

## PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS IN INDIA

### 1. STATUS AT A GLANCE

- **Monuments under ASI:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) oversees **3,686** centrally protected monuments across the country.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** India has a total of **44** sites (36 Cultural, 7 Natural, and 1 Mixed).
- **Recent Addition: Maratha Military Landscapes** (added in July 2024).

Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958	Antiquities & Art Treasures Act, 1972
<p><b>Purpose</b> Protect and preserve monuments &amp; archaeological sites of national importance</p> <p><b>Covers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Immovable Heritage           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monuments</li> <li>• Sites</li> <li>• Structures</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Key Provisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declaration of protected monuments</li> <li>• Regulation of construction near sites</li> <li>• Control over excavations</li> </ul> <p><b>Protection Zones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 m → Prohibited Area</li> <li>• 200 m → Regulated Area</li> </ul> <p><b>Implemented by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)</li> <li>• National Monuments Authority (NMA)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Purpose</b> Prevent smuggling, illegal trade &amp; export of antiquities</p> <p><b>Covers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Movable Heritage           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artefacts</li> <li>• Sculptures</li> <li>• Antiquities</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Key Provisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory registration of antiquities</li> <li>• Licensing of dealers</li> <li>• Regulation of ownership &amp; trade</li> </ul> <p><b>Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent illegal export</li> <li>• Safeguard cultural property</li> </ul> <p><b>Implemented by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)</li> </ul>

### 2. CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

These articles are highly significant for competitive examinations:

- **Article 49 (DPSP):** It is the obligation of the State to protect monuments, places, and objects of artistic or historic interest declared to be of national importance.
- **Article 51A(f) (Fundamental Duty):** It is the fundamental duty of every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
- **7th Schedule Division:**
  - **Union List (Entry 67):** Ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
  - **State List (Entry 12):** Other ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites (not of national importance).

### 3. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- **AMASR Act, 1958:** The **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act** is the primary legislation regulating the protection of ancient monuments and archaeological sites.
- **National Conservation Policy (2014):** Focuses on the restoration of monuments using scientific methods, minimal intervention, and the use of local materials.
- **National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA - 2007):** Aimed at creating a national database for the country's built heritage and antiquities.



#### 4. MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN CONSERVATION

Cutting-edge technologies being used by India in heritage conservation:

- **LiDAR Scanning & Photogrammetry:** Used for high-precision mapping of complex structures.
- **GIS Mapping:** Used to monitor environmental pressures and protected zones.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Employed for the digitization of manuscripts and effective data management.
- **Kedarnath Temple Restoration:** Following the 2013 disaster, restoration was conducted in collaboration with IIT Madras using geophysical tests like **Multi-channel Analysis of Spectral Waves (MASW)**.

#### 5. MAJOR INITIATIVES

Scheme/Program	Description
Adopt a Heritage 2.0	Improving tourism amenities in collaboration with private entities known as 'Monument Mitras'.

Scheme/Program	Description
<b>Museum Grant Scheme</b>	Financial assistance for the modernization and digitization of museums.
<b>Indian Culture Portal</b>	Taking heritage to the public through virtual walkthroughs and 360-degree tours.
<b>Cultural Festivals</b>	Boosting tourism and local livelihoods through events like the <b>Konark Dance Festival</b> and <b>Khajuraho Festival</b> .

## POSHAN PAKHWADA 2026 - ANDHRA PRADESH (KEY HIGHLIGHTS)

### 1. CONTEXT

- **Program:** Poshan Pakhwada (Nutrition Fortnight) 2026.
- **Organizing Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- **Location of Event:** Ongole Project, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh.

### 2. UNIQUE INITIATIVE

- The '**Graduation Day**' celebrations for pre-school children in Ongole were utilized as a platform for nutrition awareness.
- **Primary Objective:** To instill healthy eating habits in children from an early age.

### 3. CORE OBJECTIVES

- **Importance of Fresh Vegetables:** Children demonstrated and explained the health benefits of consuming fresh vegetables.
- **Awareness of Preservatives:** Awareness was raised regarding the health risks associated with foods containing artificial preservatives.
- **Behavioral Change:** Aimed at fostering positive shifts in dietary habits not only among children but also among **caregivers** and the wider community.

### 4. POSHAN ABHIYAAN - EXAM POINTS

- **Goal:** To reduce malnutrition among children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls.
- **Strategy:** Utilizing **Community Mobilization (Jan Andolan)** and field-level technology to monitor nutritional outcomes.

- **Poshan Pakhwada:** An annual 15-day awareness campaign conducted as a part of the broader 'Poshan Abhiyaan' (National Nutrition Mission).

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#### INFORMATION USEFUL FOR COMPETITIVE EXAM QUESTIONS:

- **Question:** In which district of Andhra Pradesh was the pre-school 'Graduation Day' recently integrated with the 'Poshan Pakhwada' celebrations?
  - **Answer:** Prakasam District (Ongole).
- **Question:** What is the primary objective of Poshan Abhiyaan?
  - **Answer:** To prevent and reduce malnutrition among children and women across the country and to promote sustainable behavioral change regarding nutrition.

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#### SAMUDRA MANTHAN - NATIONAL OFFSHORE MISSION & DATA-DRIVEN EXPLORATION

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##### 1. CONTEXT

- **Mission Name:** Samudra Manthan – National Offshore Mission.
- **Organized by:** Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).
- **Primary Objective:** To accelerate the exploration of oil and natural gas using data-driven technology to achieve India's energy self-reliance (**Aatmanirbharta**).

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##### 2. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Data-Driven Discovery:** India is transitioning from "blind exploration" (speculative search) to scientific "data-driven discovery."
- **Multi-Client Model:** This model allows multiple organizations to analyze and innovate using the same dataset. This significantly reduces the inherent uncertainty in the exploration sector.
- **Seismic Data:** The conference emphasized that '**Seismic Data**' is the most critical factor in identifying the presence of oil reserves under the seabed.

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##### 3. STRATEGIC PROPOSALS

- **Roadmap Formulation:** Developing a prioritized roadmap for seismic data collection in **Deepwater** regions and frontier basins.
- **Use of AI:** Leveraging **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and advanced imaging technologies to re-process and analyze legacy (old) data.
- **National Data Repository (NDR):** Strengthening government policies to ensure easy availability and accessibility of exploration data.

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##### 4. SIGNIFICANCE FOR EXAMS

- **Energy Security:** A strategic step to increase domestic production and reduce heavy reliance on energy imports.
- **Offshore Potential:** Unlocking hidden resources within India's vast **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.

- **Private Participation:** Engaging global players like BP, ExxonMobil, and Shell, alongside domestic private firms like Reliance and Adani.

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#### QUICK REFERENCE FOR EXAMS:

- **What is Samudra Manthan related to?** It is a mission aimed at increasing oil and natural gas exploration across India's offshore territories.
- **Union Minister:** Shri Hardeep Singh Puri (Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas).
- **Keywords:** 'Data-Driven Discovery' – Achieving precise results based on data and cutting-edge technology rather than speculation.

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### ANDHRA PRADESH: ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT-LEVEL ANIMAL SHELTERS

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#### 1. CONTEXT & OBJECTIVE

- **Announcement:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced the establishment of animal shelters in every district.
- **Purpose:** To address the issues of stray, abandoned, and seized animals, thereby improving public safety and enhancing animal welfare.

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#### 2. FUNDING & MANAGEMENT

- **Scheme:** These centers will be constructed using funds from the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) - (VB-GRAM G)**.
- **Management:** Daily operations of these shelters will be overseen by selected **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, ensuring community participation in the initiative.

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#### 3. INFRASTRUCTURE DETAILS

- **Land Requirement:** A minimum of **half an acre** of land is required for each center.
- **Cost:** The estimated construction cost per center is **₹10 lakh**.
- **Capacity:** Designed to accommodate **20 to 25 large animals**.
- **Additional Amenities:** Extra space will be allocated for **fodder cultivation** and drinking water arrangements.

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#### 4. INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

The implementation of this scheme involves specific responsibilities across various government departments:

- **Revenue Department:** Responsible for the allocation of land required for construction.
- **Rural Development Department:** Oversees the actual construction works.
- **Animal Husbandry Department:** Monitors and provides necessary veterinary care and health services for the animals.

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#### 5. SIGNIFICANCE FOR EXAMS

- **Rural Development:** Demonstrates the creation of rural infrastructure through the integration of employment guarantee schemes.
- **Animal Husbandry Sector:** Indirectly supports agriculture and allied sectors through better livestock management and care.
- **Women Empowerment:** Provides employment and social responsibility to rural women by entrusting the management to SHGs.

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#### QUICK CHECK FOR EXAMS:

- **Scheme Name:** VB-GRAM G (Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission - Gramin).
- **Construction Responsibility:** Rural Development Department.
- **Veterinary Services:** Animal Husbandry Department.
- **Operational Management:** Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

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#### INTERNATIONAL LACE TRADE CENTRE (ILTC) - NARSAPURAM

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##### 1. CONTEXT

- **Location:** Narsapuram, (erstwhile) West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Latest News:** A new **Textile Dyeing Unit** was recently established at this center. The **Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)** under the Union Ministry of Textiles has taken over its monitoring responsibilities.

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##### 2. ESTABLISHMENT & MANAGEMENT

- **Organizers:** The center was established by the **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)**.
- **Objective:** To promote the handicrafts of South India (specifically Narsapuram lace work) and to enhance their exports.

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##### 3. NARSAPURAM LACE WORK - KEY FEATURES (EXAM FOCUS)

- **GI Tag:** Narsapuram 'Crochet Lace' products have been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI Tag)** status.
- **History:** This art form gained popularity in the Narsapuram region in the 19th century through Scottish missionaries.
- **Social Significance:** Thousands of rural women earn their livelihood through this handicraft, making it a symbol of **women empowerment**.

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##### 4. SIGNIFICANCE

- **Enhanced Quality:** The newly established dyeing unit introduces modern standards to the coloring process, improving product quality and helping them compete in the international market.
- **Export Promotion:** The primary function of this center is to increase export revenue by connecting domestic artisans with international traders.

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#### QUICK REFERENCE FOR EXAMS:

- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Textiles.
- **Where is ILTC located?** Narsapuram, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Famous for:** Crochet Lace handicrafts.
- **GI Tag Status:** Narsapuram lace products hold a registered GI Tag.

## YENKI PAATALU (YENKI SONGS) - LITERARY HIGHLIGHTS

### 1. AUTHOR AND BACKGROUND

- **Author:** Nanduri Venkata Subba Rao.
- **Inception:** The conceptualization began in **1917** during his college days at Madras Christian College.
- **First Publication:** Originally published in **1925**.
- **Second Edition:** Released **27 years** after the first publication.

### 2. LINGUISTIC STYLE AND DIALECTS

- This anthology of songs was primarily composed using the rural dialects of the **Godavari** and **Visakhapatnam** regions.
- Set to folk tunes, these songs brought a revolutionary change during the era of '**Bhava Kavitvam**' (Romanticism in Telugu literature).

### 3. PRIMARY THEME

- **Lead Characters:** **Yenki** (a rural young woman) and her lover, **Naidu Bava**.
- **Distinction:** The unique feature of this work is its elevation of common folk from marginalized communities as the protagonists, portraying their pure love and rural beauty with high literary values.

### 4. EXAM FOCUS POINTS

- **Literary Movement:** 'Yenki Paatalu' belongs to the **Romantic Movement** (Bhava Kavitvam) in Telugu literature.
- **Important Facts:**
  - **Nanduri Venkata Subba Rao** is credited with being the first to transform a '**folk dialect**' into a formal poetic language in Telugu literature.
  - 'Yenki Paatalu' is often hailed as the '**Pranaya Vedam**' (The Veda of Romance) of the Telugu people.
  - It is recognized as a modern lyrical epic that took an ordinary rural woman as its central theme.

### QUICK REFERENCE:

- **Work:** Yenki Paatalu (1925).
- **Author:** Nanduri Venkata Subba Rao.
- **Dialect:** Godavari and Visakhapatnam regional slang/dialects.
- **Characters:** Yenki and Naidu Bava.

## HOPE ISLAND - SPACE CITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

## 1. GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

- **Location:** A 16-km long island located approximately 5 km off the coast of Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Shape:** It is famously described as a '**tadpole-shaped**' sandspit.
- **Formation:** A geological formation created about a century ago by sediment deposition from the **Godavari** and **Coringa** river runoffs into the Kakinada Bay.

## 2. PROPOSED SPACE CITY PROJECT

- **Announcement:** In January 2026, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu announced plans to develop India's second satellite launch facility and a **Space City** on Hope Island.
- **Model:** To be developed under the Public-Private Partnership (**PPP**) model in collaboration with the **Greenko Group**.
- **Objective:** To transform Kakinada into a global hub for technology and innovation.

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY CHALLENGES

- **Risk Zone:** According to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), it falls under the **Moderate Damage Risk Zone-III (MSK VII)**.
- **Coastal Erosion:** Continuous dredging activities at Kakinada Port are causing significant erosion at the northern tip of the island.
- **Pollution:** Heavy cargo activities involving coal, aluminum, and fertilizers contribute to coastal pollution in the area.

## 4. BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION

The island serves as a vital sanctuary for various migratory birds and marine life:

- **Migratory Birds:** Home to approximately 64 bird species, including six protected species traveling along the **Central Asian Flyway**:
  1. **Bar-tailed Godwit:** Categorized as 'Near Threatened'.
  2. **Great Knot:** Categorized as '**Endangered**'. Migrates all the way from Russia.
  3. **Greater Flamingo:** A large flock was sighted for the first time in the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary area in January 2026.
  4. **Curlew Sandpiper and Lesser Sand Plover.**
- **Olive Ridley Turtles:** A safe breeding ground for these turtles. Conservation is carried out using the '**In-situ**' method (protecting eggs in their natural nesting site).

## 5. SOCIAL ASPECTS

- **Inhabitants:** Home to 70 fisherfolk families (approx. 240 people).
- **Livelihood:** They depend entirely on fishing within the **Coringa Mangrove** ecosystem.

## QUICK REFERENCE FOR EXAMS:

- **Proposed Space City Location:** Hope Island, Kakinada.

- **Private Partner:** Greenko Group.
- **Ecological Role:** Acts as a natural barrier/shield for the Coringa Mangrove ecosystem.
- **Priority Species:** Great Knot (Endangered).
- **Past Proposal:** In 2022, there was a proposal to develop a heliport on the island.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE: ENVIRONMENT-CONDUCTIVE DESIGN AND PLANNING (HARIT-2)

### 1. CONTEXT

- **Organizer:** School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Vijayawada.
- **Central Theme:** Eco-friendly planning and sustainable urban development.

### 2. THE FOUR ORDERS OF NATURE

Professor H.D. Charan, Chairman of the Board of Governors at SPA Bhopal, explained the interconnectedness among the four orders of nature:

- **Interdependence:** He stated that all elements of nature are mutually dependent. He identified the lack of harmony between **human consciousness** and the natural world as the primary driver of environmental degradation.
- **Solution:** He emphasized the need for education systems to cultivate this sense of harmony with nature among the younger generation.

### 3. CLIMATE CHANGE & BUILDINGS

Iyer Vijayalaxmi Kasinath (SPA Vijayawada) shared key insights on **climate-responsive buildings**:

- **Material Selection:** The materials used in wall construction have a significant impact on indoor room temperatures.
- **Heat Stress:** In the context of rising global temperatures, designing buildings that can adapt to changing weather conditions is critical.

### 4. AI IN RESILIENT URBAN PLANNING

Anshu Sharma (Co-founder, Seeds Technical Services) explained the importance of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in urban planning:

- **Disaster Management:** The role of AI in **Hazard Risk Mapping**, Early Warning Systems, and disaster mitigation strategies.
- **Technological Role:** Enhancing the **resilience** of cities through modern technology-driven approaches.

### SIGNIFICANCE FOR EXAMS

- **SDG 11:** Such conferences contribute to the goal of achieving **Sustainable Cities and Communities**.

- **Climate-Friendly Architecture:** Awareness of green building concepts and strategies to reduce the impact of climate change.
- **Digital Governance:** Applications of emerging technologies like AI in urban development and planning.

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#### QUICK REFERENCE:

- **Conference Name:** HARIT-2 (Environment-Conducive Design and Planning).
- **Venue:** SPA Vijayawada.
- **Key Themes:** Harmony with Nature, Climate-responsive materials, and AI in resilient planning.

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### 6TH INDIA GAMING SHOW

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#### 1. CONTEXT

- **Organizers:** Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Indian Digital Gaming Society (IDGS).
- **Venue:** Chennai Trade Centre.
- **Chief Guest:** M. Ramprasad Reddy, Minister for Transport, Youth Affairs, and Sports, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

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#### 2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GAMING SECTOR

- **Employment Opportunities:** The Minister stated that the gaming sector is creating vast employment opportunities for the youth and playing a crucial role in technology-driven development.
- **Global Hub:** He expressed optimism that India will emerge as an international gaming hub with full government support.
- **E-sports:** Modern technologies and **Emerging Trends** in the e-sports sector are paving the way for further technological innovation.

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#### 3. KEY PERSONALITIES

- **Rajan Navani:** President, IDGS.
- **Sean Hyunil Sohn:** Vice-President, IDGS.

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#### 4. EXAM FOCUS POINTS

- **Digital Economy:** The share of the **AVGC** (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) sector is steadily increasing within India's digital economy.
- **Policy Support:** Both Central and State governments are formulating specific '**AVGC Policies**' to promote the gaming industry.
- **Sports Technology:** Gaming is no longer just entertainment; it is now integrated with advanced technologies such as the **Metaverse**, AI, and Cloud Computing.

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#### QUICK REFERENCE:

- **Event:** 6th India Gaming Show.
- **Organizers:** CII & IDGS.

- **Key Theme:** Youth employment and transforming India into a global gaming hub.

## NASSCOM GENAI FOUNDRY PROGRAM - 4TH COHORT

### 1. CONTEXT

- **Announcement:** Nasscom has selected **33 high-potential Generative AI startups** under its 'GenAI Foundry' program.
- **Objective:** To promote and develop Generative AI (GenAI) ventures in India that can compete at a global level.

### 2. FINANCIAL GROWTH & PROJECTIONS

The **Annual Recurring Revenue (ARR)** of the startups involved in this program is showing significant growth:

- **FY24:** \$3.9 Million.
- **FY25:** \$9.7 Million.
- **FY26 (Projected):** Nasscom estimates it will reach nearly **\$35 Million**.

### 3. PROGRAM IMPACT - ANALYSIS

- **Revenue Correlation:** Startups actively engaging with the program have shown better revenue outcomes compared to others.
- **Median ARR:** Startups benefiting from the Foundry reported a median ARR of **\$300,000**, whereas those with lower engagement reported only \$90,000.
- **Attribution:** More than 60% of the startups that achieved growth cited the Foundry program as a key factor.

### 4. SIGNIFICANCE FOR EXAMS

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** AI is playing a crucial role in India's IT exports and software services.
- **Startup Ecosystem:** Initiatives by organizations like Nasscom are vital in transforming India into a '**Global AI Hub**'.
- **Digital Economy:** The rise in software-based revenue (SaaS/AI) has a positive impact on the national GDP and foreign exchange reserves.

### QUICK REFERENCE:

- **Organization:** Nasscom.
- **Program:** GenAI Foundry (4th Cohort).
- **Selected Startups:** 33.
- **Key Term:** **ARR (Annual Recurring Revenue)** – A metric used to measure the financial stability and predictable revenue of a business.