SHOWING DOGS- ‘A PASSION’

“There would be no passion in this world if we never had to fight for what we love.”
- Susie Switzer

“I love pedigreed dogs and more so I love showing dogs,” says Mr. Mahesh Chaudhary who designs smiles (artificial teeth). Even from his daily work he finds time for his dogs and takes part in competitions. He was only 14 years old when he decided that he wanted to exhibit his dog at a dog show. Back then, since he was new to it he did not win nor was his attempt appreciated. But got him going and he decided that he wanted to win every competition. It was Mr Chaudhary who introduced the Hungarian Vizsla breed to India. “My breeds have never lost,” he says. “When I had the Cocker Spaniel it won continuously from 1991 to 1998. There are about 30 shows in a year from October to February.” Unlike the West, in India there is no craze of exhibiting dogs and breeding pedigreed dogs. There is a database of all dogs in the world. Once the dog is registered there is a chip inserted in him through his shoulder vein. It is a microchip, which is exclusive for every dog.

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READ INDEED!

Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are.
- Mason Cooley.

With a 9 to 5 job or a college to attend, where is the time for the young and bright minds to travel and explore the world and secretly hope for some soul searching? In such a fast paced life, reading seems to be the perfect escape from the mediocrity of it all. Interestingly, the genre of books read by most of them around the suburbs seems to be on contemporary and religious subjects. One of the most famous being “The Kite Runner” by Khalid Hosseini, captivating the readers with a heart wrenching story of two childhood friends Hassan and Amir, who fall apart due to war in Afghanistan. “It’s a very touching story, interesting and realistic,” recalls Anny Gangoli, 24, an advertising student. “It’s a great story teller” says Samruddhi Rohe, 22. “All my friends are reading the same,” she excitedly adds. It might just interest you, if you are one of those who dig for an esoteric backdoor with a meaningful read. Another one is “The Secret” by Rhonda Byrne. A thought provoking, self-help book. Brilliantly fused with old and modern age wisdom, it reveals the secrets to make everything work in life, with belief. The positivity of the book seems to be an instant hit. “The book unveiled some simple tips for a happy life and ever since I read the book, I am working towards it and it’s going great!” The Brazilian Paulo Coelho, a fiction writer with a spiritual bend is one whose books are a rage. His classic “The Alchemist” follows a thumb rule, “If you believe in something the universe will conspire to make it happen for you”. This statement has been a rage and could it just be a matter of coincidence that it sounds familiar to a line from On Shani Om? Religious interests include Bhagwat Gita in English, small enough to fit in your palms available at Crossword. A few other religious reads would be “Dhamatsakebs”- Islamic history and Philosophy of Islam by M.M.Shariff.

Why wait? In a moment of solitude, just grab a book and make a warm read with a cup of hot coffee...

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Your pursuit for happiness

A breathtaking sunrise view, hills, lakes, an interesting assortment of flora and fauna and above all, the magnificent expanse of fine powdery beaches is what the human eye can see. If you are looking to be simply enchanted by nature’s beauty and its inherent variety, escape to the upcoming towns and cities around Mumbai, which are gaining weight as tourist destinations in Maharashtra. Some of these cities are known for their rich cultural heritage while some for their exquisite handicrafts; some entice travelers for their visual splendor, some for their legacy, while some capture the hearts of Hollywood filmmakers. So, let’s begin our journey and go through some breathtaking landscapes, beautiful beaches, hill stations and nature trails around Mumbai all within driving distance of the city.

For starters, there is Chipul the beautiful town located on the Mumbai-Goa highway; the best things to enjoy there are sheer sight of the Vaishshini River calmly flowing through Chipul. Then you can do the day trips to Ghoragarh beach, Ganapati, Parshuram temple and Ramguti. The drive to Chipul is a great one with smooth roads all the way. If you must take a break stop at Biwa at Mahad- a clean jump offering decent food at a decent price.

By far one of the most beautiful avenues around Mumbai is Daman. Known for its massive forts, historic churches, quaint villages, coconut groves, panoramic beaches, water parks- this sleepy coastal destination which is just 190 Kms from Mumbai has more to make your trip a memorable one. The churches of Daman rank among the oldest and best preserved Christian monuments in Asia. The best way to reach Daman is to cruise through the six lane Borivali manor stretch, on the Western Express highway. You can zip through the rest of the journey taking in the picturesque scenery en-route.

Another must see destination is undoubtedly the picturesque foliage, Kashi. White sand, blue sea, green mountains, rice fields, lakes and rivulets will welcome you on your arrival. Kashi has a three km stretch of beach with the cleanest, whitest sand that makes just the perfect setting for a beach holiday. And when you have had enough of the beach, you can visit the Jambhul Fort, the Nasikwadi palace, Ganpati temple and the Bibi temple nearby. Driving down to Kashi itself is a rejuvenating experience. Your journey to Kashi provides glimpses of the sea, the mountains and the shores. In all, it is a perfect quiet weekend get away where nature extravagance takes over to leave your mind relaxed and senses soothed.

Nature has blessed Maharashtra with dumb-founding beauty. Sometimes it seems that even a lifetime is insufficient to capture, even Leh Mahal has to offer!

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