News Analysis (30 Oct, 2019)

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India-Saudi Arabia

The Prime Minister of India visited Saudi Arabia from 28th- 29th October 2019. The visit was the second visit of the Prime Minister to the country in three years.

Key Highlights

- **India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council** was formed to coordinate on strategically important issues. The council will be headed by the Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed and will meet every two years.
    > **India is the fourth country with which Saudi Arabia has formed such a strategic partnership,** after the UK, France and China.
- **12 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** on issues related to defence industries, security, air services, renewable energy, medicine products regulation, prevention of narcotics trafficking, and the use of RuPay cards in Saudi Arabia.
    > India also cleared an MoU that will help Hajj pilgrims to travel comfortably in Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage seasons.
- **Stand on terrorism and other issues:**
    - Both sides condemned terrorism in all forms and stated that no particular religion, race or culture should be linked with international terrorism.
    - Discussed a number of regional conflicts like the **war in Syria** and **Yemen** and sought lasting peace in the Palestinian territories for the establishment of the **independent Palestinian state** based on the pre-1967 borders with "Jerusalem as its capital".

- **Future Investment Initiative:**
  - It is **Saudi Arabia's annual investment forum,** also known as **'Davos in the Desert'**. The informal name derives from the World Economic Forum's annual meeting that is held in Davos, Switzerland, where world leaders discuss and shape agendas for pressing international issues.
  - The Prime Minister of India also invited Saudi companies to invest in India's energy as India has set a **target of $100 billion investment in the sector by 2024**.
- **Cooperation in the Energy Sector:**
  - Saudi Arabia is keen to play a role in the **creation of <u>strategic petroleum reserves</u> at Padur in Karnataka**.
  - A study is being conducted for the setting up of the **world's largest greenfield refinery at Raigarh in Maharashtra by <u>Saudi Aramco</u>**, Adnoc of the United Arab Emirates and Indian public sector oil companies.

India - Saudi Arabia Ties

- Saudi Arabia is a **strategic partner of India** since the signing of the **Riyadh Declaration in 2010**.
- It is currently **India's second largest supplier of crude oil** – providing about 18 % of its energy needs. It also has a major role in India's **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs)**.
  - The largest supplier of crude oil is Iraq.
- It is **India's 4th largest trade partner of Saudi Arabia**. In 2018-19, the India-Saudi bilateral trade was US $ 34.03 billion.
- The **2.6 million strong Indian community in Saudi Arabia** is the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom and is the 'most preferred community' due to their expertise, sense of discipline, law abiding and peace loving nature.
- The **Haj pilgrimage** is another important component of bilateral relations.

<u>Source: TH</u>

Lakshmi Narasimha Temple: Hoysala Architecture

The **13th century Lakshmi Narasimha temple** in Bhadravati of Shivamogga district, **Karnataka** is being renovated.

About Lakshmi Narsimha Temple

- The temple was built during **Hoysala rule** in the early 13th century.
- It is built in **'Trikuta' style,** that is, having three shrines- dedicated to Lakshmi Narasimha, Venugopalaswamy and Purushothama.
- The outer walls of the temple bear great detailed **carvings in Hoysala style.**
- The concrete flooring on the platform, also called **jagati**, is used by devotees as pradakshina path (ambulatory passageway for circumambulation).

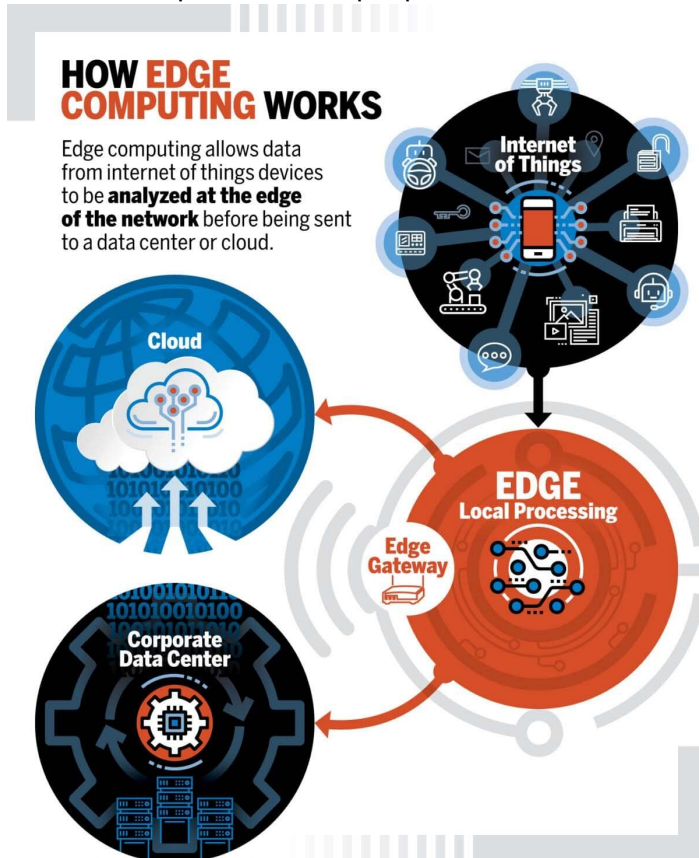## About Hoysala Architecture

- **Hoysala architecture** is the building style developed under the rule of the Hoysala Empire between the 11th and 14th centuries, mostly **concentrated in southern Karnataka.**
- Hoysala temples are sometimes called **hybrid or vesara** as their unique style seems neither completely Dravida nor Nagara, but somewhere in between.
- The Hoysala temples, instead of consisting of a simple inner chamber with its pillared hall, contain **multiple shrines** grouped around a central pillared hall and laid out in the shape of an **intricately-designed star.**
- The most characteristic feature of these temples is that they grow extremely complex with so many projecting angles emerging from the previously straightforward square temple, that the plan of these temples starts looking like a star, and is thus known as a **stellate-plan.**

- Since they are **made out of soapstone** which is a relatively soft stone, the artists were able to carve their sculptures intricately. This can be seen particularly in the jewellery of the gods that adorn their temple walls.
- They are easily distinguishable from other medieval temples by their highly original star-like ground-plans and a profusion of decorative carvings.
- Some of the famous temples are: **Hoysaleshvara temple** (Lord of the Hoysalas) at Halebid in Karnataka that was built in **dark schist stone by the Hoysala king in 1150, Chennakeshava temple** in Somnathpura, Karnataka built around AD 1268 under Narasimha III, **Kesava temple** at Belur in Hassan district of Karnataka built by Vishnuvardhana.

Edge Computing

- Edge computing is defined as the deployment of data-handling activities or other network operations **away from centralized and always-connected network segments** (like Dropbox, Gmail, etc.) and toward individual sources of data capture, such as endpoints like laptops, tablets.

- It is an **extension of cloud computing,** and differs in terms of time taken in processing the information. The data is **analysed locally,** closer to where it is stored, in real-time without latency.

- It is predicted that edge computing would be the next big trend after cloud. The **global edge computing** market is forecasted to reach more than **$ 8 Billion by 2025** valued growing at more than **32% between 2019-2025.**

Advantages of Edge Computing

- **Quick:** Edge computing allows for **quicker data processing** and **content delivery** while streaming a video on platforms like Netflix or accessing a library of video games in the cloud.
- **Future Technology Enabled:** Technologies such as 5G wireless technology and artificial intelligence enable faster response times, lower latency (delay), and simplified maintenance in computing.
- **Localised solution:** It is **preferred over cloud computing in remote locations,** where there is limited or no connectivity to a centralized location. These locations require local storage, similar to a mini data centre, with edge computing providing the perfect solution for it.
- **Data-Efficient:** That data doesn't need to be sent over a network as soon as it processed; only important data is sent. Therefore, an edge computing network reduces the amount of data that travels over the network.

Cloud Computing

- It is the delivery of different services through the Internet. These resources include tools and applications like data storage, servers, databases, networking, and software.
- Rather than keeping files on a proprietary hard drive or local storage device, cloud-based storage makes it possible to save them to a remote database. As long as an electronic device has access to the web, it has access to the data and the software programs to run it.
- It is a popular option for people and businesses for a number of reasons including **cost savings, increased productivity, speed and efficiency, performance, and security.**

Source: IE

47th Chief Justice of India

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, has been **appointed** as the **47th Chief Justice of India (CJI), by the President.**

- He will take oath as the CJI on 18th November 2019 , a day after incumbent Ranjan Gogoi demits office.
- He will have a tenure of 17 months and would demit office on 23rd April, 2021.

- As per convention, **outgoing CJI Ranjan Gogoi recommended the name** of Justice Bobde, the **most senior judge of the Supreme Court as his successor.**
- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the **Supreme Court** are **appointed** by the President **under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.**

Source: PIB

Hori Habba

- 'Hori Habba', is a popular **bull-catching event in Karnataka.** It is held during the harvest season. It is an ancient folk game native to Haveri district, and played on the lines of **Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu** and **Kambala in Dakshina Kannada district.**
- The government has not been allowing these traditional games to be played following a ban on such sports by the Supreme Court in 2017.

Source- TOI