**Press Release**

**Dhrupad Vocal classical performance by Sunita Amin**

**Martial Dance ‘Mayurbhanj Chow’**

**3 DAY ‘NATIONAL CLASSICAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL’ BEGINS AT CITY PALACE**

**Jaipur, 05 April**: Gunijankhana (Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh Jaipur Museum Society) in association with Jaipur Citizen’s Forum and Jagriti organized a three day ‘National Performing Arts Festival’ from today onwards. The event is sponsored by Department of Art and Culture, Government of Rajasthan. The festival was formally inaugurated by the traditional lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest of the evening, ETV Rajasthan, Head, Mr. Jagdish Chandra; Chairperson, Jaipur Citizen Forum (JCF) and Chairperson, Jagriti, Mr. J.K. Jajoo.

The festival kicked off with Sunita Amin’s Dhrupad vocal classical performance.  She began her performance by a song based on ‘Raag Yaman’ and ‘Bandish Chautaal’. The music has also been composed by Amin herself. This is the first time a classical performer gave a Dhrupad performance on a creation based on Bhagvad Gita. Her next  performance was based on ‘Raag Sohni’ composed by Tansen, the lyrics of which were ‘Aavan Keh Gaye Ajahu na Aaye’. Amin has been trained by Zia Fariduddin Dagar and Baha'ud'din Mohiuddin Dagar.

This was preceded by a performance of 12 students of Netraheen Kalyan Sangh on ‘Raag Bhopali’.

After the Dhrupad performance, an Odissi Martial dance performance took place. Two items of ‘Mayurbhanj Chow’ were rendered in this. The word ‘Chow’ is derived from ‘Chavni’. This 150 - 200 year old tribal dance form originated in ‘Shaanti Kaal’.  In this the artistes performs different acrobatics and postures. It is to be noted that mask is not used in this performance. ‘Shiv Tandav’ by Deebar Nayak and ‘Saagar Sangam’ by Rama Naayik and Suprava Raot was also performed.

A special exhibition ‘Women in Music’ will also be displayed highlighting the women singers of the Indian Sub-Continent in the past 150 years.

Tomorrow on 6 April, an Odissi dance performance will be given by Janhabi Behera. It will be followed by a Bharatnatyam performance by Mallika & Revanta Sarabhai. On 7 April, a Bharatnatyam performance will be rendered by Rakesh K P followed by a Dhrupad vocal musical performance by Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar. The entry is open to all. The program starts at 6.30 pm.