

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda

July 2, 2022

In news– A bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda will be unveiled soon at the premises of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bangalore.

A brief note on Nadaprabhu Kempegowda-

- He is a **16th century chieftain of the Vijayanagara empire**, is credited as the **founder of Bengaluru**.
- **Born into the then Avati Ranabhairegowda family**, which was renowned for its bravery, **Kempegowda made a name for himself as a 'Paleygara'**, which enabled him to get the **permit from the Vijayanagara emperor Shri Achyutadevaraya to build a fort in Bengaluru**.
- The emperor also gave him the charge of 12 surrounding villages to raise revenue for this effort.
- It is said that he **conceived the idea of a new city while hunting with his minister**, and **later marked its territory by erecting towers in four corners of the proposed city**.
- The problem of drinking water that currently plagues Bengaluru city makes us remember Nadaprabhu's efforts to secure a permanent supply of drinking water to the Bengaluru Pete. This is reflected in the number of lakes that he built.
- He is also known to have **developed around 1,000 lakes in the city** to cater to drinking and agricultural needs.
- **Some of the lakes that were built by him are the Ulsoor Lake, Hebbal Lake, Lalbagh Lake and Yediyur Lake and more**.
- He also ensured that **trees** suitable to the climate of Bengaluru were planted across the region. In fact, the man behind **'Lalbagh'** is none other than Kempegowda.
- He not only built the fort of Bengaluru but also **developed numerous forts surrounding the city in order to perform his role as the Paleyagara** as well as provide

stable administration to the region.

- **Some of the other forts he erected or developed are** the Magadi Fort, Savandurga Fort, Nelapattana, Seven Walled Fort of Hutridurga, Huliurdurga Fort, Bhairavanadurga Fort of Kudur, Shivaganga Fort and Ramdurg Fort in Ramanagara.
- **Some of the temples built by him are gramadevate of Bengaluru, Annamma Devi, the Dodda Basavanagudi** Temple, the Draupadi Dharmaraya Temple along with many others in Shivanagange.
- He was from the **dominant agricultural Vokkaliga community** in south Karnataka.
- In an effort to ensure all-round economic progress of Bengaluru, **he developed extensive settlements** along with multiple occupation-specific petes – Akkipete, Taragupete, Balepete, Chikkapete, Aaralepete and more.
- **The 108-ft bronze statue is being constructed in a 23-acre heritage park** on the airport premises.
- It has a 4,000 kg sword which was brought from Delhi.
- It was in September 2019 that then Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa had announced plans to install a bronze statue of Kempegowda at the city's international airport at the cost of Rs 100 crore.

Achyuta Devaraya-

- He was a ruler of a Vijayanagara Empire of South India. He was the younger brother of Krishna Deva Raya, whom he succeeded in 1529.
- Fernao Nuniz was a Portuguese traveller, chronicler and horse trader who visited India during his reign.
- **He patronised Kannada poet Chatu Vittalanatha**, the great composer and **singer Purandaradasa** (The Fathers of Carnatic music), and the **Sanskrit scholar Rajanatha Dindima II.**
- **In 1542 Achyuta Deva Raya died, and was succeeded by his young son of Venkata I** (Venkata Raya or Venkatadri

Raya). But he was soon killed, and **Sadasiva Raya became the new king.**

- **Aliya Rama Raya(a son-in-law of Krishnadevaraya) became the regent** and let very little governance in the hands of Sadasiva Raya.