

UNESCO World Heritage sites in India

World Heritage Sites

- These Sites are the places which have been officially recognized by a specialized agency of the UN (United Nations), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) based on their natural, cultural, historical, and scientific importance.

UNESCO-

UNESCO is a specialized agency of the UN, whose objective is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms. Its headquarter is in Paris, France.

- The list of World Heritage sites is maintained by World Heritage Programme which is administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

UNESCO World Heritage Committee-

It is composed of 21 UNESCO member states which are elected by the UN General Assembly.

- These are areas of importance of cultural or natural heritage as described in the **UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972.**
- Italy has the highest numbers of World Heritage Sites in the world.

Criteria for Selection of World Heritage Sites

- These criteria are explained in the World Heritage Convention, 1972.
- These criteria are regularly revised by the World Heritage Committee to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.
- Before the revised Operational Guidelines, World Heritage sites were selected based on **six cultural and four natural criteria.**
- With the adoption of the revised Operational Guidelines, **only one set of ten criteria**

Tentative lists of Heritage Sites

- All countries are required to submit their Tentative Lists of places which they consider to be a cultural or natural heritage of outstanding universal value and therefore suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List.
- Tentative Lists is not considered exhaustive and need to submit one year prior to the submission of any nomination.
- Countries are required to re-examine and re-submit their Tentative List at least every ten years.
- If any site is listed in World Heritage Sites, then it must be removed from the tentative list.

World Heritage Sites in India

- There are 37 (29 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed) World Heritage Sites in India after the inclusion of Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai in July 2018.
- First time from India two sites Agra fort and Ajanta Caves were included in World Heritage Sites in 1983.



- In 2016, the following three sites have been listed in World Heritage Sites-
 - (i) Nalanda Mahavihara University, Bihar
 - (ii) Capitol Building Complex– Chandigarh
 - (iii) Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim
- In July 2017, Ahmedabad became India’s first city to be listed in World Heritage Sites.
- In July 2018, Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai listed as 37th World Heritage Sites from India.
- Only one mixed-criteria site in India is Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim.
- Currently, 42 sites from the country figures in the Tentative List of World Heritage.
- The Ministry of Culture recommends one property every year for nomination to UNESCO.

Cultural Heritage sites in India

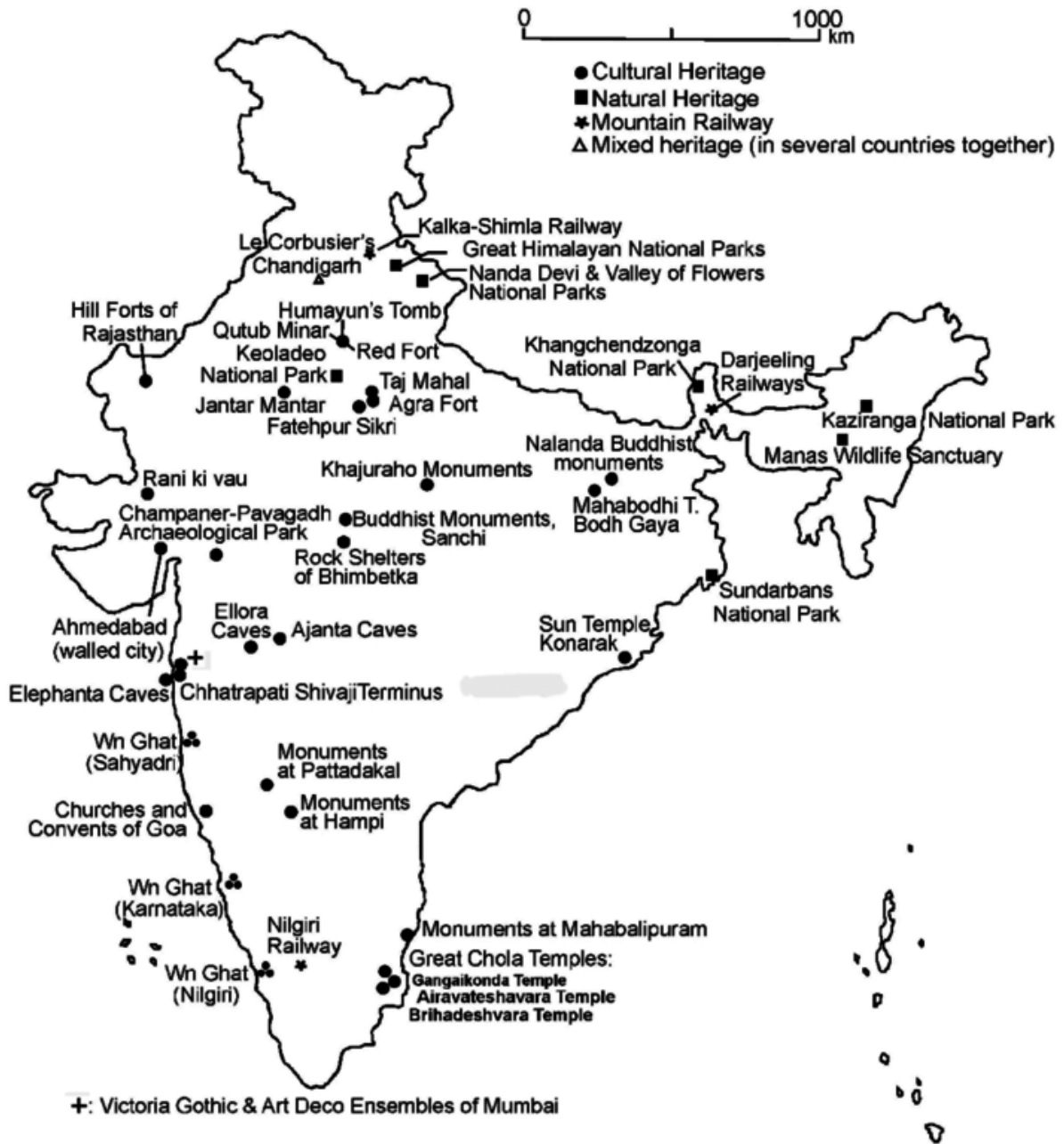
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India: UNESCO World Heritage Sites (37), 2018



| S.No | Heritage Site | Place |
|------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Agra Fort | Uttar Pradesh |
| 2 | Ajanta Caves | Maharashtra |
| 3 | Ellora Caves | Maharashtra |
| 4 | Taj Mahal | Uttar Pradesh |
| 5 | Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram | Tamil Nadu |

| | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 6 | Sun Temple, Konârak | Orissa |
| 7 | Churches and Convents of Goa | Goa |
| 8 | Fatehpur Sikri | Uttar Pradesh |
| 9 | Group of Monuments at Hampi | Karnataka |
| 10 | Khajuraho Group of Monuments | Madhya Pradesh |
| 11 | Elephanta Caves | Maharashtra |
| 12 | Great Living Chola Temples 12 | Tamil Nadu |
| 13 | Group of Monuments at Pattadakal | Karnataka |
| 14 | Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi | Madhya Pradesh |
| 15 | Humayun's Tomb | Delhi |
| 16 | Qutb Minar and its Monuments | Delhi |
| 17 | Mountain Railways of India (Includes Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, the Nilgiri Mountain Railway and the Kalka-Shimla Railway) | Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tamilnadu |
| 18 | Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya | Bihar |
| 19 | Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka | Madhya Pradesh |
| 20 | Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park | Gujarat |
| 21 | Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) | Mumbai |
| 22 | Red Fort Complex | Delhi |
| 23 | The Jantar Mantar | Jaipur, Rajasthan |
| 24 | Hill Forts of Rajasthan (Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore Fort, Gagron Fort, Amber Fort and Jaisalmer Fort) | Rajasthan |
| 25 | Rani-ki-Vav at Patan | Gujarat |
| 26 | Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) | Bihar |
| 27 | Capitol Building Complex - The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier | Chandigarh |
| 28 | Historic City of Ahmadabad | Gujarat |
| 29 | Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles | Mumbai, Maharashtra |

Natural Heritage sites in India-

| S.No | Heritage Site | Place |
|------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Kaziranga National Park | Assam |
| 2 | Keoladeo National Park | Rajasthan |



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|---|---|---|
| 3 | Manas Wildlife Sanctuary | Assam |
| 4 | Sundarbans National Park | West Bengal |
| 5 | Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks | Uttarakhand |
| 6 | Western Ghats | Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra |
| 7 | Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area | Himachal Pradesh |

Mixed Heritage site in India-

| S.No | Heritage Site | Place |
|------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Khangchendzonga National Park | Sikkim |

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