

APPSC

Prelims Cum Mains Based
News Summary (EM)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY - 2026

<https://t.me/kpiasacademy/6154>



TOPICS

APPSC News Summary

- Vikram-I Stacked at Sriharikota: A Major Milestone for India's Private Space Sector3
- APTDC Plans Solar-Powered Electric Boats to Promote Sustainable Tourism in Andhra Pradesh....5
- Alluri Sitarama Raju: Remembering Manyam Veerudu on His 129th Birth Anniversary8
- Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Mee Mart' to Modernise Public Distribution System.....11
- Swayam AP: Andhra Pradesh's New Brand for Women SHG Products.....13
- AP to Become India's First AI-powered Tourism State.....16
- APEX Korea: Andhra Pradesh's First Overseas Investment Facilitation Centre in Busan.....18
- UAE Leads Indian Mango Imports: Andhra Pradesh Varieties in High Demand.....21
- Andhra Pradesh's Online Works Monitoring System for Urban Water Projects.....22
- Kakinada Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum Gets ₹5 Crore Funding Boost.....25
- Andhra Pradesh Secures ₹4,100-Crore Textile Investments at Bharat Tex 202627
- Kakinada Special Economic Zone: Renewed Push for Port-Led Industrial Growth in Andhra Pradesh30
- Telugu Cinema at the 72nd National Film Awards: Recognition for Regional Creativity33
- IIT-Tirupati Hosts 5th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Geospatial Technologies34
- A.P.--UAE MoU to Set Up Food Cluster: Boost to Food Processing and Agri-Exports36
- Talliki Vandanam Scheme 2026: ₹13,000 DBT Support for Students in Andhra Pradesh38
- Andhra Pradesh Shoreline Management Plan: Protecting a Changing Coastline40
- IHFC-AMTZ MoU: Boosting Innovation in Medical Robotics42
- Catch the Rain Campaign in Nandyal: Strengthening Water Conservation and Storage Capacity .44
- Rayalaseema: India's Emerging Industrial Hub.....46
- Kosala Nagaram Industrial Park: Andhra Pradesh's Plan for a New Manufacturing Hub.....49

APPSC News Summary

Vikram-I Stacked at Sriharikota: A Major Milestone for India's Private Space Sector

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Group-I: Science and Technology; Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Vikram-I, Skyroot Aerospace, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, IN-SPACE, Low-Earth Orbit, First Launch Pad

Mains Keywords

- Private space economy, commercial launch services, space-sector reforms, public-private collaboration, small-satellite launch market, technology entrepreneurship

Why in News?

Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully stacked the first stage of its **Vikram-I rocket** at the **First Launch Pad** of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.

This is the first time a privately designed, developed and manufactured orbital-class rocket has been stacked at ISRO's First Launch Pad.

What is Vikram-I?

- Vikram-I is Skyroot Aerospace's maiden orbital launch vehicle.
- It is designed to carry **small satellites into Low-Earth Orbit** and is currently undergoing final integration and technical testing.
- The vehicle is part of India's growing commercial launch ecosystem, which seeks to meet the rising demand for affordable and flexible small-satellite launches.

Why is the Stacking Milestone Important?

First private orbital rocket at the pad:

- The event marks the first stacking of a privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle at ISRO's First Launch Pad.

Transition from development to launch preparation:

- Stacking indicates that individual stages are being assembled into a flight-ready vehicle.

Use of national launch infrastructure:

- The milestone demonstrates how private companies can access ISRO facilities for commercial space missions.



Proximity to maiden orbital flight:

- With integration and testing underway, Vikram-I has moved closer to its first orbital launch.

Institutional Ecosystem

Skyroot Aerospace

- Skyroot Aerospace is a Hyderabad-based private space start-up engaged in the design and development of launch vehicles.
- Its Vikram series is intended to provide launch services for small satellites.

ISRO

- The Indian Space Research Organisation provides launch infrastructure, technical facilities and range support at Sriharikota.
- The First Launch Pad has previously supported major missions, including

Chandrayaan and the Mars Orbiter Mission.

IN-SPACE

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre facilitates and authorises private-sector space activities.

For the Vikram-I mission, final scheduling will depend on:

- Completion of technical integration tests
- Safety and mission clearances
- Range availability
- Coordination with IN-SPACe and launch authorities

Significance for India's Private Space Sector

Commercial launch capability:

- Vikram-I can strengthen India's capacity to serve the global small-satellite launch market.



Validation of private-sector reforms:

- The milestone reflects the outcome of reforms that opened India's space sector to non-government entities.

Start-up innovation:

- It demonstrates the growing role of Indian start-ups in advanced engineering, propulsion and launch-vehicle development.

Public-private collaboration:

- The use of ISRO infrastructure by a private company shows a shift from a government-dominated model to a collaborative space ecosystem.

Regional innovation hub:

- Skyroot's progress reinforces Hyderabad's position as an emerging centre for aerospace and deep-technology enterprises.

Strategic capability:

- Domestic private launch capacity can improve India's technological self-reliance and reduce dependence on foreign launch providers.

Way Forward

- Complete all technical tests with strong safety assurance.

- Build a reliable pipeline of domestic and international satellite customers.
- Expand access to shared testing and launch infrastructure.
- Encourage private investment in propulsion, avionics and satellite manufacturing.
- Strengthen coordination among ISRO, IN-SPACe, NSIL and private companies.
- Support research partnerships between start-ups, universities and public institutions.
- Develop dedicated launch facilities for commercial missions as demand grows.
- Ensure that rapid commercialisation is matched by safety, accountability and regulatory clarity.

Conclusion

The stacking of Vikram-I at Sriharikota marks a significant step in India's transition towards a broader and more competitive space economy.

The milestone is important not only for Skyroot Aerospace but also for India's private space ecosystem. Its lasting significance will depend on a successful orbital launch, reliable commercial operations and continued cooperation between public institutions and private innovators.

APTDC Plans Solar-Powered Electric Boats to Promote Sustainable Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC Group-I: Andhra Pradesh Economy, Tourism Development and Infrastructure

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- APTDC, solar-powered boats, electric boats, Suryalanka Beach, caravan tourism, PPP model, experiential

tourism

Mains Keywords

- Sustainable tourism, green mobility, public-private partnership, tourism infrastructure, regional employment, low-carbon transport, destination development

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) has announced plans to introduce **solar-powered and electric boats** at tourist destinations across the State in a phased manner.

- The proposal formed part of a wider strategy to expand boating activities, promote tourism investment through the **Public-Private Partnership model**, improve hospitality services and develop caravan, beach and experiential tourism.

What has APTDC Proposed?

APTDC plans to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's tourism sector through a combination of sustainable transport, infrastructure development and private investment.

The major proposals include:

- Introducing solar-powered and electric boats
- Expanding boating activities at tourist destinations
- Promoting tourism projects through the PPP model
- Developing caravan tourism
- Strengthening beach tourism
- Expanding experiential tourism
- Improving food quality and variety at APTDC hotels
- Attracting investment into new tourism

projects

- Upgrading tourism infrastructure

The proposals reflect an attempt to move from conventional sightseeing towards diversified and experience-based tourism.



APTDC Chairman N. Balaji participating in a board meeting held on a caravan that travelled from Vijayawada to Suryalanka Beach in Guntur district on Wednesday. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

Solar-Powered and Electric Boats

The introduction of solar-powered and electric boats is aimed at reducing dependence on conventional fuel-based vessels.

Solar-powered boats:

- These vessels use solar energy for propulsion or battery charging, thereby lowering fuel consumption and operating emissions.

Electric boats:

- Electric boats use battery-powered motors and produce less noise and local air pollution than diesel boats.

Phased implementation:

- APTDC plans to introduce these boats gradually across suitable tourist destinations rather than implementing them simultaneously throughout the State.
- This approach allows the corporation to assess technical feasibility, tourist response and maintenance requirements before wider expansion.

Expansion of Boating Tourism

Boating is an important component of tourism in coastal, riverine, reservoir and lake destinations.

Expanding boating services can:

- Increase tourist engagement
- Extend visitor stay at destinations
- Generate local employment
- Support food, transport and hospitality businesses
- Improve the commercial viability of lesser-known tourist centres

However, expansion must be linked with safety standards, carrying-capacity assessments and environmental safeguards.

Promotion of Tourism through PPP Model

APTDC has decided to promote tourism investment through the **Public-Private Partnership model**.

- Under this model, government agencies and private investors share responsibilities in financing, developing, operating or maintaining tourism infrastructure.

Potential advantages

- Mobilisation of private capital
- Faster infrastructure creation
- Professional management
- Better service quality
- Innovation in tourism products
- Reduced fiscal burden on the State

Need for safeguards

PPP projects must have clear agreements concerning:

- Pricing
- Public access
- Environmental protection
- Revenue sharing
- Maintenance standards

- Land use
- Accountability

The model should supplement public investment without reducing affordability or local community access.

Caravan Tourism

APTDC held its board meeting aboard a caravan travelling from Vijayawada to Suryalanka Beach, highlighting the potential of **caravan tourism**.

Caravan tourism allows travellers to combine transport, accommodation and recreation in a mobile unit.

It can help promote:

- Road-based tourism circuits
- Remote and rural destinations
- Flexible itineraries
- Long-duration travel
- Nature and adventure tourism

For successful implementation, the State will require designated caravan parks with:

- Parking facilities
- Water supply
- Electricity
- Waste disposal
- Security
- Sanitation
- Digital connectivity

Without such supporting infrastructure, caravan tourism may remain limited to demonstration projects.

Beach and Experiential Tourism

Beach tourism

Andhra Pradesh has a long coastline and several destinations with potential for recreation, water sports and hospitality development.

The focus on beach tourism can support:

- Coastal tourism circuits



- Resorts and accommodation
- Water-based recreation
- Local seafood and handicrafts
- Cultural tourism
- Employment in coastal communities

Experiential tourism

Experiential tourism emphasises active participation rather than passive sightseeing.

It may include:

- Village stays
- Local cuisine
- Handicraft workshops
- Nature trails
- Cultural performances
- Agricultural experiences
- Boating and adventure activities

Such tourism can distribute economic benefits beyond major cities and established tourist centres.

Strengthening APTDC Hospitality Services

APTDC also plans to improve the range and quality of food available at its hotels and resorts.

Better hospitality services are important because tourist satisfaction depends not only on the destination but also on:

- Food quality
- Hygiene
- Accommodation
- Staff behaviour
- Safety
- Local transport
- Booking facilities

Introducing regional cuisine and standardised quality controls can improve the identity and competitiveness of APTDC properties.

Conclusion

APTDC's proposal to introduce solar-powered and electric boats reflects a shift towards **sustainable and experience-oriented tourism** in Andhra Pradesh.

- The wider focus on PPP investment, caravan tourism, beach development and improved hospitality can generate employment and strengthen regional economies. Its success, however, will depend on safety, environmental protection, transparent partnerships and meaningful participation of local communities.

Alluri Sitarama Raju: Remembering Manyam Veerudu on His 129th Birth Anniversary

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Group-I: Andhra Pradesh History, Tribal Resistance Movements, Freedom Fighters

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Alluri Sitarama Raju, Manyam

Veerudu, Rampa Rebellion, Manyam Rebellion, Pandrangi, Eastern Ghats, Madras Forest Act, 1882, Podu cultivation

Mains Keywords

- Tribal resistance, colonial forest laws, guerrilla warfare, anti-colonial struggle, forest rights, indigenous livelihood, regional freedom

movements

Why in News?

The 129th birth anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju was celebrated at his birthplace, **Pandrangi village in Padmanabham mandal of Visakhapatnam district**, Andhra Pradesh.

- The celebrations began at **Veerula Udyanavanam**, where public representatives paid floral tributes to his statue. A patriotic rally carrying the National Flag was taken out from his ancestral house to the main venue. Traditional folk performances and cultural programmes depicting his life, ideals and sacrifices were also organised as part of the celebrations.



Who was Alluri Sitarama Raju?

- Alluri Sitarama Raju** was an Indian revolutionary who fought against British

colonial rule in the forested hill tracts of present-day Andhra Pradesh.

- He is popularly known as **Manyam Veerudu**, meaning the "Hero of the Jungle," for mobilising tribal communities against oppressive colonial policies.
- His struggle was rooted in the lived realities of tribal people who faced restrictions on their traditional rights, livelihood practices and access to forest resources.

Early Life and Background

- Alluri Sitarama Raju was born in **Pandrangi village** in Visakhapatnam district. His birth is commonly associated with **4 July 1897**, though some accounts place it in 1898.
- He belonged to a Telugu-speaking Kshatriya family. Over time, he came into close contact with tribal communities living in the Eastern Ghats region.
- His understanding of their hardships shaped his political consciousness and later guided his resistance against British authority.

Rampa Rebellion / Manyam Rebellion

- The **Rampa Rebellion**, also known as the **Manyam Rebellion**, took place between **1922 and 1924**.
- Alluri Sitarama Raju led the rebellion in the Eastern Ghats region, mobilising tribal people against British forest policies and administrative oppression.
- The rebellion was not merely a violent outburst. It was a response to the disruption of tribal life caused by colonial control over forests, land and labour.

The movement aimed to:

- Resist oppressive British forest laws



- Defend tribal livelihood practices
- Protect access to forest produce
- Challenge forced labour and exploitation
- Drive British authority out of the hill region

Why Tribal People Resisted British Rule

- The tribal communities of the Eastern Ghats traditionally practised **podu**, or shifting cultivation.
- Under this system, patches of forest land were cleared for cultivation and later left fallow as communities moved to another area. It was closely linked with their food security, livelihood and cultural identity.
- The **Madras Forest Act, 1882** imposed restrictions on tribal movement and limited their access to forests. It also affected their ability to collect minor forest produce.
- As a result, many tribal people were pushed into low-wage labour for the forest department or contractors.
- The colonial state treated forests as revenue-generating resources, while tribal communities viewed them as a source of livelihood, identity and survival. This conflict became the foundation of the rebellion.

Guerrilla Campaign against the British

- Alluri Sitarama Raju organised tribal fighters into a guerrilla force.
- Instead of fighting the British through conventional battlefield methods, he used **guerrilla warfare**, which involved:
 - Ambushes
 - Sudden raids
 - Hit-and-run tactics
 - Sabotage
 - Mobility through forest

terrain

- Attacks on police stations and outposts
- His knowledge of the hilly and forested landscape gave the rebellion a tactical advantage.
- The guerrilla campaign challenged British authority and exposed the limits of colonial power in forest regions where local support was strong.

Death and Legacy

- Alluri Sitarama Raju was captured and killed by British forces at **Koyyuru village on 7 May 1924**.
- His death marked the end of the Rampa Rebellion, but his legacy continued to inspire generations.

He is remembered as a symbol of:

- Courage
- Sacrifice
- Tribal resistance
- Anti-colonial struggle
- Social unity
- Justice for forest communities
- His life reflected the idea of unity beyond caste and class divisions.
- The Government of India issued a **postal stamp in 1986** in his honour. A biographical film titled **Alluri Seetharama Raju** was released in **1974**, further popularising his role in the freedom struggle.

Relevance for India's Freedom Struggle

- Alluri Sitarama Raju's movement shows that India's freedom struggle was not limited to urban centres or mainstream political platforms.

It also included:



- Tribal uprisings
- Peasant resistance
- Forest-based struggles
- Regional movements
- Localised armed resistance
- His struggle highlights the relationship between colonialism and control over natural resources.
- It also reminds us that forest rights, livelihood security and dignity of tribal communities were central issues even during the freedom movement.

Conclusion

Alluri Sitarama Raju remains one of the most inspiring figures of India's freedom struggle.

As **Manyam Veerudu**, he mobilised tribal communities against oppressive forest laws and British exploitation. His leadership during the Rampa Rebellion demonstrated courage, sacrifice and deep commitment to justice.

- The celebration of his 129th birth anniversary at Pandrangi is not only a tribute to a revolutionary hero but also a reminder of the vital role played by tribal communities in India's struggle for freedom.

Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Mee Mart' to Modernise Public Distribution System

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC Group-I/II: Andhra Pradesh Government Schemes, Welfare Delivery, Civil Supplies

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Mee Mart, Public Distribution System, Fair Price Shops, National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd., Digital Rupee, Central Bank Digital Currency

Mains Keywords

- Food security, PDS modernisation, consumer welfare, digital subsidies, fair price shop viability, last-mile delivery, affordable retail access

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh has launched the '**Mee Mart**' initiative to modernise the public distribution system and make quality consumer goods available at affordable prices.

- The first Mee Mart outlet was inaugurated by **Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar** at **Lalupuram**, near Guntur city.
- The State plans to establish **1,000 Mee Mart outlets** across Andhra Pradesh. Of these, **553 outlets are ready for launch**, and nine outlets were inaugurated in the first phase.

What is Mee Mart?

Mee Mart is a modern retail initiative linked with the public distribution network of Andhra Pradesh. It aims to transform conventional fair price shops into community-based retail centres that provide

not only ration items but also a wider range of daily-use household products.

- Unlike traditional ration shops, Mee Mart outlets will stock more than **250 daily-use products**. These products will be sold at prices around **₹3 to ₹5 lower than prevailing market prices**, while maintaining quality standards.



Civil Supplies Minister Nandini Manohar inaugurates a 'Mee Mart' outlet at Lalupuram, near Guntur, on Monday. Prathipadu MLA B. Ramanjaneyulu and others are seen | Photo Credit: T. VIJAY KUMAR

Key Features of the Initiative

Affordable Daily-Use Products:

- Mee Mart outlets will provide essential household items at prices lower than the open market. This can reduce the monthly burden on low- and middle-income households.

More than 250 Products:

- The outlets will stock a wide range of daily-use consumer goods, going beyond the limited commodity basket of conventional ration shops.

Support to Fair Price Shop Dealers:

- The initiative is expected to benefit nearly **30,000 fair price shop dealers** by creating an additional source of income.

Month-Long Availability:

- Fair price shops are proposed to be kept open throughout the month, improving convenience for consumers.

Quality Assurance:

- The government has stated that products will be sold at reduced prices without compromising on quality.

Implementation Model

The project is being implemented by the **Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Department** in partnership with the **National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd.**

This partnership-based model is important because it combines:

- Government welfare delivery
- Cooperative procurement support
- Retail network expansion
- Fair price shop modernisation
- Affordable consumer access

By using the existing fair price shop network, the State can reduce the cost of creating new retail infrastructure while strengthening last-mile delivery.

Digital Rupee Integration

The Andhra Pradesh government also plans to integrate Mee Mart outlets with the **Central Bank Digital Currency**, popularly known as the **Digital Rupee**.

This would allow beneficiaries to use **digital subsidies** for purchasing essential commodities.

Such integration can improve:

- Transparency in subsidy use
- Targeted welfare delivery
- Digital payment adoption
- Real-time tracking of transactions
- Reduction of leakages

If implemented effectively, Mee Mart can become a



model for linking public welfare distribution with digital payment infrastructure.

Conclusion

The launch of **Mee Mart** marks an important step in modernising Andhra Pradesh's public distribution system.

By offering more than **250 daily-use products** at prices lower than the market, creating additional

income for fair price shop dealers, and planning integration with the **Digital Rupee**, the initiative seeks to combine affordability, transparency and retail modernisation.

Its success will depend on product quality, regular supply, digital readiness and effective monitoring. If implemented well, Mee Mart can become a useful model for transforming fair price shops into modern community retail centres.

Swayam AP: Andhra Pradesh's New Brand for Women SHG Products

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Group-I/II: Andhra Pradesh Government Initiatives, SHGs, Rural Poverty Alleviation

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Swayam AP, Self-Help Groups, SERP, Street Nidhi, Velugu Marts, PMJJBY, PMSBY

Mains Keywords

- Women empowerment, rural entrepreneurship, market linkage, financial inclusion, social security, local products, SHG-led development

Vijayawada.

What is Swayam AP?

- **Swayam AP** is a common brand platform for products manufactured by women Self-Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh.
- The initiative aims to bring SHG-made products under one recognisable brand so that they can compete better in the market, reach more consumers and generate steady income for women entrepreneurs.
- It is not only a marketing initiative. It is also an effort to strengthen rural livelihoods, promote district-level traditional products and improve the economic independence of women.

Key Features of the Initiative

Launch Date:

- The brand will enter the market from **August 1, 2026**.

District Representation:

- The initiative covers traditional products representing the cultural identity of all **26 districts** of Andhra Pradesh.

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government will launch the '**Swayam AP**' brand on **August 1, 2026** to provide State-level recognition and market access to quality products made by women **Self-Help Groups**. The announcement was made by **Kondapalli Srinivas**, Minister for MSME and Rural Poverty Alleviation, during a review meeting at the **Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty** headquarters in

**Product Basket:**

- The **Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty** has identified **65 traditional products** for marketing under the Swayam AP brand.

SHG Participation:

- Around **587 women Self-Help Groups** are involved in manufacturing these products.

Brand Objective:

- The main aim is to provide Statewide visibility, quality assurance and a sustainable market for SHG products.

Role of Women Self-Help Groups

- Women SHGs have played a major role in rural credit, savings, livelihood generation and community-level development.
- Through Swayam AP, the government seeks to move SHGs from small-scale local production to a more organised market-based model.

The initiative can help SHG members by:

- Increasing product visibility
- Improving access to consumers
- Creating regular income opportunities
- Encouraging local entrepreneurship
- Promoting traditional skills and district-specific products
- Building confidence among rural women producers
- By linking SHG products with a formal brand, Swayam AP can help women move higher in the value chain.

Market and Logistics Support

- To support storage, order handling and delivery, the government will set up **two**

fulfilment centres.

These centres are expected to help in:

- Product storage
- Order management
- Packaging support
- Faster delivery
- Inventory management
- Better supply-chain coordination

The government will also open **two signature retail stores**:

- Near **Bapu Museum** in Vijayawada
- At **TTDC premises in Gollapudi**

These stores will act as display and sale centres for Swayam AP products.

Quality Standards and Branding

- A common brand can succeed only if products maintain consistent quality.
- For this reason, SHG members are being trained to follow strict quality standards. This is important because consumers may buy SHG products once out of goodwill, but repeat purchases depend on quality, packaging, pricing and trust.

The Swayam AP model can strengthen:

- Quality control
- Standardised packaging
- Brand identity
- Consumer confidence
- Better pricing for producers
- Wider market acceptance

This approach can help traditional rural products enter urban and organised retail markets.

Social Security and Credit Support

- Along with the Swayam AP brand, the Minister also asked officials to launch the 'Kalyana Lakshmi' scheme under Stree

**Nidhi.**

- The scheme aims to provide **low-interest and hassle-free loans** for marriage-related expenses of SHG families.
- The Minister also proposed **100% enrolment of SHG members** under two major social-security schemes:

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana:

- A life insurance scheme for eligible beneficiaries.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana:

- An accident insurance scheme.
- This shows that the government is trying to combine livelihood promotion with financial protection.

Velugu Marts and Monitoring

- The Minister also called for continuous monitoring of **Velugu Marts**.
- He warned that action would be taken against those responsible for loss-making or non-performing outlets.
- This is important because SHG-linked retail initiatives need regular supervision, professional management and accountability. Without proper monitoring, such outlets may face stock issues, weak sales, poor financial management or loss of consumer trust.

Importance of the Initiative**Women Empowerment:**

- Swayam AP can improve income opportunities for women SHG members.

Rural Livelihoods:

- It provides a wider market for products

made in villages and small towns.

Local Heritage:

- The focus on traditional products helps preserve district-level craft, food and cultural identity.

Market Linkage:

- Fulfilment centres and retail stores can reduce the gap between producers and consumers.

Financial Inclusion:

- Credit through Stree Nidhi and insurance coverage through PMJJBY and PMSBY can strengthen household security.

MSME Growth:

- SHG products can gradually become part of the broader MSME and rural enterprise ecosystem.

Conclusion

The launch of **Swayam AP** marks an important step in promoting women-led rural entrepreneurship in Andhra Pradesh. By bringing **65 traditional products** from **587 women SHGs** under a single brand, the initiative seeks to provide recognition, quality assurance and sustainable market access. Its success will depend on product quality, professional marketing, supply-chain efficiency, retail visibility and regular monitoring of SHG-linked outlets. If implemented effectively, Swayam AP can become a strong model for combining **women empowerment, local enterprise and rural economic development**.



AP to Become India's First AI-powered Tourism State

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh Economy, Tourism, Governance, Science & Technology, Current Affairs

Important Key Words

Prelims

- NiVU AI Platform, APTDC, Xplorer, AI-powered Tourism, QR Code-based Services, Mangalagiri Pilot Project, Swarna Andhra Vision-2047, Kandula Durgesh

Mains

- AI-led Governance, Digital Tourism, Smart Tourism Infrastructure, Language Inclusion, Citizen-centric Service Delivery, Tourism Economy, Technology-enabled Public Services

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh Tourism Minister **Kandula Durgesh** announced that the State is poised to become **India's first AI-powered tourism State**. The State will roll out the **NiVU AI platform** to improve visitor experience at tourist destinations. A **three-year strategic MoU** was signed between **APTDC** and **Xplorer**. The initiative follows a successful pilot project at **Mangalagiri**.

About the NiVU AI Initiative

The **NiVU AI platform** is an Artificial Intelligence-based tourism service designed to provide

destination-related information to visitors.

It will help tourists access information about:

- Heritage sites**
- Forts**
- Beaches**
- Caves**
- Other important tourist destinations in Andhra Pradesh

The platform aims to make tourism more convenient, interactive and language-friendly.

Implementation Plan

The initiative will be implemented across Andhra Pradesh in a phased manner.

- Pilot project:** Successfully implemented at **Mangalagiri**.
- First year:** Rollout at **30 major tourist destinations**.
- Three-year target:** Expansion across the State within **three years**.
- Overall coverage:** NiVU AI services will be introduced at more than **100 tourist destinations**.

The project will be implemented through a **three-year strategic MoU** between:

- Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation**
- Xplorer**

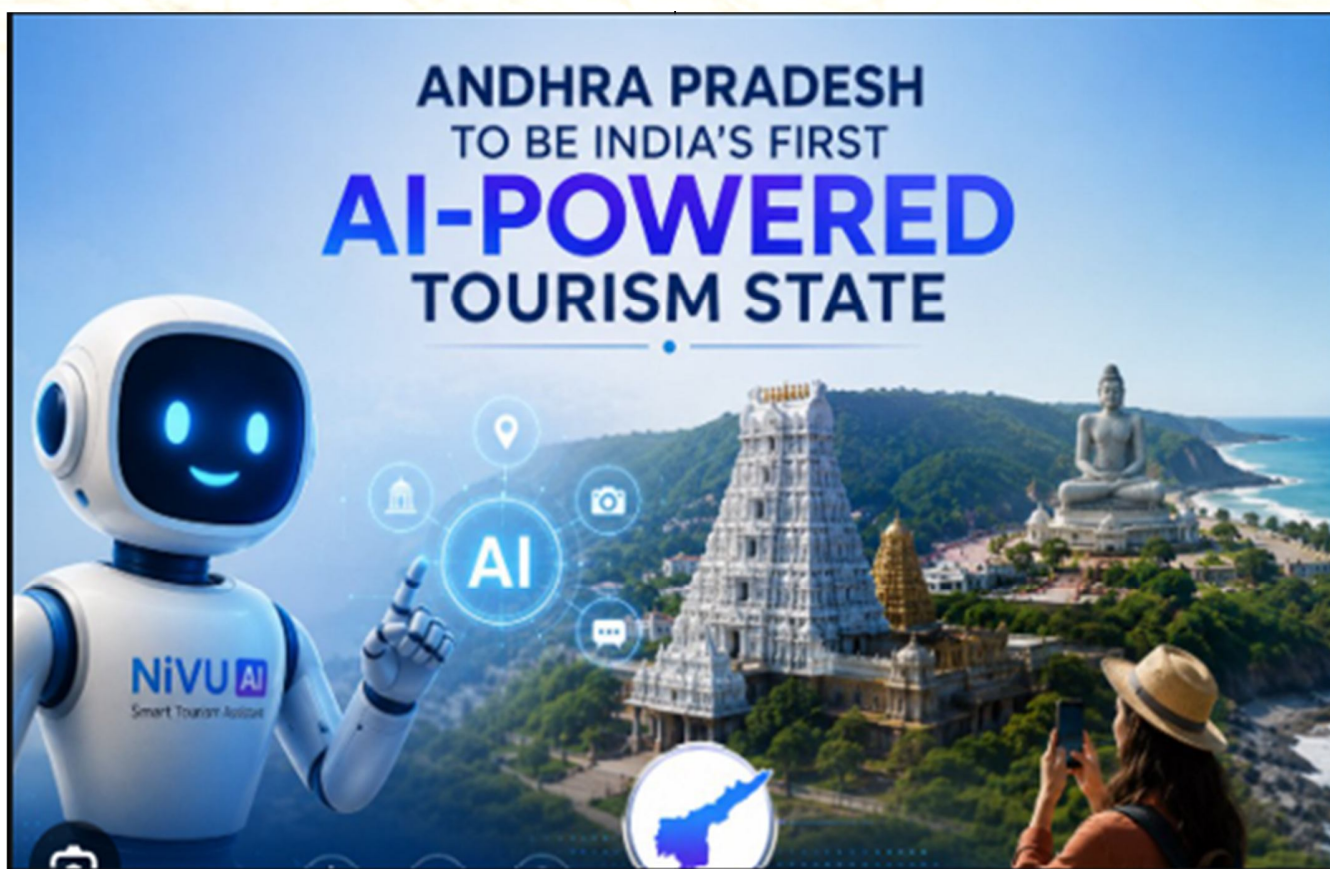
Key Features of NiVU AI Platform

QR Code-based Access

- Tourists can access the service by simply scanning a **Quick Response code** at tourist destinations.

No App Download

- Visitors do not need to download any separate mobile application.



Voice and Text Interaction

- The platform allows AI-powered conversations through both **voice and text**.

Multilingual Service

- The platform supports more than **130 languages**, helping tourists receive information in their preferred language.

Free of Cost

- The service will be available **free of cost** for tourists.

Governance and Tourism Significance

Improved Visitor Experience

- Tourists can receive quick and interactive information about tourist places without depending only on physical guides or printed material.

Language Inclusion

- Support for more than **130 languages** can help domestic and international tourists understand destinations better.

Convenient Tourism

- QR code access and no-app usage make the service simple and easy for visitors.

Promotion of Tourist Destinations

- The platform can help present information on heritage sites, forts, beaches and caves in a more accessible manner.

Positive Pilot Response

- The Tourism Minister stated that the **Mangalagiri pilot project** has already been receiving an encouraging response from hundreds of devotees every day.



Link with Swarna Andhra Vision-2047

- Tourism Minister **Kandula Durgesh** described the initiative as a historic step towards achieving **Swarna Andhra Vision-2047**.
- By using Artificial Intelligence in tourism services, Andhra Pradesh is attempting to improve tourist experience and strengthen the State's tourism sector through digital innovation.

Conclusion

Andhra Pradesh's plan to introduce the **NiVU AI platform** across more than **100 tourist destinations** marks an important step in digital tourism. The initiative combines **Artificial Intelligence, multilingual access and QR code-based service delivery** to make tourism more interactive and visitor-friendly. If implemented effectively, the project can support Andhra Pradesh's tourism development and contribute to the broader goals of **Swarna Andhra Vision-2047**.

APEX Korea: Andhra Pradesh's First Overseas Investment Facilitation Centre in Busan

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh Economy

Important Key Words

Prelims

- APEX Korea, Andhra Pradesh External Engagement-Korea, Busan, South Korea, APEDB, KOMEA, Dugarajapatnam Shipbuilding Cluster, Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Hwaseung Group, Boo Young Group, BNK Financial Group

Mains

- Sub-national diplomacy, investment facilitation, manufacturing-led growth, maritime economy, shipbuilding ecosystem, export-oriented manufacturing, investor aftercare, industrial corridors, employment generation

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh inaugurated **APEX Korea** in **Busan, South Korea**, its **first overseas investment facilitation and outreach centre**.
- The centre was inaugurated by **HRD, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh**.
- It was established by the **Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board** to strengthen investment engagement with Korean companies.
- The initiative aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a preferred destination for **manufacturing, technology, maritime and export-oriented investments**.

What is APEX Korea?

- **APEX Korea** stands for **Andhra Pradesh External Engagement-Korea**.
- It is Andhra Pradesh's first permanent overseas investment facilitation and outreach centre, established in **Busan**, a

major maritime and industrial hub of South Korea.

- The centre has been set up by the **Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board** to act as a direct interface between the State government and Korean investors.



Objectives of APEX Korea

APEX Korea represents a shift from occasional investment roadshows to a **sustained institutional presence** in an important global market.

Its main objectives include:

- Facilitating **new Korean investments** in Andhra Pradesh.
- Acting as a permanent communication channel between the State and Korean companies.
- Coordinating with different departments of the Andhra Pradesh government.
- Providing **aftercare services** to existing investors.
- Building long-term business partnerships.
- Promoting Andhra Pradesh as a destination for **manufacturing and technology investments**.

This model reflects the growing role of Indian States in **sub-national economic diplomacy**.

Major Investment Outreach in South Korea

Sector	Korean Entity / Platform	Key Proposal
Maritime and Shipbuilding	Korea Marine Equipment Association	Investment in Dugarajapatnam Shipbuilding Cluster
Footwear Manufacturing	Hwaseung Group	₹900-crore non-leather footwear facility in Kuppam
Footwear Manufacturing	Boo Young Group	Interest in exploring footwear manufacturing opportunities
Finance and Innovation	BNK Financial Group	Investment opportunities in financial services, infrastructure and innovation

This shows Andhra Pradesh's strategy of targeting multiple sectors such as **maritime, manufacturing, finance and technology**.

Maritime and Shipbuilding Cooperation

At a maritime investment roundtable organised by the **Korea Marine Equipment Association**, Andhra Pradesh invited Korean companies to invest in the proposed **₹30,000-crore Dugarajapatnam Shipbuilding Cluster**.

The project is being jointly developed by:



- Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board
- Visakhapatnam Port Authority

The State proposed collaboration in:

- Korea Marine Equipment Desk
- Ship Technology Centre
- Skill development programmes
- Research initiatives
- Shipbuilding and marine equipment ecosystem

This is important because South Korea is one of the world's leading shipbuilding and marine equipment hubs. Collaboration can help Andhra Pradesh develop a strong maritime industrial base.

Footwear Manufacturing Push

The Minister also met executives of **Hwaseung Group** and **Boo Young Group** to promote an integrated footwear manufacturing ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh.

The proposed footwear ecosystem will cover:

- Kuppam
- Tirupati
- Visakhapatnam

Hwaseung Group Proposal

Hwaseung Group has proposed a **₹900-crore non-leather footwear manufacturing facility** in **Kuppam**.

Key features of the proposed plant:

- Annual capacity of **20 million pairs of sports shoes**.
- Production for global brands, including **Adidas**.
- Primarily export-oriented manufacturing.
- Potential for future expansion of investment.

Boo Young Group Interest

- **Boo Young Group** expressed interest in exploring footwear manufacturing opportunities in Andhra Pradesh.
- This can support employment generation, export growth and industrial diversification in the State.

Financial Services and Innovation Cooperation

Minister Nara Lokesh also held discussions with **BNK Financial Group**.

The State invited BNK Financial Group to explore opportunities in:

- Financial services
- Infrastructure
- Innovation sectors

This indicates Andhra Pradesh's interest in attracting not only manufacturing investment but also financial and innovation-driven capital.

Conclusion

The launch of **APEX Korea** marks an important step in Andhra Pradesh's global investment outreach. By establishing a permanent presence in **Busan**, the State is moving towards institutionalised investment diplomacy. The focus on **shipbuilding, footwear manufacturing, financial services and innovation** can strengthen Andhra Pradesh's industrial base, exports and employment generation. If supported by timely implementation, skill development and investor-friendly governance, APEX Korea can become a model for State-led global economic engagement and contribute to Andhra Pradesh's long-term development.

UAE Leads Indian Mango Imports: Andhra Pradesh Varieties in High Demand

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh Economy

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Indian Mango Exports, UAE, APEDA, DGCIS, Banganapalli, Benishan, Rasalu, Alphonso, Kesar, Khader, Post-harvest Treatment, Tariff Restrictions

Mains

- Horticulture exports, agri-value chains, export competitiveness, post-harvest infrastructure, quality compliance, farmer income diversification, Andhra Pradesh horticulture potential



India's Mango Export Performance

- India continues to be a major global supplier of mangoes, with strong demand in the **Middle East, Europe and Asian markets**. In **2025-26**, the **UAE** retained its position as the leading destination for Indian mango exports.
- Exports to the UAE stood at **₹144.41 crore** during 2025-26. Shipments to the UAE increased by **11,622 metric tonnes** compared to the previous year, showing strong volume growth despite global trade challenges.
- Popular Indian varieties such as **Alphonso, Kesar** and **Khader** continued to dominate international markets. Officials noted that **Alphonso exports to the UAE** were particularly high during the season.

Andhra Pradesh's Role in Mango Exports

- Andhra Pradesh is an important mango-producing and exporting State. Officials

Why in News?

- The **United Arab Emirates** remained the top importer of Indian mangoes in **2025-26**.
- Andhra Pradesh varieties such as **Banganapalli, Benishan** and **small Rasalu** witnessed strong overseas demand.
- According to data from **DGCIS** and **APEDA**, Indian mangoes were exported to **52 countries** during the year.
- Exporters highlighted that lack of advanced **post-harvest treatment** and **international compliance facilities** is restricting India's full export potential.

estimate that Andhra Pradesh contributes around 8 to 10% of India's total mango exports.

- The State's mango varieties such as **Banganapalli**, **Benishan** and **small Rasalu** are witnessing strong demand in overseas markets. These varieties are valued for their taste, size, pulp quality and export suitability.

For Andhra Pradesh, mango exports are important because they can:

- Improve farmer income
- Promote horticulture-led rural growth
- Strengthen agri-export value chains
- Support employment in grading, packing, logistics and cold-chain services
- Enhance the State's presence in global food markets

Major Export Destinations and Trends

Country / Market	Export Trend in 2025-26
UAE	Top importer; exports stood at ₹144.41 crore; shipments increased by 11,622 MT
United	Export value increased from

Kingdom	₹76.09 crore to ₹89.31 crore
Nepal	Exports nearly doubled from ₹9.15 crore to ₹18.71 crore; additional 5,772 MT shipped
United States	Exports declined from ₹95 crore to ₹82 crore due to tariff-related issues
Overall markets	Indian mangoes exported to 52 countries

This shows that Indian mangoes continue to enjoy stable global demand, though export performance varies across markets due to tariffs, logistics and geopolitical factors.

Conclusion

The UAE's position as the top importer of Indian mangoes reflects the continued global demand for India's premium horticulture products. Andhra Pradesh varieties such as **Banganapalli**, **Benishan** and **Rasalu** have strong export potential, but this must be supported by better post-harvest infrastructure, cold chains, compliance systems and international branding. Strengthening mango exports can improve farmer incomes, promote horticulture-led growth and support Andhra Pradesh's role in India's agri-export economy.

Andhra Pradesh's Online Works Monitoring System for Urban Water Projects

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC Mains Paper-III - Governance

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Online Works Monitoring System, OWMS, Urban Local Bodies, Geo-

tagged photographs, AMRUT 2.0, AIIB-assisted projects, Urban Challenge Fund, UIDF, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, Sewage Treatment Plants, MLD

Mains

- Real-time infrastructure governance, urban water security, accountable

service delivery, e-governance, urban sanitation, project monitoring, municipal governance, ease of doing governance

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh has launched an **Online Works Monitoring System** to track more than **800 urban water supply and sewerage projects** across all **123 Urban Local Bodies** in the State. The system will monitor each stage of project implementation through a **single digital dashboard**, marking a shift towards **real-time infrastructure governance**, faster decision-making and accountable urban service delivery.

What is Online Works Monitoring System?

- The **Online Works Monitoring System** is a

digital platform introduced by the Andhra Pradesh government to monitor urban water supply and sewerage projects.

- It will digitally track project progress from beginning to completion. The platform will cover different stages such as:
 - Water sources
 - Treatment plants
 - Pipelines
 - Reservoirs
 - Household connections
 - Sewage treatment facilities
- The objective is to ensure that public investment in urban infrastructure results in measurable improvement in **water supply and sanitation**.

Key Features of the Platform

1. Real-Time Digital Dashboard





- The system will use a unified dashboard to monitor more than **800 projects** across **123 Urban Local Bodies**.

2. Geo-tagged Field Updates

- Field engineers will upload **geo-tagged photographs** and progress reports from project sites through a mobile application.

3. Verification by Supervisory Officers

- Every entry uploaded by field engineers will be verified by supervisory officers before it becomes part of the official record.

4. Bottleneck Identification

The platform will help identify the exact reason for project delays, such as:

- Land issues
- Statutory clearances
- Utility shifting
- Administrative delays
- Contractor-related delays

5. Responsibility Fixing

- Once the bottleneck is identified, responsibility can be assigned to the concerned official or department.

6. Faster Bill Processing

- The platform introduces **online bill processing**, reducing payment timelines from around **20–25 days** to nearly **one week**.

Urban Water and Sewerage Challenges in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is facing rising urban water and sanitation pressure due to population growth and infrastructure gaps.

Indicator	Current Position
Urban population	About 173.5 lakh

Projected urban population by 2029	Nearly 190.9 lakh
Daily water requirement	Around 2,860 MLD
Existing water supply	Around 2,098 MLD
Water deficit	Nearly 762 MLD
Wastewater generation	More than 2,147 MLD
Sewage treatment capacity	About 711 MLD

This shows a significant gap between demand and supply in both **drinking water availability** and **sewage treatment capacity**.

Investment and Programmes

To bridge the urban water and sanitation gap, the State government has mobilised investments of nearly **₹19,561 crore** under six major programmes.

Major programmes include:

- AMRUT 2.0**
- AIIB-assisted projects**
- Urban Challenge Fund**
- Urban Infrastructure Development Fund**
- Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0**

These programmes aim to improve water supply, sewerage networks, treatment plants and sanitation infrastructure in urban areas.

Conclusion

The launch of the **Online Works Monitoring System** marks an important step in Andhra Pradesh's urban governance reforms. By tracking more than **800 water supply and sewerage projects** across **123 Urban Local Bodies**, the platform can improve transparency, accountability and timely completion of projects. As urban population and

water demand rise, real-time monitoring of infrastructure will be essential for ensuring clean water, better sanitation and sustainable urban development. If implemented effectively, OWMS

can become a model for **digital governance and accountable public service delivery**.

Kakinada Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum Gets ₹5 Crore Funding Boost

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh History and Culture

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Andhra Sahitya Parishad Government Museum and Research Institute, Kakinada, Palm-leaf Manuscripts, Museum Grant Scheme, Ministry of Culture, Ayurveda, Telugu Literature, Sanskrit Literature, Buddhist Pillars.

Mains

- Cultural heritage preservation, manuscript conservation, knowledge traditions, museum infrastructure, heritage governance, State-Centre cooperation, intangible cultural heritage

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Culture** has released **₹5 crore** under the **Museum Grant Scheme** for the construction of a new building for the **Andhra Sahitya Parishad Government Museum and Research Institute** in **Kakinada**. The museum houses nearly **5,000 palm-leaf manuscripts** dating back to the **17th, 18th and 19th centuries**, making it an important centre for preserving Andhra Pradesh's literary, scientific and cultural heritage.



About the Museum

- The **Andhra Sahitya Parishad Government Museum and Research Institute** is located in **Kakinada**, Andhra Pradesh.
- It is an important heritage institution preserving rare manuscripts and historical objects. In the **1970s**, the **Andhra Sahitya Parishad**, a literary organisation, handed over its manuscript collection to the museum for preservation.

The museum is not limited to manuscripts. It also preserves:

- Buddhist pillars
- Sculptures
- Megalithic tools
- Copper plates
- Bronze plates
- Coins

This makes the museum significant for the study of **literature, religion, archaeology, history and regional culture**.

What are Palm-Leaf Manuscripts?

- Palm-leaf manuscripts are traditional written records prepared on dried and treated palm leaves. Before the widespread use of paper, palm leaves were widely used in India for recording religious, literary, scientific and administrative knowledge.

They are important because they preserve India's older knowledge systems in fields such as:

- Medicine
- Mathematics
- Astronomy and astrology
- Literature
- Music
- Philosophy
- Ritual traditions

Since palm leaves are organic materials, they are highly vulnerable to decay, insects, humidity and improper handling.

Importance of the Collection

- The Kakinada Museum houses nearly 5,000 palm-leaf manuscripts from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

These manuscripts belong to several fields:

Field	Importance
Ayurveda	Preserves traditional medical knowledge
Mathematics	Reflects scientific and intellectual traditions
Astrology	Shows traditional astronomical and predictive systems
Telugu Literature	Helps protect regional literary heritage
Sanskrit Literature	Connects regional scholarship with classical

	Indian knowledge
Classical Music	Supports the study of traditional music systems

Of the total collection, 500 manuscripts were chemically treated for preservation in 2021.

Funding and New Building Plan

The new museum building is expected to improve preservation, display and research facilities.

Key Details

Component	Details
Project	New building for Andhra Sahitya Parishad Government Museum and Research Institute
Location	Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
Central funding released	₹5 crore
Scheme	Museum Grant Scheme
Total support proposed	₹10 crore
Funding pattern	80:20 between Ministry of Culture and State Government
Building plan	Ground-plus-four-floor structure
Expected start of work	Early August

The authorities are yet to finalise a temporary building where the museum collection can be shifted during construction.

Significance of the Project

1. Preservation of Knowledge Traditions

- The manuscripts preserve India's intellectual traditions in medicine,



mathematics, literature, astrology and music.

2. Strengthening Andhra Pradesh's Cultural Heritage

- The project will help protect rare Telugu and Sanskrit manuscripts linked to the cultural history of Andhra Pradesh.

3. Better Museum Infrastructure

- A new building can provide better storage, display, research and conservation facilities.

4. Support for Researchers

- The museum can become a stronger resource centre for scholars working on literature, history, Ayurveda, musicology and archaeology.

5. Heritage Tourism Potential

- A modern museum building can improve visitor experience and promote heritage tourism in Kakinada.

6. Centre-State Cooperation

- The funding pattern reflects cooperation between the **Ministry of Culture** and the **State government** in heritage preservation.

Conclusion

The ₹5 crore funding boost for the **Andhra Sahitya Parishad Government Museum and Research Institute** is an important step towards preserving Andhra Pradesh's manuscript heritage. The museum's collection of nearly **5,000 palm-leaf manuscripts** reflects India's rich knowledge traditions in literature, medicine, mathematics, astrology and music. A modern museum building, supported by conservation, digitisation and research facilities, can transform the institution into a major centre for cultural preservation and academic study.

Andhra Pradesh Secures ₹4,100-Crore Textile Investments at Bharat Tex 2026

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC Group-I and Group-II, Indian Economy, Textile Industry, MSMEs, Employment and Exports

Important Keywords

Prelims Keywords

- Bharat Tex 2026, Textile Recycling Facility, Garment Manufacturing Unit, Lepakshi Handicrafts, APCO, Apparel Export Promotion Council, GI-Tagged Products, One District One Product, Textile MSMEs,

Mains Keywords

- Textile-Sector Investment, Employment Generation, Sustainable Textile Recycling, Export Competitiveness, Global Market Access, MSME Capacity Building, Technology Adoption in Handlooms,

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh secured proposed investments worth up to **₹4,100 crore** through two Memoranda of Understanding signed during **Bharat Tex 2026** at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The agreements were signed under the leadership of **K. Rekha Rani, Commissioner of Andhra Pradesh Handlooms**

and Textiles, as part of the State's efforts to attract investments into the textile sector.



Major Investment Agreements

Project	Investment	Major Outcome
Sustainable textile recycling facility in Visakhapatnam	Up to ₹4,000 crore	Establishment of a major textile recycling facility
Garment manufacturing unit	₹100 crore	Around 3,000 direct and indirect jobs
Total	Up to ₹4,100 crore	Expansion of the State's textile sector

Textile Recycling Facility

- A sustainable textile recycling facility is proposed to be established in Visakhapatnam with an investment of up to ₹4,000 crore.

Garment Manufacturing Unit

- A garment manufacturing unit will be set up

with an investment of ₹100 crore. It is expected to generate around 3,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

Bharat Tex 2026

- Bharat Tex 2026 is being organised by the Union Ministry of Textiles at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Andhra Pradesh participated to showcase its:

- Handloom heritage
- Handicrafts
- Textile and apparel capabilities
- Garment products
- Investment potential
- Export opportunities

Andhra Pradesh Pavilion

The Andhra Pradesh Pavilion was established in Hall Number 9 and inaugurated by Commissioner K. Rekha Rani.

It displayed:

- Handloom products
- Textiles
- Apparel and garments
- GI-tagged products
- One District One Product items

The pavilion included products and representatives from:

- Guntur Textile Park
- Tarakeswara Textile Park
- Harish Fashions
- APCO
- Magic Weaves

It presented Andhra Pradesh's traditional handloom legacy along with its modern textile and apparel industry.

Lepakshi Handicrafts Stall

The Lepakshi handicrafts stall was inaugurated by



Union Minister for Textiles **Giriraj Singh**.

The stall highlighted Andhra Pradesh's:

- Handloom heritage
- Handicrafts
- Textile capabilities
- Traditional products
- Investment potential

Global Potential of Andhra Pradesh Handlooms

Rajya Sabha member **V. Vijayendra Prasad** visited the Andhra Pradesh Pavilion and observed that the State's handloom sector had considerable potential in international markets.

He highlighted growing demand for:

- Authentic handmade products
- Culturally rooted products
- Traditional handloom products

Such demand is particularly visible among the Indian diaspora and overseas consumers, especially in the **United States**.

He stated that Andhra Pradesh was well-positioned to emerge as a leading global sourcing centre for handloom and textile products.

Collaboration with AEPC

Representatives of the **Apparel Export Promotion Council**, or AEPC, expressed interest in collaborating with the Andhra Pradesh Department of Handlooms and Textiles.

The proposed collaboration will focus on:

- Export awareness programmes
- Capacity-building programmes
- Support for textile MSMEs
- Strengthening export competitiveness

Andhra Pradesh's Textile Profile

Andhra Pradesh is one of India's leading textile-producing States.

Indicator	Andhra Pradesh's Position
Silk production	2nd
Cotton production	6th
Jute production	7th
Textile MSMEs	More than 15,000
Large textile units	More than 140
Power looms	Around 35,000
Textile exports	Approximately USD 444 million

These figures reflect the scale of the State's textile production and manufacturing ecosystem.

Conclusion

Andhra Pradesh secured a major textile investment commitment through two MoUs worth up to **₹4,100 crore** at Bharat Tex 2026. The proposals include a ₹4,000-crore sustainable textile recycling facility in Visakhapatnam and a ₹100-crore garment manufacturing unit expected to create around 3,000 jobs. The event also provided a platform to showcase the State's handlooms, handicrafts, GI-tagged products, ODO items, textile parks and modern apparel industry. With more than 15,000 textile MSMEs, over 140 large textile units, around 35,000 power looms and exports worth approximately USD 444 million, Andhra Pradesh seeks to attract investments, improve export competitiveness and expand access to international markets.

Kakinada Special Economic Zone: Renewed Push for Port-Led Industrial Growth in Andhra Pradesh

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh Economy, Industrial Development, Port-led Growth, Infrastructure, Current Affairs

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Kakinada Special Economic Zone, Kakinada Gateway Port, Auro Industrial City, Bharatmala Project, Annaram Railway Station, Offshore Supply Vessel Berth, Metallurgical Coke, Green Fuels

Mains

- Port-led industrialisation, multi-modal connectivity, industrial clusters, land acquisition challenges, employment generation, coastal economic development, investment facilitation

Why in News?

The **Kakinada Special Economic Zone**, after nearly two decades of slow progress, has started attracting renewed industrial interest. MoUs worth around **₹1.5 lakh crore** have been signed for setting up industries in the SEZ, with an estimated potential to generate **1.5 lakh direct and indirect jobs**.

Background of Kakinada Special Economic Zone

- The **Kakinada Special Economic Zone** was established nearly two decades ago as a major industrial project in coastal Andhra

Pradesh. However, the project faced delays due to land-related disputes, farmer agitations and slow infrastructure progress.

- Over time, the zone also came to be referred to as **Auro Industrial City**. The present revival is closely linked to fresh industrial MoUs, availability of large land parcels and renewed work on the **Kakinada Gateway Port**.



Recent Industrial Commitments

- Fresh MoUs worth about **₹1.5 lakh crore** have been signed for establishing industries in KSEZ.
- The proposed industrial activity has the potential to generate around **1.5 lakh direct and indirect jobs**.
- KSEZ has already allotted around **1,200-1,500 acres** to upcoming industrial units. About **10 industries** have already come up, and the zone is currently supporting nearly **15,000 employees**.
- During the current year, around **seven MoUs** have been signed in sectors such as:
 - Metallurgical coke**



- **Speciality chemicals**
- **Green fuels**
- **Marine food processing**
- Recent industrial outreach to South Korea has also opened possibilities for Korean

companies, including **HD Hyundai**, to establish units in KSEZ and Auro Industrial City.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

A **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** is a clearly defined duty-free area treated as being outside India's customs territory for authorised operations. SEZ units may manufacture goods, provide services and undertake warehousing activities through **Free Trade Warehousing Zones**.

Objectives of SEZs

- **Promote Exports:** SEZs encourage the production of goods and services for international markets.
- **Attract Investment:** They provide a favourable environment for domestic and foreign investment.
- **Generate Employment:** SEZs create direct and indirect employment opportunities.
- **Develop Infrastructure:** They support the creation of modern industrial, transport and business infrastructure.
- **Increase Economic Activity:** SEZs promote industrial growth, innovation and the development of specialised business clusters.

Key Features

- SEZs operate under a separate regulatory and fiscal framework.
- Units receive certain tax, customs and procedural benefits.
- They provide simplified regulatory procedures and better infrastructure.
- They support manufacturing, services, information technology, warehousing and export-related activities.

Importance of SEZs in India

- SEZs have strengthened India's **export-led growth**.
- They help earn foreign exchange and improve global competitiveness.
- They encourage technological advancement and industrial expansion.
- They promote the development of local economies and supporting business ecosystems.
- They improve socio-economic conditions through employment and infrastructure development.

SEZs in India

The **Special Economic Zones Act, 2005** provided a legal framework for the establishment and operation of SEZs in India. As of **28 February 2026**, India had **368 notified SEZs**.



Infrastructure Linkages

The future of KSEZ depends heavily on port, road and rail connectivity.

Kakinada Gateway Port

- Work on the **Kakinada Gateway Port** near **Butchayyapeta** in **Perumallapuram panchayat of Thondangi mandal** has been expedited. The aim is to make the port functional within the next two years.
- An **Offshore Supply Vessel berth** at the port is planned for completion by **December 2026**.

Road Connectivity

- A National Highway under the **Bharatmala project** is being laid through the KSEZ. This will improve logistics and help industries move goods efficiently.

Rail Connectivity

- Plans are being prepared for a new railway line from **Annavaram Railway Station** to the **Kakinada Gateway Port**. This can strengthen cargo movement and improve the SEZ's connectivity with wider markets.

Industrial Potential of KSEZ

KSEZ has more than **5,000 acres of land** available in one place, making it suitable for developing industrial clusters.

The area is expected to benefit from:

- Port connectivity through **Kakinada Gateway Port**
- Road connectivity under **Bharatmala**
- Proposed railway link from **Annavaram**
- Availability of water and power support
- Large contiguous land parcel for industries

These factors can help KSEZ emerge as a major industrial hub in Kakinada district.

Significance for Andhra Pradesh

1. Port-Led Industrialisation

- KSEZ can strengthen Andhra Pradesh's coastal industrial strategy by integrating industry with port infrastructure.

2. Employment Creation

- The proposed investments have the potential to generate nearly **1.5 lakh direct and indirect jobs**.

3. Industrial Cluster Development

- Large land availability can support cluster-based development in chemicals, green fuels, marine processing and related industries.

4. Logistics Advantage

- Port, road and proposed rail connectivity can reduce transport barriers and support export-oriented activity.

5. Regional Economic Growth

- Kakinada district can develop into a major industrial hub if infrastructure works and industrial commitments progress on schedule.

6. Foreign Investment Linkages

- Interest from Korean companies, including **HD Hyundai**, can strengthen international industrial linkages.

Conclusion

The renewed momentum in **Kakinada Special Economic Zone** marks an important phase in Andhra Pradesh's port-led industrial development. With MoUs worth **₹1.5 lakh crore**, employment potential of **1.5 lakh jobs**, and accelerated work on the **Kakinada Gateway Port**, the SEZ can become a major industrial hub. Its success will depend on

timely infrastructure completion, transparent land management and effective conversion of investment commitments into functioning

industries.

Telugu Cinema at the 72nd National Film Awards: Recognition for Regional Creativity

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs, Telugu Cinema, Art and Culture, Awards

Important Key Words

Prelims

- 72nd National Film Awards, Telugu Cinema, Kalki 2898 AD, Pushpa 2, Committee Kurrollu, 35 Chinna Katha Kaadu, Lucky Baskhar, Best Telugu Film, Best Children's Film, Best Popular Film

Mains

- Regional cinema, cultural identity, creative economy, soft power, art and heritage, film as cultural expression, language-based cultural representation

Why in News?

Telugu cinema received major recognition at the **72nd National Film Awards**, with several Telugu films, actors, directors and technicians winning awards across popular cinema, screenplay, children's films, production design, costume design, dialogues, make-up and child artist categories. The recognition was widely welcomed by political leaders and film personalities, highlighting the growing national presence of Telugu cinema.



National Film Awards and Telugu Cinema

- The **National Film Awards** are among India's most prestigious recognitions for excellence in cinema. They honour films, artists and technicians across languages and categories.
- At the **72nd National Film Awards**, Telugu cinema secured awards in multiple categories, reflecting its strong presence in both mainstream and content-oriented filmmaking.
- The recognition covered different aspects of cinema, including:
 - Popular entertainment
 - Original screenplay
 - Regional language cinema
 - Children's cinema
 - Make-up
 - Costume design
 - Production design
 - Dialogues



- Child performance

This shows the wide creative and technical strength of Telugu cinema.

Major Awards Won by Telugu Films

Kalki 2898 AD

- **Kalki 2898 AD** won the award for **Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment**. It also received recognition for **Best Production Design**, with **Nitin Zihani Choudhary** winning in the category.

Pushpa 2

- **Pushpa 2** received the award for **Best Original Screenplay**, won by **Sukumar**. The film also won **Best Costume Design**, credited to **Deepali and Sheetal Sharma**.

Committee Kurrollu

- **Committee Kurrollu** won **Best Telugu Film**. The film also secured the award for **Best Make-up**, won by **P. Ravi Kumar**.

35 Chinna Katha Kaadu

- **35 Chinna Katha Kaadu** won the award for **Best Children's Film**. **Arundev Pothula** won **Best Child Artist** for the same film.

Lucky Baskhar

- **Lucky Baskhar** received the award for **Best Dialogues**, won by **Venky Atluri**.

Conclusion

The success of Telugu cinema at the **72nd National Film Awards** reflects its growing creative, technical and cultural strength. Awards for **Kalki 2898 AD**, **Pushpa 2**, **Committee Kurrollu**, **35 Chinna Katha Kaadu** and **Lucky Baskhar** show the diversity of Telugu cinema across popular entertainment, children's films, regional storytelling and technical excellence. Such recognition strengthens regional cinema's role in India's cultural landscape and reinforces cinema as an enduring expression of identity and heritage.

IIT-Tirupati Hosts 5th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Geospatial Technologies

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC International Cooperation,

Important Key Words

Prelims

- IIT-Tirupati, BRICS Working Group, Geospatial Technologies, Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation, IITNiF, Department of Science and Technology, DST, Yerpedu Campus, Hybrid Meeting, Sustainable Development

Mains

- Science diplomacy, BRICS cooperation, geospatial ecosystem, resilience, innovation, sustainability, technology for governance, climate resilience, societal challenges

Why in News?

The **Indian Institute of Technology-Tirupati**, in collaboration with **Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation**, hosted the **fifth BRICS Working Group meeting on Geospatial Technologies and its Applications** at its **Yerpedu campus**. The three-day event was organised under the aegis of the

Department of Science and Technology,
Government of India.



About the Meeting

The meeting focused on the role of **geospatial technologies** in addressing contemporary global challenges and supporting sustainable development.

It brought together:

- Policymakers
- Scientists
- Academicians
- Industry leaders
- Startups
- Research organisations

The event was held in **hybrid mode**, allowing participation from BRICS members and partner countries.

Theme and Participation

The theme of the meeting was:

- “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”
- Delegates from **Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates** participated virtually.

What are Geospatial Technologies?

Geospatial technologies are tools used to collect, analyse and interpret location-based data about the Earth.

They include:

- Remote sensing
- Satellite imagery
- Geographic Information System
- Digital mapping
- Spatial data analytics

These technologies help in better decision-making for governance, development planning and environmental management.

Significance of the Meeting

Science Diplomacy

- The meeting strengthens cooperation among BRICS countries through science and technology.

Sustainable Development

- Geospatial data can support planning in areas such as disaster management, agriculture, climate resilience, urban development and natural resource management.

Role of Indian Institutions

- Hosting the event at **IIT-Tirupati** highlights India's growing role as a knowledge and innovation hub.

Industry-Academia Linkage

- Participation of startups and industry leaders can help convert geospatial research into practical applications.

BRICS Cooperation

- The platform enables member and partner countries to share technological practices, research experience and policy approaches.

Conclusion

The fifth **BRICS Working Group meeting on Geospatial Technologies** hosted by **IIT-Tirupati** reflects the growing importance of technology-led cooperation among emerging economies. By

focusing on **resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability**, the meeting reinforces the role of geospatial technologies in evidence-based governance and sustainable development.

A.P.--UAE MoU to Set Up Food Cluster: Boost to Food Processing and Agri-Exports

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC Group-I Paper IV - Economy and Development of Andhra Pradesh

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board, APEDB, UAE Food Cluster, Food Processing, Chittoor, Gangadhara Nellore, Floor Masters International, World Economic Forum, Davos, Krishnapatnam Port, Kakinada Port, Horticulture Hub, Mangoes, Bananas, Cocoa

Mains

- Agri-value chain, food processing ecosystem, export-oriented manufacturing, cold-chain infrastructure, horticulture-led growth, global market access, investment promotion, logistics advantage, farm income diversification, value addition in agriculture

Why in News?

The **Andhra Pradesh government** has signed a

Memorandum of Understanding with the UAE Food Cluster to establish a **UAE Food Cluster in Andhra Pradesh**. The agreement takes forward an investment commitment made during the **World Economic Forum meeting in Davos** earlier this year. As the first investment under the initiative, a Dubai-based company has proposed a **₹100-crore food processing unit at Gangadhara Nellore in Chittoor district**.



What is the A.P.-UAE Food Cluster MoU?

The MoU was signed between the **Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board** and the **UAE Food Cluster** at the State Secretariat in **Amaravati**.

The partnership aims to create an **integrated food processing value chain** in Andhra Pradesh by promoting:

- investments
- trade
- exports



- export-oriented manufacturing
- value-added agricultural products
- cold-chain and export infrastructure
- global market access

The initiative seeks to encourage UAE-based companies to invest in Andhra Pradesh's food processing and agri-export ecosystem.

First Investment Under the Initiative

The first investment announced under the MoU is a **₹100-crore food processing unit** at **Gangadhara Nellore in Chittoor district**.

- The unit will manufacture food products for export. The company plans to use **Andhra Pradesh as an export base for nearly 25 countries**.
- This makes the project important not only as an industrial investment but also as a step towards positioning Andhra Pradesh as a **food processing and export hub**.

Focus Areas of the Food Cluster

The proposed UAE Food Cluster will focus on both farm-based and export-oriented sectors.

Horticultural Produce

The cluster will focus on value-added products from:

- mangoes
- bananas
- cocoa

Export-Oriented Food Products

The initiative is also expected to support exports of:

- seafood
- dairy products
- poultry
- pulses
- other food products

Supporting Infrastructure

The partnership will promote:

- food processing units

- cold-chain infrastructure
- export facilities
- value addition centres
- global market linkages

Why Andhra Pradesh is Suitable for Food Processing

Andhra Pradesh has strong potential in food processing because of its agricultural and logistics strengths.

1. Strong Horticulture Base

- The State has significant production potential in horticultural crops such as mangoes, bananas and cocoa. These crops can be converted into value-added products for domestic and export markets.

2. Agriculture and Horticulture Contribution

- Agriculture and horticulture together contribute about **30% of the State's Gross State Domestic Product**, making food processing an important sector for value addition.

3. Aquaculture Strength

- Andhra Pradesh is also strong in aquaculture, which can support exports of seafood and processed marine products.

4. Port-Based Logistics

- Improved shipping links through **Krishnapatnam and Kakinada ports** can strengthen trade between Andhra Pradesh and the UAE.

5. Rayalaseema Horticulture Potential

- The State has announced plans to develop **Rayalaseema as a horticulture hub** with proposed investments of **₹1 lakh crore**.

Conclusion

The A.P.-UAE MoU to establish a **Food Cluster in Andhra Pradesh** is an important step towards creating an export-oriented food processing ecosystem. With the first proposed investment of

₹100 crore in Chittoor, focus on horticultural produce, and export potential across nearly **25 countries**, the initiative can strengthen Andhra Pradesh's role as a major hub for **food processing, agri-value addition and global trade**.

Talliki Vandanam Scheme 2026: ₹13,000 DBT Support for Students in Andhra Pradesh

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: Welfare Schemes, Education, Governance, DBT, Social Sector Development

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Talliki Vandanam, Direct Benefit Transfer, DBT, Aadhaar-seeded bank account, NPCI mapping, Rice Card, NBM Portal, Gram/Ward Sachivalayam, 75% attendance, Class 1 to Class 12, Intermediate

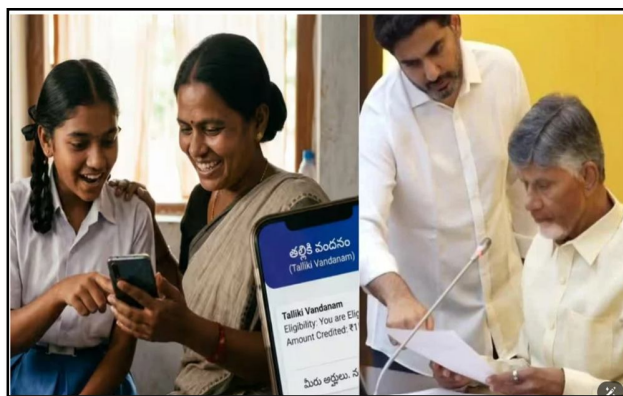
Mains

- Education welfare, dropout reduction, mother-centric DBT, human capital formation, school infrastructure, digital governance, targeted welfare, beneficiary verification, inclusive education

Why in News?

The **Andhra Pradesh government** has begun disbursing benefits under the **Talliki Vandanam Scheme 2026** through **Direct Benefit Transfer** to eligible mothers or guardians. Reports state that beneficiaries have started receiving **₹13,000** in their bank accounts from **22 July 2026**, after deduction of

₹2,000 from the total annual assistance of **₹15,000** per student.



What is Talliki Vandanam Scheme?

- Talliki Vandanam** is an education-support welfare scheme of the **Andhra Pradesh government**. It provides annual financial assistance to mothers or guardians of eligible school-going children to support continuation of education and reduce dropout risks.
- The scheme covers students from **Class 1 to Class 12**, including **Intermediate**, studying in recognised institutions. It applies across **government, aided, private and residential schools**, subject to eligibility conditions.
- The scheme is significant because it provides support **per eligible child**, meaning the benefit is not restricted to only one child in a family. This makes it broader

than schemes that follow a one-beneficiary-per-household model.

Amount and Disbursal Pattern

The Andhra Pradesh government has sanctioned **₹10,120.78 crore** for implementation of the scheme during **Academic Year 2026-27**, covering **67,47,190 students** and **42,70,802 eligible mothers or guardians**.

Details	Information
Total annual assistance	₹15,000 per student
Amount credited to mother/guardian	₹13,000
Amount deducted	₹2,000
Use of deducted amount	School maintenance, hygiene, sanitation and educational ecosystem development
Mode of payment	Direct Benefit Transfer
Bank requirement	Aadhaar-seeded and NPCI-mapped account

The **₹2,000 deduction** is meant for school-level needs such as **sanitation, maintenance and essential educational infrastructure**.

Eligibility Criteria

Income Criteria

Category	Income Limit
Rural family	Below ₹10,000 per month
Urban family	Below ₹12,000 per month

Household Conditions

Requirement	Eligibility Rule
Rice Card	Mandatory
Landholding	Wet land up to 3 acres or dry land up to 10 acres
Vehicle ownership	No private four-wheeler, subject to applicable exceptions
Electricity consumption	Below 300 units per month
House size	Less than 1,000 sq. ft.
Employment / tax status	Families with government or public sector job/income-tax status are generally excluded, subject to rules

The mother or guardian's bank account must be **Aadhaar-seeded and NPCI-mapped** for DBT release. Reports also advise beneficiaries to keep their bank or post office savings account active and properly linked to avoid payment failure.

Student Eligibility and Exclusions

Eligible Students

Students are generally eligible if they:

- study in **Class 1 to Class 12**, including **Intermediate**
- are enrolled in a **recognised school or junior college**
- belong to an eligible household
- maintain at least **75% attendance**
- have valid records verified through school and government databases

Orphans and highly vulnerable children, including street children studying under recognised voluntary organisations, may be considered under special provisions as per reported scheme details.



Excluded Students

The scheme does not cover:

- students admitted to ITI
- students admitted to **Polytechnic institutions**
- students covered under specified fee reimbursement programmes, subject to scheme rules

Conclusion

The Talliki Vandanam Scheme 2026 is a major

education welfare initiative of Andhra Pradesh. By providing **₹15,000 per eligible student**, with **₹13,000 transferred through DBT** and **₹2,000 used for school infrastructure and sanitation**, the scheme attempts to combine household support with institutional improvement. Its success will depend on transparent verification, timely payment, effective grievance redressal and measurable educational outcomes.

Andhra Pradesh Shoreline Management Plan: Protecting a Changing Coastline

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh
Geography, Coastal Economy, Fisheries, Disaster Management

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Shoreline Management Plan, National Centre for Coastal Research, Coastal Erosion, Accretion, Stable Shoreline, Coringa Mangroves, Hope Island, Pulicat Lake, Sriharikota, Krishna Delta

Mains

- Coastal vulnerability, ecosystem-based protection, beach nourishment, dune restoration, river-mouth management, fishing communities, climate resilience

Why in News?

The Centre has identified vulnerable coastal stretches along Andhra Pradesh's **1,027-km**

coastline and prepared a **Shoreline Management Plan** to protect areas affected by shoreline changes. The **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)** mapped **erosion, accretion and stable shoreline stretches** using satellite data from **1990 to 2022**.

What is Shoreline Change?

Shoreline change refers to the movement or alteration of the coastline over time due to natural processes and human activities.

1. Coastal Erosion

- Sea waves, tides and currents remove land from the coast.
- It can threaten settlements, roads, ports, beaches and livelihoods.

2. Accretion

- Sediments get deposited along the coast.
- It can alter river mouths, beach profiles and coastal ecosystems.

3. Stable Shoreline

- The coastline remains relatively unchanged over a period.

For a coastal state like Andhra Pradesh, shoreline



change is important because many **fishing villages, ports, river mouths, mangroves and coastal settlements** are located close to the sea.

Key Findings for Andhra Pradesh

The NCCR assessment shows that shoreline change is uneven across districts.

District / Region	Key Finding
Kakinada	Worst affected; 52.99% of its coastline under erosion
West Godavari	52.54% erosion
Krishna	42.71% erosion
Srikakulam	32.14% erosion
Visakhapatnam	26.85% erosion
Vizianagaram	Only 3.26% erosion, but high accretion

The assessment found **Kakinada** to be the most erosion-affected district. Important vulnerable zones in this district include the **Godavari River mouth spit near Yanam, Coringa mangroves and Hope Island**.

Vulnerable Coastal Stretches Identified

The government has identified several vulnerable locations across Andhra Pradesh.

Kakinada Region

- Coringa-Uppada coast
- Godavari River mouth spit near Yanam
- Coringa mangroves
- Hope Island

Tirupati District

- Pulicat Lake
- Sriharikota

Krishna District

- Machilipatnam Beach
- Krishna delta

Srikakulam District

- Kalingapatnam
- Vamsadhara river mouth
- Nagavali river mouth

Visakhapatnam District

- Yarada
- Bheemunipatnam

These sites are important because they include **ecologically sensitive zones, river mouths, beaches, fishing settlements and strategic coastal infrastructure**.

Shoreline Management Plan for Andhra Pradesh

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has prepared a **Shoreline Management Plan** based on site-specific studies.

1. Beach Nourishment

- Sand is added to eroding beaches to restore beach width and reduce direct wave impact.

2. Dune Restoration

- Natural sand dunes are restored because they act as protective barriers against storms and sea erosion.

3. Ecosystem-Based Protection

- Mangroves, wetlands and natural coastal systems are protected to strengthen coastal resilience.

4. Engineering Interventions

- Hard structures may be used where natural measures are insufficient, depending on local conditions.

5. River Mouth and Delta Management

- Special attention is given to river mouths and deltas where sediment movement changes shoreline stability.



Key Location-Specific Proposals

1. Coringa-Uppada Coast

- Resilience measures are proposed for the erosion-prone Kakinada coast.

2. Sriharikota

- Coastal protection works are planned for this vulnerable and strategically important stretch.

3. Krishna Delta

- Integrated management is proposed to address deltaic shoreline changes.

4. Vamsadhara and Nagavali River Mouths

- Inlet management is proposed to manage sediment flow and erosion risk.

5. Bheemunipatnam Coast

- Resilience planning is proposed for the Visakhapatnam coastal stretch.

Basis of the Study

The vulnerability assessment used:

- Satellite data** from 1990 to 2022

- 2011 Census data** to assess exposed communities
- Geomorphological studies** to understand landforms and coastal processes
- Stakeholder inputs** to identify ground-level risks

The study identified **fishing villages, ports and ecologically sensitive areas** as among the most vulnerable locations.

Conclusion

The Shoreline Management Plan for Andhra Pradesh provides a scientific framework to deal with erosion, accretion and coastal vulnerability. By combining **ecosystem-based protection, beach nourishment, dune restoration, inlet management and selective engineering measures**, the plan can protect livelihoods, infrastructure and sensitive ecosystems along the AP coast. Its success will depend on careful implementation and community participation.

IHFC-AMTZ MoU: Boosting Innovation in Medical Robotics

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Relevance: APPSC Healthcare Innovation, Industrial Development, Startups

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Medical Robotics, Intelligent Healthcare Technologies, IHFC, IIT Delhi, AIC-AMTZ MediValley, AMTZ, IoT, IoE, Cyber-Physical Systems, Additive Manufacturing

Mains

- Healthcare innovation, medical technology ecosystem, research-to-application translation, startup incubation, AI in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, patient-care technologies

Why in News?

The **Technology Innovation Hub Foundation for IoT and IoE (IHFC)** at IIT Delhi and **AIC-AMTZ MediValley** at Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone



(AMTZ) signed an MoU to accelerate innovation in medical robotics and intelligent healthcare technologies.

About the MoU

The MoU brings together **advanced research capability** and **MedTech manufacturing strength**.

The partnership aims to speed up the:

- development
- testing
- translation
- real-world application

of **next-generation medical robotic solutions**.

The central idea is to ensure that healthcare innovations do not remain limited to laboratories, but move towards technologies that can improve patient care.

Focus Areas of the Partnership

The collaboration focuses on two broad areas:

1. Medical Robotics

- Medical robotics involves robotic solutions that can support healthcare delivery, patient care and medical technology applications.

2. Intelligent Healthcare Technologies

- These include healthcare solutions driven by **artificial intelligence**, automation, cyber-physical systems and autonomous technologies.

Role of IHFC

The **Technology Innovation Hub Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Delhi** brings expertise in:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Robotics
- Cyber-Physical Systems
- Autonomous Technologies

This research strength can help in building advanced medical robotic solutions.

Role of AMTZ

The **Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone** provides an integrated **MedTech manufacturing and innovation ecosystem**.

AMTZ contributes:

- manufacturing capability
- innovation support
- entrepreneurship ecosystem
- testing and validation facilities
- commercialisation support

This enables innovators to move from ideas to usable healthcare technologies.

AMTZ's MedTech Startup Ecosystem

AMTZ has built one of India's comprehensive **MedTech innovation ecosystems** and has nurtured **100+ startups** focused exclusively on healthcare innovation.

These startups work in areas such as:

- **AI-powered diagnostics**
- **life-saving medical devices**
- **biotechnology**
- **rehabilitation technologies**
- **digital health solutions**

Specialised Centres at AMTZ

AMTZ supports startups through specialised centres such as:

Centre	Area of Support
MediValley Incubation Council	Healthcare and MedTech innovation
Bio Valley Incubation Council	Biotechnology-linked healthcare solutions
Bharat Limb Centre	Rehabilitation and assistive technologies



Centre of Excellence for Additive Manufacturing	Advanced prototyping and manufacturing
---	--

How AMTZ Supports Innovators

Unlike conventional incubators, AMTZ offers end-to-end support.

It provides access to:

- advanced manufacturing
- advanced prototyping
- testing laboratories
- regulatory guidance
- quality certification
- clinical collaborations

- commercialisation support

This helps innovators move smoothly from **concept and prototyping** to **validation, manufacturing and commercialisation**.

Conclusion

The MoU between **IHFC at IIT Delhi** and **AIC-AMTZ MediValley** is an important step in India's medical robotics journey. By combining **AI and robotics research** with **MedTech manufacturing and startup support**, the partnership can help develop healthcare technologies that improve patient care and strengthen India's innovation ecosystem.

Catch the Rain Campaign in Nandyal: Strengthening Water Conservation and Storage Capacity

Source: [PIB](#)

Relevance: APPSC Water Resources, Rural Development, Climate Resilience

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Catch the Rain Campaign, Nandyal District, Gram Sabha, Feeder Channels, Minor Irrigation Tanks, Farm Ponds, Check Dams, Percolation Tanks, Groundwater Recharge

Mains

- Water security, rainwater harvesting, community participation, scientific planning, traditional water bodies, climate resilience, monsoon runoff management

The **Catch the Rain Campaign** is being implemented across **Nandyal district of Andhra Pradesh** from **4 July to 4 August 2026**. The campaign aims to conserve every drop of rainwater through the **restoration of traditional water bodies, desilting of feeder channels, revival of tank systems and creation of additional water storage capacity**.

The campaign follows the principle: "**Catch the Rain, Where it Falls, When it Falls.**"

About the Catch the Rain Campaign in Nandyal

- The campaign in Nandyal focuses on strengthening the district's ability to **capture, store and recharge rainwater** during the monsoon season.
- It is being implemented through convergence among different departments and with the participation of local communities. The major objective is to

Why in News?

ensure that rainwater is not wasted as surface runoff, but is directed into tanks, ponds, check dams and other storage structures.

The campaign gives importance to three core ideas:

1. Conservation of Rainwater

- Every possible drop of rainfall is to be captured and stored locally.

2. Revival of Traditional Water Systems

- Traditional tanks, feeder channels and local water bodies are restored to improve water availability.

3. Groundwater Recharge

Farm ponds, check dams and percolation tanks are strengthened to recharge groundwater.



Scientific Planning and Community Participation

A major feature of the campaign is the combination of **scientific planning** and **participatory implementation**.

1. Planning Across Gram Panchayats

- Scientific planning is being carried out across all **489 Gram Panchayats** in Nandyal district.

2. Field Surveys and Mapping

Field surveys are conducted to identify:

- priority water bodies
- feeder channels
- watershed areas
- tank systems
- water conservation needs

3. Technical Assessment

- Concerned departments conduct technical assessments before sanctioning works. This ensures that interventions are planned according to local geography and water-flow patterns.

4. Use of Local Knowledge

- Consultations are held with local communities and village elders. This helps combine technical planning with traditional knowledge.

5. Gram Sabha Approval

- Proposed works are placed before the **Gram Sabha** to ensure transparency, accountability and community participation.
- This model shows how water conservation can be improved when planning is both **scientific and democratic**.

Major Water Conservation Interventions

- Based on the planning process, Nandyal district has identified, sanctioned and grounded **2,103 water conservation works**, achieving **100% grounding**.



1. Desilting of Feeder and Supply Channels

- Under the campaign, **2,691 km of feeder and supply channels** are desilted and restored.

This improves the flow of rainwater into:

- tanks
- reservoirs
- local water bodies

Desilting is important because silted channels reduce water flow and prevent tanks from receiving adequate rainwater.

2. Restoration of Minor Irrigation Tanks

- Restoration works are undertaken in **251 Minor Irrigation Tanks**.
- Out of these, **225 works** have been completed, while the remaining works are under progress.

Minor irrigation tanks are crucial in rural areas because they support:

- local irrigation
- groundwater recharge
- livestock needs
- village-level water security

3. Strengthening Rainwater Harvesting Structures

The district has strengthened its network of:

- 22,221 Farm Ponds
- 2,221 Check Dams
- 202 Percolation Tanks

These structures increase water storage, reduce runoff and improve groundwater recharge.

Additional Water Storage Capacity Created

The district has assessed additional water storage capacity through technical estimates prepared by engineering departments.

1. Storage Restored through Feeder Channels and Water Structures

- Restoration of feeder channels and water conservation structures is estimated to restore **3.27 TMC** of tank storage capacity.

2. Storage from New Structures

- Newly created water conservation structures contribute an additional **0.03 TMC** of storage.
- Together, these interventions improve the district's capacity to capture monsoon runoff and retain water for agriculture, livelihoods and local communities.

Conclusion

The **Catch the Rain Campaign** in Nandyal district demonstrates how scientific planning, community participation and departmental convergence can strengthen water conservation infrastructure. By restoring feeder channels, reviving tanks and expanding rainwater harvesting structures, the district is improving its capacity to capture and store monsoon runoff. This approach advances the vision of **"Catch the Rain, Where it Falls, When it Falls"** and contributes to long-term water security and climate resilience.

Rayalaseema: India's Emerging Industrial Hub

Source: [The HINDU](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh Economy, Rayalaseema Development, Industrial Corridors.

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Rayalaseema, Rain Shadow Region,



Deccan Plateau, KIA Motors, JSW Steel Plant, Sri City, Sriharikota, Space City, Ultra-Mega Solar Parks, Ease of Doing Business

Mains

- Regional industrialisation, dryland development, manufacturing hub, investment-led growth, industrial infrastructure, horticulture-based food processing, balanced regional development

Why in News?

Rayalaseema, historically known for **chronic drought, famines and arid conditions**, is witnessing a visible economic transformation. The region is attracting large-scale investments in **steel, automobile manufacturing, defence production, renewable energy, food processing and space-related industries**, positioning it as an emerging industrial hub in Andhra Pradesh.

Background of Rayalaseema

- Rayalaseema lies in the **rain shadow area of the Deccan Plateau**, making it one of the drier regions of India. For centuries, the region faced water scarcity, droughts and limited economic opportunities.
- Agriculture and horticulture developed only in selected pockets, but the region did not have a strong industrial base for a long period. The same barren lands that were earlier seen as unsuitable for investment are now being used for industrial development.
- This transformation shows how **infrastructure, policy support and investment promotion** can change the economic profile of a backward region.

Earlier Industrial Base

The earliest industries in Rayalaseema were mostly linked to local raw materials and basic processing.

1. Cotton and Textile Units

- Rayalaseema saw the setting up of cotton ginning and pressing units, along with some textile mills.

2. Mineral-Based Industries

- The region also attracted mineral-based industrial activity, especially in the Kadapa-Kurnool belt.

3. Cement Plants

- Cement plants such as those of **Dalmia Bharat** and **Zuari** were established in the Kadapa-Kurnool region.

4. Power and Renewable Energy

- The **Rayalaseema Thermal Power Plant** and ultra-mega solar parks in Kadapa and Kurnool districts added to the region's industrial and energy profile.

New Industrial Push

In recent years, Rayalaseema has started attracting a fresh wave of large investments.

1. Automobile Manufacturing

- The establishment of **KIA Motors' car manufacturing plant** in Anantapur triggered a new phase of industrial interest in the region.
- The proposed **Royal Enfield manufacturing plant near Tirupati** further strengthens Rayalaseema's emerging automobile ecosystem.

2. Steel Industry

- The **JSW Group's integrated steel plant in Kadapa district** is one of the most important



projects in the region. Its first phase has a planned capacity of **1 MTPA**, with a larger proposed investment plan.

3. Defence Manufacturing

Rayalaseema is also attracting defence-sector projects, including:

- **DRDO's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft integration and flight testing centre** at Puttaparthi
- **Bharat Forge's defence energetics facility** at Madakasira
- **HFCL's high-precision ammunition unit** in Sri Sathya Sai district

These projects can help position the region as a defence manufacturing destination.

4. Space-Linked Development

- A proposed **Space City** near **Sriharikota**, India's only rocket launchpad, can strengthen the region's role in space-linked manufacturing and technology development.

5. Core Manufacturing in Sri City

- Several new industries are taking shape in **Sri City**, adding momentum to Rayalaseema's core manufacturing sector.

Factors Behind the Transformation

1. Availability of Land

- The region has vast tracts of land that can be used for large industrial projects.

2. Policy Support

- The State government has promoted Rayalaseema as an investment destination through incentives and investor outreach.

3. Ease and Speed of Doing Business

- The source highlights the government's focus on **ease of doing business** and its evolution into **speed of doing business**.

4. Investment Promotion Mechanism

- The **State Investment Promotion Board** has played a role in attracting projects to the region.

5. Existing Industrial Base

- Power plants, cement industries, solar parks and the automobile ecosystem have provided a base for further industrial growth.

6. Sectoral Diversification

- The region is moving beyond agriculture into automobiles, steel, defence, renewable energy, food processing and space-linked industries.

Food Processing and Horticulture Potential

- The government is also focusing on consolidating Rayalaseema's strength in **horticulture crops**.
- Since horticulture has already flourished in some pockets, the promotion of **food processing industries** can add value to local produce. This can benefit farmers, create rural employment and strengthen local supply chains.
- Food processing can become an important bridge between **agriculture** and **industrialisation** in the region.

Kosala Nagaram Industrial Park: Andhra Pradesh's Plan for a New Manufacturing Hub

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Relevance: APPSC Andhra Pradesh Economy, APIIC, Industrial Parks, Chittoor District, Manufacturing Sector

Important Key Words

Prelims

- Kosala Nagaram Industrial Park, APIIC, Chittoor District, Chittoor-Tachur National Highway, Krishnapatnam Port, Kattupalli Port, GNSS Project, Sri City Model

Mains

- Manufacturing-led growth, industrial infrastructure, regional industrialisation, public-private participation, water security, employment generation, industrial corridor development

Why in News?

The Andhra Pradesh government is planning to develop **Kosala Nagaram Industrial Park** in **Chittoor district** as a major manufacturing hub. The project is aimed at attracting industrial investment, especially from automobile, textile and food processing sectors.

Core Features of the Project

- The project is being taken forward by the **AP Industrial Infrastructure Corporation**. APIIC already owns **2,042.13 acres** at Kosala Nagaram, and the State government has directed it to acquire an additional **5,000**

acres for future expansion.

- The government has also decided to earmark **500 acres** for a private industrial park, while about **200 acres** have already been allotted to different industries.
- This indicates that Kosala Nagaram is being planned as a large industrial cluster rather than a small industrial estate.



Why Kosala Nagaram is Strategically Important

Kosala Nagaram is located close to the **Tamil Nadu border**, which gives it an advantage in attracting industries from established manufacturing centres.

Its major location advantages include:

- proximity to the **Chittoor-Tachur National Highway**
- access to **Krishnapatnam** and **Kattupalli ports**
- connectivity to **Chennai** and **Tirupati airports**
- availability of skilled manpower in the region



This combination of land, connectivity and workforce makes the area suitable for manufacturing activity.

Proposed Industrial Profile

The industrial park is expected to attract multiple sectors.

1. Automobile Sector

- Automobile manufacturers from **Ambattur in Tamil Nadu** have shown interest in setting up units in the area.

2. Textile Sector

- Textile industries may use the park for labour-intensive manufacturing.

3. Food Processing Sector

- Food processing units can benefit from Andhra Pradesh's agricultural and horticultural base.
- Together, these sectors can create a diversified industrial ecosystem.

Infrastructure and Water Planning

- The site requires extensive **land levelling** before industries can begin operations. Since this involves significant cost, the government is considering **private participation** for developing the park and creating basic infrastructure.
- The biggest infrastructure concern is **water availability**. The State government has given in-principle approval for a **balancing reservoir** to meet future water needs. Water is proposed to be supplied from the **Galeru Nagari Sujala Sravanthi project**, expected to be completed by **December 2028**.

Development Model

The project is being planned on the lines of **Sri City**

in Satyavedu constituency.

Sri City is considered a successful industrial model because it has attracted companies from multiple countries and created large-scale employment. Kosala Nagaram is expected to follow a similar approach by combining:

- large land bank
- external connectivity
- private participation
- sector-specific industrial planning
- ready basic infrastructure

Conclusion

Kosala Nagaram Industrial Park has the potential to become a major manufacturing hub in Andhra Pradesh. Its success will depend not merely on land availability, but on timely infrastructure creation, assured water supply, private participation and sector-specific planning. If implemented effectively, it can emerge as another important industrial growth centre in southern Andhra Pradesh.