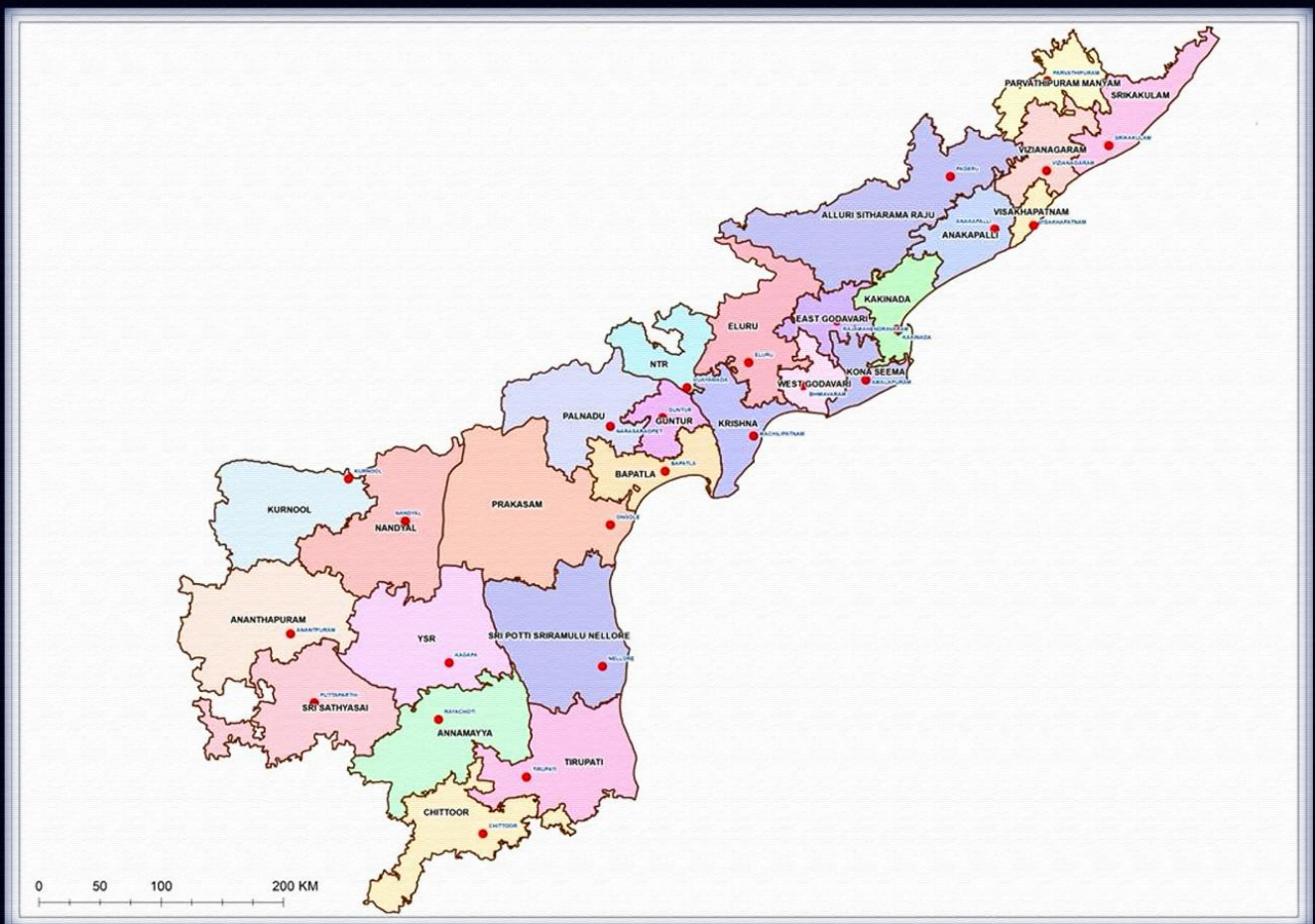


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Andhra Pradesh Regional Current Affairs

1. Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) Wins 2026 Food Planet Prize (Down To Earth)

Context:

Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) won the 2026 Food Planet Prize, awarded by Sweden's Curt Bergfors Foundation, for promoting sustainable, climate-resilient and community-led agricultural practices.

About APCNF

- Launched in 2016 by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) under the Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is one of the world's largest community-managed natural farming initiatives, covering around 1.8 million farming families through 340,000 Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- The programme promotes chemical-free farming, local bio-inputs, crop diversification, soil regeneration and farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing.

Significance

- Reduces dependence on synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, thereby lowering cultivation costs.
- Improves soil health, biodiversity, water conservation and carbon sequestration, contributing to climate-resilient agriculture.
- Enhances farmers' net incomes through reduced input costs and sustainable production.
- Strengthens women's participation, with SHGs playing a pivotal role in extension services and capacity building.
- Serves as a scalable model for sustainable agriculture, now being adopted across 22 Indian States and countries such as Sri Lanka and Zambia.

Challenges

- Ensuring scientific validation and long-term productivity across diverse agro-climatic regions.
- Scaling up training, market access and certification for natural produce.
- Addressing farmers' transition risks and initial yield uncertainties.

Way Forward

- Integrate natural farming with climate adaptation, watershed development and sustainable value chains.
- Strengthen research, digital extension services and market linkages for natural produce.

- Promote convergence with flagship schemes such as National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and DAY-NRLM to accelerate nationwide adoption.

2. 16th-Century Vijayanagara Inscriptions Unearthed in Seshachalam Forest (The Hindu)

Context:

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered three 16th-century inscriptions from the reign of Vijayanagara King Sadasiva Deva Raya at Sadasivakona in the Seshachalam Hills, Tirupati district (Andhra Pradesh).



Key Findings

- The inscriptions, dated 31 July 1554 CE, are engraved in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada, reflecting the multilingual nature of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- They record the construction of a Shiva temple and a monastery (Mutt) at Sadasivakona during the King's pilgrimage.
- The inscriptions mention grants of temple lands (Kaanika) and tax revenues from the Gudimallam Parasurameswara Temple to support daily worship, food offerings and temple administration.
- They also highlight the role of temple officials and accountants in managing religious endowments.

About Vijayanagara King Sadasiva Deva Raya

- Ruled the Vijayanagara Empire from 1542 to 1570 CE and was the last nominal ruler of the Tuluva dynasty.
- Actual administration was largely exercised by Aliya Rama Raya, who served as the empire's de facto ruler.
- His reign witnessed continued patronage of temples, monasteries and religious endowments, as evidenced by inscriptions across South India.
- The period culminated in the Battle of Talikota (1565), after which the Vijayanagara capital, Hampi, was devastated, marking the beginning of the empire's decline.

Historical Significance

- Demonstrates the Vijayanagara Empire's patronage of temples, pilgrimage centres and religious institutions.

- Provides valuable evidence of the temple economy, land grants and revenue administration during the 16th century.
- Highlights the cultural integration of different linguistic communities under Vijayanagara rule.
- Reinforces the historical importance of the Gudimallam Parasurameswara Temple, one of India's oldest surviving Shiva temples (2nd century BCE).

Conservation Significance

- The discovery enriches India's epigraphic and archaeological records, aiding reconstruction of regional history.
- It underscores the importance of preserving archaeological heritage in ecologically sensitive landscapes such as the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve.

Way Forward

- Digitise and scientifically document inscriptions using advanced imaging technologies.
- Promote interdisciplinary research combining archaeology, epigraphy and history.
- Strengthen conservation and responsible heritage tourism while protecting fragile forest ecosystems.

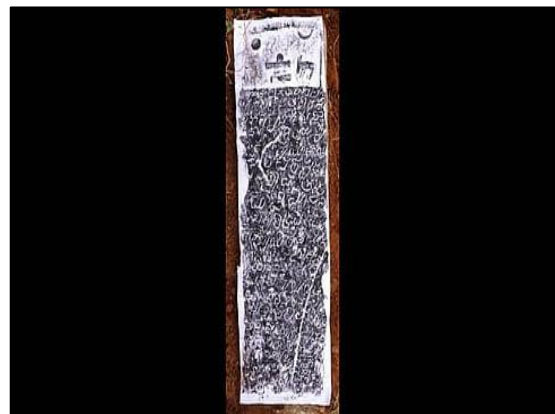
3. 11th-Century Chalukya Inscription Unearthed in Nallamala Forest (Indian Express)

Context:

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered an 11th-century Telugu inscription near Sathakodu village in the Nallamala Reserve Forest (Andhra Pradesh) during an epigraphical survey.
- The inscription belongs to the Chalukyas of Kalyani (Western Chalukyas) and is dated to 1121 CE (Chalukya Vikrama Year 42; Saka 1043).

About the Chalukyas of Kalyani (Western Chalukyas)

- Ruled large parts of the Deccan from 973 to 1189 CE, with Kalyani (Basavakalyan, Karnataka) as their capital.
- Founded by Tailapa II after overthrowing the Rashtrakutas.
- Renowned for temple architecture, administrative efficiency and patronage of Kannada, Sanskrit and Telugu literature.



- Developed the distinctive Western Chalukya architectural style, which served as a transition between the Early Chalukya and Hoysala styles.

About the Chalukya Vikrama Era

- Chalukya Vikrama Year was an era introduced by King Vikramaditya VI of the Western Chalukyas after his accession in 1076 CE.
- It was widely used in inscriptions issued during the Western Chalukya period to record grants, donations and administrative orders.
- The newly discovered inscription is dated to Vikrama Year 42, corresponding to 1121 CE.

Key Findings

- Records the donation of four mattars of wetland and ten matlu of Vaalipolam land under the Pullalacheruvu tank.
- The grant was made by Bhimisetty to support worship at the Sathakodu Devara Temple.
- Written in Telugu script, it reflects the prevalence of Telugu in regional administration.

Historical Significance

- Highlights the importance of the temple economy, where land grants supported religious institutions and local administration.
- Demonstrates the role of irrigation tanks in medieval agrarian and revenue systems.
- Provides evidence of medieval land measurement units, agrarian practices and donor traditions.
- Enriches the epigraphic record of the Nallamala region, offering valuable insights into the socio-economic and cultural history of the Deccan.

4. Right to Privacy Cannot Be Used to Evade Law: Andhra Pradesh High Court (Indian Express)

Context:

- The Andhra Pradesh High Court ruled that the right to privacy cannot be invoked as a shield to evade the law in cases involving alleged forgery and fraud.
- The Court directed the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to share Aadhaar and biometric information with the investigating agency under judicial supervision in a land fraud case.

Constitutional & Legal Framework

- **Article 21:** The Right to Privacy is a fundamental right, recognised by the Supreme Court in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017).

- **Article 300A:** Guarantees that no person shall be deprived of property except by authority of law.
- **Section 33(1) of the Aadhaar Act, 2016:** Permits disclosure of Aadhaar-related information pursuant to an order of a court not inferior to that of a High Court, subject to prescribed safeguards.
- **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016:** Regulates the collection, storage and use of Aadhaar data while safeguarding individual privacy.

Key Observations of the Court

- The right to privacy is not absolute and may be subject to reasonable restrictions in accordance with law.
- Section 33(1) does not impose a blanket prohibition on disclosure of Aadhaar-related information.
- Courts may direct disclosure where it is necessary for a fair investigation, while ensuring adequate safeguards against misuse.
- Privacy protections should not obstruct the investigation and prosecution of offences such as forgery, impersonation and fraud.

Significance

- Reinforces the principle that privacy and the administration of justice must be balanced.
- Clarifies the legal scope of disclosure of Aadhaar information in criminal investigations.
- Strengthens the fight against identity theft, document forgery and property fraud while preserving judicial oversight.

Challenges

- Balancing the Right to Privacy with the need for effective criminal investigation.
- Preventing misuse or unauthorised disclosure of sensitive Aadhaar and biometric data.
- Strengthening cybersecurity to protect personal data from breaches and identity theft.
- Ensuring uniform judicial standards for permitting disclosure under exceptional circumstances.
- Addressing delays in investigation where access to digital identity records is essential.

Way Forward

- Ensure disclosure of Aadhaar-related information only through judicial oversight and in accordance with the principle of proportionality laid down in the Puttaswamy judgment.

- Strengthen data protection, encryption and accountability mechanisms under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- Develop clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for law enforcement agencies to access biometric information in exceptional cases.
- Enhance coordination among UIDAI, investigating agencies and the judiciary to facilitate lawful investigations while protecting individual rights.
- Promote public awareness on safeguarding Aadhaar credentials and reporting identity theft promptly.

5. Commercial Tax Collections in Andhra Pradesh Register Strong Growth (Indian Express)

Context:

- Andhra Pradesh recorded a 19% year-on-year growth in Commercial Tax collections in May 2026, with total collections reaching ₹4,950 crore.
- The State also reported 16% growth in net GST collections, outperforming the national average and most southern States.

About Commercial Taxes

- Commercial Taxes constitute a major source of a State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR).
- They primarily include State GST (SGST), Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products and alcoholic liquor for human consumption, profession tax and other taxes administered by the State.
- The Commercial Taxes Department is responsible for tax administration, compliance enforcement and revenue mobilisation.

Key Highlights

- Higher collections were driven by improved GST compliance, enhanced tax administration and increased economic activity.
- Growth was supported by sectors such as petroleum, real estate, construction, electrical machinery and bullion & jewellery.
- The State also received a higher Integrated GST (IGST) settlement from the Union Government, strengthening its revenue position.

Significance

- Improves the State's fiscal capacity to finance infrastructure, welfare schemes and public services.
- Reflects better tax compliance and efficient revenue administration.
- Enhances fiscal stability by strengthening State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR).
- Supports sustainable economic growth through improved public expenditure.

Challenges

- Dependence on economic activity makes tax collections vulnerable to business cycles.
- GST rate rationalisation and compensation-related issues may affect State revenues.
- Tax evasion, compliance gaps and fluctuations in petroleum consumption remain concerns.

Way Forward

- Strengthen digital tax administration, data analytics and e-governance for better compliance.
- Broaden the tax base while reducing tax evasion.
- Enhance Centre-State coordination for timely IGST settlements.
- Promote formalisation of the economy and sustained economic growth to ensure stable revenue mobilisation.

6. Strengthening Andhra Pradesh's Maritime and Multimodal Infrastructure (Indian Express)

Context:

The Andhra Pradesh Government has accelerated the development of greenfield ports, fishing harbours, airports, logistics parks and road infrastructure under the AP Maritime Policy 2024–29 and the Aerospace & Defence Policy, 2025, aiming to position the State as a major logistics and industrial hub.

Key Initiatives

- Development of greenfield ports at Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam, Mulapeta and Kakinada Gateway to strengthen cargo handling and maritime trade.
- Construction of modern fishing harbours to improve fisheries infrastructure, enhance value chains and support coastal livelihoods.
- Establishment of the Duggarajapatnam Mega Shipbuilding Cluster and AP LINK Logistics Corporation to promote shipbuilding, logistics and industrial growth.
- Operationalisation of Bhogapuram International Airport and development of new greenfield airports and water aerodromes to improve regional connectivity.

Significance

- Supports port-led development and the Blue Economy by leveraging Andhra Pradesh's 1,053-km coastline.
- Reduces logistics costs and improves export competitiveness through multimodal connectivity.
- Attracts investments, generates employment and strengthens manufacturing, shipbuilding and allied industries.

- Enhances fisheries, tourism and regional economic development while improving national and international connectivity.

Challenges

- Timely land acquisition and environmental clearances for large infrastructure projects.
- Ensuring sustainable coastal development without affecting fragile marine ecosystems.
- Mobilising long-term investments and ensuring timely project execution.
- Integrating ports, roads, railways and airports for seamless multimodal logistics.

Way Forward

- Promote integrated infrastructure planning under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
- Adopt sustainable port development practices aligned with the Blue Economy framework.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships (PPP), digital logistics and last-mile connectivity.
- Enhance skill development and coastal community participation to maximise employment and inclusive growth.

7. Proposal to Reclassify Andhra's Madhurawada–Bheemunipatnam Coast as CRZ-II (Indian Express)

Context:

The Andhra Pradesh Government has proposed the reclassification of the Madhurawada–Bheemunipatnam coastal stretch from Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)-III to CRZ-II to facilitate planned urban development and infrastructure expansion.

About Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)

- The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) is governed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 through the CRZ Notification, 2019 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- CRZ-II comprises substantially built-up urban coastal areas within municipal limits, where regulated development is permitted.
- CRZ-III covers relatively undisturbed rural and natural coastal areas, where stricter development controls, including No Development Zones (NDZs), are applicable.

Why is Reclassification Proposed?

- Rapid urbanisation and expansion of civic infrastructure along the corridor have transformed the area into a predominantly urban landscape.

- The proposal seeks to support major infrastructure projects, including the Beach Corridor, Vizag Bay City, Metro Rail, and enhanced connectivity to Bhogapuram International Airport.

Significance

- Facilitates planned urban expansion and improves infrastructure connectivity.
- Attracts investments in tourism, real estate and logistics, contributing to regional economic growth.
- Supports integrated coastal and urban planning in one of Andhra Pradesh's fastest-growing regions.

Challenges

- Increased development pressure may threaten coastal ecosystems, biodiversity and natural habitats.
- Higher vulnerability to coastal erosion, flooding and climate change-induced sea-level rise.
- Balancing infrastructure development with ecological conservation and the livelihoods of coastal communities remains a key challenge.

Way Forward

- Ensure that any reclassification is based on scientific assessment by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) and complies with the CRZ Notification, 2019.
- Strengthen Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and public consultations.
- Promote climate-resilient infrastructure, coastal ecosystem restoration and sustainable urban planning.

8. Aqua Corridor to Strengthen Andhra Pradesh's Blue Economy and Seafood Exports (Indian Express)

Context:

The Andhra Pradesh Government has proposed an Aqua Corridor connecting Amaravati, Bhimavaram, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Krishnapatnam and Nellore to strengthen the State's aquaculture ecosystem, enhance seafood exports and promote value-added fisheries.

About the Aqua Corridor

- The proposed corridor aims to integrate aquaculture production, processing, research, logistics, innovation and exports through a coordinated infrastructure network.

- It will serve as a hub for research institutions, seafood processing units, startups, innovation centres and cold-chain infrastructure, improving the efficiency of the fisheries value chain.
- The initiative aligns with the vision of "Pond to Port", "Farmer to Global Consumer" and the Blue Economy.

Significance

- Enhances Andhra Pradesh's position as India's leading producer of fish and shrimp while boosting export competitiveness.
- Promotes value addition, branding and seafood processing, enabling higher income for fishers and aquaculture farmers.
- Strengthens logistics through better integration of ports, airports and cold-chain facilities.
- Generates employment across fisheries, food processing, logistics, packaging and allied industries.
- Contributes to Viksit Bharat by fostering sustainable coastal and marine economic development.

Challenges

- Strengthening disease surveillance, biosecurity and quality standards in aquaculture.
- Addressing environmental concerns such as water pollution, salinity and coastal ecosystem degradation.
- Expanding cold-chain infrastructure and export logistics.
- Ensuring sustainable aquaculture practices and compliance with international food safety standards.

Way Forward

- Promote sustainable aquaculture under the Blue Economy framework with climate-resilient practices.
- Strengthen value addition through Mega Seafood Processing Parks, modern processing units and export-oriented infrastructure.
- Improve research, innovation, digital traceability and market intelligence.
- Leverage schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) to modernise the sector.

9. Climate Vulnerability and Resilience in Andhra Pradesh (Indian Express)

Context:

The State of India's Environment 2026 report, published by Down To Earth, identified Andhra Pradesh as the State recording the highest climate-induced internal

displacement in 2025 due to cyclones and severe storms, highlighting its increasing vulnerability to extreme weather events.

Key Findings

- The State witnessed a rise in cyclones, heavy rainfall, heatwaves and other extreme weather events, leading to large-scale displacement and disruption of livelihoods.
- Rising temperatures, increasing heat stress and changing rainfall patterns have adversely affected agriculture, water resources and public health.
- The report also highlights concerns related to air pollution, forest diversion, human-wildlife conflict, and climate-sensitive sectors such as fisheries and agriculture.

Significance

- Andhra Pradesh's 1,053-km coastline makes it highly vulnerable to cyclones, storm surges and sea-level rise.
- Climate-induced disasters threaten food security, infrastructure, biodiversity and coastal livelihoods.
- The findings underscore the need for integrating climate resilience into infrastructure planning, agriculture, disaster management and urban development.
- Strengthening adaptive capacity is essential for achieving sustainable development and protecting vulnerable communities.

Government Initiatives

- Andhra Pradesh State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC).
- Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) for disaster preparedness and early warning.
- Expansion of Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) and Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) for weather forecasting.
- Promotion of climate-resilient agriculture through Natural Farming and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Challenges

- Frequent cyclones, coastal erosion and extreme weather events.
- Climate stress on agriculture, fisheries and water resources.
- Rising urbanisation in coastal zones and environmental degradation.
- Limited adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and local institutions.

Way Forward

- Strengthen early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure and disaster preparedness.
- Promote climate-smart agriculture, sustainable coastal zone management and ecosystem restoration.

- Enhance climate risk assessments in development planning and improve inter-departmental coordination.
- Increase investments in renewable energy, resilient livelihoods and community-based climate adaptation.

10. Water Hyacinth Invasion and Urban Water Ecosystem Management (Indian Express)

Context:

The rapid spread of water hyacinth in the Godavari–Eluru Canal has obstructed water flow, degraded water quality and raised concerns over ecological damage and vector-borne diseases, underscoring the need for sustainable waterbody management.

About Water Hyacinth

- Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is a highly invasive aquatic plant native to the Amazon Basin of South America.
- It is recognised among the world's most invasive alien species due to its rapid vegetative reproduction and ability to form dense floating mats over freshwater bodies.

Environmental and Socio-economic Impacts

- Restricts sunlight penetration and reduces dissolved oxygen, threatening fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Accelerates eutrophication by flourishing in nutrient-rich waters contaminated with untreated sewage and agricultural runoff.
- Obstructs irrigation canals, drainage systems and inland navigation, increasing the risk of flooding and reducing water-use efficiency.
- Creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes, increasing the incidence of vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria.
- Affects fisheries, irrigation, biodiversity and recreational use of water bodies, causing economic losses to local communities.

Challenges

- Continuous discharge of untreated sewage and solid waste promotes recurring infestations.
- Mechanical removal alone provides temporary relief due to rapid regeneration.
- Weak coordination among irrigation, urban local bodies and pollution control agencies limits effective management.
- Limited public awareness regarding pollution prevention and invasive species control.

Way Forward

- Adopt an Integrated Aquatic Weed Management approach combining mechanical, biological and eco-friendly control methods.
- Prevent nutrient enrichment through effective sewage treatment, solid waste management and strict pollution control.
- Promote regular monitoring, desilting and installation of trash barriers in canals.
- Encourage utilisation of harvested water hyacinth for compost, biogas, biofertilisers and handicrafts, converting waste into a valuable resource.
- Strengthen inter-agency coordination and community participation to ensure long-term restoration of urban water ecosystems.

11. Andhra Pradesh's Renewable Energy Transition and Green Industrial Growth (Indian Express)

Context:

Andhra Pradesh reiterated its commitment to becoming a Green Energy Hub by promoting renewable energy investments, manufacturing and innovation at the Green India Conference 2026, highlighting the State's long-term clean energy vision.

Renewable Energy Vision of Andhra Pradesh

- The State's Integrated Clean Energy (ICE) Policy, 2024 aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a national leader in renewable energy by promoting solar, wind, pumped storage, green hydrogen and green ammonia projects.
- Leveraging its long coastline, abundant solar radiation and favourable wind corridors, the State seeks to strengthen energy security while accelerating sustainable industrialisation.

Significance

- Expands renewable energy capacity, contributing to India's Net Zero by 2070 target and energy transition goals.
- Promotes green manufacturing, including solar modules, battery storage systems and clean energy equipment, boosting industrial competitiveness.
- Generates large-scale employment through investments in manufacturing, logistics, research and allied services.
- Strengthens energy security by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and encouraging indigenous clean energy technologies.
- Supports the growth of MSMEs, innovation, skill development and export-oriented industries, enhancing Andhra Pradesh's role in the Green Economy.

Challenges

- High capital requirements and financing constraints for renewable energy projects.

- Need for robust transmission infrastructure, grid integration and energy storage systems.
- Land acquisition, environmental clearances and balancing ecological concerns with industrial expansion.
- Bridging the skill gap in emerging clean energy technologies.

Way Forward

- Accelerate implementation of the Integrated Clean Energy (ICE) Policy, 2024 through transparent and investor-friendly mechanisms.
- Strengthen Renewable Energy Parks, transmission networks and battery energy storage infrastructure.
- Promote research, innovation and industry-academia partnerships in green technologies.
- Encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs), MSME participation and local manufacturing to build a resilient renewable energy ecosystem.

12. Archaeological Discoveries in Nallamala: Insights into Andhra Pradesh's Early History (Indian Express)

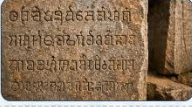
Context:

A survey by the Epigraphy Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in the Nallamala–Nagarjunasagar–Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) uncovered prehistoric rock paintings, geometric motifs and inscriptions dating from the Megalithic period to the 16th century CE, highlighting the region's rich cultural heritage.



Key Discoveries

- Rock paintings and geometric designs discovered in caves near the Krishna River are preliminarily dated to the Megalithic and Early Historic periods (around 1500 BCE), indicating early human habitation.
- Inscriptions spanning nearly 1,400 years were documented, including Satavahana-period inscriptions in Prakrit language using Brahmi script, along with later inscriptions in Telugu and Kannada, reflecting the linguistic and cultural evolution of the region.

		Rock Art comprises prehistoric paintings and engravings depicting hunting, rituals, animals and daily life, serving as valuable evidence of early human societies.
		Megalithic Culture (c. 1500 BCE–300 BCE) is characterised by large stone burial monuments, iron tools, Black-and-Red Ware pottery and the emergence of settled communities.
		Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions engraved on durable materials such as stone, metal and caves, providing authentic evidence for reconstructing political, social, economic and cultural history.
		The Satavahanas (c. 1st Century BCE–3rd Century CE) were among the earliest major Deccan dynasties, promoting trade, Prakrit literature and Buddhist institutions.

Historical Significance

- The discoveries provide valuable evidence of prehistoric life, settlement patterns, religious practices and artistic traditions in Andhra Pradesh.
- Satavahana inscriptions strengthen understanding of one of the earliest historical dynasties that promoted trade, urbanisation and Buddhist culture in the Deccan.
- The evolution from Brahmi to later regional scripts illustrates the development of language, administration and socio-political institutions over centuries.
- The findings reinforce the importance of the Nallamala region as a continuous centre of human habitation and cultural interaction.

Need for Conservation

- Scientific documentation, digital archiving and advanced dating techniques are essential to preserve these invaluable archaeological assets.
- Strengthening heritage conservation through community participation, eco-sensitive tourism and protection from vandalism and natural degradation is crucial.
- Collaboration between the ASI, Forest Department and academic institutions can promote research while ensuring sustainable management of heritage sites.

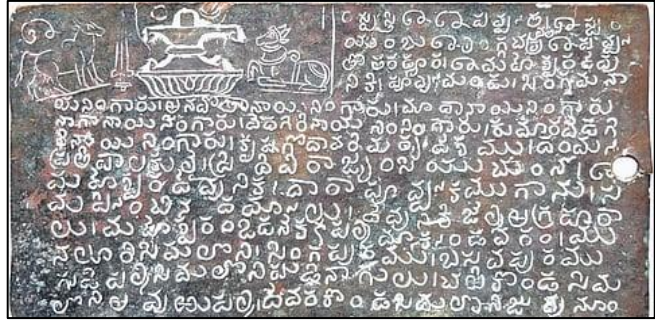
13. National Museum of Epigraphy in Tirupati: Preserving India's Inscriptional Heritage (Indain Express)

Context:

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has agreed in principle to allot land for establishing the National Museum of Epigraphy in Tirupati, an initiative of the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to preserve and promote India's inscriptional heritage.

About the National Museum of Epigraphy

- The museum will function as a national repository, research and educational centre showcasing India's epigraphic heritage from ancient to medieval times.
- It will display stone inscriptions, copper-plate grants, photo galleries, digital exhibits and interactive information kiosks, highlighting the evolution of Indian scripts, languages and administrative systems.



Static Perspective

- Epigraphy is the scientific study of inscriptions engraved on durable materials such as stone, metal, terracotta and cave walls. It is one of the most reliable sources for reconstructing ancient and medieval history.
- Major ancient Indian scripts include Brahmi (ancestor of most modern Indian scripts) and Kharosthi (used mainly in the north-western region). Later scripts such as Gupta, Sharada and Tankri reflect the gradual evolution of writing traditions.
- Copper-plate inscriptions generally recorded royal land grants, administrative orders, taxation, genealogy and religious donations, while stone inscriptions commemorated victories, public works and royal proclamations.

Significance

- Preserves India's rich inscriptional and linguistic heritage for future generations.
- Promotes archaeological research, historical studies and awareness of India's cultural evolution.
- Strengthens heritage tourism in Tirupati while creating opportunities for academic collaboration and skill development in archaeology and epigraphy.
- Supports the conservation and digital documentation of fragile historical records.

Way Forward

- Integrate advanced technologies such as 3D scanning, digital archiving and AI-assisted inscription analysis for conservation and research.
- Encourage collaboration among ASI, universities, museums and international research institutions.
- Promote educational outreach through exhibitions, workshops and heritage literacy programmes to popularise India's epigraphic traditions.

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