

# CAPACITY BUILDING: MUSEUMS IN INDIA

## PROGRAMME

12 to 14 September 2016



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Museums preserve historical evidence of the ways in which culture and religion were practiced in previous times; and they may demonstrate the practices and beliefs of past periods which are very different from the way traditions and religions are popularly perceived today. This is frequently subject to attack: how can this evidence be protected?

With the construction of Smart Cities, SEZs and Metros, the Museum's role in representing history is more important than ever before as the challenge of saving and interpreting cultural heritage becomes greater with the rapid pace of development.

The importance of museums has been recognized widely by the media and in government circles in India.

A colloquium at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU  
In collaboration with  
the Nehru Trust for  
the Indian Collections  
at the V&A supported  
by Goethe-Institut / Max  
Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi

Museums hold invaluable collections throughout the country. But for the sector to play a genuinely constructive role it needs both clarity of vision, strategic action plans and both financial and structural support.

This conference brings together various experts and professionals from India and Europe for three focussed days to discuss key topics within the overall rubric of Capacity Building for Museums in India.



**Nehru Trust**  
for the Indian Collections  
at the Victoria and Albert Museum



**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**  
MAX MUELLER  
BHAVAN

DAY  
1

MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

VENUE British Council, 17, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi

TIME 5:30 to 7:45 pm

## MUSEUMS AND THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE



IMAGE COPYRIGHT DAYANITA SINGH

*Temples, sculptures, archaeological sites and their associated habitats are being encroached upon at an alarming rate in India. The construction of smart cities, special economic zones (SEZs), metros, dams and high-speed corridors for transportation cannot be stopped. The pace of development is so fast that the archaeological record cannot be rescued in time. Even if artefacts were to be salvaged where would they be preserved? In one of the hundreds of 'desultory museums' of India? Major museums of India have not held 'acquisitions committee meetings' for nearly two decades leaving the public with no hope of the museum to save our heritage. India is not alone in this. Over the past decade museums across the world have been rendered particularly vulnerable to attacks.*

Alan Gemmell OBE, Director, British Council India is pleased to invite you to a panel discussion on Museums and the Protection of Cultural Heritage to mark the inauguration of a two day conference on Capacity Building for Museums in India.

**Monday, 12th September 2016**

**British Council, 17, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi, 110001**

**5:30 PM** - Please join us for refreshments before the discussion in the Charbagh at the British Council.

**6:30 PM** - Panel discussion between Dr Martín Roth (Director, Victoria & Albert Museum), Dr Naman P. Ahuja (Professor, JNU) and Dr Kavita Singh (Professor, JNU), moderated by Prof. Deborah Swallow (Director, The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London and Trustee of the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria & Albert Museum).

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER  
FOR 12 SEPTEMBER EVENT**

The two-day conference on Capacity Building for Museums in India, on the 13th and 14th of September 2016, is being hosted by the School of Arts and Aesthetics at JNU, co-sponsored by the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the V&A (NTICVA) and Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan.



**Nehru Trust**

for the Indian Collections  
at the Victoria and Albert Museum



**GOETHE  
INSTITUT  
MAX MUELLER  
BHAVAN**

DAY  
2

TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

VENUE School of Arts and Aesthetics Auditorium, JNU, New Delhi

TIME 10 am to 5 pm

10.00 am

**Tea / Coffee**

10.30 am

**Introduction and opening remarks**

Professor Bishnupriya Dutt (Dean, School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU, New Delhi)

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10.45 am

**SESSION I**

**Opening up Museums: Representing History in the Museum**

Chair: Professor Deborah Swallow (Director, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London)

***Mistrusting Autonomy*** Shri. Ashok Vajpeyi (Hindi poet-critic and Managing Trustee, The Raza Foundation, New Delhi)

***Reconstructing Histories in our Public Imaginations*** Dr Naman P. Ahuja (Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU, New Delhi)

***Encountering the Indian Museum, Calcutta: Frames of a Contemporary History of the Institution*** Dr Tapati Guha-Thakurta (Director & Professor of History, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata)

12.15 pm

**Discussion**

1.00 pm

**Lunch**

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2.00 pm

**SESSION II**

**The Museum as collector and preserver in the face of development: how can the Museum's role be strengthened?**

Chair: Dr B.R. Mani (Director General, National Museum of India, New Delhi)

***The Political Museums*** Dr Leonhard Emmerling (Regional Director Programs, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, India)

***Training programmes, the positive, the negative and the periphery*** Mr Richard Blurton (Department of Asia, British Museum, London)

***Open Access*** Dr Sudha Gopalakrishnan (Director Sahapedia, Formerly Director National Manuscripts)

3.30 pm

**Discussion**

4.30 pm

**Tea / Coffee**

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**Free Entry**



DAY  
2

TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

VENUE Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, 3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi

TIME 7 pm onwards

## MY FAVOURITE OBJECT | MY DREAM MUSEUM

*We have all found ourselves attached to, inspired or transformed by some kind of object or the other at various points in our lives. The entanglement of people and things allows anthropologists, historians and archaeologists to write about the history of civilisation. This informs our identities. Designers, writers and artists today seek inspiration from these objects and fashion yet newer forms of entanglement with our present. Which object has most inspired you? What would you put in your dream museum? What would you like it to do? And how would you like it to look? We will get to hear a variety of perspectives in an exciting line up that brings together artists, art collectors, writers along with curators.*



IMAGE COPYRIGHT DAYANITA SINGH

William Dalrymple (author), Dayanita Singh (Photographer and Director of Museum Bhavan), Nada Raza (Tate Modern, UK), Clare Harris (Pitt Rivers Museum and Magdalen College, Oxford), Rustom Bharucha (School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU) and Rahaab Allana (Alkazi Foundation).

7pm, 13th September 2016 at the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, 3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001

RSVP - [Shweta.Wahi@Delhi.goethe.org](mailto:Shweta.Wahi@Delhi.goethe.org)

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**Nehru Trust**

for the Indian Collections  
at the Victoria and Albert Museum



**GOETHE  
INSTITUT  
MAX MUELLER  
BHAVAN**

10 am

**Tea / Coffee**

10.30 am

**Session III**

The object, thick description and the return to formalism:  
What is distinctive about research on museum collections and  
what are the best means for its dissemination?

Chair: Dr Parul Dave Mukherji (Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU, New Delhi)

***Drawing in the World? Museums as Public Spaces*** Dr Sudeshna Guha (Associate Professor, Department of History, Shiv Nadar University, India)

***Illuminating Medieval Manuscripts: Scholarly Research and a Dynamic Public***  
Dr Alixe Bovey (The Courtauld Institute of Art, London)

***Research & Publications: Serving the Public in Jaipur City Palace*** Dr Giles Tillotson (Consultant Director (Research, Publications & Exhibitions), Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, City Palace, Jaipur)

12.00 pm

**Discussion**

1.00 pm

**Lunch**

2.00 pm

**Session IV**

The Museum as communicator and interpreter: how can Indian  
museums become accessible to a wider public?

Chair: Dr Shobita Punja (Art Educator and Author, Former CEO of the National Culture Fund, Ministry of Culture, and Government of India)

***Are Museums in the service of Society and its development? CSMVS - A Case Study*** Mr Sabyasachi Mukherjee (Director General, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai)

***Creative Conversations: Changing Modes of Museum Making*** Mrs Tasneem Zakaria Mehta (Managing Trustee and Honorary Director, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad City Museum, Mumbai)

***Making Mehrangarh Museum Global*** Mr Karni Singh Jasol (Director, Mehrangarh MuseumTrust, Jodhpur)

***India in London: Collections, Curating and Community at the V&A Museum***  
Ms Divia Patel (Senior Curator, Asian Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, London)

3.45 pm

**Discussion**

5.00 pm

**Tea / Coffee****Free Entry**