

CONSERVATION

OF

WORLD
HERITAGE
SITES



Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna River. It was commissioned by Shah Jahan to house the tomb of Mumtaz Mahal. It was designated as UNESCO world heritage site in 1983 for being "the jewel of muslim art".

THREATS FACING BY THE TAJ MAHAL :

- Recent studies state that levels of pollution have risen over years due to growth of industries, traffic and population which is affecting the outer layer of Taj Mahal.
- Signs of sinking are shown by the four minarets & they may collapse since the wooden foundation that are under are rotting due to the lack of water.
- Other potential threats out of anybody's control are natural disasters. They are sudden events that cause widespread destruction and damage. If a natural disaster occurs in the vicinity of Taj, it could destroy it.

WAYS TO CONSERVE "TAJ MAHAL"

Some ways to conserve 'Taj Mahal' are:

- Air pollution has given Taj Mahal a slightly yellow tinge and the Indian Parliament prescribed \$ 230,000 therapeutic mudpack as the best way to preserve architectural piece.
- To conserve Taj Mahal, government launched an environmental campaign named "Queen India Monument" to conserve it.
- Recently, supreme court ordered thousands of factories and foundaries and kilns to be shut down near Taj Mahal. Today, In Agra cars and buses are banned near cultural landmarks.
- The government has done efforts to curb traffic and shut down factories nearby to preserve this monument which is one of the seven wonders of the world.



CHARMINAR



The Charminar is a mosque located in Hyderabad, India. This landmark has become a global icon of Hyderabad and the Archaeological Survey of India is the current caretaker of the structure.

This monument was built in the centre of the city to commemorate the eradication of "plague".

THREATS : • Construction activity within 100m of Charminar, also poses a big threat.

• The 300 metre heritage zone is turning black due to pollution and their plasters are peeling off due to constant vibrations caused by passing vehicles.

• The increasing level of noise pollution is posing a threat to Charminar.

• Built with lime and mortar, plastering of 400 year old monument may peel off because of constant increase in pollution levels and the flow of heavy traffic around it could have a bearing on the state of its foundation.

WAYS OF CONSERVING "CHARMINAR"

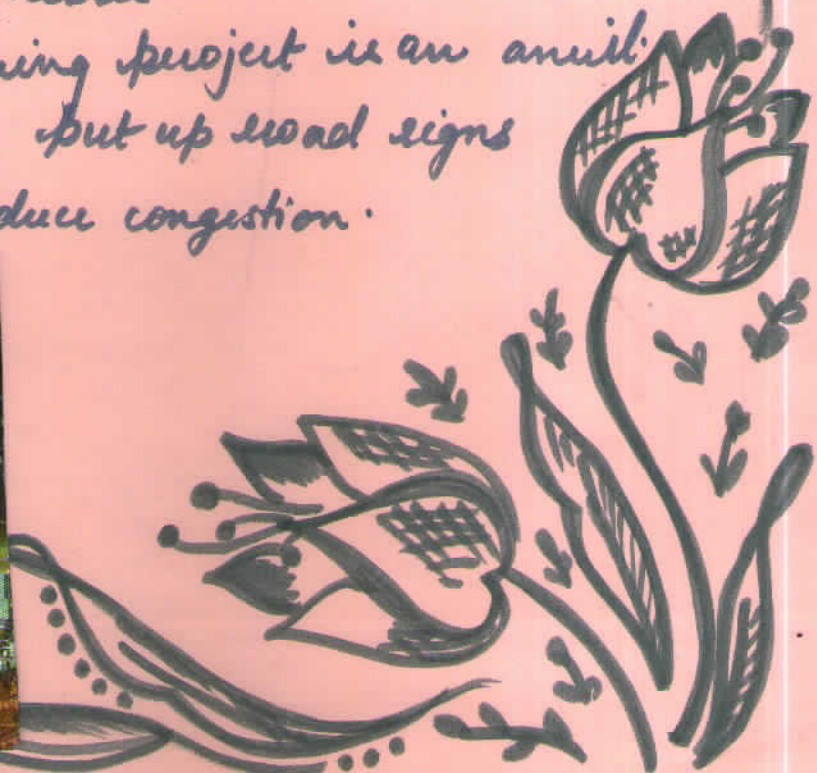
Some ways to conserve "CHARMINAR" are:

→ Pedestrianisation. This is a traffic system used to reduce the chaos and traffic snarl ups near Charminar so that it helps to reduce pollution. Syed Omar Taha has taken charge for this pedestrianisation project.

→ The National Geographical Research Institute of Hyderabad banned vehicles in the vicinity and continuous monitoring of vehicular vibrations near Charminar. Authorities have been asked to create alternative traffic routes within 18 months.

→ ASI has pushed back the protective iron railing around Charminar by 5 metres.

→ A 100 crore road widening project is on anvil. The government plans to put up road signs and street lighting to reduce congestion.



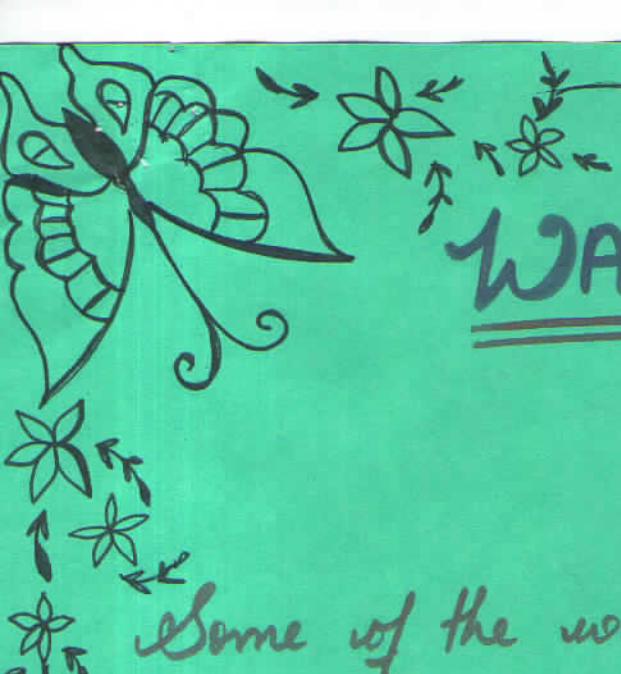


LOTUS TEMPLE

The Lotus Temple, located in New Delhi, India, is a Bahai House of Worship completed in 1986. It is notable for its flowerlike shape and has become a prominent attraction in the city.

THREATS:

Some stones on the temple wall appear yellow, which may be due to exposure to pollution. There is a major problem of illegal parking and severe traffic congestion which in turn is causing a lot of emissions. The architectural blossoming of the lotus at the Bahai House of Worship in Kalkaji could be withering away under the expanding effects of pollution. Vehicular emissions could be causing the building to corrode and turn grey, as well as the noise pollution, disturbing meditators at the House of Worship.



WAYS TO CONSERVE

"LOTUS TEMPLE"

Some of the ways to conserve "LOTUS TEMPLE" are:

→ NCR states draw up action plan to tackle air pollution - It has asked the traffic police to challan violators and metro construction project to take care of the construction dust.

→ Delhi Pollution 'out of control', HC asks government for an action plan - To conserve Lotus Temple and its stones of temple facade yellowing, HC asks government for an action plan.

→ Alarmed by the increasing effects of pollution, NGOs like Intash and WWF have offered to help out. WWF intends to help monitor the pollution levels throughout the year.

→ The industrial units cause pollution but, now courts have ordered their closure.

→ The plant management installed precipitators to reduce toxicity & fly-ash emissions;

