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S.NO. TOPIC

1.	IS HIGHER EDUCATION OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE SKILL REQUIREMENTS IN THE JOB MARKET?
2.	SUPPORTIVE AND EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENT FOR STREET VENDORS ACROSS NATION
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

IS HIGHER EDUCATION OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE SKILL REQUIREMENTS IN THE JOB MARKET?

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Government Policies & Interventions, Human Resource**
GS Paper III- **Growth & Development, Employment IT & Computers**

Mains Practice Question:

Q. Discuss the role of vocational education in addressing the skills gap and fostering employment opportunities in the current job market.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The **disconnect between higher education and job market demands** has made headlines as reports from private agencies indicate that less than 50% of India's graduates were deemed employable in 2021.
- ❖ **Data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey highlights a higher unemployment rate among graduates** compared to several other developing nations.

Impact of Online Learning on Employability

- ❖ **Pre-Existing Issues:**
 - ☛ Employability problems existed prior to the rise of online learning.
 - ☛ A large segment of the youth, mainly from the top 20-30% income group, accesses higher education.
 - ☛ Majority of the country's youth don't have access to higher education (only about 27% enrolment among 18-23-year-olds).
- ❖ **Unemployment Statistics:**
 - ☛ Unemployment rates among graduates surged from 20% in 2012 to 34% in 2021.
 - ☛ Postgraduate unemployment rates increased from 18% in 2012 to nearly 37%.
- ❖ **Job Scarcity and Learning Losses:**
 - ☛ Lack of job opportunities in India might also be due to a stagnant economy.
 - ☛ Online learning resulted in learning deficiencies impacting graduates' employability.
 - ☛ Many educated individuals seek employment abroad due to limited job prospects domestically.
- ❖ **Learning Losses and Challenges:**
 - ☛ **Students have reported learning deficiencies and challenges with concentration** during online learning.
 - ☛ Remote learning's impact on skill acquisition and knowledge absorption has affected graduates' employability.
- ❖ **Employment Scenario:**
 - ☛ Despite increased online learning opportunities, the job market's growth might not be proportional to the growing number of educated individuals.
 - ☛ Graduates' employment rates and opportunities post-online learning era need further assessment and analysis.

Linkages between Education and Skill Development

- ❖ **Foundation for Skill Development**



- **Fundamentals in Education:** Subjects like mathematics and science in schools lay the groundwork for specialized skills in fields like engineering and technology.
- **Global Literacy Initiatives:** UNESCO's LIFE initiative aimed at promoting literacy and numeracy skills on a global scale.
- ❖ **Soft Skills Development**
 - **Role of Educational Institutions:** Institutions nurture soft skills like communication and problem-solving through group activities and project-based learning.
- ❖ **Research and Development**
 - **Higher Education's Role:** Institutions like IITs drive R&D, fostering innovation and skill development, leading to advancements and skilled professionals.

Linkages between Skill Development and Employment

- ❖ **Job Readiness**
 - **Google's Career Certificates:** Provides job-ready skills in high-demand fields such as IT support and data analytics.
- ❖ **Entrepreneurship**
 - **Startup India Initiative:** Encourages entrepreneurship by imparting business knowledge and skills for budding entrepreneurs.
- ❖ **Skills Enhancement**
 - **Upskilling Workforce:** Platforms like LinkedIn offer courses to upgrade skills, ensuring relevance in a rapidly evolving job market.
 - **Remote Work Skills:** Platforms like Coursera and Udemy offer remote work courses, catering to the changing work landscape.
- ❖ **Reskilling and Industry-Specific Skills**
 - **Amazon's Upskilling 2025:** Aims to reskill employees for more advanced roles.
 - **Industry-Specific Training:** Programs like Cisco Networking Academy provide training in networking, cybersecurity, and programming.
- ❖ **Productivity Enhancement**
 - **Corporate Training Programs:** Initiatives like Dale Carnegie focus on skill development to boost productivity in organizational settings.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

Initiatives	Objectives
Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Add diversity to incomes of rural poor families. ✓ Address career prospects of rural youth (15-35 age group). ✓ Provide placement-linked skill development.
Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide urban poor access to skill-related employment. ✓ Organized skill-based courses to alleviate poverty. ✓ Enhance entrepreneurial capabilities of urban street vendors and homeless.
Director General of Training – Modular Employable Skills (DGT-MES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide vocational training to school dropouts, rural and unemployed youth, and ITI graduates. ✓ Improve employability of the workforce, especially in the unorganized sector. ✓ Prioritize children above 14 years who have suffered child labour.
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coordinate skill development efforts nationwide. ✓ Build vocational and technical training framework.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support various skill development missions and training partners. ✓ Focus on current and future job requirements.
National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promote skills through large training institutes. ✓ Provide funding to enterprises, companies, and organizations offering skill training. ✓ Facilitate employment for skilled individuals in various sectors. ✓ Collaborate with the government for financing and training.
National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coordinate skill development efforts of the Government and the private sector. ✓ Target skill needs of disadvantaged groups (SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, women, and differently-abled persons).
National Rural Livelihood Mission – Aajeevika Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understand professional aspirations of rural youth and increase their income. ✓ Upgrade skills of young people from poor communities. ✓ Provide food, transport, assured placement, and post-placement support during training.
Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Train Indian youth for the global market. ✓ Provide industry-relevant and skill-based training. ✓ Offer financial support for securing a job. ✓ Conduct short-term training, job fairs, special projects, and monitoring.
Other Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Digital Literacy Mission ✓ PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (4.0) ✓ Digital India Mission ✓ National Education Policy 2020 ✓ DigiSaksham initiative ✓ YuWaah Platform ✓ IndiaSkills 2021

Addressing Education-Skill Development Challenges:

1. **Revamping Curriculum and Pedagogy:**
 - Introduce practical-oriented learning methods to bridge the gap between education and skill development.
 - Collaborate with industry experts to design curriculum aligning with industry needs.
2. **Enhancing Teacher Training:**
 - Continuous professional development for educators to integrate soft skills and practical training into their teaching methodologies.
3. **Promoting Vocational Training:**
 - Strengthen vocational training programs in schools and colleges to impart job-specific skills from an early stage.
4. **Leveraging Technology:**
 - Integrate technology in education to facilitate skill-based learning through virtual labs, simulations, and online platforms.

WAY FORWARD:

- ❖ **Bridging Skill Development-Employment Gaps:**



- **Industry-Academia Collaboration:** Foster partnerships between educational institutions and industries to tailor courses based on industry requirements.
- **Internship and Apprenticeship Programs:** Encourage hands-on experience through robust internship and apprenticeship opportunities, providing real-world exposure.
- **Government Support for Entrepreneurship:** Offer incentives and support schemes for aspiring entrepreneurs, linking educational programs with entrepreneurial ventures.
- **Continuous Learning Culture:** Promote a culture of continuous learning among professionals and students to adapt to evolving job market demands.
- **Policy Reforms:** Revise policies to emphasize skill-based education and create avenues for skill recognition in job markets.
- **Empowering Remote Work Skills:** Integrate remote work training into educational programs to prepare individuals for the changing work landscape.

CONCLUSION:

The integration of vocational education with traditional learning stands as a pivotal bridge to address the skills gap for employability and overall socio-economic development. By amalgamating practical skill acquisition within educational frameworks, we pave the way for a more job-ready workforce. Collaborations between academia and industry, coupled with robust vocational training, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurial support, are the keystones toward empowering individuals with relevant skills and cultivating a workforce adaptable to the evolving job landscape.





SUPPORTIVE AND EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENT FOR STREET VENDORS ACROSS NATION

SOURCE: PIB

TAG: GS Paper II- **Government Policies & Interventions**
GS Paper III-

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Recently **PAiSA Portal Dashboard** and **PM SVANidhi Mission Monitoring Portal** were launched by **Shri Hardeep S. Puri, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs**, stressed the **significance of establishing and maintaining robust Grievance Redressal Committees under the Street Vendors Act 2014** for **supportive and empowering** environment for street vendors across nation.
- ❖ Nearly 10 years after the Act to protect livelihoods of street vendors came into force in March 2014, one of the key provisions of the law — **the establishment of grievance redressal committees (GRCs) in all urban locals bodies** — is yet to be implemented.



The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2014

- ❖ The Bill provides for protection of livelihoods rights, social security of street vendors, regulation of urban street vending in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- ❖ **Provisions and Special Provisions:**
 - **Town Vending Authority (TVC):** Set up in each Local Authority to ensure participatory decision-making, including representation from street vendors and marginalized sections.
 - **Street Vendors Survey:** Regular surveys to identify and issue certificates to street vendors, ensuring their accommodation in vending zones.
 - **Accommodation Norms:** Allocate vending zones to accommodate street vendors based on specified population percentages.
 - **Relocation and Eviction:** Enact principles for relocation only when necessary, with the involvement of affected vendors in planning.
 - **Dispute Redressal:** Establish independent dispute redressal mechanisms chaired by retired judicial officers for impartial grievance resolution.
 - **Safeguards:** Protect natural markets and provide protection against harassment by police or other authorities.
 - **Promotion Measures:** Promote credit availability, insurance, welfare schemes, capacity building, education, and research for street vendors' benefit.
 - **Implementation:** Mandate timely notification of Rules and Scheme within specified timeframes to ensure effective implementation.



Challenges Faced By Street Vendors:

- ❖ **Space Constraints:** Urban planning often overlooks allocating space for vendors, following Western models and disregarding Indian traditions, leading to a lack of designated vending areas.



- ❖ **Dealing with Multiple Authorities:** Vendors grapple with various authorities—municipal corporations, police, regional development bodies, district administrations, and local panchayats. This complexity results in exploitation and extortion, where actions by one authority might counteract positive steps taken by another.
- ❖ **Hostility instead of Regulation:** Municipal corporations sometimes view vendors as a nuisance rather than regulating them. Consequently, policies and actions lean towards harassment and removal instead of effective regulation.
- ❖ **Frequent Evictions:** District or municipal administrations frequently conduct evictions, creating fear among vendors, who dread encounters with the eviction teams known by various local names.
- ❖ **Extortion Practices:** Vendors often face extortion schemes like 'rangdari tax' or 'hafta' in many cities, where they are compelled to pay significant amounts to continue their trade.

Government's Initiatives for Street Vendors:

- ❖ **SVANidhi Scheme:**
 - The **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme, an initiative under the aegis of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, has achieved a momentous milestone by extending its support to more than 50 lakh street vendors across the nation.
 - The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, **launched on June 1, 2020, is a micro credit scheme for urban street vendors that aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans up to ₹50,000.**
 - Under the scheme regular repayments are incentivized with a 7% interest subsidy and digital transactions are rewarded with cashback up to ₹1,200 per year. The scheme employs Aadhaar-based e-KYC, utilizes an end-to-end IT platform, and employs SMS-based notifications for application status updates. All lending institutions, including NBFCs/MFIs and DPAs, have partnered with the aim to alleviate urban poverty in India.
- ❖ **About National Association of Street Vendors of India**
 - **National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI)** is a membership-based organization aiming to protect the livelihood of street vendors.
 - It designs policies and legislative instruments, provides legal aid and financial services, and mediates conflicts. **The company was founded in 1998 and is based in Patna, India.**
 - The main objective was to **bring together the street vendor organizations in India** so as to collectively **struggle for macro-level changes.**

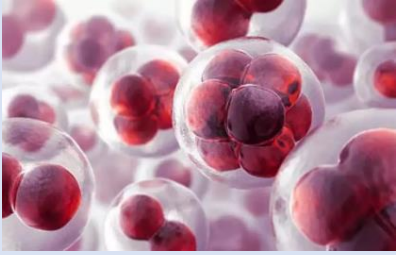
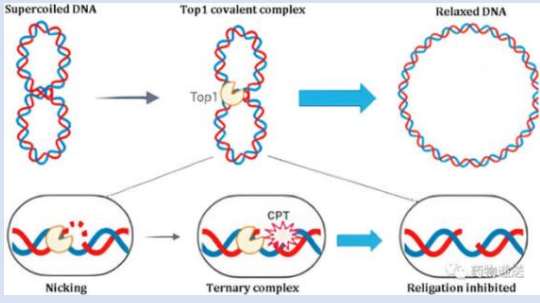
CONCLUSION:

Street vendors constitute an indispensable part of urban economies, providing affordable services to the masses and offering self-employment opportunities to those without access to formal jobs. However, their livelihoods are challenged by multiple factors, including space constraints, frequent evictions, and extortion by various authorities. Government initiatives like the SVANidhi Scheme and support from organizations like NASVI further bolster efforts to uplift street vendors and enable their financial inclusion.



PRELIMS POINTERS:

5th January ,2024

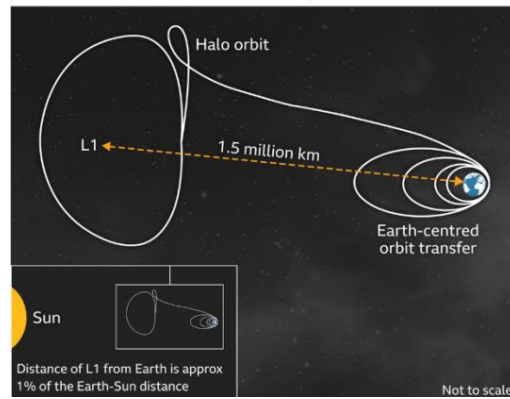
TOPIC	DISCRIPTION
<p>Plant cells to increase production of Anti-Cancer Drug Camptothecin</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In recent developments, researchers at the Indian Institutes of Technology Madras and Mandi have successfully employed metabolic engineering in plant cells to augment the production of the anti-cancer drug camptothecin (CPT). <p>IIT MADRAS RESEARCHERS' BREAKTHROUGH IN CANCER DRUG PRODUCTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Innovation in Metabolic Engineering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Researchers develop a genome-scale metabolic model for <i>N. nimoniana</i> plant cells, providing a sustainable alternative for drug production. ❖ Microbe Alternative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 A 2021 study identifies a microbe as a sustainable source for Camptothecin, challenging the need for massive plant material. ❖ Significant Increase in Production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Metabolic engineering leads to a five-fold increase in Camptothecin production in the transformed plant cell line, reducing environmental impact.  <p>CAMPTOTHECIN & ITS DERIVATIVES FOR CANCER THERAPY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ About Camptothecin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Isolated in 1966 from the woody plant Camptotheca acuminata in Southwest China. 👉 Demonstrated strong antitumor activity against various cancers, including cervical cancer, mouse lymphocytic leukemia, gastric cancer, rectal cancer, and leukemia. 👉 Discovered in 1985, it targets Topoisomerase I, forming a complex inhibiting DNA replication and transcription, leading to cancer cell death. ❖ Derivatives Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Active sites on the five-ring backbone, including A, B, and E rings, are modified to enhance water solubility, reduce toxic side effects, and increase lactone ring stability. 
<p>ADITYA L1</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India's Aditya L1 mission, aimed at studying the Sun, is making headlines as it approaches a crucial phase in its journey. ❖ Scheduled for its final orbit injection on January 6, the spacecraft has reached the Lagrange Point 1 (L1), a stable position in the Sun-Earth system. ❖ The mission involves a challenging maneuver to achieve a 'halo orbit' around L1, providing unique perspectives for observing the Sun. <p>ABOUT ADITYA L1 MISSION:</p>



- ❖ **Objective:** Aditya L1 is India's maiden mission solely focused on studying the Sun, with the primary aim of **unraveling solar mysteries** and understanding their impact on space weather.
- ❖ **Launch Date:** Launched on **September 2**, Aditya L1 embarked on its solar exploration journey, drawing **global attention** for its scientific mission.
- ❖ **Final Orbit:** On January 6, the spacecraft is set to **enter its ultimate orbit**, a 'halo orbit' around **Lagrange Point 1 (L1)**, enhancing stability for solar observations.
- ❖ **Lagrange Point 1 (L1):** Located approximately **1.5 million kilometers from Earth**, L1 is one of **five stable points** in the Sun-Earth system. Aditya L1's orbit around L1 enables **diverse angles of solar observation**.
- ❖ **Challenging Maneuver:** The mission involves a critical maneuver to **adopt a 'halo orbit'**—a 3D orbit offering **varied perspectives for studying the Sun's activities**.
- ❖ **Scientific Payloads:** Aditya L1 carries **seven scientific payloads**, including **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)**, **Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)**, aiming to **directly track the Sun** and examine its radiation, particles, and magnetic fields.

Aditya-L1 mission trajectory

The first Indian solar mission to study the Sun



SIGNIFICANCE

- ❖ **Space Weather Monitoring:**
 - ☛ The mission contributes to **space weather monitoring**, offering insights into **solar storms, radiations, and emissions before they impact Earth**.
- ❖ **Coronagraph:**
 - ☛ Equipped with a **coronagraph**, Aditya L1 allows scientists to **observe the solar corona** by blocking the Sun's bright surface light.
 - ☛ The mission **employs a smaller occulting disk** for a focused study.
- ❖ **Global Interest:**
 - ☛ Aditya L1 **garners global interest** for its potential to **advance solar science**, providing complementary data **to existing solar observatories**.
 - ☛ The mission addresses the growing **need for a deeper understanding of the Sun's behavior** and its **influence on space weather**, crucial for Earth's satellite communications, **navigation systems, and power grids**.

SUPREME COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Supreme Court judge Justice BR Gavai has been nominated as the **Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC)**, replacing Justice Sanjiv Khanna – the seniormost judge of the top court after the Chief Justice of India (CJI).*

ABOUT SUPREME COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- ❖ **SCLSC:**
 - ☛ It's a committee under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.



- Provides **free legal services in cases** under Supreme Court's jurisdiction.



SUPREME COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE



❖ **Composition:**

- Headed by a **sitting Supreme Court judge (Chairman)**.
- Other members **nominated by the Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.
- CJI can appoint the Committee's Secretary.

❖ **Current Members:**

- Chairman:** BR Gavai.
- Nine members** nominated by the CJI.

❖ **Legal Basis:**

- Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- Aims to offer free legal help to **specific groups like women, children, SC/ST, EWS, industrial workers, disabled persons**.

❖ **Constitutional Backing:**

- Indian Constitution, **Article 39A**.
- Ensures **legal system promotes justice with equal opportunity**.

❖ **Establishment of Legal Aid Programs:**

- Proposed in 1950s**, committee formed in 1980 under Justice PN Bhagwati.
- Legal Services Authorities Act enacted in 1987.

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (NALSA):

❖ **About:**

- Formed in 1995**.
- Monitors legal aid programs, allocates funds to states and NGOs.

❖ **State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA):**

- In each state, **implements NALSA's policies**.
- Headed by the **Chief Justice of the respective High Court**.

❖ **District and Taluk Legal Services Committees:**

- In districts and taluks.
- Organize **legal awareness, provide free legal services**.

PLACES IN NEWS – SOUTH CHINA SEA

WHY IN NEWS?

- China's military activities, including **live fire drills and joint exercises with the United States**, come amid **heightened tensions with the Philippines in the South China Sea**. The deployment of navy and air force adds to the complexities of the situation in this hotly contested region.*

SOUTH CHINA SEA OVERVIEW

- ❖ **Geographical Location:**



- Arm of the **western Pacific Ocean**.
- Borders the **Southeast Asian mainland**.
- ❖ **Boundaries:**
 - Bordered by **China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam**.
- ❖ **Connectivity:**
 - Connected to the **East China Sea** via the **Taiwan Strait**.
 - Linked to the **Philippine Sea** through the **Luzon Strait**.
 - Together with the **East China Sea, forms the China Sea**.
- ❖ **Archipelagos:**
 - **Paracel Islands**, controlled by China.
 - **Spratly Islands**, strategically significant.
- ❖ **Trade and Sea Lanes:**
 - **Second most used sea lane** globally.
 - **Abundant natural resources: 11 billion barrels of oil, 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.**
 - Crucial trade route for **transporting crude oil from the Persian Gulf and Africa**.
 - Passes through the **Strait of Malacca** to reach **Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan**.



CHINA'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS:

- ❖ Originated from a **1947 map with the "nine-dash line,"** encompassing up to **90% of the South China Sea**.
- ❖ **China asserts control over the sea,** resisting military or economic activities without its consent.

UNDERSTANDING THE 'NINE-DASH LINE'

- ❖ **Origins:**
 - Initially, an **"eleven-dash line"** in 1947, simplified to **nine dashes in 1953**.
 - Encompasses China's maritime claims, extending **2,000 km from the mainland**.
- ❖ **Parameters and Issues:**
 - Claimed based on **"historical maritime rights,"** but not clearly defined.
 - Goes beyond UN treaty limits, and coordinates are unspecified.
- ❖ **Specific Disputes:**
 - **Example of Scarborough Shoal:** Philippines' **EEZ**, but China claims historical ties.
 - **Paracel and Spratly islands claimed by China,** contested by Vietnam.
- ❖ **International Tribunal Ruling (2016):**
 - Tribunal largely **rejected the nine-dash line**.





THE RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA

- China boycotted proceedings, **claiming no jurisdiction.**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **Shri Ram Janma Bhoomi Mandir on January 22**. Consecration of **Lord Rama's idol at the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya**. Symbolizes **more than a religious event, signifies cultural and national identity.***

KEY FEATURES OF THE RAM JANMABHOOMI TEMPLE

- ❖ **Architectural Style:**
 - ☛ Built in the **Nagarastyle** of temple architecture.
- ❖ **Idol and Sanctum:**
 - ☛ Houses the **idol of Ram Lalla** in the sanctum sanctorum.
 - ☛ **Shri Ram Darbar** located on the first floor.
- ❖ **Five Mandaps (Halls):**
 - ☛ **Nritya Mandap, Rang Mandap, Sabha Mandap, Prarthana Mandap, Kirtan Mandap.**
- ❖ **Deity Statues:**
 - ☛ Statues of **deities adorn pillars and walls.**
- ❖ **Temple Mandirs:**
 - ☛ Mandirs at the four corners of the compound dedicated to **Surya, Bhagwati, Ganesh, and Shiv.**
 - ☛ Additional **temples to Annapurna and Hanuman** on northern and southern arms, respectively.
- ❖ **Dedicated Temples:**
 - ☛ **Temples to Maharshis Valmiki, Vashishtha, Vishwamitra, Agastya, NishadRaj, Shabri, etc.,** proposed in the complex.
- ❖ **Foundation Construction:**
 - ☛ Foundation built with a **14-meter-thick layer of roller-compacted concrete**, resembling artificial rock.
 - ☛ **21-foot-high granite plinth** to protect against ground moisture.
- ❖ **Iron-Free Construction:**
 - ☛ **No use of iron** anywhere in the construction.
- ❖ **Environmental Emphasis:**
 - ☛ Emphasis on environmental and water conservation.
 - ☛ **70% of the 70-acre area** dedicated to greenery.

