

Current Affairs (2023): Southern India At a Glance

Andhra Pradesh

- * **Andhra Pradesh's Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS)-** Andhra Pradesh Government replaces the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) with the Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS) for Government employees. This move aims to provide enhanced financial security and benefits to pensioners.
- * **Machilipatnam Port Project-** The formal launch of the Machilipatnam port works by Andhra CM marks a significant milestone in the state's infrastructure development. With an estimated cost of ₹5,156 Crore, this ambitious project aims to transform Machilipatnam into a thriving port city, fostering Economic growth and connectivity.
- * **YSR Matsyakara Bharosa Scheme-** This initiative aims to provide crucial financial assistance to fishermen and their families during the annual ban period on marine fishing.
- * **Dotted Lands in Andhra Pradesh-** In Andhra Pradesh, a significant issue regarding land ownership has emerged with the existence of "dotted lands." These lands, named as such due to surveys conducted during the British era, have faced ownership disputes that have persisted over the years
- * **Jaganannaku Chebudam Programme-** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is all set to launch a toll-free helpline number, 1902, under the Jaganannaku Chebudam program. The aim of this initiative is to provide quick and quality solutions to people's grievances related to welfare schemes and Government services.
- * **The 'Statue of Social Justice,' at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh-** Standing at a remarkable height of 206 feet, dedicated to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, is unveiled on January 19.

Kerala

- * **Anert's Solar City Project-** The Kerala Government has initiated a groundbreaking project aimed at transforming every rooftop in Thiruvananthapuram into a solar energy-producing station. This ambitious venture, led by the Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (Anert), seeks to position the state capital as one of the largest 'solar cities' in the country
- * **Kerala Green Energy Corridor-** Green Energy Corridor (GEC) project, which will be implemented by the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), to secure a loan from the German development bank, KfW. The objective of this project is to facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of Renewable Energy power.
- * **State Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Kerala-** The draft State Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Kerala holds promising prospects for significant energy savings by 2030. The plan, developed by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with support from the Energy Management Centre, Kerala, in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), highlights key areas where the state can make substantial progress in energy conservation.

Karnataka

- * **Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav-** Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav at KIIT, Bhubneshwar witnessed an incredible display of talent and sportsmanship as tribal athletes from across India came together to compete in various disciplines. Odisha emerged

as the undisputed champion in the men's and women's divisions, cementing their stature as a sporting powerhouse.

- * **Karnataka to get India's first Marina-** Marina is a specially designed place of pleasure for small boats and yachts. The Chief Minister of Karnataka recently announced that the first Marina of India will be constructed in Byndoor, Udupi district, Karnataka.
- * **Karnataka's Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas a World Heritage-** UNESCO Recognizes Karnataka's Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas as World Heritage. The Hoysala temples, located in the Hassan district of Karnataka, showcase India's rich heritage and architectural prowess.

Tamil Nadu

- * **Manamadurai Pottery-** Manamadurai pottery from Tamil Nadu recently received Geographical Indications (GI) tag. The Vaigai river enriches the clay used for the Manamadurai pottery. Manamadurai, a small village in the Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu, is known for its pottery making. The tradition has been passed down from generation to generation, and today, Manamadurai pottery is recognized worldwide for its unique style and craftsmanship.
- * **The Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2023-** The Tamil Nadu Government has recently passed The Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2023 to amend the Factories Act, 1948, in a bid to provide greater flexibility to the manufacturing sector. The proposed amendment suggests inserting a new Section 65A in the Act, which will allow factories to have flexible working hours.
- * **Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission-** Tamil Nadu recently became the first state in India to launch its own climate change mission.
- * The objective of the mission is to make Tamil Nadu a "climate smart state".

- * **Impatiens karuppusamyi-** In a positive development for biodiversity, researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have identified a new plant species in the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu. Named 'Impatiens karuppusamyi,' the discovery is a testament to the rich and diverse flora of the region.

Telangana

- * **Telangana Eunuchs Act-** The Telangana High Court recently made a significant ruling on July 6, striking down the Telangana Eunuchs Act of 1919. The court found the Act to be unconstitutional, infringing upon the rights of transgender individuals and undermining their equality, privacy, and dignity.
- * **Telangana Launches State Robotics Framework-** The Telangana Government has launched the State Robotics Framework to establish a sustainable robotics ecosystem in the state. It outlines the vision for the development of the robotics industry in the state and aims to create a sustainable ecosystem.
- * **C4IR Telangana-** World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the establishment of a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR Telangana) in Hyderabad. It will focus on healthcare and life sciences, with the goal of accelerating product development and delivery innovation within the Indian healthcare system.