



FROM FEBRUARY  
AT THE PRITHVITI  
SANGH & BAL BH

The Experimental T presents its fourth a *Natya Utsav*. Deterr form that voice issu dren, this year, the f dren's Rights and C Around 400 child pe 12 groups from acro ticipate in this natio has also won UNICE

ON TILL FEBRUAR  
AT THE NEHRU CE  
11.00 AM TO 7.00 P

The gallery is showir about 35 drawings a ings by Prakash Gha and Kishor Nadavde used to work togethe ally leading to this gr works predominantly

RAMESH NAIR



ings," he says with a smile, continuing, "But it's all part of the process."

#### ■ His spirituality leads to art. Or is it the art that leads him to spirituality?

"It works both ways. I think spirituality is the quest and painting is the medium to attain it. The ambition is to reach the essential. What is known as *adhyathnik khoj*," he intones, in an almost meditative voice. "The master of this realm was the late Gaitonde. Among the younger artists, there are Yusuf, Akhilesh and Seema, all from Madhya Pradesh," he smiles, looking fondly at the painter Akhilesh, who has come to Mumbai for the Raza shows.

#### ■ One wonders why a man, so much in love with his country, is still based in France.

Some loves are greater than others and, in this case, it is his wife who has held him back. "I was smitten... it was like the line of *kajal* in a woman's eye, that once drawn cannot be easily removed. She did not want to leave France, so I stayed on," explains the artist, who visits India once or twice a year.

*H S Raza's retrospective, The Sacred Search, is showing at the Jehangir Art Gallery till February 28. His prints on canvas are showing at the Tao Art Gallery till February 26*



## Surviving Picasso

PICASSO is one artist that I can never get enough of. Every time I have seen his work — which has been often — I come away feeling rejuvenated. The word that I would use in conjunction with him is: astounding. Keeping that in mind, when I visited the show *Tribute to Picasso* that is currently on at the Guild Art Gallery, I failed to get any energy from most of the works.

Though the show has been done with the best of intentions, it does not tap the full potential of working with an artist as multi-faceted as

Picasso. I found the interpretations of 'tribute' far too literal. It was rather strange, that most artists deemed it necessary to actually portray the artist, in order to offer a tribute. With an exception of Krishnamachari Bose, who has been making photo-realist images of many artists besides Picasso, I found that artists were not exploring Picasso's persona or his works, at a deeper level. The only other artist whom I felt had come close to capturing Picasso's spirit was Madhav Imarte. His sowing machine, with its indulgent brush work, touched on that vitality that Picasso is known for. Even if one were to refer to any one page of Picasso's diary, there is so much that coloured his life. But none of that



**GUEST A**  
ANAHITE

is brought to the front.

It comes as a surprise s ally, artists like Laxma Ga and Laxman Shreshtha ar whose work I have a high how, it just seems too con