutical integration
- Backward linkages for raw materials

The State's port access improves the movement of pharmaceutical products to international markets.

Maharashtra: Manufacturing and Research Capacity

Maharashtra combines large-scale pharmaceutical manufacturing with strong research and development capabilities.

Its strengths include:

- Large industrial base
- Globally compliant facilities
- Research institutions
- Skilled workforce
- Strong pharma clusters in the Mumbai-Pune corridor and other cities

The three States therefore perform complementary roles within India's pharmaceutical ecosystem.

Why is the Pharmaceutical Sector Important to India?

India's pharmaceutical industry has become a strategic pillar of the national economy.

Economic Contribution

The sector contributes:

- More than **1.7% of India's GDP**
- About **7.2% of manufacturing Gross Value Added**

Employment

- The industry supports approximately **2.7 million livelihoods** across manufacturing, research, distribution and allied activities.

Export Earnings

- Pharmaceutical and Active Pharmaceutical

Ingredient exports together were valued at nearly **\$35.8 billion in 2025**.

Global Healthcare Role

India is:

- One of the world's largest suppliers of generic medicines
- A major producer of vaccines
- An important supplier of essential drugs

The sector therefore contributes to both India's economy and global public health.

What Opportunities Does the Report Indicate?

Despite its large production base, India accounts for only around **2.8% of global pharmaceutical and API exports**.

This indicates significant scope for expansion through:

Higher-Value Products

India can move beyond volume-based generic production towards:

- Complex generics
- Advanced vaccines
- Biotechnology products
- Innovative medicines
- Specialised APIs

Stronger Global Integration

- Regulatory compliance and reliable manufacturing can help Indian firms deepen their participation in global pharmaceutical supply chains.

Greater Research and Development

- Stronger linkages between firms, universities, research institutions and startups can improve product innovation.

Export Diversification

- India can expand its presence in new markets and reduce dependence on a

limited number of destinations.

Expansion of Cluster-Based Growth

- The success of Genome Valley and other industrial clusters can guide the creation of similar integrated ecosystems.

Conclusion

Telangana's strong manufacturing ecosystem, vaccine capabilities, USFDA-approved facilities and Genome Valley cluster have made it a central pillar of India's pharmaceutical industry.

- Along with Gujarat's chemical and export strengths and Maharashtra's manufacturing and research capabilities, Telangana is helping India deepen its integration into global pharmaceutical value chains.

The next stage of growth must focus on **innovation, API self-reliance, global quality compliance, skilled manpower and sustainable manufacturing**. This can help India move from being a major volume producer to a higher-value global pharmaceutical leader.

Telangana Police to Deploy AI in Emergency Response System

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: TGPSC: Paper-V: Science & Technology and Data Interpretation

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- ERSS, Emergency Helpline 112, Dial 100, Interactive Voice Response, Integrated Command and Control Centre

Mains Keywords

- AI-Assisted Policing, Emergency Response, Spam-Call Filtering, Predictive Analytics, Resource Optimisation

Why in News?

The Telangana Police plans to deploy **artificial intelligence tools** in its emergency response system to identify spam and non-emergency calls, improve call filtering and reduce response time. Official data indicate that only about **0.28% of nearly 16 lakh calls received daily** through the State's integrated emergency network result in police complaints or emergency intervention.



What is Telangana's Emergency Response System?

The **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)** integrates:

- **112:** India's unified emergency number for police, fire, medical and disaster services.
- **Dial 100:** The traditional police-emergency helpline.

The system connects call operators, police control rooms, patrol vehicles and emergency-dispatch teams.

What Does the Call Data Reveal?

Integrated Emergency Network

- The combined system receives nearly **16 lakh calls daily**, but only around **4,500 calls** lead to police intervention or an emergency response.

Emergency Helpline 112

- The 112 helpline receives the overwhelming majority of calls. After filtering through the Interactive Voice Response system, only a small proportion are identified as genuine emergencies requiring personnel to be dispatched.

A substantial number of calls are:

- Spam calls
- Accidental calls
- Information requests
- Follow-ups on earlier complaints
- Calls originating outside Telangana

Dial 100

- Dial 100 receives fewer calls but records a much higher conversion rate. Around one-fifth of its daily calls result in police complaints or emergency action.

What Types of Calls are Common?

Domestic and Community Disputes

- Domestic disputes and community-related conflicts account for the largest share of emergency calls.

Distress and Suicide-Related Incidents

- Calls involving emotional distress and suicide risk form another major category requiring sensitive and immediate intervention.

Information and Follow-Up Calls

Citizens frequently call to:

- Seek information
- Follow up on earlier complaints
- Report suspicious activity
- Inform police about traffic congestion

Seasonal Emergencies

During the monsoon, calls increase regarding:

- Waterlogging
- Fallen trees
- Traffic disruption
- Local safety hazards

How Will AI Improve the System?

Spam-Call Filtering

- AI can distinguish probable emergency calls from spam, accidental or repetitive calls before they consume operator time.

Pattern Analysis

The system can identify:

- Frequently repeated numbers
- Locations generating high call volumes
- Seasonal trends
- Peak-hour patterns
- Categories of recurring emergencies

Call Prioritisation

AI tools can classify calls according to urgency and ensure that life-threatening situations receive immediate attention.

Monitoring Conversion Rates

Police can track how many calls result in:

- Complaints, Personnel dispatch, Emergency intervention, False alarms, Information-only responses

Dispatch Monitoring

- AI can monitor the availability, location and movement of response vehicles to identify the nearest suitable police team.

Faster Decision-Making

- Operators may receive real-time prompts based on keywords, location and the nature of the incident.
- However, AI is intended to **assist operators**, not replace human assessment in sensitive emergencies.

What are the Present Response Times?

The average emergency-response time is approximately:

- **15 minutes in Hyderabad**
- **20-30 minutes in towns and rural areas**

The difference reflects traffic conditions, distance, geography and the availability of patrol vehicles.

Significance of the Initiative

- **Improved Response Time:** Genuine emergencies can be identified and prioritised faster.
- **Efficient Use of Personnel:** Operators and police teams can focus on serious incidents.
- **Data-Based Deployment:** Call patterns can guide the positioning of patrol vehicles.
- **Better Disaster Response:** Seasonal and location-based trends can improve preparedness.
- **Reduced Misuse:** Repeated spam callers can be identified and managed.
- **Technology-Based Policing:** The initiative strengthens Telangana's use of digital tools in public safety.

Conclusion

Telangana's plan to introduce AI into its emergency response system can improve call filtering, dispatch efficiency and response time. However, technology alone cannot solve the problem.

- Effective implementation requires dedicated emergency resources, trained operators, strong privacy safeguards and public awareness. AI should strengthen human decision-making while ensuring that genuine emergencies receive timely and compassionate assistance.

Right to Walk in Hyderabad: Pedestrian Infrastructure and Urban Governance

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: TGPSC Group-I Paper III: Governance and Urban Administration

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Right to Walk, Footpaths, Indian Road Congress, TS-bPASS Act, CURE Act

Mains Keywords

- Pedestrian-Centred Planning, Sustainable Urban Mobility, Universal Accessibility, Induced Demand, Right to Life

Why in News?

The Supreme Court has recognised the **right to walk on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths as a fundamental right** connected with the right to life. The judgment has drawn attention to Hyderabad, where missing, narrow, damaged and encroached footpaths force pedestrians to walk amid vehicular traffic.

What is the Right to Walk?

The Supreme Court held that the freedom to walk safely on properly maintained footpaths must receive priority over motorised vehicles.

The Court also suggested creating a statutory regulatory mechanism to protect pedestrian rights. This places an obligation on governments and urban local bodies to provide:

- Continuous footpaths
- Safe road crossings
- Accessible pathways
- Encroachment-free walking space
- Infrastructure for persons with disabilities



- **Fundamental Right:** In *Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan & Ors.* (2026), the Supreme Court recognised the **right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths** as a Fundamental Right.
- **Constitutional Basis:** It flows from the freedoms under **Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(b), 19(1)(c) and 19(1)(d)**, read with the **right to life under Article 21**.
- Citizens may seek legal and constitutional remedies against public authorities for failure to provide safe footpaths, independently of compensation under the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.

What is the Condition of Footpaths in Hyderabad?

Pedestrian routes in Hyderabad are frequently obstructed by:

- Parked vehicles
- Utility poles and cables
- Construction debris
- Commercial establishments
- Food stalls and vendors
- Bus shelters and public utilities
- Damaged or incomplete pavements

Even roads near major administrative institutions, Metro stations and the State Legislative Assembly lack continuous and safe pedestrian facilities.

Earlier estimates indicated that nearly **1,600 km of footpaths** were required along major roads, while only about **430 km existed**, much of it narrow or encroached.

Why Has Hyderabad Become Less Walkable?

Vehicle-Centric Planning

Urban infrastructure has focused mainly on:

- Road widening, Flyovers, Underpasses, Signal-free corridors, Faster movement of private vehicles

Under the Strategic Road Development Plan, Hyderabad added several flyovers, underpasses and bridges. However, pedestrian and public-transport infrastructure did not receive comparable priority.

Rise in Private Vehicles

The number of vehicles in Greater Hyderabad increased from around **50 lakh in 2016 to more than 94 lakh by August 2025**.

Between 2011 and 2024:

- Public-transport use declined from **42% to 25%**.
- The share of cars increased from **4% to 16%**.

Two-wheelers also rose sharply, reflecting growing dependence on private transport.

Induced Demand

- Building wider roads often attracts additional vehicles instead of permanently reducing congestion. Greater road capacity encourages private vehicle use and makes roads more difficult for pedestrians to cross.

Weak Planning Regulations

- The **TS-bPASS Act, 2020** refers to footpaths mainly in relation to utility ducts and does not clearly mandate them as essential pedestrian-safety infrastructure.

What are the Consequences?

Pedestrian Deaths

- In 2025, 390 pedestrians were killed in Hyderabad and Cyberabad, accounting for about 35% of road accident fatalities.
- Pedestrians have consistently formed a significant proportion of road deaths.

Reduced Public-Transport Use

Unsafe walking conditions discourage people from reaching:

- Metro stations, Bus stops, Workplaces, Educational institutions, MP public facilities

Since every public-transport journey begins and ends with walking, poor footpaths weaken the entire public-transport system.

Social Exclusion

The absence of accessible pathways disproportionately affects:

- Persons with disabilities, Senior citizens, Children, Pregnant women, Street vendors, Low-income citizens without private vehicles

Environmental Impact

Dependence on private vehicles contributes to:

- Traffic congestion, Air pollution, Fuel consumption, Greenhouse-gas emissions, Loss of public space

What Standards Apply to Footpaths?

Indian Road Congress guidelines require continuous and accessible footpaths on roads where vehicle speeds exceed 15 kmph.

A footpath should include:

- **Walking zone:** Uninterrupted space for pedestrians
- **Frontage zone:** Space near buildings and property entrances
- **Multi-utility zone:** Space for trees, poles, vendors, bus stops and street furniture

The pedestrian zone should ideally be at least **two metres wide**, allowing wheelchair users to pass safely.

Footpaths must also include:

- Kerb ramps, Tactile pathways, Safe crossings, Proper lighting, Drainage, Universal accessibility

What Reforms are Proposed?

CURE Act

The proposed CURE Act includes provisions requiring urban local bodies to create and maintain:

- Footpaths, Pedestrian crossings, Kerb ramps, Tactile pathways, Bus stops, Street furniture, Non-motorised transport corridors
- **Tender SURE Model** It also seeks to provide inclusive infrastructure in accordance with the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**.

Bengaluru's Tender SURE model demonstrates integrated street planning through:

- Wide footpaths, Cycle tracks, Organised vending spaces, Utility corridors, Public spaces, Accessible Street design

A similar approach can be adapted for Hyderabad.

Way Forward

- Enact a statutory framework protecting the right to walk.
- Make footpaths mandatory in urban layout and building regulations.
- Conduct a city-wide pedestrian-infrastructure audit.
- Ensure continuous footpaths near Metro stations and bus stops.
- Remove encroachments without displacing vendors unfairly.

Conclusion

The right to walk cannot be realised merely through

judicial recognition. Hyderabad must shift from vehicle-centred road planning to a people-centred mobility system.

Safe and continuous footpaths would reduce accidents, improve public-transport use, support persons with disabilities and make the city more sustainable. Pedestrian infrastructure must therefore be treated as an essential public service rather than leftover road space.

India's First Information Age Museum at IIT Hyderabad

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: TGPSC: Paper-V: Science & Technology

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- IAM IGNITE, IIT Hyderabad, FORTESS, Information Age Museum, Industry 4.0

Mains Keywords

- Scientific temper, experiential learning, technology democratisation, innovation ecosystem, future-ready education

Why in News?

India's first **Information Age Museum**, titled **IAM IGNITE**, is being established at the **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad** in partnership with **FORTESS**. The museum is expected to open by **December 2026**.

What is IAM IGNITE?

- IAM IGNITE stands for **Information Age Museum-IGNITE**.
- It is an interactive museum that will present the evolution of information and digital technologies, from computers and the internet

to artificial intelligence, robotics, automation and future technologies.

- Unlike conventional museums that mainly preserve historical artefacts, IAM IGNITE will use:
 - Interactive exhibits
 - Digital storytelling
 - Technology demonstrations
 - Immersive learning experiences



Institutional Partnership

IIT Hyderabad

- IIT Hyderabad will provide the academic, research and technological ecosystem for the museum and connect it with student outreach and innovation programmes.

FORTESS

- **FORTESS** stands for the **Forum of Erstwhile TCS Leaders and Leading IT Advisors**.
- Its involvement brings experience from India's information technology sector and supports the documentation of the country's software and digital transformation journey.

Major Areas of Focus

The museum will cover:

- Computers and the internet
- Artificial intelligence

- Communication technologies
- Robotics and automation
- Advanced manufacturing
- Industry 4.0
- Entrepreneurship and innovation
- Aerospace and space technologies
- India's software revolution

These subjects will be presented as part of a single narrative explaining how technology has transformed modern life and may shape the future.

Key Objectives

Document technological evolution:

- The museum will trace the development of information-age technologies and India's contribution to science, software and digital transformation.

Promote experiential learning:

- Interactive displays and simulations will help visitors understand complex technologies through direct engagement.

Inspire future innovators:

- Exposure to emerging technologies may encourage students to pursue careers in science, engineering, research and entrepreneurship.

Connect technology with society:

- The museum seeks to take innovation beyond laboratories and make it understandable and relevant to the general public.

Educational Outreach

The museum will support IIT Hyderabad's outreach programmes for school and college students through:

- Guided visits
- Technology demonstrations
- Innovation-based learning sessions

- Interaction with researchers and educators

It will also serve researchers, entrepreneurs, teachers, technology professionals and the general public.

Significance

Scientific temper:

- The museum can promote curiosity, rational inquiry and awareness of technological change.

Public access to emerging technologies:

- It can make subjects such as AI, robotics and Industry 4.0 accessible to non-specialist audiences.

Preservation of India's digital history:

- The initiative can document India's contribution to information technology, software services and digital innovation.

Innovation awareness:

- By linking technology with entrepreneurship and social applications, it can strengthen future-ready thinking.

National potential:

- The Hyderabad facility is planned as the first in a wider network of Information Age Museums across India.

Conclusion

IAM IGNITE can become an important platform for understanding India's technological transformation. By combining interactive learning, historical documentation and exposure to future technologies, it can promote scientific temper and inspire young people to become innovators. Its success will depend on updated exhibits, inclusive outreach and sustained institutional support.