

ISA EVINFO /World Heritage Day Celebration

Basic Event Information

- Event Type: World Heritage Day
- Event Date: April 17, 2026
- Venue: Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad
- Theme: Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disaster
- Mode: Offline
- Event Host: Rashtrapati Nilayam
- Organized for Students
- Recording available: Photos available
- Poster available: Yes
- No. of Participants: 100

Event Brief:

In celebration of World Heritage Day 2026, Rashtrapati Nilayam hosted a high-level event focusing on the protection of "Living Heritage"—the intangible traditions, rituals, and knowledge systems that define communities—specifically during times of crisis. The event brought together approximately 350 college students, heritage professionals, and academics to discuss the urgent need for real-time intervention in the face of natural disasters and regional conflicts.

The discussion focussed on defining 'Living Heritage' in Crisis, the emergency response framework, and traditional wisdom as a tool for resilience featured a distinguished panel of experts specializing in archaeology, architectural conservation, and cultural history:

- **Ramakiran (ISArch Faculty):** Representing the ICFAI School of Architecture (ISArch), focusing on the integration of traditional knowledge in modern emergency frameworks.
- **Dr. Rohini Pande Ambekar:** ASI Archaeologist.

- **Dr. E. Siva Nagi Reddy:** Noted archaeologist and heritage expert.
- **Anuradha Naik:** Conservation architect and author.

3. Key Themes and Discussion Points

A. Defining "Living Heritage" in Crisis

The panel emphasized that heritage is not merely static monuments but the people who carry cultural practices. The 2026 theme acknowledges that culture often "dies" when people are displaced.

Case Studies: References were made to recent global tensions (West Asia) and local disasters (such as the Wayanad landslides), where the loss of communal spaces and traditional tools leads to the erosion of identity.

B. The Emergency Response Framework

As part of the ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan (2024–2027), the 2026 focus has shifted from preparedness (2025) to active response.

Real-time Intervention: The panel discussed how to preserve "intangible" assets like oral traditions and craftsmanship during active conflicts.

Role of Communities: Ramakiran highlighted that local communities are the first responders. Equipping them with the tools to document and protect their own traditions is more effective than top-down international intervention.

C. Traditional Wisdom as a Tool for Resilience

A significant portion of the discussion centered on how ancient practices—specifically traditional water management and building techniques—offer solutions for modern disaster risk reduction.

Sustainable Infrastructure: The panel used the Jai Hind Stepwell at Rashtrapati Nilayam as a living example of how revived traditional water systems can mitigate water scarcity and flood impacts.

The discussion concluded with a call to action for the youth and academic institutions:

1. **Digital Documentation:** Creating digital archives of local traditions to ensure they survive physical displacement.
2. **Policy Integration:** Urging the government to include "cultural first aid" in standard disaster management protocols.
3. **Educational Shift:** Encouraging architecture and history departments to focus on the *resilience* of heritage rather than just its aesthetic preservation.

Event Poster

Rashtrapati Nilayam

WORLD HERITAGE DAY

2026

Emergency Response for Living Heritage
in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters

Program Highlights

- Panel Discussions
- Photo Exhibition
- Seminars by Guests
- Heritage Walk

For any Queries:
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Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bolarum, Secunderabad

Event Photograph

