

MONUMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

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Introduction

Monuments are the cultural epitomes and mirrors of a society where the past and their present are conjoined towards future. Any society that has forgotten its past is said to repeat the same mistakes, blunders, and errors; and monuments are one of the major efforts of man kind in concretizing the past so as to guide the present towards the future historical actuality, and social development.

Monuments are not only the preservation and testimony of the past glory and history it also becomes the cultural identity of a community, playing the role of a totem. Therefore, monuments can never die and if at all a monument becomes dead it means that, that community, or that society has lost its quintessence and has degenerated or has undergone changes due to acculturation etc.

When a society or a community loose it's meaning of the monument the monument becomes dead. Therefore, a monument lives only when it is a part and parcel of the society or community in which it is situated.

Monuments are bridges, which bridge the gap between mythical time and historical time. Monuments revolve around Legends who were historical once but have undergone a metamorphosis to that of a Devine. Moreover, it is this attribution of divinity to monuments that acts as the key in bridging the mythical and the real present history. This is very true not only of our ancient land but is a universal phenomenon.

Meaning of Monuments

A **monument** is a concrete structure, which is either created to commemorate a person (politico-socio-cultural) or any important event from the perspective of a social group as a part of their remembrance of historic times or cultural heritage, or simply as an example of historic architecture. In English the word "monumental" is often used in reference to something of extraordinary size and power, as in monumental sculpture, but also to mean simply anything made to commemorate the dead, as a funerary monument or other example of funerary art. The word comes from the Latin "monere," which means 'to remind' or 'to warn.' The term is often used to describe any structure that is a significant and legally protected historic work.

Purpose of Creation

Monuments have been created for thousands of years, and they are often the most durable and famous symbols of ancient civilizations. Prehistoric tumuli (cemetery, mound), dolmens (big-stone age burial yard), and similar structures have been created in a large number of prehistoric cultures across the world, for example Megalithic culture in India, and the many forms of monumental tombs of the more wealthy and powerful members of a society are often the source of much of our information and art from those cultures. As societies became organized on a larger scale, so monuments so large so as to be difficult to destroy like the Egyptian Pyramids, the Greek Parthenon or the Moai of Easter Island and Monolithic Rathas of Mahabalipuram of Tamil Nadu have become symbols of their civilizations. In more recent times, monumental structures such as the Statue of Liberty, Eiffel Tower, Lotus Temple, Delhi, and Auroville of Pondicherry, have become iconic emblems of modern nations.

Functions of Monuments

Monuments are frequently used to improve the appearance of a city or location to commemorate certain historical events. Planned cities such as Chandigarh, New Delhi, Washington D.C., and Brasilia are often built around monuments. For example, the Washington Monument's location was conceived by L'Enfant to help organize