

Project Gaja-Lok

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Why in news?

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to launch “Gaja-Lok: Elephant Lands and their Cultural Symbolism in Asia”.

- **Project Gaja-Lok** - It is a pioneering transnational initiative launched by INTACH and supported by the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Division.
- **Aim** - To explore the **transnational connections** of the **Asian elephant**, highlighting the entangled cultural, historical, ecological, and climate resilience narratives across elephant-range countries in Asia.
- It blends heritage conservation with environmental awareness, positioning elephants as icons of both tradition and climate resilience.
- **Exhibition Themes** - Features six thematic panels tracing the human-elephant relationship:
 - From prehistoric art and ancient trade routes
 - To sacred traditions, royal symbolism, and modern innovations (e.g., Kerala’s robotic temple elephants).
- **Gaja-Lok Roundtable Conference** - It brings together leading scholars, conservationists, and cultural experts from India and abroad.
 - Discussions will feed into the **Gaja-Lok Dossier**—a multidisciplinary research document supporting transnational recognition of elephant-linked heritage.
- **Cultural significance** - Elephants have shaped Asian civilizations for millennia, appearing in Indus Valley seals, temple carvings (e.g., Konark, Mahabalipuram), folklore, rituals, and royal symbolism.
- **Ecological significance** - The project highlights elephants as a living symbols of ecological balance, agents of cultural continuity, and indicators of climate vulnerability and resilience.

To know about **Asiatic Elephant**, click [here](#)

Quick Fact

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

- It is a premier non-profit organization dedicated to the **conservation & preservation** of India's natural, cultural, living, tangible, and intangible heritage.
- Founded in **1984** and headquartered in New Delhi,
- It is India's largest membership organization of its kind, operating through a wide network of chapters both within India and internationally.
- It is a registered society under the ***Societies Registration Act, 1860***, and is governed by a council of experts.

References

1. [PIB | Project Gaja-Lok](#)
2. [INTACH | Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage](#)