PLACES IN NEWS: GINGEE FORT

A UNESCO team is set to visit Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu, which has been nominated for the **World Heritage Site** designation.

Gingee Fort – Facts:

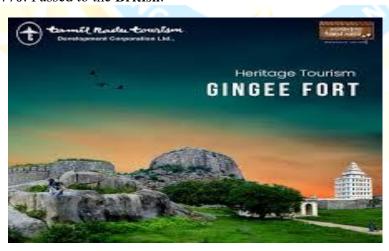
- State Tamil Nadu One of the most impregnable fortresses in peninsular India.
- Location: Atop three hillocks Rajagiri, Krishnagiri, and Chandragiri.
- Nickname: Known as the "Troy of the East".
- Defences: Includes a 60-foot-wide rampart and an 80-foot-wide moat.
- Carnatic Wars: Vital during the wars between the French and British.

History of the fort:

- Built by Ananta Kon of the Konar Dynasty (1200 CE); named as Krishnagiri.
- It was under the possession of several empires, such as the Vijayanagar Nayaks, Marathas, Mughals, Nawabs, the French and British.
- Vijayanagar Empire: Undertook significant renovations.

Control of the fort and Subsequent Rulers:

- 1677: Captured by Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- 1677-1698: Under Maratha control.
- **1698**: Fell to the **Mughals**.
 - Rajaram I (son of Shivaji): Last stronghold during resistance against Mughal forces.
- Raja Desingh (Tej Singh): Brief rule.
- 1714: Taken over by the Nawabs of Arcot.
- 1714-1749: Under Nawabs' dominion.
- **1750-1770**: Held by the **French**.
- Post-1770: Passed to the British.



Architectural Features:

• **Temples and Shrines**: Several within the fort complex.



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- Water Supply Systems: Two systems ensuring continuous water supply, even at the highest points.
- Rajagiri Hill features Citadel and Ranganatha temple.
- Krishnagiri Citadel Notable for Indo-Islamic architecture
- Venkataramana Swamy Temple Intricate carvings from Hindu epics
- Kalyana Mahal Architectural jewel with 8 storeys used as Royal ladies' quarters

