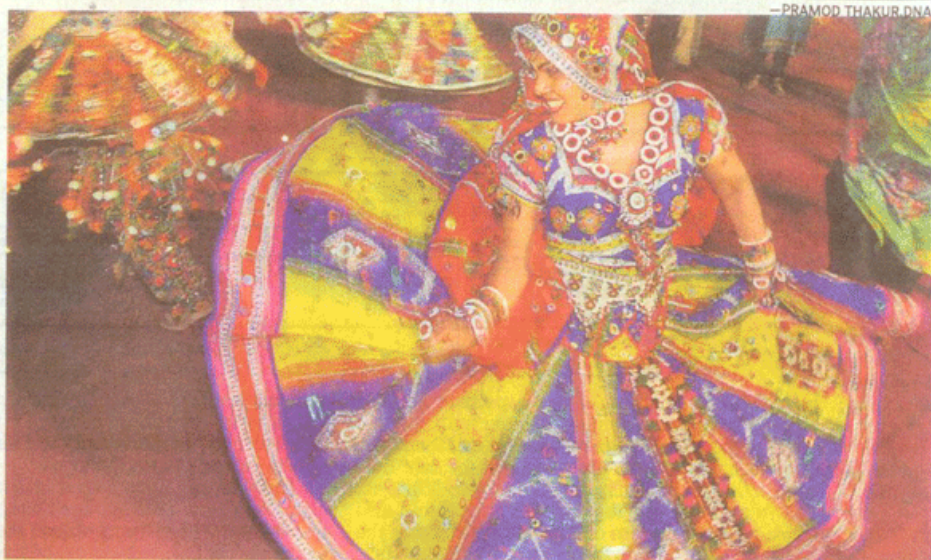
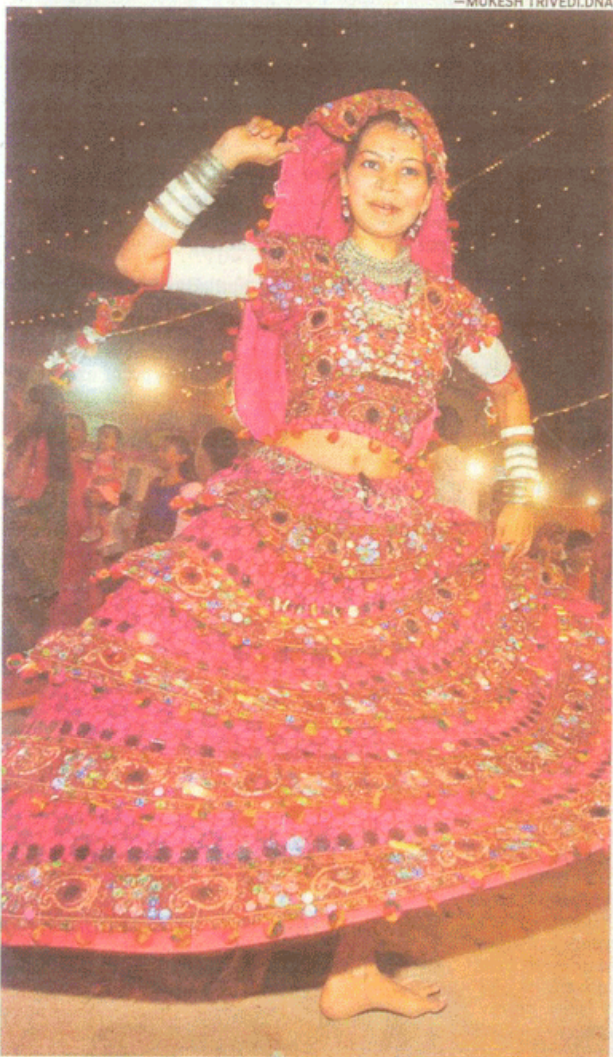


—MUKESH TRIVEDI/DNA

—PRAMOD THAKUR/DNA



Festive fever sparks cosmetic rush

With festivals coming up in quick succession over the next few months, 'lunch hour' procedures — a nip-tuck during the lunch break — have become popular

Deepa Suryanarayan

Five days before Navratri, 35-year-old Pedder Road resident Hetal Patel (name changed) ticked things off her to-do list: new clothes, sweets, a haircut and an appointment with the cosmetic surgeon for some "skin rejuvenation".

Patel's not the only one worried about her skin. Cosmetic surgeons across the city are seeing a huge rush of people wanting to spruce up their appearance before the festive season.

"With festivals like Navratri, Eid, Dussehra, Diwali, Christmas and New Year coming up in quick succession, it is hardly surprising that people want to look their best during this time," said Dr Mohan Thomas, director, Cosmetic Surgery Institute and senior consultant at Breach Candy Hospital. His clientele includes people of both sexes, mostly in their late 20s to early 40s. "People are asking for

LOOK TEST

Botox to smooth out wrinkles, crow's feet, frown and laughter lines

Dermal fillers to plump up the lips and cheeks

Skin polishing to give a radiant look to the skin

Facial rejuvenation

procedures in demand currently.

"Clients usually want results in a single sitting. They want to get rid of wrinkles on the forehead, laugh lines, frown lines, scars, thin lips, wrinkles, depressed scars — you name it," says Dr Gunjan Shah, director of medical services, Skin World, Chembur. According to Shah, botox and dermal fillers are the most sought after, with clients who shell out about Rs10,000 for Botox and Rs20,000 for fillers. "Liposuction too is in great demand as the fat around the tummy is difficult to get rid of quickly," added Dr Nitin Mokal at Sushrusa Hospital.

"This is usually the time when we see a rush of clients who want to spruce up their appearance, as they want to be seen and look their best while they are at it," agreed Dr Kiran Naik, consulting cosmetic surgeon, Total Woman Clinic. And once the 'look' is just right, the festivities begin.

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The first day of Navratri was celebrated with gusto all over Mumbai on Saturday. While some performed the garba at the Kora Kendra in Borivali (top right), a few others did the same at the Dr Antonio da Silva High School's Grounds in Dadar