

COMMUNE

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A lifestyle magazine of DLF Midtown

A DIP IN LUXURY

Hotels designed by renowned fashion designer

FOREVER FRAGRANCES

Perfumes of all time

THE SPRING ISSUE

All-things-colourful



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Actual image of DLF Midtown

COMMUNE



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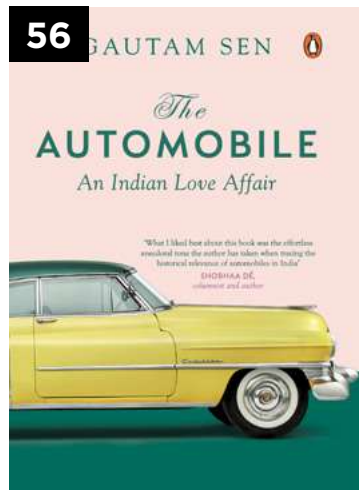
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Dear Patrons,

Spring has arrived and so is the season of new life and regrowth, along with a reminder that change is the only constant. They also say that spring is the time to clear your mind, connect with nature, and feel grateful for everything around us.

While you are still sunk in the feeling of newness, let's take a deeper dive into this edition. Welcoming this new season, I hope this spring themed issue inspires you to think differently.

With the onset of the spring, everything around us looks brighter and more colourful. Colours have always been a source of inspiration, a mood lifter, a change that a human heart desires. Through this issue, we are taking a plunge on colours keeping northern India's one of the biggest festivities in mind- Holi! Every page you thumb through is dashed with hues of spring predominantly yellow and orange to brighten up your fashion and home space. Of course, we haven't missed food; check out the colour-filled summer salad recipes that are easy to toss and tasty to eat.

Rumi once said that "Travel brings power and love back to your life," and at no time does this feels truer than after a long winter. In this edition, we bring to the table a list of luxurious stays we should experience once in a lifetime. I call it "fashion stays" after all they are all designed by the who's who of the global fashion scene. And before you pack up, be sure to check out our picks on the best fragrances of all time. Add one to your travel essentials!

Not only travel and fashion, but it also warms my heart to see all of us getting back to a life we had been missing. I am sure we all look forward to celebrating festivities together once again like the good old days. We are equally thrilled to see your enthusiasm and encouragement shown towards us, especially by women residents during the International Women's Day celebration.

For our kitchen enthusiasts, hopefully, you have had a chance to visit our budding herb garden. From holy basil, mint, thyme to rosemary, we aim to motivate you to try your hands at outdoor activities like gardening and adopt a better lifestyle by having your own in-house herbs in your backyard to enjoy the truest essence of health and beauty. You are more than welcome to join us in our endeavour and take a few saplings for your balcony garden.

Last but not the least, I always welcome your feedback! Please write to us with suggestions to improve and ideas you would like to contribute. As ever, we are grateful for your ongoing support and interest.

Vishal Damani
Business Head - Metros, DLF



March-April

Spring is the season of a new beginning. This is the time to connect with yourself by connecting with nature. Go for long walks, enjoy the vibrant surroundings and relish the fresh produce.



Satya Paul has launched a new flagship concept store at Khan Market, New Delhi. With the opening of the new store, they have also launched their new sub-brand - Satya Paul Home. The home collection includes stylish accessories for the table – like table runners and napkins – that feature special embroidery and bold colours along with a new wallpaper collection, which features a range of patterns – from an eye-popping one dedicated to the brand Talking Heads to a more elegant mogra dotted print – is versatile and made for the contemporary modern Indian home and office. (satypaul.com)



Inspired by nature and an ode to its magnificence, the ‘Cocooned in Luxury’ collection from Eris Home has woven the elegance of matte Eri Silk with cotton to create unique jacquard fabrics. The collection features bedcovers, pillow covers, and accent cushions, each with a unique story to tell. The bedcovers are made of ahimsa jacquard cotton silk double up as quilts and have intricately woven designs that are inspired by the beauty of mother nature. For instance, the greyish-blue bedcover ‘Sombre Sky’, is reminiscent of a cloudy morning that invokes the desire to laze in bed a few moments longer. In contrast, the combination of cream, orange, and teal in the ‘Orange Sunset’ tells the tranquil tale of the sun as it bids us adieu at the end of the day. ‘Sandhills’, third in the collection, is inspired by the unique impressions created by the ebb and flow of desert sand. (erishome.com)



Man Arden, a premium men's grooming brand with superior formulas and packaging has come up with a range of skin and hair care products. The brand's mission is to change the age-old notion revolving around male skincare and the negligence associated with it along with promoting and celebrating the real men. All of their Products are Peta Certified, Vegan, and formulated using safe Ingredients. (manarden.com)



Faber air fryer is designed with keeping your family in mind. The 1.5Kg capacity basket, combined with the 4.5L pan, helps you cook frozen fried meals and a variety of other dishes. It comes with an 8 preset menu that includes frozen snacks, fresh fries, meat, fish, chicken drumsticks, cake, and even grilled veggies. The desired temperature can be set up to 200°C. It has a Smart LED touch panel with an integrated timer and auto cut-off function. Faber's air fryer comes with a removable cooking basket featuring a non-stick coating that is easy to clean and maintain. (faberindia.com)

Sacred Weaves introduced the most recent pastel shades of summer nuptials with their upscale European look. This timeless collection is the perfect spring-summer edit. Dreamy and edgy, it is the perfect juxtaposition between the duality of delicate and daring, bringing to light the designer's innate ability to amalgamate eras in fashion and her uniquely stirring approach to design. The handwoven organza sarees in the daintiest of hues and beguiling zari work make it perfect for all celebrations and special occasions. (sacredweaves.com)



Zoya, the exquisite diamond boutique from the House of Tata, introduces Aeterna a contemporary collection of rare jewellery that traces inspiration from ancient symbols of sacred geometry. The visual language of this landmark collection juxtaposes a very feminine palette in amethyst, pink sapphire, morganite, and rose gold with a strong abstract design to deliver a lively and stylish collection. (zoja.in)



Greensole, a PETA-approved vegan shoe brand in India is raising the bar with their new collection for '22. Offering varied options like hemp fabric shoes, recycled cotton, polyester sliders, recycled cotton shoes, and much more. Each pair is meticulously worked on to incorporate any recyclable material available including old shoes. From the lining to the laces, everything is mindfully manufactured in the factory which runs on sustainable guidelines. Greensole aims to upcycle and donate a million pairs of footwear to underprivileged children, whilst creating employment opportunities for women from the rural areas through their skill centre. With each purchase made by a customer, a part of that revenue goes into catering to the needs of these children and refurbishing footwear for them. (greensole.com)



Ottimo, a design studio for Indo-Italian furniture and interiors, has brought to India a new kitchen collection by Aster Cucine titled, 'Avenue'. A contemporary kitchen that straddles different times, Avenue defines a celebration of cultures. Rising above trends and modes, it embraces timelessness, which is evident in the selection of its materials – wood, marble, burnished steel, glass, etc. The stark geometric patterns of its framed doors are available in two different sizes, allowing you to play with the overall composition. The raw material used for the fabulous collection of handles softens the geometric rigor of the units. It is these thoughts, priceless details that make Avenue a unique kitchen. (ottimo.in)



Collins India, a pioneer of imported hardware in India, comes with a deep-rooted history that dates back to 1986 when it was conceptualized. The brand's product ranges are categorised into Luxe (premium product category) and Nova (economical range). Fragmented in a highly competitive market, these ranges offer product portfolios in the segments like kitchens, wardrobes, side tables, bookshelves, study tables, and TV units. Carrying a rich European product language, these contemporary designs fabricated in world-class finishes are fully customised to suit Indian requirements of optimal space utilization. (collinsindia.com)



Inspired by the city of Japan, Sangeeta Boochra brings to you its fearless modern collection - called Kyoto. Using top-quality carbon-created gemstones with precious metal silver, and high-quality rhodium plating, each piece is handcrafted to suit the needs of modern women. (sangeetaboochra.com)



Hermosa Casa, a luxury home decor brand based in Mumbai recently launched a new collection called Glitz and Gold. The brand handpicks only the finest products with premium quality that are used to curate contemporary designs and that offers a unique mix of richness and art with subtle elegance. (hermosacasa.in)



After the recent successful launch of farm-fresh milk and ghee products, Whyte Farms is happy to announce the release of two new highly anticipated products - the farm-fresh artisanal curd and the farm-fresh paneer. The artisanal curd that is made in small batches to ensure quality is an excellent probiotic and immunity booster at a time when health, wellness, and strengthened immune systems are an important concern for all. The artisanal curd has a silky texture and cloud like-creamy consistency, packing multiple benefits like better digestion, bone health, glowing healthy-looking skin, and aiding weight loss. (whytefarms.com)



Victorinox takes its iconic Spectra trolley collection to the next level with functionality, innovation, and style. As a special extra the new collection introduces a pioneering new sustainability standard and convinces with an eye-catching and stylish appearance in the core colors black and Victorinox red. Making it a sustainable collection, the suitcases are made of recycled, next-generation polycarbonate shell material. To provide extra packing convenience and suit the needs of those who like to shop till they drop, the medium and large models offer a new built-in improved self-expandable system with up to 40 percent of additional volume; the carry-on sizes offer up to 20% additional space. Due to a lightweight spring construction, the expansion system expands automatically as soon as it is unzipped. This holds the sidewalls sturdily and allows easy top-loading even when the case is expanded. (victorinox.com)



Bentodent, India's first Bentonite Clay-based brand, introduces toothpaste in unique and one-of-a-kind variants - mint, activated charcoal, cardamom, betel leaf, and clove-mint. Bentodent was created by highly qualified and experienced dentists who realised the problem with mainstream toothpaste that used glycerine and SLS. They experienced this issue in their dental practice first hand and wondered why anyone wasn't talking about the repercussions of using chemicals for your teeth daily. Understanding the importance of formulating targeted solutions to oral problems, Bentodent has created products that are designed to nurture your teeth and is completely safe for adults and kids. (bentodent.in)



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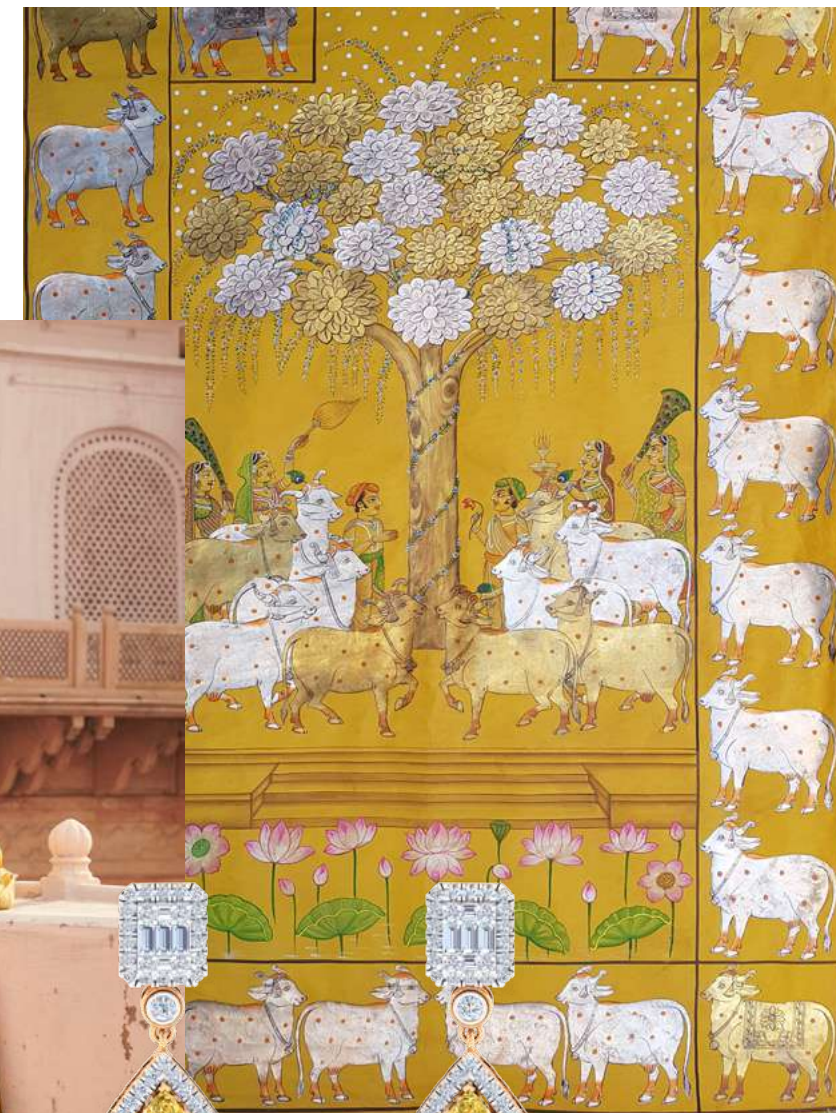
Hues of Spring

Bring home these vibrant shades to add fresh vibes to your fashion and home space.



Camaleonda by Mario Bellini for B&B Italia, available at **Scala Home**

COLOUR OF THE MONTH



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Sun Orange Leather Interlocking Crossbody Bag, **Gucci**; Khejri Pujan Pichwai from Rare, available at **The House of Things**; Earrings, S'Éternals by **Krishna Sheth**; Hyper Blooms Collection by Alex Davis, **Indi Store**; Pumpkin Armchair by Pierre Paulin for Ligne Roset, available at **IOTA**; Masterpieces Range, **Asha Gautam**





Opium Pendant Light, **Mianzi**; Sunstone Vase, **HIH**; Memphis Chair, **Coppice Furniture**; Orange Quilted Block Printed Cushion Cover, **Baro Market**; Stankar Sofa, **Visionnaire**; Lacquer Jewellery Box, **Jonathan Adler**; Yellow Diamond Intense Perfume, **Versace**; Yellow Backpack, **Baro Market**



Cobra Bite 65YY70/540, Dulux by **AkzoNobel**



Perfumes for all time

We understand that picking a new fragrance can be overwhelming. Therefore, we have done blotting and spritzing to put together a list of five classic perfumes that you can easily make your signature scent.

It's no surprise that fragrance can have the biggest impact on our memories and emotions. As compared to many beauty products, most women trust their go-to scents and buy them on repeat. According to a UK-glossy, most of the retailers find the classic fragrances to be in the bestsellers' lists year after year. It will be right to add that a good fragrance enhances the complete look you've so painstakingly put together and adds to your presence. However, if you are unsure about the kind of perfume that can become a part of your personality – spicy, floral, woody and more – we will suggest trying these 5 classic perfumes that every woman must own at some point.

Calvin Klein CK One

Undoubtedly the best-ever perfume to break the gender barriers and caters to the contemporary man and woman. CK One is a bright scent that has bergamot, cardamom, papaya, pineapple, rose, nutmeg, musk, and a few others for a refreshing green tea signature throughout. The androgynous scent has always been on the list of top-selling perfumes. ₹4,525



Tom Ford Black Orchid
Too much drama is packed in a bottle that is enhanced with a bold texture and the signature brass nameplate. Launched in 2006, this is the debut fragrance by designer Tom Ford. Black Orchid is an oriental chypre, with top notes of black truffle, jasmine, and a hint of citrus. It begins with floral-spicy notes, and it develops on amber, vanilla, and woody accords. ₹12,000



Chanel No.5

It's been 100 years since its launch, but Chanel No.5 remains the most famous perfume in the world. The perfume had its breakthrough when Marilyn Monroe spoke about it in an interview in 1954, when asked what she wore to bed, she had provocatively replied, "Just a few drops of Chanel No. 5." This powdery floral is a masterful blend of over 80 ingredients, including Ylang-Ylang, May Rose, and Jasmine. The aldehyde creates a unique presence in the perfume and has a luxurious appeal that has surpassed the trends to become the world's number #1! ₹18,358

Guerlain Shalimar

Jacques Guerlain had created this sensual fragrance after being inspired the love story of Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz. According to him, wearing Shalimar means letting your senses take over. It is a warm and spicy fragrance that opens up with refreshing bergamot, and as it develops, you can detect notes of jasmine, rose, iris base. Shalimar was also voted the 'best fragrance ever' by Fragrantica readers – an online encyclopedia of fragrance and perfume-loving community. ₹10,588



Dior J'adore Eau De Parfum

Known best as a sweet-smelling floral bouquet, J'adore EDP is a tribute to Christian Dior's passion for flowers. The perfume is a symbol of a woman as her most absolute feminine self. Offering an olfactory slice of Dior luxury, it is no surprise that Dior J'adore is the fashion house's number-one-selling fragrance. ₹16,200



NATURE-INSPIRED CUPPA

Pour your morning espresso in a stylish coffee mug with a big smile.



Minimal Indian



Nestasia



Ellementry



Kaunteya

3 surprising coffee facts

- 1. The world's most expensive coffee can cost more than \$600 a pound.
- 2. Finland is home to the biggest coffee lovers
- 3. The largest cup of coffee ever filled a 9-foot tall cup



White Hill Studio (available at The House of Things)

FASHIONABLE STAY

Live the glamorous life at the finest suites in some of the best addresses around the world by booking your stay in these hotels by the who's who of the fashion world.

Armani Hotel, Milan

Hôtel Le Belle - chasse, Paris

Bvlgari Hotel, Milan

Round Hill and Villas, Jamaica





HÔTEL LE BELLE – CHASSE, PARIS

Behind the classic appearance of The Hôtel Le Bellechasse is hidden an outstanding personality. 33 rooms of character where designs, figures, colours, and subjects are skilfully orchestrated and re-occur at the same times neoclassicism and bohemian spirit. Playing with a palette of ambiances and influences, perpetuating a skilful balance between audacity and tradition, Christian Lacroix created seven universes of diversity throughout the rooms: Patchwork, Avengers, Saint Germain, Tuileries, Musketeers, Jeu de Paume, and Quai d'Orsay. All these different themes are a perfect mix of the designer's colourful world and the distinct aristocratic tradition of the neighbourhood. A notable facility is that the hotel provides you with a smartphone for free with internet access, which will help you stay connected with the hotel and the world both.



ARMANI HOTEL, MILAN

The Armani Hotel Milano is situated in the prestigious Manzoni 31 building in Milan, Italy, anchoring the world-famous fashion district known as the Quadrilatero della Moda. The aesthetic of the hotel is unique as Giorgio Armani has lent his personal design touches to this rationalist-style building. The Armani Hotel Milano promises a “home-away-from-home” experience in line with Armani philosophy. The Armani approach goes beyond visual aesthetics, offering a new level of service under the care of the lifestyle service department, with an innovative lifestyle manager concept- who are key representatives of the hotel and are assigned to guests as hosts. The hotel's style and philosophy define every detail of the 95 guestrooms and suites. Each element has been personally designed by Giorgio Armani and has been chosen for its sculptural, aesthetic, and sensual qualities. Precious furnishings and in-room amenities are specially tailored for the utmost convenience of guests and feature a mini-bar, tea and coffee facilities, iPad to control room automation services.





ROUND HILL AND VILLAS, JAMAICA

Steeped in rich history, timeless elegance, and true understated luxury, Round Hill welcomes you with genuine Jamaican hospitality. Impeccably designed by Ralph Lauren to evoke a crisp, clean Caribbean ambience, the Ocean Front rooms at Round Hill are as stunning as they are comfortable. Cool, white stone floors, romantic, four-poster mahogany beds, and sumptuous, upholstered furniture from the designer's Home Collection ensure every guest's comfort, while spacious bathrooms featuring deep soaking tubs, freestanding rain showers, and double vanities add an extra level of luxury. All 36 guestrooms boast unbelievable views of the bay and underwater reef and are steps away from the main infinity pool and white sand beach. Upper-level ocean view rooms have towering Cathedral ceilings and large, louvered windows that fold back to expose the turquoise sea, while lower-level patio rooms feature quaint, secluded balconies that make a perfect spot for morning coffee.



BVLGARI HOTEL, MILAN

On a private street in downtown Milan, in a tastefully renovated 18th century Milanese Palazzo is The Bvlgari Hotel Milano, a five-star hotel situated in the cultural and commercial heart of the city. Designed in line with Bulgari's bold and contemporary style, the hotel features rare and precious materials, which create new combinations of surfaces and surprising chromatic harmonies. The 58 rooms of the Bvlgari Hotel Milan, which include 11 suites, are all extraordinarily bright, thanks to ample windows looking out onto the beautiful garden or an exclusive Milanese courtyard. The furnishings and decor create a refined, yet welcoming atmosphere, an expression of the constant attention to detail for which Bulgaria is famous. Precious materials like teak and oak give each room a feeling of warmth and intimacy. The exclusive hotel organises private visits to villas and museums, hydroplane trips around Lake Como, and excursions to Italy's most exclusive destinations by private plane, limousine, or yacht. Other services include a personal shopper, personal trainer, luxury car rental, in-room check-in, assistance with packing and unpacking, and a parking garage.



Finally, after two years, Holi parties have made a splashing comeback in India. Delhi is one of the best places to celebrate Holi in India, and the fervent residents of DLF Midtown proved it true in their full glory. Be it children or youth, the celebration was seen on a high pitch of festivity with happiness on the faces. It was one of the most awaited festivities celebrated with utmost fondness over two days- Holika Dahan on the 17th March, followed by Rangwali Holi on the 18th. Wood along with cow dung-cakes was fired to imply good conquering evil and the celebration saw almost 1000 residents who were having a good time relishing Delhi's mouth-watering street food and enjoying the wonderful music. The next morning, over 1500 residents gathered in the common area to take part and celebrate the festival. Decorated in a beautiful theme the rain dance became an instant hit amongst the residents, where the DJ numbers went off well. The day was full of fun with everyone tossing a handful of gulal.

HAIKU ON WHEELS

Lexus ES300h brings proven Japanese reliability along with an edgy design, excellent cabin comfort, and an extremely efficient hybrid powertrain to the luxury sedan segment



Lexus has big plans for India. Apart from locally assembling their top-selling ES300h in India, they are gearing up to bring newer models to our shores, including the soon-to-be-launched NX 350h SUV. Before that, they've given the ES300h an update to make it a more tempting proposition. Styling tweaks include new textures on the signature spindle grille, new flared-up headlamp designs, and all-new 18-inch alloy wheels. The Lexus does stand out in a crowd. The cabin is one of the most elegant in the business laced with open-pore wooden highlights, an analogue clock, the premium-music-system-type buttons, and a thin-rimmed steering wheel. All of these simply exude quality. There's a new 12.3-inch infotainment screen which has been angled towards the driver for a better view. The highlight remains the

inclusion of Apple CarPlay and Android Auto and even factory-installed navigation. Not to forget, the seven-inch instrument console gets new graphics and the wireless phone charger. The premium-leather seats are among the best in the class, offering excellent bolstering and support. The rear seats also get reclining back-rests for additional comfort. The cabin, in general, is very spacious, though the sloping roofline hampers the rear headroom slightly. Seated at the back, you get three-zone climate control, window blinds, and full control of the infotainment system courtesy of the buttons on the center armrest. Like before, the ES continues to be equipped with a petrol-hybrid powertrain. Here the 2.5-liter engine makes 178hp and 221Nm of torque, while the front-axle-mounted permanent magnet electric





motor is rated at 120hp and 202Nm. The electric motor and a 1.6-kWh nickel-metal hydride battery power the front wheels via an e-CVT. The combined output has been limited to 218 hp for optimum performance. This might seem comparatively low on paper, but in the real world, it seems more than adequate. The drive brings in absolute silence, almost like an electric car, and continues to be battery-powered till 50 kmph. You just need to feather the accelerator and have enough juice in the battery. Exert it further and the smooth petrol engine joins the action, but the transition is barely noticeable. The refined engine and excellent insulation add to the cabin's plushness. Without even trying, the Lexus delivers an impressive 21 km per litre, which is commendable for a big luxury sedan like this. The ES300h has been designed to offer great comfort and effortless driving and not for thrilling performance. Having said that, the Lexus feels light on its feet, and power flows predictably and in a

linear fashion. With the electric assist, the zero to 100 km/h sprint is managed in a claimed 8.9 seconds. This isn't the quickest in the segment but definitely among the plushest. What's surprising is the seemingly basic MacPherson strut and double wishbone do a good job of keeping most road undulations at bay. You can feel sharp bumps filter through if you're not watchful, though on usual surfaces the Lexus sails on with poise. During fast lane-change manoeuvres, you'll notice some body roll, but it never gets out of hand. And credit for that also goes to the well-weighted steering, which is fairly direct. Having said that, it's not very sporty and the handling isn't as sharp. Priced at INR 61.85 lakh (ex-showroom), the Lexus ES 300h is priced on a par with most of its competitors. Its biggest draw is the Japanese brand's proven track record of ease of ownership and low cost of maintenance.

WOMEN TO WATCH

Given their position on the front line of the climate-change battle, women everywhere are using their voices to take leadership and call for action on climate change. We spoke to three such women to highlight their amazing work with you all



RUTUJA KENDURKAR

An architect and urban designer by education, Rutuja Kendurkar is a fiber artist by passion. She started Thread101 as a one-stop-shop in the market for all kinds of sustainable home décor pieces and utility elements. Having showcased

her creations in major exhibitions across the country, Rutuja wants to promote Thread101 as a way of giving business to local vendors and women while keeping the focus on sustainability

THREAD101 IS ALL ABOUT... my fiber art explorations: a creative endeavour that helps me learn, unlearn, and learn some more. It is a thread that attempts to weave décor pieces that are durable, sustainable, purposeful, and aesthetically pleasing.

DESIGN FOR YOU IS...like breathing. My subconscious mind is continually working on newer concepts, and I'm always buzzing with passion and energy to get back to my workspace and turn these ideas into creations— knot by knot.

THROUGH MY DESIGNS...I wish to create awareness about sustainable decor pieces and make home/workspace organisations more stylish and less wearisome.

I DRAW INSPIRATIONS FROM... my disgust towards reckless misuse and excessive waste. So, every time I see an object that has potential but has been discarded, I take it upon myself to give it some TLC. Sustainability drives me.

THE DESIGN ERA THAT FASCINATES ME THE MOST... While Scandinavian

interior design fascinates me the most, Art Deco holds a special place in my heart. My mandala designs are a direct abstraction of the topmost tier design from the Chrysler building. Geometric shapes, straight lines, and a riot of colours are the basis of my designs.

WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED ABOUT MY WORK... is the freedom of expression and a way of creating free art. In my quest of creating unique decor elements, this plays a major role.

THE RANGE INCLUDES... handcrafted soaps and candles, Bohemian-inspired woven rugs, baskets, wall decor and so much more.

DREAM PROJECT...Creating mega installations for commercial spaces has always been on my bucket list. But doing interior projects completely styled by Thread101 pieces is the ultimate dream.





GURPREET KAUR

Gurpreet Kaur started Eliteearth in 2018 to create and curate handcrafted pieces for home and garden. With her mantra ‘You can create anything once you see it in your mind,’ Gurpreet’s label is driven by women, even all the products are made by women’s hands, and aims to liven up people’s office desks, windowsill, kitchen, bathroom, living room by lending a green kick to your space.

ELITEEARTH IS ALL ABOUT... nothing but concrete. Concrete in terms of determination, concrete in terms of creating, concrete in terms of sustaining. Eliteearth is where women workers stand an equal opportunity as a man worker gets, and all products are majorly made by women in our studio.

DESIGN FOR YOU IS...satisfaction and pleasure of creating utility. THROUGH MY DESIGNS... I simply want to talk utility. Whatever we produce or design holds multiple utilities and is reusable and sustainable. We are working a lot on up-cycling and recycling.

I DRAW INSPIRATIONS FROM... nature and history.

THE DESIGN ERA THAT FASCINATES ME THE MOST... Mughal era. We draw many inspirations from their architectural creations. We have announced our new range that shows our love for the Mughal era.

WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED ABOUT MY WORK...I love the fact that there is a new challenge to create something new and every time a new product is being made, the challenge of its survival will hit us. The journey between casting to unmold is interesting as well as learning.

THE RANGE INCLUDES...planters, desktop accessories, wall clocks, home décor articles, washbasins and bath accessories, 3-D wall tiles, wall panels, and pieces of jewelry. We also have concrete furniture for indoor

and outdoor spaces.

DREAM PROJECT...is to get into beautiful and sustainable public seating across the country. I also strongly feel that our world of concrete will be women-driven completely and this will remain the most special feeling.



GAURI MALIK

In 2012, Gauri Malik quit her high-paying investment banking job after discovering the village Sirohi in the remote corner of Faridabad’s outskirts. She fell in love with the scenic beauty in and around the village that boasts of pristine little lakes formed by quarrying and the Kot temple sitting atop the hills that surround it. Her will to bring a positive impact on the villagers’ lives led to registering The Skilled Samaritan Foundation as a social enterprise and Sirohi was to become The Skilled Samaritan’s first village project. To begin with, the foundation launched the Sunset Treks, a unique mutually beneficial initiative between city dwellers and the village, and the amount earned was spent in assisting the villagers with handicraft projects and selling them to people over the internet. The entire idea later led to the conception of Sirohi. Today the brand is known for redefining conscious luxury and uses jute and cotton or upcycled waste from plastic and textile industrial trimmings woven into ropes to make the end products.

SIROHI IS ALL ABOUT... making functional objects that make people slow down and reminiscence of a life that was simple, and hopefully, this process will bring back the simplicity of our shared past, while slowly composing the story of our future.

DESIGN FOR ME IS... taking cues from the many objects of nature that make us happy, colours that are mood changers to create functional products that represent comfortable conviviality. I aim to bring about simplicity in everyday living, revive India’s heritage, and while empowering women who are the backbone of our country.

I DRAW INSPIRATION FROM... Brought up in the rustic countryside of Uttar Pradesh, I spent a lot of time amidst the diverse flora and

fauna at my family orchards in Muzaffarnagar city, so most of my inspiration comes from the earthiness of nature.

THE DESIGN ERA THAT FASCINATES ME THE MOST...Today’s design era of a perfect mix of contemporary and traditional. WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED ABOUT MY WORK... it keeps me stimulated and rejuvenated, and challenges me on an everyday basis.

THE RANGE INCLUDES... furniture, functional storage boxes, and outdoor furniture. DREAM PROJECT... to make a design lab in village Sirohi (which is also the name of our brand and the first village we started work at), where designers and artisans can co-create functional objects of everyday use.





BRINGING BALANCE

If you are looking to improve the energy of your living room and want to make it a more congenial space, we have got you some handy tips that are Vastu-compliant



The first space that welcomes you home is your living room. It is just not an area for you and your family to bond well, but also a space to entertain your guests. The first thing that comes to our mind when we think about the living room is the fact that it should be inviting and homely. Since this room of our homes serves a dual purpose, it is essential to keep its Vastu correctly. Heading on to Vastu Shastra, which means the ‘science of structure’, was formulated to help us live in tune with nature. It provides us with solutions to many problems through the proper arrangement of furniture, fixtures, and colours. According to Vastu, an ideal home is one whose length and breadth are the same. Yes, it is highly difficult

to find such homes now, and therefore issues can crop up after some time. This is the reason Vastu is highly recommended to bring in the positive flow of energy in your living room.

Start with entrance

According to Vastu expert Pandit Rupesh Tripathi, the main entrance to a home is not just an entry point for family and guests, but also energy. The main door must be constructed in a way that when you step out, you face the north, east, or north-east direction. Since this is the area to enter the positive energy, avoid placing a dustbin or a shoe rack. You can decorate the door with floral torans and make sure that it’s well lit.



Let's place the furniture

To bring in a homely feel is very important, after all, it's the key to distinguishing your space from a hotel room. You can decorate the space with as many pieces as you want, but it will be good to know the direction of placement. Keep your sofa in the west or southwest direction of the living room. "Your TV and other electronic gadgets can be installed in the southeast section. If you want to have a mirror in the room, ensure it is placed on the north wall," shares Vastu consultant Dr. Anand Kaushik. Avoid using paintings that depict negative scenes such as fire, flood, crying child, sinking ship, etc. Also, showpieces, photo frames, and mirrors with a crack are a big no as they bring bad luck.

Choose the hues

The right colour selection not only talks high about your personality but also helps to build a positive first impression. Vastu has specific colours for each part of your home. For the living room, you can go for light pink, white, off-white, cream, beige to bring in calmness, purity, welcoming, and fresh energy. You can create a balance with the right selection of furnishings that are in contrast with the primary hue of the wall. This will rotate positive vibes and fill your living room with happiness. Go for bold shades of turquoise, bright pink, yellow for a vibrant look.



Lifestyle



TASTEFULLY
INSPIRED

Using a plurality of luxurious designs and sophisticated colours, this home in the capital speaks of homeowners' love for elegant living



HOME FACTS

Owner: A family of five – husband Kirty, wife Shweta, their daughters Diva and Twesha, and mother Kamla Devi | **Area:** 3,350 sq ft | **Home:** Living cum dining, three bedrooms, kitchen and lounge | **Décor:** Contemporary





“This has been our dream home since the day we had booked it. We always had an eye out for things we will do to give it our signature. We did not follow trends, we have followed our hearts, and took inspiration from many of our travels,” shares the houseproud Shweta. Nestled in a high rise and showcasing the beautiful greens of the surroundings, the design of the entire apartment reflects urban elegance where the traditional and contemporary interact seamlessly. The home accommodates the needs of its occupants and also reflects their personalities in every sense. The predominant use of marble and luxurious fabrics for wall covering give rise to pure volumes that remain beautiful. The foyer of the home draws its personality from chevron flooring, metal screening, and beautiful urlis. As you move ahead, the space opens up to a huge living-dining area that exudes a feeling of opulence. Opened up from three sides by ceiling to floor windows where the glass acts as a transparent layer that stands between the indoors and the

outdoors. The family enjoys their morning tea here with the sunrise. “Our brief to the interior designer was a spacious, aesthetic home through which could express ourselves. Our enthusiasm and excitement for this home had led us to contemplate various options through which our aim could be manifested,” shares Shweta. While the entire house is spread out with Italian marble that speaks a formal language, the bedroom rests on wooden flooring that brings in a cozy, warm feel. Hints of glitter through silk used on the wall complete the picture of a perfect space. Cappucino, sepia, and a hint of silver and gold - those are the kind of colours we see when we imagine luxury. Walking into these colours as you enter the apartment, you realize that they are subtle enough to never tire your eyes. “We wanted a clutter-free living space. Therefore, we have used silver vases, urlis, and lots of candles to accessorise the home. Silver being the coolest metal of all, it certainly adds to the positivity of the home,” concludes Shweta.



STRAIGHT OUT OF NATURE

Taking a cue from Assam's stunning landscapes, artist Sandeep Jindung's paintings deliberate upon humankind's chrysalis phase after Covid-19

Inspired by the picturesque bamboo and wild orchid garden of his mother back in Assam, contemporary artist Sandeep Jindung had brought the crimson reds, vivid greens, and clear blue skies of Assam to the walls of Gallerie Nvya in a show titled 'Flowering from the Chrysalis'. The solo show of his recent works, painted during the pandemic, subtly and beautifully expresses the emergence of courage after the period of struggle. The vibrant landscape paintings of Painting from College of Art, New Delhi, surroundings, childhood nostalgia, and such as plants of heliconia, lilies, orchids, elephant apples (Ou Tenga), pumpkins; insects like bees, butterflies, and fireflies. In his most recent series of acrylic triptychs, the Assam-born artist depicts body of work showcases the talented artist's well as the introspective hues of the night. "I want the viewer to feel and see the beautiful the sublime have always been the impetus of been the time I spent in the beautiful hilly brought up. The flowers and birds that grew in abundance in the wilderness and the colourful landscapes were the profound 'spaces' I grew up in. This childhood fascination with the 'sublime wild' left a lasting impression and this affair with the wild deeply inspired me as an artist. All of my works are blended on the same tones of celebrating nature and its authenticity depicts scenes from my childhood. Taking this inspiration and the etched impression, it is a deeper take on the past blissful memories and acts as a tribute to it," shares the artist Sandeep Jindung.



paintings, which consists of diptychs and the concept of chrysalis in a symbolic way. The vibrant narratives of nature during the day as

nature that I portray in my canvases. Nature and my work. The memory of my formative years has town of Diphu in Assam where I was born and

New on the block

If you have to be one of those whose prime motive is to explore new cafes and food, then we have got you covered. Read more...



C'est La Vie

A cafe that sends out warm vibes, great coffee, and food that is both delicious and healthy. Sounds like a dream come true? Well, that's C'est La Vie for you! It all started with the simple thought of sharing joy and love with the community, and C'est La Vie has been doing just that (and how). Enter this beautiful joint on any day and you'll be greeted with smiles, chatter, light, and the aroma of good food. You'll see some tastefully done interiors in greens and yellows, and hear music that'll calm every frayed nerve in your body. To top it, every dish that you see on their menu is mindfully curated with fresh, gourmet ingredients. They have a long and exotic menu with cuisines from different corners of the world. Authentic Neapolitan pizzas, juicy burgers, nutritious bowls, handcrafted desserts, and more - C'est La Vie has something for everyone. Their Korean cream cheese buns have the ability to take your breath away. With a tranquil ambience, beautiful balcony, serene plants, and the sun shining through their windows, C'est La Vie is the place to be.



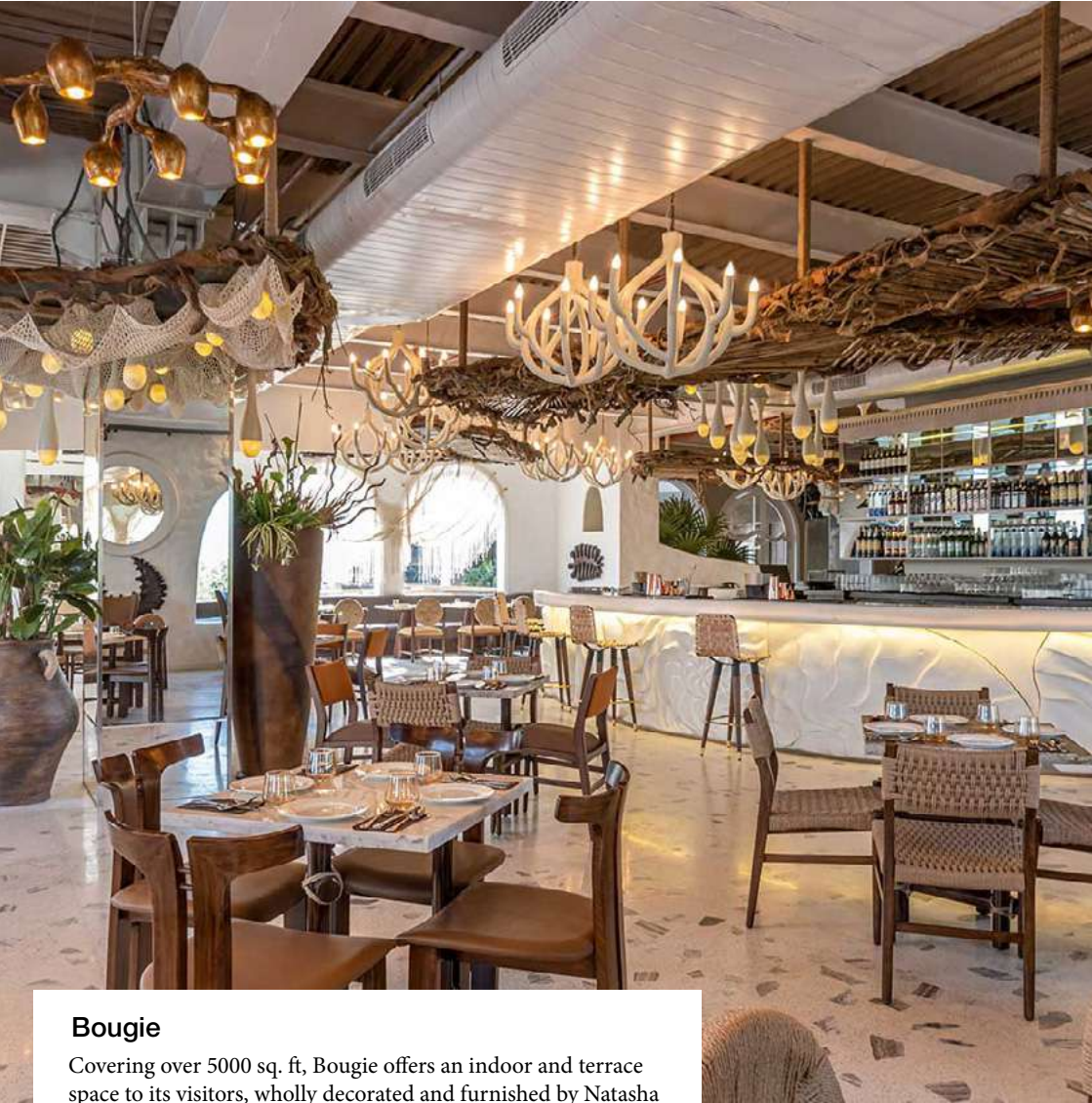
My Tea Chapel

My Tea Chapel is a Pinza and specialty tea, quick-service restaurant with 32 covers. It is the first pinza restaurant in the QSR space in India and caters to both dine-in and delivery. My Tea Chapel is an attempt to bring a revolution in pizza by introducing a modern interpretation of historic Roman pizza recipe (much healthier and tastier), as it was known more than 2000 years ago, along with a unique waffle from Liege anchored with an eclectic tea collection from around the world and most sought-after Indian tea gardens. From TWG as well as Makaibari in Darjeeling, the teas are full of health benefits from antioxidants to minerals, vitamins, skin glow. The range extends from Matcha Nara from Japan - one of the most premium matcha in the world, Rooibos from South Africa and Oolong and white tea from Darjeeling such as Silvertip imperial and Bai Mu Dan. And about Pinsa dough, it is made of soy, rice and wheat flour making it multi-grain, relatively lower gluten than pizza as well as higher protein. It is also hydrated up to 80% as compared to 60% of pizza dough, adding to its digestibility.

Miso Sexy

Nestled amidst the fashion hub of the city, Miso Sexy offers a space that matches the uptown vibe of Ambawatta One, extending the sexiness of its fashion to your plate. Spanning over a total of 4,000 sq ft in Mehrauli, it proposes a sultry indoor space, a terrace space with the clearest sunset and Qutub view, and a Private Dining Room, aptly named 'The Living Room' by Bent Chair. Making the Qutub and sunset views sexier are lip-smacking Miso Pan Asian Dishes paired with Sexy Signature Cocktails. Bent Chair's eccentric designs around the outlet bring to life the alluring energy of the brand, creating an aura that is bound to keep you captivated all evening long. Miso Sexy offers a range of Southeast Asian dishes, with a focus on Japan, Singapore, and Malaysia. Keeping in line with the pop and sexy theme, over 80 dishes have been carefully selected to be a part of the food menu. Amongst these, the Star Miso dishes will include Glitter Chicken, Scallop Curry Leaf, Pork Loin, Lamb Chops, and more. The main cocktail menu has been divided into four sections; Sweet, Sour, Savoury, and Umami, creating a wholesome palette for everyone.





Bougie

Covering over 5000 sq. ft, Bougie offers an indoor and terrace space to its visitors, wholly decorated and furnished by Natasha and Neeraj Jain, the owners of the renowned decor and furniture brand Bent Chair. An interaction between elements, Bougie depicts fire, reflected in the lava-like patterns of their bar countertops; Earth, reflected in the use of tree barks, driftwood, rope, and handcrafted wooden furniture; Water, reflected in the swirling seashell designs of the bar and the makeshift rafts on the ceiling; Air, reflected through the terrace space and the cool terrazzo mosaic flooring running throughout the outlet. The Mughal-era arch windows around the restaurant flaunt unique drapes, handwoven by the artisans of Delhi, mastering the art of Macrame. Various pieces of wood have been upcycled around the outlet, creating everything from nothing. A nod to worldly heritages, Bougie showcases African totem poles, Greek wall textures, South European boho vibes, tribal carpets, and more.

Extending the organically clean rusticity onto your plate, Chef Priyam Chatterjee, the first Indian to be awarded France's Ordre du Merite Agricole, has curated an exclusive Mediterranean European menu, masterfully dividing it into 'All Day At Bougie', Bougie's all-day breakfast menu, and 'Midi Et Soir', Bougie's lunch and dinner menu.



Celebrating Womanhood

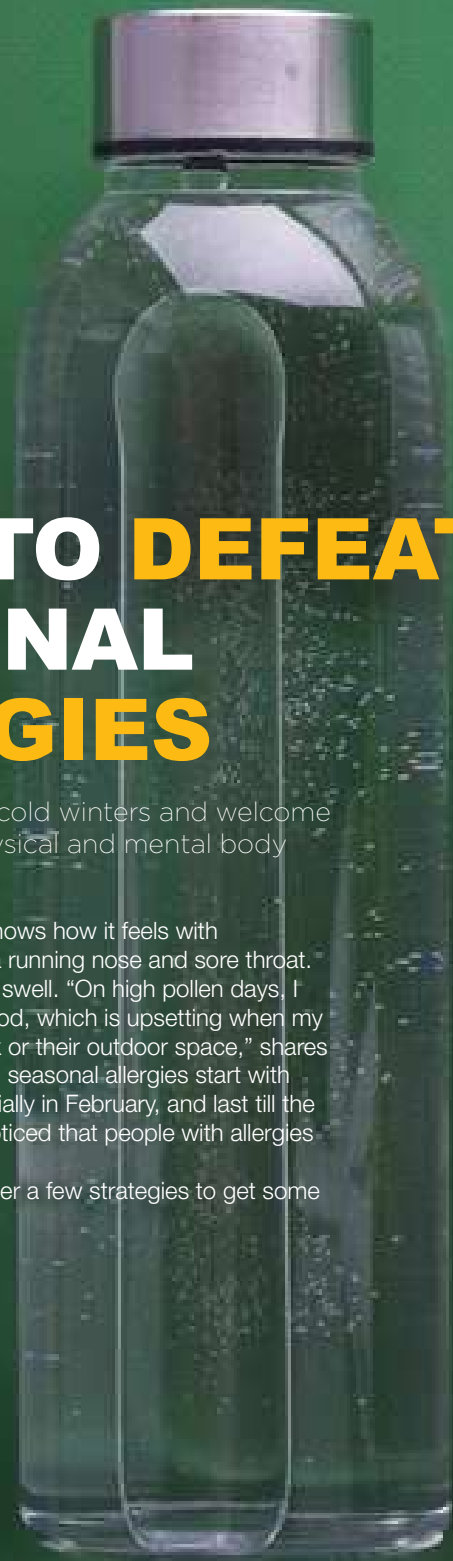
Every year, March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day. With hundreds and hundreds of mantras that encourage women's existence, a special day such as Women's day is an occasion that is celebrated to honour womanhood. With the various roles she plays in her life, women have made the world a better place with their infinite strength and determination. To celebrate their spirit, a special evening full of activities was dedicated to lovely women residents of DLF Midtown. The event saw about 120 women gracing their presence at the Clubhouse. With many engaging and fun sessions that were hosted by an emcee, the management presented salon vouchers to the winners and participants. Everyone enjoyed the evening with the lip-smacking street food of Delhi and left for home with cheerful faces and memories.



WAYS TO DEFEAT SEASONAL ALLERGIES

It's time to shake off the cold winters and welcome spring with a healthy physical and mental body

Renuka, a Zumba instructor, knows how it feels with springtime allergies. She gets a running nose and sore throat. Her eyes get watery, itchy, and swell. "On high pollen days, I can only go out for a short period, which is upsetting when my clients want a session in a park or their outdoor space," shares Renuka. In many parts of India, seasonal allergies start with transition in any season, especially in February, and last till the start of summer. It has been noticed that people with allergies have year-round symptoms. However, we have tried to gather a few strategies to get some relief from seasonal allergies.



Limit your outdoors time

Spring is the time for trees to release billions of tiny pollen grains into the air. They trigger an allergic reaction when we breathe them into our nose and lungs. It is advisable to stay indoors as much as possible and especially during windy days. Also, wear glasses to keep pollen out of your eyes and a filter mask to cover your nose.

Start early

Consult a doctor and start taking medications long before your eyes get watery and you have started sneezing. The aim is to have the medicine in your system by the time you need it.

Try the natural way

Some herbal ways may help stave off allergy symptoms. These natural remedies may not have an immediate effect as the medicines but gradually these remedies will reduce the allergies and its symptoms. Here is a list of some of the most effective home remedies for allergies.

1. Try neti: It is an ancient yogic system used to clear the nasal passages. Fill the neti pot with sterile saline solution and pour it through one nostril and let it pour out of the other. You can try this technique twice a day, and it has no side effects.
2. Eat citrus fruits
Citrus fruits like oranges, sweet lime are rich in Vitamin C which boost our immune system.



3. Use turmeric while cooking

Turmeric contains curcumin which may work as a decongestant. Many say that it helps ward off minor ailments like cold and cough.

4. Try local honey

Some homeopathic enthusiasts believe eating local honey can reduce allergies. The theory is that since bees make honey in the presence of local allergens (pollen), you will be exposed to the allergen in small quantities and eventually develop a tolerance, similar to allergy shots. Though there is no evidence to prove this fact, it doesn't hurt to try.

5 Take fish-oil supplements

Try taking it daily for a month since fish-oil supplements will decrease the number of leukotrienes in the body. Leukotrienes contribute to allergic reactions.

Spring clean your home

Simple changes in your home space will bring a huge difference. Clean floors daily with a vacuum cleaner that has a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filter. These filters trap 99.97% of microscopic particles in the air. Shut all windows to keep out pollen. Take off your shoes at the door and ask guests to do the same. That keeps allergens outside. lastly, don't smoke. It can make allergy symptoms worse.



Harmony Garden

LET'S TURN YOUR BALCONY GARDEN INTO A SANCTUARY BY FOLLOWING THESE FENG SHUI TIPS AND TRICKS

Zones & Elements

According to Feng Shui, the garden is arranged in nine areas or zones, and each zone represents a universe, a realm of life through forms, objects and colours. As we all know, there are five basic elements in Feng Shui – Fire, Water, Metal, Earth, and Wood. They maintain harmony in the world around us and influence our lives. Therefore, it is important to create an order with these five elements when you want to create a Feng Shui Garden.

North

The north zone symbolizes the winter season. It represents career, fame, flow and mystery of life. It must be in the front of the entrance with water as a dominant element. The colour for this zone is violet, black, blue, and other dark colours. It is advised to add water features or ponds, rocks, water plants and blue flowers here.

South

Representing the summer season, the south is the direction of success and fame. Since the dominant element here is fire, the colours are red, orange, pink, and purple. Plants that have similar colours can be grown here.

East

The eastern direction represents health and the onset of spring. Here, the dominant element stands wood, and the green colour represents harmony and balance. You can grow medicinal plants, herbs, palms, and bamboos.

West

Represents the family area, the main element is metal and its colour is white. You may also use grey and silver colours here. Grow plants in different hues with white ones, and put wrought iron furniture, chimes and some pots.

Centre

You have to keep this zone open and uncluttered. The dominant element here is earth and the colour is yellow. Since it represents unity, harmony



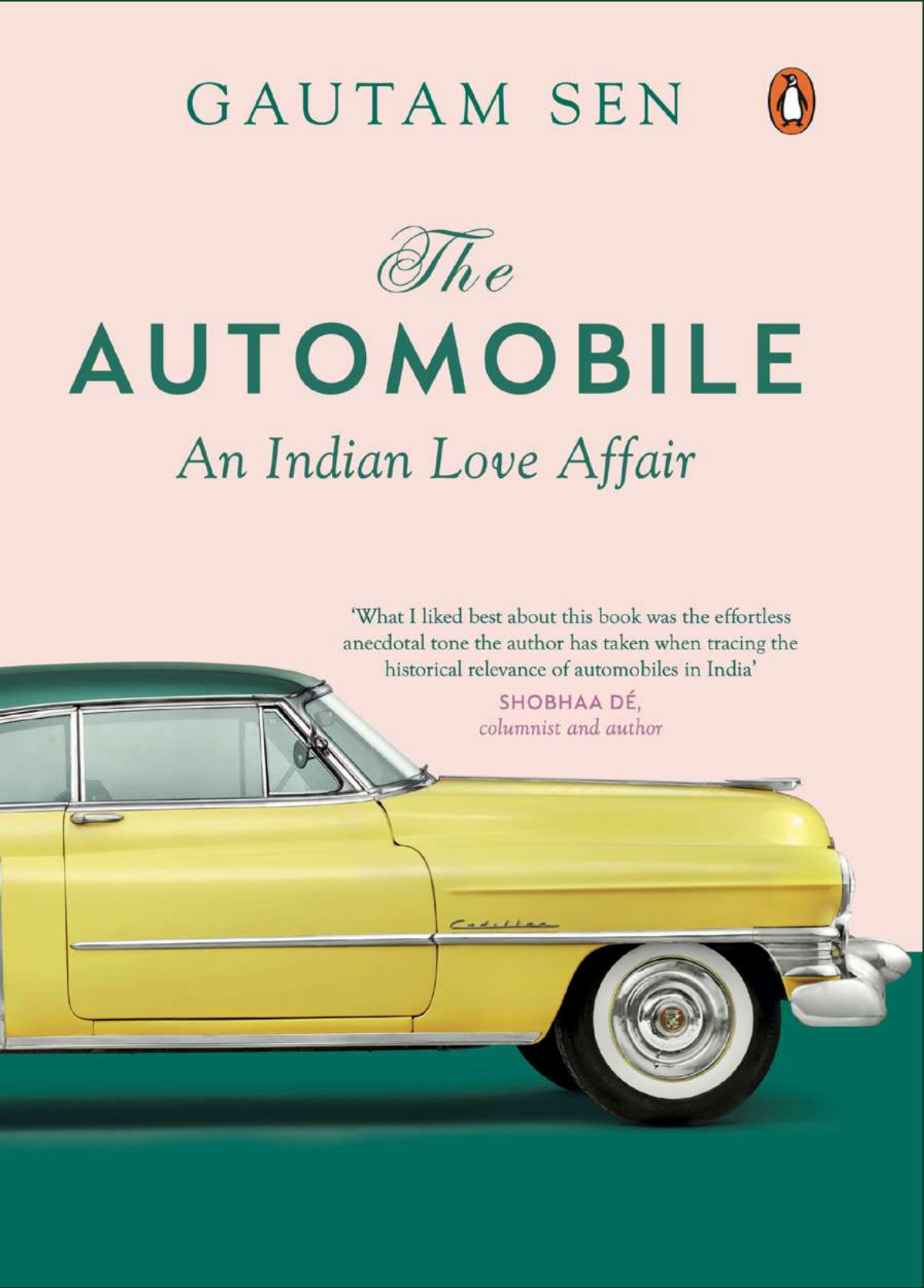
A PRACTICE THAT COMES FROM CHINA, FENG SHUI IS AN ART OF REACHING HARMONY IN LIFE. IT IS SAID THAT IF A GARDEN IS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE FENG SHUI GUIDELINES, IT BRINGS PROSPERITY, PEACE, AND HARMONY.

and balance, and connects all zones of the Feng Shui garden, it should be kept clean.

KEEP IN MIND

- To maintain the flow of energy, it is vital to have movements in the garden. Put feeders, grow trees, fruits, and flowers to invite butterflies, bees, and birds.
- Statues and sculptures attract positivity. You can also add pots and urns that are holders of luck and abundance.
- Water is the main element in the Feng Shui garden and it is a symbol of prosperity, you can add water bodies or create ponds.





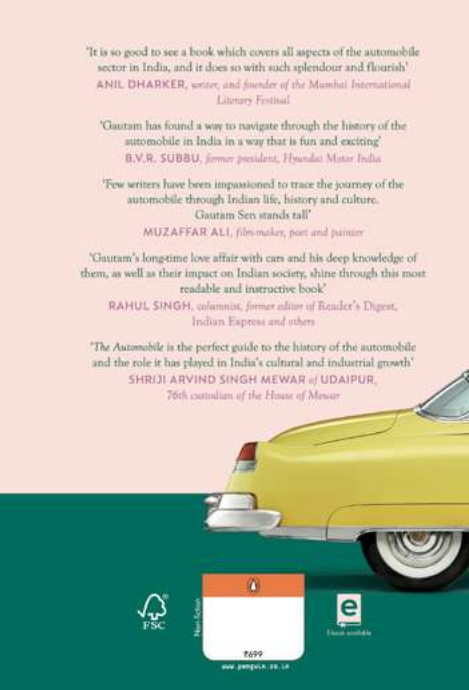
The Automobile- An Indian Love Affair

From the quirky Swan car to the doomed Tata Nano, author-historian Gautam Sen delves deep into India’s automotive past

Words: Aninda Sardar

Buying a car in India is more than just owning a machine with four wheels. It is still a matter of pride for the owner and a sense of achievement too. The second-largest purchase the average Indian makes are his car, and the average Indian loves his car. In fact that India’s love for the automobile isn’t something recent. Au contraire stretches right back to the turn of the previous century when the automobile as a phenomenon was less of practicality and more of an exotic toy. It is this love affair that author-historian and historic vehicles expert Gautam Sen pens in his book titled “The Automobile – An Indian Love Affair.” Succinctly written and replete with some of the rarest photographs from India’s automotive archives, it’s a fascinating read about the evolution of India as an automotive market and how the automobile has come to define our culture. And not just for the superbly researched information alone, but what

makes the book particularly endearing is the casual anecdotal narration of a storyteller that is so different from the formal tones of a historian. It’s the little details that he puts in, stories of how a family might have gone on joy rides back in the day, that makes the book come alive. The other thing that makes this book special is that at no point do you get the sense that he is even remotely awed by the kind of automobiles and families he talks about – erstwhile Maharajas and Nawabs and their Rolls-Royces and Daimlers. No, instead you realise that Sen is just as intrigued by the middle-class guy in his Austin or Morris. The book of course could have been an exercise in nostalgia that could have ended at the beginning of what we know as the Licence Raj, but no. To Sen, the Indian chapters of this Indian love affair were just as significant. An absolute treat to read!



It's GREEN TIME

Chef Ogein Lepcha of Asian Nomad shares two of his very best salad recipes, guaranteed to be full of flavour and favourites for years to come



Larb Gai

INGREDIENTS

- Chicken thigh (chopped)
- Lemongrass (chopped)
- Thai ginger (chopped)
- Lemon leaf (chopped)
- Fresh red chilli (chopped)
- Onion
- Japanese cucumber
- Green lettuce
- Five spiced powder
- Light soya sauce
- Peanuts
- Broth powder
- Roasted quinoa
- Roasted sticky rice
- Fish sauce dressing

METHOD

Mix all ingredients in a big bowl. Add five spice dressing. The salad is ready to serve with sticky rice.

*Asian Nomad is available on Zomato and Swiggy and delivers across Gurugram and Delhi.



Exotic Veggies of choice

- Babycorn
- Water chestnut
- Shimeji mushroom
- Green zucchini
- Yellow zucchini
- Lettuce
- Olive oil

For dressing

- Avocado mayo
- Five spiced dressing

Garnish

- Dehydrated kiwi
- Chia Seeds

Grill all the vegetables and take them in a bowl. Add lettuce and olive oil to it. Add the dressings and garnish with kiwi and chia seeds. Read to serve.

HOW IS PILATES A GOOD WAY TO RELIEVE PAIN AND TENSION?

Pilates is a well-rounded workout invented by Joseph Pilates in the early 20th century. It is an expressway to achieving both a fit body and mind. From improving flexibility, increasing muscle strength, strengthening your core, improving posture, and stabilization of your spine. Pilates exercises can be life-changing for your body. The secret to Pilates is the coordination between the mind, body, and soul. Incorporation of this form of exercise into your daily fitness routine can be very effective for you; it can alleviate lower back pain and other muscle aches and pains.

So, what exactly is it about Pilates that makes it a one-stop solution for your well-being and it's the benefit of mind-body connection?



If you are a fitness enthusiast or have been into exercise for quite some time, then you might be aware of the exercise form known as Pilates. Anything that involves moving, toning, stretching, getting your heart rate up or strengthening your muscles is likely good for your body. But, one workout that offers so much more than toned muscles—is Pilates. Shobana Mahansaria, Director of Core Fit Plus shares more insights on pilates and the benefits on our body



Stress Management and Relaxation

The great thing is, these exercises can be life-changing for your mind, too! Pilates uses techniques that benefit our minds and help with our mental health as well. Everyone can use these low-impact exercises for a healthy mind as well as a healthy body. As mentioned earlier, Pilates helps reduce stress as it affects our nervous system. The breathing exercises help ease muscle tension, improve blood circulation, and teaches you to use your breath to help soothe the nervous system. This results in less stress, anxiety and fatigue and an increased feeling of calm and well-being. On the other hand, it also decreases stress hormones like, cortisol. And increases the body's endorphins, which are the feel-good chemicals that give your mood a natural boost.

Take time out for yourself

Pilates is suitable for all ages and builds endurance and overall health, and stamina. You must understand that Pilates is a practice, no one is perfect; you need to listen to your body and do what you can and what is best suited for you. Taking time out from a busy day-to-day life and concentrating on your breathing and stretching muscles can be a great antidote for a stressed lifestyle. Pilates can fuse body, mind, and spirit and greatly reduce a sense of rush, pressure, and stress.



LUXURY THAT INDULGES YOU DAILY



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Artistic rendition of the Infinity edge pool at ONE Midtown

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Artistic rendition of Restaurant



Artistic rendition of Swimming pool



Artistic rendition of Games room

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