



## Maratha Military Landscapes

**For Prelims:** [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), [Western Ghats](#), [Archaeological Survey of India](#), [Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj](#)

**For Mains:** Significance of UNESCO World Heritage sites, history of Marathas and Shivaji.

**Source:** [PIB](#)

### Why in News?

India is set to nominate the "Maratha Military Landscapes" for the [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\) World Heritage recognition](#) in 2024-25.

- This nomination comprises 12 components, showcasing the strategic military prowess of the Maratha rule across various regions.

### What are the Maratha Military Landscapes?

- The 'Maratha Military Landscapes' is a network of 12 forts and fortifications that represent the **extraordinary military system** and strategy of the Maratha rulers in the 17th-19th centuries
  - The twelve parts of this nomination are, **Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay durg, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.**
- The Maratha Military Landscapes of India are included in the [Tentative List of World Heritage sites in 2021](#).
  - Maratha Military Landscapes is the **sixth cultural property nominated** for inclusion in the World Heritage List from Maharashtra.
  - This network of forts, varying in hierarchies, scales and typological features, is a result of integrating the landscape, terrain and physiographic characteristics distinctive to the [Western Ghats \(Sahyadri Hills\), the Konkan Coast, Deccan Plateau and the Eastern Ghats](#) in the Indian Peninsula.
- There are more than 390 forts in Maharashtra out of which only 12 forts are selected under the Maratha Military Landscapes of India, of these 8 forts are protected by the [Archaeological Survey of India](#).
  - These are Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Raigad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg and Gingee Fort.
  - Salher Fort, Rajgad, Khanderi Fort and Pratapgadh are **protected by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums**, Government of Maharashtra.
- In the Maratha Military Landscapes of India Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Raigad, Rajgad and Gingee Fort are **hill forts**, Pratapgadh is a **hill-forest fort**, Panhala is a **hill-plateau fort**, Vijaydurg is **coastal fort** whereas Khanderi fort, Suvarnadurg and Sindhudurg are island forts.
  - The Maratha Military ideology originated in the 17th century under the rule of [Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj](#) in 1670 CE, extending through subsequent rulers until the Peshwa rule concluded in 1818 CE.



Lohagard fort



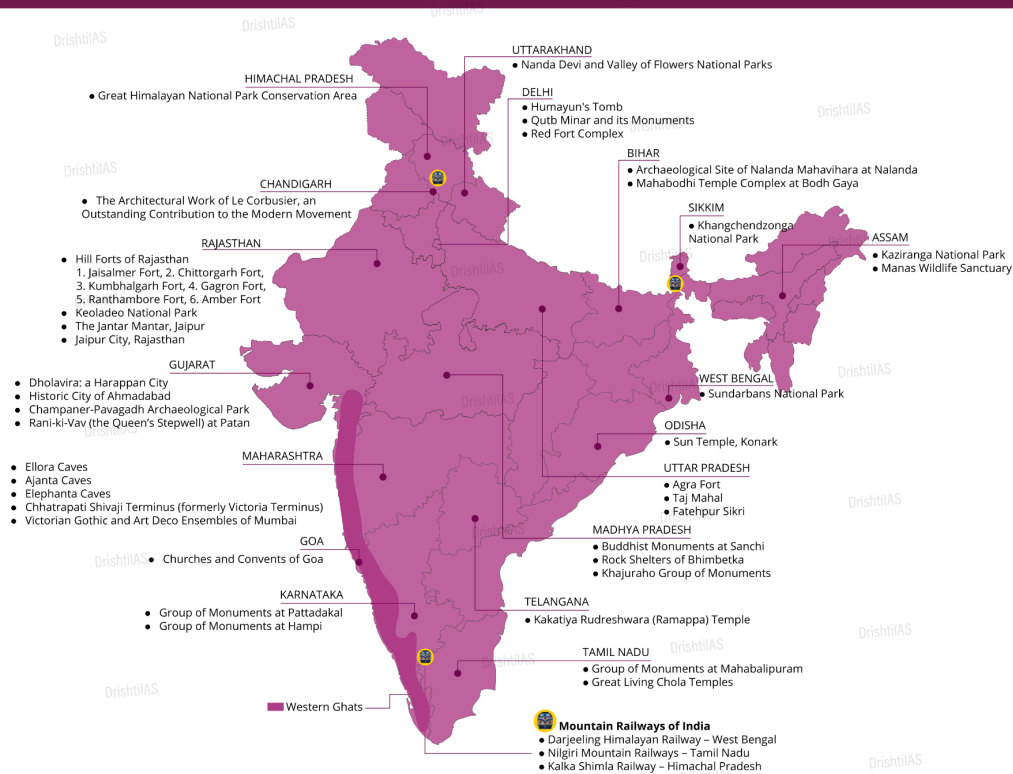
Raigad Fort

## Note

- At present in India there are **42 World Heritage sites**, out of which **34 are cultural sites**, **7 are natural sites** and one is **mixed sites**.
  - In Maharashtra there are **six World Heritage Sites**, **five cultural** and **one natural**.
    - These are, [Ajanta Caves \(1983\)](#), [Ellora Caves \(1983\)](#), [Elephanta Caves \(1987\)](#), Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004), [Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles](#) of Mumbai (2018) and [western Ghats](#) of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala is serial property in natural category (2012).



# UNESCO World Heritage Sites



## FACTS

- Total Number of World Heritage Sites in India: 40
- Total Cultural Heritage Sites: 32
- Total Natural Sites: 7 (Kaziranga National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, Sundarbans National Park, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Keoladeo National Park)
- Mixed Site: 1 (Khangchendzonga National Park)
- World Heritage Sites Listed First: Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves (all in 1983)
- Latest Addition (2021): Harappan city of Dholavira (40<sup>th</sup> site), Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple (39<sup>th</sup> site)
- Countries With the Most UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Italy (58), China (56), Germany (51), France (49), Spain (49)
- India is 6<sup>th</sup> in number of World Heritage Sites in the World



## What is the Process for the UNESCO World Heritage List nomination?

- The World Heritage List is a list of sites that have **outstanding universal value for humanity and nature**, as determined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- **Before 2004**, World Heritage sites were selected **based on six cultural and four natural criteria**.
  - In 2005, UNESCO modified these criteria and now has **one set of ten criteria**. Nominated sites must be of "outstanding universal value" and must **meet at least one of the ten criteria**.

## Selection criteria

### (i)

to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;

### (ii)

to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

### (iii)

to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

### (iv)

to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

### (v)

to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

### (vi)

to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);

### (vii)

to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;

### (viii)

to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

### (ix)

to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;

### (x)

to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Operational Guidelines (year)	Cultural criteria						Natural criteria			
2002	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
2005	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(viii)	(ix)	(vii)	(x)

- There are **two categories of nomination** cultural and natural criteria, the Maratha Military

landscapes is nominated in the category of cultural criteria.

- There are **six criteria (i to vi) for cultural sites and four criteria (vii to x) for natural sites** for inclusion in the World Heritage List.
- The **Maratha Military Landscapes of India is nominated under Criterion (iii), Criterion (iv) and Criterion (vi).**
- A country can't nominate a property to the **World Heritage List unless it's been on its Tentative List for at least one year.**
  - A **Tentative List is an inventory of potential World Heritage Sites** that a country submits to UNESCO. After a property is on the Tentative List, the country can nominate it for the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee will review the nomination.
- The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the International '**World Heritage Programme**', administered by the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee.**

**Read more:** [Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims:

**Q. What was the immediate reason for Ahmad Shah Abdali to invade India and fight the Third Battle of Panipat? (2010)**

- (a) He wanted to avenge the expulsion by Marathas of his viceroy Timur Shah from Lahore
- (b) The frustrated governor of Jullundhar Adina Beg Khan invited him to invade Punjab
- (c) He wanted to punish Mughal administration for non-payment of the revenues of the Chahar Mahal (Gujarat, Aurangabad, Sialkot & Pasrur)
- (d) He wanted to annex all the fertile plains of Punjab up to the borders of Delhi to his kingdom

**Ans: (a)**

### Mains:

**Q.1** Safeguarding the Indian Art Heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. **(2018)**

**Q.2** Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. **(2020)**

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