



27 February 2025

Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>UGC Draft Regulations 2025</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders of the Student's Federation of India (SFI) Andhra Pradesh Committee have called on the state government to reject the University Grants Commission (UGC) draft regulations concerning the appointment of Vice-Chancellors to universities, stating that these regulations could harm the higher education system. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key features of the guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chancellor or Visitor of the university will have the authority to form a three-member Search-cum-Selection Committee responsible for appointing the Vice-Chancellor (VC). Composition of the Search-cum-Selection Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson: A nominee of the Visitor/Chancellor. Nominee from UGC: A nominee from the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC). Nominee from University's Apex Body: A nominee from the university's apex body (e.g., Syndicate, Senate, Executive Council, Board of Management, or equivalent). Eligibility Criteria for Vice-Chancellor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Background: Minimum of 10 years of senior-level experience in academia, industry, public administration, public policy, or public sector undertakings, with a proven track record of significant academic or scholarly contributions. Inclusivity: Encourages candidates from economically weaker sections (EWS), SC, ST, OBC, and persons with disabilities. Academic Background: Candidates no longer need to be professors but must show leadership in academic or research fields.
<p>Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns over the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme continue to persist in Andhra Pradesh, with scientists and farmers expressing that water resources are being drained and emissions from factories are contaminating the air, water, and soil. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in 2003 to promote the use of alternative and



	<p>environment friendly fuels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This programme has been extended to the whole of India (except UTs of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands) with effect from 1st April, 2019 wherein Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%. • Benefits of EBP programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It will reduce India's import bill. ○ It will reduce environmental pollution. ○ It will increase farm income. ○ Biofuels demand least incremental investment for manufacturers. <p>What is Ethanol?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethanol is an agricultural by-product which is mainly obtained from the processing of sugar from sugarcane, but also from other sources such as rice husk or maize. • To supplement ethanol supplies, the Government of India has permitted the procurement of ethanol produced from sources other than molasses, which is known as first generation ethanol or 1G. • Aside from molasses, ethanol can be derived from rice straw, wheat straw, corn stover, bagasse, bamboo and woody biomass, which are known as second generation ethanol sources or 2G.
Maha Shivaratri	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotion and religious enthusiasm were on full display as countless devotees flocked to the temples of Lord Shiva from the early hours to observe Maha Shivaratri in Visakhapatnam. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of the deity Shiva, between February and March. • According to the Hindu calendar, the festival is observed on the fourteenth day of the first half (night starts with darkness - waning) of the lunar month of Phalguna. • The festival commemorates the wedding of Shiva and Parvati and the occasion that Shiva performs his divine dance, called the Tandava.
Ease of Doing Business	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh stated that the state is reducing the regulatory compliance burden to improve the Ease of Doing Business. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of Doing Business refers to how conducive a country's regulatory environment is for starting and

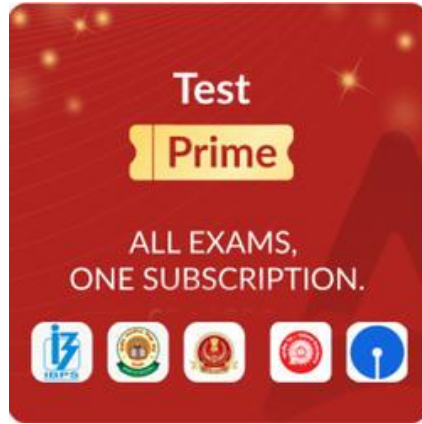


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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<p>operating a business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It encompasses various factors and indicators that affect the ease with which businesses can be established and run. The Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index is a World Bank ranking system that measures business regulations and their implementation across 190 economies and selected cities.
<p>Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A conservation project has been launched by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and the Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society (EGWS) in the Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) to protect the endangered Indian Pangolin, a highly trafficked and elusive species. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve is situated in the Nallamala hill range, part of the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh. It attained tiger status in 1983. The tiger reserve encompasses Nallamala Hill and spans across five districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The Krishna River bisects it. Area: It is the largest tiger reserve in the country. The total area of the tiger reserve is 3727 km sq. <p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About Indian Pangolin.



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