



## Directorate of Art and Culture

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Sanskruti Bhavan, Patto, Panaji - Goa.

Ref. No.: DAC/ADC/Press-Conf/Lok/2026-27/

Dates: 16/01/2026

### PRESS NOTE

#### **LOKOTSAV-2026 (FOLK FESTIVAL) from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 FESTIVAL OF HANDICRAFTS & FOLK ARTISTS**

Government of Goa, Directorate of Art & Culture will be presenting a beautiful mixture of Folk forms & Handicrafts from all over India at the yearly (Folk festival) Lokotsav-2026 to be organized from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The Festival will be held at Darya Sangam, Kala Academy, Goa. Around 500 Folk artists will be presenting various folk dances and music of their states and also around 700 craft persons will be displaying their Handicraft items during the festival period.

Thematically designed stage will be the special attraction of the festival. This folk festival is being organized by the Directorate of Art & Culture, Govt. of Goa every year in joint collaboration of West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, Kala Academy, Goa, Sports Authority of Goa and Corporation of the City of Panaji. A perfect platform is given to the artisans to showcase and sale their crafts. This is 25<sup>th</sup> year of Lokotsav in Goa and day by day its popularity is increasing rapidly. The folk artists and craftsman from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam, Manipur, Haryana, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu Kashmir, Kerala including Goa are invited to present the folklore of their respective states in Lokotsav-2026.

More than 30 folk groups from Goa will be performing various Goan folk dances like Ghode Modani, Jagor, Mussal, Lamp dance, Goff, Dekhani, Mando. Kunbi/Dandla Khel, Talgadi, Morulo, Veerabhadra and Dhangar on different days. The artists from other states will perform the folk dances and Music like Mangniyar. Kalbelia. Bhavai, Bahurupia and Puppeteers from Rajasthan. The famous and elegant Bihu dance will be performed by Assam artists. Mewasi & Siddhi Dhamal from Gujarat. Pung Dhol Cholam, Thangta by the state of Manipur. Purulia Chhau by West Bengal. The state of Maharashtra will present Lawni and Koli. Ghumar Phag of Haryana will be presented. Gotipua from Odisha, Rouf Dance of Jammu Kashmir, Charkula from Uttar Pradesh. Dholu Kunitha from Karnataka and the famous dance of Punjab that is Bhangada will be performed. Also there will be Kalaripayattu from Kerala in total around 600 folk artists will showcase their talent during this mega festival.

Around 450 stalls will exhibit handicraft items which includes Bandhani, Kathputali, Lakh Bengals, Leather bags Leather foot wares, Khadi, Kotha and Silk

materials, handmade garments Carpets, Glass wear, Clay art, Furniture, Wooden Toys, block print, Applique work as well as Goan crafts will be displayed for sale. The Goan people will also be able to enjoy the taste of the traditional food of Rajasthan and other states from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

In this regard, the Directorate of Art & Culture and other collaborative agencies cordially invites the art lovers, tourists and general public for the inaugural function of the said festival on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6.00 p.m. at Darya Sangam, Kala Academy Dr. Pramod Sawant. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa will be the Chief Guest. Shri Ramesh Tawadkar, Hon'ble Minister for Art and Culture, Shri Shripad Naik, Hon. Union Minister for State, Shri Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Member of Rajya Sabha, Shri Chandrakant (Babu) Kavlekar, Chairman of Kala Academy, Shri Rohit Monserrate, Mayor, Corporation of the City of Panaji, Smt. Cheshta Yadav, IAS, Secretary Art and Culture will be the Guest of Honour. Shri. Furqan Khan, Director - W.Z.C.C, Udaipur and Shri Vivek Krishna Naik, Director Art and Culture will also grace the function.

Cultural programme will be held every day during the festival where various folk dances/ music will be presented from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. and the special cultural programmes will be held at Ravindra Bhavan, Sankhali. Special painting exhibition showcasing 25 vibrant year of Lokostav 26 will be displayed at the Art Gallery, Kala Academy, Goa. The exhibition will be open to the public from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

There will be also a craft and folk dance workshop from 23<sup>rd</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 from 2.30 to 5.30 pm at Kala Academy Goa.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-  
**(Raju Gaonkar)**  
Dy. Director of Acct. & Admn.