



## Sambhav-2025

**Day 6:** Discuss the constitutional provisions aimed at safeguarding and promoting Indian culture and heritage. (250 words)

07 Dec 2024 | GS Paper 1 | Indian Heritage & Culture

### Approach / Explanation / Answer

#### Approach

- Begin with the significance of the Indian Constitution at safeguarding and promoting Indian culture and heritage.
- Mention the constitutional provisions and legal framework aimed at safeguarding and promoting Indian culture and heritage.
- Identify key challenges in implementation.
- Conclude appropriately by proposing the way forward.

#### Introduction

The Indian Constitution recognizes the immense diversity and richness of India's cultural and historical heritage. It provides a comprehensive framework for safeguarding and promoting this heritage to ensure its continuity across generations while fostering unity in diversity.

#### Body

##### Constitutional Provisions and Legal Framework Preserving Indian Culture and Heritage :

- **Fundamental Rights**
  - **Article 29:** Protects the right of citizens to conserve their distinct culture, language, and script.
  - **Article 30:** Empowers minorities to establish educational institutions to preserve their culture.
- **Fundamental Duties**
  - **Article 51A(f):** Mandates citizens to value and preserve the country's rich heritage.
  - **Article 51A(g):** Encourages environmental protection, integral to cultural practices.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**
  - **Article 48:** Advocates the protection of the environment, forests, and wildlife, which are deeply linked to cultural heritage.
  - **Article 49:** Obligates the State to protect monuments and places of historic importance.

- **Special Provisions**
  - **Sixth Schedule:** Provides autonomy to tribal areas in the Northeast to preserve their customs.
  - **Eighth Schedule:** The Constitution recognizes the linguistic diversity of India.
- **Legal Framework**
  - The **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958** safeguards historical sites.
  - Establishment of institutions like the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** ensures cultural preservation.
- **National Institutions:**
  - Sahitya Akademi and **National School of Drama** promote and preserve Indian literature, art forms, and cultural practices, supporting the country's cultural vibrancy.
  - **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** and the **National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)**, work toward safeguarding various cultural traditions.

### Implementation Challenges

- **Urbanization and Development Pressure** : Rapid urban expansion and infrastructure projects frequently encroach upon heritage sites.
  - The **Hampi UNESCO World Heritage Site** in Karnataka faces threats from illegal construction and tourism mismanagement.
- **Insufficient Awareness** : Many citizens are unaware of their constitutional duties and the significance of heritage preservation.
  - Lack of community involvement in the preservation of **Nalanda University ruins in Bihar**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, leads to neglect despite its historical importance.
- **Inadequate Funding and Resources** : Heritage conservation projects suffer due to insufficient financial allocation and institutional inefficiencies.
  - The **Sun Temple in Konark**, Odisha, requires regular maintenance, but limited resources delay essential restoration work.
- **Neglect of Lesser-Known Traditions** : Emphasis is often placed on mainstream heritage, leading to the marginalization of local and tribal cultures.
  - Folk music traditions like **Baul songs** from West Bengal, which emphasize spiritual freedom through their melodies, struggle to gain recognition beyond their local regions.

### Conclusion

The constitutional provisions for preserving India's cultural heritage align with **SDG 11.4**, which calls for stronger efforts to protect cultural and natural heritage. However, effective implementation requires joint efforts from the government and citizens, focusing on increased public awareness, better resource allocation, active community participation and technology integration to safeguard these traditions.