

Cultural Heritage Security Cell

The aim of the Cultural Heritage Security Cell is to safeguard and protect cultural heritage sites and artifacts from threats, damage, and loss. To protect them from National Security threats.

Understanding Cultural Heritage Security

- Cultural Heritage includes tangible and intangible components such as buildings, monuments, artefacts and archaeological sites, traditions, customs, beliefs, and languages.
- Cultural heritage Sites are symbols of national identity and pride and critical infrastructure that can be targeted by terrorists and criminals to destabilize societies and governments.
- Protecting cultural heritage is a cultural and a national security issue and preserving it is necessary for future.
- According to UNESCO, cultural heritage and cultural expressions have increasingly become the direct targets of systematic and deliberate attacks in numerous conflicts around the world.
- Interpol also recognises that it is imperative to protect culture and heritage from criminals and the trafficking of cultural property, from stolen artworks to historical artifacts, is a crime that can affect any country.
- The present Defence Minister of India also emphasised on the importance cultural security and considered it as “equally important as other aspects of Security to keep our identity intact”.
- Cultural and Heritage security is of great importance seeing the rich diversity and history of the country.

The action plan of CHS cell include

- Survey of Cultural Heritage Site document its details, including its location, historical significance and current condition.
- Engaging with various stakeholders and developing an assessment plan, such as Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India, and others.
- Study the security concerns of the site to come up with new and innovative ways to preserve them
- Conduct conferences, expert lectures, workshops, etc.,
Perform risk assessment and come up with risk assessment plan and security management plan for the site.
- Study and development of an Information Management System having comprehensive database & knowledgebase of each site's significance, including documentation of artifacts, architecture, and historical events.
- Training of Police and Security personnel engaged in security of heritage site based on requirement of the involved stake holders.

- Work with local communities to raise awareness about the importance of cultural heritage sites and the need to protect them.
- Ensuring inclusive language policies building alliances with relevant stakeholders.
