



31 January 2025

Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>Ratha Saptami</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Andhra Pradesh Government is eager to boost temple tourism in Srikakulam district in conjunction with the Ratha Saptami festival, set to be celebrated on February 4, 2025. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratha Saptami also known as Magha Saptami, is a Hindu festival observed on the seventh day (saptami) of the bright half (Shukla Paksha) of the Magha month. This festival symbolizes the Sun god, Surya, turning his chariot (ratha), drawn by seven horses representing the seven colors, towards the northern hemisphere in a north-eastern direction. Ratha Saptami also marks the birth of Surya, and is therefore celebrated as Surya Jayanti, the sun god's birthday. It is symbolic of the change of season to spring and the start of the harvesting season. For most Indian farmers, it is an auspicious beginning of the New Year.
<p>Araku Utsav</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The arrangements were in full swing for the Araku Utsav, named 'Chali', which began on January 31 in Alluri Sitharama Raju district. The three-day event began with the Araku Marathon, followed by a flower show, carnival parade, hot air balloons, paragliding, helicopter rides, and cultural programmes. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Araku Utsav is a 2 day annual celebration in the Araku Valley of Andhra Pradesh. It is aimed at showcasing the local tribal culture and heritage. It is also to encourage tourism to the region. It is organised by the state government.
<p>Polavaram Project</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Andhra Pradesh on Thursday accorded administrative approval for a sum of ₹990 crore for the construction of a new diaphragm wall through the entire length of the Earth-cum-Rock Fill (ECRF) dam (Gap-II) of the Polavaram project. The proposed 1,400-metre-long D-Wall addresses seepage issues, with bentonite being a critical component to enhance the concrete's plasticity and workability. This single-structure D-Wall will run parallel to the damaged wall, ensuring robust flood resilience and enhanced water retention



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	<p>capacity for the Polavaram project.</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an under-construction multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in the Eluru District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh. • The project has been accorded National project status by the Union Government of India. • Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of Irrigation, Hydropower and drinking water facilities in East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh. ○ The project envisages the generation of 960 MW of hydropower, drinking water supply to a population of 28.50 lacks in 611 villages ○ The ultimate irrigation potential of the project is 4.368 lakh ha. ○ The project implements the Godavari-Krishna link under the Interlinking of Rivers project. ○ It envisages the transfer of 80TMC of surplus Godavari water to river Krishna which will be shared between Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
<p>WhatsApp governance -Mana Mitra</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a world-first initiative, the Andhra Pradesh government has launched WhatsApp governance, offering 161 citizens' services directly to the public through the platform. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of phase one, 161 citizens' services are now available under Mana Mitra, which has been launched in collaboration with Meta. • This initiative, in partnership with Meta, makes accessing government services as simple as chatting with a friend or family member. • The services will cover six key categories: electricity bill payments, revenue services, municipal services, grievance redressal, and booking for temple darshan/seva and bus tickets. • The State government has allotted an official WhatsApp number 9552300009 for availing the services.
<p>National Green Tribunal (NGT)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NGT's Southern Zonal Bench has halted six infrastructure projects in the Kolleru wetland area by the Andhra Pradesh government until they meet legal requirements and obtain necessary clearances from the Water Resources Department. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGT has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating



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	<p>to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Delhi is the principal place of sitting of the tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the tribunal. • Powers: The NGT has the power to hear all civil cases relating to environmental issues and questions that are linked to the implementation of laws listed in Schedule I of the NGT Act. • NGT has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals as a Court. <p>About Kolleru Wetland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It includes the Kolleru Lake and the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. • The Kolleru wetland is a vital habitat for many species of birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. • It is also a natural flood-balancing reservoir for the Krishna and Godavari rivers.
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