



TATHASTU ICS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	P M WANI
2.	INDIA CANADA RELATIONS
3.	WORLD HERITAGE TAG TO HOYSALA TEMPLES

INDIA CANADA RELATIONS

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- On 19 September, Ottawa and New Delhi escalated their diplomatic tensions by mutually expelling each other's diplomats.
- This move came as the relationship between the two nations teetered on the edge, with Canada accusing India of involvement in the assassination of a Khalistani Sikh extremist in North America.
- In a recent incident, Hardeep Singh Nijjar was fatally shot outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia.
- Nijjar was an advocate for the creation of an independent Sikh nation called Khalistan, separate from India's Punjab state. Indian authorities had been pursuing him, officially labelling him a "terrorist" in July 2020.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIA CANADA RELATIONS:

- **Historical relations:**
 - **Late 19th century:** Indian immigrants came to Canada for work in railways and lumbering industries.
- **Political relations:**
 - India and Canada established **diplomatic ties** in 1947.
 - Indian Prime Minister's visit to Canada in April 2015, elevated their **bilateral ties** to a **strategic partnership**.
 - In October 2019, Mr. Raj Saini (M.P) became Chair of the **Canada-India Parliamentary Association**.
 - Both nations have similarities in their **parliamentary structures and processes**.
- **Economic relations:**
 - Canada considers India its **9th largest export destination**.
 - Ongoing discussion of a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** encompassing multiple aspects such as trade, services, investment, and trade facilitation.
 - **Indian exports to Canada:**
Pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, chemicals, gem and jewelry, nuclear reactors, and boilers.
 - **Indian imports from Canada:**
Minerals, ores, vegetables, fertilizers, paper, and pulp.
 - **The India Oil Corporation** holds a 10% stake in a Liquid Natural Gas project located in British Columbia.



➤ **Security and defence relations:**

- **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in 1994 and an Extradition Treaty in 1987:** For the exchange of information on criminal matters.
- **Counterterrorism efforts:** Joint Working Group (JWG)
- **International cooperation through G20 and UN.**
- **MOU between DRDO and Canada's York University:** On chemical and biological warfare matters.



➤ **Cooperation in science and technology:**

- **MOU between ISRO and Canadian Space Agency:** for space exploration
- **ANTRIX, ISRO's commercial division,** has launched numerous **Canadian satellites.**
- **IC-IMPACTS Program:** collaborates on healthcare, Agri-biotech, and waste management projects.
- **Scientific research on Cold Climate (Arctic):** Program by the Department of Earth Sciences and Polar Canada

➤ **People-to-people ties:**

- **Large diaspora:** Canada houses **1.6 million Indian-origin** individuals, over 3% of the population.
- The current House of Commons, with a total of 338 members, **boasts 22 Members of Parliament of Indian heritage.**
- India has become the leading contributor of foreign students to Canada.
- Canada is among the 28 nations included in the Academic and Research Collaboration Promotion Scheme (SPARC).

CHALLENGES IN THE RELATIONS:

➤ **Issues with Sikh separatist groups:**

- Sikhs represent a notable segment of the Indian diaspora in Canada, accounting for slightly over 500,000 individuals.
- The Ontario Provincial Parliament passed a resolution classifying the 1984 anti-Sikh riots as 'genocide,' a stance that enjoys support from numerous Canadian leaders.



➤ **Issues in trade relations:**

- No progress on bilateral agreements in CEPA and FTAs
- Obstacles in the form of structural barriers, including intricate labour regulations, protectionist trade policies, and bureaucratic red tape, pose challenges to the advancement of Indo-Canadian relations.

➤ **Immigration and Visas:**

- Immigration policies and visa matters have been a source of disagreement, particularly due to the significant number of Indian students and skilled professionals aiming to relocate to Canada.
- This raised concerns regarding the prolonged processing times and limitations associated with obtaining visas.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Diaspora engagement:**
 - Encourage the Indian diaspora in Canada to bridge nations, acknowledge contributions, and foster involvement in various sectors.
- **Energy cooperation:**
 - As the United States urges reductions in Iranian oil imports, Canada could serve as an alternative energy supplier for India.
 - India's oil demand is projected to double by 2040, according to the Oil Processing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) World Oil Outlook Report 2040.
- **Cultural and academic exchanges:**
 - Promote cultural awareness through festivals, art displays, and academic partnerships, while stimulating collaborative research and scholarships to bolster educational connections.

P M WANI

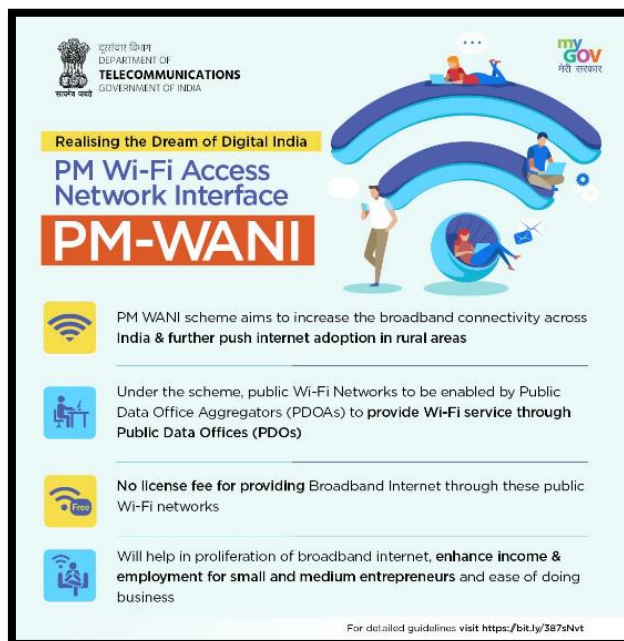
SOURCE: [FIRST POST](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian government introduced the **Prime Minister's WiFi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) program** in December 2020, under the Department of Telecommunication.
- This initiative aims to strengthen the presence of public WiFi hotspots, creating a robust digital communication infrastructure across the nation, with a particular focus on rural areas.

ABOUT PM WANI:

- The PM WANI (Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) initiative's primary goal is to **expand Wi-Fi accessibility across India**.
- This proposal was originally put forth by the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** in 2017.
- According to the **National Digital Communication Plan, the Indian government has established a goal of deploying 10 million Wi-Fi hotspots by 2022**.
- The expansion of public Wi-Fi networks across the nation through PM WANI will expedite the growth of public broadband services delivered via Wi-Fi.
- This, in turn, will empower local entrepreneurs like tea vendors, small grocery stores, and restaurants to generate supplementary income.



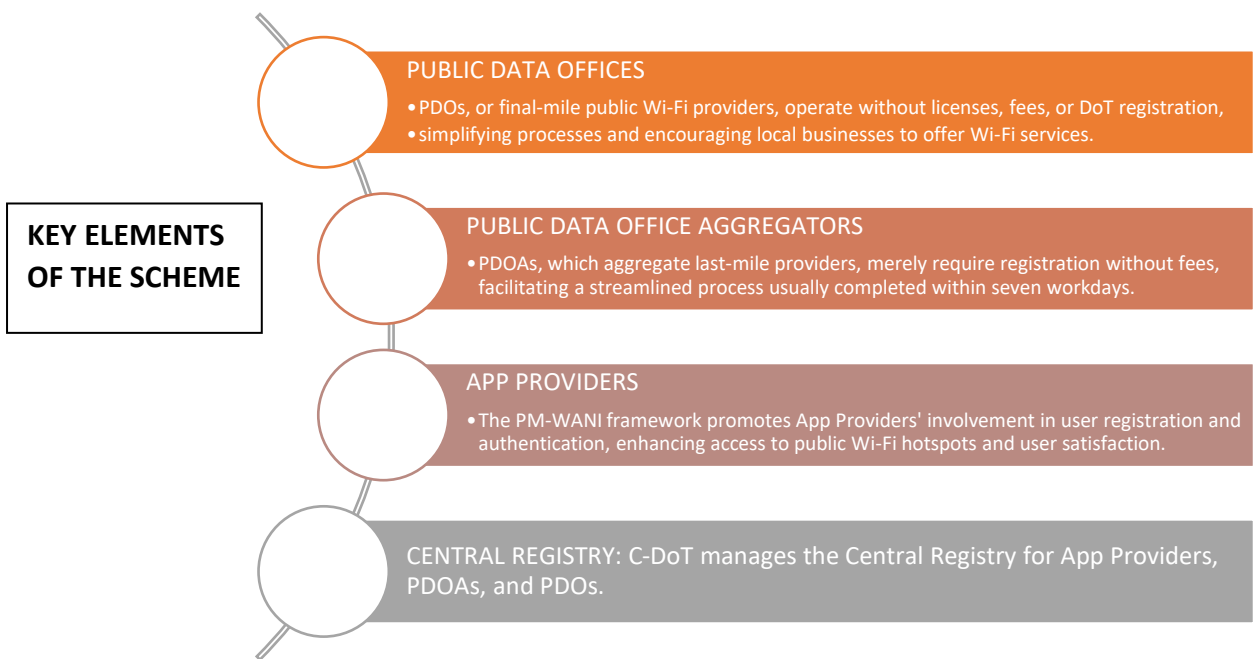
The infographic is titled "Realising the Dream of Digital India" and "PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface PM-WANI". It features the Government of India logo and the Department of Telecommunications logo. The central graphic shows a large blue Wi-Fi symbol with people using devices. Below the title, there are four key points:

- PM WANI scheme aims to increase the broadband connectivity across India & further push internet adoption in rural areas**
- Under the scheme, public Wi-Fi Networks to be enabled by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to provide Wi-Fi service through Public Data Offices (PDOs)**
- No license fee for providing Broadband Internet through these public Wi-Fi networks**
- Will help in proliferation of broadband internet, enhance income & employment for small and medium entrepreneurs and ease of doing business**

For detailed guidelines visit <https://bit.ly/387sNvt>

BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME:

- **Digital inclusion:**
By expanding Wi-Fi networks, the scheme can promote digital inclusion by bringing more people, especially in remote regions, into the digital fold.
- **Entrepreneurship opportunities:**
PM-WANI can encourage local entrepreneurs, such as small businesses, chaiwalas, and Kirana stores, to become Wi-Fi providers.
This can generate additional income streams and promote entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.
- **Online Education:**
This is particularly relevant in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the importance of digital education.
- **Better access to services:**
Enhance the overall well-being of citizens by simplifying access to vital resources, including government services and healthcare information.



HURDLES IN IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEME:

- **Infrastructural issues:**
Expanding public Wi-Fi infrastructure requires significant investments in equipment and technology, particularly in rural and remote areas with limited existing infrastructure.
- **Operational challenges:**
Managing the large-scale deployment, maintenance, and monitoring of public Wi-Fi networks can be logistically complex.
- **Security concerns:**
Safeguarding user data and ensuring that privacy concerns are addressed is critical for **building trust in the system.**
- **Issues in providing fair access:**
Balancing competition and preventing monopolies among Wi-Fi service providers is essential for fair access and pricing.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS FOR IMPROVING DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY:

Policy/Initiative	Objective
Digital India	Promote digital infrastructure and services, bridge the urban-rural digital divide, and empower citizens through technology.
Bharat Net	Provide high-speed broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (rural local government units) for inclusive growth.
National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP)	Create a robust digital communications infrastructure, ensure affordable access, and attract investments in the telecom sector.
Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)	Promote digital literacy in rural areas to empower citizens with digital skills.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)	Subsidize telecom infrastructure development in rural and remote areas to make connectivity more affordable.
National Optic Fiber Network (NOFN)	Establish a nationwide optical fibre network to enhance broadband connectivity in rural and remote regions.
National Knowledge Network (NKN)	Connect educational and research institutions with high-speed internet to facilitate collaborative research and knowledge sharing.
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	Promote financial inclusion by encouraging the use of digital payment and banking services among unbanked populations.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Affordable access:**
Make internet services affordable and accessible to everyone, particularly in rural and underserved areas, using subsidies and fostering market competition.
- **Digital skills:**
Encourage initiatives that enhance digital skills and knowledge among citizens to empower them in the digital age.
- **Cyber security and data privacy:**
Implement robust data protection laws and regulations to safeguard user privacy.
- **Tech innovations:**
Foster an environment conducive to tech innovation and startups, promoting economic growth and job creation.

WORLD HERITAGE TAG TO HOYSALA TEMPLES

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- On September 18, the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites designation was granted to the Hoysala temples located in Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapur in Karnataka.**
- The Chennakeshava temple in Belur and the Hoysaleswara temple in Halebid, both situated in Hassan district, had been under UNESCO's tentative list since 2014. Subsequently, the Keshava temple in Somanathapur, located in Mysuru district, was added to the tentative list.

ABOUT THE TEMPLES:

➤ CHENNAKESAVA TEMPLE, BELUR

- The Chennakeshava Temple, also known as **Keshava, Kesava, or Vijayanarayana Temple.**
- It is a 12th-century Hindu temple located in the **Hassan district of Karnataka, India.**
- It was **commissioned by King Vishnuvardhana in 1117 CE** and is **situated on the banks of the Yagachi River in Belur, which was an early capital of the Hoysala Empire.**
- The temple is **dedicated to Chennakeshava, a form of the Hindu god Vishnu.**
- According to Dhaky, a renowned scholar of Indian temple architecture and temple history, this temple represents a period deep spiritual devotion to Sri Vaishnavism, particularly under the influence of Ramanujacharya.



➤ HOYSALESWARA TEMPLE, HALEBID

- The Hoysaleswara Temple, also known as the **Halebidu Temple**, is a **12th-century Hindu temple in the town of Halebidu, located in the state of Karnataka, India.**
- This magnificent temple is **dedicated to Lord Shiva** and is **the largest monument in Halebidu, which was once the capital of the Hoysala Empire.**
- It was commissioned by King Vishnuvardhana of the Hoysala Empire and is situated by a large man-made lake.
- The Hoysaleswara Temple is unique as it is a twin-temple, featuring Hoysaleswara and Santaleswara Shiva lingas, representing both the masculine and feminine aspects of Lord Shiva.



➤ CHENNAKESAVA TEMPLE, SOMANATHPURA

- The Chennakesava Temple, also known as **Chennakeshava Temple or Keshava Temple.**

- It is a Hindu temple **dedicated to Lord Vishnu and situated on the banks of the River Kaveri in Somanathapura, Karnataka, India.**
- This temple, with its rich architectural and cultural significance, was consecrated in the year 1258 CE by Somanatha Dandanayaka, a military general in the service of King Narasimha III of the Hoysala dynasty.



BRIEF HISTORY OF HOYSALA ARCHITECTURE:

- The Vesara architectural style, which had its **origins during the time of the Badami Chalukyas in the 7th century,**
- Later it underwent **significant development and refinement during the Western Chalukya era in the 11th century.**
- The unique characteristics of Hoysala architecture started taking shape during the reign of King Vishnuvardhana (circa 1111–1152 CE).
- The construction of the Chennakesava Temple in Belur can be considered the inception of this architectural style.
- However, its peak development and refinement were achieved during the rule of King Ballala II (1173–1220 CE) and King Veera Ballala III (1292–1343 CE).

VESARA ARCHITECTURE:

Features:

1. STELLATE PLAN:

One of the standout characteristics of Hoysala temples is their **unique star-shaped or stellate base**, upon which the temple's main structure is built.

This base is characterized **by numerous points or projections**, lending the temples an enchanting and captivating appearance.

2. VIMANA:

The vimana, which refers to the **tower of Hoysala temples**, is typically more modest in terms of height when compared to the towers seen in certain other South Indian temple styles.

The vimana often adopts a **pyramidal or shikara-like shape**.

3. INTRICATE CARVINGS:

Hoysala temples frequently feature intricate entranceways adorned **with elaborate lintels and sculptural embellishments**.

These doorways often **depict scenes and narratives from Hindu epics** such as the **Ramayana and Mahabharata**.

4. MANTAPA AND PILLARS:



Figure 1 RAMAYANA PAINTINGS



Mantapa is characterized by **two distinct roof types: domical ceilings**, which resemble **domes** and are upheld by four pillars, and **square ceilings**, lavishly adorned with mythological depictions.

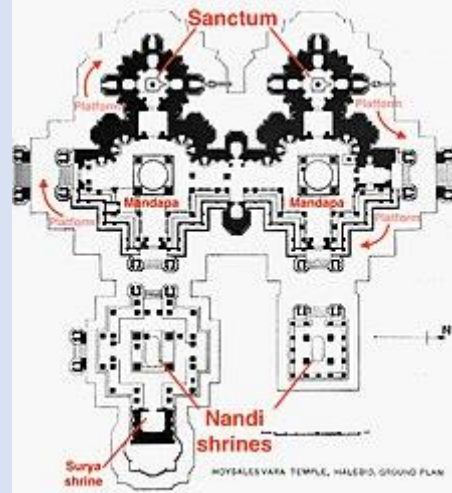


Figure 2Figure 2stellate plan