UNIT 5

RANI KI VAAV

W6V5F4

Pre-task

(A) Look at this picture of the Somnath temple. Now Fill in the blanks using the words in the bracket and complete the paragraph. (The sea, carved, enchanting, majestic, Somnath, flag, pillars, peak, roof)



This temple of _____ is a great architectural example of the Hindu temples. The _____ _____ is called 'shikhara'. This _____ is also known as 'steeple' or 'dome'. The temple faces east and has a big central hall with three entrances. It has richly carved doorways. The endless _____are called 'stambhas'. They make it look spectacular. There is _____ on the tallest peak of the temple. We can also see _____ domes. The whole structure looks _____ and _____. This temple is near _____.

(B) Look at the picture of Mohabbat Maqbara located at Junagadh and say whether the sentences are true or false.



1. There are two minarets around the Maqbara.	T	F
2. The domes are full of carvings on them.	T	F
3. The minarets look beautiful because the stairs are spiral.	T	F
4. There is no scope of having a view of Junagadh from the Maqbara.	T	F
5. The Maqbara is a king's palace.	T	F
6. There are five domes on the main structure.	T	F

(C) State which of these should be done or should not be done while visiting a historical monument (સ્મારક). Write 'yes' or 'no' at the end of the sentence.

1. Use flash light if dark inside. ☐
2. Touch the carving, feel it and enjoy it. ☐
3. Making noises. ☐
4. To record your visit, carve your name only on the corner stones. ☐
5. Keep the place clean. ☐
6. Listen to the guide carefully. ☐
7. Scratch the exhibits to check its material. ☐
8. Ask questions to your teacher or the guide. ☐

Read

Rani Ki Vaav [the step well] is an approved site on the world heritage. It was declared by the world heritage committee UNESCO . UNESCO has recognized this masterpiece as an exceptional example of water management system. It is a wonderful sample of technological development for utilizing ground water resources in a single structure. It is also a unique illustration of breaking large spaces into smaller volumes with artistic presentation. Rani Ki Vaav has a great appeal to every observer.



Queen Udayamati, the widow of King Bhimdev-I constructed this Vaav between 1022 and 1063 A.D. Rani Ki Vaav has become one of the most popular places to visit in Gujarat. King Bhimdev-I belonged to the Solanki dynasty of Anhilwad Patan. After his death Udayamati took up the project for solving the problem of water scarcity faced by the people of Patan. Unfortunately the queen also died before the completion of this structure. In the world of architecture, her beautiful idea has received immense appreciation.

Queen's stepwell or Rani ki Vaav is a seven storeyed structure.This East facing stepwell is 64 meters long, 20 meters wide and 27 meters deep. Each sculpture, passage, pillar and pavilion in this magnificent structure has enchanting carvings. On its side walls there are around 800 sculptures.

There are nearly 400 big sculptures of different gods and goddesses in the Vaav at present. These numbers would have been many more in the past in its original structure. Each storey has a narrow corridor for the visitors to appreciate beauty of sculptures and carvings engraved on the walls. Even the pillars of the Vaav are not exception to it. They display splendid artistic marvel on the stone.

In fact, the Vaav is solely dedicated to Vishnu. One can find Vishnu in different shapes and postures.

After Vishnu, next important statue is of Parvati. Nearly 15 galleries have the sculptures of Parvati. 12 statues of goddess Gauri together at the same place are rarely found anywhere. The Sun temple of Modhera has it. This Vaav has also all the twelve statues of Gauri namely- Uma, Parvati, Gauri, Lalita, Shriya, Krushna, Maheshwari, Rambha, Savitri, Trisanda, Total and Tripura. Besides, there are many statues of gods and goddesses such as Ganesha, Agni, Vaayu, Surya, Bhairav, Chamunda, Brahma, Indra, Indrani, Vaishnavi, Varahi, Mahalakshmi, Kuber, etc.



There are also some of the rare sculptures of gods. Here one can find the statue of Lord Buddha with four hands, the statue of Rama with sword and shield, the statue of Sun in form of Tapasvi, the statue of Shiva with beads in his hand, the statue of Parshurama with soft and gentle expression rather having hard and stern look, etc. Some of the sculptures display contemporary life-style, folk tales, animal and human instinct, etc. They reveal artistic vision and unique imagination of the sculptors. There are nearly 300 statues of *Apsaras*. The sculptors presented a vast range of emotions and feelings on the faces of the *Apsaras*. They display variety of different moods and situations.

Most of them present Vishnu in his ten different avatars. The most attractive sculptures are those of Varah, Vaman, Narsinha, Ram, Kalki and Mahishasurmardini. The apsaras with 16 different make up styles add to the grace of this unmatched structure. The stepwell also focuses on the holiness of water and its great significance in Indian culture.

The Vaav is the most developed, elaborate and ornamented example of submerged architecture. It sings the glory of development of stepwells in India. This Vaav is a large a and complex type of stepwell. It has ornamented panels of sculptures. It lay buried under the mud due to floods first, and then vanishing of the river Saraswati. It was hidden under the layers of silt for almost seven centuries. The Archeological Survey of India(ASI) took a great care to preserve this structure.

In February 2013 ASI nominated this Vaav for the World Heritage site. With the excellent teamwork by the ASI and State Government of Gujarat, it got recognition by the UNESCO.

Glossary

heritage things such as works of arts passed on from earlier generation **architecture** art and science of designing building **silt** sand, mud, etc that is carried by flowing water and is left at the mouth of a river or in a harbour **masterpiece** task done with great skill **immense** extremely large **archeological** related to archeology પુરાતત્ત્વીય **exceptional** very unusual **sculpture** art of carving wood or stones **preserve** keep safely **utilizing** making use of **magnificent** impressive **nominated** formally propose to choose **aesthetic** beautiful **enchanting** delightful **dynasty** series of rulers of the same family **significance** meaning **recognition** acceptance approaval **storey** floor **scarcity** shortage **ornamented** decorated **completion** get complete **vanishing** disappearance લુપ્ત થઈ જવું

Vocabulary

V. 1 Find the sentences having a group of words almost similar in meaning in the text.

1. Your great work for the society will get very large praise.
2. The Taj Mahal is a decorative example of a great monument.
3. Amit's name was proposed for the best student award by the committee.
4. You will find some distinctive idols of goddesses in the temple.
5. Akbar was one of the kings from the Moghul king's family.
6. Shahjahan built the Taj Mahal in 1632.
7. Each painting in the Ajanta caves has an appealing effect on the visitors.

V. 2 Complete the paragraph using the words from the bracket with the help of your partner.

[heritage, sculpture, blend, architectural, ornamental, construction, design, enchanting]

The world _____ site of Fatehpur Sikri is located about 39 km from Agra in U.P. The city is about three mile long and one mile wide. Built with red Sikri stone, the city is_____ of Islamic and Hindu_____style . The sand stone throughout the city has exquiste _____and interlaced decorative_____. The planning and _____of the walled city took 15 years. It is an_____place to visit.

V. 3 Put a tick mark against the word which is nearly opposite in meaning.

1. Immense : ☐ little ☐ lots of ☐ plenty of ☐ much
2. Magnificent : ☐ bad ☐ beautiful ☐ ugly ☐ happy
3. Excellent : ☐ scarcity ☐ exception ☐ consider ☐ imperfect
4. Preserve : ☐ prevent ☐ destroy ☐ upkeep ☐ import

Comprehension

C. 1 Find out the details about 'Rani ki Vaav' from the text and fill in the table.

No.	Detail	Description
1	Built by and during	
2	Built at	
3	Storeys	
4	Length	
5	Width	
6	Depth of well	
7	Number of sculptures	
8	Names of deities in sculptures	
9	Purpose of building the Vaav	
10	Got recognition by	

Write a paragraph using the details and description mentioned in the above table.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

C. 2 Answer the questions.

(1) Who declared Rani ki Vaav an approved world haritage site?
(2) Why was the Vaav built?
(3) To which dynasty did King Bhimdev-I belong?
(4) What is carved on the side walls of the Vaav?
(5) Name the twelve different statues of Gauri in the Vaav.
(6) Why was the Vaav buried?
(7) How long was the Vaav hidden?
(8) Who takes care of the Vaav nowadays?
(9) Which are the rare sculptures of gods in the Vaav?

C. 3 Find out the details of the gods and goddesses in the Vaav and fill in the Table.

Names of gods	Names of goddesses

- **Have you ever visited a historical place? What did you see there? What information of that place did you get?**

Language Practice

L. 1 Enjoy this story and observe the underlined words.

Who is Stronger?

One day the Wind said to the Sun, "I'm as strong as you". The Sun laughed and said, "What a silly person you are! I'm far stronger than you." They decided to put it to a test. "There goes a man with a jacket, along the mountain road," said the Wind. "Can you make him take off his jacket?" "Why don't you try first?" said the Sun.

The wind puffed out his cheeks and blew. The man put his head down and walked on. Then the wind blew harder and harder but the man only held his jacket tighter against his body. The Wind gave up and asked the Sun to try.

The Sun just smiled and it became as warm as a summer day. The man was not comfortable and he opened the buttons of his jacket. The Sun now shone brighter and brighter and the man felt warmer and warmer. He began to perspire and was soon tired. He sat on a stone and took off his jacket. And now he was more comfortable than before.

(Adapted from Aesop's fables)

L. 2(A) Read the data and frame at least 8 sentences as shown.

Soor	Indra	Kumar
165 cms	170 cms	165 cms
69%	69%	70%
58 kg	67 kg	67 kg
17 years	17 years	17 years

Now read the sentences.

Example : Soor is as tall as Kumar.	Indra is taller than Soor.
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

(B) Select the pair of words from 'A' and compare them by choosing appropriate word from 'B' and make sentences.

A B



A	B
Gold-iron	bigger
Elephant-dog	cheaper
Water-oil	faster
Baloon-ball	thinner
Train-bus	heavier

Example: Iron is cheaper than Gold.

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

L. 3 Write the opposites of words of 'A' in 'B'.

A	B
stronger	weaker
harder	
smaller	
warmer	
lighter	

Now Fill in the blanks using the appropriate words repeatedly.

- Gandhiji started his fast. After a week he became _____ and _____.
- By the time we reached the mountain in the evening, it became _____ and _____.

L. 4 Notice the words. Write three sentences using '…er than' and three using 'more than'.

as hot as	hotter than	as hot as	hotter than
heavy	heavier	useful	more useful
sweet	sweeter	comfortable	more comfortable
clever	cleverer	handsome	more handsome
wide	wider	intelligent	more intelligent
beautiful	more beautiful	famous	more famous

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Note : Generally 'more' is used with words having two or more syllables.

L.5 Frame two sentences for each pair.

Example : small — a rabbit — • A rabbit is small.
smaller — a mouse — • A mouse is smaller.

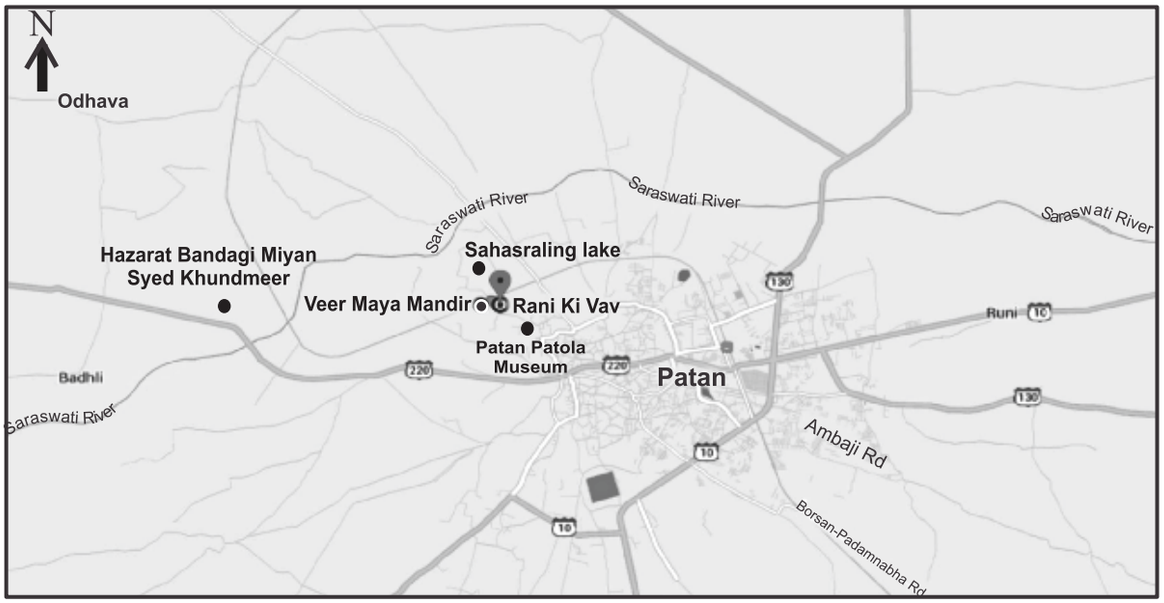
1. Easy — making tea _____
   Easier — making lemon juice _____
2. Difficult — tabla _____
   More difficult — guitar _____
3. Expensive — gold _____
   platinum _____
4. Wide — street _____
   road _____
5. Interesting — story _____
   movie _____
6. Cold — Shimla _____
   Srinagar _____

L. 6 Write names and objects in the boxes. Frame and speak at least four sentences comparing them. Try to use 'as…as', '…er than' or 'more than'.Work in pairs.

Animals			Household objects			Well known persons		
Size	Weight	Speed	Kitchen	Drawing Room	Garden	Sports	Music	Politics
large small	heavy light	fast slow	useful, cheap, expensive			famous, popular, young- old		

Writing

W. 1 Work in pairs. Read the following map of Rani ki Vaav and surroundings and fill in the details in the following paragraph.



Sahasraling Lake is to the _____ of Rani ki Vaav, whereas Veer Maya Mandir is to the _____. To the _____ of Rani ki Vaav, we can also see Hazarat Bandagi Miyan Syed Khundmeer. Patan Patola Museum is to the _____ of Rani ki Vaav.

[north, south, east, west]

W. 2 Write a paragraph on your visit to a historical or archeological Place.

W. 3 Make a list of ten historical or archeological places of Gujarat. Write two sentences about each of them.

I FEEL THE NEED, THE NEED FOR SPEED

Speed of light	1080,000,000 kph
Speed of Sound	1220kph
Speed of Concorde	2333kph
Speed of record	1228kph
Fastest passenger train	France's TGV, 515.3kph
Fastest animal	Peregrine falcon, 321.9kph
Fastest land animal	Cheetah, 100kph
Fastest two-legged animal	Ostrich, 70kph
Fastest human	Asafa Powell, 36.8kph
Fastest snail	0.048kph