

Lockdown blues, home-made looks

Hair today, gone tomorrow!

—By Tanushi Bhatnagar—

The last two years since the beginning of the lockdown had been difficult for everyone. Life had become monotonous, while people were contained within the walls of their house, desperate for change from the routine that had been set within the confines of their home.

People found different ways to cope with the uncertainty in their lives. Sudden changes in plans and a newfound sense of boredom, pushed people to make spontaneous decisions.

I was one of those people. Needing a break from the monotony, I found that the simplest thing to do would be to change my look. At least I would be looking at something different in the mirror.

In this period of lockdown, with no chance to get a haircut, my hair had grown unmanageably long. That's when I remembered that 35 years ago, my grandmother used to run a beauty parlour in her housing society in Delhi. And to this day she prides herself on being the best hair-stylist in her community.

So, she was the go-to person, since at-home haircuts anyhow had become the only option. I was initially sceptical, but I think the final outcome was good. At least it cheered me up.



Tanushi Bhatnagar before and after her impulsive haircut

It was then that I decided to find out if the dullness induced by the lockdown had led any of my peers to also make such impulsive decisions. I asked around only to find out that I was not the only one. My inquiries led me to find that there were many others travelling on the same boat as me.

The urge to defy the stigma and gender-stereotype pushed Medha Kapoor to take the plunge. "In our society, masculinity or femininity is judged by the length of our hair. I shaved off my hair during the quarantine because there is no scope of going out, leaving me open to lesser judgement from people around me. Cutting my hair doesn't change who I am, I am still me," she said.



Medha Kapoor before and after her bold decision

Like Medha, Vasudha Chatterjee also made the decision to crop her hair short. She said her hair was not the easiest to handle, which is why she cut them. "When I did it, it felt liberating. I felt like I had accomplished something," she said.



Vasudha Chatterjee before and after her liberating experience

Ruby Cordiero's case is a little different. She dealt with an unpleasant case of bleached-out hair following a temporary colour job. While staying with her friend, Ruby decided to try her hand at a stylish at-home under-cut. "Getting rid of damaged hair felt like getting rid of dead-ends. I will definitely do this again", she said.



Ruby Cordiero before and after her 'repair job'

Ananyanarayan Dhanbalan revealed that he and his mother took turns giving each other haircuts. While his mother liberally snipped away to make him look 'presentable' for college interviews, he realised the fade he was expecting did not quite turn out to his liking.



Ananyanarayan Dhanbalan before and after what his mom did to him

Students face prejudice in VN hsg societies

Contd. from Pg 1

A predominant section of these student tenants are from the several Symbiosis colleges in Viman Nagar. With limited accommodation available in the boys' hostels in the vicinity, male students especially have to take recourse to private rented flats in the housing societies, generally sharing one flat with two or more students.

While the students pay the same rent as employed tenants and families, they are denied the same benefits and facilities within the society – like use of common spaces, gym and swimming pool.

The managements of the housing societies say these actions have been taken as a preventive measure against the spread of covid. The students are convinced this is an excuse.

The SCMC Chronicle had earlier reported that some housing societies in Viman Nagar had imposed a blanket ban on their members renting flats to students. That was before the covid pandemic.

It is reliably learnt that such actions are a result of some students disturbing the peace of other residents due to frequent and noisy activities late at night.

The campus comes alive!

Contd. from Pg 1

It was the canteen which seemed to elicit the most interest, especially when the seniors revealed that the most popular item in the canteen menu was the aloo-cheese paratha.

Unfortunately, the item is not yet available, leading to the 1st and 2nd-year students expressing FOMO (fear of missing out).

What remained unstated was the biggest motivation to come back to college – the

need to interact, socialise, make new friends, discover new things, acquire new ideas and learn life lessons. Education is incidental.

The professors also exuded warmth and were relieved to be getting back to conventional teaching. A clear respite from the two years of online teaching.

"It was eerie to walk down empty corridors, listening to your own footsteps. I'm happy we are back to normal," said Professor Amitabh Dasgupta.



The fresh juice counter inside the campus was a major draw for the batch of 24 freshers

Farmers' market near Symbi, a popular attraction

Contd. from Pg 1

Buyers benefitted because the fruits and vegetable were absolutely farm fresh.

That apart, the other attraction of the farmers' market was the wide range of fruits and vegetables available here – especially the leafy vegetables. The farmers' market found a ready clientele in the upmarket Viman Nagar area since they were also selling uncommon ones vegetables broccoli and zucchini, and even exotic ones like button mushrooms.

All the products sold here are grown by the farmers in self-owned farms and transported in their own vans and mini-trucks. This helps the farmers to find a ready market and reduce their dependency on brokers and middle-men and also save on the commission they would

otherwise have to pay. A win-win situation for both sides.

The market also plays host to home cooks who set up stalls to sell an assortment of pickles, papads, Maharashtrian snacks, and chutneys. The market also houses stalls that sell dry, whole spices, packaged individually in small packets along with homemade powders for cooking. These masalas include organic goda masala, garam masala and sambar powder, amongst many others.

Unfortunately, however, the organisers of a local cricket tournament have objected to the farmers' market coinciding with their matches on Sundays on the adjacent ground and demanded closure of the farmers' market.