Metro life

Your bond with Bengaluru

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The 'Ehud Ettun Trio' will perform at Indigo Live Music Bar
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Sapna Dube finds the world of 'mandala' art therapeutic
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● Cool looks

A cut apart

With the scorching summer here, everyone is pulling out their best stylish attires and going whacky with colours. Anything flowing and airy, yet striking is the call of the day. This is how asymmetrical hemlines in dresses, tunics and even blouses, are in the spotlight now.

A look adorned by people here as well as in the West, designers and youngsters alike say that the look is flattering and suits most body types. Michelle D'Cruz, a young professional, loves to wear striking outfits and says the asymmetrical dresses she owns are a vibrant addition to her wardrobe. "They are trendy and fall well, making the wearer looking slimmer. I love the floral-printed ones. A choker or a stud earring with subtle makeup completes the look for the summer," she says.

These asymmetrical hemlines are popular in long gowns, 'anarkalis' and 'lehengas' as well, in light and solid colours, pastel shades and abstract and flowery patterns. "Everybody likes to sport a unique look and this is exactly what happens with this style. Nobody wants to go for the square or round cuts now. This pattern is eye-catching. Celebrities across the West can also be seen sporting them and this has slowly influenced Indian wear too," says Asha Motwani, designer and owner of 'Moksh'. She adds that dresses in peach, lemon and bright colours like parrot green are selling like hotcakes now.

ELEGANT Asymmetrical outfits are becoming popular this summer. (Above) A design from 'Imara'.

A model sporting a design from 'Moksh'.

Asymmetrical dresses in snazzy prints which fall below the knee are in demand, says Ketki Arora, who heads the designing team in 'Femella'. "This cut looks elegant and sensual. We have done these hemlines in the past 2 season. The length matters a lot," she says. Ketki adds that the brand has experimented with highlows to extreme asymmetrical hemlines.

'Kurtis' in asymmetrical patterns are also popular among youngsters. Jennet Nisha says that she loves the asymmetrical tunics or 'kurtis'. "Though I don't experiment much, I love the way the tunic falls. They are different from the usual cuts and give a stylish look. I usually prefer blacks but since it's summer, I bought an orange one too," she says. She teams these with leggings or a pair of jeans and feels that they can be worn as a day or an evening wear.

ATTRACTIVE A creation from 'Femella'.

Asymmetrical hemlines are trending in Indian wear, as the 'fusion look' is in. Priyanka Priyadarshini, brand head of 'Imara', says that since hardcore ethnic looks are fading out, people are opting for this hemline. "From the sides being longer and the centre being shorter, to the front being shorter and the back being longer, we have designed tops to maxi dresses with this hemline," she says.

"The colour for this season is burnt orange and white. The fabrics for the season are rayon, modal, georgette, which gives a drape to the garment. This compliments the hemline and the cut of the garment," adds Priyanka.

Sukumar Radhakrishnan, a garments seller at Commercial Street, says that asymmetrical tunics and dresses are the rage of the season. "From solid colours to even animal prints, these dresses are in high demand now. They are available in denim, pure cotton, georgette and chiffon. A popular choice are knee-length dresses," he says.

Jennet

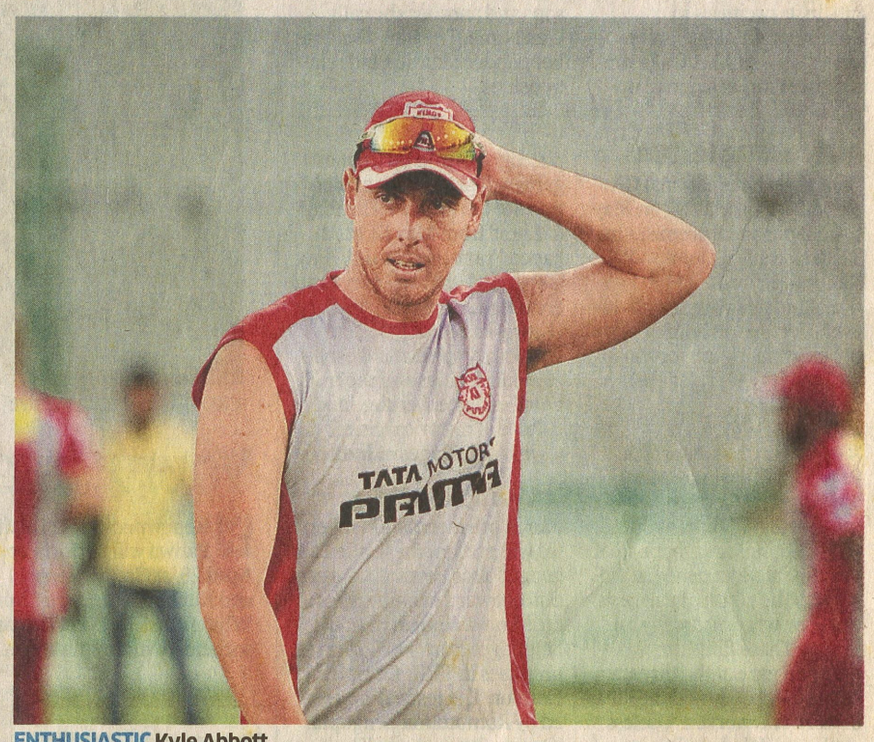
Michelle

Sukumar adds that there are also a few tie-dye skirts that he has in this hemline, which would gel well with a light-coloured shirt or blouse. "Youngsters are the biggest customers of these styles, as they are the ones who are open to experiment," he says.

Tini Sara Anien

● Beyond IPL

'I am a bit wary of street food'



ENTHUSIASTIC Kyle Abbott

Indian Premier League (IPL) is not just hectic cricket sprinkled with fun. Most cricketers find in the IPL the perfect opportunity to soak in the carnivalesque spirit that prevails during the season.

Kyle Abbott, a South African cricketer and a popular player of the Kings XI Punjab team, says he can't get enough of India during IPL. He had great curiosity and excitement for India when he first came and it still persists.

With the ICC World Twenty20 preceding the IPL this year, Kyle observes that he is spending his longest time travelling in India. He also had his girlfriend Kristy and his parents come visit him during the tournament.

He says he and his family always cherish the time they spend travelling to different parts of the country, doing everything from experimenting with food, sightseeing or simply strolling down the streets of Mumbai and Bengaluru.

"When my parents and I were walking through the streets of Mumbai, we spotted a street vendor selling a monkey and a cobra. He offered both of them to us for a cheap price. We were dumbstruck," says Kyle, adding that this was one of his most dreadful street-shopping experiences.

He always makes time to travel between matches. "When we were in Nagpur we went to the Pench National Park there and went on the wildlife safari. We also visited a couple of places in Delhi as well," he adds.

Kyle also hopes to travel to Dharamsala before he heads back home. "I really love the mountains. There's something very majestic and mysterious about them. If I can't make it this time I hope to come back on a non-cricketing trip and go there," he says.

The young cricketer has had some great experiences trying out all kinds of Indian cuisines at some of the choicest restaurants. Since he also cooks he has definite ideas and tastes when it comes to the kind of cuisines he wants to eat. "I cook whenever I get time. I always make it a point to try all the Indian curries. I love the South Indian coffee and I relish masala tea as well," he adds.

But he hasn't had the courage to try the street food just yet. "I am a bit wary of street food."

He describes IPL as a 'colourful tournament' and says that the format doesn't leave cricketers with any time to stand and stare. "There's also no time for disappointments. We have to move on."

Kyle believes in a simple philosophy — never get stuck in the past. "I believe the bad times will pass and I always try to learn from the bad times rather than get caught in it," he says.

The team will be travelling to Bengaluru soon for a match and Kyle says that he wouldn't leave without a visit to 'The Glass House'.

"This is one of the nicest restaurants that I've been to and the 'Hard Rock Cafe' is another favourite haunt," he elaborates.

Nina C George

● From the albums

An ode to my alma mater

(Sitting, from left) **B V Govindarajulu, K V Suryanarayana, H N Sethu Rao, Rajashekar, N Anantaram, M G Chakrapani Naidu, B S Madhava Rao, M N Vishwanathaiah, K V Suryanarayana Sastry, Tatachar and D Rangaiah.** (Standing, first row) **S N Narasimhan (second), K Krishna Iyengar, K Venkataramaiah, Gururajachar, V Venkatachalapathy, P Rami Reddy, C Gundu Rao and S Sambegowda.** (Standing, second row) **Venkatanarayana Rao (fifth), A E Vasudeva Rao, D Narasimhamurthy, N Madhukara, A R Mahendra and the author (tenth).**

It had been a well-established practice of the Department of Geology at Central College to bid farewell to the final year BSc (Hons) students. This group photograph was taken at the farewell given to us in March 1954. Here, the students along with the principal and some of the faculty members of the Geology, Chemistry and Botany departments can be seen. Prior to the bifurcation of the University of Mysore in 1964, the Central College in Bengaluru was the seat of higher learning in Science and Literature.

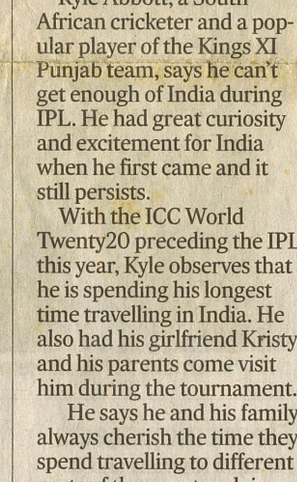
Established in 1886 to award graduate, post-graduate and doctoral degrees, the college, in its long span, tutored and trained thousands of students to become scientists and administrators.

Two of its alumni, Dr M Visvesvaraya (Diwan of Mysore state) and Dr C Rajagopalachari (the Governor-General of Independent India), distinguished themselves to receive the Bharat Ratna from the President of India. Recently, another alumnus, C N R Rao joined this list and has been bestowed with this prestigious award for his research in the field of Chemistry.

When I joined Central College in 1951 to pursue the BSc (Hons) degree with specialisation in Geology, L Rama Rao (Geology) was the principal of the college. A year later, B S Madhava Rao (Maths) succeeded him. The Department of Geology was headed by Dr M G Chakrapani Naidu. At that time, it was a privilege to listen to the lectures of stalwarts like V Seetharamaiah and J P Rajaratnam of the Kannada department.

During 1953-54, we were extremely fortunate to listen to the lecture of C V Raman, the Nobel Laureate in Physics, in the Chemistry hall of the college and later visit his institute in the city. As a preamble to his lecture, he cleverly highlighted the diverse physical state of compounds of some elements, saying, 'Silicon dioxide is a solid (quartz), hydrogen dioxide (also called peroxide) is a liquid but carbon dioxide is a gas' and quipped, 'any result-oriented scientific research entails hard work, creativity and in-depth analysis of data'. We were all inspired by his profound knowledge and his words ring in my mind till today.

My college days were tough and entertainment, if any, was restricted to watching movies in the theatres around Majestic or a cricket match in the grounds behind the college hostel. Field excursions meant looking at rocks, rocks and more rocks on a hillside near Mysuru, Shivamogga and other places and collecting samples for further analysis.



M N Vasant Kumar

I completed my course in 1954 with distinction. During my MSc course, Dr C S Pichamuthu took charge as the Professor of Geology. I passed the MSc exam in 1955, securing the first rank. I was also the proud recipient of the 'P S Narayana Gold Medal' of the Geological Society of the college in 1955.

In fact, the Geology Department of the college has made its own contribution and many of its students have joined the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mysore Geological Department (MGD), the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) or have chosen the line of administration. Notable among them are Dr M B Ramachandra Rao (member tech, ONGC), Dr C S Pichamuthu and Dr B P Radhakrishna (directors, MGD), Dr S V P Iyengar (deputy director general, GSI) and Y N Rama Rao (AEC). The list, in fact, is very long. Dr G Thimmaiah became an administrator and held the post of Director of Public Instruction, Govt of Karnataka.

Amongst my classmates, N Madhukara and K Venkataramaiah joined the IBM. D Narasimhamurthy and V Venkatachalapathy moved to Mysuru as lecturers. S N Narasimhan and I joined ONGC.

A R Mahendra joined GSI and A E Vasudeva Rao moved to Delhi to join the Agricultural Institute at Pusa. K Krishna Iyengar joined the Bhilai Steel Plant. I am not sure about the rest of my classmates. I retired in 1992 as the Group General Manager (Exploration), Bombay Offshore Project, ONGC.

My alma mater has had a glorious past. The persons associated with it — the students, members of the various faculties and the principal and other administrative staff — understood their respective functions and goals well. Unlike today, there were no student unions or their demands. The concept itself was unthinkable and unheard of.

Even today, when I pass through the tower block of Central College, the voices of several stalwarts reverberate in my ears and my eyes blur. This is an ode to my college where I learnt the many important values of life and which made me what I am today.

M N Vasant Kumar
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To our readers

We invite you to share your memories through our column 'From the Albums' by sending in your photograph, with family or friends, in old Bangalore. You can mail us on dhmetro@gmail.com or metrolife@deccanherald.co.in