

Annual REVIEW

A Period of Institutional Strengthening and Advancement



2025



**P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata**

INSIDE THIS REPORT

01. Archives in Action

02. Visitors in 2025

03. Major Activities

04. Special Lectures

05. From Media

06. Internship Programme

07. Outreach Activities



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



It is my privilege to present the Annual Review 2025 of the Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum and Archives, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. This year has been one of institutional strengthening, archival advancement, and meaningful engagement with our diverse community of scholars, students, and visitors.

Throughout 2025, the Museum and Archives reaffirmed its commitment to preserving the intellectual legacy of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and the rich heritage of the Institute. Our sustained efforts in digitization, conservation of fragile documents, systematic accessioning of artifacts, and enhanced docent services have significantly improved both preservation standards and public accessibility.

A major milestone of the year was the successful organization of the Stakeholders' Meeting in collaboration with the National Archives of India, which fostered national dialogue and professional exchange among archivists across the country. The special lectures held during the year further enriched academic discourse by addressing contemporary themes such as accessibility, inclusion, and community engagement in archives and museums. We were encouraged by the growing footfall of national and international visitors, scholars, and media representatives, reflecting the Museum's expanding recognition as a vibrant center for research and cultural dialogue.

Our newly introduced internship programme, aligned with the National Education Policy, marked an important step toward nurturing future professionals in the fields of museology and archival science. Participation in outreach initiatives, including exhibitions during World Heritage Week at the Indian Museum, allowed us to share Bengal's socio-economic history with a broader audience, reinforcing our role in connecting statistical heritage with public history.

As we reflect on the year gone by, we remain deeply grateful to our collaborators, visitors, interns, and well-wishers whose continued support strengthens our mission. With renewed dedication, we look forward to further expanding our archival initiatives and fostering inclusive, knowledge-driven engagement in the years ahead.

Date: 01/01/2026

Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy

ARCHIVES IN ACTION

A Stakeholders' Meeting, 2025



Event Overview

A two-day stakeholders' meeting jointly organized by P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives (PCMMM&A) and the National Archives of India, hosted at ISI Kolkata on 27th and 28th January 2025 brought together 60+ archivists from 15+ states at ISI Kolkata. The event created a national platform for discussion, knowledge exchange, and institutional partnership in the archival field. The event marked a significant step towards national collaboration and capacity building.



Key Themes & Discussions

- 📄 Archival Preservation and its best practices
- 🗂️ Digitization and Knowledge Sharing
- 🤝 Strengthening institutional collaboration
- 🏢 Addressing Common Professional Challenges

'Archives in Action' Stakeholders' Meeting Concludes Successfully at ISI



Event Coordinator

Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy, In-Charge,
PCMMM&A

Support: ISI Library & PCMMM&A Team

VISITORS IN 2025



Growing Footfall & Diverse Engagements

Reflecting on its rising recognition, PCMMM&A welcomed over 700 visitors, including students, national and international scholars and researchers, and the general public, fostering learning and cultural dialog.

Special Visitors of PCMMM&A

- Dr. Sandra Barnreuther, University of Lucrene
- Prof. Maroona Murmu, Jadavpur University
- Eryk Dutkiewicz, University of Technology Sydney
- T.S.Kumbar, IIT Gandhinagar
- Laxmi Kant Dwivedi, IIPS Mumbai
- Tatyana Turova, Lund University, Sweden



Media & Public Engagement

A representative from All India Radio visited the Museum for an official interview. The discussion explored the unique relationship between Rabindranath and Prashanta Chandra Mahalanobis. This interview was broadcasted on June 19, 2025.



MAJOR ACTIVITIES

At the P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives, the mission to safeguard historical documents and ensure their accessibility for future generations continues to advance. Significant efforts have been made in digitizing rare archival documents, conserving fragile materials, systematically accessioning museum objects, and providing docent services for visitors and researchers. All these efforts are driven by a commitment to preserving the legacy of the Indian Statistical Institute and its founder, Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis.

Digitization of Archival Documents

Over 2000 historically significant documents have been digitized to ensure long-term preservation and enhance accessibility for scholars and researchers.



Conservation of Fragile Documents

Preservation and conservation are integral museum functions, involving verification, condition assessment, cleaning, deacidification, and careful treatment.



Accessioning of Museum Artifacts

Following a thorough verification, over 200 museum artifacts were accessioned and cataloged, strictly aligning with ICOM's professional international documentation standards.



Providing Docent Service

Docent services are provided to guide visitors by explaining exhibits, sharing historical context, and enhancing understanding of the museum's heritage.



SPECIAL LECTURES

In 2025, the P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives continued its mission of fostering intellectual dialogue and professional growth within the archival and museum sectors. By hosting distinguished experts, our unit provided a platform to explore the evolving landscape of heritage management, ensuring that our practices remain at the cutting edge of global standards.

This year's lecture series focused on Universal Accessibility of Archives and Community-Driven Inclusion in Museums.



Changing Scenario of Archives and Its Importance

PCMMM&A celebrated International Archives Week 2025. This year, the global theme was "Archives Are Accessible: Archives for Everyone." Shri Sumit Ghosh, Assistant Archivist, West Bengal State Archive, delivered a special talk on "Changing Scenario of Archives and Its Importance" on the last day of IAW, 13th June 2025.



Co-creation and Inclusion: Shaping Future Museums with Communities

PCMMM&A of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, arranged a special lecture on 'Co-creation and Inclusion: Shaping Future Museums with Communities' by Dr. Malay Dey, Asst. Professor, Centre of Studies in Museology, University of Jammu, on 4th July, 2025.

These lectures underscore PCMMM&A's role as a vibrant center for academic exchange. By bridging the gap between established archival traditions and contemporary museum practices, we continue to empower our community with the knowledge needed to navigate a changing heritage landscape. We remain committed to hosting such dialogues that challenge us to think more inclusively and act more progressively in our mission of preservation.

FROM MEDIA

We are thrilled to share that PCMMM&A's activities got noticed by the National and Regional Media. Our recent initiatives are gaining attention across several platforms, and PCMMM&A's inclusive environment and collaborative efforts are being highlighted. Our team is dedicatedly and passionately working towards making the archival space inclusive for all. These media coverages are a testament to the hard work of our team members.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

“Archives In Action” Stakeholders’ Meeting Concludes Successfully At ISI

By India Education Diary ... On Jan 29, 2025

“Archives in Action” meeting held during 27th – 28th January at Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata

₹18.28
Editor Desk - January 29, 2025 7:46 pm



Indian Museum heritage exhibition a living archive of Kol's memory

Krishnendu.Bandyopadhyay @timesofindia.com

Sayantan Chakraborty

WHAT'S ON DISPLAY?

Rare books | Colonial & vernacular art | Photographic & visual heritage | Archaeological artefacts | Craft, ecology & community traditions | Scientific & civic records

Visitors look at a display at Indian Museum

Another section showcases Krishnachandrapur Archaeological Museum's 25 artefacts and a 3D archaeological map of the region.

Institutions such as NATMO, Botanical Survey of India, Chandernagore College Museum, Sanskriti Museum, Birla Industrial & Technological Museum, REACH Foundation, and the PC Mahalanobis Memorial Museum have enriched the exhibition with cartographic instruments, basketry, sholapith works, textile traditions,

Ministry of Culture

Stakeholders' Meeting on 'Archives in Action'

Posted On: 29 JAN 2025 3:36PM by PIB Kolkata

Kolkata, January 29, 2024

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives (PCMMM&A) of the Indian Statistical Institute in collaboration with the National Archives of India, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India organised a two-day stakeholders' meeting on "Archives in Action" which started today at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

The programme was inaugurated with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolising the positive and collaborative spirit of the gathering. Prof. Dhurjati Prasad Sengupta, Chair, PCMMM&A Committee, delivered the opening remarks, emphasising the vital role of stakeholder participation in preserving institutional history and advancing future archival efforts.

Shri Arun Singhal, Director General, National Archives of India (NAI) and Chief Guest delivered an impactful inaugural address, underscoring the pivotal role of institutional archives in preserving the nation's history and culture. He emphasised that documentary heritage is not only essential for understanding our past but also for shaping our present and future. Shri Singhal further outlined the National Archives of India's ongoing efforts

“... and the P.C.Mahalanobis Memorial Museum have enriched the exhibition with ... statistical archives.”

-The Times of India, December 2025

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP), PCMMM&A conducted a structured 60-hour internship programme, connecting formal learning with real-world experience. This year, 40 students from the department of History, Surendranath College completed their internship in PCMMM&A. This programme offered students a unique opportunity to dive into the dynamic, multidisciplinary world of museums and archives. Our interns gained exposure to hands-on activities, such as digitisation, preservation, documentation, and archival management. Guided by our dedicated team, the interns received professional mentorship, ensuring an effective learning experience. This initiative allowed them to apply formal learning in a real-world setting while inspiring them to safeguard our shared cultural legacy.



Professional Mentorship & Growth

Throughout the internship, the interns benefited from professional mentorship, gaining valuable guidance, insights, and practical knowledge from experienced museum and archival professionals in the field.



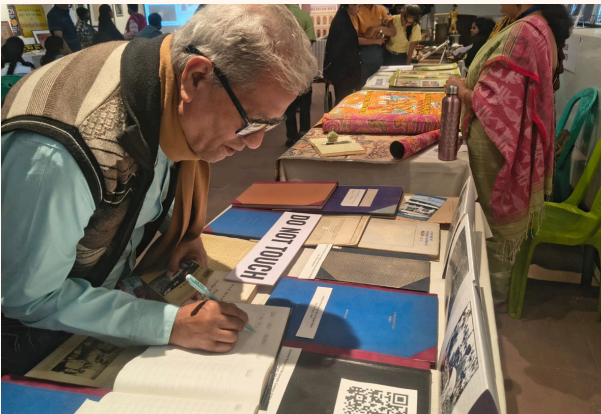
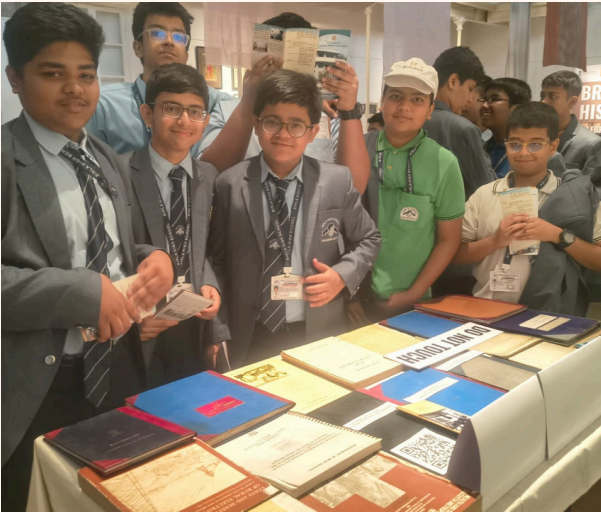
Hands on Learning & Practical Skills

During the internship, the interns also acquired essential practical skills in museology, including digitization, preservation and conservation of documents, museum artifact documentation, and archival record management.

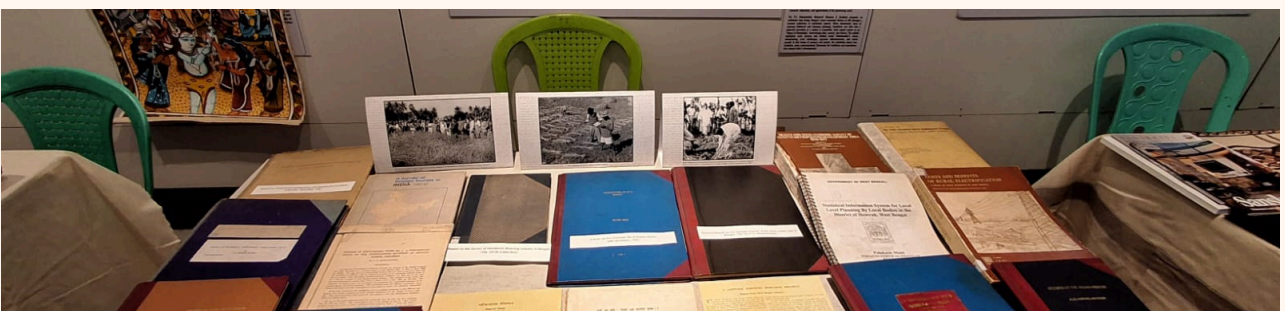
We're excited to see these young minds grow as they contribute to our collective mission, and we look forward to welcoming more students to this collective exploration.

OUTREACH

World Heritage Week | 21 - 29 November, 2025 | Indian Museum, Kolkata



P. C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives participated in the exhibition titled “Breathing with History: Celebrating Rural Heritage” under AMI Arts Festival 2025 from 21st November to 29th November 2025, organized by Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Paschimbanga Sangrahalaya Samiti and Indian Museum. This exhibition marks the beginning of the World Heritage Week celebration and showcasing rare rural heritage exhibits from different museums and personal collections of different parts of Bengal. The PCMMM&A showcased the exhibits that breathes life into Bengal’s socio-economic past through a curated display of statistical reports.



CONTACT US

Reach out to P.C.Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives

We Welcome you to Connect us for Inquiries, Research & Visits



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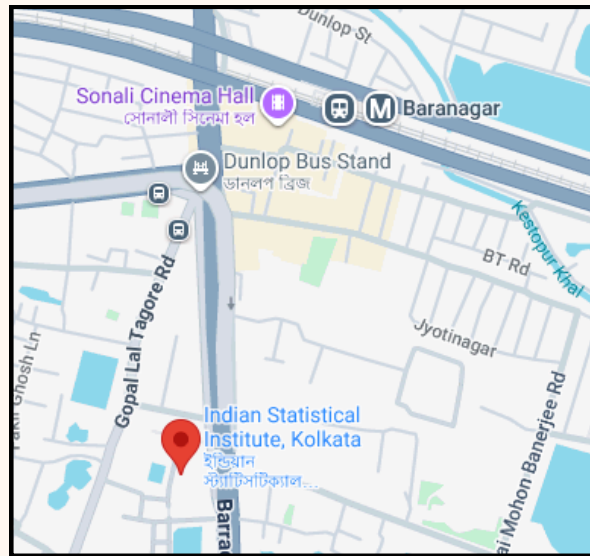
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VISITING HOURS
10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. (MON-FRI)



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