



Ministry of Culture  
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इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र  
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS



आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव

REGIONAL CENTRE OF GOA  
PRESENTS

# 'Ranmale'

Folk Theater Performance

by  
Artists Group of  
**Shri Hanuman Seva Samitee,**  
Bambar-Nanoda

26th March 2022 at 7:00 pm

Venue: Open Space, Near Shree Narayandev Temple,  
Gaonkarwada, Surla, Sankhali-Goa

## About Ranamale:

The tiny state of Goa is famous for its greenery, beautiful beaches and natural beauty. It has been ruled by different rulers right from India to Europe. Hence culture here is diverse. Aborigines residing here show practices which are close to nature and influenced by ecology of the state. The culture here is evolved with time. Goa has many folk dance, folk drama and folk songs practiced even today in almost all the villages. Ranmale is one of the important folk ritual/folk theater form practiced in Goa, border villages of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Ranmale is based on mythological stories from the popular Indian epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. It is performed during the Holi festival which is celebrated as Shigmo (spring festival) in Goa and the Konkan region. There are beliefs and arguments about correct meaning of the name Ranmale. Some say that the word Ranmale has evolved from two words, 'Ran' which means battle and 'Male' representing the traditional torch used as a source of light during the performance. It is believed that its origin is rooted in ancient times when a group of visiting artists, peeved by the demands of the local settlers, killed them while they were engrossed in watching the performance, and since then, Ranmale is performed as an act of atonement for that act. Second opinion says that word 'Male' means garland, but nothing is proved yet.

This form comprises dance, drama and folk songs called 'Jats'. Each participant of the drama makes his entry to the tune of folk songs. The traditional instrument Ghumat, the accompanying instruments Kansale, cymbals of brass, are used for the base rhythm. 'Jats' are sung by the initiator of the folk drama called the 'Sutradhar', while the folk artists stand in a row on the stage acting like a backdrop. The time period between two scenes is covered by artists with some fancy dress character coming and performing on some topics not related to the play. This helps the continuity of the ongoing play and also entertain the audiences.



### The Concept:

IGNCA Regional Centre of Goa intends to document this folk theater form through performance and using video and audio recordings. This will help in further conservation of this important folk theatre art form of Goa.

### Brief introduction of performing group.

Ranmale is performed in Sattari, Sanguem and border villages of Maharashtra and Karnataka state. This folk theater is performed by local artists. Many groups have been doing this for generation after generation in order to conserve the form. One such group is Shri Hanuman Seva Samitee Bambar Sattari. Some 80 years back a group of inspired youths started performing Ranmale in their village of Bambar. Since then this group has performed this folk art form at the State and National level festivals. The legacy is continued from old to young generation with the same enthusiasm.

### Purpose of the documentation:

Ranmale is important folk theater form performed during Shigmo festival. It is age old legacy of spontaneous folk theater form and is based on epics like Ramayan and Mahabharat. With modernization this form is slowly vanishing from the village culture and due to impact of modernization, there is a tendency to compromise on originality of this art form. Video documentation of the performance in its original form will ensure conservation of this rich tradition.

### Plan of Action:

Ranmale is performed for almost entire night. IGNCA Goa Regional Centre plans to stage this performance for 1 and half hours with professional videography. A group of 26 artists including musicians will perform the show. Music instrument to be used will be Ghumat, Dhol, Tashe, Kasale. Makeup used for the performance will be in its original form i.e made out of natural ingredients like coal, clay, leaves etc. Properties required for the act will also be made out of natural material.

