

APRIL , 2022

The Newsletter

UNIMA PUPPETEERS TRUST

VOLUME 03



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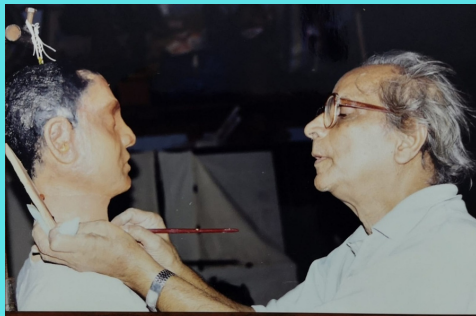
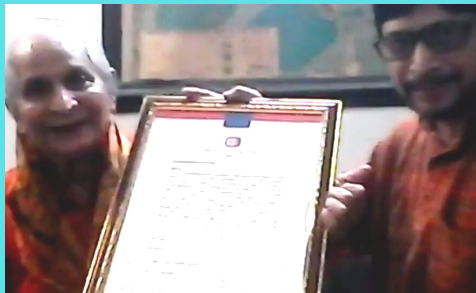
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Putul Nacher Ashor (PNA) , the puppet theatre group Chandigarh organized 3 days Puppet festival to celebrate World Puppet Day. Photo credits : Subhasis Neogi



Honouring Padmashri Shri Suresh Dutta

AGM held on Zoom platform at 4:30p.m. on February 20th Sunday-2022

<https://youtu.be/mme8kEWX7lw>

The meeting was attended by 28 members.

Gunduraju ji, President Unima India, welcomed all the members present and declared the meeting open.

All the members greeted Suresh Datta. Sudip Da, a member was present at his home to represent Unima members.

We played a short video which showed glimpses of Suresh Da's work and achievements.

After this Sudip Da presented him with a shawl, a basket of fruits and sweets followed by a framed citation in Bengali.

Suresh Da thanked all the members and asked them to be determined to take Puppetry to greater heights.

For lack of quorum we had to reconvene the meeting in order to continue.

AGM MINUTES HELD ON 20TH FEB 2022

In view of the resignation of Atul Sinha from the post of Treasurer, a new treasurer had to be elected. Maneesh Pachiaru was nominated for the post by Dadi Pudumjee and seconded by Anurupa Roy. The members present voted by a show of hands . Maneesh was elected as the new Treasurer.

Anurupa Roy gave a short historical review of the formation of the Trust as against the Society(Unima India) the reason for this was that all but two members had passed away and the legal status of the Society was untenable. She also explained the difference between the Trustees role and the Elected Executive.

World Puppet Day celebrations. The theme, the Sea, was re iterated. Khurshid Sheikh, Subhasis Sen, Kat Katha, Anil and Sudip Da and Charu have plans. They will share a short video of their event so that it can be circulated to all and even Unima Internationale.

Anurupa informed members about the Asia Pacific Commission and the informal dialogues we have been having with Puppeteers individual and Unima bodies in different countries. Dadi suggested we start with the neighbouring region; Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Ranjana explained that these dialogues will be a precursor to the round table for which we need a common agenda and a common language.

Members were also informed about the various commissions of Unima Internationale. The growing interest in members in these , specially the Training Commission is heartening. 7 members had attended the last one. The next presentation is by Anurupa Roy and Ranjana Pandey at the Training Commission is on February 28th. The topic is training programmes from 2014 onwards organized by Unima India- specially the Master Classes and our vision for the future.

The house was thrown open to members.

Charu shared her distress at losing all opportunity for live performances in the last two years. It resonated with all. To know each other better an e- profile of members will be a good idea. There was a discussion on what the profile should contain , where it will be held, etc.

We have shared on the whatsapp group the link to the documentation videos of Tamil Nadu Shadow Puppeteers for the members to watch.

Another suggestion was to have monthly meetings and select two members each time who will make (15 min) a presentation about their work.

There was an important reminder about the protocol for using the Unima logo. While it is a great idea to publicize Unima and display a banner with the website address etc. it must not give the impression that Unima is sponsoring shows. There should be no mis communication.

The meeting was brought to an end by Gundurajuji, President Unima with the hope that we will soon be meeting offline and performing as well.

FROM THE EDITOR

RATNAMALA NORI



Namaste.

Welcome to our World Puppetry Day 2022 Newsletter !

It was a pleasure to meet Padmashri Suresh Dutta ji and honour him in our humble way.

However, it was sad to see that all the members were not present to witness this occasion. They have missed a golden opportunity to interact with one of India's famous puppeteers. Suresh da !

He lovingly showered his blessings on us with his beautiful words of inspiration. May God bless him!

Indeed, it is very nice to see all our puppets and puppeteers come offline to enjoy live audiences after a long period ! World Puppetry Day was celebrated in style by one and all , the world over and in our country. We have had many Putul Utsavs and celebrations. Again with a note of sadness, I feel all our members are not sharing their information for our newsletter. We are a Family. A Family of Puppeteers and it should give us joy to share the achievements with one another. Let us work together to bring the art of Puppetry to one and all!

Announcing ANUBHAV - 1

This is a new venture asking all Unima members to participate with enthusiasm.

The idea behind it is very simple: we need to know each other better. What better way than meeting on line. So here is what we propose: two member puppeteers will be invited to make a presentation of their journey and share their work. Followed by Q n A. Lets bring the community closer.

Our first ANUBHAV features Dadi D. Pudumjee with Puran Bhat, on SUNDAY 12th JUNE 2022, 11AM to 12noon. The zoom link will be shared a day before. Stay connected...

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

UNIMA INTERNATIONALE



Dimitri Jageneau
General Secretary

Dear National Centres, Dear Members,

A moment of celebration is upon us! In 2003, UNIMA with your help launched World Puppetry Day. March 21 has become a day to celebrate the joy that springs from our imaginative use of materials, techniques and storytelling. This year's theme is the Sea. The 2022 World Puppetry Day message has been written by Ranjana Pandey, Indian puppeteer, teacher and humanist committed to the puppetry arts and fellow puppeteers in her home country.

Her message portrays the importance and the power of the ocean that embraces our beautiful blue planet, carrying "storytellers and their stories from one shore to another, from one island to the next, from one continent to many." The poster for this year's World Puppetry Day was designed by Adrian Kohler, world-renowned South African visual artist, designer and co-founder and artistic director of Handspring Puppet Company. His poster captures the giant "Little Amal" as she walks across the horizon.

March 21 is your day. Wherever there is a National Centre, wherever there is a puppeteer, wherever there is a vision, a hand and material that takes life, we can celebrate. Wherever there is a child, an audience, an object and the force of imagination, puppetry will flourish.

Happy World Puppetry Day!

Dimitri Jageneau
General Secretary of UNIMA



WPD MESSAGE FROM MANAGING TRUSTEE

RANJANA PANDEY

THE SEA

The Sea always carried storytellers and their stories from one shore to another, from one island to the next, from one continent to many. The stories swirled together, marinated in many cultural stews and became magical and immortal.

It is the stuff of stories since the beginning of time, full of sea dragons, mermaids and many fantastical creatures.



It is through these waterways that princesses and pirates, sailors and traders took trousseaus of wealth, entourage of craftsmen, court jesters and exotic produce and, of course, the great mythologies like Mahabharat, Ramayan, Sagar Manthan, Sindbad the Sailor, Journey to the West, One Thousand and One Nights...as they travelled from one culture to the next.

The stories changed with each telling, gathering subtle layers over centuries.

Entertaining, distracting, feeding the souls of travellers, adventurers, villains and heroes from distant unfamiliar lands.

The Sea remains magical and mysterious, touching the lives of millions on this planet. It feeds, sustains, and inhabits the imagination of all. The Ocean is the force from which all life on this planet emerged.

But today's reality is poignant. The sea is our last frontier today – the last frontier between us and annihilation of life as we know it. Today the sea is polluted, gasping for life, strangled by nets of greed and neglectful waste. It has been reduced to a garbage filled soup of dying corals and marine life. Each one of us in some little way is part of this sad reality.

Here then is a challenge to all of the story tellers of today to revive the respect for the Seas of Earth – our only home.

Let us put our collective talent to the task. Right Now!

WPD 22
TAL-BETAL PUPPET THEATRE
 SUBHASIS SEN



Tal-Betal Puppet Theatre observed the World Puppet Day 2022, airing online, a Table-top presentation “Clever Indeed” on Facebook and YouTube page for the public and presented “The Bait” – a simple rod puppet presentation at the call of Calcutta Puppet Theatre at their studio, the same day. Several other puppeteers presented their presentation in turn including a Hand-Shadowgraphy performance.

The pictures above are of “Clever Indeed” and “The Bait”.

Interested people may visit our Tal-Betal Puppet Theatre page either in Facebook Or YouTube for the table-top presentation.

WPD 22
KALABAAZ PUPPET THEATRE
 AJEET BHAAT

Kalabaaz Puppet Theatre done puppet show for German embassy in Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav at red fort Delhi on 26/2/22. Puppet show on world puppet day at CCRT. We did modern puppet show **Sone ki Chudi** in Hisar Balbhawan from Sangeet Natak akademi on 3 /2/22. Do puppet show in Kethal mile stone school 13 /3/22. Online teachers training program in CCRT on 3/3/22 etc.



WPD22 : TRIPURA PUPPET THEATRE

PRABHITANGSHU DAS

World Puppet day 2022 was celebrated in a befitting manner with a series of programmes on 21st march 2022 at Muktheadhara Auditorium, Agartala, Tripura organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi and Tripura Puppet Theatre. The Festival " PUTUL UTSAV, Azadi ke Rang; Putal Ke Sang" commemorating the glories 75 years of Indian Independence, was started elegantly with a short inaugural session followed by three puppet shows.



The celebration was inaugurated by eminent theatre personality Shri Sanjoy Kar and eminent Sangeet Guru, Professor, Tripura Central University, Dr. Utpal Biswas at 12.30pm in the presence of school students and parents. Both the speaker emphasized the importance of arranging such puppet festivals specially for kids in this digital era.

First and maiden show was 'RANI LAKSHMIBAI' by Tripura Puppet Theatre. In this premiere show, they paid tribute to Rani of Jhansi her bravery and courage on the occasion of 75th years of independence.

After that traditional puppet group Maa Tripureswari Putul Nach presented their show on pollution of environment 'DUSAN MUKTA PARIBESH'. And final show of inaugural session was 'RAJA HARISHCHANDRA' presented by Shri Krishna Putul Nritya Sangstha. Both the groups presented their shows in traditional string puppetry style.

In the second session of World Puppet Day at 6.30pm Tripura Puppet Theatre arranged another evening show of 'RANI LAKSHMIBAI' before the esteemed audience which was also housefull. The audience thanked Sangeet Natak Akademi for bringing such unique celebration of puppetry on the occasion of World Puppet Day.

AZADI KE RANG : PUTUL KE SANG

RATNAMALA NORI

PROGRAMME

Monday, 21 March 2022
10.00 a.m.
Vikram aur Betal
Contemporary Puppet Theatre
Nori Art and Puppetry Centre, Hyderabad
Director: Ratnamala Nori

7.00 p.m. onwards
Kitturu Swatantra Sangram
Shadow Puppet Theatre
Sri Rajarama Togonalu Gombe Mela Group, Karnataka
Director: Gunduraju

Alluri Sitaraman Raju
Shadow Puppet Theatre
Sri Nataraja Nilaya Chama Chitra Kala
Committee, Andhra Pradesh
Director: Pawan Kumar

Tuesday, 22 March 2022
10.00 a.m.
Amar Singh Rathore
String Puppet Theatre
Kalpana Puppet Theatre, Delhi
Director: Lala Bhat

7.00 p.m. onwards
Satyagrah
Shadow Puppet Theatre
Chhaya Natak Brindam, Andhra Pradesh
Director: Chidambara Rao

Padma Vyuham
Shadow Puppet Theatre
Lakshmi Tirupattamma Tolu Bommalata
Brindam, Andhra Pradesh
Director: V. Koteswar Rao

Wednesday, 23 March 2022
10.00 a.m.
Devi Mahatame
String Puppet Theatre
Sri Gopal Krishna Yakshagana
Bombeyata Sangha, Kerala
Director: K. V. Ramesh

7.00 p.m. onwards
Uttara Gograhana
Shadow Puppet Theatre
Sri Nataraja Tolubommalata
Kala Brindam, Andhra Pradesh
Director: Vanaparty Venkat Kumar

Mahiravana Vadh
Shadow Puppet Theatre
Anjaneya Tolu Bommalata Brindam
Director: Boppala Ramesh

DEMONSTRATIONS

21, 22 & 23 March 2022, 10.00 a.m.
Shadow Puppetry
Hanumanthu Rao; Anjaneyulu
String Puppetry
Ravi Bhat; Raju Bhat
Glove Puppetry
Shaktipada Ghorai; Sushanta Ghorai
Rod Puppetry
Souvik Karmakar; Debashish Karmakar

WORKSHOP

21, 22 & 23 March 2022, 4.00 p.m.
Ratnamala Nori – Contemporary Puppet Making
Hanumanthu Rao – Shadow Puppet Making
Shinde Anjaneyulu – Shadow Puppet Making

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Sangeet Natak Akademi
National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Sangeet Natak Akademi
National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi
an Autonomous Body of Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Telangana Sangeeta Nataka Akademi
Department of Language and Culture, Telangana, Hyderabad

Presents

PUTUL UTSAV

Azadi ke Rang: Putul ke Sang
celebrating 75 years of India's Independence

21-23 March 2022, CCRT Amphitheatre, Hyderabad

Sangeet Natak Akademi, N.Delhi on the occasion of World Puppetry Day 2022 organised a Putul Utsav in five cities Varanasi, Hyderabad Odisha, New Delhi and Agartala. The aim of the Putul Utsav was to give the art of Puppetry a renewed vigour as a new generation of audiences is introduced to traditional puppetry which is an intangible cultural heritage of India. **With India celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75 years of Independence, the theme of the festival was Azadi ke Rang Putul ke sang'**

Tales of India's struggle for freedom were retold through the medium of puppets. The line up of events included performances by famous puppeteers both traditional and contemporary. Seminars demonstrations and workshops where participants created their own puppets and carried them home, were also conducted. All four kinds of puppets traditional used. String, rod, shadow and hand puppets.

Here is a brief report of the Utsav at Hyderabad, Telangana where our members Sri Gunduraju, Smt Ratnamala Nori among others were invited to participate.

AZADI KE RANG : PUTUL KE SANG

RATNAMALA NORI

Morning Session ; Inauguration took place . There was an Introduction to the art of Puppetry and remarks about the WPD celebrations. The Special Message written by Ranjana Pandey was read out. First performance for the day, was a contemporary show, Vikram and Betaal by the Nori Art and Puppetry Centre, directed by Ratnamala Nori. Puppets used were rod, glove and mouth puppets and masks

The stories of Vikram and Betaal, originally written in Sanskrit, have been an integral part of Indian folklore for many centuries. Legend has it that King Vikramaditya, in order to fulfill a vow, was required to remove a corpse from a tree top and carry it on his shoulder to another place in silence.

The spirit of Betaal (residing in the corpse) narrates a story to the King and poses a query. When the king responds with the answer the corpse flies back to the treetop! The king has to go after him and start all over again. This follows in a succession of stories and answers. A tantalizing setting...intriguing tales....and exciting answers. A veritable feast of stimulating stories. The present puppet play carried the stories of The impossible Statue and the Brides Dilemma.

The audience consisted largely of school children who had never seen a puppet show before. They and the adults present enjoyed the performance.



Nori Art and Puppetry Centre, Director Ratnamala Nori



Chhaya Natak Brindam group, A.P. , Director Chidambara Rao



Sri Gopal Krishna Yakshagana Bombeyata Sangha, Kerala, Director K.V.Ramesh



Glove puppetry workshop, Shaktipada Ghorai, Sushanta Ghorai



String Puppetry workshop Ravi Bhat, Raju Bhat

AZADI KE RANG : PUTUL KE SANG

RATNAMALA NORI

The afternoon session had demonstrations and workshops . Hanumanthu Rao and his father Anjaneyulu demonstrated the making of **traditional leather shadow puppets** and also involved children in making of the puppets.They explained in detail about the drawing and painting techniques involved in the preparation.It was interesting to watch the procedure. Shaktipada Ghorai and Sushanta Ghorai demonstrated **the traditional art of glove puppetry from West Bengal**. They explained how the puppets were made .The head with clay,the hands with wood and the body with cloth material. Lively demonstrations kept the audience enthralled.

The demonstration of **traditional Rod Puppetry-Putul Nach of West Bengal** by Sovvik Karmakar and Debhashish Karmakar was exciting to watch .The puppeteer tying the rod puppet to his waist and ghungroos to his ankles, exhibited the graceful dancing movements of the puppet . Normally The puppet is visible above a screen which hides the puppeteer so one does not realise how much skill and effort is put into the inanimate wooden puppet which comes alive dancing with the lively sounds of the dholak and ghungroos.

The evening performances in the Amphitheatre began with a traditional Shadow puppet performance Kitturu Swatantra Sangram by Sri Rajarama Togalu Gombe Mela Group,Karnataka, directed by **Gunduraju**. The play was about **Kittur Chennamma** (14 November 1778 – 21 Feb) who was the Rani of Kittur, a princely state in Karnataka. She led an armed resistance against the British East India Company (**BEIC**) in 1824 in defiance of the doctrine of lapse in an attempt to maintain Indian control over the region, in which she defeated them, but she died in the imprisonment of second rebellion by the British East India Company. One of the first female rulers to rebel against British rule, she became a folk hero in Karnataka and symbol of the independence movement in India. **The shadow puppet play brought to life the characters of this story with lively hindi interludes of the sutradaar and sutradaarini**



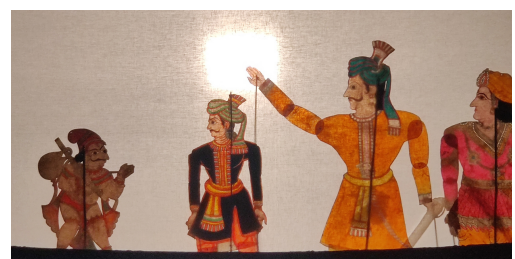
Padmashri award winner D.Chalapathi Rao and team



Satyagraha by Chidambara Rao's group



Sri Rajarama Togalu Gombe Mela Group,Karnataka, directed by Gunduraju



Kitturu Swatantra Sangram by Sri Rajarama Togalu Gombe Mela Group,Karnataka

AZADI KE RANG : PUTUL KE SANG

RATNAMALA NORI



Maneesh Pachiaru participating in Glove puppetry workshop, by Shaktipada Ghorai, Sushanta Ghorai



Traditional shadow puppet demonstration by D. Chalapathi Rao



Alluri Sitarama Raju by Sri Nataraja Nilaya Charma Chitra Kala ,Andhra Pradesh



Sri Nataraja Nilaya Charma Chitra Kala, Andhra Pradesh

The second traditional Shadow Tholubommallatta for the evening by Sri Nataraja Nilaya Charma Chitra Kala ,Andhra Pradesh was directed by T. Pawan Kumar.

Alluri Sitarama Raju was an Indian revolutionary who waged an armed campaign against British colonial rule in India. Born in present-day Andhra Pradesh, he became involved in anti-British activities in response to the 1882 Madras Forest Act, which effectively restricted the free movement of Adivasis (tribal communities) in their forest habitats and prevented them from practicing a traditional form of agriculture known as podu. He was nicknamed "Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Jungle) by local villagers for his heroic exploits. It was very interesting to see these characters come alive in the form of shadow puppets, rhythmically manipulated by the skilled puppeteers with live music ,songs and narration

The second and third days, 22nd 23rd March also had performances and workshops and demonstrations . A contemporary puppetry workshop for children by Ratnamala Nori had demonstrations of different kinds of easy to make and manipulate puppets with waste materials.

Participants were thrilled to make their own paper puppets to carry home after understanding that a puppet can be made from almost anything.

Amar Singh Rathore was brought alive with String puppets(Kathputhli) by **Kalpna Puppet theatre,N.Delhi, Padmashri award winner D.Chalapathi Rao and team** not only put up a performance but also displayed their collection of both ancient puppets and recently made puppets to the admiration of the audience. Award winner Chidambara Rao with his group Chaya Natak Brindam ,AP put up a new production of theirs Satyagraha,made specially for the occasion.

Sri Gopal Krishna Yakshagana Bombeyata Sangha,Kerala performed Devi Mahatame,an excellent String puppet performance which had a deep impression on the audience.

More shadow puppet performances, Uttara Gograha by Sri Nataraja Tolubommallata Kala Brindam,AP directed by Vanaparthy Venkat Kumar, Mahiravana Vadh by Anjaneya Tolu Bommallatta Brindam .

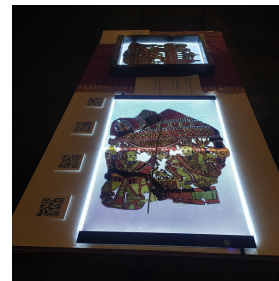
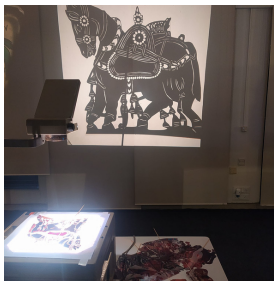
The dedication and devotion displayed by all these puppeteers to their art and craft in this Putul Utsav was indeed commendable.

EXHIBITION

KATKATHA PUPPET ARTS TRUST

SHADOWS IN METAVERSE

Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust collaborated with Goethe Institute Delhi's Infinite Library Projects to present an exhibition of Togalu Gombeyatta puppets by Gunduraju ji and VR by Czech Film maker Mika Johnson, which included Gunduraju Ji's puppets. The exhibition looked at the conjunction between the Metaverse of shadow puppets and Virtual Reality. Each evening featured talks by shadow puppeteers, documenters and researchers. These included Atul Sinha, Shankhajeet De, Gunduraju. Anurupa Roy curated the exhibition and events.



UPCOMING

MUMBAI IN A BOX

Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust is collaborating with Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya to design, curate and present an exhibition for children on the occasion of the Centenary year celebration of the museum. The exhibition will include a 100 year history of Mumbai, its heritage and people told through an interactive and sensorial experience that includes puppets, shadows and miniature dioramas.

18 mid-day Friday 22.04.2022

the guide

MAKING OF A SUPERGIRL »P19

A pocketful of Bombay

As CSMVS celebrates its centenary year, a consciously curated display for children that opened yesterday will hold their hand through Mumbai's past, present and budding future

SAMMOHINEE GHOSH
sammohinee.ghosh@mid-day.com

A COLOSSAL, yellow-coloured head is too preoccupied to spot us. Little Pao is a true-blue Mumbakkar, named after his favourite pillow bread. As his giant-sized papier-mâché-head lords over the Children's Museum, we look around to map his posture. Pao's one hand holds on to the museum wall, the other clutches a tree, and opposite his beaming face is a stretched out foot. Pao, the mascot for Mumbai in a Box, a new exhibition at Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), is playing with a sandbox. The sensorial display envisioned by puppet theatre company Katkatha, found a home at the museum that is in the midst of their centennial celebrations. "We wanted to do something special for children to celebrate the occasion and what better than a tribute to Mumbai that has nurtured us over the years. Children across age groups, who visit CSMVS, are from different walks of life, speak different languages, and have diverse interests. Our idea was to create an experience that would resonate with every single child," shared Valdehi Samal, head, Children's Museum, adding that it was

wish to build their island city. Once inside the gallery, we follow a trail that pieces devices of kinesthetic learning together. The snaking path begins with mangroves that have Mumbai breathing. Our feet sink into a make-believe bumpy stretch where dried leaves, twigs and pebbles hoist their arch. The next stop is a textured wall where a plastic lizard, a tiny puppet and a knobbly facade await us.

Because touch has a memory

"It's hard to develop an interest in intangible heritage after a certain age. So, start young. Our team decided to deliver that effect keeping in step with body intelligence," Roy reasons. As we crawl down a narrow passage only to land in Lilliputian Bhendi Bazaar, miniature seekh kebabs, handi biryani, ornate hand mirrors grab our eye. Further, glass cabinets with mini ittar displays merge with the call to prayer (azan). Before we could find a handy tape recorder hidden in the folds, we are prompted to rub our finger on a white speck.

History heralds the future

This new exhibition, their first in nearly a year, also takes us through the annals of time. While one of the walls tells us how the dargah named after Pedro Shah Baba came into being, another segment takes us through Lady Hardinge Hospital (CSMVS was once called this), and a small alley features Fearless Nadia and a prop movie set. While a chainliah is distracted by

the set's goings-on elsewhere, kids peep through miniature versions of the museum's CCTV room, conservatory and restoration unit. Filled with childlike thrill, we end our adventure after meeting underwater creatures. Like Mumbai follows the ocean, we too meander on land to dip our feet into the sea.

TIME 11 am onwards **TILL** August 2022 **AT** CSMVS, MG Road, **100** ON TO **100** years Mumbai

Exhibition mascot Pao holds the show together. **PICS/BIPIN KOKATE**

A comparative visual where tiled floors contrast skylines

Children walk down the sensorial mangrove-bound pathway

A display unit sporting trees made up of waste aluminium scrubs

Kids look at miniature departments of the museum; (inset) into CSMVS tiny conservatory

THOLPAVAKOOTHU FIGURES ON POSTAL COVER

RAHUL K

The traditional shadow puppetry is honored by the Department of Posts by combining traditional shadow puppet character Lord Rama on the special design cover. The discussions with Padmashri Ramachandra Pulavar and North zone postal master Nirmaladevi had brought such an honour. For Ramachandra it's a great delight because he was a former postman who had resigned his job to continue the passion towards the art form. He said now The department has recognised his commitment and art practise which has been in the core of his heart. Puppeteer from Palappuram sangam Shri Sadanda Pulavar and Padmashri Ramachandra Pulavar were felicitated at the event.

A temple traditional art form Tholpavakoothu swings across gender barrier

Tholpavakoothu the temple traditional shadow puppetry form was considered to be male domain till December 2021. But Rajitha Ramachandra Pulavar the daughter of Padmashri Ramachandra Pulavar initiated a new shadow puppetry production called "Penpavakoothu" (Women Puppetry) which depicts the story of a small girl who faces many issues from society because of her gender. The inauguration of the show happened in District panchayat hall, Palakkad, Kerala on January 5 2022. From there they performed 15 offline performances in the past three months. Breaking all laws, rituals and customs the shadow puppets of Kerala from now will be manipulated by women's hands too. Empowering women puppeteers is the main motto behind this initiative said puppeteer Rajeev Pulavar. Rajitha Ramachandra pulavar directed this 30 mins production accompanied by Aswathy Rajeev, Rajalakshmi, Nithya R, Niveditha R, Sree nandha, Sandhya, Manju

The Hindu 02/04/22



Special postal cover on traditional art

STAFF REPORTER

PALAKKAD

The Department of Posts will honour the traditional art form Tholpavakkoothu by bringing out a special cover on Saturday.

V.K. Sreekandan, MP, will inaugurate the function to be held at Puthur Sree Thirupuraikkal Temple here on Saturday afternoon. North zone post master general T. Nirmala Devi will release the cover. Tholpavakkoothu exponents Ramachandra Pulavar and Sadananda Pulavar



RANJANA PANDEY

