

PRESS RELEASE

**ONE OF INDIA'S FIRST PHILANTHROPIC ART MUSEUMS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY
Kiran Nadar Museum of Art - Delhi to add to India's cultural heritage**

Delhi, January 19, 2011 – Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, inaugurated the **Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (www.KNMA.in)**, and its inaugural exhibition “**Time Unfolded**” in Delhi today. The museum opens its doors in the heart of the city to its people, to share the passionately assembled collection of the Nadars and is a significant addition to not just Delhi's but India's legacy in art.

Merely 1 year into its journey, KNMA has delivered on its promise to bring one of India's first art museums to its buzzing capital. This inauguration marks another early milestone in KNMA's journey of acquainting India with its rich cultural heritage, bringing visibility and appreciation for modern and contemporary Indian art. The museum will present 70 modern and contemporary masterpieces from the KNMA collection, a lot of them hitherto unseen in a public space.

Kiran Nadar, Chairperson, KNMA said, “India's modern and contemporary art is truly a reflection of our life and times and can awaken sensibilities and sensitivities that classroom education alone can't stir up. Having personally felt the power of good art, I wanted to share it not just for the sake of art itself, but for its positive impact on individuals, communities, society.”

“Given what museums such as the Guggenheim have done for Bilbao or what the Museum of Islamic Art is doing for Doha, Qatar, the KNMA hopes to build a definitive world class museum and art hub that will add to the splendor of the city of Delhi”, she added.

KNMA began its journey as one of India's first philanthropic museums in January 2010 with both a dream and a promise, to become not just a repository of art objects or a site for display, but act as a vital platform that initiates us into experiencing art, culture and ourselves. It therefore eventually aspires to open in a larger space, with a freshly built iconic Museum that will be reflective of the art it houses. Such a space will allow it to become a place for confluence replete with room for interactive art appreciation discourses, workshops for children, for the lay public and the specially-abled; global exhibitions, performing arts and all the ingredients that would go into making the art hub a day-out destination of choice for all.

Presently, the KNMA-Delhi at Saket houses some of the most famous works of India's modern masters and contemporaries including A Ramachandran, Anish Kapoor, Arpita Singh, F N Souza, Jamini Roy, Jogen Chowdhury, Krishen Khanna, M F Husain, Manjit Bawa, N S Harsha, Ram Kumar, Rameshwar Broota, S H Raza, Subodh Gupta, Tyeb Mehta, V S Gaitonde, among many others. Entry will be completely free to the Museum, which will be open to the public from 10.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. on all days except Mondays and national holidays.

About the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Sharing artworks passionately collected by Kiran Nadar, the mission of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) is to function as a site of confluence rather than mere collection. A non-commercial, nonprofit organization, KNMA will be a space for exhibiting modern and contemporary art from India and the subcontinent. It will house an extraordinary array of artworks that highlight the visual trajectories of modern Indian art from the pre-independence to the post-independent decades and the contemporary, covering a wide spectrum of styles and expressions under one roof for simultaneous engagement. Besides well curated art exhibitions, the museum will focus on several cultural and educational programs addressed to diverse kinds of audiences. It will currently be housed in 18,000 sq.ft. at the DLF South Court Mall in Saket, New Delhi.

On January 19, 2011, the Museum will open showcasing artworks handpicked from the collection keeping in mind their rarity and relevance. The best of the modern and the contemporaries will be juxtaposed to initiate unpredictable dialogue and a critical appreciation between them.

Roobina Karode, Director of KNMA, has conceptualized the exhibition.

About Shiv Nadar Foundation

The Shiv Nadar Foundation (www.ShivNadarFoundation.org) has been established by Shiv Nadar, Founder, HCL - a \$5.5 billion leading global technology and IT enterprise, which employs over 77,000 employees across 29 countries. The 34 year old enterprise, founded in 1976, is one of India's original IT garage start-ups and offers diverse business aligned technology solutions spanning the entire hardware and software spectrum, to a focused range of industry verticals.

The Foundation is committed to the creation of a more equitable, meritocracy based society by empowering individuals to bridge the socio-economic divide. To that purpose the Foundation is focused on the rather underdeveloped disciplinary areas in India related to **philanthropic transformational education, creativity and art**. So far, the Foundation has set up the **SSN Institutions** (www.SSN.edu.in) in 1996, comprising the SSN College of Engineering (already an India top 10 private engineering college), the SSN School of Management and Computer Applications and the SSN School of Advanced Software Engineering, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Building on the experience from successfully running the SSN Institutions, the Shiv Nadar Foundation now proposes to set up the **Shiv Nadar University** in a 286 acre campus adjacent to Delhi.

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