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A Musical Evening Lit Up by Anup Jalota and Ronu Majumdar

Udaipur: The Rajat Jayanti Smritiyan-2025 program was organized at Shilpgram on Sunday under the joint aegis of Pt. Chatur Lal Memorial Society and Hindustan Zinc Limited. The evening turned into a mesmerizing musical spectacle as Padma Shri Bhajan Maestro Anup Jalota and flute virtuoso Pt. Ronu Majumdar enthralled the audience with their soulful jugalbandi, accompanied by tabla maestro Pranshul Chatur Lal.

The night witnessed an unforgettable confluence of two of India's most revered artists. Anup Jalota's timeless bhajans like Aisi Lagi Lagan, Meera Ho Gayi Magan...,



Kashi, Ayodhya Badli, Ab Mathura Ki Baari Hai..., and Ram Khade Hai Liye Teer Dhanush, Ab Bansi Bajne Wali Hai... captivated the audience, who responded with thunderous applause. His rendition of over the harmonium kevs and Achyutam Keshavam left the Ronu Majumdar's flute res-

spectators in divine ecstasy.

open-air auditorium was spellbound. The program commenced with a stunning performance by Neelanshi Sharma, winner of Zinc Talent Hunt, who delivered a soulful Thumri in Raag Mishra Kafi and Piloo, including Holi Aayi Re, Piya Ji Ke Desh... and Barsan Lagi..., setting a festive mood.

onated with Raag Yaman, the

This was followed by a mesmerizing performance by Vasundhara Raturi, originally from Uttarakhand, now based in Delhi. Her compositions in Raag Bageshri—Bol Paar Karo Mori Naiyya and Araj Mori Maano Tum-added a soothing touch. She concluded with the evergreen Bollywood melody O Sajna, Barkha Bahar Aayi, accompanied by Pranshul Chatur Lal on the tabla.

evening was the "Echoes of Continents", where Japanese sitarist Tadao Ishihama and tabla virtuoso Pranshul Chatur Lal delivered an extraordinary jugalbandi. Their Raag Kirwani presentation in Teentaal (16 beats) left the audience in awe. The interactive session between the two maestros, marked by rhythmic question-answers, evoked nostalgic memories of the legendary Ustad Zakir Hussain. Chatur Lal's rapid tabla movements compelled the audi-



ence to respond with rhythmic

The event was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Vedanta Hindustan Zinc Limited CSR Head Anupam Nidhi, HZL CIO Chetan Trivedi, Wonder Cement's P. Patidar,

and Pt. Charanjit Chatur Lal. Pt. Chatur Lal Memorial Society founders Pt. Charanjit Chatur Lal and Meeta Chatur Lal shared that the society has been preserving the musical legacy of Pt. Chatur Lal for the past 25 years.

The Story Behind the Staging of 'Singhasan Battisi'



'Singhasan Battisi' evokes the image of Emperor Vikramaditya—a sovereign whose unwavering commitment to justice, unparalleled valor, and relentless devotion to his people made him an eternal icon of righteousness. His egendary tales, interwoven with courage and wisdom, have inspired generations. The chronicles of Vikram and Betal, and the enchanting dialogues between Raja Bhoj and the celestial puppets, continue to resonate in the collective consciousness of India. Such was his greatness that Indra, the king of Gods, gifted him a divine throne adorned with thirty-two celestial figurines, entrusting Agiya and Betal as his divine protectors. The timeless appeal of 'Singhasan Battisi' lies in its profound moral and mythological lessons, making it an invaluable treasure of Indian literature. Imagining 'Singhasan Battisi' as a multimedia mime melodrama was extraordinary in itself. What made it even more remarkable

was that this play was to be performed by the students of Abhilasha Special School students with Hearing Impairment (HI) and Intellectual Disabilities(ID). This vision was conceived by Rainu Singh, the leading force behind the Society for Education of the Differently-Abled (SEDA), who entrusted the esteemed Rainbow Society (Theatre organization)of Jaipur with the responsibility of bringing it to life. This project of "Mime Melodrama" found its guiding lights in the dedicated and innovative theatre artists-Siraj Ahmed Bhati and Vichitra Singh, Both seasoned dramatists and creative visionaries, they believed in breaking conventions. Coincidentally, they were also my fellow disciples under the tutelage of Padma Shri Niranjan Goswami in the art of mime. The journey of this play began when Siraj and Vichitra reached out to me before Diwali. Together, we engaged in extensive discussions with the teachers and administration of Abhilasha School in Udaipur, meticulously crafting a theatrical adaptation of 'Singhasan Battisi.' With each passing

music, and every intricate facial expressions—com-Online meetings, phone calls, video conferences—every scene was dissected and

aspect of the production. pletely eliminating lip synchronization. The play's complexity was evident in its lavered storytelling, integrating all debated to ensure a cohesive nine dramatic sentiments and impactful narrative. The (Navarasa), including wonder, students were fluent in sign lan- compassion, love, humor,

architectural and acoustic limitations of Darpan Auditorium at Shilpgram, ensuring a seamless adaptation. In order to explain Vichitra Singh crafted an elaborate stage design model with sets and proper-

team meticulously studied the



communication among them but lacked the depth of emotional expressions essential for a theatrical performance. The challenge was to make this production comprehensible to an audience unfamiliar with sign language. To bridge this gap, we worked extensively on refining their expressions, slowing down their gestures while enhancing facial expressions to communicate emotions

Crafting a flexible script was crucial. Only pivotal moments featured brief narration voiceovers, ensuring an uninterrupted connection with the audience. All the roles including Samrat Vikramaditva Raja Bhoj were rendered entirely through mime, exhibiting emotions solely through

tranquility. To aid the students, we employed a unique technique—the 'Degree of Expression.' Through playful exercises, they learned to depict each emotion at varying intensities, from the subtlest hint to the most profound manifestation. Controlled breathing techniques further helped regulate their expressions, ensuring precision in their performances. Visual aids such as sketch-

es, photographs, and videos were used to convey the narrative effectively to the students and teachers . Innovation played a crucial role—color therapy, rhythm therapy, and sound therapy were integrated to enhance their comprehension of stagecraft and communication. The production

hillock, masks, tools, and costume was intricately designed to captivate the audience. Krishna Kate, Manila Singh, Monika Oiha, and Pinky Kanwar assisted in material construction. Director of this MimeMeodrama Siraj Bhati skillfully curetted the music and visual elements displayed on LED screens, while Javesh Sharma and Divyesh Lakshkar adeptly helped him in technical aspects. The script's auditory components were brought to life through the mesmerizing narration voiceover of Siraj Bhati, Manish Sharma, Rashmi Gupta. Madhuri Guhil. Praisv Vinod, and Vinod Vasave.

The play's choreography, orchestrated by Ghanshyam Mahawar, was nothing short of magical—from the grandeur

of Ganesh Vandana to the elegance of celestial dances in Indralok and the spine-chilling sequences of evil spirits. The deaf students executed every movement with remarkable precision, embodying sheer artistic brilliance. Makeup artists Suryabhan Shilparaha and Om displayed their proficiency in make up.

A dedicated team of 20 backstage crew members worked relentlessly alongside 64 extraordinary performers, displaying the efficiency of a professional theatre troupe. The thunderous applause from the audience testified to the magnificence of their efforts.

Staged at Darpan auditorium of Shilpgram on 14 th February, 2025 Mime Melodrama 'Singhasan Battisi' left the audience spellbound, evoking admiration and deep appreciation for these exceptional children. The overwhelming response was a testament to their hard work, resilience, and the vision of the directors and mentors. Without a doubt, this play has secured its place among the finest productions staged at Shilpgram's Darpan Auditorium.

The principal of Abhilasha Special School, Pooja Agrawal and her dedicated team deserve immense applause for making this theatrical dream a reality.

-Vilas Janve

Asian Legends League 2025: **Drafting and Jersey Launch** Completed



Jaipur: Cricket enthusiasts are set for an exciting spectacle as the Asian Legends League Tournament brings together

legendary players from across Asia. Scheduled from March 10 to March 18 at MPMSC Ground, Nathdwara, Udaipur, the tournament will feature teams from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Qatar, UAE, and Afghanistan competing in 15 thrilling

A drafting event in Jaipur saw over 300 international players, with five teams officially formed. The event was attended by League Commissioner Chetan Sharma, Miraj Group Vice Chairman Mantraraj Paliwal, and League CEO Mahavir Prasad Sharma, among others.

The tournament's grand opening night on March 10 will feature Bollywood stars, singers, fireworks, and a drone show. Fans can witness cricket legends like Irfan Pathan, Suresh Raina, and Virender Sehwag, with live telecast on Star Sports, making this a historic sporting event in Nathdwara.

Wonder Cement's Free Coaching Success



Nimbahera: Students from Wonder Cement Rural Development Center's free coaching program-Ravina Bairwa, Bharat Bairwa, Vijayesh Bairwa, Bindu Bairwa, Kavita Jat, Krishna Jaiswal, and Pooja Meghwal—have cleared the CET (Graduation Level). Unit Head Nitin Jain highlighted the company's commitment to education since 2012. The center also provides free coaching for exams like REET, Patwar,

Rajasthan Police, and RBSE board exams, offering study materials and expert guidance to aspiring students.

Dr. Prabhat Singhal's Literary Contributions

Kota: Dr. Prabhat Kumar Singhal, coordinator of Kota's Bhartendu Samiti, has significantly enhanced literary activities through collaboration and competition. His efforts have fostered enthusiasm among writers, leading to national and state-level recognition for many. Esteemed literary figures, including Jitendra Nirmohi, Vijay Joshi, Atul Kanak, and others, have been honored under his guidance. Dr. Singhal has also encouraged new talents by organizing competitions and events, inspiring writers across all demographics. His leadership has transformed Kota into a thriving literary hub, gainng recognition beyond Rajasthan. His initiatives continue to strengthen the city's literary heritage and inspire future gen-

Dr. S.K. Luhadiya Invited in Sri Lanka

Udaipur: Dr. S.K. Luhadiya, Professor Emeritus at Geetanjali Hospital, was invited to deliver a guest lecture at the 15th National Chest Specialists Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Only two doctors from India were invited for lectures at this prestigious event. Dr. Luhadiya highlighted the NTM (Nontuberculous Mycobacteria) disease, explaining that while it is similar to tuberculosis, its diagnosis and treatment differ, and the treatment duration should be at least one year.

32nd Indian Art History Congress – A Fine Presentation on India's Art Culture and Thoughts

day, the vision gained shape—

five representative stories were

chosen, leading to the script's

development. Hours were

devoted to conceptualizing

stage design, lighting, props,

Organized at Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida (Uttar Pradesh), from 8th to 10th February. 32nd Indian Art History Congress delivered a brief ed out minute variations and diversions of representation that are outcomes of regional culture but still play significance in terms of public sen- Hemant Meena stated that the Rajasthan timents or beliefs



tic culture and the varied forms of its creative elements. Eminent scholars, authors and art patrons, such as, Prof. (Dr.) Susmita Pande, Dr. T Satya Murthy, Dr, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Pt. Uday Kumar Mallick, Prof. (Dr.) Sachchidanand Joshi and many other distinctive art researchers addressed in this three-days long seminar.

On the central theme of Representation of Indian Epics in Art and Culture, the deep-rooted findings crossed the boundary of known and every recognized convention.

Participating scholars, like, Astha Sharma, Dr. Shivashankar, Dr. Arti Iyer, Riddhi Girish Joshi, Dr. Jasbindar Kaur and many others said about unheard local or tribal multi-ethnic influences and reflections of art in regional creative compositions, like handicrafts, music and dance forms. Even while talking about the historic roots of art, researchers, such as, Dr. Kumud Kanitkar point-

Finders like, Dr. Renu Shahi, Dr. Deepti Rekha Kauli, Dr. Alok Shrotriya and others talked about al art forms that developed out of different interation attended by MP Dr. Mannalal Rawat and MLAs. pretation of India's most popular two epics -Ramayana and Mahabharata.

The session, although lasted for only three days gave so many interesting and complex findings that will take days or even more to explore and realize their actual insights.

To the end, we must acknowledge India as a trove of cultural tradition, unique, unexplored in many areas and hence is an ever-expanding sub-

Above all, the legacy of art can be said as the direct product of deepest human sentiments and expressions represented in its prettiest form as possible by the creator, known or unknown.

-Arkaprava Das

Government Committed to Transparent Exams: Minister

Udaipur: In-Charge and Revenue Minister government, under Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, is committed to developing the state. The 2025-26 budget emphasizes infrastructure, ecological conservation, and public welfare. Addressing a press conference



after a review meeting, Meena assured transparency in upcoming recruitment exams for over one lakh posts, urging youth to focus on hard work. Highlighting Udaipur's budget allocations, he announced a ₹100 crore Tribal Tourism Circuit, an Institute of Mines, and major infrastructure projects, including a flyover at Balicha and improved water supply. Initiatives also include a Spinal Injury Center, a trauma center in Gogunda, a leopard conservation reserve, and skill centers for youth. Additionally, roads, tourism, healthcare, and education several variations of rural art forms, inter-region- will see significant development. Free electricity up to 100 units will continue. The event was

Sukhadia University Annual Exams Begin

The 2024-25 annual system examinations are being conducted in multiple phases. In he first phase, exams for third-year private students will commence on February 20, 2025, while in the second phase, exams for regular and ex-students of undergraduate and B.Ed. courses will begin on March 6, 2025. These exams will be held in three shifts across 66 examination centers, with over 60,000 students appearing. All center superintendents have been instructed to record student attendance online via the university portal. Strict CCTV surveillance has been implemented at all centers, allowing direct monitoring by the university administration. This session introduces significant changes to the main answer sheet format. Examiners are now required to enter marks directly into the online portal. Additionally, control rooms have been set up to address any exam-related concerns, including admit card issues. To prevent unfair means, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jain (Science College) has been appointed as the University Flying Squad Coordinator.