

People's Army Newspaper

Indian Buddhist Festival opens

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PANO - The Indian Buddhist Festival opened in Ho Chi Minh City in the evening of March 7th at Pho Quang Pagoda with the participation of more than 1,500 followers.



The week-long festival has many typical programs, including a [Buddhist exhibition](#), [“Dharma Darshan”](#), introducing dozens of pictures and artefacts illustrating the life and teachings of the Buddha; Yoga performances; folk dances; food fair ; sand-paintings; sculpture on butter.

All programs send a message of peace, encouraging people to be inclined to the good and build a happy life.

Le Manh Ha, Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh People’s Committee said that Indian culture is diversified and long-lasting and stressed that Buddhism is the beauty in the spiritual life of mankind and the festival would help promote cultural link and tighten the friendship between the two countries.

The festival was organized by the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Ho Chi Minh People’s Committee, the Buddhist Sangha of Vietnam, the Ho Chi Minh Union of Friendship Organizations, Indian General Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City and the Indian Ministry of Culture.

Translated by Chung Anh

Indian Buddhist Festival kicks off in town



The Indian Buddhist Festival 2014, the first of its kind held in Ho Chi Minh City, was kicked off on Friday at Pho Quang Pagoda in Tan Binh District.

It was attended by Indian Secretary of Culture Ravindra Singh, senior Vietnamese Buddhist dignitary Most Venerable Thich Thien Nhon, representatives from the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, and more than 2,500 Buddhists in the city.

“The event offers Vietnam a chance to learn more about Indian traditions, customs and culture, especially those related to Buddhism,” said Le Manh Ha, Vice Chairman of the HCMC People’s Committee at the launching ceremony.

“As a result, the festival will raise mutual understanding of both nations and their people, thus help tightening their friendship and cooperation,” he added.

“Cultural exchanges between Vietnam and India developed centuries ago when Buddhism was first introduced from our country to Vietnam,” said Secretary Ravindra Singh while addressing at the opening ceremony.

The 4-day event, showcasing a series of related activities as part Indian cultural week which will last until March 15, aims at convey Buddhism’s message of non-violence and thoughtful lifestyle to the local audience.

The festival, launched at Tan Binh District-based Pho Quang Pagoda and Vinh Nghiem Pagoda in District 3, was co-organized by the Ministry of Culture of India and its Vietnamese counterpart - the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Embassy of India in Vietnam, and HCMC People’s Committee.

Besides a photo exhibition, a sand paintings and butter sculpture contests will be held during the event.

The festival will also feature traditional sacred Lama Dance with masks and outfits unique to the religion’s Mahayana sect performed by Indian Buddhist monks and nuns,

while dances, prayers and meditation shows will be hosted by the Vietnamese counterparts, the *Voice of Vietnam* reported.

Earlier, on Thursday, HCMC Museum of Fine Arts launched a Buddhism artworks exhibition, which showcased 50 artifacts and photographs depicting the life of the Buddha from birth to the moment he attained Nirvana, as part of the festival.

The event, named Dharma Darshan, retells the teachings of the Buddha's and important events in his life through masterpieces of Indian art and artifacts with many remains found in sacred places like Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Sanchi, Piprahwa, Ajanta, Nalanda, and others across India.

It is open for public viewing from 6 March 2014 to 14 March 2014 from 9 am to 5 pm every day.

Vietnam Plus

Indian culture highlighted in Vietnam

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Vietnamese people will have a chance to explore India's culture as the Festival of India kicked off in Hanoi on March 5 night.

The event is co-organised by the Indian Embassy, the Indian Ministry of Culture and the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MoCST).

Addressing the opening ceremony, MoCST Deputy Minister Vuong Duy Bien said the festival is a vivid manifestation of the active cultural exchange between the two countries, and will help enhance the bilateral friendship and strategic cooperation.

Echoing Bien's views, Indian Deputy Culture Minister Ravindra Singh said India has always considered Vietnam a pillar in the country's Look East Policy within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other mechanisms.

He stressed that cultural exchange between the two countries has been institutionalised through a cultural cooperative programme inked in 2011, adding that India will establish an Indian cultural centre in Vietnam in 2014 to boost the friendship.

Apart from Hanoi, the festival will come to the central city of Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City, featuring Indian folk dances, songs, food, Buddhism, Yoga and Mehndi – the art of body painting, said Indian Ambassador Preeti Saran.

The festival will last until March 15.-VNA

Le COURIER

"Dharma Darshan" cultive les liens culturels Vietnam - Inde

3/7/2014

Une exposition sur la vie et l'enseignement du Bouddha a ouvert ses portes le 6 mars à Hô Chi Minh-Ville dans le cadre de la Semaine culturelle de l'Inde au Vietnam.



L'exposition sur la vie et l'enseignement du Bouddha, tenue du 6 au 14 mars à Hô Chi Minh-Ville. Photo : Thê Anh/VNA/CVN

Organisée par le ministère indien de la Culture, le consulat général d'Inde à Hô Chi Minh-Ville et l'Église bouddhique du Vietnam, "Dharma Darshan" présente jusqu'au 14 mars des dizaines de photographies et d'objets illustrant la vie et l'enseignement du Bouddha.

Le consul général d'Inde dans la mégapole du Sud, Deepark Mittal, a fait savoir que cette exposition visait à stimuler la coopération entre les deux pays, notamment dans l'architecture, les arts et la culture.

Plus qu'une distraction, cet événement fournit des informations utiles au public, lui faisant mieux comprendre, à travers des valeurs culturelles partagées entre l'Inde et le Vietnam, sa responsabilité vis-à-vis de la préservation des patrimoines.

Pratiqué au Vietnam depuis plus de 2.000 ans, le bouddhisme a connu des vicissitudes dans son évolution mais a toujours su préserver ses valeurs spirituelles et patriotiques. Il est de loin la première religion au pays, avec environ 10 millions de fidèles.

VNA/CVN

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VIETNAM NEWS

Indian classical dances hit HCM City

HCM CITY (VNS) — Experienced artists from India's Sangeet Natak National Academy of Music will perform six Indian classical dances at the HCM City Opera House tonight.

The event, which is part of the Festival of India which aims to introduce local audiences to the rich vibrancy of Indian culture, and to deepen the friendship and solidarity between Viet Nam and India.

The performance will feature six types of classical Indian dance, including Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Odissi, Manipuri, Nrityarupa and Chhau.

Bharata Natyam is one of the oldest and most popular Indian dances and belongs to the South Indian State of Tamilnadu. Kathak is one of the eight forms of Indian classical dance. This dance form traces its origins to the nomadic bards of ancient Northern India.

The event is being co-organised by the Indian Ministry of Culture, the Indian Embassy in Viet Nam, and the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

Admission is free. — VNS