



# Expressions

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## DIWALI CRACKERS

# CURBS *vs.* mass appeal

The issue of bursting crackers has turned political with some people seeing this as an attempt to target Hindu festivals. Several people took to Twitter to share images and declared that this is how they want to celebrate Diwali.

### GARIMA DOBHAL

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

### KAVYA RANGAN

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**T**railblazing a green crusade against traditional polluting firecrackers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a diya, laser and 3D holographic projection mapping show in Ayodhya on Diwali eve. The display as awesome it was, also manifested the much-touted fact that firecrackers should not be burnt during the Festival of Lights, that is

Diwali. Instead, guidelines issued on the subject by the Apex Court should be stringently adhered to. But who cares?

Twenty-year-old college student Gaurav Yadav rationalized while talking to Expressions, "Using fireworks to celebrate Diwali is something I wholeheartedly support. As it is Amavasya night, it affects our psyche and mindset and creates negativity. Bursting crackers adds to the excitement of both children and adults and makes the celebration very heart warming." For young Gaurav, bursting firecrackers is good for the environment. Why

only Gaurav, burning firecrackers has mass appeal.

The special bench of Supreme Court comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi said this Diwali, "There cannot be a complete ban on firecrackers. Strengthen the mechanism to supervise and see that misuse is stopped," adding that this is not a new issue and it is the executive which has to take a call on the issue." It said, "The state should ensure that there is no use or display or bursting of firecrackers of any type at all during Kali Puja, Diwali celebrations as well as

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**







**PROF (DR) SANJAY M JOHRI**  
Editor-in-Chief  
Director, Amity School of Communication

## Festival of lights, not sounds!

There is a general notion that Diwali is celebrated since Lord Rama had returned to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana. To mark the joyous occasion, people decorated Ayodhya city with earthen lamps to signify the victory of light over darkness.

According to novelist Anand Neelakantan, "There is no mention of firecrackers in the 'Purnas' at least. Till 1000 AD, we don't find any such references in our texts. Hence, Diwali is called the festival of lights and not sounds." Interestingly, Diwali is celebrated across Indonesia, Malaysia, Fiji, Nepal, Guyana, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Mauritius since a large Hindu population migrated from India and settled there, but they carried the rituals and not crackers. Even the Indian population in USA and the UK celebrate the festival by lighting Diyas only.

Firecrackers are a Chinese import invented around seventh century and later spread to other countries. The first evidence of gunpowder being used for fireworks display was by Tang dynasty in China. They believed that loud bursting sounds and lights would ward off and scare evil and notorious spirits away.

It is believed that the gunpowder technology was brought to India and Europe from China by the Arabs. Over time, it assumed religious significance of symbolizing the victory of good over evil and got tagged along with Diwali too. Bursting crackers during Diwali later gained further prominence with the coming up of Sivakasi as the Fireworks Inc for India.

Several states have banned firecrackers due to the rising pollution, but it looked more 'on paper' as crackers were burst all around the country. Next day, the air quality worsened and now it is like every year becoming a major cause of concern and public health issue including the India's capital New Delhi and many states.

One can only pray that better sense would prevail among people, youth in particular and the parents who encourage their children to buy crackers. Its a waste. Isn't it?

### ALUMNI CORNER

**PARUL PANDEY**  
Content Head, Times & Trends Academy  
BJ&MC - 2007-10



## It helps to expand your horizons

When Lucknow was not ready to accept Mass Communication – as part of mainstream education – I chose Amity School of Communication (ASCO) for my graduation with a BA in Mass Communication (2007-2010). Luckily for me, it was not just about coming to college and getting good grades – it was more about breaking the barrier and making the best of the opportunities the college provided to us.

Being able to work in Events, Photography tour with Trilochan Sir, Nukkad Nataks on the Campus with seniors – I evolved from a shy Lucknow girl to a strong journalist. Tasks like Radio Jockeying, Live Reporting, and Documentary shoots – made me break my shell and be a part of the communication stream from the bottom of my heart. We did organize Drishyam – Photography Exhibition and looking at our photographs on the walls did make us feel proud of how far we had come. This emotion was mutual in the complete Batch of ASCO 2007-2010.

With great exposure, I was able to crack interview for my first job on News Channel as Production Executive. But with the knowledge that I gained from the college and its applicability – I was soon promoted to a role of Assistant Producer. I worked with different news channels after that but changed my route into hardcore content making. Now I am Content Head with a leading Vocational Education Institute in Maharashtra, along with running a small yet successful business in Content & Digital Marketing.

I remember the words of our Director Prof (Dr) Sanjay M Johri Sir when he said – English is an essential language but remember Hindi is our Mother Tongue. He made me understand the importance of Writing in Hindi which really helped my content to gain a great audience. Thank You, Sir and the Complete ASCO Team!

Nostalgic moments...



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Diwali crackers: Curbs vs mass...

Chhath Puja, Jagadhatri Puja, Guru Nanak's birthday and Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations this year." The bench was hearing pleas against the October 29 order of the Calcutta High Court banning the sale, use and purchase of all types of firecrackers in West Bengal. The SC bench had assembled during the Diwali break to hear the pleas.

Despite the legal observations, selling and buying of firecrackers has continued unabated. Sohail Khan, a cracker vendor in Alambagh said, "Crackers are not bad, but the quality matters a lot. It is completely fine if we are burning crackers. But it is important to keep a check on the amount we burn. Not every

cracker carries a lot of gunpowder. Some are also good to burn, and we can sell these safe crackers instead." Another cracker vendor in Yahia Ganj Moen Ali said, "We know that firecrackers are harmful, but it is Diwali and by bursting crackers, we are not harming any living being. Also, Diwali is the festival of lights and by bursting crackers, we are showing happiness to God."

It is important to understand here that in Uttar Pradesh while there is no stringent ban on crackers, Chief Minister had instructed to keep firecracker shops away from populated areas. He had also said firecrackers harmful to the environment should not be used. However, in other states like Delhi there is a

blanket ban on storage and sale of crackers till January 1, 2023 while states like Punjab, Haryana have not issued blanket bans.

But there is a silver lining to the issue. 25-year-old professional Niharika Singh said, "Fireworks are completely boring. As a celebration of light, Diwali should be celebrated by lighting candles and diyas. Fireworks make it impossible for people with breathing difficulties to enjoy the holiday. Instead of wasting money on buying crackers, it is better to teach our children as well as adults to play eco-friendly Diwali where there is less pollution, less cruelty towards animals and more understanding and respect for the environment." ■

### POST-DIWALI WASTE

Post-Diwali morning, the city reportedly saw a lot of used firecracker waste littered around in the open areas



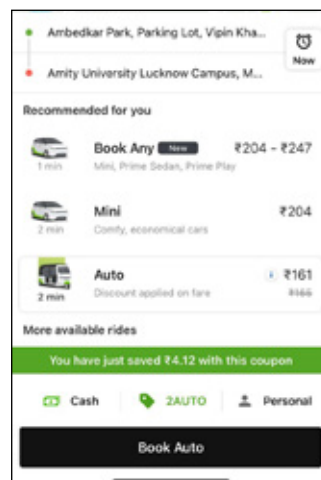


# AUTO RICKSHAW Reinventing itself

VAISHALI GAUTAM

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

Industrialist Navalmal Kundanmal Firodia, doyen of Force Motors, was much impressed with Italian scooter manufacturer's Piaggio design of a 'three-wheeled Ape'. The Ape, meaning bee in Italian, was an engine creating a sound like a bee with a flat goods carrier at the back. It was designed to transport goods. Liking the idea so much, Firodia, bought a Vespa (a two-wheeler or scooter designed by Piaggio) and some Apes. He studied them, made modifications to the prototype and thus was born the very Indian Auto Rickshaw. In tie up with Piaggio and Bajaj Auto, production began in 1959, Pune.



And what was a humble start almost 65 years ago, is now the most popular and widely used mode of transport across Indian urban locales. The auto rickshaw or three-wheeler or tum tum or tuk tuk as it is popularly called has completely transformed the way Indians now commute. So popular is this form of transportation, that app-based cab services like Ola and Uber have collaborated with them to expand their businesses. It is well known that both Ola and Uber are taxi and auto aggregators. In fact so popular are autos, that not only they are used for rides, they are also used as sales carts and mini fire engines. So much so it is no surprise that even EV versions are also now becoming available.

Now, as autos can be easily located on apps, searching for one is not a headache anymore. Being thankful to the fair fare system and multiple payment options, Shyam Kumar, an auto driver from Lucknow, told Expressions, "This change is quite beneficial for both, passengers and us. We do not have to wait on streets to get rides and people get to pay a fair fare. So bargaining is ruled out. People are now able to book an auto from anywhere anytime. We never thought this could happen even in our dreams."

It is worth knowing that Ola, having more than 1.25 lakh three-wheelers, is a leading app-based auto aggregator. The other players in the segment are Uber and Jugnoo.

With launch of app-based service, safety factor in autos has also been strengthened. The upgrade now helps people as they can know details of the vehicle and driver and simultaneously follow the vehicle's path and time duration. But this technology upgrade is a bane for those drivers who are not tech-savvy. Auto driver Mangal said, "There are very few people who come to take an auto from the street. Even senior citizens who are not familiar with the process of booking an auto online, have their kith and kin do it for them. In this scenario, people like us, who are not so acquainted with technology, suffer. Forget online booking, I often lose passengers because I do not have online payment option. What can I do, technology is not my cup of tea."

All said and done, this multifaceted vehicle is here to stay. ■



Pics: Shreya

SHREYA

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

They are not called Gen Z for nothing. Centennials as they are, their ecosystem is the internet and social media. They are one up on the millennials. Fed on a diet of laptops, tabs and digital platforms, Gen Z has undergone a technological revolution that goes beyond the video game play. Independent in their decision-making process, they zealously guard their personal space. Friction arises when this space is vio-

# Parental curbs vis-à-vis Generation Z freedom

them to question their brains and skills. Sarandha Singh an 11th grader told Expressions, "Parental pressure is so dominating that grades become very important to students. A youngster who fails to live up to such parental expectations typically grows up with a pessimistic outlook on the world." Sarandha added due to increased parental expectations and academic pressure, today's students are under greater stress than ever before, which increases their chance of developing severe depression and suicidal thoughts. "The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports that between 2019 and 2021, there were 12,526 student suicides in India," according to an article in The Tribune. Sarandha's views show that these youngsters desire to work more independently rather than under parental influence because they are raised in an era of digital freedom. The flip side is while parental pressure may boost their academic success, it significantly impacts these youths. What adds to this intrusiveness is the priority given to exam achievement by academic institutions also.

This intrusive tendency by parents can cause gaslighting in certain students as well. They feel they are psychologically manipulated causing to doubt their own perceptions, experiences, memories and understanding of events. In an article by Psycom, "Robin Stern, co-founder and associate director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence

states an example of when this manipulation is done by a mother to a daughter, it can undermine her sense of reality or make her vulnerable to second-guessing herself". However, defending the gaslit problems, Riya Roy, a mother and a working woman, says, "It is not like I enjoy scolding. I am doing this for his own welfare. He will not understand this now. In future, he will realise its importance." Referring to the fact that success comes the hard way, she further added, "I was brought up the same way and see I am successful in my career as well as a good mother."

But today's children think and feel differently. Asha Thakur, grandmother of a 19-year-old says, "Nowadays, children have become very sensitive and they easily get offended whenever told anything, and this eventually causes miscommunication between the child and his or her parents." This miscommunication is due to the fact that Gen Z prefers to have unhindered freedom leading to disregard of any parental advisory. They do not want to be told what is right or wrong for them, they will decide this for themselves.

But it should be borne in mind that excess of anything is bad for one's health. Every parent wants the best for his child. They should be mindful that there is a fine line between genuine and excessive care. It is vital to remember that your child is an individual. They may make different decisions or respond to situations than you would. ■

## Family pressure and academic failure are the main reasons why students choose suicide

▲  
NCRB STUDY

lated. This is fertile ground for irritation, fretting and psychological issues.

This violation of personal space may manifest in the form of academic success or rather lack of it. As academic achievements are respected highly in Indian society, chafing becomes visible for these youngsters when they fall short of expectations causing



# No sweat, it's fun!

**DR. BHAVNA WAL**  
Assistant Professor, Amity School of Communication

An exhilarated nine-year-old La Martiniere Girls' College Class IV student Riya says, "This trampoline park is sooo exciting. Jumping, exercising, rock climbing, softball, volleyball, I just love to do these activities. There is so much to do here. Do you know I come here twice a week just to enjoy all this. My mum accompanies me. All this fun started for me when I celebrated my birthday here on October 7th. It was so unique." Dimpling she confides, "You know, when my friend Roohani told me she was celebrating her birthday here at the Trampoline Park, I was so excited as I had could visit here again."

Unveiled on September 27th this year in Gomti Nagar's Vikalp Khand area, Lucknow's first fully developed trampoline park is gradually becoming cynosure of all eyes. The park attracts around 200 footfalls during the week and more than 300 over the weekend. The events include birthday parties, corporate parties, kitty parties and individual visits by children accompanied with their parents.

Talking to Expressions, park's UP Head, Rohan Vohra said, "We had realized that amusement parks are scant in Lucknow. We also saw young toddlers and teens looking for some fun and entertainment specially during weekends. At SkyJumper Sports & Amusements Pvt Ltd as we are in the business of offering activity based indoor amusement parks, it seemed logical to offer a unique experience to residents of the City of Nawabs. Thus, this Trampoline Park was set up."

Vohra added although the city does possess fun parks like Funtura at Lulu Mall, Bingo and similar parks, the concept of a whole Trampoline Park does not exist. He said that at Funtura, there

was a only a small trampoline section.

Describing what was on offer at the Trampoline Park, Vohra said, "It is a fun zone for toddlers and teens. Sky Volleys, soft ball game, inhouse volley ball, rock climbing, sit slide, wipeout where you jump on it and fall in fun are just some amusement options." In addition, there was provision of soft play for toddlers. He pointed out that there was a cafeteria where accompanying parents could just sit, have coffee or snacks and watch their young ones have a blast. Moreover, the park also offers a good option for exercise as it is a fitness zone.

Agreeing with Vohra, Indira Nagar based businessman and Roohani's father Vaibhav Mandhyan said, "It is such an interesting entertainment and amusement zone for kids, indeed an innovative concept. It is centrally located and quite affordable."

Gomti Nagar was chosen for this 20,000 sq ft park as this part of the city did not have an indoor amusement option for children. Added mother of two, Lavisha Tahlani, "My son, Chinmay and daughter Saanvi just love to come here. Jumping, playing ball, just attracts them. Also, it is so near my house, my children can come whenever they wish."

While watching little Saanvi jump up and down, five-year-old Advait Verma preferred to ride a whale. His uncle, Satyam Verma who accompanied him said, "Advait loves to come here. There are hardly any amusement options for small children anywhere else."

Even as these preschoolers just let their hair down, little Kavi could not stop crying as his time on the trampoline had finished saying, "I was made to stop just as I was beginning to enjoy!"

The tickets at the park are priced at Rs 400 per 30 minutes in the trampoline and Rs 300 for the soft play area during the week. As for weekends, it is Rs 100 more for each. So if one is looking for a different flavor of entertainment, a visit to the trampoline park is a must. ■



## TRAMPOLINE DYNAMICS

- ◆ Research has shown that there are health benefits with trampoline workouts. It builds strength, improves bone density, betters balance among other gains.
- ◆ Recreational trampolines are being adopted in many places like school gyms, playgrounds, adult health clubs, homes, and others. There is growing preference for competitive trampolines among athletes for trampolining Olympic sport.
- ◆ There is high preference for trampolines among parents due to increasing childhood obesity concerns and high health consciousness among individuals in India. The Asia Pacific is expected to register significant growth in the global market.

# Keeping pets so pawrfect!

**ARHAMA ALI**  
Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

As India progresses into the third decade of the 21st century, urban citizens' love for pets is also on the rise. In fact, pets and animals have held positions of importance in India from a very long time. Whether it be Bollywood or the Panchtantra, they have had a very intimate relationship with their owners in Indian ethos.

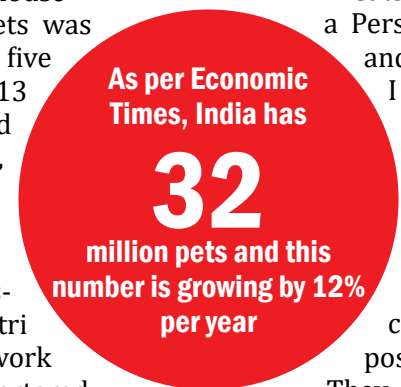
The Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) Benchmark Survey of American Pet Owners in its 2021 survey revealed that post COVID-19, relaxing with pets was up by 83%. This was a 5% rise from its previous survey in 2016. Similar is the case in India. Datasite Statista states that Indian households possessing pets was 18 million in 2018, a five million rise from 13 million in 2014. And fast forward to 2022, pets are an integral part of urban Indian households.

Working Professional Neelu Khatri told Expressions, "I work long hours as a chartered accountant. Having a pet is out of the question. But as I live in a joint household, I get to experience the benefits of occasionally hosting my uncle's hyperactive pet Simmba for a few days at home." She added that these furry buddies could genuinely assess one's mental health and assist in lowering one's stress level. Neelu's husband Rajesh Khatri said,

"Dogs are scientifically proven to lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol and are so perceptive of human behavior that they can read your body language or voice tonality." He continued, "It's incredible to observe this companionship between a dog and his master."

Undoubtedly, dogs and cats as pets help reduce loneliness, stress, anxiety, and depression. They also encourage play and physical activity, which improves cardiovascular health. Playing with them for a short while helps as their unwavering affection washes away the weariness and fatigue.

Moreover, children who take care of animals tend to be more secure and active as they age. Seniors can benefit from companionship of pets too. A working professional, Asifa Khan said, "Cats are a blessing. I have a Persian cat that I adore and call 'Sheru'. Since I was a little child, I have owned pets including dogs, birds, cats, and even rabbits. These animals have impacted me in a unique way and contributed so much positivity to my life. They have provided me with love, company, and a lot of fun." She added that pets literally brought joy into a person's life since they could sense their owner's moods and never leave their side. One can talk to them honestly when they are feeling down, and they will listen with sympathetic eyes, which will immediately lift your spirits, she continued. ■





# SMART CITY *or* City of Potholes?

Pic: Prof (Dr.) Sanjay M Johri



An Amity School of Communication Publication

The condition of roads has gone from bad to worse in Lucknow post-monsoon. Big potholes with yawning gaps and flying dust are welcoming commuters riding on their vehicles. This led to waterlogging everywhere and people had to take a detour to reach their destination. The state capital had a pathetic situation with no efforts having started on re-carpeting. Such roads led to an increase in the number of accidents. Are we in a Smart City? Amity School of Communication's lensman **TRILOCHAN S KALRA** went across different localities of Lucknow and captured glaring potholes and withered roads through his camera.





# Beating the sound of silence

ASHNA ALI

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

They may be considered children of a lesser god as they are hard of hearing but they are not second grade citizens thanks to You, Me & Deaf.

Even as the number of those suffering from deafness, including children, ranges around 63 million in India, it is not surprising to state that sensitivity towards this section of the populace is not forthcoming. However, the silver lining to this dark cloud is that residential schools like You, Me & Deaf have managed to turnaround society's approach towards those suffering from deafness.

Founded by Geetanjali Nair and Dharmesh Kumar, the school is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that these children are being provided with special education and have a safe roof to nurture their future. The school was established five years ago and has nine students under its care. These children have been either neglected by society or in some cases abandoned by their own families.

You, Me & Deaf has been running programs with Bhartiya Badhir Vidyalaya to teach Indian Sign Language to deaf children. Dharmesh Kumar is the school principal and is the first deaf principal in India in over 100 years. The founders started their journey 18 years ago from the slums and red-light areas of Delhi to aid deaf children in the community. Geetanjali Nair while talking to Expressions said, "When Dharmesh sir and I planned to open our school in Lucknow, we had no financial support. We reached out to many organizations, but to no avail. Alas, I had to sell all my gold assets to bring shelter over my children's heads." The school primarily focused on teaching deaf children



Pic: Ashna Ali

**According to WHO, by 2050 nearly 700 million people or one in every ten people will have disabling hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices.**

Indian Sign Language, so that they would have a better understanding of the world around them. The founders are currently sheltering three girls and six boys, as well as imparting knowledge to them on all subjects and involving them in extra curricular activities. Geetanjali said, "I want my children to stand out in society as any other child. My children are extremely talented and intelligent and can outpace any disability. I pledge to dedicate my entire life to my children and want to grow old seeing them fulfill their dreams."

What is outstanding is despite their handicap, these children are blessed with exceptional intelligence. Researcher McCay Vernon states, "The range of intelligence among those with profound hearing loss is as great as the range among the normal hearing." Children from You, Me & Deaf community are shining examples when it comes to demonstrating creativity and intelligence. With their zest, the students have been associated with NASA in the global project 'Moon over Us'. They have also been equipped with a professional

telescope. These students are also being given life education and are learning photography. Trilochan S. Kalra from Amity University, Lucknow is teaching them this art. In a recent workshop with students, Kalra said, "If the divine gives you one disability, then he has given you many abilities. It is the zeal of the person to nurture those abilities so that all their dreams come true. And I know in my heart, these students are children of God and will make something good out of their lives."

Even though You, Me & Deaf is a small establishment with only nine students but the quality of education they are providing to the students is the salient feature of this organization. There are still taboos and adaptability issues regarding physical abilities in India which need to be reformed at its earliest, as it accounts for a severe loss of productivity, both physical and economic. The biggest changes in society have always been done through small steps, so to be a part of this reform the least one can do is to financially help this organization grow so that, the sounds of their silence could be heard aloud. ■

# Swapna Foundation: Spreading smiles

KASHIKA NIGAM

Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication

Achyut Tripathi is different. Of course, he is like any other human being but in his approach towards life, he stands out. He is noticeable because of his 'Swapna Foundation' which has the motto 'spreading smiles'. What's so special about this, one may ask?

Well, humble as he is, Tripathi is visible because he not only nurtures the feeling of helping others but he amply lives up to it through Swapna Foundation. It may come as a surprise but this youth-driven organization, which started out with five people now has over 1,500 people.

Tripathi told Expressions, how he first thought of aiding the poor and the oppressed. "A majority of people still live in poverty and if we



don't rise to the occasion of helping them, who will?" He adds, "I noticed a significant number of individuals coming to my area where they used to beg for food and money. This made me realise how unaware I was about problems of the community."

On being asked what motivated him to embark on this adventure, he said although most give priority to their needs, he realized it was important to think about others. And this too from a 17-year-old teen. Five years down the line, Tripathi is still there for them and thinks about them every day. The

foundation makes sure to reach the poor through various activities conducted on a regular basis. With the motto of, 'One step at a time, sky is the limit', the foundation has five strong projects, namely, Project Umang and Magdarshan, Bhumitra Initiative, Paw Rangers and Street Kaksha. Nitya Mehrotra, a member of Swapna's core team, in reference to the concentration on major projects, said, "Project Umang focuses on giving ration kits, fruits, clothes, whereas Project Magdarshan focuses on empowering women and educating them about sanitation issues, diseases like breast cancer, among other issues."

Half a decade later, there will be no turning back for Tripathi as he continues to help the underprivileged. ■

## FRESHERS 2022

# When quarantine gave way to fun and frolic

DEBPARNNA CHAKRABORTY

Master of Advertising & Marketing Management

When first year poker faced MJMC student Ajit Yadav came on stage, the audience wondered what was coming next. But when the youngster delved into his monoact mimicry presentation of selection of kabaddi teams wherein he copied Bollywood stars and politicians who were taking part in the competition, the onlookers were left in splits. The general murmur was 'wow, this Freshers 2022 is so good, the fun has returned to ASCO after two long years of quarantine'.

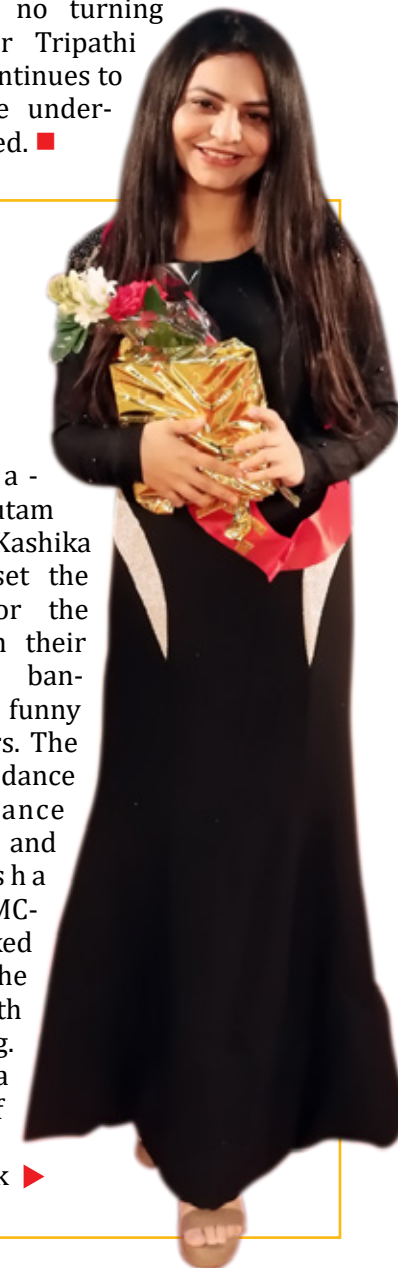
Welcome to Freshers 2022 at Amity School of Communication (ASCO) which was held after two

long years on October 19. This welcome to freshers of BJMC and MJMC was special as the previous batches could not be given a welcome due to quarantine and online classes. But 2022 was different. With offline session commencing, there were the seniors and freshers as well to give and take the welcome.

As October 19 dawned, both seniors and freshers were filled with excitement which permeated the auditorium where the Freshers 2022 was organized. First year bachelors and masters students sat with bated breath in their beautiful gowns and well-tailored suits, aptly following the 'Red Carpet' theme, waiting to witness what their seniors had in store for them.

Hosts for first half of the event,

Vaishali Gautam and Kashika Nigam, set the mood for the day with their friendly banter and funny one liners. The opening dance performance by Aditi and Akanksha from BJMC-5 kicked off the event with a bang. Then a game of 'Guess the hook' ▶





step' got the newbies shaking a leg on the stage with their friends. After this fun filled segment, time came for masters students to bedazzle everyone with their ramp walk. As the auditorium echoed with applause for the masters students, another anticipated segment of the day, The Talent Hunt, began. First year bachelors' student, Faiz Farooqui left everyone mesmerized with his voice while Mani Kaur and Mani Rani got everyone grooving with their moves. Giving them tough competition was masters student Shruti Gupta who won everyone's heart with her original poem.

When students from BJMC-3 gave a stellar dance performance, it just livened up the atmosphere. Another round of games only added to everyone's enthusiasm as students eagerly answered the fun questions. A change of hosts showed that a lot more was left as Sangya Singh and Kavya Rangan added their own flavor to the event. As the second round of Talent Hunt ensued, Ankita and Debapar-

na sang melodiously while Sherry danced her heart out. Shubhangi presented a sweet poem but it was Ajit Yadav's mimicry show that took the cake. He stood first in the Talent Hunt and shared his experience by



saying, "I was very excited as I got a huge platform to showcase my talent but I was also nervous as my script wasn't well prepared. Yet I managed to make people laugh. I was honored to be selected as the winner. I was never very confident but I want to thank ASCO for encouraging me."

Mani and Shruti won alongside Ajit in the Talent Hunt.

Taking inspiration from masters, the first year bach-

soulful voice. All freshers sat on the edge of their seats as time came for title distribution. Talha Khan and Ramsha Zia were crowned Mr. and Ms. Freshers UG while Mr. and Ms. PG was won by Utkarsh Jaiswal and Varisha Zeb. Saksham and Lujian won Mr. and Ms. Photogenic along with Abhuday and Mani won Mr. Charming and Ms. Fashionista respectively. Mani, who won Ms. Fashionista said, "I felt very happy and excited winning the title as I never expected it." Sharing similar sentiments was Mr. Fresher PG Utkarsh Jaiswal who said, "I am grateful to be honored with this title. It has been a marvelous experience."

The last act of the day was a showstopper performance by final year master students who took the stage by storm and made everyone get up from their seats and dance. The event ended with an address by ASCO's director, Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Mohan Johri who appreciated the efforts of the students and shared his words of wisdom as he welcomed the new batch to ASCO. ■



elors students set the stage on fire with their confidence and style as they walked the ramp. While judges contemplated about the winners, Kamini Tiwari lightened the mood with her