

about **Town**

weekend CIRCUIT

REVEL IN THE SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM AS CHEFS DISH OUT A DELICIOUS TRICOLOURED FARE, AT **DRAGONFLY EXPERIENCE DELHI, AEROCITY ON JANUARY 26.**



A PERFECT WAY TO EXPLORE THE VARIETY OF INDIAN CUISINES WITH THE KITCHENS OF INDIA BRUNCH SERIES, AT **THE WESTIN, GURUGRAM.**

ENJOY A REPUBLIC DAY BRUNCH WITH SPECIALLY-CURATED TRICOLOURED DISHES, AT **SVIII RESTAURANT, RADISSON BLU NOIDA, ON JANUARY 26.**



PHOTOS: QAMAR SIBTAIN



An exhibition of images and first-hand accounts give a glimpse into the harrowing times of the Partition
by **Antara Raghavan**

If you get off the train at the Mandi House metro station and stop to look at a number of black and white photographs placed on the walls there, you will see haunting entries beneath them. One reads: 'My maternal grandparents were killed in a small village, Mukhtasar, in the midst of the Partition riots. My mother would sit by the door in anticipation for her deceased parents.'

This account by Mamoon Mustansar, who was born in Lahore in 1946, is one of the many displayed at the exhibition titled 'The 1947 Partition Archive' at the station. These stories must be told, especially now, says Dr Guneeta Singh Bhalla, founder and director of the exhibition. "I heard stories about the Partition from my paternal grandparents who actually migrated. They never got over leaving their ancestral home behind. Later, I came to realise that first-hand accounts validated the experience of the Partition. They make it human, palpable and accessible."

Bhalla began to set up 'The 1947 Partition Archive' with a team in 2011. As of the end of 2019, they have recorded 9,140 stories from over 450 cities, across 14 countries. The ones on display at the station are only a few of those recorded.

Why showcase such a collection of painful experiences at a metro station? "Train stations are symbolic since millions of people fled and migrated during the Partition via trains. The Mandi House station is especially interesting as it is a junction station," explains Bhalla.

So, the next time you board a train at the Mandi House station, try and stop by to view the display only to catch a glimpse of a few heart-wrenching accounts of the harrowing times of the Partition.



Photographs that are part of 'The 1947 Partition Archive' exhibition, which is curated by Dr Guneeta Singh Bhalla and Aurgho Jyoti, and displayed at the city's Mandi House metro station.

1947

Beyond the tracks

FOLLOWING THE TRAIN OF THOUGHT

ONE of the most iconic books on the Partition, *Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan*, has been brought to the stage by director Amar Sah. "This play and the novel it's based on, reminds us of the cost of our freedom struggle. The message is more relevant today than before," explains Sah.

The director who is also playing the role of Hukum Chand adds, "Most of the viewers who come to the play have read the book, so

they can see that we've stayed close to the novel. We've tried to convey the sense of the crowd and the chaos, the scenes of looting, the state of the bodies in the trains, all through the use of a chorus."

Translated by Usha Mahajan and dramatised by Dr Suman Kumar, this play is presented by Bela Theatre Karwaan at The Little Theatre Group Auditorium, tonight at 7 pm.



A still from the play; (inset) Director Amar Sah.

ROCK TO THE RESCUE

IF YOU have habitually crooned to rock numbers on any given karaoke event and wasn't at Gurgaon's Hard Rock Cafe (HRC) last night, you definitely missed out on an eventful concert. The audience at HRC witnessed yet another edition of Rock Tree, a music session in which a number of artistes bring together the best rock anthems from the 70s and 80s.



Musicians performed classics by Bryan Adams.

This time around, the concert was a tribute to Canadian singer Bryan Adams. Vocalist Diyatomb Deb and a few other city-based musicians ensured the crowd went on a nostalgic trip as they belted out a few Bryan Adams classics that tugged at one's heartstrings.

—Mail Today Bureau

EXPRESSING INNER BEAUTY THROUGH ART

by **Antara Raghavan**

WERNER Dornik, acclaimed Austrian multimedia artist and curator, expected the inauguration of his exhibition 'From Pain to Paint' at India International Centre on Tuesday evening to be attended by only about 50 people. But he was surprised as not only did he witness about 200 people that day but also did he sell a number of his paintings.

What could be better for Dornik, who has been working to make lives better for leprosy patients since 2005. Inaugurated by Austrian Ambassador Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, the exhibition is a culmination of the artist's efforts. The painting on display here are by the students of Bindu Art School, which was founded in 2005 by Dornik and activist Padma Venkataraman, daughter of former president President R Venkataraman, and is located at the



Bharatapuram leprosy colony. By painting and selling their works, these students, who are now leprosy free, can be financial independent.

For Dornik, it all started in 1977 during his maiden visit to India. "I met people

affected with leprosy, and I was shocked by their condition," adds Dornik. He concludes, "They have incredibly hard lives, they've been thrown out of their homes, and they have no way to earn their living because of their appearance."

An artwork by A Rani who is showcasing at 'From Pain to Paint' exhibition, until February 10.