

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3620
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2015
AGRAHAYANA 30, 1937 (SAKA)

WORLD HERITAGE STATUS TO CITIES

†3620 : **SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:**
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE

Will the **Minister of CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take steps for inclusion of various Indian cities/heritage sites in the UNESCO's World Heritage list;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the cities/heritage sites along with the policy/criteria adopted by the UNESCO to include ancient sites/tourist places in World Heritage List, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has submitted proposals of various Cities in the country to UNESCO for bestowing them the World Heritage status; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the status of the proposal?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam, the Government has taken steps for inclusion of various Indian cities/heritage sites in UNESCO's World Heritage list. At present India has 32 cultural and natural sites on the World Heritage List (**Annexure-I**). Moreover, there are 46 sites including Indian Cities, monuments, archaeological sites, etc. on UNESCO's tentative list, which is a mandatory requirement before a site is finally considered for the nomination. The list is given at (**Annexure-II**). As per the Operational Guidelines the criteria adopted by UNESCO to include ancient sites/tourist places in World Heritage List, are given at (**Annexure-III**).
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam, the two nomination proposals on cities i.e. 'Delhi's Imperial Capital Cities' and 'the Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai' were submitted to World Heritage Centre in January, 2014 in which Delhi was prioritized. Before the 39th Session of World Heritage Committee in July 2015 the proposing State Party had requested UNESCO Secretariat for postponement of the consideration of the nomination of 'Delhi's Imperial Capital Cities'.

CULTURAL SITES**Under Protection of Archaeological Survey of India**

S.N o	Name of Site	State
1.	Ajanta Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
2.	Ellora Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
3.	Agra Fort (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Taj Mahal (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Sun Temple, Konarak (1984)	Odisha
6.	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)	Tamil Nadu
7.	Churches and Convents of Goa (1986)	Goa
8.	Group of Temples, Khajuraho (1986)	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986)	Karnataka
10.	Group of Monuments, FatehpurSikri (1986)	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Group of Temples, Pattadakal (1987)	Karnataka
12.	Elephanta Caves (1987)	Maharashtra
13.	Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004)	Tamil Nadu
14.	Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
16.	QutbMinar Complex, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
17.	Prehistoric Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Madhya Pradesh
18.	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)	Gujarat
19.	Red Fort Complex, Delhi (2007)	Delhi
20.	Hill Forts of Rajasthan (Chittaurgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Jaisalmer and Ranthambhore, Amber and Gagron Forts) (2013) (Amber and Gagron Forts are under protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums)	Rajasthan
21.	Rani ki Vav	Gujarat

Under Protection of Ministry of Railways

22.	Mountain Railway of India (Darjeeling, 1999), Nilgiri (2005), Kalka-Shimla(2008)	West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh
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23.	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)	Maharashtra
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Under Protection of Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee

24.	Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (2002)	Bihar
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Under Protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums Department

25.	JantarMantar, Jaipur (2010)	Rajasthan
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NATURAL SITES

Under Protection of Ministry of Environment & Forest

26.	Kaziranga National Park (1985)	Assam
27.	Manas Wild Life Sanctuary (1985)	Assam
28.	Keoladeo National Park (1985)	Rajasthan
29.	Sunderban National Park (1987)	West Bengal
30.	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005)	Uttarakhand
31.	Western Ghats (2012)	Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu
32.	Great Himalayan National Park	Himachal Pradesh

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3620 FOR 21.12.2015

Cultural and Natural Properties on the Tentative List (46)

1. Temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal (1998)
2. Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam, Kerala (1998)
3. Group of Monuments at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh (1998)
4. Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (1998)
5. Sri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar, Punjab (2004)
6. River Island of Majuli in midstream of Brahmaputra River in Assam (2004)
7. Namdapha National Park (2006)
8. Wild Ass Sanctuary, Little Rann of Kutch (2006)
9. Kangchendzonga National Park (2006)
10. Urban and Architectural Work of Le Corbusier in Chandigarh (2006)
11. Excavated Remains at Nalanda (2009)
12. Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (2009)
13. Neora Valley National Park (2009)
14. Desert National Park (2009)
15. Silk Road Sites in India (2010)
16. Santiniketan (2010)
17. The Qutb Shahi Monuments of Hyderabad Golconda Fort, Qutb Shahi Tombs, Charminar (2010)
18. Mughal Gardens in Kashmir (2010)
19. Historic city of Ahmadabad (2011)
20. The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai (2012)
21. Delhi - A Heritage City (2012)
22. Monuments and Forts of the Deccan Sultanate (2014)
23. Cellular Jail, Andaman Islands (2014)
24. The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways (2014)
25. Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India (2014)
26. Dholavira: A Harappan City (2014)
27. Apatani Cultural Landscape (2014)
28. Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam (2014)
29. Monuments of Srirangapatna Island Town (2014)
30. Chilika Lake (2014)
31. Padmanabhapuram Palace (2014)
32. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala (2014)
33. Sites of Saytagrah, India's non-violent freedom movement (2014)
34. Thembang Fortified Village (2014)
35. Narcondam Island (2014)
36. Moidams – the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty (2014)
37. Ekamra Kshetra – The Temple City, Bhubaneswar (2014)
38. The Neolithic Settlement of Burzahom (2014)
39. Archaeological remains of a Harappa Port-Town, Lothal (2014)
40. Mountain Railways of India (Extension) (2014)
41. Chettinad, Village Clusters of the Tamil Merchants (2014)
42. Bahá'í House of Worship at New Delhi (2014)
43. Evolution of Temple Architecture – Aihole-Badami- Pattadakal (2015)
44. Jaipur city, Rajasthan India (2015)
45. Cold Desert Cultural Landscape of India (2015)
46. Sites along the Uttarapath, Badshahi Sadak, Sadak-e-Azam, Grand Trunk Road (2015)

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3620 FOR 21.12.2015

As per the Operational Guidelines the criteria adopted by the UNESCO.

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) 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) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) 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) 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) 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) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance
- (viii) 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 feature;
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant on-going geological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystem and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) 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.

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