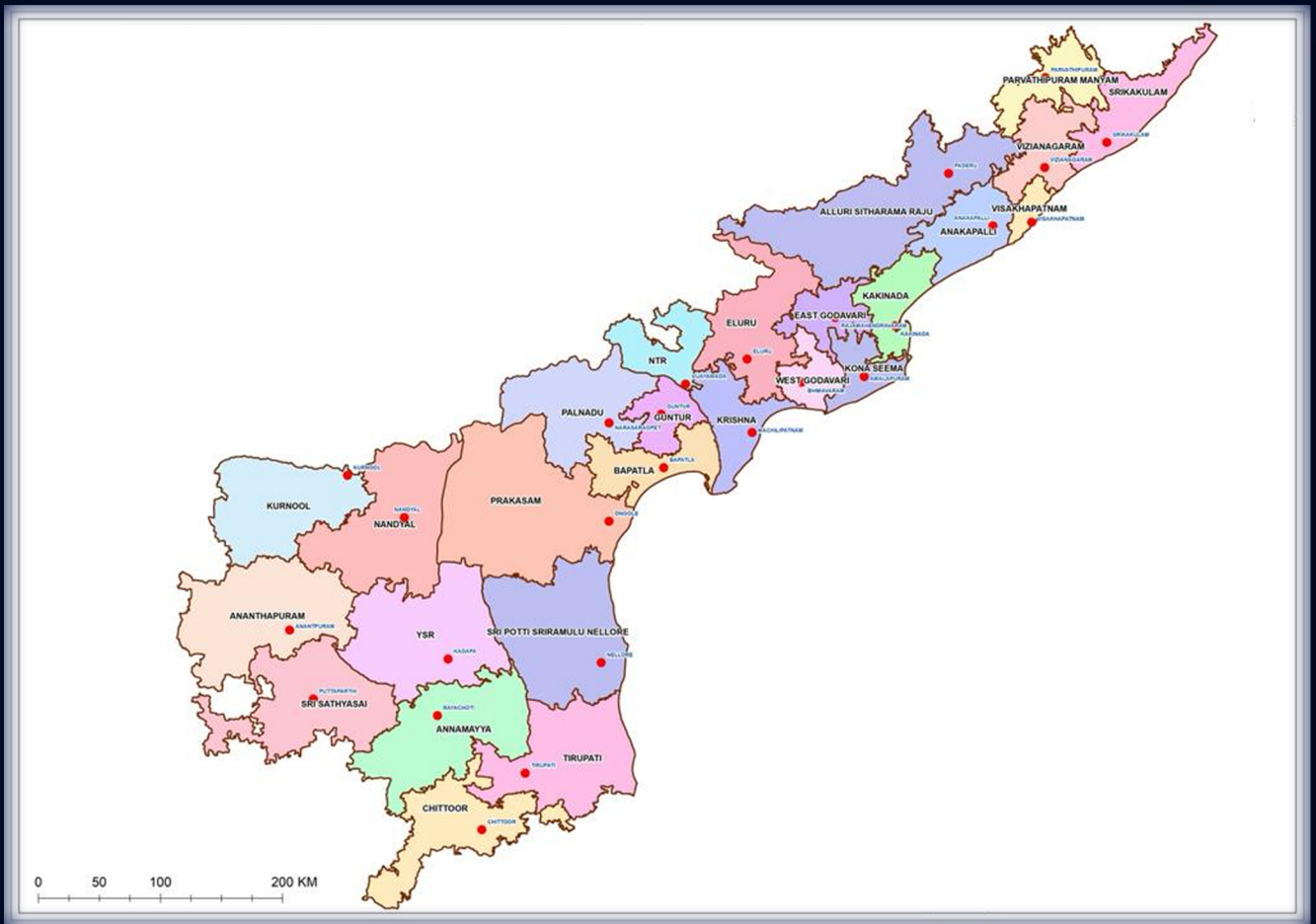


# ANDHRA PRADESH

CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

## MAY 2026

DECODING CURRENT EVENTS FOR APPSC SUCCESS



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## Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

### 86. India's First Ethanol-to-Jet Fuel (SAF) Plant

#### Context:

India recently marked a significant milestone in its clean energy transition by initiating the construction of its first Ethanol-to-Jet (ETJ) Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) plant.

#### Key Highlights of the Project:

- **Location:** Established at NTPC Green Energy's Green Hydrogen Hub in Pudimadaka, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Executing Agencies:** NTPC awarded the primary EPC contract to Bengaluru-based GPS Renewables.
- **Technology Backup:** Lummus Technology provides the core ETJ license, while Xytel India handles engineering.
- **Production Capacity:** Designed to generate 1,800 tonnes of SAF annually by March 2029.

#### The Technological Process:

- Utilizes ethanol directly derived from captured carbon dioxide.
- The multi-step process includes ethanol-to-ethylene conversion and olefins oligomerisation.
- Final hydroprocessing yields market-ready Sustainable Aviation Fuel and renewable diesel.

#### Significance:

- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):** A green alternative to fossil jet fuels, cutting lifecycle carbon emissions by up to 80%.
- **CORSIA Compliance:** Helps Indian aviation align with the ICAO's Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme.
- **Energy Security:** Reduces reliance on imported Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) by leveraging domestic biofuel.
- **Net Zero Goals:** Directly supports India's "Panchamrit" target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **Circular Economy:** Converts waste CO<sub>2</sub> into valuable transport fuel, preventing atmospheric greenhouse gas buildup.

This indigenous capacity building shifts India from a technology importer to a domestic producer, making green aviation commercially viable while utilizing the existing ethanol ecosystem.

### 87. Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster: First PM-SETU Approval

#### Context:

Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in India to operationalize an industry partnership under the PM-SETU scheme, securing the National Steering Committee's approval for the Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster.

**Key Project Highlights:**

- **Industry Partnership:** The Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) was submitted by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and NAMTECH.
- **Delivery Framework:** Operates on an industry-led "Hub-and-Spoke" model to integrate government ITIs with private sector expertise.
- **Core Objectives:** Focuses on critical infrastructure upgrades, improving training quality, and aligning courses with industry demands.

**Significance:**

- **PM-SETU Definition:** Stands for Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs.
- **Scale and Investment:** A ₹60,000 crore central initiative to comprehensively modernize 1,000 government ITIs nationwide.
- **Nodal Authority:** Administered by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Bridging the Skill Gap:** Addresses the critical mismatch between traditional vocational training and the needs of high-growth sectors.
- **Demographic Dividend:** Essential for equipping India's massive working-age population with employable, future-ready capabilities.
- **PPP in Education:** Demonstrates a highly effective Public-Private Partnership approach to institutional governance and workforce development.

PM-SETU shifts India's skilling paradigm from a traditional government-push approach to an industry-pull model, ensuring the emerging workforce is directly tailored for the modern economy.

**88. Operation Dandayana: AP Police Initiative for Women's Safety****Context:**

The Andhra Pradesh Police has launched a comprehensive statewide drive called 'Operation Dandayana'. Operating under a strict zero-tolerance policy, the initiative aims to curb crimes against women and children while ensuring speedy, time-bound justice for victims.

**Key Highlights of the Operation:**

- **Time-Bound Investigation:** Mandates the filing of chargesheets within 60 days for all women-related and POCSO offenses.
- **Speed Trial Monitoring:** Introduces a dedicated system to review case progress regularly from the district up to the state level.
- **Fast-Track Justice:** Sensational and severe offenses will be directly transferred to fast-track courts to ensure stringent punishments.
- **Tech-Enabled Surveillance:** Employs geo-tagging and Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) to continuously track repeat and suspicious offenders.
- **Sexual Offender Sheets:** Habitual offenders will have specific history sheets opened to strictly monitor their movements.
- **Holistic Rehabilitation:** Integrates counseling services and collaborates with NGOs and legal experts to support the victims' emotional recovery.
- **Community Policing:** Expands the "Neighbourhood Watch" program across villages and towns to boost public participation.

**Constitutional Backing**

- **Constitutional Mandate:** Directly aligns with Article 15(3) (special provisions for women/children) and Article 21 (Right to a speedy trial and life with dignity).

- **Statutory Alignment:** Reinforces the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, which legally mandates concluding rape investigations within two months.
- **Internal Security & e-Governance:** Showcases the practical application of technology (FRS, Geo-tagging) in modernizing law enforcement and crime prevention.

'Operation Dandayana' exemplifies a multi-pronged governance approach—combining rapid legal procedures, technological surveillance, and community-driven rehabilitation to effectively tackle gender-based violence.

## 89. Andhra Pradesh: A Strategic Hub for Rare Earth Elements (REE)

### Context:

A recent report highlights that Andhra Pradesh holds nearly 30% of India's monazite reserves. This positions the state as a critical player in developing India's strategic minerals sector and reducing import dependence on China.

### Key Highlights of the Report:

- **Global Standing:** India holds about 8% of global REE reserves, making it the third-largest holder worldwide.
- **AP's Contribution:** Out of India's 13.15 million tonnes of monazite, Andhra Pradesh accounts for approximately 3.8 million tonnes.
- **Import Dependency:** Despite vast reserves, India imports 60-80% of its REE requirements, primarily from China, due to poor processing capacity.
- **State Investments:** The AP government plans a ₹50,000 crore investment over the next decade for REE mining and downstream manufacturing.
- **Strategic Corridors:** The Union Government plans dedicated rare earth corridors in coastal states, with a comprehensive policy expected by June 2026.

### Significance:

- **Monazite Sands:** Placer deposits found along the coastal regions of AP, Odisha, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- **Mineral Composition:** Contains light rare earths (cerium, lanthanum, neodymium) crucial for EVs, semiconductors, and green technology.
- **Radioactive Element:** Monazite contains Thorium, a radioactive material strictly regulated under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- **Regulatory Bottleneck:** Due to its radioactive nature, commercial mining is heavily restricted to state-run IREL (India) Limited, curbing private participation.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Developing domestic REE processing is vital for India's technological sovereignty and transition to renewable energy.

Leveraging Andhra Pradesh's monazite reserves through advanced processing and private-public partnerships is essential to break the Chinese monopoly on critical minerals.

## 90. MEPMA & Araku Coffee MoU: A Push for Women's Entrepreneurship

### Context:

Andhra Pradesh's Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) has signed an MoU with Native Araku Coffee Pvt. Ltd. to launch 100 women-led coffee outlets, aiming to boost urban female entrepreneurship.

### Key Highlights of the Initiative:

- **Target Beneficiaries:** Focuses on urban Self-Help Group (SHG) members and economically disadvantaged women.
- **Expansion Plan:** Operates on a franchise model, planning at least two shops per district within two years.
- **Financial Setup:** Capital required is ₹5.9 lakh for physical stores and ₹10 lakh for EV-based mobile shops.
- **Scheme Convergence:** Entrepreneurs will receive financial subsidies through central schemes like PMFME and PMEGP.
- **Collaborative Support:** MEPMA identifies and funds beneficiaries; Araku Coffee provides training and strategic business guidance.

#### Significance:

- **Araku Coffee Profile:** A premium Arabica variety organically cultivated by tribal communities in the Eastern Ghats (ASR District).
- **Geographical Indication:** Araku Valley Arabica Coffee holds a prestigious GI tag, signifying its unique regional quality.
- **MEPMA's Role:** The nodal agency in AP for urban poverty alleviation, transforming marginalized women into micro-entrepreneurs.
- **PMFME Scheme:** Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises aids unorganized food micro-enterprises.
- **PMEGP:** A credit-linked subsidy program by the MSME Ministry to generate employment through micro-enterprises.

This initiative successfully links rural tribal agricultural heritage (Araku Coffee) with urban women's empowerment, creating a resilient, localized micro-economy.

### 91. Jaladhara-Jalaharathi Programme: Boosting Water Security

#### Context:

The Andhra Pradesh government's flagship "Jaladhara-Jalaharathi" programme is witnessing rapid execution in the NTR district. Driven by a 100-day special action plan, the initiative focuses on large-scale water conservation and groundwater recharge.

#### Key Highlights of the Initiative:

- **Targeted Action Plan:** Executed as a 100-day drive focusing on tank desilting, sluice repairs, and feeder channel restoration.
- **Scientific Approach:** Implements village-level water budgeting based on a thorough analysis of decade-long hydrological data.
- **Infrastructure Push:** Prioritizes the construction of recharge pits and percolation tanks to capture monsoon runoff effectively.
- **Massive Scale:** Aims to sustainably rejuvenate 439 traditional water bodies across the NTR district.
- **Community Driven:** Relies heavily on decentralized public participation and local irrigation associations for execution.

#### Significance:

- **Panchayati Raj Empowerment:** Aligns with the 11th Schedule (Article 243G), empowering local bodies in minor water management.
- **Sustainable Goals:** Directly advances India's commitment to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
- **Drought Mitigation:** Buffers groundwater tables against erratic monsoons, building climate resilience for rainfed agriculture.

- **Ecological Balance:** Restoring rural tanks supports local biodiversity and serves as a critical lifeline for livestock.

The "Jaladhara" model demonstrates that combining traditional water harvesting wisdom with scientific data and decentralized community participation is the most viable path to climate-resilient agriculture in Andhra Pradesh.

## 92. Carrier Global's Rs 1,000 Cr Unit in Sri City & AP's Industrial Push

### Context:

Andhra Pradesh is rapidly transforming into India's digital and manufacturing powerhouse. Recently, IT & HRD Minister Nara Lokesh laid the foundation for a major Carrier Global project, significantly boosting the state's industrial landscape.

### Key Highlights:

- **Major Investment:** Carrier Global is setting up a new air-conditioner manufacturing unit worth Rs 1,000 crore.
- **Project Location:** This state-of-the-art facility is situated in Sri City, Tirupati district.
- **Job Creation:** The upcoming project is expected to generate livelihood opportunities for around 3,000 people.
- **State Vision:** The AP government aims to position the state as the "Cool Capital of India".
- **Manufacturing Targets:** Sri City aims to meet 60% of India's AC demand by 2027 and 80% by 2028.
- **New Tech Initiative:** Launch of 'Naipunyam', India's first Conversational AI-based Skill Assessment Platform.
- **Ecosystem Growth:** AP is actively building an entire ecosystem for data centers and advanced cooling technologies.

### Core definitions:

- **Sri City:** A prominent Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Integrated Business City in Tirupati district.
- **Industrial Success:** It is a flagship hub representing both "Make in India" and "Made in AP" initiatives.
- **HVAC Sector:** The acronym stands for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning.
- **Cabinet Portfolios:** Minister Nara Lokesh holds the Human Resources Development (HRD), IT, and Electronics portfolios.
- **Geography:** Tirupati district was officially formed in April 2022 during the AP district reorganization.

## 93. Andhra Pradesh Secures 2nd Spot in National Panchayat Awards-2025

### Context:

Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a top-performing state in rural governance by securing five National Panchayat Awards in 2025. Announced by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, this achievement highlights the state's strong commitment to decentralized administration, good governance, and sustainable rural development.

### Key Highlights:

- **National Standing:** AP tied with Odisha for the 2nd position nationwide, trailing only behind Karnataka.
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Puraskar:** Kuppam Block Panchayat (Chittoor) was ranked India's 3rd best block, winning Rs 1.5 crore.
- **Good Governance:** Srungavaram GP (Visakhapatnam) secured the 1st rank nationally, earning Rs 1 crore.
- **Women-Friendly Panchayat:** Bokkasam Palem GP (Tirupati) achieved the 1st rank, receiving Rs 1 crore.
- **Poverty-Free & Livelihoods:** Chemmullapalli GP (YSR district) won the 2nd rank along with a Rs 75 lakh prize.
- **Infrastructure:** Gundamala GP (Prakasam) took the 3rd rank for self-sufficient infrastructure (Rs 25 lakh).

### Constitutional & Historical Background

- **73rd Amendment Act:** Constitutionalized Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India in 1992.
- **National Panchayati Raj Day:** Celebrated annually on April 24 to commemorate the enforcement of the 73rd Amendment.
- **Historical Context:** AP was the second state in India (after Rajasthan) to establish the Panchayati Raj system in 1959.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 40 (DPSP) directs the State to organize village panchayats and endow them with power.
- **Award Namesakes:** The awards honor social reformers Nanaji Deshmukh and Deen Dayal Upadhyay for their rural development visions.

### 94. Rising Cybercrimes in Andhra Pradesh: NCRB 2024 Report

#### Context:

The latest 2024 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data reveals a steady rise in cybercrimes in Andhra Pradesh. The surge highlights growing digital vulnerabilities, particularly concerning financial frauds and crimes against women and children.

#### Key Highlights of the Report:

- **State Ranking:** AP registered 2,528 cybercrime cases in 2024, ranking 8th in the country.
- **National Context:** India saw over 1 lakh cases, with Telangana ranking first with 27,230 cases.
- **Statistical Rates:** AP has a cybercrime rate of 4.7 per lakh population and a low chargesheeting rate of 28.6%.
- **Major Offenses:** The bulk of AP's cases involved cheating by personation and identity theft.
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Police recorded 642 cybercrimes against women (stalking, blackmail) and 55 against children.

#### Static Relevance & Core Concepts:

- **NCRB:** Formed in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to serve as the national repository of crime data.
- **IT Act, 2000 (Sec 66):** Section 66C penalizes identity theft, while Section 66D deals with cheating by personation.
- **IT Act, 2000 (Sec 67):** Sections 67, 67A, and 67B strictly penalize the transmission of obscene or sexually explicit material.

- **Right to Privacy:** Cyberstalking and data theft violate Article 21 (Right to Life and Liberty - Puttaswamy Judgement).
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS):** Modern penal provisions are now being applied alongside the IT Act to tackle organized cybercrimes.

The low chargesheeting rate (28.6%) in AP highlights a critical need for enhanced digital forensics training and capacity building within state law enforcement agencies.

### 95. Daughters' Coparcenary Rights: AP High Court Ruling

#### Context:

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has definitively reaffirmed that daughters acquire equal coparcenary rights in their father's ancestral property by birth, enforcing the mandate of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005.

#### Key Highlights of the Judgement:

- **Equal Share Granted:** The Court modified an older decree, elevating a daughter's share to equal that of her brother.
- **Father's Survival Irrelevant:** The father does not need to be alive when the 2005 amendment was enacted.
- **Crucial Cut-off Date:** The sole legal prerequisite is that the daughter must be alive on September 9, 2005.
- **Judicial Flexibility:** Courts hold the power to modify preliminary partition decrees if new legal changes occur before the final decree.

#### Static Relevance & Core Concepts:

- **Hindu Succession Act, 1956:** Originally, the traditional Mitakshara law restricted joint family property (coparcenary) rights exclusively to the male lineage.
- **2005 Amendment (Section 6):** Dismantled this patriarchal framework by conferring coparcenary status on daughters by birth.
- **Vineeta Sharma v. Rakesh Sharma (2020):** The landmark Supreme Court verdict establishing that the 2005 amendment is retroactive in nature.
- **Constitutional Alignment:** Upholds Article 14 (Equality before Law) and Article 15 (Prohibition of discrimination based on sex).
- **Economic Empowerment:** Independent property ownership is a foundational pillar for women's financial security and social standing.

This progressive ruling ensures that procedural delays in partition suits cannot be weaponized to deny women their substantive property rights enshrined under the 2005 amendment.

### 96. Mangrove Encroachment in West Godavari: An Ecological Crisis

#### Context:

Large stretches of ecologically sensitive mangrove forests along the Perupalem coast in West Godavari are facing severe threats due to rampant encroachment and their illegal conversion into aquaculture ponds.

#### Key Highlights of the Issue:

- **Drastic Decline:** Mangrove cover in the region has shrunk drastically from 2,000 acres in the 1950s to barely 510 acres today.

- **Illegal Conversions:** Nearly 70 acres of crucial creek and mangrove areas were recently converted into aqua ponds under the guise of tourism.
- **Regulatory Violations:** Aqua cultivation is operating illegally within the prohibited 300 to 500-metre radius of the forests.
- **Demanded Action:** Environmentalists are seeking an urgent joint departmental survey utilizing GPS mapping and historical land records.
- **Legal Recourse:** The Coastal Environment Protection Committee has threatened to approach the National Green Tribunal (NGT) over administrative inaction.

#### **Static Relevance & Core Concepts:**

- **CRZ-I Classification:** Mangroves are highly sensitive ecosystems strictly protected under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ-I) norms.
- **Statutory Backing:** CRZ notifications are issued by the MoEFCC under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Ecological Bio-shields:** Mangroves act as natural shock absorbers, protecting coastal communities from cyclones and storm surges.
- **Blue Carbon Sinks:** Coastal ecosystems are highly effective at sequestering carbon, aiding in climate change mitigation.
- **NGT Act, 2010:** Empowers the specialized tribunal to effectively expedite cases related to environmental protection and conservation.

The rampant degradation of West Godavari's mangroves highlights the urgent need for stringent CRZ enforcement to balance economically lucrative aquaculture with critical coastal ecological security.