Dhaatu Navaratra Mahotsava -2016

Thousands of traditional Indian dolls size varying from 1 inch to 11 feet are displayed telling various stories.

1.This year the main stage depicts – Subhadra Parinaya , a story from the Mahabharata and Bhagavatha. Here, Arjuna disguses himself a sanyasi and elopes with Subhadra the sister of Krishna.

In the scene eight queens of Krishna, Balarama & his wife Revati and the people of the town are seen along with subhadra, Krishna and Arjuna.

These are Gowri dolls of Karnataka , made of wood and decorated. They measure about 3 feet in height.

2. Traditional steps – has many icons of Gods, artists , sages historical heroes. Here we place the male and female dolls depicting universal energies. In front is a pot filled with water , leaves and coconut- symbolizing creation. This is sustained for nine nights – nava ratra. On the tenth day we make these dolls sleep symbolizing Laya or destruction. The dolls here are a reflection of life. A four generation collection can be seen.

3. Mahabharata- Has the story of Mahabharata – a representation of all 18 chapters and the war formations and telling of the Bhagavad Geeta depicted

4. Ramayana- Has representation of all 7 chapters

5. Shiva Purana – Has stories of Shiva and depiction of Kasi on the banks of river Ganga

6. Krishna Leel – has stories of the life of Krishna

7. Dashavatara merry go round

8. Durga

9. Krishna & Rukmini playing dice

10. European dolls

11. Krishna deva raya

12. Temples and village culture of India

13 Puppets

14 Stuffed toy totem-pole

15. Mysore Dussera procession

16 . Puppet of Karnataka

17. Large Guard dolls

18. Guard dolls in the cart

Vijayanagara Vaibhava- The story of this land known as Karnataka today.

Act 1

The show opens with Saint Kanakadasa calling out to all to come and see the glory of Karnataka - Vijayanagara. The first known king of those regions- Sugreeva's story is featured along with the meeting of Rama and Hanuman. Period is Treta Yuga.

Act 2.

It is now Kali Yuga.

Chieftains Harihara and Bukka being guided by Madhavacharya ( later Vidyaranya) to establish the Vijayanagara Kingdom. They find a situation where a hunting dog is chased by a rabbit. Madhava Guru tells them to establish the empire of Vijayanagara and fight the moughal invaders.Goddess Bhuvaneshwari blesses them by showering gold coins

Act 3

This is followed with the introduction of Krishnadevaraya. Chinnadevi dances with all her fineries. Krishnadevaraya falls in love with this dancer. Tradition dictates that the first wife has to be of royal lineage. He marries Tirumalamba first and then Chinnadevi.

The seige of the fort of Udayagiri is a choreographed bit to percussion. The ashtadiggajas of his court are mentioned.

Next come the musical geniuses of those times- Purandara Dasa and Kanaka Dasa. While Purandara writes the Pillari Geete – the foundations of methodology of teaching Carnatic music, , Kanaka is shown writing the Mohanatarangini followed by a Kolata ( folk dance with sticks) This is followed by a wrestling match at the mahanavami dibba. Then the audience get to witness the glorious market scene of Vijayanagar where precious gems were sold in the streets.

Act 4

All these glorious fetes are not lost to us today. It continues in the Mysore Durbar..... Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar is featured next . He is the patron of dance ( an Ashtapadi is danced for by a puppet- 3ft tall) and music ( a veena concert is presented)....not to miss the Jambu savari- a motorized display of the Dussera procession.

These traditions now live with the common people of Karnataka.