

# THE ART OF getting crafty

Rachel Rickard Straus | TNN

As the incessant rain patters down on window panes, heralding another wet afternoon indoors, a point comes when getting out the colouring pencils again is just not enough to distract children. If you've run out of ideas, if your furnishings can't take another afternoon of finger-painting or if you just want to introduce your child to something new, there are many solutions on offer in the city.

Splashed around Mumbai is a plethora of craft workshops painting the town red, blue, yellow and every colour in between. Besides nurturing kids' creative talents, many of these venues promise to sneak in some cultural lessons and history and even help turn youngsters into better citizens through play. Not bad going for the occasional afternoon.

For new painting ideas, Bhairari Malkani could provide the answer. Part of the Maharashtrian Warli tribe, Bhairari enjoys teaching children about the art of her people. "We paint scenes of daily life—the village, forest, wedding scenes and so on in the style of Warli artists," she says. Kids can also try their hand at spray painting, glasswork and sand art at her classes. Or recycled art. "We use empty boxes, old tissue rolls or wooden spoons or lentil jars or anything that



STICKY SITUATION: (Above) the weekly workshops at Hobby Ideas; (Below) Shivani Tibrewala's class

## MUMBAI FOR KIDS

has outlived its use," she says. With Bhairari, an old jar can become a beautifully decorated vase, a pile of cardboard waste is given new life as a painted sculpture. She gives individual tuitions or teaches children and adults, only two at a time, so that her pupils can really benefit from her knowledge.

For children who want to pick up glass painting, clay



Shantanu Chaud

modelling, paper craft, parchment work or 'paper quilling'—stripping, curling and contouring paper into different shapes—Hobby Ideas at Malad's Inorbit Mall is the

place to go. The store also offers workshops in using a new synthetic material called i-clay, which allows young artists to make very delicate and intricate designs. "You can attend a workshop any afternoon and don't need to book in advance—which is great if you find yourself at a loose end," says store manager Leslie Mendosa.

For something more traditional, Bombay Paperie offers workshops in an ancient form of paper-making. Here, children can make items such as potli gift bags and puffed animals out of the tradition-

## Children can learn everything from paper quilling to Warli painting at these nifty city workshops

ally made paper while learning some history as well. "Children touch the paper and are taught about its history and how it's made so that they really understand what they are holding in their hands," explains course conductor Sangita Wadhvani.

Meanwhile over at the NCPA, story-making and crafts are combined in the theatre group No License Yet's latest offering, Puppet Shuppet. Here, children make their own finger and hand puppets from recycled materials such as old mittens, brown paper bags and shoelaces. They then jazz them up, use a dollop of imagination to create characters which they then weave into stories. Organiser and director Shivani Tibrewala says the theatre group has a holistic approach to learning and creativity. "We use stories with a message, such as fables and fairytales," she says. "No License Yet aims to mould young minds into tomorrow's conscientious citizens as well as igniting their imagination."

● **Bhairari Malkani** (Creative Box Workshop, Andheri West): 9833548881

● **Hobby Ideas** (Inorbit Mall, Malad West): 66490239

● **Bombay Paperie** (Bombay Samachar Marg): Contact Sangita Wadhvani :2266358171/72

● **Puppet Shuppet** (NCPA, Tata Theatre Building) Saturday, August 21, 10 am to 2pm. Contact Shivani Tibrewala: 932029115

## Leaving NY to teach in slum

Anahita Mukherji | TNN

Mumbai: A low-income school for slum-dwellers in Mumbai is the last place you'd expect to find a New York University graduate and banker at JP Morgan. And yet, that's exactly where you'll find 24-year-old Rakesh Mani, who turned his back on a high-profile job in New York city and has chosen, instead to spend his days breathing life into a classroom at Umedbhai Patel English School in Malad.

Rakesh is one of 217 highly qualified young professionals who have chosen to devote two years of their lives teaching in some of the most deprived areas of Mumbai and Pune as part of Teach For India, a movement spearheaded by Shaheen Mistri, founder of Akanksha, a well-known NGO in the field of education.

An idealist who strongly believes in education reforms and has, for long wanted to serve society at the grassroots level, Rakesh came face to face with the harsh realities that kids from depressed neighbourhoods have to live with in India.

"From day one at school, I was shocked at the magnitude of the achievement gap between the kids I was teaching and those from privileged backgrounds," said Rakesh.

It was a huge challenge for him to teach English, history and science to Std III students who



NEW HORIZONS: Rakesh with his students

could not speak English despite having studied at an English-medium school for three years. Low levels of education are the other challenges Rakesh faces. "There are so many other nightmares to deal with, including violence, absenteeism and child abuse," said Rakesh.

Rakesh has done his bit to live up on an otherwise drab classroom with debates, discussions, developing a friendship of sorts with his students. Not surprisingly, Rakesh has seen a dramatic improvement in the performance of his students. Rakesh will be one of the participants at InspireEd, an upcoming conference that addresses India's right to education, focusing on innovative education. The conference, organised by Akanksha, will be held between August 27 and 29. For more information, visit [www.inspireindia.in](http://www.inspireindia.in) or call on 65182238.



## Amar Chitra Katha back after hiatus

Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

Mumbai: From a time when two new titles were released each month, India's favourite comic book, Amar Chitra Katha, has not come up with a new release in the last four years. Ending the hiatus, the timeless legend is set to resurface next week with a new title on Mother Teresa to coincide with her birth centenary on August 26.

"The Missionaries of Charity, which she founded, was immensely helpful with research for the comic," says editor Reena Puri. "Our writer Shalini Srinivasan



THE NEW LOOK COMIC

went there and spent time observing their work and learning about Mother Teresa."

This launch could set the ball rolling for new comics given that the editorial team of ACK Media is working to issue one new title every two months. "We are exploring a variety of themes, including biographies, important places as well as the perennial favourite—mythology. Although we thought we had done everything there was to do in that niche," laughs Savitha Pai, vice-president, product management, no relation to founder Uncle Pai.

Priced at Rs 40 just like the old titles that are in circulation, the title will also be available online and as mobile content.

## Clash Between Medical Fraternity & Public Sector Insurance Firms Continues As Top Hospitals Do Not Agree To New Rates

# PSUs taste victory as some hospitals cave in

Manthan K Mehta | TNN

Mumbai: The battle between healthcare centres and public sector insurance companies is far from over, but on Thursday, 132 city hospitals have agreed to follow the Preferred Provider Network (PPN). This, despite the fact that many in the medical community have refused to retract their claims that the new rates for 42 procedures offered by the insurance companies under the cashless scheme are ridiculously low and it will be difficult to provide quality treatment under the existing terms and conditions.

Members of the Association of Medical Consultants (AMC) will be meeting with representatives of the Association of Hospitals (AOH) to discuss a common strategy to counter the insurance companies. Sudhir Naik, secretary of the AMC, said: "A joint front is necessary to ward off any pressure from insurance firms. Ultimately, patients are going to suffer if quality treatment cannot be provided at the new rates." The AOH comprises 56 hospitals, including the elite Jaslok, Hinduja and Breach Candy Hospitals that are boycotting the cashless cover scheme. The AMC, which has 6,850 members in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), told TOI that 50 hospitals have decided to opt out of the PPN.

Insurance companies, however, are unperturbed by the recent developments. An official from General Insurance (Pub-

“Hospitals may have to join the network as the profit margin in this sector is minimal. The agreement is for a period of one year. Within this period, the pros and cons of the new system will become clear

Official From A Top City Hospital

lic Sector Association) said, "Only a section of the medical fraternity is against the rate card or the PPN. More and more hospitals are accepting our rates despite calls by medical consultants to boycott cashless cover." He added: "So far, 132 hospitals have joined the PPN in Mumbai. This shows that the opposition is limited to only a few healthcare centres. We are in the process of negotiating with more hospitals, and are confident that many will join the PPN in the coming days."

The AMC, too, refuses to back down. Dr Naik said, "Large corporate hospitals from Mumbai have not joined the PPN." Colonel Manesh Masand, CEO of Jaslok Hospital, who is negotiating with the PSUs said it was imperative to arrive at a solution. "We are involved in positive dialogue with the GIPSA, and will meet on August 30 with a new set of proposals. We do not want patients to suffer."

Many are resigned to the fact that they have no option but to accept the new rates. An official from a leading hospital that has joined the PPN said, "Sooner or later, hospitals will have to join the network as the profit margin in this sector is minimal. The agreement is for a period of one year. Within this period, the pros and cons of the new system will become clear."



## FEW A+ CATEGORY HOSPITALS JOIN PPN

HOSPITAL	AREA	GRADE
MGM Hospital	Vashi	A+
Jupiter Lifeline Hospital	Thane	A+
Kohinoor Hospitals	Kurla (W)	A+
Seven Hills Healthcare	Andheri (E)	A+
Asian Institute of Medicine	Dombivli	A
Surana Hospital and Research Centre	Malad (W)	B
Surya Eye and Research Centre	Mulund (W)	B
Sushrut Hospital	Chembur	B
Kenia Eye Hospital	Santa Cruz (W)	B
Joy Hospital	Chembur	B
Godrej Memorial	Vikhroli (W)	B
Asian Eye Institute	Borivli (E)	B
Inlaks General Hospital	Chembur	B
Criticare Hospital and Research Centre	Andheri (W)	B
Aggarwal Eye Hospital	Andheri (E)	C
Akhsar Eye Clinic	Malad (W)	C
Akshi Eye Centre	Dadar T T	C
Cardinal Gracias Hospital	Vasai	C
Arihant Heart Clinic	Borivli (E)	C
Ashish Eye Hospital	Jogeshwari (E)	C
Belle Vue Nursing Home	Andheri	C
Chetna Critical Care Unit	Mulund (W)	C
Sahyog Hospital and Research Centre	Virar (W)	C
Pooja Nursing Home	Mulund	C
Ojas Laser Eye Surgery Centre	Bandra (W)	C
Laud Clinic	Dadar	C
Vertex Hospital	Mulund	C
Zynova Heart Care Pvt Ltd	Ghatkopar (W)	C
Vision Eye Centre	Vile Parle (W)	C
Drishti Eye Care Centre	Mulund	C
Swastik Nursing Home	Ghatkopar (W)	D
Swastik Hospital and Research Centre	Chembur	D
Sumangal Hospital	Kandivli (W)	D
Suman Eye Clinic and Surgery Centre	Andheri (W)	D
Shree Ramkrishna Netralaya	Thane (W)	D
Shree Krishna Hospital	Borivli (E)	D
Shradha Polyclinic	Mulund (W)	D
Sanket Hospital	Borivli (W)	D
Shivam Eye Foundation	Seawood	D
Rushabh Nursing Home and Eye Hospital	Chembur	D
Raj Jyoti Heart Hospital	Borivali (W)	D

These are just some of the 132 city hospitals that have agreed to cashless health cover

## NEW RATE CARD WORKED OUT BY INSURANCE COMPANIES

PROCEDURE	Tertiary Plus hospitals (TP) (A and A+)	Tertiary hospitals (T) (B)	Secondary hospitals (S) (C)	Primary hospitals (P) (C)
<b>ENT</b>				
TONSILLECTOMY	30,000	21,000	18,000	14,000
ADENOIDECTOMY	30,000	21,000	18,000	14,000
F E S S	40,000	28,000	24,000	18,000
MASTOIDECTOMY	45,000	31,000	27,000	20,000
TYMPANOPLASTY	30,000	20,000	18,000	14,000
SEPTOPLASTY	45,000	31,000	27,000	20,000
<b>VASCULAR SURGERY</b>				
VARICOSE VEINS	65,000	44,000	39,000	30,000
<b>GENERAL SURGERY</b>				
APPENDICECTOMY	50,000	34,000	30,000	23,000
CHOLECYSTECTOMY	75,000	51,000	45,000	33,000
CIRCUMCISION	10,000	7,000	6,000	4,500
FISTULA - HIGH FISTULECTOMY	40,000	27,000	24,000	18,000
FISTULA - LOW FISTULECTOMY	30,000	20,000	18,000	14,000
FISSURECTOMY / SPHINCTEROTOMY	25,000	17,000	15,000	12,000
HAEMORRHOIDECTOMY (Excluding Staples & Tackers)	35,000	24,000	21,000	16,000
HAEMORRHOIDECTOMY (including Staples & Tackers)	45,000	31,000	27,000	20,000
PERIANAL ABCESS	20,000	14,000	12,000	9,000
PILONIDAL SINUS	15,000	10,000	9,000	7,000
RADICAL MASTECTOMY MODIFIED	90,000	62,000	54,000	41,000
BREAST LUMPECTOMY	40,000	27,000	24,000	18,000
THYROIDECTOMY - TOTAL	35,000	24,000	21,000	16,000
HERNIORRHAPHY (including Mesh)	75,000	51,000	45,000	34,000
<b>OBSTETRICS &amp; GYNAECOLOGY</b>				
CAESAREAN SECTION (Including Well Baby Care)	50,000	34,000	30,000	23,000
DELIVERY - NORMAL (Including Well Baby Care)	35,000	24,000	21,000	16,000
HYSTERECTOMY	56,000	38,000	34,000	25,000
<b>OPHTHALMOLOGY</b>				
PHACO WITH UNIFOCAL/FOLDABLE LENS	35,000	24,000	21,000	16,000
MICS	50,000	34,000	30,000	23,000
RETINAL SX (vitrectomy/retinal detachment, glaucoma, etc.)	35,000	24,000	21,000	16,000
<b>ORTHOPAEDICS</b>				
ARTHROSCOPIC SURGERY	65,000	44,000	39,000	30,000
TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT	1.30L	88,000	78,000	58,000
TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT	1.50L	1.05L	90,000	68,000
# NECK FEMUR	1.20L	78,000	69,000	52,000
LAMINECTOMY/DISCECTOMY/STABILIZATION OF SPINAL CORD	90,000	62,000	54,000	41,000
<b>UROLOGY &amp; NEPHROLOGY</b>				
TURP	65,000	44,200	39,000	29,250
HYDROCELECTOMY	35,000	23,800	21,000	15,750
PCNL (Percutaneous Nephrolithotripsy)	50,000	34,000	30,000	22,500
ESWL	60,000	40,800	36,000	27,000
HAEMO-DIALYSIS (Per sitting)	4,000	2,720	2,400	1,800
<b>CARDIOLOGY</b>				
CORONARY ANGIOGRAM (Including Dye)	35,000	24,000	21,000	16,000
ANGIOPLASTY - PTCA	1.15L	1.00L	75,000	52,000
VALVE REPLACEMENT	1.50L	1.30L	1.10L	68,000
CABG	1.50L	1.30L	1.10L	68,000
BEATING HEART SURGERY	1.65L	1.43L	1.21L	74,800

Figures in Rs