

Farooq Sheikh helped me pass my third year exams: Kavita Krishnamurti at KGAF 2021

Padmashri Legends Pankaj Udhas and Kavita Krishnamurti come together at the virtual edition of Kala Ghoda Arts Festival on Insider.in.

The duo have a long association with Kala Ghoda as they studied together in St. Xavier's College and used to squat at Elphinstone's canteen The Log Cabin, and then spend time at The Rhythm House to get an opportunity to listen to new records at the booths at the milestone location.

Jehangir Art Gallery's Samovar was another favourite

hangout and they still remember the cuisine. "Our Kala Ghoda festival started in 1972," reasons Pankaj Udhas. Unfortunately Rhythm House and Samovar don't exist any more.

Kavita Krishnamurti speaks of her senior Pankaj Udhas and how they all looked up to him at college. "He has seen super stardom but it has never gone to his head. It is so difficult to become a star singing ghazals and it is an uphill task."

Pankaj Udhas talks of the big college gang that used to



sit below the trees and eat food from the tin roof canteen.

"I was No. 1 in terms of bunking. I was a Science student, required 24x7 in class. My Botany Department would overlook canteen. My HOD Mr. Bhole used to see me laughing and the peon used to be sent to call me up," he laughs.

Kavita Krishnamurti speaks, "Farooq Sheikh was part of our college. One day he saw me with a long face. I told him my attendance is less as I do a lot of jingles and programmes, and had to bunk, but

only for music.

He spoke to the Principal and helped me. In my third year, he took sessions for me and helped me tide through. It was so nice of him," she recalls.

Pankaj Udhas talks of how the dreamers who were part of Sangeet Mandal and Natya Mandal, used to dream together.

"Right from Anuradha Paudwal nee Alka Nadkarni, Kavita Krishnamurti, Nitin Ghat, Priti Moti Sagar Ranu Mukherjee (Hemant Kumar's daughter), Natya Mandal had

Farooq Sheikh, Smita Patil, Satish Shah who used to oscillate between Natya Mandal and Sangeet Mandal, Dalip Tahir, Shabana Azmi were senior to us, Anil Kapoor was junior to us... We all owe our encouragement to St. Xavier's," he recalls.

The duo also sang some amazing songs, keeping alive the joy of music that transported them in time. "St. Xavier's has positive vibes that helped us all tide us through," expresses Kavita Krishnamurti.

Kafan covered the greed of human

Natyansh Society of Dramatic and Performing Arts, Udaipur organized a theatrical evening on Sunday. They staged the story 'Kafan', originally written by the famous Hindi writer Munshi Premchand. Following the Covid-19 protocol guidelines, audience was limited to only 20 members.

Munshi Premchand's story Kafan was converted into a play by Amit Shrivastava who also directed it. This extremely engaging plot based on human psychology, travels through various topics of poverty, unemployment, and impractical system of society that makes a human being selfish, irresponsible, ignorant and even toxic. So much that he uses the money obtained to buy a shroud for the dead daughter in law into buying alcohol, ciga-

rettes and other such things. To justify his wrong doings the character accuses the customs of society and says that how bad these customs are. One who didn't get a piece of cloth to cover the naked body when alive, requires a brand-new shroud when dead.

About the Story

Madhav's pregnant wife is suffering from labor pain while Ghisu and Madhav – father and son – sit carefree beside fire waiting for the woman to die and give them some peace. When the woman finally dies, first they lament and howl, then they go to arrange some money to buy wood and shroud. They wander around all day, then instead of buying the shroud spend the money into buying alcohol and food. They lose all their conscious-



ness into the drunkenness. In this way the story portrays a picture of conservative rural life and barbaric behaviour which is the very truth of the societal system.

In the play, father's (Ghisu) character was

portrayed by Raghav Gurjargour, son (Madhav) by Chakshu Singh Rupawat. Music arrangement was done by Mahesh Kumar Joshi and Isha Jain which was operated by Mohammad Rizwan Mansuri. Lights were operated by Agastya Hardik Nagda. The backstage team who contributed in the success of the program included Fiza Batra, Dheeraj Jhinger, Bhupendra Singh Chauhan, Raman Kumar, Piyush Gurunani and Daud Ansari.

Program coordinator Mohammad Rizwan Mansuri told that it is the third live performance by the team after the lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic. Further, he said, that the organization will keep working on such performances.

Yogi's Mission to Strengthen The youth

- Lalit Garg



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has started drawing a new blueprint to channelize the energy of the youth in state-development activities and end the shattered dreams, broken hopes of the youth. This is a commendable step and is also important because millions of youths who have returned home and lost their jobs during the gruesome period of Corona. The state government has taken an innovative initiative to bring back the withering smile of the youth by taking a pledge to employ 10 lakh youths and make them employees. He will plan to introduce skill activities with the help of skill development centres within a year. The youth will not only lead, will make their dreams true and also develop new wings. It is obvious that the current political top leadership of the nation will not only look at this young population but also consider it their pride. Of course, there should be no doubt that youth is our strength.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently said that when looking at the whole world, looking at the young minds of India, it seems that today India is truly a land of opportunities. Many opportunities await us.

India is the youngest country in the world. According to the 2011 census, the number of people aged 25 years in the country was 50 percent and people aged 35 years were 65 percent. These figures show that we are citizens of a young country. Yet governments are not serious about the use of creative and innovative energy of these youths in nation development. Why is the government not providing employment to the youth of the country? Why is the participation of youth in the government's schemes dark? Why youth are

committing suicide due to unemployment? Actually, the actual level of youth of India is connected with many problems and harsh reality.

Neglect and flagrant activities are the reality of the real young population of India. It also has many categories. Youth seeking employment, youth working hard, youth agitating on the road demanding better education, youth engaged on social media, youths raising slogans at leaders' rallies are all youth of our country and it is our youth India. The biggest capital of any country is considered to be the youth. It has been said in the same sense - "The way youth goes, the way the world moves."

On the shoulders of the youth, there is also an undisclosed responsibility to take the country, state and society in forward direction. Therefore, the Yogi Government has taken a far-reaching decision and has set an exemplary example by taking the decision of harnessing the energy of youth in state-building. The Yogi government will not only provide employment opportunities to these youth, but will also enable them to build their own enterprise. This is the need of the hour and from this, new freshness and trust will emerge in the withering young faces.

Amidst the growing data on the erratic economy and constant snatching of jobs due to the Corona epidemic, employment of youth should be a priority in front of all state governments and the central government. The question is, where will the fund come from to fulfill the promises of providing new jobs? The problem is big and the path of solution has to be chosen too. Successful leadership is a game of magical and charismatic methods, which shows the magic in its leadership as much as it takes the courage and capability to make big decisions. From the point of view, Yogi Adityanath has been performing magic tricks. Their intention and vision is clear and transparent that they want to present new employment opportunities with the active cooperation of youth in the development of the state.

The decision of employment in large numbers in Uttar Pradesh may be considered a political decision, but it is also a strong basis for efficient and effective leadership. It is not without reason to understand the pain of the youth and to pay constant attention to the Yogi. It is not that the previous governments did not prioritize carving the youth. In the four years before 2017, the Department of Vocational Education and Skills Development had trained 3.71 lakh youth. The number of those trained in Yogi Raj has doubled (seven lakh). Such achievements make the Yogi Government unique and effective. In view of this, the goal of training 10 million youth is of course difficult, but not impossible. The government has already given proof of its ability by certifying the skills of the 38 lakh migrants who returned home in the lockdown. The fresh target also rests on strong infrastructures. Its foundation will be State Industrial Training Institute i.e. ITI.

Today, India has the largest number of youth in the world. Every fifth youth of the world lives in India, if this youth power is given a good education and skill training, they will not only get good employment but they can also contribute well in the economic development of the country. In corona times, the system may be derailed, but as the country has not been generating enough jobs in the recent past and unemployment is increasing especially among the youth, many new problems are emerging as a result. The corona epidemic has exacerbated this problem. According to the report of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, salaried jobs are getting affected the most during the contraction of economic growth. Salaried jobs also do not appear to be increasing with economic growth or increasing entrepreneurship, which is a matter of greater concern. This shows that unemployment is spreading among the youth of today. This situation is highlighting the need for governments to be more sensitive on the issue of employment. The problem of unemployment is a worldwide problem. Many developed countries like the US, UK, Canada, Australia and Singapore are also grappling with the problem of unemployment and are changing visa policies to protect protectionism and employ local people. Although the Central Government has also implemented schemes like 'Startup' and 'Stand Up' to create new jobs for the youth, but the result is not coming out as expected, due to lack of funds and good skilled people, most of the 'startups' today are closed.

The most important scheme of the present government 'Make in India' has also failed to create new jobs. There is a need to give a boost to the service sector in the country in such a complex time, where there is more possibility of creating new jobs in the future. A few days ago, Vibek Debroy, member of NITI Aayog, said the same thing "In the coming years, most of the employment will be in the service sector and not in the manufacturing sector", which includes tourism, hospitality, health care, renewable energy, education, telecom and banking. If the government does not take positive steps in this direction soon, then the youth of the country, which is called the 'Demographic Dividend' of the country, should not become a 'Demographic Disaster' for the country. Today, the goal of the Narendra Modi government and state governments should be not only to enhance the economic growth rate of the country and the state but also to create new employment. With this, the country's economic growth rate will automatically accelerate. In the last 20 years, even after the country's economic growth rate was very high, there was very little creation of new employment, due to which this period is also called 'Jobless Growth Period'. The Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh, taking these conditions seriously, will definitely see positive results, other states and central government should also take inspiration from this. Returning to this track, the first priority of the economy and governments should be employment. Otherwise, the discontent and resentment that is developing among the youth within them should not become the cause of any major revolution and rebellion?

New TV serial "Anantkoti Bramhandnayak Saibaba" on DD Kisan channel

TV serial "Anantkoti Bramhandnayak Saibaba" being produced under the banner of 'Shri Tipupati Films' will telecast from Monday to Friday at 8.30 PM on DD Kisan channel from 16 February 2021.

Saibaba's life, his teachings and his life mission has been shown with focus even on his childhood and young age along with old Sai in this serial for the first time. Master Aryan Mahajan is playing the role of Saibaba's childhood, while Sarthak Kapoor is playing the role of young Saibaba. Samar Jaisingh is portraying the character of aged Saibaba. Writer Vikas Kapoor, renowned for religious serials, is the writer, producer of this serial. He has scripted this serial after working for nearly 6000 telecast hours. His film "Shirdi Saibaba" bagged the President award.

About his new serial Vikas Kapoor said that 'I want to take Saibaba's inspiring and great story to millions of people. I had



sent this proposal to Doordarshan six years ago. Due to Saibaba's blessings, finally last year, DD approved the proposal and now the serial is set to reach its audience. This is the happiest moment for me, since not only India, but whole world shall imbibe Saibaba's teachings and advice. The entire life story of Saibaba will reach people through his show. The people will

see how a naive village boy became almighty Saibaba." "The people are aware of the story how Shri Ram and Shri Krishna were born their journey of being accepted as god, but people are not aware of the tale behind the childhood and youth of Saibaba. The struggle of Saibaba in his childhood, his meditation and his spiritual practice, till he attained Samadhi (liberation) has been shown inexhaustively in this show. I have sourced the script from the book "Sai Ki Atmkatha" (Saibaba's biography), "Sai Charitra", Kharparde's diary and "Sailla Patrika", Kapoor said.

Sarthak Kapoor, young talented actor playing the character of young Saibaba (who is also the hero of forthcoming film "Chal Jeet Le Ye Jehan" based on cricket) said "this was a very challenging role for me, for which I had to make a lot of efforts to mould myself into the character. I always remember Saibaba when I am in distress and he always helps me in overcoming my difficulties. I feel blessed that I got a chance to play Saibaba's character.

I had to work on my speech, since the language used by

the saints and sages is altogether different from the style and language we speak".

Serial's director Chandraresh Singh and Vijay Saini said that it was quite difficult to project the entire life of Saibaba and base the show on that period. But since we were backed by Vikas Kapoor's writing and his experience, we are confident that we were certainly successful in communicating Saibaba's life mission, his knowledge and his way of providing a remedy to people's problems.

Cameraman R R Prince, has handled the picturisation, while Music Director Amar Desai has scored the music. Pappu Trivedi is the Video Editor and Vikas Kapoor is the writer. The background music has been provided by Prakash Nar for this daily soap.

The cast: Sarthak Kapoor, Samar Jai Singh, Aryan Mahajan, Mahesh Raj, Kishan Bhan, Priya Gamre, Hemal Dhar, Shish Khan, Yashodhan Rana and Gajendra Chauhan are in lead roles. The artists include: Javed Shaikh, Aayushree Sangle, Abhishek, Ganesh Mehra, Kishori Shahane, Kirti Sulay, Rajan Srivastav, Muskan Saini, Vaishali Dabhadre, Rakesh Dagg and Sunil Gupta and others.

- Vilas Janve