

Mini Biography & Motivation Letter

Nomination for CIMUSET Board 2025–2028

Vismay Raval

Curator (Museum), Science Centre, Surat

Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat, India

I am Dr. Vismay Raval, a Museologist and Art Conservator with a Ph.D. in Museology from Gujarat University (2017), and Master's degrees in Fine Arts (Museology) from The M.S. University of Baroda. My undergraduate studies were in Chemistry from Gujarat University, providing me with a strong foundation in science, which complements my museum practice. Over the past two decades, I have worked extensively across curatorial, conservation, and museum education domains.

Currently, I serve as the Curator (Museum) at the Science Centre, Surat which is a multidisciplinary municipal institution that includes a science museum, planetarium, and the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Museum. I also lead projects concerning the conservation of the historic Surat Fort, the War Memorial (Shahid Smarak), and the city's riverfront heritage.

My museum philosophy is rooted in accessible education, community relevance, and sustainable development. I see science and technology museums not only as places for learning but as catalysts for social change. In this spirit, I've focused on low-cost, context-specific strategies for exhibition development and preventive conservation, particularly in resource-constrained settings.

I have been privileged to receive professional development support from CIMUSET on two key occasions. In 2018, I participated in the first-ever international capacity-building workshop jointly organised by CIMUSET and the China Science and Technology Museum (CSTM), Beijing, which significantly broadened my global outlook. Later, through a CIMUSET travel grant, I attended my first CIMUSET Annual Conference in Seoul, jointly hosted by NAMOK, along with a pre-conference training programme. These moments were pivotal in shaping my career and confidence as a global museum professional.

More recently, in 2024, I was selected for the prestigious ICOM–ITC International Training Programme on “Sustainable Museum Management” held in Jingdezhen and Nanchang, China, which deepened my understanding of integrating sustainability goals in science and technology museums. These opportunities have been instrumental in empowering me professionally and personally, and I remain deeply thankful to CIMUSET and ICOM.

Now, I wish to contribute more actively to CIMUSET’s mission by joining its Board. If elected, I aim to focus on:

- Capacity-building programs for emerging professionals, particularly from developing countries;
- Sustainability practices within science and technology museums;
- Inclusive education and outreach initiatives that adapt to local cultural and social contexts.

Having come through the ranks with limited institutional privileges, I understand the challenges faced by young professionals and museums in the Global South. I want to help create bridges and platforms that offer them the same support that I received.

With my experience in curating and managing science museums, deep engagement with conservation, and a strong record of participation in international training, I am confident I can contribute meaningfully to CIMUSET’s goals and values.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

Warm regards,



(Dr. Vismay Raval)

Curator (Museum), Science Centre, Surat

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ICOM Member since 2012

Date: 31/07/2025

Place: Surat, INDIA.