

## " The Mermaid Tales: An Ocean of Imagination "

Rachita A Bafna

As the present generation continues to grow up in an age that is saturated with information, we run the risk of losing out on the tradition of storytelling from an age when time was plenty, and children's imaginations were not held by a constant, shiny metallic distraction at every turn.

'Mermaid Tales' is a book that hoped to resurrect at least one such tradition of storytelling - those tales about these gorgeous and fantastical human creatures of the sea that possessed the grace of a fish but the heart and soul of a human being.

Many have claimed to have sighted mermaids over the years, but rarely has it happened that a sighting has been documented. Perhaps this is what contributes to maintaining that elusive and fantastical quality that these graceful sea creatures are said to have possessed. They appear in the folklore of cultures from around the world - Europe, Africa, Asia and the Near East.

But how have they been depicted in these cultures previously? Drastically, they are often associated with perilous events such as drownings, shipwrecks, storms or floods! But no, the mermaids depicted in this compilation children's book are from being creatures that are associated with such horrendous events.

No, they are kind, augur good news, are honest, and possess magical qualities that spread joy across the world.

But why mermaids? Well, half fish and half human, they appear to be the most gentle of all creatures that could possibly have been invented for as long as humanity has thought up fictional tales. They seem like the perfect symbols and messengers of getting a message across in simply the most heartening way. If a mermaid spoke to a child, the child would listen.

And that is precisely what the aim of this compilation is - To entertain, to thrill. To spark

imagination, to inspire awe. To educate, to plant a seed of thought. To spread joy, to leave an impression on childhood.

Hans Christian Andersen's popular tale "The Little Mermaid" was first published in 1837 and has since been adapted by various media in performances across the world. Well, in this book we present to you not one, but 4 mermaid tales, each of a different character, feel and moral lesson to take back from it. Why are fairy tales important though, one might ask? To this, I ask some very simple questions of myself. What would it be like to live in a world without any imagination? What would it be like to live in a world which is devoid of that basic human instinct we call creativity? And what would it be like to live in a world which does not value the ideal that anything is possible in the world that we live in.

The answer is, without imagination there is no vision for the future. Without creativity there is no incentive for the gifts we have been given to find full fruition. And without the belief that anything is truly possible, there is no way forward for what we dearly call humanity. What is key to this is that we want to instill these values and possibilities among the generation which succeeds us, so they don't lose out on the gifts of the past and continue their journey as dedicated people in the future.

So yes, a symbol as simple as a mermaid can spark an unending typhoon of enthusiasm in a child. Through these stories, it is the authors of those stories as well who want to share their dreams with the world. I, Rachita Bafna am one of the authors and bring to you my own unique tale of when a mermaid befriended a young girl, and the events that transpired after that. Sometimes it is our imagination which makes things real. I certainly hope the book takes you on a journey, whether you're 5 or 85, and transports you into a world where everything is possible.



# All set for Shilpgram 2015

Udaipur : The 10 days of cultural extravaganza Shilpgram utsav will be organized by WZCC in association of Commissioner, Development of Handicraft, New Delhi, National Jute Development Board, New Delhi, Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited, Udaipur, Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi Jodhpur, Directorate of Art & Culture Maharashtra, Government of Goa, Yuvak Seva & Sanskritik Department, Government of Gujarat, North Central Culture Center, Patiala, North Central Cultural Center Allahabad, South Zone Culture Center Tanjavur, Central Zone Cultural Center Nagpur, Eastern Zone Cultural Center Kolkata and Dimapur.

Governor Kalyan Singh will inaugurate the Shilpgram Utsav 2015 on 21st Dec and all entries will be free only on that day after 3 PM. Special guests of the event will be Gulab Chand Kataria (Home Minister) and Arjun Lal Meena MLA. While addressing a press conference, WZCC Director Furqan Khan briefed about the scheduled programs and special events which will be introduced for the first time. Hivra ri Huk - Dil Chahta hai - There is an artist that resides inside every human being but mostly due to hesitation it never comes out. Singing is a common practice and it also gives us self relaxation but what if a common person gets a stage to perform? The hidden talent will come out suddenly and surprise the audience and the performer himself.

With the motive to provide a stage



to every common person who are not professional or passionate artists, singers and dancers will get a stage "Hivra ri Huk" which means Dil Chahta hai to perform with their fullest.

From 22nd to 28th Dec between 12 PM to 4 PM, a special stage performances will be conducted and people can register their names before performing. There is no selection procedure and everyone can perform with any of talents viz. Singing, Dance, Playing Musical Instrument or reciting Poetries, Documentary (Drishyam) - This is for the first time, that Documentaries are included in the Shilpgram Utsav. Audio Visual Shows are best way to promote, extend and communicate. Through documentary presentation, WZCC will try to spread

knowledge and awareness among masses regarding the folk arts which are fading through time.

Three venues of Shilpgram are selected for Documentaries viz. Main Rangmanch, Kala Niwas and Kala Kunj will have a large LED Screen installed and films will be showcased whole day. Apart from special documentary of Shilpgram, films on Gavri, Turra Kalangi Rogan Kam, Mewati Jogi and Dang will also showcased.

Special Days - West Zone Cultural Center is amalgamation of Western States of India which are not only varied geographically but also have diverse History, Culture, Art and Craft. WZCC has its members in states including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa and during the

Hemant Kharsani aka Chika Kharsani from Ahmedabad is a well known mimicry artist and has successfully presented his art on both national and international platforms. His self written mimicry stories Dog Meeting, Yudh etc. are renowned.

Kaanch ka Nagada - Nagada is an ancient musical instrument which is commonly used in play and dance. It is been used even in marriage ceremonies in Rajasthan with Shehnai, another musical tool. Interestingly Narendra Singh Khushwaha from Ujjain has mastered in Nagada made of glass. Kushwaha is known as King of Nagada and his Kaanch ka Nagada will be in spotlight during the festival.

Baal Sansar (Kids World) - The children visiting Shilpgram Festival will get opportunity to learn the arts of Magic Tricks, Calligraphy and Toy making by experts. WZCC Director Furqan Khan has informed that every morning all artistic activities and Haat Bazaar will begin, whereas from 6 PM folk artists will start performing with music, dance and theater on stage. It may recalled that 750 folk artists, 960 craftsmen, experts in traditional handicraft of their respective states will take part in this year's Shilpgram Utsav-2015. Besides its regular events, this year WZCC, the main organizing body of Shilpgram has introduced many new attractions to entertain the audience. The team of WZCC is working round the clock for grand success of this mega event of Udaipur.

## Smart city few suggestions

Since I am working on Rain water harvesting since last two decades I have been awarded by Dalmiya Pani Parvayaaran Puruskar 2015 on last 27 th Nov. by Environment Minister Shri Raj Kumar Rinwa.

I have few suggestions for a smart city :

1. First & foremost we must not supply water for 24 hours as this will definitely spoil the habit of many years of doing with alternate day water supply, most of the water will be wasted in the lawns or by leaking taps.
2. Install treatment plants at the earliest at different places so that none of the untreated sewage goes to Ahar River or any lake as it has already polluted the nearby underground water of the river.
3. No wall to wall road construction be allowed as this will prevent Rain water recharge through the soil or porous tiles should be fitted on the both sides of the road to allow percolation of Rain water.
4. Roof Top Rain water harvesting should be confirmed by the local authority & no rain water be allowed to go to the Drains. (I have not seen a drop of rain water falling on floor from the roof tops in Houston, U.S.A.



from any house) 5. Smart means smart use of natural resources i.e. water be used in houses, hotels, buildings very judiciously so that we leave some potable water for the next generations.

6. All defunct, dead wells, bawaries be reopened, recharged, reused to preserve our Heritage & give them a heritage look. As we have done in Udaipur, Rajsamand, Sirohi, Kankaroli.
7. To save Underground water install Pangat on these recharged defunct Bawaries so there will be no need to dig a tube well for the Panghat, this will save the Underground water & water of these bawaries will be utilized.
8. All hand Pumps which are defunct should be recharged by the near by houses or buildings as we have done in the Udaipur, Rajsamand, Sirohi, Kankaroli, Jaipur City & village near by.
9. No Hand Pump/Borewell should be dug without first insuring recharge from the near by roof tops so that discharge & recharge goes continuously as in our mobile & this water source will not get defunct.

## Conference on Stone Industry

Udaipur : "If stone industry has to create an identity at the world-level, we will need to adopt new technologies. We will have to share information and work according to universal standards," these were the views opined and shared by participants of the International Stone Technology Conference held in the UCCI auditorium in Udaipur. The conference was organized under joint aegis of Centre for Development of Stone (CDOS), FICCI, and RICO.

It was further felt by the veterans and experts that after having acquired new technology, the focus will have to be kept on best use of waste and proper waste management.



According to the experts, India can compete with Italy and China easily as we have no dearth of resources or manpower. The conference was graced by many icons of marble industry from across the country.

Mining director DS Maru said that there are about 2300 gang saw fitted on 2200 marble mines in Rajasthan. "With such a huge industry, the market for all kind of stones should be developed with new value addition," he said. He said that stone industry is heading towards zero-wastage.

CDOS chairman RK Gupta said that we are able to face all challenges. "We all can take the stone business to a new height," he added.

## State Govt's Achievement oriented exhibition

Udaipur : After the completion of 2 years of the ruling government of the state, the achievement oriented exhibition titled 'Sach Hote Sapne-Pure Hote Vaade' inaugurated at Information Center on 17th December by Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria.

The achievements and goals reached by various departments including information & PR, Ayurveda, Women & Child Development, Women Rights, Medical & Health, Udaipur Dairy, Co-operatives, Water Resource, Nagar Nigam, Nagar Vikas Pranyas, Forest, Social Law & Rights etc. were displayed through pictures, flex, posters, banners and models.

At the same venue, a free health camp organized in association with Vipra Foundation and four exporters for their contribution honored in the presence of Mayor Chandra Singh Kothari, Zila Pramukh Shantilal Meghwal, MLAs, MPs, representatives and other delegates. The four exporters who received memento and appreciation letter from home minister Kataria were Secure Meters Ltd., Rose Marbles Ltd., Harmony Plastics Pvt. Ltd. and Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

## 'Swachh Bharat' is still untouched in villages

Udaipur : JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University's Udaipur School of Social Work had conducted surveys in around 15 establishments around Dhikli Village.

The students observed that the national campaign of 'Swachh Bharat' is still untouched and unheard of in these remote villages. The villagers were informed about the campaign and along with the students cleaned the school areas. To help raise awareness towards health, a medical camp will be set up on Saturday at

Dhikli village for free. Organizer Dr. Veena Dwivedi informed that the 80 students meet the villagers collected information about their problems which they are facing.

During the discussion, Dr. Rajbhandi highlighted the major issue of child labor where urban population hire the poor, especially kids for work in the cities which should be immediately stopped. Former Director Sushil Dashora, Dr. Lal Ram Jaat and Chitrnan Nagda also put forth their suggestions and views.

## Come and join : to defeat cancer

Udaipur : A two day workshop organized by GBH Memorial Cancer hospital in collaboration with Rajasthan Chapter Association of Radiation, Archeologist at hotel Valley View Udaipur. The theme of workshop was comprehensive treatment and recent advancement in management of major malignancies, Dr. Rajesh Parsia, Dr. Murad Lala, Kumar Prabhaskar, Shabani Ghosh, Lashkar shared their views on mouth and throat cancer. Dr. Nita Nayar,

Sandeep Jasuja, Dr. Kastav said that with the modern technology breast cancer in stage first can be removed totally. Dr. Supriya Chopra, Puneer Parikh and M. Agarwal presented their paper in workshop. As for who report 30% deaths due to cancer is by using Tabacco, alcohol and irregular diet. In last 10 years 84 Crore patients suffering from cancer lost their lives. Dr. Rajesh Pasaria said that radiation treatment is a powerful weapon in treatment.

## AAPI's conference in Udaipur

Udaipur : Imagindia institute is organizing a press-conference in Udaipur At Hotel Bhamnivas. This press conference is hosted by AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin). AAPI is the world's largest professional organization of the global Indian Diasporas. It is the apex body of Indian physicians in the United States - with constituency of over 100,000 Indian-American physicians, 20,000 Medical Students/ Residents, 150 Member Organizations, and over 25,000 Active members. The current president-elect of the AAPI organization is Dr. Ajay Lodha. Dr. Ajay Lodha is a very respected physician in the United States and leader of Indian American community on issues of connecting and growing US-India collaboration on healthcare in India.

## Checkup Camp Organized

Udaipur : Lions Club Eklingji and Nidhi Kamal Nishan collaboratively organized Mega Blood Donation Camp and Diabetes camp at Madri Industrial Area on Thursday. President Lion Nareish Maheshwari said that 41 units of blood were donated whereas 130 people came for diabetes checkup. Mahesh Kasara, Kamlesh Kumawat, Bhagwatilal, Surendra Mogra and Nishan's General Manager Hemendra Singh Panwar including 41 people donated blood. On the occasion, all medical staff members were honored with certificates.

## शिल्पग्राम उत्सव

राष्ट्रीय हस्त शिल्प एवं लोक कला उत्सव

21 से 30 दिसम्बर 2015

उद्घाटन

21 दिसम्बर 2015 सायं 6.00 बजे

मुख्य अतिथि

श्री कल्याण सिंह

माननीय राज्यपाल, राजस्थान

विशिष्ट अतिथि

श्री गुलाब चंद कटारिया

माननीय मंत्री गृह, न्याय एवं नागरिक सुरक्षा, राजस्थान

विशिष्ट अतिथि

श्री अर्जुन लाल मीणा

माननीय संसद सदस्य, उदयपुर

पश्चिम क्षेत्र सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र, उदयपुर

सहयोगी

विकास आयुक्त हस्त शिल्प, नई दिल्ली, विकास आयुक्त हथकरघा, नई दिल्ली  
राष्ट्रीय पटसन बोर्ड, नई दिल्ली, राजस्थान स्टेट माईंस एण्ड मिनरल्स लिमिटेड, उदयपुर  
सभी क्षेत्रीय सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र

