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## Indian Heritage Tourism: Challenges of identification and Presentation

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**Ravi Bhushan Kumar**

Associate Professor

Department of Tourism and Hotel Management  
Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, India

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**Abstract:** India possesses world's longest continuous civilization. Its Vedas (including Ayurveda) are now worldwide recognized as treasure of knowledge. India is a vast country with second largest population. It has very rich cultural traditions. Its rich culture is reflected in the forms of its philosophy, religion, rites-rituals, festivals, languages, literature, art-architecture, music, dance etc. However, it is tragic that despite such vastness of area and richness in all types of cultural heritage, there are very few items listed in 'World heritage list' of UNESCO. There are several countries in the world which are smaller in size and population with newer history, but have more heritage sites. This is due to lack of identification and recognition. In India most of old monuments are in shamble condition. The citizens, administrators and policy makers are equally responsible for their pathetic condition. In India, cultural tourism has largest share. Most of inbound & domestic tourists are visiting India to see the uniqueness of Indian culture. So it is very necessary to identify the rich cultural heritage so that they can be preserved and transferred to next generation.

**Keywords:** - Heritage, heritage tourism, preservation.

### Introduction

India is one of few countries in the world, which has a continuous tradition of peopling, since the period of apes, homo sapience and Paleolithic period to latest cyber age. The physiological setup of India was always suitable for growth of all types of flora, fauna and people of various races – caste & creeds. When one person travels to different parts of India by surface transportation, he comes across with many places which are very beautiful with unique cultural features. Several places have old temples, forts, palaces, caves and ruins which have a long historical and mythological legacy. All these objects have there local, regional or national significance. These objects are not only tangible such as statues or buildings, but that can be intangible such as literature, folklores, manuscripts, fairs and festivals, rites and rituals etc. In brief, a country which is seventh largest in area, second largest in population, one of the longest continuous history, full of cultural treasures, it becomes very difficult to identify them, register and publicize them to tourists, so that they can be preserved and exhibited to the visitors, who wants to see

them. From tourism point of view, whether it is domestic tourists or foreign tourists, in India it is predominantly cultural tourism. Therefore, it is very important to preserve them, so that these valuable treasures can be gifted to the next generation. Thus, the paper aims at to present a general survey of heritage properties in India and identify challenges and problems of heritage tourism in India

### **Study Area and Research Methodology**

The emphasis of study was to recognize the important of heritage properties in India. They are scattered throughout the India. The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data is based on the authors visit to different places in India. The author, as a student and as a teacher has visited different parts of India several times. The secondary data is collected from the reports of government of India and states as well as articles published in newspapers and magazines etc. India has widely spread heritage objects. Their plight is observed by all, they get prominent places in newspapers. So, the published articles and news are also main help of this article.

### **Literature Review**

Realizing the importance of heritage properties, several writers, scholars and researchers from different parts of India and world have paid due attention on the preservation and proper maintenance. There is a growing awareness for heritage properties and sites. Therefore, it is very common that there are some regular articles appearing in local and national newspapers. Some of them are national importance e.g. Taj Corridor case, Ram Setu (Adam's bridge) case etc. In India, the major form of tourism is cultural tourism. UNESCO Director Minja Yang has rightly said: Spirituality and culture are very significant for whole of South-East Asia and South Asia. (Pandey Maneesh, 2006) The historical monuments and natural heritage properties are golden evidence of glorious past. Whoever visits India, foreigner or Indian tourist, is directly or indirectly influenced by its combination of natural and cultural heritage e.g. India has high snow capped mountains, deserts, islands, dense forests etc. Such features are available in many parts of the world, but the bonus of India is its cultural heritage. So, tourists can enjoy not only snow capped mountains but Kashmiri and Laddakhi culture in J&K, colourful dress, forts and palaces in desert of Rajasthan and temples and churches in coastal areas. Thus, the combination of natural and cultural heritage makes a destination to be loved by all.

That's why the articles related to heritage are common in all journals, reports and newspapers. The glory of Indian heritage (Mahadevan 1998) has highlighted about the historical aspects of Indian culture. Mishra (2006 ), S.K. Director INTACH, in a presidential lecture on ' Heritage challenges' focused on the problems of heritage sites, pollution, lack of sensitivity to admire beauty of traditional architecture, lack of funds & proper management and plan. Several foreign authors have also shown their concern about heritage and tourism.

Timothy D.J. & S.W. Boyd (2003) have focused on Heritage tourism & studied on the heritage tourism supply and demand. They have raised the issues of conservation, management, interpretation and politics of heritage sites.

McKercher, Bob and Hillary (2002) have raised interesting issue on 'The Partnership between Tourism & Cultural Heritage Management' in which the close association between the two has been established which is beneficial for tourism industry also. A study on same issue has been done by Richard (2001) in 'Cultural Attractions and European Tourism' in which he has emphasized that cultural tourism as one of the most important element of global tourism market.

Regarding the importance of heritage in tourism, Molesworth, S.R. (2007) has rightly pointed out that Heritage & Development add value to each other. Heritage adds depth to visitor experience. Steinbeck, John (2007) has asked 'How will our children know who they are if they don't know where they came from.

Heritage tourism is an important topic in India. It appears in all types of print electronic media. In regional newspapers too, it attracts attention. An article published 'India must lobby hard to get monuments in World heritage list' (The Hindu, Nov.19, 1997) the indifference of Archaeological Survey of India was regretted. India failed to feature on the WHS list for the last four years (since 1997) for want of proper and persistent lobbying by our officials. This issue was also raised in another article (Amar Ujala, April 7, 2000) when UNSECO rejected eleven proposals of Government of India except the Himalayan Railway (Darjeeling) due to lack of proper formats with evidences .Therefore, then the minister for tourism and culture, Jagmohan ordered an inquiry to fix responsibility on officials who caused India to lose out on getting Indian sites. (The Hindu, Parsai, Gargi, 2000)

Rajasthan is world famous for its old forts and palaces .This point has been raised in article 'Rajasthan issues diktat on heritage buildings: The Rajasthan government issued detailed guidelines disallowing any tinkering with old heritage properties while developing them as tourist places. The tourism department in cooperation with the Director, Archaeology, would review the progress of the project every month.

In the article 'Kerala ; Draft Tourism Policy; Focus on Heritage and Environment' (The Hindu, Sept. 10, 2001) in which the draft says that the promotion of tourism will be based on the carrying capacity of the destinations and preservation of art, culture and heritage of Kerala will be part of the policy objectives. Another article 'Encroachment poses threat to monuments' (The Hindu, 2001) raised a serious universal problem. It is focused on Sanchi,Khajuraho,Gwalior,Mandu,Kundalpur,Chanderi etc. where encroachers had opened shops ,business,establishments,residences etc. which are threat to old monuments . About budgetary allocation and preference of government is shown in the article by Dhawan Himanshi 'Rs. 830 Crore boost to domestic tourism (TOI, Jan, 2007), the amount will be spent for capacity building and infrastructure development in heritage circuits included Agra- Fatehpur Sikri,Ajanta- Ellora,Chennai- Mahabalipuram,Pondicherry and Bodh Gaya- Rajgir- Nalanda. Thus, the tourism ministry has shown its special interest in heritage sites. A serious issue has been raised by Sethi, Atul in his article 'Threat from skies; Khajuraho temples developing cracks'. (TOI,

2007) The vibrations caused by noise pollutions of planes taking off from Khajuraho airport were resulting in cracks in some of the temples, particularly the western group which is the largest and most important temple complex. This could lead to water seeping in and ruining the conservation works done here. A study undertaken by the National Physical Laboratory had confirmed that vibrations from airlines were affecting the temple complex. The ASI had lodged a formal complaint with the Airport Authority of India (AAI) and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) of India.

In an article 'Monumental Blunders' the negligence of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been noticed. There are a large number of instances where the ASI has engaged in conservation work without paying attention to the original design and materials used. Several times the conservation work has weakened structures which were surviving for centuries. In other words the ASI operates like any other governmental organization.

Moles worth, Simon Richard, Former commissioner of Australian Heritage Commission (TOI, Dec 10, 2007) expressed his view at 12<sup>th</sup> International conference of National Trusts in New Delhi that heritage conservation is intrinsic to sustainable development. It is proven that heritage and development complement and add value to each other. The heritage perspective is often the key balanced growth. Living heritage adds to visitor's experience.

In brief, heritage is such an issue about which there is growing awareness throughout the world. On global level everywhere the people are talking about heritage, consciously or unconsciously.

### **Concept of Heritage**

Heritage is that object, tangible or intangible, natural or manmade, which has been inherited, not created by present generation. There are several types of heritage;

- a) Natural e.g. air, water, beautiful landscape, pristine environment etc.
- b) Cultural- It has two types;
  - i) Tangible; which can be seen, touched and felt, e.g.; forts, palaces, temples, sculpture etc.
  - ii) Intangible: This can not be touched but can be felt, e.g. religion, mythology, rites, rituals, traditions, music & dance etc.

The heritage items take a long time to germinate and grow, but their survival depend on many factors and they could be destroyed or killed at any moment. It all depends on the will and association of inheritor to protect the heritage tradition.

On international level UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organization) is responsible for the exploration, protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage. UNESCO convened a general conference in 1972 in which the

world heritage convention was adopted. At present, more than 180 countries have ratified it to protect the cultural and natural heritage. India ratified the convention on November 14, 1977. The general assembly, the world heritage committee (WHC) and the bureau of world heritage committee are directly responsible for implementation of the convention. The world heritage convention fixed its two objectives as follows:-

- i) To encourage countries to sign the world heritage convention and ensure the protection of their own natural and cultural heritage.
- ii) To encourage state parties to the convention to nominate sites within their national territory for inclusion on the world heritage list.

The WHC submits a report of its activities at each of the ordinary session of the general conference of UNESCO. The main functions of WHC is to define and conserve the world's heritage by drawing up list of sites whose outstanding value should be preserved for all humanity and to ensure their protection through a close cooperation among all member states. The world heritage convention, defines 'Natural Heritage' as 'outstanding physical, biological and geological features, habitats of threatened plants or animal species and areas of values on scientific or aesthetic grounds or from point of view of conservation'. It defines 'Cultural Heritage' as 'monuments, group of buildings or sites of historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value'.

The WHC has extended the heritage concept as 'CHM' or common heritage of mankind. These are those items which are essential for whole mankind and cannot be owned or exploited and harmed by any one nation, race or company. The CHM includes 22 items which include air, water, moon, Antarctica, Arctic etc. These can not be a personal property but they belong to all. At present there are 830 world heritage sites (2007, UNESCO report) which includes 644 cultural, 162 natural and 24 mixed in 138 states (countries).

### **Heritage Properties in India**

In India, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is responsible for all historical and heritage objects. It was established in 1861. It is a functionary body attached to the Department of Culture. Its main activities are: maintenance, conservation & preservation of centrally protected movements/sites and remains; conducting archaeological explorations and excavations, chemical preservation of monuments and antiquarian remains, architectural survey of monuments, development of epigraphical research; setting up and re-organization of site museums in India, development of environment at centrally protected monuments and training in archaeology. At present the ASI has declared 3598 monuments of national importance in the country which includes 23 world heritage moments and objects (India 2007).

India is the seventh largest country in the world, second largest in population with one of the oldest history of continuing civilization. So, obviously it is very rich in natural as well as cultural heritage. India has very beautiful varied topography with high snow capped rugged mountains in north, undulating rolling peneplain of southern peninsula, dead flat central plain, sand dunes in west, beautiful coasts and islands, coral reefs, all types of weather, beautiful endemic and exotic natural vegetation with rich and unique wild life. As far as the cultural heritage is concerned, that is reflected in the forms of its philosophy, religious beliefs, rites and rituals, fairs and festivals, language & literature, art, architecture, icons, cuisine, music and dance etc. which are very unique in all parts of India.

In brief India is very rich in all types of natural & cultural heritage which are most valued gift to entire humanity. We can classify Indian heritage items into three categories (i) those properties or sites which are inscribed on the world heritage list of UNESCO. (ii) Those properties which were sent to WHC for approval, but could not get world heritage (WH) Status. (iii) Other heritage items which worth to be world heritage sites but due to lack of proper steps, they are out of any list.

1. Properties which are inscribed on the world heritage list (26 items)
  - a) Cultural properties (23 items)
  - b) Natural properties (6 national parks)

**Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List** (*with year of inclusion*)

- Taj mahal (1983) (included among seven modern wonders of the world)
- Agra fort (1983)
- Ellora Caves (1983)
- Ajanta Caves (1983)
- Sun Temple, Konark (1984)
- Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)
- Kaziranga National Park (1985)
- Keoladeo National Park (1985)
- Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985)
- Churches and Convents of Goa (1986)
- Groups of Monuments at Hampi (1986)
- Group of Temple Monuments at Khajuraho (1986)
- Fatehpur Sikri (1986)
- Sunderban National Park (1987)
- Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987)
- Brihaddeshwer temple at Thanjavur (1987)
- Elephanta Caves (1987)
- Nanda Devi valley of Flowers National Park (1988)
- Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)
- Qutub Minar and its monuments, Delhi (1993)

- Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993)
  - Himalayan railway, Darjeeling (1999)
  - Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya (2002)
  - Rock Paintings, Bhimbetka (2003)
  - Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai (2004)
  - Champaner Pavagadh Archaeological Park (2004)
  - Rigveda (2007)
  - Red fort, Delhi (2007)
  - Kalka- Shimla Railway (2008)
2. Properties which were submitted on the tentative list. (These are also very important and famous properties from historical, architectural, natural and tourist point of view but due to lack of proper methodology, could not get place in the W.H. List.)

#### **Properties submitted on the Tentative List**

- Temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal
  - Buddhist Monastery Complex, Alchi (Leh)
  - Golconda Fort, Hyderabad
  - Dholavira, A Harappan City in Gujarat
  - Rani ki Bavari (Queen's Step well) , Patan, Gujarat
  - Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam, Kerala
  - Tomb of Sher Shah Suri, Sasaram, Bihar
  - Group of monuments at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh
  - Buddhist site at Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh
  - Hemis Gompa, Leh
  - Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar, Punjab
  - River Island of Majuli, Assam
  - Matheran Railway, Maharashtra
  - Western Ghat sub cluster
  - Namdapha National Park
  - Wild Ass sanctuary, Kutch, Gujarat
  - Kanchendzonga National Park
  - Chandigarh city
3. Other heritage objects which are not less important but due to sheer negligence of government, lack of awareness among local citizen and lack of publicity they could not get their proper place. There are a number of such natural and cultural heritage objects. Few of them are mentioned here. (Based on the 'Little Known Treasures', published by D.O.T., Govt. of India).
4. **A) Natural Heritage:-**

- i) Aru, a beautiful ravine on Lidder River and Lakes of Srinagar Valley.
- ii) Barapani, a vast lake area in Meghalaya.
- iii) Bhera Ghat, a rift valley of marbles in Madhya Pradesh through which Narmada River flows.
- iv) Cherapunjee, world famous place for world's highest rainfall and Rolling Meadows.
- v) Hill stations like Coonoor, Matheran, Khajjiar, Mahabaleshwar, Munnar, Pachmarchi, Sarahan etc.
- vi) Islands e.g. Diu, Laksadweep and Andaman & Nicobar island group.
- vii) Loktak Lake, famous for floating islands & dancing deer in Manipur.

**B) Cultural Heritage:-**

- i) Temples – Palitana & Somnath in Gujarat, Rameshwaram, Madurai, and Sri Rangam Temples of Tamilnadu.
- ii) Monasteries – Pemayangtse in Sikkim, Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh Lamayuru, monastery in Ladakh.
- iii) Unnakoti in Tripura famous for numerous rock cut figures.
- iv) Warangal, Lepakshi in Andhra Pradesh.
- v) Imambaras in Lucknow.
- vi) Dayalbagh of Radhaswami Sect in Agra.
- vii) Khandagiri and Udayagiri Caves in Orissa.
- viii) Ram setu bridge, Rameshwaram-sent to UNESCO.



### Problems of Recognition

India has a large no. of monuments, scattered all over the country which are architectural marvels. They are great treasure for humanity, but they are not listed in state, national or world heritage list. The Indian national trust for Art, Culture and Heritage( INTACH) has made a list of approximately 70,000 monuments, out of which there is no care taker of about 60,000 monuments. The A.S.I. looks after about seven thousand monuments. Other neglected monuments may convert into ruins or vanish due to lack of conservation or maintenance. Neither any government nor any private body is interested in taking care of these cultural heritages.

Inclusion of any monument or natural site is very prestigious phenomena. It attracts attractions from a larger part of world, tourists start to visit the place and hence renovation and maintenance begins. The accessibility and other services are provided. Thus, the heritage monuments are appreciated and come to lime light which is a great service and honour to the makers of monuments. Several times the monuments require a large amount on maintenance. In this field the world heritage committee of UNESCO does a great job. It arranges money from world wide. One example is worthwhile. The relocation of the famous Abu Simbel and Philae temple in Egypt needed a cost of 80 million USD, which was collected from more than 50 countries. Several times old

monuments need special technical and chemical treatment which is provided by UNESCO from world famous experts, e.g. the world's largest Hindu Temple Complex 'Angkor watt' in Cambodia was in badly shattered conditions. These were renovated by Indian experts, under the aegis of UNESCO.

When we see the list of India, it is very deplorable. We find there are several years gap in the list when there was not a single registration. It is very surprising that despite such rich treasure of cultural objects there are very few objects, i.e. only 23 cultural sites and 6 natural sites, while it could be enhanced by mentioning other objects of list 2 & 3. There are more beautiful, large and gracious objects which need their genuine claim in the WHS list, but they could not get their due credit due to negligence and apathy of governments. India has failed to enhance the list of WHS for several years for want of proper and persistent lobbying by our officials, ASI and NGOs to attract world attention. We have most ancient great culture, but very poor in international participation. There are several small countries which have more WH sites. In 2006 (July) there were 830 world heritage sites which were 644 cultural, 162 natural and 24 mixed sites in 138 countries of the world. These are located in descending rank (i) Italy (43 WHS), (ii) Spain (39WHS), (iii) China (33WHS), (iv) Germany (32WHS), (v) France (30WHS), (vi) UK (27WHS), (vii) India (26WHS) & (viii) Mexico (26WHS).

The list shows a pitiable condition of such a great country. UNESCO is also a biased body which works under several types of pressure. Several times India (ASI) sent applications for several sites with essential evidences, but they were cancelled due to lack of appropriate formats. The selected WHS/Monuments are valid for two years only. So the status can be withdrawn in case of any lacuna. In 2000-2001 the former tourism & cultural minister Mr. Jagmohan had ordered an enquiry to fix responsibility on officials whose negligence caused India to lose out on getting an Indian monument/site named as WHS by UNESCO.

There is need of strong lobbying with concrete steps and arguments for inclusion of other objects by proving them 'outstanding universal value.' India should provide details of its historic/architectural significance with plans for conservation and site management. Today the world is very competitive. The countries which are lobbying hard and able to pressurize, have several world heritage sites. We need to lobby from different fora from where our voice can be heard.

### **Problems of Indian Heritage Properties**

At the national level, the heritage properties, recognized by the ASI are also facing several problems which are creating danger of extinction.

1.Lack of Master Plan – It seems that Indian lack the concept of master plan. Except the world heritage sites e.g. Taj, Humayun's Tomb, Ajanta, Ellora, Bodh Gaya etc. other heritage sites are facing negligence of local or state administrations. They are victims of haphazard growth. In the absence of any proper planning several beautiful structures have lost their charms. As mentioned earlier, if the temples were surrounded with landscaped

grassed flowered parks, then their beauties might have enhanced several times. This is not a case of ancient temples, but even the recent constructed Somnath temple in Gujarat, inaugurated in December 1995 by former President, Mr. S.D. Sharma, is also surrounded with unplanned houses and narrow lanes.

2. Encroachment – Whenever and wherever visitors start to visit a place, several types of encroachment develops. These growth are very haphazard. These encroachments are done by local shopkeepers, souvenir sellers, local residents or government. These structures can be wooden – brick & stone built temporary or permanent structures which are not fit with architecture of monument or environment. They are soaring to eyes. The bazaar in and around the Meenakshi Temple (Tamil Nadu) is one example where the souvenir sellers have covered the carvings of beautiful granite pillars with their partitions, lightening and selling objects. In the front of temple, the shopkeepers have covered the monuments with sheds, tarpaulin cover etc. They have tied ropes with sculpted horses and beautiful statues. This case is common in Rameshwaram, Kanchipuram and several other temples of Tamilnadu.

Several times such encroachments are done by local priests and their families who began to live within the precinct of temples. They expand their rooms and other structures. In Ajanta, a two storied hotel and restaurant is constructed at the entrance. Similar structures of ticket house and officers are common everywhere. The approach road to Dwarkadheesh temple is Dwarka, Meenakshi temple in Madurai etc. are blocked with haphazard growth. The tourists can not take a long view of these temples. Even they can not stand to see the marvel of architecture.

Sometimes myopic view politician take very destructive decision e.g. in Taj Corridor case there was a plan to make permanent structure which was averted on the instruction of Supreme Court by former Tourism Minister Mr. Jagmohan.

Several times some donors donate very paltry items like wall clock, ceiling fans etc. and put large size banner which covers important part of monuments, e.g. sanctum sanctorum of temples or important part of monuments. Such exhibition is common everywhere in India where the donors publicize a lot for very small gifts. There should be a place in a temple where their names can be exhibited in small and beautiful fonts.

3. Irresponsible Visitors: The heritage sites are great attractions for tourists; both, Indian and foreigners. Some of them are very popular, e.g. WH properties of Delhi- Agra sector, while several other are not so crowded. In such case the ill effects of mass tourism are evident. The biggest problem is the lack of civic sense among Indian visitors who try to inscribe their names on historical monuments. One can see the names of people on the painting (e.g. Ajanta), monuments (throughout the country) and natural places. Such ugly evidence of irresponsible behavior can be seen anywhere... from very famous sites e.g. Ajanta, Ellora, Golconda fort, Delhi-Agra's monuments to less known monuments

scattered to nearby places. Besides scratching, the visitors throw the packing wrappers, water bottles, cold drink packs etc. wherever they like. They seldom bother to think of the proper disposal. In few days there are several heaps of plastic bottles, canes, polythenes wrappers etc. which increases visual pollution at historical places, forts, palaces, temples, river banks, national parks & zoological gardens.

It is very difficult to depute guards everywhere. There is need to educate the people. This subject should be essential part of course curricula of students so that they become responsible citizen. Then the people will feel pride to visit heritage sites. They can protect the heritage objects as real inheritor of our rich treasures.

4. Environmental Pollution – There are several types of environmental pollutions which are killing the heritage properties. These pollutions are creations of natural reasons such as sand & soil deposits, rainfall and humus formation etc. but, maximum pollutions are created by visitors and locals, who due to their apathy, negligence and lack of civic sense throw several types of biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials everywhere. The authorities also do not care proper disposal due to lack of interest, fund or priority. The main types of pollutions which are affecting the monuments are:-

- i) Air Pollution – In India industrial activities and vehicular movements are major reasons of air pollution. There are many types of pollutants such as carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, fly ash, lead, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides etc. which mixed with water vapor, become acid, then they are very harmful for plant and animal as well as several rocks, e.g. Taj Mahal was badly affected by Sulphur dioxide etc. emitted by oil refinery at Mathura and more than 200 furnaces used in Taj ganj area. The environmentalist groups with the help of Supreme Court banned emission of these polluting agents. Similar case was found near some other monuments which are located in other cities.
- ii) Water Pollution – Due to lack of stringent actions and proper implementation by Civic authorities, industrial and household affluent are directly dumped into rivers, lakes and even underground waters. Thus, several rivers which were cradle of Indian civilization e.g. the Ganges, Yamuna etc. are dying in several sections. On the occasion of Kumbh Fair the saints and sadhus protested to take holy dip at Allahabad. The environmentalists have declared that the water at Delhi, Mathura, Allahabad, Varanasi and Patna are not suitable for bath or consumption. There are several lakes in tourist destinations are full of filth, weeds and polluted waters e.g. Dal Lake in Kashmir Valley, Nainital, Lake Nakki (Mt. Abu), Lake Pichola in Udaipur etc. The world famous Dal Lake has shrunk from 34 sq. Km. to 9 sq. Km. The World Bank and several international organizations and foreign companies are trying to clean it, but due to corruptions and terrorism Dal Lake cleaning project could not be completed.

- iii) Noise Pollution – After crossing limits the noise is not only harmful to man and animals, it also becomes harmful for monuments, e.g. the shock waves by aircrafts were threat to Khajuraho temples and Ellora caves. A music concert by Greek musician Yanni in the backdrop in Taj was severely criticized by environmentalists due to its high volume of music.
- iv) Land Pollution – It includes bio & non-biodegradable materials which are thrown away by the visitors and locals. Sometimes uncivil sense also makes sad conditions, e.g. there was a vegetable market in south-east of Meenakshi Temple (Madurai) which causes heap of vegetable wastes and cow dung. The throwing of polybags, bottles, pack of eatables can be seen everywhere from interior parts of the Himalayas to Kanyakumari. Sometimes it is due to lack of civic sense of visitors, sometimes it is due to apathy of local administrators who do not provide dustbins or proper cleaning facilities.
- v) Visual Pollution – There are fixture of large hoardings along the national parks, hill stations, beautiful lakes which negates the beauty of places. Sometimes it may be so large, or so anesthetically fit that it kills all charm of background, e.g. there was a large hoarding on the south-east corner of Hussain Sagar in Hyderabad, which was larger than nearby buildings. Many times, the marketers paint on rocks, in such a case, on the directive of Supreme Court some cold drink companies were fined and directed to clean all the rocks from Kullu to Rohtang pass.

5. Light & Sound Shows – The India Tourism Development Corporation started light and sound programmes at several places. Its main purpose was to highlight the historical glory through light and sound medium. Such programmes became very popular among the tourists wherever it was introduced – from Shalimar Bagh in Kashmir to Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar. However, its physical execution has become a controversy. It needs fixature of high voltage lightings, sounds systems. Most of the old monuments are houses of bats, birds several animals which are disturbed by intense light, high pitch sound system. The vibrations create cracks. The heat by light also harms the plaster works and colors of monuments. The former ruler of Mysore has objected such a show on the ground of sound vibrations and lights which may harm the famous Mysore Palace.( The Hindu Jan 3, 2009)

In brief, there are several problems which have created a danger to the monuments. Each of monuments is facing a different type of threat.

### **Suggestions**

There can be several ways to overcome the problems. Some of the suggestions are general in nature but can be applied to all heritage properties.

- **Public awareness** – There is need of general awareness among the people. Indian citizens lack self esteem, self respect and national proud of their glorious past. In 2007, there was a world wide campaign to include some heritage sites in modern ‘seven wonders’. From India only Taj & Meenakshi Temple (Madurai) were selected, while United Kingdom tried its best to include the Stonehenge. We have better caves of that age (or thousand times better and older than Petra of Jordan, which is included in seven wonders), but due to lack of awareness very few people participated in this campaign.

The students can take a major pro active role. It should be included in their curriculum. The students are citizens of future. They should be made responsible citizens, with feeling of proud & sense of belongingness. There should be proper signage at the entry of Heritage sites. At ticket counter some brief literature should be given so that the tourists can carry the information as souvenir to their homes.

- **Law & Administration** - It is a major issue for protection of heritage sites. Most of monuments are located in far flung areas which are far from populated areas e.g. Bhimbetka, Saanchi and Ajanta etc. In such condition, the safety of monuments and visitors is a major problem. The unscrupulous elements, snatchers and teasers are disturbing the visitors within the monument areas e.g. Old Fort Delhi, Golkonda Fort, Rajgir-Gaya etc. This is the reason why Rajasthan, Goa and Kerala have become popular destinations while Bihar or Jharkhand are not. The safety of tourists is very important factor. There are several states which are facing terrorists and naxalite problems e.g. Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh etc. Any mishappening with tourists is taken very seriously, that’s why though these states are rich in tourist’s resources, they receive very few domestic and international tourists.
- **Deployment of Tourist Police** – There are several states and destinations where tourists polices have been deployed e.g. Goa, Delhi, Varanasi etc. These have very positive impact on tourism. It gives a feeling of safety.
- **Sell of Souvenirs** – India has a large number of beautiful heritage sites with beautiful and unique sculptures which tourists would love to see, but all places do not have souvenir shops. If they are, then they lack good photographs or replica, e.g. Salarjung museum at Hyderabad has a large unique collection where tourists can’t take photographs, but they do not get any booklet or photograph on rare collection. Whatever is available are old aged prints neither clear, nor coloured. A good example is the small replica of Taj which is easily available, which keep the memory of Taj alive with visitors.

- **Regular programmes on print & electronic media** – The programmes should give knowledge about different gems of Indian heritage treasure. It will create a feeling of pride, confidence and belongingness. The citizens of India will become aware about their local and national heritage, culture and value. Then they will become guardian of heritage. Though, there are several programmes and bodies, which deliver such programmes, but there is need of more and more such programmes.
- **Sponsorship from industries** – For all above said purpose there is need of funding. Industries and corporate sector should come forward to adopt monument for maintenance and renovation of monument. This practice has been done at several places in India. But most of the industries prefer those places which are very popular. However, we can not leave them totally on marketers otherwise they may harm conservation. The Government of India has set up a ‘National Culture Fund’ to encourage corporate funding of restoration projects. Earlier, companies could only contribute to the fund, now they can directly hire qualified people to do restoration work e.g. The restoration work at Humayun’s Tomb was undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for culture with USD 6 50,000 in collaboration with the ASI. This was remarkable change in the environment of the tomb. For the first time in 400 years, water has begun flowing through the sandstone channels in the garden surrounding the tomb. (TOI, Nov. 26, 2007).



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