



# International Museums Day

## Why in News

International Museum Day is observed on **18<sup>th</sup> May** every year to raise awareness among people about the museums.

- **2021 Theme:** The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine.

## Key Points

- **History:** The Day was **instituted in 1977** by the [International Council of Museums \(ICOM\)](#).
- **International Council of Museum (ICOM):**
  - ICOM is **a membership association and a non-governmental organisation** which establishes professional and ethical standards for museum activities. It is the **only global organisation in the museum field**.
  - It was **created in 1946** and is **headquartered in Paris, France**.
  - It serves as **a network of museum professionals** (more than 40,000 members in over 138 countries).
  - The **ICOM Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk** are practical tools to curb the illegal traffic of cultural objects.
    - **Red Lists** present the categories of cultural objects that can be subjected to theft and traffic.
- **Administration of Museums in India:**
  - Multiple ministries hold charges of various Museums.
  - Not all Museums are administered by the Ministry of Culture.
  - Some are run without government support by a handful of people under a Board of Trustees.
  - **Related Constitutional Provision:**
    - **Article 49:** Protect monuments, places and objects of artistic or historic interest which are declared to be of national importance.
- **Initiatives Related to Museums:**
  - **Museum Grant Scheme:**
    - The **Ministry of Culture** provides financial assistance under the Scheme to the State Governments and Societies, Autonomous bodies, Local Bodies and Trusts registered under the Societies Act, for setting up new Museums.
    - It also aims to strengthen and modernize the existing museums at the Regional, State and District level.
  - The **National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums** (under the Ministry of Culture) have been launched for **digitisation of the collections** of the Museums.

## Notable Museums in India

- National Museum, New Delhi (Subordinate Office under the Ministry of Culture).
- **National Gallery of Modern Art**, New Delhi
- Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
- Indian Museum, Kolkata
- Archaeological Survey of India site Museum, Goa
- National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi

**Source : PIB**

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