

# “Ritu Basant” enthrals



**R**itu Basant, an annual feature of West Zone Cultural Centre was organized with difference. Keeping in view the restrictions caused by Covid-19, the number of viewers was also less as compared to last year. But the best part was the interest of audience as art lovers witnessed live performances after a long time. Artists also enjoyed impromptu appreciation of audience for their rendition.

Three days Art connoisseurs of Udaipur enjoyed three

genres of performances. First day melodious of Classical and Folk Sarangis mesmerised listeners. Ustad Mohiuddin Khan (Padmashree Awardee) played his Sarangi engrossing all music lovers in a melodious atmosphere. He played Rag Maru Bihag in other words his Sarangi sang this melodious Rag which was followed by Dadara in Raga Mishra Pilu. Ustad ji has dedicated his life to promote this difficult instrument. His two sons also are progressing on the same path paved by him. His recital

was appropriately accompanied on Tabla by Pandit Ghanshyam Rao from Kota. Young artists Dr. Nidhi Sharma and Dimpay Sukhawal supported with Tanpura in this concert.

After Classical version of Sarangi veteran Folk Musician from Thar desert Lakha Khan Manganiyar (Village Raneri District Jodhpur) played Pyaledaar Sarangi depicting all colours of Manganiyar Folk Music. Normally Manganiyar musicians play Kamayacha, but Lakha ji has

retained his talent in Sarangi. Erudite Folk musician Lakha Khan has been recently awarded Padmashri for his contribution in Folk Music. Versatile artist Lakha ji rendered traditional folk songs from Western Rajasthan while playing Sarangi. His fingers were creating magic on Sarangi. His concert included Bana Bani Songs sung on occasion of marriage followed by songs on rains, winter and other festive occasions. He also honoured Farmasish. Mushtak Khan, ace Dholak player enhanced the charm of this concert with his perfect accompaniment. Another young Manganiyar, Pappu Khan supported Lakha ji in singing.

Padmashree Anup Jalota, stalwart singer of India offered a wonderful musical treat of different colors in his concert on the second day. He presented his most popular songs to allure audience. He started his recital with famous Bhajan by Meera Bai "Aisee lagilagan" which set the mood of the programme. Anup ji is not only an ace singer but a master performer too who creates tremendous rapport with audience narrating interesting instances.

Some of the songs were even sung by the audience. His other devotional songs "Achyutam Keshvam", "Tere man me Ram", "Shyam teri Bansi" were spell binding. He rendered popular Gazals of Jagjeet Singh ji and received brilliant response. "Hoton ko Choolotum" turned into group song as audience too engrossed in singing. "Damadam Mast Kalandar" almost stole the show. He was accompanied by Natasha Agrawal on vocal while Devendra Kumar was on Tabla, Mohammed Rashid Khan on Violin, Himanshu Tiwari and Alankar Deoda accompanied on Guitar.

Noted exponent of Mohiniattam, ace choreographer and ardent Guru Dr Jayaprabha Menon, and her disciples from Delhi mesmerised audience with their quality performance of Mohiniattam. It is said "If dance is mother of all Arts, Dr. Jayaprabha Menon is the blessed daughter of that great mother". Retaining the rich traditions of this classical dance form she has contributed many creative inputs with lot of innovations. Dr. Jayaprabha Menon

was at her best. Her soulful dance was an excellent example of divinity. Her precision in movement and facial expressions enthralled spectators. Besides her expertise in dance, Dr. Jayaprabha Menon has nurtured her disciples that too of very high level. Especially the way she trained her disciples was observed through exceptionally refined performances of young dancers. Her group presented Ganapati Stuti, Laysa Shringar, Ritu Leela and Ashtapadi. All young dancers performed like professional dancers and claimed equal applaud. Young dancers Mridula Unni, C. Nivedita, Aishwarya Nayar, Radhika Menon, Sunita Menon did their best. Accompaniment of Jayant on Vocal and Kotocal Vadyam, Thanjavur R.K. Sunayan on Mridangam, Shyamla Bhasakar on Veena and Satish Oduval on Eddakka made the performance very vibrant.

Learning intricacy of difficult classical dance Mohiniattam in North India is amazing. That exhibits excellent example of Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat.



Saleha Gazi from Jaipur deserves high appreciation for her glorified comparing. With her deep knowledge of various aspects of Culture she explained about performances and presenters in very interesting and interactive manner. "Ritu Basant" was graced by august presence of Prof Amarika Singh, VC, MLS University, Shri Vikas Sitaram Bhal, Divisional Commissioner and Shri Chetan Deora, District Collector, Udaipur. Director of

WZCC Smt. Kiran Soni Gupta welcomed guests. One could see blending of high calibre traditions and innovations.

I congratulate Director, WZCC Smt Kiran Soni Gupta and her team for enhancing cultural activities in recent past and having plenty new events lined up for coming days. WZCC is observing all the restrictions keeping view safety of people during time of Covid -19. We can say "Dekho Magar Dhyani Se"

- vilas janve

## The Meaning of Martyrdom

**Dr.H.S.Chandalia**

The dictionary meaning of martyr is "A martyr is someone who suffers persecution and death for advocating, renouncing, refusing to renounce, or refusing to advocate a religious belief or cause as demanded by an external party". Somehow western linguists have linked martyrdom with religion whereas the history of martyrdom in the world has been the persecution and death of people due to their belief in certain political ideas specially related to the vision of a nation or a world which is different from or antagonistic to the idea of the ruling classes. The martyrdom of sardar Bhagat Singh, Sikhdev, Rajguru, Ashfaqulla, Ramprasad Bismil and hundreds of other freedom fighters needs to be understood in terms of what was their world view, how they felt about

their nation and what their dreams for humanity at large were.

Bhagat Singh was a socialist revolutionary who was hanged along with his comrades Rajguru and Sukhdev on 23rd March 1931 by the British Government in India on the charge of waging war against the colonial rule. In December 1928, Bhagat Singh and an associate, Rajguru, fatally shot a 21-year-old British police officer, John Saunders, in Lahore, British India, mistaking Saunders, who was still on probation, for the British police superintendent, James Scott, whom they had intended to assassinate. They believed Scott was responsible for the death of Indian nationalist leader Lala Lajpat Rai as a result of having ordered a lathi charge in which Rai was injured, and, two weeks thereafter, died of a heart attack.

As he exited a police station on a motorcycle, Saunders was felled by a single bullet fired from across the street by Rajguru. Lying injured on the ground, he was then shot up close several times by Bhagat Singh. The postmortem report showed eight bullet wounds. Another associate of Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, shot dead an Indian police constable, Chanan Singh, who attempted to pursue Singh and Rajguru as they fled. Later Azad was also shot dead by the Imperial police.

What makes Bhagat Singh and his associates different from other freedom fighters was their world view about the nation and the humanity at large. He was inspired by Kartar Singh Sarabha and Bhai Parmanand who were founders of Gadar Party. He was a socialist and had read Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin and

Trotsky. In his last testament, "To Young Political Workers", he declared his ideal as the "Social reconstruction on new, i.e., Marxist, basis. Bhagat Singh wanted complete independence from the British rule as well as all those forces that enslaved human mind. His concept of complete independence meant that no one will be obsessed with God or religion, nor will anybody be crazy for money or other worldly desires. There will be no chains on the body or control by the state. This means that they want to eliminate: the Church, God and Religion; the state; Private property etc which make people exploit others for their profit. Bhagat Singh was an atheist and wrote a very famous essay titled "Why I am an Atheist". Today when we remember him, it would be pertinent to read and reread his writings to understand his world view.

### By the way

#### Diapers are bleeding

Tanya is only 6 years old. She is lying on a hospital bed surrounded by machines. Her pain is immeasurable. Her eyes are fixed on the ceiling with no dreams at all. Kashi went outside to buy onions but never came back. She was 11. Diya is in coma. Two males raped her so brutally that her rectum ripped out. She yells to see the face of any man who comes close to her. These are not merely stories of brutal rapes. These stories show the crashing values of our society. I have written many times on the causes of such heinous crimes but these crimes did not stop. Everyday one or two rape stories with small kids pop up on the screens of our smart phones. Some of us scream with pain and some others do candle march. Protests against such crimes have become routine part of our lives these days. Raping a girl may be a pleasure game for rapists but the scars on her body and mind are irreparable. Diapers are bleeding everywhere with bitten lips and damaged organs.

Are we humans? Its a big question. Are not we equally responsible for this damage?

We repeatedly say that girls are not safe anywhere. We blame others for this damage all the time. We question ourselves that can't we make our daughters strong mentally and physically? This may be right for young girls but what about small children who can't save themselves. How can a diaper baby fight with a mature male who is ready to harm her with all his might. Sometimes being strong and courageous is not enough because a small baby can not learn karate at the age of 1. We have not developed any technology yet in which we can make our new borns physically strong more than males. Actually we have never taught males to not to rape. We are protecting girls not to get raped since ages. Now the voracious face of modern society has been revealed. Mothers have raised beasts in the form of sons who don't respect women because they have been taught to behave insanely with women in daily lives. Mothers feel proud when sons abuse their sisters or other girls. Males are treated as Gods in our society. Families distribute sweets when boys are born but they don't accept girl children easily. No matter how far you throw trash, it will return to you some day. Similarly the way you are growing the new generation of males, they will only harm you in future. The low mentality of few males have been spreading like an epidemic and rape has become a fun game for them. Pornographic material is easily accessible on internet. It's like a live bomb that we are holding in our hands. Physical illness can be cured but mental illness can not be realised until the harm is being done. Survey reports say that the most mentally sick people look simple and sober. Its not that we should see every male with doubt but it is really important to frame our opinion based on facts rather than emotions. May be one person looks harmless from outside but he may be dangerous from inside. There is no parameter to measure his thoughts. Porn sites are visited by all age groups. The latest crime was done by children aged 6 to 12 by watching porn movie on internet. It's better not to save any male who has been charged in any rape case. Let Police and Law decide their fate. Think about the weeping mothers of rape victims and try to raise your sons in such a way who don't see them as sex objects. Stop producing human bombs who are finishing our babies. A twelve year old boy can rape an innocent baby and ruins both their futures forever. Porn sites are easily accessible everywhere. Technology is good for some but mostly people misuse this and our little babies are becoming victims of their sickness. I feel helpless and suffocated to hear these stories. Diaper babies don't wear jeans or shorts to attract males. I don't think that we have any excuse to defend these criminals now. Let's accept the fact that we have become beasts and we can harm any girl of any age. Diapers are crying with pain and fear. Please come forward to save them. Do something before it becomes an epidemic. Viruses are dangerous but what about destructive minds who are much more harmful than any other species. If bleeding diapers can not open your eyes, nothing else will.

- Hritu Sodhi

### A Special Webinar on the World Water Day

(RH News) To be part of the solution for The Most Burning problem of the coolest substance on earth THE WATER, a Special Webinar was organized on Monday, 22 March, 2021 to celebrate and observe World Water Day. It was an initiative of Dr. Arun Sharma President IMA, President NAB (Rajasthan) and Chairman PFA Mount Abu supported by Ruchi Doctor, business coach, art curator, music and literary agent and CEO Prowess House, Ahmedabad.

Many Government Departments and agencies like Forest Department, Govt. of Rajasthan, Tourism Department, Govt. of Rajasthan, ISA, Mount Abu. PHED, Rajasthan, Liftest Teamwork, Jaipur, PFA, Mount Abu, Indo-Canadian Prowess House, Martand Foundation, Udaipur and Educational Institutions took active part in organizing this Webinar. The experts opined to consider water as resources not as commodity. If we do not value water, we may face miserable condition. The only way to ensure good future is to save water in many ways.

Children of St. Mary's School, St. Joseph's School and Euro International School Jodhpur sang thematic songs "Pyas Bhar Pani aur Saans bhar Hava, yehi hai Dua"...and "Pani ki bhagidari Hum sab ki Jimmedari" written by Dr. Arun Sharman. Children also delivered impressive speeches on this occasion.

Martand Foundation, Udaipur presented two short films on Water conservation, during Webinar namely "Half Glass Water" and "Accelerator and Brake". Presentation of entertaining and educative Mime "Wash basin" by Vilas Janve and Kiran Janve was highly applauded during the Webinar.

Shri Sanjay Roy, TEAMWORK LITFEST, Dr. Parikshit Gautam, Environment Adviser to World Bank, Dr. Jitendra Singh G. Gaekwad, Baroda, M. K. Daivat Singh, Sirahi and Dr. Neelam Gautam, Environment Scientist blessed children on this very special day and congratulated for their commitment to words this noble cause of conserving water.

While thanking all Dr. Arun Sharman called all participants as WATER WISE WORKERS and emphasized on "Making every Drop Count." The Webinar was anchored by Ruchi Doctor.

### Dipsite Gandharva bags success in KVPY



Gandharva is endowed with exceptional qualities of foresight and perseverance.

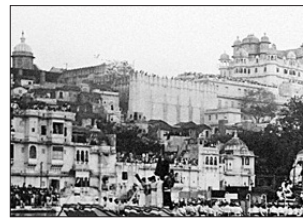
The school ProVice Chairman, Shri Govind Agarwal, Principal Mr. Sanjay Narvaria and the entire teaching fraternity of the school congratulated Gandharva and his parents for his remarkable success in such prestigious examination of the country.

**Udaipur:** DPS Udaipur

swells with pride in announcing that dipsite Gandharva Chippa of class 11 has given it a reason to rejoice by securing 2nd position in Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), a national-level fellowship programme conducted by the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bangalore every year.

### The City Palace Museum, Udaipur heads virtually to Bihar

**Udaipur:** As part of the first of its kind, Museum Biennale, The City Palace Museum, Udaipur will be showcasing the rich traditions of the land of Mewar, and the many arts that were patronized during the course of its history. It is a seven-day long event, from 22nd March to 28th March 2021, that will be inaugurated at the Bihar Museum, on Bihar Divas i.e. 22nd March 2021 by Mr Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister, Bihar.



This Biennale brings together Museums, institutes, professionals and experts from across the Indian subcontinent and the World, in a hybrid form, with a fusion of the physical and digital spaces. The event is being organized by the Bihar Museum, Patna, and the Department of Arts, Culture and Youth Affairs, Government of Bihar, under the leadership of the Biennale's Project Director, Dr. Alka Pandey.

An interesting line-up of events includes a conference, virtual and on ground tours of participating Museums, and a series of Master-classes by experts that will be streamed on virtual platforms. Viewers have the opportunity of experiencing myriad collections of participating Museums, from the comfort of their homes, absolutely free of cost. The Biennale is also accompanied by a catalogue featuring excerpts from participating Museums, and experts.

The exhibition curated by The City Palace Museum, Udaipur is titled Chronicling Mewar: History through the Arts, and it attempts to trace its journey. Mr. Bhupendra Singh Auwa, Administrator in Chief, Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur expressed the organization's sheer honour of being a part of such a collaboration. "We look forward to sharing the rich history of the land of Mewar, as documented in the Arts," he said.

The special curation of objects touch upon various aspects such as silver smithy and ritual, military might, architectural pursuits and others. Unique amongst the 10 objects that can be caught virtually as part of this exhibition are a 56 foot long Phad painting, that illustrates nearly 1200 years of Mewar history, and an architectural drawing executed with a Crow-quill ink pen; one that documents an important construction-restoration work on behalf of the State. The Museum will be releasing a compilation of these curated artworks, on its virtual platforms.