UNESCO Tentative List – India's 5 New Additions

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

Why in News?

Recently, 5 new heritage sites/proposals have been added to India's UNESCO Tentative List, taking the total to 78 sites.

Bagh Cave Paintings – Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

- **Nature –** Rock-cut Buddhist caves.
- **Number of caves –** 9
- **Period –** 4th to 6th centuries CE
- **Location –** Southern slope of the Vindhyan Range, adjacent to the **Baghni River**
- **Key feature –** Renowned for **Buddhist murals**, particularly those in Cave 4, known as Rang Mahal.
- **Significance –** The paintings illustrate **royal courts, processions, musicians, dancers, and various aspects of social life.**
- **Artistic significance – The murals demonstrate** connections with the **Ajanta painting tradition** while maintaining distinct regional characteristics

- **Geological significance –** The presence of a sandstone outcrop within an otherwise **basaltic region** influenced both the architectural design and the preservation of the murals.

Ginnorgarh Fort – Sehore, Madhya Pradesh

- **Historical association –** It served as the fortified capital of the **Raj Gond rulers**.
- **Location –** Situated within the forested **Ratapani** region.
- **Key features –** It includes extensive fortifications, palatial structures, **stepwells, and reservoirs**.
- **Significance –** It demonstrates Gond traditions in the areas of:
  - Governance
  - Defence
  - Architecture
  - Water management
- **Note –** It emphasizes **indigenous Gond heritage and the integrated water-management system**.

Group of Temples in the Chambal Valley, Morena, Madhya Pradesh

- **Components – Bateshwar, Padavali and Kakarmath**.
- **Period –** 8^{th} to 11^{th} **centuries CE**.
- **Architectural style –** Early medieval **Nagara-style temple architecture**.
- **Historical associations – Gurjara-Pratihara and Kachchhapaghata** traditions.
- **Significance –** The site represents the evolution of the following aspects:
  - Temple architecture
  - Sculpture
  - Temple-building traditions in the Chambal region.
- **Key fact –** Bateshwar is notable for its extensive **cluster of temples**.

Udaigiri Caves – Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh

- **Period –** Primarily **Gupta period**, spanning the late fourth to early fifth century CE.
- **Number –** 20 **excavated caves**.
- **Features –** It includes shrines, inscriptions, and monumental sculptures.
- **Notable sculpture – The Varaha relief depicting Vishnu**.
- **Significance –** It provides evidence of the following aspects:
  - Early Hindu sacred architectural forms
  - Development of religious traditions
  - Patterns of royal patronage
  - Interaction between religious practices and the surrounding landscape.

Sites of Satyagraha in India and South Africa

- **Nature –** This is a serial **transnational heritage nomination.**
- **Purpose –** The nomination traces the **evolution of Mahatma Gandhi's concept of Satyagraha**.
- **Countries – India and South Africa**.

- **Total components –** Nine
  - **South Africa (2 sites) –** Pietermaritzburg Station and Phoenix Settlement.
  - **India (7 sites) –** Mahatma Gandhi Satyagraha Smarak, Sabarmati Ashram, Mani Bhavan, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Sevagram Ashram, Aga Khan Palace, and Gandhi Smriti.
- **Representation of Evolution:**
  - **Pietermaritzburg –** Represents the origins of Satyagraha in response to racial discrimination.
  - **Phoenix Settlement –** Site of experimentation with communities founded on principles of truth and non-violence.
  - **Indian sites –** Illustrate the consolidation, mass civil disobedience, and institutionalization of the Satyagraha movement.

Reference

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