ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM ON "ROLE OF MUSEUMS IN CONSERVING HERITAGE AND HISTORY OF GOA"

The Directorate of Museums, organized a One-Day Symposium on the theme "Role of Museums in Conserving Heritage and History of Goa" on 29th September 2026 at the Auditorium of Goa Science Centre and Planetarium, Miramar, Panaji, to commemorate the Foundation Day of the Goa State Museum. The symposium witnessed enthusiastic participation from academicians, researchers, museum professionals, heritage practitioners, and students from various institutions across Goa and 25 papers were presented. The symposium served as a platform for scholars,



researchers, museum professionals, students, and heritage enthusiasts to deliberate upon the significance of museums in preserving, documenting, interpreting, and promoting Goa's rich cultural and historical heritage.



Lighting of the lamo by Shri A. K. Bhelave, Centre Head, Goa Science Centre and Planetarium. Dr. Kishore Raghubans, Assistant Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Goa

The programme commenced with an inaugural session. The symposium was inaugurated by Shri A. K. Bhelave, Centre Head, Goa Science Centre and Planetarium. Dr. Kishore Raghubans, Assistant Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Goa Circle, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the crucial role of museums in safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage and their contribution towards historical research, education, and public awareness. Dr. Vasu Usapkar, Director of Museums, Goa, along with other distinguished guests, scholars, faculty members, students, and participants, graced the occasion. The academic proceedings were divided into four technical sessions.

The first session, titled “Conservation and Documentation,” focused on preventive and curative conservation of manuscripts, sustainable conservation practices, digital heritage documentation, environmental monitoring of museum objects, historical ecology studies, and the use of museum collections for historical research. The session was chaired by Dr. Arun Kumar Reddy Sama, Regional Director, IGNCA Regional Centre, Goa.



The first session, titled “Conservation and Documentation,” was chaired by Dr. Arun Kumar Reddy Sama.

The second session, “Objects, Artefacts and Cultural Memory,” was chaired by Shri Prajal Sakhardande, Associate Professor, Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar. The presentations explored museum

collections as historical evidence, hero stones of Goa, commemorative artefacts, pottery traditions, community museums, and various aspects of preserving cultural memory through museum collections.



The second session, "Objects, Artefacts and Cultural Memory," was chaired by Shri Prajal Sakhardande.

Following the lunch break, the third session on "Museums as Learning Spaces" was chaired by Smt. Natasha Fernandes, Curator, Museum of Christian Art, Old Goa. The speakers deliberated on museums as educational resources, their relevance under the National Education Policy 2020, the interpretation of prehistoric heritage, the role of museums in connecting society to its past, and emerging global trends in museology applicable to



The third session on "Museums as Learning Spaces" was chaired by Smt. Natasha Fernandes.

Goan museums.

The fourth and final technical session, "Community, Heritage and Identity," was chaired by Dr. Rita Braganza, Associate Professor, Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim. The presentations highlighted community participation in heritage conservation, heritage houses as museums, the preservation of traditions through community festivals, local cultural practices, sculptural studies, and the artistic significance of archaeological remains in Goa.



The fourth session, "Community, Heritage and Identity," was chaired by Dr. Rita Braganza.

The deliberations facilitated meaningful exchange of ideas on museum practices, heritage conservation, documentation methodologies, research opportunities, community engagement, and the future role of museums in preserving Goa's cultural legacy. The programme concluded with a valedictory session, during which certificates were distributed to the presenters and participants. The symposium successfully fulfilled its objective of fostering awareness and scholarly discussion on the role of museums in conserving and promoting the heritage and history of Goa, while encouraging collaboration among stakeholders engaged in the cultural sector.