

JOINT INTERNSHIP BRIEF REPORT

Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya (Prime Ministers' Museum), New Delhi

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University: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD)

Internship duration: Niharika Sharma — 17th July to 16th August; Vinayak Kumar — 21st July to 20th August (one month each)

Institution: Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, New Delhi

1. Introduction

This report presents a joint summary of the one-month internship undertaken by Niharika Sharma and Vinayak Kumar, both M.A. History students at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya (Prime Ministers' Museum), New Delhi. Although completed on slightly overlapping but distinct dates and involving some different assignments, we both shared a common institutional setting, common core responsibilities in visitor guiding, and closely aligned learning outcomes.

2. Objectives of the Internship

- To understand the day-to-day functioning of a modern, technology-driven museum dedicated to India's political and democratic history.
- To develop practical experience and confidence in visitor guiding and engagement.
- To observe and participate in how historical material is interpreted for a general public audience of varied ages, backgrounds and expectations.
- To build public-speaking, communication and interpersonal skills through sustained, repeated practice.
- To develop professional discipline, teamwork and responsibility within an institutional setting.

3. Areas of Work and Activities

3.1 Guiding Tours

Guiding was the principal responsibility for both of us. Niharika conducted more than twenty-five guided tours across the museum's chronological galleries, refining her ability to hold the narrative thread across Prime Ministerial periods while adjusting vocabulary and pace to different audiences. Vinayak similarly conducted regular guided tours, with particularly notable assignments for school groups whose curiosity encouraged a more example-driven, story-based style of explanation and for a delegation of diplomats from Nepal, which required a more formal and precise register.

3.2 Engagement with Delegates, Dignitaries and Professionals

We Both handled formal and high-profile visitor interactions. Niharika regularly guided delegates and visiting groups from public administration and political-history backgrounds, learning to answer pointed questions without straying into personal opinion. Vinayak, alongside guiding a Nepali diplomatic delegation, also interacted with retired diplomats, bureaucrats and army personnel, and attended the Vijay Kargil Diwas programme on 26th July, where he met family members of former Prime Minister Atal

Bihari Vajpayee and witnessed the inauguration of the AI Hologram of Atal Bihari Vajpayee — an experience that highlighted how the museum blends historical content with modern technology.

3.3 Visitor Interaction Beyond Standard Tours

Niharika's guiding work also involved sensitive, unstructured encounters older visitors moving through the post-1947 galleries frequently paused to share personal or family memories of Partition, requiring a careful balance between respectful listening and keeping tours on schedule. She also assisted senior staff with tours for groups of special children, which reshaped her understanding of accessibility as a matter of communication and patience as much as physical infrastructure. Vinayak's parallel visitor-facing role at the Help Desk gave him regular, structured practice in orientation, navigation guidance and handling day-to-day visitor requirements.

3.4 Institutional and Academic Projects

Niharika worked on the museum's Scholars on Call project under Ms. Yamini, gaining exposure to the museum's research-facing and academic-support functions, distinct from general public guiding. Vinayak attended the inauguration of the museum's Conservation Laboratory on 18th August, learning about the tools, materials and technical care involved in preserving artefacts associated with India's Prime Ministers before they reach public display.

3.5 Independence Day Preparations

Apart from this we both also took part in decorating the museum in a tricolour theme ahead of Independence Day, working alongside fellow interns and staff. This shared activity offered both a window into the less visible, behind-the-scenes coordination visual planning, teamwork and institutional creativity that supports the museum's public-facing work.

4. Skills Developed

- Communication and public speaking
- Historical interpretation
- Visitor and group management
- Teamwork and coordination
- Professionalism
- Empathy and patience

6. Conclusion

This whole internship experience of ours at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya gave us students sustained, practical exposure to public history in action, connecting classroom study in History with the day-to-day work of guiding, interpretation and institutional coordination that keeps a national museum running. Beyond building communication and public-speaking skills, the internship sharpened our sense of the range of audiences a political-history museum must serve, from schoolchildren and delegates to visitors carrying personal memories of events the museum documents. We would like to again thank our management who provided us such a great opportunity . Thank you

NIHARIKA AND VINAYAK { MA HISTORY }