

Keeping in rhythm

BY ANOOP

Mysore, Dec 1: If music brings peace to listeners, it is 'tapasya' for Manish Vyas, an internationally acclaimed musician who practically lives in musical notations and has dedicated his life to the art.

Manish, who found his life in music at the age of seven, is part of the Osho Gyanaleela Foundation at Yadavagiri in the city, which helps keep him away from the glamour and limelight of commercially successful musicians. That's where he keeps his passion for music alive -- encased as he is in the silence of the Osho meditation centre.

Born in Rajkot in Gujarat, Manish began his musical journey with the tabla and gives credit to his mother who identified his talent and passion for music.

He then met a new generation of musicians at the Osho Commune International at Pune and gave up ambitions of becoming an engineer-. "Fortunately, my destiny made me go ahead with my talent," says Manish.

The 34-year-old has already brought out six albums, Sattva being his first. From then on, there was no looking back. He has also, in asso-



ciation with fusion musicians, brought out another five albums -- 'Water down the Ganges', 'Rejoicing', 'Suffi Splendour', 'India trance' and 'Healing ragas'.

Though he makes use of rap, he says "My base is in Indian culture which helped me find myself and gave birth to my kind of music." He is especially fond of the innovations in music brought in by A R Rehman and the Colonial Cousins.

"Their input is classical while the output is innovative fusion of Western and other kinds of music, which audiences greatly appreciate," says Manish. In 2002 he won accolades from several musical legends such as Paul McCartney of the Beatles, who invited him along with Prem Joshua, a pioneer of fusion music, to perform at his wedding.

Anoushka Shankar, Grammy Award nominee and the daughter of Ravisanker, also praised his work. "You make Indian music very accessible to people," she said.

Though he began with the tabla, he later moved on to the santoor and is also proficient at the keyboard. "Music is a meditation and Osho always encourages every one to indulge in music," says Manish about his passion for Osho.