

High 5

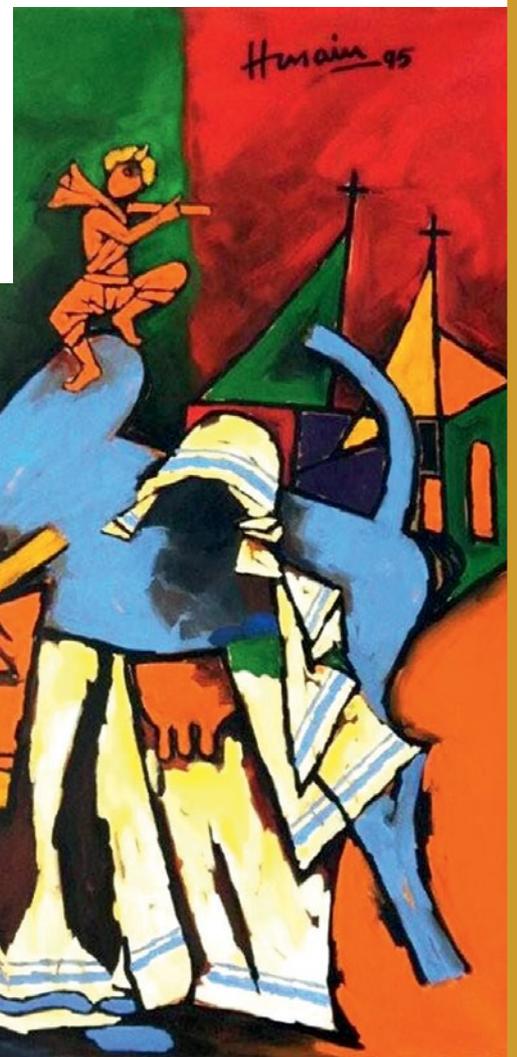
The lifestyle magazine for DLF5

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 5 |
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER '21



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Dear Resident,

The festive season is here! As we gear up for celebrations and reunions with our family and friends, I urge each and every one of you to continue taking necessary precautions, even if you are fully vaccinated. Let's not forget, it's only by following stringent protocols that we can together win against COVID-19.

This time, the final lap of the year does not just mark the arrival of the festivals, but also the beginning of the 75th year of India's independence. Look back, and you will find countless bravehearts who contributed to the cause of a free India, followed by many others who stepped up to dream big and have made our country proud over the years. Come, fall in love with the modern India as our cover story celebrates the nation's luminaries in the creative field that put us on the global map. Speaking of celebrations, we couldn't be happier to inform that DLF condominiums are all set to bring back their exciting club events, some of which are listed inside.

In addition, we showcase our discerning residents who take us through their memorable journeys of being a part of the DLF family for years. Sit back as we take you back in time with vintage decor ideas, retro makeup, old-school gentleman grooming, and restaurants near DLF5 that have found inspiration in their roots. We also bring you real-world advice, coolest parenting tricks to ace online schooling, wellness practices, offbeat birding destinations, world's most luxurious hotel suites, and more. With a great mix of features on fashion, lifestyle, tech and travel, this issue has something for every kind of reader.

'Looking back only means that we have a lot to look forward to.' The issue is a firm reminder of the same sentiment, and we hope you enjoy it. As always, we welcome your valuable feedback and submissions.

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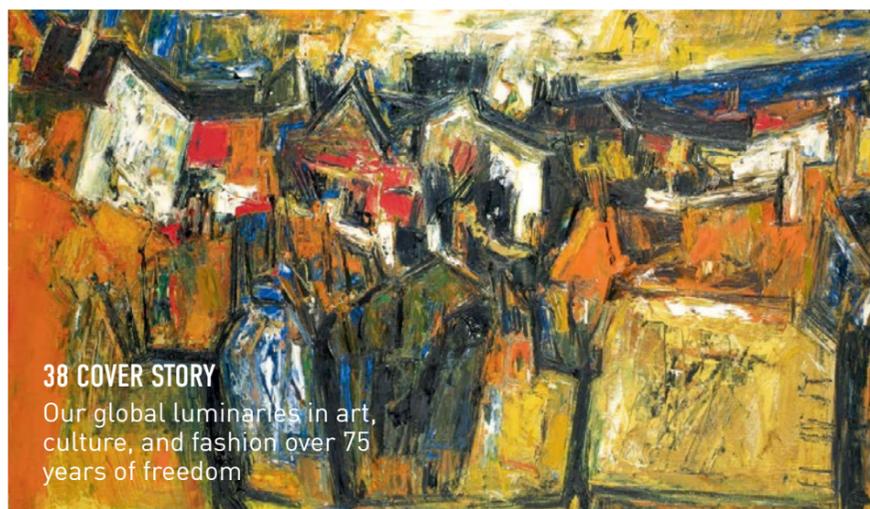
Burda International Holding GmbH
Legal Address: Hubert Burda Platz 1
77652 Offenburg, Germany

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D-81925 Munich, Germany

High5, a bi-monthly magazine for DLF5 by DLF Limited, is printed and published by Puneet Nanda on behalf of Burda Media India Private Limited for DLF Limited and printed at Sundeepp Press C-105/2, Naraina Industrial Area Phase-I, New Delhi 110028. High5 magazine is published six times a year. All rights reserved. The writing, artwork and/or photography contained herein may not be used or reproduced without the express written permission of Burda Media India Private Limited. Burda Media India Private Limited does not assume responsibility for loss or damage of unsolicited products, manuscripts, photographs, artwork, transparencies or other materials. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily of Burda Media India Private Limited or DLF Limited. All efforts have been made while compiling the content of this magazine, but we assume no responsibility for the effects arising there from.



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ON THE COVER: COURTESY OF HGM; COURTESY OF WIKIART



DISHA KEDIA GUPTA

A Chartered Financial Analyst by qualification, Disha is a self-taught artist-cum-designer with an innate passion for art and detailing. Most of her artworks take inspiration from mandalas and her life at The Crest.



KRISHAN KALRA

Currently living at The Camellias, Krishan Kalra has been in the corporate sector for 38 years and was the former President of AIMA. He has also served as the Additional Secretary-General for FICCI in the past.



NUPUR KAUL

A resident of The Aralias, Nupur has a Master's degree in Business Administration and is an avid reader of philosophy. She is currently pursuing her passion for writing and independent consulting.



SUBODH BHARDWAJ

A practising astrologer for over four decades, Subodh Bhardwaj is a numerologist and Vaastu specialist with an impeccable command over gems and precious stones.



AJITA SINGH

Ajita is a strategy, analytics and research professional with an experience of over 14 years, currently working in the Pharmaceuticals sector. Mother of two, she loves reading, blogging and cooking in her spare time.



MAJOR H S VIRK

A third-generation Army veteran with a natural inclination for creative fields, Major Harpal Singh Virk is currently a resident of The Magnolias. He is at present working on the script for a film based on his life in the forces.



TAKE IT SLOW

Promoting sustainable fashion through its unique and timeless collections, Originate is a testament to slow living

Today, the rapidly rising concerns for the environment have made ethical life choices more a necessity than an option. Causing a paradigm shift in our society, the pandemic has been a further reminder for us to have a moment of introspection and take a conscious look at our choices as consumers. With our fast-paced lives coming to a halt, the world is once again reverting to nature and simple ways of life.

The legacy of mindful living, slow lifestyle and sustainable fashion has, however, always been deeply rooted in Indian crafts and traditions. We all have witnessed the sublime process of reuse, reduce and recycle unfold in the form of hand-me-down clothes and accessories. There are numerous approaches taking shape today to incorporate sustainable fashion into our daily lives, be it buying timeless pieces for seasons to come, thrifting old clothes or upcycling garments to reduce your carbon footprint. The developing consciousness among users, especially the younger generations, is also steering their interest towards brands which are mindful of their end-to-end processes.

The idea of one such indigenous conscious brand, Originate, stems from the similarly simple concept of creating an intense connection between compelling narratives and conversations about timeless sustainability, through the means of clothing. Originate believes in making effortless silhouettes and thoughtful designs while giving back to the environment and promoting an eco-conscious lifestyle. Its collections are tailored in organic fabrics like soy protein and natural weaves, followed by immaculate craftsmanship and zero-waste packaging (think plantable seed paper tags!) that together make its aesthetics evoke a sweet nostalgia seeping into a timeless and sustainable wardrobe. originate.in

STORY OF A BEAN

In a world full of instant, mass-produced coffees, find your perfect artisanal cup with these indigenous brands



BLUE TOKAI COFFEE ROASTERS

One of the most renowned names in the business, Blue Tokai Coffee Roasters was founded by Namrata Asthana and Matt Chitharanjan when they realised the scarcity of artisanal coffee in India. Brewing delicious coffee since 2013, they have now opened 28 cafes in the country. Their coffee comes fresh from single-estate, 100 per cent Arabica beans carefully picked from farms across India, offering a wide range of quality roasts. bluetokaicoffee.com

BLACK BAZA COFFEE

Not just another artisanal coffee brand—they actively describe themselves as an “activist company” and claim that their coffee is “radical”. Black Baza was founded by Arshiya Urveeja Bose, who wanted to help Indian coffee farmers secure stable livelihoods as well as advocate sustainable farming practices. Their coffee comes in biodegradable packs and is completely traceable back to their farms. On offer are Arabica and Robusta beans and many different blends, ranging from dark chocolate to South Indian filter *kaapi* and more. blackbazacoffee.com



ARAKU COFFEE INDIA

Made with the same intensiveness as wine, Araku Coffee is cultivated, processed and roasted fresh every day. The beans are hand-picked by local tribal farmers of the Araku Valley in Andhra Pradesh, and there is a resident master roaster for added perfection. The best part? The packaging is biodegradable! This novel venture has also won a Prix Epicures’ Gold medal in Paris, thus making waves on the global stage. arakucoffee.in



SLEEPY OWL

Arman Sood, Ajai Thandi and Ashwajeet Singh are the brains behind this gourmet coffee brand. Tired of instant coffees, this trio of friends set up Sleepy Owl with the aim of providing the ideal coffee experience in India. They use 100 per cent Arabica beans, which are sourced directly from the hills of South India. The company tests its coffee multiple times before bringing out the final product. The roasting is done in small batches and immediately ground and sealed to maintain quality. sleepyowl.co

KC ROASTERS BY KOINONIA

Koinonia has made a name for itself by providing fine-quality specialty coffee. KC Roasters is their venture that works on the principle of making farmers an inclusive part of the production process. Best international practices are taught to these farmers, and each batch is hand-picked and sampled before it is roasted. Later, it is craft-roasted using the best equipment like the Probat Roaster. They clearly leave no stone unturned to provide you with the best coffee experience. kcroasters.com



FOR ART'S SAKE

Add these unique and exquisite art supplies to your studio collection and complete the canvas of your dreams



ANNIE SLOAN CHALK PAINT SET

This decorative chalk paint set is as unique as it is beautiful. It is created in three limited edition colours. Each colour has its own decorative paint set. The set comes with a 120ml chalk paint in Firlé, which is a sprightly fresh green. The other two colours are Scandinavian Pink and Old White, both in 120ml sizes. It also comes with a 120ml project pot of clear chalk paint wax and an inspiration guide.

REMBRANDT SOFT PASTELS FULL STICKS EXCELLENT BOX OF 225

The Royal Talens Rembrandt Soft Pastel is a professional portrait set containing 225 full pastels. The unique collection comes in a beautiful wooden box. They have a high concentration of pure pigment and are bound with kaolin clay. These two are blended to allow an even release and amazing colours.



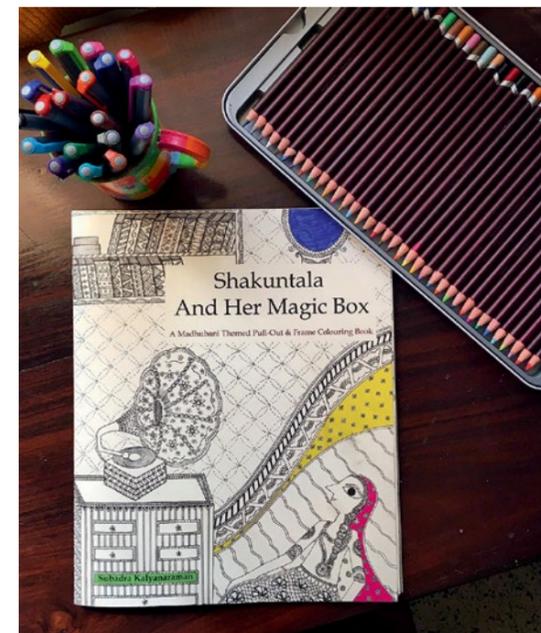
CLAY JAM POTTERY TOOL KIT

Fan of clay? This nifty little kit is perfect for that. It has all the basic tools that you will need for pottery wheel work. The best part is that if handled with care, these tools last for years. It comes with a sponge, wire cutter, merging tool, two trimming tools, one needle and 1 kg of terracotta clay. Also, they sell this kit in little pouches made from Indian ethnic fabrics!

DERWENT XL CHARCOAL BLOCKS

If you are looking for professional quality charcoal that helps in making the perfect lines and gradients, then this is the one.

These charcoal blocks are extra-large and are naturally water-soluble. Plus, you can layer them over with other colours. Play around with these blocks as much as you like. They are the perfect companions for all your artistic needs.



SHAKUNTALA AND HER MAGIC BOX COLOURING BOOK FOR ADULTS

This is a Madhubani-themed colouring book for people across age groups. The book has 16 artworks printed in high quality 250 GSM card stock with perforations to make it easy to pull out and frame once done. You can use any art tool—pencils, water colours, etc.—to colour in. Interestingly, every single page has been hand drawn by Subadra Kalyanaraman, a management consultant who is passionate about traditional Indian art. 🇮🇳

QUEST FOR QUIRK

When you seek to make a fashion statement, might as well do so with great panache
BY NIVI SHRIVASTAVA

One is never too old to wear prints, and for effortless style, just think out of the box and follow your whims with a twist of kitsch. Quirky prints are the best way to make a statement, and here are five Indian brands that are doing it right.

INDIAN AESTHETICS, GLOBAL APPROACH

Pinklay, a brand co-founded by Daisy Tanwani and her husband Mashhood Beg in 2015, is a homegrown lifestyle label that focusses on bringing Indian handicrafts to the forefront. The design team focusses on the versatility and comfort of the garment and their signature kaftan kurtas, kurtas, dresses, and tops are the best-sellers. Speaking about the prints, Daisy Tanwani, CEO of Pinklay, says, "Our designs can be inspired globally but they all have an Indian element to them; it could be through craft, or cultural, or nature-inspired elements. We don't box ourselves to florals or geometric designs or any particular group of motifs. Our strength is in our ability to fuse modern and traditional to make timeless pieces that can be worn in several ways."

ECLECTIC LOUNGEWEAR

One of the most talked-about design collaborations this year was 'Hurrah Hindustan', a joint collection by Samyukta Nair's label Dandelion and Param Sahib. The designers call this line "loungewear with heritage in sleep to kickstart the much-awaited year full of potential" and it consists of co-ord sets, kimono-style tops with ruffled shorts, tiered and maxi dresses. The line has five prints—the King of Hearts and the Queen D of Dandelion, 'A walk on the wild side' inspired by Indian stamp collection, 'Technicolour'

BRAND PINKLAY'S STRENGTH IS IN THEIR ABILITY TO FUSE MODERN AND TRADITIONAL TO MAKE TIMELESS PIECES THAT CAN BE WORN IN SEVERAL WAYS





inspired by ladies and tassels, and 'The Elephant Whisperer' depicting an Indian elephant's life across royal processions, temple visits and as the leader of the jungle.

Speaking of the collection, Sahib says, "The challenge was to come up with a collection that has the flamboyance of my busy nostalgic

prints in bright pops of colour yet was in keeping with Dandelion's relaxed approach to everyday living." Meanwhile, his collaborator Samyukta Nair mentions, "The collection gives us the opportunity to look inwards, and connect with our culture and revel in it, while maintaining a rhythm with the rest of world."

DESIGNER ANURADHA RAMAM BELIEVES IN THE POWER OF HANDMADE DESIGNS AND LOVES TO USE A BRIGHT, BOLD MÉLANGE OF COLOURS ON PURE COTTON AND SILK FABRICS

COLOURFUL CHAOS

For Indian designer Anuradha Ramam, who runs a premium handcrafted label by the same name, handmade prints are the soul of her ensemble. She believes in the power of handmade designs and loves to use a bright, bold mélange of colours on pure cotton and silk fabrics. Some of her signature prints are fish, elephants, paisley, Kathakali prints, geometric designs, and floral designs. She says, "I began my design journey quirky and now it has evolved to complete madness. I have always trodden a different path all my life. Thinking out of the box has been my default option. I believe that only the paranoid survives, and quirkiness defines my prints."

MAGIC AND MIRTH

Indian homegrown label Guapa, the brainchild of designer Reby Jindal, aims to create fuss-free

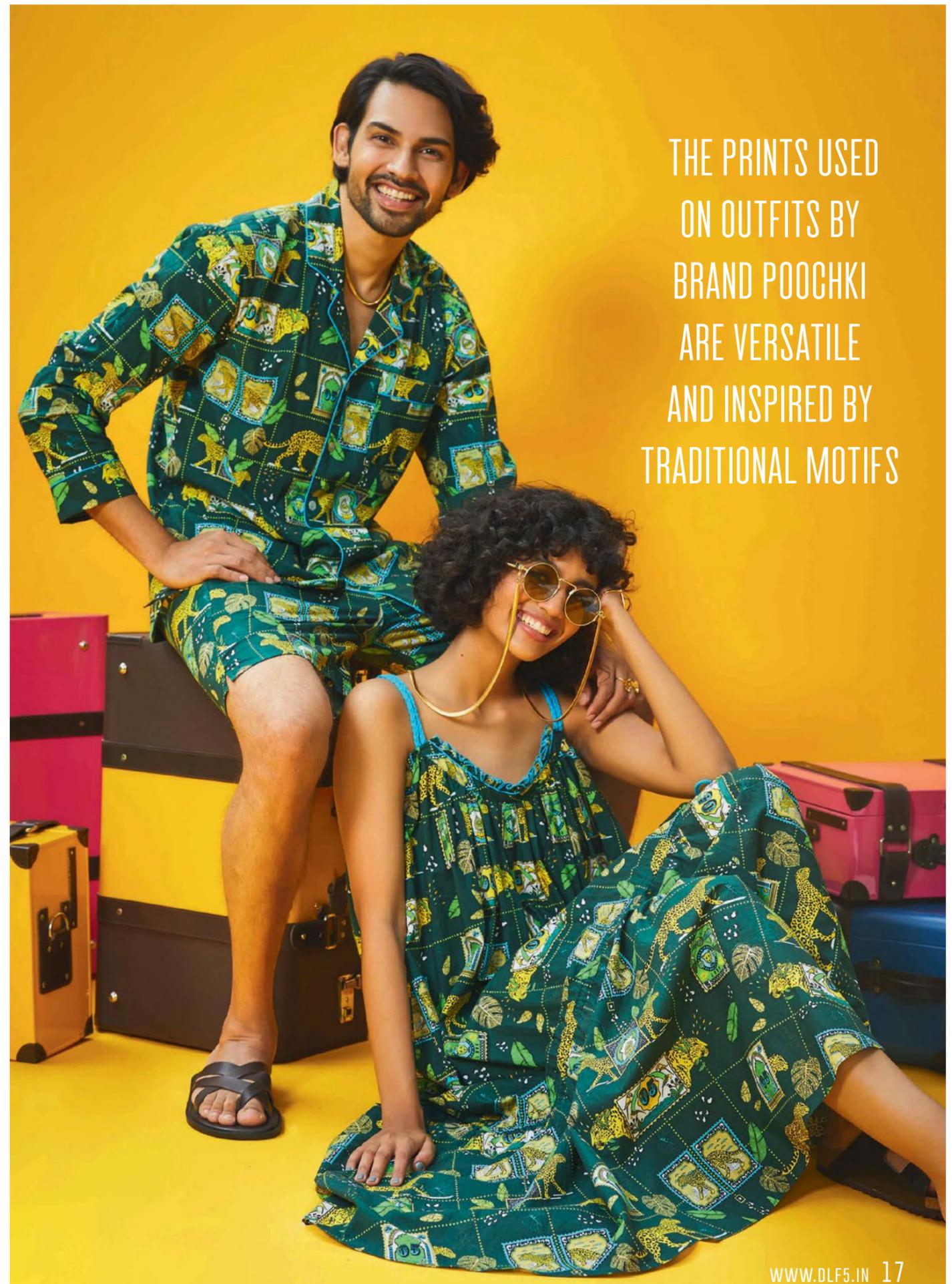
feminine pieces that are versatile with styling. The USP of the label is ethical sourcing and art prints in every collection to create statement resort wear. The brand made its debut in the recent phygital edition of Indian Fashion Week with a pretty collection titled 'Enchanted Forest'. Representing mystical creatures and flora and fauna, the easy-breezy outfits showcase signature art prints that evoke the romanticism of fairy tales and folklore. Motifs like a Mystical Doe, a Magical Bunny, Cherry Bird, Tree of Life and the Indian Marigold Flower are the highlights of this statement-worthy collection.

AU COURANT APPAREL

In the list of promising prints, a noteworthy mention is the Indian label Poochki, known for its eye-catching designs. The brand was started in 2015 by designer duo



Ishanee and Anirudh, and focusses on reviving the old craft of hand-block printing. The prints used on outfits are versatile and inspired by traditional motifs. According to the brand, the fauna-inspired illustrations are first carved onto wooden blocks by skilled artisans in Pilkhuwa, Uttar Pradesh. Later, these blocks are hand-printed by another set of artisans on the chosen textiles. From boxy oversized shirts to layered jackets, dresses, and other separates—the quirky nature-inspired prints developed by this label are quite popular among young and woke millennials. ❏



THE PRINTS USED ON OUTFITS BY BRAND POOCHKI ARE VERSATILE AND INSPIRED BY TRADITIONAL MOTIFS

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LOVE AT FIRST DRIVE

If you are in the market for a four-seat coupe with breathtaking performance and manners to match, we reckon you have only one choice: BMW's amazing M4 Competition

BY JON WALL

A few fast saloon cars can claim such an impressive pedigree as the BMW M3. First launched in 1992 as a high-performance, two-door coupe-body derivative of the German company's E30 3-series compact sedan and partially aimed at homologating the car for participation in the DTM racing series, the M3 not only delivered supercar-bothering horsepower with handling from the outset, but it also paved the way for a rash of similarly steroidal machines from other manufacturers, the Mitsubishi Lancer Evo, the Audi RS4 Avant wagon, and AMG variants of the Mercedes C-class being obvious examples. Indeed, for a brand that famously claimed in its advertisements to be the Ultimate Driving Machine, the M3 pretty much was the ultimate, a car that could hardly be matched for all-round capabilities that have always bordered on the phenomenal.

Over time and four generations, the M3 spawned convertible and four-door versions, not to mention expanding in terms of cylinders (whereas the original E30 had a 2.3-litre four under the bonnet, the fourth-gen E90 of 2007 packed a 4-litre V8 upfront), power, weight and technological complexity. However, by 2014, following a corporate revision of its line-up that saw coupes and convertibles hived off into their own discrete model stream, the M3 designation was applied only to the four-door version (though a much-anticipated Touring estate version will be launched next year), with two-door and drop-top models assigned the M4 name.

Although only the second iteration of the M4, the new car that arrived in Asia only a handful of months ago is actually the sixth in a long, distinguished and extremely desirable line of ultra-fast BMW coupes. And

while ever stricter restrictions on emissions and fuel consumption have resulted in a gradual reduction in engine sizes—the latest model is powered by a twin-turbo 3-litre straight six—that hasn't prevented power output and torque from heading ever northwards. The most powerful of all the M4 variants currently available, the M4 Competition, which comes in rear- or all-wheel-drive guises, extracts a formidable 503bhp from its highly strung six-pot motor and a thumpingly useful 650Nm of twist at 2,750-5,500rpm—and for those who find such figures meaningless, that means a 0-100km/h acceleration time in less than four seconds and an ungoverned maximum speed in the region of 290.

Compared with the original M3, which tipped the scales at a relatively modest 1,200kg, the latest M4 coupe has packed on the pounds—and with a weight of more than 1.7 tonnes, it certainly needs plenty of those hard-working horses to get it moving as quickly as it does. It would be even heavier, in fact, were it not for the fact that the car positively bristles in carbon fibre, most obviously on the roof but equally noticeably around the cabin (check, for example, the insane carbon-framed racing-style seats), the resulting weight reduction doubtlessly contributing to a lower centre of gravity that should benefit roadholding and handling.

The 4-Series' frontal styling remains its most divisive aspect—when I drove the M4's lesser sibling, the 430i, early this year, I found the elongated kidney grilles at the front of car to be a stylistic jump way too far. However, in the considerably more aggressive context of the range's high-performance flagship, in which those twin grilles are accompanied by deep gaping intakes and vents, and set off by the test car's nacreous São Paulo yellow paint job,

the startling appearance does begin to make sense. No, I still can't claim that I've fallen in love with it, but I do readily concede that it suits the coupe's hardcore demeanour much better than I'd ever have been prepared to admit. Not that BMW is likely to care what I think: the company surely has a good idea what its M division customers want by now, and this is very probably it.

Yet, even if the M4 will never run off with a prize in an automotive beauty contest, in those areas where it's expected to excel it turns out to have very few peers—in fact, based on a few hours behind the wheel I'd reckon that its only serious rival is the current Porsche 911. That's because, much like the Carrera, it's not only a stunningly rapid car to drive but also an extremely satisfying one, covering every possible base that an enthusiastic driver would demand while still offering user-friendliness and a reasonable degree of practicality.

Inevitably with such a car, the M4 has been invested with every possible aid and mode a driver might require, from several levels of traction control to a frankly bonkers Drift Analyzer function that I dare not even contemplate. In spite of the numerous available levels of electronic intervention, the star of the show is undoubtedly the magnificent S58 engine, which produces monstrous dollops of torque with even mild throttle openings, yet is fabulously linear in its delivery of power right across a rev range that—surprisingly for a turbo—extends beyond 7,000rpm. Although rarely raucous like some of its predecessors, this brilliant and stylish motor must surely represent a peak of petrol-engine development—and it's almost certainly the last in the line for such powertrains in the M3 and M4, in which a hybrid or even full electricity will surely be the next step.

Whether fettled with rear- or all-wheel drive (my test car is the former), Competition versions of the M4 are available only with eight-speed automatic transmission, the engine's prodigious torque being too much for a manual box to handle. However, it turns out that the torque converter—which has been heavily modified for this application—involves few compromises compared with a dual-clutch set-up, and shifts up or down quickly, decisively and reliably.

Handling is equally scintillating, even given the absence of all-wheel-drive reassurance. In fact, the chassis is so well sorted—and the electronic differential and traction modes so clever—that you need to explore every corner of the car's performance envelope (with, of course, the Dynamic Stability Control turned off) to unsettle it. The steering, both quick and informative, offers every incentive to



exploit the M4's impressive dynamic capabilities; body control is excellent, too, and though damping in the more aggressive drive modes is on the firmer side, the comfort setting of the model really does mean what it says on the label.

As to whether there's a place for the latest M4 in your garage, you should affix your gaze beyond the car's polarising prow and consider its broader merits. Fantastically fast and dynamically superb, it has the legs of just about every comparable automobile right now—and given alternatives that will soon include Mercedes-AMG's new four-cylinder hybrid C63, I can't see that pre-eminence being challenged. Add to that a level of versatility that means you really can load it up for everyday use, and I reckon you'd be hard put to name a more all-round accomplished new car on the road today (except, of course, for the M3). That I'd be impressed by the M4 Competition was never in doubt; that I'd fall in love with it was entirely unexpected. **E**



BMW M4
COMPETITION

Engine	Twin-turbo 3-litre inline six
Transmission	Eight-speed automatic
Max power	503bhp
Max torque	650Nm @ 2,750-5,500rpm
Max speed	290km/h
Acceleration	0-100km/h in 3.9 seconds
Kerb weight	1,725kg

A FRESH TAKE

These refreshing fragrances couple elegance and timelessness to offer you a sense of luxury

BY TARUWAR SINGH



BOMBAY PERFUMERY CALICUT EAU DE PARFUM FOR MEN

This contemporary fragrance house based out of Mumbai, India, has a 30-year-old legacy in the business. It is their rich understanding of ingredients that allows them to create unique, lasting scents, like Calicut Eau de Parfum. Inspired by the age-old Indian marketplace where spices exchanged hands, this woody and spicy bouquet has top notes of elemi, bergamot and cardamom. At its heart are nutmeg, black pepper and cedar wood that give this perfume its distinct, soulful aroma.

ARMANI PRIVÉ BLEU LAZULI UNISEX FRAGRANCE

The haute couture fragrances by Giorgio Armani symbolise exclusivity. From La Collection Des Terres Précieuses (meaning “the precious lands” collection”), comes the Bleu Lazuli. Inspired by the mysticism of India, this wondrous scent represents the soul and mythical beauty of the country. In the Indian belief system, the lazuli stone represents the infinite nature of the universe, which is main derivation for this infused fragrance. Notes of cardamom, bergamot and sandalwood along with tobacco, plum and jasmine are drawn straight from the scent of incense sticks and Indian spice markets. Just like the stone itself, the bottle, too, is radiant and unique, merging the know-how of haute couture with the essence of haute parfumerie.

CREED'S ORIGINAL SANTAL FINDS INSPIRATION IN THE ROYAL AND SPIRITUAL SPLENDOUR OF INDIA

CLIVE CHRISTIAN MATSUKITA UNISEX PERFUME

From the brand known for crafting the most expensive perfume in the world, comes the enchanting Matsukita. Part of the exclusive Crown Collection, it is a beautiful unison of pink pepper, spicy nutmeg and floral elements of Chinese imperial jasmine and mate tea. Guaiac oil and jasmine sambac go hand in hand with woody tones just as the fir balsam gives it a sensual, soft base. A complex fragrance boasting 252 unique ingredients rooted in a hearty musk and wood base, this newly launched woody chypre scent has a remarkable 25 per cent parfum concentration, and is only out for a limited time.

CREED ORIGINAL SANTAL FOR WOMEN

The Original Santal by Creed is a distinct amber fragrance for the ladies. Stemming from the imagination of its creators Erwin and Olivier Creed, it finds inspiration in the royal and spiritual splendour of India as it meticulously combines the essence of sandalwood trees with notes of cinnamon, juniper berries and coriander. Additional notes of lavender, ginger and rosemary give it a calming sense. The wide assimilation of elements makes it both powerful and sweet.

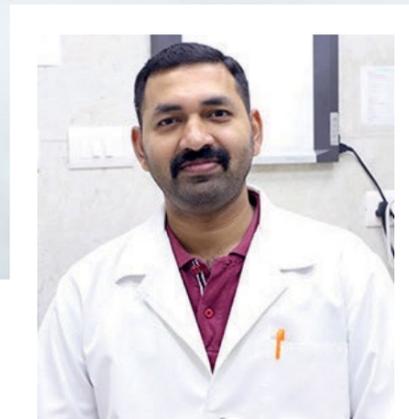
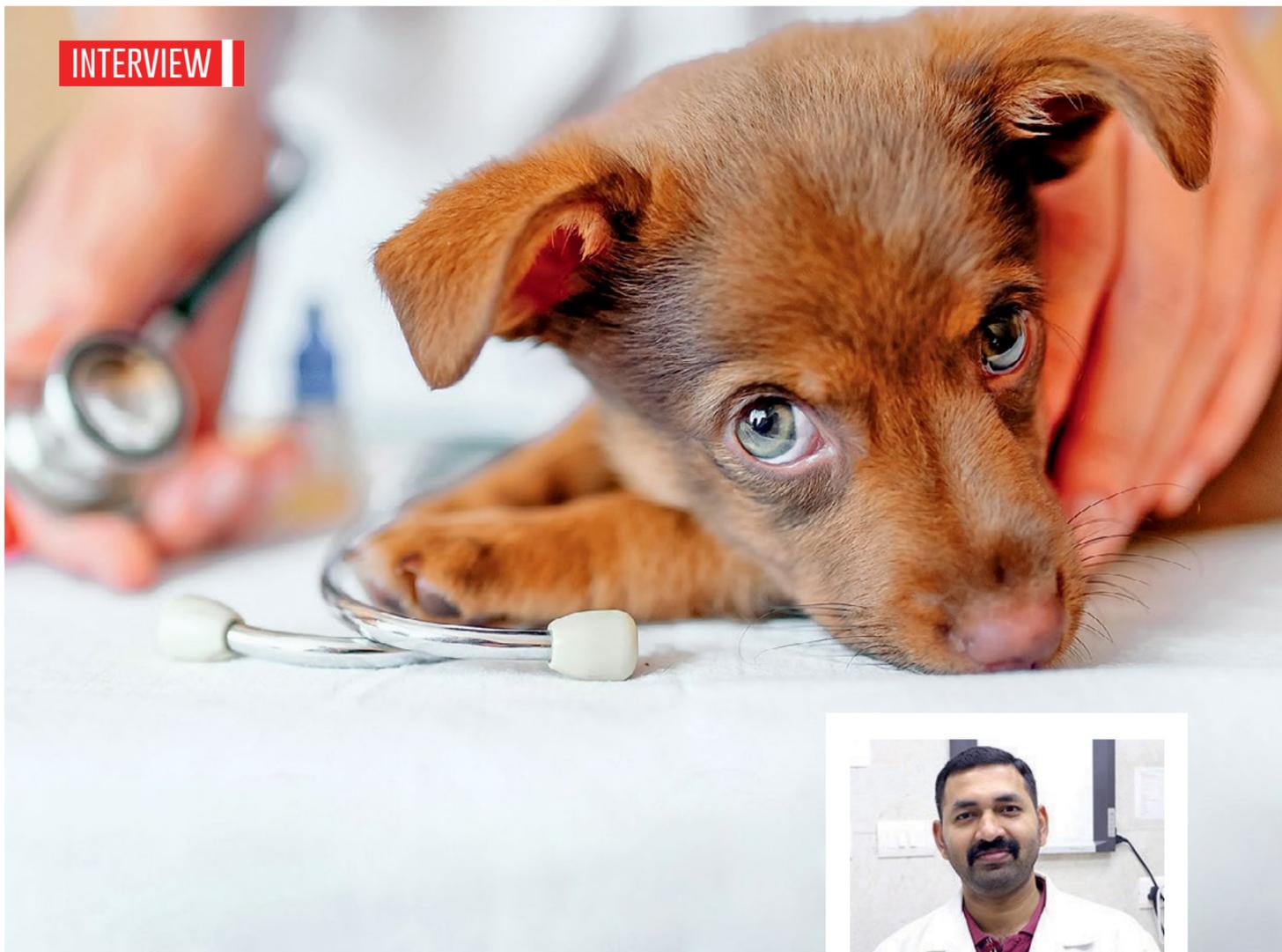
TOM FORD ROSE PRICK UNISEX

Rose Prick takes inspiration from Tom Ford's private rose garden. A rose prick refers

to a wild bouquet of various breeds of rose—Bulgarian, Turkish and De Mai. The blooming beauty of such a bouquet is captured through base notes of patchouli and tonka beans along with the delightful scents of the May rose, Bulgarian rose and the Turkish rose. Top notes of Sichuan pepper and turmeric top off this masterful blend. In addition, the beautiful dusky matte pink bottle is shaped in the form of a chess piece in Tom Ford's elegant signature way.

NASO PROFUMI SAFFRON INFUSED IN MUSK & AMBER UNISEX PERFUME

This artisanal perfumery from North India crafts exquisite fragrances made from the purest ingredients that are grown in-house at various distilleries. Crafted using pure extracts from herbs and spices along with modern floral oils from Northern Europe and Egypt, each signature scent is curated with care. One such signature scent is the ‘Saffron Infused In Musk & Amber’. The valuable spice comes straight from Kashmir valley, and is infused with notes of natural amber, wood oil and musk to create that perfect blend. The natural saffron extract is suggested to ease your mind and increase concentration. What's more? Each scent is 100 per cent sustainable! **h**



THE PURRFECT CAREGIVER

Veterinarian Shriram Ganesan, CGS Hospital, tells us about the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, services offered by them in the ophthalmology unit, their adoption wing, new initiatives and more.

BY AAKRITI JASWANT

From feeding strays to emergency surgeries, CGS remained open for animals in need even during the peak of COVID-19. What were the major challenges? What kept you guys going?

The main thing was that all the other hospitals and clinics were closed during the lockdown, so a hospital like CGS, which works 24/7, had to keep its doors open for the needs of pets. It is not only the humans who had suffered; even at CGS, we had emergency situations. Therefore, we were helping and keeping the windows open all the time during the critical time of the pandemic. We faced challenges in terms of oxygen crisis

and shortage of staff members. Some of our booking staff members also contracted Coronavirus, but we were able to manage. We provided services to all, irrespective of the situation. Also, the challenge was in terms of the pets and the severity of their conditions. There were some affected by severe trauma, some with injuries due to accidents, older pets with tumours, and many afflicted with breathing difficulties.

How long have you been working at CGS? Share with us your journey.

I am working here at CGS Hospital as a Veterinary Ophthalmologist. I have been here since 2018, and I would say it has been an extremely inspirational journey so far. The doctors that we have here work tirelessly, and their undivided attention inspires other colleagues in the staff to work dedicatedly in terms of pets' services.



What healthcare services do you offer in the Ophthalmology unit?

We take care of basic things and issues like corneal ulcers. We provide medical treatment and surgical treatment for glaucoma. This is a condition that occurs on account of increased pressure on the eye, and is common in pet dogs and cats. We provide surgical options for the pets to control and manage the pressure of the eye. One of the most common issues is cataract in dogs and cats, which causes sudden loss of vision. We provide surgical options to correct cataract by putting artificial lenses. We also help pets to regain vision through surgical treatments.

What do you like the most about working at CGS?

CGS is one of the non-profit hospitals where we provide services to stray and destitute pets, and I like it because of its unbiased treatment. I would say that this is one of the most inspiring things that has kept me going. It was also one of the main reasons I joined CGS.

Let us talk about The Pasha Wing. In what ways are you helping the rescued dogs and cats through this dedicated unit?

In this wing, we provide free vaccination, and we continued with that in the current year, too. There are dedicated pet lovers who help us and also request us to go for vaccination drives in specific areas. We vaccinate the animals against rabies, distemper and parvovirus. These are very common viral diseases and given that street animals are not able to get these services, we are providing it for free. We also provide certain diagnostic services and daily treatment at discounted rates. We also provide free neutering and stabilisation services for both male and female dogs.

Any new upcoming projects, services or initiatives at CGS?

We have started the blood donor registry programme. This was launched on August 10, 2021, as part of our 11th Foundation Day. We are trying to compile a list of healthy pet blood donors. Our upcoming project is setting up a pet physiotherapy unit. It will help in the rehabilitation of pets who have suffered a trauma, or those that underwent orthopaedic surgeries, and also pets who had chronic arthritis. The unit would help the pets with easing their pain and assist them on the way to recovery. ■

JEWELLERY



A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

When occasions are special, get your glam quotient right with these glittering diamond pieces

BY PALLAVI SINGH



CALEB DIAMOND CUFFLINKS, CANDERE BY KALYAN JEWELLERS

With sparkling 14 kt diamonds set in rose gold backdrop, the sheen this pair of cufflinks lends to every man's wardrobe, is worth a million bucks. This festive season, add the right bling to all celebratory occasions with these unique Candere stunners!

candere.com

AUDACIOUS RING BY FARAH KHAN FINE JEWELLERY

Redefining everyday aesthetic, Audacious is a uniquely crafted ring in signature Farah Khan design, with a veil of brown diamonds juxtaposed against brilliant white diamonds in the Aayat motif, set in 18 karat gold. Just right for the woman of today.

farahkhanworld.com

VIVID SYMPHONY, ENTICE BY KGK GROUP

Popular for their prêt-a-porter and haute couture line of timeless jewellery, Entice by KGK can make your festivities a dazzling affair. In the awe-inspiring collection, Vivid Symphony, the triple-strand necklace set in pure rose gold with dew diamond droplets, symbolises brilliance, and is sure to add an ethereal appeal to your persona.

kgkgroup.com

DIAMOND AND TOURMALINE EARRINGS BY AMRAPALI JEWELS

Regal and contemporary, the Diamond and Tourmaline Earrings by Amrapali Jewels are reminiscent of Victorian love. Diamonds graciously complement the rubies to ensure a design that is celebrated. amrapalijewels.com

OYSTER PERPETUAL DAY-DATE 36 WATCH BY ROLEX

A diamond-paved dial, a diamond-set bezel and a diamond-set President bracelet lends this enticing Rolex timepiece glamour beyond compare. Launched in 1956, it was the first watch to indicate the day of the week. Pick the Everose Gold model—its dial has 10 baguette-cut sapphires done up in rainbow hues! rolex.com

MINE DIAMOND STUDDED OVAL GOLD BANGLE BY MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

This shimmering bangle in 18-karat yellow gold, studded with diamonds, is just what a woman needs this festive season. This beautiful and finely crafted piece can add a dash of elegance during the special moments of your life! malabargoldanddiamonds.com

SMART SPACE

From robot vacuum cleaners to intelligent coffee-makers, these smart and luxury home appliances are here to make your life easier

BY AAKRITI JASWANT



AUGUST WI-FI SMART LOCK

An innovative solution to keep your home secure, the August smart lock allows you to remotely lock or unlock your door and watch who's coming or going. Easy to install, it attaches to your existing lock and the built-in Wi-Fi makes it easy to connect and use without extra hardware. The lock system has an app that offers voice assistance and alerts if the status of your door changes.

ARLO Q INDOOR SECURITY

This product will offer you peace of mind with respect to the security of any space where you install it. The camera has 1080p HD video, two-way audio and night vision. It has a built-in sensor to alert you whenever a motion or sound is detected. The two-way audio can be managed from your smartphone, and you can store seven days of motion- and sound-triggered recordings for free on

the cloud. It has a wide-angle 130 degree lens for an impressive field of view. The Arlo Q camera comes with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant support.

TEQOYA TEQAIR 450 AIR PURIFIER

Sleek and stylish, Teqoya 450 is an eye-catching air purifier. Because of its narrow design, it can fit perfectly in a small space and is ideal for a room



up to 50 sq. m. It makes no noise and consumes only 1.5 W power. The product does not need any changeable filters, and therefore requires no maintenance. It is also made entirely of environment-friendly materials. Ionisers fitted in the body of the purifier have been manufactured in France and the gadget offers a long 10 year warranty.

DYSON V11 ABSOLUTE PRO

This swanky looking gadget is a powerful beast when it comes to heavy-duty home cleaning. Dyson's "most powerful intelligent vacuum", it has a Hyperdymium motor that spins at 125,000 rpm, creating an impressively strong suction from any cord-free vacuum. It senses and adapts itself to all floor types with an LCD screen that reports performance. It has a soft roller cleaner head but a powerful nickel torque drive. The V11 Absolute Pro comes with three cleaning modes for floors and carpets. Plus, it has an impressive six-layer filtration system.

SIEMENS IQ700 BUILT-IN FULLY AUTOMATIC COFFEE MACHINE

The Siemens iQ700 offers a one-touch button solution to your perfect coffee. The machine has pre-sets for all coffee types, and you can get two cups at one go! It also has a unique sensoFlow

System to provide the right brewing temperature for the beverage. It has a grinder that adapts to the variety of bean. The iQ700 also has an aroma Double Shot function where two grinding and brewing processes happen consistently, offering perfect aroma.

SAMSUNG SMARTTHINGS HUB

Now this one is as futuristic as it can get! Completely transform your lifestyle by connecting all your smart devices with the Samsung SmartThings Hub. It is an app available on Android and iOS and can sync with a whole lot of devices to transport you into the future of connected living. It works with the TV, fridge, washing machine, thermostat, and your car—if they are smart-tech enabled. When connected with any of the household devices, you get a customisable yet integrated feel.

MIELE KWT 6834 SGS FREESTANDING WINE UNIT

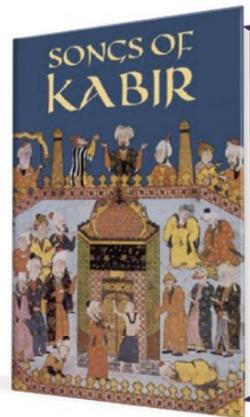
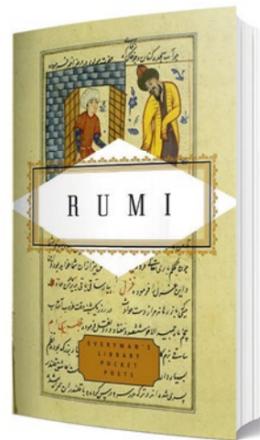
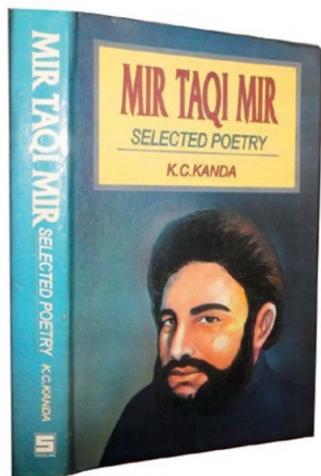
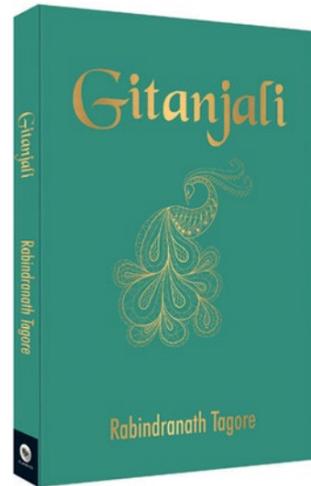
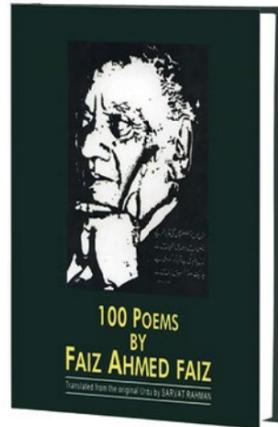
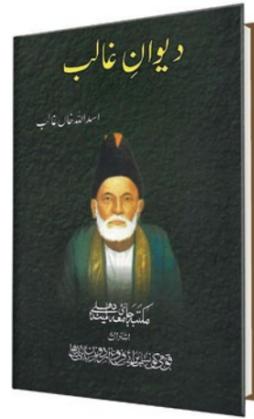
A perfect addition for any wine-lover, this freestanding wine unit and sommelier set by Miele is one of a kind. It can

store wine simultaneously in separate temperature zones. It is odourless and has LED lighting. The unit also has UV filters to protect your wine. There is a magnetic strip for labelling the wine bottles and the bottles appear raised in a dimmed light setting for the perfect aesthetic look. The smart wine unit also connects with the Miele@home app. The sommelier set in tow just adds to the practicality of serving wine.

IROBOT ROOMBA I7+ ROBOT VACUUM

Not only is this a robot vacuum but it also has an automatic dirt disposal system—a win-win, isn't it? It automatically empties into a bag and has a three-stage cleaning system. The robot uses dual multi-surface rubber brushes and has a strong suction power for all kinds of floor surfaces. The robot learns and adapts to your home with an Imprint Smart Mapping technology. You can also control the settings and monitor how your home is cleaned through the iRobot HOME App. It also has an auto-adjust cleaning head. **BI**





WORDS LIKE MAGIC

Turning these pages will be time well-spent, at home or when you are in transit

BY PALLAVI SINGH

RUMI: POEMS

Rumi; Peter Washington (Editor)

The poetry of the 13th-century Persian poet Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī alias Rumi blends lyrical beauty with spiritual sagacity and a sense of exaltation. Many of Rumi's poems speak of a yearning for a euphoric union with the divine venerated. His images showcase the revered and the earthy together in extraordinary ways, describing divine love in distinctly human terms. This collection extracts a voluminous variety of translations—from the early 20th century to date—of Rumi's eloquent and sensually spirited poetry.

DIWAN-E-GHALIB

Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib

A seminal collection showcasing the finest works of the celebrated Urdu poet Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib, *Diwan-e-Ghalib* presents close to 200 ghazals, 68 chosen letters and seven *nazms* in Urdu by the Nazmud-Daula, who was also poet laureate to the last Mughal emperor, Bahādur Shāh II. The book, translated into English, contains a critical introduction to Mirza Ghalib's work and an account of important events in his life. The best poems of Ghālib present themselves in three forms: Ghazal (lyric), *māsnāvī* (moralistic or mystical parable), and *qaṣīdah* (panegyric).

100 POEMS BY FAIZ AHMED FAIZ: 1911-1984

Faiz Ahmad Faiz

This sequential presentation of 60 poems, 10 quatrains and 30 ghazals,

enables the reader to trace the development of the romantic poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz into a multifaceted personality that includes a human rights activist, famous journalist, trade unionist and film songwriter. Faiz was listed four times for the Nobel Prize in Literature during his lifetime. The volume incorporates biographical notes, a key to Roman transcription and a glossary of Urdu words in Roman script.

In this collection of poetry, Tagore dwells upon everyday life and talks on the subject of love and earthly desires in a spiritual context

MIR TAQI MIR: SELECTED POETRY

Mir Taqi Mir; K C Kanda (Translator)

This book presents English translation of 108 selected ghazals, besides excerpts from five of Mir Taqi Mir's *māsnāvīs*. The anthology has an introduction that takes the readers through the salient aspects of the poet's life. Mir was a leading Urdu poet in the 18th century, and one of the trailblazers who gave shape and structure to the Urdu language. Among the most prolific poets of his time, he is credited with around 13,500 couplets to his name and is counted among the five major poets of the Urdu language along with Mirza Ghalib, Mir Anees, Allama Iqbal and Josh Malihabadi. As one of the principal poets of the Delhi School of the Urdu ghazal, he is remembered as *Khudā-e-Sukhan* (God of Poetry).

GITANJALI

Rabindranath Tagore

Published in 1910, *Gitanjali* is a classic work on poetry by Rabindranath Tagore, who wore many hats: Poet, playwright, songwriter and composer, educator, philosopher, social reformer and painter. This is a volume of 103 poems selected and translated into English from Bengali by Tagore himself. He later translated it into prose poems in English, as *Gitanjali: Song Offerings*, published in 1912 with an introduction by the poet William Butler Yeats. His poetic work even won Tagore the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. In this collection of poetry, he dwells upon everyday life and talks of love and earthly desires in a spiritual context. Much of his imagery is drawn from nature and the splendour of the universe.

SONGS OF KABIR

Kabir

Terming himself a Julaha and Kori (both meaning weaver) and mystic by nature, the 15th-century poet-saint Kabir created perdurable works of learning that combine the philosophies of Sufism, Hinduism and the Kabbala (Jewish mystical tradition). Enunciated by way of imagery drawn from day-to-day life and the ubiquitous experience, Kabir's poems possess an alluring simplicity. This collection of 100 songs discloses every aspect of his thoughts and emotions. The translation by Rabindranath Tagore adds to the beauty of the phenomenal work. Kabir's principal media of communication were songs called *padas* and rhymed couplets (*dohas*). ❧

AN ERA OF CLASSICS

Films have the power to fuel your imagination as well as take you back in time. Here are five classics that best represent the golden era of global cinema

BY SACHIN RAI



GURU DUTT'S MASTERPIECE HAS BEEN LISTED BY TIME MAGAZINE AS ONE OF THE TOP 100 MOVIES OF ALL TIME

MUGHAL-E-AZAM (1960)

A doomed love affair between a Mughal prince, Salim (played by Dilip Kumar), and a mesmerising court dancer, Anarkali (Madhubala), *Mughal-e-Azam* is a historical epic that continues to spellbind cinephiles. The plot unfolds the forbidden romance of the two, and the war that follows: between father and son; between duty and love. The film is filled with considerable grace, thanks to grand sets, theatrical acting and carefully crafted music. In fact, the iconic song *Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya* was shot in the Sheesh Mahal (Palace of Mirrors) in Old Delhi, while Lata Mangeshkar's voice was recorded in a studio bathroom to fabricate reverberation. One of the greatest treasures of Indian cinema, this melodrama was first made in black and white, and then was colourised and re-released later in 2004, which also ended up being a commercial success.

SUNSET BOULEVARD (1950)

Directed by Billy Wilder and co-written by Charles Brackett, *Sunset Boulevard* is a classic noir that won three Academy Awards. Showcasing one of the most accurate accounts of the trials and attractions of Hollywood, this film follows the lives of Norma Desmond (played by Gloria Swanson), a forgotten silent film star, and a young screenwriter, Joe Gillis (William Holden), whom Desmond hires to devise her comeback to the big screen. As the tale progresses, the audience gets to see the vulnerabilities of the two, the screenwriter's manipulative ways, the actress's insatiable lust for fame and, of course, the toxic relationship that develops between them. Drawn from reality, the character study was beyond reproach, and the film's subtly-woven dark humour amounts to a most intriguing watch.

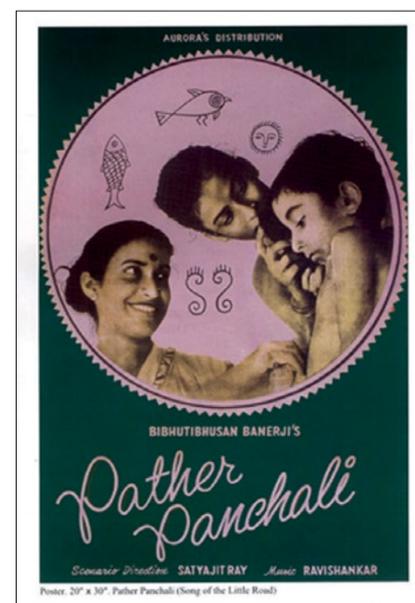
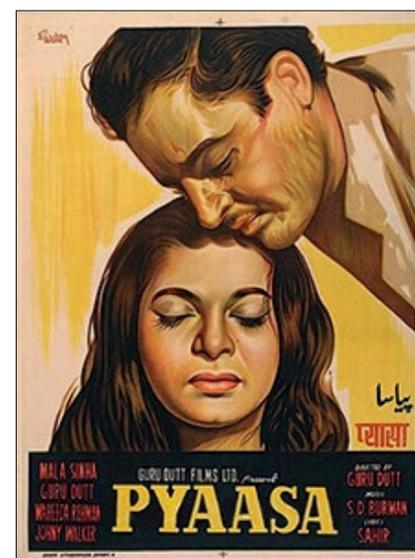


PYAASA (1957)

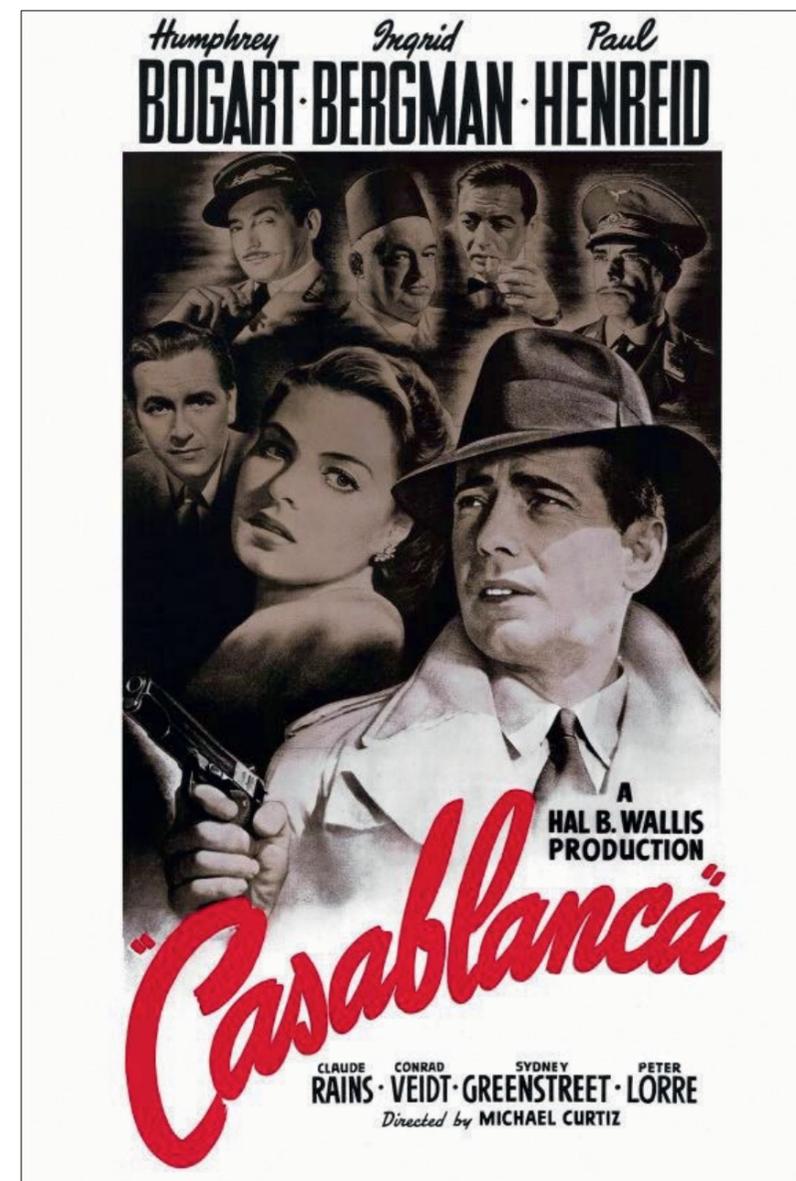
An immortal story, Guru Dutt's *Pyasa* has spoken to many through the ages, influencing the work of filmmakers like Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Anurag Kashyap and Tigmathu Dhulia. Set against the backdrop of postcolonial India, this 1957 classic takes an intense look into the life of an idealistic poet, Vijay (played by Guru Dutt). He is struggling to get his poems published, disdained by publishers for his philosophical writing. Enter Gulabo (Waheeda Rehman), a prostitute who ends up becoming Vijay's muse. Beautifully shot (considering the filming limitations of the time), *Pyasa* broke the conventional drama through its noirish visuals for the song *Yeh Duniya Agar Bhi Mil Jaye*, where part of the frame was bleak, and the protagonist can be seen harshly backlit throughout. Dutt's masterpiece has been listed by *Time Magazine* as one of the Top 100 Movies of All Time.

PATHER PANCHALI (1955)

A film that put India on the world map, *Pather Panchali* was Satyajit Ray's directorial debut, first premiered during an exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art. Painfully vivid, the plot



follows the life of a village boy named Apu and his father Harihar Ray, a priest who leaves for the city dreaming of a better life for his family. This film is also about the women who shaped the young boy, from his mother who took charge of the household, to his independent sister, and elderly 'auntie'. The rural Bengali style depicted in the film is heavily influenced by Italian neorealism. A sense of discovery permeates the tale, leaving a deep impression on the minds of the viewers who are left



contemplating ground realities. The profound moments created by Ray earned the film an award for the Best Human Document at Cannes.

CASABLANCA (1942)

Aged like fine wine, *Casablanca* is a war melodrama that prides itself on the ideals of love, rebellion and gallantry. Set in the early stages of World War II, it is the story of Rick Blaine (played by Humphrey Bogart), a nightclub owner in Casablanca, Morocco who secretly

helps refugees escape to America. One day, Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman), a former lover of Blaine, shows up at his nightclub with her husband Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid), seeking help. The suspense thickens as the characterisation takes a strong hold over viewers. *Casablanca* is not as much about the war as it is about people, heartbreak and unforeseen challenges. If you haven't watched it already, get ready to be engrossed in a 102-minute-long monochrome masterpiece. **F**



75 YEARS YOUNG!

As we commemorate 75 years of Independence this year, let us celebrate by applauding the achievers across lifestyle niches who have made India proud globally

BY SATARUPA PAUL

Seventy-five years ago, India awoke to freedom after a long, hard struggle for independence waged over 200 years of imperialism. It is to the valour and sacrifice of those thousands of brave

souls that we owe our freedom. And it is to the many who came after, who dared to dream big and work towards achieving them, and who in their own ways helped put India on the global map, that we owe our respectable image

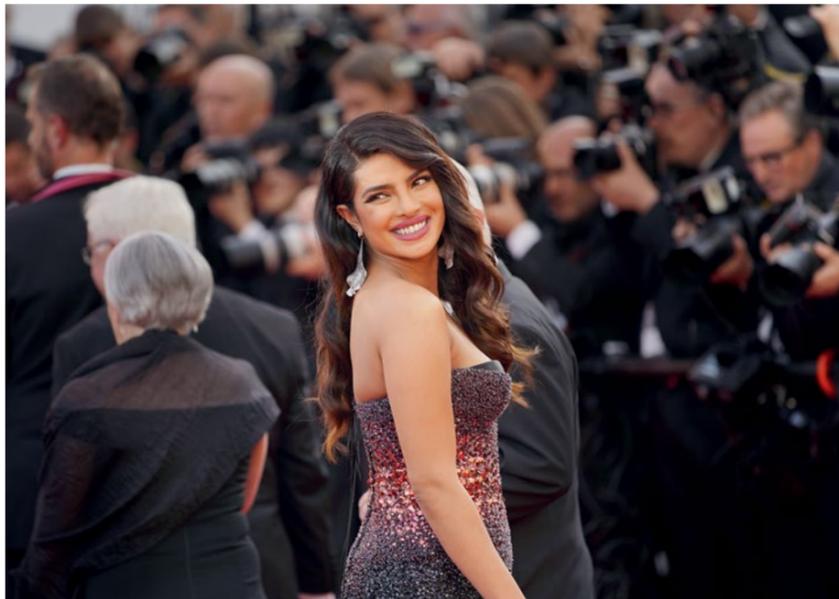
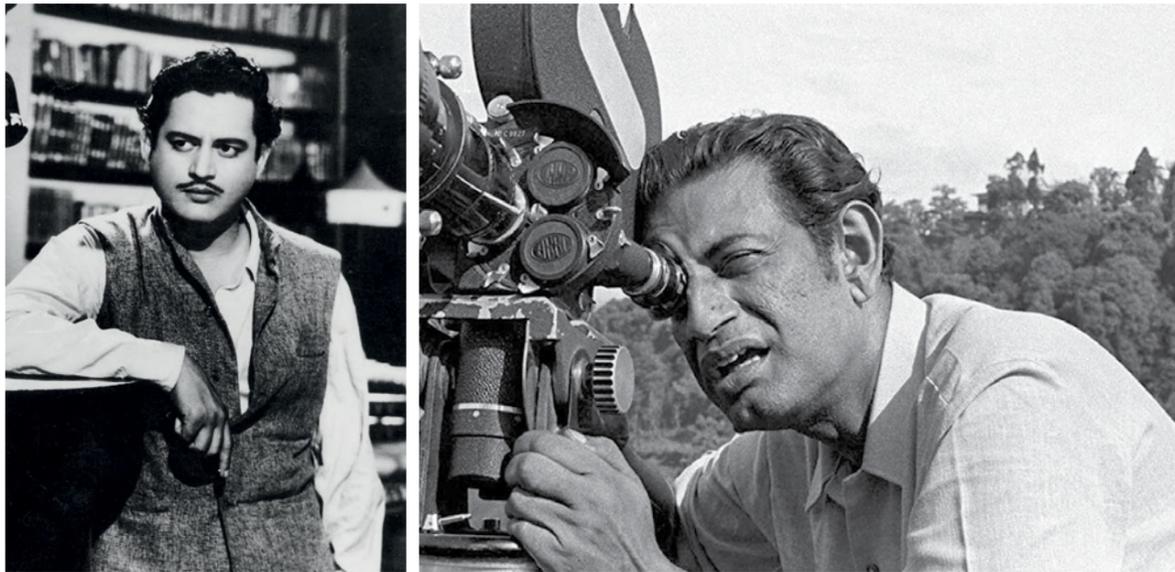
in the world today. So, as we celebrate India@75 this year, let us applaud the eminent achievers in literature, music, art, cinema, fashion and food, who made the world sit up and take notice of our promising young nation.



Sculptor Anish Kapoor has been creating waves with his abstract biomorphic installations across the world



ART
Often called the 'Picasso of India', Maqbool Fida Husain, or more popularly M F Husain, represented our cultural plurality through his bold, vibrantly coloured modernist narrative paintings. Among his contemporaries, Sayed Haider Raza became famous for his works in Abstract Expressionism and was conferred with France's Legion of Honour, while Francis Newton Souza was the highest priced Indian painter in history whose Modernist style could not be easily characterised. More recently, sculptor Anish Kapoor has been creating waves with his abstract biomorphic installations at Chicago's Millennium Park, New York City's Rockefeller Center, London's Kensington Gardens, Paris's Grand Palais and elsewhere. Subodh Gupta is another contemporary artist whose steel utensil sculptures have been exhibited in prestigious museums and biennales throughout the world.



CINEMA

The most influential Indian auteur of all time, Satyajit Ray won the National Award a whopping 36 times, was awarded with the Bharat Ratna as well as an honorary Academy Award, and is known to have influenced the works of Martin Scorsese and Wes Anderson. In his tragically short life, Guru Dutt amassed a massive following overseas, with *TIME* magazine featuring *Kaagaz ke Phool* and *Pyasa* in its 'All Time 100 Best Movies' list. Known for 80s hits *Mr. India* and *Masoom*, Shekhar Kapur gained global recognition with *Bandit Queen*, while his historical biopic on Queen Elizabeth won an Academy Award as well as five BAFTA awards. With an oeuvre of strong-themed films such as *Kama Sutra*, *Salaam Bombay* and *Monsoon Wedding*, and literary adaptations such as *The Namesake* and *A Suitable Boy*, Mira Nair is a popular name in the international cinema circuit. Among actors, Priyanka Chopra is perhaps the most popular Indian name in Hollywood today, with lead appearances in TV series *Quantico*, and films like *Baywatch* and the upcoming *Matrix 4*. Freida Pinto rose to global fame with her role in the Oscar-winning *Slumdog Millionaire*.



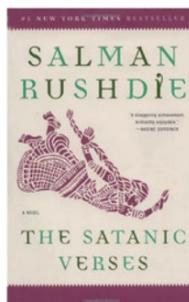
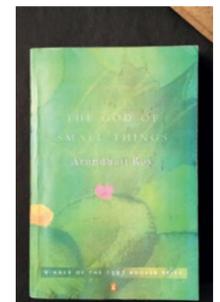
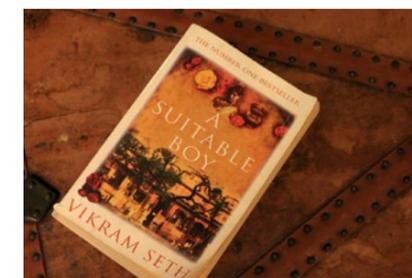
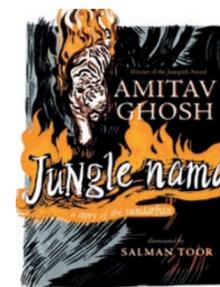
FASHION

This August, Kolkata-based fashion design tycoon Sabyasachi Mukherjee collaborated with Swedish clothing giant

H&M, only to have his collection sold out within minutes of launching. This goes to show the massive popularity that he enjoys worldwide for his magnificent collections

Naaem Khan has dressed the who's who of the world in his ornate gowns—from Michelle Obama to Beyonce

that showcase the rich craftsmanship and textiles of India. One of the most influential Indian names in international fashion today, Naaem Khan has dressed the who's who of the world in his ornate gowns—from Michelle Obama to the Duchess of Cambridge, to Beyonce, Jennifer Lopez and others. From a small town in Odisha to the wardrobes of the rich and famous in America, including First Ladies and famous actors, Bibhu Mohapatra's journey has been inspiring. Known as the 'queen of pret', Anita Dongre runs India's biggest fashion house, with her creations rooted in Indian traditions and sustainability coveted by Hillary Clinton, Kate Middleton, Ivanka Trump and more.



LITERATURE

India's contribution to literature needs no introduction, with names such as Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Amrita Pritam, R K Narayan and Mulk Raj Anand among the greatest. Post-Independence, perhaps the most famous Indian-born novelist globally is Salman Rushdie, whose string of commercially successful and critically-acclaimed

novels include the Booker Prize-winning *Midnight's Children* and the controversial *The Satanic Verses*. Best known for her Booker Prize-winning novel, *The God of Small Things*, Arundhati Roy is also a political activist who writes on human rights and environmental issues. With a Padma Shri, a Jnanpith Award, two Lifetime Achievement awards and four honorary doctorates, Amitav Ghosh's oeuvre includes 10 novels and six non-fiction that probe the nature of national and personal identity. Novelist Anita Desai has been shortlisted thrice for the Booker Prize, received a Sahitya Akademi Award and a British Guardian Prize, while Vikram Seth of *A Suitable Boy* fame has been awarded with a Padma Shri and the W H Smith Literary Award for his work.



The first Indian chef to win a Michelin star, Vineet Bhatia currently runs 11 restaurants around the world

FOOD

The first Indian chef to win a Michelin star, Vineet Bhatia currently runs 11 restaurants around the world that present India's delightful culinary heritage to international tastebuds. From modest beginnings in Amritsar and overcoming a club foot disorder, Vikas Khanna went on to win a Michelin star for his acclaimed New York restaurant Junoon six years in a row, cook for the

Obamas and collaborate with Gordon Ramsay. Food and travel writer Madhur Jaffrey is known for introducing Indian cuisines to the western hemisphere with her cookbooks and TV shows. Widely acclaimed for his progressive take on Indian food, Gaggan Anand has repeatedly been featured in the World's 50 Best Restaurants list with his eponymous restaurant in Bangkok.



MUSIC

The world's best-known exponent of Indian classical music, Pandit Ravi Shankar introduced the West to sitar. His association with Beatles guitarist George Harrison also popularised the use of Indian instruments in western pop music. His daughter Anoushka Shankar has been carrying forward the legacy with global concerts, collaborations and studio albums that have received several Grammy nominations. Bharat Ratna M S Subbulakshmi was the leading exponent of Carnatic vocals and the first Indian to perform at the UN General Assembly. One of the most respected music conductors in the West, Zubin Mehta holds the title of Honorary Conductor from numerous orchestras around the world, and a record 23 Grammy nominations and five wins. Composer A R Rahman has won two Academy Awards, two Grammys, a BAFTA and a Golden Globe for his music in *Slumdog Millionaire*, while two-time Grammy winner Ustad Zakir Hussain is the best known tabla player that there is.



HOSPITALITY

A subsidiary of the Tata Group conglomerate, Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) first launched the iconic Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai in 1903. Today, its portfolio includes 196 hotels, resorts, palaces, jungle safaris and spas in 80 locations across 12 countries. Integrating India's renowned tradition of hospitality with globally benchmarked facilities, ITC Hotels boasts over 100 properties across four brands. With 33 luxury properties and two river cruise ships in its portfolio, The Oberoi Hotels is a leader in presenting Indian hospitality to the world. Inspired by famous architectures of the cities they are set in, The Leela hotels are well-known for impeccable services and unmatched luxury among global travellers to India. **■**

WINSOME MOMENTS

A series of events, including flag hoisting, marching sessions and kids' competitions, marked the 75th anniversary celebration of India's Independence across DLF condominiums





AN ORNATE MAISON

The Agarwal home at The Camellias, DLF5, is where carefully-crafted elegance meets comfort and luxury amid verdant and modish settings

BY **PALLAVI SINGH**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **DEEPAK KUMAR**





“
HOME ISN'T A
PLACE, IT'S A
FEELING

-CECELIA AHERN

”

As I sit in the super spacious and comfortable settings of a balcony during the twilight hour of the day and look out, what I see is the resplendent DLF Golf & Country Club complete with enticing greens and water bodies, lights shimmering from the super luxe office chambers, well-manicured children's park close by; and an immaculate open area of The Camellias Club down below. Drift your eyes afar and you see an endless stretch of greenery leading up to the horizon. I am already bowled over! We are at The Camellias in DLF5, and perched on the 33rd floor of the condominium. What a view!

While I soaked in the endless beauty that lay before me, I got introduced to the owners of this beautiful haven. The most humble and pleasant-looking lady of the house, Ms Smiti Agarwal, greeted me with utmost humility and grace, welcoming me to her abode, and might I add, to the most sought-after address in town. The other proud possessors of the house include Mr Hemant Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director of V-Bazaar, one of the fastest growing value retail formats in India, their 21-year-old son Raghav and 12-year-old daughter Ditya. Meeting the lovely Agarwal family was a pleasant experience.

It took me a while to gather myself and get back to what I was here for...taking a sneak peek into the house. Let me take you inside. If the outside view was mesmerising, the interiors were inviting and straight out of a picture book. At the very first instance you are drawn into the dernier cri interiors that are both cosy and luxurious. It would be worthwhile to mention that the home has been designed by Ashmit Alag of Transform Design, of course, in tandem with the vision that the owners had in mind. One look at the house and you know that every aspect has been thought through and planned carefully so that nothing seems incongruous and everything just

falls in place, and in the process lends character to the abode.

The commodious living-cum-drawing room adjacent to the deck is a well-defined elegant space—a fluid seating arrangement marked by snug sofas in steel grey, a stylish central table adorned with glass and crystal artefacts, vases and candles from OMA, spruced up with flower arrangements, vanity stools, and a chandelier that was literally out of this world. I was informed that it was an import from a foreign land, beautiful and eye-catching. The space was bedecked with ornamental plants, complete with an elegant artwork by

W. Inaoton. The dominant colour is steel grey while the rest of the colours are either white or pastel. The furniture combines practicality with elegance. The furnishings in velvet, suede and satin finishes lend the home a contemporary charm. The house boasts a minimalist appeal where every space is a treat to watch. Light and muted colour palettes, swish home decor pieces, matching curtains and artworks together manage to bring a certain cohesiveness and charm to the heterogenous elements and in the process lend the home a voguish appeal. Believe me, it was hard to budge from this zone.



The dining area is a connoisseur's delight. The table has fine crockery and a grand seating arrangement that has the semblance of a royal home. The walls surrounding the dining table are marked by decor items hand-picked by the Agarwals as part of their souvenir collection from various destinations abroad, and objets d'art that you would find very difficult to take your eyes off. The Panther from Lalique sculpture, 'The Man Playing The Flute' artefact and other significant eclectic decor items are truly a treat for the eyes.

As we ambled from the living room to the bedroom area, my eyes fell on a fancy piece of installation featuring a horse from OMA. This is sure to catch the attention of anyone who enters the house. The doors made of stitched veneer, and the glass chandelier in the foyer seem worth the adoration. Smiti draws our attention to the carefully-crafted *pooja* corner, which definitely lends a divine twist to the house with neatly placed idols of the deities and a beautiful silver *jhoola* that adds

character to the setting. The beautiful inlay work in the backdrop adds to the marvellous setting.

We are now in the master bedroom. A huge space, the room is well-designed with furnishings in steel grey that match the overall colour scheme of the house. The room has all the trappings of a luxurious set up with comfy mattresses, beautiful bed spreads, snuggly cushions, a huge television set and a sliding glass door that opens to a pristine view. If you wish to plonk yourself on a super soft sofa and enjoy a cup of tea with the family, there is an arrangement for that as well. One thing that adds to the beauty of the space is the fact that everything in the house is colour coordinated and looks judiciously positioned. On the main wall in the room is a beautiful artwork by an upcoming artist named Dipankar. Smiti tells me how they believe in bringing in artworks of new and talented artists as a way to promote and appreciate budding artists. Noble thought indeed, must say!

HAUTE HOMES



As you move to the room for the elderly, you notice how the room caters to their tastes and habits. There is a cosy seating space especially for them to sit and watch television or read a book. It has a neat flower arrangement, some reading material, soft carpet and vanity stools that lend a sublime charm to the space. The ambient lighting in the house is another attractive feature.

The rooms meant for the children also follow the colour code and prevalent tone of the house. Ditya's room has trophies and medals to boot. Raghav's room has elements and style of his liking. As we stepped out to the terrace adjoining this room, one got a sense of being in the likes of a Downtown area, with a balcony overlooking the plush office spaces and the skyline of Gurugram shimmering like a cluster of diamonds. If you are an avid reader, like me, all you need is a good book and a mug of coffee to enjoy a reading session in a sweet silence amid the plush settings. I, for one, could stay here forever. **h**



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A CLASSIC MAKEOVER

Gift yourself your dream kitchen by decorating it the chic retro way!

BY AAKRITI JASWANT

The old has found its way back in! The bold use of colours like yellow, blue and red in the cabinetry, checkered floorings and retro appliances—the vintage kitchen space has found a liking once again. The funky look of the old-school kitchen is guaranteed to always attract more eyes than the classic decor style. Designing and styling it in a retro manner helps liven up the space, which sometimes takes a backseat while the

home decor is in the creative stage. So the question now remains, where to start? Styling a space with a vintage theme has some basic (read fun!) ground rules. Make a note of these tips and tricks to build your vintage-inspired dream kitchen.

PAINT IT BRIGHT!

First things first—the colour scheme. A retro-style kitchen's standout feature

is the use of striking pastels paired with bright, bold hues. Think lime or sherbet pink when styling the space. Paint your kitchen cabinets in these striking shades and you already have made your kitchen vintage in fashion. Primary colours play a big part in retro-themed spaces because this theme is all about giving off a homely and cosy vibe. A bright two-toned colour palette is perfect for the ultimate retro kitchen.



Paint, for instance, your kitchenette units with a creamy off-white and then, match it up with a bold shade of red for a contrasting worktop. Add a top coat of gloss to give the space the shine that it deserves.

FURNITURE FITS

One of the easiest, most effective ways to add retro furniture is to opt for rounded kitchen cabinets. Modern kitchen designs hinge on sharp lines, but retro furniture is a departure from that. It is also important to note that vintage kitchens worked on the concept of warmth; therefore, adding woody tones to the kitchen chairs or having a glass cabinet to show off your crockery is the right way to go. Another great tip is to go for wicker while picking chairs. Then, there is the good-old pendant light, which is vintage yet still very much in fashion these days. It offers just the right amount of light. Finally, as maximalism was the 'it' thing during those days, adding multiple drawers and shelves also fit in with the theme.

THE ART OF DESIGN

Retro kitchens have one distinct design trope—the kitchen diner. It evokes immediate nostalgia and makes the space much more sociable in nature. Adding one to yours will open up the area for fun, casual get-togethers

with friends and family. Don't forget to add colourful bar stools! When it comes to other factors like walls and flooring, a tiled splashback with a checkered flooring goes best with this theme. Geometric or floral patterns for a wallpaper and patterned vinyl flooring are the perfect combination. Don't worry, when done right, these bold prints help enhance rather than overwhelm the space.

DECOR GALORE

It's time for the finishing touches. Upgrade your kitchen to a retro look in the most amazing way—by adding retro-style appliances. Kettles, fridges, toasters, utensils, and more—vintage-style appliances are the big thing right now. A Smeg fridge instantly ups the retro quotient as it becomes the focal point of your decor. Choose frill curtains for an old English look, or add plentiful wall decorations to bring in that lived-in feel that vintage kitchens are all about. You can also opt to display melamine tableware. It replaced the traditional bone china crockery and was a hit in the 1950s. Similarly, add in retro kitchen accessories like old-time scales or racks. Other options are to go for vintage posters and adding hanging plants in colourful pots to introduce freshness and natural colour into your pretty little nook! **✎**



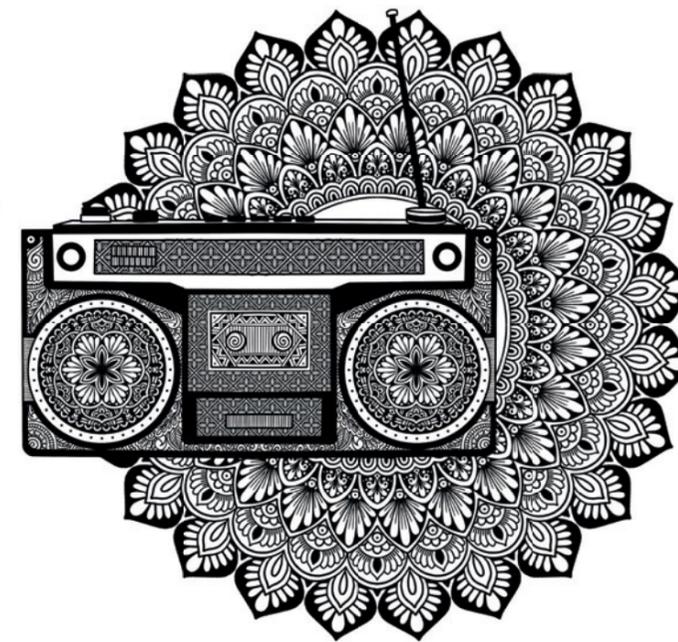
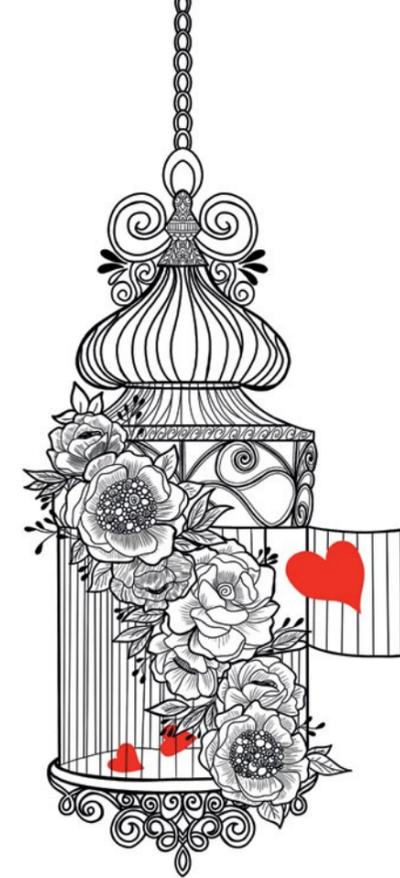
FOR THE LOVE OF ART

Finding inspiration in mandalas and zentangles, a DLF resident tells how everyday life shapes her spellbinding artworks

BY SUSHMITA SRIVASTAV

Back in her school days, Disha Kedia Gupta loved scribbling on the back pages of her notebooks. Nothing amused her more than doodling during classes even when she entered college. But then life happened, and she picked Finance for her Master's. It was much later in life, when she moved to the US along with her husband, that she finally picked up the sketching pen again. "When I first moved, I wasn't working and had lot of time in hand. That is when I started drawing again, as a hobby. Soon, I started posting my doodles on Instagram, and somebody approached me that they wanted to print it on their products! That's how it started," recalls Gupta, talking about how her love for creativity shaped her career and not the other way round.

Ask her what brings her joy and quick comes her response, "It's not just my profession for me. I find drawing mandalas very relaxing and satisfying. It calms me down. Also, when I got good at it, I thought why stick to just traditional mandalas? Why not experiment with the shapes and style, and bring in more details? So, I started doing different kinds of mandalas and zentangles. Now, I just try to do fusion of traditional patterns with quotations, colours, and themes."



“I LIKE TAKING PEOPLE DOWN MEMORY LANE THROUGH MY MANDALA ARTWORKS”

Most of her artworks, Gupta tells us, are inspired by everyday life and aim to evoke a sense of nostalgia. Her piece *Do Pyaali Chai*, for instance, takes inspiration from the tea lovers among her friends and family, and shows the beloved chai in its true Indian form—a kettle and two ‘kaanch ke glass’, as served at almost every tea stall across the country. “In this fast-running world, we are just behind everything. We don’t even sit back and think about those golden days we have left behind. I like taking people down memory lane through these artworks and wish to connect with new and older generations alike.”

From bringing together Rumi’s spiritual quotes and mandala art, to turning her artworks into graphic designs for products like yoga pants, colouring books for adults and stunning home decor, Gupta has done it all. Doodling, after all, isn’t a mere hobby anymore, and @NotJustDoodle, her Instagram handle, tells us just that. **■**



AN EVERLASTING LOVE AFFAIR

Major Harpal Singh Virk (veteran), a resident of Magnolias, shares narratives and musings of his wonderful experiences at DLF5, before and after settling in this blissful paradise

Being an ardent golfer, whenever I made my trips to Delhi/Gurgaon from Chandigarh, where we lived, I would always carry my golf-set with me and try and fit in a round of golf at the

Army Golf Course, Dhaulakuan, New Delhi. A chance round of golf at the beautiful, Arnold Palmer Course in the picturesque DLF Golf & Country Club here in Gurgaon, followed by drinks, transported me to another stratosphere.



In those days, the drive into the DLF Golf & Country Club was something I always likened to the drive into the Rashtrapati Bhavan, which I used to visit very often when two of my comrades in arms were the Aide-de-Camps (ADC) to the then President of India, Giani Zail Singh. The euphoric feeling one got as one drove into that wonderful long stretch to the Golf Club, was a high that had to be experienced to be believed.

The Magnolias was coming up at that time and I decided to buy an apartment here—a decision I would consider as one of the landmark decisions of our life. A decision that changed my life forever! We were one of the earliest settlers in The Magnolias. Unfortunately, I sustained some serious injuries in my fingers, having overdone golf, and was advised by the doctors to lay off golf for some time. That is when my love affair with ‘The Sanctuary’ in the DLF Golf Links began.

The Sanctuary, I would say is akin to one of those Swiss forest trails. Being a wandering maverick soldier, this is how I had described the ‘Sanctuary’—this undulating oasis of endless greens, where I started going for my early morning walks every day, to get lost from the world. “Solitude is the soil in which genius is planted, creativity grows, and legends bloom; faith in oneself is the rain that cultivates a hero to endure the storm, and bare the genesis of a new world, a new forest.”... Forest...they call it, "The Sanctuary".

I shall now take the liberty to cut the narrative, which always tends to get a bit dreary, and share some of my inspired musings, penned over the years during the ‘oh! so many’ euphoric moments of exploration on my early morning walks in this amazing haven of peace, known as, ‘The DLF Golf Links’.

*A walk in the woods all alone,
No one around,
The perfect way to drown out all the sound.
Breathing in air so sharp,
It cuts the cobwebs from my mind.
The silence disturbed only by the swaying of trees and the rustling of leaves.
Just me and my thoughts,
walking along the landscape of my memories.
Just a little more,
then I'll come back to my door. — LV*

*It is said, “At times you have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition.
What you'll discover will be wonderful.
What you'll discover is yourself.”
Only by losing oneself can one find oneself.
Is it really possible to hear the ‘voice of your soul’ in the din of this chaotic world?
Only a solivagant can embrace the psithurism of the trees in the breeze.
I have been on this surreal journey of ‘losing myself’ for quite some time now.
Am I going backwards or am I ‘progressing’...I really do not know!?
What I do know is that it is so very important...so very therapeutic.
What I do know is that one has to continuously strive to expand one's comfort zone — LV*

This morning once again I had one of those surreal extrasensory experiences in ‘The Sanctuary’, that are now gradually becoming a part of my everyday life. Having had a late night due to a wonderful ‘after-party’ we attended last evening with the Delhi Daredevils at the Golf Club, I headed a bit late to the forest, where I go every day to lose my mind in search



of my soul. I had barely entered the ‘Sanctuary’, immersed in my own thoughts, enjoying this wonderful song on my old iPod, when I was stopped in my tracks by the most awesome sight. Who do I see? My friend, Freddie the peacock, standing in all his splendour with outstretched arms to welcome me. He covered the complete pathway and did not let me go. The look on his face said, “We need to talk mate.” What followed was a good 10-plus minutes of the most blissful silent loud conversation between ‘two friends’. Yes, these were the ‘sounds of silence’. I was just lost in the vastness of this wonderful friendship until I realised I had to get back to ‘life’.

As I came out of the woods on my way back, I came out ‘taller than the trees’! A free spirit isn't a rebel. A free spirit is simply free within oneself, radiating its light up and out to breathe the sweet new rhythms onto roads leading into an often stagnant world. *This is peaceful...this is wild. I am both at the same time. — LV*

I would end this piece with the following lines penned by me just a fortnight ago while sipping my tea in the morning sitting on the deck, as I watched the rain fall on the lush green trees and the meandering fairways...read on!

As I sit on my deck this beautiful morning and see the lovely rain falling, I marvel at the vision of my Comrade in Arms, Col. KP Singh and his son, Rajiv Singh for what they have created... unparalleled, possibly in India, if not the world. A lush green oxygen bubble, amidst a concrete jungle... welcome to DLF Golf Links!

Having lived in The Magnolias for the past eight years, I would say, the only downside is that now when we go on holidays and live in the finest resorts in the world...we yearn to head back home because, trust me, this is a far better resort than any, and what's more, it's our ‘home’. The words of Emperor Jahangir echo in my ears again and again...“*If there is paradise on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here.*” — LV 🇮



A JOURNEY SO BEAUTIFUL

Reminiscing about her life at The Aralias, DLF resident **Nupur Kaul** only finds gratitude, a sense of calm, and precious memories filling her heart

As I watch a peacock spread its colourful feathers and dance in the rain before me one fine evening, during my walk through the surreal green sanctuary designed for DLF residents, I remind myself that it is our seventh year living at The Aralias. And oh, what amazing seven years they have been!

During our transition from the United States, impeccable security in a gated community was the criterion that topped our checklist for a new home here. We moved to The Aralias in 2014, when our daughter was just 12 years old. And over the years, all my fears were allayed and gave way to a sense of confidence in the Aralias' staff. From the outside entrance

to our condominium, there are multiple security checkpoints with strict rules and protocols set by the DLF administration. Every day, even during the dark winter mornings and late evenings, Neha felt comfortable walking all by herself, from our apartment to the main gate, to be picked up and dropped off by her school bus. The fact that she never felt

the need to be accompanied by anyone speaks highly of how DLF's security has (rightfully) won our trust.

Prior to moving to India, we had our doubts about living in a condominium after having spent years in independent homes. Fortunately for us, our home at The Aralias is even more spacious

“THE LOUNGE AT THE CLUB HOUSE IS MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME”

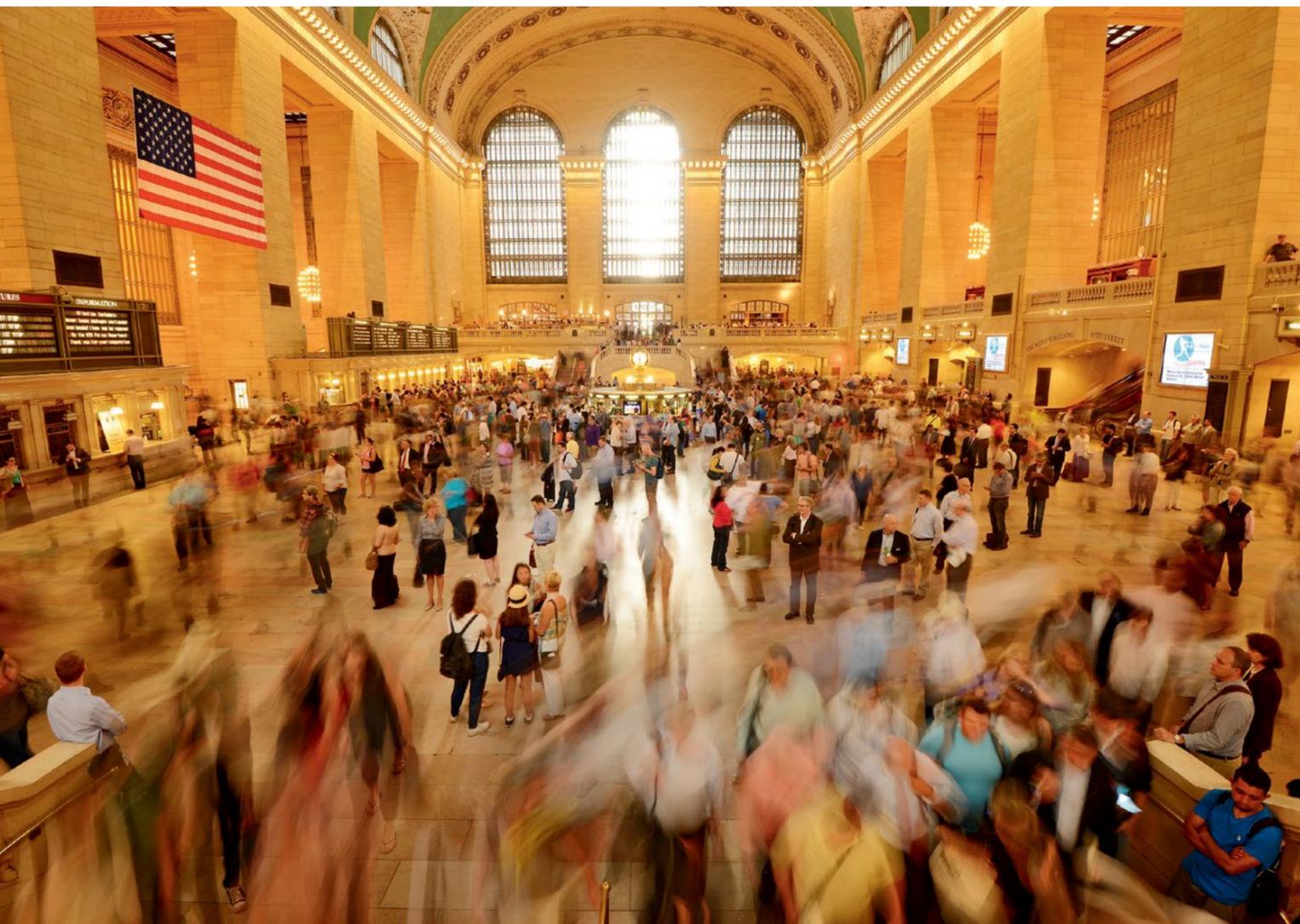
than that in the United States. The entrance leads into a foyer that extends into a spacious sitting space. The most aesthetic part of our home is the balcony that overlooks the sprawling lawns, the Aralias Club and the swimming pool.

My absolute favourite part about The Aralias, however, remains the

beautifully renovated Club House. A few years ago, DLF and some residents took the initiative to give it a makeover and transform it into a state-of-the-art building with a multitude of facilities, from a salon with a range of services and a cordial staff, to vegetable shops, nursing facilities, and more. The coffee room and the patisserie sit at the centre of the building and are surrounded by a bar, lunch room and patio. In addition, there are conference rooms, a card room and a children's playroom. The staff here always go the extra mile to help residents. Whenever I need a break from the craziness of life, I lounge on a couch with a book and a cup of hot brew. The lounge is my home away from home.

Last year, when COVID-19 brought along angst and fear to the world, the DLF staff stepped up to the challenges. A limited contingent of staff members was housed in The Aralias Club House to help out the residents during the lockdowns. Groceries and medicines were delivered on time to the doorsteps. Families affected by COVID-19 had staff members and guards watching over them for any requirements. RT-PCR tests and vaccination camps were arranged. The administration made sure all mandates were executed and public areas were sanitised on a regular basis. The AWA members along with the DLF team have done a spectacular job during the past 18 months and continue to follow strict safety and sanitisation protocols.

My eyes wander through the verdant greenery at the manicured lawns. Seasonal flowers and trees laden with white plumerias sway playfully with the wind. Behind the sanctuary, the DLF Golf Course stretches far and wide, offering scenic views of a lake and the Aravali Hills in the backdrop. As I continue my walk, thinking about all these years filled with countless good memories, I feel fortunate to call the ever-so-beautiful Aralias my home. 🏡



ONE EVENING AT GRAND CENTRAL

True love is more than skin deep—here's a story about two strangers in New York City, their growing love, and a test

BY KRISHAN KALRA

John Blanchard stood up from the bench, straightened his Navy uniform and studied the crowd of people making their way through Grand Central station. He looked for the girl whose heart he knew, but whose face he didn't, the girl with the rose. His interest in her had begun 13 months earlier in a Florida library. Taking a book off the shelf, he found himself intrigued not by the words in the book, but by the notes pencilled on the margin. The soft handwriting reflected a thoughtful soul and an insightful mind. On the title page of the book, he discovered the previous owner's name, Miss Hollis Maynell. With time and effort, he located her address. She now lived in New York City. He wrote her a letter introducing himself and inviting her to correspond. The next day, he was shipped overseas for service in World War II. Over the next year, the two grew to know each other. Blanchard requested for a photograph, but she refused. She felt that if he really cared, it wouldn't matter what she looked like.

When the day finally came for him to return from Europe, they scheduled their first meeting—at 7pm at Grand Central Station, New York City. “You’ll recognise me,” she wrote, “by the red rose I’ll be wearing on my lapel.” So, at seven o’clock he was in the station looking for a girl whose face he’d never seen.

And now, Blanchard himself will tell us what happened: A young woman was coming towards me, her figure, long and slim, her blonde hair lay back in curls from her delicate ears, her eyes were blue, her lips and chin had a gentle firmness and in her pale green suit she was like springtime come alive. I started towards her, forgetting that she was not wearing a rose. A small, provocative smile curved her lips. “Going my way, sailor?” she whispered. Almost uncontrollably, I moved one step closer to her, and then I saw Hollis Maynell. She was standing almost directly behind



the girl. A woman well past 40, she had greying hair tucked under a worn hat. She was more than plump, her thick angled feet thrust into low-heeled shoes.

The girl in the green suit was walking quickly away. I felt as though I was split in two. So keen was my desire to follow her and yet so deep was my longing for the woman whose spirit had truly companioned me and upheld my own. And there she stood, her pale plump face was gentle and sensible, her grey eyes had a warm and kindly twinkle. I did not hesitate. My fingers gripped the small, worn, blue leather copy of the book that was to identify me to her. This would not be love, but it would be something precious, something perhaps even better than love, a friendship for

which I had been and must ever be grateful. I squared my shoulders and saluted and held out the book to the woman, even though I felt choked by the bitterness of my disappointment. “I’m Lieutenant John Blanchard and you must be Miss Maynell. I am so glad that you could meet me; may I take you to dinner?” The woman’s face broadened into a tolerant smile. “I don’t know what this is about, son,” she answered, “but the young lady in the green suit who just went by, begged me to wear this red rose on my coat. And, she said if you were to ask me out to dinner, I should tell you that she’s waiting for you in the big restaurant across the street. She said it was some kind of a test for you...” And I feel, Blanchard very well passed it. ❏

GAME ON!

Back on the course after a long halt, students of the DLF Golf and Country Club bagged prestigious tournament titles at the very start of the swinging season

After a gap of almost six months due to the second wave of COVID-19, the month of September saw the resumption of two coveted golf tours played in India—the TATA Steel Tour (PGTI) and the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour (WGAI). With commendable representation from the students of the DLF Golf and Country Club (DLF Golf Academy), both the tournaments marked many firsts.

The PGTI resumed in Hyderabad with the Golconda Masters Telangana Open 2021, and for the very first time, there were two sub-60 scores on a single day, both scored by DLF students—Manu Gandas (scoring 58) and Kartik Sharma (scoring 59), during the second round, where the par was reduced to 68. Gandas won his first professional title, with a score of 22 under par. “I have waited six years for this win. The game has been good for some time now, although the breaks because of COVID restrictions

have been difficult to handle. I would like to thank DLF for their support over the years, and to my coach Anitya Chand, for helping me through my journey,” says the 25-year-old golfer. Sharma, who finished 13th in the tournament, was ranked 6th in the PGTI's Players Championship 2021 held in Panchkula later in the month.

The HWPGT resumed its seventh leg at the DLF Golf and Country Club, where Jahanvi Bakshi, another DLF student, won her second professional title of the tournament. “Winning on my home course was truly special. I have grown up playing and practising at the DLF Golf and Country Club. In 2017, I was selected in the DLF Golf Excellence Program, and have been a part of it ever since. I thank the coaching team at the academy, and the DLF Foundation for their support,” asserts Bakshi.

A win on both the men's and women's tours in the same week was another first

for the academy. Anitya Chand, Head Professional at the DLF Golf Academy, couldn't be happier with the results. “As the coach to both Manu (Gandas) and Jahanvi (Bakshi), it is heartening to see the results. They both work extremely hard and have put in a lot of effort over the past few months. Their success will inspire all the talented boys and girls of our academy to work harder and strive for greater heights.”

Started in 1999 as the first professional golf school in India, the DLF Golf Academy has been a learning ground for many juniors, amateurs and professionals. Headed by Karan Bindra and Anitya Chand, a team of highly certified professionals in golf, fitness and nutrition are at hand to guide the players. All students have access to state-of-the-art facilities and the award-winning courses at the DLF Golf and Country Club. The academy also runs the largest junior golf programme in the country, supported by the DLF Foundation. **■**

DLF
Foundation

MEET OUR CHAMPIONS, 2021



MANU GANDAS
Won his First Pro Title
At PGTI (Men's) Event
Played in Hyderabad



JAHANVI BAKSHI
Won her Second Pro Title
At WGAI (Women's) Event
Played in DLF Golf and Country Club



KARTIK SHARMA
Finished 6th in the PGTI Player's
Championship in Panchkula and
7th in the J&K Open in Srinagar



DLF GOLF EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

DLF Foundation instituted the Golf Excellence Programme in 2017 in partnership with DLF Golf Academy and K&A Golf Pvt Ltd. The programme facilitates and nurtures budding golfers aged 10 years and above and supports their coaching and participation in tournaments. The Foundation also takes care of their fitness and nutrition programs.

The selected students attend regular coaching with individual golf lessons and assessments, including short game lessons, on-course planning, and lectures on course management. The programme is supported by internationally recognised coaches who visit the DLF Golf Academy periodically to conduct regular assessments and guide our young golfers.

Our aspiring golfers have made us proud by achieving top positions on the Golf leader boards nationally and internationally.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Vintage makeup is in vogue once again! Take the retro route to rock the most coveted look of all times

BY SUSHMITA SRIVASTAV

OH, THE DRAMA

For starters, the trend of winged eyeliner never went out of fashion. The retro eye look exudes class and drama mixed into one. From Deepika Padukone's dreamy Bollywood debut to Ariana Grande's look in her latest number, *Positions*, even the celebrity world can never seem to get enough of it! Although minimal makeup has been in the spotlight for quite some time now, the good ol' wings in different styles (cat, fox or puppy) are still the go-to party look, when paired with long lashes and a glittery or smokey touch.

Try: *Benefit Cosmetics They're Real Push-Up Gel EyeLiner; Too Faced Better Than Sex Mascara; Kiro Long Wear Brightening Eye Shadow Stick*

BOLD IS BEAUTIFUL

Who can ever forget Marilyn Monroe's iconic bold red lips? Let's face it—nothing says glamour like a classic red lipstick. It goes well with almost all makeup styles, from a nude muted to a high-shine, to of course, the vintage. And there's a shade for every skin tone (think cherry, rose, crimson, scarlet, bloody... the list is endless!). Pick the one that complements your skin tone, carefully over-line your lips into the shape of a sharp Cupid's bow, and finish it off with a dash of contour. And just like that, you are ready to take on the world!

Try: *Estee Lauder Pure Color Envy Shine Lipstick - Surreal Sun; M.A.C Ruby Woo; Elizabeth Arden Gelato Plush Up Lipstick - Flirty Fuschia*

Who can ever forget Marilyn Monroe's iconic bold red lips? nothing says glamour like a classic red lipstick

A BLUSHING DREAM

Trust us when we tell you—a flush of blush can instantly elevate your nostalgic makeup look. Natural-looking rosy cheeks add a little softness to balance out the bold eyes and lips. This '30s trend has, hence, made a recurrence but with a little twist. Instead of brushing just the apples of your cheeks with a blush, also apply it upwards and towards the temples.

Try: *Charlotte Tilbury Cheek To Chic Blush; Givenchy Women Prisme Blush*

A SUNKISSED GLOW

Caking your face with loads of foundation is close to a sin today. Instead, go for a subtle, minimal base makeup to get a more natural dewy look. Use a bit of foundation and concealer, just enough to even out your skin texture and cover the spots. Pro tip: pick the right shade that matches your skin tone, and mix your foundation with a drop of your favourite serum right before applying it. Also, don't forget to accentuate your features with a shimmering highlighter to look like a complete glowing goddess.

Try: *Kiko Milano Unexpected Paradise Face Highlighter; DIOR Backstage Glow Face Palette Multi-Use Illuminating Makeup Palette*

THE GAME OF BROWS

Gone are the days of perfectly shaped, overly-plucked and drawn-on eyebrows. Thick, bushy brows are dominating the makeup world and crushing the unattainable beauty standards. Thanks to the big brows revolution, it's (finally) time to grow them out naturally. In case you still feel they need a little grooming, invest in a good brow oil and a brow gel or powder of a warm tone. Remember, naturally beautiful brows are a total game-changer as they give your face the right dimension and add extra definition to your features.

Try: *Anastasia Beverly Hills Brow Kit; Urban Decay Cosmetics Brow Finish Waterproof Eyebrow Gel*

LOVELY LOCKS

Fashion is cyclic—everything comes around. And so have the iconic vintage hairstyles. Look into the past for inspiration and pick from multiple buns, romantic curls, soft updo, high pony, curly bob, straight vintage locks and more. You can even pair it with a bandana, bow, leaf headband or floral hair piece to complete your classic look.

Try: *Sephora Setting Mist; TIGI Bed Head Superstar Queen For A Day Hair Spray* **✪**

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE

From a mean manicure session to a minimum makeup look, there's much more to a gentleman's grooming routine than a shave and shower

BY AAKRITI JASWANT



“Manners maketh man”—true, but when it comes down

to making the perfect gentleman, following a grooming routine also holds a strong place in the list. After all, taking care of oneself and valuing personal appearance can never grow old-fashioned. Listed below are some of the essential grooming tips any modern man should follow to be a cut above the rest.

MANICURE AND PEDICURE

Having neat, well-maintained hands and feet is often underestimated. A simple handcare routine helps remove dead skin on a regular basis. A mani-pedi session includes clipping of nails,

removing cuticles, scrubbing heels, hand and foot massage, followed by applying a topcoat of sheer nail enamel. Try out the manicure set by Hammacher Schlemmer made in Solingen, Germany. This at-home manicure set offers bespoke quality tools meant for perfection.

FACIAL AND FACE MASKS

A simple face wash every day can't offer the deep cleanse your skin at times requires. Pick a facial depending on your skin concerns. Just a one-hour session can brighten up your face as well as help you relax after a long day. If that sounds like too much work, start with facial masks at home to maintain your skin in a fuss-free way. Go big, or more appropriately, go bling, with Peter Thomas Roth's 24K Gold Mask, which promises to tighten up the skin and give it a nice glow.

MANSCAPING

This new-age term blends 'man' and 'landscaping' and is all about men grooming their body hair. Be it trimming your eyebrows, shaving your beard or getting a sharp haircut, grooming your hair offers an overall cleaner look as well as a youthful appeal. Caliber .50 Cal High Speed Magnetic Cordless Clipper is a powerful body hair trimmer with a magnetic motor. BAKblade 2.0 Back Shaver with comb-like blades, is meant for all your hair-related woes.

HAIR SPA

A hair spa has multiple benefits. It strengthens hair follicles, moisturises the scalp, and helps in the growth of new hair. The different procedures involved—oiling, massaging and steaming—leave your hair revitalised. You can go in for the process once or twice a month, depending on the need. Dr. Barbara Sturm's Scalp Serum focusses on moisturising the scalp. There is also Christophe Robin's Cleansing Thickening Paste that works wonder on thinning hair.

NO-MAKEUP MAKEUP

Trust us when we say, this one is a total game-changer! Minimal makeup can enhance your features, while giving you a natural sharp look. A concealer or foundation matching your skin tone, a setting powder and some lip balm can together go a long way. Tom Ford's Concealing Pen and Kiehl's No Shine Lip Balm are great products to start with.

PERFECT SCENT

The last stop for any grooming session. The right scent reaches places even before you make a physical appearance. Creed Aventus is a Hollywood favourite and rightly so; its bold scent packs notes of bergamot, junipers and musk. Maison Francis Kurkdjian's Aqua Universalis is fresh and light with notes of orange blossom, musk and wood. **W**

THE 'WELLNESS' MULTIPLIER

Driven by the aim of healthy and holistic living, wellness is high on people's list of priorities and adopting a sustainable lifestyle has gained significance

BY AJITA SINGH



The topic of health and wellness gets covered by practically every newspaper daily. The surge in wellness

programmes can be seen everywhere, such as in holiday retreats offering yoga classes, spa and luxurious physical activity avenues. It can be seen in the multiple challenges running online—21-day, plank challenge, eating healthy challenge, etc. It can also be seen in diet options available—Keto, intermittent-fasting and the numerous apps. Zoom adoption is not just for schools and offices; it has been accepted whole-heartedly by the wellness industry—the very reason the industry was less impacted by the pandemic. Why has it got so much attention over the past few years? To start with, the very scope of wellness has expanded. Wellness is not time-bound, it is lifelong, and adds to both the length and the juice of life. Wellness and being healthy is no longer defined as having the perfectly sculpted body or being size zero. In fact, it is the state of being healthy, and the lifestyle choices and activities people engage in for the same. Wellness is holistic—physical, spiritual, emotional, social, and environmental.

Physical wellness is about nurturing our bodies through exercise, nutrition and sleep, among other things. This, in a way, forms the biggest slice of the pie for the wellness industry. If

you log on to Instagram, you will find a huge number of influencers for health and wellness with incredible reach. Further, Indians have now awakened to emotional and social wellness. Corporate firms took a big leap in arranging sessions on mental health and wellness and being more than happy to give time off. Spiritual wellness has always been perceived as the most important (even in Maslow's hierarchy of needs). However, it is only in recent years that interest in this has spiked. International Yoga Day, wellness retreats in disconnected places, digital detox days, etc., are some trends that validate this.

Another thing that has led to expansion in the wellness domain is internalisation or, as people say, taking control. People now understand that convenience gives control, so they prefer 'at-home instructors' even if it means a slightly higher cost. Fitness wearables packed with apps to track all your activities, and even the menstrual cycle, give you a perfect dashboard for health vitals. People have a host of things to choose from, and they practise what they prefer. The idea behind the 21-day challenge, two-week wellness programme, etc., is internalisation—you adopt, and once it becomes a part of the lifestyle you are on the right path.

The desire for longevity is again something that has pushed people into following the wellness agenda. People are aware of antioxidants and



superfoods, the must-haves for longevity. Mental wellness and physical activity are in focus as the desire to live longer and being healthy has increased—people cherish and value 'me-time'.

Awareness about disease conditions has also resulted in a wellness boost. Everybody now wants a healthy body. While weight-loss is still considered the biggest driver for the fitness industry, people now also look for muscle-gain or improvement in physical activity. Also, people are aware of the significance of eliminating stress from their lives to prevent hormonal imbalance and resultant lifelong health conditions.

There is a surge in the use of novel or functional medicines, sticking to an exercise regime, doing yoga and eating mindfully (holistic meals).

The surge in the health and wellness industry is also on account of the high cost associated with lifestyle diseases. Being on immunity-boosters, spending on gyms, etc., is much more preferable to spending money on managing diseases. The *gharelu nuskhes* of *naanis* and *daadis* have been adopted whole-heartedly. Wellness is not a trend; it is a permanent part of life—and we can sustain it easily with a simple policy: Eat, pray, love, work out, and sleep. **fi**



LIVING LARGE

With discerning travellers already eyeing exotic locales to visit the moment travel restrictions are lifted, we hand-pick some of the most stylish hotel suite experiences around the globe—here, budget is not an issue and bona fide rock-star treatment is the order of the day!

BY FRANÇOIS OOSTHUIZEN



ALCOVA TIEPOLO SUITE, AMAN VENICE (ITALY)

The 103-square-metre Alcova Tiepolo Suite offers guests the opportunity to stay among remarkable 18th-century frescoes by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. Described as “the greatest decorative painter of his time”, Tiepolo’s theatrical frescoes in the Rococo style create an inspired space that celebrates its historic architecture. Gilded ceilings and tall windows frame elegant views of the hotel’s Garden Terrace, and an ornately painted sitting room with a fireplace is the perfect place to retire after exploring the charms of Venice. A separate king-sized bedroom with en suite and dressing room provides all the space and privacy your heart desires. The best part? The star-studded list of guests who have previously stayed in this suite, including George and Amal Clooney after their much-publicised 2014 nuptials.

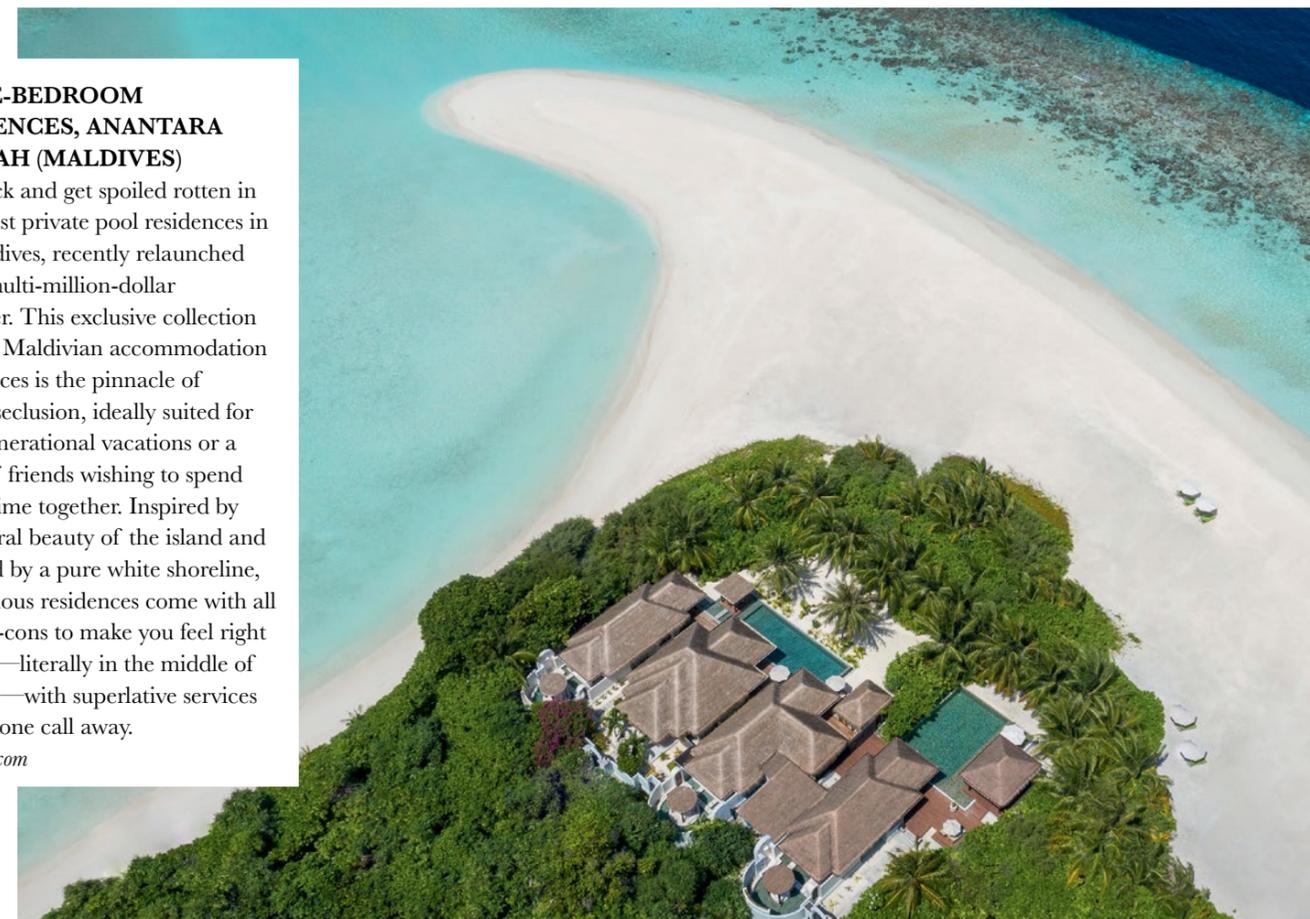
aman.com



THREE-BEDROOM RESIDENCES, ANANTARA KIHAVAH (MALDIVES)

Kick back and get spoiled rotten in the largest private pool residences in the Maldives, recently relaunched after a multi-million-dollar makeover. This exclusive collection of seven Maldivian accommodation experiences is the pinnacle of palatial seclusion, ideally suited for multi-generational vacations or a group of friends wishing to spend quality time together. Inspired by the natural beauty of the island and encircled by a pure white shoreline, the spacious residences come with all the mod-cons to make you feel right at home—literally in the middle of nowhere—with superlative services just a phone call away.

anantara.com



RESIDENTIAL SUITE, HÔTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE, PARIS (FRANCE)

Chances are good this is the preferred suite of the cast of *Bling Empire* when they’re visiting the City of Lights. Home also to statesmen and royalty, the Presidential Suite at Hôtel Plaza Athénée is the epitome of splendour, combining an outstanding level of refinement. The interiors, crafted by Marie-José-Pommereau, combine couture-house fabrics with eclectic, vintage finds to capture the very essence of French elegance. The luxurious suite also gives the best Parisian views from every angle, either overlooking Avenue Montaigne or La Cour Jardin with its signature red awnings and cascades of ivy.

dorchestercollection.com



RITZ SUITE, MANDARIN ORIENTAL RITZ, MADRID (SPAIN)

The Ritz Suite is the *pièce de résistance* of the newly restored Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid, that reopened in April 2021. This plush one-bedroom suite features an unparalleled view of the Prado Museum from its private balcony and has been designed as a serene escape from the city. Legendary hotelier César Ritz teamed up with French architect Charles Mewes and Spanish architect Luis de Landecho to open this Belle Epoque hotel in 1910—with King Alfonso XIII as an investment partner —after staying in The Ritz in both Paris and London. In 2015, the Mandarin Oriental Group acquired the property, closing it three years later for the largest renovation in its 110-year history. Spanish architect Rafael de La-Hoz and French designers Gilles and Boissier were called upon to preserve the heritage of the building inside out, while taking a leap into the 21st century. mandarinoriental.com



PRESIDENTIAL SUITES, RAFFLES SINGAPORE

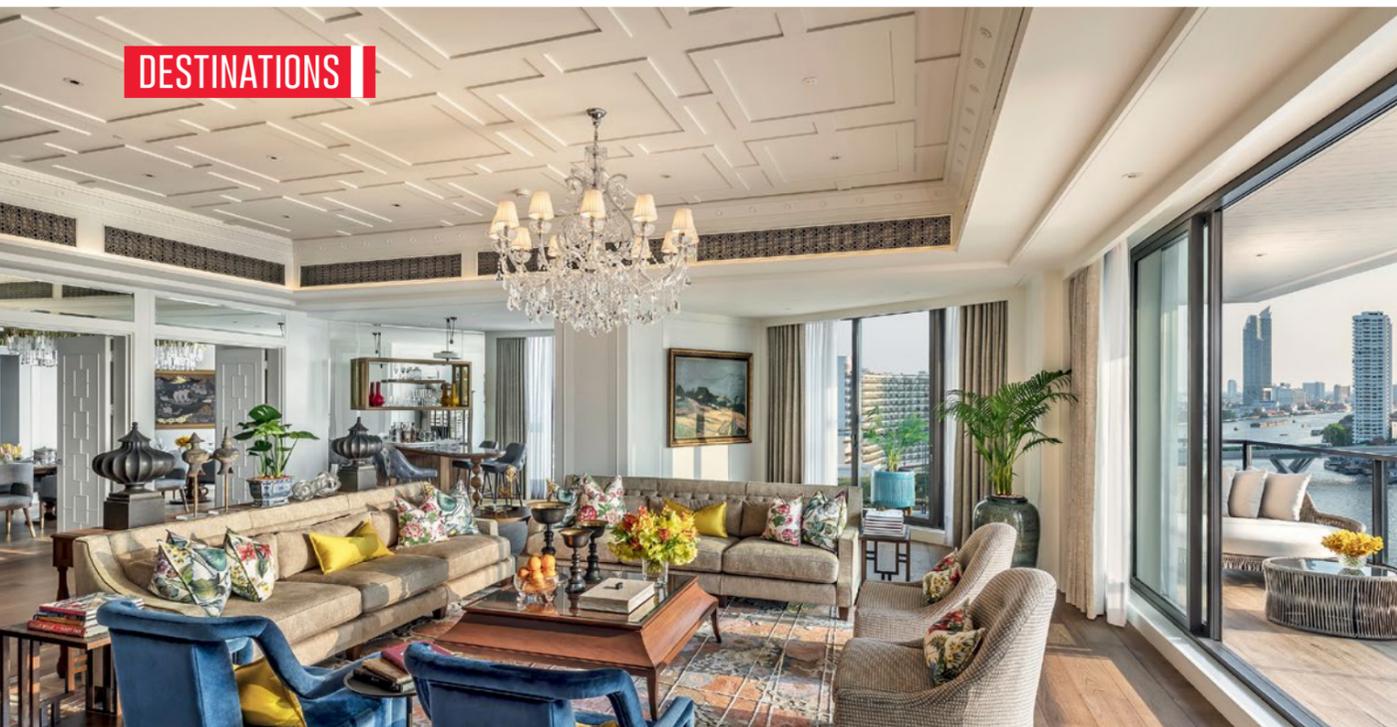
Named after the most illustrious personalities of the Raffles story, The Sarkies and Sir Stamford Raffles Suites are the grandest hotel suites in Singapore. Located in the Main Building, overlooking the tranquil Palm Court and the hotel's legendary *porte-cochère* entrance, the suites are architecturally stunning, and each comes with its own private verandah. The vast spaces—from the living room to the dining room and the bedrooms—are bedecked with carefully-curated antiques and artworks. Functional areas include a walk-in wardrobe and your personal pantry. The Sarkies Suite is named after the Armenian brothers who founded Raffles and managed it until the early 1930s, while the second suite bears the name of the founder of modern Singapore, Sir Stamford Raffles. raffles.com



KOCATAŞ MANSION SUITE, SIX SENSES KOCATAŞ MANSIONS (TURKEY)

Located in the prestigious Sariyer district of Istanbul, the Sait Paşa and Kocataş Mansions were built in the second half of the 19th century. The eclectic Turkish-Ottoman Kocataş mansions were inspired by the European art and architectural influence of the time, and offer awe-inspiring views over the Bosphorus Strait. The Kocataş Mansion Suite is the most sought after, featuring authentic Ottoman interiors with beautiful wall murals, high ceilings and a working fireplace. A Guest Experience Maker (GEM) is at your beck and call around the clock to ensure that all whims and fancies are seen to. sixsenses.com





THE ORIENTAL SUITE, MANDARIN ORIENTAL BANGKOK (THAILAND)

Ever since it opened its doors earlier this year, the new penthouse suite at Bangkok's *la grande dame* has been the talk of the town. Beautifully decorated in an Oriental style with Thai silks, teak floors, antiques and Persian carpets, the 434-square-metre two-bedroom suite has front-row seats to the Chao Phraya River from a wrap-around terrace, a private dining room for up to 12 guests, a fully equipped gourmet kitchen, and multiple entertainment areas. The master bedroom is furnished with stunning collectibles and a unique canopy bed that was originally designed for the former Oriental Suite in 1976.

mandarinoriental.com



AVA GARDNER SUITE, SPLENDIDO MARE, A BELMOND HOTEL, PORTOFINO (ITALY)

Unfolding across the entire top floor of the charming Splendido Mare, the 56-square-metre Ava Gardner Suite is the height of indulgence on the Italian Riviera. It features wall-to-wall glass windows, and a spacious terrace offering magnificent views. The hotel reopened on May 1 this year, following a complete renovation with interior designs by Festen Architecture. All rooms are unique, with colours inspired by traditional Ligurian buildings, and luxurious layers by Loro Piana and Rubelli. But it is the suite named after Hollywood legend Ava Gardner that truly encapsulates the high life.

belmond.com



GRAND SUITES, VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS, A BELMOND TRAIN

One of the world's most legendary 'hotels on wheels', the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is introducing three new Grand Suites: Vienna, Prague, and Budapest. This brings the total number of top suites on board to six as they join Venice, Istanbul, and Paris — all named after iconic European cities the train travels to every year and sitting in the oldest carriage built in 1962. The

suites have been created by Winberly Interiors, with scrupulous craftsmanship that embraces the train's iconic history throughout. From the hand-embroidered cushions to intricately carved marquetry, they offer an unmatched experience with perfectly placed mosaics, silk patterns, en suite bathrooms, double beds, and a private living area with underfloor heating. The Baroque and Gothic architecture of the surreal Prague, along with the city's theatrical feel, encapsulates the Prague Grand

Suite through rich golds and majestic maroons. Vienna's imperial legacy is reflected with an ornate and classical design in the Vienna Grand Suite, using rich hues of gold and emerald green. The Budapest Grand Suite aims to capture the essence of both sides of the Danube River, taking inspiration from Gothic and Ottoman architecture, and is adorned with intricately detailed marquetry and sumptuous silk embroidery patterns.

belmond.com



THE ROYAL PAVILIONS, QASR AL SARAB DESERT RESORT BY ANANTARA (ABU DHABI)

Only 90 minutes from Abu Dhabi city, Rub'Al Khali, the world's largest uninterrupted sand desert, envelops you in otherworldly beauty. Half a kilometre from the main resort, amidst rolling sand dunes, 10 standalone pool villas are dotted over the desolate landscape, each offering absolute seclusion in an adults-only environment. Whether you fly in by helicopter or enter by camel procession, a personalised adventure awaits with tailored dining and spa experiences, and exciting desert adventures—on foot, astride a majestic Arabian stallion, or in a chauffeured 4x4. The desert sanctuaries blend into the surrounding landscape, with ochre tones, handcrafted furnishings and indigenous motifs. Start your day at sunrise with breakfast served out on the terrace and end it unwinding by the pool under the stars.

anantara.com



SUITE 67, LA RESIDENCIA, A BELMOND HOTEL, MALLORCA (SPAIN)

Belmond commissioned acclaimed designer Matthew Williamson to design a suite at La Residencia, Mallorca. Suite 67 features the designer's signature vibrant colours, rich botanicals and luxe textures, all combined with a rustic

decadence. Located in the Son Fony building, the one-bedroom suite enjoys spectacular views of both the village and mountains, and includes a private pool and garden, luxurious living space and a vibrant bathroom. Matthew's signature wallpaper, Rosanna Trellis, adorns the walls of the bedroom, featuring a striking bed lacquered in

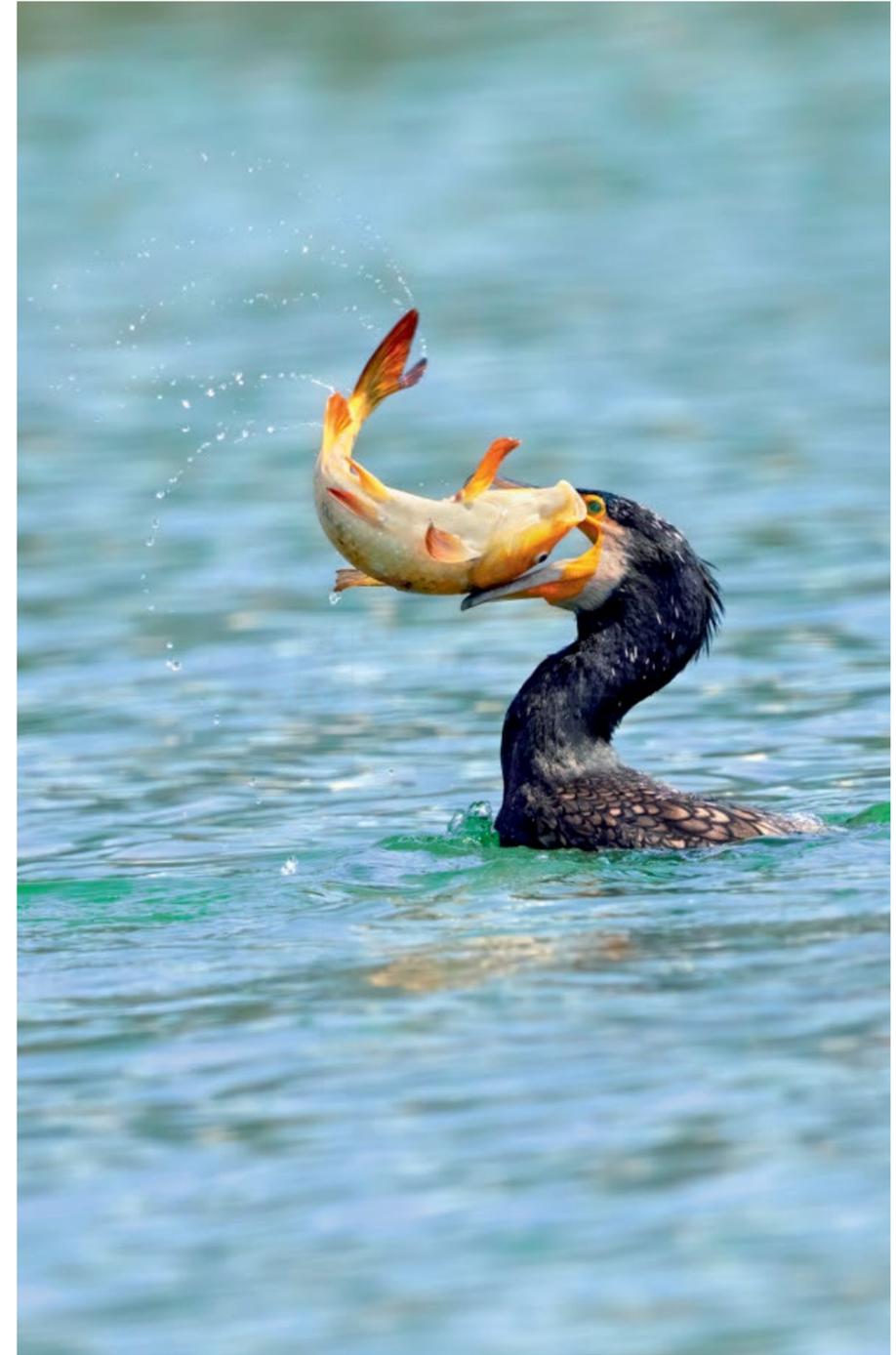
Yves Klein electric blue. The living space is highlighted with the designer's decorative upholstery fabrics – all set against soft pink blush walls. A vintage roll-top bath sits proudly in the bathroom. The private garden and pool area features designs inspired by the glamour of 1950s Palm Springs and California. belmond.com



VILLA DEL LAGO, MANDARIN ORIENTAL, LAKE COMO (ITALY)

Along with total privacy, guests enjoy enchanting views of Lake Como at the Neo-classical-style Villa Del Lago. Spread across four floors with three bedrooms, the villa consists of a verdant garden, a terrace with an open-air whirlpool tub, and a private dock on the lake. The outdoor jacuzzi is a prime spot to marvel at the beautiful scenery while spending a day at leisure. To enhance the time spent with family and friends, the villa offers entertainment such as a games room, table football, and a wet bar. Floor-to-ceiling windows allow a full experience of the location, along with a private kitchen, living room, and library with a fireplace.

mandarinoriental.com



TAKING WING

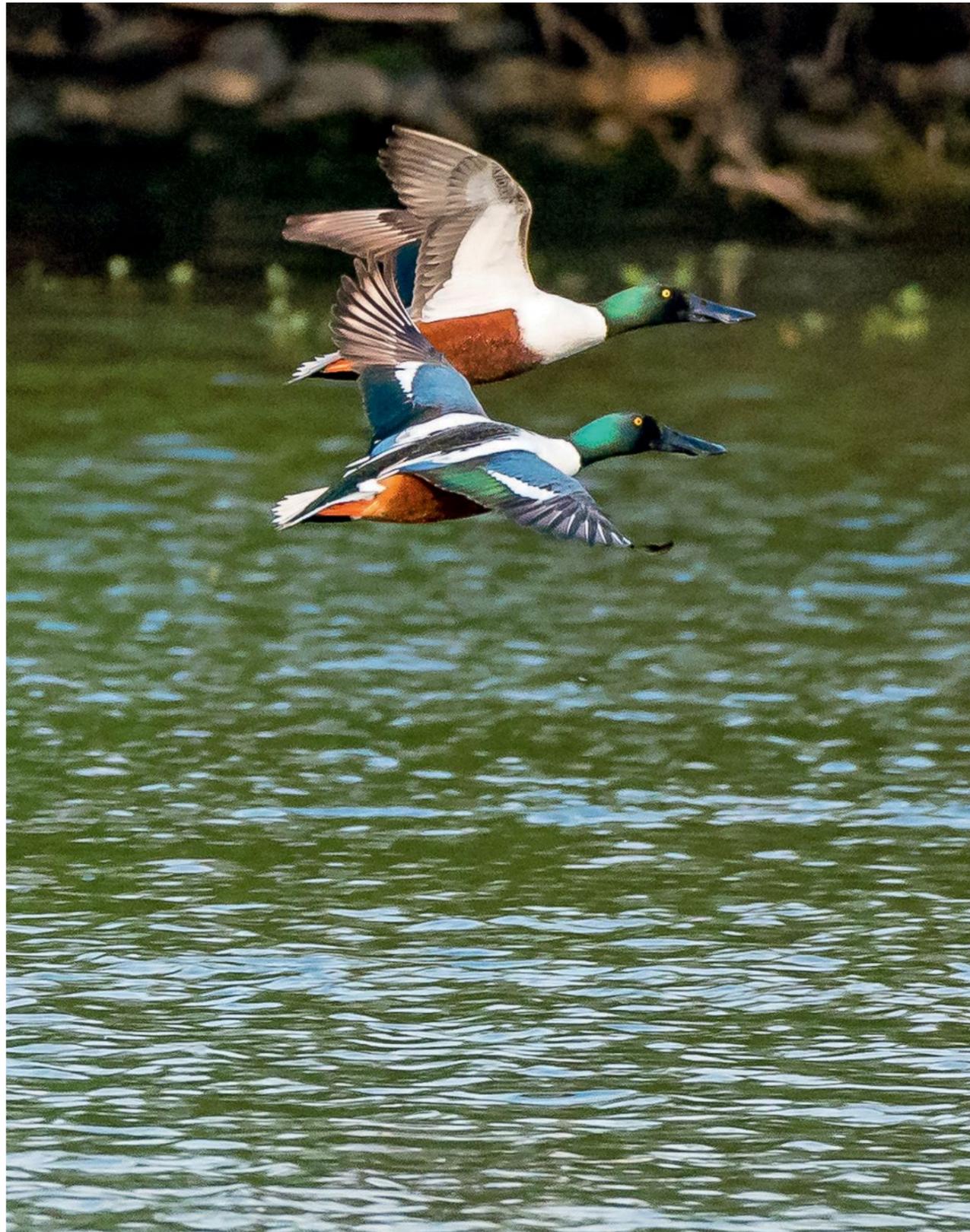
Bird-watching is a great way to destress. Here's a list of birding destinations just a short drive from DLF5

BY BINDU GOPAL RAO

With its serene vistas, DLF5 has an amazing landscape that has been a haven for not just nature lovers but a variety of birds, too. The COVID-19 lockdown has been great for nature, and birders across the country have been sharing tales of backyard or balcony birding. If that piqued your interest, here are some hotspots that make for a quick getaway from DLF5 condominiums.

DLF GOLF LINKS, GURUGRAM
Our very own oasis of green, set against the backdrop of the Aravalli Hills, is a rolling landscape of 200 acres. With unique outdoor experiences like The Meadows, The Sculpture Garden, The Woodlands, The Palmerie and The Sacred Grove, home to over 25,000 trees, The Sanctuary at DLF Golf Links has over a hundred species of birds as its native and visiting residents. Some of the species like

the grey francolin, white-breasted waterhen, black-crowned night heron, laughing dove, rose-ringed parakeet, large grey babbler, red-vented bulbul, and Oriental magpie robin, are regulars here. The bar-headed goose from Siberia, the jacobin cuckoo from Africa, common pochard from Eurasia and bluethroat from Europe are seasonal visitors. A walk around the block here promises you close encounters with these chirpy guests!



SULTANPUR NATIONAL PARK, GURUGRAM

Located on the Gurugram-Farukhnagar Road, the Sultanpur National Bird Sanctuary has an ancient lake within its sprawling 265-acre campus. This is where several species of birds are often sighted, including those that migrate from Siberia, Europe and Central Asia. Records indicate that 250 species of birds call it home during the peak winter season. There are four towers erected within the property to facilitate bird-watching. Look out for the European roller, Eurasian wigeon, tufted duck, rosy starling, western crowned warbler, white-eyed buzzards, northern shoveler, common teal, ferruginous duck and Eurasian coot.

ARAVALLI BIODIVERSITY PARK, VASANT VIHAR, NEW DELHI

A botanical park with over 240 medicinal plant species, the Aravalli Biodiversity Park has varied flora and fauna. There are 20 forest communities in the park with unique grass and herbs, a tropical rainforest as well as a conservatory of bulbous and tuberous plants that make the biodiversity a favourite among the birds. The 699-acre land is home to black-breasted redstart, yellow-footed green pigeon, plum-headed parakeet, golden-backed woodpecker and grey hornbill, red whiskered bulbul and ashy prinia. Some of the rare birds sighted here are the black eagle, Eurasian eagle owl, honey buzzard, streaked weaver and orange-headed thrush.

SURAJPUR WETLAND AND BIODIVERSITY PARK, GREATER NOIDA

With over 230 bird species recorded, this wetland has seen about 82 water birds, 99 woodland birds and 49 grassland birds. This urban wetland in the Yamuna River basin is home to spot-billed duck, lesser-whistling duck, cotton pygmy goose red-crested pochard, ferruginous pochard, bar-headed goose, comb duck,

greylag goose, common teal, northern shoveler and gadwall. The sarus cranes, species of storks, herons, cormorants and water peafowl are also seen in the season at the 761-acre Surajpur Wetland. The Dadri Wetland, which is 15km from Surajpur, also attracts many migratory birds and if you have time, you can easily visit both, when you are here.

BASAI WETLAND, GURUGRAM

This wetland in lesser-known village of Basai in Haryana is a birder's paradise and has been recognised as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International, a bird conservation organisation of global

fame. This site is home to over 280 species of migratory and endangered birds, and spreads over 250 acres of lush land. This is where you can see the grey-headed swampphen, cattle egret, black bittern, cinnamon bittern, yellow bittern, yellow-bellied prinia, grey-headed lapwing, watercock, and greater flamingo. The critically-endangered white-rumped vulture and red-headed vulture have also been spotted here. The wood sandpiper, smoky warbler, moustached warbler, common grasshopper warbler, water rail, Baillon's crane, great bittern, water pipit, citrine wagtail and yellow wagtail are some of the other unique migrant species spotted here every year. **✎**





PARENTAL BOOTING

With online mode taking pre-eminence, children have acquired various life skills, as parents are turning into the new tech-solution providers

BY AJITA SINGH

A parent's life revolves around the kids—the clock is always ticking, and with every passing moment, there's a new challenge. Their days are often spent juggling the numerous tasks of kids and their own work. The parents' brain fluctuates between the active hours and passive hours with kids. So, sending to school, food schedules, homework, etc., are all the active hours of involvement with kids, whereas, when parents do their chores and office work, little ones take a backseat, or that's the passive activity

hours with them. With COVID-19, disruption has happened in the parents' brain—the kids are omnipresent and the passive time with them has disappeared.

Imagine in a non-COVID scenario, you are presenting in office, and you get a call from home—you quickly excuse yourself, briefly address the call, and resume your presentation. In the current scenario, you hear your child shouting but, for that instance, you consider your office presentation more important (passive activity time) than the frantic

call for school and you ignore the call. In a moment, you see the appearance of a cherub with devil horns on your video call saying art paper is over and it is required. Oh! I so miss the school lockers where they used to keep all their supplies.

Schools have built good infrastructure to support digital learning by leveraging new platforms, secure IDs, etc. However, it has been a mammoth task for parents and kids. Hardly explored Zoom, no experience with Classroom, and creating email IDs for kids was a first-hand experience for parents. 2020-21 might go down as the year with the highest adoption of new technologies, primarily due to online schooling.

Let's get the tech-solution provider in parents. The same parents who would walk to the IT desk in their offices for every little thing, have had to resolve a zillion tech issues at home for their children—camera not working, Zoom call not connecting, Internet issues, inability to submit Google forms, wrong



KIDS HAVE BEEN THE ROCKSTARS IN THE PANDEMIC. SO, AS PARENTS, WE SHOULD TAKE IT EASY

password, account is locked. Parents' memory is now burdened with a greater number of login IDs and passwords.

The school diary is non-existent—parents get homework and assignment updates on their phones. Website and app notifications have increased massively—more so for parents who have children in different schools and different online tutorials.

Coming to oral tests, recitations, events, and presentations, parents are attending classes as an 'OUT'-standing student. Earlier, all it involved was helping the kids prepare for these tasks, followed by taking feedback from kids on their performances. Now, parents are the silent spectators and privy to not only their child's presentation but also those of the peers. So, here comes the pressure of making your kid perform better. This has amplified because parents believe learning is limited due to the online format. With parents having access to classes, schooling has become intrusive;

parents have taken it upon themselves to get the child up to speed and brush up their concepts—the truth is, kids would have blossomed even without those extra hours of concept revision.

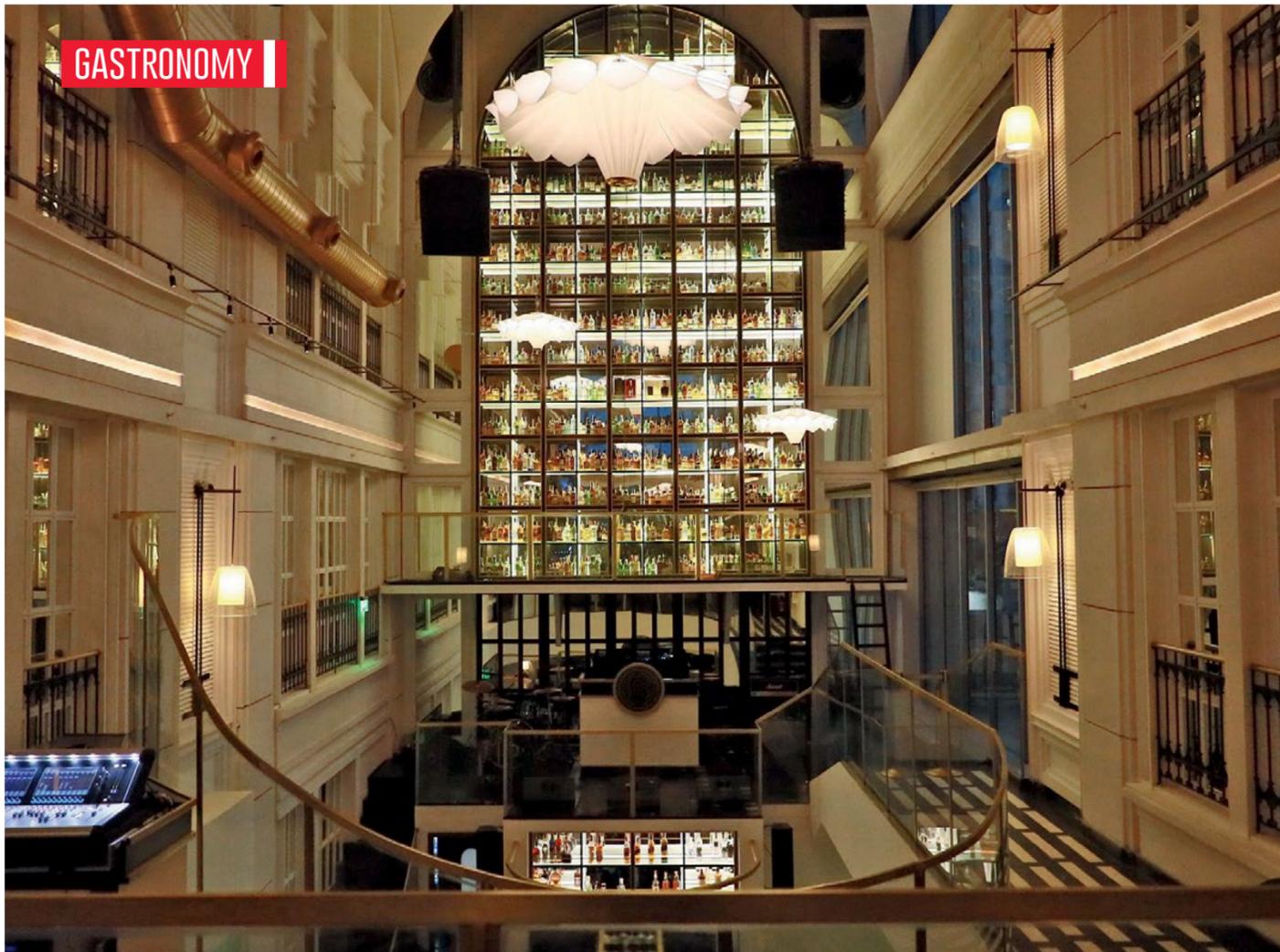
Let's see how practical learning has taken shape. For instance, a school teaching the concept of 'germination' by making kids plant seeds in pots. These were welcome breaks, but nobody spoke about the mud that was left on the floor. Not to forget, quite often, it would be that parents realised just before the class that they had to arrange for these things. So, the parents would have to scamper through home to find things.

While kids have learnt to do things over the past one year, parents' tasks of uploading and all have decreased, but then the thought that online research shouldn't throw up any inappropriate content and kids are not be doing anything else when they are supposed to be attending online classes, continues to haunt parents. Back in the 90s, teachers

would catch a kid reading a comic book on the pretext of reading his/her course book; now the parents are the ones catching the children reading *Harry Potter* or, in some cases, doing side-chat with their school friends while the class is on.

As parents continue to adapt to online schooling, their kids have learnt independence, resilience, empathy, and other life skills. In fact, kids have been the rockstars in the pandemic. So, as parents, we should take it easy—it's okay to let tech issues linger a bit, okay to produce 90 per cent good work, and perfectly fine to completely forget that kids are doing home-schooling for some time. Also, as a parent to two kids, I believe my kids are fortunate that school could continue in the online format. There are thousands of kids across India for whom learning is in the dark now as they cannot access the devices needed to join online school, let alone the kids who had to drop out because of financial constraints of parents. ■





A FINE TASTE OF NOSTALGIA

Go back to the roots and savour the flavours that evoke memories of bygone times at these establishments in Gurugram

BY SATARUPA PAUL

What is nostalgia to you? Is it flipping through an old album of fading photographs on a rainy afternoon? Or listening to a song that you once loved, which brings back a memory? Or is it the smell of a freshly starched cotton sari that makes you think of someone long lost in the passage of time? Nostalgia,

or the wistful longing and affection for the past, can appear in different ways to different people, and many a times when you least expect it. Undoubtedly, though, there is one thing that universally tugs at the heartstrings of everyone and makes even the most pragmatic among us long for the days of yore—and that is food. Whether it is the aroma of a certain dish that takes

you back to your grandma's kitchen, or the taste of that morsel that reminds you of your mother's cooking, or an old forgotten recipe lodged in the recesses of mind, food when done right can be a great reminder of the past. This curated list of restaurants in the vicinity of DLF5 in Gurugram does just that—serve gastronomic nostalgia with food that takes you right back to the roots.



Saga: Cuisines of India

Earlier this year, Michelin-starred chef Atul Kochhar made a comeback to the homeland with the progressive Indian fine dining restaurant Saga: Cuisines of India in Gurugram. Launched in collaboration with restaurateur Vishal Anand, the magnificent two-storey dining space, which morphs into a chic bar at night and a space for live gigs on weekends, boasts one of the tallest bar displays in the world. The servers wear Raghavendra Rathore uniforms and the menu is inspired by the global Indian diaspora, with little nuggets of history and story attached to each dish. The signature cocktails like Nizami Darbar, Maharaja Sour and Bhadra will spoil you for choice. The 'Short Saga' small plates features delectables such as Achari Goat Sliders, Hummus Masabacha and Amritsari Chicken Tikka. Whether you go for the Birbal Ki Khichdi, Naan Qalia or Salli Murg for mains, and Bengali Brulee or Agra ka Petha for dessert, each preparation here teases your palate with familiar tastes albeit with certain surprises. Saga is a story of finding inspiration in nostalgia, unlike any! sagacuisinesofindia.business.site

Address: Vatika Atrium, Sector 53, Golf Course Road, Gurugram.
Cost for two: ₹3,000 plus taxes



Comorin

Patrons of the famous Indian Accent, one of the finest Indian restaurants in the world, will know this casual dining bar in DLF's Two Horizon Centre as its sister concern. But Comorin has an individuality that sets it apart from Chef Manish Mehrotra's award-winning maiden venture. For starters, the vibe here is chic and relaxed, akin to a quaint European pub, with retro-futuristic decor elements enmeshed with traditional touches. The no-frills bar menu has a selection of cocktails infused with local ingredients and house-made syrups and flavours. The food menu is extensively Indian casual,

inspired by childhood favourites and homegrown innovations of mothers and street vendors who had the ingenuity of mixing things up a little. So, you'll find dishes like lemon gunpowder idli, sweet corn khichdi, banana leaf bhetki, Champaran meat with sattu paratha, Karol Bagh moonglet and more, served with a dollop of comfort and a side of nostalgia. You only have to bite into the humble Cheeni Malai Toast or the decadent Doda Treacle Tart to know what a trip down memory lane tastes like! *comorin.in*

Address: 101, first floor, Two Horizon Center, DLF Phase 5, Gurugram
Cost for two: ₹2,500 plus taxes



Delhi Club House

Reminiscent of the clubs and gymkhanas of colonial India, Delhi Club House attempts to recreate the old-world charm of 'club culture', bonhomie and socialising over food that was typical of such establishments. Restaurateur Marut Sikka (famously known as India's food ambassador, and the name behind the capital's favourite eateries like Magique, Kainoosh, Keya, and Plate) spent six months travelling the length and breadth of

the country researching clubhouses from Madurai to Darjeeling, and even beyond to Chittagong and Yangon, selecting signature dishes from iconic clubs and elevating them to fine dining standards. The restaurant itself evokes the look and feel of a colonial clubhouse, with round pillars, leather-cushioned seating, downed blinds, filament lamps and place mats, among other such familiar remembrances. The menu is heavily club-influenced and varied, from Indian and Anglo-Indian to 'Chini-jabi'; it also includes

modern day iterations under the DCH banner. Expect to stumble upon a Chicken Cordon Bleu from the Century Club, Sea Bass Mouniere from Royal Calcutta Golf Club, Mutton Frankie from Bandra Gymkhana, Fish Moilee from Cochin Club, Chicken Khao Swey from Yangon Club and Lamb Chops from Jaipur Polo Club—all under one roof!

Address: One Horizon Centre, T1-109 Plaza, DLF Phase 5, Gurugram
Cost for two: ₹2,000 plus taxes





Amaranta

Arguably the best seafood restaurant in Gurugram, Amaranta is one of the three in-house dining spaces at The Oberoi Gurgaon. The setting is classic old-school fine dining with straight-backed cushioned chairs,

runners down the centre of white-clothed tables, rolled napkins and quintessential cutlery arrangements. The food is timeless Indian with a contemporary twist, wherein authentic flavours are reconceived with a modern perspective. You may go in for the luxury lunch menu

during the day or enjoy a wine-paired degustation at dinner. Either way, the food here will lure your palate with its familiar Indian flavours served with a bit of cunning manipulation. For instance, the Chettinad spiced crab cake comes with an avocado tartare and sour cream, the Kolkata chaap is served with a Mughlai waffle, there's a curried pumpkin ravioli, a Pondicherry Pouillabaisse (an Indian rendition of a French Bouillabaisse) and a spiced aubergine steak to choose from! The dance of delicious deception continues on to the drinks and desserts, too, making you wonder if it is the familiar or the unfamiliar that has got you so mesmerised. oberoihotels.com

Address: The Oberoi, 443, Udyog Vihar Phase V, Sector 19, Gurugram
Cost for two: ₹7,000 plus taxes



Foxtrot

Like the ballroom dance after which it is named, Foxtrot holds you in its embrace and waltzes you back to the past with its robust, delicious renditions of Indian staples. The interior is a veritable mish-mash of styles and the bestselling signature cocktails are presented with theatrics, such as the Forest Fog that comes in a smoke-filled glass bell jar and Garden Fresh that is poured out of a watering can. What sets them apart though, is the infusion of local ingredients and spices, such as peppercorn, saffron syrup, mango and green chillis. Limited yet carefully curated, the food menu has such appetisers as ghee roast chicken tacos, lamb galouti kebabs, foxy style pav bhaji and tandoori malai broccoli—each comfortably familiar, yet elevated to a higher level of flavours. The kulcha platters that come with an assortment of stuffings and homemade chutneys and the mains such as jungle maas with khamiri roti, go a long way in evoking the nostalgia for not just a bygone time but also places from the past you have loved. foxtrot.dotpe.in

Address: Building 10, Unit 2C, Cyber Hub, DLF Cyber City, Gurugram
Cost for two: ₹1,800 plus taxes



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Celebrate this festive season in style with these exciting club events at DLF. Accessible to club members only



COMMON EVENTS

NAVRATRI SPECIAL SATVIK BHOJ

Feast on delicious satvik dishes served at all Club restaurants during lunch and dinner.

WHEN: October 7-14

DUSSEHRA SPECIAL DINNER BUFFET

Lavish buffet and thematic decor at all Club restaurants will win your heart.

WHEN: October 15

OKTOBERFEST GERMAN BEER FEST

Enjoy a variety of beer and a Chef's special curated menu at all Club bars.

WHEN: October 16-20

MUBARAK-E-EID

Chef's special Eid menu will be served during lunch and dinner at all Club restaurants.

WHEN: October 19

KARVA CHAOUTH PUJA

Attend the evening puja with DLF resident ladies at Club lawns.

WHEN: October 24 (4pm onwards)

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

A spooky theme along with dedicated Halloween menus will wait for you at all Club bars.

WHEN: October 31

WEEKLY LADIES NIGHTS

Attractive deals and offers on drinks for DLF resident ladies at all bars of Club 3, 4 and 5.

STAYCATION PACKAGES FOR FESTIVAL SEASON

Special weekend room packages for families and corporates at Club 4 and 5.



CLUB 3

BENGALI FOOD PROMOTION

Relish Bengali delicacies served during lunch and dinner at the Maulsari restaurant.

WHEN: October 16-24

CLASSIC SANGRIAS

Delicious fruit-infused sangria cocktails will be served at the lounge bar.

WHEN: October 22-31

AWADHI FOOD PROMOTION

Our master chef's creations from Awadh are perfect for family lunches and special dinners.

WHEN: November 12-21

CLUB 4

DOSA MANIA

A variety of fusion dosas will be served through the day at the cafe!

WHEN: October 22-31



HYDERABADI FOOD PROMOTION

Hyderabadi delicacies for lunch and dinner at the Palms restaurant.

WHEN: November 5-14

WEEKEND SPECIAL DINNER BUFFET

Enjoy multi-cuisine dinner buffets at the Palms restaurant.

WHEN: Every Saturday in November

KARAOKE EVENING

A member-only interactive musical evening at the bar.

WHEN: Every second and fourth Friday

CLUB 5

DIWALI SPECIAL GIFT HAMPERS

A basket of seasonal goodies curated by our master chef at Sweet Curve.

WHEN: November 1-4

TEPPANYAKI FOOD PROMOTION

Dive into Japanese cuisine served for dinner at the Oriental's terrace.

WHEN: November 12-21

CLUB VITA

FROZEN MARGARITAZ

Sip on our special margarita cocktails served throughout the day at the bar.

WHEN: October 16-31

KARAOKE EVENING

Spend a fun members-only karaoke night at the bar.

WHEN: October 21; November 18

SIZZLING EVENINGS

Chef's special sizzlers served sizzling hot at the Club Lawns.

WHEN: Every Friday and Saturday in November

AS THE STARS FORETELL

BY SUBODH BHARDWAJ



HRERA Registration No.: RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/475/ 207/2021/43 dated 17.08.2021
 HRERA Website: <https://haryanarera.gov.in>
 Promoter - DLF Utilities Limited
 Project - Sector 91/92, DLF Gardencity, Gurugram.



ARIES

October will bring a good time for you. Students will perform better. Professionals will perform well with sure-shot success, which will help raise their confidence levels. In the first half of the month, you may look at celebrating an auspicious occasion with your loved ones at home. You may plan to go on a pilgrimage, or travel with your family. You may spend liberally on items of luxury to upgrade your standard of living.



TAURUS

Professionals and businessmen will remain on top of their game; their efforts shall bring desired results. Working professionals will be appreciated with appraisals or promotions. Students to remain focussed on their studies. Job-seekers may get a better opportunity in their career. Taurus natives are advised to remain focussed; this is a turning point in their life.



GEMINI

This period is about mixed returns. At the beginning of the month, your progress will be good and there will be professional advancement. You will remain focussed and prefer to govern business operations methodically. You will come across multiple earning opportunities. Job-seekers will have better employment opportunity; working professionals may get promoted. You may plan to go on a long and fruitful journey.



CANCER

Starting of the month will be very good. Professional goals will be completed timely with high precision; consistent inflow of money will boost confidence. There would be an upgrade in your social status. You would enhance your personality by acquiring professional knowledge and through introspection. You will get success in whatever you do.



LEO

You will have to take care of your health, which is bound to fluctuate. Those who are waiting to get married may meet their life partner. Take monetary decisions wisely. You will take a bold decision that will bring major change in your professional approach so you can enjoy the benefits. You will be sound economically and see a major achievement on your part.



VIRGO

Beginning of the month will be quite favourable when success in profession or service is sure. You may implement new innovative ideas in business expansion. This will bring you economic gain. You may have a tight schedule but you will enjoy it and execute your professional and domestic duties comfortably. Your professional responsibilities may see an increase.



LIBRA

Your talent and intelligence will be admired; in government-related issues you will be successful. Financial condition will fluctuate, whereas this is a favourable time for love birds. Beginning of the month will be good; mentally you will be in a cool and confident state. You will be filled with courage and confidence and performance levels would be high. You will spend time with family and friends.



SCORPIO

September will open up the vistas of success; you may achieve something big, be it purchasing a new vehicle, or a property deal that might be finalised. You may plan a sightseeing trip with your family alongside various business trips. Financial condition will improve. First week of the month will be wonderful. Everything will go in your favour; you will be successful in every aspect of life.



SAGITTARIUS

Financial condition will improve; crests and troughs shall be frequent. The second week of the month will be better when you develop focus on work, resulting in better financial condition, which will drive out most of your worries. Pending projects, to your surprise, will gain momentum and get duly completed. You will spend quality time with family and kids.



CAPRICORN

You will achieve something praiseworthy. Good time for students; they may get favourable results. You may make good money in a real estate deal. You will be successful in grabbing a lucrative business deal, but it will also require considerable investment. You will keep working dedicatedly in your professional life, your devotion will be praised by all. This will enhance your reputation.



AQUARIUS

The month is good for job-seekers as they may get better opportunities. Those looking to get married may find a suitable match. Family will be your priority. Aquarians will have a positive attitude on both domestic and professional fronts. Financial condition will improve. You may finalise a big deal. Employees to be entrusted with key responsibilities, and may go on frequent business trips.



PISCES

You may purchase valuable things for family. You will be filled with a high level of energy and as a result you will be successful in every endeavour. Your high efficiency might be rewarded; the month will bring an opportunity to showcase your outstanding calibre. You have a wonderful month ahead. You will be successful in every aspect of life no matter how hard the task is.

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