Minister for Art and Culture and Chairman of Kala Academy, Shri Govind Gaude inaugurated 39\textsuperscript{th} edition of the prestigious Surashree Kesarbai Kerkar Music Festival organized by Kala Academy Goa at Master Dattaram Auditorium, Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Ponda. The three days festival was held with the participation of a galaxy of top rated vocalists and instrumentalists of India.

While speaking on the occasion Minister Shri Gaude said, Kerkar Music festival is the festival which is rated amongst the top 10 music festival of India having glamour of its own. Goa and Art are the two sides of one coin he said. Music and singing gives peace to ones soul and also beyond that helps to achieve the true meaning of life. He urged students to take benefit of the 350 music teachers and assistant teachers appointed by Department of Art and Culture across State.

MLA Ponda, Shri. Ravi Naik; Director, Kala Academy, Goa, Shri Pravin Barad and Director, Department of Art and Culture and Member Secretary, Kala Academy Goa, Shri Gurudas Pilarnkar were present on the occasion. All the concerts in the festival were open to music lovers & general public. The Department of Tourism, Govt. of Goa supported the event as one of the event Sponsors and Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Ponda –Goa were the venue partners and Goa Tourism Development Corporation as the hospitality partners to the event.

Prior to the inaugural function, the curtain raiser event of the festival, a Symposium on the topic “Contribution of Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana to Indian Classical Music” was held at the Art Gallery. In which speakers/ experts of music namely Vidushi Shruti Sadolikar Katkar, Dr. Vasanti Tembe, Smt. Sulabha Pishawikar participated and presented their views in the threadbare discussion session which was moderated by noted music critic, Shri Keshav D. Paranjape.

After the inaugural function, Goan Young vocalist Smt. Samiksha Kakodkar presented Classical Vocal Concert followed by Classical Vocal Concert by Vidushi Dr. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande. The first day’s session concluded with Mohanveena Instrumental Concert by Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt.
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY.
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