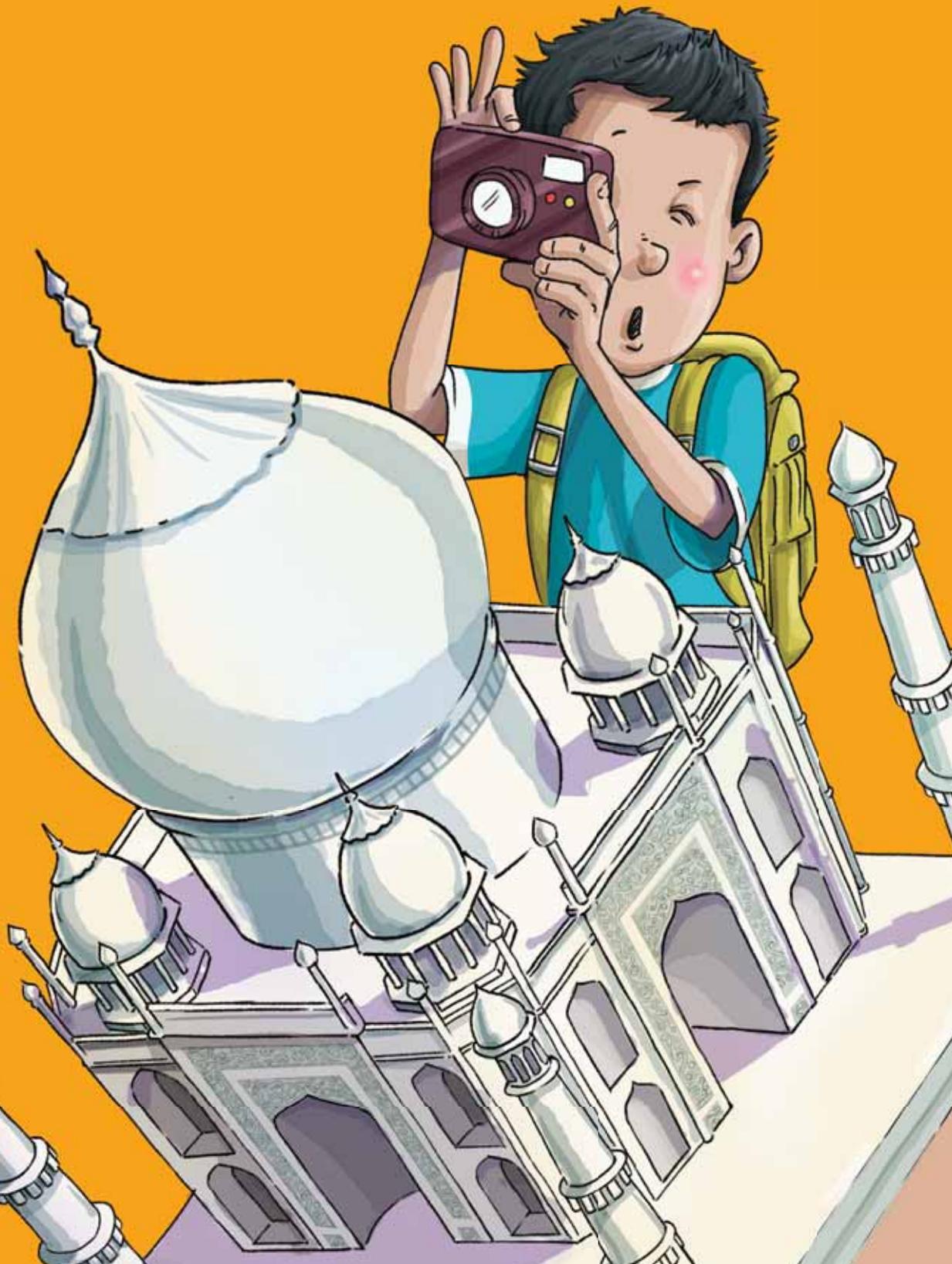


WONDERS OF INDIA

Monuments





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The Energy and Resources Institute

A note by Dr R K Pachauri

India has made tremendous progress in the last century, with growth in business, industry, and science and technology. But our population has increased at a tremendous rate, and our cities are expanding rapidly into huge concentrations of human activity, often swallowing up forests and other natural spaces.

This series endeavours to acquaint children with India's natural and man-made heritage. We are endowed with a wide variety of flora and fauna and have also inherited beautiful monuments—forts, places of worship, palaces, and tombs—reflecting our glorious and multicultural past. Children, especially in towns and cities, are not very familiar with these. We need to take pride in these wonders around us, and preserve them for future generations.

I hope that by highlighting the rich heritage and natural diversity of India, these books will inspire our youth to make personal and civic choices that are better for families, communities, and our natural heritage. Children, being leaders of tomorrow, are ideally placed to create a beautiful, peaceful, and healthy future for the nation.



R K Pachauri

Director-General, TERI

Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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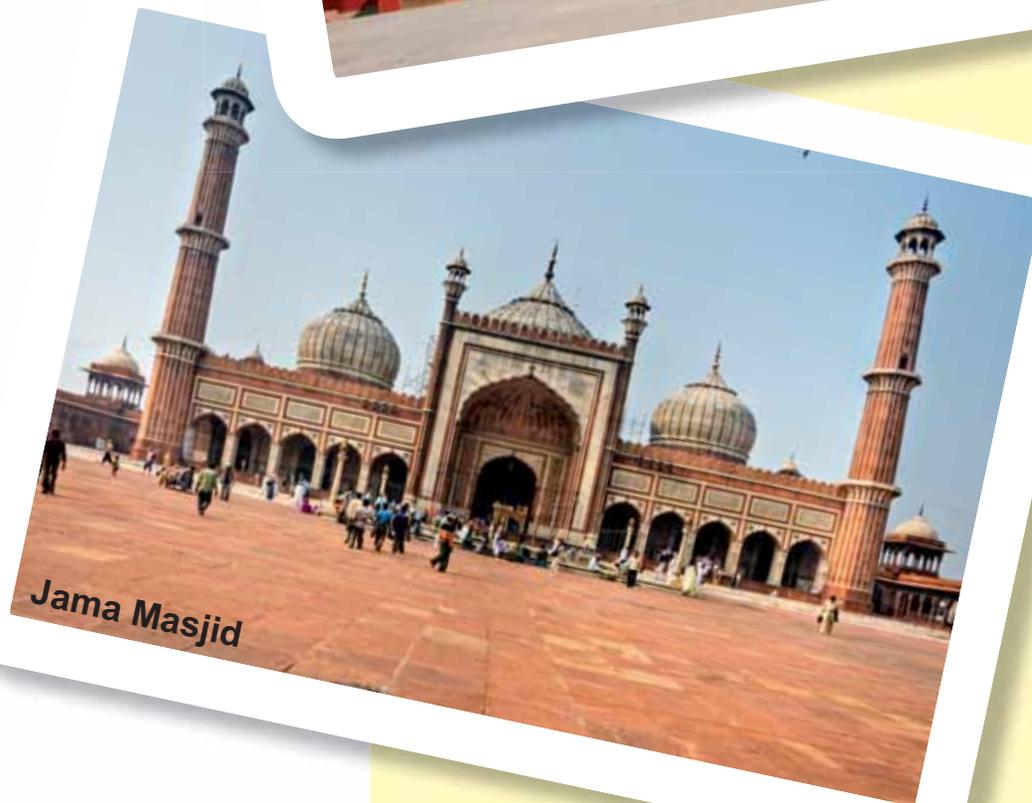
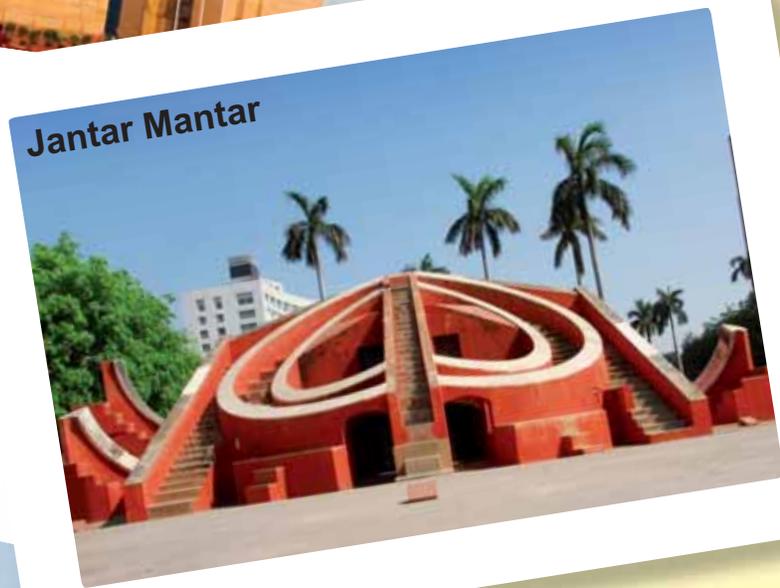
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Monuments: our windows to the past

Monuments are structures built in the memory of a person or an event. India has a number of famous and beautiful monuments. These are valuable, as they represent the art, culture, and history of our country.

Some of these are historical monuments built by kings during different periods of India's history. These include the Taj Mahal, caves of Ajanta and Ellora, Charminar, India Gate, Red Fort, Golconda Fort, Hawa Mahal, Jantar Mantar, and the Qutub Minar.

Many monuments in India are places of worship. Jama Masjid, the Sun Temple of Konark, and the Golden Temple are examples.



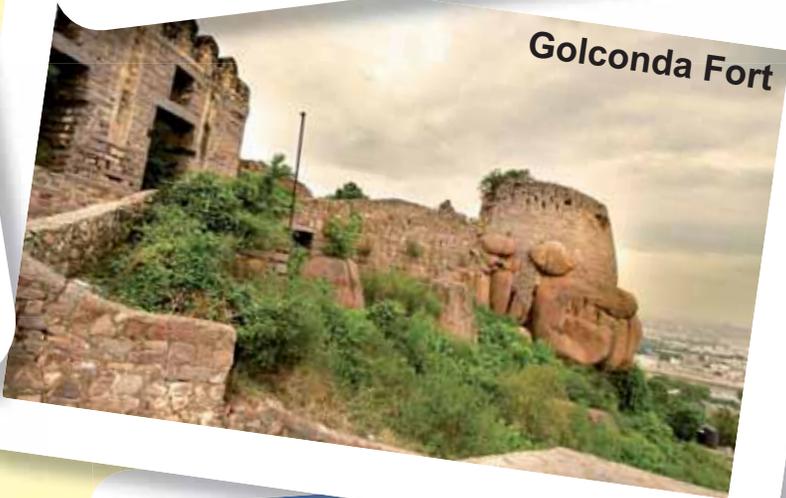
Wonders of India: Monuments

Hawa Mahal



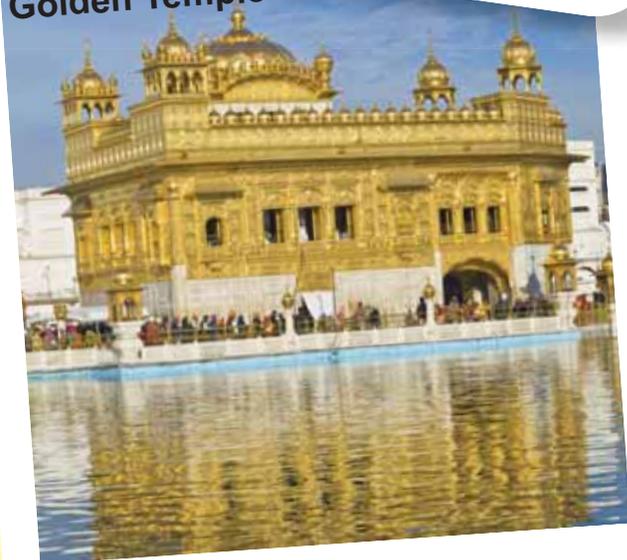
Each of these monuments is unique, beautiful and old! It is, therefore, very important that we protect these monuments so that in future, people continue to enjoy their beauty and feel proud of these wonderful structures.

Golconda Fort



In 1972, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Association (UNESCO) decided to take care of some important monuments of the world. They called these buildings and places 'World Heritage Sites'. The word 'heritage' means something from the past that is of immense interest and must be preserved for the future.

Golden Temple

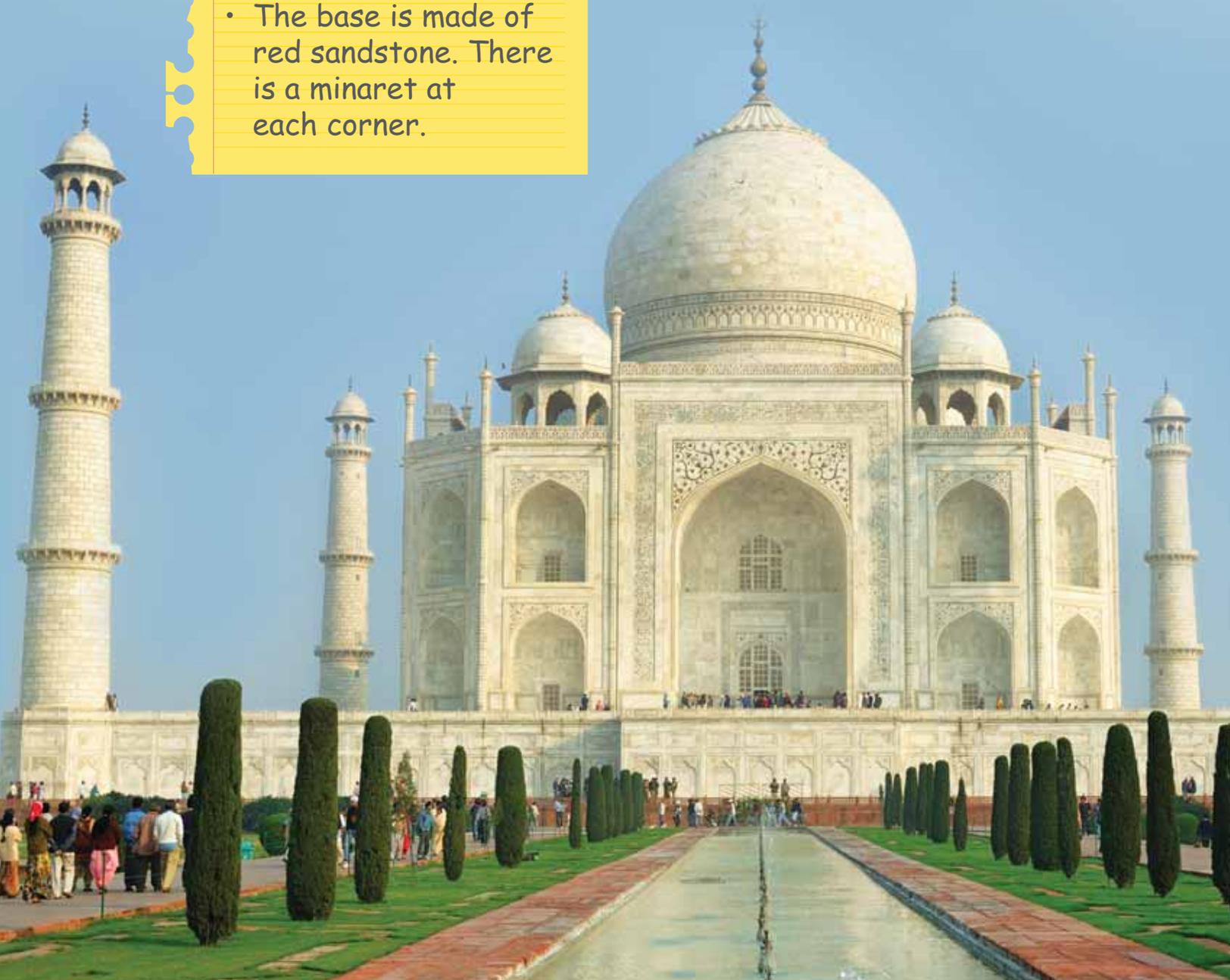


There are 911 World Heritage Sites around the world. Among these, twenty-eight are in India.

Taj Mahal

- Built entirely of white marble, the Taj is often called 'poetry in marble'.
- It is the tomb of Mumtaz Mahal, queen of Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal ruler.
- The base is made of red sandstone. There is a minaret at each corner.

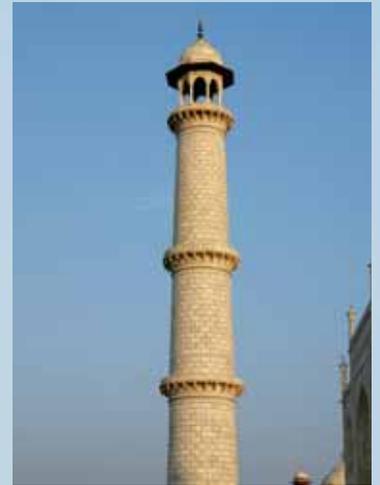
Located in Agra, it is one of the seven wonders of the world.



Wonders of India: Monuments

The history

In AD 1630, Shah Jahan's wife Arjumand Bano Begum, also known as Mumtaz Mahal, died during childbirth. Before her death, she made Shah Jahan promise that he would build her a tomb the world would always remember.

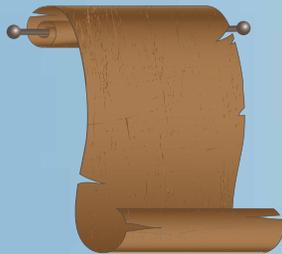


The minarets are slanted so that if they fall, they do not harm the Taj.

Shah Jahan kept his promise and built the Taj Mahal, one of the world's most beautiful monuments. Construction of the marble tomb began in AD 1631 and was completed in AD 1653. Over 20,000 labourers worked to build it.



The marble changes colour as the sun moves.



The legends

It is said that Shah Jahan wanted to build another Taj Mahal in black marble on the other side of the River Yamuna, and connect the two with a bridge.

Did you KNOW?

Pollution from nearby industries is slowly turning the Taj Mahal yellow.

Wonders of India : Monuments



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