

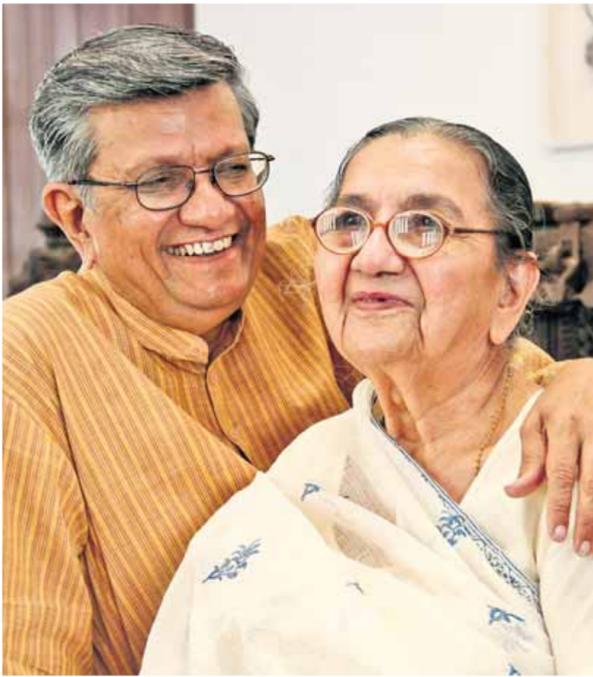


In MOTHER'S footsteps

This Mother's Day, we bring you stories of children who drew their career inspiration from their moms



Heena Shah with her daughters Shaina & Shital



Amit Ambalal with his mother Kundan Ambalal



Manorama Raval with her daughter Alpa

Devika Chaturvedi

Another Mother's Day is here. A day when we make special effort to make our mothers feel loved. Of the many relationship days celebrated, Mother's Day is indisputably the most awaited one. DNA brings you stories of mothers who have inspired their children to follow in their footsteps.

Among the celebrities there are a few examples—Mrinalini Sarabhai and her danseuse daughter Mallika Sarabhai, Sharmila Tagore and her star children—Soha Ali Khan and Saif Ali Khan or novelist Kiran Desai inheriting her mother Anita Desai's talent or for that matter Rahul Gandhi entering politics like his mother.

A mother's influence in a child's life is always pivotal. Artist Amit Ambalal gives all credit to his mother Kundan Ambalal for

shaping his career as she was the one who encouraged Ambalal to enter the profession of painting. He says, "My mother played a very important role in my life. Whatever I am today is because of her. My father wanted me to take up sports as a career but it was my mother who encouraged me to stick to arts because she knew that I liked it. She is an artist herself and has made sculptures and painted. As a kid I used to observe her painting and that's how I cultivated a liking for the fine arts. I learnt a lot from her."

"Later in life we both assessed each others' work. Our relationship grew from a mother-son relationship to one of friends," he continues. Kundan Ambalal is 91 years old now and her son appreciates and cherishes the time and moments he spends with her. Amit Ambalal discussed art with

his mother and read old books on art and architecture. All this helped him become the artist he is today.

Hina Shah, an Odissi dancer, entrepreneur and painter heads International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development (ICECD). Shah has two daughters—Shital Shah and Shaina Shah who are accomplished Odissi dancers just like their mother. Apart from that both the daughters work at their mother's office. Shital says,

"We are lucky to have a mother who is our guru also. My sister and I never really thought that we would ever take up dancing but our mother tactfully got us into it and today we love it. We cannot imagine ourselves without it."

"It is all because of our mother who made us comfortable in whatever roles we are playing today," she adds. Hina says, "Dancing

with my daughters gives me a sense of togetherness and all three of us become one when we dance together." Not only that but this super mom has passed on art to both daughters too. Hina learnt to paint from her mother Purnima Bhuptani. And now this mother-daughter trio dedicates each Sunday to practicing painting or dancing in their home.

Alpa Chandulal followed her mother Manorama Raval and got into the teaching profession. Alpa says, "I lost my father at a very early age and thereafter we went through a real tough time. But my mother took the entire burden on herself and made sure that I completed my BEd. Today I run a school and it is all because of my mother and her efforts. She is a very important part of my life."

Saluting the mom-in-law!

Priya Adhyaru-Majithia

The role of a mother has undergone a sea change in recent times. The real challenge lies in the grace with which many multi-tasking moms manage to balance home life and career. Many of them feel their mother-in-law is their anchor and they are able to manage only because of her help and support. On the occasion of Mother's Day, DNA salutes such moms and their mom-in-laws.

"Gone are the days when moms only used to manage homes," said Lisa Contractor, mom of 9-year-old Daksh, manager of Standard Chartered Bank, who also manages a joint family of eight members. Today's moms have to walk a tightrope as they have to simultaneously perform on many fronts from handling home to being efficient at work, she feels.

Her day starts at 5 am when she drops Daksh at cricket coaching class. She picks him up, cooks for the family and drops him off at school before reporting for work at 9 am. After a full day's work, Contractor takes her son for swimming classes every evening. Contractor says, "I am not able to attend to my son when he returns from school at about 1 pm. However, my mother-in-law takes good care of him. She also manages the evening meal that gives me time to play with my son."

Yamini Parikh, a professional baker, homemaker and mom of two daughters - Vaishali 20, Namrata, 18 - who stays in a joint family says, "Family is the strong support system that helps me undertake multi-tasking. As my mother-in-law and both my children gave me space I could manage time to make cakes, which is both my hobby and profession."

Similarly, Pimmi Mehta, mom of two teenaged boys who works as a tour operator for kids camps and also manages a joint family of six members says, "Today's moms are able to perform efficiently on many fronts and manage various roles of a homemaker, driver, cook, cleaner, professional, friend to both husband and kids as well as a daughter to her and her spouse's ageing parents; thanks to the vital support of her mom-in-law."

For several daughters, Ma is their best buddy



I will be there for you: A mother helps a child as he takes tentative steps in the playground. —Pankaj Shukla, DNA

Priya Adhyaru-Majithia

Mothers were once synonymous with sari-clad, plump souls serving hot chappathis or preaching idealism. But that image has undergone a complete makeover in the last few years. Today, daughters feel blessed to have found an attractive, gossipy and happy-go-lucky pal in their moms.

Modern moms are working really hard to form and nurture an intimate bond with their kids. While some spend time working out in pairs at gyms, some bond over long walks and still others, team up for a sport. This way they stay continuously connected and become best buddies.

Dhwani Bhagat, managing director of Vandana school, and a single mom of two teenaged daughters, Ashna, 18, and Priyanshi, 14, has found a novel way to bond with her daughters. They share a bedroom and have extended night conversations. "When I have dilemmas I consult them for their new way of thinking and when they face confusion, they come to me as I have more experience," said Bhagat.

New-age mom is more in tune with her kids & finds ways of sharing activities to bond with them

This awesome-threesome spends two weeks completely without gadgets in the Himalayas during the summer break. "Our bond gets nurtured as we share quiet moments of solitude in each others company," said Bhagat.

"Riya and I are best friends. We often dress up like each other and love to swap our outfits for outings," says Shital Padshah, 40. She and her 11-year-old daughter Riya are also listed as best buddies on their social networking site profile. The mother-daughter duo do many things together, from shopping to cooking, reading to working out.

Going for short drives everyday before dropping 14-year-old Minoti to school is one way Pinky Contractor gets to spend more time with her

daughter. They also play football and swim together over the weekend. Pinky, a businesswoman who turned homemaker as she wanted to devote her full attention to her daughter said, "We play sports, cook together and I involve my daughter in the decision-making process at home. This is my way of developing friendly intimacy with her."

New-age moms are also doing away with the 'authority-figure' reputation in order to instil love in a relationship. Neha Shah, 40, spends time with her 13-year-old daughter while taking long walks. "This throws open possibilities for intimate sharing which is the foundation of new-age relationships. These can often be fractured due to authority," says Shah.

Anisha Amin, 38, always accompanies her 10-year-old daughter Tarana to her badminton coaching classes and tournaments. She says, "I support and inspire her to pursue sport in my own way—that is by giving her constant company." And this has yielded happy returns, as Tarana says, "My mom is the best shoulder to lean on."

108, Red Cross vow to help more mothers

DNA Correspondent

Anba, a 25-year-old pregnant woman, lay helpless on a bus seat with onlookers around staring at her. 108 responded to the emergency call within 4 minutes. Seeing Anba's condition, the technicians asked passengers to vacate the bus and assisted in the delivery of Anba's baby.

This is just one example of an average of 735 pregnancy cases which 33% are pregnancy related ones. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) have assisted 20,265 babies' births to date, informed Subodh Satyawadi, COO, GVK EMRI 108.

108 ambulances are equipped with all necessary pre-hospital care equipment like delivery kits, medicines, IV fluid, oxygen, suction machine etc.

IMR to 30:1000 respectively by March 2010, despite the launch of 'Chiranjeevi Yojana' five years back. The goal has been elusive as few deliveries are institutionalised, say experts. However, GVK-EMRI 108 and Red Cross's commitment will help to curb the state's MMR.

EMRI 108's past records show a steady rise in pregnancy related emergency calls in the state and this indicates that there is an increase in people of the state opting for institutionalised deliveries.

This service has, till date, handled 21,49,282 cases of medical emergencies of which 33% are pregnancy related ones. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) have assisted 20,265 babies' births to date, informed Subodh Satyawadi, COO, GVK EMRI 108.

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Centre for needy litigants opens

DNA Correspondent

Justice DH Waghela, chairman of high court legal services committee, on Saturday inaugurated the legal service centre at the Gujarat high court. The centre has been established for the benefit of poor and needy people. Justice Waghela dedicated the centre to victims who fail to get due justice due to lack of funds and proper guidance.

"The major drawback of the judiciary system is its limited access. Many people, who are in real need of justice, are deprived of it due to lack of guidance and funds. However, now after establishment of this centre, they would be able to get guidance and assistance of competent advocates who shall help them fight their battle for justice," said Waghela. Chief justice of Gujarat high court SJ Mukhopadhyaya also lauded the efforts.

'Taxes paid should come back in the form of prosperity'

Says Yashwant Sinha who assured that Direct Tax Code will be user-friendly and judicious

DNA Correspondent

Yashwant Sinha, chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, on Saturday said that taxes paid by citizens should come back to them in the form of prosperity. He also said that the Direct Tax Code (DTC) will be user-friendly.

Delivering a lecture on 'Challenges of Direct Tax Code' at AMA, Ahmedabad, the former Union finance minister, cited from Kalidas to explain the philosophy of tax collection.

He said, "Just as the sun extracts wa-

ter from the reservoir and sends it back in the form of showers, a ruler collects tax from his subjects and gives it back in the form of prosperity."

However, the tax system should be simple enough and ultimately lead to prosperity, he said. The lecture was part of the RT Shah Knowledge Lecture Series.

Earlier, tax expert Mukesh Patel spoke about some of the challenges DTC is likely to throw up.

"The DTC is supposed to be simpler and equitable, but the number of sections, schedules, rules and definitions seem to be making it more complex. With its implementation, various benefits that are currently available to tax payers will be taken away," Patel said.

Sinha said that DTC was a landmark piece of legislation. Accepting that it is not hassle-free and therefore is under examination, he requested the Ahmedabad IT Bar Association to submit a memorandum to the committee.

"I promise that a detailed hearing on the issues will be provided to the Association. Being a member of the committee, I cannot give the final verdict, but I assure that the issues will be closely examined,"

he said. The senior BJP leader said that they will try their best to make the new tax system user-friendly, judicious and equitable.

"We want to ensure that passing of DTC should be celebrated instead of people moaning over it," said Sinha.

