

**Architectural Conservation and Historic Preservation**  
**Prof. Sanghamitra Basu**  
**Department of Architecture and Regional Planning**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**

**Lecture - 01**  
**Introduction**

Welcome to all of you and thank you for registering for this course its Architectural Conservation and Historic Preservation. Today I will talk about basically introduction to the course the most of the topics which are covered and there may be some slight change later on as we go on during the course. But mainly topics which have been covered what is the purpose I will try to sort of give a brief overview of this course.

This course architectural conservation and historic preservation we offer at IIT, Kharagpur in architecture regional planning department we offer this course both at undergraduate bachelor of architecture level and also as the postgraduate level which is master of city planning level as an elective course..

What I am trying to do is that in this course which is pans over a period of 2 months and 20 credit course I am sort of cover both the architectural part and the historical preservation or the urban design or a city part. And it is not only meant for architects anybody who is interested in the historic preservation part can take part and to try to share, I will try to share what we mean by conservation historic preservation what are the basic objectives.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:53)



Mail [sbasu@arp.iitkgp.ernet.in](mailto:sbasu@arp.iitkgp.ernet.in), [s.basu.arp@gmail.com](mailto:s.basu.arp@gmail.com)  
<http://www.iitkgp.ac.in/department/AR/faculty/ar-sbasu>

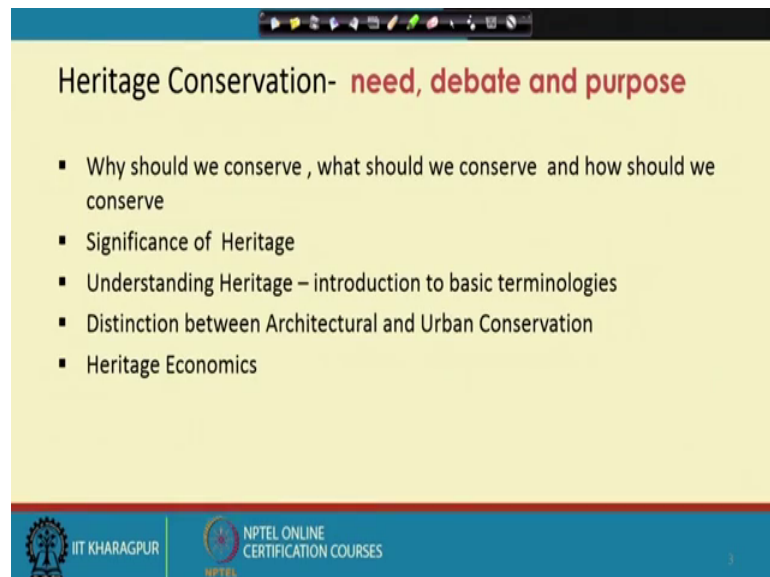
**Teaching Assistants**

Rekha V Kumar [ar.rekhav@gmail.com](mailto:ar.rekhav@gmail.com), Ph D scholar  
Archee Verma [ar.archeeverma@gmail.com](mailto:ar.archeeverma@gmail.com), PG student  
Leena Chetia [leena.chetia20@gmail.com](mailto:leena.chetia20@gmail.com), PG student

IIT KHARAGPUR | NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES

My email ID is there and you can see and there is also my website where some basic informations are there about me and my other topics of interest teaching assistant they will be assisting me in during the course, in answering the basic queries and any clarification you may have during the course.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:26)



Heritage Conservation- **need, debate and purpose**

- Why should we conserve , what should we conserve and how should we conserve
- Significance of Heritage
- Understanding Heritage – introduction to basic terminologies
- Distinction between Architectural and Urban Conservation
- Heritage Economics

IIT KHARAGPUR | NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES

Now, let us talk about the heritage conservation the need, debate and the purpose of the heritage conservation why should we conserve what should we conserve, and how should we conserve. There is often a debate going on between the conservationists who

are basically the archaeologist and also the planners they deal with the old historical structures, but many of the practicing architects or the people say that what is there to need of conserved the old historical monuments we cannot conserve everything because until and unless we make space for the new buildings there is so much a problem.

So, this debate of what should be conserved, why should we conserve they are all related with each other because until and unless we talk about why should we conserve we also cannot say what should be conserve it is the date 100 years old or 500 years old or 50 years old that is a debate. So, it all are interrelated and until and unless we try to understand this ourselves we really do not know what should we do about their structures because this for sure that whatever old is not gold we cannot conserve everything whatever and also there are various approaches of the conservation.

So, related with that this is a very important part is that the significance of the heritage; what is the significance of heritage in our daily life why should we conserve it what means that not only are we as a professional, but also to the common people the very important part of the conservation. So, understanding the significance or we will see what is the value of conservation or evaluation of the conservation is very important and this evaluation is not only always in economic terms.

So, that is very important its important what I am saying it is not the only factor there are many many other aspects which need to be set out which needs to be discussed, which need to be debated to understand that why should we conserve a particular structure or place and what is the significance. And when we talk about these significance the many many terminologies come into our mind sometimes we call it restoration, sometimes we call it preservation, sometimes we call it adaptive reuse, sometimes you call it reconstruction. So, there are so many many terminologies which are related to the conservation often it sort of confuse people that.

So, these terminologies what it means and what it signifies and what should be done in a case or particular case are also very interrelated with the purpose significance and the value of our cultural property. When we are talking about a cultural property one cultural property or a group of cultural property we are probably talking about the architectural conservation, but we also must understand that there may be areas, they may be city, there may be a region which have some significance heritage wise. So, the scale may

vary. So, there is some sort of a distinction between architectural conservation or an urban conservation, but there is a continuity, it is a continuum it is a matter of a scale, but they are all interrelated its difference between the focus that when we are talking about the architectural conservation probably we can talk about a particular structure. When you are talking about urban conservation we are probably talking about a larger area a part of the city or different parts of the city or sometimes the city or sometimes a group of cities or not only the cities the settlements also or probably there are areas which are no longer a settlement maybe archaeological sites we may talk about that.

So, there is a continuum and we must understand that what are the focus and what is the difference between urban and architectural conservation, what is the linkage one cannot be dealt with without considering the other. Then I have mentioned about the heritage economics I will talk about that its I will not talk about detail of the economics part, but we must understand this economics does not mean the in monetary terms, it is that what is more sort of a sort of return yes, but not always in monetary terms some sort of a evaluation in the present context has to be also taken into consideration because just saying I am emotional I want to preserve it does not lead us anywhere because there are so many other aspects. So, I will touch on that aspect also the evaluation method and particularly in relation to a heritage site or a cultural property without going into much detail.

So, that is about the need debate and the purpose of the conservation that will be a very basic introductory course with some of the examples from various places various, structures, I will like to share that with you to sort of set a framework to start before we go into the detail topics.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:00)

**Divergent Approaches**  
**for managing and rehabilitating heritage properties**

**Degrees of intervention**

- Indirect conservation
- Preservation
- Consolidation
- Restoration
- Adaptive Reuse / Rehabilitation
- Reproduction
- Reconstruction

**Examples of various approaches and case studies**

IIT KHARAGPUR | NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES

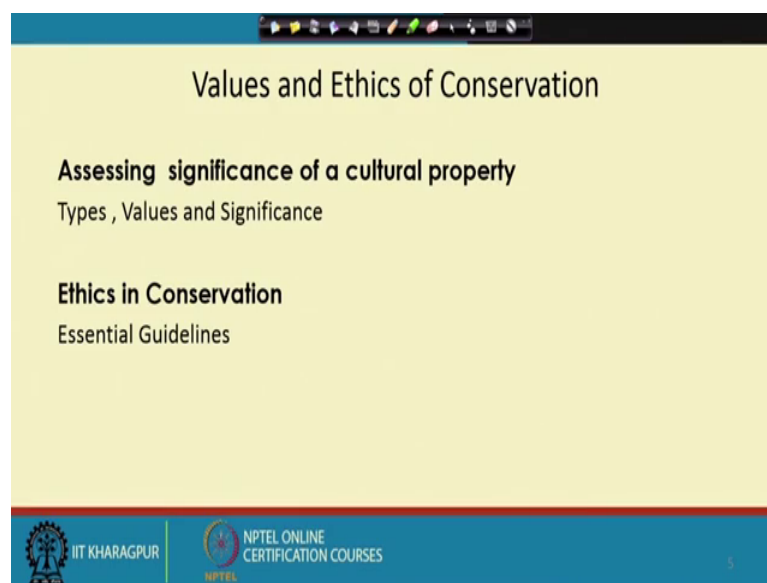
As I already mentioned that when we talk about heritage conservation or preservation there are so many terms coming restoration preservation I have already mentioned that. But what it means is that there this is different sides of the same coin that they are not very different, but they are talking about different approaches and there is no hard and fast rule that what approach be there, there are certain guidelines, there are certain objectives and depending on the purpose, depending on the context this what approach should be taken, what path should be taken in a particular situation may vary.

So, in this parts of the topic or the lecture I will talk about these different terminologies which are indirect conservation, preservation, consolidation, restoration, adaptive reuse, rehabilitation, how an old building which is no longer in use should we demolish that or do they have any sort of a value in our present society can we use them, can we recycle them, and if we do that then how much can we change how much alteration. So, all these are part of the adaptive reuse and the rehab rehabilitation. And these also has to have some guidelines and these guidelines and the methodologies with examples various examples real life examples we will talk about that.

Then also there are other terms reproduction and reconstruction, there are very world famous examples international examples of reconstruction we will talk about that that what it means actually what is signify, signify under what situation we take this decision to go for this approach. So, and in this process we will like to see what are the basic

terminologies approaches. So, rather than terminologies I will like to mention this as a mentioning there the divergent approaches under a broad umbrella of the term conservation. As I have already mentioned that we will talk about that with various case studies. So, that you will see for yourself that what are the different approaches and apparently there may be a same situation same context, but still these versus this approach vis a vis the other approach may be more practical or pragmatic and it has been adopted. So, that you will find or understand better when I discuss this examples with you.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:59)



Now, as I am talking about the various divergent approaches what comes to your mind that who decides the rules are there and what sort of guide one in that there comes a basic question of ethics and assessing the significance of the for example, if I talk about Taj Mahal, you already know our Taj Mahal is a world heritage site when I talk about Taj Mahal how what should be done for Taj Mahal probably is not the same as what probably we will do for I talked about the old building in IIT, Kharagpur probably they are both valuable, but what should be the approach, what should the ethics, what should be the guidelines they may vary and they may vary brings us to the question of these assessing the significance of a cultural property.

So, there are various types like tangible heritage, intangible heritage, there can be a water body which is also very important it is not always the structure or there can be a sort of a

craft which can be of a heritage value which is intangible heritage and there can be a structure itself which is a tangible heritage, but which means sort of important not because it is beautiful simply, but because it represent or is associated with something. So, these significance or value and what are the ethics or the guidelines which sort of govern one to take this decision or to decide a particular approach is very important. So, we will talk about these ethics in conservation and what guides one to adopt a particular approach.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:58)

**History of Conservation Movement**

- Foundations of the Movement**
  - Care for old buildings in the pre-modern age
- Growth of the Movement**
  - First modern ideologies of conservation
- Crisis of the Movement**
  - mass heritage, mass destruction
- Parallel narratives of postwar preservation in the West**
  - The internationalisation of heritage - Charters and Conventions ; International agencies like ICCROM , UNESCO and their role in Conservation
- Heritage in the age of globalization**

IIT KHARAGPUR | NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES

While we talking about this basic format it is important to know that how this conservation movement are actually came about, is it different from country to country or is there any universal law officially or formally the conservation movement came in Europe this is the birth place and which it called the conservation movement and also it is not a very static one.

It also changes over the years that what was done or what is accepted 50 years back and what was permissible 50 years back is not the same. So, it is a very dynamic approach that even while the different situations are coming we are learning from the situation more and more about that what one should its learning the lesson and accordingly the international bodies and others they are changing. So, it is very important to see this change of the approach why it happened. So, these brings us to the history of conservation movement. We will talk about the foundations of the movement that what

was happening in the pre modern age, how the buildings were taken care of in a society, what was the ethics or guidelines which were there whether there was an ethics there.

Then we will talk about the first modern movement the how it started the first modern ideologies of conservation there were various ideologies and which actually came after the post industrial society that when there was a lot of demolition especially in Europe and United States, then actually there was a formally a conservation movement or that is a genesis of the modern conservation movement. So, we will talk about that. And we will also talk about the crisis of the movement, the crisis actually happened during the Second World War trying where there was a mass destruction all over the world where many many heritage the ancient structures or places all of them were demolished.

So, we will see very interesting case study that after these how the various countries adopted the various policy and why they took a various policy it is related to their culture it is related to their intention it is related to setting philosophy. So, we will talk about this situation and we will see that how this lead or how it helped to sort of make the formal conservation movement.

Then we will talk about the parallel narratives what is happening because as I told you that different countries adopted different scenarios or different approaches after the world war and we will talk about the parallel narratives especially in the context of west. So, the internationalization of the heritage when there were charters and convention the Venice charter is very well known for that which happened in 1964 where this sort of took an international outlook and many many countries sort of came together people moved the various discipline archaeologist, engineers, architects, historians they came together and then decided some sort of a policy framework which should be or can be applicable to the various countries, various situation, various societies.

And also UNESCO is one of the body in an international body which plays a very significant role we will talk about that later and ICCROM which is based in Rome in Italy which played a very important role in the training or the education or awareness of the conservation professional. So, a new professional body started because of that. And we also should talk about now at the present ahead in the stage of globalization due to the globalization, how the situations are changing, what are the threats at the moment



because we have seen that how many many countries not many some countries because of some sort of misguided policy many of the important structures are being demolished consciously, intentionally.

So, in and at the same time you know the globalization there is a mixing of cultures, there is a people more moving from one country to another. So, in this globalization how the conservation is coming up what should be the change priority, lot of tourism is happening all over the world or what is the impact of that for the conservation movement. We will talk about that in this particular module which is the history of the conservation movement.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:06)



While talking about the UNESCO and other we often come across a terminology which is called the world heritage site - Taj Mahal is a world heritage site, Konark in India is a world heritage sites, then Darjeeling railway is a world heritage, Himalayan is a world heritage and recently the forts of Rajasthan has become world heritage, Ahmedabad city last year was declared as a world heritage that is in India. But all over the world there are particular sites, structures, pressings which are declared as a world heritage sites. So, we must discuss that it is something one each country is very proud of that to have. So, many world heritage sites people tourists come from all over the world to see the world heritage sites.

So, almost the value goes up and, so we will talk about that what are these world heritage sites what may what are the significance of the world heritage site. And also interesting to know that this when we are talking about the world heritage site they are not always the old structures very recently in India Chandigarh, lake (Refer Time: 19:18), capital complex has been one of the declared as one of the world heritage sites the very recent structure last century it was built after independence of India. So, we will talk about many of these structures which are relatively recent time and they are also declared as a world heritage site.

So, we must know that what is the selection criteria of world heritage sites who decides that and what are the different typologies of the world heritage sites and what is a process with the examples of the various world various types of world heritage sites various world heritage sites from various countries we will like to take some of the examples. And then also related to that is another one which is the endangered sites and related issue because there are many world heritage sites which were once been declared as a world heritage site, but they become endangered, Bamiyan Buddha is one of that.

And many of the world heritage site UNESCO said no, it is not being followed. So, it becomes a red mark and which becomes an endangered site. So, we will talk about that that what makes them endangered and how do we cope up with the situation what are the policy and can something be done about that.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:39)

The slide is titled "Nomination Dossier for World Heritage Sites" in a large, bold, black font, with the subtitle "Procedure and Guidelines" in a smaller, red font below it. The main content consists of a bulleted list of four items: "Tentative List", "Guidelines for preparing nomination dossier", "Serial nomination", and "Role of State Parties". Below the list, the text "Case studies in India and other places" is displayed. At the bottom of the slide, there are two logos: the IIT Kharagpur logo on the left and the NPTEL Online Certification Courses logo on the right. The slide has a yellow background and a blue header and footer.

- Tentative List
- Guidelines for preparing nomination dossier
- Serial nomination
- Role of State Parties

**Case studies in India and other places**

IIT KHARAGPUR | NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES

So, while talking about the world heritage site we also will discuss that what is the process of the world heritage site as we say that who decide what is the because every country thinks that their heritage is most important and, what is the process, what is the that process is called the preparation of the nomination dossier. It is quite formalized now UNESCO has very good guidelines for that.

So, there is a process of a tentative list and a guidelines for preparing the nomination dossier with various examples we talk about that, and very recently in a recent time we are talking about the serial nomination like in India there is an example of the forts of Rajasthan where its calling it is a serial nomination, even Chandigarh capital complex is a part of the serial nomination which is transcontinental because it is taking care of not only Indian example, but (Refer Time: 21:40) work scattered or covering various countries.

So, we will talk about the serial nomination what is the purpose and what it means what it signify and most important that the role of the state parties. That representing a country what is the responsibility that when one site is declared as a world heritage site then what the state parties do, what is the rule, what is their responsibility, and how the interaction happen with the international body these are very important. So, this is very interesting to learn that now what is a very exciting cases that when it is declared.

So, we will talk about some of the case studies from India and other places basically emphasizing that this process or the procedure which takes years actually. Now, when we talking of the world heritage sites that are very important it is almost international highest level world heritage site it is also very important to understand that it is not only the declaration of the world heritage sites which is important, but how to manage the world heritage sites.

(Refer Slide Time: 22:37)



**Management of World Heritage Sites**

- Process and stakeholders
- Buffer Zone – types and issues
- Planning guidelines
- Managing World Heritage Sites ( WHS )
  - Planning
  - Implementation
  - Monitoring

IIT KHARAGPUR | NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES

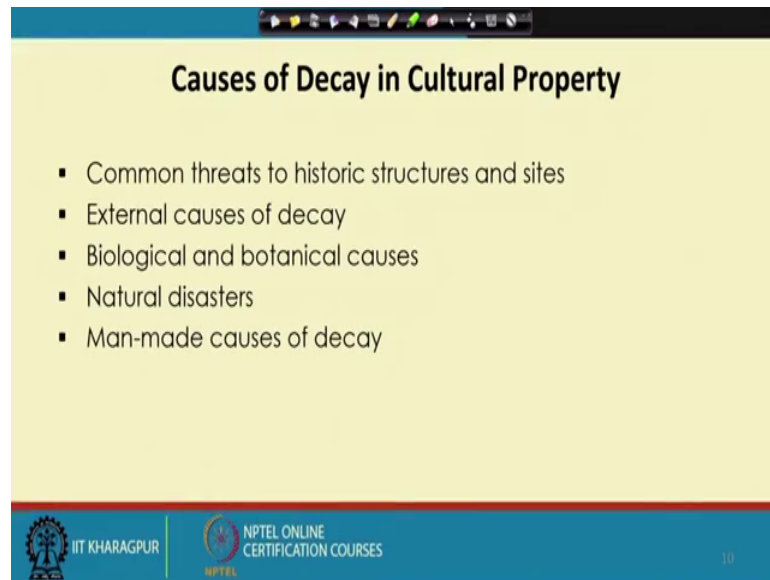
Once its declared as a world heritage site something a country feels very proud about it attracts a lot of tourists, but how do you manage, how we keep that places do you sort of keep that under a showcase and preserve at (Refer Time: 23:05) then it becomes a very dead thing which is not actually desirable. So, how do we manage this world heritage sites? What is the process? Who are the stakeholders the people who are staying there because they are not all monuments, they are living cities, there are sometimes living structures taken care of by the local people.

So, what is the role of the various stakeholders, state parties, the different local stakeholders, government, the public, the community? While we are talking about this process of the management of all heritage sites also very important to know that a concept of buffer zone is there. So, that buffer zone is actually sort of a cushion to the world heritage sites it sort of gives a sort of a protection, but these are also living cities living areas where people live most of the time there may be the natural areas.

So, what is that concept of the buffer zone? How do we declare or understand or define the buffer zone? What are the implication of that buffer zone? This also done in a very scientific methodological way. So, it is very important to know that under different situation how the buffer zone has been declared. Very very interesting studies are there I will discuss with that some of studies.

So, as I say the managing the world heritage site is very important which involves the planning and the implementation and the monitoring, monitoring is very important. So, that it does not become an endangered site. So, this is all about the world heritage site. So, it is some of the examples on case study which we will talk about that.

(Refer Slide Time: 24:51)



The slide is titled "Causes of Decay in Cultural Property" and features a yellow background with a blue header and footer. The header contains a navigation bar with various icons. The main content is a bulleted list of common threats to historic structures and sites. The footer includes the logos for IIT Kharagpur and NPTEL Online Certification Courses, along with the number 10.

- Common threats to historic structures and sites
- External causes of decay
- Biological and botanical causes
- Natural disasters
- Man-made causes of decay

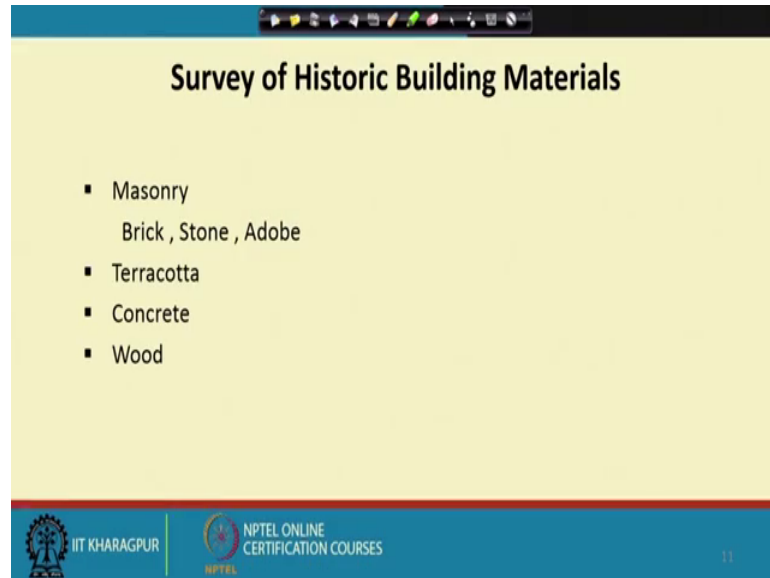
Then we will go to another problem. World heritage site is very important I mean is the almost the highest level of the world heritage site, but we will not confined our studies to that we will start with that, but we are concerned about all types of heritage all levels of heritage it can be a simple structure not of the status of Taj Mahal, but I mean it is also may be very important like I talked about our old building in IIT, Kharagpur in my introduction.

So, we will talk about this causes of the decay in the cultural property that what are the common threats we are going to the next module, then we will talk about the common threats to the historic structure and the sites and we will talk about what really causes the decay because if you want to preserve something we have to know that what causes the external causes or the decay of the structures.

There may be various reason there may be biological or botanical causes, there may be the natural disaster, flood, earthquake, various types there may be the fire also and there may be the man made causes of decay like the tourism its very common side that the old monuments you see a lot of people start writing their names which is punishable offence.

But it is not only unethical, but one must be able to understand that why people do that and what how we can prevent them. So, probably the awareness and other aspects which are there it can be terrorism also that which can cause a decay.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:40)



So, to understand the decay we have to talk about the survey of the historic building materials which is a different aspect altogether. So, this introduction which I will sort of come up to this and this is a different module. So, I will come to that in my next lecture and we will talk about that how to understand the decay, how to document the decay and how to sort of because that will decide that what we can do or what type of intervention can be done in an historical structure.

Thank you. We will continue in the next module.