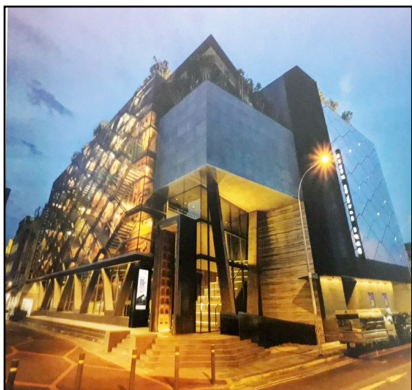


## Exhibition at India Heritage Centre, Singapore- A Review

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IHC Building, Singapore



Gallery View



Costume and Sash



Traded Textiles



Turbans

All above Photos Courtesy: Author

The recent visit to Singapore at India Heritage Centre was enriching experience to see the unique step well inspired designed modern structure with Indian essence. The traditional water conserving step well; the *baoli*, was the space for community gathering in the past, which was the thought to make it a meeting space with glass façade design for Singaporean Indian community.

The India Heritage Centre was conceived as a focal point for the interpretation and preservation of diverse cultures. To give a platform for Indian diaspora to understand the past, our ancestors, their migrations as skilled as well as unskilled works. Started in 2015 the centre houses five permanent galleries, a special exhibition gallery. The permanent galleries explore the beginning from with a preface exploring the presence of Indians in Southeast Asia and their interactions with the region, the integral role of Indians in the building of 19<sup>th</sup> century Singapore, the rich, diverse culture of the community, their experience during World War II and their contribution to the making of Singapore as a modern nation state.

Variety of artefacts were displayed such as archaeological pot shards, glass or lac bangles, bronze sculptures of Hindu and Buddhist Gods, ornaments, ivory and wood panels and textiles. Several Indian trade textiles of mordant and resist dyed like ceremonial hangings, pot covers, *sari*, *chintzes* made for local and European market makes the collection rich and diverse. A painted pilgrimage cartographic *pata* from Rajasthan is the overview of temple site Satrunjaya, which is famous for Jain community of Swetambara sect. Bengal terracotta figures of trade people show the traditional costumes are very attractive. Variety of turbans, Banarasi and patola sari's, besides embroidered textiles from Punjab region and Parsi *jhabla* provides a good range of textile collection.

Right at the little India the India Heritage Centre has come up with cultural activity centre. Mounting good temporary exhibitions and lots of interactive workshops, lectures, seminars had made it a vibrant place with lots of happening in direction of preserving the past.