



Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata
Ministry of Culture, Government of India
IB-201, Sector – III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700106

Report of Activities for the month of November 2018

8-10 November 2018 - 4th Bhipmahad Mahotsav

EZCC collaborated with BhipmahadMahotsav Committee, Bolangir, Odisha, for the BhipmahadMahotsav. The Paika dance troupe by Manbhum Shiv Shakti ChhauNriya Kala Kendra; Bihu dance by CharaideoSanskritikGosthi; Dhol/PungCholom dance by the Sangeet Kala Mandir and the Bhangra dance by the Punjab Folk Kala Manch Club was sponsored for participation in the aforesaid programme.



11-13 November 2018 –Bolangir Lok Mahotsav

EZCC organised the Bolangir Lok Mahotsav at Odisha from 11–13 November, 2018, in collaboration with BinayakChhau and Natua Dance Society, East Singbhum, Jharkhand. A 15 member Natua dance troupe from West Bengal and aPaika troupe of Jharkhand participated in the same.



Cultural programme at Nalanda

EZCC organised a cultural programme on 20.11.18 at Nalanda, Bihar, to celebrate the Foundation Day of Nava Nalanda Mahavira.

One Odissi group (Subikash Mukherjee); one Bharatnatyam group (Kalamandalam, Kolkata); one Purulia Chhau group (Jangalmahal Chhau dance party) and one Gotipua group (Laxmipriya Gotipua) performed on the above mentioned day.

Cultural Programme at Ras Mela (Jabda)

EZCC organised a cultural programme on 20.11.18 at Jabda, Purba Midnapore, on the occasion of Sarbojanin Ras Mela held from 19-29 November, 2018. The Purulia Chhau group (Sarberia Milan Sangha) performed on the occasion.

Cultural Programme at Srijan Utsav

The Srijan Utsav was organised by EZCC at Purulia from 23-25 November, 2018. The cultural programme was performed by the combined dance group Bhangra and Jindua from Punjab and Bihu from Assam.

Cultural Programme at Ras Mela

The Ras Mela cultural Programme was held on 23 November, 2018, at Tilkhoja, Moyura, Purba Midnapore, in association with EZCC. The kirtan group of Pallab Sarkar performed on the occasion.

Sangai Festival – Manipur

Every year the Government of Manipur organises this festival from 21-30 November, to explore tourism potentials in the State and simultaneously to attract tourists from other parts of the country as well as overseas. Daily cultural performances are held during the festival.

This year EZCC was requested to sponsor a 15 member cultural troupe from Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. Performance was planned for two venues in four days (Imphal and Bishnupur)



National Level Dance Talent Reality Show - Jhoom India

Under the Umangscheme, EZCC collaborated with Shantidham Foundation, a nonprofit making voluntary organisation, carrying out different developmental activities for last 12 years in the state of Odisha, to hold Jhoom India. This was an unique National Level Cultural Reality Programme for orphans, PWDs, transgenders, slum children and senior citizens. It featured the top contesting dance teams from all over India. This national Level dance reality show brought together 3000 participants all over the country, showcasing Indian culture through their vibrant dance forms. It featured dance performances, both modern and classical, demonstrating the best of Indian performing arts. This unique programme was the first of its kind in India for the oppressed children, organised at Bhubaneswar ,and was aired on National Television Channels.



Parab

Parab, the annual cultural extravaganza of the tribal region of the country, is organised every year since 1996. Parab is the first district festival of the State of Odisha which focuses on the traditional folk and tribal art form. It is one of the leading festivals of the state and country both in quantum and quality. EZCC sponsored the following two cultural troupes for Parab, 2018 – 16 to 18 November, 2018, at Koraput, Odisha.

- a) Bihu (Dakshini Sanskritik Gosthi), Assam
- b) Kharswan Chhau (Chhau Nritya Kala Kendra) Jharkhand

The support and cooperation extended by EZCC was appreciated by the District Council of Culture, Koraput, Odisha.

Cultural Unity Day –Quami Ekta Week

As instructed by the Ministry of Culture, Govtof India, cultural functions were organised to present the Indian tradition of unity in diversity and for promoting cultural conservation and integration. EZCC organised Cultural Unity Day on 23 November, 2018, with Kala Vikash Kendra, a cultural NGO, Cuttack, Odisha on the occasion of QuamiEkta Week (National Integration Week) from 19-25 November 2018. The participating troupes were Creative Dance NrityaBhumi(West Bengal); Jhumur Dance, Kalakunj (Jharkhand) and Sur and Mandir (Odisha).



Jharkhand Rajya Sthapana Divas

The Department of Culture, Government of Jharkhand, organised Jharkhand Rajya Sthapana Divas Pakhawada from 13-15 November, 2018 at Ranchi.

EZCC sponsored a dance troupe (Shymal Mallick) of Bengal to participate in the said programme.

Kavi Sammelan (National Integration Week)

As per guideline of the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, EZCC organised a Kavi Sammelan on 21 November, 2018, as part of National Integration Week at Bharatiyam Cultural Multiplex. For the aforesaid programme the following poets were invited from different parts of India. All of them recited poems based on the theme of National Integration.

Participating poets –Sibashish Mukhopadhyay (West Bengal); Amrit Sarita Singh (Manipur); Tulika (Assam); Bimanshree Kharel (Sikkim); Dr Shlesh Goutam (Uttar Pradesh); BhusanTyagi (Bihar); Neeraj Naithani (Uttarakhand); Dr Sunil Tarun (Karnataka); Dr Rajnikanth Mishra (Maharashtra); Dr Debashish Mahapatra (Odisha); Chandrakanta Mura Singh (Tripura); Ravindra Ravi (Madhya Pradesh).



Women's Day

EZCC Kolkata observed Quami Ekta Week (National Integration Week) 19-25 November, 2018. The seminar on 24 November at Mini Theatre, Gangtok, was held on Women's Day, where a panel discussion on the importance of Women in Indian society and their role in the development of nation building was discussed.



Conservation Day

As part of the Quami Ekta Week 19-25 November, 2018, EZCC observed Conservation Day, where a seminar and cultural function for creating awareness about conserving the environment was held at Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir, Guwahati, Assam. Programme speakers were Dr Krishna Sharma, Department of Micro-Biology, Assam Agricultural University, Guwahati and Shri Aseem Kumar Kazi, Additional Director General, Prasar Bharati, Guwahati. The audience was enthralled by the performance of folk dances – Karbi, Kushan and Jhumur.



Call of the North East

EZCC organised a programme of Folk Music and Dances of North East India from 25-28 November, 2018, at Srijani, Santiniketan. The folk dance troupes who performed were –Bihu, Assam (Rimjhim Gogoi); Bodo - Assam (Pranjit Basumatari and tr); Sattriya Assam (Priyanka Sharma and tr); Hojagiri Tripura (Panchali Debbarma); Manipuri (Libomocha Meitei); Sikkimese/Nepali - (Chabiral Pradhan).



Zonal Play competition on Gandhiji at EZCC, Kolkata (November 16-18, 2018)

As part of the 150th birth anniversary celebration of Gandhiji, as per the desire of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Play competitions on Gandhiji among school children were held at district and state Levels. The winning teams from 7 states under EZCC (Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Tripura) were invited to compete at the Zonal level at the EZCC headquarters in Kolkata. A team from a school for underprivileged children in Purulia, West Bengal, was also invited to put up a special performance. 122 children and 18 Teachers and officials of the Education Department of the respective states attended the event. The welcome programme was conducted by the renowned folk artist Shri Subhendu Maity. Students spoke and interacted about their thoughts on Gandhian philosophy and its impact on their lives.

The jury comprised of eminent personalities of Indian theatre - Shri Rudra Prasad Sengupta, Shri Samir Biswas and Shri Ashish Chattopadhyay.



Participating Schools were

N. Tomchen Higher Secondary School from Manipur (Play Gandhi Ningsinglubada) where they depicted Gandhiji's contribution to the national freedom movement and how he made non violence his supreme dharma.

Ramlakshman Singh Yadav Sarvodaya Ucca Madhyamik Vidyalaya from Bihar - (Play - Mohan Se Mahatma) where different incidents from Gandhiji's childhood were portrayed and the importance of following the path of truth was emphasised.

Government High School, Khandagiri, Odisha, play (Mu Gandhi Kahucchi), based on the Gandhian principles of Satya, Ahimsa and Dharma. It was stressed that today's society needs to go back to these core values in life.

Paljor Namgyal Senior Secondary School, Sikkim, (play Ahimsa Parmodharma) depicting the Noakhali riot and the visit of the Mahatma to the riot affected areas, alone and unarmed, to restore peace and humanity.

DPS Ranchi, Jharkhand, also celebrated the triumph of non violence and the importance of love, forgiveness and communal harmony to strengthen present day society.

Purulia Theatre School of West Bengal-(play Mahatma), where the old man of the village relates to the story of Gandhiji to the children and advised to stay away from hatred and corruption. Music and dance of the State was incorporated to make the play a visual delight.

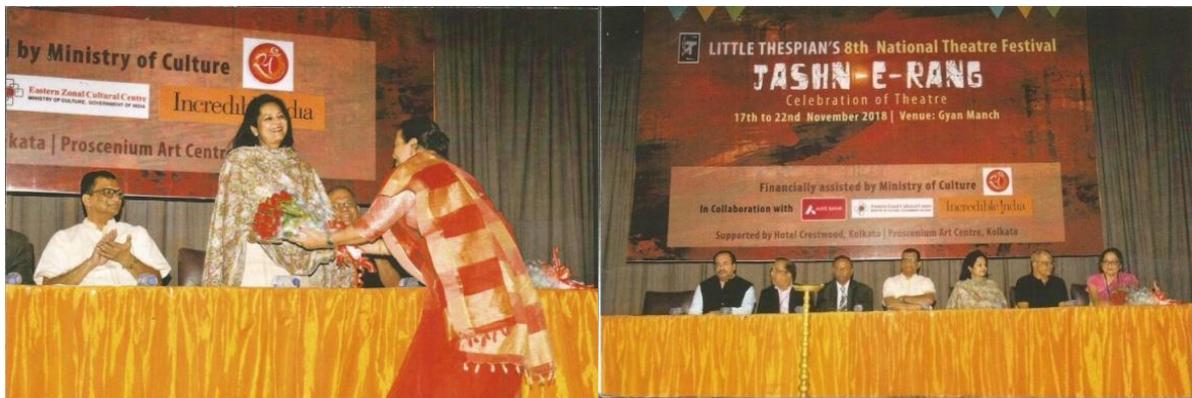
Guwahati Refinery High School, Assam, (play Mohon Atma) - Mahatma. The play depicted the emotional attachment of the people of a remote village of Assam to the freedom struggle and their love and devotion for Gandhi Babu as referred here.

Sukhomoy H.S. School Tripura (play Gandhiji) - in which Bapuji was presented as a statue. The statue spoke and depicted the Jallianwala Baghtragedy, the Satyagraha movement and other historical events.

The winner was Tomchen Higher Secondary School, Imphal, Manipur.

Jashn- E- Rang

EZCC collaborated with Little Thespian Theatre Group by sponsoring NSD Sikkim's theatre troupe, for their performance –Hami Nai Afai Aaf on 18.11.18 at the National Theatre Festival titled Jashn E Rang organised by them from 17-22 November, 2018, at Gyan Manch Kolkata.



Workshop on Marriage songs of Muslim communities

Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre organised a workshop on Muslim Biyer Gaan (marriage songs of Muslim Community) in collaboration with Dadpur Yuba Sangha from 14-18 November, 2018, at Dadpur, Burdwan. The Workshop was conducted by eminent Guru Sk. Jiaur Rahman. Most of these songs are becoming obsolete due to the onslaught of Bollywood songs. Hence it was important to revive the tradition.



Workshop on Performing Art of Newar Community (North Bengal)

EZCC organised a workshop in collaboration with West Bengal State Academy of Dance Drama, Music and Visual Arts on the performing art of the Newar Community (North Bengal), during the last week of November, 2018, at Kurseong District, Darjeeling. Three gurus, assisted by six accompanists conducted the workshop.



Seminar on Thumri

EZCC in collaboration with Mangalacharana, (a charitable organisation to support artistes and those in need for the protection and promotion of various art forms through cultural exchange programmes and charitable activities), presented a seminar on Thumri on 25th November, 2018. Vidushi Manju Sundaram spoke on the creative depth and dimensions of the multifaceted Thumri and Pandit Kumar Bose demonstrated the subtle and delicate nuances and salient aspects of accompaniment to the genre of Thumri. Vocal and instrumental support was extended by Indrani Mukherjee and Pandit Dharamnath Misra, respectively.

