

Annual Report for the year 2016-2017

Rabindra Natya Sanstha celebrates the birth of Rabindra Nath Tagore

156th birth centenary of Rabindra Nath Tagore was celebrated by Rabindra Natya Sanstha on 8th May 2016. Mr. Subhash Dutta the chairman of Gobardanga Municipality, was started the celebration, giving garland to the statue of Rabindra Nath Tagore. The opening song was presented by the artists of 'Gobordanga Prayas' who were orphan children. Many respectable persons were present there. They were, Pabitra Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Sree Bindu Das, Pradip Bhattacharya, Swapan Das, Joydeb Bhattacharaya, Rasmohon Dutta and others. Mr Subhash Dutta told about the child period of the poet. He praised the incessant activities of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. Pabitra Kumar Mukhapadhyay. Pradip Bhattacharya and others spoke about the poet from various directions. Rupa Khan, Rani Nath, Aritra Gain, Tuskar Dey Puja Mondal, Sathi Mondal, Subhradipta Das were the music students of Rabindra Natya Sanstha music division and they sang brilliantly. Swapan Das was the music director. The students of dance division of Rabindar Natya Sanstha performed the dance programmes. Soumi Mukherjee, Sanchita Dutta, Sudipa Sarder, Mousumi Paul, Smriti Chakraborty, Rituparna Mukherjee and Tanmay Mondal were the dance programmes.

Ritupanrna Mukherjee was the dance Director. Recitations also performed by the children who were Ritayan Halder and Nilanjan Mukherjee. Exeept these the Artists of 'Prabhati Abritti Parishad' recited brilliantly. Sangeeta Majunder, Prativa Biswas and recitor Subir Chattapadhay were among them. Dance artists of 'Nataraj Nritya Gosthi' performed their Dance programmes. Sukddeb Aich was the Director of that Dance Programme. Mr. Prodip Bhattacharjee anchored the entire programme.

Children's Theatre Workshop, Organised by Rabindra Natya Sanstha

10 days Children's theatre workshop had been completed on 31st May 2016 which was started on 22nd May 2016. Rabindra Natya Sanstha was organised this workshop. Mukul Bandyapadhyay a senior theatre master started that workshop at Gobardanga Sree Chaitayanna High School. Rasmohon Dutta an aged journalist, retired teacher Pabitra Mukhopadhyay local Municipal Councillor Basanti Bhowmik and other honourable cultured persons were present there in that inauguration session.

50 school students of Gobardanga and associate areas performed like previous years with great enthusiasm. A distinguished ex-student of Rabindra Bharati University and Theatre Researcher Mr. Sanjib Basu trained the students with immense skill about the sentence throwing, general language of body, easy conversation style etc. Subjects. Buddhadeb Roy and Soumi Banerjee trained the students about how they could utilize the waste goods making beautiful things. Mr. Biswanath Bhattacharjee the head of the organisation trained them every day in the midsession about concentration, supervision, imagination, tune –rhythm etc. Biswanath Bhattacharjee moreover taught the students emphasised on humanity, sense of duty and civic sense. The trained students played a theatre on the stage in front of gurdians and other people on Tuesday 31st May 2016.

At the end of the training the organisers gave the certificates to the participators. Ranjan Gongopadhyay, Avik Bhattacharaya , Ranen Chakraborty and other quality persons were present there on the last day.

Experimental District Children Festival-2016-17 Programme Report

❖ Rakhi Bandhan Utsab (Raksha Bandhan) Phase -I

The Rakhi Bandhan Utsav has been completed by the Rabindra Natya Sanstha with great enthusiasm. This festival is a joyful festival to the people of Gobardanga. Rabindra Natya Sanstha has transformed this festival to "*Experimental District children Festival*" phase –I. The Children artists of Rabindra Natya Sanstha have tied the Rakhi to the people

(almost 4 thousands) in the morning of 18.08.2016 demonstrated Song Dances and Recitations. Journalist Rasmohan Dutta, Basudeb Mukherjee, Pabitra Mukhopadhyay, Joydeb Bhattacharya, Swapan Das, Alokanda Basu, Prabir Majunder, Malay Biswas and other honorable persons were present in that occasion. Priti Roy. Subhradipti Das, Priyabrata Joardar, Tithi Dey song a few marvelous songs,. Ritupanna Mukherjee, Smriti Chakraborty, Rumki Dey, Mousumi Pal, Sudipa sarder, Riya Banik, Soumi Mukherjee, Ispita Gain and Priya Das performed a few mind blowing dances. Pradip Bhattacharya anchors the programme in full.

❖ State level Theatre workshop of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. Phase -II

Rabindra Natya Sanstha fervors the “*Experimental District Children Festival*” and 2nd phase “State level Theatre Workshop” was held according to that state level workshop was started on 7th September 2016 at Ichapur High school. 25 Students of Ichapur High school were Participated in this workshop. The main trainer of the workshop was Soumyajit Adhikary and the camp supervisor was Biswanath Bhattacharjee. Soumajit Adhikary built a play about the concentration, friendship and various physical exercises and games. This was a story of a boy who left the school and how he became a good person,. Once that boy placed himself as no one in the games and sports, many prize he acquired from sports competition. He had to started work in his child hood for this poverty. As a child laborer he could not do a maximum work and for that reason his income was very limited. Abhishek choose the way at stealing because he could not maintain his family by his little income. One day Abhishek went to steal but police ran after him. Being snubbed he entered into his School where the students were busy in rehearsal of a drama for the festival of gold centenary of their school. After that he participated in the gold centenary torch bearing run. At that time a song “Aguner Parashmoni Chhoao Prane” was singing by a group of students and Abhishek took an oath that he would go all along his life through honesty and truth. Director Biswanath Bhattacharjee told that they had organized that work shop to show the way of justice and truth for those who had lost their ways here and there like Abhishek in the society. Every participant got the certificate and it was assumed that next workshop would be held in the Coochbihar District.

❖ **Antaranga Theatre-1. Phase -III**

Rabindra Natya Sanstha has been working for long twenty years with and for the downtrodden children and marginal economic class children. This organization also doing the works with the slum children, Road side children, and child laborers. Child theatre artist sujan Das has died Suddenly and Rabindra Natya Sanstha in arranged an “an Antaranga theatre” in his memory. Dated on 25 September 2016. At first one minute silence was preserved in the memory of Sujan Das and offered a floral tribute on the image of Sujan Das. The Secretary of Bhabana Theatre, Mr. Abhik Bhattacharya in inaugurated the programme with lighting a lamp, Local councilor Basanti Bhowmik, Rasmohan Dutta, Niresh Bhowmik, Bishnu Sarkar and others were present there. Inaugurator Abhik Bhattacharya told that Rabindra Natya Sanstha had been doing that works for twenty years with the children and many children artists then established in many places . He also told that Rabindra Natya Sanstha was nothing but a seeding room and had been teaching the primary technique of theatre among the children. Councilor Basanti Bhowmik welcomed the fervor of Rabindra Natya Sanstha and told that she would always with them. Antarnaga theatre of Rabindra Natya Sasnthas was the 3rd phase of *“Experimental District Children Festival”*

The first play of Antaranga Theatre was “Satti Rajar Deshe” of Rabindra Natya Sanstha was written by Moinak Sengupta and Director was Biswanath Bhattacharjee. A mime show was performed by “Abon Mime” which Director was Aniruddha Ghosh.” ‘Hat Ganana’ another Drama of Rabindra Natya Sanstha was also performed on that stage. That play was written by Mainak Sengupta and Directed by Biswanath Bhattacharya

The crowd was gathered in and out of the Rabindra Natya Sanstha building to observe that 3rd phase of festival. At the same time the large crowd also proved that the Gobardanga city is a city of Theatre.

❖ **Antararanga Theatre- 2. Phase -IV**

Antararanga Theatre festival was the fourth stage of *“Experimental District Children Festival”* which was implemented by Rabindra Natya Sanstha Gobardanga. Dated on 28 October 2016. Many theatre loving persons including Basudeb Mukhopadhyay and Rasmohan Dutta were present on that occasion.

Biswanath Bhattacharjee told that festival was the bijaya festival as because that was after the Durga Puja. Salutation or hugging was abolished in our society. They wanted to reestablish that culture or tried to teach that custom among the children. Basudeb Mukhopadhyay , Rashmohan Dutta and others remitted their valuable speeches. At first 'Durga Bivrat' a new and remarkable production of Rabindra Natya Sanstha Was performed on the stage. Durga was falling in problem on the way to the Earth from the heaven. Durga would finish the jeopardy of humans where she was in trouble. This play teaches the children to be self depended. The lost incense-pot dance is the main attraction of this play. After that imon Mime centre performed their mime on basis of chorer kirti, Neta etc. At last "Sakshi Seyal" named drama was performed by the artists of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. In that play the little players show their extraordinary theatre performance. This is an enjoyable production of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. The base story of this drama was written by Upendra Kishor Roychowdhary and the production is memorable to all.

Every spectator took the sweet candy for Bijaya and everybody show their cordial well wish to Rabindra Natya sanstha.

❖ Craft and Art Workshop of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. Phase -V

Fifth phase of "*Experimental District Children Festival*" of Rabindra Natya Sanstha was the craft and Art workshop . Gobardanga Municipality councilor Basanti Bhomik was inaugurated the workshop on 5th November 2016. The eminent painters Mr. Chandan Bhattacharjee, PainterSamar Ghosh, Teacher Pabitra Mukherjee and other persons were present there. Mr. Biswanath Bhattacharjee told that there had a sedation between drawing and theatre. The children would find out that sedation according to their wish. The children would be involved themselves in the midst of painting and would search out the new language of relation. Councilor Basanti Bhowmik gave honor to the fervor of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. She remitted her speeches for there that the workshop of craft and Art would show an another way to the students. Surya Das, Rita Roy, Bhowmik Sarkar were the trainsers of that two days(5th & 6th Novemer 2016) Art & Craft workshop. Mr. Pabitra Kumar Mukherjee said, 'Rabindra Natya Sanstha may claim further praise for their fantastic fervour' Samar Ghjosh said "this work shop will show a new way to the students and from where they may establish in their lives"

Mr. Biswanath Bhattacharya said on the 6th November 2016, the last day of the workshop, "this workshop will be successful when the students will find out their own language through these craft and drawing when the painting will speak with them and become word and sentence" Certificates were given to 39 participants. The language of theatre became sixes and sevens with the song of "We shall overcome".

Year ending programme of Rabindra Natya Sanstha

Rabindra Natya Sanstha Gobardanga was organised the yearending festival for two days on and from 30th December to 31st December 2016. Subhash Dutta the chairman of gobardanga municipality ward commissioner Biswanath Biswas, Ratna Biswas the commissioner of ward No. 12. Pabitra Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Rashmohon Dutta, Palash Mondal, Sanjit Saha Swapan Das and other designated persons were present there. Drawing competition was held on 30th December at 9.30am. more than 100 children and youths were participated there ten best child artists were awarded. The ten best participants were Nishita Mondal, Subhajit Roy, Chirantan Biswas, Moinak Mondal, Atasi Pal, Susmita Pal, Soumita Biswas. Joy Halder, Trisha Bal and Titirsa Pal. Folk song Competition was held on the first day at 12noon. This competition was held by two groups. 1) Lalon Bivag : Participants were under 15 years. 2) Abbasuddin Division:- General division-50 folk singers came in this competition Sathi Mondal stood first, Nandini Das Mondal stood 2nd and Sunil Biswas stood 3rd position. 60 competitors participated in the Lalon division. Avik Roy stood 1st, Puja Mondal stood 2nd and Tithi Dey stood 3rd in this division.

The students of dance division of Rabindra Natya Sanstha performed their dance programme in the evening of 30th December 2016. The students of dance division were Mousumi Pal, Sudipa Sarder, Smriti Chakrabarty, Jui Das and Tonmoy Mondal. Rituparna Mukherjee and Tanmay Mondal Directed that Dance Programme. The songs accompanied by Solanki Joarder, Ratna Biswas and the artist of "Sanskar Bharati" Gobardanga Branch. The last Programme of 30th December was "Asol Ghughu" New play of Rabindra Natya Sanstha Gobardanga, Santanu Bandayopadhyay was the writer and Director was Tanmay Mondal. The Next theatre of that night was "Satti Rajar Deshe"

Mainak Sengupta was writer and Biswanath Bhattacharjee was the Director. This drama was built by the assistance of the Ministry Of Culture Govt. of India.

31st September 2016 was the 2nd and last day of that year ending programme was started at 6 p.m. The prize giving ceremony was started and Pabitra Kumar Mukherjee, Sanjit Saha, Rashmohon Dutta, Palash Mondal distributed the prizes among the successful candidates. Puja Mondal, Tithi Dey Sathi Mondal and Sunil Biswas did chorus songs and solo. The new scintillating production “Durga Bivrat” was performed by the artists of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. The play had written and directed by Biswanath Bhattacharya. The three productions of Rabindra Natya Sanstha “Satti Rajar Deshe” “Asol Ghughu” and “Durga Bivrat” Mesmerised the audience. Approx 1000 spectators were present there every day of that two days programme. The audience appreciated that year ending programme of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. The people also requested to the authority of Rabindra Natya Sanstha to do that programme in every year.

Saraswati Puja observed

All the active members of Rabindra Natya Sanstha like the previous years’ celebrated Saraswati puja on the 1st February 2017. All of them paid their tribute i.e. Anjali to the Goddess of learning and there after organized a beautiful cultural programme in which their performance in song, recitation, dance etc. was superb. The programme ended with distribution of sweets and Prasad among one and all. Indeed it was an experience with a difference for all present there.

Picnic

A picnic was held on 29.01.2017 in the premises Gobardanga Jaminder Bari. All the Students and the members of Rabindra Natya Sanstha Gobardanga Participated with joy and laughter. Beside a cultural programme among all of them was held at the picnic ground.

“Gobardanga Rang Mahotsab”

(Celebration of World Theatre Day)

“Gobardanga Rang Mahotsab” was held on 26th March 2017 by the endeavour of Rabindra Natya Sanstha. This Programme was started at 10 A.M. with seat and draw competition and a seminar where Avik Bhattacharya the editor of “Bhabna Theatre”, Somnat Raha, Jibon Adhikary , Md. Selim and Joydeep Biswas were present on the stage of Nibedita sishu Tirtha School near Gobardanga sation. This seminar was conducted by Santanu Dey the founder of Nibedita Sishu Tirtha School. The Subject of the seminar was ‘contemporary mofussil Theatre and audience’ and every speaker remits his speeches beautifully on this subject. Ex-teacher Mr. Tripureshwar Bhattacharya lit the lamp and inaugurated this theatre festival on the main stage at sarkarpara Akhilpally ‘Muktadhara’ stage on 27th March 2017. The opening day’s plays were Chabi(Key) of Rabindra Natya Sanstha, Composer Sailen Ghosh, Director Rituparna Mukherjee, It was a unique Production where the Dramatist told about the eradication of depravity and rearing of refinement. The last play of the first day was ‘Sondori Katha’ a magnificent Production of ‘Udichi Gobardanga’. The dramatist was salim Aldin and director was joydeep Biswas. ‘Open stage theatre’ was performed at the courtyard of Media Chhatrakalyan Samity on the second day 28th March, 2017 at 11 A.M. as a part of ‘Gobardanga Rang Mahotsav’ –the first play of that open stage theatre was ‘Ukiler Buddhi’ which was performed by the children of BibekBithi Sishu sikkha Niketan, This play was written by Sukumar Roy and directed by Mousumi Dey. It was a beautiful play and superbly performed by the children of that school The Second play was “Durgh Bivrat” at Rabindra Natya Sanstha, Composed and Directed by Biswanath Bhattachrjee. This folk-style child-teen production mesmerized the audience in full. The evening session of that day was started at the ‘Main Stage’ Muktodhara of “Rang Mahotsav” where ‘Gobardanga Swapnochar’ performed their play “Kujjhatika” Md. Selim was the composer and Director ‘Gobardanga Swapnochar Presented a fantastic production in all direction. The second play of that evening was

“Bhagya Lakshmi” performed by ‘Rang Taal Theatre’ of Halisahar. It had another technical subject which was the allegory of puppet theatre and it carried the maximum appreciation from the audience.

29th March 2017, the last day of ‘Gobardanga Rang Mahotsav’ was really a memorable day to all. Rabindra Natya Sanstha devoted their reverence as guru Pranam to Mr. Bivas Chakraborty, a legendary personality in the field of theatre. Biswanath Bhattacharya the president of Rabindra Natya Sanstha Gobardanga showed his gratitude to this unequal personality with a memento of Sujan Smriti. Prokash Bhattacharjee, Ashis Chattopadhyay, Ashis Das, Avi Chakraborty, Dipa Brahma and Dipanwita Banik Das also present there.

Bibhas Chakraborty was over whelmed in wonder to see that the authority of ‘Rabindra Natya Sanstha Gobardanga, had drawn the theatre from the brick-stone Building to the interior part of the village among the daily labourers through the Gobardanga Rang Mahotsab. He thinks that it is a magnificent and excellent effort by Rabindra Natya Sanstha and he wishes the success and long life of Gobardanga Rang Mahotsab. On this auspicious day, Dum Dum Candid theatre performed their “Barna Biparjoy” play. This play was composed by Mohit Chattopadhyay and directed by Sudipto Bhuia. The last play of that last day was ‘Mahavaroter Yuddha’ of Gobardanga Repertory Theatre, Written by Indra Nath Bandyopadhyay and directed by Tripti Kumar Chakraborty. The audience appreciated this ancient Bengal folk art related play.

Entering the fiction of colour discrimination in the story of mahavararta, Gobardanga Repertory Theatre had produced an excellent Production. Daily spectators of this Gobardanga Rang Mahotsav were full of joy and number. Any man could ask the question to the directors directly at the director’s meet, spectator’s could give their comment. Except book and magazine stalls there were other arrangements to entertain the audience and others. The local people and invitees will be memorised this glorious ‘Gobardanga Rang Mahotsab’ expected for further decade.

