



The International Museum Day programme at Victoria Memorial on Monday. Picture by Bishwarup Dutta

India through museums

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Calcutta: Ancient sculptures, scriptures and paintings by modern Indian masters were on display at the Indian Museum and Victoria Memorial on Monday to mark International Museum Day.

The exhibition at the Indian Museum reflected the “philosophical foundations of Indian civilisation”. The one at Victoria traced the “journey of Bharat into the modern age”.

At the Museum were intricate sculptures — Shiva as the eternal *purusa*, and *prakriti* represented by the Mother Goddess; forms from mythology such as Ardhansrisvara and Somaskandha; representations of Ram worshipping Durga; and Abanindranath Tagore’s

Ganesa Janani. A repository of scriptures, including folios from Ramayana by Krittibas Ojha, was also on show.

Works of Raja Ravi Varma, Abanindranath, Gaganendranath Tagore and Jamini Roy were at Victoria. “They reimagined mythology through modern artistic vocabularies rooted in Indian tradition,” a spokesperson said.

The exhibitions, accompanied by multi-disciplinary performances, were dubbed “Namami Bharatam”.

BJP MLA Roopa Ganguly and French consul-general in Calcutta, Thierry Morel, were among the guests at Victoria. BJP MLA Arjit Bakshi was at the Indian Museum.

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