

PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

SECTION II: STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SPECIFIC WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

II. 1. Introduction

- a. State Party : **INDIA**
- b. Name of the World Heritage property: **AJANTA CAVES**
- c. Geographical coordinates to the nearest second: **20⁰ 03' 00" N; 75⁰ 01' 45" E**
- d. Date of inscription on the World Heritage List: **9th December 1983.**
- e. Organisation(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of the report:
Archaeological Survey of India
- f. Date of report:: **December 2002**
- g. Signature on behalf of the State Party: **Director General, Archaeological Survey
of India.**

II.2. Statement of Significance

The 30 Buddhist caves comprising of sanctuaries and monastic complexes at Ajanta are datable from c. 2nd century – 1st century B.C. (I Phase) and 4th – 6th century A.D. (II Phase). In the first phase the Hinayana sect excavated 6 caves (Cave Nos. 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 & 15A) where simple, somber and carrying sparsely mural paintings. In the second phase the Mahayanists greatly enriched the remaining caves, and few of them were richly decorated with sculptures, sculpted decorative motifs, craft pillars, brackets, facades and all importantly the mural paintings representing the Jataka stories and other Buddhist religious arts. It would not be out of context to call the second phase being Ajanta School of Art.

II.3. Statement of authenticity / integrity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property is maintained without any change since the inscription of the property in the World Heritage List.

II.4. Management

The monument is maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India and governed by its rules and regulations. Archaeological Survey of India maintains and manages the property as per the provisions laid out in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959.

II.5. Factors affecting the site

1. Certain leakages inside the caves,
2. General deterioration of rock surface,
3. Entry of bat into the cave interior,
4. Minor human agencies who at times try to scribble their names on the rock surface.

II.6. Monitoring

The monitoring of the property is carried out periodically by the administrative set up of Archaeological Survey of India through its various branches like Conservation, Science and Horticulture.

II.7. Conclusions and recommended action

- a. Main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2 and II.3 above)**

The World Heritage Values and authenticity / integrity of the site is well maintained since its inscription on the World Heritage List.

- b. Main conclusions regarding the management and factors affecting the property (see items II.4 and II.5 above)**

The present set up of the Archaeological Survey of India is well equipped with the management and other issues related to the monitoring the factors affecting the property and implementing the remedial measures.

c. Proposed future action / actions.

- a. As per the recommendations of the Expert Committee and approved plan by Government of India.
- b. Consideration and implementation of Geological Survey of India recommendations of their study of geophysical and geomorphological aspects of the cave area.
- c. The remedial measures as suggested by Geological Survey of India.
- d. Enhancing of awareness among the masses.

d. Timeframe for implementation.

Next five years, i.e., 2002-03 to 2007-08.

e. Needs for international assistance.

The international assistance is required in the area of any technical know how providing information and methodology for surface treatment of rock surface which should be transparent on application.

II.8 Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section II

The Periodic Reporting exercise was very useful in understanding the various issues related to the maintenance, conservation, and management of the monument in a better way.

II.9 Documentation attached

1. Maps showing the prohibited and core area of the monument.
2. Compact Disc containing slides in Powerpoint on the various conservation activities of the monument, maps, etc.

3. Extracts of relevant laws and regulations concerning the protection of cultural and natural heritage.
4. Perspective plan of the proposed activities during the next five years.
5. Indicative bibliography.

II.1 Introduction

a.	Country (and State Party if different): INDIA	001
b.	Name of World Heritage property: AJANTA CAVES	002
c.	<p>In order to locate the property precisely, please attach a topographic map showing scale, orientation, projection, datum, site name, date and graticule. The map should be an original print and not be trimmed. The site boundaries should be shown on the map. In addition they can be submitted in a detailed description, indicating topographic and other legally defined national, regional, or international boundaries followed by the site boundaries.</p> <p>The State Parties are encouraged to submit the geographic information in digital form so that it can be integrated into a Geographic Information System (GIS).</p> <p>On this questionnaire indicate the geographical co-ordinates to the nearest second (in the case of large sites, towns, areas, etc., give at least 3 sets of geographical co-ordinates):</p> <p>Center point: 20⁰ 03' 00" N; 75⁰ 01' 45" E</p> <p>North-west corner: 20⁰ 03' 00" N; 75⁰ 01' 20" E</p> <p>South-east corner: 20⁰ 03' 00" N; 75⁰ 02' 05" E</p>	003
d.	Give the date of inscription on the World Heritage List and subsequent extension (if applicable): 9 th December 1983	004
e.	<p>Organisation(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of this report.</p> <p>ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA</p> <p>Organisation(s) / entity(ies)</p> <p>AURANGABAD CIRCLE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA</p> <p>Person(s) responsible: DR. S.K.MITTRA, SUPERINTENDING ARCHAEOLOGIST</p> <p>Address: AURANGABAD CIRCLE, BIBI-KA-MAQBARA</p> <p>City and post code: AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA, 431004</p>	005

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
Section II: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

	Telephone: 0091-0240-400620 Fax: 0091-240-400009. E-mail: asiabad@sancharnet.in	
f.	Date of preparation of the report:	006
g.	Signature on behalf of the State Party Signature: Name: Mrs. KASTURI GUPTA MENON, I.A.S. Function: DIRECTOR GENERAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.	007

II.2 Statement of Significance

	At the time of inscribing a property on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee indicates its outstanding universal value(s), or World Heritage value(s), by deciding on the criteria for which the property deserved to be included on the World Heritage List, Circle the criteria retained for the inscription: Cultural criteria: (i) – (ii) – (iii) – (vi)	008
	Were new criteria added by re-nominating and / or extending the property after the original inscription? YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	009
	If YES, please explain: Not applicable	010

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	<p>Please quote observations concerning the property made by the Advisory Body(ies) during the evaluation of the nomination:</p> <p>The ICOMOS recommended that the cultural property can be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criteria I, II, III and VI.</p>	011
	<p>Quote the decisions and observations / recommendations, if appropriate, made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription and extension (if applicable):</p> <p>The Committee recommended that the authorities take all possible safeguarding measures, especially as concerns constructions on the summit of the cliff which could be detrimental for the site.</p>	012
	<p>Identify the actions taken as follow-up to these observations and / or decisions:</p> <p>The recommendations of the Committee for possible safeguarding measures in restricting the constructions on the summit of cliff is strictly adhered to and no new constructions is allowed.</p>	013
	<p>Please propose a statement of significance by providing a description of the World Heritage value(s) for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. This description should reflect the criterion (criteria) on the basis of which the Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List and it should also detail what the property represents, what makes it outstanding, what the specific values are that distinguish the property as well as what its relationship with its setting is, etc:</p> <p>The caves at Ajanta fall into two different phases with a break of nearly four centuries between them.</p> <p>All the caves of the earlier phase are pre-Christian in date, the earliest to be excavated being Cave 10, dating from the second century B.C.</p> <p>The caves of the second phase were excavated during the supremacy of the Guptas and Vakatakas. Thus the inscription of Varahadeva, the minister of the Vakataka king Harishena (c. A.D. 475-500) dedicated Cave 16 to the Buddhist Sangha, while Cave 17 was the gift of a prince, a feudatory of the same king. Another inscription datable to the first half of the sixth century A.D., on the pedestal of a Buddha image in the sanctum of Cave 4 states that the image was the religious gift of a person from Mathura who was the son of Abhayanandin, the owner of the monastery (viharasvami). The most vigorous period of architectural and artistic activity seems to have coincided with the second half of the fifth century and the first half of the sixth. There was a considerable decline in the creative impulse from the seventh century, though Hieun Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, who visited India in the first half of the</p>	014

seventh century, has left a graphic description of the flourishing establishment here.

A fragmentary Rashtrakuta record of uncertain purpose, inscribed on the right wall of the landing to the left of the court of Cave 26, proves the use of the caves even during the eighth-ninth centuries.

After centuries of oblivion the caves were discovered in A.D. 1819 and since then they have occupied a unique place in the art history of the world.

The general arrangement of the caves at Ajanta, cut out of the amygdaloidal trap rock, was not pre-planned, as they sprang sporadically in different periods. A terraced path of modern construction connects most of the caves, but in ancient times individual stairways linked the stream Waghora, flowing at the foot of the valley, with each cave.

The caves including the unfinished ones, are thirty in number, of which five (9, 10, 19, 26 and 29) are *chaityagrihas* (sanctuary) and the rest *sangharamas* or *viharas* (monastery). They resolve themselves into two different phases of Buddhist rock-cut architecture, separated from each other by an interval of about four centuries. The earlier group, comprising six excavations, is an offshoot of the same Buddhist movement which produced at several other places in the Deccan, like Bhaja, Kondane, Pitalkhora, Nasik, etc. Of the six early caves at Ajanta, 9, and 10 are *chaityagriha* and 8, 12, 13 & 15A monasteries. The *chaityagrihas* are characterized by a vaulted ceiling, the exterior façade being dominated by a huge horseshoe-shaped window, known as chaitya window, over the doorway. Internally they are divided by colonnades into a central nave, an apse and side aisles, the latter continuing behind the apse and, thus, providing for circumambulation. At the centre of the apse stands the object of worship in the form of a chaitya or stupa, also hewn out of the live rock; figures of Buddha are absent, as Buddhists were still labouring under the convention of not representing the Master in his bodily form. The most striking feature about the *chaityagriha* is the servile imitations of wooden construction, including the general contour and essential details. The rock-excavator went to the extent of using replicas of wooden beams and rafters even though they were non-functional. The plan of the monasteries consists of an astylar hall, meant for congregation, with a range of cells on three sides, serving as the dwelling-apartments for monks.

After a quiescence of about four centuries excavation was revived on a much more ambitious scale. During this second phase of excavation, after the initial state of experiment in Cave 11, the general layout of the monasteries was standardised though each one of them represents some interesting and individual features. Of the three *chaityagrihas* of this period, Cave 29 is unfinished. The other two, 19 and 26, are designed on the plan of the earlier *chaityagrihas* with the significant difference that the interior is treated with luxuriant carvings and the figure of Buddha appears on the central stupa – aniconism having by now given way to iconism. A profusion of the figures of

Buddha can be seen both on the façade and in the interior. The plan of the monasteries, however, shows greater innovations, the most important of which is the introduction of a shrine-chamber, containing a colossal image of Buddha in the back wall opposite the doorway – the monasteries, thus, serving the dual purpose of monastic dwelling and sanctuary. Sometimes subsidiary shrines are scooped out not only on the back side of the hall but also on the other sides.

The unfinished caves furnish a very good idea of the method of excavation. After the outline had been chalked out, excavation started from the ceiling which was finished first. The work then continued downwards by the cutting of deep alleys with sharp and heavy instruments like the pickaxe, followed by the breaking of the intervening ridges, bearing solid blocks, for pillars where necessary, till the floor was reached which was the last to receive attention. The preliminary work of excavation alone was done by pickaxe, and the rest, including the finishing and carving, was entirely executed by hammer and chisel. The work of quarrying, dressing and finishing presumably went hand in hand as is evident from the unfinished caves bearing traces of paintings. After finishing the façade and the verandah the excavator went deep into the interior, attending first to the hall and next taking up the ante-chamber, shrine or cells as the case might be, the procedure of the excavators being the same. The complete operation speaks great delicacy, precision and carefulness on the part of the rock-excavator.

SCULPTURES: The sculpture activity in Buddhist caves in the Deccan is broadly divisible into two main periods. Ajanta does not, however, contain any sculpture of the earlier period, covering about four centuries, from the second century B.C. to the second century A.D., when the Hinayana Caves at Ajanta were excavated. Under the new impact of iconic Buddhism, figures of Buddha and the Bodhisattva came to be carved as the chief objects of worship in the caves. Vakataka inscriptions in the Ajanta Caves would indicate that this second phase was ushered in the last quarter of the fifth century A.D. The colossal images of Buddha carved in the *garbhagriha* located at the rear end of the pillared viharas thus forms a class by themselves. In this class Buddha is generally shown in vajrasana which his hands in the *dharmachakra pravartana mudra* (preaching pose), flanked by a Bodhisattva acting as the whisk-bearer, the figures of Buddha have a sublime spiritual expression and are the very embodiment of *karuna* or benevolence.

PAINTINGS: The paintings fall into two distinct periods separated from each other by a fairly long interval. The earlier paintings, scanty specimens of which have survived on the walls of Caves 9 and 10, go back to the second-first century B.C. The costumes of the figures, specially the head-gear and ornaments, resemble those in the bas-reliefs at Sanchi and Bharhut. Even these paintings demonstrate an appreciable maturity, indicating considerable practice behind them and surpass in excellence the contemporary plastic art.

The second period of the paintings started in about the fourth-fifth

	<p>century A.D. and continued for the next two centuries or so. The earlier phase of this period synchronised with the rule of the Vakatakas, when the high watermark of the painter's brush was reached. Substantial remains of this phase have survived in Caves 1, 2, 16 and 17 though originally all the finished caves, and even most of the unfinished ones, were painted all over. In spite of the inequality in the standards of workmanship due to varied authorship, the paintings of this period throughout maintain an exalted height and enthrall the spectator by their rich beauty, superb expressiveness, colour-scheme, balanced and effective composition, fine shading and highlight bringing into relief a plasticity, suppleness and sensitive modeling of the figures, bold but faultless outline, delicate, artistic and idealised, but never unnatural, bodily features and women ever beautiful in all conceivable poses and moods. In fact, the paintings have stood the test of the highest art standard of mural paintings.</p> <p>A steady decline in the painters art is evidenced in later additions or palimpsest, till it became effete without any pretension to artistic excellence as seen in the rigid, mechanical and lifeless figures of Buddha in later paintings.</p> <p>The theme of the paintings on the walls is intensely religious in tone and centres around Buddha, Bodhisattvas, incidents from the life of Buddha and the Jatakas. These topics, besides offering visual representations of didactic themes to supplement the teachings of the elder monks to their pupils, also afforded the painter an unlimited scope for depicting the whole garment of human life from birth to death, men, women and children of all stations of life, from the king to the slave, from the rich to the beggar, from the saint to the sinner in the crowded drama of sublimity and coarseness, love and hatred, joy and sorrow, triumph and tribulation, compassion and ingratitude, pageantry and poverty, longing and death all pervaded by an intense religiosity. They are the mirrors of contemporary life in palace, court, town, village and hermitage.</p> <p>On the other hand paintings on the ceilings are essentially decorative in character depicting patterns of flowers, plants, fruits, birds, beasts and human and semi-divine being.</p> <p>The paintings are executed on a ground of mud-plaster in the tempera technique by using glue as a binding medium. The pigments used for paintings were yellow and red ochre, lime, kaolin, gypsum, terra verte, lamp-black and lapis lazuli.</p>	
	<p>For the extension of a property or the inclusion of additional criteria a re-submission of the property may be considered. This might be regarded as necessary in order to recognise cultural values of a natural World Heritage property, or vice-versa, become desirable following the substantive revision of the criteria by the World Heritage Committee or due to better identification or knowledge of specific outstanding</p>	015

	<p>What was the evaluation of the authenticity / integrity of the property at the time of inscription? (Please quote from ICOMOS / IUCN evaluation):</p> <p>The famous site of Ajanta comprises thirty caves cut into the side of a cliff which rises above a meander in the Waghora River. Today the caves are reached by a road which runs along a terrace midway up the cliff, originally the caves were once linked by a stairway to the edge of the water.</p> <p>Dedicated to the Buddhist order, comprising five sanctuaries or Chaitya-grihas (Caves 9, 10, 19, 26 and 29) and monastic complex, sangharamas or viharas. A first group of caves was created in the second century B.C. : the chaitya-grihas open into the rocky wall by doorways surmounted by a horse-shoe shaped bay. The ground plan is a basilical one: piers separate the principal nave from the side aisles which join in the apses to permit the ritual circumambulation behind the stupa (commemorative monument). This rupestral architecture scrupulously reproduces the forms and elements visible in wooden constructions.</p> <p>The second group of caves was created at a later date, the fifth and sixth centuries A.D., during the Gupta and post Gupta periods. The earlier architecture formulas were re-employed but treated in an infinitely richer and more ample manner. The decoration attained, at this time, an unequalled splendour. The statuary is numerous (it was already permissible to represent Buddha as a human, these representations are found both on the facades and in the interior). Finally, the wall painting, profuse and sensate, constitutes, no doubt, the most striking artistic achievement of Ajanta.</p> <p>Under the impulse of the Gupta dynasty, Indian art, in effect reached its apogee. The Ajanta Caves are generally decorated with painted or sculpted figures of supple form and classic balance with which the name of the dynasty has remained synonymous. The refined lightness of the decoration, the balance of the compositions, the marvelous beauty of the feminine figures place the paintings of Ajanta among the major achievements of the Gupta and post-Gupta style and confer on them the ranking of a masterpiece of universal pictorial art.</p> <p>-Ajanta is a unique artistic development (Criterion I).</p> <p>-the style of Ajanta has exerted a considerable influence in India and elsewhere, extending, in particular, to Java (Criterion II).</p> <p>-with its two groups of monuments corresponding to two important moments in Indian history, this rupestral ensemble bears exceptional testimony to the evolution of Indian art, as well as to the determining role of the Buddhist community, intellectual and religious foyers, schools and reception centres in the India of the Gupta and their immediate successors (Criterion III).</p>	023
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	-finally, Ajanta is directly and materially associated with the history of Buddhism (Criterion VI).	
	Have there been changes in the authenticity / integrity since inscription? Yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	024
	If YES, please describe the changes to the authenticity / integrity and name the main causes? Not applicable	025
	Are there (further) changes foreseeable to the authenticity / integrity of the property in the near future? Yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	026
	If YES, please explain and indicate how these changes might affect the World Heritage values of the property: Not applicable.	027

II.4 Management

	How could the arrangements for the protection and the management of the property best be defined (more than one indication possible)?	028
	<p style="text-align: center;">Legal (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contractual ()</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Traditional ()</p>	
	<p>Please describe and assess the implementation and effectiveness of these arrangements for the preservation of the values described under item II. 2 at the national, provincial and / or municipal level:</p> <p>Legal: The monuments are governed under various Acts and Rules passed by the Parliament of India. These legislations were passed during different periods upon the requirements and it encompasses all requirements for the proper safeguard of the monuments. These Acts and Rules include Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act 1958; Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Rules 1959; Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972; Antiquities and Art Treasures Rules 1973 and the subsequent amendments.</p>	029

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	<p>The other laws and regulations of the State Government of Maharashtra and Forest Department like The Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bombay Forest Rules 1947, Maharashtra Tree Felling Act 1967, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Forest Conservation Act 1980, The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966, etc also have certain provisions for control of illegal activities in the area in which the monument is located.</p> <p>The local governments are entrusted with the law and order problem and are bound by the legislations passed by the Parliament.</p>	
	<p>In general terms, can this legislative, contractual and / or traditional protection be considered sufficient?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO</p>	030
	<p>Please explain:</p> <p>As explained above in 029 the legislations passed by the Parliament of India covers the entire nation and it encompasses all requirements for safeguarding the interests of the monuments.</p>	031
	<p>Provide a list and summaries of laws and regulations concerning cultural and natural properties protection and management (including extracts of relevant articles from the Constitution, Criminal Law, Law / Regulations on Land-use, Environment Law and Forestry Law, amongst others). Please also attach any documentation available concerning these points:</p> <p>Indian Treasure Trove Act 1878</p> <p>An Act to safeguard and protect any buried treasure of ancient character.</p> <p>Land Acquisition Act 1892</p> <p>An Act through which lands adjoining to the monuments and other premises can be acquired after compensating and settlement procedures.</p> <p>Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 1904</p> <p>An Act to provide for the preservation of Ancient Monuments and objects of archaeological, historical, or artistic interest.</p> <p>Ancient Monuments Preservation Rules 1937</p> <p>Rules framed based on the provisions of Ancient Monuments Preservation Act</p>	032

1904 for its implementation.

Export Control Act 1947

An Act to control the export of antiquities.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act 1951

An Act to declare certain ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains in (Part A States and Part B States) to be of national importance and to provide for certain matters connected therewith.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act 1958

An Act to provide for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance, for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Rules 1959

Rules framed as per the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act 1958.

Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972

An Act to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures, to provide for the prevention of smuggling of, and fraudulent dealings in, antiquities, to provide for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures for preservation in public places and to provide for certain other matters connected therewith or incidental or ancillary thereto.

Antiquities and Art Treasures Rules 1973

Rules framed as per the provisions of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972.

The Indian Forest Act, 1927

An act to consolidate the law relating to forests, the transit of forest-produce and the duty leviable on timber and other forest produce.

Bombay Forest Rules 1947

Maharashtra Tree Felling Act 1967

<p>Wildlife Protection Act 1972</p> <p>An act to provide for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto.</p> <p>Forest Conservation Act 1980</p> <p>An act to provide for the conservation of forest and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto.</p> <p>The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966</p> <p>An act to make provision for planning the development and use of land in Regions established for that purpose and for the constitution of Regional Planning Boards therefore; to make better provisions for the preparation of Development plans with a view to ensuring that town planning schemes are made in a proper manner and their execution is made effective; to provide for the creation of new towns by means of Development Activities; to make provisions for the compulsory acquisition of land required for public purposes in respect of the plans; and for purposes connected with the matter aforesaid.</p>	
<p>Describe the administrative and management arrangements that are in place for the property concerned, making special mention of the institutions and organisations that have management authority over the property as well as of the arrangements that are in place for the coordination of their actions:</p> <p>Administrative and Management Arrangement</p> <p>The Aurangabad Circle, Aurangabad of the Archaeological Survey of India is directly responsible for the administrative, management and all other matters connected with the day-to-day maintenance of the protected monument and its complex area. The administration is carried out through a Sub-Circle located at Ajanta Cave headed by a Senior Conservation Assistant who assess and executes the functions as directed by the Superintending Archaeologist.</p> <p>Institution / Organisation having management authority</p> <p>The Archaeological Survey of India is the only institution / organisation having the management authority.</p> <p>However, at Ajanta recently the access to the monument is being regulated at a point nearly 4 km from the caves. The local government has passed a legislation effective from T-junction point from where all the vehicles would be</p>	033

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	<p>stopped and then the tourists would proceed to the caves through non-polluting vehicles. The Collectorate Office of Maharashtra Government at Aurangabad, Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation are the organisations involved in the implementation of this T-junction point and plying of buses in between the caves and T-junction.</p>	
	<p>Please indicate under which level of authority the property is managed:</p>	034
	<p style="text-align: center;">Local () Regional (✓) National () Other(please describe):</p>	
	<p>Please provide the full name, address and phone / fax / e-mail of the entity(ies) directly responsible for the management (conservation, preservation, visitor management) of the property:</p> <p>Superintending Archaeologist Archaeological Survey of India Aurangabad Circle, Aurangabad 431004. Phone: 91-0240-400624; 400009 (f) E-mail: asiabad@sancharnet.in</p>	035
	<p>Is it necessary to revise the administrative and management arrangements for the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / (NO)</p>	036
	<p>If YES, explain why this is the case:</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	037
	<p>Is there a management plan for the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(YES) / NO</p>	038
	<p>If YES, please summarise, indicating if the plan is being implemented and since when:</p> <p>The management and conservation plan of the Ajanta Caves are carried out under various categories and various branches of the Archaeological Survey</p>	039

	<p>of India. The Chemistry Branch executes all the matters related to chemical cleaning and preservation of paintings; mending of sculptures; monitoring the effect of RH, climatic variations, etc. The Garden Branch executes the matters related to maintaining greenery and gardens in the vicinity of the monument. The Conservation Branch of the ASI executes all the matters related to the structural conservation, preservation, of the monument.</p> <p>In this regard, the Archaeological Survey of India chalks out periodical plans and programmes for executing the conservation works upon the approval of a competent authority. The ASI also chalks out long term plans for executing them. For example, recently the ASI carried out various conservation and developmental measures under the loan extended by Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) extending over a period of 10 years from 1992 – 2002 under Phase I.</p>	
	<p>Please report on legal and administrative actions that are foreseen for the future, to preserve the values described under item II.2 (e.g. passing of legislation, adjusting administrative and management arrangements, implementing or drawing up of a (new) management plan, etc.):</p> <p>Passing of legislation</p> <p>The existing laws and regulations of the Archaeological Survey of India are sufficient for the maintenance and upkeep of the cultural heritage.</p> <p>But if necessitated with new perceptions for the better management and upkeep necessary amendments to the by-laws can be effected for which necessary provision is incorporated in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act 1958.</p> <p>Administrative and Management arrangements</p> <p>The existing administrative arrangement of Archaeological Survey of India through Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Aurangabad Circle for the management arrangement of World Heritage Property is sufficient.</p>	040
	<p>Please provide detailed information, particularly in cases where changes have occurred since the inscription of the property, on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Make reference to all major interventions at the property and describe its present state of conservation 	041 042

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	<p>Construction of pathways Illumination of the interior of caves Construction of fallen and broken pillars Construction of fallen and collapsed facades Construction of ceilings and cells in certain cases Construction of pedestrian footbridges Construction of approach road right up to the foothill Construction of a hotel and resort by MTDC at the foothill Erection of barricades in front of the painted surface to restrict the tourists from touching the paintings Construction of a viewpoint and approach stepped pathway by Forest Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ownership Make reference to all major changes in ownership of the property and describe the present status of ownership: <p>The Archaeological Survey of India is the owner of the cave monuments.</p>																	
	<p>Please, give a detailed description of the staffing of the site:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Group B</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Group C</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Group D</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(i) Regular</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(ii) Temporary Status</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Nil</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Nil</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(iii) Private</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Nil</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Nil</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Group B	Group C	Group D	(i) Regular	1	3	36	(ii) Temporary Status	Nil	Nil	Nil	(iii) Private	Nil	Nil	22	043
	Group B	Group C	Group D															
(i) Regular	1	3	36															
(ii) Temporary Status	Nil	Nil	Nil															
(iii) Private	Nil	Nil	22															
	<p>Is the staffing level sufficient for adequate management of the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO</p>	044																
	<p>If NO, what should be done to improve the situation?</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	045																
	<p>Does the staff need additional training?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO</p>	046																
	<p>If YES, what are the training needs for your staff?</p> <p>The staff requires training in the areas of recent advances in Conservation Techniques; computer applications in archaeology and conservation; recent advances in the sphere of photo-documentation & photogrammetry including application of GPS, GIS; cartography etc.</p>	047																

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	<p>Describe the funding and financial situation of the property, indication sources, level and regularity of financing:</p> <p>All the funding for the property is through the Archaeological Survey of India, Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism & Culture.</p> <p>The funds are made available both on yearly basis and also to cope up emergency situations as well.</p>	048
	<p>Is the available funding sufficient for adequate management of the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO</p>	049
	<p>If NOT, describe the financial resources that would be required for the management of the property:</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	050
	<p>Indicate International Assistance from which the property has benefited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Fund: - • UNESCO International Campaign: - • National and / or regional projects of UNDP, the World Bank or other agencies: <p>The Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) formerly named as Overseas Economic and Cultural Fund (OECF) has extended a loan for the Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Programme of which the first phase was completed recently in 2002.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral co-operation: - • Other assistance: - 	<p>051</p> <p>052</p> <p>053</p> <p>054</p> <p>055</p>
	<p>Describe the IT (computer) equipment of the site and / or management office and assess its effectiveness:</p> <p>At present there is no equipment at the Ajanta Caves, the management office at Aurangabad is having computers but basically meant for normal office</p>	056

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
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	functioning and not dedicated entirely to the aspects of maintenance of the Ajanta Caves.	
	<p>Are you using (multiple indications are possible):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PC (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Apple ()</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mainframe ()</p>	057
	<p>Please give the number of available computers:</p> <p>At the Aurangabad office at present 4 PCs are available.</p>	058
	<p>Does an operational access to the Internet exist?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(YES) / NO</p> <p>At the Aurangabad Office</p>	059
	<p>Is e-mail used for daily correspondence?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(YES) / NO</p> <p>At the Aurangabad Office</p>	060
	<p>Is there a Geographical Information System (GIS) for the site?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / (NO)</p>	061
	<p>If YES, what software do you have and how is the GIS used?</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	062
	<p>List scientific studies and research programmes that have been conducted concerning the site:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geophysical Investigations of the Ajanta Group of Caves by the Geological Survey of India. 2. Other periodical studies are conducted for carrying out conservation 	063

Periodic Reporting Exercise on the Application of the World Heritage Convention
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	measures at the monument by Archaeological Survey of India.	
	<p>Describe financial and human resource inputs for the research programmes and or facilities:</p> <p>The Archaeological Survey of India conducts various research programmes and survey projects including documentation studies as part of its functioning. Its various branches conducts studies in Archaeology and History; nature of the paintings, conservation problems, etc for proper understanding of the caves and to propose remedial measures.</p>	064
	<p>Describe how the information / result are disseminated?</p> <p>The Archaeological Survey of India publishes a yearly journal named The Indian Archaeology A Review and through this medium all the studies and works carried out by various branches of the Survey are published for the general public and scholars alike.</p>	065
	<p>Are there any visitor statistics for the site?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / NO</p>	066
	<p>If YES, please summarise the statistics and attach to this report:</p> <p>The visitor statistics for the last five years is enclosed as Annexure.</p>	067
	<p>What visitor facilities do you have at the property?</p> <p>The following visitor facilities are available at the site at present;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) approach road and pathway, the latter connecting each and every cave (ii) illumination of the caves for proper and better viewing of the paintings (iii) drinking water facility (iv) post office (v) guide facilities (vi) porter facility (vii) books, guide-books and brochures (viii) public amenity (ix) descriptive signages 	068
	<p>What visitor facilities are you in need of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) public information system (ii) multimedia visualisation of the paintings and CDs 	069

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	<p>Is a public use plan (tourism / visitor management plan) in existence for the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>	070
	<p>If YES, please summarize, if NO explain if one is needed:</p> <p>A Public use plan is essentially required without hindering any aspect of heritage management of the monuments. As more and more concentration is given to tourism and visitor management related issues heritage management is given less importance and often at the cost of monuments. Hence a proper public use plan should be generated to facilitate the tourists as well as to educate and encourage them for protection of the heritage.</p>	071
	<p>Indicate how the property/'s World Heritage values are communicated to residents, visitors and the public (please attach examples of leaflets, videos, etc. and print-outs and / or the address of a web-page):</p> <p>The Archaeological Survey of India brings out brochures and booklets on the World Heritage Monuments and the importance of their conservation and heritage values. The ASI has also has a web-site namely asi.nic.in highlighting all the activities of the organisation. Besides, through various programmes conducted round the year by way of cultural awareness, World Heritage Day (April 18), World Heritage Week (November 19 – 25) is some of the activities which communicate the residents, visitors and common public. Similarly by participating in other like nature programmes conducted by other organisations and delivering lectures and such activities by officers and staff also spread the message of heritage. The message is also spread through print and audio media.</p>	072
	<p>Are there educational programmes concerning the property aimed at schools?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO</p>	073
	<p>If YES, please describe:</p> <p>The Archaeological Survey of India observes World Heritage Day on April 18 of every year. During this day and consecutive two or three days ASI organises exhibitions, debates, painting competition, etc., aimed at the school and college children so that they can actively participate in these events. They can fully understand the objectives and values of World Heritage through the interaction with the ASI staff and also through the exhibition which is generally aimed to create an awareness among the public regarding the importance of our heritage and the necessity to safeguard them.</p>	074

	<p>What roles does World Heritage inscription play for the site concerning the visitor number, the research programmes and / or the awareness building activities?</p> <p>The inscription in the World Heritage imbibes a lot of responsibility among the public regarding the importance of the property and more and more public are enthused to visit the monument to enjoy the values it preserve. Various Indian and foreign research institutions concentrate their research on various aspects of these caves. The cultural awareness programme like World Heritage Day (April 18 every year) and World Heritage Week (19 - 25 November every year) are generally observed in the world heritage monuments to highlight the world heritage values and the necessity for their preservation.</p>	075
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II. 5 Factors affecting the property

	<p>Please comment on the degree to which the property is threatened by particular problems and risks, such as development pressure, environmental pressure, natural disasters and preparedness, visitor / tourism pressure, number of inhabitants. Also mention all other issues that you see as problematic.</p> <p>Developmental Pressure: Further developmental pressure can threaten the authenticity of the Ajanta Caves.</p>	076
	<p>Is there an emergency plan and / or risk preparedness plan for the property in existence?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>	077
	<p>If YES, please summarise the plan and provide a copy:</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	078
	<p>If NO, describe what is being done – and by whom – to counteract the dangers that threaten or may threaten the property:</p> <p>The Archaeological Survey of India has facilities to look after any small and medium ranged problems and to tackle them. However it does not have the resources and manpower to tackle any large scale disaster like earthquake, terrorist threat, etc. Under these circumstances a collaborative strategy is to be adopted with the State Governments to tackle these problems.</p>	079
	<p>Indicate area where improvement would be desirable and / or towards which the State Party is working:</p> <p>The following improvements would be desirable:</p>	080

	<p>(i) A site information system at the foothill / T-junction point can be developed for the benefit of visitors specifically indicating do's and don'ts for the healthy maintenance of World Heritage Monument .</p> <p>(ii) Pre-recorded cultural texts and messages can be given to the tourists so that they can individually enjoy the caves / paintings.</p> <p>(iii) Publication of innumerable brochures, booklets and other guide books to enable the tourists and scholars alike to understand the paintings and caves well.</p>	
	<p>Give an indication if the impact of the factors affecting the property is increasing or decreasing:</p> <p>The natural factors affecting the property due to unprecedented rainfall (leakages), insect activity due to migration from the present forest reserve, if left uncontrolled and at times uncontrolled tourist behaviour in a proper manner is some of the factors observed at the World Heritage Site. However, the things are under control and decreasing.</p>	081
	<p>What actions have been effectively taken, or are planned for the future, to address the factors affecting the property?</p> <p>Attempts are on for educating the masses (and tourists) in proper behavioural approach towards the World Heritage Property, do's and don'ts as envisaged at the site and closely monitoring the cultural phenomena by installation of modern gadgets (to record the Relative Humidity, temperature variations, rainfall, etc) for proper and effective management.</p>	082

II. 6 Monitoring

	<p>If applicable, give details (e.g. dates, results, indicators chosen) of any previous periodic or reactive monitoring exercises of the property:</p> <p>The monument is regularly monitored.</p>	083
	<p>Is there a formal monitoring system established for the site?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO</p>	084
	<p>If YES, please give details of its organisation:</p> <p>At the local level the monument is monitored on a daily basis at Ajanta itself. It consists of :</p> <p>Structural Conservation</p> <p>Archaeological Survey of India through its administrative system.</p>	085

	<p>Chemical Preservation</p> <p>Science Branch, Archaeological Survey of India through its administrative system.</p> <p>At the Circle level periodic inspections and directives are given by the Superintending Archaeologist and other officers who regularly visit the monuments.</p>	
	<p>If not already in place, is the establishment of a formal monitoring system planned?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>	086
	<p>If YES, please outline the functioning of that system, taking into consideration the key indicators you will be asked to define below (see 089 / 090)</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	087
	<p>Are there any indicators established for monitoring the state of conservation of the property?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO</p>	088
	<p>If YES, please provide up-to-date information with respect to each of the key indicators established and / or used. Care should be taken to ensure that this information is as accurate and reliable as possible, for example by carrying out observations in the same way, using similar equipment and methods at the same time of the year and day. Name and describe the key indicators for measuring the state of conservation of this property:</p> <p>Use of Tell-Tales: The ASI uses tell-tales for monitoring the cracks develops in the monuments. These are periodically monitored to see whether any cracks further develop or not.</p> <p>Monitoring the loose portions of rock surface etc:</p> <p>As the Ajanta group of Caves is excavated in volcanic trap rock the geological setting had been disturbed in the past. This has caused in loosening of rock portions at some places and at places the facades, ceilings, pillars. Hence these vulnerable points are periodically monitored and immediate measures are carried out as per need.</p> <p>Monitoring the Relative Humidity inside and outside the caves</p>	089

	<p>Monitoring the Pollution Levels in the vicinity of the monument</p> <p>Monitoring the variation in temperature levels inside and outside the caves</p> <p>Monitoring the rainfall (during the season)</p> <p>The Geological Survey of India has installed certain scientific gadgets for planning future management</p>	
	<p>If NO indicators have been identified and / or used so far, please define key indicators for future use in monitoring:</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	090
	<p>Indicate which partners, if any, are involved or will be involved in the regular monitoring exercise:</p> <p>Apart from ASI no other partner is involved in the direct monitoring exercise of the monument.</p>	091
	<p>Identify the administrative provisions for organising the regular monitoring of the property:</p> <p>As per the reply in 085 the set-up monitors the property.</p>	092
	<p>Describe what improvement the State Party foresees or would consider desirable in improving the monitoring system:</p> <p>On the basis of necessity and new scientific innovative applications can be considered which are not in vogue. For example the GPS and GIS applications can be utilised for better and effective management of the site.</p>	093
	<p>In specific cases, the World Heritage Committee and / or its Bureau may have already examined the state of conservation of the property and made recommendations to the State Party, either at the time of inscription or afterwards. In such cases the State Party is requested to report on the actions that have been taken in response to the observations or decisions made by the Bureau or Committee. Give details, if applicable:</p> <p>The recommendations of the Committee for possible safeguarding measures in restricting the construction on summit of cliff is strictly adhered to and no new construction is allowed.</p>	094
	<p>Please summarise the main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2. and II.3. above):</p>	095

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	Remains unchanged.	
	<p>Please summarise the main conclusion regarding the management and factors affecting the property (see items II.4. and II.5 above):</p> <p>The management set-up of the Archaeological Survey of India effectively monitors and takes measures as and when necessity arises. The factors affecting the site is closely monitored and kept well under control.</p>	096
	<p>Give an overview over proposed future action / actions:</p> <p>The adopted monitoring system recordings would be analysed for formulating future action in the interest of World Heritage Property.</p>	097
	<p>Name the agency responsible for implementation of these actions (if different from 005):</p> <p>Archaeological Survey of India.</p>	098
	<p>Give a timeframe for the implementation of the actions described above:</p> <p>As per the necessity of the implementation programme with specific conservation needs the actions would be carried out.</p>	099
	<p>Indicate for which of the planned activities International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund may be needed (if any):</p> <p>To be decided at the Directorate level.</p>	100
	<p>Are there any contacts with management units of other properties within or outside your country?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO</p>	101
	<p>If YES, please explain:</p> <p>With the site managers of other World Heritage Property; the Directorate Office and other units of Archaeological Survey of India like the Science Branch, Horticulture Branch, etc.</p>	102
	<p>Please indicate which experience made during the periodic reporting exercise and / or during the on-going conservation / protection efforts of the property could be shared with other States Parties dealing with similar problems or issues:</p> <p>Nil</p>	103

	<p>Provide the name(s) and address(es) of organisation(s) or specialist(s) who could be contacted for this purpose:</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Agency / Organisation:</p> <p>Person responsible:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>City and post code:</p> <p>Telephone:</p> <p>Fax:</p> <p>E-mail:</p>	104
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II. 8. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section II

	<p>Was sufficient and adequate information made available to the responsible authorities and individuals during the preparation phase of the Periodic Reporting exercise (information given, meetings etc.)?</p> <p>Yes</p>	105
	<p>Was the questionnaire clear and did it help to comply with the reporting requirements of the State Party?</p> <p>Yes</p>	106
	<p>What are the perceived benefits and lessons learnt of the exercise?</p> <p>To understand the follow-up action and measures required in the best interest of the World Heritage Property.</p>	107
	<p>Please describe the expected outcome of the Periodic Reporting exercise and the desired follow-up by the World Heritage Committee:</p> <p>Would help in proper monitoring and taking steps for proper management, conservation and follow-up action for the general upkeep, maintenance and longevity of the World Heritage Property.</p>	108

II. 9. Documentation attached

The State Party is invited to supply the materials listed above. Please check those items that were attached.

1. (√) **Maps and plans showing the general location of the property, its boundary and buffer zone as well as the necessary detail of the property itself (see question 003 for specifications)**
2. (√) **Photo of general view (aerial view) of the property (in CD)**
3. (√) **Illustrations of the state of conservation of the site (photographs, slides and, if available, film / video) (in CD)**
4. (√) **Details of important aspects of the property (landscape, animal and vegetable species, monuments etc.)**
5. (√) **Photos illustrating the main threats to the site and its surroundings.**
6. (√) **Extracts of relevant laws and regulations concerning the protection of cultural and natural heritage at national, provincial and municipal levels.**
7. (√) **Copies of the management plan of the site as well as extracts and / or copies of other plans relating to the site (e.g. emergency plan, use plan, etc.**
8. (√) **Indicative bibliography.**

II.9.4

Details of important aspects of the property (landscape, animal and vegetable species, monuments etc.)

The Ajanta caves are located in the Sahyadri hills of Deccan plateau. The Sahyadri range of hills in which the Ajanta Caves are located is a resultant of volcanic lava flow which approximately took place between Cretaceous and Eocene periods of the Secondary and Tertiary Epochs respectively of Geological Time Scale.

The chief of the forest species found is teak, which covers a considerable portion of the Sahyadri range. The main types of trees that occur in this region in order of frequency are as follows, *Tectona grandis* (Teak), *Anogeissus Latifolia* (dhavra), *Hardwickia Binata* (Anjan), *Boswellia serrata* (Salai), *Santalum album* (Chandan), *Cassia fistula* (Bahawa), *Bauhinia recemosa* (apta), *Phyllanthus emblica* (amla), *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Bija) and other miscellaneous species like Khair, Babul, Ber, Bel, Bhilawa, Charoli, Lendi, Dhaman, Dudhi, Kalam, etc. Apart from these common shrubs and climber growth is also found.

A very few specimens of Wagh (*Panthera tigris*), Panthers, Bibatya Wagh (*Panthera pardus*) occur in this region. The small game consists of deer, chital (*Axis axis*), some solitary Indian gazelle, chikara (*Gazella bennetti*). Wild boar (*Sus cristatus*) and Jackals, Kolha (*Canis aureus*) are also found. Among monkeys, the langur, Wanar (*Presbytis entellus*) is very common).

The bird species are very rarely found. Even the most common birds like pea fowl, Mor (*Pavo cristatus*) and grey jungle fowl, Jungli Murghi (*Gallus sonneratti*) are rarely encountered.

The commonly found animals are hardy squirrel Khadi Khar (*Funambulus Palmarum*) and the prolific hare Sasa (*Lepus ruficaudatus*).

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA, AURANGABAD CIRCLE, AURANGABAD

VISITORS DATA OF AJANTA CAVES

MONTH	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002 (UptoNov,2002)	
			INDIAN	FOREIGN	INDIAN	FOREIGN	INDIAN	FOREIGN
APRIL	16222	11499	14690	--	14996	719	13681	651
MAY	18052	22950	26123	--	22580	483	21276	334
JUNE	14823	19939	20576	--	22314	304	16609	230
JULY	15005	15571	17385	--	20826	1066	20358	502
AUGUST	20436	18622	21656	--	20977	1674	22591	1132
SEPTEMBER	15626	16010	17015	--	21052	866	17389	811
OCTOBER	35169	24166	29322	275	24021	920	25665	1026
NOVEMBER	22709	34098	30749	2517	33059	1307	30229	1612
DECEMBER	42545	32397	43757	2930	38229	1645	--	--
JANUARY	33685	34185	31887	3909	32324	2905	--	--
FEBRUARY	23214	22992	21301	3579	19052	1840	--	--
MARCH	17005	19507	16490	2266	13851	1800	--	--
TOTAL	274491	271936	290951	15476	283281	15529	167798	6298
AVERAGE/MONTH	22874	22661	24246	3095	23607	1294	20975	787

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