

Jahan-e-Khusrau festival returns with some new names and some old

A musical tryst with Sufi legacy

By Neha Mathur

IT'S A rare event to see care-free youngsters hang around to hear a woman sing in a language alien to them. Especially at a time when the 17-year-old popular American band, Backstreet Boys, has just performed live in the city.

But that's what the event held at Select City Walk, Saket, on Monday, to formally announce the launch of this year's Sufi music festival, Jahan-e-Khusrau, succeeded in achieving. The young brigade of shoppers at the city's busiest mall stopped by for more than just curiosity's sake, to appreciate Radhika Chopra's Sufi songs and the performance by the Japanese dancer Masako Ono, both of whom are part of the upcoming festival, to be held at Arab Ki Sarai, Humayun's Tomb, from February 25 to 28. Some such shoppers even purchased tickets for the festival from the counter at the mall.

The eighth edition of the festival returns to the city after two years as the venue, with which the festival has become synonymous, wasn't available to the organisers. "Delhi government realised the importance of the festival by not having it for two years," said Muzaffar Ali, the designer/filmmaker whose brainchild the festival is.

One of the most regular names at Jahan-e-Khusrau, the sensational Pakistani Sufi singer Abida Parveen, as expected, is part of this edition too. Parveen, known for her throaty voice, will perform on the concluding day of the festival at the UNESCO World Heritage site that dates back to 1562 AD.

Ono, who is slated to perform on February 26, is a first-timer at the festival. "A lot of people can't differentiate between

Sufism and Islam," she said. "They think it's the same thing and don't often come to see the performance." Hopefully, Delhi will give a memorable reception to Ono.

Turkish performer Omar Faruk Tekbilek and Egyptian folk dancers called the Tannoura Troupe are the other highlights of the festival. The latter will perform Lafie, a moving meditation where dancers move in circles to demonstrate their love for God, some-

thing quite similar to the whirling dervishes of Turkey.

From Delhi, the festival goes to Jaipur for a day. "We also want to take it to Punjab and different parts of Rajasthan, where Sufism is evident," said Dilshad Sheikh, founder member of the Rumi Foundation, that co-organises Jahan-e-Khusrau.

Arjun Sharma, owner of the mall, hoped that Jahan-e-Khusrau would help promote tourism in the country. "I have been to the festival once and simply loved it," he said. "If the government takes it upon itself to promote it the way they do other events, it is surely going to bring home tourists from world over."

Don't miss the show if you enjoy *mushaira* — this will be one of the biggest attractions of the festival and is being held for the first time. Besides, films made by Muzaffar Ali will also be shown during the three-day festival, at the ICCR auditorium at ITO.

The tickets for the festival, priced at Rs 300 and Rs 500, are available at Full Circle and Kotwara Studio in Khan Market, and Select City Walk and Emporio malls.

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ON THE SUFI TRAIL

February 25; 6.30 p.m.
ICCR Auditorium, Azad Bhawan,
ITO: Sufiana Mushaira

February 26; 6.30 p.m.
Arab Ki Sarai: Masako Ono,
Sanam Marvi (Pakistan) with
Samandar Khan and group
(Rajasthan); Rabbi Shergill

February 27; 6.30 to 9 p.m.
Arab Ki Sarai: Tannoura Troupe
(Egypt); Radhika Chopra and,
Omar Faruk Tekbilek and
ensemble (USA)

February 28; 6.30 p.m.
Arab Ki Sarai: Ballet on
Bulleh Shah by Astad Deboo,
songs by folk singer Mallini
Awasthi (India) and, Abida
Parveen (Pakistan)



Japanese dancer Masako Ono performs at the formal announcement of the upcoming Jahan-e-Khusrau festival; (Below, left) Sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar (left) at the launch along with the festival director and filmmaker Muzaffar Ali

A bubbly birthday bash for master painter Raza

JYOTI KAPOOR



Syed Haider Raza (centre) uncorks the bubbly on his 88th birthday in the company of (from left) collector Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, poet Ashok Vajpeyi, and artists Satish Gujral and Akhlesh

By Archana

If the amount of unequivocal love you receive on your birthday is a measure of your success, then veteran artist Syed Haider Raza is living a truly successful life. Well-wishers of all ages and shades turned up in big numbers to wish the octogenarian a very happy 88th birthday, at the celebrations hosted by his long-time associate and the Lalit Kala Akademi chairman, Ashok Vajpeyi.

"Raza Sahab is lucky to receive so much love. How many people in their 80s can boast of such love?," ruminated artist Vasundhara Tewari Brooto, who came with artist husband Rameshwar Brooto, just when the grand old painter was uncorking a bottle of champagne and cutting the chocolate cake which had icing in the colours of his famous canvases. Old Hindi film songs, from Raza's list of favourites, were played when he cut the cake.

The evening, hosted by Vajpeyi's centre for arts and poetry, called Ektara, was billed as the top art event of the week, which none in the art world could miss despite other high-profile engagements at the same time. Many, in fact, made a blink-and-you-miss appearance, including Arun Vadehra of Vadehra Art Gallery, who is soon going to host a solo show of Raza's pain-

tings from March 3 at his gallery, and Ashish Anand of Delhi Art Gallery. Anand, whose original gallery at Hauz Khas is under renovation, will re-launch it sometime in monsoon with a one-of-its-kind exhibition of paintings by the six artists who formed the Progressive Artists Group in Mumbai in 1947 — S.H. Raza, F.N. Souza, M.F. Husain, Akbar Padamsee, Tyeb Mehta and S.K. Bakre.

The evening had a display of the corepati master's canvases from some private collections; most of these, however, were from the not-

Raza's solo show gets under way on March 3

for-sale collection of businessman Kuldeep Kumar Gupta. Delighted at seeing it all on display on Raza's birthday, Gupta said, "I bought my first Raza canvas in 1988 and since then, have bought many more. I'm so much in awe of this man's philosophy that I'll never sell any of these canvases."

Vajpeyi, along with Raza's hosts during his India stay, the artist couple from Bhopal Manish and Kamna Pushkale, remained busy throughout the evening. In the coming weeks, one is going to see more of the Paris-based painter in Delhi, who stays in India during winter.

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Love in the time of honour killing

By Saumya Pant

FRIENDS and admirers of Manjul Bajaj gathered on Monday evening at the Epicentre, Gurgaon, to hear her read from her debut novel, *Come, Before Evening Falls*.

Daman Singh, the author of *Nine by Nine*, joined her in a conversation on the book, which is a love story set in Haryana against the backdrop of the Khat Panchayat politics. Manjul set many a female hearts racing when she described the male protagonist of the story as 'the Jat Heathcliff'. "He is the quintessential bad boy who every good girl falls in love with," she said. "I took bits from people like Sanjay Dutt and Salman Khan for this particular character."

At this point, Singh (who is also the daughter of the prime minister Manmohan Singh), asked Bajaj if her characters in



Authors Daman Singh (left) and Manjul Bajaj during a talk on the latter's debut novel, *Come, Before Evening Falls*

the book were 'a bit over the top.' Nodding her head in agreement, Bajaj said that the female lead was, "the version of the best of our dreams."

The book throws light on issues such as honour killing and identity politics. "The novel is set in 1920s, but the topic of honour killings is still relevant," said Bajaj.

She referred to the case of

Aqsa Parvez, the 16-year-old girl who was allegedly killed by her father in Toronto after she refused to wear a *hijab* in 2007. Shivmeet Deol, a commissioning editor with Hachette, pitched the book as one which had a bit for everyone. "It has been reprinted once and going by the way it's been flying off the shelves, we expect another reprint soon."

MY BIZ

India ride

Auto major Volkswagen launches hatchback version of Polo in India
The German firm will consider exports once Polo's demand saturates in India

Pg 28



Possible tax hike fears lead to big pre-Budget rush of car buys in Jan that may continue till the Budget

Sales are up on fears of likely roll back of excise duty sops & price hike due to Euro-IV emission norms

New growth driver Pg 29



India Inc, along with investors and the masses, eyes sops this Budget

IT cos want extension in STPI tax exemption Pg 28

Deora says RIL need not share mktg margin with govt

Amar stokes Ambani gas feud in Parliament

By Mail Today Bureau
in New Delhi

MINISTER for petroleum and natural gas Murli Deora on Tuesday said Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) does not have to include the revenue earned as marketing margin from the sale of gas for calculating the royalty and net profit to be shared with the government.

The production-sharing contract (PSC), which governs the terms under which firms like RIL produce oil and gas from exploration blocks given out by the government, does not envisage sharing of revenue earned by the contractor (RIL) on the marketing margin between the government and the contractor, Deora told the Rajya Sabha.

"The marketing margin is beyond the delivery point and arises as a result of the gas sale and purchase agreement signed between the seller and the buyer," Deora said in a written reply to a question by Rajya Sabha member Amar Singh.

Amar Singh is close to Anil Ambani and has raised the question whether RIL can charge the marketing of \$0.135 per mmBtu over and above the price approved by the group of ministries (GoM) for the KG basin gas. Singh also asked, "If so, whether RIL has the approval of government for claiming marketing margin from its customers

What is PSC?

The production-sharing contract (PSC) governs the terms under which firms like RIL produce oil and gas from exploration blocks given out by the Centre. It provides for sharing of revenue between the govt and the contractor (RIL) of the sale of gas at the said price at the delivery point.



Whether it is a fact that RIL is charging a marketing margin of \$0.135/mmBtu over & above the price approved by the GoM?

—Amar Singh, MP, Rajya Sabha



PSC does not envisage sharing of revenue earned by the contractor on marketing margin. The margin is beyond the delivery point.

—Murli Deora, Petroleum minister

and whether the PSC has a clause on the contractor charging for marketing margin?"

Estranged younger brother Anil has also been alleging that the Mukesh Ambani-run RIL is not giving the government its due share in the revenue from the KG basin gas. Deora said under the PSC, the government has approved a price formula for sale of gas from KG basin D6 field at the delivery point (the place where RIL transfer custody for sale to customer). The \$4.20 per mmBtu is the price fixed for five years.

The minister said the PSC provides for sharing of revenue between the government and the contractor (RIL) of the sale of

gas at the said price at the delivery point. The marketing margin was settled between the buyer and the seller and the government has neither decided nor approved the same, he added.

Deora said marketing margin arises as a result of Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) signed between the seller and the buyer and was mutually settled between them. The rate of marketing margin neither in the case of KG D6 gas nor in any other case has been decided or approved by the government, he said. Under the PSC, while the revenues from the gas sales are shared between the government and the contractor, the costs and

risks associated in marketing efforts undertaken by the contractor in generating these revenues are to be borne by the contractor and are not shared by the government, the minister said.

An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) had fixed \$4.20 per mmBtu as the landfall point price of gas and levies beyond that like the marketing margin were settled between the buyers and sellers of gas. Under normal circumstances, the price of the commodity is supposed to include all risks and costs associated with the sale of a commodity. However, under the PSC mechanism, the marketing costs and risks are not covered.

Mamata to unveil populist rail budget

MAMATA Banerjee is ready to present a populist budget on Wednesday with no hike in railway fares and a special package for West Bengal as the state heads for the assembly elections.

Banerjee said that the Budget "is dedicated to the Janata as the common man is our asset and strength." The railway minister met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his residence on Tuesday to apprise him of the finishing touches to the Budget.

Refusing to divulge details of the Budget proposals, she said, "wait for tomorrow to know everything."

Railways are likely to include Kharagpur station in the list of world class railway station project. It had already announced stations including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Sealdah, Bangalore, and Bhubaneswar to be upgraded as world class stations. A new express train called P. V. N. Express between Kashmir and Kanyakumari is likely to be announced. Mail Today Bureau

Institutional investors bail out REC issue

THE follow-on share sale of Rural Electrification Corp (REC) got subscribed 3.10 times till 4 pm on the final day of the issue on Tuesday on demand from institutional investors as retail investors showed muted response to the issue due to lack of discount.

The issue received bids for 53.26 crore shares, against 17.17 crore shares on offer, resulting in a demand of 3.10 times till 4 pm, as per the NSE data.

Sources said domestic foreign institutional investors (FII) like Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Unit Trust of India (UTI) and State Bank of India (SBI) submitted their bids for the follow-on-public offering (FPO) on the final day with LIC estimated to have placed a demand for share worth Rs 800-1,000 crore.

The portion reserved for qualified institutional buyers was subscribed 4.15 times, while high networth individuals (HNI) and retail demand remained tepid at 74 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

MARKETS

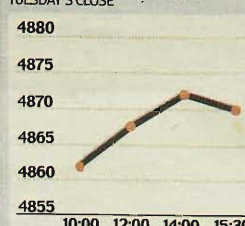
SENSEX

16,237.05
MONDAY'S CLOSE
49.27
16,286.32
TUESDAY'S CLOSE



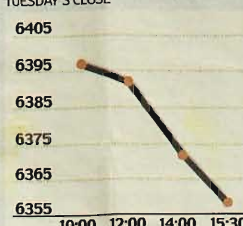
NIFTY

4,856.40
MONDAY'S CLOSE
13.65
4,870.05
TUESDAY'S CLOSE



BSE MIDCAP

6,394.33
MONDAY'S CLOSE
37.80
6,356.53
TUESDAY'S CLOSE



TOP 10 GAINERS

	% change	Price (Rs)
1 Bajaj Holdings	3.94	588.90
2 KSK Energy	3.91	180.55
3 Sesa Goa	3.31	377.85
4 Cadila Health	3.04	737.75
5 REI Agro	2.37	1571.95
6 United Phos	2.37	159.70
7 Jubilant Org	2.28	325.00
8 Dr Reddys Lab	2.24	1141.95
9 Mphasis	2.08	740.65
10 Hindustan Zinc	2.01	1107.60

Bajaj Holdings

566.55
PREVIOUS CLOSE
22.35
588.90
H: 593.60
L: 571.00

