

## *Editorial*

It is with great pride that we present the latest edition of the *Journal of Heritage, Archaeology & Management (JHAM)*, Volume 5, Issue I. This issue continues our mission to provide a robust, multidisciplinary platform for researchers and practitioners to explore the complexities of cultural preservation in an increasingly globalized world.

The current volume features **nine articles** that traverse a diverse geographical and thematic landscape—from the intricate temple architecture of Central India to the legal and economic frameworks governing heritage sites. This collection underscores a vital shift in the field: the recognition that heritage management is not only a study of the past but a dynamic integration of art history, legislative protection, and fiscal sustainability.

### **Thematic Highlights of This Issue:**

- **Temple Architecture and Artistic Legacy:** Several papers delve into the architectural splendor of the **Bundelkhand region** and beyond. These studies analyze Nagara-style shikharas and the socio-cultural dynamics of the Chandelas and Bundelas. By documenting these structures, our contributors offer fresh insights into how religious architecture serves as a pillar for local identity and regional tourism.
- **Legislative and Global Management Frameworks:** Expanding our global perspective, this issue examines heritage legislation and management practices in **Africa (specifically Nigeria)**. These articles tackle the impact of corruption on sustainable development and the importance of indigenous justice systems in protecting cultural property, highlighting the universal struggle to safeguard history against modern systemic threats.

- **Public Archaeology and Community Engagement:** Moving beyond the "monument," our authors explore the "human element" of heritage. From investigating **Public Archaeology** in West Africa to the role of gastronomy in cultural tourism, this issue emphasizes that heritage is a living entity that thrives only when it engages and benefits the local community.
- **Advancements in Documentation:** The volume also highlights the role of modern methodology—such as photography and digital documentation—in the rigorous recording of archaeological sites, ensuring that even as physical structures age, their data remains preserved for the scholarly community.
- **Financial Perspectives in Heritage Management:** A significant addition to this volume is the exploration of heritage through a financial lens. By evaluating the economic viability of heritage projects and the role of stakeholders in funding conservation, this study provides a crucial roadmap for ensuring that cultural assets remain sustainable for future generations.

As we navigate an era where tangible and intangible heritage are threatened by rapid urbanization and environmental change, the voices in this volume provide a vital reminder of the value of our shared history. We hope these eight articles inspire continued dialogue and action in the field of heritage management.

We extend our sincere thanks to the contributors for their meticulous research and to our peer reviewers for their dedication to maintaining the academic excellence of JHAM.

Sincerely,

**Prof. Durga Basu (Editor)**

**Dr. Asmita Basu Chatterjee (Associate Editor)**

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