

IR & Much More

- Shilpgram Utsav - A Pride Festival of Udaipur begins



Udaipur has maximum tourists from India and abroad these days and the local people are also in festive mood. The main festival Shilpgram Utsav started from December 21, followed by Bird Fest, Christmas Celebrations and Flower Show.

Sunday pulled maximum crowd making all the roads approaching Shilpgram jam. Shilpgram Festival of WZCC has become people's festival and attracting masses from all corners that enter the gates of Shilpgram.

The inaugurated by Honorable Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Kalyan Singh on December 21, it added one more important feature of conferring Padmabhushan Komal Kothari Award. This was presented to stalwart of Kuchamani Khyal (Folk Theatre) artiste Banshi Lal Khiladi for life time Achievement. Smt. Indira Kothari wife of Late Padma Bhushan Komal Kothari was also honored on stage who had come with her son Kuldeep Kothari, Secretary of Rupayan Sansthan, Jodhpur.

This Mega festival has been attracting people to experience the authentic folk and tribal culture traditions of India through street performers, stage performers, crafts and even cuisines. A visitor has good choice to try eatables from different states, Milk products from Lucknow, Biryani from Hyderabad, Litti Chokha from Bihar, Idly dosa from South, Jaleba of Haryana, Khaman Dhokla of Gujarat to Dal Bati Churma and other mouth watering snacks from Rajasthan. The craft persons from across India brought artifacts from their regions to make a good sale. Bahurupias, Nats, Bhopas and Puppeteers are alluring with their indigenous talent. 'Hivda ri Hook' at Banjara Mela stage is attracting singers to show case their talent on accompaniment of orchestra (Band) of Susheel Chaudhari (Music Makers). "Singers have wait for their turn as there is a long list of singers" says Susheel Chaudhari. Senior Dramatist Deepak Joshi (Retired Field Officer of CCRT) is holding quiz contest on issues related to culture which is also gaining good gathering on the same stage.

Every evening the Main amphitheater is presenting folk and tribal art forms such as Dangi (Gujarat), Gotipua (Odisha), Dhediya (U.P.), Bhortaal (Assam), Chandi (Sikkim), Natuwa (West Bengal), Ghode Modni and Samaee dance (Goa), Lawni and Pole Mallakhamb (Maharashtra), Rauf (Jammu & Kashmir), Hozagiri (Tripura) etc. Jumme Khan Mewati is rendering best Mewati Songs on his peculiar instruments Bhapang. Glimpses of Kuchamani khyal (Folk Theatre) and Gavari from Rajasthan are displaying the strength of rural folk culture. Jhalki (comedy skits) are evoking laughter. WZCC also included a fusion of kathak, Lawni and Gotipua as a measure of innovation. Shilpgram Utsav will last till December 30 and has some more art forms to be displayed on main stage along with programme called "Jhankar" which imbibes many folk, tribal and classical instruments to create symphony. Development Commissioner for Handicrafts and Development Commissioner for Handlooms, National Jute Board, National Wool Board and other six Zonal Cultural Centres have contributed in SGU and sent many craft persons.

The concept of establishing Shilpgram as living ethnographic museum and cultural activity centre was initiated by the founder director of WZCC, Mrs. Aditi Mehta with the help of renowned designer Padmasri Haku Shah. With passage of time, all the Directors of WZCC put their ideas and efforts to reach this stage, off course, along with creative and committed crew of WZCC. Congrats to WZCC team.

-Vilas Janve

Sukriti- An Exhibition with Innovation

Udaipur: An exhibition of art and craft was organized at Kala Veethi of Bagor ki Haveli Gangaur Ghat, Udaipur on December 21, 2017. Young artists and craft persons Heena Gajjar and her sister Komal Gajjar displayed their latest artwork during the exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Alka Sharma, Director, Central Public School, Udaipur. Senior dramatist Vilas Janve was present as guest of honor.

The main emphasis of the exhibition was on the jewelry created from Banana Silk Yarn. "After a great deal of research, we found that the fiber of banana plant can be used in making jewelry items after dyeing which is otherwise thrown as waste" says Heena Gajjar. Similarly the two sisters have used recycled silk yarn to make soft and attractive necklaces adding more value to it.

The range of handmade artifacts included Vintage Bookmarks, Kids Bookmarks, Banana silk yarn jewelry, Recycled silk yarn jewelry, Ceramic jewelry, Bamboo craft, Creative Pen drive dangles, Beaded choker necklaces, Hair beads, Hair Combs, Hair Sticks, ceramic fridge magnets, Wire ear rings, etc. artistic collectibles, which is having unique flavor of fine art. The exhibition is open up to 31 December from 11 am till 8 pm.

Dawoodi Bohras came together in five-day 'Upliftment' drive

Udaipur: The health and vibrancy of a society are determined by the universal availability and accessibility to basic needs: food, healthcare, education, potable water, sanitation and affordable housing. In keeping with these socio-economic essentials, the Dawoodi Bohra community has come together to begin its third annual five-day Upliftment Drive. Preparations began in earnest from the Prophet Mohammed's SAW birthday, which was celebrated last month; his teachings regarding helping the less fortunate and showing kindness to others lie at the heart of this drive.

The various initiatives include a worldwide food distribution drive for the under-privileged, the organization of free medical camps to check for elevated blood pressure and diabetes, vaccinations and eye and dental check-ups. It is perhaps fortuitous that the days of this Upliftment drive come at the same time as when many people throughout the world are celebrating their own season of giving and spreading goodwill. More than 21,000 community officials and members comprising of clergy and community officials, doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects, businessmen, homemakers, and students will set out for over 450 towns and cities across India and 200 cities outside the country. Many individuals have flown into the country specifically for this purpose. Students and faculty of the community's primary educational institute, Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah, form the largest contingent of this volunteer group.

'Deshaj' @ Arna Jharna, Jodhpur (15-19 Dec.17)

Vilas Janve

Jodhpur: I had an opportunity to observe a folk festival show casing folk and tribal performances of various states of India at Arna Jharna, the Thar Desert Museum, Jodhpur from 17 to 19 December, 2017.

Perhaps it was right selection of Akademi to hold their 17th edition of "Deshaj" at Arna Jharna which is established amidst natural ambience in Moklawas village 15 kilometers from Jodhpur. In the midst of desert flora and fauna, the museum is an expression of the lifelong efforts of the late Komal Kothari (Padma Bhushan) at providing an alternative image of Rajasthan as a region rich in folk culture and oral traditions. A museum dedicated to the Thar, Arna Jharna celebrates the quiet beauty of the desert and local adaptation to life in this terrain. Kothari, the mighty oral historian, along with the late Vijaydan Detha (Padma Shri), the masterful storyteller, formed one of the greatest intellectual partnerships of post Independence India.

It was this partnership that found fruition as Rupayan Sansthan, an institution dedicated to the folklore of Rajasthan, established by Kothari and Detha in 1960. The institution includes a huge archive of audio-video recordings of oral traditions from Rajasthan and also runs the Arna Jharna museum. Together, the archive and the museum offer a profound understanding of the unique folk culture and regional identity of Rajasthan. The museum modules dedicated to brooms, musical instruments, pottery and

puppetry highlight the life, leisure and labour of the people of the desert.

Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi is India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama. Since its inception the Akademi has been functioning as the apex body in the field of performing arts in the country, preserving and promoting the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance and drama. In furtherance of its objectives, the Akademi collaborates with Government and art Academies of different States and Union Territories of Union of India, as also with major cultural institutions in the country. Akademi organizes festivals, workshops, seminars, training camps, research, documentations, publications, covering different forms of arts right from Drama, Dance, Music to Puppetry, the scope covers Classical, Semi Classical, Folk and Tribal forms to cater to every section of society. Akademi also provides promotion to artists by conferring various awards. Out of many prestigious events of SNA, "Deshaj" was organized first time in Rajasthan although the concept of "Deshaj" emerged in 2013 and has covered 16 places right from New Delhi to Imphal and Ujjain to Leh in previous attempts. The venue of Arna Jharna Thar Desert Museum was perfect in all respect. Around 500 artistes of 20 states show cased various art forms to allure the audience with their captive dances, music and drama performances. "Deshaj" endeavors to present the rich cultural heritage of India

on one platform so that the audience gets an opportunity to watch performances of artistes of different regions with their peculiar indigenous flavor. Every folk or tribal performing art has its own history and myth which connects the continuity of past with present. "Deshaj" strives to maintain this continuity. It was my first time to be associated with "Deshaj" as an anchor for 3 days. I had interacted with all the groups who performed from 17 th to 19 th December to collect genuine information about their traditions and the art form they presented so that I could give authentic information to the spectators present on venue and viewers at Face Book and Website of Sangeet Natak Akademi as well YouTube who watched live programme.

In the limited time the audience must understand the background of the performance. This understanding created interest in the audience at the same time artistes were happy to show case their talent. Appropriate light and sound arrangements on the erected stage made performances more illustrative. Every day's programme was chalked out at SNA in advance. All artistes knew that their programmes are shown live on YouTube and Website and Face Book of Sangeet Natak Akademi so they were excited and were rendering their best. It was also a treat to watch such colorful, vibrant and captivating musical and dance performances one after another. The Art forms shown during "Deshaj" were Langa



Manganiyar Musicians, Kalbelia, Khari, Garasia, Angi Ger, Terataal dancers and Rhythms of Mewat along with Kuchamani Khyal (Folk Theatre from Rajasthan), Sirmauri Nati (Himachal Pradesh), Kud (Jammu and Kashmir), Chaumasa (Uttarakhand), Jindwa and Malvai Gidda (Punjab), Faag (Haryana), Tippi and Hudo (Gujarat), Lawani (Maharashtra), Sailla (Madhya Pradesh) Kaksar (Chattisgarh), Ghanta Mardal (Odisha), Gourava Nrutyam (Andhra Pradesh), Santhali (West Bengal), Kashaad-Masteeh (Meghalaya), Jeng Bihu (Assam), Tapu war Dance (Arunachal Pradesh), Mungiyanta (Nagaland), Biju (Tirupura) Karagattam (Tamilnadu) and Kamsale (Karnataka). It was a rare opportunity for the visitors to watch a kaleidoscopic view of performances of different states. Their language, music, songs, dances, costumes, jewelry, style of presentations were different but most important and common thing was that they

belonged to one mother land; India. Unity in diversity was experienced in "Deshaj". The exhibition cum sale of various valuable publications and DVDs and CDs of stalwart musicians was an added attraction for people who visited Arna Jharna during "Deshaj" Festival. Arna Jharna, the Thar Desert Museum also offered live demonstration of pottery, puppetry and folk instruments making for the visitors.

Besides this some traditional cuisines were also available for the visitors. Dr. Prashanna Gogoi from Assam, Sh. Anup Ranjan Pandey from Chattisgarh, Sh. Kuldeep Kothari from Rajasthan who are members of Folk and Tribal Committee and General Council of SNA graced the occasion with their presence and also honored artistes after their captivating shows.

Dr. Arjun Shekhawat senior scholar who has done marathon research on Garasia Tribe was also present to encourage artistes. SNA's Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar Awardees name-

ly Arti Kale Nagarkar (Lawni, Maharashtra) and Delong Padung (Tapu Dance, Arunachal Pradesh) performed with their groups. Similarly Narendra Panthri (Chuumasa Dance, Uttarakhand) member of General Council of SNA also performed with his group. It was nice to see Sh. Mahesh Panwar, Secretary Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi and stalwart artist Anwar Khan Manganiyar to honor the artistes coming from other states.

"Deshaj" festival was curated by Dr. Manish Mangai, consultant (Folk and Tribal) of SNA and Sh. Kuldeep Kothari, Secretary, Rupayan Sansthan who deserve praise for the successfully organizing this Mega Festival.

A small suggestion, SNA may also include some indigenous performers like Behrupias, Madaris, Nats and Story tellers etc in 'Deshaj' to cover a vast segment of street performing arts. Congratulations to SNA and Rupayan Sansthan to for giving gift of 'Deshaj' to Rajasthan.

MoU SIGNED

Udaipur: A MoU between North Western Railway GBH General and Memorial Cancer Hospital has signed in presence of DRM Punith Chawala.

with this MoU pensioners and railway employee will avail cashless free treatment in these hospitals. This information was given by Group director Dr. Anand Jha.

Group director Dr. Anand Jha said the contract was made to provide facilities for medical, surgical, radiation, chemotherapy and all related investigations to North West Railway employees at GBH General and Memorial Cancer Hospital. This contract has been done for the next two years. Cashless facility and check facility will be available to railway employees here.

S. S. Kanchwala, joins drive

Udaipur: "This upliftment drive initiated by Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin not only uplifts the living standard of those looked upon as down trodden by the society but it also inculcates a sense of gratitude and acknowledgement of the bounties of Allah by the rich who used to take all the amenities of a good lifestyle for granted. Hence by creating a responsible mindset of the rich by guiding them not to waste your valuable resources and rather directing them towards the help of the needy, the Syedna is also uplifting the character and intellect of the rich."

Smart Mode of Agricultural Economics University is Need of Hour : Governor



Udaipur: Agricultural universities and scientists should not limit themselves to increasing yields. There is no benefit till the increased yield, unless the beneficial values be delivered to the farmer. Therefore, agriculture should also be linked to the economics of the market. For this, smart mode of agricultural economics should be developed. This was stated by Governor

Shri Kalyan Singh on Friday at the Eleventh Convocation of Maharana Pratap Agriculture and Technology University of Udaipur.

Shri Singh said that while making union with agricultural universities, the market direction and consumer demand should also be studied. They should make an estimate; the data should be prepared which quantity of the crop will be kept con-

sistent with the demand and supply. Universities should play the role of balancing the balance between farmers, consumers and the market. He said that more number of girls are receiving Gold Medal show that they are the pioneers in agricultural education today. He shown his satisfaction & congratulated Bettis for excellent achievements over boys

Special Guest Home Minister Mr. Gulabchand Kataria gave best wishes to the students who received the gold medal and the title holders. He said that Maharana Pratap has been an important contributor to the development of agriculture. He said that the book written by Pandit Chakrapani Mishra provides "Vishwa Vallabh" in the field of agriculture, it is necessary to do scientific research on this today. 792 students quali-

fied for the convocation of December, 2016 to November 30, 2017 were honored with the medals and 38-grade students, with gold medals. Uma Shankar Sharma presented the report of various achievements, activities and future work plans of the University. Pro. Sharma congratulated the students and said that the University has achieved specific achievements in the field of education, research and dissemination.

In the convocation ceremony, for year 2016-17, 588 students who successfully passed the examination as graduates, 137 postgraduate and 67 students & doctoral degrees awarded, 138 in the Agriculture Faculty, 356 in Engineering Faculty, 04 in Home Science Faculty, 48 in Dairy and Food Science Technology, 21 in Biotechnology and 21 Graduation Degrees in Fisheries. Similarly, 137 students completing Post Graduate course successfully from December,

2016 to November 30, 2017 were given MSc / M.Tech and 67 students degree of Vidyavachapati (Ph.D.). Out of these 50 M.Sc. in the Agriculture Faculty and 40 Ph.D., 68 M.Tech in Engineering and 16 Ph.D., 12 MSc in Home Science and 10 Ph.D., 7 students in Fisheries MF.Sc. And 01 students have a Ph.D. The titles were provided.

On this occasion, Shri Ajay Shankar Pandey, the Officer-in-Charge of Raj Bhavan, Udaipur (Rural), Mr. Phul Singh Meena, Vice Chancellor of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, J.P. Sharma, Subhash Bhargava, Controller of Controller Smt. Kumudini Chanwarla, distinguished citizens, officers, former and current directors of the University, former and present teachers, various faculty presidents, media officials, guests and medals and parents of students receiving the degree were also present.

25th Convocation of Mohanlal Sukhadia University

Udaipur: Governor Mr. Kalyan Singh said that the decline in politics from general to politics, language and speech is a matter of concern in the current round. He explained the need to consider compulsory additional curriculum for universities to develop self-confident, clean, restrained and polite speech in future generations.

Mr. Singh was addressing the 25th convocation of Mohanlal Sukhadia University in Vivekananda Auditorium in Udaipur on Saturday. The Governor gave a total of 202 gold medals and Ph.D. degrees in the ceremony.

He said that humble speech in the field of employment, along with social harmony, has a major role in art. In order to develop communication skills in interviews for employment in the private sectors including the government, the Governor called upon MLSU to play the role model.

He directed universities to work all together with study-related social issues. Keeping them looking at various social issues, they have to get the proper solution for the society. He told the social sciences faculty the need to come forward for this.

The practical test of youth is yet to come

The governor said that degree is basically theory part that the practical examination of life should be given later during education so that they may get proper job placements. He said that youth will have to play an exemplary role in nation building, with the resolve to make a new contribution to their locality, city, village, then there will be the true meaning of life.

In the function, the Minister for Higher Education, Smt. Kiran Maheshwari said that the government is working towards achieving quality education for quality education in the state. Rajasthan Government has opened 45 new state colleges in the last four years.

The Government is making an effective effort to open the college on the remaining 22 sub-headquarters of the state. He said that for the development of infrastructure in 100 colleges in the state, the amount of 2-2 crore has been provided with RUSA. In every college Presenting the convocation function, Vice



Chancellor of Mohanlal Sukhadia University Prof. J.P. Sharma said that the University is adopting many innovations in the interest of the students and adopting their credentials. He always resolved in the interest of the society and assured the best of the University.

Spiritual Center Corner Launches

Governor Shri Kalyan Singh on this occasion inaugurated the Swadhyaya Session on behalf of the University Health and Spirituality Center on the university's website, based on the discourse of Shrimad Bhagavat Sanjivani. This page is now part of www.mlsuac.in, the site is design and developed by Avid Web Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd.

57 gold medals and 145 Ph.D. degrees

In the function, 57 gold medals and 145 initiatives were handed over to Hon'ble Governor was given the title Among them, gold medals were awarded to 13 men and 44 women and Ph.D. in 75 men and 70 women aspirants.