

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development**

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15-November-2016 19:00 IST

**Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurates Kala Utsav 2016**

**Kala Utsav is a celebration of Art and Cultural Diversity promoting National Integration**

With an inspiring address at the inaugural function the Human Resource Development Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar set the tone for the four day Kala Utsav 2016 in Sangam Auditorium in the DG NCC Camp, Delhi today.

In his first address he extended a hearty welcome to the student participants who had come from every nook and corner of the country to compete in the Kala Utsav. He said they have come here not as students but as artists.

He congratulated students and parents of Jammu & Kashmir for their resounding response to the board exams. This is India's befitting reply to separatism and those who indulged in burning schools. People of J&K understand the importance of 'Taleem' and want peace & prosperity and, therefore, with strong resolve and action they have shown the way.

Shri Javadekar said if children attend school and get education, the country will move forward and will emerge stronger.

Shri Javadekar said that students have come at the national level competition after coming out successful at the district and State levels. This in itself was a prize for the individuals and the teams, he said. At the end, the very talented jury would dispassionately judge the performance of each team and adjudge the best out of the best teams of students. He particularly welcomed the 'Divyang' children to the competition and highlighted their special abilities.

He said that every child is born with some or the other talent and artistic propensity. However, Education gives an impetus to fructify their artistic propensities.

Shri Javadekar said diversity gives an identity to the people and here lies the strength of the nation because our sentiments and emotions are one. Interests of the nation are uppermost in our heart. He also spoke about the importance of online projects which will help document the arts for posterity.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion Minister of State for HRD Shri Upendra Kushwaha appreciated the efforts of the present government to provide an opportunity to all the students in the country to exhibit their talent in the sphere of dance, song, theatre and visual arts at the national level. The tradition of arts is very rich in India and he was sure that with the present efforts it will get a further boost to prosper.

Shri Kushwaha said despite diversity in language, way of life and attire the country stands culturally united. Kala Utsav is an important instrument to revive and preserve the artistic traditions in various fields which are getting eclipsed in the country.

Director NCERT Prof. Hrushikesh Senapati thanked the HRD Ministry to provide NCERT the opportunity to play its role in organising the Kala Utsav 2016. He expressed happiness that the Kala Utsav has ignited a spirit among students from all over the country to come out with their very best in respective fields. He said he was happy to say that participation in the Utsav this year is 300 more than last year. This year the number of participants is 1780 out of which 1423 are students and rest are teachers/escorts. Out of these 134 students are differently abled. He said the event is the manifestation of the fact that the country continues to believe in the age-old belief in Vasudev Kutumbkam.

The Hon'ble Chief guest also released a collection of CDs containing the award winning performances of the Kalautsav competition held last year.

Joint Secretary School Education, MHRD Shri Maneesh Garg thanked the HRD Minister, MoS HRD and all others for making the programme a grand success with their presence.

After the programme, Shri Javadekar mingled with the participants and gave them an opportunity to take selfies with him.

At the end, Shri Javadekar visited the Kalpataru Hall where he evinced keen interest in the visual arts exhibits displayed by participating students of each State. He particularly appreciated the creations by differently-abled students of Bihar. He spoke to them and also got himself photographed with them.

The competitions in all four segments of art forms got going after the inaugural and will continue over the next 3 days with the closing ceremony and prize distribution scheduled for 18th November at Siri Fort Auditorium.

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