



drishti

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

drishtiias.com/printpdf/sree-padmanabhaswamy-temple

Why in News

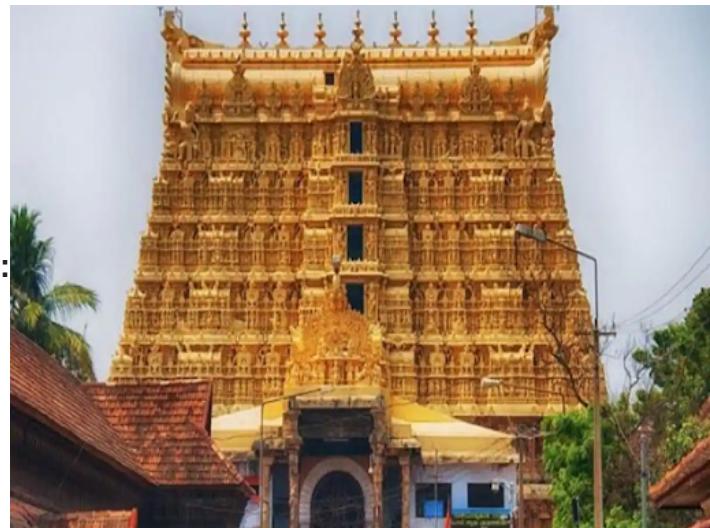
Recently, the **Supreme Court (SC)** has declined a plea filed by **Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple** Trust seeking to exempt it from the audit of 25 years as ordered by the court last year (2020).

Key Points

- **About:**

- The Temple has been **in the news since 2011 after the discovery of treasure worth over Rs. 1 lakh crore** in its underground vaults.
- The SC in 2011 said that, as per customary law, the **members of the royal family have the shebait rights** even after the death of the last ruler.
 - Shebait rights means the **right to manage the financial affairs** of the deity.
 - The Padmanabhaswamy Temple Trust has been created by the former Travancore royal family.
- However, the court **directed the setting up of an administrative committee** with the Thiruvananthapuram District Judge as its chairperson, for transparent administration of the Temple in the future.
- The **trust argues** that since it had been constituted (on earlier orders by the court) to oversee rituals of the Temple, with no role in the administration, it is a distinct entity from the temple and could not be included in the call for an audit.
- **According to the Administrative Committee**, it is in great financial stress and the offerings are not sufficient to meet the expenses, seeking an audit of the temple-related trust run by the Travancore royal family.

- **Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple:**



- According to Historians, the temple dates back to the 8th century but the **present structure was built in the 18th century by the then Travancore Maharaja Marthanda Varma.**
- The temple was initially made of wood but later it was constructed with granite. The temple is built in the **unique Chera style of architecture**, and its main deity is **Lord Vishnu** who is found in the **Anantha Shayana posture** (reclined posture of eternal yoga) on **Adishesha or king of all serpents**.
- It is known to be one of the **108 holy temples associated** with Vaishnavism in India.

Source: IE