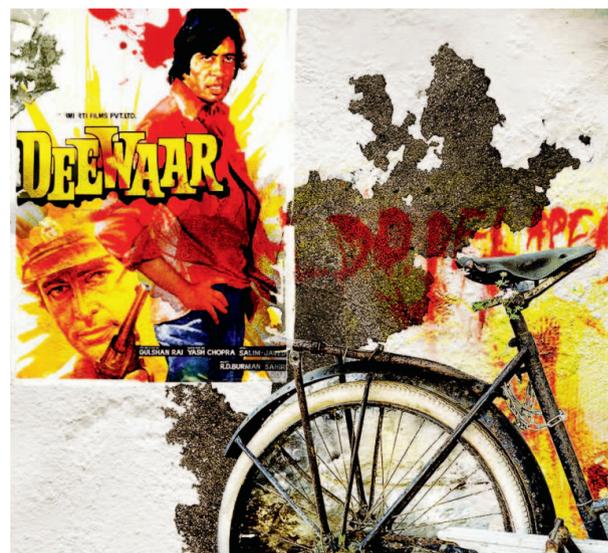


Bollywood posters script A SEQUEL IN ART

From art exhibitions to merchandise, the hand-painted film poster is making its presence felt all over again



SECOND COMING Bollywood poster art has found a place in artist Sharmishtha Dutta's photographs (left and bottom); Indian Hippy merchandise (right) and Vijay Kumar's portraits (bottom left)

work. The images in her ongoing exhibition of digital art at Bagels Café in Hauz Khas Village connect the old with the new, and give a glimpse into an era when posters were still popular. "I wanted to look into the lost art of hand-painted film posters, and with my art travel to the time when they were flourishing. I used a digital medium, which makes it more relevant to the younger generation," said Sharmishtha.

By incorporating elements synonymous with the India of the '70s and the '80s, her posters capture the feel of the time when hand-painted posters were as common-places as hand-drawn rickshaws.

Just below the café, entrepreneur Kusum Jain's little shop has sold hand-painted film posters for the last 23 years. Her collection comprises originals that are more than 50 years old. "I have always been interested in art and knew that these posters would be worth a lot someday," said Kusum. The posters are available in three sizes, and prices vary from Rs 200 to Rs 5,000 depending upon the popularity of the actors, the film and the age of the poster.

In a bylane near the Daryaganj fire station, one-time poster painter Vijay Kumar has a studio. He started his career in the '80s painting

for the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Naseeb. "We used to enjoy painting the stalwarts in bright colours. When digital posters came in, our industry sank like the Titanic," he said.

But Vijay has thrived by taking his art public. He now paints Bollywood-style portraits for whoever wants one. Photographer Siddharth Jain, who commissioned a poster from Vijay, said, "I share my birthday with a friend, so we decided to get a poster made from him for the occasion last year. It is something unique, and very interesting."

In Mumbai, entrepreneur Hinesh Jethwani, 30, has gone global with his brand Indian Hippy that supplies through its website not only custom posters but also handbags, chairs, belts, banners and wallets bearing images of old Bollywood posters. Now his team is planning to paint a tour bus and buildings in Mumbai, and is also in talks with several airlines to paint an entire airplane.

"Everybody spoke of how the hand-painted poster had died, but nobody spoke of how it could be revived," said Hinesh. He has a team of about a dozen artists, a mix of veterans and young enthusiasts. "Locating the artists was one of the most challenging things I've ever done, but thankfully it paid off."



Esha Mahajan | TNN

Like the box-camerawalas on Chandni Chowk's sidewalks and the smoking phat-phatis on Old Delhi's streets, the hand-painted film poster disappeared from its high perch above cinema porticos while we were not looking. Heavily stylized and garish, with colours brighter than the sun, the film poster was guaranteed to leave an imprint on the mind. Who can forget the impossibly contorted features, knives dripping blood in drops the size of apples, heroes leaping out of blazes and those wild, wild eyes?

But nobody complained when the

fantastic made way for the facsimile. As large-format digital printers sprayed on vivid, 'real' posters, everybody welcomed them as a mark of advancement and modernity. Till recently. But now, call it plain nostalgia or reverse snobbery, the hand-painted Bollywood poster again has many takers. It will probably never return to the cinema banner-space but it's making its way into galleries and homes as art.

Freelance artist Sharmishtha Dutta is among the innovators using old film posters in their

DIGITAL ART SHOW Yaadon Ki Baaraat

On till August 4 at Bagel's Cafe, Hauz Khas Village. 11am to 7pm



Engineer found dead in park, friend missing

Had Come From Indore To Take BHEL Exam



GRIEF-STRICKEN: Father of 24-yr-old Anand Raut (below) has not informed his family about the tragedy

Raj Shekhar | TNN

New Delhi: Twenty-four-year-old engineering student Anand Raut, who had come to the capital from Madhya Pradesh to take the BHEL exam, was found dead in the DDA park opposite Shashtri Park Metro station. Police said the boy from Indore was brutally murdered, with his throat slit, on Monday night.

"We received a call around 10am on Tuesday that a body was lying in a bush in the park. We reached the spot and recovered the body. It was sent to GTB Hospital for postmortem," said a senior police officer. Police sources said they are searching for one Rakesh, who had come along with Anand from Indore to appear for the exam — which was held on Sunday — but has been missing since the incident.

"We have registered a case of murder and are investigating. We are probing all the angles and hope to find the accused soon," said Sanjay Jain, DCP (northeast district).

Anand had completed

BTech in electrical engineering from Indore and was looking for a job. According to one of Anand's relatives, Rakesh, who is suspected to be originally a resident of Noida, used to work in a private firm in Indore and had come along with the victim to take the exam. Relatives claimed that one Mahesh



had also joined the duo during their visit to Delhi.

Anand's grief-stricken father, Kishan Raut, said, "Anand was supposed to come back after taking the exam on Sunday. But we got the news of his death. He was my only son, what will I do without him?" Raut owns a saloon in Indore. The victim's relatives said that he never had any enmity with

anyone in the past. "He was a very well-behaved boy and never got involved in any kind of problem. He had not even slapped anyone in his life. It's shocking that someone could kill him in this manner," said Anand's uncle, Pratap, who was visibly shocked.

Relatives of the deceased said that while his other friend, Mahesh, left for Indore after the exam, Rakesh had allegedly persuaded Anand to stay back in Delhi for some time. According to his father, Anand had called home informing that Rakesh was requesting him to stay for a day or two more and that he will return in a few days. According to relatives, Anand was staying at Ambedkar Dharamshala in Paharganj area with his friends.

"I have told our family at home that he has met with an accident and we are bringing him back. His mother was insisting on taking the next flight to Delhi," Raut said. Anand's two sisters, who are unmarried, have also not been informed about his tragic death.

Cops get 3 more days to quiz DU scam accused

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: The two main accused in the fake caste certificates case will stay in the custody of Delhi Police's Crime Branch for three more days. While Himanshu Gupta and Vikas Khanna were sent to three days' police custody by a local court on Wednesday, Ketan Gupta, who allegedly prepared the fake certificates at the Hauz Khas office, has been sent to judicial custody. "We are still going through a huge pile of papers and certificates. We are also planning to bring the two accused face to face with the parents of the students who took admission through them, to find out whether both sides are speaking the truth.

These were the reasons for our seeking police custody of Himanshu and Khanna," said a source in the Crime Branch. On Wednesday, DCP (crime) Ashok Chand confirmed that questioning of the parents would now take centre stage. "We also visited the Ghaziabad tehsil office for the second consecutive day but nothing incriminating has been found so far."

Police sources claimed two more persons — one who teaches at a school in south Delhi and the other at a tutorial centre in the Malviya Nagar area — were being investigated along with a peon from the office of the dean, students' welfare. However, the examination was not

over and an arrest would take place once sufficient evidence had been gathered in the form of CDs and paper certificates, said a source.

Delhi Police are now looking for one Pradeep (along with Satish, an official of the Ghaziabad tehsildar's office) who had introduced admission racket master Himanshu to the illegal business. Investigators hope that the arrest and interrogation of Pradeep, a resident of South Delhi's Madangir area, will help expose a few more racketeers involved in the scam. The police, so far, have smashed only one gang, allegedly led by Himanshu, and have arrested three of its members. Investigators are likely to make some more arrests in the case and are conducting raids in Delhi and the NCR. Two employees of Delhi University posted in the SC/ST Cell of the office of dean, students' welfare are also being questioned.

Asked if they had been able to establish the involvement of DU employees posted in the SC/ST Cell, DCP Chand said the police were questioning two employees. "Apparently their questioning has revealed that they knew Himanshu very well, as he used to visit their office frequently. We are ascertaining their involvement in the scam. The arrest will be made once we establish their involvement," said the DCP.

FAKE CERTIFICATES

Showers lash city, heat at bay till Friday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The city enjoyed heavy showers on Wednesday with several areas recording rainfall between 1mm and 46mm. While the official figure for rainfall received in the capital — recorded at the Safdarjung observatory — stood at 1.8mm, neighbouring Faridabad had recorded 102mm rainfall till 5.30pm.

On Thursday, too, widespread heavy showers are expected. However, the intensity is likely to reduce by Friday. "The circulation over Madhya Pradesh is moving northeast. As a result, the intensity of rain is set to reduce over Delhi and its adjoining areas from Friday," said the duty officer at the Met office.

By Wednesday evening, while the monsoon system had progressed, parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat were still left to be covered. The northern limit of the system had touched Porbandar, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Ajmer, Pilani and Ganganagar. "Widespread rain and thunder-showers are expected over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim and Northeast states. It will decline over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and MP after 48 hours,



WAITING TO POUR: While southwest and west Delhi saw heavy showers on Wednesday, central Delhi areas were left asking for more

but fairly widespread rain will continue over remaining parts of northwest and northeast India," said a Met official.

Isolated heavy rain is expected over HP, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana till Friday.

Wednesday lived up to the image of a typical monsoon day. With a thick cloud cover for

most of the day, several areas received intermittent rain till evening. The heaviest rainfall was recorded in Ayanagar — 65.4mm — till 5.30pm. Palam recorded 46.1mm rainfall while Narela and Indrapuram recorded 32mm and 29mm rainfall, respectively. Officials said that southwest and west Delhi

enjoyed a larger share of Wednesday's rain as central Delhi received only brief showers. Some areas in south Delhi enjoyed heavy showers for almost an hour in the afternoon.

The maximum temperature was a pleasant 33.4 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal while the minimum was

27.6 degrees Celsius. Humidity was high at 66%-89% though the continuous cloud cover kept the heat at bay. Since the onset of the official monsoon season on June 1, Safdarjung has recorded 89mm rainfall while Palam has recorded 73mm. Both are in excess of their normal values till June 29.

Debate on relief for OBCs in cutoff or eligibility criteria

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: The apex court will on Friday decide the criteria for admitting OBC students in central institutions.

Citing a constitution bench judgment, senior advocate Indu Malhotra on Wednesday argued that the criteria was to be 10% less than the last cutoff mark for general category candidates. She said JNU was flouting this norm by admitting students who had scored 10% less than the eligibility criteria for general category.

Senior advocate A Mariarupatham and counsel Sanjay Parikh argued that if the cutoff criteria is followed, no OBC candidate would get admission

and the seats would have to be offered to general students category — defeating the purpose of the reservations. Under the 2006 Act, the central educational institutes were asked to increase their seats to accommodate OBC candidates without reducing the intake of general category candidates.

In the 2008 judgment in Ashoka Thakur case, the apex court had upheld the constitutional validity of 27% quota for OBC candidates but had warned against dilution of merit. Two judges — Justices Arijit Pasayat and C K Thakker — had recommended lowering the eligibility criteria for OBC candidates by 5% marks, while Justice

Dalveer Bhandari was in favour of reducing it by 10% from the cutoff prescribed for general category.

A constitution bench in 2009 attempted to clarify the air, saying it should be fixed at 10% less than the cutoff prescribed for general candidates. But it appears the confusion between the cutoff and eligibility criteria continues to persist.

The argument of OBC candidates is that the central educational institution cannot shut the doors of admission to OBCs by resorting to the last cutoff of admitted general category candidates, which would make most backward class students ineligible for higher studies.

Just 3mm rain brings Gurgaon to a standstill

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gurgaon: It may drizzle or rain cats and dogs, but the roads in Gurgaon always fill up. On Wednesday, most stretches of the city's roads were badly waterlogged after the rain that lasted only half an hour. The Met department calculated the rainfall at 3mm, almost half of what the city had received on Monday.

It was a rerun of Monday as Hero Honda crossing on the Delhi-Gurgaon expressway became a pool, affecting traffic movement for several hours. Large portions of Golf Course road were completely flooded while the crossing close to Bristol Hotel was also submerged in rainwater.

All claims of the civic administration about preparations for the monsoon were exposed as meaningless, as the stormwater drains took time to clear the rainwater. Officials, however, claimed that in case of a heavy downpour, like that on Wednesday, even the most robust drainage system would have failed.

"I could not even get out of my colony



WATERWORLD: Hero Honda Chowk on Gurgaon expressway was flooded for several hours

since it was surrounded by a huge pool of rainwater. I took a day off," said Ritika, a resident of Sishpal Vihar on Sohna Road.

Commuters were spotted stranded at Metro stations since service lanes along the MG Road were flooded. Autorick-

shaw drivers also refused to carry passengers through the waterlogged stretches fearing their vehicles would break down. "We felt helpless as soon as we reached the HUDA City Centre Metro station. There were no autos and one could not go to the main road since the

service road was completely flooded," said Rakesh Tomar, an executive with a multinational bank.

Conditions were similar across the new city and no different on the other side of the expressway. Areas such as New Colony, Jyoti Park, New Railway Road, Arjun Nagar and Sector-7 extension were flooded. The worst crisis was at Hero Honda Chowk as the pump sets installed there to dispose of the rainwater failed. This caused a traffic snarl on the expressway.

HUDA administrator Nitin Yadav said the new storm water drains constructed by the authority had brought relief to areas like sectors 47, 49, 50 and 51. "We had earlier set a deadline for completion of a storm water drain along the sector-9/10 peripheral road. However, since the monsoon arrived ahead of schedule, the work is in its last leg and the drain will be operational by this weekend. Even areas under DLF will not face waterlogging since the private developer has laid new pipelines along the Golf Course Road to divert the load from these areas."