

## **'BIHAR MAHOTSAV' BEGINS AT PONDA**

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Directorate of Art and Culture, Goa in collaboration with Ministry of Art, Culture and Youth Affairs, Bihar and Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir (RGKM), Ponda held 'Bihar Mahotsav', a three-day cultural event at RGKM, Ponda.

Governor Dr. Smt. Mridula Sinha inaugurated the event yesterday in the presence of Minister for Art and Culture, Shri. Govind Gaude, Minister for Art, Culture and Youth Affairs, Bihar Shri. Krishna Kumar Rishi, Dy. Secretary of Art, Culture and Youth Affairs, Bihar Shri. Taranand Biyogi and Shri. Ajit Kerkar, Vice president of RGKM, Ponda.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the state of Goa and Bihar have their own historical and cultural backgrounds yet they are one. "Geographically, Bihar and Goa are two separate states. But, I am impressed with the Goan culture as I found it to be very much similar to Bihar. We all value our system, our tradition and treasure our folklore as it is our identity," the Governor stated.

Shri. Gaude said that 'Bihar Mahotsav' is an exchange of art, culture, and entertainment between the two states. "Goa is a very famous tourist place. Along with temples, churches, and beaches, Goa has a legacy of its own theatre form and art. Today, Goa is associated with 18 states by the means of Art and Culture and the department will work hard to provide it an international platform," Shri. Gaude said.

Minister for Art, Culture and Youth Affairs, Bihar Shri. Krishna Kumar Rishi appreciated the Goa's hospitality and warm nature of Goans. He also wished to host a similar program in Bihar wherein Goan Art, Culture and Food will be showcased to the people of Bihar.

Earlier, the program began with lighting the traditional lamp. Shri. Ajit Kerkar gave the welcome address. Dignitaries from both the states were later felicitated. Shri. Pradip Naik and Smt. Tanvi Sinha compered the function. The function concluded with a cultural program performed by artists from both the states. The three-day event will see a display of Bihar's art and cultural programs.

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