

Blended

Capacity Building Programme for Stakeholders of River Ganga

under Namami Gange Programme

02

SPACES AND PLACES OF GANGA



Indian Institute of Public Administration

New Delhi



OVERVIEW

NAME OF PROJECT

BLENDED CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR STAKEHOLDERS OF RIVER GANGA

PROGRAMME

NAMAMI GANGA PROGRAMME

PREPARED FOR

NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA

PREPARED BY

INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SPECIFIC FOCUS

STUDY MODULE SERIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

PROJECT TEAM

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Cover page image: A shrine along the Allahabad fort wall by IIPA Team

Left image: A scenic view of Mucalinda Lake view in Gaya by IIPA team

MESSAGE DIRECTOR GENERAL



My young Companions,

“Students are the hands by which we take hold of heaven.”

The above quotation by Henry Ward Beecher has inspired me to join hands with you in rejuvenation and conservation of our holy river Ganga. I consider your role in the society and believe that your participation in this herculean task can improve the present state of our River.

To make the descent of Ganga worthwhile, you are being made a part part of the project - Blended Capacity Building Programme for Stakeholders of River Ganga under Namami Gange Programme. Ganga lies at the core of our culture and it is our firm belief that your awareness of the complex

Through this booklet, you will be taken to a journey along the Ganges and its basin. I want to create an imprint on you and mould each one of you into responsible adults. This learning process has been tailored for your effective engagement with inclusion of maps, quizzes and puzzles.

challenges faced by our national river can bring about behavioural change in the society at large.

I consider the potential of a student in contributing towards a cleaner, breathable future. It is my hope and expectation to meet with your feelings, thoughts and awareness to foster a sense of belonging for River Ganga. I have faith in your tremendous curiosity and capacity & hope that together we can change mindsets and take it to practical application.

S. N. TRIPATHI
Director General, IIPA

PREFACE

Dear Students,

Universally and religiously, water is considered a purifying natural symbol. Indian rivers, besides being the lifeline for many are considered as manifestations of the divine. They connect state to state, past to present. The Ganges is our sacred river with a culturally significant history. It is not just a river but a deity, a cleanser of sins; It is our mother.

Ganga is a part of India's rich past. It is a symbol of purity and sanctity. It occupies a central space in the collective consciousness of the country, which is why Gangajal is considered the holy water. River Ganga, not only fosters exceptionally rich biodiversity, but it also contributes heavily to the livelihood of India. .

It is unfortunate that despite the admiration and reverence invoked by the river, it has become a dumping junkyard at innumerable points. Human greed and misconduct have degraded the river quality. It is indeed a matter of concern that the river has altered its flow over the years; with that, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has stepped in to keep the river clean, pure and healthy for the benefit of existing and future generations. It is a matter of pride for IIPA to be entrusted by the project “Blended Capacity Building for Stakeholders of River Ganga” under the Namami Gange programme.

With the aim of conserving and rejuvenating River Ganga, This series has been prepared to make students interact with our national river. The book encompasses a holistic view of the river Ganga by posing the challenges and opportunities in and around Ganga basin.



V. K. SHARMA
Senior professor, IIPA



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SIGNIFICANT SPACES AND PLACES OF GANGA

Above Image: Beatles Ashram in Rishikesh by IIPA

Space is anything that hosts design. People design spaces with intention so that they bear an impact on the people who inhabit them. Place and space are, for the most part, two separate theories. However, there is a point at which place and space merge. The desire of humans to occupy and explore new places is what drives the creation of inhabited spaces. Space is an essential tool of architecture used to create environments that make us aware of our external reality. The way we move our bodies and handle or transport objects all suggests space.

When space gains social, cultural or emotional meaning, it becomes a 'place'. We can understand place as an environment where 'things happen', consequentially giving it a purpose.

Along the River Ganga there are several thousand spaces turned into places which are large/small; open/closed; public/private; institutional/recreational; natural/man-made with historical, cultural, spiritual, social and economic values. These numerous places are of local, regional national and international significance and recognised by national and international agencies as irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.

"I do not think one can survive as humane creature on this earth without special attachments to special places"

Lewis

Space:
a continuous area or expanse which is free, available, or unoccupied.

Place:
a portion of space designated or available for or being used by some person

Heritage:
Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations

TO KNOW MORE



SCAN CODES

PREHISTORIC SITES ALONG GANGA

Ganga Basin owes to a rich archaeological heritage. The history of civilization along the river Ganges proves its importance and significance from ancient times. People have been dependent on the Ganga River for agriculture and trade. Pre-historic sites are a proof of role of the river since time immemorial. Ganga basin civilisation is still explorative due to the rapid and drastic changes in the courses of the river.



Above Image: Beatles Ashram in Rishikesh by IIPA

FIRST PHASE: PAINTED GRAY WARE (PGW)

PERIOD: 1,000/800 - 500 B.C.

Known for its outstanding ceramic forms and have been found in sites of western Uttar Pradesh.

The Ganga basin Kausambi on the river Yamuna provided concrete evidences. At Hastinapur and Alamgirpur evidences of mud and mud brick wall plastered with layers of thick clay. Domestication of cattle and horses and cultivation of rice are known from Hastinapur. Further during this phase, Exploration also demarks the earliest known iron objects in India. The civilisation had a working knowledge and understanding with metal. Iron objects in large records are reported from the initial period of the painted gray ware period at Atranjikhera, a site in the Etah district of Uttar Pradesh. The excavation also reported present day furnace like structures.



Above Image: Iron objects from PGW level, Atranjikhera, Uttar Pradesh, India.



FIRST PHASE: Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)

PERIOD: 500-200 B.C.
 In between of the first millennium B.C. and before the end of the PGW phase, showed an advanced technology and perhaps initial signs of the beginning of urban life. These were strongly evident in time period covering from about 500-200 B.C., and are characterized by a typical ceramic industry popularly; this period is referred as the northern black polished ware (NBPW). Bowl and sherds of NBPW and built up city walls of Ahichchhatra, Vaisali, Sravasti, Rajgriha and Rajghat all date from the same general period. A transition between NBPW and the plain black-slipped ware (PBSW) has been observed at Rajghat, observably the mature form of northern black polished ware. One important shift between the terracotta figurines between pre NBPW and NBPW illustrate a larger diversity, in particular the numerous female figurines



Above Image: One of the mounds at Ahichchhatra during excavation c. 1944. Courtesy of the Archaeological Survey of India. | theartofsouthasia.com

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"The Ganga to me is the symbol of India's memorable past which has been flowing into the present and continues to flow towards the ocean of the future."

Jawaharlal Nehru, First Prime Minister of India



Above Image: Chirand's tunnel structure in Bihar | DD Bihar



Above Image: Human burial at Hetapatti | Courtesy: National Trust for Promotion of Knowledge

Chirand

An archaeological site in the Saran district of Bihar, India, situated on the northern bank of the Ganga River. Prehistoric mound which is known for its continuous archaeological record from the Neolithic age (about 2500–1345 BC). Some other sites Sonpur, Rajar Dhipi and Mahisdal.



Above Image: Kalibangan City's pre harappan structures | Courtesy: Archaeological Survey of India

Kalibangan

An ancient town situated on the left or southern banks of the Ghaggar (Ghaggar-Hakra River). The pre-historic and pre-Mauryan character of Indus Valley Civilization was first identified by Luigi Tessitori at this site. Kalibangan was a major provincial capital of the Indus Valley Civilization. Kalibangan is distinguished by its unique fire altars and "world's earliest attested ploughed field". It is around 2900 BC that the region of Kalibangan developed into what can be considered a planned city.

Hetapatti

This site depicts type of agricultural and cultural context of the Ganga- Vindhyas region. Handmade potteries comprising basins, spouted and decorated basins, various sized jars, shallow and deep bowls, animal bones, blades and flakes of semi precious stones, querns, muller fragments and microliths etc. were discovered were excavated from the site.



Above Image: Early excavations works at Rajghat | Courtesy: Archaeological Survey of India

Rajghat

Also be referred to present day Varanasi (Banaras) is Malviya Bridge, spanning the Ganga. Excavations here have taken the site of Kashi back to 800 B.C., a far larger extent of the city remains completely unexcavated. Inscriptions found here from the Mauryan and Gahadavala periods clearly inform us that Rajghat was considered one of the most sacred spots in Varanasi.

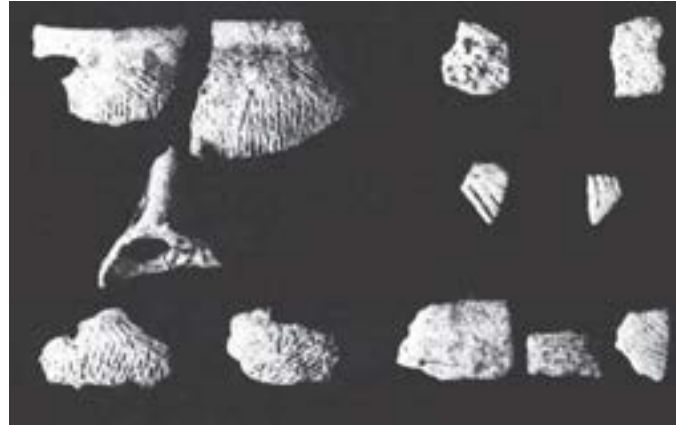


Above Image: Ajatsatru Fort in Rajgir | Courtesy: jfo.gov.in

Rajgir/Girivraj

An ancient city and a notified area in Nalanda district in the Indian state of Bihar. It was the first capital of the kingdom of Magadha. The city finds mention in India's greatest literary epic, the Mahabharata, through its king Jarasandha. Ceramics dating to about 1000 BC have been found in the city. The famous 2,500-year old Cyclopean Wall is located in the city. The birth-place of the 20th Jain Tirthankar Munisuvrata, and associated with the arihant Mahavira and Gautama Buddha. The ancient Nalanda university was located in the vicinity of Rajgir.

Chopani Mando, Koldihwa and many other have shown direct evidences of local stone working and availability. Kaimur range was a rich deposit of semi-precious stones. Ordinary and semi-precious stones both occurred in Mirzapur district, lying close to Varanasi. The earliest archaeological layer of Rajghat has been recognised as 800 BCE. That belongs to the Chalcolithic phase of the geographical region of eastern Uttar Pradesh. At nearby Aktha, two distinct ceramic wares Brown and Black have been found. Potteries have been found in the context of pre-iron and early iron-using cultures. Both of them can be fit into the time frame of 1400/1300- 800/700 BCE. The painted ceramic ware variety was a pre iron culture has been proposed to be a Chalcolithic culture and the unpainted ceramic ware hoard was of the iron- using groups. Glass manufacturing was known in the Ganga plains.



Above Image: Cord-impressed pottery, Koldihwa | Hazarika, Manjil. (2013)

Koldihwa

The site is situated at a distance of about 80 km southeast of Allahabad town on the left bank of the Belan River in Allahabad district. Excavations revealed 1.90 m thick habitation deposit divisible into three cultural periods - a) Neolithic; b) Chalcolithic; c) Iron Age. Collection of remains, pottery, microliths, mullers, sharpeners, querns, bone tools, fragmentary copper pieces, terracotta beads, stone and pottery discs, plant and faunal remains.

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Excavations:
remove earth carefully from a piece of land and look for things such as pots, bones, or buildings which are buried there, in order to discover information about the past.

Prehistory:
the time in history before any information was written down.

Archaeology:
the study of the societies and peoples of the past by examining the remains of their buildings, tools, and other objects.

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WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN RIVER GANGA BASIN

A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The sites contain cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. India's culture truly reflects the ethos of its rich cultural and natural heritage and its World Heritage Sites, which are testimony to invaluable treasures. Here in India, Ganga Basin is one of the most the large geopolitical expanse, with diversity of heritage. It is well established that, historically, the area was an melting point of several civilizations and cultural exchanges and gave space to multiple faiths at various stages in history. The culture of assimilation of ideas and beliefs is reflected in the current range of World Heritage Sites that establish Ganga Basin as a repository of archetypal diversity and artistic excellence. A unique feature of many of these sites are their continuity over centuries; age old traditions that embody its living heritage continue to be in practice even today, be it at the Buddhist Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya or the mosque at the iconic site of the Taj Mahal in Agra. Though there are 16 World Heritage Sites from Ganga Basin inscribed individually in the list, they collectively contribute to a cohesive historical narrative



Above Image: Khangchendzonga National Park: India-Nepal border at Boktok | © FEWMD | <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1513/>

Khangchendzonga National Park

The park is within the Himalaya global biodiversity hotspot and displays an unsurpassed range of sub-tropical to alpine ecosystems. It is located within a mountain range of global biodiversity conservation significance and covers 25% of the State of Sikkim, acknowledged as one of India's most significant biodiversity concentrations. It is a habitat to significant number of endemic, rare and threatened plant and animal species. The property has one of the highest number of plant and mammal species recorded in the Central/High Asian Mountains.



MAP OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GANGA BASIN

Back



Above Image: Breathing roots of Keora trees at the World largest mangrove forest Sundarbans by NazrulIslam

Sundarbans National Park

The Sundarbans contain the world's largest mangrove forests and one of the most biologically productive of all natural ecosystems. Located at the mouth of the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers between India and Bangladesh, its forest and waterways support a wide range of fauna including a number of species threatened with extinction. The mangrove habitat supports the single largest population of tigers in the world which have adapted to an almost amphibious life, being capable of swimming for long distances and feeding on fish, crab and water monitor lizards.



Above Image: Great Himalayan National Park © IUCN/Graeme Worboys

Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area

This National Park in the western part of the Himalayan Mountains in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh is characterized by high alpine peaks, alpine meadows and riverine forests. It is part of the Himalaya biodiversity hotspot and includes twenty-five forest types along with a rich assemblage of fauna species, several of which are threatened. This gives the site outstanding significance for biodiversity conservation.



Above Image: Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks © UNESCO

Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks

Nestled high in West Himalaya, India's Valley of Flowers National Park is renowned for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and outstanding natural beauty. This richly diverse area is also home to rare and endangered animals, including the Asiatic black bear, snow leopard, brown bear and blue sheep. The gentle landscape of the Valley of Flowers National Park complements the rugged mountain wilderness of Nanda Devi National Park. Together they encompass a unique transition zone between the mountain ranges of the Zaskar and Great Himalaya.



Above Image: Sarus Crane, *Grus antigone*, Gruidae family, Gruiformes order, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, India © UNESCO M & G

Keoladeo National Park

This former duck-hunting reserve of the Maharajas is one of the major wintering areas for large numbers of aquatic birds from Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, China and Siberia. Some 364 species of birds, including the rare Siberian crane, have been recorded in the park. Keoladeo National Park, located in the State of Rajasthan, is an important wintering ground of Palaearctic migratory waterfowl and is renowned for its large congregation of non-migratory resident breeding birds.



Above Image: Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (India) © OUR PLACE The World Heritage Collection/Giora Dan

Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi

Built in the early 13th century a few kilometres south of Delhi, the red sandstone tower of Qutb Minar is 72.5 m high, tapering from 2.75 m in diameter at its peak to 14.32 m at its base, and alternating angular and rounded flutings. The surrounding archaeological area contains funerary buildings, notably the magnificent Alai-Darwaza Gate, the masterpiece of Indo-Muslim art (built in 1311), and two mosques, including the Quwwatu'l-Islam, the oldest in northern India, built of materials reused from some 20 Brahman temples.



Above Image: Sanchi Stupa No.2 © Kevin Standage

Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi

On a hill about 40 km from Bhopal, the site of Sanchi comprises a group of Buddhist monuments (monolithic pillars, palaces, temples and monasteries) all in different states of conservation most of which date back to the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C. It is the oldest Buddhist sanctuary in existence and was a major Buddhist centre in India until the 12th century A.D.



Above Image: Red Fort Complex (India) © UNESCO/Francesco Bandarin

Red Fort Complex

The palace fort of Shahjahanabad – the new capital of the fifth Mughal Emperor of India, Shah Jahan. Named for its massive enclosing walls of red sandstone, it is adjacent to an older fort, the Salimgarh, built by Islam Shah Suri in 1546, with which it forms the Red Fort Complex. The private apartments consist of a row of pavilions connected by a continuous water channel, known as the Nahr-i-Behisht (Stream of Paradise). The Red Fort is considered to represent the zenith of Mughal creativity which, under the Shah Jahan, was brought to a new level of refinement.



Above Image: OUR PLACE The World © UNESCO /Amos Chapple

Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya

The Mahabodhi Temple Complex, Bodh Gaya lies 115 km south of the state capital of Bihar, Patna and 16 km from the district headquarters at Gaya, in Eastern India. It is one of the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha, and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment. The property encompasses the greatest remains of the 5th-6th century A.D in the Indian sub-continent belonging to this period of



Above Image: Khajuraho Group of Monuments © Aneta Ribarsk

Khajuraho Group of Monuments

The temples at Khajuraho were built during the Chandella dynasty, which reached its apogee between 950 and 1050. Only about 20 temples remain; they fall into three distinct groups and belong to two different religions – Hinduism and Jainism. They strike a perfect balance between architecture and sculpture. The Temple of Kandariya is decorated with a profusion of sculptures that are among the greatest masterpieces of Indian art.



Above Image: Great Himalayan National Park © IUCN/Graeme Worboys

The Jantar Mantar

The Jantar Mantar, in Jaipur, is an astronomical observation site built in the early 18th century. Designed for the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye, they embody several architectural and instrumental innovations. This is the most significant, most comprehensive, and the best preserved of India's historic observatories. It is an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period.



Above Image: Excavated Remains of Nalanda Mahavihara: View of Site no. 03 and structure to north of Site no. 1B from East © Rajneesh Raj

Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda

The Nalanda Mahavihara site is in the State of Bihar, in north-eastern India. It comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal. Nalanda stands out as the most ancient university of the Indian Subcontinent.



Above Image: View of Talkatora and Chaugan Stadium in Jaipur from Nahargarh Fort © DRONAH

Jaipur, Rajasthan

The walled city of Jaipur, in India's north-western state of Rajasthan was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II. Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture. The streets feature continuous colonnaded businesses that intersect in the centre, creating large public squares called chaupars. Markets, shops, residences and temples built along the main streets have uniform facades. The city's urban planning shows an exchange of ideas from ancient Hindu and early modern Mughal as well as Western cultures.



Above Image: Agra Fort (India) © Limes.Media/Tim Schnarr

Agra Fort

Near the gardens of the Taj Mahal stands the important 16th-century Mughal monument known as the Red Fort of Agra. This powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses, within its 2.5-km-long enclosure walls, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. It comprises many fairy-tale palaces, such as the Jahangir Palace and the Khas Mahal, built by Shah Jahan; audience halls, such as the Diwan-i-Khas; and two very beautiful mosques.



Above Image: Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka @UNESCO

Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka

The Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka are in the foothills of the Vindhya Mountains on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau. Within massive sandstone outcrops, above comparatively dense forest, are five clusters of natural rock shelters, displaying paintings that appear to date from the Mesolithic Period right through to the historical period. The cultural traditions of the inhabitants of the twenty-one villages adjacent to the site bear a strong resemblance to those represented in the rock paintings.



Above Image: Hill Forts of Rajasthan © DRONAH

Hill Forts of Rajasthan

The serial site, situated in the state of Rajasthan, includes six majestic forts in Chittorgarh; Kumbhalgarh; Sawai Madhopur; Jhalawar; Jaipur, and Jaisalmer. The eclectic architecture of the forts, some up to 20 kilometres in circumference, bears testimony to the power of the Rajput princely states that flourished in the region from the 8th to the 18th centuries. The forts use the natural defenses offered by the landscape: hills, deserts, rivers, and dense forests. They also feature extensive water harvesting structures, largely still in use today.



Above Image: Outside Assembly, Chandigarh, Bénédicte Gandini

© FLC/ADAGP

Capital Complex

Chosen from the work of Le Corbusier, the 17 sites comprising this transnational serial property are spread over seven countries and are a testimonial to the invention of a new architectural language that made a break with the past. They were built over a period of a half-century, in the course of what Le Corbusier described as "patient research". The Complexe du Capitole in Chandigarh (India), the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo (Japan), the House of Dr Curutchet in La Plata (Argentina) and the Unité d'habitation in Marseille (France) reflect the modern solutions and architectural techniques.



Above Image: Taj Mahal ©UNESCO/M & G Therin-Weise

Taj Mahal

An immense mausoleum of white marble, built in Agra between 1631 and 1648 by order of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favourite wife, the Taj Mahal is the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage. For its construction, masons, stone-cutters, inlayers, carvers, painters, calligraphers, dome builders and other artisans were requisitioned from the whole of the empire and also from the Central Asia and Iran. Ustad-Ahmad Lahori was the main architect of the Taj Mahal.



Above Image: Fatehpur Sikri © UNESCO/Bruno Poppe

Fatehpur Sikri

Built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years. The complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform architectural style, includes one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid



Above Image: Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (India) © UNESCO/Francesco Bandarin

Humayun Tomb

This tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal. Humayun's Tomb, Delhi is the first of the grand dynastic mausoleums that were to become synonyms of Mughal architecture with the architectural style reaching its zenith 80 years later at the later Taj Mahal. Humayun's Tomb stands within a complex of 27.04 ha. that includes other contemporary, 16th century Mughal garden-tombs such as Nila Gumbad, Isa Khan, Bu Halima, Afsarwala, Barber's Tomb and the complex where the craftsmen employed for the Building of Humayun's Tomb stayed, the Arab Serai.

The World Heritage Convention

The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.

Strategic Objectives: the "Five Cs"
Credibility Conservation Capacity-building Communication Communities

The idea of creating an international movement for protecting heritage emerged after World War I. The 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage developed from the merging of two separate movements: the first focusing on the preservation of cultural sites, and the other dealing with the conservation of nature.

TO KNOW MORE



SCAN CODES



©2015 by Sanjay Jagtap, India

Kumbh Mela (the festival of the sacred Pitcher) is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.



©Ministry of Culture Government of India

Ramlila, literally "Rama's play", is a performance of the Ramayana epic in a series of scenes that include song, narration, recital and dialogue. It is performed across northern India during the festival of Dussehra, held each year according to the ritual calendar in autumn.



© Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga

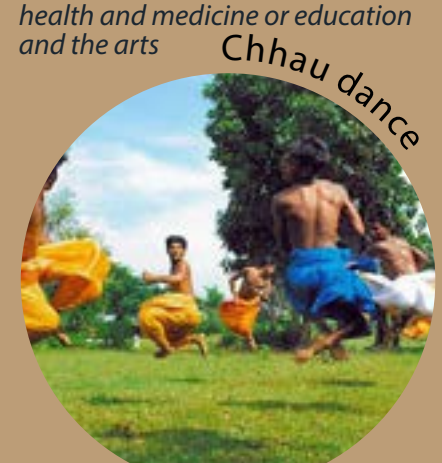
The philosophy behind the ancient Indian practice of yoga has influenced various aspects of how society in India functions, whether it be in relation to areas such as health and medicine or education and the arts.



© Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

The Vedas comprise a vast corpus of Sanskrit poetry, philosophical dialogue, myth, and ritual incantations developed and composed by Aryans over 3,500 years ago. Regarded by Hindus as the primary source of knowledge.

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY IN RIVER GANGA BASIN



© 2009 Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi

Chhau dance is a tradition from eastern India that enacts episodes from epics including the Mahabharata and Ramayana, local folklore and abstract themes. Its three distinct styles hail from the regions of Seraikella, Purulia and Mayurbhanj, the first two using masks.



© Indiaholiday.com

New Year is often a time when people wish for prosperity and new beginnings. March 21 marks the start of the year.



©IGNCA, Ministry of Culture

Every year in late April, the twin villages of Saloor-Dungra in the state of Uttarakhand (northern India) are marked by Ramman, a religious festival in honour of the tutelary god, Bhumiya Devta, a local divinity whose temple houses most of the festivities.

TO KNOW MORE



SCAN CODE



Triveni Ghat

GHATS ALONG THE RIVER GANGA

The importance of living water is described in the Vedic literature. These texts also laud the Ganga as Gangeya, which means the "giver of all sorts of prosperity and peace"—the water spirit of sustainability (Rig Veda, 7.45.31).



Dashasvamedha Ghat



Ganga Barrage

In Uttarakhand, there are 5 main Ghats Triveni Ghat, Har Ki Pauri, Ganesh Ghat, Birla Ghat, Kushavarta Ghat, Gau Ghat and Vishnu Ghat. The Har Ki Pauri Ghat ishas its religious significance for thousands of pilgrims and the festivities commenced during the Kumbha Mela (every twelve years), and the Ardh Kumbh Mela (every six years) and the Punjabi festival of Vaisakhi (a harvest festival) in the month of April every year. In Uttar Pradesh, Varanasi has 88 Ghats (stairways) to the river and 96 water-front sacredscapes (tirthas). Among these five ghats are considered as most auspicious they are, Asi, Dashasvamedha, Manikarnika, Panchagangā, and Adi Keshava. They also known as the Panchatirthis (the five most sacred water spots). In Kolkata, ghats have been popularised for their historicity and age old trade channels. James Princep or Outram Ghat is a Greek style monument dating back to the mid 19th century.



Manikarnika Ghat



Ram Jhula Ghat

State tourism department organises a kite festival on the Sabbalpur diara island, across the river on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. Another, such ghat is Armenian Ghat. This was built by an Armenian, Manvel Hazaar Maliyan. He was a prominent trader settled in Kolkata and traded spices and precious stones. He built the classic Armenian ghat in 1734, along the River Hoogly. Nowadays, this ghat is a storage place of the Calcutta Port Trust. However, still exudes the heritage vibes and has a buzzing flower market popular among the locals.



Har Ki Pauri



Bithoor Ghats

The Ganga ghats witness several festivals along side the banks of the river. Some of the most popular festivals celebrated widely across the Ganga River are Khumbh Mela, Ganga Dussera, Ganga Mahotsav, Chhat Puja and Ganga Mahotsav.

TO KNOW MORE



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WORLD HERITAGE

Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. 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.

CULTURAL HERITAGE:

monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.their buildings, tools, and other objects.

NATURAL HERITAGE:

natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;

geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;

natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

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“If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.”

– Loren Eiseley

