



HERITAGE BEACON

VOL.1

Celebrate the beauty of culture, history,
and timeless heritage.



Student Learning from a Heritage Visit to Gwalior Fort

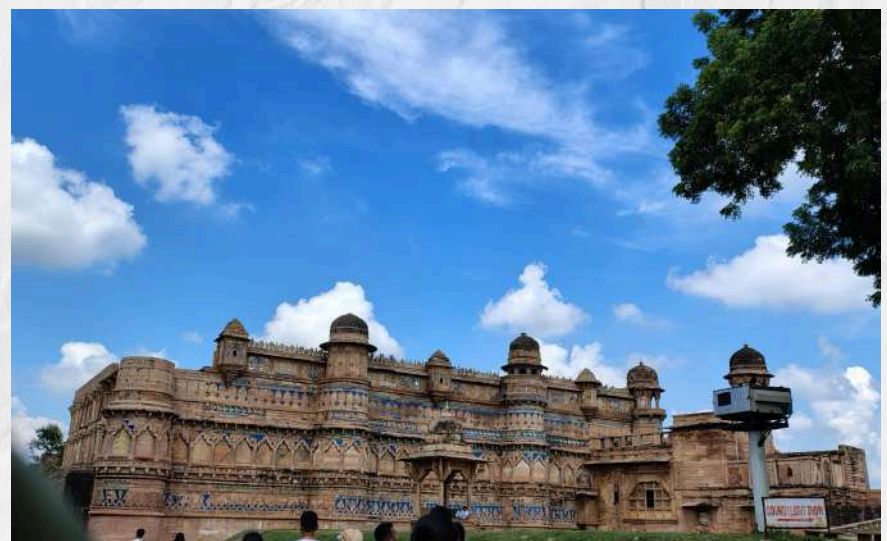
GWALIOR FORT IS ONE OF INDIA'S MOST MAGNIFICENT HILL FORTS AND IS OFTEN CALLED THE "GIBRALTAR OF INDIA" BECAUSE OF ITS STRONG NATURAL DEFENSES AND STRATEGIC LOCATION. SITUATED ON A SANDSTONE HILL ABOUT 100 METERS ABOVE THE CITY OF GWALIOR, THE FORT HAS WITNESSED MORE THAN 1,000 YEARS OF HISTORY. IT IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF INDIA'S ARCHITECTURAL BRILLIANCE, MILITARY ENGINEERING, AND RICH CULTURAL TRADITIONS.

STUDENT REFLECTION

"OUR VISIT TO GWALIOR FORT WAS AN UNFORGETTABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE. WE EXPLORED MAGNIFICENT PALACES, ANCIENT TEMPLES, AND IMPRESSIVE ROCK-CUT SCULPTURES THAT REFLECTED INDIA'S GLORIOUS PAST. WE LEARNED HOW RULERS PROTECTED THEIR KINGDOMS, ADMIRERD THE ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE OF MEDIEVAL CRAFTSMEN, AND UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE. THIS EDUCATIONAL VISIT STRENGTHENED OUR APPRECIATION FOR HISTORY, CULTURE, ARCHITECTURE, AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP."

CONCLUSION

GWALIOR FORT IS NOT ONLY A HISTORICAL MONUMENT BUT ALSO A LIVING CLASSROOM WHERE STUDENTS CAN EXPERIENCE HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE, ART, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION FIRSTHAND. A VISIT TO THIS ICONIC FORT INSPIRES CURIOSITY, PATRIOTISM, AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD PROTECTING INDIA'S RICH CULTURAL LEGACY.



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: SARNATH EXCURSION

THE EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO SARNATH PROVIDED STUDENTS OF SUNBEAM SCHOOL, BALLIA WITH A MEMORABLE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT CLASSROOM LEARNING WITH INDIA'S RICH HERITAGE. DURING THE VISIT, STUDENTS LEARNED AND OBSERVED:

BIRTHPLACE OF BUDDHISM: THEY LEARNED THAT SARNATH IS THE SACRED PLACE WHERE GAUTAMA BUDDHA DELIVERED HIS FIRST SERMON AFTER ATTAINING ENLIGHTENMENT, MARKING THE BEGINNING OF THE SPREAD OF BUDDHISM.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS: STUDENTS EXPLORED THE MAGNIFICENT DHAMEK STUPA AND ANCIENT MONASTERY RUINS, GAINING INSIGHT INTO INDIA'S ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE.

NATIONAL SYMBOL OF INDIA: THEY SAW THE REMAINS OF THE FAMOUS ASHOKA PILLAR AND LEARNED THAT ITS LION CAPITAL IS THE NATIONAL EMBLEM OF INDIA.

MUSEUM LEARNING: AT THE SARNATH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, STUDENTS OBSERVED ANCIENT SCULPTURES, INSCRIPTIONS, AND BUDDHIST RELICS, UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE.

VALUES OF BUDDHISM: THE VISIT HELPED STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE TEACHINGS OF PEACE, COMPASSION, NON-VIOLENCE, KINDNESS, AND TOLERANCE, WHICH REMAIN RELEVANT IN TODAY'S WORLD.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE: THEY APPRECIATED THE BEAUTIFUL CARVINGS, STUPAS, MONASTERIES, AND BUDDHIST TEMPLES, ENHANCING THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF ANCIENT INDIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE.

IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION: STUDENTS REALIZED THE NEED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



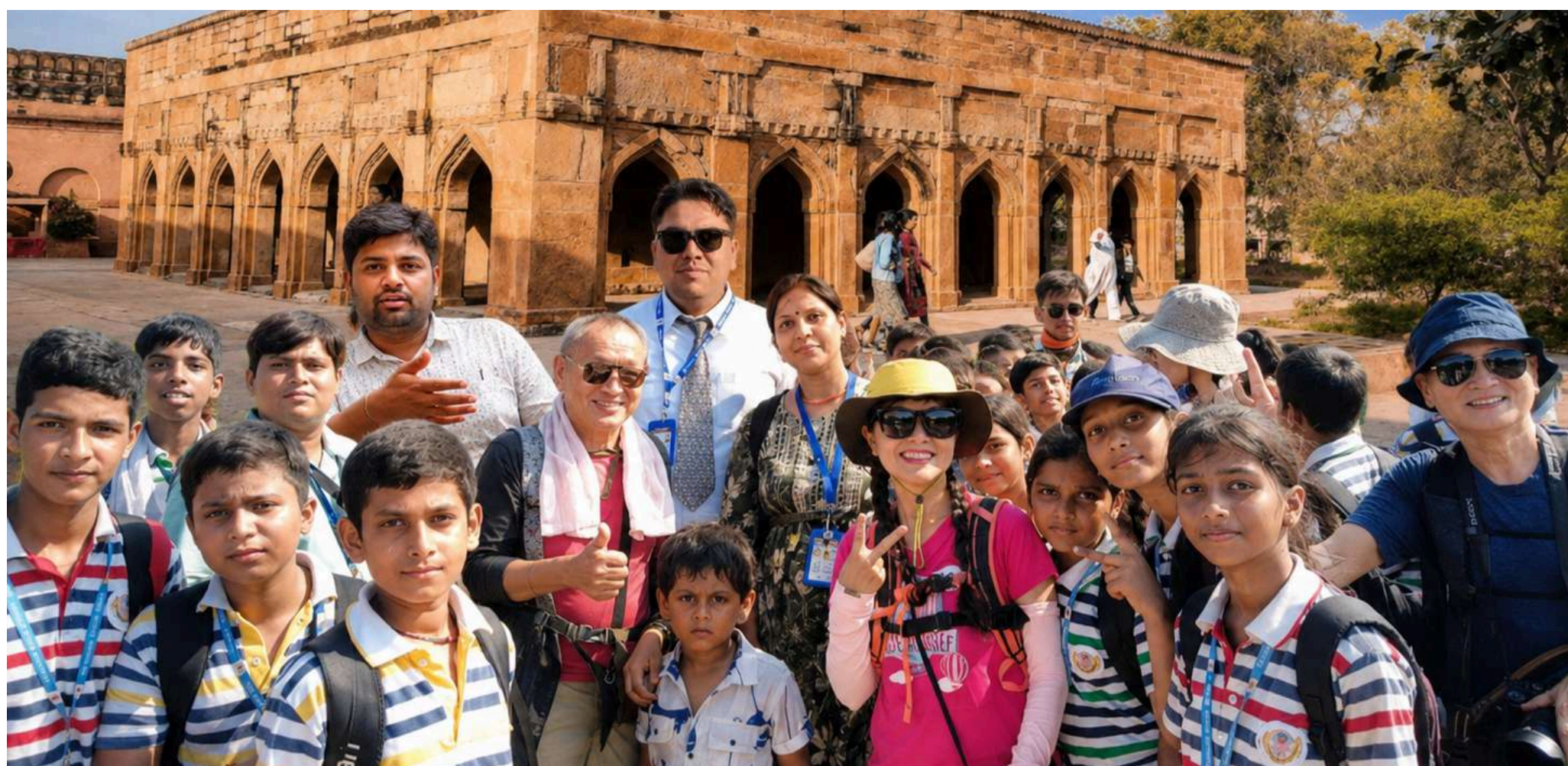
EXPLORING HISTORY AT CHUNAR FORT: A JOURNEY INTO INDIA'S GLORIOUS PAST

THE STUDENTS OF SUNBEAM SCHOOL, BALLIA EMBARKED ON AN ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION TO CHUNAR FORT, MIRZAPUR, ONE OF INDIA'S MOST MAGNIFICENT HISTORICAL LANDMARKS. NESTLED ON THE BANKS OF THE SACRED RIVER GANGA, THE FORT STANDS AS A TIMELESS SYMBOL OF COURAGE, ARCHITECTURAL BRILLIANCE, AND INDIA'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE.

DURING THE VISIT, STUDENTS EXPLORED THE FORT'S ANCIENT GATEWAYS, MASSIVE WALLS, WATCHTOWERS, AND HISTORIC STRUCTURES WHILE LEARNING ABOUT ITS ASSOCIATION WITH SEVERAL GREAT RULERS, INCLUDING SHER SHAH SURI, THE MUGHALS, AND THE BRITISH. THE GUIDE SHARED FASCINATING STORIES ABOUT THE FORT'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, LEGENDARY TALES, AND ITS ROLE IN SHAPING INDIAN HISTORY.

THE VISIT ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO OBSERVE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE, UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION, AND APPRECIATE THE CULTURAL LEGACY PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS. THEY ALSO WITNESSED BREATHTAKING PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THE GANGA, MAKING THE EXPERIENCE BOTH EDUCATIONAL AND MEMORABLE.

THIS HERITAGE EXPEDITION BEAUTIFULLY REFLECTED THE SPIRIT OF "LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM," INSPIRING STUDENTS TO CONNECT WITH HISTORY, DEVELOP RESPECT FOR INDIA'S RICH HERITAGE, AND BECOME RESPONSIBLE CUSTODIANS OF OUR CULTURAL TREASURES.



TEACHER CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

CONTINUOUS LEARNING PROGRAM

TEACHER'S RECOGNITION

The teachers of Sunbeam School, Ballia proudly received certificates after successfully completing the Heritage Awareness Programme conducted in collaboration with INTACH. This certification recognizes their dedication to promoting heritage conservation, cultural preservation, and experiential learning. The programme enriched their understanding through visits to heritage sites, including Bharat Kala Bhavan and the Banaras Beads Manufacturing Unit. The knowledge and experience gained will further inspire teachers to make heritage education more engaging and meaningful for students.



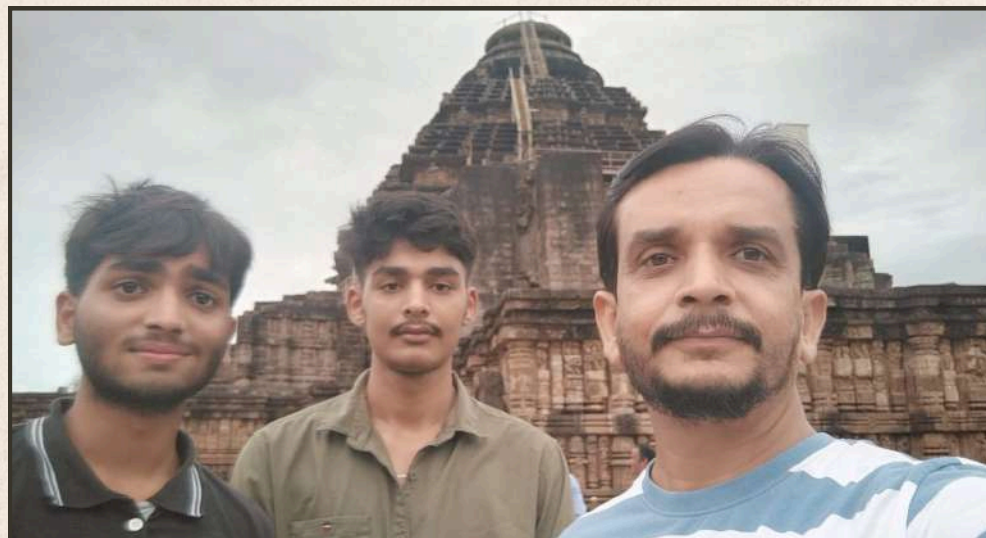
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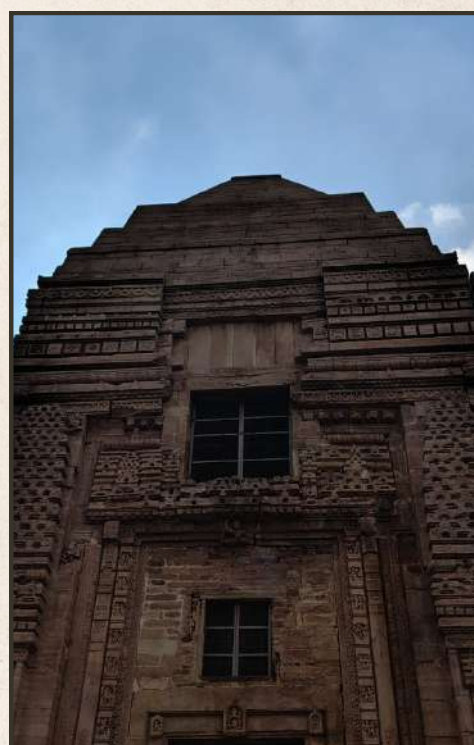
HERITAGE AWARENESS: LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Heritage education embraces the spirit of "Learning by Doing." Through heritage walks, museum visits, and field experiences, students connect classroom learning with real-life heritage, fostering curiosity, cultural awareness, and a sense of responsibility to preserve our rich legacy.

LEARNING EXPEDITION TO KONARK SUN TEMPLE – DISCOVERING INDIA'S ARCHITECTURAL BRILLIANCE



The students of Sunbeam School, Ballia embarked on an enriching learning expedition to the Konark Sun Temple, one of India's finest architectural masterpieces and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The visit provided a unique opportunity to explore the rich cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of our country.



A MEMORABLE HERITAGE EXPEDITION TO KONARK

Students admired the magnificent stone carvings, the temple's chariot-shaped design with its intricately carved wheels, and the remarkable engineering skills of ancient India. They learned about the significance of solar worship, the importance of heritage conservation, and the need to preserve historical monuments for future generations.

This educational visit encouraged observation, curiosity, and appreciation for India's glorious past, transforming history from textbook knowledge into a memorable real-life learning experience.



THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA: A TIMELESS SYMBOL OF STRENGTH



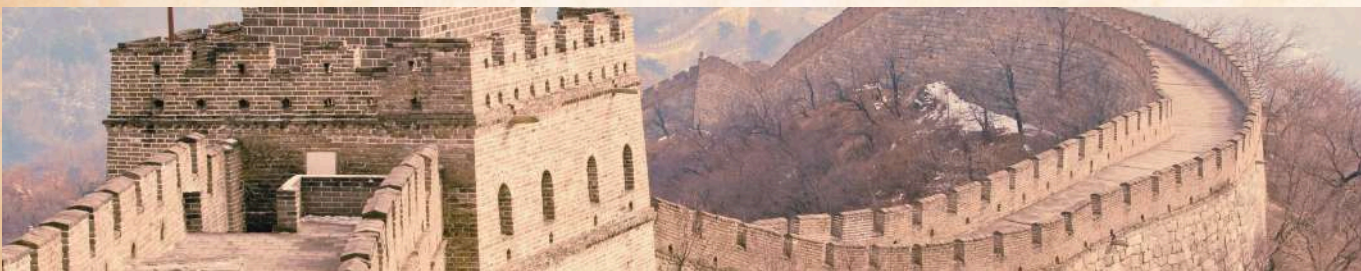
The Great Wall of China - A Monument of Determination

Stretching across mountains, valleys, and deserts, the Great Wall of China is one of the world's most remarkable engineering achievements. Built over two thousand years ago by successive Chinese dynasties, the wall extends for more than 21,000 kilometres. It was constructed primarily to protect the Chinese Empire from invasions and to safeguard important trade routes.

The Great Wall is not a single continuous wall but a network of walls, fortresses, watchtowers, and military outposts. Millions of workers—including soldiers, artisans, and local communities—contributed to its construction over several centuries. Today, it stands as a testament to human perseverance, innovation, and teamwork.

In 1987, the Great Wall was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its outstanding historical and cultural significance. Every year, millions of visitors from around the globe explore its majestic pathways and learn about China's rich history.

For students, the Great Wall teaches an important lesson: great achievements require vision, dedication, and collective effort. Just as the wall has been preserved for future generations, we too have a responsibility to protect our own cultural heritage and historical monuments.



Did You Know?



- The Great Wall stretches for more than 21,000 km.
- It is one of the most famous man-made structures in the world.
- Not all sections are built from the same materials; builders used stone, brick, tamped earth, and wood depending on local resources.

The Red Fort – A Symbol of India's Glorious Heritage

The Red Fort, popularly known as Lal Qila, is one of India's most iconic historical monuments and a proud symbol of the nation's rich cultural heritage. Located in the heart of Delhi, this magnificent fort was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in 1638, when he shifted his capital from Agra to the newly established city of Shahjahanabad. Constructed using striking red sandstone, the fort derives its name from its massive crimson walls, which rise up to 33 metres in height.

Spread over nearly 255 acres, the Red Fort is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture, blending Persian, Timurid, and Indian artistic traditions. Within its imposing walls lie several remarkable structures, including the Lahori Gate, Diwan-i-Aam (Hall of Public Audience), Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience), Rang Mahal, Mumtaz Mahal, and the beautifully designed royal gardens known as the Hayat Bakhsh Bagh. Intricate marble carvings, elegant arches, delicate floral motifs, and flowing water channels showcase the architectural brilliance of the Mughal era.

The Red Fort holds immense historical significance beyond its architectural beauty. It witnessed the rise and decline of the Mughal Empire, the events of India's struggle for independence, and the country's emergence as a sovereign nation. Every year on 15 August, the Prime Minister of India hoists the national flag from the ramparts of the Red Fort and addresses the nation, making it a powerful symbol of India's freedom and democratic values.

Recognizing its outstanding cultural and historical importance, UNESCO inscribed the Red Fort as a World Heritage Site in 2007. Today, it attracts millions of visitors from around the world who come to admire its grandeur and learn about India's remarkable past. Conservation efforts continue to preserve this architectural treasure for future generations. The Red Fort teaches us that monuments are more than magnificent buildings—they are living witnesses to history. By protecting such heritage sites, we honour the achievements of our ancestors and ensure that future generations remain connected to India's glorious cultural legacy.



Did You Know?

- 🏰 Construction of the Red Fort began in 1638 and was completed in 1648.
- 🇮🇳 The Prime Minister of India hoists the National Flag here every Independence Day.
- 🌍 The Red Fort was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007.
- 🧱 The fort is enclosed by massive red sandstone walls stretching over 2.4 kilometres.
- ✨ The famous inscription in the Diwan-i-Khas reads: "If there is a paradise on Earth, it is this, it is this, it is this."

SURHA TAL - THE PRIDE OF BALLIA'S WETLANDS



Surha Tal Achieves Global Recognition as India's 100th Ramsar Site

Surha Tal, also known as the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary in Ballia, has earned international recognition as India's 100th Ramsar Site, a Wetland of International Importance. This prestigious honour highlights the ecological importance of the wetland, which provides a safe habitat for a wide variety of resident and migratory birds, aquatic life, and diverse plant species. Every winter, thousands of migratory birds visit Surha Tal, making it one of eastern Uttar Pradesh's most significant bird habitats and a valuable centre for biodiversity.

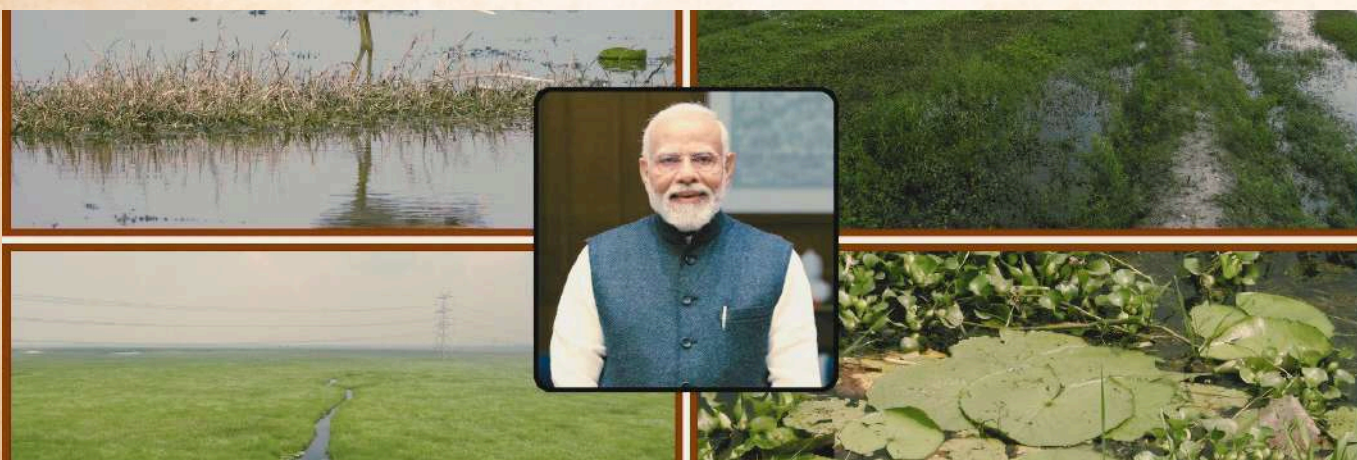
The Ramsar designation is a major milestone for Ballia and reflects India's strong commitment to wetland conservation and sustainable environmental management. It will strengthen conservation efforts, encourage scientific research, promote eco-tourism, and create greater awareness about the importance of protecting wetlands. This achievement is a matter of great pride for the local community and inspires students and citizens to actively participate in preserving our natural heritage for future generations.

Did You Know?



- **Natural Oxbow Lake:** Surha Tal is a naturally formed oxbow lake created by the changing course of the Ghaghara River.
- **Migratory Bird Stopover:** Every winter, thousands of migratory birds from Central Asia and Siberia visit Surha Tal.
- **Rich Biodiversity:** The wetland supports over 100 bird species along with fish, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic plants.

Global Recognition: In 2026, Surha Tal became India's 100th Ramsar Site, highlighting its international importance for wetland conservation.



CAREER CORNER

BUILD YOUR FUTURE IN HERITAGE, ART & CULTURE

*Turn your passion for history, art and culture
into a meaningful and rewarding career.*



CAREER OPTIONS



Archaeologist



Heritage Conservation Expert



Museum Curator



Art Conservator



Conservation Architect



Heritage Tourism Manager



Archivist & Manuscript Conservator



Heritage Educator & Researcher



TOP UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA



Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi
Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology



University of Delhi, Delhi
History, Museology, Archaeology, Art History



**Deccan College Post-Graduate and
Research Institute, Pune**
Archaeology, Heritage Management



National Museum Institute, New Delhi
Museology, Conservation, Art History



**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA),
New Delhi**
Heritage, Culture & Conservation Programmes



School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
Architectural Conservation



M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara
Fine Arts, Museology, Archaeology



Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan
Fine Arts, Indian Culture, Heritage Studies

INTEGRATED & INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

- BA + MA in History / Archaeology
- Integrated MA in Heritage Studies
- Integrated Fine Arts Programmes
- B.Arch. with Architectural Conservation
- Heritage Tourism & Cultural Resource Management
- Museum Studies and Conservation Science



DID YOU KNOW?

India has
43 UNESCO
World Heritage
Sites, creating
excellent career
opportunities!



SKILLS YOU NEED

- Observation & Research
- Historical Analysis
- Drawing & Documentation
- Photography
- Creativity
- Communication
- Field Survey Techniques
- Digital Mapping (GIS)



*Preserving our Heritage is
Preserving our Identity.*



HERITAGE & CULTURE

QUESTION BANK

(School to University Level)

Explore – Learn – Preserve

1 Which of the following is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- A Hawa Mahal
- B Qutub Minar
- C Chunar Fort
- D All of the above



2 The Chunar Fort is located on the banks of which river?

- A Ganga
- B Yamuna
- C Son
- D Narmada



3 Which of these is an example of Intangible Cultural Heritage?

- A Classical Dance
- B Monuments
- C Forts
- D Historical Buildings



4 Archaeology primarily involves the study of:

- A Rocks
- B Fossils
- C Human Past
- D Plants



5 Which tool is commonly used by archaeologists during excavation?

- A Telescope
- B Trowel
- C Microscope
- D Barometer



6 Which of the following is a primary source of history?

- A Textbook
- B Newspaper report
- C Archaeological artifact
- D Wikipedia article



7 Who is known as the 'Father of Indian Archaeology'?

- A Alexander Cunningham
- B John Marshall
- C James Burgess
- D Mortimer Wheeler



8 Which Indus Valley Civilization site is famous for its 'Great Bath'?

- A Mohenjo-daro
- B Harappa
- C Lothal
- D Dholavira



9 What is the main purpose of conservation of heritage?

- A To make profit
- B To preserve for future generations
- C To destroy old structures
- D To rebuild only



10 Which organization looks after monuments and sites in India?

- A ASI
- B UNESCO
- C INTACH
- D ICOMOS



11 Which of the following is NOT a career in heritage and culture?

- A Museum Curator
- B Archaeologist
- C Software Developer
- D Art Conservator



12 What does a Museum Curator do?

- A Designs buildings
- B Manages collections
- C Excavates sites
- D Sells artifacts



13 Which of the following is an example of Tangible Heritage?

- A Folk Song
- B Traditional Dance
- C Ancient Monument
- D Oral Tradition



14 The practice of protecting and maintaining artworks and artifacts is called:

- A Restoration
- B Conservation
- C Renovation
- D Reconstruction



15 Which of these is a responsibility of a Heritage Tourism Manager?

- A Managing Business Accounts
- B Promoting and managing heritage sites
- C Writing Code
- D Building Roads



16 Which university in India offers courses in Archaeology and Museology?

- A IIT Delhi
- B Banaras Hindu University
- C AIIMS
- D IIM Ahmedabad



17 Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute is located in:

- A Delhi
- B Pune
- C Varanasi
- D Kolkata



18 Which subject helps in dating ancient artifacts?

- A Paleography
- B Numismatics
- C Radiocarbon Dating
- D All of the above



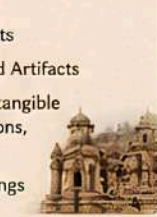
19 Which of these is a part of India's Intangible Cultural Heritage?

- A Kumbh Mela
- B Mountain Ranges
- C Temples
- D Forts



20 What does the term 'Heritage' include?

- A Only Monuments
- B Monuments and Artifacts
- C Tangible and Intangible Culture, Traditions, Monuments
- D Only Old Buildings



21 Which of these skills is important for an Archaeologist?

- A Cooking
- B Excavation & Analysis
- C Driving
- D Marketing



22 Which technique is used to create a 3D digital model of a monument?

- A GPS Mapping
- B 3D Laser Scanning
- C Chemical Wash
- D All of the above



23 Which institute in New Delhi offers courses in Museology and Conservation?

- A National Museum Institute
- B IGNOU
- C NLU
- D ISRO



24 Which of the following is an example of Architectural Heritage?

- A Ajanta Paintings
- B Konark Sun Temple
- C Bharatanatyam Dance
- D Dandiya Raas



25 Which academic field studies ancient coins, inscriptions and scripts?

- A Epigraphy
- B Numismatics
- C Philology
- D Geology



26 What is the main aim of UNESCO World Heritage Sites list?

- A To promote tourism only
- B To preserve cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value
- C To build new structures
- D To remove old sites



27 Which of these is a government body in India that protects monuments and archaeological sites?

- A UNESCO
- B Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- C World Bank
- D United Nations



28 Which type of heritage deals with traditions, language, oral stories, festivals, performing arts?

- A Natural Heritage
- B Tangible Heritage
- C Intangible Heritage
- D Built Heritage



29 Which conservation method involves using traditional materials and techniques to maintain a structure?

- A Chemical Treatment
- B Traditional Conservation
- C Digital Mapping
- D Demolition and Rebuild



30 If you are interested in preserving history, which career would be most suitable?

- A Doctor
- B Heritage Conservation Expert
- C Pilot
- D IT Engineer



CAREER PATHS IN HERITAGE & CULTURE

- Archaeologist
- Museum Curator
- Art Conservator
- Heritage Conservation Expert
- Conservation Architect



- Heritage Tourism Manager
- Archivist & Manuscript Conservator
- Cultural Resource Manager
- Heritage Educator & Researcher
- Heritage Photographer / Filmmaker



DID YOU KNOW?

India has **43 UNESCO World Heritage Sites** creating excellent career opportunities in heritage and culture sector.

SKILLS YOU NEED

- 🔍 Research & Observation
- 📷 Documentation
- 📸 Photography
- 💡 Creativity
- 🗣️ Communication
- 📏 Field Survey Techniques
- 📍 GIS & Mapping

Preserving our Heritage is Preserving our Identity.

EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

It gives us immense pleasure to present the inaugural edition of our Heritage Club Newsletter. Heritage is not merely a collection of monuments and artifacts—it is the living legacy of our culture, traditions, values, and history. Through this newsletter, we aim to inspire young minds to explore, appreciate, and preserve the rich heritage that defines our nation.

The activities, educational visits, and learning experiences featured in this edition reflect our students' enthusiasm for discovering India's remarkable cultural treasures. We hope these pages encourage every reader to become a responsible custodian of our shared heritage.

Let us continue to celebrate our past, learn from it, and preserve it for generations to come.

"Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future."

**Mr. Sitaram Chaubey
Editor, Heritage Club Newsletter
Sunbeam School, Ballia**