

Lokavidya Kala Samagam Indore

(Proposed Dates 1 - 2 July 2023)

Gandhi, Girish (23 May 2023)

Today Indian society is passing through a worrying phase. It has almost lost its autonomy, spontaneity and dynamism. The government and the state seem to dominate the society in all its activities. Although this had already started during the British rule, the freedom struggle seemed to hold the promise that the society would be freed to some extent from the hegemony of state. That power will return to the society. That the society will regain some of its spontaneous dynamism. The society will move towards autonomy. But all this was not to be. The hegemony of the state did continue even after independence. The dream of a swaraj faded away.

With passage of time the process has only gathered further speed; especially so in the past few years. The society is breaking up into many pieces. The race for power and centralization of power has rendered politics disruptive. An atmosphere of violence and hatred is taking everyone into its grip. There is an sense of despair among the common people. At such a time, it is our duty to work to arrest further disruption of the social fabric and to build ideological and emotional solidarity. It is also our dharma to think about and imagine ways to reconstruct a new society based on justice and equality. The world of art has an important role in this.

Saints have played an important role in establishing brotherhood on ideological and emotional planes in the lokavidya-rich Bahujan Samaj (farmers-artisans-women-tribals-small businessmen and entrepreneurs). The contribution of folk-artists has been decisive in spreading and sustaining the sant-vachan among the Bahujans. Sant-parampara is has inspired the social consciousness of not only folk-artists, but also poets, litterateurs and practitioners of classical arts.

The Kala-Samagam is proposed for 1 - 2 July 2023 with the following objectives:

1. Bring scholars, artists and art lovers associated with the saint-traditions of Malwa-Nimad region together on one platform;
2. Provide a platform to the young art seekers of Indore city and surrounding areas;

3. Taking inspiration from the Sant-parampara, consider intervention of from the world of art and of artists and art lovers to answer questions like: How do we rid ourselves of hatred, violence and disruption establish mutual brotherhood? How do we rediscover spontaneity, dynamism, self-governance and autonomy of the society? How do we defy hegemony of the state on society? To fix a long term program for its implementation.
4. To present performances using various art-forms depicting lokavidya claim for equal status in the field of knowledge as well as those bringing out concepts and possibilities of swaraj, self-governance, and power distributed in the society.