

Press Release

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

Lalit Kala Akademi, the premier institution for the promotion of Art and Culture is going to organize an International Kala Mela (Arts Festival) wherein artists and groups can showcase their art works from 4th to 18th February from 12pm to 8pm daily, at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi (IGNCA).

The inauguration of the First International Kala Mela will be done by **Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India** under the gracious presence of **Dr Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture** and Shri C.S. Krishna Setty, Administrator and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, IGNCA on 4th February, 2018 at 5.00 PM. The inauguration will be followed by Folk Dance by Karunadasa Olaboduwa Dance Troupe, Srilanka; 'Sargam' Kathak Recital by Pandit Harish Gangani's Team, India.

During the Kala Mela different art workshops and activities like Visual Art Film Festival, Pottery/Pattachitra/Paper Mache workshops, Best from waste workshop, Musical performances, Dance Dramas, Violin making workshop by Sveceny, Czechia, Artist Gup Shup Point, Nukkad Natak, and Live performance. International performances like Violin by Nuno Flores, Portugal; The Troth – Usne Kaha Tha A Story of Love and sacrifice in World War I, by Akademi South Asian Dance, UK; Violin by Jaroslav Sveceny Czechia; Yakshangana by Devika Rao, UK; Paino by Nobert Kale, Hungary and Yaa Devi by Devika Dance Theatre, UK will be taking place for the artists and art lovers.

According to the Administrator LKA Sh. C. S. Krishna Setty, "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”!

More than 800 artists from all across the country are participating in the event. Many Embassies and Cultural Centres are participating for making this festival an International success. Some of the countries taking part in the Mela are China, Venezuela, Peru, Portugal, Srilanka, Poland, Tunisia, Mexico, Bangladesh, Trinidad, Tobago, Fiji, France, Papua New Guinea, Czechia, UK, Spain and Brazil. There are around 325 stalls for Indian artists and organizations including International representations.

The International Kala Mela is coming at a time when there is a perceptible requirement in the art market for a wide-ranging, global platform for Indian art. The central objective of Kala Mela is to focus on direct interaction between the artist and the connoisseur and also educating and raising awareness about art, which has been the mandate of Lalit Kala Akademi. This comprehensive outreach shall include the participation of National, International level Artists/ Art Critics of repute from all over the Globe.

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.