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PHIA WORKSHOP

GENDER... ...sensitization



Students learn about Gender Sensitization

BHAVNA SONI & VASVI CHATURVEDI

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

Hope into Action Foundation (PHIA), in partnership with Amity School of Communication (ASCO), Amity University, Lucknow campus, organized workshop on gender sensitization on September 24-25 for ASCO students. Although the workshop focused on gender equality, it connoted a deeper meaning connecting it to equality of ownership.

The two-day workshop made student participants pleasantly surprised by the depth and candidness of the discussions and fostered a safe, non-judgmental environment where they could freely express their views. PHIA's senior officials Arti Verma and Arshad conducted the event.

Interactive activities and topics rarely discussed in daily life were touched upon. Talking to Expressions, attendees Maria Siddiqui and Shruti Kapoor opined that, "The sessions made us realize what all perceptions we carry when we hear the term girl or boy and on the societal image of male and females. We learnt that equality goes beyond just addressing

the male and female divide. It encompasses fairness across caste, color, creed, religion and other social categories. The group exercise, where we were asked to list privileges and restrictions for boys and girls, was particularly insightful as it exposed the inherent inequalities that exist in our society."

The different sessions not only brought to the fore sensitive issues but encouraged conversations such as violence against women and gendered socialization which are often avoided. The discussion also addressed the stereotypes and pressures that men face, and how these issues are interconnected with societal views on women.

Despite the existence of laws and reforms aimed at equality, the discussion revealed that many outdated forms of discrimination persist in society, albeit in more subtle ways than in the past.

Kapoor added that, "The workshop also incorporated role-playing activities that helped us recognize the power dynamics and biases present in various social and professional settings. By assigning different roles and asking participants to mime them, the workshop demonstrated how societal expectations and stereotypes can influence behaviour

and opportunities." Another student Aarohi Seem said, "We were not clear when asked about the difference between gender and sex. We hardly knew the true differentiation between the terms.

We also came to know about the difference between sex and gender which is something new for me." Seem continued that valuable discussion to understand the literal difference between gender and sex was very enlightening and how incorrectly the society perceives it because of lack of awareness. Ashka felt through this session the participants were able to self-reflect.

The workshop provoked a range of emotions as participants reflected on their feelings of power or powerlessness during the exercise and linked them to real-life experiences related to their identities, such as gender or caste. The facilitators emphasized that understanding equality and inequality requires recognizing the difference between feeling powerful or powerless.

Overall, the workshop was a highly enriching experience and such discussions are essential for challenging ingrained beliefs and promoting change in how we think otherwise, many students opined. ■



Pictures: SURESH SAHU & ABHISHEK SINGH

ASCO Alumni Connect

Success story Anmol tells students to dream on



Pictures: SURESH SAHU

EXPRESSIONS

Correspondent

Even as she stepped on the podium, ASCO alumna Anmol Ratan Singh's dimpled smile caught the attention of the audience. Her delicate frame stood in contrast to the strength and resilience she embodied. As she held the microphone, her persona reflected her quiet confidence.

Anmol (BJMC Batch 2011-14), is a highly motivated woman with a mind of her own. It has been this sense of mental independence and a burning desire to reach the peak of her career that has resulted in this former radio intern to now become an entrepreneur.

Starting as an intern at Radio Mirchi in Kanpur, Anmol discovered a deep passion for filmmaking. This passion prompted her to move to Mumbai. There she worked on projects like Jio Chat. The journey was not without its challenges. But determined as she was, she decided to deepen her understanding of the digital world. She then

pursued an MBA in 2017. By 2018, she was immersed in the dynamic environment of a digital agency as a social media intern where she gained diverse industry exposure.

Her entrepreneurial spirit shone through when she spearheaded India's first medical docu-drama, 'InsideER'. Impatient to tap her creativity once again, Anmol launched her own brand Albeli Affaire and thereby became an entrepreneur. She blended her passion for travel with business. With her extensive experience in branding and leadership, Anmol now brings invaluable insights to both corporate and entrepreneurial landscapes.

While addressing ASCO students during Alumni Connect meet. The meet was titled, 'Adapting to Change : From traditional media to digital marketing'. Anmol talked about her experiences in the industry over the last 10 years. She offered valuable insights. She emphasized the importance of strategic, communication, behavioural, emotional, and observational skills for effective decision-making, product sales, and

client satisfaction. Anmol stressed how traditional methods like storytelling and content creation must evolve on digital platforms, leveraging attention-grabbing visuals.

Her commitment to continuous experimentation, she explained, was key to her successful transition from traditional media to digital marketing. She also shared several instances where her crisis management skills allowed her to navigate challenging situations, showcasing resilience and the ability to take decisive actions under pressure throughout her journey.

As the session progressed, students eagerly asked about her journey, challenges, sources of motivation, time management, and emotional well-being. Anmol responded by sharing personal experiences, emphasizing the value of never stopping from experimentation. This approach helped her form a meaningful connection with the students, answering their questions and clarifying their doubts. Her sharing of her professional journey won her applause from the audience. ■

Keeping ALIVE the PIERCING palette



RICHA GOEL

Master of Journalism and Mass Communication

Piercing, specially of the ear, is part of the 16 sacraments in Indian tradition. This convention signified a part of rituals and sacrifices done to mark the various stages of human life and to connote cultural heritage and upbringing. But what has added to the sustenance of this ancient community practice is that it is no longer considered a stigma in today's social milieu. In fact, it is cool to get piercings done, by both males and females. Talking to Expressions, Anushka from the Fashion School of Amity opines, "Piercings are a fun way to communicate your style, adding edge and character to any look. They can be subtle or bold, making even simple outfits stand out effortlessly."

With ornamentation being the buzzword with today's youth, even in olden days, people of both sexes adorned themselves with necklaces, earrings, nose rings, toe rings, and many other pieces of jewelery.

It is worthwhile to note that each region of India, with its rich diversity, has its own name for such rituals—in the North and West, it's known as Karnavedha, in the south as Kadhani Vizha, and in the East as Kuthi. A girl child's ears (especially the earlobe) are commonly pierced at a very young age, marking a statement for the child entering the community and

"Piercings are a fun way to communicate your style, adding edge and character to any look. They can be subtle or bold, making even simple outfits stand out effortlessly."

symbolizing the expectations of following the cultural norms. Historically, ear piercings for boys were also common, especially in the northern regions with similar cultural significance. While the tradition of piercing for girls remains strong, it has become less popular culturally for boys, as the concept of pseudo-masculinity rises in modern times.

Nasal piercing on the other hand is culturally reserved for girls where either side of the nose or septum is pierced around the subtle age of sweet sixteen, representing a girl coming of age. It signifies a girl embracing her true elegance, as she accepts the beauty and strength of her emerging womanhood.

For Anurag and Harsh both engineering student piercing is for what they consider is for self-expression, Ragini admitted she was influenced by pop culture and celebrities. Anubhuti who has



Pictures: **RICHA GOEL**

piercing along her nose said she did it for family tradition and now she enjoys it.

In recent years, piercings have evolved beyond cultural rituals, becoming a global fashion statement embraced by both men and women as a form of personal expression.

While piercings such as the helix, conch, upper lobe, and septum are often seen as fashion statements or acts of rebellion against tradition, they are deeply rooted in various cultures.

Undoubtedly, piercings in India and across other places blend tradition and personal expression which carry cultural significance while evolving into modern fashion at the same time. These little jewels reflect identity and style both, interwoven in heritage yet embraced across generations. ■

Flavours of Lalbagh beckon

MARIA SIDDIQUI

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

If you have ever passed through the bustling streets near Novelty Cinema in Lalbagh, you've likely been greeted by the unmistakable aroma of chaat, chhole bhature, and cutting chai. These lanes known for iconic joints like Sharma Ji Ki Chai, Sardar Ji Ke Mashoor Chhole Bhature, Aahar, offer more than just food - they provide comfort, connection and a brief pause from the hectic pace of life.

As the afternoon settles in, these lanes begin to fill with people, weary from the day's demands, seeking a meal to break the lethargy and push through the afternoon's weight. What makes Lalbagh so special is not just the food - it's the people who gather there. Office workers, students, locals can be seen gathering around and engaging in casual conversations that range from workplace stresses to their bosses demands.

The shops around Lalbagh have been serving Lucknowites for decades. Sharma Ji ki chai has been a staple for locals and has been using the same method to brew tea since the 1960s, while Sardar Ji's chhole bhature has been keeping generations of customers satisfied with its rich, flavorful curries. "The bhature here are like therapy", says Amit Yadav, a marketing executive at the Araceli Honda showroom. There's something comforting in knowing that no matter how much the city changes, this place remains the same, he added.

Lalbagh's charm lies in its accessibility to all, particularly the city's daily wage workers who rely on these affordable eateries. Lalbagh is a melting pot of stories where one can often see students from nearby colleges huddled around a table, sharing tales from the day's classes.

Aayushi Awasthi, a final year student at National PG Degree College, has been here with her friends on every weekend from the last three years. "It's not just the perfect chai that Sharma ji offers us rather it is a tradition for us now. This is

our spot where we meet, talk, and detox our minds from all the gossips". While Lalbagh's iconic food joints have thrived for decades, they haven't been immune to the rapid modernisation of the city. With the rise of fast-food chains and food delivery apps, many small eateries faced difficulty in adapting to survive.

Aahar, a popular local spot, recently began offering online deliveries to cater to a younger, tech-savvy crowd. While Lucknow's street food culture thrives, so do the concerns over health and food safety, especially as people become more conscious of what they consume. The city's love affair with street food like chhole bhature, chai, and thalis is undeniable, but with growing awareness, customers want to know that their food is safe. For Sharma Ji Ki Chai, Sardar Ji Ke Chhole Bhature, and Aahar, the key to staying relevant in today's climate has been their transparency. Customers can see their food being prepared in front of them, and these establishments have been around long enough to earn a reputation for maintaining hygiene standards.

In a time when street food often comes under scrutiny, the trust these establishments have built with their patrons speaks volumes. "We've been coming here for years, and you can tell they care about cleanliness," says Vijay, a local businessman. "As long as the food is tasty and safe, I'll keep coming back."

But it's not just about avoiding stomachaches—today's customers are also concerned with long-term health. Fried foods and sugary drinks are enjoyed in moderation, while places like Aahar offer healthier options. This balance allows patrons to indulge in the rich flavors of Lucknow's street food while being mindful of their health. Despite its small setup, Charminar manages to serve food that packs the same punch as any high-end restaurant in the city. As the smell of roasted peanuts wafts through the air around Novelty Cinema, one figure stands out amidst the lively crowd—Momfali Wala, a vendor as iconic as the lanes themselves. ■



Pictures: MARIA SIDDIQUI

Deeksharambh

A whole new experience

ORIENTATION 2024



Pictures: SURESH SAHU

BHAVNA SONI
Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

Moving from the protection of school where everything was taken care of to an ecosystem of an university where one has to be extremely self-reliant, this process of transition for young students is a phase of adjustment marked with uncertainties. It was this phase of transition that students spoke about as they began their new academic session for various programs

during the Orientation 2024 at Amity University, Lucknow Campus.

Kamini, an engineering student while talking to Expressions said, "I am quite excited as here I have an opportunity to explore and discover myself." She admitted she would feel the academic pressure and even moments of anxiety to group together with others who have come from across the country. Anurag a student from humanities said while he would miss home, he knew of social adjustments in a new environment. The general refrain was 'the impact of this

transition is not linear and is shaped by students' psychosocial variables and their own perceptions of the environment and here'. Umrah Ansari of Amity School of Languages (ASL) opined, "This program facilitated a seamless transition by bridging the gap between our previous experiences and new beginnings, resulting in a smooth and satisfactory onboarding process." Pranav Khanna, a student of B. Tech CSE, said he felt anxious and a bit nervous upon his arrival but was reassured after seeing well-maintained infrastructure and security measures on

the campus. Vasvi Chaturvedi, a first-year undergraduate student in the B A (J&MC) program appreciated that she could meet her department's faculty during the on-line orientation sessions.

The orientation program commenced with a series of online sessions held from August 27th - to 30th. The on-campus orientation program took place from September 3rd- to 4th. The new cohort of students arrived with great enthusiasm and excitement. The day began with a traditional havan ceremony and blessings. Commencing the orientation program,

the university provided comprehensive information to students regarding the curriculum, academic policies and procedures, and institutional regulations. The students expressed appreciation for the clear explanation. Ansari commented, "A significant aspect of the orientation was the emphasis on anti-ragging measures and mental health awareness. Gaining knowledge about the counselling services and available support resources provided a sense of reassurance."

"During the faculty introduction, I came to realize that our instructors

exhibited an exceptional level of cooperation, representing a stark contrast to the type of educators I encountered during my schooling experience," Chaturvedi remarked. "The orientation sessions provided valuable insights into the university's rules, regulations, and overall functioning," many students said. They were particularly impressed by the emphasis placed on sports, which many students felt was often neglected in traditional schooling systems. The freshers also acknowledged that 'seniors are incredibly helpful and friendly and faculty are excellent'. ■

Victim Blaming: Need to reframe the narrative

MOLLY SINGH

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

Blaming the victim is not just any other disappointing social phenomenon, it is an unfortunate practice that promotes injustice towards victims resulting in their unwillingness to seek help at the earliest. "Cultural narratives that endorse victim blaming normalise sexual violence and diminish responsibility of the perpetrators," says Malvika Shukla, a researcher in sexual violence prevention.

The concept of victim blaming is so deeply rooted in minds of the people to such an extent that the victim is answerable for the choices they make allowing the abusers to evade responsibility and walk around freely. "It's time to stop scrutinizing victims and start holding perpetrators accountable. The blame must be squarely placed where it belongs," says Charu Agarwal, an author and researcher.

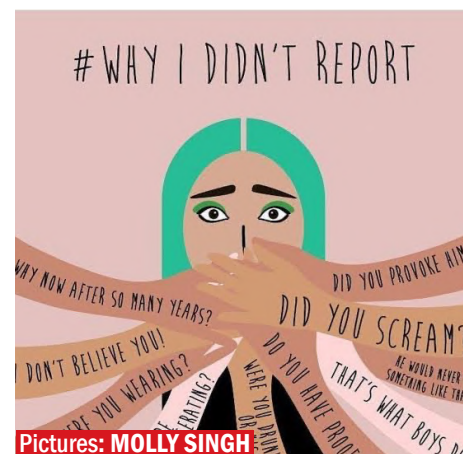
Statements like 'What were you wearing?', 'Why were you out at night so late?', 'You should have known the consequences of it', 'Did you fight back enough to stop it?' indicate that the choices made by the victim are the reasons behind the behaviour of the perpetrator, which is a

misguided and deliberate tool to question the victim's credibility. "So much skepticism towards calling a guilty man guilty but no apprehension in blaming the victim. Nobody gets to decide if the victim deserved it or not. This is not a subject that needs moral policing. It asks for punishment," says Aishani Purkayastha, a final year journalism student. Shifting the discomforting gaze to the ones who actually deserve it by holding them accountable for the abuse rather than questioning a person's choice of clothing.

"Victims subjected to blame often experience increased trauma and are more likely to retreat into silence, preventing justice from being served," said Arya Gupta, a psychology major student. Blaming a victim, shifts the main focus from the actual perpetrators resulting in encouragement to escape accountability and continued abusive behaviour by the perpetrators.

Lalita Singh, a mother and a homemaker said, "Victim blaming isn't just about assigning blame, it's about perpetuating a system that allows sexual violence to continue unchecked."

Putting an end to this unfortunate practice of victim blaming require immediate call to action. Each one of us has a role in ending this vicious cycle whether



Pictures: MOLLY SINGH

through educating young kids, advocating victim rights or just simply holding the perpetrators accountable. "Victim blaming is a form of shame that further isolates and silences survivors. To combat it, we must create spaces where people can share their stories without fear of judgment," said Shilpa Jha, an activist and writer. ■

When sexual violence limits women's freedom

DIVYA KOTWANI

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

The rising number of rape cases in India and around the world is a disturbing reality that affects one and all. From the Nirbhaya case in 2012 to more recent tragedies like the recent rape-murder case in Kolkata, the recurring violence has left many not just saddened but terrified.

This anxiety is not an isolated feeling. It is a shared, ever-present burden that women carry with them, especially in public spaces. The casual excuses made for inappropriate behavior in crowded streets or at social events amplify this

fear. The society that one lives in today shows that attending a late-night event comes with a mental checklist of safety precautions - whether it's questioning the venue, worrying about transportation, or even second-guessing whether we should attend at all or not.

Khushboo Kotwani, studying Artichips in Bengaluru, told Expressions, "Yes, I feel women have less access as compared to men. The

reason is simple. The jobs which require late night shifts make women feel concerned about their well-being and even if they agree because ultimately everyone wants to build a career, their families might impose restrictions on them. Fear factor has increased so much. I also avoid late night shows and events. Although I live in one of the safest cities, I still avoid late night travel. And even if the men around us have no such intention, we still tend to be scared and uncomfortable."

Priyanshi Srivastava pursuing B.Com

A recent study of 600 women professionals found self-reported productivity declined 35% after harassment, in line with findings elsewhere of a 30-40% drop

from Dhirendra Mahila PG College, Varanasi adds, "Every such incident that happens in our country impacts every citizen of the country. Every girl lives with the fear of being assaulted. They are safe as long as the men around them want them to be safe. Even in daily decision making, the thought process is like, if such things can happen with her then why not me? And this mind set will definitely impact our lifestyle and career."

To tackle this crisis, priorities need to be reevaluated. It is not enough to have laws in place- those laws must be enforced swiftly and effectively. Education

is another crucial factor. Gender sensitization and comprehensive sex education should be part of school curricula to instil respect and equality from an early age. Society needs to understand that there is no justification for sexual violence, and human rights should not be extended to those who disregard the humanity of others. Women are forced to sacrifice opportunities because of these fears. Women may be presented with great prospects, but the risk associated with late-night events or isolated locations can be enough to deter them from pursuing them. It is not that the opportu-

nities themselves are limited, but the fear for safety restricts women from fully embracing them. Ultimately, this constant threat limits women's freedoms, their ambitions, and their contributions to society.

Addressing this issue requires more than just words; it requires action. It requires us to stop excusing inappropriate behavior and instead demand accountability. It requires swift and stringent punishment for offenders. And most importantly, it requires a societal shift that respects and protects women at all times, in all spaces. ■

Xcited Club: Delhi's Hub for New Friendships

MANI RANI

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

Welcome to Delhi's 'Xcited Club'. Wondering what is it? Well, it serves as a novel platform for bringing people together and cultivating new friendships and connections.

The reason why this platform was started on social media was because even as social media platforms become popular sources of interaction, loneliness is still a widespread problem. Many people want closer relationships, yet they frequently lack the means or the confidence to initiate contact.

Thus Xcited Club aims to fulfil that vacuum. This social media page operates from Delhi and provides a physical meeting place for individuals to form enduring relationships and explore new friendships. The club was started with the intention of fostering an accepting environment where strangers may interact, push themselves, and develop deep connections. The Xcited Club is built on the straightforward idea of connecting individuals who like to meet new people and establish connections, in contrast to the majority of social groups that focus on certain hobbies or activities.

It's easy to become lost in the crowd in a fast-paced city like Delhi, particularly for individuals who may have just recently arrived here or do not have many

friends. Xcited Club offers a setting that promotes communication, transparency, and respect for one another. Participants are given the opportunity to communicate in person and discover the importance of face-to-face contacts, which are becoming more and more underappreciated in the current digital world, through planned get-togethers and events.

The popularity of Xcited Club draws attention to a developing trend: individuals are starting to want for in-person connections once more. Even though social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, and X allow us to maintain contact with friends and acquaintances who live far away, these exchanges can come out as superficial. Face-to-face interactions can bring emotional depth and connection that virtual chats cannot. Consequently, live social clubs such as Xcited Club are gaining popularity because they provide something special: real human connection.

A social club like Xcited may alter the course of many people's lives, particularly for individuals who would find it difficult to make friends in more conventional settings.

By planning events that encourage informal conversation, get to know one

another, and dissolve barriers caused by shyness or discomfort, the club helps people break the ice. There's always something to connect for the club, whether it's a fun class, a casual coffee gathering, or a walk with the group.

The level of connection that can be forged in person is one of the main benefits of meeting people. Friendships formed in person help people trust and empathise with each other since they can better understand each other's personalities and feelings. In digital discussions, non-verbal clues like body language, tone

of voice, and facial expressions are sometimes misinterpreted or lost. These cues are extremely important in human communication.

People are urged to be present more and be attentive to one another through groups like Xcited.

People are less likely to get side-tracked by their phones or other digital distractions, which makes conversations more meaningful. In addition, the opportunity to engage in enjoyable activities together forges enduring memories and fortifies links between participants. ■

After
COVID-19,
57% of people
expressed a desire
for more in-person
social interactions,
as reported by
McKinsey &
Company

Cybercrime: Good times for scammers



Pictures: SHRUTI KAPOOR

SHRUTI KAPOOR

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

As use of computers rises in India, increased cybercrime is also becoming a headache for authorities and society. This escalating threat is impacting not only individuals, but even organizations as online activities are taking centerstage. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) states that cybercrimes in India in 2023 resulted in a staggering loss of Rs 66.66 crore with 4,850 reported cases.

A Google Doc survey by Expressions also revealed the reasons and why cybercrime is increasing. One primary reason is a lack of robust cybersecurity measures across both personal and corporate environments. Many individuals and businesses fail to take adequate steps to protect their sensitive information, leaving them vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Simple measures like using strong passwords, keeping software up to date, and avoiding suspicious links are often overlooked, creating opportunities for

cybercriminals to exploit weaknesses.

The survey conducted among 60 individuals revealed about public awareness and behavior regarding cybercrime and cybersecurity. In the survey, 65% of respondents were male and 35% female. On cybercrime awareness, 50% stated they were aware while 40% were very well aware, and only 3.3% were not aware at all. This reveals that although awareness is there, there is a need for increased education on the issue.

Another finding revealed that 91.5% of respondents had antivirus software installed on their devices while 8.5% did not. This highlights that a small portion of the population is still unprotected from basic cyber threats.

Moreover, when asked about the safety of their personal information online, only 8.3% respondents felt very safe, while 50% felt somewhat safe, and 31.7% believed their information was not safe. This demonstrates a growing sense of vulnerability regarding online privacy.

The survey also delved into attitudes toward password protection and online safety. A notable 63.5% of respondents

strongly agreed that password protection is essential for information security while 33.3% agreed but were less certain. Furthermore, 65% of respondents strongly agreed that it is essential to be safe online, reinforcing the notion that individuals recognize the need for vigilance, even if they are not always sure how to achieve it.

Respondents also revealed that 15% had experienced cybercrime once, 10% had been victims two to five times while 73.3% of respondents had never been a victim of cybercrime.

This shows that, although the majority have not been affected, a significant portion of the population has encountered cybercrime first hand.

The rise in cybercrime is an urgent issue that requires immediate attention. Strengthening cybersecurity infrastructure, promoting digital literacy, and enforcing stricter regulations are critical steps to combat these escalating threats. The survey underscores the need for increased public awareness and proactive measures to protect personal information online. ■

BINGE on OTT

DR AMIT MASSEY

Assistant Professor, Amity School of Communication

Whether you are hooked on to the thrill of action-packed films like Rebel Ridge or prefer unwinding with the breathtaking tales of Sector 36, there is content for every mood. And if you are constantly on the hunt for new releases to satisfy your binge cravings, you are in

for a treat. From gripping thrillers and laugh-out-loud comedies to inspiring documentaries, the upcoming lineup on OTT platforms offers something for everyone. Here's a roundup of must-watch web series and films that will keep you glued to your screen.

'SECTOR 36' (Netflix)

This fictional thriller, inspired by true events, uncovers the dark secrets of a shadowy organization. The plot centres on slum children mysteriously disappearing from Sector 36. As the investigation progresses, hidden truths emerge, leading a determined police officer on a relentless pursuit of a serial killer, unravelling deeper layers of the sinister mystery.



'REBEL RIDGE' (Netflix)

In Jeremy Saulnier's action-packed drama, an ex-Marine faces the brutal landscape of Rebel Ridge. His attempt to bail out his cousin pulls him into a dangerous web of small-town corruption, culminating in a violent showdown with the local police chief. As tensions rise, he must confront both the harsh environment and the corrupt forces at play.

'LOVE, SITARA' (Zee 5)

Set against the lush backdrop of Kerala, Love, Sitara delves into love, self-discovery, and the shifting nature of modern relationships. Sobhita Dhulipala stars as Sitara, a successful interior designer facing societal pressures around marriage. Her journey takes an unexpected turn when she meets Arjun, a talented chef (Rajeev Siddhartha). As their bond deepens, Sitara confronts her desires and familial expectations, navigating the emotional intricacies of love and identity while seeking freedom from inherited norms.



'TAAZA KHABAR S2' (Disney Hotstar)

Taaza Khabar returns with a gripping second season, continuing the thrilling journey of Vasant Gawde (Vasya), portrayed by Bhuvan Bam. Directed by Himank Gaur, the season follows Vasya as he wrestles with his ability to foresee the future - an extraordinary gift that both shapes his fate and threatens his closest relationships. A new antagonist, Yusuf Akhtar (Jaaved Jaaferi), raises the stakes, pushing Vasya to confront emotional complexities. The cast also includes Shriya Pilgaonkar and Mahesh Manjrekar, adding depth to this intense, character-driven saga.

'EMILY IN PARIS S4 PART 2' (Netflix)

The story follows Emily as she embarks on a journey to Rome, facing personal and professional challenges along the way. Part 2 of the Netflix series delivers an exciting mix of romance and adventure in the heart of the City of Light.





Pictures: SUPRIYA SRIVASTAVA



Changing with time

Ganeshotsav goes Green

SUPRIYA SRIVASTAVA
Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

The festival of Ganeshotsav has now taken on a global hue to bring together Indians from all continents. With impact of Bollywood films and a sense of nostalgia among expats, the festival has come a long way from its historical roots.

From a private family celebration in Maharashtra in the late nineteenth century, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak transformed Ganesh Chaturthi into a public event to instill a sense of nationalism and solidarity in people of many castes and communities.

"It has been four years since we started bringing ganpati home, and with time

we have transformed buying idols of ganesh made of clay," a Brahmin family from Ruchikhand told Expressions.

The city has grown to love the celebration over time, as is evident by the pandals that have sprouted up throughout neighborhoods, decorated in bright colors, and filled with the sound of people chanting 'Ganpati Bappa Morya'.

A pandal owner of Jhulelal Vatika in Lucknow, Shri Rajesh Bansal, says, "To lessen the strain on natural water bodies, our team has made an artificial immersion tank for Ganpati Visarjan."

Their famous idol, fondly known as "Manautiyon ke Raja", is now crafted entirely from natural clay, a move welcomed by both devotees and environmentalists.

Mohan, a craftsman from Lucknow, tells Expressions, "We start months in

advance, handcrafting each idol with care." We've started employing natural colors like Kumkum and Chandan. I shape the idols with spoons and screwdrivers. We are very busy from Ganesh Chaturthi till Dussehra."

In an interview with Expressions, sub-inspector Archana Mishra stated, "Managing the crowd on Visarjan Day of Ganpati, especially close to the Hanuman Dham Visarjan Sthal, is a difficult task. We need to avoid mishaps. This year, we've added more barricades and are using drones to monitor large gatherings."

Through the adoption of environmentally sustainable techniques, Lucknow is demonstrating admirably how environmental responsibility and devotion can coexist. ■