

Maharashtra State News

Ayodhya's Ram temple is being built in Nagara Style

- The Ram temple in Ayodhya have been designed by Chandrakant Sompura and his son Ashish
- The temple design complex is in the Nagara style of temple architecture.

About:

- The Nagara style of temple architecture emerged some time in the fifth century CE, during the late Gupta period, in northern India.
- Some important features of Nagara Style Architecture are:

Shikhara:

- The crowning glory of Nagara temples is the shikhara, a curvilinear tower that tapers upwards, symbolizing the ascent towards the divine.
- Its shape can vary depending on the sub-style, ranging from the beehive-like Rekha to the segmented Bhumija

Amalaka and Kalasha:

- Atop the shikhara sits the amalaka, a fluted disc representing the sun. It's crowned by the kalasha, a pot symbolizing prosperity and the containment of the sacred essence within the temple

Mandapa:

- The mandapa serves as a gathering space for devotees, often featuring intricately carved pillars and ceilings. It can be enclosed or open-air, depending on the temple's layout.

Garbhagriha:

- The innermost sanctum of the temple, the garbhagriha houses the main deity. It's typically the most sacred space, often dimly lit and adorned with religious iconography.

Army's lone blind officer gets PMO invite for Republic Day function

- Lt Col Dwarakesh, the Indian Army's sole blind active-duty officer gets PMO invite for Republic Day function
- He is currently posted at the Station Headquarters in Pune's Khadki.

- He also won a shooting national medal and climbed the Siachen Glacier.
- He along with another civilian woman are the only two blind para shooters in the country.
- They have imported special equipment from Switzerland to support their shooting endeavors.

Maha govt joins Shivaji Maharaj-era icons' heirs for conservation project

- The MH govt has enlisted the expertise of nine descendants of Chhatrapati Shivaji era Maratha Chieftains and warriors along with other Maratha sardars closely associated with the warrior king.
- This collaboration with descendants of Shivaji Maharaj-era icons for a historical conservation project is a promising initiative with far-reaching implications.
- This unique partnership offers solutions and options that go beyond the mere restoration of physical structures.

98-year-old master sculptor gives shape to iconic statues

- Ram Vanji Sutar, 98 year old sculptor, has sculpted a 30 ft tall bronze statue of Jatayu
- This statue has pride of place on an elevation, Kuber Tila, at the Ram Janmabhoomi complex in Ayodhya
- He is also working on a 251-meter tall statue of Ram, which will become the tallest in the world.

Maharashtra Deputy CM Fadnavis to monitor a special aid cell for poor patients

- A new medical cell under state's deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will work to ensure a bed for poor patients at charitable hospitals run by trusts.
- Maharashtra has over 468 charitable hospitals.
- As per provisions under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 and Bombay High Court orders, around 10 percent of the total beds in these hospitals should be kept reserved for poor patients with free treatment

- Also, a 10 percent beds for treatment at concessional rates.
- The total number of beds that can be made available under this is around 11,000.

Parakram Diwas 2024

- Every January 23rd, India celebrates the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- This year the nation observes the 127th edition of Parakram Diwas 2024.

Key Points:

- The Government of India, recognizing the need to honour Netaji's heroic legacy, officially declared January 23 as Parakram Diwas in 2021.
- A highlight of Parakram Diwas 2024 was the digital launch of 'Bharat Parv' by the Prime Minister. This event, showcasing the nation's diversity through Republic Day Tableaux and cultural exhibits, was a vibrant display of India's rich heritage.

Government clears CIL plan to pump Rs 5,607 crore into 2 thermal power projects

- Cabinet's panel approves equity investment of Rs 5,607 crore by Coal India Ltd subsidiaries in two thermal power projects in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha with a combined capacity of 2,260 MW.
- The investment clearance underlines the government's resolve to expand coal-fired generation capacity and confidence in meeting additional fuel requirement from domestic coal mines

Maharashtra Final Voter List Released

- The final voter list for the state of Maharashtra has finally been released.
- A total of 90,124,310 voters are eligible to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- The number of voters in the age group of 18 to 29 has increased by 14,00,3798 in the final voter list
- The number of voters in this age group now stands at 1,73,63,865

200 tribal youths participate in exchange programme

- Around 200 tribal youths participated in the 15th Tribal Youth Exchange programme at the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra State Open University in Nashik.
- The event was organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Nashik under the Union Ministry of Youth programs and sports.
- Union MoS for tribal affairs, Dr Bharati Pawar inaugurated the programme and personally interacted with the participants from the naxal-affected areas in the age group of 18-22 years.

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Unique dance fusion at Kala Ghoda to invoke love for planet earth

- The 24th edition of the multidisciplinary street arts festival, the Kala Ghoda Art Festival (KGAF) commenced in Mumbai on January 20, 2024.
- KGAF featured renowned artists in a mega event for nine days across 25 prestigious venues in the city.
- It also showcased performances from 14 different verticals, including visual arts, dance, music, theater, and literature

- One of the anticipated performances was an innovative fusion of Egyptian bellydance and Indian Kathak dance
- It was a collaboration between Leena Viie, award-winning international bellydance artist, and Aditi Yadav, acclaimed Kathak exponent.

National Girl Child Day

- National Girl Child Day is observed on 24 January every year to spread awareness about the inequalities faced by a girl child in Indian society.
- The day advocates for equal opportunities in education, healthcare and nutrition
- It also promotes awareness about the rights of a girl child and addresses issues like child marriage, discrimination, and violence against girls.
- The day is in line with various campaigns and programs run by the Indian government including Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) scheme in India that was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi 2015.

International Day of Education

- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as International Day of Education
- This day underscores the vital role education plays in building a more peaceful, sustainable, and prosperous future for all.
- It's a call to action to advocate for inclusive, equitable, and quality education for every child, youth, and adult.
- The theme of the 2024 celebrations is 'learning for lasting peace'.
- This theme highlights the importance of education in fostering peace and understanding and strikes a deep chord with contemporary global issues.

Percentage of young voters rise in state; decline in 40 to 80+ age group

- Maharashtra has seen a net addition of 4,12,416 in the final electoral roll taking the total number of voters in the state to around 9.12 crore.

- While the young voters between the age group of 18 to 29 has shown an increase of around 1%, the voter percentage from age 40 to 80+ has shown a decrease of 3 per cent when compared to the draft electoral roll.

'India can greatly reduce CAR-T cell therapy cost'

- India now has a revolutionary weapon in its arsenal in its fight against cancer.
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the CAR-T cell therapy, offering new hope to countless patients battling the deadly disease.
- This cutting-edge treatment, which is already saving lives globally, could become affordable for the Indian population
- This highly personalized treatment involves harnessing the power of a patient's immune system, genetically modifying the T cells to seek and destroy cancer cells with deadly precision

SII enters collaboration to make affordable vaccines

- City-based Serum Institute of India Pvt Ltd (SII) and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) have collaborated to boost vaccine production efforts in global south regions.
- While CEPI works to develop new vaccines against known or novel infectious diseases within three months of a pandemic threat being recognised, the mass production capacity at SII would boost the efforts to end any future pandemics.

National Voters' Day

- The National Voters' Day is celebrated every year in India on January 25 to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process.
- It not only encourages the youth to participate in the electoral process but also focuses on the fact that the right to vote is a basic right.
- This day also marks the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.

- This year, it is the **14th edition** which is being celebrated.
- **Theme 2024 - 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure'**

Did you Know?

- The **first-ever National Voters' Day** was celebrated on **January 25, 2011**

27% population in Maharashtra affected by tobacco menace

- **Maharashtra grapples with a staggering 27 per cent** of its population affected by the **adverse effects of tobacco consumption.**
- In view of this, an **innovative initiative has emerged, positioning teachers as key influencers** in spearheading tobacco control efforts within schools.
- The **Healis Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health** in Navi Mumbai, in collaboration with the **Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health (HSPH)/Dana Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI)** in the USA, joined forces with the **Bihar Department of Education (DOE)** to develop and test the ground breaking **Tobacco-Free Teachers, Tobacco-Free Society (TFT-TFS)** programme.

Did you Know?

- **Tobacco-related deaths claim the lives of 3,700 individuals daily in India.**

MH may sell Samruddhi Eway rights for ₹60-70k cr

- In a bid to unlock massive funds for infrastructure development, the **Maharashtra government is considering the sale of rights to the ambitious Samruddhi Expressway.**
- Estimates peg the potential deal at a **staggering ₹60-70,000 crore**
- It thus makes it **India's one of biggest infrastructure monetization projects.**

New women's policy moots quota, discounts, financial aid

- Maharashtra is set to introduce a new policy for women that includes incentives such as **housing quotas, insurance discounts, and tax concessions.**

Key Points:

- **Quotas:** The policy suggests quotas for women in education, employment, and leadership positions. Proponents argue it's necessary to break down existing barriers, while critics fear it might compromise meritocracy.
- **Discounts:** Proposed initiatives include tax breaks and reduced fees for women-owned businesses and services used by women. Supporters see it as financial encouragement, while opponents raise concerns about potential market distortions.
- **Financial Aid:** Scholarships, grants, and loan schemes aim to address economic barriers faced by women in education and entrepreneurship. This is generally well-received, but questions remain about targeting and long-term sustainability.

Zero stamp duty, registration charges for home buyers at Mumbai expo

- **CREDAI-MCHI, the apex body of the real estate industry of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) is thrilled to announce the 31st edition of India's Largest Property Expo,** scheduled to take place in Mumbai from January 26th to 28th, 2024.
- It offers **zero registration charges and stamp duty for three days,** featuring over 75 developers and expected increased unit sales
- This year, the Expo propagates the theme **"Zero is our Hero,"**
- The **3-day event is to be held at the Jio World Convention Centre**
- The intent is to take advantage of the ongoing demand for residential housing and give a boost to the momentum with the added incentive, that will result in a saving of around 6 per cent for the consumer.

Republic Day

- India celebrated its **75th Republic Day** on **January 26, 2024**
- This day marks the adoption of the Constitution in 1950.
- **Theme 2024: "Viksit Bharat" and "Bharat – Loktantra ki Matruka"**
- It translates to: **Developed India and Bharat - The Mother of Democracy**

About:

- It marked the transition of the country from a British dominion to a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic.
- The Constitution established the framework for governance, guaranteeing fundamental rights and outlining the duties of citizens.

Significance of Republic Day:

- Celebration of democracy and self-governance
- Display of national unity and diversity
- Renewal of commitment to nation-building

Bharat Ratna Award

- The Bharat Ratna Award is the highest civilian honor in India.
- Karpoori Thakur gets Bharat Ratna Award 2024

About:

- He served as the Chief Minister of Bihar twice.
- He was known for championing the cause of the backward classes.
- He was popularly known as Jan Nayak (people's hero),

Bharat Ratna Award:

- It was started in 1954.
- It is awarded to those people who work exceptionally for public service, or the highest performance in the field of literature, science, art, or any human endeavor.
- A maximum of three persons can be the recipients of this prestigious award in a single year.

Padma Awards

- The Padma Awards are some of the highest civilian honors recognizing distinguished service in various fields.
- These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- It was instituted in 1954.
- These awards are announced annually on the eve of Republic Day
- The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Award

PADMA VIBHUSHAN (5)

1. Ms. Vyjayanthimala Bali - TN (Art)
2. Ms. Padma Subramaniam - TN (Art)

3. Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi - AP (Art)
4. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu - AP (Public Affairs)
5. Shri Bindeshwar Pathak (P) - Bihar (Social Work)

PADMA BHUSHAN (17)

- M Fathima Beevi (Posthumous), Hormusji N Cama, Mithun Chakraborty, Sitaram Jindal, Young Liu, Ashwin Balachand Mehta, Satyabrata Mookherjee (Posthumous), Ram Naik, Tejas Madhusudan Patel, Olanchery Rajagopal, Dattatray Ambadas Mayaloo Alias Rajdutt, Togdan Rinpoche (Posthumous), Pyarelal Sharma, Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur, Usha Uthup, Vijaykanth (Posthumous) and Kundan Vyas

Republic Day Parade Tableaux

- A total of 25 tableaux from 16 states and Union Territories, as well as nine Ministries and Departments participated in the parade of 2024.
- The states and UTs set to be represented in the parade include Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Ladakh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana.

About MH Tabulex:

- Theme: "Bharatiya Lokashathiche Preranasthan: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj" (The Inspiration of Indian Democracy: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj)
- It celebrated 350 years of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation
- The tableau depicted Rajmata Jijabai giving lessons in governance and politics to a younger Shivaji.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj carved out his independent kingdom from the Adilshahi Sultanate of Bijapur, which formed the foundation of the Maratha Empire.
- The tableau depicted Shivaji's Ashtapradhan Mandal, with some women seen raising their concerns in a court.

Evolution of Indian Constitution

- The **Indian Constitution, adopted on November 26, 1949, is a testament to the long and arduous journey of India's struggle for self-governance.**
- Its **evolution can be traced back to various influences, including:**
- **Pre-colonial Legal Codes:** Ancient Indian legal systems like Manu Smriti and Arthashastra laid the foundation for principles like justice and rule of law.
- **Colonial Acts and Reforms:** The Government of India Acts (1773-1935) introduced concepts like separation of powers and legislative councils, shaping constitutional development.
- **Independence Movement and Nationalist Ideals:** The Indian National Congress advocated for a democratic and inclusive constitution, drawing inspiration from various global models.

The Drafting Process:

- **Constituent Assembly (1946-1950):** A diverse body of elected representatives **led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** meticulously deliberated and drafted the Constitution over three years.

Key Influences:

- The **Constitution borrowed features from diverse sources like the British parliamentary system, American federalism, Irish fundamental rights, and French republicanism.**
- **Content and Structure:** The Constitution comprises **22 parts, 395 articles, and 8 schedules**, outlining the framework for a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic.

Post-Adoption Amendments:

- The Constitution remains a dynamic document, **undergoing over 106 amendments** to adapt to changing social, political, and economic realities.
- Over 100 women artists herald the parade with Indian musical instruments.
- Maiden participation of an all-women Tri-Service contingent.
- Women pilots showcased Nari Shakti during the Fly-past.
- Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) contingents consisted of only women personnel.

Padma Awards:

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Gallantry Awards:

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 80 Armed Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous, on the eve of 75th Republic Day.
- They include **Param Vir Chakra** winners Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retd) & Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar (Retd), and **Ashok Chakra** winners Major General CA Pithawalla (Retd), Colonel D Sreeram Kumar & Lt Col Jas Ram Singh (Retd).

Do you know?

- The **Param Vir Chakra** is awarded for the most conspicuous act of **bravery and self-sacrifice** in the face of the enemy, while the **Ashok Chakra** is awarded for similar acts of valour and self-sacrifice but, other than, in the face of the enemy.



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