

INDIA

Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi



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II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1989

Organisation Responsible for the Report

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II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C i, ii, iii, iv, vi

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows (new):
 "The Sanchi hill stands as the earliest Buddhist site, not visited by Buddha, wherein Asoka laid the foundation of monumental art in 3rd Century B.C. as a Buddhist enclave, which thrived successfully up to C 1200 AD and has the credit of sending the earliest preachers to Sri Lanka. The exquisite graphic account of Jatakas, Buddha's life and historic events is of unique charm and significance also as a milestone of development and integration of indigenous and extraneous influences frozen in art."

Status of Site Boundaries

- The demarcation line and buffer zone are not adequate.
- The report proposes an extension to the property. Other Buddhist centres were established shortly after Sanchi, within a radius of 15km. Satdhara, Sonari, Murelkhurd and Andher. The 4 sites are paramount to reach an understanding of the process which led to the Sanchi's uniqueness.

"Extension of buffer zone is necessary because the villages of Sanchi, Manchi, Kanakheda and Nagori have inhabited the buffer zone. Although the authorities propose to acquire some of the land, it is not possible to ensure the pristine ambience of this zone as a whole."

- The extension of the buffer zone is necessary because the villages of Sanchi, Manchi, Kanakheda and Nagori have extended into the buffer zone area. Although the authorities propose to acquire some of the land, it is not possible to ensure the pristine ambience of this zone as a whole. The ASI has proposed to acquire more land to maintain the buffer zone.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- Values and authenticity/integrity maintained.
- Changes to the authenticity/integrity: excavations exposed many structures and remains, which has positively increased the authenticity and integrity.
- Changes in the future: there is a possibility of more structures inside the property, which would enhance both the cultural and historical values.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The ASI needs co-operation from local authorities to enforce laws, in order for them to be properly implemented.
- Site protected by legal arrangements that are insufficient because the enforcing agencies do not co-operate.
- Overall management made at the local, regional and national levels. The above arrangements are considered sufficient.
- No Management plan. The plan is in its preliminary data collection stage.
- Actions foreseen in the future: a co-ordination committee constituted and a Sanchi development plan framed in July 2000.

Present State of Conservation

- No changes in authenticity of material, style, workmanship of monuments.
- Major conservation work carried out by the circle from 1989 to 2001-02 year wise enclosed.

Staffing and Training Needs

- 53 staff at both regional and local levels, not sufficient to monitor the site. It is necessary to increase the number and enhance security.
- The staff need training in conservation and management policy and practices, geophysical radar techniques, and procedures in security.

Financial Situation

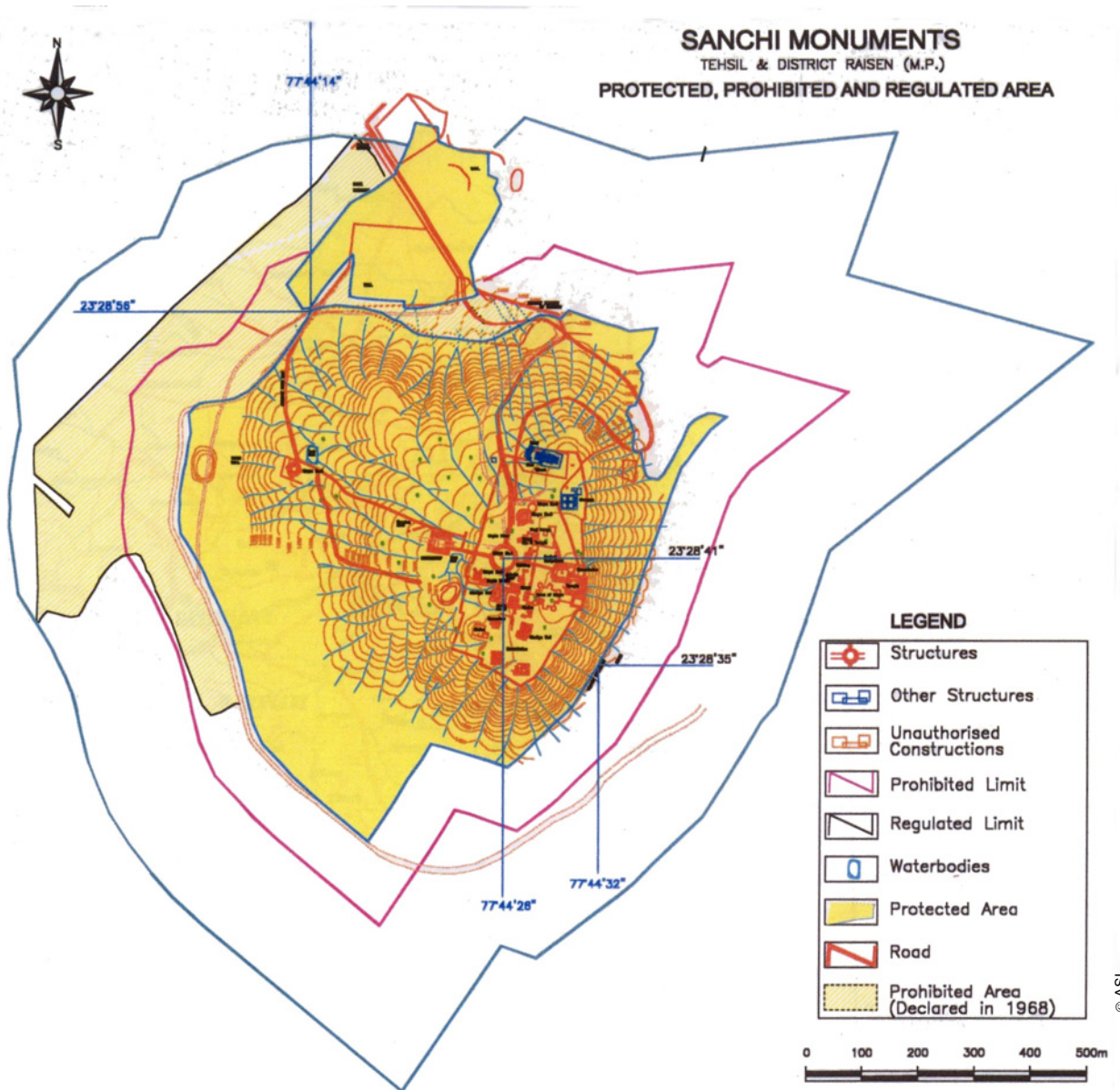
- Sources of funds from Central Government (ASI).
- Funding is sufficient. Expenditures on excavations made until 2001.
- UNESCO campaign for the development of Sanchi, Satdhara monuments with a grant of US\$ 298,000 from 1996-1998.
- * International Assistance from WHF: none.

Access to IT

- 8 sets of computers at regional office, none on site, with email and Internet access.
- No use of GIS.

Visitor Management

- 2001: 77,732 visitors.
- Various basic facilities available at site.
- Needed facilities: cafeteria, souvenir shop, parking, conference auditorium, extension of museum, guesthouse, documentation centre, and interpretation centre.
- Average tourism inflow is below the possible optimum, therefore no management required in the foreseeable future.



Map of Sanchi Monuments showing Protected, Prohibited and Regulated Areas

- Communication of WH values through: cultural awareness programmes including photo exhibition, debate and speech competition, essay and drawing competition.
- Educational programmes: school and college students are invited to participate in the cultural awareness programme.
- Role of the inscription to the List of World Heritage: tourism increase, development activities increased, more research, more attention from authorities, better awareness of local residents.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property



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Cluster of votive Stupas exposed in Sanchi

Threats and Risks

- Villages have been in buffer zone for generations, but new housing spoils the visual settings of the property.
- Weathering affects sand stones causing imperceptible damage over the years.
- No natural disasters.
- Increasing number of inhabitants with new constructions in the buffer zone. New discoveries protected.

Counteractive Plans

- No emergency plan.
- Encroachments are a major problem: proposals to acquire land in buffer zone are underway.
- Improvements needed: removing unauthorised constructions in buffer-zone and better ambience of the settings in buffer zone, reviving old pathways for visitors, reviving old drainage, interpretation centre, improving security systems and signage.
- Impacts of factors: decreasing.
- Measures adopted or planned: co-ordination committee constituted for development and management purposes, movement of local residents stopped by fencing around the whole core zone, illegal constructions stopped.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- Regular monitoring with inspection note for further conservation measures, watch and ward and managements aspects.
- Foreseen improvements: monitoring is presently done at a large area level, it will henceforth focus on smaller areas and if necessary, microscopic investigations will be carried out.

Monitoring Indicators

- No monitoring indicators.
- In the future, yearly microscopic examinations will be undertaken to survey the widening of bedding planes and cleavages and to assess the impact of weathering on sand stone,.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- Values: property unchanged. Due to the discovery of previously unknown votive stupas, apsidal temples and residential structures, archaeological value has increased. 4 sites identified for extension.
- Management and factors affecting property: although the comprehensive management plan is under consideration, the existing management practices are being strictly followed for better maintenance and upkeep of property.
- Future actions: re-erecting of south gate pillar, restoring temple n°45, reviving old pathway and old drainage, interpretation centre, excavations in core area, signage, security systems and equipments, more land for buffer zone.
- Timetable for the implementation of the Plans: 5 years.

* No State of Conservation Reports