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Prelim Bits 15-12-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Thousand Pillars Temple

Sculptors from Tamil Nadu involved in the restoration of the colossal mandapa of the Rudreshwara Temple at Hanumakonda.

- The Thousand Pillars Temple is also called as Rudreshwara Swamy temple and the main deity is Lord Shiva.
- It is located at the base of Hanumakonda hills in Warangal district, Telangana.
- The temple was built in 12th century by Rudra Deva, the first independent king of the Kakatiya Dynasty.



- Its structure resembles the shape of a star and houses three major shrines of Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and Lord Surya, known as Trikutalayam.
- Thousand Pillar Temple was constructed by using the sandbox technique and is known for intricately carved pillars.
- The mandapa leads to the main temple with a majestic monolith Nandi seated on the pathway.
- In the medieval period, the mandapa was used for holding the meeting of village councils (Gram Sabhas) and dance performances.
- The mandapa was destroyed during the invasion by Muhammad Bin Tughlaq, who ruled over the Delhi sultanate in 1323 AD.
- The restoration project of the temple mandapa is taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

References

1. [Business Line - The restoration of 1,000-pillar shrine](#)
2. [UNESCO - Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple](#)
3. [Hanumakonda District - Thousand Pillar Temple](#)

Beyport Uru

The Kozhikode Tourism Promotion Council has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Beyport Uru.

- Beyport Uru is a wooden dhow (ship / sailing boat / sailing vessel) handcrafted by skilled artisans and carpenters in Beyport, Kerala.
- Beyport is situated on the banks of Chaliyar River.
- Uru making in Beyport is a centuries old tradition, established since India began its maritime trade with Mesopotamia.
- The Beyport Urus are a symbol of Kerala's trade relations and friendship with the Gulf countries.

Miniature Beyport Uru will be part of the official prizes of the FIFA World Cup 2022 held at Qatar.



- The Beyport Urus are purely made of premium wood - a special teak from the Nilambur Forest.
- The wood used is still sawed in the traditional way and joined manually to build urus which requires immense expertise.
- Usually an Uru is built by a team of 50 men over a period of at least 4 years.
- These ships are made on the instructions of *maistry* (chief carpenters) on daily basis without any work plan or blueprints.
- Several communities are traditionally associated with Uru-making, the Odayis and Khalasis (Mappila Khalasis) are prominent among them.
- Odayis manage the technical matters of ship building and their family name comes from *Odam* (a small ship).
- Mappila Khalasis are world-famous for their skill and expertise in launching the completed Urus into the water by using only traditional methods.

References

1. [The Hindu - GI tag sought for Beypore Uru](#)
2. [Kerala Tourism - Beypore Uru](#)

World Restoration Flagship: Ganga Project

Ganga Project is recognised by the United Nations for their role in restoring the river.

- Clean Ganga is an ambitious project that aims to improve the health of the Ganga.
- Restoring the health of the Ganges brings a wide range of benefits to the 520 million people living around its vast basin.
- **Namami Gange** - The government-led [Namami Gange](#) initiative was launched in 2014.
- The initiative is rejuvenating, protecting and conserving the Ganges and its tributaries, reforesting parts of the Ganges basin and promoting sustainable farming.
- It also aims to revive key wildlife species, including river dolphins, softshell turtles, otters, and the hilsa shad fish.

World Restoration Flagships

- The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a global movement coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Under UN Decade 10 pioneering initiatives that are restoring the natural world were declared World Restoration Flagships.
- The selected flagships are eligible to receive UN-backed promotion, advice or funding.

References

1. [The Hindu - U.N. recognises Ganga project](#)
2. [UNEP - UN recognizes 10 pioneering initiatives](#)

G20 Finance Track

The first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting under India's presidency took place in Bengaluru.

- The G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting took place in Bengaluru marking the beginning of G20 Finance Track.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Union secretary (economic affairs) and RBI deputy governor.
- Around 184 representatives of central banks and finance deputies from 20 countries, guest countries and international institutions participated in the two-day summit.
- In this meeting, 7 discussion sessions and 2 side events were organised.

2-Day Finance & Central Bank Deputies meeting
oversaw 7 discussion Sessions on following issues:

Session 1: Global Economy

Session 2: International Financial Architecture

Session 3: Infrastructure

Session 4: Sustainable Finance

Session 5: International Taxation

Session 6: Global Health

Session 7: Financial Sector and Financial Inclusion

- The discussions focused on issues relating to
 - Global economy and risks,
 - Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs),
 - Managing global debt vulnerabilities,
 - Financing climate action and Sustainable Development Goals,
 - Building resilient, inclusive and sustainable cities of tomorrow.
- India about financial inclusion said - Digital public infrastructure leading to financial inclusion, and financial inclusion is not limited to just the bank accounts but also transactions.

References

1. [The Hindu - G-20 members discuss digital inclusion](#)
2. [Indian Express - G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting](#)
3. [G20 - G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting](#)

Krishi Decision Support System

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Space signed a MoU to develop a Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS).

- Krishi-DSS is a Decision Support developed by the Union Agricultural Ministry on the lines of [Gati Shakti](#).
- The Krishi-DSS will be developed using geospatial technologies and related databases such as RISAT-1A and VEDAS.
- The Krishi-DSS integrates systems of ICAR with [MOSDAC and BHUVAN](#) (Geo-platform) of ISRO.
- This will enhance evidence based decision making capability of all the stakeholders in the agriculture sector.
- With this technological intervention the agricultural production, productivity, quality of production and including export opportunities will increase.

References

1. [PIB - MoU signed on developing Krishi-Decision Support System](#)

2. [Indian Express - Agriculture and space departments sign pact](#)
3. [Live Mint - MoU signed to develop Krishi Decision Support System](#)



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