

PRESS RELEASE

Embassy of India

Muscat

Indian Calligraphy Exhibition at the Omani Fine Art Society



An Indian Calligraphy Exhibition being held at Omani Fine Arts Society was inaugurated by H.E. Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed Al Rowas, Advisor to H.M. Sultan for Cultural Affairs, on 20 March 2017. Many Omani and expatriate calligraphy enthusiasts were present at the inauguration. The Exhibition will remain on display from 21st to 25th March 2017 and can be visited on all days from 9am to 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm to 8pm. This Exhibition was earlier displayed at the Promenade of Oman Avenues Mall from 21 November to 30 December 2016 under the first-ever Festival of India in Oman and had attracted a large number of visitors, both Omani and Expatriates.



In view of the continued interest in learning more about Indian Islamic Calligraphy tradition, the Embassy has cooperated with the Omani Fine Arts Society to host the Exhibition of Indian Calligraphy at their premises in Sarooj. Over 40 pieces of Indian calligraphic work, artistically inscribed with selected verses from Holy Quran, are showcased at the Exhibition. The facsimile of a rare 7th century manuscript of the Holy Quran attributed to Hazrat Ali (R.A.), written in Kufic Script on parchment, is also displayed. A list showing details of Exhibits is enclosed.

Calligraphy has been an integral part of India's Islamic traditions. Calligraphy in India has evolved over centuries to acquire its own unique characteristics. It is hoped that the Indian Calligraphy Exhibition will enable the people of Oman to become more aware of the history and development of Calligraphy in India. The Calligraphy Exhibition has been brought to Oman by Rampur Raza Library, which is a treasure house of Indo Islamic learning and arts. It was setup in 1774 by erstwhile Ruler of Rampur State, Nawab Faizullah Khan, who ruled the State up to 1794. His inherited collection of valuable manuscripts, historical documents, Mughal miniature paintings, books and other works of art kept in Toshakhana formed the nucleus of the Library. Later, Nawab Muhammad Yusuf Ali Khan 'Nazim' invited well known calligraphers, illuminators and binders from Kashmir and other parts of India to Rampur to produce works of Calligraphy. The later Nawabs continued to enrich the collection.

Muscat, 21 March 2017
