



23 July 2024

Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>Budget 2024: Major Support for Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati and Polavaram Projects</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Union Budget for 2024-25, significant financial support has been announced for Andhra Pradesh, addressing key infrastructural needs. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured a substantial allocation of ₹15,000 crore for the development of Amaravati, the state capital. Additionally, the Polavaram project, crucial for irrigation and agriculture in the state, will receive focused financial backing. Purvodaya Initiative: A new plan named 'Purvodaya' will be launched to enhance the development of Andhra Pradesh along with Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha. Infrastructure and Industrial Development: The budget includes provisions for promoting industrial growth, particularly through the development of the Kopparthy Industrial Node and the Chennai-Vizag corridor. Additionally, funds will be allocated for improving essential infrastructure such as roads, water supply, power, and railways. Special Grants: Special grants will be provided for backward regions in Royalaseema, Prakasam, and North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, as per the Reorganisation Act. Support for Tribal Development: Funding is also earmarked to support 5 crore tribals in 53,000 tribal villages across the country, including Andhra Pradesh.
<p>Leader of Opposition</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lella Appi Reddy has been appointed as the Leader of Opposition in the Council by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). <p>LoP at Central Level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Leader of the Opposition is the head of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha, provided this party holds at least one-tenth of the total seats. One of the primary responsibilities of the Leader of the Opposition is to offer constructive criticism of government policies and present alternative viewpoints.



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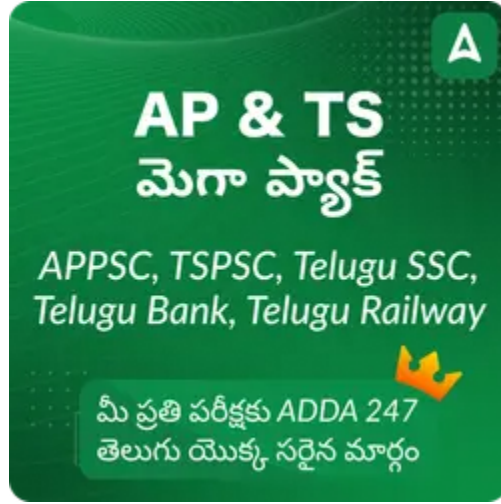
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The position of Leader of the Opposition in both Houses of Parliament is officially recognized under the Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. This recognition grants the Leader a salary, allowances, and other benefits equivalent to those of a Cabinet Minister. <p>Constitutional Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to note that the office of the Leader of the Opposition is not explicitly mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
<p>Economic Survey Insights on MGNREGS</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economic Survey has provided a detailed analysis of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), presenting a more nuanced view than the common belief that its demand directly mirrors rural distress. Praja Science Vedika chairman M. Suresh Babu highlighted that the survey identifies significant disparities in MGNREGS performance across various states. <p>Factors Influencing MGNREGS Demand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey indicates that demand for MGNREGS work is influenced by factors beyond just rural distress. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-Level Institutional Capacity: Variations in institutional effectiveness across states affect MGNREGS implementation. Local Economic Conditions: Different local economic conditions play a crucial role in determining MGNREGS demand. <p>Evolution of MGNREGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MGNREGS has shifted from being primarily a safety net for distressed rural families to a strategic option for households seeking to create assets and secure sustainable income. The survey suggests that using MGNREGS demand as a sole indicator of rural distress oversimplifies the situation. <p>Complexities in MGNREGS Demand Patterns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse State Performance: The survey notes substantial variation in how states perform under MGNREGS. Despite examining possible reasons for these differences, no definitive cause has been identified.



- **State Comparisons:** The survey challenges the assumption that states with higher poverty or unemployment rates necessarily use more MGNREGS funds or generate more employment. For instance:
- **States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala have utilized a disproportionate share of MGNREGS funds compared to their poverty levels.**

Recommendations for Policymakers:

- The survey underscores the need for policymakers to consider a range of factors when designing interventions to tackle rural economic issues.
- It suggests that correlating MGNREGS demand with weather data as an indicator of real-time rural distress requires further validation.



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