

.INSIDE.

Dhan te na

It is song that will stay in public memory for a long time to come... p18

'Theatre is my first love'

Chandrakant Kulkarni feels cinema is a 'natural progression'...



Saree ladies

With the festive season on, it is time for the ladies to step out in a saree p20



.BUZZZZZ.

L'AIR DU AMY ANYONE?

Singer Amy Winehouse is reportedly eyeing a deal with a perfume house to launch a range under her name. The singer was said to looking to bag a deal worth more than 750,000 dollars under the guidance of her father, Mitch. "Mitch has been in talks with manufacturers and contacted PR firms for advice," *Contact-music* quoted a source as telling the *Daily Star*. "They want it to reflect her style with a classic smoky 1950s look and smell. Amy is keen to expand her brand and wants to latch on to the celeb perfumes bandwagon while she can," the source added.



Mahie is making the RIGHT MOVES



After working with ANURAG KASHYAP, the actor will now be seen in a movie directed by the film-maker's brother ABHINAV, reports CHHAYA TOSHWIWAAL

She wowed the audience with her performances in Anurag Kashyap's *Dev D* and *Gulaal*. Now, Mahie Gill will be seen in a film to be directed by Anurag's younger brother, Abhinav Kashyap. The film titled *Dabangg* ('fearless') is Arbaaz Khan's first production

I've met Abhinav earlier while working with Anurag. But I can't reveal details about the role. You'll have to ask him about that

Mahie Gill

venture and is slated to go on the floors in September.

Mahie says, "I have signed this film that will be directed by Abhinav Kashyap. I've met him earlier while working with Anurag. But I can't reveal details about the role. You'll have to ask him about that."

Since two of Anurag's films starring Mahi fared well at the box-office, was Abhinav giving her a role in his film because he considers her as a lucky charm? He says, "No. It's purely based on her performance. But I do hope she turns out to be lucky for the film."

While Sonakshi Sinha (Shatrughan Sinha's daughter) is debuting opposite Salman Khan, Mahie will play Arbaaz's love interest.

When asked if he took brother Anurag's guidance, Abhinav says, "Yes, but Anurag was not the first person to have read the script because he was very busy."

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Gita Vir, citizen activist

'The best city in the world'

First came to Pune from Karachi in 1942. We had a family in Mumbai, so we would travel to Pune by the Deccan Queen, usually in summers. Pune was delightful — the Bougainvilleas, banyans—there were colours everywhere. You could see trees on both sides of the road. Pune was a quiet cantonment then.

For 27 years, the focus of my attention has been the protection of the environment and the health of this city. Originally a small town cantonment, the city has grown to 4 million people, with practically no development plans to boast of. In the 1980s, land-grabbers from Mumbai began to invade the city and completely lopsided development began. As the city grew, so did the garbage heaps, illegal constructions, and the lack of civic awareness of the citizens. Aggravating people was the corruption and inefficiency, which were rampant in all levels in the administration.

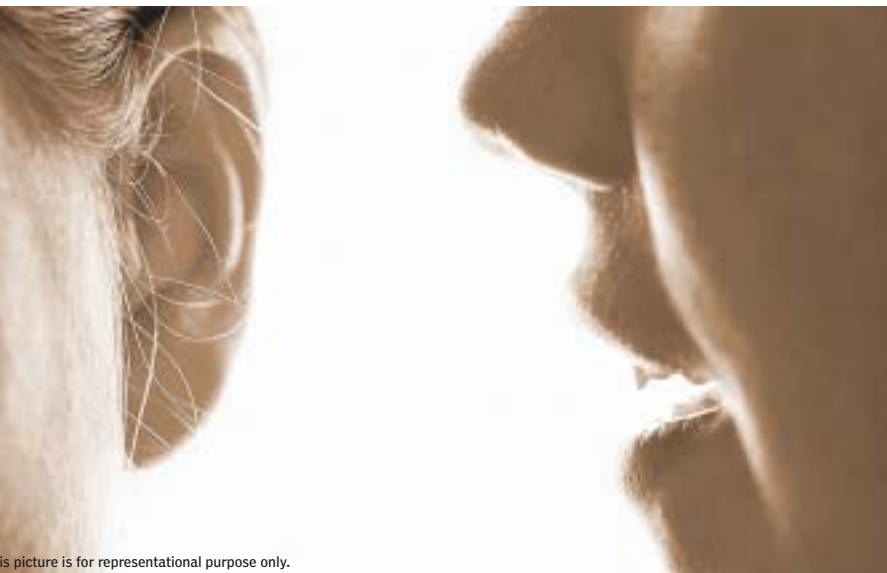
All this culminated in a showdown, when the then upright municipal commissioner, Arun Bhatia

was appointed, and then removed by the powerful vested interests of local politicians. The city stood as one, in a growing revolt against the might, influence and injustice of the state government.

Though much water has flown since then, the awareness raised in all sections of the citizenry of Pune has led to some tangible reforms in the performance of the civic authorities. Area-wise Moholla Committees interact with the local ward offices and police chowkies, in an effort to have a cleaner and safer city.

As citizens, we can question things now, all thanks to the Right to Information. We should be aware of what's going on and demand a change for a better Pune. If you want to object to or question a wrongdoing, use the procedures and laws in place. If you break a rule, pay the fine. Only we conscious citizens can work towards a well-managed city. I think that Pune is the best city in the whole world — so you have to think about how you can make it better!

—As told to Ishaan Rai



This picture is for representational purpose only.

If saying NO is difficult, then think again...

MISHA PAUL

AS PARENTS, sometimes it's ok to say no to your child's demands; as a friend, it's ok to say no to your friend's wishes; as an employee, sometimes its ok to listen to your heart and say no to your boss's ever increasing orders; as an old man, sometimes it's ok to just say no to everything and do whatever your heart wishes. Who amongst us has not caved in to your loved one's demand, despite wanting to say no? Usually out of fear of losing trust or job or even out of fear of hurting, we give in to the demands. After Hours probes further.

"We Indians are emotional and prefer thinking from our hearts and then use brains," says psychologist Prerna Rakshit. "We can't say no because we do not want to hurt the person we love. If it's something to do with work, no one wants to lose a job and if he's an old person, he's scared about the

YES! It's ok to say NO

unnecessary confusion and problems that might arise. A wife thinks it's her duty to keep fulfilling her husband's demands unendingly, a husband thinks it's his responsibility to do whatever his wife wishes. I wouldn't say there's anything wrong in thinking about others, but sometimes it's good to be selfish."

Psychologist Rachit Desai agrees. "We are so stuck with what the other person thinks that we just let go of what our heart wishes. We do not ask you to say no to everything and think only about oneself, but sometimes it's just good to pamper ourselves and give in to what our heart demands. We have just one life. On our deathbed, we shouldn't go with any unfulfilled wishes." However, there are some

who gives in because of their guilt. "We are so busy with our jobs throughout the day that we are just not able to spend time with our kids," says Ranjana Parihar, mother to an eight-year-old. "I feel we just don't see them grow. So whenever I get time with my son, I feel like doing whatever he demands. I know that's wrong, but what's the option?"

The word 'no' sounds negative and comes with its own baggage of problems. As human beings, we want to be liked and so find it tough to say no. But think about the future — you do not want to destroy it just because you are having problems in saying no now. If one yes or one no can improve things for the better, then why not take a chance?

ANJALI SHETTY

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IT ALL BEGAN when she was just six. Soon her hobby became her passion. At 23, Poonam Panchwagh has reached newer heights of achievement over the past few years. "The credit completely goes to my mother Chhaya Panchwagh. As a young girl she dreamed of being a dancer, but could not pursue it because of social obligations. Hence I am living her dream," says Poonam.

Currently in Leipzig, Germany to perform with her friend, Poonam shares, "I had a German student studying under me in Pune for almost a year. It all started when she came up with an idea of having an Indo-German dance project - Spir-

The compositions

- Krishnamayee
- Krishna Consciousness
- Jagruti

it—with Kathak as the main aspect."

Here, Poonam's guru and Rujuta Soman encouraged her to go take the leap and under her dance school Urmee, she explored the western world of dance sticking to Indian classical roots. "Thus, I am in Germany, training the contemporary dancers here in Kathak, and giving various workshops and lecture demonstrations and performing around Europe," she adds.

Poonam informs that the presentation of Indian dance forms there, give very good exposure to a performer as well as a choreographer. "I am fortunate, that at such a young age, I am getting to study the technical aspects that are needed in organising the performances on an

Her best foot forward

international platform. This experience is helping me discover the distinctive possibilities of combining two dance cultures in a very alternative approach. Considering the very strong influence of contemporary dance techniques here, my effort of blending the two cultures, without disturbing the individuality of the respective dance styles, are being appreciated by the western as well as Indian audiences."

So, how has the international journey been so far? "I believe, that it is not always about winning; it is about making the audiences commemorate your performance. The appreciation that I earned after my performance in the Indian Embassy in May this year, is very momentous for me, as the minister Rakesh Mishra came up on stage and felicitated me," she says. The Centre for European Culture and Oriental is positively impressed by the performance, and has offered her to extend her stay to give more performances and workshops.

Poonam is thus grateful to her guru Rujuta as she says, "She is the one who made me believe in myself."

Poonam Panchwagh is on a mission—the dancer is making her country proud with her Kathak performances in Germany



LIVING HER DREAM: Poonam Panchwagh