



International Museum Expo 2023

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister (PM) of India inaugurated the **International Museum Expo 2023** in New Delhi to celebrate the 47th [International Museum Day \(IMD\)](#).

- The PM also unveiled the plan for what is set to be the world's largest museum, **Yuge Yugeen Bharat**, which will capture **5,000 years of India's history**.

What is International Museum Day?

- **About:** IMD is **observed on 18th May** every year to raise awareness among people about the museums.
 - **2023 Theme:** 'Museums, Sustainability and Well Being'
- **History:** The Day was instituted in 1977 by the [International Council of Museums \(ICOM\)](#).
- **Objective:** To raise awareness about the fact that museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples.
- **International Museum Day and SDG:** Each year since 2020, the **International Museum Day supports a set of Goals from the [Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations](#)**. In 2023, we will focus on:
 - **Goal 3 Global Health and Wellbeing, Goal 13 Climate Action, Goal 15 Life on Land.**

What is International Council of Museum?

- ICOM is a **membership association and a non-governmental organisation** that 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**.
- The **ICOM Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk** are practical tools to curb the illegal traffic of cultural objects.

What are the Major Highlights of the Expo?

- The Prime Minister unveiled the **Mascot of the International Museum Expo, the Graphic Novel - A Day at the Museum, the Directory of Indian Museums, the Pocket Map of [Kartavya Path](#), and Museum Cards**.
 - The **Mascot of the International Museum Expo** is a contemporized version of the **Dancing Girl made of wood in the Chennapatnam art style**.
- The Prime Minister also highlighted the significance of museums in **preserving history, promoting sustainability, and fostering a sense of well-being**.
 - **Preserving Heritage and Reviving Cultural Infrastructure:**
 - Emphasis is being placed on **conserving [India's rich heritage](#) and reviving long-lost aspects of the country's cultural legacy**.

- A new cultural infrastructure is being developed to showcase India's fight for independence and its **extensive thousand-year-old heritage**.
- **Ten special museums** are being established to **honour and immortalise the contributions of tribal communities in India's freedom struggle**.
- **Promoting Sustainability and Well-being:**
 - The theme of '**Sustainability and Well-being**' aligns with the present-day global priorities, recognizing the **significant role museums play in raising awareness and promoting sustainable practices**.
- **Combating Smuggling and Appropriation of Artefacts:**
 - The **challenges of smuggling and appropriation of artefacts, particularly for countries with ancient cultures like India**, have been acknowledged.
 - Efforts are **being made to recover and repatriate stolen artefacts**, resulting in the retrieval of **over 240 ancient items in the past nine years**.
 - **Examples: [18th-Century Annapurna statue stolen from Banaras](#) (recently returned from Canada), the **12th-Century statue of Mahishasur Mardini stolen from Gujarat** (returned by New York's Met Museum in 2018), and the **idols of [Nataraja](#) built during the Chola Empire**.**
 - Increased cooperation among art connoisseurs and museums worldwide is **advocated to prevent the unethical acquisition of artworks**.

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**.

Notable Museums in India

- National Museum, New Delhi (Subordinate Office under the Ministry of Culture)
- National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru
- Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata
- Asiatic Society, Kolkata
- National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi

[Source: PIB](#)

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