

Ami Arts Festival 2025 Brings Back

The Fourth Edition Of 'UTSAV' At Victoria Memorial Hall

4 December 2025, Kolkata: Today, Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), in collaboration with Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), hosted the inauguration of *UTSAV IV*, at the South Lawns of Victoria Memorial. This event starting today will continue till 6th December, and it is a part of KCC's annual interdisciplinary arts festival – AMI Arts Festival 2025, supported by Emami Foundation. The festival, with an extensive line-up of exhibitions, talks, dance, music, and theatre performances, film screenings, workshops and more, started off on KCC's Foundation Day i.e. 21 November 2025, and will go on till 21 December 2025.

UTSAV by KCC is a platform for emerging performing artists and organisations, encouraging artists across disciplines, bridging the gap between practice and audience, and celebrating diversity. It provides a space for performing artists and organisations to present their work in a celebration of all artistic forms, thoughts, and creations. This year, KCC has collaborated with VMH to stage 21 final performances, both solo and groups, in dance, music, and elocution, selected via an All-India Open Call. The performances of the awardees will take place on the 4th and 5th December, with special presentations by the students of distinguished music academies of Kolkata on 6th December.

Richa Agarwal, Chairperson of KCC, expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "Kolkata Centre for Creativity is delighted to strengthen its collaboration with the historic Victoria Memorial Hall for this edition of *UTSAV*. It is my privilege to bring young performers on a stage that stands as a symbol of the cultural legacy of our city. I hope partnerships like these will help create more opportunities for emerging artists and give them a chance to learn, shine, and take their rightful place in the larger narrative of Indian arts. This year, we have selected 21 outstanding performances through an All-India Open Call, where over 200 participants applied, across dance, music, and elocution. In every young performer here, we see focus, effort, and the unmistakable promise of a vibrant new generation in the arts."

On 4th December, the inauguration commenced with Taal Tarang, a captivating performance by the students of Manovikas Kendra, followed by the first set of performances by the *UTSAV* awardees. The event was attended by the eminent jury members and distinguished guests - **Priti Patel** - Manipuri dancer, **Alokananda Roy** - exponent of Indian classical dance, **Pandit Anindya Banerjee** - Sarod maestro and musicologist, **Sudarshan Chakravorty** - artistic director and dance choreographer, **Saswati Guhathakurta** - actress, **Bratati Bandopadhyay** - elocutionist, **Arnab Bandopadhyay** - classical dancer and choreographer, **Arkadev Bhattacharya** - bharatnatyam dancer, **Srikanta Acharya** - singer-songwriter and music director, and **Koushik Chakraborty** - singer-songwriter, vocalist of bengali band Prithibi.

About Kolkata Centre for Creativity (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

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.