

List of Important Monuments of India - Important Facts for UPSC!

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Monuments Of India Important Monuments of India - List of Historical Monuments of India and Its
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OverviewTest SeriesImportant Monuments of India are monuments that date back to the origin of
Indian Art and Architecture. Historical monuments in India serve a purpose that showcases the rich
heritage and culture of India. There are various cultural monuments of national importance that are
also listed in UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Important Monuments of India is one of the most important topics for the UPSC IAS exam. It covers
a significant part of the Art & Culture subject in the General Studies Paper-1 syllabus. In this article,
we shall study the list of historical and famous Monuments of India.

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Indian monuments are among the most notable examples of the rich and varied Indian civilization
because of their complex superfluities and beautiful architecture. Each Indian monument, which is a
work of architecture in and of itself, is a strikingly spectacular example of incredible artistry, covering
a sense of mystery, deception, and romance. The art of master craftsmanship and elegance

highlights the beauty of the ancient past, whether it is the marvel in white marble, the Taj Mahal, or the splendor in red stone, the beautiful Red Fort. Monuments serve as witnesses to India's history and as the protector pillars of its cultural legacy. Future generations are being inspired by India's monuments.

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About 10

Major Historical Monuments of India - In Brief

Here are 10 major historical monuments of India:

Taj Mahal, Agra

A white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in Agra. It was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

The Taj Mahal is one of the most famous monuments of India. It is considered a masterpiece of Mughal architecture.

It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

Red Fort, Delhi

A massive red sandstone fort in the heart of Delhi. It was built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century.

It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

A five-story pink sandstone palace in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It is also known as the "Palace of the Winds."

The Hawa Mahal was built in the 18th century by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh. It was designed to allow the women of the royal family to observe street life without being seen.

Jama Masjid, Delhi

A mosque in Delhi, India. It is the largest mosque in India and was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century.

The Jama Masjid is a popular tourist destination and is one of the most important mosques in India.

Qutub Minar, Delhi

A 73-meter tall victory tower in Delhi, India. It was built by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the first Sultan of Delhi, in the 12th century.

The Qutub Minar is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra

A group of 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave temples in Aurangabad of Maharashtra. The caves were built between the 2nd century BCE and the 7th century CE.

The Ajanta Caves are famous for their intricate carvings and paintings.

The Ajanta Caves were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

Ellora Caves, Maharashtra

A group of 34 rock-cut caves in the Aurangabad district of Maharashtra. The caves were built between the 6th and 10th centuries CE.

The Ellora Caves are famous for their variety of religious architecture, including Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain caves.

The Ellora Caves were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

Hampi, Karnataka

A UNESCO World Heritage Site in Karnataka. Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

Hampi is famous for its ruins of temples, palaces, and other structures.

Konark Sun Temple, Odisha

A 13th-century Hindu temple in Konark, Odisha. The temple is dedicated to the sun god Surya.

The Konark Sun Temple is famous for its intricate carvings and sculptures.

The Konark Sun Temple was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.

Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu

A UNESCO World Heritage Site in Tamil Nadu. Mahabalipuram was a major port city during the Pallava rule from the 7th to the 9th century CE.

Mahabalipuram is famous for its shore temples. They are a series of rock-cut temples built on the beach.

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State

Monument

Place

Built by

Built Year

Features

Image

Madhya Pradesh

Sanchi Stupa

Raisen

Mauryan Emperor Ashoka

3rd Century BC

UNESCO World Heritage Site

It contains Buddhist temples and Viharas. The Lion Capital of Ashokan Pillar can be found at the Sanchi Stupa complex.

Gwalior Fort

Gwalior

Suraj Sen

8th Century

It is built based on influences from Hindu and Islamic architecture.

Delhi

Feroz Shah Kotla

Delhi

Ferozshan Tughlaq

1354

It was built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq during the shift of his capital from Tughlaqabad to Firozabad because of the scarcity of water at the former capital.

Humayun Tomb

Delhi

Empress Bega Begum

1569-70

Humayun Tomb was built by his wife, Biga Begum, after his death.

Hauz Khas

Delhi

Alauddin Khilji, Khilji Dynasty

1352- 1354 AD

Hauz means 'water tank' and khas means 'royal.' It was built as a large water tank to supply water to the inhabitants of Siri Fort.

Jama Masjid

Delhi

Shahjahan

1650-1656

It is constructed with Red Sandstone and White Marble.

Jantar-Mantar

Delhi

Sawai Jai Singh

1729

The Jantar Mantar's main goal was to compile astronomical tables that would eventually aid in predicting the timing and movement of celestial bodies, including the sun, moon, and other planets.

Khirki Masjid

Delhi

Ghyasuddin Tughlaq

1351 and 1354

It was built as an inaugural contribution to the Capital of Ghyasuddin Tughlaq.

Moti Masjid (Red Fort)

Delhi

Aurangzeb

1659-1660

It is located inside Red Fort in Delhi.

Rashtrapati Bhavan

Delhi

Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker

1913-30

House of President of India

Purana Qila

Delhi

Mughal Emperor Humayun & Sher Shah Suri

1538

This oldest Fort was constructed in Delhi. Fort. It formed the inner citadel of Dinpanah city.

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Red Fort

Delhi

Shahjahan

1546 AD

It was built as a palace fort of Shahjahanabad, which was the new capital of Shah Jahan.

Safdarjung Tomb

Delhi

Shuja-ud-daula

1754

The tomb is built in Red Sandstone and White Marble.

Qutub Minar

Delhi

Qutubuddin Aibak

1200 AD

UNESCO World Heritage Site. The height of Qutub Minar is 73 m.

Karnataka

Gol Gumbaz

Karnataka, Bijapur

Mohammed Adil Shah

1656

The second largest dome in the world, the first being Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Odisha

Jagannath Puri Temple

Odisha, Puri

Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva, Ruler of Ganga Dynasty

1161 CE

A Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath. It is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites located in India and is also well-known for the Rath Yatra, the annual chariot festival.

Sun Temple

Odisha, Konark

Emperor Narasingha Deva I

1244

The temple was built to worship Surya, the Sun God.

Maharashtra

Ajanta- Ellora Caves

Maharashtra, Aurangabad

Gupta rulers

400 to 650 CE

It is one of the largest rock-cut Hindu temple caves and is included in UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Bibi Ka Maqbara

Maharashtra, Aurangabad

Aurangzeb

1668 and 1669 C.E.

It is built by Aurangzeb in memory of his wife, Dilras Banu Begum.

Elephanta Cave

Maharashtra, Mumbai

Rashtrakuta rulers

15th Century

Elephanta Caves consists of five Hindu cave temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and two Buddhist caves and stupas.

Gateway Of India

Maharashtra, Mumbai

George Wittet (British Government)

1924

It is built in Indo-Saracenic style. The structure is an arch that is made of basalt and is 26 meters in height.

Kanheri Caves

Maharashtra, Mumbai

Buddhists

1st century

The Kanheri Caves are a collection of caves and carved-out rock structures. They include Buddhist paintings, inscriptions, sculptures, and relief carvings.

Punjab

Golden Temple

Punjab, Amritsar

Guru Arjan

1604

Golden Temple is also known as Harmandir in India.

Rajasthan

Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra

Rajasthan, Ajmer

Qutubuddin Aibak, Mamluk Dynasty

1199

It is a mosque built in Indo-Islamic architecture.

Lohagarh Fort

Rajasthan, Bharatpur

Raja Surajmal Singh, Jat Ruler

Early 18th century

It was built by Maharaja Suraj Mal ? the founder of Bharatpur.

Ajmer Sharif Dargah

Rajasthan, Ajmer

Mughal Emperor Humayun

1236

It is the Darga of Sufi Saint, Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chishti.

Dilwara Jain Temple

Rajasthan, Mount Abu

Chalukya Dynasty

11-13 century

It is a Jain temple dedicated to Lord Mahaveer, Tirthankar.

Hawa Mahal

Rajasthan, Jaipur

Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh

1799

Hawa Mahal is built in Red and Pink Sandstone.

Jaigarh Fort

Rajasthan, Jaipur

Sawai Jai Singh II

1726

The fort is also known as Cheel Ka Teela. It was built to store arms, ammunition, armor, and supplies for the Amer Fort in case of war.

Mehrangarh Fort

Rajasthan, Jodhpur

Rao Jodha, Founder of Jodhpur

1459

Mehrangarh Fort is also known as Jodhpur Fort. It is located in the center of Jodhpur, over 5 kilometers on top of a high hill.

Mandore Palace

Rajasthan, Jodhpur

Maharaja Ajit Singh

6th century

Mandore was the capital of the Rajputana Kingdom. Mandore Garden is built around the royal cenotaphs (Chhatris) of the Rathore rulers.

Nahargarh Fort

Rajasthan, Jaipur

Sawai Jai Singh II, Founder of Jaipur

1734

The fort is located in Aravalli Hills.

Vijaya Stambha

Rajasthan, Chittorgarh

Maharana Kumbha, Mewar King

1448

Vijaya Stambha was built to honor the victory of Maharana Kumbha over the army of Malwa led by Mahmud Khalji in the Battle of Sarangpur.

Kashmir

Charar-E- Sharif

Kashmir, Budgam

Zainul Abedin

1460

It is one of the oldest and sacrosanct shrines of Indian Muslims. It was constructed as a memorial to

Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, a Sufi saint.

Nishat Garden

Kashmir, Srinagar

Asaf Ali Khan

1633

Nishant is a urdu word which means 'Garden of Joy,' 'Garden of Gladness. It is located on the east side of Dal Lake in Srinagar.

a

Shalimar Garden

Kashmir, Srinagar

Jahangir

1619

It is also known as Farah Baksh'. It was built by Jahangir for his wife Nur Jahan.

Tamil Nadu

Saint George Fort

Tamil Nadu, Chennai

British East India Company

1640 AD

It was the first establishment of the British Empire in India and later became the British capital in south India.

Uttar Pradesh

Agra Fort

Uttar Pradesh, Agra

Mughal Emperor Akbar

1565-1573

The Fort was built when Akbar shifted his capital to Agra. It is made up of Red sandstone.

Akbar Tomb

Uttar Pradesh, Sikandra

Akbar

1605-1613

Akbar Tomb is a prominent Mughal architecture. The South gate of this tomb is the largest gate that is made up of four white marble chhatra-topped minarets.

Aram Bagh

Uttar Pradesh, Agra

Mughal Emperor Babur

1528

Aram Bagh is considered the oldest Mughal garden in India.

Bada Imambara

Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow

Asaf-ud-daula, Lucknow

1784

Bada Imambara is a place of worship for Muslims. It is also known as Bhul Bhulaiya because of its incredible maze.

Chhota Imambara

Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow

Nawab Muhammad Ali Shah

1838

It is the west of Bara Imambara. It is a worship hall for Shia Muslims.

Fatehpur Sikri

Uttar Pradesh, Agra

Mughal Emperor Akbar

1571- 1573

Fatehpur Sikri is built in Red Sandstone. It was built to honor the great Sufi saint Sheikh Salim Chisti

Tomb of Itmad-Ud-Daula

Uttar Pradesh, Agra

Nurjahan

1628

It was the first tomb to be built in white marble instead of red sandstone. It also marked the departure from the red sandstone buildings of Mughal Architecture.

Jama Mosque

Uttar Pradesh , Agra

Jehanara Begum, Daughter of Shah Jahan

1648

It is a worship place for Muslims.

Moti Masjid (Agra Fort)

Uttar Pradesh, Agra

Shahjahan

1655

Moti Masjid is located in the complex of Agra Fort. It is built of white Marble.

Sati Burj

Uttar Pradesh, Mathura

Raja Bharmal

1570 AD

Sati Burj is a 17-meter tall red sandstone tower. It was built to commemorate the demise of the widow of Raja Biharimal of Amer who committed Sati.

Taj Mahal

Agra

Shahjahan

1648 AD

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Telangana

Char- Minar

Telangana, Hyderabad

Sultan Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah

1591

Char-Minar is a square-shaped structure that consists of four pillars and intricate carvings built in honor of Quli Qutb Shah's wife, Bhagmati.

Makka Masjid

Telangana, Hyderabad

Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah

1693

Makka Masjid is located adjacent to Charminar in a southwest direction. It is built in granite and bricks that were brought from Mecca, the holy city in Saudi Arabia.

West Bengal

Victoria Memorial

Kolkata

British Government

1906-1921

Victoria Memorial is designed by William Emerson. It is based on the Indo-Saracenic revivalist style.

Bihar

Golghar

Patna

Captain John Garstin of British Army

1786

Golghar is built in Indo-Gothic style. It was used as a government building in the British era.

Pathar Ki Masjid

Patna

Perwez Shah, son of Mughal Emperor Jahangir

1621

Pathar Ki Masjid is made of stone and is the oldest mosque in Patna. It is located on the Ghats of the River Ganges.

Sher Shah's Tomb

Sasaram

Mir Muhammad Aliwal Khan

1545

It was Built in memory of Emperor Sher Shah Suri. He defeated Mughal Empire and founded the Suri Empire.

Vishnupad Temple

Gaya

Rani Ahilyabai

1787

The name 'Vishnupad Mandir' comes from the purported presence of Lord Vishnu's 40-cm-long footprint in a basalt rock.

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In order to preserve India's rich cultural heritage and history, monuments are important. Monuments were regularly built to commemorate significant historical moments or occurrences. They serve as significant representations of several eras in India's long and rich history. Monuments also display the evolution of Indian architecture over time. India is known as the 'country of monuments' since it has a large number of them. The splendour of these monuments attracts countless tourists to India.Previous Year UPSC Questions on Important Monuments of India

1.Safeguarding the Indian Art Heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (UPSC 2018)Conclusion Important Monuments of India establish the prominent art and architecture of India. Currently, historical sites have great significance in India and are well-known tourist destinations. They also provide a plethora of information about the country's traditional culture and past.

Also, check out the article on Temple Style Architecture in India with this link!

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Monuments of India - FAQs

What is a monument? Monument is a structure that is dedicated to a purpose that purpose can be in memory of loved ones, a place of worship, or constructed for historical significance. Some of the important monuments in India are the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Gateway of India, Jama Masjid, and Aram Bagh.

What is the importance of historical monuments in India? Monuments serve as a reminder of our past. They serve as a national treasure and a badge of honour for their civilisation. They enable us to better understand our past and the state of our thinking, knowledge, and progress. They give vitality to our past in a way.

Which is the oldest monument in India? Ajanta Caves is regarded as the oldest monument in India. The Ajanta Caves are about 30 stone-cut Buddhist cave structures in the Aurangabad region of Maharashtra State of India that date from the 2nd century BC to about 480 BC.

Why were the Monuments constructed? there are different purposes for different monuments. Some monuments serve as a memory of their beloved ones after their deaths, Some monuments are constructed as worship places for Muslims and Hindus.

Which is the National Monument in India? The India Gate is regarded as the National Monument of India. India Gate is located in New Delhi. It serves as a war memorial that is located near the Rajpath. India Gate is a 42 m high gate that commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who lost their lives during World War I while fighting against the British Army.

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