



Qutub Minar

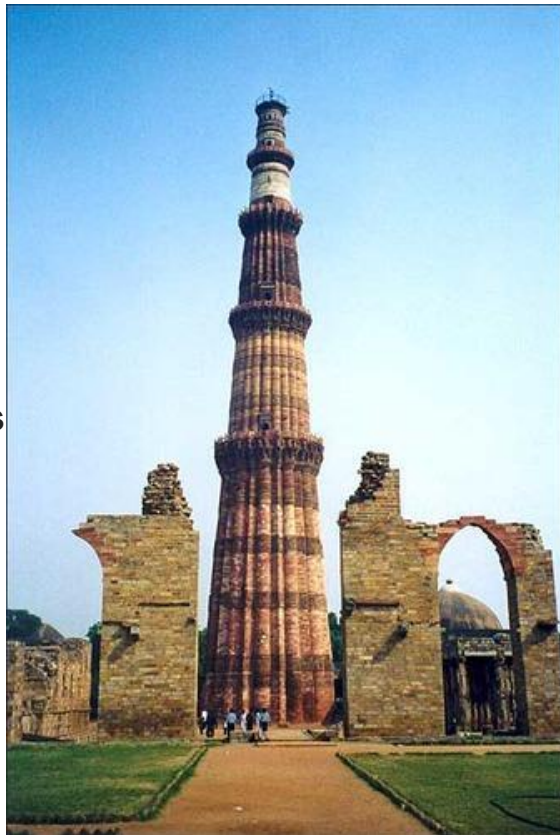
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Why in News

Recently, steep stairways and wooden ramps among other changes have been brought at the **World Heritage Site of Qutub Minar** that will make the place accessible for disabled and the elderly.

Humayun's Tomb (1993) and **Red Fort Complex** (2007) are other **world heritage monuments** in Delhi.

Key Points



- It is a **five-storeyed red sandstone tower** (72.5 m high) **built by Muslim conquerors in the thirteenth century** to commemorate their final triumph over the Rajput rulers of Delhi (Qutub means victory), while also serving as a tower from where muezzins (criers) call for prayer at the **Quwwatu'l-Islam mosque nearby**.

A **7 m-high iron pillar** stands in the courtyard of the mosque.

- Its surrounding contains **Alai-Darwaza Gate**, the masterpiece of **Indo-Muslim art (built in 1311)**.
- The building process of Qutub Minar took about 75 years. Its construction was **started by Qutub-ud-din Aibak** (1206-1210) in 1193 and **finished by Iltutmish** (1211-1236).
In 1368, it was repaired by the rulers of the day, Muhammad-bin-Tughluq (1325-51) and Firuz Shah Tughluq (1351-88).
- The minar (tower) is engraved with fine **arabesque decorations** on its surface, mainly **verses from the Quran**.
- Qutub Minar and its monuments were **declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993**.

Source: HT