



## Chhattisgarh CM Flags Off 'Ram Rath' to Ayodhya Ahead of Temple Consecration | Chhattisgarh | 22 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Ahead of the [Ram Temple inauguration](#), Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma flagged off a 'Ram Rath' to [Ayodhya](#).

### Key Points

- They also sent handwritten '**Jai Shri Ram**' messages and placed them in the rath destined for Ayodhya.
- **Students from Raipur Convent School** also contributed by **placing their messages** in the drop box.
- The rath will go **across the state** and collect **messages and wishes from the residents**.



### About Ram Temple

- Layout of Ayodhya Ram Mandir:
  - The Temple is built over three 20-foot high floors each with a total of 392 pillars and 44 doors.
  - Makrana Marble and Pink sandstone, granite stone, and colored Marble are used in the construction.
  - The foundation of the temple is built of a 14-metre-thick layer of roller-compacted concrete. And a 21-foot-high granite plinth has been placed to protect against ground moisture.
  - Iron has not been used anywhere in the construction.
- The Architectural style of the temple is Nagara style with Sanctum Sanctorum (garbhagriha), Mandaps (halls), and Mandirs.

- At each corner of the compound will be dedicated to Surya, Bhagwati, Ganesh, Shiv. On the northern and southern arms, temples to Annapurna and Hanuman will be built respectively.
- Temples of Maharshi Valmiki, Vashishtha, Vishwamitra, Agastya, Nishad Raj, Shabri etc have also been proposed.

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## Defense Minister Unveils Border Projects | Uttarakhand | 22 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated **35 projects** in Uttarakhand to **strengthen the country's border security**.

### Key Points

- The projects were constructed by the **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** at a cost of Rs 670 crore, these **projects consist of roads, bridges, and tunnels aimed at enhancing connectivity, defense readiness and socio-economic development**.
- The minister appreciated the important role played by BRO in **connecting geographically and socially isolated communities to national connectivity**.
- According to the defense minister, the increasing natural disasters in border countries due to climate change pose a serious national security issue.
  - He acknowledged the **exceptional support** extended **by the Border Roads Organization** in Uttarakhand and lauded the **teamwork displayed by various agencies during the crisis**.
  - He highlighted **the change in attitudes towards compensation professionals (CPLs)**, acknowledging their **vital role in the organisation**.

### Border Road Organisation

- It was formed on 7 May **1960** to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north-east states of the country.
  - This includes infrastructure operations in **19 states and 3 union territories** (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.
- In order to ensure coordination and expeditious execution of projects, the Government of India set up the **Border Roads Development Board (BRDB)** with the **Prime Minister as Chairman** of the Board and Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman.
- BRO is also tasked with maintaining this infrastructure including operations such as snow clearance. BRO is instrumental in significantly upgrading and building new India-China Border Roads.
- Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan is the **28<sup>th</sup> Director General (DG)** of the Border Roads Organisation.
- The organisation motto is **Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam** (everything is achievable through hardwork).

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## Review Meeting Ahead of Macron's Jaipur Visit | Rajasthan | 22 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

According to the officials, [French President Emmanuel Macron](#) will visit Jaipur on January 25 and preparations are underway to welcome him.

- Rajasthan Chief Minister chaired a high-level review meeting for the proposed visit.

### Key Points

- Mr. Macron will be the **Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations at Delhi's Kartavya Path on January 26.**
- The CM directed the officials that preparations to welcome the French president should be completed on time and special care should be taken of Mr. Macron's accommodation, security, and transportation.
  - On Mr. Macron's invite in 2023, the Indian Prime Minister was Guest of Honour at **the Bastille Day parade** in Paris on July 14.

### The Bastille Day parade

- It is a **French military parade** that has been held on the morning of 14 July each year in Paris since 1880.
- This day is marked as the National Day of France.
- July 14 is the anniversary of the storming of the infamous Bastille prison in 1789 - a turning point for the success of the [French Revolution](#).
- It is also one of the oldest regular military parades in the world.

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## Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav flags off Mahakal laddoos to Ayodhya | Madhya Pradesh | 22 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief minister flagged-off '**Prasad Rath**' (trucks) carrying **5 lakh laddoos for Ayodhya from Tulsi Manas Mandir.**

### Key Points

- The CM performed pooja of Lord Rama in **Shri Siddh Raghunath Temple at Manas Pratishthan.** He also released a **book on Ayodhya authored by Ramgopal Soni.**
- **The idol of Lord Ram** is being consecrated as the **embodiment of love, faith, and devotion to Lord Ram.**
- He underlined the importance of **Ujjain and Ayodhya** having a **common cultural and religious relationship.** Historical and mythological events display knowledge of technology.

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## Opportunity to Introduce Uttar Pradesh with its Hospitality Culture Why in News? | Uttar Pradesh | 22 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Emphasising the importance of the upcoming Pran Pratishtha programme of Ram Mandir on January 22, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that this long-awaited ceremony is an opportunity to introduce Uttar Pradesh with its hospitality culture.

### Key Points

- The Chief Minister instructed officials the following:
  - This long-awaited ceremony of Pran Pratishtha of the child-like idol of Ram Lalla is an opportunity to **introduce Uttar Pradesh with its hospitality culture.**
  - Efforts should be made to make Shri Ayodhya Dham free from **single-use plastic.**
  - In the Pran Pratishtha event, there is a programme of showering flowers on the '**Navya-Divya-Bhavya temple.**
  - Guests from India and abroad are arriving for the much-awaited program of Pran Pratishtha of the child-like idol of Ram Lalla.
  - There will be the presence of **saints, religious leaders and dignitaries from all the provinces of India.**
  - Strong arrangements should be made for the security and respect of the dignitaries coming to participate in this occasion. A liaison officer should be deployed with every VVIP.
  - Such people should be deployed in it who are familiar with the mythological, historical and geographical importance of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yagya and Ayodhya Ji.
  - There should be **adequate parking arrangements** on the major roads connecting Ayodhya ji with different districts.
  - There should be adequate availability of electric buses for the transportation of visitors.