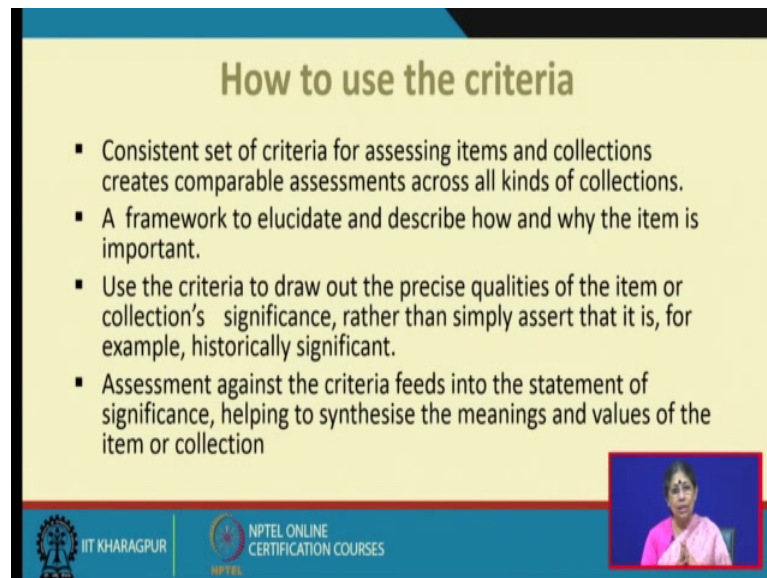


Architectural Conservation and Historic Preservation
Prof. Sanghamitra Basu
Department of Architecture and Regional Planning
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Lecture – 09
Assessing Heritage Significance – Concept and Process (Contd.)


Welcome, we will continue with the assessing the heritage significance, the concept and process part 2. In the last lecture we have talked about significance and what are the different steps for, and the variations for making the statement of significance. We will continue with the process, we ended at that how to use the criteria.



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How to use the criteria

- Consistent set of criteria for assessing items and collections creates comparable assessments across all kinds of collections.
- A framework to elucidate and describe how and why the item is important.
- Use the criteria to draw out the precise qualities of the item or collection's significance, rather than simply assert that it is, for example, historically significant.
- Assessment against the criteria feeds into the statement of significance, helping to synthesise the meanings and values of the item or collection



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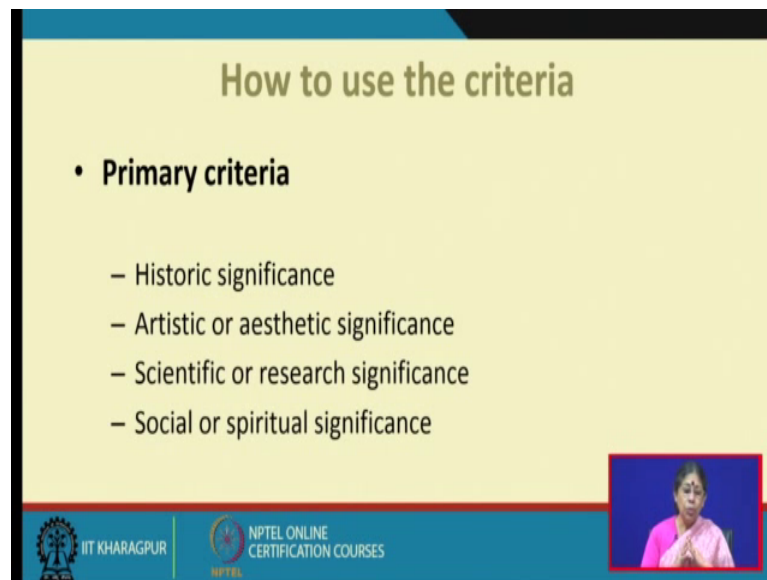
So, again we have discussed many times this connection and just recap consistent set of criteria for assessing items and collections, creates comparable assessment across all kinds of collection. This collection again I am mentioning, it can be a sculptor or manuscript of building a structure an artifact, it can be many times, many things which can be over well. So, a consistent set of criteria for assessing items and collection creates comparable assessments. We have to understand this what is this comparable assessment, we also have to understand there has to be a frame to elucidate and describe how and why the item is important, so how to evolve that framework.

Then use the criteria to draw out the precise quality of the item or collections significance, rather than simply assert that it is, for example, historically significant, and

again and again I am saying, just seeing historically significant is not enough. One has to understand what are the qualities, precisely the items, which contribute to the historical significance? Otherwise we cannot go to the next stage, the assessment against the criteria..

So, we have to have the criteria, then the assessment has to be done against the criteria. This assessment against the criteria fits into the statement of significance; we have discussed that in our last lecture helping to synthesize the meanings and values of the items and connection. So, this is absolutely important to get hold of this concept of the values and significance.

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The slide is titled "How to use the criteria" and lists four primary criteria. It includes logos for IIT Kharagpur and NPTEL Online Certification Courses, and a small video inset of a presenter.

How to use the criteria

- **Primary criteria**
 - Historic significance
 - Artistic or aesthetic significance
 - Scientific or research significance
 - Social or spiritual significance


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Now why we do that? There are primary criteria and the primary criteria and there is a comparable criteria. So, let us see what are the primary criteria. Primary criteria we have discussed with various examples, it can be of historic significance, it can be artistic or aesthetic significance, it can be scientific or research significance and it can be social or spiritual significance. Many times these are the broad category of the primary criteria which can sort of contribute the significance and values, only one of that or combination of that.

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How to use the criteria Primary criteria

- **Historic significance**
 - Is it associated with a particular person, group, event, place ?
 - Or activity and how is this important?
 - What does it say about an historic theme, process, or pattern of life?
 - How does it contribute to understanding a period, place, activity, industry, person or event?




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Now, let us talk about historic significance. I mean these are a sort of a checklist which I will go through very quickly, that what it means to be the historic significance. For example, is it associated with a particular person, group, event or place or activity, or is it associated with the activity, and how is this important. What does it see about an historic theme or a process or a pattern of life? It can be one singular event or it can be a pattern of life or it can be a thematic based, or how does it contribute to understanding a period, a place, activity or industry or a person or a event. So, this is a quick checklist of the historic significance.


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How to use the criteria Primary criteria

Historic significance
Is it associated with a particular person, group, event, place?



Chatimtala, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan



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Now example, let us take an example; is it associated with a particular person, group, event or place. Now this is example of Chatimtala, I mean Visva Bharati Shantiniketan. This is a Chatim tree, and this is in a landscape area, open area which is a very important place for the entire running of the sole of Visva Bharati Santiniketan, which is the Tagore University, which is established there and still running as a Central University. Now, this is just a tree and under the tree there is a sitting arrangement and this is place..

Now why it is important? this is important as you see it is, because this is the place where Guru Devs; a father sort of did a meditation, it is very important there and it is a spiritually, but it is also important, because this is the main soul and the heart of Visva Bharati, where as you can see when Gandhiji and Kasturba came, we can see a scene that they were sitting there..

This is also the place where Nehru, because when he was the Chancellor or UPA charge of Visva Bharati, he came and gave there, it is all happening in that place. So, it is associated with the person, it is associated with the event, that place is very important, this Chatimtala is also important

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The slide is titled "How to use the criteria Primary criteria". It features a sub-section "Historic significance or activity and how is this important?". Below this text are two small images: one showing a group of people in traditional Indian attire, and another showing a group of people in modern attire. To the right of these images is a larger image of the Chatimtala tree in a landscape area. The slide also includes the logos of IIT Kharagpur and NPTEL Online Certification Courses at the bottom.


Continue to be important in the life of, on the activities of Visva Bharati, because this is where the convocation take place, and as you can see that the convocation is happening there and the dignitaries are coming up a charge another, and there is a very significance, because in the convocation time they give the degree as a symbolic thing with the leaves


of Chatham, which is shop the pony or the seven leaves of Chatham. So, that is a very spiritual significance. So, this place is important and continue it to important for the activity and event of Visva Bharati, what does it say about historic theme process or a pattern of life.

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How to use the criteria Primary criteria

Historic significance
What does it say about an historic theme, process, or pattern of life?


Chatimtala, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan



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So, as a place it is important, because of the association of the spiritual significance, the activity was happening, but independently. Also it is a part of a larger whole, it is a larger whole, because this as I see is the soul of that campus, it is based on Guru Devs idea of philosophy of rendering an education system, based on our traditional Vedic [FL] that Indian traditional system. So, the classes and everything is to happen in the open. Still it happens in the open and you can see that the students are sitting in the classrooms are organized around a tree..

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How to use the criteria Primary criteria

Historic significance
How does it contribute to understanding a period, place, activity, industry, person or event?

Culture Nature journey



Chatimtala, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan

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So, these Chatimtala which is the soul of this place, it actually represents a process and a pattern of life, which is actually a nature journey, and how does it contribute to the understanding of the period place, because once we understand Chatimtala, which as I say is the soul of the place, we can understand that how the culture nature journey is a very important part of this entire working activity foundation of Visva Bharati and his lifestyle. So, this Chatimtala is very important and its significance is not only a tree, not only a place, not only an event, but it has a larger significance. So, one has to understand that historic significance from the various aspects.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:47)

How to use the criteria Primary criteria

Artistic or aesthetic significance

- Is it well designed, crafted or made?
- Is it a good example of a style, design, artistic movement or an artist's work?
- Is it original or innovative in its design?
- Is it beautiful, pleasing, or well-proportioned?



Gandhi by Ramkinkar Baij

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Next we come to the artistic or aesthetic significance. Again a checklist is it well designed crafted or made, is it a good example of a style, design, artistic or movement of an artistic work. For example, an artist may be in the later life became a very matured work, but in the initial stage his or her work can be important, it can be an architects work in a mature state, or she produced a very beautiful structure, but he started with something which is very rudimentary, which shows how his work has evolved.

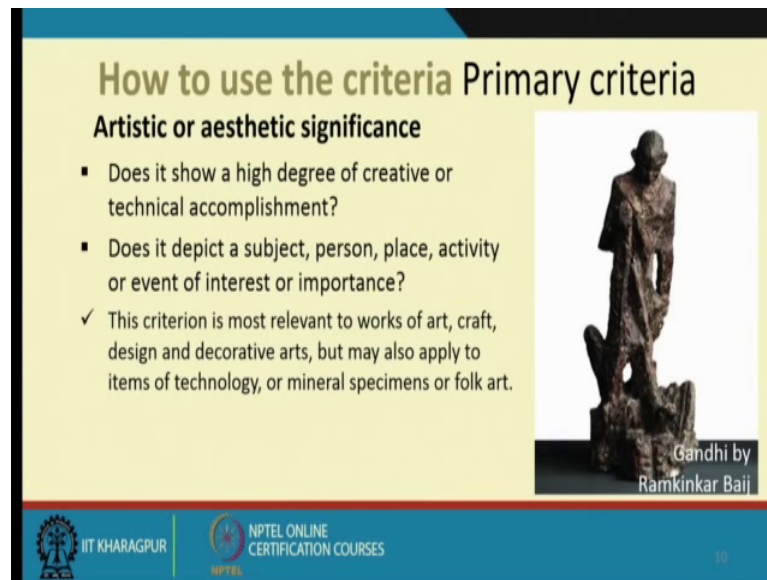
So, is it a good example of a style, it can be a style which we are talking about, and how the style has evolved. So, is it a good example of a style, design, artistic movement or if an artists work, is it original or innovative in the design. So, I mean it may not be always very beautiful or a very matured world, but it can be very innovative and many original in his contribution, is it beautiful pleasing or well proportioned..

I am taking the example of Gandhi by Ramkinkar Baij, again from Shantiniketan that Ramkinkar Baij is a Sculptor, he was from a tribal background and he was scream and Guru Dev gave him a lot of freedom to work in its own medium, and its own style and this is a sculpture, there are many more and by Gandhi by Ramkinker.

So, it is one hand, it is the person for whom it is the sculpture is made and the person who made it the sculpture and also the material he used, the style he has used. So, its a very important, it does not mean its always has to be very beautiful, but it is also there can be a various things that now it can be a very innovation. There are many structures or sculptures in Shantiniketan by Ramkinker Baij, experiment with a material concrete and rn and made a sculptures they are creating a lot of problem to preserve them, but that we will see later on..

So, this is very important that when we talk about the artistic and aesthetic significant does not mean always it has to be just beautiful or pleasing to nuclear. There can be a various ways of understanding the artistic and the aesthetic significance. Again I am continue with the checklist of the under this.

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How to use the criteria Primary criteria

Artistic or aesthetic significance

- Does it show a high degree of creative or technical accomplishment?
- Does it depict a subject, person, place, activity or event of interest or importance?
- ✓ This criterion is most relevant to works of art, craft, design and decorative arts, but may also apply to items of technology, or mineral specimens or folk art.

Gandhi by Ramkinkar Baij

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Does it show a high degree of creative or technical accomplishment, does it depict a subject a person, place, activity or event of interest or importance. For example, where was that originally placed, does it that location is important, did it sort of experiment with some material or technique. This criterion is most relevant to works of art, craft, design and decorative arts, but may also apply to items of technology or mineral specimens or folk art..

So, these artistic aesthetic significance either can be a small piece of object or can be a structure or can be a building or can be a painting can be anything. So, it has a larger connotation and one has to see that in relation to all this aspect, just beautiful is not the only thing what we are looking into the artistic aesthetic signal. (Refer Slide Time: 11:15)

How to use the criteria Primary criteria

Artistic or aesthetic significance

- Does it show a high degree of creative or technical accomplishment?
- Does it depict a subject, person, place, activity or event of interest or importance?
- ✓ This criterion is most relevant to works of art, craft, design and decorative arts, but may also apply to items of technology, or mineral specimens or folk art.
- ✓ Do not have to be art works to have artistic value.
- ✓ Some pictures may have little artistic significance but have historic value instead.



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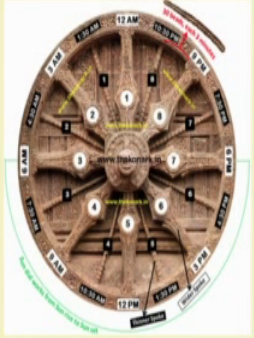
Do not have to be artworks to have the artistic value, I mean any other item also can be artistically significant. Some pictures may have little artistic significance, but may have a historic value instead. So, one has to see that what are the various connotation when we look under the broad category of the artistic and the aesthetic significance.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:42)

How to use the criteria Primary criteria

Scientific or research significance

- Do researchers have an active interest in studying the item or collection today, or will they want to in the future?
- How is it of interest or value for science or research today or in the future?
- Is it of research potential and in what way?
- What things in particular constitute its scientific or research interest and research value?



Wheel at Konark temple

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Comes the third category; scientific or research significance, if you remember we talked about Jantar Mantar and all these structures under this let us see the what can be done the different checklist for this category. Do researchers have an active interest in studying the item or collection today or will they want to in the future? How is it of interest or of value for science or research today or in the future, is it of research potential in what;

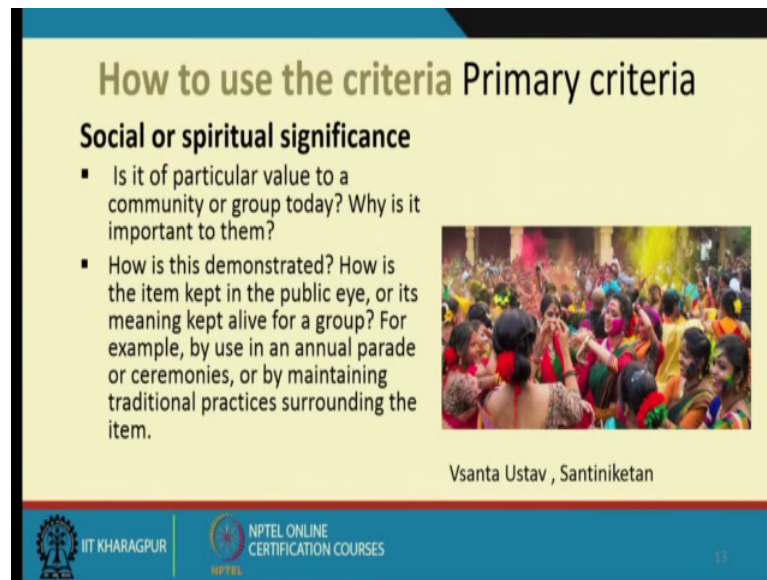
what things in particular constitute is scientific or research interest and the research value. So, these comes under the scientific and the research significance, this is almost like a checklist. Just take one example.

I am taking the example of the wheel at Konark temple, we will talk in detail of Konark temple later on, because the concept of Konark temple is the chariot of Sun God and so they are the wheels and the horses are dragging the temple, this was the concept. So, there are wheels all around on the plinth of the temple, and this wheels they have been restored in parts and there is a they are beautiful to look at, and there are very fine curved wings on that, but very recently people have been working on that and they found that this wheel, all the wheels which are there on the different position of the on the foundation or the plinth of the Konark temple, each of this wheel is very different in their finer carvings, and they are just not representing the wheels of the chariots of the Sun God.

But each one of them is also scientifically important, why, because it shows exactly the timing. So, it is almost the finer divisions and why they are each and every things depending on their position and different position of the sun when he is traversing in the sky in the different season. So, each of this wheel is very important to understand the time to the minute second scale..

So, it is very important for the scientific and people are still trying to understand that and got some idea that how it represent that what are the finer divisions, and these are just not mere carvings on the stone, but each and every curving, each and every division has a meaning to represent the time of that particular time of the year. So, this is; that is why it is just not only a sculpture, it is not only aesthetics, but it is also important, because of the scientific significance, and still it is contributing to understanding that what was our traditional knowledge system.


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How to use the criteria Primary criteria

Social or spiritual significance

- Is it of particular value to a community or group today? Why is it important to them?
- How is this demonstrated? How is the item kept in the public eye, or its meaning kept alive for a group? For example, by use in an annual parade or ceremonies, or by maintaining traditional practices surrounding the item.



Vsanta Ustav , Santiniketan

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We come to the next broad aspect which is the social or the spiritual significance, and we can take and going back to Santiniketan, because it is easier to relate the various object, it is the Vsanta Ustav in Santiniketan, they have all the religious festivals in Santiniketan with the nature. It is very important that its celebration of the nature, celebration and through the songs and dances and different rituals and other things which is and everybody takes part in that. Now it is a very important festival which attracts tourists from all over the places, various parts. So, now when we are talking about the social or spiritual significance is it of a particular value to a community or a group today, why is it important to them..

We can see that every year during the holy, and the spring festival, it is being celebrated through colours, through dance, through songs other, and how is this demonstrated, when we talk about the festival others or which is of a social and spiritual significance, we have to find out how is this demonstrated, how this item is kept in the public eye, or its meaning kept alive for the group..

For example, by use of an annual parade or ceremonies, in this case it is a ceremony or a festival or by maintaining the traditional practices surrounding the item. And please remember that again this also goes through a revolutionary process. There are bound to be some changes in the performance, some will be the traditional and some will be the

innovative ideas. Because culture is a continuum, and this dynamic process will happen and this one has to understand when talking about that..

So, a Vsanta Ustav the spring festival or Holi is one such festival in Santiniketan. I also talked about other festival, has the community being consulted about its importance from them.

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How to use the criteria Primary criteria
Social or spiritual significance

- Has the community been consulted about its importance for them?
- Is it of spiritual significance for a particular group?
- Is this spiritual significance found in the present?
- Does it embody beliefs, ideas, customs, traditions, practices or stories that are important for a particular group?

Raas , Coch Behar

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So, here comes the involvement of the community, having a ritual or even which has been there and whether it is being still continuing and how the community reacts to that. This is a very interesting example of a Raas in Coch Behar, which is a very significant. Coch Behar is a place in the northern part of Bengal, and its known for his ruling dynasty and this particular Raas is a very unique in his concept, I will talk about that.

So, let us take the checklist, is it a spiritual significance for the particular group, and is this spiritual significance found in the present time, and does it embody beliefs ideas, customs, traditions, practices or stories that are important for a particular group. So, let us see what does this, just take an example of Raas in Coch Behar, you can see that structure, this is called Raas thunder. So, on the day of the Raas it is in the temple complex, modern moon temple complex where it is made like that and who makes it, because there is no other similar example anywhere for celebrating Raas in a similar style.

What is this? it is a sort of a structure which is made of very fine paper cuttings, who means that, he is made by a Mohammedan craftsman and who has been doing that they have all inter family from his grandfather, his father and he is doing that he only knows that and he does that, and he designs that cuts the paper with a very fine mesh thing is a very fine example of a craft, and that is hoisted there, and then on that particular day it has to be sort of a rotated, earlier the king is to rotate that and now the district magistrate who is performing or the role of the king there. So, he sort of starts the function by rotating and everybody comes and sort of rotates that. So, this is a festival.

Now, see there is a lot of things that it is still people believe that, still the family which has been doing that, even doing in a very he sort of follows for a certain period a very, sort of a strict vegetarian diet, and he does it almost like a prayer and does it a very pure way and he believes that this is a sort of a prayer to the (Refer Time: 19:24) things. So, you see that and then what has been there and this has been some change, but the community still celebrates that and still this has been cutting..

So, these are the example which is of a social and the spiritual. So, it is as got a spiritual significance, it also has got a social significance, because still people come there and a lot of people come and sort of moves that and still that beautiful curving of the paper and crafts which is continuing. So, now we have talked about the primary criteria, let us talk about the comparative criteria..

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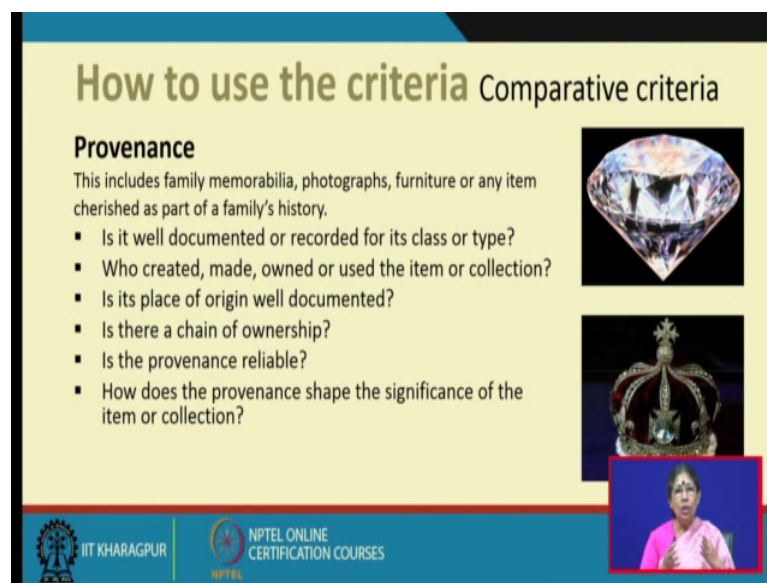
How to use the criteria Comparative criteria

- Provenance
- Rarity or representativeness
- Condition or completeness
- Interpretive capacity

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In the comparative criteria one is the provenance, then I will just talk about the rarity or representativeness, condition or completeness and interpretive capacity. Because what happens once we know this individual sort of a criteria, we also have to, when we see that there can be many examples of that. So, how do we assess that this is important. So, these are the four aspects which are known as the comparative criteria, the statement of purpose has to be done accordingly.

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How to use the criteria Comparative criteria

Provenance
This includes family memorabilia, photographs, furniture or any item cherished as part of a family's history.

- Is it well documented or recorded for its class or type?
- Who created, made, owned or used the item or collection?
- Is its place of origin well documented?
- Is there a chain of ownership?
- Is the provenance reliable?
- How does the provenance shape the significance of the item or collection?

The slide also features two images: a large diamond and a crown. At the bottom right, there is a small inset video of a woman speaking. The slide footer includes the IIT Kharagpur logo and the text 'NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES'.

So, let us see what is provenance. Provenance this includes the family memorabilia, photographs, furniture or any item cherished as a part of the family's history or it can be a countries history, it can be a community's history, so any object which is cherished. So, what are the things as a checklist is it well documented or recorded for its class of time, who created, made or owned or used the item or the collection. Is it place of origin well documented, where did it origin, how it was chain hands, if it is there is a chain of ownership is the provenance reliable, we have to understand that whether we have the documents of that, how does the provenance shape the significance of the item or the collection.

The first thing that came to my mind when you are talking about the provenance is a very common example which is a Kohinoor. Kohinoor in India which is now is actually on the crown of the British monarchy, it passed many hands, it is a long history there and from Maharaja Ranjit Singh how it came there, how it changed and somehow it came and how


it is kept there. So, there is a thing. So, we know that it is significance, because not only is there on the crown, but it is history, how it is change hand from where it went and what is the importance. So, I am talking a very important, it is not only value, because it is a very valuable piece of diamond, but this value comes from very other things. So, it is the provenance, I will take a very not so sort of well known example. Yeah as I said that these are the very thing. So, it can be a piece of art also, like painting by Jamini Roy.

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How to use the criteria Comparative criteria

Provenance
This includes family memorabilia, photographs, furniture or any item cherished as part of a family's history.

- Is it well documented or recorded for its class or type?
- Who created, made, owned or used the item or collection?
- Is its place of origin well documented?
- Is there a chain of ownership?
- Is the provenance reliable?
- How does the provenance shape the significance of the item or collection?



Painting by Jamini Roy

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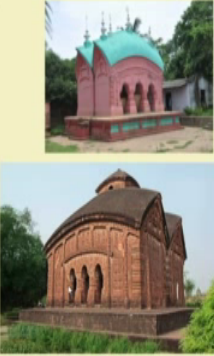
Recently I made a sort of a friend of mine, his family has inherited a painting by Jamini Roy, and he said is the signature of the Jamini Roys there, there is a very important piece of their family heritage. And now it has to be proved, so there are experts who sort of the see that way that it is authentic and then they give a certificate, whether signature is authentic. So, then it becomes a very significant example of an art. So, this way this is which comes on the provenance.

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How to use the criteria Comparative criteria

Rarity or representativeness

- Does it have unusual qualities that distinguish it from other items in the class or category?
- Is it unusual or a particularly fine example of its type?
- Is it singular, unique or endangered?
- Is it a good example of its type or class?
- Is it typical or characteristic?
- Is it particularly well documented for its class or group?



Jor bangla temple

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The rarity or representativeness does it have unusual qualities that distinguish it from other item in the class or the category, is it unusual or a particularly fine example of his type, because in one type there can be many structures examples photographs, paintings and other whatever typology you talk about.

Now, one has to when we talking about that, it has to talk about the rarity and how well its sort of a represents that particular typology or criteria, is it singular, unique or endangered, is it a good example of his type or class, is it typical or characteristic, is it particularly well documented for his class or group.

So, all of these are a sort of a checklist to understand the rarity or the representativeness of this particular item. Taking the example of Jor Bangla Temple of Bishnupur terracotta is a very specific type of temple where the two heart style of temples are there, and there are many examples of Jor Bangla Temple, but it is all over, it is in Bangladesh, many places of West Bengal and some in Bihar also, we see example of Jor Bangla Temple.

So, how do we see that or how do we say or how do you establish that this Jor Bangla Temple, this particular Jor Bangla Temple is important, because it is not rarity, it is a representing a particular typology that has to be established that how well its sort of a represents a particular typology. For example, as I told there are other examples of Jor Bangla Temple in various places, as you can see from there this is not so important, not so beautiful, it does not have so much of curving; it is a small example of Jor Bangla..

So, one has to establish with proper justification that the Bishnupur Jor Bangla temple and there can be few more others, where they are more important more significant and they are fine examples of a particular typology of the Jor Bangla Temple, condition or completeness that what stage this is, is it in good condition for its type, is it an intact or complete or its partly in ruins or damaged.

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How to use the criteria Comparative criteria

Condition or completeness

- Is it in good condition for its type?
- Is it intact or complete?
- Does it show repairs, alterations or evidence of the way it was used?
- Is it still working?
- Is it in original, unrestored condition?

Rasachakra depicted in Shyamrai temple, Bishnupur

The slide features two images of terracotta carvings. The top image shows a horizontal band of intricate carvings, likely a frieze. The bottom image shows a square, circular terracotta plaque with a central figure, identified as the Rasachakra. The slide also includes logos for IIT KHARAGPUR and NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES at the bottom.

Does it show the repairs, alterations or evidence of the way it was used, is it still working or its still being used or is it sort of unused, all the questions have to be answered and is it in original unrestored condition. So, as you can see that again from Bishnupur, the Shyamrai temple in Bishnupur there is a terracotta things which is the Rasachakra depicted in the Shyamrai temple. You can see that it is almost no damage has been done, except some moss and fungus and other things. It is a beautiful example, it is sort of depicts the mythology that even and absolutely a wonderful example, an unique example of this terracotta style.


But in the same complex you can see that there are other models also, there are also beautiful, but there have been some parts which has been changed, because they have been damaged so much, they have been replaced by the plain things. So, that naturally the value of this will be or significant will more than this. So, one has to sort of explain that in that interpretive capacity.

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How to use the criteria Comparative criteria

Interpretive capacity

- How is it relevant to the organisation's mission, purpose, collection policy and programs?
- Does it have a special place in the collection in relation to other items or a collection theme?
- Does it help to interpret aspects of its place or context?



Radha Shyam temple, Bishnupur

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How is it relevant to the organization mission, purpose, collection policy and programs? So, one it is representing an organization or a community or a state that how it is able to interpret that. Does it have a special place in the collection in relation to other items or collection theme, does it help to interpret aspect of the place or the concept, as we say the Muziris we have talked about or Bishnupur we have talked about or Santiniketan Visva Bharati we have talked about. Now, again we are going to the Bishnupur that where Radha Shyam temple in Bishnupur there, this is the one tower or single tower which is called Eka Ratna temple, but there are many other also there..

So, probably as there are many more example, when we sort of if we prepare for the nomination (Refer Time: 27:12) for the world he decides we will talk later on. So, we have to select the one which is the most significant, which is most in a complete way, it can narrates the story or representative, it is a representing example of that particular style..

So, you have to understand that when you talk about the interpretive capacity, the Rasachakra or what you have seen in the terracotta, this also was have an interpretive category, because its talking about the mythology. So, what we need take the summary of the statement of significance.

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The statement of significance

Summary

- A statement of significance is a reasoned, readable summary of the values, meaning and importance of an item or collection.
- It is more than a description of what the item or collection looks like.
 - Catalogue description verses statement of significance
- A statement of significance summarises how and why the item or collection is important. It is supported by research and evidence assembled through the assessment process.

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The statement of significance is a reasoned readable summary of the values, meaning and the importance of an item or collection, it is more than a description of what the item or the collection looks like. It is not a catalogue of description, so one is to understand what is a catalogue of description and verses the statement of significance a statement of significance summarize how and why the collection or item is important. It is supported by research and evidence, assembly through the assessment process..

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Why prepare a statement of significance?

- To summarise the meaning and importance of an item or collection
- To communicate these meanings to users and audiences
- To enhance access to and use of collections e.g. online
- To facilitate debate, discussion and understanding of the item or collection
- To synthesise knowledge and ideas about the item or collection
- To ensure that the provenance and associations of items and collections are fully recorded
- As a reference point when considering how best to conserve and manage the item, so that its important values and attributes are preserved

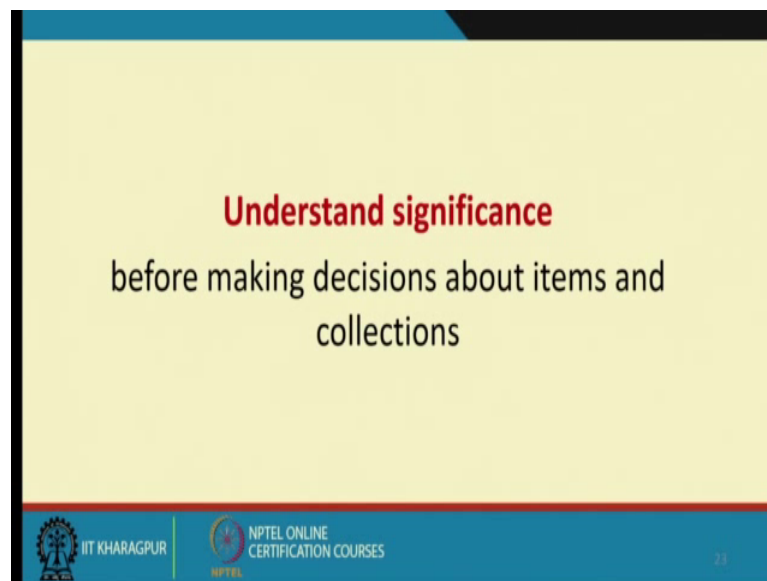
It is an argument about how and why an item or collection is of value

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So, this is in a summary that what is the statement of significance is, and why prepare a statement of significance to summarize the meaning, to communicate the meanings to the users and the audience, to enhance and access to an use of collections; example online, to facilitate the debate discussion and understanding of the item or collection, to synthesize knowledge and ideas about the item or collection, to ensure that the provenance and association of items and collections are fully recorded.

As a reference point when considering how best to conserve and manage the item. So, that its important values and attributes or preserve, is very important, we have to come back again and again to this statement of significance to understand what should be done. So, it is basically it is in an argument about how and why an item or collection is of value. So, we have discussed what are the different types of value criteria, the process and how the statement of significance and what is its important, and so finally, if you summarize understand the significance before making decisions about items and collection.

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So, far we have talked about value significance the process of making. So, in next we will go about that what are the different approaches and ways of keeping, preserving these values and significance.

Thank you.