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Press Release

Etihad, Jet Airways to offer discounts during Nishagandhi fest

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 12: Kerala's biggest multidisciplinary cultural extravaganza has found precious support from the sky.

A host of national and international carriers have lined up to partner with the annual Nishagandhi festival, beginning in the state capital on January 20.

Etihad Airways, the national airline of United Arab Emirates, will offer 25 per cent discount on its flights to Thiruvananthapuram to help cultural enthusiasts travel to the festival. The Jet Airways has announced discount rates for artists participating in the mega event.

Chief Minister Shri Oommen Chandy will inaugurate the eight-day long festival of dance and music, attended this year by internationally acclaimed artists like Ustad Zakir Hussain, Hema Malini and Anoushka Shankar.

"We are happy that several national and international carriers have come forward to support the Nishagandhi festival," said Kerala Tourism Minister Shri A P Anilkumar.

The festival, which ends on January 27 attracts renowned artists from across the world and is a major draw on the international cultural calendar, is organised every year by the state tourism department.

"Over the years, our festival has gone on to become an important part of the international cultural circuit," said Shri Anilkumar.

"With a rich and long history of classical art and dance forms, Kerala is today a global leader in cultural tourism," said Tourism Secretary Shri G Kamala Vardhana Rao.

"Cultural enthusiasts from all over the world want to come and witness the Nishagandhi festival," he added.

"With a host of major international cultural events such as the Nishagandhi festival, the International Film Festival of Kerala, the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala is a top destination for cultural tourists," said Tourism Director Shri PI Sheik Pareeth

Besides the tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain, sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar, the daughter of sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar, and actor-dancer Hema Malini, Dr M Lalitha and M Nandini (Trans Global Fusion Band), and other acclaimed artists attending the Nishagandhi festival this year



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include Kathak dancer Marami Medhi and actor-daughter Meghrajini, Odissi dancer Ileana Citarisi, and Carnatic vocalist T V Sankaranarayanan.

Playback singer Gayathri Asokan and Carnatic singer Sreeranjini Kodampally (Carnatic – Hindustani Jugalbandhi), Dancers Vyjayanthi Kashi and her daughter Pratheeksha Kashi (Kuchipudi), Smitha Madhav (Bharatantyaam), Sattriya dancers - Ramkrishna Taludkar and his disciple Krishnakshi Kashyap; Mandolin player Pandit Sugato Bhaduri, flautists Shashank Subramanyam (Carnatic) and Rakesh Chaurasia (Hindustani) and young other artists will also participate in the fest.

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