

Visit of the 4th G20 Cultural Working Group at Excavated Remains & Archaeological Museum Sarnath on 24.08.2023

It's a pleasure to mention here that India has taken over the G20 Presidency on 1st December, 2022 for One year. Under India's Chair, over 200 meetings will be conducted PAN India in more than 56 cities covering all States/UTs. The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting under India's presidency started here on 24.08.2023. The meeting is being attended by around 170 delegates from G20 member countries, invited countries and international organisations. After attending the meeting G20 delegates also visited Sarnath on 24.08.2023. The G20 CWG meet participants also congratulated to India for its successful mission to the moon.

On 24th August 2023 the delegates of G20 countries accompanied by the representative of Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India visited Excavated Remains Sarnath and Archaeological Museum Sarnath.



The G-20 delegates reached on 24.08.2023 at about 6.00 PM and visited Excavated Remains Sarnath. Dr. Bhuwan Vikram, Regional Director (Central), Dr. Niraj Kumar Sinha, Director (Museums), Dr. Shivakant Bajpai & Dr. Abinash Mohanty, Superintending Archaeologists, officials of ASI Sarnath Circle and offered Golden scarf khata (a traditional ceremonial scarf in Buddhism) and a set of brochures of important protected monument & site of Varanasi which are published by Sarnath Circle, Archaeological Survey of India. Horticulture & Science Branch also welcomed all the guests with the rain of flowers and shower of rose petal at the entrance gate. A local person master in emitting sound from conch shell has also welcome the G-20 delegates by emitting sound when the G-20 delegates were entering in Excavated Remains Sarnath.







At the main entrance gate of Archaeological Excavated Remains Sarnath the traditional cultural programmes were also organized to know about the non-tangible cultural heritage of India which has much attracted and excited to G20 delegates.



Authorized guide of about 21 nos. has attended and briefed about the history of Sarnath to the G20 delegates. Sarnath is the place where Lord Buddha has given his first sermon, it is also the birth and salvation (*kaivlaya*) place of 11th Jain Tirthankara Sreyansanatha. Varanasi is also the land of most important pilgrimage centre for Hindu since long period. It is also believe in the Hindu mythology that, one who grace to die in the land of Varanasi would attain salvation and get freedom from the cycle of birth and rebirth.



After visiting Excavated Remains Sarnath, G20 delegates proceeded to Archaeological Museum, Sarnath. Archaeological Site Museum Sarnath is the oldest site museum of ASI. Sarnath Museum building was completed in 1910 and from then it was open for the public. This museum has a huge collection of artefacts which belong to different religious such as Hindu, Jaina & Buddhism however, there are two unique sculptures namely Lion Capital & Preaching Buddha displayed inside the museum attracts visitors more. The first is the famous Ashokan Lion Capital of 3rd century B.C.E. was also discovered from Sarnath Excavated site in 1904 C.E. After independence of India this Lion capital has declared as the National Emblem of Republic of India and the second is the Preaching Buddha image is the master piece of Gupta period of 5th Century C.E.



By seeing the hospitality of ASI, Sarnath Circle the G20 delegates were very impressive and desire to visit once again at this holistic pilgrimage site where the Lord Buddha has delivered his first sermon in 6th century B.C.E.



The visit of G20 delegates on 24th August 2023 at Excavated Remains Sarnath and Archaeological Museum Sarnath was very successful.
