

# World's 1<sup>st</sup> Stamp Depicting Shri Ram Lalla

## Why In News

- During his visit to Laos, External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** along with his Laotian counterpart unveiled a **postage stamp** set featuring Ram Lalla, the deity of **Ayodhya's Ram Janmabhoomi Temple**. The latest stamp set is the **first in the world** to feature Ram Lalla.



## About The Stamp

- The stamp set includes two stamps, **one of Ram Lalla** and the other of **Lord Buddha of Luang Prabang**, the ancient capital of Laos the ancient capital of Laos, which is also a significant Buddhist site
- **Buddhism has long** been a strong connection between India and Lao PDR, with the former being the country where Buddhism originated and a place of many important sites connected to the religion that has a global following, especially in Southeast Asia.



- **Ramayana is a revered epic** in India and holds a special place in Laotian culture as well. In Laos, the **Ramayana is known as Ramakien** or the Story of Phra Lak Phra Ram. It is often performed during auspicious occasions.
- The theme of the stamp set, "**Celebrating Shared Cultural Heritage of Lao PDR and India**" symbolises the long-standing historical ties.
- The stamp set was unveiled celebrating the **mutual cultural heritage** of Hinduism and Buddhism, between both nations. Notably, Dr Jaishankar was in Laos to attend the **31st ASEAN Regional Forum** in Vientiane. During the release of the postage stamp, Laos' Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith joined him.

## 10 MoU signed between India, Laos

- In his post on X, he also mentioned the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between **India and the South Asian nation**. He said, "Witnessed exchange of MoUs on **10 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)** for Laos under **Mekong Ganga Cooperation and cooperation** in sharing successful Digital Solutions."
- Earlier in the day, while speaking at the **31st ASEAN Regional Forum** in Vientiane, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stressed the necessity for the international community to take a firm stance against terrorism in all its forms.
- Jaishankar reiterated India's firm support for the **ASEAN unity and centrality**, as well as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). He underscored the synergy between India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and the AOIP,

emphasising the significance of maritime safety, security, and the peaceful resolution of disputes following international law, particularly UNCLOS 1982.



- Jaishankar also detailed about his call with **Laos Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone** regarding the issue of the trafficking of Indian nationals through cyber scam centers.
- He said, “Appreciate the ongoing cooperation of the Laos government in the rescue and relief of our citizens. Also discussed the matter with the Foreign Ministers of Cambodia and Thailand.”