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1. World's first Om-shaped Temple Inaugurated in Rajasthan (March 29, 2024)

The world's first temple in the shape of the iconic Om symbol was inaugurated in Jadan village of Pali district of Rajasthan.

An Overview of the News

- The construction of this temple started about thirty years ago, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1995.
- The shape of the temple mimics the sacred Om symbol, the first of its kind globally.

Structural Features

- More than 400 people are working on this project spread over 250 acres.
- It has 1,008 idols of Lord Mahadev and 12 Jyotirlingas.
- It is supported by 2,000 pillars at a height of 135 feet.
- Its complex comprises 108 rooms.
- The central center is the Samadhi of Guru Madhavanand Ji.
- At the apex of the temple lies a sanctum embellished with a shivling made from a rhinestone obtained from the Bansi hill of Dholpur.
- A huge tank with a capacity of 2 lakh tonnes has been built beneath the temple complex.

Accessibility

- Jadan village is located on National Highway 62, about 71 km from Jodhpur Airport.
- For easy accessibility, travelers can reach Marwar Junction via trains from Delhi to Ahmedabad.

Architectural Style

- Follows the Nagar style prevalent in North India.
- A huge layout with the Om symbol is spread over a radius of about half a kilometer.

About Rajasthan

Chief Minister - Bhajan Lal Sharma

Capital - Jaipur (Executive Branch)

Governor - Kalraj Mishra

2. Election Commission launches 'Mission 414' in Himachal Pradesh (March 22, 2024)

The Election Commission launched "Mission 414" to increase the voting percentage at 414 polling stations in Himachal Pradesh.

An Overview of the News

- A special campaign "Mission 414" was launched by the Election Commission to increase the voting percentage in 414 polling stations which had less than 60% voting during the last Lok Sabha elections in Himachal Pradesh.

Objectives and Strategies:

- Organizing awareness campaigns and cultural programs.
- Designating the identified centers as model polling centers.
- Including booth youth icons and distributing special invitation cards to prospective voters.
- Targeted Intervention:
 - Initiative to increase voting in 22 assembly constituencies with less than 70% voting.
 - To implement door-to-door outreach programs to motivate voters.
- Focus on women voters:
 - To appoint 'Women Motivators' in Gram Panchayats to encourage women to vote.
 - To involve women icons and campus ambassadors to reach out to working women and housewives.

Election Management Measures:

- Enhanced Polling Station Observation:
 - The number of polling stations has been increased to 7,990, of which 150 will be exclusively monitored by women officers.
 - Allotting 54 stations to young officers and 29 stations to disabled officers.
- Special Voter Features:
 - To provide home voting facilities for PwD voters and people above 85 years of age.
 - Serving 56,320 disabled voters and 60,995 voters above 85 years of age in the state.

Voter Demographics and Projections:

- Demographic statistics:
 - Total eligible voters: 56,38,422, including men, women and persons of third gender.
 - Notable demographics include 1,38,918 first-time voters and 10,40,756 voters in the 20-29 age group.
- Expected increase in young voters:
 - An increase in young voters is expected as advance applications are being received from 17-year-olds up to 18-year-olds.

Electoral Rules:

- Expenditure Limits:
 - Rs 95 lakh for Lok Sabha elections and Rs 40 lakh for assembly by-elections.

Unique Polling Station:

- Extreme Location:
 - Tashigang polling station in Lahaul and Spiti, situated at an altitude of 15,256 feet, is the highest in the country.
- Voter Distribution:
 - Dalhousie's Manola polling station has the highest number of voters (1,410), while Kinnaur's Kaa polling station has the least (16 voters).

3. Uttar Pradesh Police Unveils Trinetra App 2.0 for Enhanced Crime Investigation (March 20, 2024)

In March 2024, Uttar Pradesh Police introduced the advanced digital platform Trinetra App 2.0 to enhance crime investigation and tackle criminal activities.

An Overview of the News

- Trinetra App 2.0, aimed at crime prevention and investigation, was officially launched by Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar and ADG Law and Order Amitabh Yash at the DGP Headquarters.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions company Stack Technologies, in collaboration with UP Government and Special Task Force, unveiled AI-powered Crime GPT Trinetra 2.0.
- The primary objective behind the launch of Trinetra 2.0 Crime GPT is to strengthen security measures and facilitate cracking down on criminals by leveraging AI solutions.

Trinetra 2.0:

- Crime GPT Trinetra 2.0 uses both written and audio input to extract criminal databases and generate results accordingly, enabling quick access to critical information.

- The application includes functionalities like criminal gang analysis, voice recognition, facial recognition, etc. which streamline the process of tracking criminals.
- Trinetra 2.0 Crime GPT significantly contributes to strengthening the security infrastructure and assists in the creation of the digital criminal database.

Co-founder and CEO of Stack Technology - Atul Rai

4. Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan assumes charge as Governor of Telangana (March 20, 2024)

Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan takes charge as the Governor of Telangana.

An Overview of the News

- After the resignation of Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, President Draupadi Murmu has handed over the additional responsibility of looking after Telangana to Governor Radhakrishnan.
- Additionally, Governor Radhakrishnan has been assigned the task of acting as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- The official swearing-in ceremony took place at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad, with Chief Justice of the State High Court, Justice Alok Aradhe administering the oath.

About Telangana

Capital - Hyderabad

Chief Minister - Revanth Reddy

Established - 2 June 2014

5. Prime Minister to inaugurate 511 Pramod Mahajan Rural Skill Development Centers in Maharashtra (Oct. 19, 2023)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 511 Pramod Mahajan Rural Skill Development Centers in Maharashtra.

An Overview of the News

- These centers will be established in **34 rural districts of the state.**
- The main objective of these centers is **to provide skill development training programmes.**
- The objective of these programs is to create employment opportunities for rural youth.
- Each center will be capable of training approximately 100 youth.
- Participants in these programs must undergo training in at least two vocational courses.
- The training is imparted by industry partners and agencies approved by the National Skill Development Council.

- The establishment of these centers is expected to enhance the workforce of the region by developing more skilled and competent individuals.

6. Rajasthan Chief Minister announced the formation of three new districts Malpura, Sujangarh and Kuchaman City (Oct. 11, 2023)

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the formation of three new districts Malpura, Sujangarh and Kuchaman City in Rajasthan.

An Overview of the News

- This announcement was made during the Gau Seva Sammelan in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- The decision to establish these new districts was based on both public demand and recommendations provided by a high-level committee.

The objective of creating New Districts:

- The primary objective of creating these new districts is to increase administrative efficiency and strengthen law and order in the area.
- The move aims to bring government services closer to the people of these areas, which will result in a positive impact on the lives of local citizens.

Details of three New Districts:

- Kuchaman City, which was earlier part of Nagaur district, has been designated as a separate district. It was initially included in the 19 districts declared under the name Didwana-Kuchaman in March 2023.
- Sujangarh, which is currently under Churu district, and Malpura, which is under Tonk district, will also become new districts.

Installation Process:

- The demarcation and establishment of these new districts will be a collaborative effort between the Ramlubhaya Committee, which recommended their formation, and the Revenue Department.
- Ramlubhaya Committee was constituted on 21 March 2022 to study the feasibility of creating new districts.

About Rajasthan

- It is a state in northern India and is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest state by population.
- It is bordered by five other Indian states: Punjab to the north; Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the northeast; Madhya Pradesh in the southeast; and Gujarat in the southwest.

- Rajasthan is also home to three national tiger reserves, Ranthambore National Park in
- Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar and Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota.

Formation - **30 March 1949**

Capital- **Jaipur**

Districts - **33 (7 divisions)**

Governor - **Kalraj Mishra**

Chief Minister - **Ashok Gehlot (INC)**

Rajya Sabha - **10 seats**

Lok Sabha - **25 seats**

Airports - **Jodhpur Airport and Jaisalmer Airport**

7. Uttar Pradesh declares Gangetic dolphin as a state aquatic animal (Oct. 11, 2023)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath officially named the Ganges River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) as the state aquatic animal.

An Overview of the News

- This decision underlines the importance of the species in the state context.
- Gangetic dolphins mainly inhabit the rivers of Uttar Pradesh, including the Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti and Gerua.
- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, Gangetic dolphins are classified as Endangered, highlighting the urgency of their conservation.

Role of Gangetic dolphin in the health of the ecosystem:

- Gangetic dolphins serve as sensitive indicators of the overall health of the Ganga ecosystem and the well-being of other species living in the river.
- Their sensitivity to changes in water quality and flow underlines the ecological importance of preserving their habitat.

Meri Ganga Meri Dolphin 2023 Campaign:

- The “Meri Ganga Meri Dolphin 2023” campaign involves conducting a comprehensive dolphin census using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.
- This census is spread along the banks of river Ganga, extending from Muzaffarpur Barrage to Narora Barrage.

- The campaign was launched through a collaboration between the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India in 2012, marking the third anniversary of the state's decision.

8. After Bihar, Rajasthan announced caste-based census (Oct. 7, 2023)

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced to conduct the state caste-based census.

An Overview of the News

- Census activities come under the Union List as per the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Reasons for caste-based census in Rajasthan:

- Social Security: The Census is considered essential to identify weaker sections within different castes, with the aim of ensuring social security for them.
- Schemes: This can help target government schemes better, ensuring that benefits reach those who need it most.
- Preventing duplication: The census can also help identify specific sections within castes that require government support in areas such as economics, social welfare and education, thereby reducing duplication of beneficiaries receiving multiple benefits. Could.

Caste-based Census of Bihar:

- Caste based census was conducted by the Bihar government in 2023.
- According to the census, more than 63% of the population of Bihar consists of Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBC).
- The Government of Bihar promised the upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) and OBCs in line with the constitutional provisions and applicable laws.

Legal dispute over caste-based census:

- The central government has argued before the Supreme Court that the Census Act of 1948 gives exclusive power to the central government to conduct all census-related activities.

Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC):

- The SECC was initially conducted in 1931 and was intended to assess the economic condition of each Indian household in both rural and urban areas.
- This data can be used to identify indicators of deprivation and inequalities, including those related to caste, providing a more comprehensive view of inequalities.

Important Points:

- The decennial census activities are supervised by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner for India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- The first census in India was conducted in 1872, and the first census of independent India was conducted in 1951, governed by the Census Act of 1948.

9. Madhya Pradesh government announces 35% reservation in government job vacancies for women (Oct. 7, 2023)

Madhya Pradesh government officially announced a 35% reservation in government job vacancies for women except in the forest department.

An Overview of the News

- To implement this policy, an amendment was introduced in the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provisions for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that 35% of vacancies in police and other government jobs will be reserved for women, and 50% of teaching posts will also be earmarked for women.

Ladli Bahana Scheme:

- The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has announced the transfer of financial assistance under "Ladli Behna Yojana", a welfare scheme for women, which provides ₹1,250 per month to each beneficiary.

About Madhya Pradesh

- It is the second largest state of India in terms of area after Rajasthan.
- Forests occupy 25.14 percent of its area.
- Governor - Mangubhai Patel
- Chief Minister - Shivraj Singh Chauhan
- Capital - Bhopal

10. Hyderabad Organizes Empowering 'Divya Kala Mela' for Disabled Artisans (Oct. 7, 2023)

'Divya Kala Mela' organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Secunderabad, Hyderabad started on 6 October 2023.

An Overview of the News

- 'Divya Kala Mela' is scheduled to be organized from 6 October to 15 October 2023.

- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated the program on 6 October 2023.

National Initiative:

- This initiative is part of a larger effort of the Department to promote the products and craftsmanship of entrepreneurs/artisans with disabilities across India.
- The program is planned to be organized in 12 cities during the period 2023-2024.

Product Showcase:

- The event will feature a wide range of products including handicrafts, handloom textiles, embroidery work and packaged foods from different regions including Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern states.
- These products will be showcased by around 100 disabled artisans/artists and entrepreneurs from around 20 States/UTs.

Product Categories:

- The products will be categorized into home decor and lifestyle, clothing, stationery and eco-friendly products, packaged food and organic products, toys and gifts, and jewelry and personal accessories like clutch bags.

Economic Empowerment:

- The initiative aims to economically empower persons with disabilities by providing them a platform to market and showcase their products and skills.
- It encourages 'Vocal for Local' initiatives, allowing people to support and buy products made by designated disabled artisans.

Nationwide Effort:

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has an ambitious plan to promote this concept and 'Divya Kala Mela' is an important step in this direction.
- It has been organized in many cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Bhopal, Guwahati, Indore, Jaipur and Varanasi in 2022 and 2023.