

India Gate Canopy

September 9, 2022

In news– A statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was recently placed under the Grand Canopy to the east of India gate, halfway on the east-west axis to the National War Memorial.

History of the India Gate Canopy-

- About 150 m to the east of India Gate, at a centre of the C-hexagon, stands the **73-foot canopy, inspired by a sixth-century pavilion from Mahabalipuram.**
- **The canopy, designed by Edwin Lutyens, was added to the India Gate complex in 1936** as a tribute to the then recently deceased Emperor of India, King George V, and housed his 50-foot marble statue.
- **The statue, showing George V in his coronation robes and the Imperial State Crown, was commissioned to Charles Sargeant Jagger,** a well known sculptor of war memorials.
- **After Independence, there was widespread opposition to the statue,** and especially the fact that it occupied such a central location in the nation's capital.
- Still, it stood at the site for another two decades, until **it was moved to Coronation Park** near the Inter-State Bus Terminus by the Yamuna **in North Delhi in 1968.**
- **Coronation Park was the venue of the Delhi Durbar of 1877 at which Queen Victoria** was proclaimed as the Empress of India in addition to her existing title of Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, as also of the **two subsequent Delhi Durbars of 1903** to mark the accession of King Edward VII, the father and predecessor of George V and 1911, when George V was proclaimed Emperor of India.
- The 1911 Durbar was the only one that was attended by the Emperor himself.
- Successive governments of independent India deliberated

on whose statue should replace that of George V under the Grand Canopy.

- It was argued that Mahatma Gandhi's statue would be ideal, or perhaps one of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Following the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984, it was suggested that her statue should be placed under the canopy.
- For more than five decades, the canopy remained empty, and earned the name of 'Empty Canopy'.