

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Discuss the symbiotic relationship between urban conservation and tourism.

- Making tourism work for historic towns and their conservation depends foremost on the objectives of development and the authority to control it.
- For a high quality and desirable environment which is competitive and progressive, locally distinct yet globally acceptable, a delicate balance has to be sought in historic towns between desires of visitors and the interest of resident and heritage – between growth and quality of life- between economic development and environmental costs- sustainable development is crucial.
- Urban conservation is not about preserving the past as an archeological ruin, it is about enhancing an area which has qualities built upon from the past as a contemporary working environment.
- Tourism has to be made to work for historic towns, enhance rather than destroy, support rather than siphon, most of all value the depth, the heart and the spirit of the place.

2. Discuss the punitive measures that can be taken to improve urban conservation.

- Punitive measures as defined in the existing legislative framework concerning heritage protection; town planning acts and building byelaws must be extended to cover all listed buildings.
- In principle, permission must be sought for any intervention in listed buildings or precincts.
- Where the opportunity exists, a new set of regulations to deal specifically with unprotected heritage should be drafted.
- Administrative or criminal prosecution must be considered in cases of deliberate damage to listed architectural heritage.

3. Discuss the role of public awareness to improve urban conservation.

- The legislation and regulations laid down in the administrative system, building by-laws, town planning acts and other measures relevant to the protection and conservation of architectural heritage must be made accessible to the public

through user-friendly manuals and publications.

- Local communities or individuals must be entrusted with responsibilities to conserve their own heritage.
- Where outside expertise is necessary, local stakeholders must be made active participants at all stages of the conservation process.
- All decisions regarding the conservation and management of heritage must be taken in consultation with local communities in consonance with the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India.

4. What is revitalization of urban heritage?

- ⊙ Revival of heritage in an Urban context, with interventions that address urban problems that have resulted from congestion, environmental degradation, city expansion, loss of heritage, etc.
- ⊙ The intervention are not focused to the project area alone, but are extended to the city as a whole.
- ⊙ Various aspects achieved under Revitalization:
- ⊙ The manner in which urban issues are addressed with the focus on heritage preservation, which ultimately leads to improving the quality of life and the local economy.
- ⊙ Enhancing the characters of the local area with the history and significance that it holds.
- ⊙ Enhancing quality of living environment.
- ⊙ Rehabilitation of listed heritage building, giving it a new lease of life in a very sustainable manner