

**23-12-2022**

## **Three places in India have been included in the tentative list of World Heritage Sites**

### **Why in Newspapers?**

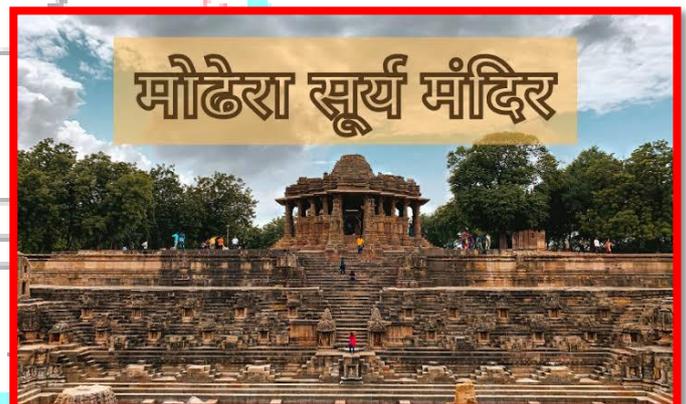
Recently three new cultural sites of India have been included in the **tentative list of World Heritage Sites** by UNESCO.

### **Quick Issue?**

- These places include the historic **Sun Temple at Modhera**, the historic city of **Vadnagar in Gujarat** and the rock cut sculptures of **Unakoti in Tripura**.
- After the inclusion of these 3 places, the number of Indian places included in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites will be 52.

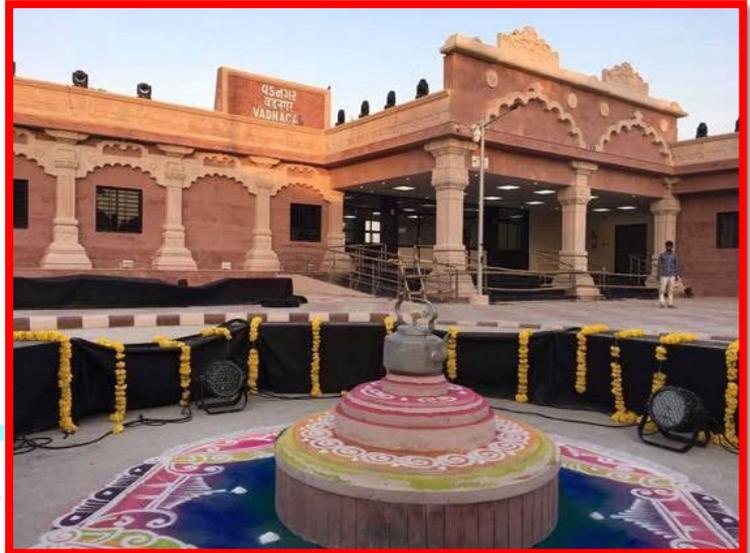
### **Historical Background?**

- **Sun Temple of Modhera** :- It was built by **King Bhimdev I (1022-1063 CE)** of the Solanki dynasty.
- The Sun Temple of Modhera is situated on the left bank of the **Pushpavati**, a tributary of the **Rupan river, in Becharaji taluka of Mehsana district**. This east facing temple is made of yellow sand trees.
- This temple is an imitation model of the 11th century **Maru-Gurjara architectural style of western India** under the **patronage of the Solanki dynasty**.
- **Hindu-Iranian style** has been used in its construction, this temple has been built in two parts, the first part has the sanctum sanctorum and the second part has the hall.
- It consists of the **main shrine (garbhagriha)**, a **chamber (garhamandapa)**, an outer hall or assembly hall (**sabhamandapa or rangamandapa**) and a holy water tank (surya kunda) now called **Ramkund**.
- There are 52 pillars in the assembly hall of the temple, on which excellent artwork has been done. The characteristic of these vitae is that they are octagonal when viewed downwards and round when viewed upward.
- This temple has been constructed in such a way that at **sunrise the first rays of the sun enter the sanctum sanctorum of the temple**.
- There is a **huge tank in the temple**, which is called '**Suryakund**' and '**Ramkund**'.
- This **Sun Temple of Modhera** is also known as **Khajuraho of Gujarat**, because the rocks of this temple also have **carvings similar to Khajuraho**.

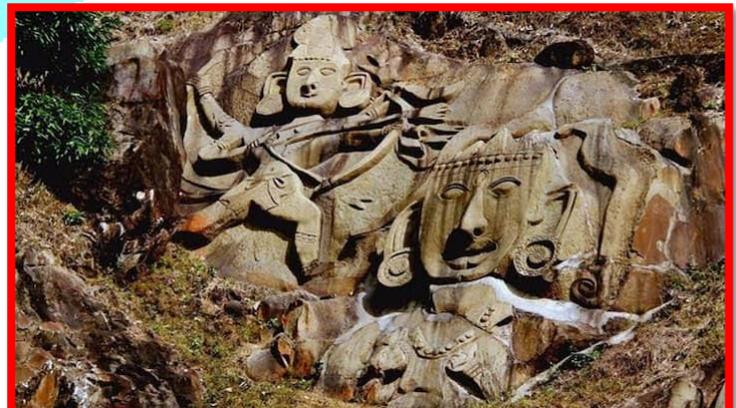


मोढेरा का सूर्य मंदिर

- Modhera is also mentioned in various Puranas, according to **Skandapurana** and **Brahmapurana**, in ancient times the whole area around **Modhera** was known as '**Dharmaranya**'.
- **Vadnagar City** :- Vadnagar is a **multi-layered historical city located in the Mehsana district of Gujarat**, formerly known as **Anandnagar, Amartapur** and **Nagrak**.
- **Hatkeshwar Temple** and **Ambaji Mata Temple** built in the **5th century** are the **ancient temples located in Vadnagar**.
- There are also many **episodes related to Buddhism** and monuments built by **Jain Baliyan and Solanki rulers**.
- **Vadnagar** is a historically important city, **Vadnagar** is also mentioned in the travelogue of **Hiuen Tsang**, a **Chinese traveler** who visited India in the **7th century**.
- Several archaeological collections have been found here, **Vadnagar** is famous for its pylons, a pair of 40 feet tall maniks built in red and yellow sandstone from the 12th century Solanki era to celebrate a battle victory has gone
- During the excavation in Vadnagar in the year 2008-09, the surface of a Buddhist monastery was also found.
- **Tana Riri Performing Arts College** is in Vadnagar, which was named in honour of the **bravery of two sisters, Tana and Riri**. She sacrificed her life when asked by Akbar to sing in his court because it was against her.
- **Sculptures made by cutting the windows of Unakoti** - Unakoti (Unakoti) is a historical and archaeological Hindu pilgrimage centre located in Kailashahar subdivisions of Unakoti district of **Tripura state of India**.
- The sculptures and architecture here dedicated to **Lord Shiva** were actually built during the **7th - 9th century AD**, or even earlier, under the rule of the Pala dynasty.
- Unakoti means **one less than one crore** and is said to have been made by selecting the same number of customers that have been made here.
- According to **Hindu mythology**, when **Lord Shiva** was going to Kashi with **one crore gods and goddesses**, he rested for the night at this place.
- He asked all the gods and goddesses to **leave for obscurity and Kashi before sunrise**.



वडनगर शहर



उनाकोटि की पत्थरों को काट कर बनाई गई मूर्तियाँ



- Shiva's head and huge figures of **Ganesha** in the **center of the rock-cut quotations** are remarkable.
- Shiva's head is known as '**Unakotishwar Kalabhairav**'.
  - On **either side of Shiva's head are two full female figures** - one of Durga standing on a lion and other female figures on the other.
- Apart from this, three huge statues of Nandi bull have already been buried in the ground.
- A grand fair known as '**Ashokastami Mela**' is organized in the month of April, which is attended by thousands of pilgrims.

### Expected Questions for Preliminary Exam

**Q. Which of the following statements is correct?**

- (a) The Ajanta Palace is located in the Ghats of the Waghora River.
- (b) Sanchi Stupa is situated in the ghat of Chambal river.
- (c) The Pandu-Lina holiday temples are situated in the ghats of the Narmada River.
- (d) Amaravati Stupa is situated in the ghat of river Godavari.

**Answer: (a) The Ajanta Palace is located in the Ghats of the Waghora River.**

**Q. Consider the following pairs :**

**Landmark**

1. Pandharpur
2. Tiruchirappalli
3. Hampi

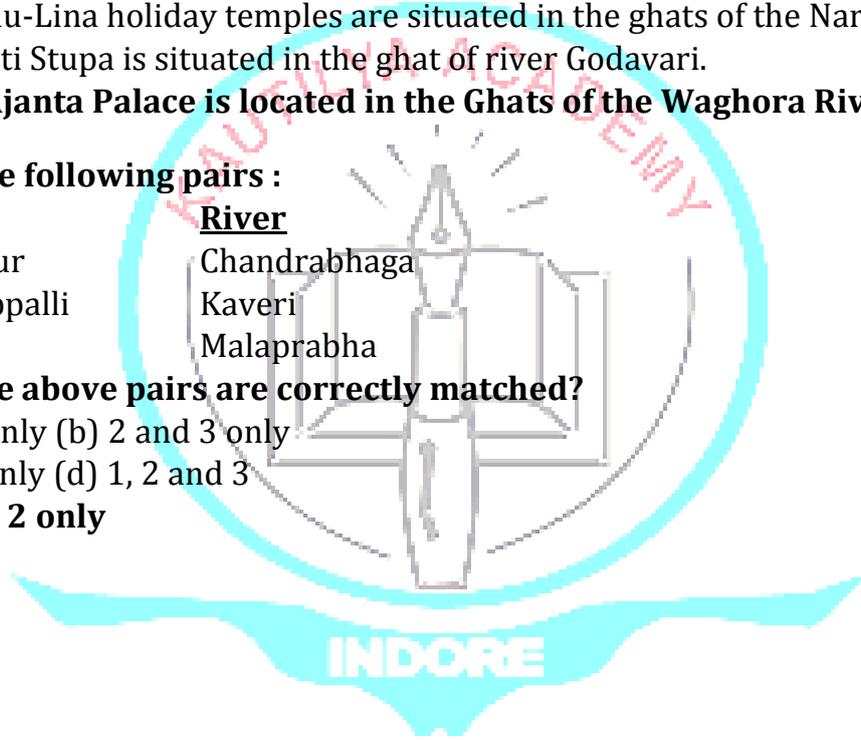
**River**

- Chandrabhaga
- Kaveri
- Malaprabha

**Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**



## Other Key Facts?

### UNESCO tentative list

- UNESCO's tentative list is a list of properties that each party wishes to be considered for nomination.
- According to UNESCO's Operational Guidelines, 2019, keeping any monument/site in its tentative list for one year before its final inclusion in the list of World Heritage Site mandatory.
- After nomination in it, it is sent to the **World Heritage Centre**.
- India now has **52 sites on the tentative list**.

### UNESCO

- UNESCO is a **specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)** whose mission is to **promote world peace and security through international co-operation** in education, arts, sciences and culture.
- UNESCO was established in **1945**.
- It has **195 member states and 11 associate members** and **non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sector partners**.
- UNESCO's programs also contribute to the **achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals** defined in **Agenda 2030**, adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly in 2015**.
- UNESCO is known for its World Heritage **Mission** which encourages countries of the world to protect natural and cultural heritage sites.

### World Heritage Site

- Various areas or objects have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- This list is embodied in an **international treaty called the 'Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage'** adopted in the year 1972 by UNESCO.
- The **World Heritage Center** is the **Secretariat of the Convention held in 1972**.
- It promotes the conservation of **natural and cultural sites** of outstanding universal value throughout the world.
- It includes **three types of sites: cultural, natural and mixed**.
- Cultural heritage sites include **historical buildings, city sites, important archaeological sites, monumental sculpture and painting works**.
- Natural heritage includes **outstanding ecological and evolutionary processes, unique natural phenomena, habitats of rare or endangered species, etc.**
- **Mixed heritage sites** include important elements of **both natural and cultural types**.
- India has a **total of 40 heritage sites** (32 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed) recognized by UNESCO. The **Harappan city of Dholavira** and the **Kakatiya Rudresvara**



## Other News

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina ( Capital: Sarajevo )**

- The **European Union** has agreed to grant candidate status to **Bosnia and Herzegovina** for its membership.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina is a **Balkan country** located in **South Eastern Europe**.
- Earlier it was a state of the **Union of Yugoslavia**.
- It shares its borders with **Croatia, Serbia** and **Montenegro**.
- The **Adriatic Sea** provides sea access to it.
- **Geographical Features:**
  - **Major rivers:** Sava River and Neretva River.
  - **Mount Magalic** is the highest peak.

### **Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)**

- Recently, **Indian troops** have foiled an infiltration bid by **Chinese troops** along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in **Tawang** sector of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Tawang** is the **westernmost** district of **Arunachal Pradesh**. It is surrounded by **Tibet (China)** in the north and **Bhutan** in the south-west.
- The **Sela range** connects it to the **West Kameng** district of **Arunachal Pradesh** in the east.
- **Tawang Monastery** is located here. It is the **largest monastery** of **India**. It is the **second largest monastery** in the world after the **Potala Palace** in **Lhasa (Tibet)**.

### **Ireland (Capital: Dublin)**

- Indian-origin **Leo Varadkar** has been elected **Taoiseach (Prime Minister)** of **Ireland** for the second time.
- **Political Boundaries:**
  - It is an island nation of **Western Europe**. It is located in the west of **Great Britain**.
  - It is the second largest island in **Europe** after **Great Britain**.
  - It is surrounded by the **Atlantic Ocean (west)**, the **Celtic Sea (south)** and the **Irish Sea**. The **Irish Sea** separates it from **England** to the east.
  - About one-fifth of **Ireland (Northern Ireland)** is part of the **United Kingdom**.
- **Geographical Features:**
  - **Highest point:** Carontuhill
  - **Largest river:** Shannon River.
  - **Largest island:** Akil- Island.

### **Rwanda (Kigali)**

- **London's High Court** has legalized **Britain's plan** to send migrants to **Rwanda**.
- **Political Boundaries:**
  - It is a **landlocked republic** located **south of the equator** in **East Central Africa**.



- Uganda to its north; Tanzania in the east; To the south are Burundi and to the west are the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lake Kivu.

▪ **Geographical Features:**

- Its main feature is the **chain of mountains present here**, which extends from **north to south**. This chain is part of the **Congo-Nile divide**.
- Most of the country's rivers flow in the eastern part of the **Congo-Nile divide**.
- **Kagera is the main river in the eastern part.**
- **Largest lake:** Lake Kivu.
- **Highest point:** Mount Karisingi.

