

INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA MANAV SANGRAHALAYA
(National Museum of Mankind)

Brief Report on
International Museum Day Celebrations - 2010

To celebrate 'International Museum Day– 2010', the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (National Museum of Mankind) had organised several activities/ programs around 18th May, 2010, in Bhopal, and at Mysore simultaneously. Keeping in harmony with the theme 'Museums for Social Harmony' selected for celebrations by ICOM during 2010, the IGRMS programmes were designed meticulously to provide wider opportunities to local communities to interact. These included:

Competitive events for interactive participation

The celebrations started at 8.00 AM on 18th with a '*Heritage Hunt*' competition. About fifty participants registered for the event, were to identify certain heritage markers through a two hour-long hunt around the Bhopal city covering about fifty kms. journey in motorised two-wheelers. The winners were awarded cash prizes. *Painting competition* was organised for school going children in two categories. About 75 children have attended this programme, and the winners were awarded prizes. A *Quiz competition* was also organised in the afternoon on the theme 'Museums for Social Harmony' in collaboration with Regional Science Centre, another Museum in the city, and the winners were awarded varieties of Books of Knowledge. A ten-day long special training program on traditional *Pattachitra* painting tradition of Orissa was inaugurated on this occasion, as part of the ongoing '*Do and Learn*' Museum Education programme. Shri Prahalad Maharana, a senior artist is imparting training to a fairly large group of house-wives and youths, registered for the event.

A half-day Symposium

A half-day symposium organised between 11.00 AM and 2.00 PM on 18th May evaluated the Museum policies in general and of the IGRMS in particular, in evolving programmes for harmonious co-existence of human society at large. The symposium, chaired by Dr. (Ms.) T Kumar, was enlivened with the presentations and arguments by an expert panel of museologists and anthropologists. Dr. Kumar, Joint Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture is the Vice-Chairperson of the Museum's governing body of IGRMS. The Director, IGRMS, Professor K.K. Misra

welcomed the gathering and underlined the large scale community involvement of IGRMS, in the new museum movement of community involvement in museum programs. The museum professionals of IGRMS act as facilitators and co-curators for the community initiatives. The richness of India's cultural traditions from diverse ethnic groups are created and maintained in the IGRMS by involving collective role of museum professionals and community groups. While acknowledge the role of community involvement in the new museum movement of IGRMS, Dr. K. K. Chakravarty, a noted museologist of the country, emphasised that as a post-colonial museum of India, move away from the conventional methods of mere 'Collection to re-collection of 'Ideas' and to revival of life-enhancing traditions rather than mere documentation of cultural relics. Prof Samarendra Saraf, a noted anthropologist, insisted on the need of national and emotional integration as highlighted by the Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. Mr. T.N. Pandit, the former Director of Anthropological Survey of India, opined that Museums should play a vital role in dislodging the mis-conception that certain tribal communities are 'backward' in thoughts and civility. Prof. Sudhakar Rao, Professor of Anthropology from University of Hyderabad felt that Museum programmes are poorly projected in the University curriculum for anthropology students, and stressed that the IGRMS programmes should be opened for anthropology students of various universities for professional training, so that the importance of Museum Education can be spread widely. Dr. (Ms) T Kumar, during her presidential address pointed out that due to lack of adequate museum professionals in the country the diverse roles of Museum profession, which were evolving in recent decades, are not reaching the people at large rapidly.

Opening of new exhibitions

Two new exhibitions entitled (a) *Narbada Ji* – an aspect of Narmada river valley culture and (b) *Images - tribal/folk*, were opened for public on 18th May, 2010 in the campus.

Performing Art presentations

On 18th and 19th May, 2010 Programs of performing art presentations were organised in the Museum campus in evening hours. Ms. Shubha Mudgal, a noted classical musician of the country presented her vocal music before a large gathering of music lovers on 18th. On 19th May, a group of thirty two artists from Bhopal, lead by Ms. Kshama Malviya and Ms. Shweta Devendra presented dance performance in Kathak style - 'Om Narmadaya Namah'- depicting the mythical origin of 'Narmada' a

sacred river of central India, as daughter of Lord Shiva, who took birth in the eastern ghats and her long journey, spanning more than one thousand miles and her influence in shaping the cultural traditions of people living on her shores, and her final confluence with Arabian sea.

Museum Day Celebrations at Mysore Regional Centre

The Regional Centre of IGRMS, Mysore has also organised several programme in the city of Mysore around 18th May, 2010. This included a five-day Art & Craft Workshop (from 18 to 22nd May, 2010) to demonstrate the traditional skills of artists from Andhra Pradesh (wood craft of Kondapally, Soara and Scroll painting), West Bengal Mat weaving, Pattachitra Paining, Sola wood craft) Karnataka (Inlay wood craft, Rangoli tradition), Orissa (Pattachitra painting), Gujarat (kalamkari painting), Maharashtra (Warli painting) and Kerala (mural painting), folk performing traditions (Mask dance, String puppetry, Cymbal dance). Ms. Smita Nagdev of Bhopal performed Sitar recital on 22nd May, 2010.