



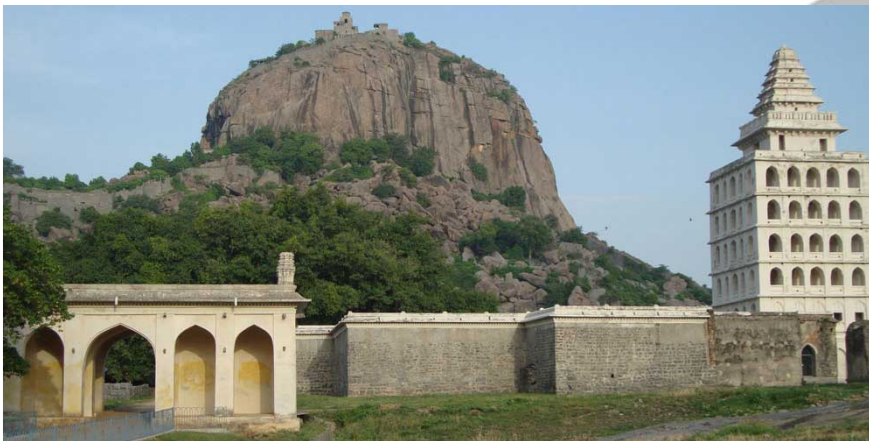
Gingee Fort Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the **Gingee Fort** in **Tamil Nadu's Villupuram** district has been nominated for **UNESCO's World Heritage Site** list as part of the [Maratha Military Landscapes](#) proposal, which includes 11 other forts.

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The Vision

What are the Key Facts Regarding Gingee Fort of Tamil Nadu?

- **Geographical Feature and Significance:** Gingee Fort is renowned for its historical importance and strategic location atop three hillocks: **Rajagiri, Krishnagiri, and Chandragiri**.
 - It is also known as the "**Troy of the East**," as it is one of the most impregnable fortresses in peninsular India.
 - Its strategic location and robust defences, including a **60-foot-wide rampart and an 80-foot-wide moat**, made it vital during the [Carnatic Wars](#) between the **French and British**.
- **Historical Overview:** The fort was originally built by **Ananta Kon of the Konar Dynasty in 1200 CE and named it Krishnagiri**.
 - **Vijayanagar Empire** undertook significant renovations of the fort.
 - In 1677, the fort was captured by **Chhatrapati Shivaji** and remained under **Maratha control until 1698**, when it fell to the **Mughals**.
 - The Fort became the **last stronghold for the Marathas (Rajaram I, son of Shivaji)** during their resistance against the Mughal forces.
 - Briefly ruled by **Raja Desingh (Tej Singh)**, it was taken over by the **Nawabs of Arcot in 1714** and remained under their dominion until 1749.
 - From **1750 to 1770, the French** held the fort before it eventually passed into **Britishers**.
- **Architectural Features:**
 - The fort complex houses several temples and shrines.

- It includes significant structures such as a **stepped well, Kalyana Mahal, durbar hall, cannon, clock tower, armory, elephant tank, stable, granary, gymnasium, Venkataramana temple, and Sadathtulla mosque.**
- **Water Supply Systems:** Gingee Fort features two sophisticated water supply systems, ensuring a continuous water supply even at the highest points of the fort.
- Rajagiri Hill: It is the tallest hill at 800 metres, featuring a citadel and the temple of Ranganatha.
 - **Krishnagiri Citadel** is notable for its [Indo-Islamic architecture](#), including an audience hall with a domed roof.
- **Venkataramana Swamy Temple:** It is located in the **Lower Fort complex** and adorned with intricate carvings from Hindu epics.
- **Kalyana Mahal:** It is an architectural jewel with eight storeys, used as the **royal ladies' quarters.**

UNESCO World Heritage Site

- A World Heritage Site is a location **recognized by UNESCO** for its exceptional cultural or natural significance.
- UNESCO promotes the identification, protection, and preservation of cultural and natural heritage sites globally that hold outstanding value to humanity.
- As of September 2024, **India has 43 World Heritage Sites (cultural sites-35, natural sites-7, mixed-criteria site-1)** with the latest addition being the [Mound-Burial System of Ahom Dynasty](#).
- **Process for nominating a site to UNESCO's World Heritage List**
 - A country creates a list of important cultural and natural heritage sites.
 - The **country selects sites from the Tentative List** and prepares nomination details.
 - The [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\)](#) and [IUCN](#) evaluate the nominated property.
 - The **Committee meets annually to decide which sites to add** to the World Heritage List, based on advisory recommendations and criteria fulfillment.

Read More: [Assam's Moidams to be Considered for World Heritage List, UNESCO, Maratha Military Landscapes](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. Which one of the following National Parks has a climate that varies from tropical to subtropical, temperate and arctic? (2015)

- (a) Khangchendzonga National Park
- (b) Nanda Devi National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Namdapha National Park

Ans: (d)

