



drishti

Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple: Karnataka

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Why in News

The overclouded sky impacted the annual phenomenon called *Surya Majjana* in **Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple** (Karnataka).

Key Points

- **Location:** This temple is located in **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- **Meaning of the Name:**

The temple derives its name from the combination of topographical features and mythology: **gavi (cave)**, and **Gangadhareshwara (shiva)** means the Lord who adorns the **Ganga**.
- **Establishment:**

It is believed to have been built by **Kempe Gowda I** in its present form.

- **Architecture Features:**

- **Celestial Oriented Architecture:** Built in **Vijaynagar style**, it has **unique celestial oriented rock cut architecture** due to which **Surya majjana** occurs on *Sankranti* every year.

- Surya Majjana:**

- Every year on the ***Makar Sankranti***, the sun rays fall on the Shiv linga located in the cave (***gavi***) making it shine for ten minutes.

- **Two Monolithic Structures:**

- In the forecourt stand two monolithic structures, named **Suryapana and Chandrapana** - each consisting of a **massive disc** atop a supporting pillar.
 - They have engravings of sitting bulls on the discs face each other.

- **Iconography of Shiva:**

- The compound of the temple is adorned with monolith structures associated with the iconography of Shiva - the ***trishula*** (trident) and the ***damaru*** (an hourglass-shaped, two-headed drum).
 - In between the two discs there is a brass ***dhwajasthambha*** (flagstaff), and a small cubicle housing a statue of Nandi, Shiva's bull carrier.



Kempe Gowda I

- Kempe Gowda I was a **feudatory king under Vijayanagar empire**.
- **He founded the city of Bengaluru in 1537** and named it after their family deity's consort, Kempamma.
- He is also credited with the construction of several lakes or ***keres*** for the purposes of drinking water and irrigation eg. the **Dharmambudhi lake**.

Other Sites in Karnataka

Source:TH