‘Responsibility of Kerala’s youth to protect traditional art forms’: Kadakampally Surendran

Minister inaugurated ‘Utsavam 2017’, the ninth edition of annual cultural fiesta, today

Malappuram, Jan 05: With the growing popularity of contemporary art forms, it is the responsibility of Kerala’s youth to protect and promote the state’s many traditional art forms, according to Honourable Minister for Tourism Shri Kadakampally Surendran.

Inaugurating the state-level annual folklore festival and cultural fiesta ‘Utsavam 2017’ – organised by Kerala Tourism and Kerala Folklore Academy – at Kottakunnu Ground here today, the Minister said that Utsavam, which is in its ninth edition, has been able to provide a livelihood for several practitioners of traditional art forms.

“The artistes being honoured at Utsavam have spent their entire lives keeping their respective art forms alive in Kerala,” the Minister said. He added that these artistes need to be given opportunities to spread these disciplines to other parts of Kerala and other states.

Folk artistes including Shri V.M. Kutty, Shri Narayanaperuvannan, Shri Eranjoli Moosa, Shri Athiyadam P.P. Kannaperuvannan, Shri P.K. Panicker, Smt. Narayaniswami, Shri P.P. Madhavan Panicker, Shri V.P. Damodaran Panicker, Shri Peer Mohamed, and Shri M. Kannan were honoured at the inaugural function.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Malappuram MLA Shri P. Ubaidulla. District Panchayat President Shri P. Unnikrishnan, District Collector Shri Amith Meena IAS, Councillor Smt. Saleena Razzak, CPM District Secretary Shri P.P. Vasudevan, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, Shri Veekshanam Mohammed, Kerala Congress (M) District President Shri Johny Pullanthani, DTPC executive members Shri Paloli Kunhimohammed, Shri V.P. Anil and Adv. K. Mohandas addressed the gathering.

Kerala Tourism Director Shri U.V. Jose welcomed the gathering while Tourism Department Joint Director (Kozhikode) Shri M.V. Kunhiraman delivered the vote of thanks. Kerala Folklore Academy secretary Dr A.K. Nambiar presented the festival report.

Over its seven day run, Utsavam 2017 will see around 3,500 artistes present some 100 traditional art forms at various venues across the state’s 14 districts.


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