

Department of Anthropology
Sikkim University

in collaboration with
Tribal Research Institute, Government of Sikkim



organizes seminar on
Tribal Communities and Future of Museums

23rd May 2025

The word Museum has classically originated from the Greek word *mouseion*, meaning ‘seat of the Muses’ (the nine Greek Gods), and designated as a philosophical institution or a place of contemplation. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) in 2022 has defined museum as “A museum is a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing.” In India, the concept of museum originated during the late 18th century after the formation of the Asiatic Society in Bengal in 1793.

Museums have been significant to societies since its inception. There are varieties of museum across the country depending on the themes of the collections it consists of. There are art museums, anthropology museums, history museums, archaeology museums, military and war museums, children’s museums, maritime museums, ecomuseums, and open-air museums (IGRMS, Bhopal). Currently, a rise is seen even in virtual museums which are electronic but remain dependent upon the collection, preservation, and interpretation of material objects possessed in the real museum.

With the current theme of “The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities”, proposed for 2025 by ICOM, the Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University in collaboration with Tribal Research Institute, Sikkim would like to invite research papers focused on museums and its association with numerous societies, particularly the tribal communities across India to celebrate the International Museum Day, 2025.

Sub-themes:

- Museums and tribal societies
- Historical-cultural importance of museums
- Museums and cultural heritage conservation and preservation
- Museums and community engagement
- Museums in the digital era
- Collection and acquisition process of museum objects
- Debates on cultural property in museum collections
- Open-air museums
- Private and household collections
- Government policies for museums

The abstracts may be submitted to the given email, addressing the above sub-themes or any other theme appropriate to the title of the seminar by 12th May 2025.

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