



NATIONAL MUSEUM New Delhi

Other Services :

Audio-Guides

Walk around highlight objects of NM with multi-lingual audio-guides available in 5 languages.

Cloakroom

Utilize our free cloakroom facility near the gate

National Museum Shop

Visit the Museum shop on Ground Floor and First Floor.

Eating

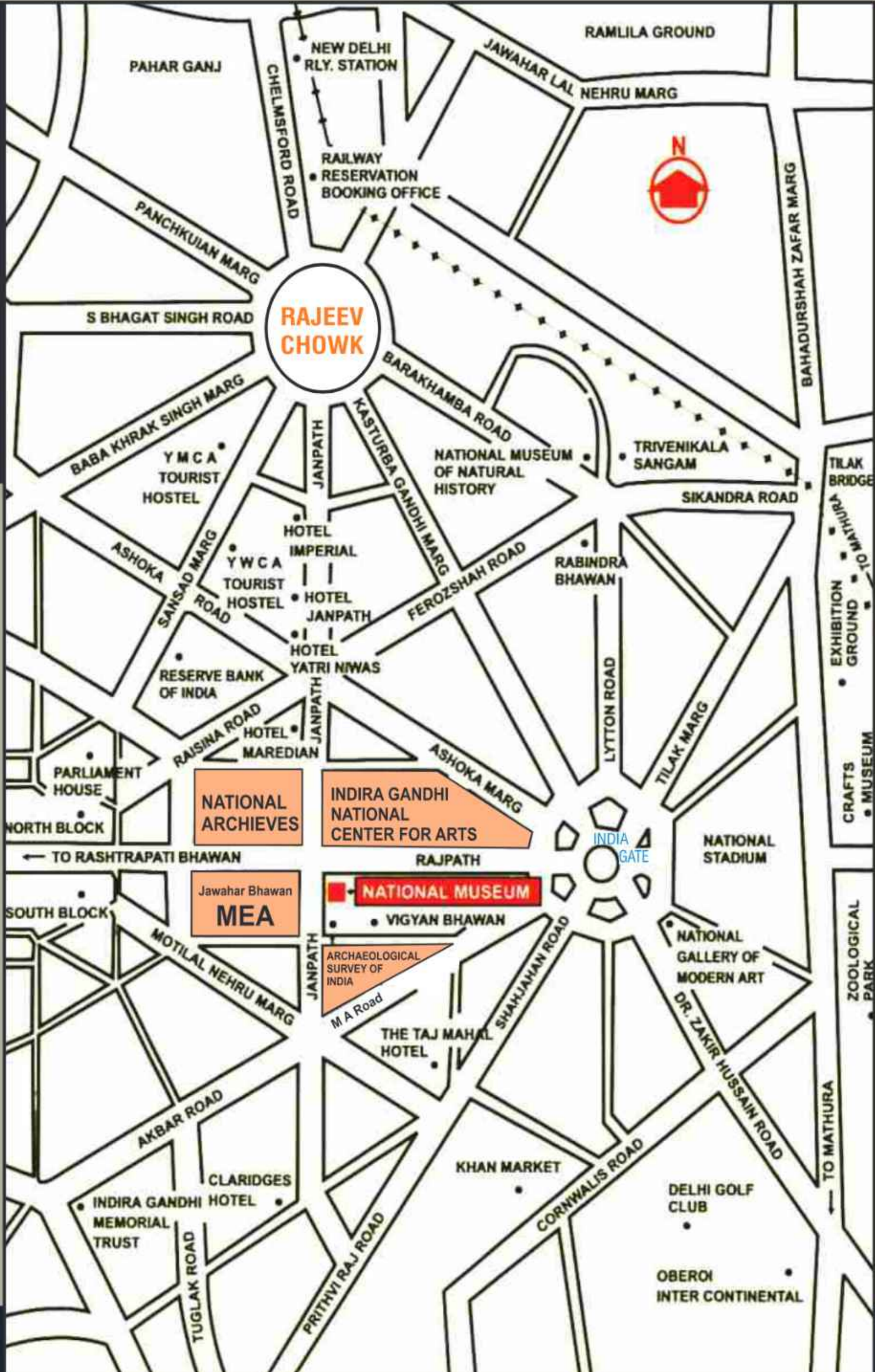
Enjoy small bites at the Café and snack-bar

People with Disabilities

Please ask for a wheelchair at the reception and directions to lift. Toilets at all floors.

- **Address :** National Museum, Janpath, New Delhi-110011
- **Phone :** 011-23019272 (For General Information)
- **Bus Route :** National Museum Bus Stop:505, 521, 522 ,526, 531, 580, 615.
HoHo Bus (Delhi Tourism Service)
Nirman Bhavan Bus Stop: 47, 156, 181, 346, 408, 410, 430, 435, 440, 443, 456, 459, 470, 481.
- **Nearest Metro Station :** Udyog Bhavan and Central Secretariat
- **Parking:** National Museum has no parking within its premises. Cars can be parked in the nearby Archaeological Survey of India parking (2 minutes walking distance from the Museum)

LOCATION MAP





GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission : 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
(Closed on Monday and National Holidays)

Entry Fee :

Indian Citizens : ₹ 20/- per person

Foreign Nationals : ₹ 650/- per person

Students : Free upto 12th Standard (with identity card)

Audio Guide : ₹ 150/- (optional for Indian)

Still Camera (only hand-held, without tripod)

Video Camera is not allowed

Daily Free Guided Tours available

Tuesday to Friday

10:30 am and 2:30 pm

Saturday-Sunday :

10:30 am, 11:30 am, 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm

www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in



National Museum

Janpath, New Delhi - 110 011, INDIA



INTRODUCTION

National Museum, New Delhi, the premier museum of India, houses an impressive collection of artefacts from across the country and the world. The Museum was established on 15th August, 1949 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan with artefacts that were first exhibited at Burlington House, London. The present building of National Museum was opened on 18th December 1960.

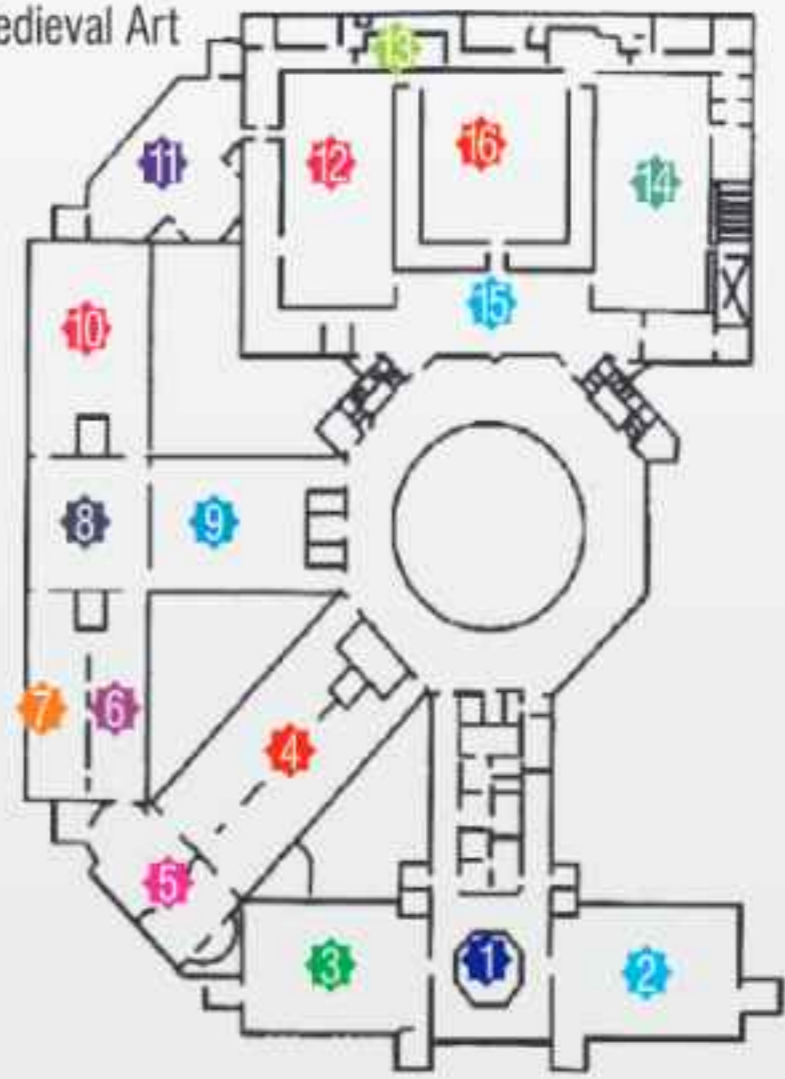
Today, National Museum has over 2,10,000 art objects representing 5,000 years of Indian art and craftsmanship. The collection includes sculptures in stone, bronze, terracotta and wood, a large collection of miniature paintings and manuscripts, coins, arms and armour, jewellery, textile, costumes and anthropological objects. Antiquities from Central Asia and Pre-Columbian artefacts form the two non-Indian collections in the Museum. The Museum is the custodian of the treasure trove of India's multilayered history and multicultural heritage.

The Museum has separate branches of Publications, Hindi, Education, Library, Exhibition, Display, Modelling, Photography, Security and Maintenance, Administration etc. A well equipped Conservation Laboratory not only provides restoration to all the art objects but also training facilities to the students and deserving professionals.

GALLERIES

GROUND FLOOR

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Entrance Hall | 9 Bronzes |
| 2 Library | 10 Late Medieval Art |
| 3 Auditorium | 11 Buddhist Art |
| 4 Harappan Civilization | 12 Indian Miniature Paintings |
| 5 Maurya, Shunga & Satvahana art | 13 Gallery of Indian Scripts & Coins |
| 6 Kushana (Gandhara, Mathura & Ikshavaku Art) | 14 Decorative Arts-II |
| 7 Gupta Art | 15 Decorative Arts-I |
| 8 Gupta Terracotta & Early Medieval Art | 16 Jewellery Gallery |



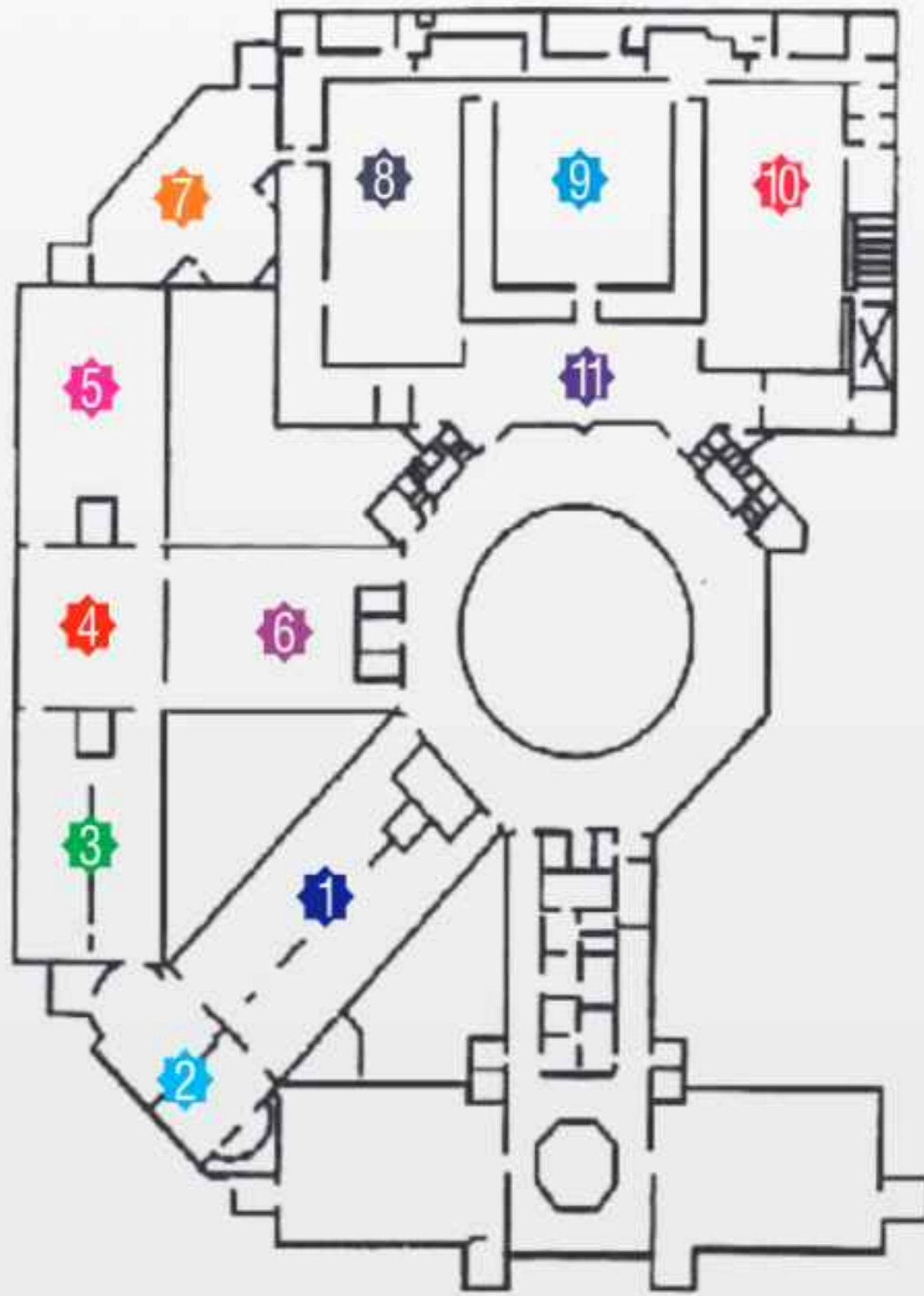
HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

This gallery was jointly set up by the Archaeological Survey of India and the National Museum. It has a rich collection of a large numbers of artifacts from the different sites of Harappan civilization also known as Indus-Saraswati Civilization. The collection includes pottery, seals, tablets, weights & measures, jewellery, terracotta figurines and toys. It also has copper tools from Harappan sites like axes, chisels and knives. About 3,800 objects have been displayed in the Harappan Gallery from the National Museum Collection. The valuable Prehistoric collection (Stone Age) and Copper hoards artifacts are also displayed in the Harappan Gallery. These help in better understanding of the periods before and after the Harappan Civilization. The introduction of Activity area and audio visual aid is the most unique aspect in the gallery for the young enthusiastic visitors. There is also a photo exhibition wall that provides for a visual source of information and enhances the appeal of the gallery.



FIRST FLOOR

- 1 Special Exhibition
- 2 Manuscripts
- 3 Manuscripts
- 4 Central Asian Antiquities-II
- 5 Central Asian Antiquities - I
- 6 Coins
- 7 Thanjavur Paintings
- 8 Maritime Heritage
- 9 Ajanta Paintings
- 10
- 11



MANUSCRIPTS (under renovation)

National Museum has nearly 14,000 manuscripts in various languages and scripts, covering a large number of subjects and representing various schools and provinces of which about 1,000 are illustrated.

The non-illustrated manuscripts are calligraphic. Many of the illustrations and texts are rendered using real gold foil.

These manuscripts are also the source for critical studies in arts and other related subjects. Covering a period of about thirteen-fourteen hundred years, broadly from the 7th century to the 20th century CE, the National Museum manuscripts are executed on a myriad of materials such as parch-ment, birch bark, palm leaf, paper, cloth, wood and metals. Besides the classical Sanskrit or sacred dialects like Pali, Prakrit and trans-border languages like Persian, Arabic, Chinese, Burmese or Tibetan.





CENTRAL ASIAN ANTIQUITIES

Amongst the Non-Indian collections, the Central Asian Arts Collection is a significant one as it is a validation of the rich blend of histories and culture along the silk routes. It has some of the most outstanding wall paintings, painted silk banners, sculptures in wood, stucco and terracotta, coins, porcelain and pottery objects, leather, grass and fibre, precious items of gold and silver, religious and secular documents. The collection was excavated, explored and collected by Sir Aurel Stein, the foremost amongst the archaeological explorers of the early 20th century, during three major expeditions carried out by him in 1900-1901, 1906-1908 and 1913-1916. This gallery includes 600 choicest exhibits.

COINS

The collection of coins in the National Museum is remarkable for its variety, rarity and antiquity. The entire history of Indian coinage, starting from about 6th century BCE to the beginning of the 21st century CE, is well represented here along with dioramas depicting various techniques of coin production. It has examples of bent bar, punch-marked coins to coins from British India and post-independence period. A study of these currencies reveal how the Indian currency system developed from cowries to the credit cards. These coins are rich and an authentic source of information on various aspects of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Indian history.



TANJORE AND MYSORE PAINTINGS GALLERY

This gallery presents the two famous schools of South India-Tanjore and Mysore paintings. Important themes, such as Indian mythology, stories from epics and of various gods and goddesses are represented in this gallery. The technique of making a Tanjore painting is also displayed with the help of seven illustrations.

WOOD CARVING

The earliest piece of wood carving collection is a beautifully carved and inscribed door and pillar of 13th century, which belongs to the Sun temple of Katarmal (Dist. Almora, Uttarakhand) are on the display in the late Medieval Gallery (Ground floor). The wood carvings gallery (second floor) shows glimpses of India's rich wood carving tradition mainly belonging from 17th to 19th centuries. Eighty two artifacts of ritualistic and secular category are displayed in the gallery illustrate the different styles of wood carvings from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha and South India. One of the most important artifacts is 17th century intricately carved and painted temple Mandapa's small portion from Gujarat, Carved and painted small panels, ivory inlaid box and other utilitarian objects besides doors, windows and beautifully carved Buddha image from the region of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Nepal and Central Asia are on display.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The museum has a large collection of musical instruments. The collection on display in the Musical Instrument gallery was donated to the museum by late Sharan Rani Backliwal in 1980, 1982 and 2003. There are also a few 19th century Western instruments. The objects have been divided into different categories like String instruments (veena, sitar, santur etc.), Percussion instruments (tabla, dholak etc.) and Wind instruments (flute, trumpet, etc.). There are 207 musical instruments on display.



TRIBAL LIFESTYLE IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

A total of 335 excellent traditional exhibits such as dresses, apparels, headgears, ornaments, paintings, basketry, wood carvings, smoking pipes and articles of personal adornments, etc., of various tribal groups inhabiting the land of "Seven Sisters" are on view.



ARMS AND ARMOUR

The Museum has one of the finest collections of Indian Arms and Armours comprising edged weapons, projectiles, smashing weapons, armour for men and animals, ornamental, sacrificial and ritual weapons, fire arms and war accessories. The collection is predominantly Mughal in addition to Maratha, Sikh, Rajput and Hindu arms, which are also well represented. The Arms embellished with damascening, enamellings, filigree work or those inscribed or studded with semi-precious and precious stones are in the collection. This gallery displays 500 exhibits.



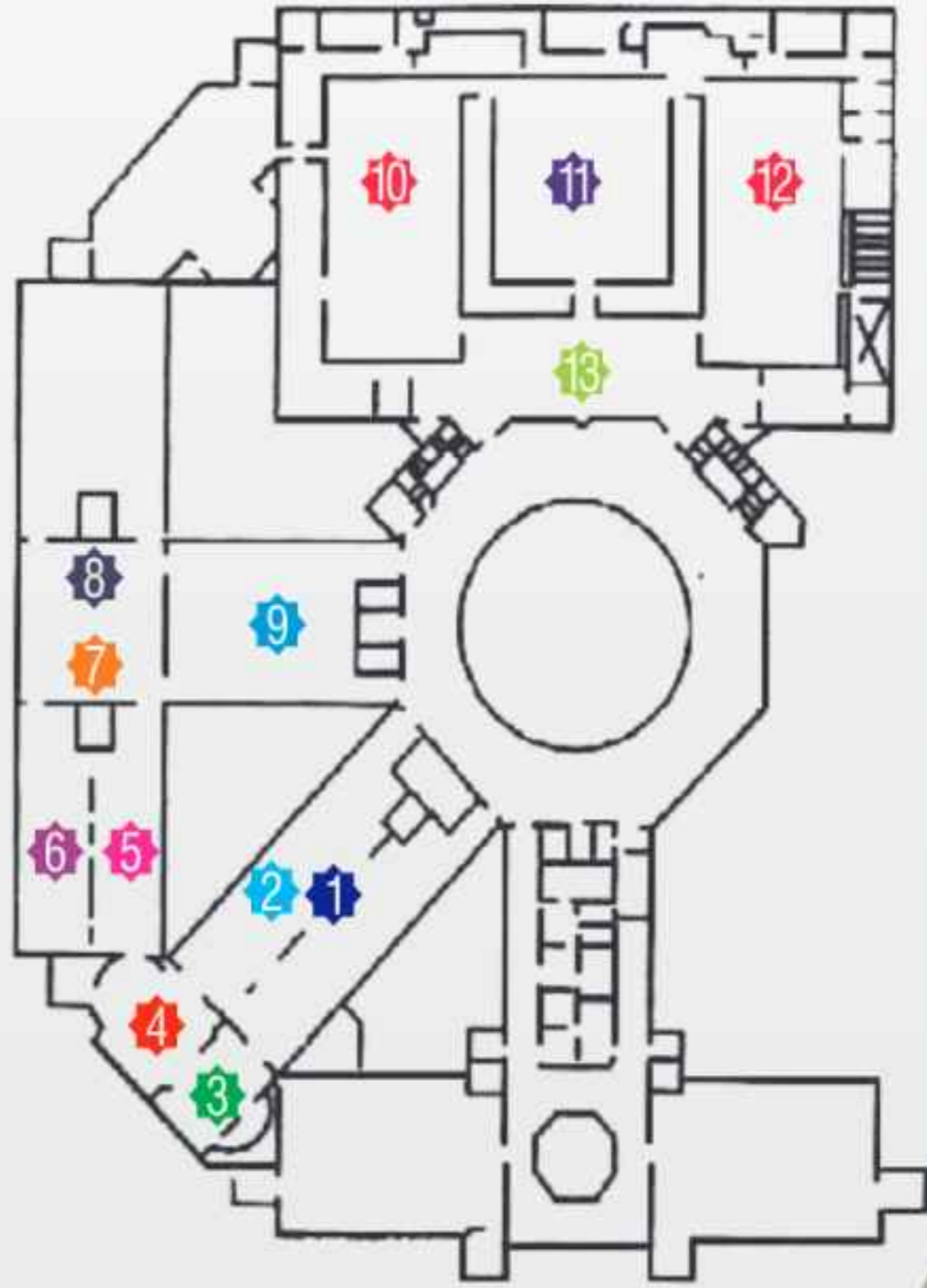
TRADITION, ART, AND CONTINUITY GALLERY

The gallery showcases art and traditions belonging to various tribal communities across India. Nearly 250 objects in various materials and contexts selected from the anthropological collections are on display.



SECOND FLOOR

- 1 Decorative Arts & Textiles
- 2 Pre-Columbian & Western Arts
- 3 Decorative Arts & Textiles
- 4 Copper Plates
- 6 Wood Carving-I
- 7 Wood Carving-II
- 8 Musical Instruments
- 9 Tribal lifestyle
- 10 Arms and Armour



The decorative arts and textile sections gallery is divided into three components which are on two different floors.

TEXTILES & COSTUMES GALLERY (under renovation)

The Textiles and Costumes gallery displays the fabulous and magnificent collection of Indian traditional textiles and costumes of the later Mughal period. One hundred and forty two choicest cotton, silk and woollen textiles, which are beautifully woven, printed, dyed and embroidered have been displayed in the gallery. These have been arranged according to the technique of manufacturing and surface ornamentation. Some of the exquisitely hand crafted objects are sari pallu (end panel of saree) made of silk and zari of mid 17th century belonging to Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh; printed and painted artistically designed cotton coverlet of 17th century from Golconda, South India, shawls from Jammu & Kashmir region; costumes for male, female and children displayed in few showcases and a reconstructed royal chamber illustrating various textiles in their respective use.



PRE-COLUMBIAN AND WESTERN ARTS (under renovation)

The Pre – Columbian collection is representative particularly of the indigenous cultures of Mexico, Central America and the western coastal and mountain regions of Peru. The rich repository of pre-Columbian art housed in the National Museum was donated by Nasli Heeramanek and his wife in memory of his father Muchersha Heeramanek . The collection consists of 536 art objects which Heeramanek had collected with great care and zeal from art markets and other sources over a long period of thirty years.



ARCHAEOLOGY

A prestigious collection of approximately 853 sculptures have been displayed in the Archaeological Galleries on the ground floor, the rotundas on the ground, first and second floors and around the Museum building. The sculptures displayed are mostly in stone, bronze and terracotta, dating from the 3rd century BCE, through the 19th century CE, representing all major regions, periods and schools of art. Maurya, Gandhara, Kushana, Ikshvaku, Gupta, Early Medieval, Bronze are the main galleries of attraction.



BUDDHIST ART

An added attraction in the Museum is the Buddhist Art Gallery. On display are the Relics of the Buddha (5th - 4th century BCE) unearthed from Kapilavastu-Piprahwa, Distt. Siddharth Nagar, in Uttar Pradesh. Outstanding specimens of Buddhist Art, illustrated through 82 exhibits in stone, bronze, terracotta, stucco, wood and painted scrolls. The collections represent Buddhist arts of Nepal, Tibet, Central Asia, Myanmar, Java and Cambodia. Of special interest are the images of Kapardin Buddha from Ahichchhatra, Buddha – pada (footprints) from Nagarjunakonda, Distt. Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and Buddha's life scenes from Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh and ritualistic objects from the Trans - Himalayan region. These objects stimulate a sense of devotion, dedication and love for humanity.





INDIAN MINIATURE PAINTINGS

National Museum has over 17000 paintings in its collection of which a selection is on view. These belong to major styles such as, Mughal, Deccani, Central Indian, Rajasthani, Pahari and many other sub styles from the period 1000 CE to 1900 CE. It also includes paintings on palm leaf, cloth, wood, leather, illustrated manuscripts, covers on wood, hardboard and *thangkas*. The major theme of these miniatures are Jain Kalpasutra, the epics such as Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata Purana, Durgasaptasati, Jaideva's Gita Govinda, Ragamala, Baramasa and Panchatantra. A few Indo-Islamic manuscripts such as Shahnama and Baburnama are also noteworthy. The portraits of medieval kings, rulers and

saints are also part of this large heritage. The gallery displays selected 352 exhibits for public view.

EVOLUTION OF INDIAN SCRIPTS AND COINS

In the gallery, 26 large-sized well-lit glass transparencies are on show narrating the wonderful story of the development of various Indian scripts from Brahmi and coins.

DECORATIVE ARTS GALLERIES

Exquisitely carved three hundred and thirty eight artifacts are on display in two galleries, which unfold the material culture of later Mughal Period (from 17th century onwards). Decorated with various ornamental techniques, these handcrafted art objects are made on ivory, jade, glass, ceramic, wood, and different type of metals.

Elephant tusk depicting Buddha's life, intricately carved ivory image of Buddha seated in meditation posture inside the lattice case, ivory temple home shrine, Jade utensils, ceramic objects, tiles, chess and chaupar made of ivory and semi-precious stones are the few important pieces displayed in Gallery-I. While intricately carved wooden painted Garud, bird shaped silver huqqa (Jubble-Bubble), silver perfume tray, enamelled utensils, bidri candle stand, marble inlaid plate, painted glass bowl are displayed in Gallery-II.



JEWELLERY GALLERY

(Alamkara- The Beauty of Ornament)

National Museum has the most extensive collection of jewellery in India. More than 250 items displayed here tell the story of Indian jewellery. From the beautifully tumbled agate bead necklaces of Mohenjodaro and Harappa to the fabulous jewels adorned with images of gods and goddesses to the magnificent items that once reposed in the treasuries of the Mughal emperors and the maharajas, the collection spans important periods in Indian history. Jewellery are fashioned from shell, ivory, bone, gold and silver encrusted with gemstones and semiprecious stones to enhance the beauty. National Museum collection celebrates the great variety of forms, the beauty of Indian design and the genius of Indian craftsmanship.



TEMPLE CHARIOT (near the entrance gate of the museum)

Displayed with a new look near the entrance of the museum the octagonal temple chariot made of saal wood is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, belongs to Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, South India. This mid 19th century temple chariot has six wheels, around four hundred twenty-five carved panels, brackets, angles and has 2,200 kgs of weight. Outer walls of this five tiered chariot is decorated with intricately carved small panels, which illustrates different forms of Lord Vishnu, Laxshmi-Narayan (Lord Vishnu with his consort), incarnations of Lord Vishnu like Ram, Narasimha and Krishna and life scenes of Krishna etc.