National Cultural Fund (NCF)

Prelims *- Current events of national and international importance | Government schemes and intervention.*

Why in News?

Recently, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism mentioned about the use of National Cultural Fund in promoting private participation in conservation of cultural heritage.

- **Setup in –** 28th November 1996 under the ***Charitable endowment act,1890.***
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Culture.
- **Objectives –** To leverage *Public Private Partnerships (PPP)* to mobilize resources for the promotion, protection, and preservation of India's rich cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible.
- To administer funds for the conservation, maintenance, protection, preservation, and enhancement of monuments.

Adopt A Heritage program 2.0 was launched by Ministry of Culture to improve the visitor's experience and make monuments visitor friendly.

- **Managed by –** Council and Executive committee
  - **Council –** It has a maximum strength of 25 members, with 19 eminent members representing the corporate and public sector, private foundations and nonprofit organizations.
  - **Executive Committee –** It is led by secretary of culture with up to 11 members executes these policies.
- **Partnership –** It collaborates with donors, NGOs, corporates, government bodies and reputed agencies.
- ASI collaborates with public-private sector companies for conservation projects through Corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding.
- **Project implementation –** It carried out through a tripartite

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NCF, the donor, and the implementing agency.

- A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) oversees the progress, and a joint account is used to ensure transparent fund management.
- **Tax Benefits** - Donations to the NCF are eligible for ***100% tax exemption*** under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- **Auditing -** Annual accounts of the NCF are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- **Importance –** NCF and ASI promotes public-private partnerships to protect and conserve India's cultural heritage following the national conservation policy.
- Improving facilities at monuments, and making heritage sites more visitor friendly and accessible.

References

1. PIB| Private Partnership in Conservation Heritage Site
2. Ministry of Culture| NCF

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