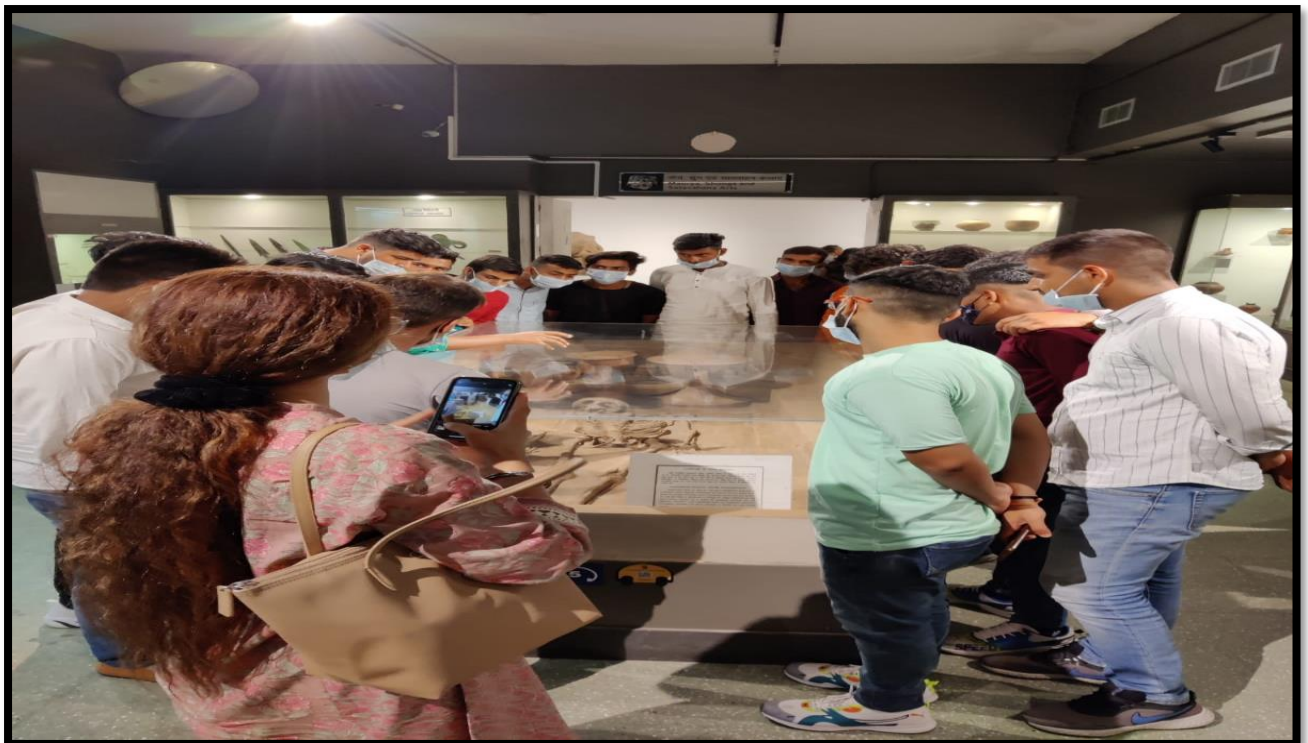


## **One-Day Educational Tour to National-Museum, New Delhi May 14, 2022**

### **Report: One-Day Educational Tour to National Museum, New Delhi**

One Day Educational Trip was organized by Department of History in collaboration with “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat club” on May 14, 2022 to the National Museum, New Delhi, which is also known as the National Museum of India. It is one of the largest museums in India. Established in 1949, it holds a variety of articles ranging from pre-historic era to modern works of art. It functions under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The museum is situated on Janpath.

The collections of the National Museum represent almost all disciplines of art: archaeology (sculptures in stone, bronze and terracotta), arms, armour, decorative arts, jewellery, manuscripts, miniatures and Tanjore paintings, textiles, numismatics, epigraphy, Central Asian antiquities, anthropology, Pre-



**Columbian American and Western Art Collections.**

The museum has various artefacts from the Harappan Civilization also known as Indus Valley Civilization. It has the world’s most representative collection of antiquities of the Harappan Civilization – over 3500 objects that are on permanent loan from the Archaeological Survey of India to the Museum. Most famous among the objects is the Dancing Girl made in Bronze which belongs to the early Harappan period, skeleton excavated from Rakhigarhi in Haryana, terracotta images of Mother Goddess and clay pottery. Apart from these the gallery has sculptures in bronzes & terracotta, bone objects, ivory, steatite, semi-Precious stones, painted pottery and jewellery items. Many seals are also on display which have been discovered during numerous excavations and were probably used for trading purposes. These seals depict bulls, elephants, unicorns, tigers, crocodiles, unknown symbols. On one of the seal, there is the depiction of Pasupati that has been interpreted as proto-Shiva. The gallery presents the vibrancy of human civilization in India on a

par with the contemporary civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt and China.

The gallery has objects from the 4th century BCE to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE. The objects spanned three major dynasties; the Mauryas, the Shungas and the Satvahanas. Objects in the gallery have Greek influence characterized by mirror like finishing. The gallery also houses fragments of railings from various ancient Stupas that are carved on with episodes from Buddha's life. A major object is the one showing Sage Asita's visit to baby Siddharta and the Bharhut railings that depicts the story related to the Relics associated with Buddha by the sage Drona. A typical feature of the period to which objects in the gallery belongs to is that the sculpture do not depict Buddha in the physical form. He is always shown using symbols like the dharmachakra, the bodhi tree, empty throne, footprints, etc.

This gallery has art objects from the Kushan period (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE). The major school of arts were the Gandhara School of Art and the Mathura School of Art. The Gandhara school had huge influence of Greek Iconography and the themes were mainly Buddhist. Most prominent among the objects is the standing Buddha, made in grey schist stone in Gandhara School of Arts and it belongs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE. This period was the first time when Buddha was shown in physical form. The Mathura School of Arts had primary themes of Buddhism, Jainism and Brahmanism while the Gandhara Arts were primarily of Buddhist themes. Other sculptures include the Kuber (Hindu god of Fortune) from Ahichchhatra, the Chattramukhi Shivlinga, the Bodhisattva, and the Jain votive plaques.



As the name suggests, this gallery exhibits artefacts from the Gupta Dynasty (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries CE). The art of the Gupta period presents a high watermark in Indian art. Mathura and Sarnath were the main centres of artistic activity. Under the patronage of Gupta rulers, sculptures attained a perfection of form that set the standard for artistic beauty for the coming centuries. Major developments in iconography took place during this period as the Kushan sculptures seem to be further perfected and some of the sculptures of this period are considered unsurpassed for the proportioned figures with clear features.

Miniature painting flourished during Mughal rule. Emperor Jahangir and Shahjahan were great patrons of

art. In their courts, the painters adopted themes ranging from portraits to landscapes, durbar scenes and processions for their works. The Deccani style was a fusion of Islamic idiom with indigenous art styles and of local classical traditions with elements of Persian and European Renaissance.

The Coins Gallery of the National Museum, has over 1,30,000 coins in its reserve with some of the rarest coins, ranging from sixth century BC, when coins are believed to have first appeared in the country. The gallery displays 1669 coins along with five replicas of coins, five measuring vessels and some couries and ratties that were used in ancient times as weights and measures. It has almost all Indian coins from the earliest bent bar, punch-marked coins to those of Indian pot with seated monkey states, British India and post-independence coins. The entire history of Indian coinage from about 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is exhibited. There are various dioramas depicting various techniques of coin production. These coins can be considered rich and authentic source of information on various aspects of ancient, medieval and modern Indian History.

Thus, the trip to the museum has enriched the knowledge of the students to the subject.

