



CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

Date -4 December 2023

8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "8th Wonder of the World". This topic has relevance in the History and culture section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 1: History and culture

Why in the news:

Angkor Wat, in the heart of Cambodia, has beaten Pompeii in Italy to become the eighth Wonder of the World.

Location:

- Situated in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- Largest religious monument globally, covering 1,200 sq meters with intricately carved bas-reliefs.

Historical Significance:

- Constructed in the 12th century by Khmer Emperor Suryavarman II.
- Initially a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, later converted to a Buddhist temple.
- Transition depicted in carvings showcasing scenes from Hindu and Buddhist mythology.
- Part of an extensive complex including the Bayon Temple in Angkor Thom.

Key Features:

- Architectural brilliance with sandstone block construction.
- 15-foot-high wall, wide moat for protection.
- Bas-reliefs depicting deities and narratives from Hindu and Buddhist traditions.
- Symbolic five lotus-shaped towers representing Mount Meru.

Interesting Facts:

- Also known as Yasodharapura, derived from the Khmer word "nokor" meaning "kingdom."
- UNESCO protection for its archaeological and cultural significance.
- Breathtaking sunrise spectacle attracting tourists.

Pompeii: Ancient Roman City

Location:

Near Naples, Italy, by the Bay of Naples.

History:

- Founded around the 6th century BC, influenced by Greek and Etruscan cultures.
- Became a Roman colony around the 1st century BC.
- Catastrophically buried by Mount Vesuvius eruption in 79 AD.

Key Features:

- Excavated ruins reveal streets, buildings, houses, public spaces, temples, and artifacts.
- Showcase of Roman architecture, including villas, temples, theaters, and an amphitheater.
- Renowned for exquisite frescoes, mosaics, and artifacts.

Cultural Significance:

- Provides invaluable insights into ancient Roman life, architecture, art, and urban planning.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site, major tourist destination, and educational resource.

Conclusion:

Angkor Wat and Pompeii, both wonders with unique historical and cultural significance. Angkor Wat's architectural magnificence and UNESCO's efforts make it a compelling destination.

Source:

[Angkor Wat becomes the 8th wonder of the world | Times of India Travel \(indiatimes.com\)](https://www.indiatimes.com/travel/angkor-wat-becomes-the-8th-wonder-of-the-world)

Q.1 consider the following statements:

1. Angkor Wat Temple is situated in Ho chi Minh province of Cambodia.
2. It is Purely a Buddhist temple.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: D

Q.2 Discuss the cultural expanse of Indian civilization in Asia, highlighting key influences, interactions, and exchanges that have contributed to shaping the diverse cultural landscape of the region.

Rishabh