



The High Commission of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Arts and Culture, Government of Mauritius, presents the '**Festival of India in Mauritius - 2015**' from **21 August to 1 November 2015**.

The Festival of India will comprise a series of performances and presentations of Indian performing arts by renowned artistes, including classical and folk dances & music, theatre, and even traditional puppetry. The Festival will also include exhibitions on various cultural and educational themes, literary conferences and seminars, and film/documentary screenings. Besides showcasing Indian artists and performers, the Festival will also present artistic collaborations with Mauritian artists and organizations. The performances will be held at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture as well as at a range of other venues, notably the Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the Rabindranath Tagore Institute.

The Festival of India will be inaugurated on 21 August 2015 at 1800 hrs at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, in the presence of Lady Sarojni Jugnauth, the Hon. Santaram Baboo, Minister of Arts and Culture, and other dignitaries. Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of India, Shri Mahesh Sharma is visiting Mauritius

specially for this occasion. The International Ramayana Conference being organised by the Ramayana Centre will also be launched at the same event. Two very special inaugural performances will kick off the Festival of India - a Ramlila presentation by the famous Shri Ram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, Delhi and 'Nrityarupa', a composite presentation of classical dance forms such as Bharatanatyam and Kathakali, created by the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Besides these two items, the first phase of the Festival will include performances by a traditional Bhojpuri folk music and dance troupe led by the popular Bhojpuri artist Shri Manoj Tiwari (5-6 September), a Marathi Folk Dance and Music Group (15-19 September), and a traditional Rajasthani string puppetry group (26-27 September). The second half of the festival in October will include, among others, exhibitions, Hindi and Urdu literary conferences, and a contemporary Bollywood dance and music presentation.

Details of these and other Festival of India events will be available on the High Commission's website and Facebook page (#IndiaMauritius). Entry to all events will be free of charge.

The Logo for the Festival of India in Mauritius 2015, which is being launched today by the Hon. Santaram Baboo, Minister of Arts and Culture, Republic of Mauritius and High Commissioner of India, H E Shri Anup Kumar Mudgal, represents the celebratory, creative and collaborative spirit of the Festival – we have the Mauritian Sega Tipik and the Indian folk dancers coming together in a joyous celebration of our rich shared artistic and cultural heritage.

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*14 August 2015*