

FLAMENCO NATYAM

Megha Nayar & Veronica Gautam

It was undoubtedly convergence of the finest kind. On Thursday night, the graceful and sensuous Flamenco met its match in the poise and elegance of the Indian classical dance form, Bharatanatyam. Together they created magic that few in Ahmedabad would have expected.

At a heritage celebrations event at Vastrapur lake organized by the Ahmedabad Heritage Foundation (AHF) in association with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), Spanish artists Raul Olivar, Jose Salinas and Monica de la Fluente took Amravadi captives, with a delectable spread comprising a Flamenco performance with both music and dance, ornamented suitably by a bhavani (which spoke at length on Ahmedabad's 12 darwajas) as well as compelling Indian dances performed by the Nriya Arts group and the Panghat Performing Arts group.

Even as the Vastrapur lake amphitheatre warmed up to a festive look, aided by diyas and marigolds, the musicians Jose and Raul were the first to set the tempo, charming the audiences with their splendid hold over the guitar and the cation Flamenco. Extremely zealous in places, the music made Monica sway obediently in perfect sync, matching her steps first with the instruments and later with a Bharatanatyam performer. The duo went on to win tremendous applause from those present.

The dance was complemented by, among other things, a jugabandi of sorts between Spanish musician Jose and an Indian folk singer. All in all, for a city starved of cultural events, this was truly an event worth reckoning for.



The two dancers performing at Vastrapur Lake



Fusion between a Flamenco and Bhavani

A'bad needs a school in heritage management

Paul John | TN

Ahmedabad: A crucial aspect to becoming a world heritage city is the sensitisation of town planners towards urban conservation and it is this decade long experiment that helped professor Syed Iddid help earn the Malaysian cities Melaka and Penang UNESCO's world heritage city status last year. Today Ahmedabad's walled city according to Iddid stands at a threshold towards achieving this status for the country. It was the Malaysian government in Melaka that formed a special body the National Administrative Institute that mediated in the process of urban heritage conservation and re-inforced training and sensitisation of town planners in conservation periodically.

Iddid believes that heritage conservation does not require a special law but town planners can find alternative ways of managing heritage cities—minimising destruction during road widening, curbing building demolition and evolve guidelines that will help conservation. "Almost one-third of architects employed as planners in the local government are students of our university. Our faculty has been sensitising students on urban conservation for the last 15 years and you see the conscious effect in our Malaysian cities. This is what I would like to see in Ahmedabad a



Syed Iddid

special school of architecture and heritage management," believes Iddid.

Iddid adds, "Melaka gained a lot economically after being declared a world heritage city with tourist influx but today it faces a dilemma. Many of the heritage homes are now being converted into budget hotels. I fear that it may lose its integrity of a heritage city—because a city is because of its original dwellers and its unique customs, food, music. I believe Ahmedabad stake holders have a greater responsibility."

Iddid has visited Ahmedabad at least five times and each time he was enamoured by its vibrancy, its people and its 'pleasant chaos'.

Puppets will tell the tale behind chabutras

Ahmedabad: On Friday city's storyteller and puppeteer, Mahipat Kavi will narrate to Amravadi's tale of Bapal Modi, a grocer, who gave the city its unique identity—the chabutro (bird feeder) 137 years ago. Kavi is a treasure trove of stories about legends that reflected the ethos imbibed in the walled city.

At Karanj Chautro, which is the first bird feeder of the city, Kavi will unravel the sto-



Kavi with his puppets, Bapal Modi and his wife

ry behind Bapal's resolve to towards this stoic revolution—in the puppet show 'Bapal's Parable'. Chabutras are a unique cultural institution of Amravadi that reflect its concern for all life forms. Kavi will also release a book on Bapal Modi. "I had tried locating the family of Bapal Modi. In fact, the Modi community which helped Bapal raise these marvellous bird feeders would be honoured on Friday." TN

READERS' RESPONSES

Preserving heritage will build brand A'bad

Will conservation of walled city's heritage be a good investment for builders?

It will drive investments

Yes, it will prove to be a good investment. Spending on conservation of heritage will work as brand building for the city and create a new identity for it. This will not only attract visitors but also encourage businessmen from outside to invest in the old city. # PATEL | REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER

Yes, it will help real estate industry in the long run by attracting foreign tourists translating into faster circulation of money. # DIKAP PATEL | BUILDER

Since architecture of the walled city is appreciated, so will be the efforts made by builders and hence it will be a good investment. | DURVA SHAHRI

Yes, in the long run. But, conservation should be continuous and supported with proper infrastructure facilities. # SHEKHAR PATEL | PRESIDENT, GUJARAT INSTITUTE OF HOUSING AND ESTATE DEVELOPERS

Will boost hospitality industry

It will be beneficial for everyone, as there will be opportunities in the hospitality industry. # GIRISH PATEL | BUILDER

Conservation will attract more tourists, increasing the business potential of walled city. Introduction of better transport like BRTS will help. | VINOD SANJANI



Without FSI, no commercial viability

No, in the old city adequate floor space index (FSI) has not been given. One can't construct high-rise buildings. It becomes a good investment only if there is commercial viability. # SURESH PATEL | VP, GUJARAT INSTITUTE OF HOUSING AND ESTATE DEVELOPERS

Only if city gets heritage tag

It will be a good investment provided Ahmedabad is declared a heritage city. It will beckon tourists and there will be ample opportunities in various businesses. # JAYJI SHAH | PRESIDENT, CONFEDERATION OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS OF INDIA, GUJARAT CHAPTER

Spread awareness among locals first

It is imperative to create awareness regarding the rich heritage of the walled city. There is no point in investing when people are not motivated to maintain it. | AGARWAL PREKSHA R

It's better to preserve history than making Ahmedabad into a concrete jungle. | VIA SMS

Responses were received via SMS (58888), email (mytimesmyvoice@timesgroup.com) and blog www.mytimesmyvoice.com

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FRIDAY EVENTS

5.15-5.30pm: Visit to Jethabhai Sheth ni Haveli & sugam sanget

5.30-6pm: Visit to Sheth, Baronet and Mehta havelis

6-6.30pm: Bhungal bhajan team at Haleshwari Mahadev

6.30-7.30pm: Bhavani by Janak Dave & mukadd natak 'Nadi ni Pehl Baij' by Nalishah Purani

7.30-8.45pm: Sugam sanget by Arav Parivar

8 pm: Ahmedabad Meri Jaan', a film festival organized by a club comprising students of MID and MGS

Venue: Dhobi ni Poi, Khadia

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- Apply on a prescribed application form separately for both programmes by paying Rs. 1600/- in cash. In case the form is downloaded, payment is through DD of Rs. 1600/- in favour of "FORE School of Management", payable at New Delhi.
- Application forms are also available in selected branches of AXIS & HDFC Banks. For details please visit FORE website www.fsm.ac.in

IMPORTANT DATES

- Last date of receiving filled application form : 10th December, 2009.
- GD/Interview Centres : Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Kolkata and Mumbai.

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