

Star burst!

The star presence added glitz and glitter to the lines and silhouettes on Day 4 of the Wills India Fashion Week. A mini galaxy of stars walked the ramp for Anita Dongre, dressed in all white ensembles, a complete contrast to the colourful collection showcased by the designer. Anita played with prints and a beautiful mix and match of primary colours. Sanjay Suri, Sharman Joshi and Chitragda Singh walked the ramp during her showing, but the showstoppers were the ebullient Boman Irani and the graceful Shabana Azmi.

Rahul Dev opened the day's proceedings in an appliqué creation by Abdul Halder who played with an intelligent amalgamation of a variety of fabrics as was seen too in the ensemble worn by Halder's showstopper Shweta Bharadwaj.

While designers Nida Mahmood and Sonia Jaitley had a satisfying collection with a lot of prints, Elisha W presented a twinkling set of stylish saris with various innovative drapes and dresses

with interesting techniques. After Boman and Shabana's act, it was great to see Madhu Sapre walk the ramp. She was in the capital to walk for Payal Jain's very well put together show called 'Colours of Joy'. Payal's designs brought joy to the hearts of the audience. The intricate floral patterns, with colourful beads on white linens and hand-woven

Shabana Azmi and Boman Irani led the glittering galaxy on the ramp, reports Meetu Soni



Rahul Dev, Abdul Halder and Shweta Bharadwaj



Madhu Sapre



Shabana Azmi, Anita Dongre and Boman Irani

jacquards, were ravishing. JJ Vallaya's look took everybody's breath away, with models made up as mannequins in mosaic-printed dresses. Models were whitewashed with black lines separating the joints for authenticity.

The most talked-about show of the day was Rajesh Pratap Singh's collection which got all the points for doing serious business. The show was very effortlessly stylish with an amazing set of structured

Key trends

- Prints
- Playful pants
- Feminine dresses

pieces.

The day ended on a very good note but with a dilemma in everybody's head - which party to head for - the one hosted by Fashion Design Council of India or the one thrown by Fashion Foundation of India?

Lakme Fashion Week because all my seniors had showcased on this platform. For me it was a natural progression." His collection is inspired by valiant Head Hunter and his consort who want to take equal ownership and responsibility. He is influenced by the tribal world and has infused a lot of hand-woven textiles and traditional methods of dyes.

Aparna Sharma (model)

Aparna, 22, who is 5 ft 8 inch tall and whose vital statistics read 35-25-36, is excited about taking part in the Lakme Fashion Week for the first time. "I am walking for Deepika Gehmani, Asmita Marwa, Falguni and Shane Peacock and Shantanu & Nikhil." So is she nervous as well? She says with a chuckle, "A bit, but I am quite struck by the glamour attached to the fashion weeks." This Delhi-based model has associated with the modelling world for about four years now and has done other fashion shows as well as ads.

Imcha Imchen (designer)

Twenty-five-year-old Imcha is from Nagland and he'll be showcasing in the GenNext segment. With a smile, he says, "I chose

would take care of the styling of 30 shows and 43 designers. One of the important shows for Gautam is the GenNext. He says, "For the GenNext show I have been coordinating with 10 designers from different like Nagland, Delhi and Hyderabad to name a few. But thanks to the Internet, I started the process well in advance and by the time I had met them first, we already had a certain level of understanding."

Gautam Kalra (stylist)

Gautam, 37, has styled various shoots for magazines and ads. He

Clockwise from top: Gautam Kalra, Aparna Sharma and Imcha Imchen



Nervous yet excited

The passion for fashion sparks first-timers at the LAKME FASHION WEEK, which kickstarts today

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THE Lakme Fashion Week that starts today in the city comes with its share of drama, glamour, glitz and style. The people who have been part of the fashion week earlier are a confident and relaxed lot. However, for the ones making their debut at the fashion extravaganza, this would be nothing short of a litmus test. We list three such debutantes and figure out how confident or nervous they are.

BUZZZZZ



LK Advani

LK Advani to release Hindi version of Chetan Bhagat's novel

Chetan Bhagat's *One Night @ the Call Center* will be released in Hindi on Tuesday by LK Advani. A few members of the cast of the film *Hello*, based on Chetan's novel, are expected to attend the event that will take place in New Delhi. Atul Agnihotri, the director of *Hello*, says, "It is great news for Chetan that his book is being launched in Hindi by someone like LK Advani. I will be there to support him during this event. As of now Gul Panag is also expected to be there."



Chetan Bhagat

A cop's brush with acrylics and charcoal

DCP AJAY CHAUDHARY, who uses a paintbrush as easily as he does a gun, is exhibiting his collection of paintings in the city this week

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HE juggles his service gun and his paintbrush with equal élan. Now, DCP Ajay Chaudhary from Ahmedabad will showcase his collection of acrylics and charcoal, all done up in shades of black and white, at The Loft from October 21 to November 7.

Recently in the news for his efforts in extraditing two criminals from Dubai into police custody, the 33-year-old accepts that it is sometimes beneficial to juggle contradictory personalities - living life on the fast lane while on duty and receding into a serene introspective mood in front of his easel.

He says, "After strict policing hours, I need an alternative world to escape to. Art is not only my hobby, but also helps sharpen my mind."

He adds, "Painting is like a mental game for me, quite similar to my police job, playing around with the forms and shades, and often with your own mind."

Ask him if interacting with the grey shades of law and order finds reflection in the shades of black and white in his current collection, he laughs and says, "That has not been a conscious effort."

Chaudhary is also enthusiastic about the fact that art can have therapeutic effects on legal offenders. He says many good paintings have been put up in jails to inspire criminals on the right path of life. "Art brings peace of mind. We have several programmes in jails for those who have been branded as criminals by our judicial system. If given an opportunity



Ajay Chaudhary

More about Ajay Chaudhary

- Ajay Chaudhary grew up in the small town of Bokaro Steel City, and went on to do his civil engineering degree from IIT Delhi after which he joined the civil services.
- He is also part of a three-member team appointed by the Gujarat government that looks after several heritage monuments in the state, recommending procedures to protect the glorious heritage of India.
- He comes from a family of art connoisseurs. His grandfather taught in the Art College of Patna. Chaudhary himself picked up the paintbrush at the age of four.

I would like to donate some of my paintings for such a cause," he says.

Recently MF Husain wrote a letter to Chaudhary to express his appreciation of the technique of his works. Husain also conferred the title of the 'Living Art Form' to Chaudhary's artworks. Chaudhary says, "Husain wrote to me from Dubai about how he had seen prints of my work, and how he appreciated the discipline coming from my policing job that reflected on my canvases."

Talking about his collection to be showcased at The Loft, he says he has used interesting techniques.

"I have a particular piece that consists of four parts. Each of these individual items is a complete painting in itself, and they all unite to form a bigger picture," he says.

'Be soft on my curves...'

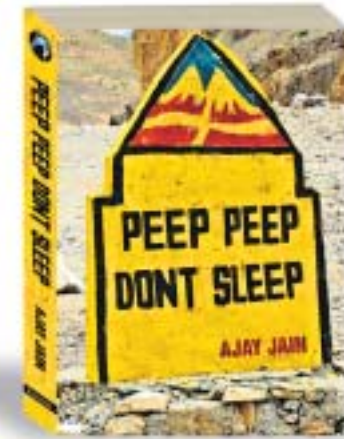
Funny lines like this are hard to miss while travelling on Indian roads, says AJAY JAIN, a travel journalist, who has compiled a witty work on these signs

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FUNNY road signs have their own way of tickling the funny bones even during the most arduous of travels. Anyone who has travelled by road in this country would agree that graffiti on the hills is much funnier when compared to other parts of the country.

Apart from the roads, these funny, strange, queer or interesting signs can be seen in shops, restaurants and hotels, some of the common ones being *Be Soft On My Curves*, *PK 100 Ja, Hamaare Yahan Thandi Child Bear Milti Hai* and *Horn Ok*.

Now, a young travel journalist has compiled a whole book on such road signs he came across while touring different parts of India. Ajay Jain, a professional blogger and travel photographer, drove over 10,000 kilometres to put together this collection of signs. The book is titled *Peep Peep Don't Sleep* also has some witty commentary thrown in.

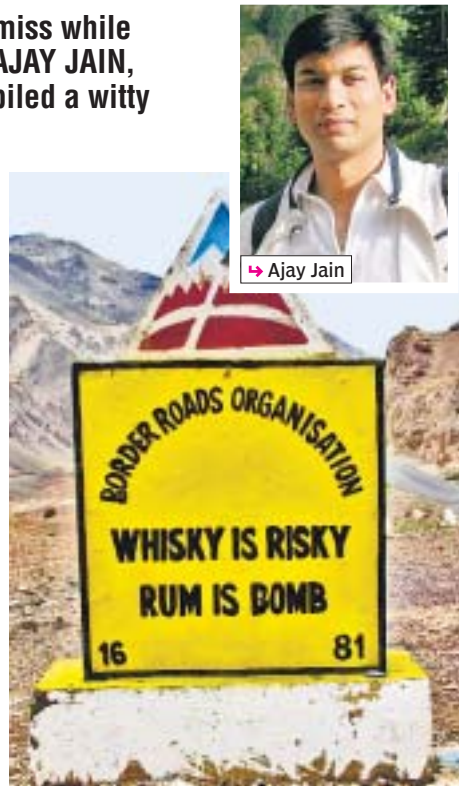


"I have always seen people talking about road signs. They obviously don't start rolling on the floor but it is something that makes them feel funny. So I thought why not make a book out of it? I am a full-time traveller and I feel that, apart from being informative, road signs in India are very entertaining. There are numerous public notices, outdoor advertisements and storefront signs with their own idiosyncrasies and eccentricities. Who needs comic strips in this country?" says Ajay.

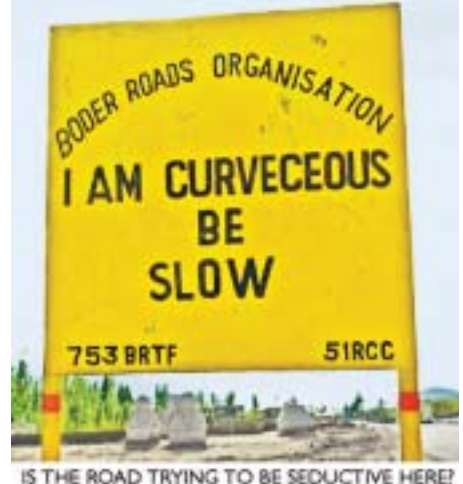
The book has been categorised into different subjects according to the type of the various signs. These include signs on dangerous road curves, writings on trucks, drink and drive warnings, signs in restaurants and *dhabaas* and welcome signs in highway hotels.

Ajay remarks, "It took me more than a year to put together all my pictures for this book. The response so far has been good enough to make me a happy man in the times of economic recession (laughs)."

Some of the memorable road signs in-



Ajay Jain



Some of the signs and (left) the book

clude *'A Late Mister Than Mr Late'*, *'Avoid Shocking Experiences. Practice Proper Electricity Safety'*, *'Horn Is To Honk. Please Do It On My Curves'* and *'Whiskey Is Risky. Rum Is Bomb - Boarder Roads Organisation'*.

This is Ajay's second book this year. His first book titled *Let's Connect: Using LinkedIn To Get Ahead At Work*, was published in early 2008.

PSST

'Billy and Tea are friends'

Billy Bob Thornton has denied he is romancing Tea Leoni. The 53-year-old actor, who was reported to have been secretly dating Tea after meeting her on the set of their new film *Manure*, insists their relationship is purely professional. Billy Bob's representative said: "Billy and Tea are friends." It was reported that Tea's estranged husband David Duchovny separated from her after discovering explicit text messages from Billy Bob on her cell phone. Tea further fuelled relationship rumours by praising Billy.



Tea Leoni

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