

The International Magazine

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FEELINGS

DEC - JAN 2017

VOL. 9

Let's Connect

**GREEDY, GUNG HO
AND GORGEOUS**

**VIDYA
BALAN**

**NATION SPEAK
THE FUTURE OF INDIA**

**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW**

**THE VOICE OF INDIA,
LATA MANGESHKAR, AT 87**

**BHAIYYUJI
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Vijay Rupani

Chief Minister, Gujarat State

Dt. 05-01-2017

Message

Appreciation is the act of feeling the beauty around you.

A person who feels appreciated will always do more than what is expected. It is definite the people work hard with dedication and commitment, when they are motivated and guided by the inspiration.

I am happy to know that **Feelings Multimedia Ltd.** is organizing “**Feelings Pride of India Awards 2017**” and going to publish English edition of “**Feelings Magazine**” during the award ceremony. I congratulate the team of **Feelings** and all the participants of India Award 2017.

(Vijay Rupani)

To,
Shree Atulbhai Shah, CMD-Editor,
Feelings Multimedia Limited,
102-03-04, Pacific Plaza,
VIP – Road,
Karelibaug – Vadodara – 390 018
Email: info@feelingsmultimedia.com
hitechfeelings@yahoo.co.in

FEELINGS

EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Readers,

As we welcome 2017, we also bid adieu to a very eventful 2016! A lot has happened in the world and at home. Looking around us, it is obvious that something has changed in our country.

'India Shining!' What began as an advertising slogan is today seeming more and more like an undeniable reality. There's a new wind of hope, a sense of optimism and a wave of confidence. Citizens are willing to go that extra mile, and most importantly, are not asking what their country can do for them, but are willing to do what the country demands of them. That by itself is phenomenal!

In this last issue for the year of Feelings, it is this upbeat feeling of a new-found pride in our country that we seek to capture. While demonetization is the latest and largest attempt at reform, there are others happening in almost every field. A startup that aims to digitise the Indian educational system, the restoration of India's only Opera House and a progressive social initiative, Music for Vision, endorsed by Amjad Ali Khan are some such that we covered this time.

The supremely talented Vidya Balan opens up about her relationships and the ups and downs in her career in a candid interview, while India's nightingale, Lata Mangeshkar, gives us a rare glimpse of what goes on in her mind. At 87, it is her aspiration to do something meaningful for the jawans of the country.

So as the New Year messages pour in, do take some time out to think about those resolutions. Among the ones to lose those extra pounds and not shout at your children, perhaps you could also include one that in your own small way, is for the larger good. In other words, one that helps you be the change you want to see...

On that note, wishing you all a very Happy New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Atul Shah'.

Atul Shah
Editor and Publisher

FEELINGS

DEC - JAN 2017 VOL. 9 *Let's Connect*

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International Associates

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Subscription Details

Magazine Type

Atul Shah

Khyati Shah

Deepti Dedhia

Nandini Sanan Shankar

Abid Mohammed

Vijay Rohit

Ali Peter John, Sneha, Mehul Suthar

Palak Shah, Neha Udayan Jain, Nandita Derashri, Preety Sengupta, Ashesh Pandia, Aman Chhabra, Heeral Trivedi, Kaustubh Athavale

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USA | UK | Canada | Australia | Kenya | Oman | U.A.E | Malaysia

Delhi | Kolkatta | Chennai | Mumbai | Surat | Vadodara | Ahmedabad | Rajkot | Bhuj

In India: ₹ 900/- (Including courier charges & special issues)

For abroad: 100 US \$ (Air mail)

Cheque / Draft should be made in favour of "FEELINGS MULTIMEDIA LTD."

Monthly



FEELINGS
MULTIMEDIA LIMITED

Corporate Office:

102-3-104, Pacific Plaza, VIP Road, Karelbaug, Vadodara - 390 018. (Gujarat) India

Phone: +91 (265) 2489477 **Mobile:** +91 97129 45133 / 98253 28488

Email: editorial@feelingsmultimedia.com, info@feelingsmultimedia.com

Web: www.feelingsmultimedia.com

Feelings Multimedia takes no responsibility for unsolicited photographs or material.
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Printed by Lippi Printing Press for and on behalf of Feelings Multimedia Limited.
Printer Address: Lippi House, Piramitar Road, Dandia Bazar, Vadodara - 390 001. Gujarat, India.
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PUBLISHED FOR THE MONTH OF DEC 2016 - JAN 2017.



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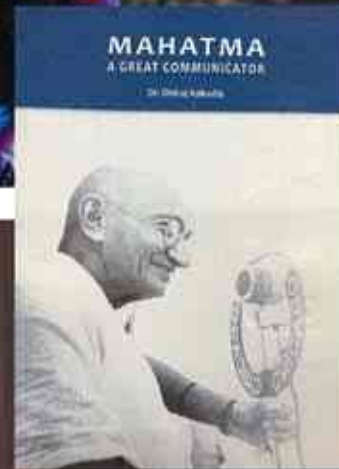
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- **Aerospace & Defense Policy-2016**: Production of armament in Gujarat
- **Toll tax waived** for small vehicles passing through toll-booths under the purview of State Government



A SPARK OF AN IDEA

FLINNT is aiming to build a progressive, nation-wide educational ecosystem. **Palak Shah** writes on the startup that is empowering, liberating and connecting students and educators everywhere.

According to a report released by Nasscom in October this year, India is ahead of China and Israel when it comes to the largest base startup country. It is on an unflinching third position with over 4.5 thousand tech startups in its kitty. The year 2016 alone witnessed the burgeoning of 1400 startups in India and the country continues to shine with an upsurge in funding even after the global slowdown in overall funding.

To be successful, every startup needs a streak of innovation and should address a need, from now what is becoming an increasingly tech angle, thereby revamping the rules of the game. One such startup, Flinnt is revolutionizing learning and teaching in India. Launched in June 2014, after two years of idea churning, this Ahmedabad based startup is the brainchild of 4 enthusiasts, Harish Iyer, Dhinal Rajguru, Harin Desai, and Tarak Yagnik, who want to upgrade the Indian education system, and weed out rote learning and outdated syllabi. Instilling and empowering educators and learners with smart technology, Flinnt is in a short span of 2 years, is already trusted by above 1000 educational institutions, above 550 thousand learners and 18 thousand educators across the country.

“Flinnt is for every learner whether a toddler or a septuagenarian. It thrives on the idea that learning is independent of time and place,” says co-founder and CEO, Harish Iyer. It’s a mobile application which works as easily as Whatsapp to connect students, teachers, institutes, experts, professionals, publishers and parents on the same platform. A teacher who does not have enough time to share extra resources in the classroom on any subject can now do so on Flinnt. A student can access



TRAILBAZERS

- Flinnt is the largest English Language Assessment provider with 'Cambridge English' using their platform to connect with their trainers, centre managers and learners.
- In the Navrachana Vidyani Pre Primary School, Flinnt has managed to replace the ubiquitous school diary and in the process every teacher has saved 20 minutes that were spent on writing in the diary of every child. By default it also saves a number of trees by helping schools going paperless!
- While all the schools of the H.B.Kapadia Group are using Flinnt, the biggest surprise was its enthusiastic adoption by the Principal and teachers of Gujarati medium schools. They orally record instructions in Gujarati or just write it on paper and take a photograph to share it online.
- In the Atmiya Group of Colleges, Rajkot, the sharing of notes and other learning resources has become instant and paperless.
- Apart from Gujarat, Flinnt is being used in 35 cities that include cities in Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Uttrakhand and Andhra Pradesh.
- Anyone can download Flinnt. As a platform, Flinnt is free for educational institutions. Flinnt monetizes through paid courses and content which can be used by individual students or teachers or by institutions as a bulk purchase, which gives them access to a range of learning resources available on it.

this material from the comfort of his home, or even have real time discussions on the subject!

Imagine a situation where the school needs to send an urgent notice to all the students; Flinnt comes in as a handy tool. How about some appreciation and recognition? In times of instant likes and comments, Flinnt provides an amazing platform to share inspiring stories to motivate youngsters. It is not only a great place for learners but for educators too, as they can access a

range of resources related to their subject. And it is a boon for parents of preschoolers as they are updated regularly by the app about what's going on in class during the important initial school years of their child. "As an organization, we firmly believe that TEACHING AND LEARNING can be made as exciting as Facebook or Twitter," says Tarak Yagnik, confident that Flinnt is the need of the hour for any learner!

When asked about how this wonderful idea evolved, Tarak, who is also a co-founder and looks after marketing and business, zealously explained, "Education is one of the few sectors where information technology has not become an integral part of the service. It involves many stakeholders like educators, students, institutions, experts, publishers, examination boards, universities. It also involves a lot of information, communication and collaboration, so it seems inevitable that it would probably be one of first sectors to be fully integrated with technology, but somehow it hasn't happened." Till date, technology in the average classroom is limited to the Projector, Smart Boards, ready made content, ERP solutions etc which are either meant only for administration purposes or act as peripherals to learning. Tarak thinks that the reasons for this are "predominantly the complexity of existing technology solutions, solutions being one-dimensional and lack of ease and convenience. We started working on Flinnt with the objective of building a learning ecosystem that connects all the key stakeholders with a simple and convenient technology solution."

With such a sound idea for its base, it is no wonder that the startup attracted investors from Singapore and USA, and was able to raise \$1 million in the first round of funding from angels and promoters. As the venture grows in popularity, they are gearing up for further investments. The funding, however was not easy to begin with.



"Flinnt is trying to create a whole ecosystem that takes into account the needs of learners, educators, content providers and institutions."

Dhinal, who looks after the financial nitty-gritties, said that their goal was less towards breaking even and more towards creating a sustainable environment for their venture. He admits that, "The biggest challenge in the current startup environment is that everybody talks about monetization. We believe that we need to create a network which adds value for learners, educators, institutions and all other stakeholders. Once all

the stakeholders start deriving value, it will ultimately lead to monetization and revenue. It was difficult to find investors who shared the same vision in the beginning. We have come a long way since then, though."

What about competition? Today when monopoly in any business is passe, Tarak says, "Though we don't not have any direct competitors, Edmodo and Google Classroom are two similarly free platforms and WizIQ is a paid platform providing services similar to Flinnt." He adds that, "Most of these platforms focus on just 'teacher and student' or 'institution and student' relationship whereas Flinnt is trying to create a whole ecosystem that takes into account the needs of learners, educators, content providers and institutions. In fact, Flinnt works well for informal group learning also."

Flinnt's team of 4 has multiplied to 50 with every team member believing in the vision of this innovative startup, which is to make learning possible for everyone, everywhere. The responsibility to make every learner an online learner and every learning provider an E-Learning provider, is a huge challenge but they're game for it. Harin, the IT head, wraps the mission in tech style when he says, "We see Flinnt as the largest network of educational institutions, learners, educators, and content and assessment providers in the country. Just like organizations say 'Follow us on Twitter' or 'Like us on Facebook' we believe all educational institutions will say 'Learn with us on Flinnt!'". ■

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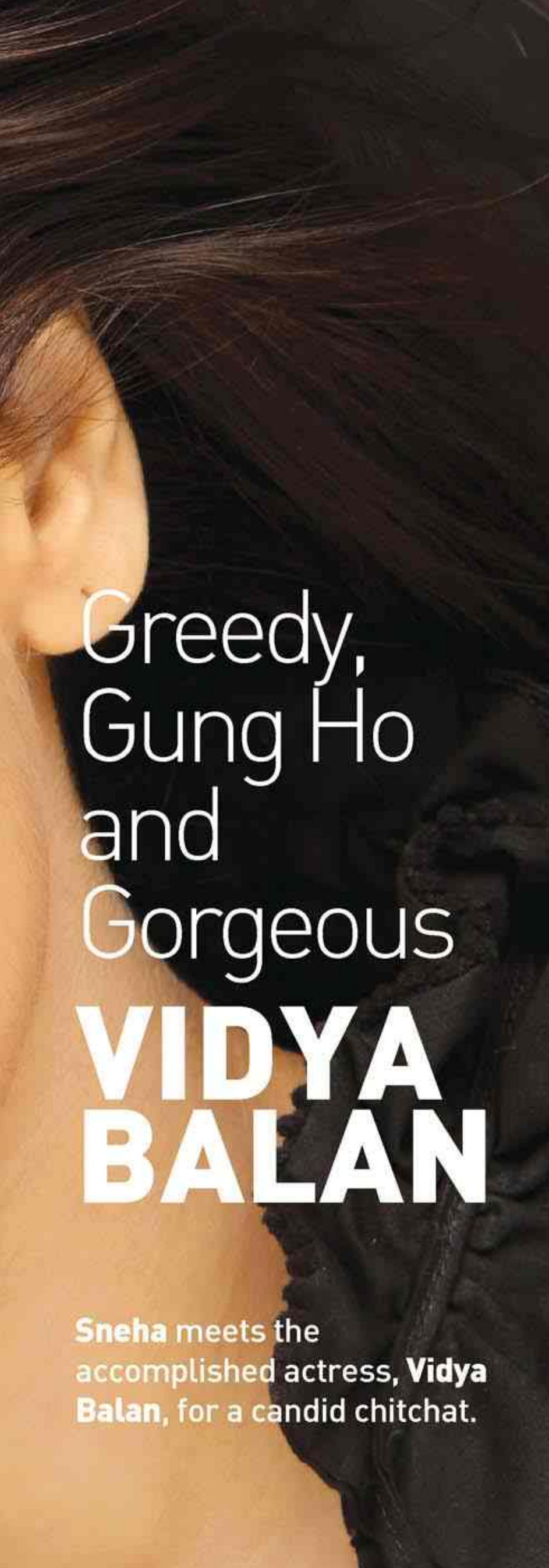
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Greedy,
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Gorgeous
**VIDYA
BALAN**

Sneha meets the accomplished actress, **Vidya Balan**, for a candid chitchat.

Imagine Vidya Balan and the first thing that comes to your mind is grace and intelligence. Think again and you will see eternal beauty. Think yet again and it is her uniqueness and the many aspects where she is different from other actors. She is one among the very few actors in the industry especially for whom scripts are written. Be it *Dirty Picture* or *Kahaani*, one always feels that the script was written with Vidya Balan in mind. Perhaps no one else could have carried those roles the way she did. Unfortunately, her last five films *Ghanchakkar*, *Shaadi ke side effects*, *Bobby Jasoos*, *Ek Adhuri Kahani* and *T3EN* did not do well at the box office. But she is back with her new film *Kahani 2*, another thriller directed by *Sujoy Ghosh*. The duo wowed audiences in 2012 when they first came with *Kahani*.

Directors are saying that they want to approach you when it comes to complicated roles?

It feels so good when directors say that they want me to play a certain role. I hope this never changes. The actor in me is very greedy! I want to play different roles. Human beings are complicated and the more I play such roles the more I enjoy myself.

Yet your last few films have not done well at the box office. Did it affect you?

My last few films... *Ghanchakkar*, *Shaadi Ke Side Effects*, *Bobby Jasoos*, *Hamari Adhuri Kahani*, *Te3n* and Marathi film, *Ekk Albela* have not exactly been box office hits. I can't lie and say these things don't affect me. Initially things were going well and I felt invincible. I felt I can never deliver a flop film. I could not accept that my films were not doing well. I thought they would do well after the initial three days. I shot for *Ghanchakkar* when I was seeing *Siddharth Roy Kapoor* and we were married when the film released. I felt bad and blamed myself that it didn't do well. You become frustrated and you want to blame it on someone. Everyone in the team feels terrible.



But with time I realised that a film cannot run because of one person and also cannot fail because of one person. It's a whole team's work. If you can share the success with everyone, you have to share the flop too. Some films will do well and some will fail.

What have you learnt from the experience?

I realised that I must always tell a story. I saw a new perspective even though I have faced a similar situation earlier when I faced a lot of criticism. I had forced myself to do a few films before *Ishqiya* and *Paa* happened. It only reinforces the fact that I should only do films that make me happy.

What has failure taught you?

A lot! Success makes you feel you know everything but with failure you realize that there is still a lot to learn. I enjoyed my success and fame. I have been blessed with love too. At the end of the day I feel that all that matters is the attitude you take with you to work. Yes, there are a lot of perks of being an actor but we are all just doing different jobs and there is no one thing more important than the other. I feel truly blessed.

You are known for pushing the envelope when it comes to your roles, like in *Dirty Picture*.

Yes, in this film Durga has a strange habit of peeling off her skin. She is a hill girl and has dry skin. She is not interested in her beauty and keeps peeling off her skin. Director Sujoy Ghosh instructed me not pamper my skin or do manicures. I was scared that my skin will really peel off but luckily it didn't harm my skin. For me it's exciting when I have to play Vidya Bagchi, Durga Rani Singh or Bidya Sinha. I have learnt that your look is a crucial tool to be able to play another person authentically.

There were budget restraints in the first *Kahaani*, did you face the same problem in *Kahaani 2*?

We still faced difficulties and struggled to make the film within the budget. The economics of the industry had changed plus I had had a string of flops. We managed to complete the film, though.

How has your relationship with Sujoy Ghosh grown?

I don't know if we are friends because we fight a lot. We are sensitive about what we say to each other. I may not say this to him directly but he is very observant and intelligent. He is very well read and you can discuss anything from History, Mythology or Human behavior with him - it's amazing and he channelizes all that into his films. Funnily for this film I met him in a coffee shop.

I went and told him, “you know I am an actor.” He said, “Oh, are you the one who played the pregnant woman?” Within one hour he told me what he had written. I told him before we shot for this film that people will expect Vidya Bagchi and Bob Biswas but he was sure about it. I love to work with him. He never takes me very seriously. He is confident as a story teller and filmmaker.

Who makes the amends first when you fight?

I make amends and am the first one to say sorry – it needs a lot of convincing. If he falls silent there is no way you can get to make him talk.

Can you recall what stories fascinated you as a child?

My father used to tell me a story of a werewolf and a lady who marries him and later how she tries to escape from his clutches. I loved her courage and would ask him to narrate the same story to me everyday even though he had many other stories up his sleeve.

Have you ever cooked up stories to your advantage, especially with Siddharth?

We all do it (winks) don't we? I can't tell you the stories I have told Siddharth or else I will fall into trouble. I read stories to my niece and nephew. Now they tell me stories as they have started reading.

Tell us about your next film, Begum Jaan?

It was a completely new experience with Srijit Mukherji. We were supposed to shoot before the rains in Jharkhand where the rains begin from 20th of July. So we landed in Jhumka on 15th of June. But it had already started pouring and when the sun would come out it would be hot. It would be either be foggy or too sunny so we had to shoot fast and we would begin at 4.00 in the morning and just have one rehearsal as we didn't have time. We completed the shoot in 35 days. We had to be constantly on our toes and everyone literally pushed themselves to be able to complete the film.

The Bengali version of this film had very bold scenes?

I have not seen the film but heard about it. I am playing the madame of a brothel. If I am convinced about the character, skin show is just a form of description. I don't have inhibitions about it.



“Success makes you feel you know everything but with failure you realize that there is still a lot to learn. I enjoyed my success and fame.”

What about Aami?

I will start shooting for the film in December. It's a biopic and in Malayalam. The film is titled Aami because she spent the last few years of her life in Kolkatta. Kamala Das was a wonderful writer and the film has many shades to it.

We heard you were offered Indira Gandhi's role and also one for Suchitra Sen's biopic?

I was offered Indira Gandhi's role but since she is a political figure, I told them to get all the prior permissions as I don't want the film to stop in the middle. I was also approached for Suchitra Sen's biopic but felt it was not right to do the role as Raima is her granddaughter. ■



'CHANGING TECHNOLOGY CANNOT CHANGE THE SOUL OF MUSIC'

A living legend at eighty seven and Bharat Ratna recipient, **Lata Mangeshkar**, India's nightingale, in a rare and exclusive interview with **Ali Peter John**

For eight decades her voice has ruled the nation, has become part of every Indian family, society and religion. It encompasses all seasons on earth, and is in the very wind and the waves of the ocean. Her voice has given solace to man and glory to God. She has lent her voice to several characters ranging

from a little girl, to a teenager in love, or a woman raising her voice against the atrocities committed against her and even the holy Meera, singing bhajans of her 'Giridhar' probably better than Meera herself might have sung. She has sung in almost every major language of the country, making the music in those languages eternal. She has sung

for hundreds of films over the last seventy years and for actresses like Nargis, Nutan, Madhuri Dixit, Karishma Kapoor and Kajol. She has added her own unique touch to the lyrics written by some of the greatest poets and lyricists and almost every major and minor composer. She has been at her divine best when singing bhajans, geets, loris and many kinds of lok and folk *sangeet*. She is an icon above all icons of the twentieth century and can easily be called one of the greatest singers in the world.

At times she gives me the feeling that she is ethereal and at other times that she is strongly rooted to the sacred soil and soul of India. One can go on singing paeans of this wonder woman and her heavenly voice that has the power to dissolve all differences that men have created for themselves. But there will come a time when words themselves will fall short...

Nature catches up with the best of us however and Lata Mangeshkar is now not as active as she was once. The last time she sang for a film was in Yash Chopra's "Jab Tak Hai Jaan". She considered Yash her brother and Yash could never think of making a film without her singing the songs. He was a great devotee of "the woman with the gift that God gave to only one woman in the world!"

During the last eight or ten years, she has only been recording some private albums and devotional songs and has tried to give life to the poetry of some of the well-known Hindi poets. She now believes that she has done justice to the gift God gave her and has voluntarily stepped back to leave the field clear for the next generation of singers.

Lataji who celebrated her eighty seventh birthday on September 28 now spends most of her time in her room and does all that she has missed doing because of the hectic schedules she used to keep earlier. She may not be actively singing but she keeps in touch with the latest trends in music. Though she is not very happy with the state of affairs, she consoles herself by saying, *"Everything changes with time and so is music, but music shouldn't be degraded as it is God's gift to mankind. I have no complaints against today's music scenario but I request the new generation of singers not to make a noise and then call it music. I worship music and can therefore say that music will never die because it is one of God's most*

beloved creations. All this noise that is being called music nowadays will only last for a while, melody will make a comeback for sure. It has to make a comeback for because without it there will be no melody in life itself."

It was very easy to talk to India's Nightingale till a few years ago, but now she has been falling ill more frequently and meeting or talking to her is a difficult task. She talks only when she is well and in a mood to do so. "Only as long as people ask me sensible questions," she says. I have always been lucky when it comes to talking to her and she even listened to my request to sing at one of the award shows that I had organized, quoting a certain price which my company was only too willing to pay. When I took the cheque to her, she said in her soul-soothing voice, "I just did it because you asked, I don't really want this money. Tell your company to use it for some noble cause."

She considered Yash her brother and Yash could never think of making a film without her singing the songs. He was a great devotee of "the woman with the gift that God gave to only one woman in the world!"

She was kind to me once again when I just took a chance to ask her if she would release one of my books. Without any hesitation, she asked, "When do you want to do it?" I couldn't believe what that heavenly voice was saying, but she persisted and said, "I have a hall in my building premises and we can hold your book launch there. I will talk to the society about it." She kept her promise as she released my book at *Prabhu Kunj*, an event which I think is a major achievement for me.

Another time I was moved was during the planning of the Hridaynath Award, instituted by Lataji's brother, Pandit Hridaynath Mangeshkar. The jury had decided to present her with the first award and wanted to know who she would like to receive her award from. The organisers gave her a list of three names, the late Dr. APJ Kalam, Sachin Tendulkar and Amitabh Bachchan. The moment she saw



“Nothing lasts forever and every person and his work is limited by time. I worked a lot and with dedication for many years and now I feel I should let others shine in the limelight.”

Amitabh’s name, she said if his name was there, where was the need to show her the other names? The organisers gave me the responsibility of requesting Mr Bachchan to do the honours and he felt so honoured himself that he changed all his plans to make time and do what he called his ‘*Jeevan ka sabse punya kaam*’.

My most recent conversation with her was because Subhash Ghai had asked me to talk to her about receiving the Maestro Award of *Whistling Woods International*, which she finally accepted, on the condition that Ghai and his small team would present her the award in her house. In the short interview that follows, Lataji speaks about the current state of music, the state of affairs in the country and her unflinching hope for everything turning out good in the end.

Have you taken complete retirement from singing, Lataji?

No one who loves music and has received so much

because of music can ever take *sanyaas* from music. Giving up music at this stage of my life would be like committing a sin against music. *Main toh marte dam tak sangeet ke saath aur suro ke sahaare jeeoongi.*

Don’t you miss all the glory you experienced when you were the most wanted singer?

Nothing lasts forever and every person and his work is limited by time. I worked a lot and with dedication for many years and now I feel I should let others shine in the limelight. I sang and received so much love from so many people. What more can I ask for at this age?

What do you think about the standard of film music today?

I don’t have the right to complain about it. I have seen and experienced it in my times and now with the new wave of singers

and music, I am bound to reduce my singing. Not because I have lost interest in music but because I am growing old and don’t keep too well. I do listen to music though and I think that no one has the time nowadays to differentiate between good and bad music. It’s a pleasure to listen to someone like Sonu Nigam and Shreya Ghoshal. Others are also good but they still have a long way ahead of them...

What is the main drawback of Hindi film music today?

There is just one thing – the great amount of importance being given to noise that is stifling any real music out there. I’ll be happy if there is more focus on the quality of music being created.

What do you think about the state of affairs in the country?

I don’t think much about politics now. Thinking about it doesn’t change anything. In politics work speaks for itself, and nowadays there is more talk and less work.



You were a Member of Parliament for six years. Couldn't you do anything during that period?

What could I have done alone? There was so much noise there and no one was ready to listen to anyone else. I don't think I accomplished much in those six years, because nobody gave me any work! I don't think they wanted to give me the kind of work they give to other politicians.

Do you have any incomplete ambitions and dreams?

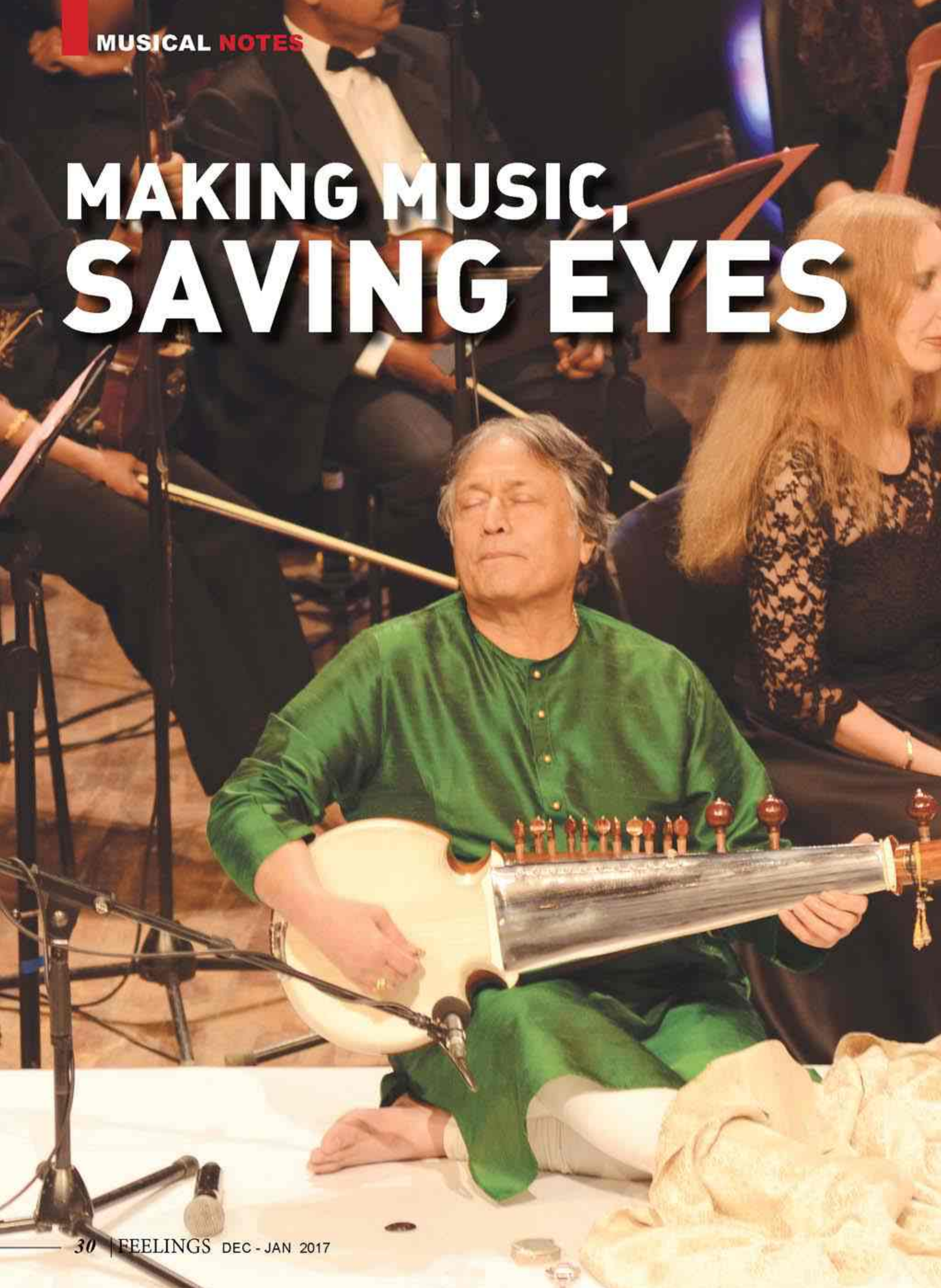
Even if there are any, how will I accomplish them at this age? I do have a dream to do something for the *jawaans* of this country. I am trying to do something in that direction currently. I do hope I am able to achieve that because they do so much for us, but what do we ever do for those brave hearts? They sacrifice their whole lives for the country

and along with them their families too die, even though they may remain physically alive. I will try my best to complete this wish of mine and only then will I get some peace. Otherwise I think I only worked for myself and earned a lot of money and fame – and that is not enough for peace of mind. We get only one life and if that time is not dedicated to others, then I feel it is a waste.

Do you ever think about your being an immortal legend who will never be forgotten?

It's not right to think like this. So many have achieved so much more than me in their lifetimes. I am thankful to the Lord that he gave me a chance to live such a fulfilling life. I only wish that every person in this country gets the basic necessities that will make his/her life easier. *Kya koi sun rahaa hai meri awaaz?* ■

MAKING MUSIC, SAVING EYES



Amjad Ali Khan performs to help eradicate the easily preventable cataract blindness in India, a cause he wholeheartedly supports. Special music columnist, **Sujata Majumdar** in an informal chat with the Sarod artist.

Music for Vision marks a big step in a Global Campaign initiated by two renowned international organizations **HelpMeSee** and **Music for Life International (MFLI)**, to eliminate cataract blindness. The first concert held in Mumbai on 20th October kick started a new phase in the effort to eradicate preventable cataract blindness, with a two pronged strategy. The target is to promote the training of more cataract surgeons and subsequently achieve surgical-backlog free districts in some of the poorest and most backward parts of India (which has the largest cataract affected population in the world) by 2020. As per Jacob Mohan Thazhathu, President and CEO of **HelpMeSee**, lack of affordable and high quality cataract surgery is the primary cause of cataract blindness amounting to more than half of all blindness in the world.

By training 20 cataract surgeons in every district and managing the cost of the surgery at just Rs 7000, cataract blindness can be eradicated with great effectiveness. Public-private partnerships for the cause will contribute in a definite way, making sure no blind person is left behind and so cataract blindness can be almost completely eliminated from India. The second **Music for Vision** concert was in New Delhi on 23rd October. The series of worldwide concerts will wrap up with a grand finale concert, '**Mahler for vision**', to be held in New York in February, 2017.

The concerts are a unique Indo-US musical collaboration, bringing together leading International musicians such as Sarod Maestro, Amjad Ali Khan, famous music conductor and MFLI (Music for Life International) Artistic Director, George Mathew, distinguished American Violinist, Elmira Darvarova and the Bombay Chamber Orchestra. The concerts feature iconic works by both Indian and American composers. Amjad Ali Khan performs solo in his 'Samagam' Concerto and in Aaron Copland's

'Appalachian Spring'. According to George Mathew, music is not just capable of bringing people together for a cause, but it can become a vehicle to illuminate the cause. Aaron Copland's musical ballet is a significant metaphor for the gift of vision that **HelpMeSee** seeks to bring, to numerous people affected by cataract in India and beyond.

At an exclusive interview, Sarod Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, the Global Goodwill Ambassador for the **Music for Vision** initiative said he has always been supportive of such noble causes. "I am very happy the way they are working and helping people who are suffering due to cataract blindness, because I know the word of blind people. As a young musician I visited many blind schools and performed for the blind people and the kind of applause I received from the blind children...the sound of that applause made me realize that their world is music. They 'see' everything through sound. **HelpMeSee** is trying to help millions of people through music and so I want to support this cause," he explains.

"Help.MeSee is trying to help millions of people through music and so I want to support this cause."

A recipient of the UNESCO Award, the Padmavibhushan, UNICEF's national Ambassadorship and numerous other prestigious honours from all over the world, the maestro stated that **Samagam** means a conference of two cultures. The orchestra is a collective creation. Though the Britishers ruled India for so many years, yet they could not produce a good orchestra together. There was no music made in collaboration, which is one of the best ways to make good music. Little wonder then that his



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“There is no essential difference between classical and popular music. Music is music.”

sarod concerto **Samagam** is being played in the **Music for Vision** concerts.

When asked about his musical journey, the maestro said that he was only 6 years old when he gave his first Sarod recital. A disciple of his father Haafiz Ali Khan, Amjad was born into the Bangash lineage entrenched in the Senia Bangash School of music. His is the 6th generation of inheritance in this legendary ancestry.

The Sarod was given a whole new interpretation by Amjad Ali Khan. His inspiration he says is his audience, who is ‘the soul of his motivation and inspiration’. According to him, “There is no essential difference between classical and popular music. Music is music. I want to communicate with the listener who feels Indian classical music is remote.”

Among the *Raagas* that he has created or composed, there are many like Swar sameer, Subhalaxmi, Ganaesh kalyan, Bapu kauns (for which he was awarded the Gandhi UNSCO Medal in Paris), Haafiz kauns (composed on the name of his father), Rahat Kauns (composed on the name of his mother) and Shivanjali. Shivanjali for him is the most unusual, where both *dhaivats* and both *nishads* are used. *Raaga* Subhalaxmi is specifically named after his beloved wife Subhalaxmi Khan. Mr Khan stated that the *Raaga* is also dedicated to legendary vocalist MS

Present



Subbulaxmi of whom he has been a big fan since his childhood. About *raaga* Ganesh kalyan he said “It was a *dhun* I used to sing without realizing what I am singing. I later named this new melody Ganesh Kalyan”.

What about the conservative musicians who tend to criticize and say that new ragas can't be created? “I don't believe in that. I feel there is no full stop to creativity,” says the maestro. Interestingly, this orchestra dedicated to **Music for vision** starts with Ganesh Kalyan, apart from which Subhalaxmi and Swar Sameer also composed by him are being used in this orchestra.

Mr Khan feels that classical music becomes very mechanical at times. Too many technicalities drain the soul in music and too much *riyaaz* often leads to boredom. Classical musicians and singers often don't think about the audience's reactions. Music should be soothing to the ears

and soul. His love for music and belief in his own kind of music has enabled him to interpret traditional notions of music in a refreshing way, by taking up the challenges of innovation and yet respecting the timelessness of tradition.

His recent album, **Amalgam**, with his sons Amaan Ali Khan and Ayaan Ali Khan and American Violinist Elmira Darvarova, has already created ripples among music lovers worldwide. ■



Sujata Majumdar is a well-known playback singer and our special music columnist

FOLDS OF CLAY



Heeral Trivedi writes on how Pottery evolved into a contemporary art form and of a few stalwarts who are making their mark in clay

Talk of pottery in India and the first word that comes to mind is “*kumhaar*”, meaning the traditional village potter who can be traced back to centuries ago and whose lineage still continues to create vessels and toys in most Indian villages. In fact, it wouldn't be wrong to say that there is a potter in every village of India, in every region, with his very own history. For example, Rajasthan is known for its famous blue pottery of Jaipur and the “*murtikala*” of the Molela village near Udaipur while villages of Tamil Nadu are famous for their terracotta figurines of gods and goddesses.

Traditional pottery flourished with trade and the need for creating functional products for transportation and storage. The clay that was and is still used, comes from the earth and goes back to it, surviving the test of time and dating back to the earliest civilizations of Egypt and the Indus Valley. Lamps, vases, bowls, teapots, toys and deities created by the *kumhaar* for domestic, religious and special occasions have very much been part of our lives as we grew up. These are replicas of the early containers that were pinched, squeezed or rolled and not glazed but well baked. Glazes were introduced in India through the influence of Arabs and Mughal art only around the 12th century.

Contemporary ceramic art, however, attempts to take pottery beyond mass production and has raised the humble clay to an aesthetic, unique and personalized art form. Ira Chaudhuri is a name that first comes to my mind as she is one of the pioneers of studio pottery. Still busily experimenting at 88 years of age, Ira has blazed a trail that has been followed by generations of potters in the last six decades. Through prolonged and bold experimentation, she mastered the art of precision in her decorations, using slip trailing, painting and the Italian technique of Sgraffito. With undiminished enthusiasm even today, she works completely freehand on her pots and never runs out of ideas!

Her early years were spent at the Ceramic department of the well known Baroda Fine Arts. It was there in 1951 that she was first introduced to the wheel, only to get gradually addicted for life! With a long list of achievements and shows to her credit, Ira Chaudhuri says she's a potter first and will always be one. She currently



lives and works in New Delhi.

Another stalwart in the pottery sphere is Jyotsna Bhatt. Known for her elegantly shaped animals, birds and pots with crisp lines and superb glazes, she is inspired by the minimalist and meditative quality of Japanese pottery. Her work often incorporates simple folk art designs borrowed from villages of Gujarat, giving them an earthy quality. Describing her process, she very passionately refers to the medium as “*maati*” several times and how she finds endless possibilities as she stretches and pushes this natural plasticine. Interested in representing the medium



as it is, in its naked form, she prefers not to use glazes in most of her work. Essentially a sculptor, to Jyotsnaben, studio pottery has always been about creating objects of beauty and not just utility, and those include several animal figures like cats and birds, many of them unglazed with the natural color of wood firing on the edges. These clay sculptures have a charming and quaint quality with which she has come to be recognized over the years. Yet when she comes back to her domestic space, she feels like adding that 'beauty' to objects and so also creates pots and bowls in muted glazes by combining a shiny finish with matt colours.

Talking about how meticulously she glazes her work, she says, "I always hesitate in glazing my pots as I am apprehensive of the result after every firing. Often the colour is not as I have imagined it."

Jyotsna Bhatt has been part of the faculty of Fine Arts in Baroda, mentoring and inspiring several under her. Coincidentally, the university is also her alma mater! Many young studio potters will give her the due for their skills and achievements today.

Vinod Daroz, a prolific and highly accomplished artist



is one such. Known for his murals made of plates and unconventional shapes of useful objects, Vinod's work is much sought after in the country. Travelling extensively and participating in workshops in China, Korea, Thailand, Turkey etc, he has received several awards for his beautifully crafted and much desired work in the art world.

His last show in New Delhi showcased some exquisitely designed platters titled "Silent Shlokas". The exclusive pieces reflected his notion of universal peace with symmetrical designs glazed in deep blues and turquoise with a shimmer of bronze.

Porcelain, the natural whiteness of which symbolizes peace, is another medium he uses with ease, creating a translucent glaze in playful forms of kettles and plates of uneven shapes, with details in gold and bases in terracotta. Vinod also spins out of his wheel several shapes of vases and bowls which are inspired from the 'linga' and 'yoni' symbolism of ancient Indian sculptures. His work is drawn from deep thoughts and the 'Maati' serves only as the vehicle of beauty.

Jyotsna Bhatt and Vinod Daroz's work was most recently seen at a show titled "Containers", conceptualized by Open Studio in Baroda. At the same show, the work of another young potter stood out as unique and skillful. Nehal Rachh has evolved from making creative shapes through layering coils in clay to a language which is bold and displays a fresh approach towards the medium. Her recent set of work, titled 'Stoned' is inspired from the rock cut caves of Bhimbhetka. It has a chunky and rough appearance like the rocks and it seems that the clay has been cut with primitive tools to create vessels of a bygone era. With rough surfaces, carefree scratches and basic shapes, these different shapes of cups, small and



big bowls and 'arty' plates, are easy to use around the house. According to her, "It is an attempt to imagine what the primitive man may have used as containers." Nehal also shows complete ease in handling the material while making objects in large sizes such as big bowls or vases. A thoughtful person herself, her work carries with it many stories and has a character exclusive to language.

The modern ceramicist or studio potter is today a contemporary artist whose work bears individuality unlike the humble and anonymous "Kumhaar".

It was towards the end of the 19th century that some clay craftsmen attempted to break away from the mass production of their objects and created unique products, slowly paving the way for ceramicists to enter the premise of art, design and beauty.

In India, much remains to be explored in this field. Since the cost of equipment like kilns and electric wheels is quite steep, most young artists simply cannot afford to have a personal studio to practice in. More common studio facilities are definitely needed to encourage aspiring art school graduates to pursue this ancient utilitarian skill which has today metamorphosed into a beautiful art form. Also, the support of more galleries and foundations that showcase ceramic art alongside other visual arts like paintings and sculptures is paramount to their success. ■

Heeral Trivedi is a visual artist based in Baroda. Apart from spending her mornings in front of the canvas, she and her husband curate shows at Open Studio, a space where artists come together. The most recent was one of ceramic art, which displayed work by Baroda's 10 most accomplished studio potters.



LOOKING BACK AT THE YEAR GONE BY...

It's December once again and a bit unbelievable that the Feelings' English Edition has completed a whole year! We're back to when we started but have come such a long way, learning and assimilating all that came with the process. A big Thank You, dear readers for all the appreciation you showered us with. It encouraged us at every step! Here are the highlights of every issue in 2016, with the hope that we get even better at it as we cross over to the New Year.



DIWALI ISSUE 2016

What was Inside:

What did Amitabh Bachchan have to say on his 74th birthday? What are Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone's Diwali memories? Which is the hottest fashion house for those going to tie the knot and who is the one man behind the revival of Mumbai's Irani cafes? The Feelings special festive issue had answers to all of these plus lots of celeb interviews, a new column on the latest in make up, last minute Diwali getaways and a guest article by none other than Devdutt Pattanaik!



What was Inside:

Feelings in August came with a lot of Style, Bollywood, Travel, Food and Fitness stories. It carried the highlights of an exclusive chat with Dr Jatin Shah, the world's top Head and Neck Cancer specialist and special interviews with actor, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and the talented composer, Mithoon. A Sri Lankan itinerary especially planned by our Travel columnist, an alternate Art space in Vadodara and a cooperative movement that is making a noticeable difference in Pune were other attractions in this stellar issue..

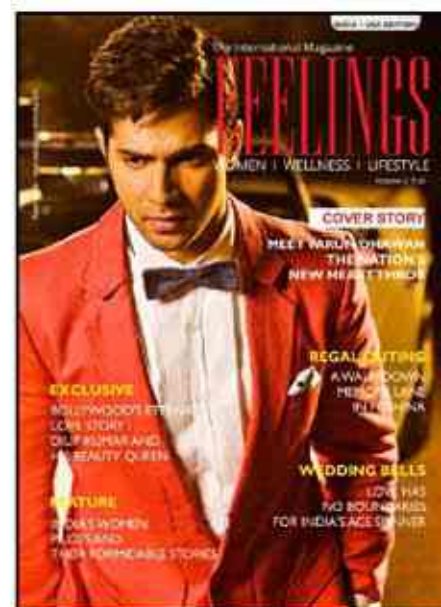
What was Inside:

After the overwhelming response to the first issue, the second, eagerly anticipated issue of Feelings with a cover story on heartthrob Varun Dhawan, flew off the stands. An exclusive on Dilip Kumar and his lady-love Saira Banu, was full of old-world charm. A special story on the women pilots in India focused on their inherent grit and determination. Newly introduced were features on Indian Heritage and a humour column by well-known writer Sanjay Chhel. There was the latest in trends for the wedding season, with the cherry on the cake being the inside scoop on the designer wedding of Harbhajan Singh and Geeta Basra.



What was Inside:

With a new tagline that says 'Let's Connect', the July issue reflected our spirit - that of not only stimulating our readers' minds but also touching their hearts with our unique content and presentation. Like always, there was something for everyone - Sophie Choudry upped the glamour quotient on the cover and gave whacky answers inside, Sujata Majumdar wrote on her tete-a-tete with the evergreen Shaan, a special feature looked at what's special about PM Modi's Mann ki Baat, while another article talked about films that have run into controversy with the CBFC, in light of the Udda Punjab mess.



What was Inside:

In the May issue of Feelings Nargis Fakhri lit up the cover and spoke about her struggles as an outsider in Bollywood. In a retrospective on 'Punjab da sher' - Dharmendra, Ali Peter John drew out the essence of the man. Kaajal Oza Vaidya, a household name in Gujarat, shared her views in a guest column, while Sujata Majumdar chatted with the music stalwart, Abhijeet - in an interview that was as frank as it could be. World renowned water expert, Prof Vandana Asthana, from the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, told us how deep we really are when it comes to the water crisis. A banker turned jewellery designer, Sarika Kapoor talked about inspiration, creativity and the joy she finds in following her passion. These and many more stories including travel, the softer side of IPL and the regular columns delighted and informed our readers, once again!



What was Inside:

The fourth issue introduced three brand new columns - on Music, Immigrants' success stories and 'Made in India' corporate ventures. Other stories included the lesser known history of the Parsi Sari, a new wave of young storytellers and a rare brush with royalty, i.e. Rukmini Devi of Rajpipla.

Features on Innovation in every possible field, exclusive interviews with leading personalities and the Inside story of India's evergreen musical diva, Asha Bhosle...all this and more kept our readers riveted to their favourite magazine.

What was Inside:

Following the first two immensely successful issues, Feelings' March issue focused on women, keeping in mind the International Women's Day. With a host of interviews with women in every field, the spotlight was on women's empowerment. Several inspirational stories included Alyona Kapoor's, who is wife and business partner of India's favourite celebrity chef; Laxmi's, who is an acid-attack survivor, and now the #FaceofCourage, and the legendary Helen's, whose survival against the odds as a Burmese refugee in Bombay is nothing short of miraculous. An exclusive interview with Kaajol, a special Heritage feature on Kilimanoor Palace and unique experiences of solo women travellers made this issue worth the wait!



What was Inside:

The inaugural issue of Feelings in English released amid great fanfare in November 2015. It had none other than Bollywood diva and superstar Deepika Padukone on the cover. While Amitabh Bachchan spoke in a never-before take on the women in his life, Samarjit Singh



Gaekwad, royal scion of the Gaekwads of Baroda, talked about his abode, the Laxmi Vilas Palace. An exclusive on how women stand up artistes are finding their feet and a unique eco-friendly home in the middle of chaotic Mumbai city were other stories that made this issue just the perfect mix of glamour and substance!



Creativity, Courage and a **LOVE FOR LANGUAGE**

Blessed with a dynamic voice and a great command over Hindi, **Manish Awasthi** also debuted recently in a Bollywood film.

Sujata Majumdar in a tete-a-tete with the man whose first love is journalism.



Path breaking journalist, Manish Awasthi needs no introduction. A multi talented personality, he did his post graduation in Human Rights and also has degrees in Mass Communication and Export Management under his belt. Associated with Zee TV and Aaj Tak for many years, he is now Senior Editor in ITV Network [News X & India News] . Before journalism took over, he was the organizing secretary of Nagpur University NGO and worked in Human Rights for five years.

Tell us something about your journey as a journalist.

It started in 1996 when I started working with Zee from Nagpur. No one thought then that television would rise up to this level. There was a channel called EL TV initiated by ZEE. My friend and I started working from Nagpur and covered news in the adjoining States. We visited a lot of villages to get the footage for the news. My friend was the cameraman and I did the anchoring. Since there was no direct telecast system, we had to shoot everything within a restriction of 20 minutes on a huge camera.

Then opportunity struck and I joined Aaj Tak in 1997 as a Correspondent. When I met Mr S P Singh, the then editor of Aaj Tak, he asked me what news could I get from Nagpur. My reply was, "Any news that deals with the common man and which the world wants to know. I would also like to help those people through the news." Moreover I very confidently told him that one day Nagpur will rule over India. He was surprised and asked me how that would be possible. I said, "Nagpur is India's centre, its naabhi. The Sangh mukhyalay is in Nagpur. In a few years a political party directed by the Sangh in Nagpur will rule the country. Interestingly, I was proved right -after 20 years BJP is ruling India. I worked with Aaj Tak for 14 years and met a lot of different people. Being the first Hindi news channel, Aaj Tak's popularity was sky high. I covered almost every major event from Gujarat's earthquake and the Kumbh mela to the Elections.

It was a rare chance to understand the entire system and a learning experience for me. We also exposed the SpeakAsia multi level scam, the Goa drug scam and the Marlon Samuels match fixing case during the One Day Match between India and West Indies, being played at Nagpur. After we revealed the case, the West Indies Cricket Board and ICC imposed a 3 years ban on Marlon Samuels.

We also exposed the Jalgaon scam. There was one more scam regarding a murder case which had connection with the then President of India. As the news got exposed on our channel, India was shocked and eventually BJP made use of the news CD and Arun Shourie wrote an editorial on it. L K Advani showed the CD to the whole world,

to make people aware and think twice before selecting a president who is linked with murder.

When did you join ITV Network?

In 2013 my friend Deepak Chaurasiya informed me that he and many other senior journalists were joining a new channel, suggesting me to do the same. That is how I joined India News as a political editor. I worked in Delhi for 10 months, during which I exposed how Arvind Kejriwal used Anna Hazare. That became the establishing story for our channel.

When Nitin Gadkari stepped down as a national president, I was the first one to get his interview when no other channel could do the same for one month! That gave another boost to the channel. I also covered the Karnataka assembly elections and my story on Amitabh Bachchan's astrologer being a scamster really caught everyone's attention.

Then I was asked to take over the Mumbai edition of India news and also News X. The bigger challenge was to develop a synergy between Hindi and English. Eventually, we started integrating the channel with the big banner Bollywood movies.

You have acted in two Bollywood films so far. Please share your experience with us.

Eminent director Madhur Bhandarkar was making 'Calendar girls' and he discussed the script and asked me to act in the film in order to boost the film and also the channel. He suggested that since people already know my face, it would be good if I act in it. I did a small yet important role where interestingly, I was playing myself in the film. I had to break some news and did the shot in one take. Madhur jumped off his chair, clapped and said "You are a rockstar! I never thought ki one take wala bhi koi actor ho sakta hai...". Undoubtedly, this was a big compliment for me.

After that I did 'Chalk and Duster' a film dedicated to



teachers. Producer Subhash Singh wanted to tie up with ITV Network and my channel had a big role in the film. I played the role of Richa Chaddha's boss in the film. I consider myself lucky to have learnt a lot from stars like Juhi Chawla, Shabana Azmi and Rishi Kapoor. However, I have read somewhere, 'Musibat mein ghabrana nahi, kamyabi mein itrana nahi' and I always try to follow this. Among other films coming up is Madhur Bhandarkar's

'Emergency'. I am also getting many offers of voice overs and am considering taking up few interesting projects.

What do you enjoy more, journalism or acting?

My first preference is undoubtedly journalism, whatever I am today is because of journalism. I feel acting hones one's personality and the pen can portray one's thoughts. Both can work side by side. However, journalism is my first love, my life. Hindi ki seva karta hun, angrezi bol leta hun! My job is to synergize both so I try to speak good English as well. What I earn every month is because of the Hindi language and I am grateful for that - Hindi is desh ke mathe ki bindi. Hindi ki seva ke sath sath I cannot be far from journalism. It will always remain.

“My first preference is undoubtedly journalism, whatever I am today is because of journalism. I feel acting hones one's personality and the pen can portray one's thoughts.”

Even Mr Amitabh Bachchan has praised your voice quality! Please share the incident with us.

Mr Bachchan is aptly called Big B. His heart is as big as his personality. When the film Shamitabh was to release, I was interviewing Mr Bachchan. The film was predominantly based on voices and Mr Bachchan is known for his awesome voice.

During the interview, I asked him about his earlier days in Kolkata where he went for an audition at All India Radio and wasn't selected, and today he was doing a film based on voices, so how did it feel? He stopped me by saying, "Your voice sounds better than mine". He then told Director R Balki that next time he makes a film, he should remember "Manish ji for his voice." I was indeed overwhelmed. After the interview he embraced me and praised me by stating that he was really happy that after a

long time he was interviewed by someone speaking such good Hindi that was also merged with an excellent voice.

How was the experience at Rio during Olympic Games 2016?

As a senior editor I have always done hard stories, interviews and covered big operations in my journalism career. When I was asked to go to Rio to cover the Olympics which I consider mahakumbh of sports, I was thrilled. The management asked me to cover the games for News X and also for India News. It was a double opportunity! This is a big example of how languages can be of use. I went to Rio with our cameraman Ankur Khandelwal. Language was a big problem there as people don't speak English. Another problem was food as we both were vegetarians and had to survive on bread, butter and french fries! However, it was an unforgettable experience to cover the Olympics.

We visited the famous Maracana stadium where the world's best sporting action took place with more than 10,000 athletes. Rio is colorful and the people are warm and welcome Indians with open arms. Rio ki ek pehchan hai jo duniya ka saatvaa ajooba hai ... the statue of Cristo Redentor with open arms. It is 3000 ft above the ground and looks as if it is embracing the world! Looking at the statue I got the feeling that people there are open hearted. They address Indians as Indianos.

One disappointment was the arbitration of Narsingh Yadav who had reached Rio but was not allowed to play. On the other hand, we witnessed the success of P B Sindu and Sakshi Malik. We saw the colorful side of Rio including Samba and Lapa. Lapa is a place where the Samba dance originated. I had a great time at Brazil. We also had a chance to watch the mining system very closely. The Copacabana beach was an absolute visual delight. We enjoyed the beach games and really liked the happy go lucky people there. I returned with a heavy heart, however, as India won only two titles in the games.

Other than Rio which other events have been memorable for you?

Before Rio I went to attend a Power Summit to London and recently I went to USA to cover the American Presidential Elections. Both were memorable experiences. ■

MADE IN INDIA



*Perfume Capital
of India*

From dawn to dusk, we use a hundred products with as many smells and flavours. **Nandita Derashri** visits Kannauj where manufacturing these scents is an ancient art.

Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh is one of the most ancient places in India. Located on the banks of the Ganges, the town has a rich history but is today also renowned for its remarkable achievement in perfume manufacturing. A lesser known fact is that the existence of perfume dates back to the great civilizations of antiquity when King Harshvardhan of Kannauj would present it to others.

The history of Attar however, has always been contentious. Some people believe that it was used during the time of Queen Noorjahan who used to bathe with rose petals, while another plausible explanation is that some saints in the forest used certain roots and herbs in building a bonfire once and a shepherd passing by was attracted by the fragrance emanating from this fire. This discovery led to many experiments on various herbs which led to the manufacturing of the very first Attars - Rose and Henna!

In the beginning, Attars were only used by kings and queens. It was only later that the commoners started using it in incense sticks, *pan masala*, and flavoured tobacco, giving the ingredient a sort of global recognition. Their Attar industry went through a stagnant period when government restrictions on the use of tobacco and pan masala proved to be a setback, but it boomed once again when the bans were lifted. It is said that about 80% of attars are used to impart flavour in just these two compounds! Currently, there are more than 350 small scale industries that manufacture Attar in Kannauj apart from close to 23 big units that are running successfully.

Attar is manufactured in Kannauj through a more than 4500 year old process of distillation. The fact

that it dates back to so long ago was discovered during the excavation of Indus valley civilization. A terracotta pot was found (it is now housed in a museum in Lahore, Pakistan) that closely resembles the copper vessels used for distillation process today.

Some raw material for the Attars is produced in around Kannauj, such as Marigold and Henna, while others are brought in from various parts of India. Roses are from near Aligarh, Saffron is from Kashmir, Kevra is from Orissa and spices and herbs are transported from the south and north-eastern part of India.

The same age old distillation procedure using *Degs* (copper containers) and *Bhappkas* (copper receivers used for condensation of vapour into the specific oil) is performed to extract fragrance from flowers. The whole apparatus is placed over a *Bhatti* (kiln or furnace) made of clay and brick which uses wood and coal for ignition. A cooling water tank cools the distillate and the final product is stored in a *Kuppi* which is made of animal leather, in order to remove the extra moisture. Generally, sandalwood oil is used as a base. Attar is then poured in small 10ml, 15ml, 20ml, and 100 ml bottles with attractive packaging for retail purposes. The whole process requires the expertise of skilled workers who have been passing on their talent to the next generation.





Rose attar, Jasmine and Kevda fall in the category of exorbitant prices and their prices range from Rs. 1500 per kg to about Rs. 10 lakh per kg!

Luckily therefore, this city is never short of labour. Moreover, no need for modern equipment was ever felt by this industry, says Mr. Shakti Vinay Shukla, Principal Director, Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre. Looking at the phenomenal development in the Attar industry, the Government of India took an initiative to set up the Centre in Kannauj, in 1991. FFDC proved to be a boon for industrialists and farmers who were associated with Attar manufacturing, for it achieved great deal in extraction of new flavours like 'Aroma magic' which has wide applications in aromatherapy.

Usually sold in 10ml or 20ml bottles, the first impression these exotic scents give could be deceptive. Unless one is in the know, it is difficult to imagine how expensive these concentrated perfumes could be. Rose attar, Jasmine and Kevda fall in the category of exorbitant prices and their prices range from Rs. 1500 per kg to about Rs. 10 lakh per kg! Among these Attars which are the oldest natural fragrant products, there



also exists a product called *Choyanakh* that is prepared through a unique dry distillation process in which cedar wood oil from the Himalayas is used. This fragrance is not produced on a large scale as it is labour intensive. The most common use of *Choyanakh* is to perfume Russian leather.

Kannauj has a sister city in the town of Grasse in France



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- Ranked # 1 for managing highest number of Open Offers under SEBI (SAST) Regulations in India for the FY2011 and # 2 for the FY2014, 2013, 2012, 2010
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where almost every household is directly or indirectly involved with perfume manufacturing. Kannauj is also the only place in the world where *Mitti Attar* is produced which has a similar fragrance to that of soil after the first rains! To extract this calming fragrance, baked earth is condensed in sandalwood oil by the process of hydro-distillation. The exotic scent is used for skin rejuvenation and soothing the nerves and senses through aromatherapy and perfumes. Potential buyers of these Attars are mainly Arabs and Africans but Attars are also greatly used in different businesses as a flavouring agent. They are the prime requirement in wellness products like soaps and detergents, cosmetics, car and room fresheners, aroma therapy oils and incense sticks. Last but not the least, this business offers ample employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to those who wish to work in this sector. The Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC) provides training to people and also runs courses that last from a few

weeks to one year, to polish the skills of the upcoming entrepreneurs in perfume manufacturing.

According to Mr. Shakti Vinay Shukla, Director, FFDC, consistent research at centre has made it possible to use biogas to make the whole process eco-friendly. He looks forward to seeing India progress economically. He added that “The centre is dedicated to demand driven approach for the development of the aroma industry and also to upgrade the status of farmers and industries engaged with essential oils, flavour and fragrance”.

The Attar industry is not just a lucrative business but also preserves a rich heritage for future generations in Kannauj where every house has Attar on its shelves and every second shopkeeper is selling it. More support from the government is expected here though, to match this unique industry’s standards with that of similar international units. ■

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HERE'S LOOKING AT TOMORROW

As part of ushering in the New Year, Feelings spoke to a few prominent Indian personalities about the country's future. Here's what they think..

Contributed by: Rutul Suthar, Nandita Derashri, Reena Brahmhatt, Kaustubh Athavale

SHRI NITIN PATEL



HON'BLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, GUJARAT

Our country is undergoing big reforms both in social structures and business platforms, across the world. Our citizens are eager and excited to accept the changes that come with

these reforms. The monotonous psychology to live only with available sources, instead of trying for better options, is now undergoing a change. People are open and want to know more about the world beyond India.

I am sure that in the next few years, we will be a dominating country across the world, especially in sectors like industry, culture and technological knowhow.

JUSTICE PRADIP P BHATT



GUJARAT HIGH COURT

India is the largest democracy of the world, a nation that works by the ideological goals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Looking at the wealth of its natural resources,

huge numbers of skilled and unskilled manpower and improvement in the quality of governance, this country has a bright future! India's potential lies in its immense diversity. Moreover, in almost every field - Education, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Art and Culture, Civil aviation etc, there is a remarkable and visible growth and development. Good governance and effective participation of citizens will certainly ensure an amazing future for India, which will emerge as a developed country.

Make in India, G.S.T., Demonetization, Digitalization and such other reformative steps signify a progressive outlook. Transparency in Public Administration, proper formation of policies by Niti Aayog and their effective implementation, dedication of employees

working at different levels in public administration and proper utilization of public funds will certainly lead us to achieve the above mentioned goals set out in the constitution of India.

TINA AMBANI



CHAIRPERSON, KOKILABEN DHIRUBHAI AMBANI HOSPITAL, MUMBAI

There is no country in the world with more potential and promise than India.

We have the history and heritage, the intellect and

innovation, the people and the prospects to become the greatest nation of the world. But to make that future a reality, we have to eschew our divisions and come together as a society, as a nation, to forge common bonds and work towards shared ends. The keyword here is inclusion—it's vital to bridge the gaps in demography, economy, age and region and give all our people the chance to live their best life.

Indeed, whether it is an institution like Kokilaben Hospital and Medical Research Institute or an individual with a vision, whether it is a corporate house or an NGO, I believe every Indian has the power to make a difference, to be a change agent and play a decisive role in the process of nation-building. If we all adopt a common mantra—'India'—the future will be ours to shape, and it will be a bright one!

LORD BHIKHU PAREKH



PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Every Indian hopes that India will be a prosperous and culturally vibrant society as well as a respected member of the International community.

Will the hope be realized? It depends on a number of factors. Nothing great in the life of a Nation is achieved without a clear vision, discipline, hard work, and public spirit. Unless these are available no amount of hope will take the country far. My fear is that as of now India points in both direction. Some trends suggest vision, discipline, etc. and should serve the country well. Other trends point in the opposite direction. Hard work is avoided and everybody wants easy popularity, fame and money. No great nation can be built on these divisive and feeble trends. Everything therefore ultimately depends on what Indians choose to do in the next few years. They can make the country great or a nightmare.

DR. ANIL KANE



**FORMER VICE-
CHANCELLOR
THE MAHARAJA
SAYAJIRAO
UNIVERSITY, BARODA**

For the future of India, there are only two things that we all need to be worried about. One is the

sense of 'Religious Intolerance' that is becoming more and more prevalent amongst all strata of society, and the second is the 'Unbridled Corruption' that we come face to face with in all aspects of life. If India can get a grip on these two evils, then I foresee a brilliant future for our country.

DR. RAJU MANWANI



I have always been very optimistic about the "Future of India" irrespective of the happenings in India or around the world. In my opinion, no other country in the world is as self reliant and resilient as India. History has always

substantiated that India and Indians have always emerged stronger and more progressive after every setback, every hitch and every "test".

Considering the demonetization drive of the Indian Government, the long term gains from it are there for all to see. I am positive that the majority will agree with me on this. The end result is going to be unexpected and will augur exceedingly well for India and Indians.

Sure, the common man and every Indian today is facing untold, unexpected and unprecedented hardships, but then I have always maintained "NO PAIN, NO GAIN", and the temporary pain of today is going to be far outweighed by the permanent gains in the near future.

DEEPAK RAJANI



**SR. EDITOR, ETV NEWS
GUJARATI**

India's future seems great in the present situation. Indians are the biggest human resource of the world. In this era of slowdown, India is one economy that has not only survived but is

thriving too. We are economy of around 140 lakh crore GDP and our human resources not only contributes to the development of India but other countries too. Be it USA or UK, Indians dominate the economic as well as social strata. Important political functionaries of many countries include Indians too. The Indian vote is important. Even in USA, when Donald Trump was trailing, he deliberately tried to woo Indian voters his situation improved drastically. Many Indians are part of Donald Trump's core team too.

In India the number of mobile phone users crossed the one billion mark around a year ago. Our economic system is also heading towards cashless regime. With such technological advances, we are expected to surpass China in terms of development soon.

In the new world order, India as a country has a distinct position. More focus is needed on developing

knowledge with creativity though, and India will hopefully soon be in the world's ruling axis.

RAHUL SHUKLA



PRESIDENT/CEO, S.S. WHITE TECHNOLOGIES

In the 1950s and 60s when I grew up in India, we used to call our nation a 'developing' nation. Deep down, we knew that it was euphemism for 'poor' nation. When I left India in

1971, I thought of India as not just a poor country but one of the poorest. In the 60s and 70s, parents in USA used to encourage their kids to finish the food in their plates by saying, 'you waste your food and there are starving kids in India.

I can see that there is much more basic goodness in people than what I saw when I was growing up in India. Some of the readers may shake their heads and say 'come on, that can't be true.' But I have seen the evidence firsthand. I find that our Indian managers, employees, suppliers and fellow businessmen in town are kind, ethical, trustworthy, decent and honest. Much more so than what I saw 25 years ago. The regulatory people are not there quite yet. But even then, I have run into a few exceptionally honest and ethical officers. That is the reason why I think India has a great future. India's GDDP in 1971 was 19 billion dollars. USA's was 4.7 trillion dollars. In 1971, I would have never believed that by 2014, India's GDP would reach 883 billion dollars. According to well-known financial institutions in New York, India will become the third largest economy in the world by the year 2035.

India has a great promise - a promise to become not the third largest economy but THE largest economy. We can once again be the cultural leader of the world. We are likely to produce the best literature, music, medicine and technology in the world. We will be far ahead of USA, Russia and China. All we must do is make sure

we continue our journey to become extra-ordinarily 'good people' in order to create the greatest nation on earth (one more time).

GAUTAM SHAH



MAYOR, AHMEDABAD

Under the current political leadership, the intent to make India a better place is clear. We are all witnessing a chain of initiatives that are aimed at making India great again. It started with Clean India (Swachh

Bharat) and has morphed into the introduction of Digital India and Cashless India, which is also another way of cleaning up India.

With the beautification of Sabarmati Riverfront to BRTS dream schemes, Ahmedabad is standing amongst the world's best cities. Going ahead, we will use the latest technology and facilities to include it in the list of smart cities as well. There is no doubt that very soon, our towns will be as beautified and digitally forward as Shanghai and Singapore.

ANUP JALOTA



(BHAJAN SAMRAAT)

The future of India is going to be greater than before. Now we can see our country is being looked after by Desh Bhakts not just politicians. This is the biggest change India is going through.

New policies are framed not for a few or an individual but for all. Thank god, America is also out of the Bush of Thorns. In America the new president is not a politician, but he is a very successful businessman. He can lead his country to profits and give rest of the world

peace and not just Arms. He knows Arms sold to others are often used to destroy his own country within. He is watching how India is progressing.

BHAVEN KACHHI

(WELL-KNOWN ANALYST AND COLUMNIST OF GUJARAT)



I had an opportunity to lunch with the erstwhile Chief Minister of Gujarat, at a media get together after Diwali, called “ Sneh Milan

“. The Chief Minister hosts this as an annual ritual. CM at that time, Modi was soon to be declared as the Prime Ministerial candidate from the BJP. After wishing him, I asked him about his topmost priority for the country, if he becomes the PM of India. I thought he would reply stereotypically about removing poverty, illiteracy etc. But, without a blink, he said with firm resolve that firstly, he would infuse confidence, vibrancy and self esteem on the face of each citizen that represents India. That India is not an ordinary country but a “Jagat Guru” that has to teach the world the right combination of the materialistic with the spiritual world. That the world must follow us to ultimately learn ‘the way of life’. “ He added that unfortunately, from after independence, our people believe that we are destined to born and die as underdeveloped, inferior junk of this planet.

Yes, Modiji was very right. In the eyes of Western or developed countries, we were like pigs, happy with garbage, with an occasional ‘Slumdog Millionaire’. But now the perception is fast changing. We have never tried to showcase to the world that we are not merely a geographical country but a unique civilisation as well. I personally do not consider Modi as a mere political leader. He is an ambassador of our traditional, cultural and spiritual treasure. He will make India the true leader of not only the world but also of mankind. We had never thought about cleanliness in last 65 years, but always adored foreign countries for the same. We never thought of giving respect and dignity to the common

man of our country. We were never patriotic like this before. We barely made one short paragraph in the foreign media. Now world leaders and top CEOs are embracing India like never before.

Our Yoga , health tips, life style, alternative medicines, food habits, alternative energy, organic farming, social and family values, Hindu philosophy, the Gita, Ramayana and Mahatma Gandhi are entering the vocabulary of the world. We should remember that these are food for the human soul and heart. Quality of life can be achieved when we focus on economic growth. The world’s economic and employment scenario is in bad shape but India last week, surpassed the economy of Britain, making it clear that, now, it is the sixth largest.

Currently the youth are in an energized mood, all set to change India. Make in India, Start up India, Women empowerment, Clean India, Military upgradation, a high moral and patriotic passion reflect the present spirit of India. “ Hame Desh Badalana Hai” is the new slogan of our country.

For the first time after independence, a two way nation building is taking place.. This world needs India and we have our resources, people, history and heritage to lead and inspire mankind. Our visionary late President, Kalam saheb, predicted India would lead the world in the true sense by 2020. We are now all ignited and ready on the launching pad, to modify India. Let us resolve, in this new year, to take India into its well deserved glory.

DILIP PANDYA



India is firing on all cylinders! The demographic dividend is and shall benefit us surely! We have witnessed a definite shift and enhanced prioritization of the Indian market by multinationals, in recent years. This happened despite the

challenges of opening and operating businesses in India. However, now the ecosystem is transforming from non-conducive to conducive - a rare combination of political spine for transformation (evident in the hundreds of experiences narrated by overwhelmed beneficiaries of accountability, service and solution-orientation from bureaucratic/governmental class) and putting the interests of the country ahead of petty politics, coupled with astute acumen to plan and execute campaigns of comprehensive growth (truly inclusive, as against doling out freebies).

Technologically too, as demonstrated with telecom, we are poised to leap-frog ahead of developed countries! I see a reverse brain drain contributing positively to our growth. Bharat will once again become a "sone-ki-chidiya" by 2050. We are blessed and our kids, more so!

DR. DH BRAHMBHATT



IAS [RETD], DIRECTOR GENERAL, INDULAL YAGNIK INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES, GUJARAT

Agriculture and its allied activities have been the backbone of

the Indian economy for almost as long as we have been in existence. PM Narendra Modi is well aware of the potential of this sector and is focused on rural development and employment, empowerment of rural women and enhancing the share of rural economy in the country's GDP as well as tackling rural migration. With this in mind, the government is pushing for technological advancements in the green energy sector. The production of green energy from rural and urban municipal waste, agri-waste and cowdung can save approximately Rs. 10 lakh crores on petroleum imports and around Rs. 11 lakh crores in chemical fertilizer imports. While these estimates might vary, the benefits of green energy to our country's future progress are indisputable.

The other challenge India faces is the task of improving infrastructure for Rapid Mass Transport Systems. Helping solve congestion, traffic jams, pollution and saving precious fossil fuel while accelerating urban economic growth is a balance that is paramount to the nation's development.

These two steps alone can be the torchbearers for India in the 21st century and in my opinion, it will come true in the next few years.

SHRI GANGAPRASAD VIMAL



RENOWNED WRITER OF THE HINDI NOVEL 'MRUGANTAK'

Shri Gangaprasad Vimal visited "The Banyan City" to attend the 4th annual festival that also marked 10 years of the organization "Sahitya Pravah". Former

Director of Kendriya Hindi Nideshalay, New Delhi, he also taught the art of translation at JNU.

Speaking about India's future, he says that the country already is a leader, as much of India's talent and brainpower is used extensively by western countries. Indians across the world are successful in business and technological fields. Speaking about a cashless economy he says, "I have visited so many countries across the world and nowhere did I find a 100% cashless economy, including even America. Cashless can be a supporting factor but can't be applied throughout the country. When education is not spread wide enough to reach the last person in a small village, how can you make compulsory such a cashless policy? It is good to catch the non-tax paying businesses, but for the poor and middle class people it is adding to a bunch of problems."

Speaking about government policies, Vimal suggests that philanthropy by business tycoons must be encouraged, as it is in some foreign countries. It can help to bring forward the economically and socially backward people of our country.

“The government should give relief to the poor and middle class in paying taxes and charge a higher tax from the rich people. This can also reduce the gap between the rich and the poor who can use that extra money for education.” he added.

GIRISH J. SHAH



**MANAGING TRUSTEE,
SAMAST MAHAJAN**

I believe India’s second Golden era has just begun. We have such a large number youngsters who are hard-working, smart and ambitious that I believe they will fashion India’s

new success story with their own hands. Agriculture is seeing numerous modern experiments and applied methods which guarantees an increase agricultural production, which in turn will boost our economy further. A strong, stable political class will be the backbone on which will ride the Golden Future of India.

DR. KAMAL PATHAK



**FORMER DEAN
& MEDICAL
SUPERINTENDENT,
MEDICAL COLLEGE &
SSG HOSP. VADODARA**

“India is a grand country, ever-ageing but never old. The history of world civilisations has till date

recorded 43 civilisations. Our civilisation, unlike most, has not only survived most onslaughts of many dynastic rules, conflicting times - economically, technologically, militarily, religiously and culturally but also always maintained a promising bright present and the brightest future throughout. Interestingly, notwithstanding the

global, political, economical, technological, religious and cultural changes everywhere, our country has learnt to maintain its rhythm of development and sustenance in all fields. All it requires, from time to time, is a guiding impetus and a helping hand to alter its course for better.

I strongly believe that the present political changes and able leadership will provide the necessary momentum for a bright future in economically and act as a catalyst for rapid technological advances in all echelons.”

PROF DR. RAJESH KHAJURIA



**DIRECTOR, SMJV’S
CKSVIM, DEAN, MBA-
GTU AND MENTOR,
ACBSP, USA**

My dream is of a Bharat Desh endowed with the Prosperity of Lord Rama, Strategic Skills of Lord Krishna, Non-violence

of Lord Mahavira, Sacrifice of Jesus, and Peace of Prophet Mohammed. The Future of India lies in 5 giant steps of transformation – Ethics, Education, Enterprise, Excellence and Empowerment. To achieve this, people should be encouraged to have pride in being Indian and Indian systems in Governance, Education, Skill Development, Innovation and Enterprise Management through the study of ancient scriptures like Vedas, Gita, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Nitivakyamruta Sutra (a 500 year old Jain Granth) and many others, should be introduced. In addition, about 75 Crore or 75% Indians should be educated in terms of Skills, Works, Education and Enterprise Development, through full-time, part-time or multi-disciplinary classrooms, with the help of online and virtual education programs.

Business and Industry can be brought in at the universty level for Innovation, Skill Development and Training. Leveraging digital and scientific technologies in day to day life as well as in research and development is essential for cutting-edge innovation in various

fields like bio-fertilizers, bio-technology, agronomics, forestry, horticulture, arboriculture, safe chemicals, pollution control, sustainability and so on.
Jai Bharat!

DR. KETAN DESAI



WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Professional Autonomy

I told delegates from more than 40 national medical associations that in many countries like Turkey, India and the United

Kingdom, there are continued political attempts to undo the autonomy and self-governance of the medical profession, including mauling and trampling on the trinity of professional autonomy, clinical independence and self-governance.

Yet professional autonomy is not limited to asking for the privilege to do what we want to do. It is less about physicians and more about patients' rights. It is the assurance that individual physicians have the freedom to exercise their professional judgment in the care and treatment of their patients without undue influence of any type from any quarter, how so powerful and mighty they be.

Regulation of clinical practice, framing evidence-based standard treatment guidelines, defining and checking professional malpractice and medical education; all need vital professional independence and a democratic system based on meaningful participative decision making. The WMA has been, is, and must continue to be against governments' attempts to usurp professional independence through bureaucrats and politicians and making the same 'subservient', as a part of their calculated, nefarious designs.'

I believe that in a democratic society, self-governance is an element of horizontal power-sharing and an important pillar of civil society and democracy itself.

'Doing away with the vital concept of self-governance, will not only amount to subverting a valuable element of democracy but end up devouring the very soul of it.'

Terrorism: Slur on civilization

In my opinion, cross border terrorism anywhere and everywhere needs to be stopped at all costs. Be it the 9/11 terrorist attack in the USA, the Mumbai terror attack, Brussels, Paris, school children massacred in Pakistan or Uri, these attacks disrupt harmony in the society in an irreparable manner. Terrorism by any name and for any reason is terrorism only. There is nothing like "good" or "bad" terrorism. It is a slur on mankind and needs to be dealt with an iron hand and commensurate political will by all the countries in the world. Physicians are at threat and need more protection, whether in war or civil conflict situations. They risk their lives while treating patients in a committed manner. In some parts of the world hospitals are being bombarded, ambulances are hijacked, nurses and doctors are kidnapped or killed and physicians are pressurised, threatened and tortured, in others, especially Asian countries, doctors are assaulted and medical establishments are attacked and damaged. To a physician, a patient is neither a friend nor an enemy. They legitimately need protection from violence while at work. The time has come to seriously think about the need to create a "World Health Keeping Force" on the lines of "World Peace Keeping Force".

I would also like to emphasize on the virtues of Yoga. With medical care expenses rising and the need for preventive medicine, Yoga is a proven way to prevent illness and preserve health. It is totally non-invasive, gentle, soothing and cost effective. In diligent recognition of the same since last year, the United Nations has adopted 21st June as the International Yoga Day.

KANUBHAI VASHI (VAPI)



Amidst all the uncertainty prevailing in the world, the only certain thing is that **INDIA HAS A GREAT FUTURE.**

India's biggest strength lies in its demography. And not just because of its age, but because of the demography's drive to educate themselves and their ability to take up challenges.

India is already a manufacturing hub, it has developed medical tourism, and its IT industry has made its mark all over the world, while it is making enormous strides in the field of agriculture, power, and milk production. India's growth lies in infrastructural development and it is heartening to see this sector being given the highest priority by the government.

Around the world, prosperity of communities or countries is measured through materialistic indexes, but that isn't always the truest measure. True prosperity is best understood in the way its people enjoy a multi-linguistic, multi-cultural, and a multi-ethnic milieu cohesively, while applying a spiritual approach to life, work and success, that provides stimuli for all-round happiness.

From generations, people of India have cultivated a human approach in all walks of life and it is this balanced approach between materialistic achievement and human equality that will ensure India's great future.

DR. KAUTILYA SHUKLA



The landmark demonetization decision in our recent past has become an important phase marker for India. We are currently passing through a transitional period which proves that the current

government is juggling people's expectations on one hand and decisions that must be taken, in the other. How this turns out will have a big say in India's future.

That aside, India will remain a young nation for another 40 years. Today's youth, who are being nurtured in the wombs of formal and informal agencies of education, will be the parents of tomorrow.

If our youth can be provided with equal opportunities of growth along with a proper environment, adequate infrastructure and other amenities, it is certain to put our nation in the spotlight. To achieve this, we need to ensure that hurdles and shortcomings are kept to a minimum.

LALIT KHAMBHAYATA

JOURNALIST-WRITER



India has been a great country since long and will remain great forever. India has already been the spiritual leader of the world, and we have a huge potential to lead the world in all other areas.

With an economy growth rate hovering around 8%, India and its savings & future-oriented people are well-insulated against economic upheavals such as the great recession of 2008, which is a trait that has differentiated India from the world since the times of Chanakya.

India's conservative mindset with globe-spanning aspirations is the perfect recipe for a great, bright future.

MAHESH SAVANI



When talking about equality being the cornerstone of civilization, we often forget about including women's rights. We all understand the important role women play in society, but when

it comes to giving them their rights, they are treated as if they are inferior. Social ostracisation of widows and senior citizens is common place. Even in our country which we take pride in calling Mother India.

Women have to fight for everything that men take for granted. They don't deserve rights only because they are mothers, wives or daughters. Their rights are theirs because they are individuals. And to protect their rights is every Indian's duty and only then can India achieve its destiny as a truly great nation.

MANISH RATHOD



In my view, the future of any country depends on the cultural identity of its people. There are so many changes happening in the country at present. Demonetization has impacted people in an encouraging way. People are expecting a favourable

outcome of the same in the long run. The Narendra Modi government wants to give a keyless entry into a cashless India. It is, therefore promoting a cashless economy through various mediums and motivating the youth to educate other people. The youth of India is smoothly adapting to and is very positive about this recent change. The Modi government also plans to change the tax structure. If all this happens successfully, the country will head towards major economic reforms.

As a citizen of this country, I believe there has to be a paradigm shift, if we want our country in the front row. We need to change our perception. We need to follow the system, rules and regulations rather than criticizing them. We need to reset our minds against corruption, indiscipline, not obeying rules etc. Only then will the change happen.

And, we will certainly feel the change. I strongly believe India has the ability to become a super power provided we change our perception towards the change. But, the question is "Are we ready for it?"

NILESH MANDLEWALA



PRESIDENT, DONATE LIFE

The 21st Century is a golden era for India with great hopes for the future.

India's biggest strength is the demographic edge that it holds for the next 20-30 years. The average age of

Indians will be about 29- 35 years during this period and India will provide 75% of employees of the world's requirement. This could truly be the era which will lead India to be a super power.

Bold, structural reforms like demonetization will ensure that India's economy will move, banks will get huge funds, interest rates will be reduced, tax rates will come down and over a period will boost the economy benefitting every last person of the society.

India's strong ties with the USA and the new President Mr. Donald Trump will help boost geostrategic affairs, trade relations, immigration and visa policies. In prevention of cross-border terrorism, India and the USA are able and willing partners. Trump's stand on increasing duties and tariffs on imports from China as well as their aggressive geopolitical grandstanding in the South China Sea conflict might see sovereign nations choose the Indian tiger over the Chinese dragon.

The present government's focus on Infrastructure and Industrial Development will ensure the development of industrial corridors and smart cities, state-of-the-art technology and high-speed communication, as well as a growth of the prime drivers – a skilled workforce.

By Financial Year 2020, construction equipment industry's revenue is estimated to reach to USD 5 billion from the current USD 3 billion. Land, air and sea infrastructure development can boost our GDP by 2-3%. On top of this the 'Digital India' initiative will be a big shot in the arm for us to achieve the potential that Swami Vivekananda and Dr. Kalam had predicted.

REKHA PATEL



WRITER

It is true that today no economist or critic can predict the future of India!

As far as poverty levels were concerned, India was in the red a few years back. Today, however, a drastic

change can be seen as India is given importance because of its rapidly growing economy.

Today's narrative has changed such that India is now strongly and rightfully claiming its place in this competitive world. We are seeing more and more multinationals make India the base of their operations, and are also seeing our home-grown initiatives slowly establish themselves in foreign markets and economies.

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making every possible effort to achieve this. Our current growth trend is proof that he not only holds the strength of Chanakya but also the vision of Vidur.

RUZAN KHAMBATTA



For the past few years I have been hearing that India is emerging as a super power but it is only now that I am actually seeing India take rapid strides in that direction.

For the last one decade, Indians have indirectly

helped other countries and foreign companies advance technologically. Only now are we riding high on home-grown technological innovations. Of course, all this technology has to be balanced with the human and emotional connect, which is what I think is India's biggest challenge.

The other challenge is that we will have to work on the

basic rights and duties. Unfortunately, a lot requires to be done to change the mindset of non-performing duties. Only when the Nation comes first can we all prosper. In fact now it is more and more a border less world, which helps in individual as well as institutional development. If I compare the infrastructure, educational system, health facilities and quality of living, then India has greatly improved. I feel that in the next few years it will grow in leaps and bounds. Again, we require inclusive growth and am sure that in the coming days it will happen. India is set to become a "Sone Ki Chidiya" or Golden Bird, once again, very soon.

SADHVI PRATIBHA 'PAVNI'



The current Modi-led government is a welcome agent of change, a sweeping wave of awakening the people's consciousness, not only at a national but an international level. Whatever the issue may be – demonetization, cleanliness drive, the

building of toilets, banking reforms, legitimizing black money or making India shine at a global level – they are being done with a true intent, and sooner or later, the gains will be visible.

Ever since this government has come into power, it seems as if the nation is passing through a phase where change is only inevitable. The collective soul of the people has awakened after a long sleep. The common man whose interests were limited to that of himself and his family is today emerging from his shell and thinking and discussing societal, economic and political matters. Perhaps somewhere he sees a light at the end of the tunnel.

While all this is going on, one thing is for sure. In any such period of change, there are difficulties in the beginning but we should focus on the larger picture and realise that it is all for the better. It is my appeal to everyone to wait for a while instead of expecting immediate results, given the time and effort that has

been spent. If a seed has been sown today, then it is but natural that some time must lapse before you taste the fruit.

Flaws can be found in anything and contradictions can be made on any topic, something that we all have been indulging in at some point or the other; but what will we achieve by doing this? It is just a waste of precious time and energy – nothing constructive is going to come of it.

Instead why don't we show our support and solidarity by believing that all our discomfort and sacrifices are in the interest of the nation?

Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!

SURESH PATEL

CMD – NENOZ LIFESTYLE & RECREATION CLUB



With a dynamic, forceful and visionary leader like Narendra Modi, the future of India is definitely bright. However, a few steps should be taken to realize that bright future. Firstly, weeding out corruption from top to the bottom levels of governmental

administrative machinery – Secretaries, collectors, mamlatdars, talaties and the police is necessary. The corruption is pervasive and harming the nation's progress. At the same time, every household in India should realise their responsibility and file their income tax returns – especially farmers. Finally, the need of the hour is to restrict anyone with education less than a college degree and those involved in criminal litigation from contesting for any elected position.

If we are serious about ensuring bright future for India, we have to vigorously implement these and many more such steps.

MUKTAK N. KAPADIA



I believe that vision is the art of seeing that which is invisible to others. Yesterday natural resources were defining power and today, knowledge is what makes the world go round. Yesterday, hierarchy was the model and today synergy is the mandate.

As India has the biggest advantage of having maximum youth according to the population chart, our new vision comprises abilities, capabilities and responsibilities. To achieve this vision, several aspects like autonomy, empowerment, meaningful work, defined career paths, incentives, flexible schedules, leadership skills and knowledge need to be focused on. Toughness, concentration, positive approach, ambition and conceptual thinking are the prime requirements. And not to forget, we need to choose our passion, not our pension.

ANUPAM KUMARI

SENIOR REPORTER, PATNA

It was really shocking that the government suddenly banned Rs 1000 and Rs 500 notes. Nobody had a clue as to why the government took such a sudden step. But now we all realize that demonetization was really necessary to put a cap on the rampant corruption. This government decision has launched the biggest strike on black money. Such a move was necessary, even if the process seemed useless and illogical. Having analyzed its benefits, everyone is now supporting it. In doing so, our PM has restored people's faith in democracy where all of us the right to earn and right to live. Demonetisation will surely help in getting across the benefits of various schemes to deserving people. All such moves will help us achieve our vision of a great India.



DINESH BAROT



By the year 2020, 50% of India will be below the age of 25 years and more than 65% below the age of 35. Undoubtedly, the present and the future of India belong to India's youth.

We all know that the youth of this era is dynamic, ambitious and result-oriented, so it is no surprise that they have the ability to shape and lead our country. They can be tomorrow's intellectual leaders, helping make the government responsive, transparent and corruption-free.

The youth will shape the future of India where agriculture, industry and the service sector grow together in symphony. It is they who can ensure our nation will be free from communalism, insecurity and crimes against children and women.

The young women will have more contribution than ever as they are becoming more and more aware of their rights, and are willing to fight for it. So the future of India is brighter than ever. Yes, to have the better future we will have to fight against terrorism, all kind of pollution, poverty, inequality, injustice and all evils of the modern society. And that is the fight our youth will have to carry on, well into the future.

SHAILESH KUMAR



**EX SUB EDITOR,
PRABHAT KHABAR,
PATNA**

The cashless drive started by the government of India is going to benefit all of us in the long run. At the moment it may be sounding troublesome with

people not liking it but give it a few years and they will definitely see the merit in this decision.

Since Independence, most of the governments didn't dare taking such strong decisions. This government has proved that changes definitely can be brought by the government at the cost of some discomfort. The cashless system is going to eradicate corruption from our society that will result in making the country stronger on the financial front. There are definitely obstacles on the way but if we all cooperate with the government, the initiative will be surely successful and we will see our country racing ahead most of the big economies in the world.

PRERANA PRIYAKSHI

JOURNALIST



Technological advancements are very important for any country. Today, India is seeing a lot of development in technology, which is also helping governments reach out to the people as it

launches various welfare schemes. It is technology that has made the recent endeavour to make India cashless possible. As the world is increasingly going online, technological advancements and innovations in the IT field will be the key to development, helping India become future-ready.

DR. SNEH DESAI

**EXPERT, MOTIVATOR,
INSPIRATIONAL COACH**



India is the future of the world.

Tremendously rich with young and quality human resource, India will rule the hearts and minds of people all over the world.

The current generation is evolving faster intellectually and emotionally, is demonstrating more maturity and becoming more responsible. All these attributes are positive signs, pointing towards a brighter and more promising future of India, that spans over a wide spectrum, from technological growth to spiritual heights.

The future belongs to the past and the glorious past of India is well known across the world. The world is waiting...

We all love Mother India!

YASIR MUSHTAQ



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister's demonetization move has been the most discussed and debated topic of the year. The move had both, supporters and critics. The support came mostly from

people who thoroughly believed it to be anti-black money and anti-corruption, as well as people who were advocates of cashless economies. The criticism came from people who thought it was not well-planned, thoughtless and unconcerned about the inconvenience faced by people.

To be fair, the move was brave, decisive and something India needs. What is also true is that the move has put the country out of gear for quite some time now with continuing limitations in cash withdrawals, people wasting hours standing in queues, and government promises withdrawn or amended in an arbitrary manner.

Going in the future, India will have to walk the tightrope between brave decisions and smooth implementations to ensure that growth and development stay in line with the government's vision.

GAURANG MISTRY



PSYCHO-SOCIO ANALYST

According to me the steps taken towards demonetization for betterment and development of India shall not give impactful result, because 90% of Indian have an

understanding of faith in luck. Due to which they feel insecure and impatient within themselves which is quite obvious. They would definitely take their stand for corruption. Until and unless every Indian would not accept their individual responsibility for their own country, till then Government's any kind of action will not be appreciated. In India there is a huge necessity to develop "Self Awareness", in which occult kinds of words like 'God', 'Luck' and 'Salvation' can be logically explained to develop individual understanding.

VIKAS RAJPOPAT



JOURNALIST

That change is the only constant is well known. But for India the change in the economical scenario has shocked many. To settle down the chaos, the Government is surely going to make amends that help

the citizens. The Indian entertainment industry, especially regional cinema runs on cash but the move of promoting cashless transactions is going to systematize the industry and the mediators and the commission agents are going to face difficult times ahead. In a country where progress has to be forced, the best possible way out seems to be to adapt to it.

NAYANA NANCY PATEL



CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, USA

In my opinion the Future of India will be phenomenal with the recent radical changes of demonetization by the current government. This major move will stop a lot

of the corruption and black money that was bleeding heavily into the system. In the end this will not only help Indians get rid of the hassles associated with cash dealings but will be a significant step to make India into a cashless economy. India is one of the strongest

and most powerful countries, set to be the number one country in the world, only if its government works right.

RAJ GOSWAMI



EDITOR, DIVYA BHASKAR

There was a time when the civilizations of Germany, Russia and Greece were the strongest, but now that place has been occupied by America. Every civilization and culture flourishes at one point of time and

collapses at another. In the current scenario, India and China are considered to be brilliant nations, much ahead in the race of becoming superpowers. Since India has the maximum population of youngsters and specialized experts, I believe that the day is not far when India will shine. The 21st century is one of knowledge and India, where the administration is governed by liberal democrats, is progressing at a fast pace.

PRADEEP PARIKH



SHARE BROKER/ INVESTMENT WRITER

Though one cannot compare a big country like India with other smaller, developed countries, ever since a sparkling star has risen in Indian sky, namely Mr. Narendra Modi, the

future of India looks undoubtedly shiny. Considering the potential of his visionary and bold reforms, one can at least dream of a hopeful tomorrow for India.

In spite of a series of global as well as domestic challenges, the bold decisions taken in last 2 years by Mr. Modi, fearless of the resultant criticism, have put India in a decisive position worldwide, that cannot be ignored by global giants.

I can almost visualize the poetic lines, "Jahan dal dal par sone ki chidia karti hai basera, vo Bharat Desh hai mera" coming true!

DEVANG BHAT



CHANNEL HEAD, GTPL

India is a democracy with different languages, rituals and differences in its geographical atmosphere. These are the best factors that can make true the dream of India's development. But

one major hurdle is lack of Unity. Perhaps, today's changing climate may remove this doubt as the spirit of nationalism becomes strong amongst our citizens.

One of the main challenges our country faces is its educational system. Educational policies differ from state to state and should be replaced with one common educational system. Our educated youth run away to foreign countries with their skills, expertise and knowledge, for their own betterment. But it's the duty of our country's responsible authorities to make the optimum use of such skilled and expertise youth, by providing the value to their knowledge.

JYOTSNABEN YAGNIK



FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE, CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS COURT, AHMEDABAD.

India is one of the countries who has given its consent in the Cedaw where the injustice occurs against women in India and across the world. On behalf of

it, the laws guarding such suffering women must be formatted and strictly applied in our country. It's a fact that the system is not working properly. In this situation, females face the problems like non-equality, insecurity, crimes against women, gender injustice etc.

I believe that until the situation is not cured and differences of gender remain, till the time our country cannot be a developed country. The psychology of a male dominating society must be removed, and females

should be as well equipped for their rights equal to the rights and independence given to the male.

SUBROTO BHAUMIK



WELL KNOWN DESIGNER (ARTIST)

As India is a country with so many different languages and culture, today the tree which is planted which fruit or flower of which color will it give to the society is a matter of question. We all are well aware of how

world is growing up, but looking to the current steps we can see that our country's growth has totally fallen down. When people are uncertain about their today what they will say about the future of India.

In our history people never have faced such problems. Even today there are so many people not having the basic mobile sets too with them. So instead of talking other things, firstly train the people about computer and online banking only then the country will get success. This is not a theory of palmistry where anyone can say after studying the palms. It needs a concrete direction for it.

D K SURANA



BUSINESSMAN AND FINANCIER

We can very well imagine the "Future of India" by observing the inherent tendencies, and correctly understanding the psychology of today's children, for they will be the fathers of tomorrow.

According to me, the children of the IT revolution will completely turn around the political, economic, social, cultural, intellectual and emotional life of Indians. Automation will majorly support human labor, both physical and mental. As digitization increases, financial services gain the most in terms of output and productivity. Parallely, digitization creates much needed jobs in service sub sectors, with particularly notable gains in hospitality and retail subsectors. The Prime Minister's move to incentivize digital payments will help the country leapfrog from primarily cash to digital payment solutions. ■

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“वह शरीर ही क्या जो अस्तित्व ना जाने, 'वह आत्मा ही क्या जो विरक्ति ना जाने...”

Quote by the famous Spiritual Guru, Shri Bhaiyyuji Maharaj of Shri Sadguru Datt Dharmik Evam Parmarthik Trust, Indore.

WHAT MADE YOU BEGIN ON THE SPIRITUAL PATH?

Ever since childhood, I was not much in favor of our social system which is based on making slaves and abusing innocents, a type of psychological slavery. ‘Psychological slaves’ is a term used for keeping those who live below the poverty line and are illiterate, as slaves. Attractive material benefits are used as bait and there starts a vicious circle to trap those who are unaware of the real intention behind the ‘projected’ goodness. My vision is to uproot such slavery.

GURUJI, HOW DID YOU GET INSPIRED TO SERVE SOCIETY?

My aim is to remove superstitious beliefs which are forcefully inculcated in innocent minds. I am working towards establishing a new society where the youth are independent - economically and psychologically, and are able to make decisions based on their own vision instead of decisions being imposed on them. As a nation, society and as individuals, we face big challenges that should be dealt with positively and by following our duties. In our country, which is primarily agricultural, a large number of farmers are committing suicide. It is also true that many who have useful thoughts and constructive ideas do not have any resources to apply them. And those with no vision or creativity but with money and power at their disposal are living by their own so called Principles.

WHO IS YOUR SPIRITUAL GURU WHO YOU LOOK UP TO?

My mother and my father are my Gurus. Who else can be a better Guru than one’s own mother? Parents are the first Gurus on Earth. Now, on my spiritual path, I take whatever good I see in whoever. Anyone who is a “Change Maker”, is my Guru. Great heroes like Shri

Vinoba Bhave, Subhash Chandra Bose, Gadge Maharaj, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mahatma Gandhi, all those who have really served the society as a whole, are my ‘Icons’.

AT WHAT AGE DID YOU START WORKING FOR THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORPHANS, POOR AND TRIBAL PEOPLE?

At the age of 23, i.e. since 1999 I have been serving the society. Instead of waiting for any help from outside, I started working with my own resources for them. I believe, if you want to serve someone or the society then adhere to the simple rule of being simple; be polite which helps in eradicating the ego and ultimately purifies the character. This is how a spiritual personality can slowly be built.

WHAT STRUGGLES DID YOU FACE IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF YOUR WORK TOWARDS THE WELL-BEING OF SOCIETY?

For thousands of years we have been living with the same old conservative ideas. We can say that we live in a dual minded social structure. Getting rid of such orthodox mindsets involves a lot of struggle. The social structure based on making the weak person a slave, gave birth to the tradition of keeping the poor and orphans as “slaves”. Today, I am running a crusade against this rigid system and yes, it is unquestionably true that this campaign is accompanied by a lot of hurdles.

HOW DO YOU GET FUNDING FOR YOUR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES?

Currently, the trust is not getting sufficient donations. Most donations are diverted towards religious rituals like Yagnas etc; funds are collected for movements and strikes but no one comes forward to serve those from the socially downtrodden segments.

A close-up portrait of a man with dark hair, a mustache, and a bindi on his forehead. He is wearing a white shirt and has a slight smile. The background is a gradient of orange and red.

When a spiritually powerful soul decides to serve the nation and its children, nature itself showers blessings in the form of its resources on the Divine Soul.

Shri Bhaiyyuji Maharaj of Indore, M.P. is one such divine soul. Many politicians, businessmen and diplomats are among the people inspired by his dynamic persona. He shares with us a few precious moments, answering a variety of questions.

Interview by
Kaustubh Athavale

'SERVING THE POOR AND ORPHANS IS AS GOOD AS SERVING GOD.'

BHAIYYUJI MAHARAJ



A few achievements of Shri Bhaiyyuji Maharaj:

- [1] Ahinsa Ratan Award, 2013
- [2] Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award, 2014
- [3] Vidharbh Bhooshan Award, 2016
- [4] Doctor of Literature from the D.Y. Patil University, (Kolhapur), 2016



to fight against situations like 26/11, farmer suicides or societal ills like the practice of women forced to become Devdaasis.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE CURRENT REFORMS INTRODUCED BY OUR PRIME MINISTER?

No doubt, demonetization is good. But it should be applicable on bigger currency notes. The cashless system does not match the Indian scenario where basic infrastructure is still lacking. Instead of taking such extreme steps of social reformation, primary steps of reforms should first be made applicable.



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AS A SPIRITUAL FOLLOWER OF GURU DATTA-TREY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE?

All I would like to say is that we should all come together to face common problems and challenges. We must realise that in unity lies our strength if we have



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One of the youngest and most successful trainers in the country, Dr. Sneh Desai has been instrumental in changing the lives of millions who have attended his signature programme called “Mind Power”, designed for complete makeovers of the Body, Mind and Soul. His equally valuable and life changing programs on Parenting, Husband-Wife relationships, NLP, Life Awakening and free programs of Dynamic Yoga, Krishna katha and many more have also contributed immensely to improving the participants’ quality of life.

Identified as one of the top 25 youngest entrepreneurs of Gujarat and described as ‘The Magician of Words’ by Bhaskar Group, Dr. Desai’s company is rated among the Top Educational Institutes of India by Sandesh Group. For his extraordinary contribution to India’s development through his nationwide trainings, Dr. Desai was honored with the ‘Bharat Nirman Award’ in 2016.

Dr. Sneh Desai’s highly energetic and heart touching presentations keep his audiences spellbound and many are overwhelmed. He believes that talk is cheap and effective, if done correctly. His unique ability is getting people to ‘act’ in real life to produce real results.

Consistent trainings (since the age of 9) in Meditation, Yoga, Public Speaking, NLP, Behavioral Therapy, Psychological Therapies, Marketing, Management and various allied subjects made him master the art of living. He achieved the academic milestone of becoming a Microsoft Certified Professional, at just the age of 12!

He started his own career by dreaming big. Using the various principles which he teaches in his workshops, he went from a Zero to a Millionaire in just 2 years and attained financial freedom. Dr Desai has done his Ph.D. in Alternative Medicine and Business Management. He has trained more than 800 trainers across India. He has authored several bestselling books and created numerous audios and training DVDs.



His workshops are conducted in multiple locations including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Jaipur, Nagpur, Raipur, Nashik, Indore, Aurangabad etc. The praises and accolades trickles in from different parts of the world like Africa, Australia, Canada, Singapore, UAE, UK and USA.

In close to last 2 decades, he has touched approximately 2 million lives through his live programs. His substantial contribution to the society at large has been frequently covered by various media and national newspapers. ■



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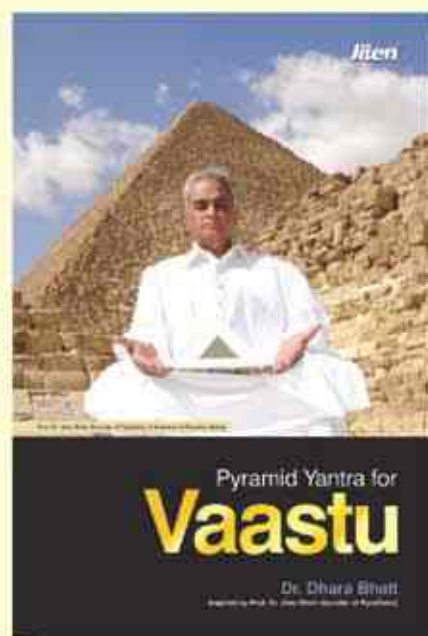
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THE FINE LINE BETWEEN THE ARTS AND BUSINESS

The highly accomplished founder of The Arts Quotient, **Swati Apte** tells **Neha Udayan Jain** how it all came about, why corporate leaders should focus on developing their soft skills, the implications of shifting back to India and lots more



Swati Apte is a business strategy specialist with a passion for the arts. With a Harvard MBA and a Masters from Oxford in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, she is as at home in a corporate environment as in an Arts one, the latter also owing to her training and love for Odissi dance.

Swati is the co-founder of India School House and senior advisor to Educate Girls and to the World Monuments Fund. She is part of the core team as well as faculty for the SMART Program (Strategic Management for Arts Organizations).

A former McKinsey and Co. business consultant, she enjoys travel, writes a monthly column on parenting and lives in Mumbai with her husband and two children.

In the short interview that follows, Lataji speaks about the current state of music, the state of affairs in the country and her unflinching hope for everything turning out good in the end.

Tell us a bit about you

I grew up in Mumbai and Calcutta in a family that thought in two languages. I went to St. Xavier's College in Mumbai (where I also met my husband J).

With an MBA from Harvard, how did you veer towards the Arts?

The arts have always been an integral part of me somehow. As I grew up, I found my greatest passion in dance. It's the one thing my parents didn't have to remind me to do! I feel like that training also gave me a sense of self and respect for rigour – things that helped me in my academic and professional journey.

My path has always been, for the lack of a better way to put it – an ambling one. I never thought I would work in the arts professionally. In college, all my internships were with social organizations, including Grameen Bank, and I wanted to work in policy/development. I then went to work at McKinsey in New York because the analytical, result-driven approach of the business world also appealed to me. Through all of that, I kept managed to keep my connect to the arts alive. I had a dance troupe (we would rehearse well into the night, post work) and then before business school, I took some time off from McKinsey to run an art gallery. In my 20s, I felt I can do it all. But later,

as I got deeper into professional life, and when my kids were born, it got harder to keep multiple interests alive. Dance can be very unforgiving if you are not doing regular *riyaaz*.

Then about 7 years ago, my husband and I moved back to India and even as I worked with a financial institution, I gradually went back to dance and worked with both educational and arts organizations. Eventually, I began to see how the learning from one was feeding into my work in the other domain. I also saw how fortunate I had been to be able to access all of these fields. So I set up The Arts Quotient with my friend Sangeetha. It offers multi-disciplinary perspectives in this siloed world we live in.

“The arts have always been an integral part of me somehow. As I grew up, I found my greatest passion in dance. It's the one thing my parents didn't have to remind me to do!”

What exactly is The Arts Quotient about?

We develop inspiring, dynamic and responsible leaders, using techniques from the live arts.

Our leadership development programs foster clarity of vision, strong communication, effective collaboration and finding joy and purpose in one's work.

Our methodology draws from arts practices, skills and techniques. The arts are a celebration of the best that is humanly possible - physically, intellectually and spiritually. We believe that this spirit of the arts will transform individuals' perception of possibility - for themselves, for their teams, for their organizations and then further, for the world.

How and when did you realize that something of this kind is needed in the Indian corporate world?

In the U.S, much of my training in corporate life was about technical aspects but a lot also about communicating

and bringing people along with you. They used ideas from the performing arts (by making us go through role plays, etc). Even Harvard Business School makes all its students go through a theatre and storytelling program. For me, it was natural to draw from my learning there.

When I came back and was working here, someone asked me casually if I would do a theatre workshop for their employees. I was thrilled to. It was then I realized how little people focused here on leadership values such as connecting with people, listening and creating followership. Senior level managers who had worked for 10-15 years were suddenly hitting a wall, not able to understand why they were unable to mobilise their teams or achieve their business targets. The issue was often one of clarity or being able to create conviction in their leadership.

The Arts lend so naturally to building that, for e.g., an actor has to get up on stage and convince the audience that he is the King of Denmark and that the box he is sitting on is the throne! There are skills and techniques he must use to look real. Business leaders can learn from that, to be able to deliver with conviction.

Your company works with people of all age groups and socio economic backgrounds. Can you elaborate on this point?

While our bread and butter is leadership training for business leaders, both Sangeetha and I are personally driven by a desire to make an impact on individuals and their lives. We work regularly with children who with cancer, employees at hospitals and care centres. For them, we design programs that enable them to see the space and their own possibilities differently. We want to seed conversations beyond survival and medicines, including play and joy too.

We also work with young adults – helping them find their unique passions and a path to follow them.

Apart from that, we have worked with different educational NGOs, helping teachers in municipal schools handle classes better. We teach them some ‘performance’ related skills, after all a teacher is handling a ‘student audience’ all the time. This helps them to be more effective in the class-room, managing children and learning outcomes without the use of punitive measures.



“When I came back and was working here, someone asked me casually if I would do a theatre workshop for their employees. I was thrilled to. It was then I realized how little people focused here on leadership values such as connecting with people, listening and creating followership.”

You have been working with few NGOs as well?

I personally work deeply in financial inclusion (I worked at Swadhaar in Mumbai), Education (with ISF and Educate Girls) and Arts and Culture (Junoon, SMART, World Monuments Fund).

Through TAQ, we have also worked closely with St. Jude’s Child Care centers.

Recently, you had a performance at Mysore Association. How did that come along?

It was such fun, Neha. It's the first piece I devised after almost 13 years (basically since I got pregnant with my daughter). In the meantime, my own dance practice suffered (my teacher would say '*ab sirf phool patti role ban gaye hain tumhaare*').

"Interlude: Threshold to the beyond" is a creative dance project conceptualized by TAQ founders Swati Apte and Dr. Sangeetha Rajan. The deep philosophies of the Bhakti tradition are knit together into a story on human transition. The performance explores the fear and anxiety that accompanies moving into the unknown, whether it be the fear of darkness, of starting a new life, or of death. Poetry by Allama Prabhu, Soyarabai, and Amir Khusrau weaves in and out of pure dance pieces that celebrate the human capacity for adventure. The debut performance was at the Mysore Association, Mumbai on November 11, 2016 as part of the Shivali Festival.

It went well and we even got a great review in The Afternoon. We hope to take it to many more cities this coming year!

“Keeping the artist alive in a child teaches them to build things, to imagine, to express and to do all this with a sense of joy.”

How has the transition from the US to India been?

It was a difficult decision to come back, only because we had no compelling reason to. Alok and I have lived in many geographies and been very fortunate to find close friends and a community wherever we went. Even now, I imagine we can feel at home anywhere in the world as long as we find work that excites us. Our children were at an age when it would get harder to move them if we waited. So one day we decided it was time to try it. I

thought India is the land of much help and it would be easy after years of doing laundry and chores on weekends! I was coming home and all would be smooth. But in fact, I had never been an adult in India. And running a home here is of course very different from living with your parents. There are days when the weekend laundry seems easier...

But my kids have grandparents and even great grandparents in close proximity now and that made it all worth-while. With all its madness and chaos, one can find a niche here to make a difference, if that matters to you. Professionally, it has been hugely fulfilling because being here has allowed me to build this bespoke career I have imagined for myself.

Being a mother of two kids, how important do you think art and creativity are in a child's life?

For a child, imagination and expression is the key to the world. The arts open up a world of possibility for a young person, helping them find their voice. We worry about our children's future about how they will 'survive' professionally, and push them into specific disciplines and skills for this. But the world is not siloed into science and math and literature and music. One has to develop the ability to see the whole. The arts develop a sensibility and sensitivity that is critical to one's perspective. And it is hugely critical that children have them in their lives. In the U.S., things are increasingly taught in an integrated way – STEMA (science, technology, engineering, math and the arts). Keeping the artist alive in a child teaches them to build things, to imagine, to express and to do all this with a sense of joy.

You also conduct exhibitions and performances for budding artists?

In the same way that we at TAQ push business leaders to think more broadly, we work with artists to immerse them in disciplines beyond their own comfort zone. In my work at SMART, I bring strategic management practices to Arts organisations, so they can have the 'business' and 'admin' skills to develop their artistic dreams. TAQ also conducts multidisciplinary workshops for artists – e.g. our recent one on modern dance with Shruti Mishra. We made a group of traditional dancers look at their own grammar and ways of expression in a new way. Essentially through our work, we hope to keep expanding boundaries of how people see possibility. ■

DIY Looks for the Season

Nandita Derashri lets you in on the secrets of the perfect look, for an afternoon party or even an evening soiree



foundation to keep the look natural. Blend the mousse well all over the face with a blending brush or sponge before using a concealer to hide blemishes or dark circles and finally set everything with a loose powder. For a finishing touch, apply a light peach blush on the apples of your cheeks and T-zone.

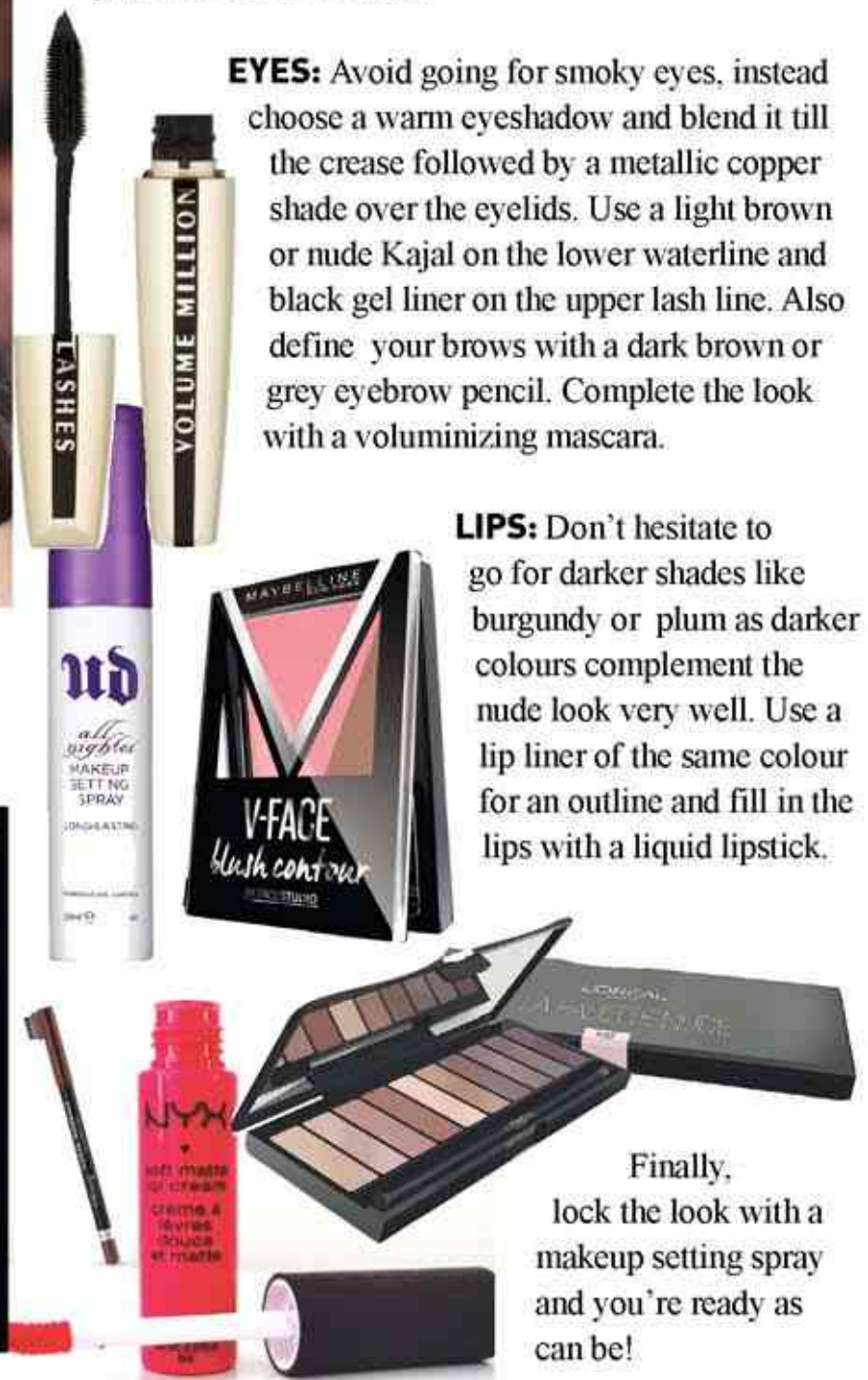
EYES: Avoid going for smoky eyes, instead choose a warm eyeshadow and blend it till the crease followed by a metallic copper shade over the eyelids. Use a light brown or nude Kajal on the lower waterline and black gel liner on the upper lash line. Also define your brows with a dark brown or grey eyebrow pencil. Complete the look with a volumizing mascara.

LIPS: Don't hesitate to go for darker shades like burgundy or plum as darker colours complement the nude look very well. Use a lip liner of the same colour for an outline and fill in the lips with a liquid lipstick.

Attending a day wedding always seems an uphill task, especially when it comes to makeup. Most of us vacillate between heavy face makeup to look formal enough or the risk of looking dressed down for the occasion.

DAY PARTY LOOK MADE EASY

FACE: For the perfect day-time makeup, moisturise your skin well and apply primer. Let the primer set for about 10 minutes and then take some mousse or BB cream rather than regular



Finally, lock the look with a makeup setting spray and you're ready as can be!



Contouring and highlighting is the most important part of any makeup. Pick a darker shade for the contouring stick and glide it on the usual areas like cheeks, forehead, jawline and the sides of nose. Blend it well. Next apply a pink blush onto the apple of your cheeks. Finally, highlight the under eye area, forehead and bridge of your nose with a champagne shade highlighter.

EYES: Apply an eyeshadow base over the eyelids and start with a warm shade on the crease. Take small amount of any (which goes well with the outfit) glittery eyeshadow and blend it on the eyelids. Use slightly darker colour for the corners of the eyes. Draw a winged look with a liquid eye liner on the upper lash line. For the lower waterline, a gel based Kajal pencil or even a nude liner works well. Go for those false eyelashes if you like or just curl up those lashes with mascara.



EVENING PARTY LOOK MADE EASY

It is undoubtedly true that night time parties require a more glamorous look. In the evening, you can probably use every product available in your vanity case and come up with a attractive bold look. Here's how:

FACE: After cleansing and moisturising the face, use a primer and wait for 10 minutes. Now blend a full coverage foundation evenly all over the face. Choose the colour that matches your skin tone and conceal the under eye area and any dark spots with a concealer. A blending sponge works best for this as it doesn't leave any extra product on skin.



LIPS: Contrary to the popular belief of using a dark coloured lipstick at night, go for a nude shade. A darker colour will only overshadow your makeup. Matte lipsticks are the latest trend and they go perfectly with a full coverage foundation and highlighted cheeks.

Once again, wrap up with a makeup setting spray and you're all set to turn heads at the party! ■

A Rich Symbol of Tradition

The Indian Sherwani

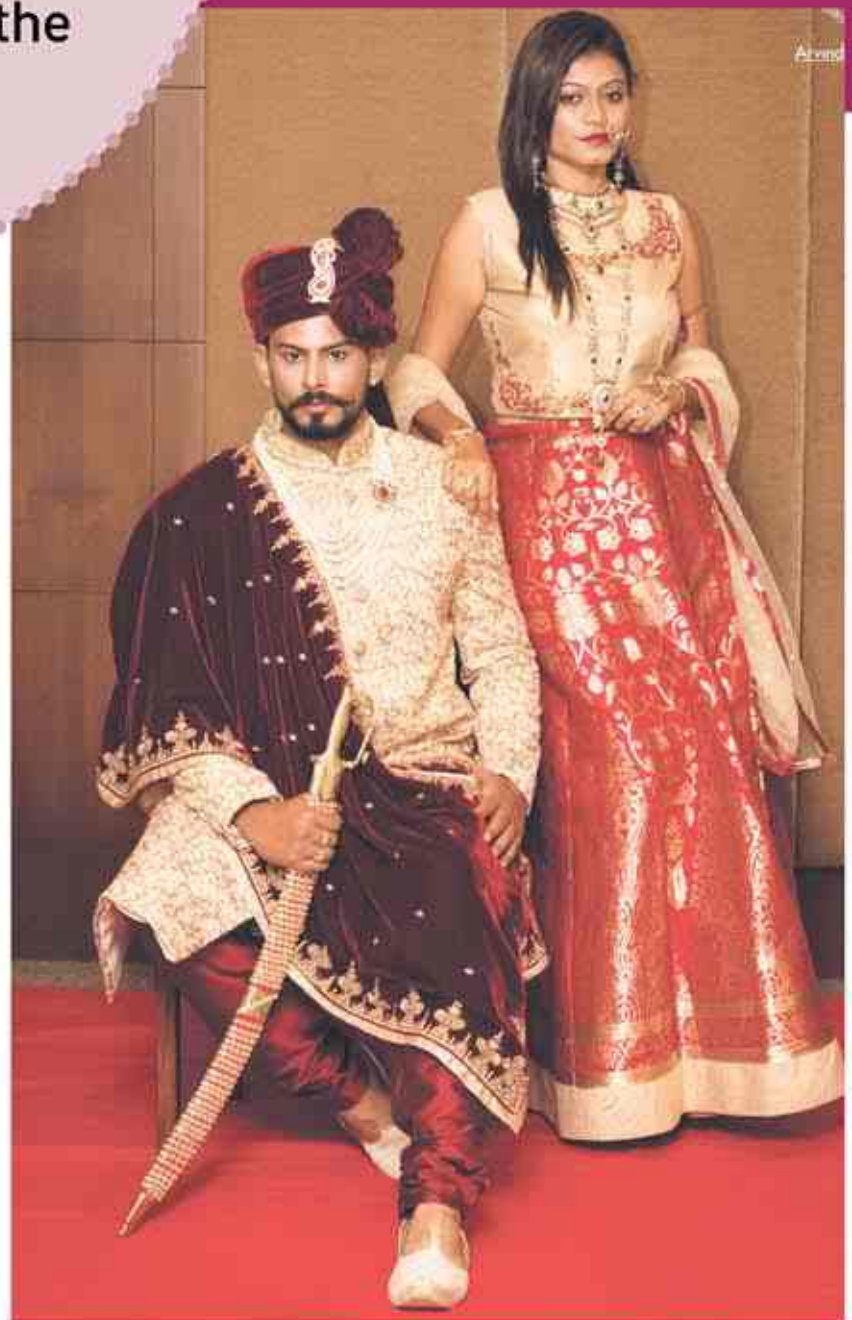


Few dresses in the world can match up to the magnificent Sherwani, says **Mehul Suthar**, as he describes the ideal wedding attire for the Indian man.

Almost everyone's dream wedding features lavish decorations, mouth-watering feasts and perhaps most importantly, glamorous attire. Especially so in Indian weddings where a lot of time, effort and money is spent on different dresses for the various ceremonies. Wedding preparations always sound so very exciting for the bride-to-be but one forgets that it's also a big day for the groom. Unlike in the past, the modern day groom now makes every possible effort to look his best on D-day and looks forward to the compliments and admiration as much as his better-half.

With the Indian groom becoming choosier, the three button suit is no longer the default setting and he too has many choices. In fact, the latest trend is a marked shift from western outfits to ethnic wear. The traditional dresses for men include *Achkans*, Kurtas, Indo Westerns, and the classy Indian Sherwani. The elegant Sherwani immediately lends the wearer a formal, royal and most traditional look. Alongwith the right accessories, the groom in a Sherwani is all set to walk next to his dazzling bride! The Sherwani signifies India's rich culture and heritage as much as its female equivalent, the *Lehenga*.

The Indian Sherwani is a knee length jacket with buttons all along in the front and a Nehru collar. It is usually



paired with a fitted *Churidar* or a *Jodhpuri* which adds to the regal aura.

Wedding sherwanis generally come with matching or contrasting trousers and colour options include cream, beige, blue, brown etc. It is best that the groom picks



one which suits his complexion and physique. The Sherwani's jacket is the most important part of the attire. It comes in bright colors and sets the groom apart from others around him.

Modern day Sherwanis are crafted from several fabrics like silk, jacquard, brocade, crinkled tissue, crepe, woven silk and even cotton. Embellished with *zardozi* or *kundan* work, crystals and embroidery, it achieves a magnificent look that few dresses in the world can match up to.

Among different styles available in Sherwanis, a man can choose from a contemporary, classic, regional or a designer look. An added advantage of the Sherwani is its comfort level, especially as the Indian groom is required to sit on the ground for the wedding ceremonies.

Pair it with the right *juttis*, scarf or *safa*, a *mala* or a brooch and prepare to graciously accept the many compliments you are sure to receive! ■

Credits:

Designer: Vijay Khatri

Outfits Courtesy: Arvindhbai Khatri Sons

Photography: Umang Bhatt – Frameism Frameworkz



LOCAL MENUS AT GLOBAL VENUES

Indian dishes are fast growing in popularity among the foodies of the world. **Nishek Jain**, owner and founder of Restaurant 29 at Kemps Corner, Mumbai, talks about how Dosas and Pav Bhaji are edging out the ubiquitous Tikka Masalas.

“**A** Masala Dosa please,” one would expect this to be a common refrain in the crowded bylanes of Mumbai. But that isn’t where we are. Somewhat to our bewilderment, we find ourselves hearing this in the sunny state of California (USA) and on the streets of Los Angeles to boot! In hindsight, it shouldn’t have come as

that big a surprise. The city is often hailed as one of the most diverse and culturally-tolerant places in the world.

The South-Indian’s humble, everyday meal has turned into quite a health food draw for weight-watchers in the US and UK, who love the light fare. Also called “crispy, golden crepes”, the dish even made it to a list of ‘10 Foods



To Try Before You Die'. Delicious and wafer-thin, a hot, off-the-griddle dosa can be enjoyed in many variations, including Mysore, Onion, Cheese and Mixed vegetable dosa.

A bigger surprise than seeing it as regular fare on the streets of USA was that the lady making it wasn't Indian but Vietnamese. She had come across the recipe on a trip to India and took it up as a business proposition when she migrated to the States. The story of Gul, a young Afghanistani chef-cum-owner of the Indian restaurant Namaste in Munich, runs on similar lines.

As the old adage goes, we are what we eat. Over the years, such little known but significant culinary ambassadors have helped to serve Indian culture in bite-sized pieces on platters across the globe. The image of Indian food has subtly shifted beyond the mandatory *Chicken Tikka Masala* and *Black Dal*. And rightfully so! For decades, these dishes were synonymous with Indian food in the





western world. Today Indians as well as foreigners have the opportunity to tease their palate with popular as well as some regional Indian cuisine, whatever their country of domicile.

With the world waking up to the richness of Indian cuisine, westerners are finally exploring it beyond the ‘sheesh-kebobs’. *Pav bhaji* is the latest desi food in



demand in New York. There was a recent story about how it was high time that New York embraced the Indian snack which is “one of the best and most satisfying snacks in the universe”, and suggesting that it be sold on trains in the city. With different versions, including a spinoff called ‘Sloppy Pav’, these sandwiches (that’s what they’re being called) are being lapped up abroad and how!

It is important to note that Indian dishes and ingredients are now available not only in countries with a large Indian population, but also in the more sparsely-populated nooks

CHEFS THAT HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN TAKING INDIAN FOOD ABROAD.

Camellia Punjabi – She wrote one of the best selling cookbooks of all time, *50 Great Curries of India*, and went on to open a series of restaurants in the UK, Chutney Mary being the most famous.

Vineet Bhatia - Set up restaurants around the world including *Rasoi* by Vineet Bhatia in London, Geneva, Bahrain, *Indego* and *Ashiana* in Dubai and *Ziya* in Mumbai among many more.

Vikas Khanna – The award winning, Michelin starred Indian chef was also referred to as the ‘Hottest Chef of America’ by the *People* magazine. In 2010, Khanna started a restaurant in Flatiron district of Manhattan, New York and called it *Junoon*. It has been awarded a Michelin star by the *Michelin Guide* for 6 consecutive years since 2011.

Floyd Cardoz - Opened *Tabla* and introduced New Yorkers to the delights of Indian spices. Recently his *Paowalla* is getting rave reviews in New York and *The Bombay Canteen* has become one of the city’s most loved institutions.

Gaggan Anand - Introduced molecular techniques to Indian cuisine at his restaurant in Bangkok. Gaggan has been rated as Asia’s best restaurant two years in a row by *Restaurant* magazine.


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of the world. One reason may be that the addition of various spices and herbs offers people a break from the monotony of their regular food. Furthermore, Indian food is perceived as well-balanced and nutritious - a typical meal incorporates healthy carbs, proteins and fiber. In an increasingly health-conscious world, these are not insignificant factors! Indian food is also synonymous with the popular phrase, 'maa ke haath ka khana', the literal meaning of which is, 'made with a mother's love'. It is just another way of 'conscious cooking and eating', which is all the rage now.

It will be long before India has exhausted its recipes of authentic Indian food. And it goes without saying that it will take some time for these culinary gems to reach different parts of the world.

Despite increasing curiosity about Indian culinary traditions, little is being consciously done to publicize the myriad regional cuisines of India. The latter is of paramount importance for a country which prides itself on the diversity of its people. Even within the subcontinent, Indians have only recently started discovering regional delicacies like the *Dal Pakwaan* from Sindh, *Bhappa Aloo* from West Bengal or *Kangsoi* from Manipur. It will be long before India has exhausted its recipes of authentic Indian food. And it goes without saying that it will take some time for these culinary gems to reach different parts of the world.

The next step for Indian cuisine on the global scale would ideally be to focus on region-centric food. These treasures remain largely untapped but the world has never been more ready for an authentic Indian culinary experience. In fact, savoring India's scrumptious array of mouth-watering culinary flavours is any food-loving traveller's dream.

So the next time you plan a holiday abroad, make sure you hunt down that Indian restaurant and explore what's on their menu. You may be surprised, after all! ■

CULINARY MAP OF INDIA

They say that the variety of food available in India is more than in any other country in the world! An authentic gastro-nomic ride would be to devour unique dishes from the 29 kingly states of India with a menu that features a multitude of local appetizers, mains, desserts and beverages! Some examples are -

Delhi, Punjab and Haryana: Walk down Delhi's streets and you can't miss Dilli Chaat Tokri - a perennial favourite with samosas, pakodas, palak namak parathas and crunchy papdi served in a edible tokri. Think of Punjab or Haryana and you can imagine its earthy heritage, one of lush green fields and a robust lifestyle. Punjabi food is rich and full of life. Take your pick from Punjabi Paneer Tikkas with Baby Butter Kulchas, Rajma Chawal or the Sindhi Sai Bhaji with Butter Naan.

Rajasthan: Rajasthan, the land of Maharajas, is famous for its vibrant culture. Rajasthanis love their food, a fact that is evident in their preparations. Kacchi Haldi Ki Sabzi aur Tukkad, a recipe from the dhabas of Rajasthan is a staple trucker dish, cherished by locals as well as tourists - you can also choose the Ajmeri Mawa Jalebi with Rabadi to satisfy that sweet-tooth.

Andhra Pradesh: Andhra food is deliciously hot and tangy. Their everyday favourite is pulihara or tamarind rice spiced up with sliced green chillies. The Telugu people love their side dishes, pickles that will leave you red in the face, crisp poppadums and yoghurt. Hyderabad Haleem is also presented in a healthy-vegetarian adaptation. For those who wait for the dessert, you can relish the Punugulu, or the Double Ka Meetha!

Bihar & Jharkhand: Largely influencing each other, Bihar and Jharkhand too have their own authentic and mouth-watering cuisine which is predominantly vegetarian. Tuck into the Bihari delicacy Litti-chokha with Baingan ka Bharta or Jharkhand's traditional dish Dhuska-Ghunguni that is offered during festivals and celebrations.

North Eastern: The common perception of north-eastern food being non-vegetarian is put to rest with popular vegetarian delights like momo's with three kinds of dips, Assamese Potato chops with spicy Sanmeholi Chutney or Arunachal Pradesh's Thukpa and Sticky Rice.

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AN ODISSI ODYSSEY

Preety Sengupta's observations on her travels in Orissa, from attending the famous dance festival at Konark, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to the simple joys of being by the sea

When my jet-lagged eyes finally opened a little I saw that I was flying over a green carpet. Call it ambitious or foolhardy, but instead of going westward to my home in India I was flying to the eastern state of Orissa – directly from Mumbai. This was a long haul from chilly New York to sunny Konark. Very long in fact, because it was from JFK to CDG to Chhatrapati Shivaji to Biju Patnaik airport in Bhubaneswar, “the temple city” as the Orissa’s capital is called. Furthermore, from there I had hired a taxi to Cuttack to visit some acquaintances, and after lunch had continued on to the famed Sun Temple at Konark, which amounted to a total of about 300 km on land!

The rush was because of the desire to attend the Dance Festival in Konark. Several main temple sites in India have been arranging annual Dance Festivals, promoted by the State Governments. I was fortunate to have attended such a three-night gala at the Sun Temple at Modhera, Gujarat once. Among other venues are Khajuraho in M.P, Halebid-Belur and Pattadakal in Karnataka, Konark in Orissa etc. To be at the right place at the right time, for such events, requires a lot of planning many adjustments. In my case, it meant not being able to wash for about forty hours and doing without proper sleep, for about fifty!

I have been to Orissa before, and seen the fabulous 13th century Sun Temple at Konark, but the thought of seeing classical dance against the backdrop of the temple was very exciting. At Konark, however, I realized that now the festival did not take place right at the temple, at an amphitheatre behind the temple. The amphitheatre is a permanent structure, beautifully made, with lovely gardens all around which were decorated with strings of fairy lights. The temple, which was called “the black pagoda” in earlier times, was floodlit so extravagantly that it glowed as if it was made of white marble.



The now twenty-five year old Konark Dance Festival draws local and global visitors from many parts of the world. Americans, Canadians, Australians and Japanese peppered the assorted audience that swelled up to about two thousand every night. At all such festivals, the tradition is to invite known groups of dancers from far-flung parts of the country, giving the viewers a rare opportunity to witness dance forms like Manipuri, Kathakali and Chhau. Before leaving NYC, I had happened to find out that “Kadamb”, a Kathak group from my hometown Ahmedabad, was performing there this year. Feeling real proud, I went backstage to meet some of the dancers whom I already knew.

On both the nights that I attended, I saw excellent classical Odissi dance-dramas, by two groups from Bhubaneswar. One was based on the life of King Ashoka and the other on Gautam Buddha. The whole event was handled so well from beginning to end that even the inevitable presence of Department of Tourism officials did not create any undue delay. There were no speeches and all the artists were called to the stage after each performance, and each was presented with a token rose. Apart from the artists, the show was stolen by both the commentators. Mr. Frederick Right explained in English while Ms. Sangeeta Gosai spoke in Odiya, not translating really but making the language sound very poetic and lovely to listen to. Quite impressed, I sought her out and had a chat with her. It was no wonder that she spoke impromptu for I learnt that she was a senior research scholar at the Institute of Arts in the capital.

Outside, between the two gates, India Tea Board had set up a pavilion where hundreds of people stopped by to avail of the sample cups of Assam, Darjeeling and Nilgiri tea. Late evening and the ground was littered with countless squashed cups! I made friends with the pleasant young men there, all of whom were from Kolkata. Even the tourism booth fellow was a Bengali and I thoroughly enjoyed chatting in Bengali with them.



In tourist terms, Orissa is known for its own “Golden Triangle” – comprising of Konark, Bhubaneswar and Puri, less than a 200 km circuit to visit. I travelled about 700 km, in nine days, giving myself time to savour each place, including Chilika Lake, which I had missed during my first encounter with Orissa. Now many monuments charge an entrance fee which is nominal for Indians but quite high for foreigners. At Konark it was Rs. 10.00 and Rs. 250.00 or five dollars respectively. Purno Gochhaia, a room-cleaner at the state-owned Panth Nivas shared some astounding statistics. His estimate was 30,000 visitors came to Konark every day. “Now multiply that with the daily income”, he went on to say. “At least one lakh rupees per day is earned at this spot alone. Even after the meager salaries of sweepers and workers are paid, it is an enormous amount and all of it goes to Bharat sarkar, who doesn’t know where to keep it.” While it sounded funny, I found his comments a bit eye-popping!

There are many legends about how Konark got its name,

but the most prevalent is the combination of “Kona” or corner, plus “Arka” meaning sun. Its main entrance faces East, and it is built in such a way that the rays of the rising sun fall on the head of the Sun God inside the sanctum, in any season. The energy giving, healing and wish-fulfilling Sun God is being worshipped near this spot, where the Chandrabhaga river meets the Bengal Sea, from 1900 B.C. King Narasimha Dev got this temple made sometime between 1230 and 1270 CE and it is said that it took twelve hundred artisans and sixteen years to complete.

Constructed with three types of Odissi stones – Chlorite, Laterites and Khondalites – it is supposed to have been 70 meters high. Created in the shape of a colossal chariot it was built in three sections – “Viman” or the sanctum, “Mukhasala” or the porch in the middle, and “Naata Mandir” or the Temple of Dance in the front. The most striking feature is the mammoth stone wheels – almost three meters in diameter, with 16 ornate spokes on each one. The 24 wheels signify the hours in a day. Life-size

stone horses pulled the chariot – seven horses standing for the days of a week, or for the colours of the Sun's rays. Three larger than life statues of the Sun God still stand outside the walls of the main temple, in the south, west and north alcoves, while the main image from inside the sanctum has been removed to the National Museum since 1951.

The best example of medieval Odissi architecture, the Konark temple has been called "a poem in stone". Every inch of its structure is filled with amazing carvings. Over 2,000 elephants line the bottom panel all around. On the walls there are scenes of royal armies, hunting parties, palanquins with bearers, free standing beauties, dancers, musicians, Gods, sages, animals and flowers. Moreover, it contains 84 amorous poses from the Kamasutra, which the local guides are all too eager to point out. Apparently this used to be a practice in not just Hindu, but Jain and Buddhist monuments as well. The probable thought behind the contrasting depiction of worldly pleasures alongside sculptures of Gods and sages, was to highlight the gains that a purer life offers.

I also visited the excellent temples in Bhubaneswar and the immense Chilika lake which is about 1,100 sq. km, and where over half a million birds migrate between December and early March; and to the town of Puri – not just to pay my respects to Lord Jagannath, an adored form of Krishna, but mainly to be by the sea. That turned out to be a very pleasant three days. The beach is wide and miles long, the sand is slightly tinted and has just the right grainy texture. In mornings and evenings it is filled up with hundreds of visitors, enjoying the breeze as well as the rolling waves. I took advantage of the complete quietude during the bright sunny afternoons, found a small patch of shade by some tables and benches piled up for the evening crowds, and sat there reading a bit, but mostly listening to the roar of the Bay of Bengal.

I had met some sand-artists at Konark, and I looked them up here at the Puri beach where they make sand-sculptures every evening, as hundreds of people walk by, admiring their work. I sat with Hrushikesh Nayak and his students every evening, watching, chatting and eating muri as the mix of spiced rice crispies (mamra) is called. I had my regular muriwala, who put it together to my taste, and my own chaiwala, Gagan, who crushed a cardamom



During one's travels much takes place, but what stays on are moments that create some sort of spontaneous combustion in one's heart.

in my tea which he boiled on the spot. He said he was a good cook as well, and offered to work for me if I took him along. Now, how did he know that a cook was the only "thing" needed in my life in New York?!

Travelling in India can be trying at times, but what makes up for all sorts of travails is the landscape. At one point I encouraged my taxi-driver to cut across through the interior, not knowing if the road was passable. It shortened the journey by about fifty km, and turned out to be recently paved, but that apart, it took me through small, nameless villages where housewives had decorated the entrance to their homes in simple designs to welcome Goddess Lakshmi; by open fields on both sides which had already been tilled, and big bundles of dry grass that were being carried home for various purposes; it kept me close to the sinuous coconut trees that make any landscape lovely and gave me intimate glimpses into rural life. During one's travels much takes place, but what stays on are moments that create some sort of spontaneous combustion in one's heart. ■



A Royal Revival

After seven years of grueling restoration work, the all rejuvenated Royal Opera House reopened in all its grace and grandeur, this October. **Ashesh Pandia** takes a look behind the scenes.

The Royal Opera House, located at the southern tip of India's financial capital Mumbai, is a monument of historic significance having a legacy of its own. Forced to close down in 1993, this structure went through years of neglect before being taken up for restoration by conservation architect Ms. Abha Narain Lambah at the behest of Shri. Jyotendrasinhji Vikramsinhji Jadeja, Maharaj Saheb of Gondal, Gujarat.

Ask Abha Narain Lambah, the owner of ANL Associates, Conservation Architects & Historic Buildings Consultants, who carried out the mammoth task of restoring Mumbai's oldest and grandest entertainment venue, about how was it rebuilding this piece of history, and she says, "Herculean!"

Indeed, for the theatre in question is unlike any other. The original, old Royal Opera House was a masterpiece of art and architecture with majestic and colonial interiors. The baroque design, incorporating a fine blend of Indian and European architecture was simply inimitable. A benchmark of aestheticism, innovation and luxury in its time, the Opera House was nothing short of an incredible work of art.

Sharada Dwivedi, a historical researcher, gives a glimpse of its past opulence, "The dressing rooms were fitted with hot and cold shower baths for artists. While designing the building, the owners fixed powerful inhalers, which drew pure air from the garden into channels (in which were kept large blocks of ice), which extended underground to all parts of the theatre. In addition to this, they erected on the roof of the building a number of extractors, which expelled impure air." The simple system probably worked better than out modern day air-conditioning systems!

For Abha Lambah and her team, restoring a monument of the status of the Royal Opera House was more than just a daunting task. The dilapidated condition of the structure, lack of any references for guidance and government rules and regulations were only some of the plethora of problems team ANL were facing.

Says Ms. Lambah, "To transform the vision of Jyotendrasinhji Jadeja who is the son of the Maharaja of

Gondal (the owner of the Royal Opera House), to recreate it in its vintage glory was a monumental proposition. The resurrection of the Royal Opera House from the situation it was in - leaking roofs, caved in stairwells, broken railings, completely distressed structural framework, insect infested interiors meant an intricate and very exhaustive process. In the beginning we had little information to fall back upon to understand how the old Opera House looked in its prime. Again, The Royal Opera House being a Grade II A heritage structure, we had to work within the parameters of government's rules and regulations."

The Royal Opera House is a designated as a Grade II A heritage building as per the Heritage Regulations for Greater Bombay Act 1995, which means the scope of changes allowed to it is restricted. The Act states, "Internal changes and adaptive reuse will be generally allowed, but external changes will be subject to scrutiny. Care would be taken to ensure the conservation of all special aspects for which it is included in the List as Heritage Grade - II."

Under the given circumstances, Abha and her team knew that the need of the hour was to put together all their vast and varied experience in restoration and conservation of historical monuments. Moreover, they needed to employ the best of personnel, workmen and technique to restore the grand old theatre, which was once the cultural pride and glory of Bombay city.

As team ANL was gearing up to meet the colossal challenge, help arrived from an unexpected quarter. "Knowing that we were working on the restoration of the Royal Opera House," says Abha Lambah, "a reporter from UK sent us a catalogue on the old Royal Opera House which contained the details of its exterior and the interior. The pictures that we had for reference were all black and white. So we had no idea about the colour scheme they used for walls, ceilings, lobby etc. But this particular catalogue had a detailed written description, about all of these along with other information like who had commissioned the project in those days, who owned it, who were the artists painted on the walls etc. It helped us tremendously in understanding how the old Royal Opera House looked like in those days."



So, armed with the catalogue, a special team of select architects, engineers, interior designers, et al, got down to work. Thus, in the year 2009, began the restoration of India's only surviving opera house.

This year on 20th October, this priceless piece of history once again opened its doors to the who's who of the entertainment and cultural industry. 23 years after the curtains went down, the plush 575-seater, three-tier auditorium made its second debut with the inauguration of MAMI's (Mumbai Academy of Moving Images) film festival. The programme was the perfect tribute to the iconic structure which has seen performances of India's leading luminaries in its hey days.

THE ROYAL PAST

In 1908, Maurice E. Bandmann, a renowned entertainer from Calcutta and Jehangir Framji Karaka, head of a firm of coal brokers drew up designs for the Royal Opera House theatre. Bandmann's Manager was responsible for the design of the auditorium while Mr. Collaco was assigned charge of the construction work. The foundation

The first performance was held on October 16, 1911, as a preview to a December opening to coincide with the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Bombay.

stone was laid in July 1910. Although the theatre was still incomplete, the first performance was held on October 16, 1911, as a preview to a December opening to coincide with the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Bombay.

By 1917, the Opera House, like many other theatres, became in part a cinema. In 1925 it ceased to be a dramatic theatre when British Pathé rented it for screening their films. Among leading musicians and actors who performed at the theatre were Bal Gandharva, Krishna Master, Bapu Pendharkar, Master Dinanath, Jyotsna Bhole, Londhe, Patwardhanbuwa, and Prithviraj Kapoor.



In 1935 Ideal Pictures Ltd acquired the theatre and completely renovated it in the following year, including new flooring, tiles, doors, window frames and colored cement. By the 1980s, video films adversely impacted the popularity of cinema and a number of theatres including Royal Opera House were closed by the 1990s.

BACK IN ITS RESTORED GLORY

As Abha Lambah puts it, “With careful attention to detail, the building was structurally restored in the first phase. Subsequently, interior work using state of the art amenities suited to a modern day performance venue was carried out. This included adding HVAC, upgrading the electrical services, incorporating the fire-fighting systems and the stage craft mechanisms along with speaker systems clubbed with acoustics, all juxtaposed along with the interior finishing, according to original details. This was all done keeping the building’s character intact. There are series of delightful murals, motifs and paintings

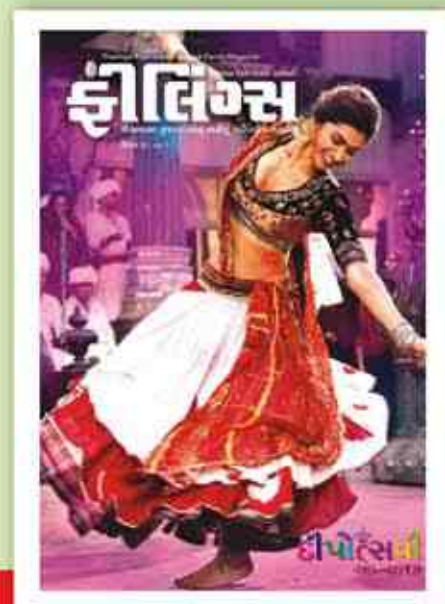
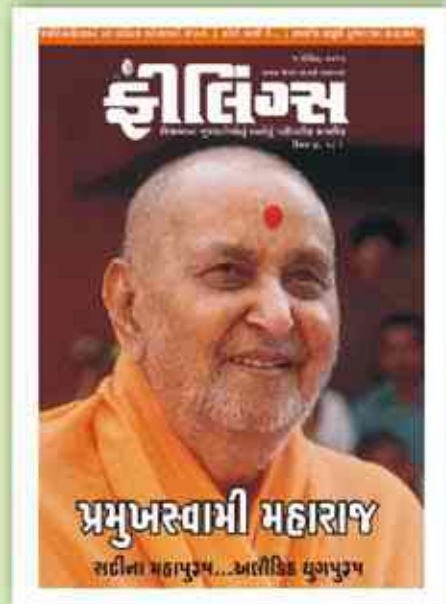
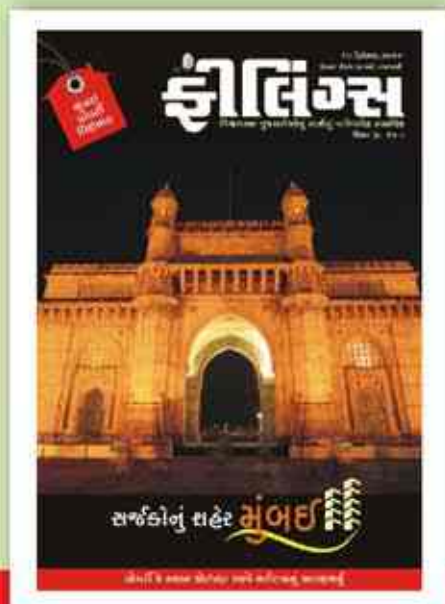
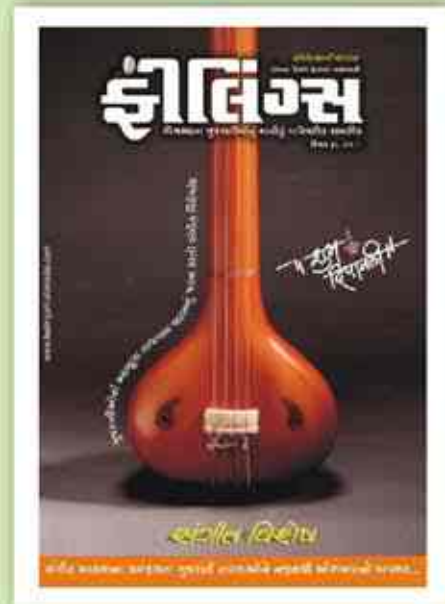
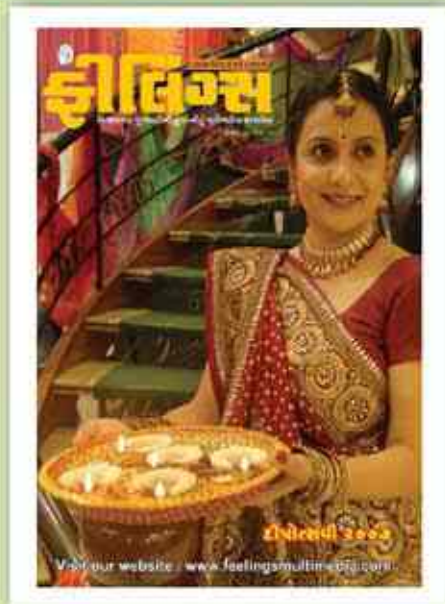
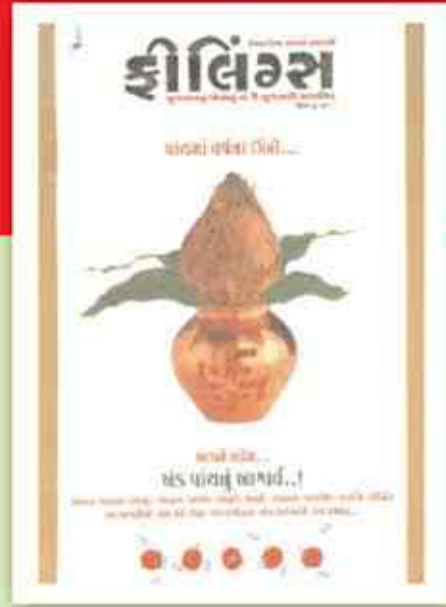
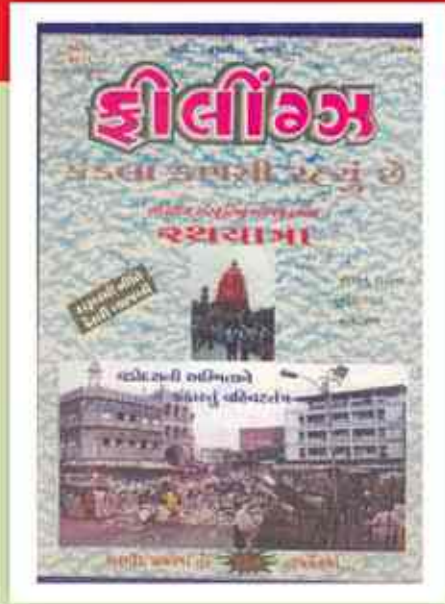


in the lobby which are logically related to the spirit of Music and the Art of Terpsichore fresco that once existed above the central dome. Painted portraits of famous poets, authors, and musicians adorn the three entrance domes at the lobby. The wooden boxes, painted murals, decorative plasterwork, historic chandeliers, Minton tile floors and stained glass canopies and windows have been painstakingly restored by expert restorers and craftsmen during the restoration process.”

Mr. Diwakar, the manager of the new Royal Opera House says, “This new avatar of the Royal Opera House does not have any screens, only a stage and therefore we will be only renting it out for shows, events, shootings etc. The seating is divided into three levels. The ground floor is the ‘The Royal Stall’, the second level is the ‘Balcony’ and the third, ‘The Grand Circle’. The website of The Royal Opera House is in the making and will be up very soon.” ■

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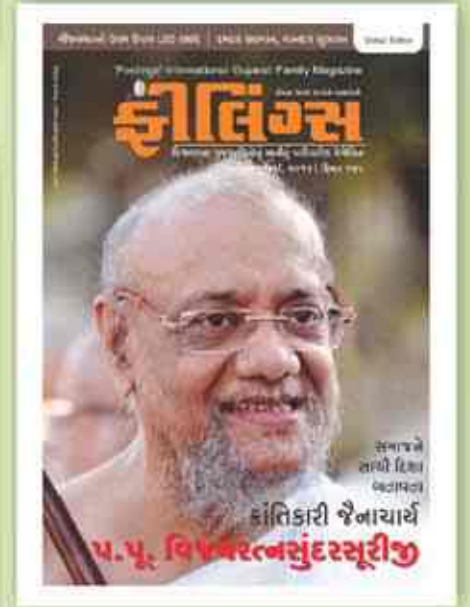
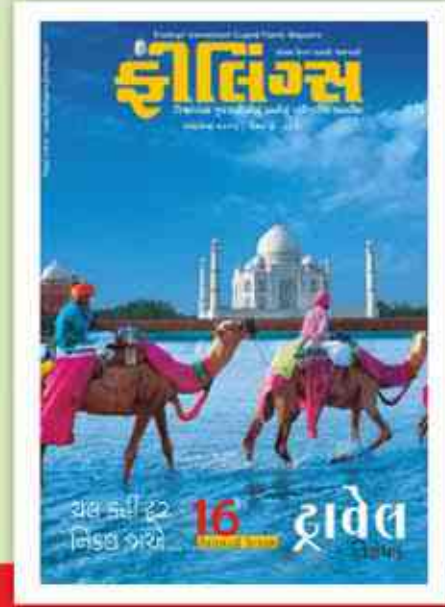
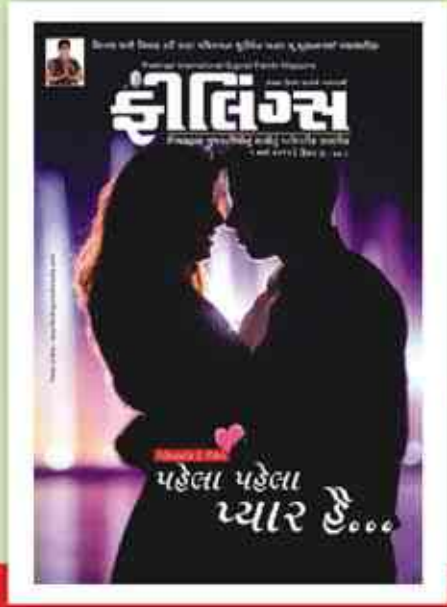
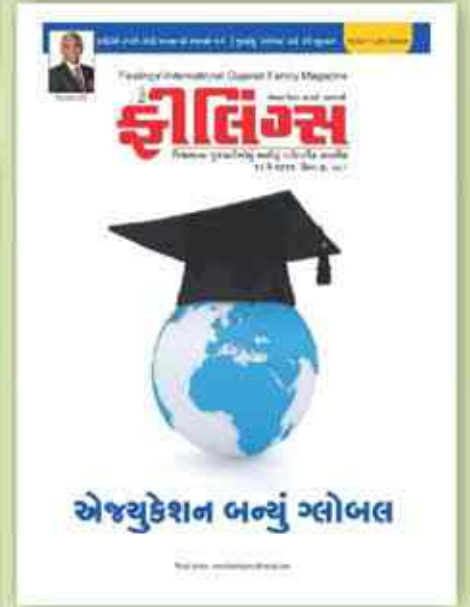
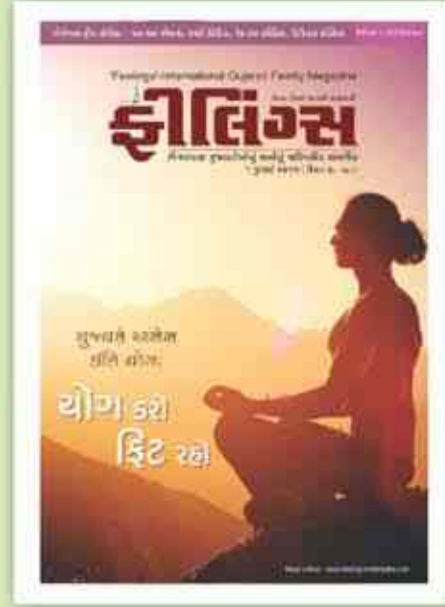
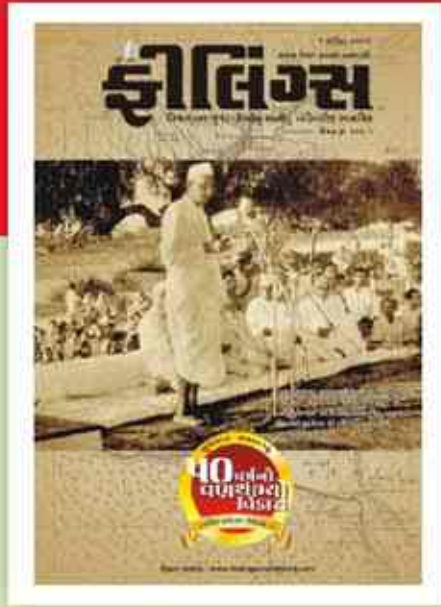
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- साचा अर्थमां वांचवा जेवुं गुजराती मेगेजिन
- वास्तविकता धारदार कलमे..

देश-विदेशना लग्नोत्सुक युवक-युवतीओना नायोडेता



UNRAVELLING WHILE TRAVELING

Travel is indeed one of the best teachers, finds **Aman Chhabra**, as he catches up with a few youngsters on the culture shocks and pleasant surprises they encountered during their foreign sojourns

What is it like to actually live in a foreign land? How exactly does travel open up the mind? While learning about other cultures, can you also teach them something about your own? What about linguistic barriers and food habits? While it's different strokes for different folks, here are some valuable insights from those who have travelled to various parts of the world as a part of exchange programs and others who went with different motives but have equally interesting tales to tell.

Mitali Rozia, who is studying for a Masters in Journalism and Mass Communication and visited Spain and USA recently says, "USA was not as exciting as Spain for American culture is something we are already familiar with. Spain was definitely more special. It was my host's mom's birthday on the day I landed in Spain. As a part of the celebrations, they opened up a bottle of wine. I belong to a typical Gujarati background and was not open to the idea of alcohol. I felt that it was against my morals but as an exchange program is all about knowing each



other's cultures, I finally did taste it. The host family was amazing, especially the dad who also had only vegetarian food for the days I was there at their place."

Mitali was working with Salud y Comunicación in Spain as an intern, and wrote blogs for them. "I learnt to say 'No ablo espanyol' which means 'I don't know Spanish'. People were amused that I can only say I don't know Spanish, in Spanish!" chuckles Mitali.

Mitali feels her host family must have researched a lot about Indian culture before having her as a guest for they were very thoughtful. "The family also took me to witness a bull fight. They knew I come from a culture where cows are revered so they just took me to a place where the bulls are teased and left afterwards (instead of getting killed!)"

Even the right travel partners can make the experience richer, she feels. "The girl travelling with me to Spain was a Fine Arts student. She introduced me to many types of paintings, so when I went to the art galleries in USA, I already knew about various art forms!" she recollects with a smile.

Manan Kapoor, an engineering student from DDIT-Nadiad, went to Germany on a student exchange program

few years back. He reminisces, "Everything in Germany had a different aura to it - right from the airport to the restaurants and I grabbed all opportunities to go out of the house and know more about the country and the people living there."

Speaking about cultural gaps he says, "Once it so happened that all of us were watching TV when all of a sudden Silas (the younger son of the host family) asked his mom for something to eat. So she also asked us if we would like something to eat too. Guess what? I followed the inherent Indian tradition of saying a formal no for the first time to anyone who serves you food. I wasn't asked again as there they know nothing about this formality. That night, I went to bed hungry, all for following Indian tradition!"

On the difference in education, Manan shares an example, "Barely a week into my school, we had a lecture called Experimental Science. Being a science student I was excited and reached school early. When the teacher entered, she seemed to be carrying a big bag full of what appeared to be white balls. They were actually pigs' eyes and we had to dissect them! I was thrilled because I had never done such practical work in India. We were given a pair of gloves, a candle, a small plate and some other tools to dissect that eye. I had to take out the pupil of



the pig's eye and find its refractive index. It was real fun performing it." he adds with a smile.

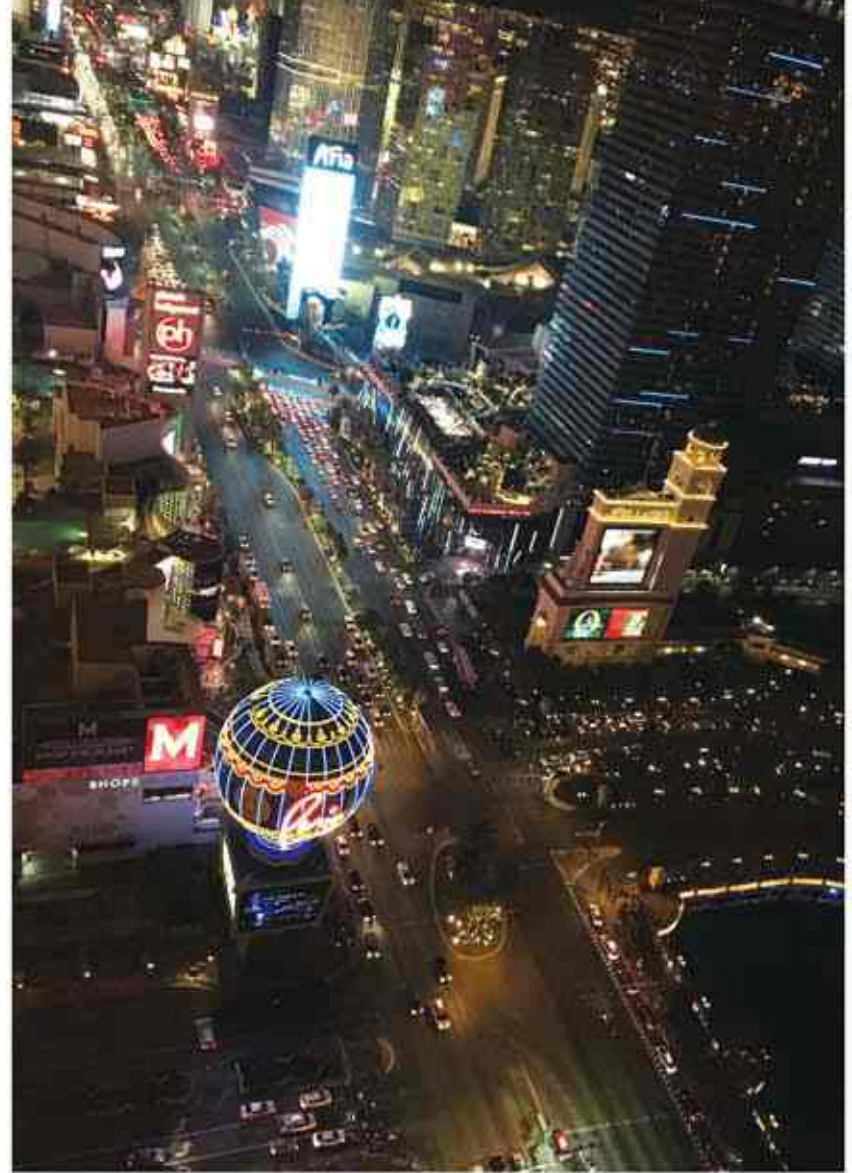
Aditi Chopra, who was a part of a contingent of engineering students from Gandhinagar has much to say about her experience, "Lamar University, a sprawling 500 acre campus located in the countryside city of Beaumont, Texas, is where I did my summer internship. I was one of the 30 students selected from my college for a sponsored international exposure program in June-July 2016. When we landed in Houston, the fourth largest city in America, a hot and humid climate greeted us, but the skies were the clearest I had seen in ages!"

Aditi and her friends found themselves getting stuck because of unfamiliar and sometimes seemingly incorrect terms, "Texas has its own funky pronunciations. 'How do you do?' is 'Howdy?' There's no such thing as petrol pumps or medical shops. Texan counterparts for these are gas stations and drug stores. Another example is about Baseball, a very popular game in USA. Houston's MinuteMaid Stadium, fondly known as AstroS is what Lord's is to Cricket. Naturally, the Interstate Astros championship is a big deal there but the funny part is that the winner is called the 'World Champion' even though the only country participating is USA!"





Kapil Kapoor, who is the Managing Trustee of the self-financed school, Vidyantiketan in Rajkot went to New Zealand for 3 weeks. He says, "I was in Auckland which is a very clean and disciplined city, even though I never saw a policeman! I noticed that students were not burdened with studies. 5th grade students had to research on 'Cardiac problems and remedies', and they searched on the topic online and in books from the library, something which I have yet to see even higher grade students do in India. There is no learning by rote there and the teacher only gives them certain guidelines, after which they discuss the whole thing with friends and classmates. I also saw doctors visiting the school to impart sex education to children starting from the 5th grade itself, again a rarity in India. The government of New Zealand provides one fruit per child every day. What Modi is working towards now i.e. going cashless, I saw that first hand in New Zealand where I swiped my card at the roadside eatery as well as the large supermarkets. Observing all this, I really hope that one day our country is also able to work on these lines."



Kapil did his bit to create awareness about Indian culture when he performed the Garba in a large hall along with other Indians and also some native New Zealanders. He also witnessed the Maori dance and music which "was a treat to both the eyes and the ears."

That travel presents one with endless possibilities is something all four agree on. After their enriching experiences, they also think that they have become more open to cultures vastly different from us. Of course, overcoming the fear of travelling alone and making do with whatever was available was an added bonus!

While there is no end to many such memorable moments, they do bring to life what Ibn Batuta must have felt when he said, "Travel first leaves you speechless and then turns you into a storyteller!" ■



Tailor-made to your taste

Neha Udayan Jain catches up with **Aditi Dugar**, who followed her passion for food to come up with the thoughtfully customised and conscious culinary service, Sage & Saffron.

Thinking of organising a cozy brunch, a formal sit down dinner, or a New Year bash but wondering how to go about it? Truth is, many of us would love to entertain a lot more than we actually do. What if you had the choice of coming home to a pre-

organised party, one that is completely in sync with your style, persona and choice of food? Sage and Saffron, a bespoke catering company aims to offer just that exclusive experience. Here, Aditi Dugar tells us what it's all about:

**How did the idea of Sage and Saffron come about?
And how old is your catering company?**

After a four-year career in finance and the life-altering experience of motherhood, my life recalibrated. Post quitting my job, I, a life-long over-achiever, knew I had to do something with my life. It was natural for me to veer towards catering especially since I was baking and cooking since the age of 16. My mother and I looked at the catering opportunities available then and knew that instead of offering clients an extensive menu to choose from, the catering experience gets more personal for the client if we involve him/her in the menu phase itself.

What sets S&S apart from other caterers?

Sage & Saffron is unique in that it offers a superlative culinary experience using the finest ingredients, the most innovative techniques, and at the same time delivering impeccable service. With cutting-edge ideas and concepts, we offer an entirely bespoke experience with our inventive presentation and unrivalled service. Our menu and catered dining experience reflects the persona of the host, making every occasion an extension of the person. At the same time, we look in to the smallest of details keeping in mind that the host must also enjoy his/her own event.

Who makes up your clientele?

From high net-worth individuals to travellers who are very aware of global trends, we've had a lot of people interested in our style of catering. The one thing that unites our clients is their love for food and penchant for having a great time.

Tell us a bit about the services you provide, in terms of the table decor, cutlery and servers, how many course meals etc.

We use the freshest seasonal ingredients so that our International chefs can produce world-class food in an immaculate kitchen. We ensure that flowers, table laying and canapé presentation match the style of food that the host requires as well as the theme of the event. Our well turned out and highly trained service staff will serve food along with a choice of drinks; wine paired by our in-house sommelier or unique cocktails mixed by our award-winning bartender.

What kind of events do you usually organise?

We do all kinds of food and cater to all sorts of events,



from corporate lunches, canapé parties, private dinners, weddings, sit down dinners to buffets, flying buffets and high teas. Each event is customised according to the theme and the client's brief.

How easy is it to balance family life with the professional world?

Work is my passion and I am very blessed to have a supportive family who respects my passion and motivates me. Aryaveer, my son, was born at the time we launched our first standalone restaurant – Masque, and he too has become a part of the Masque team as he travels with me always. Aditya, my husband, is really my backbone. He encourages, advises and motivates me constantly.

What are the challenges of being in the catering business?

Every industry comes with its own set of challenges. In ours, it can range from availability of seasonal ingredients to access to the highest quality produce from all over India. Our menu at Masque is constantly evolving and is directly impacted by changes in nature. Our philosophy of being indigenous means we follow climactic changes very closely. Seasons affect produce, and so it's only natural that our menu changes as the seasons do.

What is next in line?

Our dream is to see Masque become one of the top restaurants in the world while continuing to curate bespoke experiences at Sage & Saffron. ■



GOING THE WATER WAY

Dheeraj Bhandari shares some refreshing and healing water spa recipes that can be easily concocted in your kitchen

Much has been written about the healing properties of that colorless, odorless compound of hydrogen and oxygen, that we can't do without - yes, water, of course! It's relevance in our life is often overlooked but with it comprising more than 70% of the earth's surface and 80% of our body, need any more be said about how crucial it is to our existence? Hydrotherapy is the external or internal use of water in any of its forms (water, ice, steam) for treating various conditions like high temperature, blood pressure, weight and eye problems etc.

A spa treatment, jacuzzi, or even a simple warm water bath is water therapy for the outer body but there are water spas you can easily do at home to detox yourself from the inside too.

Start your day with healthy sips of spa water which is basically water infused with fruits, vegetables or herbs. Apart from refreshing and hydrating the body, they provide extra vitamins and minerals and also help in controlling blood pressure. Research has proved that a well hydrated person has increased concentration and productivity. An added advantage is that you can prepare a jugful in the morning and sip it through the day. Winters in India last for about three months with children and the elderly tending to fall sick. Try and replace sugary drinks like tea or coffee for them with spa waters and see the difference.

Here are some spa water recipes for the winter season using warming and seasonal ingredients like apple, cloves, beetroot and saffron.



SAFFRON ALMOND SPA WATER

INGREDIENTS

- 10 almonds
- Few threads of saffron
- 1 jug of drinking water

METHOD

Place whole almonds and saffron threads in a the water pitcher. Allow flavors to blend for at least 10 hours in the refrigerator before serving.

Almond and saffron are warm in nature, perfect for a winter afternoon.

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**BEETROOT AND CORIANDER
SPA WATER**

INGREDIENTS

- Few beetroot slices
- 10 to 12 coriander leaves
- 1 jug of drinking water

METHOD

Skin the beetroot and cut in slices.

Put the beetroot and coriander in a jar and add water.

Allow flavors to blend at least two hours.

Beetroot is one vegetable that most people find unattractive and uninspiring and it usually ends up either boiled in broth or raw as a salad, so here is another way to use the humble but power packed beet.

APPLE AND CINNAMON SPA WATER

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large apple, sliced into wedges
- 4 cloves
- Carrot ribbons
- Few Lemon slices
- 1 Jug drinking water

METHOD

Put all the ingredients in the jug of water. Allow the flavors to blend for at least two hours before serving.

Carrots and apples are seasonal vegetables and flavorful cloves are warm in nature and protect our body from coughs and colds.

Dheeraj Bhandari is a passionate chef, TV show host, food stylist and blogger. He is currently Executive Sous chef at MOSAIC Hotel, Mussoorie





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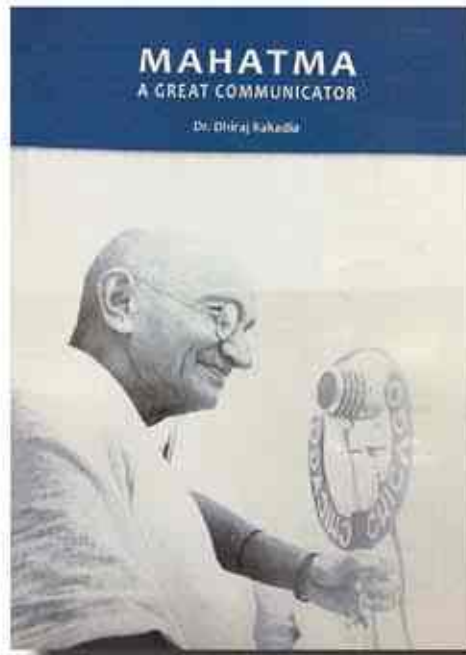
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THE SUBTLE ART OF COMMUNICATION

AUTHOR: DR DHIRAJ KAKADIA
PUBLISHER: NAVJIVAN TRUST

There is so much written on Mahatma Gandhi that it is easy to assume there is nothing unknown about him. ‘Mahatma: A Great Communicator’, shows us just how wrong that notion maybe. It explores Gandhi’s verbal and non verbal communication skills, an intriguing subject considering how little there was in terms of communication tools in his time. How exactly did he manage to mobilise a nation as vast as India, without a phone, email or Whatsapp?



The book started as material for a Phd. research by Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia, the Commissioner of Entertainment and Luxury tax, Gujarat Government. “To write on Gandhi, a done-to-death subject among historical personalities, was a challenge to say the least,” says the author.

In the book, the officer has tried to analyze the Mahatma’s communication strategies from various perspectives - his verbal output, linguistic capacity, journalistic and letter-writing style, his peace, communication in conflict and organizational ability, international repercussions of his mass-mediated messages and the somewhat inexplicable and fascinating phenomenon of his non-verbal communication. The last he used to cut the clutter in communication and examples of it abound in his use of silence, fasting, clothing, food habits, personal presence and charisma.

Though there are seven chapters, it is the third chapter on Gandhi’s ‘Soul Communication’ that is the core of Kakadia’s research work. Gandhi propagated eleven vows which aimed to cleanse the soul from worldly

desires, greed, ambition, bodily pleasures etc. The logic was that a purified soul easily receives the message of God and translates it into action. It is this belief that prompted the Mahatma to fast for the sake of humankind and observe silence so he could listen to soul messages. With an incisive foreword from none other than Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, the book becomes a keepsake for anyone interested in history and effective communication. “Dr. Kalam kept the manuscript with him for around four months and went through each chapter carefully before giving a gracious one page foreword describing it as a wonderful piece of research,” reveals the proud author.

Speaking to the Feelings Editor, Kakadia explained the research that went into his writing. Apart from reading extensively, he also made a trip to the UK to revisit Gandhi’s past and go through the digitally preserved Gandhian era newspapers in British Library. Further, interviews with Narayan Desai who served Mahatma Gandhi as a personal assistant and various other Gandhians like Sudarshan Ayengar and P K Lehri, bring to life the indomitable personality of the Mahatma.

Gandhi’s extensive travel, his sartorial style and unique strategy are also wonderfully described in Dr. Kakadia’s book. He believes that as a thinker and communicator, Gandhi practised what he preached, and wholeheartedly expected his practices to become common practices someday. In order to communicate, he transformed himself, and by communicating, he tried to transform the world. It is this virtue that makes him perhaps the most unique communicator in the history of humanity! ■

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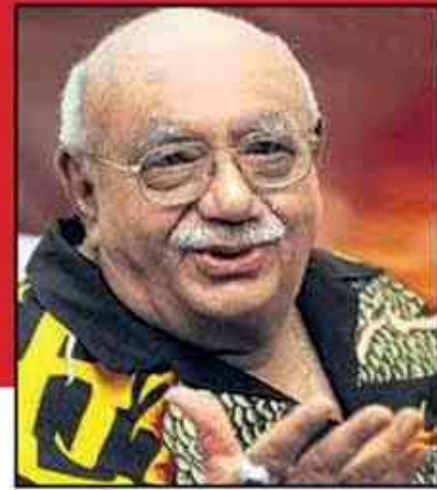
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Bejan Daruwalla is a well-known Astrologer and Author



HOROSCOPE - 2017

Bejan Daruwalla, India's most popular astrologer, reveals what the stars have in store for you.



Aries
(21st March to 20th April)

You begin the year on an average note. There may be mixed feelings all around, largely related to your work sphere. You may feel that things are not going as planned. After end of the first week of January, though, things shall start falling in place.

This time will see you in a dreamy, romantic frame of mind. So, overall there will be a contradictory pull in your life - at one point you may worry about future growth and progress, while at the other end, you may just wish to relax and feel the pleasures of love. Singles may be eager to start an intimate relationship.

From around the mid of April, the planetary weather will remain

favourable for love, romance and cozy moments. Period from month of May seems supportive for monetary gains.



Taurus
(21st April to 21st May)

You will begin the year in a cheerful mood. There may be some lurking confusions, but you will be hopeful, thanks to your Sign Lord Venus' effect.

There may be a general unease in the matters concerning money and family. Keep communication alive with people who matter. From mid January, things shall get smoother in routine matters, and you shall be able to add some pace to your progress graph.

Domestic harmony in the year's earlier part will be endearing.

Singles among you may get into a romantic relationship this year. Sparks may fly, and you may end up getting intimate with this person. From 4th March until mid April you should refrain from taking any important decisions. A major change seems to be in the offing, this year.



Gemini
(22nd May to 21st June)

Year begins on a good note, financially speaking. Early in the year, an important opportunity may act as a game changer for your business/ professional life. Keep your eyes, mind and ears open. Business persons/ professionals involved in foreign trade may gain aplenty.

However, there are likely to be some distractions, which may

steer focus away from your goals and work. You shall be keen to enjoy the pleasures of life. Do so, but refrain from going overboard. You may remain somewhat anxious, owing to troubles on the personal front. Do not become aggressive or entirely detached. If nothing seems to work, let the issue settle down for some time.

Refrain from taking any drastic measures to correct things. Think positive. Stay disciplined. You may leave an old job and join a new one, mid-year.



Cancer
(22nd June to 22nd July)

Planets portend significant improvement in your financial position. Handsome monetary gains are likely and a sound financial position will prompt you to invest in real estate.

In personal life, singles will succeed in starting a serious relationship. However, some relationship issues may make you anxious. You will have to be strong, honest and calm to deal with the troubling winds, says Ganesha.

Business persons and professionals shall have a good chance to strike profitable deals and start new projects. However, trade carefully from 10th April to

4th May. With regard to health, middle aged and above may get worried on experiencing symptoms of an old, seemingly cured health issue. Year's second half may bring fresh challenges on the financial and family front.

You will have to guard against a negative, detached approach. Taking care of health and safety will be very important too.



Leo
(23rd July to 22nd August)

Finance and family related matters are going to remain your main concern, during most part of the year. Look out for an exciting offer on the work front, early on in 2017. Nevertheless, the current course of your path is also likely to be progressive in terms of money and work satisfaction. If planets in your natal chart are also supportive, then events during the first quarter shall benefit you for a long time.

Challenges await you on the personal front, though. Situations may sometimes get on your nerves, making you want to assert your stand. Such emotional ups and downs will prevail significantly, post May. Be tactful. You will subconsciously spend energy in building new relations.

However, maintain distance during initial stages, advises Ganesha. On the career front, the year 2017 is going to be a lucrative year. But, consider all the pros and cons, before taking up something for monetary gains.

From around end of April, you will need to be on guard against confusion, disillusion, injuries, mistakes and defamation.



Virgo
(23rd August to 22nd September)

An air of uncertainty may grip your psyche, as the year begins. Luckily, you will not have to go through this for long. From January 2nd week onwards, things will start to fall in place. As you gradually regain your rhythm, you will have a realistic picture of your strengths and limitations and take corrective steps in order to ensure successful completion of your plans. You have sufficient savings to invest but just be sure not to do it when Venus and Mercury are retrograde from 4th March to 4th May.

On the career front, Virgos are going to come across interesting opportunities especially till April-end. But they are advised against becoming overambitious and

commencing new assignments. The last quarter of the year is going to prove to be positive for overall growth.

A new meaningful relationship is likely to take shape. Those suffering from age related health issues are likely to get some respite. Problems such as high blood sugar and fluctuating blood pressure need to be taken care of, especially around May and September.



Libra (23rd September to 22nd October)

Growth is foreseen, but you should hone your skills to be more confident about them especially when the time comes to take up challenges. Get out of your comfort-zone every once in a while to ensure progress. You will sow seeds of a long-term, meaningful relationship. There is also a possibility of an old relationship getting stronger. If the relationship is in the initial stages, give each other space to turn your bond into something really beautiful. Mid-March to May-end looks significant in this regard,

On the business front, the tide will be in your favour, and the period from January to April will set the trend for the rest of the year. You

will start reaping rewards from May onwards. Those just out of the high school and college will find good opportunities to kick start their careers. But they may have to relocate. A job change is also foreseen. In your current job, you may be assigned challenging tasks. Petty health issues will keep bothering you all throughout the year. Don't ignore them.



Scorpio (23rd October to 22nd November)

It's time to pull up your socks and strive for excellence. Your hard-work and persistence may not yield results immediately. Be patient as you will soon see your efforts generating expected gains. You need to stay focused and ward off all the negativity. Those of you already in a committed relationship need to work hard to not let insecurities disturb your beautiful bond. Spend quality time with your soulmate and perform your duties up to the mark.

For businessmen, networking and travelling will expand your customer base but you will need to improve efficiency to handle the rising demands. Additional responsibilities will make you lose your cool easily. Know that your bosses are observing you for a

promotion or salary increment. April-May looks significant in this regard.

Watch what you eat as you will have a weak digestive system during 2017. Those suffering from a long-term illness will finally undergo a suitable treatment.



Sagittarius (23rd November to 21st December)

Some challenges may be blocking your way, as the year begins. Stay open and flexible. Hurdles, especially in day to day activities and relationships are indicated. Well, this is a yearlong trend, and you will have to brace yourselves to emerge triumphant out of this. Worship Lord Shiva and meditate regularly to beat stress.

Employees will have challenging time. Even though, you will be performing efficiently, your boss/management may seem to be on a fault finding mission. Don't take anything to heart. Relief comes from May onwards. Students should pick their choice of subject after May, if possible.

In your personal life, a general sense of resentment shall creep in. Keep the communication alive or there may be

misunderstandings and distance. Mid March to end of May shall be a tricky time for health. Guard your health and safety like a hawk. Dental issues are also likely.



**Capricorn
(22nd December to 20th
January)**

Change of job or place of dwelling may be on your mind, through the year. You will not be happy with your current state, at least that's what is definitive. Going abroad is a possibility that you will consider seriously now. May onwards, things will get hectic, as you may be full on working on this new prospect.

Professionals may be entrusted with some important task. Be prepared to multitask as well. Business persons may need to travel extensively to promote business. Period from April end onwards will start bringing returns. Be clear in payment matters. In personal life, you shall be alleged of not paying enough attention to the feelings of your near ones. Loosen up, at times, says Ganesha.

Minor health issues will continue to trouble you frequently. Work out and have a creative hobby or play a sport. Mingle with right people,

and leave those who may just be your friends for money or power.



**Aquarius
(21st January to 18th February)**

You shall have encouraging opportunities throughout 2017 but the path will be strewn with hurdles. You will need to manage your expenses very shrewdly. On the positive side, the last quarter of 2017 will be better for your career as well as on the financial front.

Professionals are in for a change. However, do not risk an existing job, lured by a tempting offer, which may not actually materialize later. Provoking situations may come up, prompting you flare up. Try to control this damaging tendency. In business you should be careful and put the monetary terms on paper. Mid-March you may be inclined to belittle the efforts of persons around you. Fault finding and laying blame may become common with you. Well, what are you becoming?

Singles will get support from the planet of love- Venus. Ongoing health issues may keep you troubled. Around the last quarter of year, you are likely to come across an alternative medicine to get rid of a chronic problem.



**Pisces
(19th February to 20th March)**

You will have to pull up your socks, if you want to achieve your goals. Be prepared to work overtime. One or the other problem will keep popping up at regular intervals, disturbing your personal life.

Luckily, from April-end things will start to go back to normalcy. Making a mark on the work front this year is going to be difficult, foretells Ganesha. You will have no option but to follow your boss's orders and tackle the pressure somehow.

A somewhat dull phase is in the offing for you on the business front. Repeat orders from regular customers are to help you maintain money inflow. Follow a strict quality control system to maintain your goodwill about products/services you offer. If there are any expansion plans, put them on hold. You will be networking well and this is going to help you build new, meaningful relations. Nurture these relations as they may enhance your business prospects. ■



#THETWEETTALK

Celebrities express their thoughts on twitter



**Madhuri Dixit-Nene@
MadhuriDixit**
From Rajasthan with love!



Sophie Choudry @Sophie_ Choudr
#Delhi is sooooo beautiful on a winter morning... and the roads are so fantastic When will #mumbai have roads like this?! #SundayMorning



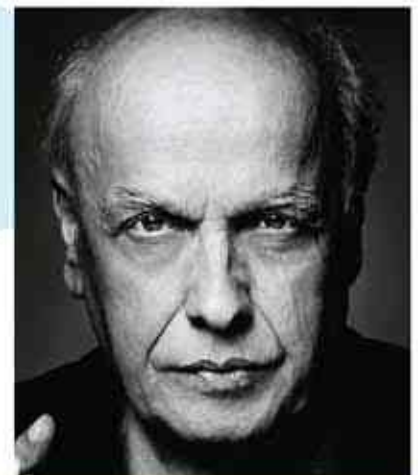
Salman Khan @BeingSalmanKhan
My Family saw #Dangal today evening and thought it was a much better film than #Sultan. Love u personally Aamir but hate u professionally !



Dia Mirza @deespeak
For better health and true progress ensure waste management systems, energy saving infra and innovation in all development. #ETSmartGreen



Jaaved Jaaferi @jaavedjaaferi
My friend owns a vineyard and is obsessed with grapes..I suggested he go in for Angoor Management.



Mahesh Bhatt @MaheshNBhatt
We have been brainwashed for centuries to avert our eyes from the horror of our daily life & dream instead of a future paradise.

PRIYANKA @priyankachopra
Magical visit at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati... something so powerful in belief..... #DiscoveringAssam



Juhi Chawla @iam_juhi
Great thought to put one on track...!!
Wrong is wrong, even if everyone is doing it...
Right is right, even if no one is doing it...!!!



Akshay Kumar @akshaykumar
Fortunate to pass by the Giriraj Temple everyday.It is symbolic of Lord Krishna defeating Indra. Morning wishes to all.have a blessed day :)



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इंडियनऑयल, समग्र हाइड्रोकार्बन वैल्यू चेन में मौजूदगी के साथ भारत का नं. 1 ऊर्जा ब्रांड, करोड़ों भारतीयों के जीवन में मुस्कान बिखेर रहा है। और हम मुस्कराहटों को सुपरिभाषित, सहयोजित, सामाजिक दायित्व कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से बढ़ाते हैं जिनका उद्देश्य समाज का समग्र विकास करना है। हम अपनी अनेक गतिविधियों के माध्यम से समाज के साझेदार बनते हैं।

स्वास्थ्य देखभाल – मोबाइल स्वास्थ्य देखभाल योजना (सचल स्वास्थ्य सेवा), कैंसर उपचार के लिए इंडियनऑयल टाटा केयर सेंटर, दूरदराज व ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में पेय-जल सुविधाएं मुहैया कराना, एओडी डिगबोई के अस्पताल में पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के दूरदराज के इलाकों में लोगों को स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सुविधाएं मुहैया कराना।

प्रतिभा पोषण – काबिल, युवा प्रतिभाओं के लिए शैक्षणिक व खेल-कूद छात्रवृत्तियां।

महिला सशक्तिकरण – 1986 से पूर्वोत्तर में असम ऑयल स्कूल ऑफ नर्सिंग का संचालन। नर्सरी व मिडवाइफरी में डिप्लोमा करने वाली लड़कियों के लिए वित्तीय सहायता।

इंडियनऑयल फाउंडेशन – विरासत स्थलों पर पर्यटक अनुकूल सुविधाएं निर्मित करना।

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34,000 लोगों के सामूहिक समर्पण से समर्थित इंडियनऑयल एक ताकत है जो एक ऐसी ऊर्जा बनना चाहता है जो बदलाव लाता है।



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