

TELANGANA CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Telangana Regional Current Affairs

1. Rising Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Telangana (Indian Express)

Context:

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6), 2023–24 indicates a rising prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity in Telangana, highlighting the growing challenge of lifestyle-related illnesses.

About Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

- NCDs are chronic diseases that are generally non-infectious, progress slowly and require long-term management. Major NCDs include cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs account for nearly 74% of global deaths, making them the leading cause of mortality worldwide.

Key Drivers

- Rapid urbanisation and sedentary lifestyles.
- Unhealthy diets rich in processed foods, sugar and trans fats.
- Tobacco and alcohol consumption.
- Physical inactivity, obesity, stress and ageing population.
- Delayed diagnosis and inadequate awareness of preventive healthcare.

Implications

- Increases the burden on healthcare infrastructure and public health expenditure.
- Reduces workforce productivity and adversely affects economic growth.
- Raises the risk of premature mortality and long-term disabilities.
- Exacerbates socio-economic inequalities due to high out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.
- Challenges the achievement of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

Government Initiatives

- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).
- Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) for community-based screening and early diagnosis.
- Fit India Movement, Eat Right India, and National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) to promote healthy lifestyles.

Way Forward

- Strengthen population-based screening, early diagnosis and digital health surveillance.

- Promote healthy diets, regular physical activity and behavioural change through community awareness.
- Enhance primary healthcare services and ensure affordable access to essential medicines.
- Foster multi-sectoral action involving education, urban planning and food regulation to reduce NCD risk factors.

2. Urban Heat Island Effect and Heatwave Resilience in Telangana (Indian Express)

Context:

A study published in *Frontiers in Environmental Health* identified Hyderabad as one of the benchmark cities for assessing heatwave-related mortality in India, highlighting the growing impact of the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect and the need for climate-resilient urban planning.

About the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect

- The Urban Heat Island Effect is a phenomenon where urban areas experience significantly higher temperatures than surrounding rural regions due to dense built-up surfaces, reduced vegetation, vehicular emissions and waste heat from buildings and industries.
- Impervious surfaces such as concrete and asphalt absorb and retain heat during the day, resulting in elevated night-time temperatures.

Impacts

- Increases the frequency and intensity of heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion, heatstroke and cardiovascular disorders.
- Elevates energy demand for cooling, placing additional stress on power infrastructure.
- Worsens air quality by accelerating the formation of ground-level ozone and aggravating respiratory ailments.
- Reduces labour productivity, especially among outdoor workers, and adversely affects vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children and low-income communities.
- Intensifies water stress and diminishes urban liveability.

Government Initiatives

- National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and the National Mission for Sustainable Habitat promote climate-resilient urban development.
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Guidelines on Heatwaves support preparedness and response.
- Telangana has implemented Heat Action Plans, expanded early warning systems and promoted urban greening initiatives.

Way Forward

- Increase urban green spaces, urban forests, parks and green roofs to reduce surface temperatures.
- Adopt cool roofs, reflective building materials and climate-responsive urban design.
- Strengthen heat early warning systems, public awareness campaigns and cooling centres for vulnerable populations.
- Integrate heat-resilient infrastructure and climate adaptation into urban planning while improving access to drinking water and healthcare during extreme heat events.

3. Pranahita–Chevella Project and Integrated Water Resource Development in Telangana (Indian Express)

Context:

The Pranahita–Chevella Project was recently in the news following discussions on inter-state approvals, bringing renewed attention to its significance for irrigation, drinking water security and regional development in Telangana.

About the Pranahita–Chevella Project

- The project is a major lift irrigation scheme designed to utilise the waters of the Pranahita River, a major tributary of the Godavari, to provide irrigation, drinking water and industrial water to drought-prone regions of Telangana.
- Following the formation of Telangana, parts of the original project were redesigned and integrated into the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), while proposals for utilising water at Tummidihetti continue to be explored through inter-state consultations.

About Rivers

- Godavari River, known as the “Dakshin Ganga”, is India's second-longest river and the largest peninsular river. It enters Telangana from Maharashtra and is the State's principal river system.
- Pranahita River is the largest tributary of the Godavari in terms of water discharge. It is formed by the confluence of the Wardha and Wainganga rivers and flows along the Telangana–Maharashtra border before joining the Godavari.
- Major tributaries of the Godavari in Telangana include Pranahita, Manjira, Manair, Kinnerasani and Sabari.

Significance

- Expands irrigation in drought-prone districts and enhances agricultural productivity.
- Ensures reliable drinking and industrial water supply while promoting balanced regional development.

- Supports groundwater recharge, rural livelihoods and climate-resilient agriculture.
- Strengthens water security through optimum utilisation of Godavari basin resources.

Challenges

- Inter-state coordination and statutory clearances.
- Environmental and forest clearances in ecologically sensitive areas.
- Rehabilitation and resettlement of project-affected families.
- High financial and operational costs of lift irrigation projects.

Way Forward

- Strengthen cooperative federalism through river basin-level coordination and timely approvals.
- Ensure sustainable river basin management by balancing development with ecological conservation.
- Improve water-use efficiency through micro-irrigation, canal modernisation and real-time water monitoring.
- Integrate irrigation projects with watershed development and climate-resilient water resource planning.

4. Kakatiya Temple Architecture and Heritage Conservation in Telangana (Indian Express)

Context:

A 700-year-old Kakatiya-era Shiva temple at Sanigaram village, Warangal district, is facing severe structural deterioration, prompting calls for urgent scientific conservation and heritage documentation.

About Kakatiya Temple Architecture

- The Kakatiya Dynasty (12th–14th Century CE), with Warangal (Orugallu) as its capital, made significant contributions to temple architecture, irrigation and urban planning.
- Kakatiya temples are renowned for their star-shaped platforms, richly carved pillars, ornate doorways, intricately sculpted ceilings, lathe-turned pillars and advanced stone masonry, reflecting exceptional engineering and artistic excellence.
- Temples typically consist of a Garbhagriha (sanctum), Antarala (vestibule), Ardha Mandapa and Maha Mandapa, constructed using locally available granite and sandstone.

Significance

- Kakatiya temples are valuable sources for understanding the political, religious and socio-cultural history of medieval Telangana.
- They promote heritage tourism, regional identity and traditional craftsmanship while preserving India's architectural legacy.
- The Sanigaram temple highlights the need to conserve lesser-known heritage monuments beyond major tourist sites.

Challenges

- Structural deterioration due to weathering, vegetation growth and water seepage.
- Urbanisation, encroachments and inadequate maintenance.
- Limited documentation and shortage of skilled conservation professionals.
- Insufficient public awareness and community participation in heritage preservation.

Way Forward

- Undertake scientific conservation using detailed documentation, 3D laser scanning, digital mapping and structural assessment before restoration.
- Strengthen collaboration between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), State Archaeology Department, local bodies and academic institutions.
- Promote community participation, heritage education and sustainable cultural tourism.
- Ensure regular monitoring and legal protection under heritage conservation laws.

5. Sustainable Tourism Development in Telangana: Balancing Growth and Heritage Conservation (Indian Express)

Context:

The Telangana Government has initiated the preparation of master plans for eight Special Tourism Areas under the Telangana Tourism Policy to develop world-class tourism infrastructure, promote experience-based tourism and ensure the sustainable utilisation of the State's natural, cultural and heritage assets.

Tourism Potential of Telangana

- Telangana offers a diverse tourism landscape encompassing heritage, spiritual, eco-tourism, adventure and tribal tourism.
- Prominent attractions include the Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Yadadri, Bhadrachalam, Nagarjuna Sagar, Bhongir Fort, Kaleshwaram, Pochampally (UNWTO Best Tourism Village) and the tribal landscapes of Adilabad, reflecting the State's rich cultural and ecological diversity.

Significance

- Promotes heritage, eco-, spiritual, adventure and tribal tourism, creating a diversified and resilient tourism economy.
- Generates employment and entrepreneurship in hospitality, handicrafts, transport and allied sectors, fostering inclusive local development.
- Enhances regional connectivity, infrastructure and investment, supporting balanced regional development.
- Preserves cultural heritage, biodiversity and indigenous traditions through sustainable tourism practices.
- Contributes to the Telangana Rising 2047 vision by strengthening economic diversification and sustainable growth.

Challenges

- Balancing tourism growth with environmental conservation and heritage preservation.
- Infrastructure gaps, waste management and carrying-capacity concerns at major tourist destinations.
- Limited promotion of lesser-known destinations and inadequate community participation.
- Shortage of skilled tourism professionals and quality visitor services.
- Climate change and unregulated tourism threatening fragile ecosystems and heritage monuments.

Way Forward

- Promote responsible, community-based and eco-friendly tourism through active participation of local communities.
- Develop integrated tourism circuits with improved last-mile connectivity, digital services and smart visitor amenities.
- Strengthen scientific conservation of heritage monuments and natural ecosystems in collaboration with expert agencies.
- Encourage Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), digital promotion, skill development and sustainable tourism standards to enhance global competitiveness.

6. Hyderabad Bird Atlas: Citizen Science for Urban Biodiversity Conservation (Indian Express)

Context:

The Hyderabad Bird Atlas (HBA) has launched its fourth survey season to strengthen documentation of bird diversity within Hyderabad and promote citizen-led biodiversity monitoring, contributing to scientific research and urban conservation.

About the Hyderabad Bird Atlas

- The Hyderabad Bird Atlas (HBA) is a citizen science initiative jointly organised by WWF-India, Hyderabad Birding Pals and Deccan Birders, with support from the Telangana Forest Department and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).
- The project systematically documents the distribution, abundance, breeding status and seasonal migration of birds within Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits, creating a scientific database to guide conservation planning.



Significance

- Strengthens urban biodiversity conservation by generating reliable data on bird populations and habitat health.
- Supports evidence-based urban planning by identifying ecologically sensitive habitats requiring protection.
- Tracks the impact of urbanisation, climate change and habitat fragmentation on resident and migratory bird species.
- Promotes citizen science, encouraging public participation in environmental monitoring and fostering environmental stewardship.
- Contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 – Life on Land through improved biodiversity conservation.

Challenges

- Rapid urbanisation, wetland degradation and loss of green spaces affecting bird habitats.
- Pollution, invasive species and climate change altering migration and breeding patterns.
- Need for sustained public participation, long-term monitoring and integration of scientific data into urban planning.

Way Forward

- Strengthen conservation of urban wetlands, lakes, forests and green corridors to protect avian habitats.
- Integrate biodiversity mapping into city master plans and environmental impact assessments.
- Promote citizen science through educational institutions, digital platforms and community outreach programmes.
- Enhance collaboration among government agencies, research institutions, NGOs and local communities for long-term biodiversity management.

7. Groundwater Quality and Drinking Water Security in Telangana (Indian Express)

Context:

Recent groundwater quality assessments in Telangana revealed persistent fluoride, nitrate and salinity contamination across several districts despite significant improvements in groundwater levels following above-normal rainfall, highlighting concerns over long-term drinking water security.

Groundwater Scenario in Telangana

- Telangana relies heavily on groundwater for drinking, irrigation and domestic use.
- Around 81% of the State is underlain by hard-rock formations such as granites, gneisses, schists, quartzites and Deccan basalts, making groundwater recharge and quality highly dependent on geological conditions and sustainable resource management.

Major Concerns

- Excess fluoride in groundwater poses risks of dental and skeletal fluorosis.
- Widespread nitrate contamination, mainly due to excessive fertiliser use, agricultural runoff, sewage seepage and wastewater infiltration, threatens public health.
- Rising salinity (high Total Dissolved Solids) reduces water quality and affects domestic and agricultural use.
- Groundwater availability has improved, but water quality remains a critical challenge.

Significance

- Ensuring safe drinking water is essential for public health, food security and sustainable development.
- Healthy aquifers support agriculture, rural livelihoods and climate resilience.
- Scientific groundwater monitoring enables evidence-based planning and sustainable water governance.
- Improved groundwater quality contributes to achieving SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Government Initiatives

- Mission Bhagiratha for safe drinking water supply.
- Jal Jeevan Mission to provide functional household tap connections.
- Groundwater quality monitoring by the Telangana Ground Water Department.
- Promotion of rainwater harvesting, watershed development and groundwater recharge measures.

Way Forward

- Strengthen continuous groundwater quality monitoring and aquifer mapping.
- Promote Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), artificial recharge and protection of recharge zones.
- Encourage balanced fertiliser use, scientific wastewater management and climate-resilient agriculture.
- Enhance community participation, water quality surveillance and awareness to ensure long-term drinking water security.

8. Code on Wages, 2019: Strengthening Labour Welfare and Wage Security (Indian Express)

Context:

The Telangana High Court has decided to reconsider a case relating to the publication of minimum wage notifications under the Code on Wages, 2019, bringing renewed attention to the implementation of wage reforms and protection of workers' rights.

About the Code on Wages, 2019

- The Code on Wages, 2019 consolidates four labour laws relating to wages, bonus and remuneration into a single legislation.
- It aims to ensure fair, timely and equitable payment of wages while simplifying the regulatory framework for employers.
- The Code empowers governments to fix minimum wages and introduces the concept of a National Floor Wage, below which minimum wages cannot ordinarily be fixed.

Significance

- Ensures minimum income security and safeguards workers against exploitation.
- Promotes social justice by extending wage protection across both organised and unorganised sectors.
- Reduces wage discrimination by upholding the principle of equal remuneration.
- Enhances industrial harmony through a transparent and uniform wage framework.
- Supports inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction and improved living standards by strengthening workers' purchasing power.
- Simplifies labour regulations, improving compliance and the ease of doing business.

Challenges

- Weak enforcement, particularly in the informal sector where a majority of workers are employed.
- Delay in periodic revision and notification of minimum wages.
- Low awareness among workers regarding their legal entitlements.

- Rising inflation reducing the real value of minimum wages.
- Ensuring effective coverage of contract, migrant and gig workers.

Way Forward

- Ensure timely revision and transparent notification of minimum wages.
- Strengthen digital wage payments, labour inspections and grievance redressal mechanisms.
- Expand awareness campaigns on labour rights and legal protections.
- Improve coordination among governments, employers and trade unions for effective implementation of labour reforms.

9. Bhimsari Stone Pillar: A Testament to Telangana's Religious Harmony and Cultural Syncretism (Indian Express)

Context:

A 10th-century four-faced stone pillar discovered at Bhimsari village in Adilabad district depicts Buddha in Mahaparinirvana, Vishnu in Sayana (reclining) posture, Uma-Alingana Murti (Shiva embracing Parvati) and a royal warrior, highlighting Telangana's rich tradition of religious coexistence and artistic excellence.

About the Bhimsari Stone Pillar

- The pillar is a rare example of medieval Deccan temple sculpture, reflecting the harmonious coexistence of Buddhist, Shaivite and Vaishnavite traditions.
- The depiction of Mahaparinirvana—the Buddha's final liberation from the cycle of birth and death—is particularly significant, as such sculptures are uncommon in Telangana.
- The monument also demonstrates the continuity of Buddhist influence in temple art even after the decline of organised Buddhism in the region.



Significance

- Reflects religious harmony and cultural syncretism that characterised medieval Telangana.
- Showcases the artistic excellence of temple sculptors through the integration of multiple religious traditions on a single monument.
- Highlights Telangana's rich Buddhist heritage, complementing sites such as Nagarjunakonda, Alampur, Vemulawada and Papanasi.
- Strengthens the historical understanding of the Deccan's pluralistic cultural landscape and supports heritage-based tourism.

- Reinforces the need to preserve lesser-known archaeological sites for future research and cultural education.

Challenges

- Natural weathering, vandalism and encroachments threatening heritage monuments.
- Inadequate documentation, conservation and public awareness of rural archaeological sites.
- Limited heritage tourism infrastructure around lesser-known monuments.

Way Forward

- Undertake comprehensive archaeological documentation and scientific conservation of the site.
- Promote digital archiving, heritage mapping and community participation in conservation efforts.
- Integrate such monuments into Telangana's heritage tourism circuits through improved interpretation facilities and visitor infrastructure.
- Strengthen collaboration among government agencies, academic institutions and local communities to safeguard Telangana's cultural legacy.

10. Hasthala Veeranna Sculpture: Preserving Telangana's Kakatiya Sculptural Heritage (Indian Express)

Context:

A rare 600–800-year-old Kaala Bhairava sculpture, locally worshipped as Hasthala Veeranna, has drawn attention due to concerns over its neglect. Located in the Kanakagiri Hills of Bhadrachalam district, the monument underscores the need to conserve Telangana's rich archaeological and cultural heritage.

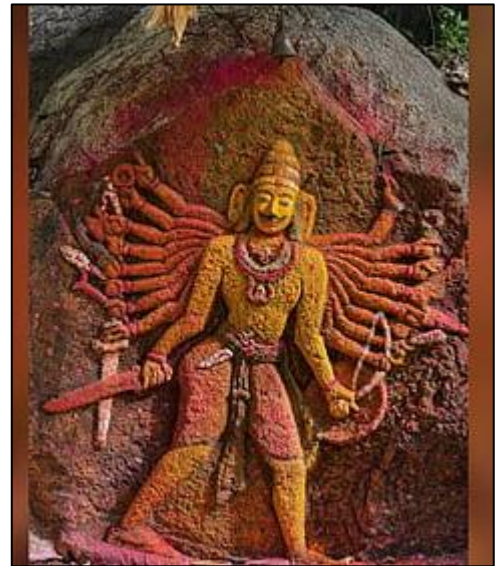
About the Sculpture

- Believed to date to the Kakatiya period (12th–14th century CE), the sculpture is carved on a massive boulder and represents one of the rarest depictions of Kaala Bhairava, a fierce manifestation of Lord Shiva associated with protection and guardianship.

- The deity is portrayed in the Tribhanga posture, with 18 arms carrying different weapons, flaming hair (Jwalakesha) and a garland and belt of skulls (Kapala Mala and Kapala Mekhala), reflecting the exceptional craftsmanship and iconographic traditions of medieval Telangana.

Significance

- Showcases the artistic excellence and sculptural traditions of the Kakatiya dynasty.
- Reflects the prominence of Shaivism and the rich iconographic heritage of medieval Telangana.
- Strengthens the historical significance of the Kanakagiri region and enriches the State's archaeological record.
- Offers immense potential for heritage tourism, cultural education and academic research.
- Reinforces the importance of preserving lesser-known monuments as symbols of Telangana's cultural identity.



Challenges

- Natural weathering, vegetation growth and inadequate conservation measures.
- Limited documentation, research and heritage awareness.
- Poor accessibility and lack of tourism infrastructure.
- Threats from vandalism and unregulated human activity.

Way Forward

- Undertake scientific documentation, archaeological excavation and conservation of the monument.
- Strengthen protection through the State Archaeology Department and promote digital heritage mapping.
- Develop the site as part of Telangana's heritage tourism circuits with eco-sensitive infrastructure.
- Encourage community participation, academic research and awareness programmes to safeguard the State's cultural legacy.

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