

“Abhivyakti” returns to Surat with most-admired performances in dance, theatre & music

Torrent Group’s UNM Foundation to hold Surat’s second edition of “Abhivyakti – The City Arts Project” on April 6-7, 2024

Surat, April 5, 2024: Abhivyakti – The City Arts Project - an initiative of UNM Foundation of the Mehta family of Torrent Group is set to return to Surat with some of the most-admired performances in theatre, dance and music genres. After successfully completing first edition in Surat in February 2023, Abhivyakti will organise its second edition for the city on **6th and 7th April, 2024**.

The two-day festival will be organised under the banner of Abhivyakti Surat under the theme of “Every Story Matters”. The performances that will be showcased are specially selected from the most-admired performances of Abhivyakti’s Edition-5 that was held in Ahmedabad during November-December 2023.

The performances on the first day, i.e. 6th April include Vaishali Gohil’s musical performance “Saptapadi ni Fatanabaji” and a dance performance by Shraddha, Pankhi, Pari Brahmhatt titled “Hasli”. On the second day, i.e. 7th April, the musical performance by Sumant-Aalap titled “Advaitam” will be showcased followed by a theatre performance “Bapuji Ni Chhelli Ichchha” by Ravi Ughrejiya.

All the performances will be organised at “**SCET Amphitheatre, Sarvajanik University Campus, Surat**” and the entry is **open to all**.

The performances have been curated by leading art curators including Bhargav Purohit in Music, Chirag Modi in Theatre and Jaimil Joshi in Dance along with Kathanki Raval Sheth as the assistant curator for Dance. The performances under this edition of Abhivyakti were mentored by the celebrated names in the art fraternity, Daksha Sheth (Dance), Rajat Dholakia (Music) and Saumya Joshi (Theatre).

Since its launch in Ahmedabad in 2018, this one-of-its-kind arts project has witnessed participation from over 330 artists from across India on a platform provided by the UNM Foundation’s initiative. Over the years, Abhivyakti has gained scale and admiration as more than 2.8 lakh have already witnessed the performances across all the past editions in the four cities. The UNM Foundation had also organised two-day events in Surat (February 2023), Vadodara (September, 2023 & February, 2024), and Rajkot (March, 2024).

In this latest edition, Abhivyakti Surat attempts to bring forth and breathe life into stories and tell us that **#EveryStoryMatters**. This will bring forth the diverse voices and perspectives that converge in the vast tapestry of human stories.

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The audience entry to the festival is open-to-all on first come, first served basis. The programme schedule for the opening day is as follows:

Location: <u>SCET Amphitheatre, Sarvajanik University Campus, Surat</u>				
Sr	Artists	Act	Art Form	Time
	Performance Schedule for 6th April 2024			
1.	Vaishali Gohil	“Saptapadi Ni Fatanabaji”	Music	07:15 pm
2.	Shraddha, Pankhi and Pari	“ Hasli ”	Dance	09:00 pm
	Performance Schedule for 7th April 2024			
1.	Sumant- Aalap	“Advaitam”	Music	07:15 pm
2.	Ravi Ughreja	“Bapuji ni Chelli Iccha”	Theatre	09:00 pm

The introduction of the artists and the acts to be performed:

“Saptapadi ni Fatanabaji” by Vaishali Gohil – 6th April at 7.15 pm : Vaishali Gohil began her Lagna Geet journey in 2008, seamlessly blending tradition with modernity. Her performance will offer a curated collection of Fatana (a format of wedding songs) that encompasses both timeless classics and modern renditions. Her aim is to preserve and transmit the vibrant essence of traditional Indian weddings, fostering an appreciation for their cultural richness among the newer generations. Vaishali and her team has also graced the historic moment with their melodious songs while a Guinness Book World Record was set under honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s presence for 551 Samuh Lagna.

“Hasli” by Shraddha, Pankhi and Pari – 6th April 9.00 pm : Shraddha Brahmhatt, kathak dancer will portray the inner struggles of Sexual Abuse Survivors through her performance “Hasli”. She along with her two daughters Pankhi and Pari who are also Kathak dancers, seek to portray the inner turmoil of sexual abuse survivors, emphasizing the importance of breaking the silence. Inspired by Jignesh Brahmhatt’s 1994 Gujarati poem, the production combines contemporary and classical Kathak dance to convey this poignant narrative.

“Advaitam” by Sumant-Aalap – 7th April 7.15 pm: The musician duo Sumant - Aalap will present a captivating fusion of diverse world music forms in their "Advaitam" show. This Captivating Fusion of World Music Forms will attempt to convey the principle of non-duality, equating it with the unity found in music. They skillfully express a range of emotions – happiness, sadness, fear, and anger – through various world music styles, including Hindustani, African, Latin, and Bossa Nova through their captivating sound

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engineering. K. Sumant is a versatile pianist, while Aalap Kikani is a computer engineer with a background in Hindustani classical music and sound engineering.

“Bapuji ni Chhelli Ichchha” by Ravi Ughrejiya – 7th April 9.00 pm: Award-winning theatre artist Ravi Ughrejiya will showcase his theatre production titled “Bapuji Ni Chhelli Ichchha” - set in the heart of Kathiyawad (Saurashtra), unfolding the narrative of the poignant tale of an elderly man in the twilight of his life, and the frantic efforts of his family to fulfill his final wish. The performance will give the audience the taste of different folk musical elements such as Dohas, Chhand, and Bhajans weaved into the story narration. This blend of multiple folk art forms not only enriches the experience of the audience but also amplifies its emotional impact.

About Abhivyakti - The City Arts Project:

Abhivyakti - The City Arts Project is an endeavor of UNM Foundation of Mehta Family of the Torrent Group, which envisions making art an integral part of the social fabric, by enabling access for audiences without constraint of location, thresholds (physical and individual) and social or economic strata by free entry.

Towards such a vision the mission is to identify and support budding talent. And then provide the appropriate platform for these artists of all genre to present their craft to the city and its populace. With the second edition for the city, Abhivyakti Surat, further extends the chapter in the Art and Cultural Landscape of Surat and as a festival to look forward to.

Abhivyakti encompasses many myriad art forms ranging from dance, music, painting, photography, installations and theatre. Abhivyakti aims at bringing international quality art to the people, absolutely free.

The art lovers can log on to www.abhivyaktiart.org for event schedule or Dial 7069104444/7069105555 for the performance of their choice.

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