



# World's Largest Ramayan Temple in Bihar

## Why in News?

Recently, The second phase of construction of the "[world's largest Ramayan temple](#)" began in **East Champaran district of Bihar**. The construction of the three-storey temple, spread over an area of 3.76 lakh sq.ft., **began in June 2023 and is expected to be complete in 2025**.

## Key Points

- The **Viraat Ramayan Mandir** will be **three times larger than the [Ram Mandir in Ayodhya](#)**.
  - Constructed at a cost of Rs 500 crore, it will **feature a 33-foot-tall [Shivling in the arghya \(sanctum sanctorum\)](#)**.
  - There will be **22 sanctum sanctorum** for different deities in the temple complex.
- The **second phase will include the construction up to the plinth level**, which will go up to a height of about 26 feet from the ground level.
- In the **third phase**, the construction of **shikhars (spires) and the final finishing touches** of the entire temple will be completed.
  - The temple will have a total of **12 shikhars, with the main shikhar reaching a height of 270 feet**.
- The temple's architecture draws inspiration from [Cambodia's Angkor Wat](#), the **Ramanathaswamy temple in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu**, and the **Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai**.

## Angkor Wat Temple

- **Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia** and one of the **largest religious monuments in the world**.
- It was **originally constructed as a Hindu temple** dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, it was **gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple** towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- It was **built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century** in Yaśodharapura (present-day Angkor), the capital of the Khmer Empire, as his state temple and eventual mausoleum.

## Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple

- It is a **historic Hindu temple** located on the southern bank of the **Vaigai River, Madurai** in Tamil Nadu.
- The temple is dedicated to **goddess Meenakshi, a form of Shakti/Parvati** and her consort **Shiva in the form of Sundareswarar**.
- It was **built by Pandyan Emperor Sadayavarman Kulasekaran I (1190 CE-1205 CE)**.

## Ramanathaswamy Temple

- It is a **Hindu temple dedicated to the god Shiva** located on **Rameswaram island in the state of Tamil Nadu**.

- It is also **one of the twelve Jyotirlinga temples.**
- It was **built by King Muthuramalinga Sethupathiy.**
- The temple was **expanded during the 12<sup>th</sup> century by the Pandya Dynasty,** and its principal shrine's sanctum was **renovated by Jeyaveera Cinkaiariyan and his successor Gunaveera Cinkaiariyan,** monarch of the Jaffna kingdom.

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