



## Monuments of National Importance

Archaeological Survey of India has declared following monuments of national importance:

- The ancient **Neemrana Baori** in Rajasthan's Alwar district;
- The **Group of Temples at Ranipur Jharail** in Odisha's Bolangir district;
- The **Vishnu Temple in Pithoragarh district**, Uttarakhand;
- **High Court Building in Nagpur**, Maharashtra,
- Two Mughal-era monuments in Agra — **Haveli of Agha Khan and Hathi Khana**.

### High Court Building Nagpur

- The Nagpur High Court building is called a **Poem in Stone because of its beautiful structure**.
- The most conspicuous feature of the High Court frontage is the Dome, the grand entrance, both towers, and the majestic staircase.
- It was designed by **Architect H.A.N. Medd**.
- **Greek influence can be seen prominently in the columns**. The predominant Roman features can be seen in the ornamentation of both square and arched alcoves.
- The Renaissance drum is cylindrical and elongated. Over it are Rajasthani Chhatris. The dome has the resonance of the soprano.

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### Neemrana Baori- Rajasthan

- The **Neemrana Stepwell was built in 18th century by Thakur Janak Singh**.
- It is also known as **Rani Ki Baoli in the local language**.
- The primary cause of the creation of this step well was to create employment during the famine that hit the area during that period.
- It is located in **Alwar district of Rajasthan**.

### Ranipur -Jharial- Odisha

- A group of temples near **Ranipur Jharial in Balangir district of Odisha** has been declared as a monument of national importance.
- Ranipur Jharial is known as **“Soma Tirth” in scriptures.**
- It is a **combination of** religious faiths of **Shaivism, Buddhism, Vaishnavism, and Tantrism.**
- The site is famous for **Chausath (64) Yogini temples** or the temples without roofs—known as the hypaethral temples.

### **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**

- ASI is the premier organization for the archaeological **research, scientific analysis, excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and preservation of protected monuments.**
- It is an attached office under the **Department of Culture (Ministry of Culture).**
- **ASI was founded in 1861** by Alexander Cunningham who became its first Director-General.

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