



On The Cover

- 12 **Cover Story: Ajay Dani - Ajaxxx, Fresh From Orlando**
- 8 CityMasala Valentine Contest
- 14 Beauty: The Art of Applying Make-up
- 16 Legal: Why April 1, 2008 Is An Important Date
- 22 Bollywood: Director Apna Shah Rukh
- 25 Tech Talk: Hottest Gadgets of 2008
- 31 Daru Ka Nasha: The Indian Edition

Also In this Issue

- 18 Cricket: A Twist in the Tale
- 24 Reel Talk: Movie Reviews
- 26 Comic Strip: Small Hands
- 28 Health Talk: Allergies
- 30 Auntyji Ko Pucho
- 31 Restaurant Review: Cilantro Indian Cuisine
- 32 In The Kitchen: Recipe - Masala Arvi
- 32 CityMasala Book Club: Book Review - Black Candle, By Chitra Divakaruni
- 33 Star Lite Star Brite: This Month's Horoscope

From Our Desk to Yours

The year 2008 started with a bang and, for many of us, the initial part of the year was a relaxing one. Now, we're already looking at the month of February and life has gone back to its usual hectic pace with a month of the new year already behind us. The oil prices are escalating, gold is at an all time high, interest rates are dropping, the dollar continues to drop - all of these factors have conspired to send the stock market in a downward spiral, further exaggerating the downfall of the real estate market! Is this the best time to start investing in the stock market or should you be looking into buying real estate? We live in a country that has seen worse in the past and it would not be just optimism that prompts us to say that we will come out of this even though this year may be fairly challenging.

This issue sees Ajay Dani, or Ajaxxx, on the cover. A driven and quietly perseverant young individual, who is trying to set the music world on fire with his own brand of music. Proud of his *desi* heritage, he imbibes the culture of the east and incorporates it into what he has grown up in the west. You will be pleasantly surprised to find out, as you go through his interview, as to just how much the younger *desi* generation is trying to achieve in a field that has, up until now, been dominated by a non-Indian crowd.

We set up a Valentine Contest on our website to find out which couple in the Florida area would win Best Couple - we wanted to find out what makes your relationship successful and what is the most romantic thing you or your partner may have done for the other. We are happy to announce **Kiran & Raj** as the first place winners and **Hina & Mukund** in the second place. Congratulations to these two couples as well as the other couples who sent in thoughts on their relationships. It is refreshing and heartening to read that there is so much love, understanding and laughter in our community.

Shahnaz Husain's Beauty column features an article on the Art of Applying Make-up in a way that will bring out your beautiful features and minimize the not so beautiful ones! Attorney Amit Dehra writes about why April 1, 2008 is an important date for employers and people filing for H1s - don't miss out on this article if you fall in either category. Nandini has provided some of the latest tidbits from Bollywood and Kavita has some of the latest movie reviews in ReelTalk. Vish has brought the Hottest Gadgets of 2008 post the Consumer Electronic Show in TechTalk and Ashish is back from his trip to India with a special Indian Edition in Daru Ka Nasha.

Javid has A Twist in the Tale - a special story that wouldn't have come to us had he also not been vacationing in India. He also talks about India's victory in Perth against the almost invincible Australian team. Well done, India! We have Nidhi Chanani's cartoon strip called Small Hands and Dr. Rima Sanka has an article on Allergic Rhinitis. We invite you to write in should you have any questions related to allergies. Dr. Maulik Trivedi is currently in India and he will be responding to the questions our readers have sent in the March issue. Auntyji is back with renewed vigor and wants to share her latest perspective on life with her readers. We are happy to note that she seems to be have regained her verve and cheer! In The Kitchen has a mouth watering recipe for Masala Arvi by Anita and the CityMasala Book Club has Sheniz's review on Black Candle by Chitra Divakaruni. The Horoscope column has Nicolas with what February 2008 has in store for all of us. Happy Reading and Happy Valentine's Day to all our readers.

We look forward to hearing from you and your feedback is important to us. Please keep writing to us at editor@citymasala.com or info@citymasala.com.

Remember to talk about CityMasala, rave about CityMasala, make your friends read CityMasala and ask for your copy of CityMasala by its name!

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