

TELANGANA CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY MONTH MAGAZINE

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Telangana Current Affairs

1. Cybercrime Surge in Telangana – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Telangana recorded 27,230 cybercrime cases in 2024, the highest among States, according to NCRB data cited in the report; Karnataka stood second with 21,993 cases.
- Cases increased from 18,236 in 2023 to 27,230 in 2024, highlighting the growing challenge of cyber-enabled financial and digital crimes.

Major Trends

- Fraud constituted the largest category, with 18,922 cases.
- Common forms include investment scams, online banking/payment fraud, card fraud, gaming fraud, cyber-stalking and cyber-blackmailing.
- Rapid digitalisation, online financial transactions and social-media usage, combined with sophisticated fraud techniques, have expanded cybercrime risks.

Key Concerns

- Financial losses and identity theft undermine trust in digital services.
- Cross-border and inter-State operations complicate investigation and prosecution.
- Limited cyber awareness, digital literacy and forensic capacity increase vulnerability.
- Delays in reporting can reduce the possibility of freezing or recovering stolen funds.

Government Response

- I4C, the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and 1930 helpline strengthen coordinated reporting and response.
- CFCFRMS facilitates rapid intervention to prevent diversion of funds in financial cyber fraud.

Way Forward

- Strengthen State cyber-police units, cyber-forensics and specialised investigation capacity.
- Promote AI-based fraud detection, financial-sector information sharing and public cyber-awareness campaigns.
- Improve inter-State/international cooperation and ensure speedy prosecution.

2. Hyderabad Bird Atlas: Urban Biodiversity Mapping – Indian Express

Why in News?

- The fourth season of the Hyderabad Bird Atlas (HBA) added three species— Greater Flamingo, Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon and Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker—taking Hyderabad’s documented bird list to 248 species.
- The 22-day citizen-science survey involved 200+ volunteers, who recorded 158 species and over 75,000 individual birds, contributing more than 1,250 volunteer hours.

About Hyderabad Bird Atlas

- HBA is a systematic citizen-science initiative led by WWF-India, Hyderabad Birding Pals and Deccan Birders.
- Surveys are conducted across different urban habitats to document species distribution, abundance and seasonal occurrence.
- The project provides long-term ecological data for understanding urban bird diversity and seasonal movements.

Ecological Significance

- Biodiversity monitoring: Creates a baseline for tracking changes in urban bird populations.
- Urban planning: Identifies important habitats requiring conservation.
- Citizen participation: Demonstrates how public participation can complement scientific biodiversity monitoring.
- Conservation awareness: Encourages communities to recognise the ecological value of wetlands, green spaces and urban habitats.

Challenges & Way Forward

- Rapid urbanisation, habitat fragmentation, wetland degradation and pollution threaten urban bird habitats.
- Integrate bird-atlas data into urban biodiversity plans, protect key habitats and expand citizen-science networks.

3. Rashtrakuta-Era Hero Stones Discovered in Nirmal – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Two rare 8th-century hero stones (Veeragallu), believed to belong to the Rashtrakuta period, have been documented in the forests of Irlagandi, Pembri mandal, Nirmal district.
- The discovery highlights the archaeological importance of medieval Telangana and its links with the wider Deccan historical landscape.

What are Hero Stones?

- Veeragallu are memorial stones commemorating individuals who died displaying valour, particularly in battle.
- Their sculptures and inscriptions provide insights into military practices, social values, political history, material culture and contemporary beliefs.
- Hero-stone traditions were widespread across South India and the Deccan.



Key Features of the Discovery

- One stone depicts a warrior engaged in combat, carrying weapons and wearing warrior attire.
- The second contains three panels depicting a battle scene, a warrior with his horse and an inscription.
- Sun-Moon motifs are associated with the enduring remembrance of the commemorated hero.
- The inscription offers potential epigraphic evidence for understanding the period and locality.

About the Rashtrakutas

- The Rashtrakutas were a major Deccan power, with their core territory centred in present-day Karnataka and adjoining regions.
- Dantidurga established Rashtrakuta supremacy in the 8th century after overthrowing the Chalukyas of Badami.
- Amoghavarsha I was one of their prominent rulers and is associated with the development of literature and Jain cultural traditions.
- Their greatest architectural achievement is the Kailasa Temple at Ellora, commissioned by Krishna I.
- The Rashtrakutas played an important role in Deccan politics, competing with the Pratiharas and Palas in the tripartite struggle for Kannauj.

4. Telangana Wetlands: Absence from Ramsar List – Indian Express

Why in News?

- India reached 100 Ramsar Sites in 2026, while Telangana has no Ramsar-designated wetland, despite having 13,000+ wetlands covering nearly 5 lakh hectares.

- The issue highlights the gap between Telangana's significant wetland resources and their formal recognition and conservation.

Ecological Importance

- Water security: Facilitate groundwater recharge and water storage.
- Flood control: Absorb excess runoff and support natural drainage.
- Biodiversity: Provide habitat for aquatic organisms and migratory birds.
- Climate resilience: Moderate local temperatures and store carbon.
- Livelihoods: Support fisheries, agriculture and tourism-related activities.

Key Concerns in Telangana

- Urbanisation, encroachment, pollution and habitat fragmentation, particularly around Hyderabad, are degrading wetlands.
- Destruction of wetlands can increase urban flooding by reducing natural water-storage capacity.
- The Telangana State Wetland Authority (TGSWA) was constituted in 2018 under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

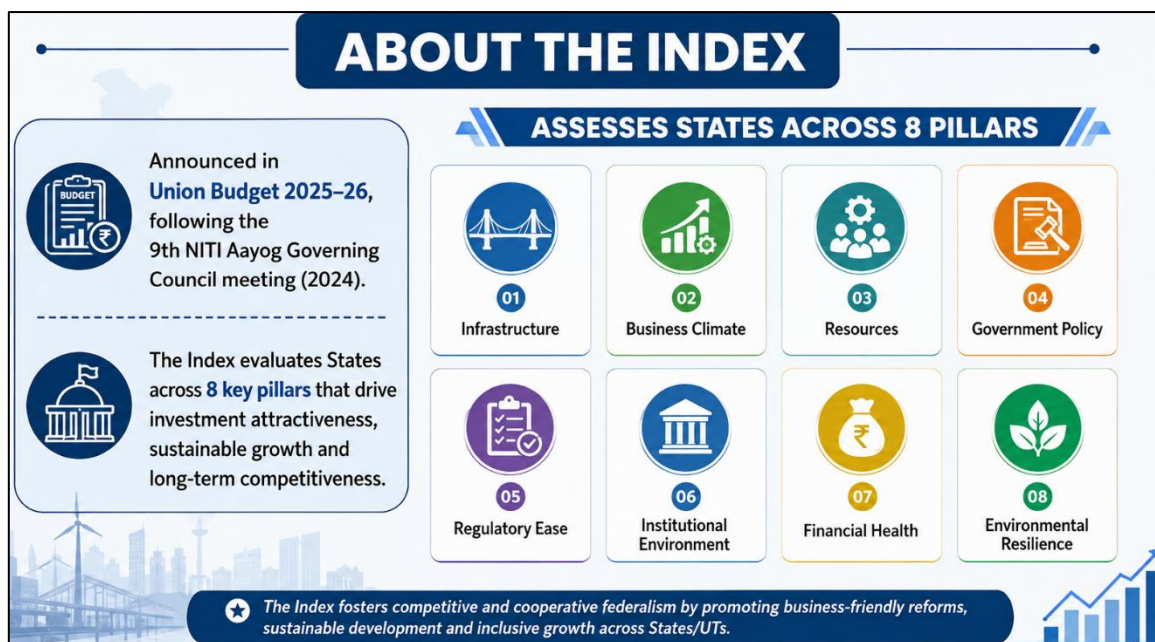
About Ramsar Convention

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an international intergovernmental treaty adopted in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran, and came into force in 1975.
- It is the only international treaty focused on a single ecosystem — wetlands.
- Its mission is the “conservation and wise use of all wetlands” through national action and international cooperation.
- Ramsar Sites are wetlands designated as being of International Importance based on scientifically defined criteria.
- Designation does not automatically mean a wetland becomes a strictly protected area; the emphasis is on conservation and wise use.
- The Montreux Record identifies Ramsar Sites where ecological character has changed, is changing or is likely to change due to technological developments, pollution or other human interference.

5. Telangana in NITI Aayog's Investment Friendliness Index – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Telangana ranked 13th among all States/UTs and 10th among 17 large States, scoring 47.3/100 and receiving “Frontrunner” status in NITI Aayog's Investment Friendliness Index.
- The index aims to benchmark investment readiness, encourage reforms and strengthen competitive and cooperative federalism.



Telangana: Key Strengths

- Strong performance in business climate and regulatory ease.
- TS-iPASS: time-bound industrial approvals and self-certification.
- Hyderabad: quality education, healthcare, affordability and quality of life.
- Reliable power supply supports industrial operations.

Areas for Improvement

- Telangana ranked last among large States in institutional environment, with concerns over economic offences and cybercrime.
- Need to reduce time and cost of setting up businesses and improve inter-departmental coordination.
- TS-bPASS has simplified approvals for smaller projects, but large industrial/commercial projects still face delays.
- Automobile sector: high taxes and complex RTO procedures.
- Greater support is needed for MSMEs and first-time entrepreneurs.

6. Srisailam Sculptures: Clues to Medieval Trade Links – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Rare giraffe and camel sculptures on the outer prakara walls of the Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple at Srisailam have highlighted possible medieval trade and cultural links between South India, Africa and West Asia.
- The narrative bas-reliefs broadly date to the 14th–16th centuries, corresponding to the Vijayanagara period.



About Vijayanagara Empire

- Founded in 1336 CE by Harihara I and Bukka I, the Vijayanagara Empire became a major political and cultural power in South India.
- Its capital, Vijayanagara (Hampi), developed into a major centre of trade, temple architecture, literature and art.
- Krishnadevaraya (1509–1529) was its most prominent ruler and patron of temples and culture.
- The empire maintained extensive commercial links with Arabia, Persia, Africa and Southeast Asia through Indian Ocean networks.

Srisailam & the Sculptures

- Located in present-day Nandyal district, Andhra Pradesh, Srisailam was a major Shaiva pilgrimage centre, associated with the Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga and Bhramaramba Shakti Peetha.
- A rare panel depicts two giraffes, two camels and attendants.
- Since giraffes are non-native to India, their depiction suggests familiarity with exotic animals through long-distance trade, diplomatic contacts or royal exchanges.

Medieval Indian Ocean Trade

- The sculptures provide clues to networks connecting India with East Africa, Arabia and West Asia.
- Important traded commodities included Arabian horses, spices, textiles and precious goods.
- Thus, temple art serves as an important supplementary source for reconstructing medieval economic and cultural interactions.

7. Rare 9th-Century Jain Parshvanatha Sculpture — Telangana – Indian Express

Why in News?

- A rare 9th-century sandstone sculpture of Jain Tirthankara Parshvanatha has been identified at Chand village in Adilabad, Telangana.

- Experts describe it as the first sculpture of this distinctive iconographic composition reported from Telangana, highlighting the region's lesser-known Jain heritage.



Iconographic Features

- Parshvanatha is shown seated in ardha-padmasana, with a serpent canopy behind him.
- Two Tirthankaras in kayotsarga posture flank the central figure.
- The pedestal features a Dharmachakra between two lions.
- Dharanendra and Padmavati, associated with Parshvanatha, are depicted with serpent canopies.
- Shravakas and Shravikas appear as devotees with folded hands.
- The composition corresponds with prescriptions mentioned in the Jain Rupamandana, a Jain iconographic treatise.

Historical Significance

- The sculpture reflects the development of Jain art and religious traditions in the early-medieval Deccan.
- Similar Parshvanatha representations from Rajgir (Bihar) and Erandol (Maharashtra) indicate broader regional parallels in Jain iconography.
- Other Jain sculptures found at Chand, including Kunthunatha, suggest that the settlement may have housed a Jain basadi (religious centre/temple).

Identification

- The Dharmachakra could lead to confusion with Buddhist imagery.
- However, the absence of the Buddha's characteristic Dharmachakra-pravartana mudra and monastic robe supports its identification as Parshvanatha.

Significance

- Adds to the understanding of the spread and cultural presence of Jainism in the Deccan.
- Demonstrates the value of local archaeological surveys in recovering undocumented heritage.
- Underscores the need for documentation, conservation and protection of neglected rural heritage sites.

8. Maisamma Gutta Rock Art: New Evidence of Telangana's Prehistoric Heritage – Indian Express

Why in News?

- A rock shelter at Maisamma Gutta near Gannevaripalle, Rajanna-Sircilla district, Telangana, contains prehistoric paintings resembling a kangaroo and an echidna, animals not native to India.
- The site also yielded Palaeolithic and Mesolithic stone tools, grinding grooves and hematite, indicating prehistoric human activity.



Key Findings

- Rock art depicts kangaroo-like and echidna-like figures, along with a tortoise, lizard, snake, horse/donkey and geometric motifs.
- A circular motif with three branch-like symbols occurs above the kangaroo-like figure; interpretations as the sea and trees remain tentative.
- Researchers provisionally suggest that some paintings may date to around 10,000 BCE, while certain engravings and geometric motifs could be about 5,000 years old.

Prehistoric Context

- The associated Palaeolithic and Mesolithic tools point to the importance of the site for studying early human activity in the Deccan region.
- Similar kangaroo-like rock art has reportedly been identified earlier in the Kurnool region of Andhra Pradesh, warranting comparative study of Deccan rock-art traditions.

Significance

- May enhance understanding of prehistoric art, human mobility, subsistence, environmental interaction and cultural expression.
- However, the identification of the figures as kangaroo/echidna requires scientific verification; it should not be interpreted as proof that these animals inhabited prehistoric India.

Conservation Concerns

- The shelter is locally worshipped as a Maisamma shrine, creating risks from lime application, ritual activities and physical alteration of the rock surface.
- Priorities include scientific dating, archaeological documentation, expert/ASI verification, site protection and community-based conservation.

9. Vellulla Heritage Tank: A Living Archive of Telangana's Medieval History – Indian Express

Why in News?

- A historic tank at Vellulla village, Metpalli mandal, Jagtial district, preserves archaeological remains spanning several centuries, including a 12th-century Kala Bhairava sculpture and a 17th-century Telugu inscription.
- The site highlights the link between traditional water infrastructure and Telangana's cultural heritage.

Key Heritage Evidence

- A Telugu inscription records construction of the tank's sluice in 1613 CE (Shalivahana Era 1535) by Minnayya of the Munnuru community, under Dalapati Rayudu, an administrator of Padmanayaka ruler Vengala Jagadeva.
- The Kala Bhairava sculpture is shown in tribhanga posture, holding a sword, blood bowl, damaru and trident, with flaming locks and a skull girdle.



- A Kakatiya-period Ellamma sculpture and several hero stones add to the site's archaeological importance.

Historical Significance

- Provides evidence of religious practices, Telugu epigraphy, local communities and administrative structures in historical Telangana.
- Demonstrates how traditional tanks functioned not only as irrigation infrastructure but also as repositories of cultural memory and local history.

Conservation Concerns

- Several sculptures remain exposed to weathering and neglect, risking gradual deterioration.
- In-situ conservation, systematic documentation, heritage-site development and community participation can help safeguard these remains.

10. Telangana's Higher Education Expansion: High College Density and Enrolment – Indian Express

Why in News?

- The AISHE 2023–24, released by the Ministry of Education, places Telangana among the leading major states in higher-education access, with 56 colleges per lakh population (18–23 years)—second only to Karnataka (69).
- Telangana's college density increased from 53 in 2019–20 to 56 in 2023–24, indicating expansion of higher-education infrastructure.

Key Indicators

- Telangana recorded a GER of 42.7% in 2022–23, substantially above the national average of 29.5%.
- Undergraduate enrolment shows strong female participation, with women exceeding men in the reported 2023–24 UG enrolment.
- The state had 9,347 Ph.D. scholars in 2023–24, indicating an established research ecosystem.

Significance

- Expanding higher education can strengthen human capital, employability and Telangana's demographic dividend.
- Higher female participation supports women's empowerment, economic participation and social mobility.
- Telangana's extensive network of professional and higher-education institutions strengthens its position as an educational hub.

Challenges & Way Forward

- The gap between a large undergraduate base and relatively limited research/Ph.D. participation highlights the need to strengthen postgraduate education and R&D.
- Focus should shift from access to quality through better faculty, research infrastructure, industry-academia linkages, employability-oriented curricula and equitable access.

11. Utnoor Fort: Reviving Telangana's Gond Tribal Heritage – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Utnoor Fort (Gond Rajula Kota) in Adilabad district is undergoing a ₹3.9-crore restoration and development project to preserve its historical character and promote Gond heritage.
- The project includes a museum, heritage amenities, landscaping and spaces for cultural activities, with restoration being undertaken through the Heritage/Archaeology authorities and ITDA-Utnoor.



Historical Significance

- The fort is associated with the Gond rulers of the Deccan and reflects the political history of tribal kingdoms in the region.
- Gondwana rulers exercised influence across parts of present-day Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and northern Telangana.
- Gond royal descendants continue traditional Dasara prayers at the fort, linking its tangible architecture with living cultural traditions.

Significance

- Strengthens recognition of tribal contributions to Telangana's history and cultural landscape.

- A museum can promote Gond history, traditional knowledge, arts and material culture.
- Heritage-based tourism can generate local employment and livelihood opportunities while enhancing regional tourism.

Conservation Approach

- Restoration should preserve the fort's original architectural character, avoid excessive beautification and ensure scientific conservation.
- Gond community participation in interpretation, management and cultural programming can make conservation more inclusive and sustainable.

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