

Press Release

First International Kala Mela inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice President of India.

4th Feb, New Delhi

The inauguration of the First International Kala Mela was done today by **Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India** under the gracious presence of **Dr Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture** at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi (IGNCA).

Hon'ble guests lit the lamp to inaugurate the event. On the auspicious occasion, **Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India** *talked on Indian Art, Culture and its values. He stated, "Alag Bhasha, Alag Vesh, Fir Bhi Apna Ek Desh. Vividhta me Ekta, Bharat ki Visheshta."*

This stands for 'Different language, different couture, yet it's one country. Unity in diversity, India's speciality.'

He further said, "We believe in principle of Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam. The entire universe is one – that's the belief of this country and its people. Sarve Jana Sukhina Bhavatntu is the basic philosophy of this country."

International Kala Mela is not only Indian Kala Mela but also International Kala Mela. The first of its kind in the country. This is to showcase art and also celebrate various cultural forms of India, as well as provides platform to artists from abroad. It's a major international event."

Dr Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture *also addressed the attendees on the occasion. He said, "India's recognition is in its dense culture. Presence of Hon'ble Vice President on the occasion of inauguration of first International Kala Mela is an expression of his desire to spread the fragrance of India's diverse culture in each corner of the world."*

The Hon'ble Minister of Culture also congratulated Shri C.S. Krishna Setty, Administrator, Lalit Kala Academy and the complete team of Lalit Kala Academy for organizing such a great fair.

Shri C.S. Krishna Setty, Administrator, Lalit Kala Academy delivered the welcome speech. He stated, "This is for the first time that the Akademi has planned the International Kala Mela at such a large scale. It is going to prove a boon to especially those artists who cannot afford to exhibit their works of art in the Art Galleries. With a firm commitment to the art fraternity, the Kala Mela will be a great delight to observe the paradigms of the contemporary nuances of the modernistic trends in art. All in all it is intended to be first of its kind and a great milestone event"!

Thanking note was given by **Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA**. He paid gratitude to all the Hon'ble guests as well as each of the attendees and participants. He concluded his words by saying, " This International Art Mela is not just a fair, it is pilgrimage for artists."

International Kala Mela is organized by Lalit Kala Academy. The inauguration ceremony was followed by folk dance presentation by Karunadasa Olaboduwa Dance Troupe, Srilanka and 'Sargam' Kathak Recital by Pandit Harish Gangani's Team, India.

With a total of 325 exhibition stalls, it has more than 800 participants from across the globe. These participants are from countries such as China, Venezuela, Peru, Portugal, Srilanka, Poland, Tunisia, Mexico, Bangladesh, Trinidad, Tobago, Fiji, France, Papua New Guinea, Czechia, UK, Spain and Brazil. It will be organized from February 4th, 2018 to February 17th, 2018.

About Lalit Kala Akademi

Lalit Kala Akademi the National Academy of Arts is an institution that has rendered service to the arts in the nation long before the world woke up to the global impact of Indian Art. Through the leadership of its members and staff, the Lalit Kala Akademi manifests a commitment to the service of the visual arts by establishing, preserving and documenting visual art of the highest order that in turn

reflects the vitality, complexity and unfolding patterns of ancient, modern and contemporary art in India.

As a cultural body that hovers above the entire Indian subcontinent, it plays a role in inter-linking the diverse cultures of India to weave an aesthetic spread that is noted for its colourful threads of creative genius and brilliant designs that delineate fascinating features of Indian life. Perceiving Indian culture comprehensively with all its artistic impulses, conflicts, contradictions and limitations, the Akademi has been functioning with the panoramic view of involving all genres of creativity in its activities. It has a vision that takes care of the traditional art of India as well as of helping artists to imbibe many of the contemporary happenings in the international art scene.

Lalit Kala Akademi, National Academy of Art, New Delhi was set up by the Government of India as an autonomous body, on 5th August, 1954. The Akademi was given statutory authority in 1957, under the Societies Registration Act 1860. Since its establishment it has been serving the entire country by promoting the creative endeavors of Indian artists and bringing their arts to bear upon a large number of people, thereby playing an important role in defining and redefining, the sensibility of an entire culture, falling under the visual arts spectrum.