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Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>Bavikonda : An ancient Buddhist site</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bavikonda ancient Buddhist site, located in Andhra Pradesh, is currently neglected with non-functional interpretation centers and lack of basic facilities. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Tourism Minister Kishan Reddy, during his visit in November 2021 with the then State Tourism Minister Muttamsetti Srinivas, inspected Bavikonda as part of the Shalihundam-Thotlakonda-Bavikonda-Bojjanakonda-Amravati-Anupu Buddhist circuit. Rs 26.17 crore of funding under the SWADESH 2.0 tourism project was announced. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bavikonda is an ancient Buddhist site in Andhra Pradesh, dating back to the 3rd century BC. It was excavated between the mid-1980s and early 1990s. The excavations revealed the remains of a well-established Theravada Buddhist complex, with several historical artefacts unearthed, including ash, charcoal, pottery shards, Roman silver coins, and Satavahana lead coins. These findings indicate a historical maritime trade with Rome during that period.
<p>12th Century Inscription in Neglect at Palnadu</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ancient 12th-century inscription lies neglected in Narnepadu village, Muppala mandal, Palnadu district, as reported by Dr. E. Sivanagireddy, archaeologist and CEO of Pleach India Foundation. <p>Historical Significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1151 CE inscriptions detail the donation of sheep for the perpetual lamps of the deities Someswara and Kesavadeva of Srinarayana (Narne) Padu by Velanati Chief Gonka-II's ministers, Kommanamatya and Prolabamatya. The 1198 CE inscription records a similar gift by Valluri Namayanayaka. Another 12th-century inscription provides information about Gonka-II of the Velanati Telugu Chola branch, his wife Prolambika, and Remmana's appointment as the chief of Kammadesa (Kammanadu).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It also mentions the excavation of a tank named Dorasamudra in the village and the donation of lands for the daily offerings to gods and Brahmins.
<p>New Sand Policy in Andhra Pradesh</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new sand policy in Andhra Pradesh is being implemented statewide from July 8. Principal Secretary (Mines) N Yuvaraj issued GO No. 43, withdrawing the existing policies from 2019 and 2021, and introducing an Interim Mechanism for Sand Supply until the Sand Policy 2024 is formulated. Full-fledged sale of sand under this new policy will start on July 9. <p>Interim Mechanism Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure sand is available to consumers at affordable rates. Promote transparency and visibility in sand operations. Prevent illegal sand excavation and transportation through effective monitoring. Comply with environmental regulations and court orders. <p>District Level Sand Committees (DLSCs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DLSCs, headed by Collectors, will manage sand stocks in existing depots, previously controlled by private firms. They will appoint officials as stockyard in-charges and oversee sand distribution. DLSCs can modify sand operation costs and appoint agencies for activities like loading and security. Sand sales will be from 6 am to 6 pm, with GPS tracking for dispatches.
<p>Goddess Modakondamma festival</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lesson on the Goddess Modakondamma festival, a significant tribal celebration in north coastal Andhra Pradesh, has been included in the Class X Telugu textbook. <p>About Goddess Modakondamma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presiding deity, Modakondamma, attracts thousands of devotees each year. The temple, recognized as a state festival by the Andhra Pradesh government in 2014, draws daily visitors. Located in the Paderu tribal region of the Alluri Sitharama Raju district, the area is known for its natural beauty. "Modam" means happiness, and the goddess residing in the hills is called Kondamma.



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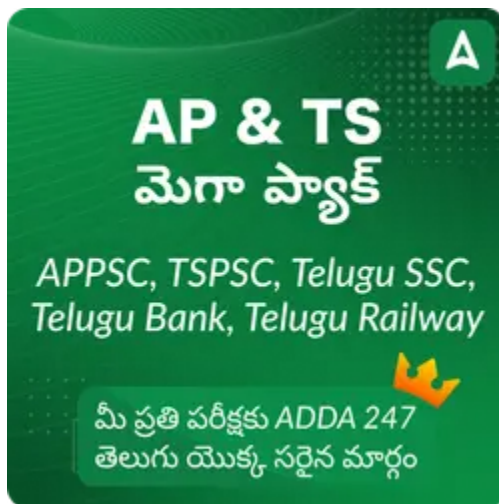
Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Significance and Celebrations:

- Devotees believe that the unique characteristic of the mother goddess is her ability to bestow happiness, fulfilling all desires.
- Annually, a three-day festival is held in her honor every May, celebrated with grandeur.
- This festival is the largest tribal fair in the state, known for its elaborate festivities.
- The tribal dance Dhimsa is a special attraction at this event.
- Devotees from Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, and Godavari districts, as well as from Odisha and Chhattisgarh, come in large numbers to offer their prayers.

State Recognition:

The Andhra Pradesh government officially recognized the festival as a state event in 2014.



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