

## **Relevant details:**

### **1) Outreach work at Bagdiha, Susunia, Bankura**

Asutosh Museum of Indian Art, University of Calcutta and West Bengal S.C.S.T and O.B.C. Development & Finance Corporation jointly take the Initiative of conducting a Workshop on Promoting Livelihoods for Tribal Artisans of Bagdiha village under Chatna Block of Bankura during June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 10 am to 5 pm.

### **2) Nutrition garden at Bagdiha**

25 Household in Bagdiha village (Mahali family) of Chatna block of Bankura district have developed nutrition garden in the month of July, 2023.

### **3) Cloth distribution**

The tribal's of Bagdiha village did not have the necessary clothes. For this they were given clothes.

### **4) Village Development Plan (VDP) preparation**

Asutosh Museum of Indian Art prepare a Village development plan (VDP) for Bagdiha and Ramnathpur village of Susunia Gram Panchayet of Chhatna, Bankura.

### **5) Seminar**

Museum as place for inclusive environment, tolerance and harmony towards cultural diversities 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023 collaboration with IQAC, University of Calcutta and Rabindrabharati Museum.

### **6) Heritage week celebration**

24<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 With the students of Surendranath College (NSS unit), University of Calcutta.

### **7) Preventive conservation of antique objects**

Held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 By Shanti Maji (Expert of conservation).

### **8) Heritage walk**

Heritage walk at College street and seminar on local heritage at College street (Kolkata) held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

### **9) Cloth distribution at Bagdiha for tribal people on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2024**

### **10) Exhibition**

“Hungry earth – *andhakarer utsa hote utsarita alo*”.

The exhibition highlights **hunger and malnutrition**, which have been serious concerns since **1943**, particularly affecting vulnerable and marginalized communities. Through a series of visual narratives and curated displays, the exhibition presents historical evidence, lived experiences, and artistic interpretations related to food insecurity, social inequality, and the struggle for survival over the decades.

A significant feature of the exhibition is the participation of **tribal artisans from Bagdiha village in Bankura district**. Their artworks, rooted in indigenous knowledge, traditional craftsmanship, and community memory, bring forward authentic voices from the ground. These exhibits not only showcase their artistic skill but also reflect the long-term impact of deprivation, resilience, and cultural identity.

The exhibition offers visitors an opportunity to engage with critical issues that continue to shape society. It was open to the public from 23<sup>rd</sup> February to March 5, 2024 excluding holidays. Visitors were encouraged to explore the diverse displays and gain a deeper understanding of the historical and contemporary dimensions of hunger and malnutrition.

### **11. Exhibition: “LIGHT THE FIRE”**

The Asutosh Museum of Indian Art, University of Calcutta, organized an exhibition titled “LIGHT THE FIRE” with the objective of highlighting the critical social, environmental, and livelihood-related challenges of the Sundarban region. Through visual narratives and artistic expressions, the exhibition sought to create awareness about issues such as climate vulnerability, ecological degradation, displacement, and the everyday struggles of communities living in this fragile deltaic landscape.

The exhibition provided a platform for dialogue and reflection, encouraging students, researchers, and visitors to engage with the realities of the Sundarbans and to recognize the role of art and museums in addressing contemporary social concerns.

**Date:** 23 September – 27 September 2024

**Venue:** Seminar Hall, Asutosh Museum of Indian Art,  
University of Calcutta

### **12) Alpana Workshop**

- Date: 27 October 2024
- Description: A hands-on workshop on traditional Alpana art focusing on design, gender perspective, and contemporary applications.

### **13) Cloth Distribution Programme**

- a. Date: 1 January 2025
- b. Venue: Bagdiha and Bharatpur, Chatna Block, Bankura District

- c. As part of the museum's social responsibility initiative, clothing materials were distributed among the underprivileged communities in collaboration with local organizations.

#### **14) Alpana Parab (Cultural Festival)**

- a. Date: 13 January 2025
- b. Venue: Bagdiha, Bankura District
- c. A community celebration showcasing women's creativity through Alpana design, folk performances, and intergenerational participation.

#### **15) Workshop on Community Museum**

- d. Date: 24 January 2025
- e. Venue: Choto Mollakhali, Gosaba, South 24 Parganas
- f. A field-based workshop focusing on the concept of the Community Museum, heritage preservation, and environmental awareness in the Sundarban delta.

#### **16) Heritage Walk: Bagbazar**

- g. Date: 29 January 2025
- h. A guided walk exploring the heritage architecture, cultural history, and colonial urban fabric of Bagbazar, Kolkata.

#### **17) Heritage Walk: Nakhoda Masjid, Kolkata**

- i. Date: 11 February 2025
- j. A heritage exploration highlighting the architectural and socio-religious importance of Nakhoda Masjid and surrounding Burrabazar area.

#### **18) Exhibition: "Puthi Theke Boi" (From Manuscript to Book)**

- k. Duration: 22 February – 8 March 2025
- l. Venue: District Library, Vidyanagar, South 24 Parganas
- m. An exhibition tracing the evolution of Bengali manuscript culture to modern printing traditions, with artifacts, visuals, and student-curated displays.

#### **19) Organization of Shabar Museum**

- n. Duration: 20–22 March 2025
- o. Venue: Rajnoagarh, Purulia District
- p. Establishment of a community-led museum focusing on the material culture, traditions, and livelihood of the Shabar tribal community.

#### **20) International Museum Day Celebration**

- q. Date: 19 May 2025
- r. Theme: “Museums for Education and Research”
- s. The event included a seminar, poster presentation, and student interaction session to promote awareness of the educational role of museums.

**21)Add-on Course: “Museum and Mental Health” in collaboration with Deptt. of Psychology, University of Calcutta**

- t. Duration: 26 May – 16 June 2025
- u. A multidisciplinary short course exploring the therapeutic potential of art and museum engagement in promoting mental well-being.

**22)Art Workshop – “Sristi Sukher Ullase” (In the Joy of Creation)**

- v. Date: 5 June 2025
- w. A creative art workshop celebrating World Environment Day through collaborative artistic expression.

**23)Special Lecture on “Mental Health and Art Therapy”**

- x. Date: 10 June 2025
- y. Speaker: Prof. (Dr.) Gautam Banerjee, HoD, Deptt. of Psychiatry, Calcutta Medical College and Hospital
- z. An expert talk emphasizing the relationship between art practices, emotional resilience, and mental wellness.

**24)Event Title: “Ontorale”**

On 2 September 2025, a discussion was organized by the Museum under the initiative “Ontorale”. The program focused on the participation of retired professionals, socially respected individuals in community development activities.

As a result of this initiative, people from various sections of society have been visiting the Museum, creating a meaningful bridge between cultural institutions and the local community.

**25)Workshop and Seminar on “Human Rights and Handicraft Artisans” and *Hastashilpa Mela***

16 September 2025

- o A dialogue and hands-on session addressing the challenges faced by handicraft artisans in relation to human rights, labour dignity, and sustainable livelihood. Handicraft Fair for University Students and Staff with Interactive Sessions.

**26)Internship Programme for Students**

- aa. Duration: Conducted in 12 batches over 185 days
- bb. Total Participants: 329 students
- cc. Structured internship programmes designed for undergraduate and postgraduate students, covering heritage documentation, exhibition design, and curatorial training.

## **27) Research Study on Microbial Genes of Artifacts from Chandraketugarh Collection**

As part of the Museum's ongoing efforts to integrate scientific research with traditional curatorial practice, a specialized study was undertaken with collaboration of "Heritage Institute of Technology" (An autonomous institute under MAKAUT, WB) on the microbial genes associated with selected artifacts from the Chandraketugarh collections of Asutosh Museum of Indian Art, University of Calcutta.

This pioneering initiative aimed to explore the biological and microbial environment surrounding ancient terracotta objects in order to foster advanced strategies for long-term preservation.

The project involved non-invasive sampling, DNA extraction, microbial gene sequencing, and taxonomic profiling, carried out following museum conservation ethics and global best practices. Preliminary findings indicate the presence of microbial communities that may influence the deterioration or stabilization of terracotta surfaces. The study aims to create a scientific reference framework for preventive conservation and enhance our understanding of bio-deterioration pathways in archaeological objects.

Through this multidisciplinary collaboration, the Museum continues to strengthen its role as a research-driven heritage institution, promoting intersections of archaeology, material science, and conservation biology. The outcomes of this study are expected to contribute meaningfully to scientific museum conservation in India, with scope for future expansion into fungal metagenomics, climate-microbe interaction studies, and the development of microbial risk-assessment.

## **28) Student Visits**

Throughout the year, students from various schools, colleges, and universities visited the **Asutosh Museum of Indian Art**, University of Calcutta. These visits provided valuable exposure to the rich heritage, art, and archaeological collections preserved in the museum.

Students actively engaged with the exhibits, gaining insights into Indian art traditions, historical artifacts, and cultural evolution. The visits also served as practical learning experiences complementing their academic studies in history, archaeology, fine arts, and museology.

The museum staff and research scholars guided the students during these visits, explaining the significance of the collections and the methods of preservation and documentation. Special sessions were occasionally organized to encourage interaction, discussion, and critical observation.

Such visits not only strengthen the connection between education and cultural heritage but also inspire young minds to appreciate and protect India's artistic legacy.