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**31 DECEMBER 2025**

**EN-BUZZER**

# Daily News Analysis

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**WEDNESDAY, 31st DECEMBER 2025**

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## 1. Tribal Displacement in Nagarahole National Park

### Prelims perspective: What needs to be learned

- Location of Nagarahole National Park: **Karnataka**
- Basic difference between different protected areas- National Park, Wildlife sanctuary & Biosphere reserve.
- Forest Rights Act, 2006

### Mains Perspective: Notes need to be prepared

- Balancing Wildlife Protection with Tribal rights (**GS III - Environment**)

### Prelims Fact:

- Also known as **Rajiv Gandhi National Park**, separated by Kabini river reservoir from Bandipur National Park.

### What needs to be Known:

- **Nagarahole National Park:**
  - Named after the **river Nagarahole**
  - Bandipur National Park, Mudumalai and Wayanad Wild life sanctuary are near it.
  - Third largest Tiger population density in India. Known for black panthers (Melanistic Leopards).
  - **Kabini and Taraka are the reservoirs** present in the region.
- **Forest Rights Act, 2006:**
  - It recognises the rights of **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** who have resided in forests for generations.
  - The act awards **individual as well as community rights** to the forest dwelling communities and empowers **Gram Sabhas** to verify and recommend such claims.
  - **Individual rights** to cultivate forest land up to 4 hectares, heritable but non-transferable.
  - **Community forest rights (CFR)** for collecting minor forest produce, grazing, fishing, and managing community forest resources for sustainable use.





## 2. Gig and Platform Workers

### Prelims perspective: What needs to be learned

- Who are Gig and Platform Workers
- Government Initiatives for Gig and Platform Workers

### Mains Perspective: Notes need to be prepared

- Contribution of Gig and Platform workers to Indian economy and the Challenges faced by them (**GS III- Economy**)
- Effect of gig workers on Indian society (**GS -I Society**)

### What needs to be Known:

- **Gig and Platform workers in India:**

→ **Gig Workers:** Individuals who earn their livelihood through **non-traditional work arrangements**, such as freelancing, project-based assignments, or short-term contractual engagements, **rather than a conventional employer–employee relationship**.

★ **Example:** Freelance writers, event-based musicians, independent consultants, casual wage workers, and traditional artisans.

→ **Platform Workers:** A distinct category of gig worker whose tasks are **sourced, coordinated, and managed through digital platforms or mobile applications**.

★ **Example:** Food delivery services (such as Zomato and Swiggy), ride-sharing platforms (like Ola and Uber), e-commerce delivery services, and similar app-based on-demand work arrangements.

→ The **Code on Social Security, 2020** for the first time, legally recognizes these workers.

- **Government Initiatives:**

→ **e-Shram portal** enables self-registration for over 5 lakh gig workers.

→ **Code on Social Security 2020** mandates aggregators contribute 1-2% of turnover to a dedicated Social Security Fund for accident insurance, health, maternity benefits, and pensions.



- **Union Budget 2025-26** mandates Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY healthcare extension for nearly 1 crore gig workers on online platforms.
- State-level boards in Karnataka, Telangana, and others complement national efforts with local welfare funds.



### 3. India- New Zealand FTA

#### Prelims perspective: What needs to be learned

- Key Features of India- New Zealand FTA
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- Understanding the **difference between Preferential Trade Agreements, Customs Unions, Economic Unions, Free Trade Agreements & Common Market.**

#### Mains Perspective: Notes need to be prepared

- Implications of Free Trade Agreements on Indian Economy (**GS III- Economy**)
- Effects of agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests (**GS II – IR**)

#### What needs to be Known:

- **Key Features of India- New Zealand FTA:**
  - Provides **duty-free access for 100% of Indian exports.**
  - Includes a **USD 20 billion investment commitment over 15 years.**
  - **India safeguards sensitive sectors, particularly dairy and agriculture, while securing major gains for labour-intensive industries such as textiles and leather.**
  - New Zealand has, for the **first time**, signed an **Annex on Health and Traditional Medicine Services**, opening new avenues for services trade.
  - Enhances **people-to-people links** through provisions on **student mobility** and **post-study work visas** for **STEM graduates and skilled professionals**, creating a **new visa pathway for around 5,000 skilled occupations.**
- **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):**
  - It is a **multilateral trade agreement** between the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners.
  - Initially envisaged to cover 16 countries, it became operational with 15 countries as **India withdrew** from the partnership.
  - **Members:** ASEAN countries (10, except Timor Leste), China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.



→ **Objective:** RCEP seeks to create a **large integrated regional market**, facilitating easier movement of **goods, services, and investments** across member countries, thereby strengthening regional supply chains and economic integration.



## 4. Cold waves in Telangana

### Prelims perspective: What needs to be learned

- What are Cold waves
- Distinguish between cold and heat wave
- Geographical features of Telangana

### Mains Perspective: Notes need to be prepared

- Cold waves (GS I- Geography)
- Management of Cold wave disaster (GS III- Disaster Management)

### What needs to be Known:

- What are Cold waves:
  - **Definition:** Cold waves are **abnormal weather events** marked by extremely low near-surface air temperatures, persisting from a few days to several weeks depending on regional geography and climate.
  - In India, **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has given the criteria for declaring a Cold wave as-
    - ★ A cold wave involves a **rapid fall in temperature within 24 hours**, due to marked cooling or the **influx of very cold air** over a large area.
    - ★ **In Plains:** Minimum temperature  $\leq 10^{\circ}\text{C}$
    - ★ **In Hilly regions:** Minimum temperature  $\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- Geography of Telangana:
  - **Capital City:** Hyderabad
  - **Twin cities:** Hyderabad and Secunderabad
  - **Bordering States:** Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.
  - Lies on the **Deccan Plateau**, forming part of the Peninsular Plateau of India.
  - Drained mainly by two major east-flowing rivers- **Krishna and Godavari**.
  - **Singaneri Coal fields** are located in Telangana.
  - Rice, cotton, maize, pulses, oilseeds are the major crops.





→ **Husain Sagar lake** separating Hyderabad and Secunderabad- a human-made reservoir.

→ **Cultural Significance:**

- ★ Ruled by **Nizam of Hyderabad** before independence and integrated into India through **Operation Polo**.
- ★ **Standing Buddha statue** in the middle of Husain Sagar lake.
- ★ **Char Minar** and **Golkonda fort** in Hyderabad.