

13th December, 2021 Current Affairs

1. Maa Umiya Dham Development Project:

Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Umiya Mata Temple along with its premises at Umiya Campus in Sola in Ahmedabad.

Key Points:

Amit Shah also inaugurated various developmental projects including a railway bridge.

Umiya Mata Temple is dedicated to Maa Umiya, who is the reigning deity of Kadva Patidar sect.

The temple and other buildings, will be developed at a cost of Rs 1,500 crore.

It will be spread over on 74,000 square yards of land.

A three day ceremony:

A 3-day ceremony of laying the foundation stone of temple and other building was started on December 11, 2021. The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually on December 13.

It is a 13-storey complex:

Apart from Temple, a trust running the main temple in Unjha, will also built a 13-storey complex adjacent to the temple in order to provide training and a hostel facility to Patidar youths who are preparing for UPSC and GPSC entrance tests.

About Umiya Mata Temple:

Umiya Mata Temple is the Temple of Goddess Umiya, who is worshipped as the clan-deity or kuldevi of Kadava Patidars. The temple is situated in the



center of Unjha in Mehsana district of Gujarat. It celebrated its silver jubilee in November 2009.

About Umiya Dham complex:

Umiya Dham complex is being built by Kadava Patidar community in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The complex will comprise of a temple, medical facilities, an NRI guest house, convention hall, senior citizen care facilities, hostel for boys & girls, recreation & sports facilities, and career & business development facilities.

Umiya Mata Temple in United States:

In 2013, an Umiya Mata temple was also commissioned by the Kadva Patidar Samaj in Macon, Georgia.

2. Chennai is quite ready to to adopt innovative water management strategies:

Chennai is all set to adopt innovative water management strategies and transform into a sponge city to curb urban flooding.

Key Points:

- The sponge city concept seeks to make urban areas more permeable, have more open spaces to store rainwater, and permit it to drain to aquifers.
- Chennai's Water Resources Department is looking over the possibility of digging recharge shafts in smaller water bodies across the town.
- These recharge shafts are often dug up to 80-90 feet. It'll help replenish the water level.
- As per the plan, smaller water bodies & temple tanks might be used as structures for storing excess water during heavy rain. Water is often treated, drawn, and supplied to the town.

What is Sponge city?

- Sponge city is basically a new urban construction model for flood management and to strengthen ecological infrastructure & drainage systems.

- This idea was proposed by Chinese researchers in 2000.
- In 2014, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and State Council accepted this idea as an "urbanism policy".
- This technique is helping in alleviating urban flooding, the urban heat island effect and water resources shortage.
- It also improves the ecological environment and biodiversity by absorbing & capturing rainwater and using it to scale back floods.
- Sponge city policies are nature-based solutions, which use natural landscapes for catching, storing and cleaning water.
- This idea was encouraged by the ancient wisdom of adaptation to climate challenges, specifically in the monsoon world.

Sponge Cities Missions in India

- The basic idea of the sponge city is to form cities more permeable to carry and use water that falls upon it.
- These can all be delivered effectively by an urban mission along the lines of National Heritage City Development & Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and Smart Cities Mission.

Why the Sponge Cities Mission in India are required?

- Urban flooding has become a frequent phenomenon in Indian metros.
- India's Land policy has not effectively managed or controlled the recurrence of significant floods in urban areas.
- Urban cities are still lacking a proper drainage network.
- Concrete structures in urban cities are causing water wastage.

3. 'Solar hamam' in News:

Solar Hamam is a locally designed and branded heating system which is gaining popularity across the villages of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

What is the objective of Solar Haman?

Solar Hamam is intended for providing clean energy solutions to households across mountainous regions. It seeks to conserve forests, free women from collecting fuel wood and mitigate carbon emission.

[How this technology is important?](#)

Development of this technology is remarkable because households in the mountains depend on natural resources to get fuel, fodder, health, nutrition, agriculture, livelihood and employment.

As per 2011 census, around 85% of rural households in India depends on traditional biomass fuels.

At an altitude of 2000 meters in Himalayan region, winters are harsh and it is cold throughout the year. It compels households to rely on wood fires as the source of energy for up to 16-17 hours in a day. In this region, almost 50% of collected wood is used in heating water and living spaces. It thus leads to degradation of forests.

[Previous Story:](#)

Development of simple and cost-effective solar water & space heating system was started in 2004 for rural households. In 2008, an artisan-fabricated prototype, the Solar Hamam, was developed. Solar Hamam was evaluated for performance, safety and maintenance across rural households. So far, more than 1,200 Solar Hamam systems have been installed in Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Uttarakhand.

[About Solar Hamam:](#)

The Solar Hamam provides an anti-freezing outlet. It provides for 15-18 litres of boiling hot water, within first solar illumination of 30-35 minutes, at maximum temperature of 90°C in the morning.

Successive batches of hot water are available 15-20 minutes apart.

Post-installation maintenance for the solar hamam is minimal.

It is fabricated by rural artisans, mainly carpenters. Thus, it has also helped in generating employment.

The Solar Hamam had received “Himachal Pradesh State Innovation Award for 2016-17”.

4. Bank of Baroda launched “bob World Wave”:

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has recently launched a wearable payment solution called “bob World Wave”.

Salient Points:

Bob World Wave was launched for digital banking payments.

This technology is witnessing the rise of tremendous interest throughout the world and lenders are using this opportunity for adopting more convenient and cashless digital payments systems.

This innovative solution seeks to perfectly deliver preventive health actions and easier payment transactions.

This technology is developed by whom?

To develop the “bob world wave”, Bank of Baroda had partnered with NPCI. It was developed by leveraging the existing NFC based technology.

Worthiness of the solution:

- Bob world wave is a “Bank’s on the go” wearable payment solution.
- It has been designed to ensure seamless and convenient digital payments for customers.
- It is a contactless mode of payment which ensures safety and hygiene, especially after the outbreak of COVID-19.
- It is expected that 10% of the small ticket payments will be done using wearable devices in next two years.
- This technology will empower customer for carrying their day-to-day transactions securely and seamlessly.

What is the need of this technology?

- With the increasing acceptance infrastructure, demand for contactless payment mechanisms is also increasing steadily. The overall consumer sentiment is supporting wearables’ permanence in payments industry.

Salient features of the bob World Wave:

- Bob World Wave wearable solution will allow customers to monitor their body temperature, heart rate, SpO2 and blood pressure.
- By Bank of Baroda an exclusive 3-months free wellness package with the bob World Wave solution will also be provided. Wellness package will be provided along with a personal health coach, interactive video coaching and doctor teleconsultation.
- It will provide contactless payments of up to Rs 5000 across all NFC enabled PoS devices. Payment above Rs 5000 can be made using a pin.
- Bank of Baroda will also provide a dummy plastic card, comprising of the same card number printed as that on the wearable device along with expiry date and CVV. This card will enable customers to do e-commerce transactions easily.

5. Global pension report:

Recently, the Ministry of Labour and Employment told the Rajya Sabha that; a Global Pension Index that placed pension system of India towards bottom of the list was not prepared on the basis of reliable comparable international data.

Salient Points:

- The Global Pension Index Report was published in 2021 and it has ranked India at 40th place, out of 43 countries for its pension system.
- The Report was published by Mercer, a management consulting firm.
- This Index is prepared on the basis of certain criteria of sustainability, adequacy, and integrity.
- The Index placed India in the same category of Japan, South Korea and a few other countries.

About National Pension System Trust:

- NPS Trust is a specialised division of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority in India. It works under the parent head of Ministry of Finance.

- National Pension System (NPS) is a voluntary defined contribution pension system. It is an EEE (Exempt-Exempt-Exempt) instrument, in which entire corpus escapes tax at maturity.
- Under this system, entire pension withdrawal amount is tax-free. All the citizens of India including workers of unorganized sector can avail the benefits of NPS system on a voluntary basis. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also allowed the Non-Resident Indians (NRI) to subscribe to NPS on October 29, 2015. NPS is administered and regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

About Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA):

PFRDA is the regulatory body which is working under the parent head of Ministry of Finance. It supervises and regulate pension in India. It comprises of a chairperson and not more than six members. Out of 6 members, at least three shall be whole-time members and to be appointed by Central Government.

6. UNESCO added Durga Puja to its Intangible Heritage list:

Recently, Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has decided, in its 16th session, to inscribed 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Salient Points:

- 16th session of UNESCO is being held, starting from December 13, 2021. It will conclude on December 18, 2021.
- Till now, Durga Puja was celebrated in many parts worldwide. But an official global recognition was pending.
- Durga Puja is a classic blend of religion and culture. It is regarded with a lot of pride. This festival is performed and celebrated predominantly by the Bengali community.

About Durga Puja:

Durga Puja is an annual Hindu festival. It is also famous as Durgotsava or Sharodotsava. The festival originates in the Indian subcontinent which reveres and pays homage to Hindu goddess Durga. It is celebrated to mark goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasur. This festival is particularly popular and traditionally celebrated in states like West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Tripura, Assam, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttarakhand as well as in Bangladesh. Durga Puja is a festival of ten days. Out of this, last five are most significance.

When this festival is observed?

Durga Puja is observed in Indian calendar month of Ashwin. It corresponds to September–October in the Gregorian calendar.

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage?

As per UNESCO, cultural heritage does not end at collections of objects and monuments. It also includes traditions or living expressions which have been inherited from ancestors and passed on to descendants. It is a practice, expression, representation, knowledge, or skill considered by UNESCO. Intangible heritage comprises of nonphysical intellectual wealth like folklore, customs, traditions, beliefs, knowledge, and language. It is considered by member states of UNESCO. Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was started in 2003 to protect and promote it.

7. Supreme Court has Issued Aadhaar, voter cards to sex workers:

Supreme Court observed that fundamental rights are guaranteed to every citizen irrespective of vocation.

So, the Supreme Court directed the central government to start the process of issuing voter ID, Aadhaar and ration cards to sex workers.

Salient Points:

Supreme Court also directed centre to keep providing dry ration to sex workers.

The bench further directed that, authorities can take assistance from National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and state AIDS control societies while preparing a list of sex workers after verifying information provided by the community-based organisations.

It also asked that, status report related to issuance of ration cards, voter ID cards and Aadhaar cards them should be filed within a period of four weeks from the date of direction.

State governments and UTs have also been directed to continue distribution of dry ration to sex workers without asking their ration cards and other identity proofs.

[Why this decision has come?](#)

The Supreme Court direction came while hearing a plea filed by NGO 'Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee'. The plea raised problems faced by sex workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Supreme Court has been passing orders for the welfare of sex workers. On September 29, 2020 court had asked the Centre and others to provide dry ration to them without asking their identity proof.