



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



सत्यमेव जयते
भारत का उच्चायोग, सुवा
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
SUVA, REPUBLIC OF FIJI

Incredible India

MINISTRY OF TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध आयोग
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक केंद्र, सुवा
INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
SUVA, REPUBLIC OF FIJI



OCTOBER 2017 - MARCH 2018

Namaste Pacifika

Festival of India

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Foreword

Namaste Pacifika Festival of India

India completed 70 years of freedom on 15 August 2017 and the ensuing year is being celebrated by the Government of India to mark India@70 through various cultural programmes, tourism promotion events, seminars, and conferences in India and abroad. It is in this context that we announce, with great pleasure and honour, 'Namaste Pacifika' – A Festival of India to be held in Fiji and six other important Pacific countries of concurrent jurisdiction of this High Commission, namely Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu from October 2017 to March 2018.

Namaste Pacifika is a celebration of the rich and diverse Indian culture in its full glory; its art, music, folklore and mythology. It is also a celebration of its people, linguistic heritage and its history. Through this Festival, it is our intention to touch upon all the major facets of Indian culture as Namaste Pacifika will feature renowned Indian artistes of various art forms from all over India. There will be Indian music, dance, drama, and a culinary fest. There will also be Yoga workshops and, Seminars and Conferences on subjects of historical and cultural importance. Over 50 events will be held with performance by close to 100 artistes spread over a period of six months.

This Festival is the outcome of collaboration among various organs of Government of India which have worked tirelessly for months in tandem to bring a Festival of such magnitude to reality. We are grateful to the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Indian Tourism Development Corporation, India Tourism in Sydney and Hindi Division, Ministry of External Affairs for their outstanding cooperation. Also, at this end, we gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and support of the Governments and local partners of Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu without whose wholehearted collaboration, this event could not have taken place.

We invite you all to join this carnival of Indian art, history and culture which has something for every taste. We convey our best wishes to all the visiting artistes, local technicians, collaborators and the teams working behind-the-scenes for a successful and fulfilling Namaste Pacifika.

Without further ado, let the show begin.



(Vishvas Sapkal)
High Commissioner



Sabri Brothers

Maestros of Qawwali & Bollywood Singers

The Festival opens with soulful performances by legendary Sufi singers – Sabri Brothers from India. Aftab Sabri and Hashim Sabri, who were taught music from the age of 10 years, today have become living legends in the world of Sufi music, Ghazal and Qawwali. They are equally famous in Bollywood with super hit songs in Tere Naam, Main Hoon Na and Once Upon a Time in Mumbai. They have worked with some of the most successful music personalities of Bollywood such as Himesh Reshamiya, Anu Malik, Sajid Wajid, Pritam, Vishal Shekhar, among others.

They bring festive mood, spiritual flavour and rich colours of India's Ganga–Jamuni Culture to their performance. The Sabri Brothers are known for making the audience sing along with them. The members of the group are geared to present a mix of Sufi and Bollywood music. After successfully touring America, Europe and Africa, the Brothers arrive at the beautiful shores of Fiji to spread the message of peace and harmony reflecting the essence of the Culture of India that is, **Unity in Diversity**.

FIJI:

23 – 30 OCTOBER 2017





Food Festival of India

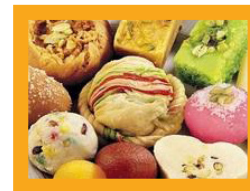
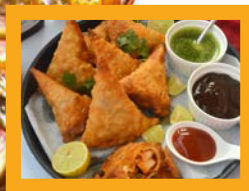
by **Five Star Master Chefs from India**

No Festival of India can be complete without the inclusion of Indian cuisine being part of it. Two Master Chefs from the leading Five-Star Hotel of India, "The Ashok Hotel" have been selected to showcase some of the choicest delicacies from the Indian Cuisine.

The High Commission of India has collaborated with some of the leading Hotels of Fiji for this Festival. The most iconic hotel of Fiji, the Grand Pacific Hotel will be hosting the Food Festival. Hotel Novotel will also be collaborating for this Festival which will be held on 26-30 October 2017 in Suva and will include events at Grand Pacific Hotel and Indian Cultural Centre.

FIJI:

26 – 30 OCTOBER 2017



Website: www.theashok.com

Meera Das

Versatile Classical Dance Group from India

While the fragrance of Sufi music from October will still be lingering in the air, Namaste Pacifica, in November, will bring the graceful and sublime dance movements of Meera Das – one of the most celebrated solo Odissi artistes of India. Meera Das is one of the most distinguished Odissi dancers of the present era, characterized by her unique Odissi recitals where poetry in motion, expressions are as lively as they can be, and the classical form retains its purity laced with her outstanding improvisations. The eminent artist is acclaimed for her grace, creativity and in-depth knowledge of this classical art.

She is also an eminent teacher and choreographer who is well-known for her balance of contemporary depictions and traditional values. Her finesse and expertise have led to performances in over 62 countries worldwide. Meera will travel also to Tonga, Vanuatu and Kiribati. This group will be a real treat to watch.

FIJI, TONGA, VANUATU & KIRIBATI:

1 – 12 NOVEMBER 2017



Jatayu Moksham

by Kalakshetra Foundation

Ramayana based Musical Dance Drama Group

After music and dance, comes the time for some spiritual and devotional atmosphere. Presenting another important aspect of not only Indian culture but also taking into account the fact that Ramayana is part and parcel of the religious and social life of Persons of Indian Origin in Fiji, Namaste Pacifica presents Jatayu Moksham by Kalakshetra Foundation. This Group has been specially chosen for Fiji as there are around 2000 active Ramayana Mandalis in Fiji. Kalakshetra, as the name suggests, is a centre for artistic endeavor, founded in 1936. Jatayu Moksham is a famous dance drama which belongs to the iconic six-part vintage Ramayana Collection choreographed by Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale. This group has performed in many countries. This dance drama depicts the turning event of Ramayana and shows the humane aspect of Ram's personality. It is a large group of 24 talented actors and actresses who will be visiting Fiji for the first time. They are widely recognized for their in-depth research, impeccable technique and refined aesthetics.

FIJI:

24 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER 2017



Website: www.kalakshetra.in

Yugpurush

*Drama depicting relationship between
Mahatma Gandhi & Shrimad Rajchandra*

Staying with the spiritual theme, November will see, Namaste Pacifica showcasing another aspect of Indian culture through confluence of both art and history through this award-winning theatrical masterpiece – a two-hour play which has completed over 900 shows in last 8 months in 230 cities across Asia, Europe & North America. YUGPURUSH is also scheduled for eight shows in Australia & one in New Zealand. YUGPURUSH depicts the relationship between Mahatma Gandhi & Shrimad Rajchandraji that laid the foundations of India's independence. Shrimad Rajchandraji was a great Indian philosopher, saint & poet whose 150th birth anniversary we are celebrating this year, and the organisation is named after Him. Gandhiji said that most of his lessons for self-improvement and on truth and non-violence, he has learnt from Shrimad Rajchandraji.

Yugpurush highlights the values of expanding one's capacity to love and give selflessly, respecting diversity, supporting truth, fostering trust, and building lasting communities. It brings to the forefront a powerful experience of looking within, upholding truth and fearlessness, as well as transforming character and consciousness. The legacies of Shrimadji and Gandhiji continue to offer new paradigms to global peace and human progress. The play is directed by acclaimed Director Rajesh Joshi of 'Code Mantra' fame, and scripted by well-known playwright Uttam Gada of 'Maharathi' fame. The music direction is by popular composer duo Sachin - Jigar.

FIJI:

29 & 30 NOVEMBER 2017

Website: www.yugpurush.org



Kuchipudi Dance

by **Dr. Yashoda Thakore Group**

Namaste Pacifica will welcome the new year 2018 with grace, beauty and a unique combination of dance moves with Yoga postures. This absolutely mesmerizing event will be accomplished by Ms. Yashoda Thakore, an acclaimed and accomplished Kuchipudi and Devadasi Nrityam artiste. She has a Doctoral degree in Yoga and Dance.

This would be a classical dance form Southern India, the form being called Kuchipudi. The name of the production is GuptaVasavadatta. This is the story of Upagupta, a disciple of Buddha and the dancer Vasavadatta. After being spurned by Upagupta, a distraught Vasavadatta falls from grace before she is redeemed by him, she undergoes an inner transformation and learns to appreciate herself for the magnificence that is within her. While the impermanence of material pleasures, the fallacies of vanity and the joy in freedom are themes of profundity that are ubiquitous in Indian literature, this story brings to fore the need for one to understand and appreciate ones' inner beauty and the essence of love. Thanks to the postures and body movements of this dance form, it is also helpful for yoga. Hence, a combination of Kuchipudi dance and yoga workshop is planned in this event.

FIJI & COOK ISLANDS:

11 - 18 JANUARY 2018



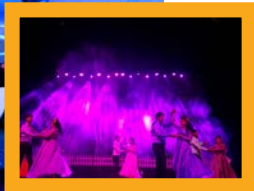
Website: www.yashodathakore.com

Bollywood Dance

Bollywood is a global brand. It transcends racial, ethnic and linguistic boundaries. Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan, Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra and other Indian stars are very popular world over and particularly in the Pacific region. Bollywood dance groups portraying best of dance and music of Bollywood are always in high demand here. Recently, ICCR-sponsored Bollywood Dance group, 'Taka Dimi Ta' has made a tremendous impact on audiences in Fiji and received phenomenal response from audiences in Tuvalu as well.

Almost all the Tuvaluans were present at the beach to attend the enthralling performance of this group and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Tuvalu hosted a special performance at his Residence as well. We are again inviting a Bollywood Dance group in January 2018 to perform in Fiji, Tuvalu and Nauru. In Nauru, the performance is even more special as it will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Nauru on 31 January 2018.

**FIJI, NAURU & TUVALU:
JANUARY 2018**



Aavishkar

Academy of Performing Arts
Folk Dance Group from Gujarat

While still relishing the taste of Southern India in our memory and Bollywood beats still reverberating in our ears, in February 2018, we move towards Western India with presentation of mesmerizing performances by a leading Folk dance and music group from Gujarat by AAVISHKAR, an academy of Performing Arts.

Aavishkar started with a mission to study various performing folk dance forms of Gujarat and India and later teach these dances to urban youth and bring awareness about India's rich cultural heritage. The group will be showcasing the richness, diversity, and vibrant colours of Gujarat to the audiences.

FIJI:

15 – 19 FEBRUARY 2018



Website: www.aavishkarfolkdances.org



International Hindi Conference

Language is one of the most important aspects of any culture. Therefore, a Festival of India is also a Festival of Hindi. Namaste Pacifica will, therefore, exhibit this important component of Indian culture through the first-ever International Hindi Conference in Fiji from 16-18 February 2018. This Conference will have the support of the Fijian Ministry of Education, University of South Pacific (USP), Fiji National University (FNU) and the University of Fiji (UniFiji).

A large number of scholars from India and various other countries, including a fair representation from neighbouring Australia and New Zealand are expected to participate in the Conference. The Conference will bring the latest technology of Hindi teaching, learning and writing to Fiji and is expected to connect the young generation of Fiji with Hindi. The scholars will discuss and explore the ways and means to sustain and promote Hindi in the country. Organizing such a Conference has been a dream of Hindi speakers of this country. This Conference is indeed the realization of that long-cherished dream. Hindi is the third official language of Fiji. The Conference will work towards nourishing this language in Fiji.

FIJI:

16 – 18 FEBRUARY 2018

Manipuri Dance

by **Smt. Bimbavati Devi Group**

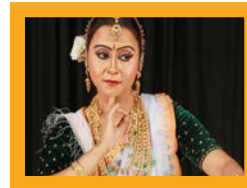


A Festival of India is like a mosaic of various jewels of different colours with each one representing a distinct character of its own. The diversity of Indian culture has always been its strength. The bouquet of artistes selected for this Festival reflects this diversity. Continuing with this trend, from the East of India, we present the Dance Form – Manipuri by one of its most renowned exponents Ms. Bimbavati Devi. Ms. Devi being the daughter of renowned classical Manipuri dancers & dance exponents, Guru Bipin Singh and Guru Kalavati Devi, was initiated into the world of dance and music at a very tender age. After successful tours in Europe, Americas, Asia and Australia, Ms. Bimbavati Devi now visits Fiji for the first time to introduce this dance form to audiences in Fiji. Manipuri dance is a unique dance style of India, based on mythological stories. Its aerobic dance movement and energy level captivate the audience. This dance form involved well-orchestrated body movements and high level of energy.

With the depiction of Radha Krishna stories, the group will be an excellent complement to the colours of Holi as the group's performance coincides with the Holi festival.

FIJI:

1 – 6 MARCH 2018



Website: http://manipurinartanalaya.org/manipurinartanalaya/Artistic_Director.html

Folk Band Aarug Group

by Anuj Sharma

Chhattisgarhi Folk Music & Dance Group

After travelling across India, Namaste Pacifica will conclude in heart of India with a popular folk band Aarug from Chattisgarh in Central India. This group led by a superhit Actor and Singer of Chattisgarh will present traditional Chhattisgarhi folk music. Aarug is a word from Chhattisgarhi language which means untouched, sacred, pure, virgin etc. Aarug is a musical bouquet from Chhattisgarh with presentation of a selective folk songs and music. These include some of the very popular songs which have entertained the people for many decades. A special feature of Aarug band is the presentation by solely using the traditional Chhattisgarhi musical instruments. With Fiji and the region's own very rich tradition of folk music and dance, the group will introduce this aspect of Indian culture for the first time.

FIJI:

15 – 19 MARCH 2018



Girmit Conference

Namaste Pacifica will be missing a very significant aspect of Indian culture and shared history with Fiji if it did not include an event on Girmit in its bouquet of presentations as a Festival of India. The High Commission of India will, therefore, be holding a National Seminar of Girmit in Fiji in March 2018 in collaboration with the Government of Fiji and various institutions and universities of Fiji. The celebration of the abolition of the indentured system of labour will be a major event for the next three years to discuss, reflect and to put things in the right perspective as we will be celebrating 100 years of abolition of this system in the year 2020. This will be the over-arching objective of this Seminar.

¹ 'Girmit' (corrupted version of 'agreement') is the most important historical link between India and those former British colonies where this system of Indentured Labour was prevalent between late 19th and early 20th Century. The ancestors of people of Indian Origin living in Fiji today, called 'Girmit' or 'Girmityas' were transported to Fiji by the British as Indentured Laborers from India by ships between 1879 and 1916. The transportation of labour halted in 1916 and the indentured labourer system was abolished in 1920. Duped by the dream of earning tons of money in Fiji, the Girmityas faced all kinds of tortures, brutalities, exploitation and despite this, made a significant contribution in the development of Fiji. Freedom fighters from India led by Gandhi Ji raised voice against these inhuman practices and great Indian leaders like Gopal Krishan Gokhale and Madan Mohan Malviya raised this issue in the Parliament of India which created a great movement and upsurge for abolition of the indentured system of labour. Gandhi Ji sent Dr. Manilal to organize Indians in Fiji against the prevailing system and C.F. Andrews to inquire and expose the exploitation of the system and the racism widely practiced in plantations in Fiji.

FIJI:
MARCH 2018



Summary Information



SABRI BROTHERS

Maestros of Qawwali & Bollywood Singers

FIJI: 23 – 30 October 2017



INDIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

by Five Star Master Chefs from India

FIJI: 25 – 30 October 2017



SMT. MEERA DAS (GUNJAN DANCE ACADEMY)

Versatile Classical Dance Group from India

FIJI, TONGA, VANUATU & KIRIBATI

1 – 12 November 2017



JATAYUMOKSHAM (KALAKSHETRA FOUNDATION)

Ramayana based Musical Dance Drama Group

FIJI: 24 November – 1 December 2017



YUGPURUSH

Drama depicting relationship between Mahatma Gandhi & Shrimad Rajchandra

FIJI: 29 & 30 November 2017



DR. YASHODA THAKORE GROUP

Kuchipudi Dance & Yoga Demonstration

FIJI & COOK ISLANDS: 11 – 18 January 2018



BOLLYWOOD DANCE GROUP

FIJI, NAURU & TUVALU: January 2018



AVISHKAR ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

Folk Dance Group from Gujarat

FIJI: 15 – 19 February 2018



INTERNATIONAL HINDI CONFERENCE

FIJI: 16 – 18 February 2018



SMT. BIMBAVATI DEVI GROUP

Manipuri Dance Group

FIJI: 1 – 6 March 2018



FOLK BAND AARUG GROUP BY ANUJ SHARMA

Chhattisgarhi Folk Music & Dance Group

FIJI: 15 – 19 March 2018



GIRMIT CONFERENCE

FIJI: March 2018

NAMASTE PACIFIKA: Festival of India

October 2017 to March 2018



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Tuvalu



Republic of Nauru