

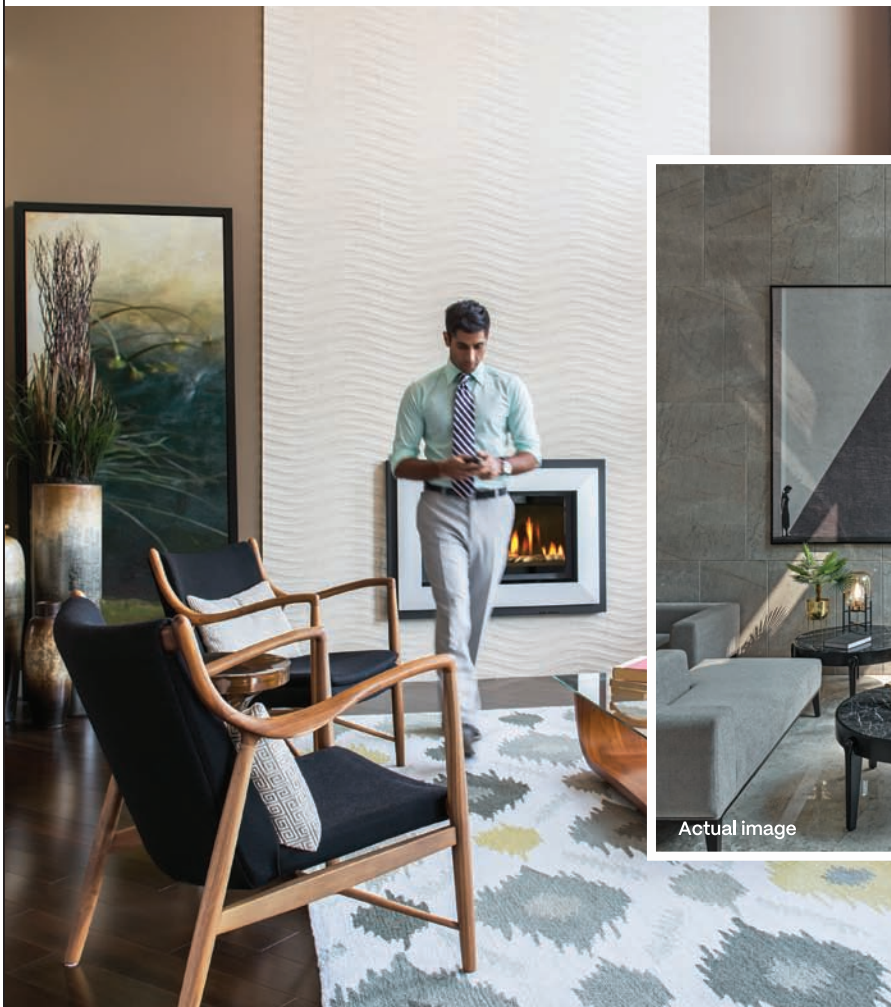
# INDULGE



## THE MORNING STANDARD

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# KAFTANS BY SHREYA'S FASHION ADD GRACE TO YOUR DAY

**INDULGE** ●●  
THE MORNING STANDARD ●●  
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023 | KOLKATA



Sunkanya Karmakar

“KAFTANS ARE A girl's best friend,” says designer Aditi Bhattacharya. “Which girl does't want to make a style statement?” he asks, adding, “All girls follow the latest trends and fashions to turn heads. If you're tired of the same summer dresses, you should definitely consider *kaftans*. They're breezy, soft, and have an ethnic touch. However, the problem arises when you don't know where to find the right fit and style for *kaftans*.”

*Kaftans* are the trendiest option for this summer, according to Aditi. They're also a perfect outfit to beat the heat. “At Shreya's Fashion, we cater to every type of customer who is looking for something chic and different. We make sure that our dresses have different variations and floral prints. Loose *kaftans* made of lighter materials are perfect for the hot season. We've selected prints that are appealing and suitable for the season. My designs have a touch of fusion, so I do my best to mix and match. I've used materials like chiffon, *zardozi*, and Pakistani cotton to make our *kaftans* stand out in the crowd,” says the designer.

As perfect as it is for a casual occasion, *kaftans* can be worn anywhere, anytime – to the beach or even for a night out. Sharing a small tip for wearing *kaftans* right, Aditi says, “If you're attending a dinner or a cocktail party, wear a *kaftan* with your favourite heels. Choose a neutral colour, so it won't clash with the prints. Also, remember to wear minimal jewellery to keep your look smart and elegant.”

Instagram:  
[shreya\\_fashion\\_studio](https://www.instagram.com/shreya_fashion_studio)



A SPACE MARKETING FEATURE



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Sanku Jagdev's

# শুকু জগদেব





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# INDULGE



THE MOST **STANDARD**

KOLKATA AND GLOW



Jay Shetty is back in the country and this time around he's set out to teach Indians how to love better. We catch up with the monk-turned-motivational speaker to find out more about his upcoming *Love Rules World Tour...* | **P10**

*The New Age*

**LOVE GURU!**

things  
to do

**INDULGE**  
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear reader,

First up, this weekend sees the incomparable Jay Shetty back in India. The monk-turned-motivational speaker is in India as part of his world tour to teach us how to love better. And that's something we all can do with more of.



In our food section, we have details of Marbella's ongoing Italian food fest, authentic and bursting with flavours. You can well consider it your weekend dining destination. With the temperature being bearable due to a few spells of rain this week, we bring you news of an amazing new menu at the vegetarian Pan-Asian restaurant The Flaming Bowl in Bhawanipore. You must check out the fusion take on authentic Oriental recipes, and even the hardcore carnivores would love their delicacies. We also check out the 10-day-long food festival boasting flavours from Malaysia, which starts today at Westin Kolkata, Rajarhat.

Moving to fashion, we have Aaino's new bijoux edit, and the latest edit of SAND by Shirin, that'll help you create a stunning fashion statement. We also give you a preview of designer Rohan Pariyar's Autumn Winter collection, *The Art of Corsetry*. Additionally, to up your accessories game, you may take a look at the bijouterie label Cuprum Quirks' latest edit *Janala*, inspired by stained glass panes. Then we bring you Label Life's latest summer edit and Ted Ferde's SS23, to pack for every mood of the season along with Terra Luna's latest as well.

Catch the young singing sensation Jonita Gandhi on our music page as she shares with us details about her work and what's in the pipeline for her. Singer Neeti Mohan is also featured on our music page as she reflects on her roots and highlights the importance of women's empowerment. For our cinema page, we have Tanishaa Mukherjee speaking of her journey in the industry, and veteran actress Deepti Naval talking about her film *Mother Teresa & Me* which releases today. We also talk to the ravishing actress Simran Sharma and catch up with producer Simon Blakeney to chat about the brand-new Discovery series *Dynasties II*.

Enjoy!

Edison Thomas  
Editor, Indulge



### Eventide zeal

May 6 | Tollygunge

Witness the weekend thrill at Princeton Club with Jamsteady and The Soul Local's live musical event and a pop-up featuring exciting brands like Line Up, River Julia, Made in Kolkata, Universe in a Crayon, Aamir & The Riz Connection. Apart from the band performances, the evening will also see a pop-up featuring exciting brands offering unique products and experiences. The evening will be a wholesome one, full of entertainment and discovery. 5 pm onwards. [insider.in](#)

**CHART THE  
w.e.e.k.  
AHEAD**



**Whoop it up!**

May 6 | Topsia

Have a wild weekend at the Space Bar and Kitchen with the live performance of rap star Raftaar. Step out of your home and shake your legs to the hip-hop beats of his hits. Not just Hindi tracks, Raftaar debuted in the Bengali music industry through the film *One*, which featured singer Vishal Dadlani and Raftaar, back in 2017. 8 pm onwards. [bookmyshow.com](#)

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### Fanciful eve

May 6 | Park Street

Kick off your Saturday night on a high note with Bollywood director-actor-singer Farhan Akhtar and his band delivering an electrifying performance at the Hard Rock Cafe. Don't miss the chance to witness the spectacular moment of Farhan performing live in front of you and your friends, while you munch on to the signature dishes and enjoy some heady cocktails. 9 pm onwards. [insider.in](#)



### Reverberating beats

May 5 | Park Street

Dance the night away with the rocking beats of international sensation Edward Maya only at Raasta Kolkata. Take pleasure in experiencing the extravaganza this weekend with your partner or friends over some good food and great booze. 8 pm onwards. [insider.in](#)

### Telltales

May 6 | Ballygunge

Indulge in a dramatic presentation at *GD Birla Sabhaghar*, showcasing different shades of a modern Indian woman. With the story of *Saiyaara*, Juhi Babbar Soni aims at encouraging all those female survivors, fighters and achievers, while allowing the audience to see life, through the eyes of a modern-day woman who dares to dream, despite the hardships of life and societal barriers. The story of a passionate, urban and undaunted woman is sure to arouse a sense of empowerment within many. 6 pm onwards.

### Timeless Nature

May 5 | Ballygunge

*Landscape*, the Summer Show 2023 at *CIMA Art Gallery*, captures the multiple facets of Indian landscape art, ranging from the early 20th century to the present, from mere backgrounds to more elaborate depictions of nature in its varied forms. The exhibition includes works of celebrated artists like Abanindranath Tagore, Rabindranath Tagore, Paresh Maity, and others. *On till July 15*



### Flavoursome weekdays

May 5 | Lake Gardens

Whether it's a team lunch with colleagues, a family feast or just an unplanned but long-due get-together with your childhood buddies, one can never really go wrong with buffets. Keeping this in mind, *Hanglaatherium* brings you a special *Weekday Biryani Buffet* that will surely satisfy your hunger pangs. The buffet includes endless options from succulent and juicy veg and non-veg starters, delicious main courses and indulgent desserts. ₹499+ Monday-Friday 1-4 pm



#### GET IN TOUCH

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after dark

# SWEET NOTHINGS

Popular French Maison Ladurée, known for macarons, sweet pastries, chocolates and more, recently opened a pop-up store at Quest Mall in the presence of the who's who of the town. The high tea was hosted by Shivika Goenka and Chandni Nath Israni.



Shivangi & Aradhana

Preeti

Madhu

Ritu

Shradha

Chandni

Shivika

Nusrat

Pics: Pritam Sarkar



Indranil



Akash

## 25 not out!

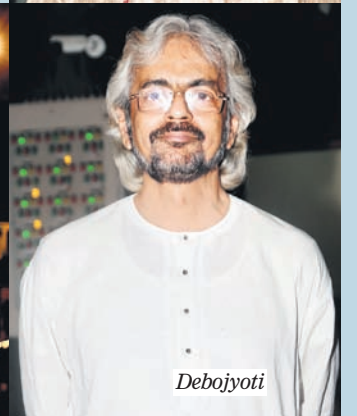
Singer Manomoy Bhattacharya's musical career turns 25 this year, and he shared some anecdotes about his life and career on stage, along with a musical presentation. The evening was hosted by poet-lyricist Srijato.



Manomoy



Srijato



Debojyoti

## Remembrance

A photography exhibition by H.E Emmanuel Lenain, the Ambassador of France to India, *Seeing You, Seeing Me* was recently inaugurated at *Indian Museum* by Governor Dr CV Ananda Bose. The exhibition will be on till May 26, 10 am to 6 pm.



Arijit



H.E Emmanuel



Dr CV Ananda

## A mightier pen

The book cover of Vaibhav Giani's *The Kashmir Chromosome*, 25 incredible stories of resilience & triumph, was unveiled at *Kolkata Centre for Creativity* in presence of the city's who's who.



Bickram

Iman

Subhrajit

Vaibhav



Esha



Aditya



Kumar



Sayan and Lana

after dark

# GLAM FAM

Fashion and jewellery brands Bohurupi, Jalsaghar and Mitan Ghosh had a hearty get-together with renowned faces from Kolkata's entertainment and fashion industry on the occasion of *Akshay Tritiya*. Glimpses from the auspicious event.



Swastika



Ujaan and Kausik



Oindrila and Ankush



Joydip and Suchandra



Bibriti



Aniruddha and Sanchita



Swastika



Indraadip



Gourab and Devlina



Sandipta

Ushasi

Mimi

Mahua



Mariam and Sushmita



Zarah, Liza and Irum

## Joyeux Anniversaire

Model and social media influencer Lopamudra Mandal turned a year younger with a fabulous birthday bash at The Scrapyard. Glimpses from the same.



Lopamudra and Rachna



Sayantani



Sayani



Gaurav

Trina

Indroneel



Rimjhim

Pics: Pritam Sarkar

## An affair to remember

Ladies Study Group Charitable Trust's Annual Award ceremony was a lit affair with chief guest Sanjiv Mehta, CEO and MD of Hindustan Unilever in a fireside chat with media personality Shweta Punj. Glimpses from the same.



Sucheta



Subhaprasanna



Rupali



Rakhi



Roma



Sanjiv



## Rise of Bengal

Bengal Business Council recently celebrated *Banglar Nabajagran, Bengal Rising 2.0*, aimed at bringing together all the business leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers to discuss the economic growth and development of Bengal. The event was inaugurated by Dr Shashi Panja, Minister for Industries, Commerce & Enterprises and Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare of the Government of West Bengal.



Shweta

review

# ITALIAN FANTASY

Marbella's outlets on Elgin Road and Hindustan Park are hosting an Italian food fest, which you cannot miss

Seafood Fettuccine in Truffle and Saffron infused Cheese



Tuscan Risotto



Chocolate custard with Roasted almond rocks with sour cherry syrup

**A**MONG THE HOST of newly-opened lounges and pubs, cafes and coffee shops looming out across the city, Marbella, with its picturesque interiors and great spread is definitely an impressive option. The café is hosting a scrumptious Italian festive spread and we couldn't wait to be there.

The co-owners Nikhil Chawla and Vinay Manglani's focus remains good food and great hospitality, and that's the vibe you would get the moment you step into their outlets at Elgin Road and Hindustan Park.

The carefully curated menu features a range of classic and modern Italian dishes, including pizzas like Cream cheese pesto and Sundried tomatoes pizza, Truffle and mushroom pizza and such. For mains, they have the luxurious and indulgent truffle and cheese fettuccine among other delicacies and dessert include the decadent Nutella and Biscoff pizza, and the rich and velvety Chocolate

Custard with Roasted almond rocks and sour cherry syrup.

For a summer evening, a tall glass of Blackcurrant mojito was all we needed to raging out composure as we waited

for the dishes to arrive in succession. We started with an *Antipasto*, the Truffle *arancini* balls. A popular Italian delicacy, the *arancini* balls were super stretchy and cheesy with *umami* flavours derived from the truffle mushrooms. We also tried the Caramelized onion and Bacon Pizza which is one of the best pizzas we tasted lately. Perfectly fluffy, the cheesy pizza with a generous sprinkling of bacon and crunchy caramelised onions didn't make us feel bloated.

For the mains, the flavourful Arugula and thyme *pesto* pasta was a great choice of meal on a humid evening.

We ended our meal on a high note with Marbella's best-selling Hazelnut tiramisu slice, which has a rum and coffee-flavoured cake slice layered with coffee mousse, dark chocolate chips and roasted hazelnuts. Delicious is an understatement!



Spinach and truffle pizza



Arugula and thyme pesto pasta

₹900+.  
On till mid-June.  
—Dharitri Ganguly  
@DharitriGanguly

preview

## Oriental twists

The Flaming Bowl's all-new menu is innovative and flavourful

The sheer play of ingredients and flavours makes the pan-Asian diner The Flaming Bowl a hot favourite even with the hardcore carnivores and their new menu has us all excited.

Owner Arjun Bakliwal tells us, "Our guests are looking for something new and I am sure they will love the new bold flavours of the East getting re-defined with a modern twist".

While the place retains some of its popular items like Tender garlic *pak choi* salad, Broccoli cheese *bao*, Spinach cheese *dim sum*, Asparagus california sushi and more, the new lot will compel you to extend your list of favourites.

We were welcomed with a refreshingly sweet and fizzy Peachy Rise as we started with Floating *Dim sums* comprising dumplings of mushrooms on a bed of Thai green curry, and another version with vegetables dunked in Japanese *yakitori* sauce. The mushroom *dim sums* were a discovery. We moved on to tasting *Kyuri Uraki*, which had cucumber-covered *uramaki* filled with tempura fried carrot bits, Three treasure mushroom roll, stuffed with shiitake, black fungus and button mushroom in *wonton* sheets. They taste heavenly when dipped in leek sauce.

We also had Classic sauteed lotus stem to keep us company.

For the mains, we sampled *Oh-No Khow Suey* Noodles, and as the name suggests, it was akin to the ready-made *Khow Suey* noodles. We also savoured Coriander rice paired beautifully with the

quintessential sider of Stir-fried veggies.

For those with a sweet tooth, the irresistible Coconut *darsaan* drizzled with coconut powder, and coconut milk and served with scoops of vanilla ice cream, is a must-have.

Meal for two: ₹1200+  
—DG



Teriyaki Babycorn Bao



Three Treasure Mushroom Roll



Oh-No Khow Suey Noodles



Shiitake Uramaki

flavours incoming



Cucur Udang Bersama Kuah Kacang

## Malaysian treats

The Westin Kolkata Rajarhat is hosting a 10-day-long Malaysian food festival, bringing in the rich and authentic flavours of the cuisine



Malaysian Traditional Rojak Buah

The Westin Kolkata never fails to treat us with delicacies from across the globe. This time it's no different with a *Malaysian Food Festival*, helmed by chefs Syahir and Fahmi from *Latest Recipe* in Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur. Their mastery of Malay cuisines, coupled with their expertise in developing recipes and preparing dishes, promises a culinary extravaganza at *Seasonal Tastes*.

The elaborate dine-in dinner menu features a wide array of signature specialties from Malaysia like *Cucur Udang Bersama Kuah Kacang*, Malaysian traditional *Rojak Buah*, *Dalang Tulang Rusuk Berbiri*, and *Ikan Goreng Berempah* among others. There will be live stations too for an experiential culinary tour.

The dessert menu boasts of traditional Malaysian delicacies such as *Kuih Ketayap*, *Agar Agar Jagung*, *Bubur Kacang Bersama Jagung*, and *Kuih Talam Lapis*.

On till May 15  
Price: ₹1999+ per person  
—DG

fashion

new collection



Ensembles from the collection

# GOING BACK TO NATURE

## SAND by Shirin's summer edit FAÉ draws inspiration from elements of nature

SAND BY SHIRIN'S latest summer edit FAÉ, is inspired by the very thought that our souls derive energy from our surroundings, the earth and its cosmos that have the power to move our bodies and minds freely. Finding a connection between luxury and minimalism forms the essence of the collection. "FAÉ showcases new silhouettes and cuts with flowy metallic linen co-ords, textured cotton jumpsuits and dresses in newly launched fabrics. We've also introduced a beautiful and calming new colour story in dusk blue and clay, an amalgamation of natural and ocean sand along with mint and soft sea blue," tells Shirin Mann, founder designer of the label.

Also, this summer sees the launch of their first-ever menswear range, SAND MAN, focused on simple yet high-quality clothing.

The menswear as well as the women's range includes a carefully crafted linen fabric created with delicate and scarce metallic threads running through the yarn that gives the linen a soft glow.

Shirin feels that this summer quiet luxury will become more than a trend, something that is here to stay for a long while. "People have realized that comfort clothing can be chic, fashionable and gorgeous," she mentions.

For parties though, the best way to channel a vibrant look would be to play with colours that speak to the season. "Incorporating bright tones with more subtle shades to create an eye-catching yet simplistic feel will be the call of the day. Picking soft and neutral tones

along with breezy and innovative silhouettes, accessorized with bold and vibrant pieces can surely amp up your party wardrobe this summer. Accessorising is also crucial and of course, footwear plays a big role in adding that final pop to your look," she opines.

Over the years, her design aesthetic has always focused on fluidity, texture, finesse and style and it remains so in her latest collection as well. "SAND is an extension of myself and my vision, representing the uniqueness of women, where all shapes are beautiful, all bodies, remarkable and all women, extraordinary. I wanted to create a brand which is environment-conscious and we use plant-based fabrics which are not only eco friendly but also have a longer shelf-life, providing the quality and richness of material that I look out for," she says elaborating on the brand's thrust on sustainability.

For the summer, she suggests chic and bold accessories that accentuate any look. "Choosing statement pieces like accent earrings or a bag that adds a pop of colour to the subtle hues trending this summer is the ideal way to go. Tasselled and textured details which create dimensions and exude a sense of playfulness to embrace the essence of the summer sun is the ultimate mood and tone for accessories this season," she states.

Price on request. On sand by shirin.com

—Sharmistha Ghoshal

sharmishtha.g@newindianexpress.com

@sharmistas



gleaming pieces

## Bijoux tales

Bijouterie label Aaino retells the tale of traditional pieces with a modern twist



easy and give a modern twist to the classic styles. This collection is all about freshwater pearls or gold-plated brass work handcrafted by *karigars* to create practical, versatile and sophisticated pieces that are repeatable.

What makes Aaino stand out is the fact that it doesn't simply follow fads and strongly believes in the power of classics. "We understand why such pieces have stood the test of time and yet have continued to be relevant. Our aim is to make such classic pieces with a modern touch for today's free-thinking, independent and strong individuals who know what they want," explains Ridhima.

For this collection specifically, the inspiration came from the classical designs and styles that have been around for the longest time and Ridhima wanted to bridge the gap between traditional and modern styles while keeping factors like weather and lifestyle in mind.

"Fuss-free, easy yet striking styles are trending big time now. I also think that layering and stacking jewellery is going to be a popular trend this year. This can include layering different necklaces or bracelets or stacking rings. This trend has also resulted in people beginning to see a lot of value in pieces that can be styled differently or layered to get a different look," she feels.

Ridhima believes that when worn with confidence and a basic sense of style, bijouterie enhances any casual outfit almost immediately. "I feel any woman should stock a pair of hoop earrings, a choker, a ring and a few necklaces that can be multi-styled or layered and stacked with other jewellery pieces," she signs off.

Price on request. On aaino.in

—Sharmistha Ghosal

sharmishtha.g@newindianexpress.com

@sharmistas



Models flaunt bijouterie pieces by Aaino



fashion

fresh drop

# THE CORSET STORY

Rohan Pariyar's AW'23 edit, *The Art of Corsetry*, offers a range of evergreen corsets in their modern avatars

SINCE HIS DAYS as a fashion student in Milan, Rohan Pariyar has been in love with versatile corsets. "I feel corsets can be worked around to suit any body type. A corset is a support garment commonly worn to hold and give the torso a desired shape. Though both men and women are known to wear corsets, this item was for many years an integral part of women's wardrobes," begins Pariyar, while talking about his recently unveiled Autumn-Winter edit *The Art of Corsetry* that focuses on the delicate art of corsetry.

The collection attempts at reinventing the mediaeval laced jacket meant to be worn under the outfit, as a piece of clothing in itself. As the corsets make a comeback into modern-day couture, this collection displays an array of patterns ranging from the 17th century up to the 21st century each styled in a way to fit into the modern-day wardrobe. From raw silks, brocade jacquard, tulle and sequins, the collection covers a range of styles and textures.

Starting out as a production assistant to the late designer Sharbari Datta, Rohan showcased two collections, at *Bangalore Fashion Week* and *North East India Fashion Week* in 2016 and 2017 respectively before moving to Milan to study dressmaking. He started his own atelier in Kolkata in 2019 and since then has been designing wedding wear.

For Rohan, he seeks inspiration from his travels, whether that is a walk through Kumartuli or Savile Row in London. Even meeting different people has been a great source of inspiration as it has helped him understand the wardrobe needs of varying personalities. "I believe fashion is for anyone who wants to feel confident and comfortable in whatever she or he is wearing. Since this part of the world sees a pleasant winter, we have stuck to darker tones, especially lilac and purple. I feel corsets will pick up the pace with the season along with layers to style them accordingly. Winter wardrobes are incomplete without a black corset and a black trench," he avers!

But for the gruelling summer, Rohan advises corsets and light, airy accompaniments as party staples. For Rohan's eponymous label, upholding and restoring hand embroidery and hemming techniques are primary concerns. And they do that on handwoven fabrics and all waste fabrics that are recycled into cushions and upholstery. Currently, the designer is busy working out a grander Spring-Summer 2024 collection but he prefers to remain tightlipped about the details.

Price on request.

Instagram: [\\_rohanpariyar](#)  
—Sharmistha Ghosal

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📱 [@sharmidas](#)



Models flaunt the *The Art of Corsetry* collection

intriguing

## Through the looking glass

Bijouterie label Cuprum Quirks' latest edit *Janala* reflects the off-beat artistry in stained glasses of heritage buildings

ART STUDENTS AND siblings Annyasha and Adrita Dey were always eager to create something that was their own. Cuprum Quirks, a bijoux label started by the sisters in 2021 is a result of that urge. Having grown up working on copper, the medium came easily to them and Cuprum offers hand-crafted jewellery on copper and brass mainly with different kinds of treatment on the metals. "The uniqueness about our brand is that everything we make, from design to the finished product, is made in-house by the two of us. We do not work with any *kaarigar* and believe in slow craftsmanship rather than mass production," says Adrita.

Their latest collection *Janala* is inspired by the stained glass windows that can be seen in old buildings around the city. The colours, the patterns, and the symmetry of the glass panes inspired bijoux pieces made of brass with rose-gold plating and *meenakari* (enamelling) work on them. All the exquisite pieces in this collection are very simple yet elegant and have a quirk about them.

"We believe that our brand is different from the crowd because of the uniqueness of our designs and also the fact that we do work on the pieces every step of the way. We constantly draw inspiration from anything and everything around us

— a tree, leaves, flowers, the sky, buildings, and so on. We are inspired by our surroundings, the environment and nature," says Annyasha.

It's a perennial problem with metals like brass and copper starting to oxidize when they come in contact with moisture. To counter that, the sisters apply a protective coating on the pieces or electroplate them, making the ornaments tarnish-proof to some extent. "However, they do wear off with time, friction and continual use. Things like perfume or sanitiser break down the coating fast, it is best to avoid spraying them directly on the jewels. We can also avoid exposure to moisture as much as possible and dry them before storing them. Also, some pieces can be re-polished or re-plated," Adrita says.

Since summer calls for airy, flowy clothes in muted colours, Adrita feels their minimalist jewellery can be worn with traditional and casual clothes and suggests that a pair of statement earrings or a necklace is a must-have for any woman to jazz up any outfit. "Rings are also very versatile pieces to add to one's own style statement," Adrita adds.

With the label about to complete two revolutions around the sun, Adrita and Annyasha plan to reach out to more people. "We are also currently working on a couple of new collections. We would love to someday have a studio store so that anyone can walk in and experience our jewels in person and not have to depend on exhibitions to do so," signs off Annyasha.

Price on request.  
Instagram:  
[@cuprum.quirks](#)  
—SG



Bijoux pieces from *Janala*

fashion

seasonal

# WANDERLUST WARDROBE



Satin skirt with top

**T**HE LABEL LIFE, a sophisticated lifestyle brand, has made the epitome of luxury affordable with its collection of fashion, accessories, and home décor products. Since its inception in 2012, the label has collaborated with fashion icons such as Sussanne, who curates the décor and design collections; Malaika Arora, who lends her fashion expertise to the clothing line; and Bipasha Basu, who adds her flair to the accessory line. With trailblazing ladies at the forefront of glamour, the brand has launched multiple campaigns and collections that break the mold. From the recent *Escape Reality* campaign that positioned the label as a chic and contemporary clothing line to its Disney-inspired edit that infused Mickey Mouse prints onto versatile pieces, the label's energy is vibrant, youthful, and oh-so-stylish.

This season, The Label Life whisks us away to a tropical paradise with their *Summer Escape* collection. It takes us back to those carefree summer days spent lounging on the beach, taking dips in the ocean, and embarking on serene forest safaris,

all while sporting our favourite sunnies. Garima Garg, CEO, shares that the theme of the collection is all about living in the moment and enjoying the simple pleasures of life, "We took the relaxedness, the joy and the warmth of a true-blue summer holiday and turned it into silhouettes that embody these same emotions and experiences."

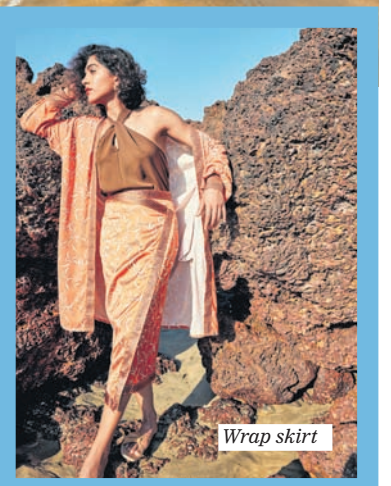
This edit boasts an array of signature prints that perfectly capture the essence of summer. Imagine the gentle sway of palm trees, the tranquil shades of the ocean, the vast expanse of the clear blue skies, and the bright sun all expertly translated onto comfortable silhouettes. You'll discover everything from darling printed shirts, palm tree-printed shirt dresses, abstract leaf-printed wrap skirts, cocoa satin midi skirts, lapel-collar shackets to flared culottes, botanical printed maxi dresses, and more. Since the collection has ample vacation wear pieces for a head-turning look, we asked fashion editor Malaika about the holiday wear trend. The diva shares with us, "People want to travel and enjoy themselves as much as they can and look good while they do it, now more than ever! Our collection's mantra is to marry comfort with style to make everyone's vacations gorgeous with an Instagram-ready closet."

With the Bollywood beauty always hopping from one destination to

The Label Life's latest summer edit serves as a poignant reminder of that much-desired vacation where we can indulge in the pleasure of doing nothing!



Satin dress



Wrap skirt



Ensemble from the edit



Halter-neck top

another, we asked her about her vacation staples and how she pairs them, "When on vacation, you'll always find these in my suitcase for sure: a lovely flowy maxi, breathable cotton co-ords, comfortable yet stylish shoes and versatile shrugs that I can pair with anything and everything! I love experimenting with my style on holidays, so you'll often see me pair a shirt dress as a jacket over a slip dress or wear shorts with a chic halter top with some statement jewellery!"

₹1,590. Available online and in store.  
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holiday wear

## Packing for Italy

Ted Ferde's latest collection *Under The Tuscan Sun* features 45 vacation wear pieces inspired by the beauty of Italy's most popular tourist destinations

THERE'S NEVER A dull day in the summer when you have a slew of destinations to pack for. As you plan your next vacation, fashion label Ted Ferde has dropped a new collection titled *Under The Tuscan Sun* that encapsulates the enchanting landscape of Tuscany in Italy. Imagine it to be your heart's calling for a picnic where you are swayed by the rustling of delicate dandelions, popping of thistles, running in open fields, eating outdoors under trees and carousing over Italy's famous wines like Chianti, Brunello di Montalcino, and Vino Nobile di. If all that makes for a dream destination, then this edit is a tangible manifestation of that. Telling us more about the theme, Rishika and Sambhav Jain who helm the label share, "Travel exposes us to different cultures and ancient traditions and through these authentic encounters, we learn to embrace and celebrate both our similarities and our differences. It not only teaches us about humanity but also gives us an appreciation, understanding, and respect for different points of



Crop top with cape shirt



Lagoon blue shirt



Peplum sleeve dress

view and ways of life. For this collection, our mood board was inspired by Tuscany, which is known for its landscapes, history, artistic legacy, and its influence on high culture. All these elements are reflected in the edit's design with casual and vacation wear pieces. They set the tone for one to be carefree and playful."

The collection features a slew of comfortable pieces that are easy to wear and allows for ease of

movement. Expect A-line dresses, classic white t-shirts, gingham check co-ords, stripe shirts, and dresses with floral embroidery details. They are dipped in a bright colour scheme of yellow, shades of pink, powder blue, ivory and greens. The ensembles are made of 100 per cent cotton making them both breathable and effortlessly stylish for the warm season. Telling us how the edit prioritises comfort, the duo shares, "We

believe that relaxation in between one's hectic schedule is important and what better way to unwind than taking a comfortable and stress-free vacation? Dressing comfortably can contribute to a more enjoyable experience whilst on travel and that's the thought we had while making the pieces for the edit."

₹3,000 upwards. Available online and in store.  
— PR

eco-friendly

Sustainable label Terra Luna's SS '23 edit, *Chromatic*, boasts interesting ensembles crafted in *khadi*

## COLOUR THEORY

**C**LOUR, COLOUR, COLOUR — India is all about colour! Thanks to its wide chromatic spectrum of the festivals and the atmosphere that surrounds them. The feeling of being surrounded by vibrant hues and how they are celebrated, embraced, enriched and never failed to uplift our spirits. We wanted to capture the same but in *khadi* and hence we introduce the *Chromatic* collection," begins Richard Toon, who heads the design team. Terra Luna, the fashion brand known for its sustainable practices, has just launched its latest SS '23 edit — *Chromatic*. A collection celebrating fluorescent hues, bold prints and electric vibes, featuring a range of offerings for both men and women.

Previous edits of the label have been muted and sophisticated when it comes to the colour palette but surprisingly, the chosen material to achieve vibrancy in this collection is *khadi*, which also makes the atelier's commitment to sustainability evident. The brand promises to present the ensembles from *Chromatic* freshly and more appealingly than done before. "We feel like our brand is like a butterfly — in the early phases, we cocooned ourselves while we grew and now we've launched as a fluorescent-winged butterfly, ready to shine and share our colour story," she tells us.

One of the standout features of Terra Luna's collections is their versatility and the *Chromatic* collection is no different. "Terra Luna takes pride in being an ethical manufacturer from field to fashion. We've been awarded the *Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)* certificate, the most prestigious processing standard recognised the world over," the designer shares. Besides hand-spun yarn and handwoven fabric — made by skilled artisans in Amreli (Gujarat) — that they use for garments, all their hand-stitched labels are made from recycled yarn and some of their buttons are fashioned from organic coconut shells too.

*Chromatic* offers 131 pieces for women and 96 pieces for men. The prints used are based on playful interpretations of the label's logo and the phases of the earth (Terra) and the moon (Luna) in shadow, creating crescents and phases of the moon across the sky. "From these elements, we developed playful paisleys and luna block prints that have a simple spirit, that reflect the moon and have small details of this ever-changing nightly occurrence," she reveals.

Speaking about the aforementioned colour palette, she elaborates, "We'd had this on the mood board for a while, but felt the previous season's collections didn't fit the bold colour palette. Once we had a couple of colours and we knew we had to push this through, we quickly added a few hues and shades we had pinned to our mood board," Richard elaborates.

We looked at the wide range of clothing the edit boasts and picked a few such as the regular fit block printed Palawan Camp Collar Beach Shirt in white, the Aurora Lavender Eden Layered Dress, the olive green Cayo Shirt with traditional patterns and the Aruba Short-Sleeve Rugby Tee Shirt in yellow. "We have developed new silhouettes for both men and women by making them more relaxed in their fit. It's about playing with the character of the *khadi* and letting that work as a light and airy garment that's not restrictive or too buttoned up," she concludes.

Terra Luna's *Chromatic* collection is a perfect representation of the brand's values — sustainability, ethics, and style. The edit presents an array of versatile clothing options for both men and women, making it perfect for any casual occasion, be it a lazy pool day or summery weekend brunch.

₹2,999 onwards. Available online.

— Srushti Kulkarni

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Ensembles from *Chromatic*

tête-à-tête

# IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE!

Jay Shetty travels across the country this week, as part of the *Love Rules World Tour* where he hopes to have interactive sessions with the audience and will share tips around modern dating and relationships... | **By Srushti Kulkarni**

**A**S THE RAINS finally wash away the heat of summer across the country, we have begun to feel a sense of love in the air. In some cities across India, there is also a wave of excitement that's rippling through the atmosphere as people eagerly anticipate the arrival of a man who has inspired millions around the world with his message of personal growth, mindfulness and positivity. This man is Jay Shetty — a bestselling author, host of *On Purpose* podcast and a 'purpose coach' who thinks India is a fantastic place to share modern ideas about love rooted in ancient wisdom.

If you are someone who loves binge-watching YouTube videos that talk about positivity, lifestyle and time management, you probably have watched a few videos by Jay Shetty who has over 4.6 million subscribers on YouTube and crores of followers on various social media platforms. And now, this modern-age monk is bringing his transformative message to our shores with his *Love Rules World Tour*, by *BookMyShow*, where in 90-minute sessions, he hopes to also bring forth bits and pieces from his recently published book, *8 Rules of Love: How to Find It, Keep It, and Let It Go*.

With his personal experiences and the lessons he



has learned from ancient wisdom and modern-day science, Jay is all set to share his insights on love and relationships as he guides us on a journey to discover the keys to finding love and happiness in the digital age. We catch up with the host ahead of his tour to get insights about what he has to offer to his loyal fans on this tour.

**What inspired you to take up the *Love Rules World Tour* and what can one expect?**

Honestly, I always knew I wanted to write a book about love and relationships because it is something that's so essential to living a fulfilled life. Many assumed that after the COVID-19 lockdowns, everything would go back to normal, but what is normal? So many of us still continue to feel lonely or isolated and scared of starting a new relationship. What I want to be clear about is that I don't mean to say that you have to have a partner to be fulfilled, but that it is important to experience love in your life. Love can be experienced in so many ways, it can start within yourself, come from service or even acts of kindness towards people around you and if you are giving love, that means you are experiencing it. At the *Love Rules World Tour*, audiences can expect an interactive experience filled with insight, stories and wisdom. I'll be taking audience questions which I'm really excited about! India is my spiritual home, so, I feel honoured to be touring here to give back to a place that has given me so much.

**The tour is focused on the theme of love, why do you believe that this is such an important topic to address, especially in today's world?**

One of the biggest misconceptions people have is that when you're with the right person, or you're in a healthy relationship, it means you won't argue. The truth is that no matter how compatible a couple is, if you never fight, that's not bliss, that's avoidance. It's all about learning how to fight effectively, in a way that's healthy and where you both feel heard. Research shows that when it's done in this way, conflict actually leads to stronger relationships, because it provides you with opportunities to learn more about one another and to work through things together and that strengthens your bond.

**You will be visiting several cities in India during the tour. How do you think the message of 'Love Rules' will resonate with audiences?**

I think India is such a fantastic place to share modern ideas about love rooted in ancient wisdom. I believe that these ideas will resonate as so many young people today are trying to navigate self-love, dating, breakups and relationships.

**You have also talked about the importance of self-love and cultivating healthy relationships...**

I say that in solitude, we practise giving ourselves what we need before we expect it from someone else. People often say they're looking for their better half, but then, does that make you the worse half? That's not a great way to begin. You don't want to feel dependent on another person for love or to feel good about yourself. I get it — spending time alone is really hard for a lot of people. In one study, people chose to administer an electric shock to themselves rather than sit with their own thoughts. But when we learn to appreciate ourselves, we're never really alone — we're always with someone we love. And that's the energy we want to bring to our relationships.

**How has your background as a monk helped you discover yourself and what are some key lessons you think people can learn from that lifestyle?**

I learned so much as a monk, which is why the idea of sharing ancient wisdom became so compelling for me. I would say one of the greatest tools I gained was a sense of equanimity — of experiencing lows or highs and being able to come back to the centre and really operate from there. It's like when a tennis player has to



run to one side of the court to hit a ball; afterwards, they automatically return to the centre because that's the best vantage point from which to receive the next shot. The thing is, we often feel this pressure like we're supposed to be positive and happy all the time and if we're not, we've somehow failed. So, we're always trying to get back to those highs. But really, where we want to be most of the time is in the middle, because when we live primarily in a space of equanimity, the highs and lows don't affect us so dramatically. We have a sense of urgency because whatever happens, we can always come back to the centre.

**Is there a place that has left an indelible impression on how you view life, love and relationships?**

I became a monk because the happiest and most fulfilled person I'd ever met in life was a monk and I wanted that for myself. In college, I went to see a monk speak and though he'd been to a great college and had loads of opportunities, he'd chosen to become a monk because he believed that's what would give him the kind of life he wanted. He wanted authenticity, he wanted to be of service and so on. Everything he described just resonated with me. I was inspired. It's funny because in the book I sort of challenge this idea of love at first sight, but the irony is that's kind of what happened to me that day. I fell in love. And the reason I'm sharing this is that we tend to focus so much on romantic love, but there really are so many kinds of love out there; it's everywhere, really! I know that today many people feel lonely or disconnected and I understand that. What I'm trying to help people realise is that we're missing out if we limit ourselves to pursuing or developing just one kind of love.

**You have also spoken about the role of community and social connections in promoting well-being. What are some strategies for building and nurturing those relationships, both online and offline?**

I think we often think there's one right way for love to look. The reality is that relationships can look a million different ways and still be healthy and successful. It comes down to what works for each couple.

**What is the one relationship lesson you not only preach but follow too?**

We often think that love is about romance and we get fixated on the idea that there's this one person out there who's supposed to supply love for us. But there are so many ways to experience it. With friends and family, with colleagues, with animals and with nature. Even with strangers, through service. We focus on where we can get love, but the truth is that anytime you want to experience love, you can simply share it.

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Jay Shetty

music

journey

# CROONING ALONG!



**Jonita Gandhi is back with a sonorous number, *Megha Re Megha!***

a platform it would become for artistes. Over the past couple of years, the general audience has started accepting and consuming non-film music more, connecting over social media during the pandemic. We are seeing independent artistes getting more opportunities and notability equivalent to their playback contemporaries.

**Straddling between indie and Bollywood, which world do you find more fascinating?**

I enjoy both! As a playback singer, it's a little like being a voice actor while singing. We get to embody the character and emotion required for the film, scene or situation. The freedom of experimentation in non-film music is liberating and exciting as well.

**How has the experience as a singer been in all these years?**

It's been incredible! I've learned so much about myself, not only as a musician but also as a human. I learn new things every day, working with different kinds of people. A lot of my job requires people skills, so I'm always growing in more ways than one. Some of the lessons I've picked up along the way are to be self-dependent and proactive.

**What inspires you as a musician?**

Stories and people inspire me. Music is a lot about vibes and expressing experiences and emotions that are real because we've lived them.

— Sharmistha Ghosal

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**C**ANADIAN PLAYBACK SINGER Jonita Gandhi, who rocked the Bollywood music scene last year with the popular track *Current Laga Re* in the film *Cirkus*, is back with *Megha Re Megha*, a part of the background score of the Hindi version of *Ponniyin Selvan 2*, otherwise known as *PS-2*. "It's a short but beautiful classically inspired number and I'm grateful to have sung it," tells the young singer.

The song, written by Gulzar, has been composed by AR Rahman and co-sung by Antara Nandy. We speak to the spunky crooner about the same.

**You are one of the indie singers who made it through YouTube, how much has the scene changed for indie artistes since you started off at 17?**

When I began my journey on YouTube covering popular songs, I had no idea how large of



Jonita Gandhi

spotlight

## Shopaholic serenade

Director-musician Pranav Bhasin takes a diss at retail gratification with his latest...



Cover art

IT OPENS WITH a girl, somewhere in her 20s, running late for a meeting with a friend. Unimpressed with her outfit, she compulsively looks for better clothes and minutes into it, she finds herself in tears with half her wardrobe on the floor. *Screaming on the fly* by artiste Pranav Bhasin is a social satire that takes a diss at hyper-capitalism. The lyrics, "Everybody's kinda coping all the time, shopping on the fly, screaming on the side," picks up on the proverb — "too much of anything could destroy you" — and the video could not be more apt.

Pranav, who is currently soaking the success of his first single of 2023, speaks to us about collaboration with singer Rohini Maiti, future plans and more.

**How did this collaboration come about?**

The song came together on a sunny afternoon in Mumbai. I wrote the words, played the melody out and sent it to Rohini to sing, and it worked out pretty well. We couldn't be happier that



Pranav Bhasin

the music video premiered at the SXSW Festival, Texas, USA.

**Focusing on something that a lot of urban Indians can associate with, why did you decide to go with this theme?**

The feeling of 'shopping all the time and never feeling satisfied' is

a contemporary challenge of our time, and I've built this project out to encapsulate that feeling. We are readily seeking things from the West and forgetting who we are in that process.

**How would you describe your personal sound?**

Alt-pop is a genre you can box my music into for now. Although, I see it changing drastically with each song. I love both groovy songs and pensive ones. Simply put, wherever that alchemy takes me is my sound.

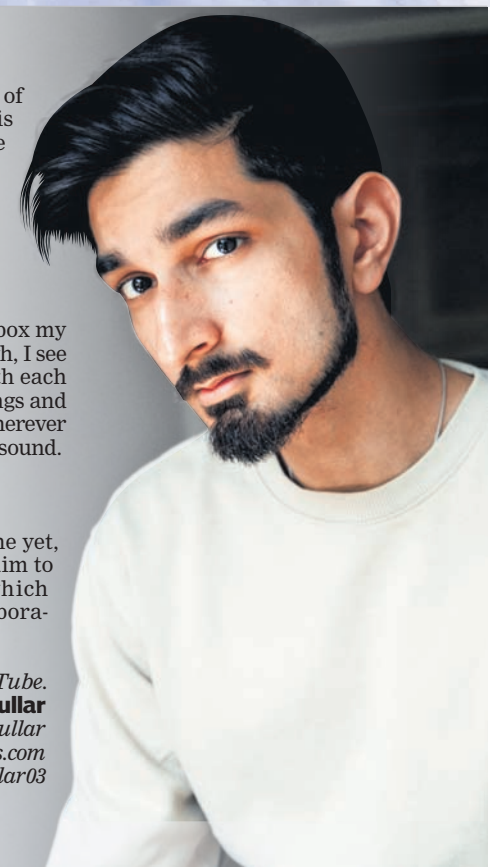
**What can we look forward to next, from you?**

I haven't said this to anyone yet, but by May-end or June I aim to release my next single, which also happens to be a collaboration with Rohini Maiti.

Streaming on YouTube.

— Muskan Khullar

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conversation

music

inspiration

# 'GROWING UP WITH WOMEN IS A DIFFERENT WORLD'



Neeti Mohan

Singer Neeti Mohan's life is shaped by the women she grew up with – her mother and three sisters. She believes it is important to empower women, something she is consciously working towards, through her music

**N**EETI MOHAN IS no new name in the music industry. Having been around for 15 years now, churning out one blockbuster song after another, hers is a voice that suits all seasons and sensations. Be it the peppy *Jiya Re*; the romantic *Ishq Wala Love*; the soft *Nazar Laaye*, or the emotional *Haal-e-Dil*, Neeti is sure to make you feel the song as much as she does when singing those. Making her Bollywood debut with the Vishal-Shekhar-composed *Student of the Year* song *Ishq Wala Love*, Neeti soon became a name to reckon with. Before starting her playback career though, she was one of the winners of the reality show *Popstars*, subsequently being chosen for *Aasma*, with other winners of the show. With a voice as mesmerising and versatile as hers, it's difficult to believe that growing up, she didn't know which one to choose as her career — singing or dancing, considering Neeti is also a trained *bharatnatyam* dancer. In a candid conversation with the singer, we get to know all this and more about Neeti — like what it was growing up surrounded by women, contributing towards women empowerment through *MSL-Mohan Sisters Live*, putting soul into every song she sings, the collaborations she is looking forward to, and how motherhood has changed her.

**You are often called AR Rahman's discovery. How does that make you feel?**

I feel honoured if people see me as his discovery and yes, I did sing for him and perform for him for the first time many years ago in a concert. That's how he discovered me. It's been almost 15 years since I have been singing on stage and in studios with him and I feel extremely honoured. It's a dream come true every time I sing for him.

**There are innumerable singers in the industry, how challenging is it to constantly prove that you deserve a song? Or that you are the best choice to sing a particular song?**

Yes, there are so many voices now and so many singers and so many new singers who are so good and they are coming to Mumbai and trying to make a career. But I think when you bring a soul to a song then what you bring is something so unique that you are sure to deserve that song; and if that song and that voice of yours are meant to be, they are meant to be. This is how I see it.

**The Mohan sisters are quite a name in the industry. All of you have made a mark of your own. How was it growing up as sisters and mostly surrounded by women?**

We are four sisters, and we are fortunate that we have grown up in an environment where our father has supported our careers, our dreams and our mother has been a constant guide. They have emotionally always been there for us. I feel, growing up with women is a different world. We feel much empowered, and we feel like we can do anything. Anywhere I have gone where by any chance four of us are made to feel that we cannot do something because we are women, we feel angry about that and we feel like no, let us show them how it's done. We believe that women can do anything and now that I am a mother, I feel all the more empowered and more ambitious about my work. So, growing up in a household with so many girls, it was a lot of fun and at the same time very empowering!

## Quick five:

**Favourite outfit:** Jeans and shirt  
**Can't do without:** Music  
**My phone's wallpaper:** Saraswati Ma's photo; earlier it was my son's picture  
**I can sleep in:** I can sleep anywhere; I just have to decide to sleep and I can sleep!  
**I can gorge on:** Fruits endlessly. Mangoes and *chaat papdi*!

**How do you think our music industry has changed, in terms of incorporating contemporary genres?**

In the last two decades, because of the internet and *Youtube*, the music scene has totally changed. We are now in an age where you can be anywhere and record your vocals and shoot your music video and put it out on social media and you can instantly become a sensation! More and more independent music is going to get noticed and people are looking for good music; they are also vibing with the artistes who are putting out music of their own.

**You are also a trained *bharatnatyam* dancer, how did you end up choosing to sing?**

I was always singing and dancing together and I did not know what I liked more. I felt like both are so amazing, so I could not pick one. I used to tell my father that I do not know whether I am singing more or dancing more. So, it was my father who told me that sometimes it's destiny which shows us the way. When I won the reality show many years ago, that's when I think destiny played a huge part and showed me the way, and I knew that I was meant for music.

**In terms of contributing to music, is there a plan? Are you consciously working on anything?**

Yes, we have started a new property called *MSL-Mohan Sisters Live* and we are performing together. We are bringing something that is empowering women and bringing shows that are telling women all over the world that you can do it and we sisters want to tell every girl that we are there for you. We also want to give out a message that it is important to empower women around you — that is what we are consciously working towards. We had done a song *Nari*, which I have released as a single and that was a dedication to all the women; then *Kanha Re*, where again three of us as sisters had performed together *gopis*.

**In music, what do you think sells?**

A good song with good lyrics that touches the heart, that's what sells!

**Which is a collaboration you are looking forward to?**

I am always looking forward to collaborating with different artistes. It's really exciting for me. I recently collaborated with EPR for Royal Stag Boombox. I would love to collaborate with Ed Sheeran, John Mayer — I really like their songs a lot!

**You are also a mother now, and in this age of internet and technology, we are exposed to everything in life; as a mother, how do you look at helping your child grow up in a safe and stable environment?**

As a mother, I have a huge responsibility of a little child who is going to be shaping up under my guidance and my family's guidance. I want to keep the atmosphere at home very positive and full of learning and interesting topics so that he has a very exciting childhood, and remembers it as a fun experience growing up at home with a lot of music, a lot of learning and arts and crafts and a lot of mythological stories and also songs that I want him to learn — that's what I want him to get exposed to because I think that is what I will try, but beyond that, we do not know. For things that are beyond my control, I will not bother because then you are unnecessarily stressing about something that has not happened! If something happens then you tackle that, not before that.

**How has motherhood changed you?**

It has made me more sensitive, more loving, more productive — because now my time management is insane! I can do multiple things in a day, and I am very proud of that. It is very exhausting, but I really thrive on this.

—Rupam Jain

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Stretched Bodies  
by Bose Krishnamachari

platform

# ART FOR ALL

Art curator Isha Patodia dishes out some interesting deets on Genesis Gallery's the first art show for the year – **ALIGNMENT**

**O**FTEN THE BEST results are achieved when our thoughts, words and actions are in alignment with the universe and we feel a strong sense of positivity and synchronicity. This holds true even in the sphere of art, which encouraged curator Isha Patodia to present the first art show of Genesis Gallery for this year, **ALIGNMENT**.

Established in Kolkata in 1986, Genesis Gallery is one of the most recognised and reliable art galleries in the city. Started by Rekha Mody and later joined by her elder daughter Aditi Mody, the baton has now been passed on to the former's

youngest daughter Isha Patodia. Under the aegis of Isha, the gallery is now reinventing itself with a fresh, youthful and global approach to the business of arts. We speak with Isha who gives us a quick view of the exhibition and Genesis Gallery.

**Tell us more about ALIGNMENT.**

Inner truths, feelings, thoughts and instincts harmonise with the medium the artist is using for visual expression. This self-expression creates the most distinct artworks unique to every artist and that very uniqueness and diversity is what we wish to showcase. **ALIGNMENT** is an art exhibi-

tion showcasing distinct artworks by the finest Indian contemporary artists, like Arunanshu Chowdhury, Asit Kumar Patnaik, Bhagat Singh, Bolgum Nagesh Goud, Bose Krishnamachari, Chandrashekhar Morkonda, D. Jayaprakash, David Gerstein, George Martin, H.R. Das, and Jogen Chowdhury among others.

**How did you start your journey as an art curator?**

Our gallery has always promoted art in a great way from the very start. Apart from exhibitions, my mother also used to organise art camps, and as a little girl, I used to run errands in the camps, fetching colours, water and stuff to assist the artists and listen to the artful conversations, trying to fathom the concepts they were painting.



Artwork by  
Sujata Bajaj

When I returned from the UK after attending college, joining the gallery was a natural progression. It has been almost 15 years since I joined the gallery, professionally and passionately, and with time I have developed a keen eye for art.



Soft Lips by  
David Gerstein

**What, apart from curating exhibitions, does Genesis organise?**

We have an art foundation too. Habiart Foundation is a sister concern of Genesis Gallery and has been involved in the promotion of contemporary Indian art since 1989. Apart from exhibitions and camps, we organised the *Indian Contemporary Art Fair* in 2008, which was a relatively new concept back then, in which we brought many art galleries and art groups under one roof. We have done art auctions as well. The art foundation also works against the lobbying of fakes in the market and has special shows like *Art against Terrorism*, which were showcased at the Parliament and Davos Economic Forum. We also did an interesting project called *Celebrating Mona Lisa* in which 15 artists across the globe created their versions of the Mona Lisa, to celebrate 500 years of the Mona Lisa. We also did a few art events in public places, bringing art to the common man. We have always tried not to restrict art and art shows just to the gallery.

**What is your plan for the gallery and the foundation?**

We endeavour to promote Indian contemporary art and young Indian artists. But we are also keeping some religious and mythological paintings at the gallery to keep a balance between both. A gallery is really helpful for them as they get a platform to showcase their art. Apart from the physical gallery, we showcase the artworks on our website for international connoisseurs to check out the artists who have a lot of potential to grow in the future.

**Your upcoming show?**

We'll probably have another one in Kolkata during September, and one in Delhi thereafter, which will again be a group show of 30-40 artists.

The exhibition is on till May 31.

—Dhartri Ganguly

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Isha Patodia

Pics: Pritam Sarkar

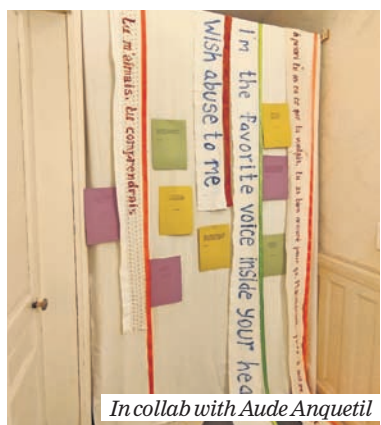
sneak-peek

## What people say!

Art curator Ayan Mukherjee's latest work *Kuch Toh Log Kahenge: The Violence of Words*, is opening its second episode in France



Artwork by  
Camila Rodriguez Triana



In collab with Aude Anquetil



Artwork by Marguerite Mamontagne

INDEPENDENT ART CURATOR Ayan Mukherjee is currently experimenting with various mediums, and curating projects using narratives and

experiences based on life. After a successful stint at New Delhi early this year, his latest work, *Kuch Toh Log Kahenge: The Violence of Words*, is

opening its second episode on April 29 at Bourbonne Les Bains, France. Ayan shares insights on his project and collaborations. Excerpts:

**What is the collaboration like this time?**

This time, I'm collaborating with six immensely intense contemporary art practitioners across disciplines, from France, Switzerland, and Haiti after months of investigative, panoramic dialogue and exchange of perspectives, notions, experiences, and such. These projects are a way to reach out to a wider audience with our perspectives and experiences through visual arts, narratives, poems, and music.

**What's *Kuch Toh Log Kahenge* all about?**

*Kuch Toh Log Kahenge* talks about the present time which is materialistic, incredibly swirling, and compromising. And in this situation, hurling words at each other is the biggest culprit I feel. Words used as weapons of violence have long been legitimate in various spheres of our society, be it political, social, or personal. And we are basically questioning that. It's high time that we practise weighing the words that we are throwing or pointing at others. I wrote about this almost 2-3 years back, and have plans to turn it into an episodic format.

The more I am exchanging ideas, the more the topic is getting enriched. I am not just curating it, I have used my poems, narratives, videos and visual arts in this too. The music that we have created seems like noise, with many people chattering, but you won't be able to decipher what exactly they are saying.

I plan to have more discussions on this, and probably have 5-6 episodes more, with different sets of people. For much later, I have thought of writing a book on this, which will be like a collective inference of all these episodes.

—DG



Ayan Mukherjee

cinema

insight

# SHORT AND RIVETING

Actor Tanishaa Mukherjee gets candid about her latest short, *Agni-Daah* and her relationship with Kajol

**A**FTER WORKING ON the short film *Life is Short*, actress Tanishaa Mukherjee is back with a second short, *Agni-Daah*, that got a lot of appreciation at the *Amity International Short Film Festival* where it premiered. We speak to the soft-spoken artiste about the same and more.

**What's your role in *Agni-Daah* and how did you prepare for it?**

*Agni-Daah* is about the girl child, who was dumped in a dumpster and picked up by a gentleman who runs the crematorium. He raises her as his own daughter or as an assistant. The film's plot is around her relationship with the environment within which she is brought up, and



Tanishaa Mukherjee

where she becomes disconnected from any emotion related to life and death. The only person she cares about is her father and the film deals with how her relationship with death changes when he dies. It was very difficult to prepare for a role like this. But at the same time, I believe every woman in India has prepared for it because she has to experience abandonment at some point in her life, in the form of rejection, or in the form of discrimination in society or in her own family, or in some form of abuse, and I think that prepares you to do a role like this, where deep down you witness such dark stories which motivates you to portray such characters.

**Are you also exploring the web?**

I would love to explore the web, but in a way that should be true to me. I would like to dig my claws into it because I think there's great script-writing happening and I really want to play a character that keeps flipping or transforming.

**How much has the film world changed since you debuted?**

Things have changed a lot since the time I debuted. There is so much content out there, so much of interesting writing, there is no stereotypical way of playing a heroine, and even a mid-level character can stand out based on performance. So, I think things are changing in a very interesting way and I am happy about it.

**What's the biggest lesson you have picked up?**

The biggest thing I have learned from the industry is that kindness is everything. The only thing that will hold you back is your ego. I heard something very interesting recently from Priyanka Chopra, where she said that "my ego is not bigger than my job" and that's what even I feel

is right, because your ego is something which holds you back. Knowing your job well is not the same thing as having an ego. Ego is arrogance which always makes you fall.

**Tell us more about your bond with Kajol.**

My bond with Kajol will always be that of a sister, forever. My favourite movies of her include *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* and *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, but as far as performance-based film is concerned I believe she performed best in *Dushman*.

**Your fashion choices?**

My fashion choices keep changing with my mood. Sometimes it's comfortable, sometimes it's fashionable and sometimes it's uncomfortable but it's funky and cool. I sometimes experiment with bolder and more dramatic fashion, while at other times I settle down for simpler choices.

— Sharmistha Ghosal

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in conversation

# Woman of words

Actor Deepti Naval, who was in town recently, tells us about her film *Mother Teresa & Me*

GRACE PERSONIFIED, ACTOR Deepti Naval's new release, Kamal Musale's *Mother Teresa & Me*, is a powerful story of three extraordinary women whose lives are intertwined with hope, compassion, and love. As the actor was in town to promote the film, we spoke with her to know more about the film and her character.

**Tell us about your role in *Mother Teresa & Me*.** Deepali is a very endearing character, full of love, compassion and a very ten-

der woman. She is a big support system to a young girl Kavita (played by Banita Sandhu) and is almost like a nanny to her. Deepali also has a close association with Mother Teresa. Though my role is not very big, I quite enjoyed playing it and I am happy that I am a part of this film, which is an unusual take on a biopic.

**What are the takeaways from the film?**

The film is very layered. You can't say that this film is solely about compassion, or solely about something else. It is about self-doubt and self-discovery. People can also see what Mother Teresa goes through as a person, her self-doubts, confusion, and everything. We have predominantly seen one image of Mother, or the other which was formed by completely negating the former. But this film doesn't cater to any of the two images, it just explores the person behind the images.

**Looking back at your films, do you critique yourself?**

Yes, I do. I was fortunate enough to have been offered very nice films, which people still remember, even after a four-decade-long stint in the industry. But I could

have done much more work, I had so much more to give.

**Your upcoming projects?**

I was busy promoting my last book *A Country Called Childhood: A Memoir*, and now, I will write the next one. I have three-four things up my sleeve, let's see which one I write. I also have an upcoming movie with Kalki Koechlin called *Goldfish*, which will hopefully release this year.

The film releases today.

— Dharitri Ganguly

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Deepti Naval and Jacqueline Fritsch Cornaz



A still from the film



out  
of the  
box

# WAITING IN LINE

Actress Simran Sharma opens up about her experiences working in two upcoming titles and an Imtiaz Ali project

**S**INCE HER CHILDHOOD, actor Simran Sharma never wanted to be just one person — she wanted to be many people at the same time. “So, I thought what better way to live several lives and be many people in one life than being an actor? In no other profession can I be so many people and play different characters. I love being an actor,” she says.

The beautiful actress, who started out as a child artiste, has been a part of such interesting projects as *Hum Chaar*, *Oka Chinna Family Story*, *Atithi Bhooto Bhava*, and Imtiaz Ali’s short film *Eyes For You* among others. She is also part of the miniseries *Staff Room*, that released last week, and another untitled web show. The actress speaks about the same with us from the sets in Bhopal.

**What’s your role in *Staff Room*?**

I am playing Pranali, the new English teacher in the school and teaching is her passion. She is navigating her way through a new job in the series and exploring her equation with different characters in it. As the show begins the audience gets introduced to the staff room along with Pranali and sees it through her eyes.

**What’s your role in this upcoming untitled web series?**

It is a college-based show directed by Harsh Mainra and I am playing a college student in it. It is an interesting story with multiple plot lines intertwined in some way or the other. I prepared for the role by doing multiple reading sessions and workshops here in Mumbai before leaving for Bhopal where we are shooting the series right now.

**How did you bag the role in the web series?**

My friend and stylist on many projects, Shewta, who is also working on this web series heard the story and suggested my name to the director and casting director for a particular role. They then contacted me to audition for the part. I did two rounds of auditions for the role and then got the news that I was on board.

**What was the shooting experience in Bhopal like?**

Shooting in Bhopal is great. It is a lovely city. Our cast comprises a big ensemble of actors including Rajesh Sharma, Faisal Malik, Rishab Chadha, Ronit Ashra, Mugdha Agarwal among many others. We all have become like a big family, now. Not only is it a lot of fun working with them but I also get to learn so many different things from each one of them. We would even visit temples and lakes on days we weren’t shooting and work out together too. It has been a good time.

**You have been in the acting industry for a while, what have you learnt from your experiences?**

The most important lesson my work has taught me is patience. I always say that an actor’s job is to wait — we wait in queues for auditions, we wait for a callback, we wait for a good role, we then wait in the makeup chair to become a character and then wait for our shot. And then we also eagerly and excitedly wait for our work to release for ourselves and the world to see.

**What inspires you as an actor and how do you grow as an artiste?**

Meeting new people, talking to them, and hearing their stories inspires me. So does watching the good work of other actors. On some days epiphanies that occur in mundane moments inspire me. I also try to find inspiration in different places and persons.

**Who is your dream director?**

There isn’t just one dream director, I want to work with everyone. But one name very high up on my list has been ticked off — Imtiaz Ali. It was like a dream come true as I had been a fan of his work since I was a little girl. From *Jab We Met* to *Tamasha* I love all his films.

**Your daily fitness and diet routine.**

I mostly eat home-cooked meals and stay adequately hydrated. I feel these are the two important things we often underrate but they can go a long way and do wonders. My workout is usually a mix of weight training at the gym, jogs in the park, pranayam and swimming — all depending on the day and my mood.

**Your fashion choices?**

When it comes to fashion I truly believe less is more. I like to keep it simple. My wardrobe has a lot of neutral colours and pastels besides blacks and whites. My denim jacket is an essential piece of an outfit.

— Sharmistha Ghosal

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🐦 @sharmidas

in focus

Simran Sharma





Stills from *Dynasties II*



The brand new *Dynasties II* reveals heartwarming tales of some of the most underappreciated members of the animal kingdom

natural history

UNSUNG WILD

HEROES



Simon Blakeney

**S**ONY BBC EARTH just released the second edition of their popular wildlife narrative show, *Dynasties*. This season of the show will provide fresh insights into the secret lives of some of the most charismatic animals on the planet. Narrated by Sir David Attenborough, *Dynasties II* is more dramatic than any fictional work, bringing back the world of growing families, power struggles and feuding rivals. In addition to revealing the tales of some underappreciated members of the animal kingdom, such as the puma and the hyena, *Dynasties II* also features surprising and heartwarming tales starring iconic favourites like the elephant and the cheetah. We caught up with series producer Simon Blakeney — previously known for his work on shows like *Life*, *Africa*, *Shark*, *Earth's Great Rivers* and the first season of *Dynasties* — to find out more about the show...

**How different is *Dynasties II* from the first season?**

In this second series, we feature a whole new cast of animals — providing fresh insights into the secret lives of some of the most charismatic animals on the planet. *Dynasties II* features all time favourites — the elephant, the cheetah and the meerkats, as well as unearthing the stories of some unsung heroes of the animal kingdom — the puma, the barbary macaques and the hyena.

**Where will the series take us in terms of geography?**

We see a puma family battling the unforgiving conditions of

their mountainous home in the Patagonian Andes in Chile, elephants surviving on the dusty plains of Amboseli in Kenya, cheetahs and hyenas living on the vast grasslands of Zambia, a family of meerkats who make their home amongst the harsh Makgadikgadi Salt Pans of Botswana and finally a troop of macaques in the ever-changing Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

**What can one expect in the new series?**

Following the twists and turns of our animal characters lives' for as much as two years, *Dynasties II* gives a unique and intimate glimpse into their worlds. From new-borns being introduced to their extended families for the very first time — which can be a time of tension or celebration — to youngsters learning how to survive independently, to rivals vying for the top spot and even mothers risking everything to protect their families. This series has yet again shown that truth is stranger than fiction, featuring never-before seen moments which surprised both the camera teams and the leading experts, who worked closely with the crew throughout filming.

**Are there moments that particularly overwhelmed you in this season?**

I think some of the moments when you see animals really battling for survival can be incredibly moving — for example, seeing the elephant twins fighting over who would get to suckle as their mother's milk began to run out in the midst of a drought. However, these are balanced by some incredibly endearing moments, such as watching the four puma cubs playing and leap-

ing on each other. They do it as a way to practice hunting before they eventually have done it for themselves, but they also seem to really enjoy the games!

**Tell us about a few scenes that stood out particularly for you and why?**

The sheer chaos and drama of the meerkats' lives was incredible to watch, particularly when they went into battle with a neighbouring group to try to rescue one of their youngsters — they may be small, but meerkats can be surprisingly bold! The scene when Rupestre, our puma mother, takes on a male who is threatening her cubs is also amazing to see — she really puts her life on the line in order to give her cubs a chance to escape. I think for me personally though, watching our cheetah mother, Kali, hunting was the most amazing moment — we all know cheetahs are fast, but nothing prepares you for seeing their sheer acceleration and speed, right in front of you!

**Will we be seeing a *Dynasties III*?**

There are plenty more stories we would love to tell, and every animal character is different, so yes, watch the space!

**What are you working on next?**

I have been lucky enough to move onto working on some more long-term, character-led wildlife series. They take a while to film though, so nothing that is going to be on TV before 2025!

Streaming on SonyLIV.  
— Romal Laisram

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Find healthy distractions like hanging out with friends

# QUIT SMOKING 101

If you're New Year resolution was to quit smoking and it hasn't happened yet, here are some ways to get started

**A**ROUND THE PANDEMIC, many people suffered from severe lung issues and for a few people the issues were excessive and life threatening because they were regular smokers. Many people understood how the habit of smoking resulted in severe effects on the lungs around the same time and many actually have given up on smoking due to the same reason. We already know the negatives of smoking and how it impacts the lungs, healthy cells, and our body at a DNA level wherein it can cause cancer as well; that's why staying away from it is very important. Many people go cold turkey when giving up cigarettes but then they can't stay this way for long and start craving them again. There are many other ways of stopping and many of my clients have taken the help of clinical hypnotherapy, counselling, nicotine gum, home remedies, alternatives etc to slowly give up on this habit. So here I'm going to recommend the simplest way that helped my clients to stop smoking:

● **Healthy alternatives:** Adding something into your routine to help break the urge or routine of smoking is very helpful, sometimes these alternatives may not be anything else to chew or eat but sometimes it could just be a hobby that you do to divert your mind. Try to find one such



Try cardamom to change the taste in your mouth

hobby and divert your mind from the smoke. Apart from that, one can even chew on spices like cardamom or *ajwain* or fennel to change the taste of the mouth and control the urge of smoking.

● **Don't go cold turkey:** If you are smoking 10 cigarettes daily then suddenly stopping it will give you severe withdrawal symptoms. It's better to smoke the 10 cigarettes till halfway done and then throw it. This way you will automatically cut down on your smoking, then gradually make it to 8/6 halves and then stop.

● **Find distractions and anchors:** If you know there is a specific time that you smoke a cigarette, then instead of smoking, find a distraction like drinking a glass of water or talk to your near or dear ones — so subconsciously you are creating an anchor. This way,

you break the pattern of smoking to weaken the neural pattern so that you can work over it and don't get the urge to smoke.

● **Your health and value add:** Why do you smoke? Social stigma or any feelings attached to the same? We have seen a few clients smoking first thing in morning to clear the bowel movement. But there are few questions that you need to ask yourself, how is the smoking really adding value to your life. Is it making your life and health better? The answer is usually no. Is it creating any disease in the body? We all know the answer is YES. When you keep asking these questions daily, you'll understand that it's not adding any value, in fact it's creating disease and with this you might stop altogether.

● **Stress:** Many people smoke under stress because that makes them feel better. But rather than running away from stress, find out the 'whys' for your stress and start working on feeling better. Take a deep breath, do some activity, walk etc to divert your mind from stress and you may really not need the smoke.



**HEALTHY LIVING**  
**DEEPIKA RATHOD**

Chief Nutrition Officer, Luke Coutinho Holistic Healing Systems. The writer is a clinical nutritionist with a focus on healthy lifestyle choices.

off the shelf

Here are four recently launched skin and hair products that are infused with the goodness of fruits

## Fruity delights

AS THE TEMPERATURE rises and the sun beats down on us, it's essential to have the right beauty products to keep us feeling cool and fresh. And what could be better than fruit-infused beauty products to help us beat the summer heat? From a mango-infused conditioner to a watermelon face mask, here are four fruity products to try out this summer for a refreshed and rejuvenated look.

### Frizz-free formula

This Secret Hair Care's Flango Conditioner combines the power of mango butter and flaxseed oil. The mango butter helps to seal in moisture and reduce hair breakage, while flaxseed oil provides deep conditioning and improves hair texture. This conditioner is perfect for taming frizz and making hair shiny, nourished, and locking in moisture. We tried this conditioner and found ourselves with frizz-free hair that was deeply conditioned. However, our hair began to look oily and greasy in less than a day. ₹799 onwards. Available online.



### Pout partner

Sugar's new Tippy Lips Scrub + Balm Duo in Bramble combines a gentle exfoliating scrub on one end with a super nourishing lip balm on the other, making it a must-have for anyone looking for a complete lip care routine. The lip scrub, infused with glycerin, gently buffs away dead skin, lightens pigmentation, and softens dry and chapped lips. Meanwhile, the nourishing lip balm, with its unique blend of natural ingredients, soothes, hydrates, and restores moisture to your lips with a sweet scent of berries. With its subtle tint and non-sticky formula, this lip balm leaves your lips glossy and smooth, making it the perfect addition to your beauty routine. We tried this product and chapped lips have now become a thing of the past.



### Salicylic solution

Bayla Skin's Watermelon Blemish Fighting Anti-Acne Face Mask with 1% Salicylic Acid infused with the zesty essence of juicy watermelon and salicylic acid face mask claims to be a one-stop solution for all your acne-prone skin concerns. Its blemish-fighting properties help reduce breakouts and blemishes, while also keeping your skin well-hydrated and healthy-looking. This PETA-certified vegan and cruelty-free face mask is a must-have for those looking for an anti-acne, anti-inflammation, and hydrating solution. ₹739. Available online.

### Pink perfection

PureSense introduces their Pink Guava Day Cream, a moisturiser that is designed to provide hydration and protection from environmental stressors and UV rays. Its lightweight and non-greasy formula enriched with the nourishing power of Pink Guava promises to improve skin texture and tone, reduce the appearance of dark spots and leaves your skin looking soft, supple, and radiant. ₹650. Available online.



telewatch



**Fiction: Silo**

The story of this upcoming series revolves around the last ten thousand people on earth. Their home is a mile-deep silo, which protects them from the deadly and toxic world outside. No one in the community knows when or why the silo was built and whoever tries to find out faces fatal consequences. Juliette (Rebecca Ferguson) is an engineer who sets out to seek answers about the murder of a loved one and ends up looking into a mystery that is far beyond her imagination. May 5. On Apple TV+



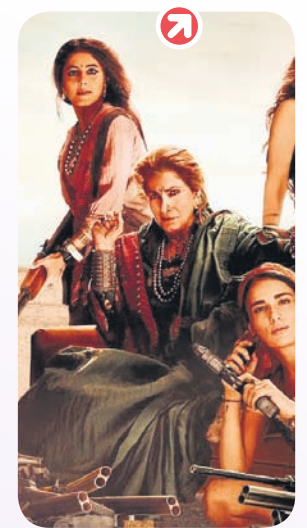
**Drama: Queen Cleopatra**

British actor and screenwriter Adele James plays the role of Cleopatra in this upcoming docudrama. The documentary features reenactments and interviews by experts who talk about Cleopatra's fight to protect her throne, her legacy and her family. The docudrama is produced by American actress and Will Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. May 10. On Netflix.



**Fantasy: Fireflies: Parth aur Jugnu**

Parth is a dejected 14-year-old boy, who finds Jugnu, a mysterious boy living in the forest. Both become friends and Jugnu reveals his identity to Parth. Both then embark on a journey to protect a mythological tree. Meet Mukhi essays Parth while Aekam Binjwe plays the role of Jugnu. May 5. On Zee5.



**Documentary: Charles: In His Own Words**

This documentary will revisit some of the most memorable quotes on love, plants, the press and the role of a monarch, which have been attributed to the longest-serving Prince of Wales in British history. The docu spans across seven decades where he played various roles such as a husband, father to princes William and Harry and campaigning on climate change and the environment. May 5. On Disney+ Hotstar.



**Race: F1 Miami Grand Prix**

Heading from Baku to the United States, the F1 racers now land in Florida where the current World Champion Max Verstappen was the first to see the chequered flag last year. With back to back wins in their pockets, Red Bull looks forward to another victory while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who climbed the podium in Azerbaijan, aims to snatch P1. May 8, 1 am. On F1TV.



**Sports: Real Madrid vs Manchester City**

Fourteen-time Champions League winners Real Madrid welcome the blue team from Manchester to the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in Madrid for the first leg of the 2022-23 UEFA Champions League semi-finals. The two teams had faced each other at the same stage in the last season of the Champions League, where Real Madrid edged past Manchester City 6-5 over the two legs. Will it be the same story this time too? May 10, 12.30 am. On SonyLIV.

hot  
stuff

**Blaupunkt TS 120 Tower**

Blaupunkt's TS 120 is a cool pair of tower speakers crafted from premium quality wood and refined materials. It features a set of 3-inch Mids, 2-inch silk dome tweeters and 6.5 inch subwoofers for a rich and powerful sound across all volumes. Connectivity includes BT, HDMI, ARC, AUX, USB, Optical and Coaxial. There's also a Karaoke mode and Mic with remote. [amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)



₹8,999

**BLUNT Coupe Umbrella**

The Coupe from BLUNT is a lightweight full-length umbrella with an easy grip handle. It's also been tested to withstand upto a Category 1 Hurricane and comes in unique colours with a webbed pattern like no other. [bluntumbrella.com](https://bluntumbrella.com)



₹11,400



₹2,399

**Stuffcool SNAP**

SNAP is a 5000mAh lightning port powerbank which snaps on to an iPhone, iPad or AirPods and charges at 20W PD power. Being super compact, it's easy to carry and charges fast. 20W PD output allows upto 50% charging of iPhones in 30 minutes. [stuffcool.com](https://stuffcool.com)



₹16,000

**Lexar CFexpress Type B**

Lexar's new line of CFexpress cards includes the new Lexar Professional CFexpress Type B Card Silver. This card is highly durable and comes with read and write speeds of 1750 MB/s and 1300 MB/s, ideal for photographers and videographers to capture burst photos and upto 8K quality videos. Perfect for use in compatible DSLR and mirrorless cameras. Available in capacities of 128 GB, 256 GB and 512 GB. Prices start at ₹16,000 for 128GB. ₹55,500 for the 512 GB version shown here. [Lexar.com](https://www.lexar.com)



**GADGET BOY**

Is there a shiny new gadget you'd like to tell us about? Mail [ashokpandian@gmail.com](mailto:ashokpandian@gmail.com)

**Rapz Active Hustlr**

The Hustlr is an active smartwatch with a 1.69" IPS HD display and is IP 67 compatible. Hustlr looks elegant and comes with full activity tracking tools including a 24 hour heart rate monitor, Blood oxygen measurements and BP monitoring. It also has an excellent 25 day standby time. [rapz.in](https://rapz.in)



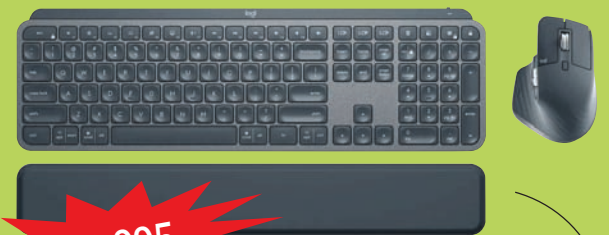
₹1,999

**Crossbeats BLAZE**

Crossbeats has a refreshing new soundbar called Blaze. The 24W device is compact and yet punches out great sound. I tested out the soundbar for a week and found the sonics convincing for its size and price. For one, the device looks great with sleek lines and aims to bring home the theatre experience with its 24W Dynamic drivers and 43mm Dual Bass systems. I paired it with my Macbook and my iPad to watch OTT content and listen to Spotify, results were overall good with BT 5.3 quick connectivity. Battery life is good at about 8 hours, plus the device can be easily moved around. [crossbeats.com](https://crossbeats.com)



₹1,799



₹26,995

**Logitech MX Keys Combo For Business Gen 2**

First off, Logitech is a brand that has been making consistently great devices for a long, long time. Their new MX Keys Combo for Business Gen 2 elevates the use of keyboards and Mice to a whole new level. The Combo set is designed specifically to improve workflow and efficiency. The enterprise-ready full-size keyboard and mouse combo is essential for employees who spend long hours at the computer looking for comfort and productivity. I've been using the Combo with my desktop for a fortnight and find them irreplaceable. The keyboard and mouse are ultra ergonomic and specific to the touch. I also loved the auto smart backlighting which comes on when you need it. The mouse is near silent and is ultra precise thanks to a 8000 Dpi optical sensor tracking. Logi Bolt tech ensures ultra secure connections, while the MX palm rest is perfect for resting my wrist. An incredible combo that brings max value to work environments. [logitech.com](https://logitech.com)

**Ashok Pandian**  
@ashokpandian

Gadget Review

spacious

# COMFORT CLASS SUV!

Citroën has always been a car manufacturer that values comfort and ingenuity in design, and the All-New C3 Aircross is no exception

**T**HE ALL-NEW C3 Aircross features a tough and expressive design that inspires confidence. Its assertive front face, with a high bonnet, wide track width, Citroën Y-shaped lighting signature, and powerful double grille with lower skid plate, give it a rather sporty stance. The muscular wheel arches with large wheels and tyres, and resilient protective claddings, provide added protection.

To add personalisation, customers can choose from a wide range of themed packs and accessories designed to add character and street presence. Citroën's signature contrasting roof colours create an eye-catching dual-tone effect, adding extra distinctiveness to the vehicle.

## Comfort & safety

Citroën's passion for ingenious conception is evident in every detail of the All-New C3 Aircross. The spacious cabin provides a comfortable ride for all occupants, thanks to the tuned suspension that maximises comfort and minimises body roll over varying road surfaces. The steering and turning circle are tuned for enhanced agility and easy manoeuvring in dense urban traffic.

The underbody structure and approach angles have been engineered to ensure that the All-New C3 Aircross can tackle rough road surfaces with ease and climb up or down steep slopes without touching the bottom. The torsional stiffness of the body has been closely studied to reduce vibration and amplify occupant comfort.

## Interior

The All-New C3 Aircross is particularly roomy, with the 5-seater model offering one of the best knee rooms for rear seat passengers and up to 482 litres of luggage volume. The 7-seater model adds intelligent modularity for multiple uses, with a third row of two individual seats that can be folded down or removed individually to balance the room for passengers with up to 511-litres capacity for luggage or materials.

The interior is bright, spacious, and smartphone-friendly, embodying Citroën's acknowledged 360-degree approach to comfort and occupant well-being. The comfortable seats and powerful climate and air-conditioning system keep everyone relaxed, particularly in the second and third rows of the 7-seater version, thanks to a unique ventilation module mounted into the roof panel. Thoughtful storage solutions throughout include cup holders that double as smartphone holders and up to 5 USB plugs so occupants can power their connectivity and stay in touch or entertained on the move.

## Infotainment & Connected Services

The eye-catching and layered horizontal instrument panel features a unique soft-touch grain across the middle. On upper versions, the All-New C3 Aircross comes with a 7-inch TFT cluster and an available 10-inch touchscreen, among the largest in this class, sits centrally and provides access to key infotainment and connected services, including mirroring capability for access to Apps using Apple Car-Play or Android Auto.

Expected launch: August 2023.  
Expected Price: INR 14-17 lakh

— Praveen Raja

## MOTORSCRIBES

A pitstop for modern-day car and bike enthusiasts, this column features the latest machines, reviews, roadtrips and more. By a team of automotive insiders who call themselves MotorScribes)



## stylish look

# SUPER DEFENDER!

Land Rover has unveiled a new Defender 130 Outbound, a luxurious SUV designed for off-road driving



THE DEFENDER 130 Outbound is designed for clients who crave adventure and has five seats, as well as enough space for everything required for off-road exploration. The car's flat load space floor accommodates anything from wetsuits to camping gear. The exterior of the car is designed with Shadow Atlas Matt finished bumpers and grille inserts, finished with Anthracite side vents. The car also has 50.80 cm wheels finished in Gloss Black.

Inside, customers can choose between luxurious full Windsor leather or durable Resist fabric finished in Ebony with an Ebony Morzine headliner, Robustec veneer and Defender's signature cross-car beam in a Satin Black Powder Coat Brushed finish. The Defender 130 Outbound is available with a P400 petrol and D300 diesel Ingenium power, both of which feature Mild Hybrid Electric Vehicle (MHEV) technology for optimum performance and efficiency.

The Defender 130 V8 comes with a 5.0-litre supercharged engine, providing power, cruising refinement and capability. The car has a Carpathian Grey or Santorini Black exterior with quad outboard-mounted exhausts, sliding panoramic roof, V8 exterior badging, Matrix LED headlights with signature daytime running lights and darkened taillights. Inside, the car has 14-way heated and cooled electric driver memory seats finished in Ebony Windsor Leather with Dinamica® suedecloth and Robustec fabric, a suedecloth heated steering wheel, Ebony Morzine headlining and Satin Black cross car beam.

Land Rover's new offerings provide more choices for Defender clients and merge comfort and cruising refinement with powerful V8 performance, customary off-road capability, and superior comfort.

Expected price: ₹1.5-2.0 crore.  
— Manu Gour

## Miami Grand Prix

Sergio Perez led the Red Bulls home in a dominant one-two at Baku. Can Max Verstappen regain control in Miami?

RED BULL RACING'S Sergio Perez, often seen as the number two driver to double-world champion Max Verstappen, buried that assumption with a solid weekend show at Azerbaijan.

On the Saturday Sprint he controlled the 100 kilometre challenge, thwarting any threat offered by the pole-sitting Ferrari of Charles Leclerc or from his own team mate.

During the main 51-lap race on Sunday he benefited from the timing

# Battle of the bulls

of the early Safety Car but managed to hold position even though Verstappen came charging back.

Since the inaugural Azerbaijan Grand Prix back in 2017 only Perez the Mexican has managed to win it twice!

He now trails championship leader Max by just six points. This leaves us with an enticing prospect ahead

unlike the sole dominance of one Red Bull car and driver last season.

Will Oracle Red Bull Racing allow their drivers to battle freely with no team orders?

What will it mean to them if a driver from outside their junior racing academy wins the ultimate prize?

Verstappen was out of sync at

Baku. He clashed with the Mercedes of George Russell on Saturday and could never really shake Perez off with any number of fastest laps.

He settled for P2. Which is not a bad result normally, but for the winning-machine that he's become of late, Ayrton Senna's quote "being second is to be the first of the ones to lose" might just echo in his head until this weekend in Miami.

The circus travels all the way to the USA for the Miami Grand Prix, the first of three American Grand Prix this year. Verstappen won comfortably ahead of the Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz last time around.

Held at the Miami International Autodrome, a purpose-built

track around the hard Rock Stadium in Florida, let's hope Perez can take the fight up to Verstappen in a non-street venue. To defeat a champion one must possess a variety of weapons or be able to dig deep.

At Mercedes, Nico Rosberg worked on his overall consistency to beat Lewis Hamilton in 2016. He ended up champion even though he had less wins ultimately. But the 2023 season is a long one with 20 more races to go!

It's 2 wins a piece for the Red Bull drivers currently.

Let's hope the red lights at Miami give us a proper Bullfight!



AJIT DEVADASON

The writer, an F1 enthusiast covers the 2023 FIA Formula One Championship exclusively for Indulge.

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