Paper – III: Museology, Collection Management and Exhibition Design

Course Code: CPAM-3

Max. Marks: 100
External: 70
Internal: 30
Pass: 40%
Credits: 6

Course Objective: The course aims to introduce learners to the fundamental concepts and scope of museology with special reference to museums in Punjab and India. It familiarizes students with different types of museum collections including art objects, archaeological materials, ethnographic artefacts, textiles, and cultural heritage objects, along with the professional principles governing their acquisition, documentation, and management. It develops practical competency in collection management practices such as accessioning, cataloguing, storage, handling, and preventive care using standard museum documentation formats. It equips learners with the principles and techniques of exhibition planning and design, including thematic development, display strategies, lighting, labeling, and visitor engagement. It sensitises learners to the role of museums in education, community engagement, and cultural preservation, with special emphasis on inclusive and regionally relevant narratives. It also introduces learners to contemporary trends in museology including digital curation, virtual exhibitions, and the ethical dimensions of representation and interpretation in museum practices

Course Outcomes (COs)
After completing this course, learners will be able to:

CO1: Describe the types of museums found in Punjab government, university, religious, community, site, archaeological and explain the collection management processes: acquisition, accession, deaccession, loans, storage, and object documentation.

CO2: Apply museum registration systems and preventive conservation principles environmental monitoring, pest management, proper storage materials to heritage collections.

CO3: Explain museum ethics as defined by the ICOM Code of Ethics, including repatriation, indigenous rights, and community consultation, with reference to Punjab case studies.

CO4: Design a museum exhibition physical or virtual with a Punjab heritage theme, applying the Freeman Tilden principles of heritage interpretation and best practice in label writing, spatial layout, and audience design.

CO5: Design a basic heritage tourism product for a Punjab location route, commentary, pricing — identifying opportunities for women as heritage guides and tourism entrepreneurs.

CO6: Apply basic GIS tools (Google My Maps, QGIS) to map Punjab heritage sites geospatially, recording location, condition, and heritage significance.

Instructions for the Paper Setter / Examiner:

- The syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.
- The Question Paper will have 70 MCQs with four choices of answers. Each question carries 1 mark. All questions are compulsory.
- Equal distribution: 35 questions from Section A and 35 from Section B.
- Duration: two hours.

Instructions for the Students:

The question paper shall consist of 70 MCQs. All questions are compulsory. Each carries 1 mark. No negative marking. Use OMR sheets.

Syllabus of the course:

Section-A

1. Collection management: acquisition, accession, deaccession, loans, museum registration systems, object documentation
2. Punjab archaeological heritage: Harappan sites Ropar (Rupnagar), Sanghol, Rakhigarhi, Banawali, Bhirrana significance, preservation challenges, GIS documentation
3. Virtual exhibition creation: Omeka, Google Arts and Culture design principles and implementation

Section-B

4. Designing exhibitions for specific audiences: school groups, tourists, diaspora visitors, rural Punjab communities
5. Heritage tourism in Punjab: cultural routes, the Golden Route (Amritsar–Anandpur Sahib–Kiratpur), diaspora heritage visits, economic value of cultural tourism
6. Community participation in heritage: designing participatory heritage projects; women as heritage guides and cultural tourism entrepreneurs; inclusive representation of women's experiences in museum displays

Suggested Readings:

- *ASI Excavation Reports* — Ropar and Sanghol. Available at: asi.nic.in.
- ICOM, *ICOM Museum Definition and Code of Ethics*, Paris, ICOM, 2022.
- Kenoyer, Jonathan Mark, *Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Macdonald, Sharon (ed.), *A Companion to Museum Studies*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.

- *Punjab Tourism and Heritage Board, heritage route information*, Available at: punjabtourism.gov.in.
- *Smithsonian Institution online exhibition resources*, Available at: si.edu/exhibition.
- Tilden, Freeman, *Interpreting Our Heritage,* University of North Carolina Press, 1957.
- Vergo, Peter (ed.), *The New Museology*, Reaktion Books, London, 1989.