

# Lalit Kala Akademy (National Academy of Art)

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**Source:** *PIB*

Recently President of India conferred **61st Lalit Kala Akademi annual awards to 15 artists** at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

## History of the Akademi

- The Lalit Kala Akademi (National Academy of Art) **was inaugurated in New Delhi on August 5th, 1954**, by the then Minister for Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- The youngest of the three Academies founded by the Government of India, the Lalit Kala Akademi was established in pursuance of the dream of the first Prime Minister of independent India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for cultural and national identity.
- Thus the Lalit Kala Akademi as one among three such national organizations, that emerged.
- The LKA was the principal establishment to direct its focus on activities in the field of visual arts.

## Key Functions

- As India's National Academy of Art, the Lalit Kala Akademi, ever since its inception, has been pioneering the many paths of Indian contemporary art, through its chosen agenda.
- The institution has been involved in **identifying and showcasing visual art**.
- The LKA has become a **keeper of the historicity of Indian art and its interaction with contemporary art practices worldwide**.
- It **promotes and propagates the understanding of Indian**

**art**, in and outside the country.

- The academy **provides scholarships and a fellow program**, and sponsors and organises exhibitions in India and overseas.
- It publishes a **bilingual journal**.
- Lalit Kala Akademi **organises art exhibitions and award ceremonies every year to promote art as well as to honour talents**.
- It is funded by the Union Ministry of Culture.

In April 2015, the Union government took over management control of Lalit Kala Akademi citing complaints regarding alleged administrative and financial irregularities in its functioning.