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TODAY'S PAPER » NATIONAL » NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI, December 18, 2013

Interpreting Princess Draupadi from the perspective of contemporary woman

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To create awareness among Delhiites about the rich heritage of the Panchala region, the Draupadi Trust, a non-profit organisation that has completed 10 years, is hosting cultural events across the Capital these days.

According to the Trust's spokesperson, Draupadi is the role model for a number of modern women and her role as a proud princess of Panchala is being interpreted from the perspective of



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contemporary woman.

“The status of women in our country is a matter of concern for each one of us. This is the tragedy of a rich ancient culture caught in a whirlpool of historical upheavals and multicultural bombardments. Draupadi was the princess of a culturally rich and advanced Panchala but got embroiled in a battle of political power between cousins.”

Noting that the gang-rape of the physiotherapy student last year had shaken the conscience of national and international communities, the Trust’s spokesperson said the shocking December 16 case brings back to memory incidents which mar our rich cultural civilisation and highlight the plight of liberated empowered women.

“Much is being talked about empowerment of women but any talk on women’s empowerment is incomplete without understanding the socio-cultural ethos of ancient India’s women and putting them in a proper perspective.”

Described as a tribute to the brave spirit of Princess of Panchala, “The Panchala Maha Utsava” is highlighting the rich cultural heritage of her land.

At a panel discussion titled “Revisiting Draupadi: The Socio-Cultural Challenges of Progressive Women” at IIC on Monday, the chief guest was Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Veerappa Moily. Other panellists were scholar and author of *Yoga Senini* Pratibha Ray, author of *The Queens of Mahabharata* Kavita Sharma, scholar Narendra Kohli and scholar Haripriya Rangarajan.

An exhibition on Panchala is being held at IIC till December 18. Also on the cards is an interesting event titled “Kavita Ki Shaam Panchali Ke Naam” which will see the participation of noted Bollywood lyricist and poet Javed Akhtar. It will also be held at IIC the same day.

A seminar on “Significance of Panchala: National and International” chaired by former Archaeological Survey of India Director-General Prof. B. B. Lal will be held at IIC on December 18.

At Dilli Haat, folk performances from different States and showcasing arts, crafts and exhibition were held from December 15 to 16.

The closing ceremony of “The Panchala Maha Utsav” will be held at Dilli Haat in which Union Culture Minister Chandresh Kumari Katoch will be the chief guest.

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