

# High5

DLF

The lifestyle magazine for DLF5
JANUARY-FEBRUARY'25

# WORLD OF WONDERS

## STEP INTO A WORLD OF RARE AND UNIQUE

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# Dear Resident,

As we embrace the dawn of a new year, we reflect on the meaningful treasures that enrich our lives—the memories we cherish, the experiences that shape us, and possessions that carry deep significance. These invaluable moments and finds inspire us to move forward with renewed optimism and purpose.

This issue's theme, 'Rare Finds,' celebrates the unique, the extraordinary, and the hidden gems across art, design, lifestyle, and culture. At DLF, we take immense pride in curating experiences that spotlight the exceptional and the exclusive. This theme aligns seamlessly with our ethos, making it the perfect way to usher in the new year.

Our Cover Story takes you behind the scenes of the dynamic world of auctions. As India's auction market continues to expand, we are seeing a rising demand for items that combine timeless appeal with exclusivity. This issue highlights that transformation, showcasing how the pursuit of exceptional items is shaping India's evolving culture and consumer trends. As Juvenal wisely remarked, "Rare is the union of beauty and purity," and this belief lies at the heart of our latest edition of DLF High5.

The year 2025 has begun on an inspiring note, with January filled with milestones that not only elevate DLF5 but also bring immense pride to Gurugram and India. Two standout achievements truly reflect the spirit of excellence we strive for at DLF5.

First, we were honoured to host the inaugural LIV Golf Tournament – the International Series India – at the distinguished DLF Golf and Country Club. Welcoming golf legends like Bryson DeChambeau and Joaquin Niemann, this brought global attention to India, positioning the country as a prime destination for finest sports and further solidifying our commitment to bringing the finest to DLF5.

Secondly, we are humbled to share that The Dahlias, the latest addition to DLF's super-luxury portfolio, has set an unprecedented standard in the industry. In under nine weeks during its pre-launch phase, 41% of the residences have been sold—a testament to the trust, admiration, and unwavering support from our community. This achievement not only reaffirms DLF5 as the most sought-after address but also elevates the entire Indian real estate landscape to global recognition.

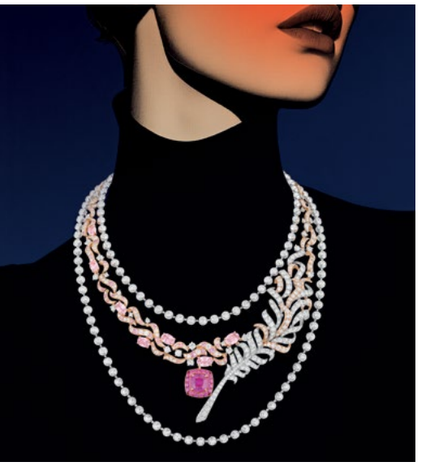
We are deeply grateful for the love and aspiration that the DLF5 community continues to inspire. Your continued support and contributions remain the foundation of our vibrant community.

Here's to a year filled with endless possibilities and rare moments worth cherishing. Happy Reading!

***Aakash Ohri***
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER
DLF HOME DEVELOPERS LIMITED




ON THE COVER
An exciting glimpse of the Aya Universe Dubai









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**ABHILASHA OJHA**
A former journalist, Abhilasha has also authored a chapter in a book on sarpanch women of India, *Sarpanch Sahib*. She has also been the Production Editor (consultant) at Delhi Art Gallery for almost seven years.

**SHABNAM GUPTA**
One of the most awarded interior designers in the country, Shabnam is known to conjure up visual wonders and is recognised for her tailored interiors. Her signature style has won her much global recognition and a long list of accolades at the national level.





**PRIYA KUMARI RANA**
She has been an Executive Editor for over two decades, and now writes stories, for several reputed publications worldwide, on fashion, travel, food, watches, design, art, spirits, actors, sportspersons, and royalty. She is also the founder of a luxury portal: *lifestyleInsider.co.*

**MANISHA SINGH**
*Resident*
A fitness enthusiast and golfer, Manisha has a passion for casual writing that celebrates lifestyle and our day-to-day lives. Travelling fuels her creativity.





**FERROZA C. JASSAWALA**
*Resident*
A Master's degree holder from the University of Madras, Ferroza is a Gurgaon-based gemologist, numerologist, a Bach Flower Remedies practitioner and a fundraiser for Delhi's Parsi community.



**SHILPI MADAN**
A luxury and lifestyle journalist based out of Mumbai, she is a parent in progress. She loves thumbing through her old passports, indulging in luxury experiences and adventures worldwide and is born for the spa.

**SUMI KHANDPUR**
*Resident*
She is an experienced Life Coach and Corporate Trainer with over two decades of expertise in mental wellness, professional development, and personal empowerment. She is certified by the American Board of Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) and Dale Carnegie, USA.



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**Assistant Vice President - Marketing**
Gaurav Singh
E: singh-gaurav2@dlf.in
**Assistant Marketing Manager**
Sreeya Bhattacharya
E: bhattacharya-sreeya@dlf.in
M: +91 9650028912
**Customer Relationship Manager**
Kanika Tokas
E: tokas-kanika@dlf.in

---

**Burda Media India Private Limited**
Ambience Mall, 7th Floor (AWfis)
Gate No - 04, Ambience Island,
NH-8, Gurugram, Haryana – 122002
**Director of Print & Strategy-Asia**
Simon Clays
**Editor**
Sayanti Halder
**Contributing Editor**
Pallavi Singh
**Art Director**
Nikhil Kaushik
**Director of Sales & Brand Solutions, Special Projects**
Ritesh Roy
**Sr. Manager of Production & Pre-Press**
Devender Pandey

---

**Hubert Burda Media India**
Björn Rettig, CEO
**Burda International Holding GmbH**
Legal Address: Hubert Burda Platz 1
77652 Offenburg, Germany
**Postage address: Arabellastrasse 23**
D-81925 Munich, Germany

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# Color, Character, and Collaboration

Bringing back one of the most seminal collaborations in Louis Vuitton's history, the Maison reunites with Takashi Murakami this season—22 years after the kaleidoscopic spin on the iconic Monogram pattern debuted on the Spring/Summer 2003 runway.

In this 2025 sequel, the prolific Japanese artist's distinctive pops of colours and kawaii characters celebrate the exuberance and the enduring appeal of the original collection.

Brimming with over 200 creations, the new Louis Vuitton x Murakami collection is elevated with a higher definition of printed application that upgrades the vividness of colours and precision of Murakami's fantastical motifs and characters, thanks to advances in technology and the Maison's time-honoured savoir-faire.

Released in three drops, the launch of the reimagined range starts with the delightful Monogram Multicolore, the enthralling Superflat Garden and the psychedelic Superflat Panda.



LV x TM Nano Speedy and LV x TM Alma BB



LV x TM Petite Malle



LV x TM Alma BB



# The Art Of THE FIND

## INSIDE THE CHANGING WORLD OF AUCTIONS

Art auctions, from high-pitched, intense dramas have stepped into easy, online arenas with art itself moving into the realm of luxury collectibles and rare bananas

**BY ABHILASHA OJHA**

My left ear was dug deep into a beige-coloured phone. At the same time, my eyes were transfixed on the auctioneer who was scanning the ballroom of the fancy five-star hotel, the venue of a charity gala art auction with 52 lots by Indian modern masters, including SH Raza, MF Husain, FN Souza, KH Ara, among several others. The 200-plus impeccably dressed guests—seated around round tables with fancy cutlery, tealight candles, crystal glassware, and neatly cut flowers—studied the exhibition catalogue closely, some circling pages with pencils to shortlist their favourite works to bid. Ten minutes into the auction, when the bid for a figurative work by a renowned Indian modern master started, there was tension palpable in the air with people bidding furiously in the room, their paddles going up and the auctioneer speaking at 1.5x speed, quickly giving us the latest figure at which the work was



Auction houses are increasingly integrating luxury collectables into their fold, including items such as this vintage jar that can add value to homes

**This page:** A stunning floral Murano glass chandelier showcases how auctions now transcend traditional art.

getting bid. The veteran, I heard, did some voice modulation exercises before the start of the auction. As the price of the artwork kept increasing, I kept giving my client continuous updates on the phone. He was a US-based businessperson who wanted to buy this figurative work as a gift for his mother's birthday. Just to ensure that the phone signals did not drop, he stopped his vehicle in the middle of the road to bid for the particular artwork. And just seconds before the auctioneer would have announced his verdict on the painting, my voice boomed, "B-I-D-D-I-N-G" when my client instructed, "Go, bid."



**BEFORE SAYING, 'SOLD'**

"Going once," said the auctioneer, a veteran in his field with over 30 years of experience in a global auction house, his hands clutching the wooden gavel tightly. "Going twice," he added, before swiftly adding, "and… sold." If the buyer had instructed me a few seconds later, we would have lost the game to another client in the room, declaring himself as the highest bidder of the work. There was hushed silence before the ballroom resounded with claps when the auctioneer declared the painting sold for my client. Though I was not new to art auctions—having worked in a prestigious art gallery that used to routinely have high-profile auctions of Indian modern masters—this was my first time inside a live auction room as a "phone bidder". The experience allowed me to closely study the mystery, intrigue, and the frisson of the auction room. One guest, for instance, insisted on a particular paddle number, citing it as a good luck charm while another businessman came in for the first time with his grown-up son, the latter keen to begin his art collection. Some wanted to buy art as a "lucky charm" for Diwali and still others wanted to "gift" artworks for birthdays, anniversaries, or weddings.

*"To be a collector of art, you need to determine the quality of the 'concept' behind the collection"*

*Nirmalya Kumar, passionate art collector*

**THE CHANGING GAME**

Though my experiences of art auctions were largely in the pre-COVID era; post-pandemic, it was not so difficult to see the changing complexion of the secondary art market with several auction houses strengthening their digital presence as online sales of artworks kept going up. According to industry reports, in 2020-21, global auction houses such as Christie's, Sotheby's, and Phillips, broke records. With a consolidated sale of at least USD7.3 bn, Sotheby's has the highest annual total in its 277-year history while Christie's, at USD7.1bn, had the highest total in the preceding five years. At Phillips, auction sales were up 35 per cent from the previous



Victorian-inspired jewellery in emeralds and ornate clasp in diamonds are becoming auction favourites

*"Millennials in India are waking up and buying online and the growth is backed by an uptick in luxury collectables categories"*

*Francis Belin, President-Asia-Pacific, Christie's*




An auction of global master artists in progress at Sotheby's in 2022




year. Much of these sales were backed by newer categories, including NFTs, celebrity memorabilia, jewellery, watches, and handbags. According to Manoj Mansukhani, CMO of AstaGuru Auction House, the growth towards "non-art categories" has picked up pace, generated by the interest from a younger breed of collectors in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. The Mumbai-based online auction house, besides dealing in Indian and globally-renowned modern masters, auctions jewellery, antiquities, furniture, and vintage automobiles.

**COLLECTORS' ITEMS**

Saffronart's co-founder Dinesh Vazirani agrees that there is a shift in the buying patterns of collectors where a work of art is more than just an investment. According to him, collectors are keenly studying the journey of the artist and understanding provenance. A case in point is Nirmalya Kumar, a passionate art collector/custodian of Jamini Roy, one of India's foremost folk modernists. His collection encapsulates the artist's visual practice with several works acquired through secondary art markets such as art auctions and galleries. "To be a collector of art, you need to determine the quality of the 'concept' behind the collection. Seventy unrelated paintings by different Indian artists, for instance, would be interesting, but not unique…" Kumar told me when I spoke to him a few years ago.




**Facing Page:** A work featuring FN Souza's grotesque figures from his work in the 1960s when he achieved staggering success outside India; **This page:** A rare, first draft of India's Constitution, which was sold at double its value at Saffronart last year.

### PIVOT TOWARDS LUXURY

Francis Belin, Asia-Pacific president of Christie's, says millennials in India are "waking up and buying online," and the growth is backed by an uptick in luxury collectables categories, especially watches and jewellery. He agrees that India is an important market, but the average age of art collectors is much lower in India (30s-40s) compared to around the world (50s and above). At Christie's, luxury collectables such as wines, diamonds, vintage jewellery, handbags, and champagne grew to over a billion dollars, with Asia accounting for 40 per cent of the global sales. There is a reason luxury collectables beckon auction houses. With real estate prices going up, and geo-political implications on various sectors and businesses, traditional art prices have fallen anywhere between 15-20 per cent, according to media reports for leading art auction houses with collectors preferring to widen their definition of luxury and art. So, a statement piece necklace combining Colombian emeralds and quality cut diamonds joined with an art deco–inspired clasp at a staggering INR 1.8 crore upwards might just be the storytelling that matters for a collector. Last year, Saffronart's auction, 'Passages to India: A Journey Through Rare Books, Prints, Maps, Photographs, and Letters' sold 97 per cent of the total lots, achieving a total sales

*"Collectors are keenly studying the journey of the artist and understanding provenance"*

*Dinesh Vazirani, Co-Founder, Saffronart*




value of INR 6.47 crore. Among other lots, was the sale of the first edition of the Constitution of India drafted by Dr BR Ambedkar, which was auctioned at INR 48 lakh, more than double its higher estimate. Bearing printed signatures of the framers of the Constitution with calligraphy by Prem Behari Narain Raizada, and illustrations by Indian modernist Nandalal Bose and other artists of Santiniketan, it was one of only 1,000 copies, rarely found in private hands or public view.

### WHAT 'ART' THOU, ART?

While storytelling matters, and people would go all out to bring home prized collectables, including auctioned sneakers of their favourite sports star, how does one explain the sheer audacity of a cryptocurrency investor spending USD6.2 million at Sotheby's for a duct-taped banana installation? Oh, he ate the banana and simply commented that the value of the work, much like crypto, was in the concept.

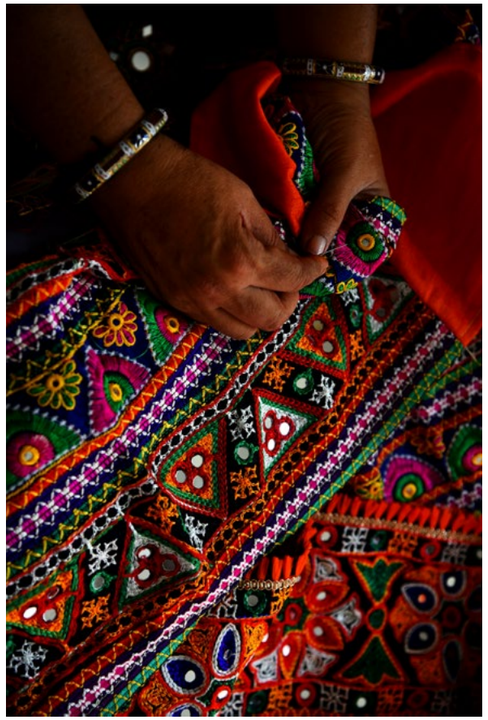
# TREASURED LEGACIES

Uncover India's vibrant charm through its lesser-known gems

BY **MANISHA SINGH**







India is a treasure trove of creativity and tradition, seamlessly blending ancient craftsmanship with contemporary design. These hidden jewels in art, design, lifestyle, and culture provide a unique glimpse into India's richly diverse heritage and vibrant creative scene. So, seek out the undiscovered stories that lie in its villages, kitchens, and festivals, where the true magic resides.

**Clockwise from left:** The Konyak tribe of Nagaland is known worldwide for its unique and intricate tattoos; A Kangra painting beautifully depicts a scene from the Ramayana, blending art and mythology; Gujarat's handloom and mirror work is slowly gaining global recognition for its craftsmanship.

### Miniature Art and Folk Traditions
**KANGRA AND PHAD PAINTINGS**

Nestled in the Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh, this exquisite style of *Pahari* painting captivates with its naturalistic style, delicate lines, and soft, soothing colours. Meanwhile, *Phad* paintings from Bhilwara, Rajasthan, comes alive on large cloth canvasses, narrating tales of heroism and divinity through vibrant colours, intricate details, and a harmonious blend of folk and religious themes. Traditionally used in storytelling, these masterpieces celebrate local deities and the rich cultural tapestry of India.

### Weaving Tradition with Contemporary
**HANDLOOM HERITAGE OF KUTCH**

The remote desert region of Kutch in Gujarat is renowned for its exquisite handloom traditions. While the vibrant *Bandhani* tie-dye and intricate *Ajrakh* block Ajrakh printing technique is widely celebrated, lesser-known weaves like *Mashru*, a unique blend of silk and cotton, are gradually gaining recognition. Artisan collectives such as *Khami* are dedicated to preserving these traditional crafts, skilfully merging them with modern design for fashion and home décor.

### A Blend of Creativity and Community
**INDIA'S VIBRANT CAFÉ CULTURE**

Cities like Pune, Jaipur, and Kochi are witnessing the rise of cafés that double as community hubs. Venues like Zostel, with locations in Pondicherry, Pune, and Rishikesh, as well as Pondicherry's Café des Arts, offer a unique blend of creativity, food, and culture, making them vibrant spaces for both locals and travellers to connect.

### A Cultural Revival
**THE KONYAK TATTOO**

The Konyak tribe of Nagaland, known for its headhunting history and intricate tattoos, is reclaiming its cultural identity through the revival of traditional practices of making tattoos. This act has turned the tattoos into a powerful symbol of pride and heritage, reaffirming their deep-rooted connection to ancestral traditions.

### Beyond the Mainstream
**FOLK FESTIVALS**

While festivals like Diwali and Holi are the mainstays of our celebratory calendar, lesser-known cultural events such as the Ziro Music Festival in Arunachal Pradesh and the Hornbill Festival in Nagaland are increasingly garnering prominence and attracting tourists who travel to cities hosting these regional celebrations, celebrating music, dance, and food of India's indigenous communities.

### Culinary Rediscoveries
**INDIA'S REGIONAL FLAVOURS**

India's regional cuisines are gaining renewed attention as the focus shifts to forgotten recipes. From the Kodava pork curry of Coorg to Bengal's *Shukto* and millet-based dishes of Odisha and Karnataka, India's culinary heritage is being rediscovered and re-explored in modern kitchens and plush restaurants, bringing a taste of tradition to contemporary dining.

Cartier Image, Style, and Heritage Director Pierre Rainero; **Right:** The Santos-Dumont Rewind in platinum.

# WONDER IN EVERY MOMENT

From a Santos-Dumont that tells the time backwards to the Reflections bracelet watch that mirrors a dial using a polished surface, Cartier's latest timepieces revolve around the theme of magic. Cartier image, style, and heritage director **PIERRE RAINERO** shares more

**BY LYNETTE KOH**

"As a jeweller, we don't think about time in the same way as traditional watchmakers," says Pierre Rainero, the Image, Style, and Heritage Director of French luxury house Cartier for the past two decades. He is speaking via a video conference call from his home in Paris to discuss Cartier's horological novelties for this year. Behind him is an extensive library; I catch a glimpse of hardbound tomes on artists ranging from iconoclasts such as Salvador Dali to French abstract painters Jean Hélion and Jean Degottex.

Like Rainero's interest in boundary-pushing art, an irreverent and creative bent drives Cartier's timepiece creation process. This year, the theme linking the brand's new timepiece offerings is "magic". Rainero, who looks dapper as always in a white shirt and dark-rimmed spectacles, explains what differentiates watch design at Cartier. "We transform those objects that tell time to give them a kind of magic. It is like how we have created different shapes of watches from the beginning; transforming something that had almost always been round into new forms." Here, he takes us through Cartier's new timepieces, elucidating the creative process behind them, and connecting the dots between this modern-day "magic" and the brand's moments in history.



**One of the Cartier's most whimsical new watches is the Santos-Dumont Rewind watch, where the time runs backwards. What was the idea behind this timepiece?**

Aside from creating new forms, we wanted to go further by transforming the way a watch measures time. A few years ago, we actually had a request to create a special-order watch that told the time backwards, although that watch was not a Santos. I cannot say too much about the specifics because special orders are confidential, but what I can share is that this customer was an artist and a philosopher who understood how time instruments could have a magical aspect.

**Your latest animal watches include jewellery timepieces that unite different Cartier signatures. One has a crocodile encircling the case, while others mix abstract animal motifs and gemstones in contrasting colours. Do you have a favourite piece from this menagerie?**

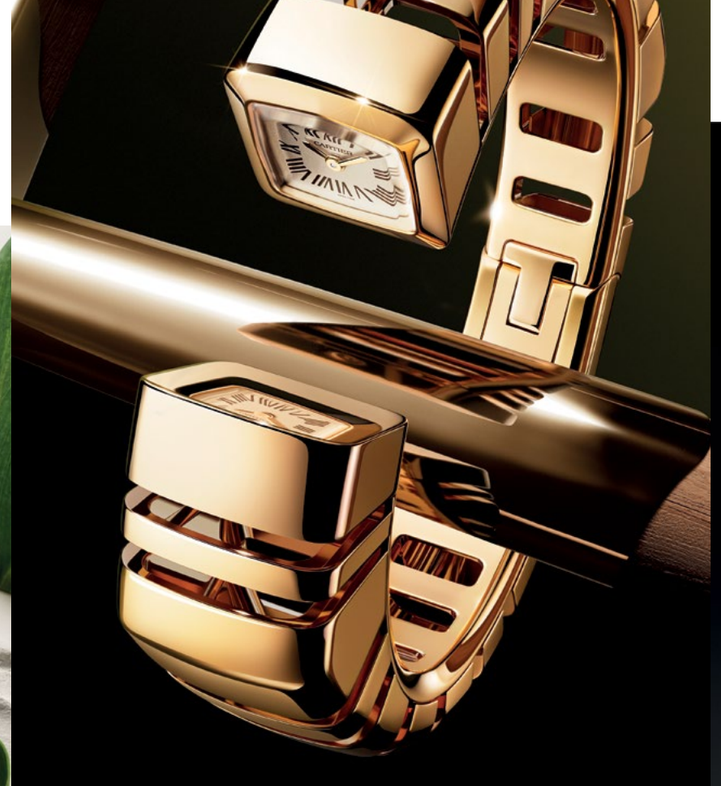
To me, the Crocodile watch is a masterpiece not only in terms of aesthetics and design, but in the way it is made, and the artisanry behind it. With its volume, it is like a little jewelled sculpture. The lines between a watch that is bejewelled and a piece of jewellery that gives the time are totally blurred. I love that.

**Another novelty that plays with how we look at the time is the Reflection de Cartier, an open cuff watch where the dial at one end is reflected in the plain, highly polished surface of the other end.**

Our objective is always to create something new and original, but which also has a unique, recognisable Cartier style. This watch is interesting, because if you look at it, it is similar to what we call a two-headed bracelet—an open bracelet with two heads, one facing the other. (Editor's note: Cartier has created many tête-à-tête, or two-headed, bracelets featuring animal-head motifs.)

This is deeply rooted in our jewellery production. As early as the





1910s, we were already making bracelets like these, and later, watches as well. In our archives, some of these designs are termed Sudanese, underlining their origin in traditional African bracelets. There was also a tradition of such bracelets in ancient China and ancient Greece—the heads could be of rams, panthers, lions, snakes, and so on.

**Tell us more about the unusual bracelet shape of the Reflection de Cartier, which is not perfectly round, but angular and thicker at the ends. It also has a fragmented body, rather than a solid, smooth one.**

This fragmentation is a way for us to create something different and also meaningful. This structure will enable us to create many variations in future. Each of the parts of the bracelet could be decorated differently —one surface could be paved with diamonds, and another one could be accented with hard stones. Every time we conceptualise a new object, we also think about its lifetime and future in terms of design.



Santos de Cartier Dual Time in stainless steel; **Above right:** Reflection de Cartier watch in yellow gold; **Above left:** Crocodile Jewellery watch in rhodium-finish white gold with mother-of-pearl, sapphires, diamonds, emeralds, and enamel.



Cartier Privé Tortue watch in (from top) platinum, platinum and diamonds, and yellow gold.

**On that note, one watch you have brought back from the past under the Cartier Privé collection is the Tortue, the tortoise-shaped watch that was first created by Cartier in 1912.**
The Tortue is one of the quintessential shapes of Cartier. While the Tank has two parallel lines, the Tortue looks like two parentheses. We wanted to revisit and repurpose the Tortue because it says a lot about Cartier's search for the essence of design. One of the new Tortue models is a monopusher chronograph, reflecting how this complication was first introduced by Cartier in a Tortue watch in 1928. The idea was to propose something that was as aesthetically pure as possible – therefore, one pusher instead of three. Creating a complication that leads to a better aesthetic result is something that is also very Cartier.

**Another complication watch introduced this year is the Santos de Cartier Dual Time, which shows the time in two time zones.**
When we develop complications, it must have a Cartier relevance. We do not want to create a complication for the sake of a complication. A dual-time function is relevant to the Santos because it is a watch that is designed to be easy to travel with. Historically, it was designed as a timepiece for a pioneer in aviation (Alberto Santos-Dumont). So this complication is the latest way in which the Santos offers convenience in different ways—these include its modern-day features, such as its steel bracelet that can be easily switched to a leather straps. One of my favourite watches is the Santos de Cartier with the green dial, but this year, I also bought the Santos Dual Time, because I think it is useful, and I need it. (Laughs.)

**There has been a trend towards smaller timepieces, but this year, we are seeing some truly tiny ones, such as the Mini Tank Louis Cartier, which measures just 24mm by 16.5mm. What was the idea behind this creation?**
Very often, the reason is simply that we like it. We have also done other Mini Tanks in the recent past. It is not a strategy. It is more a matter of feeling rather than thinking. We share the same environment as our clients, so we realise that if there is something new that we want to propose, that feeling that we have at that moment is probably shared by many other people.

**It is interesting to see that male watch enthusiasts have also been expressing interest in the new Mini Tanks.**
When we launched the Mini Baignoire (an oval-shaped watch whose name means "bathtub" in French) last year, it was remarkably successful. It is tiny size, we also had men buying it. Those boundaries, between what is for men and what is for women, no longer exist the way they did in the past. When an object is beautiful, it is not about the gender. That is the true power of superior design.

# CRAFTED TO STAND ALONE

Explore the rarest, most iconic timepieces that define history and exclusivity

**BY TEAM HIGH5**



**JAEGER-LECOULTRE REVERSO**
Originally designed in 1931 for polo players to protect their watches, the Jaeger-LeCoultre Reverso has become an icon of elegant design and engineering. The watch's reversible case, which allows for a personalised engravable back, is part of its unique appeal. Its enduring legacy and artisanry, combined with limited editions and high demand, make it a rare and highly valuable collector's piece.




**PATEK PHILIPPE GRANDMASTER CHIME (5175R-001, 2014)**
As one of the most complicated wristwatches ever made, the Grandmaster Chime features 20 complications, including a reversible case and multiple chiming functions. It was created to celebrate Patek Philippe's 175th anniversary, and its rarity comes from the fact that only seven pieces exist. This makes it an extraordinary collector's treasure to cherish for a lifetime.




**AUDEMARS PIGUET ROYAL OAK**
Launched in 1972, the Royal Oak was a bold departure from traditional luxury watches, featuring an octagonal bezel and exposed screws, making it one of the first high-end steel sports watches. Its groundbreaking design challenged traditional watchmaking norms, and due to its historical significance and design influence, it continues to fetch astronomical prices at auctions.

**ROLEX COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA (PAUL NEWMAN EDITION)**
The Paul Newman Rolex Daytona is iconic for both its unique design and its connection to the legendary actor. Originally an unpopular model, it gained fame after being worn by Newman, making it one of the most coveted timepieces in the world. Its rarity lies in its limited production, distinctive dial design, and celebrity association, driving its high market values.





# THE SHAPE SHIFTERS

Readily switched from one form to another, these glittering transformable creations are the quick-change artists of your jewellery box

**BY LYNETTE KOH**



**THIS PAGE: VAN CLEEF & ARPELS**
A highlight of Van Cleef & Arpels' Treasure Island-inspired collection, the Palmier Mystérieux clip features interchangeable motifs: A sun, a ship, and a treasure chest.

**OPPOSITE PAGE: CHANEL**
The feather-inspired Plume Couture de Chanel necklace features pink sapphires and two rows of diamonds. The rows of diamonds can be removed or combined with the sapphire-and-feather chain to be worn as a sautoir instead.

**BVLGARI**
Each weighing 37.34 carats, the pear sapphires hanging from the Serpenti Sapphire Echo can be detached and worn as earrings. The necklace, too, can be worn sans gems for a sleeker look.



**CHAUMET**
Depending on whether you are attending a gala or a more intimate event, this necklace —which features a D-FL type IIA oval-cut diamond weighing 10.18 carats— can go from three rows to one.










# TEEING *OFF* *into the* FUTURE

Where top-notch competition meets unforgettable entertainment—DLF Golf and Country Club elevates the experience with thrilling play, elite hospitality, and vibrant moments for all

**BY TEAM HIGH5**

It is a moment of sheer pride for DLF as the DLF Golf and Country Club hosted the inaugural International Series India—a landmark event that has elevated the Asian Tour to new heights. This prestigious tournament brought together unrivalled talent and intense competition, marking a defining chapter in the sport's history. With the participation of several esteemed LIV Golf players, it garnered global attention, reaffirming its status as a monumental occasion in the world of golf.

Thirteen full-time LIV Golf players participated, with three LIV Golf reserves seizing the chance to earn valuable Order of Merit points and pursue full-time status by 2026. Among the standout competitors were international stars like Bryson DeChambeau and Joaquin Niemann, known for their precision and poise. At the same time, Indian legends Anirban Lahiri and Gaganjeet Bhullar added excitement with their dynamic play.






**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** (L-R) MR AAKASH OHRI ND MR SINGH WITH GOLFERS INCUDING PAUL CASEY, BRYSON DECHAMBEAU, AND ANIRBAN LAHIRI; JOAQUIN NIEMANN TEES OFF FOR HIS SHOT; CHAMPION OLLIE SCHNIEDERJANS WITH HIS WINNER'S TROPHY NEXT TO MR. RAHUL SINGH, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES; TRAVIS SMYTH FROM AUSTRALIA; PARTICIPANTS PROUDLY ENJOYING THE WALK OF FAME BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT; THE DLF GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, GURGAON WAS THE PROUD HOST OF THIS EVENT.











**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** MR KP SINGH SEEN WITH THE DLF FAMILY DURING TROPHY PRESENTATION; (L-R) GOLFERS INCLUDING NIEMANN, ANIRBAN LAHIRI, AND PAUL CASEY HAVING A LIGHT MOMENT; SCHNIEDERJANS TEES OFF ON HOLE 8 DURING THE SECOND ROUND; THE STANDARD OF INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT FOR THIS SERIES WAS UNPARRALLEL.

In a captivating twist, it was one of the LIV Golf reserves who triumphed in this prestigious tournament. Former World No. 1 amateur, Ollie Schniederjans, who had recently secured his reserve spot with LIV Golf, showcased a commanding performance. Finishing the event at an impressive 10-under par, Schniederjans fended off a fierce challenge from Bryson DeChambeau, captain of Crushers GC and a towering figure in LIV Golf. Adding to the excitement was 15-year-old prodigy Kartik Singh, who carded a remarkable one-under-par 71, placing him at four-over for the tournament and comfortably advancing past the cut line.

For four days, the club became an exhilarating arena, offering not only top-tier golf but also unmatched entertainment. This fusion of sport and entertainment elevated the tournament to new heights. Renowned rock bands like A26, Parikrama & Friends, and Euphoria energised the crowd, leaving members and spectators thrilled with excitement.

The driving range transformed into a lively evening hotspot, blending entertainment, delicious food, and refreshing drinks. It became the ideal gathering place for members, their guests, and fans, who cheered for their favourite golfers in the mornings and continued to enjoy the vibrant atmosphere into the night. Curated dishes like the Augusta signature Pimento Cheese sandwich became a tournament favourite, in no time.

The entire DLF hospitality team









worked together to ensure the event's success. Every inch of the 300-acre golf club was meticulously prepared for the global audience. The main lawn was turned into the Club Members' Village, offering seamless service to members and their guests.

This event not only displayed extraordinary talent but also solidified DLF Golf and Country Club as a premier venue for high-stakes golf and elite hospitality. With its perfect blend of sport, entertainment, and unforgettable experiences, the tournament set a new standard for future events. We look forward to recreating such thrilling moments and continuing to elevate the game for our members and guests in the years to come.





**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** GOLFERS AT THE INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL SERIES INDIA, MARKING A THRILLING NEW CHAPTER; SPECTATORS ENJOY A NIGHT FILLED WITH ENERGY; KARTIK SINGH MAKES INDIA PROUD; A MEMORABLE BENEDICTION BY MR. RAHUL SINGH; CREATING MEMORIES, ONE AUTOGRAPH AT A TIME; BRYSON DECHAMBEAU AIMS FOR UNIMAGINED HEIGHTS; PARIKRAMA & FRIENDS ROCKS THE EVENING AFTER AN EXCITING DAY.








# THE BEST OF BOTH SPACES

Missed the latest happenings at DLF Emporio and The Chanakya? Here is a quick recap!

**COMPILED BY TEAM HIGH5**







**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** AQUAZURRA OPENED ITS FIRST STORE IN INDIA AT THE CHANAKYA, INAUGURATED BY FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR- EDGARDO OSORIO, HERE SEEN WITH FASHION DESIGNER TARUN TAHILIANI; DLF EMPORIO PROUDLY PRESENTED THE SECOND EDITION OF LUXPERIENCES, A LUXURIOUS CONCLAVE IN ASSOCIATION WITH HARPER'S BAZAAR AND CO-SPONSORED BY AMERICAN EXPRESS; DESIGNER RAVI BAJAJ UNVEILING 'AURUM' AT DLF EMPORIO WITH A GRAND SHOW; AMIRI'S INDIA DEBUT AT THE CHANAKYA WAS A STAR-STUDDED CELEBRATION; THE ICONIC PARISIAN MAISON, DIPTYQUE OPENED ITS FIRST BOUTIQUE IN INDIA AT THE CHANAKYA; THE SECOND EDITION OF DLF LUXURY SHOPPING FESTIVAL 2024, HELD AT DLF EMPORIO AND THE CHANAKYA, DELIVERED A GRANDER SHOPPING EXPERIENCE; GOLDEN GOOSE CELEBRATED THE LAUNCH OF ITS FIRST STORE IN INDIA AT THE CHANAKYA, NEW DELHI.









DLF Emporio and The Chanakya, in New Delhi, continue to set the benchmark for luxury, lifestyle, and high-end fashion, consistently elevating the experience with exciting new additions. In the last few months, these luxury destinations have been abuzz with a series of grand celebrations as leading global brands marked their entry into two of the city's most prestigious luxury hubs. The events saw a dazzling convergence of celebrities, iconic maisons, and industry stalwarts, all coming together to revel in the spirit of fine living. We take you through some of these unforgettable moments, offering a glimpse into the latest arrivals and highly anticipated debuts, which are shaping the luxury landscape. From exclusive brand launches to spectacular events and coveted collaborations, here is a roundup of all that is making waves in the world of haute couture and lifestyle. These remarkable moments are just the beginning of an ever-evolving journey into 2025.

### TAO & ANISE LAUNCHES IN GOA

Goa's dining scene is about to get a major upgrade. With the rising appetite for pan-Asian flavours, T&A, Tao & Anise, the newest restaurant at The Westin Goa, is set to open its doors on February 15, 2025. It will bring together the bold flavours of Japan, China, Thailand, Vietnam, and Korea in a high-energy setting. Expect the heat of Szechuan spice, the umami of Korean robata grills, and the aromatic zest of Thai street food—all plated with a modern twist.





# NEW ON THE RADAR

The latest in food, travel, fashion, and more

### ROLLS-ROYCE LAUNCHES IN-CAR FRAGRANCE CONCEPT

Rolls-Royce Motar Cars is taking the interior experience of its motor cars into a new sensory dimension with the launch of Rolls-Royce Scent, enhancing the sensory experience within its Phantom model. Created by the marque's in-house perfumer, this bespoke fragrance blends amyris, cedarwood, rosewood, and iris, harmonising with the natural scents of the car's materials, elevating the serene Rolls-Royce experience for its patrons, worldwide.

### VALENTINO UNVEILS STUNNING RENOVATION OF MIAMI DESIGN DISTRICT BOUTIQUE

The iconic Italian luxury fashion house officially reopens doors to its boutique in Miami's prestigious Design District. This grand reopening marks a new chapter for the brand in one of the world's most vibrant shopping destinations. The boutique now features an expanded product offering, including ready-to-wear, accessories, and footwear for both men and women, as well as a curated selection of the brand's iconic bags and small leather goods.







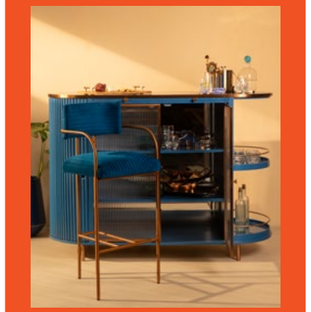


### COFFEE ISLAND LAUNCHES IN GURUGRAM

Europe's 7th largest coffee chain, Coffee Island, has debuted in India with the opening of its first store at HQ27, Gurugram, in partnership with Vita Nova, marking the arrival of India's first European coffee brand, and bringing an unparalleled coffee experience to one of the world's most dynamic markets. The new outlet showcases the brand's signature and proprietary in-house roasting process and an impressive selection of Global Single Estate Beans, Global Blends and unique Home Blends.

### HOUSE OF MASABA AND AMRAPALI JEWELS UNITE

In a landmark collaboration, House of Masaba and Amrapali Jewels unveil their first-ever fine jewellery collection, merging traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design. The collection features 46 exquisite pieces, including neckpieces, earrings, earcuffs, bracelets, and cuffs. Crafted in 18-carat gold and adorned with premium gemstones, the collection reflects a harmonious blend of bold, modern aesthetics, and timeless artistry.



### THE SINGLETON SOCIAL X NICOBAR UNVEIL THEIR NEW COLLECTION

The Singleton Social, a lifestyle brand by Diageo India, in partnership with Nicobar, announces the launch of its new collection, 'Between the Moments', with actor and style icon Sobhita Dhulipala as the brand ambassador. This collection brings together design, culture, and modern luxury, drawing inspiration from the special and unhurried moments in life that invite us to immerse ourselves in "The Single Moment."



### PAST MODERN LAUNCHES ZARINA

The clothing brand announces the launch of its newest collection-ZARINA, a heartfelt homage to the legendary Indian artist Zarina. The collection features intricate handcrafted Bagru block prints, drawing inspiration from Zarina's iconic geometric and floral patterns alongside her expression on migration, memory, and the universal concept of home. The collection seamlessly blends art, culture and sustainable craftsmanship.

# SAVE THE DATE

The new year brings fresh beginnings and exciting festivals. Celebrate the new year with vibrant cultural events, thrilling sports, and world-class music experiences to start the year on a memorable note



### RIO CARNIVAL

28th February–8th March; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Popularly known as "The Greatest Show on Earth," the Rio Carnival is Brazil's biggest celebration, attracting over a million visitors annually. Since its first masquerade in 1840, it has evolved into a grand festival with pulsating Samba beats, dazzling parades, and vibrant street parties. Visitors can immerse themselves in Brazilian culture, enjoy delicious local cuisine, and revel in the electrifying energy of this world-renowned event.



### CARNIVAL OF VENICE

22nd February–4th March; Venice, Italy

The Venice Carnival enchants visitors with its masked elegance and historic charm. Dating back centuries, it transforms the city into a spectacle of elaborate costumes and mystery. While the city's St. Mark's Square remains the heart of the festivities, costumed revellers can be spotted across Venice's picturesque streets and squares, making it a truly magical experience filled with music, art, and tradition.





### JAIPUR ELEPHANT FESTIVAL

14th March, 2025; Jaipur, Rajasthan

Held on Phalgun Purnima, it celebrates the advent of Holi with a grand parade. Adorned in velvet rugs, anklets, bells, and intricate jewellery, the royal elephants march proudly, resembling models on a runway. Their mahouts, dressed in brocade jackets and turbans, embellish them with Indian motifs, ear danglers, and colourful scarves for a truly regal display. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and royal heritage of the city of Rajputs for a one-of-a-kind experience that will leave you enchanted and awestruck.




### BRAHMAPUTRA LITERATURE FESTIVAL

6th–8th February,
Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

A highlight of the New Delhi World Book Fair, this year, the festival will offer an enriching cultural and literary experience. Highlighting diverse voices from Northeast India and beyond, it fosters dialogue among writers, publishers, and readers. This unique platform features insightful discussions, book launches, and cultural performances, drawing a wide audience, including international visitors.




### VASALOPPET 2025

From 2nd March; Dalarna, Sweden

World's largest Nordic ski race, spans 90km through Sweden's breathtaking landscapes, starting in the village of Berga, just south of Sälen in western Dalarna, Sweden, and ends in the town of Mora in the central part of the province. Held annually since 1922, it welcomes around 16,500 skiers eager to tackle its challenging yet scenic course, captivating both participants and spectators worldwide.




### KOCHI–MUZIRIS BIENNALE

Till 29th April, Fort Kochi, Kerala

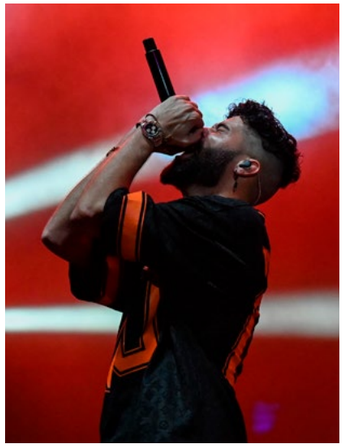
India's pioneering biennale of contemporary art, the Kochi–Muziris Biennale, offers a global platform for artistic expression. Since its inception, it has evolved into a major international event, blending India's rich cultural history with contemporary artistic narratives. The seventh edition in 2025 will continue to present thought-provoking installations and exhibitions by veterans alongside budding talents across Fort Kochi's heritage spaces.



### CHARLESTON WINE + FOOD FESTIVAL

5th–9th March, North Charleston, South Carolina, The USA

Since 2005, Charleston Wine + Food has celebrated the region's rich culinary culture with top chefs, winemakers, and artisans. This landmark five-day celebration, presented by Food & Wine in collaboration with Southern Living and Travel + Leisure offers an unforgettable blend of flavours, storytelling, and community connections. With a focus on authenticity and hospitality, it brings together food lovers for immersive experiences that highlight Charleston's unique culinary identity.



### LOLLAPALOOZA INDIA

8th–9th March; Mumbai, MH

Lollapalooza India returns to Mumbai for its highly anticipated fourth edition, offering two days of electrifying performances. With over 30 global and local artistes across four stages, the festival will cover genres from pop and rock to EDM and techno. This iconic music event promises an unforgettable experience filled with high-energy vibes, diverse food, and a vibrant festival atmosphere. This year's line-up includes the iconic Green Day, Shawn Mendez, John Summit, and Isabel LaRosa amongst many other artistes.

### TAMPA BAY BOAT SHOW

28th February–2nd March

Tampa, Florida, The USA

This boat show is the region's premier boating event, featuring everything from luxury yachts to kayaks. Whether you are a seasoned mariner or a first-time boater, this three-day event will provide everyone with an opportunity to explore and compare a vast selection of boats, with expert insights through engaging fishing and boating seminars. Simultaneously, it is a perfect chance to get out on the water through this event.



### AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX 2025 (FORMULA 1)

16th March; Melbourne, Australia

Experience the need of speed as Round 1 of this year's F1 season is all set to begin. With a 58-lap race—at Melbourne's iconic 5.278-km-long Albert Park Circuit—this event offers more than just high-speed action and star performers. With stunning views of the beach and vibrant city life, it offers an exciting blend of sport, culture, and entertainment, making it a must-attend event for motorsport enthusiasts and visitors alike.



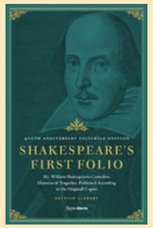




# LITERARY LEGENDS

From first editions to cherished volumes, explore the world's most sought-after books and timeless treasures

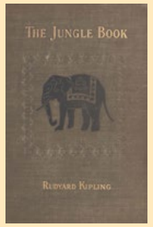
**COMPILED BY PALLAVI SINGH**




**SHAKESPEARE'S FIRST FOLIO**
**by William Shakespeare (1623)**
Published seven years after his demise, only 230 of the original 750 copies remain today, making it a prized possession, fetching millions at auction. This book includes 36 of his plays, preserving the legacy of the master playwright in folio format.

**ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES**
**by Charles Darwin (1859)**
The first edition of this groundbreaking book is a prized treasure and one of the most coveted works in natural history. This widely acclaimed treatise has been voted the most influential academic book ever written.

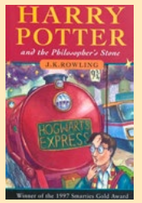



**THE JUNGLE BOOK**
**by Rudyard Kipling (1894)**
This classic first edition of Kipling's tales from British India, featuring over 50 illustrations with anthropomorphic animals that teach moral lessons, is highly valued by collectors of children's literature and classic fiction. Well-preserved copies are priceless.

**THE GUTENBERG BIBLE (1455)**
Printed by Johannes Gutenberg, this landmark of Western intellectual history is among the earliest works using movable type. With fewer than 50 surviving copies, it profoundly shaped European printing.




**HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE**
**by J.K. Rowling (1997)**
This iconic book, valued at US$30,000-55,000 and limited to only 500 copies, revolutionised 21st-century children's literature, launching a global phenomenon, captivating readers worldwide.




# A TASTE WORTH THE WAIT

Mortlach Distillery reveals its rarest release yet—a bold, elegant 50-year-old whisky crafted from its legendary Singing Stills

**BY SAYANTI HALDER**

Presenting the Mortlach 50-Year-Old—a rare masterpiece in whisky craftsmanship and the grand finale of the acclaimed 'Singing Stills' series of Diageo. With just 60 bottles available globally, this exquisite vintage embodies the audacious spirit and storied legacy of Mortlach. Crafted from the last precious drops drawn from its original direct-fire stills and matured in a single cask, it stands as the ultimate expression of luxury reimagined. Founded in 1823 as Speyside's first-known distillery, Mortlach, often called "The Beast of Dufftown," is celebrated for its bold, powerful flavour profile that defies Speyside conventions. Its signature 2.81 distillation process—fondly dubbed "The Way"—produces a deep, umami-rich whisky revered by connoisseurs. The 'Singing Stills' series highlights the distillery's relentless pursuit of innovation, with each rare expression capturing a fragment of this storied heritage.

This 50-year-old tells a tale of quiet transformation. Hidden in its historic warehouse, a single American Oak hogshead cask lay untouched for half a century. Over decades, the whisky evolved into a masterpiece—complex yet refined, balancing sweetness with layers of spice and vibrant fruit notes. Each sip reveals a journey into its intricate depths, free from the overpowering influence of wood, offering an experience both elegant and powerful. "Discovering these last casks, I was curious about the extended maturation's impact on Mortlach's wild essence," shares Master Blender Dr. Craig Wilson. "What emerged was beyond expectation—a whisky embodying Mortlach's unique character, tamed by time and nature."

Globally (although limited) available for USD30,000, this extraordinary release invites collectors and connoisseurs to savour a whisky that is as audacious as the distillery itself, cementing Mortlach's place as a true pioneer in the world of premium Scotch whisky hence, retaining Diageo's promise for perfection.

Master Blender
Dr. Craig Wilson



# SMALL BATCHES, BIG IMPACT

Limited-edition prints and sculptures continue to gain traction among people, and the allure of these artworks ensures that exclusivity meets creativity

**BY ABHILASHA OJHA**

In the latest *The Art Basel and UBS Survey of Global Collecting 2024* report, which tracks the activities and purchasing behaviours of high-net-worth individuals, limited edition prints and multiples saw a growth of 35 per cent, up by 18 per cent over the previous year. *Note*: Multiples are usually a reference to sculptural objects executed in multiple duplicates—think, Balloon Dog series by Jeff Koons, made between the 1990s and 2000s, or for that matter, Shot Sage Blue Marilyn, a 1964 silkscreen print by Andy Warhol of actor Marilyn Monroe, which sold for US$195 million at Christie's in New York in 2022, becoming the most expensive 20th-century artwork ever sold. With the lure of these limited-edition wonders having their own intrigue and prestige value, we bring to you a list of limited-edition prints and sculptures, for their sheer audacity (read, Banksy) and for breaking records in the art market. Here is a list of bold, record-breaking limited-edition masterpieces.

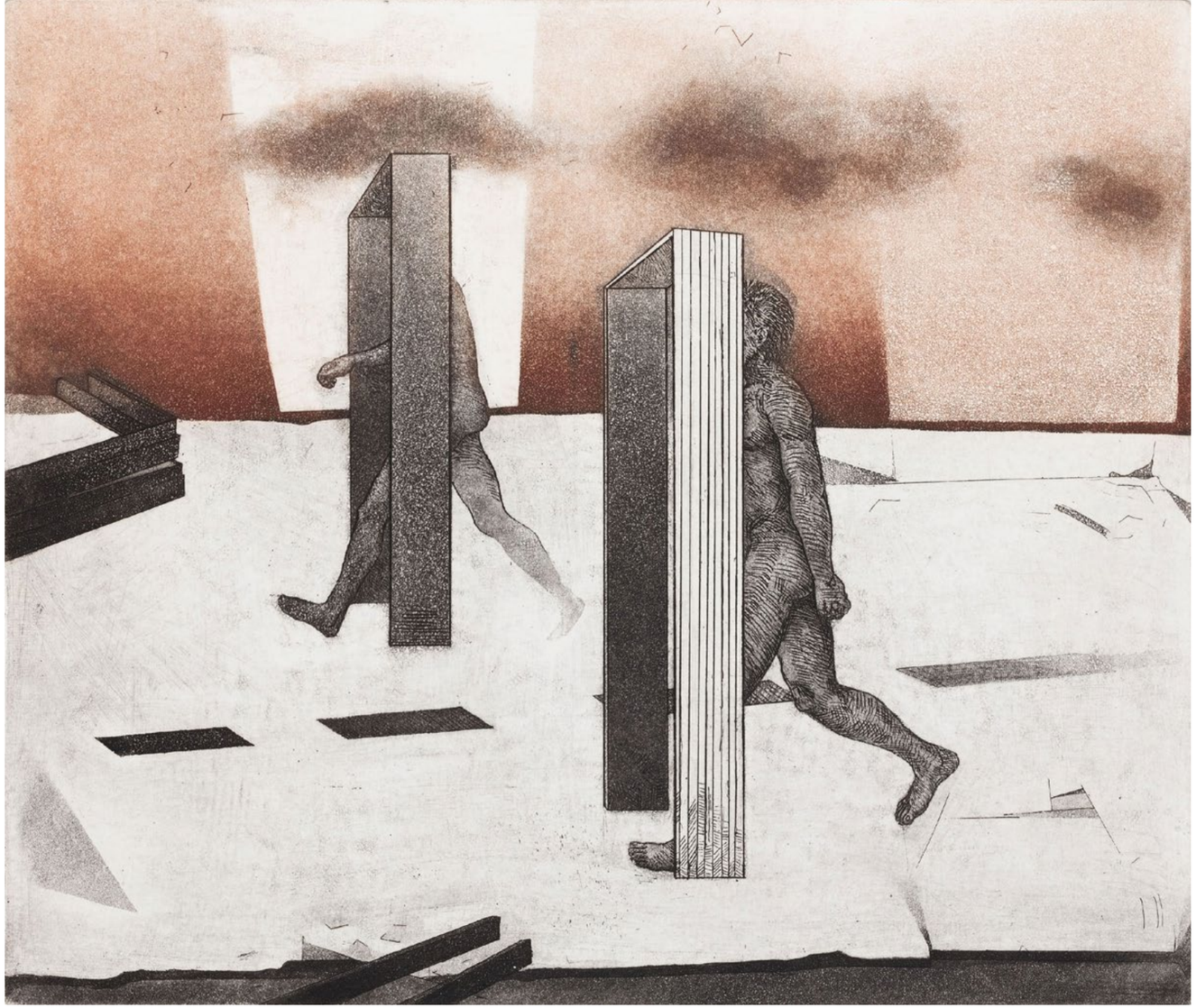



**GIRL WITH BALLOON**
This limited-edition print by Banksy was inspired by the graffiti artist's stencilled murals in various parts of London in 2002. Its painting version (also, known as Balloon Girl or Girl and Balloon) was sold for £18 million in 2021 at Sotheby's auction. It was renamed Love is in the Bin after it was partially shredded during the live auction exercise.

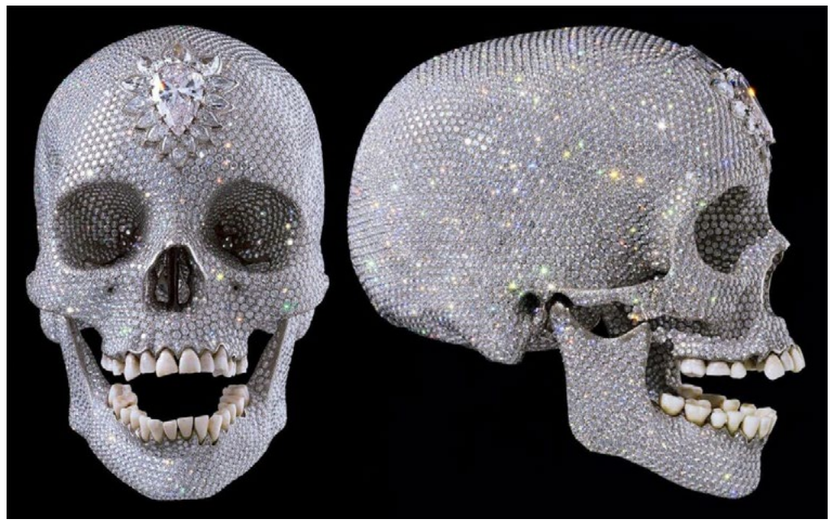


**UNTITLED, ACRYLIC ON PAPER**
Thota Vaikuntam, instantly recognised for his depiction of Telangana women in bright-coloured sarees, vermillion, and dusky complexion (as seen here) is often selected for his limited-edition prints, particularly by young art collectors. In the price range of INR 30,000 upwards, these prints, according to art experts, are gaining traction in value with time.

**THE MORNING WALK**
One of the most prolific artists who made her mark as a printmaker, Anupam Sud looks at the exploration of the human body, depicted with raw emotion and profound empathy. Introspective, her limited-edition prints, as seen here, made in the early 1970s, look at themes of vulnerability, resilience, and introspection. Sud has created multiple versions of this using different mediums.



**FOR THE LOVE OF GOD**
When the 8,600-plus diamond-studded skull sculpture, including a pear-shaped pink diamond in the forehead, with real teeth (yes) by controversial artist Damien Hirst was first shown in 2007 in London, art critics either loved it or dissed it. No one could ignore the work, and that explained why Hirst also decided to bring out signed, limited-edition prints of the same work.

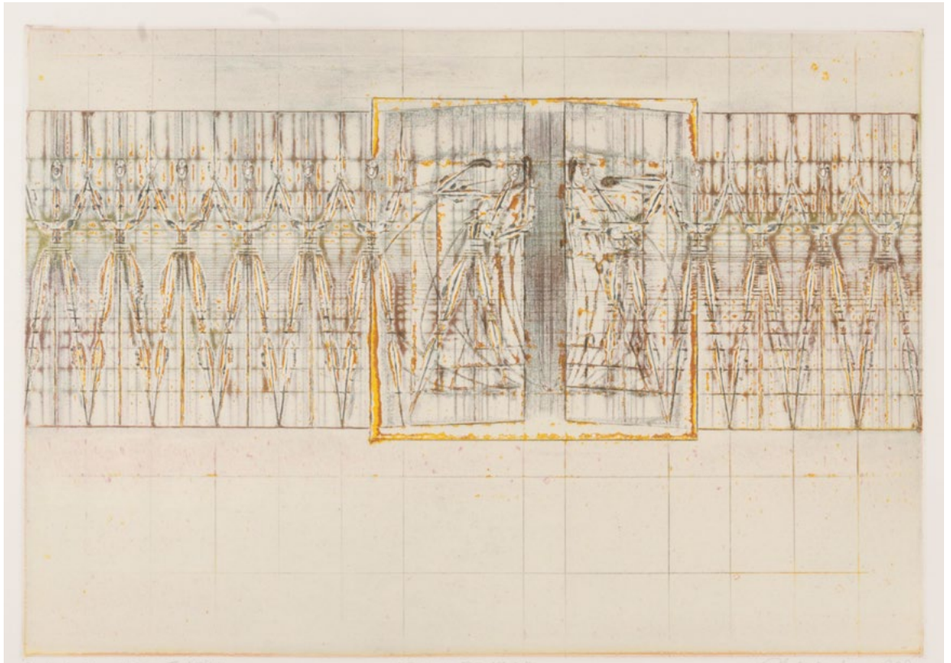




**UNTITLED BY ANISH KAPOOR**
British Indian sculptor, Kapoor known for his monumental sculptures and installations in public places, explores art through diverse materials such as stainless steel, PVC, fibreglass, and Vantablack (a rare black pigment) in his works, particularly his disc-like mirrors in bright colours of blood red (as shown in the picture) that continue to attract art lovers and investors.

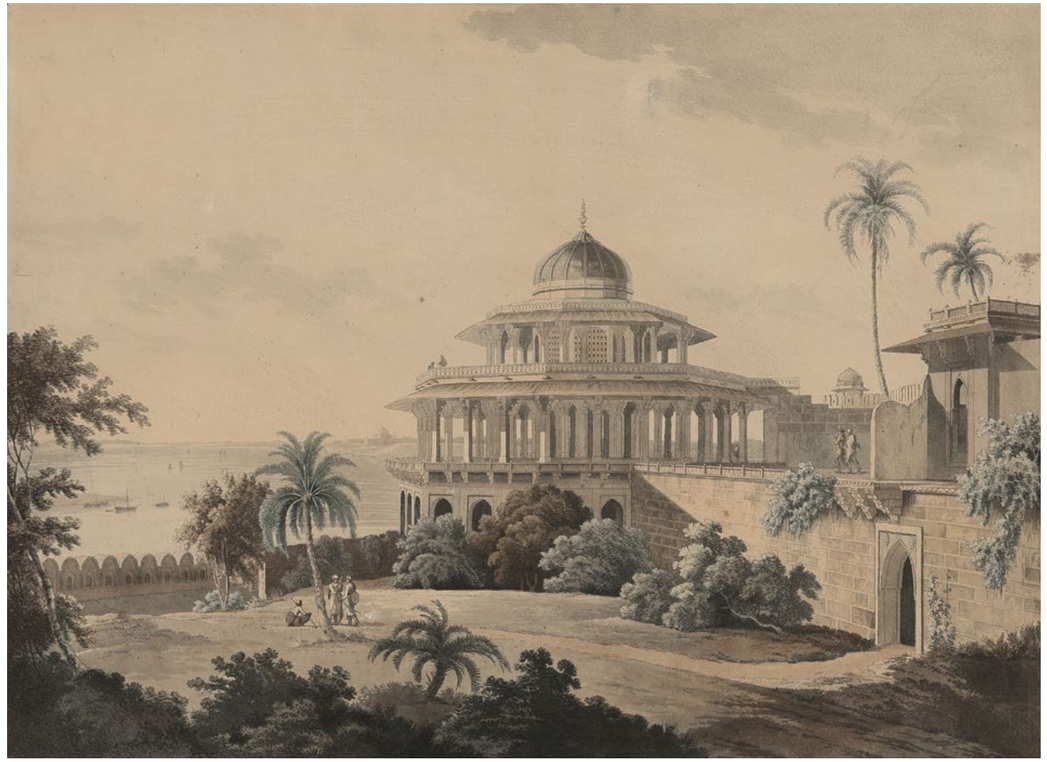


**HUSAIN TOYS**
Not everyone knows that MF Husain, India's most iconic artist, was unfairly exiled from India by the moral police for his art. Before becoming a known figure in the art world, he dabbled in creating wooden toys for children in a shop in Mumbai. Given the rarity of these creations, the prices have escalated over time.



**RHYME UNBROKEN**
Through his artistic practice, Krishna Reddy contributed significantly to the rise of printmaking popularity in India, particularly in the 1960s and '70s. Having studied printmaking in Paris and New York, Reddy evolved his abstract prints to show colours, techniques, and his command over the medium, as seen in Rhyme Broken, 1977, multicolour viscosity print on paper.

**THE CHALIS SATUN**
Thomas and William Daniell, British travelling artists, uncle-nephew duo, created several prints of Indian landscapes by way of visual documentation of forts, palaces, monuments, people, and more for the benefit of authorities and people back home in London. They captured the intrigue of Indian soil through their art that was published in several books and catalogues.



**AT THIS TIME**
American artist Brian Donnelly, known popularly as Kaws, is known for his figures with 'x' or cross marks on hands, eyes, ears, and feet. Be it public sculptures (as shown in the picture) or those shown in auctions and galleries, his Pop art figures feature a recurring character called Companion, with gloved hands, big ears, and and boots on the feet.





# the CULT of RARITY





Is the chase for rare décor pieces elevating our spaces—or merely fuelling unsustainable, status-driven living?

**BY SHABNAM GUPTA**

We live in a world where design matters more than functionality, and the hunt for rare, exclusive décor pieces has gone from being a luxury to a full-blown cultural phenomenon. According to a 2023 market report, the global luxury furniture market is expected to hit USD42.12 billion by 2031, growing steadily. What used to be the playground of connoisseurs and hardcore collectors has now seeped into everyday living, turning décor pieces into must-have status symbols. But while we are all busy chasing these unique finds, it is worth asking: Is this trend improving our spaces, or are we just absorbed in an unsustainable cycle of consumption and exclusivity?

**APPRECIATING CRAFTSMANSHIP**

There is no denying that the growing fascination—let's be honest, obsession—with rare décor has given us a deeper appreciation for craftsmanship, heritage, and storytelling. A handwoven silk rug or a beautifully carved sculpture is not just décor; it is a piece of history, a slice of culture, and a testament to skilled artistry. According to UNESCO, nearly 60 per cent of traditional crafts are at risk of disappearing due to industrialisation, making it even more important to preserve these treasures. These pieces carry the stories of the artisans who made them, the regions they come from, and the traditions they keep alive. In a world filled with mass-produced, disposable items, investing in bespoke, timeless décor pieces allows us to celebrate individuality and keep these dying arts alive. Unlike the factory-made alternatives, these one-of-a-kind pieces are crafted with incredible diligence—countless hours spent perfecting a single piece using time-honoured techniques that focus on quality over quantity. Studies even show that handmade furniture tends to last almost twice as long as mass-produced pieces, making them a sustainable choice eventually.

> *"It is all too easy to get swept up in the chase, focusing more on collecting than curating."*

**THE COST OF EXCLUSIVITY**

But let's not ignore the other side of the coin. The rush to own exclusive décor—especially when Pinterest and Instagram are constantly bombarding us with 'dream' interiors—can easily spiral out of control. It is all too easy to get swept up in the chase, focusing more on collecting than curating. Social media has fuelled this desire for uniqueness, pushing many to buy impulsively without thinking about whether these pieces truly fit their lifestyle. This constant hunt for the rare and exclusive can warp our idea of what a home should be—putting exclusivity above comfort and practicality. Then there is the question of ethics and sustainability. The booming demand for rare décor has raised concerns about ethical sourcing and environmental impact. When rarity becomes a commodity, it risks stripping away the authenticity and heritage that made it special in the first place. It is crucial to ensure artisans are fairly paid and materials are sourced responsibly.



**FINDING BALANCE**

At the end of the day, the obsession with rare décor pieces is both a blessing and a challenge. While they can add depth and personality to our homes, it is important to approach them with balance. We should embrace these treasures for their true value and emotional connection, not just for the sake of standing out. A home should reflect who you are—your experiences, your tastes, and your memories. Whether it is filled with rare finds or everyday pieces, what truly matters is the authenticity and warmth it brings. Having thoughtful choices, making mindful purchase, and a bearing for true love for true design should always come before any fleeting trend that is temporary.

# LOST AND FOUND

Rare, forgotten films that shaped cinematic history and cultural storytelling

BY **SAYANTI HALDER**



## Metropolis (1927)

**by Fritz Lang**

A groundbreaking work in science fiction and silent cinema, it is a visual masterpiece that combines innovative special effects and a complex social commentary. Set in a dystopian future, the film presents a stark divide between the wealthy elite and the oppressed workers. Its ambitious set design, including the iconic Maschinenmensch robot, was far ahead of its time. Though initially cut and lost, recent restorations have revived the film, allowing new generations to appreciate its profound influence on both cinema and pop culture.

***Don't miss it at:*** Plex



## The Magnificent Ambersons (1942)

**by Orson Welles**

It is a tragic exploration of family, privilege, and societal change. After its original release, the studio drastically altered the film, trimming it and re-editing key sequences, leaving Welles dissatisfied. What remains is a haunting, emotionally-complex narrative that continues to be influential for its innovative storytelling, cinematography, and the way it explores themes of generational conflict. The film's rarity is due to the lost original version, making it a fascinating, incomplete masterpiece.

***Don't miss it at:*** Plex

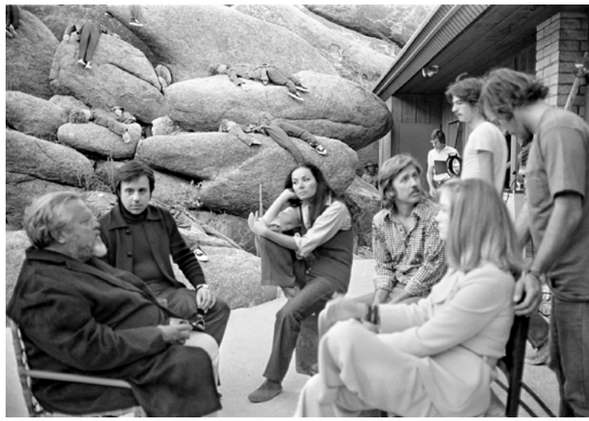
## London After Midnight (1927)

**by Tod Browning**

A lost gem of the silent horror genre, this was directed by Browning and known for his collaboration with Lon Chaney. Featuring Chaney's haunting transformation into a mysterious figure, the film is a chilling atmospheric tale that blends gothic horror and psychological thriller elements. Unfortunately, all known prints of the film were destroyed in a 1967 fire, leaving only stills and a few frame-by-frame reconstructions. Its reputation as one of the greatest lost films makes it a holy grail for cinephiles and historians.

***Don't miss it at:*** YouTube





## The Other Side of the Wind (2018)

**by Orson Welles**

A cinematic enigma for over four decades, it was Welles' long-delayed final film. Shot in the 1970s and completed posthumously by a team of collaborators, the film offers a bold critique of Hollywood, fame, and artistic ambition. It blends documentary-style realism with experimental techniques. Despite its troubled production and years of legal battles, the film's release in 2018 showcased Welles' forward-thinking vision offering a fascinating look into the decline of the classical cinema era and the rise of modernity.

***Don't miss it at:*** Netflix



MORE THAN MEDALS!

# India's OLYMPIC journey from hope to reality

As we celebrate our wins and analyse the near misses, it is time to reflect on what lies ahead for our sporting future

**BY KRISHAN KALRA**

I am not sure how well will I be able to associate this story with the theme of the issue—Rare Finds—but in an ironical way, as many critics often do.

Our contingent of 117 athletes and 140 support staff returned from the Olympic Games Paris 2024 with a medal tally slightly lower than that in Tokyo, falling short of the anticipated "double digits." Despite notable achievements such as Manu Bhaker's two bronze medals, heartbreaks were plentiful—her fourth-place finish in a favoured event, Saikhom Mirabai Chanu's near miss, and Lakshya Sen falling short in badminton. Several events, including mixed team archery and men's air rifle, saw India narrowly missing the podium. Bhaker's tearful response when asked about her emotions despite winning two medals underscored the emotional toll—"because fourth place is never good." The biggest disappointment came with wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification for exceeding the weight limit by just 100grams. Yet, moments of triumph, like beating England in men's hockey and securing a bronze against Spain, offered glimpses of hope. Neeraj Chopra's silver medal, though commendable, came with the bittersweet reality of falling short to his Pakistani rival.

## DESIRES VS. GROUND REALITIES

While the dedication of our athletes and their coaches is undeniable, the harsh realities of global competition cannot be ignored. As we set our sights on future events, we must assess our strengths and weaknesses with honesty and objectivity. In victory, we celebrate our athletes, but in defeat, we are quick to criticise, often unfairly. This harsh judgment affects their morale

and confidence. Constructive support, rather than disparagement, is key to nurturing talent and encouraging improvement. Although six medals may seem underwhelming, our journey in Olympic history has been slow but steady. From Norman Pritchard's achievements in 1900 to the golden era of hockey, India has seen significant milestones. Leander Paes' bronze in 1996 marked a new beginning, laying way to a record-breaking seven medals in Tokyo 2020. While the latest tally might disappoint some, it serves as a stepping stone towards greater achievements in 2028.

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

**Reforming Sports Federations:** Our sports federations require urgent reform. It seems facetious but of the nine major disciplines—Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Hockey, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, and Weightlifting—none is headed by a sportsperson as a president. With most leadership roles occupied by non-athletes, decisions often lack the insight needed to foster growth. Empowering these bodies with experienced sports professionals—including adequate foreign exposure—and ensuring transparency in selection processes could pave the better way.

**Building Better Training Platforms:** A key factor in India's underperformance is the lack of robust training systems. The USA's National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) contributed significantly to their success in Paris, with over 1,000 athletes representing 100 countries and winning 330 medals. India's educational institutions must invest in sports infrastructure to cultivate future champions. Schools and colleges must be our nurseries for nurturing talents.

**Expanding Grassroots Development:** Delhi's Chhatrasal Akhada has proven its mettle, producing India's six Olympic wrestling medals. Replicating such training hubs nationwide could provide young athletes the right environment to thrive. Expanding the talent pool from a mere few academies to nationwide grassroots initiatives is crucial for long-term success.

**A Culture of Sports Excellence:** To compete at the highest level, sports must become deeply embedded in Indian culture, much like Table Tennis in China or Football in Europe and South America. Structured training programmes and wider participation at a young age can help bridge the gap between aspirations and achievements.

**Giving Back to the Next Generation:** Some Indian sports legends, like P.T. Usha and Pullela Gopichand, have dedicated themselves to grooming young talent through their academies. However, more athletes need to step up and mentor aspiring youngsters, ensuring their knowledge and experience are passed down to future generations.

## A MISSED MOMENT

Despite the admirable coverage of the Olympics by the Indian media, an important milestone went unreported—Abhinav Bindra was awarded the 'Olympic Order' for his exceptional services to the Olympics mission and for propogating Olympics values. This media-shy quiet gentleman has been involved with a 'Olympics Values Education Programme' (OVEP) program that will benefit 15 million children in Assam and Odisha and a sustainability project to plant one million trees in Odisha.

The road to the next Olympics demands rigorous preparation, strategic planning, and unwavering commitment. With thoughtful reforms and sustained efforts, India can aspire to a significantly better medal tally in Los Angeles in 2028 and beyond.



Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh won their bronze medals in the '10m Air Pistol Mixed Team' event at the Olympics Games Paris 2024



Neeraj Chopra shines in the 'Men's 110m Hurdles' at Stade de France, Paris



Saikhom Mirabai Chanu gestures during the 'Women's 49kg' weightlifting event at South Paris Arena, France



Team India celebrates their bronze medal triumph in the Men's Hockey final at Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, Colombes, France

# Living in an OASIS within an oasis

Step into Al Habtoor City—an all-encompassing urban marvel that brings the vibrant essence of Dubai to life

**BY SHILPI MADAN**









The idea is deeply intriguing: living the luxury life in a dream city, within the heart of electric Dubai. I love the Desert Emirate for its swanky splash out in over-the-top amenities, kicky adventures, and stunning modern architecture. True to its glamorous allure, the Al Habtoor City presents a captivating destination offering unforgettable moments, culinary delights, cutting-edge AI integrations, and spectacular live shows.

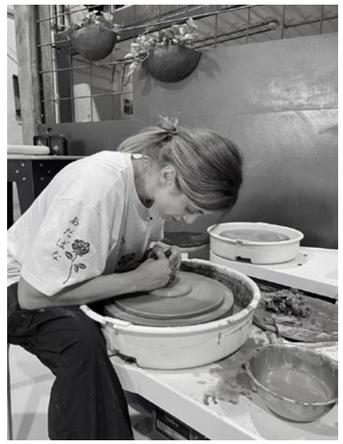
I check into Hilton Dubai Al Habtoor City, a part of the Al Habtoor City Hotel Collection. Parting the curtains in my plush room, I meet Burj Khalifa, the vantage metaphor for the emirate. Dropping my gaze, I watch a private yacht dock gently below at the end of the Dubai Canal to usher a couple into the hotel. As if on cue, Dubai begins to light up languorously, with the colours of the sunset pouring themselves into the desert sky. Full-length windows bring the outdoors inside as I sink into the luxurious bathtub, revelling in pools of amber light. Wandering through the golden-sheened lobby, I make my way to a spot of robust American dining at Ribs & Brews. The easy access to superb global cuisines is what I love about Dubai. Veal Sausages with Devilish Diablo and the Shrimp Cocktail in a Bloody Mary bring a spicy spin to my Indian palate. Satiated, I move in time to the Al Habtoor Theatre, next door, to catch the *La Perle by Dragone* show. Dubai's first permanent show, by Franco Dragone (of the iconic *Cirque du Soleil* fame), La Perle overwhelms and takes my breath away with its pulsating, and dizzyingly paced line-up of stunts and special effects. It is a full house, with families filling up the theatre that brings in 270-degree seating. Powered by a global clutch of 65 amazing artists from 23 countries, the awe-inspiring feats seem to defy gravity as the men and women dive (from a hair-raising 25 metres), leap, swirl and invert themselves in the air with boneless fluidity in a script that nods to UAE's pearl diving history. The next morning, I glide across to the interconnected V Hotel Dubai, Curio Collection by Hilton. Call it a whimsical and whacky welcome, with scarlet pouting lips on cushion covers, modern lines, futuristic lights, a round luxuriously inviting bed, and a bathtub in the middle of

**Clockwise from top left:** La Perle at Al Habtoor City is a breathtaking blend of immersive artistic performances, cutting-edge imagery, and advanced technology; With its radiant golden ambience, Al Habtoor Palace offers an atmosphere that effortlessly sets the perfect mood for an indulgent stay; AYA Universe is a mesmerising realm where light-filled gardens and hidden mysteries come together to create a world of wonder.












**Clockwise from left:** The infinite energy vortex at AYA Universe offers a surreal experience; Zenon Dubai stands as a fine example of a world where gastronomy, AI, entertainment, and innovation seamlessly blend; Mythical flavours and refined elegance defines the culinary journey at Zenon; Topgolf Dubai brings together interactive golf, live music, and exquisite dining in a vibrant social setting; OKA Ceramics offers a serene space where creativity flourishes through handcrafted pottery.

my room. The edgy vibe makes me fall in love with the place. Later, I walk through the foyer, past the brilliant life-sized orange rooster, to board my quick drive to OKA Ceramics for a leisurely pottery session on the wheel. My teacher guides me methodically through the process of kneading the clay and shaping it gently yet firmly on the moving wheel. After pampering myself (retail therapy!) at the sprawling Dubai Mall, I drop in at Zenon Dubai, at Address Hotel, inside the Mall for an AI-powered stellar dining experience. Leaping halogens on the walls brings in electrifying colours, dancing, colliding, and collapsing in an unending mix of theatrics. Call it a psychedelic, zany run across 10 supersized screens with surreal reflections on table tops, and gold-rimmed Hermes tableware. I discover the Fendi dolls poised on walls, and shiny Gucci bears in the bathrooms, past the vintage car heaped with Hermes boxes, and into the surreal den beyond which Greco-Roman and Medusa's heads move in the skilful play of light in 3D style as if whispering secrets to me. It is a wild experience, forking in Hokkaido Scallops, Hamachi Carpaccio, and designer profiteroles as the colours cascade on the walls. The staggering supersized chandelier holds court in suave silence in the atrium of the Al Habtoor Palace, next door. The grand balustrade, velvety furnishing, gold-tipped linen and unobtrusive staff truly make me feel like royalty as I walk into the Palace the following day to begin my day at Silk Spa—a dip into ancient herb-laced therapies by expert therapists, followed by a sauna. It is the plush hush that spells an air of mystery about Al Habtoor Palace that makes me fall in love: the twin entrances, the tucked away special elevator leading up to the best-kept secrets: the sprawling Winston Churchill Suite (with a private pool linked to the rooftop) and the maverick Bentley Suite modelled along the interiors of a Bentley—with the car-inspired coffee table books, curios and artworks. Moving artfully in my yacht, across the waters at the Dubai Marina, nibbling salads and skewered chicken, and taking in sips of cool air is a refreshing spell before I leap energetically into a game of golf, teeing off at Topgolf Dubai. This certainly outdoes the joy I experience sinking into a sea of white plastic balls in the pit at the end of my tour at the magical Aya Universe, a hidden sanctuary beyond the stars, inviting visitors to explore its vibrant worlds. Back at the Palace, I arrive like a queen to dine below the shimmying chandeliers at the World Cut Steakhouse: Live jazz music, and hand-massaged wagyu—cooked to perfection with its caramelised skin, sums up my superb experience. Living in Al Habtoor City for three days crowns like a celebrated royal, luxuriating in fancy trimmings in a central location in the city and yet savouring the specials at my own pace to relish this as a fabulous magical experience forever.

**DUTCH PRIDE**
Overlooking Amsterdam's Amstel River, the 128-year-old De L'Europe Amsterdam belonging to the Heineken family recently launched an entire wing as 't Huys (translated as 'house'), consisting of 16 landmark suites. These have been designed by a roll call of the city's finest creatives including couturier Ronald van der Kemp and jewellery designer Bibi van der Velden. Just like how the city celebrates the Old Masters from the Dutch Golden Age of painting, De L'Europe wants to be a hub where creatives can be inspired, and mingle with other like-minded people. To create a conducive environment, mid-century armchairs and stimulating floral art by Ueli Signer and Florian Seyd of The Wunderkammer deck the lobby.

# CRAFTING CULTURE

Through both hardware and guest experiences, these hotels showcase the treasured traditions of the community, and bridge guests with locals



**TEA HORSE ROAD**
Nestled in a Tibetan village bordered by the ragged peaks of Meili Snow Mountain National Park is LUX* Benzilan, one of LUX* Tea Horse Road's collection of eight bijoux hotels. The Tea Horse Road is an ancient network of caravan trails and dirt tracks that spread across Tibet and southwestern China. To pay tribute to the ethnic minority groups living here, the textiles, art, and soft furnishings at each of the hotels are collected from the neighbouring areas. While travelling between the towns of Shangri-la and Benzilan, guests can also visit Tibetan master potter Luo Sang Enzhu, who will teach them how to shape and fire a Tibetan tea bowl using local black clay. The same material is used to make the vessel for the famous local chicken hot pot that guests can enjoy after the class.



**A PIECE OF AMALFI**
When Borgo Santandrea was launched on the Amalfi Coast in 2022, it was the first luxury hotel to open in 15 years. Last year, the hotel unveiled four new suites, including a 743sqft corner room with sweeping panoramas of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Above, local artists inspired by the floor of the Royal Chapel of the Treasure of St. Januarius in Naples—a masterpiece of Baroque art and architecture—have painted blue and white geometric patterns in the style of typical Amalfi tiles. Interested guests can visit local craftsman Marco Fusco at his atelier to learn how to create their own.







**OKINAWA BLUES**
Fringed by the coastline on Okinawa's main island, Hoshinoya Okinawa is a stunning tribute to local culture. A 4.5m-high Gusuku stone wall made of Ryukyuan limestone looms at the entrance. Since the days of yore, these walls have been built around residences and castles to protect the inhabitants. The reception area, a cavernous space steeped in deep blue, encourages guests to take advantage of the restorative qualities of the surrounding sea. In the rooms, Okinawan stencilled tie-dye art with a 600-year history depicting Okinawan flora, fauna, and daily life, decorates the walls. If the sea is calm, guests can experience the sabani, a traditional wooden boat steered by a boatman.

**HINDU HISTORY MANIFESTED**
Majapahit, the last Hindu empire whose power peaked in the 14th century, was said to have arrived in Bali in 1347. The Jumeirah Bali, designed by Denniston's Jean-Michel Gathy and Grounds Kent Architects' Martin Grounds is an amalgam of Javanese and Hindu-influenced design features and incorporates fables from both cultures in its storytelling. Local textile weavers and artists were employed to give these narratives life in their handiwork. Balinese sculptors were also roped in to build the Turkish hammam, a nod to Princess Campa, the Muslim wife of a Majapahit king who supposedly introduced the Balinese elite to Ottoman bathhouse culture. As Gathy puts it, "Jumeirah Bali is designed as a palace celebrating the history of Central Java."



# BEYOND CHARMINAR

A city of contrasts—where regal heritage meets modern indulgence—this regal city invites you to explore its rare finds

**BY PRIYA KUMARI RANA**

Once home to the Nizam of Hyderabad, the royal palace became a Taj hotel in 2010. Perched on a hillock some 600mts above the sea level, and built in the shape of a scorpion in the Italian and Tudor styles by an English architect, Taj Falaknuma Palace ('mirror to the sky' in Urdu)—built by a nawab—the Prime Minister of Hyderabad, gifted it to Nizam Mir Mahbub Ali Khan in a grand gesture. With halls dripping in Venetian and Osler chandeliers, a portrait-lined grand staircase, the world's largest manually-operated organ, one of the world's finest jade collections, leaf through a first edition book once read by the Nizam at the turn of the 20th century in the carved walnut wood roofed library (it also has of the largest collection of Qurans in India). From 1894 until 1951, when the palace fell into disuse (it was renovated by Princess Esra, wife of the last Nizam in 2000, a 10-year project), guests such as Tsar Nicolas of Russia, King George VIII, Edward VIII and more recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have stayed here. Enter the leather-panelled, mahogany-ceiling Hookah Room, with an antique billiards table by Burroughs & Watts (one of only two; the second sitting in Buckingham Palace!), and the mixologist will pour special cocktails such as an Orange Coriander Mojito, or learn to craft your very own mocktail. You can also make your very own attar, the aromatic perfume that Hyderabad is famous for, with one of the city's oldest attar makers. Get a masterclass in cooking Hyderabadi biryani, with succulent slow-braised mutton. Perhaps the grandest experience is sitting on the 33mts-long teak dining table (the longest in the world!) with rosewood and leather chairs—imagining the days of the Nizam who hosted dinner parties for 100 guests at a time! The story goes that the acoustics in 'Hall 101' are so good that a whisper at one end of the table, is heard at the other. Transport yourself to the court of Emperor Akbar, with mellifluous sitar strains, and the gurgling of indoor fountains, a 25ft-high sandstone walled space with ragas etched in brass, Sabyasachi furnishings, orchid-laden tables, 24-karat gold flake-infused water bottles, and gulmahal-scented attar. This is Tansen, the culinary triumph of the Ohri culinary kingdom, which has operated restaurants since 1976. "It is a tribute to Emperor Akbar's legendary bard Tansen," says Amar Ohri, owner of the Ohri Group. "We like to go back to *nihari*, the old gravies, the great Bukhara-style dal, our version is the Dal Tansen Suheri, where we do



Breathtaking panoramic views of the city from the Taj Falaknuma Palace



The atmosphere here, is a good mix of regal heritage and modern hospitality



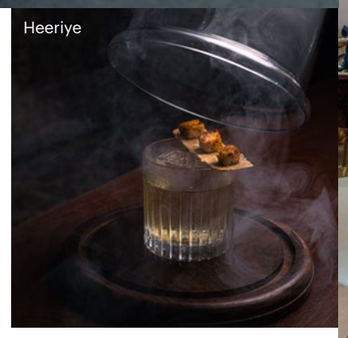
Discover the art of crafting your own mocktail at this palatial hotel

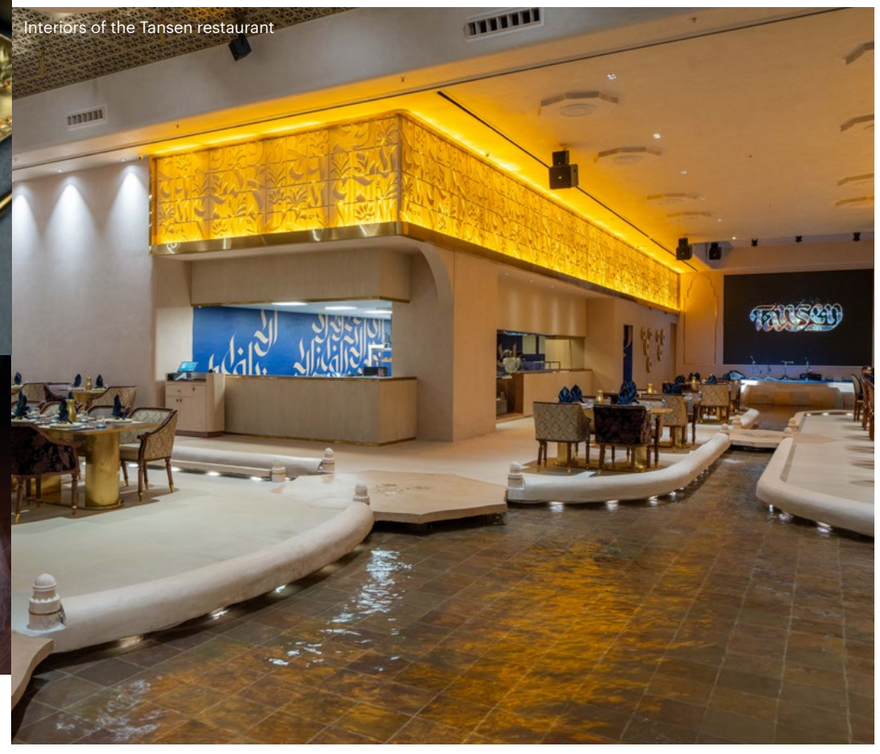
a 24-karat ghee tadka on the table." From Chef Anuj's Avocado Quinoa Gol Gappa served with tangy and sweet water, to a Lajawab Bharwan Paneer Tikki (*tikki* stuffed with paneer), and a crispy Paan Patta Chaat, to a deconstructed Amritsari *kulcha*, with wild mushroom and truffle oil, to the Uzbek Garlic Pulao with lamb—the dishes are regal. The Rampuri Taar Gosht is an ode to Awadhi cooking, arguably the ultimate mutton dish, while the Paneer Khatta Pyaaz with pickled onions in masala gravy dances on the palate. For dessert, the Afghani Halvaye Zardak, a carrot halwa with rose water and cardamom, enthrals. The Hakim Ki Dawa cocktail by world-renowned mixologist Yangdup Lama is a sour mocktail with pomegranate, thyme, and a sweet tincture. The Jewel of Tansen (which costs a cool INR 9,999), made with Royal Salute 21 Years, pine nuts, and truffle-infused vermouth, has a 24-karat gold leaf trapped inside a giant ice cube. If this is not an indulgence, we do not know what is. It is the coming of age of fine made in India craft chocolate, and Indian chocolate maison Manam ('you' and 'us' in Telugu), is front and centre of this revolution. The chocolate-slab-like building in front of the Manam 'Karkhana' (the name given to each store), houses a shop (with its chocolate fountain), a chocolaterie, a chocolate lab (for patrons to create their bar), a chocolate making section (where the cacao mass turns into velvety chocolate), and finally, a café that makes you feel you are sitting on a cacao plantation. Chaitanya Muppala, the CEO of Distinct Origins Pvt Ltd and founder of Manam Chocolate, whose family owns another Indian sweets and dessert brand, says, "I have created my own fermentation and drying technology to unlock the fine-flavoured bean from Indian cacao, optimised for fine flavour." There are 300 chocolate products in 50 categories—from pralines, bonbons, truffles, and bark, to ice cream, muffins, croissants, cookies, hot and cold beverages, and chocolate for gifting, all rustled up by Chef Ruby Islam. Tempering is the fun, visual part of chocolate-making when it is cooled and reheated to give it that perfect crystalline internal structure—the 'snap and shine' of the chocolate. At the patisserie, you can reach for the gooey American-size cookies, brownies, muffins, or the myriad pralines lining the glass cases in the store. A rare find indeed!



A closer look at one of Manam's lab


Bhatti ka Murgh


Heeriye


Interiors of the Tansen restaurant


Experience the magic of chocolate making in action

# The *EMERALD* ISLE

Sri Lanka beckons with timeless charm—lush landscapes, ancient heritage, and unforgettable experiences

**BY FERROZA C JASSAWALA**

The Sinhagiri or Sigiriya Lion Rock in Matale District

The Portugese colonists in the 16th century discovered in the azure blue-and-green waters of the Indian Ocean, a picturesque island of rainforests, mangrove islands, central mountains, and pristine beaches. The Indian administration—under then Prime Minister—Smt. Indira Gandhi ceded Sri Lanka to the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Government in 1974.

Welcome to Sri Lanka—the new hotspot for a quick holiday in Asia, economical enough for discerning travellers, with luxurious accommodations, enchanting resorts, and a tropical climate. The Island's cities can be easily reached within a two to three hours' drive. From the cold, foggy weather in Delhi, it is but a three-hour air journey to the warm temperate weather of the Bandaranaike Airport at Negombo and a visual treat of swaying coconut palms, verdant rice fields, and and villages, awaits us as we head to the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, en route to Kandy. The 24-acre elephant sanctuary has bred elephants in captivity since 1975. The animals have been fed, cared for, bathed, and nurtured here since 1975.

Alongside the elephant orphanage, there are many specialist herb and spice gardens at Maunella. Sri Lanka is home to valuable spices and healing herbs, which are carefully grown and harvested for their natural oils such as sandalwood, margossa, citronella, almond, jasmine, coconut, and vanilla. These natural products are bottled for ailments like joint pains, cholesterol, and health-benefitting balms. For nature lovers, it


The Galle Dutch Fort

is manna for the soul to witness cloves, nutmeg, pepper, and cinnamon growing in their natural habitat. The opportunity to buy and bring home these organic preparations is a bonus!

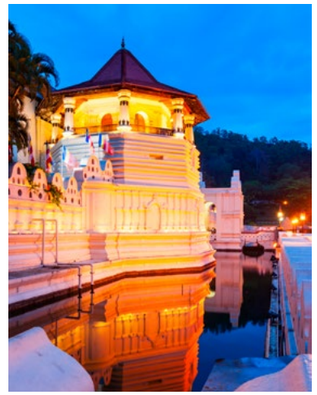
As we drive into Kandy, Sri Lanka's picturesque hill retreat, one heads straight to the Temple of Tooth Relic, one of the most sacred Buddhist temples in the world. Ancient murals, precious artifacts, and panoramic views of the lake and city, lend a perfect moment for reflection as the sun sets in the distant, verdant hills.

Mining and export of semi-precious gems including the Lankan sapphires and rubies are an intrinsic part of Sri Lanka's heritage in Kandy. The Gem Museum showcases cutting and polishing of gems, which can be bought as precious jewellery to carry back home. Experiencing the colourful dance, music, and customs on stage, completes the cultural tranch of our visit to central Sri Lanka.

It is here that one experiences the most beautiful train ride in the world. The train climbs on top of a bridge in the middle of nature, with beautiful waterfalls gushing out from mountains filled with the lush green tea plantations. This scenic train journey from Kandy to Ella takes around seven hours. The train passes through quaint British railway stations built in the early 20th century. The famous Nine Arch Bridge built of solid rocks, bricks, and cement was commissioned in 1921 and stands tall even today.

No visit to Sri Lanka is complete without a jeep safari to the Yala National Park—home to Elephants, Tuskers, Leopards, and various species of birds. Our next drive is a 220km scenic route to the Bentota Beach Resorts via the Galle Dutch Fort. The imposing Fort was first built by the Portuguese in 1588 and then fortified by the Dutch in the 1600s. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a unique exposition of an urban ensemble that illustrates the interaction







**Clockwise from top-left:** The Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage offers close encounters with gentle giants; the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic stands as a serene spiritual marvel; The train ride from Kandy to Ella reveals Sri Lanka's most stunning landscapes.

of European architecture and South Asian traditions of the 19th century.

Russians, East Europeans, Indians, and Asians occupy the pristine Bentota beaches. The gentle waves of the Indian Ocean are ideal for seaboarding and other water sports. The resort life beckons after dusk as bonfire, spirited folk dance, and music fill the night's silent air. A short drive from Bentota is the must-try Madu river excursion. Our rowboat winds its way through clusters of 64 uninhabited mangrove islands, caves, Buddhist temples, and seagull perches, and concludes at Cinnamon Island—the exclusive cinnamon cultivation centre in this area. The Kosgoda Sea Turtle Conservation Project, nearby, monitors the local sea turtle resting sites and showcases ways to protect these endangered species.

The Bentota Water Sports Complex offers thrilling jet ski rides, windsurfing, parasailing, etc. ideal for the water sports enthusiasts. The early morning excursion to Mirissa offers a unique opportunity to see Sea Dolphins and Blue Whales up and close in the pristine waters, especially between November and March. Our tour concludes at the capital city of Colombo. The Imperial Galle Face Greens and Hotel, Dutch Hospital, Twin Towers, Independence Hall, and shopping malls vie for attention on Colombo's bustling skyline. Partake of Colombo's exclusive nightlife at the casinos, restobars, and the developing Chinese Port Complex.

*Ayubowan* Sri Lanka! Till we meet again. Your magic shall always beckon us.

# DESIGN THOUGHTS AND TRENDS

Creating Homes That Feel Like You

**BY TEAM HIGH5**





As we enter 2025, the idea of luxury in interior design is evolving. People are not just looking for fancy, expensive collectibles anymore—they want their homes to have meaning, warmth, and a sense of belonging. For Shagun Singh, the goal is to create spaces that are both beautiful and deeply personal. Her approach blends timeless elegance with modern comfort, crafting homes that reflect the people who live in them. In our tête-à-tête with Shagun, we get you a lowdown on avante garde home decor trends for the year 2025.

**DESIGNING WITH HEART AND INNOVATION**

In 2025, the focus will be at creating designs that are not just about keeping up with trends but about telling a unique story with each space. It will involve a lot of reimagination on classic materials, like brick and metal, to bring something fresh and exciting to the table.

**BRICK, BUT NOT WHAT YOU ARE USED TO**

Rather than traditional exposed brick walls, innovative 3D brick panels are making an impact. Sculpted into wave-like patterns, these panels play with light and shadow, transforming an everyday material into an artistic statement. Perforated brick partitions are also gaining popularity—walls with tiny openings that allow light to filter through, creating intricate patterns that shift throughout the day. The combination of textured brick with metal details adds a dynamic contrast of raw and refined materials, offering a luxurious yet understated aesthetic.

**PERSONALISING YOUR SPACE**

2025 is all about creating homes that are tailored to the people who live in them. She believes that a home should grow and change as its inhabitants do—reflecting their stories, memories, and aspirations.

**FLEXIBLE SPACES:** Adaptability is key, with moveable partitions, adjustable shelving, and multi-purpose furniture allowing homes to transform as needs change. As your life changes, so can your space—whether you are creating a new room, adjusting to a new family dynamic, or simply looking for a fresh layout.

**FUSING HERITAGE AND MODERN STYLE:** Shagun loves bringing in elements from India's rich craftsmanship traditions but with a contemporary twist. She combines hand-carved wooden panels with sleek, modern furniture or reimagines traditional patterns in glass and metal. This fusion creates a unique, personal touch that honours the past while staying firmly rooted in the present.





> *"Sustainability is at the forefront, with a commitment to materials that are both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally responsible"*

**ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS:** Sustainability is at the forefront, with a commitment to materials that are both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally responsible. From reclaimed wood to lime plasters and handwoven fabrics, Shagun ensures that her designs leave a smaller footprint while still offering style and substance.

**A HOME THAT FEELS ALIVE**

At the heart of Shagun Singh's work is the belief that a home should reflect who you are. She wants her designs to feel alive—filled with emotion, tradition, and purpose. It is not just about making things look good; it is about creating a space that feels uniquely yours. For Shagun, great design is not about following the latest trends—it is about setting a new standard for how we live, by creating homes that are beautiful, meaningful, and in tune with the people who inhabit them. In 2025, luxury is about a deeper connection to the spaces we live in, and Shagun is leading the way in making that vision a reality.



# GIFT "WINGS" TO YOUR CHILDREN

Ready for your child to leave the nest? Explore tips to foster independence while nurturing a strong, loving bond

**BY SUMI KHANDPUR**



A vivid memory from 11 years ago still feels fresh. My husband and I had travelled to the University of Wisconsin, USA, to drop off our elder daughter as she began her college journey. We spent two exciting weeks helping her settle in, meeting other parents, and watching her connect with new friends. But soon, it was time to say goodbye. As we walked toward her engineering department for a final farewell, a wave of fear gripped us. Could we really leave our firstborn in a foreign country and return home, thousands of miles away? At that moment, we noticed a university professor standing across the street. He soon glanced at us and said—almost as if reading our thoughts—"Sometimes, you just need to trust." It was a sign. It was time to trust our daughter, let her spread her wings, and embrace the next chapter of her life.

### LETTING GO WITH TRUST

As parents, do you worry about your "children's safety while they study abroad? Do thoughts of how they will manage extreme weather, academics, laundry, tight budgets or illness keep you awake at night? You are not alone. The story of a mother giraffe and her newborn offers some perspective. When a baby giraffe is born, it falls to the ground with a loud thud. The mother immediately nudges and even kicks the baby—not out of cruelty, but to teach it to stand. If the baby does not rise quickly, it becomes vulnerable to predators. Her tough love ensures its survival. Sometimes, as parents, we must step back and allow our children to stand on their own, even when it is difficult. Having guided my daughters through their college years, I learned that our role as parents evolves.

### ENCOURAGE CONNECTIONS

Before leaving for college, my daughters made their first friends through university Facebook groups. They organised meet-ups, exchanged tips on preparations, and even found compatible roommates. As parents, we also connected with other parents to address doubts and concerns. These interactions eased nerves and reassured them they would not be alone on a vast campus.

### TRANSITION FROM PARENT TO MENTOR

Before our daughters left, a professor from the University of Wisconsin shared a heartfelt letter offering insight into a student's perspective: "Give me space to grow. Guide me when I seek advice. Let me set the pace for calls and texts. This is my rebirth—let us create new memories together." Reading this sparked a change in us. We chose not to be helicopter parents constantly checking locations or obsessing over grades. Instead, we trusted them and gave them space to grow. This shift empowered our daughters to be independent, build resilience, and confidently navigate a competitive world.

### PLAN METICULOUSLY

One of the biggest joys was planning everything they needed to live independently. We created countless checklists—clothes, medicines, food, insurance, gadgets, and stationery. This meticulous planning not only ensured essentials but also gave them a sense of preparedness and and boosted their confidence.

### SAVOUR THE MOMENTS

The happiest moments before our daughters flew from the nest were our family vacations. I still cherish the thrill of adventure sports, sipping smoothies, enjoying brunches, or simply having long, heartfelt conversations during beach walks. These experiences strengthened our emotional bonds and became treasured memories.

### EMBRACING THE NEXT CHAPTER

You have nurtured your children with love and strong values. Now, it is time to let them spread their wings. As Dalai Lama observed, "Give the ones you love wings to fly, roots to come back, and reasons to stay."





LOHRI 2025 CELEBRATIONS AT THE ARALIAS



CHRISTMAS 2024 AT THE ARALIAS



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** RESIDENTS CELEBRATING THE WARMTH AND JOY OF LOHRI, A NIGHT FILLED WITH TRADITION AND TOGETHERNESS; A FUN-FILLED EVENING DURING LOHRI 2025; RESIDENTS SOAKING IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT OF THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION; AUTHOR RAJAN MEHTA DISCUSSING HIS RECENTLY-PUBLISHED BOOK WITH THE RESIDENTS; A FEW COPIES OF MEHTA’S ‘BACKSTAGE CLIMATE: THE SCIENCE AND POLITICS BEHIND CLIMATE CHANGE’ ON DISPLAY DURING THE SESSION.

# EVENTS

In the very beginning of the new year, DLF5 condominiums celebrated unforgettable events, uniting residents for celebration, knowledge, and lasting memories

It has been an exciting start to 2025 for the residents of these esteemed communities, with a series of memorable and vibrant celebrations. From the festive cheer of Christmas 2024 and the New Year’s Eve bash to the warmth of Lohri 2025, the celebrations have been nothing short of spectacular. Alongside these joyous occasions, the communities have also focused on health and well-being, with insightful doctors’ talks and health awareness workshops to ensure a happy and healthy year ahead. Republic Day celebrations brought everyone together, honouring unity and pride for our nation and its people, while discussions around new books offered fresh perspectives and knowledge to the residents. The spirit of togetherness and celebration has truly defined the beginning of the year. Here is a look at how the last few months have unfolded—full of joy, learning, and unity. Looking forward to more moments in the months to come.




BOOK TALK AT THE ARALIAS



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:** RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES JOINING IN THE CELEBRATIONS, ADDING TO THE SPIRIT OF REPUBLIC DAY 2025 AT THE ARALIAS; AN INSIGHTFUL AND ENGAGING DOCTORS' TALK AT THE CREST, FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE AND HEALTH AWARENESS; THE COMMUNITY SEEN CELEBRATING THE JOY AND WARMTH OF CHRISTMAS 2024 AT THE CREST, A FESTIVE GATHERING FULL OF CHEER; RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WHERE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS WERE MADE AT THE CREST (RIGHT) AND THE ARALIAS (LEFT).





REPUBLIC DAY 2025 AT THE ARALIAS



DOCTORS TALK AT THE CREST





NEW YEAR'S EVE THE ARALIAS



CHRISTMAS 2024 AT THE CREST



NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE CREST










FLAG MAKING SESSION AT THE CREST



LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT THE CREST



REPUBLIC DAY AT THE CREST

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** WITH COLOURFUL MATERIALS AND A SPIRIT OF TEAMWORK, CHILDREN CAME TOGETHER TO CRAFT THEIR OWN UNIQUE FLAGS; CELEBRATIONS OF THE 76TH REPUBLIC DAY WITH THE THEME ‘SWARNIM BHARAT: VIRASAT AUR VIKAS’; ON 13TH JANUARY, THE CREST CELEBRATED LOHRI WITH MUCH ENTHUSIASM AND WARMTH; THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WAS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT JOY AND TRADITION.



LOHRI 2025 CELEBRATIONS AT THE CREST










REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION BY THE MAGNOLIAS





LOHRI 2025 CELEBRATIONS AT THE MAGNOLIAS






**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** HONOURING THE SPIRIT OF UNITY AND PRIDE AT THE REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION HOSTED BY THE MAGNOLIAS; CHEERS TO NEW BEGINNINGS AND UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES, AS NEW YEAR'S EVE WAS CELEBRATED HERE; SPREADING FESTIVE CHEER AND HOLIDAY MAGIC AT CHRISTMAS 2024 CELEBRATIONS; CELEBRATING THE WARMTH AND TRADITIONS OF LOHRI 2025 AT THE MAGNOLIAS, FILLED WITH JOY AND TOGETHERNESS.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE MAGNOLIAS





CHRISTMAS 2024 AT THE MAGNOLIAS



DLF

# EVENTS AT DLF CLUBS IN

**1st March 2025 - 31st March 2025**

# CALENDAR

## 1

C3 Bar Musicals | Karaoke Evenings | Maulsari Restaurant
C3 Coffee Meetings | 3:00PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings

## 2

C3 Bar Musicals | Sunday Brunches with Live Music | Maulsari Restaurant
C4 Coffee Meetings | Tambola Coffee Evenings with F&B on à la carte
C5 Coffee Meetings | 12:30PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings

## 5

C3 Bridge Club | 3:00PM - 5:00PM | Card Room
C4 Bar Musicals | 8:00PM onwards | Musical Evening | Oasis Bar
C4 Bridge Club | Bridge Room

## 6

C5 Bar Musicals | Ladies Night | Aqua Bar

## 7

C3 DLF Annual Events | 7:00PM onwards | Main Lawn | Pre-Holi Bash: Classical musical performance along with dance troupe displaying true colours of Vrindavan with flower holi celebrations
C5 Bar Musicals | 8:00PM - 10:00PM | Shweta Kishore Hindi Retro | Portico
C5 Bridge Club & Book Club | 12:30PM onwards | Card Room
C5 Food Pop-ups | Indonesian Cuisine | Portico




## 8

C3 Bar Musicals | English Retro Duo by Swati Jain and Kuldeep | Maulsari Restaurant
C3 Musical Concerts | 7:30PM onwards | Duo Live Singing Performance by Swati Jain and Kuldeep: On the occasion of International Women's Day
C3 Coffee Meetings | 03:00PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings
C4 Musical Concerts | Musical Fusion, celebrating womanhood | Lawn or Oasis
C5 Stand-ups | 7:30PM onwards | Stand-up Comedy by Surinder Singh | Portico
C5 Workshops | 5:00PM - 6:00PM | Pizza Making | Portico
C5 Competitions | 5:00PM - 6:00PM | Pebble Painting | Portico
C5 Master Classes - Kids | 5:00PM - 6:00PM | Pizza Making| Portico
C5 Food Pop-ups | Indonesian Cuisine | Portico

## 9

C3 Bar Musicals | Sunday Brunches with Live Music | Maulsari Restaurant
C4 Coffee Meetings | Tambola Coffee Evenings with F&B on à la carte
C5 Art & Cultural Talks | 11:00AM - 6:00PM | Wellness Advance Programme with Celebrity Yogi | 333 Lounge
C5 Doctor's Talk | Wellness Yoga Event with Celebrity Yogi - Advanced Yoga | Lounge 333
C5 Coffee Meetings | 12:30PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings
C5 Food Pop-ups | Indonesian Cuisine | Portico

## 10

C5 Book Club | An Open Platform to read from the book of your choice, Followed by Discussion

## 11

C3 Workshops | Salad Making Competition for Kids | Maulsari Restaurant
C3 Competitions | Table Tennis Competition | Pool Lawn
C3 Master Classes - Salad Making for Kids | Maulsari

## 12

C3 Book Club | An Open Platform to read from the book of your choice
C3 Bridge Club | 3:00PM - 5:00PM | Card Room
C4 Bar Musicals | 8:00PM onwards | Musical Evening | Oasis Bar
C4 Bridge Club | Bridge Room
C5 Bar Musicals | Karaoke Evenings | Aqua Bar

## 13

C5 Bar Musicals | Ladies Night | Aqua Bar
C5 Session with Sommelier / Mixologist
C5 DLF Annual Events | Phoolon Ki Holi with DJ, Dance Performances - Dance the Evening Away in Mathura Ki Holi Style

## 14

C5 Bar Musicals | 8:00PM - 10:00PM | English Retro | Portico
C5 Bridge Club & Book Club | 12:30PM onwards | Card Room
C4 DLF Annual Events | Gulaal & Groove: A Holi Celebration | Musical Evening | Lawn

## 15

C3 Bar Musicals | Karaoke Evenings | Maulsari Restaurant
C3 Coffee Meetings | 03:00PM onwards | Tambola Coffee meetings
C4 Stand-ups | 7:30PM onwards | Get ready to feel the heat at Latin Dance Night with the electrifying Bailamos Troupe! | Oasis Bar

## 16

C3 Bar Musicals | Sunday Brunches with Live Music | Maulsari Restaurant
C4 Coffee Meetings | Tambola Coffee Evenings with F&B on à la carte
C5 Coffee Meetings | 12:30PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings

## 18

C3 Master Classes - Adults | Kebab Making | Maulsari Restaurant

## 19

C3 Book Events
C3 Bridge Club | 3:00PM - 5:00PM | Card Room
C4 Bar Musicals | 8:00PM onwards | Musical Evening | Oasis Bar
C4 Bridge Club | Bridge Room

## 20

C3 Session with Sommelier / Mixologist from Globus Spirits
C5 Bar Musicals | Ladies Night | Aqua Bar

## 21

C3 Stand-ups | 7:30PM onwards | Stand-up Comedy by Adesh Nichit
C3 External Chef's Visit | Bengali Food Pop-up | Maulsari Restaurant
C4 International Artist's Performances | 7:30PM onwards | Strings & Beats: A Journey Through Indian Instruments | Oasis Bar
C4 External Chef's Visit | Jannat-e-Zaika: Flavours from the Valley | Palms | Lawn | Bar
C5 Bar Musicals | 8:00PM - 10:00PM | Hindi Retro | Portico
C5 Bridge Club & Book Club | 12:30PM onwards | Card Room
C5 External Chef's Visit | Kashmiri Food Pop-up by Chef Aamir | Portico

## 22

C3 Bar Musicals | Hindi Retro by Radhika | Maulsari
C3 Coffee Meetings | 03:00PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings
C3 External Chef's Visit | Bengali Food Pop-up | Maulsari Restaurant
C4 External Chef's Visit | Jannat-e-Zaika: Flavours from the Valley | Palms | Lawn | Bar
C5 International Artist's Performances | 7:30PM onwards | Saxophone by Diana | Portico Restaurant
C5 External Chef's Visit | Kashmiri Food Pop-Up by Chef Aamir | Portico




## 23

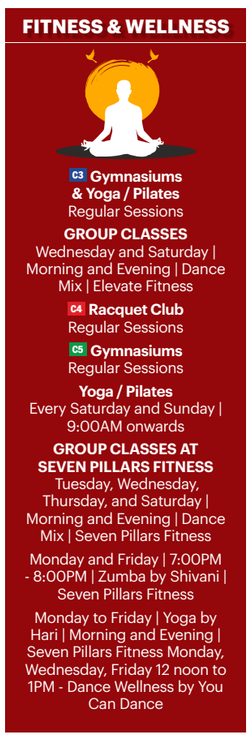
C3 Bar Musicals | Sunday Brunches with Live Music | Maulsari Restaurant
C3 External Chef's Visit | Bengali Food Pop-up | Maulsari Restaurant
C4 Coffee Meetings | Tambola Coffee Evenings F&B on à la carte
C4 External Chef's Visit | Jannat-e-Zaika: Flavours from the Valley | Palms | Lawn | Bar
C5 Coffee Meetings | 12:30PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings
C5 External Chef's Visit | Kashmiri Food Pop-Up by Chef Aamir | Portico




## 24

C3 Workshops | Table Tennis Workshop | Pool-side Lawn
C3 Competitions | Table Tennis Competition | Pool-side Lawn




## 26

C3 Doctor's Talk: A Session by the Doctor's from Narayana Hospital
C3 Bridge Club | 3:00PM - 5:00PM | Card Room
C4 Bar Musicals | 8:00PM onwards | Musical Evening | Oasis Bar
C4 Bridge Club | Bridge Room
C5 Bar Musicals | Karaoke Evenings | Aqua Bar

## 27

C5 Bar Musicals | Ladies Night | Aqua Bar

## 28

C3 International Artist's Performances | 7:30PM onwards | International Instrumentalist Yulia Playing Captivating Melodies on Violin | Maulsari Restaurant
C5 Bar Musicals | 8:00PM - 10:00PM | Kanishka Sharma Eng Retro | Portico
C5 Bridge Club & Book Club | 12:30PM onwards | Card Room
C5 Master Classes - Adults | 5:00PM - 6:00PM | Dimsum Making | Oriental Terrace

## 29

C3 Coffee Meetings | 3:00PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings
C3 Food Pop-ups | Malabar Food Pop-up | Maulsari

## 30

C3 Bar Musicals | Sunday Brunches with Live Music | Maulsari Restaurant
C3 Food Pop-ups | Malabar Food Pop-up | Maulsari
C4 Coffee Meetings | Tambola Coffee Evenings with F&B on à la carte
C5 Coffee Meetings | 12:30PM onwards | Tambola Coffee Meetings

## 31

C3 Food Pop-ups | Malabar Food Pop-up | Maulsari

C3 CLUB 3 C4 CLUB 4 C5 CLUB 5

C3 CLUB 3 C4 CLUB 4 C5 CLUB 5

## Aries
MARCH 21-APRIL 20

2025 could be between average and above average. Saturn's grace, in March, ensures favourable outcomes, while Jupiter boosts finances until mid-May. International connections will be fruitful after March. Students must stay focused, and married individuals should prioritise their partner's health. Romantic relationships may be weaker this year.

## Taurus
APRIL 21-MAY 21

2025 may demand extra effort but promises rewarding outcomes. Saturn ensures gains after March, while Rahu signals success until May. Challenges at work may arise after May, yet persistence will lead to favourable results. Jupiter supports financial stability, and the year looks promising for education, marriage, and romance; an overall positive growth.

## Gemini
MAY 22-JUNE 21

2025 may surpass 2024, with Saturn offering unexpected support by March and rewarding effort afterward. Rahu advises nurturing relationships with elders and colleagues, while spirituality is key to mental peace and overall success. Jupiter brings mixed financial results until May, improving later. Personal life, relationships, and academics may flourish.

## Cancer
JUNE 22-JULY 23

The year offers relief from major issues, with renewed energy. Challenges persist but lessen, and May brings opportunities for gains, though expenses may rise afterward. Those abroad may see continued success, while others should handle family and finances cautiously. Love and marital prospects improve in May, and students will enjoy positive results.

## Leo
JULY 24-AUGUST 23

March transit posing challenges in business and employment, possibly leading to job changes or transfers. Jupiter supports financial growth, ensuring economic productivity despite work-related struggles. Post-May, personal relationships and marriage matters improve, and positive results emerge in children and educational matters.



BY SUBODH BHARDWAJ

## Aquarius
21ST JANUARY-19TH FEBRUARY

2025 offers scopes to complete unfinished tasks and benefit from travel. After May, Rahu's transit may bring minor recurring issues, but they will be less severe than before. Health should be a priority, particularly for one's mother. Jupiter's favourable transit after May boosts student success, love matters, and marital harmony.

## Pisces
20TH FEBRUARY-20TH MARCH

This is a year of mixed results. Rahu's exit from your first house after May will reduce stress and bring calmness. However, Saturn's transit in March may induce laziness, so diligence is crucial to avoid carelessness. Jupiter's transit before mid-May promises profits, while post-May efforts may yield rewards. Students and remote workers might see success.

## Virgo
AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 23

Get ready for positive outcomes, with Saturn favouring until March and delivering average results afterward. Jupiter ensures excellent results until mid-May, though inconsistencies may follow. Post-May, Rahu and Ketu's reduced influence will benefit businesses, marriages, and health. Professional education may fetch favourable grades.

## Libra
SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 23

2025 looks highly positive with Saturn's favourable transit in March helping you overcome past issues and make progress. Work-related matters will see excellent outcomes, and your clear, analytical thinking will boost success in business. Students will face fewer obstacles, and love life will also improve, leading to overall fulfillment.

## Scorpio
OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 22

Be prepared for mixed fortunes. Saturn's transit after March and Rahu's in May could resolve some issues but introduce new challenges. Relief from health concerns is likely. Jupiter's favourable influence until mid-May supports finances, education, and relationships, including marriage. Post-May, Jupiter's weaker position may hinder financial growth.

## Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 21

Expect mixed results in 2025. Saturn's favourable transit lasts until March, while Jupiter's influence strengthens after mid-May. Rahu's transit will resolve domestic issues and bring positivity. Financial stability is assured, with potential revenue growth after May. Love, marriage, and education will also see better prospects in the latter half of the year.

## Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

2025 could be highly transformative, helping resolve past struggles and bringing family conflicts to an end. Positive career and business changes are possible, and your decision-making ability will improve. However, after May, vigilance in family and financial matters is advised. Romantic and marital relationships thrive until mid-May; students will thrive this year.

*For consultations: subodh_45@hotmail.com +91 9811275777*



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