

‘REVISITING BHAND PATHER’

Festival of Bhand Pather at the IGNCA

5 th to 7 th, April, 2013

A three-day festival on **Bhand Pather**, is being hosted at the IGNCA from **5 th to 7 th of April, 2013** under the ongoing Silver Jubilee celebrations of the establishment of the IGNCA. The three day event will focus on the present state of affairs of the Bhand Pather of Kashmir which is an age-old traditional Natya-Prayoga (dance-drama) of Kashmir, but presently its existence is threatened due to various socio-political, economic and other factors. The programme is being organized in collaboration with Mr. M. K. Raina, who will direct these performances.

M.K. Raina is an eminent theatre, cinema and television personality. A graduate from the National School of Drama, he has been working as an actor, teacher and director for over 35 years. He has many prestigious awards and felicitations to his credit. He was a fellow at the Stanford University in 2011 and is currently a scholar in residence in the Central University of Jamila Milia Isalmia.

The three day evening performances will be as follows:

Day 1 – Date 05.04.13 at 5.30 pm – Inauguration (Auditorium)

6.30 pm – Performance of Gosain Pather at Amphitheatre

Gosain Pather: It is a traditional play from the Bhand Pather repertoire performed by Bhands for many centuries. The play deals with the concept of realizing God's ultimate truth. The play operates at many levels of consciousness from physical to abstract through the teachings of indigenous Shaiva Rishis and Sufis of Kashmir represented by Lal Ded and Nundrishi.

Day 2 – Date 06.04.13 at 5.30 pm -- Panel discussion (Auditorium)

Bhand Pather, the folk theatre of Kashmir has a history in the Indian poetic tradition as well as in the historical sources of Kashmir. During the festival on Bhand Pather at the IGNCA, a panel discussion will be held in which eminent scholars of the field and theatre persons like, **Prof. T. N. Ganjoo(Kashmir)**, **Prof. Kamalesh Dutt Tripathi(Varanasi)**, and **Prof. Farooq Fayyaz(Kashmir)** will discuss the historical background of this particular theatre art-form, its evolution, journey, its contemporary scenario, etc.; while **Mr. M. K. Raina**, Director of the programme will be the moderator. The discussions will pave the way for the revival and survival of this art-form for posterity.

Date 06.04.13 at 6.30 pm–Performance of Shikargah Pather at Amphitheatre

Shikargah Pather: It is a traditional Bhand Pather play revived after 30 years, although the play has been in the Bhand tradition for centuries. It deals with the kingdom of Pashupati, the Shiva and his forest beings – the trees, humans, animals and the birds.

Day 3 – Date 07.04.13 at 6.00 pm – Introduction to the play (Auditorium)

6.30 pm – Performance of Badshah Pather at Amphitheatre

Badshah Pather is based on King Lear of Shakespeare and it narrates the story of two fathers namely, Badshah and Bedar and their sons. The play talks about the relationship between a father and a son and puts in perspective the duties and responsibilities they have towards each other.

This festival has been conceptualized and executed under the guidance of **Ms. Dipali Khanna**, Member-Secretary, IGNCA.