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# PREMIER

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ITALIAN HARMONY

HONG KONG BECKONS

ORISSA: JAGANATH COUNTRY

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## BA CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Happenings • People • Airlines News  
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After London, the show shifts to Dubai. The Indian Travel Congress has become the event to look forward to in the Indian travel business circuit. There is a sound reason for its dizzying position after all these years. The sincere effort to give a semblance to the scattered existence of the travel business in the country, a few years after independence, was the force which brought it into being. It was formed towards the end of 1951 by a group of twelve leading Travel agents, who felt that the time had come to create an Association to regulate the Travel industry in India.

At that time there was hardly any official body to protect the interests of those engaged in the industry and promote its orderly growth and development in the early days of a struggling republic. There was no ombudsman like arrangement either to safeguard the rights of the traveling public.

TAAI has now become the largest association of travel professionals and their companies and includes a veritable who's who of the Indian travel fraternity and more.

'The fittest will forge ahead'- the theme this year at Dubai reflects the brazen new vigor and realization that the times are tough and unless strict self discipline and proactive efforts are initiated, life might come very difficult indeed for all concerned about the tourism business. The survival of the fittest has never been more underlined than in these times. Thankfully, it will not turn into a dog eat dog or big fish eat small solely because the field is now wide open for Davids and the Goliaths have to not only shed weight but also learn to survive on less.

The deliberations at this year's event should throw up some new ideas to prove life is possible in trying circumstances as well.

*Anurag Yadav*

P R E M I E R



F A S H I O N



# ITALIAN HARMONY

A painter in Paris awaits his Indian debut.

Being a painter and artist normally requires a great deal of patience. Patience when creating paintings and other artworks, but also when waiting for appreciation and success. In terms of appreciation and success the artist Thomas Diego Armonia is a true exception. After his graduation in fashion design at the University of Arts in Genoa and studies of Applied Art in Padua at Italy, Thomas Diego Armonia started his first personal exhibitions in the year of 1993. His style can be attributed as Realism, his approach is completely unique. The main theme of his paintings is almost always a woman, mostly painted in black and white and subsequently decorated with gold leaves. In a very unique style his paintings reflect the universal passion for women. In his paintings, Armonia has captured the soul of people from Europe, America and Asia in his career. Multidisciplinary in his immense creativity, his works are the amazing result of an exclusive marriage between art, fashion, gold and history.

The success of the artist approximately began in 2005. Today, there is probably no major fashion or art magazine left on this planet that has not published at least one story about Armonia. Vogue Gioiello, Cosmopolitan, Fashion Weekly and many more have strengthened his reputation of being one of the extraordinary artists of the moment. Today, permanent exhibitions about his artwork can be seen in towns as Barcelona, Brussels, Cologne, Milano, Palermo, Porto, Prague, Singapore and many more.



Especially in 2008, Thomas Diego Armonia was able to record an enormous career boost. At the Venice luxury fair, Thomas Diego painted a 25m renaissance oil painting in front of the watching fair audience. Also, he was invited to be "Performing VIP Guest of the millionaires fair in Shanghai, where he showed his paintings and presented his designs as a brand ambassador for Nivrel watches. While being present at the Nivrel booth, he began a live painting showing the Chinese celebrity Yue-Sai Kan. Mrs. Yue-Sai Kan is an American and Chinese resident who lives her life as a bestselling writer, Emmy-decorated television producer and entrepreneur in the western and eastern part of the world. In 1992, she successfully transformed herself from a TV personality to an entrepreneur by creating the Yue-Sai cosmetics brand, which is recognized by over 90% of the Chinese population today. Thomas Diego Armonia sketched her portrait live onto a canvas at the stand of the designer watch brand.

"Armonia" is the Italian word for "harmony". One who follows his career and notices the speed in which Thomas Diego Armonia leaves his artistic marks around the world might find the name to be inappropriate. But this is only true for people that have never met him in person. His nature is anything but hectic and loud, the artist prefers to be surrounded by a gentle and harmonic atmosphere. Armonia emanates a comfortable calm and quietness that immediately makes him congenial for everybody.