

Day 1

Sunday, 15th December 2013

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Kim Kum Pyoung, Director of the Korean Cultural Centre along with his wife Mrs. Pyoung. The event commenced with the traditional felicitation of our esteemed chief guest with an Angavastra and presenting them with a token of appreciation, related to Draupadi...an 'Akshay Paatra' which was a representation of purity of thoughts and a token of abundant prosperity, along with a 'Parvati Momento' which was a replica of a piece from national museum of New Delhi that had been found in the 1940's in Panchala region of Achhishatra. This was followed by Folk Performances from different states.



The First Performance was 'Pandavani' by Prabha Yadav ji. **Prabha Yadav** from Chhattisgarh and her troupe narrated the story of Draupadi through the Pandavani folk form. Prabha Yadav is the disciple of Pandit Jhadu Ram Dewangan, and has been performing since the age of 5 years. She was invited because she has done wonderful work in Commonwealth game 2010.



PANDAVANI is a form of narration of the epic Mahabharata, focusing on particular episodes for elaboration. The narrator sings the story and enters into discourse addressed to the audience, using mime and dance movements. Traditionally, Pandavani was performed only by men. Since the 1980s, women have also presented Pandavani.)

attention has been given to the intangible arts & traditions related to the Panchal history. Intangible heritage is a part of the living traditions and form a very important component of our collective cultures and traditions, as well as History. Draupadi Trust has been actively working since years to preserve and promote the tangible heritage, and now proposes to also showcase at the heart of our nation, New Delhi, the variety and richness of our vibrant Folk arts through Panchal Maha Utsav.



A significant issue connected with Panchal is the cultural ethos around status of women and the brave spirit of the Princess of Panchal, Draupadi, who is the symbol of all modern women's fight for equality & emancipation. The program also takes up this.

Patwa or Patta Chitra Katha is a Folk Tradition of Bengal, in which the artists paints the various scenes from the Epics and legends on a Scroll and narrates the stories through melodious songs, prepared by them.



Day 2: Monday, 16th December 2013

Revisiting Draupadi, a Panel Discussion on the socio cultural dimensions of the status of women, traced from the trials and tribulations of Draupadi of the Mahabharata Era.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. S.K. Goyal, former Director General of ICCR, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India. The event commenced with the felicitation of our esteemed chief guest and honored Panelists with the traditional Shawls and token of appreciation presented were an 'Akshay Paatra' which was a representation of purity of thoughts and a token of abundant prosperity, along with a 'Parvati Momento' which was a replica of a piece from National Museum, that had been found in the 1940's in Achhishatra region of Panchala,.

The main objective of the event was to Revisit Draupadi of yesterday in today's context, as the status of women in our country is a matter of concern to each of us. Draupadi was the Princess of a culturally rich and advanced Panchala Desha, but got embroiled in a battle of political power between cousins. The cultural ethos shattered and misperceptions created since then, about Draupadi, still haunt us. The historical Queen Draupadi is the role model for modern women, the symbol, the icon, the metaphor for all liberated personalities.

The speakers were:

Dr. Pratibha Ray (*Author of Yagna Senini*)

Dr. Kavita Sharma (*Author of Queens of Mahabharata*)

Dr. Haripriya Rangarajan (*Eminent Scholar*)

Shri Narendra Kohli (*Eminent Scholar*)

The program drew a very distinguish gathering and created much interest. Powerful presentations were made by the very distinguished panel, and Interesting question was raised on the misrepresentations of Draupadi and dilemmas that still persisted in the minds of many.



Dr Kavita Sharma, author of Queens of Mahabharata & Director IIC, presenting her paper on Draupadi titled *Now Let Me Sleep. The dais is graced by Prof Pratibha Ray*, author *Yagna Senini*, **Dr Suresh K. Goel**, former DG ICCR, **Dr Haripriya Rangarajan**, VC Indian Arts Congress, **Dr Narendra Kohli**, author *Maha Samar*, and Draupadi Trust Chairperson **Ms Neera Misra**



A very impressive & enthusiastic audience.



Vote of Thanks by Draupadi Trust Chairperson-Trustee, Ms Neera Misra



Eminent Panelists on the dais - Prof Pratibha Ray, author *Yagna Senini*, **Dr Kavita Sharma**, author of Queens of Mahabharata & Director IIC, **Dr Suresh K. Goel**, former DG ICCR, **Neera Misra** Chairperson Draupadi Trust, **Dr Haripriya Rangarajan**, VC Indian Arts Congress, **Dr Narendra Kohli**, author *Maha Samar*

Chhau Dance:

With origins shrouded in mystery, the Chhau dancer communicates inner emotions and themes through cadences of body flexions, movements and kinetic suggestions. The word Chhau is interpreted differently by scholars. 'Shadow', 'Disguise' and 'Image' are the most common interpretations due to the extensive use of masks in this dance form. The martial movements of Chhau have led to another interpretation of the word as meaning 'to attack stealthily' or 'to hunt'.



Chhau artist performing



Hon. Culture Minister Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch and other dignitaries with the artist.

Karaga :

The most famous festival of Dharmaraja Temple of Bangalore, Karaga is the symbol of Draupadi, wife of Dharmaraja in the epic Mahabharata. When the Pandavas were shown a glimpse of hell, towards the end of Mahabharata, a demon called Tripurasura was still alive. Draupadi took the form of Shakti devi and created Veerakumaras - a huge army of soldiers - to defeat the demon. After defeating Tripurasura, the soldiers asked Shakti Devi to stay back with them. In response, she promised them that she would come to stay with them every year during the first full moon of the first month of the Hindu calendar - this is the day Karaga is celebrated. Thigalas believe that they are the descendent of the Veerakumaras.



Karaga artist performing



Hon. Culture Minister Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch and other dignitaries with the artist.

The Panchala Mahautsav ended with a vote of thanks by our founder Trustee Ms. Neera Misra to all the dignitaries and our esteemed chief guest, to our sponsors & supporters, and also to the impressive audience who enjoyed and gained a wonderful insight of Panchala throughout these events.

Campaign for Draupadi Samman Award

19th Dec 2013, Dilli Haat (INA), New Delhi



Miss Neera Misra, Chairperson of Draupadi Trust with Shri Bhaskar Khulbe, Res. Com, Govt. West Bengal explaining about Draupadi Samman Award



Shri Bhaskar Khulbe giving his support to Draupadi Samman Award with Neera Misra Draupadi Trust



Neera Misra welcoming the Chief Guest



Miss Neera Misra Chairperson of Draupadi Trust with Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katotch and Veena Dutta



Neera Misra Chairperson Of Draupadi Trust with Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katotch explaining about Campaign for Annual Draupadi Samman Award



Smt. Chandresh Kumari signing the campaign For Draupadi Samman Award