



20 May 2024

Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>Tariff Based Competitive Bidding</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) has set a threshold limit of over Rs 250 crore (excluding land cost) for new intra-state transmission (InST) projects under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB). <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This aligns with the Ministry of Power's suggestion to adopt TBCB for InST project development, following Supreme Court directives. InST projects exceeding Rs 250 crore, developed by the Transmission Utility notified by the Andhra Pradesh Government and approved by APERC, will undergo TBCB. <p>TBCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective Aimed at facilitating competition in Transmission Sector through wider participation in providing transmission services and tariff determination through process of tariff based bidding. TBCB guidelines are formulated by the Ministry of Power, as per Section 63 of Electricity Act 2003. These guidelines aim to promote competition, encourage private sector participation, facilitate transparency in procurement, reduce information asymmetry, protect consumer interests, reduce time required to materialize projects and ensure compliance with norms and standards for the transmission sector.
<p>Andhra Pradesh shines in India skill competition</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andhra Pradesh has excelled in the India Skill Competition held in New Delhi from May 15 to 19, 2024, as part of the World Skill Competitions to be held in Lyon, France. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state secured a total of 13 medals, including one gold in Cosmetic Design, one bronze in Mechanical CAD, and 11 medallions of excellence across various trades. The competition saw around 900 candidates from across the country competing in 60 trades, with



Andhra Pradesh represented by **42 candidates across 37 trades.**

- The Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) played a crucial role in training these candidates.

About:

- The **World Skills Competition, an international event held every two years**, aims to enhance global skills and improve the world through the power of skills.
- The **47th WorldSkills Competition** will take place **September 10 to 15, 2024, in Lyon, France.**

Kondaveedu Shiva Temple Renovation**Context:**

- The **Shiva temple at Kondaveedu hilltop, long in a dilapidated state, is undergoing renovation and will soon reopen for devotees.**

Key points:

- **Historical Significance:** The Shiva temple and Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, **built during the Reddy Rajas' era, were renowned in medieval times** but fell into ruin over the centuries.
- **Government Intervention:** In **2010**, the State government ordered the temples' reconstruction as part of the **Kondaveedu development project.**
- **Challenges:** The renovation faced delays due to inadequate transportation to the hilltop, with work only starting in 2017 after a ghat road was constructed. The COVID-19 pandemic further delayed the progress.
- **Maintenance:** The temples will be maintained in association with the **Trikoteswara Swamy temple in Kotappakonda.**

Leopard Spotted Near Srisaillam Project**Context:**

- Leopard spotted near Srisaillam project located in the Nalamalla forest region.

About:

- Scientific Name: Panthera pardus
- Smallest member of the Big Cat family (genus Panthera)
- Adaptable to various habitats
- Nocturnal, feeds on smaller herbivores like chital, hog deer, wild boar
- Melanism common, leading to black panthers (melanistic leopards)

Habitat:



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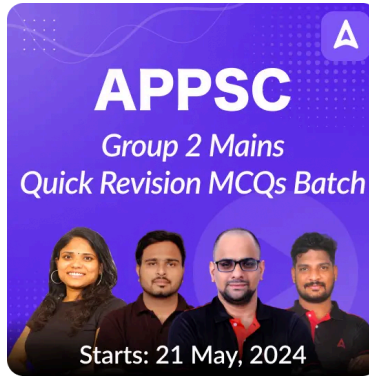


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- Found in sub-Saharan Africa, parts of Western and Central Asia, Indian subcontinent, Southeast, and East Asia
- Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) widely distributed in India
- India's leopard population rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022.

Conservation Status:

- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I



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