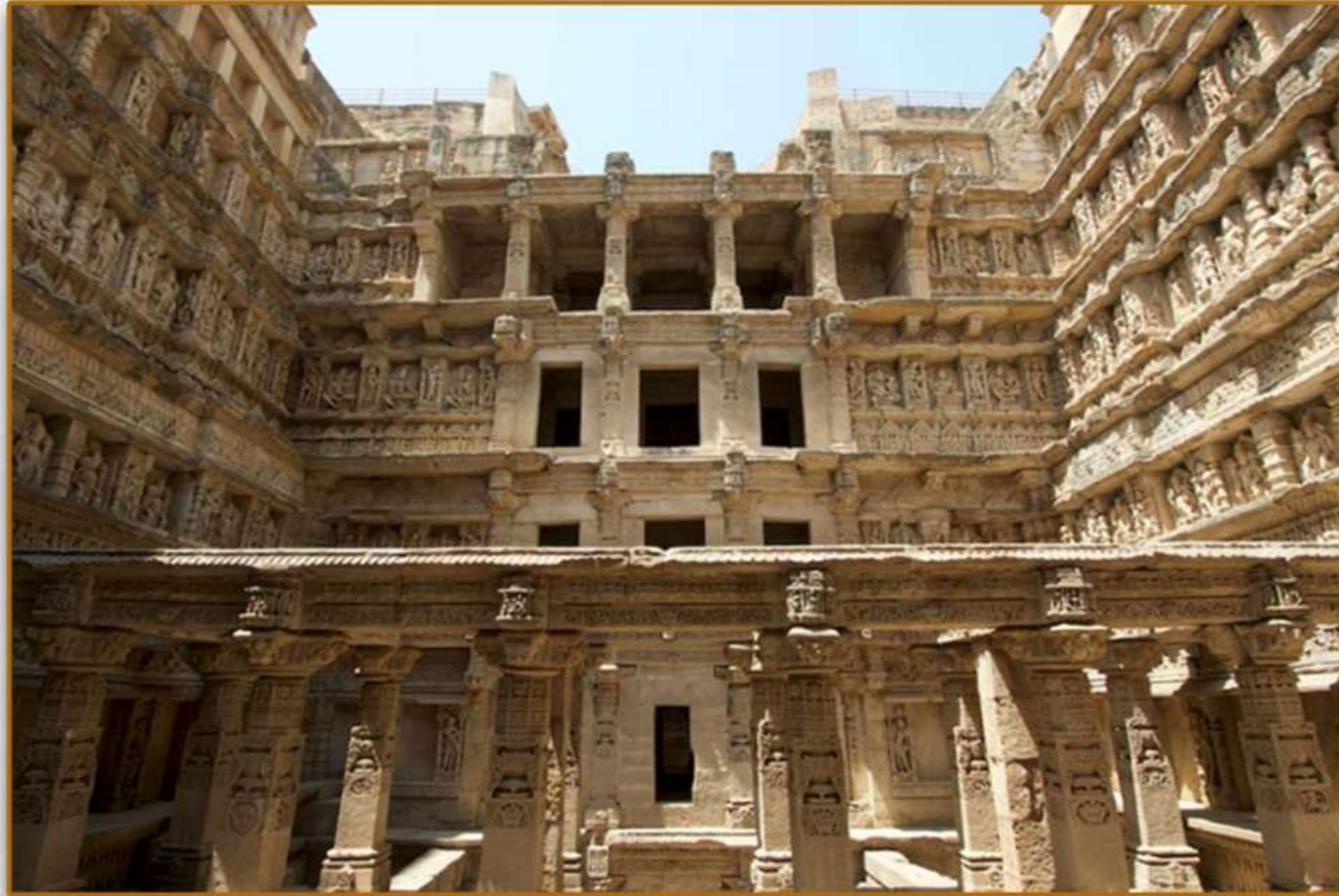


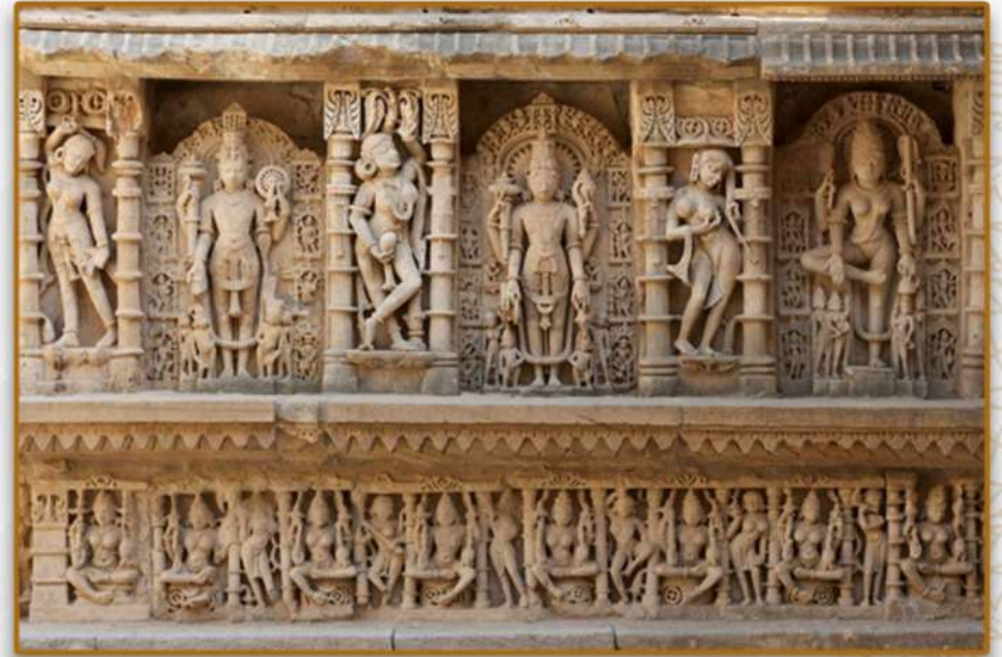
STEPPED WELLS ARE INDIA'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD ARCHITECTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES



On **World Water Day**, a journey across time to the Stepped Wells and Reservoirs of Western India.

At the Ranki Vav in Patan, Patan district of Gujarat: In the 11th CE, the Solanki Queen Udayamati built the stepped well complex in the memory of her husband King Bhimadeva...a thousand years ago!

Ranki Vav in Patan is now a World Heritage Site.



General views of the Ranki Vav stepped well among the largest of stepped wells of India; measuring **69 metres** from its entrance in the east to the deep well at the far end in the west.

Stepped wells are subterranean structures consisting of a deep well to which is attached a long flight of steps from the ground level.

At Ranki Vav in Patan, there's profusion of sculptures along the walls. **Lord Vishnu** as Hari is seen in this frieze, along with a rare sculpture of **Goddess Parvati** doing penance, standing on one leg

At the Ranki Vav in Patan, Patan district of Gujarat, when we look up and see the layers of carved frieze, depicting gods, goddesses and deities in different niches



Looking down the stepped well at Ranki Vav: the well is more than 30 metres deep from the top of the parapet wall to the lowest point that is practicable to measure.



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In Modhera, Mehsana district of Gujarat is the Sun Temple and Surya Kunda: The temple was built by the Solanki King Bhimadeva in the **11th CE**.

Harmoniously arranged steps surround the deep tank.

There is a pillared mandapa between the Temple and the **Surya Kunda**.



Mesmerising views of the Surya Kund in Modhera, Mehsana district of Gujarat at the Sun Temple, built by the Solanki King King Bhimadeva in the **11th CE**.

Capturing the greenery, the water and reflections at the Surya Kund in Modhera, Mehsana district of Gujarat at the Sun Temple, built by the Solanki King Bhimadevi in the **11th CE**.



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At the Adalaj stepped well there are pavilions, pillars and columns with intricate carvings, motifs leading to the well.

Adalaj stepped well, in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat, was built by Queen Rudadevi at the end of **15th CE**, in the memory of her husband



The pavilions, pillars and motifs at the Adalaj stepped well are the result of years of evolution and experimentation with architectural forms.

Like Ranki Vav and Modhera stepped wells, at Adalaj too it feels like one is entering a temple where water is sacrosanct, not just a life-line for the people.

Water in the stepped wells is compared with the heavenly river Ganga in the inscriptions.



The Adalaj stepped well is unique for it has three entrances; the main one is in the same axis with the long corridors, and two more entrances are on the left and right sides.

Adalaj stepped well, in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat, was built by Queen Rudadevi at the end of **15th CE**, in the memory of her husband.

Queen Rudadevi was the wife of King Virasimha. She emulated the auspicious and pious deed of Queen Udayamati who had built Ranki Vav four hundred years earlier



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Chand Baori is the breathtaking stepped well at Abhaneri in the Dausa district of Rajasthan.

In the early **9th CE**, Kings of the Chahamana dynasty built a temple dedicated to the Vaishnava Pancharatra cult. The kund was excavated: Abhaneri or Abhanagari means the '**City of Light**'.