

Bollywood Shake, YAH & Jaffrey Brothers hold Houston auditions

Pioneers of reality dance competition Boogie Woogie, Javed & Naved Jaffri present "NAACH MERI JAAN", a global dance reality show akin to the hit shows that have recently enthralled audiences in India. Naved Jaffri & Pria Haider Productions, A & K Events & IBDF have brought this show to the US and judges Naved Jaffri, Omi Vaidya and Vatsal Sheth came to the Houston auditions on Saturday, April 25th to judge contestants from

Houston. Never before has there been a dance reality show with Bollywood judges strictly for US contestants ONLY.

The Houston auditions were organized by Ruchika Dias, Founder & CEO of Bollywood Shake in association with Youth Association of Houston at the Cullen Performance Hall. In addition to running a very successful Bollywood dance school and hosting her own radio show (Bollywood Shake Radio which airs on

Temple drums at opening



Drum artists from India were present at the opening festivities (*Utsavam*) of Sri Guruvayurappan Temple. (Photo credit: Biju Pillai)

106.1FM weekdays Monday-Friday 4-7pm), Ruchika has always given a platform to locals to showcase their talent from

Miss Bollywood pageant with Preity Zinta to Mrs. Bollywood pageant with Raveena Tandon

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Singapore Sovereign Fund GIC and Norwest Venture Partners invest \$ 28M in local services leader Sulekha.com

CHENNAI - Sulekha.com, India's leading digital platform for local services, today announced that GIC, the sovereign wealth fund of Singapore, and Norwest Venture Partners, a top-tier global investment firm, have invested \$ 28 M into the company. Sulekha.com will use the capital to further expand its platform that connects one of the largest bases of users and local service providers, and invest in technology and branding.

Satya Prabhakar, Founder and CEO of Sulekha.com, said, "Sulekha was founded in Austin as a tiny website serving Indians in US and this investment by GIC and Norwest is a powerful endorsement of the vast potential of the local services opportunity and Sulekha's ability to prosecute it successfully both within and outside of India. Sulekha has cultivated deep expertise and built a sophisticated platform in 800+ local service categories including home/office

services, coaching/training, health/lifestyle and property/rentals. Sulekha's large base of user and businesses, unique IP, vast operational footprint, plus rapid migration to mobile are transforming the local services market."

Param Parameswaran, Chairman of Sulekha.com, said, "We are pleased to add GIC to our investor group. Sulekha has architected a remarkably lucrative business model because of the immediacy, specificity and location-oriented nature of the user local service needs. Sulekha has been enjoying significant organic growth while being quite capital efficient, making it one of only a few digital companies in India that have been profitable."

Local businesses spend an estimated \$2.5 billion in advertising across various media to capture \$200 billion worth of local services bought

in diverse categories such as computer training, serviced apartments, party catering, babysitting, elder care, yoga lessons, kitchen renovation, and wedding photography. Sulekha sends 16+ million user needs a year to over 2+ million active businesses on its platform.

Promod Haque, Senior Managing Partner of Norwest Venture Partners, said, "Sulekha's innovative digital platform allows users to fulfil their needs while providing a highly targeted and affordable avenue for small businesses to secure customers. Less than 10% of local businesses in India have ever advertised according to recent estimates. Sulekha is seizing an enormous opportunity in transforming how businesses find local customers and grow and we look forward to significant scale ahead." Added Parameswaran, "It is great to have Promod's ongoing participation during this time as we seek to capture this largely untapped opportunity."

Mistui & Co. (Tokyo), a Global Fortune 200 company, and Indigo Monsoon Group are also investors in Sulekha.

Sulekha.com is one of India's largest and fastest-growing digital platforms for local service need fulfillment in over 40 cities, connecting tens of millions of users and local businesses in 800+ need categories such as computer training, serviced apartments, wooden flooring, party catering, baby-sitting, elder care, yoga lessons, kitchen renovation, wedding photography, moving-packing, pest control, event planning and auto repair. Sulekha has 14 offices and 1,300+ employees across India, including Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Austin.

Arrival of new Super Post-Panamax cranes mark the beginning of a new era



The cranes, nearly 30 stories high, were manufactured in S.Korea

Four new Super Post-Panamax wharf cranes for the Port of Houston Authority's Barbour's Cut Container Terminal traveled up the Houston Ship Channel today on the last leg of a 73-day journey. The cranes, nearly 30 stories high, were manufactured by Konecranes in Mokpo, South Korea, and left for Houston Feb. 23, 2015.

These new electric Ship-To-Shore cranes can lift and lower a loaded container at twice the speed of the cranes currently in use at the Barbour's Cut terminal. They weigh 1,505 tons, compared to 635 tons for the existing cranes.

These cranes, the largest ever built by Konecranes, are 289

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Correction -

In last week's issue, the caption under this photo was incorrect. The correct caption is below. Voice of Asia regrets the mistake.



With his wife Kanwal by his side, Raj Bhalla receives the Golden Trowel Award from Worshipful Master Wayne Switzer. (Photo credit: Jawahar Malhotra)

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