

The Red Cross of Culture

Exhibition On Pact Mooted By Russian To Save Heritage Opens Today

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Ahmedabad: A century ago, Russian polymath Nicholas Roerich was pained by the widespread destruction of ancient Russian cities. The World War I showed what the humans could do to the enemies' cultural properties. This gave birth to the new thought that cultural properties should be preserved irrespective of the nationality and the Roerich Pact was signed 80 years ago in the USA. India was a signatory.

The International Center of the Roerichs, Moscow, and Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) have organized an exhibition on the Roerich Pact and reproductions of the paintings and portraits of Roerich and his son Svetoslav to mark the anniversary. The exhibition would be inaugurated by governor OP Kohli on Tuesday.

Indubala Nahakpam, curator of the Indian Legal His-



Larisa V Surgina (L) with Indubala Nahakpam

tory Museum, said that the symbol of the treaty — three circles in a round — is an ancient one found across the globe signifying the past, the present and the future. “We have seen what has happened to the artifacts during the recent wars. The pact is relevant today more than ever,” she said.

Larisa V Surgina, curator at the International Memo-

rial Roerich Trust at Kullu, said that this exhibition has been held earlier at Paris, Berlin, Hague and the UN headquarters. “In India, it has been held at Kullu, Delhi, Chandigarh and Bangalore. Roerich, deeply influenced by India, always said that Russia and India together would be able to bring the change and lead mankind to development,” she said.