

Daily Current Affairs 4 January 2024



Important News: International

Abu Dhabi's First Temple to be Inaugurated by PM Modi on 14 Feb

Why in News:

- The BAPS Hindu Mandir is expected to be one of the largest and most beautiful Hindu temples outside of India and the largest Hindu temple in West Asia.

Key Points:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi on February 14.
- The BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi is the first Hindu temple in UAE, situated in the capital's Abu Mureikha area.
- In February 2018, the PM inaugurated the project for the temple and the construction began in December 2019.
- The temple is being constructed on over 5.4 hectares of land and constructed at a cost of Rs 700 crore.
- The vast complex will include a large amphitheatre, a gallery, a library, a food court, a majlis, and two community halls with space for 5,000 people. It will also have gardens and children's play areas.
- It will incorporate an intricately designed pink sandstone and marble façade with seven spires that represent each of the Emirates of the country.
- BAPS stands for the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS).
- The organisation is named after Bhagwan Swaminarayan, a religious leader who lived in the late 1700s.
- It is a socio-spiritual Hindu faith with its roots in the Vedas and was pioneered by Bhagwan Swaminarayan (1781-1830) in the late 18th century and established in 1907 by Shastriji Maharaj (1865-1951), according to the BAPS website.

Source: News 18



4 January Daily Current Affairs

Putin Kicks Off Russia's 2024 BRICS Chairmanship

Why in News:

- Russia's 2024 BRICS Chairmanship began on Monday, January 1.

Key Points:

- Russian President Vladimir Putin said the motto is "Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security".
- The BRICS is an association that, according to the decision adopted by the 15th BRICS Summit in August 2022, now includes 10 countries.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members which is a strong indication of the growing authority of the association and its role in international affairs.
- In general, Russia will continue to promote all aspects of the BRICS partnership in three key areas, including politics and security, economy and finance, and cultural and humanitarian contacts.
- Russia's priorities include promoting cooperation in science, high technology, healthcare, environmental protection, culture, sports, youth exchanges, and civil society.
- Russia will also work on the modalities of a new category of BRICS partner countries.

Source: Live Mint

France, Germany to fund India's urban infra mission

Why in News:

- France And Germany To Provide 100 Million Euros For AMRUT Mission Financing.

Key Points:

- France's development agency AFD and Germany's KfW Bank are in talks with India to provide €100 million loan to fund the country's urban infrastructure plan, AMRUT mission.
- Negotiations on the loan are set for early 2024 with the signing expected in February.
- This follows the countries' recent collaboration on the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain or CITIIS 2.0 program, a four-year initiative



4 January Daily Current Affairs

focused on urban renewal and sustainable waste management, to which they contributed €100 million each.

- Both France and Germany have funded urban transformation projects in India before. France's AFD was part of the CITIIS 1.0 program, which began in 2018.
- Germany's KfW bank, which provides official development finance, has also invested in metro projects in India.
- It has provided funds for the expansion of the suburban rail system in Bengaluru.
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 was launched in October 2021 for five years - FY22 to FY26 - to provide universal coverage of sewerage and septage management systems in 500 cities.

Source: Live Mint

Important News: National

200 Eco-Buses flagged off In Guwahati

Why in News:

- Assam CM flags off 200 green buses from Guwahati to curb pollution

Key Points:

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently flagged off 200 electric buses from Guwahati.
- He termed the initiative as the government's one of the biggest push towards a pollution-free environment.
- By 2025, Assam wants to establish Guwahati as the country's first city to be powered by a 100 percent green public transportation system.
- The Assam Chief Minister also ceremonially launched the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), a versatile transport card in Guwahati.
- The card, introduced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, is a one-stop solution for facilitating payments of travel fares, toll taxes, and retail purchases, and allows cash withdrawals.



- Operating via the RuPay card system, the NCMC can be obtained as a prepaid, debit, or credit card from associated banks.

Source: Business Standard

Flipkart's Binny Bansal launches OppDoor

Why in News:

- Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal is back in the e-commerce space with his latest company OppDoor.

Key Points:

- Bansal's startup, named OppDoor, will provide services to e-commerce firms related to design, product, human resource, and other backend support. These services will be provided to enterprises willing to expand their businesses to other regions by leveraging network platforms like Amazon and others.
- The startup is registered in Singapore and was established in May 2021. The company is operating as a venture capital firm and was earlier known as 'Three State Ventures Pte Ltd.' The company is receiving investment from different startups across India (like Curefood, and Scapia).
- The company's main aim is to help firms achieve e-commerce excellence across the globe. Its main purpose is to support e-commerce companies to expand operations globally by providing them with end-to-end solutions.
- OppDoor provides services primarily in eight countries – Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, the UK, and the US. The company is currently not providing services in India as there was no mention of India on its website.

Source: Mint



4 January Daily Current Affairs

Kia India Appoints Gwanggu Lee as New MD and CEO

Why in News:

- Kia India has announced the appointment of Gwanggu Lee as the new Managing Director and CEO, effective immediately.

Key Points:

- He will be the 3rd Managing Director and CEO of Kia India, succeeding Kook Hyun Shim and Tae Jin Park. Kia India said its former MD & CEO Tae Jin Park, is retiring after his 36-year journey with Kia corporation and 4-year stint with Kia India.
- Lee has held leadership positions in various capacities in both developed and developing economies, including roles in the US, Canada, Italy, Mexico, Kia Headquarters in Central and South America, and Kia Europe Headquarters in Germany.
- With over 30 years of robust experience in the automotive sector, Mr. Gwanggu Lee will spearhead Kia's transformative journey focusing on fostering sustainable business growth, the company said in a statement.

Source: The Hindu

CM Yogi Adityanath Inaugurates UP's First Floating Restaurant In Prayagraj

Why in News:

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the state's first floating air conditioned restaurant run by UPSTDC, on Yamuna river, during his visit to Sangam City.

Key Points:

- Managed by the UPSTDC, the new attraction is expected to seat 40 visitors at a time, who can select from an assortment of mocktails, sizzlers, street food and a selection of beverages.



4 January Daily Current Affairs

- With the facility of slipway (a track on which boats can be moved to and from the water), visitors will be able to enjoy their ride on six-seater speed boats and 30-seater catamaran hull on river Yamuna.
- Authorities of UPSTDC have announced packages for Sangam tour, bhajan sandhya, kirtan and Sundar Kand path on the floating boats. Arrangements have also been made to hold pre-wedding shoot on the river.

Source: The Times of India

NIVEA India Appoints Geetika Mehta As New Managing Director

Why in News:

- NIVEA, India's leading skin care brand presented by Beiersdorf, appointed Geetika Mehta as its Managing Director.

Key Points:

- Leading skincare brand Nivea India said it has appointed Geetika Mehta as its new Managing Director. Mehta, who has an experience of over two decades in the FMCG sector, will steer the brand in the country, Nivea India said in a statement.
- Nivea is owned by German multinational company Beiersdorf AG, which is a leader in skincare products.
- With a distinguished career in the FMCG sector, Mehta has a proven track record of developing small businesses as well as managing large-scale corporations across markets, including South Asia, Thailand, Brazil and South Africa.
- The Hamburg-based company generated sales of €8.8 billion in fiscal year 2022. Beiersdorf has more than 20,000 employees worldwide.

Source: Mint

