



BACKBEAT
Shilpa goes wild
Pg6



AHMEDABAD IS TALKING ABOUT...
Under 19, over the top!
Pg5



BODY & SOUL
All in one:
Almond
Pg4



GAME FOR COLOUR

White is long gone, it's all colour on the tennis courts. The French Open, as the latest tournament, is seeing an explosion of colour and style on the courts. *AT* asked a few young players about the style quotient in the game

Serena Williams' elation overshadows her dress



Kristina Barrois could beat the sun in bright yellow

Who says men don't wear orange? Feliciano Lopez does



Rafael Nadal was a 'pink panther' on court in this shirt

Michelle Larcher de Brito wears blue, which is both popular and safe

PIYALI DASGUPTA
Times News Network

SHIKHA UBEROI

"Fashion has had a lot to do with tennis for a long time, especially in women's tennis," says this stylish player. "I put in about five minutes choosing my outfits. I like to look sharp, sexy and chic. It's important, in my opinion, to look good for the cameras and spectators. Some players have a specific look - like Roger Federer likes to wear blues, blacks, whites and reds." Are any styles 'in our 'out'?' "I definitely do think that the 70s and 80s high tight short shorts are long gone for men - thank God!" she laughs. She adds that she "likes to wear matching earrings, and I usually keep the same necklace on. Sometimes I wear my lucky pair of earrings the whole week as I can get a little superstitious. I'd love to play with my Sikh *kada*, but I can't, as it's too heavy and moves around too much. But I think some manage and learn to work with uncomfortable items, especially

when they're getting paid millions of USD!" she laughs again.

YUKI BHAMBRI

"Actually, we're sponsored and the brand does the job (of selecting dresses) for us. Many of the top players do design what they wear, though. For men, I'd say short shorts are out and more variety in colours is in."

STEPHEN AMRITRAJ

"Usually, the company that gives you clothes has a line for each time of the year. I'm always a fan of black on the court. I think it's intimidating," he says. "In general, tennis is slowly going the way of golf, in that athletes are wearing clothes that they could wear off the court... Both Nadal and Federer's new lines have this feel, as do some dresses for the ladies, like Sharapova."

piyali.dasgupta2@timesgroup.com



Maria Sharapova

Photo Montage: Nikhil Mishra

Many young Gujaratis are finding the blogosphere an apt place to keep the richness of Gujarati literature alive

Blog it the 'write' way

NAVYA MALINI
Times News Network

That the World Wide Web has opened a cornucopia of avenues for people to experiment is not unknown. And many are now trying to be visible on the net, especially on the blogosphere? It is here that Gujarati literature has found its patrons who are adopting various ways to reaching to the lovers of language. According to Urvish Kothari, who has been actively blogging since three years, "No newspaper or magazine in Gujarati caters to the literary needs of people who want to unearth more information and be an integral part of the literary circle."

Contrary to the existing belief that Gujarati literature has lost its flair; it can be seen that the willingness to come up with creative stuff and the love for the mother tongue is quite intact among Gujaratis no matter which part of the world they are in. For Vijaykumar Shah, who went to the US in 1996, launch of an online Gujarati dictionary which is a brainchild of Babu Suthar from the University of Pennsylvania has enabled many enthusiastic Gujaratis to embrace blogging as a medium of self expression. "Once considered a difficult deed, blogging in our mother tongue became easy when we found out that no longer did we need to install fonts," says Vijaykumar. So, all one needs to do is to possess a computer, a keyboard and, of course, connectivity to the Internet. However, how many are truly thinking about Gujarati literature? "Mediocrity and presence of mutual admiration groups can't be denied so far as literature blogs are concerned. However, there exist certain blogs which dedicate themselves to the cause of spreading awareness on the abundant literary wealth that Gujarat has cherished," opines Urvish. So which genre touches the blogger the most? "Poetry tops the chart as people want to express themselves in this form. Sometimes the reader comes across stuff, which is not rich in content. However, excellent works do exist and blogs are a way to self publishing without looking for a publisher," says Urvish. On the dearth of a platform to expressing oneself, author padmashri Ramanlal Mehta says, "That during the course of time the richness of the Gujarati content that you find the magazines suffered, nevertheless, there are number of Gujarati dailies and weeklies available in the market today. One needs to maintain the purity of the language. What the current generation is using is a kind of amalgam of English and Gujarati which is detrimental to the language and hence literature." Some bloggers run online libraries where they make literary works of eminent authors available to the readers. At the same time, there are some who form a community and try to achieve a learning curve by writing as well as promoting others' blogs. These blogs even find a place in online lexicons too. Ashok Karania, facilitator of a popular online lexicon, says, "The reason why we have included blogs as a separate section, in addition to other literary sources, is to bring the community together. NRGs being tech savvy follow the blog religiously as they find them apt places to get closer to their motherland." Even though it is too early to say whether it will be a new wave when it comes to online collection of literary knowledge, it certainly does seem promising.

navya.malini@timesgroup.com

Bachchan, Schumi go beyond films, FI

The great actor and champion racer appear in exciting shows on Times Now this weekend

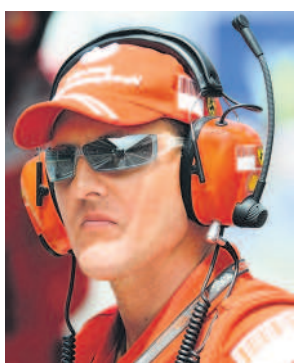
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Sit at home this weekend, become a couch potato, for Times Now offers viewers a double whammy in exclusive and exciting shows on two legends - Amitabh Bachchan and Michael Schumacher, that

ise to go beyond Bollywood and the Formula One racing track respectively, and into the minds and hearts of these two giants.

Amitabh, first... in *Total Recall*, a two-part tribute to the great actor, in his words, right from his days in *Anand*, to what he is busy with now, not excluding the struggle years, the breakthrough with *Zanjeer*; then *Deewar*, his conflict with the media, *Sholay*, his friendships in the industry, get it all from the Big B himself as Times Now catches him in a rare and reminiscent mood.

He tells Times Now of his chemistry with Dharamendra during the making of *Sholay*:



"We lived in the same hotel and we used the same car and there was great bonding... one day we got stuck in a traffic jam in Bangalore and the car broke down. The crowd suddenly saw Dharamaji and me. They started mobbing us. So in true Veeru and Jai style we got out and got into a rickshaw... and we went this entire 30-40 km in a three-wheeler coz we wanted to get out of it..."

Then Schumacher... in *Times Drive*, the hot show that profiles individuals whose passion and zeal for cars surpasses mechanical and technical knowledge, discusses his life after racing, his new motorcycle hobby, and the new cause in his life, his campaign against drunken driving... before taking *Times Drive* for a couple of high-speed, stomach-turning laps around the Ascari track in the superfast Maserati GTS of Spain.

In a message that should warm the hearts of Mumbai's traffic cops, Schumacher speaks against drinking and driving, "When I go out with a group of friends, one of them becomes a designated driver. The second option is public transportation. For me, it's just one magic word - Taxi. If I happen to have a good time with my friends and I had a couple of drinks, I would call a taxi and drive home safely."

Amitabh, in *Total Recall*, Saturday 12 and 8 pm, Sunday 1 am and 7 pm. Schumacher, in *Times Drive*, Saturday 11.30 am 7.30 pm. Both shows on Times Now. Fasten your seatbelts, stay tuned.



Amitabh Bachchan and (top) Michael Schumacher

AMRITA MULCHANDANI
Times News Network

Fitness, according to some is like rock music. It grows over one's self, inspiring one to cross more boundaries. Gone are the days when staying fit was restricted to hitting the nearest gym. Now, the ways are varied.

WATER LOVER

If you love water, swimming is the way to go. Not only for a healthy body but also to get rid of mental stress. Freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly, backstroke - choose your own style! Twenty-nine year old Sheriyar Doctor, a regular swimmer says, "Swimming is the best exercise to reduce and tone the entire body, maintaining stamina level and refreshing after a hectic day."

MOVERS AND THINKERS

It has been a formula that Shilpa Shetty and Kareena Kapoor endorse for their beautiful bodies. Yoga and meditation helps you remain clam and stay fit. "Yoga helps me to distress, keeps my energy level high. Meditation helps me to stay cool and control my temper," says Vaidehi Chokshi, a regular yoga practitioner.

'COURT' IT IN STYLE

Running in the court, hitting the

'FIT' IT WELL

ball and raising the racket high is what will help you to sweat out and stay fit forever. Tennis, squash and badminton are fast gaining popularity in Gujarat as many young and old now hit the court after a hard day's work. "I regularly play tennis and occasionally play squash. For both games, one requires power to hit the ball and stamina to carry on a game," says Amit Khandelwal, an entrepreneur. Badminton, too provides the player with an increased stamina. Shreyasi Mehta, a college goer says, "I have been playing badminton since few months, it helps me to stay fit and energetic."

MATCH MY STEPS

Count one, two, three and dance as if there is no tomorrow. If you are someone who cannot stop shaking a leg or two to the beats of music, then surely dancing will ensure you a healthy body. Deepali Khandelwal, a dance teacher says, "Dancing keeps me fit, fresh and relaxed. It boosts my energy and keeps my body flexible."

refers to the sport of using martial-arts-style kicks and boxing-style punches to defeat an opponent in a similar way to that of standard boxing. Nowadays, it is often practiced for self-defence, general fitness and as a sport too. "Kick boxing and karate help me in self defence and keep me mentally and physically fit," says Meghal Kumar H Chakravarti, a 25 year old who has been learning kick boxing and karate for twelve years.

amrita.mulchandani@timesgroup.com



Mayur Bhatt

Going the 'water' way to stay fit

Do it differently seems to be the mantra now as *AT* explores some new ways to remain fit...

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