

Daily Current Affairs

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Ayodhya Ram Mandir

- The consecration ceremony of Ayodhya's Ram temple will be held on **January 22**. **Chandrakant B Sompura**, 81, and his son Ashish, 51, designed the temple complex in Nagara style architecture.
- **Sompura, the principal architect** of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, was first approached to design and build the temple in 1989 by Ashok Singhal, President of VHP (Vishva Hindu Parishad).



- He was sent to Ayodhya to observe the site and take measurements of the space. Owing to heavy security, he had to measure the space with his feet and crafted three designs based on these dimensions.
- Decades later, his two sons, Nikhil and Ashish Sompura, have assisted him in the creation of the Ram Mandir. The temple, **constructed in the Nagara style**, stands on a solid stone foundation.
- Approximately two lakh bricks inscribed with Lord Ram's name in various languages, collected over 30 years, are integrated into the temple structure.
- The temple stands on a **12-foot jagati** and an upper plinth known as the mahapeeth. The stepped shikharas rise high over the five mandapas and the one over the **garba griha is the tallest at 161 feet**. The kuda mandapa is three stories high. There will be 300 pillars across the mandapas and 44 teak doors.

Alliance For Global Good, Gender Equity & Equality

- India announced a **new alliance for Global Good, Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting** in Davos, Switzerland.
- The **primary and stated objective** of this new Alliance is to bring together global best practices, knowledge sharing and investments in the identified areas of women's health, education, and enterprise.



- The Alliance will be taking **forward the commitments of the G20 leaders** for the benefit of the larger global community as a follow-up to the activities of the Engagement **Group and initiatives under the G20 framework**, inter alia, the Business 20, Women 20 and G20 EMPOWER.
- Union Ministers Smriti Irani and Hardeep Singh Puri and WEF Chairman Klaus Schwab were present in the meeting.
- Ms Irani said that the idea of this alliance emerged from the G20 Leaders' Declaration, and India's abiding commitment to the cause of women-led development as propounded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**WORLD
ECONOMIC
FORUM**

- She also congratulated WEF for being a very strong support to India.
- **Klaus Schwab**, the WEF's founder and chairman, offered his full support for the endeavor. He said that WEF will not only support the alliance but will be a strong partner.
- He also thanked India for sending such a **strong delegation in an election year**. This year's **unique initiative at WEF, led by Union Minister of Women & Child Development, was a first ever women leadership lounge**, hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

First Pilot Project To Make Jet Fuel From Alcohol

- **The first pilot technology project to make jet fuel from alcohol** was inaugurated by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** in Pune.
- This project will produce **sustainable biological aviation fuel or SAF**. This pilot project has been set up in the research and development department of **Praj Udyog Group in Pirangut Industrial Estate** near Pune.



- The Minister said, there is a huge **demand for this bio aviation fuel** in the global market, and it is a big challenge to provide the necessary raw materials for it.
- He added, that most of the **countries around the world** have great expectations from India for biofuel.
- He **congratulated the engineers of Praj Udyog Group** for setting up this project in India before Brazil and expressed confidence that this project will truly be a pioneer for the world.

- The flight from **Pune to Delhi** was completed last year using bioaviation fuel made from alcohol. At that time, Puri welcomed the flight at the Delhi airport.
- This **biofuel production industry** will have a huge scope in the future as even if at least one percent of the total aviation fuel used in India is blended with this sustainable bio aviation fuel, at least 14 crore litres of biofuel will be needed every year.

New Guidelines Bar Coaching Centres

- Ministry of Education has issued '**Regulation of Coaching Centers 2024**' Guidelines, saying that no coaching center shall enroll students **below 16 years** of age.
- The Guidelines stressed that student enrolment should be **done only after secondary school examination**. Coaching Centres have been directed not to make misleading promises or guarantee of rank or good marks to parents and students.



सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Education
Government of India

- **Education Ministry** said, these guidelines prioritize mental well-being, fair practices, and inclusivity. The guidelines stress the **need for State and UT governments to regulate these centers** and refer to legal actions, such as the PIL in the Supreme Court and letters sent to states and UTs. Fair and reasonable fee, a proper grievance redressal system and infrastructure requirements are some of the rules coaching centres must follow.
- The Guidelines also proposes a **model framework for coaching centers** and outlines the procedures for registration, renewal, and cancellation of coaching center certificates, along with an appeal process.

- Coaching centres can not engage tutors who do not have qualifications less than the graduation level.
- The **Guidelines stated that the number of unregulated private coaching centers** in the country continues to grow in the absence of any laid down policy or regulation.
- There are instances of **such centers charging exorbitant fees** from students, causing undue stress on students resulting in students committing suicides.

India Cuba Sign MoU On Digital Public Infrastructure

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** signed an MoU with the **Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Cuba** on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for **Digital Transformation** in New Delhi.



- The MoU intends to promote **digital transformation** through capacity-building programs, exchange of best practices, and other collaborative activities to mutually benefit the digital ecosystems of both countries.
- The Ministry of Electronics and IT said that India will collaborate with Cuba by building upon **development partnership on digital transformation** leading to a smooth adoption of Digital Public Infrastructure in Cuba.

Silicon Valley Introducing Hindi As World Language

- **In California**, two government schools in Silicon Valley will be introducing **Hindi as a world language in their school curriculum** for the first time.
- The decision to introduce Hindi as an optional subject was welcomed by the large Indian American community at Fremont who have been seeking to have their children learn Hindi in schools.



- Fremont has one of the highest concentrations of Indian Americans in California. The Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) Board voted 4-1 vote on 17th January to launch a pilot programme that will see Hindi in the curriculum of **Horner Middle School and Irvington High School** for the 2024-2025 school year that starts in August.
- During the meeting, FUSD board members showed strong support for the proposal, **citing the welfare of students as a major factor** in their decision, a media release said.

19th NAM Summit in Uganda

- External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** reached **Uganda's Kampala** to represent India at the **19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** Summit.
- The Summit will be preceded by deliberations at the Ministerial and Senior Officials levels. Minister of State for External Affairs **Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh** is representing India at the **NAM Foreign Ministers' meeting** which will precede the NAM Summit.



- Minister of State for External Affairs **V. Muraleedharan** will represent India at the **G-77 Third South Summit** which will be held in Kampala on 21st and 22nd January.
- On the sidelines of the Summit, Dr Jaishankar is expected to meet the Ugandan leadership and counterparts from NAM Member states.



- The 19th NAM Summit, under the leadership of Uganda, is being held under the theme '**Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence**' and brings together more than 120 developing countries on a platform of crucial historic significance.
- External Affairs Ministry said in a release that India wholeheartedly supports Uganda's theme for NAM and looks forward to engaging with NAM under Uganda's leadership. It said, as **one of the leading and founding members** of NAM, India remains committed to the principles and values of the movement.

Bal Puraskar

- President Draupadi Murmu will felicitate **Aaditya Bramhane** from **Maharashtra's** Nandurbar district by **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**.



- He will be **honored posthumously** for his brave act of saving the lives of two cousins. Last year in May, he did this brave act during a visit to the town of his uncle.

CDSL's Multi Lingual Initiatives

- **Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL)**, Asia's first listed depository, took a significant step towards inclusivity and **accessibility in the capital market landscape**.
- **SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch** launched two groundbreaking multi-lingual initiatives at the silver jubilee function.



- Empowering Inclusion with **Multi-Lingual CAS: 'Apka CAS – Apki Zubaani'**. CDSL introduced a **revolutionary upgrade in investor Consolidated Account Statement (CAS)**, enabling investors to receive statements in their preferred language among **23 diverse Indian languages**.
- This initiative, titled 'Apka CAS – Apki Zubaani,' aims to **provide easier accessibility**, offering investors a consolidated view of their securities held in a demat account in a language of their choice.
- Breaking Communication Barriers with '**CDSL Buddy Sahayta 24*7**' Chatbot. A unique multi-lingual chatbot, 'CDSL Buddy Sahayta 24*7,' on the CDSL website seeks to simplify investors' journeys towards 'Atmanirbharta' or self-sufficiency.
- Starting with **support in four languages**, the chatbot provides round-the-clock assistance, becoming a constant companion for investors navigating the complexities of the securities markets.



'My School My Pride'

- In a progressive move aligning with the **National Education Policy (NEP)-2020**, the state of **Himachal Pradesh** has unveiled the ambitious **'My School-My Pride' campaign** under the **'Apna Vidyalay' programme**.
- This initiative is set to revolutionize the quality of education in government schools, providing a holistic approach to student growth and development.
- The **'My School-My Pride' campaign** aims to encourage active participation from individuals and organizations to adopt schools and contribute to various aspects of students' growth.



- Stakeholders are urged to play a **pivotal role in providing career counseling**, offering remedial teaching, coaching students for examinations, and engaging in community support services.
- Under the '**Apna Vidyalay**' programme, stakeholders are not only encouraged to **contribute their time and expertise** but also make **monetary contributions** for infrastructure development, sponsor events, provide scholarships, and support the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programme.
- This multi-faceted approach ensures a comprehensive enhancement of the overall educational environment.



- A notable aspect of the initiative is the '**Giving back to society**' initiative, which invites **retired teachers, professionals, housewives, and other members** of the society to become part of the academic support team.
- Members of this team will volunteer to teach students without expecting any payment or honorarium.
- This ensures **continuous academic support**, particularly during teacher shortages or leaves. Dignitaries, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and government officers are actively encouraged to adopt at least one government school as patrons.



SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

- This involvement includes **suggesting improvements** and staying informed about students' progress. Officers from the education department will act as mentors for specific schools, further enhancing the support system.
- To ensure transparency, accountability, and real-time monitoring of activities, the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** will launch an online portal dedicated to the 'Apna Vidyalaya' programme.



- Adding to the holistic approach, the '**systematic adolescent management and value addition dialogue**' (SAMVAD) component will educate school-going adolescents on moral values, drug awareness, nutrition, legal knowledge, and empowerment schemes.
- This visionary initiative comes as a **beacon of hope for the public education system in Himachal Pradesh**, catering to over 55% of students in government schools.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Will Represent India At G-77 Third South Summit In Kampala

- A. Dr. S Jaishankar
- B. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh
- C. V. Muraleedharan
- D. Smriti Irani

ANSWER: C

2. Theme Of 19th Non Aligned Movement Summit Held In Uganda

- A. Deepening Cooperation For Shared Global Affluence
- B. Advancing Sustainable Development Goals
- C. Strengthening Global Security
- D. Enhancing Economic Prosperity

ANSWER: A

3. AT 'Regulation Of Coaching Centers 2024' Guidelines, Minimum Age For Student Enrollment In Coaching Centers

- A. 14 years
- B. 16 years
- C. 18 years
- D. 20 years

ANSWER: B

4. Where Was 1st Pilot Project To Make Jet Fuel From Alcohol Inaugurated

- A. New Delhi
- B. Kolkata
- C. Pune
- D. Bhubaneshwar

ANSWER: C

5. 'My School My Pride' Project Launched By

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: C

6. Which State Recently Launched The Mahtari Vandana Yojana

- A. Chhattisgarh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: A

7. What Is The Qanat System, Recently Mentioned In The News

- A. Modern irrigation technique
- B. Ancient water-supply system
- C. Ancient taxation system
- D. Ancient Harvesting method

ANSWER: B

8. Who Has Been Appointed As First Female Neutral Umpire By The ICC For A Bilateral Series

- A. Sue Redfern
- B. Nida Dar
- C. Shivani Mishra
- D. Mary Waldron

ANSWER: A

9. Chang'e 6 Mission In News, Is Associated With Which Country

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Russia
- D. UK

ANSWER: A

10. Which State Government Has Prohibited Government Offices From Purchasing Petrol And Diesel Vehicles From January 1, 2024

- A. West Bengal
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: B

11. Response To Warming Oceans, What Adaptation Strategy Have Women In Zanzibar Adopted To Overcome Challenges

- A. Transitioning To Deep-sea Fishing
- B. Embracing Climate-resilient Sponge Farming
- C. Expanding Seaweed Cultivation
- D. Shifting To Traditional Fishing Methods

ANSWER: B

12. Term “Magic Islands,” Refers To Features Found On Which Astronomical Body

- A. Saturn
- B. Mars
- C. Titan
- D. Mercury

ANSWER: C

13. Recently WHO Certified Which Country As A Malaria-free Country

- A. Cabo Verde
- B. Nigeria
- C. Tanzania
- D. Kenya

ANSWER: A

14. Objective Of Japan’s Optical-8 Satellite Launched By H-IIA Rocket

- A. Intelligence gathering for national security
- B. Space exploration
- C. Weather forecasting
- D. Satellite internet services

ANSWER: A

15. Krishna Raja Sagara Dam, Is A Gravity Dam, Located In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A

16. IUCN Status Of 'Himalayan Wolf', In Their Red List

- A. Endangered
- B. Vulnerable
- C. Least concern
- D. Critically endangered

ANSWER: B

17. Shaun Marsh Recently Retired From Cricket, Is Player From Which Country

- A. Australia
- B. South Africa
- C. Afghanistan
- D. India

ANSWER: A

18. Which City Was Venue Of International AYUSH Conference & Exhibition 2024

- A. New Delhi, India
- B. Dubai, UAE
- C. Mumbai, India
- D. London, UK

ANSWER: B

19. Which Portal Recently Launched By IMD, Provides Weather Services For Farmers In Multiple Languages

- A. Monsoon Mission Portal
- B. Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal
- C. Monsoon Research Agenda Portal
- D. Mausam Sewa Portal

ANSWER: B

20. Petr Fiala, Guest Of Honour At 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit, Is The Prime Minister Of Which Country

- A. Czech Republic
- B. Slovakia
- C. Hungary
- D. Austria

ANSWER: A