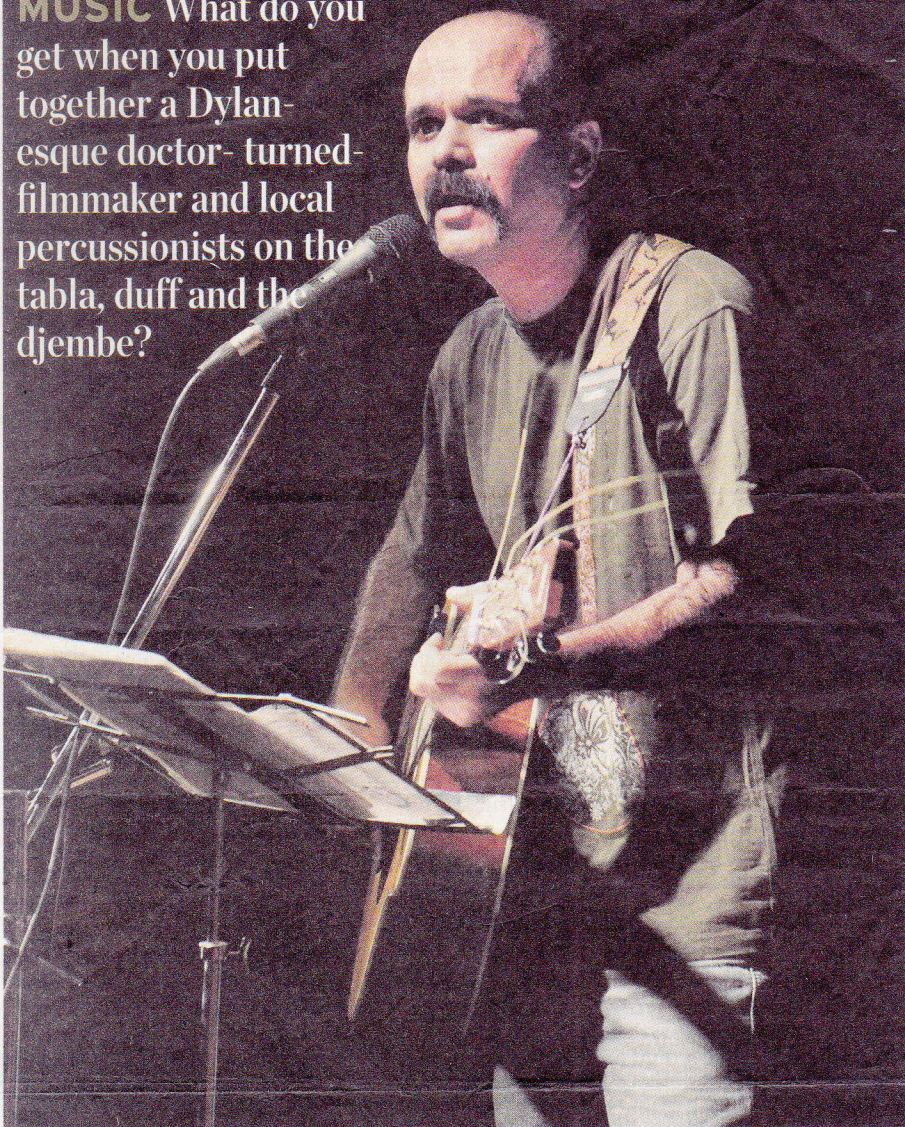


Songs for everyone

MUSIC What do you get when you put together a Dylan-esque doctor-turned-filmmaker and local percussionists on the tabla, duff and the djembe?



URBAN FOLKER Parvez Imam lets the audience take the stage PHOTO: G. RAMAKRISHNA

To call the event at Lamakaan on Thursday musical show is misleading because most shows have a performer, a stage and an audience. But when song lyrics are projected for all to see and join in and musical shakers are passed around among the audience, Parvez Imam's music was hardly restricted to the stage or the musicians. The filmmaker-cum-musician who arrived in the city from Delhi to perform solo on stage, engaged all present in interactive musical evening.

Parvez himself played the rhythm guitar and blues harp, a combination of sounds rarely heard in the city. He also played the part of facilitator, introducing every song to the audience and conducting on the spot singing lessons so they could all join him. He revealed he had met the accompanying percussionists — Sridhar on the tabla, Laxman on the daff and Ramesh on the djembe — only hours earlier but their sounds came together like only an impromptu performance by experienced musicians — dynamic and engaging.

While Parvez admits that his roots in music lie in the classical vocal training he took as a child he does not claim to be a professional

music performer.

Originally from Aligarh, he studied to become a psychiatrist but feeling the need to communicate what he saw and experienced as a psychiatrist, he took to film making. He was in the city for a screening of his film *The Waterfall* which is based on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

That the night that began with Bob Dylan ended with Faiz Ahmed Faiz says enough about the range of songs played. Every item on the playlist conveyed a message about the people who had written them or the people for whom they were written. Living up to his title, Urban Folker, he also sang songs he had picked up during his travels across Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa.

Dinga Bhashao, a Bhatiali song written by Pratul Mukhopadhyay was a mellow tune that evoked scenes of fishermen coming back home in the evenings. However, it was *Gaon chodab nahin*, a song written in protest of Bauxite mining in Orissa and *Chinchola* a Bhatiali song whose rhythm invited maximum participation from the group of children and adults present.

ZEENAB ANEEZ