



World Heritage Day

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/world-heritage-day-1

Why in News

Every year, **18th April** is celebrated as ‘**International Day for Monuments and Sites**’, also known as ‘**World Heritage Day**’.

The **theme** for the year 2021 is “**Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures**”.

Key Points

- **Background:**
 - The **International Council on Monuments and Sites** (ICOMOS) established the day in 1982 and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved it in 1983.
 - The aim of the Day is to create **awareness about Heritage among communities.**
- **UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites:**
 - A **World Heritage Site** is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical significance.
 - The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international ‘**World Heritage Programme**’, administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
 - This is embodied in an international treaty called the **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.
- **World Heritage Sites in India:**
 - Currently, there are **38 World Heritage Sites located in India.**
 - Of these, **30 are ‘cultural**’, such as the Ajanta Caves, Fatehpur Sikri, Hampi monuments and the Mountain Railways of India, and **7 are ‘Natural**’, including Kaziranga, Manas and Nanda Devi National Parks.
 - In 2019, ‘**Jaipur City**’ became the 38th addition to the India list under ‘Culture’.
 - **One** is classified as ‘**Mixed**’, the **Khangchendzonga National Park.**

UNESCO

ICOMOS

- It is a **global non-governmental organization** associated with **UNESCO**. It is located in **Paris, France**.
- Its mission is to promote the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of monuments, building complexes and sites.
- It is an **Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee** for the implementation of the **World Heritage Convention of UNESCO**.
As such, it reviews the nominations of cultural world heritage and ensures the conservation status of properties.
- Its **creation in 1965** is the logical outcome of initial conversations between architects, historians and international experts that began in the early twentieth century and that materialized in the adoption of the **Venice Charter in 1964**.

Source: IE