

**Note: The given content need not to be printed.**

## **CHAPTER 14.**

### **Our Rich Heritage**

#### **P.NO.101-108.**

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- To give students an idea about famous monuments of India.
- To make them aware about the history of these monuments.
- To enhance the cognitive and critical thinking among them.

### **Famous Monuments Of India**

#### **Taj Mahal, Agra**

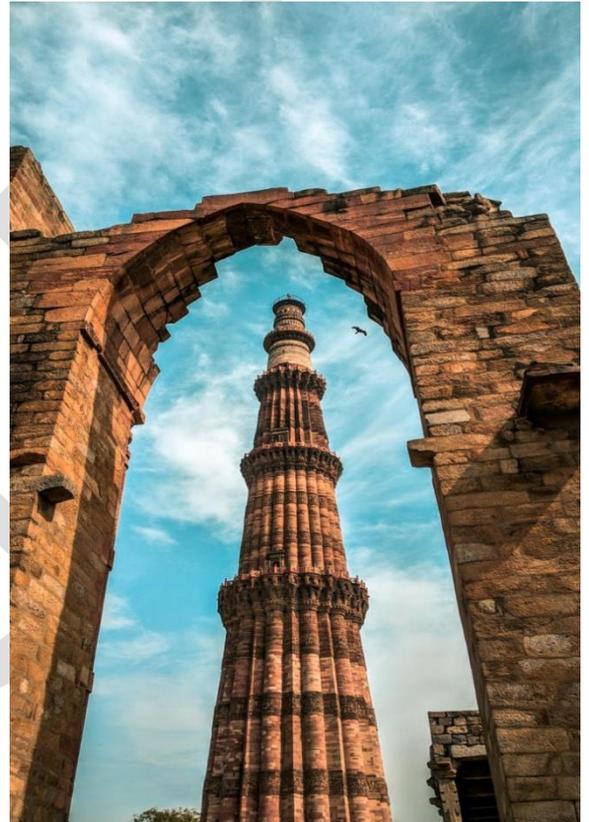
- Taj is located on the right bank of River Yamuna which is about 1.5km from the Agra fort.
- It was built to enshrine the remains of Arjumand Banu Begam entitled Mumtaz Mahal, the queen of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
- Its construction commenced in AD 1631 and completed seventeen years later at an enormous cost and labour.
- The intricate carvings and inlay work in marble enhance the beauty of Taj in which the emperor was also buried by the side of his queen after his death.
- Unlike other Mughal garden tombs, the mausoleum is situated at the northern end of a large rectangular area with its central portion divided into a square garden.



- The Taj is entered through a majestic gateway in the centre of the southern side where there is a spacious quadrangle.
- The monument is considered to be an epitome of love and one of the most flawless architectural creations of the world.

### Qutb Complex, New Delhi

- Qutb-Minar in red and buff sandstone is the highest tower in India.
- It has a diameter of 14.32m at the base and about 2.75m on the top with a height of 72.5m.
- Qutbu'd-Din Aibak laid the foundation of Minar in AD 1199 for the use of the mu'azzin to give calls for prayer and raised the first storey, to which were added three more storeys by his successor and son-in-law, Shamsu'd-Din Iltutmish (AD 1211-1236).
- All the storeys are surrounded by a projected balcony encircling the minar and supported by stone brackets, which are decorated with honey-comb design, more conspicuously in the first storey.
- Numerous inscriptions in Arabic and Nagari characters in different places of the minar reveal the history of Qutb.
- According to the inscriptions on its surface it was repaired by Feruz Shah Tughlaq (AD 1351-1388) and Sikandar Lodi (AD 1489-1517).
- Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, to the north-east of minar was built by Qutbu'd-Din Aibak in AD 1198.



## Churches and Convents of Goa

- Velha Goa (Goa) is famous for the most spectacular group of churches and cathedrals built during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries AD.
- These include Se Cathedral, Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Chapel of St. Catherine, Basilica of Bom Jesus, Church of the Lady of Rosary and Church of St. Augustine.
- The Church of St. Cajetan is modelled on the original design of St. Peter's Church in Rome.
- The Church of Bom Jesus with its facade is decorated with Ionic, Doric and Corinthian pilasters.
- There are delicately carved painted wooden statues besides a few in stone to adorn the altars, depicting mostly the saints, Mother Mary and Jesus on the cross.

