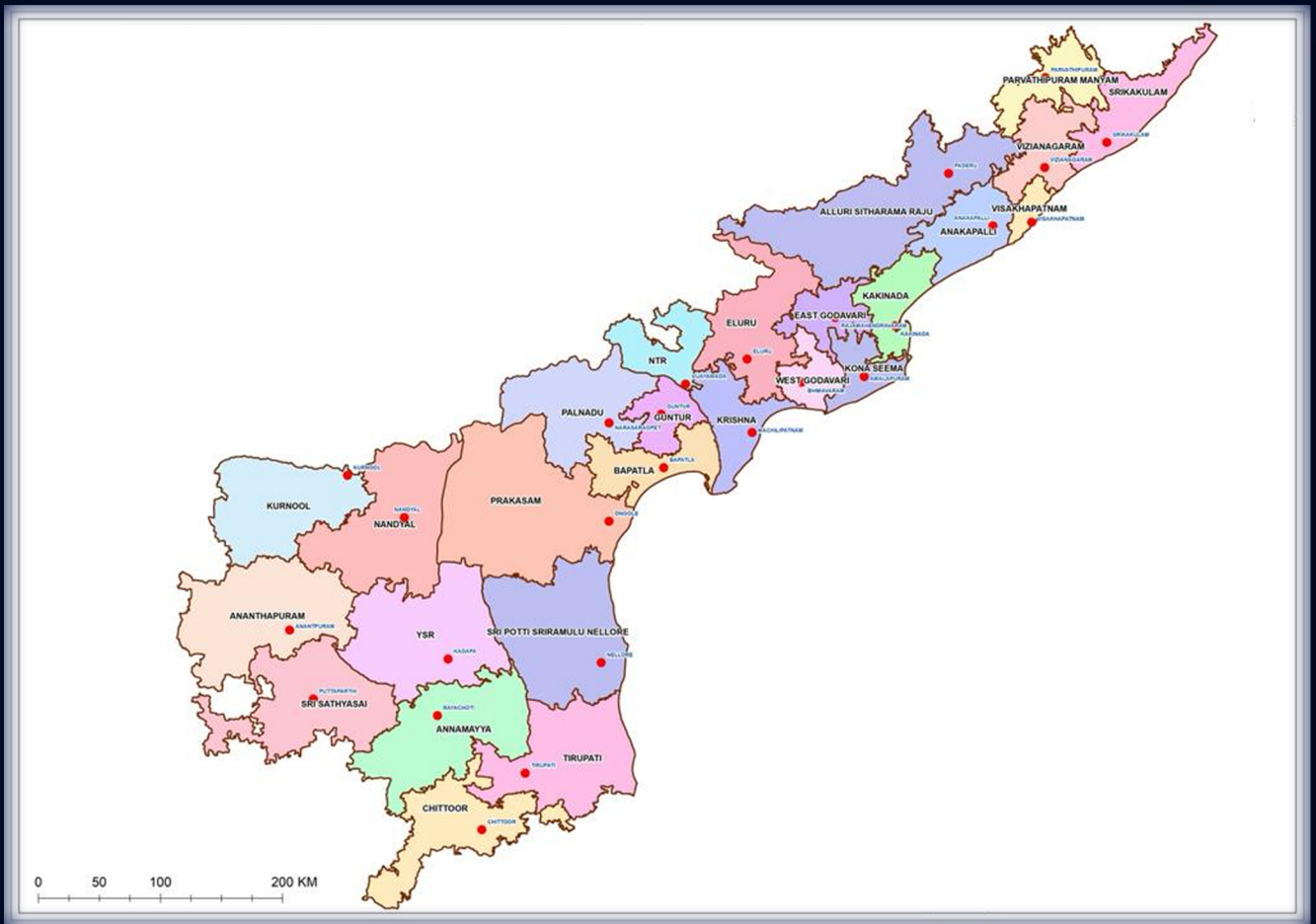


ANDHRA PRADESH

CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

APRIL 2026

DECODING CURRENT EVENTS FOR APPSC SUCCESS



ALSO USEFUL FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

WWW.VISHNUIAS.COM

9000400939 | 9000350939

GANDHI NAGAR, HYDERABAD

Join our
Telegram Channel



April Monthly Magazine

Andhrapradesh Regional Current Affairs

1. Amaravati Gains Statutory Status: The A.P. Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Context:

The Lok Sabha has recently enacted the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which provides formal acknowledgment of Amaravati as the exclusive and permanent capital of the state. This significant legislative action officially brings to a close the decade-long arrangement of sharing the capital with Hyderabad and resolves the extended administrative ambiguity within the state.

- **Background & Legislative Context:**

- ✓ **A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014:** Section 5 initially identified Hyderabad as a provisional common capital for a duration not exceeding 10 years.
- ✓ **Conclusion of Uncertainty:** The recent Bill effectively nullifies the 2020 initiative that proposed a decentralised three-capital framework (Executive in Visakhapatnam, Legislative in Amaravati, and Judicial in Kurnool).
- ✓ **The 2026 Amendment:** Officially integrates Amaravati into the 2014 Act as the designated capital, providing it with legal support retroactively effective from June 2, 2024.
- ✓ **State Approval:** The legislative action is in accordance with a specific resolution adopted by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on March 28, 2026.

- **Economic & Infrastructure Impetus:**

- ✓ **Investment Revival:** The Bill aims to create a stable policy environment, which is anticipated to facilitate substantial infrastructure investments projected at ₹56,000 crore.
- ✓ **Global Funding:** Accelerates the implementation of 91 key developmental initiatives, utilizing financial backing from organizations such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ✓ **Growth Engine:** Proposes the establishment of a greenfield city as a hub of international standards, which is expected to significantly enhance employment opportunities and industrial development throughout the Vijayawada-Guntur area.

- **Socio-Political Significance:**

- ✓ **Honouring the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS):** Acknowledges the significant civic initiative in which more than 29,000 farmers willingly relinquished 34,000 acres of their ancestral land for the development of the capital.
- ✓ **Administrative Synergy:** Creates a consolidated governance structure, enhancing collaboration among the Secretariat, the Legislative Assembly, and the High Court.
- ✓ **Federal Dynamics:** Illustrates a remarkable case of the Union Parliament utilizing Article 3 and 4 provisions to determine a particular site as the State capital.

- **Challenges & Way Forward:**

- ✓ **Fiscal Responsibility:** Establishing a large-scale greenfield project from inception necessitates ongoing, substantial capital investment throughout an extended development phase.
- ✓ **Equitable Regional Growth:** The state government is required to adopt concurrent strategies to mitigate regional inequalities, guaranteeing that both Rayalaseema and North Coastal Andhra experience fair economic advancement.

2. Google's \$15 Billion AI Data Centre at Visakhapatnam (Tarluvada): Transforming A.P. into "AI-Patnam"

Context:

Recently, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, inaugurated the foundation stone for Google's \$15 billion AI data centre located in Visakhapatnam. This facility, which operates at a gigawatt scale, aims to establish the state as the leading AI gateway in Asia and a central hub for global digital infrastructure.

- **Project Overview & Core Details:**

- ✓ **Substantial Investment:** A significant \$15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore) investment, representing one of the most considerable Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the digital sector of India.
- ✓ **Strategic Positioning:** Encompasses approximately 601 acres, including Tarluvada, Adavivaram (in Visakhapatnam district), and Rambilli (in Anakapalli district).
- ✓ **Enormous Capacity:** 1 Gigawatt (GW) hyperscale capacity, establishing it as Google's largest AI data center outside the United States.
- ✓ **Essential Collaborations:** Operated by Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech, in collaboration with AdaniConneX and Airtel Nextra.
- ✓ **Anticipated Timeline:** Groundbreaking occurred on April 28, 2026; expected to be operational by mid-to-late 2028.

- **Strategic & Economic Significance:**

- ✓ **Digital Ecosystem:** Acts as the cornerstone for Andhra Pradesh's strategic plan to establish a substantial 6.5 GW multi-gigawatt digital ecosystem.
- ✓ **Employment Generation:** Anticipated to generate numerous high-value, direct employment opportunities in the fields of data science, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity operations.
- ✓ **Allied Sector Growth:** Will catalyze additional investments in renewable energy, cutting-edge cooling technologies, server manufacturing, and subsea cable networks.
- ✓ **Global Positioning:** Positions Visakhapatnam as a prominent global technology hub, seamlessly integrated with the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision.

- **Policy Framework & Implementation:**

- ✓ **Governance Catalyst:** The initiative is being vigorously implemented in accordance with the state government's proactive 'Speed of Doing Business' policy.
- ✓ **National Alignment:** Enhances India's strategic position within the global AI supply chain, supporting national programs such as the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- ✓ **Infrastructure Synergies:** Structured to operate in conjunction with forthcoming logistical infrastructure, including the Bhogapuram International Airport.

- **Environmental Considerations & Challenges:**

- ✓ **Resource Demanding:** Hyperscale data centers require substantial, ongoing energy and significant cooling resources.
- ✓ **Water Acquisition Issues:** Environmental advocates have expressed concerns about the substantial dependence on water for cooling systems in servers and the choice between using freshwater or desalinated water.
- ✓ **Eco-Friendly Approaches:** The AP data center policy suggests utilizing advanced seawater cooling technologies to address the issue of freshwater scarcity.

3. Andhra Pradesh Records Significant Rise in Groundwater Table: A Step Towards Water Security

Context:

Andhra Pradesh has experienced a notable increase in its average groundwater levels, significantly enhancing the agricultural economy. This beneficial change is mainly due to favorable monsoon conditions and proactive state-driven water conservation efforts. The elevation in groundwater levels offers essential relief to regions that have historically faced water scarcity.

- **Key Trends & Statistics:**
 - ✓ **Overall Enhancement:** Recent findings from the AP Ground Water Department reveal a notable increase in average water levels across various districts following the monsoon season.
 - ✓ **Revitalization of Rayalaseema:** Districts in the Rayalaseema area, which are typically prone to drought, have demonstrated encouraging recharge rates, leading to a significant reduction in acute water stress.
 - ✓ **Improvements in Coastal Andhra:** Areas such as Visakhapatnam have experienced a remarkable reduction in the depth of shallow aquifers, suggesting effective surface recharge.
 - ✓ **Reduced Over-exploitation:** The rise in the water table has helped shift several mandals from "semi-critical" back to "safe" zones.
- **Primary Catalysts for the Surge:**
 - ✓ **Favorable Rainfall:** Regular and extensive pre-monsoon and post-monsoon rainfall served as the main natural mechanism for recharge.
 - ✓ **Conservation Structures:** Large-scale efforts to build check dams, percolation tanks, and artificial recharge systems have enhanced the retention of surface water.
 - ✓ **Desilting Initiatives:** Ongoing desilting of small irrigation tanks and village ponds under MGNREGS has significantly increased their capacity for percolation.
 - ✓ **Technological Monitoring:** The implementation of APWRIMS (AP Water Resources Information and Management System) has facilitated effective, real-time monitoring and management of water resources.
- **Impact on Agriculture & Economy:**
 - ✓ **Improved Crop Yields:** Consistent soil moisture levels and dependable borewell outputs offer stability for both Kharif and Rabi agricultural cycles.
 - ✓ **Reduced Input Expenses:** Access to water at shallower depths allows farmers to achieve substantial savings on electricity and maintenance costs associated with deep-bore pumping.
 - ✓ **Drinking Water Assurance:** The replenished aquifers guarantee a continuous supply of safe drinking water, significantly decreasing reliance on water tankers throughout the summer.

4. Andhra Pradesh Workshop Advocates for Sustainable Marine Biodiversity Management

Context:

A recent workshop, jointly organized by the National Biodiversity Authority and the AP State Biodiversity Board, underscored the urgent need for sustainable marine resource utilization. The dialogue balanced ecological preservation with coastal livelihoods, focusing heavily on implementing the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism under the 'Blue Economy' framework.

- **Key Highlights of the Workshop:**

- ✓ **Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS):** The primary emphasis was on implementing the ABS mechanism to guarantee a just and equitable allocation of benefits derived from the commercial and research use of marine biological resources.
- ✓ **Blue Economy Focus:** Highlighted the need to shift from aggressive, unregulated exploitation to the sustainable harvesting of marine resources.
- ✓ **Global Alignment:** Underlined that state actions and policies must be in strict accordance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (Life Below Water).
- ✓ **Alternative Livelihoods:** Promoted the adoption of mariculture, cage farming, and seaweed cultivation among coastal communities to alleviate the pressure on traditional capture fisheries.

- **AP's Marine Potential & Vulnerabilities:**

- ✓ **Geographical Advantage:** Andhra Pradesh features the second-longest coastline in India, measuring 974 kilometers, which sustains large coastal communities and diverse biodiversity hotspots, such as the Coringa mangroves.
- ✓ **Resource Depletion:** Coastal ecosystems are under significant pressure due to excessive fishing practices and the widespread collection of juvenile fish.
- ✓ **Environmental Threats:** Marine pollution, including industrial discharges, agricultural runoff, and microplastics, along with climate change effects like ocean warming, are fundamentally transforming marine environments.

- **Strategic Interventions & Policy Tools:**

- ✓ **Institutional Collaboration:** The successful execution of the Biological Diversity Act of 2002 is a collaborative effort between the National and State Biodiversity Boards aimed at regulating access to marine resources.
- ✓ **Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM):** Transitioning from a limited, species-focused methodology to a comprehensive management strategy that addresses the entire marine ecosystem.
- ✓ **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):** The process of identifying and designating vulnerable coastal regions as MPAs to facilitate the safe breeding and replenishment of overfished species.
- ✓ **Community Empowerment:** Enhancing the capacity of local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) to actively engage traditional fisherfolk in conservation initiatives.

5. Justice Lisa Gill: First Woman Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court

Context:

Justice Lisa Gill has been formally inaugurated as the inaugural female Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Prior to the ceremony in Vijayawada, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met with the Chief Justice-designate to convey his official congratulations on this significant judicial achievement.

- **Profile & Historic Significance:**

- ✓ **Pioneering Position:** She is the inaugural female leader of the Andhra Pradesh High Court since its establishment.
- ✓ **Prior Experience:** She held the esteemed position of judge at the Punjab and Haryana High Court prior to her promotion.
- ✓ **Judicial Achievement:** Her appointment is regarded as a significant advancement for gender representation within the state's higher judiciary.



- **Appointment Process of a High Court Chief Justice:**

- ✓ **Constitutional Provision:** According to Article 217, the Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed by the President of India.
- ✓ **The Collegium System:** The Supreme Court Collegium, which includes the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and two of the most senior judges, makes the recommendation.
- ✓ **Consultation Process:** Prior to the appointment, the President seeks the counsel of the CJI and the Governor of the relevant state.
- ✓ **Transfer/Elevation:** This procedure frequently entails the transfer of senior judges from different High Courts to promote national integration and uphold merit.

- **Qualifications & Oath:**

- ✓ **Eligibility:** Candidates must be citizens of India and possess a minimum of 10 years of experience either in a judicial capacity or as an advocate in a High Court.
- ✓ **Administering Oath:** According to Article 219, the oath of office is administered by the Governor of the State or an individual designated by them.
- ✓ **Tenure:** The individual remains in office until reaching the age of 62 years.
- ✓ **Resignation:** The Chief Justice has the option to resign by submitting a written notice to the President of India.

- **Key Functions & Powers:**

- ✓ **Administrative Head:** Functions as the 'Master of Roster,' determining the distribution of cases and the formation of benches.
- ✓ **Supervisory Role:** In accordance with Article 227, the Chief Justice oversees all subordinate courts and tribunals operating within the state's jurisdiction.
- ✓ **Consultative Power:** The Governor seeks the Chief Justice's advice concerning the appointment of District Judges.

6. Andhra Pradesh: India's Leader in Panchayati Raj Reforms and Rural Governance

Context:

Andhra Pradesh has secured the top position in the national Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) rankings, ascending from the 24th place in a mere two years. This remarkable transformation is attributed to extensive administrative reorganization and the elevation of more than 10,000 Panchayati Raj personnel to enhance rural effectiveness.

- **National Ranking & RGSA Achievement:**

- ✓ **Performance Leap:** Elevated from the 24th position to the 1st position in India as recognized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- ✓ **RGSA Focus:** Commitment to excellence within the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, a program dedicated to the "Capacity Building & Training" of elected officials.

- ✓ **SDG Localization:** Achievements in adapting the 9 themes of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the local context at the village level.
- ✓ **Digital Governance:** Outstanding performance in the utilization of the e-Gram Swaraj portal and the real-time oversight of rural assets.
- **Key Administrative Reforms:**
 - ✓ **Human Resource Enhancement:** A historic advancement involving the promotion of over 10,000 personnel (including Secretaries, VROs, etc.) to foster a motivated workforce.
 - ✓ **Decentralized Authority:** Successful execution of the three-tier governance structure (Gram Panchayat, Mandal Parishad, Zilla Parishad).
 - ✓ **Village Secretariats:** The "Grama Sachivalayam" framework recognized as a significant driver for providing more than 500 services directly to residents.
 - ✓ **Infrastructure Development:** Unprecedented completion rates of Gram Panchayat facilities, digital libraries, and CC roads in rural regions.
- **Constitutional & Policy Linkages:**
 - ✓ **73rd Amendment Act:** The success of Andhra Pradesh is in harmony with the fundamental principles of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992).
 - ✓ **Article 243-G:** The effective transfer of powers, authority, and responsibilities to the Panchayats.
 - ✓ **State Election Commission:** Guaranteeing the prompt execution of local body elections to uphold democratic decentralization.
 - ✓ **Social Audit:** Enhancing transparency via consistent social audits of the MGNREGS and various welfare initiatives.

7. Black Panther Returns to Vizag Zoo: A New Era for Wildlife Conservation in AP Context:

Following a 40-year absence, the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) located in Visakhapatnam has introduced a Black Panther to its collection. This significant enhancement was facilitated by the zoo's Animal Adoption Scheme, which received backing from a private contribution of ₹1,25,000 for a duration of one year.



- **The Arrival & Adoption Details:**
 - ✓ **Historical Achievement:** This marks the first occasion since the mid-1980s that a Black Panther has been accommodated at IGZP.
 - ✓ **Adoption Duration:** From April 21, 2026, to April 20, 2027.
 - ✓ **Financial Assistance:** A contribution of ₹1,25,000 has been allocated through the "Animal Adoption Scheme."
 - ✓ **Goal:** To encourage community involvement in wildlife conservation and to cover the animal's nutritional and medical expenses.
- **The Black Panther:**

- ✓ **Species Identity:** Not a separate species; it is a melanistic variant of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in Asia/Africa.
- ✓ **Cause of Color:** Result of Melanism, a genetic condition leading to an overproduction of the pigment melanin.
- ✓ **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable.
 - **Wildlife Protection Act (1972):** Schedule I (highest protection).
 - **CITES:** Appendix I.
- **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) Profile:**
 - ✓ **Location:** Nestled within the Eastern Ghats in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ **Significance:** Recognized as one of the largest zoological parks in India, encompassing around 625 acres.
 - ✓ **Unique Feature:** Enclosed by the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary on three sides, with the Bay of Bengal bordering the fourth.
 - ✓ **Conservation Focus:** Esteemed for its breeding centers dedicated to the conservation of endangered species, as well as its initiatives for rescue and rehabilitation.
- **Strategic Importance of the Animal Adoption Scheme:**
 - ✓ **Public-Private Partnership:** Motivates both citizens and corporations to engage directly in the preservation of biodiversity.
 - ✓ **Education:** Serves as a mechanism to raise public awareness about the dangers confronting large felines.
 - ✓ **Financial Sustainability:** Enhances governmental funding to guarantee exceptional care for animals in captivity.

8. NITI Aayog's 'Divya Bharat' Report: Andhra Pradesh as a Premier Tourism Hub

Context:

NITI Aayog's most recent tourism anthology, "Divya Bharat – A Window to the Soul of India," includes an extensive 13-page report that emphasizes Andhra Pradesh as a dynamic, year-round tourist destination. The report commends the state's distinctive combination of natural splendor, historical heritage, spiritual significance, and diverse culinary practices.

- **The 'Divya Bharat' Framework:**
 - ✓ **Initiative:** A premier publication from NITI Aayog aimed at enhancing both domestic and international tourism through the presentation of travel narratives specific to each state.
 - ✓ **Optimal Season:** The report suggests that the ideal period for experiencing the varied landscapes of Andhra Pradesh is from October to February.
 - ✓ **Strategic Goal:** This initiative is in line with the state's objective to improve infrastructure, confer industry status upon tourism, and establish itself as a leading travel destination in India by the year 2030.

Key Tourism Dimensions

- **Nature & Eco-Tourism:**
 - ✓ **Hill Stations:** Araku Valley, Lambasingi (often referred to as the Kashmir of Andhra Pradesh), Maredumilli, and Horsley Hills.
 - ✓ **Caves & Waterfalls:** The impressive limestone formations found in Borra Caves, the extensive Belum Caves, and the picturesque Talakona Waterfalls.
 - ✓ **Wetlands & Wildlife:** Kolleru Lake (a freshwater body), Pulicat Lake (which has brackish water), and wildlife sanctuaries such as Kambalakonda and Coringa Mangroves.

- ✓ **Coastal Charm:** Tranquil beaches like Rushikonda and Suryalanka, in addition to the distinctive red sand dunes of Erramatti Dibbalu.
- **Spiritual Tourism (Pilgrimage):**
 - ✓ **Global Shrines:** The highly esteemed Tirumala Venkateswara Temple and the Srisailem Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple (a Jyotirlinga).
 - ✓ **Historic Temples:** Kanaka Durga Temple (located in Vijayawada), Simhachalam Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, and Annavaram Satyanarayana Swamy Temple.
- **Heritage & Historical Landmarks:**
 - ✓ **Forts:** The magnificent Chandragiri Fort, Kondapalli Fort, and the renowned "Grand Canyon of India" at Gandikota.
 - ✓ **Ancient Art & Architecture:** The detailed Lepakshi Temple, the rock-cut caves of Undavalli, and the Buddhist heritage site at Amaravati.
- **Living Culture & Culinary Identity:**
 - ✓ **Handlooms & Crafts:** The GI-tagged Kondapalli toys, Kalamkari textiles, and the exquisite weaves such as Uppada Jamdani, Mangalagiri, and Venkatagiri.
 - ✓ **Gastronomy:** Notable Andhra dishes including Gongura Pachadi, Pootharekulu (a type of paper sweet), Pesarattu, and the spicy Andhra Chicken Curry.

9. AP High Court Intervenes for Great Indian Bustard Protection at Rollapadu

Context:

The Andhra Pradesh High Court, led by Chief Justice Lisa Gill, has issued notices to the Centre and State regarding a PIL for the protection of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB). The petition argues that the current conservation plan for the Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary fails to comply with Supreme Court safety guidelines.

- **The Judicial Proceedings:**
 - ✓ **The Bench:** Presided over by Chief Justice Lisa Gill and Justice N. Jayasurya.
 - ✓ **The Respondents:** Notices have been served to the Ministry of Environment (MoEFCC), the State Forest Department, and APTRANSCO.
 - ✓ **Key Argument:** The petitioner advocates for the implementation of Rajasthan's conservation model to avert the extinction of the bird species in Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ **Immediate Action:** APTRANSCO has commenced the process of issuing tenders for "Bird Diverters" aimed at preventing collisions between the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and power lines.
- **Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary:**
 - ✓ **Location:** Nandyal District (previously Kurnool), Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ **Ecosystem:** Renowned for its distinctive Open Grassland Ecosystem, serving as the main habitat for the Great Indian Bustard (GIB).
 - ✓ **Conservation Status:** Founded in 1988 with the specific aim of safeguarding the Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican.
- **The Great Indian Bustard (GIB):**
 - ✓ **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered (nearing extinction).



- ✓ **Legal Protection:** Classified under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (highest level of protection).
- ✓ **Major Threats:** Electrocutation from overhead power lines, habitat destruction caused by agriculture, and predatory stray dogs.
- ✓ **Biological Fact:** Among the heaviest flying birds globally; possesses limited frontal vision, rendering power lines dangerous.

10. 13th Century Telugu Inscription Unearthed: A New Chapter in AP's Socio-Economic History

Context:

A unique stone inscription from the 13th century was found in the village of Araveeti Kota, located in the Prakasam district, by local inhabitants. Verified by the ASI Mysore Epigraphy Wing, this discovery provides distinctive historical insights into the professions and taxation systems of medieval Andhra Pradesh.

- **Discovery & Location:**

- ✓ **Site:** West side of Araveeti Kota village, Racharla mandal, Prakasam district.
- ✓ **Period:** Dated back to the 13th Century.
- ✓ **Authentication:** Verified by K. Munirathnam Reddy, Director of Epigraphy, ASI Mysore.



- **Key Historical Figures:**

- ✓ **Donor:** Singaraju, son of Devalaraju.
- ✓ **Recipient:** Mailara Peddi, a Brahmana from Maradla Madaka Agraharam.
- ✓ **Deity Witness:** The grant was made in the presence of Lord Mallikarjuna of Srisailam at Patala Ganga.

- **The Term 'Tadika Vrutthi':**

- ✓ **New Terminology:** The inscription introduces the term "Tadika vrutthi" for the first time in epigraphical records.
- ✓ **Meaning:** It refers to the profession of weaving bamboo walls, baskets, and household articles.
- ✓ **Taxation Insight:** The inscription records the grant of tax collection rights on this profession to the recipient.
- ✓ **Community Link:** It highlights the socio-economic status of the Medara community (bamboo weavers) during the medieval period.

- **Socio-Cultural Significance:**

- ✓ **Economic History:** Provides evidence of professional taxes (Vrutthi-pannu) levied on specific artisan communities.
- ✓ **Religious Geography:** Reaffirms the spiritual dominance of Srisailam and the significance of Patala Ganga as a sacred spot for formalizing grants.
- ✓ **Language Evolution:** Showcases the development of the Telugu script and administrative vocabulary in the 13th century.

11. INS Taragiri Commissioned: A Strategic Boost to India's Eastern Fleet

Context:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently commissioned INS Taragiri, the fourth Project 17A stealth frigate, into the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet at Visakhapatnam. Designed domestically,

this advanced vessel significantly enhances India's combat readiness and maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean Region.

- **Project 17A & Core Specifications:**
 - ✓ **Vessel Class:** The fourth advanced stealth frigate constructed as part of the Navy's Project 17A.
 - ✓ **Design & Construction:** Developed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and manufactured by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
 - ✓ **Displacement:** An impressive 6,670-tonne multi-role platform.
 - ✓ **Legacy Name:** Named in honor of the previous INS Taragiri, a Leander-class frigate that was commissioned in 1980.
- **Technological Advancements & Combat Edge:**
 - ✓ **Stealth Technology:** Utilizes a sophisticated design that decreases the radar cross-section, thereby reducing detectability by enemy sensors.
 - ✓ **Lethal Arsenal:** Fitted with cutting-edge BrahMos cruise missiles alongside contemporary surface-to-air missile systems.
 - ✓ **Propulsion System:** Driven by a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODAG) system, facilitating rapid operations and extended missions.
 - ✓ **Management Integration:** Incorporates an Integrated Platform Management System to ensure highly efficient and automated operational oversight.
- **Strategic & Economic Significance:**
 - ✓ **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Emphasis:** Attains more than 75% domestic content, incorporating essential supply chains and MSMEs into defense production.
 - ✓ **Geopolitical Deterrence:** Specifically implemented to tackle escalating geopolitical challenges and safeguard the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
 - ✓ **Trade Security:** Crucial for the protection of India's commercial ships and oil tankers, considering that 95% of the country's trade is conducted through maritime pathways.
 - ✓ **Versatility:** Engineered for a wide range of operations, from high-intensity warfare to anti-piracy efforts, coastal monitoring, and humanitarian assistance.



12. Andhra Pradesh Ranks 2nd Nationally in Marine Fish Processing Infrastructure

Context:

Andhra Pradesh has risen to become the second-largest state in India in terms of marine fish processing capacity, propelled by significant investments from the central government. Recent data from the Lok Sabha underscores the state's swift growth in cold chain logistics, preservation techniques, and value-added infrastructure, facilitated by multiple national initiatives.

- **National Standing & Core Statistics:**
 - ✓ **National Ranking:** Andhra Pradesh is positioned 2nd in India regarding marine fish processing.
 - ✓ **State Capacity (AP):** There are 131 processing units with a total capacity of 7,193.18 metric tonnes (MT) per day.
 - ✓ **Top Ranking:** Gujarat occupies the 1st place with 137 units and a capacity of 7,646.82 MT/day.

- ✓ **Data Source:** Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries (data as of March 27, 2026).

Infrastructure Development Under Central Schemes:

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY):**
 - ✓ **Focus:** Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure.
 - ✓ **Projects Approved:** 4 projects in Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ **Capacities Added:** Processing (0.11 lakh tonnes per annum) & Preservation (0.19 lakh tonnes per annum).
 - ✓ **Financials:** Total cost of ₹121.44 crore (Grant-in-aid sanctioned: ₹29.04 crore).
- **Operation Greens:**
 - ✓ **Focus:** Price fixation, supply chain management, and infrastructure development.
 - ✓ **Projects Approved:** 11 projects within the state.
 - ✓ **Capacities Added:** Processing (0.878 lakh tonnes per annum) & Preservation (3.17 lakh tonnes per annum).
 - ✓ **Financials:** Total cost of ₹318 crore (Grant-in-aid sanctioned: ₹72.44 crore).
- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLISFPI):**
 - ✓ **Focus:** Enhancing domestic manufacturing and marine product exports.
 - ✓ **Units Approved:** 24 units in Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ **Investment:** Significant actual investment amounting to ₹1,027.72 crore.
 - ✓ **Capacity Created:** Following the investment, processing and preservation capacity of 3,51,292 MT per annum has been established.
- **Strategic & Economic Impact:**
 - ✓ **Steady Growth:** Data from MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) indicates a steady rise in financial support to Andhra Pradesh over the past five years.
 - ✓ **Export Dominance:** Improved preservation capacities significantly mitigate post-harvest losses, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's status as a premier seafood exporter in India.

13. PM-RAHAT Scheme: Andhra Pradesh's New Lifesaving Shield for Road Accident Victims

Context:

Andhra Pradesh is poised to execute the Central Government's PM-RAHAT (Prime Minister - Road Accident Victims' Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment) program. Administered by the Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva Trust, this initiative offers prompt cashless medical care to accident victims within the crucial "Golden Hour."

- **Core Features of PM-RAHAT:**
 - ✓ **Financial Coverage:** Provides cashless medical treatment for up to ₹1.5 lakh for each victim.
 - ✓ **Duration:** Offers coverage for a maximum of seven days of hospitalization.
 - ✓ **Universal Eligibility:** The benefits are available to all victims, irrespective of their financial status, nationality, or country of origin.
 - ✓ **The "Golden Hour":** Emphasizes the importance of administering treatment within the first hour after a traumatic injury, as timely medical intervention significantly increases the chances of survival.
- **Operational Framework in AP:**
 - ✓ **Implementing Agency:** Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva Trust.

- ✓ **Hospital Network:** A total of 704 hospitals, comprising 687 private institutions and 17 government facilities, are equipped to provide orthopedic and polytrauma services.
- ✓ **Emergency Clause:** Non-empanelled hospitals are required to initiate treatment without delay and will receive reimbursement from the government.
- ✓ **Coordination:** This initiative involves a collaborative effort among the Health, Police, and Transport departments.
- ✓ **Payment System:** Claims are managed through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) under the oversight of District Collectors.
- **Legal & Strategic Significance:**
 - ✓ **Statutory Alignment:** Executed in compliance with the Motor Vehicles Act of 1988.
 - ✓ **Mortality Reduction:** Designed to significantly decrease road fatality rates by eliminating financial and administrative obstacles in emergency situations.
 - ✓ **Verification:** Law enforcement is mandated to confirm accident information and submit it to the system within 24 hours following hospital admission.

14. Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park to Launch Nocturnal Animal House in Tirupati

Context:

The Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park (SVZP) located in Tirupati is in the process of creating a specialized Nocturnal Animal House aimed at showcasing rare and exotic nocturnal species. This distinctive facility is being constructed with financial support from the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) as part of a strategic conservation effort.

- **Project Overview &**

- Infrastructure:**

- ✓ **Location:** Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park (SVZP), Tirupati.
 - ✓ **Project Cost:** ₹6.5 crore, entirely financed by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).
 - ✓ **Infrastructure:** The establishment includes 18 uniquely designed cubicles, with each cubicle having the capacity to house two to four animals.
 - ✓ **Capacity:** It is intended to support at least 10 distinct nocturnal species at the same time.



- **Animal Exchange Program & Exotic Species:**

- ✓ **Source of Animals:** Exotic species are being sourced from Vantara, the esteemed wildlife sanctuary located in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
 - ✓ **New Arrivals:**
 - **Marmoset Monkeys:** This species measures 20 inches in length and is commonly referred to as finger-sized monkeys.
 - **Meerkats:** These are small foraging mammals indigenous to southern Africa.
 - ✓ **Pipeline Species:** Jungle cats, Slender Loris, and Civet Cats are set to be included in the exhibit soon.

- **The Strategic TTD & Forest Department MoU:**

- ✓ **Legal Requirement:** The financial support provided by TTD is a mandatory contribution as stipulated by the Forest Law, regulated through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ✓ **The Civet Cat Connection:** The zoo allocates space and maintenance for Civet Cats, which generate a yellowish glandular secretion referred to as Civet oil.
- ✓ **Temple Ceremonies:** This uniquely harvested Civet oil serves as a crucial component in the sacred Abhishekams (rituals) dedicated to Lord Venkateswara at the Tirumala temple every Friday.

Overview of Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park (SVZP):

Located at the foothills of the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve in Tirupati. Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park is a prominent wildlife conservation center. Known for its vast expanse, it uniquely integrates modern biodiversity conservation with ancient Indian cultural heritage.

- **Geographical Scale & Status:**
 - ✓ **Massive Area:** Spread over approximately 5,532 acres (22 sq. km), it is recognized as one of the largest zoological parks in Asia by geographical area.
 - ✓ **Establishment:** Foundation was laid in 1987, and it was officially opened to the public in 1993.
 - ✓ **Topography:** Features a natural forest environment that perfectly mimics the wild habitats of the Eastern Ghats.
- **Unique Thematic Concept:**
 - ✓ **Mythological Zoo:** It is celebrated as a "Mytho-Zoo," uniquely conceptualized around Hindu mythology.
 - ✓ **Thematic Enclosures:** Animals and bird species are housed in enclosures named after locations and characters from Indian epics (e.g., the Ramayana and Mahabharata).
- **Ecological & Conservation Focus:**
 - ✓ **Endemic Focus:** Acts as a crucial conservation hub for the endemic and endangered flora and fauna of the Seshachalam Hills.
 - ✓ **Specialized Centers:** Houses a dedicated Leopard Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre.
 - ✓ **New Additions:** Currently upgrading its infrastructure with a ₹6.5 Crore Nocturnal Animal House to expand its ex-situ conservation efforts.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

