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Reviving the art of storytelling

OUR CORRESPONDENT

A FESTIVAL that celebrates the art of storytelling from different parts of the world is being organised in the Capital by IGNCA.

Kathakar-International Storytellers Festival that starts off on January 30 aims to generate awareness on the traditional methods of storytelling in different parts of the world. Traditionally, folk tales, epics and community history were communicated orally with gestures and expressions to leave a lasting imprint on listener's mind. Though novel concepts of storytelling have been introduced in contemporary times, the traditional



methods are still alive. Following story tellers will be performing at the festival - Villupattu (Tamil Nadu), Baithak ni Bhavai, Baithak ni Bhavai (Gujarat); Khongjom Parva (Manipur), Emily Parish (Sweden), Sarah Run-



dle (UK), Godfrey Duncan (TUUP, UK), Daniel Hall (Hungary).

Villupattu is an ancient tradition in which stories are narrated using a unique musical instrument i.e. a bow (villu) placed on a mud pot.

The lead singer beats the pot while singing and co-singers play active listeners uttering appropriate oral responses to the song in between.

Bhavai is a popular folk theatre form from specially Gujarat. Nayak Baldevbhai D and his troupe from Kalol, Gujarat will present stories on Patan, Gujarat and also on social themes. Khongjom Parva is a style of ballad singing from Manipur that depicts stories of the heroic battle fought by Manipuris against British forces in 1891. Padam Shri recipient, Nameirakpam Ibemni Devi from Imphal, Manipur will

WHEN: January 30 - February 1 **WHERE:** Amphitheatre, Janpath

perform at the festival.

Emily Parish is a story teller who explores ancient art of story telling within a contemporary context. A Swedish national, she will be sharing folk tales from Europe, India and Africa.

Sarah Rundle is from West London, UK, and specialises in community storytelling. Performing for last seven years on various themes, she will be presenting stories from Silk Route in this festival.

Born in Guyana and raised in West London, Godfrey Duncan has been working as a professional story teller since 1981. He will be presenting folk tales from Africa. Daniel Hall has majorly worked in the field of English language theatre. He will be sharing folk tales from Hungary.