

Artisan makes 400 kg lock for Ram Mandir

ALIGARH (UP), Aug 6:

An elderly artisan from Aligarh, famous for its hand-made locks, has made a 400 kg lock for the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya which is expected to open for devotees in January next year.

An ardent devotee of Lord Ram, Satya Prakash Sharma toiled for months to prepare the "world's largest handmade lock" which he plans to gift to the Ram temple authorities later this year.

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust officials said they are receiving offerings from scores of devotees and they will have to see where the lock can be used.

Sharma said his family has been engaged in making hand-made locks for more than a century while he has been hammering, grinding, and shining locks in Aligarh, also known as 'taala nagri' or the land of locks, for over 45 years.

He made the giant lock, which is 10 feet high, 4.5 feet wide, and 9.5 inches thick with a four feet key, keeping the Ram Temple in mind, Sharma said.

The lock was displayed at the annual Aligarh exhibition earlier this year and Sharma, who is busy making minor modifications and adding embellishments to his creation, said he wants it to be perfect.

It was a "labour of love" for me while my wife, Rukmani, too helped me in this arduous venture, Sharma said.

"Earlier we had made a 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide lock but some people suggested making a bigger lock so we started working on it," Rukmani said, adding that final touches are being given to the lock. According to Sharma, it cost him about Rs 2 lakh to make the lock and he has willingly poured his life's savings in turning his dream project into a reality.

"As I've been in the lock-making business for decades, I thought of making a giant lock for the temple as our city is known for locks and no one has done anything like this before," he said.

Meanwhile, the temple trust will hold the consecration ceremony at Ram Mandir on January 21, 22, and 23 next year for which an invitation will be sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ram Mandir Trust General Secretary Champat Rai said on Friday.

Respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity must by all states without exception: NSA

NEW DELHI, Aug 6:

Dialogue and diplomacy is the only way forward for a peaceful and enduring solution to the Ukraine conflict, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said at a conference in Jeddah on the crisis, asserting that sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected by all states without "exception".

The two-day meeting hosted by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman to find ways to end the war in Ukraine was attended by top security officials of around 40 countries including US NSA Jake Sullivan and China's Special Envoy for Eurasian Affairs Li Hui.

Interestingly Russia was not invited to the deliberations.

In his address on Saturday, Doval said India will remain an active and willing partner to find a lasting and comprehensive solution to the conflict and that nothing will give New Delhi more happiness and satisfaction than such an outcome.

Doval also said that all peace efforts involving all stakeholders must be pursued to find a just and enduring solution and that it is in this spirit that India participated in the meeting in Jeddah, people aware of the deliberations at the conference which concluded on Sunday said.

Referring to the impact of the conflict, he said the whole world, especially the Global South is bearing the brunt of the situation.

India has regularly engaged both Russia and Ukraine at the highest levels since the beginning of the conflict and New Delhi supports a global order based on principles enshrined in UN Charter and international law, he said.

The NSA especially emphasised that sovereignty and territorial integrity must be upheld by all states without exception, the people cited above said.

He said New Delhi's approach has been and always will be to promote dialogue and diplomacy, adding this is the only way forward for peace.

On the meeting confronting a two-fold challenge that is the resolution of the situation and softening its consequences, Doval said efforts must be directed on both fronts simultaneously and much more ground-work is needed to ensure this.

Currently, several peace proposals have been put forward to end the conflict. The NSA said

the key question that needs to be addressed is whether a solution that is acceptable to all relevant stakeholders can be found.

The NSA also said that India is providing both humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and economic assistance to its neighbours in Global South.

The conference was organised with a focus on the peace formula proposed by Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy put forward the 10-point "peace plan" for ending the conflict that included punishing those



responsible for the war crimes, withdrawing all Russian troops from Ukraine and restoring his country's territorial integrity.

Under the plan, he also called for ensuring energy security, food security, and nuclear safety.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Thursday that India's participation in the meeting would be in consonance with its long-standing position that dia-

logue and diplomacy is the way forward to resolve the Ukraine crisis.

India has been maintaining that the Ukraine crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

At a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on September 16 last year in the Uzbek city of Samarkand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Today's era is not of war" and nudged the Russian leader to end the conflict.

In May, Modi held in-person talks with Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Hiroshima.

In the talks, the prime minister conveyed to the Ukrainian leader that India will do whatever is possible to find a solution to the conflict.

On his part, Zelenskyy briefed the Indian side in detail on his peace formula and urged New Delhi to join in its implementation.

Ahead of the Jeddah conference, the Ukraine President said that it is "very important" that the world sees a fair and honest end to the Russian "aggression".

"I am grateful to Saudi Arabia for this platform for negotiations. Recently, a meeting in the same format was held in Copenhagen. We are moving step by step towards the Global Peace Summit," he said on X.(PTI)

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Beginning of an industrial era in J&K - the new age economy

Highlights

- Industrialization of J&K**
 - Land allotted to **1767** units with proposed investment of **Rs.24,729 cr** and employment of **1,09,570** persons
 - 127** industrial units commencing production with investment of **Rs. 5951** crores
 - Average investment increased by over **9x** from **Rs. 0.24 cr/kanal** in pre 2019 period to **Rs. 2.24/ cr kanal** investment currently
 - NCSS launched by GoI with a corpus of **28,400 cr** of incentives for industrial units
 - Best incentives across India for industrial units with RoI of **400%** (in P&M)
- Exports**
 - No. 1** UT of India in 2022 export ranking published by NITI Aayog
 - 2x** Increase in exports from Rs. 563 cr in 2021-22 to Rs. 1116.37 cr in 2022-23
- Ease of Doing Business**
 - 175+** services online through JK Single Window Portal.
 - Business Reform implementation score (BRAP) increased from 32.76% in 2018 to **78%** in 2022
 - First UT to integrate with National Single Window Portal
 - J&K likely to be among **Top Achiever** category in 2023
- Entrepreneurship**
 - No. 1** in India in 2021-22 for establishment of highest number of **21680** manufacturing and service units under the PMEGP programme
 - Employment generated for **3,15,227** persons since 2019 under PMEGP
- Handicraft & MSME sector**
 - 10 crafts and Agri products GI tagged, 16 more in pipeline
 - Over **20,000 Pashmina** products and over **9000 carpets** GI tagged
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