

## A Study on Indian Heritage Conservation

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### Abstract:

*India has inherited enormous wealth of cultural heritage but in current scenario, cultural heritage are affected by ageing or weathering of materials, and natural and man-made disasters, which ultimately destroy the integrity of the Indian archaeological sites. Therefore, preservation of Indian legacy and tradition is an issue of significance, conservation is basically a process of looking after the archaeological sites to maintain its historical and cultural value by maintaining, preserving, restoration, and reconstruction. Conservation is always processed only after understanding the significance of the property. Here in this paper a study has been conducted to discuss the new method used for conservation of Indian cultural heritage for public awareness.*

**Keywords:** Cultural Heritage, Conservation, Archaeological Survey

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## Introduction

India is a land of diverse cultures and architectural heritage. India has always been a centre of cultural legacy and beautifully designed historical monuments like Qutub Minar, Delhi; Taj Mahal, Agra; Sanchi, Mathura; Tomb at Sikandara, Ajanta and Ellora Caves, Nasik, Maharashtra; and many others. Ancient monument, defined under The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 is as follows:-

*“Ancient Monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years and includes-*

- Remains of an ancient monument,
- Site of an ancient monument,
- Such portion of land adjoining the site of an ancient monument as may be required for fencing or covering in or otherwise preserving such monument, a
- The means of access to, and convenient inspection of, an ancient monument ([https://www.youthkiawaaz.com](https://www.youthkiawaaz.com;);  
<https://indiaculture.nic.in>).

## History

“Conservation of Heritage Building” book discussed about the history of conservation in India, which is as follows:

- In 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, Emperor Ashoka passed an order to conserve wildlife.
- In 14<sup>th</sup> century AD, Firoz Shah Tughlaq gave command to safeguard prehistoric structures.
- During British Rule, the “Bengal Regulation (XIX)” was approved in 1810, and the “Madras Regulation (VII)” was approved in 1817.
- In 1863, Act XX was passed authorizing the government to “avert damage and preserve buildings noteworthy for their architectural value”.
- In 1861, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was recognized to recruit a lawful endowment for protecting historic constructions across the country.
- In 1904, “Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (VII)” was approved and stated operative conservation and right over the historical memorials.

- In 1905, 20 historical constructions in Delhi were ordered to be secured and conserved.
- Post-freedom from the British Rule, 151 structures and campuses were safeguarded by the central ASI in Delhi.
- In 1978, the State Department of Archaeology was established
- In 1984, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was established to generate an alertness for preservation of traditional heritage amongst the people (<http://cpwd.gov.in>).

Heritage sites have their own significance when it comes to study the series of various great civilizations therefore its very necessary to conserve it, but the most preliminary purposes of heritage preservation is to develop and bloom the historical atmosphere and its stability, thus backing to a desired place for living and linking individuals with the place and its rich ethos (Ashworth and Graham 2005; MaGuire, 1982).

Conservation of Cultural Legacy is one the important part of history as they represent the past and give valuable information to the upcoming generation. Following are the few reasons that why we should preserve heritage sites:

- Enhance the historic environment and its continuity
- Evolution of human consciousness is a continuous process.
- Learning about different cultural heritage helps the people to improve their analytical thinking.
- Every cultural heritage has its own interesting and important story.
- Cultural heritage shows our real connection to past (Nyaupane, 2010;  
<https://www.gounesco.com>).

Chemical Preservation, Structural Conservation and Contemporary Awareness Program are different program used for conservation of cultural heritage. In Chemical preservation, the Archaeological Survey of India is the one who is responsible for the chemical conservation treatment. In structural conservation, architectural designers collect the information of several generations and initiate to improve the structures and maintain their actual looks. Above all, in contemporary awareness program, the government spread awareness about conservation of cultural heritage.

## Importance of Heritage Conservation

Conservation of cultural heritage and resources is one of the very important aspect for identifying, recording, analyzing and protection. In some cities it is clearly observed that conservation of cultural heritage helps in its overall development. It also play very significant role in defining landmark within the surrounding of cultural heritage as well as it supports tourism. It also offers a feeling of individuality and stability in the fluctuating world of today for forthcoming generations, as it signifies the historical and cultural part of a nation. Therefore, cultural heritage must be protected (<https://www.ukessays.com>).

## Review of Literature

**Shankar and Swamy (2013)**, has put an emphasis on the exertions done by numerous organizations for imparting consciousness for heritage preservation and suggested certain strategic measures to build consciousness amongst the publics in the city of Mysore.

**Majumdar (2013)**, in her article has discussed about the ancient literature of India in the form of scripts obtainable in cotton, palm leaves, silk, bamboo, copper plates, and wood. For preserving this noteworthy work, National Mission for Manuscripts has took step forward with an aim to identify the heritage, register, conserve them and deliver the substitutes for global propagation. In this editorial, the author has presented a case study on the complete range of matter.

**Sahoo et al. (2013)**, in their paper have focused on the activities of National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) since 2003 to 2011 and drafted that NMM is the first amalgamated nationwide struggle that is devoted towards the conservation of scripts, functions through different types of centers known as MRCs and MCCs.

**Menon (2014)**, in his study pointed on the challenges and explored the new paradigms of the heritage conservation initiative in India.

**Sharma (2014)**, in her paper has tried to highlight that Gwalior fort is facing such challenges which are somewhere wrecking its image. In this paper she concluded that if proper protection, preservation and

conservation will be followed by state government or the Archaeological survey of India, it will surely help it in placing Gwalior amongst the most valuable destinations.

**Khalaf (2015)**, gave an outline of the present state of knowledge of heritage preservation and growth to deliver related and circumstantial data for individuals who read and also further scrutinize the literature. As an outcome of this study, people will get a superior information of the related background, enquiring and philosophies that should form new architecture in prevailing urban fabric.

**Kolay (2016)**, in his paper discussed about the new-media, such as animations and game-designs as a modern alternative for teaching the target-user by descriptive graphic language of Indian vernacular art-forms. In this paper procedural user-driven enterprise helps in examination and to conserve and promulgate the traditional legacy as well as value of Indian traditional art-forms amongst the new generation. With this new-media application technology, one can easily prepare a visual communication of written document data, representing the cultural heritage and spread the information amongst the specific addressees.

**Shimray and Ramaiah (2017)**, discussed in this paper that libraries, archives, museums and information centers are different Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools for collecting, organizing, managing and providing access to cultural heritage information. In their paper they also highlighted on digital CH preservation and different types of technologies that are helpful for preservation cultural heritage.

## Conclusion

According to the study, India has a huge and varied forms of traditional legacy which are conserved by new methods. Conservation of the Indian cultural as well as architectural heritage for future generation is very important before it fades away. More advanced methods must be used for conservation of Indian Cultural Heritage and people must also focus on the awareness of these archaeological sites. Awareness among the citizens also plays an important factor in maintaining the integrity of the archaeological sites.



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