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YOJANA MAGAZINE ANALYSIS

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(Part 3/3)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

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- FORTS IN INDIAN HISTORY
- ROLE OF FORTS IN INDIAN HISTORY

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- GOLCONDA FORT
- FORTS & PORTS IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

PART 3/3

- INDIA ON UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST



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INDIA ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Over **750 cultural, natural, and mixed** sites have been inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Their splendour enriches our lives, and illustrates the diversity of our planet, and its inhabitants.

THE CONVENTION:

The **Convention Concerning The Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, an international agreement adopted by the **General Conference of UNESCO In 1972**, was founded on the premise that **certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value** and as such should form part of the Common heritage of humankind.

The **nations or States Parties** that **adhere to the Convention** have become **part of an international community** united in a common mission to identify and safeguard our world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Only countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention, pledging to protect their natural and cultural heritage, **can submit nomination** proposals for properties on their territory to be considered for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

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THE STEPS IN THE PROCESS:

1. Tentative List

The **first step** a country must take is to **make an 'inventory' of its important natural and cultural heritage sites** located within its boundaries.

This **'inventory' is known as the Tentative List**, and provides a forecast of the properties that a State Party may decide to submit for inscription in the **next five to ten years and which may be updated at any time**. It is an important step since the World Heritage Committee cannot consider a nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List unless the property has already been included on the State Party's Tentative List.

2. The Nomination File

- By preparing a Tentative List and selecting sites from it, **a State Party can plan when to present a nomination file.**
- The World Heritage Centre** offers advice and assistance to the State Party in preparing this file, which needs to be as exhaustive as possible, making sure the necessary documentation and maps are included. **The nomination is submitted to the World Heritage Centre** for review and to check it is complete.
- Once a nomination file is complete the **World Heritage Centre sends it to the appropriate Advisory Bodies** for evaluation.

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3. The Advisory Bodies

A nominated property is independently evaluated by **two Advisory Bodies mandated by the**

World Heritage Convention:

- **The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** and
- **The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, which respectively provide the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of the cultural and natural sites nominated.

The **third Advisory Body is the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)**, an intergovernmental organization which provides the Committee with expert advice on conservation of cultural sites, as well as on training activities.

4. The World Heritage Committee

Once a site has been nominated and evaluated, **it is up to the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee** to make the final decision on its inscription. Once a year, the Committee meets to decide which sites will be inscribed on the World Heritage List. It can also defer its decision and request further information on sites from the States Parties.

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THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

To be included on the World Heritage List, **sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria.** These criteria are explained in the **Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention** which, besides the text of the Convention, is the main working tool on World Heritage.

The criteria are regularly revised by the Committee to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.

THE 10 SELECTION CRITERIAS

- (i) to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) 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;

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- (v) 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;
- (vi) 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. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- (vii) to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) 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 & animals;

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- (x) 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.

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://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/in/>

Which Country has the highest no. of sites?

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

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