



Angkor City in Cambodia

- A study has suggested that the **Angkor, the ancient capital of the Khmer empire**, appears to have suffered a gradual decline rather than a catastrophic collapse.
- Previously many archaeologists and historians have said that the **abandonment of Angkor in 15th-century, was due to 1431 invasion by the Thai Kingdom from Ayutthaya.**
- The city of Angkor is also home to **UNESCO World Heritage Site, Angkor Vat.**
- **Angkor Archeological Park**
 - Angkor is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia.
 - Stretching over some 400 km², including forested area, **Angkor Archaeological Park contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th century.**
 - They include the famous **Temple of Angkor Wat and, at Angkor Thom, the Bayon Temple with its countless sculptural decorations.**

Angkor Vat Temple

- **Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia** and one of the **largest religious monuments in the world.**
- It was **originally constructed as a Hindu temple** dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, it was **gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple** towards the end of the 12th century.
- It was built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century in Yaśodharapura (present-day Angkor), the capital of the Khmer Empire, as his state temple and eventual mausoleum.