

Conserving legacy

The City Palace plays host to a three-day-long workshop and seminar that focuses on protecting Jaipur's historical monuments

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Jaipur, a city known worldwide for its heritage, stands out for its efforts to conserve its monuments. A three-day workshop has been organised at the City Palace to focus on heritage conservation.

Organised by the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust (MSMSMT) and AusHeritage, the workshop was inaugurated on Monday by Aditi Mehta, Rajasthan's additional chief secretary, in the presence of Diya Kumari and Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to India Bernard Philip among others.

"We are proud to collaborate with Indian experts in the conservation of heritage. This would allow a two-way exchange of information between the relevant experts of the two countries," said Philip.

Interestingly, a five-member heritage delegation from Australia including AusHeritage chairman Vinod Daniel, collections specialist Charlotte Galloway, building specialist Roger Beeston, materials scientist Jim Mann and cultural tourism academic Keir Reeves, has set up base here.

"We need to preserve our tangible and intangible heritage for the future generations. Although I am happy to have organised this seminar, I am saddened by the fact that there are not too many attendees," said Diya Kumari.

The seminar will also see Dharmendar Kanwar, INTACH Convenor for Rajasthan, who will be presenting 'INTACH'S



Bernard Philip and Aditi Mehta inaugurating the workshop

Initiatives in Heritage Conservation'. This will be followed by Conservation Architect, Kavita Jain, talking about 'Traditional Building Materials and Construction Techniques of Heritage Building with special focus on Jal Mahal'. Wilderness

conservator Harsh Vardhan will talk about the new initiatives at Jaigarh Fort, while Pankaj Sharma, the Senior Curator, MSMS II Museum will give a presentation on 'Past & Present Practices of Collection Management' at the City Palace Museum.

HERITAGE RESTORATION

'Make museum displays more dynamic'

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JAIPUR: Conservationists stressed on restoration of heritage monuments and museums and promotion of the study of museums at a three-day seminar in the City Palace here. They discussed heritage conservation through scientific and modern methods and promotion of cultural tourism on the second day on Tuesday.

The Maharaja Sawai Man Singh-II Museum Trust had organised the seminar in collaboration with the Australian-Indian Council and AusHeritage. The Australian-Indian Council is an association that helps to bridge the gap between the two countries by promoting cultural activities, while AusHeritage is a branch of Australian cultural heritage management organisations developed by the Australian government.

Dharmender Kanvar, convenor INTACH, Jaipur chapter, said, "There is a need for restoration of heritage monuments, museums, streets and walls of the walled city."

Charlotte Galloway, secretary AusHeritage discussed conservation issues such as collection management and cultural tourism. She said,



Participants at a seminar on heritage conservation at the City Palace.

HT PHOTO

"We encourage museum study programmes and teach curatorship." She added, "Museum displays need to be dynamic and not remain static."

Vinod Daniel, chairperson AusHeritage, said that Australian regional museums are run by the staff and volunteers and not controlled by the government alone. "Revenue of these museums is raised through tickets, café houses and by lending the venue for art exhibitions," he said.

Senior curator of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, Pankaj Sharma discussed past and present

We have an immense collection of which only 5% is displayed.

YUNUS KHAMANI
director SMS Museum

methods of collection management, from Karkhana system during the reign of the Maharajas, to the present computer system.

Yunus Khimani, one of the three directors at the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, said, "It's sad that locals hardly visit the museum."

A member of the audience asked, "Is the choice of what you display responsive to what the public wishes to view?" Khimani said, "We have an immense collection of art out of which only 5% is displayed. The remaining 95% is stored and rotated at regular intervals. Thus every time the locals visit the museum, he sees something new."

Aditi Mehta, additional chief secretary had inaugurated the event in the presence of Bernard Philip, deputy high commissioner, Australian High Commission and Diya Kumari of the former royal family.

म्यूजियम को अब चाहिए रिक्लड ह्यूमन रिसोर्स

City

Guest

जयपुर में हेरिटेज कंजर्वेशन प्रोग्राम में आए ऑस हेरिटेज के चेयरमैन विजोद डिलियाल, फिजलहाल ऑस्ट्रेलिया में बसे लोकल शिक्षा भारत से ही पूरी की है



आ | इआइटी दिल्ली में केमिस्ट्री से नौटिक करते वक्त नहीं सोचा था कि अपने अगो का करिअर म्यूजियम में बनाऊंगा। अपने मास्टर्स को पढ़ाई करने में लॉस एंजिल्स गया और वहाँ के म्यूजियम में कैमिकल्स के जरिए पेंटिंग्स के रखरखाव की जिम्मेदारी मिली। ये नब्बे के दशक की बात है। पांच साल शिक्षागो में रहने के बाद ऑस्ट्रेलिया चला गया। अब पंद्रह साल वहाँ हूँ और कई सालों से म्यूजियम मैनेजमेंट देख रहा हूँ।

ये सच है कि इतिहास नहीं बदलता, लेकिन इतिहास को देखने का जरिए अलग-अलग समय में अलग होता है। आजकल के सिनेरियो में बात करें तो म्यूजियम का ऑनलाइन होना समय की डिमांड है। ऑनलाइन म्यूजियम होने से लोकलाइड्स

को और रिसर्च स्कॉलर्स को काफी आसानी रहती है। साथ ही टूरिस्ट भी आने से पहले देख पाता है कि म्यूजियम में क्या खास है।

इंडिया के पास सहेजने के लिए बिरासल है, लेकिन कमी है तो बस रिक्लड ह्यूमन रिसोर्स की। एक ओर टूट डूबे दिनों यहाँ देख रहा हूँ कि म्यूजियम अथॉरिटी इंटरनेशनल कमलेंट का हायर करते हैं लेकिन वो तो एक सीमित समय के लिए म्यूजियम विजिट कर सकता है। इसके बाद क्या होगा? होना यह चाहिए कि स्टॉप में टॉप से बॉटम तक सभी धरोहर को संभालने के लिए रिक्लड हों। ऑस्ट्रेलिया, यूके यास्पए में तो ऐसा हो रहा है अब इंडिया की बारी है। उम्मीद है आने वाले 25 सालों में नई जेनरेशन आगे बढ़कर नई टेक्निक के साथ बिरासत को सहेज ले। (जैसा उन्होंने यासमीन सिद्दीकी को बताया)

इंटरनेशनल पैरामीटर्स पर हेरिटेज

मिठी विनोद: इंटरनेशनल सिनेरियो में किस तरह बिरासल को सहेजा जा रहा है? कंजर्वेशन की नई और बेहतरीन तकनीक क्या है? हेरिटेज कंजर्वेशन से जुड़े कुछ ऐसे ही बिंदुओं पर मंगलवार को चर्चा हुई। भोका था मिटी फेलोस में चल रहे सेमिनार का। इसमें दूसरे दिन इंडियन और ऑस्ट्रेलियन एक्सपर्ट्स ने चर्चा की। साथ ही कलेक्शन मैनेजमेंट, कलचाल टूरिज्म, हेरिटेज बिल्डिंग कंजर्वेशन और बिल्डिंग स्टोन कंजर्वेशन आदि के बारे में प्रजेंटेशन भी दिए। इंडियन एक्सपर्ट में टैवल राइटर धर्मेश कंवर, कंजर्वेशन ऑर्किटेक्ट कविता जैन, हथवर्धन और सिटी फेलोस म्यूजियम के सीनियर क्यूरेटर फकज शर्मा रहे। यह कार्यक्रम ऑस हेरिटेज और मंगलोजा सर्वाई मान सिंह म्यूजियम ट्रस्ट के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में आयोजित किया जा रहा है।



Roger's India romance!

In the city to participate in a workshop, the deputy chairman of AusHeritage reveals how India never ceases to surprise him

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His first visit to India was in 1981 and since then, he has been held over heels in love with the country. And for Roger Beeston, a conservation architect and the deputy chairperson of AusHeritage, this love has only grown with time.

Based in Melbourne, Beeston cares for buildings, particularly the old ones like his own babies. In town to attend a workshop on

“Sometimes, leaving them alone is the best policy. Constant renovation can drain funds and do more damage than good

— Roger Beeston

conservation of heritage on Tuesday at the City Palace, he is mightily impressed with Jaipur.

“I think the conservation work being done here is amazing,” he says while warning that overdoing it can actually harm the monuments.

“Sometimes, leaving these old beauties alone is the best policy. Constant renovation can drain funds and do more damage than good,” he quips with a casual shrug.

He points out that there are areas with a lot of unsolved mystery in the city. “Cannons are seen everywhere in Jaipur. But can you tell me what are they made up of?,” he asks. “Involving the local populace to unravel such mysteries can be fruitful,” he further suggests.

However, in case you think that the man is only about buildings then you can't be more mistaken.

“I am an avid surfer and a beach bum. I often take my seven-year-old daughter to the beach and I am teaching her to surf as well,” the visibly proud dad says.

Coming back to more serious stuff, this true blue Shane Warne fan feels that India is increasingly emerging as a tourism hotspot not only among backpackers but also among more mature tourists.

“The tourist attractions here in India are catching up with their European counterparts fast,” he quips.

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The best museum is yet to come

... in India, says Australia-based museologist & AusHeritage chief Vinod Daniel while sharing ideas to make museums happening

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Remember Ben Stiller and Owen Wilsons adventures in the movie *Night at the Museum*? What fun they had! And, museums have to be as fun as this Shawn Levy hit believes Vinod Daniel, a noted museologist.

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The chairperson of AusHeritage and vice-chairperson of the International Council of Museums: Committe for Conservation looked dapper in a black suit as we settle down at the City Palace to discuss museums on the sidelines of the ongoing seminar 'Heritage Conservation—An International Perspective'.

"Showcase the objects with a sprinkling of intangible heritage.

For example, if you are displaying a sword, play those songs in the background that were sung right before the battle. One can also have historical events re-enacted in the building," he says animatedly.

Breaching the divide even further, Daniel suggested that community members can also be actively involved as part of the installations. And, the chemical engineer-turned-museum expert doesn't deny that these institutions are not exactly the 'in' thing among youngsters. But, he offered a unique solution as well.

"Who says that museums can't host great musical evenings? Moreover, having a café amongst the exhibits can also turn a 'boring' museum into a happening place," he said.

The man, who has been in the business of storing and restoring artefacts across 40 countries, blames the staff of the Indian museums for the dusty shelves and shoddily-kept objects. "A sense of lethargy has crept in on the staff here and it is dangerous as precious collections may be lost," he warned.

He also rues the lack of skilled craftsmen in the country, who have the expertise of restoring buildings and other archaeological artefacts. "If the government doesn't do something about it soon, maintaining Indian heritage will be impossible," he beamed.

Obviously, we ask him about the best museum in India. "It doesn't exist yet," he quips. "You worship cricket, but there is no museum for it. And, if somebody opens one, it would be an instant hit," he smiles.



It was not new for the Jaipur experts, but the heritage seminar was...

A sharing of experiences

It was all about protecting the city's cultural heritage and tangible artefacts on the second day of the heritage conservation workshop jointly organised by the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust and AusHeritage at the City Palace.

A plethora of presentations on a variety of subjects were shown by both Australian and Indian experts, which included the likes of INTACH convener Dharmendar Kanwar, deputy chairman AusHeritage Roger Beeston, and conservation architect Dr Charlotte Galloway.

A presentation by architect Kavita Jain on the restoration work executed on Jal Mahal was very well received by the audience that also constituted students of architecture and



museology.

Wilderness conservationist Harsh Vardhan's presentation on protecting the ecology around heritage buildings, particularly Jaigarh Fort, also offered in-depth insight as to how it's not only built heritage that needs care, but also the flora and fauna that inhabit the surroundings of the fort.

"I found around 700 frogs in Jaigarh. Find me one in Jaipur," Harsh Vardhan rued.

—AH Correspondent

'Heritage conservation is beyond monuments'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: There is more to heritage conservation than just monuments. While heritage conservation should be justly about forts, palaces and havelies, we are fast losing out on domestic and traditional architecture, said additional chief secretary Aditi Mehta, while speaking at a three-day seminar on heritage conservation here on Monday.

"Even in government sector, where a large number of houses are being constructed for those without homes, there should be an initiative to retain the domestic architecture. A courtyard is a good example of such traditional architecture," said Aditi.

During the three-day seminar, the Australian

3-DAY SEMINAR

and Indian teams will take part in a joint forum on museum collections and conservation, heritage architecture and conservation, and cultural tourism. Speaking on the occasion, Australian deputy high commissioner Benard Philip said: "I am delighted to be at the City Palace for this forum where Australian and Indian experts are sharing their perspectives on issues of cultural importance. Initiatives such as this one, funded by the Australia-India council, are an important part of the ongoing conversation between our two countries."

Chairman of AusHeritage, Vinod Daniel said the five-member AusHeritage team has expertise ranging from museum collections to heritage building and from conservation to cultural tourism. He added that he was delighted to collaborate on a project involving a site that was symbolic to every visitor coming to India.

Daniel set the tone for the forum by speaking on 'The Museum of the 21st Century' and participants during the course of their stay will undertake site visits to Jaipur City Palace and Jaigarh Fort.

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