

## My Guru, My Father by Amjad Ali Khan

Ustad Haafiz Ali Khan was born in a house responsible for giving the Sarod its present shape and structure. The traditional style of music which today has become somewhat rare is called Dhrupad, where the use of embellishments does not exist. The usage was more of long glides both for vocalists and instrumentalists. He added to it the melodic possibilities of instrumental music in its complete dhrupad form. A rabab oriented Sarod style, more staccato, more right hand than left, more mechanical than melodic was converted by Ustad Haafiz Ali Khan to a brilliant amalgam of feeling and cleanliness, heard only in the Rudra-Been and the Sursingar of the descendants of Mian Tansen. Haafiz Ali Khan could make his sarod sing. This he did by a very advanced technique of the left hand fingernails and a thorough understanding of the Raga pattern filtered through feeling and Aesthetic awareness. He could flower with tonal accuracy even when the string pitch went down by a quarter note or more. He was himself a great dhrupad singer and discovered a brilliantly coordinated and synchronized stroke sustainability in his sarod. With this he could translate his vocal dhrupad lines in the otherwise metallic instrument of his ancestors, to a stream of aesthetic melody patterns.

Ali Khan lived for Music. For my father, though, there was no question of a life outside music. Life itself was Music and Music was Life. And so I came to inherit from him the legacy of five generations of musicians

as naturally as a bird taking to the air. His exquisite music was not just an artistic performance but a form of prayer. He was initiated in the tradition of the Senia Gharana by direct descendants of the line of Swami Haridas, Mian Tansen and leant at the feet of Ustad Wazir Khan of Rampur. Ustad Wazir Khan broke the convention of teaching only family members and accepted him as his disciple. Now a direct disciple of the Tansen School, Haafiz Ali Khan Saheb started flowering under the Ustad's undiluted teaching. More knowledge enriched the already exposed brilliance of Haafiz Ali Khan Saheb and his strict adherence to vocal dhrupads made the veterans of his time look at him with admiration. His performance together with his tonal richness and accuracy from instrumental music a status equivalent to vocal music; The melody rich Sarod got an unthinkable status.

Haafiz Ali Khan was honoured with the title of Aftab-e-Sarod by the All Bengal Music Conference in Calcutta, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and also received a fellowship of the Akademi. The Universities of Vishva Bharti and Khairagarh conferred doctorates on him. The Government of India conferred the award of Padma Bhushan in 1960. The true Godfather of Instrumental music of his times! Far ahead of his time, Ustad Haafiz Ali Khan realized the coming of the industrial age, its rapidity and its lack of leisure and want of time. He believed that rag music in its purity, can only be preserved by precision.



Stretching the raga too long will lead to irrelevant phrases, raga dilution and deviation. Rabindra Nath Tagore also believed in this. Ustad Haafiz Ali Khan was the last musician who stuck to his dhrupad roots. He created the correct raga environment by playing dhrupad lines verbatim and then elaborated and expanded them. He will also be remembered as the last of the Senia dhrupad greats. Apart from his formidable command over traditional sarod compositions, dhrupad and thumri, he was particularly appreciated in the Viceregal firmament of colonial India for his unique, stylized renditions of "God Save The King" on his sarod.

The Sarod Ghar-Museum of Musical Heritage in Gwalior, is a unique institution devoted to promoting Indian classical music, heritage and culture. Under the aegis of Haafiz Ali Khan Memorial Trust, through this 'window' to the past, music lovers can gain a better understanding of the evolution and history of Indian Classical Music and can get a deeper

perspective and insight into the context of the art as it exists today. The aim of setting up this institution is to create awareness and respect for classical music, musicians and the variety of instruments of India. The road on which the museum stands has been named Haafiz Ali Khan Marg by the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. The first instruments exhibited were the instruments belonging to his forefathers. Madhya Pradesh has had a whole history of great musical legends down memory lane. The great vocalist Ustad Amir Khan Saheb, Ustad Jahangir Khan Saheb, Ustad Abdul Haleem Jaffar Khan Saheb, Bharat Ratna Lata Mageshkarji are among the prominent artists who belonged to the city of Indore. The city of Dewas gave birth to another two prominent personalities. Ustad Rajab Ali Khan and Pandit Kumar Gandharva. The legendary Hindi film playback singer Kishore Kumarji and his brother the famous Ashok Kumarji also belonged to Khandawa. A road in the name Ustad

road named after an artist after Tansen and Thyagaraja in the capital city in 2011. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation also renamed New Park Street as Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan Sarani by chief minister Mamata Banerjee in 2013.

Having spanned over 90 years, my fathers was a life that connected the high points of the colonial era to the turbulence of our own times. Born sometimes in the 1880s at Gwalior where his father Nanneh Khan was court musician, Haafiz Ali Khan Saheb took great pride in the fact that it was his great grandfather, Ghulam Bandegi Khan Bangash, who turned his native Afghan rabab into what we know today as the sarod. Yet his thirst for knowledge took him to Pandits Chukha and Ganeshi Lai of Vrindaban, who were stern practitioners of the Dhrupad and then he went on to Rampur, where he became a disciple of the great Ustad Wazir Khan, the descendant of Tansen. My father left his impression not only in that provincial court but, more

importantly, also in Calcutta, then the Imperial Capital. It was here that he received the love and adulation that was to endow him with the legendary status. Raichand Boral, who later rose to fame as the music Director of the New Theatres and the discoverer of K.L. Saigal, was more intimate and colorful in his reminiscences always told me that the first time my father came to his house in 1918, the Great war had just ended and a complicity was beginning to set in the music world of Bengal. 'With his coming, we were suddenly confronted with a genius who almost rudely banished smugness, lethargy and tidy housekeeping.' He discovered the link between dhrupad and thumri long before it was commented upon by others.

To be able to see Haafiz Ali Khan in proper perspective in the words of Dr Narayana Menon was that Haafiz Ali Khan was the poet. Abba Saheb, as I called him, was a born extrovert, held his head high, brooked no nonsense from any quarter and walked the earth like a renaissance prince.

On the occasion of Ustad Haafiz Ali Khan Saheb's 48th death anniversary, I pray to my father and guru, like every day. May his soul rest in peace! As I have written in my memoir about Ustad Haafiz Ali Khan (1877- December 28, 1972) that for me, the seven notes of music were him. He was the epitome of music. He was my inspiration, my reason of perspiration and he was my idea of representation.

- Amjad Ali Khan

## Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates Country's First Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

**New Delhi (Neeti Gopendra bhatt):** Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare today inaugurated India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). The vaccine "Pneumosil" has been developed by the Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIPL) in collaboration with partners like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Recognizing SIPL as the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines by number of doses and its contribution to India's economy, Dr. Harsh Vardhan remarked that Serum Institute's Vaccines are used in 170 countries and every third child in the world is immunized with the manufacturer's Vaccine. He reminded the audience that SIPL developed and got license of first indigenous Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) from Government of India during COVID-19 pandemic lock-



down line with Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi ji's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. He also mentioned about the extraordinary efforts of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in this endeavour to make India self-reliant in PCV.

Detailing the achievements of SIPL in tailoring a vaccine for India's needs, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said, "Serum Institute's first Indigenous Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine will be available in the market under brand name "Pneumosil" at an affordable price in single dose (vial and pre-filled syringe) and Multidose (vial) presentations. Pneumosil has been extensively evaluated in 5 randomized controlled clinical trials and has demonstrated comparable safety and immunogenicity against licensed pneumococcal vaccines across diverse populations of India and Africa, where Pneumosil was administered to adults, toddlers and infants using different vaccination schedules." "During clinical trials, Pneumosil was found to be safe and effective in the prevention of Pneumonia disease and based on which Pneumosil has been licensed by Drugs Controller General (India) in July 2020 after approval from Subject Expert Committee (SEC)," he added.

Speaking on the Prime Minister's commitment of Atmanirbhar Bharat and his vision of 'Making India for the World', Dr. Harsh Vardhan noted, "Pneumosil is an example of India's capability in Research & Development & manufacturing high end sophisticated Vaccines. In fact, it is matter of pride for our country for this historical milestone during COVID-19 Pandemic because till now we are fully dependent on Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine manufactured by Foreign Manufacturers which are available at very high prices." He took the occasion to remind the audience that Pneumonia is the single largest infectious cause of death among children under five years of age worldwide, accounting for nearly 10 lakhs deaths globally.

Congratulating the country's scientific and medical fraternity, the minister said, "I am sure that the team of Serum Institute of India and others in the entire scientific and medical community will continue their endeavour to develop many more life-saving vaccines in future."

Dr. Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary (MoHFW) and other senior officials of the Ministry were present at the event.

Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla, Chairman, Poonawalla Group of Industries and Founder, Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIPL), Shri Adar Poonawalla, Chief Executive Officer, SIPL were also present.

## Contemporary Literary Theories from Pragmatism to Queer Studies Discussed Online

A seven - day Faculty Development Programme on Contemporary Literary Theories was organized by the department of English, M.V. Shramjeevi College, Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth in association with Rajasthan Association for Studies in English. The topics taken up for discussion included Pragmatics, Structuralism and Post Structuralism, Formalism, Stylistics, Postcolonialism, Modernism and Post Modernism, An Overview of Feminism Across the World, Breaking the Shackles of Theory, New Historicism and Cultural Studies, Eco-feminism, Queer Studies, Psychoanalytical Theories, Film Studies, Diaspora Studies and Marxism.

Prof. Z.N. Patil, Prof. Prashant Mishra, Dr. Devendra Rankawat, Dr. Sushantvardhan, Dr. Virendra Mishra, Prof. B.K. Anjana, Prof.

Sudhi Rajiv, Prof. Sanjay Arora, Prof. H.S. Chandalia, Prof. Jagriti Upadhyay, Dr. Valiur Rahaman, Prof. Umed Singh, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Sanjay Chawla and Prof. Pradeep Kumar Patra delivered their lectures. More than sixty participants from all over the country and abroad registered for the programme. Dr. Rajshri Ranawat of Jai Narayan Vyas University Jodhpur Coordinated the programme. The programme was held from 18th December to 24th December, 2020.

Addressing the participants in a special session Dr. Sanjay Chawla, Professor at Government Sanskrit College, Kota said that the ideology of Marxism and the Great October Revolution of 1917 which led to creation of USSR had a widespread influence on the literature of twentieth century. He said that

Marxism is a scientific ideology which relies on reason and believes in empowering people through enabling them to develop a scientific outlook. He said that the capitalist propaganda has tried to demonize Marxism which alone is a philosophy that propagates the rights of the workers and peasants and lays faith in the collective struggle of the masses. He said that in literature too the emergence of subalternism and rise of proletariat heroes is a sign of the impact of Marxism. He said that the BJP and RSS calls every one who resists their anti-people policies as anti national while the truth is they are damaging the nation most by playing fiddle to the capitalist bourgeoisie. The session was chaired by Prof. Sunil Bhargava, Vice President of Rajasthan Association for Studies in English and formerly Principal of Government

College, Kota.

Apart from the participants from Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Gujjarat, Haryana, Maharashtra a good number of participants also participated from Rajasthan. Prof. Sunil Bhargava, Dr. Sanjay Chawla, Dr. Kshamta Chaudhary, Dr. Jatinder Kohli, from Kota and Dr. Seema Kashyap also participated in the seven-day event.

Two Research scholars Ravi Meghwal and Kavita Singhania also participated in the programme. The director of the FDP Prof. H.S. Chandalia announced that very soon a book on Contemporary Literary Theory comprising of the contributions of the resource persons of the FDP will be published.

- H.S. Chandalia

### Mechanical Parking @ Surajpole tanga stand

**Udaipur:** Surajpole will soon experience another face lift when the historical Tanga Stand at the oldest chauraha in Udaipur is replaced with a multi level Mechanical Car Park.

Under the Rs 6 Crore is being undertaken by the Udaipur Smart City, this mechanical car park will be able to host a multi level parking of upto 86 vehicles. The mechanical car parking will enhance tourism in the region, due to traffic congestion and the inability to find a proper parking. This parking will complement the existing vehicle parking unit outside the Nagar Nigam premises less than 500 meters from the tanga stand.

### Late Rao Mohan Singh awarded D.Lit. degree posthumously

**Udaipur:** Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth conferred D.Lit. degree posthumously to Kavi Rao Mohan Singh, the last poet of the erstwhile Mewar Dynasty, here at a function on Tuesday. The poet's great grandsons received the honors from the university chancellor Balwant S. Jani.

The university has also taken up a project of compilation and publication of the poet's work in three years. The VC S.S. Sarangdevot said Mohan Singh was active until the reign of the last ruler Maharana Bhupal Singh till 1947. During his lifetime, the poet wrote more than three dozen books in Rajasthani and Hindi language which is a major contribution in the field of literature.

### First goods train run on electrified rail track

**Udaipur:** The NWR inaugurated the Ajmer-Udaipur electrified railway route with the successful trip of a goods train between Madar and Rana Pratap Nagar station. The locomotive with an electric engine started off from Madar in Ajmer from 3.20am, reached Udaipur's station at 10.45am. The DRM, Ajmer division NK Parsuramka termed it as a historical moment for the division and said that people had been waiting for this day since years when an electric train would run on this route.

He said very soon, a passenger train too would be run on the route. The Ajmer-Udaipur electrified rail route project covers a distance of 294.50 kilometers and cost around 320.18 crore rupees to the railways. The commissioner of railway safety approved the route after an inspection on December 18 and after the green signal from the officials, the first goods train was chugged off on the route on Saturday. The electrification work between Ajmer-Palanpur section too is under progress.

The DRM said with the completion of the electrification project Udaipur is connected with the electric track of Ajmer, Jaipur and Delhi and the journey time too would be reduced. "Increased train speed, elimination of pollution caused by the diesel engine, more loading capacity and chances of having more trains on this route are the benefits of this project" the officer said.

### Sonal who toils in Gaushala, will now serve as a Judge

**Udaipur:** Hard work and perseverance has paid off well for Sonal Sharma (26), a girl from a middle class family residing in Pratap Nagar area of the city here. Sonal, the second of four children, born to a milkman Khyali Lal Sharma has qualified to become a judge in her first attempt at the RJS examination 2018.

She never attended a coaching center or received tuitions as her father couldn't afford it.

Sonal, who wakes up at 4 AM everyday helps her father in milking the cows, cleaning their sheds, collecting the dung and even distributing milk in the colony homes. She cycled to college and spent hours in the library making notes as she could not afford to buy the expensive books. Recently, on December 22, Sonal had received 3 gold medals at the MLSU convocation for topping in BA, LLB and LLM examinations. On Wednesday, she got the High Court's notification on admitting the waiting list candidates in the selection list of qualified ones since 7 of the selected ones denied to join the Rajasthan judicial services.

"The result of the exam was announced in November 2019. We were sure of Sonal's selection but for her bad luck that she fell just 1 mark short in the general cutoff list. Later it was known that 7 candidates did not join, and so Sonal filed a writ with the High Court in September this year and finally got inducted with 7 others for the vacant seats.

## "Research Strategies in LIS: A Guide to New Approach" has been released by Dr. Godara



**Kota (Dr. Prabhat Kumar Singh):** Newest book "Research Strategies in LIS: A Guide to New Approach" written by Ineli South Asia mentor Dr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava Division Librarian, Government

Public Circle Library, Kota has been released in VC Secretariat Vardham Mahaveer Open University (VMOU) Kota by Prof. Dr. Ratanlal Godara Vice Chancellor. Occasion is graced by Dr. B. Arun Kumar, Controller of Examinations, and Dr. Anuradha Sharma from VMOU.

Author Dr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava said about this book that generally a Researchers did their work through Social Science Research Study in common but this book is based on LIS Centric Research Methodology where LIS Professional can complete their own Research by using this Book. This is very helpful for researchers engaged in library and information science. In which several readymade questionnaires and case studies are also included, this 300-page book contains 21 chapters. The machine error of Core work has been edited by Sunusi Hussaini (Nigeria) and Yogendra Singh Tawana.

Giving good luck on the occasion of the release of this book, Dr. Godara said that this research method book written on the subject of library and information science will definitely pave the way for the researchers of library and information science and research concepts can be easily understood.

## For Royal Harbinger Call

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