

National Conclave on Tribal Languages & Museums holds deliberations on Tribal Museums in Mysuru

Sessions focus on preserving tribal cultural heritage through authentic storytelling and community participation

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The National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums brought together experts, officials and community representatives to deliberate on the preservation and promotion of tribal languages and heritage. The discussions on **Tribal Museums and Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums (TFFMs)** focused on preserving tribal history, identity and cultural heritage through authentic storytelling, community participation and contemporary museum practices.

The sessions on **Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums (TFFMs)** commenced with remarks by **Shri T. Roumuan Paite, Joint Secretary, TFFM, Ministry of Tribal affairs** who highlighted the role of museums as repositories of history, housing documents, objects, photographs and other historical evidence. The importance of preserving not only the objects but also the stories, context and meaning associated with them was emphasized.

Introducing the Tribal Museums and Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums, **Ms. Deepali Masirkar, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, highlighted the richness of tribal heritage and the importance of tribal museums in preserving cultural identity and presenting the uniqueness of tribal communities in contemporary and engaging ways. Referring to the Tribal Museum in Bhopal, participants were encouraged to visit the museum and experience the balance between physical exhibits and digital components.



The thematic sessions began with **Prof. Virginus Xaxa, Visiting Professor, Institute of Human Development (IHD), New Delhi**, speaking on “*Representing Tribal Freedom Stories in Museums: Authenticity, Identity and Community Perspectives*”, focusing on authentic representation of tribal histories and connecting local tribal narratives with the national freedom movement. **Shri Vinod Daniel, CEO and Managing Trustee, India Vision Institute**, addressed “*Museums as Living Institutions: Preserving Memory, Identity and Community Heritage*”. **Shri Amitabh Pandey, IGRMS**, spoke on “*From Building to Museum: Understanding the Museum Planning Process*”, covering museum planning, storyline development, spatial planning and future operations and maintenance. **Shri Nataraj Dasgupta, Former Director, CRTL (NCSM) and Consultant, Creative Museum Designers**, addressed “*Contemporary Display Techniques in Museums and Thoughtful Integration of Digital Technologies*”, covering immersive environments, multimedia storytelling, interactive displays, AR/VR and QR-based storytelling. **Shri Shriram Tiwari, Director, Veer Bharat Nyas, Curator, Bhopal**, spoke on “*Community Participation in Museum Making: The Tribal Museum Bhopal Experience*”, highlighting community participation, visitor engagement, institutional partnerships, revenue generation and resource mobilization for sustainable museum management.



During the concluding discussion, **Ms. Deepali Masirkar** suggested engagement of communities for development of museums, revenue-generation avenues such as light shows, developing guest-house facilities and weekend programs, and establishing tribal-cuisine cafés, including tribal coffee, to enhance visitor engagement and support museum sustainability. The discussion also emphasized better coordination among historians, designers and executing agencies and the need to ensure that museums remain **story-led rather than technology-led**.

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