

APPSC PULSE — IAS with Dr Ravi

STEP 1: CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

20 May 2026 (Wednesday)

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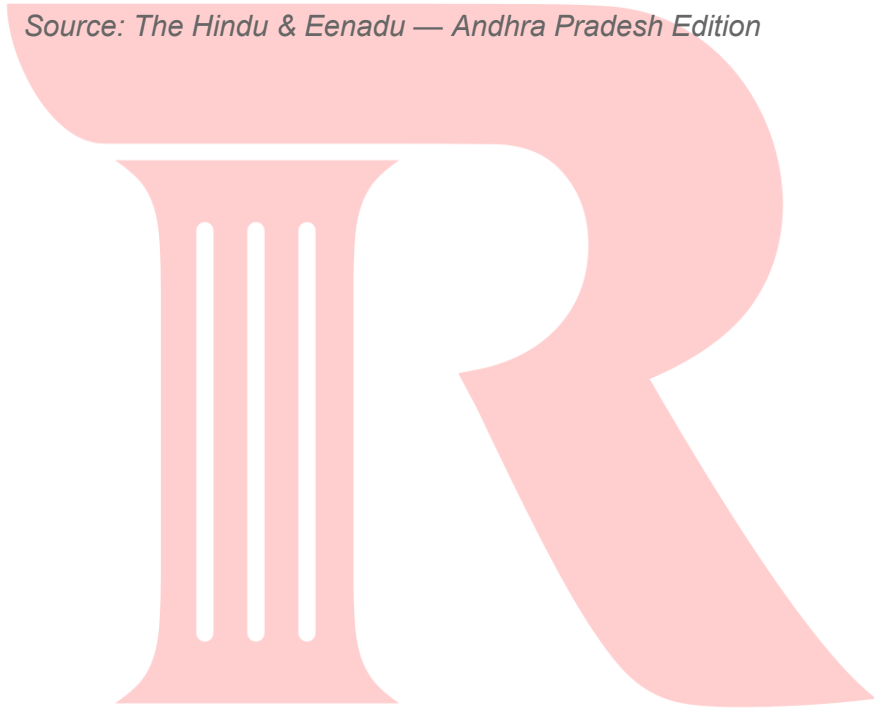


Table of Contents

AP Fisheries & Blue Economy

1. Matsyakarula Sevalo — ₹261.59 Crore to 1.3 Lakh Fishermen, ₹20,000 Each, Fishing Ban, Diesel Subsidy, Territorial Waters

AP-Telangana Water Resources

2. Nallamalasagar Realisation — Polavaram-Nallamalasagar 123 TMC Link, Palamuru-Rangareddy, CWC Analysis, Joint Committee



AP Fisheries & Blue Economy

1. Matsyakarula Sevalo — ₹20,000 to 1.3 Lakh Fishermen Families

Source: The Hindu, 20/05/2026 (N.S. Chowdary, Nellore) | Subject: Fisheries / Blue Economy / Social Welfare / Coastal Governance / Territorial Waters

🔗 **APPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING** Paper IV: AP Economy, Fisheries, Blue Economy, Coastal Resources | Paper III: Social Welfare, Governance, Maritime Law | Paper II: AP Geography — Coastline, Fisheries, Nellore

◇ PRELIMS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

1. Scheme: Matsyakarula Sevalo (మత్స్యకారుల సేవలో — 'In Service of Fishermen') — welfare scheme for fishing communities during annual sea fishing ban.
2. Disbursement: ₹261.59 crore to 1.3 lakh fishermen families across AP. ₹20,000 per family. CM N. Chandrababu Naidu disbursed at SPSR Nellore district on Tuesday 20 May 2026.
3. Fishing ban period: April 15 to June 15 every year — 60 days — to facilitate sea breeding. Mechanised fishing in sea prohibited during this period.
4. AP fisheries: Coastline ~1,000 km. AP = leader in fish production in India. After agriculture and construction, most people depend on fisheries. Fish production fell sharply during 2019-24.
5. Diesel subsidy: ₹9/litre for mechanised boats. In 2026-27 — ₹50 crore diesel subsidy for fishing boats.
6. Mechanised boats: 200 mechanised boats to be sanctioned. 60% subsidy + remaining 40% as loan.
7. Territorial waters: TN and Puducherry fishermen intruding into AP territorial waters. CM: 'There is no compromise in protecting the interests of our fishermen. We will chase anyone who illegally enters the territorial water of AP.'

[తెలుగు]

1. పథకం: మత్స్యకారుల సేవలో — సముద్ర మత్స్య నిషేధ కాలంలో మత్స్యకార కుటుంబాలకు సంక్షేమం.
2. పంపిణీ: ₹261.59 కోట్లు — 1.3 లక్షల కుటుంబాలకు. ₹20,000/కుటుంబం. SPSR నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలో CM పంపిణీ.
3. మత్స్య నిషేధ కాలం: ఏప్రిల్ 15 – జూన్ 15 (60 రోజులు) — సముద్ర ప్రత్యుత్పత్తి కోసం.
4. డీజిల్ సబ్సిడీ: ₹9/లీటర్. 2026-27లో ₹50 కోట్లు.
5. 200 యాంత్రిక పడవలు: 60% సబ్సిడీ + 40% రుణం. TN/Puducherry అతిక్రమణపై CM తీవ్ర వైఖరి.

◇ MAINS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

Context

AP government disbursed ₹261.59 crore to 1.3 lakh fishermen families (₹20,000 each) under Matsyakarula Sevalo during the annual sea fishing ban (April 15–June 15). CM at SPSR Nellore also announced ₹50 crore diesel subsidy for 2026-27, 200 mechanised boats (60% subsidy), and a firm stance against TN/Puducherry intrusions into AP territorial waters. AP — India's fish production leader with ~1,000 km coastline — saw sharp production decline 2019-24, making this welfare and investment push critical for coastal community revival.

Background

AP consistently ranks among India's top 3 fish-producing states (alongside Gujarat and West Bengal). The fishing community — predominantly BC communities (Vadabalija, Jalari, Gangaputra) — is economically among the most vulnerable coastal populations. The annual fishing ban (April 15–June 15) is mandated under Marine Fisheries Regulation Acts to protect fish breeding during the monsoon pre-season. The ban creates a 60-day income void. Matsyakarula Sevalo provides ₹20,000/family as income replacement — also creating economic incentive to respect the ban rather than risk illegal fishing for

survival. AP produces ~70% of India's shrimp exports — making fisheries a national food security and foreign exchange asset. The 2019-24 production decline has national implications, not just state-level.

Key Dimensions

1. Conservation-Welfare Nexus — Policy Design: ₹20,000 during the 60-day ban (₹333/day)

compensates for lost income during the conservation period — reducing economic pressure to violate the ban. The virtuous cycle: ban compliance → fish stock recovery → higher long-term catch → higher fishermen income. This is conservation-welfare nexus: conservation policy succeeds when communities most affected by it are economically supported.

2. AP as Fish Production Leader — National Significance: AP's marine and aquaculture production — particularly shrimp (~70% of India's shrimp exports) — is a major forex earner. The 2019-24 production decline has national food security and export implications. Revival of AP's fisheries = national strategic interest.

3. Diesel Subsidy ₹50 Crore — Blue Economy Infrastructure: At ₹9/litre, a boat consuming 200 litres/trip saves ₹1,800/trip. The ₹50 crore supports mechanised fleet viability. However, subsidised diesel + 200 new mechanised boats = incentive for more fishing effort. Without fish stock assessment and quota management, this could accelerate the very depletion it aims to offset.

4. Territorial Waters — Maritime Governance: Three dimensions: (a) Economic: TN/Puducherry boats deplete AP fish stocks; (b) Legal: Maritime Zones of India Act 1976 — territorial waters 12 NM, EEZ 200 NM. Intrusions violate AP's Marine Fisheries Regulation Act; (c) Political: CM's strong language reflects coastal community political sensitivity. 1984 AP-TN boundary demarcation never fully operationalised — enforcement gaps allow intrusions.

5. SPSR Nellore — Fisheries Geography: Nellore is AP's largest fish production district — Nellore shrimp, prawn farming, marine fishing. Pulicat Lake (2nd largest brackish water lagoon in India, shared with TN) is both ecological asset and source of fishermen conflict. CM choosing Nellore for disbursement is geographically significant.

6. Production Decline 2019-24 — Policy Failure Analysis: CM's acknowledgement of sharp decline during 2019-24 is an implicit policy critique. Failure causes: inadequate ban enforcement (no income support → fishermen violated ban for survival = exactly what Matsyakarula Sevalo now addresses);

unchecked TN/Puducherry intrusions; insufficient cold chain investment; no stock assessment data. Current package addresses identified failure causes.

Critical Analysis

Matsyakarula Sevalo is well-designed — correctly addresses incentive structure of conservation compliance. DBT mechanism ensures full benefit delivery. The scheme addresses symptoms without fully tackling structural causes. Most important missing intervention: scientific fish stock assessment and sustainable yield determination. Without knowing how many fish are in AP's waters and the maximum sustainable catch, boat modernisation and diesel subsidies (incentivising more fishing effort) could accelerate stock depletion even as they provide short-term welfare.

Territorial waters enforcement is the most politically charged but tractable: requires a formal AP-TN-Puducherry Joint Maritime Patrol Protocol under Indian Coast Guard coordination. Going forward: establish AP Fisheries Stock Assessment Programme (partnering with CMFRI, Kochi); develop AP-TN-Puducherry Joint Maritime Patrol; create Blue Economy Master Plan linking welfare to long-term sustainability; implement vessel monitoring system (VMS) on all mechanised boats; invest in cold chain infrastructure at fish landing centres.

VALUE ADDITION Constitutional & Legal: Entry 21 State List (fisheries within territorial waters) | Maritime Zones of India Act 1976 (territorial waters 12 NM, EEZ 200 NM) | Marine Fisheries Regulation Act (AP) | Art 48A (protect environment — DPSP) | UNCLOS 1982 (India ratified 1995) || SDGs: SDG 14 (Life Below Water — Target 14.4: sustainable fisheries) | SDG 1 (Fishing community welfare) | SDG 8 (Fishermen livelihoods) | SDG 2 (Fish protein, food security) || Policy: National Fisheries Policy 2020 | PM Matsya Sampada Yojana 2020 (₹20,050 cr) | Blue Economy Policy India 2023 | Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) || AP Fisheries: Coastline ~974-1,000 km | 10 fish landing centres | AP shrimp ~70% of India's shrimp exports | Key districts: Nellore, Visakhapatnam, East/West Godavari, Krishna || Institutions: CMFRI (Kochi) | MPEDA | Indian Coast Guard | NFDB (Hyderabad) | FAO

[తెలుగు]

సందర్భం

AP ప్రభుత్వం 1.3 లక్షల మత్స్యకార కుటుంబాలకు ₹261.59 కోట్లు (₹20,000/కుటుంబం) మత్స్యకారుల సేవలో పథకం కింద. ఏప్రిల్ 15 – జూన్ 15 సముద్ర మత్స్య నిషేధ కాలంలో ఆదాయ భర్తీ. ₹50 కోట్ల డీజిల్ సబ్సిడీ. 200 యాంత్రిక పడవలు. TN/Puducherry అతిక్రమణపై CM తీవ్ర వైఖరి.

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ముఖ్య అంశాలు

- 1. సంరక్షణ-సంక్షేమ నెక్స్ట్:** ₹20,000 = నిషేధ అనుపాలన ఆర్థిక ప్రోత్సాహన → చేపల నిల్వ పునరుద్ధరణ → దీర్ఘకాల పట్టు పెరుగుదల.
- 2. AP రొయ్యల ఎగుమతులు:** AP రొయ్యలు భారత రొయ్యల ఎగుమతుల్లో ~70%. 2019-24 తగ్గుదల = జాతీయ ఆహార భద్రత + విదేశీ మారక ద్రవ్య ప్రభావం.
- 3. సముద్ర సరిహద్దు అతిక్రమణ:** Maritime Zones Act 1976 — 12 NM జలాల హక్కు. 1984 AP-TN డీమార్కేషన్ పూర్తిగా అమలు కాలేదు. కోస్ట్ గార్డ్ సమన్వయంలో సంయుక్త గస్తీ అవసరం.

విమర్శనాత్మక విశ్లేషణ

సరైన విధంగా రూపొందించిన సంక్షేమం. కానీ శాస్త్రీయ చేపల నిల్వ మూల్యాంకనం + కోల్డ్ చైన్ + సముద్ర సరిహద్దు అమలు లేకపోవడం నిర్మాణాత్మక లోపాలు. CMFRI భాగస్వామ్యం + VMS + కోస్ట్ గార్డ్ గస్తీ ముందుకు దశలు.

📌 Value Addition కోసం English సెక్షన్ చూడండి

AP-Telangana Water Resources

2. Nallamalasagar Realisation — Polavaram-Nallamalasagar 123 TMC

Link

Source: Eenadu, 20/05/2026 | Subject: Water Resources / Inter-State Disputes / Polavaram / Irrigation / AP-Telangana

📌 **APPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING** Paper IV: AP Economy, Water Resources, Irrigation, Inter-State Water | Paper III: Governance, Centre-State, AIBP, Water Law | Paper II: AP Geography — Rivers, Irrigation

◇ PRELIMS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

1. Core story: CWC (Central Water Commission) presented preliminary analysis at meetings on May 1 and May 8. Key indication: Polavaram–Nallamalasagar investigation is critical for the project's feasibility.
2. Polavaram → Nallamalasagar link: 123 TMC net water from Polavaram proposed to be taken to Nallamalasagar (Kurnool district).
3. 16 TMC already allocated: 16 TMC already allocated to Nallamalasagar from existing sources. Remaining 123 TMC must come from Polavaram link.
4. Palamuru-Rangareddy dispute: Telangana wants to proceed with Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation (Krishna). AP objects. AP position: cooperate on Palamuru-Rangareddy only if Polavaram–Nallamalasagar 123 TMC is simultaneously resolved.
5. 45 TMC dispute: Telangana — give 45 TMC from Polavaram flood waters. AP — these are net waters, not flood waters. Polavaram net water is AP's allocation, not available for sharing.
6. Godavari-Kaveri link: 148 TMC transfer proposed as part of National River Linking Programme. Karnataka water commission involved.

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7. Joint Committee: Centre set up 12-member Joint Committee. First meeting: June 30, Delhi. Further: July 16, Delhi. AP CMs + Telangana + Central Water Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
8. CWC presentation: AP officials stated they were not informed beforehand — considered preliminary. AP letters sent to CWC. Formal objections being prepared.
9. Nallamalasagar background: ₹58,700 crore project (16 April edition). 200 TMC design capacity. Rayalaseema water security project.

[తెలుగు]

1. కేంద్ర కథ: CWC మే 1, 8 ప్రాథమిక విశ్లేషణ. పోలవరం-నల్లమలసాగర్ పరిశోధన కీలకమని సూచన.
2. పోలవరం → నల్లమలసాగర్: 123 TMC నికర జలాలు. ఇప్పటికే 16 TMC కేటాయింపు.
3. పాలమూరు-రంగారెడ్డి వివాదం: AP స్థానం — పోలవరం-నల్లమలసాగర్ (123 TMC) ఒకేసారి పరిష్కారం.
4. 45 TMC వివాదం: తెలంగాణ — వరద జలాలు. AP — నికర జలాలు = AP కేటాయింపు.
5. సంయుక్త కమిటీ: కేంద్రం 12 మంది కమిటీ. జూన్ 30 మొదటి భేటీ (థిల్లీ). జులై 16 తదుపరి.

◇ MAINS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

Context

CWC preliminary analysis (May 1 and May 8 meetings) indicated the Polavaram–Nallamalasagar investigation is critical. AP's core demand: 123 TMC net Polavaram water to Nallamalasagar for Rayalaseema water security. Telangana wants 45 TMC from the same water for Palamuru-Rangareddy. AP disputes characterisation as 'flood waters' — insists they are net allocated waters. Centre's 12-member Joint Committee (first meeting June 30, Delhi) will attempt to resolve entitlement dispute. AP and Telangana officials remain on opposite sides.

Background

AP-Telangana water dispute is India's most complex inter-state water conflict — involving multiple rivers (Krishna, Godavari), projects (Polavaram, Palamuru-Rangareddy, Nallamalasagar, Srisailem, Nagarjunasagar), tribunals (KWDT I & II, GWDT), and the bifurcation legacy of APRA 2014. APRA Section 89 — water-sharing provisions were deliberately provisional ('to be determined by Apex Council and tribunals'). The Apex Council has met irregularly; KWDT-II has been pending over a decade. Polavaram: AP's flagship Godavari project, currently under construction (₹27,089 crore spent + ₹5,108 crore pending, 16 April edition). Nallamalasagar: ₹58,700 crore Rayalaseema water security project (16 April), 200 TMC design capacity linking Polavaram surplus waters to water-scarce Rayalaseema.

Key Dimensions

- 1. 123 TMC — Nallamalasagar Viability:** Nallamalasagar's viability (200 TMC design) depends entirely on the 123 TMC Polavaram link. Without it, Nallamalasagar = partial project serving limited storage. 16 TMC already allocated = less than 10% of design capacity. AP's Rayalaseema water security for 4 districts, 1.5 crore people is contingent on: Polavaram completion + surplus water not diverted to Telangana + CWC approval of the link.
- 2. Net Water vs Flood Water — Technical Core:** Net water = reliable yield in a normal year (50-75% dependability). Flood water = excess beyond normal yield during high-rainfall years. AP position: 123 TMC = net waters, AP's allocated Godavari share. Telangana: surplus/flood waters during high-flow seasons. CWC determination of net vs flood character = decisive. Net water → AP has full legal basis to refuse sharing. Flood water → AP's legal basis to refuse is weaker under national river linking principles.
- 3. Palamuru-Rangareddy — Prisoner's Dilemma:** AP says: cooperate on Palamuru-Rangareddy when Nallamalasagar 123 TMC is secured. Telangana says: Palamuru-Rangareddy is our independent right. Classic prisoner's dilemma: both states withhold cooperation, both suffer from water uncertainty. Package deal — AP cooperates on Palamuru-Rangareddy environmental clearances in exchange for Telangana accepting Polavaram-Nallamalasagar 123 TMC link — is the only game-theoretically sound resolution.
- 4. APRA 2014 Legacy — Root Cause:** Sec 89 water provisions were deliberately provisional. Apex Council irregular. KWDT-II pending decade+. Institutional failure = permanent adversarial water relationship. Joint Committee is the latest attempt at institutional solution that Apex Council and KWDT-II have failed to provide.

5. Rayalaseema Water-Industrial Nexus: Nallamalasagar = AMCA Puttaparthi (water for operations) + Kurnool Drone City + Kadapa Steel (June 2026) + Kopparthi Electronics + Jonnagiri Gold. Industrial transformation of Rayalaseema (15-16 May editions) requires water security. Without Nallamalasagar, Rayalaseema's industrial ambition is undermined at its foundation.

6. National River Linking Programme: Godavari-Kaveri link (148 TMC) is part of India's National Perspective Plan — 30 links, 14 Himalayan + 16 Peninsular. Godavari-Kaveri is the most technically advanced peninsula link. Polavaram-Nallamalasagar is an integral component of this larger national architecture. NWDA (National Water Development Agency) is preparing DPRs.

Critical Analysis

The dispute illustrates structural failure of India's inter-state water governance: bifurcation without water finality = permanent conflict. AP and Telangana are both legitimate claimants. The 'net vs flood' technical dispute is decisive — and CWC's determination must be evidence-based, not politically influenced. The Joint Committee is necessary but insufficient: it can facilitate negotiation but cannot compel agreement if both states remain at maximalist positions.

Centre must be willing to exercise authority under APRA Section 89 to impose a binding water allocation if negotiations fail. From AP's perspective: (a) accelerate Polavaram completion — prerequisite for any 123 TMC link; (b) build technical evidence base at CWC establishing net water character; (c) negotiate package deal at Joint Committee; (d) escalate to KWDT-II if Joint Committee fails. Going forward: commission independent Godavari basin hydrology study establishing Polavaram's annual surplus at 75% dependability; engage NWDA to fast-track Polavaram-Nallamalasagar DPR; present net water evidence to Joint Committee; negotiate conditional cooperation on Palamuru-Rangareddy linked to Nallamalasagar progress.

💡 VALUE ADDITION Constitutional & Legal: Art 262 (Inter-state water disputes — Parliament can adjudicate) | ISRWDA 1956 | APRA 2014 Sec 89 (water-sharing, Apex Council) | GWDT Award | KWDT-I (1976 Award) + KWDT-II (ongoing) | National Water Policy 2012 || SDGs: SDG 6 (Integrated water resource management) | SDG 2 (Irrigation for food security) | SDG 11 (Water security for urban-industrial corridors) || Water Projects Cross-reference: Polavaram ₹27,089 cr (16 Apr) + Nallamalasagar ₹58,700 cr (16 Apr) + Veligonda June 2026 + HNSS + River linking + Rayalaseema Water 200 TMC (7 Apr) + Groundwater = ~₹1 lakh cr+ total || National River Linking: NPP (1980) — 30 links | Ken-Betwa (1st approved, ₹44,605 cr) | Godavari-Cauvery (148 TMC) | NWDA || Institutions: CWC | KWDT-II | GWDT | NWDA | Apex Council | Jal Shakti Ministry | AP Irrigation Dept | Telangana Irrigation Dept

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సందర్భం

CWC మే 1, 8 భేటీలో ప్రాథమిక విశ్లేషణ: పోలవరం-నల్లమలసాగర్ కీలకం. AP 123 TMC నికర జలాల డిమాండ్. తెలంగాణ 45 TMC వరద జలాలు అడుగుతోంది. కేంద్రం 12 మంది సంయుక్త కమిటీ — జూన్ 30 మొదటి భేటీ.

ముఖ్య అంశాలు

- 1. నికర జలాలు vs వరద జలాలు:** నికర జలాలు = సాధారణ సంవత్సరంలో నమ్మకమైన దిగుబడి. CWC నిర్ణయం నిర్ణయాత్మకం. నికర = AP పూర్తి హక్కు. వరద = పంచుకోవాలి.
- 2. పాలమూరు-RR — ప్రిజనర్స్ డైలమా:** రెండు రాష్ట్రాలు సహకారం నిలిపివేయడం = రెండూ నీటి అనిశ్చితి. ప్యాకేజ్ డీల్ ఒక్కటే గేమ్-థియరీపరంగా సరైన పరిష్కారం.
- 3. రాయలసీమ పారిశ్రామిక నీటి అవసరం:** AMCA + కర్నూలు డ్రోన్ సిటీ + కడప స్టీల్ + కొప్పర్తి = నీటి భద్రత అవసరం. నల్లమలసాగర్ లేకుండా రాయలసీమ పారిశ్రామిక పరివర్తన వునాది బలహీనం.
- 4. APRA 2014 మూల కారణం:** Sec 89 తాత్కాలిక నిబంధన + అపెక్స్ కౌన్సిల్ అనియమిత + KWDT-II దశాబ్దంగా పెండింగ్ = నిర్మాణాత్మక వైఫల్యం.

విమర్శనాత్మక విశ్లేషణ

విభజన నీటి తుది విభజన లేకుండా = శాశ్వత సంఘర్షణ. పోలవరం వేగవంతంగా పూర్తి + CWC వద్ద నికర జలాల సాక్ష్యం + పాలమూరు-RR ప్యాకేజ్ డీల్ + KWDT-II ద్వారా చట్టపరమైన నిర్ణయం AP వ్యూహం.

📌 Value Addition కోసం English సెక్షన్ చూడండి