

## Conservation discourses in technical education, India

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### Abstract

Heritage, both natural and cultural deserves to be treated with care and is vulnerable to neglect and apathy. Over past decades, in its quest for a 'new India', urban and infrastructure growth has been a-sympathetic to its built & natural heritage due to lack of awareness, knowledge and trained human resource.

Indian heritage has a huge potential of contributing to the liveability index and UN's sustainable development goals. Awareness building, public mobilisation towards cultural and ecological heritage and adequately trained and skilled human resource across the country for conservation is the requirement today.

Technical education institutions sensitising of youth towards acknowledging and nurturing heritage through creation of environment for conservation learning and imparting necessary knowledge and skills need further impetus. State, Private Organisations and Corporates can provide this impetus to promote excellence in conservation discourses of technical education and to encourage and facilitate a conservation approach to urban and infrastructure development.

**Keywords:** urban heritage, sustainability, architectural heritage, sensitive development.

### 1 Introduction

India is a land of diversity, which is reflected in its natural and cultural heritage. The country is divided into over 13 sub-climatic zones, each with its unique flora and fauna. This diversity is a testament to India's rich natural heritage, which is home to a vast array of plant and animal species, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Similarly, India's cultural heritage is equally diverse and rich. With more than 415 living languages, India is home to a multitude of different traditions, customs, and beliefs. Each region of India has its own unique culture, which is reflected in its art, literature, music, and cuisine. India's cultural heritage is a source of pride for its people and is recognized worldwide.

In addition to its natural and cultural diversity, India is also home to a young population. According to census data, 65% of India's population is below the age of 35. This young population is an asset for the country and presents a unique opportunity for growth and development. With the right policies and investments, this young workforce can drive economic growth and development in the country.

To leverage this opportunity, India is focusing on urbanization and infrastructure development. The government is investing heavily in building new cities, improving existing ones, and creating new infrastructure to support economic growth. The goal is to create a modern and developed India, which can compete with the best in the world