

### music festival

## Can't Beat It

**DELHI** As the world celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Beatles, there is something special about this four-day festival organised by The Ravi Shankar Centre. It will have a uniquely Indian touch—it will be conducted in a *baithak*-style with sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar ensconced with wife Sukanya in the front row.

The festival is dedicated to the former Beatle, George Harrison and marks what would have been his 65th birthday. Shankar and Harrison shared a special relationship. Both met at a friend's house in London, where Harrison was swept away by Shankar. "It was for the first time that I ever really learnt music with a bit of discipline. Then I started listening to Indian music and for the next two years hardly touched the guitar, except for my recordings,"

**PIECE OF MUSIC:** A file photograph of Harrison (above, right) with Ravi Shankar; Venkatesh Kumar



Harrison once said. "Even after possessing all these materialistic things, I wanted something more. And it happened, it came to me in the form of Ravi Shankar, Indian music, and the whole Indian philosophy," he said.

They collaborated on three albums—*Shankar Family & Friends*, *Festival of India* and *Chants of India*. The festival will

start with a Kuchipudi dance recital by Yamini Reddy, followed by a santoor recital by Satish Vyas. Slated for February 23 are Ajay

Prasanna on flute and Ranjini Gayatri (vocal). On February 24, the voice from Dharwad, Venkatesh Kumar, will take centre-stage, followed by Kartik Sheshadri on the sitar. On the final day is a Hansaveena recital by Barun Kumar Pal and a performance by maestros of the Benaras gharana, Pandit Rajan and Sajan Mishra. Not an event to be missed. From February 22 to 25.

by S. Sahaya Ranjit



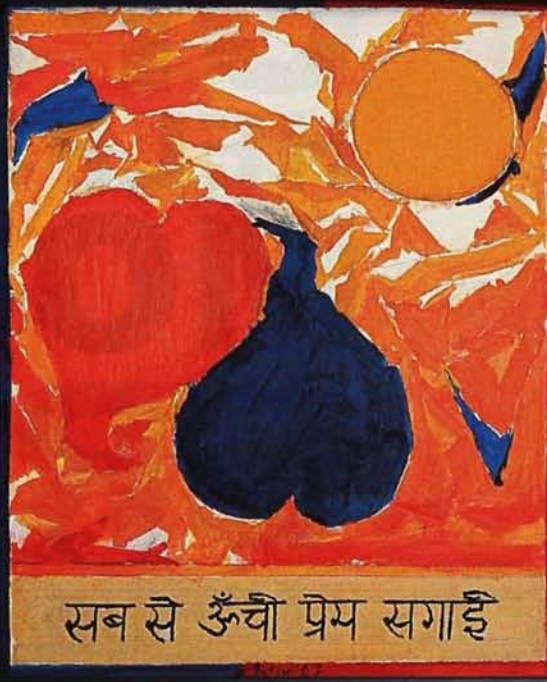
### art exhibition

## Iconic Master

**MUMBAI** His art is the pursuit of truth. God and beauty. Veteran artist S.H. Raza continues to dabble in Indian iconography—bindu visarg, srishti, prakriti and naga. "What must be highlighted are the paintings, not the artist," says Raza, adding, "akin to music and dance, we painters are also making a valuable contribution to the country." Satya, an exhibition of his art work, contains three of his recent works and 19 pieces that curator Kalpana Shah has collected over the years. "Kalpana has chosen the works well and I am very happy with the way she has organised the show," says Raza. At Tao Art Gallery. On till February 22.

by Swati Mathur

**VALUABLE:** Raza's work titled *Prem Sagai*



### art

## Creating Life

**DELHI** Lalit Kala Akademy award winner Latika Katta presents her solo exhibition, *Translated Visual Life Experience*, where she uses bronze, ceramics, papier-mâché, cow dung and mud.

Her ability to create malleable organic forms from solid materials and to coax life into inanimate



**Katta's work**

objects takes her to the forefront of sculptural practice in India today.

At Lalit Kala Akademy. From February 19 till 24.