

2019



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INDIAN CULTURE AND
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

11th November- 16th November



BusinessLine



1. Ancient Water System Of The Deccan Plateau

Why in News?

A New York based NGO - **World Monuments Fund (WMF)** has included Suranga Bawadi in the World Monument Watch list for 2020. The NGO will fund the restoration of the Bawadi.

- Suranga Bawadi was an integral part of the **ancient Karez system**.
- The Karez system was used to supply water through subterranean tunnels.
- It was built during the Adil Shahi era in Vijayapura.

Karez System

- Karez system was built by Bahmani kings in the 15th century by the in:
 - Bidar, Gulbarga and Bijapur in Karnataka.
 - Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a water harnessing technology that originated in Iran/Persia.
- Karez is a network of underground canals which basically taps into the groundwater sources and transports it through an underground tunnel to the civilian settlements for various purposes.
- It is known by different names in different regions:

◦ North Africa - Fugara	◦ Morocco - Kettharrain
◦ Arabia - Falaj	◦ China - Kanjering
◦ Jordan and Syria - Qanat	◦ Afghanistan and Pakistan
◦ Romani	◦ - Kariz
◦ Spain - Galerias	

Advantages of the Karez System

- Karez allow water to be transported over long distances in hot dry climates without loss of much of the water to evaporation.
- The system has the advantage of being resistant to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and to deliberate destruction in war.
- Furthermore, it is almost insensitive to the levels of precipitation, delivering a flow with only gradual variations from wet to dry years.
- A karez is environmentally sustainable as it has no additional energy requirement and, thus, has low life cycle operation and maintenance costs.

World Monument Fund

- WMF is a private nonprofit organisation founded in 1965 by individuals concerned about the accelerating destruction of important artistic treasures throughout the world.
- The New York based WMF has orchestrated over 600 projects in 90 countries.
- WMF launched the **World Monuments Watch** in 1995.

- It is a global program that aims to identify imperiled cultural heritage sites and direct financial and technical support for their preservation.
- It is a biennial selection program of ‘at-risk cultural heritage sites’ that combine great historical significance with contemporary social impact.
- It is a nomination based program open to private individuals, representatives of civil society organisations, community groups, government agencies, educational institutions, or other entities.

2. **Krishnapatnam Port**

Why in News?

Recently, due diligence commenced at the Krishnapatnam Port in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.

- Due diligence is a comprehensive appraisal or audit of a potential investment, including the review of financial records, assets and liabilities and evaluation of commercial potential.

Krishnapatnam Port

- Krishnapatnam Port is located about 180km from Chennai, in Nellore district, the southernmost coastal district in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- The port was named as Krishnapatnam Port after **Sri Krishnadevaraya**, Vijayanagar Emperor, who operated this port.
- In the early 1980’s, Government of India declared this port as a minor port.
- It is a deep draft port with modern facilities and had an edge over the century-old Chennai Port and Ennore Port by attracting dusty cargo such as coal and iron ore.
 - A deep draft port is usually made up for the usage of very large and heavily loaded ships. The depth of water helps get them access to deepwater ports.

Vijayanagar Empire

- Vijayanagara or “city of victory” was the name of both a city and an empire.
- The Vijayanagar Empire was established by Harihar and Bukka in 1336 AD. At the time, Muhammad bin Tughlaq was the Sultan in Delhi.
- It stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula.
- Prominent languages - Kannada, Telugu, Sanskrit.
- It consists of four major dynasties:
 - Sangam Dynasty
 - Saluva Dynasty
 - Tuluva Dynasty
 - Aravidu Dynasty

Krishnadeva Raya

- **Krishnadeva Raya**, from Tuluva dynasty, was the most famous ruler of Vijaynagar empire. His rule was characterised by expansion and consolidation.
- He was an able administrator and possessed great military ability.
- **Military Conquests:**
 - His first task was to repulse the Bahmani forces which invaded his territory on their annual raid into the Raya kingdom. The Muslim armies were decisively defeated in the **Battle of Diwani**.
 - He invaded the **Raichur doab** and took the Raichur fort.
 - Victory over the Bijapuri kingdom earned him the title of **Yavana rajya sthapanacharya** (Establisher of the Yavana or Muslim kingdom).
 - He defeated the forces of the Orissa ruler, and conquered the whole of Telangana.
 - Ismail Adil Shah, Sultan of Bijapur, recaptured Raichur and this was the reason for the second conflict between the Bijapur ruler and Krishna Deva Raya. In the **Battle of Raichur** the Bijapur ruler was completely defeated and pushed across the river Krishna.
- **Contribution to Literature and Architecture:**
 - Krishna Deva was also a great patron of art and literature, and was known as '**Andhra Bhoja**'.
 - Eight eminent luminaries in literature known as **Ashtadiggajas** were at his court.
 - He composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the **Amuktamalyada** and one Sanskrit work **JambavatiKalyanam**.
 - Krishnadeva Raya is credited with building some fine temples and adding impressive gopurams to many important south Indian temples.
 - He also founded a suburban township near Vijayanagar called **Nagalapuram** after his mother.



To Watch the Video on YouTube,

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