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Lecture – 42 Heritage Regulations and Role of Voluntary Organisations

In the last lecture we have been discussing about the heritage conservation in India and in that we have been discussing the legislative and organization policy. We will continue with that, but also we will discuss in today's lecture about the role of voluntary organization and NGOS for safeguarding in India and we will see that; what is the role in an Indian situation.

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So if you recall that we have been talking about Mumbai because, in Mumbai the drought heritage regulation has been a very pioneering role and we will see that what is the what are the recommendation which has been given in Mumbai.

So, this is based on a report which is preferred by our number not an number, which is a very well known conservation architect. So, according to the recommendation based on the issues which we have seen in Mumbai as we have seen that there are the categories there are legislation there are the grading, but in spite of that certain problems are arising and the incentives are there, but still there are some of the structures have been delisted and pressings are not able to be preserved as it was envisioned.

So, the recommendations which have been given based on the experience what we have seen in Mumbai or they need to define and delimit pressings and neighborhoods through special regulation this Mumbai has done and now it has been adopted in the model heritage regulations of India also. Now innovative tax incentive there has to be some incentives for the owner who we are talking about that they need to preserve their structure; so to support conservation either their private owners or some voluntary organization or some organization, there has to be some sort of a tax incentive and it has to be done under the policy level.

Need to prioritize funding for government building, so if there are certain government buildings. So, there has to be a priority set that how to give a funding to that specially which are in the heritage conservation zone trust to grant funds to owner. The apart from the tax incentives there are funds requires because, some of the owners and organization may not be able to take care of the heritage structures.

So, trust to grant funds to owners for restoration of the structure as well as maintenance for grade 3 private residential historic stock, this is an absolutely important and some sort of a fund need to be formed which can give to private owners either the long term role or some grant some sort of funding instrument has to be formulated.

Stronger punitive neutral action against the image cc violation. So, if some people think that they can get away with the violation of that then that will be quite rampant and some exemplary punishment and punitive actions need to be given to show that the people cannot get away with if they violate the norms and the acts or the regulations which are there in the heritage preservation areas, grant funds available with the heritage committee to provide assistance in specific cases. Now heritage committee are the one who are finally, looking into the what can be done and what are the various options and they are giving the approval.

So, heritage committee can grant funds, so based on certain special fund which are created that also need to be done. So, that to give an assistant in pressure cases, but most important is the awareness and vigilance that there is a; obviously, that the number of heritage structure is quite huge and but one has to be very aware and vigilant for that not only at the public servant level, but also the local people to make awareness to make

them aware that what are the provisions and what are possible and what are not allowed this has to be done to the various activities programs and other things.

Now also what is important is that the now with the communication has developed so much that all the information can be put on the web and it has to be made accessible to everybody. So, that people can know that what are the possible and which are the pressings which are not. So, that awareness information should be made available on the web and need for a proactive role played by the heritage committee.

So, heritage committee has a lot of role to play, they can play a very important role both in the positive way not only that stopping the development, but also trying to say that what can make them possible and discourage renaming of the heritage structure. Now we must understand that when we are talking about heritage areas pressing and structures the term names are very important because, with the name some association or there the histories are linked with the names of the structure. So, just because of some ad hoc decision changing the name of the structure is not a good idea.

So, that is also a very important and the heritage committee can play a very important role in that, to establish a local development authority comprising of the locals and the professionals both are important as the local people the stakeholders as well as the professional who are conserving conservation experts and various disciplines structure landscape a architecture, town planning, historian archaeologists, all of them make a very important and this has to be formed under the umbrella of the municipality and coordination between the various agencies absolutely important.

So, these are the some of the recommendations which are done because, of looking after the Mumbai situation in spite of the regulation what are the problems which are faced by Mumbai. Now let us go back to the India we have seen the Mumbai situation that what are the different methods for legislating or regulating for the heritage conservation just take a quick look.

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Now, in the comment of India where the Mumbai 1 regulation was a pioneering role and then Punjab also did that Hyderabad did that then Bhubaneswar Kolkata, various other places had their own heritage Delhi also has a heritage listing, but as if you talk at the regulation the Mumbai played a very important role after that the Punjab within the provision of town planning played a very important role and based on that the draft model regulation has been done for overall India the national level and it has been done both for the natural and the manmade heritage.

Now, revised model regulation given statutory force under the revised invent environmental protection act of 1986. So, it is specially takes care of the natural heritage and there has been a model heritage bill and the state town and country planning acts which a we have already discussed that the Punjab regional and town planning and development amendment act of 2003 is very important because, it is also takes a region and the broader context and then the town and the local level. So, it is a good hierarchy 1 can follow that one and the West Bengal heritage commission act of 2001 west Bengal is the only state in the country which has a state wise heritage commission act and then also the urban art commission act which is in Delhi.

These are all some which can be referred and which 1 can see as a model and when the depending on the specific situation, we can sort of a try to see that it this type of heritage regulation become a part of the local authority plan and how to implement that and also

what we have to see there are the larger archaeological and heritage sites, which are the world heritage sites like Champaner Pavagadh architecture archaeological park which has a world heritage management.

So, there are various world heritage sites and these are there we need to coordinate not only under the UNESCO guidelines, but the local authority plan the Hampi also has done a regional Hampi development authority which has been done to take care of that.

So, there are the various places the where the various acts regulations and the development bodies have been formed, we can look up to that and then depending on the context this can play a give us a guideline that what can be done and there are a lot of cantonments the military areas and the barracks which also is in heritage value and they also have an cantonment act which was done in 2006.

So, these are some of the quick reckoner that what we can refer to, now in spite of all these regulation acts and others we still see the lot of we are losing a lot of heritage resources and specially when we are talking about the heritage area and there is a lack you know there is a cap, now let us see what are the organizational issues for conservation heritage conservation.

We definitely we need a nodal ministry this I have taken from that report which was done by a mister (Refer Time: 09:43) for the model heritage regulation.

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So, he identified that the there is a note for them nodal ministry, the listing has to be very important and that field organization national mission of monument and antiquity, they have done a lot of work over our national level.

So, there is no need for repeating the things, we have to have an access to that and see that where are the gaps and how it can be updated and how the information can be made available to all and if there is some need for a heritage regulation in a local context, that has to be done.

But the listing is a very important initial part and the listing by large organization because, listing is a very important process it needs a proper documentation process information and then quality in the information under the various gis support system.

These so that we can delete the special data with the attributes some of the places the listing is already done, but there may be partial so it can be updated. So, listing is one of the initial stage and also what is important is the heritage adviser and heritage advisory committee not only at the national level, but at the local level various levels these are very important when we are talking about the heritage resources.

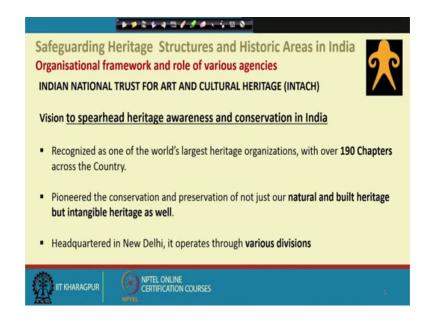
So, heritage conservation committee we have a civil heritage committee, but it is not the statutory to form the committee we have to see the committee has to play a very proactive role. The members of the committee are the people who have the expertise is not for just forming the committee and they also play their role very well there are a lot of hurdles that that had to be resolved.

Also we must know that the in recently the leader and the heritage city development and augmentation yojana, which is the leader concept which is done by the ministry of housing and urban affairs the government of India.

There 1 of the mandate of that is looking for the heritage city and they specially addresses some of the various issue relating the conservation and the development issue and many of the cities have been selected for that at the different phases and many schemes I have been worked now this is really played a very pioneer role, but we also must remember that these concept are also, but a very area based locally.

Now, they have to be integrated with the local development plan and the stakeholders, but definitely has played a address some of the basic issues and challenges and some works very interesting works are being carried out under this scheme.

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While we have been talking about the organization the government role we also must understand the there are the voluntary organization, who play a very important role in the awareness and not only awareness, but the capacity building another.

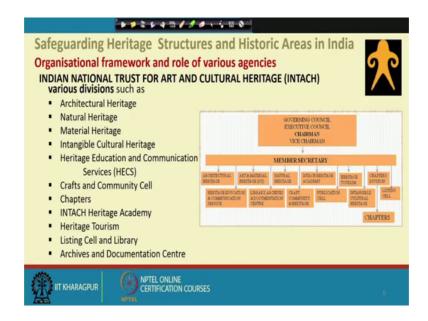
One of the very important organization which has been really playing a pioneering role in the INTACH or Indian national trust for art and cultural heritage, it is actually based on the model of the national trust in UK now which is not a government organization it is outside the government, but it from right from the capacity building and from the ground level work to the national level work, it is very important both for tangible and intangible heritage.

Now, let us say what was the vision of INTACH mission was to spearhead a heritage awareness and conservation in India and initially when INTACH started it had to play the I mean it was supposed to play the role of a watchdog that being outside the government. It can really talk and he really can from the opinion peoples opinion and can where ever the protest is required INTACH can do that.

That was the rule INTACH was supposed to play and also spearhead heritage awareness and conservation and it is recognized as 1 of the world's largest heritage organization with over 190 chapters across the country, one was remember that this chapters local chapters are very important role they have their depending on the context depending on the situation 1 can form a chapter.

They are pioneered the conservation and preservation of not just our natural and built heritage but intangible heritage as well, intact that which was played a very important role and it is headquartered in new Delhi, but it operates through the various divisions.

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Let us see what are the various divisions there are this is the structure of INTACH, where there is an executive council the vice chairman is there and there the member secretary and under that there are the various divisions which and then there are the chapters which are the local chapters.

So, let us see what are the various divisions, there are the architectural heritage natural heritage material heritage intangible cultural heritage education and communication services crafts and community cell chapters INTACH heritage academy, which is know recently they are going to power start a course a former courses on modular courses to give a certificate or probably later on some of the degree and this is a very important for capacity building or preparing the a proper expertise under the various things it is an also different publication and research it promotes a lot of research and heritage tourism.

So, these are the unlisting cell and library, so here intact that way works intangible with the common they also now have their concentrated cell where they take out the individual independent projects and there are also the archives and documentation center and it has now has it is own standing and it is the government also takes the advice of intact and support of intact under the various purpose which are related to the heritage.

But most important are also the chapters the local chapters, which are a lot in numbers and they are very important part of the intact to support or to start the ground level work raise awareness and capacity building.

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But and not only intact there are also other non nongovernmental organization NOGS which play a very important role, 1 of that is Sahapedia which is play major role in our intangible heritage a lot of intangible heritage in India has been inscribed because, of the rule Sahapedia please in terms of the intangible heritage.

So, these I see the website and 1 can access the website and see that what are the various works they are being doing in addition to not only the awareness, but the capacity building the supporting the research. So, let us see if we are just mentioned 2 there is the INTACH, there is Sahapedia but there is also a many NGOS who are working for the heritage under the different aspects this India heritage foundation. The Indian trust for rural heritage and development and then the locally I know a Banglanatak dot com in west Bengal these our region they are playing very important Calcutta heritage legacy I.

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I am just mentioning some of them, but each and every region of India there is lot of this NGOS voluntary organization, who play very important role in the field of heritage and they are very the contribution has to be accepted and more and more involvement with these NGOS and supporting the NGO can be done.

So, there are many more now let us see when we are talking about the government organization and the structure of the organization, why do we need the voluntary organization INTACH of course, it is a it is an umbrella organization we can understand that, but why we need the voluntary what is their role the what is the role of their members in the field of heritage and conservation.

I just talk about Calcutta because this is the region I an think this is a situation in many of the cities, now if you take the example of Calcutta I have shown that this is the old chowringhee road and this is what is happening.

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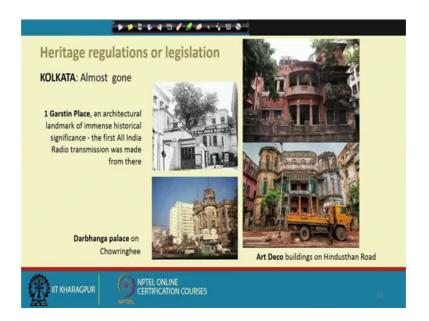


There as you can see that this particular building which is there, which has come up and this building does not exist any longer darbhanga palace on the chowringhee and the entire skyline is changed, but still we have other beautiful structure; like for example, the Victoria memorial which is a marvel of a colonial architecture and.

But it is in spite of all the rules and regulation and awareness program. We see this is happening just in the vicinity of Victoria memorial these slender structure 42 or is come up on the maidan area which had I will shown that the different heritage.

Now, these definitely is an intuition it totally changes the skyline of that beautiful green area which have the lungs of Calcutta and changing the relationship of the city now how come this has happened and how the people are reacting against that not only for this structure, but there are many many other places of Calcutta which has a got a heritage resources.

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So, let us see what has happened, now Darbhanga palace is not there as I said because that time the listing was not in place the Garstein place which is a very important structure because, it is a landmark of immense historical significance it is the first all India radio transmission was made there it was in the Dalhousie square this is gone.

I have mentioned this is gone, but apart from this monument structure which are there are also other structure which give a identity and significance to various faults of Calcutta and I am sure it happens in other cities of India. For example, there are this in area in the southern part of Calcutta then lot of art deco buildings on the Hindustan road and which are getting demolished they are privately owned.

Now, what is happening is that because the owners is not necessary that always they want to build because, there is a tremendous pressure of development the promoters are coming and making come demolishing the structure and sometimes the owner if even they do not want to did not do not know what are the options, what are the alternatives even to cope up with the economic. So, heritage economics is a very important part and there comes the role of the voluntary organization apart from the rules and regulation and in these way these there are initiated by the citizens we will just see that they how these NGOS and voluntary organization are playing.

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So, these are the part of south Calcutta which are the art deco buildings it has it is own character and this cal which is the Calcutta architecture legacies this has done by it started by some of the important personalities from the various backgrounds and they are spearheading a movement that how this not only can be saved they are not monuments.

But they build the existing architectural patrimonial very distinctive character part history of Calcutta is there, but 1 also has to simultaneously think that what are the alternatives, how to sort of a bridge between the question of heritage economics and the development issue and the owners aspiration and other.

So, cal is one such organization which is playing a very important role as a part of that they take care of the heritage walk, they sort of try to like lake temple low daily because this area there are many very noted people like Satyajit ray and Hemanta mukherjee and Soumitra Chatterjee and Tapan Sinha, these are the people who are from the various walks of life there many of the structures are have their association apart from the architectural character.

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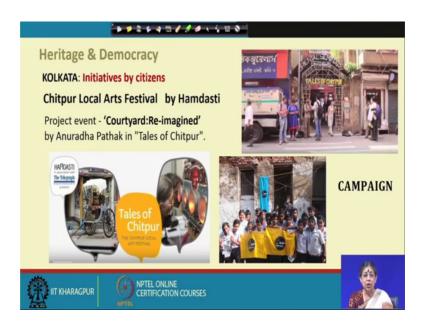


So, cal has been definitely found for that part of Calcutta, that how to make awareness of the people the continuously do the heritage walk have the panel discussion and try to find out the way and talk to the government and other experts that what are the way out and how we can make this possible.

So, recently they had a panel discussion and were just after the Kenilworth hotel and there is trying to meet bring together with the various people promoters developers academicians experts and others who are interested in the car and from the people from the government, that they are in interested in the they are aware that there is a heritage feature we are losing, so try to find out.

So, these are very important part apart from the rules and regulation and the organization structure, these role of the NGOS and the public bodies and to have the debate and to find a way out and try to reach the sort of a gap between the people and having a discussion to find out a way out is very important.

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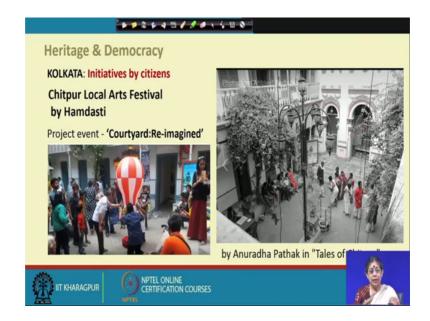


But what is also important is not only this people who are interested, the art also has a very important role we have seen in the various parts of India that how and the artists are also coming.

So, 1 of this initiative I can give an example by the citizen which is the Chitpur local is in the north Calcutta, which there are the building. So, this Chitpur local art festival by Hamdastis and NGO which are done by a very important installation artist Anuradha Pathak and her friends they are talking working for last 2 3 years for the tales of Chitpur.

So, what they do is that they involve the school children the local and they have the exhibitions the activities and they try to find out that what are the everyday life and what are the heritage of sources at activities and actually it is a campaign which is a very important part when we are talking about the heritage.

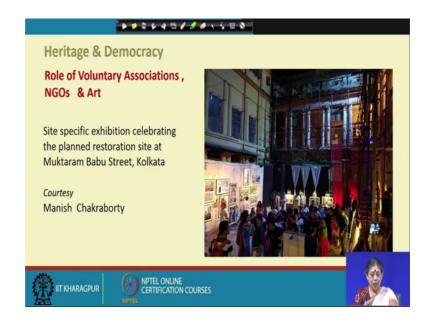
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So, recently because as I said the north Calcutta, which is very different from the art deco buildings of south Calcutta their courtyard mansion and the houses and what they have done is that courtyard reimagined that that a local art festival and where that this was a very traditional activity where they make the balloons the gas balloons and this was a there which is a neighborhood activity they try to revive that and involving a lot of people not only from the local area but outside. So, that this courtyard the places which are at activity center they find a real meaning.

So, art also that how the artists are going out and they are trying to address this issue and to reinvent these places to find a new meaning of that through the various activities a very important part of that, which cannot a cannot happen just with rules and regulation and only the economics a public participation area and is a reinventing making them active, as a sort of a festival in which these places have a potential to do that and also like When this is also the Muktaram Babu street it is a old mansion which is now is being renovated the Manish Chakraborty is a famous local conservation architect.

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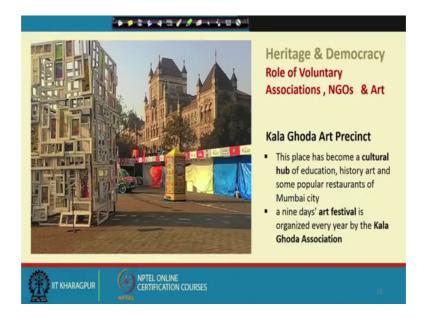


He is doing a site specific exhibition it is not just doing an authentic restoration and other and finding out who can do that or what it is also that how to involve the people and make them aware that what is happening this.

So, I can see the festival like environment bringing the people there and art exhibition and artists. So, that it is a site specific exhibition celebrating the planned restoration side, this celebration the spirit of celebration has to be there when we are talking about the heritage and resources these are the intangible value. Now what we see as a heritage are the product they are tangible, but actually they are manifest the intangible value of certain thing and that has to be celebrated and that spirit has to be shaded.

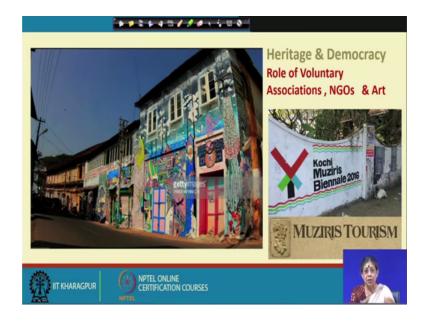
So, actually when we are talking about heritage conservation, we are not talking about only the structure this structure is a way of doing that, but we are talking about that what are the values which are important and how we can preserve concept that haunted and that is where you can see though there is a campaign the artists are coming finding a new ways and involving the people from all walks of life and this is not in Calcutta we know the "Kala Ghoda" are present in the fort Bombay how it has all become a very important cultural activity and how for education history art and some of the popular restaurants.

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So, it has got to new meaning of that area and the nine days art festival is organized by the "Kala Ghoda" association and people come there from all the places they see that enjoy and experience that exponential a aspect of the heritage area, can only be brought into the focus through all this artists art activities and the different things. So, and involving the local people and the stakeholder and there are many such examples all over the world.

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But we are talking about India we know that how the fort Kochi and Mattancherry the Jewish area and now it has become a very important part where heritage at the rule of voluntary organization and the festival the Kochi biennial has become a very important part and it also has spread to another area not only the tourism and reviving the heritage economics of that area, but also in a greater part it is also has tried to propagate what is the muziris which is the local heritage of that area.

So, we will talk about that if this brings us to focus that when we are trying to do such this activities it will also bring the tourist and outsider the local tourist, the national tourists, the international tourists and it is very important to share the heritage resources that share the experience. But when we are talking about tourism and the visitors it is a very integral part of the heritage conservation process, we must also know a be a where that model what are the potential what are the possibilities and what how we have to visitor management and what are the threats of tourism.

So that we will talk in the next lecture and we will continue.

Thank you.