Heritage Volunteers under Swachhata Mission

Modalities:

- ➤ Schools, National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), The Bharat Scouts & Guides (BSG) may adopt one or more monuments for a period of one year for Swachhata Mission on a regular basis.

- ➤ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will join hands in providing required materials for cleaning. Besides, ASI will also provide cap, T-Shirt & a badge to the volunteers.

- ➤ Such volunteer groups are required to continue their association with a particular monument for a period of one year.

- ➤ These volunteers will remain associated with various activities of ASI with a vision to make aware of our heritage.

- ➤ At the end of the year all those volunteers will be given a certificate of participation and a letter of credit/appreciation letter to the respective schools/and units of NCC, NSS and Scouts etc.

- ➤ Local ASI office would form a local level heritage volunteers club in which such volunteers would become members. These members would associated with ASI in all Cultural awareness activities.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

INDEX

ANDHRA PRADESH

Sl.No.	Sub Sl.No.	Name of monument & Location	Circle/Sub-circle	Page No.
1	2	3	4	5
1	1	Lower fort (Raja and Rani Mahal), Chandragiri, Distt. Chittoor	Hyderabad Circle/ Hyderabad sub-circle	
2	2	Golkonda fort, Golkonda, District. Hyderabad	-do-	
3	3	Ruined Buddhist Stupa and other remains, Amaravati, District Guntur	-do-	
4	4	Hill of Nagarjunakonda with ancient remains, Pullareddigudem, District Guntur	-do-	
5	5	Four storeyed rock-cut Hindu temple, Undavalli, Distt. Guntur	-do-	
6	6	Buddhist monuments, Guntapalle, Distt. West Godavari	-do-	
7	7	Warangal fort, Warangal, Distt. Warangal	-do-	
8	8	Charminar, Hyderabad, District Hyderabad	-do-	

ASSAM

9	1	Ahom Raja's palace, Garhgaon, District Sibsagar	Guwahati Circle	
10	2	Karenghar of Ahom Kings, Sibsagar, Distt. Sibsagar	-do-	
11	3	Group of four maidans, Charaideo, Distt. Sibsagar	-do	
12	4	Bishnudol, Joysagar, Distt. Sibsagar	-do	
13	5	Ranghar Ruins, Joysagar, Distt. Sibsagar	-do	

BIHAR

14	1.	Site of Mauryan Palace, Kumrahar, Patna, Distt. Patna	Patna Circle	
15	2.	Ancient ruins Vaishali, Distt. Vaishali	-do-	
16	3.	Sher Shah's tomb, Sasaram, Distt. Rohtas	-do-	

17	4.	Excavated Site, Nalanda, Distt. Nalanda	-do-	
18	5.	Ancient Site of Vikramshila, Antichak, Distt. Bhagalpur	-do-	

CHHATISGARH

19	1.	Temple of Laxman and Old sites including sculptures Sirpur, Distt. Raipur	Raipur Circle-	

GUJARAT

20	1.	Sun Temple, Modhera, Distt. Mehsana	Vadodara Circle	
21	2.	Rani Ki-Vav, Patan, Distt. Patan	-do-	
22	4.	Champaner Monuments, Champaner, Distt. Godhra	-do-	
23	5.	Asokan Rock Edict, Junagadh, Distt. Junagadh	-do-	
24	6.	Buddhish Caves, Junagadh, Distt. Junagadh.	-do-	
25	7.	Baba Pyare, Khapra Kodia Caves, Junagadh, Distt. Junagadh	-do-	

HARYANA

26	1.	Sheikh Chilli's tomb, Thanesar, Distt. Kurukshetra	Chandigarh Circle	
27	2.	Suraj Kund, Lakharpur, Distt. Faridabad	-do-	

HIMACHAL PRADESH

28	1.	Ruined fort, Kangra, Distt. Kangra	Shimla Circle	
29	2.	Rock-cut Temples and Sculptures, Masrur, Distt. Kangra	-do-	

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

30	1.	Group of temples, Kiramchi, Distt. Udhampur	Srinagar Circle	
31	2.	Ancient palaces attributed to Raja Suchet Singh, Ramnagar, Distt. Udhampur	-do-	
32	3.	Avantiswami temple, Avantipura, Distt. Pulwama	-do-	
33	4.	Ancient palace Leh, Distt. Leh	-do-	

		(Ladakh)		

KARNATAKA

34	1.	Group of monuments, Hampi, Distt. Bellary	Bangalore Circle	
35	2.	Daryia Daulat Bagh, Srirangapatanam, Distt. Mandya	-do-	
36	3.	Keshava temple, Somnathpur, Distt. Mysore	-do-	
37	4.	Palace of Tipu Sultan, Bangalore, Distt. Bangalore	-do-	
38	5.	Fortress and Temple Chitrudurga fort, Chitradurga, Distt. Chitradurga	-do-	
39	6.	Bellary fort, Bellary, Distt. Bellary	-do-	
40	7.	Durga temple, Aihole, Distt. Bagalkot	Dharwad Circle	
41	8.	Cave at Badami, Distt. Bijapur	-do-	
42	9.	Group of temples, Pattadakal, Distt.Bagalkot	-do-	
43	10.	Gol-Gumbaz, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur	-do-	
44	11..	Ibrahim Rauza, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur	-so-	
45	12	Temples & Sculpture Gallery, Lakkundi, Distt. Gadag	-do-	

KERALA

46	1.	Bekal Fort, Pallikere, Distt. Kasargod	Thrissur Circle	

MADHYA PRADESH

47	1.	Western Group of Temples, Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatirapur	Bhopal Circle	
48	2.	The Palace in the fort, Burhanpur, Distt. Burhanpur	-do-	
49	3.	Buddhist Caves, Bagh, Distt. Dhar	-do-	
50	4.	Group of monuments, Mandu, Distt. Dhar	-do-	
51	6.	Roopmati's Pavilion, Mandu, Distt. Dhar	-do-	
52	7.	Hoshang Shah's tomb Mandu, Distt. Dhar	-do-	
53	8.	Buddhist Monuments, Sanchi, Distt. Raisen	-do-	
54	9.	Gwalior Fort, Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior	-do-	

55	10.	Bhojshala and Kamal Maula's mosque Dhar, Distt. Dhar (Rs.1/-)	-do-	

MAHARASHATRA

56	1.	Ajanta Caves, Ajanta, Distt. Aurangabad	Auranga-bad Circle	
57	2.	Ellora Caves, Ellora, Distt. Aurangabad	-do-	
58	3.	Pandulena Caves, Mahoor, Distt. Nanded	-do-	
59	4.	Daulatabad Fort, Daulatabad, Distt. Aurangabad	-do-	
60	5.	Tomb of Rabia Durani (Bibi Ka Maqbara), Aurangabad, Distt. Arrangabad	-do-	
61	6.	Aurangabad Caves, Aurangabad, Distt. Aurangabad	-do-	
62	7.	Elephanta Caves, Gharapuri, Distt. Raigad	Mumbai Circle	
63	8.	Buddhist Caves, Kanheri, Distt. Mumbai Suburban	-do-	
64	9.	Caves, Temples and inscriptions, Karla, Distt. Pune	-do-	
65	10	Cave, Temple and Inscriptions, Junnar, Distt. Pune.	-do-	
66	11.	Raigad Fort, Raigad, Distt. Raigad	-do-	
67	13.	Shaniwarwada, Pune, Distt. Pune	-do-	
68	14.	Hirakota old fort, Agarkot, Distt. Raigad	-do-	
69	15	Old fort, Sholapur, Distt. Sholapur	-do-	
70	16.	Cave, Temple & Inscriptions, Bhaja, Distt. Pune.	-do	
71	17.	Aga Khan Palace building, Pune, Distt. Pune	-do-	

NCT DELHI

72	1.	Humayun's Tomb, Nizammudin, Delhi	Delhi Circle	
73	2.	Qutb Archaeological Area, Mehrauli, New Delhi	-do-	
74	3.	Delhi fort (Red fort), Delhi	-do-	
75	4.	Tomb of Safdarjung, New Delhi	-do-	
76	5.	Purana Qila, Delhi	-do-	
77	6.	Tomb of Khan-i-Khanan, Nizammudin, New. Delhi	-do-	

78	7.	Jantar Mantar, New Delhi	-do-	
79	8.	Tomb of Sultan Ghari, Nalikpur Kohi, Delhi	-do-	
80	9.	Kotla Firoz Shah, Delhi	-do-	
81	10.	Tughlagabad fort, New Delhi	-do-	

ORISSA

82	1.	Sun Temple, Konarak, Distt. Puri	Bhubanes-war Circle	
83	2.	Rajarani temple, Bhubaneshwer, Distt. Puri	-do-	
84	3.	Ancient Remains on both Udaigiri & Khandagiri hills, Bhubaneshwar, Distt. Khurda	-do-	
85	4.	Ratnagiri Monuments, Ratnagiri Distt. Jajpur	-do-	
86	5.	Ruins of Buddhist temples and images, Lalitagiri, Distt. Cuttack	-do-	

RAJASTHAN

87	1.	Deeg Bhawan, Deeg, Distt. Bharatpur	Jaipur Circle	
88	2.	Kumbhalgarh fort, Kumbalgarh, Distt. Rajsamand	-do-	
89	3.	Chittaurgarh fort, Chittaurgarh Distt. Chittaurgarh	-do-	

TAMIL NADU

90	1.	Group of Monuments, Mamallapuram, Distt. Kanchipuram	Chennai Circle	
91	2.	Gingee fort, (Rajgirid and Krishnagiri), Gingee, Distt. Villupuram	-do-	
92	3.	Fort, Dindigul, Distt. Dindigul	-do-	
93	4.	Muvarkoil, Kodumbalur, Distt. Pudukkottai	-do-	
94	5.	Rock-Cut Jain temple, Sittanavassal, Distt. Pudukkottai	-do-	
95	6.	Natural Cavern called Eladipallanan, Sittannavassal, Distt. Pudukkottai	-do-	
96	7.	Fort, Tirumayam, Distt. Pudukkottai	-do-	
97	8.	Fort St. George, Chennai, Distt. Chennai.	-do-	

UTTAR PRADESH

| 98 | 1. | Taj Group of Monuments, Agra, Distt. Agra | Agra Circle | |

99	2.	Agra Fort, Agra, Distt. Agra	-do-	
100	3.	Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Distt. Agra	-do-	
101	4.	Akbar's tomb, Sikandara, Agra, Distt. Agra	-do-	
102	5.	Mariam's tomb, Sikandara, Agra, Distt. Agra	-do-	
103	6.	Itimad-ul-Daula's tomb, Agra, Distt. Agra	-do-	
104	7.	Rambagh group of monuments, Agra, Distt. Agra.	-do-	
105	8.	Mehtab Bagh, Agra, Distt. Agra	-do-	
106	9.	Rani Jhansi Fort, Jhansi, Distt. Jhansi	Lucknow Circle	
107	10.	Rani Lakshmi Bai Mahal, Jhansi, Distt. Jhansi	-do-	
108	11.	Site of Sahet –Mahet, Distt. Sravastinagar	-do-	
109	12.	Residency Buildings, Lucknow, Distt. Lucknow	-do-	
110	14.	Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Distt. Varanasi	Patna Circle	
111	15.	Observatory of Man Singh, Varanasi, Distt. Varanasi	-do-	
112	16.	Lord Cornwallis Tomb, Ghazipur, Distt. Ghazipur	-do-	
113	17.	Old fort, Jaunpur, Distt. Jaunpur	-do	

WEST BENGAL

114	1.	Hazarduari palace, Killa Nizamat, Distt. Murshidabad	Kolkata Circle	
115	2.	Cooch Bihar Palace, Cooch Behar, Distt. Cooch Behar	-do-	
116	3.	Bishnupur Temples, Bishnupur, Distt. Bankura	-do-	

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Concept Note:

Implementation of *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* or *Swachhata Mission* through *"Adopt a Monument"* scheme by School Children

Aim & Objective:

The main aim of this scheme is to sensitize Indian youth comprising of children in schools who are the future generation and inculcate in them a healthy value system towards their own heritage. It also aims to create awareness among the students about the history, archaeology, conservation & other management issues of built heritage and keeping the environment of those edifices neat & clean under Swachhata Mission and safeguarding it from human vandalism.

Background:

India is very rich in antiquarian wealth. This wealth in the form of ancient Monuments either religious or secular represents our rich cultural heritage. These ancient monuments ranging from pre-historic rock shelters to a variety of monumental edifices, such as rock-cut caves, temples, tombs, mosques, Churches, forts, palaces, reservoirs, bridges, etc and belonging to different dynasties, extol the long existing history of achievement of our ancestors in the field of art and architecture. The preservation of these edifices for posterity is a challenging task. Whereas the responsibility of preserving our heritage rests entirely with us- the citizens of India.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is an attached office under Ministry of Culture is the premier organization for the protection of the cultural heritage of the nation. These heritage structures constructed in different periods through different medium of construction and are located in different geographical regions.

Maintenance of these ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance is the prime concern of the ASI. Through Swachchha Bharat Abhiyan (since 2014), Archaeological Survey of India has been organizing various activities in order to create awareness about the importance o

of cleanliness at Monument premises to public. Now it has been decided by the Ministry of Culture to conduct various activities like awareness of the Swachhata programme involving various organizations. There are dedicated organizations viz. National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), The Bharat Scouts & Guides (BSG) and Educational Institutions viz. Central Board of Secondary Education (C.B.S.E) have been doing very well in the above Abhiyan. Therefore it would be appropriate to involve these organizations/ Institutions on a long term basis to take care of monuments of our country. Interestingly among them Central Board of secondary Education (CBSE) has already mandated all C.B.S.E afflicted schools to adopt a monument in their region wherein each student studying in class up to 10th std should be involved in activities associated with heritage awareness as a part of the continues and Comprehensive Evaluation Scheme which has suggested by the Board.

Keeping in this mind, ASI is launching Swachhata Mission with above mentioned organizations/ Institutions and they will adopt a nearby/popular monument(s) wherein they will concentrate on cleanliness drive and other awareness activities.

Implementation of Scheme:

Schools, National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), The Bharat Scouts & Guides (BSG) may adopt one or more monuments for a period of one year for Swachhata Mission on a regular basis.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will join hands in providing required materials for cleaning. Besides, ASI will also provide cap, T-Shirt & a badge to the volunteers. Such volunteer groups are required to continue their association with a particular monument for a period of one year. At the end of the year DG, ASI will give appreciation letter to all those volunteers of the respective schools/and units of NCC, NSS and Scouts etc.

Adopt a Monument Guideline

Aim: The main aim of this activity is to create awareness among the students about the built heritage of our country and safeguarding it from natural calamities and human vandalism.

Definition of a Monument

"Ancient Monument" means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years and includes—

 i. remains of an ancient monument,

 ii. site of an ancient monument,

 iii. such portion of land adjoining the site of an ancient monument as may be required for fencing or covering in or otherwise preserving such monument

 iv. the means of access to, and convenient inspection of, an ancient monument; (The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958) (No. 24 of 1958)
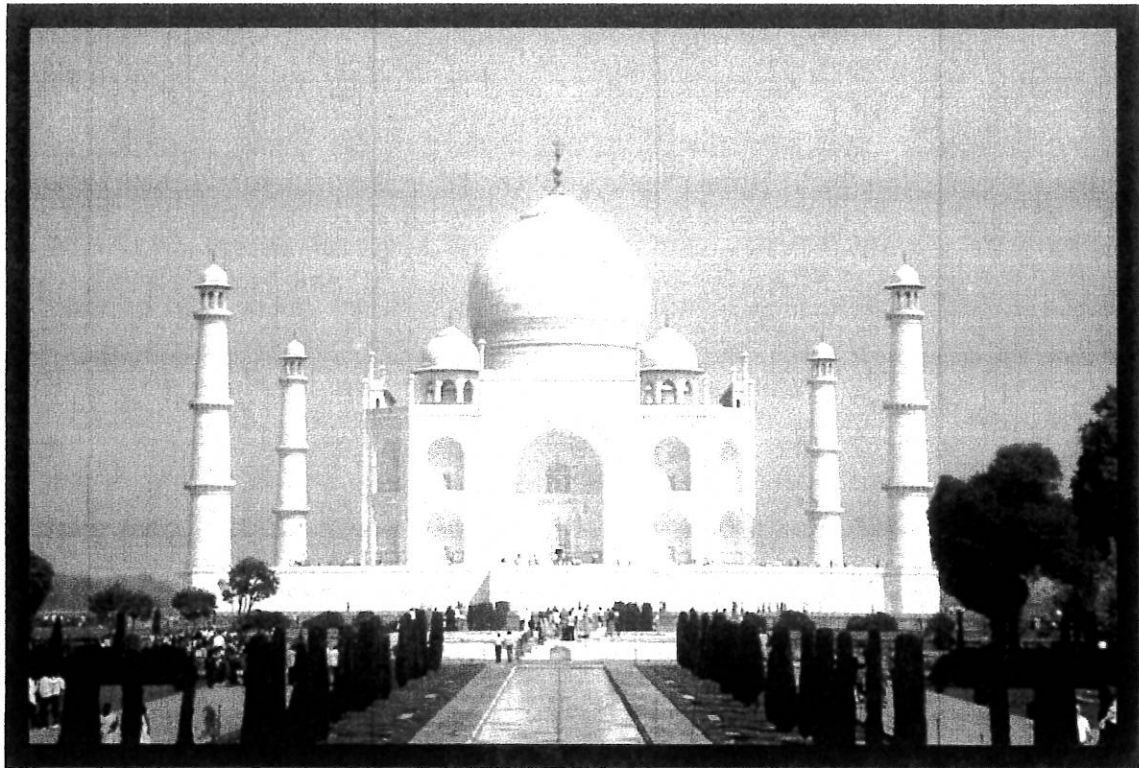
Target Group

Students in the age group of 7-17 years.

Objectives

In order to acquaint and inculcate in young students a feeling of pride for our built heritage, the CBSE desires of **'Adopt a Monument'** activity in schools affiliated to the Board. The main goals of this activity are:-

 a) To sensitize the youth who are future decision makers and inculcate in them a healthy value system towards their own heritage.

 b) To encourage students to actively contribute by participating in the preservation of cultural heritage.

 c) To give students a platform to come out with new innovations and ideas in order to protect our cultural resources.

The activity has been divided into various phases with details below:-

Phase A -Pre Activity Guidelines

1.   The school should first select a monument in their vicinity which they want to *adopt*. The monument should be a building of aesthetical, archaeological, social, historical and architectural value e.g. a religious structure, a fort, station, a tomb, a garden, an archaeological site or an industrial building.

2.   The students can be divided into a group of 3 to 5 and they can start working on in class activities that involve several topics relating to monument like collection of literature such as archival documents, design, photographs, history, architecture, conservation, stories, myths and legends associated with the monument from different sources like museums and organizations like National Museum and Archaeological Survey of India etc. and the official websites of various organizations.

3.   The school can make connections with the professionals in this field like a historian, an archaeologist, a conservationist, an art historian or a heritage consultant who are involved in the care of the monument, or other similar ones.

4.   The schools should draft a list of activities that will be conducted year round and can set the timelines to complete the activity.

Phase B- During Activity Guidelines

1.   The teacher should talk to the class about the meaning of **monument** and **adoption** and discuss the meaning of 'Adopt a Monument' that it does not mean that the monument now belongs to your class, but the main aim is to study the monument, creating awareness among other people, to take care of it, to love it and to protect it.

2.   Discuss the importance of different monuments and the reason why people build them. Try to relate a monument with different subjects like history of monument, geography- place where it is built-its geographical features and the material of which it is made should be discussed, science- the technique employed in building the monument, maths- the estimated cost in building the monument etc

3.   Discuss the importance of different monuments and the reason why people build them. Try to relate a monument with different subjects like history of monument, geography- place where it is built-its geographical features and the material of which it is made should be discussed, science- the technique employed in building the monument, maths- the estimated cost in building the monument etc.

4.   An oath should be taken by all the students before starting the activity, so they have a feeling of self consciousness and respect towards this goal. The text of the oath is given below:

I am proud of the rich culture and heritage of India.
I will respect all monuments which are a part of my country's heritage.
I will not scribble, deface or encroach upon any monument.
I pledge to render all possible help to conserve and preserve our heritage.
I along with my school mates will endeavour to save and protect the heritage site at (...)

5.   Suppose a school has three sections each, then 9x3=27 classes a school may have, they can then in rotation along with the teachers can visit the monument regularly on working days (except holidays, exams and other days). The turn of each class would not come more than four times a year.

6.   A four hour stays at the monument for the students, to view the monument and having their Tiffin in the monument premises without littering garbage here and there. A teacher may take this up as an 'out of class' teaching on any subject.

7.   Under the guidance of an expert the students can take up the work like removal of vegetation, encroaching, cleaning and dusting etc in and around the monument.

8. The school along with students can seek the help of local authorities and media in the protection and preservation of the monument.

9. The schools can create plays/skit for the general public relating to the conservation and preservation of monuments on different topics and issues.

10. Provision of on –site activities like painting competition, quiz, clay modelling, debates and extempore creative writing, poster making, photographic exhibition and competition, post card and brochure making competitions and storytelling competition relating to the monument and its environs. According to specific age group and general interest.

11. A set of 30-40 play cards can be prepared by the students and can be kept at the site and that can be used to create public awareness.

12. The monuments are very sensitive towards the environment and in this regard plantation of trees is very important around the monument with the prior permission of the authority concerned and their proper maintenance should be taken care off.

Phase C- Post Activity Guidelines

There are a number of follow –up activities that can be taken up. Few of them are mentioned below:-

1. The students can develop a public questionnaire to see if their work has improved the condition of the monument and knowledge of the people about the monument

2. Students can act as student-guided tours for the tourists and general public but this should be carried out under the supervision of the teacher.

3. Students who performed extremely well in the activity may be given certificates for their efforts and support.

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