



# & Much More

## By the way : Lucknow, The Pride of Awadh

It happened last week after long gap of 12 years, I got a chance to visit this beautiful place which is truly called the Pride of Awadh. It's a Jewel in Indian Crown. This is the same place where I had spent 10 important years of my life. I last visited this place in 2005. But I felt that Awadhi Aan-baan and Shan have increased in these years. Capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow is known for its nawabi culture which is unmatched.

I got admission in 11th standard in one of the good colleges of Lucknow. Student life is considered to be the best in one's life. I think I am lucky to be a part of this culture. Evenings spent in the lap of this city are unforgettable.



Hazratganj is the heart of the city which is shining till now. Billboards reminded me of 90's era. Black & white theme enhances the look of this huge shopping hub. Victorian style lamp posts and benches give it a traditional look. I spent almost 5 evenings sitting in the corner, remembering old days with college friends.

Cathedral church, Hanuman mandir and mosque at the same place reminds us of secularism which is need of the day.

Unfortunately I am suffering from Psoriatic Arthritis which is extremely painful and because of this I could not visit many places. But the hospitality really made me emotional and overwhelmed. Chikan work of Lucknow is famous all over the world. It's elegant embroidery patterns and unique thread work can steal any woman's heart who loves to see herself in royal nawabi attires. Flairs of shararas in combination with stylish Kurtis, fusion dresses like palazzo with long kurta gives royal look to urban women.

Seeing metro in a city like Lucknow was an eye candy. I have seen almost every beautiful city of India but Lucknow and it's culture mesmerized me. Awadhi cuisine is also very popular everywhere but real taste of this food can only be seen in Lucknow itself. Streets of Lucknow are filled with variety of food. From korma to biryani, chat to kufli, kebabs to keema kaleji, aroma of awadhi cuisine can take your breath away. Royal café's famous tokri chat, prakash & muskaan ki kufli, south Indian food of Curry leaf, Aaryan's delicious recipes and Radhey la's famous lassi and many more places are worth visiting for big foodies. I went to take medical opinion on my problem but my college friends made my short visit very special. Their emotional touch made me strong and I think we must learn tameez & tehzeeb of this city's culture. I am proud to say that real India lives in the heart of the people of Lucknow. They don't count hours and money spent on you.

I wanted to spend more time with my friends but my health does not permit me to exert much. With tear filled eyes I said goodbye to my favourite city with a promise to visit again with my kids.

## Papdi chat Awadhi style

### Ingredients:

Readymade papdi 1 packet, curd 500gm, coriander chutney, tamarind chutney, sev namkeen 100 gm, black salt, black pepper 1 tsp each, salt according to taste, dry mint leaves powdered 2 tsp, pomegranate seeds 50 gm, boiled chic peas 100 gm.

### Method :

Take one bowl or plate. Put papdi in the centre of the plate. Add black salt, black pepper, mint leaves and salt into curd. Pour curd over papdi. Add chic peas, tamarind and coriander chutney. Garnish with sev and pomegranate seeds.

Serve immediately after preparation.



## Preeti Jhangiani in udaipur



**Udaipur:** Rajasthan film 'Taawdo' with Actress - Preeti Jhangiani and Music Director - Lalit Pandit. Directed by debut director Vijay Suthar and produced by Tejkar Harsh. Released in INOX Udaipur. Preeti Jhangiani's performance was largely said to be the best of her career so far and will be a redefining moment for her. The film is based on the caste system still prevalent in many parts of Rajasthan and traces one woman's journey, after the death of her husband, in managing to completely wipe out the system of untouchables from her small village. Women empowerment and the changing role of women in films, she spoke about the increasing viability of Women Oriented films in cinema. The soul touching music of Lalit Pandit also was much applauded. Preeti during press conference at Innox said 'I was very apprehensive about accepting this role because of the dexterity of the role and the fact that the film's locations were in the interiors of Rajasthan but eventually took it up as a challenge and am glad it paid off now. I hope to champion more of such films in the future'.

## World's smallest Gold Chessboard

**Udaipur:** Udaipur's International acclaimed gold miniature artist Iqbal Sakka has made World's smallest chess board from 23 carat gold. The 14\*14 mm size chessboard can amaze any of us in single gaze.

In this chess board kings are of 5 mm, queens 4 mm, rooks 3.5 mm, knights and Bishops 3.5 mm and Pawns are of 2 mm size. You can play this chess set with the help of a small tweezer or Plucker.

World's smallest chess weighs only 1.500 mg. According to Guinness Book of World Records, the smallest gold chess board is only 18\*18 mm size. Sakka has broken this record by making 14\*14 mm gold chessboard which is very light weight. Now Sakka is looking forward to see his name in this book to break the world record.

# 9th National Mime Festival, Kolkata & Shantiniketan

### Vilas Janve

It is always an honor to go to Gurukul and get knowledge and instructions from the Guru. It is applicable to all Indian Performing Arts. I had golden opportunity to stay at National Mime Academy started by Guru Niranjana Goswami (recipient of Padmashri award) from 24 March to 26 March at Salt Lake Kolkata and 27 March to 30 March at Shantiniketan (Karmbhumi of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore) to attend 9th National Mime Festival. This was jointly organized by Indian Mime Theatre and Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata at Bhartiya Cultural Complex, Salt Lake Kolkata and Sriyani Shilpgram, Shantiniketan. 20 groups from West Bengal, Bihar, Manipur, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Maharashtra and Kerala participated and presented various Mime productions. Two groups from Bangladesh also presented mimes.

'Indian Mime Theatre', Kolkata presented the inaugural mime 'NEERU GOSAI'S UMBRELLA' directed by Guru Nirjan Goswami (Padmashree Awardee). This play involved almost all the Rasas of Natya Shastra. With a team of trained artists this Mime was a classic presentation. The story revolves an umbrella of Neeru Gosai who loves his umbrella more than his own family members.

This umbrella creates many funny situations entertaining audience. Jgdish Gharami stole the show. Other actors and technical team helped the play to enhance entertainment. Lights by Suroj Biswas and Music by Stalin Chowdhury were interesting. 'Pratibha Sanskritik Sansthan', Delhi put up action and emotion packed mime drama 'MADHYAM VYAYOG' directed by Bumikeshwar Singh highlighting story from Mahabharat. The play was originally written by Bhasa in Sanskrit long ago.

Bhumikeshwar Singh a master Chow Guru imbibed Chow martial art dance and brought wonderful effects. All his actors put their best to make this play memorable. Characters of Hidimba, Ghatotkach, heem, Brahmin and his wife and sons portrayed by trained dancers and actors flawlessly.

'Soma Mime Theatre', Kolkata presented 'AMAR JANMOBHUMI' a mime play with 13 artistes on stage based on love, agony, luck and destiny of two freedom fighters 'Pari and Anando'. It was directed by Soma Das. Its strong point was music arranged by Arindam Das. This group also presented mime 'AHOMNARI' depicting strength of women. 'Rainbow Society' Jaipur, Rajasthan presented three mimes one group mime 'MADHAVI IN TRANSIT' enacted by Priyanka Chandani (Rajasthan) and supporting actors were Mime Hasan (Bangladesh), Vijay (Nepal), Nitu Jain (Chattisgarh) and directed by Dr. Amit Gawande (Maharashtra). Based on the eminent Indian writer Bhishm Sahni's play 'Madhavi' Dr. Amit said 'We, being part of a modern world still subconsciously suppress women in the name of society, culture and religion and call ourselves evolved'. Priyanka did her role with full involvement impressing audience. Music given by Dr. Amit also helped the play to leave required impact.

'Rainbow Society's' another production was 'PARI' based on female foeticide. It was designed and directed by Siraj Bhati. Light, sound, props and set made this mime drama more meaningful. The third mime presentation was 'ISHQ E ROSHAN' directed by Priti Dubey. Natural acting of Aashu Dixit and Anshul Awasthi left long lasting effects.

'Anandam Cultural Centre', Coochbehar presented three Mimes namely 'PARINITI', 'CHHOTI OBOBO' and 'STATUE', all directed by late Shankar Prasad Gupta. Sukanya Dutta Gupta exhibited her tremendous talent in solo and group mimes.

As a representative of 'Martand Foundation', Udaipur Me and my wife Kiran gladly presented sincere mimes 'KRIPAN' and 'MY CHILD' based on poems of 'Geetanjali' Nobel Prize winning poetry of Gurudev Ravindra Nath Tagore. We also presented a light comedy mime 'HURDLE FULL HONEYMOON' to invoke

laughter. 'Jaipaguri Sristi Mime Theatre', Jaipaguri, West Bengal show cased mime drama 'SCARECROW' conceived and directed by Sabyasachi Dutta. A play of rural background focusing farming hinted that Religion stand in the mind of human, human stands on agriculture and agriculture blooms culture either in the field of forest or agriculture. Cast of 13 artistes supported by Light (Sujit Saha) and Music (Samarpan Das) kept audience engrossed till the curtain call.



'Amiya Memorial Creative Art' Asansol, West Bengal presented mimes 'SPRING' and 'ZOO' entertaining audience. Two hearing impaired artistes show cased their talent. A senior director Kalptaru Guha directed these mimes. 'Choot Theatre, Kerala' staged mime 'POTTAN THEYAM' involving folk form Theyyam. This was very powerful presentation. This was directed by Umesh Kalliaseri. 'Kanglei Mime Theatre Repertory', Imphal, Manipur presented two entertaining mimes called 'MY OBEDIENT DOLL' and 'NAUGHTY BOY' under the professional direction of Dr. Y. Sadanada Singh. Skillful acting by all the artistes received great applause. The live music using traditional and modern instruments helped a lot to create ambience of Manipuri Culture. A presentation of 'THABI KAKPI' (Cucumber cutting with blind folded eyes) was an enthralling item of Thangta.

'Theatrics', Thakurnagar, West Bengal presented mime play 'SACRIFICE' directed by Jagdish Gharami. This play highlighted people who are always ready to sacrifice their even their lives for noble cause to serve the society. Jagdish is himself a very good actor

was able to make impact with his other actors. Two teams from Bangladesh participated with full preparations. 'Pantomime Movement', Chattgaon, Bangladesh staged mime drama named 'A TALE OF A HERO'. The story was stimulated by the poem 'Birpurus' by the Nobel Laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore.

This was directed by Rezwana Razan who also enacted lead role with full confidence. The second group 'Muktomoncho Nirbak Dai', Gazipur, Bangladesh staged mime 'SAVE TREE SAVE LIFE'. This was conceived and directed by Shahidul Hassan Shamim of Gazipur who also enacted various roles with his 5 fellow artistes. Music was composed by Wasim Hasan. 'Nisab', Guwahati, Assam staged three mimes on different themes. 'MERA NAAM JOKER' was conceptualized and directed by Panajal Gogoi, 'PRALAY' had concept of Pradeep Dutta and directed by Sunil Gogoi and 'GIRLS HOSTEL' by Taposi Changmai Gogoi. Elaborate set, costume, stage props helped a lot. Popular music numbers made mimes effective.

'Prayash Natya Goshti', Howrah, West Bengal presented three mimes, ROBOT, HEARTLESS CITY and LET ME LIVE. These were directed by Partha Chakraborty. Maithili Lok Rang, Delhi staged mime 'SIDDHARTH' based on some episodes of life of Gautam Buddha. This was the first attempt of the group. This was directed by Amit Saxena. Music was given by Prakash Jha. 'Silent Theatre Act Society', Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh staged mime 'MAWALI KI SHADI' directed by Pushpendra Kumar Verma which really needed

more rehearsals. 'Akriti Rang Sansthan', Muzaffarpur, Bihar presented mime 'THE LEAF' directed by Sunil Phekania. This mime also needed more clarity at conceptual and direction level. Besides the students of 'Vishwa Bharti', Shantiniketan, WB also presented improvisation involving instrumental and vocal music, dance movements and actions. The Students of the First batch of 'National Mime Institute', Kolkata also staged solo, duet and group mimes. Yogesh Somi Bhatt directed mime 'LAST NOTE' and also presented solo mime 'WATER', Yashoda Aher directed group mime 'DUSTBIN', Shiva Kaushal staged solo mime 'VOLIN', Satyam Chaurasia presented solo mime 'ROBERY', Amit Jha staged solo 'FAN', Shahidul Bashir Murad presented solo mimes 'FOOTBALL' and 'CRICKET', Nitu Jain showcased solo mime 'MOTHER OF A SOLDIER', Sanjay Arya exhibited solo mime 'STAR' and duet 'DEKHEN SAAL AND Mime Hasan presented solo 'COLOUR'. All young artistes of NMI displayed their caliber with full enthusiasm and added their names in the list of promising artistes of India. These students also joined Madhurima, Subir, aurabh, Stalin, Doyel, Arko, Jagdish, Chanchal Das Gupta and others team members of Indian Mime theatre to organize their first mime festival and gaining experience. The Festival turned out to be successful in many ways. It had workshops and seminars for the benefit of young artistes and senior enthusiasts who seldom get opportunity to interact with subject experts and learn from them. Stalwart Guru Niranjana Goswami (Padmashree)

shared his rich experience and cleared many unfulfilled concepts about mime art. Yoga Guru Chonchol Roy spent every morning with participants doing mass yoga exercises. Dr. Y. Sadananda Singh, Guru Bhumikeshwar Singh shared their knowledge in Manipuri performing arts and Chow martial dance. Sabyasachi Dutta and Siraj Bhati also shared their techniques with young artists. Niranjana Da invited experts like Suresh Dutta (Padmashree) and others to discuss various issues in Seminar. Samir Mitra shared knowledge about Behrupia Tradition of West Bengal. He also introduced famous Behrupia artist Rabindranath Saha and show cased his performances followed by question answer sessions. Guru Niranjana Gowami emphasized that the prime objective of mime is to entertain; giving education or thought comes later. Director and actors must keep this in mind and present mime which can be understood flawlessly and enjoyed by spectators. We have no right to confuse our audience. He appealed the directors to be authentic and innovative. Actors must have full control on their body and mind. This week long festival was attended by more than 200 mime artistes who not only presented their talent but also had opportunity to observe and learn from each other enhancing scenario of mime art of India. Congratulations to Dr. Om Prakash Bhatti, Director Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata and President Malvika Bose for organizing this meaningful full event and hope such festivals and workshops may also be organized in states where mime is not very popular.

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## Khanche - A powerful play with subtle message

**Udaipur:** (Vilas Janve) Gurukul Cultural Education Society of Jodhpur staged excellent Drama 'Khanche' in the Rangshala, a monthly drama presentation at Darpan hall of Shilpgram this Sunday evening. Written by Aru Vyas and directed by Swati Vyas, this was a neat and clean play imbibing entertainment and emotions. The protagonist Vinayak Acharya was played by three artistes to represent childhood, youth and old age of this peculiar character who postpones the activities of his liking all

through his life. He did not enjoy street games, fly kites or play Holi festival of colours as he was scared of his father's scold and fear of exams. However he noted in his diary to enjoy such moments in near future. In youth he could not marry a girl which he wished and could never took his spouse to the movie together or just roams around holding their hands together as he sat late in the office. His so called responsibilities of work place made his son annoyed for reaching home very late by that time their kid

had gone to sleep unhappily. Many people tend to postpone significant joys and wishes of their life thinking that they may enjoy those moments in near future which never comes. Keeping our emotions in the margin we give main space to some ongoing routine activity and make ourselves deprived of those golden moments which could have made us and our dear ones happier. The script was very touchy. Scenes after scenes play enhanced the grip touching emotions of spectators. Direction and Light effects cre-

ated indelible effects. Intelligently handled properties and thematic Music played essential role to enhance the overall impact. Hitendra, Sudhanshu, Himanshu, Prerna, Ashok, Nikhil, Vishal and Himanshu Vyas justified their roles. Actors are promising and improve if they work more on their speech. West Zone Cultural Centre deserves thanks as Theatre lovers of Udaipur wait for the first Sunday of the month to occupy their seats in Darpan Hall.

## Udaipur Ryanites Rocked



**Udaipur:** Ryanite Master Hiren Jotwani of Ryan International School, Udaipur of std. first. Showcased a remarkable performance at "Sabe Bada Kalakar" a fame show at Channel Sony TV. Master Hiren performance was highly appreciated by the Bollywood judges Mr. Boman Irani & Ms. Raveena Tandon. Master Hiren has cleared his first round and has been selected in first 30 at the first round of the competition. Staff & management has highly appreciated the young talent.

## Rajasthan Forum honors Gaurvi Singhvi



**Udaipur:** The recent star swimmer Gaurvi Singhvi, who has brought laurels to her home state Rajasthan by becoming first swimmer to cross sea-link to Gateway of India, was felicitated by Rajasthan Forum on her remarkable achievement at Hotel ITC Rajputana. Mr. Tejinder Singh, General Manager, Hotel ITC Rajputana presented bouquet of Flowers to welcome her. Addressing the audience, In the beginning of the programme, Apra Kuchhal, executive secretary, Rajasthan Forum said, "Rajasthan Forum is a platform that meant to promote Rajasthan art, culture, literature, music, dance, theatre & other forms of performing arts and individuals. It is indeed a pride moment for us to felicitate the young talent called Gaurvi Singhvi. She has indeed made the state and all of us proud."

Speaking at the event, the confident Gaurvi Singhvi said, "The journey of my achievement would not be possible without extreme support of my parents, friends, and coaches. They have stood by me in all times and have encouraged me through out. I would like to thank Rajasthan Forum for their affection. I have got lot of motivation today and I assure you that I would perform better and make everyone proud by my future endeavors." On this occasion, Culturst Sundeep Bhutoria said, "Just before few days to Rajasthan Divas, Gaurvi has given all of us astonishing gift by creating this record. We all are proud of her." On this occasion, members from other organizations ie Aarohini, Divas, FICCI FLO, FICCI Rajathan, Grassroot Media Foundation, Help in Suffering, Hotel & Restaurant Association, ITC Rajputana Women Chapter, Jaipur Citizen's Forum, People's Media Theatre, Raghu Sinha Mala Mathur Memorial Trust, Rang Mastane, Rajputana Automotive Sports Car Club, Shruti Mandal, Spagia, We care, Rajasthan Film Trade and Promotion Council, Roop Rang Kala Sanskar and others also greeted and felicitated Gaurvi.

14 Years old Gaurvi Singhvi, a resident of Udaipur is a promising talent of Indian Swimming. She Covered the distance of 36 Kms in 6Hrs and 36 Mnts, and become the first swimmer to cross this pass. Her age and time taken made this record more remarkable. In such a young age, Gaurvi has become a source of inspiration for budding talents.

## Rajasthan Diwas Celebrated

**Udaipur:** On the occasion of Rajasthan Diwas, various programs were organized by Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation. The function included puppet show, Mehndi, food court, and Rajasthan dances.

## Computer training to specially-abled

**Udaipur:** As many as 13 specially-abled people were given a computer training by Narayan Sewa Sansthan.

Director Vandana Agrawal distributed certificates to these trainees. They were also given computer repairing kits.



