



Andhra Pradesh to Develop Satellite Launch Facility on Hope Island | National Current Affairs | 20 Jan 2026

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** has announced plans to develop a **satellite launching facility on Hope Island**.

Key Points

- **Location:** The proposed **satellite launching facility** will be built on **Hope Island** in **Kakinada Bay, Andhra Pradesh**.
 - **Strategic distance:** Hope Island lies about **600 km from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota**, India's principal spaceport.
 - **Coastal advantage:** Hope Island's **coastal location** provides a strategic advantage for **launch trajectories over the Bay of Bengal** and **minimal population risk**.
- **Project name:** Part of the **Space City project**, intended to create a **space and aerospace hub**.
 - This highlights Andhra Pradesh's growing focus on **technology, innovation and industrial development** in high-tech sectors.
- **Collaboration with: Greenko Group.**
- **Space ecosystem vision:** The facility aligns with Andhra Pradesh's vision to position itself as a **hub for aerospace and commercial space activities**.

National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers in Hyderabad | National Current Affairs | 20 Jan 2026

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched a **National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

Key Points

- **Launch venue:** The **Programme for Tribal Healers** was held in **January 2026** at **Kanha Shanti Vanam, Hyderabad**, to enhance tribal health services.
- **Addressed by:** The event was addressed by **Jual Oram, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs**.
- **Objective:** The programme aims to
 - **Recognise and engage tribal healers** as collaborative partners in **public health outreach and tribal health transformation**.
 - Strengthen **last-mile health service delivery** in geographically and culturally isolated

tribal regions.

- **Eliminate communicable diseases** such as malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy in tribal areas.
- **National Tribal Health Observatory: A MoU with ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar** was signed to establish India's first **Bharat Tribal Health Observatory (B-THO)** under **Project DRISTI** for tribe-disaggregated health data and research.
- **Project DRISTI: A national initiative** by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with ICMR to create a **tribe-disaggregated health information system**.
 - Aimed at improving **healthcare planning, disease monitoring, and policy decisions** for tribal populations.
- **Bharat Tribal Health Observatory (B-THO): A first-of-its-kind national health observatory** established under Project DRISTI.
 - To **collect, analyse, and share health data of tribal communities**, integrate **tribal healers into the health system**, and support **disease prevention and research** in tribal areas.

Read More: [Communicable diseases](#), [ICMR](#),

MSME Ministry Approves Technology Centres in Himachal Pradesh | National Current Affairs | 20 Jan 2026

Why in News?

In January 2026, the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)** approved the establishment of two new **MSME Technology Centres** in Himachal Pradesh.

Key Points

- **Locations:** The centres will be located at the **Pandoga** industrial area in Una district and the **Parwanoo** industrial area in Solan district.
 - **Funding:** Each centre is estimated to be developed at a cost of approximately **₹10 crore** (₹100 million).
 - **Nationwide Context:** These two sites are part of a larger plan to establish **13 new Technology Centres/Extension Centres** across India.
 - **Infrastructure:** The Pandoga facility is planned to be housed within the existing **Community Centre building** of the Haroli Assembly segment to expedite operations.
 - **Objectives:** The centres will provide **advanced technical inputs**, innovation support, and modern machinery to both existing and new industrial units.
 - **Skill Development:** A primary focus is strengthening **youth skill training** in high-end fields like artificial intelligence and robotics, with some programs offered in **virtual mode** for remote accessibility.
 - **Industrial Boost:** The initiative aims to enhance competitiveness in sectors such as **engineering, plastics, and automation**, ultimately encouraging fresh industrial investment and job creation in the state.
 - **Significance:** These new facilities will complement the existing **MSME Technology Centre in Baddi**, which already provides advanced training and production support in the region.
-

48th Kokborok Day Celebrations in Tripura | National Current Affairs | 20 Jan 2026

Why in News?

Tripura observed the **48th Kokborok Day** (also known as Tripuri Language Day) with state-wide cultural fervor and renewed linguistic demands. The day commemorates the historic recognition of Kokborok as an official state language on **January 19, 1979**, under the then-state government.

Key Points:

- **Official Ceremonies:** Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha led celebrations at Tripura Bhavan in New Delhi, emphasizing Kokborok as a vital link to the state's cultural identity and reaffirming the government's commitment to its promotion.
- **Cultural Rallies:** Major rallies were held across the state, including a grand procession in Agartala involving approximately 3,000 participants.
- **Government Initiatives:** Introduction of **Kokborok courses at college and university levels** to promote linguistic heritage.
 - Efforts to integrate **tribal and non-tribal communities** to strengthen **social harmony**.
- **Commemoration:** The day marks January 19, 1979, when Kokborok was first recognized as an official state language alongside Bengali and English.
- **The Language:** Kokborok belongs to the Tibeto-Burman language family and is the native tongue of the Borok (Tripuri) people.
 - Despite recognition in 1979, it is **not yet included in the 8th Schedule**, limiting its national-level protection.
- **Region:** Kokborok is spoken by **indigenous Tripuri communities** and in **neighboring Bangladesh**.

Read More: [8th Schedule](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/21-01-2026/west-bengal/print>