

National Mime Festival, Jaipur (March 15-16, 2025) – A Report

Mime is an art form where performers use only their physical expressions and facial gestures to enact stories or depict events on stage without speaking. With no props, a mime artist relies solely on realistic body movements and expressions to create the illusion of objects and scenarios. When a performer captivates the audience with synchronized bodily gestures and emotive expressions, a theatrical presentation takes the shape of Mime. As a significant facet of theater, mime has been an integral part of both classical and folk dramas in India. However, it has yet to receive the recognition afforded to classical dance and theater.

Padma Shri Niranjan Goswami has played a pivotal role in elevating mime to an esteemed art form. Through the Indian Mime Theatre in Kolkata, he has successfully organized numerous National Mime Festivals across the country. His efforts have also extended to conducting workshops to engage young generations in this expressive art. For years Rainbow Society, Jaipur has been working alongside the Indian Mime Theatre and National Mime Institute to promote mime.

With the support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and IIS University, Jaipur, the Rainbow Society organized the National Mime Festival @25 at A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Auditorium in Mansarovar on the evening of

March 15. Dedicated to the memory of renowned educationist and visionary Dr. Ashok Gupta, the festival showcased the extraordinary talent of artists from West Bengal, Assam, Maharashtra, Delhi, and Rajasthan.

The event commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp by eminent dignitaries, including IIS University Vice



Chancellor Dr. T.N. Mathur, Trustees Shri Amit Gupta and Shri Sumit Gupta, Registrar Dr. Rakhi Gupta, Rainbow Society's Mohammad Salim Bhati, esteemed theater director Padma Shri Niranjan Goswami, Festival Director Siraj Ahmad Bhati and convener Dr. Aditi Khandelwal.

To honor the esteemed founder of Indian Mime Theatre, Niranjan Goswami, dignitaries presented him with a ceremonial turban and an honorary shawl. They also extended a warm welcome to all participating artists.

Speaking on the occasion, IIS University Vice Chancellor Dr. T.N. Mathur remarked, "Dr. Ashok Gupta dedicated his entire life to the upliftment of



women's education and the preservation of art and culture." Trustee Shri Amit Gupta emphasized, "My father, Dr. Ashok Gupta, firmly believed in discipline, innovation, and quality education." Shri Sumit Gupta shared inspiring anecdotes, adding, "He was deeply passionate about cultural activities, and we will continue to uphold his noble vision."

In memory of Dr. Ashok Gupta, Rainbow Society's Vilas Janve led the audience in observing a minute of silence. This was followed by a soulful tribute through his favorite song, 'A Chal Ke Tujhe Mein Le Ke Chalun Ek Aise Gagan Ke Tale'. As the melody resonated, a large screen on stage displayed cherished moments from his life, bringing a heartfelt remembrance that the audience joined in singing.

The inaugural performance of the festival was Euthanasia, a thought-provoking mime play conceptualized and directed by Siraj Ahmad Bhati of Rainbow Society, Jaipur. The poignant

performance, featuring Vichitra Singh, Priyanka Chandani, Ramkesh Meena, and Ruel Bhati, deeply moved the audience.

The following act, Hurdle Full Honey, presented by Martand Foundation, Udaipur, was a delightful comedy by mime artists Kiran Janve and Vilas Janve, leaving the audience in fits of laughter. Delhi-based artist Preeti Gupta captivated the spectators with a compelling portrayal of episodes from Gautam Buddha's life. Assam's Nirbak troupe, led by Minanka Deka and Deepak Prasad Shah, garnered thunderous applause for their performances Temple Visit, Letter to God, and I Love You.

The festival also featured a morning Mime workshop for art enthusiasts and aspiring performers. Under the guidance of Padma Shri Niranjan Goswami, attendees explored elements of Natya Shastra, honing their expressive skills through practical exercises.

Renowned mime artists, including Suvendu Mukhopadhyay from West

Bengal, Vichitra Singh and Asif Sher Ali from Jaipur, and Kiran and Vilas Janve from Udaipur and Kunal Motling from Mumbai shared their experience with participants while Jaipur based choreographer Shyam Mahawar introduced participants to rhythmic movement techniques. Additionally, the fourth edition of the International Annual Mime Journal, published by Assam's Nirbak (edited by Minanka Dekha) was unveiled by Padma Shri Niranjan Goswami.

The evening of March 16 featured an exceptional performance by West Bengal's acclaimed mime artist Suvendu Mukhopadhyay. His three acts—"Illusion", demonstrating impeccable body control, "Love", and "Dentist" kept the audience enthralled. He was accompanied by Subrata Das, who added to the spectacle.

Kunal Motling from Thane, Maharashtra, presented "The Lost Gift", depicting the fading innocence of childhood in today's fast-paced world. His performance, alongside Jaipur's child artist Dyotiman

Khandelwal, was both entertaining and nostalgic. Jaipur's Asif Sher Ali delivered a thought-provoking act, "Culture", highlighting the impact of modern lifestyle on traditional values and the perils of plastic pollution.

During the festival, a group of enthusiastic trainees under the mentorship of Vilas and Kiran Janve performed "Dust-Free Dustbin", a short mime play conveying an amusing yet powerful message about cleanliness. The young performers impressed the audience while instilling awareness about hygiene in an entertaining manner.

At the closing ceremony, all participating artists were felicitated with mementos. Esteemed guests included Abhishek Mudgal, Stage Manager of the National School of Drama, theater director Sandeep Lele, and IIS University faculty members Dr. Aditi Khandelwal and Dr. Suman Rathore.

Guided by the vision of Padma Shri Niranjan Goswami and supported by Dr. Rakhi Gupta, the festival successfully invigorated the spirit of mime art among enthusiasts and performers alike.

Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Rainbow Society, and IIS University, Jaipur, this National Mime Festival has undoubtedly carved a new chapter in Rajasthan's cultural landscape.

Manila Singh – Jaipur



Rajeev Datta Promises New Platform for Wrestling Talent in Rajasthan

Udaipur: The newly elected President of the Rajasthan Wrestling Association, Rajeev Datta, visited Udaipur on Saturday for the first time since assuming office. Datta, who holds a special privilege as a close associate of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, was warmly welcomed by the Udaipur District Wrestling Association and various sports organizations.

The grand reception was held at the Municipal Corporation Town Hall, where prominent figures like former Mayor Paras Singvi, Devanarayan Dhabai, District Sports Officer Mahesh Palwal, and several representatives from local sports associations, including cricket, volleyball, basketball, chess, and others, honored Datta.

Earlier in the day, a large vehicle rally passed through the city's main streets, where citizens enthusiastically greeted him. The local dignitaries at the Circuit House also extended their warm congratulations. Cooperation Minister Gautam Dack also wished him well for his new responsibilities.

Revamping Wrestling in Rajasthan
In a press meeting, Rajeev Datta shared his vision for the development of wrestling in Rajasthan and efforts to enhance the growth of players. He outlined various initiatives to promote wrestling across the state, including providing modern facilities like mats at the local level, ensuring better nutrition, and offering platforms for players to showcase their talent at national and international levels.

Datta emphasized that district-level wrestling competitions would be organized regularly, enabling talented players from Rajasthan to make their mark on the national and international stage, just like players from Haryana. He also directed district wrestling associations and state officials to coordinate and work together effectively.

During his visit, Datta also visited the famous Eklingsi Temple and the Shri Nathji Temple in Nathdwara to offer his prayers and seek blessings.

Awarding Gold Medalist Sonia Od
At the Circuit House, Rajeev Datta honored Sonia Od, a gold medalist at the National Federation Championship held in Chandigarh. Upon learning about her financial struggles, Datta presented her with a cheque of Rs. 51,000 as encouragement from the Rajasthan Wrestling Association. He wished Sonia a bright future and expressed confidence that she would achieve even greater milestones in the coming years.

Devidas Naikre's Leadership Empowering Indian Entrepreneurs

Pune: The Industry Bhushan Award 2025, organized by Devidas Group of Companies, was held in Bhosari, Pune. Over 40 entrepreneurs were honored by actress Sonali Kulkarni, with Bollywood actor Ali Khan and composer Dilip Sen in attendance.

Following the event, Devidas Shrawan Naikre, founder and director of Devidas Group, gained significant recognition. His diversified ventures include Citydhan Capital, Napar Shop, Vedant Training Academy, S.M. Services, D.K. Foundation, Devidas Publications, Digital Shop, Institute of Business Management, and Devidas Career Training Institute, offering specialized services to the public.

A pioneer in spiritual business coaching and mind training, Naikre has authored 12 motivational books on 'Courage' in English and Hindi, guiding thousands towards self-development. With 17 years of experience, he mentors entrepreneurs in Maharashtra, integrating business operations, mind training, and spiritual wisdom into his unique coaching methods.

Beyond business, Naikre is dedicated to social service, education, health, and empowerment initiatives. His philosophy emphasizes that true success lies in inner peace and clarity of thought, not just financial gains. Recognized with over 30 national awards, including Young Entrepreneur 2022, Maharashtra Business Icon Award 2023, and Mahatma Gandhi National Honor Award 2023, he remains a beacon of inspiration.

Believing that mental barriers hinder business success, Naikre's mission is to create 5,000 strong entrepreneurs in India by 2028, fostering a new generation of self-reliant, visionary leaders.

Stakeholders Workshop Shapes Vision for Rajasthan 2047

Udaipur: A stakeholders' workshop themed "Each Effort, Rajasthan's Development" was held at the Directorate of Extension Education Auditorium to draft a vision document for Developed Rajasthan 2047 under NITI Aayog's guidance. Organized by the Rajasthan Institute of Technology and Innovation (RITI), the event saw participation from 100 representatives across sectors.

Dr. I.G. Mathur emphasized planning across nine key sectors, including economy, agriculture, industry, water management, social welfare, science, urban development, employment, and green energy. District Head Mamta Kunwar Panwar stressed sustainable growth and quality education.

Experts including Vidya Vinod Nandawat, Anil Mehta, Kailash Brijwasi, Mahendra Singh Parihar, and others provided insights on various sectors. The session was coordinated by Dr. Anshu Bhardwaj, with discussions culminating in a state-level workshop in Jaipur. Prof. Piyush Prasad Jani delivered the vote of thanks, while Shreya Bhatt and Meghna Kataria conducted the event.

Mahendra Albela Enthralls Audience with Patriotic Melodies on Shri Eklingsnath Seva Sangathan's Foundation Day

Folk music performances based on Rajasthani themes mesmerized the crowd
Tribute paid to Arvind Singh Mewar through musical homage
Enthusiastic participation in traditional folk dances



Udaipur: The grand celebration of Shri Eklingsnath Seva Sangathan's Foundation Day witnessed an electrifying musical evening where patriotic and Rajasthani songs enthralled the audience. The city's residents showered immense love on the event, which continued late into the night. The organization's founding president, Akash Bagdi, was honored for his exemplary service contributions.

The event, held at Satyam Garden near Mahasatiya Chauraha in Ayad, commenced with a tribute to Arvind Singh Mewar, offered by the attendees. Renowned Bollywood artist Mahendra Albela paid musical homage to Shri Ji by singing Chitthi Na Koi Sandesh, Na Jane Kaunsa Desh Jahan Tum Chale Gaye. The grand celebration began with Albela's invocation to Lord Ganesh, followed by a mesmerizing rendition of patriotic and Rajasthani songs. His performance of Kesarिया Balam Aavo Ni Padharo Mhare Des had the audience swaying in unison. Accompanying him, Rajasthani folk dancers added to the splendor with their captivating performances.

Albela's soulful renditions of Mere Desh Ki Dharti Sona Ugle and Chitthi Aayi Hai Watan Se Chitthi Aayi Hai left many in the audience teary-eyed. The traditional Bhavai and Chari dance performances further enlivened the atmosphere, drawing enthusiastic applause from the attendees.

Addressing the gathering, Akash Bagdi shared that the dignitaries marked the occasion by cutting a celebratory cake, commemorating the organization's first anniversary. The event was graced by prominent figures, including Vinod Pandey and Nirmal Kumar Pandit, Hemant Joshi from Kali Kalyan Dham, Shalendra Pandya from the Child Welfare Commission, former councilor Sonika Jain, Kamalendra Singh from Bajrang Dal Mewar, Archana Singh Charan from Rahda Foundation, and Jay Nimawat and Purnan Khatik from the Khatik Samaj Sangathan.

In their addresses, Vinod Pandey and Nirmal Kumar Pandit lauded the organization's remarkable efforts in service activities within just a year. They highlighted initiatives in education, health-care, and environmental conservation extending beyond the city into rural areas. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign has resonated strongly among Udaipur's residents.

On this occasion, Akash Bagdi honored the esteemed guests with uparna and pagdi. The event also witnessed a significant turnout from rural areas. Additionally, over 15 new members were appointed to various organizational roles. District president Deepak Menaria expressed gratitude to the attendees for making the event a resounding success.



Geetanjali Dental Institute Celebrates World Oral Health Day

Udaipur: Geetanjali Dental and Research Institute's Department of Periodontics and Public Health Dentistry celebrated World Oral Health Day with a series of engaging activities. Under the guidance of Principal Dr. Balaji Manohar, the event highlighted the importance of oral health awareness. Dr. Balaji spoke in detail about the objectives of World Oral Health Day, educating students and attendees about maintaining good oral hygiene.

The event featured a toothbrush painting competition, a quiz competition, and a street play aimed at raising awareness about oral health. Additionally, the institute is organizing a free dental check-up camp, which will run until March 27.

Blood Donation

Udaipur: Various events were organized nationwide to mark Martyrs' Day. Continuing its tradition, Kumkum Group of Education commemorated its Foundation Day and the death anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev by organizing a blood donation camp.

Manohar Singh Chauhan informed that 113 units of blood were donated during the event. The camp was efficiently managed by Dev Yadav, Jayant Kumawat, and Jalam Singh, with support from Pramod Singh and his team from Maharana Bhupal Hospital. Key contributions in organizing the event were made by Bhagwan Singh, Vikram, and Akash, ensuring a well-coordinated effort.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from blood donors, while students of Kumkum Group of Education celebrated the Foundation Day with great enthusiasm.

Continuing its commitment to social causes, Kumkum Group of Education will organize another blood donation camp on May 12 to celebrate Nurses' Day. Along with professional excellence, the organization remains dedicated to social welfare activities.

Win High Praise

New Delhi: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan praised Rajasthan's outstanding performance in rural development during a meeting with Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma at the Agricultural Building. He assured full support from the Ministry of Rural Development and approved an advance grant of ₹126 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). He also sanctioned housing approvals under the scheme's fourth phase.

Both leaders discussed key rural development programs, including PMGSY, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, MGNREGA, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushal Yojana, and NRLM. Chouhan lauded Rajasthan's innovative approach to poverty alleviation and its initiative to cover 5,000 villages in the state budget.

Under PMAY, Rajasthan aims to construct 24 lakh houses, with 20 lakh already completed. The state has also made significant strides in empowering women, achieving four lakh "Lakshpati Didis" toward a 25 lakh target. The Minister praised initiatives like "Solar Didis" and tourism development.

Chouhan announced ₹2 crore per building under RSETI, assured MGNREGA wage clearance, and pledged support for the ₹30 crore Innovation Fund. With strong central-state collaboration, Rajasthan continues its rapid

progress in rural development.

Mewar Tourism Cup 2025 Begins March 26

Udaipur: Udaipur is set to witness an electrifying cricket extravaganza as the 6th Mewar Tourism Cup 2025 kicks off on March 26 at Field Club. This 13-day T20 day-night tournament, featuring top hoteliers, tour guides, and tourism professionals, will conclude with the grand finale on April 6.

This edition introduces the "Impact Player" rule, adding IPL-style excitement to the matches. 15 teams, including Trident, Udaivilas, Lake Palace, ITC, Radisson, and Mewar Tourism Club, will compete fiercely for the championship title.



Organizer Yaduraj Singh Krishnawat highlighted the tournament's goal of fostering sportsmanship and unity within the tourism industry. Cricket enthusiasts can expect thrilling night games, power-packed performances, and a vibrant atmosphere.

With intense rivalries and strategic play, the Mewar Tourism Cup 2025 promises to be an unforgettable sporting spectacle for Udaipur's cricket lovers.

Kumkum Group Celebrates Foundation Day with Rajasthan's Rural Development Efforts