

## **Heritage Sites in India – Their Status and Maintenance in World Tourism**

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### **Abstract**

Holistic preservation of Indian legacy would call for pedagogical adjustments in higher education and the classroom designed to recover the ancient Indian wisdom in the arts, sciences, and philosophies, which depends on mainstream fundamental research and R&D in the field. By reviving old arts and crafts, also referred to as intangible heritage, and establishing new disciplines, the process will also increase the economic viability of heritage. Before beginning any conservation activity, a comprehensive conservation strategy must be created by a multidisciplinary team using a values-based and scientific approach. To close the knowledge gap in ASI, partnerships with numerous universities and organisations are needed for specialised conservation efforts.

**Keywords:** preservation, legacy, ancient, wisdom, sciences, mainstream

### **Introduction**

Cultural artefacts like paintings are part of our tangible cultural legacy. They can be classified as either "movable" or "immovable" cultural artefacts. They can be listed as landmarks, museums, and other structures all fall under the category of immovable heritage. Books, records, artworks, and musical compositions are all examples of movable legacy that should be kept safe for future generations.

According to Article 29 of the Indian Constitution, any group of individuals living on Indian territory or a portion of it who speak a unique language, use a unique script, or have a unique culture have the right to preserve those things. valuing and protecting the rich history of the nation's composite culture is every Indian citizen's fundamental duty, as stated in Article 51A of the Indian Constitution.

"The State shall protect every monument or location of artistic or historic interest (recognised by or under law passed by Parliament to be of national importance) against spoliation, disfigurement, destruction, removal, disposal, or export." The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958 establishes a framework for the preservation of historically significant ancient and prehistoric structures as well as archaeological sites and human relics. Institutions in charge will be the Ministry of Culture's Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which is the leading agency for the study of archaeology and the preservation of the nation's cultural heritage, is in charge of conducting archaeological research.

More than 3650 historic structures, archaeological sites, and important relics are managed by it. The AMASR Act established the National Monuments Authority (NMA), which is in charge of overseeing the conservation and preservation of monuments, sites, and the restricted and/or banned regions around those monuments. The NMA's responsibility includes assessing whether to grant applicants' requests for licences for construction-related activities in restricted and regulated areas.

### **The UNESCO World Heritage List**

For the conservation and preservation of historical sites, certain procedures are required. In India, there are 40 places that have been named UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Convention of 2005

Convention from 2006 on the promotion and protection of cultural diversity

India is a signatory to all of the aforementioned treaties, according to the United Nations World Heritage Committee.

### **Tourism Facts Prevalent in India**

- Total Number of World Heritage Sites in India is almost 40
- Total Cultural Heritage Sites – 32
- Total Natural Sites – 7 “(Kaziranga National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, Sundarbans National Park, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Keoladeo National Park)”
- Mixed Sites – 1(Khangchendzonga National Park)
- World Heritage Sites Listed First – Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves (all in 1983)
- Latest Additions (2021) – Harappan city of Dholavira (40<sup>th</sup> sites), Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple (39<sup>th</sup> Site)
- Countries with the Most UNESCO World Heritage Sites – “Italy (58), China(56), Germany (51), France (49), Spain (49)”
- India is 6<sup>th</sup> in number of World Heritage Sites in the World

### **Gaps in India's Historic Structures Safety**

Lack of skilled structural safety professionals and infrastructure, especially in the field of experimental and numerical facilities, may cause government agencies to forego doing required study and development in structural safety. There is still a major issue with the lack of initiatives to institutionalise core purpose as a profession and provide training at the institutional level.

Architects are often in charge of private sector efforts to preserve India's cultural heritage, which prioritises aesthetics above structural safety. There has to be a systematised approach that prioritises the structural integrity of India's vast inventory of historic structures.

**Lack of Knowledge:** There is a general lack of civic courtesy among domestic tourists, and as a result, they frequently vandalise historical monuments by writing their names on them, among other things.

**Environmental Pollution:** The Taj Mahal was severely harmed by sulphur dioxide and other pollutants released by the oil refinery near Mathura, among other heritage buildings.

Neither the federal government nor the individual states are communicating effectively. While India is home to some of the world's leading conservation and heritage management organisations like the Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH), a lack of coordination between the federal government and individual states has resulted in a lack of a holistic approach to the practise of heritage conservation.

Older Methods of Excavation and Exploration are remote sensing and geographic information systems are rarely used in exploration because of the presence of outmoded methods. It frequently happens that local organisations working on urban history initiatives lack the resources to conduct heritage conservation.

### **Maintaining India's Cultural Heritage**

The Operational Rules for the execution of the World Heritage Convention must be scrupulously followed by those responsible for protecting the world's natural and cultural treasures. Assuming you follow these steps, you will end up with: World Heritage and World Cultural and Natural Resources at Risk designations for historic structures. Something which has been recognised as a World Heritage Site should be safeguarded and protected. World Heritage Fund International Assistance. Successfully securing national and international support for the Convention. The city's design and the unique historic qualities of each neighbourhood must be taken into account while designing a heritage project. India can successfully protect its cultural and historic resources through fostering historical tourism, which also helps local economies by creating jobs, new enterprises, and tax money for the government. It is necessary to raise awareness of the heritage resource and to instill in both the local populace and tourists a desire for heritage preservation.

### **Preserving India's Cultural Heritage**

Authorities tasked with safeguarding cultural and natural treasures must adhere strictly to the Operational Guidelines for the Application of the Convention on World Heritage. The process for adding sites to the List of World Heritage Sites and the List of Heritage Site in Danger is laid out here. The maintenance and preservation of sites recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage. The provision of World Heritage Fund International Support. Getting people on both sides of the Atlantic on board with supporting the Convention.

For Indian culture to be preserved in its whole, mainstream basic research and development in the field must be combined with new pedagogical approaches in K-12 and higher education that seek to recover the ancient Indian knowledge in the arts, sciences, and philosophies. Because of the process, intangible heritage will become economically viable as old arts and crafts are revitalised and new disciplines are introduced.

Before beginning any conservation efforts, it is crucial to develop a comprehensive strategy via a multidisciplinary team, with consideration given to both values and science. If ASI is going to replace the vacuum in its unique knowledge, it will need to form collaborations with other institutions and

organisations to carry out specialised conservation work. It is important that heritage projects be coordinated with municipal planning and blend in with the established historic character of various neighbourhoods. Promoting an interest in heritage preservation among locals and tourists requires raising awareness about the significance of the historic resource.

### List of UNESO World Heritage Sites in India

“The list of the world heritage site in India are:

Sr. No.	Name	State	Year of Notification
1	Khangchendzonga National Park	Sikkim	2016
2	Jaipur City	Rajasthan	2020
3	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu	1984
4	Keoladeo Ghana National Park	Rajasthan	1985
5	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	1985
6	Nanda Devi National Park and Valley of Flowers	Uttarakhand	1988, 2005
7	Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal	1987
8	Western Ghats	Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala	2012
9	Great Himalayan National Park	Himachal Pradesh	2014
10	Dholavira	Gujarat	2021
11	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple	Telangana	2021
12	The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement	Chandigarh	2016
13	Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai	Maharashtra	2018
14	Historic City of Ahmedabad	Gujarat	2017
15	Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University)	Bihar	2016
16	Rani-Ki-Van	Gujarat	2014
17	Hill Forts of Rajasthan	Rajasthan	2013
18	The Jantar Mantar	Rajasthan	2010
19	Red Fort Complex	Delhi	2007
20	Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park	Gujarat	2004
21	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus	Maharashtra	2004
22	Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh	2003
23	Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya	Bihar	2002
24	Mountain Railways of India	Tamil Nadu	1999
25	Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi	Delhi	1993
26	Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi	Delhi	1993

Sr. No.	Name	State	Year of Notification
27	Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh	1989
28	Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra	1987
29	Great Living Chola Temples	Tamil Nadu	1987
30	Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	Karnataka	1987
31	Churches and Convents of Goa	Goa	1986
32	Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh	1986
33	Group of Monuments at Hampi	Karnataka	1986
34	Khajuraho Group of Monuments	Madhya Pradesh	1986
35	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu	1984
36	Sun Temple, Konarak	Orissa	1984
37	Agra Fort	Uttar Pradesh	1983
38	Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra	1983
39	Ellora Caves	Maharashtra	1983
40	Taj Mahal	Uttar Pradesh	1983

Source: Compiled by Researcher”

## Conclusion

The cultural industries are important pillars of contemporary economies, which has economic significance. Tourists, who help prop up local economies, and investors are all attracted to places with a healthy dose of cultural attractions, convenient services, and creative expression. Non-economic advantages of culture include historical preservation, new knowledge production, and enhanced creative expression.

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