

International Efforts / International Events

1. UNESCO world heritage sites

Six sites have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites.

These include:

1. Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra.
2. Hire Benkal megalithic site in Karnataka.
3. Bhedaghat-Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh.
4. Ganga ghats in Varanasi.
5. temples of Kancheepuram.
6. Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

With the addition of these six sites, the UNESCO has 48 proposals in tentative list of India.

What Next?

These proposals will remain in the tentative list for a year after which the government will decide which one of them to push for in their final dossier to UNESCO.

About World Heritage sites is already covered in previous Art and Culture Module.

Historical Events

1. Moplah martyrs and the rebellion

Malabar Rebellion leaders [Variamkunnath Kunhamad Haji](#), Ali Musaliar and 387 other 'Moplah martyrs' will be removed from the **Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle** as per the recommendations made by a three-member panel.

The story of Pookkottur: The people of Pookkottur, which saw a crucial battle between the Moplahs and the British on August 26, 1921, as part of the Malabar Rebellion, use the name of the village as their surname.

What's the issue?

In the **'Dictionary of Martyrs'**, published by the **Union Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with the [Indian Council of Historical Research](#), **Variamkunnath Kunhamad Haji and Ali Musaliar**, the chief architects of the **Moplah Massacre**, were deemed to be martyrs. The book was published in 2019.

- However, a report by the ICHR-constituted committee has sought the removal of names of 387 **'Moplah rioters'** (Including leaders Ali Musaliar and Variamkunnath Ahmad Haji) from the list of martyrs.

Why?

- The report describes Haji as the **"notorious Moplah Riot leader"** and a **"hardcore criminal,"** who "killed innumerable innocent Hindu men, women, and children during the 1921 Moplah Riot, and deposited their bodies in a well, locally known as **Thoovoor Kinar**".

