

06 July 2019: PIB Summary & Analysis

India gets its 38th UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE

Context

- India's nomination of the Jaipur City, Rajasthan got inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO during the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee held at Baku, Azerbaijan.
- The excerpts of proposed statement of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) before the World Heritage Committee was presented by India.
- India now has 38 World Heritage Sites , that include 30 Cultural properties, 7 Natural properties and 1 mixed site.

outstanding universal value

To be considered of Outstanding Universal Value, a property needs to:

- meet one or more of ten criteria
- meet the conditions of integrity: Integrity relates to the 'wholeness and intactness' of the heritage property and how it conveys the values it holds.
- if a cultural property, meet the conditions of authenticity, and
- have an adequate system of protection and management to safeguard its future.

Criteria for assessing Outstanding Universal Value

1. represent a masterpiece of human creative genius
2. 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
3. bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared
4. be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history
5. 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
6. 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)
7. contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance

8. 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
9. 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
10. 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.

Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Jaipur

- The City of Jaipur is an exceptional urban example in indigenous city planning and construction in South Asia
- Unlike other medieval cities of the region, Jaipur was deliberately planned as a new city on the plains open for trade as opposed to hilly terrain and military cities of past, though its planning still ensured a response to the surrounding hill tops in all directions.
- The site selected within the valley that lay to the south of Amber hills was comparatively flat and unmarred by any previous construction.
- Besides an exemplary planning, its iconic monuments such as the Govind Dev temple, City Palace, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal excel in artistic and architectural craftsmanship of the period.
- Jaipur is an expression of the astronomical skills, living traditions, unique urban form and exemplary foresighted city planning of an 18th century city from India.
- Jaipur is an exemplary development in town planning and architecture that demonstrates amalgamation and important interchange of several ideas over the late medieval period.