

APPSC PULSE — IAS with Dr Ravi

STEP 1: CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

23 May 2026 (Saturday)

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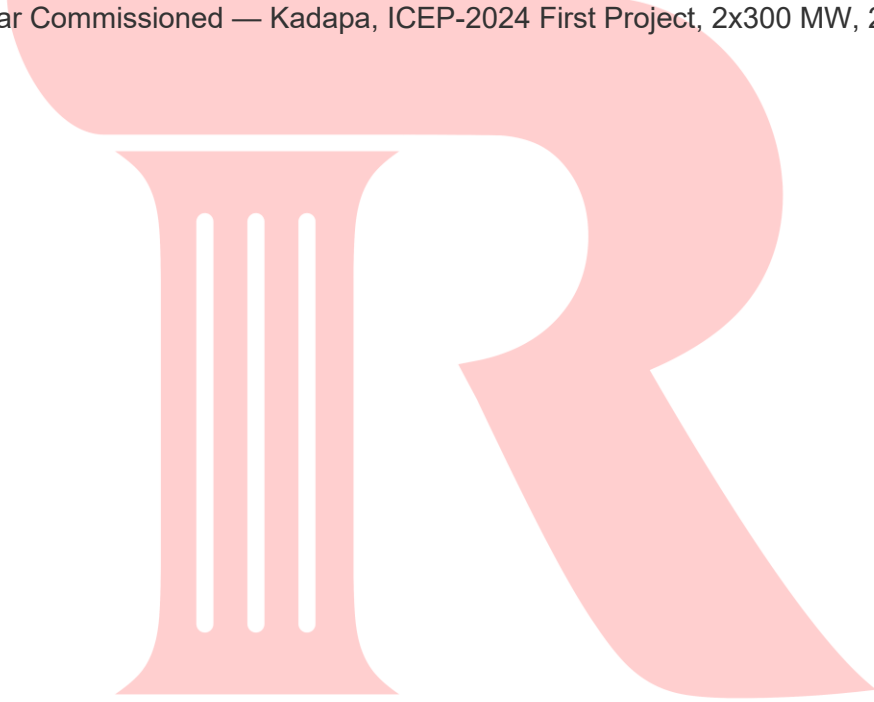
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AP-Telangana Water Resources

1. పులిచింతల నుండి నీళ్ళలా అడుగుతారు? — Brijesh Kumar Tribunal

Source: Eenadu, 23/05/2026 | Subject: Water Resources / Krishna Tribunal / Pulichintala / AP-Telangana / Krishna Delta

🔗 **APPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING** Paper IV: AP Economy, Water Resources, Krishna Tribunal | Paper III: Governance, Centre-State, Water Law | Paper II: AP Geography — Krishna, Pulichintala

◇ PRELIMS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

1. Forum: Brijesh Kumar Tribunal (KWDT-II — Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal II). Chairman Justice Brijesh Kumar; members Justice Rammohan Reddy, Justice Thalapatra. AP argued on Friday 23 May 2026 by Senior Advocate Jayadeep Gupta.
2. Next hearing: July 22 to 24.
3. AP core argument: 'For the first time in history, a state is not asking for its own allocations — it is asking to damage the basic infrastructure of the downstream state and divert the water used there to its own new projects.' — Jayadeep Gupta.
4. Pulichintala built purpose: Pulichintala reservoir was built as a balancing reservoir for the Krishna Delta. Telangana proposes lift irrigation schemes from Pulichintala. If done: irreparable damage to Krishna Delta ayacut; defeats the very purpose for which Pulichintala was built.
5. No hydrological studies: Telangana's proposed lift irrigation schemes have no hydrological studies. Arguments lack proper evidence.
6. Nagarjunasagar 1954 Report: The 1954 project report only mentions the possibility of lifting water for a lakh acres from the left canal — NOT an allocation. Telangana's claim that the project is partially operational is incorrect. No scope for new allocations from Sagar to new lift schemes.

7. 194 TMC vs 128 TMC: Brijesh Tribunal allocated 194 TMC total. Telangana is asking for 128 TMC of this for new projects. But these allocations are not yet finalised. Proposing unfinished allocations for new projects makes no sense.
8. 65% dependability = contempt: Telangana seeking fresh allocations at 65% dependability basis (higher volumes, less reliable) is an attempt to rewrite Brijesh Tribunal's findings. AP: this amounts to contempt of court.
9. Koilkonda, Ganded — 50 to 123 TMC: These schemes are demanding 50 to 123 TMC. Absurd demands. No water in Jurala at all — Telangana's own records and affidavits confirm this. That is why Palamuru Rangareddy was modified to draw from Srisailam instead.
10. Relampadu and others: Similarly demanding. Surplus waters must be allocated to Schedule 11 of the AP Reorganisation Act projects — not new projects.

[తెలుగు]

1. వేదిక: బ్రిజేష్ కుమార్ ట్రిబ్యూనల్ (KWDT-II). AP సీనియర్ న్యాయవాది జయదీప్ గుప్తా 23 మే 2026 న వాదించారు.
2. తదుపరి వాదనలు: జులై 22-24.
3. AP కీలక వాదన: 'చరిత్రలో మొదటిసారి ఒక రాష్ట్రం దిగువ రాష్ట్ర మౌలిక సదుపాయాలను దెబ్బతిసి అక్కడ వినియోగించే నీటి వనరులను తమ కొత్త ప్రాజెక్టులకు ఇవ్వాలని అడుగుతోంది.'
4. పులిచింతల: కృష్ణా డెల్టాకు బ్యాలెన్సింగ్ రిజర్వాయర్. తెలంగాణ ఎత్తిపోతలు = కృష్ణా డెల్టాకు తీరని నష్టం.
5. హైడ్రాలజికల్ అధ్యయనాలు లేవు. 1954 నాగార్జునసాగర్ నివేదిక: అవకాశం మాత్రమే — కేటాయింపు కాదు.
6. 194 TMC లో 128 TMC: ఇంకా ఖరారు కాని కేటాయింపుల ఆధారంగా కొత్త ప్రాజెక్టులు.
7. 65% విశ్వసనీయత = ట్రిబ్యూనల్ తిరగరాత = కోర్టు ధిక్కరణ.
8. జూరాలలో నీళ్లు లేవు — తెలంగాణ స్వంత అఫిడవిట్లై అంగీకరిస్తున్నాయి. 11వ షెడ్యూల్ ప్రాజెక్టులకే మిగులు జలాలు.

◇ MAINS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

Context

AP Senior Advocate Jayadeep Gupta argued before Brijesh Kumar Tribunal (KWDT-II) on 23 May 2026. Next hearing July 22-24. AP's central arguments: Pulichintala (built as Krishna Delta balancing reservoir) cannot be used for Telangana lift schemes without destroying the Delta; Telangana's schemes have no hydrological studies; 128 TMC demand from unfinished 194 TMC Brijesh allocation is premature; 65% dependability claim attempts to rewrite Tribunal = contempt; Koilkonda/Gandeed 50-123 TMC demands absurd (Jurala has zero water — Telangana's own affidavits confirm); surplus waters must go to APRA Schedule 11 projects, not new ones.

Background

KWDT-II (Justice Brijesh Kumar) was constituted in 2004 to review Krishna water allocations given changed circumstances post-KWDT-I (1976 Award). AP's bifurcation in 2014 made KWDT-II the principal mechanism for AP-Telangana water sharing — but the Tribunal has not yet issued a final Award. Pulichintala reservoir (Krishna district, 45.77 TMC) was designed specifically as a balancing reservoir — collecting Nagarjunasagar releases that cannot immediately be used by Krishna Delta canals, storing them, and supplying when needed. This is not a conventional storage dam — it is operational infrastructure serving a downstream balancing purpose. Without it functioning as designed, Krishna Delta's 11+ lakh acre ayacut faces irregular supply.

Key Dimensions

1. Pulichintala — Built Purpose vs Proposed Misuse: Pulichintala (45.77 TMC) = balancing reservoir for Krishna Delta. Telangana proposing lift schemes from it = diverting the balancing water before it reaches the Delta. Hydraulically accurate analogy: diverting from a pipeline midway before reaching its designated destination. AP's argument is technically grounded, not merely political. CWC's technical assessment of Pulichintala's balancing function is critical evidence.

2. 'First Time in History' — Legal Reframing: Shifts Tribunal framing from 'two states competing for water' to 'one state seeking to destroy another's infrastructure' — legally far more sympathetic for AP. Under water law, established uses (prior appropriation) have priority over new claims. Pulichintala's

established use as a balancing reservoir since commissioning creates a prior use right that new upstream diversions cannot override.

3. 194 TMC — Premature Demands: Brijesh Tribunal has allocated 194 TMC (combined AP-TS share from Krishna). Not yet finalised. Telangana asking for 128 TMC of this for new projects before the Award is final = building projects on legally non-existent allocations. AP's legal argument is sound.

4. 65% Dependability — Technical and Legal: GWDT (1979) and KWDT-I (1976) both used 75% dependability as the standard. Telangana seeking 65% dependability yields larger paper allocations but with less reliability (available in 65% of years). This requires rewriting the Tribunal's framework — AP correctly characterises this as contempt of court. The dependability standard is the technical heart of this legal dispute.

5. Jurala Zero Water — Telangana's Own Affidavits: Koilkonda and Gandeed schemes depend on Jurala reservoir. Telangana's own affidavits acknowledge Jurala has no surplus water. This is why Palamuru Rangareddy was modified to draw from Srisailem instead of Jurala. AP is using Telangana's own documents as primary evidence — the strongest possible legal position.

6. APRA Schedule 11 — Statutory Priority Framework: Section 11 Schedule of APRA 2014 lists specific priority irrigation projects of both states. Surplus Krishna waters are to be allocated to Schedule 11 projects before any new projects. Telangana bypassing this to demand allocations for new projects (Koilkonda, Gandeed, Relampadu) violates the statutory priority framework in APRA's own text.

7. 1954 Nagarjunasagar Report — Technical History: The 1954 project report mentioned only the possibility (not entitlement) of lifting water for a lakh acres from the left canal. Telangana's constructive interpretation of 'possibility' as 'allocation' is legally weak. AP arguing from the original founding document is historically and technically stronger.

8. APPSC Mains Scoring Chain: KWDT-II (2004) → APRA 2014 bifurcation → provisional water sharing → AP's arguments: Pulichintala prior use right + Jurala zero water (Telangana's own affidavit) + 1954 NSagar report = possibility only + 65% dependability = contempt + 128 of 194 TMC premature + Schedule 11 priority → Next hearing July 22-24. This chain scores 9/10; 'AP argued in Tribunal' alone scores 3/10.

Critical Analysis

KWDT-II proceedings are the most consequential ongoing legal process for AP's water future. The Tribunal's final Award will legally determine Krishna water sharing. AP's arguments on 23 May are well-evidenced (using Telangana's own affidavits on Jurala) and legally sophisticated (Pulichintala prior use,

Schedule 11 statutory priority, 65% dependability contempt characterisation). The 'first time in history' reframing is the most powerful rhetorical move — if the Tribunal accepts it, Telangana's Pulichintala proposals become untenable regardless of water availability.

The strategic risk: KWDT-II has been pending 21 years (since 2004). Telangana has been building facts on the ground (Kaleshwaram, Palamuru-RR modifications) during this delay. AP needs both: a favourable KWDT-II Award as fast as possible, and CWC enforcement of status quo pending the Award. Going forward: file application in KWDT-II for interim status quo order preventing new Telangana diversions; present Pulichintala hydraulic design studies to demonstrate balancing function as prior use; use Telangana's Jurala affidavits as primary evidence in Koilkonda/Gandeed cases.

💡 VALUE ADDITION Constitutional & Legal: Art 262 (Inter-state water disputes) | ISRWDA 1956 | KWDT-I Award 1976 (75% dependability) | KWDT-II (ongoing, Justice Brijesh Kumar, constituted 2004) | APRA 2014 Sec 89 (provisional water sharing) | APRA 2014 Schedule 11 (priority projects) | National Water Policy 2012 || Key Numbers: Brijesh Tribunal allocation = 194 TMC | Telangana demand = 128 TMC (for new projects) | Pulichintala = 45.77 TMC (balancing reservoir) | Nagarjunasagar 1954 report — lakh acres = possibility only | Jurala = zero surplus (Telangana's own affidavit) | Koilkonda/Gandeed demand = 50-123 TMC || SDGs: SDG 6 (Water resource management) | SDG 2 (Irrigation, food security) | SDG 16 (Dispute resolution) || Cross-ref: Palamuru-RR 45 TMC (20 May) | CWC proposals (21 May) | 123 TMC net water (22 May) | Nallamalasagar ₹58,700 cr (16 Apr) || Institutions: KWDT-II (Justice Brijesh Kumar) | CWC | APRA 2014 | AP Irrigation Dept | Jal Shakti Ministry | Supreme Court (SLP)

[తెలుగు]

సందర్భం

AP జయదీప్ గుప్తా బ్రిజేశ్ కుమార్ ట్రిబ్యూనల్ (KWDT-II) ముందు 23 మే 2026 న వాదించారు. AP కీలక వాదనలు: పులిచింతల నుండి తెలంగాణ ఎత్తిపోతలు = కృష్ణా డెల్టా వినాశనం; హైడ్రాలజికల్ అధ్యయనాలు లేవు; 194 TMC లో 128 TMC అకాల డిమాండ్; 65% = ట్రిబ్యూనల్ తిరగరాత = ధిక్కరణ; జూరాలలో నీళ్లు లేవు — తెలంగాణ అఫిడవిట్లు.

ముఖ్య అంశాలు

1. పులిచింతల — నిర్మించిన ఉద్దేశం vs దుర్వినియోగం: 45.77 TMC బ్యాలెన్సింగ్ రిజర్వాయర్. కొత్త ఎత్తిపోతలు = మధ్యమార్గంలో పైప్‌లైన్ నుండి మళ్లింపు. AP వాదన హైడ్రాలజికల్ గా ఖచ్చితమైనది.

2. 'చరిత్రలో మొదటిసారి' — చట్టపరమైన శక్తి: పోటీ నుండి మాలి నాశనానికి చట్టం మార్పు = ట్రిబ్యూనల్ కు AP కి చాలా అనుకూలం. ముందస్తు ఉపయోగ హక్కు (పులిచింతల కమిషన్ నుండి) = కొత్త మళ్ళింపును అధిగమించే హక్కు.

3. జూరాల శూన్య నీరు — తెలంగాణ స్వంత సాక్ష్యం: తెలంగాణ అఫిడవిట్లై జూరాల మిగులు లేదని నిర్ధారిస్తున్నాయి. అందుకే పాలమూరు-RR ని శీలైలంకు మార్చారు. తెలంగాణ స్వంత పత్రాలు AP ప్రాథమిక సాక్ష్యం = అత్యంత బలమైన చట్టపరమైన స్థానం.

4. APRA 11వ షెడ్యూల్: మిగులు జలాలు 11వ షెడ్యూల్ ప్రాజెక్టులకే. APRA స్వంత వచనం AP వాదనకు ఆధారం.

విమర్శనాత్మక విశ్లేషణ

KWDT-II AP నీటి భవిష్యత్తుకు అత్యంత నిర్ణయాత్మక ప్రక్రియ. జయదీప్ గుప్తా 'చరిత్రలో మొదటిసారి' చట్టం + తెలంగాణ స్వంత జూరాల అఫిడవిట్లు = బలమైన వాదన కలయిక. KWDT-II 21 సంవత్సరాలు పెండింగ్ — తాత్కాలిక స్థితిలో ఉంచాలని అర్జీ + పులిచింతల హైడ్రాలిక్ అధ్యయనాలు ముందుకు దశలు.

☞ Value Addition కోసం English సెక్షన్ చూడండి

AP Water & Agriculture

2. కేంద్రానికి సీమ ఉద్యానహబ్ డిపీఆర్ — Poorvodaya, 36 Irrigation Projects

Source: Eenadu, 23/05/2026 | Subject: Irrigation / Horticulture / Rayalaseema / Poorvodaya / Veligonda / Agriculture

🔗 **APPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING** Paper IV: AP Economy, Agriculture, Irrigation, Horticulture, Poorvodaya | Paper II: AP Geography — Rayalaseema, Irrigation, Uttarandhra | Paper III: Governance, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, World Bank

◇ PRELIMS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

1. Initiative: AP prepared a comprehensive DPR for Rayalaseema Horticultural Hub under Poorvodaya scheme and submitted to Centre. Target: complete key irrigation projects by 2028.
2. Funding routes: Poorvodaya scheme (Central) + World Bank loans + other routes.
3. Total investment: Rs 25,884 crore across 36 large, medium, and small irrigation projects.
4. Coverage: New ayacut 11.56 lakh acres. Stabilisation 6.79 lakh acres.
5. Two components: (a) Horticultural Plan — 22 large+medium + 3 small projects, Rs 20,884 crore, new ayacut 8.87 lakh acres, stabilisation 4.30 lakh acres. (b) Poorvodaya — 11 large+medium projects, Rs 5,000 crore, new ayacut 2.69 lakh acres, stabilisation 2.49 lakh acres.
6. Veligonda — 6 months: Phase 1 completable within 6 months. Rs 2,047 crore work required. 36 lakh acre ayacut + Rayalaseema drinking water storage.
7. Poorvodaya scheme: Central scheme for Eastern India — Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, AP. Annual Budget allocations. Covers agriculture, industries, basic community development. AP expects Central guidelines by end of June 2026.
8. Key projects: Korishapadu lifts (Rs 149 cr, 20,000 acres) | Paleru reservoir (Rs 177 cr) | Malleamadugu lifts (Rs 231 cr, 55,000 acres) | Malleamadugu reservoir (Rs 297 cr) | Neeva Branch Canal

(Rs 504 cr, 57,500 acres) | Palar lifts for Krishna Branch Canal diversion (Rs 64 cr) | Allturipadu lifts (Rs 19 cr, 2,000 new + 78,464 stabilisation acres).

9. Other projects: Galeru-Nagari + Handri-Neeva + Vedavati lifts + Annamayya project restoration + Alagannur Balancing Reservoir included.

10. Uttarandhra: 11 projects under Poorvodaya. 4 projects below Rs 100 crore each. 4 more below Rs 300 crore each.

[తెలుగు]

1. రాయలసీమ ఉద్యాన హబ్ DPR — పూర్వోదయ పథకం కింద కేంద్రానికి సమర్పణ. 2028 లక్ష్యం.
2. మొత్తం: ₹25,884 కోట్లు. 36 ప్రాజెక్టులు. కొత్త ఆయకట్టు 11.56 లక్షల ఎకరాలు + స్థిరీకరణ 6.79 లక్షల ఎకరాలు.
3. వెలిగొండ: 6 నెలల్లో మొదటి దశ పూర్తి — ₹2,047 కోట్లు. 36 లక్షల ఎకరాల ఆయకట్టు + తాగునీరు.
4. పూర్వోదయ పథకం: తూర్పు భారత అభివృద్ధి — బీహార్, జార్ఖండ్, పశ్చిమ బెంగాల్, ఒడిశా, AP. జూన్ చివర్లో కేంద్ర మార్గదర్శనాలు.
5. ముఖ్య ప్రాజెక్టులు: కోరిశపాడు (₹149 కోట్లు) | మల్లేమడుగు (₹231 కోట్లు, 55వేల ఎకరాలు) | నీవా బ్రాంచ్ కాలువ (₹504 కోట్లు, 57,500 ఎకరాలు) | అల్లూరిపాడు (₹19 కోట్లు, 78,464 స్థిరీకరణ). గాలేరు-నగరి + పాండ్రీ-నీవా + వేదవతి + అన్నమయ్య పునరుద్ధరణ.
6. ఉత్తరాంధ్ర: పూర్వోదయ కింద 11 ప్రాజెక్టులు. 4 = ₹100 కోట్ల కన్నా తక్కువ. 4 = ₹300 కోట్ల కన్నా తక్కువ.

◇ MAINS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

Context

AP prepared and submitted to the Centre a comprehensive DPR for a Rayalaseema Horticultural Hub — 36 irrigation projects worth Rs 25,884 crore under Poorvodaya + World Bank funding. Target: 2028 completion, adding 11.56 lakh acres new ayacut and stabilising 6.79 lakh acres. Veligonda Phase 1 (Rs

2,047 crore, 6 months) is the near-term milestone. AP expects Poorvodaya Central guidelines by end of June 2026 — making the DPR submission perfectly timed.

Background

Rayalaseema (Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapuram, Chittoor) is AP's most water-scarce developed agricultural region. Average rainfall 500-700 mm vs 900-1,000 mm for coastal AP. Almost entirely dependent on Krishna water — which is fully allocated and frequently in deficit. Major projects — Galeru-Nagari, Handri-Neeva, Veligonda — have been under construction for decades, repeatedly delayed by funding gaps and inter-state disputes. Poorvodaya is a Central Government scheme for Eastern India development (announced in Union Budget 2024-25), now extended to AP. The World Bank has a history of funding Indian irrigation — AP's formal DPR submission enables World Bank loan appraisal. The timing is deliberate: AP presents a shovel-ready project list ahead of June 2026 Central guidelines.

Key Dimensions

1. Rs 25,884 Crore + 2028 Timeline — Fiscal Feasibility: AP's current annual irrigation budget ~Rs 8,000-10,000 crore. Gap bridged by: Poorvodaya Central allocation + World Bank loan + NABARD LTIF + NABFID (Rs 7,981 crore, 7 April edition). DPR submission to Centre is the formal trigger for external funding flows. 2028 target requires funds flowing by September 2026 at the latest.

2. Veligonda — The Credibility Test: Veligonda Phase 1 in 6 months (November 2026 deadline) is the most concrete near-term deliverable. Under construction since 2004 — 22 years. Phase 1 completion = first tangible water delivery to command area. 36 lakh acre ayacut + Rayalaseema drinking water. If Veligonda slips again, investor and donor confidence in AP's irrigation delivery capacity erodes significantly.

3. Rayalaseema Horticultural Hub — Economic Logic: Rayalaseema's semi-arid climate with high diurnal temperature variation is ideal for tomatoes, chilies, groundnuts, mangoes, bananas, pomegranates. Irrigation (reliable water) is the binding constraint. Completing 36 projects converts climate advantage into commercial horticultural advantage. Direct link: AMCA Puttaparthi + Kurnool Drone City + Kadapa Steel all need food supply for workers. A horticultural hub provides local food supply chain for Rayalaseema's industrial workforce.

4. Poorvodaya — Policy Window: AP's inclusion in an Eastern India scheme is a significant policy win. Provides: Central budget allocations specifically for AP; legitimacy in national policy priorities; potential Central funding for irrigation projects competing with other scheme allocations. June 2026

expected guidelines make DPR submission perfectly timed — AP will have a ready project list when guidelines arrive.

5. World Bank Loan — Conditionality and Speed: World Bank loans for irrigation require: environmental assessment, R&R plans, procurement norms, monitoring frameworks. These conditions add 12-18 months to project start. If AP targets 2028 completion, World Bank loan disbursement must begin by September 2026 — requiring appraisal completion by June-July 2026. Both Poorvodaya and World Bank tracks must be pursued simultaneously.

6. 36 Projects + Spatial Equity: Spans Rayalaseema and Uttarandhra. Small projects (Rs 19 crore Alluripadu, sub-Rs 100 crore Uttarandhra) alongside large works (Rs 504 crore Neeva Branch Canal) — portfolio approach: quick wins for smaller projects, longer-gestation major works. Political economy: no major district left out, ensuring legislative support.

7. Irrigation-Industrial Nexus: Water security (36 projects) + energy (SAEL 600 MW solar, 23 May) + industry (AMCA, Steel, Drones) + population (Pillale Sampada) = AP's most integrated regional development strategy. Irrigation is the foundation — without reliable water, horticulture is not viable and industrial workers cannot be sustained.

Critical Analysis

The Rayalaseema Horticultural Hub DPR is AP's most comprehensive single irrigation investment proposal to the Centre in recent years. Veligonda 6-month milestone is the credibility test — if Phase 1 is completed by November 2026, the entire 2028 DPR timeline gains credibility. If Veligonda slips again (as it has since 2004), donor and investor confidence in AP's irrigation delivery capacity erodes. The DPR's strength is its portfolio approach — even if some large projects face delays, many smaller projects (sub-Rs 100 crore) can demonstrate quick wins.

Going forward: AP should engage World Bank's India Country Office immediately for fast-track DPR appraisal; establish a dedicated Rayalaseema Irrigation DPR Monitoring Cell; link each project's completion milestone to specific fund release triggers (accountability architecture); create a public Veligonda Progress Dashboard as the credibility signal to investors and donors; and ensure Poorvodaya and World Bank tracks proceed in parallel, not sequentially.

💡 VALUE ADDITION Constitutional & Policy: Art 275 (Grants to States — irrigation) | PMKSY (AIBP component) | NABARD LTIF (Long-Term Irrigation Fund) | NABFID (Rs 7,981 cr AP, 7 Apr) | Poorvodaya Scheme (Budget 2024-25 — Eastern India, now includes AP) || SDGs: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger — irrigation for food security) | SDG 6 (Water security) | SDG 8 (Agriculture employment) | SDG 9 (Infrastructure) || Key

Numbers: Rs 25,884 crore | 36 projects | New ayacut 11.56 lakh acres | Stabilisation 6.79 lakh acres | Veligonda Phase 1: Rs 2,047 crore, 6 months, 36 lakh acres | Poorvodaya: Rs 5,000 crore, 11 projects || Cross-ref: Veligonda June 2026 deadline (16 Apr) | Nallamalasagar Rs 58,700 cr (16 Apr) | NABFID Rs 7,981 cr (7 Apr) | AMCA Puttaparthi (15-16 May) + Kadapa Steel — irrigation-industrial nexus || Institutions: AP Irrigation Dept | World Bank India | NABARD | NABFID | Poorvodaya Mission (Centre) | AP Finance Dept

[తెలుగు]

సందర్భం

AP ప్రభుత్వం రాయలసీమ ఉద్యాన హబ్ DPR కేంద్రానికి సమర్పించింది — పూర్వోదయ పథకం + ప్రపంచ బ్యాంకు రుణం. ₹25,884 కోట్లు, 36 ప్రాజెక్టులు, 2028 లక్ష్యం. కొత్త ఆయకట్టు 11.56 + స్థిరీకరణ 6.79 లక్షల ఎకరాలు. వెలిగొండ మొదటి దశ = 6 నెలల్లో మైలురాయి.

ముఖ్య అంశాలు

- 1. వెలిగొండ — విశ్వసనీయత పరీక్ష:** 2004 నుండి నిర్మాణం — 22 సంవత్సరాలు. నవంబర్ 2026 గడువు. వెలిగొండ మళ్ళీ జాప్యమైతే DPR మొత్తం విశ్వసనీయత దెబ్బతింటుంది.
- 2. రాయలసీమ ఉద్యాన హబ్ — ఆర్థిక తర్కం:** సెమీ-అరిడ్ వాతావరణం = టమాటాలు, మిర్చి, మామిడి అనుకూలం. నీటిపారుదల = కట్టుబడిన అడ్డంకి. 36 ప్రాజెక్టులు పూర్తి = వాతావరణ ప్రయోజనం వాణిజ్య ప్రయోజనంగా మారుతుంది.
- 3. పూర్వోదయ + ప్రపంచ బ్యాంకు:** రెండు ట్రాక్లు ఒకేసారి. జూన్ 2026 పూర్వోదయ మార్గదర్శనాలు + సెప్టెంబర్ 2026 నాటికి ప్రపంచ బ్యాంకు మూల్యాంకనం = 2028 లక్ష్యం సాధ్యం.
- 4. నీటిపారుదల-పారిశ్రామిక సమ్మేళనం:** నీటిపారుదల + SAEL 600 MW సౌర + AMCA + కడప స్టీల్ + పిల్లలే సంపద = రాయలసీమ పూర్తి అభివృద్ధి ప్యాకేజ్.

విమర్శనాత్మక విశ్లేషణ

AP ఇటీవలి సంవత్సరాల్లో కేంద్రానికి సమర్పించిన అత్యంత సమగ్రమైన నీటిపారుదల ప్రతిపాదన. వెలిగొండ = విశ్వసనీయత పరీక్ష. పూర్వోదయ + ప్రపంచ బ్యాంకు ఒకేసారి కాకుండా వరుసగా చేయకూడదు. వెలిగొండ పురోగతి డాప్ బోర్డ్ + DPR పర్యవేక్షణ సెల్ ముందుకు దశలు.

📌 Value Addition కోసం English సెక్షన్ చూడండి

AP Clean Energy

3. SAEL 600 MW Solar Commissioned — AP India's Clean Energy Capital

Source: The Hindu, 23/05/2026 (A.D. Rangarajan, Kadapa) | Subject: Renewable Energy / Solar / ICEP-2024 / Kadapa / SECI / #ChooseSpeedChooseAP

🔗 **APPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING** Paper IV: AP Economy, Energy, Industrial Investment, Clean Energy | Paper V: S&T, Renewable Energy, Solar | Paper II: AP Geography — Kadapa, Rayalaseema | Paper III: Governance, Policy Implementation

◇ PRELIMS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

1. Project commissioned: 600-MW AC solar power project of SAEL Industries in Kadapa district. Commissioned on Friday 23 May 2026 by IT & HRD Minister Nara Lokesh.
2. Structure: Two 300-MW AC facilities — SAEL Solar MHP1 Private Limited + SAEL Solar MHP2 Private Limited. Total land: ~2,400 acres.
3. Investment: Approximately Rs 3,000 crore.
4. Policy first: One of the first large-scale RE projects completed under AP's Integrated Clean Energy Policy-2024 (ICEP-2024). Completed in record 11 months.
5. Power supply: Directly to national grid under 25-year Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). Supports India's long-term clean energy transition + strengthens country's renewable power capacity.
6. Lokesh quote: 'It is a matter of pride for AP that the first project under ICEP-2024 is now commissioned. SAEL's 600 MW solar project in Rayalaseema reflects the speed, confidence, and execution capability of our State. Committed to positioning AP as India's clean energy capital — target: Rs 10 lakh crore in green energy investments.'

7. AP identity: 'Destination for speed-driven industrial execution and investor-friendly governance.' AP rapidly emerging as national hub for green manufacturing, storage technologies, and future-ready industrial ecosystems.
8. Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar: AP creating reliable and affordable energy infrastructure to support expanding industrial base and future energy requirements.
9. SAEL co-founder Sukhbir Awla: AP has become 'key growth engine' in India's renewable energy transition — continued to inspire long-term investor confidence in clean energy infrastructure.
10. Ministers at commissioning: G. Ravi Kumar (Energy), S. Savitha (Textiles). Legislators: C. Adinarayana Reddy (Jammalamadugu), Putha Krishna Chaitanya Reddy (Kamalapuram). DC Sridhar Cherukuri, TDP district president C. Bhupesh Reddy.
11. AP ICEP-2024 full form: Integrated Clean Energy Policy-2024.

[తెలుగు]

1. ప్రాజెక్ట్ కమిషన్: SAEL ఇండస్ట్రీస్ 600 MW AC సౌర ప్రాజెక్ట్ — కడప జిల్లా, 23 మే 2026. నారా లోకేష్ ప్రారంభం.
2. నిర్మాణం: రెండు 300-MW AC సౌకర్యాలు (MHP1 + MHP2). ~2,400 ఎకరాలు. ₹3,000 కోట్లు.
3. 11 నెలల రికార్డు పూర్తి. ICEP-2024 కింద మొదటి పెద్ద RE ప్రాజెక్ట్.
4. SECI తో 25 సంవత్సరాల PPA. జాతీయ గ్రిడ్కు నేరుగా.
5. నారా లోకేష్: 'ICEP-2024 కింద మొదటి ప్రాజెక్ట్ కమిషన్. AP ని భారత స్వచ్ఛ శక్తి రాజధానిగా చేయాలని నిబద్ధత. ₹10 లక్షల కోట్ల పచ్చ శక్తి పెట్టుబడి లక్ష్యం.'
6. AP = వేగవంతమైన పారిశ్రామిక అమలు + పెట్టుబడి-అనుకూల పాలన గమ్యం.

◇ MAINS FOCUS

[ENGLISH]

Context

The 600 MW AC SAEL Industries solar project at Kadapa was commissioned on 23 May 2026 — the first large-scale RE project completed under ICEP-2024 in a record 11 months. Two 300-MW facilities

on ~2,400 acres, Rs 3,000 crore investment, supplying power to national grid through 25-year SECI PPAs. Nara Lokesh at commissioning reinforced AP's brand as a 'destination for speed-driven industrial execution' — targeting Rs 10 lakh crore in green energy investments to make AP India's clean energy capital.

Background

ICEP-2024 (Integrated Clean Energy Policy-2024) created the enabling architecture: pre-identified Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) with land banks, grid connectivity guarantee within 6 months (APTRANSCO obligation), banking facility (store surplus solar, withdraw when needed), open access for industrial consumers, and deemed environmental clearances within REZs. This reduced project timelines from 18-24 months to sub-12 months. SAEL Industries (Solar Energy, Agri and Lighting), a Delhi-based developer, chose Kadapa REZ for this project. The 25-year SECI PPA is the financial foundation — SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India, a Central PSU under MNRE) procures solar via competitive auctions and PPAs, then supplies nationally. Connecting to SECI rather than only state DISCOMs insulates the project from AP's DISCOM financial health — critical for long-term investor confidence.

Key Dimensions

- 1. 2x300 MW Structure — Financial Engineering:** Two separate SPVs (SAEL Solar MHP1, MHP2): (a) independent debt financing per unit; (b) phased commissioning possible; (c) limited liability cross-contamination; (d) facilitates future asset sale or refinancing. Reflects financial sophistication in structuring Rs 3,000 crore investment.
- 2. SECI 25-Year PPA — Bankability Gold Standard:** 25-year SECI PPA = gold standard for solar project bankability in India. Provides: revenue certainty over project lifetime; Central government counterparty (effectively AAA-rated via GoI backing); national grid connection (not dependent on single DISCOM); uniform payment terms. Sukhbir Awla calling AP 'key growth engine' inspiring 'long-term investor confidence' directly references this PPA certainty.
- 3. 11 Months — ICEP-2024 Validated:** REZ land (pre-identified) + deemed clearances + APTRANSCO 6-month grid guarantee + equipment procurement + construction = 11 months. This commissioning converts ICEP-2024 from policy design to demonstrated outcome. 'We have a delivered project under this policy' is far more powerful investor evidence than 'we have a good policy.'
- 4. Kadapa — Multi-Sector District:** 600 MW solar (energy) + Kadapa Steel Plant (June 2026, 16 May) + Jonnagiri Gold Fields + proximity to AMCA Puttaparthi. AP's most multi-sector development district.

600 MW solar powering industrial loads in Kadapa reduces energy import dependence and supports industrial competitiveness.

5. Rs 10 Lakh Crore Target — Scale of Ambition: Lokesh's Rs 10 lakh crore target = formal policy commitment, not aspiration. Requires ~50,000 MW new solar (at Rs 5 cr/MW x 50,000 = Rs 2.5 lakh crore for solar alone) + offshore wind + storage + green hydrogen. SAEL 600 MW is the 0.006% first step — but it proves the framework works.

6. National Grid — India's 500 GW Target: 25-year SECI PPA means SAEL's 600 MW feeds every DISCOM across India. AP's contribution to India's 500 GW renewable target by 2030 is now physically operational at Kadapa. Low-cost, reliable renewable power = competitive advantage for AP's manufacturing sector (defence, semiconductors, steel).

7. AP Clean Energy Chain — First Operational Proof: Solar generation (SAEL 600 MW, commissioned 23 May) is the first operational proof-of-concept in AP's clean energy chain: Solar → BESS 3,000 MW (31 Mar) → PSP Sileru 1,350 MW (15 Apr) → PHEP 960 MW (4 Apr) → Green H2 (15 Apr) → SMR/Nuclear (19 May). SAEL 600 MW = not an announced intention but a delivered, grid-connected, revenue-generating asset.

Critical Analysis

The SAEL 600 MW commissioning is a landmark because it proves ICEP-2024 works. The policy architecture (REZs, 6-month grid guarantee, deemed clearances, banking facility) delivered a 600 MW project in 11 months. This proof-of-concept transforms AP's investor pitch — the difference between 'we have a good policy' and 'we have a delivered project' is enormous in investment decision-making. Investors weight demonstrated track records far more heavily than policy promises.

The SECI PPA structure is particularly important. By connecting to SECI (national grid), SAEL's project is insulated from AP's DISCOM financial health — a chronic concern for solar investors in financially stressed DISCOM states. AP must replicate this national PPA structure for all future large-scale solar projects. Going forward: fast-track ICEP-2024 approvals for next 5-10 large solar projects maintaining the 11-month benchmark; develop AP Clean Energy Investment Tracking Dashboard (real-time project status); establish AP as solar module manufacturing hub using PLI scheme (currently 95% imported); negotiate with SECI for AP-specific long-term PPA framework covering the Rs 10 lakh crore target.

💡 VALUE ADDITION Constitutional & Policy: Electricity Act 2003 (open access, banking) | AP ICEP-2024 | National Solar Mission (JNNSM) | PLI for Solar Modules (Rs 4,500 crore, MNRE) || SDGs: SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) | SDG 9 (Infrastructure) | SDG 13 (Climate Action — India 500 GW by 2030) || Key

Numbers: SAEL 600 MW AC | 2x300 MW (MHP1+MHP2) | 2,400 acres | Rs 3,000 crore | 11 months | 25-year SECI PPA | ICEP-2024 first project || AP Clean Energy Chain: SAEL 600 MW solar (commissioned 23 May) → BESS 3,000 MW (31 Mar) → PSP Sileru 1,350 MW (15 Apr) → PHEP 960 MW (4 Apr) → Green H2 (15 Apr) → SMR/Nuclear (19 May) || India Solar: India installed ~90 GW (2026) | AP solar ~17 GW | Target 500 GW by 2030 | SECI — Solar Energy Corporation of India (MNRE PSU) || Cross-ref: ICEP-2024 first project announcement (21 May, Topic 1) | Rs 10 lakh crore target | Wari Energy 16 GWh battery (17 Apr) || Institutions: SAEL Industries | SECI | APTRANSCO | MNRE | IREDA | Energy Dept AP

[తెలుగు]

సందర్భం

SAEL ఇండస్ట్రీస్ 600 MW AC సౌర ప్రాజెక్ట్ కడప జిల్లాలో 23 మే 2026 న కమిషన్. ICEP-2024 కింద మొదటి పెద్ద RE ప్రాజెక్ట్ — రికార్డు 11 నెలల్లో. రెండు 300-MW సౌకర్యాలు, ~2,400 ఎకరాలు, ₹3,000 కోట్లు. SECI తో 25 సంవత్సరాల PPA. నారా లోకేష్: 'AP = వేగవంతమైన పారిశ్రామిక అమలు గమ్యం. ₹10 లక్షల కోట్ల పచ్చ శక్తి పెట్టుబడి లక్ష్యం.'

ముఖ్య అంశాలు

- 1. ICEP-2024 ధృవీకరణ:** పాలసీ రూపకల్పన → నిరూపించబడిన ఫలితం. 'మంచి పాలసీ ఉంది' నుండి 'ఈ పాలసీ కింద అందించిన ప్రాజెక్ట్ ఉంది' = పెట్టుబడి నిర్ణయాల్లో పెద్ద తేడా.
- 2. SECI 25 సంవత్సరాల PPA:** జాతీయ గ్రిడ్ + ప్రభుత్వ-హామీ కౌంటర్పార్టీ = AP DISCOM ఆర్థిక ఆరోగ్యంపై ఆధారపడని నిర్మాణం. పెట్టుబడిదారుల దీర్ఘకాలిక విశ్వాసానికి పునాది.
- 3. కడప — బహు-రంగ జిల్లా:** 600 MW సౌర + కడప స్టేట్ (జూన్ 2026) + జొన్నగిరి బంగారం + AMCA సామీప్యం = AP అత్యంత బహు-రంగ అభివృద్ధి జిల్లా.
- 4. AP స్వచ్ఛ శక్తి గొలుసు:** SAEL 600 MW (23 మే, కమిషన్) → BESS → PSP → PHEP → హరిత హైడ్రోజన్ → SMR. మొదటి నిర్వహణ ఆధారం.

విమర్శనాత్మక విశ్లేషణ

SAEL 600 MW కమిషన్ = ICEP-2024 పని చేస్తుందని నిరూపణ. SECI PPA జాతీయ నిర్మాణం అన్ని భవిష్యత్ పెద్ద సౌర ప్రాజెక్టులకు నకలు చేయాలి. తదుపరి 5-10 పెద్ద ప్రాజెక్టులకు ICEP-2024 అనుమతులు వేగవంతం + AP సౌర మాడ్యూల్ తయారీ హబ్ (PLI పథకం) ముందుకు దశలు.