

UNIT - II

UNESCO

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture.
- It has 193 member states and 11 associate members, as well as partners in the nongovernmental, intergovernmental, and private sector
- Headquartered in Paris, France

ASI

- The **Archaeological Survey of India** is an Indian government agency attached to the Ministry of Culture that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country.
- It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (**ASI**), under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.

INTACH

- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage is a non-profit charitable organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- In 2007, the United Nations awarded INTACH a special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was founded in 1984 in New Delhi with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India.
- Today INTACH is recognized as one of the world's largest heritage organizations, with over 190 Chapters across the Country. In the past 31 years INTACH has pioneered the conservation and preservation of not just our natural and built heritage but intangible heritage as well.
- Headquartered in New Delhi.

List Of Indian Heritage Sites

In India, There Are 30 Cultural Sites And 7 Natural Sites and 1 Mixed criteria site

• **Cultural**

- Agra Fort
- Ajanta Caves
- Buddhist Monuments At Sanchi
- Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria terminus)
- Churches And Convents Of Goa
- Elephanta Caves
- Ellora Caves
- Fatehpur Sikri
- Great Living Chola Temples
- Group of Monuments at Hampi
- Group Of Monuments at Mahabalipuram
- Group of Monuments At Pattadakai
- Hills Forts Of Rajasthan
- Humayun's Tomb ,Delhi
- Khajuraho Group Of Monuments
- Mahabodhi Temple Complex At Bodh Gaya
- Mountain Railways Of India

- Qutb Minar And Its Monuments,Delhi
- Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell) At Patan,Gujarat
- Red Fort Complex
- Rock Shelters Of Bhimbetka
- Sun Temple , Konarak
- Taj Mahal
- The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur

• **Natural**

- Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area
- Kaziranga National Park
- Keoladeo National Park
- Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nanda Devi And Valley Of Flowers National Parks
- Sundarbans National Park
- Western Ghats



Cultural heritage

- Monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- Groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- Sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and of man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.

Natural Heritage

- Natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;
- Geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;
- Natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

Criteria for World Heritage Site

For a property to be included on the world heritage list, the world heritage committee must find that it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
2. To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
3. To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
4. To be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
5. To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
6. To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

7. To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
8. To be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
9. To be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
10. To contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.



Agra Fort

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1983



These were built from 16th century onwards till early 18th century, starting with Emperor Akbar's reign in the 16th century to that of Aurangzeb in the early part of the 18th century, including the contributions made during the reign of Jahangir and Shahjahan of the Mughal Rule in India;

- the impressive structures built within the precincts of the fort are the Khas Mahal, the Shish Mahal, Muhamman Burje (an octagonal tower), Diwan-e-Khas (1637), Diwan-E-Am, white marble mosque or the Pearl Mosque (built during 1646–1653) and the Nagina Masjid (1658–1707).
- These monuments are remarkable for the fusion of Persian art of the Timurid and the Indian art form. It is very close to the famous Taj Mahal with a buffer zone separating the two monuments

AJANTA CAVES



AJANTA CAVES

- The **Ajanta Caves** are approximately 30 rock-cut Buddhist **cave** monuments which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 CE in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra state of India.
- The caves, cut into the face of a mountain, form a horseshoe shape around the Wangorah River.
- The Ajanta Caves have five chaityas, which are basically prayer halls.
- Other caves are known as Viharas, which are monasteries with residents.
- Caves 8,9,10,12, 13, and some bits of 15 are early Buddhist caves.
- The caves were first discovered in 1819, when Jon Smith, a British official accidentally stumbled upon the horse-shoe shaped rock while hunting a tiger.
- They are an example of one of Indian's unique artistic traditions known as rock cut temples.
- Ajanta consists of thirty caves, each dedicated to the life of the Buddha.
- Each cave is filled with sculpture, wall murals, and ceiling paintings.
- They are universally regarded as masterpieces of Buddhist religious art.
- The Buddhist theme of the Ajanta paintings recounts the life of Lord Buddha and tales of his previous experiences.
- Declared as a UNESCO World heritage site



Buddhist Monuments At Sanchi

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1989



On a hill overlooking the plain and about 40 km from Bhopal, the site of Sanchi comprises a group of Buddhist monuments (monolithic pillars, palaces, temples and monasteries) all in different states of conservation most of which date back to the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C.

- History tells that when Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism in 250 BC, he erected the Great Stupa here after redistribution of mortal remains of Lord Buddha for erecting several stupas all over the country in order to spread Buddhism.
- He built his first “stupa” at Sanchi and later several more, as well as other religious structures.
- These monolithic monuments were engraved with edicts and teachings of Lord Buddha. This Great Stupa served as a nucleus to the large Buddhist establishment during the later period.
- Emperor Ashoka was drawn to the teachings of Buddha that they spread, particularly those of social justice.
- To help spread the message of Buddhism around the Indian subcontinent, Ashoka erected stupas and other monuments with inscriptions.
- The second largest stupa, the Sanchi Stupa, is a major monument constructed to portray the life and journey of Lord Buddha.
- The relics of Lord Buddha are wonderfully engraved on the columns and pillars of the stupas.
- Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi are Stupas, monolithic Ashoka pillar, temples, monasteries



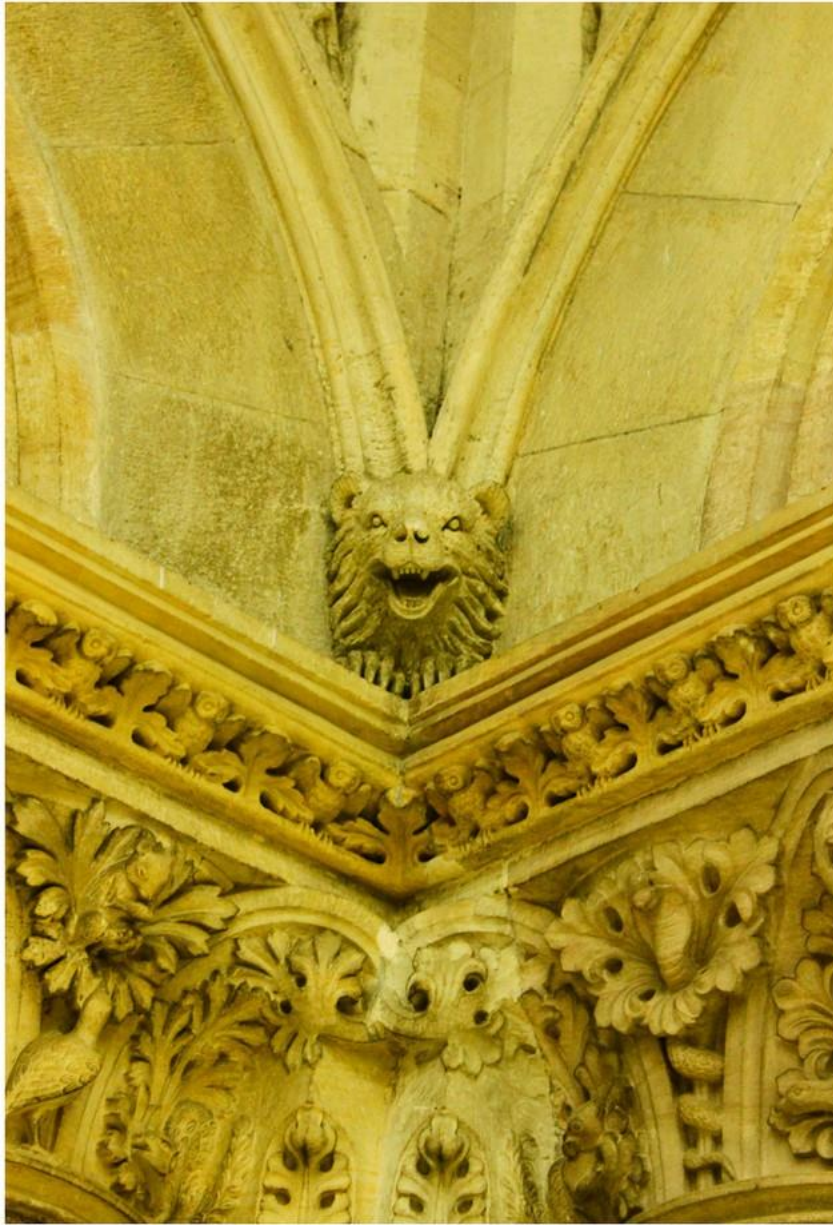
Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 2004



The Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, formerly known as Victoria Terminus Station, in Mumbai, is an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture in India, blended with themes deriving from Indian traditional architecture. The building, designed by the British architect F. W. Stevens, became the symbol of Bombay as the ‘Gothic City’ and the major international mercantile port of India. The terminal was built over 10 years, starting in 1878, according to a High Victorian Gothic design.

- It was during the [British](#) Rule that it was re-designed by F. W. Stevens, who named it Victoria Terminus (VT), after the then-reigning Queen Victoria.
- In 1996, the Minister of Railways, Suresh Kalmadi, changed the name of the station to Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, in honor of great Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji, founder of the Maratha Empire.
- The entrance of the Chhatrapati Shivaji terminus is flanked by figures of a lion and a tiger representing the two countries-great Britain and India.
- The main structure is made of sandstone and limestone, and the interiors of the station are lined with high-quality Italian marble.
- It is a blend of Victorian, European, Italian features with elements from Indian architecture adapting his design to suit the local climate.



Churches and Convents of Goa



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-1986



The churches and convents of Goa, the former capital of the Portuguese Indies – particularly the Church of Bom Jesus, which contains the tomb of St Francis-Xavier – illustrate the evangelization of Asia.

- The Churches and Convents at Velha (Old) Goa owe their existence to the Portuguese rule in this part of the western coast of India.
- The most comprehensive group of churches and cathedrals built during 16th to 17th century AD at Old Goa comprise of the following: Basilica of Bom Jesus, Se' Cathedral, Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Church of Lady of Rosary, Church of St. Augustine and Chapel of St. Catherine.
- These Churches and Convents declared as World Heritage Sites in 1986.
- The beauty of Goa is doubled by presence of numerous ancient master pieces displayed on churches.
- Convents and churches in Goa have a great influence of Portuguese culture. Their architecture is a combination of Baroque and Renaissance styles.
- Materials used for construction of these churches are mainly lime plaster and laterite.

The Basilica of Bom Jesus

A place which is located close to the convent of St Francis is popular for mortal remains and tomb of St Francis Xavier. St Francis Xavier is believed to have come to India along with Portuguese convoy to spread Christianity in India. He was associated with Society of Jesus.

Church of Lady of Rosary



Church of Lady of Rosary

The Lady of Rosary Church is ideally situated towards western side of Monte Santo or Holy Hill.

Many Historical evidences state that this was the site where Alfonso de Albuquerque organized his army and emerged victorious in year 1510. The site has a plaque with some inscriptions of 1950`s period.



Se Cathedral

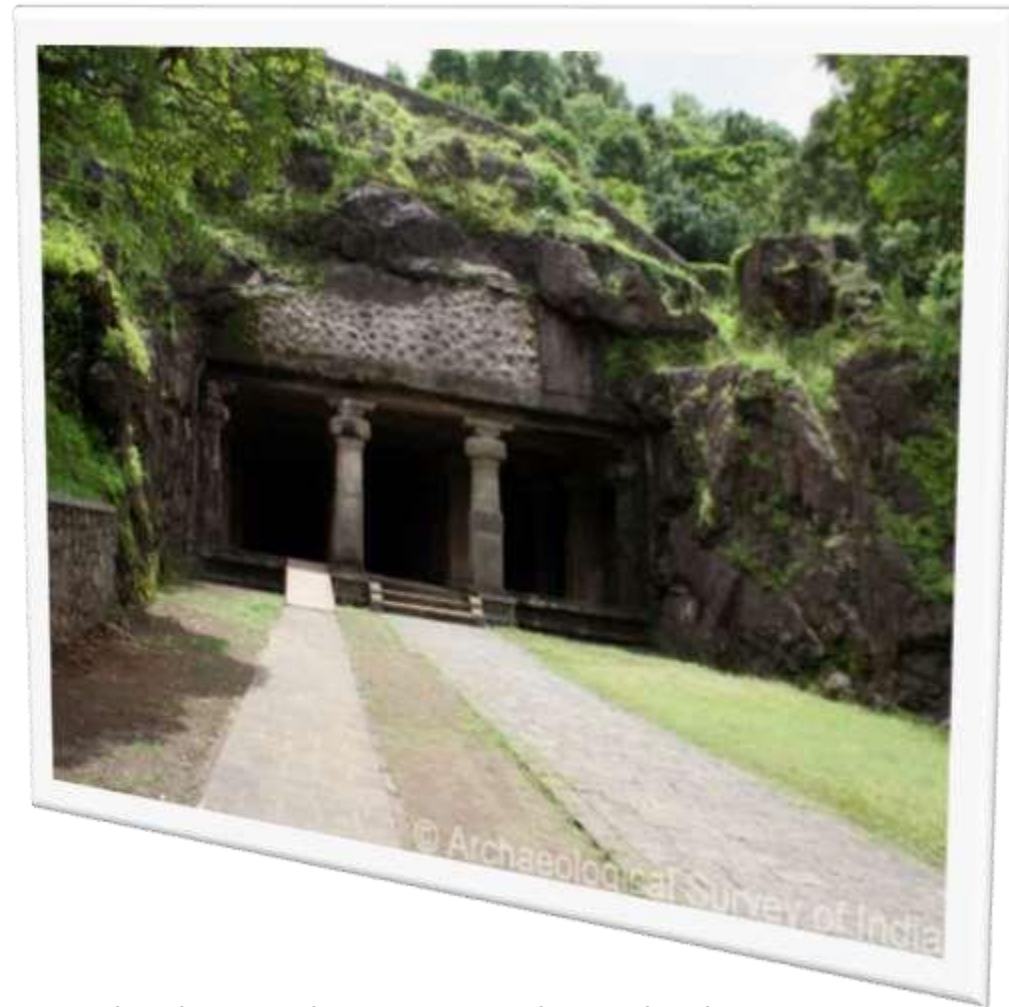


- Se Cathedral is most popular and ancient religious place in Goa.
- Se cathedral is tagged as a biggest church in entire Asian region.
- The available statistics show that this church was completed in 80 years.
- The Church is devoted to Catherine of Alexandria. The site is part of old Goa. The Portuguese art, sculpture and their royalty can be clearly experienced by a visit to this important church which is placed at high respect and sacredness by Christian community across the world.
- Se cathedral tagged as World Heritage site by UNESCO.



Elephanta Caves

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1987



A collection of Shiva and Buddhist rock-cut temples located near Mumbai, Elephanta Caves is a fascinating blend of art and heritage. No one knows for sure who built these caves or when, but it remains beyond doubt that these centuries-old caves are among the finest rock-cut architecture existing in India.

- **Elephanta Caves Architecture**

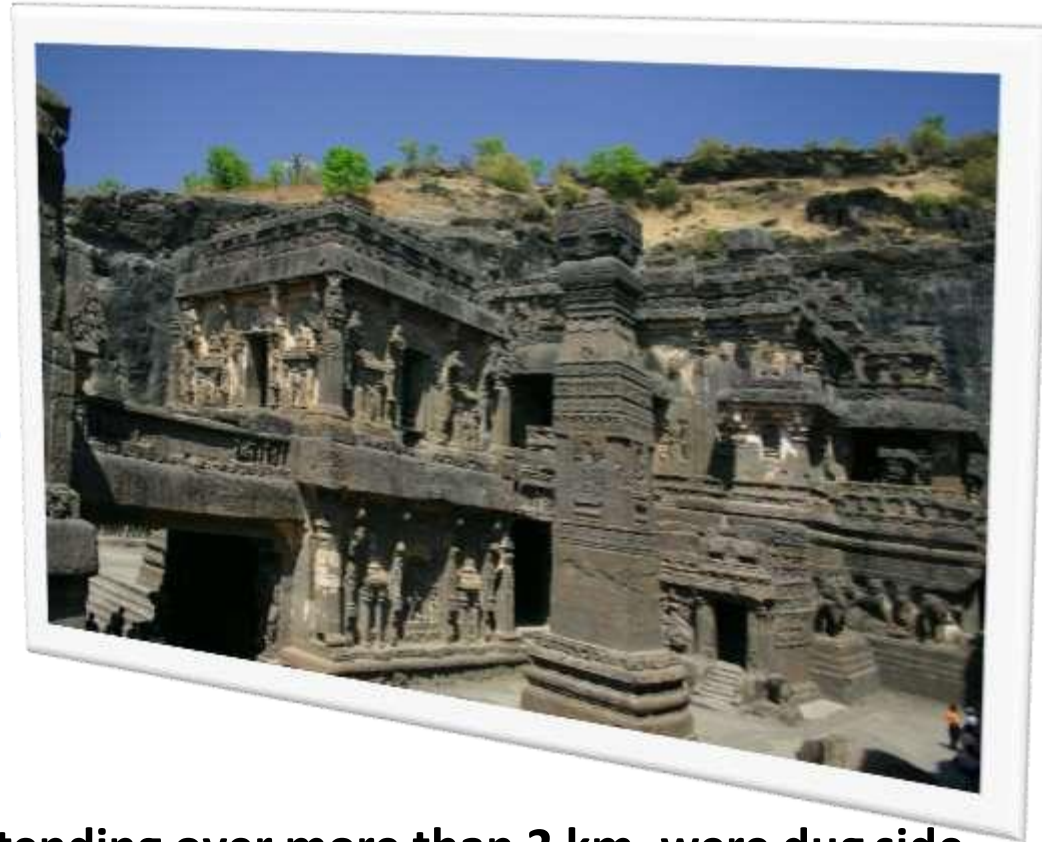
- There are two groups of caves on Elephanta Island, each featuring the rock-cut style of architecture.
- The caves are carved out of solid basalt rock and cover an area of 60,000 sq. ft.
- The larger one of these two groups has five caves with numerous Hindu sculptures.
- Two Buddhist caves at the site make up the smaller group along with water tanks and a Stupa.
- Each cave has been carved as a rock-cut temple with one main huge chamber, courtyards, two lateral chambers, and minor shrines.
- Cave 1 aka the Grand Cave is the biggest one among these and spreads across 39 meters from its entrance to the back.
- This cave temple is mainly dedicated to Lord Shiva and has several structures and carvings celebrating the deity and his different forms.





Ellora Caves

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-1983



These 34 monasteries and temples, extending over more than 2 km, were dug side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff, not far from Aurangabad, in Maharashtra. Ellora, with its uninterrupted sequence of monuments dating from A.D. 600 to 1000, brings the civilization of ancient India to life. Not only is the Ellora complex a unique artistic creation and a technological exploit but, with its sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism, it illustrates the spirit of tolerance that was characteristic of ancient India.

Fatehpur Sikri

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DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1986

Location

**Fatehpur
Sikri**



Built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years. The complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform architectural style, includes one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid.

Great Living Chola Temples

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DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1987

Location

**Thanjavur
(T.N)**

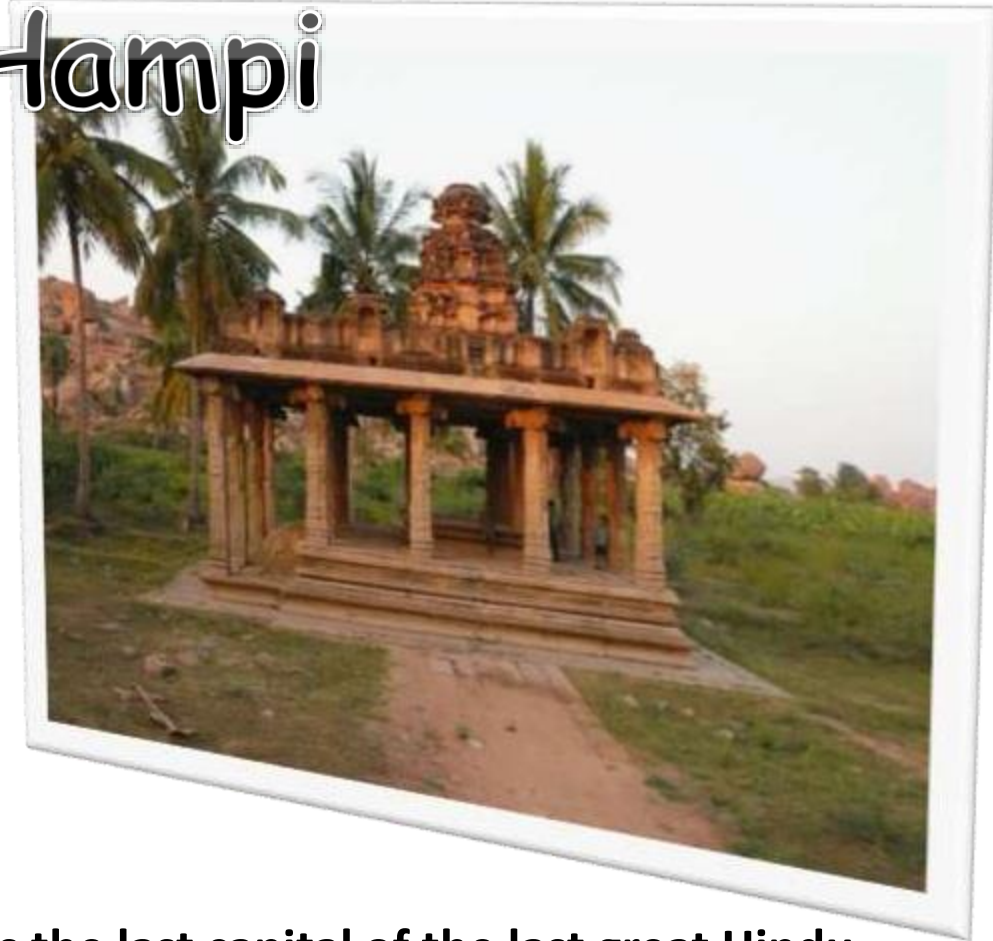


The Chola temples that exist and are used till date were built by the Chola rulers, mostly Raja Raja Chola, back in the 11th and 12th century CE. They are enlisted among the cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India. Some of the great Chola temples include the Brihadishvara Temple at Thanjavur, yet another Brihadishvara Temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram as well as the Airavateshvara Temple at Darasuram. The Lion Well or Simhakeni at the Gangaikonda Cholapuram is also a popular tourist attraction.



Group of Monuments at Hampi

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1986



The austere, grandiose site of Hampi was the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar. Its fabulously rich princes built Dravidian temples and palaces which won the admiration of travelers between the 14th and 16th centuries. Conquered by the Deccan Muslim confederacy in 1565, the city was pillaged over a period of six months before being abandoned

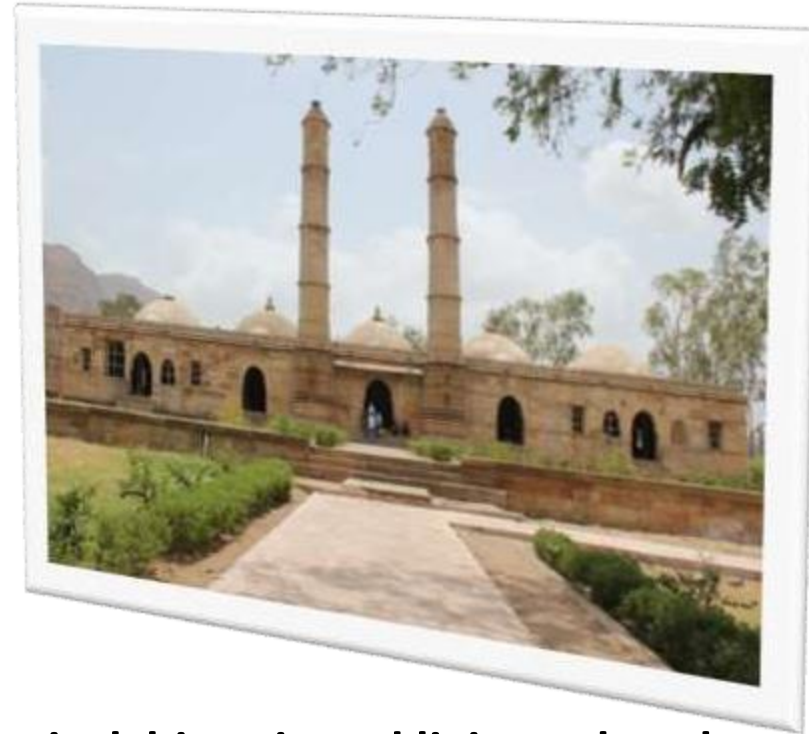
Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-2004

Location

**Champaner
(Guj.)**



A concentration of largely unexcavated archaeological, historic and living cultural heritage properties cradled in an impressive landscape which includes prehistoric (chalcolithic) sites, a hill fortress of an early Hindu capital, and remains of the 16th-century capital of the state of Gujarat. The site also includes, among other vestiges, fortifications, palaces, religious buildings, residential precincts, agricultural structures and water installations, from the 8th to 14th centuries. The Kalikamata Temple on top of Pavagadh Hill is considered to be an important shrine, attracting large numbers of pilgrims throughout the year.

Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1984

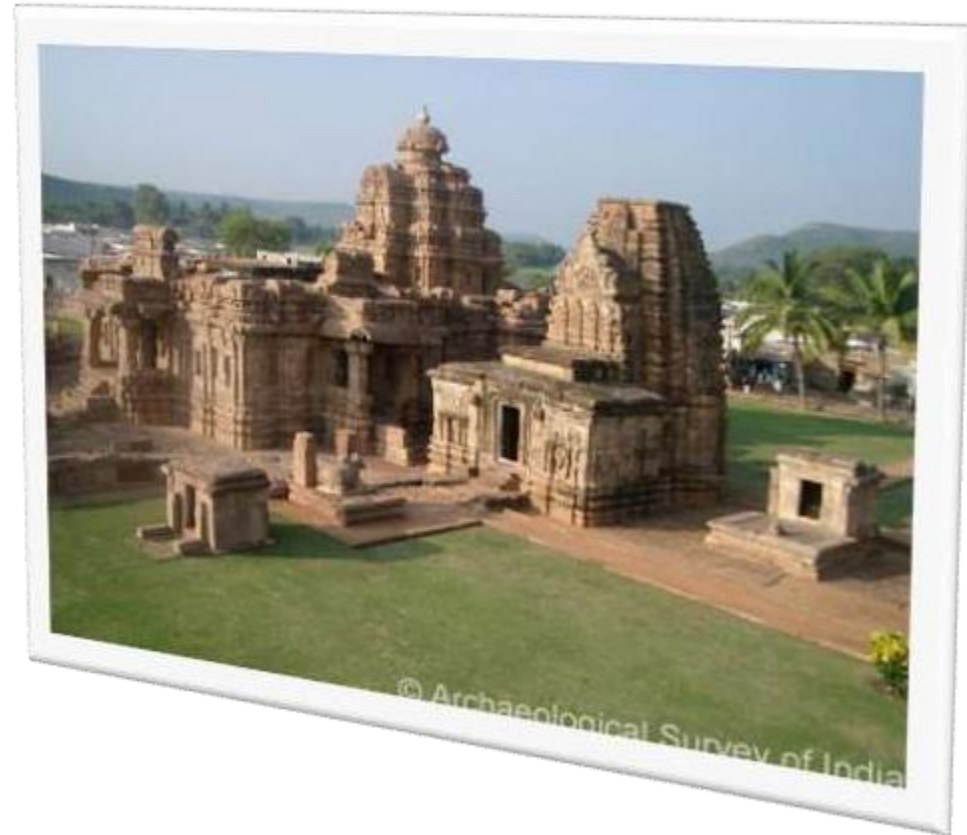


This group of sanctuaries, founded by the Pallava kings, was carved out of rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries. It is known especially for its *rathas* (temples in the form of chariots), *mandapas* (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air reliefs such as the famous 'Descent of the Ganges', and the temple of Rivage, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Shiva.

Group of Monuments At Pattadakal



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1987



Pattadakal, in Karnataka, represents the high point of an eclectic art which, in the 7th and 8th centuries under the Chalukya dynasty, achieved a harmonious blend of architectural forms from northern and southern India. An impressive series of nine Hindu temples, as well as a Jain sanctuary, can be seen there. One masterpiece from the group stands out – the Temple of Virupaksha, built c. 740 by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate her husband's victory over the kings from the South.

Hills Forts Of Rajasthan

The UNESCO logo is displayed in white on a blue, wavy banner in the top left corner.

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 2013

Location

Alwar (Raj.)



The serial site, situated in the state of Rajasthan, includes six majestic forts in Chittorgarh; Kumbhalgarh; Sawai Madhopur; Jhalawar; Jaipur, and Jaisalmer. The eclectic architecture of the forts, some up to 20 kilometres in circumference, bears testimony to the power of the Rajput princely states that flourished in the region from the 8th to the 18th centuries. Enclosed within defensive walls are major urban centres, palaces, trading centres and other buildings including temples that often predate the fortifications within which developed an elaborate courtly culture that supported learning, music and the arts.



Humayun's Tomb ,Delhi

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1993

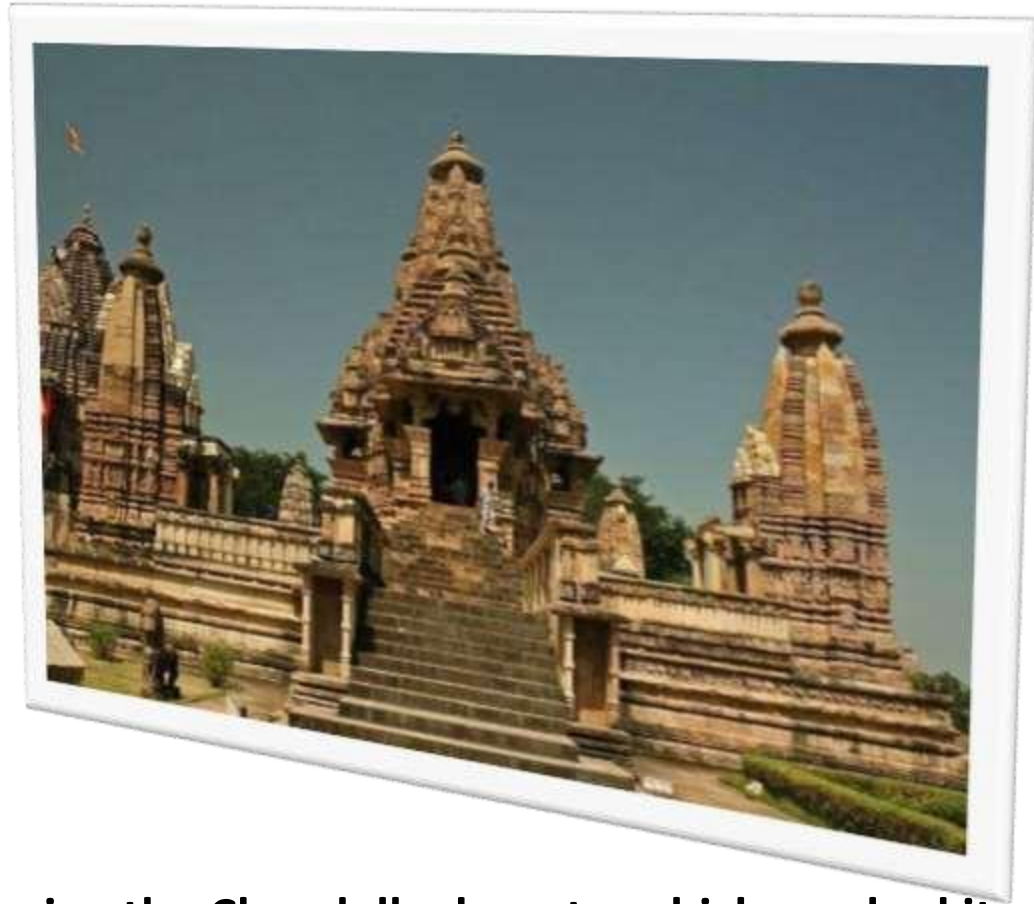


This tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.



Khajuraho Group Of Monuments

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-1986



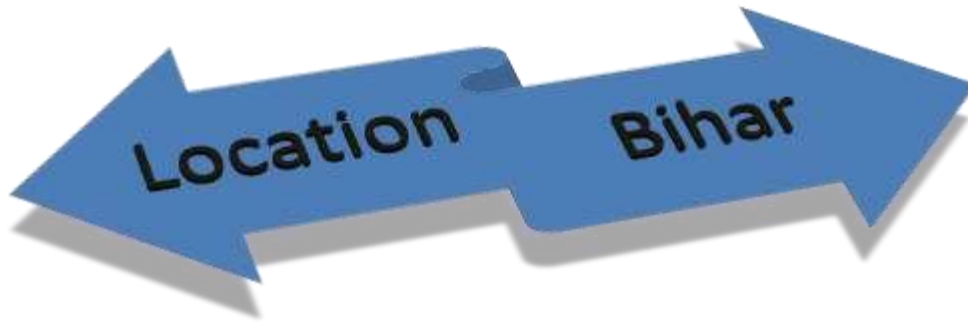
The temples at Khajuraho were built during the Chandella dynasty, which reached its apogee between 950 and 1050. Only about 20 temples remain; they fall into three distinct groups and belong to two different religions – Hinduism and Jainism. They strike a perfect balance between architecture and sculpture. The Temple of Kandariya is decorated with a profusion of sculptures that are among the greatest masterpieces of Indian art.

Mahabodhi Temple Complex At Bodh

Gaya



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-2002



The Mahabodhi Temple Complex is one of the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha, and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment. The first temple was built by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century B.C., and the present temple dates from the 5th or 6th centuries. It is one of the earliest Buddhist temples built entirely in brick, still standing in India, from the late Gupta period.



Mountain Railways of India

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-1999

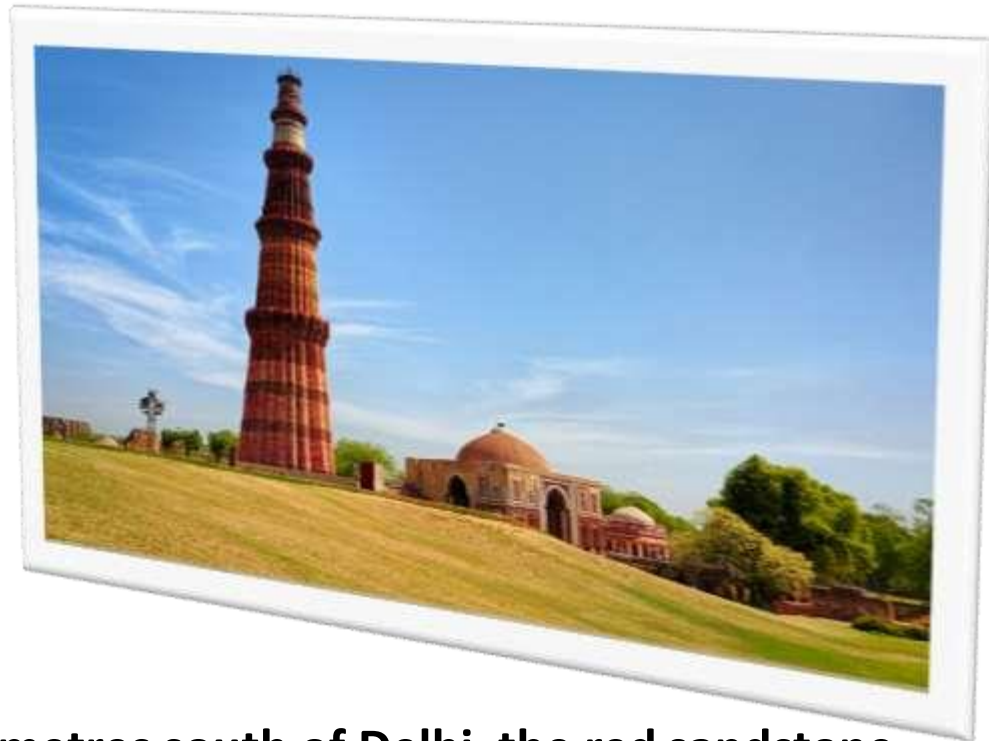


The Mountain Railways of India indicate a team listing of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, the Nilgiri Mountain Railway and the Kalka-Shimla Railway as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India. Nevertheless, India has 5 mountain railways altogether, all build during the colonial period, and all of them are in use even today by the Indian Railways. Apart from the above three, the other two mountain railways of India are the Kangra Valley Railway in Himachal Pradesh and the Matheran Hill Railway in Maharashtra.



Qutb Minar And Its Monument

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1993

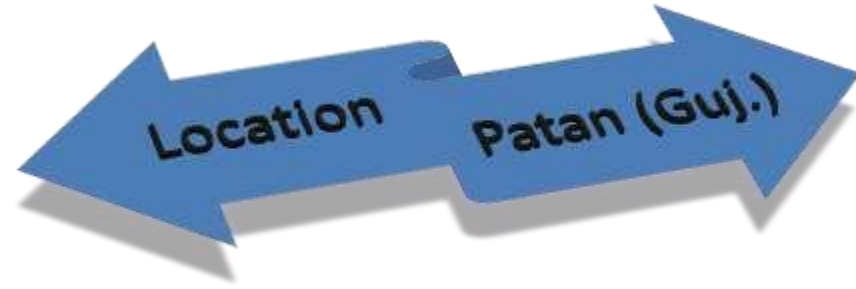


Built in the early 13th century a few kilometres south of Delhi, the red sandstone tower of Qutb Minar is 72.5 m high, tapering from 2.75 m in diameter at its peak to 14.32 m at its base, and alternating angular and rounded flutings. The surrounding archaeological area contains funerary buildings, notably the magnificent Alai-Darwaza Gate, the masterpiece of Indo-Muslim art (built in 1311), and two mosques, including the Quwwatu'l-Islam, the oldest in northern India, built of materials reused from some 20 Brahman temples.

Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell) At Patan, Gujarat



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 2014

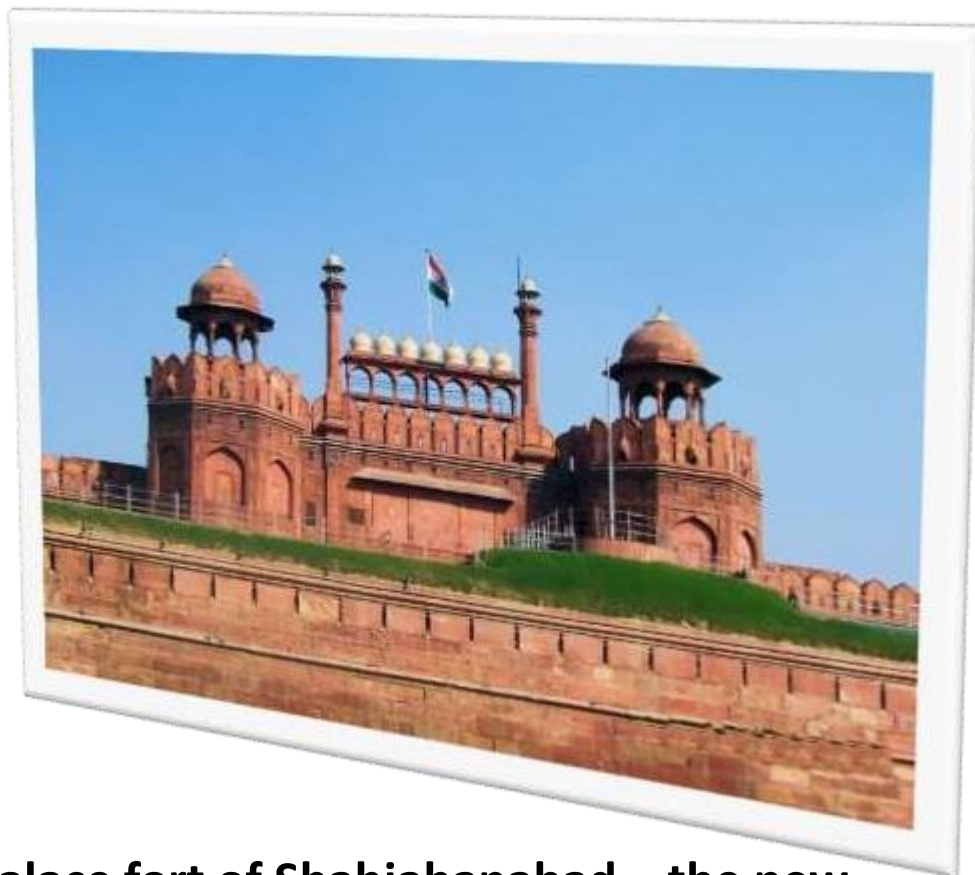


Rani-ki-Vav, on the banks of the Saraswati River, was initially built as a memorial to a king in the 11th century AD. Step wells are a distinctive form of subterranean water resource and storage systems on the Indian subcontinent, and have been constructed since the 3rd millennium BC. They evolved over time from what was basically a pit in sandy soil towards elaborate multi-storey works of art and architecture. Rani-ki-Vav was built at the height of craftsmens' ability in step well construction and the Maru-Gurjara architectural style, reflecting mastery of this complex technique and great beauty of detail and proportions.



Red Fort Complex

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 2007

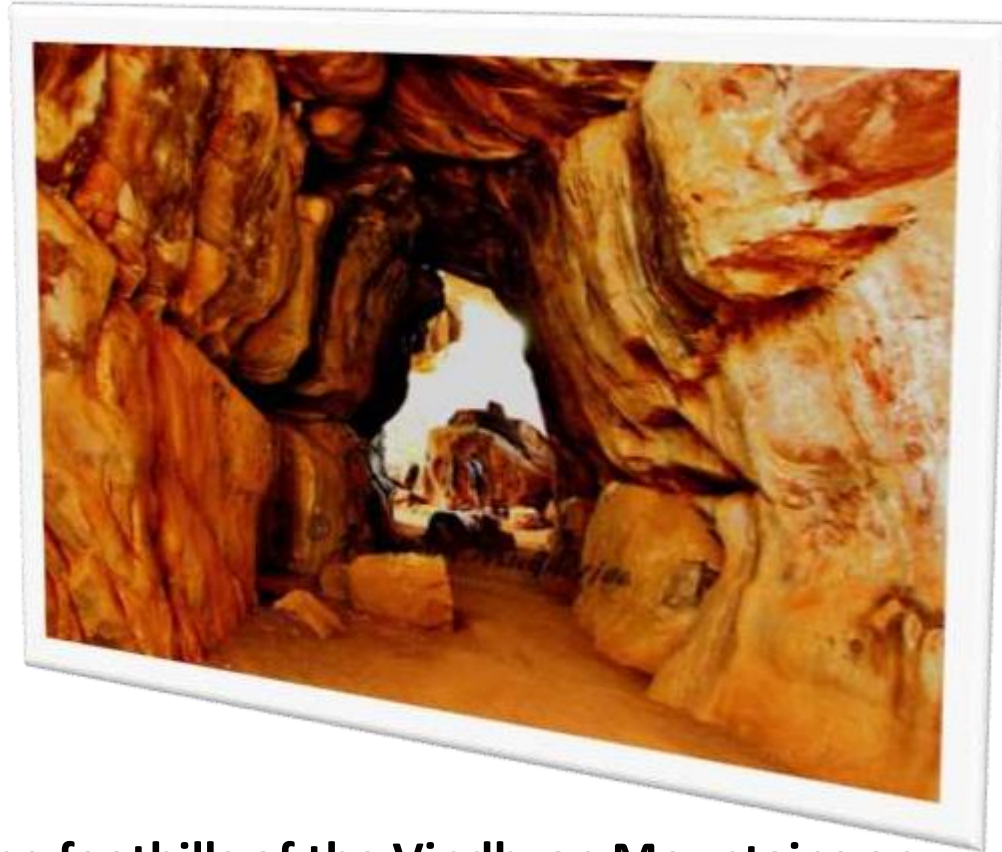


The Red Fort Complex was built as the palace fort of Shahjahanabad – the new capital of the fifth Mughal Emperor of India, Shah Jahan. Named for its massive enclosing walls of red sandstone, it is adjacent to an older fort, the Salimgarh, built by Islam Shah Suri in 1546, with which it forms the Red Fort Complex. The private apartments consist of a row of pavilions connected by a continuous water channel, known as the Nahr-i-Behisht (Stream of Paradise).

Rock Shelters Of Bhimbetka



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 2003

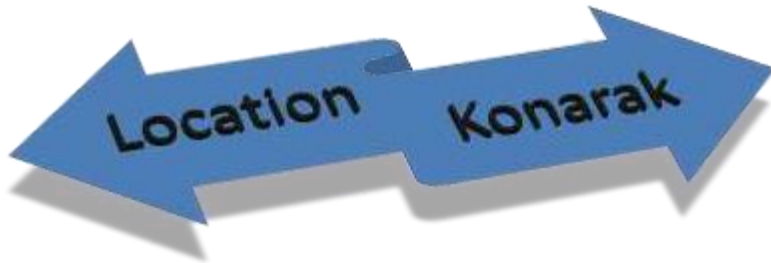


The Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka are in the foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau. Within massive sandstone outcrops, above comparatively dense forest, are five clusters of natural rock shelters, displaying paintings that appear to date from the Mesolithic Period right through to the historical period. The cultural traditions of the inhabitants of the twenty-one villages adjacent to the site bear a strong resemblance to those represented in the rock paintings.

Sun Temple , Konarak



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1984



On the shores of the Bay of Bengal, bathed in the rays of the rising sun, the temple at Konarak is a monumental representation of the sun god Surya's chariot; its 24 wheels are decorated with symbolic designs and it is led by a team of six horses. Built in the 13th century, it is one of India's most famous Brahman sanctuaries.

Taj Mahal



UNESCO

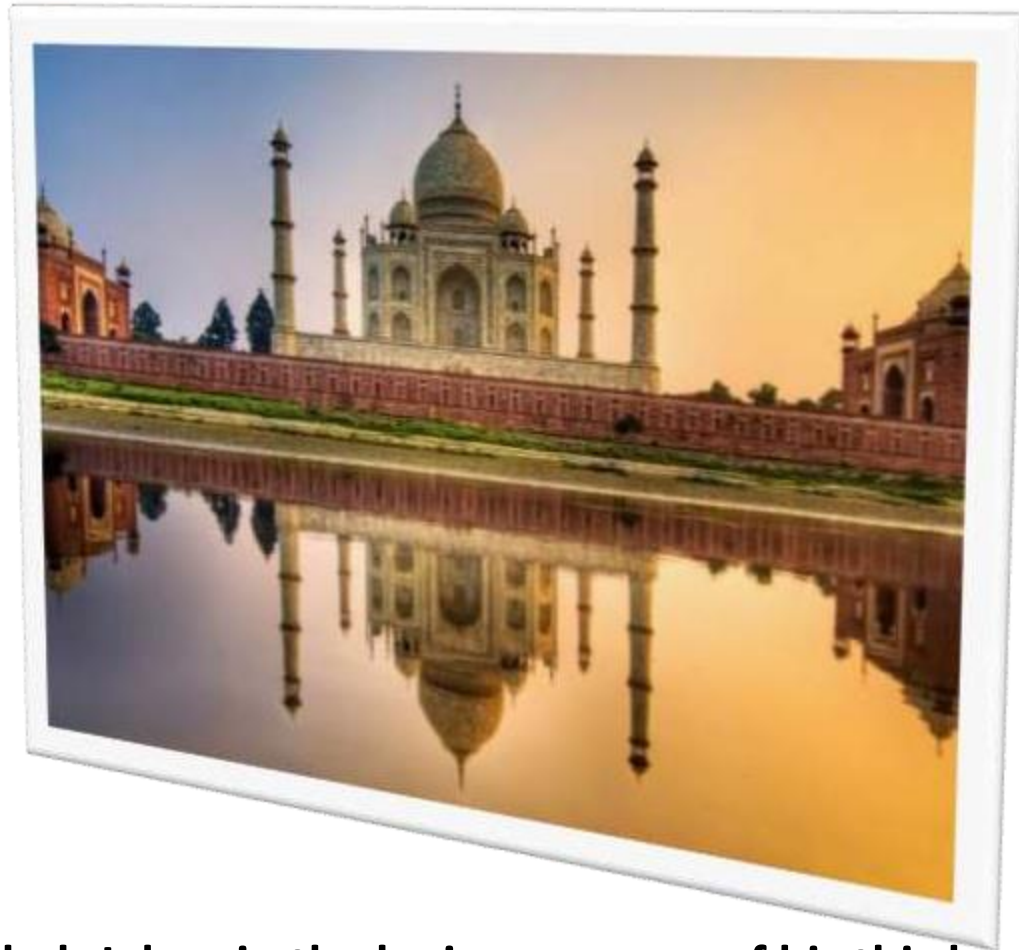
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Location



Agra

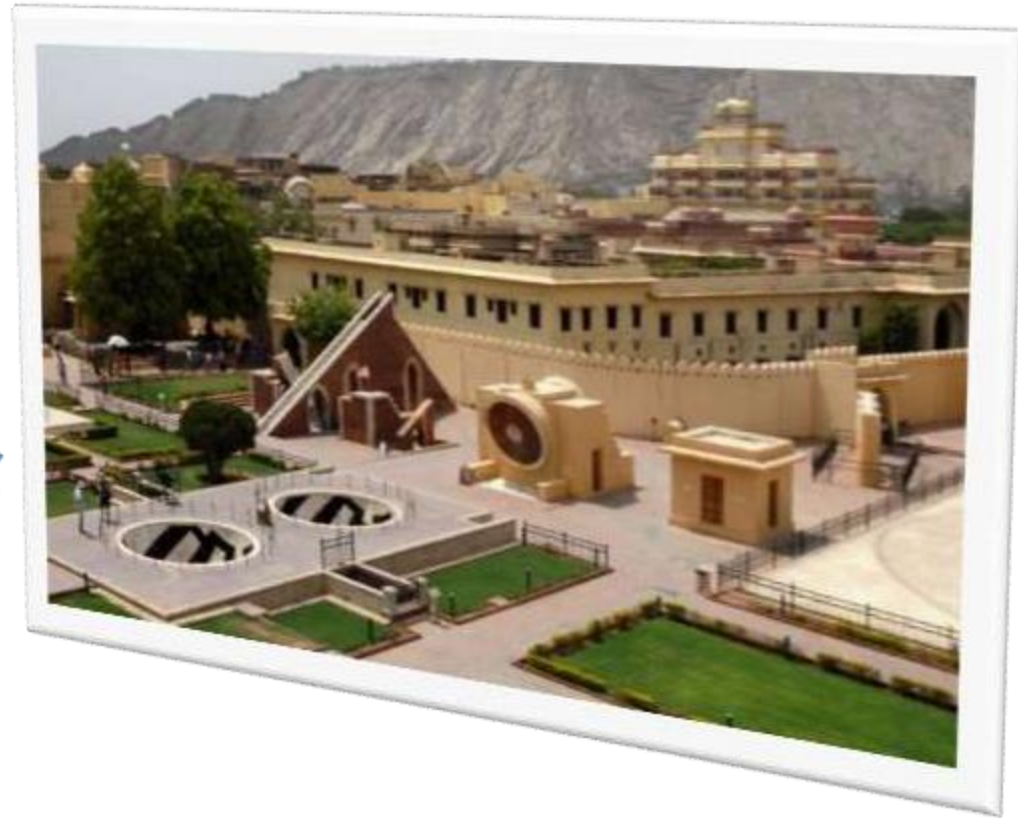


It was built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the loving memory of his third wife Mumtaz Mahal, between 1631 and 1648 CE. The chief architect of Taj Mahal was Ustad Ahmad Lahauri, the imperial architect of the Mughal court. Taj Mahal was declared an UNESCO World Heritage Site in India in 1983. It is one of the most visited tourist destinations in India.



The Jantar Mantar

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 2010

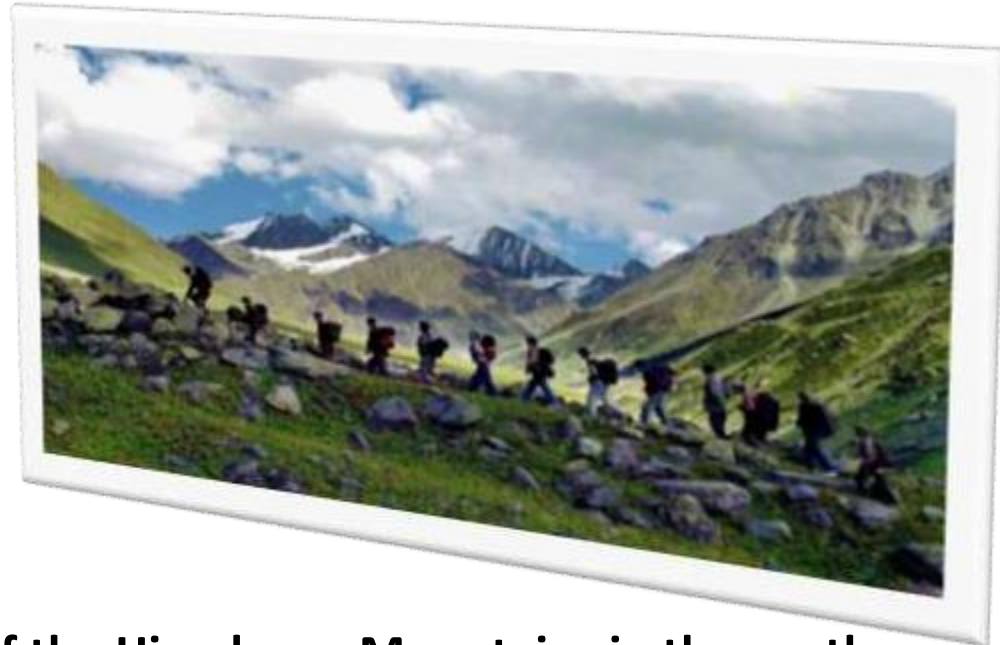


The Jantar Mantar, in Jaipur, is an astronomical observation site built in the early 18th century. It includes a set of some 20 main fixed instruments. They are monumental examples in masonry of known instruments but which in many cases have specific characteristics of their own. Designed for the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye, they embody several architectural and instrumental innovations.



Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 2014



This National Park in the western part of the Himalayan Mountains in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh is characterized by high alpine peaks, alpine meadows and riverine forests. The 90,540 ha property includes the upper mountain glacial and snow melt water sources of several rivers, and the catchments of water supplies that are vital to millions of downstream users. The GHNPCA protects the monsoon-affected forests and alpine meadows of the Himalayan front ranges. It is part of the Himalaya biodiversity hotspot and includes twenty-five forest types along with a rich assemblage of fauna species, several of which are threatened.

Kaziranga National Park

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DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1985

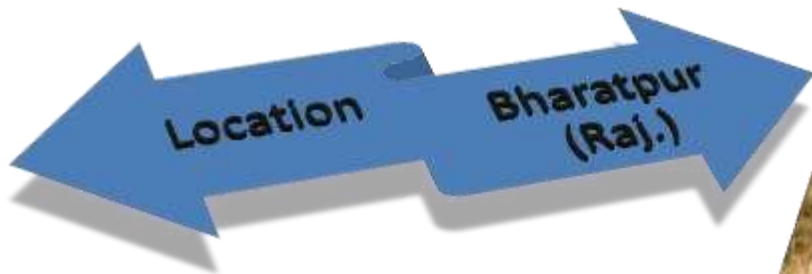


In the heart of Assam, this park is one of the last areas in eastern India undisturbed by a human presence. It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds.

Keoladeo National Park



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-1985



This former duck-hunting reserve of the Maharajas is one of the major wintering areas for large numbers of aquatic birds from Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, China and Siberia. Some 364 species of birds, including the rare Siberian crane, have been recorded in the park.

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-1985



On a gentle slope in the foothills of the Himalayas, where wooded hills give way to alluvial grasslands and tropical forests, the Manas sanctuary is home to a great variety of wildlife, including many endangered species, such as the tiger, pygmy hog, Indian rhinoceros and Indian elephant.



Nanda Devi And Valley Of Flowers National Parks

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-1988



Nestled high in West Himalaya, India's Valley of Flowers National Park is renowned for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and outstanding natural beauty. This richly diverse area is also home to rare and endangered animals, including the Asiatic black bear, snow leopard, brown bear and blue sheep. The gentle landscape of the Valley of Flowers National Park complements the rugged mountain wilderness of Nanda Devi National Park.

Sundarbans National Park



DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE- 1987

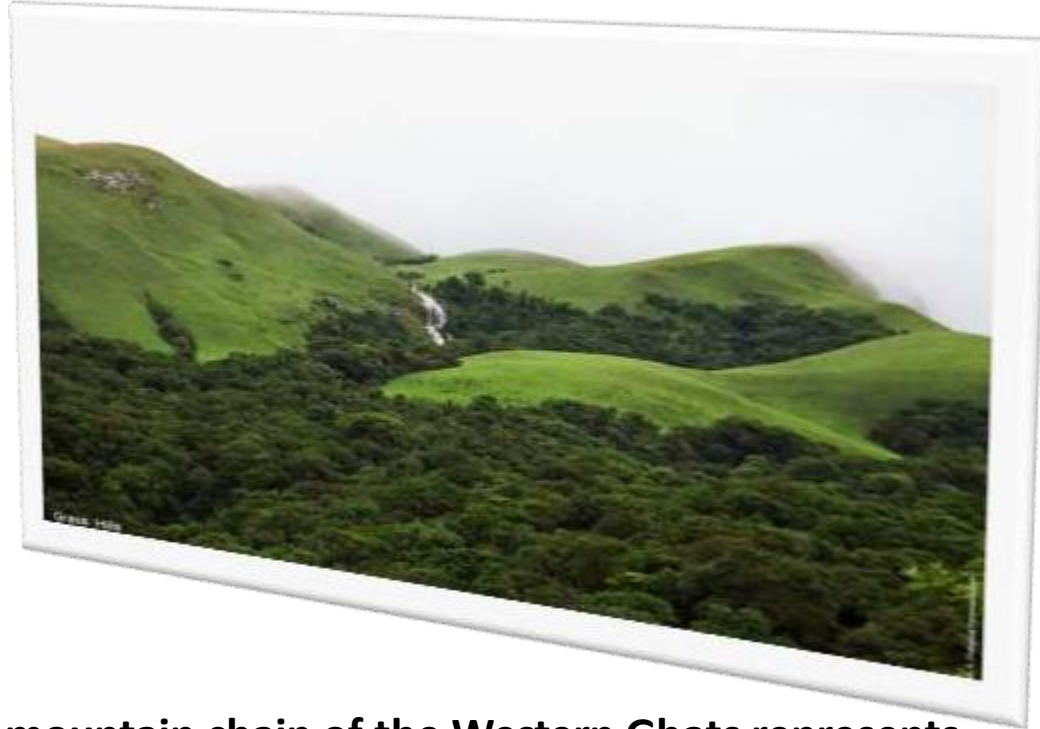


The Sundarbans covers 10,000 km² of land and water (more than half of it in India, the rest in Bangladesh) in the Ganges delta. It contains the world's largest area of mangrove forests. A number of rare or endangered species live in the park, including tigers, aquatic mammals, birds and reptiles.



Western Ghats

DECLARED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE-2012



Older than the Himalaya mountains, the mountain chain of the Western Ghats represents geomorphic features of immense importance with unique biophysical and ecological processes. The site's high montane forest ecosystems influence the Indian monsoon weather pattern. Moderating the tropical climate of the region, the site presents one of the best examples of the monsoon system on the planet. It also has an exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism and is recognized as one of the world's eight 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity. The forests of the site include some of the best representatives of non-equatorial tropical evergreen forests anywhere and are home to at least 325 globally threatened flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species.

MONUMENTS

A **monument** is a type of structure that was explicitly created to commemorate a person or event, or which has become relevant to a social group as a part of their remembrance of historic times or cultural heritage, due to its artistic, historical, political, technical or architectural **importance**.

Gateway of India

- The Gateway of India was built in honor of King George V and Queen Mary for their visit to Bombay (now called Mumbai) in December 1911.
- But by the time they arrived; only the foundation stone had been laid down, and all they got to see was the cardboard model.
- The final design plans were sanctioned only in 1914 and the construction was completed in 1924.



ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE LANDING
IN INDIA OF THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES
KING GEORGE V AND QUEEN MARY
ON THE SECOND OF DECEMBER 1911

Taj Mahal

- **Location:** Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Best time to travel:** October to March.
- **Architectural style:** Mughal architecture.
- **Famous As:** One among the 7 Wonders of the world

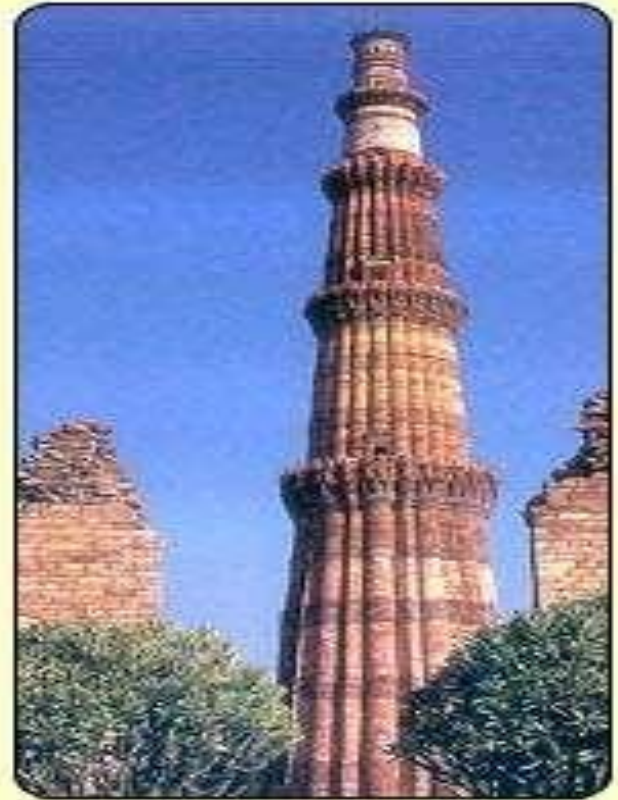


Taj Mahal

- Built by a 3rd Mughal Emperor called Shahajahan in the memory of his beloved wife.
- It took 12 years of hard labour and 20,000 labourers to build the mausoleum
- Combination of elements of person, Indian and Islamic
- The most fascinating feature -water channels, lotus pools and colourful flowerbeds and trees.

Qutub Minar

- **Location:** Mehrauli, New Delhi.
- **Built in the year:** 12th century.
- **Best time to travel:** February to April.
- **Architecture:** Afghan Architecture



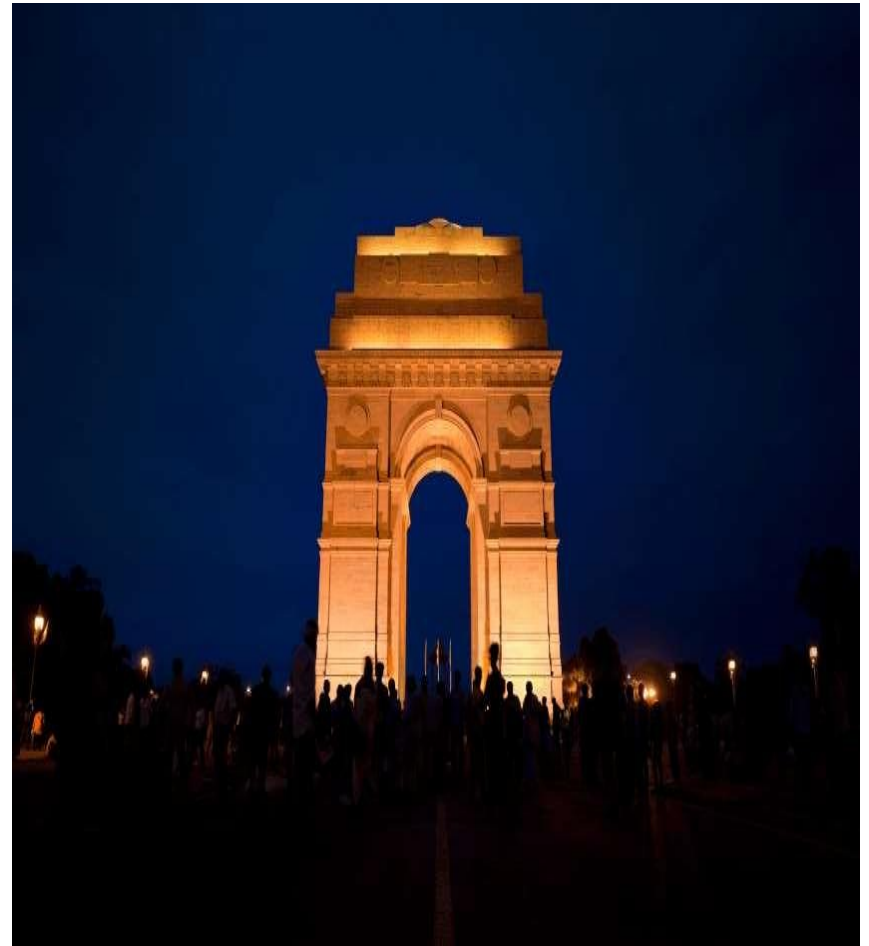
Qutub Minar

A tall, cylindrical stone tower with a spiral pattern of red and white bands, standing in a green field under a clear blue sky. The tower is the central focus of the image, with a smaller domed building visible in the background to the right.

- Qutub-Minar in red and buff sandstone is the highest tower in India
- The **Qutub Minar** is a towering 73 meter high tower built by **Qutub-ud-Din Aibak** in 1193.
- The tower was built to celebrate Muslim dominance in Delhi after the defeat of Delhi's last Hindu ruler.
- This tower is the highest tower in India, complete with five storeys and projecting balconies

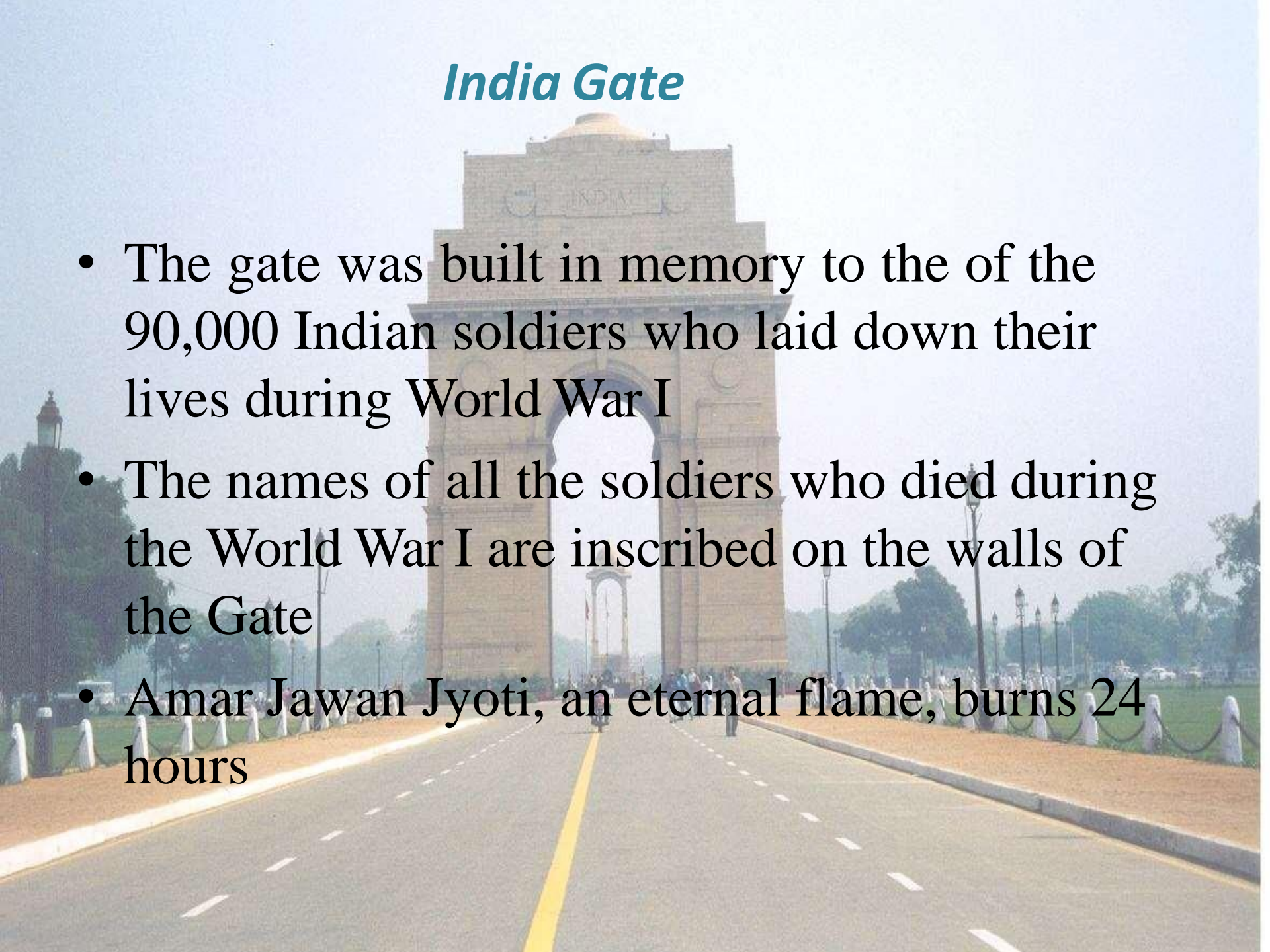
India Gate

- **Location:** Rajpath, New Delhi.
- **Famous for:** All India War Memorial
- **The monument was built in the year:** February , 1921.
- **Designed by:** Edwin Lutyens.
- **Height:** 42m.



India Gate

- The gate was built in memory to the of the 90,000 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives during World War I
- The names of all the soldiers who died during the World War I are inscribed on the walls of the Gate
- Amar Jawan Jyoti, an eternal flame, burns 24 hours



- The building is made of red stone that rises in stages into a huge moulding.
- On top of the arch, INDIA is written on both sides. Names of over 70,000 Indian soldiers are inscribed on the walls of the monument in whose memory it is built.
- There is a shallow domed bowl at the top, which was intended to be filled with burning oil at special occasions.
- At the base of the India gate there is another memorial, the Amar Jawan Jyoti that was added after independence.
- This eternal flame was lighted in commemoration of the unknown soldiers who laid their lives to serve this nation.

Red Fort(Lal Qila)

- **Location:** Chandni Chowk, New Delhi.
- **Built in the year:** 17th century
- **Built By:** Mughal emperor Shah Jahan
- **Best time to travel:** October and March.

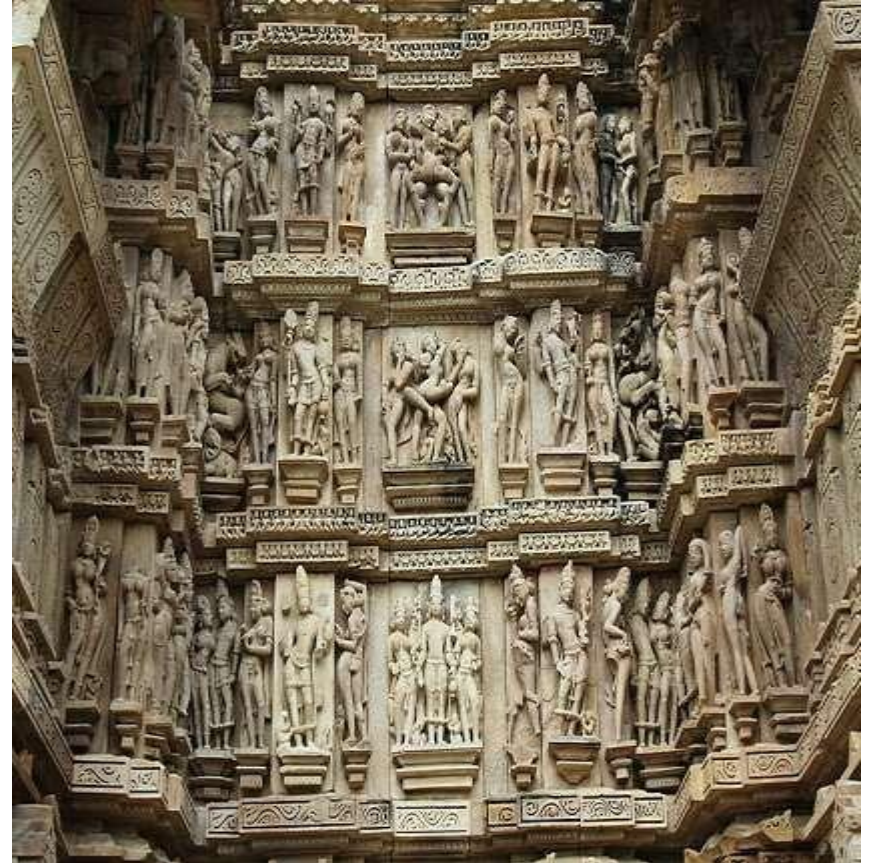


Red Fort(Lal Qila)

- In 1638 when the emperor moved the capital of India from Agra to Delhi
- The royal palace is made of white marble and decorated in gold and precious stones
- Diwan-i-khas –Audience Hall , Shah Burj - secret Meetings

Khajuraho Temples

- **Location of the site:** Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
- **Famous For:** erotic art sculptures and carved temples and Dance Festival
- **Significance:** World Heritage Site
- **Nearby attractions:** Panna Wildlife Sanctuary



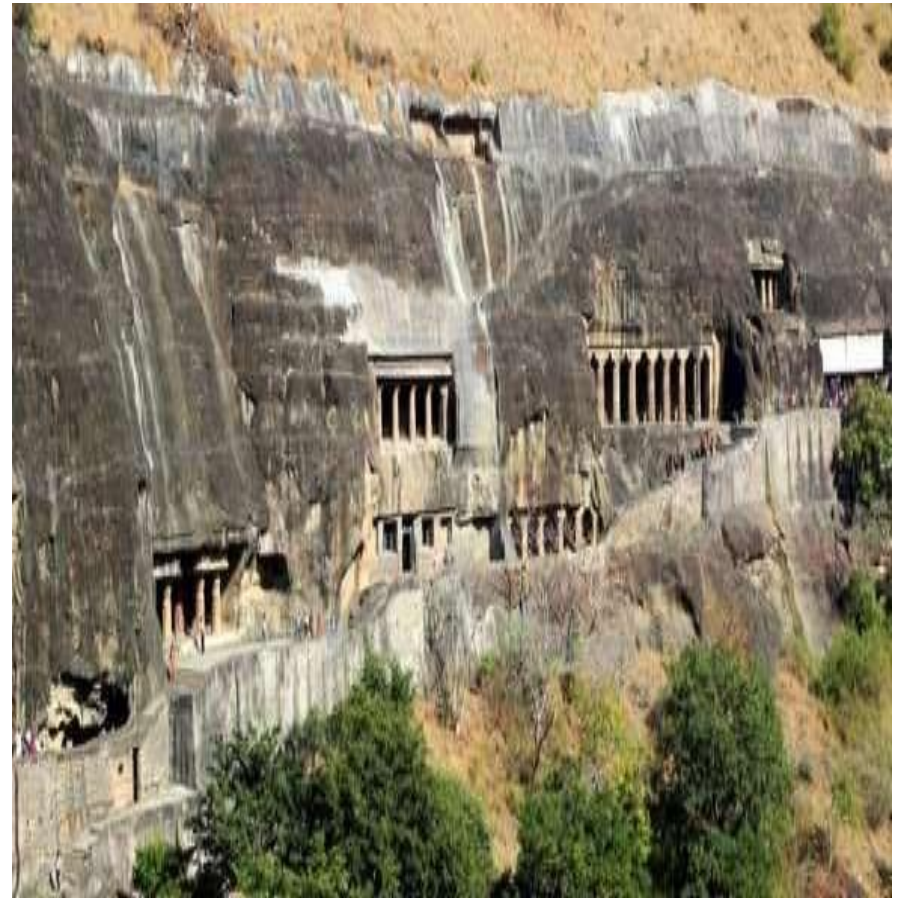
Khajuraho Temples



- These temples were built by the Chandella ruler between AD 900 and 1130
- Out of 85 temples of Khajuraho only 25 temples are surviving after various stages of preservation and care
- The **Khajuraho** Group of Monuments is a group of Hindu temples and Jain temples in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh

Ajanta Caves

- **Location of the site:**
- 99-km From Aurangabad, Maharashtra
- **Significance:** World Heritage Site
- **Total Caves:** 30
- **Built During :** 2nd Century BC To 6th Century AD



Ajanta Caves

- After centuries of oblivion, these caves of Ajanta were discovered in AD 1819
- They fall into two distinct phases with a break of nearly four centuries between them.
- Ajanta caves of the second phase were excavated during the supremacy of the Vakatakas and Guptas

Elephanta Caves

- **Location:** Near Mumbai
- **Carved Between:** 9th And 12th Centuries AD
- **Designated As:** World Heritage Site
- **Famous For:** Lord Shiva temple



Elephanta Caves

- “Gharapuri”
- 7 Caves – Out of which the most important is Mahesha-Murti cave
- Lord Shiva’s Different faces were sculptured in elephanta caves
- There are sculptured compartments in this cave with remarkable images of **Ardhanarisvara, Kalyana-Sundara Shiva, Ravana lifting Kailasha, Andhakari-Murti (slaying of Andhaka demon) and Nataraja Shiva.**

Charminar

- **Location:** Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Best time to travel:** October to February.
- **The monument was built in the year:** 1591 AD.
- **Built by:** Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah.
- **Architecture Style:** Islamic



Charminar

- The four graceful minarets literally meaning ‘Four Minars’
- Owing to the inadequacy of water and frequent epidemics of plague and cholera Quli Qutub Shah established the new city with the Charminar
- There are 45 prayer spaces with a large open space in front to accommodate more for Friday prayers

- Charminar is a square-shaped structure built out of granite and lime mortar.
- The monument predominantly has an Islamic-style design, but influences of Hindu architecture can also be seen in its ornamentation.
- It is flanked by four minarets on every corner which are 48.7 meters high.
- It is believed that the four minarets are symbolic of Islam's first four Khalifas.
- Each minaret is four stories tall, and the floors are divided by beautifully carved rings around it. The mosque is located on the top floor, and visitors can enjoy a short climb of the 149 steps to get there.

Bibi Ka Maqbara

- The Bibi Ka Maqbara has a striking resemblance the Taj Mahal but it isn't as grand as the Taj.
- It was built by Aurangzeb's son Azam Khan as a mausoleum for Rabia-ud-Daurani, his mother.
- The main mausoleum is flanked on all sides by minarets.



Golden Temple

- The Golden Temple stands in the midst of a beautiful water body called Amritsar or Amrit Sarovar, from where the city derives its name.
- The shrine displays influences of different architectural styles, including the Indo-Islamic Mughal architecture and the Hindu Rajput architecture.
- It is a two-storied structure.
- While the lower level of the shrine is built out of marble, the upper level is covered in gold panels.
- A 750 kg gold gilded dome sits at the top of this structure. Even the doors of the shrine are covered in gold foil.



Lotus Temple

- **Location** : Kalkaji in New Delhi
- **Famous for** : Bahai religion
- Opened to the public in 1986 after 10 years of construction
- **Designed by**: Persian architect Fariborz Sahba from Canada



Lotus Temple

- The lotus is regarded as a symbol of peace, purity, love and immortality.
- 27 freestanding petals made of marble.
- Over 800 engineers, technicians, workers and artisans worked on the construction of the Lotus Temple.
- Bahai religion -Baha-ullah.
- open to people from all religions.