

Welcome to the Virtual Gallery on River Ganga Basin

Ganga Darshan

ENTER

Follow the links on the bottom to move between rooms.

Click on the photos to learn more about it places and spaces around in River Ganga Basin



WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GANGA BASIN

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. Places as unique and diverse as the Taj Mahal, Nalanda and Khangchendzonga make our Ganga's heritage. World Heritage sites in the basin belong to all the people of the world, irrespective of the area on which they are located.



Basin
Map

Next Room

WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GANGA BASIN



Nanda Devi National Park



Great Himalayan National Park



Keoladeo Ghana National Park



Previous Room

Next Room

WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GANGA BASIN



Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh



Nalanda, Bihar



Jantar Mantar, Jaipur



Previous Room

Next Room

WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GANGA BASIN



Hills of forts, Jaipur



Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka



Taj Mahal



Previous Room

Next Room

WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GANGA BASIN



Humayun Tomb



Fatehpur Sikri



Agra fort

Previous Room

Next Room

RAMSAR SITES IN GANGA BASIN

The Convention on Wetlands is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. The convention entered into force in India on 1 February 1982. India currently has 41 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). 16 wetlands in Ganga basin have been listed in RAMSAR SITES

Previous Room

Next Room

RAMSAR SITES IN GANGA BASIN



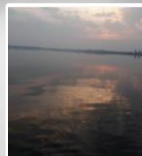
Asan Wetland



Renuka wetland



*Nawabganj Bird
Sanctuary*



*Parvati Arga Bird
Sanctuary*

Previous Room

Next Room

RAMSAR SITES IN GANGA BASIN



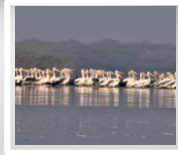
*Samaspur Bird
Sanctuary*



*Saman Bird
Sanctuary*



*Sandi Bird
Sanctuary*



Sur Sarovar

Previous Room

Next Room

RAMSAR SITES IN GANGA BASIN



Sarsai Nawar Jheel



Kabartal Wetland



Sundarban Wetland

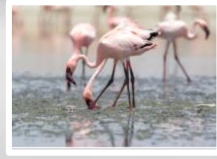
Previous Room

Next Room

RAMSAR SITES IN GANGA BASIN



Keoladeo national park



Samhar Lake



East Kolkata Wetland

Previous Room

Next Room

RAMSAR SITES IN GANGA BASIN



Bhoj Wetland



Upper Ganga River



Previous Room

Next Room



THE GANGA: GHATS

The Ghats of the Ganges signify the historic and cultural value of of the Ganges and its civilisation. The ghats have several activities from worship, ritual bathing, cremation, life cycle rituals, recreation and tourism. Sustainable management on the ghats that would contribute to the health of the heavily polluted river.



Previous Room

Next Room



Assi Ghat



Dashwamedh Ghat



Manikarnika Ghat



Previous Room

Next Room



Princep Ghat



Har Ki Pauri Ghat



Armenia Ghat



Previous Room

Next Room



THE GANGA: FESTIVALS

This section display the cultural heritage of the Gangetic plains. These festivals are an important part of peoples religious sentiments. The gathering on these festivals is from the nation and abroad come together to witness and experience.



Previous Room

Next Room



Kumbh Mela



Ganga Mahotsav

Previous Room

Next Room



Chhath Puja



Ganga Dussehra

Previous Room

Next Room

THE GANGA: PREHISTORIC SITES

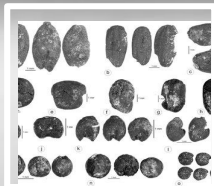
Ganga Basin owes to a rich archaeological heritage. The history of civilization along the river Ganges proves its importance and significance from ancient times. People have been dependent on the Ganga river for agriculture and trade. Pre-historic sites are a proof of role of the river since time immemorial.

Previous Room

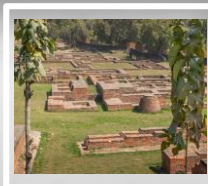
Next Room



Kalibagan



Hetapatti



Rajgir

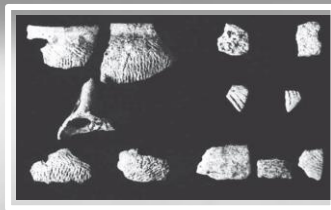


Previous Room

Next Room



Rajghat



Koldihwa



Previous Room

Next Room

THE GANGA: PREHISTORIC INDUSTRIES

The Industries around Ganga Basin can witness various prehistoric industries with usage of different earth metals .

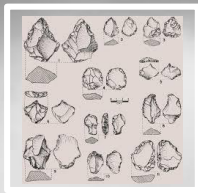
These

Industries can be established through the materials found in excavation of the prehistoric sites by Archeological Survey of India



Previous Room

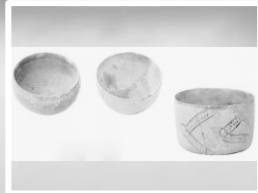
Next Room



Lithic Industry



Metal Crafts



Glass Industry



Previous Room

Next Room



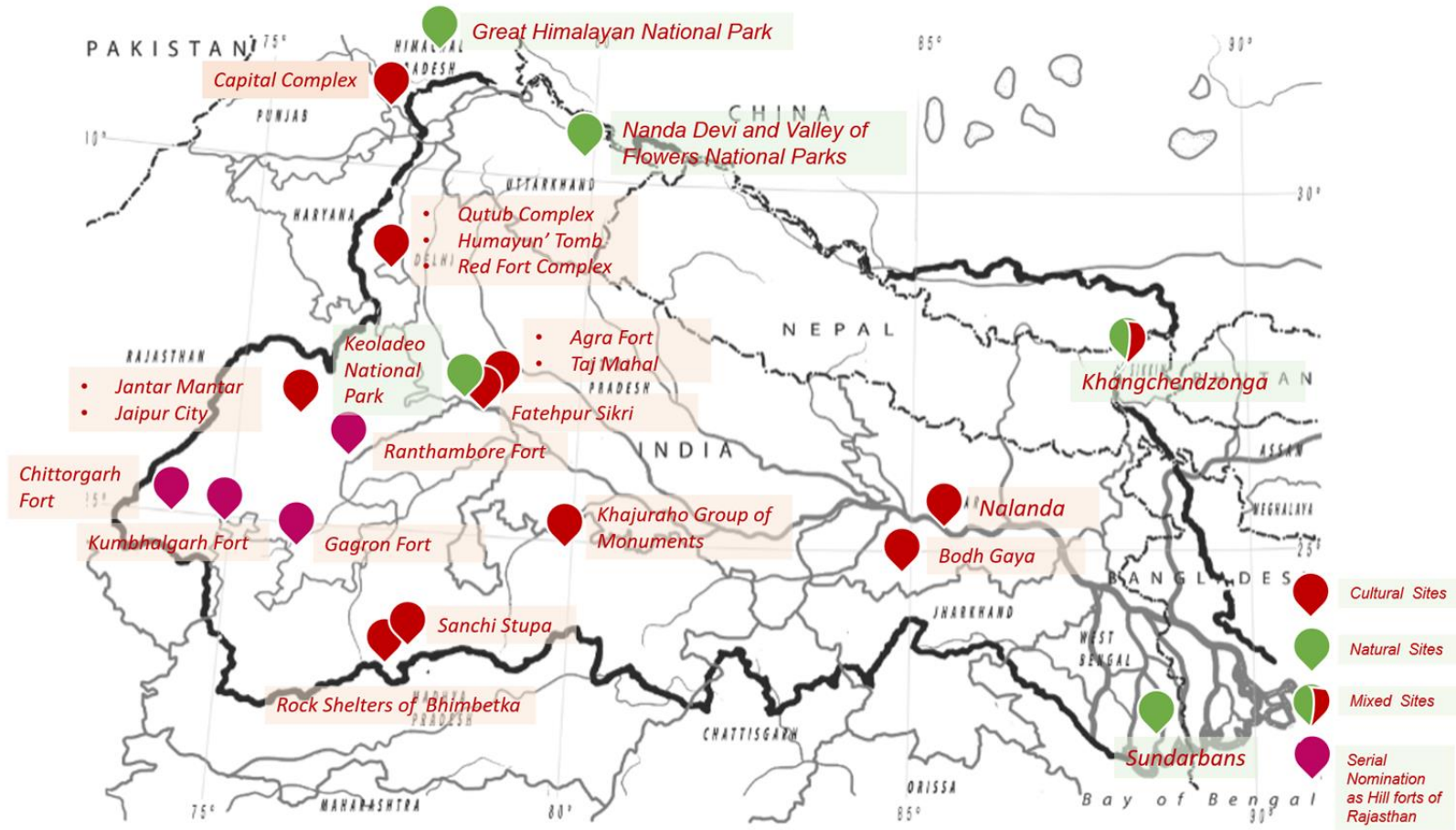
Ceramics and Pottery



Handicrafts



Previous Room



MAP OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GANGA BASIN



Caption: Khangchendzonga National Park: India-Nepal border at Baktok © FEWMD

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/141188>

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, and also has a high number of bird species.

[Back](#)

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1513/>



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

Source: <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/breathing-roots-keora-trees-world-largest-1211401852>

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.

Back

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/452/>



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.

Caption: Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks © UNESCO

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/110486>

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/335/>

Back



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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/>

Caption: Great Himalayan National Park © IUCN/Graeme Worboys

Source: whc.unesco.org/en/documents/123197

Back



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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/>

Caption: Sarus Crane, *Grus antigone*, Gruidae family, Gruiformes order, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, India © UNESCO M & G Therin-Weise

Source: whc.unesco.org/en/documents/110540

Back



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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/233/>

Caption: Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (India) © OUR PLACE The World Heritage Collection/Giora Dan
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/130025>

Back



*Caption: Red Fort Complex (India) © UNESCO/Francesco Bandarin
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/109227>*

Red Fort Complex

The Red Fort Complex was built as 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. The planning of the palace is based on Islamic prototypes.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/231/>

Back



Caption: Sanchi Stupa No2 © Kevin Standage

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanchi#/media/File:Sanchi_Stupa_No2.jpg

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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/524>

Back



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 antiquity. The property has a total area of 4.8600 ha. It is the first temple built by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century B.C.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1056/>

Caption: OUR PLACE The World © UNESCO /Amos Chapple
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/130032>

Back



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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/>

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

Rajneesh Raj

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/141224>

Back



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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/240/>

*Caption: Khajuraho Group of Monuments © Aneta Ribarsk
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/118910>*

Back



Caption: Brihat Samrat Yantra – with repaired plaster and lime wash (khamira) © DRONAH

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/115001>

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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1338/>

Back



Caption: View of Talkatora and Chaugan Stadium in Jaipur from Nahargarh Fort © DRONAH
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/172603>

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.

[Back](#)

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1605/>



*Caption: Agra Fort (India) © Limes.Media/Tim Schnarr
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/116895>*

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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/251/>

Back



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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/>

Caption: Hill Forts of Rajasthan © DRONAH

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/123358>

Back



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.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/925/>

Caption: Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka @UNESCO

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/113402>

Back



Caption: Outside Assembly, Chandigarh, Bénédicte Gandini/ © FLC/ADAGP

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/140723>

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 solutions that the Modern Movement sought to apply during the 20th century to the challenges of inventing new architectural techniques.

[Back](#)

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1321/>



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. One such genius planning is the placing of tomb at one end of the quadripartite garden rather than in the exact centre, which added rich depth and perspective to the distant view of the monument.

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

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/109422>

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/252/>

Back



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

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/255/>

Caption: Fatehpur Sikri © UNESCO/Bruno Poppe

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/109433>

Back



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

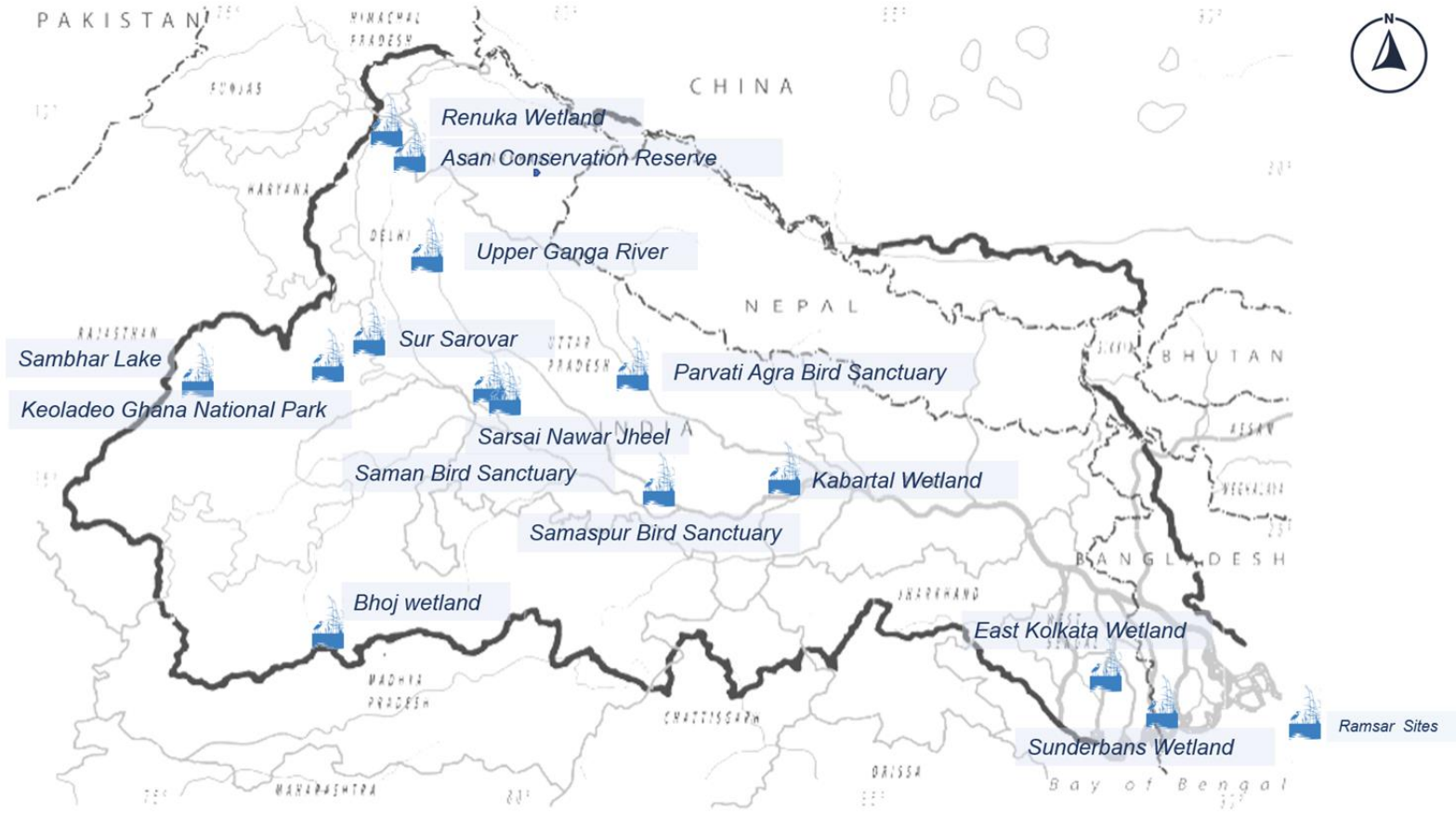
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/109235>

Humayun's 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.

Back

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/232/>



MAP OF RAMSAR SITES IN GANGA BASIN

[Back](#)



Asan Conservation Reserve

The Asan Conservation Reserve is a 444-hectare stretch of the Asan River running down to its confluence with the Yamuna River in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. The damming of the River by the Asan Barrage in 1967 resulted in siltation above the dam wall, which helped to create some of the Site's bird friendly habitats. These habitats support 330 species of birds including the critically endangered red headed vulture, white-rumped vulture and Baer's pochard. More than 1% of the biogeographical populations of two waterbird species have been recorded, these being red-crested pochard and ruddy shelduck . Other non-avian species present include 49 fish species, one of these being the endangered *Putitora mahseer*. Fish use the site for feeding, migration and spawning.

Caption: Asan Conservation Reserve

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/110486>

Source:

https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Renuka Wetland

Himachal Pradesh with an area of 20 ha Wildlife Sanctuary, Reserve Forest. A natural wetland with freshwater springs and inland subterranean karst formations, fed by a small stream flowing from the lower Himalayan out to the Giri river. The lake is home to at least 443 species of fauna. There are 103 species of birds of which 66 are residents, e.g. Crimson-breasted barbet, Mayna, Bulbul, Pheasants, Egrets, Herons, Mallards and Lapwing. Among ungulates Sambhar, Barking deer and Ghorals are also abundant in the area. The lake has high religious significance and is named after the mother of Hindu sage Parshuram, and is thus visited by thousands of pilgrims and tourists.



1. Renuka Lake, Sirmour district, Himachal Pradesh
2. Renuka Lake
3. Pershuram Talab , Renuka lake , Himachal Pradesh,India

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/110486>

Source:
https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary

A shallow marshland 45 kilometres from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. Monsoon rains feed this diverse wetland while the Sarada Canal supplies additional water. The Sanctuary supports recreation and tourism activities as well as local biodiversity. It is a haven for birds, with 25,000 waterbirds regularly recorded and 220 resident and migratory species documented. Among these are globally threatened species including the endangered Egyptian vulture and Pallas's fish eagle as well as the vulnerable lesser adjutant and woolly-necked stork. Protection and afforestation measures have helped increase the overall diversity of wildlife, with golden jackal and jungle cat now present.



Caption: Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary

Source: <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/2412?language=en>

Source:

https://rsis Ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary

It is a permanent freshwater environment consisting of two oxbow lakes. These wetlands are characteristic of Uttar Pradesh and offer exceptional habitats for waterbirds, providing both roosting and breeding sites with over 100,000 birds documented in annual counts. The Sanctuary is a refuge for some of India's threatened vulture species: the critically endangered whiterumped vulture and Indian vulture, and the endangered Egyptian vulture have all been recorded. It is also critical in the maintenance of hydrological regimes, ensuring groundwater recharge and discharge. Meanwhile ancient temples around the lakes provide religious significance and encourage tourism. Invasive species such as the common water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*).



Caption: Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/110486>

Source:
https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Samaspur Bird Sanctuary

The wetland is a perennial lowland marsh typical of the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Its six connected lakes are heavily relevant on monsoon rains. Annual counts regularly find more than 75,000 birds present, with over 250 resident and migrant species documented. The Sanctuary harbours threatened species such as the endangered Egyptian vulture and Pallas's fish eagle, and more than 1% of the South Asian population of the vulnerable common pochard. The Site provides food products and agricultural fodder, as well as maintaining this biodiversity. However, invasive species threaten its ecological character, with over 40% of documented floral species being exotic.



Caption: Samaspur Bird Sanctuary

Source: <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/2415?language=en>

Source:

https://rsis Ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1608815317

Back

Saman Bird Sanctuary

The Sanctuary in the Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh is a seasonal oxbow lake on the Ganges floodplain. It is heavily reliant on the arrival of the south-westerly monsoon in July and August, which provides the vast majority of annual rainfall. The Sanctuary regularly provides refuge to over 50,000 waterbirds (187 bird species have been recorded) and is particularly important as a wintering site for many migrants including the greylag goose, with over 1% of the South Asian population present during winter. Vulnerable species including sarus crane and greater spotted Eagle are also found. Ecosystem services provided include supply of fresh water for agriculture, as well as recreation and nature-based tourism based around the huge diversity of birds.



Caption: Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/110486>

Source:
https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Sandi Bird Sanctuary

The wetland is a freshwater marsh in the Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh. The wetland is typical of the Indo-Gangetic plains and receives most of its water from monsoon rains. Rich in aquatic plants, the Site provides a productive habitat for waterfowl with over 40,000 individuals counted in 2018. It is home to over 1% of the South Asian populations of common teal, red-crested pochard and ferruginous duck, while the vulnerable sarus crane has a population of 200 individuals within the Sanctuary. These figures justify its designation as an important Bird Area by BirdLife International. The wetland is a popular recreational and tourism destination and supports surrounding farmers as a source of livestock fodder.



Caption: Sandi Bird Sanctuary

Source: <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2409?language=en>

Source:

https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

[Back](#)

Sur Sarovar

The area also known as Keetham Lake, is a human-made reservoir; originally created to supply water to the city of Agra in summer, the wetland soon became an important and rich ecosystem. The Site's patchwork of different habitat types provides refuge to resident and migratory birds, and more than 60 species of fish. Threatened species include the vulnerable greater spotted eagle, sarus crane and catfish *Wallago attu*. The Site is important for bird species which migrate on the Central Asian flyway, with over 30,000 waterbirds known to visit the reservoir annually. . Unsustainable tourism, invasive species, and household sewage and urban wastewater present significant threats to the Site.



Caption: Sur Sarvar Wetland

Source: <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/2440?language=en>

Source:

https://rsis Ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Sarsai Nawar Jheel

The permanent marsh is in the Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh. This typical wetland of the Indo-Gangetic floodplain is fed by precipitation run-off from the South West monsoon rains. It is an example of co-habitation of humans and wildlife: farming practices across most of the site play important roles in sustaining the waterbird habitats. A particular beneficiary is the vulnerable sarus crane, with a population of 400 individuals making up the largest flock in the region. The site's name is derived from this large non-migratory crane. Other threatened species present include the critically endangered white-rumped vulture and endangered woolly-necked stork. Droughts along with drainage have the potential to threaten the Site's ecological character



Caption: Sarsai Nawar Jheel

Source: <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2411?language=en>

Source:

https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Kabartal Wetland

Also known as Kanwar Jheel, covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in the northern Bihar State. The Site is one of 18 wetlands within an extensive floodplain complex. This absorption of floodwaters is a vital service in Bihar State where 70% of the land is vulnerable to inundation. Significant biodiversity is present, with 165 plant species and 394 animal species recorded, including 221 bird species. The Wetland is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel. Five critically endangered species inhabit the site, including three vultures – the red-headed vulture, white-rumped Vulture and Indian vulture, the sociable lapwing and Baer's pochard.



Caption: Kabartal Wetland

Source: <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/2436?language=en>

Source:

https://rsis Ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Sundarban Wetland

The wetland is located within the largest mangrove forest in the world, the Sundarbans, that encompasses hundreds of islands and a maze of rivers, rivulets and creeks, in the delta of the Rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra on the Bay of Bengal in India and Bangladesh. The Indian Sundarban, covering the south-westernmost part of the delta, constitutes over 60% of the country's total mangrove forest area and includes 90% of Indian mangrove species. The Sundarban Tiger Reserve is situated within the Site. It is also home to a large number of rare and globally threatened species such as the critically endangered northern river terrapin (*Batagur baska*), the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin, and the vulnerable fishing cat.



Caption: Sunderban wetland

Source: <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/2370?language=en>

Source:

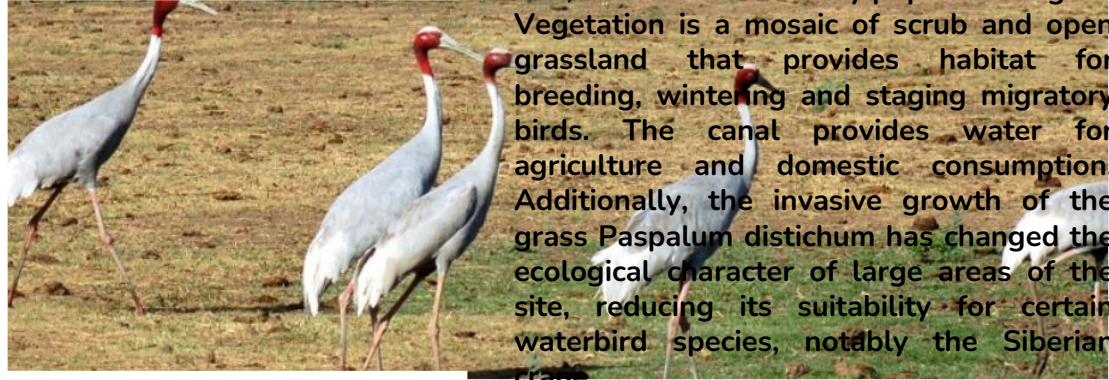
https://rsis Ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back



Keoladeo National Park

The site was added to the Montreux Record 4 July 1990. World Heritage Site; National Park; Bird Sanctuary. A complex of ten artificial, seasonal lagoons, varying in size, situated in a densely populated region. Vegetation is a mosaic of scrub and open grassland that provides habitat for breeding, wintering and staging migratory birds. The canal provides water for agriculture and domestic consumption. Additionally, the invasive growth of the grass *Paspalum distichum* has changed the ecological character of large areas of the site, reducing its suitability for certain waterbird species, notably the Siberian crane.



Caption: 1.© Ko Hon Chiu Vincent 2.© Sahapedia

Source: 1. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/gallery/> 2. <https://www.sahapedia.org/keoladeo-national-park>

Source:
https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back



Sambhar Lake

A large saline lake fed by four streams set in a shallow wetland and subject to seasonal fluctuations. It is surrounded by sand flats and dry thorn scrub and fed by seasonal rivers and streams. The site is important for a variety of wintering waterbirds, including large numbers of flamingos. Human activities consist of salt production and livestock grazing.

Caption: 1. Photo by Arini 2. Photo by Arini

Source: Shutterstock

Source:
https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

East Kolkata wetlands

World-renowned as a model of a multiple use wetland, the site's resource recovery system. The wetland forms an urban facility for treating the city's wastewater and utilizing the treated water for pisciculture and agriculture, through the recovery of nutrients in an efficient manner - the water flows through fish ponds covering about 4,000 ha, and the ponds act as solar reactors and complete most of their biochemical reactions with the help of solar energy. Thus the system is described as "one of the rare examples of environmental protection and development management where a complex ecological process has been adopted by the local farmers for mastering the resource recovery activities"



Caption: Photo by [suprabhat](#)

Source: Shutterstock

Source:

https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back

Bhoj Wetland

Two contiguous human-made reservoirs - the "Upper Lake" was created in the 11th century by construction of an earthen dam across the Kolans River, and the lower was constructed nearly 200 years ago, largely from leakage from the Upper, and is surrounded by the city of Bhopal. The lakes are very rich in biodiversity, particularly for macrophytes, phytoplankton, zooplankton, both natural and cultured fish species, both resident and migratory birds, insects, and reptiles and amphibians.



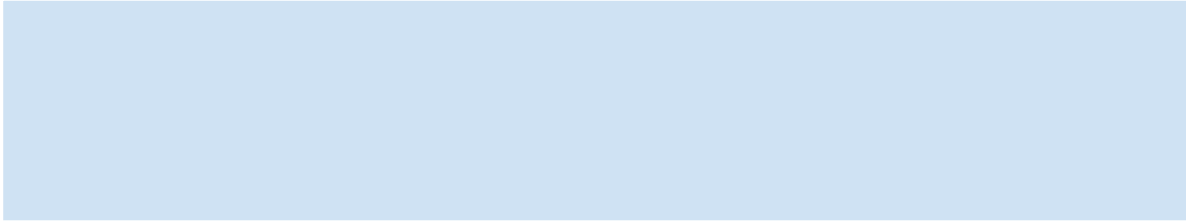
Caption: 1. View of Widened Canal at Upper Lake from IIFM Located in the Southern Part of the Upper Lake Captured in Camera by Project Team, IIFM, Bhopal
2. Panoramic view of Upper Lake of Bhoj Wetland from the highest point located at Shyamala Hills Captured in Camera by Central Color Lab, Bhopal

Source: https://web.archive.org/web/20050414151849/http://www.ramsar.org/photo_essay_india_bhoj.htm

Source:

https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back



Upper Ganga River

The stretch along Brijghat to Narora Stretch, Uttar Pradesh for an area 26,590 ha. A shallow river stretch of the great Ganges with intermittent small stretches of deep-water pools and reservoirs upstream from barrages. The river provides habitat for IUCN Red listed Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial, Crocodile, 6 species of turtles, otters, 82 species of fish and more than hundred species of birds. This river stretch has high Hindu religious importance for thousands of pilgrims and is used for cremation and holy baths for spiritual purification. Major threats are sewage discharge, agricultural runoff, and intensive fishing.

Caption: Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks
Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/110486>

Source:
https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsisw_p_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-India.pdf?1606815317

Back



Assi Ghat

Assi ghat name is given as it is the 80th ghat. The Ghat used to lie at confluence of now dry river Asi and Ganga. It sees at least 300 people every morning and the number multiplies many folds during Mahashivratri and other auspicious Hindu festivals. Asisangameshwar Temple at the ghat is also mentioned in the scripture 'Kashi Khand of Skanda Mahapurana'



Dashwamedh Ghat

Dashashwamedh Ghat is known as the main ghat in Varanasi. Located close to Vishwanath Temple, and is probably the most spectacular ghat. Two Hindu mythologies are associated with it: According to one, Lord Brahma created it to welcome Lord Shiva. A group of priests daily perform in the evening at this ghat "Agni Pooja" (Worship to Fire) wherein a dedication is made to Lord Shiva, River Ganges, Surya (Sun), Agni (Fire), and the whole universe.



Source: niladrilovesphotography/ Shutterstock.com

Manikarnika Ghat

Manikarnika Ghat acts as the central cremation site in Varanasi and is one of the oldest and most sacred Ghats in Varanasi.

Millions of people come down at this ghat to burn down the mortal remains of their dear ones and pray to the flames for eternal peace of the soul.

The activity poses several environmental issues and deteriorate the ecosystem of the Ganga.

[Back](#)



Triveni Ghat

It is the biggest and most famous ghat in Rishikesh at the banks of Ganges.

Triveni Ghat is even used by devotees to perform the last rites and rituals of their loved ones.

Ganga aarti performed to the chants of Vedic hymns. On the bank of Triveni Ghat, one can visit the Gita Mandir and Lakshminarayan Temple. Dawn boat ride along the Ganges is a must on a short tour to Triveni Ghat.

[Back](#)



Har ki Pauri Ghat

Har ki Pauri is believed to be the place of exit of holy river Ganga from the mountains.

World famous Ganga Aarti takes place in Brahmakund area of Har ki Pauri, a sacred spot where it is believe that the nectar (Amrit) felled on earth.

Hindu festivals named Kumbh and Ardh Kumbh also takes place at Har ki Pauri.



Princep Ghat

James Princep aka Babu Ghat or Outram Ghat is a Greek style monument dating back to the mid 19th century.

State tourism department organises a kite festival on the Sabbalpur diara island, across the river on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.



Brett Cole

Armenia Ghat

An Armenian, Manvel Hazaar Maliyan, 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.

Today, ghat has a buzzing flower market popular among the locals.



Kumbh Mela

The largest of these festivals are the various Kumbh Melas.

The Melas are alternatively in Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik and Allahabad (Prayag), being celebrated in each place every twelve years.



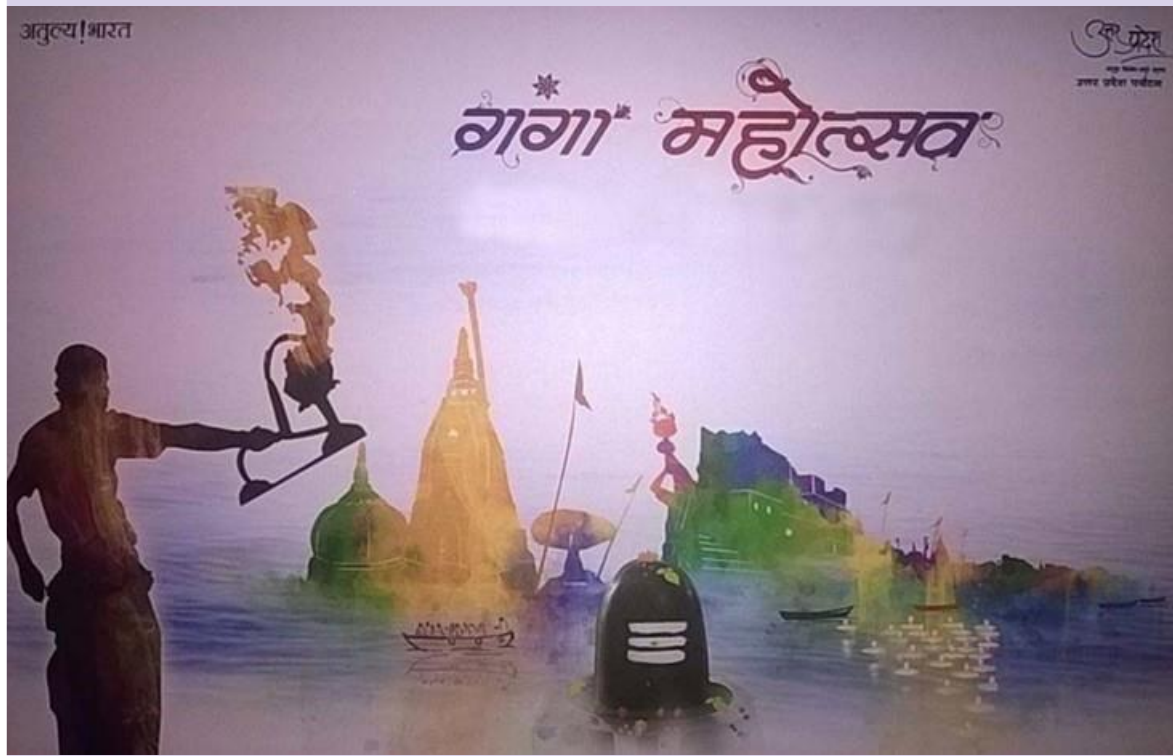
Ganga Dussehra

Ganga Dussehra is celebrated in the first ten days of the month of Jyesththa (in June) celebrating the day Ganga came down from the heavens to Earth. One special ceremony that takes place on Ganga Dussehra is Ganga Chunari, in which the murti (statue) of Ganga is wrapped in 108 colorful saris. During Ganga Dussehra, pilgrims also gather clay and water from Ganga to take home for use in their daily worship.



Chhath Puja

It is a Hindu festival dedicated to honoring the sun god Surya, in order to give thanks for sustaining life on earth. This festival also directly involves Ganga. The rituals of this festival take place over four days and are very rigorous, including bathing, fasting without water, standing in water for long periods of time with offerings to the sun.



Ganga Mahotsav

Ganga Mahotsav is a cultural festival that is specific to Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The festival celebrates the various facets of this holy river. It is celebrated over a 5 day period on the banks of the river Ganga and promotes culture and tradition of Varanasi which is known for its dance and music, arts, silk, carpet industries and handicrafts

Source: Uttar Pradesh Government

Back



Dev Deepavali

The festival celebrates the Kartik Purnima, a full moon night during months of November- December. The festival usually falls fifteen days after Diwali. The steps of different ghats of the river Ganga are lit with more than a million earthen lamps (diyas) in honour of Ganga, the Ganges, and its presiding goddess. The gods are believed to descend to Earth to bathe in the Ganges on this day.

Source: ImagesofIndia / Shutterstock.com

Back



Chirand

Chirand is an archaeological site in the Saran district of Bihar, India, situated on the northern bank of the Ganga River.

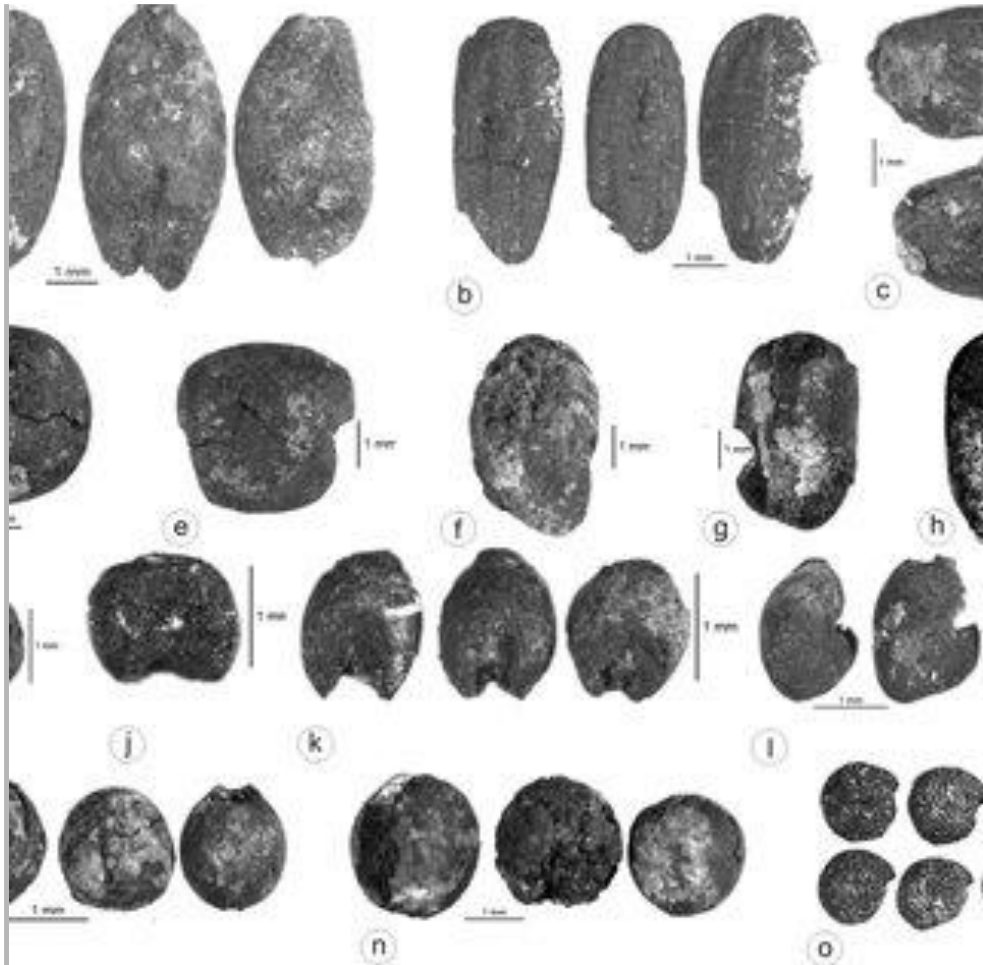
Prehistoric mound which is known for its continuous archaeological record from the Neolithic age (about 2500–1345 BC)

Some other sites Sonpur, Rajar Dhipi and Mahisdal.

Hetapatti

Type of agricultural and cultural context of the Ganga- Vindhyan 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.





Kalibangan

Situated on the left or southern banks of the Ghaggar (Ghaggar-Hakra River).

The prehistoric 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.



Rajghat

Present day Varanasi (Baranas) 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.

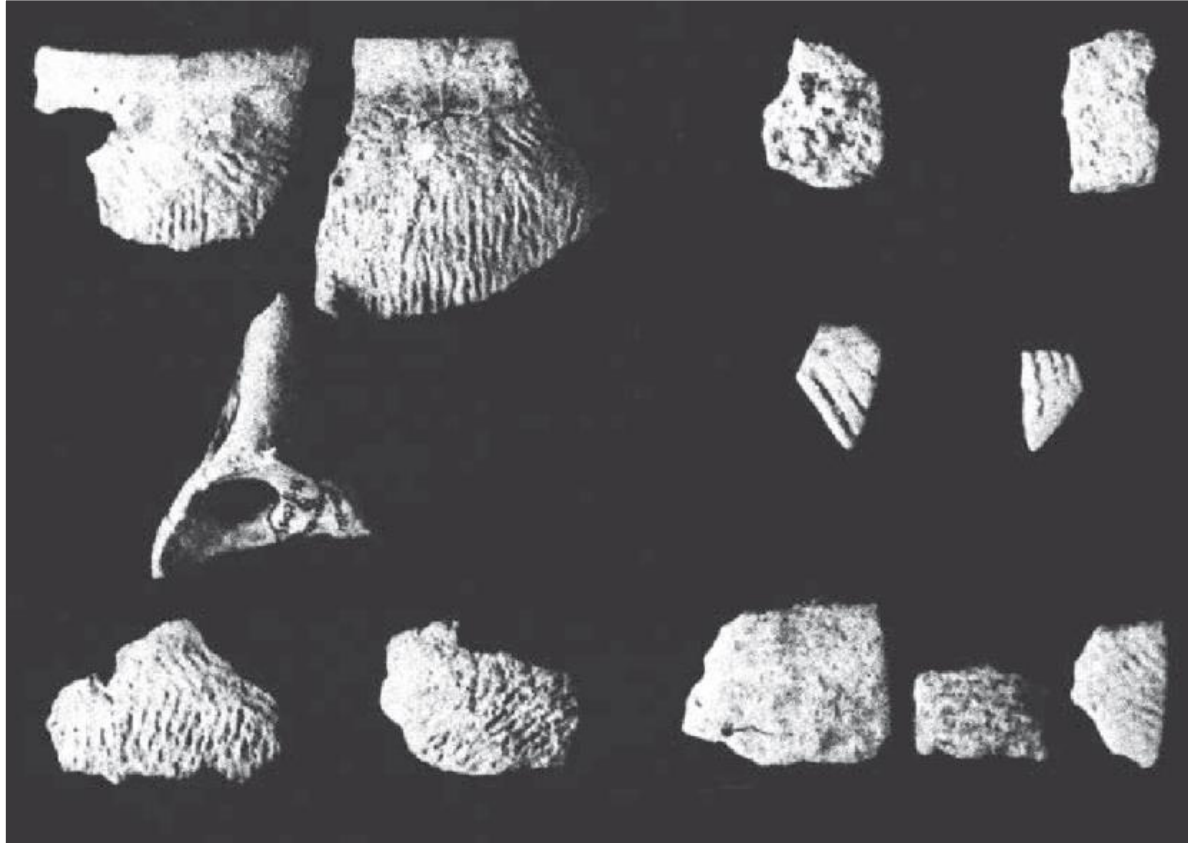


Rajgir

Rajgir (historically known as Girivraj) is 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 birthplace 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.



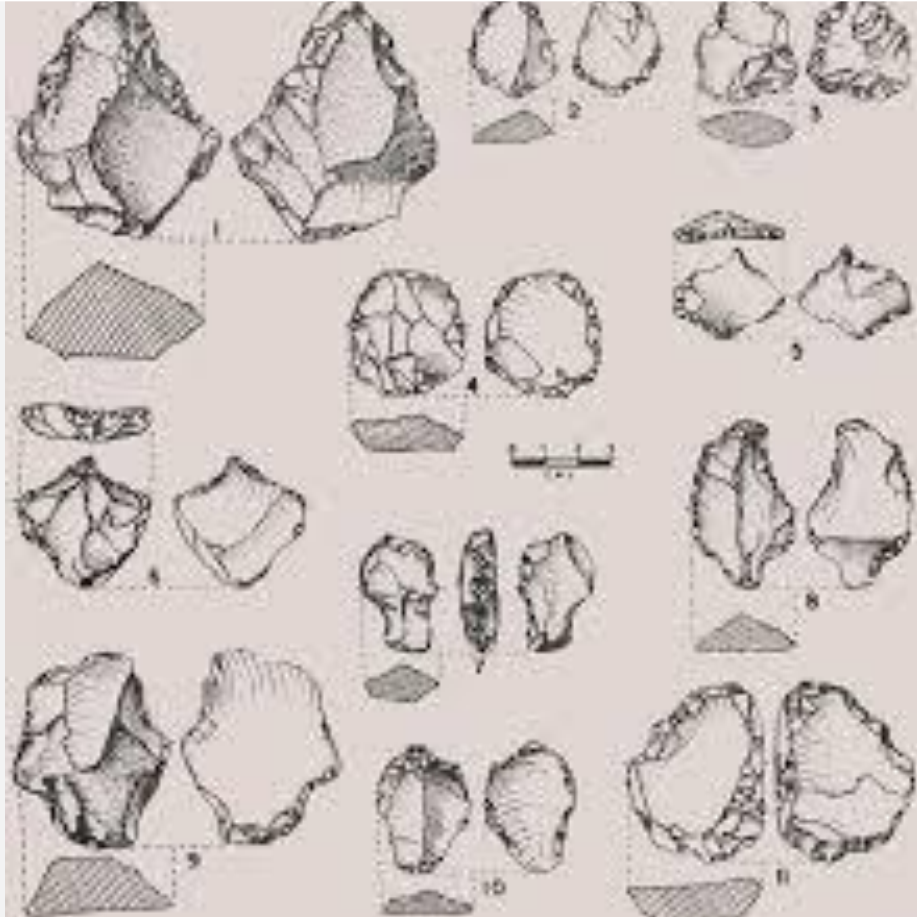
Koldihwa

Situated at a distance of about 80 km southeast of Allahabad town on the left bank of the Belan River in Allahabad district.

Excavation 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



Lithic Industry

Sites like Mahagara, 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

Metal Crafts

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 Āktha, 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 Industry

Glass manufacturing was known in the Ganga plains. Sites like Sravasti or Hastinapur yielded some samples of coloured and plain glass beads and bangles. Presence of iron, aluminium, cobalt caused different colours like brown, black or light green. So a considerable technical knowledge was gathered in an early date.



Handicrafts

Rajghat is an important site where manufacturing bone articles was another important industry. Abundance of bones made it a very common industry of the Gaṅgā plains.

Primarily tools of various types and also dice, comb, disc were made.

A Jātaka tale describes there was a network of foresters who collected the elephant tusk and brought it to ivory worker's quarter.





Ceramics and Pottery

A huge ceramic assemblage reported from the whole of the middle Ganga plains pointed to a busy and developed potter's industry.

The painted variety of Black Slipped Ware was located at Rajghat, Prahladpur, Khairadih, Sohgaora, Taradih etc