



# PRESS CLIP

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## Bandra celebrates diversity

**TWO BANDS**  
belt out sounds from dysfunctional alternative to progressive psychedelic

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**MUMBAI:** A 17-year-old Finnish singer-songwriter was the lead up to a dysfunctional alternative band who gave way to a progressive psychedelic rock band, all performing at the Carter Road promenade as part of the Celebrate Bandra festival, in partnership with *Hindustan Times*, which kicked off on Saturday.

In the audience were young, hip, collegians with their afros bobbing to the music, sitting alongside elderly, dignified couples who clearly didn't know what they were in for.

Children scurried around, as their mothers looked perplexed, while expats were content to seek in the local festivity.

This is precisely why Bandra is celebrated - for its diversity, its music, and the fact that its residents will get out of their homes on a Sunday evening simply to be someplace where something is happening.

It was an unexpectedly large turnout at the promenade; the chairs were filled to capacity while youngsters relaxed on the rocks, thanks to a low tide.

On the green lit stage by the sea, Inari Kola, a young singer-songwriter from Finland won the audiences with her enthusiasm as she performed her original compositions. Succeeding her were drastically different artists, the alternative progressive band, Goddess Gazeel composed of five, young musicians.



A rock band performs on the second day of the Celebrate Bandra festival at Carter Road promenade on Sunday. PHOTO: ANITA

**THE EVENT GOT A LARGE TURNOUT WITH COLLEGIANS, YOUNG KIDS AND THE ELDERLY ALL COMING TOGETHER TO SING TO THE SAME TUNE.**

Although their sounds were alien to many of the people gathered there, the audience barely thinned, showing suburban support to the newble group.

Their one-hour set was followed by Rosemary, a progressive, psychedelic rock band of three.

Sauri Manik, the band's 19-year-old drummer said,

"Usually such festivals are more for bands that the general public can relate to. But this time they wanted to be more experimental and see if the crowd opens up to our kind of music."

Both the bands had their cheering squads up front, with devoted rockers head-banging to the thumping beats that reverberated through the cheery site of Carter Road.

Sound engineer, Varun Nair (22), was a first-timer at the festival since he recently moved to Bandra, but vowed to come back next year.

"This seems like a great platform for new artists to showcase their talent. Bandra has got a really cool vibe, and this festival reflects that perfectly," he said.

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**Workshop on Indian music and dance for municipal schools -** A three hour workshop on understanding the basics of Hindustani music and Kathak and a small tutorial to initiate the students into the art.

**NEKUS -** A progressive jazz fusion band, playing mainly original compositions and improvisations.

**MEDUSA -** will take you on a real trip with their brand of trip-hop.

**FOLK DANCES OF INDIA -** India is particularly rich in folk idioms. Folk indicates community and expressions that are spontaneous and innocent. Performances by Warli tribe from Dahanu and Rajasthani Waccha's dance troupe.

**RECLAMATION promenade - 7 pm**

**CLASSICAL DANCES OF INDIA -** Bharata's Natya Sastra is the Bible of Indian aesthetics. Bharatanatyam and Abhinaya Darpana are other important classical works on the Indian art of dance. Performances by Nandhini Ashok's troupe and Jhem Paranjpe's Smitalaya.

**Carter Road promenade - 7 pm**

**VICTORY ARTS FOUNDATION -** A dance on environment by street children.

**Carter Road promenade - 7 pm**



Dastango perform at the Celebrate Bandra Festival. RAJENDRA GANANARAJ PHOTO

## Reviving the lost art of Urdu storytelling

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**MUMBAI:** A gathering of 60-odd people watched awestruck at Bandra's Pioneer Hall as two pairs of performers, dressed in immaculate white *kurtas* and matching *topis*, narrated their colourful tale.

For over an hour they listened, laughed and wah-wahed as the performers, *dastangos*, continued with their story.

The lost art of *dastangoi* or Urdu storytelling has made a spectacular comeback on the city's cultural circuit.

For Mahmood Farooqui, the performer who revived it in 2005, it all began with his fascination for Urdu literature. Having been involved in over

**We are now trying to spread the art form and recruit more and more dastangos.**  
MAHMOOD FAROOQUI, *dastango performer*

120 performances in the last four years, he envisages a promising future for the art form.

"We are now trying to spread the art form and recruit more and more *dastangos*," said Farooqui.

At Sunday's performance, held as part of the Celebrate Bandra Festival, in partnership with *Hindustan Times*, two *dastangos* — Rana Sengor and Sheik Usman — debuted on stage alongside Rajesh Kumar and veteran *dastango* Danish Husain.

*Dastans*, the stories the *dastango* narrates, are essentially comic accounts, an oral form that was documented in 40 volumes at the end of the nineteenth century in Lucknow.

*Dastans* typically feature an *ahiyar* or trickster who is a dab hand at disguise and works to trap powerful magicians.

The narrative proceeds to tell of intrigue, ploys and counter-ploys till the magician is vanquished.

Fluency in Urdu is not a prerequisite to enjoying the drama and humour that a *dastangoi* performance involves.

Alternating between voices, characters, and emotions, the pairs of *dastango* did not merely narrate a story as the words storytelling imply, they transmuted it in the fullest sense of the word.

