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Shore Temple

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Why in News



The shoreline on the northern side of the Shore temple in **Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu** is facing severe sea erosion.

- Shore Temple is one among a number of Hindu monuments at Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram), on the Coromandel Coast of **Tamil Nadu**.
- It is considered the finest early example of medieval southern Indian temple architecture.
- It was built probably in the reign of **Narasimhavarman II, also known as Rajasimha (Pallava ruler)** who reigned from 700 to 728 CE.
- Unlike most of its neighbours at the site, it is **built of cut stones** rather than carved out of caves.
- It has two shrines, one dedicated to **Shiva and the other to Vishnu**.

- It has been built in **Dravidian style**. Its style is characterized by a **pyramidal *kutina*-type tower** that consists of stepped stories topped by a cupola and finial, a form quite different from the northern Indian *sikhara*.
- The Mamallapuram monuments and temples, including the Shore Temple complex, were collectively designated a **UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984**.

Source: TH