

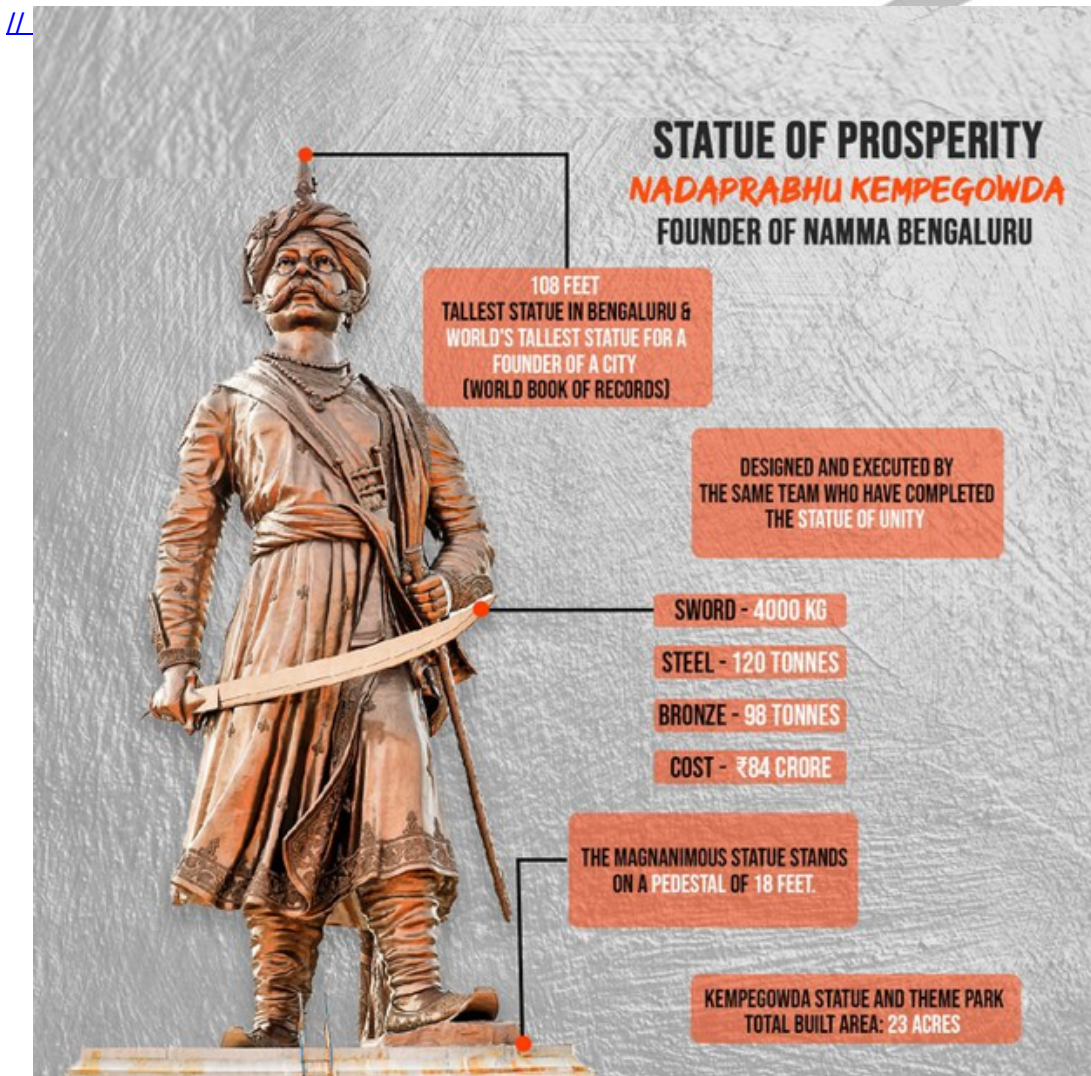


Nadaprabhu Kempegowda

Why in News?

Recently, the **Prime Minister of India** unveiled a 108-foot statue of **Nadaprabhu Kempegowda** and inaugurated **Terminal 2 of Bengaluru airport**, which is named after the **16th-century figure credited with founding the city**.

- The status is called the “**Statue of Prosperity**”.



What are the Key Features of the Statue of Prosperity?

- As per the 'World Book of Records', it is the **first and the tallest bronze statue** of a founder of a city.

- Renowned sculptor and **Padma Bhushan** awardee **Ram Vanji Sutar** has designed the statue.
 - Sutar had built the **'Statue of Unity'** in Gujarat and the statue of **Mahatma Gandhi** in Bengaluru's 'Vidhana Soudha'.
- As a precursor to the unveiling, **'Mruthike'** (sacred mud) was collected from over 22,000 locations across the state, which was mixed symbolically with the mud beneath one of the four towers of the statue.

Who was Nadaprabhu Kempegowda?

- **About:**
 - He was born in 1513 in a village near **Yelahanka**.
 - He was the **chieftain under the Vijayanagara Empire** of the 16th century.
 - He is an iconic figure among **Vokkaligas**, Karnataka's second most dominant community after Lingayats.
- **Education:**
 - He studied for nine years in a **GuruKula near Aigondapura** (present day Hessaraghatta) where he learnt **statecraft and martial skills**.
- **Achievements:**
 - He is widely acknowledged as the **founder of Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
 - It is said that he conceived the idea of a new city while **hunting with his minister**, and later marked its territory by **erecting towers in four corners of the proposed city**.
 - He is also credited with having **developed around 1,000 lakes** in the city to cater to its **drinking and agricultural needs**.
 - Kempegowda has been credited for **abolishing the practice of cutting the fingers of the left hand** of an unmarried woman during a custom known as 'Bandi Devaru', an important custom of **Morasu Vokkaligas**.
- **Death:**
 - He died in 1569, **having ruled for about 56 years**.
- **Recognition:**
 - State governments have dedicated important landmarks after him - the **Kempegowda International Airport, the Kempegowda Bus Stand, and the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station**.

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