

Growth of Museums in Odisha During the 21st Century

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After the independence of India, the development of the museums are growing rapidly with the improvement of the education and mass communication. Towards the close of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century a large number of new variety of museums were established in the eastern part of Odisha. They are Temple Museum, Natural History Museum, Tribal Museum, Insect Museum, Personalia Museum etc. which are small in size but the collections of the museums are very important for the students, research scholars and teachers. The Temple Museum, Konark only preserves the various parts of the Konark temple and development of art and architecture in Odisha. The tribal museum speaks of the tribal style of the tribal people of Odisha. The science museum preserves the importance of the science and the improvement of our living condition from ancient time to present time. Some of the miscellaneous museums are given below :

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar :

The present eastern regional centre of National Museum of Natural History, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, situated in a prime location inside temple city of Bhubaneswar. Six acres of land was given free

of cost by the Government of Odisha. Initial phase of construction began after foundation stone laid on 5th November 1994.¹ Subsequently the museum was opened for the public on 10th August 2004 with the objective of promoting non-formal environmental education among general public and younger generation in particular.

To achieve this objective various galleries depicting biological diversity of the region is beautifully presented in a learning set up supported by aesthetically designed landscape. The vibrant biodiversity of Chilika, Bhitarkanika, Similipal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and North East has been showcased in the galleries portraying natural richness under one roof. It is experienced that knowledge disseminated with the help of realistic museum exhibits inside permanent gallery, temporary exhibition hall, aptly oriented discovery centre, impact exhibits played an important role for the visitors since its inception.

Research driven exhibit showcases comprising skeletal display with poignant story of Shankar. The wild rogue tusker and African black rhinoceros intricate architectural nest building behaviour of hornet wasp displayed in a moveable showcase. The story of big and small cats of India, interesting facts of butterflies and valuable collection and display of sixteen rhino, Skulls belonging to three different species of the

world encourages responsible visitors to spread the message of creative learning environment. A scientific laboratory consisting of baseline information with the help of simple instruments and chemical encourages school students to understand and visualize different curriculum based practical activity which is lacking in modern formal learning system inside classrooms. Hopefully this has turned into substitute for online information for the students to prepare their projects with real educational potential of firsthand experience. Some interactive exhibits and multi dimensional programmes have resulted in gradual increase in visitors inflow. This is the only centre where one can see and understand the working principle of rain water harvesting system associated with artificial recharge of ground water and solar lighting system.²

Galleries and Exhibits :

Museum houses four spectacular galleries, beautiful aquariums and magnificent osteological exhibits of mammals, birds, reptiles and rare herpetological collections.

Gallery – 1 : Unique Creations of Nature

Temporary gallery which portrays rare, extinct and endangered animals of India like whale, pythons, stuffed crocodiles, models of black buck, hyena, wild dog and clouded leopard.

Gallery – 2 : Bio-diversity Gallery

Permanent gallery depicts vast bio-diversity of different habitats like Chilika, Bhitarkanika and Similipal Biosphere Reserve besides North Eastern Region, Andaman and Nicobar Islands were showcased to captivate young minds toward better understanding about ecology.

Gallery – 3 : Discovery Centre

This gallery is specially designed for children to achieve enjoyable learning involving

all senses to inculcate interest about environment. Various scientific facts have been displayed with visual aid and in a manner of questions and answers.

Gallery – 4 : Second Phase Gallery

Ongoing gallery development activities focused on natural phenomenon also given importance for exhibit design and display.

Recently valuable and interesting collection of geological and zoological specimens brought from Madagascar island were donated by Shri Abasar Beuria, former Ambassador of India. The whole collection have given into develop a concept for design and display to educate the visitors about natural treasure of Madagascar. This happens to be the only museum in India where one can see the artist's expression about extinct elephant, bird with its largest egg of the world. There are interesting fossilized remains of tree, vertebra of dinosaur, ammonites and fish reveals million years evolutionary history related with their origin and extinction. The fascinating collection of shining spherical agate, calcite, quartz, rocks, has given us to interlink different continent in time and space.³

Wild Africa :

The mounted specimens of zebra and cheetah made by Vanlugen a taxidermist of international repute is on display inside a panoramic view of African wilderness.

Museum Activities :

On the occasion of Earth Day a sit and draw competition was organized in association with Centre for Environmental Studies, Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Odisha. About 292 participants from primary to +2 classes grouped into four categories participated in the programme on the

themes- My house, Our Earth in our own urbanization and Deforestation and Terror of Tsunami.

Summer Programme 2007 :

The museum has also organized a summer programme on 1st May 2007 in which 125 participants took part. Nature in art and craft was conducted from 18th May to 21st May with exposure visit to 200. Children were engaged in creative activities like clay modeling, making of masks of animals and birds etc. with demonstration by experienced resource persons. In the high school category about 25 participants participated in the nature camp activity from 22nd to 25th May with field trip to Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary and Chilika Lake. Experts in the field of forests, wetlands, ecology and wildlife were invited to orient the students about various aspects of environment. The programme for +2 and +3 level was held from 26th May to 2nd June. Valedictory Function was held on 5th June 2007.

World Environment Day and Valedictory Function of Summer Programme :

The World Environment Day was observed in the premises of the museum where Prof. Madhab Chandra Dash, former Vice-Chancellor and former Chairperson of Pollution Control Board graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He presented a very informative lecture on global warming. Later in the evening a cultural programme was presented by students after which certificates were distributed to the participants for their enthusiastic participation in the summer programme.⁵

Workshop for Teachers of Eco-Club :

A five day workshop for teachers of Eco-Club was organized from 5th-10th August in association with centre for Environmental Studies, Department of Forest and Environment,

Government of Odisha. About 27 teachers from 27 districts participated in the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. L.N. Pattanaik, Chairman, Pollution Control Board in the presence of Sri B.K. Pattanaik, Director, CES and Dr. P. Ray SIC RMNH. The programme included lectures on different topics related to eco-club activities and field visit to Regional Plant Resource Centre Nandankanan Zoo, Pollution Control Board, and field visit for on site demonstration on medicinal plants, vermiculture, vermi-composting and rain water harvesting.⁶

Collaboration with Centre for Environmental Studies :

Museum organized a pre-proposal workshop for NGO's community organizations and Govt. organizations in connection with NEAC 2007-08 in collaboration with centre for Environmental Studies, Govt. of Odisha on 24th September 2007. Dr. S.N. Patra, President, Odisha Environmental Society was in Chief Guest, Dr. P. Ray, Scientist-in-Charge made a presentation about the importance of bio-diversity conservation and the need to take up activities at local level to create awareness about the bio-diversity aiming at establishment of museum corner in selected schools in Odisha.⁷

Wildlife Week :

In collaboration with World Wide Fund for Nature India Museum organized a two-day programme for school and university students. The programme aimed at giving the students an exposure to the common plants and animals around us. Initial step for basic knowledge towards conservation of bio-diversity through lectures and field visits. Prof. Bhabani Choudhury former Professor, Department of Botany, Utkal University guided the students about the field identification of plants. A field visit to Chandaka-Damapara Wildlife Sanctuary was arranged to

explore the variety of flora and fauna and to understand elephant habitat.⁸

Collaboration with University :

Museum conducted a special collaborative programme with Utkal University for the students of M.Sc., Fishery Science, Botany and with Institute of Hotel Administration and Culinary Technology affiliated to Utkal University of Culture.⁹

State Level Environment Quiz :

A state level environment quiz was organized jointly with Centre for Environmental Studies on 24th December 2007. Students from all over state in 19 groups had participated. After short-listing through a preliminary written quiz the selected candidates were put into 06 groups. The winners were awarded along with encouragement prizes for all the participants.¹⁰

Special Programme for Differently Abled :

Special programme for hearing impaired, visually challenged and mentally challenged was organized during the month of February 2008. A workshop was organized on "Access to Museum by Visually Challenged" for teachers of visually challenged.

Konark Museum :

Konark is a small village in Puri district situated on the sea coast of Odisha. The place is well connected by good motorable roads from Bhubaneswar and Puri. The place is sacred and famous for the Sun temple. It is one of the principal Kshetras mentioned in the Kapila Samhita. It is otherwise called Arka Kshetra or Padma Kshetra. The term Konark is attributed to the world Kona and Arka meaning thereby corner and Sun respectively hence the etymology corner Sun.

The Konark Museum is called the temple museum because all the structure of the temple has been displayed in the museum showing the need of the preservation and conservation of the ancient monuments.

Sun Temple at Konark :

The Sun temple was designed in an unusual manner like a celestial chariot huge and magnificent befitting the Sun God the source of life. The chariot stands on twenty four giant wheels and drawn by seven horses. In front of the temple there was the huge monolithic Aruna Pillar which has been shifted to Puri and is at present in front of the Jagamohana temple.

The Konark temple consists of three structures Vimana, Jagamohana and Natamandira. The Vimana and Jagamohana were built on one platform and the Natamandira was at a distance in front. The Vimana and Natamandira are in ruins only the Jagamohana has survived and kept preserved in a damaged condition. The chariot like temple along with the wheels and heavily ornate not even inch of space was left without decoration. Each wheel measures 9' 9" in height and has sixteen spokes, eight thick and light thin. The measurement once stood on a platform of 13' 3" height which again stood on a Upana. The Upana carries fine relief figures of elephants all around busy in various activities.⁸

The Vimana is without the curvilinear roof. In the sanctum there is the lion throne, but no deity. A portion of the high raising plinth has survived. On the *bada* in each cardinal points of west, north and south are found three colossal figures of Sun mounted on horseback. They represent the rising, mid-day and setting Sun. The images express mood commensurating the position of the day. They are highly ornate and made of blue chlorite stone brought from distant places like

Nilgiri and Mayurbhanj. The lion throne is also made of blue chlorite representing in sculpture the king and the royal retinue coming in procession to offer worship.

The Natamandira is seen only upto the platform. Though there is no dancing hall of large size, the large number of dancers, musicians who adorn the walls and pillars bear proof of the purpose for which this structure was built. The structure being detached from the Vimana and Jagamohana probably mark a new stage of evolution in temple architecture. The shape of the roof is not known. But the Jagamohana being intact is found to be having a pyramidal roof of the *pidha deula* pattern. The pyramidal roof is divided into three stages each separate from the other. In between the three tiers are to be seen female musician holding musical instruments and in dancing pose.

From the architectural point of view the Jagamohana is Pancharatha in plan. It is known as "Black Pagoda". According to James Fergusson this building is one of the very best specimens of Indian architecture. It had been provided with three entrances East, North and South. The western opening was leading to the main temple cella where the deity was enshrined.

The beauty of Konark temple as a monument is amazing and incomparable. It is the final product of Odishan architect done with great care and dedication. The legend says that Narasingha Deva I the Ganga King who was the builder of the temple appointed twelve hundred masons for the construction of the temple for twelve years. Twelve years revenue of the state had been utilized for completion of this magnificent edifice. This monument has been declared as one of the World Heritage Monuments in 1984 and only one in the Eastern India as a whole.

Museum :

The fallen architectural members and sculptures focused the attention of the scholars and the Government how to preserve and protect the objects not only from Sun and rain but also from human Vandalism that led the way for the creation of a museum. This museum is now the product of this thought and action to convey the message of the aesthetic and cultural grandeur of the times by presenting them on scientific display methods in the galleries. The collection of the sculptures, architectural members from the complex got preserved in the complex and then shifted to the present building in 1968.

Presently this museum consists of four galleries and corridor with open verandah where the blow-ups of various monuments of Odisha have been displayed for the benefit of public. The fourth gallery was opened in 2004 only.

The museum greets the visitors with duel bearers and a chart of evolution of Odia Script from the earliest script Brahmi of Asokan period and gradual development till 13th century. The visitors may have to see the plan of the temple and empire of Narasimhadeva I on a blow up before entering to the gallery No. 1.

The gallery No. 1 greets with object of a colossal images of sand stone Surya, reconstructed chariot wheel and the sculptures of Varaha, Trivikram and Narasimha of chlorite stone from brick temple of the Sun Temple Complex. In the adjoining hall of gallery 2 a few scenes of reconstructed temple wall along with two large celestial musicians, animal motifs and *dikpala* figures are the centre of attraction. Besides Panchadevatas are found on one platform.⁹

The gallery No. III contains two celestial stupendous female figures as if paying homage to Suryanarayana and two fantastic animals,

Gajalaxmi panel are remarkable. Further, Narasimhadeva worshipping the triad (Shivalinga, Purusottam Jagannath and Goddess Durga) on one platform is very remarkable and signifies the religious harmony during the 13th century.

The newly organized gallery has been coined as gallery No. IV which contains the figure of the King witnessing dance scene, the Surya image, the marching elephants, the erotic figures and the showcases contains the celestial Kanayas on various postures. The visitors have the scope and opportunity to study our ancient cultural values in depth as well as enjoy and entertain.

The museum serves the purpose of the visitors in the every field not only in education but also helps in creating awareness about our ancient culture among the masses. It highlights how to protect and preserve our heritage for future. It educates the youth of the day about the site, environment, cultural ethos as well as the ethical values of the ancient days.

The monument along with other edifices is enlisted in the world cultural heritage by the plays a UNESCO in recognition of its outstanding contribution to humanity in the field of art and architecture not only in the Indian context but also in the international sphere. The museum which is a part and parcel of the Sun temple in which it plays a pivotal role conveying the message of the past glory to the public in the field of education and culture. The museum is further trying to keep the ethos of our culture intact by way of exhibits, audio-visual shows etc.

Science Museum, Bhubaneswar :

Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar is one of the 28 science centres under the network of National Council of Science Museums which is an autonomous council under the Department of Culture, Govt. of India. The museum aims at

inculcating scientific temper and to popularize science and technology in the state of Odisha through exhibits, exhibitions, special shows and programmes amongst people of all walk of life. The museum was established on 18th September 1989 in the temple city of Bhubaneswar on 8 acres of land with part financial support from Govt. of Odisha. At present this Science Museum houses three sciences galleries. They are motion, mathematics and fun science. Recently a science park and a pre-historic life park have been established within the compound of the museum.

Science Galleries :

The gallery on motion showcases motions of various kinds : biological, atomic, celestial etc. and their implication on our daily life. The gallery on mathematics exhibits different branches of mathematics as they shape our everyday life. Here numbers and shapes, equations and angles are no longer fearsome or drab rather, one can play with them. For more inquisitive children, it is a place to learn the intricacies of mathematics through a process of participation interaction and discovery. Covering an area 5000 square feet with fun filled yet informative exhibits, this gallery is the first of its kind in India.¹⁰

The Beginning of Counting :

The exhibition opens with the story of numbers. Browse panels to watch how the early man did count his animals or use the Sun as his guide to reckon time and many others including the development of different tools of mathematics like arithmetics, geometry and trigonometry down the generation. The gallery gets an flavor with an exposition of the development of mathematics in ancient India.

The study of shapes in space is called geometry. An array of hands on exhibits with sliding beads, turning knobs, hitting strikes, and

pressing switches are displayed here which help the visitor to know the nature and behavior of various geometrical shapes like circles, ellipses, parabolas, hyperbolas etc. Geometrical solids like pyramids, cones and polyhedrons also greet the visitors.

Here mathematics is not a thing to be scared or bored, but a source of joy and irresistible temptation. The gallery houses a lot of games and puzzles with mathematical favour to satisfy the curiosity of visitors. Many recreational and fun filled exhibits are there to expose the beauty of mathematics in a variety of fields like chaos and fractals, penrose tiling, cryptography, game theory, map theories and the like. The working exhibits are supplemented with a number of audio-visual interactive facilities with computers and multimedia, special film shows, unmanned quiz and children's play corner to make the visit really memorable.¹¹

The Fun Science Gallery contains an array of exciting exhibits which allow visitors to interact and unravel the mysteries of science through fun-filled ways.

Science Park :

The science park contains large interactive exhibits which visitors can play and handle to learn science through fun. Press-levers, turn-wheels, pull ropes, peep through hole and many others are the activities to guide visitors along the path of enquiry in their fascinating journey in the park.

Light and Sound show on Pre-Historic Life :

The story of evolution of life on our planet Earth is told to the visitors through a light and sound show medium in an interesting way. The show highlights some of the salient moments of evolution of life on our planet and depicts animals which became extinct in the course of time.

Special Shows and Programmes :

The special shows include 3D movies. Taramandal Mini Planetarium shows, science magic shows, non-fall bicycle shows, science film shows etc.

The centre conducts regular teachers training programmes, creative ability camps, vacation hobby camps, popular science lectures, science quizzes and sky observation programmes with telescope, science seminars, science drama, science fairs etc.

The museum also celebrates important days and occasions by organising an array of activities for students. It also runs a mobile science exhibition bus as an outreach programme carrying messages of science to cater to the needs of rural schools.

Tribal Museum, Bhubaneswar :

The idea of setting up a tribal museum in SCSTRTI located CRPF Square, Bhubaneswar was originally conceived in 1987 but materialized on 5th March 2001. The exhibits of the museum represent the elementary human cultural values that had shaped our past, are determining our present and will be guiding our future. So the tribal museum can be conceptually labelled as "Museum of Man". In common parlance museum of man means an integrated institution which disseminates knowledge covering the human species in its totality.

The museum has approximately 1900 displayed tribal artifacts in five halls. They exhibit dresses and ornaments, dhokra items, dances and musical instruments, hunting implements, fishing nets, weapons of offence and defence, personal belongings, arts and photographs.

The indigenous tools, technologies, weapons, basketry, pottery, textiles, dresses, ornaments and rural objects are losing their

meaning to the new generation. Hence protection and preservation of these tools, appliances and material traits in the museum have become a necessity to know the antecedents of human and living.¹²

Tribals have enriched the complex ethno-cultural mosaic of the state. Each individual tribe is unique in terms of its material culture, settlement pattern, house type, mode of subsistence, social organization, traditional decision making institutions, language, dance, music, adornment, food habit, tools and technology, aesthetics, belief system, traditional practice of health and healing etc. They have excellent creative talents, skills and power of imagination in designing art, crafts and artifacts.

The dress and ornament section of the museum has 34 textile items of 8 tribes and ornaments belonging to 17 tribes. The traditional costumes include tropical textile items like “ringa” of Bonda “phute saree” of Santal, *gatungkap* of Lonjia Saora etc. Bead necklace like *tangam* of Langia Saora, Shaska of Kutia Kondha, Kunti of Juang, coin necklace like Mecodica of Dong Kondh, paste of Koya, Dabu and Lubeida of Bonda tribes figure in the ornament section.¹³

Dhokra and musical instrument section of the museum has 117 dhokra items of Bathudi, Desia Kondh, Dongria Kondh and Kondh tribes. Among these Dhokra items lionet, paji and snake charmers of Desia Kondh, ox head of Bathudi and elephant of Bhuinya tribe are quite spectacular. Besides, 13 musical instruments like horn trumpet of Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Saora, Santal, Bonda double membrane, drum of holva flute and violin of Santal, Changu of Juang attract all categories of visitors including musicians.

The agricultural implements include a variety of hoes of primitive tribal groups, wooden plough of progressive farmers along with 168

tribal household objects such as tumba gourd container of Dongria Kondh, Siali net, Siali oil, extractor and Siali fibre, basket of Mankirdia, wine container of Paroja and wine pot of Lanjia Saora create a vivid picture of the ancient culture of a remote tribal area in the visitor’s mind.

Hunting implements of 22 tribes including the primitive groups, 36 items of fishing nets and crafts of 15 tribes add to the speciality of the museum where axe of Kondh, spear of Paroja, sword of Oram, knife of Dongria Kondh and bows & arrows of all the tribes attract researchers and commoners alike. Besides all these, the presence of net traps of Mankirdias, Kutia Kondh, Santal, Kisan, Juang, fish basket of Bonda, fishing traps of Gond enhance the beauty of the museum.

The attraction of the art and photographs section includes snaps like ‘Shaman’ and animal of Saora, Koya dancing girls, women of Bonda and Dongria Kondh with traditional costumes and sketches drawn by tribal children at school.

Saora shrine crafts like Manduasum and Jenanglosum, Dongria Kondh shrine crafts like Katebali, Meriah Past, Kandru duma displayed on the open air platform inside the museum and Saora shrine crafts like Jodisum gun war rang beneath the trees beyond the museum premises amuse visitors of all hues.

A centrally air conditioned auditorium having sitting arrangement for 112 people annexed to the museum building provides a venue for cultural interface of the ethnic performing arts, dance, musical get together with the visitors.

The tribal museum surrounded by a sprawling campus has steadily grown over past five decades. It has been serving as a spring board for eco-tourism in tribal Odisha. Overseas eco-tourists came to the museum as their first

itinerary before fanning out to the back waters of tribal Odisha. Scholars, students and general public are also visiting this institution and their number is increasing over years.¹⁴

Aquarium Museum, Bhubaneswar :

Aquarium keeping has been age-old practice. The Sumerians, the ancient people of Mesopotamia have been keeping fishes in ponds since at least 4,500 years ago. Other early human cultures that fashioned aquarium keeping include the Egyptians, the Asians, the Chinese, the Japanese and the Romans. These ancient aquarium served several purposes including entertainment, a place to breed fishes for market as also ready source of food. The Chinese developed the practice of breeding ornamental fishes suitable for keeping in small containers. A classic result of their efforts is the gold fish.

The term aquarium first appeared in the works of Phillip Gosse (1810-88) a British scientist. First public aquarium of its kind was opened in 1853 in Regent's Park, London followed by aquarium in Berlin, Naples and Paris. By 1928 there were 45 public or commercial aquariums throughout the world. After World War II growth became slow and few public aquarium were established.¹⁵

In India, this concept of aquarium and aquarium fish keeping has been practiced since long ago, popularized mainly by the Britishers through inclusion of exotic varieties. Presently it is gaining popularity and almost every house hold is keen to keep aquarium.

Pearl Museum, Bhubaneswar :

Pearls known as Queen of Gems have been occupying a unique place due to their fascinating beauty ever since their discovery in ancient times. Pearls were considered as an exclusive privilege of royalty and throughout

history held presence within wealthy and powerful. Pearls are viewed as magic charms, symbols of purity and love or sources of wisdom and power. Hindus believe Pearl being happiness, to Chinese it brings wealth, to Egyptian love and so on. A natural pearl is formed when a foreign particle such as a piece of sand or parasite make its way into particular species of mollusk and cannot be expelled. As a defence mechanism, the animal secretes a substance, known as nacre, to coat the foreign body. Layer upon layer of this coating is deposited on the irritant resulting in a shimmering and iridescent creation of a gem. The culture pearl undergoes the same process of formation as that of natural pearl. The only difference is that an irritant otherwise called as nucleus of desired shape and size is surgically implanted into the body of Bivalve Mollusk where it cannot be expelled. The animal does the rest creating the precious biological gem, the pearl. Thus the nature's hand is not completely eliminated, in fact it is the animal that determines. The character of the pearl produced. The biomineralisation of pearl thus is the outcome of the synergy between man, animal and ambient minerals.

Fresh water pearl culture is more advantageous in terms of commercial scale availability of natural stocks of pearl mussels in easily accessible habitats, wider area of framing even in non-maritime regions, operational easiness in management of fresh water culture environment, absence of natural fouling boring and predatory organisms and overall cost effectiveness of the operations. Realizing the potential and the scope of inland pearl culture, the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar has been involved in research investigation. Since 1987 and evolved the base technology of growing pearls from freshwater environment using three important freshwater

mussel spices viz. *Lamillidens Manginalis*, *Lacorianus* and *Parreysia Corrugata*. Considering the importance and need for greater excellence of the pearl museum the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has awarded to the Institute since 1999 which is a great honour for the museum.¹⁶

Insects Museum, Bhubaneswar :

Insects are invertebrates and belong to the group called arthropods. They are the only arthropods that can fly. Many have a complex life cycle. Wherever they exist, they have a huge ecological impact as herbivores, hunters, decomposers, plant pollinators, and disease carriers. Adult insects have a head, a thorax and an abdomen each composed of segments. They also have six joined legs modified for walking jumping, digging or swimming. All parts are enclosed in an exoskeleton. The Insect Museum, Bhubaneswar was established in the year 1954 which possess 4367 numbers of objects. This museum was developed by the financial assistance of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. The aim of the opening of this museum is to acquaint the under Graduate, Post-Graduate and Ph.D. Scholars about the identification of various species of insects attacking crop plants.¹⁷

Jatin Das Centre of Art Museum, Bhubaneswar :

The Jatin Das Centre of Art Museum was named after the name of Jatin Das the greatest artist of Odisha. From the princely state of Mayurbhanj in Odisha, Jatin Das went to Bombay to study art, a trip from the east coast to the west. He took a great interest for the need and importance of the traditional art and artefacts. The Jatin Das Centre of Art Museum is popularly called the JD Centre of Art Museum. This museum brings together two initiatives : a long-standing invitation to Jatin from the Government of Odisha to set up

a museum on the state's tribal and folk arts and its desires to honour him as an artist of international standard. Originally the land was offered to Jatin Das to build a studio and museum of his works, but by the time he addressed the project, his collection had become varied and substantial. To house this core collection of art objects not only from Odisha but also from other parts of India and the world, the idea was enlarged to make a holistic art centre where contemporary and traditional art sit together.

Facing 3rd century B.C. caves on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, the state capital, the centre is taking shape on land allotted by the Government of Odisha free of premium. A trust, registered on 26th July 1997 with Board of Trustees has been pursuing programmes from a house allotted by the state until the new centre is built. An office also operates out of Delhi. It has an international Advisory Committee comprising people from diverse walks of the life and professions. B.V. Doshi, the renowned Indian architect has completed a master plan and is designing the complex.¹⁸

Sudarshan Sahoo Art and Craft Museum, Bhubaneswar :

Sudarshan Sahoo was born in the holy city of Puri in 1939, the epicenter of Odisha Arts and Crafts. Living close to the habitat of traditional sculptors, he was attracted to them and at the age of 13 was brought under the tutelage of late Guru Bhubaneswar Mohapatra and Guru Kunia Moharana of Puri. His extraordinary capacity to visualize and create a sculpture brought him into the world of art.

In 1971 he was selected for an assignment to carve the Jataka Tales at the Dhuli peace pagoda on the outskirts of the city of Bhubaneswar by the Japan Buddha Sangha. The successful completion of this assignment eventually

resulted in drawing him close to Buddhism and Buddhist philosophy.

In 1977 he set up the Sudarshan Crafts Museum at Puri which became a centre of training and produced the best traditional sculptures in stone, wood and fibre glass. His long cherished dream of Sudarshan Art and Crafts village saw the light of day in 1991. With the coded rules of Guru-Sishya Parampara, he started training for young students in this village. It draws many a connoisseur of art for its unique concept which is situated in the heart of the temple city of Bhubaneswar in an idyllic surrounding.

Sudarshan Sahoo's contribution to the art of sculpture is enormous. He has created his own style by imbibing different techniques from temple carving from all over the country. Today he stands tall as the master of masters not only in the state of Odisha but also of India.¹⁹

Handicraft Museum, Bhubaneswar :

Odisha was once known as Utkala a synonym to excellence in the field of arts and crafts. Handicrafts and Handlooms were the main stay of maritime trade of Kalinga Empire. Even today Odishan handicrafts have a global recognition as objects of great value and beauty. Generations of artisans have worked with exquisite craftsmanship, innovative techniques and unmatched skills to produce valuable products that have carved worldwide identity. Our precious handicrafts are not merely products, they are an integral part of our culture, a living herigate a link to our glorious past.

Recognition of its artisans at national and international level speaks the excellence of craftsmanship. The artisans of Odisha have got various type of awards like National Award, Padma Award and Shilp Guru Award for their

excellence in craftsmanship. The Handicrafts Museum was organized in Bhubaneswar in order to preserve the ancient arts and crafts of the state of Odisha. This museum reminds the contributions of the great artisans of Odisha.

Stone Carving :

The stone of both hard and soft available in Odisha intricately engraved into the living expressions by magic hands of traditional crafts persons. Khiching in Mayurbhanj, Dhakota in Keonjhar, Lalitgiri in Cuttack, Sukhuapada and Chhatia in Jajpur, Bhubaneswar, Nayagarh Puri and Konark in Puri district are the treasure house of stone crafts.

Pattachitra :

The mythological stories are most minutely depicted on different media covering *patta*, tussar cloth, palm leaf wood, terracotta etc. by magic hands of the talented artists. It is rooted in Lord Jagannath Culture and originated in village Raghurajpur near Puri.

Terracotta :

Pottery and terracotta are primitive crafts thriving through the ages. With change in technology and product diversification innumerable items blended with utility are produced in almost all districts of the state.

Wood Craft :

Wood like Gambhari, rose, teak etc. are carved into innumerable utility and decorative products with traditional and modern motifs. The painted wooden toys, boxes etc. are the added attraction. Bhubaneswar, Raghurajpur, Puri, Khairpadar in Kalahandi, Chandahandi in Nabarangpur, Biridi in Jagatsinghpur district are the main places of wood carving clusters.

Appliqué :

The traditional patch work with elegant colours are also the greatest work done by the artisans of Odisha. The striking range of widest possible varieties of products crafted mainly by women of Pipli, Puri, Balipatna and Bhubaneswar.

Lacquer Craft :

Lac comes from the resinous secretion of a tiny insect laccifer lacca. The work is executed in delightful folk designs like bangles, necklace, toys, boxes and wall plaques by applying molten coloured lac and terracotta cores. Lacquerware crafts persons stay in Nabarangpur, Balasore, Berhampur, Dharakote in Ganjam and Padampur in Rayagada district.

Golden Grass :

“Kaincha” a rich yellowish variety of grass is generally seen in swampy areas during the rainy season. This grass is spilt and woven mostly by women folk to make a wide range of product like baskets, sets of curio boxes, table mats, coasters and hats etc. The places like Jajang of Kendrapara district, Godamadhupur of Jajpur district, Japanga of Sundargarh district are famous for golden grass craft.

Dhokra Casting :

Dhokra casting of “Situlias” is another example of Odisha’s metal ware. Dhokra is an alloy of brass, nickel and zinc which emanates antique look. This craft is practiced mainly at Adakata in Nayagarh, Sadeibareni in Dhenkanal, Kuliana in Mayurbhanj, Badabarsingh and Ransinghpur in Cuttack, Pati and Jampalli in Suvarnpur, Nabarangpur.

Silver Filigree :

Filigree is a unique craft. It has its own intricate design and superb craftsmanship. Cuttack district has a long tradition of meticulous

and sophisticated craftsmanship in silver filigree works which in locally known as “Tarakasi”. This silver filigree work is very famous for its delicateness and intricate workmanship.

Brass and Bell Metal :

The brass and the metal are the earliest known alloys found in Odishan arts and crafts. Bell metal ware occupies a pride of place in the history of Odisha. The crafts persons of brass and bell metal are traditionally called “Kansari”. The flexible brass fish of Ganjam, the cute brass figurine of Khalisahi, the brass and bell metal wares of Cuttack, Khurda, Dhenkanal, Jajpur and Sambalpur are typical examples of Odishan metal ware presenting syntax of beauty and utility.²⁰

In its relentless attempt to bring the crafts sector to the forefront, Directorate of Handicrafts and Cottage Industries, Odisha has taken of another novel beginning in organising a gift fair for extending Market Support to the artisans by exposition to their creation to high end customers.

Lalitgiri museum

Lalitgiri is situated in Cuttack district at a distance of around 100 kms from Bhubaneswar. The Buddhist relics found during excavation at Lalitgiri are proposed to be housed in a museum. The excavated Buddhist site Lalitgiri was notified as centrally protected in the year 1937. The site has been extensively excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India during the year 1985-1992. The remains of massive *stupa* including a relic casket consisting of four containers made of Khondalite Steatite, Silver and Gold containing corporal remains have been recovered during the excavation besides other important structure and archaeological remains. In order to set up a site museum at Lalitgiri the site has been inspected and preparation of detailed drawing of the proposed museum building have been initiated by the Bhubaneswar Circle ASI.

The museum displays the relic caskets of Gautam Buddha and other archaeological finds excavated from the locality. Excavation work carried out here have brought to surface the ruins of a wonderful brick monastery with beautiful carvings, a temple with bow shaped arches, four monasteries and a huge *stupa*. The Buddhist treasures unearthed from here also include a large number of gold and silver articles, a stone container, earthen pot and traces of Kushana dynasty and Brahmi script. A massive image of Buddha is unique find, the image has pursed lips long ears and wide forehead.²¹ All these objects are being exhibited in the Lalitgiri museum. Beside these, this museum also comprises the collections of colossal Buddha figure, Bodhisattva statues, Tara, Jambhala etc. This museum is very important for the students of archaeology and history. It helps to reconstruct the life history of Gautam Buddha.

Ratnagiri Museum :

Archaeological Museum at Ratnagiri is one of the important site museums of Archaeological Survey of India built on the northern crest of the Ratnagiri hill of Asia hill ranges at Ratnagiri village, District -Jajpur, Odisha.

Tibetan records refer to the existence of a flourishing monastic settlement at Ratnagiri. Inscriptional evidences have also proved the same. However, excavation conducted at the site between 1958-61 brought to light a large number of sculptures, inscribed slabs, terracotta, seals and sealings, votive *stupas* and an elaborate Buddhist monastic establishment including *viharas*, *stupas*, shrines etc. Before the establishment of the museum the antiquities were mostly kept at the site, storeroom and in other places which deserved proper display for mass awareness. Thus the need and idea of establishing a museum highlighting the antiquities, culture and heritage of

this part of the country cropped up and Archaeological Survey of India took up initiative in this respect.²²

The construction work of a building for the museum antiquities was completed in 1990 and after necessary arrangements the museum was opened to the public on 15th August 1998. It has 3400 listed antiquities of which 220 are displayed in the galleries.

The museum consists of four galleries with a long stepped corridor displayed with sufficient numbers of antiquities, mainly related to *tantric* Buddhism. These are varied in nature and include small votive *stupas*, sculptures of different medium and dimension in stone, bronze, ivory stone and copper inscriptions, inscribed potsherds, innumerable terracotta, seals and sealings, terracotta figures, variety of other metal objects like chhatras, haloes, ornaments, triangular objects, finials, flowers, decorated bands, small vessels, glass bangles, coins etc.

Amongst the displayed antiquities in gallery No.1 mention may be made of stone images of Buddha in various poses, Avalokitesvara, Khasarpana, Lokeshvara, Manjusri, Tara, one six-armed deity all belonging to 9th to 10th century A.D. Special mention may be made of an image of seated Tara and an image of Manjusri in *dhyanamudra* both of which mark the excellence of modeling.²²

The important displayed antiquities in gallery No.2 include stone sculpture of Buddha, Bodhisattvas, Jambhala, Tara in various poses, Vasudhara, Chunda, woman in dancing posture etc. A colossal Buddha head, Buddha in *bhumisparsha mudra* seated on Visvapadma are also found in this gallery.

Gallery No.3 has been organized with *stupas*, images of Buddha, Bodhisattva, Maitreya

and some other Vajrayana deities, images of Durga and Vaishnavi, inscribed stone slabs, stone disc etc. attract the attention of the visitors.

In gallery No. 4 miscellaneous objects have been displayed which include terracotta objects, seals and sealings, ivory objects, inscribed copper plates, potsherds and relic pots, objects of daily use etc. The special attention of this gallery are the bronze images of Manjusri, Yamari etc.

In the stepped corridor we can find few monolithic votive *stupas* and photo blow ups of excavated sites and remains of Udayagiri, Lalitagiri and Ratnagiri.

In the reserve collection there are a number of antiquities which include stone sculptural pieces, monolithic votive *stupas*, terracotta, seals and sealings, bronze objects, coins, glass bangles pieces etc. which found from Ratnagiri.

Netaji Subhash Bose Museum :

Netaji Subhas Bose Museum is a personalia museum which is located in Cuttack town of Odisha. The personalia museum is intended to preserve the memory of great men and women, whose live is model in some form or the other. This museum is named after the name of a great personality in order to pay respect and gratitude and also to perpetuate his/her activities for posterity. It is a biographical museum which is more impressive and educative than ordinary biographical literature. This museum is the audio-visual institutions provided with life sketches, personal effects and voice records of great personality.

The present Netaji Subhas Bose personalia museum is functioning at Janakinath Bhawan, the ancestral house of Subhas Bose at Odia Bazar in Cuttack city of Odisha. Subhas

Bose was born in this house and spent his early childhood at Cuttack. He lived in this house with a large family of eight brothers and six sisters. His father Janakinath Bose was an advocate by profession and a man of repute during his time. Subhas Bose passed entrance examination from Ravenshaw Collegiate School in 1913 and went to Calcutta to pursue higher studies.

The house complex consists of an old two storeyed building with the main block running from west to east. There is a small temple on the back of the building on east side. Another row of houses is located close to the eastern boundary wall which was used as the stable. There used to be a garden on the northern side of the building with an open courtyard on the south of the main building. Each floor has four living rooms. Each floor has running long verandahs.²³

With financial assistance from the Department of Culture, Government of India, the Janakinath Bhawan has been now converted into the Netaji birth place museum of national standard. The living rooms have been converted into galleries displaying the different stages of life and activities of this great personality of our country through photographs. The other important exhibits in the museum include old furnitures, household articles, documents, books and other objects of use found in this house and collected from various sources. A library is being organized where books published on Netaji in any language and any place are being gradually collected.

Interesting collections in the museum include 22 original letters written by Netaji from Geneva, Milan in Italy, Shillong Mandalay jail, Rangoon jail in Myanmar, Presidency jail, Alipore New central jail in Calcutta and Berlin to his parents and family members. A number of books on Veda, Upanishad, Epics and Law are being exhibited in the museum.

Gangadhar Meher Museum, Barpali :

The Gangadhar Meher Personalia Museum is an important museum of western Odisha. This museum was founded in the old house of Gangadhar Meher where the museum specimens are being displayed. Gangadhar Meher, the poet of nature is a well known poet in Odisha. His place in the field of Odia literature is unique and he is considered as the director of Odia poetry in 20th century. He was born in a weaver family in the village of Barpali of Bargarh district. In the memory of this great poet of Odisha a small museum has been founded highlighting his works and activities. The belongings of this poet are displayed in a small room. Efforts have been made by his grandsons and great grandsons to display the objects in a proper way and proper care has also been taken by them for the smooth functioning of the museum. The personal objects of the poet like his coat, *dhoti*, dishes, glass, pen etc. are preserved in this museum. There is also a library in which large number of books on Odia literature have been kept for the students and research scholars. The students of history and Odia are visiting the museum and the library regularly in order to know the contribution of Gangadhar Meher towards the field of Odia literature. There is only one caretaker appointed in this museum.²⁴

Zoological Museum, Nandankanan :

The Zoological Museum, Nandankanan is a 990 acre zoo and botanical garden located in Bhubaneswar was established in 1960. It was opened to the public in 1979 and became the first zoo in India to join World Association of Zoos and Aquariums in 2009. It also contains a botanical garden and part of it has been declared a Sanctuary Nandankanan, literary meaning "The Garden of Heaven" includes 134 acre Kanjia

Lake. More than two million visitors visit Nandankanan every year.

The forest officials decided to exhibit plants and animals in Odisha in the year 1960. Proposal was sent to the forest department to capture many small animals for display. The State Finance Department raised objections to a zoo in Odisha because of the cost of both establishing and maintaining the facility. A large numbers of animals were captured and was brought to Bhubaneswar in May 1960. The forest department took a lot of steps for housing and feeding the animals. P. Mohandra, Divisional Forest Officer, Puri and G.K. Das, Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh built temporary structure for the animals. Dr. H.K. Mahtab, the then Chief Minister of Odisha visited the site where animals were kept. At last a site was chosen to display the animals and the Nandankanan Zoological Park was officially inaugurated on December 29, 1960 by Sri S.K. Patil, the then Indian Minister of Food and Agriculture.²⁵

At present Nandankanan Zoo comprises various types of animals like deer, tiger, lion, horse, leopard, panther, monkey and birds like parrots, peacock, duck, etc. There is also snake, fish, crocodile exhibited in the park which attract the visitors and tourists.

Pathani Samanta Planetarium :

Pathani Samanta Planetarium, located near Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar was established to make people aware about astronomy, astrophysics and space science. The planetarium also aims to generate awareness among them regarding their environment. It offers regular shows about outer space to create awareness in the field of astronomy, astrophysics and space science. The shows organized by the planetarium include night sky watch, audio-visual

programme, poster show and display of astronomical instruments.

To support scientists wishing to conduct research on sciences and technology, the planetarium offers financial help. Further, it also provides them with a bigger platform where they get the opportunity to interact in the conferences of international repute. Works of the planetarium are also focused on creating awareness about the remote sensing technology. At the library, located within the planetarium collection of books on environment, technology and science are found.²⁶

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