



2016 साहित्योत्सव Festival of Letters

15-20 February 2016

Enchanting Expressions Showcasing Dances & Music of India

Karma Dance

(6.00 p.m. 15 February 2016 – Rabindra Bhawan Lawns)

Karma is a primitive fertility cult dance practiced by many aboriginal tribes of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The Karma festival is performed as a tribute to Karamsani on the 11th day of bright fortnight in the month of Bhadra. Karma is very special to the Binjhal of Borasambar of Bargarh district. They believe their gods participate in their dance. The song and dance narrates the story of Karma worship while recreating the Binjhal world view of dancing to appease the gods of earth, fire, air and water. The performing troupe, **Padampur Sangeet Samiti** is a registered organization devoted to the restoration of the glorious cultural heritage of Borasambar region of Odisha.



Raas Lila & Pung Cholom

(6.30 p.m. 16 February 2016 - FICCI Auditorium)

Raas Lila: Part of Hindu mythology and religion, Raas Lila is the joyful dance of Lord Krishna and the gopis in the sacred groves of Vrindavan. Puranas and medieval Bhakti literature contain a vast amount of material as to the meaning and significance of this Divine Dance filled with love, aesthetics, empathy and grace.



Pung Cholom: In Manipur, dance is seen not only as an art form but an integral part of life, a medium of expression, which is closely interspersed with its social fabric. A unique classical dance of Manipur, the Pung Cholom is the heart of Manipuri Sankirtana music. Pung Cholom is often a prelude to the Raas Lila and the dancers play the pung (a form of cylindrical drum) while they dance. Pung Cholom is the exotic mix of grace, flexibility and highly refined sense of space and time. The performing troupe, **Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy**, Imphal, is the leading institution in the country for teaching Manipuri dance.





Qawwali

(6.00 p.m. 18 February 2016 - Rabindra Bhawan Lawns)

Qawwali is a form of devotional singing which branched out into 'Khayal' singing as well. Qawwali derives its form from the mystic traditions of the Sufi order where music is a powerful medium to connect the human spirit with the universal spirit. **Nizami Brothers** are one of the most famed Qawwali singers performing in the Sufi style. They belong to the legendary Sikanderabad Gharana, which gave such Indian musical giants as Ustad Qudrattullah Khan Sahab and Ustad Kifayatullah Khan Sahab.



Othello in Kathakali adaptation

(6.00 p.m. 19 February 2016 - Rabindra Bhawan Lawns)

Kathakali is a very popular Indian dance-drama well-known for the attractive make-up of the characters, elaborate costumes, detailed gestures and well-defined body movements presented in tune with the anchor, playback music and complementary percussion. The performing troupe, **The International Centre for Kathakali**, New Delhi (ICK) is a registered voluntary cultural organization devoted to the promotion, propagation, teaching and performance of the traditional classical temple art form of Kerala, Kathakali, in India and abroad.



Cheraw (Bamboo dance)

(11.00 a.m. 20 February 2016 - Rabindra Bhawan Lawns)

Cheraw is a traditional colorful and distinctive dance of the Mizos. Little is known about the origin of Cheraw. Legend has it that Cheraw was used to be performed in earlier times only to ensure a safe passage for the soul of a mother who died at childbirth. Cheraw is, therefore, a dance of sanctification and redemption performed with great care, precision and elegance. The performing troupe, **Young Mizo Association** (Y.M.A) is one of the largest voluntary association in Mizoram and is involved in various cultural activities to preserve and propagate the cultural practices of all the communities of Mizoram.



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