

IGNCA organizes webinar on International Museum Day

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On the occasion of International Museum Day, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts organizes a webinar on the topic, “Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities”, on 19th May 2025, in collaboration with Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Kolkata. On this occasion, eminent scholars and museum experts were invited to deliver a talk on the topic. The Regional Director of IGNCA, RC-R, Dr. Kumar Sanjay Jha gave a welcome address, giving a brief introduction about International Museum Day and the importance and role of the Museum in educating people about the heritage.

Introductory talk of the Webinar was given by Dr. Achal Pandya. Dr. Pandya mentioned how some of the well known museums in the world encourage community participation in the establishment, development and management of Museums. Dr. Pandya, mentioned about IGRMS, Bhopal, Kachh Museum, Gujarat, Bihar Museum, Patna, and National Craft Museum, New Delhi have encouraged local communities to participate in the Museum activities, so that the artefacts can be restored and preserved through traditional way of conservation. He mentioned that it is important that when the world is changing so rapidly, the life of indigenous communities is also changing due to the surrounding ecological changes and it is important to involve such communities in museum activities to preserve their heritage.

Dr. Supreo Chanda of University of Kolkata gave an insightful talk on Museology training in India. He suggested that Museum training should involve field based expertise. Museums need digital transformations, so that more visitors, particularly of Virtual Reality, Artificial Intelligence and digital archiving can improve the functioning of Museums in our country.

Dr. Pradosh Mishra of Banaras Hindu University strongly suggested community participation in the Museum activities in his talk. He gave the example of Rupankar Museum, Bhopal, that such Museums are now encouraging community engagement in the Museum activities. He said that, in India, there are different challenges in management of museums, such as, lack of modern tools, shortage of trained professionals and limited exposure to community driven projects. Besides this, workshops, cultural activities, and such other activities should be organized in museums, which are community based and involve and attract more visitors.

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Dr. Anand Vardhan, the President of Museum Association of India also delivered his insightful lecture and said that, Museums provide us prospects of research for heritage and

training are provided for the research on artefacts kept in them. He said that cultural conservation is only possible by indigenous methods and for the sake of this, communities should be involved in conservation and other activities of any museum.

Viredra Bangru talked about the Museums and tangible and intangible heritage of various communities of Himalayan regions, including, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Giving examples of various community established museums of these areas, he mentioned that the diverse tangible and intangible heritage are protected and preserved by the local community initiative.

Dr. Usha Rani Tiwari, from Banaras Hindu University mentioned that Museums are playing an important role in bridging gaps between young generation and their cultural heritage. She suggest that, activities in Museums, as exhibitions, performing art and storytelling can engage the community people in the Museum activities and it is the best method to engage and educate visitors.

At last, Dr. Sanjay Tirkey, Assistant Professor, Department of archaeology and Museology, Ranchi University delivered the last lecture of the Webinar suggesting that Museums in Jharkhand should be established in the tribal areas, so that the artefacts can be preserved by traditional methods.

