

INDIAN SEMICONDUCTOR SECTOR - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. Kaynes Semicon Plant

- **Location:** Sanand, Gujarat.
- **Type:** Semiconductor Assembly and Testing Facility (**OSAT** - Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test).
- **Investment:** ₹3,300 crore.
- **Significance:** PM Modi described it as a "**Bridge to Silicon Valley.**" Chips manufactured here will be directly exported to the United States.

2. India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- **Launch:** 2021.
- **Goal:** To increase the value of the Indian semiconductor market to **\$100 billion** (approximately ₹9 lakh crore) by 2030.
- **Current Market:** ₹4.5 lakh crore.

3. International Agreement: Pax Silica

- **Definition:** An international coalition led by the **United States (USA)**.
- **Objective:** To secure the **supply chain** for semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Rare Earth Elements.
- **Strategy:** To reduce global technological dependence on China and enhance cooperation among trusted partner nations.

4. Key Terminologies for Exams

- **Techade:** The government refers to the **2021-2030** decade as India's "**Technology Decade.**"

- **Digital India & Fintech:** The government cited the success of these sectors as evidence of the growing public trust in technology.

ANDHRA PRADESH: FREE POWER SCHEME FOR HANDLOOM AND TEXTILE SECTORS

1. Primary Objectives

- To reduce the financial burden on handloom and powerloom weavers.
- To ensure economic stability for artisan families.

2. Beneficiaries and Free Power Limits

Details of free electricity units allocated under this scheme:

- **Handlooms:** Free electricity up to **200 units** per month.
- **Powerloom Units:** Free electricity up to **500 units** per month.

3. Target Beneficiaries

Total beneficiary families: **1,04,488**

- This includes **93,000** handloom households.
- There are **11,488** powerloom units.

4. Financial Impact

- **Annual Budget Estimate:** The government will spend **₹150 crore** per year to implement this scheme.
- **Individual Savings:**
 - Handloom weavers will save up to **₹8,640** annually.
 - Powerloom operators will save up to **₹21,600** annually.

ANDHRA PRADESH: PUBLIC HEALTH & POPULATION MANAGEMENT (AP HEALTH REFORMS)

1. Swarna Andhra Population Management Day

- **Declaration:** To be observed every **4th Saturday** of each month.
- **Objective:** To raise public awareness regarding population control and health management.

2. Project Sanjeevani

- **Launch:** Aimed for full-scale implementation by **July 2026**.
- **Goal:** To focus on **Preventive Healthcare**.
- **Key Statistics:** * Target to conduct medical tests for **5.64 million (56.4 lakh)** people annually.
 - Test results must be delivered via **WhatsApp within 48 hours**.
 - Currently being implemented as a pilot project in **Kuppam and Naravaripalle** (Chittoor district).
- **Infrastructure:** Requirement of **904 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs)**; estimated cost of **₹162 crore**.

3. AP Health Management Policy - 5 Pillars

The new policy to be formulated by the government is based on these five pillars:

1. **Maternity** (Prasuthi)
2. **Strength** (Balam)
3. **Skill** (Naipunyam)
4. **Welfare** (Sankshemam)
5. **Sanjeevani**

4. Universal Health Policy (NTR Vaidya Seva)

- Partnership with private insurance companies to provide health insurance for all through the **NTR Vaidya Seva Trust**.
- Adopting the **PPP (Public-Private Partnership)** model for the establishment of medical colleges.

5. Governance & Standards

- **Caesarean Sections:** C-section deliveries must not exceed **20%**. If they do, a mandatory audit must be conducted.
- **Digital Health Records:** Personal health records of every individual must be updated regularly.
- **Filling Vacancies:** Vacancies in the Health Department should be filled promptly through a process of rationalization.

AP PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT - NATIONAL AWARDS (2026)

Andhra Pradesh has showcased its excellence for the second consecutive year in the **Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas National Awards** announced by the Central Government.

Key Achievements (National Awards):

The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Department has been selected for these prestigious awards for the second year in a row. This stands as a testament to the state's consistent efforts in **Grassroots Governance** and rural development.

List of Winners - Category-wise:

- **Women-Friendly Panchayat:** **Bokkasampalem** Gram Panchayat of Srikalahasti Mandal, Tirupati District, secured the **1st position** at the national level.

- **Governance:** Sringavaram Gram Panchayat in Visakhapatnam District stood **1st** at the national level.
- **Poverty Alleviation & Livelihood:** Chemmullapalli village in Kadapa District earned the **2nd position** at the national level.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Gundamala Gram Panchayat in Prakasam District secured the **3rd position**.
- **Best Mandal:** Kuppam Mandal in Chittoor District, represented by the Chief Minister, was selected as the **3rd best mandal** at the national level.

Quick Notes for Exams:

- **Award Name:** Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas National Award.
- **Announced by:** Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj.

KERALA LOK AYUKTA ACT AMENDMENTS - HIGH COURT JUDGMENT (2026)

The Kerala High Court has upheld the **2024 amendments** made to the Kerala Lok Ayukta Act, 1999.

Background:

In 2024, the Kerala government introduced several key amendments to the Lok Ayukta Act. These were challenged in court on the grounds that they would reduce the powers of the Lok Ayukta and weaken the anti-corruption framework.

High Court Judgment - Key Points:

- The court ruled that these amendments are **constitutionally valid**.

- While the primary objective of the Lok Ayukta is to curb corruption, favoritism, and official indiscipline, the court clarified that the **Legislature** possesses the authority to amend laws.

Lok Ayukta Act - 1999 (Key Points):

- **Objective:** To curb corruption, favoritism, and abuse of power within the government machinery.
- **Jurisdiction:** The Chief Minister, Ministers, MLAs, and high-ranking government officials come under the ambit of this Act.
- **Note:** The Lok Ayukta is a state-level anti-corruption **Ombudsman** institution.

Key Controversy of the 2024 Amendments:

- **Prior to the amendments:** If the Lok Ayukta ruled that a public representative was guilty of corruption, that person was immediately disqualified from holding office.
- **Under the new amendments:** The verdict issued by the Lok Ayukta is now merely 'Recommendatory'. The final decision to accept or reject the verdict rests with the government (either the Chief Minister or the Governor).

Quick Notes for Competitive Exams:

- **Kerala Lok Ayukta Act:** Came into force in 1999.
- **Year of Amendments:** 2024.
- **Judgment delivered by:** Kerala High Court.

CHHATTISGARH MODEL: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & TRIBAL CRAFTS (2026)

Women Empowerment - Key Schemes:

The primary schemes being implemented for the economic autonomy of women in the state are:

- **Mahtari Vandan Yojana:** A scheme providing direct financial assistance to women.
- **Lakhpatti Didi Yojana:** A sustainable livelihood program aimed at making women millionaires (Lakhpattis) through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- **E-commerce Platforms:** Connecting products made by rural women to the global market.

Bastar Tribal Arts - Dhokra Craft:

During this visit, priority was given to the traditional arts of the Bastar region:

- **Dhokra Craft:** An ancient **metal art** belonging to the tribes of Bastar.
- **Technique:** Known as the '**Lost-wax technique**', where metal statues are fashioned using a wax mold.
- **Significance:** It is more than just an art form; it is the core foundation of Bastar's tribal culture and livelihood.

Growth Centers & Branding:

- **Chhattis Kala:** The brand name under which products from women's Self-Help Groups are marketed and sold.
- **Pragati Women Self-Help Group:** A successfully functioning Growth Center in the Jagdalpur region.

Quick Notes for Exams:

- **State:** Chhattisgarh (specifically Bastar district).
- **Key Handicraft:** Dhokra (utilizing the Lost-wax technique).
- **Schemes:** Mahtari Vandan Yojana, Lakhpatti Didi Yojana.

- **Objective:** To enhance the role of 'Nari Shakti' (Women Power) in the building of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

