

Daily Current Affairs

29 July 2025

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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 29 July 2026

Q1. The 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was held in:

- (a) Paris, France
- (b) New Delhi, India
- (c) Tokyo, Japan
- (d) Busan, South Korea

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (D) Busan, South Korea

Explanation:

- The 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was hosted in Busan, Republic of Korea (South Korea).
- The World Heritage Committee meets annually in different host cities around the world to review candidate sites, monitor the state of conservation of existing listed sites, and decide on additions to the World Heritage List.
- Busan, South Korea's second-largest city and a major maritime hub, served as the global gathering point for international delegates, heritage experts, and government ministers during the 48th session.
- During this landmark session, member nations presented their nomination dossiers, resulting in the successful evaluation and inscription of Sarnath alongside other prominent natural and cultural properties from around the globe.
- The hosting of the session highlights South Korea's active leadership and commitment to international heritage preservation and cultural diplomacy.

Information Booster:

- The World Heritage Committee is composed of 21 State Parties elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- Committee members serve for a term of up to six years and are responsible for implementing the 1972 World Heritage Convention.
- The committee also manages the List of World Heritage in Danger, which draws international attention and financial assistance to sites threatened by armed conflict, natural disasters, pollution, or uncontrolled urbanization.
- The decision to host committee sessions in different host countries allows member states to showcase their domestic cultural heritage and conservation achievements to the international community.

Additional Knowledge:

- Paris, France (Option A): The official global headquarters of UNESCO, where regular administrative meetings and general assemblies take place.
- New Delhi, India (Option B): Hosted the historic 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in July 2024 at Bharat Mandapam.
- Tokyo, Japan (Option C): A major international hub that has hosted numerous global diplomatic conferences, but not the 48th World Heritage Committee session.

Q2. During which session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was Sarnath inscribed as a World Heritage Site?

- (a) 46th Session
- (b) 47th Session
- (c) 48th Session
- (d) 49th Session

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (C) 48th Session

Explanation:

- The ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath was officially inscribed on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List during the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee.
- The World Heritage Committee examined nominations presented by various member nations and formally approved Sarnath's inclusion under the Cultural Heritage category due to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).
- Sarnath's recognition reflects its unmatched global historical, architectural, and spiritual significance as the cradle of Buddhist teachings and a key center of ancient art, sculpture, and monastic architecture.
- The successful nomination was spearheaded by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, following extensive conservation and documentation work.
- Inscription on the World Heritage List provides Sarnath with enhanced international prestige, technical expertise for heritage preservation, and global promotion as a major pilgrimage and cultural destination.

Information Booster:

- Sarnath was placed on India's UNESCO Tentative List as far back as July 1998 under the title 'Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh' before completing full evaluation.
- To meet UNESCO's rigorous standards, candidate sites must fulfill at least one of ten selection criteria, demonstrating authentic integrity, management framework, and global significance.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) manages and maintains the protected monumental zone of Sarnath, which includes the Dhamek Stupa, Chaukhandi Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa ruins, and the Ashoka Pillar enclave.
- UNESCO World Heritage status boosts sustainable heritage tourism, infrastructure development, and international funding opportunities for local heritage preservation.

Additional Knowledge:

- 46th Session (Option A): Held in New Delhi, India, in July 2024, during which India hosted the World Heritage Committee session for the first time in history.
- 47th Session (Option B): Held in 2025, during which several global cultural and natural sites were reviewed and added to the list prior to the 48th session.
- 49th Session (Option D): Refers to the subsequent annual gathering of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee scheduled for future site reviews.

Q3. Which of the following categories are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List?

- (a) Cultural properties only
- (b) Natural properties only
- (c) Cultural, Natural and Mixed properties
- (d) Archaeological sites only

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (C) Cultural, Natural and Mixed properties

Explanation:

- The UNESCO World Heritage List classifies designated sites across the globe into three distinct main categories: Cultural properties, Natural properties, and Mixed properties.
- Cultural Properties (Category 1): Include historical monuments, architectural masterpieces, archaeological sites, ancient cities, industrial heritage, and cultural landscapes created by human ingenuity and historical development.
- Natural Properties (Category 2): Comprise exceptional natural phenomena, outstanding geological formations, pristine wilderness areas, national parks, biological diversity hotspots, and ecosystems of universal conservation importance.

- Mixed Properties (Category 3): Sites that satisfy both cultural and natural criteria simultaneously, demonstrating an extraordinary blend of human cultural interaction and natural environmental value.
- Out of over 1,200 World Heritage Sites worldwide, the vast majority belong to the cultural category, followed by natural sites, while mixed properties represent a rare and unique selection.

Information Booster:

- Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is India's first and only designated 'Mixed' World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2016 for its sacred cultural traditions and extraordinary mountain biodiversity.
- India's natural World Heritage Sites include Kaziranga National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Keoladeo National Park, Sundarbans National Park, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Western Ghats, and Great Himalayan National Park.
- To be included on the World Heritage List, candidate sites must meet at least one out of ten selection criteria established in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
- Selection criteria (i) through (vi) deal specifically with cultural properties, whereas criteria (vii) through (x) pertain exclusively to natural properties.

Additional Knowledge:

- Cultural properties only (Option A): Incorrect, as UNESCO actively protects natural habitats and environmental reserves alongside cultural monuments.
- Natural properties only (Option B): Incorrect, since cultural heritage forms the largest single proportion of inscribed sites globally.
- Archaeological sites only (Option D): Incorrect, as archaeology represents just one sub-category within the broader classification of cultural properties.

Q4. Sarnath was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on:

- (a) 25 July 2026
- (b) 3 July 1998
- (c) 1 January 2025
- (d) 26 July 2026

Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is (A) 25 July 2026

Explanation:

- The ancient Buddhist monument complex of Sarnath was formally inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on 25 July 2026.
- The decision was adopted during the proceedings of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee session after detailed evaluation of the nomination Dossier submitted by India.
- The inclusion on 25 July 2026 added a glorious chapter to India's cultural heritage conservation efforts, recognizing Sarnath as a world-class monument of Outstanding Universal Value.
- Sarnath represents a unique ensemble of ancient Buddhist stupas, monastic complexes, polished Mauryan pillar capitals, and classical Gupta-era structural remains spanning over two millennia.
- The date marks a monumental milestone for the state of Uttar Pradesh and the Ministry of Culture, elevating the cultural landscape of Varanasi onto the highest plane of international recognition.

Information Booster:

- Sarnath served as an active center of Buddhist learning, art, and monastic life continuously from the 3rd century BCE under Emperor Ashoka until the 12th century CE.
- The site gave birth to the renowned Sarnath School of Art during the Gupta period (4th-6th century CE), famous for creating serene, graceful Buddha images characterized by delicate drapery and spiritual expressions.

- The famous Lion Capital of Ashoka discovered during excavations at Sarnath in 1905 features four Asiatic lions standing back-to-back, symbolizing courage, power, confidence, and pride.
- Beneath the lions is an abacus featuring four carved animals (elephant, horse, bull, lion) separated by wheel symbols (Dharmachakra) with 24 spokes, which forms the central wheel on the Indian National Flag.

Additional Knowledge:

- 3 July 1998 (Option B): The historical date when Sarnath was officially placed on India's Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- 1 January 2025 (Option C): A landmark date in national conservation planning, but not the inscription date of Sarnath.
- 26 July 2026 (Option D): Celebrated globally and nationally as Kargil Vijay Diwas, coinciding with ongoing heritage committee activities in 2026.

Q5. With the inscription of Sarnath, India now has how many UNESCO World Heritage Sites?

- (a) 43
- (b) 44
- (c) 46
- (d) 45

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (D) 45

Explanation:

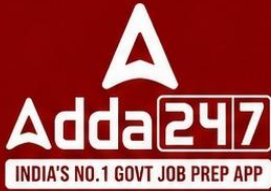
- With the formal inscription of Sarnath on the World Heritage List, India's total tally of UNESCO World Heritage Sites reached 45.
- India ranks among the top countries globally in terms of total World Heritage Sites, reflecting its deep history, architectural richness, and natural biodiversity.
- Out of India's 45 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the vast majority are Cultural sites, supplemented by key Natural sites and one Mixed site (Khangchendzonga National Park).
- India's journey of UNESCO World Heritage inscriptions began in 1983 when four iconic monuments were simultaneously added: Agra Fort, Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, and the Taj Mahal.
- The inclusion of Sarnath strengthens India's global standing as a custodian of priceless ancient spiritual, architectural, and educational heritage, celebrating the timeless message of peace and enlightenment.

Information Booster:

- Italy, China, Germany, France, and Spain are among the leading nations holding the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites globally, with India closely following in total designations.
- Recent Indian additions to the World Heritage List include the Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty in Assam (inscribed at the 46th Session in 2024), Santiniketan in West Bengal, and the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas in Karnataka.
- India currently maintains a vast Tentative List of over 50 potential cultural and natural properties submitted to UNESCO for consideration in upcoming annual review cycles.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Union Ministry of Culture, serves as the primary nodal agency for submitting World Heritage site nominations and maintaining protected monuments nationwide.
- Inscription on the World Heritage list grants sites access to international preservation funding, specialized technical assistance, global conservation expertise, and heightened protection protocols.

Additional Knowledge:

- 43 (Option A): Represented India's total count prior to the additions made during recent UNESCO World Heritage Committee sessions.
- 44 (Option B): Refers to the milestone reached following the 46th session with the historic inscription of Assam's Ahom Moidams in 2024.
- 46 (Option C): Represents an anticipated upcoming milestone total as India continues to systematically nominate properties from its extensive Tentative List.

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