

The Cultural Heritage Sites Government Institutions in India: Promotion and Preservation of Culture

Dr Shekar Naik

Associate Professor of History, Government Arts, Commerce and P.G. College- Autonomous, Hassan, Karnataka

ABSTRACT

The World Heritage Committee, constituted by the UNESCO under the provision of the International Convention for Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, has inscribed 28 sites from India-23 cultural sites and five natural sites in the World Heritage List. The 23 cultural sites are Indian Council of Historical Research, Indian History Congress, Indian Institute of Islamic Studies, Indira Gandhi National Centre for The Arts, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Jawahar Kala Kendra, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Lalit Kala Akademi, Marine Archaeology Unit, National Centre for the Performing Arts and National Gallery of Modern Art.

Keywords: Historical, national, research, cultural, organization, units, centres, trust, books, and art.

INTRODUCTION

Indian Council for Cultural Relation, New Delhi. Indian Council for Cultural Relation (ICCR) is at New Delhi. It has regional offices in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Suva (Fiji) , Georgetown (Guyana) and San Francisco (USA) . It is an autonomous body, sponsored by The Government. It establishes and promotes cultural relations and exchanged between India and other countries. It cooperates with national and International organizations in the sphere of culture; develops Indian studies abroad, sends abroad exhibitions of art, literature, etc invites foreign scholars to India for education in their culture; organizes summer and holiday camps for foreign students (especially Indian government scholars) and organizes cultural functions. It administers the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. It organizes the Azad Memorial Lectures, holds essay competitions and establishes Indian culture centres for Indian students abroad.

Indian Council of Historical Research Set up in New Delhi, in 1972, the Indian Council of Historical Research enunciates and implements a national policy of historical research and encourages scientific writing of history. It gives grants for holding of seminars, publications and research works and journals. It also operates research projects, and offers fellowships and grants to scholars in the field of history. "The objectives of the ICHR, as enunciated in the initial pamphlet published by the Department of Education, Government of India in 1972, are as under: 1) to bring historians together and provide a forum for the exchange of views between them; 2) to give a national direction to objective and scientific writing of history and to have rational presentation and interpretation of history; 3) to promote, accelerate and coordinate research in history with special emphasis on areas that have not received adequate attention so far; 4) to promote and coordinate a balanced distribution of research effort over different areas; and 5) to elicit support and recognition for historical research from all concerned and ensure the necessary dissemination and use of results" (wiki/web)

Indian History Congress First named the 'Modern Indian History Congress', the Indian History Congress was originally founded in 1935. In 1938, it was renamed the Indian History Congress. "The lead to establish an all-India national congress of historians was taken by Poona historians during the period of British colonial rule. The first session took place in Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Poona, in 1935. Historians such as Datto Vaman Potdar, Surendra Nath Sen (who later became the first director of the National Archives of India), and Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan attended the first session" (Chakrabarty, Dipesh, 82) Its aims and objectives are promotion and encouragement of scientific study of history, holding of congress and publishing of proceedings, bulletins, memos, journals and other works, and cooperating with other organizations in India and abroad with similar objectives. It meets annually. "Indian History Congress is the largest professional and academic body of Indian historians with over 35,000 members. It was established in 1935. The name of any new applicant for membership needs to be proposed and seconded by existing Ordinary or Life Members" (Anand, Arun - <https://en.wikipedia.org>)

Indian Institute of Islamic Studies set up in 1963 at New Delhi, the Indian Institute of Islamic Studies has its main objectives as promotion of the study of Islamic culture and civilization, and intercourse between scholars and institutions engaged in Islamic studies in different countries. "The Institute entrusted to preserve the Islamic tradition and culture in India. In addition to this institute also promoting studies and research in Islam as well as comparative studies" (New York

Times. 1992) It conducts and provides facilities for research about the impact of Islam on India and India's contribution to Islamic Studies. The institute possesses one of the finest collections of works on Islam in the country, besides having 5,000 manuscripts mostly in Arabic and Persian languages.

Indian Society of Oriental Art, Kolkata: The Indian Society of Oriental Art promotes knowledge of ancient and modern Indian and other Oriental art. It collects objects of art holds exhibitions, lectures, seminars; conducts research and study encourages artists, students of art and craftsmen by awarding prizes, scholarships and diplomas; publishes journals, monographs, albums and prints, and has a collection of rare and modern art books.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for The Arts: One of the major achievements in the field of arts and humanities in India has been the establishment of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). This institute was launched on November 19, 1985, as a fully autonomous trust. It is visualized a centre encompassing the study and experience of all the arts each for with its own integrity, yet within a dimension mutual inter-dependence, inter-relatedness with nature, social structure and cosmology.

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya: Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya or the National Museum of Mankind in Bhopal is dedicated to the depiction of an integrated story of humankind in global perspective with special focus on India. The sangrahalaya, an open air museum, is supported by an indoor display related to three broad fields (a) human evolution and variation; (b) culture and society in pre and proto-historic times; and (c) contemporary cultures. It has set up open-air exhibitions on tribal habitat, coastal village, desert village and Himalayan village through life-size exhibits in authentic environmental settings. The rock shelters with historic and pre-historic rock of art paintings have been developed as another open air exhibition. An indoor museum is currently being developed at the Sangrahalaya.

Jawahar Kala Kendra: The Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) is a multi-arts centre located in Jaipur in India. It was created by the Rajasthan government with the purpose of preserving Rajasthani arts and crafts. The plan was prepared by the noted architect Charles Correa in 1986 and the building was ready in 1991. The plan is inspired by the original city plan of Jaipur, consisting of nine squares with the central square left open.

The multi-arts centre has been made in eight blocks housing museums, one amphitheatre and another closed auditorium, library, arts display rooms, cafeteria, small hostel and art-studio. It also houses two permanent art galleries and three other galleries. It hosts its own theatre festival each year. Kangayan, Krishnayan and Open Theatre are few of the many theatres housed in the Kendra. During summer vacations JKK organizes hobby does for young children in the age group of 8-18 years. The faculties include theatre, music, dance and painting.

Kalakshetra: Kalakshetra was started by Rukmini Devi Arundale in 1936 as a cultural academy for preservation of traditional values in Indian art, especially in dance and music. The Government of India took over the management of Kalakshetra by a Presidential Ordinance issued on September 29, 1993 and it has been declared an institution of national importance. The order was later replaced by an Act of Parliament-the Kalakshetra Foundation Act (No.6 of 1994). Since then, the Kalakshetra Foundation has been functioning as an autonomous body under the Department of Culture. The Kalakshetra is modeled on the concept of a gurukul, where music, dancing, painting and crafts are taught to students. Special cultural programmes are arranged to help the students in appreciating true art and the rich cultural heritage of India. There are classes on dance theory, based on Abhinaya Darpana and other ancient texts on art and literature. Music is a subsidiary for all dance students. The art of Indian make-up, traditional costumes and theatre craft are learnt gradually by students. Kalakshetra produces and presents many dance dramas.

Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library: The library at Patna, established in 1891, has the richest collection of Arabic, Urdu and Persian manuscripts (about 20,000) apart from rare ones in Turkish, Hindi, Sanskrit and Pashtu, representing the rich Islamic heritage. Some 200 are on palm leaf. Some of the rare manuscripts of the library include the Holy Quran written in Naskh in 1269 by a reputed calligrapher Yaquit-at Mustasami, Dioscorides's work on medical plants; treatises of Thabit Ibn Kurra; some writings of Abu Nasr Farabi and Abu Raihan Bairuni; poetical works of Mirza Kamran, brother of Humayun; and manuscripts bearing the signatures of Jahangir and Shah Jahan. Noted Arabic works include Tafsir-i-Kabir and the Kilab ul-Hasha'ish. It has a fine collection of Mughal/Rajput paintings of the subcontinent besides over a lakh of rare printed books and periodicals. The library has more than 850 audio- and 550 video-tapes of eminent personalities. The library brings out quarterly research journal. The library has been recognized by seven universities as a centre of research for awarding the degrees of Ph.D./D. Litt. "In 2021, the demolition of parts of the historic library building was proposed as part of a project to construct a flyover" (Kuchay, Bilal 2021) The library was declared an institution of national Importance in 1969 by an Act of Parliament.

Lalit Kala Akademi : The government established the Lalit Kala Akademi (National Academy of Fine Arts) in 1954, to promote understanding of Indian art, both within and outside country. The Akademi strives to promote these objectives through exhibitions, publications, workshops and camps. Every year it holds a national exhibition and every three years, the Triennale-India, an international exhibition. The Akademi organizes artists' camps, seminars and lectures and gives grants to recognized art organizations in the country. It honours eminent artists by selecting them as fellows. The Akademi has a permanent artists' studio complex with facilities for training and practice in painting, ceramics, graphics and sculpture at Garhi, New Delhi and at Kolkata. "The multiplicity of responses of the Indian artists to western modes of art served as a catalytic force and created a foundation for exploring what could be the specific Indian character of modern Indian art. This very cause, of the Indian character, was taken up by the Lalit Kala Akademi when it was established in 1954" (Mehta, Anubha 2000)

It has regional centres at Chennai and Lucknow, where facilities for practical training and work have also been provided. Under its publication programme, the Akademi brings out monographs on the works of Indian contemporary artists in Hindi and English and books on contemporary, traditional, folk and tribal arts authored by eminent writers and art critics. The Akademi also brings out bi-annual art journals, Lalit Kala Contemporary (English), Lalit Kala Ancient (English) and Samkaleen Kala (Hindi).

Marine Archaeology Unit: The Marine Archaeology Unit was set up in the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, with a view to exploring and excavating submerged ports and sunken ships. The project, supported by the Department of Science and Technology, undertook offshore survey of the legendary city of Dwarka on Gujarat coast, supposed to have been built by Sri Krishna and, subsequently, submerged under the sea. Underwater excavation in the ancient harbour seaward of Temple of Sea God (Samudranarayana) brought to light a submerged structure of massive building blocks corroborating the findings of onshore excavation in which three temples (1st-9th century AD) and two townships (10th and 15th century BC) were found destroyed by sea. Offshore exploration of Bet Dwarka, an island settlement of Port Okha, associated with Sri Krishna's legend, yielded conclusive evidence of the submergence of a town that existed 3400-3500 years ago. Among important proto-historic antiquities recovered from underwater excavations, mention may be made of a unique late Indus Valley seal and an inscribed jar mentioning the Sea God and seeking his protection.

Excavations in the Arabian Sea, 700 m west of the people of Sea God, brought to light remnants of fortification walls and a bastion built of massive limestone blocks confirming hereby that the ancient city of Dwarka was fortified as described in the *Mahabharata*. It is termed a *varidurga* (fortress water). The thermoluminescence date of pottery from a section of the wall is 3,520 years old. *The Mahabharata* is said to be 3500 years old.

Marine records of state and national archives were examined and particulars of 200 shipwrecks in Indian waters were noted. The twin objective of the marine archaeological investigations is to reconstruct the history of the maritime trade, ship-building and cultural migrations and to furnish data useful to sedimentologists and naval architects in dating the samples and ascertaining the coastal erosion.

National Archives of India One of the largest and best equipped repositories of records east of the Suez, the National Archives of India, earlier called the Imperial Records Department was established in 1891. Since 1947, it has acquired more than half a million files, volumes of manuscripts and maps received from Survey of India, and official records regarding various aspects of European and American connections with India. It houses a collection of Oriental letters ranging from 1765 to 1873. It has a library of more than a million volumes on modern Indian history and auxiliary subjects. It has microfilm copies of materials of Indian interest secured from England, France, Holland, Denmark and the USA. It also acquires private papers of eminent personalities. Since 1947, it has been conducting a diploma course in archives management.

National Book Trust: The Trust was set up by the Government of India in New Delhi in 1957 to produce and encourage the production of good literature and make it available at cheaper rates. The Trust subsidises the publication of university level textbooks written by Indian authors. It also publishes selected works in Indian languages and organizes national book fairs and regional book exhibitions. It participates in the international book fairs such as those held at Frankfurt, Belgrade, Cairo and Moscow.

National Centre for the Performing Arts: The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), set up in 1966, began as a non-profit cultural organization. The centre is engaged in the preservation and promotion of India's rich cultural heritage in classical and folk music, dance and drama receives support from the Government of India and international bodies-the Ford Foundation and UNESCO. "Godrej Dance Theatre (funded by Pirojsha Godrej Foundation)[5] is a small theatre was inaugurated in 1987, with a capacity of 200. Its small size allows everyone in the audience to have an intimate experience and appreciate dance up close" (Karanjia, B. K 2000)

The NCPA has the following objectives: (a) establish a national centre for the classical, traditional and contemporary arts and sciences of performance and communication; (b) establish, equip and maintain schools, auditoria, libraries, archives, museums, studios and workshops; (c) disseminate knowledge, promote appreciation, provide training and sponsor research in these fields; (d) organize, sponsor, promote, establish, conduct and undertake scientific research, (e) encourage and assist research scholars and teachers in the fields; and (f) grant loans, scholarships, awards or other financial assistance.

The KTM has concert hall (Tata Tat theatre (Tata Experimental Theatre), designed for concert dramas and international film festival experimental theatre productions, a dance theatre (Godrej David Theatre) for dance and music recording auditorium for archival recordings of classical music Theatre); an art gallery (Jehangir Nicholson Museum Modern Art) for the display of paintings and related art gallery for photographs (Piramal Gallery of the Centre be Photography); a video studio; and an audio-visual archival preservation vault with a collection of over 4,000 hours of audio and video recordings and a computerized database. It also has a Theatre Development Centre, Scientific Music Research Laboratory, a publications division (Marg Publications) reference library (N.M. Wadia Library of Music) and an opera theatre.

National Council of Educational Research and Training Established in 1961, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is a major advisory body to the Ministry of Education on school education. It implements the policies and programmes of the ministry, and works in close cooperation with the state education departments and universities and other institutions for promoting school education. It also brings out model textbooks in all subjects for school children.

National Gallery of Modern Art: The gallery is a government-sponsored art gallery in New Delhi. The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) was founded in 1954. Its collection comprises about 18,000 works of art, representing more than 1,700 contemporary Indian artists. It acquires and preserves works (paintings, sculptures, photographic arts) of modern art; organizes galleries for and holds exhibitions; develops documentation centres; organizes lectures, conferences, seminars, etc.; encourages study and research on art; and publishes picture post cards, colour reproductions and greeting cards. The NGMA, Mumbai was inaugurated in 1996.

CONCLUSION

The institutions prominently helps establish and secure World Heritage Sites of cultural and natural importance. The Archaeological Survey of India is an Indian government agency that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation. Archaeological Survey of India is the premier organization for archaeological researches and protection of cultural heritage in India. The World Heritage Centre is at the forefront of the international community's efforts to protect and preserve. It is the biggest archival repository in South Asia. National Archives of India has a vast corpus of records viz., public records, private papers, oriental records, cartographic, etc. Kerala Lalithakala Akademi, Its primary purpose is to promote and propagate fine arts such as painting, sculpture, and visual arts in the state.

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