

PRESS RELEASE

During 2021-2022, Tamil Nadu Government has announced that a grand folk art festival will be organized every year with participation of a large number of artistes to showcase traditional folk art forms of Tamil Nadu. The folk art festival '**Namma Ooru Thiruvizha**' will be a grand display of folk art forms depicting the rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu and will be organized on 21-03-2022 at 6.00 p.m. at Island Ground.

'Namma Ooru Thiruvizha' will be jointly organized by Department of Art and Culture and Department of Tourism at Chennai by strictly following Covid-19 standard operating procedures. Elaborate arrangements are being made to organize '**Namma Ooru Thiruvizha**' on 21.03.2022 at 6.00 p.m. in Chennai Island Ground to bring together a range of Tamil folk art forms.

The programme will start with the Tamil Thai Vazhthu by the students of Chennai Government Music College. This will be followed by Mangala Isai by Anandan troupe, Kattai koothu by Thiruvannamalai Kumar troupe, Kombu Isai by Madurai Dakshinamoorthy troupe and Periya Melam by Thiruvannamalai Munusamy troupe.

Renowned drummer Sivamani with his troupe will bring together various traditional melams. He will present a musical treat along with Magudam troupe of Tenkasi Kannan, Ramamoorthy troupe. Thudumbu Melam troupe of Coimbatore Saminathan, Pambai melam troupe of Krishnagiri Manjunathan and Naiyandi melam troupe of Ramanathapuram Murugan.

In continuation of the above instrumental music performances, fascinating dance forms, art forms and adventure shows such as Thol paavai Koothu by Kanyakumari Muthu Chandran troupe, Silambattam by Master Mahendran and Salem Jayam Natarajan troupes, Puli attam by Kancheepuram Gopal and Thingal Arasan troupes, Kavadi attam by Coimbatore Chinna Nataraj-Periya Nataraj and Thiruvarur Surjit troupes, Marakal attam by Madurai Govindaraj troupe and Fire adventure show by Muthu Muniyandi troupe will enthrall the audience. Dancers from the Noise and Grains troupe will also join in these stunning performances.

Amman show by Thiruvannamalai Rajan troupe, Parai attam by Alanganallur Velu troupe, Karagattam, Kaalai attam, Mayil attam by Chennai Karthik troupe, Poikkal Kuthirai attam, Karagam, Mayil, Kaalai attam by Panneer Rajan and Thanjai Amala troupe, Thevar attam by Nellai Manikandan troupe, Saattai Kuchi attam by Dharmapuri Saakkan troupe, Jikkattam by Pollachi Mahendran troupe, Todar attam by Ooty Vasamalli troupe, Servai attam by Karur Chinnadurai troupe etc., will be a long line of elegant folk dance forms that will be performed. Famous Dance Choreographer Brinda Master has skillfully choreographed the dance performances of 'Namma Ooru Thiruvizha'.

In continuation of these scintillating dance performances, attractive vocal performances such as Gana Pattu by Gana Bala troupe, Themmangu Pattu by Velmurugan, Oppari Pattu by Thiruvannamalai Jayakumar troupe, Folk songs by Thanjavur Chinnaponnu Kumar troupe, Kidakkuzhi Mariamma troupe and Anthony Dasan and Bakhirisha pattu by Nagoor Abdul Gani troupe will entertain the audience.

The magnificent folk musical and folk dance festival will be performed by more than 400 artistes and anchored by Erode Mahesh and Toshila.

'Namma Ooru Thiruvizha' will proudly showcase the folk art forms of Tamil Nadu through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and YouTube. Promos about the mega event are being shown in the LED screens installed in prominent locations of the Greater Chennai Corporation area.

This event is a part of celebrations of 75th Independence Day - as 'Suthanthira Thirunaal Amutha Peruvizha', Tamil Nadu Government is also producing 75 videos depicting different folk art forms of Tamil Nadu. Some of these videos will be played during 'Namma Ooru Thiruvizha' and in mass and social media.

In the rapidly changing scientific and modern era, Tamil Nadu Government is making all possible efforts and initiatives to remind the Tamil community about the roots of Tamil folk art forms and culture, to introduce and popularize our ancient folk art and showcase folk artistes of Tamil Nadu.

The mega event symbolizes the pride of Tamil culture and will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archeology Mr.Thangam Thennarasu and Hon'ble Minister of Tourism Dr.M.Mathiventhan.

We very warmly invite the public and art lovers to gather in large number to witness and enjoy the folk art performances and encourage the artistes.

Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.