

# GENERAL AWARENESS – MONUMENTS & PLACES OF INDIA

## Chapter: Monuments and Places of India

<b>Subject:</b>	General Awareness
<b>Total Questions:</b>	70 MCQs
<b>Question Type:</b>	Multiple Choice (Single Correct Answer)
<b>Exam Relevance:</b>	UPSC, SSC CGL/CHSL, IBPS, RRB, State PSC, Defence Exams
<b>Topics Covered:</b>	Mughal Monuments, Forts, Temples, Caves, Palaces, Heritage Cities, UNESCO Sites, Current Affairs
<b>Based On:</b>	Static GK + Latest Current Affairs 2024–2026 (UNESCO 44 sites)

### ★ ■ MUGHAL MONUMENTS ★

**Q1. The Taj Mahal was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of whom?**

- A) Nur Jahan
- B) Mumtaz Mahal
- C) Jahanara Begum
- D) Razia Sultana

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Mumtaz Mahal**

■ *Explanation: The Taj Mahal in Agra was built by Shah Jahan between 1632 and 1653 in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World.*

**Q2. The Taj Mahal was designed by which chief architect?**

- A) Amanat Khan
- B) Mir Abdul Karim
- C) Ustad Ahmad Lahori
- D) Ismail Afandi

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Ustad Ahmad Lahori**

■ *Explanation: Ustad Ahmad Lahori is credited as the chief architect of the Taj Mahal. The calligraphy inscriptions on the Taj Mahal were designed by Amanat Khan.*

**Q3. The Red Fort (Lal Qila) in Delhi was built in which century and by whom?**

- A) 16th century by Akbar
- B) 17th century by Shah Jahan
- C) 15th century by Babur
- D) 18th century by Aurangzeb

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 17th century by Shah Jahan**

■ *Explanation: The Red Fort was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in 1639–1648 CE. Made of red sandstone, it served as the main imperial residence of the Mughals for nearly 200 years. The PM hoists the National Flag here on Independence Day.*

**Q4. Fatehpur Sikri, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built by which Mughal Emperor and served as his capital?**

- A) Humayun
- B) Jahangir
- C) Akbar
- D) Shah Jahan

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Akbar**

■ *Explanation: Fatehpur Sikri in Uttar Pradesh was built by Akbar in 1569 to honour Sufi saint Salim Chishti. It served as the Mughal capital for 14 years (1571–1585). The Buland Darwaza and Jama Masjid are its notable structures.*

**Q5. The Buland Darwaza (Gate of Victory) at Fatehpur Sikri was built by Akbar to commemorate his conquest of which region?**

- A) Punjab
- B) Bengal
- C) Gujarat
- D) Deccan

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: Akbar built the Buland Darwaza in 1602 to commemorate his victory over Gujarat. At 54 metres, it is the highest gateway in the world.*

**Q6. The Qutub Minar in Delhi is the world's tallest brick minaret. Who built it?**

- A) Qutbuddin Aibak and Iltutmish
- B) Akbar
- C) Shah Jahan
- D) Alauddin Khalji

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Qutbuddin Aibak and Iltutmish**

■ *Explanation: Qutub Minar was begun by Qutbuddin Aibak (founder of the Delhi Sultanate) in 1193 and completed by Iltutmish. It is 72.5 metres tall and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

**Q7. Humayun's Tomb in Delhi was built by whom and is significant as a precursor to which monument?**

- A) Akbar – precursor to Red Fort
- B) Hamida Banu Begum (Humayun's wife) – precursor to Taj Mahal
- C) Babur – precursor to Agra Fort
- D) Shah Jahan – precursor to Fatehpur Sikri

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Hamida Banu Begum (Humayun's wife) – precursor to Taj Mahal**

■ *Explanation: Humayun's Tomb in Delhi was commissioned by his widow Hamida Banu Begum in 1565. It is often called the 'precursor of the Taj Mahal' and was the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent. UNESCO World Heritage Site (1993).*

**Q8. Jama Masjid in Delhi, the largest mosque in India, was built by which Mughal Emperor?**

- A) Akbar
- B) Aurangzeb
- C) Shah Jahan
- D) Jahangir

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Shah Jahan**

■ *Explanation: Jama Masjid in Old Delhi was built by Shah Jahan between 1644–1656 CE. It can accommodate over 25,000 worshippers and is one of the most important mosques in India.*

**Q9. Agra Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Which Mughal Emperor was imprisoned there by his own son?**

- A) Akbar by Jahangir
- B) Shah Jahan by Aurangzeb
- C) Humayun by Babur
- D) Jahangir by Shah Jahan

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Shah Jahan by Aurangzeb**

■ *Explanation: Shah Jahan was imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb at Agra Fort in 1658. He spent the last years of his life here, reportedly gazing at the Taj Mahal from the Musamman Burj tower.*

**Q10. Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb in Agra (sometimes called 'Baby Taj') was built by Nur Jahan in memory of her father. Which Mughal Emperor was Nur Jahan the wife of?**

- A) Akbar
- B) Shah Jahan
- C) Jahangir
- D) Humayun

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Jahangir**

■ *Explanation: Nur Jahan was the powerful wife of Mughal Emperor Jahangir. She built the Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb (1622–28) for her father Mirza Ghiyas Beg. It was the first Mughal structure built entirely with white marble.*

## ★ ■ FORTS OF INDIA ★

**Q11. The Golconda Fort, known for its unique acoustic system, is located in which state?**

- A) Karnataka
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Telangana

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Telangana**

■ *Explanation: Golconda Fort is a fortified citadel located near Hyderabad, Telangana. It is famous for its acoustic design where a clap at the grand portico can be heard at the highest point of the fort.*

**Q12. The Amer (Amber) Fort is located near which Rajasthan city?**

- A) Udaipur
- B) Jodhpur
- C) Jaipur
- D) Bikaner

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Jaipur**

■ *Explanation: Amer Fort is located about 11 km from Jaipur, Rajasthan. Built with pale yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, it is part of the Hill Forts of Rajasthan UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

**Q13. Chittorgarh Fort is the largest fort in India by area. It is associated with which historical queen who is celebrated for her sacrifice?**

- A) Mirabai
- B) Rani Durgavati
- C) Rani Padmini (Padmavati)
- D) Rani Lakshmbai

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Rani Padmini (Padmavati)**

■ *Explanation: Chittorgarh Fort in Rajasthan is associated with Rani Padmini (Padmavati), who is said to have led the Jauhar (self-immolation) of women to save their honour from Alauddin Khalji. It is the largest fort in India by area.*

**Q14. The Maratha Military Landscapes of India were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in which year?**

- A) 2021
- B) 2023
- C) 2024
- D) 2025

✓ **Correct Answer: D) 2025**

■ *Explanation: The Maratha Military Landscapes of India — a serial cultural site comprising 12 forts associated with the Maratha Empire across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu — were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2025.*

**Q15. The Moidams (Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty) inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2024 are located in which state?**

- A) Manipur
- B) Nagaland
- C) Assam
- D) Meghalaya

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Assam**

■ *Explanation: Moidams are the burial mounds of the Ahom Dynasty kings of Assam. They were inscribed as India's 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2024, recognising this unique funerary tradition.*

**Q16. Gwalior Fort is said to have the first recorded use of 'zero'. It is located in which state?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Bihar

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Madhya Pradesh**

■ *Explanation: Gwalior Fort in Madhya Pradesh is an 8th-century fort with a temple (Teli-Ka-Mandir) and the Gujari Mahal palace. It has inscriptions with the first known use of the numeral zero.*

## ★ ■ TEMPLES OF INDIA ★

**Q17. The Konark Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is designed in the shape of a giant chariot with how many pairs of stone wheels?**

- A) 6 pairs
- B) 10 pairs
- C) 12 pairs
- D) 24 pairs

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 12 pairs**

■ *Explanation: The Konark Sun Temple (13th century) in Odisha is designed as a colossal chariot of the Sun God with 12 pairs of elaborately carved stone wheels (representing 12 months) and 7 horses. UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

**Q18. The Kailasa Temple (Cave 16) at Ellora is the largest monolithic rock-cut temple in the world. It is dedicated to which deity?**

- A) Lord Vishnu
- B) Lord Brahma
- C) Goddess Durga
- D) Lord Shiva

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Lord Shiva**

■ *Explanation: Kailasa Temple at Ellora (Cave 16), carved in the 8th century under the Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna I, is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is the largest monolithic rock-cut structure in the world, carved from a single rock.*

**Q19. The Ellora Caves represent how many religions, and what are they?**

- A) Two – Buddhism and Hinduism
- B) Three – Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism
- C) Four – Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism
- D) Two – Hinduism and Jainism

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Three – Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism**

■ *Explanation: The Ellora Caves (34 caves) represent three religions: Buddhism (Caves 1–12), Hinduism (Caves 13–29), and Jainism (Caves 30–34), all carved between the 5th and 10th centuries. UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

**Q20. Brihadeeswarar Temple (Big Temple) in Thanjavur is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for having the world's tallest vimana (tower). It was built by which Chola ruler?**

- A) Rajendra Chola I
- B) Rajaraja Chola I
- C) Kulottunga Chola I
- D) Vikramaditya II

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Rajaraja Chola I**

■ *Explanation: Brihadeeswarar Temple (1010 CE) in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, was built by Raja Raja Chola I. It has the world's tallest vimana at 66 metres, built entirely of granite. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987).*

**Q21. Khajuraho Temples, known for their intricate sculptures, were built by which dynasty between 950–1050 CE?**

- A) Gupta dynasty
- B) Pallava dynasty
- C) Chandela dynasty
- D) Chola dynasty

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Chandela dynasty**

■ *Explanation: The Khajuraho Group of Monuments in Madhya Pradesh was built by the Chandela dynasty rulers between 950–1050 CE. Of the original 85 temples, only 25 remain. UNESCO World Heritage Site (1986).*

**Q22. The Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It marks which significant event in Buddhism?**

- A) Birth of Gautama Buddha
- B) First sermon (Dhammachakkapavattana)
- C) Enlightenment (Mahabodhi) of Gautama Buddha
- D) Parinirvana of Gautama Buddha

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Enlightenment (Mahabodhi) of Gautama Buddha**

■ *Explanation: The Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya, Bihar, marks the spot where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree. It is the holiest site in Buddhism and a UNESCO World Heritage Site (2002).*

**Q23. The Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021 is located in which state and is famous for which unique building technique?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh – underground chambers
- B) Telangana – sandbox foundation and floating bricks
- C) Karnataka – monolithic rock-cutting
- D) Odisha – wooden framework

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Telangana – sandbox foundation and floating bricks**

■ *Explanation: Ramappa Temple at Palampet, Telangana, was built in the 13th century under Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva. It is famous for its sandbox foundation technique and lightweight 'floating bricks' that are unique in Indian temple architecture.*

**Q24. The Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) was built by which dynasty and is in which state?**

- A) Chola – Tamil Nadu
- B) Pallava – Tamil Nadu
- C) Chalukya – Karnataka
- D) Rashtrakuta – Maharashtra

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Pallava – Tamil Nadu**

■ *Explanation: The Mahabalipuram Monuments were built by the Pallava dynasty in the 7th–8th centuries CE in Tamil Nadu. They include the Shore Temple, Pancha Rathas (Five Chariots), and Arjuna's Penance rock carving. UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

### ★ ■ CAVES & ANCIENT SITES ★

**Q25. The Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapura (collectively the 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas') were inscribed as India's 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2023. They are in which state?**

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Karnataka
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Karnataka**

■ *Explanation: The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas (Belur, Halebid, Somanathapura) in Karnataka were inscribed as India's 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2023. They showcase the exquisite Hoysala architecture of the 12th–13th centuries.*

**Q26. The Ajanta Caves are 30 rock-cut Buddhist monuments dating from the 2nd century BCE. The frescoes there primarily depict stories from which ancient text?**

- A) Ramayana
- B) Arthashastra
- C) Jataka Tales
- D) Mahabharata

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Jataka Tales**

■ *Explanation: The frescoes of the Ajanta Caves illustrate stories from the Jataka Tales (tales of the Buddha's previous lives) and scenes from Buddhist scripture. Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

**Q27. Dholavira, inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021, is associated with which ancient civilisation?**

- A) Vedic Civilisation
- B) Gupta Empire
- C) Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilisation
- D) Mauryan Civilisation

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilisation**

■ *Explanation: Dholavira in Gujarat (Rann of Kutch) is one of the largest Harappan sites, dating to 3000–1500 BCE. It shows advanced urban planning, water management systems, and unique Indus script signboards.*

**Q28. Sanchi Stupa, the oldest stone structure in India, is located in which state?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Odisha

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Madhya Pradesh**

■ *Explanation: Sanchi Stupa in Madhya Pradesh was built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE. It is the oldest stone structure in India and a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its four elaborately carved stone gateways (Toranas).*

**Q29. Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Mumbai, are famous for a large trimurti sculpture depicting which deity?**

- A) Lord Vishnu
- B) Lord Brahma
- C) Lord Shiva (Trimurti Maheshamurti)
- D) Goddess Parvati

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Lord Shiva (Trimurti Maheshamurti)**

■ *Explanation: Elephanta Caves on Elephanta Island (Mumbai Harbour) are famous for the gigantic 6-metre Trimurti Maheshamurti sculpture depicting the three aspects of Lord Shiva — Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer. UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987).*

★ ■ **PALACES & HERITAGE CITIES** ★

**Q30. The Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are known for prehistoric cave paintings. They are located in which state?**

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Odisha

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Madhya Pradesh**

■ *Explanation: Bhimbetka Rock Shelters in Madhya Pradesh contain prehistoric cave paintings dating back over 30,000 years, making them some of the earliest evidence of human life in the Indian subcontinent. UNESCO World Heritage Site (2003).*

**Q31. The Mysore Palace is also called Amba Vilas Palace. It is located in which city of Karnataka?**

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Mangaluru
- C) Mysuru (Mysore)
- D) Hampi

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Mysuru (Mysore)**

■ *Explanation: The Mysore (Amba Vilas) Palace is the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty, located in Mysuru, Karnataka. It is one of the most visited monuments in India, especially during Dasara (Dussehra).*

**Q32. Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) in Jaipur was built in 1799 by which ruler?**

- A) Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II
- B) Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh
- C) Maharaja Man Singh I
- D) Maharaja Ram Singh II

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh**

■ *Explanation: Hawa Mahal was built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh of Jaipur. The pink sandstone facade has 953 small windows (jharokhas) designed to allow royal women to observe street life without being seen.*

**Q33. Jantar Mantar in Jaipur, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. What is it?**

- A) A water harvesting structure
- B) An astronomical observatory
- C) A royal palace complex
- D) A Sufi shrine

✓ **Correct Answer: B) An astronomical observatory**

■ *Explanation: Jantar Mantar (1724–1735) is an astronomical observatory built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in Jaipur. It contains 19 architectural astronomical instruments, including the world's largest stone sundial (Samrat Yantra). UNESCO WHS (2010).*

**Q34. The City of Ahmedabad was inscribed as India's first UNESCO World Heritage City (Historic Urban Landscape) in which year?**

- A) 2015
- B) 2017
- C) 2019
- D) 2021

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 2017**

■ *Explanation: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, was inscribed as India's first UNESCO World Heritage City in 2017, followed by Mumbai (Victorian Gothic & Art Deco Ensembles in 2018) and Jaipur (2019).*

**Q35. Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell), a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Gujarat, was built in memory of which king?**

- A) Kumarapala
- B) King Bhimdev I of Solanki dynasty
- C) Harshavardhana
- D) Vikramaditya

✓ **Correct Answer: B) King Bhimdev I of Solanki dynasty**

■ *Explanation: Rani-ki-Vav at Patan, Gujarat, was commissioned by Queen Udayamati in the 11th century in memory of her husband King Bhimdev I of the Solanki (Chaulukya) dynasty. It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014.*

★ ■ **COLONIAL & MODERN MONUMENTS** ★

**Q36. The Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata was built in memory of which British Monarch?**

- A) King George V
- B) Queen Victoria
- C) King Edward VII
- D) Queen Elizabeth I

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Queen Victoria**

■ *Explanation: Victoria Memorial was built between 1906–1921 in Kolkata to commemorate Queen Victoria. Designed by William Emerson in the Indo-Saracenic style, it now functions as a museum under the Ministry of Culture.*

**Q37. The Gateway of India in Mumbai was built to commemorate which event?**

- A) India's Independence in 1947
- B) The visit of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911
- C) The end of World War I
- D) The opening of the Bombay Port

✓ **Correct Answer: B) The visit of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911**

■ *Explanation: The Gateway of India was built in Mumbai to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to India in 1911. It was completed in 1924 and designed by architect George Wittet.*

**Q38. India Gate in New Delhi is a war memorial. It is dedicated to which soldiers?**

- A) Indian soldiers who died in the 1971 Indo-Pak War
- B) 70,000 Indian soldiers who died in World War I (British Indian Army)
- C) Soldiers who died in the 1962 Sino-Indian War
- D) Soldiers of the 1965 Indo-Pak War

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 70,000 Indian soldiers who died in World War I (British Indian Army)**

■ *Explanation: India Gate (originally called All India War Memorial) was built in 1931 to honour the 70,000 soldiers of the British Indian Army who died during World War I. The Amar Jawan Jyoti (Eternal Flame) was added later for 1971 war martyrs.*

**Q39. The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai, formerly known as Victoria Terminus, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. What architectural style does it exemplify?**

- A) Mughal Architecture
- B) Dravidian Architecture
- C) Victorian Gothic Revival Architecture
- D) Art Deco Architecture

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Victorian Gothic Revival Architecture**

■ *Explanation: CSMT (formerly VT), completed in 1887 and designed by F.W. Stevens, exemplifies Victorian Gothic Revival architecture combined with Indian architectural traditions. UNESCO World Heritage Site (2004).*

**Q40. Santiniketan in West Bengal, founded by Rabindranath Tagore, was inscribed as India's 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in which year?**

- A) 2021
- B) 2022
- C) 2023
- D) 2024

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 2023**

■ *Explanation: Santiniketan was inscribed as India's 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2023. Founded by Rabindranath Tagore, it is an educational institution that blends Indian and Western traditions. It is India's first modern university to receive UNESCO status.*

**Q41. Varanasi (Kashi/Banaras) is considered the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. It is located on the banks of which river?**

- A) Yamuna
- B) Saraswati
- C) Ganga (Ganges)
- D) Godavari

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Ganga (Ganges)**

■ *Explanation: Varanasi (Kashi) in Uttar Pradesh, located on the western bank of the Ganga river, is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities and the holiest city in Hinduism. It is famous for its ghats (Dashashwamedh, Manikarnika).*

**Q42. Hampi, ruins of the ancient Vijayanagara Empire capital, is located in which state and was established by which dynasty?**

- A) Tamil Nadu – Chola dynasty
- B) Karnataka – Sangama dynasty (Vijayanagara)
- C) Andhra Pradesh – Kakatiya dynasty
- D) Maharashtra – Maratha dynasty

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Karnataka – Sangama dynasty (Vijayanagara)**

■ *Explanation: Hampi in Karnataka was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire from the 14th to 16th centuries. It was established by Harihara and Bukka of the Sangama dynasty in memory of their guru Vidyaranya. UNESCO World Heritage Site (1986).*

**Q43. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recognised how many centrally protected monuments in India?**

- A) Around 1,000
- B) Around 2,000
- C) Around 3,693
- D) Around 500

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Around 3,693**

■ *Explanation: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) maintains around 3,693 centrally protected monuments across India. It was founded in 1861 under Alexander Cunningham during British rule.*

**Q44. Amritsar's famous Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) is built in the centre of which sacred lake?**

- A) Pushkar Lake
- B) Sarovar Lake
- C) Amrit Sarovar (Pool of Nectar)
- D) Wular Lake

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Amrit Sarovar (Pool of Nectar)**

■ *Explanation: The Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) in Amritsar, Punjab, is built in the middle of the Amrit Sarovar (Pool of Nectar), the sacred pool that gave Amritsar its name. It is the holiest shrine of Sikhism.*

**Q45. Jallianwala Bagh, a national memorial in Amritsar, commemorates the massacre of April 13, 1919. On which festival were thousands of unarmed civilians gathered?**

- A) Holi
- B) Diwali
- C) Baisakhi
- D) Dussehra

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Baisakhi**

■ *Explanation: On 13 April 1919, thousands of unarmed people had gathered at Jallianwala Bagh on the occasion of Baisakhi (Sikh harvest festival) when Brigadier-General Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the crowd.*

★ ■■ NORTH INDIA MONUMENTS ★

**Q46. The Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, is located in which state and depicts which leader?**

- A) Gujarat – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- B) Maharashtra – Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- C) Delhi – Mahatma Gandhi
- D) UP – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Gujarat – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**

■ *Explanation: The Statue of Unity in Gujarat (near Vadodara, on the Narmada River) depicts Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. At 182 metres, it is the world's tallest statue, inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on October 31, 2018.*

**Q47. How many UNESCO World Heritage Sites does India have as of 2026?**

- A) 38
- B) 40
- C) 42
- D) 44

✓ **Correct Answer: D) 44**

■ *Explanation: As of 2026, India has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites — 36 Cultural, 7 Natural, and 1 Mixed (Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim). India ranks 6th in the world in total number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.*

**Q48. Which is the ONLY Mixed UNESCO World Heritage Site in India?**

- A) Sundarbans National Park
- B) Western Ghats
- C) Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim
- D) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim**

■ *Explanation: Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim, designated in 2016, is India's only Mixed UNESCO World Heritage Site, qualifying on both natural grounds (Eastern Himalayan biodiversity) and cultural grounds (sacred mountain to Sikkimese communities).*

**Q49. Which Indian state has the maximum number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Maharashtra

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Maharashtra**

■ *Explanation: Maharashtra has the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India, including Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Elephanta Caves, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, and Victorian Gothic & Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai.*

★ ■ SOUTH INDIA MONUMENTS ★

**Q50. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Gujarat, features a unique mixture of which two architectural styles?**

- A) Mughal and Rajput
- B) Hindu and Islamic (Pre-Mughal)
- C) Dravidian and Vesara
- D) Buddhist and Jain

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Hindu and Islamic (Pre-Mughal)**

■ *Explanation: Champaner-Pavagadh in Gujarat (UNESCO WHS since 2004) features a unique mixture of Hindu and Islamic Pre-Mughal architecture — mosques, temples, stepwells, and palaces. It was the capital of the Gujarat Sultanate in the 15th century.*

**Q51. In 2025, India added 6 new sites to its UNESCO Tentative List, raising the total to 62 sites. Which of these is NOT among the 6 newly added in 2025?**

- A) Kanger Valley National Park (Chhattisgarh)
- B) Ashokan Edict Sites
- C) Chausath Yogini Temples
- D) Sanchi Stupa (Madhya Pradesh)

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Sanchi Stupa (Madhya Pradesh)**

■ *Explanation: The 6 new sites added to India's UNESCO Tentative List in 2025 are: Kanger Valley NP (Chhattisgarh), Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs (Telangana), Ashokan Edict Sites, Chausath Yogini Temples, Gupta Temples of North India, and Palace-Fortresses of the Bundelas. Sanchi Stupa is already a full UNESCO World Heritage Site (1989).*

**Q52. The Nalanda University ruins (UNESCO World Heritage Site 2016) are located in which state?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Madhya Pradesh

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Bihar**

■ *Explanation: Nalanda Mahavihara (ruins) in Bihar is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient Nalanda University was a major centre of Buddhist learning from the 5th to 12th centuries CE, attracting scholars from across Asia.*

**Q53. The Allahabad Fort (Prayagraj Fort) was built by which Mughal Emperor?**

- A) Babur
- B) Humayun
- C) Akbar
- D) Jahangir

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Akbar**

■ *Explanation: Allahabad (Prayagraj) Fort was built by Emperor Akbar in 1583 at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers. It houses the Ashoka Pillar and the Akshayvat tree.*

★ ■■ EAST INDIA & OTHER MONUMENTS ★

**Q54. The Jantar Mantar observatories were built in five cities. Which of the following is NOT one of them?**

- A) Delhi
- B) Mathura
- C) Jaipur
- D) Varanasi

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Mathura**

■ *Explanation: Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II built Jantar Mantar observatories in five cities: Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Mathura, and Varanasi. However, the Mathura observatory no longer exists. The Jaipur one is the largest and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

**Q55. The Lingaraj Temple, one of the largest temples in Odisha, is dedicated to which deity and is located in which city?**

- A) Lord Vishnu – Puri
- B) Lord Shiva (Harihara) – Bhubaneswar
- C) Lord Jagannath – Cuttack
- D) Goddess Durga – Sambalpur

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Lord Shiva (Harihara) – Bhubaneswar**

■ *Explanation: The Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, is dedicated to Harihara (a combined form of Shiva and Vishnu). Built in the 11th century, it is the largest temple in Bhubaneswar and a fine example of Kalinga architecture.*

**Q56. Meenakshi Amman Temple, a famous Dravidian temple, is located in which city of Tamil Nadu?**

- A) Chennai
- B) Thanjavur
- C) Madurai
- D) Trichy

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Madurai**

■ *Explanation: Meenakshi Amman Temple is located in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. It is dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi (a form of Parvati) and Lord Sundareshwarar (Shiva). Known for its 14 massive gopurams (towers) decorated with colourful sculptures.*

**Q57. The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) was built by which Pallava king?**

- A) Mahendravarman I
- B) Narasimhavarman I
- C) Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)
- D) Paramesvaravarman I

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)**

■ *Explanation: The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram was built by Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha) of the Pallava dynasty in the early 8th century CE. It is one of the oldest structural stone temples in South India.*

★ ■ **CURRENT AFFAIRS – PLACES & MONUMENTS** ★

**Q58. Lepakshi Temple in Andhra Pradesh is famous for the world's largest monolithic Nandi bull and a hanging pillar. It belongs to which dynasty?**

- A) Kakatiyas
- B) Cholas
- C) Vijayanagara Empire
- D) Hoysalas

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Vijayanagara Empire**

■ *Explanation: Lepakshi Temple in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh, was built during the Vijayanagara Empire in the 16th century. It is famous for the largest monolithic Nandi statue in India (4.5 metres high) and a hanging pillar that doesn't fully touch the floor.*

**Q59. Padmanabhaswamy Temple, considered the world's wealthiest temple, is located in which city?**

- A) Madurai
- B) Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum)
- C) Kochi
- D) Mysore

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum)**

■ *Explanation: Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, is dedicated to Lord Vishnu (Padmanabha). It is considered the wealthiest temple in the world, with treasures discovered in its vaults estimated at over ■1 lakh crore.*

**Q60. Sun Temple of Modhera is dedicated to the Sun God and is located in which state?**

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Odisha
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Gujarat

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: The Sun Temple of Modhera in Mehsana district, Gujarat, was built by the Solanki ruler Bhimdev I around 1026 CE. It is notable for its intricate carvings and has no shadow inside during the equinoxes.*

**Q61. Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha, is one of the four sacred dhams (Char Dham) in Hinduism. Non-Hindus are generally not permitted inside this temple. It is dedicated to:**

- A) Lord Shiva
- B) Lord Brahma
- C) Lord Jagannath (form of Vishnu/Krishna)
- D) Goddess Lakshmi

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Lord Jagannath (form of Vishnu/Krishna)**

■ *Explanation: Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha, is dedicated to Lord Jagannath (Lord of the Universe), a form of Vishnu/Krishna. The famous Rath Yatra (Chariot Festival) starts from this temple annually.*

**Q62. Iron Pillar of Delhi, located in the Qutub Minar complex, is famous for its rust-resistant composition. Which ancient ruler erected it?**

- A) Ashoka
- B) Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)
- C) Samudragupta
- D) Harsha

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)**

■ *Explanation: The Iron Pillar of Delhi was erected by Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) of the Gupta dynasty in the 4th–5th century CE. It is famous for not rusting despite being over 1,600 years old — a testament to ancient Indian metallurgical expertise.*

**Q63. In 2025, how many sites were added to India's UNESCO Tentative List, raising the total to 62?**

- A) 3 sites
- B) 4 sites
- C) 6 sites
- D) 8 sites

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 6 sites**

■ *Explanation: In 2025, six new sites were added to India's UNESCO Tentative List, raising the total to 62. These include Kanger Valley NP, Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs, Ashokan Edict Sites, Chausath Yogini Temples, Gupta Temples of North India, and Palace-Fortresses of the Bundelas.*

**Q64. Which ASI-protected fort in Rajasthan, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is known as the 'Great Wall of India' due to its long boundary walls?**

- A) Jaisalmer Fort
- B) Kumbhalgarh Fort
- C) Chittorgarh Fort
- D) Mehrangarh Fort

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Kumbhalgarh Fort**

■ *Explanation: Kumbhalgarh Fort in Rajasthan has boundary walls stretching about 36 km, making it the world's second longest continuous wall after the Great Wall of China — hence called the 'Great Wall of India'. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Hill Forts of Rajasthan, 2013).*

**Q65. Mehrangarh Fort, one of India's largest forts, dominates the skyline of which Rajasthan city?**

- A) Jaipur (Pink City)
- B) Bikaner
- C) Jodhpur (Blue City)
- D) Udaipur (White City)

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Jodhpur (Blue City)**

■ *Explanation: Mehrangarh Fort sits atop a rocky hill above Jodhpur (called the 'Blue City' for its blue-painted houses). Built by Rao Jodha in 1459, it houses several palaces including Moti Mahal and Sheesh Mahal.*

**Q66. The Cave temples of Badami, Aihole, and Pattadakal — early Chalukya architectural wonders — are all located in which state?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Karnataka**

■ *Explanation: Badami, Aihole, and Pattadakal in Karnataka are the cradle of Chalukyan architecture (6th–8th centuries). Pattadakal is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987) and features temples in both Nagara and Dravidian styles.*

**Q67. The Great Stupa at Sanchi was built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE. How many UNESCO World Heritage Sites does Sanchi represent?**

- A) Single monument only
- B) The Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (whole complex)
- C) All of Ashoka's stupas
- D) Central India Buddhist circuit

✓ **Correct Answer: B) The Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (whole complex)**

■ *Explanation: The UNESCO World Heritage Site 'Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi' (1989) refers to the entire complex including the Great Stupa (Stupa 1), Stupa 2, Stupa 3, Ashoka Pillar, and the four elaborately carved gateways (Toranas).*

**Q68. India Gate was designed by which famous British architect?**

- A) Herbert Baker
- B) Edwin Lutyens
- C) George Wittet
- D) Frederick Stevens

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Edwin Lutyens**

■ *Explanation: India Gate was designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and was unveiled in 1931. Lutyens also designed much of New Delhi, including the Rashtrapati Bhavan. India Gate is modelled on the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.*

**Q69. Mahabodhi Temple's location, Bodh Gaya, is situated in which Indian state?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Bihar
- D) West Bengal

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Bihar**

■ *Explanation: Bodh Gaya is in Gaya district, Bihar. The Mahabodhi Temple Complex marks the spot where Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment and became the Buddha under the Bodhi tree. It remains the most important Buddhist pilgrimage site in the world.*

**Q70. The new Parliament Building of India was inaugurated in which year, and it incorporates the symbol of which ancient Indian object?**

- A) 2022 – Ashoka Chakra
- B) 2023 – Sengol (sacred sceptre)
- C) 2024 – National Emblem
- D) 2021 – Constitution of India

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 2023 – Sengol (sacred sceptre)**

■ *Explanation: India's new Parliament building was inaugurated on 28 May 2023 by PM Narendra Modi. The Sengol — a sacred sceptre handed to Nehru during Independence — was installed as a symbol of transfer of power. The building is triangular, designed by Bimal Patel.*

**Q71. The Gomateshwara (Bahubali) statue, one of the largest free-standing statues in the world at 18 metres, is located in which Karnataka town?**

- A) Hampi
- B) Badami
- C) Shravanabelagola
- D) Belur

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Shravanabelagola**

■ *Explanation: The Gomateshwara (Bahubali) statue at Shravanabelagola, Karnataka, is a 10th-century monolithic Jain statue standing 18 metres tall. The Mahamastakabhisheka (head anointing) festival is held here every 12 years.*

**Q72. Qutb Minar in Delhi was included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in which year?**

- A) 1983
- B) 1985
- C) 1989
- D) 1993

✓ **Correct Answer: A) 1983**

■ *Explanation: Qutb Minar and its Monuments (Delhi) were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. The complex includes the Qutb Minar, Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, Iron Pillar, and Alai Darwaza.*

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