

INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA MANAV SANGRAHALAYA
Shamla Hills, Bhopal.

Activity Report for the month of March, 2011

During the period the IGRMS has organised following activities.

1. **35th Foundation Day Celebrations:** The Sangrahalaya celebrated its 35th Foundation Day with great festivity and enthusiasm from 25th-27th March, 2011 at museum premises. Under this celebrations various programmes viz Manipur Cultural Festival, National Seminar, Annual IGRMS Lecture etc were organised to mark the celebrations. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Laxmikant Sharma, Minister for Culture, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. Later, Kerala's largest 1001 wicker traditional lamp 'Al- Vilakku' placed in the museum premises was also lighted during the occasion. This three day celebrations of art, aesthetics and intellect included:

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a. **Felicitation of the artists:** The folk and tribal artists related to varied art forms who have given valuable and remarkable contribution to the development of exhibits and other such activities of Sangrahalaya were felicitated during the occasion. In the programme Shri Achon Kom, Shri Shankar Mandavi, Shri S.Z. Faisao, Shri Dinesh Chandra, Shri Mahendra Hembram and Shri N. Ramchandran along with Shri Vikas Bhatt, Former Curator who retired this year were felicitated in the programme on 25th March.

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b. **Annual IGRMS Lecture:** Under this series, the 7th Annual IGRMS lecture was organised on 26th March at Avritti Bhawan of Sangrahalaya. In the programme Dr. Saroj Ghose, Former Chairman, International Council of Museum delivered a lecture on 'What Museums do We Need Today?' In his lecture he focused upon virtual reality, animations, multidimensional and other new techniques intended to increase the influx of visitors in the Museum. The lecture was chaired by Shri Pankaj Rag, Commissioner, Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

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c. **National Seminar:** A two day national seminar on the topic- 'A Gendered Approach to Material Culture: Representations and Practices' was organised on 26th and 27th March at Avritti Bhawan of the Sangrahalaya. The Inaugural session of the seminar was chaired by Prof. R.K. Jain, National Tagore Fellow, IGRMS. Valedictory session was chaired by Dr. K.K. Charkravarty, Vice Chairman, Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management, New Delhi. Eminent Anthropologists across the country participated in the seminar and presented research papers.

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d. **Book release:** The 5th edition of Aayam featuring articles by the Sangrahalaya staff in Hindi language was also released in this programme by Dr. K.K. Charkravarty.

2. **Manipur Cultural Festival:** Under the theme Celebrating Regional Cultures, a Manipur Cultural Festival was organised from 25th to 27th March at the museum premises. The programme highlighted a special exhibition on Paphals the 364 mythical forms of Pakhangba the ruling deity of Manipur, cultural presentations, ethnic cuisine and craft demonstration cum sale. About 250 artists from Manipur flocked to the Sangrahalaya to showcase the glorious culture and tradition of the state and gave special presentations as given below:

i. **Special Exhibition on Paphals:** A special exhibition on Paphals depicting the 364 mythical forms of Pakhangba the ruling deity of Manipur from the collection of IGRMS was mounted on this occasion.

- ii. **Celebrations of Lai Haraoba:** The artists from Manipur carried out a special performance related to Umang Lai shrine situated as an exhibit in open air exhibition entitled Sacred Groves. This three day ritual performance is believed to be related to the happiness and prosperity and is performed by Maietie people of Manipur to please the traditional deities.
- iii. **Performing Art Presentations:** The troupe from Manipur presented folk, tribal and classical dances and instrumental music in the evenings on all three days on the open air stage of Charaiveti open air complex. These cultural performances were marked by Kabui dance, Marshal Art-Thang Ta, Tangkhul dance, Pung Cholom, Basant Raas, Maram dance, Dhol Cholom, Kom dance, Thang Ahum Yannaba, fly dance, folk theatre, ballad etc. in addition to this, the presentations by Manipur Band- Rhythms of Manipur was highlight of the occasion.
- iv. **Ethnic Cuisine:** Known for seasonality, the Manipuri ethnic cuisine during the programme was full of flavour and taste. Hallmark of the food was the its unique presentation and traditional style that was served to visitors during the occasion.
- v. **Craft Demonstration cum Sale:** The artists from Manipur also displayed art and craft items ranging from traditional bamboo items, wooden craft materials, Kauna mat, bags, cushions; textiles and applique items to the very attractive Manipuri doll in the festival. Besides, Salt making technique of Manipur was also demonstrated.

3. **Do and Learn Museum Education Programme:** Under the sponsorship of National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC), and Madhya Pradesh Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation, the Sangrahalaya organised a 10 day training programme on 'Tie and Dye technique' for Rajasthan or women beneficiaries from Other Backward Class (OBC) groups from 8th March, 2011. In the programme Shri Mohammad. Yakub Multani from Rajasthan and his assistant imparted training to the registered participants.

4. **Painting Competition:** The Sangrahalaya organised a painting competition on 23rd March, 2011 at Avritti Bhawan in collaboration with Green Planet Bicycle Rider Association, WWF and EPCO. Categorised into 3 groups -Junior, Middle and Senior, the topic of the competition were 'Meri Prakriti Mera Paryavaran', 'Tears of Mother Earth', and 'Vision: Earth 2020' respectively. Aim of the competition was to motivate maximum participation towards awareness for conserving energy and preventing global warming and observance of The Earth Hour on 26th March.

5. **Public Relations:** Sangrahalaya is making systemic efforts to publicize and popularise the activities of the Sangrahalaya. The public relation unit of Sangrahalaya prepared and sent around 14 press notes, special features/ write ups for publication in local and national newspapers highlighting the activities of Sangrahalaya. Efforts were also made for publicity through All India Radio, FM radios and National and local TV channels. Besides this, the unit has also made arrangements for audio- video shooting based on topics from History and Philosophy of Yoga and and Measures to protect children from heat in summer was held during the month at the Sangrahalaya premises.

6Museum Entry Fee: Visit to the different exhibitions in the IGRMS campus has been regulated with a museum entry fee @10/- per head. Children below the age group of 12 years are being exempted from the entry fee and 50% concession is allowed to specified category of visitors and groups. Students of educational institutions are also allowed free entry on showing identity card. An amount of Rs 72,710 including charges for videography was collected from 12646 visitors as the museum entry fee, out of which 5054 visitors availed the free ticket entry during the month.