



Annual Report

2019 - 2020



Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre
Ministry of Culture, Government of India

The Prelude

The composite culture of India is essentially an expression of the inner urges and cumulative beliefs of its people gathered through centuries of experience. It is the perennial flow of this cultural stream, which determines the nation's strength, its character and its capacity to survive as an integrated living reality despite all odds. Keeping this in view, preservation of the cultural heritage of the country, inculcation of art consciousness among the people and promotion of high standards of creative and performing arts and dissemination of culture, have been the main objectives of the Zonal Cultural Centres, set up in 1985.

The Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It covers the states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and is one of the seven such Zonal Centres set up by the Government of India with a view to culturally integrate the states and Union Territories as a part of the programme of national integration.

Since its inception in 1985, the EZCC has been functioning as a cultural nerve centre, particularly for the Eastern part of the country and also the rest of the country through various National Cultural Exchange programmes. The Centre, strives through its various activities to enrich, strengthen and promote the cultural traditions at the national level and also beyond the boundaries of our country. The Centre is totally dedicated to the promotion, projection and dissemination of our traditional culture. Over the past several years, the EZCC has been able to infuse among people a conscious appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of its own zone as well as the other parts of the country through its manifold programmes of folk, tribal and classical music and dance, documentations and publications, workshops, as well as its exhibitions on art and craft.

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has impressed upon the ZCC's and also provided grants in aid to document, preserve and to sustain the vanishing art forms and oral traditions. The involvement of artistes and creative people has helped in enriching the activities of the Centre. The Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre has created a firm niche for itself in its sphere of activities since its inception.





Director's Note

The Annual Report for the year 2019-20 gives a brief account of the activities undertaken by the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre during the year for the promotion, perpetuity and strengthening of our extremely rich cultural heritage, to generate awareness among the people, particularly the young generation, of the magnificent diversity and underlying unity of our traditions and cultural art forms, indeed, one of the richest among the nations of the world.

There has been remarkable enhancement in the programmes undertaken by EZCC on its own and in collaboration, at its Headquarters, in the member states as well as other regions of the country under exchange programmes. The activities sponsored by the Ministry of Culture under the Theatre Rejuvenation scheme, *Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat* programme, *Guru Shishya Parampara*, Documentations, Young Talent Search and North East Festivals were carried out with full vigour. Additionally, this year EZCC joined the other ZCCs to present the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav at three venues in Madhya Pradesh, in a befitting manner.

It goes without saying that the Centre could not have accomplished all that it has towards achieving the objectives for which we exist and also take them forward without the constant supervision and guidance of His Excellency, The Governor of West Bengal and Chairman of EZCC, the enormous support, encouragement and direction from the Ministry of Culture and extremely active cooperation, involvement and participation of its member states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

With a small but committed workforce, EZCC shall strive towards greater achievement of its objectives and contribution towards overall national growth, harmony and integration.

Gouri Basu

A. WORKSHOPS/CAMPS

Swayambhu Painting Camp, April 4 – 11, 2019

EZCC sponsored two artistes at the Swayambhu Painting Camp-2019, held at Karnaprayag, Uttarakhand. The artistes, Ramhari Jena of Odisha and Biswajit Mondal of West Bengal, were among the 14 participants at the camp, organized by the Swayambhu Social Foundation, Bhubaneswar.

Workshop on Odissi Dance, June 11-17, 2019

A workshop on Odissi dance was held at Rourkela, Odisha in association with Rourkella Music Circle, conducted by Guru Pankaj Kumar Pradhan.



Workshop on Mask Making, August 5 – 24, 2019

Face masks in wood of different gods, goddesses and animals are made and worn by people during festivals, religious ceremonies and dances. Wooden masks may depict serene, partly angry or animal expressions. Nowadays they are also used as wall hangings.

The famous mask dances of Sikkim also provide a spectacle, perhaps nowhere to be experienced in the entire world.

EZCC in collaboration with the Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department, Government of Sikkim, organized a workshop on mask making, for the artisans of Sikkim, at the Directorate of Handicraft and Handloom Department, Gangtok from 5-24 August.



Jugalbandi Workshop on Mayurbhanj and Seraikela Chhau Dance, August 9-15, 2019

Chhau is a martial art based dance or dance drama from east India. Recognised styles of Chhau are – Seraikella from Jharkhand, Mayurbhanj from Odisha and Purulia from West Bengal.

EZCC organized a Jugalbandi workshop of Mayurbhanj and Seraikela Chhau dance styles at Srijani, Santiniketan, from August 9-15, 2019, for 28 participants. It was conducted by Pt. Gopal Dubey (Seraikela Chhau) and Trilochan Mohanta (Mayurbhanj Chhau). The two dance forms are completely different and their jugalbandi was an amazing experiment.



Professional Artist Workshop, August 16-18, 2019

A three day Professional Artists' Art Camp was conducted at Andaman Club, Port Blair, from August 16-18, 2019. The Kala Kendra Society, under the Art and Culture Department of Andaman & Nicobar Administration and EZCC organized the Art Camp on the theme 73rd Independence Day.

With this event, The Kala Kendra Society of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and EZCC, Kolkata have started a new chapter of collaboration of art practices between the eastern region of India and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The artists, included Shri Subrata Ghosh and Samprit Bhattacharya from Kolkata, while Dhruv Nath Singh, S. Mohan Rao, Smt Shampa Ray, Prasenjit Dhauria and P Senthil Kumar were from Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Every piece of art by the participating artists brilliantly portrayed different facets of the freedom movement and was very well lauded and covered by the media.



Painting Workshop on Patriotism by Painters from North East India, August 21-25, 2019

Ten painters of Assam, Sikkim, Tripura and Manipur participated in the 5-day Painting Workshop on Patriotism. This was held in collaboration with Artistes Dormitory, Art and Culture Department, Imphal, Manipur.



Workshop on Music and Dance, August 24-30, 2019

A workshop on Music and Dance was held at Dumka, Jharkhand, in association with Jharkhand Kala Kendra from August 24-30, 2019. 189 participants were part of the workshop, that was appreciated by all.



Workshop on Odissi Music, August 25– September 1, 2019

A workshop on Odissi music, conducted by Guru Ramhari Das, of Odissi Gurukul, (Central Sangeet Natak Academy Awardee), was held at Sakhigopal, Puri, Odisha in collaboration with Odissi Gurukul Trust, for 34 participants.



Workshops on Assamese Crafts, September 21 – 30, 2019

Four workshops on traditional crafts of Assam were held at Tezpur, Assam, from September 21 – 30, 2019, in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam.

- Mask Making
- Ethnic Costume/Traditional Handlooms
- Cane and Bamboo Craft
- Traditional Drum Making

The 10 day-long workshops yielded products of very high quality. The products made at the workshops have been displayed at the Assam hut in the Srijani Shilpagram.



Workshop on Multimedia, October 20 – 28, 2019

A workshop on Multimedia (Interaction between visual art, literature, music, dance) was held from October 20 – 28, 2019, at the Manipur State Kala Academy, Imphal, Manipur, in collaboration with the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur. The workshop was attended by participants from Assam, Tripura, Sikkim and Manipur.



Workshop on Seraikella Chhau Dance, November 4 – 10, 2019

A workshop on Seraikella Chhau dance was conducted by Guru Tapan Pattanaik at Sonapur, Assam, from November 4 – 10, 2019. The workshop was attended by 42 students, and the workshop was concluded with a performance by the workshop participants.



Workshop on the Langkhon Fuja Mishawa Dance, November 6-14, 2019

In collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam, EZCC conducted a workshop on the Langkhon Fuja Mishawa dance of the Tiwa community, at Moregaon, Assam. The workshop, held between November 6 and 14, 2019, had 22 participants. At the end of the workshop a recital was held in which the students shared their learning at the workshop.



Workshop on Light Designing, November 19 – 21, 2019

A workshop on Light Designing was held at Agartala, Tripura, from November 19 – 21, 2019. Conducted by the expert light designer Shri Dinesh Podder, the workshop was attended by 53 aspiring light designers.



Workshop on Kathak Dance, November 18 – 21, 2019

A workshop on Kathak dance was held from November 18 – 21, 2019 at Agartala, Tripura. Conducted by Kathak Guru Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharjee, the workshop was attended by 65 dancers.



Workshop on Seraikella Chhau Dance, November 26 - December 10, 2019

A workshop on Seraikella Chhau dance was held at Chaibasa, Jharkhand, from November 26 - December 10, 2019. Conducted by Akhara Kolhar Kala Kendra, the programme had many enthusiastic participants both from rural and urban areas.



Workshop on Kathak Dance, December 29 - 31, 2019

A workshop on Kathak Dance, by Durga Arya was held from December 29 – 31, 2019, at the Naatghar, Bharatiyam Cultural Multiplex. Attended by over 50 participants, the workshop was much appreciated by the participants.

Workshop on Kathak Dance, December 29 - 31, 2019

Smt. Madhumita Roy, Kathak exponent trained under Lt. Pt. Vijay Shankar, conducted a workshop for over 60 students at Gobardanga, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, from December 29 – 31, 2019. The workshop concluded with a presentation by the participants.

Workshop on Painting styles of Jharkhand, December 31, 2019 - January 4, 2020

A workshop on folk paintings of Jharkhand (Sohrai, Kohbar, Jadu Patia, Bithi Chitra etc.) was held from December 31, 2019 – January 4, 2020 at Amadubi, Jharkhand, in collaboration with Kalamandir, Jamshedpur. The workshop had 30 participants.



Workshop on Making of Musical Instruments, January 7 – 26, 2020

A workshop on the making of the Damru and Tangbuk, indigenous musical instruments of Sikkim, was conducted by Jigmee Gyalpo Sherpa, at Namchi, south Sikkim, in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Heritage, Government of Sikkim.

Workshop on Making of Musical Instruments, January 7 – 26, 2020

A workshop on the making of the Damyen and Tangbuk, indigenous musical instruments of Sikkim, was conducted by Jigme Gyalpo Sherpa, at Namchi, south Sikkim, in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Heritage, Government of Sikkim.



Workshop on Making of Madol and Sarangi, January 28 – February 7, 2020

Narbahadur Bhuyal and Nharka Bahadur Rai conducted a workshop on the making of the Madol and Sarangi at Rhenock, east Sikkim, from January 28 – February 7, 2020.



Workshop on Making of Chabrung, January 28 – February 16, 2020

M. B. Subba conducted a workshop on the making of the indigenous folk musical instrument of Sikkim, the Chabrung, from January 28 – February 16, 2020 at Sombaria, west Sikkim.



B. COMMEMORATION OF JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

A 7 day painting workshop was organized by EZCC in collaboration with Odisha Art and Craft Academy, to commemorate the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. It was held at the gallery of Buddha Temple, Bhubaneswar, from April 13-19, 2019. The contemporary artists from Odisha who participated, included –Subhas Pujary; Gouri Prasad Rout, Bikram Keshari Routray, Sunil Kumar Dakua and Managobinda Puan. The paintings created at the workshop were displayed at the Bharatiyam Complex for 2 months.



Commemoration on World Music Day – World Music Day, every year comes with a special cause, which supports the society. This year, is the centenary year of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. A choir of differently abled young boys and girls integrating with schools for the blind children, underprivileged children and institutes for children with hearing impairment opened the concert with the song Vande Mataram, at Nazrul Manch, Kolkata on June 21, 2019.

A special programme on the Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre was held in association with Rabindra Bharati University on August 15, 2019. A lecture by Prof. Dr. Bharati Roy was followed by a scripted production on the Massacre with Tagore's songs lead by Rabindra Sangeet exponent Pramita Mallick.



A special programme on the Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre was held in association with Rabindra Bharati University on August 15, 2019. A lecture by Prof. Dr. Bharati Roy was followed by a scripted production on the Massacre with Tagore's songs lead by Rabindra Sangeet exponent Pramita Mallick.

An Art Painting Camp commemorating 100 years of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, was held from September 20 – 22, 2019 and September 26 – 28, 2019 at Bharatiyam Cultural Complex, Kolkata. Well-known contemporary artists, Swapan Nandi, Amret Prakash Sah, Dhiraj Roy, Jayanta Naskar, Manash Saha and Partha Pratim Roy created a beautiful collection of art.

Two specially commissioned shows on the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre was staged at the Purbashree Auditorium on September 21, 2019 by Rannan in Kathak style and Rhythmosaic in the Kathak Ballet style. The two dance companies merged their dances creating an ethereal experience for the viewers.

Calcutta Choir presented a programme of patriotic songs in Hindi, Bengali, Nepali and English at Gangtok, Sikkim on September 25, 2019, as a part of the programmes commemorating 100 years of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.



A Panel Discussion on the Jallianwalla Bagh Tragedy was held on September 28, 2019, at the Seminar Room of the Bharatiyam Cultural Multiplex. The speakers included Prof. Rajsekhar Basu, Shri Manik Samajdar, Sri Pankaj Kumar Dutta and Shri Nirmal Bandopadhyay. The discussion was moderated by Shri Pankaj Saha.



C. CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WORLD YOGA DAY, JUNE 21, 2019

International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on June 21, 2019. Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature and a holistic approach to health and wellbeing. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help in wellbeing.

EZCC celebrated this Yoga Day as follows

Kolkata

EZCC in collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Asia in Global Affairs conducted a Beginners Yoga Demonstration Camp at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan for 200 senior school students. It was aimed at increasing awareness of a holistic approach to well-being and building bridges through inclusive cultural activities on International Yoga Day. The camp was conducted by Ms Shuma Talukdar, who is a certified instructor.



Jharkhand

In association with Rajakiya Chhau Nritya Kala Kendra, a Yoga Demonstration was arranged with 52 participants at Seraikela, Jharkhand.



Odisha

Yoga Shiromani Alok Kumar conducted a Yoga Workshop for 68 participants at Puri, Odisha, in association with Sriparna Odishi Sangeet Parishad.



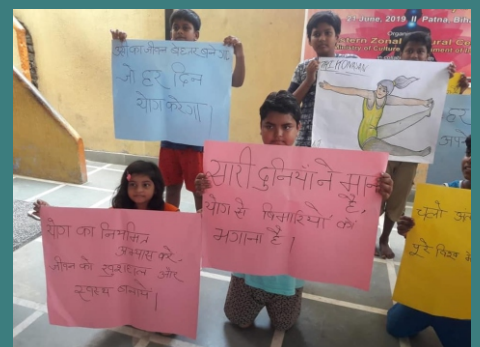
Sikkim

Sikkim Kalakar Sangha conducted a Yoga Workshop and a Sit and Draw competition for the secondary students of Tathanchin Secondary School, Gangtok, Sikkim.



Bihar

Yoga Day was celebrated at Sangeetam, Patna, Bihar, in association with Sangeetam, Patna.



D. CELEBRATION OF THE 550TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU NANAK

EZCC, in collaboration with Nandanik, a theatre group based in Koraput, Odisha, began the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, by organizing a week long painting workshop for school children themed on the life and work of Guru Nanak.

The workshop was inaugurated at Bikash Vidyalaya, Koraput. On the inaugural dais were – Shri Kamalesh Sahu and Gokul Pradhan, teacher and staff of Bikash Vidyalaya, Monideepa Gupta and Saumendra Kumar Swain, secretary and treasurer of Nandanik, Shri Nilamashab Mahapatra, eminent painter and art teacher of Koraput and Guru Sujit Singh, a devotee of Guru Nanak and representative of the Sree Guru Singh Sahib, Semiliguda, Koraput.

Monideepa Gupta in his opening note, thanked the EZCC for choosing a remote and tribal area like Koraput to hold this kind of a programme. Shri Sujit Singh gave an enlightening speech on the life and work of Guru Nanak. Shri Nilamashab Mahapatra, the principal resource person of the workshop, started his classes by distributing art and painting material among the participants. Vote of Thanks was presented by Saumendra Kumar Swain who thanked Bikash Vidyalaya authorities and EZCC for supporting the initiative.

30 school children participated in the workshop, which concluded on April 21, 2019, with an exhibition of paintings by the children.



The 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji was celebrated at Motihari, Champaran District, Bihar, in collaboration with the Guru Singh Sabha on November 11 – 12, 2019, through the singing of bhajans and shabaths and recitation of poetry.



100 children from BPL families sang a shabath of Guru Nanak interspersed with a Rabindra Sangeet. The recording was done at Talsari sea beach, near Digha, West Bengal. The documentation has been much appreciated.

E. CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

Nababarsha Abahan Utsav, April 14, 2019

EZCC organized a cultural programme – Nababarsha Abahan Utsav on April 14, 2019, in association with Samskar Bharati, at Purbashree auditorium, on the occasion of Bengali New Year. A seminar was organized and a cultural calendar inaugurated on the same day. A cultural programme was also organized.

Evenings with Chetan Joshi, April 15- 16, 2019

Chetan Joshi is a noted flautist in the Hindustani classical music tradition. He has been awarded with Rajakiya Sanskritik Samman by the Government of Jharkhand. He has also been awarded Sur Mani, Bismillah Samman, Sangeet Kala Gaurav Award, Kala Ratna Samman and many other awards and accolades.

EZCC organized the following programmes with him, on the occasion of Bengali New Year.

- I. Venue – Aikataan, EZCC Campus, 15 April, 2019
Bangla New Year Celebration - congregation of local artistes
- II. Venue – Kasba Art Gallery, 15 April, 2019
Cultural Exchange with Bangladeshi visiting art lovers
- III. Venue – Salt Lake Park, 15 April
New Year celebration by Salt Lake residents
- IV. Venue – Alka Jalan Foundation, 16 April
An evening with Chetan Joshi



Shree Shree Badala Padma Aata 473rd Birth Centenary Celebration, June 13-15, 2019

The Gotipua dance troupe of Odisha was presented by EZCC at the Shree Shree Badala Padma Aata 473rd Birth Centenary celebration at Panjabari, Guwahati, Assam in collaboration with the Centenary Celebration Committee.

Kolkata Symphony Orchestra, June 28, 2019

The Kolkata Symphony Orchestra is an orchestral ensemble of 50 plus musicians. It is one of the largest and most popular classical orchestras in eastern India. The orchestra aims to preserve, promote and improvise the rich tradition of Indian and Western classical music through creative and professional performances. EZCC collaborated with them for a weeklong workshop by 7 international musicians, culminating in two collaborative concerts. The highlight was the performance by internationally acclaimed soprano, Lee Allison Sibley, who presented songs of Tagore, along with the orchestra.

Classical Dance and Musical Evening, August 15 - 17, 2019

Jashn-e-Azaadi – The classical dance and music enthusiasts of Port Blair, had the opportunity to witness the performances of classical musicians and dancers from EZCC at Flag Point, Port Blair. It was a patriotic cultural programme organized by the Kala Kendra Society, under the Directorate of Art and Culture, in association with EZCC. Sujata Nayak and Pooja Mukherjee presented Odissi, Moumita Chatterjee and Prapti Adhikary presented Bharatnatyam and Sudipta Roy Choudhury delighted the audience with her Kathak presentation. The flautist Shri Partho Sil accompanied by Sanjay Das on Tabla, mesmerized the audience with his presentation based on raag Yaman. They also performed a fusion number, a combination of all the art forms. The programme was very highly appreciated and covered extensively by the press.



Pratibha Utsav, August 21-22, 2019

The Pratibha Utsav is an all India competition for budding dancers, singers, musicians and theatre artistes. Categories included all forms of Indian classical, semi-classical, folk dances, vocal and instrumental music, orchestra and theatre. It was held at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in collaboration with the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture and OSNA, Government of Odisha. 20 young talented artistes participated which was attended by a 3600 strong audience.



Hindi Theatre Show, September 8 – 9, 2019

A Hindi Theatre Show “Ketaki” by Matrix was held at Suchana Bhavan, Ranchi, Jharkhand on September 8 – 9, 2019. A 600+ strong audience appreciated the play.



Classical Dance Programme, September 20 – 21, 2019

A Classical Dance programme was held at Nalbari, Guwahati, on September 20 – 21, 2019, in association with Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam. The different classical dance forms of the different parts of India were showcased by young talented artistes.



Young Talent Search (Navodit), September 26 – 27, 2019

Navodit programme was held at Sikkim from September 26 – 27, 2019. Several young talented artistes participated in the programme in different genres of music and dance, eg Lepcha Dances, Bhutia Dances, Nepali Dances, Kathak, Flute, Sarinda etc.

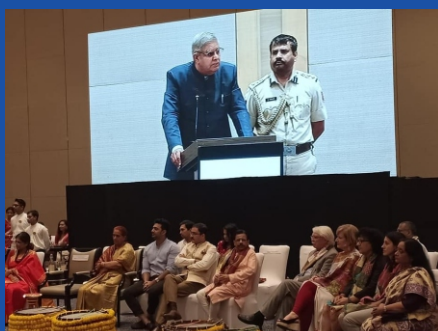
Shaktirupena Kanyarupena, September 28, 2019

A humble offering to the Divine Mother was presented by Indian National Forum of Art and Culture on September 28, 2019, at the Purbashree Auditorium, Bharatiyam Cultural Multiplex, Kolkata.

Through hymns, recitation and vocals, the goddess was invoked on the occasion of Mahalaya, the beginning of Devi Paksh. The hour and half long presentation brought alive the spirit of Durga Durgatinashini, the mother goddess.

Dhak Dhunuchi Utsav, October 2, 2019

On October 2, 2019, Shri Jaydeep Dhangkar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, inaugurated the Dhak Dhunuchi Utsav, held at Hotel ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata. Shanka Badan artistes from Odisha welcomed the guests, followed by a Dhak presentation and a Dhunuchi dances. The 200+ audience enjoyed the performance greatly, with HE mentioning the uniqueness of the Shankha Badan art form several times in his speech.



Dusherah Programme at east Champaran, October 5 – 8, 2019

Dusherah was celebrated at east Champaran, Bihar, through a Dusherah Utsav from October 5 – 8, 2019. Colourful folk dances and soulful rendering of folk songs attracted 8000+ audience over 4 days.

Durgotsav 2019, October 6 – 8, 2019

Kabi Gaan and Purulia Chhau dance was presented at Durgotsav 2019, held at Madhya Kumirmari, 24 Parganas (South), West Bengal. A 9000+ strong audience enjoyed the performances, from October 6 – 8, 2019.

Sindoor Khela, October 11, 2019

Purulia Chhau artistes welcomed guests to the special programme of “Sindoor Khela”, an important ritual in the Durga Puja celebration. A contemporary dance production depicting the many moods of the goddess was highly appreciated.

Pratyavartan, November 2, 2019

On November 2, 2019, EZCC, in collaboration with the Debadasi Dance Academy, presented 'Pratyavartan' a programme on traditional musical instruments of Odisha at the Rabindra Bhavan, Bhubaneswar. Special focus at this programme was on the “Dhana Koila” an extinct musical instrument.



Programme of Folk and Tribal Dances, November 21 – 23, 2019

In collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam, a programme of folk and tribal dances of Assam was held at Sonapur, Assam.



Young Talent Search (Navodit) November 22, 2019

Navodit Festival, celebrating new talent, was held at Agartala, Tripura, in collaboration with the Department of Information & Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura, on November 22, 2019. Different dance and music forms were presented by 06 young artists, that was much appreciated.



Sikkim Utsav at Srijani Shilpagram, November 28 – 29, 2019

Sikkim Utsav was held at Srijani Shilpagram, Santinektan, on November 28 and 29, 2019. A choreographic dance presentation, cuisine and handicrafts fair brought the state of Sikkim to Shantinektan. Huge audiences (over 3000) attended the festival which was held over 3 days. Visitors enjoyed the local food of Sikkim which was cooked in front of them and all crafts stalls did brisk business.



Monthly Film Shows

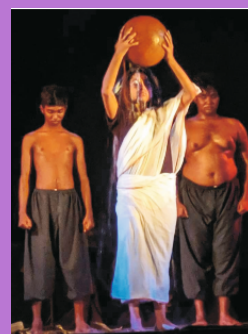
The monthly Film Shows were held in association with the Bidhannagar Film Society at the Aiktan premises. The screened films were enjoyed by all.

Dance and Music Festival, December 8 – 10, 2019

Folk and tribal dances of Assam were presented at the Dance and Music Festival held from December 8 – 10, 2019, at Srijani Shilpagram, Santiniketan. A small part of the state of Assam came to this rural town and entertained over 4500 guests.

All India Multilingual Drama and Dance Festival, December 20 – 27, 2019

Alternative Living Theatre, West Bengal and Path, Jharkhand presented their works at the 30th All India Multilingual Drama and Dance Festival at Rourkela, Odisha. Held in collaboration with Spandan, the festival attracted over 2000 people from December 20 – 27, 2019.



Janmotsav of Ma Sarada Devi, December 18, 2019

Devotional songs by Monomoy Bhattacharya and the Gotipua dance of Odisha were presented on the occasion of the Janmotsav of Ma Sarada Devi at the Ramkrishna Prema Bihar, Kolkata. Cultural programmes by Arnab Bhattacharya and troupe and Shyamal Mullick and troupe performed at Ramkrishna Prema Bihar, Amta, Howrah. Thousands of devotees enjoyed the performances.

Jugalbandi of Flute and Tabla, December 25, 2019

A Jugalbandi of flute and tabla from Odisha was presented at the Bharatiya Vidya Tarang on December 25, 2019.



Programme at National Library, Kolkata, January 7, 2020

On the occasion of the inauguration of new cultural spaces created by the Ministry of Culture, an evening of music and dance was organized at the National Library, Kolkata, on January 7, 2020. Dona Ganguly and her troupe of 100 dancers performed on the historic steps of the building. A vocal and piano recital by the talented duo, Sourendra and Soumyajit reverberated through the iconic building. Purulia Chhau dancers performed on the lawns of National Library, adding colour to the evening.



Programme at Metcalfe Hall, Kolkata, January 10, 2020

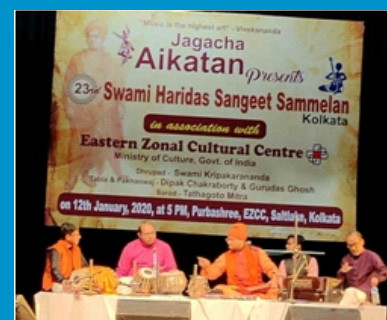
A Santoor recital by Pt. Tarun Bhattacharya and a vocal recital by Supriyo Dutta enthralled the audience at the newly renovated Metcalfe Hall, Kolkata, on January 10, 2020.

Programme at Old Currency Building, January 11, 2020

EZCC presented the cultural programme on the occasion of the inauguration of the renovated Old Currency Building on January 11, 2020, by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Sharmila Biswas and her troupe presented a short dance production based on the Bhajan by Sri Sarat Chandra Chatterjee, disciple of Swami Vivekananda "Murta Maheswara, Ujwala Bhaskar". The short production was much appreciated by the distinguished audience present.

Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan, January 12, 2020

The Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan was organized at the EZCC Headquarters at Kolkata, on January 12, 2020. A sarod recital by Tathagata Mitra with Tabla accompaniment by Dipak Mukherjee mesmerized the audience.



National Youth Day, January 12, 2020

On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Birth Anniversary on January 12, 2020, EZCC collaborated with Vivekananda Institute of Environment and Management to present an evening of folk songs and dances.

Folk Cultural Evening, January 17, 2020

As a part of EZCC's programme to reach out to school and college students, Bihu dance of Assam and Sambalpuri dance of Odisha was presented to the students of David Hare Training College and the Badhai dance of Madhya Pradesh and Singhi Chham dance of Sikkim was presented to students of Gokhale Memorial Girls School on January 17, 2020. The students of both the institutions enjoyed the performances.

Special Cultural Programme, January 22, 2020

Gaudiya dance recital by Taraknath Saha and troupe enthralled the audience at the SAI Complex, Kolkata. The programme was held in collaboration with the Bidhannagar South Police Station on January 22, 2020.

Cultural Programme at Dilwar Hossain Vidyapith, January 23, 2020

The students of Dilwar Hossain Vidyapith enjoyed a cultural programme presented by Shilparghya Jalkhura, on January 23, 2020.

International Bengali Conference, January 23 – 26, 2020

EZCC presented a cultural programme highlighting the folk and classical traditions of Bengal at the International Bengali Conference organized by Bangla Worldwide at Kolkata, from January 23 – 26, 2020



Winter Film Festival 2020, January 23 – 27, 2020

EZCC collaborated with the Bidhannagar Film Society to present the Winter Film Festival, 2020, from January 23 – 27, 2020. This event has gained immense popularity among the residents of Salt Lake over the years.



Evening of Kirtan, January 24, 2020

An Evening of Kirtan was presented on January 24, 2020 by Pallab Sarkar and Sumitra Devi at Coochbehar, West Bengal.

Evening of Folk Songs & Dance, January 25, 2020

SK Jiaur Rahaman and Baisakhi Roy presented folk songs and dances at Samudragarh, Bardhaman, West Bengal, on January 25, 2020.

Pran Pratishtha Utsav of Ashrama, January 28 -30, 2020

Purulia Chhau dance of West Bengal and a musical presentation by Satyabadi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Puri, Odisha, was part of the Pran Pratistha Utsav at Motihari, Champaran District, Bihar on January 28 -30, 2020.



Launch of Audio CD 'Souls of India', January 31, 2020

The Audio CD 'Souls of India – Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore' was launched with a special programme of songs by Sudeshna Basu and narration by Barun Chanda on January 31, 2020.



Classical and Creative Dance Festival, February 2, 2020

A programme of Classical and Creative Dance was presented by Chhandanir, at Kolkata, on February 2, 2020.

A Musical Ensemble of Manipuri and Hindustani Classical Music, February 20, 2020

An ensemble of Manipuri Classical music by Guru Mayum Loken Sharma and Hindustani Classical music by Srijan Chatterjee was presented at Moirangkhom, Sougajam Lairak, Manipur. The fusion of the two different styles resulted in a new idiom.

Special Cultural Evening, February 24 – 25, 2020

A Puppet show and the Purulia Chhau dance was organized for the students of Ramakrishna Mission Boy's Home, Rahara, on February 24 – 25, 2020. An audience of 1400 young students enjoyed their introduction to folk culture

Celebration of International Women's Day, March 8, 2020

International Women's Day was celebrated through a cultural programme and film show at the Kolkata Headquarters on March 8, 2020.



Ranga Utsav 2020, March 9 – 11, 2020

Ranga Utsav was celebrated at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands from March 9 – 11, 2020. Programmes included a Santoor recital by Pt. Tarun Bhattacharya, Kathak recital by Hrital troupe and an Odissi dance recital by Sanchita Bhattacharya and group. The programmes were held at the historic Andaman Club and Ramkrishna Math temple, and attended by HE Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal.

F. COLLABORATION PROGRAMMES

Classical Dance Fusion, June 5, 2019

EZCC collaborated with Stuti, a cultural organisation, for a charitable cause. It was an unique event of classical dance performance at Gyan Manch, Kolkata, which was inaugurated by Pandit Birju Maharaj and attended by reputed gurus of different classical dance forms.

Classical Voice of India (Kolkata Audition) July 13-14, 2019

36 participants were present for the Classical Voice of India - audition of classical vocal in association with Sangeet Milan at Purbasree Bharatiyam, Kolkata. Several new talents were discovered from West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand. The winners of the audition will attend the Finals at Lucknow.

Baishe Srabon Smarane, August 8, 2019

Baishe Srabon, or the 22nd of the month of Shravan, is the day Rabindranath Tagore breathed his last. He has been remembered and honoured for the great treasure of literature that he has left behind. As a tribute to the bard, EZCC in association with Scientific and Public Awareness Target, organized an evening of Rabindra Sangeet by local artistes, at Aikatan Complex, Salt Lake.

Cultural Programme at Mary Ward Social Centre, 10 August, 2019

EZCC was requested by the Mary Ward Social Centre to participate in their 5th Anniversary celebration by arranging a troupe of Purulia Chhau dancers with their vibrant performance on stage. The programme was attended by all NGOs of Kolkata.

Cultural Programme at Goudiya Mission, 14 August, 2019

The Gaudiya Mission is a Gaudiya Vaishnava monastic and missionary organization in Kolkata. EZCC organized the Bajasal dance of Odissa at their mission in Baghbazar, Kolkata for a cultural evening. The Bajasal dance form of Sambalpuri has been popularized by the artistes of the different organizations of Kalahandi district.

Cultural Programme by Sanskar Bharti, 31 August, 2019

Sanskar Bharti, Gurugram, organized a cultural festival to commemorate hundred years of music legend Manna Dey. EZCC collaborated by sponsoring vocal artistes for the same.

3rd Indigenous Miss India Contest, 25 August, 2019

All India Santhali Film Association, in collaboration with EZCC, organized the Indigenous Miss India Contest at Shobhaghar, Bharatiyam, Kolkata. Santhali cinema has its presence in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, parts of Nepal, where the Santhal community lives. It was an unique event to promote the Santhali film industry.



23rd National Exhibition, 28-31 August, 2019

EZCC collaborated with the Central Calcutta Science and Cultural Organisation for Youth, Sodepur, West Bengal, at the 23rd National Exhibition by sending Nandita Bhattacharya and group (Bharatnatyam); Sabarnik Dey and group (Odissi dance); Banani Bose and group (Rabindra Nritya) and Gotipua dance of Odisha.

7th Indian National Exhibition-cum-Fair, September 25 – 29, 2019

EZCC sponsored the cultural programme at the 7th Indian National Exhibition-cum-Fair, held at the KMDA Ground, Kolkata, from September 25 – 29, 2019. Performances by Usha Uthup, Dohar group, Subhamita Banerjee, Samidh Mukherjee and Md. Kamran enthralled the audiences for over 5 days.

International Day of the Elderly, October 1, 2019

EZCC collaborated with the Bidhannagar (South) Police Station to celebrate International Day of the Elderly on October 1, 2019. 1500 elderly citizens gathered at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata, to enjoy the folk dance programme, specially organised for them.

Durga Puja Festival at Jaipur, October 6 – 7, 2019

The Purulia Chhau dance of West Bengal participated at the Durga Puja Festival in Jaipur, in collaboration with Prabha Khaitan Foundation, on October 6 – 7, 2019. An audience of over 600 persons enjoyed the presentation of Mahisasur Mardini on both the days.

Shirui Lily Festival, October 16 – 19, 2019

The Sambalpuri dance of Odisha and Purulia Chhau dance of West Bengal enthralled audiences at the Shirui Lily Festival, held between October 16 – 19, 2019, at Ukhrul, Manipur, held in collaboration with the Department of Art and Culture, Govt. of Manipur.

Panchakala Utsav, 18 – 20 October, 2019

Ranapa and Chadeya dances, Sankha Badan and Sambalpuri dances of Odisha, Kharswan Chhau of Jharkhand, Pung Cholom of Manipur and Holi dance of Uttar Pradesh was presented at the Panchakala Utsav, held at Guwahati, Assam from 18 – 20 October, 2019.

International Digha Sea Beach Festival, October 20, 2019

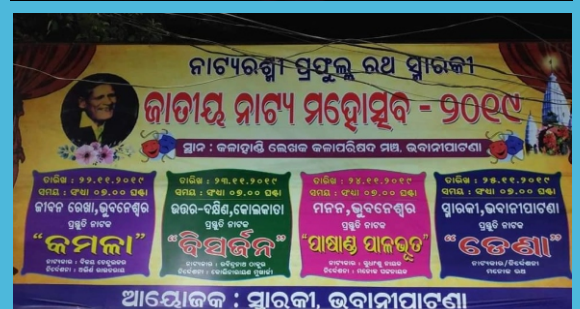
In collaboration with the Nabadhara Charitable Trust, EZCC organised the International Digha Sea Beach Festival on October 20, 2019 at Digha, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. 15 young talented artistes performed at the day-long festival.

17th Folk Fair, October 21 – 25, 2019

The Thang-ta dance of Manipur, Yak/Singhi Chham dances of Sikkim, Chakri dance of Rajasthan, Phag dance of Haryana, Mayur/Holi dances of Uttar Pradesh and the Raibenshe dance of West Bengal enthralled the audience at the 17th Folk Fair, held at Puri, Odisha, from October 21 – 25, 2019. Organised in collaboration with Shree Sriksheeta Soochana, EZCC also participated in the crafts fair, displaying and selling zardosi work and dokra crafts of Bengal.

National Theatre Festival, November 22 – 25, 2019

Four theatre groups participated in the National Theatre Festival, November 22 – 25, 2019, at Kalahandi, Odisha. The festival had a total footfall of 4500, and was held in collaboration with the Smaraki Natya Sanstha.



Sahaj Parab, November 23 – 24, 2019

EZCC collaborated with Dohar and Lopamudra Music to organise Sahaj Parab – the Root Music Festival. Several genres of folk music were presented to a large audience during the 2-day festival on November 23 – 24, 2019.



Childrens Film Festival, November 25, 2019

In collaboration with Cine Central, Kolkata, EZCC presented the Childrens Film Festival at the Purbashree Auditorium, Kolkata. HE The Governor of West Bengal and Chairman EZCC inaugurated the Festival on November 25, 2019. Children from several NGOs got an opportunity to witness good cinema, carefully chosen by the organisers.

2nd Odisha State Book Festival – 2019, December 6 - 15, 2019

Bihu dance of Assam and Baul songs of West Bengal were presented at the 2nd Odisha State Book Festival – 2019, held in collaboration with the Directorate of Pubic Library, Odisha, in Bhubaneswar, between December 6 - 15, 2019. Over 7000 members of the audience enjoyed the enthralling performances.

Crafts Exhibition, December 7 – 8, 2019

A Crafts Exhibition was held in collaboration with Abha Mission for Social Health and Education on December 7 – 8, 2019 at the Kala Mandap of the Bharatiyam Cultural Multiplex. The proceeds of the Exhibition will be used by the NGO for the rehabilitation of destitute women.

7th Satkoshi Mahotsav, December 7 & 8, 2019

Bharatnatyam and Goudiya dances were presented at the 7th Satkoshi Mahotsav held at Angul, Odisha on December 7 & 8, 2019.



Chilka Shelduck Folk Carnival – 2019, December 7 – 11, 2019

Dances from Rajasthan, Kashmir, Maharashtra, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal created an atmosphere of colour and gaiety at the Chilka Shelduck Folk Carnival – 2019 held from December 7 – 11, 2019.



Dhrupad Recital, December 8, 2019

A Dhrupad recital was held at the Triguna Sen Mancha, Jadavpur University, in collaboration with Dhrupad Academy, Delhi. The recitals of Pratap Kr. Chakraborty and Pt. Parimal Roy were sponsored by EZCC.

Kolkata International Theatre Festival, December 10 – 13, 2019

The second Kolkata International Theatre Festival was held from December 10 – 13, 2019, in collaboration with Kolkata ESO Natak Sikhi. The Festival saw participation of school children from 12 countries. All presentations were of a very high standard.

Kolaghat Utsav, December 13, 2019

In collaboration with Kolaghat Matangini Seva Pratisthan, EZCC, presented Putul Naach by Indian Puppet Theatre at the Kolaghat Utsav, in Purba Medinipur, West Bengal.

Sunderban Tsunami Sachetan Mela, December 17 – 18, 2019

The Sambalpuri dance of Odisha mesmerized a large rural audience at the Sunderban Tsunami Sachetan Mela on December 17 – 18, 2019.

Cultural Programme at Indian Road Congress, December 19 – 21, 2019

EZCC presented Kathak, Manipuri and Odishi dance forms, Flute and Tabla recitals and folk dances of Bihar at the Indian Road Congress held at Patna, Bihar on December 19 – 21, 2019.



Sundarban Krishti O Lok Sanskriti Mela, December 20 – 29, 2019

EZCC participated in the Sundarban Krishti O Lok Sanskriti Mela held at Kultoli, Sundarbans. Folk and tribal dances and songs, Bangla Bands, Classical dances and folk theatre enthralled audiences of over 5000 each day during the 10 day Mela held from December 20 – 29, 2019.

Uday Shankar Dance Festival, December 25 – 27, 2019

EZCC collaborated with the West Bengal Dance Group Federation to present the Uday Shankar Dance Festival from December 25 – 27, 2019, which saw many choreographers from the state presenting their new work.

Sur-aur-Saaz, December 27, 2019

Gulabo Sapera and troupe from Rajasthan performed at the Sur-aur-Saaz programme held in collaboration with Ehsaas Women and Hyatt Regency, Kolkata on December 27, 2019. Rajasthan being the paired state of West Bengal, this was a part of the Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Celebration.

National Tribal Festival, December 27-29, 2019

EZCC participated in the National Tribal Festival at Raipur, Chattisgarh by sending the Durua tribal dances of Koraput, Odisha and the Santhali Dance of West Bengal from December 27-29, 2019. The dances depicting marriage ceremonies, harvesting, festivities and other rituals were very attractive.



CINE – 2020, February 28, 2020

EZCC sponsored a Kathak Dance Recital at Cine 2020 – International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Network.

Craft Bazar at Kalyani, February 29 to March 2, 2020

EZCC sponsored recitals of Bangla folk songs, recitation, an audio theatre and a Kuchipudi dance recital at the Craft Bazar held at Kalyani from February 29 – March 2, 2020.

Basanta Utsav 2020 March 6, March 15, 2020

EZCC was the venue collaborator for the Spring Festival, held at the Headquarters. Several well-known dancers and singers of the city participated in this Festival on March 6, 2020.

Another collaboration programme was held on March 15, 2020, to welcome the season of Spring, through songs and dances.

Cultural Programme at Belur Math, Howrah, March 1, 2020

EZCC put up a programme of folk dances that included the Dhol Dholak Cholom and Cheiral Jagoi of Manipur, Shankha Badan, Ranapa, Chedeya and Gotipua dance of Odisha for one of Bengal's largest religious conglomerations. A crowd of over one lakh people enjoyed the performances.

Cultural Evening, March 12, 2020

EZCC organized an evening of folk dances for the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bidhannagar, in which they invited several elderly citizens of the township.

G. PROGRAMMES UNDER UMANG SCHEME

Summer Camp (Umang Scheme) August 23-25, 2019

EZCC and Mom's Care, Barisha, an NGO, collaborated to conduct a summer camp for severely autistic children of Kolkata, under the Umang Scheme.

Mom's Cares is a unit of Barisha Welfare Centre of Awareness Research Education and Support. They are in service for the last 14 years in the field of various social, research and awareness fields, and have started an integration programme for special needs children. They have a day care centre with a vocational unit with about 56 children. Speech therapy, dance and music therapy, group teaching and counselling is offered to these children. EZCC was privileged to provide social, moral and financial support through the summer camp.

Jhoom India, November 8, 2019

EZCC collaborated with Shanti Dham Foundation to organise Jhoom India – 2019, a national level reality show for the differently-abled individuals on November 08, 2019. Seeing the talent of these special people was an eye-opener for all.

H. LITERARY EVENTS

Seminars in collaboration with Asia in Global Affairs, June 28, 2019 and July 26, 2019

EZCC collaborated with Asia in Global Affairs, a non-profit independent forum for research, on a wide range of global issues with an interdisciplinary and transnational approach. The organisation seeks to encourage discussions in collaboration with organisations in Kolkata. As part of this, they partnered with EZCC for the fourth lecture of a series by Shubham Amin, on cultural aspects of Buddhism, on June 28, 2019.

The fifth lecture of the series by Dr Soumen Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata on 'Islam meets Yoga – Sufis and Natha Yogis in medieval and early modern Bengal', was held on July 26, 2019.

Kavi Sammelan, August 24, 2019

Spic Macay, Shilpkari and Dhawani Live in association with EZCC, organized a Literary Fest of poets at Palash Auditorium, Ranchi, Jharkhand. 17 poets of Jharkhand participated in the event. Kavi Sammelan was a gathering of poets where the participants recited their poetry to each other and the audience and had a general discussion of literary issues.

Pakyong Lit Fest, February 1 – 2, 2020

The Pakyong Lit Fest was organized by EZCC at Pakyong, Sikkim, from February 1 – 2, 2020. Several writers, poets, theatre personalities of Sikkim participated in the Festival.



Kabita Utsav, February 15 – 16, 2020

Srijani Shilpagram, Santiniketan hosted the Poetry Festival, in collaboration with Ahrittilok on February 15 – 16, 2020. Several noted poets and elocutionists participated in the programme.

Seminar on Art Heritage of India

EZCC was the venue collaborator for a Seminar on Art Heritage of India, held at Srijani Shilpagram, Santiniketan by Samskar Bharati, Paschim Banga.

I. SWACCH BHARAT

The Swacch Bharat Abhiyan is the most significant cleanliness campaign by the Government of India. It aims to achieve the vision of a clean India by 2 October, 2019. By inviting people to participate in the drive, it has turned into a national movement.

Swacch Bharat Abhiyan, Ghatsila, June, 15 - 30 2019

The Swacch Bharat Abhiyan was carried out at Ghatshila tourist spot, Jharkhand, in association with Kala Mandir, Jamshedpur



Celebration of Swacch Bharat Abhiyan, Bhubaneswar, July 7, 2019

A theatre show was presented as a part of the Swacch Bharat Abhiyan at Charaideo Maidan, Assam, on February 20, 2020.



Swacch Bharat Abhiyan, Agartala, June 30, 2019

The Swacch Bharat Abhiyan was carried out at Agartala, Tripura in collaboration with the Department of Information & Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura. On this occasion a street drama was presented by Rangapith, Agartala.

J. FESTIVALS

Lingaraj Festival, April 13 - 18, 2019

Colourful and vibrant dance presentations – Raibenshe, Paika and Goudiya Nritya, mesmerized the audience at the Lingaraj Mahotsav held at Ekamra Mandap in Bhubaneswar. Organised by Ekamra Sanskrutika Prakashani, the aim of the festival was to promote the rich art and culture of India.



Maha Visuba Milana Mahotsav, April 14 – 22 April, 2019

Maha Vishuba Sankranti marks the beginning of the New Year in the traditional Hindu solar calendar. It was celebrated with much fervour in association with Naranpur Vikash Mancha at Kendrapara Odisha. The dance forms presented were – Dhap dance of Bolangir, Odisha, and Purulia Chhau of West Bengal.

Sitamari Mahotsav, June 28-30, 2019

EZCC organised a programme of the folk dance of Bihar; Chhau dance of West Bengal and Gotipua dance of Odisha at the Sitamari Mahotsav held at Sitamari, Bihar.



National Theatre Festival, July 7-10, 2019

Theatre lovers were in for a treat at Ranchi, Jharkhand, where they savoured a slew of new productions by four theatre groups, in association with Exposure, at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The festival was held from 7-10 July, 2019. Theatre has always been a gateway to express pain, agony, happiness and any feeling that is unheard in our society. The audience had the chance to hear and watch a series of diverse plays along with activities to keep the soul of theatre alive.



4th Deomali Jatiya Natya Mahotsav, August 2-3, 2019

Nandanik, a theatre group based in Koraput, Odisha, kickstarted its two day theatre event on August 2 and 3, 2019, at Koraput, Odisha, in collaboration with EZCC. The Theatre Festival featured the play - Ghare Ferar Gaan by Alternative Living Theatre, directed by Prabir Guha, which was sponsored by EZCC.

The Deomali Jatiya Natya Mahotsava is a multi state, multi language theatre festival started in 2016 by Nandanik, with an aim to facilitate cultural exchange between the theatre of Odisha and other states.

In the last two years, several plays have been staged in Odiya, Bengali, Marathi, Hindi and Urdu languages. Young theatre directors and veterans were invited so that all could learn and benefit from each other.

11th National Theatre Festival, August 10-14, 2019

As a part of human culture, theatre has today evolved a wide range of different theories and practices. Today it is believed to be an art form that is autonomous from literature and one in which the playwright's contribution should be respected as that of only one of an ensemble of creative artists, who believe in improvisation.

The 11th National Theatre Festival was held at Puri, Odisha from August 10-14, 2019 in collaboration with Rangashala where five theatre groups presented before the 4500+ audience, which gave advantage to the states for getting exposure at the National Level Theatre Festival.



Lok Utsav, 24-27 August, 2019

The Lok Utsav, for promoting folk artistes, was held at the Premchand Rangashala, Patna, in collaboration with the Department of Art, Culture and Youth Affairs, Government of Bihar.

The dance forms presented were – Bhangra and Giddha (Punjab); Sambalpuri (Odisha), Raibenshe (West Bengal); Bihu (Assam); Kajari (Bhojpuri); and several folk dances of Bihar. About 504 artistes participated in this festival which had an audience of approx 4500 people.



100 years of Bengal Cinema, September 7 – 10, 2019

In association with Bidhan Nagar Film Society, EZCC organized the film festival “100 years of Bengal Cinema” at the Aikatan Complex, Kolkata, from September 7 – 10, 2019. Several films including old classics like Pather Panchali (directed by Satyajit Ray – 1955), Jhinder Bandi (directed by Tapan Sinha – 1961), Subarnarekha (directed by Ritwik Ghatak – 1965) were screened at the Festival.

Bolta Bandana Utsav, November 10 – 11, 2019

The Thang-Ta martial art form of Manipur enthralled audiences at the Bolta Bandana Utsav – 2019 at Kuanpada, Puri, Odisha, on November 10 – 11, 2019.



Parab 2019, November 16 – 18, 2019

EZCC collaborated with the DCC, Koraput, to organise Parab – 2019. Folk dances from Assam and West Bengal enthralled the audiences on Nov 16 – 18, 2019.



Shrishetra Mahotsav 2019, December 16-20, 2019

Bihu dance of Assam and Raibenshe martial art of West Bengal were presented at the Shrishetra Mahotsav 2019, at Puri, Odisha, from December 16 - 20, 2019. A 3000+ audience enjoyed the programme, which was held in collaboration with D. C. C., Puri.



Chaiti – 2019, December 31, 2019 to January 10, 2020

The Purulia Chhau dance of West Bengal was sponsored by EZCC at the Chaiti – 2019 festival held at Rayagada, Odisha, the Bolgarh Mahotsav 2019 at Bolgarh, Odisha from 26 – 30 December, 2019, the Bargarh Dhanuyatra Mahotsav – 2019 from December 31, 2019 to January 10, 2020.



Jharsuda Zilla Mahotsav – 2020, January 1 -5, 2020

The Jharsuda Zilla Mahotsav was held at Jharsuga, Odisha, from January 1 -5, 2020. The Purulia Chhau dance of West Bengal and Bihu dance of Assam was sponsored by EZCC at the Festival.

20th Bolangir Lokotsav, January 3- 6, 2020

EZCC participated in the 20th Bolangir Lokotsav from January 3- 6, 2020. The Paika dance of Jharkhand, Jhumur dance of Bihar and Bharatnatyam classical dance by Udok Performing Arts, was sponsored by EZCC at the Festival.

25th Glory Fest, January 6 – 12, 2020

Vocalists Debojit Saha and Pampa Ghosh performed at the Silver Jubilee programme of Glory Fest at Puri, Odisha from January 6 – 12, 2020.

Budha Dargar Lok Mahotsav, January 8 – 10, 2020

Paika dance of Jharkhand and Bihu dance of Assam was presented at the Budha Dargar Lok Mahotsav 2020, at Kalahandi, Odisha from January 8 – 10, 2020.

Golden Beach Festival, 2020, January 9 -12, 2020

A medley of Creative Folk Dances by Chandra Ghosh and troupe and Bihu dance of Assam enthralled the audience at the 22nd Golden Beach Festival, held at Balasore, Odisha, from January 9 -12, 2020.

Drama Festival, January 13 – 17, 2020

In collaboration with the Odisha Natak Samaroha Samiti, EZCC presented the 12th State Level Drama Festival at Ganjam, Odisha, from January 13 – 17, 2020.

Folk Festival 2020, January 14 – 16, 2020

The Badhai dance of Madhya Pradesh, Singhi Chham of Sikkim, Bihu dance of Assam and Sambalpuri dance of Odisha was presented at the Folk Festival 2020, held at Jhargram, West Bengal, from January 14 – 16, 2020.

24th Kalahandi Utsav 2020, January 14 – 17, 2020

EZCC sponsored the Bihu dance of Assam, at the 24th Kalahandi Festival, held at Kalahandi, Odisha, from January 14 – 17, 2020.

Hatateswar Makar Mahotsav 2020, January 15 – 19, 2020

Bihu dance of Assam and a Creative dance presentation by Krishna Sinha and troupe, enthralled the audience at Hatateswar Makar Mahotsav, held at Khorda, Odisha from January 15 – 19, 2020.

Navaratra & Ramlila Mahotsav – 2020, January 16 – 26, 2020

EZCC sponsored the Purulia Chhau dance at the Navaratra and Ramlila Mahotsav, 2020, held at Bargarh, Odisha from January 16 – 26, 2020.

Mohanpur Folk Festival-2020, January 17 – 18, 2020

EZCC sponsored a Baul artiste and a Yatra troupe of West Bengal, at the Mohanpur Folk Festival on January 17 – 18, 2020.

Kumuda Mahotsav 2020, January 17 -19, 2020

Folk dances of Assam, the Natua dance of Jharkhand and the Raibenshe dance of West Bengal was presented at the Kumuda Mahotsav at Bolangir, Odisha, from January 17 -19, 2020.

Sunderban Shishu Mela-2020, January 20, 2020

A folk presentation by Suchitra Munshi and troupe was enjoyed by the children and adults alike, at the Sunderban Shishu Mela, held on January 20, 2020.

Murshidabad Heritage Festival-2020, January 24, 2020

EZCC presented the Purulia Chhau dance and Raibenshe martial art to an international audience at the Murshidabad Heritage Festival held at the historic Kathgola Palace, on January 24, 2020.

35th Pataliputra Natya Mahotsav, February 2 – 6, 2020

EZCC sponsored two theatre groups from Odisha and West Bengal at the 35th Pataliputra Natya Mahotsav held in collaboration with Prangan, Patna, from February 2 – 6, 2020.

Khandamal Mahotsav and Pallishree Mela-2020, February 2 – 6, 2020

EZCC sponsored the Chakri dance of Rajasthan and the Gotipua dance of Odisha at the Khandamal Mahotsav and Pallishree Mela, 2020, held at Phulbari, Odisha, from February 2 – 6, 2020.

Kalinga Natya Mahotsv-2020, February 3 – 6, 2020

EZCC sponsored a Bengali theatre group at the National Level Multilingual Theatre Festival held at Bhubaneswar from February 3 – 6, 2020



Satyabadi Mahotsav-2020, February 7 – 9, 2020

Bhangra dance of Punjab, Bordoiskla dance of Assam, Thang-ta martial art of Manipur, Songi Mukhata of Maharashtra and folk songs of Bengal were presented at the Satyabadi Mahotsav, held at Puri, Odisha, from February 7 – 9, 2020.



Purnia Mahotsav-2020, February 14 – 15, 2020

Bihu dance of Assam and Sambalpuri dance of Odisha were presented at the Purnia Mahotsav held from February 14 – 15, 2020 at Purnia, Bihar.



Path Chalte Sekho, February 15, 2020

EZCC sponsored a puppet show on Traffic Rules by Gita Banerjee at the Traffic Week organized by the Barrackpore Police Commissionerate, on February 15, 2020.

Baba Allaudin Sangeet Samaroha, February 15 – 16, 2020

EZCC collaborated with the Baba Allaudin Memorial Committee, to present the Baba Allaudin Sangeeta Samaroho, at Kolkata, on February 15 – 16, 2020.

Rashtriya Lokrang Mahotsav-2020, February 20 – 22, 2020

EZCC sponsored the Purulia Chhau dance and folk songs of West Bengal and Sambalpuri dance of Odisha at the Rashtriya Lokrang Festival, held at the Somnath Temple, Gujarat.

Solo Music and Dance Festival, February 22 – 24, 2020

A Classical Music and Dance Festival was jointly organized with the Government College of Dance, Imphal, Manipur from February 22 – 24, 2020. Several young soloists participated in the event.



Festival of Plays of Heisnam Kanhailal, February 25 – May 5, 2020

EZCC sponsored ten theatre groups of Assam, Manipur and Tripura for the Festival of Plays by Heisnam Kanhailal, at Imphal, Manipur, from February 25 – May 5, 2020.

A seminar on “H. Kanhailal – A Theoretical Practitioner”, was part of the Festival. Several well-known theatre personalities of the country participated in the seminar.



Parja 2020, March 1 – 3, 2020

EZCC participated in Parja 2020, at Kalahandi, from March 1 – 3, 2020, by sponsoring folk performances.



National Theatre Festival, March 1 – 5, 2020

In collaboration with OSNA, EZCC presented theatre groups at the National Theatre Festival held in Bhubaneswar from March 1 – 5, 2020.



Adi Lok Rang, 2020, March 4 – 5, 2020

Adi Lok Rang was co-sponsored by EZCC, at Guwahati, from March 4 – 5, 2020, through sponsorship of folk and tribal dance troupes.



National Theatre Festival 2020, March 5 – 9, 2020

EZCC presented a Odiya play 'Se Mari Gale' at the National Theatre Festival, at Imphal, Manipur, from March 5 – 9, 2020.

Sangei Festival

EZCC sent dance troupes from the different parts of the country to the **Sangei Festival** held at 3 venues in Manipur. This is Manipur's signature dance festival which has a large audience that includes people from all over India and neighbouring countries.

K. DOCUMENTATION

EZCC sponsored the documentation of a popular folk tale of Manipur, “The Carpenter and his wife”, directed by L. Banka Sharma. The film was released to a large and appreciative audience at the Manipur State Film Development Society, Imphal, Manipur on September 4, 2019.

Additionally, the following documentations were carried out by EZCC during 2019-20:

1. Sri Chaitanya Chitrarekha - Legacy of Sri Chaitanya(directed by Sri Anjan Bose)
2. Niranjana Pradhan - Journey of a Sculptor (by Aurora Film Corporation Pvt. Ltd.)
3. In Search of Parbha Chhau -Tale of a Dying Dance(directed by Ms Abanti Sinha)
4. DHAK - the Drums of Bengal(directed by Sri Dhananjay Mandal)

L. EK BHARAT SHRESTH BHARAT

1. A folk dance and music festival, crafts fair and cuisine of Bihar was taken to Aizol, Mizoram, from November 25 – 29, 2019, as a part of the Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat programme. Held in collaboration with NYKS, the programme was much appreciated by all participants of the Youth Camp.



2. Artistes from Sikkim participated in the Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat programme organised in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, from December 13 - 14, 2019. The cultural event was organised by EZCC at two venues - Savanu International School, Alipur, NE Delhi and Jaath Chaupal, Alipur, NE Delhi. The programme was appreciated by all. School children and young adults enjoyed the dances and music, and tasted original Sikkimese food. The craft stalls could not be arranged as the trains were cancelled and the craftsmen could not reach the venue.



3. Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat was held at Jodhpur, Rajasthan in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Jodhpur. Folk dances, music, crafts and cuisine of the paired state, West Bengal, was presented at the programme, held from February 5 – 6, 2020.



4 Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata organized Ek Bharat Shretha Bharat programme from February 23 – 25, 2020 at Mission India Campus, Nagpur in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra, Nagpur. Traditional colourful folk dances of Odisha, namely Mayurbhanj Chhau dance, Goutipua dance and Sambalpuri dance were presented in this programme by the paired state of Maharashtra. EZCC also presented traditional craft items and authentic cuisine of Odisha at the camp. All participants of the Youth Camp appreciated the culture of Odisha and the Odiya artistes were also proud to share their culture.



M. IMPORTANT DAYS

Programme on National Integration, August 12-14, 2019

As part of Independence Day celebrations, a musical programme on National Integration and Patriotism was organized by Kala Kendra, Department of Art and Culture, Andaman & Nicobar Islands in collaboration with EZCC, on August 12, 2019 at Diglipur and August 14, 2019 at Flag Point, Port Blair.

The artistes all of national and international repute led by well-known singer Sumit Roy, known for his versatility, performed with great zeal, passion and enthusiasm.

The programme began with the National Anthem, followed by Shri Sumit Roy's exuberant style of enthraling the audience by presenting some old and some new songs and poems on patriotism as well as few composed by him.

The general public as well as invited guests witnessed the performances at both venues, which was covered extensively by the press.



Constitution Day, November 26, 2019

Constitution Day was celebrated on November 26, 2019, in collaboration with Maulana Abul Kalam Institute for Asian Studies, Kolkata. A seminar on 'The Constitution and Fundamental Rights' had research scholars of MAKAIS presenting several good papers.



Republic Day Parade Celebrations at New Delhi, January 26, 2020

India celebrated its Republic Day this year, a day that evokes feelings of patriotism in the heart of every citizen. As the country reminisced about its glorious history, rich culture and precious heritage, EZCC sent a contingent of 156 BPL school children of Bihar to perform a dance programme based on the theme of Mahatma Gandhi. The performance by these students mesmerized the audience.

Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar Day, February 27, 2020

Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar Day was celebrated at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands through a special choreographed production by Sharmila Biswas and music by Sourendra and Soumyojit on February 27, 2020.

N. CELEBRATION OF GANDHI JAYANTI

Mahatma on the Pitch – Gandhi and Cricket in Colonial India, 12 April, 2019

Asia in Global Affairs, in association with EZCC, organized a lecture by Prof Kausik Bandopadhyay, on the topic – 'Mahatma on the Pitch – Gandhi and Cricket in Colonial India' at the EZCC Kolkata premises.

Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti at Kolkata

EZCC collaborated with Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation to celebrate the Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation. The cultural programme started with Bhajans by Tripti Sen and group, followed by a Human Puppet production based on the life of Bapuji by Birbhum Sanskriti Bahini and a street play on the importance of Swachhata by Sudip Bhattacharya and group. Ranjeet Chaitrakar sat in the foyer of the auditorium singing Pata Songs and infolding a painting depicting important events in the life of Gandhiji.



Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti at Nalbari, Assam, September 19, 2019

On the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a Classical Music Concert and 2 Puppet Theatre productions were held at Nalbari, Assam, on September 19, 2019, in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam.



Programme of Baul songs based on Bapuji's life, October 2, 2019

On the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation, the Consular Corps of Kolkata enjoyed an afternoon of Baul Songs based on Bapu's life and Shankha Badan of Odisha, on October 2, 2019.

Pada Yatra, October 2 – 4, 2019

A Gandhi Pada Yatra was organised in Motihari, Bihar, with folk singers and dancers leading the procession, from October 2 – 4, 2019. 6000+ people joined the procession over the 3 days.

Pran Sutra, October 20, 2019

A specially commissioned production, 'Pran Sutra', based on Gandhiji's emphases on the spinning of Khadi and its importance in our Freedom Struggle was presented by Manipuri danseuse and choreographer, Priti Patel on October 20, 2019, at Kolkata.

Musical programme, October 20, 2019

The musical duo Soumendra and Soumyajit presented a programme on Gandhiji's favourite on October 20, 2019, at Kolkata.

Cultural Programme Tumi Amader Pita, December 15, 2019

EZCC collaborated with Shrutibritto, to present 'Tumi Amader Pita', celebrating the Fathers of the Nation of India and Bangladesh on December 15, 2019 - Mahatma Gandhi and Sheikh Mujibar Rahaman. Narration by Subhadeep Chakraborty and songs by Prabuddha Raha, paid rich tribute to the two great statesmen.

Gandhi and Tagore audio CD

An archival project on the relationship between the Mahatma and Gurudev – an audio CD with Rabindra Sangeet and narration, speaks about the mutual respect the two great personalities had for each other despite their differences in political thought.



O. NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Rastriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, October 14 – 21, 2019

EZCC artistes and artisans participated in Rastriya Sanskriti Mahotsav held at Jabalpur, Sagar and Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, held between October 14 – 21, 2019.



Inauguration of Statue of Unity, October 27 – 31, 2019

EZCC artistes-Purulia Chhau of West Bengal, Bagha Naat of Ganjam, Odisha, Sambalpuri Dance of Sambalpur, Odisha participated in a cultural programme at the Statue of Unity from October 27 – 31, 2019, on the eve of Sardar Patel Birth Anniversary at Vadodara, Gujarat.



Octave Festival (a programme of celebrating the arts and crafts of the North East)

Octave was held at Bapu Sabhagar, Patna, Bihar, from December 12 – 14, 2019. Inaugurated by HE Shri Phagu Chauhan, Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, the Chief Guest was Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar. The Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony was Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Law and Justice.





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