



# Chief Minister will inaugurate UNESCO's Sub-Regional Conference

## Why in News?

On 13 April 2023, Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture and Managing Director Tourism Board Shiv Shekhar Shukla said that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, UNESCO, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Department of Archaeological Conservation and Tourism of Madhya Pradesh will jointly inaugurate the Sub-Regional Conference on World Heritage in Bhopal on 17th April.

## Key Points

- Shiv Shekhar Shukla informed that the delegates reaching Bhopal for the two-day conference will visit UNESCO World Heritage Site Sanchi on 16th April. Several sessions will be organized on 17th and 18th April.
- Representatives from India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka and various states of the country will deliberate on topics such as achievements, challenges and future strategy in the field of conservation of World Heritage Sites.
- In the conference, there will be a brainstorm regarding the achievements of the last 50 years and the next 50 years towards the conservation of World Heritage at the international and regional level whose focus will be on themes such as World Heritage and Sustainable Development, World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism, World Heritage and Global Strategy, Historic Urban Landscapes.
- The conference will discuss an integrated approach to safeguard cultural heritage and promote sustainable tourism.
- It is noteworthy that in November 2022, the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention was celebrated. In the last 50 years, the meaning of cultural heritage has changed from 'monument centric' to 'people centric' and 'holistic approach'. New dimensions have been added such as historical towns, industrial heritage, historical routes, historical landscape etc.
- Madhya Pradesh has made several efforts in this direction in association with UNESCO, in which HUL (Gwalior and Orchha) project, selection of 4 historical/tourist places in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites, etc. are the main ones. UNESCO recommended Gwalior and Orchha for the first time among South Asian countries for the HUL project.

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