

monuments, including the Palace of Assembly (Legislative Assembly), the Government Secretariat, the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the famous Open Hand monument, Geometric Hill and the Tower of Shadows.

Khangchendzonga National Park

Sikkim's Khangchendzonga National Park is India's first mixed world heritage site. Located in the Himalayas in northeast India, the national park includes a vast diversity of valleys, plains, caves, lakes, glaciers and forests

According to UNESCO, the park exhibits one of the widest altitudinal ranges of any protected area worldwide and is home to the world's third-highest peak, mount Khangchendzonga or Kanchenjunga.

Covering a quarter of Sikkim's area, the park is a favorite among trekkers for its biodiversity.

Khangchendzonga is home to many animals such as the musk deer Himalayan Tahr, the red panda and the snow leopard. This makes it an important ecological site. It is also an important cultural site. According to folklore, the mountain, lakes, caves and other natural elements are important objects of worship for the indigenous community in Sikkim. These together with Buddhist beliefs form the basis for Sikkim's identity.

Source: By Preethi Puliyanunnel
India perspectives
November-December 2016:
vol 30 Issue 6



Cultural Calendar - July 2017

7
Friday
3.00 pm

Friday matinee

Queen

Hindi Feature film with English subtitles

Directed by Vikas Bahl

Starring – Kangana Ranaut, Rajkummar Rao & Lisa Haydon

Duration - 2 hours and 26mins

Venue: ICC Auditorium

AYUSH Week Lectures / Seminars / Workshops

By Dr. Asit Ku. Panja

Ayurveda expert from India

at Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda
Institute, University of Kelaniya

Institute of Indigenous Medicine,
University of Colombo

Department of Ayurveda,
Central Province, Kandy

For more details Contact ICC on Tel: 0112684698



10 - 14
Monday - Friday

19
Wednesday
6.30pm

Anugamana - the ongoing journey

An Odissi Dance production

by renowned Odissi danseuses

Leena Mohanty, Nritta Ganeshi Manoharan

and Daisygarani Vijayakumar

Venue: Russian Cultural Centre,

No:10 Independence Ave, Colombo 7

Kuchipudi dance recital

by Jeyatheepa Sakthivel

M.F.A from Bharathidasan University, India.

Venue: ICC Auditorium

25
Tuesday
6.00pm

28
Friday
6.00 pm

Carnatic Vocal Recital

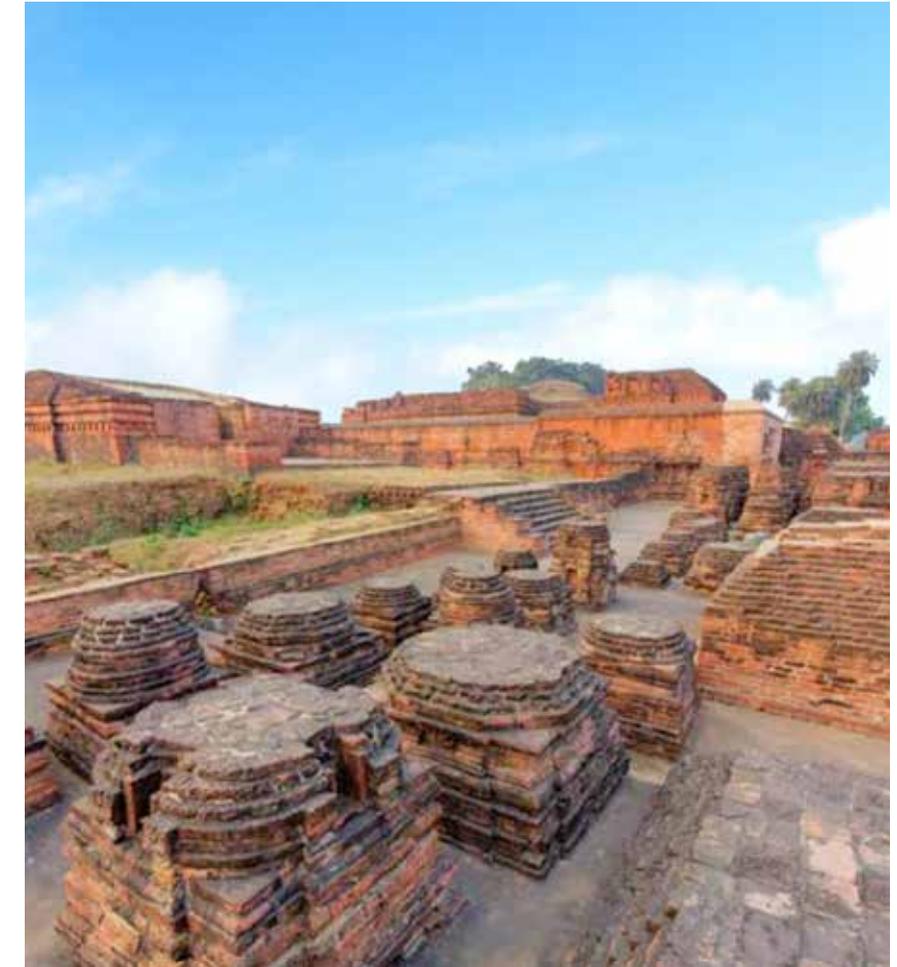
By Thenuka Karunakaran

MA from the University of Madras, India

Venue: ICC Auditorium

Newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

July 2017



Cultural Tapestry

CELEBRATING INDIAN HERITAGE

India's tally of World Heritage sites reaches 35 as three locations, including a mountain, make it to the list

Earlier this year, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee added four new sites to the World Heritage List. The Nalanda University ruins, Chandigarh's Capitol Complex and the Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim were added to the list of protected sites in July at the 40th session of the committee, bringing India's total to 35 recognised heritage sites. The programme to list and protect heritage sites around the world started in 1972 with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage being adopted by the UNESCO general conference. Over 44 years, 192 countries have ratified the convention, making it among the most adhered to global treaties. The

The World Heritage list consists places significant for their history and culture

prestigious heritage list includes places recognized for their historical, cultural and scientific significance and are legally protected from endangerment by human and animal trespassing. At present, 1052 important world heritage sites across 165 countries are included in it – 814 cultural sites, 203 natural sites and 35 mixed sites (places that exhibit the qualities of natural and cultural significance). At 51, Italy leads the list of the countries with the most world heritage sites followed by China (50), Spain (45), France (42) Germany (41) and India.

Other sites across India in this illustrious list include the Taj Mahal in Agra, the monuments in Hampi, Goa's churches and convents, the Sundarbans in West Bengal and Assam's Kaziranga National Park.

Nalanda University ruins

The Nalanda site in Bihar comprises the archaeological remnants of a scholastic and monastic institution dating to the third century BC. Located



about 100km from Patna, Nalanda was a Centre of learning until the 13th century AD. Celebrated for its role in the transmission and dissemination of knowledge over an uninterrupted period of 800years, Nalanda is also the most ancient university in the Indian subcontinent.

According to UNESCO, "The historical development of the site testifies to the development of Buddhism into a religion and the flourishing monastic and educational traditions".

The ancient university thrived under the culturally liberal Gupta Empire and the rule of Harsha, the emperor of

The Nalanda university is the most ancient university in the Indian subcontinent



Kannauj. It was so revered that at its height, scholars and students from around the region, including China and Central Asia, thronged it. Mahavira is said to have spent many seasons at Nalanda, as did Buddha. In fact, the ties between Buddhism and Nalanda are strong; the Buddha is believed to have delivered lectures near the university and Shariputra, among his chief disciples, was born in the area and attained nirvana there. Mauryan ruler Ashoka is also said to have built a temple at Shariputra's shrine.

Much of the site remained undiscovered until the 19th century when the Archaeological Survey of India began to excavate the area. A trove of excavated coins, sculptures and inscriptions have given great insight into the university's long and rich history.

What remains of the university is vast, extending around 1,600 feet north to south and around 800 feet east to west. The site includes stupas, shrines,

viharas – residential and educational buildings - and important art works in stucco, stone and metal and excavations have revealed 11 monasteries and six major brick temples.

Mauryan emperor Ashoka is said to have built temple at Shariputra's shrine

Although many details about Nalanda remain unknown the site is believed to have been a flourishing Centre for Buddhism. In fact the decline of the university coincides with the waning of Buddhism in India. The site is now a well-known tourist destination and part of the popular Buddhist tourism circuit.

Capitol Complex Chandigarh

Chandigarh's Capitol Complex is part of 17 sites across seven countries. These are transnational serial properties chosen to celebrate the work of famed modern architect Charles-

Edouard Jeannerre Gris, better known as Le Corbusier. Tasked by the first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to build a new capital city for Punjab and Haryana in the 1950's, Corbusier designed Indian's first planed city and what was meant to symbolize the future of modern India.

Recognizing Corbusier's role in the "invention of a new architectural language that made a break with the past" UNESCO has listed it alongside National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo, the House of Dr Curutchet in La Plata, Argentina and the Unite d'habitation in Marseille, France. Spread over 100 acres, the Capitol Complex is popular among tourists. It is home to many administrative buildings and

Chandigarh, India's first planned city, was designed in the 1950s by Le Corbusier

