



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Angkor wat Temple

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**Why is in news?** Stolen Angkorian crown jewellery resurfaces in London and returned to Cambodia

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 by the Khmer Empire**, it was **gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple** towards the end of the 12th century.

It was built by the Khmer King **Suryavarman II** in the early 12th century in Yasodharapura (present-day Angkor), the capital of the Khmer Empire, as his state temple and eventual mausoleum.

The temple represents **Mount Meru**, Hindu home of the Gods.

It is made of sandstone, with more than 1800 carved apsaras and hundreds of meters of bas relief.

Temple was dedicated to **Theravada Buddhism** around the 14th Century.

**Kamaraj IAS Academy**

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**