Welcome

Foreword

National Museum experienced a flurry of activities in the first four months of 2014. The year began with the convening of the Museum Advisory Board, chaired by Dr. B N Goswamy to provide direction and shape to the upcoming programmes and projects of National Museum.

In February, a consultation of stakeholders, consisting of Museum managers and professionals in the sector, was organized on behalf of the Ministry of Culture where a wide range of issues affecting the sector were discussed and debated.

The National Museum Lecture Series (NMLS) started in January 2014 and has hosted four emeritus speakers from across the globe to engage museum enthusiasts. A line up of several museum scholars, artists, historians and curators will make the upcoming lectures an exciting platform for dialogue. Many educational programmes were organized in the museum, including a four-day collaborative workshop cum demonstration with the Delhi International Arts Festival (DIAF) and the Iranian Embassy on Persian crafts of wood carving, calligraphy, metal works and illustration.

The Tradition, Art and Continuity gallery was set up and inaugurated in February and two new exhibitions, ‘The Book Museum’ created by noted Photographer and book-maker Dayanita Singh and ‘The Body in Indian Art’, curated by Naman P. Ahuja were opened in March. Both the exhibitions have been extensively covered by the press and have become very popular. Special educational programmes around the temporary exhibitions were organized which helped in their interpretation and understanding.

The Volunteer Guide Programme (VGP) has been functioning for over a year now. In a new initiative, members of the VGP took another step forward by getting involved in capacity building and training of the security staff of National Museum with the Outreach department. Two feedback sessions with the Volunteer Guides aided in systematically recording important changes required from the visitor’s perspective in the museum. These positive changes will be brought about systematically very soon.

The third batch of Volunteer Guides passed out after their training module, and a Convocation function was organised on 8th February. The VGs have since been deployed in the daily tour programme of the Museum.

The Jatan Software- a collection management system for the museum’s collections has now been set up at National Museum and all curators are populating it regularly. It is hoped that very soon National Museum will have a majority of its collections digitized and online. Three young professionals joined National Museum to manage the Jatan project.

The Museum hosted a part of the Leadership Training Programme III from 18-22 March which is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture to train museum professionals in museum management and leadership in collaboration with British museum.

A café has been opened in the central courtyard of the museum that serves snacks and beverages. The Museum shop on the ground floor attached to the Reception has been revamped, and a new range of products based on the objects of the museum has been developed and are on sale. New products and publications which are under production will be available at the shop.

In close collaboration with National Museum Institute, an Access plan in tune with rights of the alternately abled and less abled is being developed. The Plan will address all aspects of the Museum-public interface, including physical and intellectual access.

The Museum welcomed many new officers, including five young and dynamic assistant curators in the Painting, Central Asia, Archaeology, Decorative Arts and Education Department, it opened a new department called the Outreach Department and bid goodbye to some of the oldest employees of the museum as they retired.

2014 is expected to be a busy year for National Museum as it gears to bring about many new programmes, projects and collaborations with like-minded organizations for its visitors.
Welcome

We would like to thank our visitors who came through the doors of the museum enthusiastically. The visitor figures in the first quarter exceeded 60,000 and we hope to bring in many more and new audiences into the Museum.

Venu Vasudevan
Director General, National Museum
April 2014

Sh. Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture at the inauguration of the special exhibition, The Body in Indian Art on 14 March 2014.

Dr. Neil MacGregor, Director, British Museum delivering the third National Museum lecture in March 2014
New Galleries

Tradition, Art and Continuity Gallery

National Museum opened its gallery Tradition, Art and Continuity on 6th February 2014. The gallery was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister of Culture, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch.

Ethnic art objects in National Museum are displayed in the ‘Tradition, Art and Continuity’ gallery which captures the concept of “Unity in Diversity”. It is a concept that was envisaged by the leading anthropologist Dr N. K. Bose, following his extensive survey of various cultures throughout the sub-continent in 1961 which brought him to the conclusion that ‘within the sea of diverse cultures, there is always a similar way of expression’. This forms the central narrative of this gallery.

The collections on display in this gallery are of ethnographic interest and have been acquired over the years through exploratory expeditions and gifts from private collections. They represent exquisite examples of people’s art and give recognition to an important yet neglected side of our heritage.

The Indian subcontinent is blessed with varied landscape which is home to diverse groups and communities who have distinct cultures and habits. Within this kaleidoscope of cultural diversity, there still exists a common vocabulary for the ways and means adopted in designing and constructing day to day objects that fulfil basic needs. Everyday objects of utility are made of materials that are locally found, whether it was a rudimentary earthen dish or an ingeniously carved bamboo mug. Here, the basic need informs the design and the tangible and intangible aspects of heritage remain closely linked.

Anthropologists explain that such creative patterns emanate from certain ideas already 'pre-loaded' in our genes that propel us to react and solve certain daily needs of life in a specific way. The artefacts displayed in this gallery reflect how a similar concept or technique adopted by different communities with their own way of expression and aesthetic sensibilities, are commonly tied together with the ‘psychic unity’ of mankind.

Opening of the Tradition, Art and Continuity gallery by Hon’ble Minister of Culture, Chandresh Kumari Katoch in February 2014
New Galleries

Jewellery Gallery

The Jewellery Gallery was closed in order to make way for the Nizam Exhibition during mid 2007. After recent consultations with Curators, it has been decided to reopen the Gallery. The endeavour will be to reopen the gallery adopting the previous curatorial approach. The Gallery will be reopened.

National Museum’s collection of jewellery comes from various regions and states of India and represents a rich collection of exquisite jewels.

Some of the collections of National Museum Jewellery collection that will soon be on display
The Body in Indian Art

National Museum, New Delhi, is presently hosting an exhibition titled, 'The Body in Indian Art' which has been curated by Dr. Naman P. Ahuja, Associate Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU, New Delhi. The exhibition has been organized in collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). It was inaugurated by Secretary, Culture Sh. Ravindara Singh and DG, ICCR, Sh. Satish Mehta on 14th March 2014 to 7th June 2014.

The exhibition brings together over 300 artworks from 42 museums, archaeological institutes and private collections, in an exploration of the complex understandings of the 'Body'. Ranging from monumental stone sculptures located in the storerooms of provincial Indian small-towns, to Chola bronzes from Tanjore, and manuscripts about magic painted for the Mughal Emperor Akbar from the library of the Nawabs of Rampur; the exhibition will provide the spectator with a variety of artworks, many of which, have never been publicly exhibited or published.

After its successful showing at the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, Belgium, this exhibition is being shown at the National Museum, Delhi for audiences here. The exhibition will be coupled with many educational activities and events which will be open for all kinds of audiences- children, young adults and special groups.

In the first month of the show nearly 30,000 visitors have already flocked the museum to see this landmark exhibition. The exhibition will be one view till 7th June 2014.

National Museum organized two Curator led walks by Naman Ahuja in the first month of the show. Volunteers were trained to take visitors around the special exhibition and every day 4 volunteer led walks are organized for visitors in English and Hindi to help visitors enjoy the exhibition. A dedicated catalogue for the exhibition is also under production and will soon be available for museum audiences.

Kartikkeya, 4th century AD, Stone, Bhopal State Museum is one of the most beautiful sculptures on display in the exhibition

Special educational workshops are being organized around the exhibition. The first workshop was organized in collaboration with World Comics India where 20 artists came together to respond to the exhibition through the medium of comics. The work is still under progress and will produce interesting and innovative comic strips around the idea of the Body and its representation in our culture through this contemporary art form.
Visit of Nobel Laureate and Former president of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias at the exhibition (top)
Visit of the Director of Guggenheim Museum, USA (Below)

The Museum facade during the exhibition (Above)
Avani Sood taking a tour of participants of the comics workshop (below)

Curator Naman Ahuja walking with the curators of National Museum
Exhibitions

Exhibition Galleries designed by Siddhartha Chatterjee
Exhibitions

School children visit the Museum to see the exhibition, 'The Body in Indian Art'. School visits were organized in collaboration with Intach.

Assistant curator, Kanaklata Singh and Volunteer Guide Simkie Singh walked with Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson UPA at the exhibition, 'The Body in Indian Art'.

School children visit the Museum to see the exhibition, 'The Body in Indian Art'. School visits were organized in collaboration with Intach.
The Book Museum by Dayanita Singh

Born in 1961 in New Delhi, Dayanita Singh made her first book, Zakir Hussain, as a student at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, in 1986, well before she thought of herself as a photographer. She then went on to study at the International Center of Photography, New York, explored photojournalism for a few years, before becoming a photographer of family portraits. She started showing her work in galleries and museums in 1997. Singh has exhibited at institutions like the Serpentine Gallery in London, Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, Hayward Gallery in London, and the Art Institute of Chicago.


On 11th April, Dayanita Singh gave a special lecture at National Museum titled 'The Book Museum: Photography, Language, Form' which
Workshops

Peace Workshop with children

In a unique endeavour for children at the Arms and Armour gallery of National Museum, a Delhi based cultural group Shopno Ekhoon organized a workshop called The Peace Series. The workshop brought together children of 10-15 years to explore newer ways of looking at peace through a range of facilitated exploratory activities and games. Insights about Arms and Armour being pieces of craftsmanship in the past, stories from mythology, ethics of using animals in war etc. were discussed to create a layered understanding about violence and wars in history. The workshop was facilitated by Shahana of Shopno Ekhoon and Kalyani of the Yuva Saathi programme, National Museum.

Workshops with CISF guards

National Museum organized three workshops with CISF guards and security personnel on 3rd February, 4th March and 19th March 2014. The workshops were conducted by National Museum volunteers Sh. Rushi Bakshi and Ms. Bhavna Pundheer with the Outreach department who have years of experience in soft skills training. The idea of the workshops was to sensitize security personnel towards museum visitors and their needs. The workshops brought out important security issues related to the museum and also enabled security personnel to learn how to deal with sticky situations in the museum and gallery space. 73 security personnel were trained in the process and now feel equipped to handle audiences and visitors of different kinds who flock the museum everyday.
Programmes

National Museum Lecture Series

National Museum began its monthly lecture series called the NM-Lecture Series which brings together experts and practitioners from the field of word art and culture for Indian audiences. It provides an exclusive opportunity for audiences to interact with these experts that will enrich the curious and facilitate a dialogue with the critical thinker.

The first NMLS was delivered by Dr. Douglas Druick, Director of the Art Institute of Chicago on 29\textsuperscript{th} January 2014 on the topic of 'The art institute of Chicago Embodying excellence in American Museums Practice'.

The second NMLS was delivered by Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz, President, International Council of Museums (ICOM) on 9\textsuperscript{th} February 2014 on the topic of ‘Global Trends in Museums’

The third NMLS was delivered by Dr. Neil MacGregor, Director, British Museum on 18\textsuperscript{th} March 2014 on the topic of ‘What ca exhibitions do for Museums?’

The lecture series has become popular and is now attended by many museum lovers every month.
Workshops

IRANIAN MASTER-CRAFTSMEN AT WORK

National Museum collaborated with the Delhi International Arts Festival (DIAF) and held a 4 day demonstration and workshop on Iranian arts and crafts – Calligraphy, Illustration, Woodwork and metal work. The workshops took place from 11-14 February 2014 (Tuesday – Friday) 10:30 am to 4:30 pm daily at Temporary Exhibitions Gallery, Ajanta Hall, First Floor. These crafts were demonstrated by master-craftsmen who came especially from Iran to talk to audiences here. The demonstrations and interactions were held every day.

Iranian master craftsmen who came for this workshop were Ali Reza Goldoozian for the art of illustration, Ardeshir Mukhari Vafer for illumination, Hasan Mullai Tehrani for calligraphy, Ali Asghar Mortezaie for woodwork and Husain Sarjooghi for metal works.

The inaugural event for the workshop was chaired by DG, National Museum and Hon’ble Cultural Councilor, Iranian Embassy along with scholars of Persian history and Calligraphy. Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi, Dr. KK Chakravarty

Comics Workshop

On 12-13 April 2014 National Museum organized a Comics workshop around the exhibition, ‘The Body in Indian Art’. 20 artists came together and reflected on their thoughts about the exhibition through visuals. The workshop was conducted by Sharad Sharma from World Comics India.

Illumination by Persian artist which was on display at the three day exhibition and workshop

Participants of the Comics workshop at the exhibition

A work created by the workshop facilitator Sharad Sharma on the Sati memorials on the exhibition
New Initiatives

Digitization of Museum Collections

National Museum has embarked on a special project to digitize its collection of objects in order to make it available for visitors to see online. The collection is being digitized and stored in a collection management system named ‘JATAN’ which has been specifically designed and created by a Pune based company called C-DAC.

A workshop was organized by C-DAC at National Museum on 6th Feb 2014 to train NM staff members on uploading of data. Thus far nearly 6000 objects have been digitized and loaded on the JATAN software.

National Museum Collections on the Google Art Project

National Museum has volunteered objects from its collection on the Google Art Project which is a non-commercial initiative of Google through the Google Cultural Institute. More than hundred objects have been photographed and their descriptions are available on the Google Art Project website under the name of National Museum, New Delhi which has given a high reach to online visitors for the collection.

The Google page of National Museum will be populated further by adding other pertinent collections from National Museum on it.
Programmes

at National Museum Institute

Department of History of Art

The Department has recently signed an MOU with the Graduate School ‘Distant World’ at Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU), Munich. The aim of this MOU is to create academic and research oriented capacity-building programmes for research scholars and faculty in the Department of History of Art.

One of the ongoing projects in the department is the Ragamala Project based on the Gem Palace collection. The aim of the project is to study the history of Indian music and antiquity of the raga forms along with the literary and philosophical traditions of Mewar. The project also proposes to investigate the relationship between music and ragamala paintings with regards to iconography of almost 100 individual ragas and raginis. For the first time the entire collection on the Mewar School of Ragamala painting are being studied from the National Museum and Bharat Kala Bhawan. The research would be published to add a new insight into the concerned discipline.

Department of Conservation

Three research scholars were sent to the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, for four months as the part of the MoU singed between NMI University of Applied Arts, Vienna. Upon their return, the scholars gave presentations on 5th February 2014 in the presence of our Vice Chancellor Dr. V. Venu, Mr. Raimud Magis, Minister and Deputy head of mission, Embassy of the republic of Austria. Mr. Markus Heinz, Director Cultural Form, Embassy of the republic of Austria and Dr. Gabriela Krist, Head of the Department Conservation, University of Applied Arts, Vienna. They discussed about the experience and training which they have received during their training programme in Vienna.

Workshop on Material and Technique of Painting by Artist Sanjay Kumar on 3rd April 2014.

Department of Museology

The Department of Museology, jointly in collaboration with the Leicester University, UK, has received two prestigious international grants, from the British Academy and the UGC-UKIERI, to study visitor's engagement with objects in various museums in India and UK. The project awarded by the British Academy Things Unbound will investigate museum visitors' engagements with objects in India, connect this with related research in the UK, and develop long-term collaboration between the two main partners (School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester; Department of Museology, National Museum, Delhi). The project awarded by the UGC-UKIERI, Things Encountered centres on the fundamental nature of museum objects and subjective human experience of them. The department will examine how people engage with things, focusing on aspects of visual perceptions and emotional, physical and intellectual responses to, publicly displayed objects in different museum settings.

The department of Museology also undertook a training programme for its IV Semester students of in collaboration with Action for Ability Development & Inclusion (AADI) from 23rd – 25th April 2014. The students were required to make a checklist of audit access for all. The result of this exercise will be utilized by National Museum to provide a barrier free access for all kinds of visitors.
Programmes at National Museum Institute

Students from AADI during the workshop on barrier free access at National Museum Institute.

Students at the Foundation-day celebration of National Museum Institute on 30th April 2014 where many cultural programmes.
New staff members of National Museum

The Museum welcomed seven young assistant curators in various departments who will now be taking over the departments works and bring about new interpretations to collections. The curators who joined are:

Dr. Kanaklata Singh, Painting Department.
Mr. Arvind Rautela, Archaeology Department.
Mr. Ali Zaid, Decorative Arts Department.
Mr. Rehman, Manuscripts Department.
Mr. Kaustuv Saikia, Central Asia Department.
Ms. Rige Shiba, Education Department.
Mr. Yogesh M, Publication Department.

Retirement

The Museum bid goodbye to one of its oldest and senior most employees on 30th April 2014. Dr. Jayshree Sharma retired from the post of Director, Exhibitions and PR. She had begun her career with national museum back in 1974 and gradually climbed up the ladder of success through being a Deputy Curator, a Curator and finally a Director.

Dr. Sharma was given a farewell by the staff of National museum and the museum hopes that she would remain associated with the museum. In her more than 30 years of work at the Museum she set up many galleries and curated many exhibitions.
Playtime at National Museum- a medley of fun and learning programmes for children at the Museum

may & june

Hurry! Limited seats

To download the schedule and register for activities log on to www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in or visit the Museum to pick up a free copy of the programme now.

National Museum
Janpath, New Delhi-110011
23019272 (Ext 237)

Playtime at National Museum

- Tradition, Art and Continuity
  This is a booklet on the newly opened gallery by the same title.
  Authors: Dr. Jayshree Sharma, Smt Anju Sachdeva and Sushmit Sharma
  Free

- Rupa-Pratipurupa: The Body in Indian Art
  A catalogue cum book on the special exhibition The Body in Indian Art with more than 250 illustrations of rare Indian sculptures and paintings
  Author: Naman P Ahuja
  Price: Rs. 295/-

- A Glimpse of Nazca and Moche Pottery of Ancient Peru
  A book highlighting Latin American or Pre Columbian collections from National Museum
  Authors: Mohan Pratap and Shubha Banerjee
  Price: Rs. 60/-

- Decoding Art Through Colours
  Author: Rige Shiba
  Free

- Tradition, Art and Continuity

- Rupa-Pratipurupa: The Body in Indian Art

- A Glimpse of Nazca and Moche Pottery of Ancient Peru

- Decoding Art Through Colours

Published by National Museum Janpath, New Delhi-110011

Design: Joyoti Roy Photographs: Siddhartha Chatterjee and Joyoti Roy