

CULTURAL WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA- UNESCO IASNOVA.COM

1- 16th-century Mughal monument known as the **Red Fort of Agra**. This powerful fortress of **red sandstone** encompasses, within its 2.5-km-long enclosure walls, the **imperial city of the Mughal rulers**. It comprises many fairy-tale palaces, such as the **Jahangir Palace and the Khas Mahal, built by Shah Jahan**; audience halls, such as the **Diwan-i-Khas**; and two very beautiful mosques.



2- Ajanta Caves

The first Buddhist cave monuments at Ajanta date from the **2nd and 1st centuries B.C.** During the **Gupta period (5th and 6th centuries A.D.)**, many more richly decorated caves were added to the original group. The paintings and sculptures of Ajanta, considered **masterpieces of Buddhist religious art**, have had a considerable artistic influence.

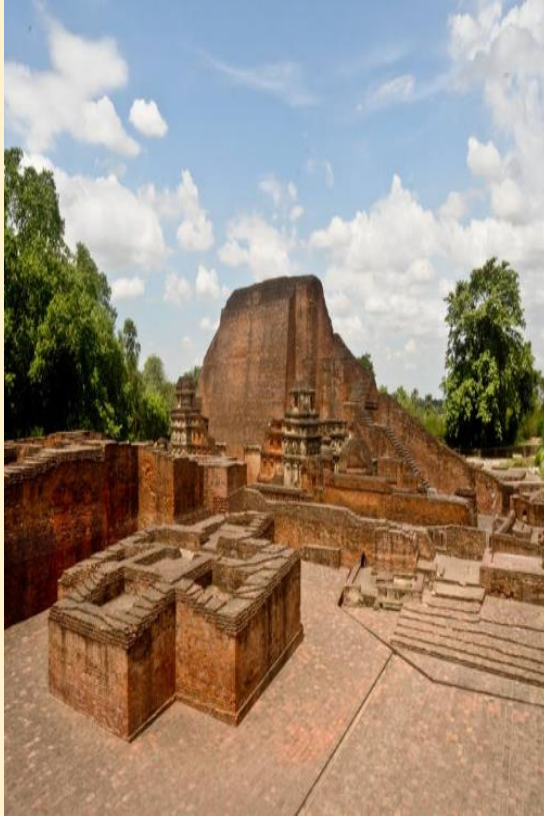
- rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 CE in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra state of India.

-The caves also present **paintings** depicting the past lives and rebirths of the Buddha, pictorial tales from **Aryasura's Jatakamala**, and **rock-cut sculptures** of Buddhist deities

-Textual records suggest that these caves served as a monsoon retreat for monks, as well as a resting-site for merchants and pilgrims in ancient India.

-largest corpus of surviving ancient Indian wall-painting





3.NALANDA MAHAVIHARA

-It comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the **3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE**

- the **most ancient university** of the Indian Subcontinent.

-founded by **Kumaragupta 1 of the Gupta Dynasty in 5th century AD**

-Patronised by rulers like **Harshavradhana of Kannauj** (7th century AD) and **Pala rulers**(8- 12 century AD)

-It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.

-imparted knowledge related to Buddhism, contemporary texts and philosophies, logic, grammar, science, and medicine...

4-BUDDHIST MONUMENTS OF SANCHI

-On a hill overlooking the plain and about 40 km from Bhopal, in Raisen District, 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.**

- It is the **oldest Buddhist sanctuary** in existence and was a major Buddhist centre in India until the 12th century A.D.

-the monuments inscriptions from **Maurya, Sunga, Satavahana, Kushana as well as Gupta period.**

-three stupas out of which the first and the oldest Great Stupa was originally commissioned by **Asoka**

-The '**Great Stupa**' at Sanchi is the **oldest stone structure of India** and was originally commissioned by the **Ashoka in the 3rd century BC**, vandalized by **Pushyamitra Sunga**, rebuilt by son **Agnimitra** and improvised by **Satavahana**.

-**Toranas** surround the Stupa and they each represent *love, peace, trust, and courage*. These are the best examples of the **Sunga art** in India.

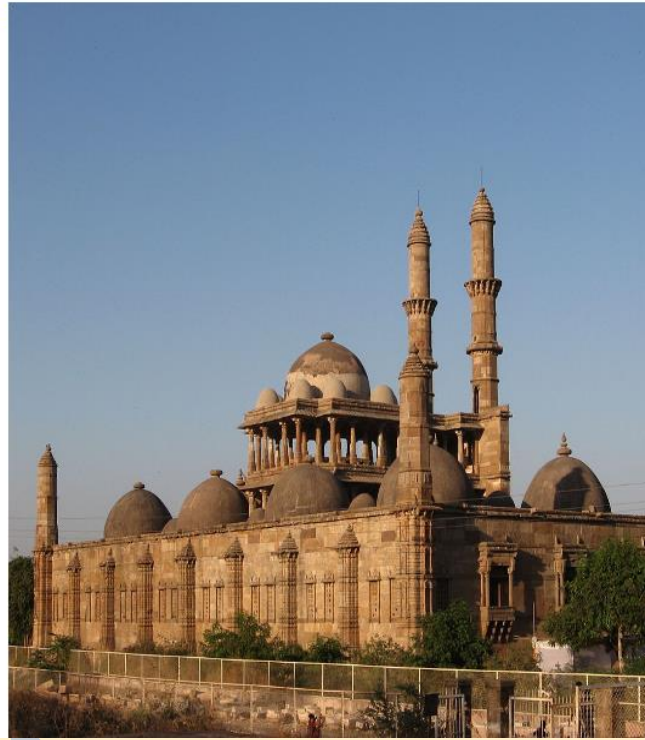


5.

Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park

- located in **Panchmahal** district in Gujarat
- located around the historical city of **Champaner**, a city which was built by **Sultan Mahmud Begada** of Gujarat
- The park's landscape includes archaeological, historic and living cultural heritage monuments such as chalcolithic sites, a hill fortress of an early Hindu capital, and remains of the **16th-century capital of the state of Gujarat**.
- There are palaces, entrance gates and arches, mosques, tombs and temples, residential complexes, agricultural structures and **water installations such as stepwells and tanks, dating from the 8th to the 14th centuries**.
- The **Kalika Mata Temple, located on top of the 800 metres (2,600 ft) high Pavagadh Hill**, is an important Hindu shrine in the region, attracting large numbers of pilgrims throughout the year
- The transition between Hindu and Muslim culture and architecture in the late 15th to early 16th century is documented in the park, particularly the early Islamic and pre-Mughal city that has remained without any change.

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6.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus)

-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 based on late medieval Italian models. Its remarkable stone dome, turrets, pointed arches and eccentric ground plan are close to traditional Indian palace architecture. It is an outstanding example of the meeting of two cultures, as British architects worked with Indian craftsmen to include Indian architectural tradition and idioms thus forging a new style unique to Bombay.

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7.

Churches and Convents of Goa

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. These monuments were influential in spreading forms of **Manueline, Mannerist and Baroque art** in all the countries of Asia where missions were established.

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8.

Elephanta Caves

- The '**City of Caves**', on an island close to Bombay, contains a collection of rock art linked to the **cult of Shiva**.
- consists of **five Shaivite caves and a few Buddhist stupa mounds** that may be dating to the **2nd century BCE**, as well as a small group of two Buddhist caves with water tanks
- contain **rock cut stone sculptures** that show syncretism of Hindu and Buddhist ideas and iconography
- The caves are hewn from **solid basalt rock**.
- The carvings narrate Hindu mythologies, with the large monolithic 20 feet (6.1 m) **Trimurti Sadashiva (three-faced Shiva), Nataraja (Lord of dance) and Yogishvara (Lord of Yoga)** being the most celebrated
- between 5th and 7th centuries.



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9.

ELLORA CAVES

- 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.

- dating from **A.D. 600 to 1000**

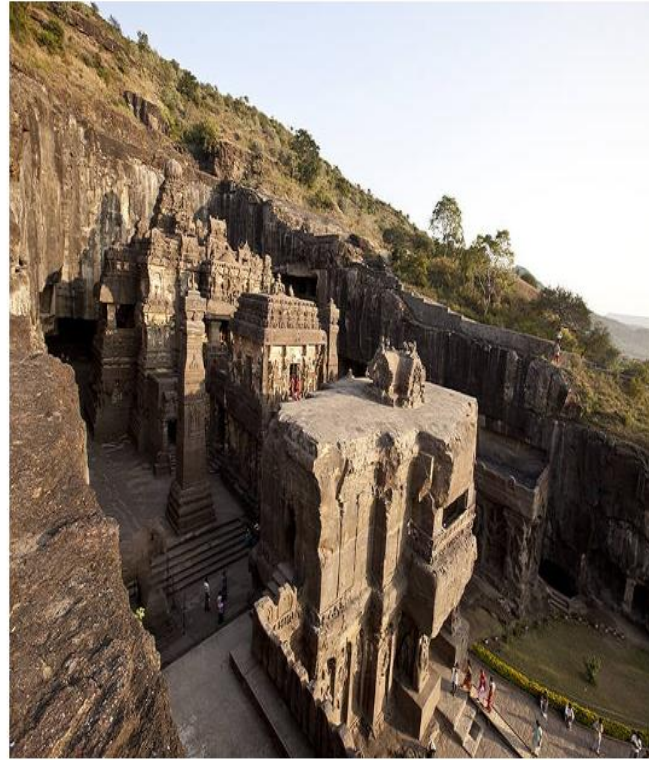
- Not only is the Ellora complex a unique artistic creation and a technological exploit but, with its sanctuaries devoted to **Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism**, it illustrates the spirit of tolerance that was characteristic of ancient India.

- features the largest single monolithic rock excavation in the world, the Kailasha temple, a chariot shaped monument dedicated to Shiva

- all excavated from the **basalt cliffs in the Charanandri Hills**

- **Rashtrakuta dynasty** constructed part of the Hindu & Buddhist caves, **Yadava dynasty** constructed a number of the Jain caves.

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10.

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**.

- **Agra, UP**

- Akbar abandoned it due to a campaign in Punjab

- much-loved place of **Babur** who called it **Shukri** for its lake of water needed for his armies. He used it for relaxation and also **defeated Rana Sanga** on its outskirts.

- The city came to be known as Fatehpur Sikri, the "**City of Victory**", after **Akbar's victorious Gujarat campaign in 1573**.

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11.

Great Living Chola Temples

-The Great Living Chola Temples were built by **kings of the Chola Empire**, which stretched over all of south India and the neighbouring islands. The site includes three great **11th- and 12th-century Temples**:

- **the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur,**
- **the Brihadisvara Temple at Gangaikondacholisvaram** and the
- **Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram.**

The **Temple of Gangaikondacholisvaram, built by Rajendra I**, was completed in 1035. Its 53-m vimana (sanctum tower) has recessed corners and a graceful upward curving movement, contrasting with the straight and severe tower at **Thanjavur**. The **Airavatesvara temple complex, built by Rajaraja II**, at Darasuram features a 24-m vimana and a stone image of Shiva. The temples testify to the brilliant achievements of the Chola in architecture, sculpture, painting and **bronze casting**.

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12.

Group of Monuments at Hampi

-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 travellers 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.

-Hampi was a prosperous, wealthy and grand city near the **Tungabhadra River**

-By 1500 CE, Hampi-Vijayanagara was the **world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing**

-Hampi continues to be an important religious centre, housing the **Virupaksha Temple**, an active **Adi Shankara-linked monastery**

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13.

Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram

-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 **one of the largest open-air rock reliefs in the world: the Descent of the Ganges or Arjuna's Penance, and the temple of Rivage**, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of **Shiva.**

-narratives from the **Mahabharata and Shaivic, Shakti and Vaishna** inscriptions

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14.

Group of Monuments at Pattadakal

-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.

-Located on the west bank of the **Malaprabha River** in Bagalakote district

-Hindu temples are generally dedicated to **Shiva**, but elements of **Vaishnavism and Shaktism theology** and legends are also featured.

-**Papanatha and Virupaksha temples**

-Vedic and Puranic concepts, depict stories from the **Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavata Purana**, as well as elements of other Hindu texts, **Panchatantra and the Kirātārjunīya**

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15.

Historic City of Ahmadabad

-The walled city of Ahmadabad, founded by **Sultan Ahmad Shah in the 15th century**, on the eastern bank of the **Sabarmati river**, presents a rich architectural heritage from the sultanate period, notably the **Bhadra citadel**, the walls and gates of the Fort city and numerous mosques and tombs as well as important Hindu and Jain temples of later periods.

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16.

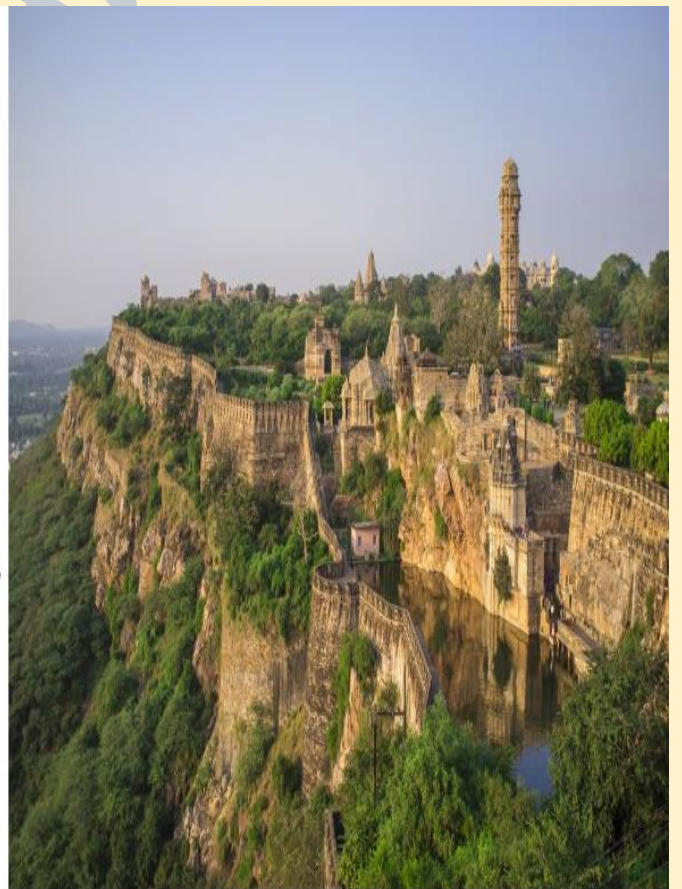
Hill Forts of Rajasthan

-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.

-The forts use the natural defenses offered by the landscape: hills, deserts, rivers, and dense forests. They also feature extensive water harvesting structures, largely still in use today.

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17.

Humayun's Tomb, Delhi - tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun in Delhi
- by Humayun's first wife **Empress Bega Begum** (also known as Haji Begum)
- designed by **Mirak Mirza Ghiyas and his son, Sayyid Muhammad**, Persian architects
- **first garden-tomb** on the Indian subcontinent



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18.

Khajuraho Group of Monuments

- 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**- in **Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh, India**.
- **The Temple of Kandariya** is decorated with a profusion of sculptures that are among the greatest masterpieces of Indian art.

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19.



Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya

- location where the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment

-site contains a descendant of the Bodhi Tree

-It 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.

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20.

Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi

-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.

-**Qutab-Ud-Din-Aibak**, founder of the Delhi Sultanate, started construction of the Qutub Minar's first storey around 1192. In 1220, Aibak's successor and son-in-law **Shamsuddin Iltutmish** completed a further three storeys. In 1369, a lightning strike destroyed the top storey. **Firoz Shah Tughlaq** replaced the damaged storey, and added one more. **Sher Shah Suri** also added an entrance to this tower while he was ruling and Humayun was in exile



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21.

Mountain Railways of India

-This site includes three railways. **The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway** was the first, and is still the most outstanding, example of a hill passenger railway. Opened in 1881, its design applies bold and ingenious engineering solutions to the problem of establishing an effective rail link across a mountainous terrain of great beauty. The construction of the **Nilgiri Mountain Railway**, a 46-km long metre-gauge single-track railway in Tamil Nadu State was first proposed in 1854, but due to the difficulty of the mountainous location the work only started in 1891 and was completed in 1908. This railway, scaling an elevation of 326 m to 2,203 m, represented the latest technology of the time. **The Kalka Shimla Railway**, a 96-km long, single track working rail link built in the mid-19th century to provide a service to the highland town of Shimla is emblematic of the technical and material efforts to disenclave mountain populations through the railway. All three railways are still fully operational.

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22.

Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat

-Rani ki vav is an intricately constructed stepwell situated in the town of Patan in Gujarat, India. It is located on the banks of **Saraswati River**. Rani ki vav was built as a memorial to an **11th-century king Bhima I** by his beloved wife **queen Udayamati**. It was added to the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites on 22 June 2014. Stepwells are a distinctive form of subterranean water resource and storage systems on the Indian subcontinent, and have been constructed since the third millennium BC. Rani ki vav was built in the complex **Maru-Gurjara architectural style** with an inverted temple and seven levels of stairs and holds more than 500 principal sculptures.

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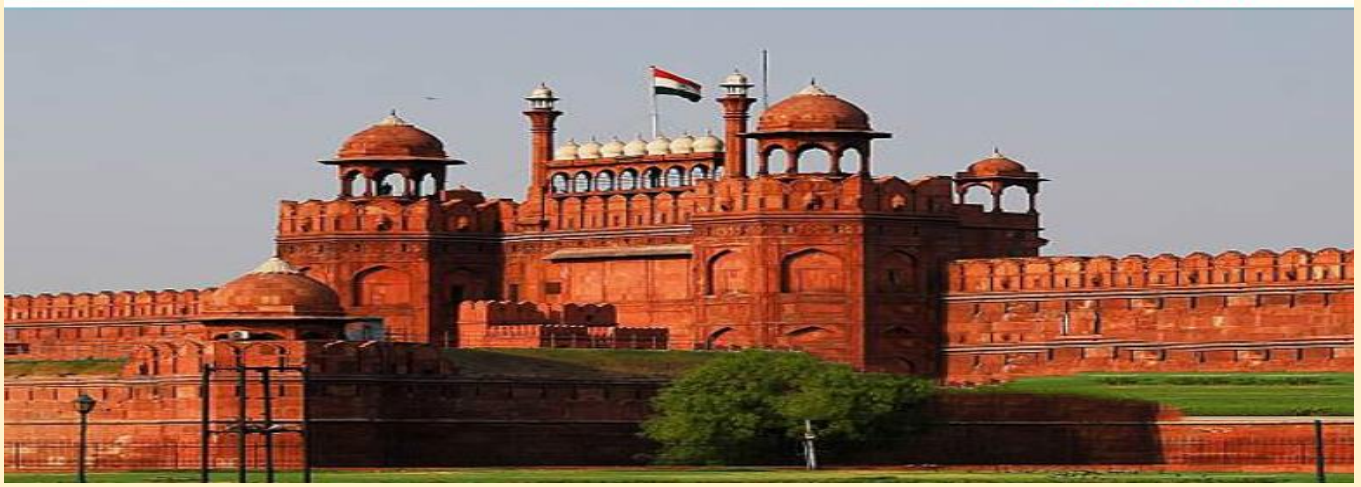


23.

Red Fort Complex

-The Red Fort Complex was built as the palace fort of **Shahjahanabad** – the new capital of the fifth Mughal Emperor of India, **Shah Jahan**, constructed in **1639**. 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)**.--- fusion of **Persian, Timurid and Hindu** traditions.

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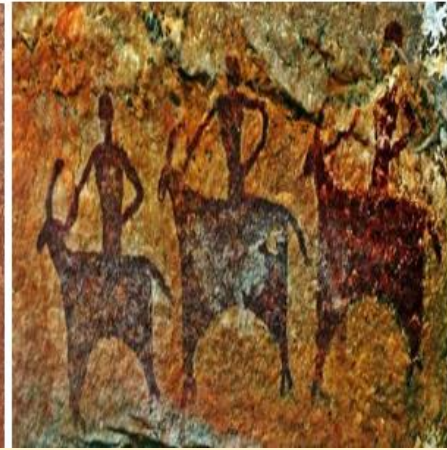


24.

Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka-

-an archaeological site in central India that spans the **prehistoric paleolithic and mesolithic** periods, as well as the historic period. It exhibits the **earliest traces of human life on the Indian subcontinent** and evidence of **Stone Age starting at the site in Acheulian times**. It is located in the **Raisen District in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh**. It consists of seven hills and over 750 rock shelters distributed over 10 kilometres (6.2 mi). At least some of the shelters were inhabited more than 100,000 years ago. The rock shelters and caves provide evidence of, according to Encyclopædia Britannica, and a **"rare glimpse"** into human settlement and cultural evolution from hunter-gatherers, to agriculture, and expressions of spirituality. Some of the Bhimbetka rock shelters feature **prehistoric cave paintings** and the earliest are about **30,000** years old. These cave paintings show themes such as **animals, early evidence of dance and hunting**. The Bhimbetka site has the **oldest known rock art in the Indian subcontinent**, as well as is one of the **largest prehistoric complexes**.

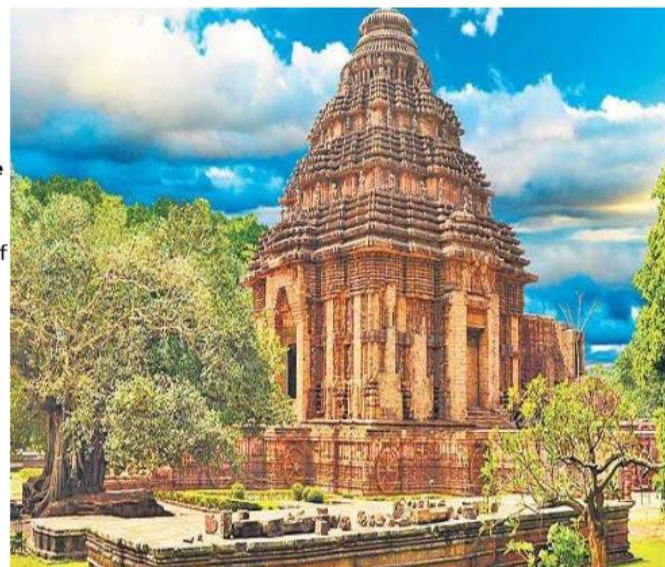
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25.

Sun Temple, Konârak

-Konark Sun Temple is a **13th-century CE** sun temple at Konark about 35 kilometres (22 mi) northeast from Puri on the coastline of Odisha, India.
-The temple is attributed to king **Narasingha deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty about 1250 CE**.
-Dedicated to the Hindu 'god **Surya**
-Also called the **Surya Devalaya**, it is a classic illustration of the **Odisha style of Architecture or Kalinga Architecture**.
-it remains a major pilgrimage site for Hindus, who gather here every year for the **Chandrabhaga Mela** around the month of February
-Sun Temple- "**Black Pagoda**", Jagannath Temple- **White Pagoda**



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26.

TAJ MAHAL

The Taj Mahal is an **ivory-white marble mausoleum** on the **south bank of the Yamuna river** in the Indian city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor, **Shah Jahan** to house the tomb of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan, the builder.

-under the guidance of court architect **Ustad Ahmad Lahauri**.

-design traditions of Persian and earlier Mughal architecture.

-The **charbagh garden**, a design inspired by Persian gardens, was introduced to India by **Babur**, the first Mughal emperor.

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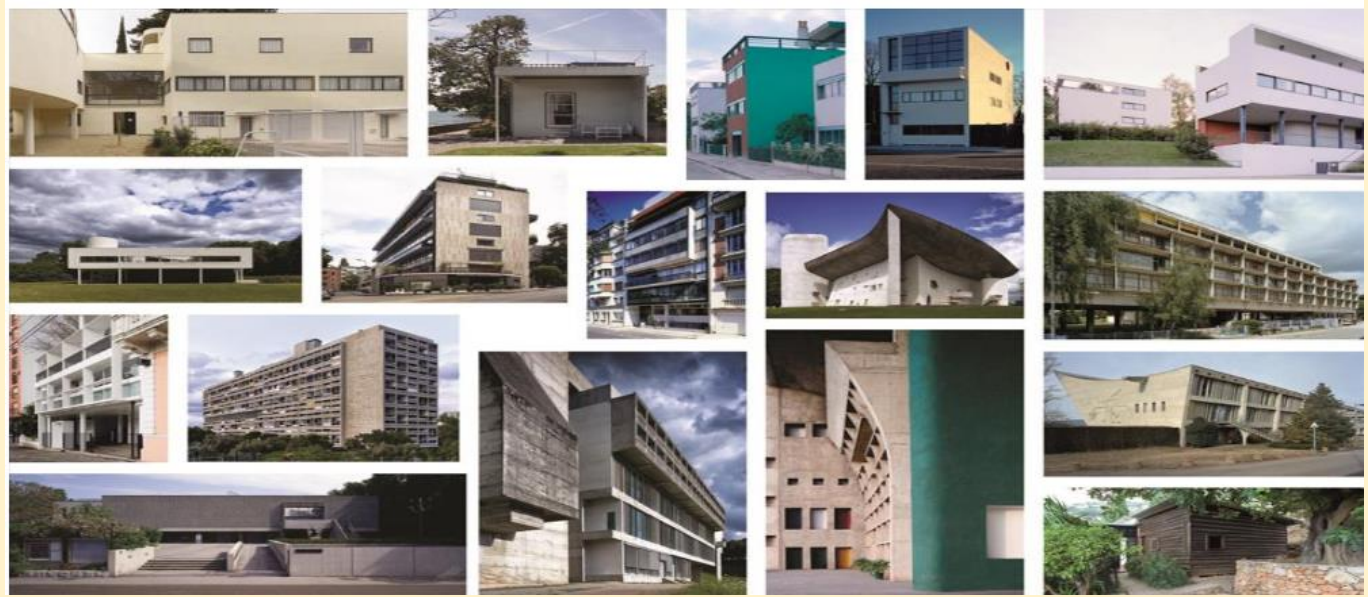


27.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement

-Chosen from the work of Le Corbusier, the 17 sites comprising this transnational serial property are spread over seven countries and are a testimonial to the invention of a new architectural language that made a break with the past. They were built over a period of a half-century, in the course of what Le Corbusier described as “patient research”. Examples- **Complexe du Capitole in Chandigarh (India)**, the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo (Japan), the House of Dr Curutchet in La Plata (Argentina) and the Unité d’habitation in Marseille (France)

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28.

The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur

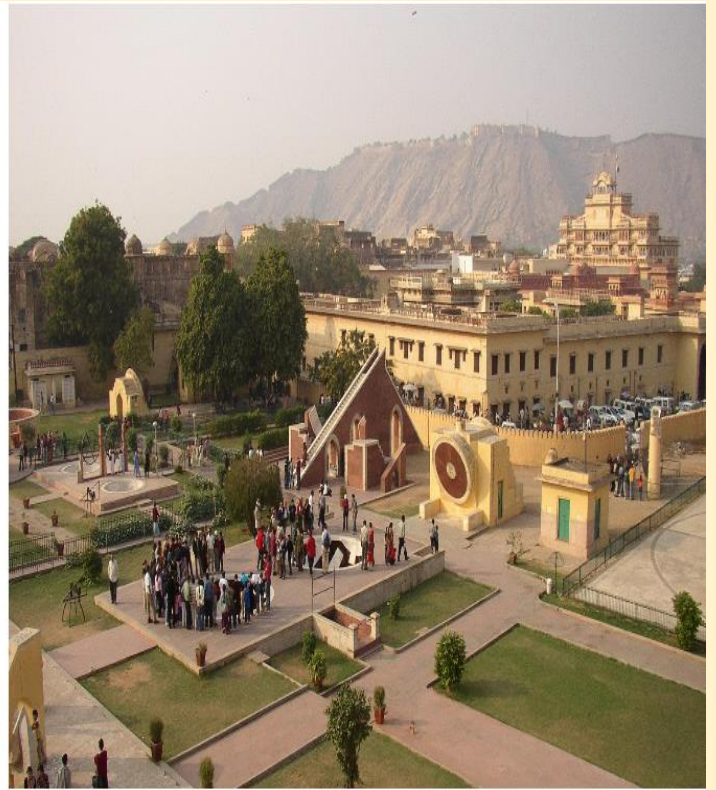
-a collection of nineteen architectural astronomical instruments built by the Rajput king Sawai Jai Singh II
- It features the **world's largest stone sundial**, The instruments allow the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye.

-The observatory is an example of the **Ptolemaic positional astronomy**

-The monument features instruments operating in each of the three main classical celestial coordinate systems: the horizon-zenith local system, the equatorial system and the ecliptic system.

-**The Kapala Yantraprakara** is one that works in two systems and allows transformation of the coordinates directly from one system to the other.

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29.

Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai

-a collection of 19th century Victorian Neo Gothic public buildings and 20th century Art Deco buildings in the Fort area of Mumbai in Maharashtra, India. This collection of the Victorian Gothic buildings and Art Deco buildings are set around the Oval Maidan, a large recreational ground that was once known as the Esplanade.

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30.

Jaipur City, Rajasthan- latest addition

The walled city of Jaipur, in India's north-western state of Rajasthan was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II. Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture. The streets feature continuous colonnaded businesses that intersect in the centre, creating large public squares called chaupars. Markets, shops, residences and temples built along the main streets have uniform facades. The city's urban planning shows an exchange of ideas from ancient Hindu and early modern Mughal as well as Western cultures. The grid plan is a model that prevails in the West, while the organization of the different city sectors (chowkris) refers to traditional Hindu concepts. Designed to be a commercial capital, the city has maintained its local commercial, artisanal and cooperative traditions to this day.



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