

PROJECT DOCUMENT

**National Mission
on
Monuments and Antiquities**



Archaeological Survey of India

CONTENTS

1.		Background	4
	1.1	Antiquarianism to Archaeology in India	4
	1.2	Past Initiatives	5
	1.3	New Initiatives	6
2.		Legislative Framework	7
	2.1	Operative Legislations	8
3.		Present Situation	12
	3.1	National Museums	13
	3.2	Museums and Collection under State Government/UT	13
	3.3	Archaeological Survey of India	14
	3.4	Universities and Societies	15
	3.5	Confiscated and Seized Antiquities	15
	3.6	Private Museums and Collections	15
4.		The Challenges	15
5.		Objectives	16
6.		Mission Stake Holders	18
	6.1	Stake Holders	18
	6.2	Stake Holder's Role	19
7.		Deliverables	19
8.		The Issues	20
	8.1	Publication and Dissemination	20
	8.2	Conservation Programme	20
	8.3	Training	21
	8.4	Digitization	22
9.		Strategies and Action Plan	22
	9.1	Distribution of Work Plan	23
	9.2	Method of Data Collection	25
	9.3	Method of Data Processing	25

10.		Mission Structure	26
	10.1	National Mission Headquarter	26
	10.2	National Mission Monitoring Committee	27
	10.3	Finance Committee	28
	10.4	State Level Implementation Committee	28
11.		Budgetary Provision	29

National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

1. Background

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world and its past heritage and cultural wealth has been the subject of interest of the entire humanity. In a country like India, endowed with both tangible and intangible heritage of an immense cultural and artistic value, commissioning of National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities occupies a position of great antiquarian significance.

1.1 Antiquarianism to Archaeology in India

The term 'antiquarianism' usually refers to the discovery, collection and descriptions of antiquities, or to the amateur study of artifacts or monuments. In such study, artifacts and monuments are treated as ends in themselves. In early-nineteenth-century India, however, the word 'antiquarianism' had broader and more scholarly connotation. It was a time when strict disciplinary boundaries had not yet been drawn, allowing 'antiquarian' and 'antiquary' to be used as umbrella terms sheltering scholars who ranged over diverse areas—such as the study of ancient texts, languages, inscriptions, coins, antiquities, monuments, chronologies, and history. It was only in the second half of the nineteenth century that the term 'archaeology' came to the fore and began to assume a distinct identity within Orientalist discourse, denoting a branch of study concerned with the material remains of the past, with artifacts, sites and monuments.

The spirit of antiquarianism in India was best represented by the Asiatic Society of Bengal, founded in 1784 by William Jones. Likewise, the beginnings of systematic interest in ancient Indian monuments and sites can be traced back to the middle of the eighteenth century. With the passage of time, management and research in antiquarianism and built heritage witnessed a number of need based initiatives.

1.2 Past Initiatives

As part of initiatives between 1792 and 1822, some pioneering work were taken up which was limited to translation and expounding of ancient books and inscriptions or to highly speculative dissertations. There were, of course, some traveling antiquarians who recorded their accounts in the form of the wonders of Ellora, of the massive grandeur of the Qutb Minar or the ethereal of the Taj Mahal.

The era of James Prinsep, who solved the mystery of Brahmi and Kharoshthi scripts is considered to be landmark achievement. His successors like Fergusson, Markham, Edward Thomas and Cunningham in North India, Sir Walter Elliott in South India and Col. Meadows Taylor, Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Bhaudaji in Western India carried out pioneer work in the field of documentation and research. Likewise, Lord Minto took initiatives in the repairs at Taj, Mairā at Fatehpur Sikri and Sikandra, and Lord Amherst at Qutb Minar. At this point of time the Bengal Regulation XIX of 1810 was enacted with a view to intervene whenever any public edifice was exposed to the risk of misuse. These provisions were repeated in Madras Regulations VII of 1817. It was further strengthened by Regulations XX of 1863.

In 1861, the Archaeological Survey of India was established and Alexander Cunningham was made its head. He started working towards the cause of protection, preservation and conservation of built heritage and antiquarian remains of India as a mission. During this period with promulgation of the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878 leading museums of India were able to acquire hoards of antiquities. This Act is still operational as it is helpful in building up of India's antiquarian wealth.

The era of Sir John Marshall, witnessed codification of conservation manual, followed by major excavation of archaeological sites for the study of antiquarian remains. In 1900, the Government of Bengal drafted a bill, which was circulated amongst all the local officers for comments. This exercise resulted in enactment of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 with the aim 'to provide for the preservation of ancient monuments, for the exercise of control of over traffic in antiquities and over excavation in certain places and for the protection and acquisition in certain cases of ancient

monuments and of objects of archaeological, historical or artistic interest'. The concept of archaeological site museums was evolved during this period.

In 1944 Mortimer Wheeler took the reign of Archaeological Survey of India which was marked by numerous changes and all round improvements. During his period, the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947 was passed through which the Director General of Archaeology in India was made the final authority to decide whether or not an article is an antiquity.

With the promulgation of the Constitution of India from 26th January 1950, 'archaeology' has been made a concurrent subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, which reads:

List I (Union List), item 67: ancient and historical monuments and records, and archaeological sites and remains declared by or under law by Parliament to be of national importance.

List II (State List), item 12: libraries, museums and other similar institutions controlled or financed by the State; ancient and historical monuments and records other than those declared by or under law made by Parliament to be of national importance.

List III (Concurrent List), item 40: archaeological sites and remains other than those declared by or under law made by Parliament to be of national importance.

Thus, in fulfillment of the provisions of the Constitution, the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act 1951 was enacted.

1.3 New Initiatives

Presently the archaeological sites and remains are managed both by union and state governments; however there are thousands of monuments and sites which are unprotected and in utter state of neglect. There is a need to make an inventory of those sites nation-wide, which are not protected either by the Centre or the State Governments. In order to prepare a database of the National

Mission for posterity, an inventory/document of all such built heritage and antiquarian remains is a necessity.

In order to achieve the arduous but onerous task, the following initiatives have been drafted:

- The cataloguing and describing of works of art have to follow a standard method applicable to all types of built heritage and antiquarian remains.
- Devise uniform measures to promote archaeological investigations.
- To give clear and detailed instructions about the nature of information and the manner of illustration required for effective documentation of archaeological remains.
- To identify and train archaeologists, draughtsman, photographers and surveyors with the help of new technical gadgets and equipments.
- Devise training programmes at various levels to create awareness among the stakeholders.

2 Legislative Framework

The cultural renaissance that began with the establishment of the Asiatic Society in 1784 heralded an era of newfound interest in Indology and Indian archaeology which subsequently paved the way for the genesis of antiquarian laws in the beginning of the nineteenth century. Consequently, a series of legislations were enacted to preserve and protect the cultural wealth of the country both by the constituent States and Central Government. They include; (i) The Bengal Regulation XIX (1810); (ii) The Madras Regulation VII (1817); (iii) The Act XX (1863); (iv) The Indian Treasure-Trove Act (1878); (v) Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (1904); (vi) The Antiquities (Export Control) Act (1947); (vii) The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (1951); (viii) The Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act (1958) and (ix) Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 (AAT Act 1972).

2.1 Operative Legislations

The Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (AMASR Act 1958) was enacted by the Parliament with an aim 'to provide for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance, for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects'. This act was enacted after repealing (i) The ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, (ii) The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (declaration of national importance) Act, 1951 and (iii) Section 126 of the States Reorganization Act, 1956.

As per the AMASR Act 1958, the following are the definitions of the ancient monuments and antiquity.

- (a) "ancient monument" means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock sculpture, inscription or monolith, which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years, and includes –
 - (i) the remains of an ancient monument,
 - (ii) the site of an ancient monument,
 - (iii) such portion of land adjoining the site of an ancient monument as may be required for fencing or covering in or otherwise preserving such monument, and
 - (iv) the means of access to, and convenient inspection of an ancient monument;

The definition of antiquity occurring in Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 has been

amalgamated with Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 and discussed in later paragraphs.

In the AMASR Act 1958, there are provisions to declare ancient monuments and sites to be of national importance, acquisition of protected monuments, excavations in unprotected areas, power to control the movement of antiquities, to compensate for loss or damage to a site or monument under private ownership and maintenance of monuments under private ownership after entering into an agreement. These provisions of the AMASR Act, 1958 will help in executing of the Mission's agenda as thousands of monuments are either unprotected or under private ownership.

- (b) "antiquity" includes –
- (i) any coin, sculpture, manuscript, epigraph, or other work of art or craftsmanship,
 - (ii) any article, object or thing detached from a building or cave,
 - (iii) any articles, object or thing illustrative of science, art, crafts, literature, religion, customs, morals or politics in bygone ages,
 - (iv) any article, object or thing of historical interest, and
 - (v) any article, object or thing declared by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, to be an antiquity for the purpose of this Act.

which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years.

Further, the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 (AAT Act 1972) was enacted by the Parliament 'to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures, to provide for the prevention of smuggling of, and fraudulent dealings in antiquities, to provide for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures for preservation in public places and to provide for certain other

matters connected therewith or incidental or ancillary thereto'. The AAT Act, 1972 repeals the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947.

As per the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, the following are the definitions of antiquity and art treasure:

- (a) "antiquity" includes –
- (I) (i) any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship;
 - (ii) any article, object or thing detached from a building or cave;
 - (iii) any article, object or thing illustrative of science, art, crafts, literature, religion, customs, morals or politics in bygone ages;
 - (iv) any article, object or thing of historical interest;
 - (v) any article, object or thing declared by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette to be an antiquity for the purposes of this Act.

which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years,
and

- (II) any manuscript, record or other document which is of scientific, historical, literary or aesthetic value and which has been in existence for not less than seventy-five years;
- (b) "art treasure" means any human work of art, not being an antiquity, declared by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, to be an art treasure for the purposes of this Act having regard to its artistic or aesthetic value:

Provided that no declaration under this clause shall be made in respect of any such work of art so long as the author thereof is alive.

The Act prescribes export of antiquities by individuals and other organizations (other than by the Central Government) except in accordance with the terms and conditions of a permit to be issued by an authority notified under the Act. Further, all sales of antiquities can be done only under a license. The Act also stipulates that all such licenses have to maintain records and photographs in such manner as may be prescribed. The Act empowers the Government to notify specified antiquities that need to be registered for the purposes of preservation, safeguarding and conservation of cultural heritage, and makes it mandatory for the owners of these antiquities to register them. The Government also retains the right to compulsorily acquire the antiquities, though this right has hardly ever been exercised.

The Act is implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India and ASI has appointed persons across the country vide Gazette notification GSR 282 (E) 5th April, 1976 to act as Registering Officers and further to accelerate the process of registration of antiquities and art treasures the Dy. S.As and ASAs of the ASI have also been empowered to exercise the powers conferred under the said Act vide Gazette notification GSR 73 1st March, 2005.

There are apprehensions that antiquities are smuggled out for want of effective enforcement machinery and lack of knowledge about their importance and relevance. However, there is no way of knowing to what extent this control is flouted either wittingly or unwittingly. It is impossible to search every bag that leaves the country and every parcel that is posted. It is equally impossible to believe that a license has been sought in every case before an item has been shipped or flown to a foreign destination.

Apart from these two legislations, the Indian Treasure –trove Act, 1878 is also operative for the purpose of acquisition of chance discoveries that defines ‘treasure’ as ‘anything of any value hidden in the soil, or in any thing affixed thereto’. Under this Act, the role of Collector is to receive notice from the finder of treasure and decide the ownership of the treasure. The Collector may also acquire the treasure on behalf of the Government or can divide the treasure or its value between the owner of the place and the finder in the ratio of 25 and 75 percent.

This Act is still in vogue.

3. Present Situation

Comprehensive information regarding the Built Heritage & Sites and antiquarian wealth of India is not available at present. So far only 3659 built heritage & sites are centrally protected by Archaeological Survey of India and nearly 3500 protected by State Governments. Besides, a large number of Built heritage & sites in the country have been reported from time to time without a comprehensive record. Similarly, the known antiquarian wealth of India is lying in institutions like Archaeological Survey of India, State Archaeology & Museum Departments, various other museums, Institutions/Universities, private collections etc. Majority of the government collection of antiquities are available in the following places:

Sl.No.	Name of Institutions
i)	National Museums
ii)	Museums under State Government/UT
iii)	Collections/Museums with District Administration and Local Administration
iv)	District Treasury
v)	Site Museums of ASI (41 Museums)
vi)	Sculpture sheds of ASI
vii)	Circle Offices of ASI
viii)	Central Antiquity Collection of ASI
ix)	Excavation and Prehistory Branches of ASI
x)	All Custom Godowns (Malkhana)

Apart from these, some other known collections are as under:

Sl.No. Name of Institutions

- i) Museums under Registered Body
- ii) Museums in Universities
- iii) Museums under Private possession
- iv) Individual Collections

3.1 National Museums:

The Government of India has given status of National Museum to the following museums:-

- (i) National Museum, New Delhi.
- (ii) Indian Museum, Kolkata
- (iii) Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad.
- (iv) Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai.
- (v) Allahabad Museum, Allahabad.

These museums have been given the status of National Museum as their collections include art, archaeology and ethnographic objects.

3.2 Museums and Collection under State Government/UT:

Almost all the State Government has its independent Department of Archaeology and Museums under which a number of museums are managed. In some of the States such as West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, concerned State Department of Museums has district level museums. Such Museums under the control of State Govts. and UTs are nearly 260. Besides, in most of the places there are small museum collections under the control of district authorities such as district collectors and grampanchayat. Further most of the District treasuries in the country have excellent deposit antiquities.

3.3 Archaeological Survey of India:

(a) Museums & Circle Offices:

Archaeological Survey of India is supposed to have the largest repository of antiquities mostly in the form of stone sculptures, and varieties of terracotta, metal objects etc. from a large number of excavated and explored sites. These antiquities are lodged in its 41 site museums, sculpture sheds and in Circle offices. The approximate number of antiquities available with site museums is more than 1 Lac. Whereas the sculpture sheds and centrally protected sites alone have more than 21,000 antiquities. Besides, time to time the respective Circle offices have collected varieties of objects as collection, and from explorations and excavations.

(b) Excavation and Prehistory Branches:

There are six Excavation Branches and one Prehistory Branch in ASI where explorations and excavations are being carried out for last several decades. During the course of investigations a large number of antiquities have been collected which comprise a varieties of objects belonging to different regions and cultural periods.

(C) Central Antiquity Collection:

The Central Antiquity Collection of the Archaeological Survey of India is supposed to be the largest repository of antiquities in the country. It has over 3 Lac antiquities in its collection. The nature of collection include antiquities from excavations and explorations carried out from time to time, confiscated and seized antiquities, purchased and donated antiquities etc. The composition of these collections includes objects of stone, terracotta, glass, ivory, bone, metal and paintings etc. The antiquities from foreign origin are also housed here.

3.4 Universities and Societies:

There are a number of Universities and Societies those are carrying out regular exploration and excavation in the country. The Universities like Deccan College, Pune; M.S. University, Vadodara; University of Allahabad, Allahabad.; University of Calcutta, Kolkata; Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Patna University, Patna have long credentials of archaeological investigations and have a large number of antiquities in their departmental collections. Some Universities have their own museums where these objects are displayed. The societies engaged in such investigations and have large collection of antiquities include K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna; Institute of Oceanography, Goa; Indian Institute of Numismatic Studies, Nasik; Indian Archaeological Society etc.

3.5 Confiscated and Seized Antiquities

There are large number of antiquities that are seized/confiscated from time to time from different parts of the country under Antiquities and Arts Treasures Act, 1972. These antiquities are lying in the godowns of law enforcing agencies such as C.B.I., Customs, foreign post offices, local police thanas, income tax godowns etc.

3.6 Private Museums and Collections:

Large number of antiquities is housed either in various private museums or in the individual collections. Since these museums/individuals have their interest in cultural wealth, one can find a range of variety of the antiquities.

4. The Challenges

Conservation and preservation of archaeological monuments & sites and antiquarian remains present significant challenges. Some of the built heritage and antiquarian remains have already disappeared, while some of these are in a state of decay/damage. Since these monuments and antiquarian remains are on the verge of extinction because of the hostile conditions of weather, encroachment in the name of developmental works, it is our sacred duty to safeguard them from all the odds. Our challenge is to safeguard them by means of adopting measures of conservation, preservation, environmental development

followed by documentation. The challenges before the Central and State governments are enormous and arduous in nature, for which other organizations and stakeholders have to be roped in as equal partners in safeguarding the monuments, sites and antiquarian remains.

5. Objectives

The objective for undertaking the National Mission on Monuments & Sites and Antiquities is to develop a national database with a view to enhance access to the students, scholars, researchers and to the general public and preserve it for the posterity. The main emphasis should be to improve awareness about cultural inheritance and encourage their use for educational and research purposes for lifelong learning. Though a lot has been done to locate, survey, preserve and describe various monuments, sites and antiquities from different cultural zones, so much is required to be done through this Mission:

1. Locational analysis of monuments and sites on the map of India, state, district, region and location-wise leading to evaluation of the wealth of antiquities within the country and abroad.
2. Documentation of the monuments, sites and antiquities with the help of drawings, photographs, satellite imagery, aerial photography and placing the cultural heritage in a chronological stratification.
3. Identification, assessment and promotion of the monuments for larger acceptance among the various linguistic, cultural and religious groups or factions within the society.
4. Classification and categorization of monuments, sites and antiquities on the basis of their history, typological groupings for increasing awareness of cultural heritage's role in institutional terms and to provide them need based conservation facilities.
5. Involvement of larger community participation for awareness generation sustained conservation, preservation and environmental development of heritage sites located in the

neighbourhood of the community and makes them stakeholders. This will be in addition to the role of Central or State Governments, who are over burden with the responsibility in managing a large number of cultural heritages of the country.

6. To create repository of antiquarian wealth at each of the prospective site starting from panchayat level.
7. Compilation of data pertaining to Built heritage and sites from both published and unpublished literature in a prescribed format developed by the Mission and prepares a National Data base of the same.
8. Documentation of antiquities and art treasures under the custody of ASI, State Archaeology department, Private collections, institutions govt. and private museums etc. in a prescribed format.
9. Compilation and setting up of data base pertaining to antiquities and art treasures, and management of the same for easy retrieval as and when required and to also track the illicit trafficking of antiquities.
10. Capacity building among the State Department of Archaeology and Museums and other institutions through training programmes.
11. To help in creating synergy to link between institutions like ASI, Universities/Institutions, NGO's, professional individuals, public etc.
12. To conduct awareness programme for the masses.
13. To bring popular as well as research publications both for the masses and the professionals.
14. To carry out conservation of selected unprotected monuments.

15. State and local level policy can be framed for management of these measures as part of sustainable development.
16. Setting up of Data Bank at various levels, State Archaeological Department, Museums, institutions, Circles of ASI etc. A complete data will be managed at the National Mission Headquarter.

6. Mission Stake Holders

Archaeological Survey of India, being the nodal agency for the Mission, it would require to interact with various organizations/institutions/individuals for successful completion of its objectives.

6.1 Stake Holders

1. The **State Archaeology & Museums** Department has large collection of antiquarian remains as well as a number of State protected monuments and sites. State department of archaeology also carry out excavation work with the consent of Archaeological Survey of India. Without cooperation of the State Archaeology, it may not be possible to achieve the target of the Mission.
2. **Universities & Research Organisations** have also a large collection of antiquities excavated, explored or collected from different sources. Some of the universities/organizations have their own Museums.
3. **District/Local Administration** has its own collection of antiquities at Gram Panchayat levels. The malkahanas and other collections under District Administration are out of bound and hence it is necessary to make them stakeholders.
4. **Various NGO's**, working in the field of Cultural Heritage for the conservation, preservation and protection, may be made stake holders as they have requisite technical support and professionalism.

5. Many freelance individuals having interest in cultural heritage involve themselves in the study and preservation of monuments and antiquities may also be considered as stake holders.

6.2 Stake Holder's Role

It is proposed that the National Mission on Monuments & Antiquities would create synergy and link among institutions like ASI, NGO's, Universities, Professional Individuals, Institutes, museums and inculcate awareness through training programme.

7. Deliverables

Relatively only a miniscule portion of the cultural wealth has so far been inventorised. There are objects of rare value and importance, which are still lying in remote areas and also in personal possession, about which there is hardly any information. A successful completion of the National Mission will ideally end in a situation where we will be able to inventories most of the monuments, sites and antiquities in the country. Thus the mission will be helpful in creation of a national inventory/data base for monuments, sites and antiquities which are spread across the length and breadth of the country.

At present the registration of antiquities has not picked up even though there is a Central Scheme for Registering Officers who are operating at the State level. Through various methods of propagation an improvement is sought to be brought about in the registration of antiquities, which will incidentally help in inventorisation.

The creation of data base will be the most effective tool in preventing illegal trade in antiquities. The incidences of illegal smuggling and export have over the years reached alarming proportions. The National Mission, by raising the level of documentation, inventorisation and awareness, will help in effective check of these illegal activities.

The mission will create a strong institutional support system and also promote building up a country wide network from the village up to the national level in preservation of our cultural heritage. More importantly, it will also create social partners in this field who along with

Government agencies are expected to play a pro-active role in the preservation of our cultural wealth.

The lesson of awareness on the composite cultural heritage will generate community participation and appreciation of people irrespective of their caste, creed and religion they follow.

In this way, the mission would result in generation and propagation of awareness about our rich cultural wealth of various types. This will also result in the enrichment and preservation of the composite culture of India. By associating the younger generation more effectively in the mission, we would expect that for years to come, this awareness of our culture will become an integral part of our learning, and education. The preservation of this tangible heritage will also help in better appreciation our intangible heritage and will create a conducive atmosphere for following the course of multi-culturalism in our society.

8. The Issues

The issues that come under focus in recent discussions with a cross-section of experts in the field are as follows:

8.1 Publication and Dissemination

The publication and dissemination of information in the form of texts, descriptive catalogue and indexes will be a part of the core function of the Mission. For this, a strategy is called for and there is need to support publication and cataloguing by different agencies by means of grants and funding through private and public sector participation.

8.2 Conservation Programme

The need for conservation and preservation are high areas of priorities. In case items of cultural heritage become unusable through decay or wear and tear, there is no replacement.

Conservation strategies commonly include such elements as: instructing staff and public alike in the careful handling of original materials; copying originals on to a surrogate medium or making

replicas of important objects for public consultation; the provision of simple protective packaging, especially for little-used items, to help prevent further deterioration; and active intervention to repair damage or arrest further decay.

In terms of labour and materials, the last of these options is the most expensive. Conservation programmes therefore increasingly have to be prioritized. But even when this has been done, the backlog of work is often still substantial, and the immediate staffing or financial resources of many repositories are sufficient to meet only a fraction of the need. Additional permanent resources for preservation are, therefore, urgently needed, although it is also doubtful whether the present supply of professionally trained staff is sufficient to meet the significantly expanded demand for their services. Additional engagement of human resources and training may be necessary.

While every effort is made by most repositories to facilitate public access to the information contained in repositories, there is a degree of tension between access and preservation. Preservation has often won the argument in this tussle. As far as Built Heritage is concerned, the preservation strategy may be chalked out for protected monuments while the unprotected ones will be looked after by local participation. Funds in this regard may be generated through private/public sector participation under the programme 'Save Heritage'.

8.3 Training

Training is a core issue for the success of the Mission. A large number of technical persons will have to be trained to meet the new demand generated by the Mission and the need to manage electronic records.

The ASI has been actively involved in imparting training on conservation, preservation and cataloguing methods to in-service personnel at the Institute of Archaeology. The services of resources persons of the ASI will be obtained in organization. Short term training programme in the preventive conservation, while covering other faculty matters related to built heritage.

There is a need to impart training to the volunteers, who may enroll through the community participation programme. These resource persons may be provided remuneration.

8.4 Digitization

Taking the country as a whole, it is necessary to create an electronic data of all the monuments, sites and antiquities. But here is one problem that the software used to create electronic records becomes obsolete in a short period of time, and so does the hardware, which processes and reads the data. For these reasons it is vital that (a) adequate documentation of the system and software used in its compilation should accompany any electronic data transferred to archives, and (b) that data stored archivally should not be system-dependent but should be compatible with future platforms.

9. Strategies and Action Plan

To evolve the most cost effective and appropriate strategy and the choice of participating institutions, it is imperative that not only the strengths and weaknesses of the existing situation are evaluated, but the scope of the Mission is also defined in clear terms.

Since independence, large collection of antiquarian remains have come into the public domain through gift, purchase or loan and as a direct result of exploration and excavations that were carried out by various institutions. The National Museum, New Delhi; Indian Museum, Kolkata; Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad; Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai and Allahabad Museum. are some of the well-known organizations, which have a significant collection of antiquities. By virtue of their collection and experience in handling antiquities, such organizations are bound to be key players in the mission.

Apart from the central institutions, there also exist a large number of institutions at the State level, particularly the State Museums and the University department museums that have antiquities. Many of these receive grants from the Central/State Governments.

Thus there exists a well-diversified network of public and privately funded institutions that can be co-opted in the task of implementing the Mission.

As regards the scope of the mission, several possibilities have been explored. The dominant view thus far has been that the Mission should be as comprehensive as possible. That is, not only should it emphasise on cataloguing, preservation, digitization, surveys and sustained networking of all repositories of antiquities and built heritage but it should also include maintenance and regular upkeep. Alternatively, some have suggested that the task should be limited only to identifying the institutions possessing antiquities, listing the type of holdings these institutions have and then encouraging them to generate proposals for their preservation, cataloguing and digitization. The Archaeological Survey of India field offices will function as catalyst to help and achieve the targets of the Mission.

Keeping in view the various issues and the urgent need for action on several fronts, the Department of Culture proposes that the National Mission will be launched, to begin with, for a period of two years covering the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan, from 2005-2007. During this period, the Mission will focus on cataloguing, conservation, preservation and improved access to the users, as listed in the objectives.

9.1 Distribution of Work Plan

The State Level Implementation Committee will undertake documentation work under its jurisdiction pertaining to antiquities kept at places like Excavation and Prehistory Branches, Central Antiquity Collection & Circle Offices of the ASI, State Archaeology and Museum Departments, Universities & Institutions, private collections and individuals etc. The documentation of built heritage and sites will be compiled from published and unpublished data.

The work of documentation will be implemented in two ways (i) through Officials from Archaeological Survey of India which comprises ASI site Museums, sculpture shed and rest of the antiquities will undertake through project basis besides, compilation

pertaining to built heritage, sites from published literature of ASI and (ii) by out sourcing through project basis which would be invited by the State Level Implementation Committee from the Institutions, NGOs, State Archaeology Department, professional individuals etc. After receiving the proposals of the project that will reviewed and scrutinized by the State Level Implementation Committee in coordination with State Mission Monitoring Committee of the concerned States. Selected proposals will be forwarded to Mission Headquarter, New Delhi for approval. The Headquarter will again review and scrutinize the proposals received form State Level Implementation Committee same will subsequently forward to the Finance Committee for sanction of the financial requirement of the project.

Once the project is approved and financial grant is made by the Headquarter, a training programme on documentation methodology will be organised by State Level Implementation Committee in coordination with Mission Headquarter Office to maintain the uniformity and quality of work.

The documentation work carried out by the personnel and institutions on project basis will be sent to the State Level Implementation Committee and will be reviewed by the Centre in coordination with State Monitoring Committee to ensure the quality work. The documentation sheets will also be reviewed panel or individuals as and when felt necessary by the Dy. Director, State Level Implementation Committee. The Technical Expert Panel will also help in providing the guidance on technical matters such as identification of antiquities and art treasures, grading of antiquities etc.

All the data received by the State Level Implementation Committee will be compiled and sent to the Mission Headquarter. The Mission Headquarter, New Delhi will further compiles the data received from 33 State Level Implementation Committee and create a National Level data base.

9.2 Method of Data Collection

The Mission Headquarter will develop format of documentation and guidelines for documentation of antiquities and build heritage. It will be circulated to all State Level Implementation Committee and data will be collected in that format. The Mission headquarter will undertake training programme on documentation method to ensure qualitative output, common software will have to be used by all State Level Implementation Committee.

The documentation of monuments and antiquities under the possession of Archaeological Survey of India will be carried out by its own personnel. However, the work may be outsourced to various professional institutes/individuals by assigning projects for documentation of antiquities and monuments which are not controlled by the Archaeological Survey of India. The Mission Deputy Director of the State Mission Centre in consultation with State Mission Monitoring Committee will identify professional institutions and individuals who can undertake such projects. Such projects will have to be vetted by State Mission Monitoring Committee.

9.3 Method of Data Processing

Once, the projects for documentation of antiquities and compilation of data on built heritage are finalized and approved by the Finance Committee, the work will be assigned to the concerned institutions/individuals. With a view to maintain professionalism and uniformity, the State Level Implementation Committee will ensure that a training programme is conducted for them who will be taking up the projects. This training programme will be monitored by Mission Headquarter.

Once the data is received by the State Level Implementation Committee, it would be scrutinized by the Mission Deputy Director in consultation with the experts of Screening Committee at the State level. After finalization, the data would be forwarded to the Mission Headquarter for compilation into the National Register.

10. Mission Structure

10.1 National Mission Headquarter:

The National Mission will be headed by a Mission Director (Director of ASI) who would be functioning under DG, ASI. The Mission Director's office would be located at New Delhi which would constitute 9 staff from ASI and 13 personnel on short-term contract basis. The Mission Director will be assisted by 2 Mission Deputy Directors (Superintending Archaeologist of ASI), 2 Mission Asstt. Directors (Dy. Superintending Archaeologist of ASI) and 4 Mission Research Officers (Asstt. Archaeologist of ASI). Besides, the short-term contract personnel constitute 2 Research Associates whose minimum qualification would be M.A. in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Ancient History or Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology from Institute of Archaeology; 2 System Analyst, 2 Data Entry Operators; 2 Project Associates with the knowledge of stenography and computer etc.; 2 Project Assistants with knowledge of accountancy and other related office work; 2 Attendants and 1 Sweeper.

The Mission Director with his staff would keep proper coordination with Mission Monitoring Committee and Finance Committee at the National Level and with the State Level Implementation Committee. Besides, Mission Headquarter would also remain responsible for regular monitoring of the work progress at the State Level Implementation Committee.

All the data related to the Built Heritage, Sites and Antiquities collected by the various State Level Implementation Committee will be compiled at the level of Mission Headquarter. Besides, the vast data which would be piled up at the Mission headquarter needs to be managed at National Level.

The Mission Headquarter will develop formats and guidelines for documentation of antiquities and monuments and distribute the same for maintaining the uniformity of data.

The Headquarter will conduct training programmes on documentation methodology at every states to ensure the qualitative output.

Basic modules for public awareness programmes will be prepared by the Mission Headquarter and distributed to the state level implementation committee.

The headquarter will scrutinize the proposal of projects received from state level implementation committee and getting it processed through finance committee.

Mission headquarter would periodically report to the mission monitoring committee apprising the work progress and constraints.

Finally, it would be the responsibility of the Mission Headquarter to prepare a National Register for Built Heritage and Antiquities to publish literature and create multi media programme for researchers and general public.

10.2 National Mission Monitoring Committee:

National Mission Monitoring Committee will function under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Culture). This committee comprise of one Vice Chairman (Director General, ASI), three members (Addl. Director General, ASI; Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Culture; Jt. Director General, ASI) and one member secretary (mission Director, ASI)

The committee will take periodical meeting to review the work under taken by the Mission and provide the guidelines. The committee will also evaluate the new work proposed to be undertaken by the Mission.

The committee will approve the project proposals of documentation work which would be forwarded by the state level implementation committee.

The committee would also reassess and modify the mission structure and function wherever required.

10.3 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will be chaired by the Financial Advisor of the Ministry of Culture. This committee would comprise of three members consisting of (i) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, (ii)

Deputy. Director(Accounts), ASI and (iii) Mission Director of ASI and Superintending Archaeologist of the Mission would be the Member Secretary.

This committee will look into the matter related to the financial aspects of the mission.

The Finance Committee would sanction the financial budget to the approved proposals of the projects. The Committee would also review the Budget and expenditure incurred by the Mission periodically.

10.4 State Level Implementation Committee

State Level Implementation Committee will function under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Culture) of the respective State. The Committee would constitute of the following members: Secretary, Gram Panchayat of the State; Regional Director, Archaeological Survey of India; Director, State Archaeology & Museums; Mission Director (Ex-Officio Member); Professor of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology; other experts in the field nominated by the Committee. Superintending Archaeologist/Deputy Superintending Archaeologist of the concerned Circle/Mini-Circle will be the Member Secretary of the said Committee.

This committee will identify professional institutions and individuals who can undertake projects on compilation of data pertaining to Built heritage and sites, and document antiquities. Once the projects are received from these professional institutions and individuals, these will be evaluated both from technical and financial point of view. After the project is evaluated, State Level Implementation committee will forward it to Mission headquarter for approval.

The data collected through projects would be compiled and managed by the State Level Implementation Committee. Besides, data pertaining to Built heritage, sites and antiquities will also be collected by it own staff i.e. through ASAs, Registering Officers and AAs.

State Level Implementation Committee would liaison with Mission headquarter at National level for efficient functioning of the Mission.

Committee will conduct training programmes for the personnel engaged in documentation work. Awareness programmes will also be organised for the masses.

This committee will review and monitor the work periodically carried out by both the staff of the ASI and the institutions involved in it.

If it is felt at any point of time that expert advice is required for achieving the objective of the mission, then the Committee can formulate expert committee by co-opting experts in the field.

11. Budgetary Provision:

The total budgetary provision for the proposed National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities is Rs. 90 crores spanning for a period of over 5 years (2005 to 2010). For the first 2 years (2005-06 & 2006-07) expenditure would be met from the regular budget (Tenth Plan Period) of the Ministry of Culture. During the eleventh plan period (2007-08 to 2009-10) the requirement of funds would be projected at the time of plan finalization. The total expenditure envisaged for the Mission is non-recurring in nature.

Since the ASI is the nodal agency, different heads of ASI against which the budget provision has been made include **Establishment** (a. remuneration for contract personnel, b. traveling expenses), **Office Expenses** (stationery, postages, equipments, consultancy charges/honorarium etc.), **Publication, Awareness Programme** (advertisement and publicity), **Other Administrative Expenses** (workshops, seminars, meetings, hospitality etc.), **Projects** (cost of various projects out sourced to institutions/universities/colleges/NGOs/other organization) and **Conservation of Monuments**. The year wise budget allocation is given below.

2005 – 2006

Sl. No.	Head	Amount in Crores
1.	Establishment	0.10
2.	Office Expenses	0.50
3.	Publication	0.20
4.	Awareness Programme	0.50
5.	Other Administrative Expenses	0.50
6.	Projects	3.20
7.	Conservation of (selected) Monuments	--
	Total	5.00

2006 – 2007

Sl. No.	Head	Amount in Crores
1.	Establishment	0.16
2.	Office Expenses	1.50
3.	Publication	0.60
4.	Awareness Programme	3.00
5.	Other Administrative Expenses	1.00
6.	Projects	8.74
7.	Conservation of (selected) Monuments	--
	Total	15.00

2007 – 2008

Sl. No.	Head	Amount in Crores
1.	Establishment	0.16
2.	Office Expenses	1.50
3.	Publication	0.90
4.	Awareness Programme	3.00
5.	Other Administrative Expenses	1.00
6.	Projects	13.44
7.	Conservation of (selected) Monuments	5.00
	Total	25.00

2008 – 2009

Sl. No.	Head	Amount in Crores
1.	Establishment	0.16
2.	Office Expenses	1.50
3.	Publication	1.50
4.	Awareness Programme	3.00
5.	Other Administrative Expenses	1.00
6.	Projects	12.84
7.	Conservation of (selected) Monuments	5.00
	Total	25.00

2009 – 2010

Sl. No.	Head	Amount in Crores
1.	Establishment	0.16
2.	Office Expenses	1.00
3.	Publication	1.80
4.	Awareness Programme	0.50
5.	Other Administrative Expenses	0.50
6.	Projects	11.04
7.	Conservation of (selected) Monuments	5.00
	Total	20.00