Womenia

The Ethereal Beauty of 'Basanta Raas' Illuminates Hyderabad

In an enchanting evening of classical artistry, Hyderabad witnessed the rare grace of Manipuri dance at the Raw Mango Showroom's baithak last weekend. Presented by the renowned troupe 'Manipuri Jagoi Marup', the performance brought alive the spiritual elegance of 'Basanta Raas'. With its lyrical movements, divine themes, and mesmerising costumes, the recital transported the audience to the serene world of Radha and Krishna

Anna Rao Gangavalli

The 'baithak' at the Raw Mango Showroom last weekend featured a dance form rarely seen in Hyderabad — 'Manipuri,' originating from the state of Manipur. It is characterised by graceful, lyrical, and fluid movements, subtle facial expressions, and deep spiritual themes rooted in 'Vaishnavism.'

'Manipuri Jagoi Marup', a leading troupe founded by the late Guru Padmashri Amubi Singh, is dedicated to the rejuvenation and development of Manipuri dance. Of the many dance dramas, ballets, and group performances in their repertoire, 'Basanta Raas' — considered the highlight — was the selection presented.

This delicate dance, deeply integrated with rituals and festivals and often performed as a devotional offering, won the hearts of the audience with its theme, movements, costumes, and music. Tracing its origins to ancient times, with the 'Lai Haraoba' festival being its earliest form, Manipuri developed significantly under royal patronage and evolved into a sophisticated theatrical art form from its indigenous tribal origins.

The twenty-minute-long piece was imbued with the devotional themes of 'Madhura Raas' of Radha and Krishna, containing gentle eye expressions and soft, peaceful body movements. It portrays the divine dance of love between Krishna, Radha, and the cowherd damsels (gopis) of Vrindavan.

On the full moon night of Chaitra (March–April), Krishna comes to the appointed grove (kunja) for a rendezvous. The gopis, led by Radha, respond to the call of his melodious flute, and they dance together. They play Holi with coloured 'gulal,' and the performance reaches a climactic peak in a moment of union — the 'Sambhoga Shringar Rasa'. This piece was often performed in the temples of Manipur.

The unusual doll-like costumes ('Potloi') were particularly attractive. An elaborately decorated, barrel-shaped cylindrical long skirt is stiffened at the bottom and closed at the top. Decorations on its surface include gold and silver embroidery, small mirror pieces, and floral motif prints. Radha wears green while the 'gopis' wear red. The faces were adorned with the 'Gaudiya Vaishnava tilak' on the forehead.

This symmetrical, translucent dress makes the artistes appear as though they were floating on stage — like beings from another world! A cap covering the head with a transparent thin veil symbolically marks elusiveness. Krishna wore a golden headdress with wired peacock feathers. A brilliantly coloured broadcloth of yellow-orange was pleated, wrapped, and tied at the waist, allowing freedom for leg movements.

Unlike in other dance styles, ankle bells are not worn; instead, anklets and foot ornaments are used. To live orchestra and vocals — Sanasam Sanahanbi (vocals), Ningombam Joychandra (on the pung drum), and Irom Joychandra (flute) — the dancers, Gotimayum Asharani Devi as Krishna, Radha played by Athoibi, and gopis Rina, Reepa, Rashi, Roshni, and Rita, went through mesmerising, slow, elegant, wave-like movements that dissolved into each other like the waves of an ocean.

The rounded, soft footwork of the 'gopis' contrasted beautifully with the occasional fast steps of Krishna. It was altogether surreal to see the circular patterns created by the dancers merging into one another, evoking serenity and calm in the audience — who were delighted by the experience and responded with warm applause at the conclusion.

Drew Barrymore had breast cancer 'scare' post 'emergency biopsy'

Actress Drew Barrymore shared that she recently had an "emergency biopsy" following a "bad mammogram".

Barrymore discussed the killer disease with comedian Tig Notaro, who underwent a double mastectomy in 2016 after being diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer.

Speaking on The Drew Barrymore Show, the actress said: "This is the thing I've wanted to risk talking about on this show because - I recently had a scare. I'm completely fine, but I did get a bad mammogram and I got taken into that room and then I had an emergency biopsy and I waited those five days."

Barrymore said she was touched by Notaro's recent documentary Come See Me in the Good Light, which follows celebrated poets Andrea Gibson and her wife Megan Falley as they navigate life following the former's terminal ovarian cancer diagnosis.

She said: "I have been wanting to discuss a certain subject on this show, and I did not know how. It is a very tough one to approach. But, having seen your documentary, I feel like I might be able to start scratching the surface here because of what you guys were brave enough, bold enough and smart enough to put out into the world, which is clearly being embraced, so I think that also gives us a little more confidence."

Barrymore added: 'This documentary also gives you such an intimate portrait not only of these people's lives, but what the journey of going through cancer is like, and it is not heavy. There's confidence, courage, strength, reality, and humanity."

Meanwhile, Barrymore turned 50 earlier this year and revealed that she does not plan to have any cosmetic surgery, reports people.com.

The star said: "I haven't done anything and I want to try and stay that way... but I also am like, do whatever works for you. The only thing I do know is don't judge other people because they do things differently.

"We're all on our own path and we have to support each other. I see a lot of turkey neck or I have a lot of other time where I'm like, 'Oh Wow, we're there now.'"

Shehnaaz Gill on love, finding the right partner: Nothing is perfect

Actress Shehnaaz Gill, whose latest release "Ikk Kudi" is about finding the right partner, feels that perfection in relationships is a myth and talks about what really matters is the effort one puts in.

Asked what she feels is the mantra to a perfect marriage, relationship and a perfect partner, Shehnaaz shared her two cents and said that investing in a relationship is essential, even though the future remains uncertain.

Shehnaaz, whose chemistry with late star Sidharth Shukla in "Bigg Boss 13" was loved by all, told: "Nothing is perfect; it's not perfect. But I think the more perfect you can be in things, the better."

Nurturing the relationship is essential, feels Shehnaaz, who has stepped into producing films with her latest release.

"Invest in your relationship… It's very important. I think the most important thing is to search for things. Do as much as you can. A relationship you don't know how it will be in the future; maybe he may show his true self once the marriage is done... That is also possible. But you should be as safe as you can… it's your fate. If you are unlucky, you will meet a bad person; if you are lucky, you will meet a good person," Shehnaaz expressed.

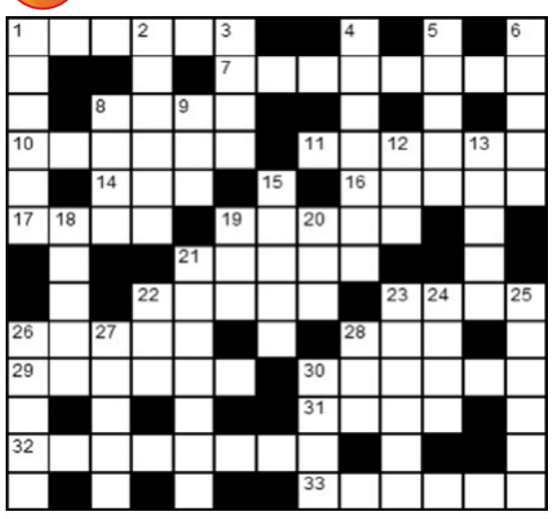
"Ikk Kudi" follows a woman from a family of broken hearts who starts doubting her arranged marriage match and embarks on a quest to uncover her fiance's mysterious past.

Shehnaaz gained stardom after her stint in "Bigg Boss 13". It was in 2015, when Shehnaaz began her modelling career with a music video titled 'Shiv Di Kitaab'. In 2017, she marked her debut in Punjabi film 'Sat Shri Akaal England'.

The actress' filmography also includes names such as 'Kala Shah Kala', 'Daaka', 'Honsla Rakh', 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', and 'Thank You for Coming' to her credit.

Shehnaaz has appeared in several music videos titled-- 'Maar Kar Gayi', 'Pindaan Diyaan Kudiyaan', 'Je Haan Ni Karni', 'Putt Sardaran De', 'Lakh Laanhta', 'Viah Da Chaa', 'Jatt Jaan Vaarda', 'Gusse Ho Ke Nahiyo Sarna', 'Jatti Hadd Sekhdi', 'Gunday Ik Vaar Fer', 'Peg Paun Wele', 'Gedi Route', 'Shona Shona', and 'Habit'. She also has 'Sab First Class' in the pipeline.

CROSSWORD

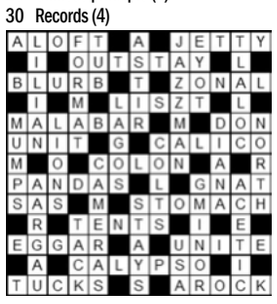


ACROSS

1 Hot water spring (6)
7 Minor - legally speaking (8)
8 Denomination (4)
10 Young ones of cows (6)
11 Finds repugnant (6)
14 Feel sick (3)
16 Back streets (5)
17 Judicial garment (4)
19 Venetian Magistrates (5)
21 Retract (5)
22 No bid (1,4)
23 Prefix for wine (4)
26 Employees (5)
28 Towboat (3)
29 Be ambitious (6)
30 One of the Jacksons (2,4)
31 Catch dropper's remark (4)
32 Toasting (8)
33 Surgeon's thread (6)

DOWN

1 Dealer in foodstuffs (6)
2 Singer Nicks (6)
3 Sticking places (4)
4 Famous football arena in London (7)
5 The conductor's wand (5)
6 "The Cat in the Hat" author (5)
8 Thick piece (4)
9 Animator's unit (3)
12 Possesses (3)
13 Rule over (5)
15 Dominating (5)
18 Leaves out (5)
19 Genetic-code molecule (3)
20 Step on it to drive faster ? (3)
21 Candid (7)
22 _ _ Loved You: Song from Carousel (2,1)
23 Yield (6)
24 Selves - "goes" anagram ? (4)
25 Make possible (6)
26 Brazilian ballroom dance (5)
27 Pinafore (5)
28 Chinese principle (3)
30 Records (4)



Solution to November 4

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Solution to November 4

Mrunal Thakur showcases hilarious post eye make-up struggles

Bollywood actress Mrunal Thakur showcased a very relatable make-up struggle and added a sprinkle of humour to it.

Mrunal took to Instagram, where she shared a video of herself standing in front of a mirror after doing her make-up for a shot. As she's called to set, the actress absentmindedly rubs her eye, only to realise the grave mistake she's made. She quickly tries to fix her eye make-up, but all in vain.

Mrunal wrote as the caption: "Eye tried my best!"

The actress is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai', which is now set to release on June 5, 2026. The film also stars Varun Dhawan and Pooja Hegde in pivotal roles.

For those who do not know, 'Hai Jawani Toh Pyaar Hona Hai' is a hit song from David Dhawan's film "Biwi No 1", featuring Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, and Sushmita Sen. The name of the forthcoming drama is believed to have been inspired from this popular track.

Touted to be a blend of a lighthearted narrative with romantic elements, "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai" reportedly shares a tale of a guy who was rejected by several women, but ends up getting help from God.

It was on October 31, when the makers of the upcoming David Dhawan's directorial "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai" announced the new release date. The film was earlier scheduled to release on April 10, 2026.

The film's production banner Tips Films on Friday morning took to Instagram and shared a vibrant announcement poster.

Varun took to his Instagram stories and shared the film, which also stars Maniesh Paul, Jimmy Sheirgill, Chunky Panday and Mouni Roy to name a few.