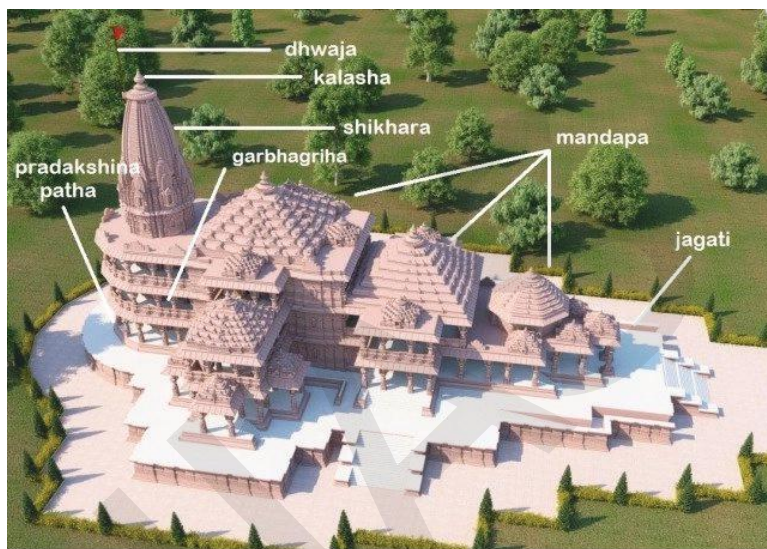


NEWS TODAY

PRIME MINISTER LAYS FOUNDATION FOR AYODHYA RAM TEMPLE

- The temple is to be built with **Nagara style of architecture**.
- Nagara style of temple architecture is found in northern India. Nagara school is further subdivided into different schools based on region like Odisha, Khajuraho, Solanki etc.
- **Architectural elements of Nagara Style:**
 - > **Garbhagriha** - small room where the principle deity/deities of the temple reside.
 - > **Mandapa** - portico or hall at the entrance of the temple generally designed to house a large number of people.
 - > **Shikhara** - mountain like spire which can have different shapes from pyramidal to curvilinear.
 - > **Vahana** - mount of the main deity placed generally in line of sight from Garbhagriha.
- In Nagara style, **temple is generally constructed on a upraised platform called jagati**. Mandapas are present in front of Garbhagriha. These are **adorned with the Shikhara (phamsana-style in Ram temple)**, the tallest one being above the Garbhagriha.
 - > Examples: Khajuraho Group of temples, Sun temple at Modhera,
- Unlike temples in south India, Nagara style doesn't usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways (Called Gopurams).
 - > Generally, there is no water tank in the nagara temple premises and the pradakshina patha is covered.



RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) FIRM ON NO BANK LICENCE LAND ACQUISITION REMAINS A MAJOR ISSUE FOR SOLAR PROJECTS TO LARGE CORPORATE

- In the context of the new privatisation policy that is in the planning stage, RBI has communicated to government its stand of restricting large corporates from promoting banks.
- **RBI concern:**
 - > **Tracking the money trail** and its end-use might become challenging.
 - > **Companies may find ways to bypass corporate governance framework** which can have huge ramifications for the financial stability of the banking sector.
 - > **Most developed countries, too, have moved away** from the model of banks being owned or controlled by large business houses, especially **after the 2008-09 global financial crisis**.
- Instead, RBI is open to having a widespread **institutional ownership in banks to decentralise powers and decision-making and enhance corporate governance**.
 - > Institutional ownership is the amount of a company's available stock owned by mutual or pension funds, insurance companies etc.
- On Contrary, **NITI Aayog had recently recommended** to the government that **long-term private capital** should be allowed into the banking sector.
 - > It also suggested giving **banking licences to select industrial houses** with the caveat that they didn't lend to group firms.

- Industry is asking for faster decision-making for making land available and simplifying government approvals to attract investments in power projects.

• Key issues faced are

- > **Delay in government land allotment/ registration under Solar Park scheme** (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) for Interstate Transmission System (ISTS).
- > **Exemption on Stamp duty** for land registration is not provided by most of the states.
- > **Non-agricultural conversion of land** demands high charges and multiple permissions.
- > **Land records still not digitized** and it takes several months to finalise the exact land coordinates and identify the rightful owners.

- Other issue is **obtaining clearances as power is a concurrent subject** and potential investors as well as developers continue to find it challenging to work with various government departments to obtain clearances.

- In 2019, **Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Park Program was modified to address land evacuation issues**.

- Recently, Centre approved the **setting up of Project Development Cells** to quicken the process of investment and project development in order to boost the economy and meet India's increasing power requirements.

COVID-19 PUSHES UP DEMAND FOR DATA CENTRES

- Data centers are **centralized locations where computing and networking equipment is concentrated** for the purpose of collecting, storing, processing, distributing or allowing access to large amounts of data.
 - > Data storage in India has grown eight times to 2.8 zettabytes since 2014, driven by rapid adoption of Cloud, growth in digital transactions and e-commerce.
- Due to **COVID-19** induced lockdown, **there was a 25-35% increase in data centre capacity usage as companies began to overhaul their digital infrastructure** to deal with the new work environment.
 - > Work-from-home compulsions, online education, video-based medical consultations, a huge increase in e-commerce, are increasing the demand for data centres.
 - > **Data Centres staff were classified as essential services** during lockdown.
- Also, proposed **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019** requires multi-national companies to store and process user data within the country's borders, which will **results in a huge demand for data centres**.
- It is reported that Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is likely to come out with a **national policy framework for establishing data centres across the country**.

SUPREME COURT (SC) REFERS EWS QUOTA CASE TO FIVE-JUDGE CONSTITUTION BENCH

- Petitioners challenged Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act stating that **no segment of available seats/posts can be reserved only on the basis of economic criterion.**
 - > 103rd constitutional Amendment Act, 2019 amended Articles 15 and 16 of Constitution.
 - > It enables the Parliament and all state legislatures to provide upto 10% reservations in **private and public educational institutions and public service** for economically weaker sections, in addition to the existing reservation for SC/STs and OBCs.
- It is also argued that **Amendment Act exceeds the ceiling cap of 50% as decided by the SC in Indra Sawhney case.**
- SC referred it to constitutional bench as it is of the view that **petitions raised a substantial question of law as to Whether the impugned Amendment Act violates the basic structure of the Constitution.**
 - > **Doctrine of Basic structure was propounded in Keshavananda Bharti case (1973)** that constitution has some basic features that can't be altered through amendment.
 - > A constitution bench consists of at least five or more judges which is set up to decide substantial questions of law with regard to the interpretation of the constitution in a case.

SEATS ARE RESERVED IF

Annual household income is below **RS 8 LAKHS**



Own agriculture land below **5 ACRES**

House is below **1,000 SQUARE FEET**



Own residential land not exceeding

⦿ **100 yards**

IN MUNICIPAL AREA

⦿ **200 yards**

IN NON-MUNICIPAL AREA

INDIA CONTRIBUTES OVER \$15.46 MN TO INDIA-U.N. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND (IUDPF)

- The tranche of \$15.46 million includes \$6 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and \$9.46 million dedicated to the Commonwealth countries.
 - > It underscores **India's commitment to supporting developing nations** in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- IUDPF was established in 2017. It is supported and led by India, **managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.**
- UNOSSC, hosted by UNDP since 1974, **was established by UN General Assembly to promote, coordinate, and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within UN system.**
 - > South-South cooperation is a broad framework of collaboration among developing countries in political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains.
 - It aims to foster self-reliance of developing countries by enhancing their creative capacity to find solutions to their development problems.
- **Under Triangular cooperation**, traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through provisions of funding, training, management and technological systems etc.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Brus displaced from Mizoram reject resettlement sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites were proposed by Joint Movement Committee, an umbrella group of non-Brus in Tripura. • Bru community, also referred to as Reangs, resides in Mizoram, Tripura, and parts of southern Assam. • Brus are living in the refugee camps in Tripura after they fled Mizoram following ethnic clashes with the Mizo tribes in 1997. • A quadrilateral agreement was signed among the Bru groups, Centre and Mizoram and Tripura in January this year to end the 23-year old Bru-Reang refugee crisis.
<p>Shadesmart & Radiant Cooling technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are two technologies to promote energy-efficient cooling in buildings. • ShadeSmart is an external shading system developed as an innovative and cost-effective solution for windows in residential and commercial buildings under the project Habitat Model for Efficiency and Comfort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It is developed by The Energy and Resources Institute in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology. • In Radiant Cooling, cooling is achieved through radiant heat transfer, as against regular convective air conditioning is efficient and gives better quality of thermal comfort.
<p>Pokkali rice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is known for its saltwater resistance and flourishes in the rice paddies of coastal Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts of Kerala. • It has Geographical Indication tag. • Vyttila-11 is one of the varieties of Pokkali rice. It is being sown in paddy fields of Sundarbans on an experimental basis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > About 80% of the rice paddies in Sundarbans faced the problem of saltwater incursion post Amphan cyclone and if pokkali experiment succeeds it can be helpful for farmers.
<p>75th anniversary of world's first atomic bombing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the World War-II, the US dropped its first atomic bomb named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima (Japan) on August 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing 140,000 people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It was estimated to have the explosive force of 20,000 tonnes of TNT. • The US dropped a second atom bomb named "Fat Man" on Nagasaki (Japan) on August 9, 1945.

8468022022, 9019066066

www.visionias.in



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



HYDERABAD



PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH