

Recent Recognitions

- **First Extreme-Poverty-Free State in India**
 - Kerala declared itself free from extreme poverty on November 1, 2025, coinciding with 'Kerala Piravi'.
 - This declaration was based on the World Bank's International Poverty Line of people earning less than **\$2.15 per day**.
- **Ramsar Sites of International Importance (Wetlands)**
 - **Gogabees Lake** (Katihar District, Bihar) was designated as **India's 94th Ramsar Site**.
 - Gogabees Lake is an oxbow wetland (86.6 hectares).
 - It was previously declared as Bihar's first community reserve in 2019.
 - India now has a total of 94 Ramsar Sites, ranking 1st in Asia and 3rd globally.
 - **Tamil Nadu** has the **highest number of Ramsar Sites** in India.
 - **Gokul Jalashay** (448 hectares, Buxar) and **Udaipur Jheel** (319 hectares, West Champaran) in Bihar were also designated as Ramsar Sites, raising India's total count to 93 prior to the latest addition.
 - **Indore** and **Udaipur** received **Wetland City Accreditation** under the Ramsar Convention for sustainable wetland management.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative City Network**
 - **Lucknow** was acknowledged for being designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) **Creative City of Gastronomy**.
 - Including Lucknow, India now has **nine cities** in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative Cities Network.
- **Blue Flag Certification (Beaches)**
 - **Five beaches in Maharashtra** received the International Blue Flag Certification.
 - The newly certified beaches in Maharashtra are: **Shrivardhan** (Raigad District), **Nagaon** (Raigad District), **Parnaka** (Palghar District), **Guhagar** (Ratnagiri District), and **Ladghar** (Ratnagiri District).
 - India's total number of Blue Flag-certified beaches now stands at **18**.
 - The certification is awarded by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**, based in Denmark.
 - **Kovalam Beach** (Chengalpattu district, Tamil Nadu) received the Blue Flag certification for the **fifth consecutive year**. It was Tamil Nadu's first Blue Flag-certified beach, certified in 2021.
 - **Puri Golden Beach** and **Sunapuri Beach** in Odisha received the International Blue Flag Certification for the 2025-26 cycle.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve**
 - The **Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve** in **Himachal Pradesh** was added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s **World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)**.
 - This designation makes it India's **13th site** and the **first high-altitude cold desert reserve** under this network.
 - India has a total of 18 Biosphere Reserves, 13 of which are part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Heritage and Conservation Status**

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- **Khangchendzonga National Park** (Sikkim) was rated ‘Good’ in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Heritage Outlook 4th edition/2025 global review. This made it the only Indian natural world heritage site with a positive conservation status rating.
- Khangchendzonga National Park was recognized as India’s first ‘mixed’ **World Heritage Site** by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2016.
- The **Sun Temple, Modhera** (Gujarat), received the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Heritage Award 2025 for **exemplary conservation efforts**.
- The **Majuli Cultural Landscape** (Assam), one of the world’s largest river islands, received World Heritage recognition from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for its unique cultural and ecological heritage.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Tentative List Addition**
 - **Seven new sites** were added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, increasing the total number of properties to **69**.
 - The newly added sites are: **Deccan Traps** (Maharashtra), **Saint Mary’s Island** (Karnataka), **Meghalayan Caves** (Meghalaya), **Naga Hill Ophiolite** (Nagaland), **Erra Matti Dibbalu** (Andhra Pradesh), **Tirumala Hills** (Andhra Pradesh), and **Varkala Cliffs** (Kerala).
 - **Salkhan Fossils Park** (also Sonbhadra Fossils Park, Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh) was added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Tentative List of World Heritage Sites in 2025.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site Designation**
 - The “**Maratha Military Landscapes of India**” were added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List at the **47th World Heritage Committee session in Paris, France**.
 - The inclusion of the Maratha Military Landscapes raised India’s total count of World Heritage Sites to **44** (35 Cultural, 7 Natural, and 2 Mixed).
 - The 12 listed forts demonstrating the Maratha military system’s regional spread include forts in Maharashtra and **Gingee Fort** in Tamil Nadu.
 - India now ranks 6th globally and 2nd in Asia Pacific for the most World Heritage Sites.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Nomination & Registry**
 - India officially nominated **Sarnath** for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site during the 2025–26 cycle.
 - The **Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra** were inscribed into the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) **Memory of the World Register** (2025).
 - **Kozhikode** (Kerala) was named a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) **City of Literature** in June 2024.
- **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag News**
 - The application fee for obtaining a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in India was reduced to **Rupees 1,000**. The original fee was Rupees 5,000.
 - The **Bodoland Territorial Region (Assam)** secured **Geographical Indication tags for 21 indigenous Bodo products**.
 - The musical instruments ‘**Bobbili Veena**’ and the ‘**Banarasi Shehnai**’ received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

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- The **Indi and Puliyan kudi Limes** (Geographical Indication-Tagged) were part of the first-ever air shipment facilitated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to the United Kingdom (UK).
- **Other Unique Designations/Recognitions**
 - **Indore** became India's **first city to supply drinking water powered entirely by solar energy**.
 - **Balod** (Chhattisgarh) became India's first "**Child Marriage-Free District**".
 - The **Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department** won the **Global Tourism Award 2025** for excellence in tourism promotion and sustainable practices.
 - **Kolkata** remains India's **Safest City** for the fourth consecutive year.
 - **Indore** retained the title of India's **Cleanest City** (8th consecutive year) in the Swachh Survekshan (Cleanliness Survey) 2025.
 - **Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai** were declared **Best SafaiMitra Surakshit Shehars 2025**.
 - **Prayagraj** was recognized as the **Best Ganga Town**.
 - The **Centre for Jain Studies** was established at **Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore**.
 - **Yakten Village** (Sikkim) was declared India's **first Digital Nomad Village**.
 - **Arthunkal Police Station** (Alappuzha, Kerala) became the first Indian police station to receive the IS/International Organization for Standardization 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
 - The **Maratha Military Landscapes of India** were recognized as India's 44th United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.
 - **Jabalpur** (Madhya Pradesh) received approval for India's **first Hindi-medium medical college**.
 - **Bangladesh** became the **first South Asian country** and 56th globally to join the United Nations (UN) Water Convention on June 20, 2025.
 - The '**Bobbili Veena**' and the '**Banarasi Shehnai**' received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.