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# Art & culture centre opens doors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)— a multi-disciplinary interactive arts centre — opened its doors on Wednesday. Spread across 70,000sqft on Bypass, it will hold exhibitions and promote cultural activities. The centre has been designed by architect Pinakin Patel who is the creative director of KCC. Author Devdutt Pattanaik, art curator Rajeev Sethi and KCC's executive director Richa Agarwal were present at the inauguration.

An installation by Nassia Inglessis — a London-based design engineer — and a solo exhibition by artist Dashrath Patel were the opening acts for the centre. Pattanaik said young Indians have lost the sense of aesthetics which can be brought back by centres like KCC. "Our cities are almost competing to be ugly. They are putting up a



Amit Moulick

Visitors at Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity on EM Bypass on Wednesday

mural here, an installation there, but something is missing. Bollywood is the only aesthetics that our children know. We have too much of Bollywood, Hollywood and politics in our lives. Beauty used to be a way of living in India. But it's no longer so. If you don't understand beauty you will not be a happy person," the author said.

KCC will strive to remain an intrinsically Indian endeavour in its thoughts and ideas, said the architect. "We will unite all disciplines and examine a common cord across them," he said, adding "Earlier, museums would preserve and present art, but their role has changed. They have now metamorphosed into galleries of art and cul-

ture across the world. This centre will strive to be in that space."

Culture has a role that goes beyond what the government can do, said Sethi. "Private art centres and museums are now the norm across the world. We need more of them since there is a crisis of creative space in our country. KCC is a pleasant surprise," he said.