



CURRENT AFFAIRS 18th Jan 2024

National News

1. PM Modi Unveils Ram Mandir Stamps: A Historic Moment In Indian Culture



Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched a series of commemorative postage stamps dedicated to Ayodhya's Ram Temple, marking a significant cultural event in India.

The collection comprises six distinct stamps, each featuring key figures and symbols associated with Lord Ram's narrative, including the Ram Temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jatayu, Kevatraj, and Ma Shabri.

The designs incorporate essential elements related to Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir, showcasing the temple, the revered Choupai 'Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari,' the sun, the Saryu River, and the sculptures in and around the temple. Each stamp is adorned with gold leaf detailing for the sun rays and the Choupai, adding a majestic touch.

2. NHAI's 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' Initiative To Streamline Toll Collection

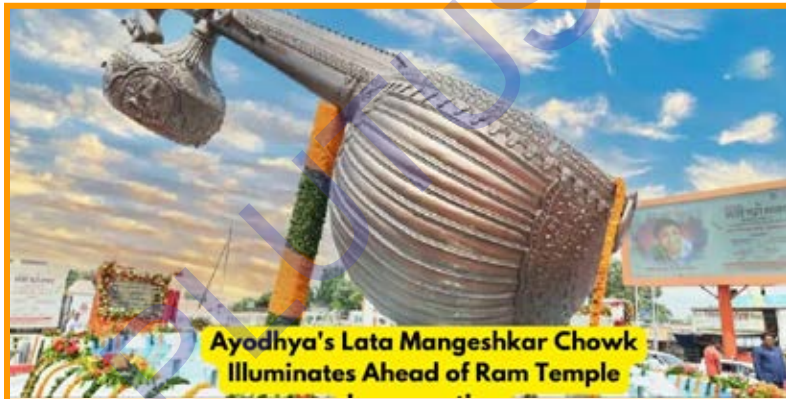


The National Highways Authority of India has introduced the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative, to curb the prevalent practice of using a single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to a specific vehicle.

This initiative seeks to promote a one-to-one correspondence between vehicles and FASTags, ensuring transparency and accountability in toll collection.

NHAI is actively promoting the completion of the 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) process for the latest FASTag. FASTags with valid balances but incomplete KYC details will face deactivation or blacklisting by banks after January 31, 2024.

3.Ayodhya's Lata Mangeshkar Chowk Illuminates Ahead Of Ram Temple Inauguration



The city of Ayodhya is witnessing a significant transformation with the upcoming inauguration of the Ram temple. A key highlight in this transformation is the Lata Mangeshkar Chowk, which has recently been illuminated, drawing attention both nationally and internationally.

The Chowk, named after the legendary Indian playback singer Lata Mangeshkar, has become a popular selfie hotspot for locals and tourists alike.

This bronze sculpture, weighing 14 tonnes and made by renowned sculptor Ram Sutar, stands as a symbol of Lata Mangeskar's musical legacy.

4.Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia Inaugurates Asia's Largest Aviation Expo Wings India 2024



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Wings India 2024, Asia's largest aviation expo, at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad. The theme of Wings India 2024 is "Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal: Setting the Stage for India Civil Aviation @2047".

The aim is to support a USD 20 trillion economy by 2047 with a robust aviation system. The expo served as a platform for industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to exchange ideas and forge partnerships.

State News

5.Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates Puri Jagannath Temple's Heritage Corridor



The SMPP (Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa) introduces a 75-meter-wide space around the temple, referred to as the heritage corridor.

This expansive area has been meticulously divided into nine distinct zones, each serving a specific purpose aimed at enhancing the overall experience for visitors and preserving the cultural heritage surrounding the Shree Jagannath Temple.

The first zone comprises a 7-meter green buffer adjacent to the Meghanada Pacheri, the temple's boundary. This zone acts as a protective barrier, preserving the sanctity of the temple premises.

Banking News

6.DLabs At ISB Launches 'Build For Billions' Jointly With RBI Innovation Hub, UBI



DLabs at the Indian School of Business (ISB) has announced the initiation of 'Build for Billions', a startup accelerator program centered around financial inclusion for the informal economy.

This innovative program has been launched in partnership with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) and Union Bank of India.

The primary theme of 'Build for Billions' is to foster financial inclusion within the informal economy. It aims to address livelihood issues for gig workers, migrant workers, domestic workers, street vendors, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and construction laborers who represent the informal economy.

7.EPFO Removes Aadhaar As Valid Date Of Birth Proof



The Employees' Provident Fund Organization has recently issued a circular stating the removal of Aadhaar from the list of acceptable documents for proof of date of birth (DoB) for correction and updation purposes.

This decision, effective from January 16, 2024, follows a directive from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and aligns with the Aadhaar Act, 2016, which does not recognize Aadhaar as proof of date of birth.

The UIDAI emphasizes that Aadhaar is primarily an identity verification tool and not a proof of birth. This is supported by a memorandum from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and a judgment by the Bombay High Court.

Business News

8.KVIC Launches 'Khadi Sanatan Vastra' From Its Flagship Store In CP, New Delhi



The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently unveiled a new clothing range called 'Sanatan Khadi Vastra' at its flagship store in Connaught Place, New Delhi.

This launch aligns with the broader vision of promoting Khadi as a symbol of national pride and sustainable fashion.

The design for the 'Sanatan Vastra' was prepared at the Khadi Center of Excellence (COEK) located at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

The manufacturing of Khadi does not involve any mechanical or chemical processes, making Sanatan textiles unique as they are prepared as per traditional Indian methods.

9.Foxconn And HCL Group Forge Partnership For Chip Packaging Unit In India



Taiwanese tech giant Foxconn, a long-time Apple Inc. partner, is diversifying from China and joining forces with HCL Group to establish a chip packaging and testing facility in India.

Foxconn's subsidiary, Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development, will invest \$37.2 million for a 40% stake, with the remaining held by HCL.

The collaboration aims to set up an outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSAT) facility in India. OSAT facilities do not engage in chip fabrication but provide third-party chip packaging and testing services.

10.L&T Secures 'Mega Order' For Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Electrification Project



L&T Construction's railways strategic business group has clinched a significant contract valued between ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 crore for a pivotal segment of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

The 'mega' order, received from a Japanese agency overseeing the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project (MAHSR), entails the construction of 508 route km of high-speed electrification works.

L&T will undertake the design, supply, manufacturing, construction, testing, and commissioning of a 2×25 kV power supply electrification system. This includes high-speed overhead equipment, traction substations, and MV/LV power distribution equipment works.