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MODHERA DANCE FESTIVAL

GUJARAT

Classical dances have always been a major part of Indian Culture, and the Modhera Dance Festival is celebrated with the aim of promoting the culture and bringing the religion and devotional dances close to the temples of India. The traditional dance forms of the region as well as the acts as a platform bring together the cultural ethos of the regions expressed in the form of nritya. The Modhera Dance Festival 2023 was proved to be one of the most awaited and famous festivals of modern times and has achieved immense popularity in recent times. At Uttarardh Mahotsav in Modhera, the young generation witnessed their own age executing the traditional Indian culture.

Modhera Dance Festival is a common platform for classical dancers and artists to display the traditional art forms of India and dance connoisseurs. This dance festival showcases the Indian Culture and highlights the traditions, diversity and values of India through music, art and dance. Within an indigenous traditional dance, each act has a principal and number of secondary purposes, which may reflect the people's universal values and social relationships. This three-day dance festival is organized by the Tourism Department, Government of Gujarat along with the Youth Services and Cultural Activities.

Modhera Dance Festival is also known as the Uttarardh Mahotsav which is dedicated to Lord Surya or Sun God. Uttarardh Mahotsav is named



because the earth moves north and starts getting closer to the Sun by the end of the winter. It is celebrated on the grounds of Surya Mandir which the Solanki King Bhimdev I developed.

The psychedelic hues of red, yellow and green lights illuminating the nooks and crannies of the intricately carved Sun Temple of Modhera, during dark and breezy nights of January, create a Chiaroscuro effect of time and space! This peerless temple space acts as a grandiose backdrop for the vibrant expression of dancers and aesthetical ethnicity of the country.

A large number of artists performed Indian Classical dance through a fusion of Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi with their costumes and jewellery sets. The artists performed various Indian forms of dances like Bharatnatyam, Mohiniattam from Tamil Nadu, Kuchipudi from Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka, Kathakali from Kerala, Odissi Chhanu from Odisha, Manipuri from Manipur and Kathak. The venue was decorated with colourful lights aimed towards the Sun Temple to make it even more illustrious than it is. The event started in the evening with back-to-back jaw

dropping performances by the most talented groups and individual artists from around the country which filled the colours.

There are simple ways to reach the Modhera Sun Temple, you can go by air, train or by road. The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad is the nearest Airport to attend this magnificent festival. The Mehsana Railway Station is the nearest railway station. It is around 35 km from Modhera and you can also reach the temple via a private cab. This is a place which is convenient for all the tourists all over the world.

We can also visit few beautiful places nearby the Modhera Dance Festival –

- a) Rani ki Vav, Patan
- b) Bindu Sarovar, Siddhpur
- c) Umiya Mata Mandir, Unjha
- d) Becharaji Temple.

The two-day festival of Uttarardh Mahotsav took place from 21st to 23rd of January, it is organized to venerate and celebrate the inherited treasure of performing arts of the country. The Modhera Dance Festival is an ideal opportunity to experience the living heritage of Indian dance and music while traversing back in time sitting in the lap of golden history.

- AMANTIKA SARKAR
TY BAMMC



The Science Behind New Year's Resolutions

One of the most dreaded moments of the new year is almost always while having a conversation with someone and hearing the phrase “My new year’s resolution is.....”, those words alone ignite such hatred in almost every young person in existence. The resolution itself could be anything learning a new language, stopping a bad habit or even something as basic as keeping ones room neat and tidy, while all these behaviours are positive there is simply no quicker way to irk off a person than to fashion a new year’s resolution out of them. However, I believe that there are a lot of unanswered questions surrounding new year’s resolution, so let’s delve into it.

The most pertinent question surrounding new year’s resolutions for me would be, why new year’s? Why wait for a brand-new year to create a positive change in your routine. One possible answer stems from a 2014 study wherein a study in the journal Management Science proposes that events like New Years, birthdays or even the beginning of a month or a week help us believe that the fresh start of something new would allow us to follow or aspirational behaviour better. This phenomenon was termed as the “fresh start effect” in the study, the study also alludes to the fact that these landmarks in time help us split our perception more evenly into a clear before and after the event which allows us to define clearly when we began our positive behaviours. Associating our positive behaviours with landmarks intime also encourages big picture thinking and helps us establish long term goals easily.

However, that explanation is only a theory and while it allows us to better understand why new year’s resolutions exist and their benefit it does not explain why a lot of resolutions get abandoned so fast. A possible explanation for why resolutions don’t last is that a large number of resolutions are made in the

moment without planning ahead before making the resolution. Humans a creature of desire and so often we tend to choose what we desire in the moment over what long goals we establish at a landmark time such as a New year’s resolution. The truth of the matter is while there are some benefits to establishing a positive change in behaviour at the beginning of a landmark, creating the change in behaviour is still all up to the individual and aspirational changes are always difficult no matter whether they are established in a new year or in the middle of a week.

The beginning of a new year is a time of excitement which means that no matter whether the science proves it or it doesn’t, people are going to continue making new year’s resolutions and while there is no promising that those resolutions will come fruition the key takeaway from all that we have learned is to try and keep the resolution going as long as possible that way we can program our brains not to give into our momentary desires, but rather to structure our thinking to revolve around the positive change we are introducing in our lives.

- Caelan Dua

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FEATURED PHOTOGRAPH



- Arjun Nair, SYBAMMC

City Centric

The Petals of Rome

Dadar Flower Market

As the tracks came to a dead halt, the bustle of the crowd and traffic told me I had arrived at the heart of Dadar.

The air was filled with sounds of vegetable vendors and shopkeepers who stood at the respective perches of their winding stalls.

Inviting anyone to see and purchase their products on display.

But I was on the lookout for something specific, a garland befitting for a housewarming ceremony due very soon.

My eyes scanned thoroughly through the layers of shops dealing with clothes, bags and watches, seeking for a particular sight.

Small traces of petals sat amongst the pavement floor setting a path that I began to follow.



Carrying a weaved basket over her head emerged a woman from the crowd, laden with a variety of flowers, kept in bundles of a few. Reminding me I was getting close.

She soon disappeared from my view, eventually emerging at the entrance of a tucked away corner.



There, at the underbelly of a busy overpass sat a corner of a gemstone, one of blooming wonder.

Flowers in baskets as far as my eyes could see.

From Mogras, to Roses, to Lilies, with Orchids and even enchanting chrysanthemums.

I was finally here, in the center of what the locals call "phool gully."

As elder flower vendors taught the younger blood the reins of the business, their experienced eyes moved about waiting for that next possible client in the midst. There were a variety of faces there to receive them.

Flowers are these natural pieces of enticing beauty that nature has bestowed upon us.

It shines light on how pivotal flowers are in the cycle of life.

Here I was in line waiting for a Marigold garland to bring hope and luck to my humble home.

In front of me could have been one in bitter grief. Looking for the right bouquet to honor their memories of those who have long left this familiar place.

A man of faith, with a spiritual desire to connect with the divine at the house of his god.

Then a couple, exchanging their loving affections over a scented rose whilst holding hands.

While a playful little girl made a garland with her friends to escape the afternoon heat and chores.

Tears of joy and grief encapsulated over this very occasional flower, for its shape, size and color may vary but not the timeless beauty about her.

As my turn arrived I raised my hand towards the basket of Marigold.

Looking at the white garland of Lilies near it, I was reminded of the city it represented, Rome.

A city built just like this one, on its own individual dome. On the back of dreams and shoulders of those that made it their home.

With each petal fallen reflecting a passing soul.

But in the wake of its trail, it led me to this heavenly abode. I packed the bag, as my search was complete.

I looked back at the city from the darkness of this rather hidden street.

This is a tale I say for those who set foot in this town.

For When in Rome, a peak by the alleys of flowers will entrance your gaze as you wander around.

This is the essence of life they say, sent by nature's gift from beyond the ground.



Photos taken by: Divya Panchariya, TYBA
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Movie Review

Tara vs Bilal

Looking for the perfect rom-com for this cosy season? Something that instantly gives you butterflies in your stomach and makes you smile through the entirety of the movie? Then Tara vs. Bilal is the perfect movie for you! A riveting, romantic, and mature Bollywood love story while following the trope of fake dating and marriage.

The movie took me by surprise at how perfect the movie was made, especially when Bollywood has stopped giving us cheesy yet comfy and cute rom-coms anymore.

The movie begins with a young, bubbly Kashmiri girl, Tara, living in Delhi, who accepts the hand in marriage of a man she barely knows whom she met on a dating site, and who promises her a life in London. Her dreams of living in London with her grandfather immediately shatter when she discovers on the first night of their wedding that she is abandoned in a hotel room in London, with all her precious possessions such as jewellery and money stolen by her husband, leaving her heartbroken and cheated. But fate has other plans when she crosses paths with a young, charming man, Bilal, with deep trauma from his past that makes him emotionally unavailable. He also happens to be the owner of the hotel and the only son of a household run by women, who keep pressuring him to get married. Annoyed by their constant tantrums and pressure, he comes to an agreement with Tara, who is in desperate need of money in exchange for engaging in a fake marriage with him. Here begins a joyous and romantic ride filled with lots of banter and bickering between the two.

Will love remain a contract or will it be content?



Tara, played by Sonia Rathee, exceptionally performs her role as a young, bubbly, and intelligent girl who independently and fearlessly strives when abandoned by her husband in a foreign land. On the other hand, Harshvardhan Rane, as the charming, young, and angry man Bilal, who is often estranged from reality and suffering from emotional trauma and resentment feelings, plays his role with full sincerity and intensity, especially when the breakdown scene is portrayed at the end.

While most media these days are saturated with action and thriller content, the movie is a breath of fresh air and gives us something new and exciting to watch. The plots were all really well crafted, leaving no possibility for a bad plot.

All of the actors, even the supporting cast members, give the film its superb and genuine acting. This movie should be on everyone's weekend watch list since it is unquestionably a must-see!

- Jovita Chettiar

SYBA-B



All About Capricorns

Capricorn, (from Latin: “Goat-Horned”) also called Capricornus and the Goat, in astrology, is the 10th sign of the zodiac. Capricorn dates fit into the star sign dates between 22nd December and 20th January, and belongs to the Earth element of the zodiac (along with Taurus and Virgo - who they happen to be incredibly compatible with, romantically). The Earth sign crew are all practical, self-reliant, stoic, and ambitious. Capricorn – the Goat of Fear, a goat with the tail of a fish is created to face fear and create panic. It is the sign of decisions made to be protected from monsters in our minds, lives, and immediate physical surroundings. Always ready to transform into something that scares those scary things off, Capricorn speaks of each natural chain reaction of fear. One frightening thing leads to many others, rising up as defensive mechanisms that only make things worse. Capricorns will cross swords with Fire signs because their confidence will rile the zodiac’s goaty grafter. Gemini will infuriate them with their fickle and nonsensical ideas and schemes.

Saturn solely rules December Capricorns (aka first decan Capricorns), so they often embody the most classic Capricorn qualities. January-born Capricorns are co-ruled by either Venus or Mercury, they tend to be more outgoing and open to new friendships.

Taurus, Capricorn’s finest soulmate, is dependable and faithful. They take a conservative approach to love and relationships. Capricorn is loyal, dedicated, and at ease in this relationship.

Even though Capricorns are top tiers they have their flaws too. Capricorns can be impatient and finicky, which is one of their flaws. Grudges and moodiness are also common traits. Change is difficult for them, especially if it’s something to which they’ve become accustomed.

The month of January (along with December) plays a very different role in the lives of Capricorns as it is the most dominant month in their zodiac chart.

- Aishwarya Bhatara

Friendship and the idea of a best friend in today's time

In a world that is already filled with so much chaos and selfishness, it is seldom that we find people who are there with us without any ulterior motives.

In a world where millions envy us, it is only a few who are happy for us.

Well, that is the basic fundamentals of friendship- A relationship formed by two humans, who very likely are not related by blood, based on mutual trust and support.

The relation of friendship, in its very essence, is, according to me, extremely pure and altruistic which certainly deserves more respect than it gets. Since the beginning of time, with examples from thousands of literature, friendship has been and continues to be a very prevalent factor with regard to human psychology and society functioning.

It might be the feeling of moral support that comes in from a stranger in some sense that makes the whole thing an even more selfless and beautiful approach.

Examples of friendships in some of the classic literature like-

Antonio and Bassanio's friendship in The Merchant of Venice, Anne Shirley and Diana Barry in Anne of Green Gables, and many more would be classic examples of my above-mentioned point.

While it is true that friendship is drastically different from any other relationship and has its own appeal to it, there is also the current scenario wherein this pure relationship is too tainted with malice and greed.

With the world continuing to spin on its axis and change taking place rapidly, our priorities have changed. From wanting to attain love and trust, we now prefer wealth and success over it.

While being ambitious over your desires isn't wrong, is it really worth it if you attain it under the guise of a trusted friend or an acquaintance?

Is it so very difficult to attain our wants through other means, without pretending to care or be something we aren't?

To hold merit to my point, the idea of friends or a best friend has lost significance in people's lives, so much so that we see one person calling innumerable people their "besties" when in reality they don't mean it at all.

Why is it?

Why is it that people feel a need to portray themselves into something they are not?

That is something we should think about!

While no doubt the very meaning and essence of friendship has dwindled with time and continues to do so, it is also important that we realise that there are still some who still realise the significance of it and continue to give in their love and trust selflessly in that friendship.

In the end, it is after all, even after so much pretending and malice, we slowly come to the realisation that every person does need a person that they can fully irrevocably trust, that they can count on no matter what, someone who'll stick through it all.

So yes, with time there has been a very significant change in friendships and how people view it but let that fact not hinder us from realising it isn't too late to turn the tables and form friendships with people who truly mean it.

- Shruti Nangia

SYBA- B

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