



A 10-day arty bonanza for Delhi and NCR

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The weather is just right for a twirl, a hum and a song. The air is just full of it. Not wanting to waste any more time, Friends of Art-an NGO initiative by artistes for the arts- has organised the Contemporary Arts Festival in the Capital and Gurgaon from September 12 to 21.

They are bringing together the most eclectic mix of dancers, musicians, photographers, film-makers, actors and stand-up comedians.

There will be 35 events, including dance, music, photography, art, puppetry and clowning across 10 venues for 10 days.

"This is our attempt to educate and bring together audiences. Usually, weekend entertainment is limited to a single genre of music or dance. A lot of varied artistes go unrecognised. Our idea was to bring all of them together," says Pankaj Bajaj, director, Friends of Art.



"Being in its second edition, it's bigger and much better. Last year, we had it spread over seven days with 17 events in Delhi and Gurgaon. This year the agenda was to make it sustainable and we have got sponsors on board too. We have some ticketed and some non-ticketed events," says Shohini Dutta, founder, Friends of Art.

Collaborations are their thing "CoLab (collaboration), as we call it, is the way to innovate. With collaborations in different fields and genres we are seeing some never-seen-before performances like live instruments (flute, sarangi) jamming with a DJ on electro music happening at Summer House," adds Bajaj.

With the events being so diverse, it's difficult to bookmark any. But, if a mash-up of different events are your cup of hot chocolate, then on September 16, there is the mixed-up menu. "It's an evening of assorted arts featuring dances, short films, improv theatre and puppetry. It's a slice of everything really," says Dutta.

There are also a chain of famous musicians lined up to perform during the festival.