

Hussain's canvas to adorn Pune stadium

26.1.94

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PUNE - The grand endeavour of M F Hussain and 24 Pune-based artists is being unveiled to public by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao during the closing ceremony of the third National Games, on Tuesday.

The impressive canvas, depicting Pune's variegated personality and measuring 32ft by 7ft, will become a permanent fixture at the main stadium at the Shri Shiv Chhatrapati complex. The artists worked with M F Hussain, during the inaugural ceremony of the Pune Festival, last

year, to create this colossal work of art.

It took only a few hours, for the massive, staid canvas to take vibrant form. Each of the 24 artists, was given a specific slot to paint their perception about the city. This monumental work was done on the inaugural day of the Pune Festival in September 1993.

Religious symbols, cultural heritage, historical reminiscences and technological advances in the city, came live in ravishing colours with an expressive cricketer figure, portrayed by M F Hussain, occupying a prominent

position.

National integration through the symbols of all religions and figures of social reformers like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and his wife, Savitribai, also form a part of the canvas.

If Lord Ganesha has been given due respect, industrial development too has not been overlooked. In short, the canvas gives a comprehensive picture of the multi-faceted city, that does not lagging behind in any field. Be it sports, culture, social reform, religious tolerance or art, Pune encompasses all, with dignity.