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AMITEpoll

Do you support the ban on Chinese made Diwali crackers and goods?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue October 3, 2016

What does the upcoming festive season mean to you?



Results as on Oct 15, 2016

Coming Next

Competition in full swing.. AIS Gur 46 contest edition



BRINGING DESI BACK

Illustration: Simranh Kakkar
AIS Noida, XI I

A prelude to a special edition by AIS Noida, glorifying the *desiness* we all seem to have lost in a perennial *firang* aura

Sheel Chandra, AIS Noida, XII C

He gets into the taxi on the busy roads of New York City. The taxi smells of incense and there's a miniature statue of Lord Ganesha on the dashboard. The taxi driver asks him, "Toh aap kahan se ho?" He tells him Delhi, and the taxi driver smiles. He's from Kolkata. In the entire ride from Rockefeller Center to Times Square, neither of the strangers from a far away land, felt 7000 miles away from home. No matter how far you travel from India, there'll still be Indian aroma and spirit to never let you feel alone. But can the same be said about what we experience at our own home country?

The omnipresent

Be it an Iyer in California, or a Singh in Toronto, we have built homes and computer chips, all over the globe. New Jersey has a little Mumbai of its own- the Indian Square; home to the largest outdoor Navratri festivities. Punjabi is the second most spoken language in UK. Residues of Indianness reside worldwide; then why must we

search for 'firangi' fragments to be juxtaposed in our own country? *With a strong culture of our own, we don't need to incorporate global elements; but bring back our own 'desiness'.*

Heritage diaspora

Buddhism, which originated in India, is estimated to be practiced by 580 million people. The Angkor Vat temple in Cambodia, temples and pagodas in Thailand and Myanmar and several Sanskrit loanwords in Indonesian languages show that remnants of Indian traditions are dispersed across Southeast Asia. Thousands of people are seen taking yoga classes in the US, China, Mexico, etc. Nothing beats Indian heritage. But so much of Indian culture needs to be revived, as Indian arts like kathputli and pottery face extinction.

It's time we empower such diminishing sectors and bring back their desi beauty.

Naam toh suna hi hoga

Fiddle with the buttons for the on-air entertainment in a Malaysian Airlines flight, and you will come across an FM radio playing Tamil tunes. 'Bollywood' is not new to the world. Raj Kapoor is known by every 4th Chinese. A Swiss railway train is named after filmmaker Yash Chopra. And

yet, while movies like 3 Idiots and My Name Is Khan earn more than 25 million dollars overseas, we are more obsessed with Hollywood at home. *Let's start withdrawing from Matthew McConaughey's ruggedness and bring back our homies Ranveer Singh and Nawazudin Siddiqui's swag.*

Khana khazana

Shashi Tharoor claimed the number of people employed in Indian curry houses in UK is more than the people employed in the iron-steel, shipbuilding and coal industries combined. Walking on NYC's streets, you might meet a stall selling 'roti-tacos' or 'naanwiches'. While Indian restaurants like the Tamarind in London are Michelin starred, we're still running after Big Chill's blueberry cheesecake.

So relish the swaad of our own cuisine and bring back the chaats and vada sambhar.

As the Indian influence abroad gets stronger, we cannot overlook the diminishing aura of our culture in our own country. In that spirit, this special edition by AIS Noida is an attempt to 'bring desi back'.

It's all about being diligent



To be Communications Advisor to the PMO is no mean feat. Neither is being one of the pioneers in the field of journalism. With over three decades of experience in print and broadcast journalism, Pankaj Pachauri has been associated with media conglomerates including NDTV, BBC, Sunday Observer, among many others. Join Sara Baijnath, AIS Noida, XII as she interviews the man who has proved his mettle in the field of journalism.

On journalism for a govt official

I was appointed the Communications Advisor to the PMO under Dr Manmohan Singh in January 2012. My role was to improve the interface of the PM with the media. The journey was a culmination of hard work, perseverance and toil. And the journey itself was a pretty long one, for I had worked for decades in the media industry before I reached that position. It wasn't easy. And now when I look back, I realise it's all about being diligent and having good work ethics.

On unbiased journalism

A journalist is someone who reports things as they are. An unbiased opinion



Sara Baijnath with Pankaj Pachauri

is what an ideal journalist should strive to report. It is the same objective approach that helped me fulfill my role as an advisor, for I was required to give to the PM, a fair stance on the agendas.

On socially sensitive journalism

The condition of women in the country has always moved me. It is one cause very dear to my heart. I worked for several years to uncover the truth about female infanticide in the villages of Rajasthan. For generations, female infants in the community have been routinely killed before they can see the light of day. I wanted to unearth several facets hidden behind this practice, which is as dramatic as it is tragic. My work was acknowledged as I received 'The Statesman Award for Rural Reporting' for the same.

On health journalism

Health journalism involves an array of subjects; from providing an insight into the public health scenario or complex scientific findings. I got acquainted with the subject when I went to Oxford University for a workshop by UNICEF India on health journalism. The workshop witnessed 3 days of intense discussions and deliberations by university experts and Thomson Reuters Foundation, to help improve health coverage in India. It was after the workshop that I realised the need for a stronger presence of this form of journalism in the country.

On vociferous journalism

Quoting Sir Henry Anatole Grunwald - "Journalism can never be silent. That is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak, and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph and the signs of horror are still in the air." A good newspaper, is like a nation talking to itself.

Message for Amities

It is true that experience is one of life's best teachers. But if you don't study, you will probably never get any experience in the first place. Being a good student throughout school and college is like preparing yourself for a marathon which will begin after you graduate. Focus on your goals and study hard, because the last thing you want is to tire yourself out before the finish line. And for those of you who aspire to be journalists, report everything you witness and make reading a habit. Intelligent reading is the key.