

February- 06

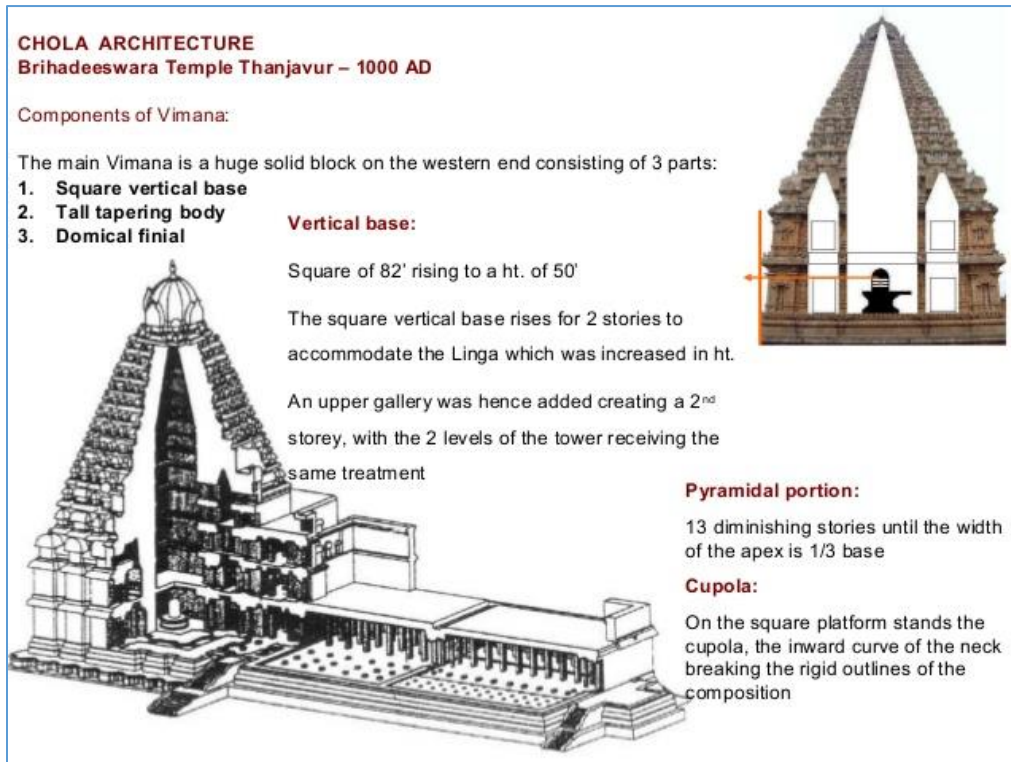
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Pakistan and Somalia have declared locust emergencies recently.
- ❖ According to Economic Survey 2019-20, India has the Second largest Emerging Green Bond Market after China.
 - India has joined the International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF) in 2019 to scale up environmentally sustainable investments.

TAMIL NADU

Kumbhabishegam at Brihadeeswarar Temple

- ❖ Kumbhabishegam (consecration) ceremony held at the Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur on February 5, 2020.
- ❖ The temple, one of the world's largest and grandest, was built between 1003 AD and 1010 AD by the great Chola emperor Raja Raja I (c. 985-1014 AD).
- ❖ The last kumbhabishegam ceremony was held in 1997.



- ❖ The Madras High Court has dictated conformation to agama principles and the consecration performed in both Tamil and Sanskrit.



- ❖ A group of 'Odhuvars' recited Thevaram, Thiruvagasam, Thirumurai among other Tamil hymns during the consecration said the court order.
- ❖ This is for the first time such a consecration was carried out in Tamil in this Temple.

NATIONAL

Supreme Court direction on Gram Nyayalayas

- ❖ Supreme Court directs states to establish 'Gram Nyayalayas' within four weeks' time span.
- ❖ The ruling was delivered by an SC bench headed by Justice N V Ramana.
- ❖ The bench noted that some states are yet to come out with notifications for establishing the Gram Nyayalayas.
- ❖ Gram Nyayalayas are village courts that aim to provide speedy and easy access to the judicial system in rural areas of the country.
- ❖ The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2008.

Recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission

- ❖ The interim report of the 15th Finance Commission (FC) has been tabled in Parliament this budget session.
- ❖ 15th Finance Commission's chairman is N. K. Singh.
- ❖ Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a quasi-judicial body, the Finance Commission.
- ❖ It is constituted by the President of India every fifth year.
- ❖ The 15th FC makes recommendations for the period of 2020-2026 (6 years).


Key recommendations

- ❖ The demographic performance is the new crucial parameter that has been added to the list.
- ❖ Urban local bodies, especially municipalities in cities with populations of more than one million, are set to get a larger share of the devolution.
- ❖ Devolution of taxes to states:
 - The share of states in the centre's taxes is recommended to be decreased from 42% to 41%.
- ❖ Among the States, with the exception of Tamil Nadu, all the other four southern States see a reduction in the recommended share of taxes for the year 2020-21.

- ❖ FC intends to set up an expert group to initiate a non-lapsable fund for defense expenditure.

Highlights of 15th Finance Commission

Govt has constituted 15th Finance Commission & framed its mandate

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE |  | Principles for grant-in-aid to states |
| Formula for sharing of net taxes between Centre and states | | Steps to raise consolidated fund of states |
| Recommendation for the five years beginning April 1, 2020 | | |
| Taxes that will form part of the shareable kitty | | |
| Division of taxes among states | | |

NK Singh appointed as chairman of 15th Finance Commission

Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)

- ❖ This unique scheme has launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ The DST has already set up 3 such centres in the country, one each at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi and Banaras Hindu University.
- ❖ It is planned to set up 5 SATHI Centers every year for the next four years.
- ❖ These Centres have major analytical instruments and advanced manufacturing facilities to academia, start-ups, industry and R&D labs.

Ujh Multipurpose Project

- ❖ Union Minister Jitendra Singh has chaired a meeting to fast-track the implementation of Ujh Multipurpose Project in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ The project is planned to be constructed in Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir on the River Ujh.
- ❖ River Ujh is the major tributary of the Ravi river.
- ❖ The project will enhance the utilization of waters of Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Sutlej and Beas) allotted to India as per the Indus Water Treaty (1960).



Virtual Experience Museums

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture also proposes to set up a National Virtual Experiential Site Museum at Vadnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture has already developed three Virtual Experiential Museums. They are
 - Man Mahal at Varanasi.
 - Ajanta Caves at National Museum, Delhi.
 - Humayun Tomb in Delhi.
- ❖ In 2016, the Ministry of Culture was given the task of establishing Virtual Museums in at least 50 locations.

ENVIRONMENT

Corona virus is not pandemic

- ❖ The World Health Organization announced that the Corona virus disease has not yet become pandemic.
- ❖ The disease has so far killed 560 people and has infected more than 20,000.
- ❖ Currently, the WHO list of pandemics includes HIV, 2009 flu, Spanish flu and H1N1.

New mascot for National Games

- ❖ The flame-throated bulbul has been chosen as the mascot of the 36th National Games.
- ❖ Goa is set to play host to the 36th edition of the National Games.
- ❖ The flame-throated bulbul (*Pycnonotusgularis*) is a member of the bulbul family of passerine birds.
- ❖ They are also called the Rubigula and they are the State bird of Goa.
- ❖ They are found only in the forests of the Western Ghats in southern India.
- ❖ IUCN Status for this bird is Least Concern.
- ❖ They are listed as Schedule IV under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Awards

- ❖ States, Union Territories and Districts have been awarded the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Awards.
- ❖ These awards are given by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- ❖ These awards are given for best performances in the implementation of the maternity benefit programme since its inception in 2017.
- ❖ The award function was organized to promote competitive federalism among the states.

| Rank | States/ UTs with a population of more than 1 crore | States/ UTs having a population of less than 1 crore | Districts having a population of more than 1 crore | Districts having a population of less than 1 crore |
|----------|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Madhya Pradesh | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | Indore (Madhya Pradesh) | Serchhip (Mizoram) |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | Himachal Pradesh | Kurnool (Andhra) | Unain |

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Pradesh) | (Himachal Pradesh) |
| 3 | Haryana | Chandigarh | South Salmara Mankachar (Assam) | Puducherry |

SPORTS

Cricket Advisory Committee – appointments

- ❖ Former India cricketers Rudra Pratap Singh, Madan Lal and Sulakshana Naik - were appointed members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) by the BCCI on January 31.
- ❖ The term of appointment will be for a period of one year.
- ❖ The 34-year-old, Former India fast bowler, R P Singh is the youngest CAC member.



Record of 500 wins in Football

- ❖ Barcelona's Lionel Messi has become the first player to record 500 wins in the history of Spanish football.
- ❖ It is the highest number of wins ever recorded by a single player in Spanish football.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Cancer Day – February 04, 2020

- ❖ World Cancer Day is observed every year to create awareness about cancer.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2020 is 'I am and I will'.
- ❖ This theme has been proposed for the next three years.
- ❖ Cancer occurs due to the uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells in the tissue or organ of the body.
- ❖ It is the second leading cause of death globally.
- ❖ According to WHO, one in six deaths is due to cancer.
- ❖ Approximately 70% of deaths from cancer occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ WHO and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have released two reports to mark World Cancer Day (4 February). They are,
 - “Report on Cancer: Setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all”.
 - “World Cancer Report: Cancer research for cancer prevention”.

