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Telangana Current Affairs

75. Rare Rashtrakuta Veeragallu Unearthed in Telangana

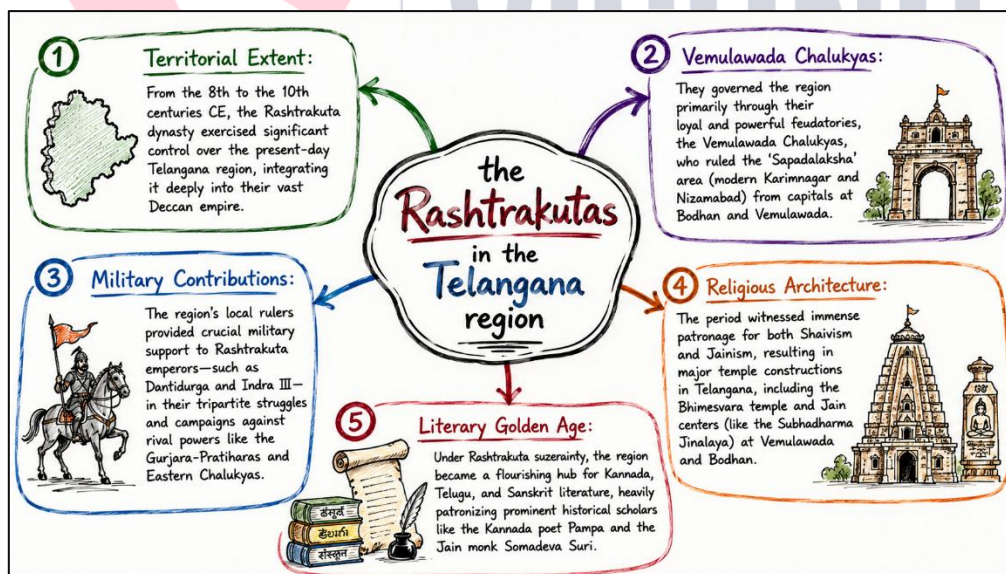
Context:

A rare 10th-century Rashtrakuta-era “Breast-Cutting Veeragallu” was recently discovered at a Shiva temple in Telangana. Located in Kodumunja village, Vemulawada mandal (Rajanna-Sircilla district), Telangana, India.



Historical & Cultural Significance:

- **Time Period:** The memorial stone belongs to the 10th century CE, corresponding to the Rashtrakuta period.
- **Sthanachedana Veeragallu:** The sculpture portrays a rare, extreme devotional practice where a wife severs her breast to accompany her deceased husband in pursuit of moksha (salvation).
- **Social Sacrifice:** Veeragallu (hero stones) were traditionally erected to immortalize individuals who sacrificed their lives for the welfare of society, such as dying for timely rainfall.



Other Archaeological Findings

- **Naga Deity Sculpture:** Found in the same temple premises, dating to the same Rashtrakuta period.
- **Iconography:** The serpent deity is carved holding a sword in its right hand and a child in its left.
- **Religious Beliefs:** Historically, devotees worshipped Naga deities seeking children, long life, and marital prosperity. Successful fulfillment of these wishes led to the commissioning of such sculptures as temple offerings.

76. Ganapatideva and Somaladevi Depicted in 13th-Century Sculpture

Context:

A rare 13th-century sculptural panel depicting Kakatiya Emperor Ganapatideva and Queen Somaladevi was recently discovered, marking a first-of-its-kind find in Telangana.



Geographical Location

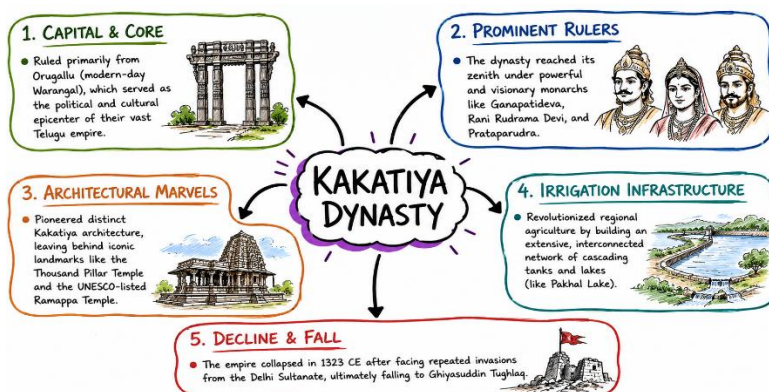
- **Site:** Found in Totapalli village, Bejjanki mandal, Siddipet district (Telangana, India).

Historical Significance

- **Emperor Ganapatideva (1199–1262 CE):** The longest-reigning monarch of the Kakatiya dynasty. He successfully united most of the Telugu-speaking regions (present-day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) through a mix of warfare and diplomacy.
- **Succession:** He was succeeded by his prominent daughter, Queen Rudrama Devi.
- **Rarity:** While Kakatiya temple sculptures are common, clearly identifiable depictions of Kakatiya royals are extremely rare.

Art, Architecture & Iconography

- **The Artifact:** Carved on a 3-square-foot granite slab, showing the royal couple worshipping a miniature Sivalinga alongside their royal guru, Visveswara Sivacharya.
- **Royal Insignia:** Features Chatris (royal parasols) carved above the figures' heads, a crucial insignia confirming their royal identity.
- **Religious Iconography:** Depicts Ganapatideva as a devout Shaivite, adorned with rudraksha malas and a bun-shaped royal headgear. Queen Somaladevi sports a traditional Dhammilla-style hairdress.
- **Craftsmanship:** The sculptural style and iconography closely resemble the Kakatiya architectural features of the nearby Trikuta temple.



77. Kakatiya Hero Stones Unearthed in Sangareddy

Context:

The recent discovery of four Kakatiya-era half-relief hero stones (veeragallu) highlights medieval martial traditions and the cultural honoring of combat sacrifices.

Geographical Location

- **Site:** Rameswaram Banda in Patancheru mandal, Sangareddy district (Telangana, India).

Historical & Cultural Significance

- **Time Period:** Attributed to the Kakatiya period.
- **Hero Stones (Veeragallu):** Erected as memorial stones to commemorate the courage of warriors who sacrificed their lives in battle, believing they attained Veera Swarga (the heavenly realm of valor).
- **Elite Forces (Ekkatis / Ekanga Veeras):** Two of the warriors are identified as Ekkatis—highly trained, elite fighters comparable to modern-day commandos, skilled in advanced combat and the use of multiple weapons.



Art, Architecture & Iconography

- **Sculptural Style:** Carved as half-relief (embossed) sculptures in the distinctive Kakatiya style.
- **Warrior Depiction:** The figures feature flowing side-knotted hairstyles, large ear ornaments, necklaces, warrior belts, waistbands, and anklets.
- **Weaponry:** Two warriors are depicted wielding broad swords and bows (the Ekkatis), while the other two hold spears and shields.
- **Religious Affiliation:** A Shiva Linga carved above one warrior's head suggests strong devotion to Lord Shiva (Shaivism), a prominent religious sect during the Kakatiya rule.

78. NITI Aayog Flags Dropouts and Digital Divide in Telangana

Context:

A NITI Aayog report notes that Telangana's school education is at a critical turning point, shifting its focus from ensuring basic access to improving learning outcomes, student retention, and bridging digital divides.

Key Challenges Identified

- **High Dropouts:** The secondary-level dropout rate stands at 13.3%, primarily occurring during the critical transition phase after Class 8.
- **School Viability:** The state struggles with resource rationalization, having 2,245 schools with zero enrollment. Furthermore, 5,001 single-teacher schools currently cater to 62,288 students.
- **Private Migration:** Despite government efforts to upgrade infrastructure and introduce English-medium education, students steadily migrate to private institutions due to perceptions of better discipline, exam preparation, and digital infrastructure.
- **Infrastructure Deficit:** While smart classrooms stand at 63% statewide, rural connectivity remains poor. Crucial facilities like labs, libraries, and CwSN-friendly (Children with Special Needs) toilets (only 2.7%) are severely lacking.
- **Staffing Issues:** The system faces uneven teacher deployment, shortages of specialized subject teachers, and high administrative burdens on staff.

Way Forward:

- Systemic reforms prioritizing employability, digital competence, and skill development are urgently required to prevent deepening inequality and help the state emerge as a national model for inclusive education.

79. Rare Aquatic Insects Discovered in Eastern Ghats

Context:

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (Hyderabad Centre) and VHNSN College under Madurai Kamaraj University recorded two rare aquatic insect species — *Enithares metallica* and *Enithares intricata* — for the first time in the Indian subcontinent from the Eastern Ghats.



Key Facts

- Species belong to aquatic backswimmers (family: Notonectidae).
- Previously known only from Southeast Asia.
- Discovery expands species distribution in the Oriental biogeographic region.
- Study published in Journal of Diversity Studies.

Location Relevance

- **Eastern Ghats:** discontinuous mountain range along eastern India.
- Spread across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- Rich but underexplored freshwater biodiversity zone.

Scientific Methods Used

- Integrative taxonomy approach adopted.
- Included:
 - Classical morphology
 - DNA barcoding
 - Morphometric analysis
 - Phylogenetic reconstruction
 - Principal Component Analysis (PCA)
- Mitochondrial COI gene sequencing used for species confirmation.

Ecological Importance

- Predators of mosquito larvae and aquatic invertebrates.
- Help maintain freshwater ecological balance.
- Serve as bioindicators of freshwater quality.
- Useful in ecological monitoring and conservation planning.

80. Three New Aquatic Beetle Species Discovered in India

Context:

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered three new aquatic scavenger beetle species in India (Telangana and Uttar Pradesh), doubling the country's known species of the *Amphiops* genus.

Taxonomy & Specific Locations:

- **Genus Character:** *Amphiops* genus; aquatic scavenger beetles thriving in shallow, muddy, vegetated freshwater.
- ***Amphiops hyderabadi*:** Discovered in a seasonal pond in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ***Amphiops kinnerasani*:** Found inside Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana.
- ***Amphiops sandi*:** Discovered inside Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.

Scientific Methodology:

- **Identification:** Confirmed via distinct body morphology, punctation patterns, and reproductive features.
- **DNA Barcoding:** Mitochondrial COI gene sequencing proved a distinct 7% to 17% genetic divergence.

**Ecological Significance & Policy Impact**

- **Biodiversity:** Number of known Amphips species in India successfully doubled from three to six.
- **Evolutionary History:** Establishes the Indian peninsula as a vital diversification hub linking Southeast Asian and tropical lineages.
- **Protected Areas:** Highlights the rich, overlooked micro-fauna inside Kinnerasani WS and Sandi Bird Sanctuary.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Underscores the urgent need to protect shrinking wetlands from urbanization and degradation.

81. NFHS-6: Telangana Leads in Access, Lags in Surgical Discipline**Context:**

According to the NFHS-6 report by the Health Ministry, Telangana leads India in maternal healthcare indicators but records the nation's highest Caesarean section (C-section) rate at 62.2%.

Maternal Healthcare & C-Section Crisis:

- **Institutional Deliveries:** Achieved 98.8%, significantly higher than the national average of 90.6%.
- **C-Section Surge:** Rose to 62.2% from NFHS-5 (60.7%), more than double the national average (27.2%).
- **Private vs Public:** Private facilities average 83.9% C-sections; government hospitals stand at 48.1%.
- **Antenatal Care (ANC):** 80.3% of mothers completed at least 4 ANC visits (National: 65.2%).
- **Nutritional Inputs:** 81% of pregnant women consumed Iron and Folic Acid tablets for 100+ days.

Child Health & Nutrition Upgrades:

- **Postnatal Care:** 92.3% of mothers and 93% of newborns received care within two days of birth.
- **Stunting Reduction:** Malnutrition indicator for stunting dropped from 33.1% to 27%.
- **Wasting & Underweight:** Wasting decreased to 16.9% and underweight prevalence fell to 27.8%.

Key Themes:

- **Healthcare Paradox:** High institutional access coexists with potential medical over-commercialization.
- **Policy Intervention:** Emphasizes the need for surgical audits and strict regulation of private medical practices.
- **SDG Target 3:** Serves as critical data for analyzing progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health).

82. Crisis in Karimnagar Silver Filigree Industry

Context:

A 260% surge in silver prices over five years has severely hit Telangana's Karimnagar Silver Filigree industry, dropping business by nearly 50%.

Key Issue:

- Silver prices spiked by 260% in five years, causing sales to plummet by 50%.
- Demand for handcrafted silver artefacts has declined sharply.
- Buyers are shifting towards silver bullion and coins as an investment.

About Silver Filigree:

- Intricate metal craft using fine silver wires, locally known as Tarkashi.
- Crafted manually through precise "eye, flame, and hammer" coordination.
- Famous for figures like deer, peacocks, ships, and fine jewellery.



Historical Background:

- The traditional craft is estimated to be around 450 years old.
- Deeply linked to the rise of the Qutb Shahi and Asaf Jahi periods.
- The art form flourished extensively during the Nizam rule.

Geographical Indication (GI):

- Karimnagar Silver Filigree officially received the GI tag status in 2007.

Economic Challenges:

- High raw material costs have drastically reduced sales and profit margins.
- Making charges have declined significantly, hurting artisan sustainability.
- Artisans are forced to shift towards making smaller and lighter products.

Current Status:

- The industry nearly collapsed after Independence but was revived in the 1990s.
- Around 150 families currently depend on the craftwork under SIFKA.

Important Personalities:

- Ashok Arroju: President of SIFKA and national award-winning artisan.
- Venkateswarlu Akoju: Treasurer of SIFKA, managing artisan affairs.

Related Craft:

- Nakkashi metalcraft from the same region has also been severely affected.
- PM Narendra Modi gifted a regional Nakkashi box during his UAE visit.

Cultural Importance:

- Represents Telangana's rich traditional craftsmanship and soft-power heritage.
- Passed down as precious heirloom art across multiple generations.

83. Telangana Fiscal Performance 2025-26

Context:

Telangana's revenue receipts for FY 2025-26 fell below target to ₹2.6 lakh crore, driven down by massive tax deficits and an escalating debt burden.

Revenue Receipts:

- Total receipts hit ₹2.6 lakh crore against the ₹2.84 lakh crore estimate.
- Actual revenue receipts were short by ₹38,000 crore against the budget target.
- Union tax devolution was stable at ₹21,080 crore (99.46% of target).

Borrowings & Debt:

- Borrowings and liabilities scaled up significantly to ₹77,762 crore.
- Capital receipts breached the initial budget estimate of ₹55,116 crore.
- Shows a rising and unsustainable dependence on debt to fund operations.

Tax Revenue:

- Total tax collection stood at ₹1.52 lakh crore (87.72% of budget target).
- GST collections contributed ₹52,375 crore against a ₹59,704 crore target.
- Stamps & Registration brought ₹15,251 crore; State Excise yielded ₹23,359 crore.

Expenditure Burden:

- Interest payments mounted to ₹29,679 crore (153% of budget estimate).
- Salary and wage bills dragged down state finances at ₹47,400 crore.
- Pensions stood at ₹19,371 crore, with 5 pending DA installments looming.

Deficit Indicators:

- Revenue Deficit: Slipped to ₹9,235 crore against a projected surplus.
- Fiscal Deficit: Slid down heavily to ₹77,762 crore.
- Primary Deficit: Reached ₹48,082 crore, marking 138% of estimations.

Key Concerns:

- A mounting historical debt burden is consuming state revenues via interest.
- Severely reduced fiscal space for infrastructure and capital asset creation.
- Heavy borrowing dependency threatens the stability of long-term welfare spending.

84. Mesolithic–Neolithic Paintings Found at Dasarlapalli

Context:

Recent discoveries of unprotected Mesolithic-Neolithic rock art sites in Telangana, India, have prompted archaeologists to demand immediate conservation.



A painting of an ox on the "Eddula Gundu" rock art site at Dasarlapalli village in Mulugu mandal of Siddipet district.

Location & Geography

- **Location:** Forest outskirts of Dasarlapalli village, Mulugu mandal, Telangana, India.
- **Topography:** Primary sites are situated at an altitude of 624 meters above sea level.

Key Archaeological Sites & Findings

- **Enugu Gundu (Elephant Rock):** Features prehistoric paintings of deer, cattle, and human figures.
- **Unique Weaponry Art:** Highlights a prominent image of a human carrying a backward-pronged harpoon.
- **Musical Rock:** An adjacent boulder containing 24 cup marks, likely used for rituals or recreation.
- **Neolithic Grooves:** Nearby rock grooves used by early humans for sharpening stone weapons.
- **Eddula Gundu (Bull Rock):** Showcases two distinct bull figures and prehistoric paint traces.
- **Quarry Gundu:** Features bull depictions alongside mysterious, script-like symbols.
- **Artifacts:** Abundant microlithic (small stone) hunting tools found scattered across the entire area.

Historical Significance & Conservation

- **Timeline:** Artifacts and art span the Mesolithic to the Neolithic ages.
- **Significance:** Provides crucial evidence of regional early human habitation and cultural evolution.
- **Threats:** Sites are actively deteriorating due to exposure to rain and natural weathering.

85. Supreme Court Halts Tree Felling in KBR Park

Context:

The Supreme Court stayed tree felling in KBR National Park's Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) amidst protests against the H-CITI infrastructure project.

KBR National Park Facts

- **Location:** Situated in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.
- **Geography:** Spans 390 acres, serving as a critical urban green lung and micro-basin cooler.
- **Biodiversity:** Hosts 600+ plant species, 140 bird species, and diverse fauna like peacocks and civets.
- **History:** Formerly the Chiran Palace estate; officially designated as a National Park in 1998.

The Ecological Dispute

- **Infrastructure Threat:** The H-CITI project proposes flyovers encircling the park, endangering over 1,300 trees.
- **ESZ Reduction:** The ESZ was allegedly reduced to just 3–29.8 meters to bypass environmental clearances.
- **Judicial Mandate:** Activists cite a 2022 SC ruling mandating a default 1 km ESZ for protected areas.
- **Ecological Risks:** Deforestation risks worsening urban heat islands, noise pollution, and stormwater flooding.
- **Core Demands:** Activists seek comprehensive studies on carbon emissions, biodiversity loss, and traffic impacts before construction.