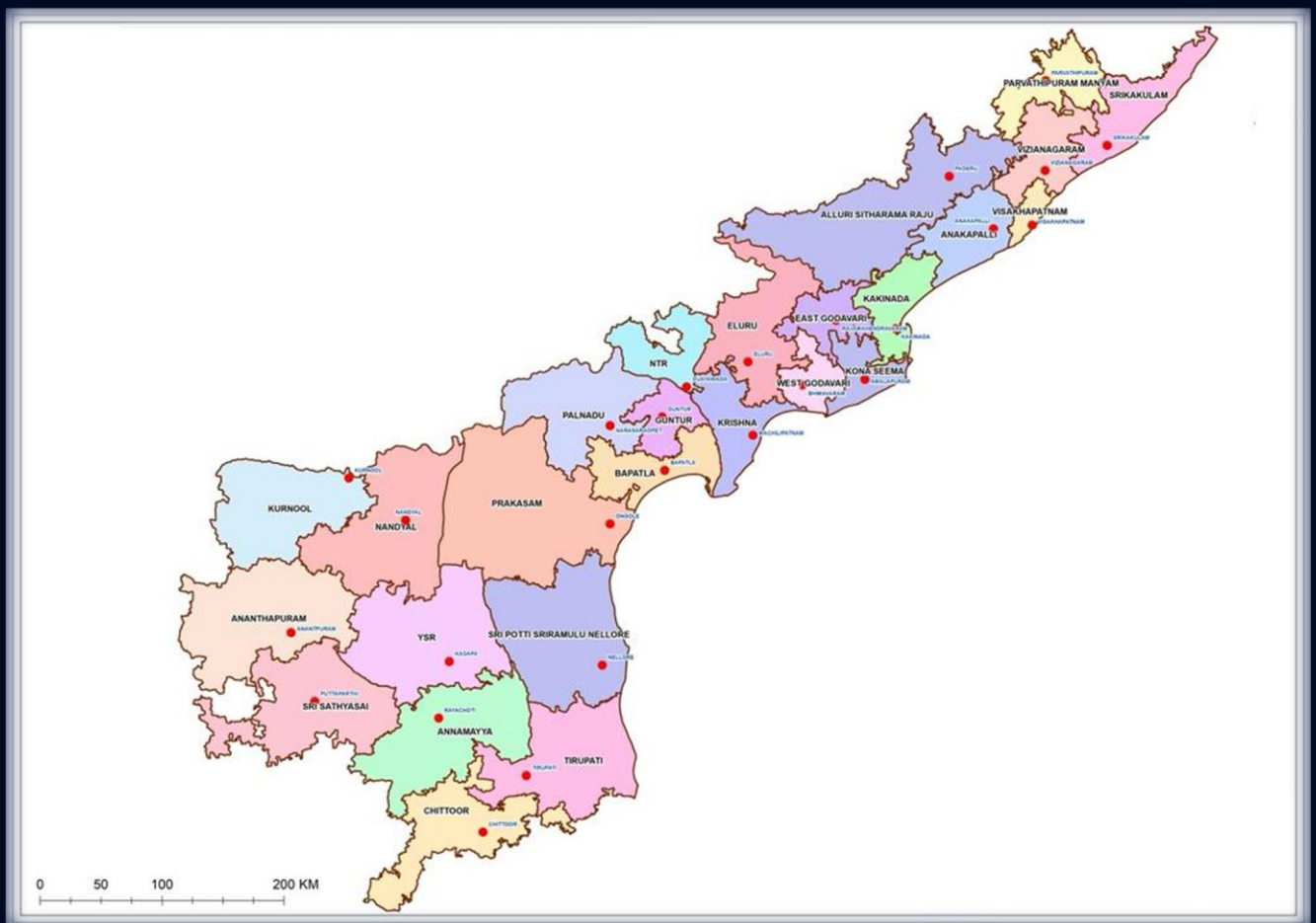


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1. Groundwater Stress in Visakhapatnam – Indian Express

Why in News?

- July 2026 monitoring showed inadequate aquifer recharge across several parts of Visakhapatnam district amid uneven monsoon rainfall.
- Arilova recorded the deepest groundwater level at 36.25 metres below ground level (mbgl), compared with 28.70 m in June.

Key Groundwater Stress Areas

- Endada: 30.86 m; Madhurawada: 27.23 m; Pedda Rushikonda: 24.14 m below ground level.
- Rapid urban expansion, land-use change and groundwater extraction are increasing pressure on aquifers.

Geographical Dimension

- Visakhapatnam has varied aquifer conditions: southern alluvial plains generally have better groundwater potential, while northern hard-rock/hilly areas have lower resources.
- Groundwater behaviour varies with geology, rainfall distribution and extraction intensity.

Concerns

- Reduced recharge can affect urban water security, domestic supply and groundwater-dependent livelihoods.
- Excessive extraction may aggravate aquifer depletion and water-quality risks.

Way Forward

- Strengthen rainwater harvesting, recharge structures and restoration of tanks/water bodies.
- Integrate aquifer-based planning with urban development and regulate excessive extraction.
- Promote efficient water use and groundwater monitoring for long-term water security.

2. Andhra Pradesh State Action Plan on Zoonotic Diseases – Indian Express

Why in News?

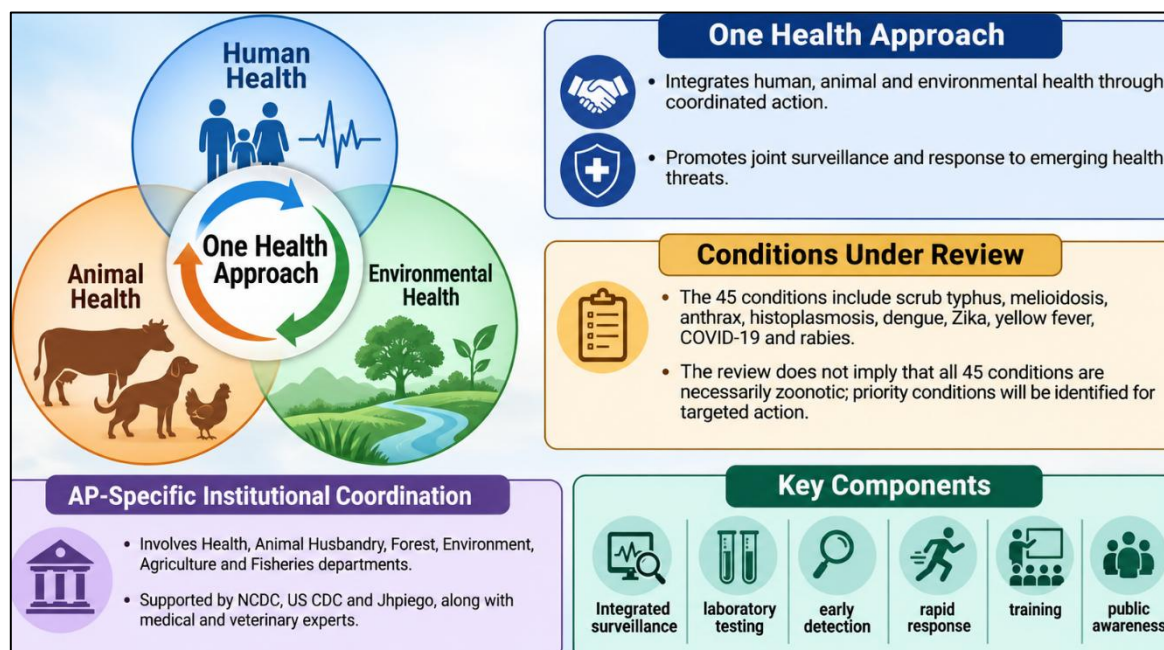
- Andhra Pradesh has begun drafting a State Action Plan on zoonotic diseases following a three-day One Health workshop in Vijayawada.
- Officials are reviewing 45 conditions to identify priority diseases for surveillance and control measures.

What are Zoonotic Diseases?

- Diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans, directly or indirectly.
- Their emergence is influenced by interactions among humans, animals and the environment.

Significance

- Strengthens AP's outbreak preparedness and health security.



- Promotes coordinated action at the human–animal–environment interface.
- Complements India's National One Health Mission and broader One Health framework.

3. AI-Powered City Flood Alert System in Andhra Pradesh – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh is deploying “City Flood Alert”, an AI-powered urban flood forecasting system, first in Vijayawada, with plans to extend it to all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- The system is designed to provide 48-hour advance rainfall outlooks and up to 6-hour flash-flood warnings, enabling timely preventive action.

Key Features

- Digital Twin of Vijayawada: Ward-wise mapping using satellite-based Digital Elevation Models (DEM) to identify elevations, drainage channels and low-lying areas.

- **Historical Data:** Nearly three decades of Budameru flood data are incorporated to model water flow and inundation under different rainfall scenarios.
- **Drainage Risk Mapping:** Identifies silted underground and surface drainage channels that may cause waterlogging and backflow.
- **Predictive Technology:** Builds on Flood Astra, an urban flood-forecasting model developed by researchers at IIT Gandhinagar.

Institutional Framework

- RTGS AWARE Division – technology and predictive platform.
- APSDMA – disaster-management coordination and response.
- IIT Gandhinagar – hydrological and modelling expertise.

Significance

- Shifts disaster management from reactive relief to anticipatory action.
- Enables pre-positioning of pumps, clearing culverts, traffic diversions and targeted evacuation.
- Strengthens climate-resilient urban planning and technology-enabled governance.
- Provides a potential model for AI-driven disaster management across AP's ULBs.

4. Mee Bhoomi-Blockchain: Blockchain-Based Land Records in Andhra Pradesh – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh launched the Mee Bhoomi-Blockchain pilot on 23 July 2026 to create an integrated and reliable “Single Source of Truth” for land records.
- It seeks to resolve discrepancies arising from separate databases maintained by the Revenue, Survey and Registration Departments.

Key Features

- Developed by NIC Andhra Pradesh with the Centre of Excellence in Blockchain Technology, NIC Bengaluru, using Hyperledger Fabric.
- Provides a unique digital identity for land parcels, enabling traceable and tamper-resistant records.
- Pilot covers seven mandals across seven districts, including Aspari, Penumuru, Repalle, Gannavaram, Kadiyam, Gummalakshmipuram and Kothavalasa.

Significance

- Reduces land disputes and fraudulent transactions through immutable transaction histories.
- Promotes transparency, accountability and inter-departmental data integration.
- Can improve faster mutation, registration and verification of land records.
- Strengthens e-governance and citizen-centric land administration.

Challenges

- Accuracy depends on correct digitisation and resurvey of existing records.
- Requires strong cybersecurity, privacy safeguards, interoperability and grievance redressal.

Way Forward

- **Comprehensive land-record verification:** Conduct periodic resurvey, geo-referencing and field-level verification to correct legacy errors before integrating records onto the blockchain.
- **Robust digital governance framework:** Establish strong cybersecurity and data-privacy protocols, interoperable departmental databases, regular security audits and an accessible time-bound grievance-redressal mechanism.

5. Sanjeevani: Integrated Digital Healthcare System in Andhra Pradesh – Indian Express

Why in News?

- The Andhra Pradesh Government has invited tenders for statewide implementation of 'Sanjeevani', an Integrated Digital Care Coordination and Healthcare Delivery System.
- Following a successful Kuppam pilot launched in July 2025, the system is being expanded across 28 districts, targeting health records and care coordination for over 5 crore citizens.

Key Features

- Creates integrated digital health records, enabling access to patients' medical histories.
- Provides early risk alerts, doctor-appointment scheduling and tele-consultations.
- Tracks treatment adherence from diagnosis to recovery, promoting a continuum of care.
- Integrates information from multiple Central and State health schemes to overcome fragmented service delivery.
- The platform will be developed and maintained for five years, with selection through Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).

Significance

- Better coordination: Enables real-time sharing of health information across healthcare services.
- Preventive healthcare: Risk alerts can facilitate early intervention.
- Financial protection: Better treatment coordination can reduce out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE).

- Accessibility: Tele-consultation can improve healthcare access, particularly for underserved populations.
- Strengthens digital health governance and citizen-centric service delivery.

Challenges

- Data privacy and cybersecurity risks involving sensitive health information.
- Digital divide and inadequate digital infrastructure may exclude vulnerable groups.

Way Forward

- Adopt strong health-data protection, consent and cybersecurity standards.
- Strengthen digital infrastructure and provide assisted digital services to ensure inclusive access.

6. Omicron RF.5 Variant Detected in Andhra Pradesh – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Omicron RF.5, a sub-lineage of SARS-CoV-2, was detected in four COVID-19 samples from Kadapa district after genome sequencing at the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune.
- The detection prompted the State Health Department to review COVID-19 surveillance and hospital preparedness.

Key Facts

- RF.5 is a naturally evolved Omicron sub-lineage, not a recombinant strain.
- It has been reported in Singapore and parts of Southeast Asia and is being monitored through genomic surveillance.
- Reported symptoms are broadly similar to other Omicron infections: fever, sore throat, cough, headache, fatigue and body aches.
- Current evidence does not indicate greater disease severity compared with other circulating Omicron variants.

Significance

- Highlights the importance of genome sequencing in detecting and tracking emerging variants.
- Enables early warning, targeted surveillance and evidence-based public-health responses.
- Reinforces the need for pandemic preparedness, especially for vulnerable populations and healthcare facilities.

AP's Preparedness

- Hospitals have been directed to maintain readiness, including testing facilities, isolation capacity and essential medical supplies.
- Continued surveillance and sequencing can help identify changes in transmissibility, severity or immune escape.

7. Thalliki Vandanam Scheme: Education Support in Andhra Pradesh – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh rolled out Thalliki Vandanam on 22 July 2026, providing financial assistance to eligible mothers/guardians for children studying from Classes I–XII, including Intermediate.
- The scheme has a ₹10,120.78 crore allocation for 2026–27 and is expected to cover 67.47 lakh students.

Key Features

- Provides ₹15,000 per child annually, irrespective of the number of eligible children in a family.
- ₹13,000 is transferred through Aadhaar-linked DBT, while ₹2,000 is utilised for school/junior-college maintenance, sanitation, hygiene and infrastructure.
- Covers recognised government, aided, private unaided and residential institutions.
- Uses income, landholding, vehicle ownership and other criteria for targeted beneficiary selection.

Significance

- Reduces financial barriers to education and can improve enrolment and retention.
- Supports human capital formation and long-term socio-economic mobility.
- Strengthens mother-centric welfare and DBT-based governance.
- The infrastructure component complements household support with school-level improvements.

Challenges

- Ensuring accurate beneficiary identification and preventing inclusion/exclusion errors.
- Ensuring effective utilisation of the ₹2,000 ecosystem component.

Way Forward

- Strengthen real-time beneficiary verification and grievance redressal.
- Link financial assistance with broader measures for learning outcomes, school infrastructure and dropout prevention.

8. Operation Tusker: Tackling Human–Elephant Conflict in Andhra Pradesh – Indian Express

Why in News?

- The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department successfully captured a lone wild tusker under 'Operation Tusker' in the Jagamarla forest near Palamaner, Chittoor district.
- The elephant had repeatedly entered villages and damaged crops along the Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary boundary, causing concern among local communities.

Key Features

- The operation involved forest personnel and five trained Kumki elephants to safely restrain the tusker.
- Crop damage was reported in parts of Bangarupalem, Palamaner, Sadum, Somala, Pakala and Pulicherla, besides areas of Tirupati.
- The captured elephant was to undergo veterinary examination before relocation.

Human–Elephant Conflict: Significance

- Highlights the growing challenge of balancing wildlife conservation with human safety and agricultural livelihoods.
- Habitat fragmentation, shrinking corridors and increasing human activity near forest edges can intensify such encounters.
- Crop losses can undermine rural livelihoods and generate negative attitudes towards wildlife conservation.

Conservation Approach

- Early-warning systems and rapid-response teams can alert communities about elephant movements.
- Protecting elephant corridors and habitats can reduce encounters.
- Timely crop-loss compensation, community participation and scientific relocation can strengthen coexistence.

9. Sacred Groves of Andhra Pradesh Under Conservation Pressure – Indian Express

Why in News?

- A recent study highlighted the ecological importance of sacred groves (Pavithranams) in Andhra Pradesh and growing threats from development and changing cultural practices.
- 730 sacred groves have been documented in the State. The Penna Ahobilam Sacred Grove in Anantapur recorded 378 plant species belonging to 220 genera and 54 families.

Ecological & Cultural Significance

- Serve as in-situ conservation sites for native and medicinal flora.
- Provide habitat for biodiversity and help regulate microclimate and store carbon.

- Preserve traditional ecological knowledge and community-based conservation practices.
- Religious beliefs and customary norms historically restricted exploitation of these forest patches.

Major Threats

- Temple expansion and modernisation, removal of native vegetation and infrastructure development.
- Erosion of traditional conservation practices due to changing cultural values and lifestyles.
- Habitat fragmentation and increasing human pressure.

Way Forward

- Recognise important groves through Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) and other appropriate conservation mechanisms; AP's Biodiversity Board has identified sacred groves among potential BHS sites.
- Strengthen Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and community participation in protection and restoration.
- Combine scientific ecological management with traditional knowledge, while ensuring development around sacred sites remains ecologically sensitive.

10. PMGSY-IV: Strengthening Rural Connectivity in Ongole – Indian Express

Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Rural Development sanctioned ₹30.506 crore for five rural roads and four high-level bridges in the Ongole Parliamentary constituency under PMGSY-IV (Batch-I) for 2026–27.
- The projects comprise 14.40 km of roads and 207.26 metres of bridges, aimed at providing all-weather connectivity to five habitations.

About PMGSY

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in 2000 to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations.
- It focuses on improving rural accessibility and integrating villages with markets, education, healthcare and administrative services.
- The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with State Governments.
- PMGSY-I: Focused primarily on providing all-weather connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations.
- PMGSY-II: Emphasised upgradation of existing rural roads and improved connectivity to growth centres.
- PMGSY-III: Focused on consolidating the Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), higher secondary schools and hospitals through rural road connectivity.

PMGSY-IV

- PMGSY-IV (2024–25 to 2028–29) has an outlay of ₹70,125 crore to connect 25,000 unconnected habitations through 62,500 km of roads, including necessary bridges.
- It leverages PM Gati Shakti for integrated planning and promotes sustainable and climate-resilient construction.

Significance

- Economic integration: Improves access to markets and reduces transportation costs.
- Social development: Facilitates access to schools, healthcare and public services.
- Agricultural growth: Enables faster movement of farm inputs and produce.
- Inclusive growth: Reduces rural isolation and regional disparities.
- Disaster resilience: High-level bridges help sustain connectivity during monsoons.

Challenges

- Poor maintenance, construction delays and quality deficiencies can reduce the long-term benefits.
- Climate extremes and inadequate drainage can damage rural roads and bridges.

Way Forward

- Adopt life-cycle maintenance, quality audits and climate-resilient designs.

- Integrate local hydrology, drainage and disaster-risk assessments into project planning.



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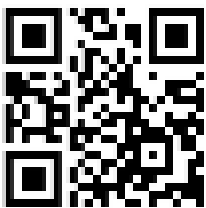
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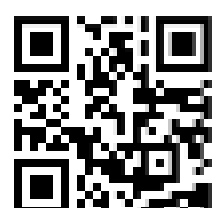
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