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Hoysala Temple

- Recently the Union Ministry of Culture has designated the sacred monuments of Hoysala temples to be considered as 'World Heritage Site' for the year 2022-2023.
- The Hoysala temples built in the 12th-13th centuries are marked by three components of Belur, Halebidu and Somnathpur in Karnataka. These three Hoysala temples are protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- The Sacred Monuments of the Hoysalas have been included in the potential list of UNESCO since April 15, 2014 and are a testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of India.
- Earlier UNESCO's World Heritage Center (WHC) had agreed to publish Hindi description of 'UNESCO World Heritage Sites' of India on its website.

Features of Belur, Halebidu and Somanathapura Temples:

Chennakeshava Temple, Belur:



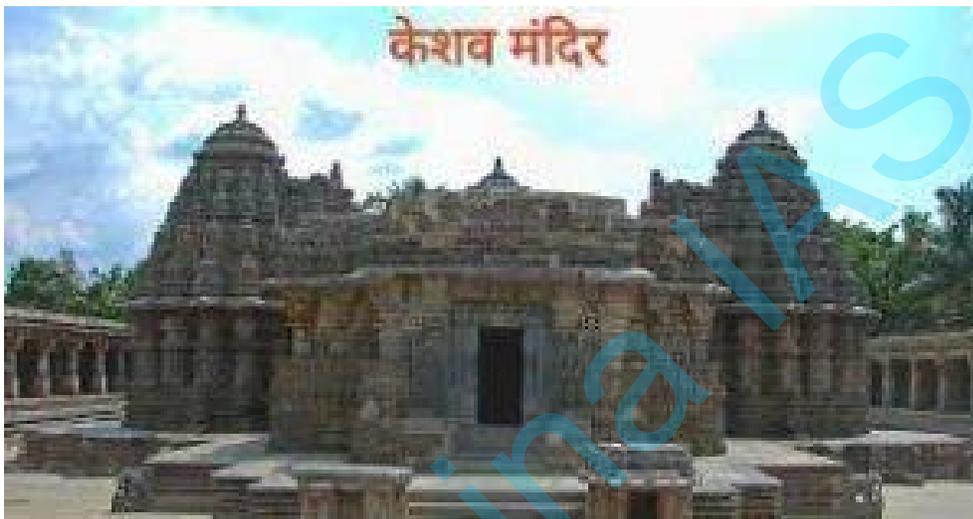
- This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, who is known as 'Chennakeshava', which means 'beautiful' (Chenna) and 'Vishnu' (Keshava).
- Extensively carved stones on the exterior of the temple depict scenes from the life and reincarnation of Vishnu and the epics – Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- Although some temples associated with Shiva are also present here.

Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebid:



- The Hoysaleswara temple at Halebid is the most exemplary architecture of the present-day Hoysalas.
- It was built in 1121 AD during the reign of Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleswar.
- This temple dedicated to Shiva was sponsored and built by the wealthy citizens and merchants of Dorasamudra.
- This temple is most famous for having more than 240 sculptures attached to the wall.
- Halebid has a walled complex which also houses three Jain temples of the Hoysala period.

Keshava Temple, Somanathapura:



- The Keshava Temple at Somanathapura is another splendid (perhaps the last) Hoysala monument.
- There is a beautiful Trikuta temple dedicated to Lord Krishna in these three forms of Janardhana, Keshava and Venugopal.
- Unfortunately the main Keshav idol is missing here and the idols of Janardana and Venugopal are damaged.

What are the characteristics of Hoysala architecture?

- Hoysala architecture is an architectural style developed under the Hoysala Empire between the 11th and 14th centuries, concentrated mostly in the southern Karnataka region.
- The Hoysala temples fall under the Hybrid or Besara style as their unique style is neither purely Dravidian nor Nagara.
- Hoysala temples have a basic Dravidian motif, but the Bhumija mode, widely used in central India, shows strong influences from the Nagara traditions of northern and

western India, and the Carnatic Dravidian mode supported by the Kalyani Chalukyas.

- The Hoysala architects therefore considered the existing structures in other temple types and, after selecting and making due modifications, mixed these styles with their own special innovations.
- This culminated in the emergence of a completely innovative 'Hoysala Temple' style.
- Hoysala temples consist of several temples grouped around a central pillared hall rather than a simple inner hall with pillared halls, and the entire structure is an intricately designed star shape.
- Since these temples are built of steatite rocks, which is a relatively soft stone, the artists were able to give intricate forms to the sculptures. This can especially be seen in the ornaments of the deities that adorn the walls of the temple.

About World Heritage Site:

- Sites of special cultural or physical importance listed by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) are known as World Heritage Sites.
- Sites are designated as having "Outstanding Universal Value" under the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972.
- The World Heritage Center serves as the secretariat for the operation of this Convention.
- It promotes the protection of natural and cultural sites of outstanding universal value throughout the world.
- It includes three types of sites: cultural, natural and mixed.
- Cultural heritage sites include historical buildings, city sites, important archaeological sites, monumental sculpture and painting works such as Dholavira a Harappan city.
- Natural heritage sites are limited to those natural areas that have excellent ecological and evolutionary processes, unique natural phenomena, habitats of rare or endangered species, etc. Example: Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area.
- Mixed heritage sites contain elements of both natural and cultural importance. Example: Khangchendzonga National Park.
- **Number of World Heritage Sites in India:** There are a total of 40 World Heritage Sites in India, including 32 cultural, 7 natural and one mixed site. Dholavira, a Harappan city has been added recently.
- **Nomination Process:** As per UNESCO's Operational Guidelines, 2019, it is mandatory for any monument/site to be placed on the tentative list for one year before being considered for the final nomination dossier.
- Once a nomination is made, it is sent to the World Heritage Center (WHC), which conducts a technical examination.
- Once submissions are made, UNESCO will contact again in early March. Thereafter site evaluation will take place in September/October 2022 and dossier will be considered in July/August 2023.

Indian Coast Guard

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 46th Raising Day on February 01, 2022.
- The ICG was established in August 1978 as an independent armed force of India by the Coast Guard Act, 1978.
- As the fourth largest Coast Guard force in the world, the Indian Coast Guard has played an important role in the security of the Indian coast and enforcement of rules in the maritime areas of India.

Background:

- It is an armed forces, search and rescue and maritime law enforcement agency functioning under the Ministry of Defence.
- Its headquarter is in New Delhi.
- The concept of formation of ICG came into existence after the war of 1971.
- A visionary blueprint for a multi-pronged Coast Guard was prepared by the Rustomjee Committee.
- For effective command and control, India's maritime regions are divided into five Coast Guard Zones, which include North-West, West, East, North-East and Andaman & Nicobar, with their headquarters at Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Kolkata respectively.

Work:

- **Preventing smuggling:** One of the primary duties of the ICG is to prevent smuggling through sea routes.
- It has jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India including the Contiguous Zone and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- It is responsible for the protection of the marine environment in the maritime areas of India and is coordinating with the Authority for the response to the oil spill in Indian waters.
- **Citizen Assistance:** It has so far rescued around 13,000 civilians in the course of its various operations. Recently also provided assistance to citizens during floods, cyclones and other natural calamities in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa.
- It is working in close coordination with the Central and State agencies to establish a strong coastal security mechanism.
- **Maritime Security:** It cooperates with littoral countries to combat international maritime crimes and enhance maritime security in its jurisdiction as well as in the Indian Ocean region.

- Under the policy of SAGAR and Neighbourhood First, the ICG has developed commercial relations in the oceans and relations with the countries of the Indian Ocean region for the establishment of ocean peace have been installed.
- **Role in Disaster Management:** ICG has successfully provided protection during major ecological disasters and has emerged as a 'First Responder' in the region.
- For example, the ICG recently successfully averted a serious ecological disaster by dousing the chemical carrier MV X-Press Pearl off the Sri Lankan coast of "Sagar Raksha-II".

'Bomb Cyclone'

- Recently 'Bomb Cyclone' hit the eastern US, causing transportation problems.

Bomb Cyclone:

- Bomb Cyclone is an intense mid-latitude cyclone, with low air pressure at its center and characterized by many weather patterns, from bad weather and snow storms to heavy storms and heavy rainfall.
- Bomb cyclones are put on high alert by forecasters as it can produce very harmful effects.

Reason for Origin:

- It can form when a mass of cold air collides with a mass of warm air, such as the air over warm seawater. The formation of this rapidly strengthening weather system is a process known as bombogenesis.
- It is formed when a mid-latitude cyclone grows rapidly and has decreased by at least 24 millibars in 24 hours.
- 'Millibar' measures atmospheric pressure.

How does a bomb cyclone differ from a hurricane?

- Hurricanes form in tropical regions and are driven by warm oceans. For this reason they are quite common in the summer season, as the sea water is warm during this time.
- Bomb cyclones usually occur during winter, as these cyclones are formed due to the union of cold and warm air. During the summer there is usually not much cooler air throughout the atmosphere; this means that the chances of a bomb cyclone occurring then are very small.

- Hurricanes form in tropical waters, while bomb cyclones form over the northwestern Atlantic, northwestern Pacific, and occasionally over the Mediterranean Sea.

Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT)

- The Ministry of Defense (MoD) has launched a home delivery service of medicines to provide services to retired soldiers and service personnel through an online medical consultation platform called Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT).

SeHAT Initiative

- It is a teleconsultation service of the three wings of the Ministry of Defense designed for all eligible servicemen and their families.
- As part of the Government's commitment to Digital India and e-Governance, Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched Sehat on May 27, 2021.
- Its purpose is to provide health services to the patients in their homes.
- Sehat Stay Home OPD is based on a free OPD service run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for all citizens on the lines of e-Sanjeevani.
- Sehat Stay Home OPD (SeHATOPD) is a patient to doctor system where patient can consult doctor remotely through internet.

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