



World Heritage Day

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

- It was founded in 1945 to develop the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" as a means of building lasting peace. It is located in **Paris, France**.
- **Major Initiatives of UNESCO:**
 - **[Man and Biosphere Programme](#)**
 - **[World Heritage Programme](#)**
 - **[Global Geopark Network](#)**
 - **[Network of Creative Cities](#)**
 - **[Atlas of World Languages in Danger](#)**

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

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