



08 March 2025

Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>Yoga and Naturopathy Research Centre</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP govt has approved the establishment of a Yoga and Naturopathy Research Centre in Amravati at a cost of Rs 100 crore. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre aims to promote research and development in yoga and naturopathy, providing holistic healthcare solutions and advancing these traditional practices. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoga is an ancient physical, mental, and spiritual practice that originated in India. It involves a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical postures (asanas): These are designed to improve strength, flexibility, and balance. Breathing techniques (pranayama): These help to regulate the breath and calm the mind. Meditation: This focuses on cultivating mindfulness and inner peace. <p>Origins and Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word "yoga" comes from the Sanskrit root "yuj," meaning "to unite" or "to yoke." The philosophy of yoga aims to bring harmony between the mind, body, and spirit. Classical yoga is often associated with the "Yoga Sutras of Patanjali," a foundational text that outlines the eight limbs of yoga.
<p>Cabinet nod to tourism land policy, digital health centre in AP</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved several significant initiatives, including the AP Tourism Lands Allotment Policy 2024-29 and the establishment of a Digital Health Centre in Kuppam. <p>Key Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Tourism Lands Allotment Policy 2024-29: This policy aims to develop tourist centers of world-class standards through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). It focuses on improving infrastructure, diversifying tourism offerings, and promoting sustainable practices. Strategic Pillars: The policy rests on pillars like diversified tourism offerings, infrastructure upgrades, sustainable practices, and robust



	<p>governance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It targets elevating tourism's contribution to the state's Gross Value Added (GVA) from 4.6% to 8% and increasing its share in employment from 12% to 15% by 2029. • Incentives: The policy offers fiscal incentives such as 100% stamp duty reimbursement on land purchases or leases for tourism projects and capital subsidies for MSMEs5. <p>Digital Health Centre in Kuppam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Digital Health Centre will be established at an estimated cost of Rs 5.34 crore. • It aims to enhance healthcare services in the region by leveraging digital technologies. • This initiative aligns with Andhra Pradesh's broader strategy to integrate technology into healthcare, following the establishment of a Centre for Digital Health and Precision Medicine in Chittoor.
<p>Rushikonda Beach loses Blue Flag recognition</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rushikonda Beach in Visakhapatnam, AP, has temporarily lost its prestigious Blue Flag certification due to maintenance and hygiene issues. • The beach, which was awarded the Blue Flag in 2020 for its environmental standards, faced concerns over stray dogs, malfunctioning CCTV cameras, accumulated waste etc,. <p>Blue Flag certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Flag recognition is a highly regarded international eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators. <p>Certification by FEE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Flag is awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a non-profit, non-governmental organization, which is headquartered in Denmark. <p>Initial Start:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Flag Programme began in France in 1985. <p>Stringent Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To earn a Blue Flag, sites must meet and maintain strict criteria related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental education and information • Water quality • Environmental management • Safety and services <p>Global Recognition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Flag is recognized worldwide as a symbol of high environmental and quality standards.



	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2025, India boasts 12 Blue Flag certified beaches.
<p>AP gets Rs 1,000-cr green hydrogen plant in Tirupati</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP has recently inaugurated a significant green hydrogen project in Tirupati, marking a major step in India's clean energy transition. This is a part of Andhra Pradesh's broader strategy to lead the green hydrogen revolution and is set by Hero Future Energies at Rockman Industries. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hero Future Energies Plant: This facility has been set up with an annual production capacity of 25 tonnes of green hydrogen. It integrates green hydrogen blending with Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for industrial furnaces, significantly reducing carbon emissions. <p>Andhra Pradesh's Commitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP is committed to supporting India's Net Zero target by 2070. The state aims to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and enhance energy security through initiatives like the Integrated Clean Energy (ICE) Policy, which targets adding 160 GW of renewable capacity and attracting investments worth approximately Rs 10 trillion over five years. <p>Refer to Addpedia notes for detailed info on Green Hydrogen.</p>
<p>Banakacherla Project</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP CM has assured TG that there is no need to worry about the Godavari-Banakacherla project, emphasizing that it aims to utilize surplus floodwaters from the Godavari River that would otherwise flow into the sea. This project is part of Andhra Pradesh's efforts to enhance water security and support agriculture and drinking water needs. Project Overview: The Godavari-Banakacherla project involves diverting water from the Godavari River at Polavaram to Banakacherla in Nandyal district. It is expected to provide drinking water to 80 lakh people and irrigate 3 lakh hectares of land, supplementing 9.14 lakh hectares of existing irrigation areas. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Banakacherla project is a significant water diversion initiative in Andhra Pradesh, with the aim of addressing water scarcity in drought-prone regions. <p>Objective:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's primary goal is to divert surplus water from the Godavari River to areas facing water shortages, particularly in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. • It aims to provide drinking water and irrigation to a large population and significant agricultural land. <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It involves diverting Godavari River water from the Polavaram project to Banakacherla in the Nandyal district, through a link canal. • The project intends to utilize surplus Godavari floodwater.
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