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RECENT MONUMENTS, ARTICLES etc

MONUMENTS AND PLACES

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Konark Sun Temple (Odisha)

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Kala Ghoda's Army & Navy Building (Mumbai)

Additional Notes

Monuments and Places

Taj Mahal

- **News:** Named the world's most beautiful building by Time Out in June 2025, celebrated for its Indo-Islamic architecture, featuring a Persian-inspired dome, minarets, calligraphy, and floral motifs. It was described as a romantic gesture and a masterpiece of architectural heritage.
- **Significance:** Represents Mughal architecture and continues to be a global symbol of India's cultural legacy.

Charaideo Moidams (Assam)

- **News:** Inscribed as India's 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2024, recognizing the mound-burial system of the Ahom Dynasty.
- **Significance:** Highlights the unique funerary architecture and cultural practices of the Ahom dynasty, boosting Assam's cultural tourism.

Sanchi Monuments (Madhya Pradesh)

- **News:** Featured in June 2025 for hosting yoga sessions as part of International Yoga Day celebrations at UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) organized events at Sanchi Stupa and other heritage sites. Additionally, the history of Sanchi's discovery by British colonial officials in the 19th century was narrated on the Indian Culture portal.
- **Significance:** A key Buddhist site, Sanchi's stupas are renowned for their intricate carvings and historical importance.

Konark Sun Temple (Odisha)

- **News:** Hosted yoga sessions for International Yoga Day in June 2025. Four sandstone replicas of the Konark wheels were installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan in October 2024 to promote India's heritage.
- **Significance:** Known for its 13th-century chariot-shaped architecture and astronomical precision, it exemplifies Odisha's art heritage.

Keeladi Excavation Site (Tamil Nadu)



- **News:** In June 2025, controversy arose over archaeologist K. Amarnath Ramakrishna's transfer and the Union government's decision not to publish the Keeladi excavation report, citing insufficient evidence. Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M.K. Stalin called it an "onslaught on Tamil culture," emphasizing the site's carbon-dated artifacts and Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) findings.
- **Significance:** Keeladi's findings, dating back to the Sangam era, highlight Tamil Nadu's ancient urban civilization and cultural pride.

Sittanavasal Cave Murals (Tamil Nadu)

- **News:** A June 2025 post highlighted concerns about the deteriorating state of the Sittanavasal cave murals, criticizing the ASI's preservation efforts and noting actions taken in 2022 with uncertain outcomes.
- **Significance:** These Jain cave paintings from the 7th-9th centuries are a critical part of South Indian art history but face the risk of vanishing.

Tansen's Grave (Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh)

- **News:** In June 2025, the Madhya Pradesh High Court denied permission for religious and cultural activities at Tansen's grave, stating it "deserves to be protected" as a monument.
- **Significance:** The tomb of the legendary musician Tansen reflects Mughal-era cultural heritage.

Harihar Temple (Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh)

- **News:** In December 2024, excavations at the Sambhal Museum uncovered evidence of the Harihar Temple, including a Sudarshan Chakra of Lord Vishnu and a 1500-year-old idol, predating the Mughal period.
- **Significance:** Reinforces the historical presence of Hindu temple architecture in the region.

Saraswati River Settlements (Rajasthan)

- **News:** In June 2025, archaeological discoveries along the Saraswati River revealed settlements from 3500-1000 BCE, including yajna kunds, worship structures for Shakti, and iconography for Shiva and Parvati, indicating sophisticated coinage and cultural practices.

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- **Significance:** Highlights the ancient cultural and religious heritage of the Indus Valley civilization.

Other UNESCO Sites Hosting Yoga Events (June 2025)

Sites: Rani Ki Vav and Dholavira (Gujarat), Hampi and Pattadakal (Karnataka), Khajuraho Group of Monuments (Madhya Pradesh), Elephanta Caves (Maharashtra), Brihadisvara Temple (Tamil Nadu).

- **News:** These UNESCO World Heritage Sites hosted yoga sessions organized by the Ministry of Culture for International Yoga Day.
- **Significance:** Showcases India's diverse architectural and cultural heritage through globally recognized monuments.

Charminar (Hyderabad)

- **News:** Featured in a May 2025 article by Times of India as one of India's iconic monuments, built in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah to commemorate Hyderabad's founding and the end of a plague.
- **Significance:** Represents the Qutb Shahi dynasty's architectural style and Hyderabad's cultural fusion.

Articles and Artworks

Indian Company Paintings (c. 1790–1835)

- **News:** A May 2025 exhibition in Delhi, "A Treasury of Life: Indian Company Paintings, c. 1790 to 1835," showcased over 200 works commissioned by the East India Company. Featuring subjects like natural history, architecture (e.g., Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Qutub Minar), and Indian customs, it highlighted the collaboration between European patrons and Indian artists like Sita Ram.
- **Significance:** These paintings blend Mughal miniature techniques with European realism, offering a historical record of Indian social life.

MF Husain's Paintings

- **News:** In June 2025, 25 paintings by MF Husain, titled "An Artist's Vision of the XX Century," were announced for auction in Mumbai, potentially fetching up to \$29 million. This followed the record-breaking sale of his painting



Untitled (Gram Yatra) for \$13.8 million at Christie's in New York.

- **Significance:** Husain's works reflect India's cultural and technological evolution, cementing his status as a leading modern Indian artist.

British Museum Exhibition on Indian Devotional Art

- **News:** A June 2025 exhibition at the British Museum in London, featuring 189 objects, traced the evolution of Indian devotional art from 200 BCE to 600 CE. It explored the transformation of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain iconography from symbolic to human forms, including sculptures from Amaravati's stupa.
- **Significance:** Highlights the shared cultural roots and artistic shifts in ancient Indian religious art.

Madhubani and Gond Art

- **News:** In May 2025, President Droupadi Murmu honored Madhubani and Gond artists from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh under the "Artists in Residence" initiative at the President's House, appreciating their contributions to India's folk art traditions.
- **Significance:** These traditional art forms are vibrant expressions of India's tribal and cultural heritage.

Indus Valley Painted Pottery

- **News:** In April 2025, archaeologists uncovered 4,000-year-old painted pottery from the Indus Valley Civilization, showcasing its artistic and cultural heritage.
- **Significance:** Reflects the advanced craftsmanship and aesthetic sensibilities of one of India's earliest civilizations.

PM Modi's Gifts of Indian Art

- **News:** In June 2025, during his three-nation tour (Cyprus, Canada, Croatia), PM Narendra Modi gifted Indian artworks to world leaders:
- Ebony Jali Work Box (Rajasthan) with silver inlay and a hand-painted peacock, gifted to Alberta's Premier.
- Warli Painting (Maharashtra) to Mexico's President, showcasing tribal folk art.



- Pattachitra Painting (Odisha) to Croatia's President, depicting Indian mythology.
- **Significance:** Promotes India's rich handicraft and artistic traditions on a global stage.

Delhi Art Exhibitions

- **News:** In June 2025, Delhi's Vernissage Art Gallery and Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) were highlighted for promoting Indian art. Vernissage featured works by artists like Sabia Khan and Shampa Sircar Das, while KNMA showcased modern and contemporary Indian art. Additionally, street murals in Delhi were noted for turning buildings into living artworks.
- **Significance:** Reflects the evolving landscape of Indian art, from traditional to contemporary, and promotes cultural exchange.

Kala Ghoda's Army & Navy Building (Mumbai)

- **News:** In June 2025, the Artists' Centre's shift to the Army & Navy Building was covered, emphasizing its role as a cultural hub and birthplace of India's largest art festival.
- **Significance:** The building, with its historical and architectural value, continues to foster Indian art and culture.

Additional Notes

- **Cultural Events:** The Delhi government organized an exhibition in Connaught Place's Central Park in June 2025 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, including art and photo exhibitions to reflect on India's cultural and historical narrative.
- **Language Recognition:** In 2024, the Ministry of Culture conferred classical language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, reinforcing India's linguistic heritage.

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