

Government of India
Ministry of Culture

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FESTIVAL OF INDIA INAUGURATED IN VIENTIANNE LAO PDR

The 3 day Festival of India in Lao Peoples Democratic Republic was officially inaugurated by Dr. BosengkhamVongdara Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism Government of Lao PDR and ShriRavindra Singh Secretary Culture on February 10, 2014 in the capital city of Vientiane at the National Cultural Hall. The 3 day Festival would comprise of a Ramayana Dance Festival performed by Kalakshetra Foundation, a Buddha Mahotsava consisting of an Exhibition called DhammaDarsana by the Nava NalandaMahavihara and Central Institute of Himalayan Cultural Centre, a Food Festival conducted by the Ministry of Tourism and a Film Festival conducted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Festival of India also has a component of Yoga and Mehendi. The South Zone Cultural Centre is the nodal agency for conducting the event.

Buddhist monks from the Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies performed the Sand Mandala, Butter Sculpture, Lama Chanting and Monastic Dances before a capacity audience comprising of leading monks from the That LuangStupa and dignitaries from the Laos Government.

An Exhibition depicting the life and times of Buddha the DhammaDarsana was also inaugurated along with the BuddhMahotsava. The DhammaDarsana received wide response as hundreds of Laon People witnessed the digitized prints depicting the life and times of Buddha at Lumbini, Kushinagar, Ajanta, Sarnath, Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, NagarjunaKonda and Sanchi.

The Kalakshetra Foundation performed the first and second episodes of JatayuMoksham and ChoodamaniPradanam before capacity crowds in the National Culture Hall.

Speaking on this occasion, Secretary Culture ShriRavindra Singh said that the Festival of India in Lao PDR would enhance people to people contact, increase India's cultural ties with the South East Asian Countries and deepen the historical bonds. He thanked the Lao Authorities for contributing towards the development of the Nalanda University. The official level delegation talks were also held between the high level delegation comprising of ShriRavindra Singh, ShriV.Srinivas Joint Secretary International Cultural Relations in the Ministry of Culture and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. ThonglounSisoulith on a wide range of subjects. Indian Ambassador to Lao PDR ShriGururajaRao said that the talks were cordial and constructive and India and Laos would seek to sign the Cultural Exchange Program in the coming days as also enhance people to people contact efforts.

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