

ITP FINAL REPORT 2019

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First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to ITP team of 2019, who gave me a great opportunity to participate in the ITP, which is the most popular training course among the museum professionals worldwide. I am also thankful to my sponsors the British Museum Trust, the Charles Wallace India Trust and the Inlaks Shivadasani Foundation. Without their support it could not be possible.



I took the ITP days as a golden period of my entire career. This is a comprehensive and appreciable effort of the British Museum that every year they organise the ITP and give training to museum professionals by covering their all professional requirements. I also appreciate the ITP team, who take care of the personal interests of every participant. I learnt lots of things from ITP team members, not only to develop my professional skills but also to be a good human being. I could feel changes in both my professional attributes and personality.

Professional benefits from the ITP

Collection management - because I am working in the collection unit at Bihar Museum, my keen interest was to learn about the advance practices in collection management and ITP more than met my expectations. Sessions on collection care including preventive conservation, handling, mounting and packing of objects as well as documentation methods were so beneficial for me. I have also collected important information about the storage and creating condition reports for objects.

In my museum, we are four curators out of six, working in the collection unit. Only I (after ITP) am professionally trained in collection management. I have submitted a detailed report for my Director regarding how to develop our collections management i.e. collection care, storage systems, documentation methods as well as display inside the galleries. I also suggested purchasing software for cataloguing and to make the entire collection available online. I am glad to inform you that my museum is going to implement all my suggestions very soon and now I am additionally in charge of

collection management. I am taking care of the entire collection of my museum. By following my new responsibilities, I am preparing the condition reports of objects inside and outside of galleries and in storage and will soon submit a list of my required things to improve. Administration at my museum, especially my Director and the Nodal Officer of my museum are very inspired by the ITP and are giving me full support to implement my ideas. Time to time, I give training and suggestions to my colleagues on their work, wherever they need. I discussed to my colleagues as well, to prepare a proper museum development strategy and now we have started to work on a museum road map to 2050. My experience of the ITP course is helping me on all these tasks.

Temporary exhibitions - having an archaeological background, I got a job in the collections unit at the museum but my creative blood and curious nature to search for new things always inspired me to be involved with temporary exhibitions. My Director noticed my potential and always assigns me exhibition work and I have executed five successful and popular temporary exhibitions. The ITP made some perfections in this skillset. Now I am working in two forthcoming exhibitions **Mahatama- A thought from Past to Present** (An exhibition on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatama Gandhi, 2nd- 7th October 2019) and **Journey- Singhasana (Throne) to Sangha (Monastery)** (An exhibition on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of *vishvashanti* Stupa in Rajgir). Both exhibitions are very challenging to me as these are going to be inaugurated by our honourable President of India and the Dalai Lama accordingly. I am also involved with a **curatorial special exhibition** during the museum's biennale programme on March 2020 at Bihar Museum.

I am giving my best to all of these projects and my experiences of visiting different museums and exhibitions in the UK and the *Object in Focus* work are helping me to create the contents. I hope these projects will be the best designed exhibitions by me and I give thanks to the ITP from the core of my heart that I am able to do all of these things.

The present exhibitions are fully funded by the government (450000/- INR), but for future exhibitions, I suggested to my director to involve external funding agencies like banks, art lovers or private entrepreneurs to reduce the burden of funding from government. My Director accepted my advice and the museum is going to be registered under section 80 G (legal registration for accepting donations). I learnt this from ITP sessions and it will be a very new step in my region.



Additionally, we are preparing for international collaborations which we hope will include an animal mummy exhibition with the British Museum and a mummy exhibition with Manchester Museum, *Recovering the past* exhibition with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Pala art exhibitions with National Museum, Bangkok, Thailand. However, this is a bit tough for us but my experiences from the ITP are working here as well.

Regional museum development plan – I am developing many ideas for enrichment of regional museums in my region, that I got from UK partners museums in Manchester. Museums in my region, are suffering from lack of resources. I had a very good discussion with museum staff in Manchester on this topic and I conceived many ideas, especially around the involvement of local communities, fundraising policies and museum management on small budgets. I have discussed this plan with the Nodal Officer of Bihar Museum, who is also a Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister of Bihar Government. With his approval, I will make a proposal on it and will submit it soon to my government. The placement in Manchester was so beneficial for me. The most attractive part for me was seeing the involvement of communities in museums and this I will apply at Bihar Museum as well. In addition, at my special request, Ronan Brindley (Manchester Art Gallery) organised a small session on database management. While it was not mentioned in my schedule, I am thankful for his kindness. All museum staff were very helpful in Manchester.

Experience in Coins & Medals Department - I must give my highest gratitude to Vesta Curtis (British Museum, Coins and Medals). She kindly managed my time in the department. I had a curiosity to learn more about how the curators manage security with the outside researchers while showing coins. The department's collection manager solved my queries well and helped me gain practical experience in all these things.

In addition, I also benefited from the different sessions at the British Museum on conservation and scientific research, national and international loans, learning, audience and volunteers, fundraising, income generation and commercial programmes, leadership, strategy and museum management. All this information will affect my work both directly and indirectly.



Personal interests

My personal interest was to visit as many historical sites and museums in UK as much as possible, and I did so. Visiting Stonehenge was my dream, I am thankful to the ITP team for fulfilling this. I visited different museums, the Royal Observatory, the London Eye, the Tower of London, the Royal Mint Museum in Cardiff and museums in Liverpool. added unforgettable memories to my life. I again send my appreciation to Team ITP for their quenchless efforts to make this programme successful every year.

Thank you so much for making me perfect - professionally as well as personally!