



## WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE: GEOGRAPHY

**NEWS:** The Prime Minister of India recently inaugurated the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC)

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India was committed to promoting global cooperation and engaging local communities in heritage conservation efforts.

### UNESCO World Heritage Committee

- **Selection:** Chooses sites for World Heritage List and World Heritage in Danger List.
- **Monitoring:** Oversees conservation of World Heritage properties.
- **Fund Allocation:** Defines use of the World Heritage Fund and provides financial assistance upon request.
- **Composition:** 21 states parties elected by the General Assembly of States Parties for four-year terms.
- **India's Membership:** Elected to the committee in 2021 for a term of four years (2021-2025), fourth term on the WHC.

### UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- **Definition:** Recognized by UNESCO for cultural or physical importance and outstanding universal value to humanity.
- **Types:** Includes buildings, cities, complexes, deserts, forests, islands, lakes, monuments, mountains.
- **Purpose:** Inscribed to be protected for future generations.
- **Global Leader:** Italy has the most World Heritage Sites.
- **India:** 38 World Heritage Properties, conserved by ASI's Conservation Policy.

### About UNESCO

- **Full Form:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- **Mission:** Build peace through international cooperation in Education, Sciences, and Culture.
- **UNSDG Membership:** Part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
- **Headquarters:** Paris.
- **Membership:** 193 Members and 11 Associate Members.
- **Non-UN Members:** Cook Islands, Niue, Palestine.
- **Non-UNESCO Members:** Israel, Liechtenstein, United States.
- **Programs:** Teacher training, science promotion, media freedom, cultural diversity, heritage preservation, literature translation, human rights.

### UNESCO Areas of Specialization

**1.Education:** Central to UNESCO's mission for peace, poverty eradication, sustainable development.

**2.Cultural Heritage and Creativity:**



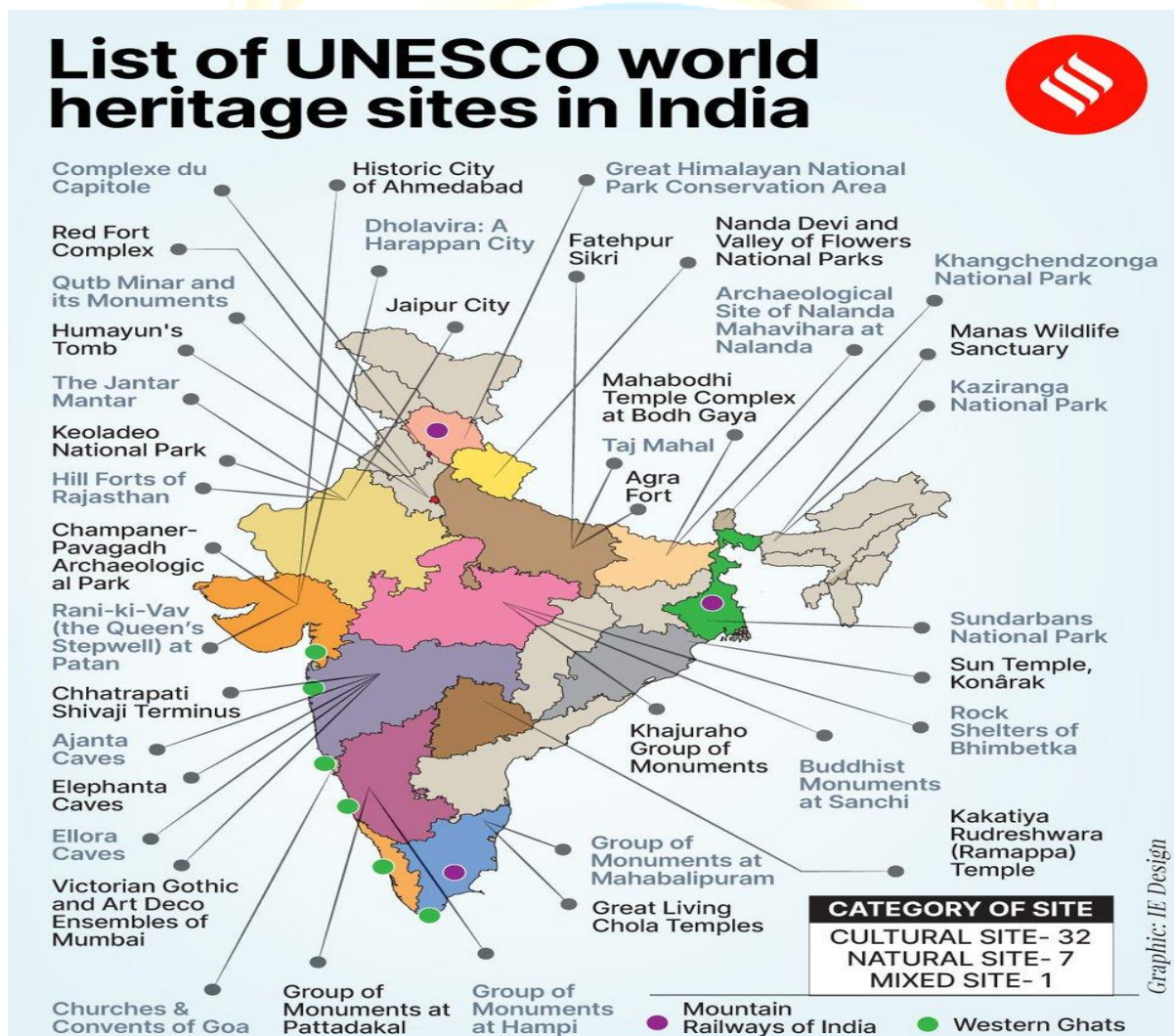
- Advocacy for culture and development.
- International policy and legal framework development.
- Support for safeguarding heritage, strengthening creative industries, and cultural pluralism.

### 3.Science for Sustainable Future:

- Assist countries in investing in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI).
- Develop national science policies and reform science systems.
- Build capacity to monitor and evaluate STI performance.

**4.Social and Human Sciences:** Promote knowledge for inclusive societies, understanding, and lasting peace.

**5. Freedom of Expression:** Advance journalist safety, combat online hate speech, disinformation, and misinformation.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-emphasises-shared-consciousness-of-heritage-at-world-heritage-committee-session/article68429989.ece#:~:text=The%20World>