



## NMCM and Monuments of National Importance

**For Prelims:** [National Mission on Cultural Mapping](#), [Monuments of National Importance](#), [Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts](#), [Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar](#), [Article 49](#), [Archaeological Survey of India](#), [National Monuments Authority](#)

**For Mains:** Government initiatives for cultural preservation and empowerment, National Mission on Cultural Mapping, Cultural mapping as a tool for rural economic development

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Culture highlighted the progress made under the [National Mission on Cultural Mapping \(NMCM\)](#) and India's efforts to protect [Monuments of National Importance \(MNI\)](#).

- These initiatives aim to document the country's rich cultural heritage, revitalize rural economies, and ensure the preservation of historical sites for future generations.

### What is the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)?

- **About:** The NMCM, launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Culture, aims to **document, preserve, and promote India's cultural heritage** by creating a comprehensive **database of cultural assets, artists, and art forms** to enhance cultural vibrancy nationwide.
- **Key Objectives:** Define and document the unique cultural characteristics of each village.
  - Launch cultural awareness programs like **"Hamari Sanskriti Hamari Pahchan" (Our Culture, Our Identity)**.
  - Utilise cultural mapping to empower rural communities and boost economic development.
  - Establish a **National Cultural Working Place (NCWP) portal** for information sharing, participation, performance, and awards across all art forms.
  - Identify locations for **Kala Grams, Craft Melas, and other cultural hubs** for idea exchange and promotion of cultural tourism.
- **Implementation:** NMCM is administered by the Ministry of Culture and executed under the guidance of the [Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts \(IGNCA\)](#).
  - **Common Services Centres (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC)**, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under the **Ministry of Electronics & IT (Meity)**, is given the task by the Ministry of Culture to carry out the NMCM.
- **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD):** NMCM in 2023 as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, launched the [Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar \(MGMD\) portal](#) that documents the cultural heritage of 6.5 lakh villages in India.
  - Under the MGMD, information is collected in **seven broad categories**.
    - Arts and Crafts Village,
    - Ecologically Oriented Village,
    - Scholastic Village linked with Textual and Scriptural Traditions of India,
    - Epic Village associated with the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and/or Puranic legends,

- Historical Village connected to Local and National History,
- Architectural Heritage Village,
- Any other characteristics that may need highlighting, such as fishing villages, horticulture villages, shepherding villages, etc.
- Currently, **4.5 lakh villages live on the portal**, showcasing elements like oral traditions, art forms, food, festivals, and local landmarks.
- The initiative strengthens cultural identity, empowers rural communities, and promotes economic development through the documentation and promotion of cultural assets.

## CSC e-Governance Services India Limited

- CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, SPV set up under the **Companies Act, 1956** oversees the implementation of the CSC scheme, providing a framework for service delivery to citizens.
  - The vision of CSC is to create an Information technology (IT)-enabled network connecting **local populations with essential services**, promoting a socially, financially, and digitally inclusive society, especially in rural areas.

## Cultural Mapping

- Cultural mapping records the unique cultural aspects of a region, including **local stories, rituals, arts, languages, heritage, and cuisines, defining local culture**.
  - It documents both **tangible and intangible assets** to create cultural resource mapping.

## What are Monuments of National Importance?

- **Monuments of National Importance:** Monuments are remnants of India's rich past, showcasing culture, art, and architecture.
  - They include a variety of sites such as **prehistoric locations, rock-shelters, temples, churches, mosques, tombs, forts**, and more, representing our diverse cultural heritage across the country.
  - The **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 (amended in 2010)**, provides for the declaration, conservation, and protection of ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites, and remains of national importance.
    - A monument or site must **be at least 100 years old to be considered for this status**.
- **Process of Declaration:** The Central Government notifies its intention to declare a site of national importance, inviting public objections within two months. After considering objections, it may officially declare the site through a gazette notification.
- **MNI in India:** Currently, there are **3697 ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains** declared as of national importance in the country.
- **Efforts to Protect MNI:**
  - **Directive Principles of State Policy:** [Article 49 of the Indian Constitution](#) mandates that the State should protect monuments, places, and objects of national importance from destruction, disfigurement, removal, or export, as per laws made by Parliament.
  - **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) :** The [ASI](#) under the Ministry of Culture, is responsible for conserving and maintaining MNIs.
    - A 100-meter radius around the monument is a '**prohibited area**' with a construction ban, while the **next 200 meters is a 'regulated area'** with construction restrictions.
    - The [ASI can delist monuments \(Section 35 of AMASR Act, 1958\)](#), if it is no longer nationally important, which means they **will no longer be protected or maintained**.
      - Once delisted, construction and urbanisation activities can proceed around the site.
  - **National Monuments Authority (NMA):** The [NMA](#), established under the **AMASR Act**,

**2010**, grants permissions for construction in the prohibited and regulated areas around centrally protected monuments to ensure their protection and preservation.

### **India's Other Initiatives Related to Art and Culture:**

- [Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana](#)
- [Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage.](#)
- [Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.](#)
- [Dekho Apna Desh Initiative](#)
- [Swadesh Darshan Scheme](#)
- [Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive \(PRASAD\)](#)
- [Adopt a Heritage Programme](#)
- [Project Mausam](#)

#### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Examine the role of the National Mission on Cultural Mapping in promoting India's cultural heritage and rural empowerment.

### **UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

#### **Mains**

**Q.1** Safeguarding the Indian Art Heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. **(2018)**

**Q.2** Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. **(2020)**

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