

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.

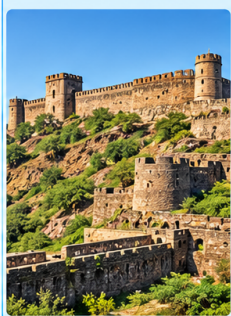
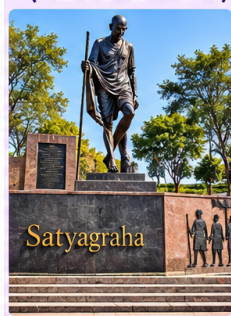


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Five new heritage sites in India's UNESCO Tentative List

India has added five new heritage sites to its UNESCO Tentative List, taking the total to **78 sites**.

1 Bagh Cave Paintings 	2 Ginnorgarh Fort 	3 Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley 	4 Udaigiri Caves 	5 Sites of Satyagraha (India and South Africa) 
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Total sites in India's UNESCO Tentative List:

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** - 8th to 11th 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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