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## **Garba workshop**

### **Main Report**

**Name of Activity:** Garba workshop

**Name of school:** Shobhaben Pratapbhai Patel School of Pharmacy and Technology Management

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025

**Time:** 5:30pm onwards

**Venue:** 6<sup>th</sup> floor Gymkhana

The Garba Workshop, hosted by The Performing Art Department of Isthmus Urjja turned out to be a resounding success. The event was filled with energy, enthusiasm, and cultural pride, giving students and faculty a memorable experience of dance and togetherness.

The event began with a traditional Aarti, setting a devotional tone for the celebrations. The venue was beautifully decorated with festive elements that brought alive the essence of Navratri. Both girls and boys made a wonderful effort to follow the traditional dress code, girls in colourful Chaniya Cholis and boys in elegant Kurtas.

The workshop also witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all years of B.Pharm, B.Pharm + MBA, M.Pharm, M.Pharm + MBA, and Ph.D. programs, along with the active involvement of faculty members, especially Amisha ma'am and Divya ma'am. This diverse participation created an inclusive and vibrant atmosphere where everyone could celebrate the festival of Navratri through Garba together.

The 2 day workshop had the honour of having three talented and passionate trainers from Soni School of Garba Dance (SSGD), it was founded in 1998 by brothers Jigar and Suhrad Soni, is a globally recognized institute dedicated to authentic Garba training. It runs a structured 5grade syllabus, tied up with schools/colleges for academic credits, and operates in 15+ countries and 57+ cities. Recognized by UNESCO and the World Dance Council, SSGD has choreographed major events, collaborated with artists like Falguni Pathak, and continues to spread India's Garba culture worldwide.

Adding to that festive spirit, Sarvanaman Creations partnered with us as the clothing sponsor. It is a designer of luxury ethnic wear, specializing in traditional Indian garments like Chaniya Cholis for Navratri and Garba. Known for celebrity-approved designs and worldwide shipping, they also design for traditional wear, including Kurtas, Koti, and other ethnic costumes.

We were also supported by Red Bull and Max Protein, whose collaboration kept the participants both hydrated and energetic throughout the sessions. Their presence not only boosted the enthusiasm of the crowd but also reflected the spirit of youth, fitness, and celebration that defined the workshop.

The workshop began with enthusiastic participation from students, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with energy and excitement. At first, instructors arranged students in straight lines, teaching basic steps one by one with patience and clarity. After practicing thoroughly, everyone came together in circles to play Garba, which added to the festive feel. Later, many students were even seen dancing freely on their own, experimenting with moves and enjoying the rhythm. Throughout the session, the instructors were very approachable, chatting with participants, encouraging them, and quickly helping those who found it a little hard to pick up the steps.

Under the guidance of skilled trainers, participants learned a mix of traditional and modern Garba steps, beautifully blending cultural heritage with contemporary style.

The highlight of the event came on the second day, when Jigar Sir, a renowned personality in the field of Garba, joined us. Students had prepared a special performance to welcome him, which was received with great appreciation. Jigar Sir not only inspired us with his words on the importance of preserving and celebrating our culture, but also emphasized how Garba has evolved from being a regional folk dance to gaining recognition as a global art form. He even showcased some of his signature moves, leaving the audience spellbound.

The smooth execution of the workshop was possible only because of the tireless efforts of the student teams, social media, photography, logistics, and the entire executive body, who worked hard behind the scenes while also participating enthusiastically on the dance floor.

Overall, the workshop was a grand success, leaving every participant with cherished memories, improved dance skills, and a deeper connection to our cultural roots.



Inspirational words by Jigar Soni sir.



Performing the auspicious aarti.



Beautiful decorations by the FA department!



The amazing choreography by the talented trainers of SSGD

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dhruv".