

## **FAQ's**

### **1. Explain the term museum conservation.**

All materials, whether natural or manufactured, are continually changing. All around us there is evidence of this unavoidable process: rotting wood, rusting steel, weathered buildings. Nothing can be done to halt this; it can only be limited. In a museum, the indications of decay are less extreme than in the world outside but they are still there.

The term 'conservation' refers to both preservation (and stabilisation) and restoration (or consolidation). Preservation usually relies on controlling factors such as light or humidity that might damage an object by spoiling its appearance and reducing its life span. Ideally, objects should be preserved in the state in which they were acquired by the museum.

### **2. What are the salient features of monument conservation?**

- Monuments are more than just the sum of their constituent parts. Many have important historical, cultural or emotional associations that give them a particular significance in the life of the nation, or of the local community within which they are set. Many also have outstanding landscape or picturesque values. In conserving them it is therefore essential that nothing is done that might impair these qualities.
- One of the chief aims of the ancient monuments legislation is to ensure that the most important surviving evidence for our built heritage is preserved as far as possible in the state in which it has come down to us, and is passed on to future generations without further change or loss of evidence.
- Since all monuments are unique they are all irreplaceable. However, it must also be accepted that, because they are generally open to the impact of the elements, and are subject to the natural processes of decay of their materials, without continuing interventions they would have a finite life.

### **3. Discuss the role of ASI in architectural conservation.**

#### **ASI - ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**

Archaeological and historical pursuits in India started with the efforts of Sir William Jones, who put together a group of

antiquarians to form the Asiatic Society on 15th January 1784 in Kolkata, then Calcutta.

The ASI in its current form was founded in 1861 under British colonial administration by Sir Alexander Cunningham with the help of the then Viceroy Canning.

The main function of the Archaeological Survey of India is to explore, excavate, conserve, preserve and protect the monuments and sites of National & International Importance. Different branches and offices of Archaeological Survey of India look after various aspects in order to keep the monuments well preserved, protected and ensure the above functions.

### **Project Survey**

**Building Survey:** Building Survey carries out the survey work of the architectural survey of secular buildings of various natures. The detailed plans are prepared of these buildings.

**Temple Survey:** Temple Survey project carries out the architectural survey of temples in different parts of the country; they prepare the detailed plan of the surveyed structure.

### **Excavation Branch**

As the name suggests this branch of Archaeological Survey of India is responsible to carry out large-scale excavations. At present there are five branches under the Archaeological Survey of India.

## **4. Discuss any two national policies / legislations that affect conservation.**

### **Article 4.01 Conservation Principles**

“Conservation” of monuments, archaeological sites and remains constitutes all necessary action or intervention within and around a monument to a) prolong its existence; b) prevent its decay, and c) minimise the impact of external agents of decay (natural and human induced) on its setting, structure and material.

### **Article 5.04 Conservation Approach**

It is important to prepare Conservation Plan for a monument preceding any actual conservation work in order to understand proposed intervention[s] in the context of a monument’s typology and function. Conservation Plan should clearly define approach to

conservation and the extent of conservation interventions. Conservation Plans should be reviewed regularly to evaluate previous recommendations and their effectiveness and incorporate changes should any new issue be observed that is impacting the authenticity and integrity of the monument. The plan should be reviewed once every five years.

## **5. What are the elements of inventories?**

- The fundamental elements of any heritage inventory are accurate identification of the place itself (and its boundaries) and a clear articulation of values.
- To manage important places, it is first necessary to understand why they are important. If the articulation of values is incomplete or incorrect, problems can arise from a mismatch of expectations among regulators, interest groups, owners, and developers.
- The level of information provided may be dictated by the budgetary limitations of local authorities. A common issue for ongoing heritage management is the lack of appropriate, well-researched information and thorough justification for heritage listing.
- The absence of good inventory data can thereby endanger the very heritage that the inventories are established to help manage and conserve.