



# Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple: Karnataka

## 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 **dhvajasthambha** (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

- [Basavakalyan](#),
- [Hampi](#) (World Heritage Site),
- [Badami](#),
- Aihole, etc.

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