

quoterie

Garam masala!

24-25



bengaluru CHRONICLE

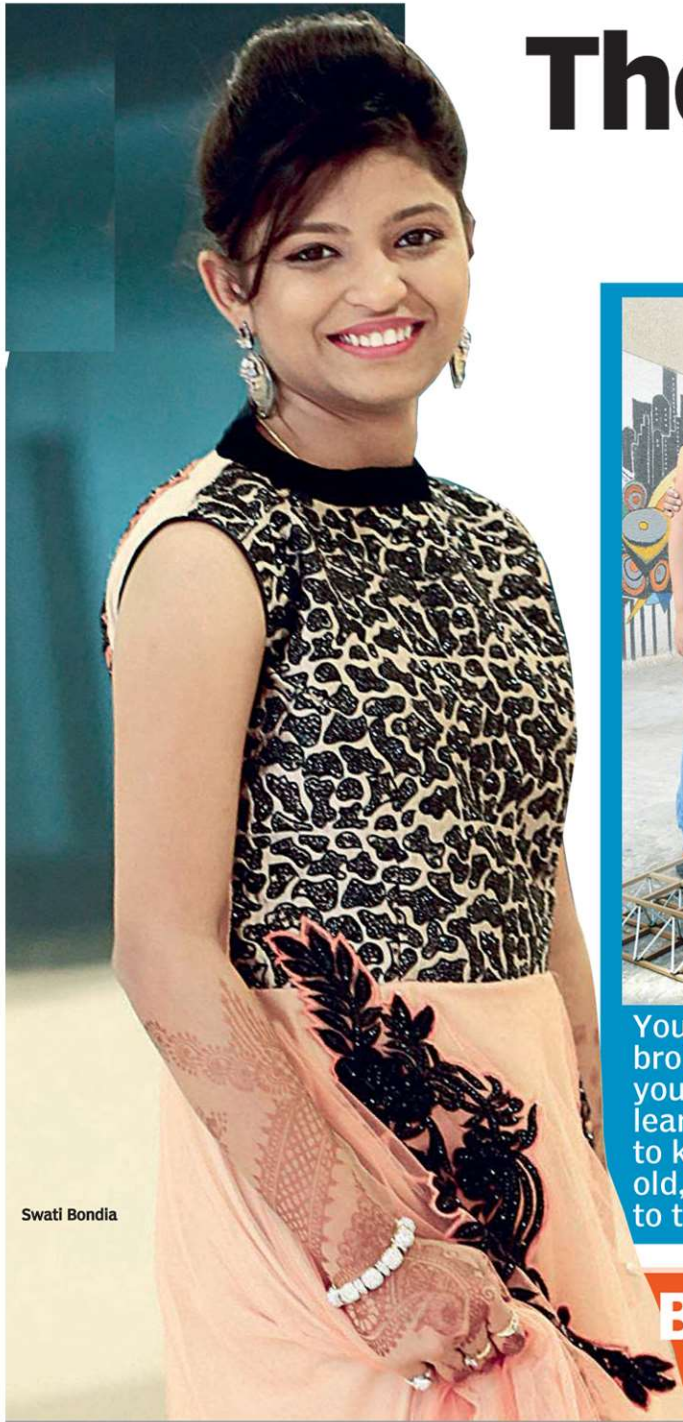
FRIDAY 20 | NOVEMBER 2015



party whirl

Getting jiggy

23



Swati Bondia

The solitary REPAIRERS



A file picture for representational purposes only

SNEHA K SUKUMAR

DECCAN CHRONICLE

You can mend broken stuff on your own and learn the tricks to keeping the old, new thanks to this initiative

That broken gadget, the dress from the sale that is a size too big and needs a tuck or two, or your favourite chair with a broken leg — you can now fix them yourself and under one roof! Bengaluru is all set to play host to India's very first Repair Café on November 28 at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre, a concept that's big in the West and works on the principle — if something is broken you fix it, not throw it away.

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Bond(ia) with the best

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Bond(ia) with the best

NAMITA GUPTA

DECCAN CHRONICLE



She's a serial entrepreneur supporting the upliftment of many underprivileged people in Karnataka. Meet 23-year-old Swati Bondia, who won an award for being the Top 10 Outstanding Young People of the World 2015 for her contributions made to the society and humanity. A student of IIM Bangalore, she trained under Dr. Stuart Hart and wears many hats with élan. Swati has also been selected for UN funded bottom of the Pyramid Challenge at Columbia and was the only one to represent SAARC region.

"I've done post-graduation from University of Mysore and while I was a student, my dad told me to not only focus on getting high grades, but also to focus on implementing what you learn in the classroom. So I would always look at how I could implement my learning to make a difference.

The turning point came when I was exposed to the entrepreneurship-led activities of National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN) at my campus. I was inspired by their approach in developing the entrepreneurship eco-system and the idea of launching my startup was born. Their efforts to expose aspiring entrepreneurs to the right network of mentors, investors and successful entrepreneurs proved to be a game changer. Also, the dozen research paper presentations that I did nationally and internationally and my training on Inclusive Business Model at IIM-Bangalore helped me decide my future course," shares Swati.

She is also a motivation speaker and has conducted many sessions across the world and is currently in the US. She was selected by the Junior Chamber International for the Top Outstanding Young Person in the world 2015 and is the first Indian to receive this award. And that's not all. She has also authored a book. We ask the multi-faceted girl to give details on her book and she shares, "I have co-authored a book titled, The V Turn. This book chronicles the life and times of 17 women entrepreneurs. Other than writing, I'm also an avid traveller and love to explore new places. I'm also passionate about adventure sports like rock climbing and bungee jumping. My other hobby is photography and I reflect on unseen nature through the lenses."

Talking further on her path to entrepreneurship, she recalls, "It was when I saw a nine-year-old girl begging on the street and decided to support her and that's when I started Om Shanti Traders. The sight of underprivileged childhood was disturbing, so I started to employ their parents and provide livelihood by training them in various arts and crafts. The profits from artifacts crafted by them are shared with employed families. I also started enrichexpo.com to address the difficulty that students from far-away places face in getting the right career guidance. The virtual exhibition enrichexpo.com addresses issues of colleges reaching out to students and students finding their dream education. We also conduct Youth Entrepreneurship Stimulation programmes free of cost to provide scholarship and training."