

A song and dance for a colour

EVENT The dance ballet, Memory of Indigo, left the audience asking for more



IN SYNC The dancers present Memory of Indigo PHOTO: P. V. SIVAKUMAR

The sun had just about set and the twilight blue, or should we say indigo, took over as the perfect backdrop for a short, crisp dance ballet – Memory of Indigo – on Thursday evening. Musicians took their respective places on the periphery of the tilted, disc-shaped stage (put up by T. K. Dhar) in contrasting hues of blue and white. Six dancers, each with a fabric dyed using indigo draped over themselves, took their positions on stage. The notes from the flautist wafted through, as the dancers depicted the formation of life from the stage of a cocoon. What begins as a slow but mellifluous representation of the celebration of life transforms into a celebration of

the use of one of the oldest natural dyes, indigo.

The dancers were soon joined on stage by six others to present a symbolic dance ballet directed by artist Nasser Sourmi. The dancers took on the demanding task of forming patterns on stage purely with fabric. The 12 dancers beneath a large canvas of indigo and white fabric complimented the impressive setting. The hour-long ballet was accompanied by lilting tunes from expatriates who are members of the Isha Foundation. The young dancers, from Ananda Shankar's dance school and other dance institutions in the city, walked away with all the applauses. It was a limited gathering of delegates that watched the show at

the International Symposium on Natural dyes, but the performance was a winner.

SDK

Looking back...

Why all the attention on the colour indigo, do you wonder?

For the uninitiated, it is one of the earliest colours discovered by mankind.

The dye was naturally extracted from the plants like indigo, woad or even seashells.

The natural indigo dye was used on the popular blue denims before being replaced by synthetic alternatives in the early 20th century.

Historians trace back the use of indigo to the fourth century BC.



*Honeymoon?
Come to
Pachmarki*

