

Blowing his own shehnai

Forty-eight-year-old classical musician Shailesh Bhagwat has played with some of the biggest names in the field

DIVYESH NAIR

FOR most people the word 'shehnai' is synonymous with Ustad Bismillah Khan so it's natural Kopri resident Shailesh Bhagwat considers himself lucky to have been tutored by one of India's great classical musicians.

He says, "I have been extremely blessed to have learnt under him. There's nobody like him when it comes to playing this instrument." Bhagwat has been playing the instrument for the last 36 years. He recounts his earliest fascination with the shehnai. "I was a kid when I saw a cassette cover with Ustad Bismillah Khan playing the instrument. I realised

I wanted to play it. But I had no clue what to do or where to begin."

Bhagwat started training in shehnai under Pandit Aurangabadkar and later under Pandit Maruti Patil in Thane. Then he decided to approach Ustad Bismillah Khan to teach him the shehnai. "After one of his concerts, I directly went up to him and told him that I would like to learn to play the instrument. Initially, Khansaheb did not teach me but after much persistence he relented," he says. Since then Bhagwat has accompanied the maestro to several concerts across the world and given 61 solo performances all over India.



If you play an instrument you have to be emotionally attached to it. The important thing is to connect to the audience

He says, "If you play an instrument you have to be emotionally attached to it. But the important thing is to connect to the audience." Bhagwat has also made several appearances on national



television and has been awarded a senior fellowship in Hindustani music by the government of India. When asked why so many of today's youth veer away from classical music, Bhagwat says, "There are many young talents who show a lot of

potential. But the problem is that young people these days tend to be very restless and want quick results. One has to be patient and dedicated to learn classical music."

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SHORT TAKES

Fida over Fanaa? Petrified by Poseidon? Then email us your film reviews every Friday

Anthony Kaun Hai



Anthony Kaun Hai has no script and no storyline. The film is doing well just because of Sanjay and Arshad.

- ADITI GHOSH, RESIDENT OF RAM MARUTI ROAD

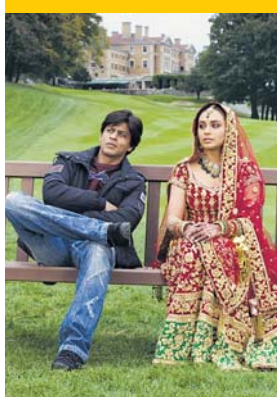
The dialogues between Sanjay and Arshad were great. Minnisha Lamba was a disappointment.

- JIGNESH PANDEY, RESIDENT OF NAUPADA

Sanjay Dutt was really good and Arshad Warsi was a laugh riot.

- SIDHANTH SHAH, RESIDENT OF KOPRI

NEXT WEEK



Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna

Director Karan Johar. The film centres on the budding relationship between Dev (Shah Rukh Khan) and Maya (Rani Mukerji), who are both married to Rhea (Preity Zinta) and Rishi (Abhishekh Bachchan) respectively. With their spouses too busy with their careers, the two fall deeply in love leading Dev and Maya to re-evaluate their marriages and do something about them.

Write film review in the subject line and send your reviews to thane@mid-day.com

These locals aren't immune to social work



Seema Joshi vaccinating Hans Joachim Regge when people questioned the quality of their drugs

Seema Joshi and Chetana Aiya run a German-affiliated organisation that administers free vaccines to kids

ADITI RAJA

A DOCTOR and a marketing executive may hardly look like they have anything in common but Thane resident Seema Joshi and Mulund resident Chetana Aiya, share a passion for charity. That's why the duo, who are associated with German Charity for Children's Welfare in

India, provide free medical assistance to underprivileged kids in Thane and Mumbai. The organisation primarily administers free vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis and other ailments to children from slums and it's local centre is at Joshi's residence.

Joshi, who is the doctor in-charge for the charity nationwide, says she came to be involved with it when she met Hans Joachim Regge from Germany, who first founded the charity. She says, "We met by chance. Hans was looking for a local doctor for the charity's Thane centre, which opened in 2000, and I decided to offer my services." Joshi has her practice at Manpada, Thane

However, Aiya, who is a marketing executive at Intel and makes up the other half of the team, has

been linked with the organisation for the last 12 years. She says, "This organisation has given us the chance to make a difference to these kids' lives."

In Thane, the charity conducts camps in Ghodbunder Road, Manpada, Rabodi and other areas. Says Joshi, "Annually, we vaccinate around 40,000 to 50,000 children. The camps are conducted from Oct to Feb every year." The money for the vaccines and the medical equipment comes mostly from donations made by interested German nationals.

Says Aiya, "Our team of 12 volunteers also travel all over the country for medical camps." Both women are keen to expand their charity work further to different nooks and corners of the country. Says Aiya, "We want to take our charity to

Bihar and other parts of North India and help poor kids there too."

Those interested in working with the charity or making donations can call Dr Seema Joshi on 9224388527 / 25891497 thane@mid-day.com



Our team of 12 volunteers also travel all over the country for medical camps

-Chetna Aiya