

THE buzz is on in the fashion fraternity about the setting up of the National Academy of Modelling & Grooming (NAMG), the brainchild of famed fashion choreographer and show director Shakir Shaikh and his dream team of Diandra Soares, Karishma Modi, Gwen Athaide, Sucheta Sharma, Harrison James and Hutoxi Doodhwala among many others. National Academy, a top educational group in the country, has over the last decade played a key role in establishing great institutions like National Academy of Event Management & Development (NAEMD) and National Academy of Sports Management (NASM) with campuses in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai, Pune and Dubai. Word has it that NAMG is committed to producing an elite class of models with the objective to train participants who wish to focus their professional careers in modelling and grooming. It is also aimed at professionals who wish to update themselves and turn into role models.

Groom and boom



SHAKIR SHAIKH

SUCHETA SHARMA & HARRISON JAMES



GWEN ATHAIDE



DIANDRA SOARES



KARISHMA MODI

Fit and hit

TENNIS icon Vijay Amritraj was there at The Leela to launch Dr. Namita Jain's book title 'Low Fat Low Guilt: Recipes & Lifestyle.' The fitness expert and author was in discussion with Vijay Amritraj on 'Dispel fitness myths' followed by sharing of personal diet regimens and fitness mantras. The book, you heard, is an essential guide to following a healthy diet without compromising on the taste. It features low-cal recipes of delicious soups, salads, wraps, toasts, rice dishes, pastas and dips that make healthy eating a pleasurable experience. Dr. Namita Jain has been a recipient of many international and national awards and was nutrition partner for the Miss India 2012 pageant and a celebrity nutritionist on the Food Food channel. She is the managing director of heritage brand Kishco and has curated an educational film on 'Dining Etiquette' as a part of the Kishco initiative.

NAMITA JAIN & VIJAY AMRITRAJ



VARUN KINGER



ZORAWAR KALRA, KUNAL VIJAYKAR & NIKHIL MERCHANT

Dinner delight

PERHAPS they missed the ladies but the gentlemen had a great time at Zorawar Kalra's Rivers to Oceans (R2O), the city's newest seafood and champagne destination at Palladium, opening soon. This was the Gentlemen's Night hosted by Kalra and Nikhil Merchant with the gentlemen relishing a 15-course dinner. In attendance were chefs Varun Kinger and Saurabh Udinia and sommelier Pratik Angre. On the charts were amuse bouche; palate cleanser; rock oysters and caviar; scampi tartare, puffed amaranth, mandarin dressing; modernist salad nicoise; leek and crab soup, butter crab stick; white fish Otak Otak, citrus pandana dressing; textures of mushrooms; sushi taco, avocado and cream cheese; chardonnay poached mussels, parsley-paprika butter; truffled fresh lobster, black caviar; seared tuna, olive tapenade, potato crisps; field mushroom stuffed morels, homemade corzetti; Malabar crab curry, malay parota; black truffle, gold leaf. And everyone said cheers with champagne in full flow, served in a champagne saucer.



MARCELLUS BAPTISTA
Gloss & Gloss Boss

Terrific tone

ELEGANT and exquisite was what it was as Lapis Bard England unveiled a range of business bags under its Ducorium collection at the William Penn store at Grand Galleria, High Street Phoenix. The word Ducorium is derived from the Latin 'duo' meaning two and 'corium' meaning leather. The bags are given a unique two-tone effect on the leather surface by carefully hand-painting the edges. The Ducorium business bags come in four variants: the 14-inch Dorchester intricately designed for performance and maximum durability, the dual compartment Chester 14-inch slim laptop bag, the Bexley 13-inch laptop bag and the Brackley laptop backpack, perfect for urban travellers. The bags are made with top-grain leather that is semi-vegetable tanned. The leather used in this collection develops a fine patina over a period giving a distinctive finesse to the bags. The rich tones in leather are complemented with navy lining and shiny gold accents.



NIKHIL RANJAN

Fashion flash

FAMED fashion designer Manish Malhotra was there at St. Andrew's auditorium as he joined hands with International Institute of Fashion Design (INIFD) and London School of Trends (LST) to impart specialized fashion education training online. The program, you learnt, will facilitate students through extensive video lectures by Manish Malhotra along with study material that can enhance their skill. The 'Learn from Manish Malhotra' digital programme shall be available from the current academic session. The talk was that the diversity and demographics of everything is making the world come closer and that the fashion course will offer an international fashion and interior design curriculum curated and taught by globally renowned academics and industry leaders. Also present at the launch was Neha Dhupia, Malaika Arora, INIFD corporate directors, executive director, London School of Trends and over 700 students from Mumbai and Pune.



MALAIKA ARORA, MANISH MALHOTRA & NEHA DHUPIA