

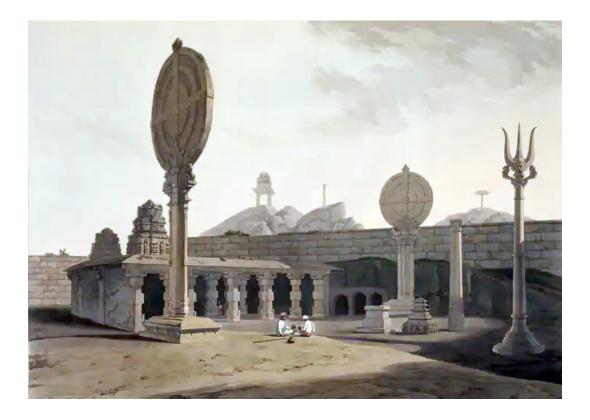
# Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple: Karnataka

### 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 Gangadhareswara (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 <u>Vijaynagar style</u>, it has unique celestial oriented rock cut architecture due to which *Surya majjana* occurs on *Sankranti* every year.
    - Surya Majjana:
      - Every year on the <u>Makar Sankranti</u>, 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

- Basavakalyan,
- **Hampi** (World Heritage Site),
- Badami,
- Aihole, etc.

### **Source:TH**

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/gavi-gangadhareshwara-temple-karnataka