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**The GANGA 21 Journey Continues to Varanasi –
Dr. Karan Singh to open Exhibition at Bharat Kala Bhavan on March 12th**



The **India Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** has announced the ***Ganga 21*** series of paintings by the Australian contemporary artist **Kevin Pearsh** will be exhibited in Varanasi at the Bharat Kala Bhavan from **March 12 to March 27**.

Ganga 21 was introduced to the museum by Dr. Karan Singh, President of the ICCR and Vice Chancellor of Benares Hindu University (BHU).

Commented Singh, *“This is a truly breathtaking set of paintings, and it will be inspiring to all Indians, to all who love our country, who love art and who cherish our environment.”*

Prior to this project, no artist had painted the entire length of the Ganges River, from source to mouth. Beginning in 2006, Pearsh conceived of an epic river journey inspiring a series of images through which he could interpret the unique persona, spiritual and mystical, of the *Ganga*. The resulting series of 21 large format oil-on-canvas works is a vibrant and vivid biography of one of the world’s

great natural resources. *“I’ve always been fascinated by water. The waters of the Ganges allow one to enter with mystery, to explore a deeper experience than that of mere scenery, and put into paint the extraordinary diversity of this river,”* explained Pearsh. *“These paintings are a reflection in water and light of the Hindu religion and culture, which makes the Ganges much more than just a river.”*

Pearsh continued, *“Varanasi, as one of the most sacred places on the Ganges, is an ideal setting for this exhibition. I am honored to have the opportunity to present my work here.”*

To create *Ganga 21*, Pearsh divided his massive Ganges journey into three sections, during which he traveled by foot, by vehicle, and by boat. In early 2006, he completed the first leg, hiking from the massive ice cave of Gaumukh in the Himalayas to the ancient town of Haridwar. In late 2006, the artist traveled from Haridwar to Varanasi, and on to the border of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (by boat and car).

The third and final trip was completed in 2007. The artist traveled mostly by car from Bihar to the West Bengal region and completed the journey by boat to the Ganga Sagar, the delta where the Ganges meets the Bay of Bengal, 2500 kilometers from the source.

Pearsh, born in Australia in 1951, is a long-term resident of France and frequent visitor to India. His work, which has always explored new horizons of color and light, is included in the permanent collections of museums including The Tate Gallery in London and The Santa Barbara Museum of Art in California, as well as in private collections around the world. In 2010, his seminal series *Ganga 21* was shown in New Delhi and in Calcutta before traveling to Varanasi. More information about the artist is available at www.kevinpearsh.com.

Bharat Kala Bhavan (http://www.bhu.ac.in/kala/index_bkb.htm) is located within the BHU Campus* (www.bhu.ac.in). Bharat Kala Bhavan is considered as the best University Museum in India, if not in Asia.

The exhibition is open **March 12 through March 27**.
Museum hours are 11 am to 4:30 pm daily. Closed Sunday.
For more information, contact the museum at +91316337.

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For more info or to obtain high-resolution images, please contact:

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