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Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>UNICEF and TCS teams laud establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs in AP</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of UNICEF and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) appreciated that Andhra Pradesh is ahead of other States in the country in taking advantage of Atal Tinkering Labs. Atal tinkering labs (ATLs) set up in schools, hubs, and spokes models, and STEM-based programmes implemented by the government were examined. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATLs are a Government of India initiative to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in school students. Set up across the country, these labs provide a space for students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop curiosity and creativity through hands-on activities Learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts in a practical way Build skills like problem-solving, design thinking, and computational thinking ATLs are equipped with tools and kits for electronics, robotics, 3D printing, and more.
<p>Fire in TTD Forest in Tirumala</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been two recent incidents of fire in the TTD forests surrounding Tirumala. <p>Forest fires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A forest fire, also known as a bushfire, vegetation fire, or wildfire, refers to any uncontrolled and non-prescribed burning of plants in natural settings such as forests, grasslands, brushlands, or tundras. These fires consume natural fuels and spread based on environmental conditions like wind and topography.
<p>Two para-cyclists from India break into top-5 of world rankings</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two para-cyclists from India have achieved a remarkable feat by entering the top five in the world rankings, marking a historic milestone for India as it secures its first-ever cycling qualifications for the Paralympics. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jyoti Gaderiya and Arshad Shaik, supported by the Hyderabad-based Aditya Mehta Foundation, have made



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	<p>India proud in the latest Track Para Rankings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gaderiya, from Maharashtra, has risen to the second position in the women's elite C2 category, while Shaikh, representing Andhra Pradesh, has claimed the fifth spot in the elite men's C2 category. ● Shaikh's remarkable ascent from 15th to fifth in the world rankings came after his outstanding performance at the 2024 Asian Track Para-cycling Championships.
Eco-Vizag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The GVMC's "Eco Vizag" campaign emphasizes the harmful effects of single-use plastic and advocates for a plastic-free city. ● The focus of World Earth Day which is celebrated on April 22nd is on making cities free from plastic pollution. ● The theme for this year is "planet Vs plastic", aiming to raise awareness and foster responsibility among citizens towards environmental conservation and sustainability.
Mogadarmma Lakshmi Padmalayam	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The consecration (Prana Pratishtha) of Goddesses Lakshmi, Sri Durga, and Sri Saraswathi took place at Sri Mogadarmma Lakshmi Padmalayam. ● Special rituals were performed at the shrine located in Yendada, Vishakapatnam. ● The rituals were witnessed by former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sri Mogadarmma Lakshmi Padmalayam is constructed in a unique manner. ● It incorporates granite from different locations and was built without using cement and steel. ● The temple was constructed following Agamashastra. <p>Agamashastra:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shruti and Smriti Division: Hindu religious literature is divided into Shruti and Smriti. ● Shruti's Significance: Shruti, including Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads, forms the central canon of Hinduism. ● Smriti's Meaning: Smriti, meaning "that which is remembered," comprises post-Vedic classical literature. ● Contents of Smriti: Smriti includes Vedanga, Shaddarsana, Puranas, Itihasa, Upveda, Tantras, Agamas, and Upangas. ● Agama in Various Religions: The term Agama is used



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for religious scriptures in Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism.

- **Agama Shastra's Focus:** Agama Shastra focuses on temple construction, idol creation, and worship conduct.
- **Idol Making:** According to Agama Shastra, South Indian idols are made from **black stone**.
- **Temple Rituals:** Agamas detail who can perform temple rituals and who can worship, along with temple etiquette.
- **Guiding Principles:** Agamas serve as guiding principles for many Hindus, outlining worship practices.
- **Evolution of Agamas:** The collection of Agamas is an assimilation from various sources over many years, spanning Vedic and post-Vedic periods.
- **Denominational Shastra:** Major Hindu denominations like Saiva, Vaishnava, and Shakta have their unique Shastra.
- **Denominational Influence:** Some Agamas mandate Poojas by priests of a specific sect or denomination.

Read more about **The Debate over the Appointment of Temple Priests in Tamil Nadu** significantly mentioning Agamashastra.



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