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## The Inauguration Ceremony – AMI Arts Festival 2025



## Kolkata Centre for Creativity Inaugurates the 6th Edition of AMI Arts Festival - a month-long festival of the arts

**21 November 2025, Kolkata:** Today, Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) witnessed a grand inauguration of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of its annual interdisciplinary arts festival – AMI Arts Festival 2025, supported by Emami Foundation. The festival started off on KCC's Foundation Day - 21 November and will go on till 21 December, 2025, with an extensive line-up of exhibitions, talks, dance, music, and theatre performances, film screenings, workshops and more, celebrating all that KCC has achieved while looking forward to many more vibrant milestones in the future.

The Inauguration ceremony was attended by film writer and actor Atul Tiwari, actors Rajit Kapur, Divya Dutta, and Sachin Khedekar, costume designer Pia Benegal, and journalist Syed Mohd. Irfan, among other distinguished guests and dignitaries.

The inaugural evening on **21 November, 4:00 pm onwards**, witnessed **Taal Tarang**, a captivating music performance by the students of Manovikas Kendra, followed by unveiling of the exhibition **The Lens of Revolution - A Shyam Benegal Retrospective**, and a speech by curator **Atul Tiwari**. The evening featured a panel discussion titled **Through Benegal's Lens: Acting, Art and the Indian Conscience**, featuring esteemed panellists Rajit Kapur, Divya Dutta, and Sachin Khedekar, costume and Pia Benegal, moderated by Syed Mohd. Irfan.

The festival seeks to create an inclusive platform for emerging artists and spark conversations among practitioners, academics, and experts in the arts. *Breathing With History - Celebrating Rural Heritage Stories* (21 - 29 November), an exhibition organized in collaboration with Indian Museum and West Bengal Museum Association, features almost 60 village-related stories and

43 participating museums, showcasing traditional crafts, practices, folk art, music, and dance that are integral to rural life in Bengal, and includes collateral events such as workshops and round table discussions that celebrate the richness of rural traditions. *Shyam Benegal Retrospective: The Lens of Revolution* (21 November - 31 January) is a curated exhibition that is a tribute to Shyam Benegal's legacy, including exciting collateral events such as film screenings, panel discussions, exhibitions, and conversations with collaborators and contemporary filmmakers influenced by Benegal's vision. *UTSAV IV* (4, 5, 6 December) will stage dance, music, and elocution performances by emerging artists at the iconic Victoria Memorial Hall, and the *Affordable Art Fair* (4 - 7 December) will focus on established and emerging visual artists from Kolkata, showcasing their art for sale at accessible prices.

AMI Arts Festival 2025 features a vibrant tapestry of musical performances - *Sitar Samvaad* (13 December), a sitar concert by Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, accompanied by Pt. Anindo Chatterjee on the tabla, *Uttar Dakshin* (17 December), a confluence of north and south Indian music by globally acclaimed maestros, *Banaras ke Ghat se Awadh ke Angan Tak* (28 November), a folk concert by Malini Awasthi, *Haay Bhalobashi* (19 December) by Arko & Friends ft. Gaboo & Lakkhichhara, and live band acts by *Prithibi X Parash Pathar* (18 December), *Agnee* (20 December), and *Parikrama* (21 December) will light up the KCC stage. An array of 7 dramatic performances, including *Dastan e Ret Samadhi*, a Dastangoi performance by Mahmood Farooqui and team, *Maas* by Jyoti Dogra, *Piyakkad* by Makarand Deshpande, *Lafzon ki Gathri*, dir. Seema Bhargava Pahwa, *Saanp Seedhi* dir. Shubhrajyoti Barat, *Aur Karo Theatre* by Gopal Datt and team, *Gulabijaan* dir. Shukla Banerjee, and more.

**Ms. Richa Agarwal, Chairperson of KCC, expressed her enthusiasm for the festival, stating,** "As we celebrate the sixth edition of the AMI Arts Festival, I am filled with immense pride at how this initiative has evolved into one of Kolkata's most dynamic and inclusive celebrations of art and culture. AMI — 'আমি' — is not just a festival, but a philosophy that recognises the power of creativity to bring people together. It represents both individuality and collective spirit, bridging disciplines, languages, and communities through dialogue, performance, and expression. Each edition has strengthened our belief that art can inspire empathy, understanding, and change. Through AMI, we aim to nurture a space where artists and audiences can meet as equals - to share, question, and imagine a more connected cultural future. My heartfelt gratitude to all the artists, curators, collaborators, and partners who continue to make this festival a vibrant testament to the creative spirit of our times."

## About KCC

The Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multi-disciplinary arts institution known for making art more accessible and engaging. Through initiatives like "Art for All," DEAI-driven programs such as a Braille Library, and large-scale community festivals - AMI Arts Festival, Ramjhol, Theatre Festival & Bengali Literary meet, KCC builds a dynamic cultural ecosystem. Acting as a catalyst it facilitates Capacity Building, Artistic enhancement of professionals with special focus on emerging and mid-career artists, through its various verticals of KCC Arts Fellowship, KCC Art

Laboratory, providing platforms for research, mentorship, and artistic growth. KCC Conservation Lab and related programs underscore the Centre's dedication to the preservation and research of cultural heritage. Whether through children's programs, research projects, or interdisciplinary festivals, KCC remains a vital space where creativity meets community, scholarship, and social change.

KCC has worked with renowned artists and performers, including the Indian Ocean Band, Anirban Bhattacharjee, Chandrabindoo Band, Jayati Chakraborty and many more.

Website – [www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org](http://www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org)

Instagram – @kccinkolkata

Facebook – KCC in Kolkata

### **About AMI Arts Festival**

The AMI Arts Festival is an annual interdisciplinary celebration of art in all its forms by the Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC). It brings together artists, performers, scholars, and communities from across India and beyond, offering a space for collaboration, dialogue, and experimentation. Through exhibitions, performances, workshops, and discussions, the festival connects tradition with contemporary practice while celebrating and preserving diverse artistic and cultural legacies.