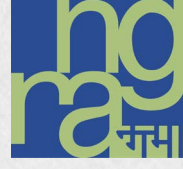




संस्कृति मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
CULTURE



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक  
कला संग्रहालय  
NATIONAL GALLERY  
OF MODERN ART

Ministry of Culture | National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

January - March 2026

## Director's Note

As we conclude the first quarter of 2026, it gives me immense pleasure to reflect on the vibrant spectrum of artistic, cultural, and community engagements that unfolded at National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru, during these past months. This quarter reaffirmed our commitment to making the museum a dynamic and inclusive cultural space, one that not only preserves artistic heritage but also encourages dialogue, participation, and new ways of experiencing art. Through exhibitions such as I to Eye: Shades of Humanity, Lenscape Kerala, and Rivers of Bengaluru, we continued to foreground diverse narratives, environmental consciousness, and human stories through compelling visual languages.

Our campus came alive with performances, workshops, film screenings, lectures, festivals, and educational programmes that welcomed audiences across generations and backgrounds. From the Dhaatu International Puppet Festival and BLR Hubba celebrations to community-centred initiatives in wellness, ecology, and inclusion, every programme reflected our belief that art has the power to connect, question, heal, and inspire. We are especially encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of students, families, artists, scholars, and cultural practitioners who continue to shape NGMA Bengaluru into a vibrant site of exchange and learning. The quarter also witnessed meaningful collaborations with institutions, collectives, and independent practitioners, strengthening our shared commitment to cultural dialogue and public engagement.

As we move ahead, we remain dedicated to nurturing creativity, accessibility, and innovation while honouring the many artistic traditions and contemporary expressions that define our cultural landscape. I extend my sincere gratitude to our artists, collaborators, visitors, staff, and supporters for their continued trust and participation. We look forward to welcoming you to many more enriching experiences in the months ahead.

- Priyanka Mary Francis  
Director

# EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

## 1. I to Eye: Shades of Humanity

6 March 2026

Centering human emotions and experiences through photography



As we furthered in voicing out the underrepresented narratives, this time, we opened the in-house exhibition I to Eye: Shades of Humanity featuring powerful monochrome photographs by Photographic artist Asha Thadani, curated by Amrutha R, Deputy Curator, NGMA Bengaluru. The exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest Prakash Belawadi, Actor, director and Screenwriter and Guest of Honour Prasad Bidapa, Fashion Curator.

## 2. Dhaatu International Puppet Festival 2026 Begins its Journey

3 & 4 January 2026

Curtains raised for Puppet show and installations with the new year's bloom, all set to travel across the country.



The Dhaatu International Puppet Festival 2026 was inaugurated with a celebration of Balakanda of the Ramayana and SaptaSwara by Dhaatu Puppet Theatre in the traditional Karnataka Mudalapaya puppetry style. Delivering an experience of Karnataka's Puppetry Display & Splendor, the two-day installation showcased eight traditional wooden puppet styles.

### 3. Lenscape Kerala visits NGMA-B

Vibrant photogenic-shades of God's Own Country arrived in Bengaluru

27 February - 1 March 2026



Organised with the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala, Lenscape Kerala featured 100 photographs by 10 travel and media photographers. Curated by Uma Nair, the exhibition presented Kerala's landscapes, culture, and daily life through diverse photographic perspectives.

### 4. Rivers of Bengaluru

27 March - 31 May 2026

From Nandi Hills to the Baby corn fields, rivers flow on the 3D installation with Guided Walks enroute to edify the audience



In collaboration with the Socratus Foundation, NGMA Bengaluru is hosting an installation focusing on Bengaluru's rivers. Guided walks are being conducted, encouraging visitors to rediscover the city's waterways through stories, and environmental reflections.

# WORKSHOPS & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

## 1. Photography Masterclass

Lenscape Kerala's photographers on what it means to see

28 February 2026

The photography masterclass introduced techniques incorporated by travel and media photographers alongside the exhibition, Lenscape Kerala.



## 2. Photography Workshop by Asha Thadani

On light, story, and the human gaze

14 & 15 March 2026

In conjunction with the exhibition I to Eye: Shades of Humanity, we hosted a Photography Workshop, facilitated by Asha Thadani introducing techniques and storytelling in her photography practice.



### 3. Theatre & Art Workshops for Children

31 January, 28 February & 28 March 2026

Workshops for children aged 9 – 14 encouraging creativity through theatre exercises, movement, voice work, and visual art activities



### 4. International Women's Day Special Gallery Walk

8 March 2026

Through the lens of Asha Thadhani: the feminine energies in her photography



A walkthrough of I to Eye: Shades of Humanity led by Asha Thadhani, sharing insights and untold stories behind the photographs that centred the women from the underrepresented communities.

# SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS



## 1. Republic Day Celebration

26 January 2026

NGMA Bengaluru celebrated the 77th Republic Day with staff and families, honouring national unity and constitutional values.

## 2. Parakram Diwas Celebration

23 January 2026

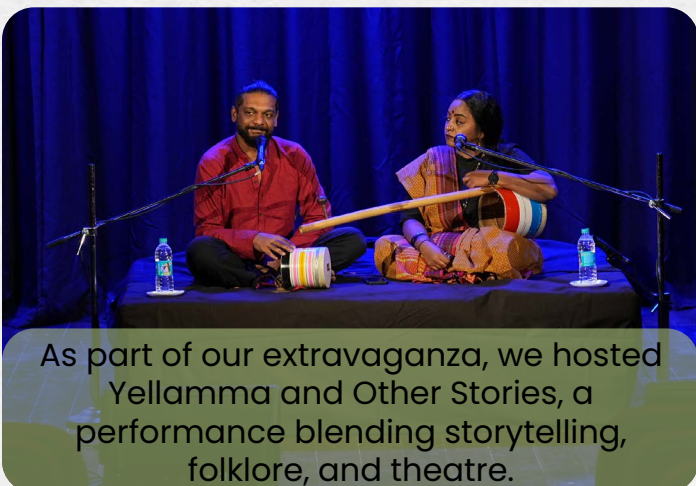
We observed Parakram Diwas with a special screening of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, reflecting on his life, courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy.



## 3. 17th Foundation Day Celebration

17 February 2026

The National Gallery of Modern Art celebrates seventeen years of nurturing artistic prowess at the gracious heritage building of Manikyavelu Mansion. Home to a plethora of awe-striking exhibitions, our iconic gallery takes a special interest in showcasing diverse narratives through art, culture and excellence.



As part of our extravaganza, we hosted Yellamma and Other Stories, a performance blending storytelling, folklore, and theatre.



## - Foundation Day Programmes

18 February 2026

We gave our audience an immersive VR experience through Varanasi, complemented by Odissi and Kathak dance presentations.



## 4. Ondede Rangothsava – Laingika Alpasankhyatara Utsava

21 & 22 February 2026



In collaboration with Ondede, we celebrated gender and sexual diversity through Bharatanatyam, theatre, poetry gatherings, Karagatam dance, Jogappa performances, solo acts, and community cultural presentations promoting inclusion.

# FILM, DOCUMENTARY & DISCUSSIONSERIES



## 1. In Memory of Artist Jasu Rawal

8 January 2026

Three video films were screened celebrating the life and legacy of artist Jasu Rawal, reflecting on his contribution to visual art and critical thinking.

## 2. Whispers of Earth Film Festival Returns

An evening with National Awardee Girish Kasaravalli



9 January 2026 – Nayi Neralu



10 January 2026 – Hasina

In honour of the filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli, the festival featured special screenings of *Nayi Neralu* and *Hasina*, followed by an audience discussion on the film's themes and cinematic language.

### 3. DocuDialogues

In association with the Naturalist school, DocuDialogues is an ongoing screening initiative that brings together documentary cinema, open dialogue, and shared viewing experiences.

#### – Birds For All R/Seasons

24 January 2026

Documentary screenings and discussions organised with The Naturalist School, exploring birds and ecological awareness.



A reflection on rivers, and their histories



#### – Run River Run

28 February 2026

A session that featured a series of films reflecting on rivers, and their histories, followed by an engaging discussion with participants.

#### – In the Kingdom of Fungi

28 March 2026

Short documentary screenings followed by discussions on fungi and their ecological significance.



# NATURE, WELLNESS



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## 1. Nature Immersive Experience

10 January, 14 February & 14 March 2026

Guided walks encouraging mindful observation of plants, biodiversity, and natural ecosystems within the NGMA campus, conducted with the Naturalist School.



## 2. Close Looking Sessions

7 & 8 February 2026

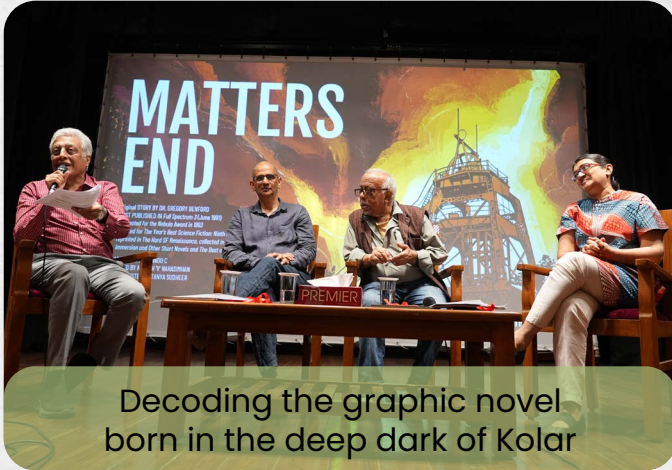


Organised with the Wellness Through Art Collective, art psychotherapists guided participants in slow observation of a single artwork to support relaxation, reflection, and emotional awareness.

# TALKS, LECTURES & ART APPRECIATION

## 1. Matters End

2 January 2026



Decoding the graphic novel  
born in the deep dark of Kolar

We started the year by hosting the creators of Matters End, Naresh Narasimhan and Sunando C. This graphic novel, inspired by Gregory Benford's science-fiction story, is set in the mining landscape of Kolar Gold Fields. The evening included a presentation followed by discussion on storytelling, science, the proton decay project, and the extensive history of the Kolar Gold Fields.

## 2. Creative City Bengaluru: Dialogues and Discoveries

15 January 2026



In collaboration with ArtMantram, artists, technologists, and thinkers discussed art, heritage, AI, creativity, wellbeing, and future cities. The programme concluded with a terracotta plate painting workshop.



### 3. Art & Dialogue – Bihar Museum

21 January 2026

Dialogue featuring Shri Anjani Kumar Singh, Director General of Bihar Museum, followed by interaction with artist Sheela Gowda, discussing museum practices and public engagement.



### 4. Online Art Appreciation

22 January 2026 – Nicholas Roerich

Online lecture by Yamini Telkar exploring the rest of the nine treasures and themes in modern Indian art through focused discussions and presentations:

- **22 January 2026** – Nicholas Roerich
- **14 February 2026** – Sailoz Mookherjea
- **28 March 2026** – Women Sculptors in Indian Art (led by Yamini Telkar)

# PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

## 1. BlrHubba at NGMA-B | 16 – 25 January 2026

The ten-day festival activated our campus with performances, workshops, and collaborative cultural experiences.

– The Exhibit | Drawing  
Bengaluru

16 – 25 January 2026



We presented an exhibition of sketchbooks from the Penciljam community. The exhibition captured Bengaluru through hand-drawn sketches reflecting everyday life, architecture, and personal observations of the city.



## - Spring Again – Physical Theatre Performance



16 January 2026

As part of BLR Hubba 2026, Andres Fagiolino presented a solo physical theatre performance exploring parenthood through movement, humour, and silence.

## - Drawing Bengaluru – Community Sketch Jam

17 January 2026

A community sketching session encouraging the audience to put pencil to paper in our heritage spaces.



# - Culture-otsava (Oota, Aata, Paata, Data)



17 & 18 January 2026

A two-day cultural gathering that featured food, traditional games, history discussions, recollecting cultural memory and innovation-dialogues promoting intergenerational exchange.

## – East Marries West

20 January 2026

Musical performance blending Indian classical and global contemporary sounds.



## – Dhwani Roopa

20 January 2026

Contemporary performance inspired by Sri Lankan Kandyan dance traditions focusing on rhythm and expressive movement.



## – Porattu Natakam

21 January 2026

Folk theatre performance featuring humour, music, and improvisation.



## – E Beh?

21 January 2026

A solo puppet performance by Matija Solce, inspired by the Italian character Pulcinella.





## – The Turing Twist

22 January 2026

An experimental improv performance where artists interacted live with artificial intelligence, reflecting Bengaluru's innovation culture.

## – Shoorpanakha – A Search

23 January 2026

A contemporary solo performance reinterpreting the mythological character Shoorpanakha through body movement and expression.



## – Footprints in Blood

24 January 2026

A dance production by Bimbavati Devi inspired by women-led movements in Manipur.

## – Stand-Up Natyam

24 January 2026

A fusion performance combining Bharatanatyam with comedy, spoken word, rap, and mime.



## – Aunty Moxie is Delulu

25 January 2026

- A one-of-a-kind play by Ashiqa Salvan, exploring identity and personal stories through humour.



- **Tablanaari Performance:** Live music performance blending tabla, percussion, and electronic sounds at the Mirror Pool.

## 2. Nayaki

Commemorating international Women's Day

13 March 2026



Presented by Amruthavarshini Foundation for Arts, portraying mythological women associated with Krishna and highlighting themes of strength, devotion, and wisdom.

### 3. Karnataka Vaibhava – A Dance Drama

22 March 2026



Presented with Heritage Beku, performed by Dr. Sanjay Shantaram and Shivapriya Troupe, celebrating Karnataka's cultural heritage through Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Odissi.

## Institutional Engagements

6 March 2026

Led by President Dilma Rousseff, the delegation engaged with exhibitions and institutional initiatives, marking a significant international visit.

