



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Urban Development  
Government of India

# Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana



HRIDAY  
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National Institute of Urban Affairs





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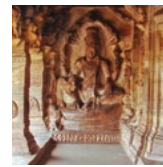
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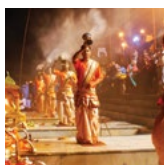
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*Guidelines*

## *Need for the scheme*

India is endowed with rich and diverse natural, historic and cultural resources. However, it is yet to explore the full potential of such resources to its full advantages. Past efforts of conserving historic and cultural resources in Indian cities and towns have often been carried out in isolation from the needs and aspirations of the local communities as well as the main urban development issues, such as local economy, urban planning, livelihoods, service delivery, and infrastructure provision in the areas. The development of heritage cities is not about development and conservation of few monuments, but development of the entire city, its planning, its basic services, the quality of life to its communities, its economy and livelihoods, cleanliness, and security in sum, the reinvigoration of the soul of that city and the explicit manifestation of its unique character.

Since 2006, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India has initiated various capacity building initiatives with a focus on development of Indian Heritage cities. Conservation of urban heritage has been often carried out without linkages with the city urban planning processes/tools and local economy and service delivery aspects. Heritage areas are neglected, overcrowded with inadequate basic services and infrastructure, such as water supply, sanitation, roads, etc. Basic amenities like toilets, signages, street lights are missing. Multiple institutions and unclear regulatory framework for financing and managing urban heritage assets and landscapes, as well as weak capacity of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have created major challenges for managing these heritage cities.

In order to make these cities competitive and vibrant and to address the challenges of heritage management, a planned approach is necessary. Tapping the potential of tourism will lead to local economic development, unleashing the power of skilful artisans, traditional knowledge and local resources.

The proposed Scheme Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) offers tremendous opportunity towards an integrated, inclusive and sustainable development of some of the heritage cities/towns in India. HRIDAY offers a paradigm shift in India's approach to city development, bringing together urban planning/economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive and integrated manner with focus on livelihoods, skills, cleanliness, security, accessibility and service delivery.

The city level infrastructure needs for water, sanitation facilities etc. will be addressed through other schemes of the ministry. However, the scheme will support infrastructure projects which link heritage facilities with trunk infrastructure of the city. The broad approach for implementation will be program based rather than project based and accordingly, the scheme will not bind itself or create conditionalities on proposed activities but would be based on the need and demand from the city.

## *Scheme statement*

Preserve and revitalise the soul of the heritage city to reflect the city's unique character by encouraging the development of an aesthetically appealing, accessible, informative and secured environment. To undertake strategic and planned development of heritage cities with the aim of improving the overall quality of life with a specific focus on sanitation, security, tourism, heritage revitalization, livelihoods, and retaining the city's cultural identity.

## *Scheme strategy*

- HRIDAY is a Central Sector Scheme; thus, 100% funding.
- Cities/Towns will be required to prepare Heritage Management Plan (HMP) for the city/town and develop Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for identified projects for availing assistance under the scheme.
- The HMP and DPRs may be developed by the National Mission Directorate/City Mission Directorate through Public Works Organisations (PWOs)/Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)/Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)/State Para-statals/Empanelled agencies by MoUD for DPR preparations.
- The projects will be executed by PWOs/SPVs/CPSUs/State Para-statals and fund will be allocated to Executing agencies by MoUD on the recommendation of National Mission Directorate (NMD).
- National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is designated as National Project Management Unit for HRIDAY Scheme and will function as a secretariat for NMD.
- City Project Management Unit (CPMU) will be procured by NMD and will function as secretariat to City Mission Directorate (CMD).
- The Project will work through a partnership of Government, academic institutions and local community combining affordable technologies.

## *Scheme objectives*

- Planning, development and implementation of heritage sensitive infrastructure.
- Service delivery and infrastructure provisioning in the core areas of historic city.
- Preserve and revitalize heritage wherein tourists can connect directly with city's unique character.
- Develop and document a heritage asset inventory of cities - natural, cultural, living and built heritage as a basis for urban planning, growth, service provision & delivery.
- Implementation and enhancement of basic services delivery with focus on sanitation services like public conveniences, toilets, water taps, street lights, with use of latest technologies in improving tourist facilities/amenities.
- Local capacity enhancement for inclusive heritage-based industry.

- Create effective linkages between tourism and cultural facilities and also the conservation of natural and built heritage.
- Urban heritage adaptive rehabilitation and maintenance, including appropriate technologies for historic buildings retrofitting.
- Establish and manage effective public private partnership for adaptive urban rehabilitation.
- Development and promotion of core tangible economic activities to enhance avenues of livelihoods amongst stakeholders. This would also include necessary skill development amongst them including making public spaces accessible and developing cultural spaces.
- Making cities informative with use of modern Information & Communication Technology (ICT) tools and making cities secure with modern surveillance and security apparatus like Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTVs) etc.
- Increase accessibility i.e. physical access (roads as well as universal design) and intellectual access (i.e. digital heritage and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of historical locations/ tourist maps and routes).

### *Duration of the scheme*

The duration of the HRIDAY Scheme will be Four years, from December 2014 to March 2018.

### *Coverage and scope*

HRIDAY will focus on development of 12 heritage cities namely: Ajmer, Amrawati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwaraka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Vellankanni, Varanasi and Warrangal. Additional cities may be explored after consultations. (refer map on page 13)

### *Indicative components*

The scheme will broadly focus on four theme areas i.e. Physical Infrastructure, Institutional Infrastructure, Economic Infrastructure & Social Infrastructure. The projects can be funded directly or through support from other stakeholders including the private sector. While the list of components can be defined on the basis of each city's needs, an indicative list of components under broad thematic areas is mentioned below:

**1. *Heritage Documentation and Mapping leading to Heritage Management Plan***

- Listing of heritage assets of the city (Tangible and Intangible).
- Tangible and Intangible heritage recordings and documentation.
- Profiling of infrastructure service at/around heritage areas.
- GIS based mapping of cultural and natural heritage assets.
- Develop Heritage Management Plan including conservation/adaptive reuse plans.

**2. *Heritage Revitalization linked to Service Provision***

- Revitalization of heritage/ historic areas, ghat areas, temple/mosque/basilica areas, kunds and façade improvement of surrounding areas for safety/stability/conservation etc.
- Restoration/rehabilitation of heritage monuments and linking with service provisions at community and city levels.
- Provision of basic services such as improved sanitation, toilets, drinking water facilities, parking, solid waste management etc.
- Linkage with city infrastructure/trunks for water and waste water management and treatment.
- Development of heritage walks, religious trails, Street furniture including shifting of hanging wires, poles and transformers.
- Development of cultural events, fair and festival grounds and associated infrastructure.
- Development of city museum, interpretation centers and cultural spaces.
- Improvement of roads/ pathways, public transportation and parking in heritage areas including provisions for last mile connectivity.
- Pedestrianisation of tourist attraction areas, solar/battery operated vehicles.

**3. *City Information/ Knowledge Management and Skill Development***

- Local capacity strengthening for heritage management linked to city planning and overall growth.
- Development of websites, Information Education Communication (IEC) and Outreach material.
- CCTV cameras and provision of Wi-Fi.
- Direction pillars and signages and digital information kiosks.
- Skill development of tour operators and guides, local artisans and women entrepreneurs.
- Support marketing, promotion and development of local heritage industry including women managed cottage industries, marketing heritage sensitive building codes and urban design regulations.
- City maps and brochures, Digital Display /Information Board, Wi-Fi-Access Zones.
- City heritage infrastructure such as web page, heritage linked mobile applications, software, web based interface for heritage conservation, adaptation and management.
- Catalogue and brochures for historic and new construction in order to preserve the character of heritage buildings and cultural landscapes.



## Memorandum of Agreement

### (i) Tripartite Agreement

To facilitate effective implementation of the project a tripartite agreement with respective ULBs, States and MoUD will be signed. The agreement will prescribe the broad contours of the project and obligation on the part of each party i.e. Centre, States and ULBs.

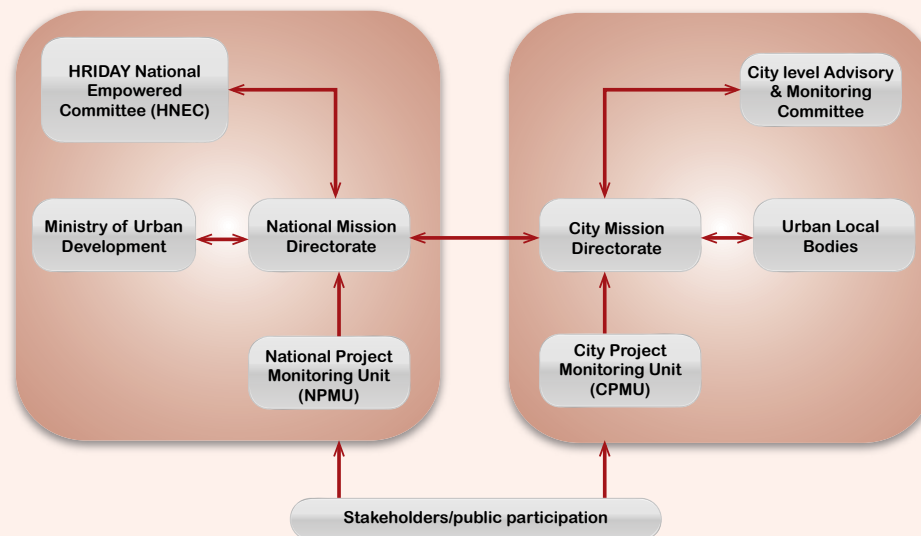
### (ii) Bi- Party Agreement

For utilizing the services of executing agencies, the National Mission Directorate will enter into an agreement with respective executing agencies. The agreement will prescribe the terms and conditions under which the services will be provided, the type of services, terms of payment etc.

## Institutional arrangement

HRIDAY will be planned, developed and implemented under the aegis of the MoUD, with the National Institute of Urban Affairs playing the role of National Project Management Unit (NPMU). A robust and interactive mechanism for coordination with ministries like culture, tourism, water resources, housing & urban poverty alleviation, and with State governments, Urban Local Bodies, would ensure convergence of activities such that the development is properly planned. For this purpose, a HRIDAY National Empowered Committee (HNEC) will be constituted at the Central level. The HNEC will have representation from all line departments & agencies and will involve the expertise of technical , research, academic institutions & organisations at various levels.

### Implementation Framework



## Roles and responsibilities

The Scheme will be structured for planning and implementation through the following institutional structures:

### A. National level:

#### 1. Hriday- National Empowered Committee (HNEC):

A committee co-chaired by Secretary, MoUD and Chief Secretary of respective State, will consist of following indicative members:

Secretary, Housing and Poverty Alleviation	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Tourism	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Culture	Member
Secretary ,Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	Member
Joint Secretary, Finance, MoUD	Member
Joint Secretary, Smart Cities, MoUD	Member
Joint Secretary, Mission, MoUD	Member
Director General, Archaeological Survey of India	Member
Director, NIUA	Member
Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning	Member
Representatives of the Planning Commission	Member
Principal Secretaries of respective States	Member
Representatives of the respective ULBs	Member
Mission Director	Member Secretary

Representation of stakeholders like UNESCO, World Bank, INTACH or other bilateral and multilateral agencies and experts for heritage and urban planning sector would be invited with approval of Chair.

#### Key Responsibilities:

HNEC will provide overall sanction, approval, guidance and advisory role to the scheme. Following would be its broad roles and responsibilities:

- i. Enunciate the vision and chalk out a road map and key objectives of the scheme. HNEC will also provide a platform for exchange of ideas and other objectives as notified.
- ii. Oversee all operations, steer, review and monitor the overall performance of the scheme. It will also offer specific guidance from time to time.
- iii. Provide an enabling framework and review progress against time goals, will pursue sanctions, and will ensure smooth flow of funds for implementation.
- iv. To ensure that no duplication of sanctioning of project/works/activities under HRIDAY and under different schemes of GoI.
- v. Recommend mid-course correction in the implementation tools as & when required.

- vi. Undertake quarterly review of activities of the scheme including budget, implementation, preparation of heritage plans and co-ordination with other missions/schemes and activities of various ministries.
- vii. Oversight and review of proposed/on-going projects.

## **2. National Mission Directorate (NMD):**

NMD will be headed by Additional/Joint Secretary(JS) level officer. JS (Works) will act as Mission Director till the time post of Mission director is sanctioned. The NMD shall be empowered for taking up the activities of preparation of HMPs, DPRs, investment plans and implementation of these schemes/projects through various PWOs/CPSUs/State-parastatals/SPVs. The project will work through a partnership of Government, academic institutions and local community combining affordable technologies. It may also enter into agreement with different technical, financial and other institutions in achieving the objectives of the scheme. This Directorate will be supported for technical assistance by a NPMU for regular implementation & monitoring of the program. NIUA is proposed to act as NPMU for the program. NPMU will comprise of technical team of experts from different fields, such as:

- Urban Planning Specialist,
- Heritage Conservation Architect,
- Municipal Engineer,
- Financial Specialist,
- IT/MIS Specialist, and,
- Research Associates etc.
- Support Staff such as Data entry operator, MIS expert, office manager etc.

The NMD, supported by the NPMU, would be empowered to get the projects implemented through agencies of the Central or State governments as per the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR).

### Key Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with State/ULBs/Institutes to ensure development of City HMP and DPRs/Implementation plans and structure grant funding.
- Support in preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and ensure inter-linkages with city Master plans/Development plans/Heritage Management Plan.
- Appraisal of proposals/DPRs & recommend to HNAC for acceptance/rejection.
- Identification of implementation agencies, create operational framework, provide support for smooth start of projects and ensure smooth flow of funds for implementation. The implementation period for projects will depend upon its nature, size and approval of DPRs.
- Monitor and Evaluate (physical and financial) progress of projects undertaken within the ambit of scheme and preparation of MIS and Reporting formats.
- Co-ordinate with all stakeholders and share with the HRIDAY -National Advisory Committee (HNAC) information on plans, proposals, progress, problems, etc., including preparation of agenda and proceedings of meetings of HNEC.
- Support in Financial Management including accounts and audit of the projects as per extant rules.
- Documentation of good practices and learnings for replication and dissemination through workshops/

- conferences including development of web-based IEC and outreach materials
- Establish contract database and manage contracts during implementation period including quality assurance.

### ***B. City/ULB level:***

#### **1. City level Advisory and Monitoring Committees (CLAMC):**

Composition of city level advisory and monitoring committees will be made under HRIDAY and it will be notified by the State government. The convenor for the meeting will be District Magistrate/Municipal Commissioner. It shall have representation of all stakeholders. The committee will consist of members/stakeholders ranging from elected representatives Mayor, Member of Parliament, Member of Legislative Assembly, officials from line departments, institutes, representatives of NGOs.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- CLAMC will provide a platform for exchange of ideas, objectives and oversight/review of projects.
- Oversee, review and monitor the performance of the scheme. It will also offer guidance periodically.
- Provide an enabling framework by facilitating coordination between Centre, States and implementing agencies for implementation of the projects.
- Coordination with local committees and communities as well as take advice and suggestions.
- Recommend mid-course correction in the implementation tools as & when required.

#### **2. City Mission Directorate (CMD):**

A City/ULB level Mission Directorate would be constituted/notified at the State/ULB. It will be chaired by an Officer not below the rank of Chief Executive Officer/Municipal Commissioner of the ULB. The cmd will be a full-fledged project implementation unit working as an extended arm of National Level Mission Directorate. The role of this CMD is to effectively implement projects in the city with the help of City Level PMU (CPMU). CPMU will be selected and appointed by CMD in consultation with NMD. It will be supported by CPMU. CPMU team will comprise of following:-

- Urban Planner/Urban Designer
- Heritage/Conservation Specialist
- Municipal Engineer
- Financial Specialist
- Social & Community Development Professional
- I.T. Professional
- Support Staff

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Facilitate in preparation and finalization of Heritage Management Plan (HMP).
- Responsible for coordination between Centre, and implementing agencies for implementation of the projects.



- Facilitate coordination for smooth implementation of project among all stakeholders and executing agencies.
- Ensure implementation of different Detailed Project Report components.
- Quality assurance and checking and making sure that the work on site follows drawings and design layouts provided as a part of Detailed Project Report.
- Coordination with local committees and communities as well as take advice and suggestions.
- Ensure timely implementation and review of the progress of projects.

## *Procedure for project preparation and implementation*

The project proposals can flow from two levels, based on need assessment and stakeholder interactions: the National Mission Directorate (NMD) and the City Mission Directorate (CMD).

### *(A) Project Preparation:*

- 1) HMP & DPRs shall be developed by NMD/CMD through PWOs/SPVs/CPSUs/State Para-statal/Empanelled agencies by MoUD for DPR preparations after consultation with all stakeholders.
- 2) The existing DPRs related to HRIDAY components prepared under different projects and schemes can also be submitted by CMD for consideration under HRIDAY scheme.
- 3) The projects will be selected based on their linkages with overall heritage development of the city and considering their socio economic impact.
- 4) It will be ensured that there is no duplication of works and shall ensure maximum utilization of funds.
- 5) It may also be certified that the DPR for such project is not being submitted to any other authority for financial assistance. The proposals thus received would be technically and financially appraised in Mission Directorates before consideration of sanction and implementation.
- 6) The area covered under the project should be those which have been included in census 2011 or are townships notified by the State Governments. A copy of such notification/certification that the town is included in the Census 2011 or has been categorized as town is to be enclosed along with DPR.

### *(B) Project Appraisals:*

DPRs would be scrutinized by NMD with the support of NPMU so to ascertain technical soundness and economic viability. The NMD may seek for the services of technical wings of the ministry such as CPWD, CPHEEO, TCPO etc. or technical agencies from market may also be hired. This, however, shall not obviate the need for due diligence and vetting at city level by its own technical agencies.

### *(C) Project Implementation:*

- 1) HRIDAY being a central sector scheme will be implemented under overall control and direction of MoUD. However, the State Government shall be consulted at crucial stages of formulation and implementation of the scheme.

- 2) PWO/CPSU/State Para-statal/SPV shall be the executing agencies for the approved projects. Their mandate would be briefly as follows:-
  - i. They will design and implement the entire project in consultation with Mission Directorates and ULBs.
  - ii. After finalization of DPRs they will seek the technical and financial consent of NMD for the project. The DPR will have specific provision for maintenance of project for a specific period after completion of project.
  - iii. Executive Agencies may hire specialist consulting firms/consultants to support design and investigations & contracting agencies for implementation and supervision of project.
  - iv. In design conceptualization and implementation of project, they will involve/inform Mission Directorates/States/ULBs, and other respective technical institutes.
  - v. The stakeholders and citizens would also be involved during course of project.
  - vi. All projects must be completed within a definite time line and no cost/time overruns will be allowed.
  - vii. After successful completion of the project, and maintain it for a specific period before handing over the project to concern line department/ULB.
  
- 3) NMD will decide the execution agency for various works to be undertaken under the scheme. Separate Project Reviewing Committee shall be formed for monitoring the execution of the various works/projects to be undertaken under the scheme. Funds shall be released to PWO/CPSU/State Para-statal/SPV executing the individual works/projects under the Scheme as advance in the beginning and subsequent recoupment as per actual expenditure on monthly basis. The executing agency shall be responsible for timely implementation of the project/work with quality assurance of assets created. The same agency who will create the assets shall be responsible for maintaining the assets created. Experts/Consultants may be engaged by executing agencies for detailed planning and designing/preparing DPR of the works/projects under the scheme.

## *Funding of projects*

The fund will be released to executing agencies by MoUD. The total annual allocation of Project Funds available with HRIDAY will be utilised as per the following distribution:

S No	Components	% of total funds
1	HRIDAY Pilot Cities Project implementation	85%
2	NPMU/City PMU Establishment and operationalization at MOUD/City	3%
3	Capacity Development for Heritage Cities	3%
4	DPRs and Development / Management Plans	4%
5	IEC	4%
6	A&OE	1%

The powers to sanction funds in the scheme shall be strictly in conformity to the admissible General Financial Rules and the directions issued by Ministry of Finance (Dept. of Expenditure). O&M expenditure on Asset Management of Asset created would be admissible. The fund will be released to executing agencies by MoUD as under:

1. 20% (1st installment) on approval of the project.
2. 60% (2nd installment) on 20% physical and financial progress of the project
3. 20% (3rd installment) on 60% physical and financial progress of the project

Since base line/bench marks in terms of achievements of physical targets will vary from project to project, therefore these will be firmed up while approving the specific projects.

### *Additional resources*

The Mission Directorate will initiate capacity building activities including training and enhancing linkages within cities, states and institutes of excellence. Advisories and tool-kits would be issued for this purpose.

Coordination with the Ministries of Culture, Tourism, Environment & Forests, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, and other stakeholders such as UNESCO, Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat and World Bank, would be reinvigorated.

HRIDAY will lay the foundation for wider recognition of the need to integrate urban heritage with revitalization of economic activities in India. There is provision for private funding, whereby management and service-provision under the Scheme can be undertaken by private entities that may directly or indirectly benefit from the project. Private funding can be acquired at any stage of Scheme implementation, such as planning & design, execution, and collection of user fees and charges for service delivery.

### *Submission of utilization certificates*

- 1) NMD through project execution agencies (either a Central Agency like NBCC or a State Agency) will be responsible for submission of UC's based on the implementation schedule given in the original project proposal. In any case, 100% UCs in the pro-forma prescribed for the purpose shall have to be provided within 6 months of completion of the project.
- 2) UCs shall be issued only after the expenditure on the project has been incurred by the PWO/CPSU/ State Para-statal/SPVs. These UC's should be submitted along with statement of expenditure certified by CAs/audited accounts.

- 3) UCs should be duly counter-signed by the Municipal Commissioner of respective local body/General Manager in case executing agency is from Central Government/Competent Officer.
- 4) Release of further installments shall be recommended only after receipt of UCs and a review of the implementation of the project.

### *Outcomes of Friday*

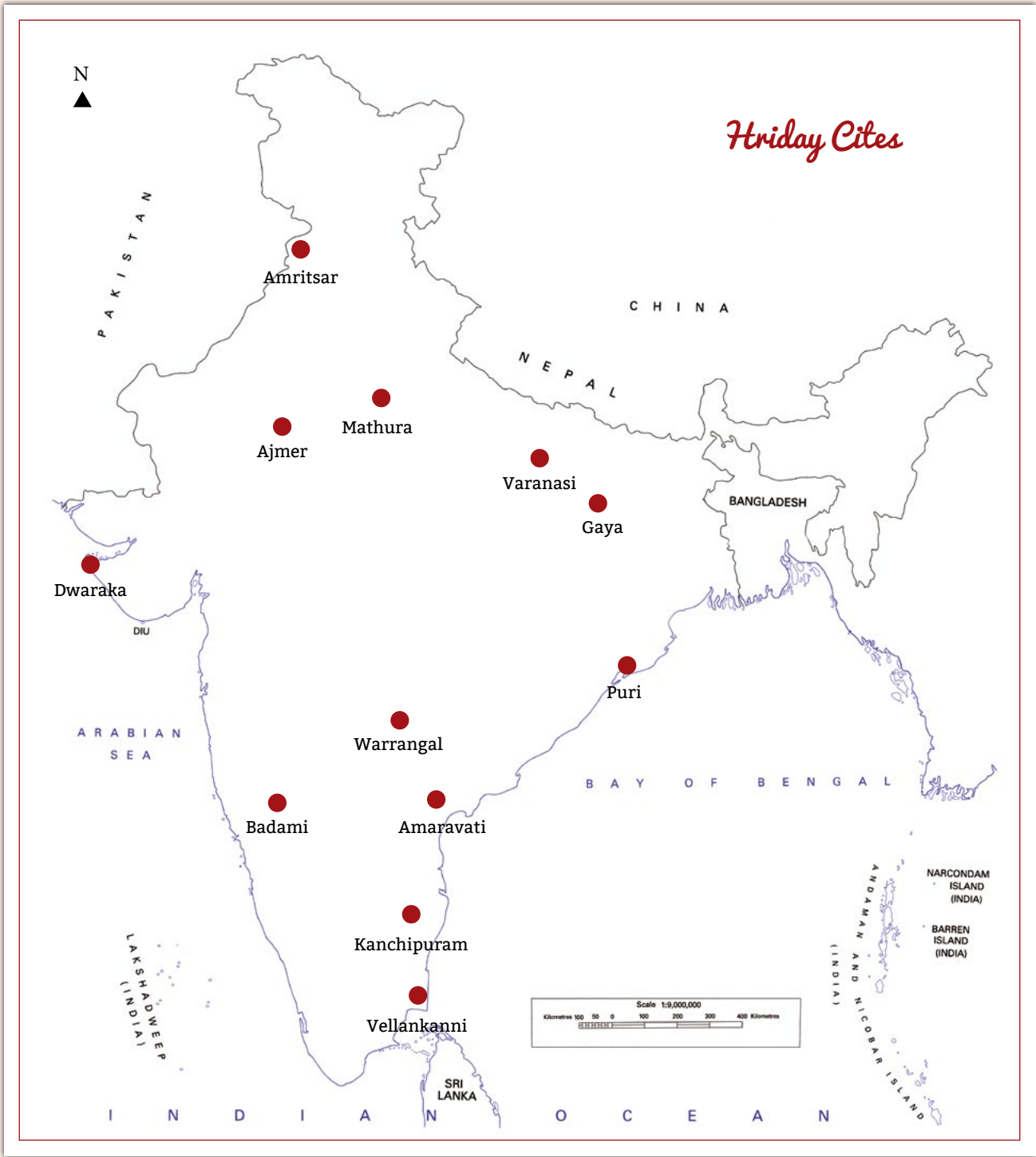
- Clean and improved environment.
- Improved basic urban infrastructure at existing and emerging tourist destinations and gateways.
- Improved sanitation at the sites of natural and cultural tourism with enhanced convenience and safety for visitors.
- Properly conserved, revitalized and beautified heritage monuments.
- Greater participation by local communities in tourism-related economic and livelihood activities.
- Heritage resources are mainstreamed with city systems and city economy.
- Measurable improvement in delivery of urban services.
- Increase in the inflow of the tourist to cities.
- Increase in the duration of stay of the tourist in the town.
- Improvement in social safety and reduction in crime.
- Substantial improvement in local economy and quality of life of local communities.

### *Monitoring of progress*

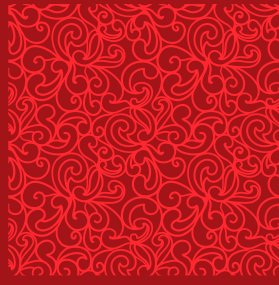
- MoUD will periodically monitor the scheme through designated officers.
- NPMU will develop monitoring frameworks and tools to assist Mission Directorates for effective monitoring of interventions undertaken under the project.
- Third Party Monitoring Mechanism would be employed by NMD to keep track of the progress of the project/scheme. Expenditure in this regard would be met from the Capacity Building funds in MoUD for professional services.











## AJMER

Ajmer, formerly written Ajmere, is a city (and the administrative headquarters) in Ajmer District in India's western state of Rajasthan. Surrounded by the Aravalli Mountains, Ajmer, also known as Ajaymeru/ Ajaimour (meaning the Invincible Hill), was founded by Ajaipal Chauhan (who established the Chauhan dynasty) in the seventh century. The city was also ruled by the legendary Prithviraj Chauhan, the last Hindu king of Delhi.

Ajmer, the city where the Dargah of the Great Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti stands, is a sacred centre of pilgrimage. Hallowed by the memories of the great seer, Ajmer has earned the epithet of "Madinatul Hind or the Madina of India". Each year, the devotees of all sects and faiths congregate here from all parts of the world on the occasion of the annual festival of Urs to pay their obeisance to seek the Saint's blessings for fulfillment of wishes. Thus, the festival presents a unique picture of harmony and universal brotherhood.

Ajmer is a centre of culture and education. It is famous for its rich Indo-Islamic, Royal Rajasthani, Indo-Saracenic and Jain styles of architecture. The city is home to the prestigious Mayo College, a school exclusively for Indian nobility, and King George Military School, both setup by the Britishers. In addition, the city's built heritage includes Nasiyan (Red) Temple, Salemabad (Nimbark Peeth), Taragarh Fort, Adhai - Din Ka- Jhonpra (a religious structure), Ana Sagar (an artificial lake), the museum (Magazine, once the royal residence of Emperor Akbar of Mughal dynasty) et al. Ajmer is also the base for visiting Pushkar (11 km.), the abode of Lord Brahma and a sacred town of Hindus, lying to its west with a temple and a picturesque lake.

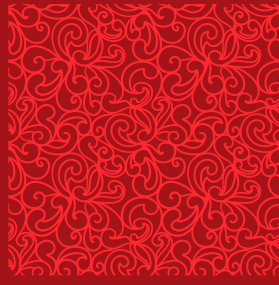
In days gone by, the artists of this area did carving on wood and ivory, made vases and goblets, incised and embossed work on brass and blue pottery (few specimens of their craftsmanship: antimony boxes having ivory and appliqué work, ivory comb, necklace and knife, wooden dharau and pen holder, marble plates, stone grinder and some specimens of blue pottery have been put on display in the gallery).











## AMRAWATI

Amrawati is a city located in Guntur district in India's south-eastern state of Andhra Pradesh. The city is also known as Punyakshetra or Amareswaram or Dharanikota or Dhanyakatakam. It was also the capital of Satavahanas, the first great Andhra kings, who ruled from the 2nd century BCE to the 3rd century CE, after the downfall of Maurya empire. The recorded history of Amaravati is from 2nd century BCE.

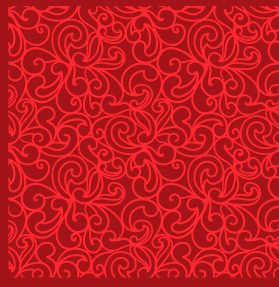
Amrawati is considered sacred because of three things: the Krishna River; 'Sthalamahatyam', an important 'Kshetra'; and, the 'Sri Mahalinga Murthy'. In addition, according to Vajrayana traditional sources, the Buddha preached at Dharanikota and conducted Kalachakra ceremony, which would take the antiquity of Amaravati back to 500 BCE.

The city's built heritage includes the famous Amareswara temple (dedicated to lord Shiva, present in the form of a 15 ft. high white marble Shiva lingam), Mahachaitya (The Great Stupa, built around the 2nd century, with intricate carvings that depict the life and teachings of Lord Buddha), Buddhist sculptures and slabs with Buddhist inscriptions.









## AMRITSAR

Amritsar is a city in northwestern India and the administrative headquarters of Amritsar district in the state of Punjab. The city lies about 25 km east of the border with Pakistan and is a major commercial, cultural, and transportation centre. It is also the centre of Sikhism and the site of the Sikh's principal place of worship.

Amritsar, literally a Pool of Nectar, derives its name from Amrit Sarovar, the holy tank that surrounds the fabulous Harimandir Sahib or Golden Temple (the most revered shrine of Sikhs). The city was founded by Guru Ram Das ji, the fourth Sikh guru, in year 1577, under the instructions of Guru Amar Das ji, the third Guru of the Sikhs. The early name of the city was Chak Guru. Before its establishment, the area under the city was a part of the vast area covered under Indus valley Civilization during the early period of history.

A city of historic walls and impressive gateways, Amritsar gained importance under the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, one of the most resplendent figures in Sikh history. The city lies on the Grand Trunk road, Asia's one of the oldest and longest major roads connecting Eastern & Western parts of Indian sub-continent, built by King Sher Shah Suri in year 1539.

The city of Amritsar a dazzling showcase of composite culture and secular heritage. It has a proud past a glorious present and a promising future. This most important city of Majha has rightly been called the mukut-mani (Jewel of the crown) of the Punjab. Amritsar is like a diamond with many facets. The essential spirit of the city is found not only in its gurudwaras & temples, mosques & churches, takias & khankahs but also in its theatres & galleries, parks & gardens, archives & libraries, art & architecture, museums & memorials, havelis & forts, fairs & festivals, vibrant folk dances & scintillating taans, narrow lanes & winding alleys, parlours & boutiques, clubs & pubs, traditional bustling markets & lip-smacking cuisine.

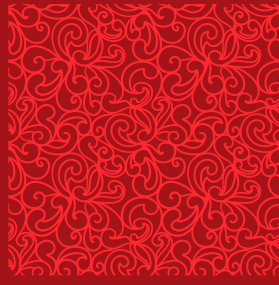
Besides the Golden temple, Amritsar city is home to many sites of historic, spiritual and cultural significance, like, Durgiana Temple, Wagah Border, Jallian Wala Bagh, Ram Bagh, Jama Masjid Khairuddin, et al to name a few. In addition, the city is famous for its woolens, carpets and blankets, kites, juttis, cut-glass work, bangles and embroidered stuff.











## BADAMI

Badami is a city located in Bagalkot district in India's southern state of Karnataka. The foundations of Badami were laid in 6th century AD by Badami Chalukyas. The city was also known as Vatapi. It is located in a ravine at the foot of a rugged, red sandstone outcrop that surrounds Agastya lake.

The city is noted with several temples (some structural & other rock-cut, of the 6th & 7th centuries), secular in nature (Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism); stone inscriptions; gateways; forts; and statues. Some famous structures are Bhuhtanatha temple (constructed in 5th century), Badami Fort; Shivalayas (with 7th century origins); Dattatreya temple and Mallikarjuna temple (dating back to the 11th century) and other cave temples. Agastya lake can be considered as a natural heritage.











## DWARAKA

Dwaraka is a city located in Devbhoomi Dwaraka district in India's western state of Gujarat. The city is one of the foremost four sacred Hindu pilgrimage sites (Chardham), and is one of the seven most ancient religious cities in the country. Dwaraka is often identified with the Dwaraka Kingdom, the ancient kingdom of Lord Krishna and is believed to have been the first capital of Gujarat. The city is centred around Dwarakadheesh Temple (dedicated to Lord Krishna), which was built around 200 BCE and was enlarged in the 17th century.

The city finds mention in Indian epic literature Dvārakā found in Mahabharata and Skanda Purana and also in the copper inscription dated 574 AD. Before its establishment, the area under the city was a part of the vast area covered under Indus valley Civilization during the early period of history.

Recent findings indicate that these stories of ancient Dwaraka have a historical basis. Thirty copper coins, a foundation of boulders, old structures including a circular one and pottery samples dating back around 1500 BC were excavated. The recent underwater study on the coastal water of Dwaraka conducted by the Archeological Survey of India reveals the existence of a city dated to the 2nd millennium BC. The search for the lost city revealed a township that was built in six sectors along the banks of a river. They have also found a well-fortified township of Dwaraka, that extended more than half a mile from the shore. The foundation of boulders, on which the city's walls were erected, proves that the land was reclaimed from the sea. The general layout of the city of Dwaraka described in ancient texts corresponds with that of the submerged city discovered by the Marine Archeology Unit (MAU).











## GAYA

Gaya is a city in eastern India and the administrative headquarters of Gaya district in the state of Bihar. The city is located on the banks of the River Falgu and is in close proximity to famous Buddhist pilgrimage centre of Bodhgaya, the place where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. The town is of ancient historical significance and finds mention in texts dating back to 600 BC. It was projected to the world by Bimbisara the Fifth of the Sisunaga dynasty who lived and ruled around 519 BC. Besides, Gaya finds mention in the great epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Gaya is an important place of Hindu tourism for 'pind-dan' and sees a huge influx of visitors for the month long 'Pitra Paksh' mela annually. Gaya has 54 sites for pind daan including the Brahma Kund, Ram Kund, Uttarmanas, Brahma Sarovar, Rukmani Sarovar, Sita Kund etc. The city has several important heritage sites like the Vishnupad Temple, Mangla Gauri Temple, Pretshila Temple and Ramshila Temple. The Brahmayoni Hill is an important pilgrimage for Buddhists, while the largest mosque in Bihar, the Jama Masjid, is also located in Gaya. The city's natural heritage includes Pretshila Hill, Muchalinda Lake, to name a few.











## KANCHIPURAM

Kanchipuram city is situated in the south India and is also the administrative headquarters of the district of Kanchipuram in state of Tamil Nadu. It was locally referred to as Kachi or Kachipedu. Located on the banks of the Vegavathy River, Kanchipuram has been ruled by the Pallavas, the Medieval Cholas, the Later Cholas, the Later Pandyas, the Vijayanagar Empire, the Carnatic kingdom, and the British.

Kanchipuram is a spectacular temple city, known as 'city of thousand temples'. It is one of the seven sacred cities (as per Hindu mythology) to reach final attainment. The city was also a religious centre of advanced education for Jainism and Buddhism between the 1st and 5th centuries. The city's built heritage includes the Kailasanathar Temple, Vaikunta Perumal Temple, Varadharaja Perumal Temple, Ekambareswarar Temple (haing one of the tallest temple towers in India), Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kumarakottam Temple et al. It is the headquarters of the Kanchi matha, founded by the Hindu saint Adi Sankaracharya, and popular as one of the four dhams of Hinduism. The city is also known for its culture and civilization.

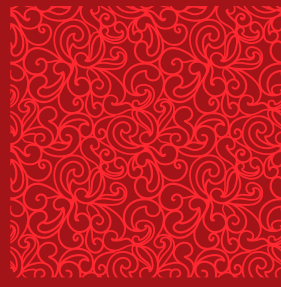
Apart from its temples, this small town is also known for its thriving handloom industry. The city is popular for its renowned crafted world famous silk sarees and the main profession of the people is weaving silk sarees. As a result, Kancheepuram is also known as Silk City. The silk weavers of Kanchi settled more than 400 years ago and have given it an enviable reputation as the producer of the best silk sarees in the country.











## MATHURA

Mathura is a city in northern India and the administrative headquarters of Mathura district in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Widely known as birth place of Lord Krishna (one of the most worshipped Hindu God), the city is located on the western bank of river Yamuna and is revered a lot by Hindus. Politically, the city has remained under Maurayas, Sungas, Kushanas, Lodhis, Mughals, Jats, Marathas, Britishers, to name a few, before becoming part of the Indian mainland.

For about 3000 years, it was the hub of culture and civilization and economic activities, as it was located at the junction of important trade routes. It became a center of three cultures: Indian, Indo-Scythian and Hellenistic. Held in sanctity by the Buddhists, Jain and Brahmanical faith alike, it has a long and chequered history. Besides having extensive archaeological remains, the city was visited by the famous Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang and also received a mention from Ptolemy, the great Egyptian writer.

Of all the sacred places in India, none enjoys a greater popularity than the holy city of Mathura, the capital of Braj. For nine months in the year, festival upon festival follows in rapid succession and the ghats and temples are daily thronged by thousands of pilgrims. Around 36 annual fairs are held. Dozens of ghats line the Yamuna as it flows through the city. Some places of cultural and religious significance in the city are Keshav Dev Temple (Shri Krishna Janma Bhoomi), Dwaradhish, Vishram Ghat (Bank of River Yamuna), Shri Jagannath Temple Bhuteshwar Mathura, Prem Mandir, Vrindavan Mathura Museum, Birla Mandir, Naam yog Sadhna Mandir (Baba Jai Gurudev Temple), Banke Bihari Temple, Iskcon Temple.

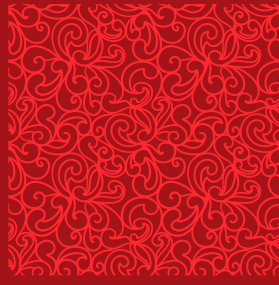
The great school of sculpture known as Mathura School of Art flourished here for 1200 years. Such prolific creativity and gushing devotion to novel Art Forms and experiment in sculptures and clay figurines as found in this school are rare in the annals of Indian Art History. A survey of this glorious School of Art can be made in the Government Museum, Mathura. In addition, practices, like Sanjhee (the colourful art of decorating the ground with flowers); Raaslilas and Rasiya (the tradition of folk-songs that describe the love of the divine couple Radha and Krishna); Charkula (a traditional folk dance of the Braj, where a woman balances a column of deepikas on her head and dances to the accompaniment of Rasiya songs by the menfolk), describe its culture the best.











## PURI

The coastal town Puri, situated at a distance of about 60 kms south of state capital Bhubneswar, is the epicentre of Hinduism that revolves around the Hindu diety “Lord Jagannath”, enshrined in a grand Kalingan temple of the 12th century. It is the Headquarters of the district of Puri, in India’s eastern state of Odisha. It is a celebrated religious centre of the Hindus, as one of the five sacred Khetras of Odisha. Adi Sankaracharya (9th century AD), the great profounder of the Aditva vada, sanctified the place by establishing a monastery called Gobardhan Matha, as one of the four dhams of Hinduism. Subsequently, several saimts and philosophers, like Ramanuja (12th century AD), Madhavatirtha (13th century AD), Naraharitirtha, Sankaradeva, Nanak, Kabir, Chaitanya, Ballav Bhatta, Ramachandra Puri, Paramananda Puri visited and further sanctified the place through their preaching and left their imprints in the monasteries and ashramas that they established. Recorded history reveals that from the time of the Somavamsis (11th century AD), all ruling dynasties have extended liberal patronage for the growth and development of this area.

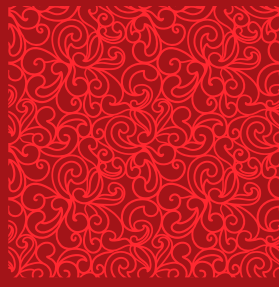
Puri comes into prominence every year during the car festival (Rath Yatra), when three chariots carry Lord Jagannath and his sister, Subhadra, and brother, Balabhadra, from their great temple through the Grand Road to the Gundicha Temple for about 9 days. Puri is equally known for its tanks which is believed to contain water of immortality. Another important community institution in Puri is the jaga gharas and Akhadas in each Sahi (nuclear settlements), where martial art, physical exercises and gymnastic are practiced regularly.

The built heritage in the city includes temples, monasteries (mathas), burial temples (gurvayatana), tanks, ashramas, jagagharas, secular buildings, cremation ground, gosala (cow sheds) and mandapas. The city’s natural heritage includes its sunny beach, which is one of the finest in the world. The cultural heritage of Odisha is reflected in as vibrant art forms, like tie-and-dye textile or applique work, sand art, terracotta, lacquer or brassware, filigree ornaments or patta (palm leaf) painting of gods, Soap Stone, Sea-shell, Horn work, Wood carvings, and Solapith work to name few.









## VARANASI

Varanasi city is situated in the north India and is also the administrative headquarters of the district of Varanasi in state of Uttar Pradesh. The city is situated on Western Bank of river Ganga. Throughout its history, the city has been known by a number of names: Anandvana (the forest of bliss); Kashi (the city of light); Banaras (a name derived from rivers Varuna and Asi that flow into Ganga), Benares and finally Varanasi. For a brief period, city was also named Mohammadabad by the Mughal King Aurangazeb. It is regarded as holy by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains and is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. to the Hindus, the city of Benares is the holiest place in the world, a sacred city and a place of pilgrimage.

Varanasi has been a centre of learning, enlightenment, culture and civilization for more than 3000 years. The city was located on the old trade route and was also mentioned by famous Chinese traveler Xuanzang. The culture of Varanasi is closely associated with river Ganga and the river's religious importance. People often refer to Varanasi as the city of temples, the holy city of India, the religious capital of India, the city of learning, culture capital of India et al.

The city was birth place of the famous Benares Gharana form of Indian classical music. The city was home to many prominent Indian philosophers, poets, writers and musicians, like Kabir, Ravi Dass, Munshi Prem Chand et al, to name a few. Tulsidas wrote his Ramacharitamanas here, while Gautam Budha gave his first sermon at Sarnath (near Kashi). Ayurveda is also said to have originated here. The built heritage of the city comprises of numerous ghats on the bank of river Ganga (used for various purposes like bathing, rituals, cremating dead bodies et al); numerous temples (the most famous amongst which is Kashi Vishwanath, dedicated to Lord Shiva); the old city (marked by crowded narrow lanes flanked by road-side shops and scores of temples); palaces; stupas. Historically, Varanasi has been famous for muslin and silk fabrics (& its art of silk weaving), perfumes, ivory works and sculpture, textiles such as hand-woven carpets and handicrafts, brassware, copperware, glass bangles, wood and clay toys, musical instruments and exquisite gold jewellery.







புனித செபஸ்தியார் ஆலயம் ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH





## VELLANKANNI

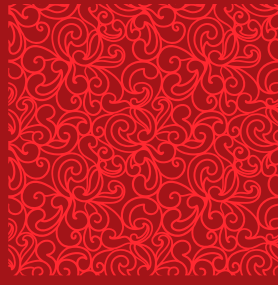
Vellankanni, also known as Vailankanni, is a city located in Nagapattinam district in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu. It lies on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal. The town is home to country's one of the biggest Catholic pilgrimage centre, dedicated to Our Lady of Good Health, origination of which can be traced back to the 16th century. Built in the Gothic style, the church was modified by Portuguese and then further expanded later on due to the influx of pilgrims.











## WARRANGAL

Warrangal is a city in south-eastern India and the administrative headquarters of Warrangal district in the state of Telangana. The 11th-14th century inscriptions and literature refers Warrangal as Omtikonda or Orugallu or Oruganti or Ekashila Nagaram, on account of its proximity to a monolithic hillock. This area was continuously ruled by Sathavahanas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kakatiyas, Bahamanies, Qutub Shahis and others.

The history of Warrangal goes back to pre-historic times as evidenced by the discovery of Paleolithic artifacts. The city was also mentioned by the famous Venetian traveler Marco Polo.

The city has a rich cultural heritage and attracts thousands of visitors every year. The city's built heritage includes Warrangal Fort (an impressive fort constructed in 13th century by Kakatiyas and famous for its beautiful carved four 'Kirthi Stambhas" facing the four cardinal points); Thousand Pillar Temple (built by Kakatiyas in 1163 in Chalukyan style); Bhadra Kali Temple (noted for its stone image of Goddess Kali) and lake; Siddeshwara temple (built in 3rd century), Kush mahal (built in indo-Saracenic style); 2,000-year-old Jain temple of Mahavira; Kazipet Darga (famous for the tombs of Nizam period) and many other magnificent buildings.





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Joydip Mitra (Gaya, Mathura, Puri)  
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