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## 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, conservation of Indian heritage is very important, conservation is basically a process of looking after the archaeological sites to maintain its historical and cultural value by maintaining, preserving, restoration, 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. It also has diverse pool of cultural heritage and ancient monuments in the form archaeological sites and remains which includes Some of these ancient heritages include Taj Mahal, Agra; Qutub Minar, Delhi; Tomb at Sikandara, Qutb Minar, Sanchi and Mathura; Ajantaa and Ellora Caves, Nasik, Maharashtra; and many others. Ancient monument is defined by The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 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 (<u>https://www.youthkiawaaz.com;</u> <u>https://indiaculture.nic.in</u>).

#### 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 ordered to conserve wildlife.
- In 14<sup>th</sup> century AD, Firuz Shah Tughlaq ordered to protect ancient buildings.
- During British Rule, the "Bengal Regulation (XIX)" was passed in 1810, and the "Madras Regulation (VII)" was passed in 1817.
- In 1863, Act XX was passed authorizing the government to "prevent injury to and preserve buildings remarkable for their architectural value".
- In 1861, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established to initiate legal provision for protecting historical structures all over India.
- In 1904, "Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (VII)" was passed and provided effective preservation and authority over the monuments,

- In 1905, 20 historic structures in Delhi were ordered to be protected.
- After independence, 151 buildings and complexes were protected by the central ASI in Delhi.
- In 1978, the State Department of Archaeology was set up.
- In 1984, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was founded to stimulate awareness for conservation of cultural heritage among the people (<u>http://cpwd.gov.in</u>).

There are many uses of heritage and many reasons the past is conserved, but one of the primary aims of heritage conservation is to enhance the historic environment and its continuity, thereby contributing to a desirable place to live and connecting individuals with the place and the culture (Ashworth and Graham 2005; MaGuire, 1982).

Conservation of Cultural Heritage is one the important part of history as they represent the past and give the 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; <u>https://www.gounesco.com</u>).

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, analysing and protection. In some cities it's clearly

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observed that conservation of cultural heritage helps in city development. It also play very significant role in defining landmark within the surrounding are of cultural heritage as well as support tourism. It also provides a sense of identity and continuity in a today's changing world for forthcoming generations which required 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), emphases on the efforts done by numerous agencies for creating awareness for heritage conservation and suggested certain policy measures to create awareness between people in the city of Mysore.

**Majumdar (2013),** in her article discussed about the ancient literary heritage of India in the form of manuscripts available in palm leaves, cotton, silk, wood, bamboo, and copper plates. For preserving this noteworthy work, National Mission for Manuscripts took the initiative step with an aim to identify the heritage, register, preserve them and provide the surrogates for worldwide dissemination. In this article the author has presented a case study on the entire gamut of issue.

Sahoo *et al.* (2013), in their paper focuses on activities of National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) since 2003 to 2011 and concluded that NMM is the first consolidated national effort who devoted towards the preservation of manuscripts, functions through different types of centers known as MRCs and MCCs.

**Menon** (2014), in his paper dwells on the challenges and explored the new paradigms in the heritage conservation scenario in India.

**Sharma (2014),** in her paper tried to highlight that Gwalior fort is facing many challenges which are not good for 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 favourable destinations.

Khalaf (2015), initiated with an outline of the present state of knowledge on the reconciliation of heritage

conservation and development to provide related and contextual information for persons who read and also further scrutinized the literature to understand the strengths and weaknesses of criteria and finally. As a result of this research, persons who will read will get a better understanding of the background, questioning and principles that should frame new architecture in existing urban fabric.

**Kolay (2016),** in his paper discussed about the newmedia, such as game-designs and animations as a modern paradigm for educating the target-user by narrative visual language of Indian vernacular artforms. In this paper methodological user-driven design exploration to preserve and propagate the cultural heritage value of Indian traditional art-forms among new generation. With this new-media application technology, one can easily prepare a visual communication to document data, represent the cultural heritage and spread the knowledge among the specific audience.

Shimray and Ramaiah (2017), discussed in this paper that there are 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 type of technologies are available for preservation cultural heritage.

#### Conclusion

According to the study, India has an vast and diverse pool of cultural heritage which are conserved by new methods. Conserve the indian cultural heritage for future generation before before the cultural heritage fades away. Conservation play a significant role in defining landmark within the surroundings and also support tourism. More advanced method must be used for conservation of Indian Cultural Heritage and people must also focus on the awarness of of these archaeological sites. Awarness can also help in maitaining the integrity if the archaeological sites.

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