

MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

- ANDHRA PRADESH CASTE CENSUS  GS-1
- NAGARA STYLE OF TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE  GS-1,
PRELIMS
- LAKE RETBA  PRELIMS
- BOKULBON AWARD 2024 *The Assam Tribune* PRELIMS

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PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to Chabahar Port:

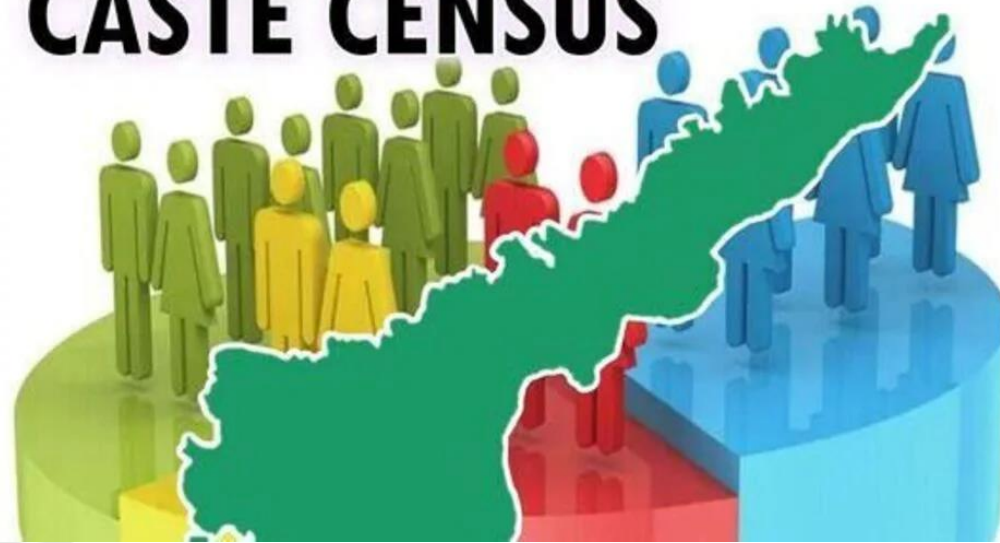
1. It is the only port of Iran with the direct access to ocean.
2. The port is strategically important for India as it will help to boost ties with the Central Asian Countries.
3. It is located in the Gulf of Aden.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

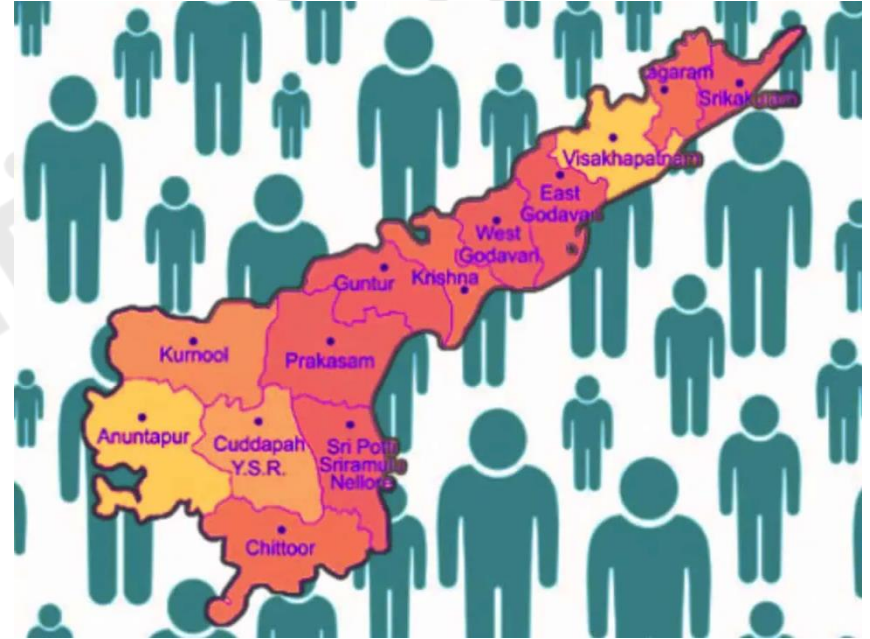
ANDHRA PRADESH CASTE CENSUS

CASTE CENSUS



CONTEXT

- **Andhra Pradesh** becomes the **2nd State** after **Bihar** to conduct a **caste census**.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- **British Era:** Caste-wise census began in **1881**, continuing until **1931**.
- **Post-Independence:** India stopped caste enumeration after **1947**, focusing only on **Scheduled Castes (SC)** and **Scheduled Tribes (ST)**.

ARGUMENTS FOR CASTE CENSUS

- **Effective Governance:** Provides detailed data on caste composition.
- **Progress Tracking:** Essential for monitoring affirmative action and addressing discrimination.
- **Policy Making:** Aids in creating targeted policies for marginalized groups.

- **Social Justice:** Enhances the targeting of welfare schemes.
- **Resource Allocation:** Facilitates equitable distribution based on caste needs.
- **Social Reforms:** Offers evidence for initiatives to reduce caste disparities.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST CASTE CENSUS

- **Social Division:** Risks reinforcing caste identities and tensions.
- **Constitutional Concerns:** Possible violation of the **Census Act, 1948**, and **Schedule VII** of the Constitution.
- **Data Misuse:** Fears of political exploitation and discrimination.

- **Reservation Debate:** May reopen discussions on reservation limits.
- **Logistical Challenges:** High complexity and cost.
- **Alternative Data Sources:** Suggests existing databases are sufficient

WAY FORWARD

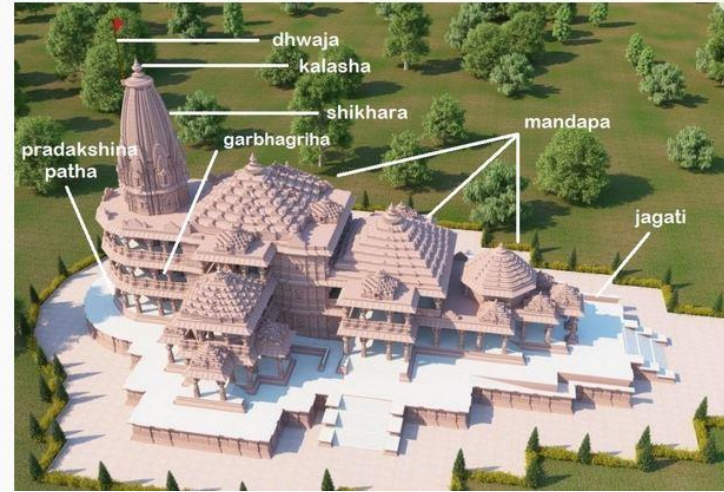
- **Labor Market Analysis:** Caste data aids in understanding labor dynamics, wealth inequality, and policy impacts.
- **Enhancing Policies:** Reveals social inequalities, improving policy formulation and execution for equality.
- **Bipartisan Support:** Urges political parties to embrace caste census for the welfare of marginalized groups

NAGARA STYLE OF TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE



CONTEXT

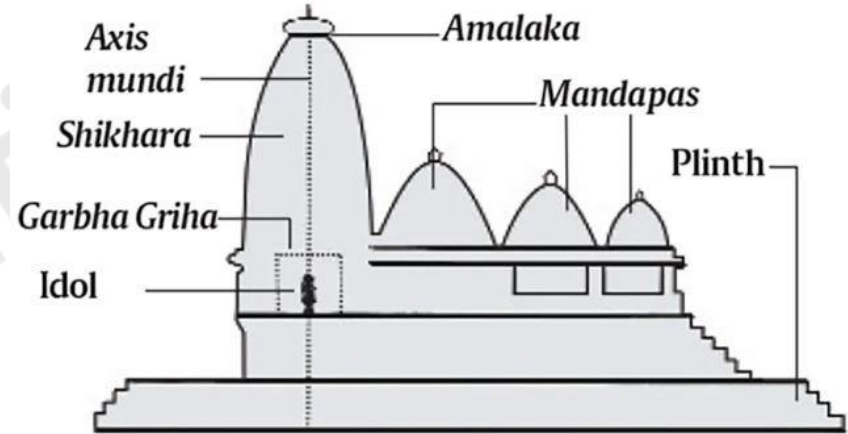
- The **Ram temple** in Ayodhya is designed in the **Nagara style** of temple architecture.



WHAT IS NAGARA STYLE?

- Origin: Nagara style emerged in the **5th century CE**, during the **late Gupta period** in northern India.
- Comparison: Developed alongside the **Dravida style** in **southern India**.

BASICS OF THE NAGARA STYLE



Based on sketches from E B Havell's *The Ancient and Medieval Architecture of India*, 1915. Not a visual representation of Ayodhya's Ram temple.

KEY FEATURES

- Raised plinth construction.
- **Garbha griha** (sanctum sanctorum) as the **central sacred space**.
- Distinctive **shikhara (spire)** towering over the garbha griha.
- Includes a **circumambulatory passage** and **mandapas (halls)**.
- Decorated with **elaborate murals** and **reliefs**.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The Nagara style of architecture developed from_____.

- A. Krishna River Basin and Kanyakumari
- B. Himalayas to Vindhya
- C. Aravali to Vindhya
- D. Peninsular plateau to Kanyakumari

LAKE RETBA



CONTEXT

- Lake Retba, or Lac Rose, in Senegal, is at risk of disappearing due to an increase in nitrate levels. This lake, known for its distinct pink color, is an ecological marvel situated at Africa's westernmost point



SENEGAL

- Senegal's political boundaries include neighboring countries Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and The Gambia. Its maritime borders are formed by the Sénégal River to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

- Situated in the Senegal-Mauritanian Basin.
- Major rivers: Sénégal, Saloum, and Gambia.
- Major mountain: Galeakouto.
- Vegetation:
 - Combination of **semiarid grasslands** and **tropical rainforests**.

BOKULBON AWARD 2024



CONTEXT

- **Kiran Abhaypuria** wins 2024 **Bokulbon Award** for preserving Assam's **folk culture**.



KEY FACTS

- Multi-Talented Artist: Skilled in folk instrument making, music, painting, and writing from Dibrugarh.
- Abhaypuria's role in sustaining Assam's **folk music** and **traditions**.
- Literary Contributions: Authored five books on folk music
- Musical Craftsmanship: Makes and plays instruments like flute, sutuli, dotara, and gogona.

ABOUT THE AWARD

- Legacy of Ananda Chandra Baruah: Award commemorates 'Bokulbonor Kobi,' Ananda Chandra Baruah.
- Award Details: Includes cash, citation, shawl; ceremony on January 27, Ananda Chandra Baruah's birth anniversary.

By the Officers,
For the Officers

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