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Who hasn’t been bitten by the travel bug at some time or the other? As the season for a winter break approaches, we talk to some Gurgaonites who describe the sheer joy that a memorable vacation provides. Our Cover Story also brings you a first-person account from Norway, the land of the midnight sun.

Young and enterprising, that’s what city school student Ranvijay Singh is all about. The young achiever has developed a gaming app and uses part of the revenue it generates to fund the education of the underprivileged. Our People’s section also features renowned sculptor Matu Ram and his son Naresh.

In Trendspotting, meet the city’s Millennials who are challenging conventional ways and are eager to do things their way. They not only know what they want, they are also clear about how to go about achieving their goals. Transit Lounge hosts the mother-son duo of Mahabanoo Mody Kotwal and Kaizad Kotwal who have impressed theatre aficionados with women-centric themes for their plays.

Wine & Dine catches up with some enterprising expats who are using food to bring different cultures closer. We get talking to a Frenchman, a Japanese couple and an Englishman, on what food for the soul means to them.

In Entertainment, we bring you the latest from Bollywood and television. Our regulars include a column on pet care.

VINAY JHA
Editor
7° Brauhaus

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Over the past few weeks, Gurgaonites were happily preoccupied in celebrating Puja, Navratras, Dussehra, Karwa Chauth, Ahoi Ashtami and the grand finale of Diwali. We bring you some snapshots of the month’s celebrations.

DURGA PUJA
It commences with Mahalaya till the end of the Puja, the fifth day from Mahalaya is Ponchomi (start of the Puja) 6th day, Shashti, 7th day, Maha Saptami, 8th day Maha Ashtami, 9th day Navami and Vijayadasami.

The city witnessed creatively decorated Durga Pooja pandals at various sectors and the celebrations were at their peak. One of the pandals at DLF phase 1 saw a huge footfall of people who dressed in glittering attires enjoyed the soulful music and munching the mouth-watering delights. With virtually no walking space people relished the offerings of this three day festival. “This was our first Durga Puja in Gurgaon and October turned out to be the mother of all months as far as festivities are concerned,” text by DCN Bureau
The word ‘Shopping’ is synonymous with women. The spirit of festivities brings with itself celebrations and the passion to shop till you drop. The past decade has seen Exhibitions to be an integral part of festivals. Whether it is to break away from stereotype brands or the craving for creativity, exhibitions today bring to people the latest trends and fashions.

With this passion in every woman, SHENARO Lifestyle makes an attempt to bring women and fashion closer. The exhibitions by SHENARO Lifestyle have been exclusively organised for invited guests till they opened doors to public this year in April. It was with an aim to cater to the discerning women of Gurgaon, thereby laying a platform to young and talented fashion designers, curators, artisans & NGOs, across the country.

SHENARO Lifestyle, founded by Sheetal Suri has also given a chance to budding entrepreneurs to display their designs and their creativeness to the clients. Suri has been targeting to bring exquisite products forward, for the last 5 years now. The exhibitions have seen to display designs which seem diverse from the branded ones and are available in innumerable colour blends.

Jasleen, who heads the Exhibitor Profiling Team of the company, says “Even though we receive a lot of queries every day for our next exhibition, our motto is no compromise on quality and with this clear approach to build long-term relationship, we ensure quality showcasing in return.”

After the grand success of the their last exhibition “Love Being a Woman” which had a massive footfall from all age groups, SHENARO Lifestyle has now decided to come up with an exhibition to showcase Christmas & New Year shopping & gifting. The forthcoming exhibition titled, “Jingle all the way” will see shopaholics satisfy their quest for shopping for Christmas candles, gift items, woolens, paintings, envelopes, jewellery, apparel, footwear etc. The price range for such products would be Rs20 to Rs 20,000.

The forthcoming exhibition, which will be held at The Courtyard by Marriott, Gurgaon, will host activities like DIYs, pottery, etc. Added attractions are for kids who can look forward to some interactive shows & activities, while their mommies can quench their thirst for a virtuous shopping experience!

Shop luxury fashion items exclusively ranging from apparels, Jewellery, Accessories, decor items, silverware, candles to trays and sky lanterns in one place.

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Enjoying the Exhibition Experience, Exuberantly

SNAPSHOTS | FESTIVITIES

we were pleasantly surprised by the richness and grandeur the city Puja pandal had to offer. DLF Phase 1 stood out as it had the right ambience and the entire euphoria of Puja was captured. As a Bengali, one of the biggest pull factors is good food and the way how the stalls were organized was great” said Ananya Sen.

One of the highlights of the Puja Pandal has been the cultural performances that have been a result of the rigorous practice for days on to render entertaining acts. “I was also amazed at the decoration inside the hall where there were kites as one of the decor ideas. With a sprawling lawn for the kids to run around made it easier for us to spend some quality time with friends” shared Sanjeet Sen.

The pandal was swamped with amazing food stalls which covered a wide range from the pizzas to the delicacies of Bengal. Some of the food that visitors relished were rolls and chops, all kinds of fish fry, kobiraji, murgia porotha, luchi mangsho and puchka.

The situation was no different at South City 2, which had a beautifully decorated Durga Goddess. Dressed in ethnic wear, most people truly enjoyed being immersed in the festive spirit. With a blend of Bengali and multi-cuisine food stalls, the devotees had a palate teasing experience.

DUSSEHRA AT PARK PLACE

The Park Place witnessed a rollicking celebration for Dussehra when the residents gathered together for an entertaining evening. It was a perfect evening with the spirit of festivities bringing with itself celebrations and the passion to shop till you drop. The past decade has seen Exhibitions to be an integral part of festivals. Whether it is to break away from stereotype brands or the craving for creativity, exhibitions today bring to people the latest trends and fashions.

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Until December 10th, visit the Park Place to enjoy a day filled with festivities and celebrations. Don’t miss the opportunity to indulge in some delicious food and partake in cultural performances. A perfect blend of entertainment and cultural immersion awaits you at the Park Place Dussehra celebration.
food, dance and effigy which got the children straight into the Diwali mode.

The evening was set off by a children’s fancy dress competition where the little ones came dressed as the characters from various Hindu mythologies. “We had little Shravan Kumar, Sita, Ram, Ravan stealing the hearts of the captive audience. Vihan was declared the winner for his charming rendition of Shravan Kumar’s pious life” said Anupama Jain, a resident of Park Place.

Food trucks are happening these days and hence Park Place decided to have food trucks too. “One serving Lebanese cuisine and the other was by Inner chef. And a whole lot food stalls with lip-smacking food catering to diverse palettes” added Jain.

One of the attractions that drew women was the exhibition-cum-sale of various products that ranged from designer and heavily embroidered suits, sarees, clutches, jewellery and perfumed soaps.

The most awaited aspect of the evening was the performances that had the kids who presented a skit and women who swayed to the beats of dandiya.

Speaking to DCN, Siddharth Punia said, “It was an absolutely splendid Dusshera celebration. A bedazzling and scintillating performance by the ladies of park place and a sparkling show put up by our own little cherubs. Coordination to the hilt!”

RAMLILA AND DIWALI MELA AT PINNACLE, DLF V

When cute toddlers dressed like Bharat, Lakshman and Ram stood solemnly and performed some iconic scenes from the Ramayana to a rich backdrop of mythological finery, there was appreciation and applause. This performance by kids was followed by resplendent ladies dancing to some catchy Bollywood tunes. When they donned the Kala chashma and grooved with swag, the audience gave them a standing ovation.

Things got even more exciting as the men took centre stage and danced with their children in a unique father-daughter and father-son combination. The catchy music, the foot tapping dancing and the enthusiastic audience made the Dussehra celebrations truly festive. Indians and expatriates danced and sang together making it a truly community celebration that epitomized the spirit of Navratras alive.

A few days later on Sunday 16 October, the Pinnacle lawns came alive once more with a bevy of stalls to mark the annual Diwali Mela which is a big hit with Gurgaonites. From jewellery to candles to clothes, to bakery items and artefacts, this Mela is a Pandora’s box of goodies and is much loved for its variety and exclusivity.

While vendors are welcome, it is the residents who make this a truly happening place. Residents participate enthusiastically with their talents being displayed as much as the children innovate with games stalls and fun activities. The condominium spirit was apparent with residents making it a point to buy all their Diwali gifts from their own mela and friends and encourage this business enterprise with a festive cause attached.
One first heard of Gurgaon as the site of a controversial, almost Tughlaqesque car manufacturing project, then as a quiet, dim-lit spot on the Jaipur-Delhi journey some shady characters (bank robbers, if memory serves me right) were making in a Surendra Mohan Pathak thriller. It wasn’t exactly a place on the must-visit list. Father’s legendary troubles circa 1987 in reaching Gurgaon from his central Delhi hotel and locating the house of an elderly relative-couple didn’t help. Impressions changed after our first proper trip – proper because it wasn’t a late night or dry day booze run from Delhi - to the city though. The year was 2000 and we were looking for a home. After two years in cramped DDA Munirka and given the way South Delhi rentals were going, the chance to check out a family friend’s park-facing row house was difficult to pass. Our mind was made up before we reached the leafy DLF Phase I lane which would be our home for the next couple of years. The drive via Mehrauli had been smooth, the air was breathable and there was a fair bit of green around. (Remember, this was 2000!) I also think I saw a large stretch of pink and red flowers somewhere along the way but then I might have been dreaming. It was easy to get why MNCs were said to be moving offices from CP to Gurgaon.

Workplace changes and personal circumstances meant another move back to - and from - Delhi and we’ve now been in Gurgaon for over five years. Things have changed from the time we first lived here. Tall if not always handsome buildings have sprung up, the street and night life is brisker and there are many more options to indulge mind and body. Many more schooling and healthcare options too - for those looking for mind nurture and body repair. Foodies like myself have less to complain - though an Andhra Bhavan canteen branch and a revival of AM:PM, makers of the most delectable steaks, would be highly welcome. The several eating joints that commonly find mention during discussions on the Gurgaon food scene aside, the city also has interesting, but alas, less-known street food options. Some of the better parathas and samosas in the NCR, I can safely say, are to be found here. But Gurgaon, for all its charms and like every other city, has a flip side too. We’ve all had concerns at some point about unregulated construction activity, water, electricity and parking space shortages, traffic management, drainage and crime. To view these as a corollary of sorts to rapid population influx and economic growth is lazy. This is a city that has been built from scratch and along the way, while some opportunities have been capitalised on, others may have been lost.

For setting my own crime thriller, Gurgaon was the first, nay only, choice. What better place to locate a twisted tale of adultery, blackmail and murder than a city in churn. A city which has seen socio-economic and spatial transformation at a pace few Indian cities have, a city where cosmopolitan instincts and emancipatory flights are cutting through status-quoist headwinds, a city where aspirations and fantasies are being fanned, realised and denied at the same time. Interesting times ahead. Even if you ain’t a crime writer.

Manish Dubey is a policy analyst and development consultant who recently wrote a crime thriller.
At an age when boys are busy gaming on their smart phones, 17-year-old Ranvijay Singh, a student of Suncity World School, has gone ahead and developed a mobile gaming application, available both on Android and iOS systems. But it isn’t just his passion for entrepreneurship that makes this young man stand out. Ranvijay has also been making a humble attempt to fund the education of underprivileged children through the revenue generated from his app.

Someone who believes in completing every task to perfection, Singh comes across as an extremely focused youngster. His dedication reflects both in academics and extra-curricular activities. A black belt in taekwondo, Singh is equally good in public speaking and debating and has participated in several international conventions.

TALENT APLENTY
It was his desire to turn entrepreneur that inspired Singh to come up with something he could call his own. “I felt the application industry was rather easy to get into and I was confident that I had the talent that could help me in this field. So I created the gaming application, RopeDash,” says Singh.

His creativity reflects in the special characters he has created for the game, about whom he used to take frequent advice from his schoolmates. “Rope Dash has a fun element of twists and ropes with as many as 15 characters and abilities. I remember while I was working on the app, every night just before hitting the bed, I would think how to improve the game and share it with friends whose opinion really helped me improve the application. My friends would help me validate the sketches of my characters. Their influence helped to shape the game because at the end of the day, I knew they would be the audience who would play it too,” he recalls.

It took him six months, working about three hours every day, to create the application. Rope Dash is an endless adventure video game in which the players have to cross different hurdles by swinging on a rope. “I did require assistance in coding,” recalls Singh. Another challenge he faced was procuring the licence
for App Store and Google Play but his family was there to support him and help him out.

GAME FOR A CAUSE
He was clear that Rope Dash would not only entertain the target audience, it would also help him make a difference in the lives of underprivileged children.

On his way to school, Singh would often notice children loitering about on the roadside. ‘These children had a spark in their eyes and that’s when I felt that why should they miss out on education. I decided I would direct a part of the revenue that came from the app towards their education,’ he explains.

Making a small yet significant contribution with books and stationery, this 17-year-old had already started turning his dream into a priceless reality. ‘I feel fortunate that I am able to help them in some way. I want to donate a part of the profit that my application generates to Arpan and a few other causes while with the rest of it, I want to invest in another application,’ he says.

HELPING HAND
Singh is grateful to his friends and teachers for their support. ‘We used to have long brainstorming sessions to figure out the revenue model, promotion techniques and also how to teach the children,’ he mentions. He thanks his family, particularly his mother, for being a pillar of support.

He also appreciates the support he received from his school with the Computer Department always willing to clarify his doubts and teach him the right way to go about processes. ‘They gave me contacts of people who could help me in marketing too,’ he points out.

His school collaborates with Microsoft so his teachers helped him get on that platform to share his application on countless occasions. ‘I am grateful to Microsoft and my school, without which I could have never reached this level,’ he maintains.

This embryonic entrepreneur has already decided on his next application. ‘It is to do with fitness because that particular genre on the application side has grown a lot. So, what I intend to do is cross fitness with gaming. The basic idea is to promote the importance of fitness,’ shares Singh.

From The Principal
At Suncity, we focus on developing ‘sanskaar’ in our children which becomes an innate part of their existence. We stress on the development of emotional quotient that drives them towards positive thinking and contribute towards the society. Ranvijay is a perfect example of that. At this age, he not only thought about helping the underprivileged but also did that to the best of his ability. We are proud of Ranvijay. His efforts will motivate many.

- Rupa Chakravarty, Principal, Suncity School.
Having started his journey from Pilani in Rajasthan, Matu Ram Verma has come a long way to be known as one of the top ranking sculptors of the country. But for Matu Ram, success is seeing his son, Naresh Kumar, following his footsteps and carving a niche for himself. In fact, the Matu Ram Art Centre in Gurgaon which is globally famous for its towering statues, wax models and even home décor items, is currently managed by Naresh.

Sculpting Their Way To Success

Matu Ram Verma and his son Naresh, well known names in the artist fraternity, talk about their creative journey with DCN

story by Reena Dhankher
Matu Ram & Naresh

“City

I can even make a statue of 80 or 100 feet,” says Naresh.

DCN explores the creative journey of this famous father-son duo.

THE BEGINNING

At 30, Matu Ram got his first break for making a 80 feet Shiv statue after which there was no looking back for him. He shares, ‘They asked me, can you now make a 30 feet statue and I replied I can even make a statue of 80 or 100 feet. This is the time when I got the work for making the Shiv Murti at Mahipalpur in 1989 which took four years to be completed’.

The statue which today is one of the biggest landmarks of the highway and attracts thousands of devotees on a daily basis stands as a striking amalgamation of imagination and spirituality. Inaugurated by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the monument was well appreciated even as the creator quietly returned to his school.

The journey thereafter saw his involvement in a number of projects with his son joining him eventually. The Hanuman statue at Chattarpur, Radha Krishna statue near Rohini and the 121-feet tall statue in Sagar Talab at Gujarat were some of the projects they both started working on. In no time, Naresh took over and Matu Ram would just inspect the work and spend more time teaching children at home. He has, in fact, taught many children, who had no money to pay for the classes but had the passion to learn.

THE JOURNEY

Under Matu Ram’s guidance, when Naresh started taking care of most projects, he was always particular about completing them on time and with utmost efficiency.

‘In a project, I have at least 25 people to help me. Earlier, the technology was manual and if for instance, a 100 feet statue had to be made, the main problems used to be in the judgement part. I had to come down and check the statue personally and that used to be a tedious task,” explains Naresh.

To this Matu Ram adds, ‘We used to have scaffolding and following the teachings and ideologies of his father, climbed up the ladder of accomplishments. ‘I would say my father has

alised that we needed new technology’.

At that time, Naresh had started a studio at Palam Vihar and got to know about metal casting. ‘I had learnt about it in college but this time, I had to actually apply it to my work. I had seen a few videos of a lady doing metal casting on youtube. So, I thought if she can do why not me? I bought a furnace but had no knowledge about the technicalities like how many days does wax take to melt or by what time moulds get ready. Lots of people told me they know the work and once I invested money, I realised they took me for a ride’ he recalls.

MODERN TIMES

Naresh studied all about metal casting on Google. After investing a huge amount on experimentation, he finally applied the new technology. ‘Kanvar Singh Tanvar wanted to get some Ast Dhaatu statues. That was the first one we casted with new technology,’ he remembers with a smile.

After metal casting, it was time for him to master Robots and 3D scanning when a project to make a 351 feet statue landed in his kitty. Naresh decided to travel to Canada to learn more about the new technology and invested on machines that were brought to India by air.

‘As per the latest technology, with a scanner we get minutest of details. The 3D scan is taken on the system that is enlarged. We then start dividing it in slices to a machine which will carve it and I then assemble slices and then do the finishing manually. The mould is taken out, made into a dye and we take it to the site. Thereafter, we assemble the dye, pour the concrete, open the dye and the statue is ready. A statue which used to take three years earlier, therefore started getting completed in six months. This process is cost effective and gives better quality. The machines help up to 80 percent and the rest is the artistic part,’ he explains.

Today, having completed 27 such projects with a new studio at Manesar, Naresh has come a long way, incorporating international standards in his work. And, of course, he has made his father proud. Matu Ram says, ‘I was a little hesitant when Naresh was learning the new technology. But today he has increased my confidence in him and I see him as an accomplished artist’.

‘He is my backbone,” says Matu Ram with a beaming smile on his face. Together, father and son, who belong to the Prajapati community, known for their design and architecture work in palaces, have created several masterpieces.

Matu Ram is an art teacher at Birla Educational Trust, Pilani, Rajasthan, who moved into the world of sculpting to create mystic magic with his fingers. Years later, his son too took to sculpting and following the teachings and ideologies of his father, climbed up the ladder of accomplishments. ‘I would say my father has
Tell us about your education and professional background.
I’m a communications strategist based in New Delhi, India, who originally hails from Berlin, Germany. My expertise lies in communications, designing customer experience journeys, branding and creative direction, digital strategy and the development of communities. Art, culture, commerce and design mix in my mind to forge new forms for brands and businesses to build relationships with their audiences.

Change is the only constant in life – from PR & communications, social media marketing to social customer care I’ve worn many hats. I love the revolutions inspired by technology and innovation that I’ve gone through and hope to continue this journey for several more decades. I recently co-founded The Create Labs, a creative studio for digital products.

How did the idea of TEDx Gurugram come about and what has been the development till now?
I’ve been living in India since six years and meet people from the corporate, startup world as well as from NGOs and other walks of life. Each one of them has their own events and seems to interact in the same circle all the time. Hence, seeing Gurugram growing over the last years and becoming this window to India’s future, I thought what could be a better platform than TEDx to bring the community together.

It’s about time for them to come together and exchange views with people from different backgrounds. Such an exchange powers one’s personal growth, by talking, asking and most important, listening (in this case great TEDx talks & conversations) We are able to learn so much more about life when having a conversation with someone who’s not part of our daily routine.

How do you see Gurugram as a suitable place to propagate ‘Fabric of social change’ concept? Tell us about the work culture you have experienced.
In the last five years, Gurugram has grown tremendously as an industrial and corporate hub of the country. Only 20 years ago it was a farmland. Today it is a global tech hub with its own benefits and challenges. I hope that a few years from now, the city will be on the world’s map of creativity and innovation. There are various groups, companies and social initiatives that in their own small or large ways work towards a better future of the city. Inhabitants are receptive for the concept of social change, they seek it. They talk and debate about it in WhatsApp groups, on social media and in their gatherings. They want to move their city ahead.

How would you describe the city of Gurugram and the people who live here?
I’m impressed by the enthusiasm and motivation of the Gurugram people that I come across and interact with. The city has a huge strength in its networking groups, whether it is neighbourhood initiatives, sport clubs, activists, entrepreneurs or thinkers and doers that come regularly together. People in the city practice an active lifestyle and there is a strong sense of community.
welcoming people made us fall in love with Manali,” 20-year-old Girisha says. “We were 18-20 people and since it was a seven-day trip, a train would have been difficult. So our teacher decided we should travel by bus,” she explains. The students kept their fingers crossed, hoping to see some snow once in Manali. “On reaching there and seeing everything covered with fresh, soft snow was literally divine,” Alikhaya (21) recalls.

BIRD’S EYE VIEW

Girisha and Alikhaya are young. Given their spirit, they are sure to travel and see more of the world in the years to come. There are others who have been traveling for much longer – they show no signs of hanging up their boots anytime soon and explain why.

82-year-old Krishna Bhatt is rather proud of her accomplishment when talks about her trip to China in May this year. “I was the oldest among all. It was a group of almost 35 people and our manager organized the trip really well,” she says. She believes that since they were all of almost the same age group, they could do things without hurry and in a comfortable way during the visit. “This trip made us rich in culture and experience and I don’t recollect any of my friends facing any kind of problems all through,” she explains. Sixty-seven-year-old Virender Sareen, who was part of the visit to China along with Krishna Bhatt and others, recalls how “the trip was for the older people but it made all of us look young.”

President of the Senior Citizens Council which organized the visit, Mohan Gulrajani, explains that they find travelling very stimulating and that they have a long wish list of places that they want to visit. Their preferred destinations are hill stations and historical...
It is a pleasure to travel with persons of your age. Sometimes if a senior citizen falls ill the whole trip gets modified. You have to keep pace with the slow moving senior citizens and decide restaurants keeping their requirements of special meals,” he explains.

Avid traveler, writer and photographer Himanshu Joshi is clear that travelling is fulfilling when he says that the travel bug is a good condition to be afflicted with. “Not only moving out of the comfort zone and surviving, it is a necessary life-skill tool. travelling also exposes you to a much wider world,” he explains. ‘Interest does matter, but there could be numerous interests — nature, history, spiritual, wildlife, adventure, etc. Here too though, there could be overlapping interests — a nature lover could be delving into the history of the place he loves,” says Joshi.

Talking of adventure, Joshi has had loads of it over the years. “We got caught in March in a snowstorm at Khardungla, a 17,500 feet high pass. A truck had got stuck in a snowdrift just below the pass and blocked the way,” he says. The weather was bad and soon it started snowing — dry, sleet-like snow which hurts when it hits you. The wind was intense and it came in strong gusts. “And when this happened, all who were struck there were helping the truckers to get their vehicle out. Some had descended a few metres down the slope to dig beneath the snow to get to the soil, while others were putting it in sacks and taking it to the truck where yet another group was spreading it under the tyre for traction. The whole operation took about an hour. The intense cold and the heartwarming humane-ness is what I remember the most,” he recalls.

Women travelers are an increasing tribe and one can see why. Their sense of camaraderie is strengthened when they travel together. Supriya Saran, 49, recently travelled with a group of 12 women to Spiti. She recalls the sense of adventure and joy that they experienced in traveling solo. “It is easy on the pocket… cheaper than traveling with the family,” she explains. She made friends with people from different parts of the country, strangers who did not judge her or her behavior.

She particularly liked the fact that it was nice to have company and yet not have any pressure to talk or socialize or even behave in a certain way. “Baat karo to theek, na karo to bhi theek”, she sums up. Other women travelers share similar stories as they speak of their bonding and comfort. “Most women are so busy nurturing the family that they never really enjoy being themselves, even on a holiday,” says Rajat Arora who travels often and has organized many local groups.

“Travel Bug is a good condition to be afflicted by,” says Himanshu Joshi who was caught in a snowstorm at Khardungla.
The experience of going far north to the land of the Midnight Sun, Norway, can leave you mesmerized with spectacular landscapes characterized by fjords, coastal beauty, Hanseatic heritage and spectacular hikes to the most breathtaking sights. All this and many more makes Norway a country that offers so much to an outdoor aficionado like me. In fact, the entire Nordic region comprising of Norway, Sweden and Finland offers everything that an outdoor enthusiast would love.

The visit to Norway was my first solo back packing trip and it took considerable research and planning to craft an exhaustive itinerary.

**THE ADVENTURE BEGINS**

The first stop was Oslo, an enthralling city with 700,000 people which is also the most expensive in the world. On reaching Oslo central station, I was absolutely an alien looking for directions to my hostel. This was my first-ever experience of staying in a dormitory accommodation, with fellow travelers from all around the world sharing their travel experiences.

With only a day to experience Oslo, I went to the popular Karl Johans Street downtown, extending from the central station all the way to the Royal Palace. The high point was admiring the monolithic unclothed 123 sculptures of Gustav Vigeland at the Vigelands National park.

I took an early morning train called Norway in a nutshell, the train ride which you most certainly do not want to miss! The 6-7 hours scenic train ride takes you through one of the most amazing landscape which Norway offers. I reached Bergen, which is called the Gateway to the Fjords. This city on the south-western coast is known for Bryggen or vibrantly coloured wooden houses.

Here, a short but famous cruise marks the start of the journey to the longest and deepest fjord in the world - the Sognefjord. You reach Flåm, a village in Flåmsdalen, at the inner end of the Aurlandsfjorden which is a branch of Sognefjorden. Then you take a train ride which gives you the most unimaginable scenery, including snow-covered mountain tops and waterfalls.

**MAGICAL EXPERIENCE**

I reached Voss, which sits in a location surrounded by snow-capped mountains, forests, lakes and fast flowing white water rivers with stave churches. My hostel was nicely nestled in the midst of the vast expanse of the green lake. The next stop was Bergen, to take a flight to Bodø. Located on the unsheltered peninsula
FACT FILE

Best time to visit
All year round, though the summer months from June–August, when the sun is shining bright, gives you more day travel time

How to reach
Finn Air goes to Oslo via Helsinki (You may want explore Helsinki for a day or two)

How much time do I need?
At least 2-3 weeks or more depending on what you prefer to explore

Cities that you must not miss
Oslo, Bergen, Voss, Stavanger, Ålesund, Tromso, Lofoten Islands

Major Attractions
Sognefjord, Geiranger Fjord, Norway in a Nutshell, Oslo–Bergen by Train, Pulpit Rock, The Great Atlantic Ocean Road (The Trollstigen Road), Flam Railway, Hurtigruten. North Cape – the northernmost you can get in a car

Where to Stay
There are various options available from camp sites and scenic backpacker hostels to Bed and Breakfast and budget accommodation.

How to travel within Norway
Bus, trains, ferries, flights and self-drive

For More Information:
www.visitnorway.com; www.visitflam.com; www.hurtigruten.com

in the Norwegian Sea. Bodø is one of Norway’s windiest cities. Despite its location just north of the Arctic Circle, Bodø features an oceanic climate. The ultimate goal was to reach the much-awaited destination of the trip, the Lofoten Islands and the ferry which starts in the wee hours to the first port of call in Lofoten called Moskenes and then to Å. This is the last town through which runs the National Tourist Route Lofoten, so people call it the ‘end of Norway’. It houses the curious Stockfish Museum and a bakery built in 1844.

If you are here in the summers, you can experience the midnight sun – endless nights when the sun does not set below the horizon. This helps you cover so much ground with a lot of time at your disposal. If you are here in winters, it’s a perfect place to experience The Northern Lights which is an experience of a lifetime.

Another place in the Lofoten Islands which will leave you mesmerized is the picturesque fishing village Reine Fjord. It is the destination of choice for nature lovers and hikers. After Lofoten, the bus journey from Leknes to Svolvaer, all the way to Narvik, was an undulating one. Narvik, the ice-free port, has been a strategic one for iron ore exports from the Swedish town called Kiruna. It’s also known for alpine skiing with a view to die for. The stage was now set for the climax, an epic 22-hour train journey from Narvik to Stockholm. The ride passes through the Lapland region and through Riksgransen, the Norway-Sweden border, where the entire colour and the landscape wears a different look. This journey marks an excellent opportunity to see Sweden by train from top to bottom. The train goes all the way up to Malmo which I was told is only a 45-minute drive away from Copenhagen. My stop was still the beautiful city of Stockholm. This trip of a lifetime eventually ended in Helsinki.

(Suresh Srinivasan is an avid solo backpacker based out of New Delhi. He loves exploring the scenic parts of the world and has travelled to 25 countries since 2005. A corporate marketing professional, he is also a seasoned marathoner, health food freak and photography enthusiast. He can be reached at sureshorn@gmail.com)
**The millennials of the Millennium City love doing things differently**

*story by SHIVANGI ARORA AND HIMADRI SHARMA*

Are you a Millennial? These young people born close to the millennium are better known as Generation 'Y' who can be termed energetic, enthusiastic as well as ‘young and restless’ as they love ‘doing things differently’. According to Millennial workplace expert Lindsey Pollack, ‘Millennials refer to people in the age group of 18 to 30’ but demographers pitch it closer to the age of 25 in 2016.

**READY AND WILLING**

While the Millennial may be considered ‘privileged’ and therefore ‘not as motivated’ by members of Generation X, DCN met a cross section of Millennials across the city to discover that most of them do have a defined understanding of their goals, from deciding on a specific profession to learning about the process required to reach their goal.

Deeksha Sehgal, who is pursuing Economics in Aryabhatta College, says, “I have had this sole devotion for Statistics and I’d definitely love to study it further and do my Masters from United Kingdom”. Ask her if she plans to go abroad and settle there, she says “Nah, I will come back”. She plans to get into social work after completing her studies.

Mohit Mukhi, another Gurgaon resident who is a student of Delhi University, adds, “My career goals are undecided yet but I might just take photography and videography as a profession”. Mohit is both ambitious and versatile and loves trying his hand at new and diverse things. “I might as well go towards event management or just work as an economic policy advisor. Let’s see how things work out for me,” he adds.

With their wit, honesty and sincerity, it isn’t a wonder how goal oriented they are as they’ve already set the bars very high. Saksham Malhotra, who is a student at Jaipur University, aspires to be a pilot and makes sure he works hard enough to fulfill his dreams. Class XI student Ishita Trikha from Pathways School wants to take up singing as a career since she knows how
happy it makes her feel. Aastha Duggal, who studies in Class XII in DPS Gurgaon, is excelling in all her subjects but is a little confused. As the competition and options scare her, she is wondering what she would pursue but that doesn’t stop her from working hard and she knows sooner or later, she will find herself.

RULES OF RELATIONSHIPS

“As teenagers, we used to have a mindset that having a girlfriend or a boyfriend was a part of having an exciting life. That phase is so over now, maybe because of a gradual move towards independence,” Deeksha laughs. A law student and a resident of old Gurgaon, Sumit Khatri says, “Relationships are not just about who you are “going with” or “getting it on with”. They are about the interactions we have with people every day. People get in to the romantic scenes which might be close, supportive and stressful for them but these things really don’t matter to me much. There are many better things to do out there than being all filmy and romantic and then banging heads for all those silly fights that happen in these immature relationships”.

Saksham, on the other hand, feels that there is nothing wrong being in relationships. “I think it’s all about connecting with a person and then a relationship can be very comforting. I am in a relationship myself and I feel very emotionally and physically secure.”

On the contrary, Ishita believes that relationships are really superficial nowadays. “With social media, it’s all about showing off each and every detail of your life rather than actually appreciating it. I would like to quote Abhishek Bachchan from Dhoom 2 here - Maine pehle socha waah kya pyaar hai, phir socha kya bakhwaas hai,’ she adds.

ROLE OF FAMILY

When a person gets out of his teenage and gets that little pinch of the real world, the attitude of parents also changes towards them. The proportion of severity naturally decreases and parents turn broad minded and flexible with their kids instead of treating them with corporal punishments. Talking about how attached he and his parents are, Mohit says, “I have a great bond with mom and dad. They’re supportive of everything I do. They don’t stop me from learning new things. If I come home late at nights due to work or maybe friends, they let me lead my life and let me do my things my way. That makes me scared at times too because of the fear of disappointing them, but at the end I know they’re my parents and they understand me and they’re super cool.”

For the younger millennials like Saksham, Aastha and Ishita, things are even more fluid. “I am really close to my parents. I know I can tell them everything (well almost) and I know they will understand and support me no matter what. My parents are my best friends and my friends, they are my family outside home. We laugh, we cry, we love being stupid together. The relationship is different yet so similar,” says Saksham. Aastha adds, “I think you really can’t hide anything from your parents because you know that they will find out about it eventually. So, yes I discuss and share everything with my parents. They are my mentor, my best friends, my support system and I’m lucky to have friends on whom I can rely and share the same relationship with.”

While agreeing that friends should be like family, Mohit, however, points out that one should not try to fit into any ‘group’. “The best thing, you see, is that my parents have taught me to learn to say no and I have never really bothered to put any efforts to fit into any group. That is how it should be. If you don’t smoke, just don’t. Combing the pressure of peers can be challenging but it is essential that you know what your TV VIEWS MATTER

For a community that has an opinion about everything, the Millennials for sure are choosy about the shows they watch too. Saksham and Aastha love watching ‘The Game Of Thrones’ though their reasons for doing so vary. Saksham likes the sitcom because of the fascination he has with medieval age whereas Aastha says, “There is no particular reason why I like it. You either like something because it’s relatable or is your genre of interest.” Aastha also loves Sherlock Homes and Gossip Girl while Ishita prefers ‘Suits’. When asked if they would ever want to be a part of politics, most of them had the same reply - ‘No’. “I think this government is doing a better job as compared to the ones before but I don’t see myself as a person who can be involved in politics because I believe it’s a game which I can’t play,” says Saksham.
own personal values are and where you stand about certain things.”

EQUALITY & EMPOWERMENT
Modernisation has brought about changes in mindset and perspectives today and that is evident when these young minds talk about feminism and women empowerment. Says Deeksha, “There are a lot of reasons that this noble concept of women empowerment has turned into an overrated one. Feminism is a right for equal rights and opportunities for women that both the sexes need to fight together”. The fight for equality goes for a toss the moment a woman demands reservation. Yes, they’ve been oppressed for ages. Yes, they don’t have equal rights yet. Yes, they’re not safe but by taking the reserved seat in public transport, they’re only alienating themselves even more from men,” adds Mohit. He feels that a stronger security system instead makes so much more sense. “We need to teach men how to stay with women, not staying away from them,” he explains.

SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE
Technology today has a huge influence on the young generation. Mohit agrees as he points out, “We have become so used to connecting with people with just the tap of a screen that we can have an entire conversation with someone in the same room as us without saying a word. We’d rather Snapchat a picture to one of our friends than actually go see them. I am quite aware that my generation doesn’t use technology much more than social media, which in many ways is the same as misusing technology. Although social life is a very powerful temptation, the only way it affects is socially unless we allow it to do otherwise. Millennials are simply impacted by what they allow to influence their life.”

Sumit, however, believes that. “We should not look at social networks as threats but as opportunities for us to interact with people globally. I myself am an active user of social networks and have made many friends that I would otherwise not have had at the same level of opportunity or interaction,” says Sumit.
In an attempt to understand and combat Neonatal Asphyxia, a conference ‘Neoasphyxicon’ was organised recently at Epicentre by Cloudnine Hospital. The conference was an eye-opener for the 180 paediatricians and neonatologists from all over the country, who participated in it.

As per the National Perinatal Database, new born mortality in our country is 23 per cent due to birth asphyxia and reason for around 25 per cent of still-birth babies is also perinatal asphyxia. Due to this problem, normal exchange of gases is hampered and thereby it causes harmful effects on the foetus and as a result still birth happens or newborn dies. Many newborn suffer from lifelong deformities and disabilities. Dr Manish Balde, secretary of the organising committee, discussed about what special care needs to be given for an asphyxiated neonate. He said, ‘We need well-coordinated expertise and facilities to ensure transportation of the sick asphyxiated babies to a centre’.

The reason for birth asphyxia can be many but the most common causes are non-institutional delivery, post-dated delivery, and obstructed labour. Dr Balde added, ‘Newer technological advancements are taking place to prevent and manage birth asphyxia today. As a result of which, there are fair chances to reduce death and disabilities related to it and therefore the future of our country, the ‘newborns’ can be benefitted’.

Chairperson of the conference, Dr Sanjay Wazir, shared, ‘Neonatal Asphyxia is the reason for death in new born and even if they survive, they get lifelong deformities. These kind of educational discussions and conferences equip the doctors with more information and abilities to successfully cure the problem and come up with better outcomes. The team work of neonatologists, paediatricians and developmental therapists together can help in improving future of the affected child’.

As the conference drew to a close, Dr Balde took the opportunity to thank Gurugram IAP president Dr Neeraj Sharma, Secretary Dr Shafiq Ahmad, and NNF Haryana President Dr Ramesh Goyal as well as doctors at Cloudnine, Dr Kishore, Dr B S Yadav, Dr Surender Kumar, Dr Sandeep Dubey, Dr Anil and Dr Shaveta Sethi, who contributed towards organising the conference on an issue as important as this.
**A Soulful Journey**

**story by REENA DHANKHE**

Diwali couldn’t have sparkled in a better way for Gurgaonites who were treated to a one-of-its-kind musical celebration at the Diwali Mela at Epicentre. The two-day mela, which was all about festive spirit and fun, ended on a melodious note with the Nizami brothers keeping the audience glued to their seats with their soulful renditions.

The Qawwali evening, one of the major attractions of the mela, was organised by ‘Surtarang’, which has been making an attempt to bring to its members the essence of music through such regular musical concerts.

The atmosphere resonated with sheer musical bliss as the Nizami brothers mesmerised the crowd with their energetic and power-packed voices. Qawwalis like ‘Allah Hun’, ‘Bhar do jholi meri’, Chaap Tilak, and classics like ‘Badi mushkil hai dagar panghat ki’ left the audience enthralled and clamouring for more.

Speaking to DCN, Major B S Gill of Surtarang said, “For the first time ‘Surtarang’ has organised a performance in public domain so that people come to know what kind of programmes we arrange for our members, be it the Sada Bahaar Nagme, ghazals, Sufiana Kalam or qawwali. The idea is to create a perfect evening full of poetry and music.”

Meanwhile, DCN also caught up with the Nizami brothers for a candid conversation. As they sat down to talk about the most important aspect of their lives, their music, they started by humming a piece of pure classical Taraana, which they have learnt from their ancestors and which truly left us spellbound.

**Excerpts from the interview:**

**How did you begin this soulful journey?**

We brothers Gulam Sabir Nizami, Gulam Waris Nizami are known by the name of Nizami Brothers. Our family is 750 years old and our forefathers Ustad Kudrat Ullah Khan and Ustad Kifayat Ullah Khan were extremely immersed and well versed in classical music. The origins of qawwali can be traced to that time, when they used to perform at Amir Khusro’s darbaar. So, this has been our family tradition which is our passion too. It’s been almost 50 years that we have been singing and I remember in 1969, we did our first programme on AIR.

Our maternal grandfather Haji Altaaf Hussain Khan, from Khurja Gharana was India’s initial recipient of the prestigious Padma Bhushan. He had received it from the first President of Republic of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Taking our tradition of classical qawwali forward has been the most blessed part of our lives. Till now, we have recorded 65 albums. Now our children too are walking on our footsteps, learning this traditional art form with the blessings of the family members.

**What is the origin of qawwali?**

The origin of qawwali comes from the word ‘Qwal’. This word refers to the sayings of Prophet Mohammed.

One who sings and reads these sayings is referred to as a ‘qawwal’. ‘Jo allah ki shaan mein qawwali hoti hai unko ‘hamd’ bolte hai. Qawwali is actually a praise of God and Sufiana Qawwali is the real essence of qawwali. But the ones like ‘Jhoom Barabar Jhoom’ or ‘Parda Hai Parda’ are only for enjoyment purposes. They cannot be termed as original qawwalis. However, A.R. Rehman’s ‘Kun Faya Kun’ from ‘Rockstar’ and ‘Khwaja mere Khwaja’, though have a different style, can be called qawwalis. You see, anything sung for Allah and Eshwar or for a saint, is qawwali. A qawwali sends out a message of love and brotherhood. In all the countries we have travelled, we have communicated this message while also highlighting how India is a true example of this.

**You have travelled to so many countries. Where have you received the best response to qawwali?**

We have sung qawwali in many countries all over the world. But the interest for it we saw in South Africa was something else. There are lots of Asians settled there, a mix of Hindus and Muslims. They love listening to qawwalis because they have an understanding of both Hindi and Urdu. Hence, singing to them is extremely enjoyable since the response is always overwhelming. Recently there was this three day International Conference at Mauritius where we performed and Sadar Ameena Begum heard us and also appreciated our performance. That felt great too.

But nothing beats the love we have seen in India where so many languages and religions go hand in hand. After all, we are Indians first.
Culinary Cross Over!

A Frenchman, an Englishman and a Japanese couple pamper Gurgaon’s taste buds

by MEENAKSHI SHARMA

Culinary diplomacy, also known as ‘gastrodipomacy’ wins hearts and minds through the stomach. Gurgaon being a melting pot of cultures is fast becoming not just a foodie haven but an interesting amalgam of cultures. We interacted with expatriates who are making the most of their home country experience and professional expertise to create a culinary bonanza of sorts.

FRENCH PANACHE

It’s a rickety ride to the ‘French Farm’ located in Bиласpur near Manesar but the accurate instructions given over the phone by Roger Langbour help us reach our destination safely. Once inside, we realise that it was a ride well worth taking as we witness the sheer dedication and commitment of this French farmer who believes in ‘giving what he promises’. And in his case it is the most delicious and organic meat which is bred and reared personally by him and supplied to the top hotels as well as directly to customers.

Roger Langbour has been running the French Farm since 1994.

Relationship Tales

by DCN BUREAU

It was no lazy Sunday as book lovers and those interested in discussing marriage and relationships gathered at the Le Meridien Gurgaon to interact with Bestselling author Ravinder Singh who was in conversation with the citizens of Gurugram in an event organized by Gurgaon Literary and Art Club (GLiterARTi).

It was interesting to see a varied gathering of college students and young professionals on one hand and married couples and those in a relationship on the other. Indeed it was the very nature of this eclectic gathering that made for an evening of intelligent discussion on a subject as old as marriage itself – extra marital relationships.

Ravinder Singh began with some fond and challenging reminiscences of his childhood and those early days of romance when he lost his fiancée in a car accident. This resulted in him becoming a ‘chance’ author who penned his heartbreaking love affair in the form of a novel, ‘I too Had a Love Story’. This surprise hit captured the imagination of the youth and the rest as they say is history.

Ravinder admitted that he has grown and changed and so has his story. ‘This love that feels Right’, his latest outing is a story of two women, Naina and Manvi, both married, who venture into the treacherous territory of extra marital relationships. With a plot that is set in Gurgaon, the discussions inevitably veered towards a debate on deception versus democracy and whether the institution of marriage should cater for the need for freedom.
though he has been up since 4 am, he is bright and cheerful. The popularity of his meats is such that people drive far to pick up the produce.

Langbour, who was in India working for the French Embassy in the 1970s, married an Indian. He felt comfortable enough to start an entrepreneurship venture in 1994. Langbour explains, “there were no ducks at all in India and we realised there was enough work. I had an Indian partner and we started with chickens, ducks, quail and turkey. Mr Oberoi, Chairman of the Oberoi Hotels, who were already buying ducks encouraged me to keep pigs as well”.

He shares his experience of importing ducks as he says, “My first flock from England came without a problem, then the next came from France. The third time was difficult as the ‘Babus’ made it tougher for the farmers who wanted to preserve the breeds”.

While anyone else would be put off staying so far out in the farm, Roger loves the farm experience and enjoys the freshness and the farm life which includes doing barbeques on charcoal with authentic French flavours with herbs. “Here it is very healthy with no buildings, no noise and no mosquitoes, so no dengue or chikungunya,” he informs. Yet he is concerned about problems like electricity which he gets only for eight hours when he needs it 24 x 7. Despite the regular challenges of running a business, it is clear Langbour loves his work and his customers love his produce making this a rather successful French Connection!

THE JAPANESE KAIZEN

The delicate and very hospitable Ayako Tejima along with her husband Tom is another shining example of food diplomacy as their online Japanese food delivery platform ‘Sushi Junction’ has taken Gurgaon’s Japanese food lovers by storm. The Japanese penchant for perfection and authenticity has ensured that only the freshest ingredients and the highest standards are followed to give an inimitable Japanese experience.

While they have a kitchen at Udyog Vihar, the Tejimas live in DLF Belaire with a four-year-old son and a two-year-old daughter who was born in India. Sharing her Indian journey, Ayako says that her husband has been working in India since 2013. “We both are Japanese but grew up in an international society. I partially grew up in Shanghai while my husband Tom grew up partially in New York and also went to Yale Business School in the US,” she explains.

After Yale, Tom worked with McKinsey and then joined a Pharma company which acquired an Indian company and became the representative from the Japanese side! Tom was posted at Ahmedabad at the time.
though the family stayed on in Gurgaon. "I was just a housewife at the time but we knew we would start something here. So for us India was a very interesting opportunity," explains Ayako.

She goes on to share the reasons for starting a venture like Sushi Junction when she says, "We wanted to share our Japanese culture and food". She believes many Indians in Gurgaon and Delhi are willing to experiment with their palate and since so many have travelled the world, they are ready for the authentic Japanese experience.

At the same time, there are, as Ayako says, 6000 Japanese in India who would also order their food if the taste and pricing were suitable. She goes on to explain that while Japanese food in five star hotels, though authentic is expensive for the average Indian and Japanese, those that are more reasonable are not true to flavour. This is where Tom’s expertise in IT related online delivery model became useful, even winning them the Jury award at the recent Big F Award function. "We have many interesting learnings", says Ayako as she shares. "We started a campaign called Sushi goes Desi but now feel it was not the best approach as most Indian ordering Japa- nese prefer authenticity or go with international flavours like the California roll. Now we have a few products which we call local favourites so if you eat Sushi but your mom doesn’t, you can give her an introduction through our local flavours so that you all can enjoy Sushi together."

ENGLISH BREAKFAST & TEA

David Hopcroft, General Manager, Le Meridien, Gurgaon, is as English as they come, even calling himself an ‘English Breakfast’ expert. So it is a surprise to know that he does have roots in India. "I have been working in India for seven years but have a very close bond with India as I was born in Allahabad. My dad is English and my mum is a Portuguese from Kerala. My father went to school at Mount Abu and studied at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) to join the EME of the Indian Army. My paternal grandfather was chief magistrate at Alwar, my maternal granddad was in the police in Kerala and my uncle, PA to Lord Mountbatten," he points out.

David Hopcroft lives on Golf Course Road in Gurgaon and loves his game of Golf. He also dreams of climbing the Everest, “at least till the base camp”. As a hotelier, he believes in creating that cultural bridge through what he calls, "authentic flavours of all the cuisines which are customised to suit local and international palate". He feels that Gurgaon is a modern city with a lot of potential. What he loves about India is the diverse culture, history and the amazing variety of food.

I LOVE ANYTHING THAT COMES FROM TANDOOR AND IS MARINATED WELL AND I LOVE NAANS AS WELL - DAVID HOPCROFT
Nurturing Talent Programme of DLF Foundation, which has been providing quality education to the underprivileged, has now taken a step forward towards the cause with yet another initiative called the ‘Super 30’ Programme. ‘Super 30’ aims to fulfill the dreams of the young generation and take them higher up the ladder. With an aim to extend educational assistance in form of scholarships, DLF Foundation has partnered with CSRL (Centre for Social Responsibility and Leadership) for the implementation of the ‘Super 30’ Programme. The programme aims to teach children from the economically weaker sections to crack the IIT/JEE. The selection of students has been done on the basis of a written test and an interview.

The objective of NTP has always been particular about, is personality development and soft skills training. The ‘Super 30’ will groom the students with relevant personality traits required and also sharpen their soft skills to mould them into assertive individuals ready to face challenges resolutely. The programme will facilitate the students who aspire for IIT/JEE and will provide them with complete guidance, coaching and mentoring while training them for the future.

The ‘Super 30’ programme shall encompass various parameters which ensure a wholesome development to step into the professional world positively where sky is the limit!

DLF Foundation Launches Super 30 Programme

For years, DLF Foundation has been supporting and inspiring talents. And so when its scholars, Tarni Suri and Shubankar Sharma carved a space for them in the sports arena, it was a gratifying moment; to say the least. With their sheer passion and hard work, they have repaid the faith and confidence that DLF Foundation reposed in them.

Tarini Suri

A budding badminton player, 9-year-old Tarini Suri is a student of J B Petit High School, Mumbai and also the youngest player at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy. But Tarni has already embarked on a journey of accolades. Having pursued a special badminton training course at Gopichand Badminton Academy, Hyderabad, she won the Girls Under 10 title at both ASA Maharashtra State Open Junior Badminton Championship and Manora Open Junior Badminton Championship. Recently, she also won the Mumbai District Badminton Girls’ Singles Under-15 title while securing a third position at the semi-final of the Girls’ Badminton Singles Under-15. Tarini was conferred with the special Youngest Achiever Award by C. D. Birla Foundation (March 2016) and secured second position at PNB Metlife All India Junior Badminton Championship in Delhi (Under 9).

Tarini now intends to enrich her skills by training under the professional guidance of Husrish Manmin, head coach of Prakash Padukone Academy in Mumbai which will also groom her for international prospects in the future. Her consistent journey is taking a better shape steadily with the support of DLF Foundation, her coach and her mother. With an ultimate ambition to reach the Olympics, this young girl looks all set to do the country proud one day. Besides badminton, she enjoys swimming for maintaining fitness levels and has a keen interest in singing and dancing.

Shubankar Sharma

Shubhankar’s story has been the most promising to come out of the golfing scenario in India. Recently with his dedication and sheer passion for the game, he emerged as the youngest ever Indian golfer to win a title in the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). He has honored his skills with each match to prepare himself for the Asian Tour.

In February this year, Eagleton bestowed on Shubhankar the PGTI Players Championship at Golf Resort. After which he bagged the Colombo Masters 2016 title. He also won the ‘Kolkata Classic 2016’ by storm in August. Shubhankar then won the ‘2016 PGTI Players Championship - Classic Golf & Country Club’ award.

With such impressive victories in his kitty, he is currently playing the PGTI Eaglbeburg Masters 2016 at Ahmedabad. One of his prestigious challenges will take place in September and December later this year and he intends to come out with all guns blazing.

With the way things are paving for Shubhankar, he seems all set to be reckoned as the shining star in the world of golf.
All About Girl Power

DCN finds out how the girls’ kabaddi team in Gurgaon is getting stronger with every passing day under the leadership of their coach Sunil Dabas

EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW:

How do you prepare a team and how long does it take?

The preparation is a multidimensional event where we impart basic to advanced training. We first look at the fitness, agility, endurance, strength and power of the players and then provide them with technical training. That is followed by advanced training which prepares the players for competition while also giving them international exposure. Also, here we train the players to handle psychological pressure. Today, psychological training has become increasingly important and the coach has a major role to mould and keep the player cool. In absence of this training, the fear factor does not let many players perform.

What is the fitness routine these players follow?

When I keep girls in the India camp, we have a schedule of three sessions in the day. Our schedule...
starts at 5 in the morning for fitness after which we make them do stretching and relaxation. The second session is mainly concerned with technical teaching. We encourage them to come up with what they think is their weak points for us to work on after which we do our analysis also. In the two-hour afternoon session, we work out on basics and finally for three hours in the evening, we work on matches, competition training and practice.

As a woman, what challenges did you face in this field?
Women always face challenges. We have two types of sportspersons in the country - one whose economic condition is good and the other who are economically weak. The players who have the spark in them and are economically weak face huge barriers especially if they are women. I am from a village where I could never even think of wearing a track suit. Though if they are women. I am from a village where I could even think of wearing a track suit. Though they have the spark in them and are economically weak face huge barriers especially if they are women. I am from a village where I could never even think of wearing a track suit. Though if they are women. I am from a village where I could never even think of wearing a track suit. Though if they are women.

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While coach Sunil Dabas has been working hard to train the girls at the college, the latter too are equally determined to bring laurels for their country in the game.

DCN spoke to a few members from the girls’ kabaddi team, who are also the state champions, and the fire in them clearly reflected their desire to make it big. Since most of them have battled with social barriers to reach this position in life, they appeared more determined than ever.

“Yes, it was difficult for me convince my parents to allow me to continue with the game when they realised that marriage proposals were being turned down for it. But I have silenced people with my performances over these years and today I am now engaged to be married soon,” says Sangeeta Dhaka.

Poonam Choudhary believes that most people have a prefixed mindset when it comes to women players that too for a game like kabaddi. “My parents keep telling me that I will get injured and face difficulties in finding a match if I keep playing. It’s even more disgusting when neighbours add fuel to the fire”

She further says, “When we used to go to village in track suits, our families would grumble. But once I won a medal, the scenario changed. However, it will take time before our villages completely stop thinking in this manner.”

To this, Shalu Yadav adds, “I still remember how people kept telling my parents that education will not help and girls should just stick to household work.”

While most of these girls have faced some resistance of sorts in their villages, they have received tremendous support in their college, that too from the boys! Sushma Yadav shares, “Boys help us a lot. In practice sessions with us, they put a lot of mental pressure on us which makes us fight with twice the intensity. And, that eventually gives a tremendous boost to our game”.

“Boys have taught us various tricks of the game. We have learnt a lot from them. They are very co-operative and keep encouraging us to perform better,” adds Aarti Yadav.

The daily practice sessions have created a healthy bond between the girls and boys who now play together as a team, Sunil Dabas sums it up saying, “Boys have been practicing with me and hence their hesitation has gone and now they play with girls and help them practice. In a recent tournament at Gurgaon earlier this year, it was a pleasure to see boys extremely concerned about the girls’ matches. They would often come to cheer for them”.

With the hard work these girls are putting in their game, it won’t be long before this team sets new records at international level and makes the country proud.
Dr Diwakar is the 2013 recipient of “Best Principal Award”

‘To Sir, With Love’

A successful teacher and principal, Dr. Ashok Diwakar shares his journey with DCN even as he continues his love for teaching by venturing into publishing

story by SHIVANGI ARORA

Having spent 39 years of his life teaching and nurturing the lives of college students, Dr. Ashok Diwakar attributes his career as a successful teacher and principal to the affection and love given to him by his wards and familial loyalty of his colleagues.

“When I look back, I realise the journey hasn’t been easy. Yet I feel satisfied with myself that I have been able to complete my duties as a servant to the nation, to the students befittingly,” says this 61-year-old retired principal of Government College for Women, Sector-14 who has also served as a Geography teacher in colleges like DAV, Ambala City and GSA, Hailey Mandi.

Recalling his three-year stint as a principal, he tells us, “It was more of an enjoyable and a challenging walk for me. I liked hunting for obstacles. I used to delve
into every little detail of the college administration work and tried giving my best. My objective was clear. Whenever you’re at work, you have to stay focused and literally grind it out. Whether it’s a good or a bad day, you have to put it aside and get ready for a better to-morrow.”

Talking of the challenges he faced, he informs, “As students get promoted to higher classes, it gets strenuous to make them attend lectures. Alluring students towards studies and classes required a lot of reorienta-tion in the teaching and the administration divisions of the university. It was no less than an uphill battle and as a principal, I could succeed because my faculty put in enormous efforts to create a student-teacher friendly environment in the class even as I ensured that they regulate administrative rules with strictness.”

ENRICHING INTERVENTIONS
Dr. Diwakar always aimed at providing an enlighten-ing direction to his faculty, staff and students through academic and behavioural interventions which en-hance the all-round development of students and direct a constructive administration of the university.

“As far as my relationship with my students goes, I en-joyed a good rapport with all of them. I started taking initiatives to run various committees to keep students involved in assorted activities and tried making my teaching methods productive and humorous. Each day and each lecture I took was important to me. This brought out the best in my students, in return giving me a tremendous amount of understanding, love and support,” says the retired principal.

He equally enjoyed his tenure as a teacher as he re-counts, “Some of the best days for me were when we studied something that really interested me, like mi-gration or regional development. I was into it, and the kids caught onto that. Those days, no matter how hard I worked, I always finished with more energy than I started with.”

Leaving a life-long career is a big adjustment for any-one. “Getting retired came to me as a real sense of loss and a very severe and fierce adjustment. The night of my last day being the principal, as my wife slept, I began to ponder over what am I going to do next and I perceived I can still be connected with teaching and so I set up Himadri Publication House, where I publish text books for children of classes Nursery to 8th. I have an extremely loving family which keeps me going. My wife is like my best friend. I have two wonderful sons and daughters-in-law and a grandchild with whom I can play for the whole day,” smiles the professor.

Any retired teacher can be a great resource to a learning educator as well as a seasoned veteran. Ask him what piece of advice he would give to teachers and students and he is quick to reply, “It takes years to learn to be a teacher. The major facet of teaching is to remember that we are not officers; we are the serv-ants of India. Take your duties as your challenges and conclude them with complete sincerity and dedica-tion. And to the students, I’d probably say that they have a career ahead of themselves to build, so it is mandatory to construct a harmonic balance between their studies and their social life and other activities.”
Pets in metropolitans are facing increasing urinary health issues like Cystolithiasis (urinary stones) due to the excessive mineral content of potable water, recurrent urinary tract infections, abnormal feeding trends and genetic/breed predispositions as in Cocker Spaniels, Dalmatians, Pugs and Shih Tzus. Urinary stones primarily present in dogs and cats are Struvite (Magnesium ammonium phosphate), Calcium Oxalate and Carbonate. Urinary stones should be differentiated from kidney disease, inflammation/infection/tumours of the urinary bladder and prostate gland enlargement to name a few.

“So how do we proceed?”
From the diagnostic aspect, consult your Veterinarian and get your pet’s complete blood profile analysis including kidney and liver function tests done. Urine assessment and culture/antibiotic sensitivity tests are mandatory. An abdominal radiograph can help pinpoint the location of the urinary stone(s). Ultrasonography is a routine diagnostic tool for all such issues. Cystoscopy at CGS Hospital provides a real-time internal view of the urinary bladder.

“What are our treatment options?”
Treatment differs as per the individual case prognosis and definitive diagnosis. Antibiotic and fluid therapy will be initiated however, surgery remains a common option for Cystolithiasis.

A breakthrough surgical procedure for female dogs with urinary stones lodged in their lower urinary passage and bladder is the non-invasive, painless Holmium-YAG Laser Lithotripsy Surgery at CGS Hospital. When the laser beam comes in contact with the stone, it pulverises the stone into sand-like granules that are easily passed in the urine. In male dogs, the success rate depends on the number and location of the urinary stones. Multiple stones will require more than one sitting. Post surgery, pets need to be housed indoors for 2-3 days. Invasive life-saving surgical procedures to evacuate the same include Urethrotomy and Cystotomy. In cases of recurrent stones, Urethrostomy i.e. making an artificial permanent opening in the lower urinary tract, is performed.

Post surgery, the retrieved urinary stone should be analysed in order to know its composition thereby helping in preventing recurrence.

“How can we prevent our furry friends from developing urinary stones?”
Provide ad libitum demineralised water to drink. Add the same to commercial canned food. Ask your Vet about special prescription diets available for your pet’s specific need.

Remember: Early diagnosis equals better care! When in doubt, consult your Vet!

Cheers to your pet’s “Stone-free” life!

(The authors are practicing veterinarians at CGS Hospital, Gurgaon and possess post-graduate degrees in Vet Surgery, and Radiology and Vet Medicine, respectively. CGS Hospital is a multi-speciality pet hospital located at 5-25/220k, DLF Phase-III, Gurgaon. All the above mentioned diagnostic and treatment services are available at the CGS Hospital provided by its highly qualified and specialised veterinarians www.cgshospital.com.)
**Important Telephone Numbers**

- **DLF Customer Care 24x7 Call Center:** 9266780666
- **Central Control Room of DLF Buildings:**
  - Phase-I: 2559091
  - Phase-II: 2557057
  - Phase-III: 2559090
  - Phase-IV: 2592965
- **DLF Community Centre:**
  - Phase-I: 2557043
  - Phase-II: 2592965
- **DRHVN Complaint Call Centers and respective Junior Engineers for electrical complaints:**
  - Common to All: 1091
  - Phase-I: C-15 near Mother Dairy
  - Phase-II: Madda Mary Phase-II: 09450054870
  - Phase-III: Chalakpur Housing Board

**Important Contact Numbers**

- **Ambulance Service (dial from mobile):**
  - 102
- **Police Commissioner:**
  - 9999999895
- **Police Control Room:**
  - 100
- **24x7 Anti-robbery police:**
  - 9999999818
- **Women and Children Helpline:**
  - 100
- **Sanitation Helpline:**
  - 100
- **Police Commissioner:**
  - 9999999895
- **Women Helpline Number:**
  - 1091
- **Cyber Cell:**
  - 1091

**For Advertisement Queries & Reader Responses Contact:**
- **DLF City News, Third Floor, Shopping Mall,
  Arjun Marg, DLF Phase-I, Gurgaon, Haryana.**
- **Phone:** 8130055319
- **Email:** advdtcm@gmail.com
citynews.dlf@gmail.com
**PROJECT REPORT**

**STATUS OF PROJECTS**

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<th>Name of Project</th>
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<td>Handover/Finishes in advanced stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Primus</td>
<td>Terrace/upper floors slabs cast. Rough finishes in progress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Garden</td>
<td>Terrace/upper floors slabs cast. Rough finishes in progress</td>
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<td>Possession starting soon</td>
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**Pace of Habitation in Group Housing**

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<td>520</td>
<td>99.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellington Estate (II and III)</td>
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<td>91.0</td>
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<td>Princeton Estate (I and II)</td>
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**Pace of Habitation in Plotted Properties**

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<th>Phase</th>
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**Total** 13966

**Condominiums & Associations**

**OFFICIALS & Contact Numbers**

**SILVER OAKS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION – DLF Phase-I (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Tejinder Rana
  - President

- Mr. Shalini Asha Chopra
  - Vice President

- Mr. V K Jain
  - Secretary

- Mr. Rahul Jain
  - Treasurer

- Mr. Pakka Kumar
  - Manager

**OAKWOOD ESTATE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION – DLF Phase – (024-4052085)**

- Creda. Hemanta Singh
  - President

- Dr. Ashish Vora
  - Vice president

- Mr. Rohit Kapoor
  - Treasurer

- Mr. Naveen Bhardwaj
  - Secretary

**BEVERLY PARK I – DLF Phase-II (024-4052173)**

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  - President

- Mr. Vinod Saichal
  - Vice President

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  - Treasurer

- Mr. Rajiv Tripathy
  - Manager

- Mr. Balraj Singh
  - Secretary

**BEVERLY PARK II – DLF Phase-II (024-4052215)**

- Mr. Ajit Chandra
  - President

- Mr. Anil Kapur
  - Vice President

- Mr. Ramesh Arora
  - Secretary

- Mr. Nandini Roy Choudhary
  - Treasurer

**BELVEDERE TOWER – DLF Phase II (024-4055231)**

- Mr. Vikas Talwar
  - President

- Mr. Sunil Sahni
  - Secretary

- Sanjesh Kumar Jawarani
  - President

**BELVEDERE PARK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION – DLF Phase-III (024-4055238)**

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  - President

- Col. Rajan Bakshi
  - Vice-President

- Mr. Sanjeev Saxena
  - Secretary

**BURLINGTON CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION – DLF Phase V (024-4055246)**

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  - President

- Mr. Girish Garg
  - Secretary

**HAMILTON, WINDSOR AND REGENCY PARK ASSOCIATION – DLF Phase II (024-4283051)**

- Mr. Manoj Jolly
  - President

- Mr. Arvind Seth
  - Secretary

**HAMILTON, WINDSOR AND REGENCY PARK ASSOCIATION – DLF Phase III (024-4283051)**

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  - President

- Mr. Vijay Kumar Verma
  - Vice President

- Mr. Dilip Malhotra
  - Secretary

**COTALIS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION – DLF Phase V (024-4283051)**

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  - President

- Mr. Lalit Bajaj
  - Secretary

**COSMOS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION – DLF Phase V (024-4283051)**

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  - President

- Mr. Sandeep Singh
  - Secretary

**CITY OF PUNE SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL (Regd.) (024-2579070)**

- Mr. Sanjay Bapat
  - President

- Mr. Ajay Singh
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase I (024-4055258)**

- Mr. Nishant Chopra
  - President

- Mr. Niranjan Singh
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase II (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Sudhir Kulkarni
  - President

- Mr. Ajay Singh
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase III (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Rishi Srivastava
  - Secretary

- Mr. Rajender Sud
  - Vice-President

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase IV (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Subhradip Chatterjee
  - President

- Mr. Arvind Bhardwaj
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase V (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Rajinder Singh
  - President

- Mr. Ajay Singh
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase VI (024-4281057)**

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  - President

- Mr. Deepak Singh
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase VII (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Arun Kumar
  - President

- Mr. Ramesh Verma
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase VIII (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Ajay Singh
  - President

- Mr. Arvind Bhardwaj
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase IX (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Rishi Srivastava
  - Secretary

- Mr. Rajender Sud
  - Vice-President

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase X (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Subhradip Chatterjee
  - President

- Mr. Arvind Bhardwaj
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase XI (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Rishi Srivastava
  - Secretary

- Mr. Rajender Sud
  - Vice-President

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase XII (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Subhradip Chatterjee
  - President

- Mr. Arvind Bhardwaj
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase XIII (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Rishi Srivastava
  - Secretary

- Mr. Rajender Sud
  - Vice-President

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase XIV (024-4281057)**

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  - President

- Mr. Arvind Bhardwaj
  - Secretary

**CITIZEN FOR WELFARE – DLF Phase XV (024-4281057)**

- Mr. Rishi Srivastava
  - Secretary

- Mr. Rajender Sud
  - Vice-President
‘Women-Centric Plays’
Are Always More Interesting & Complicated

Mahabanoo Mody Kotwal and Kaizaad Kotwal, who were in Gurgaon recently for their play, ‘Agnes of God’, share interesting facets of their journey with DCN

story by Reena DhanKher

She carved a niche for herself as an actress to reckon with when she did her first play ‘Eden Greek’ in 1988. But Mahabanoo Mody Kotwal had no idea that years later, she would still be performing to perfection on stage while directing plays as well along with her son, Kaizaad Kotwal. This mother-son duo has today become an integral part of the theatre world with a huge fan base. The two were recently in Gurgaon for their play, ‘Agnes of God’ when DCN caught up with them.

As the two settle comfortably for a chit-chat, we start with a discussion on how theatre has evolved over the last two decades. Voicing her views, Mahabanoo shares, “In terms of content, theatre for sure has evolved. Particularly when it comes to elements like story-telling in plays. Our play Vagina Monologues was of a similar nature. Also, there has been a rising popularity of physical theatre, where there is less use of dialogues”.

Echoing a similar opinion, Kaizaad adds. “The change has come about also because the audience today is well aware. In a place like Gurgaon for instance, there is a rich corporate crowd which is also well travelled and informed. So, they have a thirst for different kind of stories, which could be based on family, social, political or behavioural issues. People want to see all latest things here.”

Interestingly, the Kotwals have mostly focused on women-centric plays. Vagina Monologues, a compilation of various monologues of women from around the world, in fact, had been a craze with all shows completely sold out. Agnes of God has also been enacted by just three women characters. According to Mahabanoo, women have more substance. “Women have more varied lives and therefore the excitement in them is much more,” she explains. To this Kaizaad adds, “We have been creating women-based stories because these tend to be more interesting, multifaceted and more complicated. Also, these stories are never told in complex ways in entertainment. We are drawn to subjects where we see women in complexities and contradictions.”

So what would be Mahabanoo’s advice to budding artists? “They should always have their plan B ready. Realistically speaking, it’s ok to have a passion for theatre but in India, theatre still has a long way to go. It may not be able to put your meals on the table”.

Kaizaad, on the other hand, emphasises on the importance of training, be it any art form. “It’s important to have patience and know the fundamentals. Unless you know your craft, your technique, you are not going to have much of a chance in this field. Even producing a film is an art. In fact I feel a producer’s job which is merely interpreted as just investing money is the toughest. He has to ensure that all aspects are in place. The idea is to know your field well.”

Talking about Agnes of God, which got a standing ovation from the crowd at Epicentre, they explain how the play is a play is a debate between faith and science and has no ending. Mahabanoo says, “I think what worked for this play is its script. A good script will always appeal in the first reading.”

“I THINK WHAT WORKED FOR THIS PLAY IS IT’S SCRIPT. A GOOD SCRIPT WILL ALWAYS APPEAL IN THE FIRST READING.”
Back With A Bang!

It is that time of the year when millions across the country come together to watch a group of people fight with each other, play dirty games and show off their ugly sides. Well, Bigg Boss is back on our idiot box and idiots, though many of us may appear, we would still be hooked to it. No wonder, this reality show is into its tenth season and even today continues to be most popular on television.

And, looks like Bigg Boss 10 might just end up being the most interesting season because this time, the makers and host Salman Khan, have brought ‘Indiawaale’ to the house. No, we aren’t talking about Shah Rukh and his ‘Happy New Year’ team (though considering their love for each other these days, it is very much possible to see them come together on the show this season too. After all, it was Bigg Boss 9 that brought Karan and Arjun together on screen after a long gap!) However, in Bigg Boss 10, ‘Indiawaale’ refers to the common man. Yes, for the very first time, Bigg Boss has a mix of celebrity and aam aadmi contestants. As a result, the very first week, which generally goes all ‘goody-goody’, has been absolutely action-packed thanks to the interesting combination of contestants. For those who have missed it so far, this time, the show has celebrities that include actor Rahul Dev, known for his villainous roles in films; TV actor Gaurav Chopra, model Lopamudra Raut, who represented India at the Miss United Continents 2016 pageant; TV actor Karan Mehra, best known for his role as Naitik in Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai; his son in the same soap, actor Rohan Mehra, model-anchor of MTV Roadies fame VJ Bani and Bhojpuri actress Antara Biswas aka Mona Lisa.

The commoners include Noida-based Priyanka Jagga, who works as director of recruitment and market-ing in an international BPO, is married to her foreigner boyfriend and is a mother of two; Manoj Punjabi, a 34-year-old businessman from the pink city of Jaipur, who is famous as King Mannu amongst friends; Gurgoan-based writer Akanksha Sharma, who incidentally was once married to cricketer Yuvraj Singh’s younger brother and is fighting her divorce battle; Delhi-based student Lokesh Kumar Sharma pursuing her MA final year in Economics, 23-years-old account strategist Nitisha Kaul who quit her job in Google India to be a part of the show; Noida-based dairy owner Manveer Gujjar, Swami Omji Maharaj, who claims about world peace and Kolkata-based academician Navin Prakash, who originally hails from Bihar.

While the first week has already witnessed trouble brewing between the celebrities and ‘Indiawaale’ besides controversial conduct by Swamiji adding enough spice to the show; the opening episode too was full paisa wasool with both Salman Khan and the contestants providing right doses of entertainment. (Not to forget, commoner Akanksha Sharma’s direct allegation against her mother-in-law for making her life miserable!) However, the icing on the cake was when Salman once again decided to flaunt his ‘bandhan’ with Shah Rukh. It so happened that Swamiji, the first contestant to be introduced on the show, on meeting Salman, said he wanted to make him world’s biggest star. That’s when Salman suggested that he should make Shah Rukh Khan the world’s biggest actor. When Swamiji argued that SRK doesn’t have that quality, Salman immediately cut him short by saying, “I know Shah Rukh Khan ke kya kya qualities hai.”

Well, so far Bigg Boss 10 promises to be promisingly ‘dhamaakedar’ but whether it can live up to the expectations of followers, only time can tell. Of course, the makers can always rely on their most popular host to come to rescue if the TRPs do not shoot up!
‘Dear Zindagi’
First Look Out

The first look of Shah Rukh-Alia starrer Dear Zindagi is out. The Gauri Shinde film, set to release on November 25, will see Shah Rukh and Alia share screen for the first time. In the poster, Shah Rukh Khan looks extremely stylish in an algae-green shirt and denim trousers while Alia flaunts a college girl look in her baby pink off-shoulder top and denim. The two can be seen smiling while they are riding their bicycles together in the middle of quite a breezy background. Interestingly, the two have taken to promote their film on Twitter in a different way altogether, through mini video clips, and the Twitterati are already in love with their cute interactions.

Trouble In Paradise?

Has the Rasleela between Ram and Leela come to an end? If reports from various sources are to be believed, there could be trouble brewing between Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone. Although the two have never openly admitted to being in a relationship, they have never denied it either, having been seen together on numerous occasions, not to forget their PDA in award functions. But lately, the internet is buzzing with rumours of a break-up. While some say this may be due to Deepika’s quote in an interview last month stating she was neither engaged nor ready to be married, others think Ranveer hinted at the split by mentioning that his fans were wrong to assume he was dating anyone currently at the trailer launch of Befikre. Fans are eagerly hoping that the two are still together.
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