

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
SHANGHAI**

PRESS RELEASE

Celebration of Diwali in Shanghai- Diwali Mela 2023

The Consulate General of India celebrated Diwali in a grand manner on Saturday, 11th November 2023. Consul General Dr N Nandakumar inaugurated the Diwali Mela by lighting the lamp and extended his best wishes to the Indian community on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.



The Mela consisted of cultural performances by professional artists and diaspora members showcasing India's rich tradition in dance and music, specially curated pavilions showcasing Indian Handicrafts, Millets (Shree Anna), Ayurveda, traditional attires and Yoga and food stalls including a novel Street Food stall to enable those present to get a taste of authentic Indian cuisine including the famous street food.

To showcase India's heritage and achievements, cutouts of prominent monuments and achievements were erected which included the Konark Wheel, Mahabodhi Temple, Statue of Unity (the tallest statue in the world), Chandrayaan-3 launch vehicle and the Red Fort.



The handicrafts pavilion showcased Kashmiri carpets, scarves and other colourful items of use and home décor.



On the other hand, the AYUSH pavilion showcased different varieties of millets with informative posters on their nutritional value and benefits.



The Ayurveda corner which was part of the AYUSH pavilion showcased information on various healing techniques prescribed in Ayurveda alongwith display of many daily use ingredients that are important components of Ayurvedic formulations and medicines



The Mela also had a uniquely envisaged 'kids pavilion' to keep the children engaged in a variety of creative activities. The activities included face painting , henna, colouring small umbrellas, thumb impression paintings, tracing shapes and glitter paper painting alongwith magic activities.



Cultural programme:

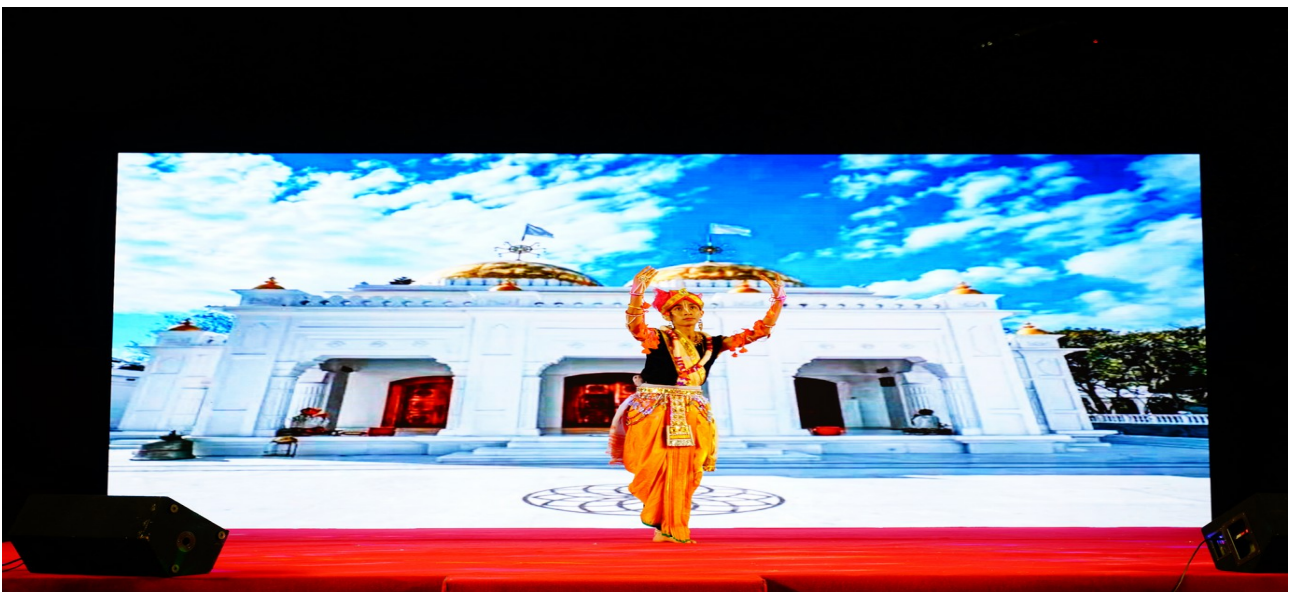
Colourful cultural performances involving classical dances such as Kuchipudi, Odissi and Manipuri were presented in the cultural programme as part of the Diwali Mela. Ms Wang Lulu and her 5 disciples presented the Kuchipudi dance performance on the theme Jagmohana, a classical piece praising Lord Krishna for his divine qualities.



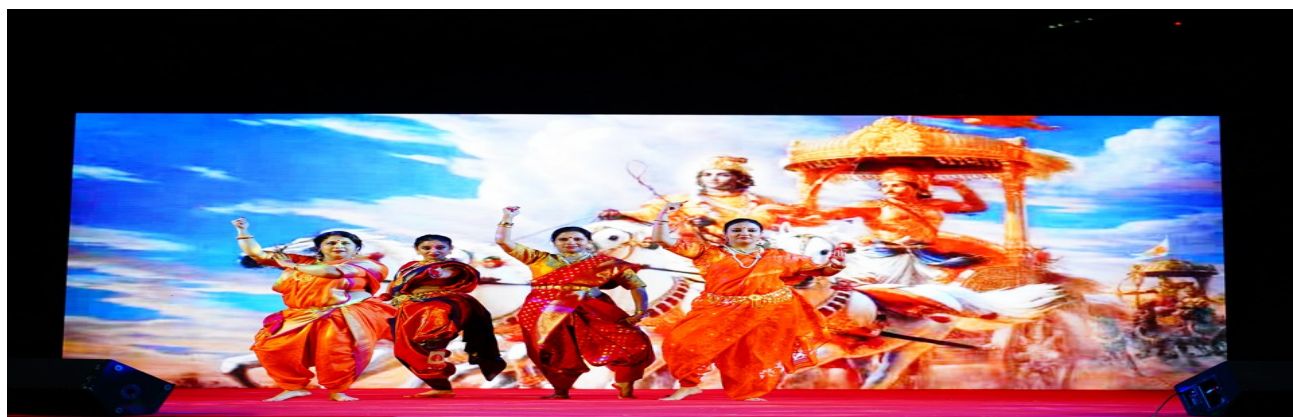
Ms Regina Wu, a trained Odissi exponent based in Hangzhou presented a performance on Vishnu Vandana (salutation to Lord Vishnu). Vishnu is a Hindu God, considered the master of the Universe. The performance was presented on the song Mangalcharan based on raaga Gurjari Todi and choreographed by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra.



A Manipuri dance performance was presented by Zerin Moirangthem, an Indian student studying in Shanghai Theatre Academy. The dance performance was based on the theme “Das Avatar” which portrays ten principal incarnations of Lord Vishnu in different yugas or ages to restore balance and defeat evil.



Another outstanding performance was the composite performance of Kathak dance and drama on the theme Shree Krishna Leela which depicted story from the epic Mahabharata. The dance drama was enacted by members of ‘Shanghai Adda’, a regional association of India. The dance drama was conceptualised and choreographed by Aritra Basu.



Other performances were based on popular soundtracks and made the audience groove to the beats. This included dance performance by Indian students of Yangzhou and Soochow University.







The Cultural performance also witnessed a flash mob where the crowd, broke out into a spontaneous “Garba” performance which left the spectators spell bound and enticed many to join in.



Cuisine:

The Diwali Mela presented a wide array of choices of Indian cuisine. Popular Indian cuisine eateries such as Bollywood Indian Restaurant, Kebabs on the Grille, Rangoli, Curry Lounge and Indian Curry Hut and Jashnn participated in the mela. This year's Diwali mela also had a street food corner to offer those present an authentic feel of the popular street food items.

Diwali Mela 2023 which is also the marquee cultural event of the Consulate General of India in Shanghai provided an opportunity to present the rich cultural landscape of India. The programme had a large participation from Indian community in Eastern China region, friends of India and members of Consular corps based in Shanghai.

04th December, 2023
Shanghai