

---

## **PRESERVING HERITAGE IN THE DIGITAL AGE: NATIONAL MISSION ON MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES**

**Kalpana S. Mukunde**

Librarian,

Orange City College of Social Work,

Nagpur

Crossref DOI - <https://doi.org/10.63665/rh.v7i1.86>

---

### **Abstract :**

*The preservation of cultural heritage in digital form is essential for maintaining the accessibility and safeguarding of historical, artistic, and intellectual assets in today's digital world. India, boasting a vast and diverse cultural heritage, has launched several programs aimed at ensuring the enduring availability and conservation of its heritage. The preservation of digital heritage is propelled by technology-driven initiatives led by the government that emphasize digitizing, documenting, and archiving the Country's cultural treasures. Major initiatives involve the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA), which has documented more than 12.3 lakh artifacts.*

*India is among the largest stores of physical heritage, featuring monuments, sites, and artifacts that range from prehistoric periods to the colonial age. The lack of centralized database complicates research, conservation and management efforts. In response to this, the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was initiated to systematically record and digitize architectural heritage, location and artifacts. By utilizing standardized documentation, training initiatives and public NMMA seek to establish a thorough national database, safeguarding India's vibrant cultural heritage.*

**Keywords :** Preservation, Cultural Heritage, Monuments, Antiquities, Digital age, Digitization, Archiving, Manuscript, Digital Preservation.

---

### **Introduction :**

The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) is an Indian government agency responsible for maintaining the cultural heritage database under the Ministry of Culture of the Government of India. It was established in 2007 with the goal of learning about, investigating, and conserving India's cultural legacy. The agency's primary objective is to provide information to the public online, namely for academics and students who are interested in or connected to the topic. Up to 2016, it recorded 3,15 lakh-built heritage sites and artifacts, and 1,400,740 antiquities gathered from various secondary sources, both published and unpublished, that were initially examined or studied by researchers, educators, scholars, and archaeologists.

Together with the Archaeological Survey of India, a nodal agency of the NMMA, it is tasked with maintaining two national registers, including the national register on antiquities



and the national register on Built Heritage & Sites. It is regarded as one of the nation's most significant databases in terms of architecture and history. As modified by the union government, it enters into contractual agreements with the state governments to gather reference materials for better database management. The main objective of this paper is to evaluate and observe the Antiquities and Built Heritage of India.

### Objective of the Study :

- To Calculate the antiquities state-wise
- To calculate the antiquities object-wise
- To calculate the antiquities museum-wise
- To calculate the Built-Heritage state -wise
- To calculate the Built-Heritage dynasty -wise
- To calculate the Built-Heritage cultural affiliation -wise

### Research Methodology :

The research method used in this study is observation. Data have been collected from National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) website in India. Data have been collected during 05<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

### Scope of the Study :

National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) website of India is considered for the study.

### Data Analysis :

The following table shows the Number of antiquities state-wise, antiquities object-wise, antiquities museum-wise, built heritage state-wise, built heritage dynasty-wise and built heritage cultural affiliation-wise.

**Table no. 1: Antiquities State-wise**

Sr. No.	Name of the State	No. of Antiquities	Sr. No.	Name of the State	No. of Antiquities	Sr. No.	Name of the State	No. of Antiquities
1	Andhra Pradesh	6229	10	Jammu and Kashmir	93430	18	Punjab	84862
2	Assam	1880	11	Jharkhand	361	19	Rajasthan	42606
3	Bihar	6264	12	Karnataka	904	20	Tamil Nadu	3931
4	Chandigarh	778	13	Kerala	906	21	Telangana	2598



5	Chhatisgarh	312	14	Madhya Pradesh	4889	22	Union Territory of Ladakh	7
6	Delhi	425059	15	Maharashtra	164973	23	Uttarakhand	477
7	Goa	701	16	Mizoram	684	24	Uttar Pradesh	38788
8	Gujarat	46447	17	Orissa	8113	25	West Bengal	9947
9	Himachal Pradesh	3974						

Table No. 1 illustrates the Number of Antiquities State-wise in which Delhi State with 425059 occupies the first place, followed by Maharashtra State with 164973 and Jammu and Kashmir State with 93430. Table shows the Union Territory of Ladakh h with 7 number of antiquities on least position.

**Table no. 2: Antiquities Object-wise**

Sr. No.	Name of the Objects	No. of Objects	Sr. No.	Name of the Objects	No. of Objects	Sr. No.	Name of the Objects	No. of Objects
1	Raw Material	4073	21	Textile	1245	41	Maps and Atlas	7
2	Manufacturing waste	1522	22	Instrument	189	42	Locking system	16
3	Utilitarian	5357	23	Household Goods	3224	43	Armour	941
4	Stone Object	3869	24	Pin	47	44	Waste Material	17845
5	Photographs	416	25	Chert Object	7	45	Dye	26
6	Sculpture	26057	26	Tappery Nail	30	46	Plaste	21
7	Wooden Object	334	27	Tube	25	47	Craft	56
8	Clay Model	201	28	Object	1227	48	Scientific instrument	29
9	Currency	197846	29	Ingot	8	49	Glass	121
10	Memorial Stone	10	30	Crucible	17	50	Luxury item	531
11	Seals & Sealing	4399	31	Mace head	7	51	Pipe	21
12	Paintings	13524	32	Shell Object	1798	52	Medical Equipment	18
13	Architectural Fragment	6902	33	Metal Object	3322	53	Furniture	367
14	Ritual Object	1099	34	Artifact	1016	54	Papier mache	13



15	Plaque	3021	35	Epigraphical record	1120	55	Electrical	26
16	Tool	201952	36	Fragment	445	56	Study Meterial	1098
17	Weapon	24732	37	Figurine	43854	57	Writing Material	103
18	Games & Amusements	29270	38	Fossils	38	58	Cosmetics & Related items	14
19	Terracotta object	140882	39	Iron	644	69	Fabric & Textile	20
20	Measuring Item	2973	40	Medallion	30	60	Miscellaneous & Unidentified	25178

Table No. 2 shows the Number of Antiquities Object-wise in which Tool Object stood on first position that is 201952, followed by Currency object stood on second position 197846 and Terracotta Object on third position that is 140882. Antiquities object-wise table shows the least number of antiquities objects Chert object, Mace head object, and Maps and Atlas with 7 number of objects.

**Table no. 3: Antiquities Museum-wise**

Sr No	Name of Museum	No. of Mu seu m	Sr No	Name of Museum	No. of Mu seu m	Sr No	Name of Museum	No. of Mus eum
1	IRS, Sahitya Sansthan, JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth	4940	48	Archaeological Survey of India, Lucknow Circle	885	95	Government Museum Dungarpur	254
2	Achaeological Museum, Badami	170	49	Archaeological Survey of India, Meerut Circle	119	96	Government Museum Hawa Maha Jaipur	300
3	Achaeological Museum, Bijapur	2	50	Archaeological Survey of India, Patna Circle	1758	97	Government Museum Jaiselmer	162
4	Achaeological Museum, Bodhgaya	81	51	Archaeological Survey of India, Raipur Circle	312	98	Government Museum Jhalawar	758
5	Achaeological Museum, Chandragiri	237	52	Archaeological Survey of India, Ranchi Circle	361	99	Government Museum Kota	761
6	Achaeological Museum, Cooch Behar	20	53	Archaeological Survey of India, Srinagar	95	100	Government Museum Mandore	167



	Palace			Circle				
7	Achaeological Museum, Deeg Place Bharatpur	680	54	Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle	864	10 1	Government Museum Mount Abu	269
8	Achaeological Museum, Fort St. George	330	55	Archaeological Survey of India, Vadodara Circle	9	10 2	Government Museum Pali	273
9	Achaeological Museum, Goa	701	56	Arms Gallery Quila Mubarak Patiala	202 89	10 3	Government Museum Sikar	361
10	Achaeological Museum, Gwalior Fort	137 8	57	Assam State Museum, Guwahati	513	10 4	Government Museum Udaipur	1020 7
11	Achaeological Museum, Hampi	335	58	Balurghat College Museum	162	10 5	Government Museum Viratnagar	159
12	Achaeological Museum, Hazarduari Palace Murshidabad	551	59	Bengiya Sahitya Parishad Museum	297	10 6	Govt Archaeological Museum, Sadhu Ashram, Hoshiarpur	318
13	Achaeological Museum, Jageshwar	14	60	Bhima Devi Temple, Pinjore	322	10 7	G R Sharma Memorial Museum, Allahabad	191
14	Achaeological Museum, Kalibangan	192 3	61	Bidar Fort	305	10 8	Gurusaday Museum	28
15	Achaeological Museum, Khajuraho	226	62	Boudhasri District Archaeological Museum, Guntur	265	10 9	Himachal State Museum, Shimla	3974
16	Achaeological Museum, Konark	211	63	CAC(Coin) Purana Quila	483 12	11 0	HR and CE, Odisha	411
17	Achauseum, Kondapur	253 0	64	Central Antiquity Collection Section Purana Qila	260 464	11 1	HR and CE, Tamil Nadu	1386
18	Achaeological Museum, Lothal	129 0	65	Central Archaeological Museum Gujar Mahal, Gwalior	325	11 2	INTACH, ODISHA STATE CHAPTER	713
19	Achaeological Museum,	42	66	Chandigarh UT Art Gallery	395	11 3	Government Museum Mount	269



	Mattancherry Palace						Abu	
20	Achaeological Museum, Nalanda	161	67	Deccan College Post Graduate Research Institute	163 482	11 4	K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna	2500
21	Achaeological Museum, Red Fort Delhi	309	68	Department of A.I.H.C & Arch. BHU, Varanasi	450 1	11 5	Maharaja Ranjit Singh Museum, Summar Place, Amritsar	694
22	Achaeological Museum, Sanchi	57	69	Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh	286 82	11 6	M S University, Baroda	4514 8
23	Achaeological Museum, Sanghol	719	70	Department of Archaeology Museum Haryana	642 41	11 7	Mumtaz Mahal Museum, Red Fort Delhi	1185 6
24	Achaeological Museum, Sarnath	131 0	71	Dept. of Ancient Indian History & Archaeology, Lucknow	168 89	11 8	OIM South East Asian Studies, Bhubaneswar	299
25	Achaeological Museum, Shivpuri	560	72	Dept of Cultural Affairs & Archaeolgy, Punjab Govt	369 3	11 9	Personal Collection, Odisha	1550
26	Achaeological Museum, Tamluk	243 2	73	Dept. of Epigraphy & Archaeology, Thanjavur	799	12 0	Prehistory Branch, Nagpur	5
27	Achaeological Museum, Thanesar	394	74	Directorate of Assam	116 8	12 1	Private Museum, Odisha	254
28	Achaeological Museum, Uttar Pradesh	530	75	District Archaeological Museum, Kurnool	108 6	12 2	Private Museum, West Bengal	1607
29	Achaeological Museum, Vikramshila	135 7	76	District Archaeological Museum, Kurnul	108 8	12 3	Ramakrishna Mission VidhyaPeeth Museum	172
30	Allahabad Museum, Allahabad	126 22	77	District Archaeological Museum - Panagal, Nalgonda	602	12 4	Rani Mahal Museum Jhansi	1316



31	Anglo-Sikh War Memorial Museum, Firozeshah	177	78	District Museum Banasar Bagh, Sangrur	470	12	Sannati Sculpture Gallery ASI	35
32	Archaeological Survey of India, Agra Circle	425	79	Endowment Board	661	12	Sheesh Mahal Museum Art Gallery Patiala	29820
33	Archaeological Survey of India, Aizawl Circle	684	80	Excavated Site, Lachhura Ashind-Bhilwara	85	12	Shri Pratap Singh Museum	89146
34	Archaeological Survey of India, Amaravati Circle	217	81	Excavation Branch-II, Delhi	664	12	Site Museum, Alampur Mehabubnagar	218
35	Archaeological Survey of India, Aurangabad Circle	93	82	Excavation Branch-III, Patna	407	12	Site Museum, Kolanupaka Nalgonda	169
36	Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore Circle	57	83	Excavation Branch-I, Nagpur	139	13	Sri Balasubramaniya Swami Temple, Chinna Kavanam	76
37	Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal Circle	453	84	Excavation Branch-IV, Bhubaneswar	675	13	Sri Pratap Singh Museum, Srinagar	4189
38	Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle	679	85	Excavation Site, Dholavira	347	13	State Achaeological Museum, Aandhra Pradesh	2331
39	Archaeological Survey of India, Dehradun Circle	463	86	Excavation Branch-II, Delhi	664	13	State Archaeological Department, West Bengal	1026
40	Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Circle	278	87	Government Art Gallery Nimaj	175	13	State Archaeological Museum, Gurukul Jhajjar	149228
41	Archaeological Survey of India, Guwahati Circle	199	88	Government Central Museum Jaipur	349	13	State Museum Odisha	4001
42	Archaeological Survey of India, Hydrabad	68	89	Government Museum	490	13	Swatantrata Sangram	22



	Circle			Ahar		6	Sanghralaya, Red Fort Delhi	
43	Archaeological Survey of India, Jabalpur Circle	691	90	Government Museum Ajmer	970	13 7	T. S. MAHASABHA	794
44	Archaeological Survey of India, Jaipur Circle	576	91	Government Museum Alwar	185 5	13 8	Vikram University Madhya pradesh	405
45	Archaeological Survey of India, Jodhpur Circle	7	92	Government Museum Amber	961 2	13 9	Zonal Museum Hisar	8344 5
46	Archaeological Survey of India, Kolkata Circle	365 2	93	Government Museum & Art Gallery Chandigarh	383			
47	Archaeological Survey of India, Leh Mini Circle	7	94	Government Museum Bharatpur	359 3			

Table No. 3 shows the Number of Antiquities Museum-wise in which Central Antiquity Collection Section Purana Qila is 260464, followed by Deccan College Post Graduate Research Institute stood on second position 163482 and State Archaeological Museum, Gurukul Jhajjar on third position that is 149228. Antiquities Museum-wise table shows the least number of antiquities Museum Archaeological Museum, Bijapur stood on last position with 2 number of Museum, Prehistory Branch, Nagpur on second last with 5 number of Museum and Archaeological Survey of India, Jodhpur Circle and Archaeological Survey of India with 7 number of Museum.

**Table no. 4: Built Heritage Dynasty-wise**

Sr. No.	Name of the Dynasty	No. of Dynasty	Sr. No.	Name of the Dynasty	No. of Dynasty	Sr. No.	Name of the Dynasty	No. of Dynasty
1	British Period	228	18	Indo Sassanian derivative	1	35	Mughal	148
2	Bundela Style	10	19	Jain	5	36	Mughal Maratha Period	1
3	Chalukya	1	20	Kalachuri	1	37	Mughal Period	3
4	Chola	17	21	Kalinga	797	38	Muslim	10
5	Colonial Style	309	22	Khilji	18	39	N.A	1651
6	Dome style	2	23	Kshatrapa	29	40	Natural Rock Shelter	58
7	Dravida style	2	24	Kushanas	28	41	Nayaka	1



8	Eastern Ganga	1	25	Local Tradition	50	42	Pahari Type	28
9	European Style	8	26	Lodi	145	43	Pala	7
10	Gajapati	1	27	Mamluk	2	44	Rajasthani	2
11	Gothic Style	4	28	Maurya	1	45	Rajasthani Haveli Architecture	1
12	Gupta	24	29	Medieval	78	46	Shikhar Type	12
13	Hindu Style Architecture	70	30	Medieval Nagara Style	1	47	Sikh	94
14	Hindu Style Nagara Architecture	29	31	Megalithic Cairn Circle	31	48	Solanki	12
15	Ikshvakus	6	32	Mesolithic	9	49	Tughlaq	66
16	Indo-Islamic	52	33	Modern	54	50	Vernacular	119
17	Indo-persian	361	34	Modern Construction	5	51	Vijayanagar	11

Table No. 4 shows the Number of Built Heritage Dynasty-wise in which Not Applicable Dynasty stood on first position that is 1651, followed by Indo-Persian stood on second position 361 and Colonial Style on third position that is 309. Built Heritage Dynasty-wise table shows the least number of Built Heritage Dynasty is Chalukya Dynasty, Eastern Ganga Dynasty, Gajapati, Indo Sassanian Derivative, Kalachuri, Maurya, Medieval Nagara Style, Mugal Maratha Period, Nayaka and Rajasthani Haveli Architecture with 1 number of Built Heritage Dynasty.

**Table no. 5: Built Heritage State-wise**

Sr No	Name of the State	State-wise Built Heritage	Sr No	Name of the State	State-wise Built Heritage
1	Andhra Pradesh	1788	11	Madhya Pradesh	749
2	Bihar	20	12	Maharashtra	32
3	Chhatisgarh	60	13	Orissa	2015
4	Delhi	872	14	Punjab	687
5	Gujarat	46	15	Rajasthan	2160
6	Haryana	1	16	Tamil Nadu	922
7	Himachal Pradesh	280	17	Telangana	629
8	Jammu and Kashmir	292	18	Tripura	4



9	Karnataka	312	19	Uttar Pradesh	228
10	Kerala	174	20	West Bengal	135

Table No. 5 shows the Number of Built Heritage State-wise in which Rajasthan Built Heritage stood on first position that is 2160, followed by Orissa Built Heritage stood on second position 2015 and Andhra Pradesh Built Heritage on third position that is 1788. Built Heritage State-wise table shows the least number of Built Heritage is Harayana has a smaller number of Built Heritage that is 1 and followed by Tripura has 4 number of Built Heritage.

**Table no. 6: Built Heritage Cultural Affiliation-wise**

Sr. No.	Name of Cultural Affiliation	No. of Cultural Affiliation	Sr. No.	Name of Cultural Affiliation	No. of Cultural Affiliation	Sr. No.	Name of Cultural Affiliation	No. of Cultural Affiliation
1	British Period	228	18	Jain	5	35	Mughal Maratha Period	1
2	Bundela Style	10	19	Kalachuri	1	36	Mughal Period	3
3	Chalukya	1	20	Kalinga	797	37	Muslim	10
4	Chola	17	21	Khilji	18	38	N.A	1651
5	Colonial Style	309	22	Kshatrapa	29	39	Natural Rock Shelter	58
6	Dome style	2	23	Kushanas	28	40	Nayaka	1
7	Dravida style	2	24	Local Tradition	50	41	Pahari Type	28
8	Eastern Ganga	1	25	Lodi	145	42	Pala	7
9	European Style	8	26	Mamluk	2	43	Rajasthani	2
10	Gajapati	1	27	Maurya	1	44	Rajasthani Haveli Architecture	1
11	Gothic Style	4	28	Medieval	78	45	Shikhar Type	12
12	Gupta	24	29	Medieval Nagara Style	1	46	Sikh	94
13	Hindu Style Architecture	70	30	Megalithic Cairn Circle	31	47	Solanki	12
14	Hindu Style Nagara Architecture	29	31	Mesolithic	9	48	Tughlaq	66



15	Ikshvakus	6	32	Modern	54	49	Vernacular	119
16	Indo-Islamic	52	33	Modern Construction	5	50	Vijayanagar	11
17	Indo-Persian	361	34	Mughal	148			

Table No. 6 shows the Number of Built Heritage Cultural Affiliation-wise in which Not applicable means unknown Built Heritage stood on first position that is 1651, followed by Kalinga Built Heritage stood on second position with 797 and Indo-Persian Built Heritage on third position that is 361. Built Heritage Cultural Affiliation-wise table shows the least number of Built Heritage is Chalukya, Eastern Ganga, Gajapati, Kalachuri, Maurya, Mugal Maratha Period, Nayaka and Rajasthani Haveli Architecture has a smaller number of Built Heritage that is 1 and followed by Dome Style, Dravid Style, Mamluk and Rajasthani has 2 number of Built Heritage.

### Conclusion :

This study investigates that Antiquities State-wise in which Delhi State with 425059 occupies the first place, followed by Maharashtra State with 164973 and Jammu and Kashmir State with 93430 on third position. It was found that Number of Antiquities Object-wise in which Tool Object stood on first position that is 201952, followed by Currency object stood on second position 197846 and Terracotta Object on third position that is 140882. The study shows that Number of Antiquities Museum-wise in which Central Antiquity Collection Section Purana Qila is 260464, followed by Deccan College Post Graduate Research Institute stood on second position 163482 and State Archaeological Museum, Gurukul Jhajjar on third position that is 149228. The study disclosed that the Number of Built Heritage Dynasty-wise in which Not Applicable Dynasty stood on first position that is 1651, followed by Indo-Persian stood on second position 361 and Colonial Style on third position that is 309. The study shows the Number of Built Heritage State-wise in which Rajasthan Built Heritage stood on first position that is 2160, followed by Orissa Built Heritage stood on second position 2015 and Andhra Pradesh Built Heritage on third position that is 1788. The study shows the Number of Built Heritage Cultural Affiliation-wise in which Not applicable means unknown Built Heritage stood on first position that is 1651, followed by Kalinga Built Heritage stood on second position with 797 and Indo-Persian Built Heritage on third position that is 361.

### References:

- <https://nmma.nic.in/nmma/indexAction.do>
- <https://www.thejournalview.com/news/indias-national-mission-on-monuments-and-antiquities-a-step-towards-preserving-cultural-heritage-9607>
- Pal, Debarati, Legal framework on heritage protection in India, <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=1259782>
- Varre, Ranjith Kumar, Heritage and Archaeological Monuments Need of Conservation and Preservation with Special Reference to India, Library of Progress-Library Science, Information Technology & Computer, 2024, Vol 44, Issue 4, p682

