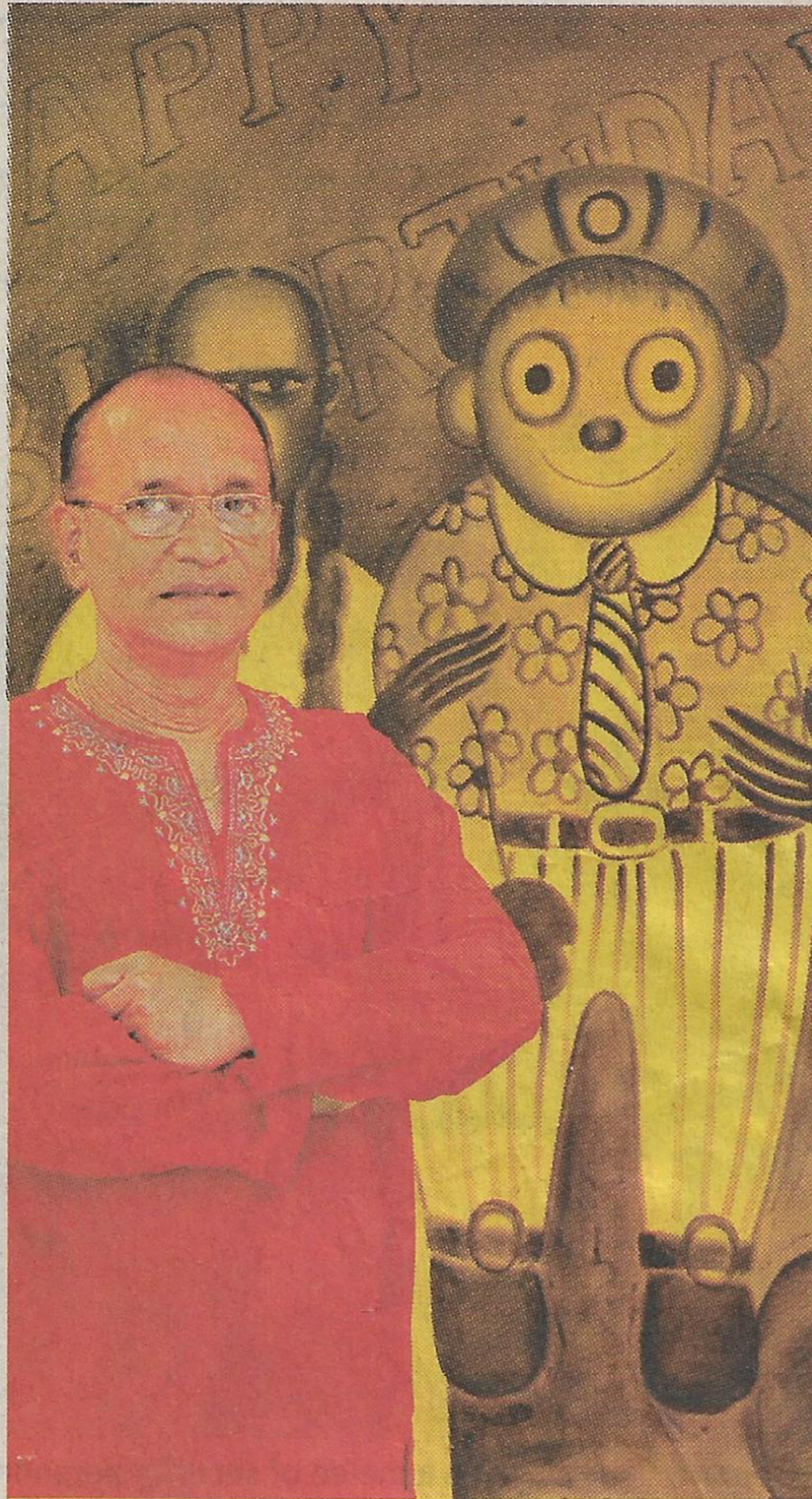


Subir Halder



The human form is at the centre of works by PR Narvekar, which are on display at Aakriti Gallery

# Extreme simplicity in monochrome

Kathakali Jana

If art is about communication, artist PR Narvekar, whose works are showing at Aakriti Gallery till March 5, achieves its highest objective. The artist uses the immense possibilities of monochrome, breaking the monotony of the colourless canvas by splashing it with shades of ochre yellow.

At the centre of Narvekar's works is the human form, which stands, sits down, bends or lies prone, interacts with other such forms and carries on with everyday life with gusto.

Nature is also an abiding presence in his works, its essence infusing his art with bracing minimalism.

"I have started using the monochrome in the last four years before which my paintings were full of colours," said Narvekar at the inauguration of the show on February 25.

The Mumbai-based artist who, at 56, has stepped out of his city for the first time with a solo exhibition, was clearly overwhelmed by the adulation

he received. "I have had a long life of struggle but at the end it is all worth it. Besides, I don't believe in getting things without working hard for them," says the artist.

The hard work shows in the spirit of experiment with colour and form. The expression is based on extreme simplicity but beyond the easy-flowing lines — thick or thin, straight or curved, continuous or broken — there is the uncomplicated rhythm of the quotidian.

A remarkable aesthetic sense seeks out beauty in postures and actions that life is incomplete without. Thus we see women practising music, washing fish before cooking, playing with their children, doing their daily chores and socialising, while men are seen talking among themselves.

The artist who had exiled himself for 23 years from art, till a chance event rekindled his desire to get back into the fold, has now made his place in the sun.

*The exhibition is on till March 5 between 3 pm and 7 pm*