Session – I

Archaeological Survey of India and its Hertiage Conservation in Chennai Metropolitan Area

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Cultural Heritage of India

- The priceless creations of our ancestors are in fact beacons for the future on which humanity depends for its existence
- These masterpieces, may it be a work of art - a temple, church, mosque or any form of built heritage, archaeological site, natural heritage or intangible heritage needs to be protected and preserved and handed over safely in their pristine condition to the future generations.

Beginnings

- In India the physical act of protection and preservation of the nationally important monuments, remains the function of the government: the Central and State Governments.
- The Antiquarian reconnaissance in India started during the 19th century with Sir William Jones
- He formed the 'Asiatick Society' in 1784
- Alexender Cunningham was the first to realise the necessity for undertaking a countrywide survey of Archaeological Remains
- He laid the foundations of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1861

Legislations

- Enactment of the Indian Treasure Trove Act,1878
- A new chapter in the preservation of cultural heritage opened with the enactment of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958
- In 1972, India enacted the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures and also to prevent fraudulent dealings in antiquities.
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains(Amendment and Validation) Act 2010.

  The state governments have their acts, following the Central act in spirit and letters.

Act of 2010

Among the main changes brought in through the amendment are:-

(a) prescribing a minimum of 100 metres to be the "prohibited area" around Centrally protected monuments,
(b) defining "regulated area" to be a minimum of 200 metres beyond the "prohibited area" this and the preparation of Heritage Bye-Laws to govern constructions, reconstructions, repairs or renovations therein
(c) freezing constructions within the regulated areas of Centrally protected monuments, until monument specific Heritage Bye-Laws are in position,
(d) empowering Competent Authority to draft these Bye-Laws, in consultation with INTACH and other expert heritage bodies, on the basis of detailed surveys,
(e) setting up of a National Monuments Authority, as the apex body for recommending the grading and classification of protected monuments and over-seeing the functions of the Competent Authority, etc. ,
(f) Stipulating procedures for granting the permission for constructions, reconstructions, repairs or renovations in 'prohibited/regulated areas'.

Protection of Cultural Heritage

- Central and State governments notify some of the important monuments as Protected Monuments under the above acts.
- The responsibility of preserving such monuments rests with the government and it is expected to take appropriate measures to preserve them without changing its original character.
- ASI protects and conserves around 5000 monuments and sites in the country

Threats to Cultural Heritage

- A feature of urban planning in post independent India is the tendency to develop 'new' areas instead of developing around the 'old' areas.
- Indigenous principles of cohesive and integrated planning prevalent in historic towns and sites are being overlooked.
- Under the guise of development, there was wanton destruction of the historic fabric and through sheer neglect they have reduced the historic settlements to concrete jungles.

The Chennai Circle

- Jurisdiction : Tamil Nadu and (except Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Niligiri districts) and Pondicherry
- Total number of monuments : 248
- Total number of archaeological sites : 163

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ASI MONUMENTS IN CHENNAI METROPOLITAN AREA

Monuments inside Fort St.George
Total:16

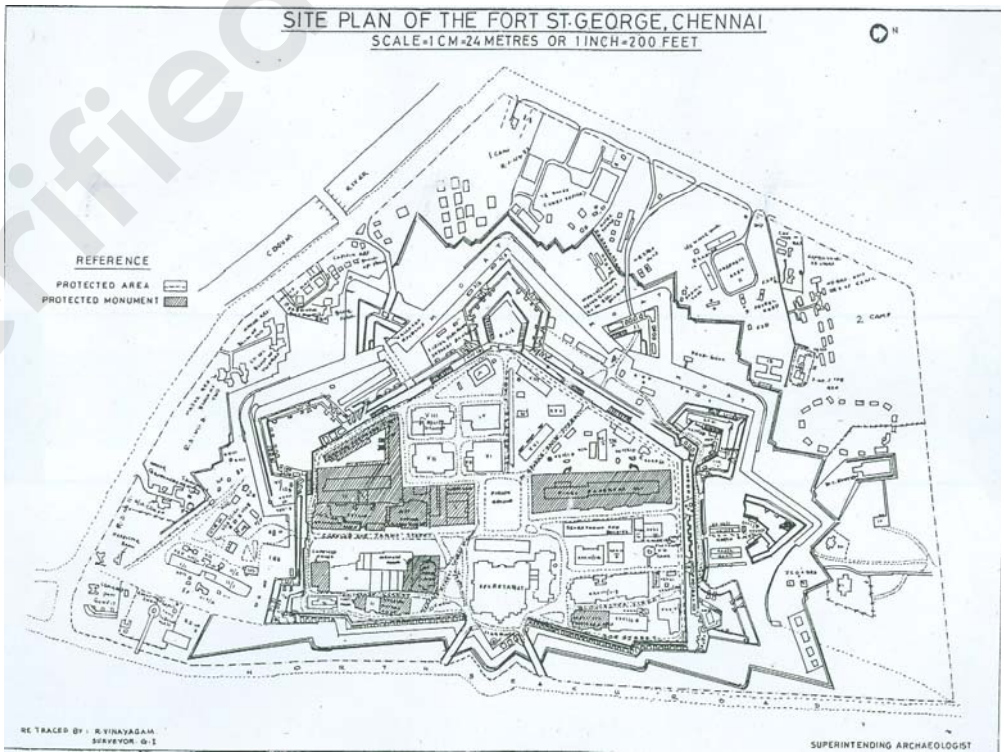
- Arsenal
- Big ware house
- Chaplain's house
- Clive's house
- Garrison engineer's depot
- Guard room
- King's barrack

Monuments inside Fort St.George

- Last house on the left of Snob's alley
- Nursing sister's house
- Old British infantry officers mess.
- "Ramparts, gates bastion, with vaulted chambers and water cisterns underneath: moat and defense walls all around with glacis to the extent of the existing barbed wire fence."
- St.Mary's Church
- Wellesley's house.

Other Monuments in Chennai

- David Yale and Joseph Hynmer's tomb-in Law College campus,Chennai
- Old town wall, Tondiarpet
- Dhenupurisvara temple, Madambakkam



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Fort St. George, Chennai

- Founded in 1639
- Earliest territorial possession of British in India
- Acted as seat of Government from the British times till recently



The Flagmast

- Tallest in the country
- Originally of wood
- Recently replaced with steel





Arsenal



Chaplain's house





Big ware house

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Clive's House

- Built by an Armenian merchant as his private residence
- Taken on rent by the Company
- Occupied by Robert Clive soon after his marriage in 1753
- Subsequently bought by the Company to entertain guests
- Later became Admiralty House
- Became the Governor's residence by the end of the 18th century





Garrison engineer's depot – the new Arsenal



Guard room

Kings Barracks

Constructed in 1755, King's Barracks derived its name since it lodged the King's regiment

Earliest barracks in the country

It housed British Battalion for nearly Two centuries.

Colonnaded Verandah, arched opening and Madras terrace with Mangalore tiles are the highlights of the Building.





Last house on the left of Snob's Alley



Nursing sister's house





Exchange building

Old British infantry officer's mess.

- Constructed in 1795 through public subscription
- Served as an "Exchange"
- Converted into the British Infantry Officers Mess
- Served as the Imperial Bank of India
- Houses the Fort Museum today



Wellesley's house



St.Mary's Church

- St. Mary's Church in Chennai was built by William Dixon and designed by Edward Fowle.
- This church was built in 1680
- The church spire was added probably before 1701.
- It has tombstones, memorial tablets, earliest register of baptisms, marriages and burials in India.
- The famous marriage of Robert Clive with Margaret Maskelyne was solemnised in this Church.



David Yale and Joseph Hynmer's tomb,Chennai



Dhenupurisvara Temple Madambakam

Vendor Private




Old town wall Tondiarpet





Before During After





Conservation of Clive's Building




PILLARS OF THE BANQUETTING HALL, CLIVE'S HOUSE





Before During After





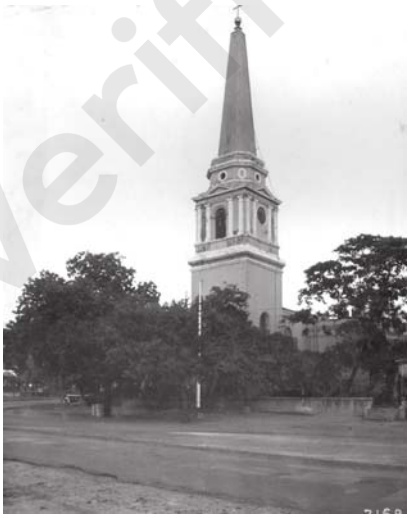


Conservation of Rampart Wall





Environmental Development







Before During After

Conservation of St.Mary's Church Tower

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Conservation of St.Mary's Church

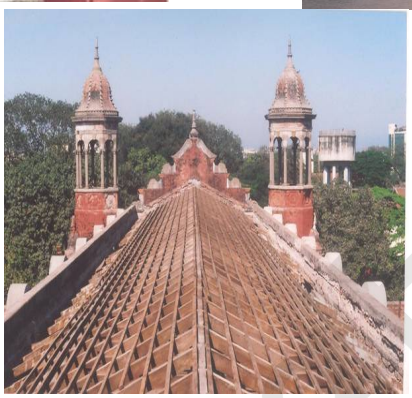
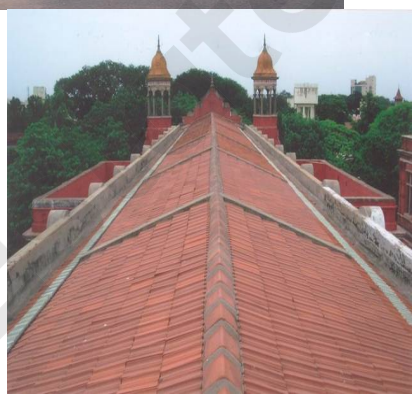


Conservation of Last House



Beneath the Flagmast

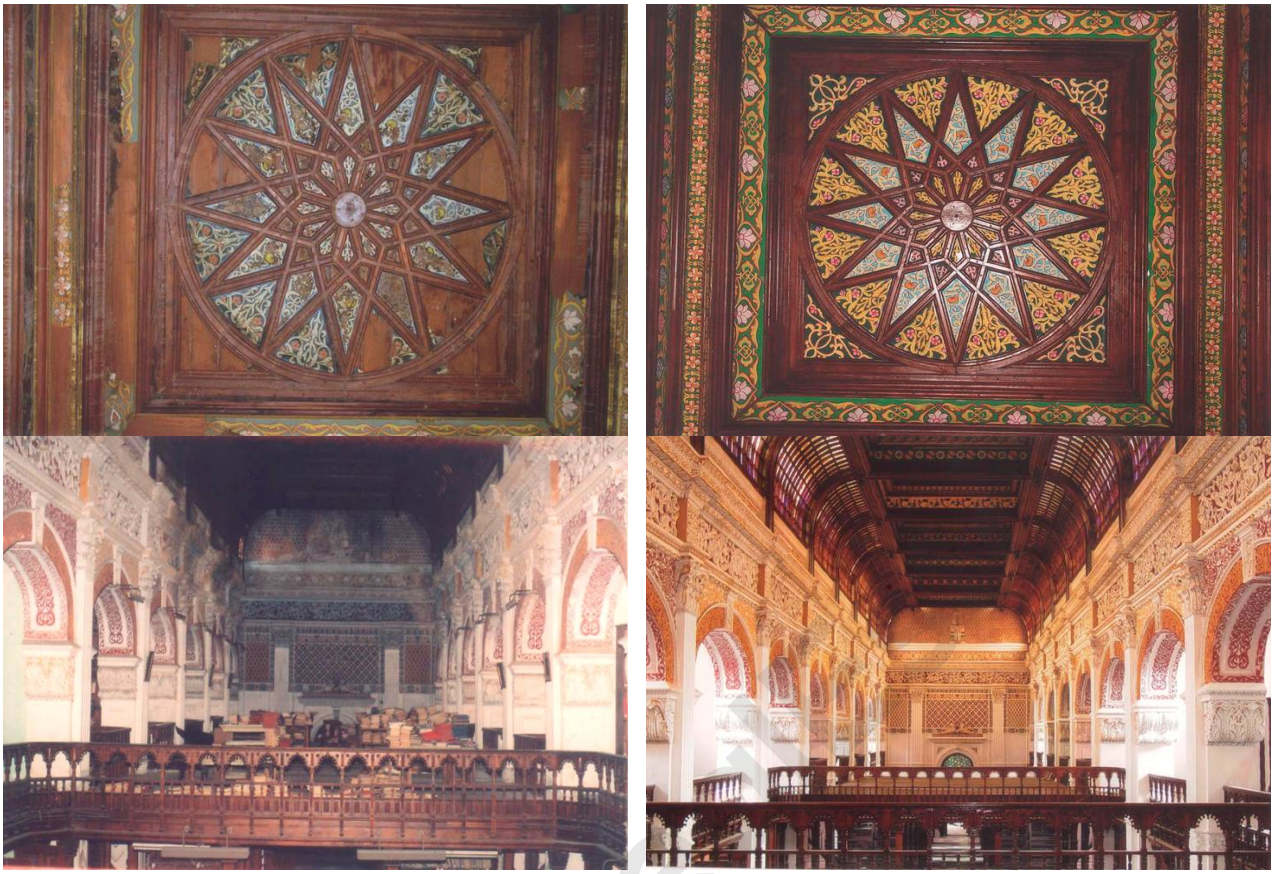







Conservation of Connemara Library



Conservation of Connemara Library



In front of King's Barrack's



Construction work in the prohibited area

Encroachments in Fort St.George

SITES IN CHENNAI METROPOLITAN AREA

MEGALITHIC SITES – Total : 23 sites

- Erumaiyur
- Kunnatur
- Sirukalathur
- Nandambakkam
- Sikkarapuram
- Tiruneermalai
- Kadaperi
- Kilambakkam
- Ayyancherry
- Sambakkam
- Nanmangalam
- Nedunkundaram
- Ottiyambakkam
- Pallavaram
- Puzhal
- Attanthangal
- Perumbakkam
- Chitalapakkam
- Perungalathur
- St.Thomas Mount
- Tirusulam
- Pommadukulam
- Pottur

Sites inside Reserved Forest

- Erumaiyur
- Kadaperi
- Sembakkam
- Nanmangalam
- Perumbakkam
- Perugalathur

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Nanmangalam



Sembakkam

Sites inside the Reserved Forest Area



General View of the site



Encroachment at the site

Megalithic site at St.Thomas Mount



Old view of the site



Stone quarry totally destructed the site



Encroachment at the site

Megalithic site at Chikkarayapuram



Old view of the site



Stone quarry at the site



Encroachment at the site

Megalithic site at Thirusoolam



Old view of the site



Encroachment at the site

Megalithic site at Pallavaram



Old view of the site



Megalithic site



Excavation at site



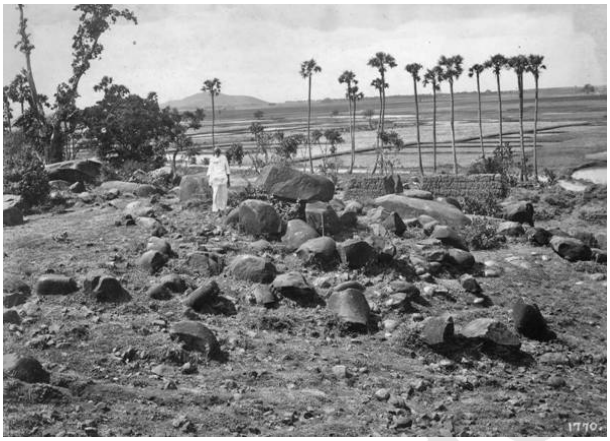


Encrochment in the protected area.

Megalithic site at Kunrathur



Pottur



Thiruneermalai

Old view of some Megalithic sites

Challenges And New Concerns In Heritage Conservation

- All these necessitated a need for an Amendment to the Act by which the original nature of the site and its environs are preserved.
- By this Act the Government intends to control unregulated constructions in and around the monuments and sites
- This is very essential in an urban atmosphere
- The challenges of economic development, deprivation of the masses and socio-cultural inequities prevalent in the Society often tend to sideline the conservation issues and thereby under-estimate the need and importance of heritage preservation.
- The gap between the conservation and development should be minimized.
- The protection of a monument or site is not adequate when many historic cities and sites are being laid waste by real estate development, industrialisation and callous neglect.
- An important matter of concern is the need to link the quality of life in historic cities with its built heritage and sites

Threats to Cultural Heritage – Marching Ahead

- The conservation and protection of built heritage under the statutory provisions of law alone is not adequate to address the needs of heritage protection.
- What is required is to include the dynamic process of cultural context, and communities need to be directly engaged in protection.
- There is a need to involve a wide range of multi-disciplinary professionals like architects, engineers, planners, historians, archaeologists and sociologists to address the concerns of protection in its most inclusive sense.

Outreach Programme

- Promoting awareness programme about archaeological heritage and sensitising people on preservation and management through outreach programmes.
- Capacity buildings to the concerned state departments, local bodies, universities, museums, through training programmes, seminars, workshops.
- Publication of popular literature.

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