



White Spot diseases in Andhra Pradesh | National Current Affairs | 18 Dec 2025

Why in News?

The **Government of India** informed about **White Spot Disease outbreaks in aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh** and the **measures taken under the [Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana \(PMMSY\)](#)** to monitor and control aquatic animal diseases.

Key Points

- **White Spot Disease:** In Andhra Pradesh, field teams collected aquaculture samples; **4 samples tested positive under passive surveillance** and **23 under active surveillance** for **White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV)**.
 - **Disease Surveillance:** The **National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD)** is being implemented under **PMMSY** with a **₹33.78 crore outlay** to detect and manage aquatic diseases nationwide.
 - **Sample Analysis:** Samples are analysed at the **State Institute of Fisheries Technology (SIFT), Kakinada**.
 - **Insurance Support:** Under the [Aquaculture Crop Insurance Scheme](#), **85 aquafarmers** in Andhra Pradesh are covered; in 2025, **₹5.21 lakh in claims** were disbursed.
 - **Prevention Guidelines:** The **Coastal Aquaculture Authority** has issued guidelines for **SPF shrimp or broodstock centres, hatcheries, farms, health monitoring and SPF certification** to prevent WSSV outbreaks.
 - **Biosecurity Measures:** Mandatory **quarantine of imported shrimp broodstock** and registration of shrimp hatcheries and farms with the **Coastal Aquaculture Authority** are enforced to limit disease spread.
 - **Laboratory Surveillance:** **PCR-based disease surveillance** of shrimp and water samples supports early detection and disease control.
 - **Alternative Farming:** The Government promotes **Biofloc Technology (BFT)** and **Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS)** to reduce disease risk and improve biosecurity and sustainability.
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North East Investors Summit, 2025 | National Current Affairs | 18 Dec 2025

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** highlighted the aims and key focus area of the **Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025**.

Key Points

- **Event: Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025**, organised by **MDoNER** to attract investments to the **North Eastern Region**.
 - **Focus Sectors:** Tourism & Hospitality, Agro-Food Processing & allied sectors, Textiles, Handloom & Handicrafts, Healthcare, Education & Skill Development, IT/ITeS, Entertainment & Sports, Infrastructure & Logistics, and Energy.
 - **Investment Interest:** The summit and its roadshows collectively garnered **investment interests of ₹4.48 lakh crore** through **MoUs, letters of intent, and investor leads** from private and public sector entities.
 - **Renewable Energy Projects:** Renewable energy schemes in the region, including [PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana](#), [PM KUSUM](#), Solar Park projects, off-grid electrification (**PM JANMAN**), Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (**DAJGUA**) houses, and bio-gas plant installations across the North East.
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Prestigious National Awards 2025 | National Current Affairs | 18 Dec 2025

Why in News?

The **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** under the **Ministry of Culture** has been conferred with **two prestigious National Awards 2025** by the **Public Relations Society of India (PRSI)** for excellence in communication and public engagement.

Key Points

- **Awards Received:** NCSM won **two PRSI National Awards 2025** — one for the **“Har Ghar Museum” initiative** in the **Best Use of Social Media in a Corporate Campaign** category and another for the **“Waste to Art” publication** in the **Special/Prestige Publication** category.
 - **Har Ghar Museum Campaign:** A nationwide campaign inviting people to share photos, videos, and stories of personal collections to create a **digital archive of everyday heritage** and boost public engagement.
 - **Waste to Art Publication:** Demonstrate the transformation of **1,250 kg of waste** into art installations at NCSM, promoting **circular economy** and public engagement in **sustainable creativity**.
 - **Public Engagement:** The Har Ghar Museum campaign has achieved **over 10 million views on social media**, **over 1 million individual engagements**, and **150+ curated entries**, reflecting strong nationwide participation.
 - **Award Ceremony:** The awards were presented at the **47th All India Public Relations Conference** held in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand** from **December 13 to 15, 2025**.
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OTT Sector as India's Soft Power | National Current Affairs | 18 Dec

2025

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** highlighted the growing role of the **OTT (Over-The-Top) sector** as a key driver of **India's soft power and global cultural outreach**.

Key Points

- **OTT Platform :** OTT (Over-The-Top) refers to **digital platforms that deliver video, audio, or media content directly to users via the internet**, without relying on traditional cable or satellite television networks (e.g., Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ Hotstar).
- **Soft Power Role:** The **OTT sector** promotes **Indian stories, culture, creativity, and heritage** to audiences **within India and across the world**.
- **Revenue Growth:** Video subscription revenues in India grew by **11% in 2024**, reaching **₹9,200 crore**.
- **User Base:** Estimated **9.5-11.8 crore** individuals in India pay for OTT streaming services.
- **WAVES OTT Platform:** Prasar Bharati's WAVES OTT platform recorded **over 80 lakh downloads** in its first year and provides **free access to Doordarshan and All India Radio archives**, regional arts, documentaries and multilingual content.
- **Support for Creators:** WAVES OTT has created a framework to support **emerging filmmakers and content creators** with global distribution opportunities.
- **Anti-Piracy Measure:** The newly added **Section 7(1B)(ii)** of the **Cinematograph Act, 1952** empowers the government to take action against intermediaries hosting **pirated films** online.

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