



Silchar Sylhet Festival - 2022 **Press Release**

The year 2022 marks 75 years of India's Independence. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan. Government of India is observing the 75th year of independence as the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav, an attempt at commemorating and celebrating the journey of Independent India in the last 75 years.

Amongst the many things that tie India and Bangladesh together, links between the cities of Silchar and Sylhet stand out. In an attempt to celebrate the age-old people-to-people connect between the people of the region, India Foundation under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and in association with the Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies is organising the 1st Silchar-Sylhet Festival on October 29-31, 2022 in the city of Silchar in Assam.

The festival will showcase tribal culture, cuisine, arts, crafts and local produce, entertainment and bring together eminent people from both sides to discuss and deliberate on issues of mutual growth and opportunity. In addition, the festival will also provide a platform to explore multi-disciplinary trade opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, tourism, education, and digital infrastructure.

The Organising Committee of the festival is being presided over by Shri Bimal Bora, Minister of Industries & Commerce and Public Enterprises, and Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam; Shri Parimal Suklabaidya, Minister of Transport, Excise & Fisheries, Government of Assam and Shri Rajdeep Roy, Member of Parliament from Silchar and has eminent citizens from India and Bangladesh as its members.

The visiting delegation from Bangladesh will be led by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and comprise of 6 Ministers, over 12 Members of Parliament, Former members of parliament, Former bureaucrats, Industrialists, representatives from various chambers of commerce of Bangladesh, Delegation of Journalists and Academics:

1. Dr A.K Abdul Momen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh
2. Mr Tipu Munshi, Minister for Commerce of Bangladesh
3. Mr K M Khalid, State Minister for Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh
4. Mr Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, Deputy Minister of Education of Bangladesh
5. Mr Md. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh
6. Mr Md. Mahbub Ali, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism of Bangladesh

Over a span of 3 days, the festival is expected to be addressed by Ministers from India and Bangladesh, Governors, Chief Ministers, Industry Leaders, Litterateurs, Academics and Practitioners:

1. Shri Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam
2. Shri G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of North-East Region (DONER), Government of India
3. Shri Sarbanand Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and Minister of AYUSH, Government of India
4. Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam
5. Shri N Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur
6. Shri Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya
7. Dr Haribabu Kambhampati, Governor of Mizoram
8. Ms Pratima Bhoumik, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

With the support of the Ministry of Culture, Gol, and important stakeholders from Bangladesh, facilitated and envisioned by India Foundation, New Delhi and with the active involvement and warm hospitality of locals in Silchar, the Silchar-Sylhet Festival will mark the first step towards creating potential and opportunities for all involved.