

FAQ for Kala Utsav

Q1. What is Kala Utsav?

Kala Utsav is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at the secondary stage in the country. The event will provide an opportunity to students of 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th from government and government-aided schools.

Q2. What do you mean by living traditions in Arts?

The theme of Kala Utsav includes living traditions of tribal, folk and traditional arts of different regions. In India, every region has various performing traditions and practices. These traditions and practices are performed through artistic expressions;

In visual arts like floor paintings/ rangoli/ aipan/ alpana, wall paintings , murals, models , etc

In performing arts through various types of music, dance & theatre like baul , roun , gidra , jatra etc.

Q3. What are the examples of Living Traditions in Theatre?

Some examples of the living traditions in Theatre are:

Example (i) Ramleela: Ramleela is a folk theatre form enacted during Dussehra in parts of Northern and Central India. The Ramleela in Ramnagar, Varanasi is famous all over the world.

Example (ii) Jatra: It is a popular folk-theatre form of West Bengal. The origin of Jatra intrinsically a musical theatre form is traditionally credited to the rise of Sri Chaitanya's Bhakti movement. The Jatra season begins in the autumn, around September and ends before the monsoon sets in. Performances of Jatras are common during festivities and religious functions, ceremonies in traditional households, and fairs, throughout the region.

Example (iii) Kutiyattam: Kutiyattam is a form of theatre that originated in an ancient past, dating back to about two millennia. One of the most remarkable traditions of world theatre, it draws on the on the plays of the eminent Sanskrit dramatists of India. In recent times, Kutiyattam has gained the attention of theatre people and scholars from all over the world. Regarded as one of the Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

Example (iv) Ojapali: This semi theatrical form of Assam is an old performance of storytelling. Scholars argue that this is an old tradition of storytelling and an agent of Kathakata tradition. The performance was once popular in the entire Assam now confined to the few localities.

Example (v) Padayani: Padayani is an art form from Kerala that blends music, dance, theatre, satire, facial masks, and paintings. It is part of worship of Bhadrakali and is staged in temples.

Example (vi) Swang: Swang is another such example of Theatre in Haryana. Swang is a total art form which combines music, singing, drama, poetry, plastic arts and movement.

Q3. What are the examples of Living Traditions of Art in Music?

Some examples of the living traditions in Music are:

Example (i) Pulluvan Paattu: A Pulluvan is a male member (female Pulluvatti) of a particular caste called Pulluvar. The Pulluvar of Kerala are closely connected to the serpent worshipping at Mulluthara Devi Temple. The musical instruments used by the Pulluvar are pulluvan veena (one stringed violin), pulluvan kutam (earthenware pot with one string attached to it) and thaalam (bell-metal cymbals). These instruments are made by the Pulluvars themselves.

Example (ii) Traditional music of the Manganar tribe of Rajasthan: The singers are from the Muslim community in the desert of Rajasthan, in the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, along the border with Pakistan. Significant numbers are also found in the districts of Tharparkar and Sanghar in the province of Sindh in Pakistan. The Manganar musicians sing marriage songs, song on women's issues, songs on male domination in the state, etc. There are special compositions to praise the patrons and their families and songs in praise of the almighty.

Example(iii) Baul songs: Traditional music of West Bengal, which is rich in human philosophy.

Example(iv) Sankirtana: Traditional Music of Manipur in the North East of India and also in the region of Assam and other places where Manipuris are settled.

Example(v) Chaar Bayt: Chaar Bayt is a four line sequence of verses sung to the beat of the "duff" (a percussion instrument). It is performed in states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Q4. What are the examples of Living Traditions in Dance?

Some examples of the living traditions in Dance:

Example (i) Cheraw dance from Mizoram is characterized by the use of bamboo staves which are kept in cross and horizontal forms on the ground. The common costumes worn by the female performers during the Cheraw dance include Thihna, Vakiria, Kawrchei and Puanchei. Expressions of Cheraw dance resemble the swaying of trees and the flying birds.

Example (ii) Rouf dance is one of the most popular traditional dances of Kashmir. This beautiful dance form graces all the festive occasions, especially Eid and Ramzan. This dance is performed as a welcoming dance for the spring season. The dance is clearly inspired by the bee and it is the lovemaking of the bee that is portrayed in the dance.

Example (iii) Chhau Dance, which has three distinct forms

- Seraikella Chhau of Jharkhand
- Mayurbhanj Chhau of Orissa
- Purulia Chhau of West Bengal

Example (iv) Kalbelia: Folk Dance from Rajasthan

Kalbelia Dance is an expression of the Kalbelia community's way of life as snake charmers.

Example (v) Lama Dances: Buddhist Monastic Dances from Sikkim

Lama dances are masked dances, performed by the Buddhist monks of Sikkim as part of their religious practices.

Q5. What areas of visual arts are included in Kala Utsav?

The areas of visual arts included in Kala Utsav are drawing and painting, sculpture and traditional crafts.

Q6. What is the eligibility criterion of participating in the Kala Utsav?

The eligibility criterion of participating in the Kala Utsav is students of classes 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th of any Government and Government-aided school.

Q7. How many participants can be there in the team of Visual Arts?

In the team of Visual Arts, the number of students can range from 4-6. This will be group participation and the team has to develop a piece of visual art in the state itself which will be displayed in Delhi as an entry from the state for the National level competition

Q8. How many participants can be there in the team of Music?

The minimum and maximum number of students (including those students who are accompanists) recommended in the team of Music can range from 6-10.

Q.9. How many participants can be there in the team of Dance?

The minimum and maximum number of students (including those students who are accompanists and working backstage) recommended in the team of Dance can range from 8-10.

Q10. How many participants can be there in the team of Theatre?

The minimum and maximum number of students (including those students who are accompanists and working backstage) recommended in the team of Theatre can range from 8-12.

Q11. What is "e-project"?

Online art project (e-project) is an important part of National Kala Utsav entries from States/UTs. The e-project is all about documenting/ recording facts of the selected art form by the participating students on one hand and recording of the process of their exploring, rehearsing and presenting that art form in Kala Utsav on other.

Q12. What should be included in the e-project?

Online art projects might include recording and documentation of different aspects of the selected art form, such as:

(i) Its history:

- origin,
- communities involved,
- special occasions,
- costumes,
- its relation with the environment, etc.

(ii) Documenting the facts (during their field visit to the community or from other sources):

- taking photographs,
- audios and videos of the community performing this art form
- content from the internet, newspaper, magazines, archives, libraries etc.
- interviews with artists/ artisans and the community involved

(iii) Documenting the process of practicing living traditions for Kala Utsav:

- taking selfies,
- photographs
- audios/videos of the rehearsals,
- self-interviews and interviews of the teachers / facilitators involved in the process,
- views of the team on how the particular living tradition can be encouraged further, etc.

(iv) Write-up: the complete summary of the selected art form by the team in 500 words.

Q13. Is the e-project a mandatory part of the National Kala Utsav entries?

Yes, the e-project is a mandatory part of National Kala Utsav. The e-project involves research on the selected topic and documentation of its different aspects. The e-project carries 30% weightage in a performance at the national level.

Q14. Who is going to judge the performance at National level Kala Utsav?

Performances at the National level in Kala Utsav would be judged as per the following:

- For every area of arts, there will be a separate jury consisting of three experts.
- The Jury members will be drawn from educators/ practitioners/scholars of the respective art forms.
- In every Jury (Theatre, Dance, Music and Visual Arts), it is advisable to have one expert having experience of working with Children with Special Needs (CWSN).
- Members of the jury will remain same for all the days of the event.

Q15. Where will the Kala Utsav be organized at the national level?

National Level Kala Utsav Competitions shall be held at National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi from 08.12.15 to 10.12.15. The best teams selected by the States / UTs for Kala Utsav only shall get the opportunity to perform here.

Award function of National Kala Utsav shall be held at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi on 11.12.15. The best performing teams (First, Second and Third) in Music, Dance, Theatre and Visual Arts at the National Level shall be awarded in this public function.

Public celebration of our Living Art Traditions from different regions shall be held at Central Park, Connaught Place (New Delhi) on 12.12.15, where the winning teams from different regions will showcase their artistic talent and cultural heritage before the general public.

Q16. What arrangements will be made for the participants for Kala Utsav to travel and stay at New Delhi?

The States will have to purchase tickets on their behalf for the participants for travelling purpose. This expense will be reimbursed by NCERT. Apart from this, accommodation and food expenses in Delhi will be made by NCERT. The states should send the expenses for the travel to NCERT as soon as the selection is made.

Q17. Who can be contacted regarding any queries of Kala Utsav?

The Department of Education in Arts and Aesthetics, NCERT, New Delhi can be contacted regarding any queries of Kala Utsav. The person in-charge of Kala Utsav is Prof. Pawan Sudhir, Head, Department of Education in Arts and Aesthetics, NCERT. In case of any queries, you may **contact:** Ms. Upasana Choudhury (Consultant) – 91-9811431572

Postal address:

Department of Education in Arts and Aesthetics
2nd Floor, G. B. Pant Khand (behind Library)
National Council of Educational Research & Training
New Delhi – 110016
Phone: 011-2611538

Q18. Who has authority to check e-projects before it is uploaded on the website?

The State Nodal Officer has been authorized to check e-projects before uploading. He/she should be responsible for uploading them for National Kala Utsav.

Q19. How long can a write-up be and what all it consists of?

The write-up has to be of 500 words, consisting of the description, process and background of the e-project. It should provide the basic information of the art form; the region it is being practiced in; whether it belongs to a community or not; how it is practiced; whether any special occasion is attached to it; and whether it is a living tradition or a dying art form.

Q20. In which language should the write-up be submitted?

The write-up should be submitted in only English or Hindi.

Q21. We are students. We are preparing theatre for Kala Utsav. Our theme is Ramleela. Since everyone knows about Ramleela and its history, do we still need to work on the e-project?

Yes, you still need to work on the e-project because it holds 30%weightage in the Kala Utsav. Also all this information will be a data base on art forms for the whole of India

Q22. In which language/dialect can a team perform?

The team can perform in their regional language or dialect.

Q23. What should be the language of the e-project?

The e-project must be only in English or Hindi.

Q24. Can we make a team of students from different schools at the national level for Kala Utsav?

Teams should be from one specific school as the prize money will go to respective school

Q25. Is it necessary that a team of participants perform a traditional dance? Can they also perform a contemporary dance?

Yes, it is necessary that a team of participants performs only traditional dance.

Q26. Can we add contemporary music in our music performance?

No, you cannot add contemporary music to your music performance.

Q27. Is it necessary that a team of participants gives a traditional theatre performance? Can they also perform contemporary theatre?

Yes, it is necessary for a team of participants to give a performance of traditional theatre.

Q.28 Will the award money of Rs. 5,00,000 each be given to teams that would come first in performances related to music, dance, theatre and visual arts?

The award money will be equally distributed for all areas of arts. Schools/districts that would come first in all art forms will be awarded Rs. 1,25,000. In a similar way, the second and third will be awarded Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 50,000 respectively at the school/district level, for all art forms.

Q29. Can a student of any school participate in theatre, music, dance and visual arts together?

The motive of this Utsav is participation of maximum children from each state and the limit is 40 which is a very small number compared to the massive population of children we have in our states. Hence to encourage maximum number of children from respective states each child will participate in only one area of art.