



14 June 2024

## Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p><b>AP Government Launches Skill Census</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To tackle the lack of skills among the youth, which has been affecting job prospects, the <b>Andhra Pradesh government has initiated a skill enumeration across the state.</b></li> <li>Chief Secretary <b>Neerabh Kumar Prasad</b> issued the directive following the approval of the order by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To <b>bridge this gap and align educational institutions</b> with market demands, the government has established a Skill Census.</li> <li>The <b>Skill Census aims to serve as a platform connecting the government and the industrial sector</b>, providing clarity on the courses needed by educational institutions and the skills in demand in the market.</li> <li>The <b>AP Skill Development Corporation will oversee the management of this initiative.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Andhra Pradesh and Bihar Unlikely to Get Special Status</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coalition government at the Centre has reignited discussions about granting special status to States like <b>Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.</b></li> <li>With Modi's third term, significant coalition partners, JDU from Bihar and TDP from Andhra Pradesh, are pressing for special status for their respective States.</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Category Status: A Bygone Era:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before March 2015, special category States enjoyed <b>90% financial contribution from the Centre for centrally sponsored schemes, with the States contributing only 10%.</b></li> <li>This status was granted to States like Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and others.</li> <li>Despite the abolition of the special category status, the <b>90:10</b> funding rule still applies to northeastern and hill States.</li> <li>Other States now receive central funding in a <b>60:40 ratio.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Future Prospects and Financial Aid:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For <b>Bihar and Andhra Pradesh</b> to gain special category status, the coalition government under Modi</li> </ul>



	<p>3.0 would need to refer the proposal to the 16th Finance Commission or the NITI Aayog.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Besides these two States, <b>Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan</b> are also seeking this status.</li> <li>• <b>While special category status does not currently exist, the Centre can provide additional financial aid to States with revenue deficits.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>NTR Bharosa</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a significant development, the Chandrababu government in Andhra Pradesh has renamed the pension scheme to <b>NTR Bharosa and announced an enhancement in pensions for various beneficiaries.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the latest order issued by the Andhra Pradesh government, the pension amount for eligible recipients has been raised from <b>Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000.</b></li> <li>• Disabled individuals will now receive a pension of <b>Rs. 6,000, up from Rs. 3,000</b>, while fully disabled persons will receive <b>Rs. 15,000 instead of Rs. 5,000.</b></li> <li>• Additionally, those suffering from serious illnesses will be provided with a pension of <b>Rs. 10,000.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>RUSA sanctions eight research projects for JNTU</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b> <b>Rashtriya Uchathar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)</b> has approved eight significant research projects for <b>Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Anantapur (JNTU-A)</b>, with a grant of <b>Rs 86 lakhs.</b></p> <p><b>RUSA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan</b> is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in <b>2013.</b></li> <li>• Its aim was to increase enrolment in higher education by 30%.</li> <li>• <b>Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)</b> is an overarching scheme, operating in mission mode for funding the state government universities and colleges to achieve the aims of equity, access and excellence.</li> <li>• The Government has approved the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till <b>31.03.2026</b> or till further review, whichever is earlier.</li> </ul>



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