

APPSC PULSE — IAS with Dr Ravi

STEP 1: CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

19 May 2026 (Tuesday)

Source: The Hindu & Eenadu — Andhra Pradesh Edition

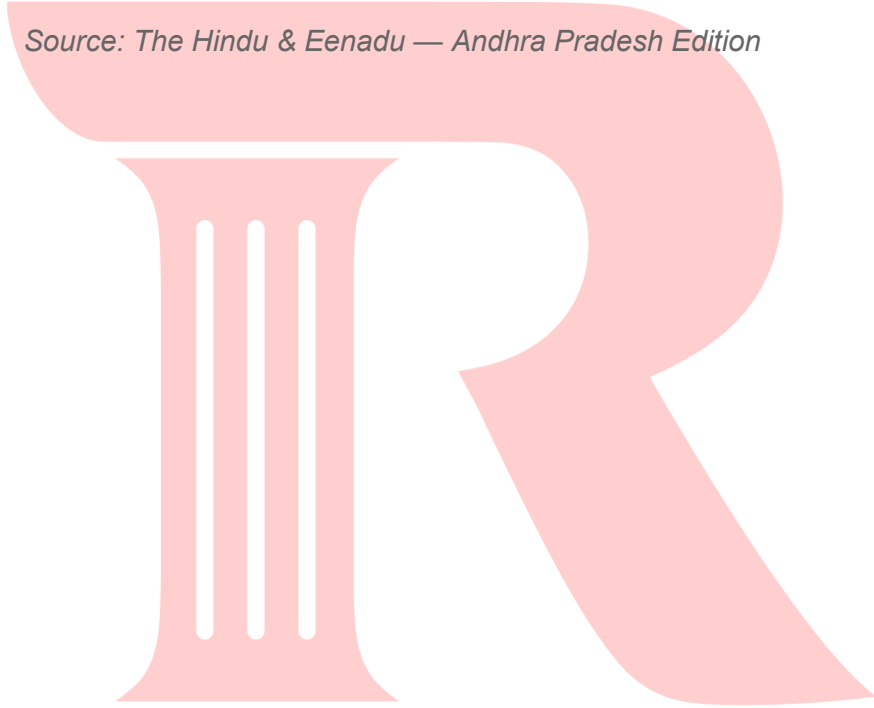


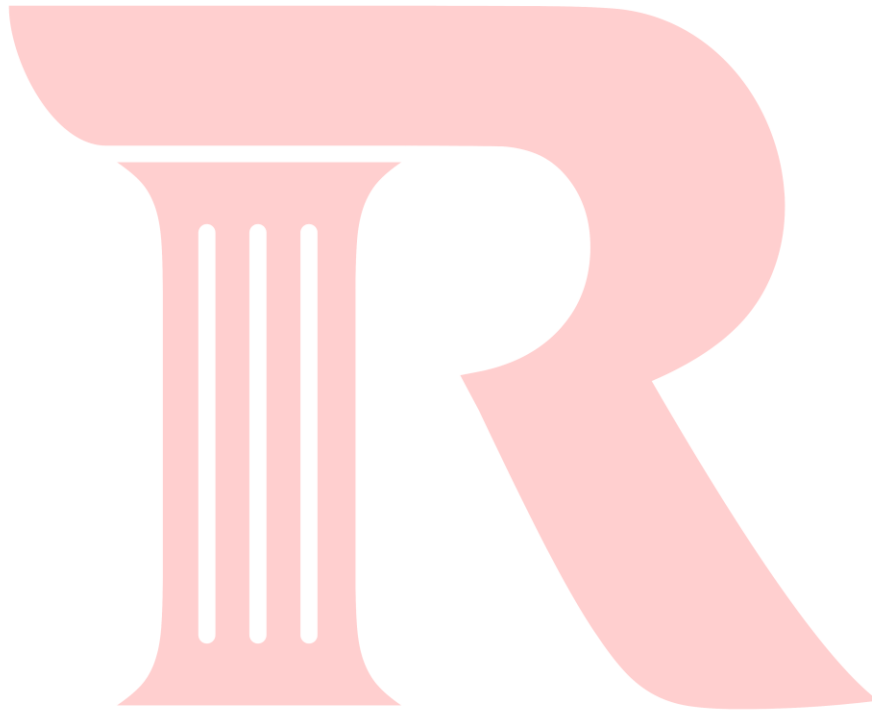
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AP Population & Social Justice

1. AP SC Population 18.31% — Caste Survey 2024 Data

Source: Eenadu, 19/05/2026 | Subject: Social Justice / SC Welfare / Demography / Reservation / Caste Survey

🔗 **APPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING** Paper III: Social Justice, Reservation Policy, SC/ST Welfare, Governance | Paper II: AP Society, Dalit movement | Paper IV: Human Development | GS Paper 1 (UPSC): Population, Social empowerment

◇ PRELIMS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

1. State headline figures: AP SC population — 97.32 lakh = 18.31% of total (5.31 crore). ST — 31.16 lakh = 5.86%. OBC — 1.25 crore = 23.53%.
2. Did not disclose caste: 8.75 lakh (1.64%) did not disclose caste in the 2024 survey.
3. Hijra / Gender: Hijras — 4,842. Gender non-disclosed — 2.17 lakh.
4. SC sub-castes: 59 sub-castes within SCs. OBC — 34 sub-castes.
5. SC women: SC population women = 50.10% — slightly more than men.
6. Highest SC% districts: Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema — 27.66% (4.28 lakh) | Prakasam — 27.15% (4.94 lakh) | Eluru — 24.71% (5.17 lakh) | Tirupati — 24.57% (5.61 lakh) | Chittoor — 23.29% | Bapatla — 22.98%.
7. Numerically highest SCs: Tirupati — 12.46 lakh (highest). Kurnool — 12.04 lakh.
8. Lowest SC% district: Alluri Sitarama Raju — 0.54% SC (tribal-dominant, 94.40% ST). Only 3,841 SCs.
9. Survey origin: February 2024, conducted by panchayat secretariat staff of previous government. Data released by present government. 2024 కులగణన నివేదిక వెళ్ళింది.

10. Kadapa: Highest number of Tevaru (SC sub-caste) — 76,288. Thurgoo Godavari — 57,466. Rangareddy — 57,466.

[తెలుగు]

1. రాష్ట్ర ముఖ్య గణాంకాలు: SC — 97.32 లక్షలు = 18.31%. ST — 31.16 లక్షలు = 5.86%. OBC — 1.25 కోట్లు = 23.53%.
2. కులం చెప్పనివారు: 8.75 లక్షలు (1.64%).
3. SC ఉప కులాలు: 59 ఉప కులాలు. OBC — 34 ఉప కులాలు.
4. అత్యధిక SC% జిల్లాలు: కోనసీమ 27.66% | ప్రకాశం 27.15% | ఏలూరు 24.71% | తిరుపతి 24.57%.
5. అత్యల్ప SC%: అల్లూరి సీతారామరాజు 0.54% (గిరిజన జిల్లా, ST 94.40%).

◇ MAINS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

Context

AP's 2024 Caste Survey released: SC 18.31% (97.32 lakh), ST 5.86% (31.16 lakh), OBC 23.53% (1.25 crore). Together = 47.7% of population. District extremes: Konaseema leads SC% at 27.66%; Alluri Sitarama Raju has lowest at 0.54% due to tribal dominance (94.40% ST). 8.75 lakh (1.64%) did not disclose caste. 59 SC sub-castes and 34 OBC sub-castes identified. Survey conducted in February 2024 by panchayat secretariat staff of the then-administration.

Background

The 2024 AP Caste Survey is the most comprehensive social enumeration in AP since the 2011 Census. Conducted using panchayat secretariat network — every gram panchayat level. Scope unprecedented: capturing caste identity, sub-caste, gender, and caste disclosure willingness. India's national Census (which would include caste data) was delayed since 2021. States — Bihar (2023), AP (2024) — conducted independent surveys to fill the vacuum. AP's SC population (18.31%) sits above the national

<https://t.me/IASWithDrRavi>

<https://www.instagram.com/iaswithdr ravi>

SC average (~16.6% as per 2011 Census), reflecting historical concentration of Dalit communities in AP's agricultural and artisan economy.

Key Dimensions

- 1. SC 18.31% — Reservation Arithmetic:** AP provides 15% reservation for SCs in government services (Art 15(4), Art 16(4)). With SCs at 18.31%, they are numerically underrepresented relative to population. 50% Indra Sawhney ceiling prevents increase. New data strengthens case for: maximising SC reservation utilisation (ensuring all 15% SC seats are filled, not lapsed) and welfare fund allocation proportional to 18.31%, not just 15%.
- 2. Konaseema 27.66% + Prakasam 27.15%:** ~10 percentage points above state average (18.31%). Reflects historical settlement of Madigas (leatherwork) and Malas (weaving) in Godavari delta agricultural economy. Welfare delivery failures have outsized impact in these districts — district-specific SC welfare allocation indices based on this data are immediately actionable.
- 3. Alluri Sitarama Raju 0.54% SC + 94.40% ST:** Geographic separation of SCs (plains agricultural areas) and STs (forested/hilly agency areas). AP must maintain distinct delivery architectures: SC welfare (plains-focused) and ST welfare (agency-focused). Policies that work in one geography don't work in the other.
- 4. 59 SC Sub-castes — Sub-classification:** Davinder Singh (2024) upheld states' power to sub-classify within SC reservations. AP's 59 sub-castes must be mapped against: representation in government services, educational attainment, land ownership, income levels. Sub-castes with worst outcomes = priority targets for sub-classification. Most significant advance in SC social justice since Ambedkar's constitutional framework.
- 5. 8.75 Lakh Non-disclosure — Data Quality:** 1.64% non-disclosure rate: concentrated in upper-caste communities, complex caste identities, urban areas. Creates systematic undercount of certain communities — distorting proportional representation calculations.
- 6. Hijras + Gender Non-disclosure:** 4,842 hijras enumerated + 2.17 lakh gender non-disclosing. Baseline for: targeted welfare (housing, healthcare, livelihood), reservation entitlement for transgender persons (ongoing legal debate), constitutional rights documentation. NALSA (2014) — third gender recognition.

7. Complete Social Composition: BC 50.59% (18 May) + SC 18.31% + ST 5.86% + OBC 23.53% = over 70% of AP's population constitutionally protected/backward. This demographic reality must be the foundation of all AP governance planning.

Critical Analysis

The 2024 AP Caste Survey data release transforms SC/ST/OBC welfare from presumptive to empirical. District-wise granularity (Konaseema 27.66% vs Alluri 0.54%) enables precision welfare targeting. Sub-classification is the most consequential long-term implication. With 59 SC sub-castes identified, Davinder Singh mandates: which sub-castes are underrepresented in government services relative to their share within the 18.31% SC population? This exercise is politically difficult (better-represented SC communities will resist) but constitutionally mandated and empirically justified.

The 8.75 lakh non-disclosure and February 2024 vintage create challenges: data completeness and legitimacy. Present government releasing data collected by previous government = transparency signal, but opens data to political contestation. Independent validation (NSSO, Census Commissioner) would establish legitimacy beyond political dispute. Going forward: SC Sub-classification Study mapping 59 sub-castes against government service representation; District SC Welfare Index proportional to SC%; AP SC Development Fund; independent data validation; use data for Delimitation Commission submissions.

💡 VALUE ADDITION Constitutional: Art 15(4) + Art 16(4) (SC/ST reservations) | Art 17 (Abolition of untouchability) | Art 338 (National Commission for SCs) | Art 341 (Presidential SC Notification) | State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh (2024 — sub-classification upheld) | Indra Sawhney (1992 — 50% ceiling) | NALSA v. Union of India (2014 — transgender rights) || SDGs: SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) | SDG 16 (Inclusive governance) | SDG 1 (Target poorest SC communities) | SDG 5 (SC women 50.10% + hijra enumeration) || Policy Evolution: Ambedkar (1950, SC list) → Kaka Kalelkar → Mandal → Indra Sawhney (1992) → NCBC (2017) → Davinder Singh (2024) → AP 2024 Survey release (2026) || Cross-ref: BC Population 50.59% (18 May) — complete social composition | Pillale Sampada (17-18 May) — SC fertility/population policy || Institutions: National Commission for SCs | AP SC Corporation | NSSO | Delimitation Commission | NCPCR (SC child rights)

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సందర్భం

AP 2024 కుల గణన నివేదిక: SC 97.32 లక్షలు = 18.31%. ST 31.16 లక్షలు = 5.86%. OBC 1.25 కోట్లు = 23.53%. కులం చెప్పనివారు 8.75 లక్షలు. SC లో 59 ఉప కులాలు. కోనసీమ 27.66% — అత్యధికం. అల్లూరి 0.54% — అత్యల్పం.

ముఖ్య అంశాలు

- 1. SC 18.31% — రిజర్వేషన్:** Art 16(4) 'తగిన ప్రాతినిధ్యం'. AP 15% SC రిజర్వేషన్. 18.31% జనాభాకు 15% — Indra Sawhney 50% పరిమితిలో. SC 15% సీట్లు పూర్తిగా నింపాలి.
- 2. 59 ఉప కులాలు — ఉప-వర్గీకరణ:** Davinder Singh (2024) నిర్ధారణ. ప్రభుత్వ సేవల్లో తక్కువ ప్రాతినిధ్యం కలిగిన ఉప కులాలు = లక్ష్యాలు.
- 3. సంపూర్ణ సామాజిక కూర్పు:** BC 50.59% + SC 18.31% + ST 5.86% + OBC 23.53% = AP జనాభా 70%+ రాజ్యాంగపరంగా రక్షించబడిన సమాజాలు.

విమర్శనాత్మక విశ్లేషణ

SC/ST/OBC సంక్షేమాన్ని అనుమానాత్మకం నుండి అనుభవికానికి మార్చే మైలురాయి. 59 ఉప కులాల ప్రాతినిధ్య తనిఖీ రాజకీయంగా కష్టమైనది కానీ రాజ్యాంగపరంగా నిర్దేశించబడింది. స్వతంత్ర డేటా ధృవీకరణ + SC ఉప-వర్గీకరణ అధ్యయనం ముందుకు దశలు.

📌 Value Addition కోసం English సెక్షన్ చూడండి

AP Energy & Global Economy

2. AP in the Global Nuclear Economy — SMRs, Vizag 6 GW, US-India Partnership

Source: The Hindu, 19/05/2026 | Subject: Nuclear Energy / Clean Energy / SMRs / AI-driven Demand / US-India / AP Industrial Policy

📌 **APPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING** Paper V: S&T, Energy Technology, Nuclear, AI | Paper IV: AP Economy, Energy, Infrastructure | Paper III: Governance, International Relations, Energy Policy

◇ PRELIMS FOCUS

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1. Event: IT & Electronics and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh addressed the US Executive Nuclear Mission to India Summit in New Delhi — jointly organised by Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), Monday 19 May 2026.
2. AP positioning: AP as a trusted long-term partner in the emerging global nuclear economy. Opportunities in nuclear manufacturing, engineering ecosystems, industrial supply chains, advanced energy infrastructure, and next-gen clean technology partnerships.
3. Global context: Global energy systems entering a structural transition driven by AI growth (data centre electricity demand), industrial electrification, energy security concerns, and decarbonisation commitments.
4. SMRs: Small Modular Reactors + next-gen reactor systems creating opportunities beyond electricity — in modular manufacturing, precision engineering, distributed supply chains, industrial-scale deployment ecosystems.
5. Vizag data centre: Visakhapatnam being developed as a major AI and data centre hub with nearly 6 GW data centre capacity expected over coming years.

6. Energy-economy linkage: 'Energy planning has thus become central to economic planning' — Mr. Lokesh.
7. AP industrial ecosystem: AP building: industrial corridors + electronics manufacturing clusters + renewable energy infrastructure + large-scale digital infrastructure ecosystems.
8. Institutions: Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) — US nuclear industry organisation. USISPF — bilateral economic partnership platform.

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1. కార్యక్రమం: నారా లోకేశ్ US ఎగ్జిక్యూటివ్ న్యూక్లియర్ మిషన్ సమ్మిట్, న్యూ ఢిల్లీ. NEI + USISPF నిర్వహణ.
2. AP స్థానం: గ్లోబల్ న్యూక్లియర్ ఎకానమీలో విశ్వసనీయ దీర్ఘకాలిక భాగస్వామి.
3. SMRs: చిన్న మాడ్యులర్ రియాక్టర్లు — మాడ్యులర్ తయారీ + ఖచ్చితత్వ ఇంజనీరింగ్.
4. విశాఖ 6 GW: నిరంతర, నమ్మకమైన, స్వచ్ఛ శక్తి అవసరం → పరమాణు శక్తి.
5. 'శక్తి ప్రణాళిక ఆర్థిక ప్రణాళికకు కేంద్రంగా మారింది' — నారా లోకేశ్.

◇ MAINS FOCUS

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Context

IT Minister Nara Lokesh at the US Executive Nuclear Mission to India Summit (NEI + USISPF) positioned AP as a strategic partner in the global nuclear economy. Core argument: AI-driven electricity demand + industrial decarbonisation = structural energy transition; SMRs offer round-the-clock clean power that solar/wind cannot; Visakhapatnam's 6 GW data centre ecosystem needs exactly this reliable power; AP's industrial corridors need energy security that intermittent renewables alone cannot provide. AP wants to be in the nuclear manufacturing supply chain.

Background

India's nuclear programme: 24 operational reactors, ~7.5 GW total capacity (~3% of installed electricity). India-US 123 Agreement (2008) unlocked civilian nuclear cooperation after 30-year isolation. However, Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010 (CLNDA) — Section 17(b) supplier liability — deterred all US nuclear companies for 15 years. Current global nuclear renaissance driven by: (1) AI data centres needing 24/7 power (Microsoft, Google, Amazon signing nuclear PPAs with US utilities); (2) Industrial decarbonisation requiring dispatchable clean power; (3) Energy security (Europe's gas dependency on Russia post-Ukraine). SMRs (< 300 MW, factory-built, passive safety, 3-5 year deployment) enable this renaissance. AP's interest: Vizag 6 GW data centres require ~2.4 GW continuous electricity (at 40% capacity factor). Solar provides peak power; SMRs provide baseload. Nuclear + Renewables + Storage = complete AP energy architecture.

Key Dimensions

1. AI → Electricity → Nuclear Renaissance: AI model training requires massive, continuous computing power → data centres → 24/7 reliable electricity → solar/wind are intermittent → battery storage insufficient at multi-GW scale → nuclear is the only zero-carbon, 24/7, dense-energy source for AI at scale. Microsoft's Three Mile Island nuclear deal (2023), Google's Kairos Power SMR agreement (2023), Amazon's nuclear DC campus (2023) = US precedents. AP is positioning to be India's version of this energy-AI nexus.

2. SMR Manufacturing Opportunity: Lokesh highlighted 'modular manufacturing, precision engineering, distributed supply chains.' AP's industrial base — ArcelorMittal/Nippon Steel (Anakapalli), semiconductor OSAT (SSS district), electronics cluster (Kopparthy) — creates potential SMR component manufacturing supply chain. SMR components: pressure vessels (high-grade steel), steam generators, control systems (electronics/semiconductors), fuel assemblies, passive safety systems.

3. Vizag 6 GW — Nuclear Baseload: 6 GW data centres → ~2.4 GW continuous electricity. AP's current total installed capacity ~24 GW — data centres alone add 10% to demand. AP's clean energy story (BESS 31 Mar, PSP Sileru 15 Apr, PHEP 4 Apr) addresses storage and peak. SMRs address the 24/7 baseload that storage cannot fully solve.

4. AP Clean Energy Chain — Completion: Solar → BESS (2-4 hr, 31 Mar) → PSP Sileru (8-12 hr, 15 Apr) → PHEP (seasonal, 4 Apr) → Green Hydrogen (15 Apr) → SMR/Nuclear (24/7 baseload, today) = Complete spectrum: seconds to continuous.

5. US-India Nuclear Partnership — Geopolitical: US-India strategic alignment (Quad, iCET, semiconductor partnerships) creates political will to resolve CLNDA. US SMR companies (NuScale, Holtec, X-energy, TerraPower) seeking Indian partners. AP's 'trusted long-term partner' language is diplomatic signalling: politically reliable, legally predictable, economically committed.

6. Nuclear as Union Subject — AP's Role: Nuclear energy is a Union subject (Seventh Schedule List I, Entry 7). AP cannot develop nuclear capacity without Central government approval and NPCIL partnership. AP's role at this summit is diplomatic — signalling intent to Centre and US partners. AP's path: advocate for SMR deployment at Vizag; position AP industries for nuclear manufacturing supply chain; engage DAE for nuclear fuel cycle research at DRDO/NSTL Vizag.

7. CLNDA Obstacle — Critical Policy: Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010 (Section 17b — supplier liability) has deterred all US nuclear companies from Indian market for 15 years. Any AP nuclear manufacturing partnership with US companies requires Centre-level CLNDA amendment or workaround. AP should advocate strongly for CLNDA reform — making it a condition of its US-India nuclear partnership positioning.

Critical Analysis

Lokesh's summit appearance is strategically significant: AP is shaping national energy policy from the front — not just implementing what Delhi decides. The 6 GW Vizag DC figure — if accurate — is extraordinary (India's total current DC capacity ~1.5-2 GW). This suggests AP's AI infrastructure ambitions are truly national-scale.

SMR manufacturing is the most actionable near-term dimension. India has no SMR manufacturing base yet. First-mover advantage — the state that builds SMR component manufacturing capability first — will capture a multi-billion dollar market as India's programme scales toward 2047 target (100 GW nuclear by 2047, PM Modi at COP26). AP's precision engineering base (defence, semiconductors) is the natural seed. Going forward: establish AP Nuclear Manufacturing Task Force; engage DAE for pilot SMR site assessment at Vizag coastal zone; advocate for CLNDA reform; negotiate with NEI for US nuclear company manufacturing partnerships; link nuclear baseload planning to Vizag DC grid master plan.

💡 **VALUE ADDITION** Constitutional & Legal: Art 246 + List I Entry 7 (Nuclear — Union subject) | Atomic Energy Act 1962 | CLNDA 2010 (Sec 17b — supplier liability obstacle) | India-US 123 Agreement (2008 — civilian nuclear) | NSG waiver (2008) || SDGs: SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) | SDG 9 (Nuclear manufacturing) | SDG 13 (Climate Action — zero-carbon nuclear) | SDG 17 (US-India partnerships) || AP Clean Energy Chain: Solar → BESS (31 Mar) → PSP Sileru (15 Apr) → PHEP (4 Apr) → Green H₂ (15 Apr) → SMR/Nuclear (19 May) = Full spectrum || SMR Technology: <300 MW | Factory-built, passive safety | Deployment 3-5 years | India target: 100 GW nuclear by 2047 | Current: ~7.5 GW (24 reactors) || Institutions: DAE | NPCIL | BARC | NEI (US) | USISPF | IAEA | NSG | DRDO/NSTL Vizag | AERB

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సందర్భం

నారా లోకేష్ US ఎగ్జిక్యూటివ్ న్యూక్లియర్ మిషన్ సమ్మిట్లో AP ని గ్లోబల్ న్యూక్లియర్ ఎకానమీ భాగస్వామిగా ప్రదర్శించారు. AI వృద్ధి + పారిశ్రామిక విద్యుదీకరణ = శ్రేణి మార్పు. SMRs = మాడ్యూలర్ తయారీ అవకాశాలు. విశాఖ 6 GW DC → నిరంతర శక్తి అవసరం. 'శక్తి ప్రణాళిక ఆర్థిక ప్రణాళికకు కేంద్రంగా మారింది.'

ముఖ్య అంశాలు

- 1. AI → విద్యుత్ → అణు రెనైసాన్స్:** AI → 24/7 నిరంతర విద్యుత్ → సౌరశక్తి అడపాదడపా → SMR = సున్నా-కార్బన్, 24/7.
- 2. SMR తయారీ:** AP యొక్క AM/NS ప్లేట్ + సెమీకండక్టర్ + ఎలక్ట్రానిక్స్ = SMR సరఫరా గొలుసు సంభావ్యత.
- 3. AP స్వచ్ఛ శక్తి గొలుసు పూర్తి:** సౌరశక్తి → BESS → PSP → PHEP → హరిత హైడ్రోజన్ → SMR = సెకన్ల నుండి నిరంతరం.
- 4. CLNDA అడ్డంకి:** Sec 17b = US కంపెనీలు 15 సంవత్సరాలు దూరంగా. AP కేంద్ర స్థాయిలో CLNDA సంస్కరణకు బలంగా వాదించాలి.

విమర్శనాత్మక విశ్లేషణ

6 GW విశాఖ DC అసాధారణం. SMR తయారీ మొదటి మూవర్ ప్రయోజనం — భారతదేశంలో ఇంకా అవకాశం తీసుకోలేదు. AP రక్షణ + సెమీకండక్టర్ + SMR తయారీ కలపడం = 2047 100 GW అణు మార్కెట్ క్యాపూర్.

📌 Value Addition కోసం English సెక్షన్ చూడండి

