

India Adds 4 Cultural Sites to UNESCO Tentative List

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Why in News?

India's UNESCO Tentative List now includes 73 sites, following the addition of four new cultural sites announced by the Permanent Delegation.

4 Cultural Sites

- All four newly inscribed sites are classified as **cultural**.

Recent 4 Cultural Sites Addition to UNESCO's Tentative List		
Site	State/Region	Key Details
1 Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble	Assam	- Pre-modern urban and cultural landscape located in Sivasagar district. - About 360 km north-east of Guwahati.
2 Colonial Penal Settlement	Andaman Islands	- Established after the 1857 uprising. - Comprises Chatham Island, Viper Island, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island and Cellular Jail.
3 Nicobarese Cultural Continuity	Nicobar Islands	- Located in the Nancowry group of islands. - Includes Trinket, Katchal, Chowra, Teresa, Kamorta, Nancowrie and Bompoka.
4 Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati	Rajasthan	- Located in the semi-arid Shekhawati region. - Spans Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Churu districts.

- Tentative List** - It is an official inventory compiled by an individual country (State Party) listing the cultural and natural heritage sites within its territory that it plans to nominate for UNESCO World Heritage Site status over the following five to ten years.
- Mandatory First Step** - The World Heritage Committee will only consider a property for inscription if it has been on the country's Tentative List for at least one year.
- Demonstrating Value** - Countries nominate sites they consider to have "Outstanding Universal Value" for all humanity.
- Planning Tool** - The Tentative List promotes transparency and helps countries set

future conservation priorities.

- **No Guarantee** - Inclusion on the Tentative List does not ensure World Heritage status, and sites may remain on the list for many years.

India's World Heritage Sites

- India possesses **45 inscribed World Heritage Sites, comprising 37 cultural, 7 natural, and 1 mixed site** (Khangchendzonga).
- The most recent World Heritage inscriptions from India are the **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath**, bringing India's total to **45 World Heritage properties**.

The **Archaeological Survey of India**, operating under the **Ministry of Culture**, serves as the nodal agency for India's cultural nominations.

UNESCO

- **Headquartered in** - Paris, established the **World Heritage Convention** in 1972.
- **Objective** - To promote the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage that holds exceptional value for humanity.
- **Legal commitment** - It is rooted in the Convention concerning the **Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

Reference

[UNESCO | Tentative List](#)

