



## Sustainable heritage management-Issues and challenges

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### Abstract

The challenges to World Legacy protection, joined with the impacts of environmental change, are exceptional in human history. One of the key difficulties is execution of Manageability at legacy locales. Regular World Legacy locales such as Amazing Gulch, Incredible Hindrance Reef, the Swiss Alps, Sunderbans furnish nearby networks with regular assets and work. Is improvement and protection of legacy locales are totally unrelated? Is it important to address whether the necessities of individuals are need than saving the legacy habitats? UNESCO has distinguished 1052 World Legacy properties in 165 states due to their "exceptional widespread worth" as it has a place with all individuals on the planet. World Wild Life Asset 's report, delivered in April 2016 assessments that close to half of these destinations are undermined by modern exercises like development, mining, oil and gas investigation, unlawful logging, or overfishing. Eleven million individuals live inside destinations, interlinking the livelihoods as well as food and water sources with the area's conservation. The prosperity of networks is being jeopardized by unsafe modern exercises that corrupt the climate, and that compromise the capacity of these spots to give monetary and non-financial advantages. Production of neighborhood legacy organization, powerful model for preservation and adequate subsidizing component for supportability are a need in the current times. Legacy The board ideas are explored and examined in worldwide scholastic discussions, still there is a lacunae in India. The explores feature the legacy communities of India yet stall out mentally concerning arranging and practices embraced by different Indian offices. A supportable legacy the executives plan which is an extensive methodology for the protection of any legacy asset that characteristic a genuine worth to the legacy safeguarding its trustworthiness and life span is the need of the changing times.

**Keywords:** sustainable, heritage, management

### Introduction

Heritage generally means inheritance of things in concrete terms from ancestors. Customs, conventions, practices, traditions etc., passed on from one generation to the other also form heritage. Heritage is a broad concept that encompasses all aesthetic, architectural, cultural, historical, spiritual, indigenous and natural inheritances. The Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India describes 'Heritage building' means and includes any building of one or more premises or any part thereof and/or structure and/or artifact which requires conservation and / or preservation for historical and / or architectural and / or artisanary and /or aesthetic and/or cultural and/or environmental and/or ecological purpose and includes such portion of land adjoining such building or part thereof as may be required for fencing or covering or in any manner preserving the historical and/or architectural and/or aesthetic and/or cultural value of such building. India does not have a statutory body to list heritage buildings and sites, Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has inventoried about 60,000 buildings in around 150 cities which is still only the tip of the ice berg as there are estimated more than 4000 heritage towns and cities in the country. INTACH also launched its National Register of Historic Properties in 2000 in an attempt to comprehensively make an inventory of the built heritage of this country. This database aims at identifying and recording the built heritage for research, publication and protection of the built heritage of the country. It also hopes to serve as resource material for heritage regulations and conservation areas and help in framing of Heritage Laws. India with its vast Historical background has ten thousands of tangible immovable cultural archeological and heritage common

assets with unique character and distinct identity. The sheer number of heritage resources created in India in the last 100 years or even the resources created after Indian independence is staggering.

### Residential heritage

Bungalows, Forts, Havelis, Palaces, Town Houses, etc. ii)

### Commercial heritage

Bazaars, Factories, Garages, Sea ports, Shops, Warehouses, etc.

### Community heritage

Air ports, Colleges, Courts, Hospitals, Libraries, Police stations, Post offices, Railway Stations, Schools, etc.

### Religious heritage

Churches, Dargahs, Gurudwaras, Mosques, Shrines, Temples, etc.

### Memorials heritage

Head stones, Historic inscriptions, Samadhi, Tombs, etc.

### Heritage conservation

Heritage conservation is a continuous value based process involving a wide range of activities. The significance of building maintenance has been emphasised in almost all primary documents and legislations intended for the conservation of heritage buildings. In 1972, under the auspices of UNESCO, the international community of states have adopted the "Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage" establishing a system of collective protection on a permanent and scientific basis.

The approach of 'urban conservation' was elevated to 'integrated urban conservation', in which conservation is seen as an integral part of development planning. This concept was adopted for the first time in 1985 in "The Granada Convention for Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe". This approach aims at achieving social, cultural and economic development thereby playing an important role within the wider context of urban planning. Integrated conservation significantly contributes to uphold the diversity and uniqueness of a city while highlighting the conservation values relevant to the lives of the people at large. In its further efforts, UNESCO has created National Committees of ICOMOS in every country and it currently has over 110 such Committees including the one in India. These committees bring together individual and institutional members and offer them a framework for discussion and exchange of information regarding various heritage issues. Each National Committee adopts its own rules of procedure and elaborates its own programme according to the goals and aims of ICOMOS. Indian chapter of this body works in close cooperation with INTACH, ASI and other scientific laboratories.

### Heritage management plans of India

The Constitution of India directs the state and its citizens to protect and preserve the nation's rich heritage. The Government of India and its federal members promulgated several laws to conserve and protect heritages under their purview. Cultural heritages in the country, among the many, are protected through the following main laws.

1. The Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878
2. The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904
3. Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951
4. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958
5. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959
6. The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972
7. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
8. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
9. Bio-diversity Act, 2002
10. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010

Foundations for heritage conservation in India were laid down way back in the pre-independence era at the time of inception of Town Planning Acts (Madras Town Planning Act 1920 of Tamilnadu and the Travancore Town Planning Act 1932 of Kerala) itself. The planning tools developed in 1960's for the entire country are not sufficient to cater to the protection of rich and varied urban heritages of India. Under this scenario, a national society named "Indian Heritage Society" (HIS) (formerly known as Indian Religious Society) was formed in 1993 with the motto of "Preserving Indian heritage for the next generation". Society's main objective is to draw the attention of the public and the government to the dangers that threaten the environment due to destruction and ill-planned exploitation of the natural resources, specifically the heritage of art and architecture. It aims to devise appropriate measures for their protection, preservation and proper utilization. Another major initiative was the establishment of National Monuments Authority (NMA) under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India as per provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. Several functions have been assigned to the

NMA for the protection and preservation of monuments and sites through management of the prohibited and regulated area around the centrally protected monuments. One amongst these responsibilities of NMA is also to consider grant of permissions to applicants for construction related activity in the prohibited and regulated area. It aims to create awareness amongst the people and various stake holders on the need for conservation and preservation of the built heritage.

Heritage conservation has to be carried out on a continuous basis and comprehensive listing and grading are required to achieve the task of effective conservation. According to Das and Basu (2007) <sup>[3]</sup>, long-term protection of heritage depends upon the encouragement, sustainable development of local resources and promotion of appropriate tourism as a means of conserving them so that local and regional economies get benefitted. A good heritage management plan shall essentially include inventory of resources, their designation and conservation practices while taking care of fiscal aspects, manpower, publicity and role of locals. Cities with rich heritages are being gradually threatened by unplanned urbanisation and tourism. Fortuitously, increasing awareness about heritages in recent decades has been leading various organisation to identify heritages as well as to delineate heritage zones based on a set of defined criteria.

### Quest for sustainable heritage management

Popular research survey results convey that overcrowding, wear and tear, pilfering, graffiti and traffic problems are significant and widespread cause for concern in heritage management. There is also a dilemma to match visitors' expectations and lower their impact without compromising on the authenticity of the experience. Archaeological Heritage Management is a vital part of heritage protection activity against unplanned tourism development of a destination. Sue Millar (1989) has remarked that the concept of heritage management has arisen in response to the special needs of the heritage industry. Heritage attractions represent irreplaceable resources for the tourism industry and therefore, conservation is a vital component of their management. Heritage sites need to have their own unique attributes emphasized and the interpretation and presentation of the attraction must be such as to accommodate the needs of the visitor while at the same time, management has a responsibility to the community to preserve the site for posterity. Experts emphasize the need for a management team consisting of heritage management experts, local community representatives, voluntary organizations, and tourism industry experts who can work effectively for the heritage management activities.

### Issues and challenges

The most widely known problems of cultural heritage include archaeological looting, destruction of cultural sites, and the theft of works of art from churches and museums all over the world are testimonies of cultural heritage destructions.

Indian cultural heritages are facing several challenges regarding their conservation, like: Pollution and Climate Change: Pollution is a problem faced by our heritage sites and India is still struggling to save its wonder, the Taj Mahal from pollution.

Inadequate environmental conditions, climate change, the massification of tourism, and insufficient management and resources are nowadays the major conservation threats to World Heritage Sites.

### Conclusion

The entire world or a nation or a place and as such be preserved as a part of heritage of the mankind. According to an international report, main threats to heritage centers at the international level are socio economic development pressures, infrastructural development, environmental changes, demolition and vandalism. Heritages are increasingly threatened due to rapid development pressures and redevelopment activities in several areas including urban historical sites all over the world. Population growth, changing life styles, urbanization and economic pressures contribute toward the lack of sensitivity from the public and adequate concern of the government in taking necessary measures to protect heritage properties. Borrowed concepts of urban aesthetics have been overlooking the historic, cultural and symbolic contents of traditional urbanism leading to overall deterioration of the latter. UNESCO Convention-1972 had observed that cultural and natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by traditional causes, but also by formidable socio-economic phenomena. Many heritage resources in the country have been badly damaged or seriously affected particularly due to repairs, renovations, replacements carried out using inappropriate materials, irreversible works or actions, unsuitable interventions and poor maintenance.

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