

**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Regional Centre, Puducherry**

Report on the foundation day celebrations of IGNC A on 19th and 26th, March 2023 which were a grand success.

The Puducherry Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts celebrated the 36th foundation day of IGNC A on 19th and 26th March 2023 with great pomp and show. Both days were marked by a series of events and activities that showcased the rich cultural heritage of Tamilnadu with great festivity and cultural fervor.

The highlight of the celebrations on 19th March-2023, from 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm was the performance of a play 'Therukoothu' (the iconic Tamil Street theatre art form) named THE TRAGEDY OF ABHIMANYU, directed by Kalaimamani Dr. P. K. Sambandan, at INDIANOSTRUM THEATRE, No.7, Romain Rolland Street, Pondicherry, which was a retelling of a classic Indian mythological tale.

The play was inaugurated by Mr. Laurent JALICOUS, Director, Alliance Francaise, Pondichery. And he acknowledged that the celebration of the foundation day of IGNC A is an excellent opportunity and an avenue for the attendees to interact, exchange ideas, and build relationships in order to develop their skills in cultural and heritage research.

In the inaugural function, Chevalier. Dr. M. S. Gandhimary, Ret. Tamil Prof. Lycee France, Now Education Consultant, Care India has been invited as a guest and she extolled the efforts and experience of the director of this play Dr. P. K. Sambandan. And Dr. G. Gobi, Creative Director, Yaazh Theatre and Research Foundation, Puducherry has also been invited as a guest and he remarked on the antiquity of 'Therukoothu' and how Social structure involves in it.

The play resonated with the audience as it portrayed the struggle of Abhimanyu, the son of Arjuna, in the Mahabharata war. The play was notable for its intricate storytelling and exemplary performances. The actors depicted the emotions and struggles of the characters, transcending language barriers and winning the audience's hearts.

The drama was beautifully staged with mesmerizing visuals and stunning choreography that left the audience spellbound. The actors brought the

characters to life with their powerful performances, and the audience applauded the team for their efforts.

Apart from the drama, there were several traditional folk kinds of music and dances of Tamil culture that were performed by artists from different parts of Tamilnadu, named Traditional Folk Music and Dance Performances (பாரம்பரிய நாட்டுப்புற இசை மற்றும் நடன நிகழ்ச்சிகள்) on 26th March-2023 from 6.30 pm - 9.30 pm at Pandy Marinaa Beach, Vamba Keerapalayam, Puducherry.

The foundation day celebrations on 26th March -2023, were activated with a welcome speech by Dr. Gopal J, Regional Director of RCP, who gave a brief history of the IGNCA, its achievements, and plans for the future.

In the inaugural function of this day, Thiru K. Lakshminarayanan, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism has been invited as chief Guest, and he stated that not only IGNCA Foundation Day celebrations, but all events organized by IGNCA showcase India's rich cultural heritage are attracting diverse audiences and achieving great success. Thiru R. Baskar alias Datchanamourty, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Ariyankuppam, also attended as a guest and he also extolled the works of IGNCA.

The program also included extravagant traditional Tamil folk dances and music. The audience was mesmerized by the classical and folk dances like Bharatanatyam, Karagattam, Kummiattam, Mailattam, Maduattam, Poikalkudiraiattam, Theepanthattam and Parai Issai etc. depicting traditional rural themes that added to the overall festivities. The lively music and vibrant costumes added to the festive mood of the occasion, and the audience couldn't resist tapping their feet to the beats of the drums.

The event was attended by over 700 people. The event was also open to the public, and many people from the surrounding community joined and enjoyed the celebrations.

Overall, the foundation day celebrations of IGNCA were a resounding success, and they highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting Tamil cultural heritage.

The performances and activities were a tribute to the artistic and cultural traditions of our country, and they left a lasting impression on everyone who attended. The performances were exemplary and, overall, the evening was an unforgettable experience for everyone present.

The event was graced by dignitaries, including prominent scholars, artists, and culture enthusiasts, who lauded IGNC A for its continuous effort to preserve and promote India's rich cultural heritage.

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