

Maharashtra State News

Arun Yogiraj's idol of Ram Lalla chosen for Ayodhya's grand temple

- Days after the idol of Lord Ram Lalla for 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration) was finalized by the temple trust in Ayodhya, Union minister Pralhad Joshi said that **renowned sculptor Arun Yogiraj's idol of Ram Lalla** has been chosen for installation in the grand **Ram Janmabhoomi temple** in Ayodhya.
- The grand consecration **ceremony of Ram temple** will be held on **January 22**.

Who is Arun Yogiraj?

- Sculptor Yogiraj hails from a lineage of five generations of renowned sculptors in **Mysore**. Yogiraj started his sculpting career at a young age and was highly influenced by his father, Yogiraj, and grandfather, Basavanna Shilpi, who enjoyed the **patronage of the King of Mysore**.
- After pursuing an MBA and working in the corporate sector, Yogiraj started pursuing sculpting full time from 2008.
- Besides Ram Lalla idol, Yogiraj has carved an array of impressive sculptures, including a **30-foot statue of Subhash Chandra Bose** displayed behind the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** near India Gate in Delhi.
- His other notable contributions include a **12-foot tall sculpture of Adi Shankaracharya** in Kedarnath to a **21-foot tall Hanuman statue** in Mysore.

PM Modi to inaugurate Mumbai Trans Harbour Link

- **PM Modi will inaugurate the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL)** on January 12.
- This **MTHL project** is said to be the **country's longest sea bridge**.
- It is expected to drastically **reduce travel time** between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from a **current 2 hours to approximately 15-20 minutes**
- Its **length is 21.8 kilometers** (comprising 16.5 km over the sea and 5.5 km on land)

MH CM to attend Akhand Harinam Saptah

- The MH CM is expected to take part in **state's largest Akhand Harinam Saptah** organized at the foothills of **Shri Malang Gad hill** of Thane District.

About:

- The **Akhand Harinam Saptah** is a **week-long spiritual festival** observed by **devotees of Lord Vishnu**, particularly those belonging to the **Varkari Sampradaya** in Maharashtra.
- The festival is characterized by **uninterrupted chanting of the name "Hari"** by devotees throughout the seven days.

Ram temple inauguration likely to generate ₹50,000cr business

- The **Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** has estimated that **business worth Rs 50,000 crore** will be generated in the country following the inauguration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya in January
- The **Ram Temple** holds **immense religious significance for Hindus**, and millions are expected to visit Ayodhya for the inauguration and darshan (viewing the deity).
- According to CAIT, there is a **large demand for special cloth garlands, lockets, key chains, pictures of Ram Darbar, models of Ram temples, Ram Dhwaja, and Ram Angvastra** imprinted with the image of Lord Ram across different Indian markets.
- This **influx of pilgrims will also boost demand** for various goods and services like travel, accommodation, food, souvenirs, and religious items.

Newlyweds to get wedding sets from Mangoan panchayat

- The **gram panchayat of Mangaon village** in Kolhapur district has **decided to gift wedding sets worth Rs 11,000** to all women getting married.
- The sets will be funded through the **honorarium of the sarpanch, deputy sarpanch, panchayat members, and the gram panchayat corpus**.

Did you Know?

- Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar made his first public appearance a century ago in Mangaon village.

Pench Tiger Reserve- first to start 2 Van e-Seva Kendras

Context:

- The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has taken a remarkable step towards bridging the digital divide in remote forested villages by launching two "Van e-Seva Kendras" – the first of their kind in India.
- These mobile e-service centers aim to bring essential government services directly to the doorsteps of villagers, eliminating the need for them to travel long distances to access them.

What are Van e-Seva Kendras?

- These are mobile units that travel to remote villages within the buffer zone of the Pench Tiger Reserve
- It offers a range of services including:
 - Online services
 - Banking services
 - Recharge facilities
 - Utility bill payments
 - Information dissemination

BILINGUAL

ADDAPEDIA

e-Books

NATIONAL |
INTERNATIONAL |
REGIONAL |
STATE SPECIFIC
CURRENT AFFAIRS
CURATED NOTES

IMPORTANT FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

Int'l planners, designers to prepare master plan for Dharavi project

- Dharavi, one of Asia's largest slums, is set for a major transformation with the appointment of renowned international planners and designers to prepare a master plan for its redevelopment.
- A consortium led by Adani Infrastructure Developers Ltd.(AIDPL) has partnered with several renowned firms for this master plan preparation
- Aim is to improve the lives of Dharavi's residents while creating a model for sustainable urban development.

Ajit Pawar pays tributes at Koregaon Bhima war memorial

- MH Deputy CM Ajit Pawar paid respects at the Jay Stambh (Victory Pillar) near Pune, commemorating the 206th anniversary of the Battle of Koregaon Bhima.

Key Points:

- The Battle of Koregaon Bhima was fought on January 1, 1818.
- The battle was part of the Third Anglo-Maratha War, a conflict for control of vast swathes of India.
- The battle holds immense significance for the Dalit community in India, marking their victory over the Peshwa army of the Maratha Empire.

Yadav dynasty of Maharashtra (Static)

- Yadava dynasty, are rulers of a 12th–14th-century Hindu kingdom of central India what is now the Indian state of Maharashtra.
- Originally feudatory of the Eastern Chalukyas of Kalyani, the dynasty became paramount in the Deccan under Bhillama (c. 1187–91), who founded Devagiri (later Daulatabad) as his capital.
- Under Bhillama's grandson Singhana (reigned c. 1210–47) the dynasty reached its height, as the Yadava campaigned against the Hoysalas in the south, the Kakatiyas in the east, and the Paramaras and Chalukyas in the north.
- During the reign of the last Yadava king, Ramachandra (reigned 1271–c. 1309), a Muslim army commanded by the Delhi sultan

‘Alā’ al-Dīn Khaljī invaded the kingdom in 1294 and imposed tributary status.

CM Eknath Shinde to attend World Economic Forum

- **MH CM Eknath Shinde, Industries Minister Uday Samant and a 10 member delegation** will be attending the **World Economic Forum at Davos** slated for **January 15- 16**

About:

- **The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a non-profit organization** that brings together leaders from business, government, civil society, and academia to discuss global challenges and work together to find solutions.
- It was founded in **1971 by Klaus Schwab.**

Ramlalla's Seating Ceremony on 22nd January

- From Vaikom to Ayodhya, the Hindu community has come a long way.
- Ceremony is going to be held with great pomp on Jan 22.
- Significant changes like Ayodhya Dham Airport being renamed after **Maharishi Valmiki**, tells a loud and clear message of social assimilation, justice and harmony — this is what was envisioned by Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- The **Maharishi Valmiki International Airport Dham** will link to the divine and majestic Ram Temple.
- The newly built airport has the capacity to serve 10 lakh travellers annually.

MMRDA merges monorail with metro operations

- The **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has merged the Monorail Project Implementation Unit with the Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation** to revive the struggling Mumbai Monorail.
- The merger **aims to improve operation, cut costs**, and save expenses.
- The move is **expected to save over ₹40 to 60 crore annually** and reduce duplication of manpower.

MSEDCL supplies electricity to 2,395 tribal homes in Maharashtra in 12 days

- The **Maharashtra state Electricity distribution company Ltd(MSEDCL)** has achieved a significant milestone by **supplying electricity to vulnerable tribal communities in remote areas of the state within just 12 days**
- It was done in view of **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan** schemes initiated by PM Modi

PM Modi to inaugurate major Infra-projects in Navi Mumbai

- **PM Modi will lay the foundation stone of two underground road projects in South Mumbai and Thane.**
- He will also inaugurate **Phase II of Nerul/Belapur - Uran railway lines** as part of **Mumbai Trans- Harbour Link (MTHL)** project
- He will also **officially inaugurate Digha station** on the **Airoli- Kalwa route** of the Central railway's Trans-Harbour Link.

Rashmi Shukla appointed as Maha DGP

- The **MH state government** has appointed **1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla** as the **Maharashtra director general of police (DGP)**

Did you Know?

- She is the **first woman police chief of the state.**

MH state takes wine promotion scheme off ice

- The **MH government** has decided to **revive the Wine Industrial Promotion Scheme (WIPS) for five years.**
- The scheme was **initially launched in 2020** but faced a major opposition and thus was put on ice for nearly a year.

Key Points:

1. **Wine Festivals and Events:**
 - The scheme will **allow the organization of wine festivals and events across the state**, promoting wine tourism and local wineries.
2. **Direct Sales at Wineries:**
 - **Wineries will be permitted to sell wine directly to consumers** at their

premises, boosting their sales and outreach.

3. Training and Skill Development:

- The scheme will also focus on training programs and skill development initiatives

4. VAT Refund:

- The 20% VAT refund to wineries is a significant incentive, aimed at easing their financial burden and promoting investment in the sector

CSMT gets IR's first AC odorless toilet block

- Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), formerly Victoria Terminus, has taken a significant step towards improving passenger experience with the inauguration of India's first air-conditioned odorless toilet block.
- This modern facility promises not only comfort and hygiene but also sets a new standard for railway station amenities.

QR Code Placed To Get Information About Trees In Thane Municipal Parks

- The QR code has been placed on the trees so that the citizens can easily get information about the trees in the parks in the Thane municipal area.
- After scanning this code on the mobile phone, information about the tree will be available to the citizens in two languages, Marathi and English.

Govt fixes MTHL toll at ₹250 per car

- The Maharashtra government has finalized the toll charges for the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), also known as the Atal Setu, at ₹250 per car for a single trip.

Did you Know?

- The MTHL, India's longest sea bridge, stretches 21.8 kilometers
- It connects Sewri in Mumbai to Nhava Sheva in Raigad district.

Kajal Kambale becomes First Disabled Female Climber to Scale Lingana Fort

- Kajal Kambale, a disabled mountaineer from Maharashtra, has become the first female mountaineer with any disability to

conquer the challenging Lingana Fort in the Sahyadri range.

About:

- Lingana, a sub-fort of the iconic Raigad, holds historical significance as the "prison" of the Maratha Empire, contrasting Raigad's role as the "capital."
- Its name is derived from the resemblance to a "Linga" (a phallic symbol in Hinduism)

Maharashtra reports highest dog bites in India in 2023

- Maharashtra reported the maximum number of dog bite cases in 2023, with over 4.35 lakh incidents.
- It is nearly 11% more than 2022
- It was followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,04,488 cases.
- The rise in cases was attributed to high reporting in Maharashtra. Mumbai, Thane, and Pune had the highest number of cases due to poor sterilization implementation.

Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Old Pension Scheme For Govt Employees

- The Maharashtra govt has approved a proposal offering the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) as an option for state government employees who joined service after November 1, 2005.

About:

- The OPS is a retirement pension scheme where government employees receive a monthly pension equivalent to 50% of their last drawn salary.
- The employee does not contribute to the pension fund, and the entire burden is borne by the government.

World Braille Day

- World Braille Day is celebrated annually on January 4th
- It commemorates the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of the braille writing system.
- This day serves as a vital reminder of the importance of access to information and communication for people who are blind or visually impaired

- The theme for **World Braille Day 2024** is “Empowering Through Inclusion and Diversity”

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Tiger Claw arrival delayed Again

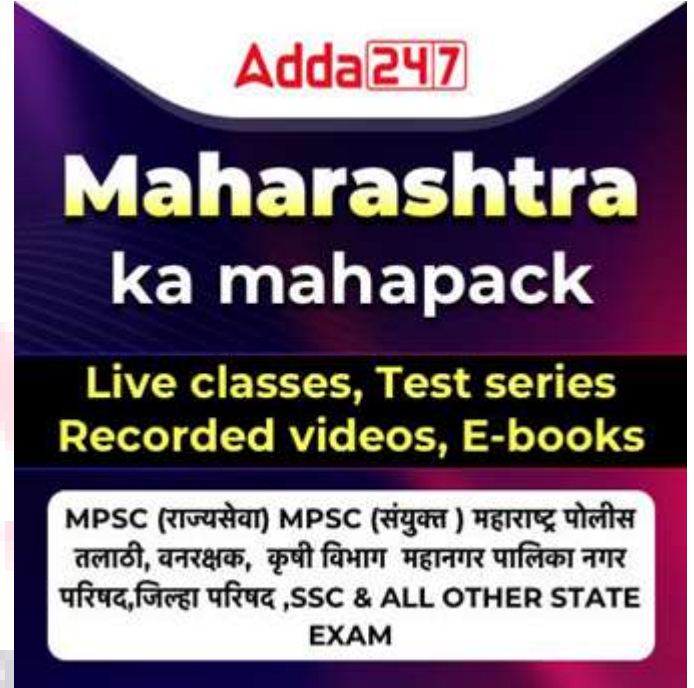
- The **Wagh Nakh (Tiger claw)** of **Chatrapatti Shivaji Maharaj** from the **Victoria and Albert Museum in London** will be **delayed to arrive in Maharashtra in May** due to **delay in the legal process** of bringing them.
- **Earlier**, it was said that the tiger claw would come to India in **November** and then in **January**.

National Birds Day

- National Bird Day on **January 5** highlights the **importance of small birds in the ecosystem**.
- Led by the **Avian Welfare Coalition**, the day focuses on raising awareness about birds in captivity, emphasizing the need to protect them from exploitation for profit or entertainment.
- The **Indian peacock**, with its majestic plumage and captivating dance, is the **national bird of India**.

National Birds Day 2024: Theme

- The theme of this year's National Birds Day is **'Right To Fight'**.
- It resonates with the flight of a bird that symbolises freedom. With this campaign, the **Avian Welfare Coalition** aims to reduce the suffering of birds by raising public awareness of the destructive bird trade, the realities of cruel bird breeding mills and the ways to improve the welfare of birds already in captivity.



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