

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

- Name of the event – World Heritage Day
- Organised by – Department of History in collaboration with Birla Academy of Art and Culture
- Date – 18.4.2026
- Time - 12 noon – 3:30 p.m.
- Venue – Birla Academy of Art and Culture
- Number of Participants –
 - Students – 26 (Semesters IV & VI)
 - Teachers – 4
- Resource Person – Dr. Sujaan Mukherjee, Senior Curator, Birla Academy of Art and Culture ; Mail id – sujaanmukherjee.baac@gmail.com
- Brief Description of the Event – The Department of History organised an academic visit to the Birla Academy of Art and Culture on 18 April 2026 to mark World Heritage Day. The programme, titled “*Reflections on Heritage: Through Traditional and Modern Art,*” was designed to situate heritage within the domain of artistic production and visual culture. The session took the form of a guided curatorial walkthrough led by Dr. Sujaan Mukherjee, Senior Curator of the Academy. Students and faculty were guided through key sections of the museum, including the **Ancient and Medieval Temple Art Gallery** and the **Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery**. As indicated in the event brochure (*World Heritage Day 2026 – BAAC*, p.1), the programme was structured as a guided walkthrough/workshop facilitating close engagement with diverse artistic traditions .

The academic engagement was organised around two thematic axes:

Traditional Art: Students engaged closely with stone sculptures from ancient and medieval India, leading to discussions on iconography, religious symbolism, material culture, and historical context.

Modern and Contemporary Art: The walkthrough extended to works from colonial-era artists, the Bengal School, Jamini Roy, and contemporary practitioners. This segment encouraged inquiry into nationalism, modernity, identity, and the reinterpretation of tradition. The session was interactive and dialogic, with students actively participating through observation, questioning, and discussion. The gallery space thus became a site of critical inquiry and experiential learning.

- Outcome –
 1. A deeper understanding of heritage as a dynamic and interpretive category.

2. The ability to analyse visual and material culture as historical sources.
3. Greater awareness of the relationship between art, society, and historical processes.
4. Development of critical thinking through participatory engagement.
5. Familiarity with curatorial practices and museum-based knowledge production.

This activity aligns with NEP objectives in the following ways:

- **Experiential Learning:** Direct engagement with artefacts and artworks
- **Participatory Pedagogy:** Interactive and discussion-based learning environment
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Integration of history, art history, and cultural studies
- **Extension Activity:** Academic engagement with a cultural institution
- **Outcome-Based Learning:** Emphasis on analytical and interpretive skills

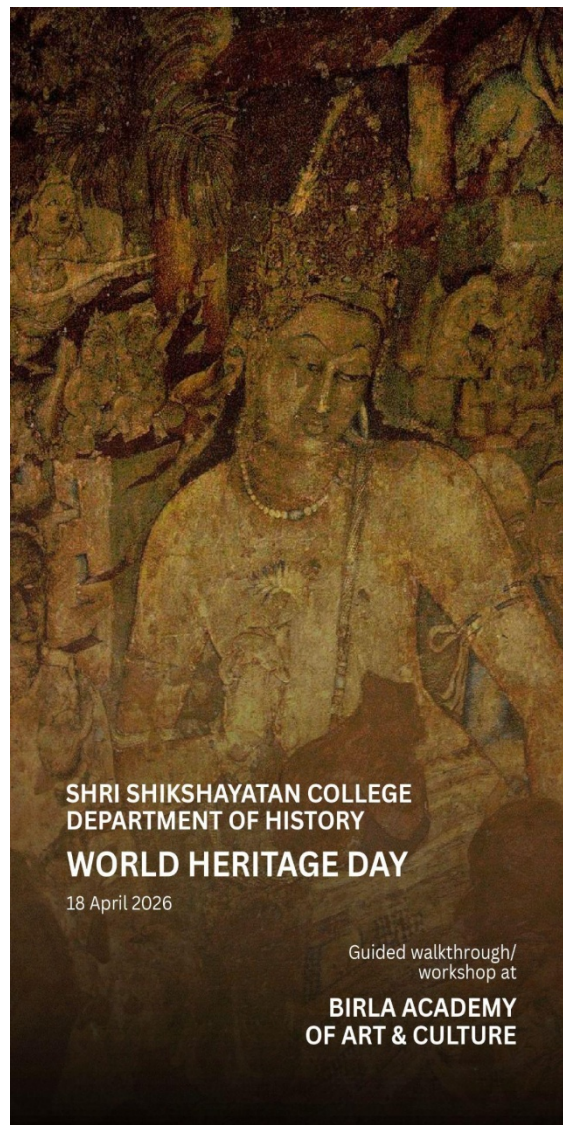


Fig 1: Cover page of brochure for the guided walkthrough



Fig 2: Students and faculty with Dr Mukherjee at BAAC, Kolkata on 18 April 2026



Fig 3: Group photo at the Ancient and Medieval Sculpture Gallery at the BAAC on 18 April 2026

