Welcome

Foreword

The winter months at National Museum were among the busiest of the year, featuring exhibitions, workshops and Foundation Day celebrations. The biggest of these was the re-opening of two new galleries for the public. Inaugurated on Foundation Day December 18, 2015, the two galleries focused on increasing the accessibility of National Museum's invaluable collection of cultural heritage. The Bronze Gallery features masterpieces in bronze sculptures across centuries, with the iconic Nataraja being the centerpiece. Making the Museum further accessible to each unique visitor is our tactile gallery for persons with disability. Allowing visitors to interact with works of art in new and exciting ways, Anubhav: A Tactile Experience offers a fresh perspective on appreciating art.

Keeping accessibility and visitor experience as our key priorities, we also established an ‘Art Gateway’ at Udyog Bhawan metro station which was inaugurated by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon’ble Minister of Tourism and Culture (I/C). Offering art hoardings and a replica corner showcasing select artifacts from each collection of the Museum, this initiative provides commuters a glimpse into our cultural heritage. To train students and young scholars in museum practices, National Museum also announced an Internship Programme for summer and winter months on its Foundation Day.

In addition to new initiatives, we also expanded our merchandize offerings to include a calendar and planner for 2016, organized three exhibitions and over four lectures to engage with and enhance the experience of our visitors.

Our first winter exhibition titled “Imaging the Isle Across: Vintage Photography from Ceylon” was organized in collaboration with ASI and Alkazi Foundation for the Arts and curated by Rahaab Allana. The exhibition featured a remarkable selection of early photography in the sub-continent, focusing on colonial excursions in Ceylon and the exploration of territory and populace through visual idioms. The exhibition “Buddhist Art of India”, presented visitors of National Museum with an opportunity to be a part of an international traveling exhibition featuring a panoramic collection of Buddhist art and sculpture from Indian Museum, Kolkata. The exhibition comprehensively depicted key themes and events in the life of Buddha through sculptures, reliefs and illustrations. Guided walks and workshops were organized around each exhibition.

In collaboration with the Korean Cultural Centre, New Delhi, National Museum organized an exhibition called ‘iLotus8: Zen Paintings from Japan’ highlighting a unique aspect of Japanese history and society.

During this time, National Museum also ventured into exploring 3-D photography of its collections so that in near future it is able to offer fun and educative experiences for online visitors. A new Audio-Guide was introduced in collaboration with Narrowcasters, Australia that now features over 65 highlight objects from the Museum displays.

We hope to continue in our efforts to enhance visitor experience and broaden the accessibility of the Museum. Carrying forward the same rigour and excitement to 2016, we wish every reader a prosperous new year!

Sanjiv Mittal
Director General
Welcome

National Museum Staff on Foundation Day, 2015 (Top)

The newly opened Bronze Gallery at National Museum which features over 100 sculptures from East, West, North, South and Central Indian regions. (Below)
The Bronze Gallery, closed for renovation, was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Kumar Sinha, Secretary, Culture on the Museum’s Foundation Day December 18, 2015.

The gallery showcases pioneer works of bronze in Indian art and sculpture. Renovated to present information in a unique and accessible way, the gallery features a striking layout that juxtaposes the sculptures with detailed descriptions providing context, significance and production processes of the objects. The Gallery has been curated by Shri Tejpal Singh, Deputy Curator, Archaeology and designed by Ms. Matrika, Mumbai and executed by CPWD.
Anubhav: A Tactile Experience

National Museum, in collaboration with UNESCO, National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD) and Saksham, also launched a new permanent gallery for Persons with Disabilities. Featuring tactile replicas of 22 outstanding objects from the collections of the Museum as well as an audio guide, ramps and descriptive labels in Braille, the gallery encourages visitors to 'touch' and feel the objects on display. ‘Anubhav: A Tactile Experience’ ensures a conducive space and exposure to the arts for the differently-abled.

The Gallery was conceived and developed by Ms. Rige Shiba, Assistant Curator, Education under the overall guidance of Dr. Vijay Kumar Mathir, Curator, Lecturing and Education with assistance from Ms. Vasundhara Sangwan of the Outreach Department.

The Replicas exhibited in the space have been made by the NM Modeling department headed by Shri Hemant Tomar and his colleagues and the gallery has been designed by Mr. Amardeep Labana, Museum Volunteer.
Exhibitions

Imaging the Isle Across: Vintage Photography from Ceylon

National Museum organized a special exhibition called ‘Imaging the Isle Across: Vintage Photography from Ceylon’ in collaboration with ASI and Alkazi Foundation for the Arts. It was on display from 26 September to 10 November 2015 and featured vintage photography across various mediums such as single prints, albums, illustrated books and postcards from late 19th century. It was curated by Rahaab Allana. The exhibition strived to highlight early photography in the subcontinent through the lens of pioneers such Lionel Wendt, and its contribution to the formation of a composite identity through a unique pictorial language. Six guided walks were organized for visitors. A workshop titled ‘Thrill with Clicks’ was organized for school children with a focus on photography, mounting and display.
Exhibitions

Buddhist Art of India

National Museum hosted an international traveling exhibition called 'Buddhist Art of India' in collaboration with Indian Museum, Kolkata. After a successful show in Shanghai Museum, Tokyo, and Asian Civilizations Museum, Singapore the exhibition was on display for visitors of National Museum from 30 October to 10 December 2015. Featuring over 90 masterpieces depicting the life and teachings of Buddha, the exhibition displayed sculptures, carvings and illustrations. Organized according to the stages of development of Buddhism, the exhibition showcased diverse influences and classic iconography associated with Buddhist art in India. A guided walk was organized for visitors to explain the meaning and significance of key figures and scenes on display.

iLotus8: Zen Paintings from Japan

National Museum organized a special exhibition called 'iLotus8: Zen Paintings from Japan' in collaboration with Korean Cultural Centre, New Delhi. Featuring illustrated scrolls and books, the exhibition focused on the life of monks.
Workshops

Thrill with Clicks

As part of its educational initiatives, National Museum organizes interactive workshops for school children that develop on the theme of the exhibition on display, facilitating deep engagement with art and culture. To this vein, a workshop titled ‘Thrill with Clicks’ was organized for school children to complement the exhibition on vintage photography titled ‘Imaging the Isle Across: Vintage Photography from Ceylon’. Focusing on practices of display at museums, the workshop organized activities on photography, printing and mounting. The workshop enabled students to appraise the collections at the Museum in a fresh light.
National Museum Lecture Series

The 20th Lecture in the National Museum Lecture Series was delivered by Suresh Jayaram and Anoli Perera on the exhibition 'Imaging the Isle Across: Vintage Photography from Ceylon' on 7 November, 2015. Buddhist Art expert and art historian Dr. ShashiBala delivered the 21st National Museum Lecture on the topic 'Japanese Buddhist Art' on 28 November 2015.

Special Lectures

Dr. Quentin Denvers delivered a special lecture on 27 October 2015, on the topic ‘Archaeological Ladakh: Little known history of the key region between Pamir and Himalayas’. His lecture presented highlights from his extensive excavation in Ladakh and presented a unique aspect of Ladakh’s history.

Art and Archaeology Talks

Prof. Stephen Inglis delivered a lecture on the topic "Opportunities for Museums of the Future: Exciting New Linkages Between the National and the Local" on 4 November 2015. Discussing his extensive engagement with First Nation communities in Canada, Prof. Inglis provided an insight into building meaningful linkages between museums and communities.

Guided Walks

National Museum organized guided walks through exhibitions on display. Ismeth Raheem led a guided walk through the exhibition ‘Imaging the Isle Across’ on October 1, 2015. Jennifer Roy Chowdhary and Ayasha Matthan also co-led a walk for the same on 3 October 2015. Four additional guided walks were organized through October and November on weekends for visitors. A guided walk was led by Shri Shankar Sharma for the exhibition titled ‘Buddhist Art of India’ on 26 November, 2015. Apart from explaining and contextualizing the significance of objects, these walks also helped visitors interact with curators and experts.
New Initiative

Merchandize

National Museum introduced new merchandize in its newly installed shop at the Reception. Offering several objects featuring the Museum Collection including notebooks, pocket mirrors, stationary, T-shirts, stoles the new merchadize has been really popular. Calendars and planners featuring miniature paintings from its successful international exhibition “Ramayana in Indian Miniatures”, the Museum expanded the reach of its collections to the wider public. Functioning as memorabilia and gifts, our new merchandize connects visitors to the Museum collections.

Internship Programme

An internship programme was announced by Shri N. K. Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, at the 55th Foundation Day Celebrations on 18 December, 2015. Aiming to provide rigorous training to young graduates and post-graduate students in the field of museum practices, the internship is instated as Summer and Winter Programme for the months of May-July and December-February. In 2016 the Museum will host several interns in its various departments.
Replica Corner at Udyog Bhawan Metro Station

National Museum installed an ‘Art Gateway’ at Udyog Bhawan Metro Station as part of the MoU signed between Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and National Museum, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. With eleven art hoardings and a replica corner featuring masterpieces from the collection of National Museum - New Delhi, the Art Gateway is a crucial effort to connect the public with the cultural heritage of India.

Serving as an outreach initiative, the Art Gateway hopes to pique the interest of the commuters in the collections at National Museum. The Gateway was inaugurated by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon’ble Minister of Tourism and Culture (I/C) and Dr. Mangu Singh, Director, DMRC on 9 December 2015.

The Replica Corner and the Displays at the Udyog Bhavan Metro Station which are seen by of commuters every day.