

HIS5D02 HISTORICAL TOURISM

MODULE- 2EMERGENCE OF DESTINATIONS

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- Destination

- The place at which a traveller terminate his journey
- The ultimate stopping place according to contract of a carriage
- it is the place where the tourists are going to
- it is an important element of tourism
- it must have various attractions- natural/ manmade




- TYPES OF DESTINATIONS

- Religious destinations- Puri, Haridwar, Ajmir, Sabarimala, Sravanabelgola, Malayattur
- Cultural destinations- Santinikethan, Wardha, Thunchanparambu
- Historical destinations- Udyagiri, Khandagiri caves, Mahabalipuram, Hampi, Ajanta, Ellora
- Festival destinations- Prayag, Thrissur, Kannur
- landscape destinations- Shimla, Ooty, Alappuzha
- Sanctuary destinations- Vedantangal, Gir, Silent Valley

RELIGIOUS DESTINATIONS

- INDIA – land of different cultures- diversity can be seen in languages, climate, vegetation, customs & tradition, religion etc
- India is a place where the earth itself is worshipped as Mother & other natural forces like fire, wind, air etc are considered divine forces
- From time immemorial, man worshipping different gods
- India-platform for the birth of many world religions like Hinduism, Buddhism & Jainism
- It also assimilate the philosophy & ideology of non-Indian religions like Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism etc

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- They evolved as a set of beliefs concerning the origin, cause, nature & purpose of the universe & grew as an organized system
 - This broad outlook gave rise to a lot of beliefs that resulted in the flourishing of many religions
 - India has a good potential to develop pilgrimage tourism
 - Pilgrimage centers of all religions attract thousands of pilgrims from different parts of the globe

PURI

- About 39 mile b road from Bhubaneshwar is the sacred city of Puri- Odisha
- It is one of the Chara Dhama's- the four most holy places of Hindu pilgrimage in India, the three others being Badrinath, Kedarnath in the north, Ramesvaram in the south & Dwaraka in the west
- Every year in the month of june , thousands of pilgrims reach Puri to watch the Ratha festival, when the images of Jagannath temple are taken over a distance of one mile to the shrine of Gundicha Mandir
- Ratha – 35 ft long, 45 ft high with 16 wheels- each 7 ft diameter- is used for carrying the deities

• JAGANNATH TEMPLE PURI:

- Sacred Hindu temple- dedicated to Lord Jagannath
- Begun by King Ananthavarman Chodaganga Deva of Eastern Ganga Dynasty in the 12th C
- Main temple structure is 65 mtrs & is built on an elevated ground
- Temple complex covers an area of 10.7 acres
- There is a wheel of 11 ft 8 inches height , 36ft circumference, on top of the Jagannatha temple made up on an alloy of 8 different metals known as 'astadhatu'- this is known as Nila Chakra

- Image of Jagannath is made up of wood & in every 12 / 19 years these wooden figures are ceremoniously replaced by using sacred trees
- Sacred centre of Vaishnavism- closely associated to Bhakti saint Ramananda



JAGANNATH TEMPLE PURI



SABARIMALA

- Well- known Hindu pilgrim centre of Kerala
- Located at Periyar tiger reserve, Pathanamthitta
- 72 km from Pathanamthitta, dist head quarters
- Holy shrine dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is situated 914 metres above sea level amidst dense forests in the rugged terrains of the Western Ghats
- Lord Ayyappa is looked upon as the guardian of mountains & there are several shrines dedicated to him all along the Western Ghats The deity is about 1 ½ ft tall & is made up to an alloy of five metals called Panchaloha

- Present temple was built in 1951
- There are 18 steps that lead to the temple that are said to be the ladder to the heaven
- to walk on the steps, the pilgrims must have observed 41 days of penance
- The temple is opened to the public on special occasions, perhaps because of the hazardous terrain Main festivals- Mandala Pooja, Makara Vilakku(Dec- Jan), Vishu Vilakku(April)
- The temple is also opens for pooja on the 1st of every Malayalam month
- Crores of devotees from all over India visit Sabarimala every year

- People of all castes & creeds are permitted in to temple
- But women b/w 10-50 years are not allowed
- Makaravilaku- makarajyothi





MALAYATTUR

- St. Thomas syro- Malabar catholic church, Malayattur, Ernamkulam- on the bank of river Periyar
- Famous Christian pilgrim centre of Kerala
- Declared as an international shrine by Vatican – dedicated to St. Thomas
- Situated on the bank of the river Periyar, 29 km away from Aluva in Kerala
- Annul feast in the month of April or the last week of march
- It is believed that St. Thomas, the Apostle, had come here during his mission in AD 52
- This church is situated on top of the hill
- It is a usual vow of the believers to climb this hill on foot

- It is believed that St. Thomas held prayer at this church when he landed in Kerala
- The chief festival is on the first Sunday after Easter. It is traditionally believed that St. Thomas used to make the sign of the cross on the rock, kiss it and pray at *Kurisumudi*. The story has it that a miraculous golden cross appeared at that particular spot. Pilgrims going up the hill to call out incessantly “ponnum kurishu Muthappo Ponmala Kayattom”, meaning "O Patriarch of the Golden Cross! Climb we shall, this golden hill!"
- The annual festival of this church is known as 'Malayatoor Perunal' and it is celebrated in the months of March–April.



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AJMIR

- **The Ajmer Sharif Dargah:**
- It is a sufi shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti which is situated at the foot of the Taragarh hill, Ajmer, Rajasthan
- Shrine has the grave (Maqbara) of the revered saint Moinuddin Chisti
- Consists of several white marble buildings arranged around two courtyards, including a massive gate donated by the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Akbari Mosque, built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan
- It contains the domed tomb of the saint
- Akbar and his queen used to come here by foot on pilgrimage from Agra every year in observance of a vow when he prayed for a son.

- The large pillars called "Kose ('Mile') Minar", erected at intervals of two miles (3 km) along the entire way between Agra and Ajmer mark the places where the royal pilgrims halted every day.
- It has been estimated that around 125,000 pilgrims visit the site every day.
- Its holy traditions are equally replete with Rajput chivalry and Muslim supremacy in the past history of Hindustan.
- Ajmer the seat of a most powerful kingdom of the last Rajput Emperor of India, Raja Prithviraj Chauhan (1179-1192 A.D.)
- Few cities of India can boast of Ajmer's religious sanctity for both Hindus and Muslims, its glorious history and its natural beauty.

- It was in Ajmer that Shah Jahan, on the death of Jahangir, proclaimed himself Emperor of India while returning from Udaipur and proceeding to Delhi in 1627 A.D.
- And it was in Ajmer again that a beginning of the decline of Mughal Empire was made with the victory of Aurangzeb against his brother Dara Shikoh after a furious battle on 11th, 12th and 13th March 1659 A.D.
- It was in Ajmer that Sir Thomas Roe, as ambassador of King James I of England, had his audience with Emperor Jahangir on 19th January 1616 A.D. which laid the stepping stone of the British Raj in India through the charter of free trading granted to the East India Company by the Emperor.



HARIDWAR

- Uttarakand
- *Hari* means "Lord Vishnu". So, *Haridwar* stands for " The Gateway to Lord Vishnu".
- Haridwar is regarded as one of the seven holiest places (Sapta Puri) to Hindus.
- Haridwar along with Ujjain, Nashik and Prayag (Allahabad) is one of four sites where drops of Amrit, the elixir of immortality, accidentally spilled over from the pitcher while being carried by the celestial bird Garuda - This is manifested in the Kumbha Mela, which is celebrated every 12 years in Haridwar.
- During the Haridwar Kumbh Mela, millions of pilgrims, devotees, and tourists congregate in Haridwar to perform ritualistic bathing on the banks of the river Ganges to wash away their sins to attain Moksha.

- Temples widespread in Haridwar- highly revered- dedicated either to Vishnu or Siva
- **Har Ki Pauri**
 - It is the major ghat of Haridwar on the banks of Ganga River and also known as Brahmakund. The place is considered very auspicious and hundreds of people daily take a dip in water. It is considered that taking a holy dip in Ganga, opens the door of Heaven.
- **Chandi Devi Temple**
 - This Hindu Temple is dedicated to goddess Chandi Devi and is situated at the top of Neel Parvat, the southernmost mountain chain of Himalaya.

- **Mansa Devi Temple**

- This temple is located at the top of Bilwa Parvat and hence also known as Bilwa Tirth. It is one of the five pilgrimages of Haridwar. The temple can be reached either by ropeway or on foot.

- **Bharath Matha Mandir**

- Dedicated to Bharath Mata

- **Daksheswara Mahadeva Temple**

- Dedicated to Lord shiva
- Also known as 'Daksha temple' or 'Daksha Mandir' . King Daksha was father of Mata Sati (First wife of Lord Shiva). This temple is situated in town named Kankhal
- One of the ancient temple in Haridwar



- **Maya Devi Temple**

- Ancient time Haridwar is also known as Mayapuri because Mayadevi is principal diety(Ishtadevata)

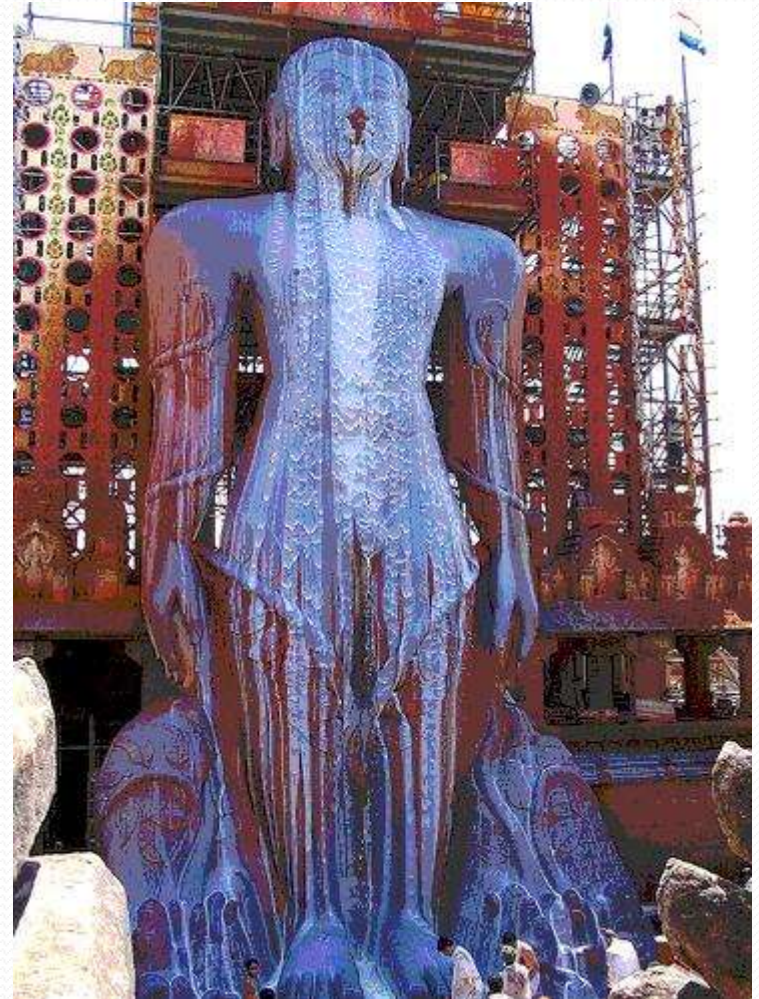
SRAVANABELGOLA

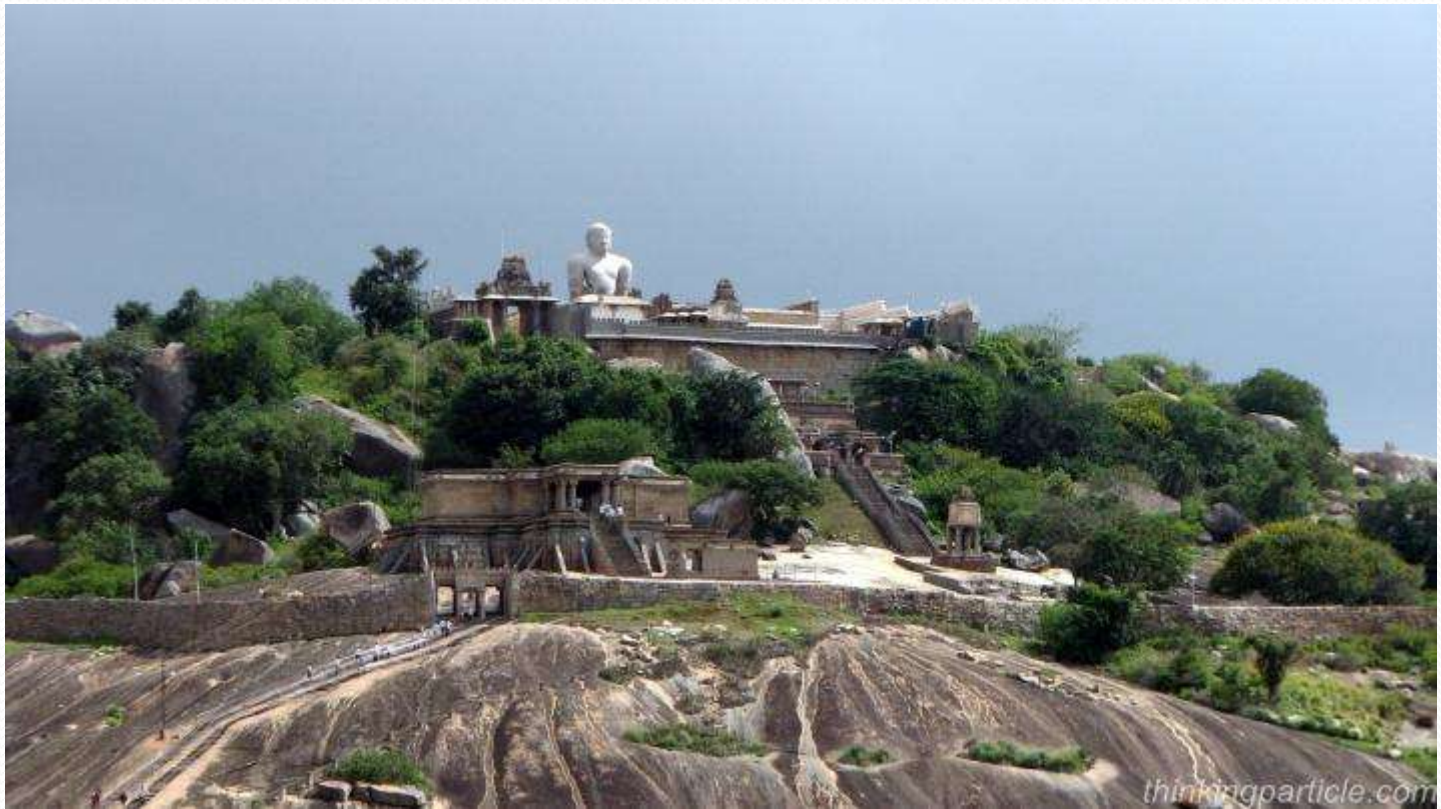
- **Shravanabelagola** is a city located near Channarayapatna of Hassan district in the Indian state of Karnataka and is 158 km from Bangalore, the capital of the state.
- The statue of Gommateshvara Bahubali at Shravanabelagola is one of the most important tirthas (pilgrimage destinations) in Jainism
- A monolithic statue of Bahubali referred to as "Gommateshvara" built by the Ganga dynasty minister and commander Chamundaraya is a 57 feet tall monolith and is situated above a hill in Shravanabelagola. It was built in the 10th century AD.
- That reached a peak in architectural and sculptural activity under the patronage of Western Ganga dynasty of Talakad.
- Chandragupta Maurya is said to have died here in 298 BCE after he became a Jain monk and assumed an ascetic life style.

- The town is wedged between two rocky hills- **Vindhyagiri** and **Chandragiri**.
- There is a tank in the midst of this town called "**Belagola**"
- In Kannada, '**Bela**' means white and '**kola**' means the pond, an allusion to the beautiful pond in the middle of the town.
- Shravanabelagola is a holy place for Jains. Their Guru is residing here in a Mutt. There is a Sanskrit Patashala to study Sanskrit and Shastras.

- This town has got some historical references, which add to the importance of this place.
- According to the tradition of the Jain Bhadrabahu, one of the successor of Vardhamana Mahavira ,passed away here in a cave on Chandrabetta or Chandragiri hill, while leading a migration to the South from Ujjain due to a 12-year famine, which he had predicted.
- There are ancient monuments in and around Shravanabelagola.
- There are monuments of rare excellence and skill got executed by the illustrious Gangas and Hoysalas who had profound sense of duty and ardent devotion to religion.
- The finest monuments are found in two sacred hills, Vindhyagiri and the Chandragiri.

- **Mahamastakabhisheka:** This ceremony of the 17.38m high statue of Lord Bahubali (Gomateshwar) at the Indragiri Hills is celebrated grandly after every 12 years. On this occasion, the statue is smeared with thousands of pots of coconut oil, yoghurt, ghee, bananas, jaggery, dates, almonds, poppy seeds, milk, saffron and sandalwood
- For a Tour to Shravanabelagola, the best time to visit is between the months of October and March





HISTORICAL DESTINATIONS

- Destination with historical importance
- Sites having relics of our past
- **MAHABALIPURAM:**
 - Also known as 'Mamallapuram'
- 7th C port city of South Indian dynasty of the Pallavas around 60 Km south from the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu
- Believed to have been named after either the demon king Mahabali or the Pallava king Mamalla
- it has various historical monuments built largely b/w 7th & 9th C by king Narasimhavarman I & has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site

- Monuments are mostly rock-cut & monolithic, 7 constitute the early stages of Dravidian architecture wherein Buddhist elements of design are prominently visible
- They are constituted by cave temples, monolithic rathas, sculpted reliefs & structural shore temples
- Pillars are of the Dravidian order
- Sculptures are excellent examples of Pallava art – AD 600-750
- Cave temples are veritable treasure – house of the sculptors art

- In one cave temple, there is a large relief of Vishnu, on the opposite side; a vivid relief shows the fight b/w Durga & Mahishasura (Buffalo Demon)
- Mandapams also have excellent carvings
- A series of small temples that have been completely carved out of hard rock are called 'rathas'- chief attraction
- Walls of the rathas are decorated with impressive reliefs
- A group of 5 rathas named after the 5 Pandavas – Yudishtira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, Sahadeva & their consort Draupadi- excellent example for the early phase of Dravidian architecture

- There is bas-relief, the largest & believed to be the finest of this kind, near Krishna Mandapam, depicting the penance of Arjuna- 27 m long & 9m high





PANCHA RATHAS




AJANTA

- Village in Aurangabad dist in the Sahyadri mountain range in the state of Maharashtra
- Famous for its rock cut cave art & architecture
- Won a unique place by virtue of their having the most perfect specimens of Indian mural paintings
- In 1983 Ajanta caves have been an UNESCO World Heritage Site specifically nominated for the International World Heritage Program
- Caves are in a wooded & rugged horse shoe shaped ravine about 3 ½ meters
- 29 caves ranging from 2nd C BC up to 7th C AD
- Magnificent mural paintings of Ajanta depict the life of Buddha
- Consists of Hinayana & Mahayana chaityas (prayer halls) & Viharas (residence of monks)

- Five caves- 9,10,19,26,29- are Chaityas & rest are viharas
- Caves at Ajanta offer an instructive field for the study of evolution of rock-cut monuments
- Sculptures mostly dating from the 5th & 6th C- are remarkable for their classic qualities & give the impression of graceful elegance, restraint & serenity
- Beautiful carvings can be seen on doorways, walls, windows, etc illustrating the life of Buddha, his teachings, representatives of his devotees & followers, incidents & stories from life etc
- Paintings fall into two distinct periods with a break of nearly four centuries b/w them

- Earlier paintings- specimen of which have scantily survived on the walls of caves 9 & 10, go back to the second to first centuries BC
- Second period of the paintings started with the revival of architectural activity in the 5th C when the Vakatakas ruled here
- Themes- Buddha, Bodhisattvas, incidents from the life of Buddha & Jatakas i.e. stories of Buddhas previous births
- Paintings are mirrors of the contemporary life in palace, court, town, village, hamlet & hermitage
- They are illuminative documentary on the beliefs & usages, dress, ornaments, musical instruments, utensils, weapons
- They are the windows through which can one have a glimpse of the heavenly world- peopled by the gods & semi-divine beings like Yakshas, Kinnaras, Gandharvas, Apsaras- as conceived by the people of the time

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- Remarkable array of the varieties of temples, palaces, pavilions, city gates, ramparts, huts, stupas & monasteries form a precious mine of information to the student of art & architecture
 - After centuries of oblivion the caves were discovered in AD 1819

ELLORA

- Ancient village 30km from the city of Aurangabad in Maharashtra
- Famous for its monumental caves, Ellora is a world heritage site
- Represents the epitome of Indian rock cut architecture
- 34 caves- actually structures excavated out of the vertical face of the Charanandri hills- comprised of 12 Buddhist, 17 Hindu, 5 Jain cave temples & monasteries, were built b/w 5th C & 10th C
- cave 10 is most impressive where there a giant Buddha sits enthroned, flanked by two Bodhisattvas
- The Buddhist, Hindu & Jain caves, built in close proximity, demonstrate the religious tolerance prevalent

- Kailasa temple- to god Shiva & Parvathi is in Ellora caves
- Kailash temple- also Kailasanatha temple- cave temple-in cave 16 of complex located at Ellora, Maharashtra
- Largest & most complicated example of Rock cut architecture in the world
- Designed to recall Mount Kailas, the abode of Lord Shiva
- It resembles a freestanding, multi-storied temple complex, it was carved out of a single rock
- Kailash temple is notable for its vertical excavation- carvers started at the top of the original rock & excavated downward
- Estimated that about 200,000 tons of rock were scooped out for over hundreds of years to construct this monolithic structure

- Within the courtyard are two structures- image of the sacred bull Nandi fronts the central temple housing the Lingam

HAMPI

- Bellary district of northern Karnataka on the banks of river Tungabhadra
- It is the name of the now ruined capital city of the historic Vijayanagara empire, flourished b/w 14th & 16th C – which extended over southern part of India
- Most of the city lies on the southern side of the river Tungabhadra
- The city was built around the original religious centre of the Virupaksha temple at Hampi
- Other holy places lie within its extents, including the site of what is said to be Kishkinda, the cave home of Sugriva, the monkey king in Ramayana

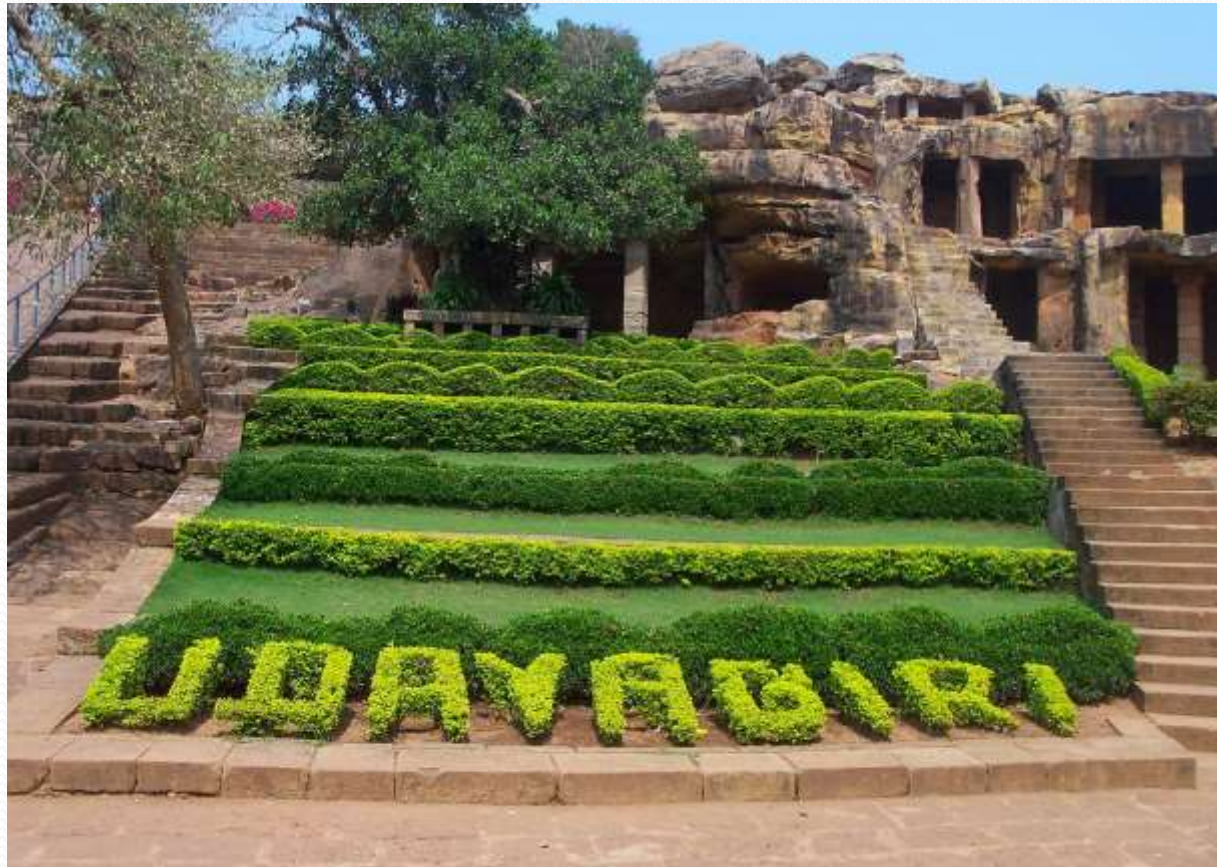
- The ruined city is a UNESCO World Heritage site- “Ruins of Hampi”
- Recent years there have been concerns regarding damage to the site of Hampi from heavy vehicular traffic & construction of road bridges in the vicinity
- Hampi – now listed as threatened World heritage site – included in UNESCO list of World heritage in Danger:1999
- Virupaksha temple, Krishna temple, Vittala temple, Hazara-Rama temple – temples in & around Hampi
- Virupaksha temple- only temple still used for worship a tall monolith of Ugra Narasimha of 6.7 m is situated nearby, seated under the canopy of a 7 hooded snake

- Hazara- Rama temple- begun earlier- completed by Krishnadevaraya- temple without gopura
- Vitthala temple- large complex- typical of the southern form of vimana temples- 56 pillars in the main hall produce musical notes when struck- in east of hall is the famous stone chariot with stone wheels

UDAYAGIRI AND KHANDAGIRI CAVES

- 10 km west to Bhubaneswar, Orissa
- One of the earliest group of Jain rock-cut shelters-On the hills of Udayagiri & Khandagiri-built by King Kharavela- command a unique position in the field of history, rock-cut architecture, art & religion
- UDAYAGIRI:-
- 18 caves- Ranigumpha, Bajagharagumpha, Chota Hatigumpha, Alkapurigumpha, Jaya-Vijayagumpha, Panasagumpha, Thakuranigumpha, Patalapurigumpha, Mancapurigumpha, Ganeshagumpha, Jambesvaragumpha, Vyagragumpha, Sarpagumpha, Hatigumpha, Dhanagharagumpha, Haridasagumpha, Jagammathgumpha, Rosaigumpha
- Largest & most beautiful cave is cave 1- Rani Gumpha or Queens cave- 2 storey cell & is guarded by 2 dwarapalas
- Caves contain beautiful sculptures of dancing women, royal entourage & musical instruments

- KHANDAGIRI:
- 15 caves- Tatowagumpha-1, Tatowagumpha-2, Anantagumpha, Tentuligumpha, Khandagirigumpha, Dhyanagumpha, Navamunigumpha, Barabhujigumpha, Trusulagumpha, Ambikagumpha, Lalatendukesarigumpha, 12,13, Ekadasigumpha, 15
- First 2 caves have parrot carvings over the entrance arches
- Caves also bear some inscriptions of the time & the use of natural colour pigment is evident












PRAYAG

- Holy city in UP- situated on the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna & the unseen Saraswati
- The confluence is the holiest bathing place for Hindus KUMBHA MELA:
- Great religious gathering, which takes place 4 times in 12 years
- A legend has it that before the universe was formed, the devas & the asuras churned the formless matter. From the ocean, there arose Dhanvanthari carrying in his hands kumbha containing nectar. There was big fight for the possession of the precious liquid. During this fight, drops of nectar fell at 12 places in the world.
- four of these, Haridwar, Ujjain, Prayag, Nasik in India & this great mela is held at each of these places in a 12 year cycle
- One of the ancient pilgrimage centres in India- it is the place where river Ganga & Yamuna meet & referred in Rig Veda- Prayag is referred as Triveni sangam where, according to the myth, the river Ganga & Yamuna meet- Triveni Sangam-

LANDSCAPE DESTINATIONS

- Destinations famous for their landscape attractions
- SHIMLA
- Himachal Pradesh
- Derives its name from 'Shyamala'-goddess Kali-whose temple existed in the dense forest that covered Jakhu hill in the early 19th C- English named it Simla & made it their summer capital- horse riding, hiking, honeymoon trips, skiing, ice- staking etc- are main tourist activities- 120kms from Chandigarh, 354Km from Delhi
- it is surrounded by green hills with snow capped peaks. The spectacular cool hills accompanied by the structures made during the colonial era creates an aura which is very different from other hill.

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- Shimla is home to a number of buildings that are styled in the Tudorbethan and neo-Gothic architectures dating from the colonial era, as well as multiple temples and churches.
 - The colonial architecture and churches, the temples and the natural beauty of the city attract a large number of tourists.
 - The major attractions include the Viceroy Lodge, the Christ Church, the Jakhoo Temple, the Mall Road and the Ridge, which together form the city centre.
 - The Kalka–Shimla Railway line built by the British, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is also a major tourist attraction





TOWNHALL



OOTY/ UDAGAMANDALAM

- Hill station in Nilgiris, Tamilnadu- 7,500 ft above sea-level
- Called as 'Queen of Hill stations'- popular health resort of south India
- Has a temperate climate- has excellent climate throughout the year & during the season from April to June, it ranks amongst the best resorts in India
- Kothagiri & Coonoor are the smaller hillstations, which are situated near to Ooty
- Beautiful gardens, peaks, boatings, trekking, hang gliding etc. are the main tourist interests
- Artificial lake- constructed in 1824 by John Sullivan, first collector of Ooty
- Tea & coffee plantations are remarkable here
- A small mountain rail journey from Mettupalayam to Ooty is attractive
- It is 535Km from Chennai & 89Km from Coimbatore







ALAPPUZHA

- **Alappuzha** also known as **Alleppey**,
- Alappuzha is the 7th largest city in Kerala and third among the districts having highest literacy rate in Kerala.
- In 2016, Centre for Science and Environment rated Alappuzha as the top cleanest city in India
- Alappuzha is considered to be the oldest planned city in this region and the lighthouse built on the coast of the city is the first of its kind along the Laccadive Sea coast
- Alappuzha is situated 62 kilometers to the south of Kochi and 155 kilometer north of Trivandrum.
- A city with picturesque canals, backwaters, beaches, and lagoons, it was described as the one of the places known as the "*Venice of the East*" by Lord Curzon.

- Alappuzha is an important tourist destination in India. The Backwaters of Alappuzha are the most popular tourist attraction in Kerala. A houseboat cruise in these backwaters can be booked. It connects Kumarakom and Cochin to the North and Quilon to the South.
- Alappuzha is the access point for the annual Nehru Trophy Boat Race, held on the Punnamada Lake, near Alappuzha, on the second Saturday of August every year. This is the most competitive and popular of the boat races in India.

- Other attractions in Alappuzha are Alappuzha Beach, offering a views of the Laccadive Sea, Ambalappuzha Sri Krishna Temple, St. Andrew's Basilica, Arthunkal, Mannarasala Temple, Chettikulangara Devi Temple, Haripad Sree Subrahmanya Swamy temple, Thakazhy Sree Dharma Sastha Temple, Mullakkal Temple, Edathua Church, Alappuzha CSI Christ Church (oldest Anglican church in Central Kerala) and Champakulam Valia Palli. Krishnapuram Palace, Kalavam kodam temple where Sree Narayana Guru installed Mirror is at about 30 km north of Town. also attracts many tourists. The tasty ambalappuzha payasam is a popular dessert.








CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

- SANTINIKETHAN:-
- Santiniketan is a cultural town in West Bengal, near Bolpur, which is 180 km from Kolkata.
- This small cultural town was a vision of the famous Bengali poet and Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore. The Vishwa Bharati University or 'the University Town', as it was known in early days was an attempt of Tagore's efforts that even today attracts significant number of visitors to the place.
- With a rich cultural past, Santiniketan is a famous tourist attraction, especially for art and literature lovers, as this is the place where Tagore created many of his literary classics.
- The destination has a distinct culture and heritage of its own which can be experienced in the various festivals it celebrates like Poush Mela, Basantotsava and Rabindra Jayanti

- The Poush Mela, which is held in the month of December every year, is a major attraction of Santiniketan. Since the Poush Mela draws a large number of people.
- The fair is also a good place to buy local handicrafts like Santinekatani leather work, batik prints, dokra work and jewellery.
- Apart from the University, some places that attract visitors at Santiniketan include the Chhatimtala, which was the meditation centre of Maharishi Debendranath and got its name due to the many Chhatim trees here. Other places of interest are the Upasana Griha, Dehali, Mrinali, China Bhavan, Santiniketan Griha, Shyamali, Black House, etc.

- Santiniketan can be reached from Kolkata by train within four hours. The nearest rail station is Bolpur, about 2 km away.
- A study of the evolution of Visva-Bharati during the lifetime of its founder, Rabindranath Tagore, offers an insight into what this institution was intended to achieve.
- Rabindranath founded a school for children at Santiniketan and it was around this nucleus that the structure of an unconventional university developed through careful planning.
- In 1863, on a seven-acre plot at the site of the present institution, Debendranath Tagore, the poet's father, had built a small retreat for meditation, and in 1888 he dedicated, the land and buildings, towards establishment of a Brahmavidyalaya and a library.

- Rabindranath's school Brahmacharyasrama which started functioning formally from December 22, 1901 with no more than five students on the roll, was, in part, a fulfillment of the wishes of his father who was a considerable figure of his time in the field of educational reforms. From 1925 this school came to be known as Patha-Bhavana.
- The school was a conscious repudiation of the system introduced in India by the British rulers and Rabindranath initially sought to realize the intrinsic values of the ancient education in India.

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- The school and its curriculum, therefore, signified a departure from the way the rest of the country viewed education and teaching.
 - Simplicity was a cardinal principle.
 - Classes were held in open air in the shade of trees where man and nature entered into an immediate harmonious relationship.
 - Teachers and students shared the single integral socio-cultural life. The curriculum had music, painting, dramatic performances and other performative practices.
 - Beyond the accepted limits of intellectual and academic pursuits, opportunities were created for invigorating and sustaining the manifold faculties of the human personality.





WARDHA

- Wardha district is located in the north-eastern part of Maharashtra state in central India.
- It is bounded on the west and north by Amravati district, on the south by Yavatmal district, on the south east by Chandrapur district and on the east by Nagpur district.
- The boundaries with the Amravati and Yavatmal districts are identified by the river Wardha.
- The physical settings of Wardha district shows a contrast of immense dimensions and reveals a variety of landscapes influenced by relief, climate and vegetation.

- The history of Wardha dates back to prehistoric period.
- It was included in the empire of the Mauryas, Sungas, Satavahanas and Vakatakas.
- Pravarapura, modern Pavnar was once the capital of the Vakataka dynasty.
- From 550 AD to 1850 AD, Wardha was ruled by the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Yadavas, the Delhi Sultanate, the Bahamani Sultanate, Muslim ruler of Berar, Gonds and Marathas.
- Raja Buland Shaha of Gonds, Raghuji of Bhonsale was the prominent rulers in the medieval period.

- During the 1850s, Marathas were defeated by the British. The British included Wardha (then a part of Nagpur district) in the central province.
- The existing Wardha district was part of Nagpur district till 1862.
- Further it was separated for convenient administrative purposes and Kawatha near Pulgaon was the district Head quarter.
- In the year 1866, the district head quarter was moved from Kawatha near Pulgaon to present site which was then village Palakwadi and which was named as Wardha after the name of river Wardha.

- Wardha is a sister city for Sevagram, and both were used as major centers for the Indian Independence Movement, especially as headquarters for an annual meet of the Indian National Congress in 1934, and Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram.
- From the year 1934, when Mahatma Gandhi stayed in Wardha, many important decisions for Indian future have been taken in that environment.
- The Indian freedom movement was directed from the Sevagram.
- Gandhiji had initiated his personal 'satyagraha' of 1940 from the Ashram.
- Vinoba Bhave was the first Indian 'Satyagrahi' of this movement. All British rules have been intensely opposed by the 'Bharat Chhodo' (Quit India) Movement which was originated in Sevagram Ashram only.

- Wardha is a district known for all main having historic places and temples with religious and archaeological significance.
- Apart from few destinations, majority of sites are important as local tourist destinations and have been attracting local visitation during weekends and during specific days of religious importance.
- In view of the existence of a variety of tourism assets, ranging from Sewagram Ashram to temples to heritage sites, it can be said that tourism in Wardha has not yet realized its full potential.
- The absence of an integrated effort to promote the many facets of Wardha's scenic beauty, wild life, history and culture seems to be the major stumbling block.

SEVAGRAM

- When Gandhi started his padayatra (foot march) in 1930 from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi for the Salt Satyagraha, he had decided not to return to Sabarmati till independence for India was attained.
- Independence was not attained at that time and Gandhi was imprisoned for more than two years. On his release he spent sometime travelling. He decided to make a village in Central India his head quarters.
- He came to Wardha in 1934, at the invitation of Jamnalalji Bajaj.
- In April 1936, Gandhiji established his residence in the village Shegaon which he renamed as Sevagram, which means 'village of service'.
- Gandhiji was 67 years old when he came to Sevagram. From then on, Sevagram has become an inspiring place. Many decisions on important national matters and movements were taken at Sevagram. It became the central place for a number of institutions for the nation building activities devised by Gandhiji to suit the inherent strength of this country.

- Shegaon is a small village 8 km from Wardha town in Maharashtra and 75 km from Nagpur. In spite of many practical difficulties, Gandhiji decided to settle here.
- Though he did not have any intentions of keeping anybody with him except Kasturba, pressure of work necessitated more colleagues with him till Sevagram Ashram became a full-fledged institution.
- There were no facilities at Sevagram, not even a post or telegraph office. The letters used to be brought from Wardha. There was another village in this region named Shegaon, made famous by the residence of Saint Gajanan Maharaj. So, Gandhiji's letters used to get misdirected. Therefore it was decided in 1940 to rename this village as SEVAGRAM or 'the village of service'

SEVAGRAM







THUNCHAN PARAMBA

GIR

- Home for 300 Asiatic Lions, Gir national park is in South West of Sourashtra in Gujarat
- It is spread across 1400sq kms, has a steepy rocky hillside covered with mixed deciduous forests
- In addition to the lion, there are Leopards, Cheetah, Nilgai, Chingara & Wild Boar

SILENT VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

- Situated in Palaghat dist of Kerala
- Is home to an endangered species called Lion-tailed Macaque
- With an area of 89.52 sq.kms was proclaimed as a national park in the year 1984