B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science & Technology

RAPPORTEUR

CRESCENT LEGAL AID COMMITTEE • CRESCENT SCHOOL OF LAW •25 SEPTEMBER 2026

LEGAL AID SOCIAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Legal Awareness Camp on the Fundamental Duty to Protect the Heritage Sites in India



A Legal Awareness Camp on the **"Fundamental Duty to Protect the Heritage Sites in India"** was conducted at **Mahabalipuram Public Beach** on **25.09.2026** from 11:00 AM to 1:40 PM. The main objective of the campaign was to create awareness among the public regarding their constitutional and legal responsibility to protect and preserve India's historical monuments, archaeological sites and cultural heritage.

As part of the awareness campaign, pamphlets and awareness circulars were distributed to the public. The pamphlets highlighted **Article 51A(f)** of the Constitution of India, which places a fundamental duty on every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country.

The public was also informed about **the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act)**, which provides for the preservation and protection of ancient monuments and archaeological sites. The awareness material explained the prohibited and regulated areas surrounding protected monuments, including the restrictions on construction activities.Information was also provided regarding **the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878,** relating to the reporting and regulation of treasures or ancient objects discovered accidentally or during digging, and **the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972,** which regulates antiquities and seeks to prevent their illegal trade and smuggling.

The campaign further focused on the penalties for damaging, destroying, removing or encroaching upon protected monuments. The public was made aware that violations of heritage protection laws may attract imprisonment and/or monetary fines. The awareness material carried the message: **"Do not forget your duty! Do not violate the law!"**

The members of the Legal Aid Committee also engaged in direct interaction with the public, explaining the importance of protecting heritage sites and encouraging responsible behaviour around historical monuments. The team additionally visited heritage sites in Mahabalipuram to understand their historical and cultural significance and to promote awareness about their preservation.

The campaign successfully emphasized that the protection of heritage is not merely the responsibility of government authorities but also a constitutional duty of every citizen. Through pamphlet distribution, public interaction and the visit to heritage sites, the programme aimed to encourage greater respect, awareness and responsibility towards India's valuable cultural heritage.dy text






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