



DAILY PT POINTERS

20th January, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: Page 8_Governance (GSII) / Defence (GSIII)

Think tank warns WhatsApp users of scams, data breach

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) has warned users of different scams perpetrated through messaging platform WhatsApp.

- The Government of India vied Resolution No.8/136/68-P.I (Pers.I) dated 28.08.1970 formally established the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), under the Ministry of Home Affairs giving a new orientation to then existing Police Research and Advisory Council (1966) for the following reasons and with the primary objective of modernization of police force:
 1. To take direct and active interest in the issues
 2. To promote a speedy and systematic study of the police problems,
 3. To apply science and technology in the methods and techniques used by police.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 8_Judiciary (GSII)

Top court designates 56 lawyers as 'senior advocates'

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Eleven of the advocates-on-record and advocates designated senior advocates are women

3. The Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates shall consist of:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (a) Chief Justice of India | Chairperson |
| (b) Two senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court of India | Members |
| (c) Attorney General for India | Member |
| (d) A member of the Bar, nominated by the Chairperson and Members, referred to in (a) to (c) above. | Member |

- Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and judges of the Supreme Court held a Full Court meeting to designate 56 lawyers as senior advocates. Section 16 of the Advocates Act refers to the separate class of 'senior advocate'.
- Both the Supreme Court and High Courts can confer senior designation to lawyers based on their merit, experience, special knowledge of the law and standing at the Bar.
- All matters relating to the designation of Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India shall be dealt with by a Permanent Committee to be known as the "Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates". The conditions on which Advocates shall be eligible for designation as Senior Advocates are: (i) At least (a) ten years' standing as an Advocate; or (b) ten years' combined standing as an Advocate and as a District and Sessions Judge or as a Judicial Member of any Tribunal in India whose qualification for eligibility for such appointment is not less than that prescribed for appointment as a District Judge

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 9_Art and Culture (GSI)

Rahul Gandhi visits over 350-year-old Vaishnavite monastery in Assam's Majuli



- Sri Sri Auniati Satra occupied the highest position amongst the various Satras of Assam in the eyes of the Ahom Kings.
 - Vaishnavite monastery in Assam's Majuli district.
 - The Auniati Satra was established in Majuli in 1653 A.D. by Ahom King Sutamla (1648–1663 AD)
- Ati means elevated place. There from the name Auniati Satra came into being.
- These great Vaishnava monasteries were founded at the initiative of the Ahom Kings of Assam in the middle of the 17th century



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: Page 10_Species (GSIII)

How do you plan to save the Great Indian Bustard, SC asks govt.

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to come clean by February on its plans to save the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the government has to come out with a plan which would save the bird species from extinction largely due to collision with high-transmission power lines situated in areas in Gujarat and Rajasthan which also happen to be the natural habitat of the bustards. The court said the government's plan ought to maintain a balance between the preservation of the bird species and India's global commitments to shed its carbon footprints.

Great Indian Bustards

About:

One of the **heaviest flying birds** endemic to the Indian subcontinent.

State Bird of Rajasthan.

Scientific Name: Ardeotis nigriceps

Habitat:

Untamed, Arid grasslands.

A Maximum number of GIBs were found in Jaisalmer and the Indian Army-controlled field firing range near Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Other areas: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Protection Status:

IUCN Status: Critically Endangered.

Listed in **Wildlife Protection Act's Schedule 1.**

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express: Page 14_Space (GSIII)

Japan's SLIM probe lands on moon but can't generate solar power

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said its Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) landed the moon's surface at around 12:20 a.m. (1520 GMT Friday) and re-established communication with earth, but its solar panels were not able to generate electricity, possibly because they are angled wrong.

- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said its Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) landed the moon's surface.
- SLIM was launched on a Mitsubishi Heavy H2A rocket in September. It initially orbited Earth and entered lunar orbit on Dec. 25.
 - The Soviet Union, the United States, China, and India are the only four countries that have successfully carried out soft landings on the moon.

Indian Express: Page 15_Art and Culture (GSI)

Nagara style of temple architecture, in which Ram temple is being built

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 19

THE RAM temple in Ayodhya will be inaugurated on January 22. Designed by Chandrakant Somnaria, 61, and his son Abhishek, 51, it is being built in the Nagara style of temple architecture.

A 'language' of architecture

The Nagara style emerged sometime in the fifth century CE in Northern India. It is seen as juxtaposition to the Dravida style of Southern India, which too emerged around the same time. The use of the term 'style', however, is debated because of the immense variations observed. Adam Hardy, in *The Temple Architecture of India* (2007), refers to them as "the two great classical languages" of Indian temple architecture. "Language" seems a [more] suitable term, in that each is a system providing a 'vocabulary' of a kit of parts, along

with a 'grammar' which regulates the ways of putting the parts together," he wrote.

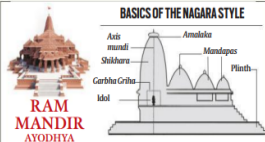
With a towering shikhara

Nagara temples are built on a raised platform, with the garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) — where the image of the deity rests — being the most sacred part of the temple. Towering over the garbhagriha is the shikhara (literally 'mountain peak'), the most distinguishable aspect of Nagara style temples.

Atypical Nagara-style temple also comprises a circum-ambulatory passage around the garbhagriha, and one or more mandapas (halls) on the same axis. Walls of the temple may be adorned with beautiful murals and reliefs.

Five modes of Nagara style

Depending on the period and geography, there is large variation when it comes to what a shikhara looks like, or how it is used in a temple's design. On this basis,



sides of equal length. "The mode emerged in the Gupta heartland, was completed by the early seventh century, and during that century spread across the entire breadth of northern India," Hardy wrote. "For three centuries it retained supreme the peak — literally — of Nagara temple architecture," he wrote.

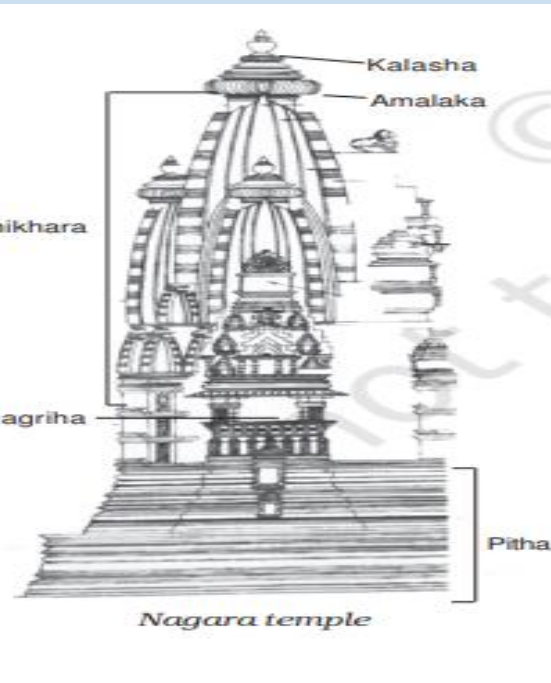
The Shobhari and Bhumija modes emerged in the tenth century. Unlike the previous three modes, where shikharas were unitary structures, these modes comprise 'composite' Latinas — attached miniature spires around or on top of the main shikhara.

It is important to note that these modes are somewhat simplified scholastic classifications. Temple architects may not consciously choose to adhere to any 'mode' — they simply followed and innovated on existing design traditions they saw around them, and broader trends emerged over time. Consequently, there is also immense variation within these modes. Temples can even contain multiple kinds of shikharas on top of a single structure, with the tallest at

Comparison to Dravida style

The Dravida counterpart to the shikhara is the vimana. There is, however, a fundamental difference. In the Dravida style temples, vimanas are typically smaller than the great gatehouses or gopurams, which are the most immediately striking architectural elements in a South Indian temple complex. Moreover, while shikharas are mentioned in southern Indian architectural texts, they refer to only the dome-shaped crowning cap atop the vimana.

The occurrence of gopurams also points to another unique feature of the Dravida style — the presence of a boundary wall. Few Nagara style temple complexes are lined with distinctive boundary walls that are a part of the temple's design. This is one of Ayodhya's Ram temple's 'hybrid' features — although no elaborate gopuram has been built (citing scarcity of space), a 732-m-long wall runs around the temple compound.



- Two broad orders of temples in the country are known — Nagara in the north and Dravida in the south.
- At times, the Vesar style of temples as an independent style created through the selective mixing of the Nagara and Dravida orders is mentioned by some scholars
- Temples built by Pallava, Chola, Chalukya dynasties and temples of Vijay Nagar are of Dravidian style.

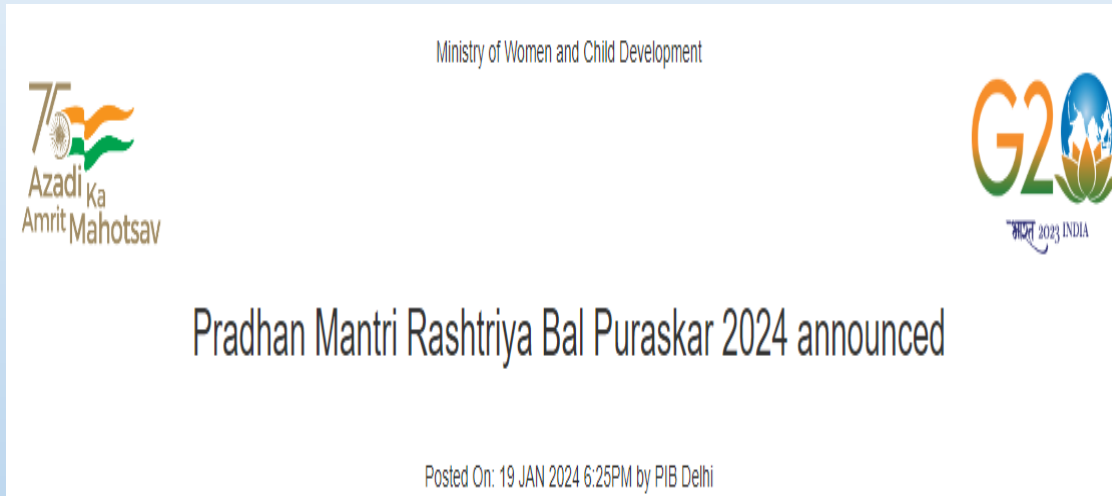
Nagara

- The style of temple architecture that became popular in northern India is known as nagara. In North India it is common for an entire temple to be built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it. Further, unlike in South India it does not usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways
- Most of them consisted of the shikaras (spiral roofs), the garbhagriha (sanctum) and the mandap (pillared hall).
- They are majorly recognised as temples built by Guptas, Chandelas, Odishan temples, temples of Rajasthan and Gujrat and temples of Rajput period.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: Miscellaneous



- Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) - is given to children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements. The awards are given to children in the age group 5 – 18 years for their excellence in seven categories for Bravery, Art & Culture, Environment, Innovation, Science & Technology, Social Service and Sports that deserve national recognition. Each awardee of PMRBP is given a medal, certificate and a citation booklet.
- The awards will be conferred by the President of India at a ceremonial function to be held at Vigyan Bhawan on 22nd January, 2024.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air: IR (GSII)

EAM S Jaishankar calls for multipolar world with reformed United Nations at its core

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar called for a multipolar world with a reformed United Nations at its core. Delivering India's National Statement at the 19th NAM Summit in Uganda's Kampala yesterday, the Minister stressed economic decentralisation with greater regional production. He pressed for cultural rebalancing where all heritage is mutually respected.

The External Affairs Minister highlighted that India showed during its G20 Presidency that change is possible by spearheading the African Union's membership. He pointed out that this should inspire reformed multilateralism.



- The NAM Summit is the highest decision-making authority of the Movement and holds the Summit every three years.
- The Government of Uganda has identified five focus areas and priority goals of its Chairship and they are regional and international peace and security; the international fight against terrorism; international migration and humanitarian crises; human trafficking and drug smuggling; as well as Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Do you know ?

With its 120 Member States, the NAM is the largest grouping of countries outside of the UN, making it an important role player in global and multilateral affairs. Since its inception in 1961, the Movement has played a crucial and obvious political role in representing the interests of developing countries, particularly in the eradication of colonialism, supporting struggles for liberation and self-determination, the pursuit of world peace and the search for a more equitable and just global order.