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Tonight's the night!

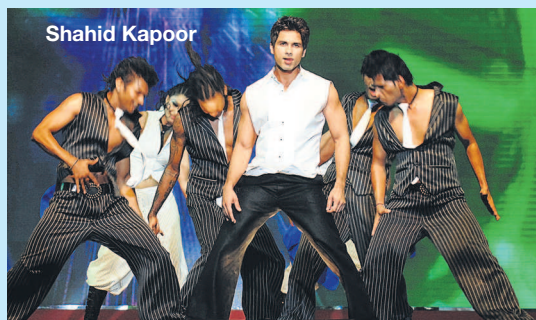
Watch the star-studded prestigious Airtel Mirchi Music Awards tonight on Sony Entertainment Television

BINA TRIVEDI
Times News Network

What a night it was! The crème de la crème of the Indian music fraternity were under one roof, as some of the finest talent in Hindi film music were awarded for their brilliant work.

It was the Airtel Mirchi Music Awards — a grand event that saw a galaxy of stars and celebs walk down the red carpet. *Khiladiyon ka Khiladi* Akshay Kumar had the crowds go wild. A suited-booted Anil Kapoor and Vidya Balan, dressed suitably for the occasion, made heads turn. And there was excitement galore when Hrithik Roshan walked in with dad Rakesh Roshan. Also present were Sunny Deol, Deepika Padukone, Farhan Akhtar, Riteish Deshmukh, Jacqueline Fernandez, Fardeen Khan among others.

Electrifying performances by singers like KK, Sunidhi Chauhan, Rekha Bhardwaj, Himesh Reshammiya and Usha Uthup en-



Shahid Kapoor

thrilled the audiences. Shahid Kapoor and Katrina Kaif added charm to the beautiful evening with some fantastic performances to hit filmi numbers of last year.

The winners accepted their awards with exhilaration and humility. Radio Mirchi Music awards salute hard work, passion and creative talent in the music industry. This year, a non-film category was added as well.

The event, sponsored by some top names from the industry (LIC, Airfone and Parle Krackjack were associate sponsors, Airtel — title sponsor, Dell — style partner, Galaxy — indulgence partner and Make My Trip — exclusive travel partner) was a huge success.

Don't miss this Bollywood's prestigious and glitzy event.

Watch the 2nd Edition of Airtel Mirchi Music Awards today on Sony Entertainment Television at 10 pm.



Himesh Reshammiya



Sunidhi Chauhan



Katrina Kaif

Sean Penn charged!

Sean Penn has officially been charged with criminal battery and vandalism for his violent run in with a paparazzo. In the scuffle — which happened late last year — Sean was captured on video attacking a trailing photographer damaging his camera. Now Sean has officially been charged with two counts of misdemeanors. If convicted, he could face up to 18 months behind bars. This is not the first time the actor's been reprimanded for his violent outbursts. Earlier, the 49-year-old was sentenced to 60 days in jail for punching a movie extra on the set of the police drama *Colors*. Interestingly, at that time, he was also on probation for punching a songwriter at a nightclub.



NOT AGAIN: Sean Penn

BAD BOYS

Colin Farrell fined!



OOPS: Colin Farrell

Colin Farrell's 45 miles per hour joyride, in a 30 mph zone, in England has turned out to be quite a costly one. A police camera caught him driving over the speed limit and he's now been fined for the same. Colin has to pay a fine of \$96 within the next 21 days. He was also ordered to pay \$56 in costs and \$24 victim surcharge. And though he was due to appear in the Court on Thursday, Colin failed to show up, sending a letter of apology instead. In the handwritten letter, the actor pleaded guilty to the speeding offence, as well as a charge of failing to provide information to identify himself as the driver of the car. He said, "I sincerely apologise for not having responded to the original notice of intended prosecution. I look forward to resolving this matter with the court's assistance."

HEY GORGEOUS!

Indians figure in the list of 10 most attractive people in the world according to a new survey. Read on...

RUPAM JAIN
Times News Network

It's time for some glad tidings. For all those of you who believe beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, listen to this. A survey has listed Indians as the eighth most attractive nation in the world. So, all you beautiful people, read on to know more. While some say we deserve the number one spot, eighth isn't too bad either, right? After all we are among the top 10 in the world!

In the poll conducted on more than 5,000 people worldwide by a website, Americans topped the chart, followed by Brazil and Spain in the next two slots. With (more visible) head-turners like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Kareena Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Sushmita Sen, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, Hrithik Roshan, et al, India is eighth in the list.

Actor Dino Morea feels the rating, "is strange, honestly. I am not saying we should have topped the list, but let's just understand that beauty or attractiveness can't be judged randomly. It is subjective." Holding the fourth spot is Australia with its blonde, tanned surfers, and Italy fifth and Sweden sixth. India finds a place in the list only after the UK. Model Jesse Randhawa says, "I really don't know about the survey, but I believe Indians are as beautiful as Americans, Swedish or Brits. Ac-

ording to me, when it comes to looks, there can't be any comparisons between any two countries. So how does one decide which is the nation which has the most attractive people?"

The website poll says that Hollywood stars like Jessica Alba, Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt help America's image as a hotbed of good-looking people. But with a population of more than 300 million, they do have an unfair advantage.

Model Tupur Chatterjee says she doesn't agree with the poll. "As an Indian, I would obviously want India to top the list. The fact remains that Indians are not just physically beautiful but also have beautiful hearts. Indians are sensuous, attractive and culturally rich which make them all the more beautiful." Agreeing with her is actress Anita Hasanandani who says, "I don't agree with the poll. They have

gone wrong with the calculation because we deserve the number one spot."

The poll also reasons that in fairness, when one thinks of good-looking people country-wise, Sweden, Italy, France and Brazil come to mind first before the Brits. "I think beauty is very individualistic and lies in the eyes of the beholder. If I have to

comment, I think we should have been rated a little higher. Having said that, one has an advantage if one's skin tone is white, although I prefer bronze," concludes actor Eijaz Khan on a witty note.

Well, seems like the jury is divided on this one!

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DESI HEAD-TURNERS: (From L-R) Kareena Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Katrina Kaif. For more pictures of the stars log on to www.photostimesofindia.com

NAVYA MALINI
Times News Network

The golden jubilee celebrations of Gujarat state formation seem to be turning a new leaf each day. For Gujaratis, not only in Gujarat but in the world over too, are leaving no stone unturned to celebrate the spirit of mother land and the significance of mother language. And the stage seems to be set for a new movement as a number of events and activities are being held in the city to spread the message of native language importance in our lives.

From taking part in a poetical recital, organising a Gujarati spell bee contest, *Bhasha Spardha* on the world of blogs, actively getting oneself involved in the *Matrubhasha Yatra* and paying tribute to the mother tongue through *Matrubhasha Vandana*, and exhibiting collection of books at the Gujarat Vidyapith library, Gujaratis are unanimously echoing one sentiment — love for the mother language and the mother land.

At the same time, many feel that this effort should be carried forward and not limited to a one-day affair. "We should not be overcome by a sense of inferiority as we speak in Gujarati. One should be proud of one's mother tongue and it should be — *dil ni bhasha dil thi bolo*,"

Garvi Gujarat

AT finds out if the love for the mother language still holds relevance among the English speaking Gujaratis in the state...

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY



Getty Images

says columnist Urvis Kothari. While some opine that the language is losing its significance due to the importance of English in our lives, others believe that there should be interactive methods to keep the younger generation take an interest in the language. "One should not create a rift between languages. What is important today is to package the language and the best of the things that it offers to the young in an interesting way so that they will understand its role in our lives," says playwright Soumya Joshi.

Author Satish Vyas feels that over the years the vocabulary and usage of the language has suffered. "I have been giving lectures at *Matrubhasha Yatra* and interacting with students. Institutions where the medium of instruction is Gujarati, students did not have any difficulty in grasping the nuances of the language. But in other colleges, the vocabulary and language quotient was not up to mark."

While the Gujarati *bachao* movement seems to be gaining more momentum with Gujarati bloggers across the world trying to make contribution to the language, critics feel that apart from the world of web, there should be more measures for creating awareness among the youth. "Take the publishing sector, for instance. There are published 1,250 volume of books for 5.5 crore Gujarati readers. This creates a huge supply-demand gap," says Kothari.

Everyone unanimously would agree on the need to highlight the rich literary heritage that Gujarat possesses. "Students should be introduced to masterpieces like *Chakko Makko* and *Mia Fuski*. There is an ocean of kids' literature which lying unexplored by students," says Joshi. Well, get closer to the mother tongue seems to be what is driving the state now.

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GAMES people PLAY



(From above) Anish Gajjar, Harsh Shah and Saumil Choksi



Move over cards and badminton, Amdavadis now have access to a variety of lifestyle sports to beat stress. AT finds out if it's a regular thing or is it just an occasional Sunday activity...

game and meet my friends. Apart from socialising, when you cheer and win a game with your friends, it gives a different high." Says Bidisha Shah, a banker who plays paint ball every weekend with her friends. "It's a new form of entertainment, keeps me going and also it's a great exercise."

Apart from meditation, yoga and a visit to the spa, young individuals now feel that pursuing a sports activity also gives them a sense of satisfaction of having some 'me' time. Saumil Choksi, a businessman who has been playing tennis for 15 years now says, "When I was growing up, I realised that playing tennis definitely improved my personal and work life. I am a happy man after having played a game of tennis, relieved from the stress at work."

So whether it is teeing off on weekends, playing tennis, teaching horse riding in early mornings or playing squash in the evenings... Amdavadis are finding newer ways to de-stress and lead a 'good life.'

too. "It changes my whole outlook towards a day. When you pursue a sport, you are fitter, healthier and your energies are focused in the right direction."

While accepting the obvious shortcomings of a city which is slowly opening up to newer sports, people are open to playing new formats in a game too. Says Rasesh Shah, an entrepreneur who plays T-20 cricket with his friends every Sunday for a couple of hours, "It's the best way to pursue my love for the

individuals in the city who pursued horse riding as a sport very early in life, "I love the fact that I have to get up early when the sun rises and ride my horse. I pursue it everyday not only because I love riding horses but also because it gives me great inspiration to follow a busy day ahead." Anish often rides on his horse in neighbouring villages where he does bird watching and meets fellow horse owners in other villages

Playing sports can lead to a healthy lifestyle

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