

WHEN MASTERS WOW-ED STUDENTS

This event was all about cultural abundance and learnings



The students concluded the event with a final performance with their gurus

PHOTOS: HTBS

As the mercury continued to rise and break records over the last few days, 1,100 youngsters found their calmness in the Indian classical arts at the recently concluded 7th International Convention of SPIC MACAY.

The week-long international convention held at Jawaharlal Nehru University had various workshops and concerts by maestros. Yamini Nagar, 18, a student from Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, says she enjoyed the Hindustani Vocal workshop. Nagar adds, "It was my first-ever experience with this type of convention. I had applied for it because I enjoy trying out new things. I knew there will be an ashram-like environment here with no phones allowed. On the first day, I couldn't get up on time

and was half an hour late yet joined the routine, and liked it so much that from the next day, I woke up even before my alarm rang at 3am!"

Even those who had attended this convention before say that it was quite an enjoyable experience. Deepshikha Pandey, 22, a student from Bihar, says, "I went to IIT Kharagpur before this one. The best part of coming here is that every person you meet here treats you very well. They are maestros and national awardees, yet they have no prejudices. I attended the workshop on Sanjhi, which is the art of paper cutting and I realised that it's the most fascinating thing; we made stencils of different animals, flowers and Gods."

And even though it was

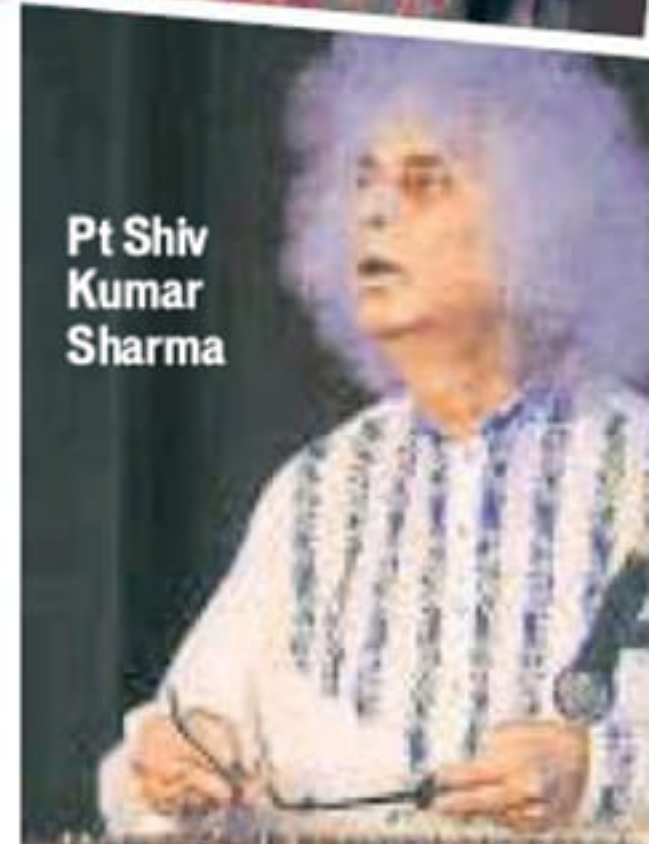
quite hot, the youngsters enjoyed being part of the various activities. "This year, the temperature was hotter than previous years but everyone thoroughly enjoyed and even participated in back-to-back events," says Suman Doonga, director media, SPIC MACAY.

Usha Ravichandran, convenor-international convention, SPIC MACAY, says, "It was a delight to see that over 450 youngsters enrolled for the workshops in 12 crafts. This is a much higher number than the previous year. In the end, when we saw their presentations with gurus, we realised how beautifully they have learnt. This is a movement that will continue..."

Henna Rakheja



Vidushi Ashwin Bhide Deshpande



Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma



Koodiyattam dancer Vidushi Kapila Venu (left); Puppeteer Dadi Pudumji (right)

