

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF PRACHEEN KALA KENDRA FOR THE YEAR 2024-2025

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Pracheen Kala Kendra, a distinguished autonomous institution registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, has been a prominent advocate for the promotion and preservation of Indian classical art and culture on a global scale since its inception in 1956. With a reputation for its innovative cultural initiatives, the Kendra has made significant strides in fostering multifaceted growth, revitalizing traditions, instilling self-confidence, and nurturing the vibrant creative spirit of Indian art and culture. These accomplishments are the result of years of dedicated and earnest efforts.

The year 2024 marked a period of notable progress across various cultural and artistic pursuits. Key achievements included the successful conduct of examinations, the delivery of comprehensive training programs, and the organization of cultural events featuring revered artists from the Indian classical music and dance traditions. These successes were made possible through the unwavering commitment of the Kendra's team, allowing the institution not only to maintain its leadership in the realm of art and culture but also to reinforce its dedication to advancing both Indian Classical and Visual Arts. The Kendra continues to remain steadfast in its mission to ensure that essential

cultural and aesthetic values endure and inspire future generations. A detailed report of the Kendra's activities for the year is as follows:

WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF CENTRES

Pracheen Kala Kendra boasts a global network of examination centers dedicated to the promotion of education in the fields of art and culture. With over 3,800 affiliated institutions across India and internationally, the Kendra has established a strong presence in countries such as the USA, UK, Canada, France, Singapore, Mauritius, UAE, Kuwait, South Africa, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Japan, and Australia, among others.

EXAMINATIONS

The examinations conducted by Pracheen Kala Kendra, including Prarambhi (Preliminary), Bhushan (Intermediate), Visharad (B.Mus.), and Bhaskar (M.Mus.), are widely recognized by various state governments, boards, and universities. As a testament to their growing credibility, 3,26,522 students appeared for these examinations during the 2023-2024 session.

TRAINING

EXEMPLARY TRAINING SESSIONS FOR GLOBAL STUDENTS

Pracheen Kala Kendra, renowned for its excellence in Indian classical music, dance,



and fine arts (painting), continues to inspire and nurture the younger generation's passion for traditional art forms through its centers in Chandigarh, Mohali, and New Delhi. Under the expert guidance of distinguished gurus, the Kendra ensures unparalleled training in these specialized disciplines, consistently upholding its commitment to excellence.

In addition to its domestic success, the Kendra is proud to be a recognized institution for providing foundational training to international students under the ICCR scholarship program. This year, students from across the globe participated in various music and dance courses, benefitting from the enriching and rigorous training led by some of the finest gurus in the field.

CULTURAL AND OTHER RELATED EVENTS ORGANISED BY PRACHEEN KALA KENDRA ALL OVER INDIA

MAJOR EVENTS

53rd ANNUAL ALL INDIA BHASKAR RAO NRITYA & SANGEET SAMMELAN, CHANDIGARH (15th to 24th Mar., 2024)

The 53rd edition of the prestigious "All India Bhaskar Rao Nritya & Sangeet Sammelan," one of India's foremost festivals celebrating Classical Music and Dance, was held from March 15th to March 24th, 2024, at the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh. This grand event encompasses the entire spectrum of Indian classical music and has earned immense reputation and popularity within the artistic community. It is regarded as one of

the most awaited cultural festivals, with artists from across the country eagerly aspiring to perform at this iconic event.

Each year, renowned artists from various parts of India participate in the Sammelan, which is organized with the sole purpose of promoting Indian Classical Arts for future generations. Notably, the event is offered free of charge, ensuring that the audience can enjoy world-class performances without any entry fee or tickets.

This mega event was woven with scintillating performances of prominent artists of repute from all over India, including Sh. Deepak Pandit (Violin), Sh. Amjad Ali Khan (Vocal), Vid. Kiran Sehgal & troupe (Odissi Dance), Kashyap Bandhus (Vocal), Vid. Amita Dalal (Sitar), Sh. Rajkumar Majumder (Sanotoor), Vid. Meenu Thakur & Group (Kuchipudi), Vid. Sujata Gurav Kumar (Vocal), Dr. Rajeeb Chakraborty (Sarod), Dr. Samit Mallick (Dhrupad), Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt & Pt. Salil Bhatt (Mohan Veena & Satvik Veena duet), Pt. Mohan Darekar (Vocal), Pt. Abhishek Mishra & Pt. Shubh Maharaj (Tabla Duet), Dr. K.A. Chanchal (Vocal), Pt. Kushal Das (Sitar), Vid. Shalmalee Joshi (Vocal), Pt. Ronu Majumder (Flute), Pt. Ritesh Rajnish Mishra (Vocal), Vid. Vidha Lal & troupe (Kathak). Their mesmerizing performances enthralled the audience across the Tri-City region, creating an unforgettable cultural experience.

In keeping with tradition, the Kendra honored three distinguished personalities on the concluding day of the festival. Prof.



Sayubhagya Vardhan, an eminent musician and scholar, was felicitated with the PKK Award of Excellence in Classical Music; Vidushi Suchitra Mitra, a renowned Bharatanatyam exponent, received the PKK Award of Excellence in Classical Dance; and Pt. Vijay Shankar Mishra, an eminent writer, musicologist, and cultural ambassador, was conferred the PKK Award of Excellence in Journalism.

19TH GURU M.L. KOSER AWARD CEREMONY (15th Oct., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra humbly pays tribute to the distinguished personalities in the world of art who have made exceptional contributions to the realm of classical art and culture. The Guru Madan Lal Koser Award is a unique recognition—an artist's tribute to another artist, honoring their talent and lifelong dedication. This prestigious award is named after Guru Madan Lal Koser, the founder of Pracheen Kala Kendra, a revered artist known for his creativity and selfless service in the promotion and preservation of Indian classical art and culture for future generations.

The 19th Annual Guru Madan Lal Koser Award, instituted by Pracheen Kala Kendra for excellence in the performing arts, was presented in a glittering ceremony at Tagore Theatre on 15th October 2024. The occasion was graced by the esteemed Padmabhushan and Grammy Award-winning maestro Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt, who conferred the awards on the renowned Tabla maestro Pt. Vinod Pathak and the virtuoso sitarist Pt.

Harvinder Sharma. Both were honored for their lifetime contributions to the popularization of Tabla and Sitar respectively, and to Indian classical music as a whole.

The awards, which carry a cash prize of Rs. 51,000 each, along with a shawl, citation, and memento, were presented in recognition of their remarkable contributions. The event was attended by the Governing Body of Pracheen Kala Kendra, including Sh. S.K. Monga (Chairman), Sh. Sajal Koser (Secretary), Smt. Shobha Koser (Registrar), and other distinguished members. The award ceremony was followed by captivating performances by the maestros themselves.

12TH GURU M.L. KOSER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DANCE (9th - 10th Nov., 2024)

In tribute to its esteemed Founder, Guru M.L. Koser, Pracheen Kala Kendra has been organizing the annual Guru M.L. Koser Festival of Music and Dance in New Delhi. Over the years, this festival has become one of the most celebrated cultural events in the capital. The 12th edition of the festival was held on 9th and 10th November 2024 at the Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi, showcasing the performances of distinguished artists from across the country.

The two-day event featured an array of spectacular performances. The festival opened with a soulful Santoor recital by Sh. Abhay Rustom Sopori, followed by a captivating vocal performance by Pt. Jayateerath Mevundi. The inaugural day



concluded with a mesmerizing Sarod recital by Pt. Tejendra Narayan Majumder. The second day began with a melodic sitar recital by Adnan Khan, followed by an enchanting Kathak performance by Madhumita Roy. The festival culminated with an exquisite Odissi dance performance by Meera Das and her troupe.

Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chairperson of the esteemed Sangeet Natak Akademi, an eminent scholar, academician, and artist par excellence, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. She praised the efforts of Pracheen Kala Kendra and commended the festival for its continued success in promoting and preserving the rich traditions of Indian classical music and dance.

48th ANNUAL CONVOCATION AT KOLKATA (21st Jan., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra held its 48th Annual Convocation on Sunday, January 21st, 2024, at Rathindra Mancha, Kolkata. The ceremony recognized the achievements of successful students from the Visharad and Bhaskar final sessions (2022-2023) hailing from the eastern region of India, including the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Jharkhand, Tripura, and other North-East states. These students were awarded diplomas for their excellence in music, dance, and fine arts (painting).

A total of 296,230 students appeared for various examinations during the 2022-2023 session, a significant increase compared to 204,592 students in the 2021-2022 session.

This growth reflects the Kendra's increasing prominence and solidifies its position as a leading institution in specialized education in these artistic fields.

The convocation was held in two sessions. Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor of Adamas University, a distinguished scholar, academician, and author, graciously agreed to be the Chief Guest for the first session and delivered the keynote address. Sh. Anup Matilal, Former Director & Joint Secretary of the Department of Information & Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal, was the Chief Guest for the second session.

In keeping with tradition, the Kendra not only conferred diplomas in Visharad and Bhaskar but also honored eminent personalities from various fields. After careful consideration, four distinguished individuals were selected for recognition due to their invaluable contributions in their respective disciplines.

- Smt. Haimanti Shukla, a prominent vocalist, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award, including a cash prize of ₹50,001, a shawl, a citation, and a scroll of honor.
- Sh. Kalyan Sen Barat, a renowned music composer, and Sh. Sanatan Dinda, a well-known painter, were each presented with a cash award of ₹20,001, a shawl, a citation, and a scroll of honor.
- Additionally, an award of ₹20,001, instituted in the name of Prodyot Bhadra for excellence in journalism, was presented to Sh. Swapan Mallick, an



eminent journalist.

This year's convocation celebrated the growth of the institution and its unwavering commitment to the promotion and recognition of Indian classical arts.

MONTHLY BAITHAKS

For the past twenty-five years, Pracheen Kala Kendra has consistently provided a platform for emerging and talented performers in music and dance through its monthly Baithaks, held on the 11th of every month. These events, now renowned worldwide, have become highly sought-after, with many artists aspiring to perform on this esteemed stage.

In 2024, the Kendra proudly celebrated the silver jubilee of its uninterrupted monthly Baithaks, which have been organized for the past 25 years at the ML Koser Auditorium. These Baithaks serve as a significant platform not only for young and promising artists but also for seasoned performers. This year, Kendra organized Monthly Baithaks from the 294th to the 304th session. Some of the distinguished artists who showcased their talent during these sessions included:

- Renuka Gambhir (Sitar)
- Sh. Vijay Chandra (Synthesizer)
- Shubham Sarkar (Violin)
- Bipul Roy (Santoor)
- Gautam Pal (Tabla)
- Gunjan Channa (Vocal)
- Sree Bandyopadhyay (Kathak)
- Debsagar Malik (Santoor)

- Babar Latif (Tabla)
- Vani Rao (Vocal)
- Soumen Bhattacharjee (Sitar)
- Priyank Krishna (Saxophone)
- Kalyan Mukherjee (Sarod)
- Dr. Shrabani Biswas (Sitar)

These performances, along with numerous others from both established and emerging artists, contributed to the Kendra's ongoing efforts to nurture and promote talent.

In addition to the regular monthly Baithaks, the Kendra has also organized several special cultural programs to commemorate various important events. These initiatives reflect the Kendra's steadfast commitment to becoming an institution of cultural excellence, continually striving to enrich the artistic landscape.

QUARTERLY BAITHAKS AT NEW DELHI

Since 2015, Pracheen Kala Kendra has been regularly organizing its quarterly Baithaks in New Delhi under the series "Legends of Tomorrow". Over the years, these quarterly Baithaks have gained tremendous popularity among music lovers and artists in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. They have become a highly anticipated event and have received significant media attention and coverage.

This year, the quarterly Baithaks featured an impressive lineup of both emerging talents and renowned exponents of performing arts.



Artists who left a lasting impression with their remarkable performances included:

- Nirali Kartik (Vocal)
- Prakriti and Sanskriti Wahane (Sitar & Santoor duet)
- Anooratan Raai (Vocal)
- Amitva Sen (Sitar)
- Shrabani Mitra & troupe (Odissi Dance)
- Suhel Saeed (Sitar)
- Sudip Chattopadhyay (Flute)
- Arti Shrivastava (Kathak)

These talented performers mesmerized the audience, casting a magical spell with their captivating artistry, and further cemented the growing success of the Kendra's quarterly Baithaks in Delhi.

QUARTERLY BAITHAKS AT KOLKATA

In its continued effort to promote Indian classical arts at the cultural heart of India, Pracheen Kala Kendra launched its Bengal Chapter's quarterly Baithaks in Kolkata in 2023.

The second quarterly Baithak was held on 17th August 2023 at Birendra Mancha, featuring distinguished performances by Acharya Sanjay Chakraborty (Vocal), Sujata Nayak (Odissi Dance), and Paramita Maitra (Kathak Dance). The third quarterly Baithak took place on 29th November 2023 at Vidyasagar Mancha, Barasat, where a variety of performances were presented by affiliated center holders of the Kendra from West Bengal. Notable performances included those

by Tushar Dutta (Vocal), Chandana Chakraborty (C.No. 1792), Manab Das (C.No. 1972), Abhijit Sengupta (C.No. 593), Rajdeep Deb (C.No. 1972), Patha Sarathi Debnath (C.No. P1263), and Aparna Chakraborty (C.No. 1982).

Additionally, the Kendra took the opportunity to honor some of its senior and long-standing center holders, including Sh. Pradip Majumder (C.No. 1843) and Sh. Naresh Ghoshal (C.No. 1473), in recognition of their contributions to the institution and the promotion of Indian classical arts.

GURMAT SANGEET BAITHAKS

Pracheen Kala Kendra, in collaboration with the Gurmat Sangeet Society Chandigarh, organized the 12th All India Shabad Singing Competition on 13th December 2024 at Guru Teg Bahadur Gurudwara, Sector 34, Chandigarh. The event showcased nearly 300 young Gurmat Sangeet students (Kirtankars) from various cities across Punjab, who presented melodious Shabad Kirtan in accordance with the ancient maryada (tradition) of Gurmat Sangeet.

The program was conducted by Mr. Malkit Singh Jandiala, Head of the Department of Gurmat Sangeet at Pracheen Kala Kendra.

During the event, several distinguished personalities were honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for their exceptional contributions to their respective fields. The recipients included Dr. Jagir Singh (renowned Kirtan singer), Ustad Sukhwant Singh (Chairman, Baba Sucha Singh



GurmatSangeet Academy), Jathedar Sukhwinder Singh (Chairman, Khalsa Heritage, Jalandhar), Shri Amardeep Singh (well-known writer and scholar), and Shri Harjeet Singh Sabarwal (Head, Tera Hi Tera Mission).

The competition was judged by a panel of esteemed figures in the Gurmat Sangeet community, including Ustad Sukhwant Singh, Ustad Satinder Singh Bodal, Ustad Bhupinder Singh, Prof. Simranjit Kaur, Ustad Kale Ram, UstadSurjit Singh, and Prof. Gursevak Singh.

PARAMPARA SERIES

The Parampara monthly series is organized by Pracheen Kala Kendra to provide a platform for stage exposure to all students across various departments of the Kendra. This initiative aims to boost the confidence of the students and supports their overall development. Throughout the year, Kendra organized numerous episodes of Parampara, featuring talented students from the fields of Music, Dance, and Fine Arts (Painting), offering them the opportunity to showcase their skills and gain valuable performance experience.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME IN VARIOUS STATES

Special Music Program "Spandan" at Chennai (13th Apr., 2024)

In line with its commitment to promoting Indian classical music, Pracheen Kala Kendra organized a special music program titled "Spandan" at the Raga Sudha Hall

Auditorium, Chennai, marking the inauguration of the Kendra's new chapter in the city.

The program featured a captivating vocal recital by the eminent vocalist Iman Das, accompanied by Pt. DevendraVerma on harmonium and Pt. Keshav Joshi on tabla. The event also included a unique jugalbandi concert, which showcased the musical talents of Dr. M. Narmadha (violin), Pt. Chetan Joshi (Flute), Vid Mannarkoil Balaji (Mridangam), and Sh. Chandrajit (Tabla).

The event was met with great enthusiasm and was a tremendous success, leaving the audience deeply impressed by the stellar performances.

Special Program of Music and Dance titled "Nrityam" at Jaipur (29th & 30th Apr., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra, in collaboration with the Aggarwal Educational & Welfare Society and the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Rajasthan, organized a special Nrityam Dance and Music Festival on 29th and 30th April 2024 at Rangayan, Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, to celebrate World Dance Day.

The two-day event featured remarkable performances by eminent artists such as Sh. Kaushal Kant Panwar, Dr. Swati Agarwal, Dr. Shobha Koser, and Pt. Kavilya Kumar Gurav, captivating the audience with their exceptional musical and dance artistry. The festival was a resounding success, showcasing the richness of Indian classical arts.



THREE-DAY KATHAK MAHOTSAV AT NEW DELHI (6th - 8th May, 2024)

A special three-day cultural event was organized under the joint aegis of Pracheen Kala Kendra and the Guru Kundan Lal Gangani Foundation (KLGF) in memory of Guru Maa Kamla Devi Ganganiji. The event took place at the Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi, and was inaugurated by Sh. Pardeep Mishra Sarkar, Chairman, MSMe PCL, who graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Present at the event were Sh. Sajal Koser (Secretary, Pracheen Kala Kendra), Dr. Shobha Koser (Registrar, Pracheen Kala Kendra), Dr. Samria Koser (Deputy Registrar, Pracheen Kala Kendra), and Sh. Rajendra Gangani (Founder, KLGF), alongside numerous esteemed artists from the art world based in New Delhi.

The inaugural day of the Kathak Mahotsav featured performances by Nayanika Gangani, Deepti Gupta, Bhawani Gangani, Guru Vinayak Panda & Troupe, and Sanjeet Gangani. The festival concluded with spellbinding performances by Unnati Sharma, Lakshya Panwar, Swati Sinha, Dharendra Tiwari, Guru Deepti Omcheri Bhalla, and Guru Prerna Shrimali, leaving the audience mesmerized.

The event's success was reflected in the jam-packed auditorium on both days, serving as a testament to the immense popularity and impact of the Kathak Mahotsav.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF MUSIC AND DANCE TITLED “ANANTYA” AT KOLKATA (6th & 7th Jul., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra, in collaboration with ICCR Kolkata, Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, and its affiliated center Divine Inspiration in Kolkata, organized a spectacular Music and Dance Program at the Satyajit Ray Auditorium, ICCR, Kolkata.

This grand event featured a stellar lineup of eminent artists, including Kaberi Sen (Odissi Dance), Poushali Chatterjee (Manipuri Dance), Sandip Mullick (Kathak), Shankar Narayana Swami (Laya Vinyas), Shiraz Ali Khan (Sarod), Sandeep Bhattacharya (Vocal), Rahul Dev (Kathak), Debasmita Mukherjee (Kathak), and the Guitar Duet by Debashish Bhattacharya & Suryadeep Bhattacharya. These distinguished artists from West Bengal showcased their talent in this memorable event, making it a resounding success.

40TH PT. MANMOHAN BHATT MEMORIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL AND AWARD CEREMONY AT JAIPUR (25th & 26th Jul., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra, in collaboration with Hotel Clarks Amer and Sangeet Kala Niketan, Jaipur, organized the 40th Pt. Manmohan Bhatt Memorial Music Festival and Award Ceremony on 25th and 26th July at the Swarn Mahal Auditorium, Hotel Clarks Amer.

The two-day event featured a remarkable lineup of artists, including Sh. Ashok Jamnani (Poet), Shiva Vyas (Sitar), Rajendra Prasanna (Flute), Ritesh Prasanna (Flute), Dr. Samira



Koser (Kathak), Vid. Amita Dalal (Sitar), Prashant & Nishant Mallick (Dhrupad), Pt. Tarun Bhattacharya (Santoor), and Deepak Pandit (Violin). The festival was a grand success, bringing together renowned musicians and artists to honor the memory of Pt. Manmohan Bhatt and celebrate Indian classical music.

A SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF MUSIC “GURUSHREE SANGEET SAMAROH” AT 24 PARGANAS (18th Aug., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra organized a special program titled "Gurushree Sangeet Samaroh" on 18th August at Lok Sanskriti Bhawan, Halisahar, Kolkata, to pay a heartfelt tribute to its esteemed Founder, Guru M.L. Koser. The event featured a captivating performance by Pt. Debashish Bhattacharya on Slide Guitar and Sh. Rupak Bhattacharya on Tabla, alongside performances by numerous affiliated centre holders of the Kendra. The evening was a beautiful homage to the legacy of Guru M.L. Koser, showcasing the rich tradition of Indian classical music.

THREE DAY KATHAK WORKSHOP AT JAMSHEDPUR (30th Sept., to 2nd Oct., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra, in collaboration with its affiliated center Kala Udyan, Jamshedpur, organized a three-day Kathak workshop from 30th September to 2nd October. The workshop was conducted by the renowned Kathak exponent Dr. Samira Koser, who expertly demonstrated the intricate nuances and techniques of Kathak to the students. The

event was a great learning experience for all participants, culminating in a certificate distribution ceremony, where students were awarded certificates in recognition of their participation and dedication to the workshop.

60TH NINAND FESTIVAL, AGRA (9th & 10th Nov., 2024)

Sangeet Kala Kendra Agra, Pt. Raghunath Talegaonkar Foundation Trust in collaboration with Pracheen Kala Kendra organized 60th edition of Ninaad Festival on 9th & 10th November 2024 at Hillman Public School, Vivekanandapuram Sikandara, Agra. The eminent musicians and performers were Pt. Ajay Shankar Prasanna (Flute), Manreet Kaur (Violin), Dr. Santosh Namdev (Pakhawaj), Pt. Devashish Chakraborty and Devditya Chakraborty (Guitar and Sitar duet) Brijeshwar Mukherjee (Vocal), Anuj Mishra and Neha Singh (Kathak duet). This mega event got overall success.

1st DELHI HARMONIUM FESTIVAL (16th & 17th Nov., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra hosted a ground-breaking festival dedicated to the harmonium for the first time in the capital at the Triveni Kala Sangam Auditorium on 16th and 17th November. This unique event marked a significant milestone in the field of Indian classical arts, as no other festival exclusively focused on the harmonium had ever been organized in Delhi before. The festival was curated by the eminent musician and scholar Pt. Devendra Verma.



The two-day event featured captivating performances by renowned artists, including Pt. Rajendra Banerjee, Pt. Pravin Vivek Kashlikar, Dr. Sudhanshu Kulkarni & Sh. Sarang Kulkarni, Pt. Ravinder Gururaj Katoti, Pt. Sudhir Nayak, and Prof. Sharangdhar Sathe. Each artist mesmerized the audience with their exceptional skill, leaving a lasting impression and further elevating the importance of the harmonium in Indian classical music.

A SPECIAL PROGRAM OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC AND DANCE, AT KHARAGPUR (1st Dec. 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra, in collaboration with its affiliated center Sur Bahar Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Kharagpur, organized a captivating cultural evening of Indian Classical Music and Dance at the Rabindra Institute, Golebazar, Kharagpur, on 1st December 2024. The event was honored by the presence of Smt. Debashree Sanyal, IPS, Superintendent of Police, GRP Kharagpur Division, as the Chief Guest. Sh. Kalyani Ghosh, Chairperson of the Kharagpur Municipality, was the Special Guest, and Sh. Angshu Pratim Pal, journalist with Sangbad Pratidin, attended as the Guest of Honor.

The evening featured mesmerizing performances by renowned artists such as Dr. Samira Koser (Kathak), Sohini Roy Chowdhury (Vocal), and Pt. Ranajit Sengupta (Sarod), who left the audience in awe with their exceptional artistry.

A SPECIAL PROGRAMME BASANTOTSAV AT RANCHI (22nd & 23rd Feb., 2025)

Pracheen Kala Kendra organized a special music and dance program in Ranchi, in collaboration with its long-standing affiliated center, Jawahar Vidya Mandir & Jawaharlal Kala Kendra, Ranchi. The event took place on 22nd and 23rd February at the JVM Auditorium, Shyamalai, Ranchi, Mecon Colony.

The program featured performances by several eminent artists, including Vidushi Lily Mukherjee and Priyanka Mitra (Vocal), Sumedha Sengupta (Odissi Dance), Nabamita Choudhary (Kathak Dance), Rathin Mukherjee (Vocal), Subrata De (Sitar), and Nibedita Bhattacharjee (Vocal). Additionally, students from various affiliated centers of PKK also had the opportunity to showcase their talent during this vibrant cultural celebration.

A SPECIAL PROGRAMME BASANTOTSAV AT PATNA, BIHAR (7th & 8th Mar., 2025)

Pracheen Kala Kendra in collaboration with Department of Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar organized a special musical program Basantotsav at Hari Uppal Auditorium, Bharatiya Nritya Kala Mandir, Patna, Bihar. In this program, many renowned artists like eminent vocalist Rageshri Das from Kolkata and Banaras Gharana tabla exponents Pandit Abhishek Mishra and Pt. Shubh Maharaj , classical



vocalist Shobha Chaudhary from Indore and famous Sarod exponent Reeta Das from Patna enthralled the art lovers with their remarkable performances. The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest Sh. Motilal Prasad, Honble Minister of Art and Culture and Youth Department of Bihar Government. Secretary of the Kendra, Shri Sajal Koser honored the Chief Guest with memento and Uttariya.

A SPECIAL PROGRAMME ANTARNAAD AT VADODARA, GUJRAT (21st & 22nd Mar., 2025)

Pracheen Kala Kendra joined hands with esteemed Maharaj Siyaji Rao University, Baroda to organize a two day cultural evening "Antarnaad" at University complex. In this programme many eminent artists performed from all over India like Dr. Yash Devle (Vocal), Dr. Devendra Verma Brajrang (Harmonium), Sh. Dwij Gandharv (Tabla) Sh Milan Dodia, Sh. Azam Ali Khan & Sh. Manoj Solanke (Tabla /Pakhawaj Trio), Vidushi Tripti Gupta (Kathak Dance), Sh. Sameer Bhalerao (Vocal) and Sh. Divyansh Harshit Shrivastava (Santoor), Dr. Rahul Swarnkar (Tabla), Utsav Gopal Shrivastava (Tabla). Prof. Gaurang Bhavsar, Dean, Faculty of Performing Arts, MSU and Secretary of Pracheen Kala Kendra Sh. Sajal Koser were also present on this occasion.

A SPECIAL PROGRAMME NAAD RANG SUR TAAL SANG AT SAGAR (24 & 25th March)

Pracheen Kala Kendra collaborated with esteemed Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar to organize a two day cultural evening NAAD RANG SUR TAAL SANG at University complex. In this programme many eminent

artists performed from all over India like Sh. Vishal Moghe (Vocal), Sh. Deepak Das Mahant (Tabla), Pt. Kailash Patra (Violin), Sh. Manoj Solanke (Pakhawaj Solo), Dr. Avinash Kumar (Vocal) and Sh. Divyansh Harshit Shrivastava (Santoor). Pt. Devendra Verma (Eminent Musicologist) - Convener and Secretary of Pracheen Kala Kendra Sh. Sajal Koser were also present on this occasion.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES AT CHANDIGARH

A Special Program of Flute Recital by Pt. Santosh Sant (21st Apr., 2024)

On 21st April, the music lovers of the city were treated to a mesmerizing flute recital by Pandit Santosh Sant, a disciple of the living legend Padmavibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, at the M. L. Koser Indoor Auditorium. The performance was beautifully complemented by the skillful Tabla accompaniment of Sh. Pranshu Chaturlal, adding depth and rhythm to the evening's enchanting melodies.

Special Program of Tabla Recital by Young Artists (27th Apr., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra organized a special Tabla solo recital at the M.L. Koser Indoor Auditorium on 27th April. The event aimed to preserve the rich Tabla repertoire of the Punjab Gharana while promoting and showcasing young talent. The recital featured two promising disciples of SNA Awardee Pandit Sushil Jain from the Punjab Gharana: Swarit Panchal from Pune and Raghav Priyaye Bhardwaj from Amritsar. Their performances were met with wide appreciation from the audience for their exceptional skill and artistry.



Special Program to Mark International World Dance Day by the Students of the Kendra (29th Apr., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra organized a memorable musical evening, featuring exquisite dance performances, in loving tribute to Guru Kanhiya Lalji, a Kathak master par excellence, on the occasion of World Dance Day. The event took place at the M.L. Koser Indoor Auditorium, where Kendra's students, who are learning the intricate art of Kathak under the Guru-ShishyaParampara, showcased their talent.

The program was presented under the guidance of the Kendra's esteemed dance faculty—Guru Brij Mohan Gangani, Guru Yogesh Sharma, and Mrs. Rakhi. A total of 20 talented students participated in this cultural evening, captivating the audience with their skillful performances.

A Special Programme To Mark 94th Birth Anniversary Of Kendra's Founder Guru M.L. Koser (20th Jun., 2024)

To mark the special occasion of 94th birth anniversary of its founder Late Shri M.L. Koser, a special evening of sufi music was organized by Pracheen Kala Kendra in the ML Koser Indoor Auditorium at its sector 35 complex. Mr. ML Koser a man with a vision, created a comprehensive cultural institution Pracheen Kala Kendra, which is not only a temple for Indian classical arts and artists but so also promoting, preserving and disseminating Indian Classical Arts since last seven decades. To give humble tribute to

Guru ML Koser on his 94th birth anniversary, Kendra organized this event. Young and talented Amritsar based sufi singer Manish Kabir presented a well knit programme studded with beautiful ghazals and sufi music.

Special Program “Indrashanush Ke Rang Janambhoomi Ke Sang” (21st Aug., 2024)

A special dance evening, Indrashanush Ke Rang Janambhoomi Ke Sang, was organized at the Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh, under the joint aegis of Pracheen Kala Kendra and SanskarBharti Chandigarh. The event featured captivating dance performances by young and talented students, ranging in age from 8 to 55, who have been undergoing intensive training at Pracheen Kala Kendra under the Guru-ShishyaParampara.

The dance ballet was conceptualized, choreographed, and directed by Dr. Samira Koser. The audience was thoroughly enthralled by the various Kathak performances, which showcased the dedication and artistry of the performers. Additionally, foreign students, who are receiving training under the Guru-ShishyaParampara through the ICCR Scholarship program at the Kendra, also participated in the event.

Sh. Sanjay Tandon, Member of the BJP National Executive and Incharge of BJP, Himachal Pradesh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Sh. Lavish Chawla, Mahamantri of Sanskar Bharti, Punjab, was the Guest of Honor. The event was also attended by



Kendra Secretary Sh. Sajal Koser and Registrar Dr. Shobha Koser. From SanskarBharti, senior officials including Prof. SaubhagyaVardhan, Sh. Yashpal Sharma (Chairman), and Sh. Manoj Kumar (Secretary) were present.

Kanha Bhakti Ras (On the Auspicious Occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami) (24th Aug., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra organized a special program to celebrate Shri Krishna Janmashtami, featuring renowned singer Mrs. Sunita Dua Sehgal from Ambala. The event, held at the M.L. Koser Auditorium, was a melodic evening filled with soulful bhajans dedicated to Lord Krishna. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance, immersing themselves in the devotional atmosphere created by the beautiful renditions.

Special Program to Mark Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations (2nd Oct., 2024)

Pracheen Kala Kendra organized a special musical evening to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti at its M.L. Koser Auditorium. The event featured Chandigarh-based singer Rajinder Sagar, who presented a soulful Bhajan Sandhya. He enthralled the audience with some of Mahatma Gandhi's favorite bhajans, creating a deeply reflective and harmonious atmosphere in honor of the occasion.

Five-Day “SanskarBharti Kala Utsav” (20th to 24th Nov., 2024)

SanskarBharti, North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh, SangeetNatakAkademi, and Chandigarh Lalit Kala Academy jointly organized the five-day SanskarBharti Kala Utsav from November 20th to 24th, 2024, at the Tagore Theatre. The event showcased a vibrant mix of art forms, including poetry, music, classical dance, folk dance, drama, and painting. Renowned artists of national repute performed during this grand festival, captivating the audience with their exceptional talent and artistry.

Three-Day Music and Dance Festival “Hemantotsav” Celebrating the Onset of Winter (27th to 29th Dec., 2024)

To mark the arrival of winter, Pracheen Kala Kendra organized a three-day music and dance festival, Hemantotsav, from December 27th to 29th, 2024, at its M.L. Koser Indoor Auditorium. The festival featured captivating performances by renowned artists such as Ankita Joshi (Vocal), Pt. Manu Kumar Seen (Sitar), and Smt. SonalShivkumar (Vocal), who mesmerized the audience with their unforgettable renditions. The event was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on the city's cultural landscape.

BOOK LAUNCH CEREMONY (8th Feb., 2025)

Pracheen Kala Kendra launched the book *The Maestros I Met*, written by senior journalist S.D. Sharma, offering an insightful account of his interviews with some of the greatest icons of Indian art and culture. The event took place



at the M.L. Koser Indoor Auditorium, Sector-35/B, Chandigarh. Sh. M.L. Koser, the Founder of PKK, had a close association with Shri S.D. Sharma, whose lifelong contributions have significantly enriched Indian art and culture.

Prof. Arun Grover, former Vice Chancellor of Panjab University, Chandigarh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Harish K. Puri, renowned political scientist and historian, and Guru Dr. Shobha Koser, celebrated Kathak maestro and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee, were the Guests of Honor. Sh. Sajal Koser, Secretary of Pracheen Kala Kendra, inaugurated the ceremony with words of gratitude, and Sh. Bhupinder Singh Mallick served as the emcee for the event.

The ceremony featured insightful reflections from Dr. S.S. Bhatti, eminent architect, Sh. Sanjay Versain, senior journalist and editor of The Times of India, Sh. Neeraj Raizada, and Sh. N.S. Minhas. The book, The Maestros I Met, shares conversations and experiences of S.D. Sharma with eminent personalities from various fields. It is a journey through the lives of India's cultural legends, as he reveals personal anecdotes, in-depth studies, challenges, and triumphs of these renowned figures.

PUBLIC CHARITABLE AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES

During the last year the Kendra undertook a number of public welfare and charitable activities. The Kendra took special interest in the well being of the education, training,

recreation and all-round growth of slum children who comprise a vast section of society. The Kendra lays special emphasis on the training and education of handicapped children also who have been physically and psychologically assisted by the Kendra from time to time. A lot of relief and recreation go into their well being. It has made a distinct difference to the quality of their lives. Kendra also gives considerable donations as education grant and medical aid to its centre holders and employees children. Kendra is a regular donor to WWF, CRY, Child care, Scawin India, Child Dreams Social Foundation, India HIV /AIDS Alliance, Impact Arts, Action & Association, Magic Bus India Foundation, Sense International India, Sesame Workshop India Trust etc.

Special scholarships are reserved for underprivileged and differently-abled children, providing them with free training in music, dance, and other allied arts. This initiative aims to empower these children and help them thrive in society. Organizing programs and conferences that feature the participation of these children is one of the Kendra's key activities.

From above facts, there is no iota of doubt that Pracheen Kala Kendra, as one of the foremost cultural organization is working at National and International level as an institution of National Importance and Eminence in the field of music, dance and fine arts (Painting) in India.

