Gingee Fort

Prelims: *Current events of National & International importance |Art and culture*

Why in News?

Recently, Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu was recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Gingee fort

- **Located in** - Villupuram district, ***Tamil Nadu.***
- **Located atop three hillocks** – Rajagiri, Krishnagiri and Chandragiri
- **Built by** - Ananta Kon of the ***Konar Dynasty.***
- **Built in** - 1200 CE.
- **Known as** –The 'Troy of the East.'
- **Part of** -The Maratha Military Landscapes.



- **Historic legacy** - It was under the possession of several empires, such as the Vijayanagar Nayaks, Marathas, Mughals, Nawabs, the French and British.
- **Features**- Stepped well, a Kalyana Mahal, a durbar hall, a cannon, a clock tower, an armoury, an elephant tank, a stable, a granary, a gymnasium, the Venkataramana temple, and the Sadathtulla mosque.
- **Water supply system** -It consists of two elaborate systems for water supply, which ensured that even the *top of the structure had continuous supply of water.*

Maratha Military Landscapes of India

- The *network of 12 forts* demonstrates the strategic military vision and architectural ingenuity of the Maratha Empire.

- **Located in -** Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- **Constructed during –** 17th to 19th centuries CE.
- **Selected sites** - Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra.
- Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.
- **Classifications -**Based on the location
    - **Hill forts** - Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Raigad, Rajgad, and Gingee.
    - **Hill forest forts** – Pratapgad.
    - **Hill-plateau fort** – Panhala.
    - **Coastal fort** – Vijaydurg.
    - **Island forts** -Khanderi, Suvarnadurg, and Sindhudurg.

Reference

PIB| UNESCO World Heritage Site- Maratha Military Landscapes

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