

Azamgarh music tradition regales city

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Lucknow: Audience was in for an audio-visual treat of an unusual kind on Saturday at the ongoing Azamgarh Mahotsava with 'Tridhara', a musical event provided stage to instrumentalists from Hariharpur, a village of performers who have kept their tradition of Indian classical music alive for more than 700 years. "Tridhara is a tradition of three different musical trios coming together to present a raga," said vocalist Pandit Bholanath Mishra.

Tabla artiste Vishwanath Mishra attributed it to the Hindu philosophy and faith of trinity. "Life came into being with coming together of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. Tridhara exemplifies brotherhood and peaceful existence," he said. Another artiste explained that music reaches a pinnacle when it achieves the state of 'sangam' as in case

of Ganga, Jamuna and Saraswati.

Several centuries ago Harinam Das and his brothers who founded Hariharpur visited the darbar of Raja Azam Shah, the king of Azamgarh and presented a musical recital. The king was impressed and gave them 989 bigha land and asked them to impart training of music. Their 41 successor families in this village have kept the tradition of vocal and instrumental music alive.

Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development founder S K Mishra said, "We didn't believe it when we were told to pick up anyone villager randomly and he would sing or play." Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav who visited the festival named three villages known for music, pottery and weaving—Hariharpur, Mubarakpur and Nizamabad, respectively—and said they will get round-the-clock power supply and their handicrafts will be promoted.

Manoj Chhabra



Artistes perform at a musical event held at