

Clip: 1 of 1

COMING UP

GET SET FOR THE THIRD EDITION OF EMAMI CULTURAL FIESTA, IN ASSOCIATION WITH ₹2

The Wadali Brothers and Rekha Bhargwa were greeted by loud cheers last year. And who can forget the magical *jugalbandi* between Pandit Birju Maharaj and Shivamani in 2014... or the high notes that the Sobri Brothers hit with songs like *Dama dam mast kalandar* and *Chadha suraj dheera dheere?* Will the third year of Emami Cultural Fiesta (ECF) be bigger? Well, let's wait and watch!

"Emami Cultural Fiesta is all about presenting variety to lovers of the performing arts. Since the first edition, it has been our conscious effort to make it a mixed platter of cultural genres, ranging from soft, qawwali and Bollywood hits to dance recitals and theatre (like Alyque Padamsee and Sobia Merchant in *Death of a Salesman* in 2014). Keeping true to the motto, this year we have lined up a series of pulsating musical evenings with popular Bollywood playback names Sonu Mohapatra and Papon along with the creative interlude of fusion dance by Tanusree Shankar and her troupe," says Priti A. Sureka, director, Emami Limited.

The first two editions have been an "overwhelming experience" for the organisers with eight to 80-year-olds turning up in numbers. "The presentations have been able to leave a mark in everybody's hearts. The full-house attendance proves its popularity. Not just Calcutta, they are attended by people from other parts of the country too," adds Priti. Tickets to the festival are by



TANUSREE SHANKAR & DANCE TROUPE
Date: February 16
Venue: Kala Mandir

What to expect: We know her for moving with grace and the Shankar technique. She will deliver a standout act.

invitation only while a portion of the invites will be distributed to the general public free of cost, on a first-come-first-served basis. "We strongly believe in giving back to the society where we live in. Calcutta, our hometown, is very dear to us and nothing pleases us more than to offer an annual cultural programme. The cost of ECF is completely borne by us," explains the 42-year-old. The business group, also known for its gallery Emami Chisel Art, had hosted — under the leadership of its founders R.S. Agarwal and R.S. Goenka — several cultural programmes earlier but it was only in 2014 that the annual fiesta was born. So, which of the three events is she looking forward to the most between February 11 and 22? "Each of them has a special appeal for me. Each one of them is different," is the final word.



THE LINE-UP



PAPON
Date: February 22
Venue: Science City
Strong Cal connect: As a kid, the *Moh moh ke dhaage* singer spent time on Russell Street

and in these last few months he has practically made the city his home as he keeps coming back for electrifying gigs (see Page 10)



SONU MOHAPATRA
Date: February 11
Venue: Science City
What we want to hear: A mix of her amped-up Bolly

tracks and numbers from her studio albums. *Bedardi raja* (*Dehli Belly*) and *Naina* (*Khooberaat*) and *Azhi nahin aana sajna...*?