




2 February 2024

Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>World Wetlands Day</p> <p>World Wetlands Day</p> <p>2 February 2024</p>  <p>Wetlands and Human Wellbeing</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on February 2nd It aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for both people and the planet. It also commemorates the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971, an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The theme for 2024 is: "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing" It focuses on the interconnectedness between wetlands and various aspects of human wellbeing, including physical, mental and environmental health <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands are ecosystems where water saturates the land for extended periods, creating unique habitats for diverse plants and animals. Examples include marshes, swamps, bogs, mangroves, and even rice paddies. <p>Did you Know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state of Tamil Nadu (14) has the most Ramsar sites in India, followed by the state of Uttar Pradesh with 10 sites. India currently has 80 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).
<p>Andhra Pradesh gets Rs 9,138 crore for railways</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian government allocated Rs 9,138 crore (approximately \$1.1 billion) to Andhra Pradesh for railway development in the 2024-25 interim Union Budget. This represents a 10% increase from the previous year's allocation.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This investment aims to bolster connectivity, infrastructure, and economic growth within the state. • Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted significant progress in Andhra Pradesh's railway sector, citing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A 10-fold increase in budgetary allocation compared to 2009-14 (when the combined allocation for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana was only Rs 886 crore). ◦ Laying of 240 km of new railway lines annually. ◦ Near-completion of railway electrification (98%).
<p>A.P, Telangana handover Krishna water management to River Board</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andhra Pradesh and Telangana agreed to hand over the operational control of 15 projects on the Krishna River, including the crucial Srisaïlam and Nagarjunasagar projects, to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). • This marks a significant development in resolving the long-standing water dispute between the two states. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water release management: KRMB will now be responsible for regulating water releases from the 15 projects and the spillways of the two major reservoirs. This aims to ensure more equitable and transparent water sharing between the states. • Operation and maintenance: However, the operation and maintenance of the projects will continue to be handled by the respective states - Srisaïlam by Andhra Pradesh and Nagarjunasagar by Telangana. • Hydropower generation: The decision on managing the hydroelectric units at the projects remains unresolved. Both states will continue to operate them independently for now.
<p>Essential commodities are becoming costlier in Andhra Pradesh</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state government confirms rising prices of essential commodities




COST OF LIVING SOARING
The state government has decided to resume red gram supply from February

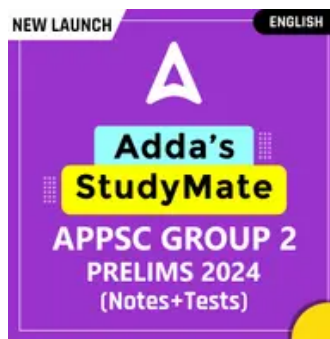
- Each cardholder will get **1 kg** red gram at subsidised price
- Red gram supplies were stopped to rice card holders citing low stocks with the civil supplies corporation
- The price of Grade-I quality rice went up by nearly **13%**, grade-II quality rice up by **12%**
- The state government asked marketing and civil supplies departments to take market intervention measures
- The vigilance and enforcement wing is likely to launch inspections at godowns to bring illegally hoarded stocks into open market

- To address this, the civil supplies department plans to buy red gram for PDS.
- Red gram supply will resume in February, providing 1 kg at subsidized prices.
- Each cardholder will get 1 kg red gram at subsidized price
- Prices of red gram, onions, rice, wheat, tomato, millets have increased.

Andhra Pradesh 2nd among states with most number of JN.1 cases

Context:

- Among the **2,100 cases of Covid-19 subvariant JN.1** and its lineages such as JN.1.1 and JN.1.11 detected in India, **Andhra Pradesh reported 280 infections alone, accounting for over 13% of the total.**
- This places **Andhra Pradesh second** among all the states in terms of cases identified for this Omicron sub-variant after **Maharashtra's 565.**
- Karnataka (256), Kerala (154), Gujarat (129), and Goa (102) also have significant infection numbers for this subvariant.
- The **World Health Organisation has classified JN.1 as a "variant of interest"**, posing a low global public health risk.



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