



08 May 2024

Telangana State Regional News

<p>Medigadda Barrage</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Dam Safety Authority's (NDSA) expert committee concluded that repairing the damaged piers of Medigadda barrage would be ineffective. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural Concerns: The report highlighted the distressed condition of Block No-7 and suggested geophysical and geotechnical investigations to understand the sinking of the barrage and other distresses. Interim Measures: The committee recommended interim measures for three barrages before the monsoon, but implementing them might be challenging due to the imminent floodwater in the Godavari within four weeks. Immediate Actions: The committee advised lifting all gates of Block 7 to fully open position before the monsoon to minimize hydraulic forces. It also recommended removing the damaged radial gates completely. Geographical Survey: The report proposed a geographical survey to assess the Medigadda barrage's foundation, suggesting specific drilling depths and locations for boreholes. Similar geotechnical investigations were recommended for Annaram and Sundilla barrages, with detailed observations of damages and structural issues. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Medigadda Barrage, also known as the Lakshmi Barrage, is a significant component of the Kaleshwaram Project, located on the Godavari River in Telangana, India. The barrage has faced several issues, including the sinking of piers and damage to its structure. Investigations have attributed these problems to flaws in design and construction. The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has raised concerns over the barrage's design, construction, and maintenance, stating that the structure was initially designed as a floating barrage but was later constructed as a rigid project.
<p>Operational Glitches in Gouravelli Project</p>	<p>Context: The Gouravelli project in Siddipet faced operational issues with its CCTV cameras, as reported by the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB). The cameras were found non-functional due to</p>



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expired SIM card validity, prompting GRMB to write to the Irrigation Chief Engineer in Karimnagar for prompt action before the NGT hearing on July 4.

Central Administrative Tribunal

Context:

- The suspension of IPS Officer AB Venkateswara Rao has been **overturned by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Hyderabad bench.**

About:

- **The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985**, provides a **mechanism for resolving disputes and complaints related to the recruitment and conditions of service of individuals** appointed to public services and posts under the **Union or other government-controlled authorities.**
- **Legal Framework:** Enacted under **Article 323-A**, the Act empowers the Central government to establish the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and state administrative tribunals.
- **Establishment:** The CAT and state tribunals were established to offer quick and cost-effective justice to aggrieved public servants.
- **CAT Formation:** CAT was established during **Rajeev Gandhi's Prime Ministership, comprising 19 Benches across India.**
- **Objective and Composition:** The CAT is composed of Administrative and Judicial Members with specialized knowledge to deliver efficient justice. It is headed by a Chairman who is or has been a High Court Judge.
- **Operating Principles:** **The Tribunal follows the principles of natural justice and is not bound by the Civil Procedure Code.**
- **Powers:** Under Section 17 of the Act, the Tribunal has the authority to address contempt issues, similar to a High Court.
- **Independence:** The Chairman and Members' conditions of service are equivalent to those of High Court Judges under the **Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006.**
- **Appeals:** Orders of the CAT can be challenged through a Writ Petition under Article 226/227 before the respective High Court where the Tribunal Bench is located.

Vemulawada temple

Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi made history on Wednesday by becoming the first Prime Minister to visit the historic **Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple in Vemulawada, renowned as Dakshina Kashi.**



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Key points:

- The temple, associated with **former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao**, who was one of its trustees but had not visited during his tenure, saw Modi performing special pujas and participating in the famous '**Kodemokku**' ritual.
- Despite the visit, local residents and devotees were left disappointed as Modi did not make any announcements regarding the temple's inclusion in the **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)** scheme, which aims to develop temples across the country.

PRASHAD Scheme

- The **Government of India** launched the **PRASAD scheme** in the year **2014-2015** under the **Ministry of Tourism**.
- The full form of the PRASAD scheme is '**Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive**'.
- This scheme focuses on **developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India** for **enriching the religious tourism experience**.
- It aims to **integrate pilgrimage destinations** in a prioritised, planned and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience.
- The growth of domestic tourism hugely depends on pilgrimage tourism.
- To tap the potential of pilgrimage tourism, there is a need for **holistic development of the selected pilgrimage destinations by the government along with the cooperation of other stakeholders**.
- The PRASAD scheme aims at **paving the way for the development and promotion of religious tourism in India**.



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