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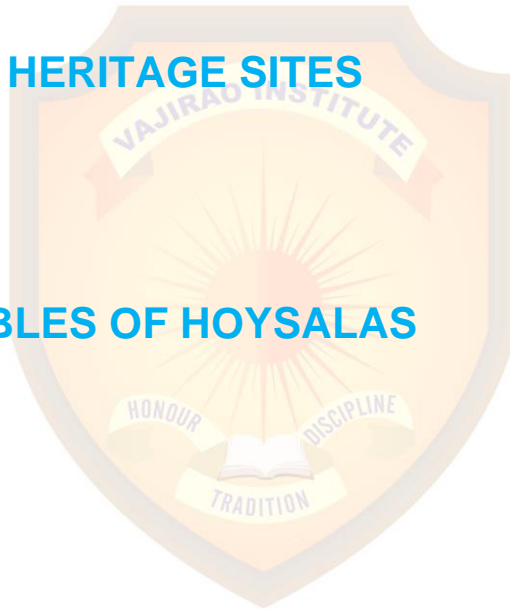
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# **TODAY'S ANALYSIS**

## **(18 September 2023)**

### **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

- **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES**
- **SHANTINIKETAN**
- **SACRED ENSEMBLES OF HOYSALAS**



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## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- A **World Heritage Site** is a place that is listed by **UNESCO** for its special **cultural or physical significance**. The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international '**World Heritage Programme**', administered by the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee**.
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** seeks to encourage the **identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage** around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.
- This is embodied in an **international treaty** called the **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, adopted by UNESCO in **1972**.

### ABOUT UNESCO

UNESCO is a **specialised agency** of UN.

It was **founded in 1945** to **develop the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind** as a means of building lasting peace.

### HEADQUARTERS:

It is located in **Paris, France**.

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## HOW UNESCO CHOOSES SITES?

**UNESCO** names **Cultural & Natural** sites as UNESCO world heritage sites. There are certain sites which can be designated as **mixed heritage site**. (natural & cultural).

**The Ministry of Culture** proposes for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This recommendation is done considering the cultural values (in case of cultural sites) & Ecological significance (in case of natural sites).

**UNESCO World Heritage Committee** has its own Parameters of selecting the places based on cultural or Natural significance attached to them.

## THE PARAMETERS

1. Human creative genius.
2. Interchange of values.
3. Testimony to cultural tradition.
4. Significance in human history.
5. Traditional human settlement.
6. Heritage associated with events of universal significance.
7. Natural phenomena or beauty.
8. Major stages of Earth's history.
9. Significant ecological and biological processes.
10. The significant natural habitat for biodiversity.

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## HOW MANY UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA?

Now, with the recent addition of **Shantiniketan & Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas** in 2023,

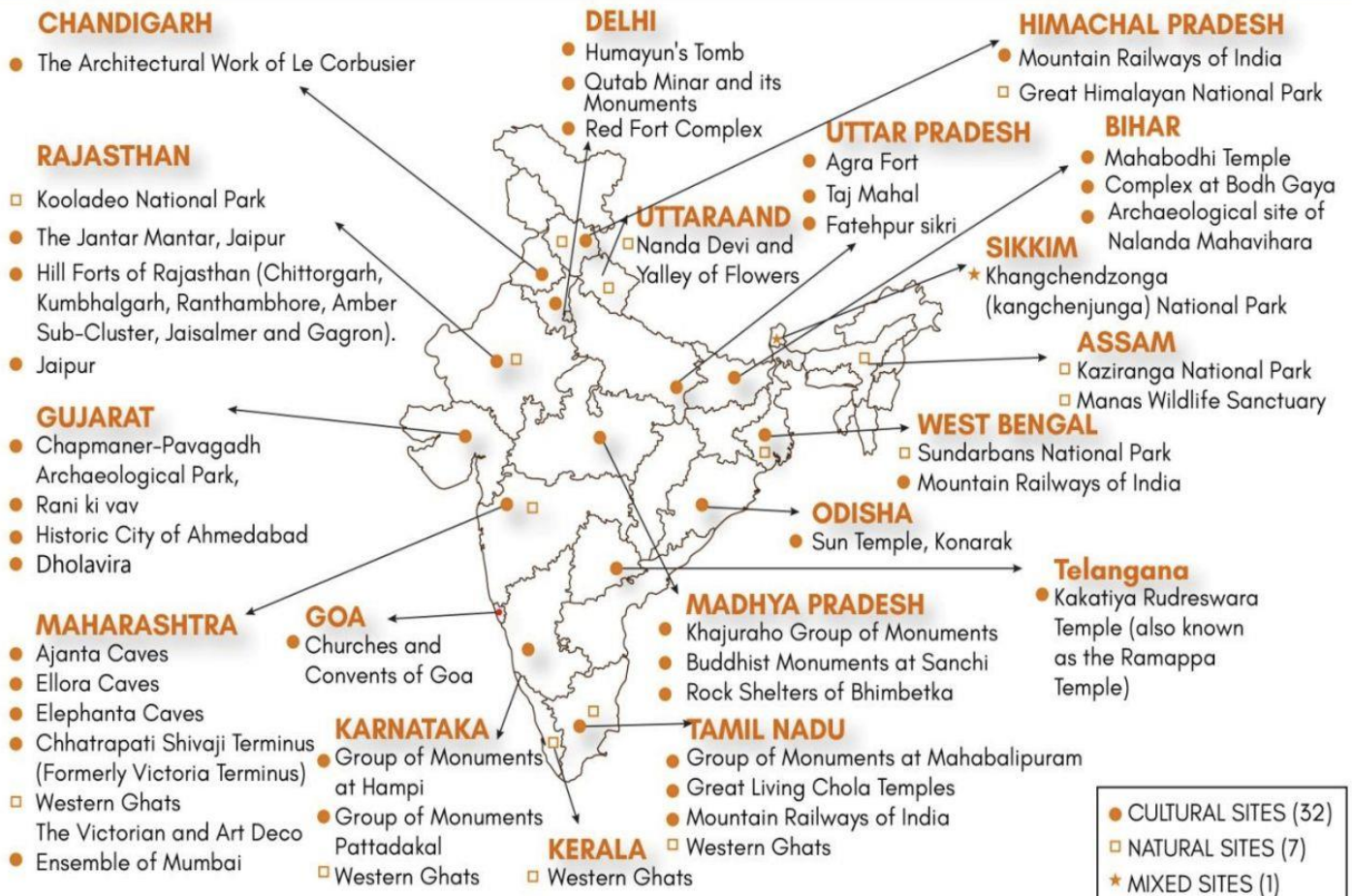
India has **42 UNESCO heritage sites. (34 CULTURAL; 7 NATURAL & 1 MIXED).**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_World\\_Heritage\\_Sites\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_India)

**Which country has the highest no. Of sites?**

Italy > China > Germany > France > Spain > India.

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA



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# SHANTINIKETAN AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Recently, Santiniketan, a town located in Birbhum district of West Bengal, was included in the **UNESCO's World Heritage List**.

**Shantiniketan** is the **41st UNESCO World Heritage Site**. (Earlier India has 32 Cultural Heritage Sites, 7 Natural Heritage Sites & 1 Mixed)

Plan to include Shantiniketan was ongoing since 2010.

## ABOUT SHANTINIKETAN

**Historical Significance:** In **1862**, Rabindranath Tagore's father, **Debendranath Tagore**, spotted this scenic landscape and decided to **establish an ashram**, building a house called Santiniketan, meaning "**abode of peace**".

**Etymology:** The area, originally called **Bhubandanga**, was renamed **Santiniketan** by **Debendranath Tagore** due to its **conducive environment for meditation**.

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## CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1901, **Rabindranath Tagore** established a school based on the **Brahmacharya Ashram model**. This school later evolved into **Visva Bharati University**.

**THE PROPOSAL:** The Ministry of Culture proposed Santiniketan for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List, emphasising its **importance in human values, architecture, arts, town planning, and landscape design**.

The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has been involved in the restoration of several structures in Santiniketan, preserving its historical and cultural heritage.

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# HOYSALA TEMPLES AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The **Hoysala Temples** in Karnataka (Belur, Halebidu & Somanathapura) were officially inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site. They have been inscribed as **Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas**.

It is India's **42nd UNESCO heritage site**.

These temples are also protected by **Archaeological Survey of India**.



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## ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF HOYSALA TEMPLES

- Hoysala architecture is the building style in Hindu temple architecture developed under the rule of the **Hoysala Empire** between the **11th and 14th centuries**,
- The Hoysala Temples are known for evolving a distinct style that is ornate with temple architecture following a **stellate plan** built on a raised platform.
- **Material Used:** Chloritic Schist.
- It is believed to be a mix of Nagara temple style & Dravidian Temple architecture.

## WHICH DEITIES ARE WORSHIPPED?

- The Hoysalas usually dedicated their temples to **Shiva or to Vishnu** (two of the popular Hindu gods).
- But they occasionally built some temples dedicated to the **Jain faith** as well. (two notable locations of Jain worship in the Hoysala territory were **Shravanabelagola and Kambadahalli**.)
- The Doddagaddavalli **Lakshmi Devi** ("Goddess of Wealth") Temple is an exception as it is dedicated to neither Vishnu nor Shiva.

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