Threats for Taj mahal

What is the issue?

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Recently Uttar Pradesh government neglected Taj mahal from its tourism brochure, this move could hurt India’s tourism industry.

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What are the significance of Taj mahal?

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- The Taj Mahal was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in 1631, which acts as a global cultural exporter.
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- Over the centuries, the Taj Mahal has been an enduring message of love and peace.
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- The Taj Mahal stands on a raised, square platform (186 x 186 feet) with its four corners truncated to form an unequal octagon.
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- It employs the principles of self-replicating geometry and symmetry of architectural elements and is regarded as the most exquisite monument built by the Mughals.
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- To preserve the monument conservation efforts are carried out by the ASI, including mud-pack therapy to treat paleness of its white marble.
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- The Taj Mahal and Agra accounted for the maximum number of tourists, who form the backbone of the small and medium businesses built around tourism in and around Agra.
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What is the decision of U.P government on Taj mahal?

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- Uttar Pradesh tourism department, recently decided to drop the Taj from its publicity brochure.
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- The top echelons of the state bureaucracy justified the step by stating the booklet was to promote the lesser known tourist destinations of the state.
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- Since Agra and the Taj Mahal were already recognised and established tourist destinations, these were omitted from the list.
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- The omission not only made the booklet bereft of the state's most precious jewel, but set off a wave of acerbic criticism against the U.P government.
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What are the opinions on U.P government' move?

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- Many saw the move as a deliberate attempt to undermine the state's Muslim heritage.
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- Critics argued that the state government is trying to promoting Hindu pilgrimage sites at the cost of other monuments.
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- The country's leisure tourism industry is centred on the Taj Mahal and its exclusion would do more harm than good to the state's tourism industry.
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- Tourism experts say the state has failed to exploit the full potential of Agra as a tourist destination.
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What are the other troubles Taj mahal is facing?

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- Agra has lack of infrastructure in terms of roads and civic amenities, and the Taj Mahal itself has been plagued by troubles.
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- The Yamuna, on whose banks it is located, has become a dumping ground for waste and air pollution is blackening its pristine white marble.
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- The proposal sought by union government to cut 400 trees around Taj mahal to make way for a railway track between Mathura and Delhi, was a threat.
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- SC had likened the proposal for cutting trees to seeking permission to destroy the Taj Mahal.
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- The danger posed to the Taj Mahal from pollution, the vagaries of nature and tourists has even attracted the attention of Parliament.
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- The standing committee on environment taking note of the phenomenon and directing remedial measures.
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Source: Business Standard

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