

India has a unique place in the world. There has been a remarkable contribution of India in the field of knowledge, science, religion, culture and art. India has a rich and inimitable heritage. Our heritage shows an imperial dignity of ancient India. That is why, we should be committed towards the preservation and conservation of our heritage which is utmost demand of the present time.

Need for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage

The heritage of India is multifarious which brings glory to the nation. Cultural heritage accommodates sculpture, architecture, literature, various arts and natural heritage. Natural and manmade factors are adversely affecting our heritage, hence its preservation is required. Our heritage glorifies the people of our country so they respect our heritage by associating it with their own identity. Therefore, it is necessary to develop positive attitude towards its management. We should preserve vanishing arts and architecture so that upcoming generations can be inspired by the works done by our ancestors. As we are not much aware about the preservation of our heritage and our negligence is chiefly responsible for its degradation, therefore it has become necessary to preserve our heritage.

Necessity of Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Our heritage is the identity of the nation. The country which ignores it does not have any future as heritage is our guide. The errors we have committed in the past can be rectified in the present and we can properly plan for the future. Heritage acts as a guide to decide the direction of our development. Heritage is necessary for the transmission of new consciousness across the country.

It is necessary to bring awareness among the people regarding the damage done to the places of cultural and natural heritage. Not only the government but also the common public should play their vital role for the protection of our heritage. As the heritage is considered as an ideal for the people, it is necessary to cease its degradation. Greater damage has been done to our heritage because of the invasion of foreign tribes and our unawareness. So it is the moral duty of the government as well as of common public to conserve and preserve our heritage.

Tourism industry and our heritage

Various sites of natural and cultural heritage of India have been accommodated in the list of the world heritage by UNESCO. Many people come to visit, to explore and to do research on our heritage from India and other countries. This boosts our tourism and transportation industry. Along with the economic benefits to the concerned states, tourism industry provides appropriate opportunity and proper platform to showcase our multifarious cultural arts and traditions in front of the world.

Apart from this, tourism also provides employment to the local people and this keeps the vanishing art and tradition alive. Now a day tourism as a subject has been added in the field of education which is eventually promoting tourism guide as an independent business. India earns foreign currency from the foreigners. visitors. Introducing a heterogeneous culture, it enlightens the talent of our country at the international level. Facilities like metalled road, railways, water, communication etc are developed around the sites of heritage. Tourism encourages activities like photography, horse riding, boating etc. simultaneously provided employment to street hawkers. Varied culture, indigenous art and their features have got a proper platform for the development.

Preservation of Heritage and measures to conserve it

Efforts made for the preservation and conservation of heritage are given below:

- Indian government has constituted the Indian board of wildlife in 1952 to protect our wildlife. It facilitates with material for the conservation of wildlife. It suggests government for the development of national park, bird sanctuary and geological gardens along with the task of creating awareness for protection of wildlife.

- Wildlife Protection Act enacted in 1972 gave a firm status to the national parks, sanctuaries and bio reserves.
- New national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and bio-reserves have been established.
- The laws of our country for the preservation of our heritage have a wide perspective.
- Strict laws have been framed to stop the destruction of vanishing vegetation and wildlife.

Apart from government, there are several societies and organisations which have been actively taking up the task of protection of wild life and environment. The Bombay Natural History Society is the oldest one of its kind and was established in 1883. Presently Gir foundation, Natural club



7.1 Wild life and conservation of environment

hence various protective measures have been taken for the safeguard of heritage.

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act was enacted in 1958. This act suggests for the preservation of antique artistic work, religious places, historical memorials and archaeological sites etc.
- This Archaeological Act ensures that no person or agency can conduct archaeological excavation without the prior permission of government. This action consequently stopped clandestine excavation, hence many of our heritage sites are still preserved and kept intact.
- The government of India declared some historical places as “National Monuments”. Department of Archaeology is responsible to look after the preservation of these monuments.
- However, these heritage sites will not be preserved just by framing laws but it becomes moral responsibility of every citizen.
- Department of Archaeology maintains sites of heritage which are either destroyed or on the verge of destruction.
- While taking up the work of maintenance of monuments one should keep in the mind that they should be preserved in such a manner so that it retains its original shape, size and condition intact.
- Department of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has more than 5000 monuments and sites under its protection. Sangameshwar temple and Pappannasham temples in Andhra Pradesh were going to be submerged into the sea due to the construction of NagarjunSagar Multipurpose Project. Therefore, these temples have been successfully shifted to Alampur at Mehboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Tajmahal of Agra is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- Air pollution caused by Mathura oil refinery and fast growing nearby industries, turned the white

etc. institutions are doing noble work of environmental preservation.

Realizing the importance of the preservation of our heritage, Constitution framers made it mandatory that it should be included in our Constitution.

Ancient Memorials and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act :

- The more dangerous and harmful factors arose in the way of heritage. The more strict actions and efforts were made time to time for preservation,

marble pale and dull. The department of archaeology took suitable steps to close the industries spreading air pollution in its neighborhood. Regular cleaning of the structure has brought back the brightness of the Tajmahal.

Our Role in the Preservation of the Museums :

According to the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1876, if any citizen suddenly finds any ancient artistic and antique article from a house, field, well, lake, etc. while digging then he has to immediately notify to the officer of archaeological department. With this small effort they can preserve valuable things which could have been lost due to the carelessness. Government has tried to obtain information regarding personal or private museums consisting expensive artistic pieces under the act of 1972.

Systematically archived documents corresponding to each state provides better guidance to the historians and researchers. Museums performs important task of preserving valuable things carefully. The best examples of the museums are given below :

Museums in India

Serial	Name	City	State
1	National Museum	New Delhi	Delhi
2	Indian Museum	Kolkata	West Bengal
3	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Museum (Prince of Wales Museum)	Mumbai	Maharashtra
4	Salarganj Museum	Hyderabad	Andhra pradesh
5	Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya	Bhopal	Madhya pradesh
6	Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum (L.D. Institute of Indology)	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
7	Shri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra, Koba	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
8	Shri Hemachandracharya Library	Patan	Gujarat
9	Vadodara Museum and Picture Gallery	Vadodara	Gujarat

It is a combined duty of general public and government to generate awareness towards the preservation and the protection of the museums.

Our Role in the Preservation of Heritage :

If the Central and State governments, UNESCO, and NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) are performing their duties to preserve our valuable heritage then as individuals one should play an effective role in that direction. Teachers in the schools and colleges should impart the knowledge of India's glorious heritage. Students as well as common public should gain the knowledge of unfamiliar places, monuments, ancient remains, sites etc. They should help in their preservation and protection. Everyone should take care of these monuments by preparing the list of all heritage sites. Valuable things should not be destroyed, broken or stolen. Schools, colleges and NGOs should conduct programs like visit to the historical places and sites, speeches, exhibitions, discussions, seminars etc. to create awareness towards the preservation of heritage. If the specimen of the architecture, sculpture and historical monuments are destroyed once, it is very difficult to

restore them to the original form. So it is our moral duty that they should not be destroyed and shifted to other place. Our country has rich and unique heritage.

There are many ancient ponds, lakes, wells, step wells, streams, springs etc in different places in our country. We should take special care of Malav lake of Dholka, Rani ni vav of Patan, Well of Champaner, Bhamario Well of Mehemdabad, Navghan well of Junagadh etc , during the monsoon. We should constantly keep an eye on their preservation.

Cleanliness and preservation of picnic spots :

Central and state governments are taking proper steps for the cleanliness and preservation of our picnic spots. Consequently special arrangement has been made for it. Religious, historical places have always been a greater attraction among the local as well as foreign tourists. Henceforth, our government is attentive enough towards its preservation.

- Do not use plastic.
- Do not litter at picnic spots, use dustbin.
- Do not spoil historical monuments either by writing or drawing picture.
- Waste should be properly disposed off.
- Do not spit after eating tobacco or Paan (betel).
- Do not pollute surrounding areas of historical monuments.
- Extensive care should be taken during monsoon of historical monuments which constitutes step-wells, lakes, ponds, streams etc.
- Be cautious while cleaning monuments with archaeological chemical methods.
- Sensitized domestic and foreign visitors to avoid damage of our historical heritage.
- If natural disasters has caused damage to the historical places, make efforts to bring it again to the original form.

It is our responsibility to maintain beauty and cleanliness of tourist places as they bring fame and prosperity to the nation. We should make use of science and technology to maintain the originality of our ancient heritage.

India : Unity in Diversity

Being one of the most ancient civilizations of the world, India has varied and rich cultural heritage. Diversity of India is its unique identity. India has a fine amalgamation of different cast, community, religion, tradition, culture and languages inspite of having variety. Yet, India stands united and undivided. India has proved the feelings of “Vasudhav Kutumbakam”. The whole world is a family. This feeling exists in India since Vedic periods. “Let us get good thoughts and vibrations from all four directions” is the message of Rig Veda’s, which showcases the grandeur and glory of Indian culture. India has spread religious tolerance and secularism across the world.



7.2 Unity in Diversity

Swami Vivekananda said the following words in the “World Religious Conference” which was held in Chicago (US). “I am proud to say that, I represent the religion that has taught the lessons of tolerance, compassion and universal fraternity to the world.”

India is a secular country. India is a land of multi-religious; influence of Hinduism, Islamism, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity etc. is seen in Indian culture.

Therefore, the torch bearers named our country as “Bharat Varsha” by stressing on its unity, which reflects upon our broad outlook. Holy names of 7 sacred rivers have been used in our prayers. People including great sages, Sufi saints, Swami Vivekananda, Dayanand Saraswati and Mahatma Gandhi always stressed upon peace, co-ordination and universal brotherhood.

Unity in diversity is the unique feature of Indian culture. As at the end of the day, all the rivers amalgamate into the great ocean, equivalently our country conglomerates different religions, castes, languages, traditions, creed, customs and festivals. The people of India live their life with the feelings of co-existence. The people of India have conserved this quality and have wonderfully enhanced it.

Exercise

1. Answer the following questions in detail :

- (1) Why should we preserve and conserve our heritage ?
- (2) Mention the steps taken for the preservation of the heritage.
- (3) Explain our role in the preservation of our heritage.
- (4) Write about the acts which has been passed to preserve ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains.

2. Answer the following questions point wise :

- (1) Explain the importance to preserve and conserve our heritage.
- (2) Write a note on the preservation of Museums.
- (3) What precautions should be taken while taking up the work of maintenance of monuments ?
- (4) Write your views regarding cleanliness and preservation of tourists spots.
- (5) Write a note on “Unity in Diversity in India”.

3. Answer the following questions in short :

- (1) Describe the advantages of tourism industry.
- (2) In what different ways do people spoil/damage our heritage ?
- (3) When was 'Bombay Natural Society' established ? What are its functions ?
- (4) Which functions are formed by ‘Departments of Indian Archaeological Survey’?
- (5) What did Swami Vivekananda say about religion in the “World Religious Conference”?

4. Choose the correct answer from the following option :

(1) Match the following in correct sequences :

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Shri Hemchandracharya Library | (A) Mumbai |
| (2) Indian Museum | (B) Bhopal |
| (3) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum | (C) Patan |
| (4) Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya | (D) Kolkata |
| (A) (1 - C), (2 - D), (3 - A), (4 - B) | (B) (1 - A), (2 - B), (3 - D), (4 - C) |
| (C) (2 - A), (4 - C), (1 - B), (3 - D) | (D) (4 - B), (1 - D), (3 - C), (2 - A) |

(2) Which of the following statements is not correct ?

- (A) India proved the feeling of “Vasudhav Kutumbakam” in the world.
- (B) “I am proud to say that, I represent the religion that has taught the lesson of compassion and brotherhood, to the world!” - Swami Vivekanand.
- (C) Indian who believed in tolerance and universal brotherhood even welcomed Dutch and Britishers.
- (D) Ancient Indian Torch bearers stressed upon economic unity of India.

(3) Why did the white marble of Taj Mahal turned pale and dull ?

- (A) Land Pollution (B) Water Pollution (C) Air Pollution (D) Noise Pollution

Activities

- Make a project on any one historical place related to cultural heritage and put into school's library.
- Arrange tour to the historical places, museums, national parks and prepare hand written report with photographs.
- Collect photographs of world historical places through internet and prepare album. Conduct competition for best picture and give certificate/prize to the winner.
- Collect information related to world heritage from school library and arrange class-room discussion.
- Visit a Museum during your educational tour.