TWO HUNDRED NINETY FOURTH REPORT

Development and Conservation of Museums and Archaeological sites - Challenges and Opportunities

(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 26th July, 2021)
(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 26th July, 2021)
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE

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RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

July, 2021/ Sravana, 1943 (Saka)
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*To be appended*
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

(2019-20)
(Constituted on 13th September, 2019)

1. Shri T.G. Venkatesh - Chairman

Rajya Sabha

2. Shri Prasanna Acharya
3. Shri Raj Babbar
4. Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati
5. Dr. Sonal Mansingh
6. Shri Derek O’Brien
7. *Kumaru Selja
8. **Shri Tiruchi Siva
9. ***Shri K.C. Venugopal
10. Shri Dharmapuri Srinivas
11. Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar

Lok Sabha

11. Shrimati Sumalatha Ambareesh
12. Shri Anto Antony
13. Shrimati Veena Devi
14. Shri Tapir Gao
15. Shri Rahul Kaswan
16. Shri Saumitra Khan
17. Ms. Goddeti Madhavi
18. Shri Ramesh Chandra Majhi
19. Shri Sunil Baburao Mendhe
20. Shri K. Muraleedharan
21. Shri S.S. Palanimanickam
22. Shri Chhedi Paswan
23. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
24. Shri Tirath Singh Rawat
25. Shrimati Mala Roy
26. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
27. Shri Rajbahadur Singh
28. Shri Dushyant Singh
29. Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji Tadas
30. Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane
31. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav

*Kumari Selja ceased to be Member w.e.f. 10th April, 2020
**Shri Tiruchi Siva ceased to be Member w.e.f. 3rd April, 2020 and re-nominated as Member w.e.f. 22nd July, 2020
***Shri K.C. Venugopal nominated as Member w.e.f. 22nd July, 2020
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(2020-21)
(Constituted on 13th September, 2020)

1. Shri T.G. Venkatesh - Chairman

Rajya Sabha
2. Shri Prasanna Acharya
3. *Shri Raj Babbar
4. Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati
5. Dr. Sonal Mansingh
6. Shri Derek O’Brien
7. Shri Tiruchi Siva
8. Shri Dharmapuri Srinivas
9. Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar
10. Shri K.C. Venugopal
11. **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi

Lok Sabha
12. Shri Anto Antony
13. Shri Margani Bharat
14. Shri Tapir Gao
15. Shri Rahul Kaswan
16. Shri Ramesh Chandra Majhi
17. Shri Sunil Baburao Mendhe
18. Shri K. Muraleedharan
19. Shri S.S. Palanimanickam
20. Shri Chhedi Paswan
21. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
22. Shri Sunil Kumar Pintu
23. Shri Prince Raj
24. Shri Tirath Singh Rawat
25. Shrimati Mala Roy
26. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
27. Shri Dushyant Singh
28. Shri Rajbahadur Singh
29. Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji Tadas
30. Shri Manoj Tiwari
31. Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane
32. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav

*Shri Raj Babbar ceased to be a Member w.e.f. 25th November, 2020
**Shri Sushil Kumar Modi was nominated to be a Member w.e.f. 23rd December, 2020
SECRETARIAT

Dr. Shikha Darbari, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor
Shri P. Narayanan, Director
Shri Dinesh Singh, Additional Director
Ms. Catherine John L., Under Secretary
Shri Gaurav Singh Gahlain, Assistant Committee Officer
INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, having been authorized by the Committee to present on its behalf, do hereby present this Two Hundred Ninety Fourth Report on 'Development and Conservation of Museums and Archaeological sites - Challenges and Opportunities'.

2. The Committee heard the views of the officials of Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India and State Government of Andhra Pradesh on the subject at Visakhapatnam on 7th January, 2020. The Committee heard the views of the officials of Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India and State Government of Maharashtra on the subject at Mumbai on 9th January, 2020. The Committee heard the views of the Secretary, Ministry of Culture; Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India; and Additional Director General, National Museum on 14th October, 2020. The Committee heard the views of the Secretary, Ministry of Culture; Director General, Archaeological Survey of India; and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs on 28th January, 2021. The Committee also received written views on the subject from Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Prof. Nayanjyot Lahiri, Dr. Rakesh Tewari and INTACH.

3. The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the officers of Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Home Affairs; Archaeological Survey of India; National Museum; and State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and other stakeholders for placing before the Committee, the material and information desired in connection with the subject and for clarifying the points raised by the Members.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Report in its meeting held on the 25th June, 2021.

NEW DELHI;

June 25 , 2021
4 Ashadha, 1943 (Saka)

(T.G. Venkatesh)
Chairman,
Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture,
Rajya Sabha
ACRONYMS

ACC  Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
ADG  Additional Director General
AKTC  Aga Khan Trust for Culture
AN  Afternoon
AP  Andhra Pradesh
AR  Augmented reality
ASI  Archaeological Survey of India
ATN  Action Taken Note
CCTV  Closed-circuit television
C-DAC  Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
CISF  Central Industrial Security Force
CMS  Collection Management System
CPWD  Central Public Works Department
CSR  Corporate Social Responsibility
DG  Director General
DMCS  Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces
DPR  Detailed Project Report
FN  Forenoon
FY  Financial year
GOI  Government of India
GPS  Global Positioning System
HD  High-definition
HIA  Heritage Impact Assessment
HRD  Human Resource Development
IGNCA  Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
IIHC  Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation
INTACH  Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage
LIDAR  Light Detection and Ranging
MNREGA  Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NCSM  National Council of Science Museum
NEERI  National Environment Engineering Research Institute
NGMA  National Gallery of Modern Art
NGO  Non-Governmental Organization
<table>
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<td>NMA</td>
<td>National Monuments Authority</td>
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<td>NMMA</td>
<td>National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities</td>
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<td>NRLC</td>
<td>National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property</td>
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<td>PPP</td>
<td>Public Private Partnerships</td>
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<td>QR</td>
<td>Quick Response</td>
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<td>Transfer of development rights</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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REPORT

The Indus Valley Civilization is known to be one of the most ancient civilizations in the world. The period following the Indus Valley Civilization saw India develop rich and diverse culture and heritage across its length and breadth. It is thus no surprise that the glorious history of India is witnessed in the large number of archaeological monuments and sites in the country. The same is also showcased in the museums present across India, both public and private. Development and conservation of the vast Indian cultural heritage present in its Museums and archaeological sites is necessary for not only economic growth of the country, but also for preservation of its unique identity in the world.

2. Taking note of the pivotal role played by the Museums, archaeological sites and monuments of India in preserving the cultural heritage of the country, as well as in bolstering the tourism sector and thus the Indian economy, the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture decided to take up the subject ‘Development and Conservation of Museums and Archaeological Sites - Challenges and Opportunities’ for examination. In this connection, the Committee heard the views of representatives of Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and State Government of Andhra Pradesh in its meeting held at Visakhapatnam on 7th January, 2020; and representatives of Ministry of Culture, ASI and State Government of Maharashtra at Mumbai on 9th January, 2020. The Committee had its first deliberation with the Secretary, Ministry of Culture on this subject on 14th October, 2020 and later on specific subject 'Preservation, Protection and Funding of Museums and Archaeological Sites' on 28th January, 2021.

3. The Committee sought written views and opinions from various experts/stakeholders on the following points/issues:
   a) The present state of development and conservation of museums and archaeological sites in the country;
   b) The issues/challenges being faced by museums and archaeological sites at present such as lack of funding and human resources, air pollution, encroachment, scarcity of artisans, vandalism, conservation and preservation practices, the proposed solutions to tackle these issues, etc.;
c) Strategies to capitalize on the different opportunities presented by development and conservation of museums and archaeological sites in respect of promotion of tourism and business, involvement of communities, etc.;

d) Legislative amendments/ new legislations, if any, needed to better develop and preserve the museums and archaeological sites; and

e) Strategies to preserve those monuments/sites which are presently not under the protection of any agency, whether Government or private, in the best possible way.

4. DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MUSEUMS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 Museums are a repository of a nation’s culture as they connect the past with the present and the future. Museums conserve collections of artefacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance and make them available for public viewing through exhibits that may be permanent or temporary. Today, Museums around the world are moving to a more entrepreneurial and visitor-focused model. Digital advancement has provided new opportunities of reaching to wider and diverse audiences and offering multi-dimensional experiences. Museums are building new ways of audience engagement, developing responsive digital infrastructures which are more aligned to currently available skill sets. The strengthening of the Museum movement across the country is thereby an important activity covered under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture.

4.2 Several important museums and institutes such as the National Museum, New Delhi; National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi; National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation & Museology, New Delhi; Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad; Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata; Indian Museum, Kolkata; National Council of Science Museums; Allahabad Museum; and National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow function as autonomous organizations under the Ministry of Culture.

4.3 In its background note, the Ministry, has broadly listed the following challenges being faced by Indian Museums:

i. Innovation and Design    

vi. Disconnect between academia and Museums
ii. Human resources   vii. Funding
iii. Lack of autonomy viii. Conservation and Preservation Practices
iv. Management issues ix. Security
v. Audience engagement

4.4 The Ministry has informed the Committee that in order to address various challenges and bring Museums under the administrative control of Ministry of Culture at par with international Museums, a study of best practices was made in October 2018. Accordingly, Ministry issued a list of deliverables to the Museums under its administrative control and advised them to take stock and adopt and execute these deliverables for improvement and upliftment of facilities/infrastructure. The Museums are working on the following deliverables:-
   i. Management of Museum space as per international standards for public and non-public area.
   ii. Development of world class storage facility with atmospheric control such as heat, temperature, humidity, dust, light etc. along with firefighting in the storage and display areas.
   iii. Display of at least 10% of total artefacts.
   iv. Follow international standards and norms for galleries text, interpretation, lighting, showcases, signages, labelling, marking, display room wall colour etc.
   v. Introduce new technologies to make the collections accessible, explorable and enjoyable not just for those who visit the Museums, but for everyone (mobile apps and e-Museum etc.)
   vi. Update websites as dynamic websites in the nature of virtual Museums to show user friendly 360 view of galleries/exhibitions.
   vii. Introduce latest technology such as 3-D holographic projections, simulated images, virtual reality and augmented reality.
   viii. Enhance visitor facilities on par with international standards.
   ix. Implement IT based collection management system (CMS) to record and retrieve documented information easily about Museum collection.
   x. Organize HRD training & expose personnel to international standards.

4.5 The Committee observes that the Museums of any given country exhibit the richness of its culture, giving the visitors a sneak peek into the cultural heritage and history of the
nation, besides being a major attraction for tourists, both domestic and foreign. In view of the significant role played by Museums in showcasing the art and culture of the country, the Committee desires that a comprehensive action plan needs to be devised to bring a modern look and feel to the Museums, and ensure that the collections available are periodically rotated to provide a refreshing experience for visitors. The Committee desires the Ministry to put up a monitoring mechanism in place to make sure that the deliverables are achieved by all the Museums within a strict timeline.

4.6 The Committee takes note of the steps taken by the Ministry for the upgradation of the security infrastructure, Reception Halls, Auditorium etc., with the latest technology, and desires that the betterment of the Galleries may be completed at all the Museums within a fixed timeframe. The Committee strongly recommends that the Museums in India should be adequately equipped with conservation labs, storage facilities, written and graphic records, documentation facilities, modern photography techniques etc.

4.7 On the present state of development and conservation of museums and archaeological sites in the country, Professor Himanshu Prabha Ray, former Chairperson, National Monuments Authority, in her written note furnished to the Committee, stated that the present state is unsatisfactory and that there is potential for tremendous upgradation both in terms of development of museums in the country as well as the protection of archaeological sites in India.

4.8 Professor Nayanjot Lahiri, Professor of History, Ashoka University and former Member, Delhi Urban Art Commission, in her written note furnished to the Committee, stated that the present state of monuments and museums in the country is worrisome and should be a matter of urgent concern for all citizens. She informed the Committee that CAG reports have revealed that there were no uniform benchmarks for the acquisition of art objects and antiquities in government-controlled museums and that there was no system in any of the institutions to identify damage to objects and to prioritize their conservation. She stated that at the National Museum of India, at the time of the CAG scrutiny, one-third of its twenty-two galleries were closed, some like the Manuscript Gallery for as long as eight years. The Art Purchase Committee of the Museum had been defunct for years and an enquiry in 2010-11 showed that the last purchase of art objects was done in 1997. There were also, at that point in time, major safety issues there. The alarm system and the CCTV in the Coin Gallery were not working from 2007
till 2011 even while regular maintenance charges were being paid for them! Not surprisingly, there had been 156 cases of theft/loss of art objects with 122 in the Anthropology Department and 33 relating to coins.

4.9 Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), in its written note furnished to the Committee, observed that compared to a few Central and State-run museums which are state-of-the-art and of international standards, a vast majority of museums reflect a poor state of conservation and development. A survey report may be commissioned at the earliest to present the actual status and improvement strategies for the same.

4.10 The Committee notes the general view of the experts/stakeholders that the present state of museums under the Ministry leaves much to be desired. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Ministry may prepare action plans in consultation with the best experts in this field, for each museum for the short-term as well as the long-term, and monitor the progress made to follow these plans.

4.11 Challenges:-

(i) Innovation and Design

4.11.1 On the challenge faced by Indian Museums in terms of innovation and design, the Ministry has stated that innovation in Museum promotion is needed, not only by incorporating additional galleries and display space but also keeping in view curatorial and visitor enhancement needs. Restoration work is usually focused on structural needs leaving out crucial elements of planning and design which are key technical requirements of a Museum. Often, curatorial requirements were looked at after structural work was completed. However, refurbishment, renovation and expansion are very much a part of planning.

4.11.2 INTACH, in its written note, stated that majority of the museums lack in practice of a comprehensive Museum Policy, including acquisition, storage, display, exhibitions, management of visitors etc.

4.11.3 The Committee observes that Indian Museums in general need to work a lot on their presentation, design and marketing. Doing so would help the Museums to attract not only
art/history aficionados but also other visitors which will help in increasing the revenue of the Museums. This increased revenue can be used to spur innovation and improve design standards across the Museums. Experiences and good practices from Museums, both Indian and international, excelling in terms of innovation and design should be utilized for improving the same in Museums where it is lacking.

4.11.4 The Committee recommends that the Ministry should come up with a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure that a comprehensive Museum Policy is in place and is put to implementation at each of the museum under it.

4.11.5 The Committee feels that once internal resources are raised, it would be easy for the Ministry to approach the Finance Ministry to supplement its efforts to complete any undertaken projects.

(ii) Human Resources

4.11.6 Human Resources is another bottleneck faced by the Museums. The Ministry has stated that many Museums lack skilled professionals as the existing staff don't possess expertise and skills to efficiently manage collections and educate visitors.

4.11.7 The Ministry has informed the Committee that considering the shortage of Human Resources within Museums and in the heritage sector, a Central Institute, namely the Indian Institute of Heritage is being set up by the Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces (DMCS) under the Ministry of Culture with the mandate to develop Human Resources in Museology and other disciplines. This Central Institute will *inter alia*, provide avenues for advanced research and education, evolve research advanced approaches for preserving and managing India’s rich tangible heritage besides creating skilled human resources. The Institute aimed after post graduate degrees, Ph.D., Diploma and Certificate courses. Digital outreach shall also be offered.

4.11.8 The Committee was further informed that in order to resolve the issue of lack of expertise and skills among Museum staff, the Ministry issued a list of following deliverables to the Museums to improve/ uplift the Museums to bring them at par with international best Museums:

i. Organization of HRD training and exposure of personnel to international standards.
ii. Encouraging exchanges of best practices through visits. Facilitation of studies, research to bring out better publications.

iii. Utilizing visiting fellows to unravel treasures within Museums. Publishing of world-class books and catalogues.

iv. Collaboration with national and international institutions to enhance their capacities. Engaging specialized professionals on contract/tenure basis.

v. Conducting short training, certificate courses and in-service training courses for mid-career up-gradation of Museum professionals.

vi. Developing mechanisms for sharing knowledge /information among curators (who are attending international fellowship programs) on modern practices to improve galleries/exhibitions.

4.11.9 The Ministry has mentioned that the following universities/institutions conduct Masters & PhD programs in Museology:


ii. Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

iii. University of Calcutta, Kolkata.

iv. The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda.

v. Banaras Hindi University, Varanasi.

vi. Jiwaji University, Gwalior, MP

vii. Institute of Archaeology of ASI

4.11.10 The Committee believes that tackling the issue of dearth of human resources requires long-term planning and solutions beyond the availability of budget. The Committee takes cognizance of the list of deliverables issued by the Ministry to address the issue of lack of human resources and role envisaged for the upcoming Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation (IIHC) in solving this issue. The Committee recommends the Ministry to formulate, in advance, its document indicating the present as well as future human resource needs of the Indian Museums sector for consideration the IIHC. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may develop plans for establishing regional centres of IIHC in the future, to enable interested youth to pursue their interest in museology and cultural heritage preservation.
4.11.11 INTACH observed that lack of trained professionals, either by way of vacant posts or adequate competency, has resulted in the inappropriate conservation of collections and undesirable development of museums. It further pointed out the lack of trained and qualified personnel for museum curatorship and management. Also, there are many positions which have been lying vacant for years in almost all museums resulting in overburdening of existing staff or management of scientific conservation laboratories under the hands of curators who are not qualified to administer such specialised work. INTACH submitted that objects on display and storage suffer mostly due to improper handling. For example: a 2nd Cent. BC Yakshi statue and a 3rd Cent. BC Mauryan lion, at the oldest museum of India in Kolkata, were damaged in the past due to careless handling by inadequately trained museum workers. It was suggested that training programmes should be organized for curators and staff of the museum, geared towards collection management, display, storage, emergency evacuation, response and responsibilities during a disaster, etc.

4.11.12 Professor H.P. Ray, in her written note, raised the critical issue of lack of trained manpower to take on leadership roles in curating interesting displays in museums. She suggested that an inter-disciplinary team of specialists, archaeologists, curators and exhibition designers need to be engaged.

4.11.13 The Committee notes that there is an urgent need for carrying out extensive training programmes for the museum staff working across the country. The Committee recommends that the Ministry may enhance the budgetary allocation for this purpose and ensure that the museum staff is well-trained and sensitized regarding the cultural importance of the antiquities under their care. The training programmes may be conducted by renowned experts from the field in an engaging manner.

(iii) Conservation and Preservation Practices

4.11.14 Utilization of the best known conservation and preservation practices play pivotal role in maintaining and preserving the quality and essence of the artefacts of a Museum. The Ministry informed the Committee that India being a tropical country, fluctuating environmental conditions like extremely hot or cold weather, relative humidity, light levels and contaminants are main challenges. Pollution has also been mentioned as a big challenge for Museums, though preventive steps have been taken to curtail the damage caused.
4.11.15 The Committee feels that a lot needs to be done in terms of implementing the best possible conservation and preservation practices in our Museums. The Committee recommends that the Museums should be encouraged to study the efficacy of age-old traditional conservation practices and modify them suitably in order to ensure that all the Museum artefacts stay in the best possible state. Collaborations with international institutions with respect to training and capacity building exercises should be held periodically for the Museum staff. The Committee further recommends the Ministry to ensure that the curricula of the academic institutions imparting knowledge of conservation practices in India, including the upcoming IIHC, includes the global best practices for conservation and preservation of historic artefacts.

4.11.16 The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may devise a policy to ensure periodical review the state of artefacts of the Museums and, on a case-to-case basis, do away with those which are beyond the point of salvaging by way of donating them to academic institutions or by auctioning them to collectors. This would also help the Museums to focus on the artefacts which are in good shape and preserve them in best possible way for years to come. The Committee would also like the Ministry to encourage the Museums under its ambit to collaborate with State Government owned Museums from time to time to share their preservation expertise with them.

4.11.17 INTACH, in its written note, stated that it is an issue that multiple agencies are responsible for the ownership and management of museums, since all museums across the country are not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture. INTACH opined that this results in a lack of coordinated, integrated and consistent approach to conservation and development.

4.11.18 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may take the necessary steps to ensure that a coordinated, integrated and consistent approach to conservation and development of museums is followed across the various museums functioning under it.

(iv) Audience Engagement

4.11.19 The Ministry informed the Committee that audience management in Museums is a challenge in the absence of proper guides, guidebooks and audio systems. Museums worldwide have progressively adopted new technologies for enhancing visitors’ experiences, reaching wider
audiences and improving internal efficiency. Some of the areas which have witnessed major technological changes are Museum display systems, object digitization, 3D scanning, Virtual Tours, and AR/VR.

4.11.20 INTACH, in its written note, submitted that several museums do not provide for universal access and interactive engagement of the visitors. INTACH opined that most of the museums are static and un-interactive and that appropriate steps need to be taken for making museums interesting for people to come and spend time. It suggested that guided tours for visitors should be promoted in museums and that volunteer programmes may also be developed to involve local people, researchers, students, retired persons and so forth. INTACH further proposed that a rating system or awards for museums could be introduced by Government as an incentive for undertaking the abovementioned activities.

4.11.21 The Committee feels that audience engagement is one of the most crucial challenges faced by the Indian Museums. The Committee is of the view that the Museum administrators need to make the optimum use of the available funds to spur engagement, interest and curiosity among the visitors as part of its audience engagement activities. The Committee would like the Museums to strive to develop certain galleries as Augmented Reality/ Virtual Reality powered galleries for showcasing immersive stories of the past to the visitors. The Committee further recommends that the Museums should optimally utilize social media and target hyperlocal marketing to drive visitors to the Museums. Guided tours should be promoted in museums for both domestic and international visitors. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may come up with a rating system for all the museums under it, wherein museums are rated based on several parameters – with audience engagement being one of the important parameters. This would encourage the museum staff to perform better.

4.11.22 The Committee urges upon the Ministry to tie up with both domestic as well as international Museums to exchange and loan artefacts on rotational basis, so as to have fresh attractions from time to time. The Committee is of the view that the Museums should ensure that their entire collection of artefacts is displayed to the audience by implementation of a well thought-out, pre-planned rotation schedule, physically as well as on the Museum websites, and also by giving advertisements both in print and electronic
media, which will also help to increase the overall footfall. This would also enable visitors to know beforehand what to expect from their visit, and provide them an overall improved visitor experience.

4.11.23 The Ministry, in its written submission apprised the Committee about the installation of QR code based mechanism to allow interactivity in two of its Museums - National Museum, Delhi; Victoria Memorial, Kolkata. The Committee notes that QR codes provide link to a web page which will display an online map of the Museum so that visitors do not have trouble reaching any particular section of the Museum, showcasing the detailed history of the artefacts and interesting facts about the Museum. The Committee recommends the Ministry to introduce QR codes in all its Museums for an interactive experience which would especially appeal to young visitors. Making wifi available in every Museum would be crucial for ensuring an enriching experience for the visitors.

(v) Funding

4.11.24 Barely any progress can be made towards development and conservation of Museums if sufficient funds for the same are not available with the Ministry and its subordinate organizations. Apprising the Committee about the challenge on account of shortage of funds, the Ministry informed that funds constraint deters up-gradation of Museum infrastructure, use of technology and proper maintenance of collections.

4.11.25 During its Study Visit to Visakhapatnam in January, 2020, the representatives of the Ministry emphasized on need of funding and systematic efforts to improve the display and collection management at Site Museums in India.

4.11.26 Apart from the budgetary allocation, the museums generate revenue as per the following details:-

(A) National Museum:
Various sources of sundry revenues of National Museum are entry tickets, audio guide rental, selling of books & publications, souvenir sales, Auditorium Booking etc. Revenue so generated is though deposited to Consolidated Fund of India, but not ploughed back to it.

(B) National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
Sundry revenues of NGMA include gallery entry ticket, sales from publications, fee for publishing images from NGMA repository by outside publishers or individual books, camera fee inside the gallery and registration fee from educational programs.

(C) National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property:

Besides funding from the Ministry, NRLC is engaged in conservation of art objects belonging to different Museums and organization in the country by its scheme of Field Conservation Projects and earning a little revenue by way of charging 10% Fee of the total project cost.

(D) Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad

Apart from its Grants in Aid received from the Ministry the Salar Jung Museum earns revenue from sale of admission tickets, sale of photography tickets, lease of vehicle parking, rents of building areas for shops, cafeteria, canteen, etc., sale of books, souvenirs and publications.

(E) Indian Museum, Kolkata

The Museum generates revenues through user charges from the visitors as entry fees, charges from organizations for use of the Museum’s auditorium and exhibition halls on daily charge basis, selling publications, replicas and souvenirs, receiving fee against the usage of still and movie cameras, scholastic and commercial fee from allowing use of the photographs of the Museum’s artefacts and also by providing Museum spaces for cultural activities.

(F) Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata

The source of income is from visitors entry ticketing, souvenirs, publications etc.

(G) National Council of Science Museum, Kolkata

NCSM generates revenues through user charges from the visitors as entry fees, parking fees, rental charges for use of the Council’s auditorium and exhibition halls, license fees from agencies for providing cafeteria service, souvenirs shops, sponsorships and consultancy charges for undertaking projects etc., besides receiving fund from the Ministry.

Science City, Kolkata, a constituent unit of NCSM is a self-sustaining unit. For operation and management no funds are provided to Science City, Kolkata by the Ministry. Science City, Kolkata generates internal revenue from various user charges to meet its requirement for the entire recurring expenditure including salary of the employees (who are basically employees of
During 2019-20 Science City earned a revenue of Rs. 2171.26 lakhs(approx.), while NCSM and its units other than Science City, Kolkata generated Rs. 3450.00 lakhs (approx.).

(H) Allahabad Museum, Prayagraj

The source of income in the Allahabad Museum is from visitors ticketing, selling of plaster of paris mould, souvenirs, publications etc.

(I) Archeological Survey of India

The source of revenue for Archaeological Site Museums are entry tickets, sale of Publication, photography, filming, souvenir shop, etc. The Revenue earned is deposited in the consolidated fund of GOI.

4.11.27 INTACH, in its written note, observed that most of the museums depend on funding from the Central or State governments for their conservation, development and management, including day-to-day operations and that there is no provision in the Museum Grant Scheme, or otherwise for a Government Museum, to receive assistance through Corporate Social Responsibility. INTACH further added that currently, there is no effective revenue model for museums, and the only source of income is from the ticket sales. Some revenue does come from merchandise sales but all income goes into a common kitty, and is not spent on well-performing museums. INTACH opined that Public-Private Partnership should be encouraged for funding of museums.

4.11.28 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may work on developing an effective revenue model for the museums and employ innovative means like donation drives, seeking CSR funds and sponsorships etc. to raise funds for the development, maintenance and upgradation of Museums. Visitors may also be encouraged to share their Museum experience on social media to generate interest among their peers which will result in increased footfall, thereby earning the Museums extra revenue.

4.11.29 The Committee further recommends that efforts may be made to encourage voluntary donations for the purpose of development and conservation of the Museum and its artefacts. This can be done by making the tickets pay-as-you-wish, setting a minimum price that needs to be paid for an entry ticket and suggesting a higher amount to help the Museums generate funds for its operations. An option may also be provided to interested
people to contribute towards the maintenance of any given artefact for a certain time period. The possibility of providing special tours of Museums before and after public hours, by charging higher ticket prices may also be explored. The Committee suggests that Museums across India should look into the issue of charging higher fees to foreign nationals and analyzing the possible impact of lowering the same on the footfall received and revenue generated by the Museums, targeting the maximization of both the footfall and the revenue.

4.11.30 INTACH, in its written note, observed that Government museums make up about 90% of the approximately 1000 museums in India and that there is limited, or no, encouragement for partnership with private individuals or organizations for setting up, development and functioning of museums.

4.11.31 The Committee is of the view that Museums may be encouraged to enter into partnerships with the private sector to sponsor their exhibitions, and also through contribution under Corporate Social Responsibility. The Committee understands that the condition of Indian Museums can be improved to a large extent if sufficient funds are made available. The Committee would also like the Ministry to look into the administration, functioning and revenue models of successful international Museums in developing countries and emulate the best practices with modifications suiting to the Indian context.

4.11.32 In reply to a query regarding support provided to the Museums owned by State Government, the Ministry informed that it does not provide regular grant to the State Museum as State Museums come under the administrative control of State Govt. However, the Ministry operates the Museum Grant Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to State Govt. for setting up new Museums and development of existing Museums. A total of 25 state Museums have been supported during last 5 years. The total amount supported to these Museums is Rs. 72.51 crores. The details are at Annexure-A.

4.11.33 During its study visit to Visakhapatnam in January 2020, the representative of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted that the Museums in the State suffer from budget constraints and insufficient staff strength. They emphasized the need for organizing training programmes for employees, and suggested for introduction of PPP model in case of
Museum maintenance and management. During Committee's visit to Mumbai, the representative of the State Government of Maharashtra apprised that the State Government has requested for special grant of Rs. 600 crores for consideration of the 15th Finance Commission for the proposed State level Museums at New Mumbai and Nagpur. Further, a special grant of Rs. 100 crore has also been sought for preservation, conservation and restoration of State protected/Centrally protected monuments depicting inspirational life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

4.11.34 The Committee feels that the sum of Rs. 72.51 crores provided by the Ministry to State Museums across the country under the Museum Grant Scheme from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20, is a paltry amount covering only a few Museums while a large number of museums are still craving for such an assistance. The Committee desires the Ministry to allocate more funds to the State Governments for the purpose of development of State Museums and encourage all the States to come up with proposals to upgrade the Museums under their control under the Museum Grant Scheme. The Committee also calls upon the Ministry to come up with a list of deliverables for the State Museums to provide better experience to the visitors across the country.

4.11.35 The Committee observes that out of the abovementioned grant of Rs. 72.51 crores under the Museum Grant Scheme from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20, Rs. 35 crores i.e. 48% of the total amount, has been allocated to just 2 States – Nagaland and Andhra Pradesh. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should take steps to ensure equitable allocation of the financial aid to State Governments under the Museum Grants scheme. The Committee desires the Ministry to ask all States to submit their proposal for this scheme and ensure that at least one Museum gets this grant in each State. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may allocate some funds to National Museums with the specific purpose to lend technical and conservational assistance to State controlled Museums, when needed.

(vi) Safety and security of Museum artefacts

4.11.36 The Ministry has furnished the following information regarding the state of security of artefacts at National Museums under the Ministry:-
(A) **National Museum:**
Since 1990s, the security of artefacts at the Museum has been entrusted to CISF. CISF is currently deployed on round the clock basis. A full-fledged CCTV system with dedicated control room is also operational for 24X7 real time monitoring of the vulnerable places of the Museum. In addition, SOPs are in place for handling of Museum objects within Museum premises and from/to another Museum. The Museum has also introduced RF-ID based security tagging system for objects given on loan to other Institutions.

(B) **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi**
NGMA has engaged a Security Agency sponsored by the Director General Re-Settlement, Ministry of Defence, R. K. Puram, New Delhi to provide round the clock security cover by deployment of Ex-servicemen Security Guards since 1st August, 2018. NGMA is working towards providing CISF security cover to the Museum.

A full-fledged CCTV system with dedicated control room is also operational for 24X7 real time monitoring of the vulnerable places of the gallery. In addition, SOPs are in place for handling of gallery objects within gallery premises and from/to other Museums. NGMA has also introduced RFID based security tagging system for objects given on loan to other Institutions. Upgradation of security for internal and external movement and safe storage of artefacts is also being worked upon.

(C) **Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad**
Safety and security of the Museum artifacts including the visitor’s security is the primary concern of the Museum. Every National Museum has its own security measures or arrangements to meet any unforeseen incidents such as fire, accident, burglary or vandalism.

As a national Museum, the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad is fitted with the latest security equipment and has around 100 CISF security personnel posted in the Museum as its main security force. The Security arrangements at the Museum are at four levels: First, there is an outer periphery, built with pucca walls and barbed wire. The second level caters the manual checking by CISF personnel using electronic devices such as hand held metal detectors, wireless systems and baggage checking scanners. At the third level, CCTV cameras are installed at all important cardinal points and all galleries which are monitored regularly by trained security staff. There are also fire-fighting equipment, smoke detectors, and hydrant system. The fourth level is
managed by the Museum staff, who have been trained in the safeguarding of Museum objects and in the protection of Museum.

In addition, an exclusive Fire station also existed in the Museum premises managed by Telangana State Govt. The Museum has taken measures to keep the building safe from short-circuits and lightning strikes. Security arrangements for detecting any explosives exist in the Museum.

(D) Indian Museum, Kolkata

In Indian Museum, security of the entire premises is presently under the control of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The Museum building has 431 CCTV cameras to enable electronic surveillance of the entire premises. In addition to ensure security of objects in store, SOPs have been devised to ensure maximum security to stored objects.

(E) Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata

The VMH has been the first Museum in eastern India to deploy the CISF to take care of the Museum security since January 2018, in compliance with the directions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India. This has bolstered the security system very significantly.

(F) National Council of Science Museum, Kolkata

In NCSM, security of the entire premises is taken care of by outsourced agencies. CCTV monitoring systems and Metal detectors are adequately used to ensure security to exhibits and science centre visitors.

(G) Allahabad Museum, Prayagraj

A three-tier security system is available in the Allahabad Museum i.e. private security, armed police and CCTV cameras. The matter of deploying the CISF personnel in the Museum is under consideration.

(H) Archeological Survey of India

Security and safety aspects of ASI Site Museums have been upgraded from time-time in all Archaeological Site Museums as per 14 Museum reform points. Gadgets like CCTV/ night vision HD cameras, infrared cameras, metal door detector, hand-held metal detector, burglar alarm, etc. have been installed in the Archaeological Site. Apart from manual frisking, CISF and Private Security has also been deployed in Museums for Security purpose.
4.11.37 The Committee takes note of several media reports pointing out theft of antiquities and artefacts, involving the participation of organized international mafia. This, according to the Committee is a major cause of concern in safeguarding the artefacts in our country. The Committee underlined the need of security of artefacts deployed at the different National Museums across the country to ensure the safety of our valuable antiquities and artefacts. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry may come up with a set of rules to ensure certain level of safety and security across all the National Museums. Needless to mention, installation of CCTV systems, armed personnel, burglar alarm systems, etc. in the museums are must and therefore the budgetary requirements, alongwith provisions thereof within strict timeline be made for compliance of security requirements. The Committee recommends the Ministry to explore the usage of blockchain technology for digital cataloguing of Museum artefacts, so as to maintain permanent, unalterable records of the artefacts. The Committee hopes that this would also deter the possible connivance of the Museum staff with organized art smuggling groups.

4.11.38 INTACH, in its written note, observed that at many of the museums, there is a lack of Disaster Management Plans for the building, collections as well as the visitors. INTACH pointed out the lack of preventive conservation measures: environmental monitoring, light levels, proper storage and innovative display. It further stated that not enough attention is paid to fire safety audits, earthquake resistance measures and security concerns/ theft.

4.11.39 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may take urgent measures to ensure that an effective disaster management plan is in place across all the museums to ensure the physical safety of the precious antiquities in times of natural calamities.

(vii) Vacancies existing in Museums

4.11.40 The Ministry informed the Committee that there are 9 Museums under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture. Out of them, 3 are subordinate organizations of the Ministry. These are

- National Museum, New Delhi
• National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) head office: Jaipur House, Delhi. Two branches located at Mahatma Gandhi Road, Mumbai and Palace Road, Bengaluru.
• National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow

The other organizations are autonomous organizations run and managed by Board of Trustees or Societies. These Museums are

• Allahabad Museum
• Indian Museum, Kolkata
• Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
• Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata
• National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Kolkata
• National Museum Institute, New Delhi.

4.11.41 The Ministry has stated that insofar as autonomous organizations are concerned, the post of head of the organizations are filled up by the Ministry itself except Allahabad Museum and Victoria Memorial Hall as these posts are at the level of Director having Grade Pay of Rs. 8700/-. However, in respect of Subordinate Offices, the Ministry takes action for filling up the posts having the Grade Pay 7600/- and above. The details of these posts are placed at Annexure-B.

4.11.42 The Committee is anguished to note that several key positions are lying vacant for a long time in the various Museums. The Committee wonders as to how the Museums can function properly without key personnel in position to manage them. The Committee, therefore, urges the Ministry to take urgent steps to fill the existing vacancies under the various Museums at the earliest.

4.12 Opportunities:-

(i) Digitization of Museums

4.12.1 The Ministry has submitted that enhancing the Museum sector being an important part of nation-building has the potential to become a high-revenue sector. Museums are hotspots for cultural tourism. Under an initiative by the Ministry, national Museums across the country are using JATAN: Virtual Museum Builder, a software designed and developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) as the standard software for all Museums under
the purview of the Ministry. 10 Museums, under the administrative control of the Ministry, are using this software. As on 30.9.2020, a total of 2,72,355 objects have been digitized and uploaded on the website museumsofindia.gov.in. This digital engagement enables the Museums to promote culture and heritage to global audiences through digital channels. Museums can engage diverse audiences in the backdrop massive growth of the internet, increased mobile usage via smart phones and tablets and the prevalence of social media. Museums are now taking initiatives to engage with their communities by organising outreach programs.

4.12.2 The Committee appreciates the meticulous work done by several national Museums across the country in setting up of virtual galleries and digitization of the artefacts present in the Museums, along with the relevant details for these items which would serve not only research scholars of historical artefacts, but also the art-loving community. The digitized artefacts would ensure permanent record of artefacts which in turn would help in keeping a check on pilferage of Museum artefacts. The Committee recommends that the software may be introduced across the national Museums on priority. The Committee further recommends the Ministry to provide assistance to the State Government Museums for implementing the JATAN software.

(ii) Addressing the dearth of Human Resources in Museology

4.12.3 The dearth of human resources faced by the Indian Museums is a stark pointer to the absence of Museums management and museology in the Indian education system. The Ministry has stated that Museums are generally not part of the curriculum of the educational system across India. There are very few universities and art colleges in the country offering courses on conservation, museology and art history. Considering the shortage of Human Resources within Museums and the heritage sector and the need for dedicated and scientific conservation of tangible relics, there is an exigent need for a Central Institute with mandate to develop Human Resources in the disciplines of Archaeology, Museology, Conservation, Archival Studies, Art History and Management. The Government in its Budget 2020-21 has announced setting up of a Central Institute which will provide infinite avenues for advanced research and education in the domain of Cultural Heritage. In this regard, the scope of current National Museum Institute (which is already a registered autonomous Society with a status of Deemed to be University) will be enlarged and its nomenclature changed to ‘Indian Institute of Heritage’ (IIH). This will be an
umbrella Institute to offer various courses in History of Art, Conservation, Museology, Archival Studies, Archaeology, Preventive Conservation, Epigraphy & Numismatics, Manuscriptology, etc. currently being conducted by different organizations under the Ministry i.e. National Museum Institute, Institute of Archaeology, National Archives of India, IGNCA, NRLC etc. Digital outreach shall also be offered. The Memorandum of Association, Bye Laws and Regulations for IIH have been prepared and necessary approvals are being obtained. Estimates for the establishment of IIH, targets and timelines are also being worked out.

4.12.4 The Committee feels that the issue of shortage of human resources in the field of museology in the country can only be resolved by long-term planning and introducing students to this field at a young age. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Ministry may request the Ministry of Human Resource Development to include an introductory course on museology in the curriculum at the senior secondary school level. The Committee further recommends that schools should be persuaded by the Ministry to arrange at least one Museum visit per year for students at every level. Such visits should include a brief behind-the-curtains overview of the process of conservation of Museum artefacts and Museum curation. Doing so would instill a sense of respect for our rich cultural heritage and the efforts that go behind preserving the same stimulate the curiosity of students, and encourage them to pick up careers in the field of museology and conservation of historical artefacts. The Committee observes that the establishment of the Indian Institute of Heritage is a step in the right direction and will help tackle the issue of dearth of human resources in the field of museology in a significant way. The Ministry should hire curators who have exposure in international best standards of Museum curation.

(iii) Expanding National Council of Science Museums across all States

4.12.5 The Committee feels that Science Museums are the gateway to the domains of both Science as well as Museums for school kids in India. They help develop scientific temper among the upcoming generations of the country. The Committee observes that the present network of the National Council of School Museums† leaves a lot of scope for expanding the

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† Source: [https://ncsm.gov.in/network-2/](https://ncsm.gov.in/network-2/)
presence of the Regional Level Centres of the NCSM throughout the country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry should establish Regional Level Centres of the NCSM in all the States, so as to ensure school kids from all over the State get a chance to visit these Centres and help develop a scientific outlook in their lives.

(iv) Developing ASI Site Museums across the country

4.12.6 INTACH suggested that site museums/ open air museums should be designed and developed near monuments and archaeological sites for a unique and informative experience of a site.

4.12.7 Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) observed that ASI has over 40 site museums which hold a unique collection of antiquity and that at several of these site museums, the exhibition has not changed these were established. AKTC suggested that for each site museum, a scientific assessment should be carried out which should be aimed at listing immediate, short term, medium term and long term actions to bring available knowledge, technology and equipment to each of the site museums. It further opined that specialist consultants should be hired in the process of creation of development plans for the site museums; risk assessment should be done for each site museum to ensure the safety of antiquities; souvenir shops, cafes with local cuisines, auditoriums for film shows etc. should be developed and volunteers should be sought from local community to achieve financial sustainability at these site museums. AKTC further observed that the number of site museums existing in the country is too low and more such site museums should be developed at monuments having associated collections of antiquity, archival material and oral history.

4.12.8 The Committee feels that development of site museums at more ASI sites across the country would serve as another attraction for tourists, while helping preserve the site-related antiquities by employing museum staff dedicated to the purpose. The Committee recommends that ASI may chalk out a plan for development of more site museums at sites with high footfall and work out a revenue generation plan to support their maintenance costs. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Culture may pursue the Ministry of Finance to allocate the funds generated by museums and monuments to the
Ministry itself, so as to boost the development and conservation of museums and historical sites across the country.

4.13 Miscellaneous

4.13.1 The Secretary, Ministry of Culture during his deposing before the Committee mentioned that the Ministry is engaged with re-development plans of the iconic Museums and the cultural spaces identified by the Ministry. Necessary steps are being taken to modernize and upgrade the Museum facilities at the Victoria Memorial Museum, National Museum of India, Delhi and Salar Jung Museum. The Ministry is deliberating to modernize and upgrade the Museum facilities there, re-curate, re-design the displays and intervention with regard to lighting and technology to make it more modern, engaging and interactive, in line with the international best practices.

4.13.2 The Committee appreciates the steps being taken by the Ministry to modernize and upgrade the Museum facilities at various Museums under its administrative control.

4.13.3 The Committee takes note that a Museum of the World is planned in the National Library, Kolkata and desires that it may be finalized soon.

4.13.4 The Committee takes cognizance of the fact that the Bentony Castle is being taken up under the Museum Grant Scheme, to come up with a city Museum.

4.13.5 The Committee is happy to note that the Ministry, in coordination with the State Government of Tripura, has plans to create a State Gallery of Modern Art at Pushpabanta Palace at Agartala, besides funding and guiding them in the matter of curation.

4.13.6 The Secretary, shared with the Committee that the Galleries on Indian revolutionaries being proposed in Victoria Memorial Hall at Kolkata, would be named as Biplabi Bharat. However, no timeframe for establishing these Galleries were given.

4.13.7 As regards the steps taken to improve the National Museum at Delhi, the Secretary informed that an international collection, namely the Central Asian collection of 8th century A.D., related to Buddha, with 13,000 artefacts and antiquities is proposed to be
displayed in about 15,000 square feet of area, the project comprise Galleries which are at present available in the National Museum.

4.13.8 The Committee was informed by the Secretary that the old structure in Delhi, between National Museum and Vigyan Bhawan, which earlier housed the ASI offices, has been completely renovated and that a Buddha Gallery is planned to be set up there.

4.13.9 The Committee is constrained to note that only 300-400 painting out of the collection of 17,000 paintings, are presently being showcased in the National Museum at Delhi. The Committee desires to be increased progressively to showcase at least 25% of the paintings.

4.13.10 The Committee takes note of the Sindhu Valley Civilization Gallery proposed to be taken up in the National Museum, Delhi, with the collaboration of ASI. The Committee welcomes the initiative taken by the Ministry to bring the artefacts and antiquities, which ASI has excavated from various sites of Rakhigarhi, Sanauli, Lothal, Kalobangan etc.. The Committee applauds the initiative taken up by the Ministry to set up a Jewellery Gallery at the National Museum in Delhi.

4.13.11 The Committee welcomes the innovative initiatives taken to set up new Galleries in Indian Museum and other Museums and hopes that these initiatives would fructify in near future.

4.13.12 The Committee underlines the need for development of the Museum and old manuscripts at the Gagron Fort at Jhalawar, Kolvi Buddhist Caves, Jain temples at Ujjain and Kota, and Fort of Shahabad and desires that the old manuscripts are available via audio, video etc.

4.13.13 The Ministry, in its written reply, informed the Committee about the following proposals received from Kerala Government for financial assistance under Museum Grant Scheme and SPoCS:-

SPoCS
NCSM, Kolkata: Regional Science Centre (RSC), Kottayam in Kerala is being set up by NCSM under Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS), approved by the Ministry of Culture on request of the Kerala government. Works for setting up of the Science Centre is in advanced stage and the centre is expected to be ready by March, 2021.

Museum Grant Scheme

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4.13.14 The Committee desires that the work at all these museums may be completed at the earliest.

4.13.15 One Member of the Committee pointed out the need for converting the Padmanabhapuram Palace in Kerala, to a National Museum.

4.13.16 The Committee desires that the Ministry may look into this aspect and furnish its reply thereon, in its ATN.
5. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

5.1 Like Museums, archaeological sites and monuments not only play a pivotal role in furthering the tourism prospects of India, but also act as a treasure trove of our rich and diverse cultural heritage. India is home to a huge number of archaeological sites and monuments. Archaeological Survey of India shoulders the responsibility for maintenance, conservation and environmental development of 3692 Centrally protected monuments. Besides this, ASI also performs other important activities such as exploration and excavation, epigraphical research and publication, conducting survey of temples and buildings, implementing the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972, imparting training in archaeology, chemical treatment and preservation of monuments and antiquities, environmental development in and around monuments/sites and development and maintenance of Archaeological Museums.

5.2 The protected monuments include prehistoric rock-shelters, Neolithic sites, Megalithic burials, rock-cut caves, stupas, temples, churches, synagogues, mosques, tombs, palaces, forts, bathing ghats, tanks, water reservoirs, bridges, pillars, inscriptions, mounds, kosminars, excavated sites, etc. Further, the State Governments and Union Territories have also declared the monuments/sites of State importance under their respective Acts.

5.3 The protection, preservation and conservation of the Centrally Protected Monuments is looked after by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The organization headed by the Director General. ASI is engaged in protection, preservation and conservation of 3692 centrally protected monuments including 38 World Heritage Monuments and 50 site Museums, spread all over India and the excavations of historical sites in the country in terms of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. ASI is also administering the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 and Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878. ASI has 36 Circles which are headed by Superintending Archaeologist, besides 1 Mini Circles (Leh) located in the various States and Union Territories and 5 Regional Directorates (located at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Bhopal) through which ASI carries out its activities. Besides, there are 6 Excavation Branches, 2 Temple Survey Projects, 1 Building Survey Project, 1 Prehistory Branch, 1 Science Branch, 2 Epigraphy Branches (one for Sanskrit and Dravidian at Mysore and the other for Arabic and Persian at Nagpur), and 1 Horticulture Branch having 4 Divisions at Agra,
Delhi, Mysore and Bhubaneswar and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Institute of Archaeology to impart training in Archaeology stationed at Knowledge Park, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

5.4 Archaeological sites and monuments across India - whether Centrally protected, State Government protected or the ones which are under the care of neither – face a myriad of challenges which need to be tackled in order to ensure that they survive the harsh environmental and human impact which continuously deteriorates their condition.

5.5 While deposing before the Committee, the Secretary stated that some of the conservation problems or challenges that ASI faces include regular preventive maintenance, nature and technique of construction, kind of material to be used, issues of structural stability, climatic factors, biological and botanical factors, age of monuments, encroachment, pollution, quarrying and natural disasters and the usual problem of urbanisation. Some other challenges are the visitor behaviour in terms of vandalism, lack of support from local authorities, shortage of adequate skilled manpower, lack of funds, etc.

5.6 Challenges:-

(i) Conservation Problems

5.6.1 Elaborating upon the problems faced in conservation of archaeological sites and monuments, the Ministry informed that while the significant ones have been protected by the Central or State Governments the ones which are of lesser importance are under the care of none. In fact, it is this category of the monuments which is threatened of their very existence. However, of late, the local bodies have also started taking interest in their protection, preservation and development. But still, a lot needs to be done for the protection and preservation of this class of the monuments considering that these are parts of our rich cultural tradition and heritage.

5.6.2 In reply to a query about the mechanism for conservation of monuments, raised by the Committee on the policy issue, the Ministry informed that ASI has a well defined policy for conservation of protected monuments including the adoption of the international practices recognized by UNESCO for conservation and preservation work of the monuments. Traditional
methods, materials and techniques are preferred for conservation work of monuments, however, the modern techniques and methods are also applied wherever necessary.

5.6.3 The Ministry, in its background note, highlighted factors relevant to the problems related to the conservation of the monuments/sites viz.: i) preventive maintenance, ii) nature and technique of construction, iii) material used, iv) structural stability, v) Climatic factors, vi) Biological and botanical factors, vii) age of the monuments viii) man-made causes-encroachments, pollution, quarrying, etc., ix) natural disaster, etc.. The conservation programs of all the CPMs, the structural conservation, chemical preservation and environmental works are taken up depending on these factors.

5.6.4 The Committee takes note of the various problems faced by the Ministry/ASI with regard to the conservation of the monuments/sites, and recommends that the Ministry should be proactive in solving these problems since these form a formidable threat to the maintenance and conservation of the archaeological monuments and sites. Given the budget any constraints care should be taken to ensure optimum utilization of funds and working out innovative, cost-effective solutions to meet the challenges related to conservation of the archaeological sites.

5.6.5 The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may devise a well-defined plan to ensure at least a bare minimum level of protection and conservation of monuments outside the protection of both Central and State Governments, to encourage local municipal bodies and local population. The Committee further recommends that ASI may develop a mechanism to share its technical expertise in conservation with concerned State Government Departments as well as local bodies by way of training and capacity building programmes.

5.6.6 INTACH observed that the conservation, development and management of UNESCO World Heritage Sites is comparatively better than other monuments, and that the key reason for the same is the existence of conservation and management plans for them, which many other sites do not have. It suggested that ASI should consider preparation of ‘Comprehensive Conservation, Management and Maintenance Plans’ with strategic PPP partnerships for a certain number of sites every year. In this regard, AKTC also mentioned that
over 70 years after independence, ASI is yet to write out or commission a list of specifications for conservation works to be undertaken in India, because of which, the CPWD specifications are followed – which are not meant for conservation works. AKTC suggested that ASI needs to engage specialists to prepare a list of specifications for conservation works, and update it regularly. It was further opined that no conservation funding should be provided to any site without the availability of a conservation plan that should include architectural drawings, condition assessment, photographic record, statement of significance, names and qualification of those responsible – including external consultants.

5.6.7 AKTC, in its written note, observed that ASI had notified a revised national policy for conservation in 2014, but years later, the policy is hardly known, even within the ASI staff at circle level. It suggested that urgent steps need to be taken to disseminate the policy, hold workshops and discussions regarding the policy both within the ASI and with officials of State Governments. AKTC recommended that Site Inspection Notes should be made mandatory following each site inspection by an officer at any monument wherein the state of conservation, significant elements at the site, requirement for conservation works/studies etc. should be recorded. It was further suggested that a ‘Site Inspection Register’ should be maintained for all the Centrally protected monuments.

5.6.8 The Committee recommends that ASI may work out detailed Conservation and Management Plans for all the Centrally protected monuments on an urgent basis. A Site Inspection Register may also be maintained for each of the monuments and steps may be taken to disseminate knowledge about the national policy for conservation among the ASI staff, officials of State Governments, as well as other agencies involved in carrying out conservation works at archaeological monuments across the country.

(ii) Urbanization around Centrally Protected Monuments

5.6.9 Expansion of cities, human habitation and infrastructure development pose a serious challenge before heritage managers in maintaining the authenticity and integrity of Monuments.

5.6.10 The Committee desires the Ministry to coordinate with all infrastructure Ministries and Departments to ensure compliance of the prohibited area and regulated area limits prescribed under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958
at the DPR stages of projects planned in the vicinity of all Centrally protected monuments. The Committee recommends that extensive research may be conducted to explore ways and means to protect our archaeological sites and monuments from the ill-effects of severe air pollution in urban centres.

(iii) Encroachment and Vandalism

5.6.11 Encroachment in and around the monuments and archeological sites has been one of the most debated issues during deliberations of the Committee. The Ministry, in its written submission, has informed that the encroachments in the protected monuments and protected areas are removed as per the provisions contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 framed thereunder. Superintending Archaeologists are authorised to issue show cause notices under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959 followed by a direction to the District Collector/Magistrate by Central Government to remove such encroachment under section 19 (2) of the Act and Rule 38 (2). In order to contain the encroachments and removing them, the Superintending Archaeologist in charge of the Circles have been vested with the powers of an Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Further, assistance in such cases is also sought from the respective State Government/district administration and where there are no fruitful results actions are initiated against the encroachers by filing cases in the court of law. In addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police guards and CISF have also been deployed for the safety and security of selected monuments. The Ministry of Culture has also requested the State Governments to form coordination Committee comprising State and Archaeological Survey of India officials to solve the problem.

5.6.12 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may examine the efficacy of the powers it presently has to deal with encroachments in and around monuments and propose suitable amendments to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959, and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 with a view to adequately empower the Estate Officer for tackling the issue of encroachment of Centrally protected monuments. In the event of non-cooperation from local law enforcement agencies in dealing with encroachment around monuments, the
matter may be taken up at higher levels on priority basis to evolve the much needed accountability mechanism for the same. Awareness drives may carried out on social media to create a sense of belonging among the local populace so that they remain more vigilant towards protecting our monuments and heritage from malevolent elements of the society.

5.6.13 The Committee is of the view that boundary wall is a bare minimum security requirement and helps clearly demarcate the limits of the archaeological site. It, therefore, desires the Ministry to target the construction of boundary walls around all Centrally Protected Monuments in the country within a fixed time line. The Committee believes that doing so would have a noticeable preventive effect on encroachment of monuments across the country.

5.6.14 The Committee recommends that a dedicated cell be set up under ASI with mandate to identify, monitor and follow up action on the incidents of encroachment of Centrally Protected Monuments across the country. The cell may seek active participation of local communities residing near the CPMs and encourage them to report any such incidents to the Ministry at the earliest.

5.6.15 The Committee urges upon the Ministry to strive towards prevention of vandalism and encroachment at archaeological sites and monuments fraught with safety and security problems, particularly those in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Chhatisgarh, North-Eastern States etc., in close coordination with local law and order authorities. The Committee desires the Ministry to take necessary actions to ensure that strict penal provisions are in place to deter incidents of vandalism and defacing of monuments.

5.6.16 The Committee takes serious note of the growing incidents of demolition of several temples of immense cultural importance by anti-social elements in certain States. The Committee is of the firm view that such incidents should be prevented at any cost and exhorts the Ministry to ensure a foolproof mechanism to arrest such incidents and protect our cherished cultural heritage. The Committee underlines the need for an infallible procedure prescribing close coordination amongst the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Governments.
5.6.17 DG, ASI informed the Committee that ASI has done an extensive assessment of security requirements for all the Centrally-protected monuments. ASI has actually made out an entire sheet of currently what is the security deployment and what ideally should be there in respect of each monument. She stated that the idea is, if ASI can’t get to hundred per cent, at least it can get 50 per cent or 60 per cent. ASI protects the monuments by three methods. In two major monuments, Red Fort and Taj, the CISF protects these monuments. Other monuments are under protection by SIS, a private agency hired for a three-year period. ASI has the home guards who have come in.

5.6.18 The Committee is happy to note that ASI is working on a Security Policy for all the Centrally Protected Monuments. The Committee recommends that the Security Policy may be formulated and implemented at the earliest.

5.6.19 AKTC observed that a majority of sites rely on security provided by a private security service and opined that in hiring the private security guards, the ASI should insist on a preliminary training in visitor interaction and control. This would help make the security guards significantly more effective. It further suggested that CCTV networks should be mandatory at all Centrally protected monuments.

5.6.20 The Committee recommends that ASI may undertake a physical security audit for all the monuments under its ambit and estimate the financial requirements for installing CCTV security systems at all the monuments and sites under its control. Thereafter, a plan may be devised to install such systems at the earliest so as to deter and punish vandals.

(iv) Lack of funds

5.6.21 The Ministry, in its background note, has succinctly stated that the funds available with ASI for maintenance and management of 3692 Monuments are insufficient. In reply to a query regarding impact of loss of revenue incurred by ASI due to decrease in footfall on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry mentioned that the revenue earned due to ticketing of visitors is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and there may not be much impact on maintenance of monuments due to no influx of visitors during lock down. The maintenance of monuments is carried out through allocated budget.
5.6.22 During the Committee's visit to Mumbai in January, 2020, the representative of ASI which elucidated upon the funds allocated by Governments – both Central and State Government, specifically mentioned the requirement of additional allocation of Rs. 7.50 crores. He mentioned that no funding has been received from Corporate Social Responsibility yet for the restoration and preservation of monuments.

5.6.23 Dr. Rakesh Tewari, former Director General, ASI, in his written note furnished to the Committee, observed that the problem of encroachment and vandalism of heritage sites is multiplying day-by-day because of the rapidly increasing population and shortage of land. He suggested that additional funding and human resources are needed to tackle this problem.

5.6.24 The Committee recommends that ASI may introduce pay-as-you-wish ticketing at all ticketed monuments across the country, while still keeping certain minimum amount as fee. Informing visitors about the developmental work they could fuel at the archaeological sites with their donations will certainly drive many people to contribute to the same. The Committee also suggests the Ministry to consider introduction of special tours at archaeological sites and monuments before and after regular hours, charging a higher fee for a more isolated and sombre experience at the monuments. Further, ASI should explore forge partnerships in the form of sponsorship and CSR contributions, with the private sector.

5.6.25 The Committee is of the view that adequate funds allocation to the Ministry will not only help develop and preserve the rich cultural heritage of India, but also act as an investment for propelling the growth of tourism sector in India. The present budget allocation to the Ministry, in the opinion of the Committee is insufficient for developing and conserving Museums and archaeological sites and falls short to meet the financial needs of India’s cultural heritage. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry should make a strong case for higher fund allocation and would also urge the Ministry of Finance to be considerate to preserve our rich cultural heritage.

5.6.26 AKTC opined that the Adopt-a-Heritage project launched by Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and ASI, should be expanded to include conservation works. It further suggested that the volume of available CSR funds can be a
potential game-changer for conservation in India and that ASI should prepare or commission project proposals that could be attractive for corporate to fund. AKTC opined that when CSR are utilized for implementing projects under the ‘Adopt-a-Heritage’ scheme, revenue generation should not be permitted for the corporate partner. AKTC further submitted that in projects such as archaeological excavations and desilting historical step-wells/tanks/wells, almost 100% of the costs are for unskilled craftsmen and that ASI should identify projects that can be carried out in rural areas with MNREGA funds.

5.6.27 The Committee feels that given the limited budget available with ASI, it is imperative to ensure that schemes such as Adopt-a-Heritage are implemented in way to maximize their impact on the state of maintenance and conservation of the heritage sites. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Culture may coordinate with the Ministry of Tourism and expand the scheme to permit the conservation works by private organizations, under close supervision of the ASI.

(v) Human Resources at ASI

5.6.28 In its written reply, the Ministry has furnished the following details regarding the sanctioned strength, persons in position and vacancies in respect of regular employees in ASI:

(As on 01.04.2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Sanctioned Strength</th>
<th>Filled</th>
<th>Vacant</th>
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<tr>
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<td>137</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B Gazetted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
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<td>829</td>
<td>368</td>
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<td>4452</td>
<td>1700</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8426</td>
<td>5984</td>
<td>2442</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.6.29 The Committee is dismayed to note that almost 29 percent of the sanctioned staff strength of ASI is lying vacant. Given the large number (3692) of monuments under the protection of ASI and the support ASI provides to archaeological departments of State Governments, even the sanctioned staff strength seems inadequate. The Committee is of the view that continuing vacancies reflects the lack of intent on part of ASI to fulfill its mandate to protect and preserve the archaeological monuments across the country. The Committee recommends the Ministry to take immediate steps to ensure the recruitment of the required personnel in Archaeological Survey of India. The Committee would also like the Ministry to look into the reasons for such large number of vacancies in ASI and take corrective measures to overcome the shortage of staff.

5.6.30 Dr. Rakesh Tewari, in his written note, informed the Committee that considering the number of archaeological heritage sites protected by the Center and State Governments, the strength of conservation experts, engineers and scientists is not proportionate. He opined that more posts of expert staff is required from the lowest to highest levels (from conservation assistants to the Director/Deputy Director level, as the case may be). He further suggested that creation of post of a Director (Conservation) in each of ASI’s five zones may be considered.

5.6.31 Professor H.P. Ray suggested that Archaeology should be recognized as a separate cadre.

5.6.32 INTACH suggested that separate cadres should be set up for heritage planning, conservation and management disciplines, at ASI, PWDs, SDAs, Development Authorities, Municipal Corporation etc. with dedicated heritage professionals. It opined that a critical mass of trained conservation professionals is willing and available to work in different parts of the country but the Recruitment Rules and Policies do not allow full-time employment of these professionals. It was suggested that Recruitment Rules should be revised and updated for the engagement of heritage professionals in full-time employment. Through lateral entry, contractual or regular basis.
5.6.33 AKTC proposed that each of ASI’s five administrative zones should have one active model conservation effort that demonstrates established conservation philosophy, high levels of documentation and research, an inter-disciplinary approach which serves as an opportunity for mid-career training of conservation practitioners both within the ASI and State Governments.

5.6.34 AKTC opined that it is neither possible nor cost-effective to employ the number of experts required to ensure the conservation effort is well informed. It suggested that the ASI needs to actively seek expertise on a consultancy basis for each conservation effort.

5.6.35 AKTC observed that at most ASI Circles, the officials are only from among archaeologists, engineers and horticulturists. It suggested that concerted efforts need to be made to ensure that the ASI officials are from a diverse professional background – such as conservation architects, historians, archivists, designers, engineers, archaeologists, horticulturists, landscape architects, heritage management professionals, administrators, conservators, curators, craftsmen, lawyers etc.

5.6.36 The Committee agrees with the view that efforts must be made to ensure that ASI officials are from a diverse professional background, since the same would allow ASI to take more well-informed decisions regarding the development and conservation of archaeological sites. The Committee recommends that ASI may take steps to gauge the need for creation of posts of officials of diverse expertise and if needed, to seek expertise on a consultancy basis so as to ensure optimal utilization of the constrained budgets available with ASI for carrying out conservation works.

(vi) Scarcity of Artisans

5.6.37 During its Study Visit to Visakhapatnam in January, 2020, the Committee was informed that there is scarcity of artisans possessing the skill required for working on the monuments, which is posing difficulty in achieving desired results in the conservation measures of ASI. Underlining the need for human resource development, the representative of Ministry of Culture advocated active promotion of traditional skills in various mediums such as stone, stucco, word carving, glass painting etc.
5.6.38 INTACH suggested that new artisans should be trained by master artisans/ craftsman so as to ensure that the continuity of traditional knowledge, craftsmanship and skills is not broken.

5.6.39 The Committee recommends the Ministry to organize training camps and short-term courses to enhance the competencies of artisans required for working on the monuments. Master artisans/craftsman may be employed to pass on their skills to young artisans at these training camps and courses. The Committee sees no reasons as to why people would not be interested in attending such training camps/ courses as long as they are aptly incentivized and enough employment opportunities are created. The Committee desires the Ministry to work on this aspect so that our valuable monuments do not suffer damages because of lack of artisans.

5.7 Opportunities:-

(i) Promotion of Tourism and Business
5.7.1 Tourism sector needs to grow at a considerate pace so as to provide employment opportunities to India’s burgeoning working class. Besides, more tourists at any given place also help increase in revenue and profitability for local businesses. Thus, conservation of our cultural heritage is intricately linked to tapping all these opportunities.

5.7.2 Dr. Rakesh Tewari, in his written note, suggested that in order to promote business involvement of communities, ‘Home Stay’ and souvenir shops of local art and craft should be encouraged in a considerable way.

5.7.3 INTACH observed that tourism promotion also requires the surrounding areas of monuments and sites to be developed and managed with good infrastructure, safe and clean environments and other facilities and that people/ communities can be engaged to play a crucial and meaningful role in the same.

5.7.4 AKTC suggested that several monuments have attached/associated garden spaces which should be developed based on archival research and an understanding of traditional garden design for the site, with the support of academic institutes, professional bodies etc. AKTC
submitted that the garden restoration of Humayun’s Tomb led to a 1000% increase in visitor numbers.

5.7.5 Dr. Rakesh Tewari suggested that open areas within the protected, restricted and regulated areas of heritage sites should be developed as green areas with appropriate flora suitable in terms of nature and period of the sites and monuments. As an example, he suggested that only the native flora mentioned in Buddhist literature regarding Buddhist sites should be planted at such sites. He further submitted that specific research inputs would be required from the horticulture branch of the ASI and other appropriate institutions in this regard.

5.7.6 AKTC suggested that interpretation centers should be built at every historical site in the country which attracts significant footfall and has land available for building such facility. It further suggested that ASI should have a consistency in design of signage across the country and that the signage needs to be designed with experts – with the design being contemporary, simple to construct and vandal-proof. The signage text should be precise, limited to key aspects of the monument and written by someone trained in creative writing since most visitors do not read long essays that are often seen at national monuments.

5.7.7 AKTC opined that stringent steps need to be taken for waste management at national monuments to ensure the presence of functional dustbins which are easy to use and easy to clean and should be designed to be recognizable with a consistent design across the country. Dry and wet waste segregation should be mandatory.

5.7.8 AKTC observed that India’s national monuments have the potential to generate an incredible volume of domestic and international tourism. At present, many individual monuments across the world, experience greater visitor numbers than international visitors to all of India. This must be remedied. Apart from building state-of-art and well-designed infrastructure at ASI sites, there is need for either greater collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism or placing of visitor managers at each of the popular monuments.

5.7.9 The Committee is of the view that developing garden spaces present associated with monuments, having souvenir shops, interpretation centers, well-designed signage, good waste management techniques and engaging the local community to play a bigger role in development of archaeological sites, would provide a much better experience
to tourists visiting these sites and would certainly help in tapping the vast potential of increasing the tourism prospects and revenue generated by these sites. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry/ASI may take concrete steps in this regard, in close coordination with the Ministry of Tourism.

5.7.10 The Committee feels that there should be greater synergy between the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism to collectively work on policies/initiatives aiming to strengthen capacities of tourist guides, develop basic facilities for tourists at tourist spots, organize special events and exhibitions to attract tourists etc. The Committee is of the view that the combined expertise of both the Ministries would go a long way in supplementing each other’s initiatives and also result in better experience for the tourists visiting the Museums and archaeological sites in India.

(ii) Model conservation process

5.7.11 The Committee recommends that the Ministry should come up with a model conservation process for archaeological artefacts and sites across the country. This would not only bring consistency in the process followed by both Centrally protected and State protected monuments but also act as a benchmark for the private contractors hired by ASI/State Government departments for carrying out conservation works.

(iii) Increased focus on scientific research based conservation

5.7.12 Dr. Rakesh Tewari, in his written note, observed that India’s historical sites and monuments are located in varied geo-climatic regions and thus need very well considered conservation strategy. He suggested that every aspect, such as building material, mortar, local architectural tradition etc., of select monuments and sites should be scientifically studied in order to develop specific models for every region and period. He opined that detailed conservation projects with short-term and long-term targets are a must for every archaeological heritage site.

5.7.13 AKTC submitted that on numerous occasions, the work of the Science Branch has not been based on a scientific approach and in fact accelerated decay or even loss. AKTC cited an example from 1995-96, when the gilded Copper finial of Humayun’s Tomb was cleaned. In the ASI annual report it is recorded that the ‘brass finial was cleaned with sulfuric acid’. This
action, undertaken without any prior scientific examination of the material (the finial was made out of copper-gold) would have led to significant loss of the gold leaf on the finial and deterioration of the copper. Many such examples abound. AKTC suggested that it should be mandatory for the Science Branch to accumulate all international research on historical materials and to disseminate the summary of the same to all officers. Furthermore, it should also be mandatory to precede any work – using chemicals or any modern materials - at any national monument with a documentation of the scientific investigation and a prior writing of a conservation plan. In addition to its own research programme, the Science Branch should make significant effort to keep abreast with developments in material sciences in both national and international institutes – forging collaborative programmes. AKTC further opined that the activities of the Science Branch are often not in consultation or coordinated with conservation work undertaken by the respective circles. Not only does this result in the Circle’s priorities not being met but also conservation works required as a follow-up of actions such as chemical cleaning is not undertaken immediately. Officers of the Science Branch must be embedded in the Circle or Zone to ensure they work in tandem with the Conservation Assistants.

5.7.14 AKTC observed that India has often been criticized for low level of documentation available for national sites. It suggested that modern technology such as photogrammetry and 3D laser scanning should be employed to provide extremely accurate documentation of national monuments and that a systematic photo documentation of all national monuments should be done on a periodic basis which should also be accessible to scholars worldwide through the ASI website.

5.7.15 The Committee is concerned to note the apprehensions of the experts/stakeholders regarding the focus laid by ASI on carrying out scientific research for the conservation processes followed by it across the country. The Committee recommends that ASI may review the functioning of its Science Branch, provide it with better funding and ensure that all the conservation processes employed at the Centrally protected monuments are backed by well-documented scientific research. The Committee further recommends that modern technology such as photogrammetry, 3D laser scanning, blockchain technology etc. may be explored and utilized, wherever possible, to improve the documentation of the monuments since quality documentation at present would allow
quality scientific research in the coming future. The documentation should be made freely available on the internet, so as to encourage the scholar community to study the monuments and contribute to their conservation.

(iii) Involvement of Communities

5.7.16 Given the resource constraints faced by a developing economy such as India, the availability of funds for the Culture and Heritage sector is often much below the required amounts. This makes it all the more important to seek the cooperation of the civil society in general and local communities in specific, in protecting and preserving our shared cultural heritage.

5.7.17 The background note furnished by the Ministry lists promotion of business by training local archaeologists and specialists in conservation and site management as an opportunity. The Committee may be apprised of the steps that have been taken by the Ministry in this regard.

5.7.18 In her written note, Professor H.P. Ray observed that attempts at raising public awareness through exhibitions/ local agencies/ teachers/ heritage specialists about archaeological sites are few and inadequate for a country the size of India.

5.7.19 Professor Nayanjot Lahiri opined that there should be a sense of ownership at the highest echelons of government and across all sections of society to improve the quality and direction of communication about the importance of protection. She suggested that a ‘Virasat Bachao’ initiative should be evolved around heritage, much of which is unprotected, on lines of the ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’. She opined that the best way to preserve sites and monuments is by creating public awareness making people realize that what exists in the vicinity of where they live and worship, is part of their own pasts. She proposed that a certain percentage of marks can be in history courses at school for knowledge of locality-level monuments and sites as a part of history courses in schools.

5.7.20 Professor Nayanjot Lahiri, in her written note, suggested the creation of a powerful body vested with overall conservation responsibilities on the lines of a National Heritage Commission. She advocated that such a body should be integrally engaged with government departments in
relation to the archaeological aspects of monuments and sites, and that the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that respectable standards of conservation are maintained should rest with this body.

5.7.21 Elaborating further about the role of the National Heritage Commission she proposed, Professor Nayanjot Lahiri opined that the regulatory framework of the Commission should be decentralized and that it should evolve ways of institutionally integrating municipalities and village panchayats, in heritage conservation and management work. She opined that a system in which community groups work as heritage managers in partnership with the State, is likely to produce positive results and urged that ‘Virasat Suraksha Samitis’ be created to encourage the participation of those living in the vicinity of heritage monuments. She further suggested that village and district-level repositories should be created, where local material is displayed and conserved.

5.7.22 AKTC suggested that any conservation effort that is non-routine should be mentioned on the ASI website as well as physically at the site to inform the interested members of the public and independent experts of the proposed action, which will allow the conservation efforts to possibly benefit from members of the local public/ independent experts. It further opined that ASI should actively seek independent peer review prior to undertaking any major works. AKTC submitted that the monument sites should be open to the local community and that certain discount should be provided to the local community for allowing entry to the monument through the issuance of annual entry passes. Doing so would inculcate a sense of connect and responsibility for the site among the local community. AKTC further suggested that the number of such passes issued at each site should be limited in number. It was proposed that ASI should seek local volunteers for service at national monuments and site museums and provide economic opportunities for the needy among the local communities by way of kiosks and such. Steps need to be taken to enhance the possibilities of elder and other interested citizens volunteering at important heritage sites to assist the guards with visitor management. Across the world, museums and sites are manned by volunteers to ensure that the site is safeguarded and allowing the volunteers a meaningful and enriching experience.

5.7.23 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may take steps to institutionally integrate municipalities and village panchayats in heritage conservation and
management work, and if needed, a separate body may be created to regulate the framework for the same.

5.7.24 The Committee agrees with the view that making information regarding conservation efforts being undertaken by ASI, available on its website as well as physically at the monument would allow the participation of experts and local communities. Further, there should be a provision to allow members from the local community to have unlimited access to the heritage site in their vicinity at a discounted price and to also allow them to set up kiosks and souvenir shops as such. Doing so within a defined limit, would help inculcate a sense of responsibility and belongingness to the monuments among the local community, which will go a long way in safeguarding the monuments for the generations to come.

5.7.25 The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Culture may approach the Ministry of Education to consider the inclusion of knowledge of local archaeological monuments and sites in the assessment of history courses in school. A thorough understanding of the historical and cultural significance of historical sites at a young age would go a long way in developing a sense of respect and responsibility for the same among the citizens.

5.7.26 AKTC suggested that ASI should appoint a Director, Partnerships in order to have partnerships with:

a) Universities (National & International)

b) Resident Welfare Associations/ Gram Sabha/ Panchayats

c) Departments of Archaeology of State Governments

d) Equivalent agencies in other countries

5.7.27 The Committee feels that having a dedicated senior personnel for forging partnerships with universities, local bodies, State Governments as well as Archaeology Departments of foreign countries would help laying an enhanced focus on benefitting from the knowledge and participation of these entities. The Committee, therefore, recommends that ASI may create a special unit dedicated to this task, headed by a senior ranking officer.
5.7.28 The Committee recommends the Ministry to run ad campaigns akin to the Atithi Devo Bhava – Incredible India ad campaign, to make communities more aware, proud and protective of the cultural heritage in their vicinity. A feeling of ownership, responsibility and pride would also help in bringing down the instances of vandalism at archaeological sites and monuments. The Committee recommends that social media campaigns may be utilized for the same.

5.7.29 The Committee urges upon ASI to showcase local craftsmanship at its archaeological sites and monuments, in order to build a connect with the local community as well as to provide them with a platform to showcase their talent. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may strive to organize events/ competitions/ social media drives to spur civil society engagement for conserving our archaeological cultural heritage.

(iv) Training the communities for the purpose of developing local guides

5.7.30 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may develop regional training centers at places where there are several archaeological sites and Museums. Besides, the Ministry may also arrange language classes for local shopkeepers and vendors in areas with high tourist influx. By resorting to this, the local businesses will prosper and will also make tourists more secured and comfortable.

(v) Setting standards for archival research:

5.7.31 AKTC, in its written note, stated that ASI holds an incredible collection of photo archives, maps, plans, records, site inspection notes, field reports from archaeological excavations, amongst other valuable records and highlighted the need for the following:

a) Temperature and Humidity Control:
In most circles, the archival records mentioned above are not stored in appropriate cases/ containers leading to their rapid deterioration. It is essential that all archival materials be treated as antiquity and stored in cases that meet international standards of storage for fragile paper, photographs, paintings, etc.

b) Digitization & Catalogue:
To ensure no valuable records are lost, every photograph, plan, map, site inspection note, record of conservation works carried out should be scientifically digitized on an urgent basis.

c) Policy:

Unlike routine administration tasks of the Government of India, the ASI is responsible for valuable national monuments. As such any action of the ASI impacts the future of our national heritage. Unlike other government departments where files/records are destroyed after a certain time period, say 10 years, all records of the ASI must be stored in perpetuity and available to scholars.

5.7.32 The Committee further recommends that ASI must ensure that proper procedures are followed in storage and maintenance of all archival records pertaining to the Centrally protected monuments. Documentation related to conservation works carried out at monuments should be preserved carefully, possibly in coordination with the National Archives of India, since the information would be helpful in taking informed decisions regarding conservation of the monuments in the future.

5.7.33 The Committee feels that the Ministry should vigorously pursue digitization of archaeological artefacts so as to create a central database of the same for research and archival purposes. Such a central database would also permit academicians and scholars in the upcoming IIHC and other such institutions, not only in India but internationally as well, to learn about our cultural heritage in detail without needing physical access.

(vi) Revamping the digital presence of archaeological sites/monuments:

5.7.34 Internet has become a gateway for discovery of information regarding all aspects of life. A large amount of domestic as well as foreign trips are now planned after researching information online about places to visit, things to do, the feedback given by visitors who have already visited a particular place etc.

5.7.35 While elaborating upon the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry with respect to e-ticketing and upgradation of websites, the Secretary informed the Committee that steps have been taken with respect to the same.
5.7.36 The Committee observes that most websites of the Ministry of Culture – especially indiaculture.nic.in, asi.nic.in and asimustsee.nic.in, look quite outdated and non-intuitive. The Committee thus feels the need for having information on archaeological sites and monuments through a one-stop, modern, easy-to-read, multi-platform solution for enthusiasts of Indian culture and heritage, and it is long overdue. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry may revamp its digital presence and come up with such a user-oriented solution.

5.7.37 The Committee recommends that the Ministry should closely coordinate with the Ministry of Tourism and provide the facility of booking tickets for the archaeological sites/monuments and Museums on the Incredible India application and website as well. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Culture may work with the Ministry of Tourism to highlight its cultural events and programmes through the Incredible India application and web portal too, since information regarding the same would be of significant interest to tourists visiting a certain place. Ministry of Culture may also prepare a database of important State-controlled Museums and archaeological sites and coordinate with the Ministry of Tourism to ensure that they are also highlighted as tourist attractions on the Incredible India web portal and smartphone application.

(vii) Inclusion of Monuments in UNESCO World Heritage Sites List

5.7.38 AKTC, in its written submission, notes that UNESCO’s World Heritage Programme is one of the most influential heritage programmes in the world today. Almost every country is signatory to the World Heritage convention. A designation on the World Heritage list leads to international awareness for the site leading to increased tourist numbers. Designation also leads to a sense of pride amongst the local community. India has one of the largest number of sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List yet several problems plague the process in India, including:

a) World Heritage Sites not impacting the local economy or helping improve the quality of life for local communities.

b) State of conservation of most World Heritage Sites being poor.

c) Nominations to UNESCO scrapping through only after active diplomacy to overcome reservations on either the state of conservation or the quality of the nomination dossier.
5.7.39 For the World Heritage nomination process to have the desirable impact, AKTC suggested the following:

a) Planning ahead:
ASI should establish multi-disciplinary teams at each site on the tentative list at least 5 years in advance of the nomination, to ensure that the criteria established by UNESCO including internationally accepted standards of documentation, research, understanding of the site’s significance, is met. AKTC opined that outsourcing the nomination dossier to external (or internal) part-time consultants needs to be stopped. This results in a wasted opportunity as the knowledge that could be created by a full time inter-disciplinary team, even if on 3 year consultancy, is not possible with consultants engaged for short periods of time and undertaking several other assignments while attempting to complete a serious exercise to international standards.

b) Strategising:
Several categories of buildings are over-represented on the UNESCO list. Others, such as Industrial Heritage or serial nominations, are under-represented and thus have a greater chance of being accepted. It is important for the Ministry of Culture/ASI to review the tentative list and to prioritize under-represented categories, serial nominations, cross-border nominations.

c) Advisory Committee:
The Ministry of Culture established an Advisory Committee on World Heritage Matters, which continues to exist but lacks staff. This has led to fewer consultation and lack of required additional support. The Ministry/ASI need to consider a more effective World Heritage Division that not only reviews future nomination but also actively monitors the state of conservation at sites already designated on the World Heritage List.

d) Undertake required conservation:
On a priority basis, the conservation plan for each World Heritage Site should be prepared and a five-year plan for undertaking conservation measures be implemented.

e) NMA Byelaws:
Preparation of Byelaws for sites on the World Heritage List as well as those on the tentative World Heritage List should be prioritized.

f) Ensure legal and managerial framework is in place:
In addition to the NMA bye-laws, for several World Heritage Sites an overarching legal and managerial framework needs to be established. This is especially true for the urban sites and historic cities – Jaipur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad – now on the UNESCO list.

6.7.40 The Committee takes note of the extensive suggestions given by the stakeholder with regard to UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) nominations. The Committee may be apprised of the efficacy of the Advisory Committee set up by the Ministry in this regard. The Ministry may take all necessary steps to ensure that a well-thought-out strategy is evolved and implemented to maximize the chances of nomination of more monuments and sites to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. Inclusion of more monuments by way of minor boundary modifications of the existing WHS may also be explored.

6.7.41 The Committee further recommends that the National Monuments Authority may prioritize the preparation of Heritage Byelaws for the monuments which are either already in the UNESCO WHS list or are in the tentative WHS list.

6.7.42 In its reply (placed at Annexure-C) given on 8th March, 2021 to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2102, the Ministry informed that at present, India has 38 World Heritage properties, out of which, 22 are under the protection of ASI. The Ministry further stated that at present, India has 42 sites listed under Tentative List which is a pre-requisite condition for inscription as World Heritage Site. ‘Dholavira: A Harappan City’ has been submitted for nomination of World Heritage Site in 2019-2020. Nomination dossiers of ‘Santiniketan, India’ and ‘Sacred Ensemble of Hoysalas’ have been submitted to UNESCO for the year 2021-22 cycle.
5.7.43 During the Study Visit of the Committee to Visakhapatnam in January, 2020, on the issue of absence of any Andhra Pradesh monuments in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list, the representative of ASI informed the Committee that Lepakshi has been included in the tentative list, which is the first step towards inclusion of any site in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. The Committee was informed that the Rock Art at Kethavaram Caves, which dates back to the Palaeolithic age, is set to get a facelift this year with plan for approaching UNESCO for its inclusion in its World Heritage Sites list.

5.7.44 During his deposition before the Committee in its meeting held on 14th October, 2020, the Secretary informed the Committee that after declaration of six World Heritage Properties by the UNESCO, such as Nalanda, the historic city of Ahmedabad, the Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Jaipur, the ASI has helped in preparing the dossier and submission. Similarly, dossiers submitted to the UNESCO are: Ramappa Temple, Dholavira and some of the recent excavations which the ASI has undertaken is Rithi Ranjhana in Maharashtra; Bijnore in Rajasthan; Sanauli in UP; Vadhagar in Gujarat; Gottiprolu in AP; and, Asuragarh in Odisha.

5.7.45 The Committee recommends that the Ministry should closely coordinate with the concerned State Departments and assist them in the protection of State-protected sites/monuments, especially in cases wherein there are plans to include the sites/monuments in the World Heritage Sites list. The Ministry should be proactive in offering help to State Governments for preparation of dossier that is sent to UNESCO for inclusion of State protected sites/monuments.

(viii) Preparation of database of archaeological sites/monuments

5.7.46 The Committee sought a list of monuments under the protection of State Government. The Ministry, in its written reply, informed the Committee that such information is not available.

5.7.47 Some Members of the Committee drew attention to the remote areas of the country, where there are many places of archaeological value such as Ganiyapala and Nisingnath in Odisha, where there are very ancient statues of Buddha. They also stressed upon the need to identify and explore areas such as Nuapada, where there are traces of Nagaraj Monastery; Ranipur Jharial in Bolangir, Bihadiswara, Parashurameshvara, Megheswar, Brahmeswara, and Rani Gumphra, Khandagiri, Udayagiri, and Rairakhol-Naktideul, Odisha. They brought to the
notice of the Committee that there is a leaning temple in Huma, which is on the bank of Mahanadi in Odisha. They opined that the activities of ASI should be enlarged to cover many undiscovered areas of historical importance, in the country and that epigraphic studies of ancient and historical texts found in such places, should be started.

5.7.48 The Committee is surprised to note that the Ministry of Culture does not maintain a central database of monuments under the control of State Governments. The Committee wonders how the Ministry can decide upon whether a certain monument/site should be included in the list of Centrally Protected Monuments, if it does not have any information regarding the monuments present in the country. The Committee recommends that the Ministry may collect this information from all State/UT Governments, along with information regarding encroachment of such monuments/sites, and compile a Central Database of Monuments/Sites that exist in the country. This will present a thorough picture of the state of the historical monuments across the country and help the Ministry in its policy decisions in the future.

5.7.49 The Committee further recommends that important historical monuments and sites such as Rama Temple at Peddathumbalam village, Adoni Taluka; Kethavaram Rock Arts and Belum Caves in Kurnool etc., be included in the list of Centrally Protected Monuments, given their historical significance. Steps may be taken to improve the connectivity of such important monuments and sites so as to increase the footfall to these monuments.

5.7.50 AKTC observed that in 2007, the National Mission of Monuments & Antiquities was established by the Minister of Culture with the objective of creating an inventory of heritage buildings across India as well as antiquity – even in private collections. In 2007, it was aimed at listing 500,000 heritage buildings. More recently, INTACH has estimated 11,00,000 heritage buildings in India. In UK, 650,000 heritage buildings are recorded. AKTC opined that the Mission has failed to achieve its stated objectives, possibly due to the complicated formats prepared for the mapping and lack of established partnerships for primary survey. To resolve the same, AKTC suggested that ASI should reach out to students of architecture and history programmes across the country – making it compulsory for first year students to undertake a mandatory field survey for two weeks to identify, photograph, record GPS coordinates and make
note of basic architectural features of condition of heritage buildings. AKTC suggested that use of GPS and blockchain technology to ensure that heritage buildings are not recorded twice.

5.7.51 Dr. Rakesh Tewari, in his written note, stated that ancient monuments and sites which have not been declared of national importance or state importance, come under the concurrent list and that the responsibility to take steps for the protection of this category of monuments and sites lies on both the Central and State Governments. He opined that the ancient monuments in this category require proper rules, regulations and guidelines for better upkeep since at present, they are mostly neglected and are in need of serious attention at both the Central and State levels. He suggested that a list of all such monuments and sites which have not been declared as of National importance or State importance, needs to be maintained in every district with the help of an expert committee constituted for this purpose. Responsibilities for their protection, upkeep, conservation etc. and formulation of appropriate rules and regulations may be entrusted to the respective Development Authorities, Municipalities, Nagar Palikas and Gram Panchayats. He opined that a suitable corpus may be created for this purpose, with sufficient funding from the Central and State Governments.

5.7.52 Professor H.P. Ray, in her written note, opined that technology should be used for preparation of database of archaeological sites as a strategy to preserve those monuments/sites which are presently not under the protection of any agency. In this regard, she made the following suggestions:

a. New technology like Photogrammetry & 3D Laser scanning should be used for documentation, surveys, excavation and conservation works.

b. LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) and Drone Surveys to document monuments and sites

c. Collaboration with Foreign Universities for introduction of latest techniques in exploration and excavations should be undertaken, as also in documentation of museum collections.

5.7.53 Professor Nayanjot Lahiri opined that the Central Government and State Governments should have a sense of the scale of India’s unprotected sites and monuments. She submitted that the records of the erstwhile National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities noted some
500,000 unprotected sites and suggested that these are best protected through public initiatives that are done at the level of village panchayats and municipalities but which are given directions by a national body.

5.7.54 INTACH observed that the current list of protected monuments and sites includes is of the British India period. A nation-wide survey should be taken up for identification and documentation of new sites to be included in the list.

5.7.55 The Committee further notes that there are many monuments across the country which are not under any sort of protection, whether Central/State or private protection. This clearly suggests that a large number of monuments of cultural and historical significance are unexplored as of yet and suffer irreparable damage with each passing day. The Committee recommends that the Ministry/ASI may conduct an extensive survey to identify such monuments across the country, add them to the Central Database of Monuments/Sites that exist in the country, categorize them, and come up with ways to at least provide a bare minimum level of security to the same, in coordination with the local municipal bodies and local residents.

5.7.56 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may look into the reasons for the inability of National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities to complete its task of creation of a National Register on Built Heritage & Sites as well as on Antiquities. The Committee is concerned to note that in the absence of such a Central database, many monuments would go missing without any knowledge of them having existed in the first place. Concrete measures must be taken to ensure that a database is prepared at the earliest and that the list thus prepared is categorized into the different levels of protection that must be extended to them.

5.7.57 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may assess the financial requirements for carrying out such an exercise across the nation and request the Ministry of Finance to grant special allocation for the same. ASI/NMMA should supervise this process with the Department of Archaeology of State Governments and develop a mechanism to seek the participation of local municipal bodies, local communities, history and archaeology students and the likes. A specialized software may be prepared to capture
important details such as photos and location of the sites/antiquities and it must have provisions to avoid duplicacy in the database. The use of latest technologies such as 3D Laser Scanning, LiDAR, photogrammetry etc. may be made in sync with the blockchain technology to ensure that tamper-proof records of the undocumented precious historical heritage are created.

(ix) Drafting Excavation and Exploration Policy

5.7.58 Professor H.P. Ray suggested taking the following steps to capitalize on the different opportunities presented by development and conservation of museums and archaeological sites:

a. Draft of Excavation and Exploration Policy to be finalized and adopted after public discussion within six months period.

b. Archaeological Survey of India Vision Plan for thematic prioritisation of exploration and excavation to be framed and implemented.

c. Use of scientific methodologies and development of laboratories for post-excavation analysis. Collaboration to be established with concerned laboratories within six months.

d. Publication of Excavation Reports to be completed within six months period

e. Re-exposing and putting the excavated sites in public domain with interpretation centre to showcase to visitors.

5.7.59 INTACH opined that currently, archaeological explorations and excavations are undertaken primarily by the ASI, or a few select universities and institutes and suggested that this field should be opened up to include more educational institutions and professionals, with the engagement of local communities and civic society groups.

5.7.60 Professor Nayanjot Lahiri stated that exploration and excavation are important responsibilities of the ASI, yet as per the 2013 CAG Report titled ‘Performance Audit of Preservation and Conservation of Monuments and Antiquities’, ASI was spending less than 1% on such work. She further noted that about a century ago, British India allocated 5% of the archaeological budget for such activities.
5.7.61 The Committee recommends that a Draft Excavation and Exploration Policy may be framed at the earliest and inputs may be taken from the experts in this field in this regard. The Committee further recommends that ASI may consider opening up the field of excavation to more educational institutions and professionals and seek the engagement of local communities and civil society groups. The Committee is concerned to note that only a minuscule part of the budget available with the ASI is allocated for exploration and excavation. Further, the Ministry may take steps to ensure enhanced allocation for the purpose of excavation and exploration.

5.8 MISCELLANEOUS

5.8.1 The Committee is pleased to note the renovation of Red Fort, which consists of British Barracks of olden times has been taken up by the Ministry. The Committee takes special note of the installation of permanent exhibition on Netaji, the rebellion of 1857, and paintings, at the Red Fort.

5.8.2 The Committee feels that preparation of Heritage by-laws for all the monuments across the country forms a crucial part of the protection of monuments envisaged by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. In this regard, the Committee may be briefed about the roadblocks being faced by the National Monuments Authority, the proposed solutions to the same and the time line being targeted for laying the Heritage by-laws for all the monuments.

5.8.3 The Secretary, while elucidating upon the projects taken by the Ministry around pilgrimages, flagged the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir Corridor, where while this corridor was being cleared of encroachments from the Mandir through the Manikarnika Ghat, more than 4-beautiful temples were found. He further stated that the Ministry has taken up the task of documenting those temples and also intangible cultural heritage. He also deposed before the Committee that the Ministry is trying to create a Museum in old structures at the pilgrimage route which starts from Sonprayag and Gaurikund till the Kedarnath Mandir. He further briefed the Committee about creating Museums in remote border areas and about a project in Ladakh, where the documentation is currently being done about the cultural heritage in 17 villages,
Museum corners are being established, traditional Ladakhi house and community centres are being selected for Museum in a couple of villages near Chushul.

5.8.4 The Committee appreciates the progress made by the Ministry in projects around pilgrimages, remote border areas and the Ladakh region.

5.8.5 While deposing before the Committee, the Secretary stated that in Kolkata, there is a 13 acre property known as the Old River Mint, which is right next to the Old Howrah Bridge and that it has 5 building, which will be restored by the Ministry. The Ministry of Finance in the Department of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Culture is coming together to develop this as a cultural space for various diversified cultural activities.

5.8.6 The Committee is pleased to note that the old Jaipur House, which is next to the India Gate, and which was crumbling, has been restored completely.

5.8.7 One Member of the Committee voiced concern about media reports that the original work was being distorted in the name of maintenance and repairing work of the Lord Jagannath Temple. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should take necessary steps to allay such fears.

5.8.8 One Member of the Committee raised the vital query as to whether the Ministry has a programme for converting sculpture sheds into regular Museums. The Ministry, in its written reply furnished to the Committee in this regard, has stated that so far, there is no programme for converting sculpture sheds into regular Museums considering constraints of funds and manpower.

5.8.9 The Committee is constrained to note that the constraints of manpower and funds, quite often play spoilsport in the proper upgradation and development of sculpture sheds into Museums.

5.8.10 One important issue that was raised during the deliberations of the Committee was the need for underwater archaeological exploration, being given the much needed priority. The need for reviving underwater archaeological sites in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Odisha was highlighted during the meeting of the Committee. The Committee is disappointed to note that the Underwater Wing of ASI is defunct since a decade.
5.8.10A One of the Members of the Committee applauded the joint effort by ASI and the State Government of Maharashtra for the conservation of Raigad Fort and stated that scientific methodologies are being implemented in the conservation process taking place at the Fort.

5.8.10B The Committee commends the coordinated efforts being made by ASI and the State Government of Maharashtra to carry out conservation of Raigad Fort. India is home to a large number of historic forts which are unique in the terms of their history as well as their cultural significance. The Committee, therefore, recommends that ASI may replicate such joint efforts with other State Governments to ensure that the historic forts as well as other archaeological sites are developed for tourism purposes.

5.8.11 The Committee is dismayed to note that even though funds are available with ASI, proper work is not being done at Raigarh project, which is also funded by the State Government, as per the guidelines of ASI. The Committee emphasizes the need to speed up the work being done at the Raigarh Fort, which is also called as the ‘Gibraltar of the East’.

5.8.12 One Member of the Committee accentuated the need to give due attention to various places of cultural and heritage importance in Rajahmundry, Telangana, such as the Havelock Bridge.

5.8.13 The Committee recognizes the need for developing such places/sites into tourist spots. The Committee desires the Ministry to take note of the need to allocate funds for the Damerla Rama Rao Art Gallery in Rajahmundry, which has pieces of art which are centuries old.

5.8.14 One Member of the Committee raised the issue of cracks being caused in Yaganti Temple, due to blasting for mining. The Committee emphasizes upon the need for ASI to work in tandem with the concerned State Governments to ensure that archaeological sites and historical structures are maintained and preserved in good condition.

5.8.15 The issue of encroachments and commercialization activities in the close vicinity of temples/religious monuments was also discussed by the Committee.

5.8.16 The Committee desires that the Ministry should ensure that the provisions of the concerned legislation in this regard, are enforced strictly.
5.8.17 Dr. Rakesh Tewari, in his written note, opined that the increasing inflow of visitors to archaeological heritage sites as well as pollution is having a negative impact on such sites. He suggested that the number of visitors at heritage sites should be regulated on the basis of scientific studies on sustainability. He further opined that sustainable upkeep of the monuments should be the primary consideration instead of increasing the income by encouraging tourism at such sites.

5.8.18 Too many visitors at an historical site can have negative effects on its physical characteristics and integrity, as well as the ecological characteristics of the associated spaces. The Committee, therefore, recommends that ASI may conduct a detailed study into the negative impact of high tourist activity at Centrally protected monuments that attract high footfall. The study may explore solutions to minimize such negative impact and to figure out a number of visitors that can be allowed at the site while ensuring there is no lasting damage caused to the monument and the associated spaces.

5.8.19 AKTC suggested that in line with the recommendations contained in the UNESCO Operating Guidelines, a Statement of Significance should be written out for each monument of national importance and form part of the signage / web information on the structure. It was opined that doing so would also help the staff responsible of the site to be aware of the cultural significance of the monuments, especially when the staff might be from a different part of the country.

5.8.20 The Committee feels that having a Statement of Significance for each Centrally protected monument would go a long way in making ASI staff as well as tourists more aware and appreciative of its cultural and historical significance. The information may also be uploaded on the ASI website so as to benefit scholars as well as tourists who might be researching before planning a trip to the place.

5.8.21 AKTC further observed that ticket counters, toilets, site interpretation counters, publication counters etc. are often built without any architectural design inputs, thus disfiguring the historic character of the site. It was suggested that any facility being built at any national monument should be designed by a registered architect and a review committee on the lines of ‘Delhi Urban Arts Commission’ to review any design prior to its construction. AKTC submitted
that car parking facility in the immediate vicinity of the monuments can disfigure its historic character and thus, the same should be carefully placed and designed in consultation with a conservation architect.

5.8.22 The Committee feels that visitors should experience the heritage sites in the purest possible form, and thus, utmost care should be taken to ensure that any structures built to provide facilities at such sites are in sync with the historic character of the site and do not disfigure its view and aura. The Committee, therefore, recommends that signage, ticket counters, toilets, interpretation counters etc., should be designed in consideration of the site in question, and approved by an expert committee comprising archaeologists and heritage architects.

5.8.23 AKTC suggested that pricing of tickets for young foreign nationals should be reduced to allow them by means of a ‘student pass’ to allow easy and cheap access to India’s national monuments. It also suggested that weekly international visitor passes should be made available to foreign tourists to entice them to visit more historical sites.

5.8.24 The Committee recommends that ASI may experiment with the ticket pricing for both domestic as well as international tourists, with the aim to maximizing the revenue generated by such visits as well as allowing the maximum feasible number of people to enjoy visiting the site. As a part of this attempt, ASI may consider granting special discount to young international tourists as well as offering weekly passes to both foreign and domestic travelers to entice them to visit and appreciate more historical sites during their trip.

5.8.25 AKTC informed the Committee that for a private development project in the vicinity of Golconda fort, 54 luxury villas have been approved by NMA on the basis of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) commissioned by the developer from a private consultant. In view of the archaeology on the site and the connect with the State protected Qutb Shahi tombs, this development will severely compromise chances for World Heritage nomination for the Golconda Fort. In view of this example, AKTC opined that the HIA required for approval of large development projects should be conducted by a specialist NGO/academic institute and not by the developer themselves. For this purpose, AKTC surmised that the developer may be asked
to submit a fee alongwith the application, which may be used to commission a HIA independent of the developer.

5.8.26 The Committee is deeply concerned to note the observations made by Aga Khan Trust for Culture regarding approval granted by NMA on the basis of HIA commissioned by the developer itself. The Committee recommends that necessary provisions may be put in place to ensure that the HIA required for approval of development projects should be conducted by a specialist NGO or academic institute, who is not associated with the developer itself.

5.8.27 AKTC suggested that a detailed assessment report should be prepared by an inter-disciplinary team for all national monuments, within a ten-year period and that similar assessment exercise should be carried out every 5 years for each monument. It further proposed that each monument should be visited at least monthly by the concerned Conservation Assistant and site inspection notes should be prepared.

5.8.28 The Committee recommends that a robust mechanism may be put in place to ensure that detailed assessment exercise is conducted for all Centrally protected monuments periodically. The assessment may be utilized to come up with short-term and long-term action plans for development and conservation of the sites.

5.8.29 Citing its experience in revival of over a dozen wells in the Sunder Nursery – Humayun’s Tomb area having a significant impact on the water table within the local precinct, AKTC suggested that historical Baolis, Tanks and Wells existing across the country should be revived to address the scarcity of water in the country. AKTC submitted that conservation of baolis coupled with landscape works at the Qutb Shahi Tombs, Golconda, Hyderabad demonstrates that millions of liters of rainwater can be collected in each rainy season and used for the remained for the year. AKTC opined that ASI should prioritize NREGA funds for reviving water structures since desilting of baolis, wells and tanks requires unskilled labor.

5.8.30 The Committee recommends that ASI may work on the revival of historical water bodies across the country. Besides helping in collecting rainwater during rainy season, the revived water bodies will act as a tourist attraction as well. The Committee urges upon ASI to explore partnering with the Ministry of Jal Shakti in this regard.
5.8.31 AKTC observed that less than 10% of the monuments in the Centrally protected monuments have been added to this list since 1947. It suggested that ASI should update list with the intention of removing structures that have been lost and adding structures that are clearly of national importance but protected locally by State Governments or not protected at all. Each circle of the ASI should be entrusted with taking up this activity in consultation with local stakeholders or local historians. AKTC further submitted that while the Act allows buildings older than 100 years to be protected as buildings of national importance, not a single 20th century building is yet protected as a national monument – not even India Gate. Together with 20th century heritage, there are no residential structures, vernacular secular or industrial heritage sites that are considered to be of national importance.

5.8.32 The Committee is surprised to note that less than 10% of monuments in the Centrally Protected Monuments list have been added to the list since 1947. The Committee feels that given the size of our country as well as its rich historical heritage, many more monuments should be under the protection of ASI. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Ministry may thoroughly consider important State-protected monuments as well as monuments outside the protection of both Central and State Governments, for inclusion in the list of Centrally Protected Monuments. 20th Century buildings of historical significance may also be considered for inclusion in the CPM list during this exercise.

5.8.33 AKTC opined that well illuminated monuments significantly enhance the heritage character of the urban environment. It should be mandatory to ensure that prominently located monuments be illuminated for a few hours every night. However, care should be taken that there is no daytime penalty for night-time benefit. Daytime visitors should not have to experience bulky light fixtures placed on prominent portions of the monuments. Illumination should be planned with experts and be subtle, highlighting the prominent aspects of the monuments rather than floodlighting the structure.

5.8.34 AKTC suggested that efforts should be made by ASI to ensure that differently-abled visitors are able to experience and enjoy India’s national monuments. The efforts should include barrier free pathways, installation of stair lifts, specialized exhibitions, placing of site models for touch, audio/braille signage.
5.8.35 The Committee recommends that ASI may take necessary steps to ensure well-planned illumination of historical monuments, wherever feasible, since the same would act as a major attraction for night-time tourism. The Committee further recommends that urgent steps may be taken to ensure that the ASI monuments are easily accessible by differently-abled visitors.

5.8.36 Professor Nayanjot Lahiri, in her written note, mentioned about the several problems highlighted by the CAG Report titled ‘Performance Audit of Preservation and Conservation of Monuments and Antiquities’ tabled in 2013 in Parliament, major of them being lack of a reliable database of monuments, missing monuments, neglect of Centrally protected monuments, low expenditure on exploration and excavation, encroachment etc.

5.8.37 The Committee desires to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry to address the problems pointed out in the above-mentioned CAG Report.
6. ISSUES COMMON TO MUSEUMS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS

6.1 Partnering with the private sector for development and conservation of Museums and archaeological sites

6.1.1 The Ministry informed the Committee that there is no ban on Museums for partnerships with private individuals/organizations. On experimental basis, Archaeological Survey of India has awarded work to the Delhi Art Gallery through open e-tendering system, for holding an exhibition on ‘Indian Art’ in L5 Colonial building at Red Fort.

6.1.2 In view of the fund crunch faced by the Ministry of Culture for development and conservation of Museums and archaeological sites/monuments across the country, the Committee feels that it is imperative for the Ministry to seek the participation of private sector in order to have the necessary investment needed to make our Museums and archaeological sites/monuments at par with international standards, while ensuring the employment of best possible preservation practices to keep our cultural heritage safe and preserved for the future generations. The Ministry may come up with possible schemes to partner with the private sector in development and conservation of our cultural heritage via PPP mode, test these on a pilot basis and roll out the successful ones on large scale.

6.1.3 The Committee is pleased to note that the Ministry has come up with the idea of identifying some start-ups, who will then incubate the idea and then put it out for main-streaming of investment, in respect of iconic heritage structures identified in the country, by the Ministry. The Committee appreciates the proposal mooted by the Ministry to create a Section 8 company which will actually monitor and execute all these projects and it will be self-sustaining. No money will be provided by the Government. The company, for the purpose of viability gap funding, will take some money from the Central Government which the Ministry already has for schematic assistance to the Museums.

6.1.4 AKTC stated that with over 3000 national monuments in urgent need for conservation, landscape restoration, creation of facilities, interpretation, research, nomination to the World Heritage List, it is imperative for the ASI to establish a system where it would be
routine for specialist private agencies to undertake conservation works on national monuments under ASI supervision. Private entities such as specialist NGO’s/ Academic institutes or even corporates would require engaging specialist staff – such as those retired from ASI service – to undertake these works and seek written approval at significant stages of the works. It was further submitted that internationally, agencies such as English Heritage/ Historic Scotland undertake only a minimum percentage of conservation works in-house but instead engage specialists to plan, implement all conservation/ landscape restoration works. In-fact 55% of all architectural services in the UK are for historic building conservation.

6.1.5 The Committee suggests that the maintenance of various archaeological sites and monuments be outsourced to private agencies and in order to attract funds from such individuals/agencies, an incentive, such as display boards in the name of such individual agency at the sites, may be provided.

6.2 Effect of pollution on Museum artefacts and Archaeological Sites

6.2.1 Over the last decade, air pollution has increasingly become a threat not only to the health of people but also of our cultural heritage, especially in the winter season in North India. A concerted effort is thus needed from Ministry to ensure that no lasting damage happens to our invaluable Museum artefacts and archaeological sites and monuments.

6.2.2 Apprising the Committee about the steps taken for preserving artefacts, by the Museums under its administrative control, the Ministry furnished the following details:-

(A) National Museum

The Museum has commissioned centrally air-conditioned facility for its storage and display systems. This system ensures prevention of dust ingress to vulnerable objects (paintings, manuscripts, textiles, organic objects etc.). In addition, all such objects are encased in glass showcases or glass frames for safety and preventing ingress of pollutants. The in-house conservation laboratories periodically examine and carry out necessary conservation work arising of dust and other pollutants.

(B) National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
A collection storage is maintained in-house and wherever restoration is required, it is also performed in-house apart from regular check for temperature and humidity.

(C) Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad:

It has an in-house conservation unit to carry out preventive and curative measures to minimize impact of pollution on Museum objects. Following are the stepwise measures taken at different levels:

- **Premises:** Door mats are placed at the entrance gate to avoid dust in the galleries. There are plantations around the Museum to prevent dust.
- **Building:** Air curtains are installed at entrance and other places to avoid dust.
- **Galleries:** Air Purifiers, Air Curtains and De-humidifiers have been placed in Miniature Gallery, Textile Gallery & Manuscript Gallery. Out of 38 galleries 26 galleries are provided with air conditioners.
- **Showcases:** Activated carbon sheets are installed inside showcases to absorb volatile organic contain in Miniature painting gallery.
- **Artefacts:** Protective coating applied on metal objects to mitigate pollution effect on objects.
- **The Salar Jung Museum is utilizing the services of National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, for pollution assessment inside and outside the Museum.**

(D) Indian Museum, Kolkata

Since the Museum is situated in the heart of the city, the Museum objects are susceptible to dust & air pollution. The objects in the stores are kept either in almirahs or cup-boards, properly wrapped, to prevent access of dust and pollutants. The objects in the galleries are attended by the Conservation Unit team and gallery staff regularly to provide appropriate treatment. The conservation team is supervised by a well-known conservator engaged by Indian Museum. Conservation team regularly examines the art objects and takes adequate action for treatment of the artefacts.

Indian Museum has also in March 2020 awarded work to CPWD for air conditioning of the exhibition halls to ensure controlled temperature and humidity. As part of this work, air
curtains shall be installed at all entry/exit doors which is expected to further reduce dust pollution.

(E) Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata

The VMH has earned the ‘Cleanest Monument in India’ award in 2015. It has cleaned its iconic marble exterior with organic materials like *multanimitti*, made the campus a completely plastics-free zone and used a garbage composting machine to compost its organic waste and use it as landfill and manure in the gardens. The environmental system in the VMH has thus defied the pollution prevailing otherwise in the city.

(F) National Council of Science Museum, Kolkata

The Museum does not units do not have archaeological and historical artefacts. However, exhibits including old technological artifacts are regularly maintained and kept in working condition through standard upkeep procedure and regular maintenance.

(G) Allahabad Museum, Prayagraj

The Museum has an independent conservation laboratory to conserve the Museum’s artefacts. All artefacts are being regularly conserved by the lab experts from time to time.

(H) Archeological Survey of India

Archaeological Survey of India has its own Science Branch which in coordination with archaeological officer undertakes preventive measures and scientific preservation of antiquities displayed and in Reserve Collection of Archaeological Site Museums.

6.2.3 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may conduct researches to devise technological solutions to curb the ill-effects of air pollution on our cultural heritage. Different effects of the pollutants lingering in the air on different types of surfaces and materials should be studied and the solutions devised to prevent or minimize the same should be shared with State Government archaeology departments and Museums as well. The Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry should seek higher budgetary allocation to fund researches since the process of conservation of monuments and artefacts is as much science as it is an art.
6.3 Re-examination and updation of Acts and Laws pertaining to Museums and Archaeological Sites

6.3.1 Professor Nayanjot Lahiri, in her written note furnished to the Committee, opined that heritage laws should be re-examined and made more realistic and transparent, so as to be enforceable. She quoted the observations of the archaeologist Dilip Chakrabarti on the draconian nature of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972 as follows:

“It is draconian in the sense that it virtually makes the possession of an antiquity by a god-fearing Indian a criminal offence. The onus of registering everything with the government and that too in triplicate, with three copies of photographs and within a very short time-frame lies entirely with the individual. In a country with limited literacy the effectiveness of such a piece of legislation can easily be imagined!”

6.3.2 Professor Lahiri further suggested undertaking legislative changes so as to set up a National Heritage Commission with the idea of putting in place a more decentralized conservation/preservation policy and an enabling legislation to make it mandatory to have local ‘Virasat Suraksha Samitis’ to encourage the participation of municipalities and village panchayats in heritage conservation and management work.

6.3.3 The Committee urges upon the Ministry to review the heritage laws in light of contemporary times and come up with suitable amendments, wherever necessary, to ensure that they are more realistic, transparent and do not cause unnecessary inconvenience to bona fide citizens. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may come up with a legislative framework to enable and encourage the participation of municipalities and village panchayats in heritage conservation and management, especially in case of monuments that are not included in the list of Centrally protected/State protected monuments.

6.3.4 Dr. Tewari stated that more and more open areas around the museums and archaeological sites, wherever available, may be taken under the extended protected area to develop them from the archaeological perspective and that in specific cases, as per the importance and requirements of the sites, surrounding areas may also be considered for acquisition for this purpose even if they are presently occupied. He suggested that if need be,
appropriate amendments may be made in the existing legislations or new legislations may be passed in this regard.

6.3.5 INTACH, in its written note, opined that Indian Museums Act of 1910 needs to be relooked into and revised, as per the modern rules of museums.

6.3.6 INTACH stated that the strict prohibitory and regulatory provisions imposed by India’s Statutory Acts to protect archaeological sites, serve as barriers for peoples’ involvement in the conservation and development of these sites. It also raised the issue of delays in preparation of heritage bylaws for many Centrally protected monuments. In this regard, AKTC suggested that a timeline should be drawn up for preparation of byelaws for all sites.

6.3.7 On the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010, INTACH stated that the Act needs to be made relevant to the needs and aspirations of 21st century ‘New India’. It opined that a complete prohibition in the 100-meter area is a matter of concern and that heritage policy and legislation needs to be developed so as to integrate conservation, protection and development. AKTC opined that instead of ensuring a blanket prohibitive zone, design guidelines for new buildings or renovations in zones around national monuments should be strictly enforced and the prohibited zones should be limited to areas where view corridors to the monument are compromised.

6.3.8 AKTC opined that the Rules as framed at present are punitive and a legacy of colonial rule. Rather than focusing on enhancing the heritage character in the immediate setting of a monument - through urban design, façade improvements, improved street design – the law enforces a 100 meter zone where even house repairs are prohibitive.

6.3.9 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may undertake an exhaustive review of the Indian Museum Act, 1910 and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and come up with suitable amendments, in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice. The Committee further recommends that the blanket ban on construction works within the prohibited area of 100 meters around the monument, should be reviewed in consultation with experts and stakeholders, and suitable amendments may be proposed to ensure a balance between developmental works and heritage conservation. It should be ensured that prohibitions are still in place against
works that might impact the view corridors to the monument or where such works may be of detrimental effect to the structural integrity of the monument.

6.3.10 INTACH further suggested the following new legislations/ laws/ rules to better develop museums and archaeological sites:

a) National and State-level Tourism Policies need to be developed in order to address the issues and potentials of cultural tourism. These policies will need to be linked with National Conservation Policy, Town and Country Planning Acts, World Heritage Convention, International Charters and so forth.

b) Conservation Plans should be prepared for buffer zones, which should be integrated with the town planning process such as Master Plans/ Development Plans in conformity the local planning byelaws and heritage conservation norms. The local authorities should be involved in the process.

c) Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to be made a legal instrument and essential requirement for the approval of all major development projects, particularly those around protected monuments and sites and listed historic buildings. Heritage Conservation Committees must be empowered to ask for HIAs as part of the approval process.

d) A new legislation to be introduced for a legal protection of listed historic buildings and sites. It is to be called ‘Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act’, and it should be part of the Planning and Development processes at State and City level.

e) Aspects like Development Exemptions, Compensations, Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs), Repair Grants and Infill Developments should be included in the Planning and Taxation legislations.

f) National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill, 2009 May be considered to be revived with appropriate amendments.

g) Setting up of independent professional councils or bodies for Archaeology, Conservation and Museums. These bodies to be run and managed by elected members from the specific professional communities.

h) The Town and Country Planning organization of the Government of India has drafted a model bill to amend the State Town and Country Planning Acts. However, no provision has been made in the draft bill in respect of safeguards against the demolition of an old
historic building or levelling up of an ancient mound for development purposes. This aspect needs to be carefully examined in the model bill.

6.3.11 AKTC observed that as a legacy of colonial rule, many of our monuments are not easily accessible for use. Even in remote areas where these structures are often the only limited infrastructure available to the local community. It suggested that National Policy should encourage transformation and reuse as an alternate to demolish and rebuild. This has been successful across Europe, in countries such as UK – with a heritage building stock – in excess of 650000 – reuse of structures for modern use utilizes over 50% of all architectural services.

6.3.12 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may come up with the necessary legislative framework to ensure that conservation plans are in place at all Centrally protected monuments and for making Heritage Impact Assessment compulsory for major development projects. The Committee urges upon the Ministry to revise its National Policy to encourage transformation and reuse as an alternate to demolish and rebuild, since the same would allow many more historical sites to be preserved in a better shape instead of them disappearing or getting demolished over time.

6.4 Weekly/ Biweekly cultural evenings at Museums/ Centrally protected monuments

6.4.1 Museums as well as archaeological sites are often not seen as a place of tourist attraction by the local population. Driving the local people to visit their nearby monuments and Museums would not only result in a growth in revenue but also acquaint them with the history of the city/town they love in, thus inculcating a feeling of pride as well as responsibility to keep them safe and clean.

6.4.2 AKTC suggested that monuments that do not attract a large number of visitors and those which have no associated cultural/religious sensitivity should used as venues for cultural programme with the twin objectives of promoting the associated intangible heritage as well as increasing visitor numbers to such sites.

6.4.3 The Committee recommends that the Ministry should organize weekly / biweekly cultural programmes such as lectures, traditional dance and music programmes, film screenings, book discussions, traditional art melas etc. at Museums and archaeological
sites, in close coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and concerned departments of State Governments. The Committee feels that the Ministry of Culture’s database of local artistes would be of immense help towards this initiative and would give a boost to both domestic and foreign tourism. Organizing participative programmes from time to time would also tend to make Museums/sites visits a fun and learning experience for the visitors. The Ministry should tap its pool of artistes and local talent in such programmes. The same should be advertised through social media in order to reach out to the target audience in a cost-effective manner. Due caution must be exercised by the Ministry to ensure that any events organized at a Museum or an archaeological site are not in any way detrimental to the site or any artefacts.

6.5 Taking action on feedback from visitors

6.5.1 The Committee recommends that the Ministry may set up a robust mechanism to collect feedback from domestic as well as foreign tourists who visit a Museum or archaeological site/monument. Technology may be utilized to permit the tourists to easily leave their feedback regarding the experience they had in their visit to a Museum/archaeological monument. Working on first hand feedback from the visitors will lead the Ministry into improving tourist experience in the future, while also leaving a positive imprint about Indian culture and heritage among those who visit.

6.6 Review of the tendering process for awarding conservation contracts

6.6.1 It has come to the notice of the Committee that in some cases, the projects are awarded to such contractors who have little to no experience in the field of conservation, who later hire sub-consultants and end up doing more harm than good, to the monuments/artefacts involved. In light of this, the Committee recommends that the Ministry may thoroughly review the tendering process it adopts for awarding conservation contracts of archaeological sites/monuments and Museum artefacts and to have provisions in place to ensure that tenders are not awarded to the lowest bidder, but to a contractor who has considerable experience and expertise in the required skillset.
6.7 Lending assistance to important State Protected Archaeological Monuments and Museums

6.7.1 The Committee enquired from the Ministry of Culture regarding the action taken to enable the State Governments/UTs to take up sustained conservation, preservation and environmental development of their protected monuments/archaeological sites. In response, the Committee was informed by the Ministry that the State Government is responsible for preservation and environmental development of monuments protected by them. However, if technical support is required by any State Government for preservation and conservation of monuments, technical support is provided to them as and when such request is made. The Committee was further informed that the State Governments/UTs are rendered technical advice by the ASI on conservation related matters, wherever such requests are received. In addition, ASI also takes up conservation works of monuments belonging to State Governments/UTs on receiving their request for execution of works on Deposit Works basis.

6.7.2 DG, ASI while deposing before the Committee, stated thus:-

“The procedure for protection is again very clearly laid out in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. ASI issues a preliminary notification and consults the State Government because the State Governments also may, in parallel, take up that monument. So, to ensure that there is no duplication, the State Governments are consulted. There is no need for permission from the State Government. ASI consults the State Government and then issues a preliminary notification. After 60 days, if nothing comes up, ASI takes it up for final protection.”

6.7.3 The Committee observes that the development and preservation of archaeological sites and Museums often does not run high in the priorities of State Governments. This often leads to neglect, and thus irreparable damage is caused to the State protected archaeological monuments as well as Museum artefacts. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should have a mechanism in place to identify instances of gross neglect of maintenance and preservation of important archaeological sites and Museums and prod the State Government Department concerned to take action to rectify the same. In cases of exigent needs, ASI may proactively provide technical assistance to such monuments and Museums. The Committee suggests that the Ministry may, from time to time, consider the
inclusion of the State protected archaeological monuments and Museums which are more
than 100 years old, in the list of Centrally protected monuments and National Museums.
The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may lend assistance to State
Governments to enable introduction of online ticketing to archaeological sites and
Museums under their purview.

6.8 Coordination with different Ministries and State Governments

6.8.1 During its visit to Visakhapatnam in January, 2020, it was suggested by ASI that the
Andhra Pradesh Government should permit the operation of boat services to Nagarjunakonda
Museum from Telangana side. The representative of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh
informed that the State Department of Archaeology and Museums which was formed in 1960
and is, *inter alia*, tasked with the development, preservation and maintenance of 279 State-
protected monuments, 14 State Museums, and conducts explorations and excavations at
archaeological sites. The Committee was apprised of the usage of advanced technologies by the
State Government at various Museums and monuments and the upgradation works being carried
out therein. Further, the representative of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh apprised
about the proposed construction of international standard Museums at 13 new places, with a
tentative cost of Rs. 159 crores, underlined the need for a tough law against defacement of
statues, monuments etc. and the need for installation of CCTVs for the same. Shortage of funds
is one of the issues being faced for fencing of monuments for which a separate monuments grant
should be set up.

6.8.2 The Committee recommends that the Ministry should strictly ensure that there is
close co-ordination between/amongst the Ministry of Culture and the concerned State
Departments. The Committee desires the Ministry to come up with well-defined procedures
to allow the State Departments to seek guidance and technical expertise from the various
organizations under the Ministry. Regular meetings may be held with the concerned
officials of the State Governments, at least once in 3 months, and the Report thereon,
should be submitted to the Central Government and also to this Committee. The
Committee should be updated periodically about the outcome thereof. The Committee also
recommends that if the Ministry feels that any Amendment of the concerned legislation is
needed, the Ministry may ensure that the Amendment is fructified, by piloting a Bill in this regard.

6.8.3 The Committee reiterates the recommendation made in Para 114 of its 289th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of Ministry of Culture and strongly recommends the Ministry to coordinate with the Ministry of Railways; Road Transport and Highways and concerned State Departments to make necessary improvements in rail and road connectivity at important Museums and archaeological sites/monuments in the country.

6.9 Allocation of funds generated from Museums and ASI, to the Ministry of Culture

6.9.1 Professor H.P. Ray, in her written note, suggested that the revenue generated from sale of tickets, etc. at archaeological sites and museums should be ploughed back into their development, rather than being deposited into a central pool.

6.9.2 INTACH also raised the issue of income generated by museums being transferred to a common fund instead of being spent on well-performing museums.

6.9.3 The Committee notes that at present, the revenue generated by the Museums and Archaeological Sites/Monuments under the Ministry of Culture, by way of sale of entry tickets etc., is deposited to Consolidated Fund of India. Given the scarcity of funds available with the Ministry of Culture, the Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry may request that the revenue so generated should be allocated to the Ministry itself for the purpose of development and conservation of Museums and archaeological sites/monuments. This would also encourage the autonomous organizations under the Ministry of Culture to come up with innovative ways of revenue generation and result in better development and upkeep of the cultural heritage of the country.

6.10 Lowering the fees charged for filming at Centrally Protected Monuments

6.10.1 The Committee reiterates the recommendation made in Para 124 of its 289th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of Ministry of Culture that the prices charged by the Ministry for filming at archaeological sites/monuments and Museums, outside the period notified in the ASI notification mentioned above, are very high. Films and videos featuring the archaeological monuments and Museums showcase the richness of our cultural heritage
to both domestic and foreign viewers alike and act as a free tool for publicity of the monuments and Museums, thus propelling their tourism prospects. In light of this, the Committee recommends the Ministry to opt for a pay-as-you-wish payment model, wherein the filming company seeking the permission can pay the amount that it can afford to pay. The Ministry may also ensure that there are no delays in grant of permission for filming at the monuments while putting in place enough safeguards to ensure that the filming activities do not cause any harm to the monuments and/or the archaeological artefacts.

6.11 Hiring well trained professional staff for maintenance of archaeological sites and Museums

6.11.1 One Member of the Committee underscored the imminent need for the infusion of professionalism into the identification, maintenance, and preservation of archaeological sites and in the maintenance of Museums. The Committee endorses this view and strongly recommends that the Ministry should give due attention to ensure that professionally trained people are engaged in all such activities. The Committee urges the Ministry to give emphasis to branding and social media presence.

6.12 Measures to compensate private owners of listed historic buildings to conserve them in the face of the rising land values

6.12.1 AKTC suggested that for the hardships faced by owners of properties in the immediate vicinity of the heritage monuments – no incentives are offered. Incentives could be tax relief, Transferable Development rights, permission to change land-use, amongst other possibilities.

6.12.2 INTACH made the following suggestions in this regard:

   a) Transfer of development rights (TDR) for the restriction on development in a heritage area.
   b) Matching / repairs grants for listed heritage properties, particularly in the private sector.
   c) Bank loans at low interest rates and soft loans from public sector banks should be available.
d) Property tax relaxation for properties within prohibited / regulated / buffer areas, and Tax Incentives on repairs and renovation grants to local authorities and private heritage property owners for urgent repairs.

e) Heritage awareness programmes, practical training workshops, capacity building events etc. may be offered.

f) Heritage Awards to be conferred to the owners in recognition of their conservation, maintenance and upkeep of their heritage properties.

6.12.3 The Committee agrees with the view that private owners of listed historic buildings as well as people having residential property properties within prohibited/ regulated/ buffer areas should be provided with certain compensation/ incentives to encourage their participation in the conservation and protection of the historical sites. The Committee, therefore, recommends that wherever feasible, the Ministry may act on the suggestions made by INTACH in this regard.
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS - AT GLANCE

DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MUSEUMS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Committee observes that the Museums of any given country exhibit the richness of its culture, giving the visitors a sneak peek into the cultural heritage and history of the nation, besides being a major attraction for tourists, both domestic and foreign. In view of the significant role played by Museums in showcasing the art and culture of the country, the Committee desires that a comprehensive action plan needs to be devised to bring a modern look and feel to the Museums, and ensure that the collections available are periodically rotated to provide a refreshing experience for visitors. The Committee desires the Ministry to put up a monitoring mechanism in place to make sure that the deliverables are achieved by all the Museums within a strict timeline.

(Para 4.5)

The Committee takes note of the steps taken by the Ministry for the upgradation of the security infrastructure, Reception Halls, Auditorium etc., with the latest technology, and desires that the betterment of the Galleries may be completed at all the Museums within a fixed timeframe. The Committee strongly recommends that the Museums in India should be adequately equipped with conservation labs, storage facilities, written and graphic records, documentation facilities, modern photography techniques etc.

(Para 4.6)

The Committee notes the general view of the experts/stakeholders that the present state of museums under the Ministry leaves much to be desired. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Ministry may prepare action plans in consultation with the best experts in this field, for each museum for the short-term as well as the long-term, and monitor the progress made to follow these plans.

(Para 4.10)

Challenges:-

(i) Innovation and Design
The Committee observes that Indian Museums in general need to work a lot on their presentation, design and marketing. Doing so would help the Museums to attract not only art/history aficionados but also other visitors which will help in increasing the revenue of the Museums. This increased revenue can be used to spur innovation and improve design standards across the Museums. Experiences and good practices from Museums, both Indian and international, excelling in terms of innovation and design should be utilized for improving the same in Museums where it is lacking.

(Para 4.11.3)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry should come up with a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure that a comprehensive Museum Policy is in place and is put to implementation at each of the museum under it.

(Para 4.11.4)

The Committee feels that once internal resources are raised, it would be easy for the Ministry to approach the Finance Ministry to supplement its efforts to complete any undertaken projects.

(Para 4.11.5)

(ii) **Human Resources**

The Committee believes that tackling the issue of dearth of human resources requires long-term planning and solutions beyond the availability of budget. The Committee takes cognizance of the list of deliverables issued by the Ministry to address the issue of lack of human resources and role envisaged for the upcoming Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation (IIHC) in solving this issue. The Committee recommends the Ministry to formulate, in advance, its document indicating the present as well as future human resource needs of the Indian Museums sector for consideration the IIHC. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may develop plans for establishing regional centres of IIHC in the future, to enable interested youth to pursue their interest in museology and cultural heritage preservation.

(Para 4.11.10)
The Committee notes that there is an urgent need for carrying out extensive training programmes for the museum staff working across the country. The Committee recommends that the Ministry may enhance the budgetary allocation for this purpose and ensure that the museum staff is well-trained and sensitized regarding the cultural importance of the antiquities under their care. The training programmes may be conducted by renowned experts from the field in an engaging manner.

(Para 4.11.13)

(iii) Conservation and Preservation Practices

The Committee feels that a lot needs to be done in terms of implementing the best possible conservation and preservation practices in our Museums. The Committee recommends that the Museums should be encouraged to study the efficacy of age-old traditional conservation practices and modify them suitably in order to ensure that all the Museum artefacts stay in the best possible state. Collaborations with international institutions with respect to training and capacity building exercises should be held periodically for the Museum staff. The Committee further recommends the Ministry to ensure that the curricula of the academic institutions imparting knowledge of conservation practices in India, including the upcoming IIHC, includes the global best practices for conservation and preservation of historic artefacts.

(Para 4.11.15)

The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may devise a policy to ensure periodical review the state of artefacts of the Museums and, on a case-to-case basis, do away with those which are beyond the point of salvaging by way of donating them to academic institutions or by auctioning them to collectors. This would also help the Museums to focus on the artefacts which are in good shape and preserve them in best possible way for years to come. The Committee would also like the Ministry to encourage the Museums under its ambit to collaborate with State Government owned Museums from time to time to share their preservation expertise with them.

(Para 4.11.16)
The Committee recommends that the Ministry may take the necessary steps to ensure that a coordinated, integrated and consistent approach to conservation and development of museums is followed across the various museums functioning under it.

(Para 4.11.18)

(iv) Audience Engagement

The Committee feels that audience engagement is one of the most crucial challenges faced by the Indian Museums. The Committee is of the view that the Museum administrators need to make the optimum use of the available funds to spur engagement, interest and curiosity among the visitors as part of its audience engagement activities. The Committee would like the Museums to strive to develop certain galleries as Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality powered galleries for showcasing immersive stories of the past to the visitors. The Committee further recommends that the Museums should optimally utilize social media and target hyperlocal marketing to drive visitors to the Museums. Guided tours should be promoted in museums for both domestic and international visitors. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may come up with a rating system for all the museums under it, wherein museums are rated based on several parameters – with audience engagement being one of the important parameters. This would encourage the museum staff to perform better.

(Para 4.11.21)

The Committee urges upon the Ministry to tie up with both domestic as well as international Museums to exchange and loan artefacts on rotational basis, so as to have fresh attractions from time to time. The Committee is of the view that the Museums should ensure that their entire collection of artefacts is displayed to the audience by implementation of a well thought-out, pre-planned rotation schedule, physically as well as on the Museum websites, and also by giving advertisements both in print and electronic media, which will also help to increase the overall footfall. This would also enable visitors to know beforehand what to expect from their visit, and provide them an overall improved visitor experience.
The Committee notes that QR codes provide link to a web page which will display an online map of the Museum so that visitors do not have trouble reaching any particular section of the Museum, showcasing the detailed history of the artefacts and interesting facts about the Museum. The Committee recommends the Ministry to introduce QR codes in all its Museums for an interactive experience which would especially appeal to young visitors. Making wifi available in every Museum would be crucial for ensuring an enriching experience for the visitors.

(v) Funding

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may work on developing an effective revenue model for the museums and employ innovative means like donation drives, seeking CSR funds and sponsorships etc. to raise funds for the development, maintenance and upgradation of Museums. Visitors may also be encouraged to share their Museum experience on social media to generate interest among their peers which will result in increased footfall, thereby earning the Museums extra revenue.

The Committee further recommends that efforts may be made to encourage voluntary donations for the purpose of development and conservation of the Museum and its artefacts. This can be done by making the tickets pay-as-you-wish, setting a minimum price that needs to be paid for an entry ticket and suggesting a higher amount to help the Museums generate funds for its operations. An option may also be provided to interested people to contribute towards the maintenance of any given artefact for a certain time period. The possibility of providing special tours of Museums before and after public hours, by charging higher ticket prices may also be explored. The Committee suggests that Museums across India should look into the issue of charging higher fees to foreign nationals and analyzing the possible impact of lowering the same on the footfall received
and revenue generated by the Museums, targeting the maximization of both the footfall and the revenue.  

(Para 4.11.29)

The Committee is of the view that Museums may be encouraged to enter into partnerships with the private sector to sponsor their exhibitions, and also through contribution under Corporate Social Responsibility. The Committee understands that the condition of Indian Museums can be improved to a large extent if sufficient funds are made available. The Committee would also like the Ministry to look into the administration, functioning and revenue models of successful international Museums in developing countries and emulate the best practices with modifications suiting to the Indian context.  

(Para 4.11.31)

The Committee feels that the sum of Rs. 72.51 crores provided by the Ministry to State Museums across the country under the Museum Grant Scheme from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20, is a paltry amount covering only a few Museums while a large number of museums are still craving for such an assistance. The Committee desires the Ministry to allocate more funds to the State Governments for the purpose of development of State Museums and encourage all the States to come up with proposals to upgrade the Museums under their control under the Museum Grant Scheme. The Committee also calls upon the Ministry to come up with a list of deliverables for the State Museums to provide better experience to the visitors across the country.  

(Para 4.11.34)

The Committee observes that out of the abovementioned grant of Rs. 72.51 crores under the Museum Grant Scheme from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20, Rs. 35 crores i.e. 48% of the total amount, has been allocated to just 2 States – Nagaland and Andhra Pradesh. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should take steps to ensure equitable allocation of the financial aid to State Governments under the Museum Grants scheme. The Committee desires the Ministry to ask all States to submit their proposal for this scheme and ensure that at least one Museum gets this grant in each State. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may allocate some funds to National Museums with the
specific purpose to lend technical and conservational assistance to State controlled Museums, when needed.

(Para 4.11.35)

(vi) Safety and security of Museum artefacts

The Committee takes note of several media reports pointing out theft of antiquities and artefacts, involving the participation of organized international mafia. This, according to the Committee is a major cause of concern in safeguarding the artefacts in our country. The Committee underlined the need of security of artefacts deployed at the different National Museums across the country to ensure the safety of our valuable antiquities and artefacts. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry may come up with a set of rules to ensure certain level of safety and security across all the National Museums. Needless to mention, installation of CCTV systems, armed personnel, burglar alarm systems, etc. in the museums are must and therefore the budgetary requirements, alongwith provisions thereof within strict timeline be made for compliance of security requirements. The Committee recommends the Ministry to explore the usage of blockchain technology for digital cataloguing of Museum artefacts, so as to maintain permanent, unalterable records of the artefacts. The Committee hopes that this would also deter the possible connivance of the Museum staff with organized art smuggling groups.

(Para 4.11.37)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may take urgent measures to ensure that an effective disaster management plan is in place across all the museums to ensure the physical safety of the precious antiquities in times of natural calamities.

(Para 4.11.39)

(vii) Vacancies existing in Museums

The Committee is anguished to note that several key positions are lying vacant for a long time in the various Museums. The Committee wonders as to how the Museums can function properly without key personnel in position to manage them. The Committee,
therefore, urges the Ministry to take urgent steps to fill the existing vacancies under the various Museums at the earliest.

(Para 4.11.42)

Opportunities:-

(i) Digitization of Museums

The Committee appreciates the meticulous work done by several national Museums across the country in setting up of virtual galleries and digitization of the artefacts present in the Museums, along with the relevant details for these items which would serve not only research scholars of historical artefacts, but also the art-loving community. The digitized artefacts would ensure permanent record of artefacts which in turn would help in keeping a check on pilferage of Museum artefacts. The Committee recommends that the software may be introduced across the national Museums on priority. The Committee further recommends the Ministry to provide assistance to the State Government Museums for implementing the JATAN software.

(Para 4.12.2)

(ii) Addressing the dearth of Human Resources in Museology

The Committee feels that the issue of shortage of human resources in the field of museology in the country can only be resolved by long-term planning and introducing students to this field at a young age. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Ministry may request the Ministry of Human Resource Development to include an introductory course on museology in the curriculum at the senior secondary school level. The Committee further recommends that schools should be persuaded by the Ministry to arrange at least one Museum visit per year for students at every level. Such visits should include a brief behind-the-curtains overview of the process of conservation of Museum artefacts and Museum curation. Doing so would instill a sense of respect for our rich cultural heritage and the efforts that go behind preserving the same stimulate the curiosity of students, and
encourage them to pick up careers in the field of museology and conservation of historical artefacts. The Committee observes that the establishment of the Indian Institute of Heritage is a step in the right direction and will help tackle the issue of dearth of human resources in the field of museology in a significant way. The Ministry should hire curators who have exposure in international best standards of Museum curation.

(Para 4.12.4)

(iii) Expanding National Council of Science Museums across all States

The Committee feels that Science Museums are the gateway to the domains of both Science as well as Museums for school kids in India. They help develop scientific temper among the upcoming generations of the country. The Committee observes that the present network of the National Council of School Museums† leaves a lot of scope for expanding the presence of the Regional Level Centres of the NCSM throughout the country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry should establish Regional Level Centres of the NCSM in all the States, so as to ensure school kids from all over the State get a chance to visit these Centres and help develop a scientific outlook in their lives.

(Para 4.12.5)

(iv) Developing ASI Site Museums across the country

The Committee feels that development of site museums at more ASI sites across the country would serve as another attraction for tourists, while helping preserve the site-related antiquities by employing museum staff dedicated to the purpose. The Committee recommends that ASI may chalk out a plan for development of more site museums at sites with high footfall and work out a revenue generation plan to support their maintenance costs. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Culture may pursue the Ministry of Finance to allocate the funds generated by museums and monuments to the Ministry itself, so as to boost the development and conservation of museums and historical sites across the country.

† Source: https://ncsm.gov.in/network-2/
Miscellaneous

The Committee appreciates the steps being taken by the Ministry to modernize and upgrade the Museum facilities at various Museums under its administrative control.

The Committee takes note that a Museum of the World is planned in the National Library, Kolkata and desires that it may be finalized soon.

The Committee is happy to note that the Ministry, in coordination with the State Government of Tripura, has plans to create a State Gallery of Modern Art at Pushpabanta Palace at Agartala, besides funding and guiding them in the matter of curation.

The Committee is constrained to note that only 300-400 painting out of the collection of 17,000 paintings, are presently being showcased in the National Museum at Delhi. The Committee desires to be increased progressively to showcase at least 25% of the paintings.

The Committee takes note of the Sindhu Valley Civilization Gallery proposed to be taken up in the National Museum, Delhi, with the collaboration of ASI. The Committee welcomes the initiative taken by the Ministry to bring the artefacts and antiquities, which ASI has excavated from various sites of Rakhigarhi, Sanauli, Lothal, Kalobangan etc.. The Committee applauds the initiative taken up by the Ministry to set up a Jewellery Gallery at the National Museum in Delhi.

The Committee welcomes the innovative initiatives taken to set up new Galleries in Indian Museum and other Museums and hopes that these initiatives would fructify in near future.
The Committee underlines the need for development of the Museum and old manuscripts
at the Gagron Fort at Jhalawar, Kolvi Buddhist Caves, Jain temples at Ujjain and Kota,
and Fort of Shahabad and desires that the old manuscripts are available via audio, video
etc.

(Para 4.13.12)

The Committee desires that the work at all these museums may be completed at the
earliest.

(Para 4.13.14)

The Committee desires that the Ministry may look into this aspect and furnish its reply
thereon, in its ATN.

(Para 4.13.16)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Challenges:-

(i) Conservation Problems

The Committee takes note of the various problems faced by the Ministry/ASI with regard
to the conservation of the monuments/sites, and recommends that the Ministry should be
proactive in solving these problems since these form a formidable threat to the
maintenance and conservation of the archaeological monuments and sites. Given the
budget any constraints care should be taken to ensure optimum utilization of funds and
working out innovative, cost-effective solutions to meet the challenges related to
conservation of the archaeological sites.

(Para 5.6.4)

The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may devise a well-defined plan to
ensure at least a bare minimum level of protection and conservation of monuments outside
the protection of both Central and State Governments, to encourage local municipal bodies
and local population. The Committee further recommends that ASI may develop a mechanism to share its technical expertise in conservation with concerned State Government Departments as well as local bodies by way of training and capacity building programmes.

(Para 5.6.5)

The Committee recommends that ASI may work out detailed Conservation and Management Plans for all the Centrally protected monuments on an urgent basis. A Site Inspection Register may also be maintained for each of the monuments and steps may be taken to disseminate knowledge about the national policy for conservation among the ASI staff, officials of State Governments, as well as other agencies involved in carrying out conservation works at archaeological monuments across the country.

(Para 5.6.8)

(ii) Urbanization around Centrally Protected Monuments

The Committee desires the Ministry to coordinate with all infrastructure Ministries and Departments to ensure compliance of the prohibited area and regulated area limits prescribed under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 at the DPR stages of projects planned in the vicinity of all Centrally protected monuments. The Committee recommends that extensive research may be conducted to explore ways and means to protect our archaeological sites and monuments from the ill-effects of severe air pollution in urban centres.

(Para 5.6.10)

(iii) Encroachment and Vandalism

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may examine the efficacy of the powers it presently has to deal with encroachments in and around monuments and propose suitable amendments to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959, and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 with a view to adequately empower the Estate Officer for tackling the issue of encroachment of Centrally protected monuments. In the event of non-cooperation from local law enforcement agencies in dealing with encroachment around monuments, the matter may be
taken up at higher levels on priority basis to evolve the much needed accountability mechanism for the same. Awareness drives may carried out on social media to create a sense of belonging among the local populace so that they remain more vigilant towards protecting our monuments and heritage from malevolent elements of the society.

(Para 5.6.12)

The Committee is of the view that boundary wall is a bare minimum security requirement and helps clearly demarcate the limits of the archaeological site. It, therefore, desires the Ministry to target the construction of boundary walls around all Centrally Protected Monuments in the country within a fixed time line. The Committee believes that doing so would have a noticeable preventive effect on encroachment of monuments across the country.

(Para 5.6.13)

The Committee recommends that a dedicated cell be set up under ASI with mandate to identify, monitor and follow up action on the incidents of encroachment of Centrally Protected Monuments across the country. The cell may seek active participation of local communities residing near the CPMs and encourage them to report any such incidents to the Ministry at the earliest.

(Para 5.6.14)

The Committee urges upon the Ministry to strive towards prevention of vandalism and encroachment at archaeological sites and monuments fraught with safety and security problems, particularly those in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Chhatisgarh, North-Eastern States etc., in close coordination with local law and order authorities. The Committee desires the Ministry to take necessary actions to ensure that strict penal provisions are in place to deter incidents of vandalism and defacing of monuments.

(Para 5.6.15)

The Committee takes serious note of the growing incidents of demolition of several temples of immense cultural importance by anti-social elements in certain States. The Committee is of the firm view that such incidents should be prevented at any cost and exhorts the Ministry to ensure a foolproof mechanism to arrest such incidents and protect our
cherished cultural heritage. The Committee underlines the need for an infallible procedure prescribing close coordination amongst the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Governments.

(Para 5.6.16)

The Committee is happy to note that ASI is working on a Security Policy for all the Centrally Protected Monuments. The Committee recommends that the Security Policy may be formulated and implemented at the earliest.

(Para 5.6.18)

The Committee recommends that ASI may undertake a physical security audit for all the monuments under its ambit and estimate the financial requirements for installing CCTV security systems at all the monuments and sites under its control. Thereafter, a plan may be devised to install such systems at the earliest so as to deter and punish vandals.

(Para 5.6.20)

(iv) Lack of funds

The Committee recommends that ASI may introduce pay-as-you-wish ticketing at all ticketed monuments across the country, while still keeping certain minimum amount as fee. Informing visitors about the developmental work they could fuel at the archaeological sites with their donations will certainly drive many people to contribute to the same. The Committee also suggests the Ministry to consider introduction of special tours at archaeological sites and monuments before and after regular hours, charging a higher fee for a more isolated and sombre experience at the monuments. Further, ASI should explore forge partnerships in the form of sponsorship and CSR contributions, with the private sector.

(Para 5.6.24)

The Committee is of the view that adequate funds allocation to the Ministry will not only help develop and preserve the rich cultural heritage of India, but also act as an investment for propelling the growth of tourism sector in India. The present budget allocation to the Ministry, in the opinion of the Committee is insufficient for developing and conserving
Museums and archaeological sites and falls short to meet the financial needs of India’s cultural heritage. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry should make a strong case for higher fund allocation and would also urge the Ministry of Finance to be considerate to preserve our rich cultural heritage.

(Para 5.6.25)

The Committee feels that given the limited budget available with ASI, it is imperative to ensure that schemes such as Adopt-a-Heritage are implemented in way to maximize their impact on the state of maintenance and conservation of the heritage sites. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Culture may coordinate with the Ministry of Tourism and expand the scheme to permit the conservation works by private organizations, under close supervision of the ASI.

(Para 5.6.27)

(v) Human Resources at ASI

The Committee is dismayed to note that almost 29 percent of the sanctioned staff strength of ASI is lying vacant. Given the large number (3692) of monuments under the protection of ASI and the support ASI provides to archaeological departments of State Governments, even the sanctioned staff strength seems inadequate. The Committee is of the view that continuing vacancies reflects the lack of intent on part of ASI to fulfill its mandate to protect and preserve the archaeological monuments across the country. The Committee recommends the Ministry to take immediate steps to ensure the recruitment of the required personnel in Archaeological Survey of India. The Committee would also like the Ministry to look into the reasons for such large number of vacancies in ASI and take corrective measures to overcome the shortage of staff.

(Para 5.6.29)

The Committee agrees with the view that efforts must be made to ensure that ASI officials are from a diverse professional background, since the same would allow ASI to take more well-informed decisions regarding the development and conservation of archaeological sites. The Committee recommends that ASI may take steps to gauge the need for creation of posts of officials of diverse expertise and if needed, to seek expertise on a consultancy
basis so as to ensure optimal utilization of the constrained budgets available with ASI for carrying out conservation works.

(Para 5.6.36)

(vi) Scarcity of Artisans

The Committee recommends the Ministry to organize training camps and short-term courses to enhance the competencies of artisans required for working on the monuments. Master artisans/craftsman may be employed to pass on their skills to young artisans at these training camps and courses. The Committee sees no reasons as to why people would not be interested in attending such training camps/ courses as long as they are aptly incentivized and enough employment opportunities are created. The Committee desires the Ministry to work on this aspect so that our valuable monuments do not suffer damages because of lack of artisans.

(Para 5.6.39)

Opportunities:-

(i) Promotion of Tourism and Business

The Committee is of the view that developing garden spaces present associated with monuments, having souvenir shops, interpretation centers, well-designed signage, good waste management techniques and engaging the local community to play a bigger role in development of archaeological sites, would provide a much better experience to tourists visiting these sites and would certainly help in tapping the vast potential of increasing the tourism prospects and revenue generated by these sites. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry/ ASI may take concrete steps in this regard, in close coordination with the Ministry of Tourism.

(Para 5.7.9)

The Committee feels that there should be greater synergy between the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism to collectively work on policies/initiatives aiming to strengthen
capacities of tourist guides, develop basic facilities for tourists at tourist spots, organize
special events and exhibitions to attract tourists etc. The Committee is of the view that the
combined expertise of both the Ministries would go a long way in supplementing each
other’s initiatives and also result in better experience for the tourists visiting the Museums
and archaeological sites in India.

(Para 5.7.10)

(ii) Model conservation process

The Committee recommends that the Ministry should come up with a model conservation
process for archaeological artefacts and sites across the country. This would not only bring
consistency in the process followed by both Centrally protected and State protected
monuments but also act as a benchmark for the private contractors hired by ASI/ State
Government departments for carrying out conservation works.

(Para 5.7.11)

The Committee is concerned to note the apprehensions of the experts/stakeholders
regarding the focus laid by ASI on carrying out scientific research for the conservation
processes followed by it across the country. The Committee recommends that ASI may
review the functioning of its Science Branch, provide it with better funding and ensure that
all the conservation processes employed at the Centrally protected monuments are backed
by well-documented scientific research. The Committee further recommends that modern
technology such as photogrammetry, 3D laser scanning, blockchain technology etc. may be
explored and utilized, wherever possible, to improve the documentation of the monuments
since quality documentation at present would allow quality scientific research in the
coming future. The documentation should be made freely available on the internet, so as to
encourage the scholar community to study the monuments and contribute to their
conservation.

(Para 5.7.15)

(iii) Involvement of Communities

The background note furnished by the Ministry lists promotion of business by training
local archaeologists and specialists in conservation and site management as an opportunity.
The Committee may be apprised of the steps that have been taken by the Ministry in this regard.  

(Para 5.7.17)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may take steps to institutionally integrate municipalities and village panchayats in heritage conservation and management work, and if needed, a separate body may be created to regulate the framework for the same.  

(Para 5.7.23)

The Committee agrees with the view that making information regarding conservation efforts being undertaken by ASI, available on its website as well as physically at the monument would allow the participation of experts and local communities. Further, there should be a provision to allow members from the local community to have unlimited access to the heritage site in their vicinity at a discounted price and to also allow them to set up kiosks and souvenir shops as such. Doing so within a defined limit, would help inculcate a sense of responsibility and belongingness to the monuments among the local community, which will go a long way in safeguarding the monuments for the generations to come.

(Para 5.7.24)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Culture may approach the Ministry of Education to consider the inclusion of knowledge of local archaeological monuments and sites in the assessment of history courses in school. A thorough understanding of the historical and cultural significance of historical sites at a young age would go a long way in developing a sense of respect and responsibility for the same among the citizens.

(Para 5.7.25)

The Committee feels that having a dedicated senior personnel for forging partnerships with universities, local bodies, State Governments as well as Archaeology Departments of foreign countries would help laying an enhanced focus on benefitting from the knowledge and participation of these entities. The Committee, therefore, recommends that ASI may create a special unit dedicated to this task, headed by a senior ranking officer.

(Para 5.7.27)
The Committee recommends the Ministry to run ad campaigns akin to the Atithi Devo Bhava – Incredible India ad campaign, to make communities more aware, proud and protective of the cultural heritage in their vicinity. A feeling of ownership, responsibility and pride would also help in bringing down the instances of vandalism at archaeological sites and monuments. The Committee recommends that social media campaigns may be utilized for the same.

(Para 5.7.28)

The Committee urges upon ASI to showcase local craftsmanship at its archaeological sites and monuments, in order to build a connect with the local community as well as to provide them with a platform to showcase their talent. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may strive to organize events/competitions/social media drives to spur civil society engagement for conserving our archaeological cultural heritage.

(Para 5.7.29)

(iv) Training the communities for the purpose of developing local guides

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may develop regional training centers at places where there are several archaeological sites and Museums. Besides, the Ministry may also arrange language classes for local shopkeepers and vendors in areas with high tourist influx. By resorting to this, the local businesses will prosper and will also make tourists more secured and comfortable.

(Para 5.7.30)

(v) Setting standards for archival research:

The Committee further recommends that ASI must ensure that proper procedures are followed in storage and maintenance of all archival records pertaining to the Centrally protected monuments. Documentation related to conservation works carried out at monuments should be preserved carefully, possibly in coordination with the National Archives of India, since the information would be helpful in taking informed decisions regarding conservation of the monuments in the future.

(Para 5.7.32)
The Committee feels that the Ministry should vigorously pursue digitization of archaeological artefacts so as to create a central database of the same for research and archival purposes. Such a central database would also permit academicians and scholars in the upcoming IIHC and other such institutions, not only in India but internationally as well, to learn about our cultural heritage in detail without needing physical access.

(Para 5.7.33)

(vi) Revamping the digital presence of archaeological sites/monuments:

The Committee observes that most websites of the Ministry of Culture – especially indiaculture.nic.in, asi.nic.in and asimustsee.nic.in, look quite outdated and non-intuitive. The Committee thus feels the need for having information on archaeological sites and monuments through a one-stop, modern, easy-to-read, multi-platform solution for enthusiasts of Indian culture and heritage, and it is long overdue. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry may revamp its digital presence and come up with such a user-oriented solution.

(Para 5.7.36)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry should closely coordinate with the Ministry of Tourism and provide the facility of booking tickets for the archaeological sites/monuments and Museums on the Incredible India application and website as well. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Culture may work with the Ministry of Tourism to highlight its cultural events and programmes through the Incredible India application and web portal too, since information regarding the same would be of significant interest to tourists visiting a certain place. Ministry of Culture may also prepare a database of important State-controlled Museums and archaeological sites and coordinate with the Ministry of Tourism to ensure that they are also highlighted as tourist attractions on the Incredible India web portal and smartphone application.

(Para 5.7.37)

(vii) Inclusion of Monuments in UNESCO World Heritage Sites List

The Committee takes note of the extensive suggestions given by the stakeholder with regard to UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) nominations. The Committee may be
apprised of the efficacy of the Advisory Committee set up by the Ministry in this regard. The Ministry may take all necessary steps to ensure that a well-thought-out strategy is evolved and implemented to maximize the chances of nomination of more monuments and sites to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. Inclusion of more monuments by way of minor boundary modifications of the existing WHS may also be explored.

(Para 5.7.40)

The Committee further recommends that the National Monuments Authority may prioritize the preparation of Heritage Byelaws for the monuments which are either already in the UNESCO WHS list or are in the tentative WHS list.

(Para 5.7.41)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry should closely coordinate with the concerned State Departments and assist them in the protection of State-protected sites/monuments, especially in cases wherein there are plans to include the sites/monuments in the World Heritage Sites list. The Ministry should be proactive in offering help to State Governments for preparation of dossier that is sent to UNESCO for inclusion of State protected sites/monuments.

(Para 5.7.45)

(viii) Preparation of database of archaeological sites/monuments

The Committee is surprised to note that the Ministry of Culture does not maintain a central database of monuments under the control of State Governments. The Committee wonders how the Ministry can decide upon whether a certain monument/site should be included in the list of Centrally Protected Monuments, if it does not have any information regarding the monuments present in the country. The Committee recommends that the Ministry may collect this information from all State/UT Governments, alongwith information regarding encroachment of such monuments/sites, and compile a Central Database of Monuments/Sites that exist in the country. This will present a thorough picture of the state of the historical monuments across the country and help the Ministry in its policy decisions in the future.

(Para 5.7.48)
The Committee further recommends that important historical monuments and sites such as Rama Temple at Peddathumbalam village, Adoni Taluka; Kethavaram Rock Arts and Belum Caves in Kurnool etc., be included in the list of Centrally Protected Monuments, given their historical significance. Steps may be taken to improve the connectivity of such important monuments and sites so as to increase the footfall to these monuments.

(Para 5.7.49)

The Committee further notes that there are many monuments across the country which are not under any sort of protection, whether Central/State or private protection. This clearly suggests that a large number of monuments of cultural and historical significance are unexplored as of yet and suffer irreparable damage with each passing day. The Committee recommends that the Ministry/ASI may conduct an extensive survey to identify such monuments across the country, add them to the Central Database of Monuments/Sites that exist in the country, categorize them, and come up with ways to at least provide a bare minimum level of security to the same, in coordination with the local municipal bodies and local residents.

(Para 5.7.55)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may look into the reasons for the inability of National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities to complete its task of creation of a National Register on Built Heritage & Sites as well as on Antiquities. The Committee is concerned to note that in the absence of such a Central database, many monuments would go missing without any knowledge of them having existed in the first place. Concrete measures must be taken to ensure that a database is prepared at the earliest and that the list thus prepared is categorized into the different levels of protection that must be extended to them.

(Para 5.7.56)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may assess the financial requirements for carrying out such an exercise across the nation and request the Ministry of Finance to grant special allocation for the same. ASI/NMMA should supervise this process with the Department of Archaeology of State Governments and develop a mechanism to seek the participation of local municipal bodies, local communities, history and archaeology
students and the likes. A specialized software may be prepared to capture important details such as photos and location of the sites/antiquities and it must have provisions to avoid duplicacy in the database. The use of latest technologies such as 3D Laser Scanning, LiDAR, photogrammetry etc. may be made in sync with the blockchain technology to ensure that tamper-proof records of the undocumented precious historical heritage are created.

(Para 5.7.57)

(ix) Drafting Excavation and Exploration Policy

The Committee recommends that a Draft Excavation and Exploration Policy may be framed at the earliest and inputs may be taken from the experts in this field in this regard. The Committee further recommends that ASI may consider opening up the field of excavation to more educational institutions and professionals and seek the engagement of local communities and civil society groups. The Committee is concerned to note that only a minuscule part of the budget available with the ASI is allocated for exploration and excavation. Further, the Ministry may take steps to ensure enhanced allocation for the purpose of excavation and exploration.

(Para 5.7.61)

MISCELLANEOUS

The Committee is pleased to note the renovation of Red Fort, which consists of British Barracks of olden times has been taken up by the Ministry. The Committee takes special note of the installation of permanent exhibition on Netaji, the rebellion of 1857, and paintings, at the Red Fort.

(Para 5.8.1)

The Committee feels that preparation of Heritage by-laws for all the monuments across the country forms a crucial part of the protection of monuments envisaged by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. In this regard, the Committee may be briefed about the roadblocks being faced by the National Monuments Authority, the proposed solutions to the same and the time line being targeted for laying the Heritage by-laws for all the monuments.
The Committee appreciates the progress made by the Ministry in projects around pilgrimages, remote border areas and the Ladakh region.

One Member of the Committee voiced concern about media reports that the original work was being distorted in the name of maintenance and repairing work of the Lord Jagannath Temple. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should take necessary steps to allay such fears.

The Committee is constrained to note that the constraints of manpower and funds, quite often play spoilsport in the proper upgradation and development of sculpture sheds into Museums.

The Committee is disappointed to note that the Underwater Wing of ASI is defunct since a decade.

The Committee commends the coordinated efforts being made by ASI and the State Government of Maharashtra to carry out conservation of Raigad Fort. India is home to a large number of historic forts which are unique in the terms of their history as well as their cultural significance. The Committee, therefore, recommends that ASI may replicate such joint efforts with other State Governments to ensure that the historic forts as well as other archaeological sites are developed for tourism purposes.

The Committee is dismayed to note that even though funds are available with ASI, proper work is not being done at Raigarth project, which is funded by the State Government, as per the guidelines of ASI. The Committee emphasizes the need to speed up the work being done at the Raigarth Fort, which is also called as the ‘Gibraltar of the East’.
The Committee recognizes the need for developing such places/sites into tourist spots. The Committee desires the Ministry to take note of the need to allocate funds for the Damerla Rama Rao Art Gallery in Rajahmundry, which has pieces of art which are centuries old. (Para 5.8.13)

The Committee emphasizes upon the need for ASI to work in tandem with the concerned State Governments to ensure that archaeological sites and historical structures are maintained and preserved in good condition. (Para 5.8.14)

The Committee desires that the Ministry should ensure that the provisions of the concerned legislation in this regard, are enforced strictly. (Para 5.8.16)

Too many visitors at an historical site can have negative effects on its physical characteristics and integrity, as well as the ecological characteristics of the associated spaces. The Committee, therefore, recommends that ASI may conduct a detailed study into the negative impact of high tourist activity at Centrally protected monuments that attract high footfall. The study may explore solutions to minimize such negative impact and to figure out a number of visitors that can be allowed at the site while ensuring there is no lasting damage caused to the monument and the associated spaces. (Para 5.8.18)

The Committee feels that having a Statement of Significance for each Centrally protected monument would go a long way in making ASI staff as well as tourists more aware and appreciative of its cultural and historical significance. The information may also be uploaded on the ASI website so as to benefit scholars as well as tourists who might be researching before planning a trip to the place. (Para 5.8.20)

The Committee feels that visitors should experience the heritage sites in the purest possible form, and thus, utmost care should be taken to ensure that any structures built to provide facilities at such sites are in sync with the historic character of the site and do not disfigure its view and aura. The Committee, therefore, recommends that signage, ticket counters,
toilets, interpretation counters etc., should be designed in consideration of the site in question, and approved by an expert committee comprising archaeologists and heritage architects.

(Para 5.8.22)

The Committee recommends that ASI may experiment with the ticket pricing for both domestic as well as international tourists, with the aim to maximizing the revenue generated by such visits as well as allowing the maximum feasible number of people to enjoy visiting the site. As a part of this attempt, ASI may consider granting special discount to young international tourists as well as offering weekly passes to both foreign and domestic travelers to entice them to visit and appreciate more historical sites during their trip.

(Para 5.8.24)

The Committee is deeply concerned to note the observations made by Aga Khan Trust for Culture regarding approval granted by NMA on the basis of HIA commissioned by the developer itself. The Committee recommends that necessary provisions may be put in place to ensure that the HIA required for approval of development projects should be conducted by a specialist NGO or academic institute, who is not associated with the developer itself.

(Para 5.8.26)

The Committee recommends that a robust mechanism may be put in place to ensure that detailed assessment exercise is conducted for all Centrally protected monuments periodically. The assessment may be utilized to come up with short-term and long-term action plans for development and conservation of the sites.

(Para 5.8.28)

The Committee recommends that ASI may work on the revival of historical water bodies across the country. Besides helping in collecting rainwater during rainy season, the revived water bodies will act as a tourist attraction as well. The Committee urges upon ASI to explore partnering with the Ministry of Jal Shakti in this regard.

(Para 5.8.30)
The Committee is surprised to note that less than 10% of monuments in the Centrally Protected Monuments list have been added to the list since 1947. The Committee feels that given the size of our country as well as its rich historical heritage, many more monuments should be under the protection of ASI. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Ministry may thoroughly consider important State-protected monuments as well as monuments outside the protection of both Central and State Governments, for inclusion in the list of Centrally Protected Monuments. 20th Century buildings of historical significance may also be considered for inclusion in the CPM list during this exercise.

(Para 5.8.32)

The Committee recommends that ASI may take necessary steps to ensure well-planned illumination of historical monuments, wherever feasible, since the same would act as a major attraction for night-time tourism. The Committee further recommends that urgent steps may be taken to ensure that the ASI monuments are easily accessible by differently-abled visitors.

(Para 5.8.35)

The Committee desires to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry to address the problems pointed out in the above-mentioned CAG Report.

(Para 5.8.37)

ISSUES COMMON TO MUSEUMS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS

Partnering with the private sector for development and conservation of Museums and archaeological sites

In view of the fund crunch faced by the Ministry of Culture for development and conservation of Museums and archaeological sites/monuments across the country, the Committee feels that it is imperative for the Ministry to seek the participation of private sector in order to have the necessary investment needed to make our Museums and archaeological sites/monuments at par with international standards, while ensuring the
employment of best possible preservation practices to keep our cultural heritage safe and preserved for the future generations. The Ministry may come up with possible schemes to partner with the private sector in development and conservation of our cultural heritage via PPP mode, test these on a pilot basis and roll out the successful ones on large scale.

(Para 6.1.2)

The Committee is pleased to note that the Ministry has come up with the idea of identifying some start-ups, who will then incubate the idea and then put it out for main-streaming of investment, in respect of iconic heritage structures identified in the country, by the Ministry. The Committee appreciates the proposal mooted by the Ministry to create a Section 8 company which will actually monitor and execute all these projects and it will be self-sustaining. No money will be provided by the Government. The company, for the purpose of viability gap funding, will take some money from the Central Government which the Ministry already has for schematic assistance to the Museums.

(Para 6.1.3)

The Committee suggests that the maintenance of various archaeological sites and monuments be outsourced to private agencies and in order to attract funds from such individuals/agencies, an incentive, such as display boards in the name of such individual agency at the sites, may be provided.

(Para 6.1.5)

Effect of pollution on Museum artefacts and Archaeological Sites

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may conduct researches to devise technological solutions to curb the ill-effects of air pollution on our cultural heritage. Different effects of the pollutants lingering in the air on different types of surfaces and materials should be studied and the solutions devised to prevent or minimize the same should be shared with State Government archaeology departments and Museums as well. The Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry should seek higher budgetary allocation to fund researches since the process of conservation of monuments and artefacts is as much science as it is an art.

(Para 6.2.3)
Re-examination and updation of Acts and Laws pertaining to Museums and Archaeological Sites

The Committee urges upon the Ministry to review the heritage laws in light of contemporary times and come up with suitable amendments, wherever necessary, to ensure that they are more realistic, transparent and do not cause unnecessary inconvenience to bona fide citizens. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may come up with a legislative framework to enable and encourage the participation of municipalities and village panchayats in heritage conservation and management, especially in case of monuments that are not included in the list of Centrally protected/ State protected monuments.

(Para 6.3.3)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may undertake an exhaustive review of the Indian Museum Act, 1910 and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and come up with suitable amendments, in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice. The Committee further recommends that the blanket ban on construction works within the prohibited area of 100 meters around the monument, should be reviewed in consultation with experts and stakeholders, and suitable amendments may be proposed to ensure a balance between developmental works and heritage conservation. It should be ensured that prohibitions are still in place against works that might impact the view corridors to the monument or where such works may be of detrimental effect to the structural integrity of the monument.

(Para 6.3.9)

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may come up with the necessary legislative framework to ensure that conservation plans are in place at all Centrally protected monuments and for making Heritage Impact Assessment compulsory for major development projects. The Committee urges upon the Ministry to revise its National Policy to encourage transformation and reuse as an alternate to demolish and rebuild, since the same would allow many more historical sites to be preserved in a better shape instead of them disappearing or getting demolished over time.

(Para 6.3.12)
Weekly/ Biweekly cultural evenings at Museums/ Centrally protected monuments

The Committee recommends that the Ministry should organize weekly / biweekly cultural programmes such as lectures, traditional dance and music programmes, film screenings, book discussions, traditional art melas etc. at Museums and archaeological sites, in close coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and concerned departments of State Governments. The Committee feels that the Ministry of Culture’s database of local artistes would be of immense help towards this initiative and would give a boost to both domestic and foreign tourism. Organizing participative programmes from time to time would also tend to make Museums/ sites visits a fun and learning experience for the visitors. The Ministry should tap its pool of artistes and local talent in such programmes. The same should be advertised through social media in order to reach out to the target audience in a cost-effective manner. Due caution must be exercised by the Ministry to ensure that any events organized at a Museum or an archaeological site are not in any way detrimental to the site or any artefacts.

(Para 6.4.3)

Taking action on feedback from visitors

The Committee recommends that the Ministry may set up a robust mechanism to collect feedback from domestic as well as foreign tourists who visit a Museum or archaeological site/monument. Technology may be utilized to permit the tourists to easily leave their feedback regarding the experience they had in their visit to a Museum/ archaeological monument. Working on first hand feedback from the visitors will lead the Ministry into improving tourist experience in the future, while also leaving a positive imprint about Indian culture and heritage among those who visit.

(Para 6.5.1)

Review of the tendering process for awarding conservation contracts

It has come to the notice of the Committee that in some cases, the projects are awarded to such contractors who have little to no experience in the field of conservation, who later hire sub-consultants and end up doing more harm than good, to the monuments/ artefacts
involved. In light of this, the Committee recommends that the Ministry may thoroughly review the tendering process it adopts for awarding conservation contracts of archaeological sites/monuments and Museum artefacts and to have provisions in place to ensure that tenders are not awarded to the lowest bidder, but to a contractor who has considerable experience and expertise in the required skillset.

(Para 6.6.1)

Lending assistance to important State Protected Archaeological Monuments and Museums

The Committee observes that the development and preservation of archaeological sites and Museums often does not run high in the priorities of State Governments. This often leads to neglect, and thus irreparable damage is caused to the State protected archaeological monuments as well as Museum artefacts. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should have a mechanism in place to identify instances of gross neglect of maintenance and preservation of important archaeological sites and Museums and prod the State Government Department concerned to take action to rectify the same. In cases of exigent needs, ASI may proactively provide technical assistance to such monuments and Museums. The Committee suggests that the Ministry may, from time to time, consider the inclusion of the State protected archaeological monuments and Museums which are more than 100 years old, in the list of Centrally protected monuments and National Museums. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry may lend assistance to State Governments to enable introduction of online ticketing to archaeological sites and Museums under their purview.

(Para 6.7.3)

Coordination with different Ministries and State Governments

The Committee recommends that the Ministry should strictly ensure that there is close coordination between/amongst the Ministry of Culture and the concerned State Departments. The Committee desires the Ministry to come up with well-defined procedures to allow the State Departments to seek guidance and technical expertise from the various organizations under the Ministry. Regular meetings may be held with the concerned officials of the State Governments, at least once in 3 months, and the Report thereon, should be submitted to the
Central Government and also to this Committee. The Committee should be updated periodically about the outcome thereof. The Committee also recommends that if the Ministry feels that any Amendment of the concerned legislation is needed, the Ministry may ensure that the Amendment is fructified, by piloting a Bill in this regard.

(Para 6.8.2)

The Committee reiterates the recommendation made in Para 114 of its 289th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of Ministry of Culture and strongly recommends the Ministry to coordinate with the Ministry of Railways; Road Transport and Highways and concerned State Departments to make necessary improvements in rail and road connectivity at important Museums and archaeological sites/monuments in the country.

(Para 6.8.3)

Allocation of funds generated from Museums and ASI, to the Ministry of Culture

The Committee notes that at present, the revenue generated by the Museums and Archaeological Sites/Monuments under the Ministry of Culture, by way of sale of entry tickets etc., is deposited to Consolidated Fund of India. Given the scarcity of funds available with the Ministry of Culture, the Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry may request that the revenue so generated should be allocated to the Ministry itself for the purpose of development and conservation of Museums and archaeological sites/monuments. This would also encourage the autonomous organizations under the Ministry of Culture to come up with innovative ways of revenue generation and result in better development and upkeep of the cultural heritage of the country.

(Para 6.9.3)

Lowering the fees charged for filming at Centrally Protected Monuments

The Committee reiterates the recommendation made in Para 124 of its 289th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of Ministry of Culture that the prices charged by the Ministry for filming at archaeological sites/monuments and Museums, outside the period notified in the ASI notification mentioned above, are very high. Films and videos featuring the archaeological monuments and Museums showcase the richness of our cultural heritage to both domestic and foreign viewers alike and act as a free tool for publicity of the
monuments and Museums, thus propelling their tourism prospects. In light of this, the Committee recommends the Ministry to opt for a pay-as-you-wish payment model, wherein the filming company seeking the permission can pay the amount that it can afford to pay. The Ministry may also ensure that there are no delays in grant of permission for filming at the monuments while putting in place enough safeguards to ensure that the filming activities do not cause any harm to the monuments and/or the archaeological artefacts.

(Para 6.10.1)

One Member of the Committee underscored the imminent need for the infusion of professionalism into the identification, maintenance, and preservation of archaeological sites and in the maintenance of Museums. The Committee endorses this view and strongly recommends that the Ministry should give due attention to ensure that professionally trained people are engaged in all such activities. The Committee urges the Ministry to give emphasis to branding and social media presence.

(Para 6.11.1)

The Committee agrees with the view that private owners of listed historic buildings as well as people having residential property properties within prohibited/ regulated/ buffer areas should be provided with certain compensation/ incentives to encourage their participation in the conservation and protection of the historical sites. The Committee, therefore, recommends that wherever feasible, the Ministry may act on the suggestions made by INTACH in this regard.

(Para 6.12.3)
ANNEXURES
Annexure-A

The list of disbursal of Funds to State Governments under the Museum Grant Scheme in last five years.

(Rs. in lakhs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1)</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Padamshree Kalluri Subbarao Memorial District Archaeological Museum Anantpur, Government of Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>252.777</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeological Museum, Eluru, West Godavari Dist. Department of Archaeology &amp; Museums, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>160.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bapu Museum, M G Road, Vijayawada, Krishna Distt. Department of Archaeology &amp; Museums, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>320.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>160.00</td>
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<td><strong>240.00</strong></td>
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<td>4)</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum, Hill Palace Museum, Thripunithura, Kerala</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>112.036</td>
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<td>5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Koyikkal Palace-Archaeological Museum for Folklore, Folk Art &amp; Numismatics, Sathram Juntion, Nedumangad</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>62.737</td>
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<tr>
<td>6)</td>
<td>Pazhassi Raja Archaeological Museum, East Hill, Kozhikode Kerala</td>
<td>60.763</td>
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<td>7)</td>
<td>Govt. of Kerala for Development of Govt. Museum Sakthan, Thampuran Palace Museum, Chempukkavu, Trissur, Kerala</td>
<td>200.426</td>
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<td>8)</td>
<td>Manipur State Archaeology, Govt. Of Manipur for setting up of three galleries in Kangla Fort</td>
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<td>Mizoram State Museum, Director, Art &amp; Culture Department, Aizwal, Mizoram</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Director Art &amp; Culture Department, Chanmari, Aizwal for Setting up of District Museum at Lunglei, Mizoram</td>
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<td>Nagaland State Museum Kohima, Govt. of Nagaland</td>
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<td>Directorate of Art and Culture, Kohima, Nagaland for setting up of Chesore Museum in Tuesang Town</td>
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<td>468.63</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>231.801</td>
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<td>North East Heritage Museum, at NEZCC Complex, Post box No. 98, Dimapur, Nagaland-797112</td>
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<td>750.00</td>
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<td>365.667</td>
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<td>Punjab Punjab War Memorial Museum, Attari Road Amritsar, Punjab</td>
<td>97.22</td>
<td>305.58</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Rajasthan Department of Archaeology &amp; Museums, Government of Rajasthan (i) Government Museum, Ahar, Udaipur (ii) Government Museum, Alwar and (iii) Government Museum, Dungarpur</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>-</td>
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112
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<td>16) Sikkim</td>
<td>State Museum Sikkim, Govt. of Sikkim</td>
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<td>17) Tamilnadu</td>
<td>Govt. Museum, Thirugokarnam, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>18)</td>
<td>Government Museum St. Mark Road, Samathanapuram Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli Distt.</td>
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<td>Government Museum Trichy, Managamal Palace, Dist. Tiruchirapalli</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>149.97</td>
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<td>20)</td>
<td>Government Museum Ooty, Stone House, Dist. Udhagamandalam</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>21)</td>
<td>Department of Archaeology, Tamilnadu for Development up of Thirumalai Nayak Palace Site Museum Madurai</td>
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<td>Total (777.422)</td>
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<td>446.542</td>
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<td>330.88</td>
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<td>22) Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Ram Katha Museum and Digital Holographic Ram Leela (OAT), Ayodhya (District Faizabad), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>400.00</td>
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<td>23) Uttarakhand</td>
<td>Tourism and Culture, Uttarakhand (Himalayan Museum, Rishikesh)</td>
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<td>SNo.</td>
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<td>24)</td>
<td>Sumitra Nandan Pant Museum, Kausani Distt. Bageshwar, Uttrakhand of Tourism &amp; Culture</td>
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<td>North Delhi Municipal Corporation, Shahajahanabad Museum, Lahori Gate Chowk Delhi</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>1555.58</td>
<td>1610.26</td>
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## Annexure-B

### Subordinate Organizations

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<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Post</th>
<th>Grade Pay</th>
<th>No. of Post</th>
<th>Filled</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Director General</td>
<td>Level-15(182200-224100)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>The post of Director General, National Museum temporarily upgraded as Chief Executive Officer, Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces(DEO-DMCS) to Apex Scale for a period of three years keeping the RRs of DG,NM in abeyance for a period of three years vide Cabinet Sectt. ID Note. 08/13/2016-CS(A) dt. 9.9.2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Additional Director General</td>
<td>Level-14(10000)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 post of ADG has been filled up under Central Staffing Scheme. The incumbent has joined as ADG, National Museum w.e.f. 14.1.2009 (AN) for a period of five years or until further orders whichever is earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Joint Director General</td>
<td>Director Level-13(8700)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 post is vacant. UPSC vide letter dated 4.10.2019 has recommended Dr. S C Pandey for appointment to the post of ADG on short term contract. Proposal for seeking approval of ACC is under process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 post is to be filled by composite method and other 1 by DR.

1 post is to be filled by Composite Method. Vacancy for the post was advertised for the 5th time and proposal submitted in UPSC on 01.05.2019. UPSC in letter dt.
14.06.2019 found the lone candidate ineligible for the post and selection process was treated as infructuous. The Commission has advised to fill up the vacancy as per provisions of RRs.

Against DR vacancy, action is being taken for filling up the post through Central Staffing Scheme.

Amendment of RRs is also underway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Level 12 (7600)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 post has been abolished. Action is being taken for creation of the post.

1 post was under deemed abolished category, which has been revived. Process for filling up the post will be initiated soon.

The 3rd post has recently vacated. Process for filling up the post on promotion basis is underway.

### NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART (NGMA)

1. Director General

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Director General</th>
<th>Level-14(10000)</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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</table>

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Shri Adwaita Charan Gadanayak, Director, KIIT University, Bhubaneshwar to the post of Director General, NGMA. Shri A. C. Gadanayak, has joined as DG, NGMA on 7.12.2016 for a period of Three years or untill further orders whichever is the earliest. ACC vide their office order no. 4/19/2016-EO(SM.II) dated 13.11.2019 has now extended his tenure for further period of three
2. **Director**

| Level-13(8700) | 1 | 2 | Out of 3 posts, 2 posts are filled up by Central Staffing Scheme as per details given below:

(i) The incumbent has joined as Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai w.e.f. 25.10.2018 (AN) for a period of five years or until further orders whichever is earlier.

(ii) The incumbent has joined as Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru w.e.f. 20.11.2018 (FN) for a period of five years or until further orders whichever is earlier.

(iii) One vacancy has arisen on 12.06.2020. Action is being taken to fill up the post.

2. **Deputy Director**

| Level 12 (7600) | 2 | 0 | Both the posts are under deemed abolished category.

The file for revival of one post has been sent to Ministry of Finance.

Proposal for revival of another post is awaited from NGMA.

### NRLC

| Director General | Level-14(10000) | 1 | 1 | Pursuant to the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet vide DOPT Communication No. 4/5/2019-
EO(SM.II) dated 14.08.2019, Prof. (Dr.) Manager Singh, Head of the Department of Conservation, National Museum Institute of the History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMI), New Delhi has been appointed to the post of Director General, NRLC, Lucknow on contract basis, for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Prof. (Dr.) Singh has taken charge of DG, NRLC, Lucknow on 19.09.2019.

AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATIONS

NATIONAL MUSEUM INSTITUTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Post</th>
<th>Grade Pay</th>
<th>No. of Post</th>
<th>Filled</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Vice-Chancellor</td>
<td>Apex Scale Level-17 (225000-225000)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer, Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces(DEO-DMCS) is also the Vice-Chancellor of NMI.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SALAR JUNG MUSEUM

| 1.     | Director         | Level-14(10000) | 1         | 1      | Dr. A Nagender Reddy has joined as Director, Salar Jung Museum on 28.6.2018. His appointment has been made till he attains the age of superannuation or until further orders, whichever the earliest. |

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE MUSEUM

| 1.     | Director General | Level-15(182200-224100) | 1         | 1      | Vide note dated 23.03.2019, ACC approved the proposal for appointment of Shri A.D. Choudhury, DDG, NCSM to the post of DG, NCSM till the date of his attaining the age of |
superannuation or until further orders. Shri A.D. Choudhury assumed the office of DG, NCSM w.e.f the forenoon of 29.03.2019.

### Indian Museum

|   |   |   | ACC vide letter dated 27.12.2019 approved premature repatriation of Shri Purohit from the post of Director, IM to his parent cadre Allahabad Museum w.e.f. 04.09.2019. Further, ACC vide order dated 04.02.2020 has approved entrustment of additional charge of the post of Director, IM to Shri A.D. Choudhary, DG, NCSM w.e.f. 03.09.2019 and upto 30.06.2020, or till the appointment of regular incumbent to the post or until further orders. In r/o of filling up the post of Director, IM on regular basis, vide D.O. dated 21.01.2020, Addl. Chief Secretary to Governor of West Bengal was requested to publish an advertisement inviting applications for the post of Director, IM in National dailies/employment news. With the approval of HCM, Ministry had asked IM to issue advertisement immediately.
|   |   |   | Now, an advertisement for inviting applications for the post of Director, IM was published in the leading newspapers on 12.04.2020.  |
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2102  
ANSWERED ON – 08.03.2021

DECLARATION OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES BY UNESCO

2102. SHRI SHRIRANG APPABARNE:  
SHRI CHANDRA SEKAR SAHU:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) the total number of Cultural Properties, Natural Properties and Mixed Sites from India declared as World Heritage sites by UNESCO as on date, State-wise and site-wise;
(b) the details of budget allocated and expenditure incurred on their maintenance and development during each of the last three years and the current year, site-wise;
(c) the action plan chalked out for proper and better maintenance of these sites and the progress made therein; and
(d) the total number of requests received by the Government for inclusion as World Heritage sites, State and site-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) At present, India has 38 World Heritage Properties. The details of World Heritage Properties are placed at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c) Expenditure details on World Heritage sites, protected by Ministry of Culture through Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), have been provided at Annexure-II. All the sites under the Ministry are conserved as per ASI’s Conservation Policy and are in good shape.

(d) At present, India has 42 sites listed under Tentative List which is a pre-requisite condition for inscription as World Heritage Site. ‘Dholavira: A Harappan City’ has been submitted for nomination of World Heritage Site in 2019-2020. Nomination dossiers of ‘Santiniketan, India’ and ‘Sacred Ensemble of Hoysalas’ have been submitted to UNESCO for the year 2021-22 cycle.

Augmentation of sites on the World Heritage List/Tentative List is a continuous process and sites are selected on the basis of their potential for fulfilling criteria under Operational Guidelines and demonstration of Outstanding Universal Value.
ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2102 FOR DATED 08.03.2021

WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA (38)

CULTURAL SITES:

Under Protection of Archaeological Survey of India (22)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of Site</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Agra Fort (1983)</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi (1993)</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Site Name</td>
<td>State/Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Red Fort Complex, Delhi</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Hill Forts of Rajasthan (Chittaurgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Jaisalmer and</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ranthambore, Amber and Gagron Forts) (2013)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Amber and Gagron Forts are under protection of Rajasthan State</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology and Museums)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen’s Stepwell) at Patan</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) at Nalanda</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Under Protection of Ministry of Railways (2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Mountain Railways of India West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Himachal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Under Protection of Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Under Protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>The JantarMantar, Jaipur</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>2010</td>
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</table>

**Under Protection of Chandigarh Administration (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the Modern Movement (2016)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Under Protection of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Historic City of Ahmedabad</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>2017</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Under Protection of Bombay Municipal Corporation (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Govt of Maharashtra</td>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Under Protection of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Jaipur City, Rajasthan</td>
<td>Govt of Rajasthan</td>
<td>2019</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NATURAL SITES: (7)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Under Protection of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Changes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Kaziranga National Park (1985)</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Keoladeo National Park (1985)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Sunderbans National Park (1987)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Western Ghats (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Great Himalayan National Park (2014)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MIXED SITE: (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Under Protection of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Khangchendzonga National Park (2016)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2102 FOR DATED 08.03.2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Name of Site</th>
<th>2017-18 Expenditure In Rs.</th>
<th>2018-19 Expenditure In Rs.</th>
<th>2019-20 Expenditure In Rs.</th>
<th>2020-21 Expenditure In Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Agra Fort (1983)</td>
<td>11751596</td>
<td>6737808</td>
<td>23273717</td>
<td>5667168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ajanta Caves (1983)</td>
<td>15092329</td>
<td>6719804</td>
<td>16672991</td>
<td>6938228</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ellora Caves (1983)</td>
<td>10646936</td>
<td>7623383</td>
<td>13110652</td>
<td>1130527</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Taj Mahal (1983)</td>
<td>30055109</td>
<td>5309765</td>
<td>47332112</td>
<td>5657968</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)</td>
<td>2353124</td>
<td>10655651</td>
<td>18689966</td>
<td>3160020</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Churches and Convents of Goa (1986)</td>
<td>12847911</td>
<td>5474171</td>
<td>10042935</td>
<td>37970000</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>FatehpurSikri (1986)</td>
<td>16246126</td>
<td>5087845</td>
<td>27331702</td>
<td>4418213</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986)</td>
<td>51108197</td>
<td>160549383</td>
<td>15457042</td>
<td>15787206</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Khajuraho, Group of Temples (1986)</td>
<td>5058448</td>
<td>9207862</td>
<td>12070049</td>
<td>4215712</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi (1993)</td>
<td>3487525</td>
<td>2544686</td>
<td>8603937</td>
<td>5666504</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)</td>
<td>1419623</td>
<td>1637517</td>
<td>1154328</td>
<td>145889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>Code 2</td>
<td>Code 3</td>
<td>Code 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Hill Forts of Rajasthan (Chittaurgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Jaisalmer and Ranthambhore, Amber and Gagron Forts) (2013) (Amber and Gagron Forts are under protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums)</td>
<td>17003626</td>
<td>22338529</td>
<td>27216109</td>
<td>19947194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen’s Stepwell) at Patan (2014)</td>
<td>465508</td>
<td>722163</td>
<td>693266</td>
<td>339921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) at Nalanda (2016)</td>
<td>5566598</td>
<td>1447456</td>
<td>1985829</td>
<td>3036318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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