



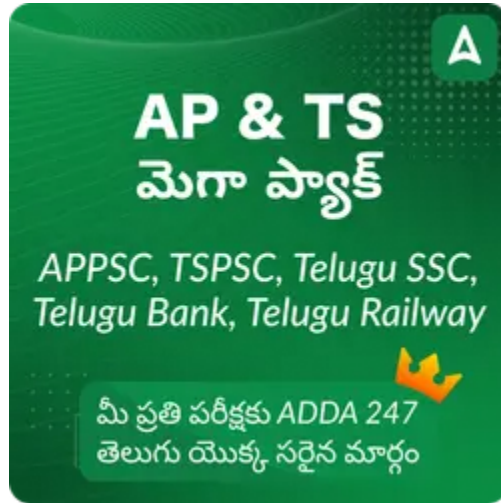
24 June 2024

Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

<p>Special category tag for AP</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Niti Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar emphasized the need for a careful examination of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar's long-standing demands for special category status by the Union government. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special category status entails the Centre funding 90 per cent of the funds required for centrally sponsored schemes in these states, compared to 60 per cent for normal category states, with the remainder coming from the state governments. Andhra Pradesh has sought this status since its bifurcation in 2014, citing revenue loss due to Hyderabad becoming the capital of Telangana. Bihar, on the other hand, has been seeking this status since 2005, following the separation of the mineral-rich Jharkhand from it in 2000, which also led to revenue losses. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The special category status was initially introduced in 1969 based on the Fifth Finance Commission's recommendation, aiming to aid economically and infrastructurally backward states with hilly terrains and strategic international borders. However, the 14th Finance Commission raised the share of states in centrally collected taxes to 42 per cent from 32 per cent while eliminating special category status.
<p>Ikshwaku period Buddhist remains</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeologist Dr. Emani Sivanagireddy discovered third-century Buddhist pillar remains at Sri Moksharamalingeswara Temple in Prakasam district. The discovery was made during the 'Preserve Heritage for Prosperity' campaign. <p>Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A half lotus medallion, a Buddhist symbol, was found on a limestone pillar, dating back to the 3rd century CE. The pillar is believed to be part of a Buddhist monastery, later repurposed as a Sivalinga during the



	<p>Vengi Chalukyan Period in the 8th century CE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Reddy expressed concern over the neglect of the antiquarian remains at the temple. • He observed a large Virabhadra Sculpture from the Vijayanagara period and three broken Sivalingas scattered carelessly.
<p>Andhra Pradesh records 50.2 per cent excess rainfall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andhra Pradesh has experienced a 50.2% excess in rainfall compared to the normal levels during the first 23 days of the current water year, with 118.7 mm of rainfall recorded against the normal 78.9 mm. ○ Out of the 26 districts in the state, 10 have reported large excess rainfall, nine have seen excess rainfall, four have received normal rainfall, and the remaining three have reported deficit rainfall. ○ Last year, in June 2023, the state experienced a rainfall deficit with only 65.8 mm of rainfall compared to the normal 96 mm, due to the delayed onset of the monsoon and dry spells. ○ This year has seen good rainfall, especially in the Rayalaseema region, with eight out of the ten districts that received large excess rainfall being from Rayalaseema.



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