

Anuradha Pal : Tabla virtuoso in CCRT

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, Udaipur is currently organizing orientation course for 129 teachers coming from 20 states of India. It was a golden opportunity for all the participating teachers to witness the lecture cum demonstration of Anuradha Pal, world fame female Tabla exponent and disciple of Tabla legend Late Ustad Alla Rakha and Ustad Zakir Hussain.

During her session she involved everybody and asked to clap together counting simple taal (rhythm) and while narrating she easily demonstrated Teen Taal, Ek Taal, Dadara, Kaharva in slow, middle and fast tempo. Participating teachers enjoyed her way of explaining.

Anuradha Pal explained that Hindustani Classical Music is 5000 years old and is most developed music in the world. Raga and Taal are two heads of Music. They cannot travel separately. Classical Music follows 8 Prahara (Segments of time) and the musical notes keep on changing according to Prahara. 12 Notes of Music are same in Hindustani and Carnatic Classical Music but rendering is different.

She played Tabla with utmost ease demonstrating different tempos along with styles of different Gharanas. She recalled Tabla stalwarts like Ustad Ahmed Jaan Thirakuwa, Pandit Kishan Maharaj, Pandit Samtaprasad (Gudai Maharaj) and Ustad Alla Rakha and demonstrated their styles of playing. Anuradha rendered repertoire of Traditional Bandish, Peshkar, Kayda, Rela Chhakkardar and Lahori Gat etc.

She also explained how the Taal exists everywhere. Indian Tabla has great variety of rhythms and sound. Anuradha Pal while playing Tabla created ambience of Jungle differentiating roar of lion, jump of rabbit and running of deer. She described the Tandav Nrutya of Lord



Vilas janve

Shiva and punishing demons through Tabla. She created sounds of 'Ghanta', 'Damru' and 'Shankh' one after another creating war scene. She also created sound of Horse galloping, sound of drizzling and heavy rains, sound of local train right from starting to running and passing on Railway Bridge, even a small Bandish narrating confusing state of a car driver in a metro city.

She talked in language of Tabla. In an item she played Tabla as if a husband and wife have discussions blending different emotions and arguments which were very entertaining. Her supple facial expressions helped her in making her presentation very effective. This proves her enormous 'Reyaz' (practice) and tremendous control on instrument.

Her performance had combination of aesthetic sense, enormous energy and graceful presentation with high accuracy.

Dr. Prem Bhandari, who was inspiration for this special event at CCRT described this programme as one of the finest events as Anuradha Pal not only gave scintillating performance but also shared her deep knowledge with teachers coming from India. Dr. Prem Bhandari also read a sher (Couplet) 'Kaun ye mujhmei bol raha hai khamoshi ke baad, Zehan ki parten khol raha hai khamoshi ke baad' in her honour.

Shri Hussain Peer, a teacher from Karnataka said, 'Many of us did not know that Tabla is also mastered by a lady artiste. Anuradha ji is daughter of Goddess Saraswati who is thoroughly knowledgeable at the same time very modest. Till now I had seen Tabla as an accompanying instrument but first time saw a female Tabla player in prominent position. Dr. Aftab Hussain Officer of CCRT who introduced Anuradha Pal in beginning told at the end that

the objective of CCRT is fulfilled as the senior artistes and gurus of various field share their experience with participating teachers.

Accompanied the best musicians

Anuradha has also done musical concerts and fusion with many international artists. Anuradha Pal has accompanied some of the best musicians of India such as Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Smt. Girija Devi, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ustad Sultan Khan, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and also made performances of young musicians impressive with her Tabla accompaniment. These musicians are Sh. Rahul Sharma, Sh. Niladri Kumar and Rakesh Chaurasia. She has also jammed with prominent Jazz, Latin and African musicians in major Indian and International Festivals. She has given solo performances throughout the world.

Received Many Awards

Gold Medal-All India Youth Festival; Taal Mani-Awaarded by Sur Singer Samvad, Mumbai; Mahakal Samman-Awarded by Maha Kaleshwar Samiti, Ujjain; Taal Ratna-Awarded by Bhatkhande Lalit Shiksha Samiti; Best Musician Award-Awarded by Pandit Jasraj; Sanskrutik Puraskar-Awarded by Maharashtra State Government; Zee Astiva Award-Awarded by Zee Network; Star Taal Award-Awarded by Star TV; Adwitya Stree Shakti Puraskar-Awarded by Kalidas Academy, Ujjain; Excellence Award-Awarded by the State of Canada; Malva Taal Shiromani Samman-Awarded by Malva Sangeet Manch Samiti and Dagar Gharana Award-Awarded by Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur (in 2013). After her lecture cum demonstration she talked to me for some time.

Speaking about her creative compositions she has proud to compose background score for great painter M.F. Hussain's film 'Gaja Gami'. This film was highly appreciated at the Cannes Film Festival for its originality and evocativeness. She has many short films, documentaries, dramas and other events to her credit for her befitting compositions.

Vilas : How do you find yourself as an extraordinary achiever?

Anuradha : I feel great but at same time I realise that there are many new goals to be achieved.

Vilas : Whom do you, give credit? Anuradha : My parents and my Guru. My mother is Gujarati and father is Punjabi I live in Maharashtra and in Rajasthan also. I say I am Hindustani. My parents have supported me through out. Tabla is considered as most difficult to pursue which has always been male dominated instrument. But they had full faith in my passion. They gave me best "Sanskar" and hence I have reached this stage. Vilas : How did you begin your learning?

Anuradha : I started at very young. My initial training was in Benaras Gharana later I shifted to Punjab Gharana. I have also studied Delhi, Farukhabad, Ajrala and Merath Gharanas. Gharana are different in contents, compositions and approach. Pandit Samta Prasad (Gudai Maharaj) had tremendous control on Banya (Dugga). In Punjab Gharana Ta Tir Kit is played with middle finger.

Vilas : What was your turning point? Anuradha : I was 16 years old when I played first time with Ustad Zakir Hussain. It was most memorable performance. My Guru Late Ustad Alla Rakha Khan and his son Ustad Zakir Hussain not only taught dif-



ferent aspects of Tabla but also encouraged me to great extent. Vilas : You are always smiling and encouraging your accompanists Shri Naresh Vayyer on Sitar and Shri Om Kumawat on Harmonium on stage...

Anuradha : I have to enjoy myself first then only I can play with full devotion. Vayyer ji and Om ji put their best. It is very tedious to play 'Lahara'.

Vilas : How are you promoting Tabla outside India?

Anuradha : I have conducted special workshops at New England Conservatory and Berkeley School of Music. This was 'Artist-in-residence' activity. Foreign students and musicians have great respect for Indian Classical Music. Further I was involved in a research project "Relationship between Brain, Music & Language" at Neurosciences University, San Diego and "Study of Tabla, Aesthetics & Complexities" at the Harvard Science Center.

Vilas : How can you demonstrate all the Nine Rasas (like Veer, Shrigar, Roudra, etc. of Natya Shastra) on Tabla? Anuradha : Tabla has great range of Taals and sound. I only think the Bhav (Ras-Expression) in mind and my fingers translate the same on my Tabla.

Vilas : What are your favourite Projects?

Anuradha : My special concert 'Anuradha Pal in Jugabandi with herself'. I play two Tablas accompanied by Sarangi and Keyboard.

Vilas : I have heard about your group "Recharge" and "Streeshakti", Pl. say something about them.

Anuradha : "Recharge" is a highly professional band which has performed and rocked many International Music Festivals including "WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL" which was seen by 4,00,000 music lovers. "Streeshakti" is a group who has women artistes mainly percussionists and is known for its high quality concerts.

Vilas : What is your relation with Udaipur?

Anuradha : I have been coming to Udaipur since my childhood. I also got married here. I received Dagar Gharana Samman from Maharana Mewar Charitable Trust in 2013. I love Udaipur.

Vilas : What do you suggest to your disciples and new comers in this field?

Anuradha : I always emphasize on hard work with systematic approach. I focus on foundation. A good and dedicated foundation will always help. I always ask parents to make their children "Sanskarvan".

Women Safety : Panic Button to be introduced on Mobiles

Udaipur : Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi said on Friday that a proposal for introducing a Panic Button on Mobiles is likely to be implemented in a few months. The Centre is in talks with Mobile Manufacturers, to introduce a GPS connected Button on Mobiles, which when pressed, will send SMS to a Central control location, giving the location of the handset. This is primarily for Women Safety but surely can be a tool for all sorts of panic situations. As per media sources, the government had asked manufacturers to work out the feasibility of such a solution, after various recommendations had finally closed in on using a mobiles for providing escape solutions. Introducing GPS based buttons will ensure that the device communications is not hindered by availability of internet connectivity, which turned out to be a problem with App based solutions.

KV Jose to receive Global Teacher Award

Udaipur : KV Jose, Educationist and teacher of Udaipur has been selected for the prestigious International Global Teacher Award. Honored with two national awards in the past, K.V Jose's name for global teacher award is chosen by ILO and UNESCO. Jose will be awarded in a function going to be held in Mumbai's Savarkar Auditorium on 5th Oct. He is presently teaching at Central Public School.

Receives honor at State Level

Udaipur : Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad's General Manager & District Project Manager R.K Agrawal received trophy and certificate from Rajasthan Government's cabinet minister Surendra Goyal in Jaipur. More than 1200 delegates and CRP team were present in the event held at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur. It is to consider that Udaipur secured the first position in the state for bank linkage.

Club Mahindra Udaipur celebrates

Udaipur : 70th Foundation Day of Mahindra Group was celebrated at Club Mahindra Udaipur and was attended by guests staying at the resort with the entire staff. General Manager of the Resort briefed guests about the journey of Mahindra Group. The company was founded on 2nd October 1945 by K.C Mahindra and J.C Mahindra along with Ghulam Mohammad. Today the Mahindra Group has presence in 6 continents with over 2 lac employees. This is one of the most admired brands of India and aspires to be in top 50 most admired brands across the globe he said.

Wonder Cement organizes Health Camp at Borakheri

Udaipur : A Health camp was organized in village Borakheri, Nimbahera by Wonder Cement Ltd (WCL) in association with District Health Department on 3rd. Dr. Raghav Singh rendered his services to the community. Free medicine was given by WCL. 179 patients were benefitted in the camp. Blood sugar test were also conducted in the camp. H.S Jhala, Dy. Manager (CSR) of WCL informed that Weekly health camp is organized by WCL in the nearby villages under company's CSR scheme to help old age people, women and children who are not able to travel to Tehsil hospitals.

Bhakti & Leena now in Limca Book of Records

Udaipur : After achieving international feat lake city's eminent swimmer Bhakti Sharma and mother Leena Sharma once again made city proud. This time their courageous feat of crossing the English Channel has been included in the Limca Book of Records as the only mother-daughter duo to achieve in the world.

Leena Sharma said, "With the arrival of the certificate, we were filled with compliments and warm wishes from the loved ones. Crossing the English Channel has always been a dream for both of us which was supported by Bhakti's father Chandrashekhar Sharma fully."



She added, "After regular practice in Udaipur, we crossed 72 Km in Arabia Sea from Gateway of India in 18 hours which is still an unbreakable record."

Mother daughter duo talked about their first attempt of crossing the English Channel from England to France, covering 36 Km on 13th July. Due to increased wind speed and waves, the swimmers had to swim for 45 Km and had to face physical challenges during the first attempt. After swimming for

9 hours, they took the advice from the ship captain Andy King and halted their swim.

Generally, the swimmer takes 30 days break after swimming in the English Channel but the ambitious mother-daughter duo after 10 days set the record on 23rd July 2008 in 18 hours.

Bhakti Sharma is the youngest swimmer to have crossed all the 7 seas and 5 oceans of the world including English Channel, Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean etc. She has several records and achievements in the field of swimming to have been awarded from the central government as well.

Clean City -Green City rally spreads public awareness

Udaipur : Lions Club Hadi Rani members organized a public awareness rally from Dewali to Fateh Sagar overflow with the message of Clean City-Green City. Dr. Sushma Joshi informed that the members of all the clubs participated in the rally during Lions Service Week. Former governor V.K Ladia, Deputy Governor Arvind Chatur, region chairman Waseem Khan, newly elected president & zone chairman Rajesh Khamesra, president Kiran Jain, Manish Baheti, Kalpana Sharma etc were present.

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