

Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Science & Heritage Research Initiative (SHRI)

The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched a new initiative on “Science & Heritage Research Initiative” today at India International Science Festival-2017 (IISF) at Chennai.

Department of Science & Technology (DST) through Science & Heritage Research Initiative (SHRI) plans to engage experts from diverse fields for data capture and analysis to form new collaborations, and provide viable technologies to address cultural heritage.

The Minister expressed happiness at the launch of SHRI as DST is planning to use research & innovation for better conservation and preservation of our heritage and culture.

Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST explained the importance of the initiative. He mentioned about the need of multi-disciplinary science and technology interventions in the area of Cultural heritage to address weakness, challenges & opportunities existing in the system. The programme will encourage new thinking and offer value addition to existing systems with globally competitive solutions.

The programme on Science & Heritage Research Initiative aims to -

- Develop the research community by building capacity and supporting new researchers
- Promote scientific research activities in conservation of Heritage Objects which includes research on material deterioration process, preservation techniques, intervention technologies, new materials, processes for restoration and diagnostic technologies
- Safeguarding the uses, representations, expressions, knowledge and techniques, communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals, recognised as an integral part of their cultural heritage
- Explore new approaches, state-of-art technology to preserve the heritage which witnessed the evolution and growth of human civilization and art works of former generations
- R&D activities and technological advancement on chemical treatment and preservation of protected monuments/world heritage monuments,
- Advanced knowledge of archaeometric applications in a range of fields

The components of the projects are Basic Research & Technology Development Projects; Skill Development Programme; Fellowships; Conferences/Workshop/Seminar; Demonstration or Diffusion of technologies; & Specific studies to understand the scientific phenomenon behind the degradation and preservation.