Nadaprabhu Sri Kempegowda

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | History*

Why in News?

Recently, Vice-President pays tributes to Nadaprabhu Sri Kempegowda on his 517th birth anniversary in Bengaluru.

- **Nadaprabhu Sri Kempe Gowda –** A 16th-century chieftain under the Vijayanagara Empire, who displayed leadership skills since his childhood.
- **Born on–** 1510.
- **Died on** – 1569.
- **Historical Background** – Founder of Bengaluru in 1537.
- He obtained permission from Vijayanagara Emperor Achyuta Devaraya to build the Bengaluru Fort and shifted his capital from Yelahanka to the new Bengaluru Pete.

Pete – *The historic, foundational heart of Bengaluru (Bangalore)*

Key Details

- **Urban Planning –** Founded Bengaluru in 1537 CE; built a mud fort with four watchtowers marking the city's boundaries.
- **Infrastructure –** Established lakes, tanks, and temples and promoted irrigation and water management.
- **Governance –** Introduced revenue collection systems and administrative reforms under Vijayanagara patronage.
- **Social Reform –** He is credited with abolishing the practice among the *Morasu Vokkaligas* community where unmarried women had to amputate the last two fingers of their left hand during the Bandi Devaru custom.
- **Cultural Patronage –** strengthened Kannada identity by encouraging arts, literature, and local traditions.
- **Social Vision –** Promoted inclusive development, integrating agrarian communities with urban settlements.

- **Recognition –**
  - **Statue of Prosperity** – It is a 108-foot bronze statue of Kempe Gowda towering in Kempe Gowda International Airport, Bangalore, Karnataka.
  - Commemoration – The naming of Kempe Gowda International Airport and the institution of the Kempe Gowda Award.

References

1. PIB | Kempegowda
2. Times of India | Kempegowda

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