

CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTSRajesh Dhotre¹, Deepa A. Joshi²¹PG Student, Civil Engineering, Dr.D.I.T, Pimpri, Pune²Professor, Civil Engineering, Dr.D.I.T, Pimpri, Pune

Abstract—India is a vast country, rich in culture, traditions, heritage buildings, temples, forts and palaces. The number of these historic heritages is astounding. These monuments are the living witnesses of the golden historic era of over a thousand years and of the pre-independence battles. These ancient monuments are the only wealth of Indian tourism along with other nature tourism places. Most of these ancient monuments have been damaged and some monuments have even gone missing due to encroachment. This paper presents the overall scenario of conservation of monuments and the need of conservation of these monuments and archaeological sites in Maharashtra and focuses on the growth of local tourism industry which can be achieved by it.

Keywords- conservation, ancient monument, tourism industry, economy,

I. ANCIENT MONUMENT IN INDIA

A monument is the structure that was explicitly created to memorialize, honour and celebrates the person or event, or which has become relevant to a social group as a part of their historic times or cultural heritage, due to its artistic, historical, political, technical or architectural importance. Examples of monuments include historical buildings, statues, (war) memorials, fountains, Gravestones, Tombs, Churches, Temples, Mosques, archaeological sites, cultural assets etc. India is a vibrant country and is culturally diverse linked by vast geography and history. The evidence of India's historic accomplishments are visible in heritage sites and traditions that are still visited. Many of these heritage sites receive enormous global and national attention. However, many of these heritage sites face risk from urbanisation, economic development. The conservation of these heritage sites and ancient monuments is of national importance and this will also helps in development and promotion of tourism. In India, there are around 6800 monuments. It's a very huge number. In Maharashtra total more than 80 forts, more than 40 historical caves and more than 160 temples, wadas, tombs, bridges, gates available [1]. Constructing new historical structures is not easy and not economical point of view but we can maintain all historical monuments by proper management. Some of the famous Indian monuments are Taj Mahal, Mysore Palace, Harmandir Sahib, Brihadishwara Temple, Bahai Temple, Hawa Mahal, Victoria Memorial, Qutub Minar, Gateway of India, etc.[2]

II. CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

To conserve historic buildings, areas and monuments means to make an effort to connect a place's historical background to its population and primarily its culture. There are four main styles of conservation of historic buildings; preservation, rehabilitation, reconstruction and restoration.[3]

1) Preservation:

Preservation means to keep an historic building as close as possible to its original state. This is done by continued repair and maintenance. It focuses on repair of the existing parts in the building and retention of building's original state.

2) Restoration:

Restoration means reconstructing those parts of the building which have fallen into decay as imitations of the highest possible quality. This form represents the building at one stage in time and removes any evidence of any other period.

3) Rehabilitation:

Rehabilitation means to alter an historic building to meet modern demands while still keeping the historical character of the building.

4) Reconstruction: Reconstruction means recreating the vanished parts of buildings by interpretive means.**III. NECESSITY OF CONSERVATION**

Ancient monuments represent the history, prosperity, conflicts as well as culture of the city. All these factors represents the culture of the country. They have beautiful architecture and historical values due to their correlation with important events that occurred in the heritage area such as religious, social and political events.

Conservation of monuments plays important role to the Country's development and returns from tourism sector. With respect to tourism, maintaining and saving Architectural monuments invite the tourists. Automatically tourism creates more jobs for locals, and help in improving the economic prosperity of the city, therefore maintaining historical buildings provides workplaces for local people and experts from other counties. One more and important factor to preserve monuments is environmentally friendly, despite that constructing new green building. Preserving old buildings can be considered a form of recycling, which reduces construction waste, saves energy which has to spend on manufacturing of new structures, materials, tools and equipment as well as transportation. Automatically it becomes environment friendly. [4]

IV. CURRENT SCENARIO OF CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS

As per statistics given by the Department of Archeology, Pune, there are around 4000 monuments which are unprotected by the Government in Maharashtra, which means there is no conservation work carried out on these monuments. There are 376 numbers of monuments which are preliminary notified as "Protected" by the State government of Maharashtra and 302 numbers of monuments are final notified. There are 47 numbers of forts which are protected by the Government of India and 51 numbers of forts which are protected by the Government of Maharashtra.[5]

V. ONGOING CONSERVATION WORK IN MAHARASHTRA

The following conservation works is being carried out under various divisions of Archaeology Department of Maharashtra.

- Pune Division:
 1. Raigad Fort, Taluka- Velha, District – Pune.
 2. Murlidhar Temple, Taluka- South Solapur, District – Solapur.
 3. Sinhagad Fort, Taluka- Haveli, District – Pune.
 4. Shree Laxmi Narsinha Temple, Taluka- Indapur, District – Pune.
 5. Torana Fort, Taluka- Velha, District – Pune.
 6. Koraigad Fort, Taluka- Mulshi, District – Pune.
 7. Vishalgad Fort, Taluka- Shahuwadi, District – Kolhapur.
 8. Rangna Fort, Taluka- Bhudargad, District – Kolhapur.
- Ratnagiri Division:
 1. Rasalgad Fort, Taluka- Khed, District – Ratnagiri.
 2. Rudiyad kipling (Dean Bunglow), Mumbai.
 3. Shirgaon Fort, Shirgaon, Taluka and District – Palghar.
 4. Thiba palace, Ratnagiri.
- Nashik Division:
 1. Parola Fort, Parola, District – Jalgaon.
 2. Sarkarwada, Nashik.
 3. Raghobadada wada, Taluka- Kopergaon , District – Ahmednagar.
 4. Renukadevi Temple, Taluka- Chandwad, District – Nashik.
 5. Khard Fort, Taluka- Jamshed, District – Ahmednagar.
 6. Galna Fort, Taluka- Malegaon, District – Nashik.
- Nagpur Division:
 1. Gadmandir, Taluka -Ramtek, District – Nagpur.
 2. Mangarul ves, Taluka -Karanjalad, District – Washim.
 3. Bhawani Mandir, Taluka -Varora, District – Chandrapur.
 4. Ambagad Fort, Taluka -Tumsar, District – Bhandara.
 5. Manikgad Fort, Taluka -Jivti, District – Chandrapur.
 6. Nagardhan Fort, Taluka -Ramtek, District – Nagpur.
 7. Moti Talav, Sindhakhed Raja, District – Buldhana.
 8. Darga and Masjid, Taluka -Balapur, District – Akola.
- Aurangabad Division:
 1. Antur Fort, Taluka -Kannad, District – Aurangabad.
 2. Paranda Fort, Taluka -Paranda, District – Osmanabad.
 3. Dharur Fort, Taluka -Dharur, District – Beed.

- Nanded Division:
 1. Ausa Fort, Taluka -Ausa, District – Latur.
 2. Kandhar Fort, Taluka - Kandhar, District – Nanded.
 3. Kandhar Fort, Taluka - Kandhar, District – Nanded.

VI. ROLE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA IN CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is one of the Indian governmental agencies who work for research, protection and maintaining the historical monuments. ASI attached with Ministry of Culture and was founded in 1861. It's headquartering in Janpath, New Delhi, India. ASI is divided in to 27 circles and each circle is divided into sub circles [6]. In Maharashtra three circles work such as Aurangabad, Mumbai and Nagpur. The ASI has various departments like Excavation Branches, Prehistory Branch, Epigraphy Branches, Science Branch, Horticulture Branch, Building Survey Projects, Temple Survey Projects and Underwater Archaeology Wing and these departments have large work force of trained archaeologists, conservators, epigraphist, architects and scientists for conducting archaeological research projects. The real challenge of ASI is before going to plan the necessary steps to conserve monuments, ensure the existence of these built cultural heritage and unique symbols of our cultures for centuries to come, with as little intervention as possible but without altering or modifying in any way the reality of their original character. To ensure proper conservation of our cultural heritage, there is a need to give more thrust to the scientific research in conservation [6]

Ministry of Culture, GOI has taken up a national project for inventory and monitoring of archaeological sites of the country in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). [7] The systematic database of these heritage sites and Site Management Plans generated using space technology will help to take appropriate measures in conserving, preserving and monitoring activities of a heritage site. Such systems developed can be operationally used by the authorities responsible for the upkeep of heritage sites like Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) with least effort, time and cost implications.

VII. BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS

The following are few of the benefits of conservation of ancient monuments [8]:

Tourism:

The maintenance and saving of ancient monuments will attract tourists, especially people who like to experience the “spirit” of the city, which is seen through architecture. With boost in the tourism, more jobs for locals will be created, and this will help in improving the economic prosperity of the city.

Cultural:

The old buildings help us to understand the history which took place before we were born and promotes respect for those who lived in those times with different traditions. The preservation of ancient monuments also plays an important cultural role in cultivating pride of our heritage. For example; Paris is known by Eiffel tower, Cairo is known by pyramids, while London is known by Big Ben etc.

Environmental:

Restoring ancient monuments is environmentally friendly as well preserving ancient monuments can be considered as a form of recycling, which reduces construction waste, saves the energy that will be spent on manufacturing of building materials and transporting them.

VIII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

An overview of monuments conservation in Maharashtra has been carried out. The study shows that large number of historical monuments in Maharashtra need to be preserved. Conservation work of around 32 monuments including forts, temples is in progress.

These conservation activities will not only protect the culture of Maharashtra but also can have positive impact on economy if developed as tourism spots.

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