

**Webinar on**  
**“Culture Heritage and Tourism: Revitalisation and building resilience**  
**amid the second wave of COVID-19”**

**28<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Organised by

**National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)**

*Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Govt. of India*

in collaboration with

**Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)**

### **Background**

The sector of cultural heritage has faced huge repercussions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The outbreak of the highly contagious coronavirus across the world had brought the sector to a halt due to restricted travel norms and closing down of heritage sites and museums. The livelihoods of several engaged in this sector have been jeopardized due to the pandemic. Even with the vaccinations for COVID-19 rolling out across several countries, the sector is still struggling to recover the losses faced due to the closures and revive their resources and functions to normalcy. With the second wave of COVID-19 setting in the country, the adversities of the sector are going to remain for a while. It is also considered as one of the most impacted sectors by COVID-19 as the pandemic has caused direct and indirect long-lasting implications to this sector.

The shutting down of heritage sites and museums due to the pandemic-induced lockdowns has already resulted in huge economic losses. The poaching and looting of antiques had also been a major issue due to the prolonged locking down of heritage sites and museums. The sector, being highly dependent on international and domestic tourism for economic resources, is still witnessing sedative earnings due to the drop in the number of visitors. The constraint of restricted visitors for conducting cultural events according to the COVID-19 Standard Operating

Procedures (SOPs) and cancellation of mass cultural gatherings, fairs and expos further add to the issue.

Apart from the economic losses and limited monetary earning, the pandemic has also raised several challenges like that of disinfection of the collections and premises, precautions for maintenance and preservation of collections, maintaining social distancing norms, staff health and other security issues. The challenge of disinfecting the collections and premises has become an utmost concern for the authorities as the use of disinfectants may affect the value of the antiquities and several collections. The use of hand sanitisers (both alcohol-based and water-based) by the employees would have negative impacts on the collections. This is creating a situation of dichotomy between the safety of employees and the maintenance of collections. Museums are also facing the issue of acquiring new collections as these can act as a carrier of coronavirus.

The sector of cultural heritage and tourism are very important sectors in terms of economic footprint and employment. They not only spur innovation across the economy but also contribute to numerous other sectors for positive social impact including well-being and health, education, inclusion, urban regeneration, etc. The cultural elements of society and their heritage also act as a link between people with their social values, beliefs, religions and customs. The cultural heritages provide a platform for community cohesion as it helps people to identify with groups of similar background and beliefs. With the numerous challenges resulted from COVID-19, the risks of cultural heritage sites and museums to other natural and human-induced disasters have also aggravated which calls for comprehensive and pre-emptive planning.

### **About the Webinar**

The **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)**, *Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India* in collaboration with **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** is organising a Webinar on “**Culture Heritage and Tourism: Revitalisation and building resilience amid the second wave of COVID-19**” on **28<sup>th</sup> April 2021** from **11:00 am to 1:00 pm** to deliberate on the actions and strategies that are required for revitalising the sector of cultural heritage and tourism leading to building a holistic and long-term resilience in these sectors. The objectives of this webinar are as follows:

- To deliberate actions and strategies to revitalize the sector of cultural heritage and tourism.
- To address the emerging challenges faced due to COVID-19 in these sectors.
- To adopt a holistic framework of action for strengthening resilience in these sectors through consultation of multiple stakeholders.
- To discuss and come up with innovative solutions to recover the losses and impact incurred due to the pandemic.

## **Programme Team**

### ***Patron***

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal  
Executive Director, NIDM

### ***Convenors***

Prof. Santosh Kumar, Head, GiDRR, NIDM  
Sh. Divay Gupta, Principal Director, INTACH

### ***Co-convenor***

Ms. Mohana Manna, Jr. Consultant – Cultural Heritage DRR, GiDRR, NIDM

### ***IT Support***

NIDM IT Team

## **Experts**

1. **Dr RK Trivedi**, *Faculty, Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management (DIHRM)* –  
Session on “**Impact of COVID-19 on Cultural Heritage and Tourism**”
2. **Sri Mihir R Bhatt**, *Founder-Director, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)* –  
Session on “**Action Framework for Revitalization of Cultural Heritage and Tourism in Indian context**”

**Webinar Platform**

The webinar would be conducted on Webex Platform. The link for the webinar would be sent individually to email id.