



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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Tentative list of World heritage sites

*The article talks about how **Indian heritage sites** like the **Vadnagar town in Gujarat**, the renowned **Sun Temple at Modhera**, and the **rock-cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura** are recognised as **World heritage sites**.*

Relevance For Prelims: Indian heritage sites, Temple architecture.

Relevance For Mains: GS-1 , Art and Culture

*In News: Recently, three locations were added to the provisional list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) **World Heritage Sites: Vadnagar town in Gujarat, the renowned Sun Temple at Modhera, and the rock-cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura.***

WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA

The Sun Temple at Modhera:

- The Sun Temple at Modhera is situated in the Becharaji taluka of the Mehsana district on the left bank of the Pushpavati River, a tributary of the Rupan River.
- This temple faces east and is made of vivid yellow sandstone.
- Ramakunda is a sizable rectangular stepping tank that is regarded as India's most impressive temple tank.
- The light beams straight into this temple's main shrine at the equinoxes every year.
- According to the temple's description, it is constructed in the Maru-Gujarat architectural style and includes a sacred pool (Surya Kunda, now known as Ramakunda), a hall (gadhamandapa), an exterior hall or assembly hall (Sabhamandapa or rangamandapa), and the main temple shrine (garbhagriha).



Surya Mandir Vadnagar

- Vadnagar is a city in Gujarat with a long history that is situated in the Mehsana district.
- Vadnagar, also known as Chamatkarpur, Anandpur, Snehpur, and Vimalpur, was referenced in the Puranas.
- The archaeologically rich city of Vadnagar is known for its torans, a pair of 40-foot-tall Solanki-era columns constructed in red and yellow sandstone to commemorate a military victory in the 12th century.
- Hiuen Tsang, a Chinese Buddhist traveller, is supposed to have visited the city in 640 AD and wrote about it in his travelogue.
- In Vadnagar, ruins of a Buddhist monastery were also discovered during excavations in 2008–2009.
- The Tanariri Performing Arts College, which is located in Vadnagar, was given this name to honour the bravery of two sisters named Tana and Riri who gave their lives when Akbar asked them to sing in his court, which was against their custom.

Rock-cut Unakoti sculptures:

- This Shaivite pilgrimage dates back to at least the 7th and 9th centuries.
- Unakoti, which translates to “one less than a crore,” is supposed to be the location of numerous rock sculptures.
- According to Hindu legend, Lord Shiva stopped here during the night while travelling to Kashi with a million gods and goddesses.
- He commanded all the deities to rise before dawn and travel to Kashi.
- According to legend, nobody else was able to get out of bed in the morning except for Lord Shiva, who then left for Kashi while cursing the others to turn into stone statues.
- As a result, Unakoti contains fewer than one crore stone carvings and figures.
- The images discovered at Unakoti can be divided into two categories: stone images and figures etched into rocks.
- The prominent Shiva head and the enormous Ganesha sculptures stand out among the rock carvings.

- Unakotiswara Kal Bhairava is the name of the centre head of Shiva.
- There are two life-size female figurines, one of Durga standing on a lion and the other on the opposite side of the headdress of the centre Shiva.
- Three gigantic statues of the Nandi Bull are also discovered partially buried.
- Every year in the month of April, a large fair widely known as “Ashokastami Mela” is held.



Unakoti sculptures

Source:

- [Tourism of India](#)
- [The Hindu](#)
- [Gujaratdarshanguide](#)

Rishabh

SAMUDRAYAAN MISSION

What is Samudrayaan Mission? The Aim of the Mission

The talks about how the **Samudrayaan Mission** affects Indian Science and Technology.

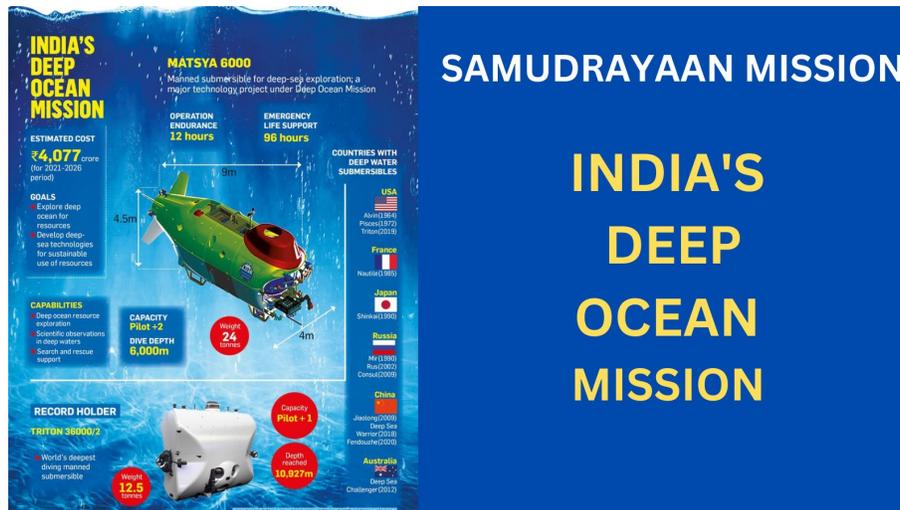
Relevance for prelims: Quick facts about prelims, Government policies and interventions

Relevance for mains: GS-3, .

In News: The Samudrayaan Mission is anticipated to be realized by the year 2026, according to the Ministry of Earth Science.

ABOUT SAMUDRAYAAN MISSION

- In order to explore deep-sea resources including minerals, the project will send three people in a vehicle named the “**MATSYA 6000**” to a depth of 6000 metres.
- The **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)**, Chennai, a division of **the Ministry of Earth Sciences**, is creating the “MATSYA 6000” vehicle.
- It can last 12 hours in regular operation and 96 hours in an emergency to protect people.
- The Rs 6000-crore Deep Ocean Voyage includes this first-of-its-kind manned ocean mission for India.
- The creation of Ti Alloy Personnel Spheres, Human Support and Safety Systems in Enclosed Space, Low-Density Buoyancy Modules, Ballast and Trim systems, and Low-Density Buoyancy Modules are a few of the essential parts of manned submersibles.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), IITM, and the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) will all take a significant part in this project.
- India will join an exclusive group of countries that include the US, Russia, Japan, France, and China in having specialized equipment and vehicles for subsea operations.
- Cost: The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) has a five-year, \$4,077 crore total budget approved by the Centre.



Samudrayaan Mission

SIGNIFICANCE OF SAMUDRAYAAN MISSION

- There are nine coastal states and 1,382 islands along India's 7517 kilometres of coastline, which is in a unique marine position.
- With the oceans on three of its sides and around 30% of the people living along the shore, the coastal regions are important for India's economy.
- The manned submersible will enable research experts to directly examine and comprehend uncharted deep-sea regions.
- It will also strengthen the central government's plan for a "New India," which includes the blue economy as one of the top ten growth drivers.
- It promotes aquaculture, tourism, subsistence, and blue trade.

DEEP OCEAN MISSION (DOM)

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences approved it in June 2021. Its objectives include resource exploration in the deep ocean, deep-sea technology development for ocean resource exploitation that is sustainable, and assistance for the Indian government's Blue Economy Initiatives.
- The Mission will be carried out over a five-year period at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,077 crores, and it will be done in stages.
- DOM is a mission-mode project that supports the Indian government's initiatives for the blue economy.
- Earlier, the draught Blue Economy Policy had also been released by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The sustainable use of ocean resources is known as the "blue economy," and it aims to enhance livelihoods, create more jobs, and maintain the health of the ocean's environment.

Source:

- [The Week](#)
- [PIB](#)

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