



CURRENT AFFAIRS 23rd Jan 2024

National News

1.IICF To Build 'Masjid Muhammed Bin Abdullah' Mosque In Ayodhya



In a significant development, the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) has announced the commencement of the construction of a grand mosque in Ayodhya, starting this May.

The mosque, named “Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah” after Prophet Muhammad, aims to foster unity and goodwill among people, transcending religious differences. The initiative comes on the same day as Prime Minister Narendra Modi presides over the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple.

To finance the construction, the IICF is considering the establishment of a crowdfunding website. This approach reflects a broader outreach strategy, enabling individuals from diverse backgrounds to contribute to the creation of a shared cultural space.

2. Central Government Launches 'Anuvadini' App For Multilingual Education



In a significant move towards promoting multilingualism in education, the central government has introduced the 'Anuvadini' app, an Artificial Intelligence-based platform.



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The initiative aims to make study materials for all school and higher education courses available in digital form, specifically in Indian languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

This step aligns with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasizing the importance of studying in one's mother tongue.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), and the Department of School Education have been instructed to ensure the availability of study materials in regional languages.

International News

3. Japan Becomes Fifth Country To Land On The Moon Successfully



Japan has marked a significant achievement in space exploration by becoming the fifth country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon.

The Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) touched down near the Shioli crater, south of the lunar equator, utilizing precision technology that allowed it to land closer to its target site than any previous mission.

SLIM's primary goal was to achieve an unprecedented landing accuracy of 100 meters, a significant improvement from previous missions.

Telemetry data confirmed that SLIM landed in its designated area after a four-month journey from the Tanegashima Space Centre.

4. Cabo Verde Achieves Malaria-Free Certification By WHO



In a recent announcement, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially certified Cabo Verde as a malaria-free country.

This accomplishment positions Cabo Verde alongside Mauritius and Algeria as the third nation in the WHO African region to achieve malaria-free status.

Cabo Verde's certification adds to the list of 43 countries and 1 territory globally that have been recognized as 'malaria-free' by the WHO. Notable instances in the South East Asian region include the Maldives (2015) and Sri Lanka (2016), while India awaits such certification.

Defence News

5. India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR Begins In Himachal Pradesh



The 11th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has kicked off at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

Scheduled to take place from 22nd January to 3rd February 2024, this annual event has become a crucial platform for fostering collaboration and enhancing the capabilities of both nations' special forces.

The primary aim of the exercise is to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices in Counter-Terrorism and Special Forces Operations.

Focusing on Built-up Area and Mountainous Terrain operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the exercise aims to refine and strengthen the skills of the participating special forces units. Emphasis will be placed on developing advanced techniques of insertion and extraction, critical for success in diverse and challenging terrains.

Economy News

6.Capital Budget And Revenue Budget



In the realm of government financial planning, two crucial components are the Capital Budget and the Revenue Budget.

The Capital Budget involves transactions that directly influence the government's assets and liabilities. This budget encompasses both capital receipts and capital expenditures. In contrast, the Revenue Budget comprises items that do not affect the government's assets and liabilities. It deals with day-to-day operational finances without altering the overall financial standing of the government.

Key differences are:

Revenue Budget Capital Budget

Revenue receipts are earned through taxes and non-taxes. Capital receipts lead to a decrease in assets or an increase in liabilities.

Revenue expenditure covers day-to-day operational expenses. Capital expenditure influences the creation or reduction of liabilities.

No impact on government assets and liabilities. Assets, like infrastructure projects, are part of capital expenditure.

7. Switzerland-India Free Trade Agreement Concluded After 16-Year Negotiation Saga



In a historic breakthrough, Switzerland and India have finally sealed a free-trade agreement (FTA) following a marathon 16-year negotiation period.

The announcement came from Swiss Economy Minister Guy Parmelin, who, after attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, swiftly headed to India for crucial discussions with his counterpart, Piyush Goyal.

The protracted negotiations signify a landmark achievement in diplomatic and economic relations between the two nations. The FTA holds immense promise for fostering stronger ties and economic collaboration.

Banking News

8. YES BANK Achieves Milestone As First Indian Bank On RXIL's ITFS Platform



In a groundbreaking move, YES BANK has become the inaugural Indian bank to execute an export finance transaction on RXIL Global IFSC Limited's International Trade Financing Services Platform (ITFS). The collaboration marks a significant stride in digitization and cross-border business for YES BANK.

The platform, registered under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), offers a digital avenue for arranging credit through Factoring, Forfaiting, and other trade financing services at competitive rates with swift processing. This historic transaction is the first of its kind on the ITFS platform in conjunction with any bank in India.

Business News

9.AIIB Invests \$58.4 Million In India's Largest Renewable Energy InvIT



The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has infused INR 4.86 billion (about USD 58.4 million) into Sustainable Energy Infra Trust (SEIT), India's largest Renewable Energy Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT).

SEIT, supported by Mahindra Susten Private Limited and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, boasts eight operational solar power assets with a combined capacity of 1.54 gigawatts-peak spread across India.

The investment in SEIT provides sponsors with a significant avenue to monetize investments in revenue-generating infrastructure assets, supporting the development of new renewable energy projects..