Srisailam Temple

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

Why in news?

The restoration works at the Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy in Srisailam, undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

- Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple or Srisailam Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to the deities Shiva and Parvati.
- **Located at –** Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Surrounded by –** Forests of the Nallamala Hills, on the banks of ***Krishna River***.
- **Gods worshiped –** Shiva is worshiped as Mallikarjuna and his consort Parvati is depicted as Bhramaramba.
- **Unique feature –** It is one of the ***12 Jyotirlingas*** of Shiva and as one of the ***52 Shakti peethas*** of Goddess Parvati.
- Srisailam is unique as it is the ***only temple*** that serves as both a Jyotirlinga and a Shakti Peetha under one roof.
- **Historical significance –** There are inscriptional evidence from the Satavahana dynasty which place the temple to be existent from the 2^{nd} century.
- Most modern additions to the temple were done during the time of king Harihara I of Vijayanagar Empire (14^{th} and 15^{th} centuries).
- During the 18^{th} and 19^{th} centuries, many chenchus graced the temple grounds and were part of many rituals and prayers.
- **Architecture –** This ancient temple built in the ***Dravidian style*** with lofty towers and courtyards is one of the finest specimens of ***Vijayanagar architecture***.
- **Visited by –** Many great saints like Adi Shankaracharya, rulers mainly Sri Krishna Devaraya, Chatrapathi Sivaji and several other spiritual personalities.
- **Festival –** Maha Shivaratri is celebrated annually, is a vibrant showcase of traditional music, dance, and rituals, uniting devotees in a spirit of joy and camaraderie.

References

1. The Hindu | Restoration works in Srisailam temple
2. Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Devasthanam | Srisailam temple
3. Incredible India | Srisailam Temple



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering