

**Indira Gandhi National Centre For the Arts
Project Mausam**

**Lecture
on**

Dhow Trade from Western India Past and Present

**by
Dr. Nidhi Mahajan**

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On

**24th October 2017,
Venue: Lecture Hall, 11 Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110011**

Abstract:-

The Lecture traced the movement of dhows from the Gulf of Kutch across the Western Ocean both in the past and the present. While historians have largely assumed that dhow trade came to an end by the 1950s, based on ethnographic research in India and Kenya, Ms. Mahajan tried to show how the dhow trade continues to persist today, despite shifting regulations that have pushed this trade into an economic niche.

Focusing on shifting patterns of trade and exchange in this transregional arena, and the everyday life of diverse dhow crews including Khadvas, Badalas, and Waghers, she provided an overview of historical continuities and discontinuities in the dhow trade from the Gulf of Kutch. She argued that dhow is the object that linked India to the Middle East and East Africa, not only in the past but also in the present.