MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2020

- In compliance of various instructions issued by the Government regarding preparedness, control and taking effective steps to ensuring social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, a Video Conference was held on 19 March by Secretary (C) with all organisations of Ministry of Culture. Some of the measures taken subsequently by the organizations are- (i) All Attached/Subordinate/Autonomous Organisations of the Ministry were instructed to avoid mass gatherings, conferences/seminars. Public outreach activities, follow the do’s and don’ts Advisory of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. (ii) Enhanced engagement with audiences/public through social media. (iii) Initiating outreach activities such as virtual tours and virtual seminars. (iv) All personnel attending office were instructed to ensure personal hygiene and sanitisation of their workplace, their vehicles and their drivers. (v) All employees of Attached/Subordinate/Autonomous Organisations of the Ministry were requested to indicate their willingness to contribute at least one day salary to PM CARES Fund. which they did.

- Special efforts were made to ensure maximum utilisation of Budget allocated to the Ministry during lockdown period, which happened towards closure of the Financial Year 2019-20. Staff was deployed on duty through rosters and special arrangements were made for their commuting to and from office. As a result, there has been an expenditure of 98.17% till 31st March 2020 in Ministry. At RE stage Rs. 254700 lakh was provisioned and actual expenditure incurred is Rs. 250032.27 lakh.

- National Archives of India (NAI) (i) celebrated its 130th Foundation day on 11 March 2020. An exhibition on ‘Jallianwalla Bagh’ to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the tragedy was inaugurated. (ii) On the occasion Day, a lecture was organized on the theme ‘Jallianwala Bagh, 1919. The Real Story’. (iii) Book Reading Session was organized based on National Archives collection on ‘Money for the Masses: Copper Coin production, circulation and its usage by wage labourers in India, 1500-1900’ on 12 March 2020.

- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) organised (i) A programme in association with RambhauMhalgiPrabodhini in ‘Leadership, Politics and Governance’ where 25 participants from 12 states and varied backgrounds took part on March 1, 2020. (ii) A one-day dialogue on “Mahatma Gandhi’s Experiment with Food – Key to Health” in Gandhi Darshan on March 2, 2020. The programme was organised by KendriyaBhandar along with its strategic partner, Centre for Strategy and Leadership.(iii) A visit of a delegation of eight Russian representatives of BRICS Forum who paid their tribute to Gandhi on the 90th anniversary of Dandi March on March 12, 2020. (iv) An awareness workshop in the light of COVID 19, 50 participants from GSDS took part. The workshop was conducted by Dr.Manju Aggarwal on March 17, 2020 in Gandhi Smriti where protective masks were distributed to the participants. A handout of ‘Dos’ and ‘Don’ts’ was also handed over to the participants.
National Council of Science Museum (NCSM), Kolkata (i) inaugurated a new Motion Simulator and a renovated 3D Theatre at Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai on 8th March, 2020. (ii) As part of the year-long celebration of Constitution Day, awareness movies on 'Indian Constitution' was screened at District Science Centre, Tirunelveli on 11th March, 2020. 125 Students and General visitors were present. (iii) International Women's Day 2020 was celebrated at various NCSM units on 8th March, 2020. As part of the event, programmes like Open House Quiz on 'Women in Science': Awareness Programme on 'Novel Coronavirus'. Popular Science Lecture on 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment', were organised.


National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) New Delhi (i) celebrated the International Women's Day celebrated on 8th of March with the display of artwork dedicated to women. (ii) initiated a Social Media campaign entitled "Know Your Nation know your Constitution" for the month of March, which is related to digital images of Constitution of India book and its various illustrations doing by eminent Artist Nandalal Bose and its relevance to the Republic of India. Six social media (Facebook and Twitter) posts have been designed and posted and repeated to generate mass awareness.

Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata, inaugurated a Mother and Child Room on 13 March, 2020, as an extension of the observance of International Women's Day on 8 March, the Victoria Memorial Hall.

Indian Museum (IM), Kolkata, organised (i) a special lecture on the rising trend of contemporary exhibitions in historic Museums. by Jakob Veigar Sigurdsson, renowned Artist from Iceland on March 7, 2020. (ii) A panel discussion on 8th March, 2020, on "I am Generation Equality: Realizing a Women's Rights".

Salar Jung Museum has organized two exhibitions on the occasion of International Women's Day, inaugurated by Governor of Telangana State and Hon'ble Chairman, Salar Jung Museum Board, on "Bloom & Looms - Ikebana Exhibition Eulogizing Women's Day and "Exhibition of Painting by Women Artists", on 7th March 2020.


Kalakshetra Foundation, (KF) Chennai organised (i) annual dance program on 12th March for 8 Govt. run/Govt. aided Schools as part of its outreach activity. (ii) a Festival-Utsavam 2020 in association with Dakshinachitra from 6th - 8th March, 2020.

On the occasion of International Women's Day on 08.03.2020, Establishment Division, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi had organised an "interactive Session" on 06.03.2020 on Women empowerment. Some other activities such as Poetry recitation, Kathak Performance etc. were also performed by the officers/officials of this Ministry on the said occasion.