

# PRESS CLIP

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## NOTES ON READING

An event calls people to dig out their old books and LPs to spread the love by getting people to meet each other and donating money to charity



Sudeep Nair, co-founder of BEP

**KEVIN LOBO**

Over three thousand old books were given the opportunity to find new owners at Cafe Goa in Bandra last month. Around fifteen hundred were bagged and sold at prices that would put your *tasdiwalla* to shame. This week as the *Celebrate Bandra* festival kicks off, the organisers of the event at Cafe Goa, Bombay Elektrik Projekt (BEP) have added a special twist for the fest. They call it BYO(M) or Bring Your Own (Music), a place where old timers and new age collectors can come forward and showcase their choicest LPs along with the book sale.

An event that makes DJs redundant, anyone can come forward and play the music of their choice. The catch? "You need to have an emotion or a story associated with the track and you need to share it with the crowd," says Sudeep Nair, co-founder of BEP.

The reason LPs were chosen instead of CDs is because they wanted to reach out to a different generation than their own. "The idea is to engage people from Bandra across ages and bring about a healthy interaction between them. We've already received six people with LPs for the night and as always a lot of people turn up via word of mouth," says 29-year-old Sudeep.

Last month just over 100 patrons came forward with over three thousand books. Sudeep feels that people are very possessive of their books and don't want to give them away.

To loosen those emotional bonds, BEP throws in a free beer to every contributor and also donates the money earned to a charity. Sudeep says, "We made about Rs 15,000 the last time. Because we are giving the money to charity, people turned up with cartons full of books. I found a book with poetry that was about a century old. I know that it isn't a lot of money generated, but everyone knows it is going for a good cause. This time the money will be used for the development of Bandra"

LP enthusiasts, like 49-year-old Dilip D'Souza, who is going to play a couple of tracks at the event, frequently listens to his collection, but admits that the event got him to look at it a little closer. Music, books and beer, three of the many reasons people flock to Mumbai's cultural melting pot - Bandra.

The event will take place tomorrow at Cafe Goa, Bandra (W). Entry is free. Call 9820998790.