

# Machu Picchu



## Why in news ?

- **R**ecently the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu has been reopened after protests.

## Machu Picchu: Introduction



- Machu Picchu is a pre-Columbian era historical site belonging to the Inca civilization, located in the South American country of Peru.
- It is situated at an altitude of 2,430 metres above sea level.
- Machu Picchu was built by the people of the Inca Empire in the middle of the 15th century as a royal estate or sacred religious site.



## History of Machu Picchu

- The first Inca emperor, Pachacutec, ordered the construction of Machu Picchu, which was home to 1,000 of his descendants.
- Spanish invaders destroyed the Inca civilization in the 16th century.
- Despite being ancient, its architecture and engineering are spectacular, including stairs, ramps, terraces and walls that have been built into the side of the mountain to avoid the risk of landslides.

## Machu Picchu: Introduction



- Machu Picchu has become an important tourist attraction since it was discovered by American historian Hiram Bingham in 1911.
- Machu Picchu was built in the archaic style of the Incas, in which polished stones were used. Its primary buildings are the Intihuatana (Temple of the Sun) and the Room of the Three Windows.
- In the year 1983, Machu Picchu was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.