



RAJASTHAN TOURISM  
SHRUTI FOUNDATION and INTACH Shekhawati Chapter  
present

# VHAH FEST

## FEB 3-6, 2023

Ramgarh Shekhawati, Rajasthan

*Celebrate & Heal Your Life*

*...In the Lap Of Heritage ...In the Season of Love*

Contact: [vedaaranya@gmail.com](mailto:vedaaranya@gmail.com) / [www.vedaaranya.com](http://www.vedaaranya.com) / +91-9810078925 / +91-9310795919

# VHAH FEST

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### PARTNERS



Rajasthan Tourism  
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Govt of West Bengal, MSME  
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ज्ञानम् अमृतम्  
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H R School  
Ramgarh Shekhawati



# WELCOME NOTE



Greetings and welcome from Shruti Foundation to the Vedaaranya Heritage and Healing Festival or VHAH FEST 2023 at Ramgarh Shekhawati, Rajasthan!

The festival is an integral part of the dream to revive this unique and spectacular region of India which had been abandoned by some of the richest Seths (merchants) of India almost a century ago, throwing its economic and social order into chaos and disintegration. Today history beckons again as we rediscover the charm, the uniqueness of the painted walls of Ramgarh Shekhawati and the great culture and intangible heritage of this unique town that was once a great Centre of learning and was therefore called Doosra Kashi.

VHAH FEST February 3-6, 2023 brings together great artists from across India and Abroad, Classical Fusion EAST meets WEST PERFORMANCES, artists, domain experts, Crafts persons, healers, designers, entrepreneurs as well as Government and Institutional heads from India and abroad to Celebrate, Learn and Create at the festival, and explore the uniqueness of this great town along with the local community, particularly its women and youth.

Join us at VHAH FEST 2023 in reimagining this great historical region of Shekhawati as possibly, the most holistic and exciting Habitat of the Future!

Mira Misra Kaushik (OBE) | Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar





# RAMGARH SHEKHAWATI

Ramgarh Shekhawati is a unique heritage town developed by the richest Indian 19<sup>th</sup> century merchants (Seths). It has beautiful structures - magnificent Havelies (more than 200), 36 Cenotaphs (Chattris), 101 Temples, which are great examples of ancient art and architecture of India. Earlier, Ramgarh Shekhawati was also known as Doosra Kashi, since it had eight centers of Sanskrit learning and cultural patronage. It has the only Veda Temple in the world, with unusual stucco sculpture and architecture. Though the town shows signs of aging, this doesn't make it any less interesting. It is often called the world capital of wall paintings (frescoes). It is now being revived into one of the most coveted heritage destinations of the world. Ramgarh Shekhawati is a forgotten surprise - A wonderland of heritage, a haven - to celebrate and to heal our lives.



## WHAT TO EXPECT @ VHAH FEST 2023

- Live in our Magical Heritage Havelies
- Unforgettable Rajasthani Cuisine
- Explore Fascinating Havelies, Chhatris, Temples, Johads and other Heritage Sites in our "Ramgarh Shekhawati Heritage Walk" (or ride with Camel Carts, Cars and Tuk-tuks)
- Awe-inspiring "EAST Meets WEST" Fusion Classical Music | Soul Stirring Contemporary Classical | Folk Dance Performances | Engaging Baithaks | Daastaan Goi | Addas | Hunar-shalas at The FORT and our beautiful heritage haveillies and other Heritage Sites
- Learn, Experiment and Create with our Training Workshops with our Local and Global Experts
- Learn Ayurvedic Recipes and Natural Health Treatments
- Heal with Ancient Tools and Techniques
- Immerse in the Rasa of Music & Movement
- Experience the healing Power of Ancient Chants

## GARH ME UTSAV (PERFORMANCES IN THE FORT)

- o Purbayan Chatterjee- Russian Natsa Saraswati in Classical Fusion "East Meets West"
- o Gauri Sharma Tripathi in a Contemporary Kathak choreography
- o Folk Fusion by Dipannita Acharya with Bauls and Manganiyaars



# OFFERTINGS

## BAITHAK (NARRATIVE SESSIONS)

- o A conversation with Actor, Author, Poet Deepti Nawal
- o Daastan Goi with Sunil Mehra & Pallav Mishra
- o History and Wonder of Shekhawati with Shruti Poddar
- o Healing with Learning

## HUNAR-SHALA AND KARIGARI ADDE (CRAFTS AND LEARNING WORKSHOPS)

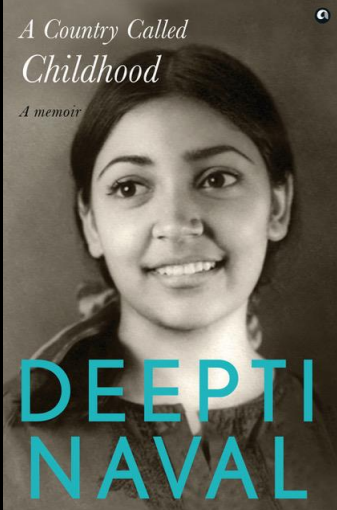
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| o Restoration with Lime (Chuna) technology with INTACH experts          | o Pattachitra Painting Workshop with Painters from Bengal |
| o Learning about the Stories and Karigari on Ramgarh Walls and Ceilings | o Durrie Making with Rajasthan Karigars                   |
| o Nada Yoga with Shruti Nada Poddar                                     | o Lac Bangle making                                       |
| o Ayurvedic Remedies from Local Experts                                 | o Rajasthani Doll making                                  |
|   | o Mehendi   |



# DEEPTI NAVAL

IN CONVERSATION ON HER ENGAGING MEMOIR  
“A COUNTRY CALLED CHILDHOOD”

5TH FEB, 2023  
@ VHAH FEST



DeepTi Naval is an Indian actor, director, writer, painter and photographer. A multifaceted personality, DeepTi has carved a distinct niche for herself in the Indian film industry, winning critical acclaim for her 'sensitive and close to life' portrayals that emphasized the changing role of women in India. DeepTi made her debut in the year 1980 with the path-breaking film *Ek Baar Phir*, and has since appeared in more than ninety films, including *Chashme Baddoor*, *Katha*, *Saath Saath*, *Kamla*, *Ankahi*, *Main Zinda Hoon*, and *Mirch Masala*. She has received the best actor award in several national and international film festivals for her roles in *Leela*, *Firaq*, *Memories in March*, *Listen Amaya*, *NH-10*, *The Boy With the Top Knot*, and others. She also won Best Screenplay award at the New York Indian Film Festival for her directorial film, *Do Paise Ki Dhoop Chaar Aane Ki Baarish*, in 2010. As a writer she has three books to her credit—her first collection of poems, *Lamha Lamha*, published in 1981. *Black Wind and Other Poems* in 2004, and *The Mad Tibetan: Stories From Then and Now* in 2011. Her Recently Published Book “A Country Called Childhood” is a beautifully told memoir of growing up in Amritsar in the tumultuous 1950s and 60s. In extremely visual and evocative prose, Naval describes an unforgettable childhood filled with love, adventure, mystery, tragedy, and joy. She uncovers, in great detail, life in an unconventional Punjabi family while plunging the reader into the distinctive sights, smells, and sounds of a fast-vanishing India. Starting at the moment of her birth on a rainy night, she tracks her journey to adulthood, a path punctuated by many personal turning points as also momentous events of national importance, such as the Sino-Indian War of 1962 and the Indo-Pak War of 1965.

# PURBAYAN CHATTERJEE & NASTYA SARASWATI

## “EAST MEETS WEST”

INDIAN SITAR MAESTRO, Purbayan Chatterjee & CELEBRATED RUSSIAN VIOLINIST, Nastya Saraswati will CREATE MAGIC An amalgamation with the richness of Indian melody with the fascinating world of western harmony with rhythmic accompaniment of both cultures with Zuheb on Tabla, accompanied by western Keyboards.



4TH FEB, 2023  
@ VHAH FEST

Purbayan Chatterjee, one of the topmost SITAR maestros of the world, belongs to the Senia Maihar Gharana founded by Baba Allaaddin Khan. His gurus are his father Pt. Parthapratin Chatterjee, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, vocal training from Pt. Ajay Chakraborty and training in tabla from Pt. Anindo Chatterjee. He is a recipient of Indian president awards, Aditya Vikram Birla award, Rotary international award. He has conceptualized the ground-breaking project Shastriya Syndicate -the first Indian Classical Band - Indian Classical band with a contemporary touch, which has performed the world over... The album "Lehar" released by Times Music in 2008 has remained the best-seller for a year and a half.



Nastya Saraswati is a Russian Violinist and multifaceted musician from St. Petersburg, Russia, who has many global Indo-western performances, classical performances and many music albums to her credit.



# GAURI SHARMA TRIPATHI

LEADS A MESMERIZING CONTEMPORARY KATHAK CHOREOGRAPHY  
IN THE SPECTACULAR AMBIENCE OF THE RAMGARH FORT



3RD FEB, 2023  
@ VHAH FEST

Gauri Sharma Tripathi has trained in the classical tradition of Kathak, under her Guru and mother, Padma Sharma. She is the Artistic Director of her companies Amara Nritya Kala Hansa & ANKH Dance UK. The repertory of ANKH continues to bridge the teaching and choreographic journeys between the traditions and the new. A Nritya Visharad and a Singar Mani Awardee, Gauri wrote the three-year degree course on Kathak for London Contemporary Dance School, she was also part of the ISTD South Asian dance founding team, faculty, and examiner. She has curated The Alchemy Festival at the Southbank Centre for nine years and is associated with The Women of the World festival. Her curatorial work includes The Indian Dance Festival at the Korzo Theatre in The Hague, Netherlands. Through her varied work, she has brought a strong South Asian presence to the UK arts scene. Known for grounding her performance in the traditions of Kathak while giving it a contemporary viewpoint, she has toured her own solo pieces including Circa, Waqt, Ishmir, Timelapse, Vyuha, and Sacred. Her choreographic highlights include Polaroid Feet, Sacred Monsters, Ronin and Gnosis for Akram Khan, and numerous productions for Akademi, including Coming of Age, Escapade, Waterscapes, Initium, Sapnay, Maya, and Sufi Zen. She has also choreographed the theatre productions Mahabharat and Wah Wah Girls for Sadler's Wells, London, as well as Bollywood Trip in collaboration with Theatre Republique Denmark for the Olympic season. Collaborated with a variety of artists and organizations, from Shlomo, a beatboxer to create the first Kathak and Beatboxing choir titled Urban Vani in 2006, to choreographing for the Jagriti Yatra, a unique train journey in its 15th year in India. Gauri was also invited as a choreographer for the ICCR event, Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav at the NCPA, Mumbai, in 2022. She continues to bring events like Kathak Stanzas, Big Chair Dance with the elderly and Kathak Collective her company hosts. The most recent collaborations have been with The Dharavi Dream Project and Slagwerk Den Haag, both music and dance based groups.



# DAASTAAN GOI WITH SUNIL MEHRA & PALLAV MISHRA

Sunil Mehra is a author, columnist, journalist, actor, television producer and Dastango who's worked in senior editorial capacity for premier publications inc India Today, Outlook, the Indian Express, Tol and Pioneer. He's anchored/produced 76 episodes of Centresrage: a weekly show on culture that was voted as best show on DD METRO. He's been featured in films like Deepa Mehta's Earth and in Philauri and Uri



As Dastango he's performed to critical acclaim in more than 80 shows across india, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, London

Pallav Mishra works in editorial capacity for the Urdu site Rekhta. A sensitive, acclaimed playwright and poet he's recited his works across the country.

His play Ulta Mushaira premiered v recently at Jashn e Rekhta 2022 event in Delhi

## 4TH FEB, 2023 @ VJAH FEST

# FOLK FUSION WITH DIPANNITA ACHARYA

5TH FEB, 2023 @ VHAH FEST



**Dipannita Acharya will CREATE MAGIC with an ensemble of Folk Musicians from East and West-Three Bengal folk musicians and four RAJASTHAN folk musicians - MANGANIYAARS in an electrifying performance**

Dipannita Acharya is a proficient and prolific artist in the genre of folk music with a voice, soulful and stirring. She is a globally famous virtuoso in traditional songs of Baul, Sufi-Marifati, Murshidi, Bhaoaiya and Jhumur from Bengal; Bihu, Kamrupi Lokogaan and Goalparia Lokogaan from Assam; Rajasthani folk songs and Gujarati Raas Garba. with the capability of presenting music in multiple languages. She is also a multi-instrumentalist as she plays Ektara, Duggi, Ghungoor and Satar (an instrument from Kutch) at her performances.

However, she identifies herself and her music as "Baul Anuragi" and 'Bhav Sangeet" respectively. Over the years, she has enthralled audiences with her rich repertoire of regional folk songs. She was introduced to folk music courtesy her own cultural roots in Chittagong (Bangladesh) that she imbibed and, for the rest, she absorbed the robust rustic singing style of her family, her social groups, from the Monosha Mongol and, later, from her gurus.

# RAIBENSHE

## MARTIAL ART BASED DANCE FROM BENGAL



Raibenshe, a folk dance with fantastic balancing act, which evolved from ancient martial art practised by the bodyguards of the kings and the Zamindars of Bengal. As performers were originally soldiers, Raibenshe was originally danced with spears and the dance form is characterised by vigorous body movements and balancing acts. Along with the energetic and masculine movements, it involves acrobatics by the dancers with a Raibansh, which is the long bamboo pole from which the dance takes its name.

Another interesting feature of Raibenshe is the use of stilt. The origin of his long poles heads back to the old times. The use of stilt made travelling faster and was used by the guards and robbers. The Raibenshe dancers have kept the tradition alive within the folk dance. The ambience for the dance is created with the help of musical instruments like 'dhak', 'dhol' and 'kanshi'. The dance steps and body movements shown in Raibenshe often carries the influence of Natyashastra as some of it are quite unfamiliar for any folk dance. It is powerful and attractive. Link :Raibeshe - martial art based dance- <https://youtu.be/IL858uaAvv4> Raibenshe at festival in Czech



# PATTACHITRA PAINTING

## WORKSHOP BY ARTISTS OF ODISHA

FEB 3-6, 2023  
④ VHAH FEST



For Pattachitra painting, the Chitrakars follow a traditional process of preparing the canvas. A gauze-like fine cotton cloth is coated with white stone powder and gum made out of tamarind seeds. This makes the canvas ready to accept the paint, made of natural colors. These colors are a unique feature of Pattachitra. The gum of the kaitha tree is the chief ingredient, used as a base for making different pigments by adding available raw materials. For instance, to get the shade of white, powdered conch shells are used.

Pattachitra is predominantly icon painting. Some of the popular themes of this art are The Badhia (a depiction of the temple of Jagannath); Krishna Lila (an enactment of Jagannath as Lord Krishna displaying his powers as a child); Dasabatara Patti (the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu); and Panchamukhi (a depiction of Lord Ganesh as a five-headed deity).

# DHURRIE MAKING

BY KARIGARS OF SALAWAS AND WOMEN OF SHEKHAWATI

FEB 4-6, 2023  
@ VHAH FEST







# VHAH FEST 2023 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

# VHAH FEST DAY I- FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2023

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
15.00 - 17.15	PATTACHITRA ART WORKSHOP - A Learning Workshop of PATTACHITRA PAINTING with Traditional Pattachitra Artists from ODISHA (FROM 3RD TO 6TH JANUARY)	RAMGARH FORT
18.00 - 20.30	INAUGURAL FUNCTION	RAMGARH FORT
18.00 -19.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lighting the Lamp</li> <li>- Vedic Chants led by Shruti Nada Poddar</li> <li>- Welcome by Trustee of Shruti Foundation</li> <li>- Introduction by Festival Co-Director Mira Misra Kaushik (OBE)</li> <li>- Screening of Movie "Ramgarh Sethan - Kal, Aaj Aur Kal"</li> </ul>	
19.15 - 20.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internationally Acclaimed Danseuse GAURI SHARMA TRIPATHI A Unique Contemporary Kathak Choreography against the backdrop of the Ramgarh Fort</li> <li>- Address by Chief Guest/Guest of Honour</li> <li>- Vote of Thanks by Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar (Festival Co- Director and Founder, Shruti Foundation)</li> </ul>	RAMGARH FORT
20:30	Private Dinner for Vedaaranya Guests and Special Invitees	MOHAR



# VHAJ FEST DAY 2 - SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2023

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
0 - 10.30	Breakfast for Inhouse guests	Mohar Haveli
10.30 - 13.30	Ramgarh Shekhawati HERITAGE Introduction (10.30 to 10.50) Heritage Walk/Tour Starting at MOHAR and drive to the unique Veda Temple with a small demo of a Havan and its significance. Then go to Shani Mandir, and Havelies, Chhatries, Rang Mahals and Sheesh Mahals of Ramgarh Shekhawati	Starting from Vedaaranya Haveli
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch for Delegates	MOHAR
14.30 - 15.30	Nada Yoga with Shruti Nada Poddar	
15.30 - 17.00	A INTACH Heritage Restoration Workshop - with Lime (Chuna) technology	MOHAR
CULTURAL EVENING PROGRAM		
18.30 - 19.30	INDIAN SITAR MAESTRO, Purbayan Chatterjee & CELEBRATED RUSSIAN VIOLINIST, Nastya Saraswati will CREATE MAGIC An amalgamation with the richness of Indian melody with the fascinating world of western harmony with rhythmic accompaniment of both cultures with Zuheb on Tabla, accompanied by western Keyboards.	RAMGARH FORT
19.30 - 21.00	DASTAANGO Stalwarts SUNIL MEHRA and PALLAV MISHRA present- "Mughal Bacha" and "Gharwali" - through the unique Story Telling Nawabi Tradition, DASTAAN GO!	RAMGARH FORT

VHAH FEST DAY 3 - SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2023		
TIME	EVENT	VENUE
9.30 - 10.30	Breakfast	Vedaaranya Haveli
11.30 - 13.00	Pattachitra and Dhurrie Workshops	MOHAR
13.30 - 15.00	Lunch	RAMGARH FORT
15.00 - 15.45	Heal your Body - with Indic Secrets - with local Ayurvedic Expert Dr Manju Misra	RAMGARH FORT
15.45 - 16.30	Ayurveda Skin Care and Medicine Recipes Demo Workshop	RAMGARH FORT
17.00 - 18.00	RAIBENSHE FROM BENGAL- A Traditional Folk Martial Arts Dance and Acrobatic Cultural Performance by Artists from Bengal	RAMGARH
CULTURAL EVENING PROGRAM		
18.00 - 19.00	<b>FOLK MUSIC LEAD BY DIPANNITAA ACHARYA</b> , a Globally acclaimed Folk Fusion artist takes a riveting Indian Folk Fusion journey with Bengal’s Folk musicians, and the Rajasthani Folk Manganiyaars in an unprecedented amalgamation of Indian Folk musical genres from Rajasthan, Bengal, Gujarat and Punjab.	RAMGARH FORT
19.45 - 20.45	<b>DEEPTI NAVAL (Actor, Author, Poet and Artist)</b> - Reliving her Growing-up years through a Conversation on her beautiful Memoir “ <b>A Country Called Childhood</b> ”	MOHAR
20.00 - 20.30	Dinner with the Poets - a Conversation with Dipannitaa Acharya and Dr. Manju Misra	MOHAR

# VJAH FEST DAY 4 - MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2023

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
8.00 -9.30	<b>Special Monday Invocation to Shiva with NAGARA Beats</b> - at the beautifully frescoed SHIV MANDIR at the famous Ramayana Chhatri of ramgarh Shekhawati	Shiva temple in the Ramgopal Poddar (Ramayana) Chhatri
9.30 -11.00	<b>Brunch</b>	MOHAR
11.00 - 14.00	<b>Crafts Bazaar</b>	MOHAR
11.30 - 13.00	<b>Pattachitra Workshop results</b>	MOHAR
13.30	<b>Farewell Lunch for Invited Guests</b>	MoHAR

# HOW TO GET TO VJAH FEST 2023

## By Road to Ramgarh Shekhawati

- 2.5 - 3.0 hours from Jaipur towards Churu via Sikar-Bikaner Highway
- 4.5 - 5.0 hours from Delhi Airport
- Follow the Google Map Link to Ramgarh Shekhawati

## By Train From DELHI NCR to Churu

- 4.5 hours from Gurgaon to Churu
- 5 hours from Delhi to Churu
- Churu is only 15 Km from Ramgarh Shekhawati
- Local Transport from Churu to Ramgarh Shekhawati available on request





# LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR FABULOUS PRESENCE AND CLOSE INVOLVEMENT WITH US @VHAH FEST 2023



For Accommodation and  
Festival Details

Get in Touch @

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# FESTIVAL COMMITTEE



**GURU SHOVARA NARAYAN**  
(Padmashree)

Chairperson & Trustee Shruti  
Foundation | Leading Kathak  
exponent and Guru



**SHRUTI NADA PODDAR**  
FESTIVAL CO-DIRECTOR

Founder, Shruti Foundation  
Convener INTACH SHEKHAWATI



**MIRA MISRA KAUSHIK**  
(OBE)

FESTIVAL Co-DIRECTOR  
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Interior Designer Trustee,  
Shruti Foundation



**MAMTA SINGHANIA**

Founder, Anant Art  
MC Member, Shruti Foundation



# PARTICIPATE @ VHAH FEST

To Support Our Women...

and the Revival of Our Heritage

And carry back an experience of a Lifetime...



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# VHAH FEST 2023

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Beckons You To An Experience of a Lifetime  
To Support a Greater Cause



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